NPS Form 10-900 (Revised Feb. 1993) OMB No. 10024-0018

LISTED 10 September 2008
NRHP Ref. No. 08000868
IHSI No: 19-18215, 19-18216, 19-18217

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Art Troutner Houses Historic District

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 3950, 4012 & 4032 S. 5th W _____ __ not for publication

city or town Idaho Falls _____ __ vicinity

state Idaho code ID county Bonneville code 019 zip code 83402

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination __request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets __does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant __nationally __statewide x locally. (__ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Kenneth C. Reid 29 Aug 2008

Signature of certifying official/Title Date
KENNETH C. REID, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property __meets __does not meet the National Register criteria. (__ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

_____

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

_____

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is: Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

__ entered in the National Register. _____
____ See continuation sheet.
__ determined eligible for the National Register. _____
____ See continuation sheet.
__ determined not eligible for the National Register. _____

__ removed from the National Register. _____

__ other, (explain:)_____ _____

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- x private
- _ public-local
- _ public-State
- _ public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- _ building(s)
- x district
- _ site
- _ structure
- _ object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
3		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
3		Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/Single family Dwelling

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single Family Dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

MODERN MOVEMENT

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE
walls STONE/ WOOD
roof OTHER: gravel
other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

X See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 7

Art Troutner Houses Historic District
Name of Property

Idaho Falls, Bonneville Co., ID
City, County, and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "x" on one or more lines for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

_ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

_ **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

x **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 or history.

Criteria Considerations
(Mark "x" on all that apply.)

Property is:

_ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

_ **B** removed from its original location.

_ **C** a birthplace or grave.

_ **D** a cemetery.

_ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

_ **F** a commemorative property.

_ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1955 - 1956

Significant Dates

1955, 1956

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Troutner, Arthur L.

Narrative Statement of Significance
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

X See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 8

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography
(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):
_ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
_ previously listed in the National Register
_ previously determined eligible by the National Register
_ designated a National Historic Landmark
_ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
_ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:
x State Historic Preservation Office
_ Federal agency
_ Local government
_ University
_ Other

Name of repository:

X See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 9

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 7.5 ACRES

UTM References
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
A	12	4/1/5/6/1/0	4/8/1/2/4/6/9	B	/	//////	//////
C	/	//////	//////	D	/	//////	//////

Verbal Boundary Description
(Describe the boundaries of the property.)

X See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 10

Boundary Justification
(Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

X See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 10

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Donald W. Watts, Historic Preservation Planner

organization Idaho State Historic Preservation Office date August 30, 2007

street & number 210 Main St. telephone 208-334-3861

city or town Boise state ID zip code 83702

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

N **Continuation Sheets**

N **Maps:** A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

x **A Sketch map** for historic districts and/or properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

x **Photographs:** Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

x **Additional Items** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.) Floor plan

Property Owner

Name See Continuation Sheet

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION:

The Art Troutner Houses Historic District consists of three single-family houses built on a generally triangular section of land, oriented north-south, about 7.5 acres in size. It is located on the south side of Idaho Falls, situated on a bench overlooking the Snake River plain. When the last house was completed in 1956, the site was rural in character with few, if any, other residences nearby. Over the past several decades, however, residential subdivisions have been developed nearby, and the formerly rural highway fronting the property has now attracted commercial uses as the city of Idaho Falls has grown outward. In the past two years, a substantial residential subdivision has sprouted immediately to the west of the District. Fortunately, the lower elevation of this development has had a minimal impact on the visual cohesiveness of the District. The physical integrity of the Troutner District itself remains remarkably intact.

Aside from the three houses themselves, the grounds retain a high degree of integrity including mature fruit, shade, and ornamental trees, an irrigation canal between the road and the properties, and lawns, gardens, and driveways. Several non-contributing outbuildings such as storage sheds and a garage are minor and have very little visual impact on the character of the property.

1. Aupperle Studio (aka "Arrow House") - 1955 19-18215
3950 S. 5th W.

The Aupperle Studio is a tall single story residence designed in an A-frame configuration. Oriented roughly north-south, it is rectangular in plan and has a full basement. The basement is open at both the north and south ends of the house, the north elevation providing access to a large studio, and the south end housing a two-car garage. The building is approximately 64 feet long by 29 feet wide, and is about 32 feet tall. Total square footage, including the garage, is about 3456. The lot on which it sits is about 3.3 acres in size.

The front door is located on the east elevation at about the middle of the building. To the south of the front door is the dominating feature of the east elevation, a massive Oakley stone (quartzite) chimney which serves both an interior fireplace in the living room as well as a smaller, raised, outdoor fireplace for a small patio. Between the front door and the chimney is a large fixed frame glass window. Above the door and extending southward is an open trellis type roof which covers the patio and continues around the corner to cover the south elevation deck.

Inset into the ground, the south elevation exhibits two garage doors and a person door at the basement level, a cantilevered wood deck at the first floor level which also serves as a roof over the garage doors, a continuation of the trellis to cover the deck, and fixed windows filling the apex of the remainder of the south side.

Continuing around the southwest corner is the deck and trellis-like roof which reaches about halfway along the west elevation to terminate at an exterior door providing access to the main living level. The supporting beams of the deck are about seven feet above the ground. Three long windows, each about 2 feet wide but of varying lengths, penetrate the west elevation.

The north elevation is characterized by a door at the northeast corner, large picture windows at the basement/ground level, and combination of glass and opaque stucco panels within the apex of the "A." It is this combination which, from the interior especially, gives the appearance of an arrow pointing upward.

The roofing is comprised of overlapping 2' x 8' panels of cemesto (a material consisting of bonded cementious material and asbestos) in a horizontal pattern with an exposure of approximately 14". Interspersed at several locations among the panels are equal-sized panels of translucent fiberglass. These panels serve to introduce natural light to the interior. Originally, similar fiberglass panels were installed along the ridge of the house to provide interior light and moveable panels on the opposite side of the ridge provided ventilation. However, major leaks developed over time and these roof-ridge panels were fixed shut and painted in the 1970s.

Alterations to the original design appear to be minimal. Aside from the ceiling vent panels, other alterations include the reconfiguration of the door and windows on the west elevation. Originally designed and installed to be flush with the roofing panels, the door and long narrow windows were "pushed out" during the 1960s to help alleviate constraints on interior space. Narrow flat roofs over the modified windows now give the visual effect of long shallow dormers. Later owners also slightly modified some of the fixed glass panes to include slider windows to accommodate ventilation needs. On the north elevation basement/studio level the original plans specify several stucco panels; however, these spaces are occupied with fixed glass windows. It is unknown if these glass windows are later replacements or were originally installed instead of the stuccoed units. Other alterations of the exterior are minor and include the front and back doors as well as the garage doors, all of which were changed in the 1970s and 80s. Some replacement of the deck timbers and roof supports have occurred over time, but all were designed to replicate the existing original dimensions and configuration.

The interior of the house is actually a split-level configuration. As one enters the front door, to the left (south) is a dining area, the kitchen, and a large living room. As expected, the ceiling is open all the way to the top with exposed rafters comprised of huge 4" x 12" beams set nine feet apart. Natural finish wood tongue in groove "decking" make up the ceiling finish. The major feature of the living room is a huge Oakley stone (quartzite) fireplace. Originally designed as a floor-level open hearth, local building codes required the present owner to insert a steel pre-fab fireplace several years ago. From the front door to the right (north) is a short set of steps upward to a hallway, off of which is a small room/loft area which overlooks the kitchen and dining areas to the south, a bathroom on one side of the hallway and closet space on the other. The hallway terminates at the master bedroom. Interestingly, the interior finish of this half of the house is entirely in unpainted (though probably stained/sealed) particle board. The particle board is used for walls, ceiling, and doors. Translucent fiberglass panels in the ceiling (in lieu of the cemesto panels) introduce natural light to the hallway.

