

Spokane Register of Historic Places Nomination

*Spokane City/County Historic Preservation Office, City Hall, Third Floor
808 Spokane Falls Boulevard, Spokane, Washington 99201-3337*

1. Name of Property

Historic Name: Wallmark House
And/Or Common Name: Wallmark House

2. Location

Street & Number: 14701 N. Oxford Road
City, State, Zip Code: Nine Mile Falls WA 99026
Parcel Number: 17363.9081

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building	<input type="checkbox"/> public <input type="checkbox"/> both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure			<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> residential
<input type="checkbox"/> object	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes, restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes, unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other

4. Owner of Property

Name: Joanne Wallmark
Street & Number: 10830 E. Riverside Drive
City, State, Zip Code:
Telephone Number/E-mail: jwallmark1@gmail.com

5. Location of Legal Description

Courthouse, Registry of Deeds	Spokane County Courthouse
Street Number:	1116 West Broadway
City, State, Zip Code:	Spokane, WA 99260
County:	Spokane

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Title: Enter previous survey name if applicable
Date: Enter survey date if applicable Federal State County Local
Depository for Survey Records: Spokane Historic Preservation Office

7. Description

Architectural Classification

Condition

- excellent
- good
- fair
- deteriorated
- ruins
- unexposed

Check One

- unaltered
- altered

Check One

- original site
- moved & date _____

Narrative statement of description is found on one or more continuation sheets.

8. Spokane Register Criteria and Statement of Significance

Applicable Spokane Register of Historic Places criteria: Mark "x" on one or more for the categories that qualify the property for the Spokane Register listing:

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of Spokane history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory history.

Narrative statement of significance is found on one or more continuation sheets.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography is found on one or more continuation sheets.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: 10
Verbal Boundary Description: 36-27-41: GOVT LOT 7 EXC W 300 FT & EXC E 399.00 FT
Verbal Boundary Justification: Nominated property includes entire parcel and urban legal description.

11. Form Prepared By

Name and Title: Stephen Emerson, Director
Organization: Archisto Enterprises
Street, City, State, Zip Code: W. 212 Dawn Avenue
Telephone Number: 509-466-8654
E-mail Address: semerson@ewu.edu
Date Final Nomination Heard:

12. Additional Documentation

Additional documentation is found on one or more continuation sheets.

13. Signature of Owner(s)

Joanne Wallmark

14. For Official Use Only:

Date nomination application filed: 10/17/16

Date of Landmarks Commission hearing: 11/16/16

Landmarks Commission decision: yes

Date of City Council/Board of County Commissioners' hearing: 11/29/16

City Council/Board of County Commissioners' decision: _____

I hereby certify that this property has been listed in the Spokane Register of Historic Places based upon the action of either the City Council or the Board of County Commissioners as set forth above.

Megan Duvall 11/16/16
Megan Duvall Date

City/County Historic Preservation Officer
City/County Historic Preservation Office
3rd Floor - City Hall, Spokane, WA 99201

Attest:

Anna Vasquez
~~City~~ Clerk
County

Approved as to form:

[Signature]
~~Assistant City Attorney~~
DPA

SUMMARY STATEMENT

The Wallmark House, built in 1963, stands out as one of the premier Mid-Century Modern residences in Spokane County, among many such buildings in an area that was an epi-center of such experimentation. With its shallow-pitched roof, widely-overhanging eaves, massive brick chimney, attached garage, and fixed wood sash windows, it is a classic example of the Contemporary Ranch Style. It was designed by Moritz Kundig, who is among a plethora of Mid-Century modern architects who called Spokane home. Furthermore, this house is where the remarkable Wallmark family spent much of their lives.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY

The property consists of the 3,938-square-foot house with an attached 619-square-foot garage and storage area. The house is one-story with no basement. It has an irregular plan, situated at a position that is canted from the cardinal compass points, with the front elevation facing northeast and the rear facing southwest. The main roof is front-gabled, facing northeast, with a side-gabled wing oriented to the southeast. It has a very shallow pitch, nearly flat, with thick, widely overhanging, enclosed eaves. It is partially supported by visible exposed purlins and brackets, and has metal flashing. The roof extends over the front porch, supported by a wood post, and over the patio at the west corner, supported by several wood posts extending down from an extended roof purlin. The garage, attached to the southeast side of the house, has a similar but shed-style roof. Originally, the roof was sealed with tar and gravel, which was later replaced by a white membrane that reflects UV rays. Several skylights are situated on the roof. Also, a long rectangular opening in the roof, to the right of the front entry, allows water and sunlight to nourish a planting strip that once supported ferns. A mortared basalt chimney, with a rectangular cross-section emerges from just behind the front gable crest. The chimney opening is protected by a metal rain guard.

Exterior wall surfaces are clad with board and batten siding. It is mostly painted brown, intended to blend into the natural wooded setting. Three wall panels, however, depart

from this scheme and are painted blue. Another departure is the fascia boards directly below the eaves, which are painted with a burnt red stain. Another wall panel, facing sideways to the right of the recessed front entry, is clad with mortared basalt. The foundation is poured concrete.

The window and entry configuration is, like the house plan, complex. Windows of the northeast (front) elevation include, from left to right, two double sets of rectangular sliding units, overlooking two interior bedrooms, one rectangular sliding unit to the right of the front entry, overlooking the office/den and another rectangular sliding unit overlooking the interior inglenook. All of these windows have white painted metal sashes. The northeast (front) entry is situated to the left of the projecting portion of the plan that houses the office/den, directly to the left of the basalt exterior wall. The entry contains a solid walnut panel door that is flanked to the right by two floor-to-ceiling side lights and, to the left, by a single floor-to-ceiling side light. Above the entry is a canted wood panel painted blue.

