

S H E E L Y

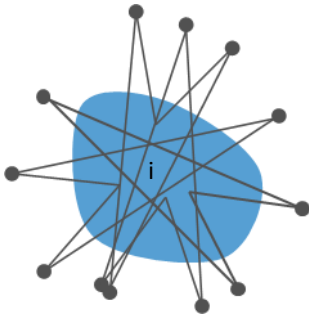
Landmark District

*Drive*



# Acknowledgements

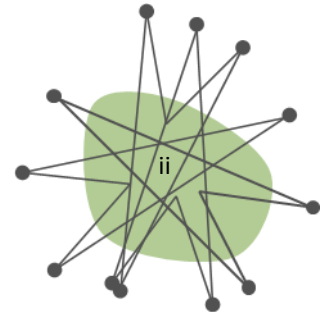
- ✧ Thanks to the Archive at the Fort Collins Museum of Discovery for the use of several historic images, including the cover art, an architectural drawing associated with the Sheely Addition (Image ID#: H11845).
- ✧ Thanks also to Per Hogestad for reviewing and commenting on the content of this history booklet.
- ✧ Prepared in 2019 for City of Fort Collins Historic Preservation Services by Reyana Jones, Historic Preservation Specialist, and Delaney Taylor, Historic Preservation Intern.



# Contents

## Table of Contents

Introduction.....	2
Historic Context.....	3
Ranch-Style Architecture.....	8
Sheely Drive Homes .....	12
Conclusion.....	23
Quick Reference List of Sheely Landmark District Homes.....	24
Notes.....	25



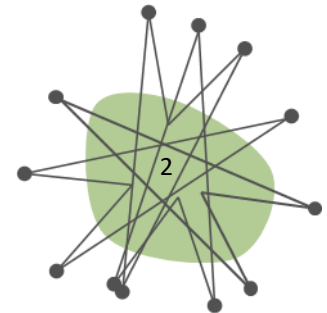


# Introduction

*“Gosh, things are different.” — Arthur Sheely, 1943<sup>1</sup>*

In 1943, Lieutenant Colonel Arthur C. Sheely returned to Fort Collins to find things not quite as he left them. Deployed in February 1942 to serve during World War II, Sheely remarked on the changes that had occurred in his home town in his short absence, and more changes were coming still. Between 1940-1960, Fort Collins’s population more than doubled from 12,251 to 25,027.<sup>2</sup> The expansion of Colorado A&M into Colorado State University and the development sparked by the Federal Highway Acts of 1944 and 1956 in part drew people to the “Choice City.” To accommodate this influx of residents, construction surged to quickly create new standardized housing communities, such as Reclamation Village and the Circle Drive Neighborhood.

However, postwar prosperity created a different niche of housing demand from upper-middle class residents, many of whom desired more than a “cookie cutter” home. The Sheely Drive neighborhood emerged from this context in 1953. Now known as the Sheely Drive Landmark District (designated in 2000), this neighborhood features home designs that integrate modern tastes, ambitions, and architectural features while embracing the natural environment and the tight-knit character that makes Fort Collins distinct.

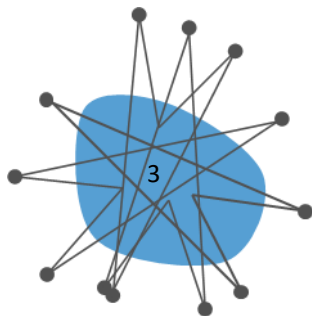


# Historic Context

*“Mr. Ben Olds, we owe him a lot of favors.” — Inez Romero<sup>3</sup>*

Although Inez Romero, who built the adobe Romero House (a Fort Collins landmark) with her husband, John, was referring to Ben Olds’s generosity toward her husband in the above expression of thanks, a similar gratefulness could be extended to Olds for his role in platting the distinctive Sheely Drive neighborhood. When developer Ben Olds platted the Sheely Addition in 1953, American attitudes vacillated between postwar optimism and Cold War anxiety. These opposite feelings affected patterns of events at the national, state, and local levels.

In the United States, the postwar period was a time of optimism and confidence; America had survived and won World War II. Soldiers returning from war sought stability of home and work. The national government accommodated this need by passing or expanding some legislation. The Servicemen’s Readjustment Act of 1944, also known as the GI Bill, gave veterans funds to attend college, providing them with training they might need to reintegrate into a postwar economy and prevent another depression. The National Housing Act of 1934 created the Federal Housing Administration; after WWII ended, the FHA and the GI Bill together expanded the accessibility of homeownership for some veterans by federally insuring home loans, resulting in very low-interest rates for mortgages. As populations boomed, moving to the open spaces of the West “became synonymous with achieving the American Dream.”<sup>4</sup> The Federal-Aid Highway Acts of 1944 and 1956 tasked state highway departments to develop 40,000 of interregional roads. This produced new circulation patterns throughout the nation and sparked much new development.



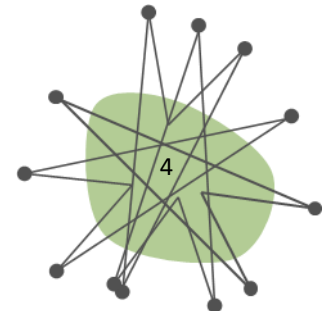
## Historic Context

However, not all Americans experienced postwar prosperity equally. Racist undercurrents behind policies like redlining created a geography of segregation. Across America, the Home Owners' Loan Corporation "graded" neighborhood risk for mortgage lenders; race was a large factor in these assessments. Minority neighborhoods received red/high-risk grades, which discouraged investment. Furthermore, the housing developments that were being built typically included housing exclusions against minorities. The economic and social inequity that minorities experienced led to calls for civil rights reform, the echoes of which have reverberated for generations.

