The City of Seattle

Landmarks Preservation Board

Mailing Address: PO Box 94649 Seattle WA 98124-4649
Street Address: 700 5th Ave Suite 1700

REPORT ON DESIGNATION LPB 395/08

Name and Address of Property: Ankeny-Gowey House
912 2nd Ave W

Legal Description: LOTS 8 AND 9 IN BLOCK 12 OF SUPPLEMENTAL PLAT OF G KINNEAR'S ADDITION TO THE CITY OF SEATTLE, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF, RECORDED IN VOLUME 2 OF PLATS, PAGE 62, IN KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON; EXCEPT THE SOUTH 35 FEET OF SAID LOT 8.

At the public meeting held on July 17, 2008, the City of Seattle's Landmarks Preservation Board voted to approve designation of the Ankeny Gowey House as a Seattle Landmark based upon satisfaction of the following standard for designation of SMC 25.12.350:

D. It embodies the distinctive visible characteristics of an architectural style, period, or of a method of construction.

F. Because of its prominence of spatial location, contrast of siting, age, or scale, it is an easily identifiable visual feature of the neighborhood or the city and contributes to the distinctive quality or identity of such neighborhood or city.

DESCRIPTION

The Ankeny-Gowey House is a single-family residence located on the southern slope of Queen Anne Hill, two blocks north of Mercer St., and two blocks west of Queen Anne Avenue. It was constructed at 912 2nd Avenue West in 1891, and now sits on 8.320 sq. ft (0.19 acres).

Exterior

General

The Ankeny-Gowey House is an excellent example of the Shingle style variant of the Queen Anne style. The Shingle style reached its greatest popularity in the 1890s, when this house was built. Although the style is identified with New England, it is found throughout the country. However, such well-executed examples as this are rare in Seattle. The house has the complexity of form and materials of the Queen Anne style, combined with curving forms of the Shingle style.

The house sits toward the northern part of an 8,320 square foot lot, with a crushed-stone driveway along the north side. The house measures approximately 26 feet wide, 40 feet deep and 36 feet high. Along the front are a concrete retaining wall, steps and a walkway leading to the front porch. The lot slopes to the south, and is terraced with low walls and steps of concrete and river rock. The front yard is heavily planted with a lawn, shrubs and flowers. A newer metal fence on the south side of the house partially encloses the rear yard. The planting strip has two very old trees that are a notable feature of the street.

The two and one-half story house is roughly rectangular in plan, with a red brick foundation and a combination of clapboard and shingle cladding. It is asymmetrical in form, with a side gable gambrel roof intersecting a hipped roof that ends in a round half-tower at the southwest corner of the main (west) facade. There is a brick chimney near the center of the south side, with a metal stove pipe to toward the rear.

A distinctive eyebrow dormer sits above recessed front porch, as well as a large bay window on north elevation and three-sided bay window on first story of south elevation. Some windows have stained and leaded glass. The first floor siding is horizontal cedar planks. Tower and second floor have fish scale and patterned shingles. In 2001 the exterior was painted in several colors: a terra-cotta/copper color on the first level, and a coppery pink color on the levels above. Trim is a forest green color with black trim color for the windows.

West Elevation (Main Façade)

The northern half of the main façade has a recessed porch with a 12-foot wide Romanesque-arched opening. The roof, which has a shallow eyebrow dormer, comes down low over the porch opening and is supported by two carved brackets. The porch is accessed by five wide wood steps with a newer metal handrail in the center. The stained wood door has beveled glass in the upper panel and nine small beveled glass inserts in the lower portion. It is flanked by two square windows with leaded glass in a geometric pattern.

The two-story corner half-tower, terminating slightly below the ridgeline, is integrated into the house volume in the fashion of the Shingle style, rather than reading as a separate element as commonly found in the Queen Anne style. The tower has three windows on each story. Those on the first story have small-pane leaded transoms, while the second- story windows have simple one-over-one sash. The spandrel below has board-and-batten cladding. The first story of the tower is clad with clapboard, with fish-scale shingles on the second story. The space above the upper windows has a very decorative shingle pattern that alternates groups of fish-scale shingles with diamonds composed of diamond-shaped shingles; the bottom is edged with diamond shingles.