Going left around the corner of the northeast (front) elevation is another rectangular sliding window with white painted metal sash, overlooking the interior master bedroom. Above and below this window are panels of exterior cladding painted blue. To the right of this window is the shed-roofed attached garage. The treatment of the eaves and exterior cladding is similar to the house. Facing southeast is a double-wide wood roll-up vehicle door with a yellow painted surround. Attached to the southwest side of the garage are a tool shed and a semi-enclosed garden shed with a flat roof and lattice walls.

To the left and around the corner of the garden shed are the banks of large windows looking into the solarium hall and the solarium proper. The seven wood sash windows of the solarium hall face to the southwest, while the two similar wood sash windows face southeast from the solarium proper. These windows reach from about knee-height to the ceiling. A sliding glass door accessing the solarium hall is situated in the panel to the left

of the farthest right window. Two similar wood sash windows face southwest, opening onto the solarium proper.

On the northwest side of the solarium proper are two more large wood sash windows with canted tops that match the slope of the roof and eaves. The left half of this wall is clad with the brown board and batten cladding. To the left of this wall is the recessed partially enclosed patio, occupying the west corner of the house plan. The patio canopy is an extension of the roof and is supported by wood posts. The wall facing northwest over the patio contains a sliding glass door accessing the solarium, on the right, with a large wood sash window to its left. The other patio wall facing southwest also contains a sliding glass door, accessing the dining room. To the left is a wood sash floor-to-ceiling window. The northwest elevation of the house primarily contains a continuous bank of five wood sash floor-to-ceiling windows. At the very left of the windows is an exterior wall panel painted blue. The last windows on the northwest elevation are two wood sash floor-to-ceiling units that overlook the office/den. In addition to the house a cedar deck with wood benches is located to the northwest, overlooking Lake Spokane (Long Lake).

Upon entering the front door of the Wallmark House, to the left are two sets of folding closet doors with wood louver surfaces. The floor is polished tan and brown terrazzo. This floor is also found in the living room, dining room, kitchen, laundry room and the bathrooms. To the right is the office, a modestly sized room with tan carpeting and patterned grass cloth wallpaper. Two floor-to-ceiling windows occupy the northwest wall, while a smaller window is located on the left side of the northeast wall. The southwest side of the office is taken up by the massive interior mortared basalt wall with fireplace and firewood storage niche. The floor immediately in front of the stone wall and fireplace is surfaced with the same terrazzo as much of the rest of the house. The ceiling features red clear cedar paneling and an exposed purlin.

Going forward from the front door, beyond the basalt wall is the large living room. On the northeast wall is the other side of the massive mortared basalt wall with a steel

fireplace insert with glass doors at the lower left corner. A lower extension of the rock wall to the left creates a small inglenook seating area. The living room floor is terrazzo. The ceiling features red clear cedar paneling, exposed purlins, and three skylights. The walls are papered with patterned grass cloth. Between the living room and the kitchen is a free-standing, $\frac{3}{4}$ -high wall containing wood shelves, cabinets, and a bar-style opening revealing the kitchen interior. The top shelf is lit by a hidden light fixture. The northwest wall of the living room is lit by a continuous bank of floor-to-ceiling windows, as is the dining room extension to the southwest. This room also features a terrazzo floor, red clear cedar paneled ceiling, and grass cloth wallpaper. At the far end are another floor-to-ceiling window and a sliding glass door opening onto the back patio.

The kitchen can be entered through openings from the dining room and from the small alcove to the left of the kitchen. Again, the flooring is terrazzo and the ceiling is paneled in red clear cedar, but the walls and ceiling are clad with painted wall board. The walls of the kitchen contain customized built-ins, including drawers, shelves, cabinets, Formica counter tops, and appliances. The cabinet doors have no handles or knobs, opening instead with a gentle push. A stainless steel sink and Formica countertop face a large opening that looks onto the solarium proper. At the center of the kitchen is an island containing a large cutting board and a stainless steel stove top with spiral elements. Other kitchen appliances include a modern built-in dishwasher, a modern stainless steel refrigerator, a built-in Frigidaire wall oven, a Westinghouse timer and extension cord outlet, and a Rittenhouse intercom. The latter three are all of 1960s vintage. The small alcove adjacent to the kitchen has wood panel doors that open into the solarium hall and a laundry room that contains a washer and dryer, wood cupboards and shelves, Formica counter tops, and a stainless steel sink.

The main hallway to the bedrooms is located on the northwest wall of the living room, accessed by a wood panel door. The first door on the right of the carpeted hall enters a closet containing the hot water heater. The second door on the right is a second entry into the laundry room. The first door on the left enters one of the two smaller bedrooms. It

has wallboard walls and ceiling and a carpeted floor. Down the hall, the second door on the left enters the common family bathroom. This space is distinguished by a terrazzo floor, as well as walls and counters featuring ceramic tile colored blue and reddish brown. The built-in cupboards to the right contain a powder blue ceramic sink with stainless steel fixtures, tile counters, and a large mirror. Beyond this is the built in tub, also of light blue ceramic, with blue tile walls. In the corner, at the foot of the tub, is an unusual planter box, with reddish brown tile cladding, and blue and reddish brown tile back walls. The next door on the left of the hall enters a small closet where the soft water tank is located. The next door on the left enters the second smaller bedroom, similar to the first, but in a corner location and with one wall papered in a floral print.

At the end of the hall is a linen closet. Through the wood panel door to the right of the closet is the carpeted master bedroom, which is, of course, larger than the two other bedrooms, with red clear cedar panel walls, and built-in clear cedar closets and cabinets. An opening accesses the master bath. First is an alcove with built-in cabinets, Formica counter tops and splash plates, matching powder blue ceramic sinks with stainless steel fixtures, a large mirror, and floral print wallpaper. Beyond a sliding wood pocket door is the powder blue toilet, with bidet, and shower closet. The floor features grey and white tile, small and square, while the shower walls are clad with similar tile, but with occasional blue tiles randomly added.