In Colorado, the postwar period was one of growth. The population increased by 32.5% in the 1950s as people moved west and families grew.<sup>5</sup> Colorado may have attracted so many new residents because its economy benefited from defense spending during the war and after, during the Cold War. For example, during the Cold War, the North American Air Defense Command (NORAD) and the Rocky Flats Plant were both created in Colorado. The state was also home to facilities pivotal in the development of the first Titan intercontinental ballistic missiles.<sup>6</sup> In response to the burgeoning demand for residences, developers started construction on new standardized housing developments using mass-produced products, standard designs, and new materials.

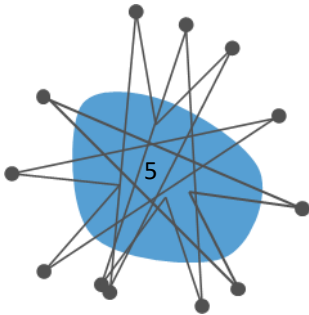


The Atlas-E missile was part of the nation's nuclear deterrent force starting in 1961. After Atlas technology became obsolete in 1965, this missile site northwest of Fort Collins, CO was decommissioned and the missile was removed. (Photo c.1990)<sup>7</sup>



## Historic Context

Servicemen returning home to Fort Collins found their town changing as the Cold War began to leave its impact and as the population increased and diversified. During the Cold War, Fort Collins was given the moniker "Choice City." This nickname referred to the fact that Fort Collins was the chosen evacuation site for Denverites in the event of a nuclear attack on "the second Washington" based on estimated fallout drift and existing transportation routes out of Denver. Immediately following the war, the enrollment at Fort Collins's Colorado State College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts (Colorado A&M) tripled. To compete with the USSR during the Cold War, the college increased its emphasis on mathematics, engineering, and science. Students who graduated from the school often decided to stay in Fort Collins, and veterans also moved to the town with their families in increasing numbers.<sup>8</sup>



The once rural, sleepy college town became a thriving city with a respected university. This created an urgent need for housing. Standardized housing developments like the Circle Drive neighborhood accommodated this need. However, demographic changes also brought economic diversity to the city. An upper-middle class emerged with different consumer tastes than other residents and different residential aspirations.

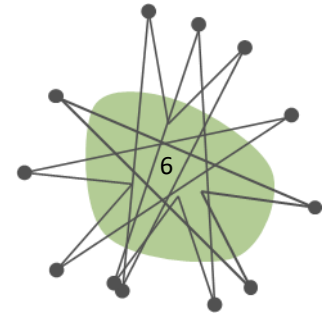


## Historic Context

By the time Arthur Sheely returned home permanently from military service in 1946, he had significant ambitions for his family and business. Sheely merged his auto company with his former competitor, Harry Andrews. He sold his house on Mountain Avenue and invested in his business, Sheely-Andrews Motors. Andrews retired by 1950, according to City Directories, so Sheely assumed their combined customer base and eventually rebranded as the Sheely Motor Company.<sup>9</sup> With his business taking off, Sheely purchased forty acres of land off of Prospect Street from Carl W. and Pauline Birkey on March 23, 1951. He soon sold to Olds and Redd Construction Company, owned by Ben Olds and B. G. Redd. Olds and Redd platted the Sheely Addition on August 26, 1953, creating six lots of on the west side of Sheely Drive. A part of the remaining land was subdivided June 11, 1954 into twelve more lots, five on the east side of Sheely Drive.<sup>10</sup>



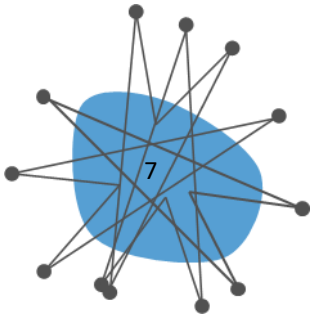
"Larimer County and Fort Collins City Peace Officers with Their Cars" in front of Art Sheely's garage at 326-330 S. College Ave. (Photo taken by Mark Miller Studio, 1939)<sup>11</sup>



## Historic Context

The land's topography affected the layout of the neighborhood and the type of houses built in the area. Low-profile houses followed the natural contours of the land, and architects oriented homes to take advantage of scenic views. Unlike typical homes of the era that were constructed on graded, flat lots, odd-numbered homes were constructed on the top of a ridge, many featuring walkout basements, and the street itself is curved, breaking from the usual grid-pattern. The choice of lampposts over street lights protects the view of the night sky. Passive-solar architectural elements like sun screens or design choices like the orientation of windows work to naturally control the home's interior climate—a cutting edge design choice.<sup>12</sup>

The most prominent style in the neighborhood is the custom Ranch. Owners often worked with architects and commissioned design plans to create their own distinctive home. Building materials included wood, stucco, brick, stone, and glass. Houses were often one room deep and had an "L" or "U" shape to surround a patio or other landscape element. Although the homes in the Sheely Drive neighborhood were often oriented toward nature, they did not eschew modern technologies or materials either. For example, the rise of the automobile's significance after World War II affected the design of many houses on Sheely Drive. Driveways were large and garages or carports were integral to a home's design rather than being disguised or hidden. The prominence of garages in the neighborhood suggested the affluence of the residents. Modern materials, like cast artificial stone, exterior-grade plywood, or plastic laminate, were integrated into home designs as well, and other materials' uses were reimagined, like the installation of ceramic tile window sills rather than wood.<sup>13</sup>



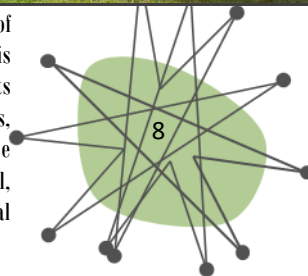
# Ranch-Style Architecture

*“This type of home is not as much a style as it is an expression of our modern standard of living.”  
— The Rhodes Agency on “The House of Tomorrow,” 1955<sup>14</sup>*

The Ranch style draws elements from the International, Prairie, and Usonian styles. The International style, often called “the architecture of the machine age,” emerged in the wake of World War I as a manifestation of rejection of the old order and a turn toward modernity. International style buildings emphasize modern materials like concrete, steel, glass, and glass blocks. Pioneered by architect Frank Lloyd Wright, the Prairie style is sometimes regarded as the first uniquely American architectural style. These buildings evoke an overall horizontal feeling. The materials used in construction tend to be regionally appropriate. The Usonian style emerged as a reaction to the modern necessity for affordable middle-class housing with a simple design. Smaller and favoring natural materials like wood, stone, or concrete block, Usonian houses tend to be more economical than sprawling Prairie-style homes or International-style structures made of modern materials. These homes also tend to meld into the landscape.<sup>15</sup>



1509 Westview Ave.— Like some of the houses on Sheely Drive, this example of Modern Movements architecture has Usonian influences, including a large sandstone chimney, a façade window wall, horizontal orientation, and natural interior elements.<sup>16</sup>

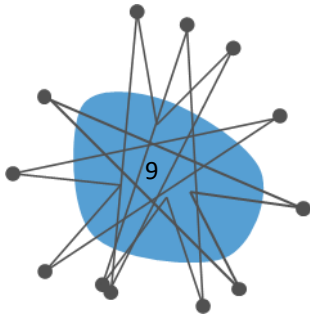


## Ranch-Style Architecture



Ranch-style homes gained popularity by the 1940s during the postwar construction boom. By the 1950s, ranches were prolific in the United States. From 1955 to 1960, nine out of ten new houses constructed were in the Ranch style.<sup>18</sup> Industrial building techniques allowed for mass housing design and construction in suburban neighborhood developments. The sites of ranches were usually graded, stripped of natural vegetation, and replanted with grass and shrubs.<sup>19</sup>

These one-story houses tend to have a low profile with horizontal emphasis, a low-pitched roof with wide overhanging eaves, a minimal front porch, picture windows, a rear porch or patio, and an attached garage integral to the home. Some ranches feature decorative, non-functional shutters, but many of these houses lack ornamentation in general. Rather than emphasizing the front of the house or street, the backyard is the focus of Ranch-style homes. Reflective of this tendency, these houses sometimes have smaller windows in the front and larger windows in the back.<sup>20</sup>

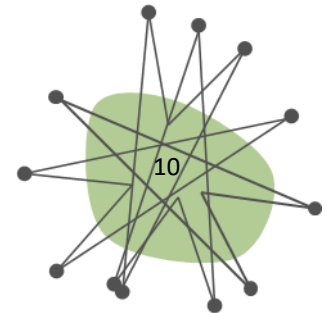


65 Circle Dr.— This Ranch-style house was built in 1946 by Harry G. Worsham Constructors. Like many of the houses in the Sheely Drive neighborhood, this house has an elongated, asymmetrical façade.<sup>17</sup>

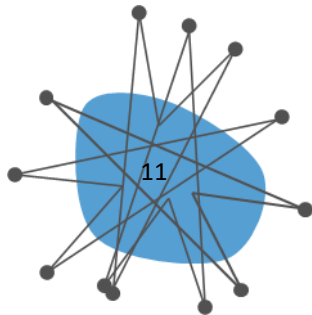
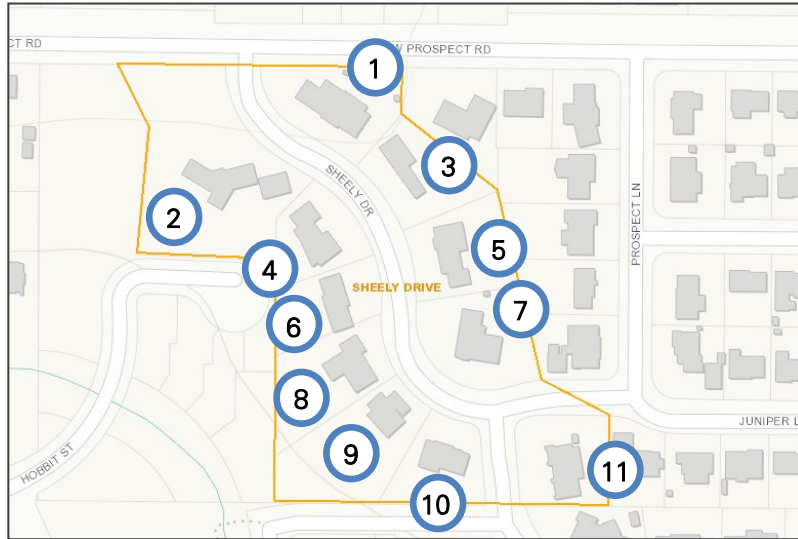
## Ranch-Style Architecture

