

AN ORDINANCE DESIGNATING the Matsumoto House at 821 Runnymede Road IN THE PLANNING JURISDICTION OF RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA, A HISTORIC LANDMARK.

WHEREAS, the General Assembly of the State of North Carolina authorized the creation of a countywide Historic Preservation Commission for Wake County and otherwise provided for the preservation of certain historic sites and buildings by the passage of Part 3C, Chapter 160A, Article 19 of the North Carolina General Statutes; and

WHEREAS, the City of Raleigh agreed to participate in the countywide Historic Preservation Commission through an interlocal agreement with Wake County; and

WHEREAS, the Wake County Historic Preservation Commission has made an investigation and recommended the following property be designated a historic landmark; and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources has made an analysis that the following property is eligible to be designated a historic landmark; and

WHEREAS, on the 8th day of November 1995, a public hearing was held in the City Council Chamber of the Municipal Building, Raleigh, by the City Council of the City of Raleigh to determine whether the hereinafter described property should be designated a historic landmark; and

WHEREAS, all requirements of Part 3C, Chapter 160A, Article 19 of the North Carolina General Statutes, preceding the adoption of this ordinance, have been met.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE RALEIGH CITY COUNCIL THAT:

Section 1. The property designated as the Matsumoto House, owned by Huston Paschal, in the planning jurisdiction of Raleigh, North Carolina, be and is declared a Raleigh Historic Landmark. Said property being more particularly described as follows:

The Matsumoto House at 821 Runnymede Road, Raleigh, (Wake County P.I.N. 0795.19617941), approximately one acre, including the entire parcel on which the building stands.

Section 2. Those elements that are integral to its historical, architectural, archaeological significance, or any combination thereof are as follows:

Exterior of the modular plan, flat-roofed, steel and wood-frame residence cantilevered over a concrete base, designed by George Matsumoto and built in 1954 as an innovative modernist building, as described in the designation report, including all of the parcel described in Section 1.

Section 3. No building, site, structure, or object that is designated in this ordinance located on the hereinbefore described site may be altered, restored, moved, remodeled, or reconstructed so that a change in design, material, or outer appearance occurs unless and until a certificate of appropriateness is obtained from the Wake County Historic Preservation Commission or its successors.

Section 4. No building, site, structure, or object that is designated in this ordinance located on the hereinbefore described site may be demolished unless and until either approval of demolition is obtained from the Wake County Historic Preservation Commission or a period of three hundred sixty-five (365) days has elapsed following final review by the Wake County Historic Preservation Commission of a request for demolition (or any longer period required by N.C.G.S. 160A-400.14 as it may be amended hereafter).

Section 5. All owners of the property hereinabove described, whose identity and addresses can be ascertained by the exercise of due diligence, shall be sent by certified mail a copy of this ordinance.

Section 6. This ordinance shall be indexed after the property owner's name in the grantor and grantee indexes in the Office of the Register of Deeds of Wake County.

Section 7. City administration and the Wake County Historic Preservation Commission are hereby authorized to have erected an appropriate sign on the site herein described setting forth the fact that said site has been designated a historic landmark by action of the Raleigh City Council and the Wake County Historic Preservation Commission.

Section 8. In the event any building, site, structure, or object is demolished in accordance with the ordinances of City of Raleigh, this ordinance may be repealed.

Section 9. Any violation of this ordinance shall be unlawful as by law provided.

Council Member Nooe made a motion that the above ordinance be adopted. Council Member Odom seconded the motion, and upon vote, the motion carried this the 8th day of November 1995

Effective Date: November 8, 1995

Distribution:

- City Council
- City Manager
- City Attorney
- Planning Department (2)
- Inspections Department (3)
- Wake County Registrar of Deeds
- Wake County Geographic Information Services Department
- Wake County Historic Preservation Commission (3) file
- Property Owner
- Wake County Tax Supervisor



*City Of Raleigh*  
*North Carolina*

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA)

COUNTY OF WAKE )

\* \* \* \* \*

CERTIFICATION

I, Gail G. Smith, City Clerk & Treasurer of the City of Raleigh, North Carolina, do hereby certify that the attached is a true and exact copy of Ordinance (1995) 767 adopted by the Raleigh City Council on 11/08/95.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and have caused the Seal of the City of Raleigh to be affixed this 8th day of December, 1995.



