



Whyte House, Accokeek

CHARLES F. WAGNER, JR. (1909-1998)

Charles Francis Wagner, Jr. was raised in Atlanta, Georgia and attended the Georgia Institute of Technology where he earned a B.S. in Architecture in 1933. He spent a term at Harvard Architectural School but returned to Atlanta briefly to work on drafting and field supervision for an addition to City Hospital. After Atlanta he worked on the Resettlement Administration's community housing project in Roosevelt, New Jersey for 15 months under Alfred Kastner and Louis Kahn. In 1937 he travelled through Europe and Scandinavia studying housing and planning techniques. Wagner served in the Navy during World War II, attaining the rank of Lieutenant Commander. After the war he worked with the architect Charles Goodman in Washington, D.C. and would work with several area firms over the years, designing many hospitals and public facilities and eventually retiring in 1980 from the Office of Health, with Alice and Henry Ferguson of Hard Bargain Farm. After WWII, Wagner married, returned to Accokeek, and designed and built his first Modern house there for himself and his family over the period 1947-1950.

Over the next 30 years, Wagner would design and see built 17 more Modern houses for clients and friends in Accokeek. He remained deeply committed to the area, continuing the Ferguson's legacy of land conservation and community. Wagner was instrumental in establishing the Moyaone Reserve, an extensive collection of public and private lands — protected in perpetuity from development—that serve as the viewshed for Washington's Mount Vernon. Houses designed by Wagner would also be built in Rockville, Maryland (for Ambassador and Mrs. Leonard Unger), Saginaw Bay, Michigan, in Blue Hill, Maine and Puerto Rico.

Prince George's Modern

MIDCENTURY ARCHITECTURE 1941-1978

Charles F. Wagner, Jr. select Midcentury-Modern works

- 1947 Wagner House, Accokeek (PG: 83-032)
- 1948 Harris House, Accokeek (PG: 83-033)
- 1950 Dunphy House, Accokeek (PG: 83-034)
- 1952 Spratt House, Accokeek (PG: 83-035)
- 1954 White-Hinckley House, Accokeek (PG: 83-036)
- White-Thornhill House, Accokeek (PG: 83-037) (destroyed by fire)
- Crane House (Cranwood), Accokeek (PG: 83-038)
- 1956 Whyte House, Accokeek (PG: 83-039)
- 1959 Plumer House, Accokeek (PG: 83-040)
- 1960 Finney House, Accokeek (PG: 83-041)
- 1961 Sandine House, Accokeek (PG: 83-042)
- 1963 Robinson House, Accokeek (PG: 83-043)
- 1965 Withers House, Accokeek (PG: 83-044)
- 1966 Vanderslice House, Accokeek (PG: 83-045)
- 1972 Hickerson House, Accokeek (PG: 83-046)
- 1974 Miles House, Accokeek (PG: 83-047)
- 1976 Odell House, Accokeek (PG: 83-048)
- 1978 Donohue House, Accokeek (PG: 83-049)

Photos of Wagner and White-Thornhill House via M-NCPPC HPS archives, courtesy Wagner family.