

TOWN OF PARADISE VALLEY

Proposal For Ascension Spire Gift



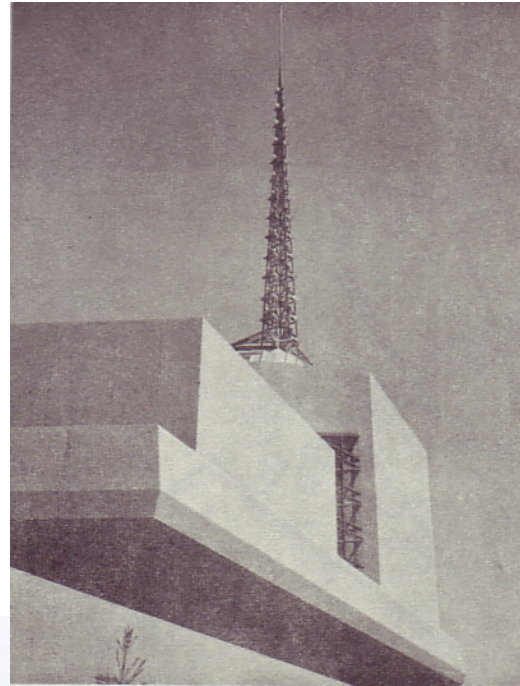
Scott Jarson - Catherine Kauffman
June 13, 2024



History: The Ascension Lutheran Church

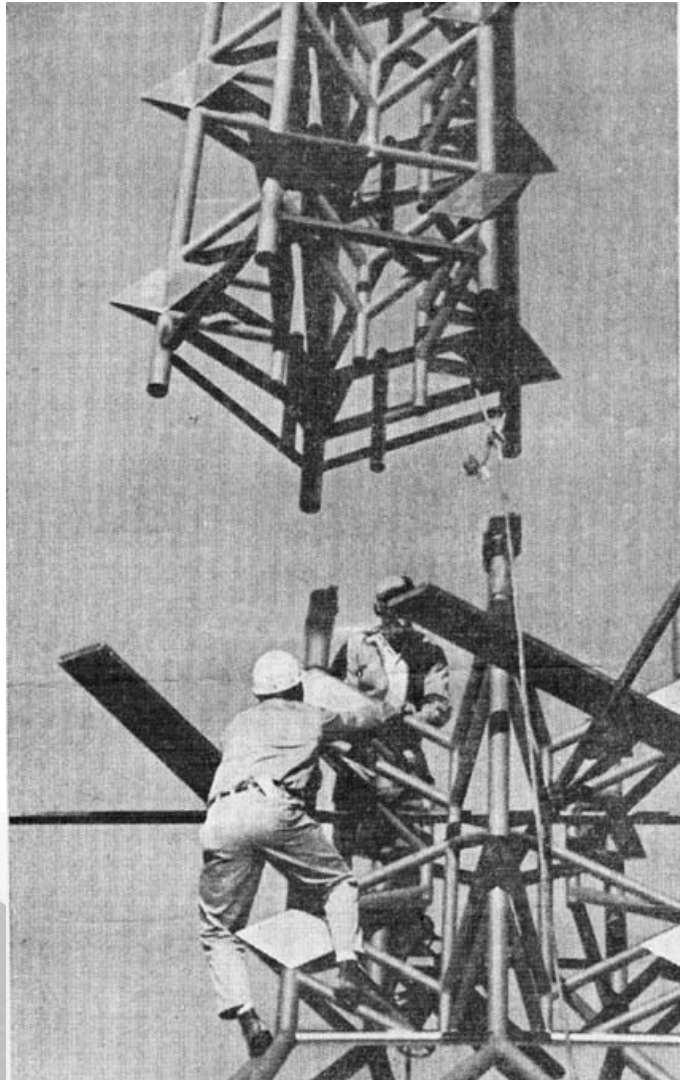
This structure was commissioned and built between 1961 and 1963

- The Ascension Lutheran Building and Spire was designed by **Frank Lloyd Wright's** long time Apprentice Associate and son in-law, **William Wesley Peters**, in Association with Taliesin Associated Architects.



History: Ascension Lutheran

- At the time of the design, many of the Taliesin Associated Architects were Town residents, cementing the legacy of Frank Lloyd Wright and Taliesin Architects within the community of our Town



History: Ascension Lutheran

- It has been a visible “gateway” architectural landmark in the Town since it’s construction.
- The structure has served the community and has a communal history with Town residents.
- The Building and Property have been **sold** and will likely be demolished.



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ASCENSION, from Page 14

has been charged with the creation of these new and significant forms to effectively exemplify the ever-changing expressions of eternal truth.

The architects trust that the

a Sunday school wing and a reflecting pool. The circle was meant to signify infinity or eternity, “being, in it’s completed form, without beginning or end,” Mr. Peters wrote.

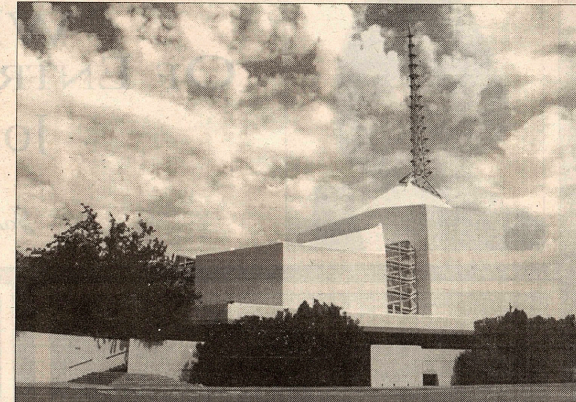
The straight line has been

symbolically, projection, he said. wrote: sanctuary essential ran faith, relation to local point presents the d Man in

for an exten t never was who has orga- Lloyd Wright for Humanity of the church,

Frank Lloyd d. “I think if ctural design se you realize t’s very clean

ething more ish style, but



The Ascension Lutheran Church, located on Mockingbird Lane, is a landmark in its own right, having been designed by top architects at the school founded by famous architectural designer Frank Lloyd Wright.

there are not many of those around in the Valley,” which she said is not old enough to boast the truly old and historic churches found around Europe and in other parts of the world.