A sliding glass door from the master bedroom, allows access to the solarium hall, a long room that stretches from the pedestrian entry to the attached garage, to the immediate left of the master bedroom door, to an interior window that looks into the kitchen. At the far end a door on the right enters the alcove between the kitchen and the living room, while an opening on the left allows passage into the solarium proper. The solarium hall ceiling and walls are clad with clear cedar paneling, and the floors are covered with rectangular brown tiles. The ceiling is given added support by a row of several square wood posts. Natural light is let in from above by four skylights. Facing outside are the windows and

sliding door described earlier. The attached garage interior is essentially just an empty space at present.

The solarium proper has clear cedar ceiling and walls, and a brown tile floor like the solarium hall. It too is lit from above by skylights. Three sides of the room have banks of large glass windows facing outdoors. In the west corner is a propane heating stove with a long pipe rising to the ceiling. The walls to either side of the stove are clad with brown tile like the floor. Between this room and the kitchen is a bar-style opening with a polished granite counter top.

ORIGINAL APPEARANCE & SUBSEQUENT MODIFICATIONS

The solarium hall and the solarium proper were added in 1972, after Mr. Wallmark was diagnosed with ALS, limiting his mobility. With the added space he was able to continue to enjoy the outdoors environment and continue to pursue his gardening interests.

Although this portion of the house was not designed by architect Moritz Kundig, it was done in a compatible way, with similar roof and window treatment. The freedom of movement through the house was maintained. Otherwise there are very few modifications to the building. One alteration to the interior was the installation of wainscoting to the living room. This was done to cover damage to the walls caused by a temporary tenant. The exterior has only been painted once, in 2014. The color scheme is unchanged, including the blue panels and the rust red fascia in the eaves.

HISTORIC CONTEXT

The area around Nine Mile Falls is located within the traditional cultural territory of the Salish-speaking Middle Spokane and Upper Spokane Indians, peoples closely related to the Lower Spokans, as well as the Coeur d'Alene and Flathead groups of Indians. Early historic accounts indicate the Middle and Upper Spokans lived off the salmonid and non-salmonid fish supplied from the river, as well as various mammals present in the area, such as deer. Roots and berries were also part of the diet. Villages of various sizes were located on both sides of the Spokane River. On the east bank an important village and

fishery was situated at the confluence of the Spokane and Little Spokane rivers. This strategic location would later attract the earliest white settlers to the area.

The first Euro-American presence in the vicinity was that of the fur traders associated with the North West Company. In 1810, North West Company explorer and geographer David Thompson directed two of his employees to establish a trading post near the confluence of the Spokane and Little Spokane rivers. This establishment was known as Spokane House, named for the local Indian tribe. Shortly thereafter, a rival American firm, the Pacific Fur Company, built their own trading post nearby, which was short-lived. Known as Fort Spokane, it was later obtained by the North West Company when it purchased the Pacific Fur Company assets. Several Indian trails converged at this location, where the Spokans engaged in numerous activities including fishing, holding ceremonies, and trading with visiting tribes. This area was also the scene of numerous Indian horse races. The North West Company was incorporated into the Hudson's Bay Company in 1821. When the Hudson's Bay Company relocated their trading post to the Colville area in 1826, the Spokane House was discontinued. Chief Garry and other members of the Spokans remained in the area after the official departure of the post, as did Jaco Finlay, former proprietor of Spokane House, who died there in 1828. Trading with representatives of the Hudson's Bay Company continued at this location until ca. 1852. As white settlers entered the area in the later 1800s, land claims were sometimes complicated by the fact that native families were also occupying the same location.

Land settlement had begun in the general area in the 1890s. Often the land was purchased from the sections granted to the Northern Pacific Railroad. By 1906, the first addition was platted for Paul Pearson's Nine Mile along Charles Road. In the same year, the Riverglade Addition was created in 1906 west of Hedin Road and north of Charles Road. A local history indicates that many of the extended family members and then descendants of these early settler families continued living on the original land holdings and often in the original homes.

Shortly after the turn of the century, the Spokane River again drew interest to Nine Mile. In 1906, entrepreneur Jay P. Graves selected a gorge location at the falls for his new generating plant which would supply energy for his Spokane and Inland Empire Railroad. This was an electric railroad with interurban service to Coeur d'Alene and expansion planned to the Palouse. Almost immediately a camp was set up, complete with tents for family housing, bunkhouses, kitchens, and other ancillary buildings, in addition to the dam construction. The project took two years to complete. Although the Nine Mile Falls Dam and facilities were purchased by the Washington Water Power Company (present-day Avista) in 1925, the impact of the dam on the growth of the area had been great. After the Washington Water Power Company took over, ten brick homes were built and an idyllic community setting was created which further enhanced the appeal and development of the area and assured a resident population.

One of the means for making additional money in the area of Nine Mile Falls was by selling pine trees to the local mill. The Long Lake Mill was set up on the south lake shore, east of the Wallmark House, using equipment from a former mill at TumTum. The mill operated from ca. 1910 until 1919 when it relocated downstream as the water was raised. Because of the topography, most of the timber was sent down the hills by skidding in shallow ditches, many of which are still visible.

Even with such a growing community, the town of Nine Mile Falls was not incorporated. Under provisions from the state, Spokane County, in 1909, was one of only two counties to vote for creation of townships within its borders as a governing body answerable to the county. Until 1974, when it was terminated, Nine Mile Falls was a township. As such, the township was responsible to some degree for roads, property assessments, and similar civic needs. One of the necessities provided by the township was a community dump. Unsanctioned dumping occurred in the area for many years. It was not until 1947 that an official dump site was opened at the insistence of a representative of the Spokane County Health Department, who declared, "Disposal of garbage in your township is a *must*. If

you do not have one, your board is requested to purchase or have a location suitable for this purpose.” The dump was located about ½ mile southeast of the Wallmark House.

