

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

NHZ

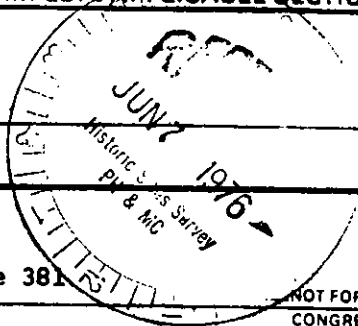
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC FALLINGWATER

AND/OR COMMON
Edgar Kaufman House



2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
West of Pennsylvania Route 381

CITY TOWN
Mill Ruh

STATE
Pennsylvania

VICINITY OF
CODE

NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
26th

COUNTY
Fayette

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Western Pennsylvania Conservancy
Mr. Thomas M. Schmidt, Director of Administration

STREET & NUMBER
204 Fifth Avenue

CITY TOWN
Pittsburgh

VICINITY OF

STATE
Pennsylvania

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC
Office of the Recorder of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER
Fayette County Court House

CITY TOWN
Uniontown

STATE
Pennsylvania

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Joint State Government Commission of Historical Sites

DATE
1965

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
William Penn Memorial Museum

CITY TOWN
Box 1026, Harrisburg

STATE
Pennsylvania

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Falling Water is located on 500 acres of rolling woodland. The main house is sited on the north of Bear Run, above the upper waterfall. It is oriented toward 150 degrees on the compass, or 7.5 degrees east of South-Southeast. The principal entrance is at the back (north side) through a loggia leading off a driveway between the house and a rock cliff about 16 feet high. A secondary entrance, to the kitchen, is at the northwest corner of the house, also from the driveway.

The main house, built in 1936 and 1937, is three stories high; average stream level is 1298' above sea level, the first-floor level is at 1311.7' and the top of the chimney is 30' 10 1/2" above the first-floor level. The first story comprises a large central living room, with dining table and glazed hatch leading down steps to the stream, the kitchen, and a small entry alcove. Steel and glass doors open from the living room to terraces on the east and west. The second story is occupied by a master bedroom and terrace (above the living room); Mr. Kaufman's dressing room (above the kitchen) opening onto a terrace to the west; and a guest bedroom (above the east side of the living room). The third story is taken by a bedroom (above Mr. Kaufman's dressing room) west balcony stairs leading down to the west terrace and a "gallery" opening onto a terrace above the center of the house. The bedroom is now furnished as a library, and the gallery--originally conceived as a connecting passage to a pedestrian bridge over the driveway--now leads to an alcove furnished as a small bedroom.

The structure of the main house consists of native sandstone retaining walls, piers, walls, and chimney core, with floors of cantilevered slabs of reinforced concrete. Window and door sash is of steel. Floors, indoors and out, are finished with 2" flags of native sandstone. Millwork is of black walnut plywood.

Wright designed all of the furniture that came with the house with minor exceptions. He used walnut veneer extensively on the interior furnishings, especially for cabinets and in the bedrooms. He chose other appropriate furnishings and sculpture for the house. Most of the furniture is of the built-in variety and thus stationary. The furniture serves the purpose of complementing the room rather than filling the space of the room.

Edgar Kaufman, Jr. described the structure in an article thus:

"Wright fixed the great chimney mass on top of a large boulder, its natural upper surface becoming the living room hearth, set above the finished floor. Around this point Wright swung his spaces: to the south the living room cantilevering over the falls; to the east the entrance spaces, to the west the kitchen, and to the north narrow strip for stairs and dining, all organized by four massive low piers that define the center bay of the living room. The north side of the house is almost sheltered by a steep cliff; the driveway runs narrowly between cliff and house.

(continued)

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The structure is so unusual that, although it is accurately expressed, more familiar preconceptions lead most people to 'read' the house wrongly. They think of tall stone walls from which the reinforced concrete projects. In fact, Wright conceived the house as a series of horizontal concrete trays upturned, stiffening edges; these trays are merely spaced one above the other by short stone masses. Wherever stone and concrete meet, the latter is continuous. Each concrete tray is structural on its lower surface; above this, in many areas, is an air space divided by small concrete walls that support a wood floor, finished in flag stones from the nearby quarry . . . Wright kept talking about the continuity of all surfaces on either side of the glass line. Floors must be at the same level, in the same stone flagging; ceiling surfaces were to be continuous and their color, uninterrupted."