The basement level is subdivided into the garage space at the south third of the building, the artist studio at the north third. According to the original plans, between the garage and studio is a small bedroom, a bathroom, and utility space and a closet.

2. Migel House - 1956 19-18216
4032 S. 5th W.

In many ways, the Dr. Dauchy and Frances Migel House is the most intriguing of the three Troutner designs in this district. Although the Aupperle residence is distinctive for its tall A-frame design, and the Poitevin house for its innovative roof structure and circular plan, the Migel house is a radical departure from either of those two.

Built in 1956, the house sits on a 3.7 acre parcel in the south half of the District. It is a single-story structure laid out in what can perhaps be described as a clipped triangular star. The house itself consists of three "wings," over which, and offset by 40 degrees, is a raised triangular roof segment which from above somewhat resembles a six-pointed star. This effect is enhanced by the quartzite patio which follows the orientation of the offset roof segment. For descriptive purposes, the three wings of the house are designated according to the approximate compass direction toward which they project; that is, northwest, east, and southwest.

Overall, the house encompasses approximately 2,820 square feet, including the two-car garage space. It sits on a concrete slab foundation, much of which (both interior floor and exterior patio) is covered with quartzite flagstones. Each exterior end of the truncated portion of the "star" curves

slightly away from the center and is composed of quartzite stone. The exterior walls between these three stone walls are comprised of vertical overlapped cedar boards below large frame picture windows. Some of the windows have been replaced with doublepane units which did not change either the dimensions of the openings nor the appearance of the original design. Above most windows are fixed transom-lites which provide additional natural light to the interior. On the east and southwest wings are large sliding glass doors which provide access to the primary flagstone patio on the southeast side of the house.

The interior of the house is dominated by quartzite flagstone floors and walls, wood paneled walls, and tongue-in-groove wood ceilings. Despite the darkness of the materials, the ample windows provide well-illuminated interior spaces. Floor to ceiling stone walls, along with the massive stone fireplace in the interior, add a substantial presence to the hallways and interior spaces. Aside from the garage described below, the interior of the house is remarkably intact, including the paneling, cabinetry, light fixtures, and folding wood accordion doors.

The east wing was originally designed as a two-car garage, but within 5 years after construction, it was converted to a den. On the north exterior of the former garage a single person door and vertical cedar siding replaced the two garage doors, while the south exterior has vertical siding and a floor-to-ceiling picture window.

The northwest wing is comprised of a central hallway, to the right is a guest bedroom and bathroom, to the left is a bedroom and small bathroom, and the hall terminates at a larger bedroom. The stone wall of this bedroom corresponds to the exterior curved wall of that northwest wing.

The southwest wing contains the living room, and a half-wall planter roughly parallel to the west side of the house delineates a hallway toward the master bedroom at the end of the wing. Between the bedroom and living room is a bathroom. Dominating the living room is the stone fireplace, triangular in plan, and positioned at the very center of the house (although it opens only toward the living room). The central masonry chimney and pier provides the support for the roof joists. Above this central section of the house is the raised segment of the roof with fixed windows along all three sides to provide more natural light to the interior. It is this raised roof which helped influence the similar 1980s modification to the Poitevin house next door.

3. Poitevin House - 1956 19-18217
4012 S. 5th W.

The last of the three houses in the district, the Ada Poitevin house, was built in 1956 to provide living accommodations for Frances Migel's mother. It is located on a 0.5 acre lot carved from the northeast corner of the Migel parcel next door. The house is a single story multi-sided building approximately 45 feet in diameter and about 1,400 square feet. An attached garage increases the floor space another 485 square feet. In plan, the house essentially has sixteen sides, although extensions for the living room and the carport modify this depiction somewhat as described below.

The house supports a low, built-up gravel roof which slopes gently from the center outward to the building's perimeter. The original roof configuration featured a skylight at the center, approximately 12' in diameter, which covered the dominant feature of the interior – a circular "rose lanai" which serves as the focal point of the interior. It was quickly found that the skylight, although excellent for letting in natural light to the house, caused a significant "greenhouse" effect which proved unbearably warm during Idaho Falls' hot summers. In about 1983, the owner reconfigured the skylight by covering it with a raised roof segment with windows around the side to keep some light infiltration. This modification successfully reduced the heating effects to a manageable level. Interestingly, Art Troutner visited the house after the roof alteration and is said to have remarked that "that is exactly what it needed." (1) This raised roof segment is the only major modification of the original building design, but it was done in a very compatible and appropriate manner.

For the most part, the exterior walls consist of numerous panels of between three and six horizontal courses of rabbited lap cedar siding beneath either large glass windows or panels of cemesto. Most of the side wall panels are 8' wide, although three are 11' wide for the living room. The windows were originally either single-pane plate glass or "thermopane," but most of the single-pane units have now been replaced with doublepane windows. The appearance of the original design remains unaffected.

The carport originally had a simple concrete floor. The surrounding porch and walkways, as well as major parts of the interior floor, are original quartzite flagstones. In 2005 the carport concrete floor was resurfaced by a local craftsman to simulate the original flagstones. This minor modification blends in nicely, but does not compete with, the original stone floor material. Another minor alteration of the 1980s is a small extension (widening of about 3') of the roof over the front porch.

One of the most intriguing and innovative aspects of this house is the roof structure. The roof depends on a large continuous steel ring, 1/4" x 8", at the center. This ring supports sixteen joists; most of the joists are 4" x 10", but 4" x 14" joists cover the living area and extended porch roof, and 4" x 16" joists extend outward for the carport roof. The ring is supported on the interior by 4" x 4" timber posts and stone walls, arranged in arcs, to form the "rose lanai" described above. The lanai floor consists of quartzite flagstones which also extend outward toward the front entry and dining area.

In plan, this house can be described as a giant doughnut with the lanai at its center. As one faces inward at the front door, moving leftward around the house's perimeter is the living room, master bedroom, bathroom, guest room, the access to the carport, a utility room, and the kitchen. Because of the basically circular configuration, each room is wedge-shaped.

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This district is eligible under Criterion C as an extraordinary assemblage of single-family residential structures in a modern, "space age," architectural style of the 1950s. The houses were all designed by Arthur L. Troutner, an Idaho inventor, architect, and entrepreneur.

Biography

(The following biographical material is summarized from the excellent overview of Troutner's life and career by Dr. Nels Reese, University of Idaho): (2)

Arthur L. Troutner was born in 1922 in eastern Idaho and spent his early years on his parents' farm in Pingree, a small town between Idaho Falls and Pocatello. At the age of 13 he was sent to live with his grandmother in Boise, where he attended public school and eventually attended Boise Junior College. During World War II he joined the Army Air Corps and worked as crew chief on B-17 and B-24 bombers and later the P-51 Mustang. Following the war, he enrolled in the art and architecture program at the University of Idaho in Moscow.

In 1949 he completed his architecture degree and began in earnest to design buildings, mostly residences in Ketchum and Boise, following up on some projects that he actually designed before graduation. His commission list grew, but it is interesting to note here that Troutner never took the time to take the architectural licensing examination. By the mid-1950s, Troutner had already established a broad list of clients, and his reputation was growing as a designer of leading edge technology and concepts. Many of his houses during this period reflect the influence of Wrightian concepts, fitting houses to their building sites, the use of natural materials and geometrical shapes in plan and elevation. Indeed, one of the hallmark features of many of Troutner's houses is the use of Oakley stone, a quartzite which came from a quarry that he owned with his brother.

