

## Spokane Register of Historic Places Nomination

Spokane City/County Historic Preservation Office, City Hall, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
808 W. Spokane Falls Boulevard, Spokane, WA 99201

### 1. HISTORIC NAME

Historic Name MEENACH-McCLURE HOUSE  
Common Name

### 2. LOCATION

Street & Number 1005 East 54th Avenue  
City, State, Zip Code Spokane, WA 99223  
Parcel Number 34051.0101

### 3. CLASSIFICATION

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<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"/> both		<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> residential
	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes, restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
<b>Site</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes, unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other
<input type="checkbox"/> moved				

### 4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

Name Stephen & Tresa Schmautz  
Street & Number 1005 East 54th Avenue  
City, State, Zip Code Spokane, WA 99223  
Telephone Number/E-mail 509-939-6269, tresaschmautz@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 99201  
County Spokane

### 6. REPRESENTATION OF EXISTING SURVEYS

Title City of Spokane Historic Landmarks Survey  
Date Federal \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_ Local \_\_\_\_\_  
Location of Survey Records Spokane Historic Preservation Office

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**7. DESCRIPTION**

*(continuation sheets attached)*

**Architectural Classification**

**Condition**

excellent

good

fair

deteriorated

ruins

unexposed

**Check One**

unaltered

altered

**Check One**

original site

moved & date

**8. SPOKANE REGISTER CATEGORIES & STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

*(continuation sheets attached)*

**Applicable Spokane Register of Historic Places Categories: 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 or 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.

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

*Bibliography is found on one or more continuation sheets.*

**10. DIGITAL PHOTOS, MAPS, SITE PLANS, ARTICLES, ETC.**

*Items are found on one or more continuation sheets.*

**11. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

Acreage of Property

Less than one acre.

Verbal Boundary Description

South Ridge View Addition, Lot 1 and west 20 feet of Lot 2 in Block 1.

Verbal Boundary Justification

Nominated property includes entire parcel and urban legal description.

**12. FORM PREPARED BY**

Name and Title

Linda Yeomans, Consultant

Organization

Historic Preservation Planning & Design

Street, City, State, Zip Code

501 West 27<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Spokane, WA 99203

Telephone Number

509-456-3828

Email Address

[lindayeomans@comcast.net](mailto:lindayeomans@comcast.net)

Date Final Nomination Heard

January 18, 2023

13. Signature of Owner(s)

Jessa Schmauf  
[Signature]

14. For Official Use Only:

Date nomination application filed: December 17, 2022

Date of Landmarks Commission Hearing: January 18, 2023

Landmarks Commission decision: Approved

Date of Spokane County Board of Commissioners' hearing: \_\_\_\_\_

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

[Signature] 1/19/2023

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

Attest:

Approved as to form:

\_\_\_\_\_  
County Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
County Attorney



*A 2022 photograph looking north at the historic Meenach-McClure Garage.  
(the house is located to the north behind the garage)*

## ***SECTION 7: DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY***

### ***Summary Statement***

Built in 1959 adjacent to the south end of Manito Golf & Country Club on Spokane’s South Hill, the Meenach-McClure House and its unattached garage, original in-ground swimming pool, and original aggregate stone walkways/driveway/patio are excellent representations of the Mid-Century Modern aesthetic designed in the Contemporary style. The home is characterized by a long, low, single-story rectangular design with a low-pitched barrel-shaped gable-end roof, curved roof rafters, four-foot-deep overhanging roof eaves, and floor-to-ceiling “window walls” made of fixed-glass windows and sliding-glass doors. At the home’s rear north face, the long window wall extends without interruption across the entire 89-foot-width of the house. Located in front of the residence along East 54th Avenue, the property includes a two-car garage and a smaller attached single-car garage that are protected with low-pitched barrel-shaped roofs similar to those on the house. In excellent condition with a high level of integrity in its original location, design, materials, workmanship and association, the Meenach-McClure House and its garage, swimming pool, and aggregate stone pathways are eligible for listing on the Spokane Register of Historic Places.

## ***CURRENT APPEARANCE & CONDITION***

### ***Site***

Located in a prominent residential area of single-family homes built in the southeast quadrant of Spokane's South Hill, the Meenach-McClure House at 1005 East 54th Avenue faces south from Lot 1 and the adjoining west 20 feet of Lot 2, Block 1 in the South Ridge View Addition. The property's site assumes a rectangular shape on level ground with a width of 112 feet along its south facade border at East 54th Avenue, and 112 feet along its north rear border, which is adjacent to an 18-hole golf course at Manito Golf & Country Club.<sup>1</sup> Along the lot's east and west side borders, the property measures 140 feet deep from north to south. The west border of the property is parallel to South Hatch Road, while the east border is adjacent to residential homes. Homes in the South Ridge View Addition were built after World War II from 1950 to 2000, and include a mix of single-family Minimal Traditional, Ranch, Split-Level, and Contemporary house styles.

### ***House Exterior***

Designed as a long, low, single-story rectangular dwelling, the Meenach-McClure House is located in the center of Lot 1 and the west 20 feet of Lot 2. The house faces south onto East 54th Avenue, and measures 89 feet wide at its south façade, and 89 feet wide at its rear north face. The end-gabled east and west faces of the home each span a depth of 24 feet.<sup>2</sup> The Meenach-McClure House is protected by a very shallow barrel-shaped end-gable roof of built-up tar covered by a composite membrane.<sup>3</sup> The barrel-shaped roof is supported by extended and exposed curved, laminated wood beams that support a four-foot-deep overhang at the roof's south facade and north face. The beams are stained dark brown. Narrow 1.5-inch-wide hardwood oak boards cover the ceiling space between the beams. The edge of the roof is protected by a deep fascia board. The house is clad with a vertical board-and-batten design made of wood and glass. About 25% of the house features painted four-inch-wide vertical cedar board siding, all located on the home's south facade. The remaining 75% of the house is clad with wood battens and floor-to-ceiling metal-sash, fixed-glass windows and floor-to-ceiling sliding-glass doors. The floor-to-ceiling fixed-windows each measure five feet in width and are vertically framed by floor-to-ceiling painted wood battens. Painted wood battens also frame multiple pairs of floor-to-ceiling sliding-glass doors, which are six feet wide per door pair. Concrete foundation walls and floor support the at-grade house and a below-ground finished lower-level.

### ***South Façade***

Like the north face, the south façade of the Meenach-McClure House spans 89 feet from east to west.<sup>4</sup> The home's south façade is an asymmetrical mix of two exterior pedestrian entrance doors, floor-to-ceiling metal-sash sliding-glass doors, and floor-to-ceiling metal-sash fixed-pane glass windows, which are all secured by vertical wood battens. An eight-inch-deep fascia board protects the roof's eave edge. In contrast to the rest of the house, the east half of the south façade also features a row of below-ground, lower-level egress

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<sup>1</sup> The Manito Golf & Country Club, located at 5303 S. Hatch Road, was constructed in 1922.

<sup>2</sup> Spokane County Assessor records, Spokane County Courthouse, Spokane, WA.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

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windows, which look south from an exposed concrete foundation wall into a large 25x10-foot “sunken” garden.

*North Face*

The rear north face of the house is completely clad with a “window wall” of floor-to-ceiling metal-sash fixed-glass windows and metal-frame sliding-glass doors set between wood battens. The home’s low-pitched barrel-shaped roof with four-foot-deep overhanging eaves and exposed curved beams shades the entire rear north face and its glass windows and glass doors. The roof edge is protected by an eight-inch-deep fascia board. A metal gutter is hidden behind the fascia board at the roof’s edge.

*East and West Faces*

The east and west gable-end faces of the house each measure 24 feet deep from north to south. The home’s shallow-pitched gable-end barrel-shaped roof features deep fascia boards. The extended and exposed eaves are clad with narrow tongue-in-groove oak hardwood boards that each measure 1.5 inches in width. With no windows or doors, the east face of the house is entirely covered with vertical four-inch-wide floor-to-ceiling painted cedar boards. At the opposite end of the house, the home’s west face features three fixed clerestory windows set above applied stone wall cladding.



*A 2022 photograph of the south façade of the Meenach-McClure House.*



*A 2022 photograph of the home’s rear north face with an 89-foot-long “window wall.”*

### ***House Interior***

The Spokane County Tax Assessor’s office reports the first floor of the Meenach-McClure House has 2,136 finished square feet of space while the lower-level holds 1,584 square feet of finished space, for a total of 3,720 interior finished square feet.<sup>5</sup>

Separated by ten feet, two 36-inch-wide exterior pedestrian doors are located on the center south façade of the house. The door by the east half of the house is made of stained walnut. The door in the west half of the façade features stained-walnut horizontal slats with frosted glass inserts. Both doors open from the home’s exterior into an expansive open floor space, which supports a large front-entry reception hall, kitchen, and dining area. The original 1959 floor is covered with Vermont green slate, and the original 1959 exposed ceiling is twelve feet high, supported by massive curved laminated wood exposed beams under the home’s nearly flat barrel-shaped roof. Narrow unfinished oak hardwood planks line the curved ceiling between the beams. All of the beams are stained dark brown.

The kitchen features two large parallel center islands that run east-west. The islands hold drawers and cupboards faced with laminated stained walnut, and are covered with quartz stone countertops. A sink and faucet are located in the center of the north island while the

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<sup>5</sup> Ibid.