North Elevation

The north elevation is the most elaborate. Cladding is clapboard on the first story and fish-scale shingles on the two upper levels. A wide wood belt course separates the two cladding materials; a similar water table is above the brick foundations. The bottom of the second story and the gable end are defined by rows of diamond shingles that give a sawtooth effect. The most dramatic feature on this façade is a two-story hanging bay that extends to the top of the second story. The shingle-clad bay has rounded corners, a flat roof and a tapered plinth extending almost to the ground. It has a large one-over-one window with a multi-paned window above it. The other windows on this facade are varied. The gable end has an oval Adamesque window with tracery, set horizontally. Flanking the bay on the second story are two round-arched Queen Anne-style windows. Toward the rear and

on the second story are two flat-head windows with similar panes. Toward the front of this façade is a leaded glass window similar to those on the porch and an arched porch opening.

South Elevation

The south façade has cladding and a belt course similar to those on the north façade. There is a similar oval window in the gable end, but it is placed vertically. The second story has a group of three one-over-one double-hung windows set in a recess with curved shingled sides, a distinguishing feature of the Shingle style. On the first story is a three-sided flat-roof bay with three windows, each with a fixed pane with a transom of leaded glass similar to that on the front-porch windows. Below the bay, in the brick –clad basement level, a pair of newer French doors opens to a sunken garden and a patio paved with bluestone.

The hipped roof rises from the front of the house to a peak approximately 36' from grade. The chimney from the parlor and master bedroom fireplaces appears slightly to the west of the ridge-line. This chimney was damaged in the Nisqually earthquake, and the top was rebuilt in the plain style of the original. The roof ridgelines are devoid of ornamentation.

The lower level has a brick foundation. French doors open onto a sunken stacked stone patio directly beneath the dining room's bay window. The patio has Chilton stone stacked at two levels enclosing a rectangular area extending about 10' from the doors and with an east-west dimension of approximately 14'. Blue-stone is used for the patio itself. The owner built the patio in 2002 in conjunction with the lower level improvements.

East Elevation (Rear)

The rear (east) elevation has a pair of newer glazed French doors near the southeast corner. They open onto a set of six wide wood steps flanked by low clapboard-clad bulkheads; there is no deck, porch or hood. As on the other facades, first-story cladding is clapboard, with fishscale shingles above. The shingles are punctuated with a large diamond pattern of diamond-shaped shingles.

The rear of the house is seen from the east, with French doors on the left (south side) leading out from the kitchen. A kitchen window and 2nd floor window are located at approximately the horizontal center. The upper floor has fish-patterned cedar-shingled siding. Again, the cedar fish-scale shingles of the second level are interrupted by a set of diamond-shaped shingles set in a single large diamond shape to provide visual interest

Exterior Alterations

Only a few minor alterations to the exterior have been done, neither of which is visible from the public walkways in the front of the house:

1. In the 1970s, the small rear porch was enclosed by adding French doors across the open area.
2. The top of the chimney from the kitchen was removed after the Nisqually earthquake of 2001 damaged it.
3. In 2002, on the south side basement level, where a basement window was replaced by French doors with side light windows leading into a new sunken garden.

Other minor changes include window and door upgrades in the basement. The exterior has been painted several times, and the roof was replaced in 2007. A wrought-iron-like picket fence – to

minimize obstruction of views of the house -- across the front of the south side yard was erected in 2007, and an adjoining wood fence encloses the rear of the yard.

Interior

First floor

The first floor has just over 1000 square feet of living space, including the stair wells. The floor has all original woodwork and hardware. The fir floors are original, and were refinished by the current owners in 2007. Upon entering the house through the front door, the visitor enters a large entry hall with the original wood staircase leading to the 2nd floor. The staircase is paneled on the first floor, and has all original wood showing. The stairs were refinished in 2004, and show some gaps from the house settling. At the bottom of the lower banister is a pedestal with a 3-branched candelabra-like light fixture on top. A built-in bench seat adjoins the staircase at its base.

A parlor is situated to the south of the entry, and looks out through the large windows in the turret toward Puget Sound. The parlor has an original, working fireplace with original woodwork and an integrated mirror above. Heating is from a radiator under the windows. A simple, three-armed gaslight-like chandelier hangs from the center of the ceiling. Pocket doors between the hallway and parlor and between the parlor and dining room are still operational and have their original hardware.

The dining room has a bay window facing south. On the west side of the room is the pocket door leading to the parlor. On the north side were originally two swinging doors. These doors have since been removed, so there are now two passages into the central hallway between the entry-way and the kitchen. A simple, four-armed gaslight-like chandelier hangs from the center of the ceiling. The ceiling moulding was added by the owners in 2002, with a stain to match the other mouldings in the room. The swinging doors and sliding door each have a narrow, integrated shelf above for, presumably, display of objects d'art.

