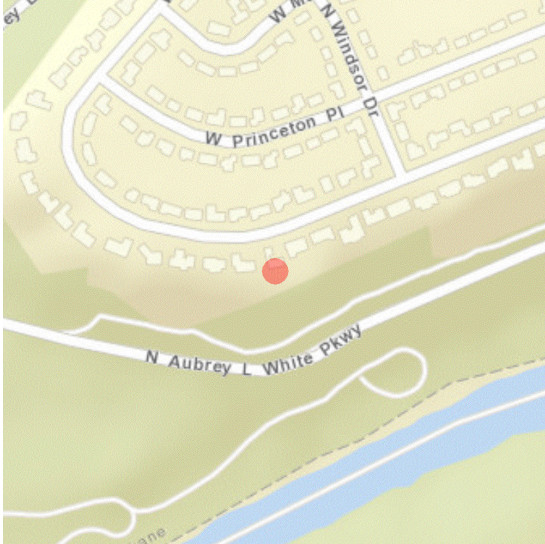


# Historic Property Report

Resource Name: Aller, William L. and Armande T., House      Property ID: 164878

## Location



**Address:** 5503 W NORTHWEST BLVD, SPOKANE, WA 99205  
**Tax No/Parcel No:** 25032.1305  
**Plat/Block/Lot:** RIVER RIDGE 2ND EXC E15 FT L4;E20FT L5 B19  
**Geographic Areas:** Spokane County, SPOKANE NW Quadrangle, T25R42E03

## Information

**Number of stories:** N/A

### Construction Dates:

Construction Type	Year	Circa
Built Date	1961	<input type="checkbox"/>

### Historic Use:

Category	Subcategory
Domestic	Domestic - Single Family House

### Historic Context:

Category
Architecture

### Architect/Engineer:

Category	Name or Company
Builder	Alfano, A F



# Historic Property Report

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## Thematics:

### Local Registers and Districts

Name	Date Listed	Notes
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## Project History

Project Number, Organization, Project Name	Resource Inventory	SHPO Determination	SHPO Determined By, Determined Date
2011-06-00089, , Assessors Data Project: Spokane Residential 1	7/2/2011	Not Determined	
2016-12-08751, , Spokane Mid-20th Century Modern Survey 2016	6/30/2017		

## Photos



Front (north) facade



Front entry detail



Front entry detail



West facade, garage

## Historic Property Report

Resource Name: Aller, William L. and Armande T., House      Property ID: 164878

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West side of front facade



West side and north facades



East side facade



West and rear (south) facades

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### Inventory Details - 6/30/2017

**Common name:** Aller House  
**Date recorded:** 6/30/2017  
**Field Recorder:** Diana Painter  
**Field Site number:**  
**SHPO Determination**



# Historic Property Report

Resource Name: Aller, William L. and Armande T., House      Property ID: 164878

## Detail Information

### Characteristics:

Category	Item
Foundation	Concrete - Poured
Form Type	Single Dwelling
Roof Type	Flat with Parapet
Roof Material	Asphalt/Composition - Built Up
Cladding	Wood - Vertical Boards
Structural System	Wood - Platform Frame
Plan	Rectangle

## 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):** Yes

**Property potentially contributes to a historic district (National and/or local):** Yes

**Significance narrative:** History. The house at 5503 W Northwest Blvd was constructed by builder A. F. Alfano for William L. Aller. William Aller was a teacher at John L. Rogers High School in Spokane in the 1950s, and when he had the house on Northwest Blvd. built.

Architectural Context. The William L. and Armande Aller house is designed in what was often called the “Contemporary” style in the 1950s and 1960s. A Contemporary style or simply Modern house offered few traditional stylistic features or details, relying on overall form and simple modern details to convey its style. Materials also could play an important role. The use of color in this house and the contrast between the smooth texture of the siding and accents of stone helps convey the overall composition of this house. Contemporary houses were often – although not always - designed by architects and were considered “high style,” in contrast to the more common Ranch-style home of the era. Common features include slightly sloped or flat roofs; overall asymmetry; expansive window walls, particularly on the rear façade of the house; and the use of clerestory windows under the eaves where privacy was important, such as on the side facades, as seen here. Other features of the Contemporary house were shared by the Ranch-style house, including an open floor plan, an orientation toward the rear, rather than front yard or street, and use of windows, courtyards, and other devices to “bring the outdoors in.”

Builder. Research did not reveal an architect for the 1961 Aller house, but the builder was identified as A. F. Alfano. Alfano’s work was featured in conjunction with architects John W. McGough and Bruce M. Walker in the 1954 Spokane Home Show for the “Futura” house. The “Futura” house included such features as radiant heating, redwood siding, wood casement windows, a “Swedish” type fireplace, and a built-up roof finished in white marble aggregate. It is likely that Alfano was influenced in his design for the Aller house by his association with Walker and McGough.



