National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter onl categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name  Small House

other names/site number

2. Location

street & number  310 Lake Boone Trail  N/A not for publication
city or town  Raleigh  N/A vicinity

state  North Carolina  code  NC  county  Wake  code  183  zip code  27608

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official  Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official  Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register  Signature of the Keeper  Date of Action

determined eligible for the National Register

determined not eligible for the National Register

removed from the National Register

other (explain):   
5. Classification of Property

Ownership of Property

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category of Property</th>
<th>(Check only one box)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>X</em> building(s)</td>
<td>__ district</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>__ site</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>__ structure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>__ object</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Number of Resources within Property

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Contributing</th>
<th>Noncontributing</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>buildings</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
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<td>objects</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td><strong>1</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register _0_

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Early Modern Architecture in Raleigh Associated with the Faculty of the NCSU School of Design, Raleigh, North Carolina

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cat:</th>
<th>Sub:</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DOMESTIC</td>
<td>Single Dwelling</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Cat:</th>
<th>Sub:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DOMESTIC</td>
<td>Single Dwelling</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

| Miesian |

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>foundation</th>
<th>Concrete/Brick</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>roof</td>
<td>Rubber</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>walls</td>
<td>WOOD/plywood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>other</td>
<td>Glass</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets)
Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

___ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

___ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

X C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

___ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations
(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

___ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

___ B removed from its original location.

___ C a birthplace or a grave.

___ D a cemetery.

___ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

___ F a commemorative property.

Narrative Statement of Significance
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance
1951-1961

Significant Dates
1951
1961

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder
Architect-Small, G. Milton
Contractor-Walser, Frank

Name of repository: ___________________
Wake County, North Carolina

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property  Less than 1 acre

UTM References
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone  Easting  Northing
17   710940   3965900

Verbal Boundary Description
(see continuation sheet)

Boundary Justification
(see continuation sheet)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title  David R. Black/Architectural Historian

organization  Black & Black, Preservation Consultants  date  April 1994

street & number  620 Wills Forest Street  telephone  (919) 828-4616

city or town  Raleigh  state  NC  zip code  27605

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps
A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage
or numerous resources.

Photographs
Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name ________________________________

street & number ________________________  telephone ________________________

city or town ___________________________  state  NC  zip code  _______________
Section 7.-Description

Built in 1951, the Small House is a nearly-square, one-story, frame residence, Miesian in conception, that is located on the side of a steep hill at a bend in Lake Boone Trail. Substantial additions to the side elevations of the house in 1961 were carried out by the original owner and architect, G. Milton Small, and reinforced the Miesian character of the residence. Both the site and the house retain an integrity of materials, workmanship and feeling. The house is set back from the street above a circular driveway and lawn, separated from the adjacent road and nearby houses by trees and shrubbery on the south, east and west sides and by a sculptural redwood fence on the north side. A mature magnolia and large pecan tree both shelter the front of the house. Behind the building is a flat lawn carved out of the hillside.

As originally constructed in 1951, the house had a T-plan (See Exhibit A). The tail of the T, which was the rear or west portion, consisted of a tightly-arranged bedroom wing containing two children's rooms, the master bedroom, a bath, a central hallway, and a small entrance area. The main living space of the house was in the head of the T, at the east end. There, an elongated rectangle at the front of the house contained the living area, dining area and, behind a side-to-side counter, the kitchen area. At the far end of this ample space was a semi-free-standing fireplace, its hearth projecting into the room, backed up by a brick wall and with a smoke-gathering metal canopy suspended over it. Three sets of large, glazed sliding doors connected this main living space to a full-width screened porch. The center two of these doors were each installed to slide over the fixed, adjacent door, while the two end-most doors were able to slide into recessed wall pockets, thus almost completely integrating the living areas with the porch.