*Gail G. Smith*  
Gail G. Smith  
City Clerk & Treasurer

WAKE COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION  
LANDMARK DESIGNATION APPLICATION

1. Name of Property

Historic Name: Matsumoto House

Current Name: Matsumoto House

2. Location

Street Address: 821 Runnymede Road

City/Town/Jurisdiction: Raleigh

NC PIN Number: 0795.19617941

3. Owner Information (If more than one, list primary contact)

Name: Huston Paschal

Address/Phone: 821 Runnymede Road, Raleigh 27607

833 1935, ext. 2129; 787 4619

4. Applicant/Contact Person

Name: Huston Paschal

Address/Phone: 821 Runnymede Road, Raleigh 27607

833 1935, ext. 2129; 787 4619

5. General Data/Site Information

A. Date of Construction and major additions/alterations: 1952-54

B. Number, type, and date of construction of outbuildings: none

C. Approximate lot size or acreage: less than one acre

D. Architect, builder, carpenter, and/or mason: George Matsumoto, architect; Frank

Walser, contractor

E. Original Use: single-family dwelling

F. Present Use: single-family dwelling

6. Classification

A. Category (building(s), structure, object, site): Building

B. Ownership (private or public): privately owned

C. Number of Contributing and non-contributing resources on the property:

	<u>Contributing</u>	<u>Non-contributing</u>
Buildings	<u>1</u>	<u>          </u>
Structures	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
Objects	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
Sites	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>

D. Previous field documentation (when and by whom): in 1991 by Helen Ross

E. National Register Status and date (listed, eligible, study list): listed 21 September 1994

7. Signature of Applicant Huston Paschal

8. Supporting Documentation (Attach to application on separate sheets. Please type or print.) Photographs and copy of National Register nomination

A. Photographs. Application must include current black and white photos of all facades of the main building and at least one photo of all other contributing and non-contributing resources. Photos must be identified in pencil with the name of the property, its address or location, and the date. Additional photographs of the exterior or interior of the property are helpful. Black and white or color photographs or color slides are acceptable for additional views.

B. Maps. Include a map showing the location of the property. Tax maps with the boundaries of the property are preferred, but sketch maps are acceptable. Please show street names and numbers and all structures on the property.

C. Justification for area to be designated. Describe the appearance and use of the land to be designated.

D. Architectural description and significance. Describe the property, including exterior architectural features, additions, remodelings, and alterations. Also describe significant outbuildings and landscape features. If the owner has given the Commission permission to have design review over any interior features, describe them in detail and note their locations. Include a statement regarding the architectural significance of the property.

E. Historical Significance: Note any significant events, people, and/or families associated with the property. Include all major owners. Please include a bibliography of sources consulted.

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Date Received: 7-20-95

Received by: MMQ

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 for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "X" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any 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 Matsumoto House

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

## 2. Location

street & number 821 Runnymede Road N/A not for publication

city or town Raleigh N/A vicinity

state North Carolina code NC county Wake code 183 zip code 27607

## 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this  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  meets  does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. (  See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

William S. Rain 7-26-94  
Signature of certifying official Date

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 commenting or other official 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 of Property

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

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

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> buildings
	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<u>1</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
<u>2</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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

Early Modern Architecture in Raleigh Associated with the Faculty of the NCSU School of Design, Raleigh, North Carolina

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC Sub: Single Dwelling

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC Sub: Single Dwelling

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Miesian

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE

roof SYNTHETICS/Plastic

walls WOOD

other GLASS

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

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria
qualifying the property for National Register listing)

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

- 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.

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)
Architecture

Period of Significance
1954

Significant Dates
1954

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked
above)
N/A

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Architect/Builder
Architect-Matsumoto, George
Contractor-Walser, Frank

Criteria Considerations
(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for
religious purposes.
B removed from its original location.
C a birthplace or a grave.
D a cemetery.
E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
F a commemorative property.

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

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
Other State agency
Federal agency
Local government
University
Other
Name of repository:



**10. Geographical Data****Acreage of Property** Less than 1 acre**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone	Easting	Northing
17	710040	3965760

**Verbal Boundary Description**

(see continuation sheet)

**Boundary Justification**

(see continuation sheet)

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title	David R. Black/Architectural Historian		
organization	Black & Black, Preservation Consultants	date	April 1994
street & number	620 Wills Forest Street	telephone	(919) 828-4616
city or town	Raleigh	state	NC zip code 27605

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

**Maps**

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

A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs**

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

**Property Owner**

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name \_\_\_\_\_

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 the 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 Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Matsumoto House  
Wake County, North Carolina

