

# Spokane Register of Historic Places

## Nomination Form

# RECEIVED

OCT 30 1989

City/County Historic Landmarks Commission

Fourth Floor - City Hall

Spokane, Washington 99201-3333

SPOKANE REGIONAL COUNCIL

Type all entries—complete applicable sections

### 1. Name

historic The Floyd McCroskey House

and/or common The Caton Sumner House

### 2. Location

street & number West 414 Sumner Ave.

city, town Spokane  vicinity of Stevens Ave.

state Washington county Spokane

### 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

### 4. Owner of Property

name George W. Caton

street & number West 414 Sumner Ave.

city, town Spokane  vicinity of state Washington

### 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Assessor's Office, Spokane County Courthouse

street & number W. 1116 Broadway

city, town Spokane state WA 99205

### 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Resurvey of Cliff Park Addition

date 1892  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Spokane County Auditor's Office

city, town Spokane state WA

## 7. Description

### Condition

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

### Check one

unaltered  
 altered

### Check one

original site  
 moved date \_\_\_\_\_

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

This two story stucco house located at West 414 Sumner Avenue is listed as a contributing structure in the Marycliff-Cliff Park National Register Historic District. It is quite likely the last structure in the community designed by Spokane architect Kirtland K. Cutter for Floyd McCroskey.

The cross gabled roof has a pediment protrusion on the west-gable end and this element has been added to the south gable end. During a recent rehabilitation, the three-tab composition shingle roofing was removed and replaced with a milled cedar shingle, painted green.

The primary facade is given an asymmetrical appearance by the south gable roof line which extends down the eastern side to the story and a half level. The pavilioned south portion of this structure planes out under the steeped roof line. An entry portico has been added to provide sheltered access to the structure and echos the Mission quality of this residence.

Fenestration on the structure is a combination of three paned side-by-side casement windows in sets of two and three. A large casement picture window has recently been returned to its muntin configuration of twelve square panes under a recessed arch. *Note: 16 - 18 sq. arch.*

The structure was remodeled in 1957 with the addition of a large bedroom on the northeast portion under a flat roof, a sliding glass door off the dining room and a fiberglass shed roof addition placed over the sliding door. During a 1989 rehabilitation, the sliding glass door was removed and replaced with French doors and the shed roof replaced with a more permanent addition which echoes the Spanish styling yet is clearly more contemporary. The structure's cream colored stucco exterior is highlighted with wood trim/molding painted a forest green.

A high wall between the house and garage encloses a patio on the east side of the structure accessed through an iron gate. The Spanish influence continues in both the garage and the wall.

# 8. Significant

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below					
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention				

**Specific dates** 1923 **Builder/Architect** Kirtland Cutter

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

This home was built in 1923 and is the final architectural legacy left to Spokane by Kirtland Cutter. The home was commissioned by prominent Spokane insurance man, Floyd McCroskey, after his marriage to the daughter of the Kemps. The Kemps operated the Kemp and Hebert Department Store at Washington and Main and later acquired the Palace Department Store located on the site of the present Nordstrom's Building. The site at W. 414 Sumner is a subdivision of the Kemp estate at W. 404 Sumner and was a wedding gift to their daughter and Mr. McCroskey. In 1948, the home was purchased by Mr. and Mrs. O'Leary. The first floor bedroom was added in 1956 after Mr. O'Leary suffered a heart attack thus saving him the strain of climbing stairs. The widowed Mrs. O'Leary passed away in 1987 and the estate sold the property to Mr. Caton in 1988. The architect, Kirtland Cutter, came to Spokane in 1886 at age 26 to work in his uncle's bank. By age 28, Cutter had designed the controversial F. Rockwood Moore mansion, a tudor reminiscent of the English countryside. By 1889, the Coeur d'Alene mines were booming and fortunes were being made. People wanted homes to match their status. Cutter became the pre-eminent northwest architect of his era, designing the Campbell, Wakefield and Finch mansions in Browne's Addition and in 1910-12 created his largest masterpiece yet---the Davenport Hotel. After World War I, the mining flood was reduced to a trickle and commissions for Cutter waned. After completing the McCroskey House, he moved to Southern California at the age of 63. Some of Kirtland Cutter's other major achievements include the Rainier Club in Seattle, the rustic lodge on Lake McDonald in Glacier National Park and Kirtland Hall at Yale University in New Haven Connecticut. Kirtland Cutter's imagination transformed the short-lived but spectacular flow of money through the City of Spokane into a permanent heritage through his architecture. If his works had been paintings instead of buildings, they would by now have been removed to larger city's museums or collections. Cutter's works of art are too big to be moved. They largely remain in Spokane. Mr. Cutter passed away in Long Beach California in 1939.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Cheney Cowles Archives contain Cutter's original plans for this home.  
Ed Nolan, architectural historian, Washington State Historical Society.  
Miss Myrtle Woldson, W. 526 Sumner Ave. Sumner Avenue history collector.  
A View of the Falls, William Stimson

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property Less than 1 acre.

