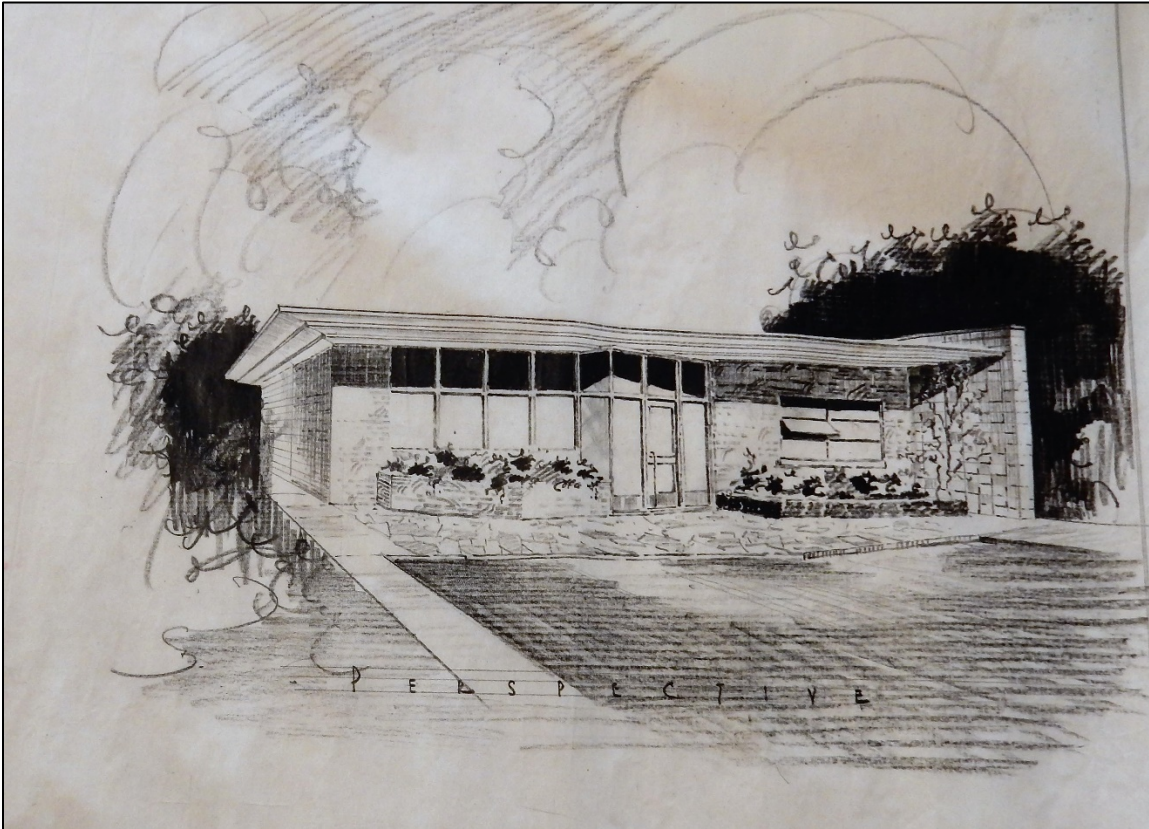


**1526 W. Riverside Avenue  
Spokane Register of Historic Places  
Nomination**



*Sketch by Ralph Bishop, 1950*

*Prepared for*  
Historic Funk LLC  
1526 W. Riverside Avenue  
Spokane, Washington 99201

*Prepared by*  
Diana J. Painter, PhD  
Painter Preservation  
Spokane, Washington 99205

First Draft  
November 6, 2019

# 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: Wulff & Bishop Architecture Office

And/Or Common Name: Revamp Functional Metal Art

## 2. Location

Street & Number: 1526 W Riverside Avenue

City, State, Zip Code: Spokane, WA 99201

Parcel Number: 25241.0215

## 3. Classification

### Category

☒ building

☐ site

☐ structure

☐ object

### Ownership

☐ public ☐ both

☒ private

### Public Acquisition

☐ in process

☐ being considered

### Status

☒ occupied

☐ work in progress

### Accessible

☐ yes, restricted

☒ yes, unrestricted

☐ no

### Present Use

☐ agricultural

☒ commercial

☐ educational

☐ entertainment

☐ government

☐ industrial

☐ military

☐ museum

☐ park

☐ residential

☐ religious

☐ scientific

☐ transportation

☐ other

## 4. Owner of Property

Name: Historical Funk LLC

Street & Number: 1526 W. Riverside Avenue

City, State, Zip Code: Spokane, Washington 99201

Telephone Number/E-mail: c/o Jaye Hughes, 509-462-9303, jaye@selkirkdev.com

## 5. Location of Legal Description

Courthouse, Registry of Deeds

Street Number:

City, State, Zip Code:

County:

Spokane County Courthouse

1116 West Broadway

Spokane, WA 99260

Spokane

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Title:

Date: 2011

Depository for Survey Records:

Assessors Data Project: Spokane Commercial

☐ Federal ☒ State ☐ County ☐ Local

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 Categories and Statement of Significance

**Applicable Spokane Register of Historic Places category: 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.
- ☐ E Property represents the culture and heritage of the city of Spokane in ways not adequately addressed in the other criteria, as in its visual prominence, reference to intangible heritage, or any range of cultural practices.

*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: Less than one acre  
Verbal Boundary Description: BROWNES RES&SUB B2 L15 B2  
Verbal Boundary Justification: Nominated property includes entire parcel and urban legal description.

## 11. Form Prepared By

Name and Title: Diana J Painter, Principal Architectural Historian  
Organization: Painter Preservation  
Street, City, State, Zip Code: 3518 N. C Street, Spokane, WA 99205  
Telephone Number: 707-763-6500  
E-mail Address: dianajpainter@gmail.com  
Date Final Nomination Heard:

## 12. Additional Documentation

*Additional documentation is found on one or more continuation sheets.*

**13. Signature of Owner(s)**

*[Signature]*

**14. For Official Use Only:**

Date nomination application filed: 9/26/19

Date of Landmarks Commission Hearing: 11/20/19

Landmarks Commission decision: Approved

Date of City Council/Board of County Commissioners' hearing: 12/9/19

City Council Decision: 12/9/2019

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.

*[Signature]*

Megan Duvall  
City/County Historic Preservation Officer  
City/County Historic Preservation Office  
Third Floor – City Hall  
808 W. Spokane Falls Blvd.  
Spokane, WA 99201

11/19/19  
Date

Attest:

*[Signature]*  
City Clerk

Approved as to form:

*[Signature]*  
Assistant City Attorney



### **Location and setting**

The commercial office building at 1526 W. Riverside is located on Riverside Avenue west of N. Walnut Street where it merges with N. Maple Street and crosses the Spokane River on the Maple Street Bridge. The small block of three buildings on the north side of Riverside Avenue is bracketed by S. Maple Street to the southwest and S. Walnut Street to the southeast, as the roads encircle the Spokane Fire Department Station south of the subject block. Riverside Avenue on this short block runs directly east-west, whereas the road curves slightly toward the river on each side of the block. While seemingly a modern response to a complex traffic condition, this latter configuration was also in place historically.

The building is within the Browne's Additional National Register Historic District but not within the Browne's Addition Spokane Register local historic district, which begins to the west. It is also directly west of the Riverside Avenue National Register Historic District. The lots along the north side of Riverside Avenue are one building deep, after which the land slopes away rapidly to the north. The neighborhood to the north is Peaceful Valley, which is also a National Register Historic District. It is – for the most part – not visible due to the change in elevation. Development to the west is primarily residential, both single family residences and apartment buildings. Development to the east is primarily commercial. Traffic patterns in the area are complex. The regular street grid is interrupted by the approach to the Maple Street Bridge to the east and the cloverleaf around the fire station to the south. Directly across the street is the entry sign to Browne's Addition and a small park. Two blocks south of the building is the elevated railroad tracks. Five blocks to the north is the Spokane River.

Flanking the building to the west is the Amman Apartments, a nine-unit, 1904 apartment building by Spokane architect Alfred Held. To the west is a professional office in what appears to be a contemporary (2003) Craftsman-style building.

### **Overview**

This one-story commercial office building at 1526 W. Riverside Avenue has a rectangular footprint and a full daylight basement. The roof is flat, with a tall parapet on the east side that also projects into the front yard, and deep overhanging eaves elsewhere on the building. The 1,454 square foot building (2,908 square feet including both floors) is set back on its .22-acre lot (192' deep by 50' wide) to take advantage of the view to the north and provide for a parking area in front of the building. The concrete masonry building is composed of standard concrete masonry units on the body of the building, square concrete blocks on the projecting panel on the east side, and Roman brick on the front (south) façade that also wraps around one-third of the west side façade. The low planter along the front façade is also partially faced with Roman brick. The upper portion of the rear façade of the building is clad in wide, clapboard siding. The lower level is clad in narrow, vertical wood siding. This portion of the building is likely wood-frame construction. The roof is built-up, and the building has a raised concrete foundation.

Designed by architects Victor L. Wulff and Ralph J. Bishop to serve as their own offices, the Modern building was constructed in 1951 by Arne H. Sandall.

*Front (south) façade.* The front façade of the building is composed of a bank of windows to the left (west) and a large focal window to the right (east) of an asymmetrical, projecting, glazed bay, which accommodates the main entry. The entry door is a single, aluminum-frame commercial door with full-height glass, surmounted by a transom window. The angled entry bay is composed of the entry door flanked by two tall, broad, fixed windows with transoms. A third similar window turns the corner to meet the main face of the building and complete the angle. These window frames appear to be a combination of anodized aluminum and wood. Close to the ground level, the lower concrete and brick planter continues the line of the angle, projecting into the front walkway, which parallels the building face. Above the planter, which is finished with a wide peaked concrete coping, are four, fixed, one-over-one-light windows that extend from the eaves to just above the planter. One the right (east) side is a large, horizontally oriented, single-light fixed window. The end is enclosed with a projecting sidewall that also extends above the roofline. A handicap ramp extends from the parking area on the west side of the building to the front entry parallel to the planter. It is enclosed on the south side by a decorative metal rail. The front entry porch is accessed via three concrete steps from the centered sidewalk on the south side of the building.

*West side façade.* The west side façade of the building includes an exterior stair to the basement that parallels the wall and contains 14 concrete steps. A wood entry door at the north end has a narrow single light and is covered by a nearly flat standing seam metal roof supported by two square metal posts. A nearly square single-light window is located near the base of the stairs. The retaining wall that encloses the stair is concrete and steps down the slope here. It is topped by the same decorative rail that is seen at the front walkway. There are no other openings on this façade.

*Rear (north) façade.* The rear façade of the building features a deep deck on the upper level that is supported by metal culvert pipes filled with concrete and I-beams. The deck overs a concrete pad at the ground level. The deck is enclosed with the same decorative metal rail seen elsewhere on the building. The upper level of this façade is glazed across most of its width. A two-leaf, aluminum-frame hinged door with full-height glass has been added to access the deck. Two full-height fixed windows have been added to the right of the door; other windows on this façade are within the original openings and extend to the eaves. At the lower level an aluminum-frame door with full-height glass has been added in place of the original door. Most of the rest of this façade is glazed with banks of vertically oriented, fixed light sash in aluminum frames.

*East side façade.* There are no openings on the east façade of the building. A ground-level planting bed takes up about half of this façade, with the north end of the side façade extending outward to partially enclose it. A stem wall steps down the slope here, retaining the sloped site.

*Interior.* The interior of the main level of the building features an open foyer with the stair to the basement to the right (east). The central part of the building is open all the way to the doors to the deck on the north end. The east and west portions of this floor are divided into offices (north end) and seating areas (south end). Between these four partitioned areas are a restroom and workroom. Many areas, including the partition around the stairway, are used for display for the company's metal products. The lower level consists of one large room, with the exception of a restroom and storeroom.

