

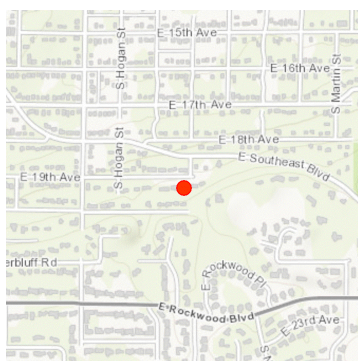


Historic Property Report

Historic Name: Thompson, Irene and Howard, House

Property ID: 186621

Location



Address: 1626 E 19TH AVE, SPOKANE, WA 99203

Tax No/Parcel No: 35282.1118

Plat/Block/Lot: HOUGHTON&CALLAHANS E35FT OF L5;ALL L6 B39 &VAC STP

GeographicAreas: Spokane County

Information

Construction Dates:

Construction Type	Year	Circa
Built Date	1949	<input type="checkbox"/>

Number of stories: N/A

Historic Use:

Category	Subcategory
Domestic	Domestic - Single Family House

Historic Context: Architecture



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Architect/Engineer:

Category	Name or Company
Builder	Harold A. Apple

Project History

Project Number, Organization, Project Name	Resource Inventory	SHPO Determination	SHPO Determined By, Determined Date
2011-06-00090, , Assessors Data Project: Spokane Residential 2	7/6/2011	Not Determined	
2016-12-08751, , Spokane Mid-20th Century Modern Survey 2016	1/7/2017		

Photos



Front facade, looking southeast

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Front facade, looking south



Shemwell House, Colfax, detail



Shemwell House, Colfax



Northwest corner, looking north



West side of front facade, looking south



Northeast corner, looking south



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Inventory Details - 1/7/2017

Common name: Thompson, Irene and Howard, House
Date recorded: 1/7/2017
Field Recorder: Diana Painter
Field Site number:
SHPO Determination

Detail Information

Characteristics:

Category	Item
Foundation	Concrete - Poured
Form Type	Single Dwelling
Roof Type	Hip
Roof Material	Asphalt/Composition - Shingle
Cladding	Brick - Roman
Structural System	Wood - Platform Frame
Plan	Irregular

Surveyor Opinion

Property appears to meet criteria for the National Register of Historic Places: Yes

Property is located in a potential historic district (National and/or local): No

Property potentially contributes to a historic district (National and/or local): No

Significance narrative: History. The 1949 Thompson House was built for Irene I. (1904-2000) and Howard T. Thompson (1906-1989). The Thompsons, who were married in 1929, owned and operated Corbin Park Cleaners for many years, beginning in the late 1930s. Today the Corbin Park Cleaners is still in business and is located on N. Monroe Street. The builder for the Thompson House was Harold H. Apple. Apple began his career as a mechanic, but early on turned to carpentry, which he practiced from the 1940s through at least 1960. In the late 1950s through at least 1960 he operated "Better Builders."

A second house built by Apple in the same style is the Charles and Alice Shemwell House in Colfax, Whitman County. The 1953 Shemwell house shares many design features with the Thompson House, including its modulated form, hip roofs, deep boxed eaves, canted corner windows, and use of Roman brick. Both houses are also clearly sited and designed to allow for expansive territorial views. According to State of Washington architectural

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historian Michael Houser, the Shemwell House is considered to be the best example of a Populuxe-style house in the state. The Thompson House is also a very fine example of the style.

Architectural Context. The Thompson House is designed in a style known as Populuxe, a term coined by architectural historian Thomas Hine in the late 1980s that combines the words “populism, popularity and luxury.” Writing in *Living It Up: Our Love Affair with Luxury*, author James Twitchell elaborates: “Populuxe is the stuff that came flooding into the marketplace after World War II, a result of two separate developments: the ability to mass-produce highly sculptural pieces of metal and plastic and a venue in which to display their use, namely the movies.” In architecture, this interpretation is present in the high quality materials, combination of materials, modulated forms, and the large focal window on the Thompson House, which does impart a sense of luxury.