The Wallmark property was once included in land purchased in 1909 by the partnership of P.C. Shine and W.A. Cummings. It was part of the original Riverglade Addition. Five acres of the property were bought by Dee Churchill, where he operated a small resort for a time. Most of the Shine/Cummings property was sold for back taxes in 1924 and, in 1938; it was purchased by the State of Washington. In 1946, a portion of the land became part of Riverside State Park. But most of it was sold to Glen Engle in 1942. Subsequently, the Wallmark property passed into the hands of Thomas and Hilda Bradshaw. The Wallmarks purchased their parcel from them in 1957.

This beautiful residence was constructed in 1963 expressly for the family of C. (Carl) Leonard Wallmark, his wife Mable Edward (Johnson) Wallmark, and their children George, Carol, Joanne, and Nancy. Their story is detailed below in Carol’s and Joanne’s own words. Their parents both led hardscrabble but rewarding and useful lives in their early years, C. Leonard (he preferred this to Carl) in the Spokane area and Mable in the north woods of Minnesota. Fate and education brought them together at the University of Minnesota. They were married on August 20, 1931 and moved to Spokane, where C. Leonard got work at a local bank, working his way steadily up the corporate ladder, while Mable raised their children and cared for the family home. They lived for a time on Spokane’s South Hill, but Mable missed her Northland woods and C. Leonard had also grown to love the outdoors during his youth. Their dream was to live in a house where the outside was virtually invited indoors. They could have not have done any better than to hire Moritz Kundig, whose philosophy of architecture embodied the Mid-Century Modern ethic of building residences that blended with the surrounding landscape and using natural and local materials in wood and stone and other materials. Mr. Kundig allowed the Wallmarks to participate in designing the house, but always sticking to his high and revolutionary standards.

To recap: The Wallmark House was built in 1963. The solarium hall and the solarium proper were added in 1972, following Mr. Wallmark's diagnosis with ALS. The children moved away over the years to begin lives of their own, visiting the home often. George passed away in 1986 and Nancy died in 2015, leaving Carol and Joanne as the only surviving children. Despite his serious diagnosis, Mr. Wallmark lived until 1990, passing away at 89. After Ms. Wallmark died in 1996 the house was managed as a rental by a real estate management company and been leased to several households over the years. The house is presently being prepared to be sold.

As noted in the beginning summary, Moritz Kundig is one of the most renowned of Spokane's many Mid-Century Modern architects. Mr. Kundig was born in Winterthur, Switzerland. He studied architecture and received his degree from the Federal Institute of Technology in Switzerland. In the early 1950s he traveled to the United States, where he was later joined by his future wife, Dora. They were married in Salt Lake City and later raised three children: Tom, Henry, and Sylvia. He later moved his family to Merced, California, where he applied for a position with the firm of Whitehouse and Price, based in Spokane. When he first applied for his Washington license to practice architecture, in 1956, among his sponsors were Thomas Adkinson, William Trogdon, and Warren Heylman, three men who would rise to prominence representing progress of Mid-Century Modern design in Spokane. He worked with Bruce Walker and Kenneth Brooks on the award winning design of the Washington Water Power building. He was instrumental in the establishment of the Spokane firm known as the Northwest Architectural Company (NAC). He retired as a senior partner and fellow in 1993, and continues to reside in Spokane. His wife Dora passed away in 2010.

A list of Mr. Kundig's work is voluminous, with only a few mentioned here, including the Chapel at the Federal Penitentiary on McNeil Island, the Spokane Civic Theater, the Heritage Congregational Church, and the Unitarian churches located on Grand Boulevard and near the Mukogawa Campus at Fort George Wright. Notable residences designed by

Kundig include his own, at E. 1310 20th Avenue, and the Roy Peringer house, at E. 1727 20th Avenue.

House description by Carol Wallmark Taggart:

As far back as I can remember, our family vacations took us to remote areas where the only sounds were that of rushing streams, the gentle swaying of trees, and the endless singing of birds.

We would leave our home on the south side of Spokane with a car loaded down with sleeping bags, a tent, and enough food for two weeks. Then, with Mother and Daddy in the front, Mother holding baby Nancy, and three kids plus a dog piled on top of everything in the back, we headed off for the wilderness.

The wilderness was what our family loved, and it was because of this that in 1957 our parents started to seek out a place to build a new home. They had searched the country and lakes around Spokane when finally one particular Sunday afternoon they decided to cross over the old rickety wooden bridge called the Nine Mile Bridge. The boards creaked as their car passed over it onto Charles Road. They turned off onto a few roads leading down toward the lake without finding anything they liked when finally George, our brother, suggested they drive down a narrow dirt road leading to the lake.

At the end of the road, they were delighted to see a lovely piece of land overlooking the lake from the banks high above it. This would be a perfect spot to build their home, but was the land for sale?

No one lived at the end of that road except an old man who lived in a tiny one-bedroom rust-colored shack. (The shack is still there.) Mother and Daddy started talking to him asking who owned the land around there and whether they would be willing to sell.

My father contacted the owner, and not only was he willing to sell but his land encompassed 14 acres and he was willing to sell for a nominal price! The papers were signed and now our parents became the proud new owners of property where they would build their dream home in the country. Four more acres were added two years later.

Our parents, wanting to have a home designed by the best architect they could find and one who endorsed an appreciation for nature, hired Moritz Kundig.

I was away from home much of the time, but clearly recall Mr. Kundig and my parents pouring over architect's plans spread across the dining room table at our home on 25th Avenue in Spokane.

My sister Joanne recalls the beginning stages of building. A strong foundation had to be laid first to support the massive wall and fireplaces of basalt rock. That wall was to be constructed before any further building took place. She also recalls when the terrazzo floors were laid and polished. I saw the house for the first time when I came home for Christmas in 1963 and was stunned by its beauty.

THE HOUSE

EXTERIOR: The exterior of the house is dark brown wood which blends in nicely with the surroundings. The intention was to make it look as if it belonged there; as if it was a part of nature itself.