The inventiveness and entrepreneurial skills of Troutner solidified in the late 1950s with his concept and invention of what he called the Truss-deck, a construction of wood elements connected with a metal Warren truss. This produced a very lightweight, easy to assemble, building element that could serve as floor joists or roof beams. His early residential designs (such as the Aupperle Studio included in this nomination) were dependent on very heavy timbers or glue-lam constructions that he felt were overly wasteful of material. The Truss-deck system, developed and marketed with his partner, Harold Thomas, hit the building market by storm first under the name Trus-dek Corporation, then later changed to Truss Joist. Another of his highly significant inventions during the early 1960s was the development of the Micro-Lam, a method of finger-joint splicing together short segments of 2x4 boards to produce very long, very straight, elements for the trusses.

> By far the single most important development in the early years of Truss Joist, and what launched Troutner and his company to a national reputation in the building arts, was his innovative design for the Kibbie Activity Center, or "Kibbie Dome" as it is more popularly known, at the University of Idaho. The huge barrel-arched covered football stadium has a 400-foot clear span and rising 150 feet above the field. The truss deck elements used were a gargantuan 7 ½ feet deep rather than the eight inches or so of the typical residential versions. Completed in 1975, the structure was recognized by the American Society of Civil Engineers as the Outstanding Structural Engineering Achievement of 1976.

In addition to his work with the Truss Joist Corporation, Troutner continued with his residential designs into the 1980s. His last house design was for his own home, outside Las Vegas. Arthur L. Troutner died in 2001. (2)

Troutner's designs as expressions of modern architecture

The conclusion of World War II released not only a flood of soldiers returning to the United States, eager to begin families and resume their civilian lives, but also a flood of new ideas and concepts and adaptability. The war effort caused severe shortages of many natural building materials, and yet the technological advances of the war itself also provided answers to many of these challenges. Where brick and mortar and concrete prevailed in the pre-war years, the increasing practicality of steel and glass and innovative engineering solutions combined to affect the building industry as well.

Drawing on the antecedents of the Art Deco and Art Moderne styles of the 1920s and 1930s, what would later be called, loosely, "modern architecture" found its way to residential applications as well as commercial and institutional. Where Art Deco and Moderne were often and usually used in grand structures rather than houses, modern architecture found a way to address both.

Technology made buildings lighter, both in physical weight and in visual impact. Coupled with the perception that humanity was on the verge of exploring space, this "new frontier" was wide open to different ideas. Houses began to take on new and daring designs – flying saucers, all glass transparent or translucent walls, homes on stilts, flat roofs for garden spaces or patios or merely the desire for a simplified low profile. And perhaps in a nod toward science and the advent of the atom in daily consciousness, geometric forms became commonplace in many designs – triangles, hexagons, other polygons and variations of all sorts were used. All three of the houses in this District are dependent on geometric symmetry as their primary expression of overall form.

At the same time, and almost in contradiction to the concept, many designers and architects eagerly embraced the use of natural materials and the natural environment to plant their "modern" buildings. This is where Troutner's designs seem to reside. In many, if not most, of his residential designs, he uses wood and stone, both as dominant exterior design elements as well as with their interior finishes.

One typical aspect of "modern" architectural design ethic was the austerity and simplicity often associated with it. By contrast, Troutner's designs can be considered positively rich in many of their details. The interiors of these houses are awash in wood tones, whether solid tongue-in-groove planking and pressboard used in the Aupperle A-frame, or the cedar walls and ceilings of the Migel and Poitevin houses. In addition, his extensive use of Oakley stone, a shiny and versatile quartzite available in numerous colors and hues, shows up on all of the houses in this District, particularly the Migel residence. The Oakley stone, mined from a quarry in Cassia County that Troutner owned with his brother, appears to be one of his favorite materials, appearing in all three of these houses and numerous other buildings he designed throughout the state.

Significance aspects of the District:

The primary significance of the District stems from its being a unique concentration of "modern architecture" residential designs by Arthur L. Troutner, an architect, designer, and entrepreneur. The range of Troutner's residential commissions spans almost three decades from the 1950s to the late 1970s/early 1980s. Geographically, his work (residential, commercial, and institutional) are virtually entirely within the state of Idaho, mostly the southern part of the state along the Snake River plain. Idaho Falls boasts this district, and one other set of sketches for an unidentified house in the city can be found in the Troutner collection at the University of Idaho. Other houses he designed, most of which are still extant, are concentrated in the Wood River Valley, along the Snake River near Hagerman, and in Boise. Some commercial buildings may still exist, but they have not yet been systematically surveyed. Troutner's grandest institutional building, the "Kibbie Dome" at the University of Idaho in Moscow, is not yet near the 50-year age criterion for National Register consideration.

The Aupperle Studio was the first house built in this District, completed in 1955 for Donald K. and Helen H. Aupperle. It is uncertain how Troutner came to be chosen as the architect, but it is believed that Helen, an accomplished artist, knew (or knew of) Troutner through her art circles or other acquaintances. The term "Arrow House" appears on Troutner's drawings for the Aupperle Studio. One of the artist's most common topics was portraits of Native Americans, and the window configuration of the north wall forms a distinctive arrowpoint. It is not known if the use of "Arrow House" terminology was the result of Aupperle input, a play on words by the owner or architect, a reflection of the overall design of the A-frame structure, or some other reason. Nevertheless, it seems to be a fitting name.

Donald Aupperle was an accomplished music teacher and musician, and a detail in the living room is worth noting. Along with substantially intact built-in cabinetry is a section designed specifically to hold standard dimension sheet music. Another interesting aspect of the house's construction is the extensive use of Cemesto, a trademarked invention of the Celotex Corporation. Introduced as a strong and fireproof building material in 1937, it is composed of bonded cementious material and asbestos. One of its first major applications as a building material was for the rapidly constructed pre-fab houses built at Oak Ridge, Tennessee, to house workers on the Manhattan Project during World War II. (3)

The very tall A-frame design, supported by massive 4" x 12" beams, is a substantial expression of A-frame construction which was just beginning to be seen throughout the United States, although primarily as smaller scale recreational cabins. Its use here as a primary residential structure was rare for Idaho. Indeed, Troutner returned to this A-frame concept for another house he designed for a client in Ketchum a few years later. It is also interesting to speculate that the huge size of the beams may have helped inspire his search for a lighter, more reliable, support system which later culminated in his invention of the Truss-deck system.

The primary architectural significance of the Migel house is the extraordinary tri-partite design of the floorplan. For a relatively small footprint, the house provides an unusual amount of "privacy" in that the three wings are physically and functionally separate from each other. The center of the house, and the center of human activity, is the kitchen/dining/living space which works as it should, a commons for the occupants.

Architecturally, the primary interest of the Poitevin house is the sixteen-sided plan with the central lanai underneath the original circular skylight above. The huge steel ring which supports the umbrella-like splay of roof beams is not only structurally interesting, but it is also major visual element of the interior. It is a tribute to the present owner that his design for covering the roof with a compatible modification retains the essential character of the original design (while solving the overheating problem of the summer sun). The fact that Troutner himself approved of the change many years later is a tribute to Mr. Benson's innovation.

In conclusion, the Art Troutner Houses Historic District is a unique concentration of modern residential designs by a singular individual. Troutner is known to have designed one or two other houses in Idaho Falls, and at least two dozen are known to exist elsewhere in the state, primarily in Boise and Ketchum. A couple others, including his first known residential design, are located along the Snake River near Hagerman in south central Idaho. Other buildings, both houses and commercial structures, no doubt exist but at this time have not been identified. This District, however, is the only known concentration of multiple Troutner designs.

As examples of modern architecture, the three residences embody the mid-century shift away from the traditional box and toward new and experimental elements. The three distinct and unique footprints of these Troutner houses embody his early proclivity toward geometric forms. His choice of materials – wooden beams and Oakley stone - while on the surface seem somewhat traditional materials, are in fact used in new and innovative ways, making these three early Troutner houses quite original and modern designs.

NOTES:

1. Ida Benson, 2007.
2. D. Nels Reese, "An Essay on Art Troutner," 1998.
3. Robert Friedel, "Material Revolution," 1994.

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Benson, Ida; Interview with Donald W. Watts in Idaho Falls, ID, 8/9/07.