*Site and landscaping.* The site is mostly composed of asphalt parking areas. A concrete sidewalk extends from the front steps of the entry porch to the street. Cars park perpendicular to this walkway. The east, west and south sides of the parcel have diagonal and perpendicular parking. A large metal trash enclosure is located in the northwest corner of the site. The rear yard is enclosed with a chain link fence. There are a few mature trees here. There are several small xeriscape planting beds on the site, finished with gravel.

*Changes over time.* Few changes have taken place to the building. Decorative features have been added in the form of cut-out metal screens used primarily for railings (the business that occupies the building does decorative metal work). The deck on the rear of the building is also new. Original features that are still in place, as evidenced in a 1950 perspective sketch by Ralph Bishop and in photographs taken prior to the remodel, include the overall form and materials of the building, the configuration of the windows on the front façade (except the focal window, which is nonetheless within the original opening), the window openings on the rear façade, (with the exception of the windows to the right of the double door at the second level), the entry door and bay ensemble, the building materials, and the design of the planters. The front handicap ramp was not in place in 1950 and the finish of the walkway looks like it was originally planned to be flagstone; it is concrete today.

Photographs taken prior to the present remodel of the building in 2018 show that the windows have been replaced. The front focal window on the east side and the windows along the rear façade at the upper level had large, horizontally oriented panes, four per panel, with fixed and awning-style lights in steel frames. This was a popular style in the late 1940s and early 1950s. The windows at the lower level on the rear façade had vertically oriented fixed lights with similar proportions as what are in place today. All windows on the rear façade have been replaced with aluminum-frame windows. At the upper level, with the exception of the two-leaf hinged door and the two windows to its right, all windows are in the same openings as the original, with similar proportions but with fixed lights. At the lower level, windows that flank the door are within the same openings with similar proportions as the originals. The windows to the left or east are slight taller than the original and match the windows to the right or west. The front focal window is a large, single pane. Tubular steel railings at the front handicap ramp and side stairs have been replaced with decorative metal railings. The small window on the west façade, which was a one-over-one-light, double-hung windows with a wood frame, has been replaced with a fixed light window in a metal frame within the same opening. A

small chimney, which likely served the original residential unit in the building, has been removed.

The building as originally constructed included one residential unit. The upper floor was divided in half, with each principal occupying half of the space. An open partial demising wall separated the two spaces at the rear window wall. Drafting tables were set up against this wall.<sup>1</sup> The only permitted changes to the building before 2018 was the reconfiguration of the parking lot in 2000. Interior non-structural partitions were removed and replaced in 2018, although the interior stair to the basement and the foyer are still in place.

### **Integrity**

The building retains very good integrity. The following documents the ways in which the integrity is intact.

**Location** is the place where the historic property was constructed or the place where the historic event occurred.

*The building is in the location that it has always occupied. Two parcels make up the site today, the building parcel and a parcel to the west, which is used for parking.*

**Design** is the combination of elements that create the form, plan, space, structure, and style of a property.

*Only minor changes have been made to the design of the building, the primary one being the addition of a deck on the rear of the building. Other changes, like the addition of decorative railings on the front ramp, do not affect the building. Most of the windows have been replaced, but they are in the same openings and have the same proportions that they did historically.*

**Setting** is the physical environment of a historic property.

*The setting for the building is largely intact. The primary change has been the reconfiguration of the roads and bridge approaches to the east and south of the building site (no date).*

**Materials** are the physical elements that were combined or deposited during a particular period of time and in a particular pattern or configuration to form a historic property.

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<sup>1</sup> "Architecture Studio Will Overlook River," *Spokane Chronicle*, March 28, 1951:24.

*The materials of the building are intact. The original concrete masonry units, Roman brick, and cedar siding have been retained. A small glass block window on the east side façade is still extant.*

**Workmanship** is the physical evidence of the crafts of a particular culture or people during any given period in history or prehistory.

*The workmanship of the building is intact. The original concrete masonry units, Roman brick, and cedar siding have been retained. The original steel-frame windows have been replaced with anodized aluminum and aluminum frame sash but are still fabricated metal windows.*

**Feeling** is a property's expression of the aesthetic or historic sense of a particular period of time.

*The feeling of the property is intact. It still conveys the feeling of a small, post-World War II commercial office building incorporating the design features that were often used in that era.*

**Association** is the direct link between an important historic event or person and a historic property.

*The association of the property is intact. It was historically used as the offices of an architectural firm. Today it is used as offices for a company that makes decorative architectural features in metal.*

**Area of Significance:** C, Architecture

**Significant Date:** 1951, year of construction

**Architects:** Victor L. Wulff and Ralph J. Bishop

**Builder:** Arne H. Sandall

### Significance Statement

The building at 1526 W. Riverside Avenue is significant for its architecture. It is an excellent example of a small-scale, post-war commercial building, embodying important tenets of Modern architectural design that were popular in this building type at this time. As a result, the building is significant and eligible for listing in the Spokane historic register under Category C, as embodying the “distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction.”<sup>2</sup> The Washington State Commercial Architecture Context Statement (1940-1975) has suggested a further breakdown of criteria for determining the significance of a resource such as this. It states, “To be eligible, a property should exhibit a majority of the character-defining features identified for its form, use, or style, as well as utilizing materials developed or peaking in popularity at the time of the property’s construction.”<sup>3</sup> The property also meets this more detailed criteria, with its overall asymmetrical form and angles, extensive use of glass, and such modern materials as concrete masonry units and Roman brick. The property also meets the required criteria of being over 50 years of age and being located within the City of Spokane.

### Historic Context

The building at 1526 W. Riverside Avenue is literally surrounded by historic districts but is only within the 1976 Browne’s Addition National Register Historic District. However, it is non-contributing to this district due to its age (the period of significance extends to circa 1930). The subject building was not included in the Browne’s Addition local historic district, which was listed in the Spokane Register of Historic Places in 2019.<sup>4</sup> It is also not within the period of significance selected for this district, which includes primarily residential properties. It is directly south of the 1983 Peaceful Valley National Register Historic District but has no relationship to that district due to topographical changes and the fact that this historic district is also primarily residential, with an approximate period of significance of 1890 to 1940. It is also directly west of the 1976 Riverside Avenue National Register Historic District. This includes primarily civic and social properties, with a period of significance of 1902 to 1931. The small block within which the subject property is located marks the transition from primarily commercial and civic uses to the east to the primarily residential uses seen in Browne’s Addition to the west.

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<sup>2</sup> City-County of Spokane Historic Preservation Office, *Spokane Register Nomination Guide*. Spokane, WA: City-County of Spokane Historic Preservation Office, February 2018:2.

<sup>3</sup> Artifacts Historic Preservation, *Washington State Commercial Architecture, Commercial Architecture Context Statement (1940-1975)*. Prepared for the Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation. Prepared by Artifacts Consulting, Inc. March 2016:28.

<sup>4</sup> Note that the building would not be contributing to the Browne’s Addition National Register District because it was not 50 years of age when the nomination was developed and/or modified.

Browne's Addition is a historic neighborhood west of downtown Spokane and is often considered Spokane's first residential neighborhood. It was established in the late 1800s by J.J. Browne, a lawyer who bought 120 acres of land in Spokane with the intention of promoting residential development. Browne donated some of the land for Coeur d'Alene Park, the city's first public park. Beginning in the late 1910s, many of the large mansions of Browne's Addition were sub-divided into apartments, which provided affordable housing within close proximity to downtown. Beginning in the 1930s, Browne's Addition's housing stock began to deteriorate from neglect and misuse. In 1976 the neighborhood was placed on the National Register of Historic Places as a historic district, which began to reverse some of the neglect and hard use that buildings in the neighborhood saw in the preceding decades.<sup>5</sup> Infill development of apartments began in the 1950s and continues to this day. It has just recently been approved as a local Spokane Register historic district. As a result, future infill development and alterations to contributing properties will go through design review.

### **Developmental History**

The first Sanborn Fire Insurance map to show any development on this small block north of W. Riverside Avenue was 1902, which depicted a Victorian house addressed as 1522 W. Riverside. The next map, dated 1910, shows the Amman Apartments at 1516 W. Riverside Avenue, which were constructed in 1904, as well as the house at 1522 W. Riverside, which by this time was a boarding house. There was also a building at the juncture of Riverside Avenue and 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue, which contained two businesses and one residence. When the Sanborn map was updated in 1950, the house at 522 W. Riverside had been converted to three apartments and a gas station replaced the building at the Riverside and 1<sup>st</sup>. To the west of the gas station were two additional businesses. The building at 1526 W. Riverside Avenue had been constructed, but the building at 522 W. Riverside was still in place, in what is now a parking lot between 1526 and 1516 W. Riverside and now housed five apartments (this building was demolished in 1965). The gas station and other businesses were still in place. The parcels that were occupied by the gas station and businesses were now occupied by the approaches to the Maple Street Bridge.

The office building at 1526 W. Riverside Avenue was designed by architects Victor L. Wulff and Ralph J. Bishop in 1950 and constructed by contractor Arne H. Sandall in 1951. Building permits record an alteration to the parking lot in 2000. The next permitted alterations to the building occurred in 2018. The property was sold to the present owners in 2018. It had apparently not been occupied since it was used as an office by Wulff and Bishop, as numerous drawings by Bishop were in the building when the present owners took possession.

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<sup>5</sup> Zachary Wnek, "Browne's Addition," *Spokane Historical*, <https://spokanehistorical.org/tours/show/5>, accessed November 2019. A description of the other surrounding historic districts is not provided here, as the building is not included in either of these districts. It is most closely associated with Browne's Addition.

## Architectural Context

The commercial building at 1526 W. Riverside Avenue is an excellent example of a small, modern commercial building. The building embodies several important ideas about Modern design in the United States in the post-war era, particularly as seen in commercial and institutional buildings.<sup>6</sup> These qualities are found in many post-war structures, regardless of style, and reflect the underlying values of modernism. One is the three-dimensional arrangement of forms as part of the architectural expression of the building. Another idea is the importance of the two-dimensional composition on any one surface as a design feature. This composition is typically asymmetrical and does not, as in traditional architecture, serve primarily to emphasize the building form. Rather, it is a design feature that may express the interior functions of the building. As an aesthetic device, it can also facilitate a three-dimensional 'reading' of the building form by drawing the eye around the corner to the next building plane. The building at 1526 W. Riverside is a small building, so these qualities are mainly evident on the front façade, which displays an asymmetrical composition and banks of windows that offer glimpses of the interior from the street. The asymmetrical planter along the front façade also leads the pedestrian to the front entry, which is emphasized by the asymmetrical entry bay.<sup>7</sup>

A third Modern idea is that the pattern, texture, color, reflectivity, and other visual aspects of the building materials are also decorative features. As in many post-war styles, they take the place of traditional architectural detailing to embellish the building.<sup>8</sup> This is evident in the building at 1526 W. Riverside, through the use of multiple materials, including large rectangular concrete masonry units, smaller square concrete blocks, Roman brick, clapboard wood siding, and extensive use of glass, and an overall lack of architectural detailing.

It is relatively rare for small-scale Modern office buildings from the post-war era (approximately 1945 to 1969) to be preserved and rehabilitated appropriately. Spokane's mid-20<sup>th</sup> century architectural survey identified nine small-scale commercial/professional office buildings of the 54 commercial, institutional and residential buildings surveyed. Of these, one had been enlarged in an unsympathetic way, and others had been inappropriately altered or not maintained properly. They appear to be regarded as at the end of their useful life, which is often not the case. It is very positive to see the re-use of this building as an office, which it was historically.

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<sup>6</sup> Note that buildings of this type are referred to as "Contemporary" in the Washington Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation's handbook on commercial architecture. This represents the of the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century Contemporary style of residential architecture to commercial buildings. Artifacts Historic Preservation, *Washington State Commercial Architecture, Commercial Architecture context Statement (1940-1975)*. Prepared for the Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation. Prepared by Artifacts Consulting, Inc. March 2016:78.

