

NEW INTERNATIONAL SELECTION DOCUMENTATION LONG FICHE

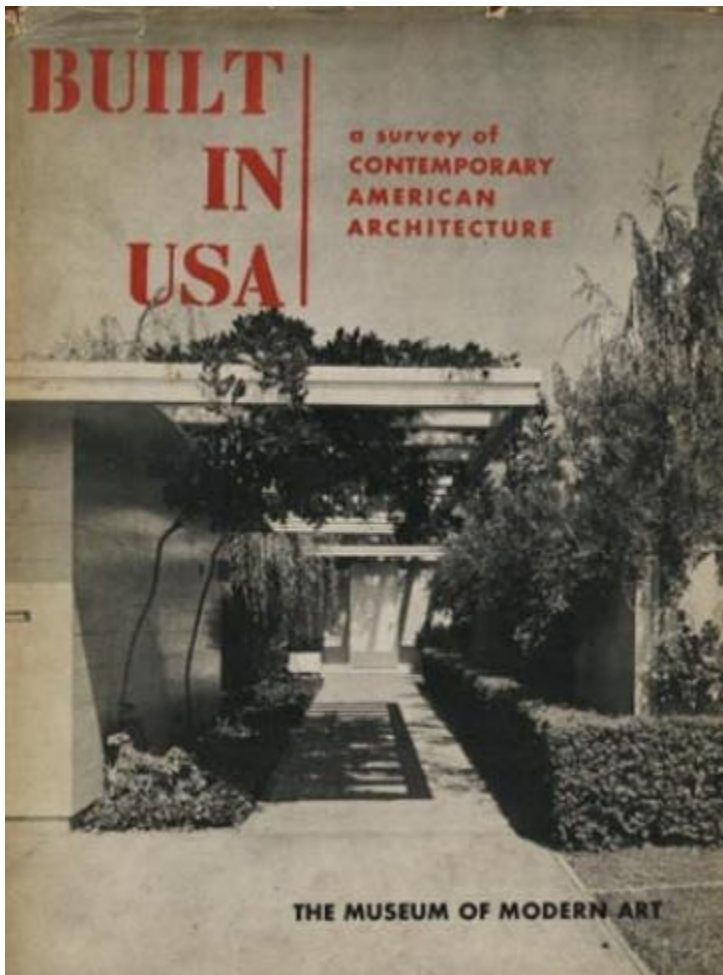
for office use

Wb/ref no _____ Nai ref no _____

composed by working party of: Modesto Art Museum

DOCOMOMO US identification number:

0. Picture of building/ group of buildings/ urban scheme/ landscape/ garden



depicted item: Cover of Museum of Modern Art catalogue showing Modesto's Heckendorf House

source: *Built in the USA: A Survey of Contemporary American Architecture* date: 1944



Heckendorf House, photo taken spring 2011



Front of House

accessibility

opening hours/ viewing arrangements

The house is not open to the public.

1. Identity of building/ group of buildings/ group of buildings/ landscape/ garden

1.1 Data for identification

current name: None

former/original/variant name: Heckendorf House, original address was 1815 Patricia

number(s) and name(s) of street(s): 215 Patricia

town: Modesto

province: California

post code: 95354

country: United States of America

national topographical grid reference: Riverbank, T3s; R9E; SW ¼ of Section 21

estimated area of site in hectares: 0.11 hectares, 12,000 square feet

current typology: RES

former/original/variant typology: RES

comments on typology: The area was incorporated into the city of Modesto in 1939.

1.2 Current owner(s)

1.3 Status of protection

Protected by the goodwill of the owner

1.4 Agency(ies) responsible for protection

None

1.6 Surrounding area(s) of importance (e.g. visually or functionally related)

name of surrounding area: High Tract

type of area: Residential area of small to medium size houses mostly constructed in the 1920s and 1930s. The houses are of mixed architectural styles including cottages, storybook style, bungalows, New England, and California or Spanish colonial style.

visual relation: The Heckendorf house, with its flat roof and modernist design stands in contrast to every other house in the area.

other relations:

2. History of building(s) etc

2.1 Chronology

Note if the dates are exactly known (e) or approximately estimated = circa (c) or (±)

commission or competition date:

building permit dated March 1939 for \$3,140

construction completed: 1939

design period:

start of site work:

completion/inauguration:

2.2 Summary of development

commission brief:

design brief:

building/construction: the house is built of redwood

completed situation:

original situation or character of site: previously the land was agricultural, probably wheat

2.3 Relevant persons/organisations

original owner(s)/patron(s): The house was commissioned by Marvel and Rebecca Heckendorf.

architect(s): John Funk

landscape/garden designer(s):

other designer(s):

consulting engineer(s):

building contractor(s):

2.4 Other persons or events associated with the building(s)/site

name(s):

association:

event(s):

period:

2.5 Summary of important changes after completion

type of change: alteration/renovation/restoration/extension/other:

Unknown

date(s):

circumstances/ reasons for change

effects of changes:

persons/organisations involved:

3. Description of building(s) etc

3.1 Site/building character

Summarize main character and give notes on surviving site/building(s)/part(s) of area; if a site, principle features and zones of influence and summary of main elements in composition;

if a building, main features, construction and materials:

The 1,707 square foot house has three bedrooms and two bathrooms with a two-car detached garage. The house is set back from the street, behind a fence that encloses a southern exposure garden. The garage is in front of the left side of the house.