The guest wing and servants' quarters, built in 1939 on the hill above the main house, at about 1340' above sea level, is connected to the main house by a semi-circular walkway of stone protected by a cantilevered canopy of reinforced concrete. The guest wing is composed of a bedroom and lounge, with swimming pool to the east; the servants' quarters consist of two single rooms and one "double" sized room on the second story, above the four-place carport, and a chauffeur's room at the south end of the carport level. Structure and millwork are of same character as main house.

There have been few changes. In 1946 the kitchen was extended to the west to provide a servants' sitting room. At the same time, a separate furnace was installed for the guest wing. In 1954 the east part of the cantilevered roof slab above the guest bedroom terrace of the main house was rebuilt. After a flood in 1956 the hanging stairs to the stream were rebuilt with two additional steel ties into the bedrock of the stream. Incandescent lighting was changed to fluorescent lighting by the original occupants of the house in 1938 and 1939.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES: 1936, 1939 BUILDER/ARCHITECT: Frank Lloyd Wright (1867-1959)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

"Falling Water" on Bear Run is a summer house built for Pittsburgh millionaire Edgar Kaufman, Sr. Wayne Andrews has called it the "most famous modern house in the world" while Vincent Scully proclaimed it "one of the complete masterpieces of twentieth-century art." The house, cantilevered over a waterfall, has come to be one of America's most renowned buildings, appealing not only to architects, but to the general public as well.

Kaufman, a Pittsburgh department store owner, gave Wright the commission for a dream house retreat--a beautiful home, elevated over a waterfall, resembling a soaring bird or plane, its wings reaching out into the air, at once part of the natural landscape but also separate from it. Its relationship to its surroundings is like that of a nest in a tree, a made thing that is utterly natural. Wright himself writing in Architectural Forum (1938) stated that this house "has no limitations as to form." "Falling Water" is almost impossible to describe and very difficult to photograph--the site is spectacular, the house changes from different vantage points and the scale is elusive.

"Falling Water" exploits the site as few other structures have before or since--secured to a rocky plateau, the massive cantilevered balconies covered by a slab roof canopy float in the space over the swiftly moving stream. Equally beautiful when approached on ground level, the three stories of the main house combine visually with the massing of the guest house above to produce a sort of monumentality, even in its domesticity. Visitors are surprised by its comparatively few rooms--a massive living room, three bedrooms and service rooms all extended by balconies, terraces and canopy slabs that project off the house in all directions.

The interior spaces are as beautiful as the exterior. Wright did not believe, as have many architects before and since, that a house should be an empty stage for human action, capable of being changed at will. He set the stage and was also the director. Wright built in the furniture, used fluorescent lighting as an aesthetic element which mimics daylight or is used as indirect light when it is not needed as direct illumination for reading or at a desk. Structural materials are generally the same on both interior and exterior, the flag paved living room floor continues to a stair dropping to a plunge pool beneath the house. The windows at the corners hold glass sealed against glass so there is no visual interruption (they sometimes leak) and reveal the area Edgar Kaufman, Jr. describes as combining "the beauty of a mature forest, massive sandstone boulders, a wild, free-flowing stream, and a forest understory covered with native rhododendron

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laurel, and typical Appalachian wildflowers."

"Falling Water" exemplifies Wright's own dicta--"Architecture is the triumph of human imagination over materials, methods, and men." The house enhances and then transcends the site and has become symbolic of man's struggle with nature and his final acceptance of a partnership with the environment.

The house was given to the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy by Edgar Kaufman, Jr. in October 1969. They maintain and interpret the house for visitors (by appointment).

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See continuation sheet

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

UTM REFERENCES

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C	1,7	6,3,0,4,1,0	4,4,1,7,5,4,0	D	1,7	6,2,9,9,1,0	4,4,1,8,8,8,0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See continuation sheet

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Carolyn Pitts, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

Historic Sites Survey, National Park Service

DATE

1/26/76

STREET & NUMBER

1100 L Street, NW.

TELEPHONE

202-523-5464

CITY OR TOWN

Washington, DC 20240

STATE

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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Andrews, Wayne. Art, Ambition and Americans. Glencoe, Illinois: Free Press, 1964.

