

Architectural Analysis of 139, Blakeley Drive

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the house in a bright, cheery gladiola hue.

The appeal of this country-ranch re-do of a former 1954 Minimal Traditional style house can be seen in its sweet, homespun details. The covered porch that extends the length of the house is an addition intended to update a former boxy exterior. The Texas Lonestar is carved into wood panels that embellish each porch post and one large star ornaments the stained glass window of the hardwood entry door. The wood-frame window screens accent



The Minimal Traditional house is a type that proliferated during the Depression era in the United States and shortly after the war. Typically its boxy form had few projections, little ornamentation, and a low-pitched roof



with close-set eaves. It is precisely the economy and efficiency of these homes that give them a certain recognizable character. The house's plan was designed with the popular Ranch-Style layout in mind, with spaces arranged along one long axis facing the street and an attached garage, covered by a cross-gable to pronounce its presence. Bringing the garage to the front of the house was a cultural statement at the time, celebrating ownership of the

increasingly-affordable automobile. A multi-level wood deck extends out behind the house and overlooks and enormous wooded backyard.



A long, window-decked living room occupies the garage end of the axis, and its back wall divides the living area from the kitchen; bedrooms follow the long axis from the living area; a typical Ranch spatial feature. A

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separate dining area opens into the living space, where an almost Victorian stained-glass lamp hangs from the ceiling fan, casting beautiful shadows. It is complemented by an pewter switch plate. The bright yellow kitchen glows like a sunny box next to the more subtle, subdued hues of the dining area. Here true vintage 1950s materials are preserved in the cabinetry, the corner sink and window design, and the yellow flower wallpaper and white floral ceiling tiles. This is a much loved kitchen. Don't miss the charming variety of teapot drawer and door pulls!



Homage to the 1950s can also be seen in the front bathroom with its rose-pink and green tile lining the walls and its old-fashioned pedestal sink. The back bathroom is renovated to imitate a 19th-century “western-style” look. A dark wood cabinet supports an old-fashioned sink with antique-looking fixtures. Behind the sink are decorative tiles, a western/floral print wallpaper and an antique wood mirror to match the cabinet below.

