

FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT TIMELINE OF LOCAL AND NATIONAL EVENTS

Date	FLW's Age	Event
June 8, 1867		Born in Richland Center, Wisconsin 2 after the end of the Civil War and President Lincoln's assassination. (Architect's autobiography lists the later date; various other documents from the State Historical Society indicate the earlier date.)
1871	4	Chicago fire that destroyed 73 miles of street, leveled 17,450 buildings, and killed 3000 people.
1876	9	Centennial Exposition, Philadelphia where Mrs. Wright bought Froebel Gifts
1878	11	Settles in Madison, Wisconsin. Family eventually moves to house on the shores of Lake Mendota. His father, William Wright, opens music studio in downtown Madison and preaches in small nearby rural community.
1880's	13-	Spends summers working for his Uncle James Lloyd Jones on farm located near Spring Green.
1883	16	Partial collapse of state capitol then under construction. (Event noted by Wright in his autobiography.)
1885	18	Secures part-time employment with Engineering Professor Allan Conover and helps supervise the construction of Science Hall on the University of Wisconsin campus. Parents are divorced; father leaves Madison.
1886	19	Attends the University of Wisconsin where he studies engineering as a special student.
1887	20	Leaves Madison for Chicago where he works for Joseph L. Silsbee and later Adler and Sullivan.
1889	22	Marries Catherine Tobin and begins construction of home in Chicago suburb of Oak Park where he resides for the next two decades.
1893	26	Chicago's Columbian Exposition brought world wide attention to Chicago.
1893	26	Establishes independent architectural practice and obtains first Madison commissions. The Mendota Boathouse is no longer extant; the Monona Boathouse was never built.
1903	36	First airplane flight by the Wright brothers.

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1903	36&37	Designs two residences for childhood friend Robie Lamp. Only one, located on Madison's isthmus, is built.
1904		
1908	41	Designs Gilmore residence in Madison's University Heights neighborhood. On the National Register of Historic Buildings, it exemplifies Wright's mature Prairie architecture.
1909	42	Leaves family and architectural practice and spends a year in Europe completing work on influential publication.
1911	44	Plans and begins construction of Taliesin, his country residence, approximately forty miles from Madison. Designs the eight-story Madison Hotel which was to have been the City's first skyscraper.
1914	47	World War I began.
1914	47	The first of two serious fires at Taliesin. In the first, Mamah Borthwick, her two children and four others working at Taliesin were killed by a deranged servant.
1915	48-55	Alternates between the United States and Japan overseeing the construction of the Imperial Hotel in Tokyo.
1922		
1918	51	World War I ended
1923	56	Marries Miriam Noel whom he had known for some time. Wright's mother, Anna Lloyd Wright, dies.
1924	57	Meets Olgivanna Lazovich who later becomes his third wife. Designs the Nakoma County Club and Nakoma Basin figures for Madison suburb that had once been inhabited by Winnebago Indians.
1929	62	Stock Market Crash, Depression follows
1932	65	Establishes Taliesin Fellowship.
1936	69	Designs the administration building of Johnson's Wax company in Racine.
1937	70	Purchases about 800 acres of land near Phoenix, Arizona and begins the construction of Taliesin West where the architect thereafter spends the winter months every year.

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1937	70	Constructs the Jacobs I residence on Madisons westside, the first of his buildings to feature "radiant" heating.
1938	71	Presents original design for Madison multi-level civic center that would have extended out over Lake Monona.
1939	72	World War II began.
1939	72	Constructs the Pew Residence on Lake Mendota.
1941	74	Attack on Pearl Harbor.
1945	78	1st atom bomb dropped on Hiroshima.
1945	78	The end of World War II .
1946	79	Begins design of a second residence "in the country" for Herbert Jacobs.
1950's	83	Designs three prefabricated houses and a motel for Marshall Erdman, a Madison contractor. Three houses are built.
1951	84	Completes construction of the First Unitarian Meeting House, designed by Wright, with the help of Taliesin apprentices and church members. Ever since then, visitors to Madison have come to see it.
1954	87	Voting in a citywide election, Madison citizens approve of Wright and his Monona Terrace design. Construction of the civic complex never materialized.
1955	88	Receives honorary degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Honored at Recognition Dinner attended by over 300 people and receives check for \$10,000.
April 9, 1959		Dies in Scottsdale, Arizona at the age of 91. Services held April 12 at Taliesin near Spring Green. Interment at nearby family cemetery until Spring 1985, when remains exhumed, cremated and sent to Arizona to be placed with those of his recently deceased widow.

Taken from the Dana-Thomas House Docent Manual and the Elvehjem Museum of Art; Updated by Marcia Philipps Hyzer - 4/20/99