ENTRANCE: To the right of the solid walnut door is a rock wall which actually extends into the inside hallway. A long rectangular opening in the roof adjacent to the rock wall allows sun and rain to nourish the immense ferns below. It was this long rectangle of planted ferns which welcomed anyone coming to the front door. To either side of the front door Mr. Kundig designed long rectangular windows where Mother would hang Austrian crystals.

INSIDE: One is overcome with a sense of awe walking through the front door viewing all at once the beauty of the immense rock wall, the clear cedar ceilings, terrazzo floors, and various woods – walnut, mahogany, and teak – throughout, as well as the walls tastefully papered with grass cloth. At the entrance into the living room, as well as both bathrooms, are skylights, a new concept in 1962, and I have heard the first in Spokane.

WINDOWS: Floor-to-ceiling windows span the walls of the living room, dining room, and office affording views of the woods and lake. The kitchen had a large picture window so that, standing at the kitchen sink, Mother wouldn't miss any of the scenery and wildlife.

KITCHEN: The kitchen was built with the most modern ideas of the time: a Nutone Center, double ovens, a kitchen island with cooktop, and walnut cabinets that would open with a gentle push rather than knobs. Mother and Moritz Kundig worked together to design her kitchen.

One of my favorite lighting features is the hidden light fixture high above the cabinets between the kitchen and the living room. It illuminated Mother's beautiful crystal vases there, which were especially lovely in the evening.

CARPETS: The hallway, office, and bedrooms were carpeted with expensive off-white wool carpets throughout.

HALLWAY: Solid walnut walls line the entire hallway. A mirror now exists to cover some later damage.

HALL BATHROOM: The hall bathroom was designed in the most modernistic colors of the day. It would have been considered state-of-the-art gorgeous with its rust and blue colored tiles behind the bathtub, its blue tile counters, blue bathtub and matching toilet. I suppose it would be considered “dated” today, but in 1962 it was anything but that.

Moritz Kundig designed the bathroom so the first thing you would see from the hallway was its copper planter filled with ferns and a miniature orange tree. The oranges made a nice contrast to the ferns that flourished in the humid atmosphere of the adjoining bath and shower. Hidden in the wall next to the toilet was a pull-down scale. An overhead skylight brings natural light into the room.

SOFT WATER CLOSET: A special closet off the hallway was created to house the soft water tank. Soft water was used throughout the house except in the kitchen and utility room sink where plants were usually watered.

MASTER BEDROOM: When entering the master bedroom at the end of the hallway, the first thing one notices is the spectacular mahogany wood on three of the walls, the custom-made dresser, the built-in drawers, and the closet doors. On the fourth wall is lovely flower wallpaper Mother carefully selected and which we have all loved.

MASTER BATHROOM: Light filters through the skylight – again, a new concept for the early ‘60’s. The double sinks and the toilet are all in matching blue. The toilet had a curvature to the seat as well as a bidet underneath, modern for the time.

ROOF: The original roof was tar and gravel. When we had the new roof installed, it was suggested that we choose white membrane since it reflects 80% UV rays. It does indeed make our house cooler in the summer.

THE GARDEN: One of our parents’ favorite occupations was gardening, and with a background in horticulture and agriculture, this was a natural for our father. He specialized in just about every plant you could think of. There is an old rhododendron outside the office window that he planted and tended. The branches are now long and angular, I think in an artistic way, and tend to be a favorite resting place for deer and their fawns.

Daddy had grandiose plans for building a pond with waterfalls on the west side of the house outside of the solarium. The hillside was dug out for this purpose. Migrating geese would come there to rest, birds, butterflies, and bees, and every other creature would find nourishment and rest there. It was a dream that never materialized because

Mother was teaching and it was too large a project for Daddy to handle from a wheelchair.

One year we gave Mother a bat house, which is still there. It was placed high in the tree. The bats immediately adopted it as their home, so as we sat on the deck during the early evening hours we were entertained by hundreds of bats darting to and fro catching insects. As long as the bats were there, I cannot recall ever having a mosquito problem.

SOLARIUM: In the mid '70's, our parents decided to add on a hallway and family room on the west side of the house. The purpose was to give our father an area for planting since he was in a wheelchair and could no longer plant outdoors. An efficient Swedish pellet stove kept the room warm, although it was later replaced with a propane stove. This addition is the only part of the house not designed by Moritz Kundig.

ARCHIECT MORITZ KUNDIG: Moritz Kundig designed a house with some of the most modern concepts of his time. It is a house like no other and its special beauty cannot be denied no matter what one's taste is in architecture. The fact that the house lent itself to our parents' love of nature made it personal to them. He achieved bringing the outside in, in a perfectly natural and beautiful way.

He designed the house to be built at an angle to the lake in order to take advantage of the best views and magnificent sunsets to the west just over the bend in the river.

Mother never stopped talking about her wonderful modern kitchen that was perfect for her, and she loved the easy-to-clean terrazzo floors. Daddy always spoke of the clear cedar ceilings, the basalt wall and fireplace, the precious woods throughout, and the floor-to-ceiling windows where he could enjoy the scenery and wildlife from his wheelchair. He also spoke often of their solid walnut dining room table which fit in perfectly with the woods in the house.

Family history by Carol Wallmark Taggart and Joanne Wallmark:

MOTHER'S & DADDY'S STORY

Our parents were born in 1901 and 1907. At that time, people had to work hard just to survive. There was no sick leave or paid vacation, no medical insurance, no unemployment, no Social Security or retirement, no backup except for family. People worked hard or they died.

Our mother, Mable Edna Johnson, grew up on a lake in the backwoods of Northern Minnesota where Axel, her father, with only a third grade education, started a sawmill.