The kitchen is in the rear of the house, and has original cabinetry manufactured by the O.B. Williams Company, still operating in Seattle. A wood stove in the northwest corner has been removed, but the old chimney is still visible. The floor is wood, and wainscoting is used where there are no cabinets. The stove, formerly by the chimney is now a modern stainless appliance under the window looking out at the backyard (east). The cabinets where the new stove sits were moved to the south of the window, displacing a large cupboard cabinet which has been moved into the enclosed area that was formerly a small rear porch. A small powder room is off the kitchen, and was added in the 1980s remodels. The powder room area had originally been a breakfast seating area.

Second floor

The 2nd floor has just over 1,000 square feet of living space, including the stair wells, containing 3 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms. The floors are the original wood floors, refinished by the current owners after they ripped out old carpeting in 2000. The rooms are adjoined by a central hallway, with the master bedroom at the west end and a small third bedroom at the east end.

The master bedroom has a large sitting room above the 1st floor parlor, and the master bed is in an alcove sitting above the 1st floor hallway and lit by both the eyebrow window and a small window facing north. The sitting room has a small bathroom off of it, located in a former closet and having a small white-tiled shower but no tub. The alcove was used to house the Harriet Gowey's dollhouse and

doll collection after the Depression, accounting for a light high on the east wall, but is presently used for the master bedroom.

The sitting room has a small door that appears to be a cold-air return. This small door at floor level originally opened into a dead space between the hallway closet and the closet (now a bathroom). A long, sliding shelf had been built behind the small door, and it was surmised by one of the Gowey grandchildren that Ankeny, a banker, has built this secret compartment to hide household valuables. When the closet was turned into a small bathroom, the sliding shelf was removed. The sitting room also has a fireplace angled in the southeast corner. A simple, four-armed gaslight-like chandelier hangs from the center of the ceiling, and two sconce-lights are affixed to the south wall.

The main bathroom was renovated in 2007 to include a white subway-tiled whirlpool/shower and two sinks. Originally, the bathroom had been a linen closet. The date of its conversion to a bathroom is unknown. The floor of the bathroom is small, white hexagonal tiles. Access to the attic is through a trap door in this bathroom. An original window looks to the north.

A second bedroom on the second floor has a southern view through 3 large windows positioned above the dining room's bay window. The room had a wood stove, long since removed. A Gowey grandchild recalled that the wall had been scorched black when the stove was overheated one cold evening. A small, third bedroom is to the rear of the third floor. When the current owners sought to paint this room in 2000, they found about 8 layers of wallpaper that had to be removed off the plaster. The room has picture railing about 2' from the ceiling as well as ceiling moulding.

Lower level

The lower level has just less than 1000 square feet of living space, including the stair wells.
The basement was originally unfinished, with the front third a crawlspace. A toilet had been located in the southeast corner of the basement, and had originally served the needs of the entire house. A free-standing wall for holding preserves was also set up in the basement, but the wall is now gone.

After the Great Depression, the Gowey family dug out more of the basement and set up two model railroad trains, one Lionel and one HO-gauge. Lawton Gowey, the son of the owner, was enamored of railroads, and many of his archives are preserved in the University of Washington library. An oil-fired furnace was later installed near the chimney. Asbestos-covered pipes spider-webbed out from this furnace in the direction of the radiators on the first floor.

The basement was finished in 2002. The oil-furnace was removed and a gas furnace installed against the east wall next to the water heater. Asbestos was abated. All pipes were hidden in the joists. A bathroom was added, and recessed lighting added. The space remains a large open area with porcelain-tiled floors throughout. The space contains a media center and computer work areas, as well as the laundry and a bathroom.

Attic

A large attic is reached through a ceiling door in the 2nd floor main bathroom. The attic was wired during the 1980s renovations, and a partial floor was added to the attic in 2007. The attic is used only for storage, and at its peak has an interior height of approximately 7'. The roof's peak runs north-south.

Surrounding area and development

The area was originally one of single-family houses, with the Kinnear mansion a few blocks away on Queen Anne Avenue. However, multi-family structures now dominate the block, with single-family zoning starting approximately 1 block north of the house.