**Verbal boundary description and justification** Cliff Park Resurvey, portion of Lots 1, 2, and 3 of Block 18; the southerly 1/2 of lots 1 & 2; the southerly 1/2 of the westerly 1/2 of lot 3.

**List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries**

state

county

state

county

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title George W. Caton

organization Applicant

date October 27, 1989

street & number W. 474 Sumner Ave.

telephone 509-747-3747

city or town Spokane

state WA 99204

12. Signature of Owner(s) George W. Caton

For Office Use Only:

Date Received: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Heard: \_\_\_\_\_

Commission Decision: \_\_\_\_\_

Council/Board Action: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

Approved as to form:

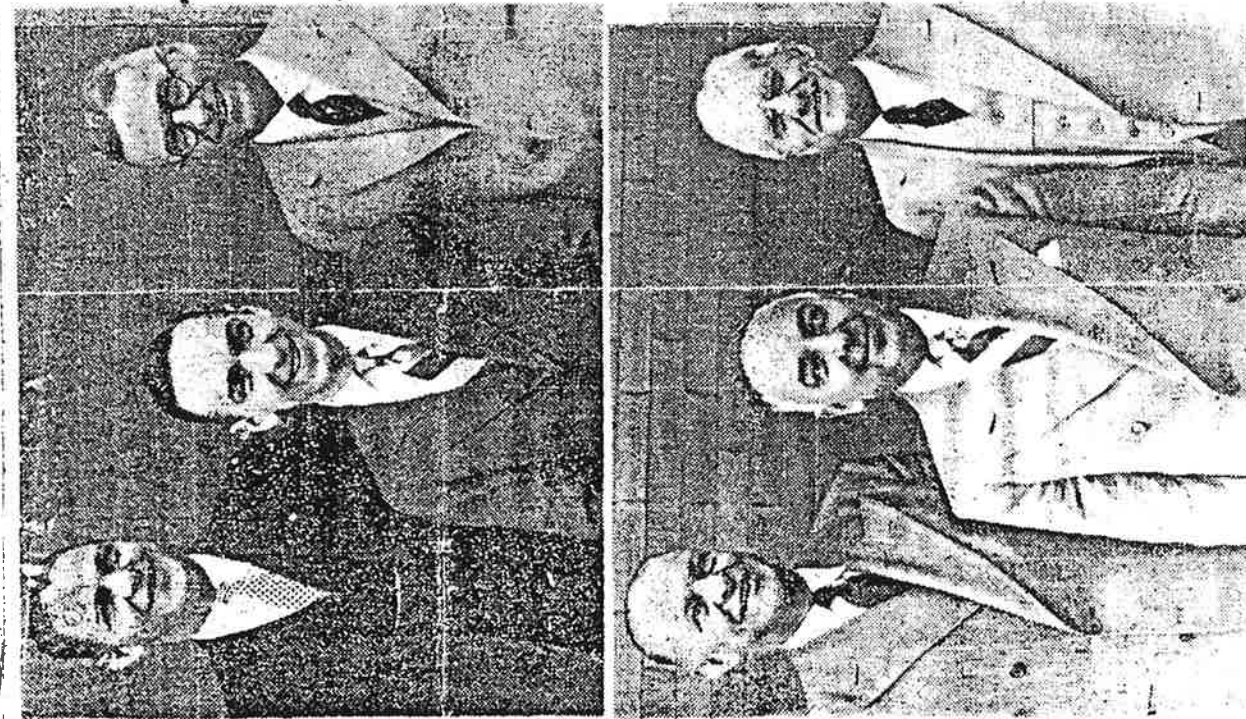
\_\_\_\_\_  
Ass't. Corporation Counsel

We hereby certify that this property has been listed on the Spokane Register of Historic Places:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor, City of Spokane or Chair, Spokane County Commissioners

