



The City of Seattle

LPB-69/82

Landmarks Preservation Board

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

REPORT ON DESIGNATION

NAME OF PROPERTY: Nelson/Steinbrueck House, 2622 Franklin Ave. E.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Denny Fuhrman Block 6 Lot 4

At the Public Hearing held on April 7, 1982 the City of Seattle's Landmarks Preservation Board voted to approve designation of the Nelson/Steinbrueck House as a Seattle Landmark based upon satisfaction of the following criteria of the Landmarks Preservation Ordinance #106348:

Section 3.01 (2) It is associated in a significant way with the life of a person important in the history of the city, state, or nation;

Prior to her marriage to Professor Steinbrueck, this house was long the home of Marjorie Nelson, one of Seattle's outstanding Thespians. Victor Steinbrueck, long a champion of preservation in Seattle (and the first recognized "living landmark") has played a leading role in recognizing and saving the Pike Place Market Historic District, Pioneer Square Preservation District, and other singular landmarks. He has published landmark guides and sketchbooks on the Market and Seattle Cityscape, all emphasizing his concern for recognition of our heritage and the significant qualities of our urban environment. Without his perseverance, guidance, and leadership, it is doubtful that our preservation program as we know it would ever have been implemented.

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

The Nelson/Steinbrueck house is an excellent example of a Victorian family dwelling, possessing typical characteristics of such houses in both form and detail: verticality, complex planform, gracious verandah, angled bays with bracketry, use of machine-turned structural elements and ornament, as well as machined siding and shingles.

Continued.....

Features of the Landmark to be preserved include:

the entire exterior of the house, and, that
portion of the site from the front of the
house down the slope to the street.

Issued: April 20, 1982

Earl D. Layman
City Historic Preservation Officer

by: Roberta Deering
Landmarks Preservation Coordinator

cc: Mr. & Mrs. Victor Steinbrueck
William Krippaehne, Jr., Chairman
William Justen, D.C.L.U.

LPB- 29/82



City of Seattle
Department of Community Development/Office of Urban Conservation

Landmark Nomination Form

Name Steinbrueck Residence Year Built ca. 1891
(Common, present or historic)

Street and Number 2622 Franklin Avenue East

Assessor's File No. 195970 0205 0

Legal Description Plat Name Denny Fuhrman Block 6 Lot 4

Present Owner ^{Mr. + Mrs.} ~~Victor~~ Steinbrueck Present Use Residence

Address same ⁹⁸¹⁰² Tel: 322-5447
₃₂₂₋₅₄₄₇

Original Owner Unknown Original Use Residence

Architect Unknown Builder Unknown

Description: Present and original (if known) physical appearance and characteristics

This house is a two-storey, cross gabled Victorian residence of frame construction with a wrap-around verandah at the street front of the house. The form is further enriched by the use of a tower at the left of the same front at the return of the porch. Significant details include a fan gable brace, acorn new post finials, turned balusters and porch posts, and handsome bracketry. A colored glass transom is to be seen on the first floor, and some fishscale shingles in the gables.

VICTORIAN ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN

"Victorian" is an after-the-fact design category (customary) applied to the architecture and decorative arts which were created generally during the reign of Queen Victoria, 1840-1901. More importantly, this was an era of great industrial growth in the Western world, and in addition in the United States a period from the cataclysm of civil war to renewal of national unity, westward expansion and growth. Coincidentally, this period also corresponds to Seattle's founding and its rapid growth through normal pioneering activities and responding to the northern Gold Rushes.

The architecture of the period made lavish use of wood, terra cotta and brick, cast iron and other increasingly mass produced/machine produced materials. Designs, whole buildings or parts, became readily available through catalogs, and thus culture was readily transferable to the raw and young frontier.

Because of the slow decline of Pioneer Square, our first CBD, Seattle has a rich heritage of Victorian commercial architecture. Early photographs reveal that we also had an exuberant variety of Victorian houses, from modest workers' cottages to flamboyant mansions of the wealthy and of the city's founders; we were a worthy competitor of Victorian San Francisco! Equally as significant were richly detailed and pinnacled churches, schools, academies, theaters and stores, mostly created in machined wood. Regrettably, fires, progress, freeways, and housing projects have decimated most of this rich past. This makes the remaining Victorian houses all the more important to analyze, recognize and preserve.

The mansions and churches are all gone. Remaining to us are a dwindling number of modest (workers') cottages

- modest two storey houses
- fairly elaborate two-story houses
- farm houses
- a few simplified Italianate houses

Those that are being presented for designation consideration have been selected because:

- they demonstrate basic characteristics of Victorian proportions and form;
- They are essentially intact and preserved (original or restored elements and materials);
- they incorporate machine produced elements such as elaborately cut shingles (fish scale, etc.), colored glass panels, balusters and posts, bracketry, window and door casings, molded brick, etc.

Queen Anne houses which represent a transition, but gradual, out of Victorianism, will be considered separately.

Properties as they are presented more often than not will be seen as contrasting examples, rather than in groups of the same type; scheduling is always subject to adjustments necessitated by owner contact, research problems, etc.

Statement of significance

The Steinbreuck house is an excellent example of a Victorian family dwelling, possessing typical characteristics of such houses in both form and detail: verticality, complex planform, gracious verandah, angled bays with bracketry, use of machine turned structural elements and ornament, as well as siding and shingles.

Seattle's Victorian heritage has dwindled dramatically, and our end of the century Victorian buildings merit both recognition and protection.

Photographs:



Submitted by: Office of Urban Conservation
~~Nomination requested by Owners~~

Address _____

Date _____

Reviewed _____
History Preservation Officer

Date 02/29/22