“But I would certainly call Ascension

Lutheran Church a landmark,” she added.

“A lot of people are very interested in the structure because it’s so unique and so different on the outside. The inside is also

pretty awe-inspiring,” she said.
Information courtesy of Barbara Jager



Saving a Piece of History



- A group of interested and concerned Town Residents and Volunteers have come together in order to negotiate a gift of a special architectural element of this significant structure.



Saving a Piece of History



Our Group include the following dedicated resident volunteers:

- Council Member Christine LaBelle
- Historical Advisory Committee Chair Catherine Kauffman
- Hillside Committee Chair Scott Jarson

The Citizen Group also wishes to thank Architects, Archivists and Design/build Professionals who have donated their time and expertise to assist with research and concepts-

Resident Doug Jordan - Initial contributor,
Erik Peterson - Jochen Walther - Eric O'Malley - James Trahan -
Michael Perino – C.P. Drewett



Saving The Spire

- The Ascension Spire, easily the most visible aspect of the Taliesin design, was selected as a focus for preservation for its integrity, visual impact and aspirational nature-
- The Spire stands to remind residents of our Town's unique history, and is often associated as a foreground element to the east-facing Mummy Mountain corridor-
- Our proposal is part of a plan to save the Spire, a noted piece of Town History, but also an internationally recognized architectural detail by Taliesin Architects-



Saving a Piece of History



- A unique opportunity has been presented that would allow the signature artistic spire portion of this building to be preserved...

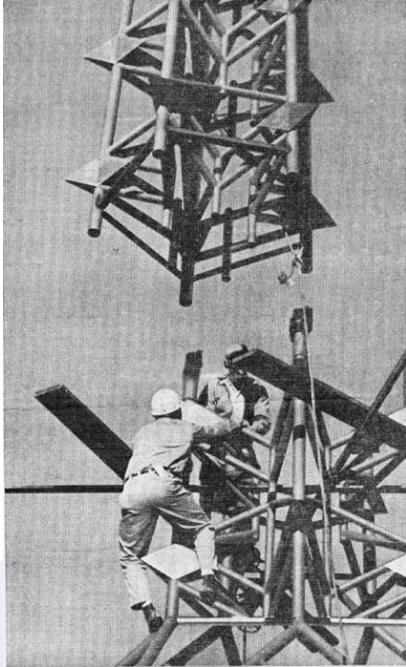


Saving The Spire - Next Steps

- After considerable study, planning and outreach, our Citizen Group has determined that the spire could be saved and relocated, preserving a portion of this architectural legacy
- After outreach and discussion, the property owner is willing to gift this spire to the Town.



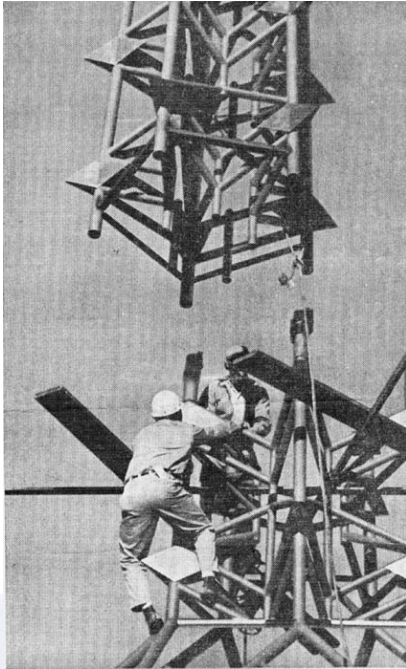
Saving The Spire - Next Steps



- The Current Owner of the parcel indicates that they will **gift the spire at no cost.**
- The Current Owner of the parcel indicates that they will also **assist in removal of the spire and will contribute to the relocation efforts and cost**
- As needed, we have determined that there would be broad interest for financial support to cover any overrun of removal and transport costs, as well as the future costs of relocation as may be needed.



Saving The Spire - Next Steps



- We propose and ask that that the Council consider and approve acceptance of this gift to the Town
- We ask the Council consider and approve storage of the sectioned Spire so that future use and installation can be explored and implemented.



The Spire lives on -

- Once the gift is secured and the spire “saved”, a number of ideas could be explored as to the future use of this historic sculptural element so that it could be a community-wide asset.



The Spire lives on as Community Art

- The volunteers propose that at a future time we collectively explore ideas to install and repurpose the Spire, removing any religious reference, so that it could become a community asset.



A Concept For Future Installation



TOPV Spire Installation and Future Use

This details illustrates how a relocated Spire might allow placement of a variety of messages or plaques, creating a unique visual beacon for residents and visitors;

A place of honor, Historic markers or milestones, or inspirational messaging about our Town's unique and special history



Saving The Spire

Our volunteer group views relocation, storage and future installation of the **Spire** a celebration of an important piece of our Town's history... a reflection on our past and future...

A perfect example of targeted community preservation.



THANK YOU FOR CONSIDERING THIS UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY!
Comments and Questions?