Swedes survived well in Minnesota because they understood cold, lumbering, and hard work. The sawmill prospered. Eventually her family was considered the wealthiest family in town simply because her father owned a Model A Ford. Later, during the Depression Years, however, Axel lost all his wealth due to decreased demand for lumber and they became very poor, like everyone else.

The small house where Mother grew up had no running water nor electricity, but they did have a well nearby, a good wood stove, bright gas lanterns, an outhouse, and an ice house in summer and the outside in winter when temperatures often dropped to -40 degrees. One of Mother's chores was bringing buckets of water in from the well for cooking, washing dishes or clothes, and the Saturday night bath. She never complained, but only spoke of the enduring love her family had for each other, with Mother being especially close to her dad.

Growing up in the backwoods of Northern Minnesota became a large part of who Mother was and which later impacted her children for life. She cherished the mournful long drawn-out howl of the wolf, the haunting song of loons on the lake, the honking of the geese heading south for the winter in V-formation, and the land animals with whom she shared the woods – the moose, bears, skunks, raccoons. Many years later, she wrote, *"I have always loved all animals, including skunks, I've walked with them through the woods in northern Minnesota without fear, but rather with a sense of enchantment."*

Years later on Lake Spokane, our parents' love for nature greatly influenced how they wanted their dream house to be designed – to blend in with the surroundings and to bring the outside in. One example of this is the entrance rock wall which extends to the inside. From the floor-to-ceiling windows, they could be thrilled by the wildlife – the deer, skunks, raccoons, bats, quail, and migrating geese.

Mother spent her first 8 years of school in a one room schoolhouse, after which she was sent to Deer River High School since the remote Jessie Lake had no high schools. She lived in a dorm but on weekends she would travel back home.

Mother consumed academics "like a sponge", loving everything she could possibly learn. In 1925, she graduated valedictorian from her high school. Reading her speech, we still wonder how a young girl could have so much knowledge.

This young woman from the far reaches of Northern Minnesota was ready for college, and at 18 years of age, entered the University of Minnesota on scholarship where she quickly decided to major in chemistry, her passion. For her first three years she received straight A's and it appeared she was headed for her second valedictorian status.

But then she met our father, who she said kept her up late at nights and away from her studies. Her A's dropped to B's. Nevertheless, she was honored with a full scholarship to Cornell University where she would continue the study of chemistry at the graduate level. When she turned it down in favor of marrying our father, her supervisor was

furious. *“Do you know what an honor this is? Do you know how many would give everything to receive this honor? Do you realize how non-existent it is to have a female chosen for this award?”*

At the same time, she was being urged by other advisors to change her major because *“Women can never get a job as a chemist!”* She did change it – to Chemistry of Food and Nutrition. In Spokane, many years later, she taught Home Economics at Mead High School.

After graduation from the University of Minnesota, with only a BA degree, Mother taught one year of chemistry to undergraduate students at the university before marrying my father on August 20, 1931. She left her childhood home and family she loved so much and traveled to Spokane where she became a homemaker and the sweetest, most cherished mother to her four children.

Our father, C. Leonard Wallmark, also grew up poor. He always worked as times were tough. His first job in grade school was working for an elderly lady, carrying a scuttle of coal from the basement to her kitchen stove every morning and evening, for which he was paid 25 cents a week. Other jobs included picking up pop bottles at baseball games, taking care of two people’s furnaces, delivering messages for Western Union, setting up pins in a bowling alley, working for a print shop, and washing dishes at the Davenport Hotel. For two summers, he worked on a farm near Cheney where he shocked hay, pitched it onto wagons and in the barn. On weekends, he churned butter and made ice cream. Many nights, he slept on the hay falling asleep listening to the horses chewing hay. His first summer, he received room and board; his second summer, he was paid \$15.

While in high school at North Central, he worked at the Waikiki Dairy Farm washing cans and bottles and also preparing the purebred Jersey herd for showing at the Spokane Interstate Fair. Two summers he worked for two well-known beef producers. By far, the best work of all was “punching” cows on a farm near the Columbia River, where he repaired fences and dragged cattle mired in water holes out by a rope attached to the saddle horn. His only companions were two saddle horses, a cow, chickens and a rattlesnake curled up in a hen’s nest. Pay - \$60/month. Whenever possible, he continued to wash dishes at the Davenport Hotel.

In 1921, he traveled by train to Washington State College in Pullman, but had no hopes of ever being able to stay in college for he didn’t have the money. After two semesters of studying hard, however, he received the Alpha Zeta Scholarship Cup for having the highest grade point average of any freshman enrolled in Agriculture. He served as house manager for room and board. Also as a freshman, he worked at the beef barns earning 25 cents an hour and then went with the Washington State Show Herd to the State Fair in Yakima where he prepared the cattle for showing. Next, he took his show herd to the State Fair at Salem, Oregon. In the box car were the cattle, the hay, and *“a heavy bed of*

straw for me! It was an interesting experience and a lot of fun.” During his 2nd, 3rd, and 4th years at WSC, he continued to excel and receive more honors.

For two summers, he sold “Wear-Ever” aluminum cooking utensils. Kitchen parties were held and he prepared all the food. He had two heavy cases and walked wherever he went. Frequently he would sleep on the ground outside of town. Then one day, as he was walking out in the country, he traded a farmer some “Wear-Ever” for the use of a horse-and-buggy. *“Thereafter, I stopped at one house after another, selling cooking utensils. At night, I would stop by a stream, unhitch the buggy, curry the horse, water and feed him oats and tether him on a long rope to graze. It was then time for me to wash up at the stream, prepare my evening meal over an open fire and bed down for night in a hammock slung between two trees. The next day, the same routine. I didn’t make a lot of money there, but it was great fun.”*

After graduation from WSC, he was offered a teaching fellowship at “Penn State” but couldn’t take it since he owed \$1,000 borrowed during his four years in college. For three years, he worked to get out of debt – one year as a dairy herdsman at WSC and two years teaching agriculture in a high school. Finally, he decided to take graduate work.