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### 7. Description

Built in 1952-54 by architect George Matsumoto as his residence and studio, the Matsumoto House is an innovative modernist building located on a steeply-sloping, rectangular lot in the hilly and wooded Budleigh Forest Subdivision in west Raleigh. The flat-roofed, one-story, rectangular mass of the post and beam-framed house is cantilevered over a concrete block base set into the sloping lot close to the line of Runnymede Road to the north. A paved and landscaped forecourt at the road's edge provides a transition between the street and a short bridge that leads up to the central doorway of the symmetrical, paneled facade, creating the first of a series of volumes that are experienced as one moves to and through the house. Although located near the road, the house largely turns its back to it, opening instead to the wooded hillside and stream behind the house to the south by means of a full-width, glazed rear wall fronted by a cantilevered, screened porch. While the house has always been air conditioned, this south-facing porch and glazed wall provide a measure of passive climatic control, admit generous amounts of natural light, and expand the apparent space of the living areas. Laid out on an eight-foot structural module, the interiors of the small house are divided into public and private spaces carefully arranged to make maximum use of the available area while maintaining a sense of spaciousness and warmth. The house is well-maintained and little-altered and retains an integrity of materials, location, workmanship and setting.

From the south edge of Runnymede Road, the Matsumoto lot drops rapidly to a shallow stream which falls in several stages from the northwest corner of the property (See Exhibit A). A small steel and wood bridge, part of the original construction, crosses over the water. Rising beyond the stream is a high, wooded hillside. Immediately to the east of the house is the contemporary Koontz house, in whose design Matsumoto was involved, while across the road and on nearby lots are mostly eclectic houses dating from

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Matsumoto House  
Wake County, North Carolina

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the last thirty years. A small, unpaved parking area is located at the northwest corner of the property next to the road.

The principal approach to the house is by way of a sunken, landscaped entry forecourt located just off the street. Several concrete steps lead down into this court between a hedge-like row of *lagustrum* shrubs on the south and a perpendicular, raised planter on the north which contains hollies and a small juniper tree. The forecourt is paved with exposed aggregate concrete divided into panels by wood strips. At the south end of the forecourt is a concrete block retaining wall which supports the near end of a steel-string wooden ramp that bridges up to a wooden platform before the recessed front entrance to the house. A steeply-sloped driveway, shared with the adjacent Koontz House, also leads from the street down to a carport under the east end of the building.

The upper, or primary living level of the house is a post and beam, steel and wood-framed, rectangular, flat-roofed structure. Six evenly-spaced steel beams cased in wood span from the front to the rear of the house at the floor level and are matched by composite wooden beams at the ceiling level. These create a bay module for the house that is eight foot wide. At each of the east and west ends of the house an additional half-module bay is cantilevered off of this structure, as is a screened porch that runs along the rear elevation of the house.

The concrete block-walled lower portion of the house that is set into the side of the hill provides a base for the upper level. The north wall of this lower floor acts as a retaining wall, extending to screen the entrance to the carport and an adjacent covered area at the east end of the house and at the west end of the house screening the side windows of the enclosed, lower-level studio space.

Cantilevered slightly over the lower-level wall, the front elevation of the residence is a symmetrical composition centered around a recessed front door flanked by sidelights. On either side of the entrance are two nearly-square, eight-foot-wide bays defined by the ends of the side-to-side floor and ceiling cross beams and by dark-stained

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vertical strips which join them. Each bay is faced with two panels of what was originally tempered hardboard, but which has been replaced with a modern mineral fiber-reinforced cement panel of the same appearance trademarked Minerit. Running across the front elevation between the beams ends at the ceiling levels for each floor, but recessed slightly behind the wall plane, are narrow, horizontal clearstory windows in pairs. These clearstory strips enhance the visual effect of cantilevering for the front wall panels. Dark-painted fascias tie the facade together horizontally at the roof and floor levels. Framing the projecting facade on either end are the flank elevations of the cantilevered side bays, which are faced with vertical, shiplapped pine boards finished with a dark stain.

The east elevation of the house is two bays wide on the upper level. The left-hand bay is a blank face of vertical shiplapped boards finished with a dark stain. The upper two-thirds of the right-hand bay are glazed with a central picture window flanked by pairs of aluminum-frame casement windows and with a narrow transom over all. Below the windows are light-painted panels, originally tempered hardboard, now Minerit. At the lower level on this elevation is the open entrance to the carport and a free-standing wall that screens the adjacent covered service area. The upper level of the west elevation of the house mirrors the east elevation. The lower level contains a blank concrete block wall on the right side and half-height glazing on the left side that duplicates the window pattern above it.

Across the rear of the main level of the house is a cantilevered, five-bay porch that is screened from the road on either end by the projecting, cantilevered end bays. Sheltered below this porch is the rear wall of the lower-level studio, glazed across its upper half with alternating picture windows and pairs of aluminum casements, and with horizontal panels of Minerit below them.