Exterior walls: California redwood studs, 30lb. building paper

Interior walls: California white pine plywood, U.S. Plywood Company

Roofing: Composition, Johns-Manville

Windows: Sash-sugar pine; frames-douglas fir; glass, plate and double strength, Libby Owens Ford Glass Company

Floor Coverings: Main rooms, carpet; kitchen and bathrooms, linoleum from Armstrong Cork Company

Woodwork: Trim and cabinets, California white pine; doors, Sturdibuilt

Hardware: P & F Corbin Company

Paint: W P Fuller Company

Electrical System: General Electric Company

Light Fixtures: Kurt Versen and Nessen Studios

Kitchen Appliances (range, frig, dishwasher): General Electric

Bathroom Fixtures: American Radiator-Standard Sanitary Mfg.

Heating: Warm air system, Payne Furnace and Supply Company

From Architectural Forum, March 1941

3.2 Current use

of whole site: Residence

of principal components:

of other elements:

of surrounding areas: Residential

comment(s):

3.3 Present (physical) condition

of whole site: In good condition. There have been little or no obvious changes to the exterior of the house. Sometime in the 1980s the kitchen was altered.

of principal components: good condition

of other elements: good

of surrounding areas: The neighborhood is well kept, houses and yards are maintained.

comments:

3.4 Note(s) on context, indicating potential developments

4. Evaluation

Reasons for selection for DOCOMOMO documentation

Intrinsic value

4.1 technical evaluation:

The house was one of the first, perhaps the first, to combine the California Ranch design with large glass walls and floor to ceiling glass doors. It sprung directly from the California life style, the seamless blending of indoor and outdoor living, and contributed to promoting that life-style nation-wide.

The American West in the Twentieth Century reads, "Another architect, John Funk, revealed the possibilities of large glass surfaces in conjunction with ranch design in his *Heckendorf House* in Modesto, California, which began this trend-setting pattern in the state." From, *The American West in the Twentieth Century: A Short History of an Urban Oasis*, Gerald D. Nash, University of New Mexico Press, 1977

4.2. social evaluation:

John Funk designed this house for his wife's sister Rebecca Cox and her husband Marvin Heckendorf. John was 31 years old and this was one of his first houses. He had worked for William Wurster until 1938, and then spent the summer of that year touring Europe with his wife. He spent time visiting the Finnish architect Alvar Aalto.

4.3. cultural and aesthetic evaluation:

This was one of John Funk's first houses and it brought him international attention. Funk, together with William Wurster, Gardner Dailey, and other architects developed the Central Valley Modernism Style of architecture which combined the openness of the International Style with the regional traditions and materials of interior central California.

In 1941, the house won an architectural award from House and Garden Magazine, Class 1, Zone A.

In 1962, Donald E. Crum ASLA won an American Society of Landscape Architects award for his design for this house's landscape. See Modesto Bee, June 1, 1962, page E3, *Honors for Outdoors*.

Comparative significance

4.4 canonical status (local, national, international)

4.5 historic and reference values:

The New York Museum of Modern Art included the house in its trend setting exhibition, *Built in the USA*, which also toured the United States. MOMA published four books in the 1940s that featured the Heckendorf House, and several popular magazines and scholarly journals published articles on the house. It has been featured in several books about 20th century architecture. The Museum of Modern Art, in its book, *If Want*

to *Build a House* (1946) held the house up as a model of what a modern, low cost house could be.

The success of the house and the national attention it received inspired other Modesto residents to hire important west coast and national architects to design their landscape, commercial, residential, and government architecture, including William Wurster, Frank Lloyd Wright, Gardner Dailey, John Bolles, Milton Pflueger, Christopher Alexander, Henry Hill, Joseph Esherick, Thomas Church, Lawrence Halprin, and many more. Beginning with the Heckendorf House, Modesto's architecture became a model for other cities and a laboratory in the development of Central Valley Modernism.

5. Documentation

5.1 archives/written records/correspondence etc: (state location/address)

Inventory of the John Funk Collection: Online Archive of California
<http://www.oac.cdlib.org/findaid/ark:/13030/kt3g50111g/>

5.2 principal publications (in chronological order):

Architectural Forum, 194-196, 03/1941.

