Frank Lloyd Wright’s Lamp House in Madison would be better protected if the recommendations of a special ad hoc municipal committee were adopted and implemented. Created by the Madison Common Council with the support of Mayor Paul Soglin, the committee of six citizens and two alders approved its final advisory report on Tuesday, Jan. 15 at the last of seven meetings since first coming together in October.

“The committee and city-planning staff did an impressive job in a remarkably short period of time. The results are very hopeful for those of us who want to protect the Lamp House and its site,” said Jack Holzhueter, a former Frank Lloyd Wright Wisconsin board member who has written extensively about Wright’s designs for Robert Lamp. He said that the committee worked diligently to consider the interests of both developers and preservationists.

Several steps remain to secure the report’s implementation. Alder Ledell Zellers, whose district includes the Lamp House, said the report still needs to be reviewed and approved by three city commissions and the Common Council. Even if accepted, the report contains only guidelines and recommendations since the committee was not empowered to change existing neighborhood plans, zoning, or other ordinances. Such changes, if any, will need to be made by the Madison Plan Commission and Common Council as continued on page 07
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Wright in Wisconsin is published three times annually, in February, May, and September, by Frank Lloyd Wright Wisconsin, a nonprofit organization designed to promote, protect, and preserve the heritage of Frank Lloyd Wright, his vision and his architecture, in his native state of Wisconsin. Membership benefits include discounts at the Monona Terrace Gift Shop and on Wright and Like tour tickets, complimentary tour of the Model B1 house in Milwaukee, newsletters, volunteer opportunities, and more. To join our organization contact us at the address and phone number listed below, or visit www.wrightinwisconsin.org.

Chair, Publications Committee Mark Hertzberg
Designer and Editor Scott K. Templeton

Special thanks to architect/author Randy Henning for contributing the “At Taliesin” column, Patrick Mahoney for contributing the vintage postcard, and Eric O’Malley for providing initial layouts and design consultation.

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**PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE**

by Lois Y. Berg

As 2013 came to a close I reflected on the numerous accomplishments we achieved during the year. Our accomplishments are possible only through the work of the dedicated Board of Directors, volunteers, and our members. On behalf of the entire board of Frank Lloyd Wright Wisconsin, I would like to wish all of our members a happy and prosperous 2014. We thank you for all your generous support of our mission “to promote, protect, and preserve the heritage of Frank Lloyd Wright in his native state of Wisconsin.” We are on our way to raising the money needed to restore the two interior units of the Two Family Flat “C” through the many generous donations we received in our annual fund appeal. The exterior restoration—funded entirely by the Save America’s Treasures grant and many generous donations—is nearing completion. The results are stunning. We hope that many of you will tour our Model B1 and see the exterior restoration on the Two Family Flat “C.” Our tours are scheduled from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. (please note the new time) on the second and fourth Saturdays of each month. Please check our website for an additional tour day on Friday once a month in the summer and fall seasons.

**Newsletter Update**

I would like to express the board’s gratitude to Barbara Sanford, who was our newsletter editor since 2007. Barbara, who chose to retire in December, provided our members with outstanding newsletters for the last seven years.

Barbara’s replacement is Scott Templeton, elected to our board in November. Scott, an independent designer and owner of Campsite Creative LLC, has volunteered with Frank Lloyd Wright Wisconsin for many years as a designer and tour docent, and has helped locate “Like” properties for Wright and Like. He grew up in a Usonian-like home and has had a lifelong interest in organic architecture. We are very excited that he has joined our board and will be designing and editing the newsletter. Thanks also to Eric O’Malley, editor of PrairieMod, who volunteered his time and skills during the transition. In 2011, Eric was presented with the Frank Lloyd Wright Building Conservancy’s prestigious Wright Spirit Award for his efforts in promoting the preservation of Frank Lloyd Wright’s legacy.

Lastly, we hope that you will enjoy that our newsletter will now be printed in full color.

**2014 Frank Lloyd Wright in Wisconsin Events**

Please mark your calendars for our annual Wright and Like tour on Saturday, June 7th. We are in the early planning stages for this event (“Driving Mr. Wright,” the south-central Wisconsin road trip), with more news on the specific Wright and Like houses to come in our spring newsletter. There will be a special event on June 6. Watch for announcements of other upcoming events on our website (www.wrightinswisconsin.org). We look forward to a very busy and productive 2014 and hope that you will join us for the many events we are planning.

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**Designer’s note:**

I’ve been involved with Frank Lloyd Wright Wisconsin since the second Wright and Like tour. I’m delighted that the flexible schedule I have as an independent designer allows me to serve on the board and volunteer my design and editing skills to this publication and other outreach efforts. Thank you, Lois and the board. Thanks also to Eric O’Malley for his friendship, expertise, and support of Frank Lloyd Wright Wisconsin, and to our new newsletter printing partner, Rick Sanders at Park Printing Solutions in Verona.

— Scott K. Templeton
Campsite Creative LLC
**Historic Site Agreement**

At the November 19, 2013 board meeting, president Lois Berg and vice president–facilities Mike Lilek signed a Historic Site License Agreement with the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation. Board member and attorney Ron Scherbuel helped shepherd the agreement through a long negotiation process. Through the Historic Site Agreement initiative, the Foundation makes certain trademarks available on a royalty-free basis for the promotion of Frank Lloyd Wright–designed buildings for tourism, education, and overnight rentals.

Sean Malone, president & CEO of the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation, said of the recent signing, “The Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation is thrilled and honored to be entering into a Historic Site Agreement with Wright In Wisconsin. Wright in Wisconsin is a deeply valued partner; we applaud both their accomplishments and their ambitions in promoting and preserving the legacy and works of Frank Lloyd Wright in his native state of Wisconsin.”

**In Memoriam**

Carol Huntress Tarr died on Oct. 1, 2013, in Beverly, Mass., following a brief illness. She served as the site representative for the Unitarian Meeting House to the board of Frank Lloyd Wright Wisconsin from 1996 until 2007. She loved Hawk Hill in Spring Green, where she built a summer cottage and served for a number of years as a docent at Frank Lloyd Wright’s Taliesin. Carol loved to gather with family and was fond of camping, trips to the beach, reading, and touring arts in any locale. She loved to travel, enjoying trips to many American and European destinations. An outdoor tribute featuring Carol’s famous pound cake will be held in June at Unity Chapel, Spring Green.

**Special Thanks**

Frank Lloyd Wright Wisconsin extends its appreciation to everyone who helped make “Prairie on the Lake,” our fall event, a success. Participants on the bus tour visited the architecture of Wright contemporary Robert Spencer and colleagues. We appreciate the help from Jeff and Susan Neal, homeowners—Deepwood; Toni and Ken Harkness, homeowners—House on the Hill; architectural historian John Notz, our tour guide and “friend of Robert Spencer”; Ron McCormack, restoration architect for Deepwood; and the staffs at Horticultural Hall, Geneva Lake Museum, and the Lake Geneva Country Club.

**SC Johnson Research Tower Tours**

The SC Johnson Research Tower in Racine will open to public tours for the first time in May 2014. The interior of the tower has been lit at night since it closed in 1982, but the lighting scheme was very different from the original one. An extensive yearlong restoration included replicating the original lighting scheme. The company debuted the restored lighting scheme at a December 21, 2013 Winter Solstice celebration.

Some other highlights of the work include restoring the building’s 21,170 bricks, refurbishing floors and cabinet walls, replacing more than 5,800 Pyrex-glass window tubes, and cleaning more than 1,500 original curved tubes that were not replaced.
Mark Your Calendars

With its 2014 conference in Scottsdale still several months in the future, The Frank Lloyd Wright Building Conservancy is already in the process of finalizing plans to hold its annual conference in Milwaukee in September/October 2015. To learn more about the Conservancy or the upcoming conferences, visit www.savewright.org or email jlevine@savewright.org.

Historic Barn Burns on Charles A. Stevens’ Estate

If you visited either the Robert C. Spencer Jr. “Gardeners Cottage” or Howard Fisher’s all-steel house, “Windward,” (both located on the Charles A. Stevens Delavan Lake estate) during the 2013 Wright and Like tour, you would have passed by the historic Queen Anne–style horse-and-carriage barn built circa the 1880s. Last August, a chimney fire resulted in a near total loss to the barn and contents, including the graceful prancing-horse weathervane. Today all that remains is a grassy lawn (albeit now snow covered), singed trees, and many family memories.

Over some 130 years of existence this barn hosted family and community theatre performances on an upstairs stage, along with art and other classes given under the auspices of local educational institutions. First-floor stalls housed horses, as well as goats from Charles Stevens’ famous herd of Toggenburg milk goats, well into the 1920s. While saddened by the loss, the descendants of Charles A. Stevens are glad that so many had a chance to see it.

SC Johnson Sues Sotheby’s Auction House

SC Johnson filed a federal lawsuit in New York in December 2013 against Sotheby’s auction house and a California man, seeking the return of a Frank Lloyd Wright–designed desk and office chair from the SC Johnson Administration Building. The furniture was valued at a combined estimate of $480,000 to $720,000. SC Johnson filed suit to block the desk and chair from being auctioned off.

The Racine-based company wants the items back, claiming it is the rightful owner of all such furniture. The items were withdrawn from auction and are being held at Sotheby’s until ownership can be definitively established.

Edgar Tafel-designed Albert House Spared

Edgar Tafel’s Carl and Marie Albert House (1948) in Wind Point, north of Racine, has likely been spared demolition after a series of court hearings last fall.

Joan Schulz, who had lived in the house since 1972, left it one day more than six years ago to help with a family health situation. The house sat empty and suffered significant damage when the roof deteriorated and water seeped into the house.

The house is situated at the busy intersection of Four Mile Road and N. Main Street. It was arguably an eyesore, with a blue tarp covering part of the roof. The house was declared uninhabitable by the village in December 2011. The village then sought to demolish the house.

The Schulz family was able to get a stay of a raze order last fall, despite a lack of progress in making repairs to the structure. The roof was repaired in December. The interior of the house was gutted because of mold, and will be restored. In a court hearing on December 20 Judge John Jude said he was satisfied that enough progress had been made by then to not order demolition. The village agreed. Another hearing to review progress in the restoration is scheduled for March.
Frank Lloyd Wright Wisconsin received exceptionally good publicity last year for two events at Burnham Street. First, we participated in Doors Open Milwaukee, September 21–22. Historic Milwaukee Inc. (www.historicmilwaukee.org) sponsors this annual event, making arrangements with over 100 organizations to open the doors of their architecturally interesting buildings free of charge to the public—from churches to office buildings, theaters to work sites, museums to hotels, clubs to universities; all sites of historic, architectural, cultural, or commercial interest (www.doorsopenmilwaukee.org). Visitors arrange their own itinerary.

Wright in Wisconsin has participated in Doors Open Milwaukee the last two years and experienced overwhelming response this past year in both number of visitors and unprecedented coverage by Milwaukee newspapers. On Friday, September 20, the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel article “Building a City” promoted the Burnham Street American System-Built Homes as one of the best architectural sites to explore for free. 1,900 visitors responded. Volunteer coordinator Donna Newgord rose to the challenge of handling the non-stop flow. We were pleased with comments from visitors that ours was the best-organized site they had attended.

Most arrived from Milwaukee and the surrounding area, but many states and countries were represented in the visitor log, and a variety of languages floated on the air of the sunny, warm fall days. We encourage all those associated with Wright sites to include it on your list of architecture-to-visit. The next Doors Open Milwaukee event is September 20–21, 2014.

A pre-publicity feature article for the second event, the 110th Harley Davidson anniversary celebration August 31–September 1, included both the Frank Lloyd Wright–designed American System-Built Homes and Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church as two of the “10 Buildings Worth Riding By.” Big bikes parked along the Burnham Street block attracted a new audience and interest.

Both events were important in bringing wide attention to the main event of the year on the block: the restoration of the Two Family Flat “C” restoration. The view of an entire building wrapped in a plastic bubble tends to stop passers-by in their tracks.

Duplex Restoration Update

The American System-Built Homes Two Family Flat “C” restoration at 2732–34 W. Burnham Street is now moving at a rapid pace. The building is fully enclosed within a heated “bubble” of plastic. The stucco system is about two-thirds complete, the front porch is almost rebuilt, and most of the interior demolition is done.

The interior restoration budget is $124,000 each for the two units in the Two Family Flat “C.” Every dollar received brings us closer to our goal. You are welcome to contribute to the restoration effort at www.wrightinwisconsin.org.
they consider the report. The schedule for commission and council reviews has yet to be determined.

The Lamp House, which is a privately owned residential rental property, is already protected by Madison’s landmark ordinance and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Nevertheless, preservationists have been wary of high-rise developments that would encroach on the integrity of the building, its site, and views of Lake Mendota from the third story. Recent changes to Madison’s Downtown Plan and zoning ordinance would permit such encroachments.

The ad hoc committee’s report includes a number of recommendations:

- Explore the creation of a small historic district that would include the Lamp House and several adjacent buildings.
- Preserve some views to the house from the street.
- Preserve views from the house to Lake Mendota. This includes reducing building heights on some adjacent and nearby parcels.
- Require shadow studies to ensure that sunlight reaches the Lamp House rooftop, which was originally a garden with views to Lake Mendota and Lake Monona (no longer visible because of taller buildings).

The recommendations do not prohibit new development on the block. For example, a proposal for a six-story, 58-unit apartment building immediately to the rear of the Lamp House could proceed. The advisory report does, however, suggest specific guidelines to mitigate the impact of this and other future projects on the Wright landmark.

The Lamp House, completed in 1903, is the earliest surviving work by Wright in Madison, the city he considered his hometown. It is uniquely situated in the center of a block in what the report describes as a “rare downtown enclave” just one block from the state capitol building.

“In 1903 Wright was already working toward abstraction and away from his Prairie Style,” said Holzhueiter. “In the Lamp House, Wright was making initial exploratory steps toward the abstract as seen in the Larkin Building (1903), Unity Temple (1905), and the Yahara Boathouse project (1905).”

Frank Lloyd Wright Wisconsin sent comments and recommendations to the ad hoc committee and will monitor developments as the process unfolds in Madison. Other organizations that have supported efforts to protect the Lamp House are the Frank Lloyd Wright Building Conservancy, the Madison Trust for Historic Preservation, and the National Trust for Historic Preservation.
Last October, the Frank Lloyd Wright Building Conservancy (www.savewright.org) honored the First Unitarian Society and Friends of the Meeting House (Public Domain Category) and Peter Rött (Professional Category) with its prestigious Wright Spirit Awards for their extraordinary efforts to preserve the legacy of Wright’s work and share it with a larger audience.

A major cultural resource for the entire community of Madison, the First Unitarian Meeting House (1941) has creatively used Frank Lloyd Wright’s flexible design for events large and small while providing docent-led tours all year round. When a surge in membership necessitated increased restoration and maintenance, a capital campaign allowed several long-term projects to be completed. Additionally, the “StoneHaulers,” a group of original congregants, raised over $300,000 to replace a 7,000 square foot copper roof. Today, the building and the community remain as vibrant and dynamic as ever, keeping Wright’s vision of both a religious and community space alive and well.

As the principal of Isthmus Architecture in Madison, Wisconsin, Rött has helped the firm establish a regional reputation for quality historic preservation and the reuse of designated historic landmark structures. He has worked on and prepared detailed reports for a number of significant Wright works, including the Unitarian Meeting House, Taliesin, Tan-y-deri, Wyoming Valley School, Monona Terrace, Arnold House and Pew House. Rött currently serves on the boards of the Seth Peterson Cottage Conservancy and Wyoming Valley School Cultural Arts Center, and was instrumental in providing consulting services to the City of Richland Center on adaptive reuse of the A.D. German Warehouse.

Since its introduction in 1991, the FLWBC has honored a dozen Wisconsin individuals and organizations with Wright Spirit Awards, most recently Jack Holzhueter (Special Honors Category 2012), Mary Jane Hamilton (Professional Category 2012), Kubala Washatko Architects (Professional Category 2011), and the Johnson Foundation at Wingspread (Public Category 2010). In 2005, Frank Lloyd Wright Wisconsin was recognized with a Wright Spirit Award (Special Honors Category) for its dedication to public education, promotion of the important collection of Wright structures in Wisconsin, and direct commitment to saving the Burnham Street properties in Milwaukee.
The history of the Frank Lloyd Wright–designed Bernard Schwartz House (1939–40) in Two Rivers would perhaps still be waiting to be fully uncovered if it weren’t for the extensive research completed by board member Gail Fox. Although Gail’s position on the board did not begin until 2007, her direct exposure to Wright had inadvertent beginnings as early as the 1960s. While a student at the University of Chicago, her dorm room window overlooked the private balconies of Wright’s Frederick C. Robie House (1908–10). After college, Gail spent some time in France and relocated again, this time to Madison, where she worked at the Legislative Reference Bureau at the capitol. She became academically acquainted with Wright’s architecture when she enrolled in the graduate program in Art History at UW–Madison. While living in Madison, she made her first visit to Taliesin. Gail admits that she and her future husband Jerome wandered the grounds of the main campus and explored the buildings, never once thinking about the fact that it was private property. “We simply thought it was important art that was meant to be seen.”

Gail and Jerome married in 1973 and moved to Two Rivers. Although significantly involved in local community service, and with their two daughters in school, Gail decided to return to graduate school on a part-time basis in the late 1980s. She made the 90-mile commute to UW–Milwaukee for classes, and among those that she registered for was one on Frank Lloyd Wright taught by Dr. Paul Sprague. Her topic for the class was the Bernard Schwartz House.

Gail chose to commit herself to documenting the home’s complete story, rich in original source material and not very well researched to that point, and continues to do so. Her research on the Schwartz House necessitated meetings with Edgar Tafel, one of Wright’s first apprentices and the construction supervisor of the Two Rivers home. Beginning with her initial “cold call” informing him of her intentions, she and Tafel continued to correspond until shortly before his death in 2011. In 2003, the Schwartz House changed hands and took on a more public face, as it is one of the few Wright-designed homes that can be rented for overnight stays. Since that time, Gail’s role as the home’s historian has become more public through private and public tours, talks, and occasional writings about the home.

Gail also serves on the Bricks & Mortar Committee for the American System-Built Homes on Burnham Street and on the Interiors Committee for the ASBH Model B1 museum house. In 2012, she was an organizer of the Frank Lloyd Wright Wisconsin “On the Shores” bus tour, which included homes designed by Russell Barr Williamson and John Bloodgood Schuster, culminating with a reception at the Schwartz home.

As a fellow Frank Lloyd Wright Wisconsin board member (and as a friend), I would like to acknowledge and thank Gail for her continued contributions to our organization (which include—but are not limited to—writing, research, and donations), as well as for all of her ongoing volunteer work in her community. It is evident that she is serious about everything she does, all of which she goes about accomplishing very quietly.

© Ian Gort
“What do you do when it’s cold?” asks visitors to the unfinished Taliesin Fellowship buildings. They stand in huddled groups, with hands thrust deep in pockets, with thoughts turned toward Taliesin’s greatest fireplace.

There are many ways of spending the ear-nipping days of winter. Checkers is a good game. Mud wasps crawl into cracks above the molding and stay there. Thoreau, I believe, would have sat by the fire, as he did by his door in summer, for hours without moving. The Fellowship knows neither hibernation nor extended contemplative life. The day at Taliesin begins at six. In the east the sky is as blue as it was at midnight, and to the north the dipper is plainly visible, handle down. The first thing we do is to breakfast, like any farmer, on buckwheat cakes, bacon, prunes and coffee. Then we must clean our rooms, and appear in the studio, where work begins almost as soon as there is light enough to see.

There are 16 fireplaces and three boilers at Taliesin, all of which burn cord-wood cut into convenient lengths. Apprentices bring the wood from nearby farms and help with the sawing. That is most of the work done outdoors, everything else being a part of the planned objective in a creative sense. Some of the apprentices are working on drawings and a model of the Fellowship as it will be when completed. Some are repairing models which have seen the disastrous effects of much traveling and many exhibitions. Still others are making working drawings for a house which Mr. Wright has designed for a professor in Minneapolis.

At noon the dinner bell rings and the studio is quickly deserted. Unless, of course, Mr. Wright should be drawing himself. There are few who wouldn’t rather watch Mr. Wright draw than eat. An hour later the work is again under way. One boy is designing a poster for the roadside billboard of the theater. Another is weaving a necktie—hurriedly, so he can begin a large rug when he has shown that he knows his technique. Half a dozen apprentices are rehearsing a play which one of their number has written. They will design the sets and produce the thing with no help except their own ingenuity.

At four o’clock there is tea, with lemon and apple cake or cinnamon toast. It is not tea in the formal sense, but rather a period of rest and renewed stimulation for tired minds. For after tea is over there remain three hours of humming activity in which each apprentice does what he chooses, learning to draw before all else. The supper bell ends the Fellowship day. The lights go out at 10 pm.

Sunday is different, but far more deadly. At three in the afternoon there is a program of pictures at the Taliesin Playhouse. The Playhouse is the only completely finished unit of the new buildings and is heated with steam. The public is admitted to these affairs, which are informal gatherings punctuated with pleasant conversation and a cup of hot coffee around the fireplace. Many excellent foreign and American films have been shown.

Supper on Sunday is served buffet style in the living room at Taliesin. At these times the Fellowship has the double advantage of talking with and listening to not only Mr. Wright, but any guest of note who may be visiting him at the time. I will always remember Sophie Breslau who came to Taliesin after her Madison concert last winter and graciously sang for us until a few hours before breakfast time. Rockwell Kent was another figure who will live long in the minds of the Fellowship. Bringing with him movies taken in Greenland, and talking informally of his natural philosophy, Mr. Kent gave us a memorable visit.

If winter becomes tedious—and it hasn’t—we have many pleasant things to anticipate. The garden, the building and painting—relaxations such as swimming, picnicking, drawing outdoors.

And so I have told you what the Taliesin Fellowship does when it is cold. Winter is not a dreaded word here. It implies that the work goes on inside instead of outside, that is about all.
WISCONSIN WRIGHT SITES TOURS & EVENTS

Events are free unless otherwise noted. Visit wrightinwisconsin.org for a complete listing of site tour schedules and contact information.

Wright Calendar

- **February 15**
  **Unitarian Meeting House**
  Dr. Stephen Alltop, harpsichord recital, 7 p.m., Landmark Auditorium
  Madison

- **February 15 & 16**
  **Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church**
  A Taste of Greece, noon–8 p.m., James W. Pihos Cultural Center
  Food plus tours at 1 p.m., 3 p.m., 5 p.m.
  www.annunciationwi.org
  Milwaukee

- **March 1**
  **Monona Terrace**
  Terrace Town, 10 a.m.–4 p.m., Exhibition Hall
  Display of student projects
  Madison

- **March 6**
  **Monona Terrace**
  Wright Design Series, 7 p.m., Lecture Hall
  “Architecture that Makes Lives Better”
  Lawrence Speck, FAIA
  Madison

- **April 6**
  **Bernard Schwartz House**
  Public tours, 3 p.m., reservations required
  Two Rivers  
  $10 donation

- **April 13–18**
  **Seth Peterson Cottage**
  Annual Cottage Work Week—volunteers needed
  Call Bill Martinelli, (608) 238-8355
  Lake Delton

Ongoing tours and events

- **American System-Built Homes Model B1**
  Open house and tours, 2nd and 4th Saturday of each month, 12:30–3:30 p.m.
  Milwaukee  
  $10 donation at the door

- **SC Johnson**
  Tours, Fridays and Saturdays, May 1–September 30
  For tour information and reservations, visit www.scjohnson.com/en/company/visiting.aspx or call (262) 260-2154.
  Racine

- **Seth Peterson Cottage**
  Open house and tours, 2nd Sunday of each month, 1–3:30 p.m.
  Lake Delton  
  $4 donation

- **Taliesin**
  NEW: April house tours, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.
  Reservations (877) 588-5900
  Spring Green  
  $50 per person

- **Unitarian Meeting House**
  Noon Musicales, Fridays, 12:15–1 p.m., Landmark Auditorium
  Madison

- **Wingspread — The Johnson Foundation**
  Monday–Friday, 9:30 a.m.–3 p.m.
  By appointment only. No tours are given during conferences. Call (262) 681-3353 or email tour@johnsonfdn.org to schedule a visit.
  Racine
Taliesin after the tragic fire of August 15, 1914: Onlookers survey the near total destruction of what once was Frank Lloyd Wright’s residence near Spring Green. This is a rare real photo postcard sold shortly after the incident.