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Dickson, Harold E. A Hundred Pennsylvania Buildings. State College, Pa.: Bald Eagle Press, 1954.

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Jacobs, Herbert. Frank Lloyd Wright, America's Greatest Architect. New York: Harcourt, Brace & World, Inc., 1965.

Scully, Vincent. Frank Lloyd Wright. New York: George Braziller, 1960.

The Architectural Forum 68. January, 1938.

Twombly, Robert C. Frank Lloyd Wright. New York: Harper and Row, 1973.

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ALL that certain lot or parcel of ground in the Township of Stewart, County of Fayette and Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, being bounded and described as follows:

BEGINNING at a planted square stone with an "x" on top at a corner common to lands now or formerly of John H. Stark, lands now or formerly of Jacob Stull and lands herein described; thence along said Stull lands, the following seven (7) courses and distances, each of said courses being to a planted stone with an "x" on top: South 51° 35' West 562.73 feet, North 84° 16' West 109.51 feet, North 62° 19' West 233.00 feet, North 22° 20' West 179.63 feet, North 4° 50' East 163.34 feet, North 48° 32' 30" West 415.43 feet and South 45° 41' 40" West 131.81 feet to a planted stone with an "x" on top at the southeasterly corner of lands now or formerly of William Gormley; thence along said Gormley lands, the following four (4) courses and distances: North 22° 51' 40" West 438.57 feet to a post with pointers painted red, South 79° 15' West 200 feet to a point on State Route 381, thence leaving said State Route 381 and following an old county road, South 10° 30' West 90 feet, more or less and South 8° 30' East 670 feet, more or less, to a point on the easterly side of said old county road at line of lands now or formerly of said Jacob Stull; thence along said Stull lands, South 6° 8' 30" West 333.39 feet to a corner common to said Stull lands and lands now or formerly of E. R. Clarkson; thence along said Clarkson lands and crossing said State Route 381, North 63° 33' 30" West 1320.61 feet to a point on line of other lands now or formerly of said E. R. Clarkson; thence along said other Clarkson lands, North 55° 15' West 849.75 feet to a corner common to said other Clarkson lands and lands now or formerly of J. A. Smiley; thence along said Smiley lands, the following two (2) courses and distances: North 41° 30' West 193 feet to stones and North 46° East 131.5 feet to a planted square stone with an "x" on top, said point being also the beginning point used in the description of that tract, known locally as, and hereinafter called, the "Masonic Country Club Tract", as described in that certain deed from

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Investment Land Company to Lillian S. Kaufmann, dated July 28, 1933, and recorded in the Recorder's Office of Fayette County, Pennsylvania, hereinafter called the "Recorder's Office", in Deed Book Vol. 519, page 432, part of said Masonic Country Club Tract being part of the lands herein described; thence continuing along said Smiley lands the following two (2) courses and distances: North 23° 46' 10" West 580.06 feet and South 76° 46' West 230.60 feet to a point on the east bank of the Youghiogheny River; thence along the east bank of said river, North 21° 50' West 550.60 feet to a point on line of other lands of said J. E. Smiley; thence along said other Smiley lands the following five (5) courses and distances: North 76° 46' East 363.00 feet, North 10° 22' West 402.47 feet to a planted stone with an "x" on top, North 21° 16' East 1018.77 feet to a planted stone in a mound of stones at the edge of a field, said point also being on line of lands conveyed to Edgar Kaufmann by Joe H. May and Etta Jean May, his wife, by deed dated October 8, 1957 and recorded in the Recorder's Office in Deed Book Vol. 900, page 348, hereinafter called the "May Tract", part of said May Tract being part of the lands herein described, due West 1040 feet, more or less, to a chestnut and North 22° West 660 feet to a gum at a corner common to said other Smiley lands and lands now or formerly of Fred Bowers; thence along said Bowers lands, North 64° East 1643.5 feet to a point; thence through the May Tract, South 85° East 3760 feet to a point in the center line of said State Route 381, said point being South 5° East 50 feet from the southeast corner of lands now or formerly of Paul A. Ream; thence along the center line of said State Route 381, South 17° West 868 feet, more or less, to a point at the intersection of said center line with the westerly line of lands conveyed by Rebecca Tissue et al. to Edgar J. Kaufmann and Lillian S. Kaufmann, his wife, by deed dated December 16, 1940 and recorded in the Recorder's Office in Deed Book Vol. 553, page 16, hereinafter called the "Tissue Tract"; thence continuing along said center line, South 42° West 940 feet, more or less, to the easterly corner of lands