"Brilliant design" "New and tangible evidence of California's leadership in the field of modern domestic architecture."

The Modesto Bee, Magazine Features Heckendorf House, March 15, 1941, page 7

House and Garden, Vol. 80, Conde Nast Publications, 1941

Arts and Architecture, Volume 58, American Institute of Architecture, 1941

Valley house: house for Mr. and Mrs. Heckendorf, Modesto, California, architect John Funk", in *California Arts and Architecture*, 58: 28-29, 5/1941.

Architecture around San Francisco Bay 1941 in *Architect & Engineer*, 145: 16-55, 06/1941.

What is Modern Architecture?, Elizabeth Mock, John McAndrew, and Edgar Kaufmann, Museum of Modern Art, 1942.

The Modesto Bee, Modestans' House Selected for N.Y. Exhibit, April 26, 1944, page 5

Built in USA, 1932-1944, 30-31, 1944, Museum of Modern Art, New York

"Remarkably free of personal idiosyncrasy on the part of the client or architect, this inexpensive house has a classic ease and restraint."

"The house is set far back shielded from the street by a sunny fenced yard, and the rooms are arranged in a long narrow block to get light and air from both sides."

Art in Progress: A Survey Prepared for the Fifteenth Anniversary of the Museum of Modern Art, New York, Museum of Modern Art, 1944, page 184.

If You Want to Build a House, Elizabeth Bauer Kassler, Museum of Modern Art (New York, N.Y.) The Museum of Modern Art, 1946, page 15

Tomorrow's House, George Nelson, George, 1946, pages 158-159

Gordon, Elizabeth, "A little private kingdom", *House Beautiful*, 89: 9, 110-113, 09/1947.

Encyclopedia of World Art, Bernard Samuel Myers, McGraw Hill, 1959, page 269

Art and Life in America, Oliver W. Larkin, Hold, Rinehart, and Winston, 1960

The Modesto Bee, Modesto Home Wins US Honors for Outdoors, June 1, 1962, page B-3

American Art: A Historical Survey, Samuel M. Green, Ronald Press, 1966, page 475

Architecture in California, 1868-1968, An Exhibition, David Gebhard, Harriette Von Breton, University of California, Santa Barbara, Art Gallery, Standard Printing of Santa Barbara, 1968

Bay Area Houses, Sally Woodbridge, Oxford University Press, 1976, page 318

The American West in the Twentieth Century: A Short History of an Urban Oasis, Gerald D. Nash, University of New Mexico Press, 1977

A Guide to Architecture in San Francisco and Northern California, David Gebhard, Peregrine Smith Books, 1985, page 448

Temko, Allan, "John Cooper Funk -- Architect of Bay Region Style", *San Francisco Chronicle*, C9, 2/20/1993.

NorCalMod: Icons of Northern California Modernism, Pierluigi Serraino, Chronicle Books, 2006, page 45.

Living Modern: A Biography of Greenwood Common, Waverly B. Lowell, Morley Baer, University of California, Berkeley, College of Environmental Design, 2009, page 140

Web Sites

Pacific Coast Architecture Database

<https://digital.lib.washington.edu/architect/structures/22/>

A Mecca for Modernism: John Funk Pioneered Cutting Edge Architecture in the Bay Area

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2003/11/01/HO246058.DTL>

Inventory of the John Funk Collection: Online Archive of California

<http://www.oac.cdlib.org/findaid/ark:/13030/kt3g50111g/>

Ned Paynter Collection

Photographs of the Heckendorf House

<http://friendsofsdarch.photoshelter.com/gallery/CA-Cities-Towns/G0000vdDV8mrCkoU/3>

5.3 visual material (state location/ address)

original visual records/drawings/photographs/others:
Environmental Design Archives, University of California, Berkeley
John Cooper Funk Collection

recent photographs and survey drawings:

film/video/other sources: Appears in Modesto Art Museum video, *Modesto Modernism*,
<https://vimeo.com/81278783>

5.4 list documents included in supplementary dossier

6 Fiche report

name of reporter: Modesto Art Museum, Robert Barzan
address: 404 Patrick Lane, Modesto, CA 95350
telephone: 209-236-1333 e-mail: modestoartmuseum@yahoo.com
date of report: May 2011

examination by DOCOMOMO national/regional section

approval by wp co-ordinator/registers correspondent (name): Aisha Fike
sign and date: Aisha Fike, 5/7/2011

examination by DOCOMOMO ISC/R/U/G+L

type of ISC: Registers/Urbanism/Landscape and Gardens:
name of ISC member in charge of the evaluation: sign and date:
comment(s):

ISC approval:

date: