

Spokane Register of Historic Places Nomination

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

1. HISTORIC NAME

Historic Name **WILLIAM & ANNE MURGITTROYD HOUSE**
Common Name

2. LOCATION

Street & Number 516 West Sumner Avenue
City, State, Zip Code Spokane, WA 99204
Parcel Number 35194.0203

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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<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
Site	<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 David & Annelle Stockton
Street & Number 516 West Sumner Avenue
City, State, Zip Code Spokane, WA 99204
Telephone Number/E-mail 509-954-1236, dstockton91@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 ☒

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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

Cliff Park Resurvey, Lots 6 and 7, Block 11.

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 27th Avenue, Spokane, WA 99203

Telephone Number

509-456-3828

Email Address

lindayeomans@comcast.net

Date Final Nomination Heard

August 20, 2025

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13. SIGNATURE(S) OF OWNER(S)

14. FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

Date nomination application filed: _____

Date of Landmarks Commission Hearing: _____

Landmarks Commission decision: _____

Date of City Council/Board of County Commissioners' hearing: _____

City Council/Board of County Commissioners' decision: _____

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

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

Date

Attest:

Approved as to form:

City Clerk

Assistant City Attorney

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South façade and southwest corner of the Murgittroyd House in 2025 and Eastern Washington State Historical Society (Northwest Museum of Arts & Culture), Joel E. Ferris Research Library and Archives, 1928, L87-1.36480-28 (below)



SECTION 7: DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY

Summary Statement

Built in 1919 in Spokane, Washington, the William & Anne Murgittroyd House was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1978 as a contributing resource of the Marycliff-Cliff Park National Register Historic District.¹ The property is located one block north of Cliff Park along the north side of West Sumner Avenue on the city's South Hill. The home's exterior design depicts a tall, expansive single-family home with two-and-one-half stories and a full basement. Reflecting Tudor Revival styling with Elizabethan influence, the Murgittroyd House has a steeply pitched copper roof, prominent corbelled chimneys, multiple cross gables, decorative bargeboards with pendants and finials, tall narrow multi-paned windows, and exterior red brick veneer. The house retains excellent exterior architectural integrity in original location, design, materials, workmanship, and association as an early 20th-century single-family home built in one of the most architecturally prestigious residential neighborhoods in Spokane. The Murgittroyd House is individually eligible for listing on the Spokane Register of Historic Places under Category C as an excellent example of an Elizabethan Tudor Revival residence.

CURRENT APPEARANCE & CONDITION

Site

The Marycliff-Cliff Park National Register Historic District is surrounded by West 7th and 14th Avenues, and by North Cliff Drive and Ben Garnett Way. Located around irregularly shaped Cliff Park, the neighborhood was designed with a mixture of diagonally patterned streets and residential lots. Identified by Spokane County as tax parcel number 35194.0203, the Murgittroyd House at 516 West Sumner Avenue was built on Lots 6 and 7, Block 11.² The two lots together measure 100 feet in width along west Sumner Avenue, and 200 feet in depth from Sumner Avenue north to Cliff Drive. A privacy fence surrounds the property. A semi-circular driveway is located in front of the home's south façade with two openings in the fence at Sumner Avenue. Mature trees, shrubs, and a manicured lawn frame the home. The north rear of the Murgittroyd House looks out upon a broad descending grassy slope that extends to Cliff Drive, which offers a wide panoramic view of north Spokane and surrounding hills. The home is surrounded by large historic landmark-quality single-family residences built between 1900 and 1965 in Spokane's Marycliff-Cliff Park National Register Historic District.

House Exterior

The Murgittroyd House is two and one-half stories tall, and is built on a full concrete basement. The home measures 58 feet in width from east to west, and 46 feet in depth from north to south. Except for portions of exposed concrete basement walls, red brick veneer covers most of the house.

¹ Bishop, Claire and Sara Patton. *Marycliff-Cliff Park National Register Historic District Nomination*, 1978. Spokane City/County Historic Preservation Office, City Hall. Spokane, WA.

² City of Spokane, Spokane County Courthouse, Spokane, WA.

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South façade flared-porch entrance at Murgittroyd House in 2025

South Facade

The south façade of the house faces Sumner Avenue. The home rises two-and-one-half stories, and is covered by a steeply pitched copper side-gable-and-hip roof with overhanging eaves, exposed rafter tails, and decorative wood eave brackets. The home's south façade supports two identical large gable-peaked dormers that rise from the south face of the second floor through the attic roof of the house. Each gable-peaked dormer is prominent with deep bargeboards, a tall narrow multi-paned dormer window, and a decorative pendant and finial. A wide shed-roof dormer is located on the roof slope between the two gabled dormers, and is covered with a shallow overhanging roof. The shed-roof dormer holds a horizontal ribbon of four small multi-paned windows.



South façade of Murgittroyd House in 2025

Below the roof, the home's second floor at the south facade is punctuated by two large multi-paned windows—one 14/1 rectangular window west of the home's center, and one 10/1 rectangular window east of center. Three smaller tall-and-narrow multi-paned stepped windows are located on the second floor just east of the gable roof above the home's front entrance, and provide light to a second-floor interior stairway.

At the first floor, the home's south facade features a formal front entrance which is located slightly west of center. The entrance is surrounded by two large multi-paned windows similar to the large windows at the second floor. A group of three small tall-and-narrow multi-paned stepped windows are located east of the front entrance at the first floor. Like the stepped windows at the second floor, the stepped windows on the first floor light a first-floor staircase within the home. The exterior front entry of the home is designed as a small formal entrance with one wide center front door flanked by two vertical sidelights, all capped with a wide, arched, leaded-glass fanlight. A gabled porch roof with flared eaves and deep bargeboards is supported by wood brackets, and covers the front entry. Decorative sculpted designs are visible in the porch roof's gable peak along with a center

pendant and finial. Protruding vertical brick stringcourses outline the two first-and-second-story windows west of the front entrance. Identical protruding vertical brick stringcourses outline the two first-and-second-story windows to the east of the front entrance. The two pairs of protruding vertical stringcourses rise to the level of the third floor, and form two arches—one arch over the west windows and one arch over the east windows (*see photo of house facade on page 6*). At basement level, a narrow horizontal brick stringcourse protrudes outward from the surface of the brick veneer and separates the first floor from the brick-clad basement foundation wall. The four-foot-high basement foundation wall on the south façade of the house is covered with red brick veneer that matches the red brick veneer on the house. Four symmetrically placed small horizontal basement windows are located in the south face of the foundation wall.

North Elevation

The rear north elevation of the house is covered by a steeply pitched third-floor hip roof which measures 58 feet wide. Two small third-floor pyramidal hip-roof dormers with two windows each protrude from the center of the hip roof. A tall brick chimney with a large corbelled chimney cap projects next west of the west dormer. The roof is covered with copper and has widely overhanging eaves supported by wood brackets.

The Murgittroyd House is built on a prominent north-descending slope which is evident at the home's north rear façade. All four levels of the house are revealed with an exposed daylight basement, first floor, second floor, and third floor. A large two-story rectangular bay with a flat roof deck is built onto the center of the home's north rear face. The bay extends up from the level of the exposed basement to the first floor, and continues to the second floor. The bay protrudes north 11 feet outward from the house and measures 24 feet in width—nearly half of the north façade's width of 58 feet. Three symmetrically placed 8/1 multi-paned windows are located on the north exterior wall of the projecting rectangular bay at ground level, spreading natural light into the bay's "daylight" basement. A projecting horizontal brick stringcourse extends from the northeast corner of the house around the bay to the northwest corner of the house above the basement windows. At the first floor, the bay holds four large windows which illuminate a first-floor interior sunroom. Two windows with multi-paned lights flank the bay at the first floor, and light the interior of the house. At the second floor, the roof of the bay is designed as a flat exterior deck. Two doors open from the home's second-floor exterior north wall onto the deck. The deck floor is made of wood planks, and supports a wood porch wall.