Design elements of Ranch-style architecture found in the homes of the Sheely Drive neighborhood include:

- ✱ The fireplace as a central organizational element, typical of Frank Lloyd Wright's concept of the hearth as the heart of the home
- ✱ Long, low, ground-hugging design that responds to and integrates into natural surroundings
- ✱ Long and low, partial-height exterior walls extending from the house
- ✱ Large, overhanging eaves that emphasize horizontal lines and help control interior climate
- ✱ Sun screens such as louvers or lattices
- ✱ Decks that reinforce the design philosophy of the blurring of inside and outside
- ✱ Interior planters also reinforce the blurring of inside/outside
- ✱ Large expanses of windows, sometimes forming entire walls, which create a seamless flow from inside to outside and reflect site orientation and its associated solar energy
- ✱ Open floor plans that create spaces with more universal use and entertainment orientation<sup>21</sup>



## Ranch-Style Architecture



Map— The yellow line indicates the border of the Sheely Drive Landmark District. The numbers labeling each house correspond to the next section, “Sheely Drive Homes.”<sup>22</sup>

Unlike some other neighborhoods of Ranch-style “cookie-cutter” houses, the Sheely Drive neighborhood features many custom homes. The original residents of Sheely Drive, who built their homes between 1953 and 1960, predominantly belonged to the upper-middle class. These individuals had the means to work closely with architects to design distinctive, modern homes that stepped away from traditional styles. These homes worked with the area’s natural topography and included innovative features like passive solar design elements.

In itself, each house in this landmark district is architecturally significant, but when seen as part of the overall neighborhood, displaying the same social, economic, and design theories, each house becomes part of a unique example of affluent development in Fort Collins and the social attitudes of the postwar period.

# Sheely Drive Homes

*“Without an architecture of our own, we have no soul of our own civilization.”*

*—Frank Lloyd Wright<sup>23</sup>*

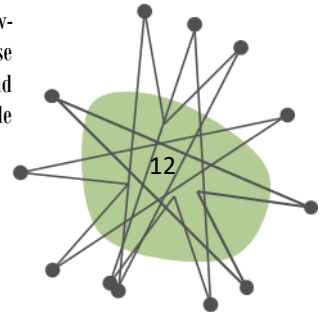
## 1 1600 Sheely Dr. — Ben Olds House<sup>24</sup>

This house is significant because of its association with Ben Olds and as a clear representation of a Ranch-style residence, an architectural style popular in America during the 1950s and 1960s. Ben Olds, who platted the Sheely Addition in 1953, bought the lot for 1600 Sheely Drive on Sept. 28, 1959 and built the house in 1960. Olds was a developer and co-owned Old & Redd Construction Company with B.G. Redd. He worked on the Circle Drive housing development for the Columbia Savings and Loan of Denver and was also the developer of the Mantz Addition. His company built many of the houses in the Sheely Addition as well.

Additionally, the layout, construction, materials, design, and stylistic features of the Ben Olds House all exemplify the Ranch style. Many ranch-style homes emphasize the backyard as a leisure space. Reportedly, the Ben Olds House boasts one of the first home swimming pools in the city. The rectangular-shaped, in-ground pool was built in the Esther Williams pattern. Local anecdotes indicate that Fort Collins High School students used to take swimming lessons in the pool at this residence.



1600 Sheely Dr.— The very low-pitched roof of the Ben Olds House features exposed rafter tails and purlin construction with wide overhanging eaves.<sup>25</sup>





## Sheely Drive Homes

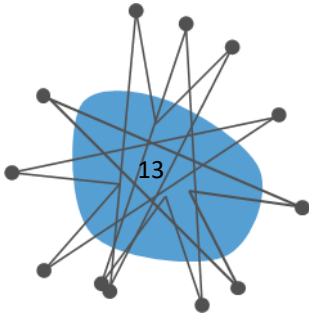
### 2 1601 Sheely Dr. — Mittry-Young House



1601 Sheely Dr.— Most of the Mittry-Young House is tucked away behind lush, mature landscaping to the right.

The Mittry family built the house at 1601 Sheely Drive in 1953. K. S. Mittry owned Mittry Construction and Transportation at 416 Linden St. He was the contractor who built the storm sewer for Colorado A&M in 1952 along with a portion of the Fort Collins storm sewer system on College Avenue. He worked on the Big Thompson Project and Carter Lake pressure tunnel as well. The Mittry-Young house was designed by Don Goff. In 1954, Goff was a home designer with Fred Harsch Lumber Company but soon after began his own business, Don Goff Designs.

The Mittry-Young House exhibits stylistic influences of both the International and Prairie Schools of design. For instance, the two-sided fireplace located at the intersection of the three wings of this home's Y-shaped floorplan evokes Wright's concept of the "hearth as the heart of the home." Another design choice influenced by Wright is the blurring of indoor and outdoor spaces; this can be seen in the use of stone in both the exterior walks and the kitchen and dining area floors as well as in the interior stairway. This house also features modern materials, such as steel casement windows, stucco over concrete block, glazed-ceramic window sills, neon accent lighting, and glass block, which are all associated with the International Movement.





3

### 1604 Sheely Dr. — Sherwood House

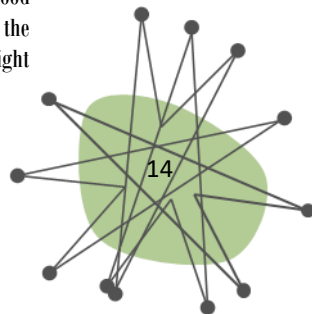
Ormand and Margaret Sherwood purchased the property at 1604 Sheely Drive on January 8, 1955. They built their house that same year. Margaret Sherwood worked as a teacher. Ormand Sherwood was a realtor for Rhodes Realty and co-owned the Valley Block Company, a local concrete block manufacturer. He sought to promote the use of Valley Block Company materials in the Sheely Drive neighborhood.

Postwar prosperity allowed new home designs to break away from traditional housing forms. Prospective home owners were able to afford more than what utilitarian design could offer. Leisure and entertainment became important considerations in designing the houses of the Sheely neighborhood. Innovations in travel and communication technologies, like print or television, expanded Fort Collins residents' knowledge of design and construction to a global scale. 1604 Sheely Drive reflects this context of modern design and social ideas. This Ranch-style house responds to and is integrated into the natural surroundings, hugging the ground. Outside and inside seamlessly flow through the large expanses of windows. The progressive residential design of 1604 Sheely Drive implements new materials, and materials that were once found only in commercial design.

## Sheely Drive Homes



1604 Sheely Dr.— The Sherwood House features a carport on the south side of the property (right side of image).



## Sheely Drive Homes

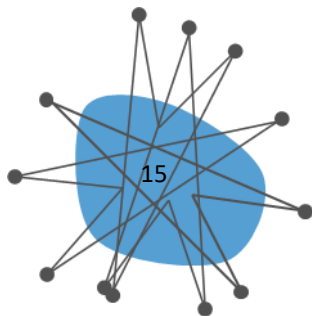
### 4 1605 Sheely Dr. — Moyer House



1605 Sheely Dr.— The Moyer House features modern materials, like glass block.

Gerald and LaVila Moyer purchased the property at 1605 Sheely Drive on September 18, 1953 and built their house between 1953 and 1954. Gerald worked as a dentist. The Moyer House is an excellent example of high-style Ranch architecture in Fort Collins. Additionally, reflecting its Cold War context, an interesting feature of the Moyer House is the remains of a fallout shelter.

The Moyer House demonstrates many of the design elements associated with Ranch-style architecture. Its low profile and low-pitched roof with wide overhanging eaves, boxed underneath with plywood, are characteristic of the Ranch style. There is a sandstone-colored brick veneer on the lower half of the southern third of the house with aluminum siding above. The brick veneer in the middle of the façade extends from grade to eaves. The northern section of the house features an aluminum-sided garage addition. Evocative of the International style, the minimalist entry is inset under a low-pitched, overhanging roof and features multiple light fixtures along the eaves. The entry separates the two different brick veneered sections. The front door has three vertical windows and a large, ringed brass plate around the handle. The sliding glass doors on the rear elevation open onto the large backyard with a spectacular view of the mountains.



## Sheely Drive Homes

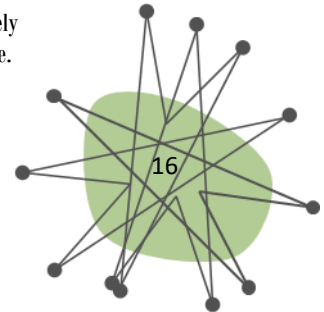
### 5 1608 Sheely Dr. — Arthur Sheely House

Arthur and Margaret Sheely purchased their property on October 15, 1954 and built their home the following year. Arthur Sheely was a partner in Sheely-Andrews Motor Company at 330 S. College Ave. He was also active in the Republican Party, serving as the Colorado Republican chairman from 1941-47. He co-chaired the Eisenhower-for-president campaign in Colorado in 1952, and he was a national committeeman for the Republican Party from 1956-1960. Local legend states that Arthur Sheely once served dinner to President Eisenhower in his Sheely Drive home.

This property incorporates Colonial decorative elements like shutters and diamond-shaped panes of glass in the front door, typical of Ranch-style houses. The porch light fixture and the bathroom window feature similar motifs. A small, non-functional red sandstone wall extends past the end of the house to the north; called “Wright walls” this type of design element is associated with Frank Lloyd Wright. Scalloped siding in the gable ends is another typical feature of this style. This house has several corner windows composed of a large, fixed-pane window paired with a thinner casement. The Arthur Sheely House also features a number of pocket doors, creating a more open plan when desired.



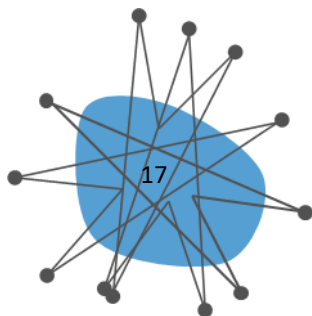
1608 Sheely Dr.— The prominent chimney of the Arthur Sheely House is made of red sandstone.



