



The City of Seattle

Landmarks Preservation Board

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

LPB-267/81

August 19, 1981

REPORT ON DESIGNATION

Property: Satterlee Residence
4866 Beach Drive Southwest

On August 5, 1981, the Landmarks Board approved designation of the subject property as a Seattle Landmark; identifying the following features for preservation:

the entire exterior of the house, as well as the entire site.

Designation is based upon satisfaction of the following criteria of Ordinance 106348:

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

The house is an excellent, symmetrical example of a Seattle classic box, well detailed and composed. As such it will be the first of the city's classic boxes to be designated as a city landmark.

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 property is in significant contrast to the surrounding, rather crowded (albeit atmospheric) area, with its long "front yard" extending back and up the slope, climaxed by location of the house near the top of the slope. Much of the design of the grounds dates from the building of the house, ca. 1906.

Issued August 19, 1981

Earl D. Layman
City Historic Preservation Officer



LPB-63/81

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

Landmark Nomination Form

Name The Satterlee Residence Year Built c. 1906
(Common, present or historic)

Street and Number 4866 Beach Drive S.W.

Assessor's File No. 793600 - 0231

Legal Description Plat Name Spring Hill Block port. Tract 18 Lot _____
Villa Tracts

Present Owner David Satterlee Present Use residence

Address 4866 Beach Drive S.W.

Original Owner Ina E. Baker, listed in 1910 Original Use residence

Architect unknown Builder unknown

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

The Satterlee residence, built circa 1906 is situated near the western shoreline of West Seattle south of Alki Point, and is oriented westward toward the sound from the base of a wooded bluff. The house is built of frame construction with a shingled exterior and consists of a raised basement with two stories and a finished attic. The residence is cubicular in its basic form and proportions and features a formal and symmetrically composed facade at the front or west elevation. The east, north and south elevations are informal and feature asymmetrical but functional arrangements of windows and other elements.

At the first story, the west facade incorporates a projecting full width verandah approached at the center by a steep flight of broad steps. The verandah is enclosed by low frame walls and four stout piers which support the roof immediately above. The piers are each detailed at their tops by two scroll-shaped, modelled brackets. Within the verandah, the west wall is penetrated by a central doorway with sidelights and two major windows balanced at each side of the entrance. Each of the two windows is divided by mullions into a central double hung portion flanked by narrower openings at each side. The upper sashes in each window are glazed in curvilinear lattice patterns.

At the second story, the west facade incorporates a projecting covered balcony at the center, and square projecting corner bays with double hung windows at the two ends. The center balcony is designed with a low balustrade at the front and two piers at the forward corners similar to but slightly smaller than those of the verandah which support a hipped roof apron crowned by an iron grille at the top. A door with sidelights identical to that of the first story opens onto the second story porch.

The roofline of the house is hipped and includes hipped attic story dormers at the west, north and south sides. The west elevation dormer includes three double hung windows with lattice-detailed upper sashes. The eaves of all roofs are open underneath and feature exposed rafter ends at regular intervals.

Statement of significance

The Satterlee residence represents a unique and unaltered variation on a common early 20th century Seattle architectural type often referred to as the "Seattle classic box." Classic boxes were a middle, and upper middle class residential type often built from pattern book designs. In Seattle, many of these designs can be traced to books prepared by Fred L. Fehren and V.W. Voorhees. They are typically characterized by bulky massing, and hipped roof forms. The street facades are often symmetrical above the first story and feature projecting corner window bays and central hipped dormers. The first story is often asymmetrical with entrances located at one side within recessed porches, particularly with designs and layouts intended to fit narrow rectangular lots. The symmetrical layout and external composition of the entire west facade of the Satterlee residence, was only possible on larger parcels not bound by narrow lot widths. The tiered effect created by receding volumes and rooflines at the west facade is unique in this case and sets this house apart from its numerous "classic box" relatives in Seattle.

Landscape elements and siting contribute to the period character and significance of the residence. The house is set back deeply from Beach Drive S.W. with a westward orientation overlooking a gently sloping front lawn, an apparently original gold fish and frog pond, and a large monkey puzzle tree, popular during the early 1900's. In contrast, neighboring dwellings along Beach Drive generally congregate near the road's edge with much less attention to complementary landscaping. As a result of contrasts in siting, landscaping and age, the Satterlee residence assumes singular prominence within its general neighborhood.

Photographs:



Submitted by: Staff, Office of Urban Conservation

Address 400 Yesler Building Phone 625-4501

Date February 26, 1981

Reviewed _____
Historic Preservation Officer

Date _____