Originally, the exterior shiplapped wood sheathing of the house and the exposed beams and fascias were finished with a thin, transparent stain. Over time, and to protect

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Matsumoto House  
Wake County, North Carolina

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them from weathering, these elements have been painted with a solid brown stain that matches the stripping framing the wall panels and windows. As noted previously, the exterior tempered hardboard wall panels have been replaced, and the original built-up roof of the house has been renewed with a single-ply membrane roof. In all other respects the overall exterior appearance of the house is as it was in 1954.

The interior of the house is divided perpendicular to its long axis into two sections (See Exhibit B). The three-and-a-half-bay-wide public area of the house, consisting of the entrance area, the living room, and the dining room, is essentially one space organized around a rectangular core containing the kitchen, storage, and the enclosed stair to the lower level. The rear wall of this space is completely glazed with pairs of wood-framed glass doors that open onto the screened porch. A free-standing, custom-built steel fireplace sits on a marble platform in front of this wall. Along the west side of the living room are built-in shelves and cabinets which help to define the dining area in the northwest corner of the room. The beams that cross the sheet-rocked ceiling, as well as two intermediate posts, are cased in dark, natural-finished fir and the walls are paneled with natural-finished birch and mahogany-veneered plywood. Floors throughout this level are strip oak with a golden finish. Though the ceilings are sheet rocked, some portions of the walls which are not covered with plywood have painted masonite paneling.

At the east end of the building are two and a half bays which contain the private spaces of the house. The three bedrooms and one bath are arranged around a small, L-shaped hallway. The master bedroom at the southeast corner and a small adjacent bedroom both have pairs of glazed doors which open onto the rear porch. Carved out of a corner of the master bedroom is a small half bath installed in the 1960s. Built-in closets and drawers line the remainder of the east wall of the room. The bedroom at the front of the house also has built-in cabinetry along the north wall.

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Matsumoto House  
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The lower level of the house is one modest-sized room that was originally Mr. Matsumoto's studio. Walls in this space are of painted concrete block, and, as in the rooms above, the composite ceiling joists are exposed. The south wall of the room is glazed from mid-wall up with picture windows and pairs of casements. Another set of casements is located on the east wall and, like the upper level, a clearstory strip of glazing runs along the top of the north wall.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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Wake County, North Carolina

Exhibit A

Sketch Site Plan

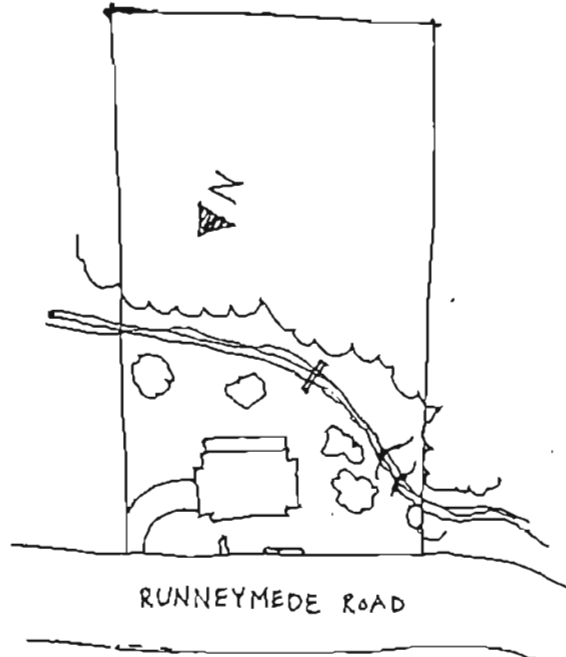
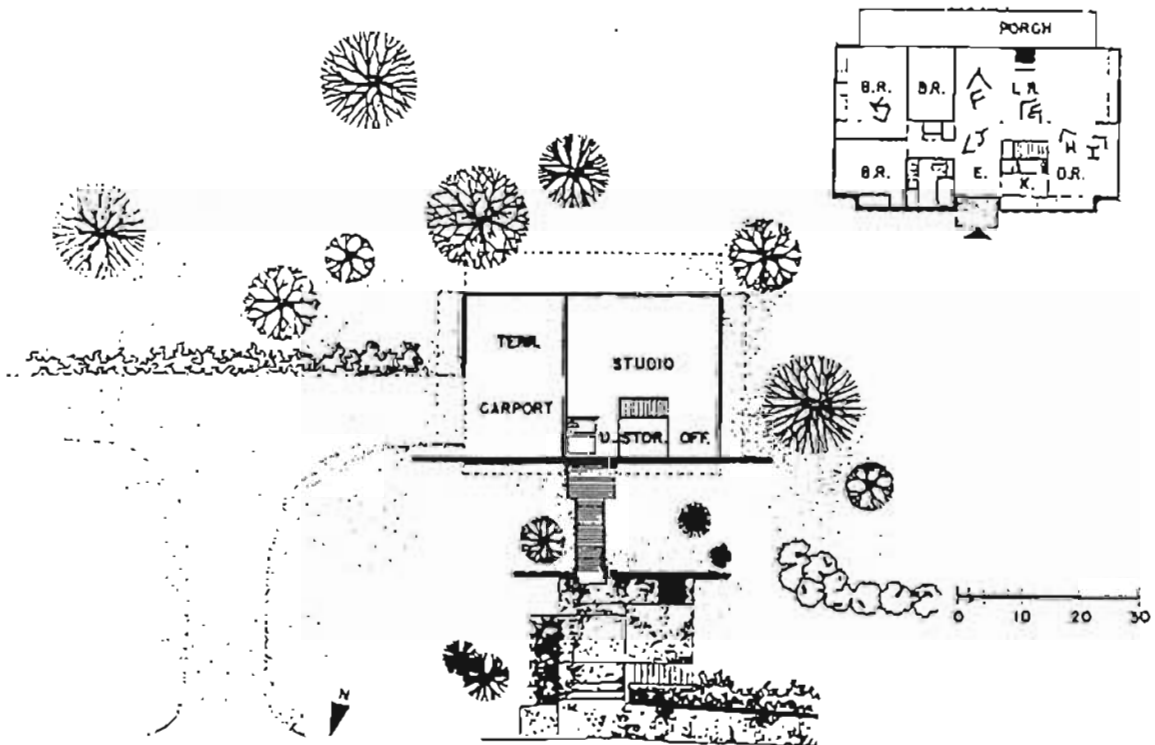