## Sheely Drive Homes



1609 Sheely Dr.— The Wells House's rear deck has a roof designed to cast patterns of light and shadow.



### 6 1609 Sheely Dr. — Wells House

The property at 1609 Sheely Drive was purchased by W. D. and Jennie Holley. W. D. was a professor of horticulture at Colorado A&M. The Holleys sold to O. Rex and Dorothy Wells on September 8, 1956 and built their house in 1957. Rex Wells was an attorney who specialized in water law. He helped codify city ordinances during a special council that convened in 1955. Additionally, he helped establish rural domestic water districts in the areas around Fort Collins. Dorothy Wells was a professor of Home Economics at Colorado A&M and also volunteered with the Avery House and Fort Collins Museum. Dorothy Wells also once worked as an assistant to a Dean and instructor at Colorado A&M.

The Wells Residence at 1609 Sheely Drive is significant for its embodiment of the Ranch style of architecture, one of several important and popular post-World War II housing styles. Mrs. Wells found an architectural design she liked in an issue of *Better Homes and Gardens* and had the design of her and Rex's home patterned after it. The only differences between the pattern Mrs. Wells found and the actual residence built at 1609 Sheely Drive were the reduction in the size of the kitchen and the increase in size of the dining room. This asymmetrical Ranch residence is a rectangular, one-story structure with a side-gabled, wood-shingled roof with wide overhanging eaves.



## Sheely Drive Homes

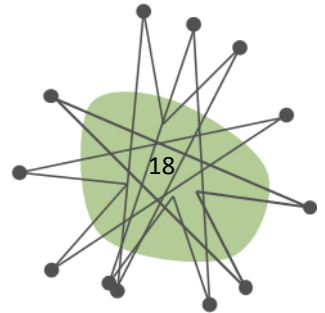
### 7 1612 Sheely Dr. — Dwight Ghent House

The property at 1612 Sheely Drive changed hands several times before a house was built. Ben and Marie Brack purchased this property on August 11, 1954, and then sold to Arthur Sheely on April 13, 1955. Sheely sold to Sam Day on April 25, 1955, and Day finally sold to Dwight and Amy Ghent September 2, 1955. The Ghents built their house in 1956. Dwight Ghent was Vice President of Ghent Motor Co. He served as chairman of the Chamber of Commerce Roads Committee in 1953 and director of the Chamber of Commerce in 1954. He was also president of the Fort Collins Automobile Dealers Association in 1953.

This post-World War II residence is an L-shaped, cross-gabled, single-story structure situated on a corner lot. This home was designed in the Ranch style. The wood-shingled roof is very low pitched, a characteristic of the Ranch style. The red-brick walls have board-and-batten detailing above the bay window, in the gable ends, and in the pent roof gable. This home exhibits several examples of the use of new materials and design in residential architecture, including a ground-to-ceiling glass-block window, the use of a vertical panel of decorative art glass as a sidelight, picture windows, steel casement windows, and sliding glass doors.



1612 Sheely Dr.— The Dwight Ghent House features a floor-to-ceiling glass block window.



## Sheely Drive Homes

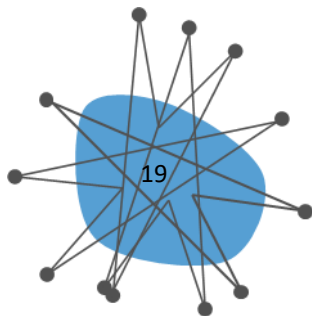


1613 Sheely Dr.— The south side of the Galyardt-Puleston House features an exterior red-brick stairway leading down to the patio.

### 8 1613 Sheely Dr. — Galyardt-Puleston House

William J. and Roberta S. Galyardt purchased this property on October 15, 1953 and built their house between 1954 and 1955. William Galyardt was a partner in the Galyardt-Harvey Insurance Agency at 149 Sylvan Ct. He became president of the Fort Collins Chamber of Commerce in 1953. He was also active in his church, serving as president and Colorado District Official for St. John's Lutheran Church. Roberta was also a member of St. John's Lutheran and was active in the Women's Auxiliary. She was a member of the Fort Collins Symphony and the Fort Collins Country Club as well.

This one-story house was designed by architect William Robb and was built by Victor Deines in 1954. The Galyardt-Puleston House at 1613 Sheely Drive is an excellent example of the Ranch style. With its daylight basement, rambling roof line, and use of local materials, this house is representative of the care taken by architects and builders to fit residences into the surrounding terrain of this neighborhood. The interior features several built-in, solid-wood cabinets in the living room, dining room kitchen, laundry, and den. The rooms are all spacious, with an open floor plan. The living room's large windows overlook the garden and offer stunning views of the mountains.



## Sheely Drive Homes

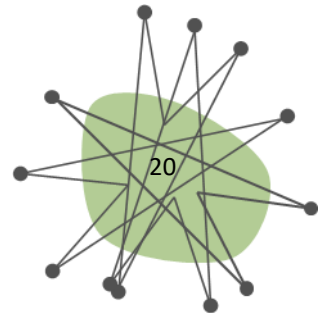
### 9 1617 Sheely Dr. — McCluskey House

On May 11, 1954, Robert and Margaret McCluskey purchased the property at 1617 Sheely Drive, and they built their home by the following year. Robert McCluskey was the owner of Poudre Valley Creamery. This property contributes to the architecture and design philosophy of the neighborhood. Overall, the neighborhood reflects the prosperity of post-World War II Fort Collins as well as the design and material innovations of the time.