Friedel, Robert; "Material Revolution," Blueprints, Fall 1994. National Building Museum. Http://www.nbm.org/blueprints/90s/fall94/page3/page3.htm.

Hoyt, Audra; "An Idaho Imagination: The Life and Work of Arthur Troutner." Unpublished paper for Idaho State Historic Preservation Office/Idaho State Historical Society, Boise, ID, April 2006.

Hoyt, Audra; "Modern Architecture in Idaho." Unpublished paper for Idaho State Historic Preservation Office/Idaho State Historical Society, Boise, ID, April 2006.

McQuain, Gerald E.; Interview with Donald W. Watts in Idaho Falls, ID, 8/9/07.

Reese, D. Nels; "An Essay on Art Troutner," Designing Idaho, Outdoor Idaho, Idaho Public Television. Http://idahoptv.org/outdoors/shows/designingidaho/troutneressay.html. Reprint of "The Architecture of Arthur Troutner: Idaho Genius," presented at the Fall Meeting of the Society of Architectural Historians/Marion Dean Ross Chapter, Boise, ID, October 2-4, 1998.

Troutner, Arthur L.; Arrow House, Aupperly (sic) Studio – Residence, architectural plans, sheets 1-5, dated July 1955. Copies of plans in possession of Gerald E. McQuain.

Troutner, Arthur L.; Poitevin House, architectural plans, sheets 1-4, dated April-May 1956. Copies of plans in possession of Ida Benson.

Troutner, Arthur L.; Migel House, architectural plans, sketch, misc materials, various dates of 1956. Special Collections, University of Idaho Library, Moscow, ID.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The District encompasses all of the following three contiguous parcels:

RP02N37E361993 (Aupperle/McQuain), appx 3.3 acres
RP02N37E362237 (Migel), appx 3.7 acres
RP02N37E362232 (Poitevin/Benson), appx 0.5 acre

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION:

This boundary includes the original lots in existence when the houses were built, and as they exist today. It includes the irrigation ditch along South 5th West Street, the fields, and the west edge of the property lines that abut the bluff.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 11 **Page** 1 **Name of Property** Art Troutner Houses Historic District
County and State Idaho Falls, Bonneville County, Idaho

PROPERTY OWNERS:

1. Aupperle Studio (3950 S. 5th W.)

   Gerald E. McQuain
   3950 S. 5th W.
   Idaho Falls, ID 83402

2. Migel House (4032 S. 5th W.)

   Dr. and Mrs. Dauchy Migel
   3310 Valencia Dr., #S-258
   Idaho Falls, ID 83404-7565

3. Poitevin House (4012 S. 5th W.)

   Mr. and Mrs. Harry J. Benson
   4012 S. 5th W.
   Idaho Falls, ID 83402

PHOTOGRAPHS

Art Troutner Houses Historic District
Idaho Falls, Bonneville County, Idaho
Photos taken By Don Watts
July 9, 2007
Negatives on file at Idaho SHPO

Photo 1 of 9
Aupperle Studio
Looking north-northwest

Photo 2 of 9
Aupperle Studio
Looking west

Photo 3 of 9
Aupperle Studio
Looking south

Photo 4 of 9
Migel House
Looking north-northwest

Photo 5 of 9
Migel House
Looking south

Photo 6 of 9
Migel House
Looking northeast

Photo 7 of 9
Poitevin House
Looking northwest

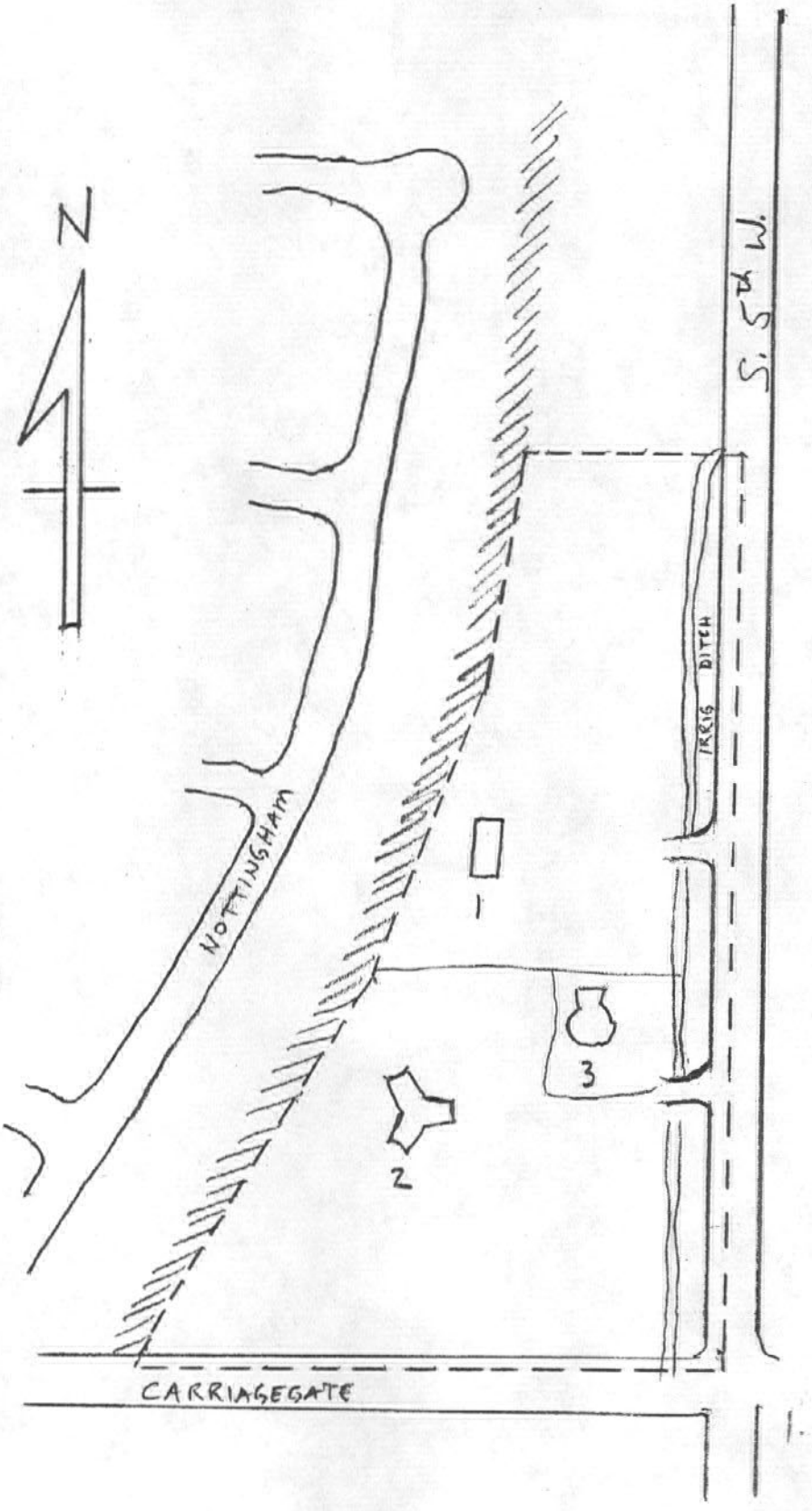
Photo 8 of 9
Poitevin House
Looking north