## Historic Property Report

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Bruce Walker became recognized nationally and locally as a result of his design for the “Better Living Home,” a version of which is located at 5024 W Northwest Blvd (see survey form for this property for more information). The plans for the Better Living Home were developed by Walker for the 1951 competition of the same name. The competition, which garnered Walker \$8250 in prize money, was co-sponsored by the magazines Architectural Forum and Building, and the National Association of Home Builders, and attracted 3000 entries (Boyd, 1951:5). Walker was 28 at the time and studying architecture at Harvard University after having served in the military in World War II and been awarded a BA in Architecture from the University of Washington in 1947. Born in Spokane in 1923, Bruce Walker was awarded a Master’s Degree in Architecture from the Harvard Graduate School of Design in 1951, where he studied under Walter Gropius. The Better Living Home prize was one of several that he won while attending Harvard. After traveling and studying in Europe on the Appleton Traveling Fellowship – given in recognition of his scholastic performance – Walker returned to Spokane in 1952. A year later, at the suggestion of fellow Spokane architect Royal McClure, he formed a partnership with John W. McGough.

### Physical description:

**Location and Setting.** The house at 5503 W Northwest Blvd is located within the River Ridge Addition subdivision that was developed on a peninsula of land that extends into a bend in the Spokane River. It is located on a .87-acre lot on the south side of W Northwest Blvd., which is an extension of Northwest Blvd., a busy arterial at its source at the intersection of N Monroe Street and W Indiana Avenue. The main entrance to this mid-20th century subdivision is at the intersection of Wellesley Avenue and N Assembly Street. While the subdivision is exclusively residential, its entry is framed by a small strip mall in the southwest quadrant of the intersection and the Spokane Medical Center (the VA hospital) in the northwest quadrant. Wellesley Avenue, a major arterial that extends from the Hillyard neighborhood in northeast Spokane to the Ball & Dodd Funeral Home and Fairmount Memorial Park, north of the subdivision, bounds its north side. Joe Albi Stadium is also north of the subdivision. Below the subdivision, at the level of the river, is W Downriver Drive/N Riverside State Park Drive/N Aubrey White Parkway, which parallels the Spokane River. At the end of the peninsula is Riverside State Park’s Bowl and Pitcher, a natural rock formation within the larger park. Southeast of the subdivision, at the river level, is the Spokane Waste Water Management facility. The subdivision is sited on a bluff; this house in particular is sited to enjoy spectacular views of Riverside State Park across the river. Streets within the subdivision are two lanes with on-street parking and no sidewalks.

**Materials.** The William L. and Armande T. Aller residence is a wood-frame building with vertical wood siding and a built-up roof. A portion of the foundation appears to be stone or faced with stone.

**Massing and design.** The William L. and Armande T. Aller house is one story with 1461 square feet on the main floor and a 1255 square foot basement. The house is rectangular in shape, with a breezeway that connects it to a two-car garage. The house has no eaves; the garage has deep eaves supported by extended beams on the east side, which covers the walkway to the front entrance. The house and garage are located toward the front, north side, of the .4-acre parcel, with a deep back yard that slopes away toward the Spokane River. This is typical of the lots in the area. . The Aller house is a Contemporary house, constructed by progressive builder A. F. Alfano in 1961.



# Historic Property Report

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Changes over time. The house was originally constructed with a two-car carport and breezeway to the house, according to 1961 permit records. Today the property features an enclosed, two-car garage. A fence was constructed in 1978 at the foot of the property, on the south side of the lot, that also enclosed the lower end of the neighboring properties. The interior of the house was remodeled in 2016; some windows were replaced for egress purposes at this time.

Landscape and site design. The front yard of the Aller residence is formally, but minimally, landscaped. A volcanic stone wall about four feet in height is located parallel to the front of the house on the east side. The area between the wall and the house, which faces onto basement windows, is also landscaped.

## Bibliography:

Boyd, Robert, "3000 Architects Plan Small House," *The Age*, Melbourne, Australia, May 22, 1951:5.

City of Spokane, Pre-1993 Permit Archive, <https://my.spokanecity.org/permits/archive/>, accessed 2017.

City of Spokane, <https://aca.spokanepermits.org/CitizenAccess/default.aspx>, accessed 2017.

"Introducing 'Futura' The Fashion for '54," (brochure)  
[http://www.dahp.wa.gov/sites/default/files/1954SpokaneHomeShow\\_ModelHouse.pdf](http://www.dahp.wa.gov/sites/default/files/1954SpokaneHomeShow_ModelHouse.pdf), accessed June 2016.

McAlester, Virginia Savage, *A Field Guide to American Houses*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2013 (1984).

Spokane County Assessor, <https://www.spokanecounty.org/219/Assessor>, accessed January 2017.

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## Inventory Details - 7/2/2011

**Common name:**

**Date recorded:** 7/2/2011

**Field Recorder:** Artifacts Consulting, Inc.

**Field Site number:** 25032.1305

**SHPO Determination**



# Historic Property Report

Resource Name: Aller, William L. and Armande T., House      Property ID: 164878

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## Detail Information

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### Characteristics:

Category	Item
Foundation	Concrete - Poured
Roof Material	Asphalt/Composition - Built Up
Form Type	Single Dwelling
Roof Type	Gable
Form Type	

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## Surveyor Opinion

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**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 5503 W Northwest Boulevard, Spokane, is located in Spokane County. According to the county assessor, the structure was built in 1961 and is a single family dwelling. The 1-story building has a gable roof clad in built-up asphalt. The single-family form sits on a poured concrete foundation containing a three-quarter basement.