The Populuxe style is related to the Googie style of commercial architecture. Googie architecture is named after the 1949 Googie coffee shop in Los Angeles designed by John Lautner. The term was popularized by architectural historian Douglas Haskell, who wrote about it in the 1952 issue of *House and Home* magazine. Googie buildings are known for their eye catching forms and signs that can be easily seen at the speed of automobile travel. Googie is a vernacular style that emerged in the 1930s in Los Angeles, Las Vegas, and other tourist venues around the country that catered to automobile travelers, and where commercial development was popping up along commercial corridors and highways. The Googie style is most often seen in restaurants and drive-ins, gas stations, and car dealerships. Googie signs are also often seen at mid-20th-century motels and hotels as well.

Googie architecture popularized the future. It occurred at a time when the public was fascinated by technology and the idea of the future, including space travel and the atomic age. This enthusiasm could be seen not only in buildings that housed new types of commercial development, but could also be seen in cartoons like *The Jetsons* and amusement parks like Disneyland’s Tomorrowland. The popularity of the Googie style waned by end of the 1960s, however, perhaps paralleling the diminishing of the public’s belief “. . .that this was indeed a new era, that the long-promised future of benevolent technology and prosperity had at last arrived to deliver the good life to all” (Hess, quoted by Novak, 2012).

Googie architecture is characterized by an unusual, eccentric building shape, often accented by neon, OR simple building forms overshadowed by a dominate, typically neon, sign, and the use of humor and visual gags. Other qualities include employing bold angles and eccentric rooflines, colorful signs with pop culture imagery, large plate glass windows (often canted windows), and sweeping cantilevered roofs over exterior areas.

Research did not reveal why the builder Harold Apple became enamored of and skilled in building in the Populuxe style. The 1949 construction date of the Thompson House precedes the height of popularity for the Populuxe and Googie styles in the Pacific Northwest. It is also not clear why the Thompsons and the Shemwells, who owned a dry cleaning business and were retired farmers, respectively, were interested in having houses constructed in this new style, which contrasted with their neighbor’s houses. The excellent condition and integrity of both houses, however, are a testament to the skill of Harold Apple.

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Physical description:

Location and Setting. The Howard and Irene Thompson House is located near the east end of E. 19th Avenue before it terminates just to the west of E. Southeast Blvd. and Lincoln Park. It is sited on the south side of the street and on a slight rise, which allows for views to the north. It is located within a gridded neighborhood that steps down South Hill, interrupted occasionally by diagonal boulevards and the curvilinear streets and parkways of the Rockwood neighborhood. Houses along the street neatly line up along the east-west avenue, the houses on the south side sometimes set back to take advantage of territorial views. Most houses in the immediate vicinity of the Thompson House are modern Ranch-style houses. Traveling west, Craftsman-style houses are seen. E. 19th Street is two lanes with parking on either side.

Materials. The Thompson House is wood-frame construction clad in blond Roman brick. The raised half basement and foundation are concrete and the roof is finished in composition shingles. Windows appear to be aluminum frame, with the exception of the canted windows, which have wood frames.

Massing and design. The one-story Thompson house has an irregular footprint and a low-pitched, stepping hip roof with deep, boxed eaves. A large chimney is located toward the west side of the house, while a smaller chimney is slightly set back from the main ridge, toward the center of the house. It is sited near the center of its 17,250 square foot lot, toward the west side, allowing for a driveway to the east. The house, which is oriented toward the north, is sited on a high point within the parcel, which slopes down to the east and west as well as to the north. The yard is retained on all three sides by a slightly battered stone wall of volcanic rock. A new carport is located close to the southeast corner of the house. The front yard is finished in lawn, while the tall pine trees occupying the rear yard form a backdrop to the main view of the house. The Populuxe residence was constructed in 1949.