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south island holds a built-in gas oven and cook top. The north kitchen counter features an inset curve that supports a built-in bench seat. Walnut cupboards hang over the south island. The perpendicular east wall supports walnut laminate-faced casework cupboards, stone countertop, built-in sink/faucets, built-in microwave, small below-counter beverage refrigerator, and a full-height standing refrigerator/freezer. Light is provided by canned lighting and overhead light fixtures.



*A 2022 photograph of the kitchen, looking northeast.*



*A 2022 photograph of the sunken family room next west of the kitchen, looking southwest*

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The slate-covered wide entry hall extends from the kitchen's east wall to the home's west wall at the west end of the house. The west wall extends 24 feet from north to south. The area between the kitchen and the west wall was designed in 1959 as a "sunken" family room. The floor of the family room is 20-inches lower than the slate floor in the entry hall and kitchen. Two wood steps descend to the sunken family room from the entry hall. The sunken family room is covered with wall-to-wall carpet. Three five-foot-wide floor-to-ceiling fixed-windows are located on the family room's north wall. The lower half of the west wall is covered by black quartz stone while the upper half of the west wall features three fixed clerestory windows. The south wall is bordered by the long slate-covered entry hall, which abuts the south edge of the sunken family room. A black metal hanging stove/fireplace with a large round stovepipe is secured above the floor to the west wall in the family room. The stovepipe vents through the west wall to the exterior.

The original Vermont slate floor at the family room and throughout the kitchen and dining area extends east through a ten-foot-wide hallway to the east end of the house. The wide hallway is illuminated with natural light from a long expanse of windows along the home's north window wall. Past the kitchen, the hallway opens along the south wall to a powder room, and to a large living room with a fireplace. The gas fireplace and surround is shaped like a vertical rectangular box, extends from floor to ceiling, and is clad with ceramic tile. The gas firebox is four feet long. Floor-to-ceiling windows line the south wall of the room, and look south. The ceiling is open and reveals the roof's shallow barrel-shape and massive curved laminated beams that support it. Ceiling space between the curved beams is clad with unfinished oak hardwood planks.



*A 2022 photograph of the living room, looking south.*

The home's master bedroom is located at the east end of the house. The master bedroom measures 24 feet deep from the north wall's glass window wall to the south wall's windows

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that overlook a sunken garden at the home's south facade. The bedroom is twelve feet wide from east to west. A west interior wall in the bedroom supports a sliding "barn" door that opens to a large closet area, and another pedestrian door that opens to a private bathroom with a vanity, mirror, wash basin, toilet, free-standing bathtub, and an open shower stall lined with ceramic tile. Ceramic tile covers the bathroom floor. A clerestory window illuminates the bathroom with natural light on the south wall. Privacy in the master bedroom is achieved by a west partition wall with a door that opens to the bedroom from the slate hallway.



*A 2022 photograph of the first-floor master bedroom, looking north into the backyard.*

The lower-level in the Meenach-McClure House is reached from an open-tread staircase that descends from the south wall's front reception hall to a lower-level recreation room. The lower-level recreation room is under the first-floor kitchen/dining area, and is finished with painted drywall ceiling/walls and wall-to-wall carpet. The carpet extends east along a hallway at the home's north wall to a mechanical room, a utility/laundry room, a small guest bedroom, a full bathroom (vanity, toilet, bathtub, shower stall), and a larger guest bedroom located at the east end of the hall. Both of the guest bedrooms are constructed on the south wall and have lower-level egress windows, which look out on a sunken garden at the south face of the house. Walls and ceilings are finished with painted drywall in the hallway, bedrooms, utility/laundry room, and bathroom.

### ***Garage***

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The Meenach-McClure Garage is located in front of the house between the home's south facade and the street at East 54th Avenue. The garage was built in 1959 at the same time the residence was constructed. It measures 36 feet wide from east to west, and 24 feet deep from north to south, and was originally built as a two-car open carport with a concrete floor and a finished north wall with built-in storage lockers.<sup>6</sup> A 1960 photograph reveals the carport was covered with a shallow gable-front barrel-shaped roof and widely overhanging eaves with exposed curved roof rafters and a deep fascia board.<sup>7</sup> In the early 1970s, the carport was enclosed as a garage. The outside of the garage was clad with painted vertical cedar siding to match the carport's original 1959 north-wall siding—which matched the home's 1959 exterior painted vertical cedar siding. A paneled overhead two-car garage door was installed at the garage's south façade.

In November 2015, many neighborhoods and parks in Spokane were decimated when strong winds blew over more than 900 evergreen and deciduous trees—some that reached 200 feet in height.<sup>8</sup> A large pine tree fell onto the Meenach-McClure Garage, destroying much of the building. The two-car garage was renovated and rebuilt, reproducing the building's original design and materials. At the same time, a new smaller single-car garage addition was built on the east side of the original two-car garage. The two garages were each finished with painted sheetrock walls and ceilings, and together form a large interior space. The garage and addition are sided with narrow vertical boards painted the same dark brown as the house.

***Aggregate Stone Driveway, Pathways & Patio***

Original 1959 features surrounding the Meenach-McClure House are aggregate cobbled stone walkways and a large aggregate stone driveway. The walkways form four- to five-foot-wide aggregate stone pathways from the garage to the house, around the house and a backyard patio, and along the entire 89-foot-wide north rear face of the house. Additional matching aggregate stone surfaces were laid around an in-ground Gunitite swimming pool that was constructed in the backyard in 1969 by the Phillips Construction Company.<sup>9</sup>

***ORIGINAL APPEARANCE & SUBSEQUENT MODIFICATIONS***

The first photograph found of the Meenach-McClure House & Garage was a 1960 black-and-white image taken by the Spokane County Tax Assessor office. The photograph reveals the single-story house as it is today, and a two-car carport positioned in front of the home's south façade. The carport was enclosed in the early 1970s. It was later pictured in a 1994 black-and-white tax assessor photograph as an enclosed garage with a two-car overhead garage door at the south façade. The exterior of the garage was covered with painted narrow cedar plank vertical board siding. In 2015, the garage was damaged when a tall tree fell on it. The garage was repaired with new exposed curved support beams and narrow fir ceiling planks to support the barrel-shaped roof. The garage exterior was repainted. At that time, a small single-car garage addition was built along the area where

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<sup>6</sup> Spokane Tax Assessor records, Spokane County Courthouse, Spokane, WA.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid.

<sup>8</sup> *Spokesman-Review*. 2015.

<sup>9</sup> Spokane Tax Assessor records. Spokane County Courthouse, Spokane, WA.

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the two-car garage's east wall had been. An overhead garage door was installed on the original garage. A narrower matching overhead garage door was installed on the single-car garage addition. Both garage interiors were finished with painted drywall ceilings and walls.

In the late 1970s, the home was remodeled at the first floor with carpet, wallpaper, and light fixtures.<sup>10</sup> The original large center bedroom on the first floor was remodeled into a formal living room. The guest bedroom at the east end of the first floor's slate hallway was renovated for use as the master bedroom with a private closet/dressing room and private bathroom. The home's lower-level was remodeled with a recreation room, two bedrooms, a bathroom, and a utility/laundry room. In 2015-2016 the kitchen was updated with new laminate casework, counter tops, fixtures, built-in appliances, and overhead lighting.

In 2000-2022, the house was repaired, cleaned, and renovated with new paint, as-needed new appliances and fixtures, exposed slate floors, and new open-tread stairs to the lower level. The lower level was repaired and remodeled with repainted walls and ceiling, wall-to-wall carpet, a new full bathroom, a laundry/utility room, and two renovated bedrooms. Outside of the house, a wide wooden bridge/platform was built across the sunken garden. The grounds around the garage and house were redesigned with new shrubs, flowering plants, additional walkways, and areas of manicured lawn. A sturdy see-through metal fence was installed along the backyard's north rear border adjacent to the golf course. A wood privacy fence with a horizontal board design was installed along the east and part of the south borders of the property. A metal gate attached to a stone column was installed by the garage in front of the house. Large metal house numbers were affixed to the stone column. A thick six-foot-high basalt stone wall was constructed along the west side of the property at Hatch Road, providing protection and deflecting noise.

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<sup>10</sup> Spokane County Assessor records. Spokane Courthouse, Spokane, WA.

**SECTION 8: STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

<i>Area of Significance</i>	<i>Architecture</i>
<i>Period of Significance</i>	<i>1959</i>
<i>Built Date</i>	<i>1959</i>
<i>Architect</i>	<i>Royal A. McClure</i>
<i>Construction Contractor</i>	<i>Elmer Nelson</i>

**SUMMARY STATEMENT**

Built in 1959, the Meenach-McClure House is eligible for listing on the Spokane Register of Historic Places for architectural integrity under Category C because it exemplifies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction. The property embodies the Mid-Century Modern era's Contemporary style with Miesian-style influence as well as represents the work of master architect, Royal A. McClure. The property's period of significance as defined as the year it was built in 1959. Contemporary-style characteristics include the home's 1959 built date, long low horizontal plan, shallow-pitched barrel-shaped roof, exposed curved ceiling beams, floor-to-ceiling windows/sliding-glass doors, vertical cedar board siding, exterior stone veneer cladding, Vermont slate floor, and walnut built-ins. Miesian-style influence is especially illustrated by the home's open floor plan and by an 89-foot-wide uninterrupted "window wall" along the rear of the house. Designed by Spokane master architect Royal McClure, and constructed by Spokane building contractor Elmer Nelson, the Contemporary-style Meenach-McClure House was honored with an "Award of Merit" from Spokane American Institute of Architects in 1961.<sup>11</sup> The property's first owners were T. J. Meenach Jr. and his wife Viola, who built the house through M & P Properties, owned by Meenach. After he served as Captain in the United States Army in World War II, Meenach Jr. worked in Spokane for more than 50 years as a real estate broker, home builder, developer, and real estate appraiser. Revered for his knowledge and experience, Meenach Jr. was chosen as a lecturer and author on real estate appraising, and taught classes at Stanford University and the University of Washington.<sup>12</sup>

**HISTORIC CONTEXT**

***South Ridge View Addition***

Spokane's first residents began building saw mills, flour mills, and water power facilities along the Spokane River and its series of waterfalls by the early 1880s. The city grew to be a mining capital as gold, silver and other coveted ores were discovered in the mountains north and east of Spokane. As transportation was needed to ship mining discoveries, grain, and lumber throughout the country, Spokane developed as a Pacific Northwest railroad hub and commerce center. The city's population exploded to over 100,000 by 1910, and housing was built at a rapid pace uphill and south to Comstock Park and 29th Avenue on Spokane's South Hill. By 1950, the city's population had grown to more than 161,000,

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<sup>11</sup> *Spokesman-Review*, 30 June 1961.

