

Photos from Richland Co. History Room - Baptist Church – William Wright, Minister. The Wertz House, possible birthplace of Frank Lloyd Wright.

Frank Lloyd Wright - seven possible birthplaces - June 8, 1867.

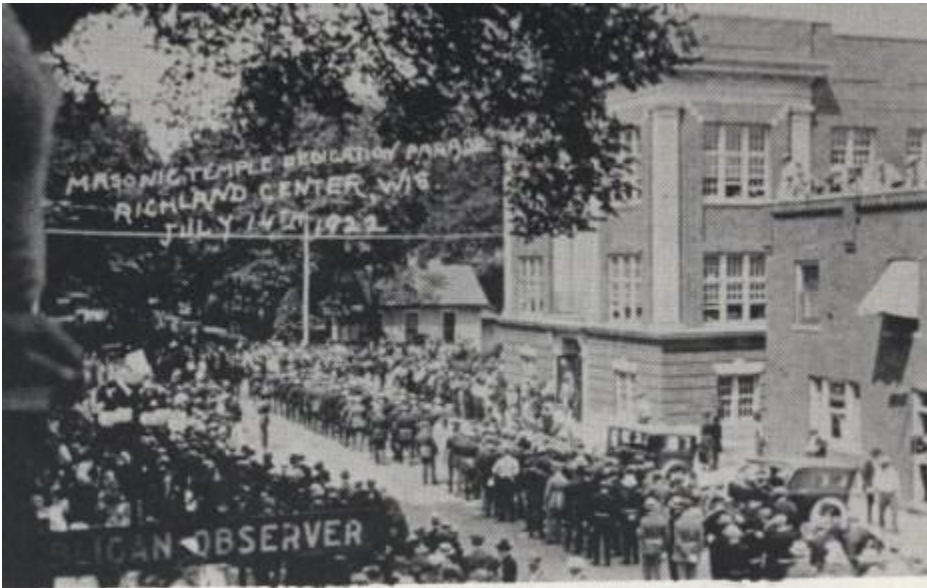
It is known that Frank Lloyd Wright was born on June 8, 1867. The precise location is open for debate among six possible locations in Richland Center and one outside the city in Bear Valley. William Carey Wright and wife Anna came to Richland Center from Lone Rock in 1864 for William Wright to become minister of the Baptist congregation who would build the church located at 294 North Church Street between 1864 and 1870. The Wright family left the city in 1869 when their son, Frank Lincoln Wright, was three years old and they located in McGregor, Iowa.



Photo courtesy of Wisconsin State Historical Society - Image ID: 31680. Frank Lincoln Wright, age 3.

The seven locations include: #1 The **Weigley House** which is still extant, located at the corner of Church Street and 2nd Street. This house is a block away from the Baptist Church where William Carey Wright was the minister. #2 The **Wertz House** was located at the corner of Seminary and Park Streets. This house was moved to the 700 block of South Park Street when the Carnegie Library was built. According to a newspaper article from 1967, this house was believed to be the true birthplace of Frank Lloyd Wright. Although many believe this is the correct house, nobody actually knows for sure. The possible location is currently a parking lot and the house has been razed. #3 The **Miner House** was located at the corner of Central Avenue and Mill Street. This is the location of the Richland Center Post Office. #4 The only possible location outside of Richland Center is Bear Valley. The house, long since torn down, belonged to a relative of William Wright. Rev. Wright was in Bear Valley on June 8, 1867 for a funeral. There are some who believe

Anna Wright may have accompanied him on the trip and given birth there. #5 the fifth possible birthplace is located at **101 South Church Street** which is the present location of the Edwards Building which was built in 1912-1913. #6 Located in the middle of the block on East Mill Street, this house is still standing although greatly modified into a multi-unit building. #7 The last of the seven possible birthplace locations was located at the southern end of Park Street. The Triangle Kwik Stop (TKS) gas station now occupies this area.



This is the intersection of Central Avenue and Mill Street. Just north of the Masonic Temple, where the U.S. Post Office now sits, was the location of the **Miner House**, #3 on the list of possible locations of Frank Lloyd Wright's birth place. The date is July 4, 1922. The event is the dedication of the Masonic Temple.

Frank Lloyd Wright is connected to Richland County in many ways; not only was he born here, he designed the A.D. German Warehouse built in Richland Center, he lived nearby at Taliesin for many years and was often in Richland Center, his father William Carey Wright is buried in the cemetery located in Bear Valley along with his first wife, Permilia Holcomb Wright. There are two houses in Richland Center designed by Herbert Fritz, Jr. who studied architecture at the Taliesin Fellowship. The Barrett-Tuxford House, designed by well-known architect Arthur Dyson, pays homage to many features developed by Frank Lloyd Wright. One of the original owners, Bruce Barrett, studied architecture at the Fellowship as well.



The Brace/Greenheck House at Cold Spring Farm – Bear Valley, Richland County.

William Carey Wright was the first lawyer in Lone Rock in 1860. Wright was married to Permilia Holcomb who was a sister of A.L. Holcomb a dairy farmer in the Bear Valley area. She died in 1864 and left three children. (The children were raised by relatives in New York State.) William Wright then married Anna Lloyd Jones of the Wyoming Valley and became father of Frank Lloyd Wright.

It is thought the house where Frank Lloyd Wright may have been born was located on Cold Spring Farm. The Brace family settled on one hundred twenty acres and established what is now known as Cold Spring Farm to raise Holstein cattle. The Brace House is a large twenty room building of beige brick and one of the noted landmarks in Bear Valley. It is still intact and owned by a member of the Greenheck family.



William Carey Wright, father of Frank Lloyd Wright, playing the piano at the Brace home. The piano is still there.

William Carey Wright was no stranger to the Brace family and the communities of Bear Valley and Lone Rock. This connection helps illustrate how ingrained the Wright family is in the history of the city of Richland Center and Richland County.



Brown Church cemetery in Bear Valley showing the grave marker of William Carey Wright and his first wife Permilia Holcomb Wright.