<sup>7</sup> Diana Painter and Aaron Bragg, *Spokane Mid-20<sup>th</sup> Century Architectural Survey Report*. Prepared for City of Spokane/Spokane Historic Landmarks Commission. Prepared by Painter Preservation and helveticka, August 2017:22.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid.

## The Architects

### *The Architectural Partnership*

The office building at 1526 W. Riverside Avenue was designed by architects Victor L. Wulff and Ralph J. Bishop and constructed in 1951. In the 1950 rendering of the building by Bishop, the firm was called "Victor L. Wulff, Ralph J. Bishop, Architects Associated." Each stated that they formed their firm in 1945 and both worked from 1023 W. Riverside Avenue prior to building their building. They formed a partnership when they decided to buy the land at 1526 W. Riverside and construct the building. On a professional level however, they operated more as an affiliation of two architects. Both principals were very prolific, and each had long, productive careers. They specialized in educational facilities located throughout eastern Washington, although they also designed at least two motels, several churches, apartment buildings, and other commercial and residential structures. According to Wulff, his practice typically had between three and ten employees, depending on workload. The two also worked in the 1950s with architect George C. Ritter.<sup>9</sup> In newspaper articles of the day, typically one principal was mentioned as the architect. In one instance, however, the firm was referred to as Ritter, Bishop and Wulff.

### *Victor L. Wulff*

Victor L. Wulff (1909-2008) founded his firm of Victor L. Wulff Architect AIA and Associates in 1945. He was born in Ione, where his father homesteaded. They moved to Spokane in 1921, where his father was a shoemaker.

He did not attend university but apprenticed with other architects to gain his education. Wulff also took engineering classes in night school. Wulff worked for Spokane's leading architect in this era, Gustav Adolf Pehrson, from 1929 to 1942, after which he worked for Whitehouse & Price conducting the site planning for Farragut Airforce Base during World War II. He started his own firm in 1945.

Pehrson was no doubt a strong influence on Wulff. Pehrson studied architecture at Uppsala University in Sweden and Oxford University. After he immigrated to the United States, he worked as a draftsman for Kirtland Cutter. Before World War II, he designed at least three skyscrapers in downtown Spokane and a number of mansions and attractive modern houses on Spokane's South Hill, among other buildings.<sup>10</sup> He is perhaps best known, however, for serving as the architect for the town of Richland and the Hanford Reservation during World War II. Today Richland is part of the Tri-cities. Its Alphabet Houses (worker housing) historic district is listed in the National Register of Historic Places, as is its Gold Coast District, which housed Hanford's professional class of workers during World War II and beyond. The Hanford Reservation itself is now part of the Manhattan Project National Historical Park.

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<sup>9</sup> Ritter established his own firm of George C. Ritter, Architect in 1947.

<sup>10</sup> "Gustav Albin Pehrson," *Wikipedia*, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gustav\\_Albin\\_Pehrson](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gustav_Albin_Pehrson), accessed October 2019.

Wulff produced a brochure circa 1974 to promote his firm's work. In addition to showcasing the firm's work, he included a history of the company and its design philosophy. The stated range of work included the design of residences, churches, schools, commercial and institutional buildings. The office's philosophy stressed its workmanlike and efficient approach to design; the comprehensive nature of the practice, from initial design to construction management; and his public service and participation in professional organizations, including serving as president of the Spokane chapter of the American Institute of Architects.

Wulff married Ellen J. Green in 1933 and had two sons. He designed a home for the family, a Spanish Colonial Revival ranch-style house overlooking the Latah Valley (1221 W. 22<sup>nd</sup> Avenue) in 1936. He also designed a modern cabin for the family on Priest Lake. He wrote a 140-page autobiography and story of the Wulff family in 2000, in collaboration with Kathie MacGregor Donahue.<sup>11</sup>

### ***Ralph J. Bishop***

Ralph J. Bishop (1905-1984) was born in Tacoma, Washington, the son of pioneers who immigrated to the area in 1856. Bishop began his career working for a variety of architectural firms. Once he moved to Spokane, that included the prestigious Spokane firm of Whitehouse & Price, who are perhaps best known for their design of the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist. He then worked for Spokane modernist architect Edwin J. Peterson. Bishop also worked for respected Pacific Northwest architect John W. Maloney in 1937-38 and then from 1940 to 1945 as a specifications writer.<sup>12</sup>

Edwin J. Peterson was from Sweden. He studied at Washington State University, where he excelled, gaining a full scholarship to Harvard University. He adopted a modernist aesthetic in his work in the 1930s. In the 1950s, as an Air Force reservist, he was appointed the Chief of the Architecture & Urban Planning Division for the State Department, overseeing over \$200 million in housing projects around the world.<sup>13</sup>

Bishop and Wulff began an association in 1945, both maintaining offices at 1023 W. Riverside Avenue. They had discussed building their own building, which they would share while keeping their own architecture practices. They signed an agreement to buy the lot at 1526 W. Riverside Avenue in December 1950.<sup>14</sup> In 1951, once their office building was complete, they moved into that building, which was just down the street. In addition to his architectural design work, Bishop was a talented draftsman. Later in life he exhibited watercolors and other artwork. He was a member of the Spokane chapter of

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<sup>11</sup> Wulff, Victor Louis with Kathie MacGregor Donahue, *From '09 to '099 - the story of my life, or my journey through the Twentieth Century*. Spokane, WA: ca 2000.

<sup>12</sup> "Bishop, Ralph J.," "Ritter, George C.," "Wulff, Victor L.," AIA Historical Directory of American Architects, <https://aiahistoricaldirectory.atlassian.net/wiki/spaces/AHDAA/overview>, accessed November 2019.

<sup>13</sup> "Edwin J. Peterson," *Architect Biographies*, Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation. <https://dahp.wa.gov/historic-preservation/research-and-technical-preservation-guidance/architect-biographies/bio-for-edwin-j-peterson>, accessed October 2019.

<sup>14</sup> Wulff, Victor Louis with Kathie MacGregor Donahue, *From '09 to '099 - the story of my life, or my journey through the Twentieth Century*. Spokane, WA: ca 2000.

the American Institute of Architects, where he served on the board, as well as serving two terms as chairman of the Industrial Commissions Committee.

Bishop, who had suffered a bout of polio as a child, was an early advocate for providing for accessibility and opportunities for the handicapped. He was head of the Spokane committee for the observance of National Employ the Handicapped Week in 1952 and was active in the Veteran's Administration training program for architects.<sup>15</sup>

Bishop married Ethel B. Bishop, whom he divorced in 1943. He married Tania E. Bishop in 1947. He had one son. He continued to work until a month before he died in 1984, at the age of 79.

### ***Summary***

Both Wulff and Bishop had long, successful careers in Spokane and contributed greatly to the built environment in eastern Washington, particularly in the area of education. They were both modernists and both apprenticed under renown modern architects in Spokane. Their training comes through in the design of their many buildings, including the design of their own office at 1526 W. Riverside Avenue.

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<sup>15</sup> "Ralph J. Bishop" (obit), *The Spokesman-Review*, November 24, 1984.

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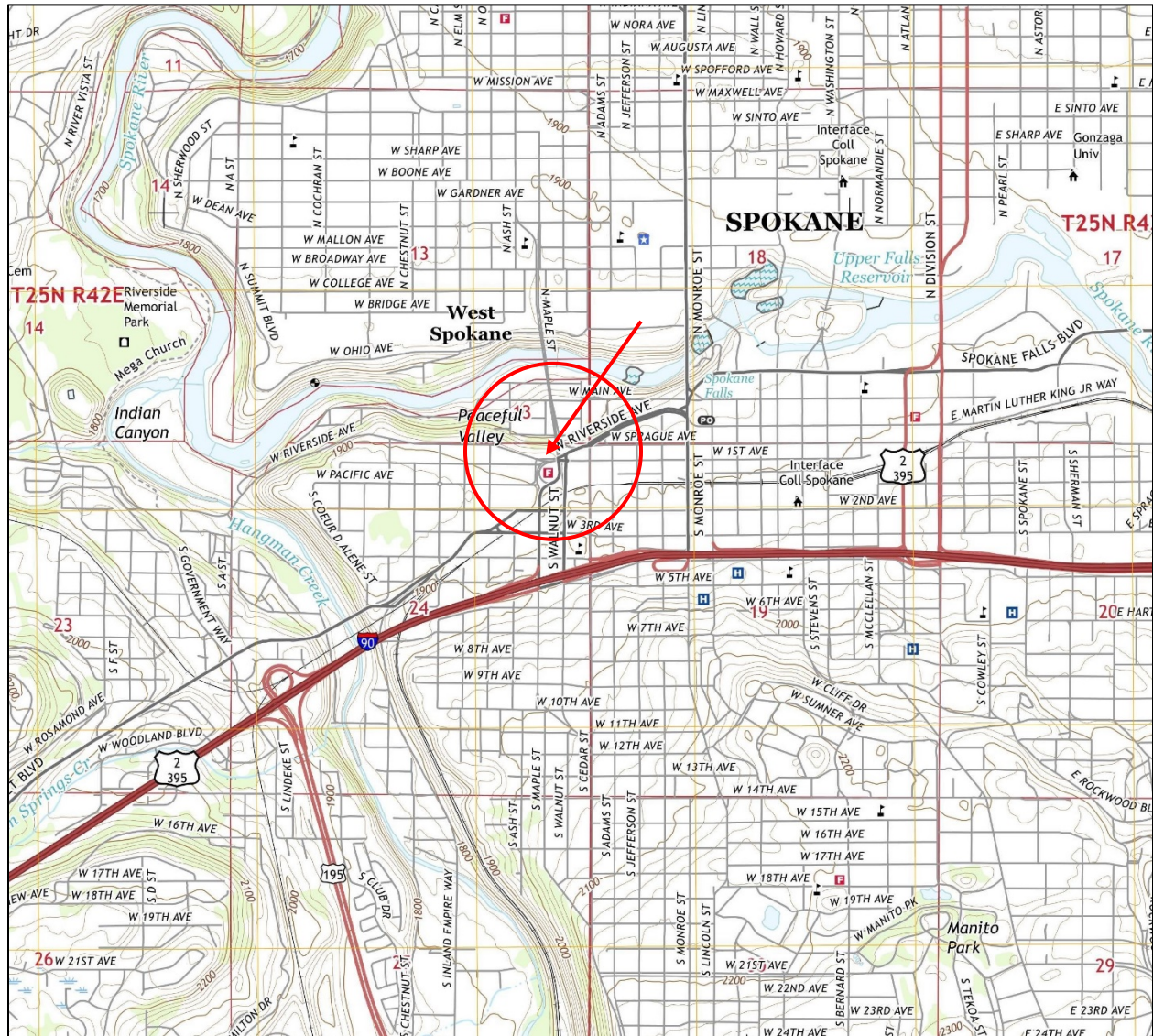
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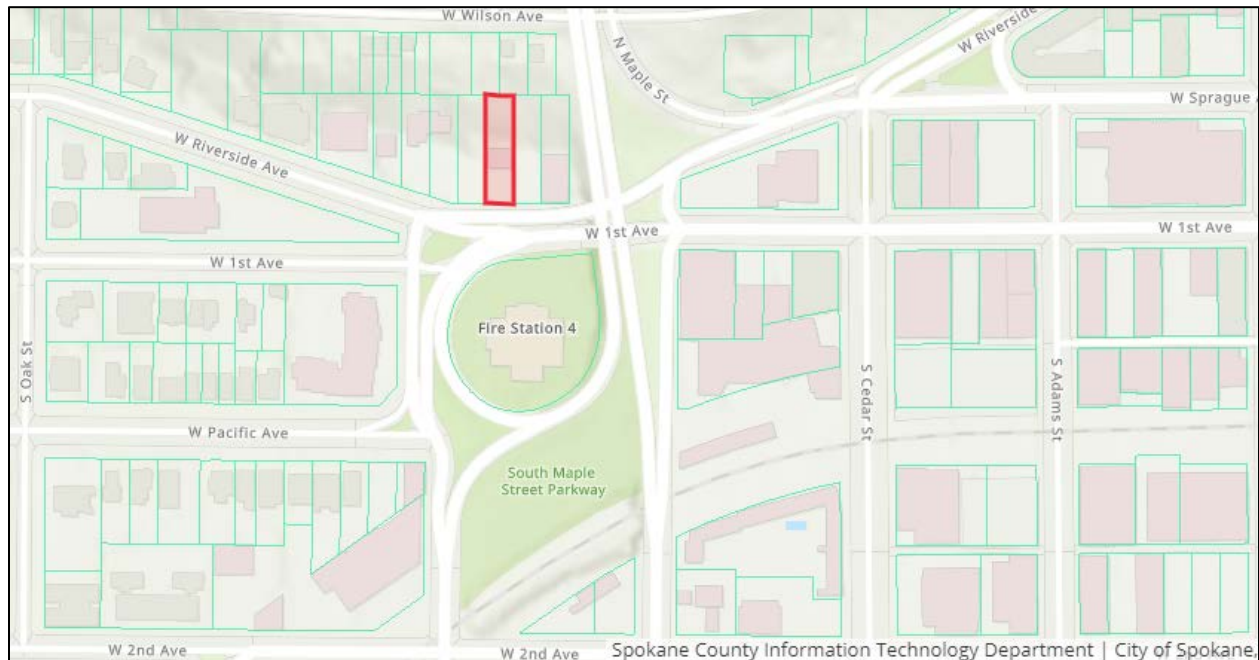
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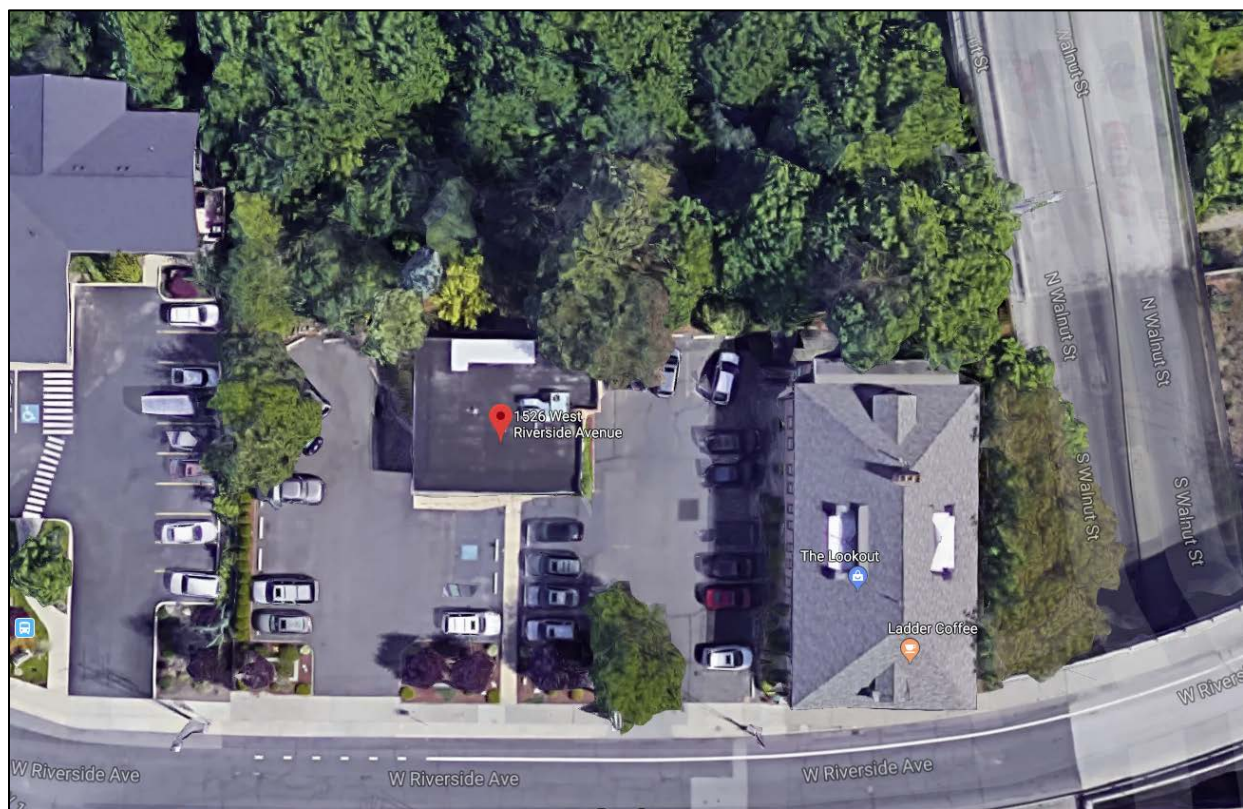
**Figure 1:** Site location map, Spokane NW 7.5 minute quadrangle



