



The City of Seattle

Landmarks Preservation Board

400 Yesler Building Seattle, Washington 98104 • (206)625-4501

LPB-02/81

REPORT ON DESIGNATION

Property: Handschy/Kistler House
2433 - 9th Ave. W.

Legal Description: Soundview Addition to Queen Anne,
Block 1, Lot 8 & 9.

At a Public Hearing held on Wednesday, December 16, 1981, the City of Seattle's Landmarks Preservation Board voted to approve designation of the Handschy/Kistler House as a City Landmark. Designation was approved based on satisfaction of the following criteria for designation of the Landmarks Preservation Ordinance #106348:

Section 3.01 (4) It embodies the distinctive visible characteristics of an architectural style, or period, or of a method of construction.

Section 3.01 (5) It is an outstanding work of a designer or builder.

This house is well described, analyzed and evaluated in the nomination form, LPB-233/78. It is an outstanding example of the work of Willatsen and Byrne who, in essence, may be characterized as members of a second generation designers working in the manner of Frank Lloyd Wright. An unusually generous number of their "prairie-type houses" exist in the greater Seattle Area, and the house in question is certainly one of the better examples. It is one of only a few with steeper pitched roofs, gabled with deep eaves; many of their houses incorporated the more typical prairie form with much lower pitched and usually hipped roofs.

The Handschy House demonstrates a sculptural quality in both the use of materials and the composition of forms. The low horizontal mass of the Ninth Avenue elevation is enriched by the incorporation of a stepping down of two gables. The detailing both externally and internally is excellent and consistent and is very much in the "Oak Park" manner, reflecting Mr. Wright's (then ca 1905) exploration of design aspects of Japanese prints. Again, this house goes farther in that direction than many of the other Willatsen and Byrne or Willatsen houses in the area.

Section 3.01 (6) Because of its prominence of spatial location, contrasts of siting, age, or scale, it is an easily identifiable visual feature of its neighborhood or the city and contributes to the distinctive quality or identity of such neighborhood or the city.

The Handschy residence was cleverly located across the rear or alley end of two city lots. This bold approach at urban siting allowed the architects to design a strong horizontal form while creating a wide yard to buffer the house against the fronting street of Ninth Avenue West. The result adds a welcome and highly visible variety and relief to the tightly packed city lots completely surrounding the site. This scheme has created, then, a highly identifiable landmark for the immediate Queen Anne neighborhood.

Features/Characteristics to be preserved:

The entire exterior of the house & site; and, major interior spaces and elements of the house.

Issued: 12/30/81
Earl D. Layman
City Historic Preservation Officer

by: 
Roberta Deering
Landmarks Preservation Coordinator
01/04/82

RD:leo

cc: William Justen, D.C.L.U.
Arthur Kistler --VIA CERTIFIED MAIL--
William Krippaehne, Chairman