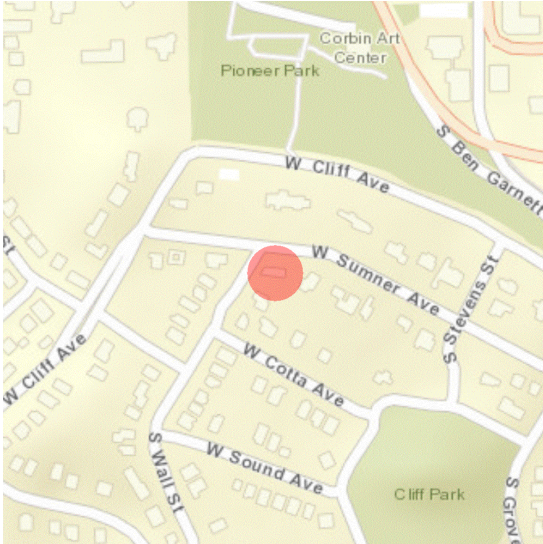


# Historic Property Report

Resource Name: Murray, Don, House

Property ID: 25472

## Location



**Address:** 611 W Sumner Ave, Spokane, Washington, USA

**Geographic Areas:** Spokane Certified Local Government, Spokane County, T25R43E19, SPOKANE NW Quadrangle

## Information

**Number of stories:** 2.00

### Construction Dates:

Construction Type	Year	Circa
Built Date	1966	<input type="checkbox"/>

### Historic Use:

Category	Subcategory
Domestic	Domestic - Single Family House

### Historic Context:

Category
Architecture

### Architect/Engineer:

Category	Name or Company
Architect	Funk, Murray & Johnson



# Historic Property Report

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## Districts

District Name	Contributing
Marycliff-Cliff Park Historic District	<input type="checkbox"/>

## 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
2011-03-00043, , Nifty From the Last 50	11/26/2003	Not Determined	
2016-12-08751, , Spokane Mid-20th Century Modern Survey 2016	6/30/2017		

## Photos



main façade



Front (north) facade, detail



Stairs to front entry



Front entry door



## Historic Property Report

Resource Name: Murray, Don, House

Property ID: 25472



North and west facades



Roof meets west wall



North roof detail



North and west facades, + garage



Carport, rear of building



West courtyard wall

## Historic Property Report

Resource Name: Murray, Don, House

Property ID: 25472



Interior courtyard wall



Front (north) facade

### Inventory Details - 6/30/2017

**Common name:** Murray, Don, 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	Shed
Roof Material	Asphalt/Composition - Built Up
Roof Material	Wood - Shingle
Plan	Irregular
Structural System	Wood - Platform Frame
Cladding	Wood - Shingle

#### Styles:

Period	Style Details
Modern Movement	Shed





# Historic Property Report

Resource Name: Murray, Don, House

Property ID: 25472

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## 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):** No

**Significance narrative:** History. The Don Murray house is within the Marycliff/Cliff Park Historic District, listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1978. The following is a description of the historic district, adapted from the nomination.

"The Marycliff/Cliff Park District in the City of Spokane is composed of two interrelated parts; reflective of two chronologically different phases of development. The time span of development runs from 1889 to 1941, with the more recent development echoing the grand stylistic traditions of the earlier phases of building. The south section of Marycliff/Cliff Park is located in a distinctive residential area of Spokane. The northern area of the district faces an encroaching commercial and multi-family dwelling section of town. The district contains 125 structures and is situated on 15 city blocks. This district is characterized by a variety of architectural styles reflective of the time span of the district. The homes found in the Marycliff/Cliff Park District are of high quality, designed by nationally known architects.

"The physical setting and surroundings of the district are extremely important to the entire effect created by the neighborhood. The homes and grounds in the Marycliff section were originally designed by Kirtland Kelsey Cutter to resemble English country estates in a scaled down version. Originally, these 'in city estates' were built on five to seven acres of land with the basaltic rock found on the land used in the construction of the homes, walls and landscaping.

