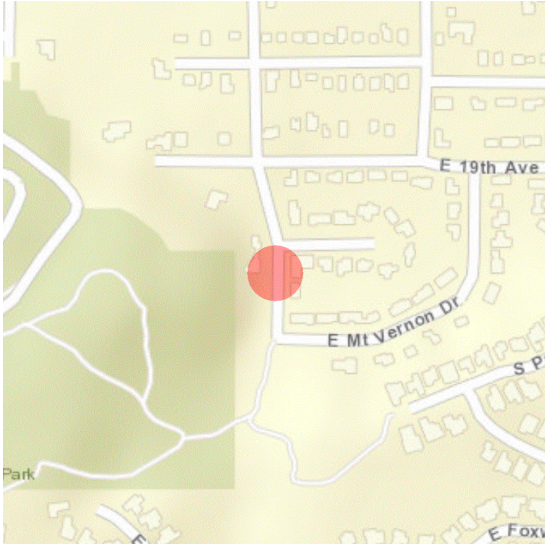


Historic Property Report

Resource Name: Matthews, William, House

Property ID: 710451

Location



Address: 2020 S Mt Vernon St, Spokane, WA, 99223, USA

Geographic Areas: Spokane Certified Local Government, Spokane County, T25R43E28, SPOKANE NE Quadrangle

Information

Number of stories: 1.00

Construction Dates:

Construction Type	Year	Circa
Built Date	1971	<input type="checkbox"/>

Historic Use:

Category	Subcategory
Domestic	

Historic Context:

Category
Architecture

Architect/Engineer:

Category	Name or Company
Architect	Kundig, Moritz



Historic Property Report

Resource Name: Matthews, William, House

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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
2016-12-08751, , Spokane Mid-20th Century Modern Survey 2016	6/30/2017		

Photos



Front (east) facade



Entry, east facade



Entry detail, south side



Entry detail



East facade, south end



East facade, central portion



East facade, detail



South facade



South facade, garage



South facade, solarium



North facade



Historic Property Report

Resource Name: Matthews, William, House

Property ID: 710451

Inventory Details - 6/30/2017

Common name: Matthews 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 Parapet
Roof Material	Asphalt/Composition - Built Up
Cladding	Wood - Shingle
Structural System	Wood - Platform Frame
Plan	Irregular

Styles:

Period	Style Details
Modern Movement	Contemporary

Surveyor Opinion

Property appears to meet criteria for the National Register of Historic Places: No

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. Building permit records indicate that William Matthews was the owner and contractor for the Matthews house when it was constructed in 1971. Russell B. Wolfe (or Wolf) is also shown as the owner in 1971. James P. Dunlap owned the property from 1978 until at least 2002; he added the skylights and remodeled the house. In 2014, Karen M. McKenney and David W. Moershel owned the house, which they remodeled that year, continuing into 2015. This represents the most recent sale of the property.

Architectural Context. The William Matthews 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, where the color and texture of the materials lend richness, complementing the composition. Contemporary houses were often 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; and the use of clerestory windows under the eaves where privacy was important. 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.” This house differs from the typical Contemporary house in that there are few windows, relatively speaking. A solarium at the south end of the house and a skylight on the east side of the center of the house admit light. The space to the rear of the house is wooded and backs up against Lincoln Park, which rises above it, limiting the light on this exposure as well. However, the linear configuration of the house translates into a shallow depth, allowing light to more easily reach the interior of the rooms.

Architect. Born in Switzerland in 1925, Moritz Kundig was accepted into the Gymnasium in Winterthur, the prominent state high school for university-track students, where he took seven years of Latin, six of French, five of English, and one of Italian – along with German literature, history, math, and sciences. Kundig completed his compulsory military training after graduating from high school, eventually becoming a first lieutenant in the Swiss Army. He then enrolled at the Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule (ETH) in Zürich – the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology – one of the most prestigious schools in Europe, where architecture was taught strictly from the Modernist perspective. Kundig graduated with a Dipl. Architekt ETH in 1951, then went to work at the Ribary firm in Lucerne. He arrived in the United States in 1952, taking a job first in Salt Lake City, then in Merced, California; an ad in an architectural magazine led him to Whitehouse, Price, DeNeff and Deeble in Spokane in 1955. That same year, Kundig joined the Ken Brooks-Bruce Walker joint venture then working on the design for the new Washington Water Power Central Service Facility. In 1956, after winning fourth prize in a national competition to design the Cowboy Hall of Fame and Museum in Oklahoma City, he joined Walker, McGough and Trogdon full time. Two years later, Kundig began working for McClure & Adkison; by 1962 he was on his own, as Moritz Kundig & Associates. Kundig taught fourth- and fifth-year design in the University of Idaho’s Department of Art and Architecture from 1963 to 1964. With architects Ron Tan and Dale Brookie, he formed Tan Brookie Kundig in 1973, which merged with Trogdon Smith Grossman to create NAC Architecture in 1979. Kundig was named an AIA fellow in 1984. Notable projects include the Unitarian Church (1961); the McNeil Island Penitentiary Chapel, for which he won an AIA merit award (1962); the Ferris High School Auditorium (1963); the Daily Idahoan Building in Moscow, Idaho (1966); and the Holmlund and Peringer residences (1963 and 1966, respectively).



Historic Property Report

Resource Name: Matthews, William, House

Property ID: 710451

Physical description:

Location and Setting. The William Matthews house is located on the east side of Spokane's South Hill, in the Lincoln Heights neighborhood. It is sited directly on the east side of the 51-acre Lincoln Park, which rises up directly behind it. Mt. Vernon Street runs north-south here, then continues east as Mt. Vernon Court, separated by a greenbelt from the residential neighborhood to the south. To the south of Lincoln Park and the Matthews house is the Rockwood Retirement community. Just beyond that is the east-west commercial arterial of 29th Avenue. To the north and east are primarily residential neighborhoods, with a few exceptions, consisting of churches and schools. Changes in topography and the presence of parks keep the various areas within this neighborhood distinct and somewhat separate from each other.

Materials. The William Matthews house is clad in cedar shingles and has a built-up roof and concrete foundation. Building permit records indicate that the building is wood-frame construction. The record is not clear as to whether the shingles were added later, in conjunction with the 1978 remodel.

Design and massing. The Matthews house rises above the street and is accessed via three sets of concrete aggregate stairs, totaling about 19 shallow steps. The long, one-story house has an irregular footprint and a flat roof with no eaves, finished in a metal coping. At about the center of the house is a large chimney. Additional features on the front of the house include a large skylight and a bank of new rectangular windows that have recently replaced a focal window which had a curved upper edge and colored glass. The 3036 square foot house sits on a .7-acre parcel that backs up against Lincoln Park. The basement is another 2961 square feet in size and the attached garage on the south side is 576 square feet. Also on the south side of the house is a conservatory and shop. There is also a greenhouse on the property, to the south. The Contemporary house was designed by Moritz Kundig and constructed in 1971.

Changes over time. The Matthews house was 2986 square feet in size on 1971, according to the building permit. The conservatory and the skylights at about the center of the building were added later, the skylights in 1978 in conjunction with a remodel. A stained glass window on the front façade was recently replaced.

Landscape and site design. The property is formally landscaped on the east side with Pacific Northwest native plants, including several mature cedar trees.



Historic Property Report

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