**Figure 2:** Site parcel map, source: Spokane County Assessor (note that the property includes the parcel to the west, which is used for parking)

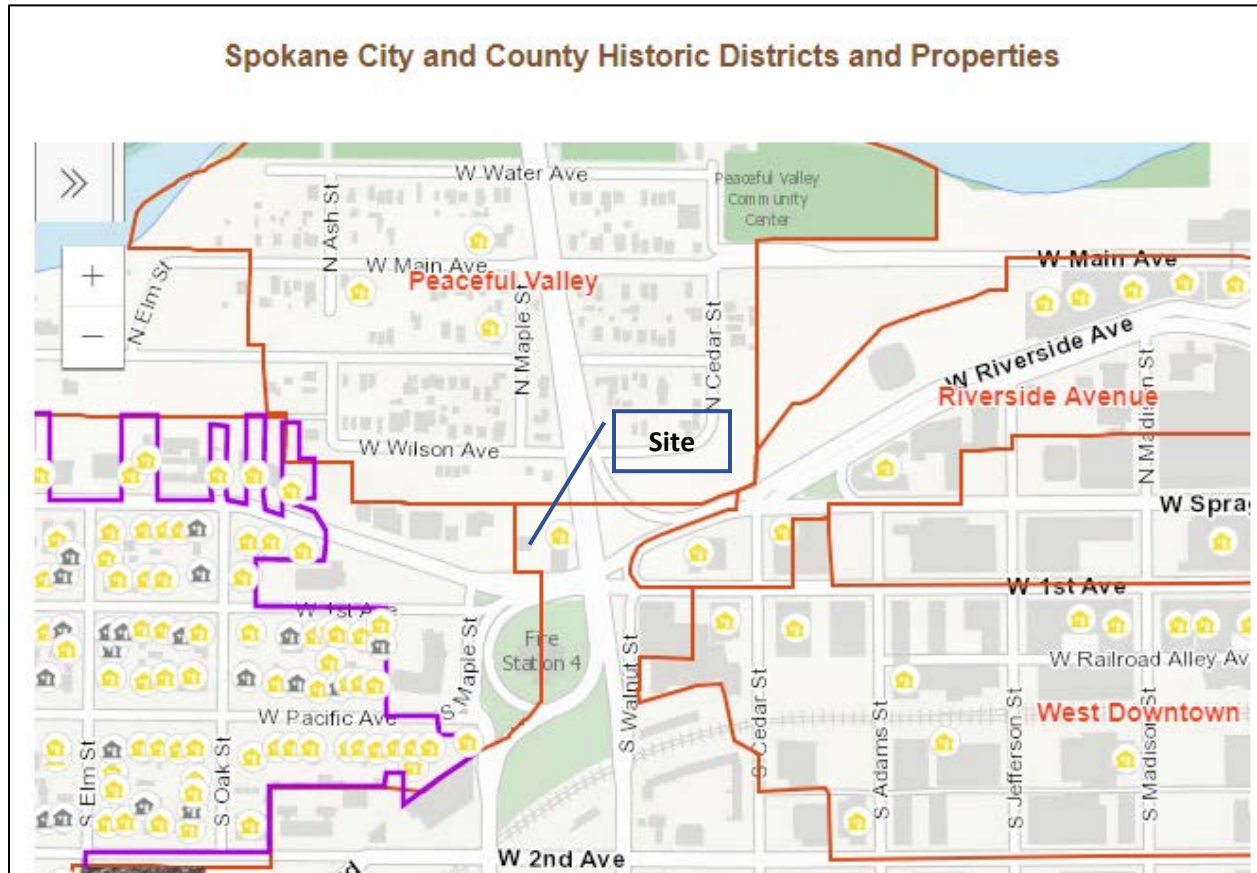


**Figure 3:** Aerial site plan, source: Google Earth



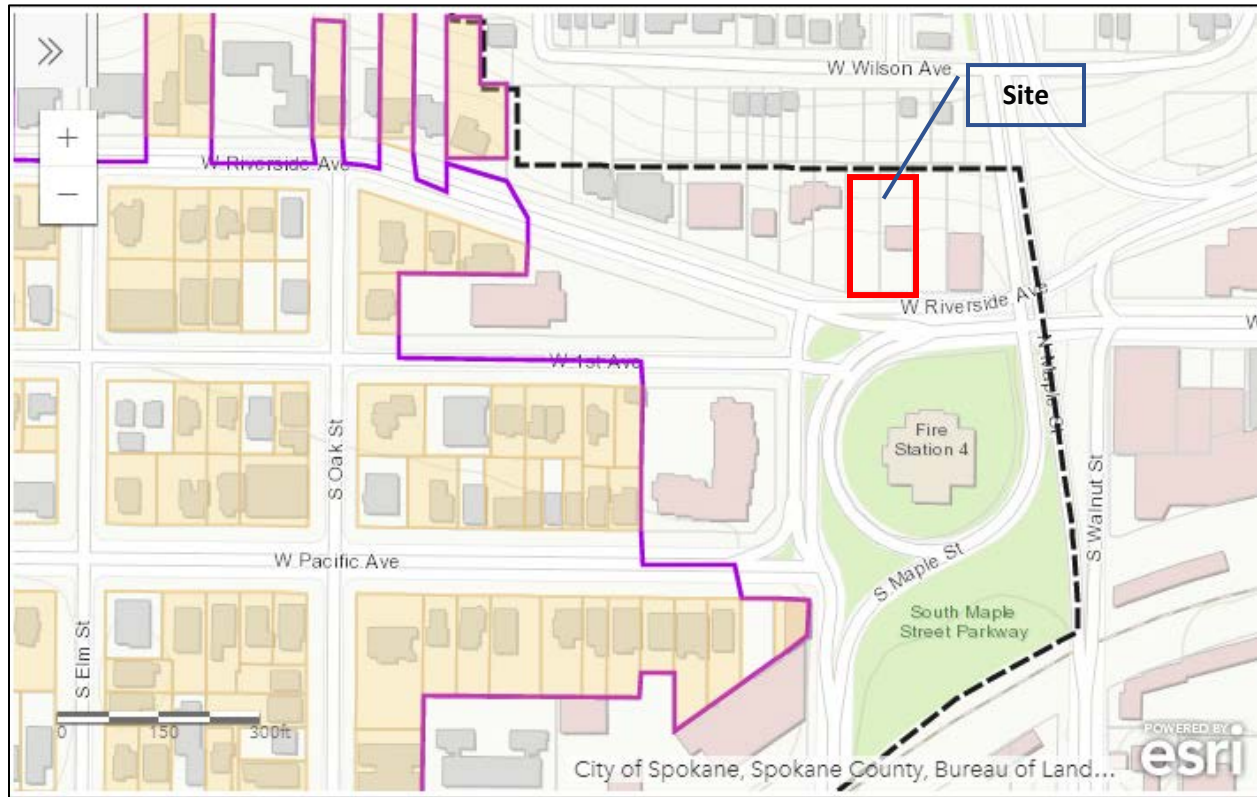
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**Figure 4:** Area historic districts, source: City of Spokane