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North rear elevation of the Murgittroyd House in 2025



2025 photo of northeast porch deck built on north elevation of house

Surrounding the center protruding bay is the exterior wall of the north elevation. The wall is 17 feet in width, and extends to the third floor. A 10/1 multi-paned double-hung window is located on the basement wall west of the projecting bay. A 14/1 multi-paned double-hung window is located at the first floor above the basement window. One double-hung window is located on the second floor above the first-floor window. The east end of the basement's north face supports an eastward extension of the center projecting bay at basement level. The eastward extension of the center bay's basement wall holds an exterior basement door, and supports an extension of the first-floor porch deck. A series of brick stair steps rise from the east end of the deck up to the north-facing porch deck. A thick wall of stepped brick anchors the north side of the porch's staircase. The northeast corner porch deck is covered with a flat roof attached to the house at the first floor. A northeast corner brick porch pillar helps support the deck's porch roof.

East Elevation

The home's east elevation is 35 feet wide, and is completely covered with a continuation of the red brick veneer that covers the entire house. A hip roof dormer projects east from the roof. Unlike the home's north elevation, the east elevation of the home's basement level is not visible because it is below ground. The home's first, second, and third-floors are visible at the east elevation. A two-and-a-half-story wing projects east from the center of the east elevation. The wing is clad with brick veneer that matches that used on the house. Located in the south half of the wing, steps rise to an exterior door that opens to the home's kitchen in the southeast corner of the house. Next north of the kitchen door is a brick chimney that rises up past the roof. A third-floor dormer with a hip roof is located on the roof north of the chimney. At ground level, a series of concrete steps descend to a basement door located next north of the chimney. With widely overhanging eaves and exposed rafters, steep gable porch roofs shelter the kitchen entrance and the basement entrance. Matching brick stringcourses at the north and south elevations of the house, a projecting horizontal brick stringcourse is located between the first floor and the basement along the east elevation of the house.

West Elevation

The west elevation of the Murgittroyd House measures 35 feet wide, and displays nine tall, narrow multi-paned windows—three on the first floor, five on the second floor, and one in the third-floor gable peak. All windows are original, made of wood, and have multiple panes. The exterior surface of the west elevation is covered with red brick veneer. A tall gable roof with deep eaves and large bargeboards defines the west elevation's steep gable peak. A hip roof dormer at the third floor faces west. The home's west elevation is visible at ground level, and reveals two matching exterior wood-paneled garage doors that open into a double-car garage built in the basement of the Murgittroyd House.³ South of the garage doors is part of a projecting horizontal brick stringcourse visible at the west

³ A 1919 blueprint of the house shows the basement garage in the Murgittroyd House.

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elevation. A tall brick privacy wall extends west to a paved driveway from the west elevation at the southwest corner of the house.



East elevation door to kitchen at southeast corner in 2025



East elevation at first floor—notice gable roof over basement door entrance

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West elevation of Murgittroyd House in 2025 showing attached carport built in 2008

House Interior

Parcel information from Spokane County Tax Assessor's office indicates the first and second floors of the Murgittroyd House each hold 2,107 finished interior square feet for a total of 4,214 square feet. The basement holds another 2,107 square feet of space (partially finished) while the home's third floor is finished with 725 square feet of space. With a ceiling height of nine feet, the first floor includes a formal reception hall, library, living room/fireplace, dining room, kitchen, restroom, and sunporch/fireplace. The second and third floors contain bedrooms, restrooms, and storage areas. The basement contains a billiard room and fireplace, powder room, stairways to the first floor, furnace/tool rooms, laundry/storage rooms, and a daylight area in the basement's northwest corner. An interior two-car basement garage is located in the basement's northwest corner.⁴ The northwest corner of the Murgittroyd House is visible at ground level.

The front entrance at the Murgittroyd House opens from the home's south façade into a formal entry hall. The entry hall floor is covered with ceramic tile. Woodwork is painted white. An interior door with two vertical lights is flanked by two vertical sidelights. An arched multi-paned fanlight crowns the door and sidelights. The interior entry hall door opens to a spacious first-floor reception hall.



The front door entry and reception hall in the Murgittroyd House in 2025

⁴ Original to the house, the basement's garage was also constructed in 1919-1920 when the house was built. Original basement floor plan shows garage.

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The reception hall is wide and opens to three rooms and a staircase that turns and rises to the second floor. The staircase is painted white and features an open stringer with a curved balustrade and cut-out baluster designs. The stair railing is smooth and curved, and made of polished walnut. Stair steps are covered with solid oak flooring.

An interior door in the reception hall opens west into a library in the southwest corner of the house. The library features a large fireplace in the center of the west perimeter wall, and is flanked by two identical multi-paned windows. A wide mantel stained a dark walnut hue caps the fireplace between the windows. A center firebox is surrounded by handmade ceramic tiles. A hearth is made of the same handmade ceramic tiles.⁵ A larger tile with an artistic design is located over the center of the fire box. Walnut-stained wood book shelves and cabinets surround leaded-glass multi-paned French doors that open from the north wall to a living room.



First-floor library in Murgittroyd House in 2025

⁵ All of the ceramic tiles were handmade in circa 1920 by the Flint Tile Company in the Midwest United States.

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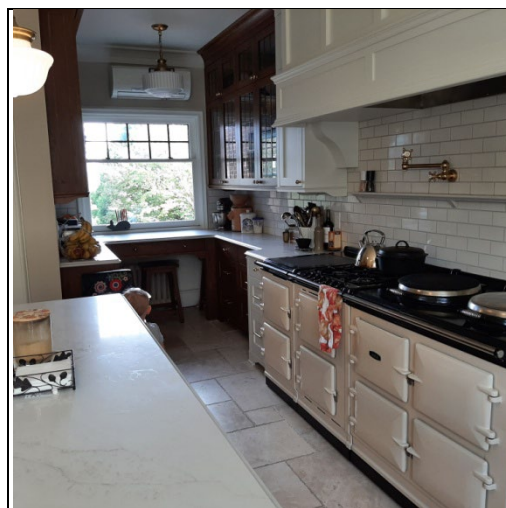
From the reception hall, a spacious living room extends west and north. An eight-foot-wide fireplace at the north wall is a focal point of the living room and features a white-painted surround with scroll-sawn brackets that support a deep, wide mantel. Ceramic tiles surround the firebox and cover the hearth. The floor in the reception hall and living room is hardwood oak plank, and displays a dark walnut inlay Greek key design that follows the perimeter of the room. All of the woodwork in the living room, reception hall, and foyer is finished with white paint.



The living room and dining room on the first floor in 2025.

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The living room and reception hall open east to a large formal dining room on the first floor. The oak wood floor extends from the library, living room, and spacious reception hall into the dining room—all enhanced with inlaid Greek Key designs that follow the perimeter of the rooms. A door in the dining room opens to a kitchen located on the east perimeter wall of the house. The kitchen is large and extends from the home's south wall to the north wall, and from the east wall west to an interior wall that separates the kitchen from the dining room. The kitchen is appointed with built-in cupboards/cabinets, counters, sink and faucets, a center island, appliances, and a large Aga range. The kitchen floor is covered with new ceramic tile. Next west of the kitchen is a narrow hallway that leads south to a small powder room and narrow staircase. The staircase was designed for use by hired help, and leads up to the second floor, and down to the basement.