Photo 9 of 9
Poitevin House
Looking northeast

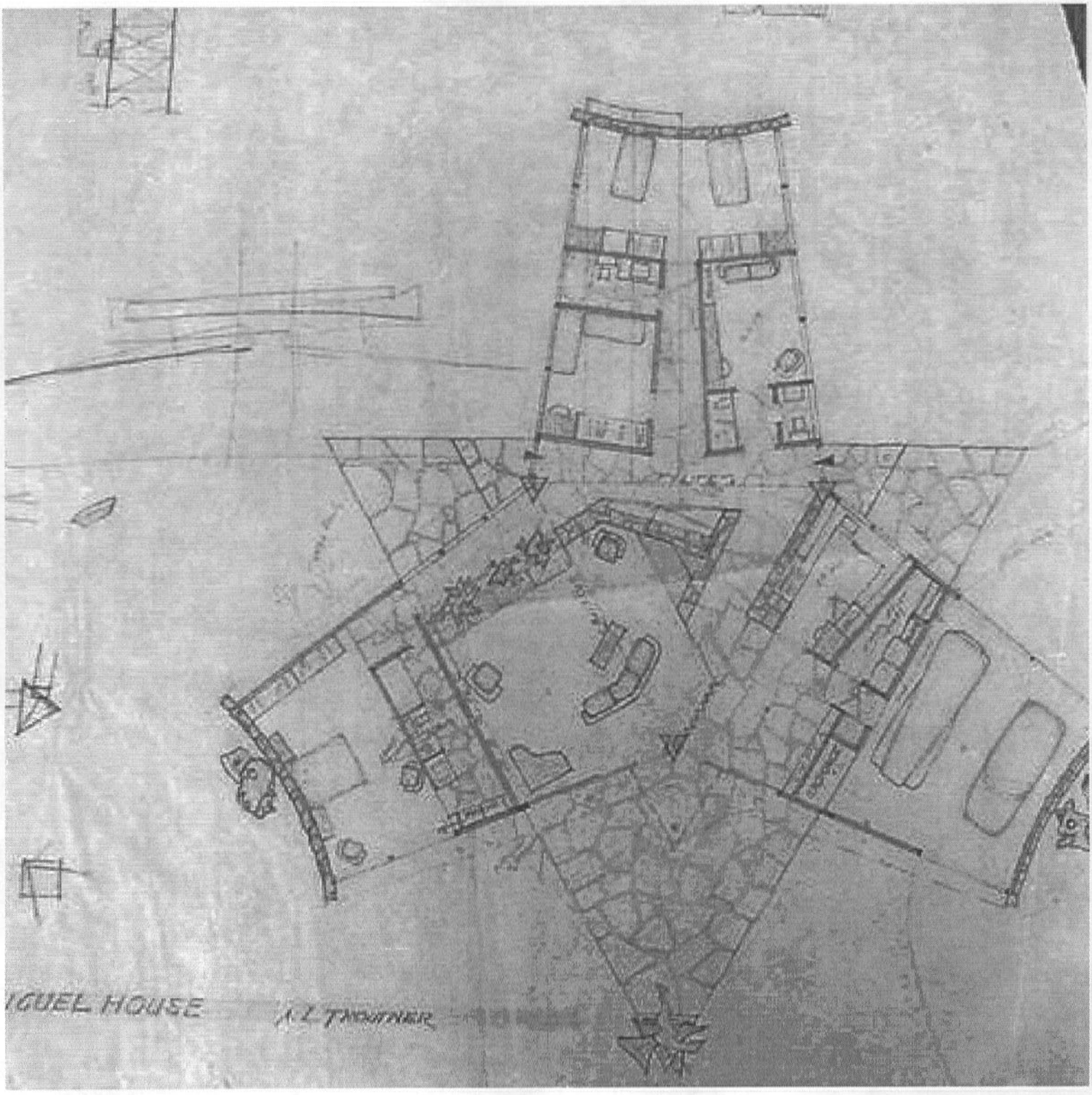
ART TROUTNER HOUSES HISTORIC DISTRICT

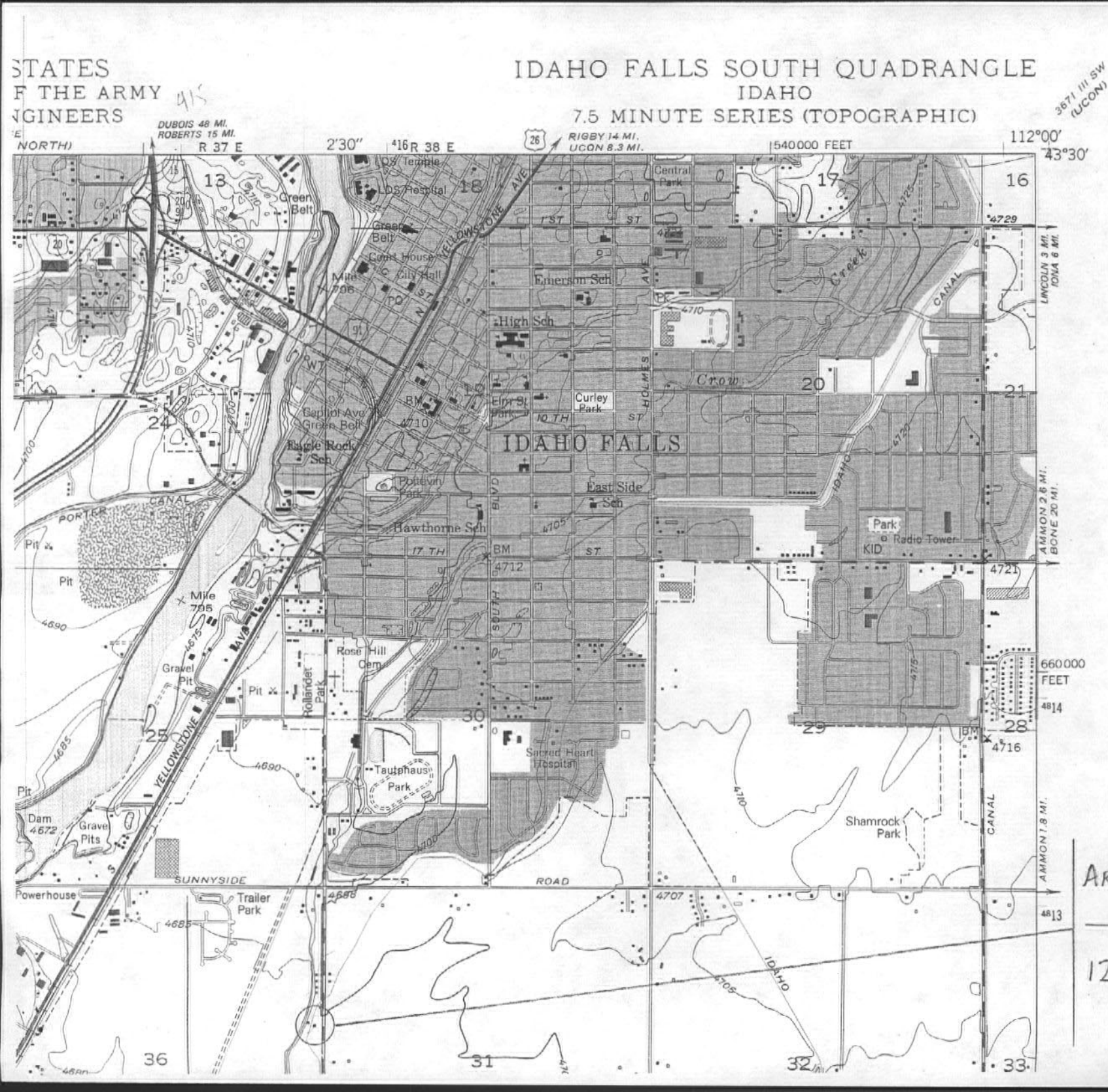
IDAHO FALLS, IDAHO

1. Aupperle Studio
2. Migel House
3. Poitevin House



NOT TO SCALE


IGUEL HOUSE