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now or formerly of the Trustees of the Church of the Brethren; thence along said lands of the Trustees of the Church of the Brethren, the following three (3) courses and distances: North 40° West 209 feet; South 49° 15' West 115 feet and South 23° East 231 feet to a point in the center line of said State Route 381; thence along said center line, South 46° West 113.8 feet to a corner common to the Masonic Country Club Tract and the Tissue Tract; thence along the dividing line between the Masonic Country Club Tract and the Tissue Tract, the following four (4) courses and distances: South 16° 46' 20" East 1120 feet, more or less, to a point at a stone fence, South 15° 46' 30" East 873.52 feet to a copper bolt in a boulder, North 73° 12' 13" East 684.50 feet to a planted stone with an "x" on top and North 43° 40' East 1670.65 feet to a planted stone with an "x" on top; thence through the Masonic Country Club Tract, South 85° East 1320 feet to a point; thence South 7° West 3600 feet, more or less, to a corner common to lands now or formerly of Howard L. Sparks and lands now or formerly of John H. Stark; thence along said Stark lands, the following two (2) courses and distances: North 49° 59' 45" West 3040 feet, more or less, to a planted stone with an "x" on top and South 80° 37' 30" West 423.51 feet to the point at the place of beginning.

CONTAINING 515 acres more or less.

EXCEPTING therefrom and thereout the following described parcel belonging now or formerly to Jacob F. Stull, conveyed to said Jacob F. Stull by deed of Grant Dull, dated July 24, 1930 and recorded in the Recorder's Office in Deed Book Vol. 519, page 382:

BEGINNING at a planted stone with an "x" on top located North 49° East 85.1 feet from the beginning point used in the description of the Masonic Country Club Tract in said deed from Investment Land Company to Lillian S. Kaufmann; thence along the 2.892 acre portion of the Masonic Country Club Tract excepted