Looking south and north at the kitchen in 2025.

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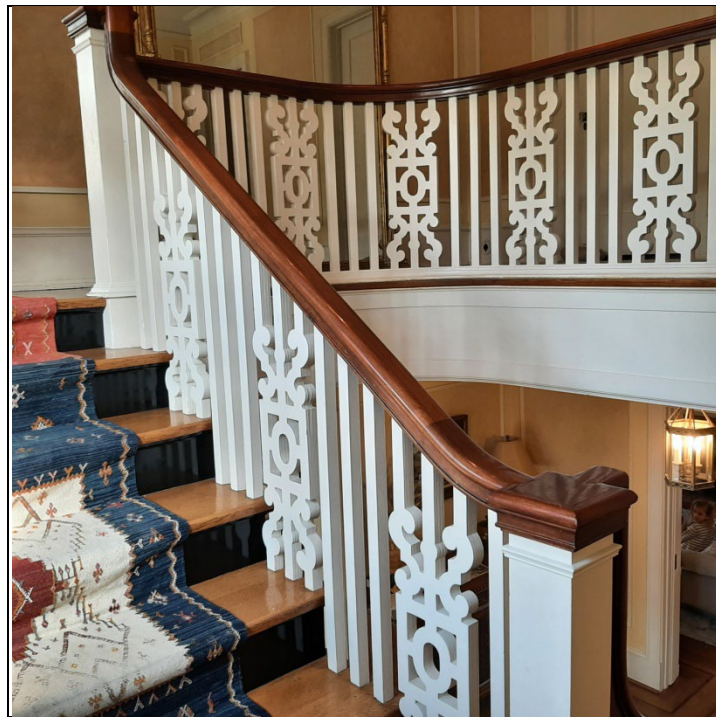
A French door in the living room and a French door in the dining room both open to a sunroom located along the rear north perimeter wall of the house. A third French door in the east wall of the first-floor sunroom opens to an attached outside patio deck at the northeast rear corner of the house. All three French doors have long narrow windows capped with upper leaded-glass lights. Along the north wall, the sunroom holds large windows that look out on the property's north-facing backyard. A focal point of the sunroom is a large fireplace with a mantel and center firebox located on the room's west wall. The fireplace surround and sunroom floor feature decorative ceramic tiles handmade by the Flint Tile Company (1920-1933).⁶



Looking west into a first-floor sunroom in Murgittroyd House in 2025

⁶ Ma, Frances. "How to Tell if Your Historic Tile is Pewabic Or Flint Faience." 27 Sept 1924. Note: Homeowner David Stockton visited the Flint Tile Company in 2025.

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Staircase to the second floor in 2025.



A third-floor bedroom in the Murgittroyd House in 2025.

A wide open staircase in the first floor reception hall is sited next east of the front entrance foyer, and winds up to the second floor. The treads on the staircase stairs and the second floor are finished with narrow-width solid oak wood planks. The second floor features a large guest bedroom with a full private washroom and built-in linen/clothes closets in the southwest corner of the house.

At the east end of the second floor is a large master bedroom surrounded by built-in clothes closets and linen storage, an extensive marble-clad private washroom with a large bathtub and shower, and a private double vanity located behind the master bedroom. A separate bedroom is located west of the master bedroom in the northwest corner of the house. Both the master bedroom and the adjacent west bedroom contain exterior doors that open to the exterior deck built onto the rear north elevation of the house. Another bedroom is located in a sunroom along the west wall of the house. A focal point that lights the room is a horizontal ribbon of four multi-paned windows on the west wall.

The stairway continues to wind up from the second floor to the third floor. Much smaller than the second floor, the third floor attic area has a total of 725 interior square feet. An open center sitting area is lit by south windows, and is surrounded by three bedrooms and a three-piece bathroom. The third-floor is finished with painted walls, ceilings and painted woodwork. Windows are original, and the ceiling is seven to eight feet in height.

Basement

Built on a large north-facing descending slope, the basement walls located at the rear north elevation and west elevation of the Murgittroyd House are entirely visible above ground. Due to an increase in grade, the basement walls of the home's south face and east elevation, however, are located beneath a raised ground level, and are not visible.

The large basement holds 2,107 square feet of partially finished space. A large formal billiard room (approximately 20 x 28 feet) is located in the southwest corner of the basement. A door opens east from the interior of the home's front entrance foyer at the first floor to a stairway that leads down to the basement billiard room. The room is finished with a six-foot-wide fireplace centered on the room's west wall. A concrete floor is covered with finished narrow-width hardwood oak plank floorboards. A built-in bar with a counter is located in the southeast corner of the room. Two basement windows flank the west-wall fireplace and help illuminate the basement room.⁷

The basement billiard room leads northeast through a door into a hall and small powder room under the hall stairs. The basement includes a fuel room, boiler room, two tool rooms, a vegetable room, and a laundry room built in the northwest corner of the basement. An interior two-car garage is located in the northwest corner of the basement. The garage measures about 22 feet wide and 28 feet deep. Two paneled-wood garage doors open from the west face of the garage, which is exposed at ground level.

⁷ Basement architectural floor plan from 1919 for the Murgittroyd House, 516 West Sumner Avenue, Spokane, WA. Plan with David Stockton, homeowner, in 2025.

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ORIGINAL APPEARANCE & SUBSEQUENT MODIFICATIONS

The earliest rendering of the Murgittroyd House was published in 1919, and shows the perspective for the south façade and east elevation of the property. The residence was described in the *Spokane Daily Chronicle* newspaper as the “Future Home of Will Murgittroyd, to Cost \$40,000.”

Early images of the Murgittroyd House are dated 1958 and 1959 as black-and-white photographs featuring the home’s south façade. A difference in the photos is the elimination of one of the small stepped-up facade windows. The 1958 photograph shows the home’s first-floor south façade with four stepped-up windows located east of the front porch. A year later, a 1959 photograph of the home’s south façade reveals one of the four stepped-up windows missing, and the facade wall surface rebricked where the window was removed to match the home’s brick veneer.

Further modifications to the property include:⁸

- | | |
|------|--|
| 1914 | City of Spokane Side Sewer Permit #2117.
City of Spokane connections to the City Water Main Permit #1495. |
| 1918 | City of Spokane Water Division, basement meter installed, #16684. |
| 1919 | House was designed by Rigg & VanTyne and constructed by J W Forrest |
| 1922 | Washington Water Power, Permit #53026. |
| 1923 | Inland Electric Company, Permit 51643 |
| 1924 | Electrokold Corporation, Permit 67940. |
| 1948 | Senna Service, stoker wiring, Permit #A66689. |
| 1949 | Maxwells Inc. wiring, Permit #A78347. |
| 1957 | John’s Electric, Permit #B53665.
Johnson & Nyreen, interior alterations, \$2,000, Permit #B36546.
Dan Cheek Company, plumbing fixture, Permit #1961.
Spokane Gas Company, piping, Permit #9268. |
| 1958 | Peck & Gale, range and dryer install, Permit #9311. |
| 1959 | Joslin Electric, permit #B67898, range and dryer.
Sadler Electric, dishwasher. Permit #B70098. |

⁸ City of Spokane building permits, 1914-1983. City of Spokane City Hall, Spokane, WA.

