



# THALMAN HOMES

By Douglas H. Frazer

**C**ontractor and home builder William F. Thalman and his partner architect Edmund J. Schrang were instrumental in the design and construction of many homes in and around the North Shore. Thalman would buy up subdivided lots or whole subdivisions on which he built homes and sold upon completion. In Fox Point, Thalman home “groupings” may be found on North Berkeley Boulevard, North Holly Court, and sections of North Fairchild Road.

The designs are considered Midcentury Modern-ish. Generally, the homes are distinguished by their striking stone veneer and simplified Colonial Revival design. They typically include large thermal pane windows, big front doors with surrounding porches, and often, louvres under the large windows. Thalman homes were more traditional looking than many classic Midcentury Modern structures; absent are open floorplans, vaulted ceilings, skylights, or post and beam designs. Thalman homes, however, do share elements of Midcentury Modern simplicity, including an abundance of large windows, light, and views.

Thalman was born in 1898. By 1928 he entered the business of builder-contractor with an office in Shorewood. A few year later Thalman relocated his address to share an office with architect Edmund J. Schrang. Schrang provided the designs and Thalman built the homes.

Thalman recognized that homeowners often did not want to be the first family on the block, so he would move into the first house he built while he constructed and sold the rest.

Contributing to Thalman’s success was that the homes were well-designed and built. Longtime North Shore realtor and Fox Point resident Bob Worth knows Thalman homes firsthand. Bob’s father, George Worth, who created Worth Brothers, Inc., was Thalman’s stone mason and as Worth states, “the stonework sold the house.” The stones George Worth worked with included lannon stone, roman brick, California pinks, and weathered edge. At various times brother Russell worked as a stone mason and brothers Bernard and Larry did contract work. Bob helped his father and can recall the history of numerous homes in the area. According to Bob, Thalman built the house at 8035 N. Regent Road for his son Jimmy (who worked with Thalman and Schrang); George Worth also did the masonry for the Adelman Frank Lloyd Wright house on North Barnett Lane.

William Thalman was prolific and practical. His distinctive homes are everywhere on the North Shore and have stood the test of time.

*Douglas H. Frazer is a Fox Point resident and neighborhood contributor as well as the village president. The views expressed are his own and not necessarily those of the Village, the village board, other village board members, or Best Version Media, LLC.*



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