He decided on the University of Minnesota as it was reputed to have the best school of “Agricultural Economics” in the country. Again, he had very little money, but again, he became house manager which took care of his room and board. For income, he broadcast a series of talks on raising hogs.

When Daddy was nearing completion of writing his Master’s thesis, the Great Depression struck. Everyone was out of work when he was offered a job in Spokane. He dropped everything in order to take the job. The next year, he returned to Minnesota to marry our mother and bring her to Spokane. He never did complete his thesis, although he spoke of those regrets later. He continued working at the Bank For Cooperatives, where he would eventually become Vice-President.

When we were very young, Daddy was offered a much sought after position as a US agricultural advisor in Thailand. *Thailand!!* We were so excited! Daddy turned it down though, being afraid he wouldn’t get his Spokane job back when he returned.

Prior to the war years, he made many trips to Washington, D.C. on business. He was there when Pearl Harbor was struck. In late 1941, he brought home a new ’42 Green Olds with its wonderful velvet seats which became the family car for years. On another trip, he brought back a sweet set of little girl dishes for Joanne and Carol. We enjoyed many tea parties with those dishes and we still cherish them.

ELIGIBILITY STATEMENT

Foremost, the Wallmark House is eligible for placement on the Spokane Register of Historic Places under Criterion C, as an excellent example of Mid-Century Modern architecture in Spokane. It is best described as a Contemporary Ranch Style residence with typical features such as the widely-overhanging enclosed eaves, shallow-pitched roof, masonry chimney, and floor-to-ceiling wood sash windows. It is in pristine condition, almost a museum piece, both on the exterior and the interior. The primary modification has been the 1972 addition of the solarium and solarium hall. This was done in a sensitive manner, replicating the expansive, low profile roof and banks of tall windows. Even with this alteration, the house is one of the best examples of Mid-Century Modern residential architecture in Spokane.

In closing, it would be appropriate to recognize the house for its association with the prodigious Wallmark Family, who were instrumental in the planning of its construction and were the key caretakers of the house over the years, being the prime reasons for its excellent upkeep and retention of its character-defining features. In the hands of others, this house may very well have been ill-treated and robbed of its most attractive and significant elements. This house and the nomination created for it serves as the lasting legacy of the Wallmark Family.

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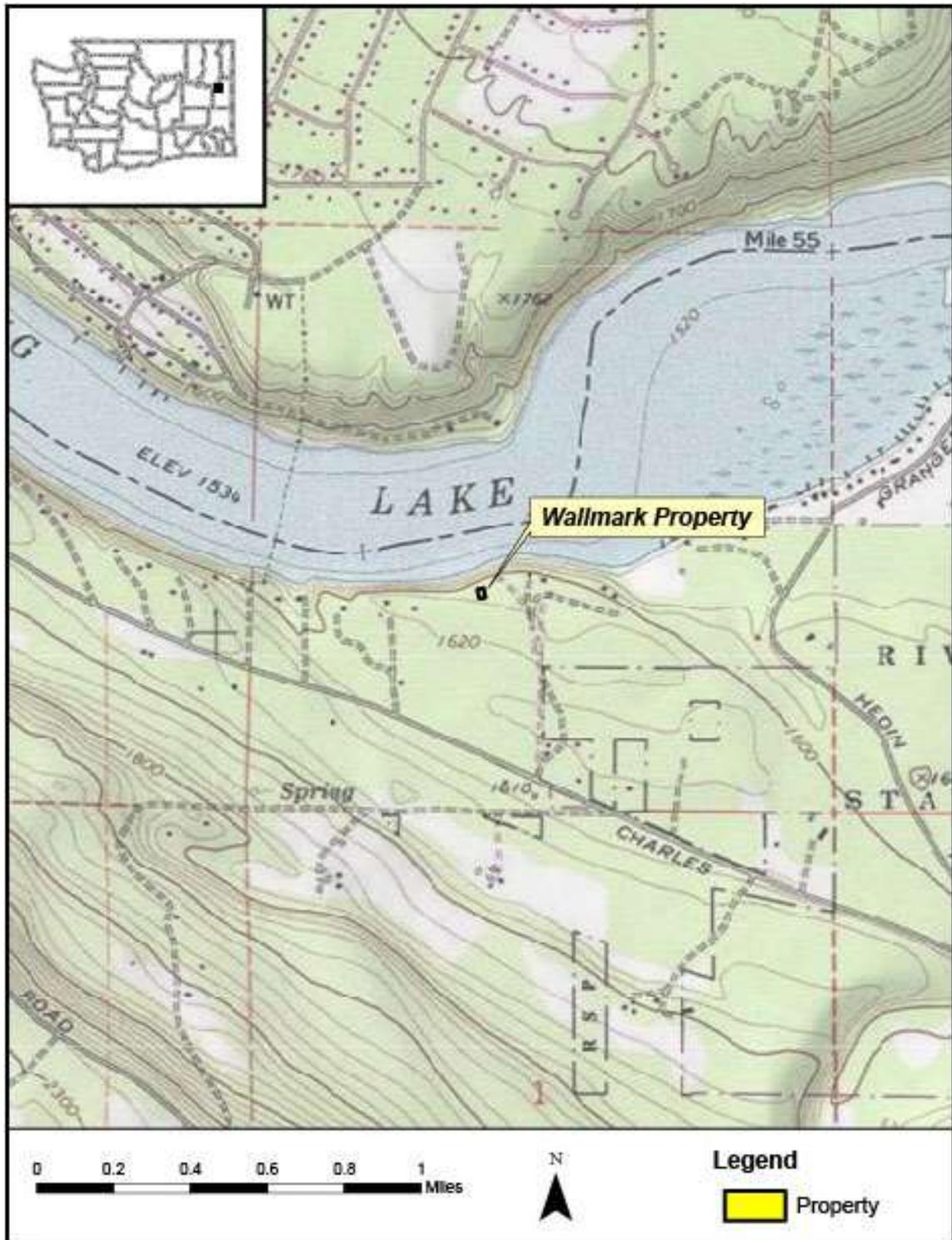
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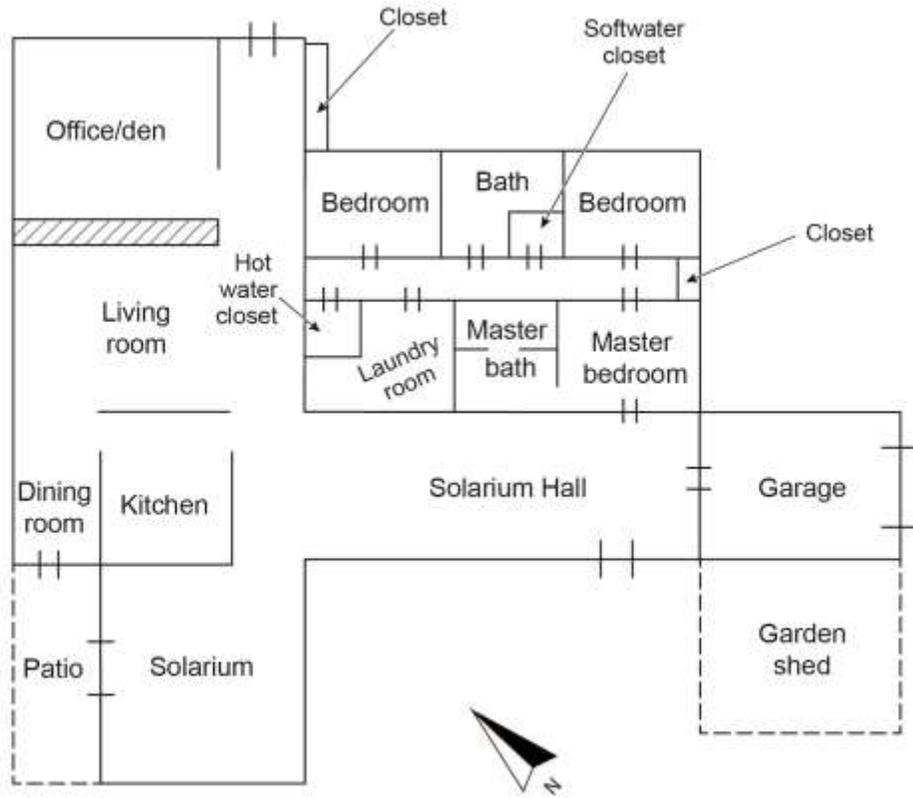
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Wallmark House, 14701 N. Oxford Road.



