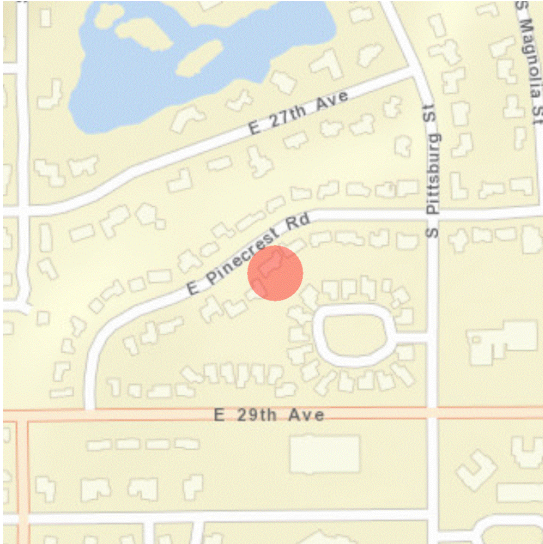


## Historic Property Report

Resource Name: Fischer, Dr. Frederick and Cecel, House      Property ID: 182789

### Location



**Address:** 1618 E PINECREST RD, SPOKANE, WA 99203  
**Tax No/Parcel No:** 35283.2621  
**Plat/Block/Lot:** ROCKWOOD VIEW ADD E30' OF LT 1 BLK 4 & LT 7 BLK 5  
**Geographic Areas:** Spokane County, SPOKANE NW Quadrangle, T25R43E

### Information

**Number of stories:** 1.00

#### Construction Dates:

Construction Type	Year	Circa
Built Date	1951	<input type="checkbox"/>

#### Historic Use:

Category	Subcategory
Domestic	Domestic - Single Family House

#### Historic Context:

Category
Architecture

#### Architect/Engineer:

Category	Name or Company
Architect	Neutra, Richard
Builder	Clyde K. Lundberg Co.



## Historic Property Report

Resource Name: Fischer, Dr. Frederick and Cecel, House      Property ID: 182789

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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	7/5/2011	Not Determined	
2016-12-08751, , Spokane Mid- 20th Century Modern Survey 2016	6/30/2017		



## Historic Property Report

Resource Name: Fischer, Dr. Frederick and Cecel, House      Property ID: 182789

### Photos



Front (northwest) facade



Front (northwest) facade of house



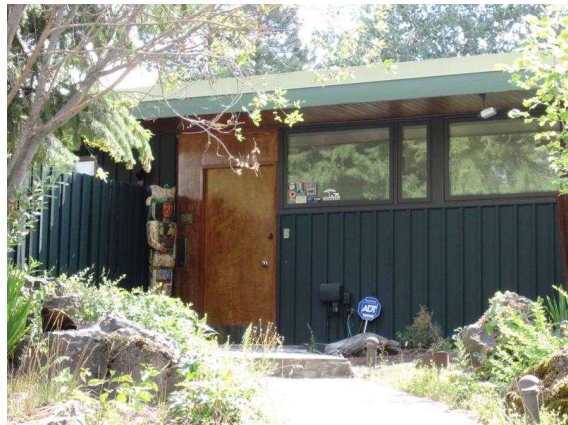
Detail of front (northwest) facade



Front (northwest) facade of garage



Windows on front facade



Main entry door



## Historic Property Report

Resource Name: Fischer, Dr. Frederick and Cecel, House      Property ID: 182789



Courtyard, southwest side



Detail of courtyard, southwest side



Northeast side facade and garage



Walkway to front entry



Detail of walkway to front entry



## Historic Property Report

Resource Name: Fischer, Dr. Frederick and Cecel, House      Property ID: 182789

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### Inventory Details - 7/5/2011

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**Common name:**

**Date recorded:** 7/5/2011

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

**Field Site number:** 35283.2621

**SHPO Determination**

### 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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## Historic Property Report

Resource Name: Fischer, Dr. Frederick and Cecel, House      Property ID: 182789

**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 1618 E Pinecrest Road, Spokane, is located in Spokane County. According to the county assessor, the structure was built in 1950 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.