The interior of the Small House was finished with acoustical tile ceilings, asphalt tile and oak strip floors, and plaster, sheetrock and plywood wall sheathing. The house was built with economy in mind, but in line with Mies's predilection for rich interior materials, the plywood in the main living area was veneered with Korina wood and African Philippine mahogany veneers were used in other portions of the house. Walnut was used to panel the built-in cabinets of the kitchen divider.
On the exterior, the house was originally covered by a low, flat, built-up roof with deep overhangs and a wide board fascia. The exterior sheathing was Weldtex exterior plywood, stained dark, or painted white in the panels under the windows. Windows on the sides and rear of the house were grouped casements. Most of the house was constructed on a concrete slab, though the area beneath the front of the house was carved away for a small basement and crawl space. The stretcher bond brick exterior facing of this basement was extended on both sides of the house to form a retaining wall. Cantilevered over this wall for several feet, the screened front porch extended into space, making the front of the house appear to float above the ground as two horizontal planes capturing the space between them. The rear portion of the house had relatively standard framing, but the front of the house the floors and ceilings were composed of paired 2x10 inch joists supported on widely-spaced, exposed 4x4 inch posts. These posts, painted black, were the equivalent of the space-defining posts used by Mies van der Rohe in his Barcelona Pavilion and later buildings.

In 1961, Small designed and had constructed substantial additions to both side elevations of the house (See Exhibit B). On the south side of the house, a new master bedroom was built with a new master bath, the old bedroom being converted into a dressing room set behind a glazed wall. A second bedroom was also added to the south side and one of the original children’s bedrooms was made into a study adjacent to it. On the east side of the house a utility room was added behind the kitchen and a new dining room and living room/parlor were constructed on both sides of an enlarged entry hall. The large living space at the front, east end of the house, was almost unaltered, except for the removal of a door at the southwest corner and the covering over of a row of low windows behind the kitchen. The fireplace hood was also streamlined into a tapered wedge faced in porcelainized metal. The new entry hall was a careful composition of floating walls, some framed into panels by narrow, black strips, that created three interconnected spaces out of a single space at the north side of the house.

The exterior of the house was also altered to become even more crisply-Miesian than it had been originally. The eaves of the house were extended to emphasize the horizontal roof plane, and by expanding the house at the side, but keeping those additions back from
the front plane of the porch, the floating appearance of the porch was reinforced. The plywood sheathing on the exterior of the house was replaced with new composite sheathing ("Glasweld") framed into rectangular panels by raised strips, like the curtain walls of Miesian office buildings, and arranged into carefully-balanced compositions. Panels below the windows, originally of plywood, were replaced with fixed glass. The large window area, in combination with a skylight in the central hallway, provides ample illumination for the interior by day. At the same time that the house was being expanded, a small parking slot next to the house was filled in, creating a raised courtyard between the house and a woven redwood fence along the property line. This elongated courtyard was paved with a basket weave pattern of bricks and concrete blocks in which was set a row of square gravel beds containing crepe myrtle trees. From the driveway, a brick walkway leads to a small staircase whose concrete steps are cantilevered into the courtyard's brick retaining wall. On three sides of the house a wide strip of gravel framed with low concrete curbs set the house off from the grass and the courtyard paving.

In the 1980s Mr. Small made a further addition to the house at the northeast corner for a laundry and storage area, making that corner more nearly square, but using all of the same exterior detailing. The house has been maintained continuously and is intact and in good condition.
Exhibit A

1951 Floor Plan
Architectural Record June 1954
( ▼ indicates vantage point of photographs)

1951 Site Plan
From Architect's Drawings
Exhibit B

1961 Floor Plan

Architectural Record March 1966
8. Statement of Significance

Summary

The Small House, at 310 Lake Boone Trail, was constructed in 1951 and expanded in 1961 by Raleigh architect G. Milton Small as his own residence. It is an early, important example of a small number of prototypical modern houses built in Raleigh in the 1950s and 1960s by architects who were, or had been, associated with the NCSU School of Design (See Multiple Property Documentation Form for "Early Modern Architecture in Raleigh Associated with the Faculty of the North Carolina State University School of Design, Raleigh, North Carolina"). The house, which is being nominated under Criterion C, as the work of a master and for its high artistic value, is the first comprehensive example of a Raleigh residence affected by the work of émigré German architect Mies van der Rohe, whose architectural concepts dominated large portions of American building in the 1950s and 1960s. A former student of Mies at the Illinois Institute of Technology, G. Milton Small became in the 1950s and 1960s the Raleigh area's, and one of North Carolina's, most accomplished advocates of Miesian modernism. The design of the house also represents an experiment both in materials and construction systems new to the residential market in Raleigh, and in compact, low-cost home planning. Recognized by an Honor Award from the North Carolina chapter of the American Institute of Architects in 1957, the house was also published in Architectural Record in 1954 and in 1966.