"The houses on Seventh and Eighth Avenues, built by Mr. Cutter, are all different in style and material. The basalt in which the district abounds has been utilized extensively (House Beautiful - September, 1921.

"Within the entire district, the streets are irregular and hilly, following the contour of the land; some streets continue across the full width of the district, while others are periodically interrupted by the varying levels and angles of intersecting streets.

"The boundaries of the Marycliff/Cliff Park District have been determined so as to result in the most consistent representation of styles and to avoid as many intrusive areas as possible. Another determining factor in the selection of boundaries was the historically drawn boundaries of the areas, the Marycliff section in particular."

While the Murray house is not contributing to the district due to its age, the district was meant to be inclusive in its styles. Featured in the nomination is an International Style house at 523 W Sumner, just three houses from the Murray house, constructed in 1938. The style of this house was described as follows in the nomination: "The district has one true example of the International style of architecture. International is characterized by a complete absence of ornamentation and by forms in which effects of mass and weight are minimized for the sake of an effect of pure volume. Compositionally, a balance of unlike parts is a rule. Flat roofs, smooth and uniform wall surfaces are distinctive features with circular windows or curved surfaces appearing as elements of contrast."

## Historic Property Report

Resource Name: Murray, Don, House

Property ID: 25472

Unfortunately, this house was re-designed as a Tudor Revival house. It is now described on the Zillow website as having “stunning old world charm.” The description continues, “This spacious home was originally constructed in 1938. It made a renaissance as a two-story Tudor in 2007 and offers approximately 4,800 square feet.”

The most recently constructed house in the Marycliff/Cliff Park Historic District was designed in the Spanish Colonial Revival style and constructed in 1941. The nomination goes on to state, “There are many homes not described that exhibit design features of many styles. As in most districts, some intrusive structures have slipped in. These homes, while very interesting examples of modern architecture, detract from the dominant more traditional styles found in the neighborhood.”

**Architectural Context.** The Don Murray house is designed in the Shed style. The Shed style is most often seen in residential architecture. It is a later modern architectural style, appearing in the late 1960s and 1970s. The style is named for its roof form, which was popularized by the iconic Sea Ranch residential development in northern Sonoma County by architects Charles Moore, Joseph Esherick, William Turnbull Jr., and others, with master planning by Lawrence Halprin.

Sea Ranch is known for the environmental sensitivity displayed in its architectural design and site planning. The shed form of the roofs was intended to better blend with the landscape, which was in this case a high bluff above the Pacific Ocean, and the rustic materials – particularly weathered shingles and wood – were thought to be more compatible with the vegetation and natural features of the site.

The Shed style emerged about the same time as the environmental movement. Washington State Architectural Historian Michael Houser notes that, “The use of the style in the 1970s coincided with the energy crisis and some of the better examples employ passive-solar design elements. Features such as south facing windows at the roofline (clerestory windows) paired with interior elements such as brick floors or rock walls which could collect and store heat, saved energy costs.”

Features of the Shed style include angled forms and features, including windows. Exterior walls are usually covered with flush board siding, applied horizontally, vertically, or even diagonally to follow the lines of the shed roof. Builder examples often used T1-11 siding, while high style examples may be clad with cedar shingles. The junctions of the roofs and walls are smooth and simple, with little or no overhang. Most Shed-style buildings are no more than one-and-one-half stories in height, to retain their low profile. Entrances are often recessed and obscured from the street and windows tend to be a variety of sizes and shapes. Vertically or horizontally oriented narrow windows are common, as well as windows that are angled to follow the slope of the roof line.

**Architects.** Albert Harvey Funk, Edwin William Molander, and Carl Herbert Johnson formed Funk, Molander & Johnson in Spokane in 1944. Molander left the firm in 1956 to establish an independent practice; when Donald Howard Murray became a partner in 1957, the practice was renamed Funk, Murray & Johnson. Over its 40-year existence, the firm created some of the Inland Northwest’s most iconic – and visually arresting – buildings, including everything from single-family residences to educational facilities to churches. The firm is also known for the design of the 1945 Garland Theater in Spokane, listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 2013, and their collaboration with Spokane architects Culler, Gale, Martell & Davis on the design of the Federal Building in Richland, Washington (1965).