<sup>12</sup> *Spokesman-Review*, 22 June 2000.

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and new residential housing designs revealed a “modern” aesthetic, including Minimal Traditional, Ranch, Split-Level, and Contemporary styles.

The South Ridge View Addition was platted in 1951 in southeast Spokane. It is located between East 54th and East 57th Avenues, and between South Hatch Road and South Perry Street. The Meenach-McClure House at 1005 East 54th Avenue was constructed in 1959—eight years after the addition was platted, and was one of the first homes built in the area. The addition became a popular choice for homeowners because it bordered an expansive, 18-hole manicured golf course owned by the Manito Golf & Country Club (built in 1922). With a coveted setting, the Meenach-McClure House provided uninterrupted panoramic views of the expansive groomed golf course through the home’s north-facing 89-foot-wide “window wall” and the property’s backyard and patio area.

***Meenach-McClure House***

Viola and T. J. Meenach Jr. purchased all of Lot 1 and 20 feet of adjoining Lot 2 on Block 1 in the South Ridge View Addition for \$2,800 in March 1954.<sup>13</sup> Meenach hired Spokane master architect Royal McClure to design the house, and Spokane building contractor Elmer Nelson to erect it. The house was built in 1959 on the northeast corner of East 54th Avenue and South Hatch Road. A wide uninterrupted view of the Manito Golf & Country Club’s 18-hole golf course is enjoyed from the north rear face of the home and its backyard area. A few years later, the residence won an “Award of Merit” from the Spokane Chapter of the American Institute of Architects. Proclaimed in a June 30, 1961 *Spokesman-Review* article, the program’s “judges called the Meenach residence an example of a good open plan with long vistas, yet providing privacy in the desired areas.”<sup>14</sup> In an unusual trade, T. J. Meenach Jr.’s architect, Royal McClure, purchased the Meenach home in 1963—four years after he designed it. In response, Viola & T. J. Meenach Jr. bought and moved into McClure’s house at 111 East 17th Avenue.

***T. J. Meenach Jr. (1919-2000)***

Thomas J. Meenach Jr. was born in Spokane in 1919, attended North Central High School and Washington State University, and served as a Captain in the United States Army in 1945 during World War II. After the war, Meenach Jr. and Walter Pope partnered as owners/builders in their Spokane company, M & P Properties. They became successful and were responsible for contracting the construction and erection of many new, modern Contemporary-style homes throughout Spokane. T. J. Meenach Jr. was well-liked and in his 2000 obituary, was praised for his many accomplishments:

*Tom was a real estate broker for 50 years,  
a homebuilder, developer, and real estate appraiser. He was a lecturer and author on  
real estate appraising, teaching at Stanford University and the University of Washington.  
Tom was a member and Past President of the Appraisal Institute, the Society of Real*

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<sup>13</sup> Spokane County Assessor records, Spokane County Courthouse, Spokane, WA.

<sup>14</sup> “Wilbur School Takes Architects Design Award.” *Spokesman-Review* June 30, 1961.

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*Estate Appraisers, member of Spokane Building Owners & Managers Association,  
charter member of the Spokane AIRA, and representative for the  
Small Business Administration.*

*Tom helped found Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church, and in later years,  
attended Hamblen Park Presbyterian Church.*

*He touched the lives of many people in Spokane with his compassionate and caring  
nature. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him.<sup>15</sup>*

T. J. Meenach Jr. married Viola M. Meenach, who was born in South Dakota in 1920. A daughter, Rachelle Meenach Ligrano, and a son, Thomas J. Meenach III, were born to T. J. Meenach Jr. and his wife, Viola.

***Subsequent Homeowners***

In December 1966, David & Linda Sackett purchased the Meenach-McClure House for \$55,000. David Sackett was an owner/manager of the Sackett & Blythe Company, an investment securities business located in downtown Spokane on West Riverside Avenue in the Old National Bank Building. Dr. Ewing Johnson, a dentist, and his wife, Marilyn Johnson, next bought the property in April 1970 for \$50,500.<sup>16</sup>

Allison Decker, a data processor at Data Processing Service, purchased the property in 1974.<sup>17</sup> In 1976, Dale & Suzanne Peterson bought the property for \$85,500.<sup>18</sup> Dale Peterson was the President of Data Line Services Incorporated in Spokane. The Peterson's sold the property in August 1984 for \$162,500 to Cominco Mining Company employee, Horst Hirsch and his wife, Helga Hirsch. The Hirsch's owned the property for 29 years, during which they retired. They sold it in November 2013 for \$491,300 to Shanna & Steven Story.

Stephen & Tresa Schmautz bought the property in December 2020 for \$790,000. Together, they own and operate SDS Commercial Company, specializing in commercial real estate development, sales, leasing, and management. Stephen Schmautz has extensive experience with rehabilitation of historic properties in the Spokane area

***ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE***

***Category C***

***Mid-Century Modern Era***

“Mid-Century Modern” is a term used to describe an architectural movement in a 40-year time period from about 1945 to 1985, in which various architectural modes loosely called “modern architecture” became popular. The National Trust for Historic Preservation defines modern architecture as the following:

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<sup>15</sup> *Spokesman-Review*, 22 June 2000.

<sup>16</sup> *Rhodes Real State Property Card Collection*. MAC, Spokane, WA.

<sup>17</sup> *Polk's City Directories*.

<sup>18</sup> *Rhodes Real Estate Property Card Collection*. MAC, Spokane, WA.

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MEENACH-McCLURE HOUSE

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*Modernism is defined as a design language with an emphasis on form rather than ornament; structure and materials rather than picturesque construction; and the rational and efficient use of space. The modern movement in architecture in the United States flourished beginning in the 1930s and encompassed individual design movements that expressed ideals in different ways. Technical innovation, experimentation, and rethinking the way humans lived in and used the designed environment, whether buildings or landscapes, were hallmarks of modern architectural practice.<sup>19</sup>*

Mid-Century Modern has also been identified as an “architectural interior and product design form that generally describes mid-20th century developments in modern design, architecture, and urban development.”<sup>20</sup> In his book *Mid-Century Modern*, British author Bradley Quinn offers the following:

*Architectural minimalism of the 1950s was coupled with the organic modernism of the 1940s, resulting in an open-plan layout showcasing sleek structural elements crafted in natural materials. Houses shrank in size as parlors, formal dining rooms and grand entrance halls, now deemed superfluous, were absorbed by the open plan, ironically creating a greater sense of space as a result. Contemporary minimalism took the United States by storm as the Americans embraced the ideal of the unpretentious, modern interior.<sup>21</sup>*

As professed by many American architects, designers, builders and homebuyers, both interior and exterior designs of the Mid-Century Modern aesthetic, including Minimal Traditional, Ranch (California Ranch), Split-Level, and Contemporary-style homes, were the epitome of many Americans. Mid-Century Modern homes with “sleeker décor, more space, less clutter” coupled with “rich textures, colorful tints, and polished wood grains created a sense of exuberance and vitality that continued to have an impact for many decades to follow.”

*Modern equipment gave the home a high-tech feel and made domestic tasks less onerous, enabling the occupants to enjoy more leisure time in their spacious, open-plan interiors. A happy family and big car completed the comfortable, carefree lifestyle that became known as the ‘American Dream,’ and its home was the very embodiment.”<sup>22</sup>*

### ***Contemporary Style***

As the late 1950s dawned, a modern domestic design in America called the Contemporary style captured the attention of architects, builders, and homebuyers. It completely eschewed traditional form and detail, and was particularly favored in architect-designed houses that were built in the late 1950s and the 1960s-1970s. The Contemporary style was strongly influenced by the previous sleek and radical International style of the 1920s-1940s, but was softened by the organically influenced designs of America’s most famous

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<sup>19</sup> National Trust for Historic Preservation, 2022.

<sup>20</sup> *Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia*. [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mid-Century\\_modern](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mid-Century_modern).

<sup>21</sup> Quinn, Bradley. *Mid-Century Modern*.

<sup>22</sup> *Ibid*.

**Spokane City/County Register of Historic Places Nomination**  
**MEENACH-McCLURE HOUSE**

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Prairie School architect, Frank Lloyd Wright. Wright emphasized large open interior spaces and large expansive windows that brought the outdoors in, and used natural products like oak, cedar, pine, brick, and stone for exterior cladding and interior walls and floors.