# Historic Property Report

Resource Name: Fischer, Dr. Frederick and Cecel, House      Property ID: 182789

## Inventory Details - 6/30/2017

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

## Detail Information

### Characteristics:

Category	Item
Foundation	Concrete - Poured
Form Type	Single Dwelling
Roof Type	Flat with Eaves
Roof Material	Asphalt/Composition - Built Up
Cladding	Wood - Plywood
Structural System	Wood - Platform Frame
Plan	Irregular

### Styles:

Period	Style Details
Modern Movement	International

## 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 builder of the house at 1618 E Pinecrest Road was listed as Clyde K. Lundberg in August 1950; Dr. Frederick R. and Cecel G. Fischer are the owners. The current owners purchased the property in 2007.

Dr. Frederick Fischer was from Wisconsin and attended Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons, graduating in 1920. Early in his career Dr. Fischer, who was a pediatrician, was affiliated with Deaconess Hospital. In 1921, he spent a year in New York City serving on the staff of the Nursery and Child's Hospital, to study children's diseases. He was later affiliated with Sacred Heart Hospital. An early accomplishment was being awarded a patent for an innovative play pen for children, a forerunner of today's collapsible and mobile play pens.

Dr. Fischer had a long career in Spokane, occupying an office in the Paulsen Building from 1923 until at least 1960. He died on September 18, 1971, at age 78, from a pulmonary embolus following a hip fracture. Dr. Fischer and his wife Cecel had one child, a daughter Jean Fischer Wood, a concert pianist who died in 2009.

## Historic Property Report

Resource Name: Fischer, Dr. Frederick and Cecel, House      Property ID: 182789

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Dr. Frederick R. Fischer commissioned renowned Los Angeles architect Richard Neutra to design a home for Fischer and his family in 1951. "One of Spokane's outstanding examples of home architecture," opined the *Spokesman-Review* in 1953, the house featured an "acoustical treatment of the living room to accommodate the sound chamber of the built-in organ, radio and record player." Architectural historian Thomas S. Hines quoted Dr. Fischer in his book on Neutra, saying that when asked where the Fischers had first heard of Neutra, he said, "it was like asking where we first heard of Bach." They also admitted, however, that Neutra's cover on *Time* magazine in particular gave them the impetus to contact Neutra about designing a house for them (Hines, 1994:269).

The Dr. Fischer house is one of only two extant Neutra structures in the Pacific Northwest.

**Architectural Context.** The Fischer house is designed in the International Style. The International Style, a term coined by architectural historian Henry-Russell Hitchcock Jr. in the early 1930s, describes an architectural style that emerged in Europe between the World Wars and coalesced in the United States in the early 1930s due to the efforts of Hitchcock and architect Philip Johnson to codify and attribute the elements of a style to the emerging architectural forms and characteristics. While the European architects experimented with new forms and expressions for a new post-industrial age, east coast American architects and architectural historians described what they interpreted as stylistic features of the architecture, often without the accompanying social reforms advocated by their European counterparts. Today, the term International Style refers to these early experiments in Europe and their later interpretations in American architecture.

The International Style reinterpreted traditional forms to reflect a new age, new uses, and often a functional interpretation of architectural requirements, particularly with respect to the architectural plan. Roofs were flat, as gabled roofs were considered an unnecessary embellishment. Decorative details were abolished, as they were considered superfluous. Windows were ganged, to emit plentiful light. Buildings were sited at grade, eliminating the traditional sequential approach to a building. Alternatively the first floor might be raised one story above the grade, creating a podium above which the building rose. Essentially all traditional building features were reversed.

In residential architecture the style is typified by an asymmetrical composition; a flat roof with no eaves; planar surfaces and smooth finishes; minimal or simple detailing; and expansive or expressionistic use of glass, whether in full-height glass curtain walls or ribbon windows. The Fischer house displays a more rustic appearance than is typical of Neutra's southern California houses. Neutra also designed two houses in Portland, Oregon. At the time, he was advised by Portland architect and collaborator Van Evera Bailey to clad the houses in wood, rather than his usual stucco finishes, as this was more appropriate to the Pacific Northwest (Hawkins, 1999:508). The other feature seen in the Portland houses and the Fischer house, but not necessarily on other International style houses, is the use of deep eave overhangs, which is also consistent with modern residences in the Pacific Northwest, in particular those designed in the Northwest Regional style.