A. L. TROUTNER



ART TROUTNER HOUSES
HISTORIC DISTRICT

12/415610/4812470

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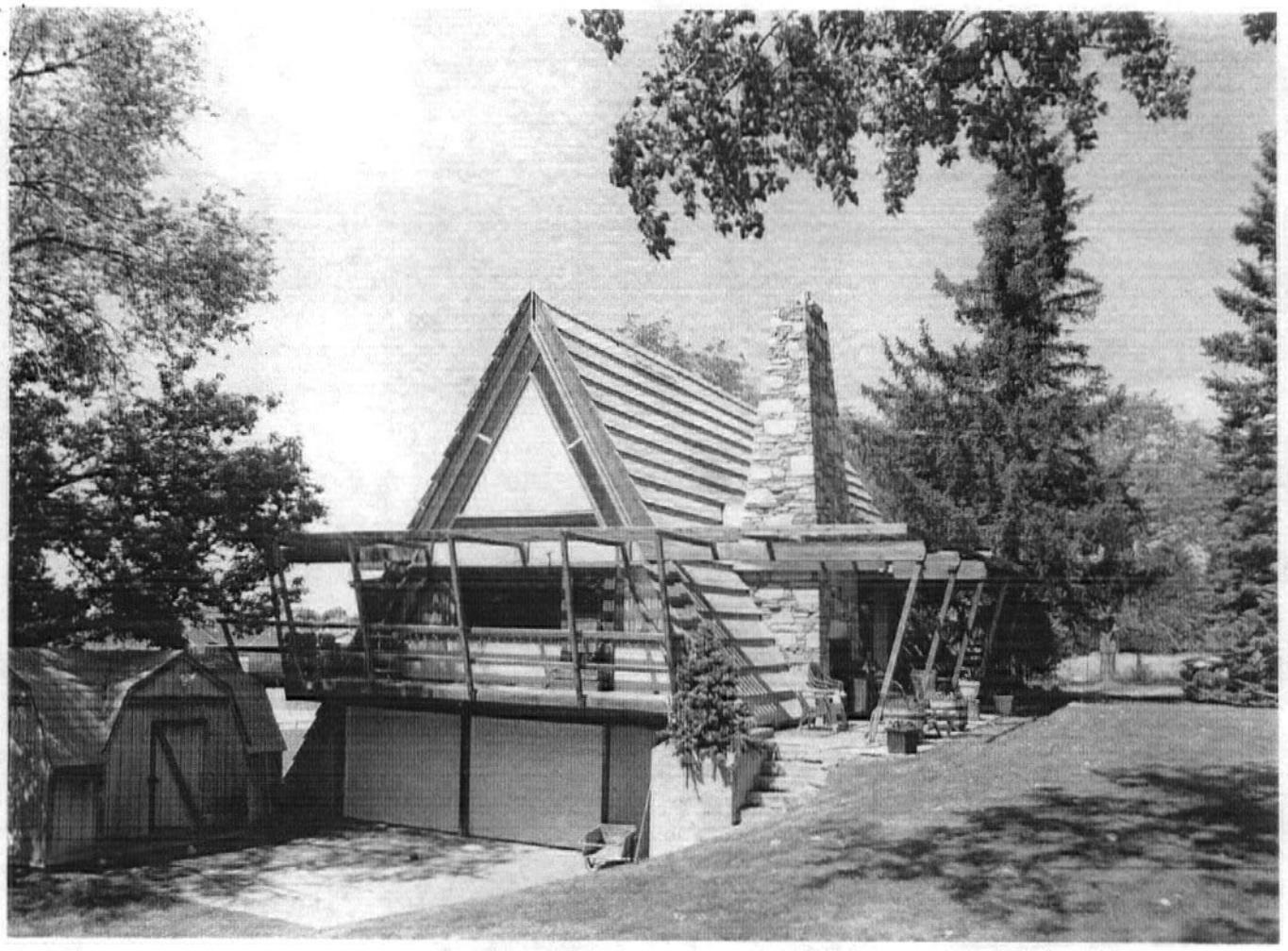

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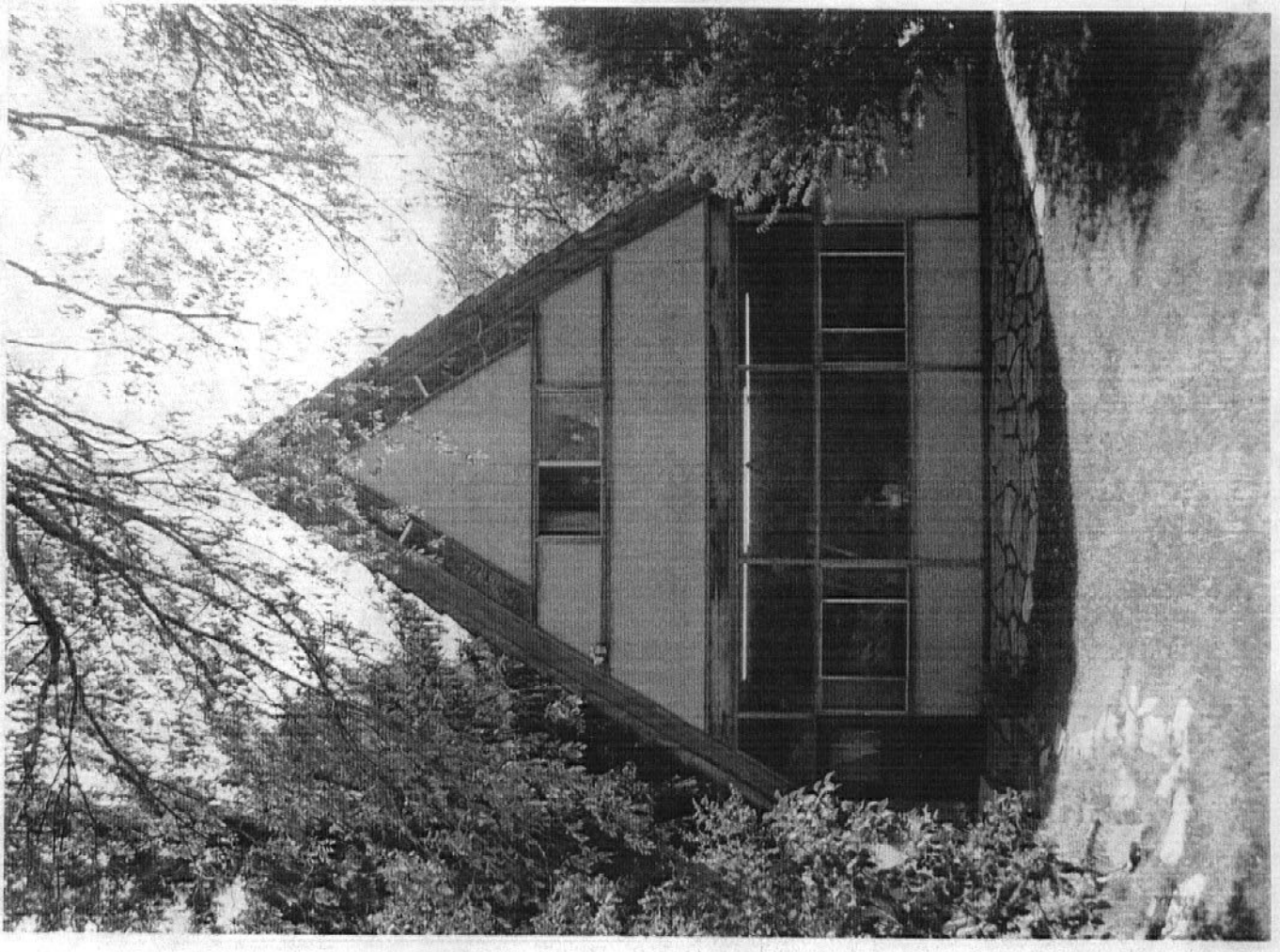