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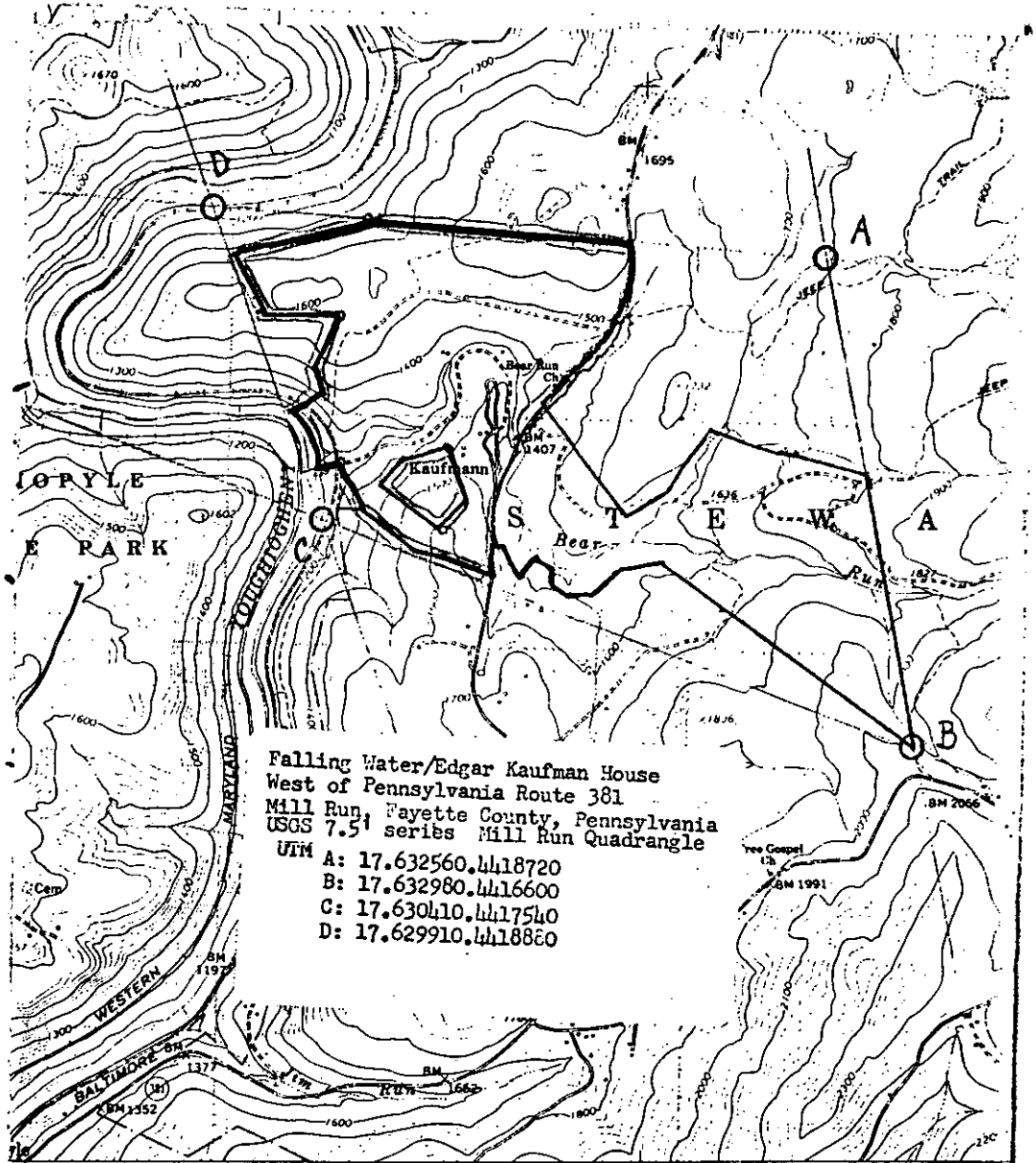
CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE Falling Water ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 4

and reserved in said deed the following two (2) courses and distances: North 56° 01' 45" East 561.50 feet to a planted stone with an "x" on top and North 68° 01' 45" East 635 feet more or less to a stone at the north-westerly corner of the first tract described in that certain deed from Donald M. Woodmancy and Ruth C. Woodmancy, his wife, to Edgar J. Kaufmann, dated July 29, 1933, and recorded in the Recorder's Office in Deed Book Vol. 519, page 435; thence along said first Woodmancy Tract South 15° 48' East 537.90 feet to a planted stone in a mound of stones on line of the third tract described in said Woodmancy deed; thence along said third Woodmancy tract South 36° 34' West 619.08 feet to a planted stone in a mound of stones at a corner common to said third Woodmancy tract and lands conveyed by E. R. Clarkson to Edgar J. Kaufmann, by deed dated September 15, 1948, and recorded in the Recorder's Office in Deed Book Vol. 668, page 61; thence along said Clarkson lands North 59° West 975.48 feet to the point at the place of beginning.

CONTAINING 14.831 acres more or less.

State Route 381 bisects the above-described tract of land on an axis which runs approximately north to south. National Landmark Status is given only to that portion of the above-described tract of land which lies to the east of said State Route 381.

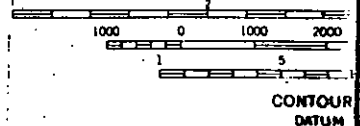
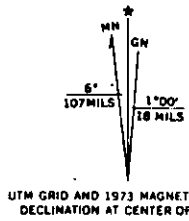
— : NHL BOUNDARIES



FARMINGTON, T. MI 176 177 178 179 180 181 182 183 184 185 186 187 188 189 190 191 192 193 194 195 196 197 198 199 200

Published by the Geological Survey
USGS
Metric methods from aerial
Field checked 1967
27 North American datum
Pennsylvania coordinate system, south zone
Inverse Mercator grid ticks.

State selected fence and field lines where
photographs. This information is unchecked
compiled in cooperation with
agencies from aerial photographs
Information not field checked



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC