

**SOCIETY OF  
ARCHITECTURAL  
HISTORIANS**

6 September 2021

Thomas Cauley, Jr., Village President  
Hinsdale Village  
415 Main Street  
Hinsdale, Illinois, 61257  
[tcauley@sidley.com](mailto:tcauley@sidley.com)

Kathleen A. Gargano, Village Manager  
Hinsdale Village  
415 Main Street  
Hinsdale, Illinois, 61257  
[kgargano@villageofhinsdale.org](mailto:kgargano@villageofhinsdale.org)

Re: Support for the preservation of the Frank Lloyd Wright-designed Frederick Bagley House, Hinsdale, Illinois

Dear Mr. Cauley and Ms. Gargano:

The Society of Architectural Historians (SAH) strongly supports efforts to preserve the Frank Lloyd Wright-designed Frederick Bagley House in Hinsdale, Illinois. Frank Lloyd Wright is widely recognized as one of the most significant architects in the United States; the Bagley House, built in 1894, is an important example of his early work.

Wright's work includes such internationally recognized landmarks as the Guggenheim Museum (New York), Fallingwater (Bear Run, Pennsylvania), The Robie House (Chicago), Taliesin (Spring Green, Wisconsin), and Taliesin West (Scottsdale, Arizona), and the Imperial Hotel (Tokyo). Wright is not only well known within the field of architecture and architectural history, but is widely appreciated by the general public; for many Americans, Frank Lloyd Wright represents the popular image of what an architect is and does. The Dutch Colonial Bagley House undertaken by Wright shortly after he left the Adler & Sullivan firm to establish his own practice. The design is linked to his own Oak Park home of 1889, and, later, his Studio which joined his house in 1989.

The Bagley House is being marketed for its site, only, as a teardown opportunity; there is no mention of Wright or the significance of the house itself in the promotional materials for the sale. The threat of demolition to make way for the construction of a larger house is not a threat without basis. The house has no legal preservation protections, and teardowns in Hinsdale have become common: houses to the north and south of the Bagley House have already been demolished to make way for larger residences.

We write in support of the preservation of the Frederick Bagley House. Wright's work is essential to an understanding of modern architecture in the United States, and the Bagley House is an early example of Wright's independent work, and vital to an understanding of his development as an architect.

Sincerely,



Bryan Clark Green, Ph.D., LEED AP BD+C  
Chair, Society of Architectural Historians Heritage Conservation Committee

cc: Mr. Jim Prisby, Member, Village of Hinsdale's Historic Preservation Commission; Mr. Kenneth Breisch, Ph.D.; Ms. Mary B. Brush, FAIA; Mr. James Buckley, Ph.D.; Mr. Jeffrey Cody, Ph.D.; Mr. Anthony Cohn, AIA; Mr. David Fixler, FAIA; Ms. Priya Jain, AIA; Mr. Theodore H. Prudon, Ph.D., FAIA, Ms. Pauline Saliga; Ms. Deborah Slaton; Ms. Victoria Young, Ph.D.; Members, SAH Heritage Conservation Committee.