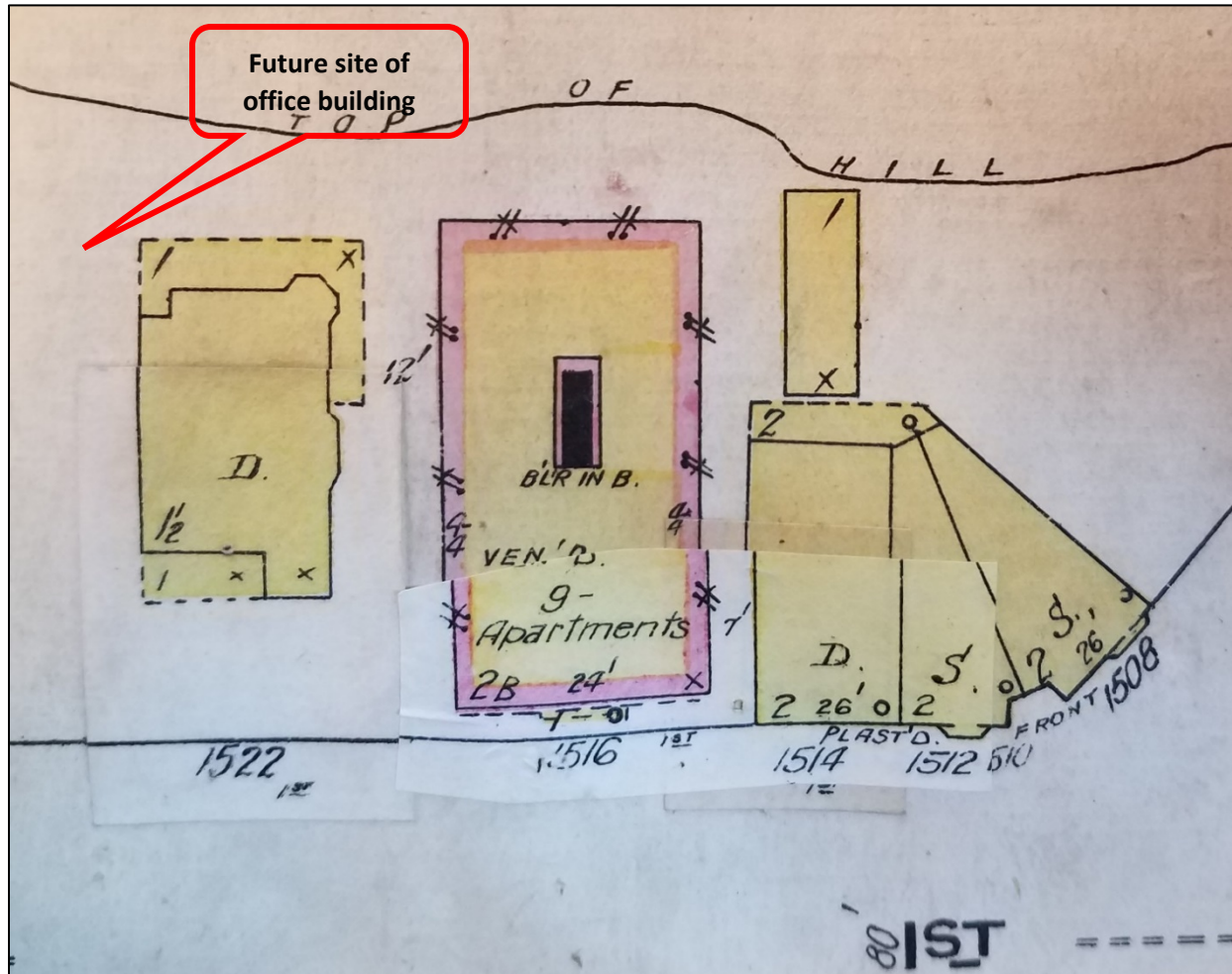
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**Figure 5:** Browne's Addition historic district boundaries, source: City of Spokane

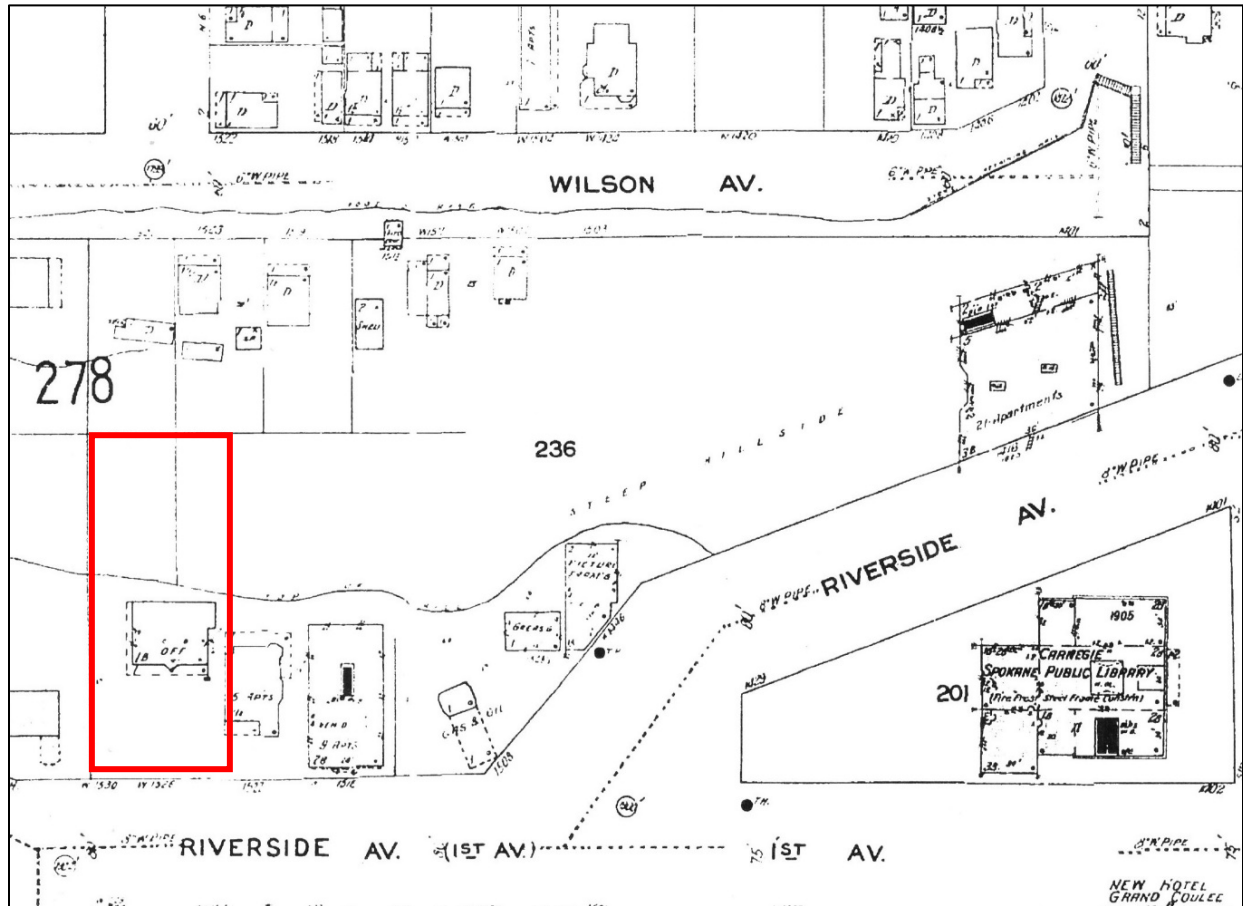


*Black dashed line – National Register district; purple line – local historic district*

**Figure 6:** Sanborn Fire Insurance map for 1910 updated to 1926



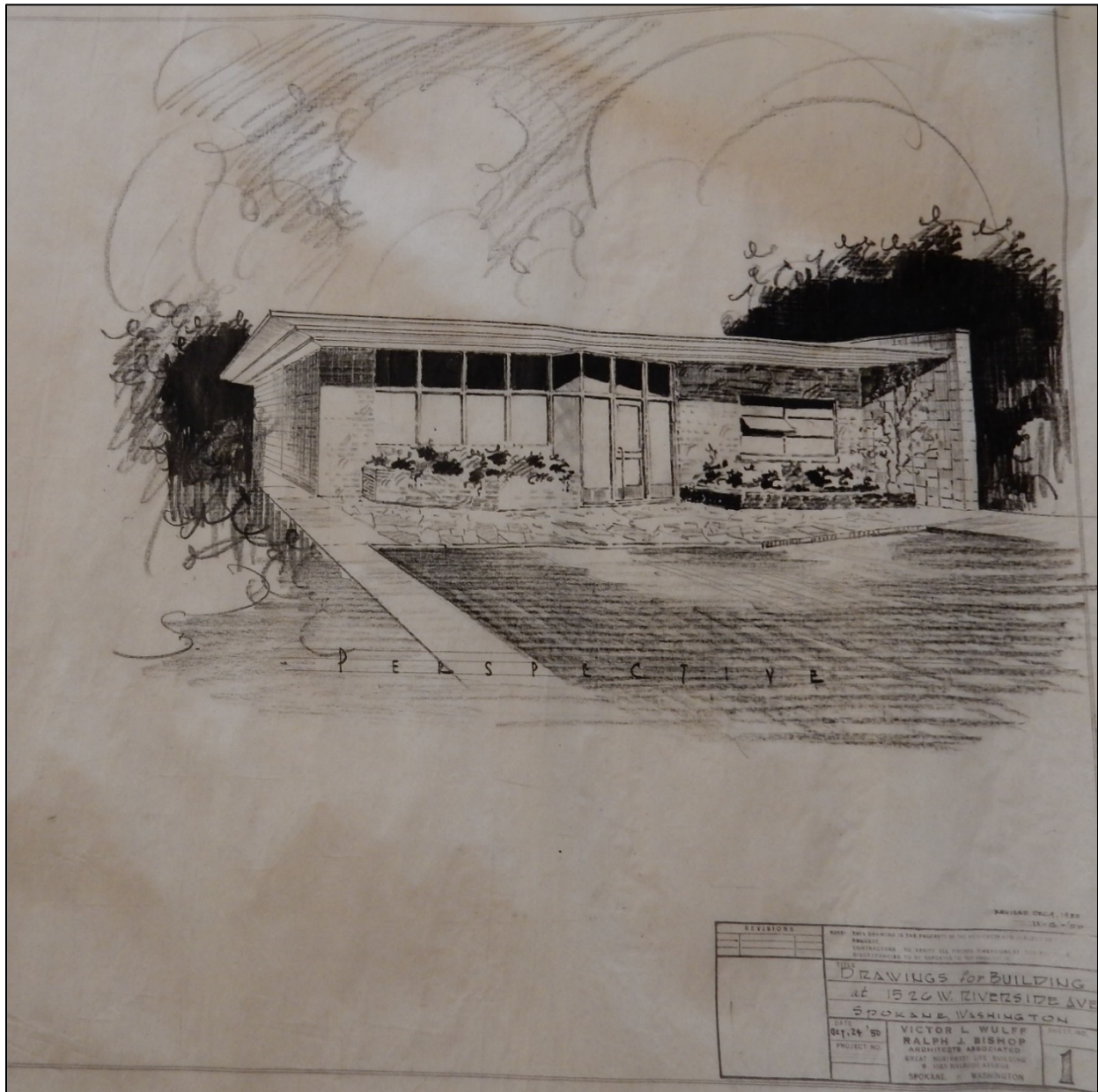
**Figure 7:** Sanborn Fire Insurance map, 1910 updated to 1953