Exhibit B

Floor Plans from Architectural Record Houses of 1957  
( > indicates interior photograph vantage points)



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Matsumoto House  
Wake County, North Carolina

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8. Statement of Significance

Completed in 1954, the Matsumoto House represents the first in a series of innovative Miesian-influenced houses designed by North Carolina State University School of Design professor George Matsumoto during his tenure at the school from 1948 to 1961 (See Multiple Property Designation Form for "Early Modern Architecture in Raleigh Associated with the North Carolina State University School of Design, Raleigh, North Carolina"). The house is being nominated under Criterion C, as the work of a master and as possessing high artistic values. Built on a modular plan, the post and beam, steel and wood-frame residence demonstrates Matsumoto's skill in integrating site, structure, economy of labor and materials, and space planning to create an environment of warmth and quiet grace. The recipient of a North Carolina American Institute of Architects Honor Award for design in 1957, and published on the cover of Architectural Record Houses for 1957, the Matsumoto house typifies the best in Modern Movement architecture in Raleigh and North Carolina during the period.

Historical Background

George Matsumoto (1922- ) arrived in North Carolina in 1948 as one of a group of four professors who accompanied Henry Kamphoefner, the newly-appointed dean of the newly-created School of Design at North Carolina State College, in his move from the University of Oklahoma. Matsumoto was only 26 at the time, but he had already built a record of achievement in architectural competitions and in practice in Detroit, Kansas City and Chicago (See Biographical Appendix to Early Modern Buildings MPDF). In 1948 he had helped Kamphoefner design a Wrightian home for himself in Country Club Hills, and on his own had designed a Usonian residence on Churchill Road in 1950 for Professor Paul O. Ritcher.



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In June of 1952, Matsumoto and his wife Kimi purchased a lot on which to build a home for themselves (Wake County Deeds, Book 1098, p. 217). The contractor for the house, which was finished in 1954, was Frank Walser, who also built the Ritcher and Poland Houses for Matsumoto in the early 1950s ("George Matsumoto and the Ritcher House," Royt Bangs).

Like many architects who had assimilated the ideas of the Modern Movement and of Wright's Usonian concepts in the 1930s and 1940s, Matsumoto and his colleagues at the School of Design were interested in modular design, in the use of low-cost, mass-produced, industrial materials and techniques for constructing housing, in passive solar climate control and the integration of buildings into the site, as well as in a wealth of aesthetic issues having to do with creating an architecture that was expressive of structure and of the conditions of the modern age. When it came time to design his own house, Matsumoto brought to bear his accumulated knowledge and concerns, melding together a variety of influences and factors to create a unified work of art.

The house was built economically, of largely standard modern materials used mostly as they came. It has a post and beam structure of steel cased in clear fir, built-up fir beams and columns, and intermediate fir framing. The lower, studio level, is a base of unpainted concrete block, over which are cantilevered the living quarters of the upper level. The side-to-side beams of the upper level are laid out at eight foot intervals, creating an eight foot module for the house.