Neighboring buildings

Originally, to the south on Olympic Place and across the street was the beautiful Del a Mar apartment building built by George Kinnear in 1909 near his own home on Queen Anne Hill for friends and visitors to the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition. The building still stands, but now is blocked by more recent construction. In the 1970s, the Goweys were approached by the Seattle Housing Authority to acquire the southern piece of the property for public housing. Harriet Gowey did not imagine that they would construct an eight-story apartment complex made of concrete, but such was the wisdom of the SHA. So, to the south is a tall building affectionately referred to as the "Beirut Hilton."

To the north, at 918 2nd Avenue West, was a house built in 1904. However, this house was demolished in 2008 to make way for 6 townhouses on the same site. At the same time, an apartment building to the north of the 918 house was also demolished, and 9 townhouses were constructed there.

Across the street to the west now sit condominium buildings, with a 3-storied building sitting directly across from the house. A much taller condominium building was planned, but opposition by residents on the South slope of the hill resulted in the building being limited to its present height.

Natural features and topography

The house is situated on the rising south slope of Queen Anne hill at about 250' elevation. Queen Anne Hill rises to the north to an eventual height of 456'. The famed Kerry Park overlook is 2½ blocks to the north, while a smaller park is a ½ block to the north.

Underground streams run down the hill, with one under 2nd Avenue West causing occasional sinkholes in the roadway. Another small stream runs down the middle of the properties uphill from the house, but the townhomes being erected there are expected to channel most of the flow into the sewer system.

Two approximately 50' Cypress trees grow on the south side of the yard outside the dining room's bay window and close to the property line. Nootka Cypress (Callitropsis nootkatensis), formerly Cupressus nootkatensis, Xanthocyparis nootkatensis or Chamaecyparis nootkatensis, is a cypress (Cupressaceae) which goes by many common names including Nootka Cypress, Yellow Cypress, and Alaska Cypress. Even though it is not a cedar, it is also often confusingly called "Nootka Cedar", "Yellow Cedar", "Alaska Cedar", or even "Alaska Yellow Cedar". These trees may have been related to the "Navigation Cedar" that was cut down near where they stand.

Major roadways and transportation

The house sits two blocks west of Queen Anne Avenue, and 2½ blocks north of Mercer Street. Mercer Street leads east to an eventual merge onto the I-5 highway. A trolley used to run along Olympic Place, but the tracks have been paved over. An electric Metro bus line now runs along Olympic Place, with a bus stop about one block from the house.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The house has architectural significance as a representative of the Queen Anne style of Victorian architecture built throughout the city at the close of the 19th century. Its original owner, Rollin Ankeny, was a well-known and highly respected financial officer in early Seattle history.

Neighborhood Setting

White settlement of Queen Anne stemmed from the arrival of the Denny Party at West Seattle's Alki Point in November 1851. The next year, David Denny staked a claim to the 320 acres of Lower Queen Anne land today bounded by Elliott Bay to the west, Lake Union to the east, Mercer Street to the north, and Denny Way to the south. Significant for this story, in 1882 Jacob Furth and his family moved to Seattle where he established the Puget Sound National Bank with capital of $50,000. Development of the hill, called at various times North Seattle, Galer Hill, and Eden Hill, was slow, but the arrival of the Northern Pacific Railway (1883) and the Seattle, Lake Shore & Eastern Railroad (1887), the Great Seattle Fire of 1889, and the opening of three cable car lines to the top of the hill (1902), improved matters. The hill began to be called "Queen Anne" by 1885, after the Queen Anne style houses that dominated the area.

The community name “Queen Anne” is the result of the historical coinciding of the ornate Queen Anne style of architecture with the North Seattle building boom. The ornate Queen Anne style, introduced from England to the east coast in the 1870s, reached Seattle in the 1880s at the peak of land development on the south and west sides of the hill by home seekers prosperous enough to afford “a little style” in their new home. The name Queen Anne Town began to appear around 1885, mainly in real estate promotion literature. Realtors sensed the name – a combination of aristocratic elegance and romance – would have a potent appeal in a still rough, unfinished city.

The Victorian style of architecture was aided by builders who married economical vernacular frame construction with mass-produced, mill-made, historical ornament following the designs of popular pattern books. While there is no evidence that the Ankeny house followed a pattern book, certainly many of the building practices then current would have been employed in the home’s construction. The emergence of the Queen Anne style within Victorian architecture came in the late 1880s and the 1890s. This style was marked by irregular plans, asymmetrical massing, and variety in exterior surfaces. Round corner towers with semi-circular bay windows and porches where combined in the most ambitious Queen Anne designs. These homes often sought individual effects and unusual window treatments. A love of color in mosaics and stained glass was also a part of the Queen Anne aesthetic.