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chair, Spokane City/County Historic Landmarks Commission

\_\_\_\_\_  
City/County Historic Preservation Officer



**THEN AND NOW** Time has dealt gently with the three Spokane business men pictured here. Just 20 years ago, the trio stood, backs to the brick wall, while the Chronicle photographer "shot" them as they prepared to leave for the Lions Club International convention. Below is a photo, as they stood before the same wall this week. Left to right are Floyd McCroskey, ex-automotive finance man and now a life insurance underwriter; Virgil Warren, then and now a commercial artist, and Samuel P. Weaver, life insurance company president, then and now. Warren has become a bigger man since he served as a state senator. Weaver, however, weighs less than 30 years ago. The other two agreed McCroskey has changed the least. Warren said the tie worn now is different than the one he had 20 years ago, but admitted he does run to type in ties.

7-23-1942





West Lake copy



#3 West facade  
& porch area,  
before/after



# DEL 11 001





Don't care any



#2  
Primary facade  
& entry  
before / after



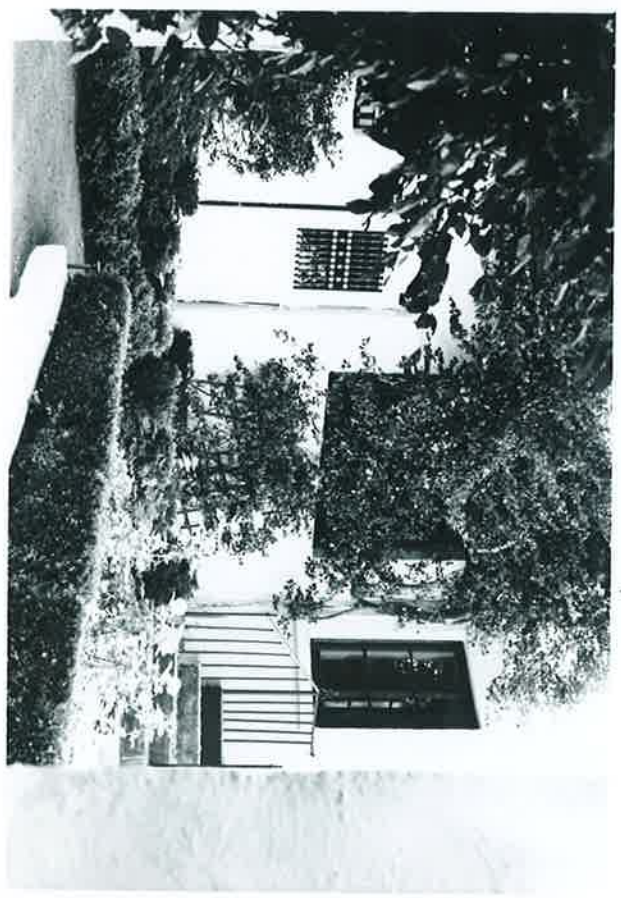




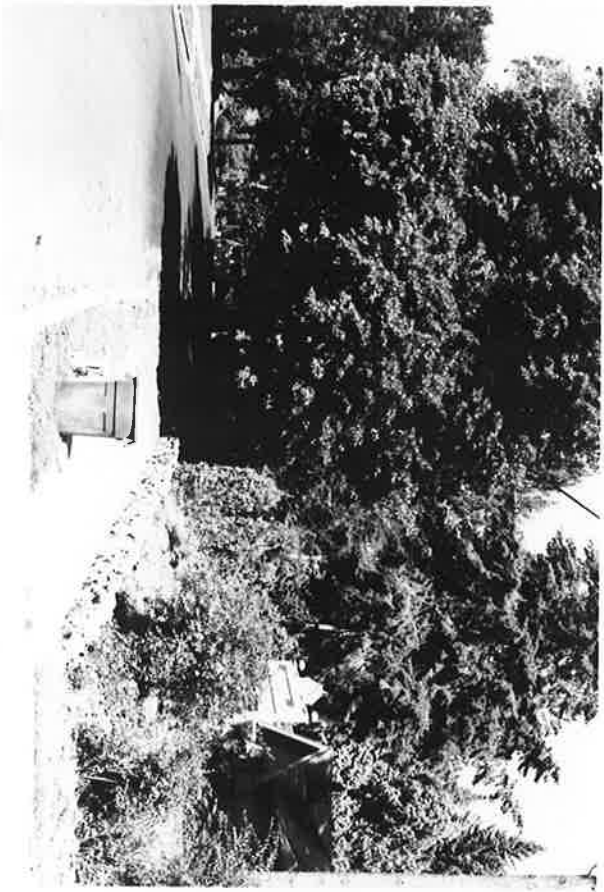
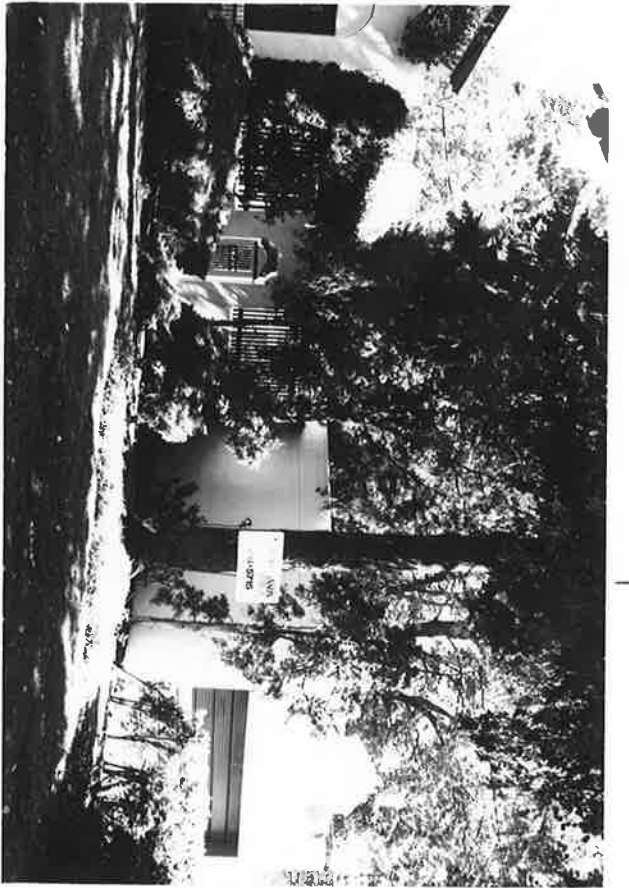
#4 B  
East Patio  
Before/after



#4 A  
West facade  
before/after







Streetscapes  
#1  
Gauguin  
East Park

*Dot Line Corp.*



# DL PP 35V



*#6  
North facade  
before/after*





*Dot Line Corp.*

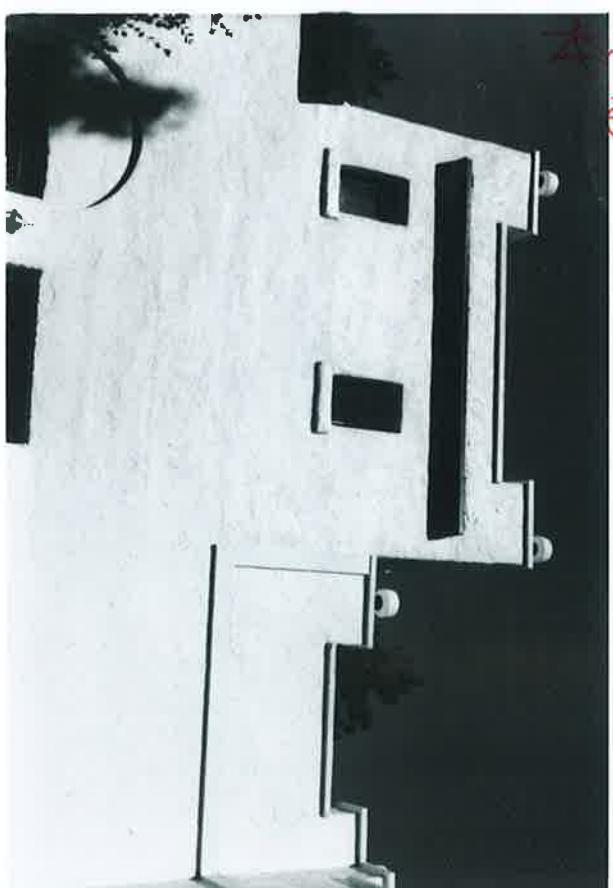
#15  
East facade  
Bakre/affer



#12



# DL PP35V



#10

*Dart Line Corp.*



# DL PP 35V





*Dot Line Corp.*



# DL PP35V