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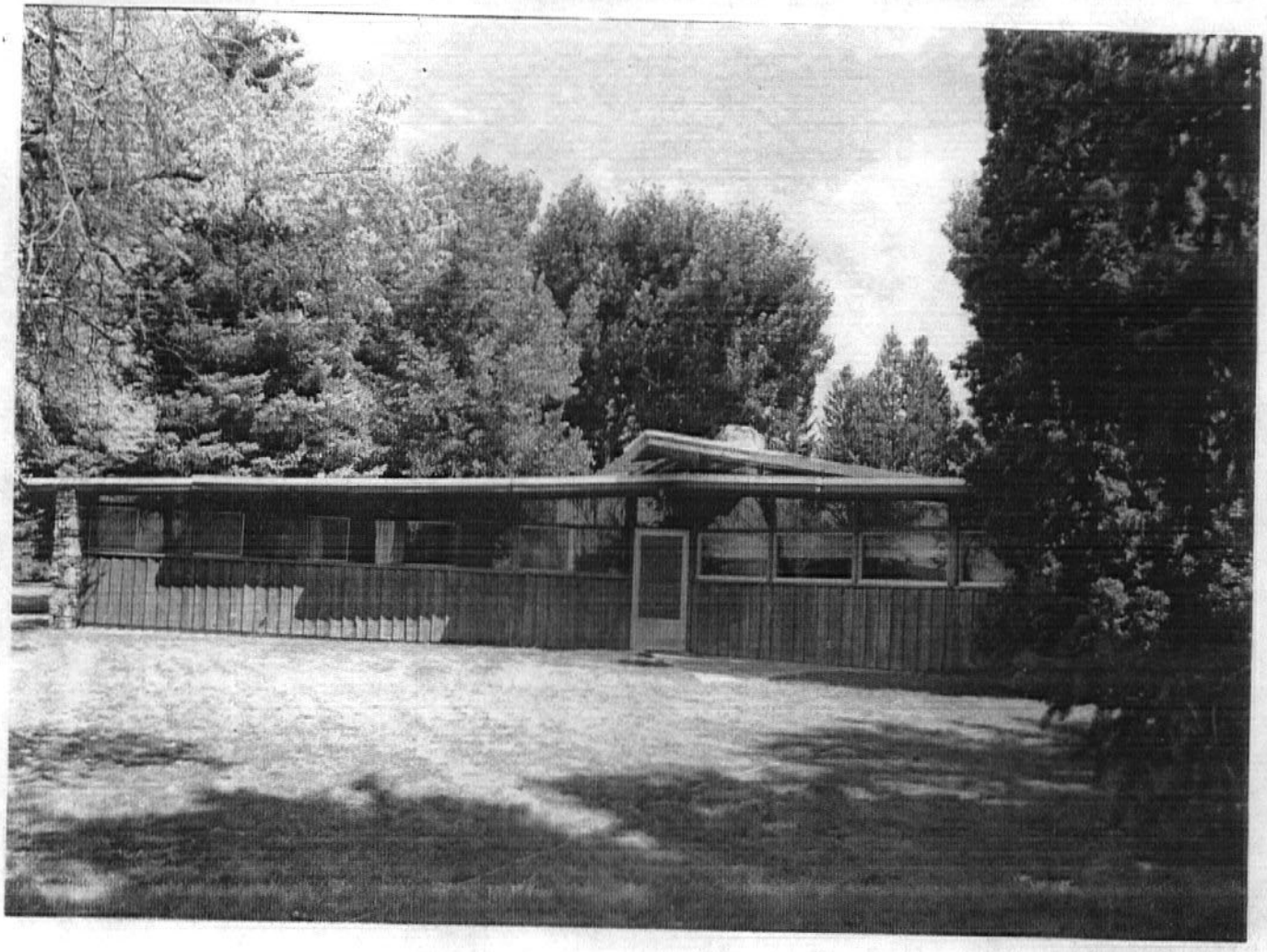