Historical Background

George Milton Small, Jr., (1916-1989) came to Raleigh in 1948 to head the architectural office of William Henley Deitrick, at that point Raleigh's largest architectural firm and the most committed to modernist design. Small had been recommended to Deitrick by one of his former professors at the University of Oklahoma, Henry Kamphoefner, who was coming to Raleigh to take over the deanship of the new School of Design (School of Design Dean's Office Correspondence, NCSU Archives). Small had been a student of Mies van der Rohe at the Illinois Institute of Technology in 1946-1947, and arrived in Raleigh with a knowledge and understanding of the Miesian approach to
architecture that was unmatched in the area. In two years heading Deitrick's office, Small produced several important designs, principally the new clubhouse for the Carolina Country Club, one of the first modernist clubhouses in the country ("New Country Club," Life Magazine, 31 July, 1950, p. 70). 

In 1949, Small left Deitrick's office to found his own practice, beginning in the typical fashion with a house for businessman Robert I. Rothstein at 2337 Churchill Road, which was constructed in 1950 (Interview with Mrs. June Small). Although unusual for Raleigh in that period, the house combines a somewhat Miesian, flat-roofed, cantilevered wing with a main section that is hipped-roofed, oriented to the street, and more loosely-organized in plan.

In August of 1950, G. Milton Small and his wife, June V. Small, purchased parts of lots #4 and #5 in Block 5 of the Lakeview Section of the Budleigh Subdivision in Raleigh as a site on which to build a home for themselves (Wake.County Deeds, Book 1053, Page 252). The tract was near a curve in the line of Lake Boone Trail and it was located on the south side of a hill. The selection of that property was in part based on Small's assessment that they 'like to have all the protected view possible and prefer to live where it 'feels' high' ("What Does a Good House Cost?, Architectural Record, June 1954, p. 169).

The house was designed in early 1951 and built during that year by contractor Frank Walser. In its original form it was published in a 1954 article in Architectural Record about low cost houses ( Architectural Record, June 1954, p. 169). Under the title "Spacious Open Plan" the article quoted Small as saying 'Since cost was a very limiting factor we decided to have space if nothing else and this is the entire key to the low [$8.00] per sq. ft. cost.' By combining the living/dining/kitchen functions into one large room that shared a glazed wall of sliding doors with a full-length, screened porch, Small was able to eliminate the cost of partitioning those rooms, while providing a sense of spaciousness to a tightly-planned house. During seven months of the year the sliding glass doors could be open, adding an additional 400 square feet to the house, and even when they were closed, the glazed wall added to the space visually. The report of the Honor Award Jury when the house was selected for a North Carolina AIA Honor Award in 1957
noted that the porch took "full advantage of the view" and remarked on the "happy interrelation of the porch and interior living spaces" ("Residence," *Southern Architect*, February 1957, p. 13).

Miesian devices employed in this early version of the house include the clear division of the building into base, body and roof, the deep cantilevering of the flat roof and screened porch, the frankly-exposed structural posts in the living room, the glazed wall allowing the flow of space from inside to outside, the division of walls into panels, and the contrasting use of plain wall surfaces with limited amounts of rich interior materials.

In 1961 Small designed and carried out an enlargement of the house by adding to both side elevations. The result was to make the house even more Miesian in its external proportions and in its detailing, though the prominent porch of the east elevation and the principal spaces of the interior were largely unaltered. A parking area adjacent to the house was also filled in to make a raised entry court which, with changes to the side entrance, smoothed the transition from inside to outside.

The Smalls continued to live in the house through the 1980s, adding a small kitchen/laundry room addition to the northeast corner of the house in that decade. A year prior to Mr. Small's death in 1992, the house was purchased by Avery P. Salmon and his wife Kate Dunford Salmon, the current owners (Wake County Deeds, Book 4759, Page 439).
9. Major Bibliographic References


Wake County Deeds


10. Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundaries of the G. Milton Small House nomination are as shown by the dashed line on the accompanying Wake County Orthophotographic Map #0795.20, drawn at a scale of 1 inch = 100 feet.

Boundary Justification

The boundaries of the G. Milton Small House nomination include the original lots on which the house was constructed and which provide an appropriate setting for the building.
SMALL HOUSE
Raleigh, NC, Wake County
RALEIGH WEST QUAD
N/17/3965900
E/17/710940