***Miesian Style***

European architect Ludwig Mies van der Rohe is responsible for the Miesian style, named for him. He designed complete walls of glass, sometimes called “window or curtain walls” that extended windows from side-to-side and floor-to-ceiling. The massive walls of plate-glass afforded panoramic views of distant vistas, private patios, and grounds and gardens, which effectively rendered the home as “one with nature.” Author Lester Walker writes in his book *American Shelter*, that “critics would say the style is...critically inefficient energy-wise due to heat loss through all the glass. The owners would answer that the spiritual value of making the outdoors such a major part of the living environment far outweighs energy cost.”<sup>23</sup>

Identifying elements of the Contemporary style with Miesian-style influence include:

- Built dates roughly 1945-1985
- Usually single-story homes with asymmetrical minimal embellishment
- Long, low horizontal house forms
- Flat roofs or very low-pitched roofs
- Façade design sometimes very plain and uncluttered with minimal or no windows
- Rear elevation design often private and prominent with rows of windows/sliding glass doors that span the full width of the house (Miesian-style influence)
- Unusual window or door shapes and placements as in tall fixed-sash units with clerestory windows, “window walls” with floor-to-ceiling sliding glass doors and floor-to-ceiling windows known as “window/curtain walls” (Miesian-style influence)
- Widely overhanging roof eaves or roof extensions over window walls or from roofs that cover porches, patios and/or walkways
- Exposed structural members and supporting beams
- Contrasting wall materials and textures (example: vertical wood cladding with brick or stone veneers)
- Flush-mounted plain wood or metal doors (interior and exterior)
- Prominent front-facing automobile garages and driveways built in front of houses (not behind houses)
- Interior space with uncluttered open areas and multi-purpose rooms
- Recessed lighting
- Interior wood built-ins that divide rooms and illustrate modern furniture design
- Slate, flagstone, tile, brick, wood, concrete aggregate flooring
- Minimal or no woodwork
- Mantel-less fireplaces

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<sup>23</sup> Walker, Lester. *American Shelter*.

**Spokane City/County Register of Historic Places Nomination**  
**MEENACH-McCLURE HOUSE**

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- Tile and/or stone fireplace surrounds
- Laminate cupboards with tile, stone or laminate countertops
- Window blinds/shades versus heavy drapes
- Open-tread stairs
- Wood beamed ceilings with wood panels between beams
- Kitchens at front of house with living/dining/family rooms at rear of house
- High-tech equipment (kitchen/laundry)

***The Mid-Century Modern Meenach-McClure House***

The Meenach-McClure House is a fine representation of the aforementioned stylistic elements of the Mid-Century Modern Contemporary style with Miesian influence. Contemporary style features of the single-story house include an uncluttered minimalist/reductionist linear house design, very shallow barrel-shaped side-gable roof, exposed curved laminated beams, widely overhanging eaves, wood planks between beams, exterior cladding made of vertical boards and stone, aggregate stone walkways and patio surface, and an 89-foot-wide uninterrupted “window wall” of floor-to-ceiling fixed windows and sliding-glass doors (Miesian-style influence) located at the north rear of the home (opposite the façade) with a full view of Manito Golf Course.

Modern interior elements at the home include an open space interior house plan, minimal woodwork, mantel-less fireplace with tile surround, hanging stove/fireplace, cedar/walnut/stone paneling, built-in walnut furniture, combination Vermont slate/wall-to-wall carpet/tile floors, “modern” kitchen with two center islands, built-in appliances, built-in and hanging laminate cupboards, stone countertops, open-tread staircase, and walnut doors. In keeping with the Contemporary style’s room placement requirements, the kitchen and dining area in the Meenach-McClure House are located at the front of the house while the living room and sunken family room are located along the rear north wall of the house.

***Royal A. McClure, Architect (1917-2006)***

Born in 1917 in Seattle, Washington, Royal McClure graduated from the University of Washington with a Bachelor’s degree in Architecture. During his education he worked for architect J. Lister Holmes in Seattle. Upon graduation, McClure was drafted into the Army in World War II, and served as an architectural engineer for the Air Force flight program. After the war, McClure worked for prominent Boston architect Samuel Glasser for two years. Pursuing more formal architectural education, McClure was accepted into Frank Lloyd Wright’s architectural school at Taliesin but instead enrolled in the architecture graduate program at Harvard University in 1947. While at Harvard, McClure studied under Walter Gropius, renowned architect who once worked as the director of the famous Bauhaus School in Germany.

Upon his graduation from Harvard University, McClure returned to the Pacific Northwest, and served as the head of the Architectural Department at the University of Idaho in Moscow. He soon came to Spokane where he opened a practice with fellow architect and University of Washington classmate, Tom Adkison. McClure & Adkison were responsible for many designs in Spokane, including the Stephen Dental Clinic, Cornelius House, the

**Spokane City/County Register of Historic Places Nomination**  
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Studio Apartments Building, the Unitarian Church, Gonzaga's John F. Kennedy Pavilion, Joel E. Ferris High School, designs for the U.S. Courthouse & Federal Building in downtown Spokane, and the Meenach-McClure House.

A highly talented and gifted architect, Royal McClure was given many awards, including a Wheelwright Travel Fellowship from Harvard University in 1953. The award allowed him to study architecture as he traveled throughout Europe in England, France, Denmark, Switzerland, Italy and Spain. In 1966, McClure left Spokane and moved to Seattle where he opened his own architectural firm, worked for eleven years, and retired in 1977. McClure's "architectural impact in Spokane cannot be overlooked as he was a key player in establishing Modern architecture in the city."<sup>24</sup> He passed away in 2006.

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<sup>24</sup> Docomomo WEMA.

Spokane City/County Register of Historic Places Nomination  
MEENACH-McCLURE HOUSE

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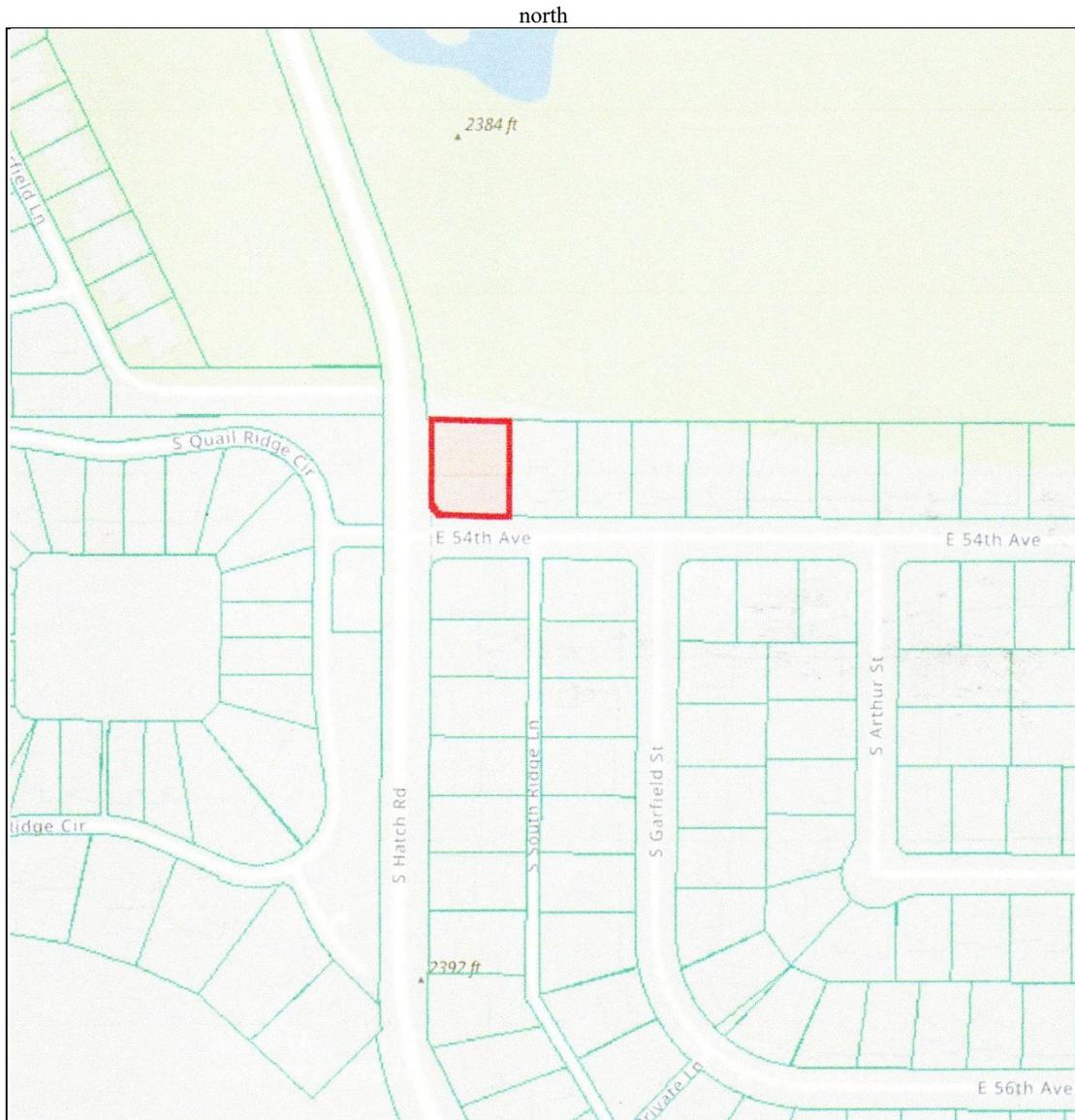
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Spokane City/County Register of Historic Places Nomination  
MEENACH-McCLURE HOUSE

