

William E. Drummond House  
559 Edgewood Place  
River Forest  
Cook County  
Illinois

HABS No. ILL-1072

HABS  
ILL,  
16-RIVFO,  
2-

PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN ARCHITECTURAL DATA

*Reduced Copies of Measured Drawings*

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D. C. 20240

## WILLIAM E. DRUMMOND HOUSE

HABS  
ILL,  
16-RIVFO,2-

Location: 559 Edgewood Place, River Forest, Cook County,  
Illinois

Present Owner  
and Occupant: Mrs. Lois Mann.

Present Use: Private residence.

Statement of  
Significance: This house was designed by William E. Drummond for himself. It is typical of that style of architecture known as the "Prairie School" as evidenced in the free-flowing open plan, the emphasis on the relation of indoors to outdoors, the hard stuccoed surfaces accentuated by dark wood trim, The emphasis on geometrical design and the flat slab roof is typical of Drummond's early work. Drummond, a member of the Wright studio from 1899 to 1909-10, was one of the most talented and sensitive architects of the Prairie School.

ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

## A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: The house was originally the home of its architect, William E. Drummond, who worked in Frank Lloyd Wright's Oak Park Studio during the first decade of the twentieth century.
2. Condition of fabric: Excellent.

## B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: The two-story structure is rectangular in shape, measuring approximately 56' x 30' 9".
2. Wall construction, finish, color: Sand beige stucco and dark brown wood trim.
3. Structural system, framing: Balloon frame.
4. Porches, stoops and bulkheads: An original open porch off the living room at the front of the house, is now enclosed. The entrance stoop with a planter box is at north and west front wall. A service entrance is located at the

north and east rear wall with steps leading down to the basement. A small stoop from living-dining room area to the rear yard is at the south and east rear wall.

5. Chimneys: A single central chimney serves the fireplace and furnace.
6. Openings:
  - a. Doorways and doors: Doors from the stoops noted above into the house have wood stiles and rails with a full length center glass panel.
  - b. Windows: Casement.
7. Roof:
  - a. Shape, covering: Flat, built-up-tar.
  - b. Cornice, eaves: There is a projecting overhang on four sides of the house at the second floor with plaster soffit and built-up wood fascia.
  - c. Projecting bays: Second story: Cantilevered bays are located on the north and south sides of the house immediately below the soffit.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans:
  - a. First floor: The living and dining areas are along the entire south side of house with an enclosed porch off the living area to the west. The entrance is at the northwest side of the house, and the kitchen along the east side of house. There is a storage room between the kitchen and the entry.
  - b. Second floor: The master bedroom with a dressing area and half-bath are along the west front with two bedrooms and a bath along the east rear. There is a study on the north side and a guest bedroom along the south side.
2. Stairways: A single stairway core in the center of the house leads to the second floor from the entry, and to the basement from the kitchen. It is oak treads and risers. A skylight over the second-floor landing is lit by windows placed between the flues of the chimney mass.

3. Flooring: There is 2½" strip oak flooring with some carpeting in the living area and asphalt tile in the kitchen.
  4. Wall and ceiling finish: Plaster, painted.
  5. Doorways and doors: Single recessed oak panel with oak styles and rails and oak doorways.
  6. Decorative features and trim: There is oak trim throughout the house in the base mould, window and door continuous head mould, 1" square vertical spindle stair rail, living-dining area divider, built-in china closet in dining area, continuous dropped (open above) soffit moulding between living-dining area, and the numerous freestanding pieces of furniture by both Drummond and Wright. The furniture includes an upholstered bench under the living area windows by Drummond; two chairs, a table, and two floor lamps by Wright in living room; and the dining table and chairs from the George Barton House in Buffalo, New York, by Wright. (The present owner is a niece of Mrs. Barton.)
  7. Lighting, type of fixtures: Electrical. The geometrically designed side-wall fixtures at various locations in the house are of cubic designs in leaded frame and translucent glass with incandescent bulbs.
  8. Heating: Central heat (hot water). The radiators are hidden from view by a plaster and wood trim panel, open at the top and bottom for circulation of air. The fireplace of deep brown Roman brick in the living area has a rectangular center opening with stone lintel, mantel and base, and Roman brick hearth flush with the floor. The fireplace in the master bedroom is also of deep brown Roman brick with a rectangular corner opening and stone lintel and base, and a Roman brick hearth flush with floor.
- D. Site and Surroundings:
1. General setting and orientation: The house faces west on the east side of Edgewood Place in a tree-lined and well maintained residential area. It is next door to the Isobel Roberts House by Wright.
  2. Outbuildings: A garage of wood balloon frame and vertical wood siding is located behind and to the north of the main house.

3. Landscaping and walks: A combination driveway and walk is located along the north edge of the property from street to garage. There is an extensive covering of trees and bushes around house with a well-maintained lawn.

Prepared by J. William Rudd  
Supervisory Architect  
National Park Service  
August 1965

### PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

The records and measured drawings of this structure were made during the 1965 Chicago III Project. This was the third in a series of four summer projects designed to record the significant architecture of the Chicago area. Special attention was given to the Chicago and Prairie Schools of Architecture of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The project was sponsored by Mr. Earl A. Reed, FAIA. He was assisted by a Finance Committee composed of John Fugard, FAIA; William E. Hartmann, FAIA; Alfred Shaw, FAIA; and a Selection Committee consisting of James Arkin, AIA; Ruth Schoneman, Art Institute of Chicago; and J. Carson Webster, Northwestern University. Organizations cooperating with HABS in this project were the City of Chicago, the Chicago Chapter of the American Institute of Architects and its Foundation, the Society of Architectural Historians, the Garrick Salvage Fund, and the Women's Architectural League of Chicago. The University of Illinois provided office space.

Professor J. William Rudd, then of the University of Cincinnati, served as the project supervisor. Other members of the summer team were assistant supervisor and Historian, Larry Homolka, Harvard University; photographers, Harold Allen and Richard Nickel; secretary, Mrs. Bert P. Schloss, and student architects, Gary Burk, Texas Technological College; Charles Gregersen, Illinois Institute of Technology; Edward Popko, University of Florida; and Thomas Ross, University of Illinois, Urbana.

Photographic work was done by Richard Nickel in 1967.