Although it is set near the street, the interior spaces of the house are oriented toward the natural areas to the rear. An exterior entry court just off the street prepares the visitor to cross a small bridge that spans up to the carefully-composed, paneled front elevation, the first of a series of movements from spatial volume to spatial volume as one moves to and through the building. The Matsumoto House is relatively small; 1300 square feet on the upper level and 500 square feet on the studio level; but the glazed rear wall allows the full-width rear porch to be incorporated into the living area during much of the year. The interior spaces are planned with exquisite skill within the

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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eight foot module so as to make maximum use of the available space. The living quarters are notable for their warm woodwork and for the quality of light and space that they provide. In its discussion of the Matsumoto House in 1957 the Architectural Record remarked that:

This good looking little house stands as vital proof that standard stock materials and equipment can---with care, thought, and a knowing touch--be combined to make a fresh, unstereotyped structure. The result has warmth and elegance of finish, and the cost was amazingly low. In plan, the house works extremely well, with a maximum of living space and as little waste as there is in the structure.

The success of the house lies, no doubt, in the meticulous attention given to each tiny detail--for itself, and for its relation to the overall scheme. Each item dovetails with the next in a logical, coordinated manner, yet retains individuality through contrasts of natural color, texture and patterns of the materials.

The main impact of the house is one of lightness and suspension. This is created by cantilevering the house over its raised basement on all four sides, so that it has a modified cross shape. And it is emphasized by glass fillers between all girders. ("Details Enhance a Small House," Architectural Record Houses of 1957, Mid-May 1957, p. 184)

Also in 1957, the house received an Honor Award from the North Carolina Chapter of the American Institute of Architects. The discussion of the award in Southern Architect remarked that the house was built economically, using materials as they came. The simplicity of the building's form was noted, beginning at the "outdoor lobby," about which Matsumoto was quoted as saying, 'This is necessary to prepare one to enter the home; a part of the planning. There should be a pause point.' In addition, the article commented that the screened porch across the back of the main floor, with the family and bedrooms facing it, created the effect of one room in the summer ("Architects Residence-Studio," Southern Architect, July 1957, p. 9)

A variety of influences may be seen in Matsumoto's design for the house. In its external symmetry, flat-roofed, box-like form, paneled front elevation, "floating" planes, and interior use of rich paneling materials the house exhibits a Miesian character reminiscent of Mies van der Rohe's Farnsworth House of 1946-50. However, the Chamberlain

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Matsumoto House  
Wake County, North Carolina

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House of 1940 by Walter Gropius and Marcel Breuer seems an obvious source for the use of vertical shiplap siding as a sheathing material, the style of fenestration, the concept of cantilevering over a masonry base, and the formulation of a tightly-worked plan divided into public and private spaces. And overlaying these influences are a Wrightian and a Japanese concern for site, orientation, and privacy.

Matsumoto resigned his position at North Carolina State to return to his native California and a professorship at Berkeley in 1961. In July of 1961 the Matsumotos sold the house to Banks Talley, Jr. (Wake County Deeds, Book 1463, p. 246). Talley and his wife Louise lived in the house until 1974, when the property was purchased by George and Beth Paschal of Raleigh (Wake County Deeds, Book 2238, p. 351). Since that time the property has been occupied by their daughter Huston Paschal, to whom they deeded it in a series of transactions (Wake County Deeds, Book 3075, p. 760; Book 3210, p. 505; Book 3376, p. 377; Book 3429, p. 570).

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section 9., 10. Page 1 Matsumoto House  
Wake County, North Carolina

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9. Major Bibliographical References

Hoyt Bangs Interview with George Matsumoto, March 1993.

Waugh, Elizabeth Culbertson. North Carolina's Capital, Raleigh. The Junior League of Raleigh, Raleigh, North Carolina, 1992.

Wake County Deeds

\_\_\_\_\_. "Architect's Residence-Studio." Southern Architect, July 1957, p. 9.

\_\_\_\_\_. "Details Enhance a Small House." Architectural Record Houses of 1957. Architectural Record, Mid-May 1957, Vol. 121, p. 184.

\_\_\_\_\_. "George Matsumoto." Southern Architect, May 1961, p. 17.

\_\_\_\_\_. "Matsumoto, George." Supplement to Who's Who in America 45th Edition, 1989-1990. Wilmette, Illinois, Marquis Who's Who, 1989, p. 773.

\_\_\_\_\_. "Two Variations of One Structural System." House and Home, February, 1952.

\_\_\_\_\_. "Tarheel of the Week-George Matsumoto." The (Raleigh) News and Observer, 22 September 1957.

10. Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description:

The boundaries of the Matsumoto House nomination are as shown by the dashed line on the accompanying Wake County Orthophotographic Map #0795.19, drawn at a scale of 1 inch = 100 feet.

Boundary Justification:

The boundaries of the Matsumoto House nomination include the original lot on which the building was constructed and which provides an appropriate setting for the building.