A Ranch-style residence, 1617 Sheely Drive is constructed of pale -gray, non-standard-dimension stone-faced brick. The brick detailing is minimalistic, with row lock coursing at sills and wall caps. There are also several brick walls at the front and rear elevations. This house has a brick and wood-beam carport is located on the north side. The shallow-pitched roof has eaves with broad overhangs. The rear elevation features a walk-out basement, and the upper floor level opens to a raised deck with asymmetrically spaced horizontal railings. Characteristic of many Ranches, this house emphasizes horizontality and takes advantage of the natural site conditions.



1617 Sheely Dr.— The McCluskey House is nestled in a setting of flourishing plants and mature trees.



## Sheely Drive Homes

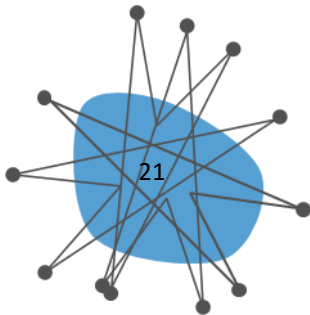
### 10 1645 Sheely Dr. — Shawver House



1645 Sheely Dr.— The Shawver House uses ashlar sandstone below the centered gable.

The property at 1645 Sheely Drive was purchased by Caspar D. and Ella Shawver on June 8, 1954 and construction began the same year. C. D. Shawver was the president of the Collinado Drug Company at 1220 S. College Ave. His wife, Ella, was the secretary/treasurer of the same company. This house has a symmetrical massing design, but conveys a sense of asymmetry through its details. On the façade, there is a bay window on the north half of the elevation. The placement of the entry, to the north side of the center gable, contributes to the sense of asymmetry, creating a large, open area with one side of the gable cantilevered over this entry.

On the north side of the house, there is a stone fireplace. Louvered shutters adorn the façade's center window. The rear of the house has a walkout design. The garage is incorporated into the lower level of the house; this was a new design element that allowed cars to actually be brought inside the house, as opposed to the more common attached or detached garages.





## Sheely Drive Homes

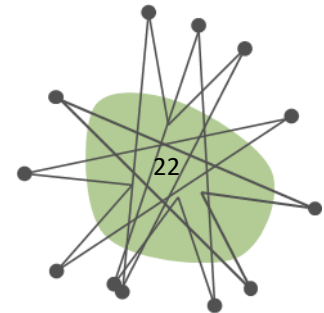
### 11 1700 Sheely Dr. — Lincoln Mueller House

Lincoln A. and Dorothy Mueller purchased the property at 1700 Sheely Drive in October 1954. Lincoln Mueller was a forester at Rocky Mountain Forest and Range Experiment Station and also helped formulate forestry policies. He is also credited with much of the developments in wood technology that led to the development of plywood.

The single-story, Ranch-style house at 1700 Sheely Drive is constructed of modular red brick and has an asymmetrical design. The roof has two cross gables at either end the house, one over the garage and the other over the living room. The roof uses wood shakes and the roof eaves have deep overhangs. At the center of the façade, a large, horizontal fixed window is flanked by operable, steel casement windows. Paired, steel casement windows appear elsewhere on the house. There are large, full-height fixed windows and a sliding door on the rear elevation. A brick fireplace is also centered on the rear elevation. A frame canopy protects a concrete patio, creating an outdoor leisure space typical of Ranch homes.



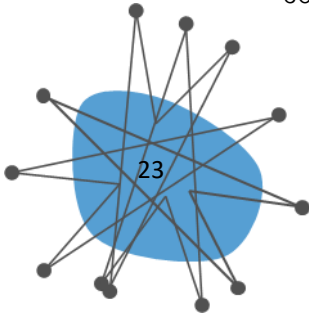
1700 Sheely Dr.— The horizontality of the Lincoln-Mueller House is characteristic of ranch-style architecture.



# Conclusion

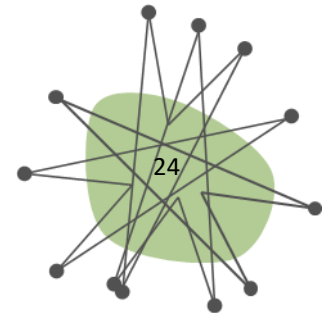
*“Men may come and men may go, but I stay here forever.” — Arthur Sheely<sup>26</sup>*

Although Arthur Sheely's high school classmates may have attributed the above quote to him in jest, it seems appropriate when applied to the Fort Collins landmark district named in his honor. City Council designated the Sheely Drive Landmark District at the recommendation of the Landmark Preservation Commission February 15, 2000 (1600, 1601, 1604, 1605, 1608, 1609, 1612, 1613, 1617, 1645, and 1700 Sheely Drive ). This district is significant for its buildings' "innovative architecture," such as passive solar design elements, "their historical association with several prominent Fort Collins business and civic leaders," such as Arthur Sheely, and "for their portrayal of the social, economic, and technological changes occurring in Fort Collins and Colorado following World War II."<sup>27</sup> As a landmark district, alterations to these buildings are reviewed based on the Secretary of Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation, ensuring the preservation of the significant history and character of these properties for the community.