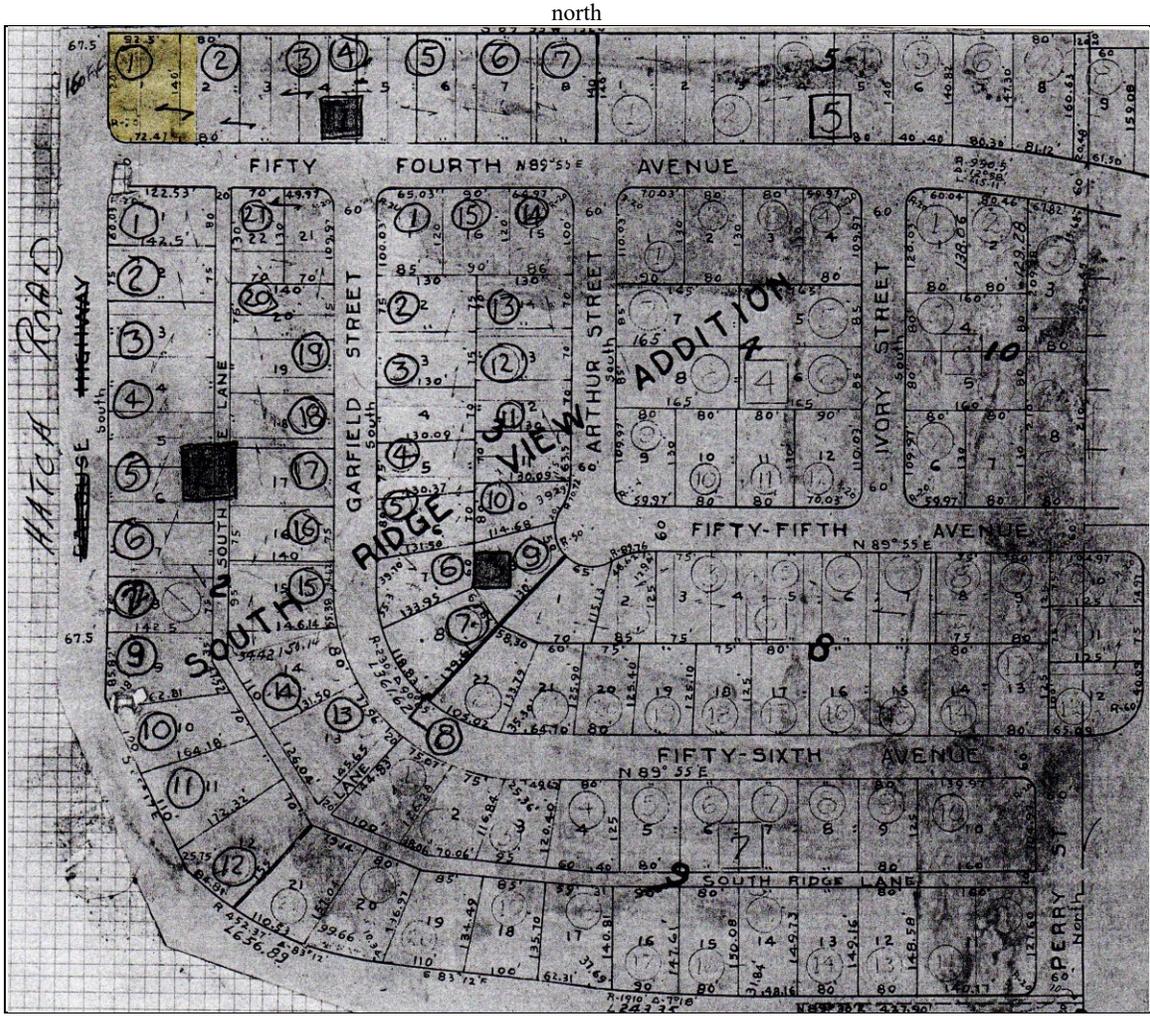


**2022 PLAT MAP**

**1005 East 54th Avenue**

*South Ridge View Addition  
Block 1  
Lot 1 and west 20 feet of Lot 2*

Spokane City/County Register of Historic Places Nomination  
MEENACH-McCLURE HOUSE



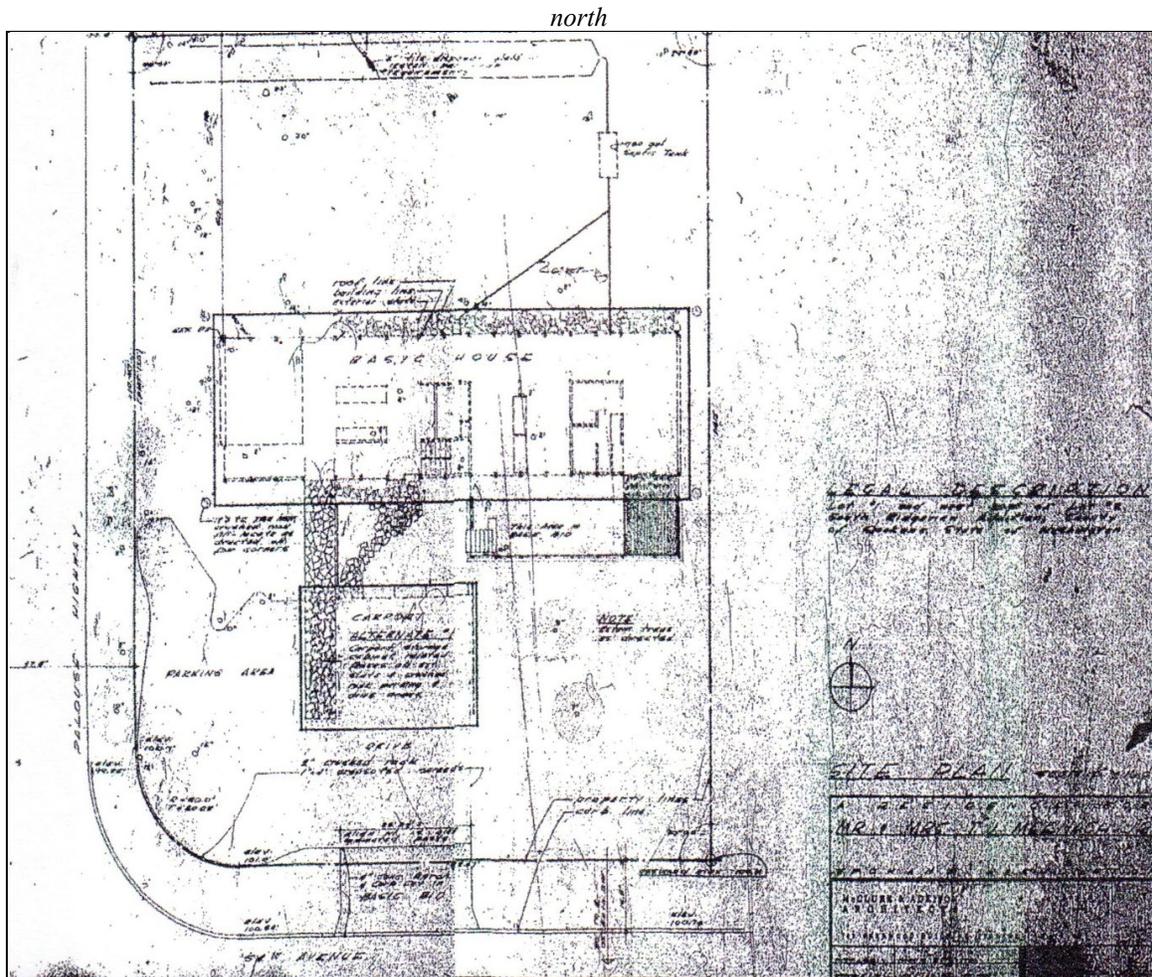
**PLAT MAP  
SOUTH RIDGE VIEW ADDITION**

**1005 East 54th Avenue**

*Block 1  
Lot 1 and west 20 feet of Lot 2*



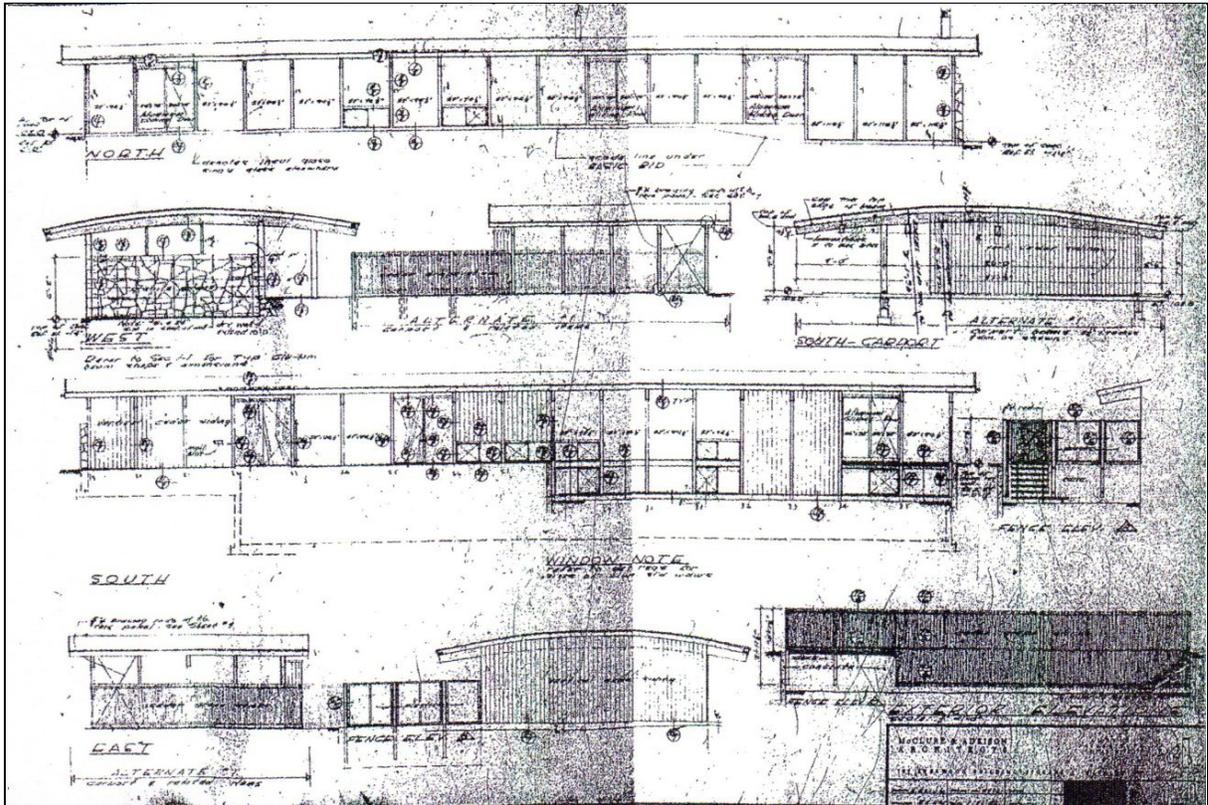
Spokane City/County Register of Historic Places Nomination  
MEENACH-McCLURE HOUSE



1959  
SITE & HOUSE PLAN  
MEENACH-McCLURE HOUSE  
1005 East 54th Avenue

*Royal McClure, Architect  
McClure-Adkison Architects, Spokane, WA*

Spokane City/County Register of Historic Places Nomination  
MEENACH-McCLURE HOUSE



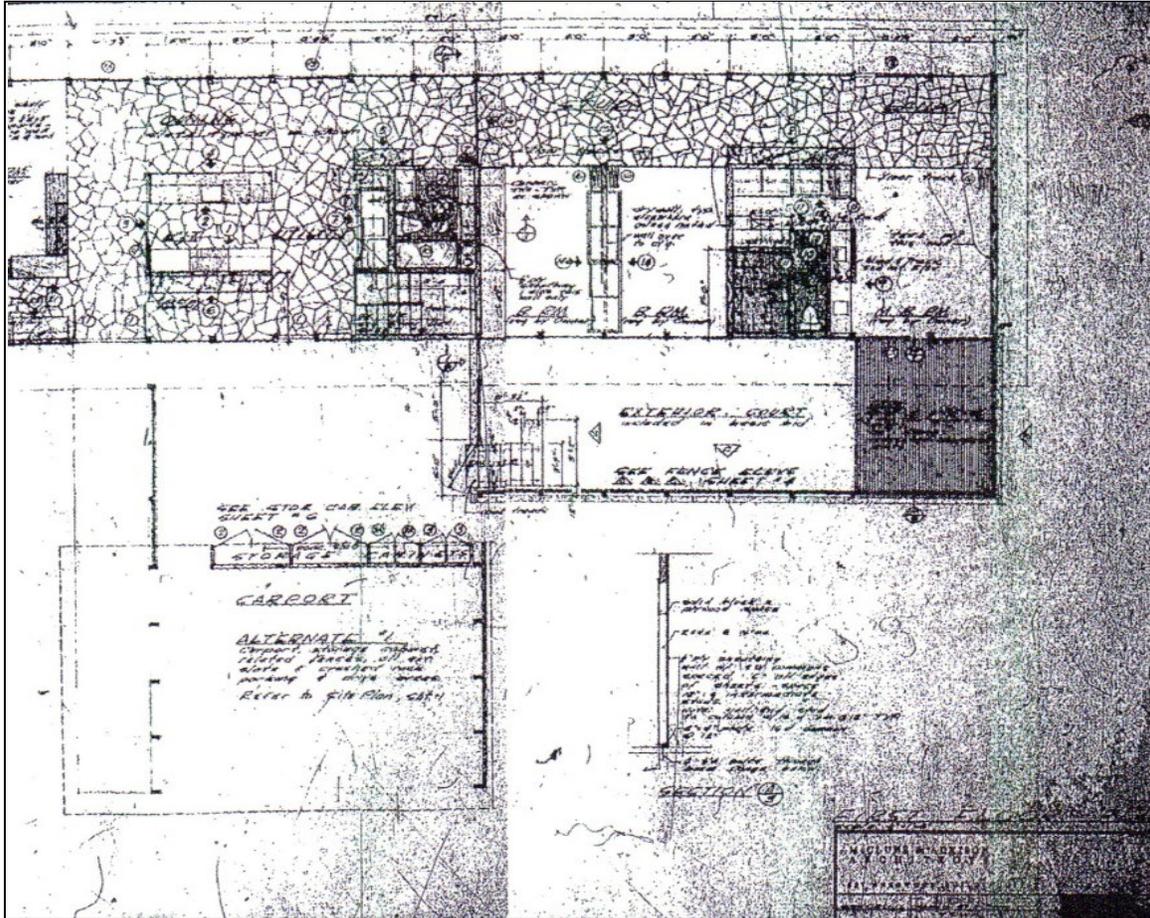
1959  
EXTERIOR HOUSE PLAN

MEENACH-McCLURE HOUSE  
1005 East 54th Avenue

*Royal McClure, Architect  
McClure-Adkison Architects, Spokane, WA*

Spokane City/County Register of Historic Places Nomination  
MEENACH-McCLURE HOUSE

north

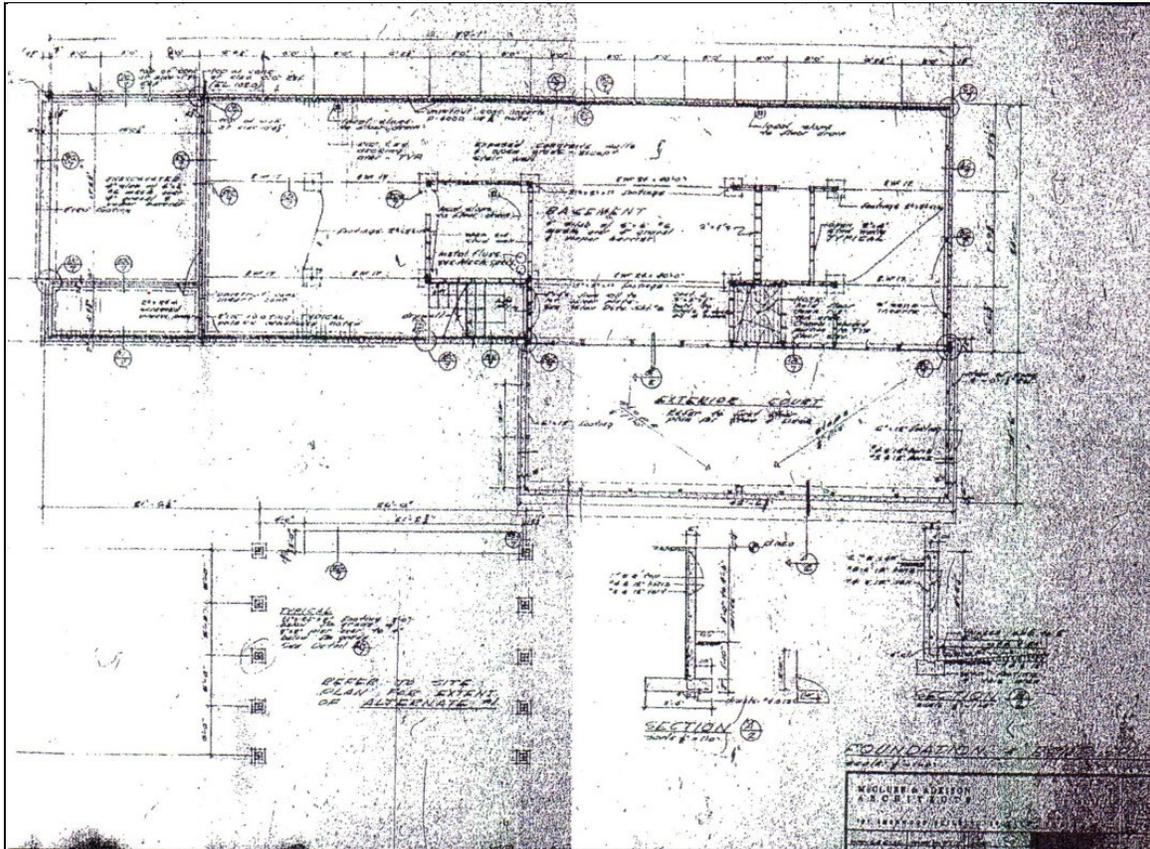


1959  
FIRST-FLOOR HOUSE PLAN  
MEENACH-McCLURE HOUSE  
1005 East 54th Avenue

Royal McClure, Architect  
McClure-Adkison Architects, Spokane, WA

Spokane City/County Register of Historic Places Nomination  
MEENACH-McCLURE HOUSE

north



1959  
BASEMENT HOUSE PLAN  
MEENACH-McCLURE HOUSE  
1005 East 54th Avenue

Royal McClure, Architect  
McClure-Adkison Architects, Spokane, WA

**Spokane City/County Register of Historic Places Nomination  
MEENACH-McCLURE HOUSE**

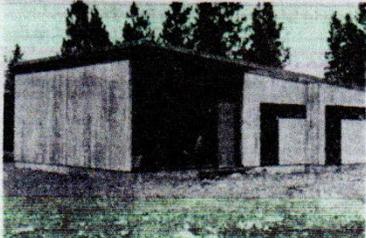
BUILDING #1 DWP11			BASEMENT		
CONSTRUCTION	Fr.		FLOOR	Conc	1400 # (OSE) ✓
STORIES	1		ROOMS AND GRADE	3 BR & 1 bath R-7	
ROOMS	7 Equip + 2B 2 with 5 up		ROOMS FINISHED	+ 1 RR.	GRADE R1-11
FLOORS	Soft w/w-w carpet + 1050 <sup>2</sup> Slate		EXT. FEATURES	Gas Trash Burner	
FOUNDATION	Conc 8'			+ 6' up	
ROOF	Built up T+G + 18'-35' Laminated Beams.			only about 2000'	
FIREPLACE #	1-30" Metal Havana 880			unfurnished (owner)	
STEMS	FLUES			SECOND FLOOR	
EX. CHIMNEY			ROOMS		
EXT. WALLS	Vert. Grained Fir T+G. Bids.		CLASS		
INT. WALLS	G/2SS - Awd. Panel + Dry Wall		FLOOR		
INT. TRIM	H.W.		SQ. FT.		
PLUMBING	7 Ext. Quality - 5 st. Grade				
EXT. PLUMBING	Dishwasher & Disposal		DEPR = 28%	NOTES	CONO = G
HEATING	H.W. Radiant in Flrs.				
EXTRAS	Built in Radio + Freezer - Hooded. FAN.				
CLASS	K1-92	SQ. FT. 2136	PER	276	
LIFE	75	PCH.	% COM.	100	
YR. BLT.	1959		A.V.	2000	
				1 up	
				2 down	
				5/94 owner moved	
BUILDING #2 DPT. GARAGE (77)			BUILDING 3 - WITH POOL		
CONST.	Fr.		CONST.	BUNITE (PHILLIPS CONC.)	
FDN.	Conc		FDN.		
FLOORS	Conc		FLOORS		
EXT. WALLS			EXT. WALLS		
ROOF	Built up on Dwd on 2 V's - 160'		ROOF		
ROOF CONST.	Quanset - 5-36' Laminated Beams		ROOF CONST.		
BASEMENT	4x10 20% diked Laminated		BASEMENT		
PLUMBING	Scams 5 T + 2 C		PLUMBING	(2 - SKIMMERS)	
EXTRAS	W.O.H.		EXTRAS	FILTER - HEATER	
				ANTHONY POOL	
CLASS	A	SQ. FT. 264	CLASS		
LIFE	75	PCH.	% COM.	100	
YR. BLT.	1969		A.V.	2000	
				1969	
				2000	
BUILDING			BUILDING		
CONST.			CONST.		
FDN.			FDN.		
FLOORS			FLOORS		
EXT. WALLS			EXT. WALLS		
ROOF			ROOF		
ROOF CONST.			ROOF CONST.		
BASEMENT			BASEMENT		
PLUMBING			PLUMBING		
EXTRAS			EXTRAS		
CLASS		SQ. FT.	CLASS		SQ. FT.
LIFE		PCH.	LIFE		PCH.
YR. BLT.		A.V.	YR. BLT.		A.V.

**FIELD BOOK NOTES**

From 1959, 1969, 1994  
Spokane County

1005 East 54th Avenue

**'Contemporary' Homes Bring Modern Ideas to Spokane**



Something new for Spokane. Six contemporary modern houses are being built on South Perry. This is the front entrance of one of them.

The 4200 block on South Perry has changed this year. If you drive south from Forty-second you'll see four houses which don't look much like other new homes being built in Spokane.

They are called contemporary modern by the architects. They look like an idea you'd get out of your favorite home planning magazine. They are altogether different. Whether you would like them or not is a matter of choice. These houses may give the casual home buyer who is shopping around an idea for his purchase plans.

There are at least three other homes in Spokane built with the same general architectural plan. The four on South Perry, though, are the first attempt at moderate-cost housing in the contemporary design.

They were designed by Thomas R. Adkison and Royal A. McClure, Spokane architects. Both believe so thoroughly in the design that each has bought one. Their families moved in last week.

**Six Homes**

Mr. Adkison's and Mr. McClure's are the only two occupied. The third and fourth houses are taking shape. Foundations have been laid for two more, making a total of six new homes on the block.

The builder is M & P Properties. The "M" stands for T. J. Meenach Jr. and the "P" for Walter Pope. The two are partners in the M & P firm. Last year they completed several homes in the northeastern part of the city, but they were of the conventional design.

Mr. Meenach also has purchased one of the houses. His family will move in when the house is completed.

Elmer Nelson is the contractor. Of the six homes, three will have three bedrooms and three will have two. Of the two now completed, one is a two-bedroom home and the other a three-bedroom.

They have radiant heat. Floors are concrete slab, but there are half-basements beneath the concrete floors. The self-supporting concrete was poured by combining it with a construction block known to builders as "softatite."

These houses were built to sell at \$10,000 to \$12,000, depending on size. Later on M & P intends to build six more homes on Hogan between Forty-second and Forty-third. This is on the same block.

**Playground Planned**

When homes are built on the entire block there will still be a large vacant area in the center of the block. It is planned to make this into a playground.

One of the most impressive features of the contemporary house is the large amount of window space. Every place you look there is window space. Plate glass extends from floor to ceiling in the living rooms and even in some of the bedrooms.

With the floor space running between 950 and 1100 square feet, all this window space gives a feeling of more room, the architects explain.

Another idea which gives the feeling of bigness in these relatively small homes is the kitchen-dining-living room arrangement. Actually the three are combined in one large room. But they are partitioned by shelves and cabinets.

You can't see from one room to the next but you can see the entire ceiling in this big room which is divided three ways, because partitions do not extend to the top. The arrangement also provides more light.

**Unusual Treatment**

Walls and ceilings have been given unusual treatment. Panel board and vertical siding cover some of the inside walls. Wall sections in some bedrooms are smooth finished and painted. Exteriors are covered with vertical cedar.

The architects made wide use of deep tones. These they combined with a stained effect in the siding. Huge beams, unfinished and stained a dark brown, dominate the ceilings.

In the two-bedroom homes these beams run the full length of the house. The beams are criss-crossed by planking in a natural stain.

To prevent possible leaking on the nearly flat roofs the homes have "hot" roofs. A hot roof is one covered with tar and sand and gravel.

Both ceilings and walls are insulated.

"The main thing these homes have to offer is a new character for Spokane in the competitive price range," Mr. McClure said. "They are built in the spirit of today, the age of expression."

**"Contemporary Homes Bring Modern Ideas to Spokane."**  
*Spokesman-Review*  
27 August 1950

## Wilbur School Takes Architects Design Award

The Wilbur, Wash., elementary and high school building, described as "well-proportioned, dignified and refreshingly free of cliché," has won the top award in the second annual design award program sponsored by Spokane Chapter, American Institute of Architects.

Secondary awards of merit went to the Unitarian Church of Spokane, W321 Eighth; the Bruce M. Walker residence, 1624 Crest Hill Drive; the T. J. Meenach, Jr., residence, E1005 Fifty-fourth, and two weekend shelters at Driftwood Point on Lake Coeur d'Alene.

The awards will be given to architects and owners of the winning buildings at the architect's banquet Friday night at the Dav- enport Hotel.

### Spokane Firm

The highest awards for work on the Wilbur school will go to a Spokane architectural firm, Kenneth Brooks & Associates, designers of the building; Jack M. Lyerla, structural work; Wood & Landerholm, mechanical work; Joseph M. Doyle & Associates, electrical; Lawrence Halperin, landscaping and Lucy McCormack homemaking.

General construction was done by the P & B Co., of Washington, Inc., Spokane.

The Unitarian Church, designed by the Spokane architectural firm of McClure & Adkison, has "good spatial character and a sense of

serenity in its interior," the judges said.

The Walker house, designed by the owner, Architect Bruce M. Walker, won "as a well-done example of a house on a podium, very sophisticated and pleasant." It was built by contractor Bill Reese.

### Stolass Built Shelters

The judges called the Meenach residence, also designed by McClure & Adkison, "an example of a good open plan with long vistas, yet providing privacy in the desired areas."

The weekend shelters at Lake Coeur d'Alene are owned by Royal McClure and Tom Adkison, partners in McClure & Adkison and were built by Bernt Stolass.

One of the buildings is roofless. The judges called it "highly experimental and marvelously creative, playful and different."

The judges were A. O. Baumgardner, Seattle; O. Berg, Jr., Bozeman, Mont.; Charles W. Endicott, Eugene, Ore.; George H. Roberts, University of Idaho College of Fine Arts, and R. J. Prichard, president of Idaho Chapter, AIA.

**"Wilbur School Takes Architects Design Award."**

*Spokesman-Review*

30 January 1961



**MEENACH/McCLURE HOUSE**  
**1005 East 54th Avenue**

**1961 PHOTO**

Spokane City/County Register of Historic Places Nomination  
MEENACH-McCLURE HOUSE

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*Looking west through kitchen, first floor*



**MEENACH/McCLURE HOUSE**  
**1005 East 54th Avenue**

**1961 PHOTO**

*Final nomination January 18, 2023*

Spokane City/County Register of Historic Places Nomination  
MEENACH-McCLURE HOUSE

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*Looking south through master bedroom, first floor southeast corner*

**Thomas Meenach Jr.**

*Spokane*

Graveside service for Thomas J. Meenach, Jr., 80, will be at 3 p.m. today at Greenwood Memorial Terrace. Heritage Funeral home is in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Meenach, who was born in Spokane, died Tuesday.