MATSUMOTO HOUSE  
821 RUNNYMEDE ROAD  
RALEIGH, NC



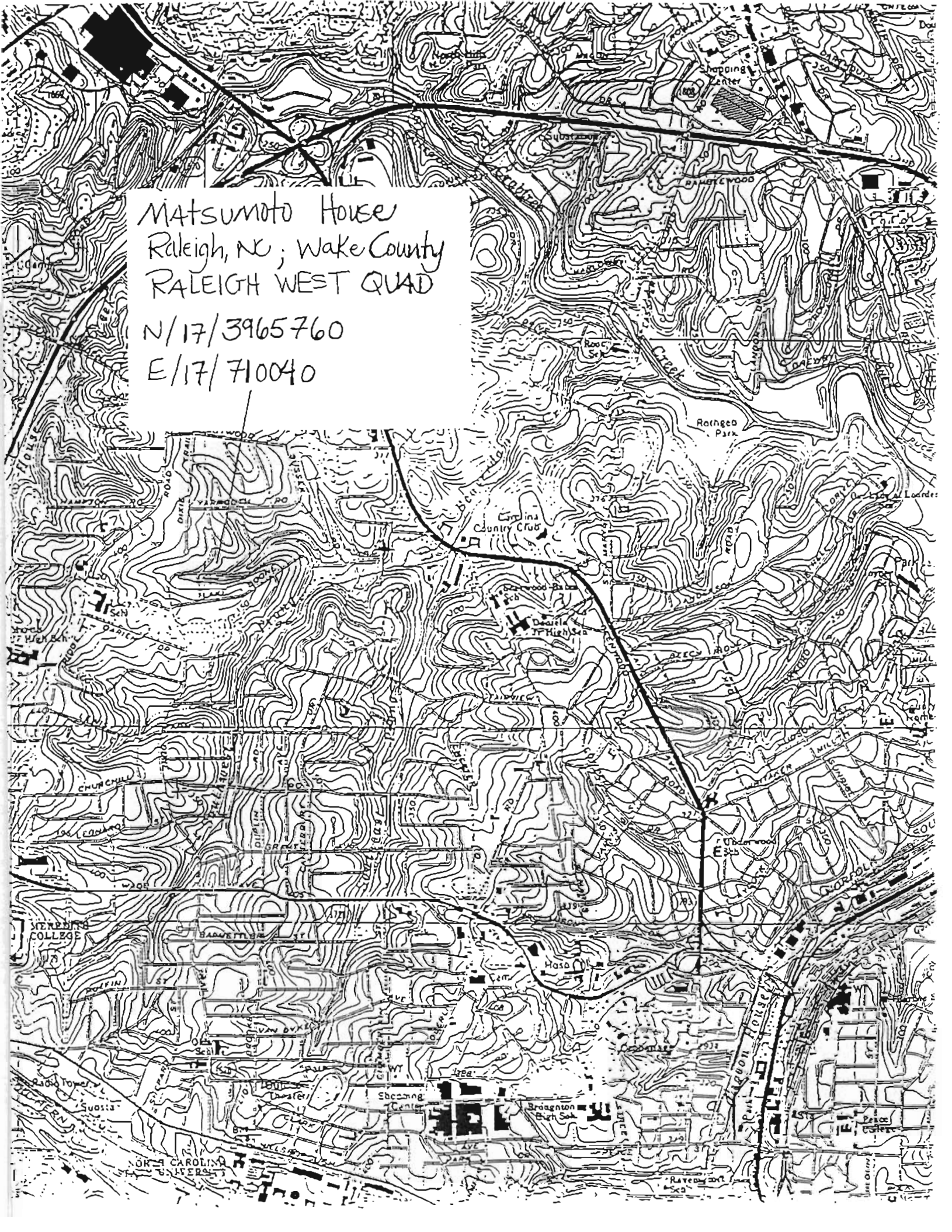
WARE COUNTY ORTHOPHOTOGRAPHIC MAP #0785.19  
1 INCH = 100 FEET

(> indicates vantage point of exterior photograph)

Matsumoto House  
Raleigh, NC; Wake County  
RALEIGH WEST QUAD

N/17/3965760

E/17/710040



19 July 1995

To Robin Quinn

From Huston Paschal 

Re: 821 Runnymede Road

Lest there be any misunderstanding, I wanted your office to be aware of some work scheduled to be done on my property. The banks of the creek that runs behind my house have suffered severe erosion (due to the over-building upstream). The city has surveyed the damage and recommended a remedy. Preliminary survey work has been done, and the tentative date for the contractors to begin is this September. To facilitate the work, at least one small tree will have to be removed and perhaps a second, larger one as well.