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- 1960 Peck & Gale. gas furnace, Permit #B71794.
Boiler, water heater. Permit #20210.
- 1965 Carport built, 24x26 feet, \$1,200. Permit #B61270.
- 1983 Carport enclosed for use as a garage, \$1,500.
- 1997 Carport built onto south elevation of 1983 garage.
- 2017 Carport built in 1997 enclosed as garage. A new 2008 carport with a flat roof was built and extended south from the existing 1997-built garage over the driveway. The 2008-constructed carport was built onto the home's west elevation at the level of the basement that contains a two-car interior garage built in 1919-1920 when the house was erected. The carport is visible from the street at West Sumner Avenue that fronts the Murgittroyd House.



Carport built and attached to the home's west elevation in 2008

SECTION 8: STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

<i>Area of Significance</i>	<i>Architecture</i>
<i>Period of Significance</i>	<i>1919</i>
<i>Built Date</i>	<i>1919</i>
<i>Architects</i>	<i>Archibald Rigg & Roland Vantyne</i>
<i>Contractor</i>	<i>J. W. Forrest</i>

SUMMARY STATEMENT

Erected in 1919, the Murgittroyd House was designed by the Spokane architectural firm Rigg & Vantyne, and built by Spokane builder J. W. Forrest for William & Anne Murgittroyd. A Spokane pharmacist, William established a prescription pharmacy and called it “Murgittroyd’s Druggists.” The business was located at 729 West Riverside Avenue in the center of downtown Spokane. Friendly, outgoing and well-liked, William Murgittroyd was prominent in city business and civic life for more than 40 years from 1903 to his death in 1946.⁹ The *Spokane Daily Chronicle* newspaper described William Murgittroyd as esteemed and successful, a popular citizen who “belonged to an epoch in Spokane, an era of builders and doers of deeds...one of the strong men of that period.”¹⁰ The Murgittroyd House gained importance in the area of “architecture” as a fine depiction of the Elizabethan Tudor Revival style, and embodies numerous identifying elements of the style. These include an asymmetrical design, steeply pitched roof, brick veneer cladding, front-facing gables, flared-gable porch roofs with deep bargeboards, narrow multi-paned windows, and large elaborate brick chimneys capped with rows of decorative corbels. The Murgittroyd House was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1978 as a contributing resource of the Marycliff-Cliff Park National Register Historic District. Well-preserved and architecturally significant, the Murgittroyd House is eligible for listing on the Spokane Register of Historic Places under Category C.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Marycliff-Cliff Park National Register Historic District

The Marycliff-Cliff Park National Register Historic District is a residential neighborhood developed on Spokane’s South Hill between 1889 and 1941, and includes the Murgittroyd House, a contributing property of the district. Located less than a mile south of Spokane’s central downtown business district, the boundaries for the Marycliff-Cliff Park National Register Historic District begins at the base of a high basalt bluff located along West Sixth, Seventh, and Eighth Avenues. The historic district includes homes built at the base of the bluff, and homes built on a plateau on top of the bluff (roughly from West Cliff Drive south to West Fourteenth Avenue). As explained in the National Register Historic District nomination, the neighborhood developed in two distinct stages with homes constructed from 1889 to 1908 along the base of the bluff, and from 1908 to 1941 with homes built on top of the bluff around Cliff Park. Homes in the first stage of the district’s development included large, elegant mansions. These homes were built for Spokane’s newly formed aristocracy and set the tone for type, style, and quality of other homes erected for the social

⁹ *Spokesman-Review*, 5 March 1946, and *Spokane Daily Chronicle*, 6 March 1946.

¹⁰ *Spokane Daily Chronicle*, 5 March 1946.

elite throughout prominent residential neighborhoods in Spokane. These neighborhoods included Browne's Addition, Mission Park, and Cannon's Addition on the lower South Hill.

The second stage of development in the Marycliff-Cliff Park National Register Historic District took place from 1908 to 1941 on the plateau above the basalt bluff, which parallels the north edge of West Cliff Drive. Cliff Drive, Sumner Avenue, and Wall Street were developed as three of the neighborhood's most prestigious streets. In contrast, smaller homes were built for the middle and upper-middle classes along Cotta, Sound, Thirteenth, and Fourteenth Avenues. "As home building moved north and closer to the edge of the cliff just above Seventh Avenue, the size and style of the homes grew larger and grander along with the wealth and status of the owners."¹¹ Bankers and investment owners, department store merchants, prominent attorneys, physicians, lumbermen, and other businessmen settled on top of the plateau around Cliff Park to Cliff Drive, and especially along Sumner Avenue.

Eying an open building site, Spokane pharmacist William Murgittroyd purchased two lots on Sumner Avenue, and commissioned a large Elizabethan Tudor Revival-style home built for himself and his family. Murgittroyd followed binding covenants presented with the deed for the property, which read:

1. *The dwelling erected shall cost not less than \$4,000.*
2. *All outbuildings shall conform thereto in exterior architecture and finish.*
3. *That said dwelling shall be set in at least 25 feet from the front line of said premises.*¹²

The protective covenants implemented in the Cliff Park neighborhood illustrated a city-wide trend towards architectural control in the early 20th-century development of residential neighborhoods in Spokane, Washington. Other residential Spokane neighborhoods on the South Hill that initiated protective covenants and subdivision regulations in the early 1900s include the Manito Park neighborhood, the Cannon Hill Park neighborhood, and the Rockwood National Register Historic District. The development trend continued in Spokane, leading to current contemporary subdivision regulations, neighborhood planning, land use controls, and the development of homeowners' associations in common use today.

William & Anne Murgittroyd

William Murgittroyd was born in Davisburg, Michigan in 1867 and became a prescription pharmacist, also known as a druggist. He relocated to Montana where he met and married Anne Reed of Helena. In 1903, William & Anne Murgittroyd moved to Spokane. Two years later in 1905, William worked as the president and manager of Krum & Braley

¹¹ Bishop, Claire and Sara Patton. *Marycliff-Cliff Park National Register Historic District Nomination*, 1978. Spokane Public Library, Spokane, WA, p. 8-5.

¹² Spokane County warranty deed identified as parcel number 35194.0203, and as Cliff Park Resurvey Lots 6-7, Block 11.

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MURGITTROYD HOUSE

Druggists & Toilet Articles at West 731 Riverside Avenue in downtown Spokane. After purchasing Krum & Braley Druggists the next year in 1906, Murgittroyd changed the name, calling his new drugstore Murgittroyd's Druggists & Toilet Articles. In 1913, the address for the drugstore and pharmacy was updated to West 729 Riverside Avenue. By 1914, William Murgittroyd had become part owner and acting treasurer of the Inland Empire Biscuit Company (manufacturers of crackers and candy) in Spokane at South 104 Division Street. Later, the biscuit company was expanded to include Krause's Candy Company, and the biscuit company name was changed to the Loose-Wiles Biscuit Company Wholesale Bakers. In 1925 after 22 years in the prescription pharmacy business, William Murgittroyd sold his drugstore & pharmacy to become the new president of the Tru-Blu Biscuit Company of Spokane, Seattle, and Portland. He assumed management of the Spokane branch of the biscuit company in 1927, remaining an active manager until his retirement in 1937.

William Murgittroyd was busy in other areas besides his pharmacy/drugstore and biscuit company. Before he came to Spokane, he was associated with placer mining claims along the Salmon River and with the Gleason Mine & Bell Boy group in Marysville, Montana. In Spokane, Murgittroyd was president of the Inland Automobile Association for 15 years, and served as a director of the Spokane & Eastern Trust Company. In 1926, he was appointed president of the Spokane Area Boy Scout Council. In April 1942, Murgittroyd became Spokane's first dollar-a-year man as an associate administrator of World War II Bonds.