Front façade. The front, north façade of the house displays the main side hip roof of the building. Extensions of the main roof project toward the east and west, which are the location of the two-over-two-light, canted corner windows that are a main, character-defining feature of the house. These windows are fronted by narrow planters located directly below the sills of the windows. The entry to the house, which has a flush door, is located toward the west side of the house and is set back slightly from the main plane of the house. It is flanked by full-height side lights of textured glass. A curving concrete sidewalk leads from the driveway to the broad open concrete porch that fronts the main focal window and the entry. This porch is accessed via three concrete steps on the east side. The three-light picture window that is to the east of the entry displays full-height glass, from the porch to the eaves. Another large, three-part window is located at about the center of the house. It is recessed behind the front plane of the house, fronted by a planter with a brick sill course. To the left or east of this window is a smaller, one-over-one-light window followed by a small square opening that appears to be infilled with a metal panel.

West façade. The west façade of the house is not highly visible from the street. It has a shallow projection with a hip roof that extends toward the west and accommodates the corner canted windows. This façade appears from the street to have no other openings.

South façade. The south façade is not visible from the street. There is a gabled wing and another shallow wing with a hip roof that projects toward the south.



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East façade. The east façade includes another shallow hip-roof wing at the northeast corner that accommodates the corner canted windows. A door to the basement is located under these windows. No other openings are visible on this façade.

Changes over time. There are no apparent changes to this residence. It has excellent integrity and appears to be in very good condition

Bibliography:

Hess, Alan, *Google Redux, Ultramodern Roadside Architecture*. San Francisco, CA: Chronicle Books, 2004.

“Howard Theodore Thompson” (obit.), *Spokesman Review*, January 30, 1989.

“Irene Isabell Andrews Thompson” (obit.), *Spokesman Review*, January 20, 2000.

Novak, Matt, “Google: Architecture of the Space Age,” *Smithsonian.com*, June 15, 2012.

Shemwell, Charles and Alice, *House*, DAHP Historic Property Report, WISAARD, <https://fortress.wa.gov/dahp/wisaardp3/>, accessed January 2017.

Twitchell, James B., *Living It Up: Our Love Affair with Luxury*. New York: Columbia University Press, 2012.



Historic Property Report

Inventory Details - 7/6/2011

Common name:
Date recorded: 7/6/2011
Field Recorder: Artifacts Consulting, Inc.
Field Site number: 35282.1118
SHPO Determination Not Determined

Detail Information

Characteristics:	Category	Item
	Foundation	Concrete - Poured

Surveyor Opinion

Significance narrative: Data included on this historic property inventory form (HPI) detail stemmed from County Assessor building records imported by the Washington State Department of Archaeology of Historic Preservation (DAHP) into WISAARD in 2011. This upload reduces data entry burden on community volunteers and historical societies participating in the survey and inventory of their communities. The intent of this project is directed specifically to facilitating community and public involvement in stewardship, increasing data accuracy, and providing a versatile planning tool to Certified Local Governments (CLGs).

Currently survey and inventory projects at the local level produce a field form for each property surveyed and include digital photographs. Volunteers doing the survey track down and manually enter all the owner, parcel, and legal data manually. Manual data entry diminishes accuracy and quantity of resources volunteers can survey. Recognizing this, DAHP uploaded building data for each Certified Local Government (CLG) on properties that were built in or before 1969 to provide an accurate and comprehensive baseline dataset. Volunteers doing survey work need only to verify data, add in photographs and extent of alterations and architectural style data, as well as expand upon the physical description and significance statement as new data is collected. For planning purposes, the attrition rate of properties built in or before 1969 can start to be measured to guide stewardship priorities.

Project methodology entailed use of the University of Washington's State Parcel Database (<http://depts.washington.edu/wagis/projects/parcels/development.php>) to provide the base parcel layer for CLGs. Filtering of building data collected from each county trimmed out all properties built after 1969, as well as all current, previously inventoried properties. Translation of building data descriptors to match fields in HPI allowed the data upload. Calculation of point locations utilized the center of each parcel. Data on this detail provides a snapshot of building information as of 2011. A detailed project methodology description resides with DAHP. Project team members: Historic Preservation Northwest, GeoEngineers, and Artifacts Consulting, Inc. (project lead).

Physical description: The house at 1626 E 19th Avenue, Spokane, is located in Spokane County. According to the county assessor, the structure was built in 1949 and is a single family dwelling. The 1-story building has a gable roof clad in asphalt composition shingles. The single-family form sits on a poured concrete foundation containing a half basement.