In the ten years from 1880 to 1890 – as the city’s population grew twelvefold to 42,837 – more than 50 plats were filed with King Country for subdivisions north of Denny Way. About 65% of the land that comprises Queen Anne was subdivided in this decade. Thomas Mercer completed subdividing his donation claim 30 years after he arrived on the hill, with the filing of Mercer’s Addition on February 2, 1882, and Mercer’s Second Addition, April 14, 1883. Mercer’s lots averaged $300 for a 30 x 120 foot lot. George Kinnear, who arrived in Seattle in 1878 with his wife Angie Simmons and two sons, subdivided his land in 1884 as Kinnear’s Addition. The Kinnears built their mansion at 809 Queen Anne Avenue, 3 blocks from where the Ankenys would site their home, while George Kinnear’s brother built a mansion at 348 Olympic Place. San Francisco was the pricier choice for west coast settlers, with property going for $300-$400 a front foot in the Pacific Heights area in the 1880s.

An early successful builder, Isaac N. Bigelow, sold 40 lots in 1888 in his additions on the east crest of the hill, and from the proceeds built his own elegant home at 912 Queen Anne Avenue, 2 blocks east of where the Ankenys would live. The Marble/Lindsley House at 520 W. Kinnear Place was built in 1890 and exists today. Its owner/builder was a brick mason who, given the demand for construction talent after the Fire, was able to build a fine home on the Hill.

In 1888, over 100 homes were built on Queen Anne Hill, with the vast majority between Mercer Street and Denny Way. Between 1884 and 1898 all of the north-south streets, from Denny Way to W. Highland Drive, were graded. Grading simply meant a level roadbed – made of dirt. None of the Queen Anne streets were paved in the 19th century.

By 1890, the economic makeup of Queen Anne Hill was 38% professionals, merchants, and semi-professional people, with 25% artisan and construction, 9% service, and 22% unskilled.

Past Ownership

The Duwamish tribe recognized the significance of an ancient and monumental tree that grew on the property at what was to become 912 2nd Avenue West. This cedar, which has started to grow in the time of Marco Polo and survived the occasional forest fire that swept through the region, was a true giant. The native tribes established the tradition of holding inter-tribal chiefs' councils beneath its graceful branches. Here disputes between the nearby Shilshole community on Salmon Bay and others were deliberated and problems of mutual concern were resolved. Native tribes called it the Powwow Tree. Later excavations unearthed many shells from around the base of the tree. Early explorers entering Puget Sound names the tree, which could be seen for miles from the water, the Landmark Cedar and used it as navigation point, as did all ships entering Elliott Bay for nearly two centuries. It also became known to sailors as the Lookout Tree. But, as events played out, this "claim" on the land would not outweigh that of a grant under the Land Grant Acts of the mid- and late 1800s.

Rollin Valentine Ankeny, "a financier of broad experience and marked ability", was one of the officers of the Seattle National Bank. He was a native of Freeport, Illinois. His family's history is tied to Washington County, Maryland. Ewalt Ankeny, the great-great-grandfather of Rollin V. Ankeny, served in the Colonial army and became captain of the Fifth Company of Bedford county, Pennsylvania, militia. His son, Peter Ankeny, was born and reared in Maryland and journeyed westward when a young man, becoming one of the early settlers of Ohio. He was the father of General Joseph Ankeny, who was born in the Buckeye state and achieved success as a merchant. His son, Rollin V. Ankeny, Sr., was born in Somerset County, Pennsylvania, in 1830, acquired a college education, and afterward engaged in merchandising and farming. During the Civil war he enlisted in the Union army and rose to the rank of brigadier general. He filled a number of public offices, to which he was elected on the Republican ticket, and "his religious views were in harmony with the doctrines of the Christian church". He was a Knight Templar Mason and was also identified with the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks. In Millersburg, Ohio, he married Miss Sarah Irvine, a daughter of Dr. Samuel Irvine, and they became the parents of five children, two of whom survive: Rollin Valentine and Mrs. Mary B. Hunter, a resident of Des Moines, Iowa.