William Murgittroyd and his wife, Anne, lived in their Spokane home at 516 West Sumner Avenue for 15 years from 1920 to 1935. They raised two sons, Meredith Robert Murgittroyd and Milburn Murgittroyd, who were 14 and 16 years of age when the Murgittroyd family moved into their new residence in 1920. Anne Murgittroyd was socially prominent in Spokane and was widely known for her many charities. Her home was praised as a "center of delightful affairs for every widening circle."¹³ She was described as a "hostess blessed with a vital magnetic personality, and one who was always gracious."¹⁴ Mrs. Murgittroyd was widely known for her charities and board positions, and was a generous contributor to many causes, including the Women's Emergency Relief Depot at 2nd & Lincoln in downtown Spokane, the Children's Home Board, several philanthropic organizations, the Spokane Community Chest organization, the Community Concert Association, the Spokane Little Theater, and was a working member of the Esther Reed Chapter for Daughters of the American Revolution. Anne Murgittroyd died February 16, 1935 while at the Christian Science Sanitarium in San Francisco.

Two years after Anne Murgittroyd's death, William Murgittroyd married Sylvia North in 1937. William and Sylvia resided in the house on West Sumner Avenue until 1944 when they sold the property to Dr. Clarence A. Veasey, Jr. William & Sylvia then relocated to the Culmstock Arms Apartments at West 328 Eighth Avenue. William Murgittroyd died in 1946.

¹³ *Spokesman-Review Newspaper*. 24 February 1935.

¹⁴ *Ibid*.

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MURGITTROYD HOUSE

At William Murgittroyd's death, the *Spokane Daily Chronicle* newspaper delivered the following pronouncement in the March 5, 1946 edition:

*Mr. Murgittroyd belonged to an epoch in Spokane, an era of builders and doers of deeds. He was one of the strong men of that period. Young men of the oncoming generations, you will have to look far to find one to take his place.*¹⁵

A pioneer Spokane businessman, William Murgittroyd served his community personally and was applauded. It is possible that some Spokane citizen may have served his community in more ways than did Will Murgittroyd, but nobody ever got more downright enjoyment out of it.

*The statement could be substantiated by citing enumerable public-spirited acts and projects in which he participated, but one of the dearest to his heart will serve as an example. Publicity for the annual Shrine football game between Spokane high school teams was one of his responsibilities, and he always insisted, after each game was over, on writing a "thank-you" note in longhand to every person instrumental in promoting the contest. That was a grueling task, but he stayed with it even after advancing years had slowed his hand.*¹⁶

Subsequent Homeowners

In 1944, the Murgittroyd House was owned by Dr. Clarence Veasey, Jr., a physician with an office in downtown Spokane's Paulsen Medical & Dental Building. Dr. & Mrs. Veasey and their family lived at the house until 1947, at which time they sold it to Hal R. & Eva Dixon. Employed in his family's business, Hal was appointed the treasurer & general manager of the Western Pine Manufacturing Company, East 315 Jackson Avenue.

In 1957, Frank & Isabel Davis purchased the Murgittroyd House for \$30,500. Frank Davis worked as the manager of the Spokane Linen Supply Company. Dr. Ralph T. & Louise Harsh bought the house in 1958 for \$37,500. Dr. Harsh worked in obstetrics and gynecology in the Spokane Paulsen Medical & Dental Building. The Harsh family sold the home for \$70,000 in 1976 to Howard & Darlene Herman. After ten years, Howard & Darlene Herman sold the property in 1986 to John & Gloria Woodhead for \$237,500. John Woodhead owned Phelps & Woodhead Incorporated with offices in downtown Spokane. In 2018, local antique collector and social worker, Don Pearson, purchased the property for \$1,800,000.

¹⁵ *Spokane Daily Chronicle*, March 5, 1946.

¹⁶ *Spokane Daily Chronicle*, 5 March 1946.

In 2023, Dave & Annelle Stockton bought the historic Murgittroyd House at West 516 Sumner Avenue for \$1,090,000. Dave Stockton is a professional basketball player with the Valley Suns, an NBA G League team affiliated with the Phoenix Suns.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Tutor Revival Architectural Style

The Murgittroyd House is architecturally significant as an excellent example of the Elizabethan Tudor Revival style. Architectural historians Virginia & Lee McAlester described the origins and characteristics of the Tudor Revival style in their book, *A Field Guide to American Houses*:

*The popular name for the [Tudor Revival] style is historically imprecise, since relatively few examples closely mimic the architectural characteristics of Tudor (early 16th and 17th-century) England. Instead, the style is loosely based on a variety of late Medieval English prototypes, ranging from thatch-roofed folk cottages to grand manor houses. These traditions are freely mixed in their American Eclectic expressions but are united by an emphasis on steeply pitched, front-facing gables which...are almost universally present as a dominant façade element in Tudor [Revival-style] houses. About half have ornamental false half-timbering...and most...have stucco, masonry, or masonry-veneered walls.*¹⁷

Some of the earliest Tudor Revival-style houses built in America date from the late 19th century. These, like the Campbell House in Browne's Addition in Spokane, tended to be architect-designed homes which were close copies of similar English models. Many were patterned after Medieval buildings in England, Normandy, and Holland with Renaissance detailing that was popular during the reigns of Elizabeth I (1558-1603) and James I (1603-1625). By the 1920s and 1930s, the Tudor Revival style in America had been adapted to large landmark quality homes and to mostly smaller single-family houses with the advent of advanced masonry veneering techniques. Popular across the country from 1890 to 1940, Tudor Revival-style homes "show endless variations in overall shape and roof form and are most conveniently subdivided on the basis of their dominant façade materials (brick, stone, stucco, or wood)."¹⁸

Identifying features of the Tudor Revival style include a steeply pitched roof, a façade dominated by one or more prominent steeply pitched cross gables, decorative half-timbering, narrow windows (usually in multiple groups with multi-pane glazing), asymmetrical façade designs, and massive chimneys with decorative corbels. Decorative details of the Tudor Revival style include overlapping gables with varying eave lines, massive brick chimneys with corbels, round-arched doorways with hoods or pediments, groups of tall casement or double-hung windows, and overhanging upper stories and

¹⁷ McAlester, Virginia & Lee. *A Field Guide to American Houses*. New York: Knopf Publishers, 1989, pp. 357-358.

¹⁸ Ibid, pp. 357-358.

gables. Front façade porches are generally either small entry porches or are absent entirely.¹⁹

The Murgittroyd House represents one of six principal style subtypes of the Tudor style, known as “brick wall cladding.”²⁰

*This is the most common Tudor subtype. Walls of solid brick masonry were sometimes used on landmark examples early in the century, but brick became the preferred wall finish for even the more modest Tudor cottages after masonry veneering became widespread in the 1920s.*²¹

Representing the Tudor Revival style, the Murgittroyd House has a tall vertical form with an asymmetrical design, a steeply pitched roof, exterior brick cladding, prominent chimneys with decorative chimney caps, prominent front-facing upper-story gables, decorative bargeboards and brackets, tall vertical multi-paned windows, two small entry porches with flared gable roofs, and gable-peak pendants and finials.

Architect Archibald G. Rigg (1878-1959)

Archibald Rigg was born in Ontario, Canada in 1878. He was educated at Trinity College in Toronto, Columbia University in New York, and the University of Edinburgh in Scotland. For two years, he was head draftsman with well-known Spokane architects Cutter & Malmgren. He then worked for Albert Held, another praised Spokane architect. Rigg later formed successful partnerships with Julius Zittel as Zittel & Rigg Architects, and later with Spokane architect Roland Vantyne. Projects completed by Rigg & Vantyne Architects included the Masonic Temple enlargement, St. Luke’s Hospital, Shriner’s Hospital, Edgecliff Sanatorium, and the Riverside Mausoleum. Rigg was also responsible for the Cheney Cowles Library at Whitworth College. A prominent professional, Rigg belonged to Spokane’s Oriental Lodge, Chamber of Commerce, Spokane Amateur Athletic Club, and the American Institute of Architects. Archibald Rigg died in 1959.

