

Chicago Tribune

Wright buildings to be nominated to list of significant world sites

By Blair Kamin

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/ct-wright-unesco-kamin-met-0130-20150129-story.html?dssReturn&z=90036>

Chicago Tribune Says:



Ten Frank Lloyd Wright-designed buildings, including the Robie House in Chicago and Unity Temple in Oak Park, will be nominated by the federal government Friday to a United Nations list of the world's most significant cultural and natural sites, a U.S. Interior Department spokeswoman said.

If the group nomination is approved, the Wright buildings would be the first examples of American modern architecture to appear on the prestigious UNESCO World Heritage List, according to the Chicago-based Frank Lloyd Wright Building Conservancy, an advocacy group that helped prepare the nomination.

Interior Secretary Sally Jewell will announce the nomination, which also includes Wright-designed sites in Wisconsin.

In a statement, the conservancy called the nominated sites "the most iconic, fully realized and innovative of more than 400 existing works by Frank Lloyd Wright."

The other buildings are the Fallingwater house in Mill Run, Pa.; the Guggenheim Museum in New York City; the Marin County Civic Center in San Rafael, Calif.; the Price Tower in Bartlesville, Okla.; the Jacobs House in Madison, Wis.; the Hollyhock House in Los Angeles; the Taliesin compound in Spring Green, Wis., and the Taliesin West compound in Scottsdale, Ariz.

When the Interior Department in 2011 first announced that it planned to make the nomination, 11 Wright-designed buildings were in the group. The one left off is Wright's S.C. Johnson Administration Building and Research Tower in Racine, Wis.

Inclusion on the list would not impose any legal restrictions on the buildings' property owners. However, it could help the owners raise funds for restoration work and encourage tourists to visit the sites.

Both Unity Temple, a steel-reinforced concrete religious structure at 875 W. Lake St. in Oak Park, and the Robie House, a Prairie Style masterpiece at 5757 S. Woodlawn Ave., are raising money for restorations.

The World Heritage List recognizes more than 1,000 sites, including the Acropolis in Greece and the Great Wall of China. There are 22 American sites on the list, most of them natural wonders like the Grand Canyon.

Other works of modern architecture on the list include the Sydney Opera House, the city of Brasilia and the Bauhaus School in Germany.

The State Department will submit the nomination, titled "Key Works of Modern Architecture by Frank Lloyd Wright," to the World Heritage Centre in Paris. The nomination is expected to be considered in summer 2016.