**Figure 8:** Announcement of new office building, *Spokane Chronicle*, March 28, 1951



**Figure 9:** Perspective sketch of the planned building by Ralph Bishop

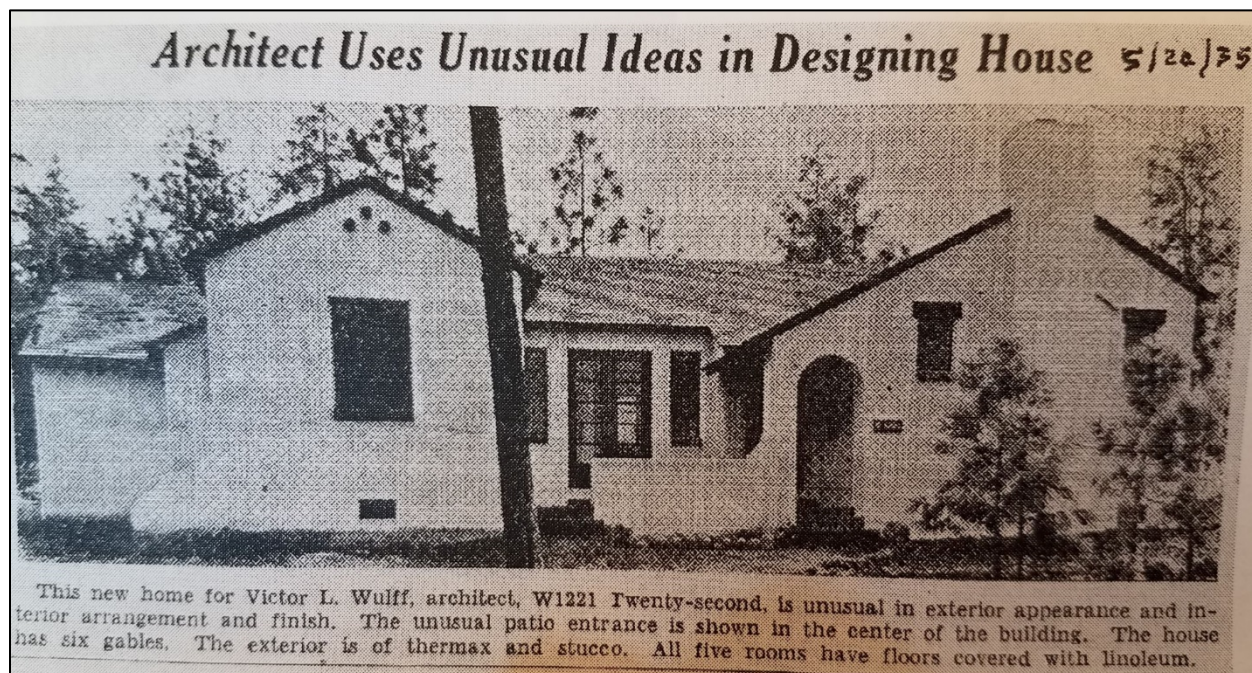


**Figure 10:** Rendering by Wulff drawn while in Pehrson's office, 1932



Typical of the renderings Victor made in G. A. Pehrson's office was this one of the Chronicle Building. The original was 17" x 23".  
Done with lithograph pencil in 1932

**Figure 11:** Newspaper article about Wulff's own house, 1935, still extant

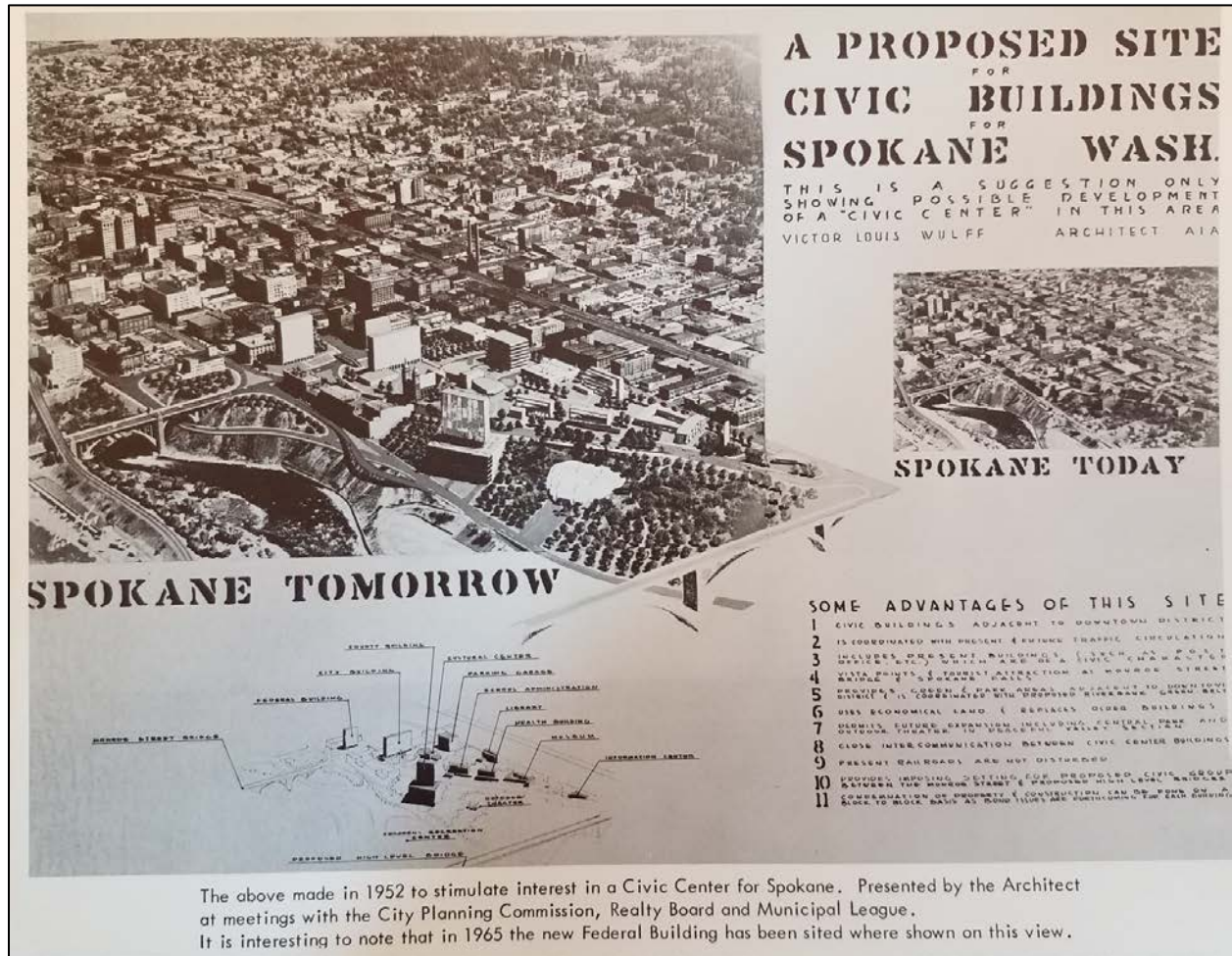


**Figure 12:** Desert Caravan Inn, Victor Wulff, 1951, still extant



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**Figure 13:** Civic Center scheme, Wulff, 1952



**Figure 14:** St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Wulff, n.d.



St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Spokane, Washington

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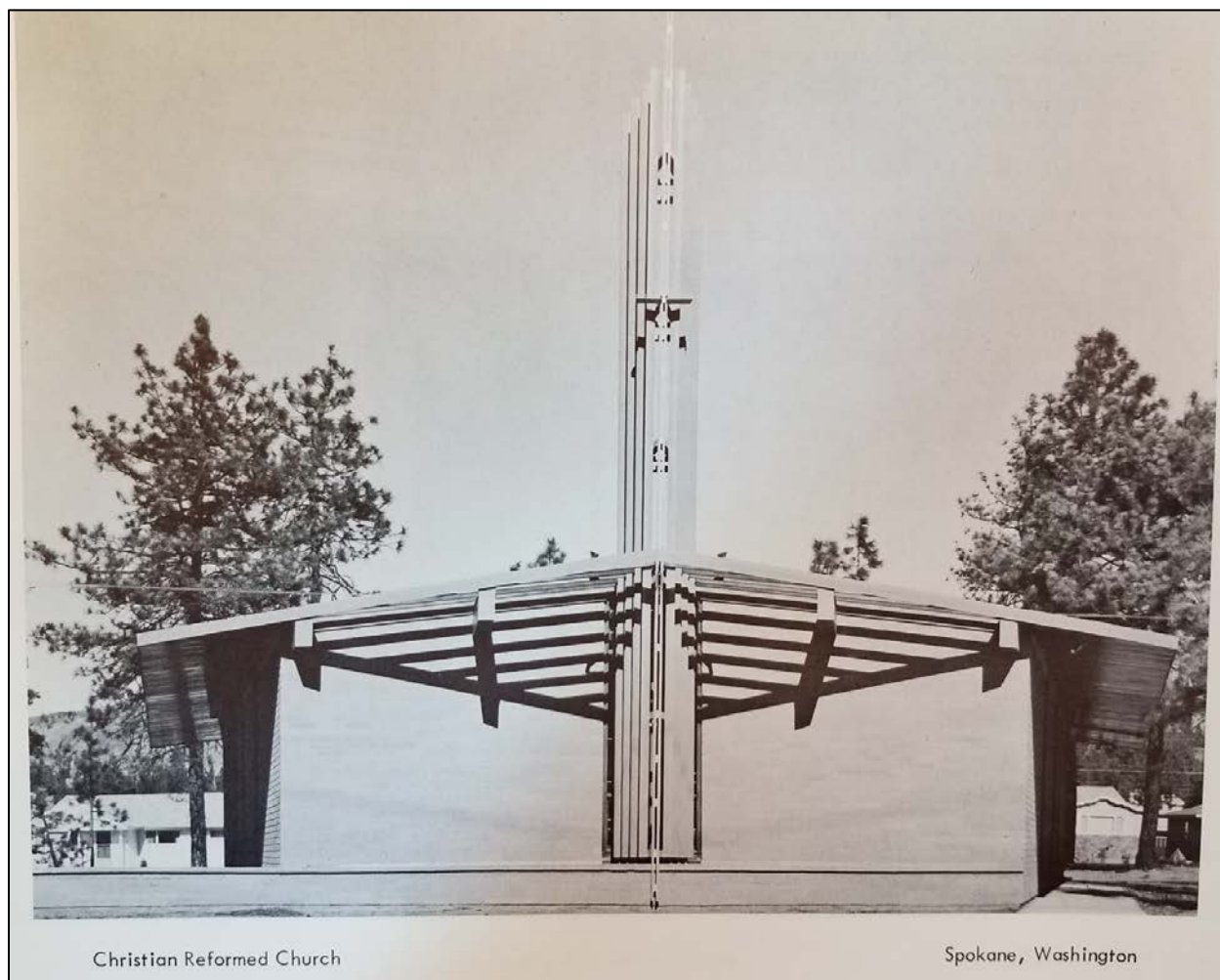
**Figure 15:** St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Wulff, n.d.