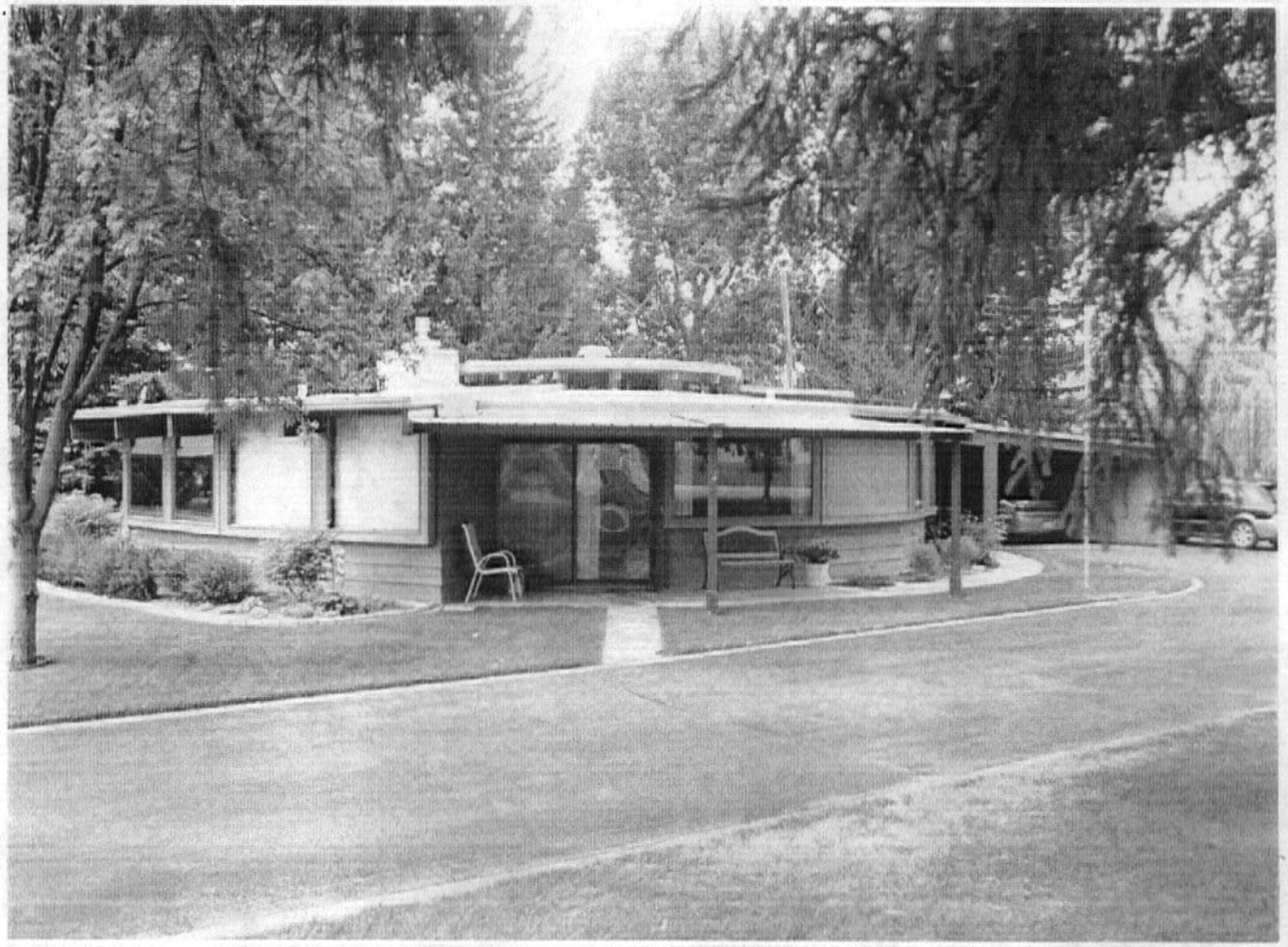

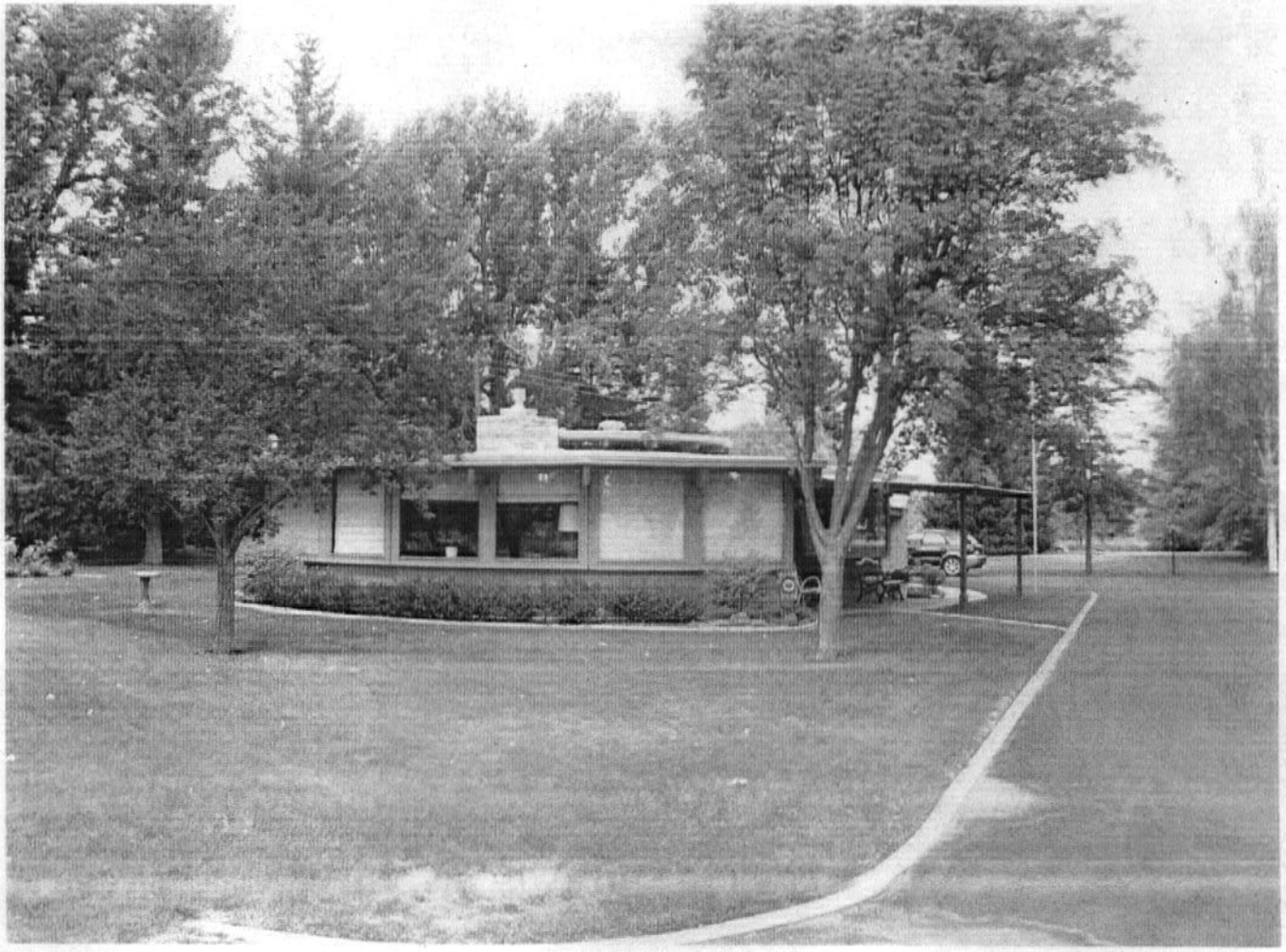

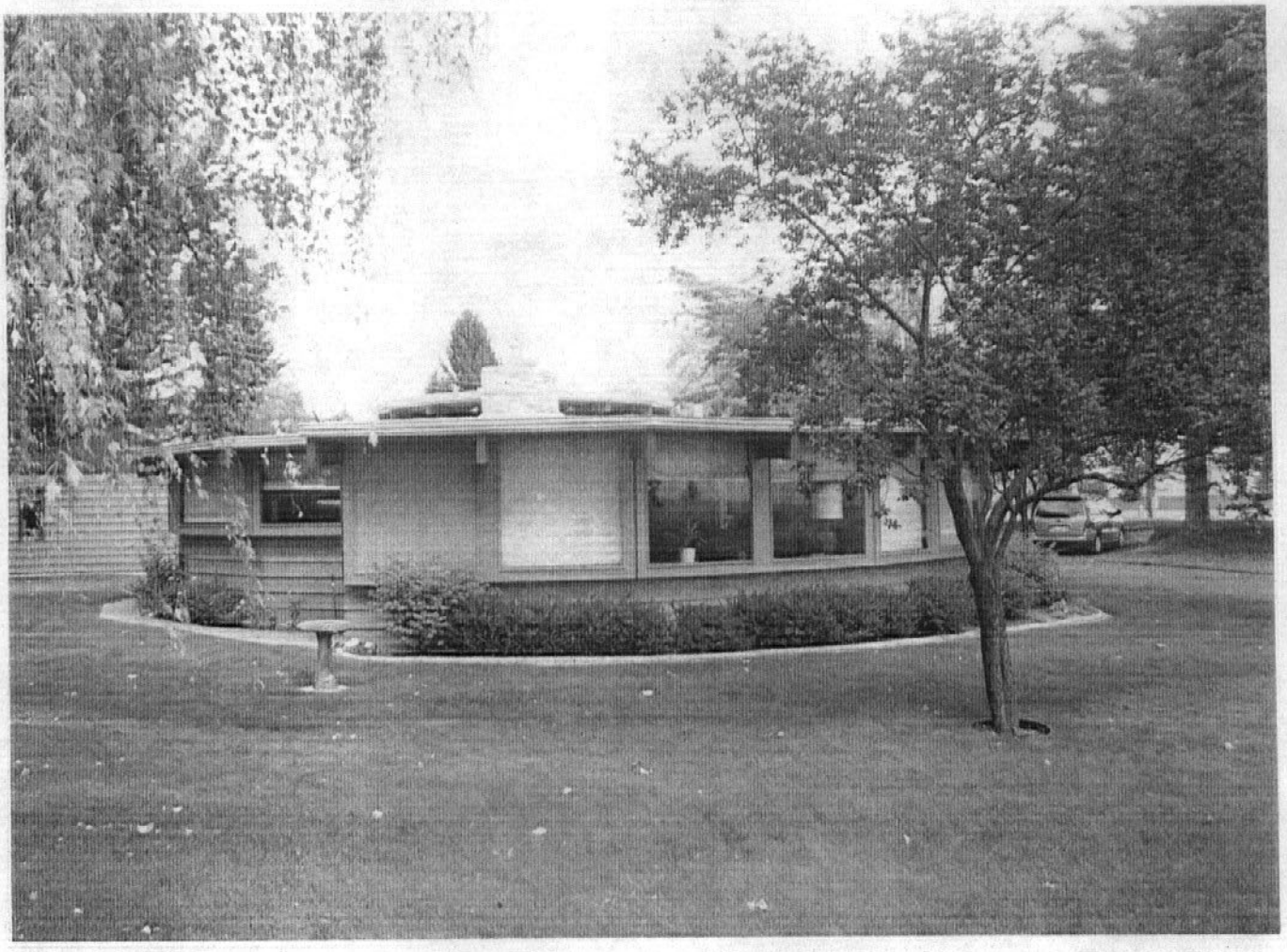

TUSCANY DR
MANCHESTER LN
NOTTINGHAM LN
5TH WEST (PARK RD)
CARRIAGEGATE LN