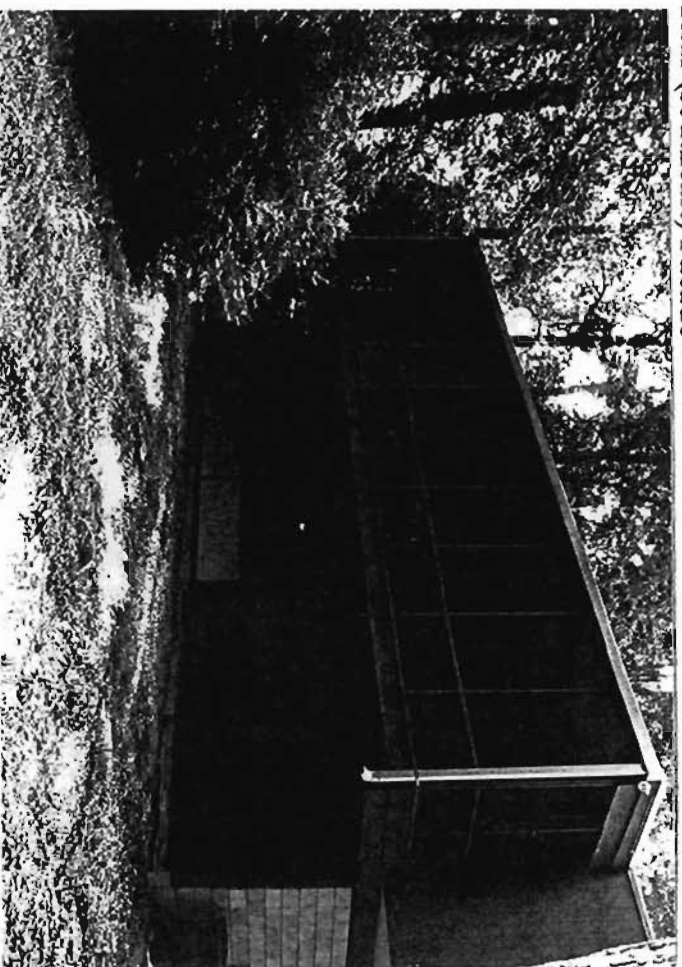
Rick Sago, an engineer with the city, has been my main contact. He would be able to answer any questions you might have and provide details of what exactly will be done.

Front (northwest) Facade

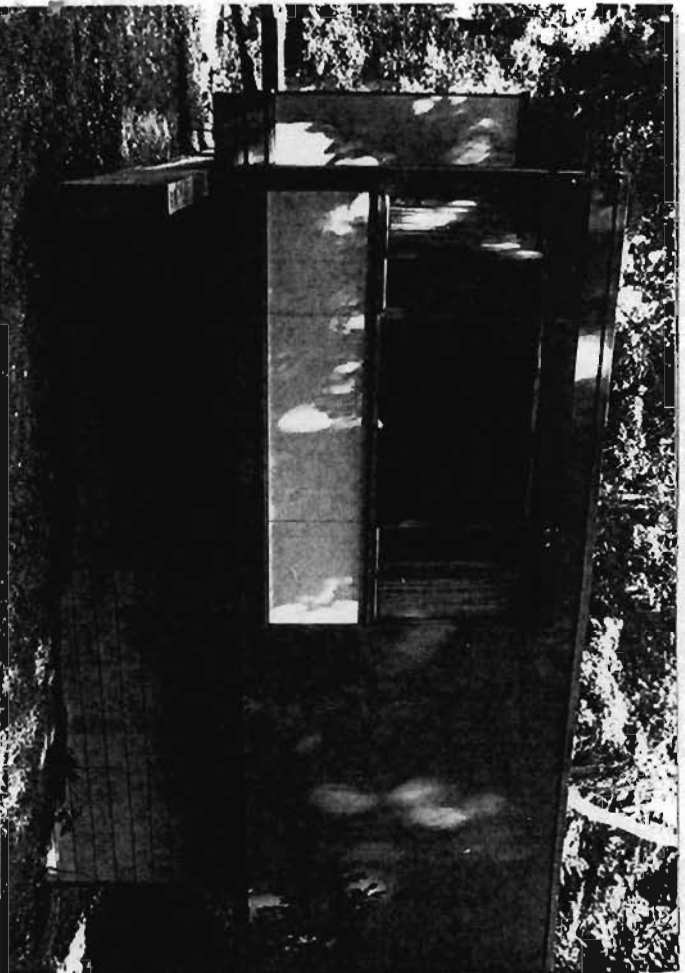


MATSUMOTO HOUSE

Rear (southeast) Facade



Side (southwest)



Side (northeast)