## Historic Property Report

Resource Name: Murray, Don, House

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Don Murray was born in Walla Walla, Washington in 1920. Following graduation with a BS in architectural engineering from Washington State College in 1942, he served as a frogman in one of the Navy's Underwater Demolition Teams – forerunners to today's SEAL units. Murray's UDT 13 was one of four teams assigned to prepare the beaches of Iwo Jima for a USMC landing; he himself led the first wave of Marines onto Green Beach near Mount Suribachi, and was awarded the Silver Star for his action. Murray's unique design aesthetic and visionary work with fellow partner Johnson led to a number of notable projects, in particular Holy Family Catholic Church (1962) in Clarkston, Richland Lutheran Church (1967), and Spokane's St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church (1961), all three of which continue to make a visual impact decades after their construction. Murray died in Spokane in 2004.

### Physical description:

**Location and Setting.** The Don Murray house is located in the Cliff/Cannon neighborhood of Spokane's South Hill, which is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. It is located in the center of this historic district, which differs from surrounding areas with its irregular street and block pattern, dramatic topography, and parks. It is home to some of Spokane's most significant historic houses. Among the significant properties in this neighborhood are the Glover Mansion, the Corbin Mansion (Historic Corbin Mansion Events Center), the Moore-Turner Heritage Gardens and Edwidge Woldson Park. The Murray house is located within a single family residential area just north of these properties, among properties in a variety of historic styles. Cliff Park is located in the southeast corner of this historic district. The neighborhood is bounded by Monroe Street to the west; 7th Avenue to the north; Stevens Street to the east; and 14th Street to the south.

**Materials.** The Don Murray house is a concrete block residence constructed of square concrete blocks with a wood shingle and composition shingle roof. The foundation is concrete. The attached garage on the west side of the house is also concrete block. A metal carport is located to the south of the house.

**Massing and design.** The Don Murray house is two stories in height in the center of the house and one story to the east and west. The shed or angled roofline creates a second-story space above the centered front entry. The roof, which is slightly battered on the north and south sides, and forms a steep angle on the east and west sides, is asymmetrical. There are no eaves; flashing finishes the intersection of the sheds and roof, whereas the concrete block garage is finished with a parapet. Second-level windows on the north and south sides are slightly inset as a result of the angle of the roof. The concrete block garage on the east side extends into an enclosed courtyard in the southwest corner of the house. A narrow courtyard is also formed by a tall concrete block wall in front of the house which can be enclosed by a decorative wrought iron gate. The house is entered via a set of deep, shallow steps from Sumner Street. The Shed-style, 1560-square-foot house was designed by architect Don Murray as his personal home. It was constructed in 1965.

**Changes over time.** No known changes have taken place to the Murray house.

**Landscape and site design.** The yard of the .26-acre site is informally landscaped with an enormous juniper that extends across the frontage of Sumner Street and around the corner to the driveway off Wall Street. The garage and carport are accessed via a broad concrete driveway off Wall Street.



## Historic Property Report

Resource Name: Murray, Don, House

Property ID: 25472

### Bibliography:

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US City Directories, HeritageQuest, <https://www.ancestryheritagequest.com/HQA/CityDirectories>, accessed June 2017.

### Inventory Details - 11/26/2003

Common name:

Date recorded: 11/26/2003

Field Recorder: M. Houser

Field Site number:

SHPO Determination





## Historic Property Report

Resource Name: Murray, Don, House

Property ID: 25472

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### Characteristics:

Category	Item
Foundation	Concrete - Poured
Plan	Rectangle
Roof Material	Wood - Shingle
Cladding	Concrete
Form Type	Single Dwelling
Roof Type	Hip
Structural System	Masonry - Concrete Block

### Styles:

Period	Style Details
Modern Movement	Shed

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