St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Spokane, Washington

**Figure 16:** Christian Reformed Church, Wulff, n.d.



**Figure 17:** Pasco Senior High School, Wulff, n.d.

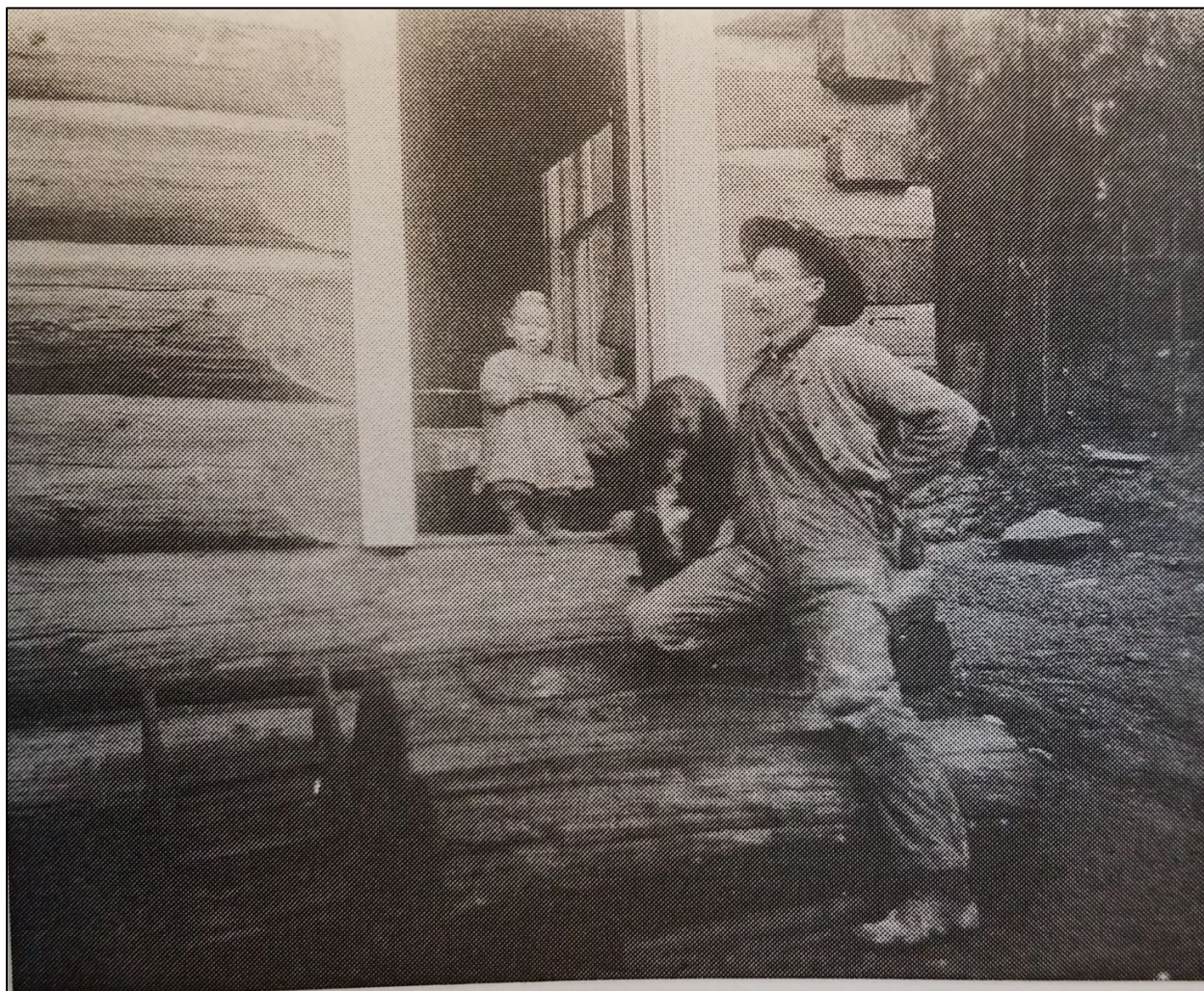


Pasco Senior High School

Pasco School District No. 1

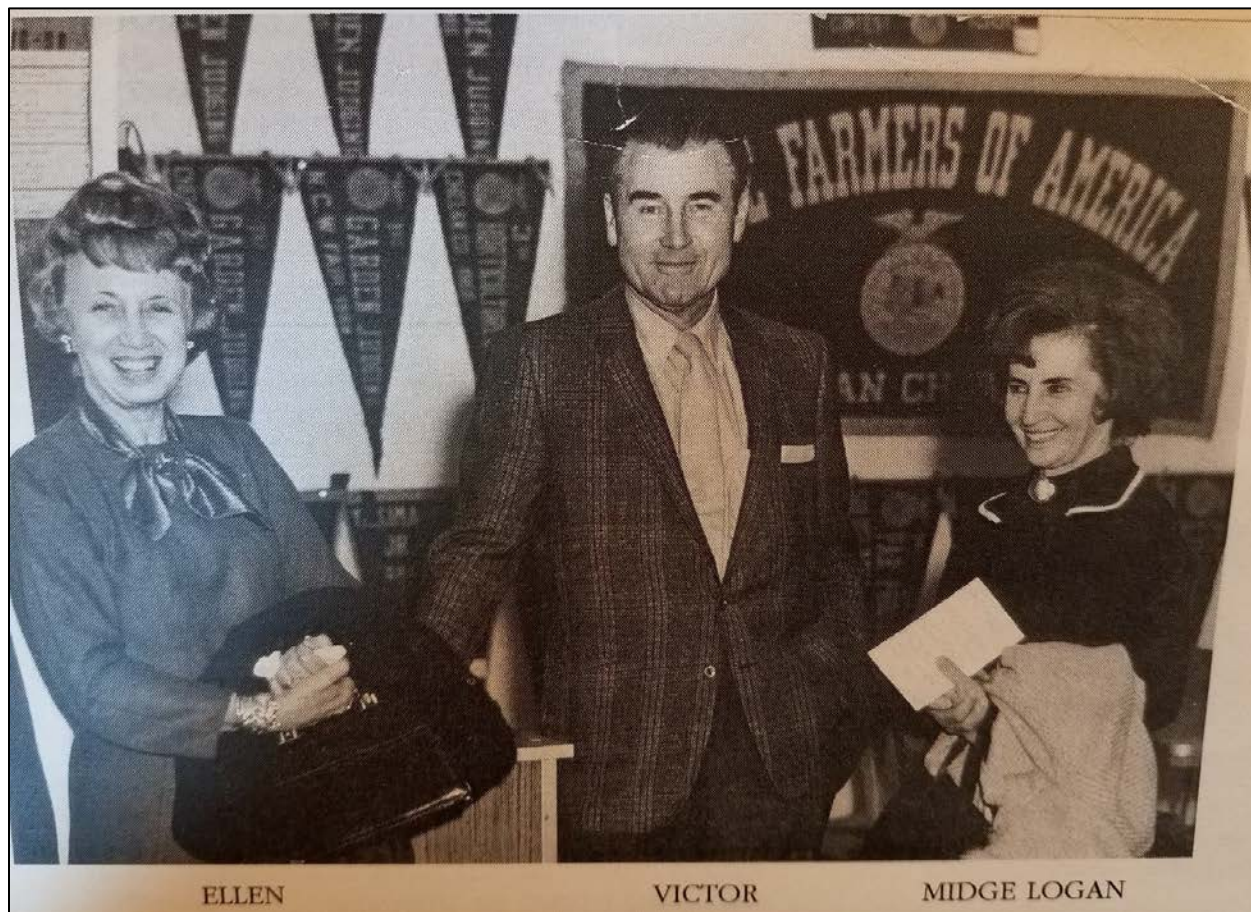
Pasco, Washington

**Figure 18:** Victor Wulff as a child in 1912



Victor and his father at doorway to log cabin on  
homestead at Ione, Washington — 1912

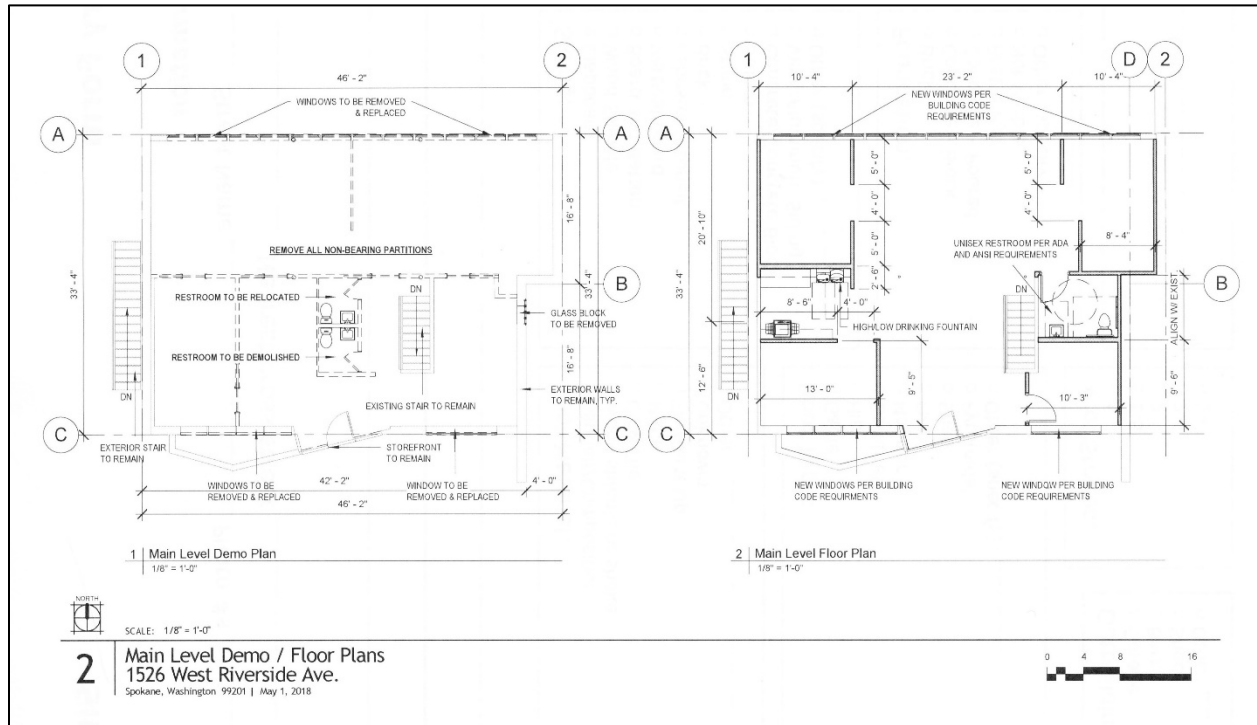
**Figure 19:** Wulff, his wife, and long-time secretary, n.d.



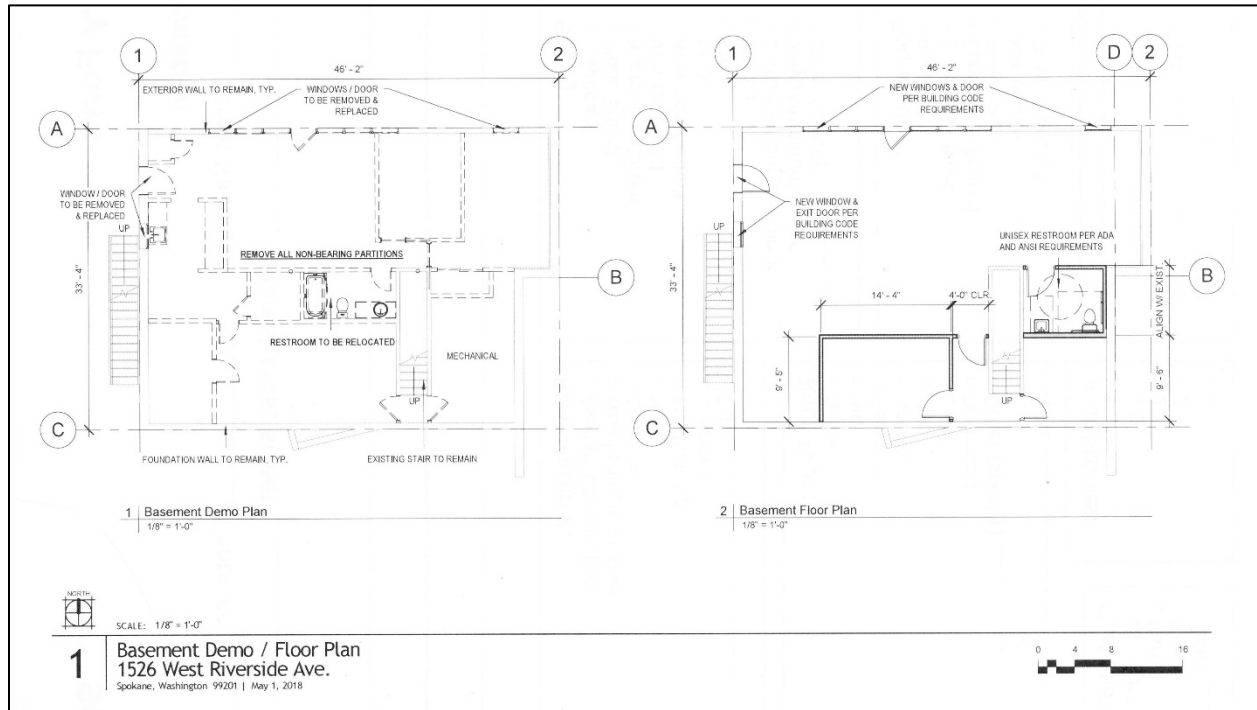
**Figure 20:** Sketch by Wulff on the cover of his 2000 autobiography