During the boyhood of Rollin V. Ankeny, Jr., his parents removed from Illinois to Iowa and he attended the public schools of Des Moines, also becoming a student in the Bishop Scott Academy of Portland, Oregon, when his father was sent to that city by the federal government. At the age of sixteen the son entered the Exchange Bank at Stuart, Iowa, in the capacity of messenger, and also did the janitor work. His next position was that of collection clerk in the Citizens National Bank of Des Moines, of which he was later a bookkeeper. He remained with the institution for five years and then

journeyed to the Pacific coast. For a time he was secretary of the Fresno (Cal.) Electric Light & Gas Company and in 1888 came to Seattle as bookkeeper for the Puget Sound National Bank.

In 1889, Rudolph Ankeny took out a building permit for a house on what is now lower Queen Anne Hill. In 1890 after the bank promoted Ankeny to teller he visited Des Moines, Iowa and married Eleanor Randolph (b. 1867) a daughter of Jacob Randolph, of Des Moines, Iowa. The next year he became Assistant Cashier. “But before there was the house, there was the tree”. Ankeny planned to build a home with his new bride Eleanor Randolph's dowry money, but it ended up taking a while. To make room for the house, a huge tree had to go. Many folks wanted to save the tree, known as the "landmark cedar." It had served as a navigational guide for ships since white men had been sailing into Elliott Bay. The Duwamish Indians also protested against the tree removal, according to the Landmarks Preservation Board, because it had been a "powwow tree", a traditional meeting place for local tribes. While this controversy raged, Seattle burned. Downtown was razed by the Great Seattle Fire of 1889.

The proposal to fell the ancient landmark cedar was not taken lightly. The Duwamish protested the cutting of the sacred tree. Some members of the white community also supported the tribe’s point of view. Before Ankeny destroyed the tree, the natives held a ceremony at the site and tribal tradition records that a curse was placed where the tree once stood. Later owners learned to their relief that such curses lasted for only 100 years.

We can infer that Ankeny paid approximately $900 for his property, since it was 100 x125 (2 lots). It took Ankeny until 1891 to fell the tree and complete the dwelling; builders had larger priorities than one small house. The Ankenys then paid for the construction of a five or six room Queen Anne style house, and they probably moved into the house by the end of 1891, although construction might have continued into early 1892. They were living in the house no later than spring 1892 just a few weeks before their son Irvine (b. June 1892) was born. For a number of years, gas and oil lamps were used to light the house because electricity was not available. The house also lacked central heating, so the only sources of heat on the first floor, were a kitchen range, round oak heater, and a fireplace in the living room. The second floor was heated with some airtight stoves for the bedrooms and a fireplace for the sitting room.

Meanwhile, other necessities were in desperately short supply. In a June 1, 1891 petition, Queen Anne residents pleaded with the City: “your petitioners … and all others on [Temperance Street] are entirely without sewage facilities, and fear that with the coming of warm weather a great deal of sickness will result unless the relief they pray for is granted.” The city started action to help the distressed citizens in 1894. Electricity was available on Queen Anne by 1890, but at a steep cost: Clarence Bagley reported that he paid $7.50 a month that year.

On May 5, 1893, the New York stock market tumbled, setting off a panic that swept across the United States and crashed onto the Pacific Northwest. King County and the Puget Sound region plunged into a deep economic depression that lasted four years. Among the big losers were Peter Kirk (1840-1916), David Denny (1832-1903), and his wife Louisa Boren Denny (1827-1916). Within a year, some 11 Seattle banks went out of business. By the end of the depression, 14 of Seattle’s 23 banks, plus all three King County banks outside of Seattle (Auburn, Kent, and Ballard) were forced out of business. In 1893, Puget Sound National – where Rollin Ankeny worked -- consolidated with Seattle National Bank (renamed Seattle First National-Dexter Horton Bank). In the panic, Jacob Furth (who had founded Puget Sound National) saved Seattle from financial disaster by forestalling his own board of directors from calling in all the loans. "Gentlemen," he addressed the board of Seattle National Bank. "If you do this you will create a financial situation that we can perhaps weather, but will bring other institutions crashing down around us. What you propose may be good banking, but it

is not human" (Beaton, p. 195). Within 10 days, Furth had traveled to New York, and raised the funds to buy control of his bank. He brought back enough relief to save his own bank and those of his rivals. The Seattle banks that survived had a tough time. For instance, the total deposits of the Dexter Horton Bank, predecessor of Seattle First National Bank (in 1999 Bank of America), dropped from $1.2 million in May 1892 to $638,000 in May 1897. The First National Bank dropped from $229,000 to $72,000 during the same period. By the end of 1893, 20 percent of the American work force was out of a job. Unemployment was probably higher in the Puget Sound region, so dependent on exporting natural resources to the East and across the seas. The lucky ones who remained employed got their wages sliced. Unable to make mortgage payments, the unemployed and many of the employed had to walk away from their real estate investments, even their own houses. King County foreclosed on hundreds of parcels, lots, and acreage owned by individuals, developers, and speculators when property taxes were not paid. Even some banks could not afford to pay property taxes. The few real estate transactions occurred at land values that had dropped by 40 to 80 percent. The Panic of 1893 lasted for four hard years and then ended as quickly as it started when a ship of Klondike gold reached Seattle's docks in June 1897 and the county became, once again, "the boomingest place on earth."

