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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **THE 'CAT HOUSE' RETURNS TO OHIO**

Alliance, OH – August 25, 2014 - The Cat Fanciers' Association Foundation, Inc. announces the acquisition of the 'Cat House' originally designed by Frank Lloyd Wright for the Gerald B. Tonkens family of Cincinnati.

The 4-foot square piece was designed in 1954 specifically for a cat belonging to Mr. Tonkens' daughter, Nancy. The design rendering by Thomas Olsen, the site supervisor, was created under the direction of Frank Lloyd Wright who had described his vision of the design during a phone call with Olsen. Today, Wright (1867-1959) is recognized as the greatest American architect of all time, and the cat house is considered as one of his more unique designs.

The cat house, a typical example of mid-20<sup>th</sup> century ultra-modern design, is painted in one of Wright's signature colors, Cherokee Red. The structure is accompanied by the original Olsen rendering, titled "Residents [sic] for Felis Catus", which shows a color illustration as well as the elevation and specifications for the project.

Thomas S. Monaghan, co-founder of Domino's Pizza, purchased the cat house at a Christie's auction in December of 1987, and it became a part of The Domino's Frank Lloyd Wright Collection. In 1993, Monaghan sold the cat house to a private collector in Wisconsin.

The CFA Foundation has recently purchased the cat house and it has now been returned to the state of Ohio, and is currently on display at the Feline Historical Museum in Alliance.

#### **About the CFA Foundation, Inc.**

The Cat Fanciers' Association Foundation, Inc. was founded in 1990 as a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization that collects and preserves the history of the cat and the cat fancy. A Feline Historical Museum, which displays the artifacts of the foundation, was opened in June 2011 at 260 East Main Street, Alliance, OH. The museum is open to the public 10am-4pm Tuesday –Friday and 9am-12pm on Saturday.

For additional information on the CFA Foundation, visit their web site at [www.FelineHistoricalFoundation.org](http://www.FelineHistoricalFoundation.org), their Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/CFAFoundation](http://www.facebook.com/CFAFoundation) or call the museum at 330-680-4444.