Architect Roland Vantyne (1887-1938)

Roland Vantyne studied at the Buffalo Polytechnic Institute in New York, and worked for architects in both New York and Duluth, Minnesota. Arriving in Spokane in 1910, Vantyne worked as a draftsman for Spokane architects Albert Held and Julius Zittel. Vantyne later met Archibald Rigg, and in 1915, they formed a 23-year-long partnership. Some of their work included the Shriner’s Hospital, the Symons Building in downtown Spokane, and expansion of the Masonic Temple on West Riverside Avenue. Roland Vantyne died in 1938.

¹⁹ Ibid, p. 355.

²⁰ Ibid, p. 355.

²¹ Ibid, p. 355.

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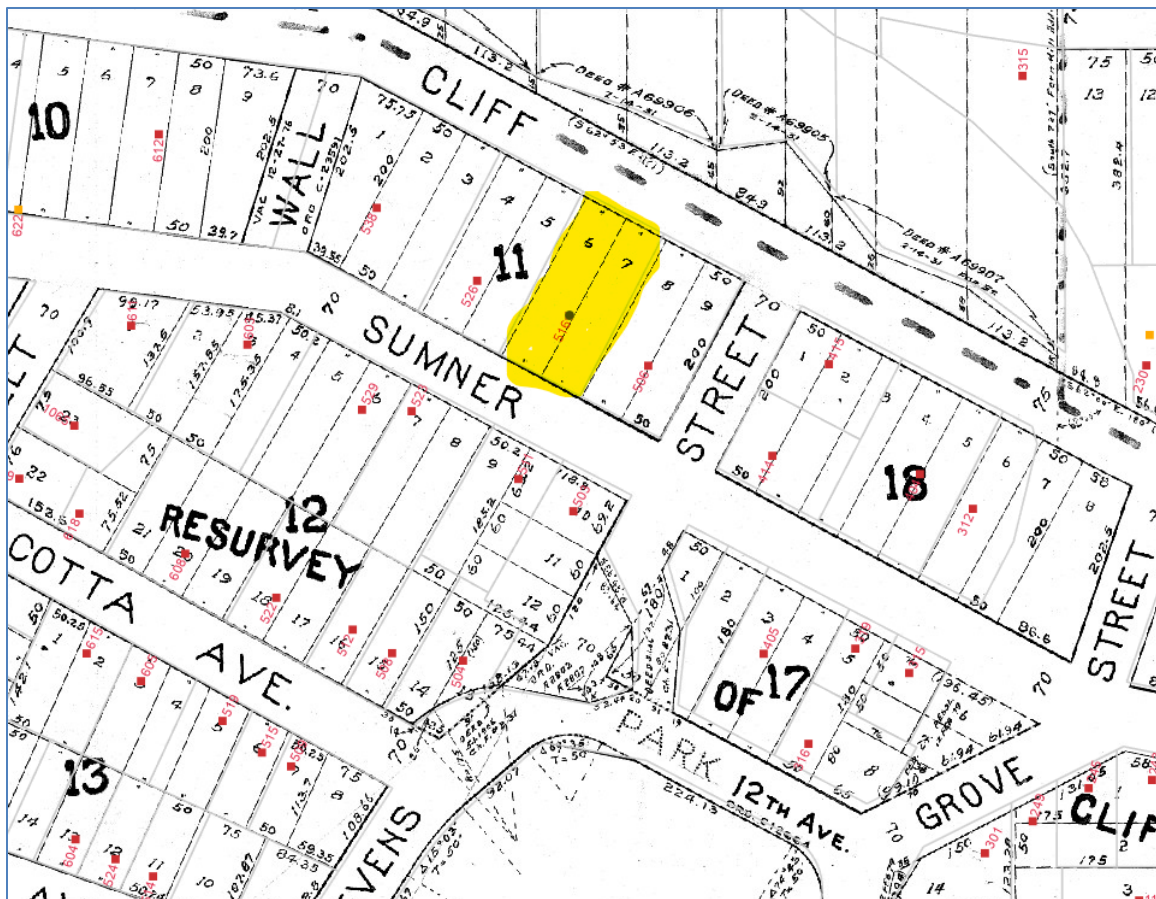
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Sanborn Map – 1910-1950 (Sheet 343)



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Spokane Chronicle, June 4, 1919 (article next page)

Spokane Druggist Will Erect Handsome Home on the South Hill.

To Spokane's beautiful residence section in Cliff Park addition soon is to be added another handsome home, that of Will H. Murgittroyd. The home, to cost about \$40,000, will face on Cliff avenue, between Wall and Butte streets, commanding an excellent view of the city.

The home, two stories, and surroundings, which are now being beautified by a landscape gardener, will occupy lots 6 and 7 of block 11, Cliff Park addition. The residence has been designed by Rigg & Vantyne, architects.

It will be built of brick, in a style characteristic of the Elizabethan period, with a full basement, in which will be located a billiard room, garage, fully equipped electric laundry and storerooms. A living room, dining room, library, kitchen and pantry will occupy most of the first floor. With the exception of the library, all will be in old ivory. One of the modern features will be a glass living porch connecting with the library, which will be finished in trellis work and have a specially designed tile floor. The library will be in African mahogany.