**Architect.** Born in Vienna and educated at the Technische Universität Wien, Richard Neutra arrived in the United States in 1923 at the age of 31. After a brief period working





## Historic Property Report

Resource Name: Fischer, Dr. Frederick and Cecel, House      Property ID: 182789

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for Frank Lloyd Wright, Neutra moved to Los Angeles to establish his own architectural practice. He remained there until his death in 1970. Today considered one of 20th-century architecture's most important innovators, Neutra was recognized for his genius early on, attaining a sort of fame that, apart from Wright, was previously unheard of. In 1932, he was included in the Museum of Modern Art's exhibition on Modern architecture, curated by Philip Johnson and Henry-Russell Hitchcock. Even the popular press was paying attention: Neutra appeared on the cover of Time magazine in 1949 as "one of the world's half-dozen top modern architects." Principal works include the Lovell house, Los Angeles (1929); the Von Sternberg house, Los Angeles (1935, no longer extant); the Miller House, Palm Springs (1937); the Kaufmann house, Palm Springs (1947); the Chuey house, Los Angeles (1956); the Wise house, San Pedro (1957); the Singleton house, Bel Air (1959); and the Maslon house, Rancho Mirage (1963, no longer extant). Neutra formed a partnership with his son Dion in 1965; the firm remains in practice today, nearly 50 years after Richard's death on April 16, 1970 at the age of 78.

## Historic Property Report

Resource Name: Fischer, Dr. Frederick and Cecel, House      Property ID: 182789

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### Physical description:

**Location and Setting.** The Dr. Frederick R. and Cecel G. Fischer residence is located on a rectangular lot on the south side of Pinecrest Road, a curvilinear street that extends from 29th Avenue to Pittsburgh Street on Spokane's South Hill. Pinecrest Road is on the north side of E 29th Avenue, a major east-west arterial and commercial street in the area. To the immediate west is the Rockwood neighborhood, which includes the Rockwood Historic District. To the east is Southeast Blvd, which runs north-south here, separating this area from the Lincoln Heights neighborhood to the east. The street is within the Rockwood View Addition #1. All houses face onto Pinecrest Road and appear to have been built individually, although all date from the 1950s. Pinecrest Road is a two-lane street with on-street parking and concrete sidewalks on each side.

**Materials.** The Dr. Frederick Fischer house is a wood-frame house clad in board-and-batten siding (plywood with battens), with a built-up or membrane roof and concrete foundation.

**Massing and design.** The Dr. Fischer house is a one-story house with an irregular footprint and deep eaves. Interior chimneys are located on the east and west ends and a pyramidal-shaped skylight is located near the front entry. Two enclosed courtyards are integrated with the house, one to the left of the front entry and one off the southwest, side façade of the house. The house, which is 2009 square feet in size with an attached 411-square-foot garage, is located toward the front (northwest side) of its .36-acre lot and set up from the street grade, increasing the level of privacy for the residents. The front yard of the house is formally landscaped, while the rear yard is more naturalistic in its landscape treatment, with numerous mature trees. Like many Modern houses, this house presents a very private appearance. The iconic view of the front façade consists of a bank of windows under the eaves, above an expanse of dark-stained board-and-batten siding, to the right of the flush entry door that is set into a tall wood panel. To the left of the entry is a small courtyard with a high wood fence, which in turn abuts the two-car garage. There are no openings on the northeast, side façade. A courtyard with a trellis shields the southwest façade from view and obscures the row of projecting fins that cover a long, multi-light window in this location. Historic photos show high windows under extended eaves on the shallow projecting wings to each side of the rear façade. Between these two wings is a covered patio, accessed from full-height sliding glass doors. According to Dr. Fischer, the house had a full 36 feet of glass on this façade (Hines, 1994:269). Today the overhang over the rear patio has been extended for additional sheltered outdoor space. The International-style house was designed by renowned Los Angeles architect Richard Neutra and constructed in 1951.

**Changes over time.** The house at 1618 E Pinecrest Road was re-roofed in 2008 and skylights were added. The sunroom on the center rear of the house may have also be added at this time. A courtyard and trellis has been added to the southwest side of the house (n.d.), enclosed with a wood fence. A small courtyard has also been added on the north corner of the house, on the front façade.

**Landscape and site design.** The front yard of the Dr. Frederick Fischer house, which rises to the front entry, is formally landscaped, while the rear yard is more naturalistic in its landscape treatment, with numerous mature trees. A long curved flagstone path with several intermediate steps rises from the sidewalk to the front entry door.



## Historic Property Report

Resource Name: Fischer, Dr. Frederick and Cecel, House      Property ID: 182789

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