The effects on the Ankenys are unknown, but surely these events of 1893-7 affected the young couple in their new home. Given evidence of his employment at Puget Sound Bank until 1910, Rollin was probably able to hold his position during the Panic, though may have joined others in accepting pay cuts during the downturn.

In 1903 the Ankeny house was described as follows; "Their attractive home is situated at No. 812 Second Avenue West and its characteristic hospitality is enjoyed by their large circle of friends." (A volume of Memoirs 1903 p 74-75) The Post Office later changed the address to 912 2nd Avenue W. In 1892, the seventeen-year old Vulcan Iron Works reorganized and Ankeny became the firm's treasurer. In 1900 the plant moved from the foot of Union to the recently reclaimed tideflats south of King Street. One of the largest iron works on the Pacific Coast the Vulcan Iron Works employed 100 to 125 men that produced mining machinery, logging tools and engines, air compressors, and saw mill machinery. After the Alaska gold rush started, Ankeny became an investor and officer of some Alaska transportation and improvement companies. (Seattle and the Orient 1900 pp. 103-105, 122) The Ankenys remained in the house until 1907 when they sold it to Adolph Behrens.

Later, Rollin Ankeny was made its cashier and thus served until 1910, when the business was merged with that of the Seattle National Bank, of which he also became cashier. Mr. Ankeny became first vice president and a director of the bank and "aided in making this the largest and strongest moneyed institution in Seattle". In banking circles of the city he was regarded as an authority on finance and also had other interests, being a director of the Gypsum Products Company and the Superior Portland Cement Company.

The Ankenys' son, Irvine R., was "identified with the wholesale tea and coffee business. He was married and had a daughter. Rollin V. Ankeny [was] a life member of the Arctic Club and [was] treasurer of the Rainier Club for fourteen years. Along fraternal lines he [was] connected with the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks and the Masons, while his political allegiance [was] given to the Republican Party. Throughout life he [was] an earnest, conscientious worker, constantly advancing as he has proven his ability and worth, and his success [was] well deserved. Mr. Ankeny been faithful to every trust reposed in him, is a man of the highest integrity and a useful and influential citizen."

Later occupants

At the age of 10, Adolph Behrens' (b. ca 1860) parents emigrated from Germany. By 1885 he lived in Washington and married his wife Hannah. Behrens arrived in Seattle sometime before 1899 – he headed to the Yukon in 1899 -- and 8 years later moved into the Ankeny House. Adolph had come to the United States from Germany at the age of 13. He spoke no English when he arrived but by middle age could speak the language without accent and had opened a real estate firm, Behrens Realty dealing in real estate, timber lands, and insurance, rose to a high position in the Masons and won election to the state legislature. He was elected to the state House of Representatives three times as a Republican – in 1921, 1923 and 1925. In 1927, Adolph Behrens moved to south Seattle and son Jerry and Gina Behrens moved into the house for a few more years.

In the 1933, Clarence L. and Harriet E. Gowey bought the house for $3,500. During the earlier part of the Depression, they rented the house for about $10/month and made payments "as they could" to Behrens. The Goweys still lived there in the early 1960s. Clarence Gowey worked for the Seattle Rubber Band Company in the basement before becoming a pipefitter and steamfitter during World War II. In the early 1960s, he worked for the Puget Sound Naval Station at Bremerton.

Gowey had to put his stamp collection on the market to get the money for a down payment. "We were quite poor when we moved into the house," said Kathryn Bellis, Gowey's daughter. "It was good that sections of it could be closed off because we were not able to heat it all. For a while, in the cold weather, we lived in the kitchen and breakfast nook. There was no hot water," she said.

During the Depression, after Gowey lost his job, he purchased a rubber band making machine. In the evenings, he and his children would go to the tire disposal area – the dump -- and recover the best of the inner tubes from the car tires. From these, the machine would cut rubber bands which were then sold to the department stores downtown, such as Nordstroms. One evening, the Gowey's Model T was set on fire. Gowey guessed that a rival rubber band making outfit had done this to scare him away from competing. (story retold by one of Gowey's grandchildren).