Sketch map of the floor plan for the Wallmark House, not to scale.



WH-1 Northeast (front) entry, view to the southwest.



WH-2 Northeast (front) entry, detail, view to the southwest.



WH-3 Northeast (front) entry, rock wall, view to the north.



WH-4 Northeast elevation, left side, view to the south.



WH-5 Northeast elevation, view to the north.



WH-6 Southeast elevation, garage wall, view to the north.



WH-7 Southeast and northeast elevations, garage door, view to the north.



WH-8 Southeast elevation, attached garden shed, view to the northwest.



WH-9 Southeast and southwest elevations, view to the north.



WH-10 Southeast and northeast elevation, view to the north.



WH-11 Southwest elevation, view to the east.



WH-12 Northwest elevation, view to the east.



WH-13 Northwest elevation, chimney, view to the east.



WH-14 Deck northwest of house, view to the northwest.



WH-15 Northwest and southwest elevations, view to the east.



WH-16 Back patio entry detail, view to the east.



WH-17 Northwest elevation, view to the south.



WH-18 Northeast (front) elevation, view to the south.



WH-19 Office/den, view to the north.



WH-20 Rock wall and hearth in the office/den, view to the southwest.



WH-21 Front entry and closet doors, view to the east.



WH-22 Rock wall and hearth facing the living room, view to the north.



WH-23 Hearth in the living room, view to the east.



WH-24 Living room, view to the north.



WH-25 Living room, inglenook, view to the north.



WH-25 Living room, toward kitchen, view to the south.



WH-26 Living room, rock wall, wainscoting, skylights, view to the east.



WH-27 Dining room from the living room, view to the southwest.



WH-28 Kitchen, view to the south.



WH-29 Kitchen, view to the north.



WH-30 Kitchen, stove top, view to the east.



WH-31 Kitchen, *Frigidaire* wall oven and original brochure, view to the west.



WH-32 Kitchen, *Westinghouse* timer and extension cord outlet, view to the northwest.



WH-33 Kitchen, *Rittenhouse* intercom, view to the east.



WH-34 Laundry room, view to the east.



WH-35 Central hallway to bedrooms, view to the southeast.



WH-36 First bedroom on the left from hall, view to the east.



WH-37 Main family bathroom, view to the east.



WH-38 Main family bathroom, tub and tile, view to the east.



WH-39 Main family bathroom, planter detail, view to the north.



WH-40 Second bedroom on left from hall, view to the east.



WH-41 Master bedroom, to right of hall, view to the east.



WH-42 Master bedroom, built-in cabinets, view to the west.



WH-43 Master bath, sinks, view to the east.



WH-44 Master bath, shower, view to the northwest.



WH-45 Master bedroom, sliding door to solarium, view to the southwest.



WH-46 Solarium hall from master bedroom door, view to the west.



WH-47 Solarium hall, toward garage and master bedroom doors, view to the southeast.



WH-48 Solarium, view to the west.



WH-49 Solarium, view to the south.



WH-50 Solarium, stove detail, view to the west.



WH-51 Solarium, toward kitchen bar, view to the north.



WH-52 Kitchen bar from solarium, view to the north.



WH-53 Central alcove, from solarium hall to living room, view to the north.