

GEORGE BUCHAN HOUSE

Address: 2755 Hammond Avenue

Date of Construction: 1959

Architect: Trelle A. Morrow

Builder: McKeller Construction Co.

Adopted by the Heritage Commission: 2019-11-7

Last Updated: 2020-1-21



Courtesy of Trelle Morrow (2019)

Description

The Buchan house is located mid-way along Hammond Avenue in the Nechako Subdivision. This subdivision was installed in the city in 1958, on the property formerly occupied by Army Headquarters during W.W. II., between the Nechako River and Second Avenue, just west of Carney Street.

Heritage Value

This residence is the unabashed example of the first shift in architectural design tenets in the city following W.W. II. Prior to this time, heritage values were based primarily on property ownership values in premises built in the 1920s to 1940s. Today, architectural tenets enter deliberations on heritage values.

Heritage value lies with owners, George & Lee Buchan. George was one of an influx of professional foresters entering Prince George in the 1950s. He managed Arctic Mills until it was taken over by the Pas Lumber Co. His wife, Helena, was a prominent professional artist in the city.

Specifically, the heritage value of the building lies with the introduction of the Modern Movement design traits so profusely exhibited nationally from 1947 onward. In addition, new wood products for residential work, such as glued laminated beams and wood decking, and glass walls found application in contemporary designs.

Character-Defining Elements

- The low slope design for residences allowed the use of quality roof surfaces, particularly the use of tar and gravel surfacing.
- Glued laminated wood beams and columns of unlimited dimensions were available through the expanding laminating industry in the province. Surfaces were applied in the factory, then wrapped for shipping. Structural beams are exposed throughout the house on a modular spacing of 32 inches on centre. Ample eave overhangs are provided on the house, beams are extended out for a carport.
- Wood decking, in tongue and groove profile, were available from local mills in thicknesses from two to four inches. This substrate was ideal for applying a vapour barrier and rigid insulation above. Wood decking is exposed throughout the house and on the roof overhangs.
- Large glazing areas are installed in the living areas of the house. High glazed areas, above door height provide privacy to client requirements.

Statement of Significance

- Exterior wood siding is in keeping with the over-all theme of the house to use natural wood materials. Brick paneling is installed on the Street elevation as a contrast to the wood siding.

Images

2755 Hammond Street



Craftsman Photo (1960)



Courtesy of Trelle A. Morrow (2019)



Courtesy of Trelle A. Morrow(2019)



Courtesy of Trelle A. Morrow (2019)



Courtesy of Trelle A. Morrow (2019)



Courtesy of Trelle A. Morrow (2019)



Courtesy of Kathy King

Living Room – Pumice Brick



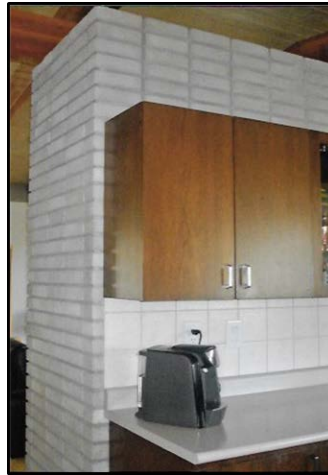
Courtesy of Trelle Morrow (2018)

**Glued Laminate Beams:
Wood Decking**



Courtesy of Trelle A. Morrow (2019)

Brick Return: Kitchen



Courtesy of Trelle A. Morrow (2019)

Brick Return: Kitchen



Courtesy of Trelle A. Morrow (2019)

Sources:

- Morrow, Trelle A. *Living Legacies: 100 Years of Prince George Architecture*. 2015
- Morrow, Trelle A. *Residential Heritage: Prince George*. 2019 (Unpublished Manuscript)

JOHN NIELSEN HOUSE

Address: 2280 McBride Crescent

Date of Construction: 1957

Architect: Trelle A. Morrow

Builder: J. Stemlock, Supervisor

Adopted by the Heritage Commission: 2019-11-7

Last Updated: 2020-1-21



Courtesy of Trelle Morrow (2019)

Description

The Nielsen house is located on McBride, which is part of the prestigious Crescent neighbourhood, originally planned by Brett & Hall for the GTPR in 1913, and lies on the western side of the city.

Heritage Value

The original owners, John and Dina Nielsen, were prominent citizens in the city, and were the proprietors of West End Motors, the local International Truck agency with premises initially on the south-west corner of 3rd Avenue and Victoria Street.

The design of the house possesses heritage value in falling into line with the Post WW II tenets of the Modern Movement which were offered, and profusely practiced, in the architectural schools of the time. Low slope roofs were catching on as a recognized tenet for housing at this particular period.

Glazing for both the Living area and Dining are fairly expansive, a trend away from the single picture window found frequently in vernacular housing designs. The house represents a transition period between the small scale vernacular windows and the full width glazed walls developed in the Modern Movement era.

There is heritage value in the original pink colour used in this house, and even found in commercial buildings of the time. The original pink colour bathroom fixtures still remain in the house, and are in excellent condition.

The fireplace has been finished with Arizona sandstone, both on the interior and exterior, a popular, trendy material providing heritage value of the day.

The entrance to the house is recessed to allow weather protection, and the interior illustrates heritage value in detailing a split level entrance, popular in this time period.

Character-Defining Elements

- Construction materials chosen for the house were high quality and possess heritage value in marking the personal traits of the owners, as well as trends of the day.
- The high quality entrance sidelight and transom glazing are accomplished with the installation of an amber Cathedral glass
- Exterior wall finish is with vertical cedar boarding, accented with an Arizona sandstone planter arrangement.

- The quality of workmanship in construction is marked by the owner's selection of quality tradesmen put under the supervision of an experienced Superintendent.

Images

2280 McBride Crescent



Courtesy of Trelle A. Morrow (1957)

Arizona Sandstone Fireplace



Courtesy of Trelle A. Morrow (1957)



Courtesy of Trelle A. Morrow (2019)

Main Entrance



Haines Photo (2019)

View to Entrance Lobby



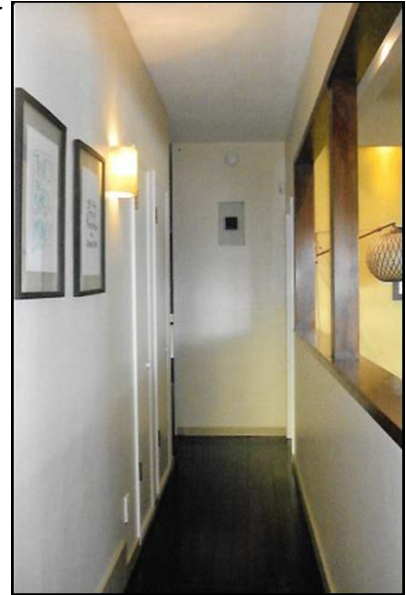
Courtesy of Trelle A. Morrow (2019)

Living Room to Interior Hallway



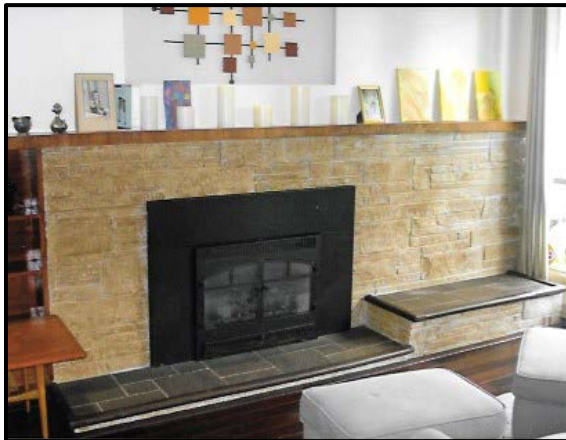
Courtesy of Trelle Morrow (2019)

Interior Corridor



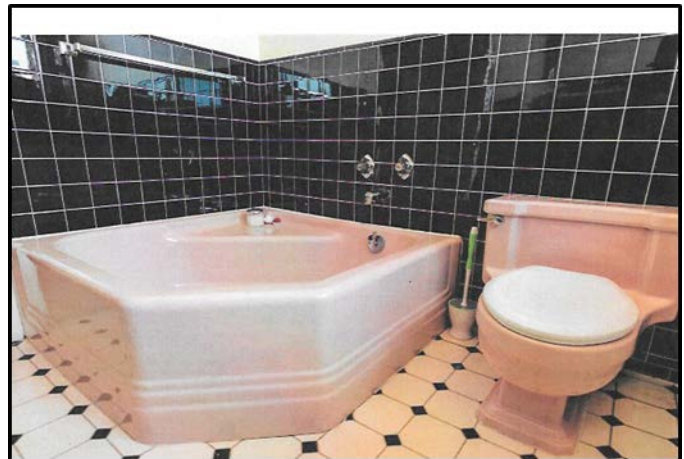
Courtesy of Trelle A. Morrow (2019)

Arizona Sandstone Fireplace



Courtesy of Trelle A. Morrow (2019)

Original Bathroom Fixtures (*Original Color 1950s*)



Courtesy of Trelle A. Morrow (2019)

Sources:

- Owner's collection of photographs.
- Architect's recollection of design events.