During the Depression, many homes went vacant as homeowners simply walked away from mortgages they could not pay. Often, the furniture in these homes was abandoned at the same time, and the unemployed would quickly remove furniture for use as firewood. At one point, Clarence Gowey managed to secure a dining room table, and the family ate their Sunday macaroni and cheese around that table for many years afterwards. When he was still living and managing the finances for Seattle City Light, their son, Lawton Gowey was one of the regions most avid and scholarly rail fans. He was a collector not only of photographs of trolleys and their routes but also a student of their development.

The Gowey family approached Historic Seattle in 1980 in search of ways to save the house. Historic Seattle is a public development corporation whose members are largely devoted to big restoration projects like the old Queen Anne High School. They took on the project. Lawson Elliott of Historic Seattle remember[ed] the project vividly, "It's such a perfect example of Queen Anne architecture, it looks like a little wedding cake. We were happy to help give this house a new life." Elliott says the entire south side and front were restored "shingle by shingle." Most of the siding was replaced, and part of the wooden sash was rebuilt. "It was very difficult to save old shingles," Elliott [said]. "We set up a man with a saw in the yard, and he cut them. We built a steam box in the garage, and we would steam the wood all night long, and in the morning the carpenters would come and bend the board around the turret." Elliott admits all the decoration was mere sensual detail. "A turret served no real purpose, you know. It was expensive. It was showing off for your neighbors."

Dr. Gordon and Marlyn Keating purchased the house in the early 1980s after the extensive restoration by Historic Seattle and subsequent interior renovation by the Moultrie family. Gordon and Marlyn met at Stanford University:

> Egged on by a friend, Marlyn Anderson, '65, responded to an ad in the *Stanford Daily* for another matchmaking experiment. One of her matches was Gordon Keating, MD '67, a shy, gentle psychiatrist-in-training. The couple married the summer after he finished medical school. They still have the printout that Gordon got from the experimenters. The details of the match have grown foggy with the passing of years. Neither remembers where their first date occurred ("Was it a French restaurant, do you remember, Gordon?" Marlyn asks. "I thought it was Italian," her husband answers) or whether the matchmaking was a sociology or psychology department project. "It's hard to remember the beginning," says Marlyn Keating, now director of fiscal services for a school district in Washington. "We've evolved and influenced each other and have developed a shared view of the world."

Gordon Keating was an avid gardener, and created and tended many gardens on the property. Gordon was a psychiatrist and ran his practice from the home, with some of his clients at the Olympic Manor next door. Marlyn was a business manager. After selling the house to the Hucks, the Keatings moved to a very modern home on Federal Ave East on Capitol Hill, taking a respite from Victorian architecture.

The home was purchased by Mark and Nadine Huck for $550,000 in September of 2000 and they are the current (2008) occupants of the house. Originally from the Chicago area, Mark Huck was born in Highland Park, Illinois (1957) -- son of John Burge and Judith Ann Mallen Huck -- educated at Princeton University (A.B. 1979) and University of Washington (M.B.A., 2002), and speedskated on the 1984 U.S. Olympic Team at 5000m in Sarajevo. He worked for U.S. Bank, Ernst and Young, and Microsoft Corporation in then-new Internet programming and management capacities from 1996. Nadine Ruth Schultz was born in Spokane in 1973 -- daughter of Thomas and Candace Clay Schultz -- moved from Spokane to Seattle in 1992, met Mark in 1994 at Mark's mother's house in Harbor Springs, Michigan, and they were married in 1995. Nadine opened a retail home furnishings store in Fremont from 2003 until 2006, and then consulted for others in that business. They have two sons from Mark's earlier marriage, Daetan (b. 1988) and Lachlan (b. 1989). Both sons attended McGilvra Elementary School and TOPS Middle School in Seattle. Daetan graduated from The Center School in 2006 and was admitted into the University of Washington Honors Program. Lachlan graduated from Garfield High School in 2008 and was admitted into University of Washington as a recruited soccer player. In 2008, as density on the block increased with the demolition of the two uphill properties, the Hucks considered plans to turn the house into a Bed and Breakfast inn with the addition of rooms in the property's rear.

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The features of the Landmark to be preserved, include: The site, the exterior of the building, and the following elements of the interior: the entry hall and main stairway.

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