

Heritage Property – *Graffunder House*



222 Stanley Dr.

Built 1956; designed by Carl Graffunder

Designated Sept. 30, 2013: bylaw 2013-90, “The Graffunder House”

Built in 1956, the 2-storey grey brick residence is back split to accommodate a rear sloping yard. The front façade is low in profile and sparse in design. The Graffunder house is a good representation of residential, mid-century modern architecture arising from the International Style. Designed by Minnesota architect, Carl Graffunder, who studied at the Harvard Graduate School of Design in the late 1940s under architect Marcel Breuer and Bauhaus School founder Walter Gropius, the building is characteristically simple and elegant in its use of materials, design and form. The exterior of the post-and-beam construction is asymmetrical and features minimal ornamentation. Unusually long grey bricks on the façade, together with the low pitched roof give the house a low, horizontal appearance. Large soffits cantilever over the front walkway and are supported by unadorned, slender columns. The house is oriented to the backyard and features numerous, large rear-facing windows designed to connect the interior spaces to the outdoors.



The residence reflects an era during which the affordability and efficiencies of modernist designs and materials were increasingly embraced and promoted by professional architects, trade journals and popular magazines. Plans for the Graffunder house were published by Better Homes and Gardens magazine and appeared on the front cover of the magazine in March 1955 as an affordable design to accommodate a family of seven children in Golden Valley, Minnesota. The home was later showcased in Better Homes and Gardens' Home Building Ideas for 1956 as a 5-Star Plan (#2503). The plans were purchased by the Marr family in 1955 and constructed in 1956 with few minor adaptations, including a reversal in the left to right orientation and the use of brick rather than wood cladding on the façade.