**Figure 21:** Demolition and preliminary design plans for main floor



**Figure 22:** Demolition and preliminary design plans for the basement



**Photo 1:** Front (south) and west side facades, looking northeast



**Photo 2:** Front (south) façade, looking north



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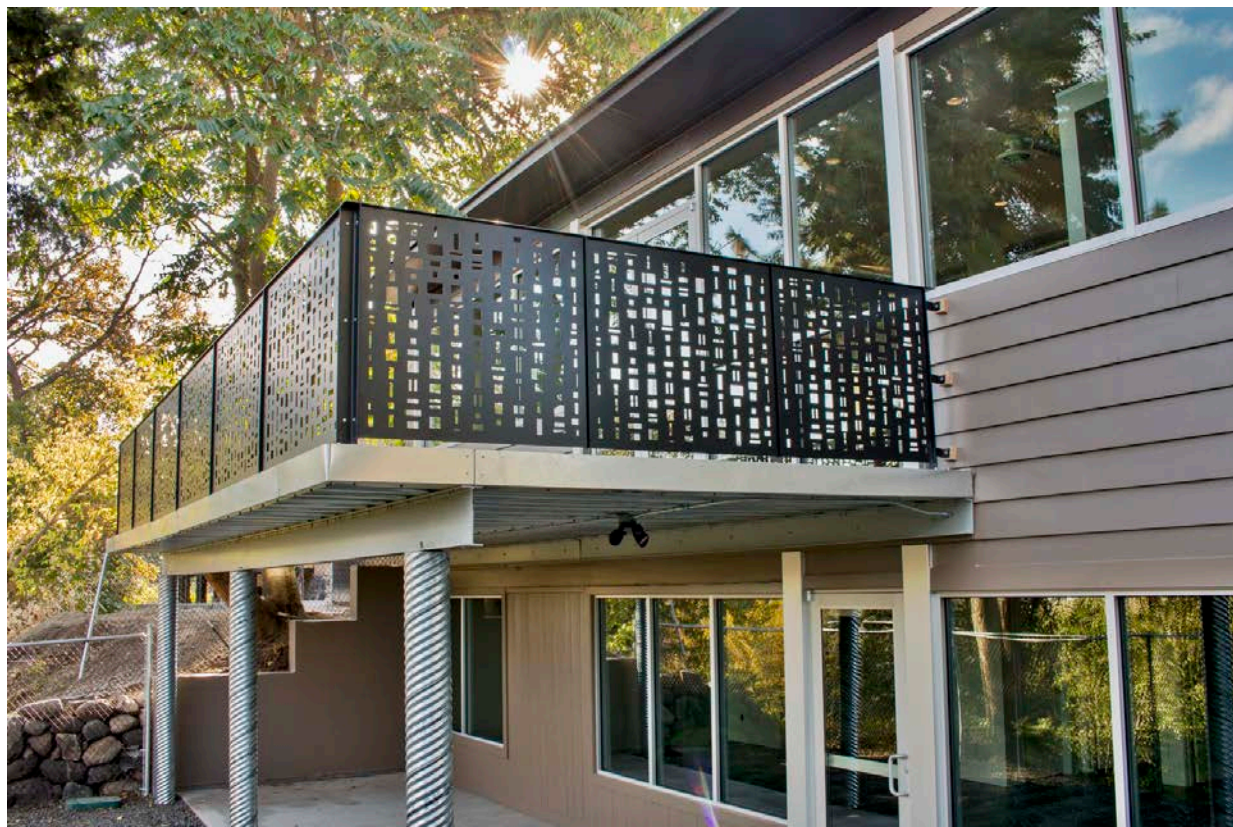
**Photo 3:** Front entry, looking east



**Photo 4:** West side façade, looking east



**Photo 5:** Rear deck, looking east



**Photo 6:** Rear deck, upper level, looking east



**Photo 7:** Rear deck, looking west



**Photo 8:** Rear deck, looking north



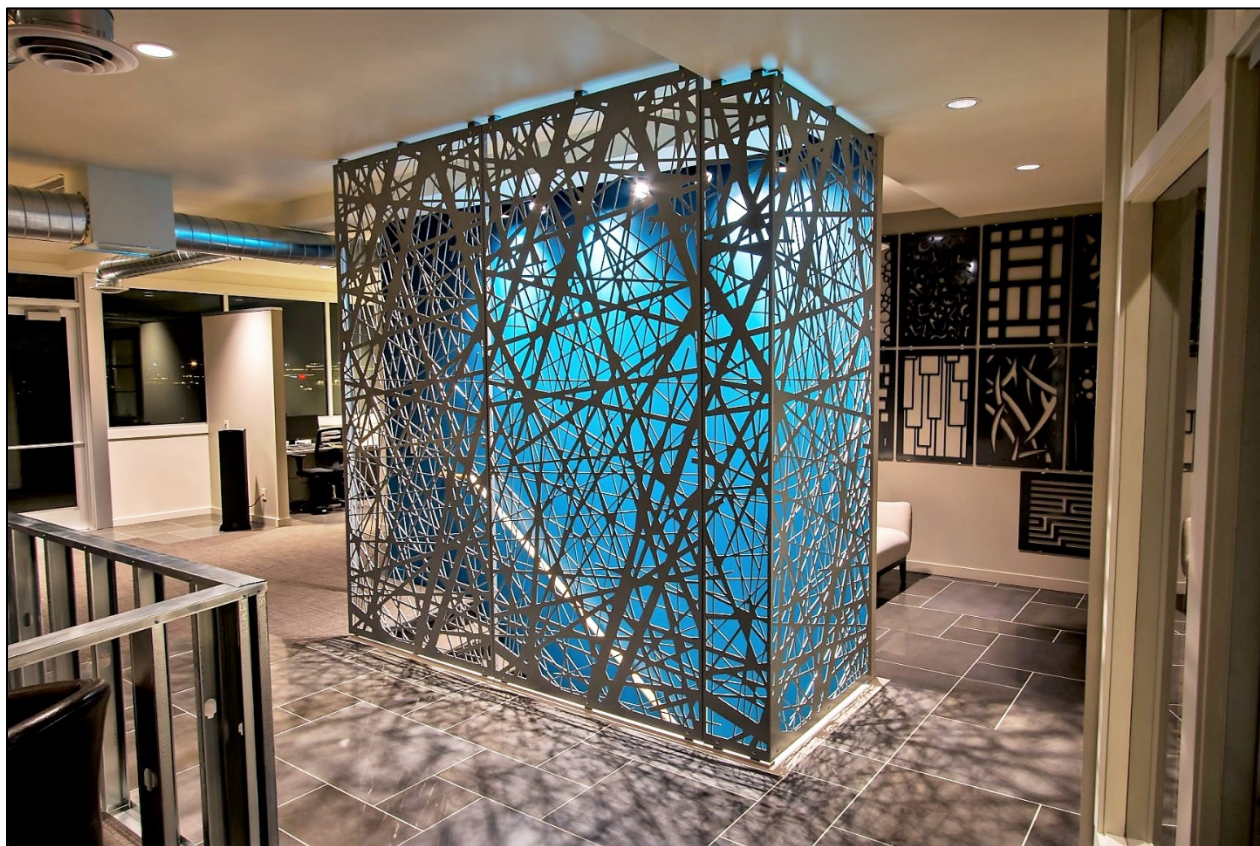
**Photo 9:** East side façade, looking northwest



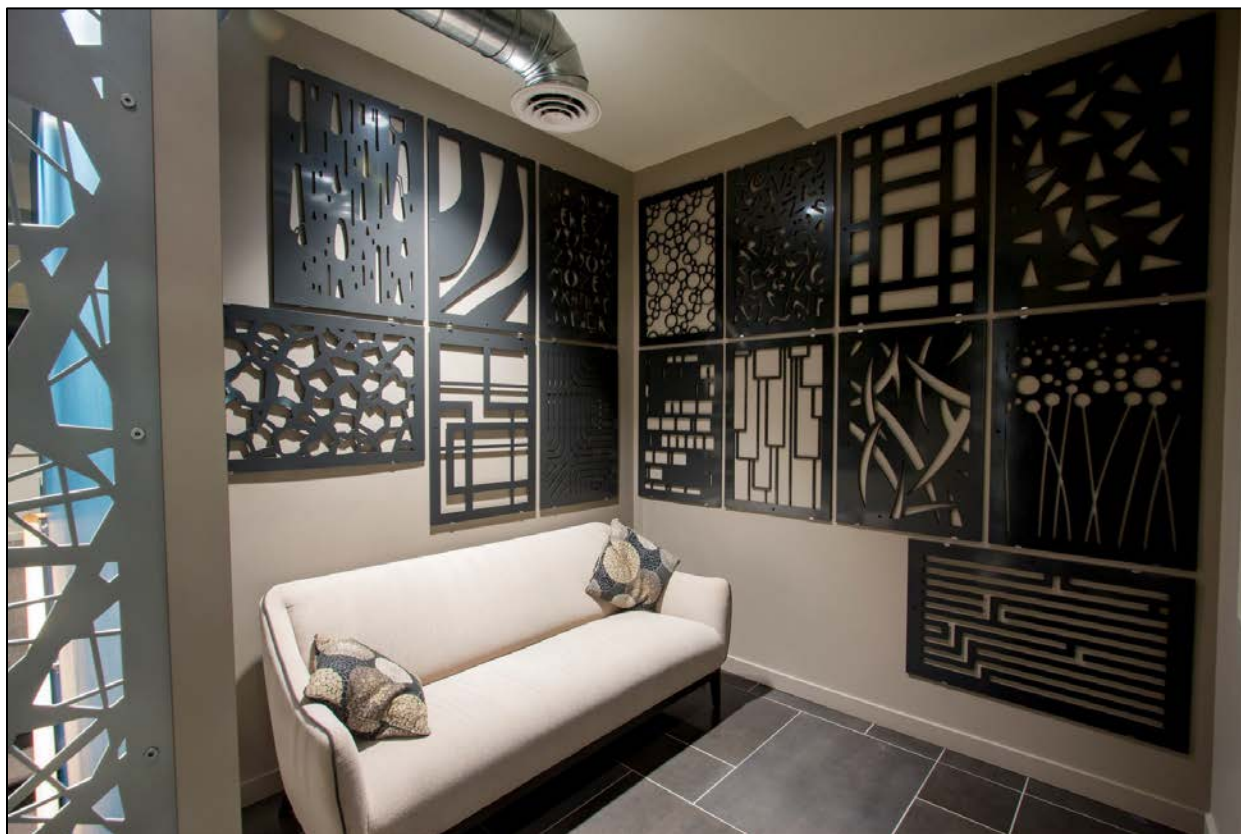
**Photo 10:** Front (south) and east side façade, looking northwest



**Photo 11:** Interior with stair enclosure, looking northeast



**Photo 12:** Seating in southeast corner, looking east



**Photo 13:** Interior stairway, looking south toward entry



**Photo 14:** View toward north from deck



**Photo 15:** Subject property (left) and Amman Apartments (right), looking northeast



**Photo 16:** View east toward Riverfront Avenue Historic District



**Photo 17:** View west towards Browne's Addition



**Photo 18:** Browne's Addition sign, south of site

