

Frank Lloyd Wright Trust Archive

925 Chicago Ave., Oak Park, IL 60302

archive@flwright.org

Collection Overview

Title: Frank Lloyd Wright and William B. MacDonald Papers

Dates: 1956-1959

Creator(s): Wright, Frank Lloyd, Masselink, Eugene Beyer, MacDonald, William B.

Extent: 0.42 linear feet

Language: English

Repository:

Archive Resource Center of Frank Lloyd Wright Trust

925 Chicago Ave.

Oak Park, IL 606302

Ph: (312) 994-4000

<https://flwright.org/>

Collection Number: Arch2001.01

Accession Number(s): 2001.01

Administration Information

Conditions Governing Access: This collection is available for research purposes; please contact the Archive Resource Learning Center to arrange access.

Conditions Governing Use: Materials in this collection are available for use. Researchers wishing to publish, reproduce, or otherwise use collection materials must contact the Archive Resource Learning Center of the Frank Lloyd Wright Trust for permission and additional information.

Preferred Citation: [Identification of item.] [Name of collection.] [Collection number.] Frank Lloyd Wright Trust Archive, Oak Park, IL.

Immediate Source of Acquisition: The Frank Lloyd Wright correspondence with William B. MacDonald collection was purchased by the Trust by Cherly Bachand Curator from Wessel & Lieberman Bookseller, Inc. on December 1st, 2000, and was accessioned September 19, 2001, by an unknown staff member of the Trust.

Processing Information: The collection was fully processed and rehoused by Archivist, Andria Castillo in December of 2025.

Biographical or Administrative History

Frank Lloyd Wright (1867-1959) was an American architect whose designs and philosophy helped shaped modern architecture. During the 1950s, Wright continued to work actively through the Taliesin Fellowship, with assistance from Wright's earliest apprentice and personal secretary, Eugene Beyer Masselink (1910-1962). One of these correspondents included William B. MacDonald, in which Wright

spoke with him during this period regarding architectural matters and shared interests. The Robie House, one of Wright's most well-known Prairie style buildings, became the focal point of preservation advocacy during the mid-twentieth century, reflecting growing interest in protecting modern architectural heritage.

Scope and Content

This collection contains typed correspondences from Frank Lloyd Wright and Eugene Masselink to William B. MacDonald regarding the Fredrick Robie House and their efforts to save this building. It also contains an undated "Plan" proposal for the Robie House Preservation Project, and two photographs of Frank Lloyd Wright.

Arrangement

Arranged in 2 series chronologically:

Series 1: Correspondence, 1956-1959

Series 2: Photographs and Miscellaneous Documents

Controlled Access Headings

Subjects:

Wright, Frank Lloyd, 1867-1959 – Correspondence.

Masselink, Eugene Beyer – Correspondence

Robie House (Chicago, Illinois)

Historic Preservation

Container List

Series 1: Correspondence, 1956-1959

<u>Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Dates</u>
1A-R2-S1	1	1	Frank Lloyd Wright letter to William B. MacDonald	1956, December 6
1A-R2-S1	1	1	Envelope addressed to Mr. William B. MacDonald, titled, "WTTW"	1956, December 6
1A-R2-S1	1	1	Frank Lloyd Wright letter to William B. MacDonald [pg. 1/2]	1957, April 29
1A-R2-S1	1	1	Frank Lloyd Wright letter to William B. MacDonald [pg. 2/2]	1957, April 29
1A-R2-S1	1	1	Envelope addressed to Mr. William B. MacDonald, titled, "The Committee to Preserve the Robie House"	1957, April 30
1A-R2-S1	1	1	Frank Lloyd Wright telegram to William B. MacDonald	1957, May 2
1A-R2-S1	1	1	Envelope labeled "Western Union Telegram"	ca. 1929
1A-R2-S1	1	1	Envelope labeled "Western Union Telegram"	ca. 1929
1A-R2-S1	1	1	Frank Lloyd Wright letter to William B. MacDonald [pg. 1/3]	1957, September 8

1A-R2-S1	1	1	Frank Lloyd Wright letter to William B. MacDonald [pg. 2/3]	1957, September 8
1A-R2-S1	1	1	Frank Lloyd Wright letter to William B. MacDonald [pg. 3/3]	1957, September 8
1A-R2-S1	1	1	Carbon copy letter from Frank Lloyd Wright letter to Samuel A. Lichtman [pg. 1/3]	1957, September 9
1A-R2-S1	1	1	Carbon copy letter from Frank Lloyd Wright letter to Samuel A. Lichtman [pg. 2/3]	1957, September 9
1A-R2-S1	1	1	Carbon copy letter from Frank Lloyd Wright letter to Samuel A. Lichtman [pg. 3/3]	1957, September 9
1A-R2-S1	1	1	Frank Lloyd Wright letter to William B. MacDonald [pg. 1/2]	1957, September 9
1A-R2-S1	1	1	Frank Lloyd Wright letter to William B. MacDonald [pg. 2/2]	1957, September 9
1A-R2-S1	1	1	Envelope addressed to Mr. William B. MacDonald, titled, "The Committee to Preserve the Robie House"	1957
1A-R2-S1	1	1	Eugene Beyer Masselink letter to William B. MacDonald	1959, January 1
1A-R2-S1	1	1	Frank Lloyd Wright letter to William B. MacDonald	1959, March 4
1A-R2-S1	1	1	Envelope addressed to Mr. William B. MacDonald, titled, "DEW Associates"	1959, March 11

Series 2: Photographs and Miscellaneous Documents

1A-R2-S1	1	2	Mounted black and white photograph of Frank Lloyd Wright	1959
1A-R2-S1	1	2	Mounted photo copy of a photograph depicting Frank Lloyd Wright	ca. 1950
1A-R2-S1	1	2	Document, undated, laying out a "plan" for Robie House Preservation	n.d.

Notes (if applicable)

Finding aid was updated in 2026 by Andria Castillo