# Quick Reference List of Sheely Drive Landmark District Homes

- 1 1600 Sheely Dr. — Ben Olds House
- 2 1601 Sheely Dr. — Mittry-Young House
- 3 1604 Sheely Dr. — Sherwood House
- 4 1605 Sheely Dr. — Moyer House
- 5 1608 Sheely Dr. — Arthur Sheely House
- 6 1609 Sheely Dr. — Wells House
- 7 1612 Sheely Dr. — Dwight Ghent House
- 8 1613 Sheely Dr. — Galyardt-Puleston House
- 9 1617 Sheely Dr. — McCluskey House
- 10 1645 Sheely Dr. — Shawver House
- 11 1700 Sheely Dr. — Lincoln Mueller House



# Notes

<sup>1</sup> "Art Sheely Home for Rest," *Wray Gazette* XLI, no. 25, June 10, 1943.

<sup>2</sup> Harris, Cindy and Adam Thomas. "'Fort Collins E-X-P-A-N-D-S': The City's Postwar Development, 1945-1969." Historitecture, LLC, 2011.

<sup>3</sup> Romero, Inez. Interviewed by Charlene Tresner and Lloyd Levy. April 14th, 1975. Oral History Transcript. Local History Archives at the Museum of Discovery. Fort Collins, CO.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid., 7.

<sup>5</sup> Abbott, Carl, Stephen J. Leonard, and Thomas J. Noel. "Postwar Boom." In *Colorado: A History of the Centennial State*, 5th Edition. Denver: University Press of Colorado, 2013, 318.

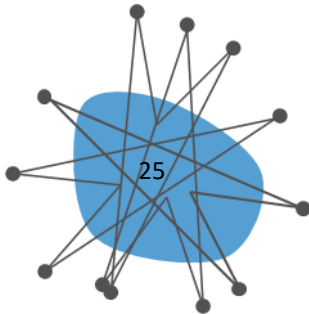
<sup>6</sup> Harris and Thomas, 22.

<sup>7</sup> Local History Archive at the Fort Collins Museum of Discovery. "Atlas Missile Silo." Photo. Triangle Review Collection. <https://fchc.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/ph/id/22429/rec/3>.

<sup>8</sup> Harris and Thomas.

<sup>9</sup> Local History Archive at the Fort Collins Museum of Discovery. City Directory Collection. <https://history.fcgov.com/collections/directories>.

<sup>10</sup> McWilliams, Karen. Fort Collins City Council Agenda Item Summary: Item no. 11. February 1, 2000.



<sup>11</sup> Local History Archive at the Fort Collins Museum of Discovery. "County and City Peace Officers. Photo by Mark Miller Studio, 1939. Miller Collection. <https://fchc.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/ph/id/14620>.

<sup>12</sup> McWilliams.

<sup>13</sup> Ibid.

<sup>14</sup> The Rhodes Agency. Quoted in "Fort Collins E-X-P-A-N-D-S: The City's Postwar Development, 1945-1969," by Cindy Harris and Adam Thomas. Historitecture, LLC. 2011, 1.

<sup>15</sup> No Author. "Development of the Ranch." City of Fort Collins Historic Preservation Services. Sheely Drive Files. Fort Collins, CO.

<sup>16</sup> Erin L. Nuckols. "1509 Westview Avenue Photopages." City of Fort Collins Historic Preservation Services. 1509 Westveiw Property Files. December 4, 2012.

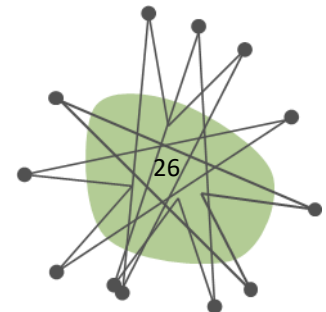
<sup>17</sup> Bumgarner, Cassandra. "2016-12-8 Photos and Drawings." City of Fort Collins Historic Preservation Services. 95 Circle Drive Property Files. December 8, 2016.

<sup>18</sup> Striegel, Mary. "Identifying the 1950s Ranch House Interior as a Cultural Resource." National Center for Preservation Technology Training. <https://www.ncptt.nps.gov/blog/identifying-the-1950s-ranch-house-interior-as-a-cultural-resource/>.

<sup>19</sup> Hubka, Thomas C. "The American Ranch House: Traditional Design Method in Modern Popular Culture." *TDSR* VII, no. 1 (1995): 33-39.

<sup>20</sup> History Colorado. "Ranch Type." <https://www.historycolorado.org/ranch-type>.

<sup>21</sup> "Development of the Ranch."



## Notes

<sup>22</sup> "Landmark Location and Modification Map." City of Fort Collins Historic Preservation Services. <https://www.fcgov.com/historicpreservation/map>. Edited by Reyana Jones August 1, 2019.

<sup>23</sup> Frank Lloyd Wright. Quoted in "FLW Quotes: On Architecture." Dr. George and Eleanor Stockman House (1908): Frank Lloyd Wright Architect. River City Society for Historic Preservation. <http://www.stockmanhouse.org/flw-quotes>.

<sup>24</sup> Information in the section "Sheely Drive Homes" paraphrased from: No Author. "Sheely Homes Histories." City of Fort Collins Historic Preservation Division. Sheely Drive District Files. Fort Collins, CO. August 29, 2007.

<sup>25</sup> Photos in the section "Sheely Drive Homes" taken by: Yani Jones and Delaney Taylor. City of Fort Collins Historic Preservation Division. Sheely Drive Property Files. Fort Collins, CO. 2019.

<sup>26</sup> "Odaroloc: Volume VIII." Boulder: State Preparatory School of Boulder, CO, 1918, 68.

<sup>27</sup> City of Fort Collins. "Ordinance No. 12, 2000." Historic Landmark Designation. February 15, 2000.