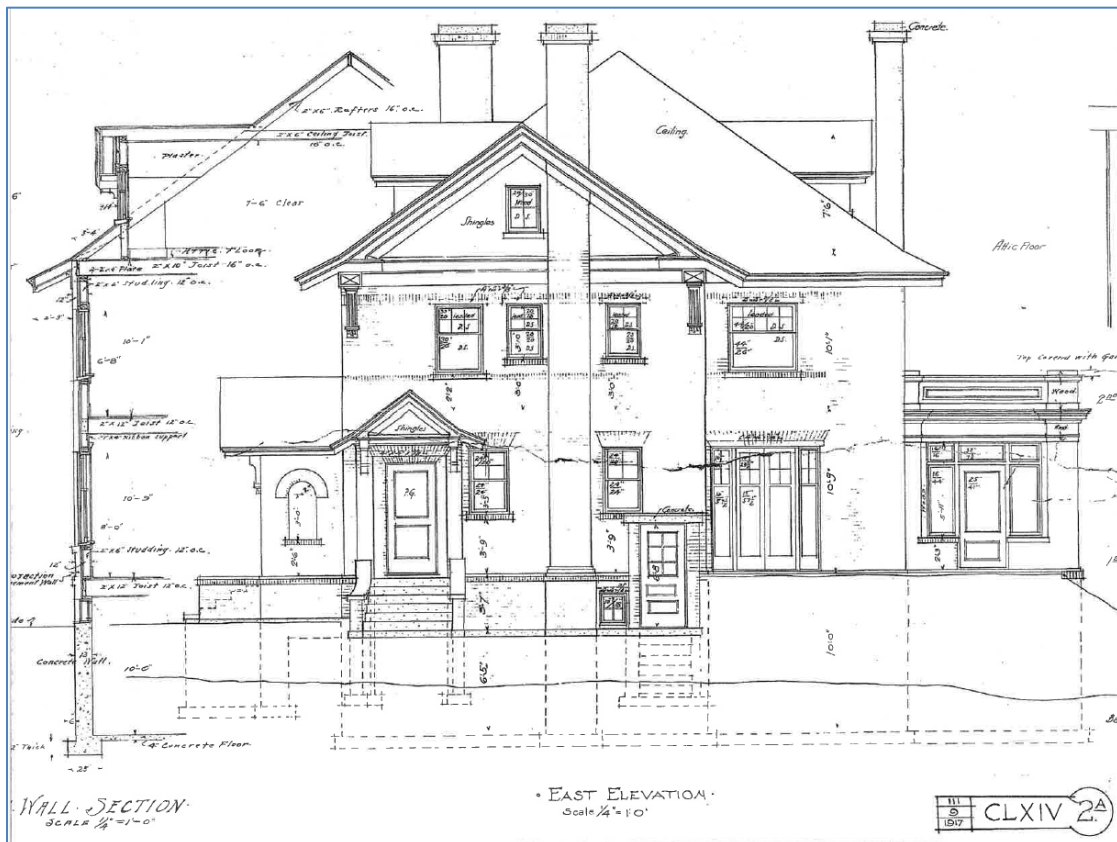
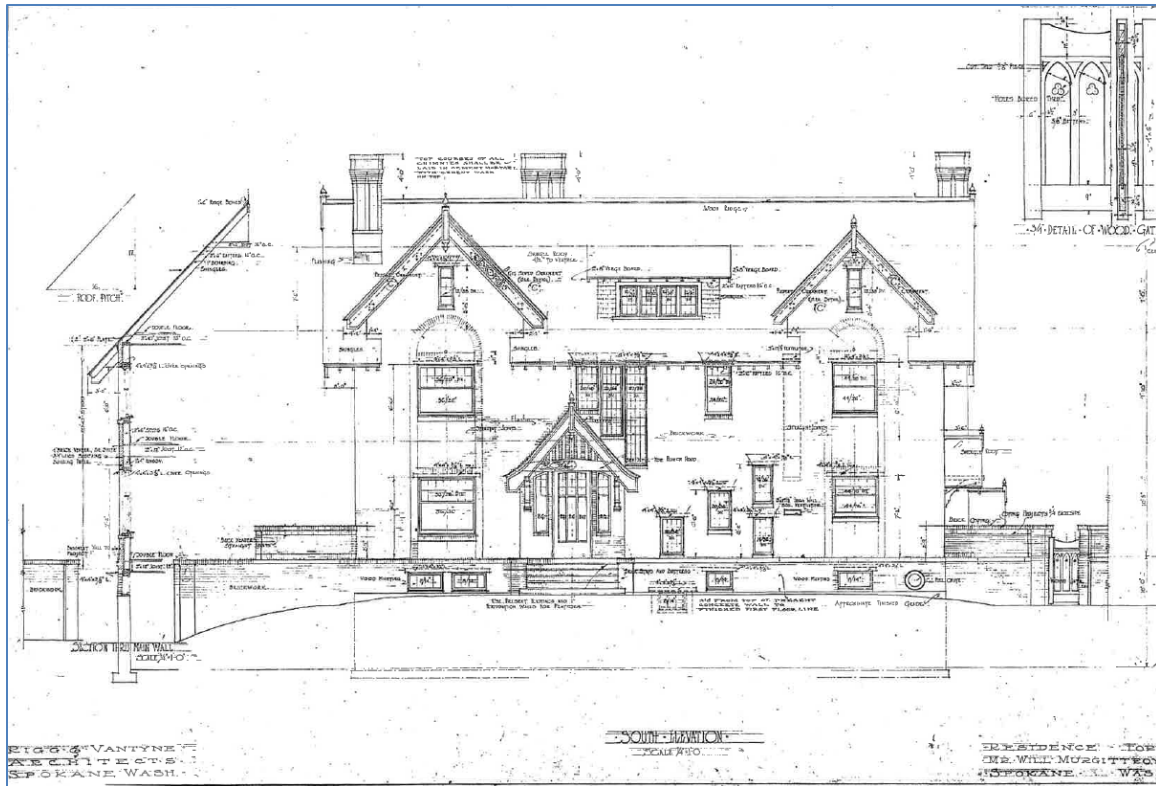
Brick Terrace.

A brick terrace will open off the rear living porch, with rustic fountain and a fernery.

"Work will begin immediately, with J. W. Forrest as the contractor," said Archibald Rigg. "The residence will be one of the most handsome in that part of the city, but all the furnishings and draperies will be of a quiet nature."

The Murgittroyd home will be in the immediate vicinity of the beautiful residence of Thomas J. Humbird and Charles Jones.

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House elevations – 1919, Rigg & VanTyne (property of the owner, David Stockton)

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Photos 1 and 2
2025 photographs of the south façade of the Murgittroyd House

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Photos 3 and 4
2025 photographs of the north rear face of the Murgittroyd House (a garage/caretaker's cottage is located northwest of the Murgittroyd House)

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Photos 5 and 6

*2025 photographs of the formal front door entrance at the south facade of the Murgittroyd House.
The front entrance opens to a circular stairway that leads to the home's second story.*





*Photos 7 and 8
2025 photographs of decorative inlaid walnut designs on the home's first floor.*

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Photos 9 and 10

Photo 9 shows the northwest corner of the living room with a fireplace on the north wall. Photo 10 features a view looking east past the fireplace to a formal dining room.

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Photos 11 and 12

*Photo 11 shows a multi-paned sliding door that opens to a dining room.
Photo 12 features the dining room table with the living room in the background (looking northwest).*

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Photos 13 and 14

2025 photographs of the library in the southwest corner of the home's first floor. The piano is located in the southeast corner of the room. The fireplace is built on the west exterior wall.

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Photos 15 and 16

2025 photographs of the sunroom located behind the living room along the home's north rear elevation at the first floor. The sunroom features handmade ceramic tiles made around 1919 by the Flint Tile Company in the Midwest USA. Notice the circa 1919 pagoda-style ceiling lanterns designed by renowned Spokane architect Kirtland K. Cutter.

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Photos 17 and 18

A large kitchen is located along the east wall of the first floor, and extends from the home's south façade to the rear north wall of the house.

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Photos 19 and 20

2025 photos that show the stairway from the first floor to the second floor, and the southwest corner bedroom on the second floor.

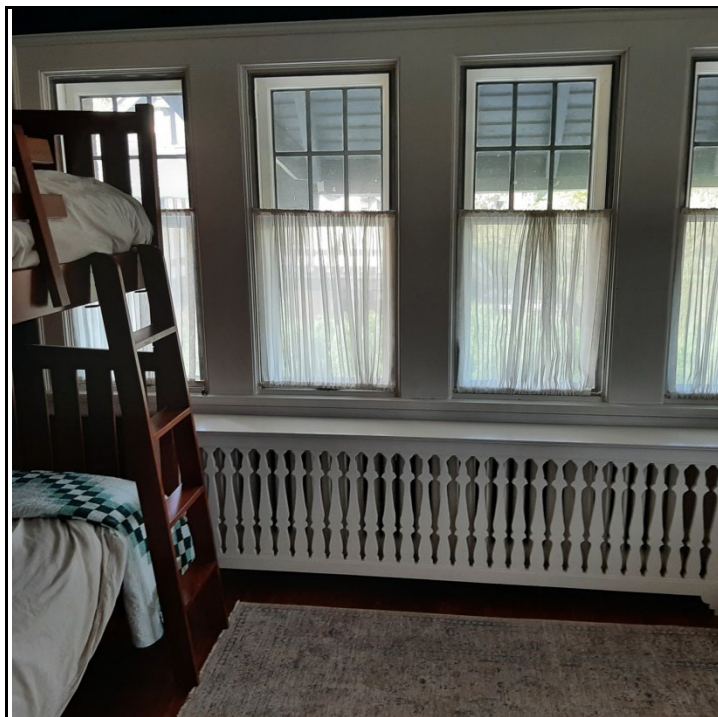
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Photos 21 and 22

2025 photos of the master bedroom and adjoining vanity located in the northeast corner of the second floor.

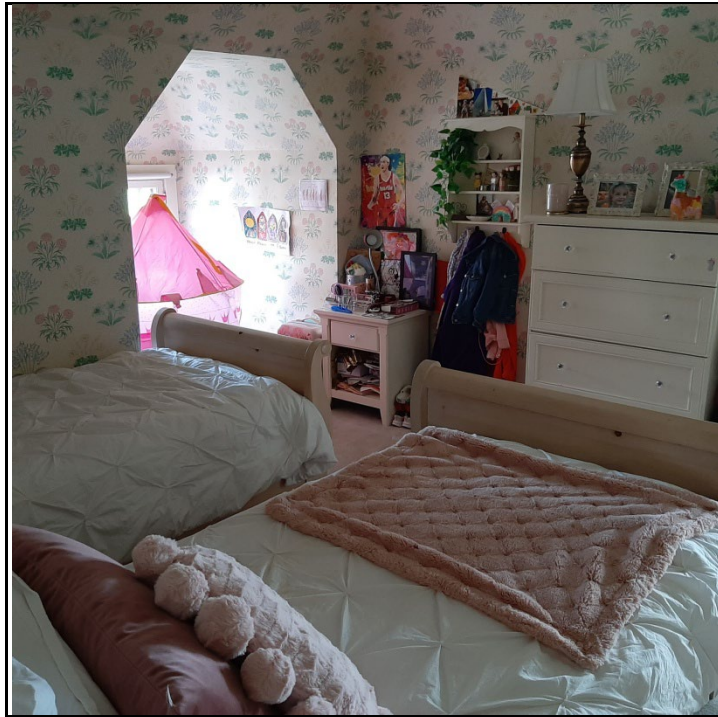
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Photos 23 and 24

2025 photos of the second-floor center bedroom on the north wall, and an adjacent sunroom located at the west end of the bedroom.

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Photos 25 and 26

2025 photographs of two bedrooms built on the third floor—a room located along the north wall, and a smaller bedroom in the southwest corner of the third floor.

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*"W. Murgittroyd, Long Ill, Passes: Leader in Mercantile, Manufacturing, and Civic Circles";
Spokesman Review, March 5, 1946*

W. MURGITTROYD, LONG ILL, PASSES

Leader in Mercantile,
Manufacturing and
Civic Circles.

William Hiram Murgittroyd, 79, former Spokane druggist, prominent in business and civic life, died yesterday at a hospital after several weeks of ill health.

Mr. Murgittroyd, who retired in 1937 as manager of Loose-Wiles Biscuit company's Spokane plant, came to Spokane in 1903 and found-



William H. Murgittroyd.

ed the Murgittroyd drug store at Post and Riverside, which he operated for 22 years.

Incorporated Tru-Blu.

He was one of the original incorporators and president of Tru-Blu Biscuit company. When Loose-Wiles purchased Tru-Blu in 1930 he remained with the new owners as manager of the Spokane plant.

Also interested in mining, he had been associated with the Gleason mine and Bell Boy group at Marysville, Mont., and with placer claims along Salmon river, near Lucile, Idaho. He resided at Marysville during its boom days before coming to Spokane.

In April, 1942, Mr. Murgittroyd became Spokane's first dollar-a-year man, as an associate administrator of War Bonds. He was president of the Inland Automobile association 15 years. Also interested in Boy Scout work, he was president of the Spokane area council in 1927. He was a director of the Spokane and Eastern Trust company and a member of the Spokane City and University club, Country club and Rotary club.

Native of Michigan.

He was born at Davisburg, Mich., and married the late Annie Reed of Helena April 28, 1897. Mrs. Murgittroyd died in California in February, 1935. He married Mrs. Sylvia B. North in January, 1937.

Besides his widow, who resides at Culmatock Arms, he leaves two sons, Milburn and Meredith. Mr. and Mrs. Milburn Murgittroyd are to arrive from Seattle this morning. Meredith is in California.

The body is at the Smith funeral home.

"Spokane Pioneer Taken by Death" Spokane Chronicle, March 6, 1946

SPOKANE PIONEER TAKEN BY DEATH

Will H. Murgittroyd, 79, pioneer Spokane business man, former druggist and president of the old Tru-Blu Biscuit company, died yesterday in a local hospital after several weeks illness.

Born at Davisburg, Mich., in 1867, he came here from Montana in 1903 and opened a drug store at Post and Riverside. After operating the store for 22 years he sold out to the Liggett interests in 1925 and became president of the Tru-Blu Biscuit company of Spokane, Seattle and Portland. He was one of the original incorporators of that firm.

Mr. Murgittroyd assumed active management of the Spokane branch in 1927 and continued in that capacity after the firm was taken over by the Loose-Wiles company in 1930. He remained as active manager until his retirement in 1937.

Was Bank Director.

President of the Inland Automobile association for 15 years, he had also served as a director of the Spokane and Eastern Trust company. In 1926 he was appointed president of the Spokane area Boy Scout council.

Mr. Murgittroyd had been a member of the Masonic lodge since 1889. He had passed the 32d degree, was a member of the Shrine and the Knights Templar.

In April, 1942, as associate administrator of the state war savings staff, he was the first "dollar-a-year" man to be appointed by the government during World war II. For several years he was active in mining ventures.

Survivors include his wife, Sylvia B., at the home in the Culmstock Arms, and two sons, Milburn, Seattle, and Meredith in California. The body is at Smith's.

"Mrs. Murgittroyd Called by Death" Spokane Chronicle, February 16, 1935

MRS. MURGITTROYD CALLED BY DEATH

Mrs. Anne Murgittroyd, W516 Sumner, wife of Will H. Murgittroyd, manager of the Loose-Wiles Biscuit company, died in San Francisco this morning in the Christian Science sanitarium, according to word received here today.

Mr. Murgittroyd and a son, Meredith, were with her at the time of her death. She had been ill since Christmas and had been in California for several weeks. It is understood that the body will be brought to Spokane.

Mrs. Murgittroyd was formerly Miss Anne Read of Helena, Mont. They were married there April 28, 1897, and came to Spokane in 1903. For many years Mr. Murgittroyd was the proprietor of the drug store at Riverside and Post and sold to Liggett's in November, 1925. He was with the Tru-Blu Biscuit company for some years before it was absorbed a few years ago by the Loose-Wiles company. He is now an officer in the latter organization.

For many years Mrs. Murgittroyd had been active in community projects, including the Little Theater group, the Spokane Children's home, of which she was a board member, and other organizations, and more recently with the Community Concert association. She was a member of the First Church of Christ, Scientist. Besides her husband and son, Meredith, she is survived by another son, Milburn, who is associated with his father.

Enthusiastic Gardener.

In addition to many social activities, Mrs. Murgittroyd was a lover of flowers and an enthusiastic gardener. The grounds about the home on Sumner, with their flowers and shrubs, show the work of her hands. She was a member of a garden club, Kappa Tau chapter of the Delphians and of the board of the Christian Science church.

She had made various trips to the east and had been in Washington, D. C., a number of times. She was a dinner guest at one of the White House functions during the administration of Herbert Hoover. Mrs. Murgittroyd had been treasurer of the Little Theater group for a number of years.