He graduated from North Central High School and from Washington State College in 1941.

Mr. Meenach served as a captain in the Army during World War II.

He began working with his father for the T.J. Meenach Co. as a real estate broker, home builder, developer and real-estate appraiser for 50 years. He also was a lecturer and author on real estate appraising.

He attended Stanford University and the University of Washington.

Mr. Meenach was a member and past president of the Appraisal Institute. He also was a member of the Society of Real Estate Appraisers, Spokane Building Owners and Managers Association, a charter member of the Spokane American Institute of Real Estate Appraisers and a representative for the Small Business Administration.

He had been a member of the Manito Country Club since 1951. He helped found the Savior Lutheran Church and attended Hamblen Park Presbyterian Church.

Survivors include his companion, Barbara Campbell; two daughters, Rachelle Meenach-Ligrano of Vashon, Wash., and Toni Meenach of Falls Church, Va.; a son, Thomas Meenach III of Spokane; a sister, Margaret Gates; and four grandchildren.

Memorial contributions may be made to Meals on Wheels, c/o Mid-City Concerns Inc., 1222 W. Second, Spokane, WA 99201, or Sacred Heart Medical Center Development Fund, P.O. Box 2555, Spokane, WA 99220.

**“Thomas Meenach Jr.”**

*Spokesman-Review*

24 June 2000

Spokane City/County Register of Historic Places Nomination  
MEENACH-McCLURE HOUSE

**Royal McClure (1917-2006)**

Royal Alfred McClure was born and raised in Seattle. In 1942, McClure graduated from the University of Washington with a Bachelor's Degree in Architecture. During his education, he gained experience by working for architect J. Lister Holmes. McClure finished college just as the United States was entering the Second World War, and he was drafted into the Army. He remained in the service until the conclusion of the war, spending a majority of the time as an architectural engineer for the Air Force flight program. Immediately after the war, McClure looked to advance and establish his career in architecture. He secured work for two years (1945-1946) with prominent Boston architect Samuel Glaser; experience that continued to build his skills and his resume. After this employment stint, McClure decided to pursue more formal architectural education. He had several options – he was accepted into Frank Lloyd Wright's architectural school at Taliesin – but ultimately decided to enroll (1947) at the architecture graduate program at Harvard University. While at Harvard, McClure studied under Walter Gropius, renowned architect who once served as the director of the famous Bauhaus School in Germany.



Upon his graduation from Harvard, McClure returned to the Pacific Northwest. He spent a year teaching and serving as the head of the Architectural Department at the University of Idaho in Moscow. However, it was not long before he found his way to Spokane. McClure opened up an architectural firm with one of his University of Washington classmates, Tom Adkison. McClure & Adkison quickly made an impact on Spokane's architectural landscape. Some of their early designs include the [Stephan Dental Clinic](#), [Cornelius House](#), and acclaimed [modern studio apartments](#) on Spokane's South Hill. The firm's achievements were monumental. They were published in progressive architecture books and journals and two of their projects, including the Studio Apartment, were selected by the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) in New York as standing exhibits in the museum's architectural division. Other McClure & Adkison designs in Spokane from the 1950's and 1960's include the [Meenach House](#), Unitarian Church, [John F. Kennedy Pavilion](#) at Gonzaga University, Joel E. Ferris High School, and a team effort with other Spokane architects to design the U.S. Courthouse and Federal Building.

In 1953, McClure was honored with the Wheelwright Travel Fellowship from Harvard in recognition of his professional achievement. He spent six months of that year exploring the architecture of Europe, traveling through England, France, Denmark, Switzerland, Italy, and Spain. Also in 1953, McClure & Adkison brought their former employer, J. Lister Holmes into a partnership. McClure worked with the firm until 1966, when he decided to move to Seattle and open his own practice. He continued to work as an architect until 1977, when he retired to the San Juan Islands. His work, a majority of which is now over fifty years old, can be found throughout the Pacific Northwest and other corners of the United States. His architectural impact in Spokane cannot be overlooked as he was a key player in establishing Modern architecture in the city. Many of his buildings in Spokane survive today. Royal McClure passed away in 2006.

Click [here](#) to see the Spokane Mid-Century Architectural Survey Report for more information.

[nggallery id="15"]

Sources: Docomomo WEMA. "McClure, Royal A." [www.docomomo-wema.org/architects\\_detail.php?id=115](http://www.docomomo-wema.org/architects_detail.php?id=115)

Spokane City/County Register of Historic Places Nomination  
MEENACH-McCLURE HOUSE

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*Photo 1*

*A 2022 photograph of the south façade of the garage in front of the historic McClure-Meenach House, looking north*



*Photo 2*

*A 2022 photograph of the entry gate that opens into a manicured front yard and garden in front of the McClure-Meenach House, looking northwest*

Spokane City/County Register of Historic Places Nomination  
MEENACH-McCLURE HOUSE

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*Photo 3*  
*A 2022 photograph of the home's south façade, looking northeast*



*Photo 4*  
*A 2022 photograph of the home's south façade, looking northwest*

Spokane City/County Register of Historic Places Nomination  
MEENACH-McCLURE HOUSE

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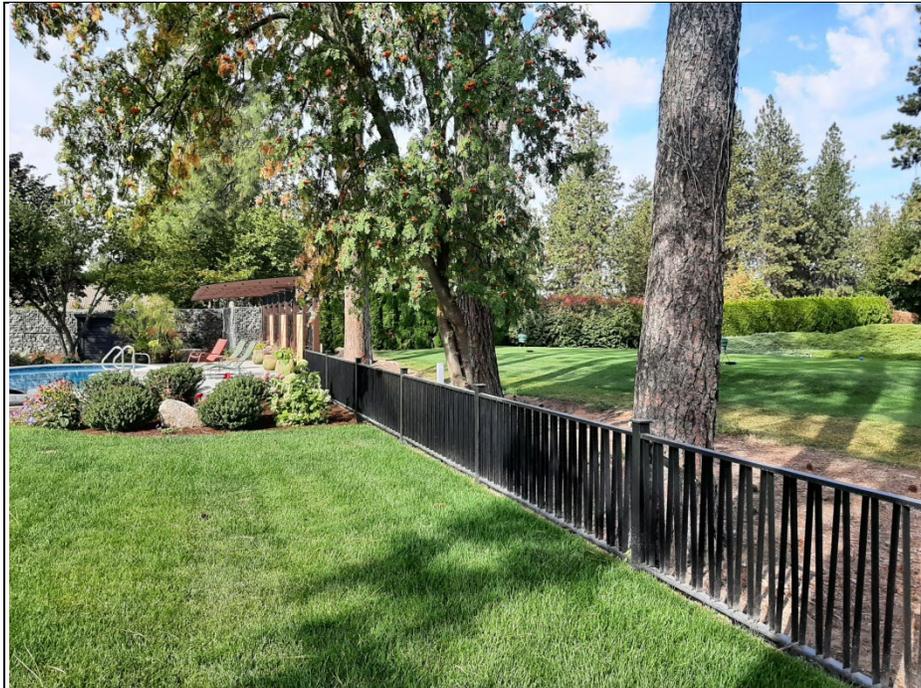
*Photo 5*  
*A 2022 photograph of the rear north face of the home, looking west*



*Photo 6*  
*Looking west in 2022, a photograph of the home's rear north face, patio and pool*

Spokane City/County Register of Historic Places Nomination  
MEENACH-McCLURE HOUSE

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*Photo 7*

*A 2022 photograph of the northwest corner of the backyard  
(On the other side of the fence is the Manito Golf & Country Club and its 17th tee)*



*Photo 8*

*A 2022 photograph of the patio and pool, looking northeast*

Spokane City/County Register of Historic Places Nomination  
MEENACH-McCLURE HOUSE

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*Photo 9*  
*A 2022 photograph, looking west through the home's first-floor front entry hall along the south facade wall*



*Photo 10*  
*A 2022 photograph of the front entry hall, looking east*

Spokane City/County Register of Historic Places Nomination  
MEENACH-McCLURE HOUSE

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*Photo 11*  
*A 2022 photograph of the kitchen, looking northeast*



*Photo 12*  
*A 2022 photograph of the kitchen and built-in bench seat, looking southeast*

Spokane City/County Register of Historic Places Nomination  
MEENACH-McCLURE HOUSE

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*Photo 13*

*A 2022 photograph of the kitchen, looking northwest towards the sunken family room*



*Photo 14*

*A 2022 photograph of the sunken family room, looking southwest*

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*Photo 15*  
*A 2022 photograph of the living room's southwest corner*



*Photo 16*  
*A 2022 photograph of the living room's southeast corner*

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*Photo 17*  
*A 2022 photograph of the master bedroom, looking north through a window wall*



*Photo 18*  
*A 2022 photograph of the master bedroom bathroom, looking southwest*

Spokane City/County Register of Historic Places Nomination  
MEENACH-McCLURE HOUSE

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*Photo 19*  
*A 2022 photograph of the lower-level family room, looking southeast*



*Photo 20*  
*A 2022 photograph of the utility room in the lower level, looking south*

Spokane City/County Register of Historic Places Nomination  
MEENACH-McCLURE HOUSE

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*Photo 21*  
*A 2022 photograph of a lower-level bedroom, looking south*



*Photo 22*  
*A 2022 photograph of the lower-level bathroom, looking south*