

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
FEB 28 1979	
RECEIVED	APR 18 1979
DATE ENTERED	

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Pierre P. Ferry House

AND/OR COMMON

Deanery of St. Marks Episcopal Cathedral

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

1531 Tenth Avenue E.

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Seattle

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

7th - John Cunningham

STATE

Washington

VICINITY OF

CODE
053

COUNTY

King

CODE

033

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- MILITARY
- OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Michael J. Malone

STREET & NUMBER

2312 Broadway East

CITY, TOWN

Seattle

VICINITY OF

STATE

Washington

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

King County Administration Building

STREET & NUMBER

Fourth Avenue and James Street

CITY, TOWN

Seattle

STATE

Washington

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Historic Seattle Preservation and Development Authority
Urban Resource Inventory

DATE

1975

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Office of Urban Conservation, 400 Yester Building

CITY, TOWN

Seattle

STATE

Washington

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The P.P. Ferry House is located on the west ridge of Capitol Hill in Seattle, Washington. From its dining and living room windows is a magnificent view to the west, encompassing Lake Union at the base of a steep, wooded slope, with Queen Anne Hill, and the Olympic Mountains in the distance. The immediate environs of Capitol Hill are characterized by spacious, comfortable homes of the early 20th century and by well-landscaped institutional buildings. The Ferry House stands in the midst of St. Marks Episcopal Cathedral complex where it served, from 1946 until its recent sale to a private party, as the church's deanery. The Cathedral and Cathedral School are situated immediately to the south of the house, and to the north stands the Eliza Ferry Leary House, which functions as headquarters for the Diocese of Olympia. The trees, flowers and plantings which surround the Ferry House and enhance the entire Cathedral complex are profuse and beautifully maintained.

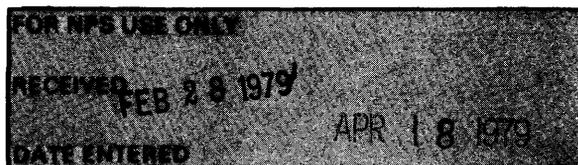
The house itself is a two and one-half story frame structure. Its massing and roof configuration are asymmetrical and rather complex. A number of projecting polygonal bays as well as recessed and covered porches make each of the four elevations distinctive. The exterior surfaces of the Ferry House are covered with a rough, sand-colored stucco. Decorative half-timbering in the gables and below the eaves shows the influence of medieval cottage architecture on this Craftsman Style residence. The roof is clad with wood shingles and shingled siding covers the lower portions of a second-story sunporch on the west (rear) elevation.

One of the most interesting elements of the Ferry House exterior is its fenestration. Both stained and clear glass windows are in evidence. Plate glass and multiple-paned casements and double-hung sash are combined in a variety of forms that account, to a large extent, for the picturesque quality of its design. Half-round windows occur in the ballroom entrance on the north elevation and in the kitchen wing on the south elevation. Both of these additions have banked, stucco-covered walls and were designed by the English architect, Alfred Bodley in 1905, at about the time the house was nearing completion. Other exterior features of note include a small covered entrance porch on the main (east) facade, and an expansive raised verandah along portions of the west and south facades. Both of these porches have heavy timber posts with simple Craftsman-like details, such as visible bolts and plain stick railings.

The interior of the Ferry House is a rich assemblage of Art Nouveau and Craftsman Style fixtures and finishes that culminate in the wisteria mantelpiece and four-panel leaf window attributed to Louis Comfort Tiffany. The floorplan of the house clearly reflects the spirit of individualized spaces, a hallmark of the Arts and Crafts movement. The first floor consists of a spacious central "great hall", a reception room, living room, dining room, and kitchen with related service areas. As originally built, the kitchen adjoined the dining room, but it was not long before the Ferrys objected to the spread of kitchen odors throughout the house. To rectify the situation, Alfred Bodley was hired to design a new kitchen wing. While the Ferrys travelled abroad in 1905-1906, the remodelling was accomplished, and included relocating the kitchen to the front of the house, moving the back stairs to a position behind the hall fireplace, and rebuilding the hall fireplace itself eight-feet south of its original location. The remodelling was skillfully done and cannot easily be detected.

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A number of the more significant elements of the interior require specific mention. At the north end of the great hall is the famous "Tiffany window", composed of four panels of clear and colored glass in a leaf pattern thought to represent foliage on the hillside to the west of the house. A fifth panel has been removed and placed in an adjacent door which leads to the basement ballroom. This arrangement is believed to have been the work of Alfred Bodley in his 1905-1906 remodelling. The Craftsman-like fireplace in the great hall is of brick and has a recessed bookcase with isinglass inserts. The charming reception room contains two alcoves, one with a cozy window seat. The coved ceiling is decorated with a delicate "Wild Rose" plasterwork pattern, and at the crossing of the plaster beams are dogwood flowers.

In the living room the floral motif is continued with an Art Nouveau pattern stencilled on the cornice and ceiling beams. Other elegant features of the living room include a matte green tile fireplace, iridescent glass-trimmed bookcases, and red Honduras mahogany wall panelling. The dining room is notable chiefly for the Tiffany-attributed wisteria fireplace, a masterpiece of color and texture. The mantlepiece is a mosaic of iridescent gold glass tesserae and opaque chunks of colored glass arranged in a wisteria pattern. The doors of a small cupboard above the fireplace are of stained glass and echo the wisteria motif. The handsome fireplace is set at an angle facing westerly windows, so that it reflects the rays of the setting sun. Among the many light fixtures in the house believed to have been designed by Tiffany Studios, the copper and isinglass lamp which hangs from the coffered dining room ceiling is one of the most attractive.

Throughout the Ferry House, oak paneling, oak beams, wainscotting, and staircase elements lend continuity and richness to the total interior design. The floral theme established by stencilling, plasterwork, and glass is restated and carried throughout the house by means of its woodwork. The woodcarving was executed by a group of Belgian craftsmen perhaps employed by the architect John Graham. A special shop was set up for the project on Queen Anne Hill, and the Belgian artisans labored there for over a year. Although Tiffany's craftsmen are not thought to have been involved in this aspect of the project, the woodwork is another example of the skillful integration of all the rich and numerous design elements that make up the interior of the Ferry House.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

1904

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

John Graham Sr.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Ferry House on Seattle's Capitol Hill was built for Laurena and Pierre Peyre Ferry, son of Washington State's first governor, Elisha Ferry. The house is an outstanding and essentially unaltered example of Craftsman design, with a superb interior attributed to Louis Comfort Tiffany. John Graham Sr., a locally prominent architect, was responsible for the design of the structure as a whole.

The home was built in 1904 upon a 15-acre tract owned by John Leary, one of Seattle's early mayors and an exceptionally successful businessman. Leary's wife was Eliza Ferry, daughter of Elisha and elder sister of Pierre. The Leary's had no children, and it is said that they were drawn to the young wife of Mrs. Leary's brother Pierre. Laurena P. Foy had married Pierre Ferry in 1901 and the couple had resided in the city. In relating the story in later years to friends, Laurena Ferry stated that she had become homesick for a more natural setting, and had expressed an innocent appreciation for the beauty of her brother-in-law's undeveloped property on Capitol Hill. John Leary apparently greatly surprised Mrs. Ferry two weeks later by making the initial arrangements for the construction of a house in the woods. The site chosen was known as "Owl Hill" or "Dogwood Hill", and was situated high on a wooded ridge above Lake Union, commanding a splendid view of the Lake, of Queen Anne Hill, and of the Olympic Mountains to the west. It was here that John and Eliza Leary chose to build their own magnificent home (National Register), plans for which were begun at about the same time as those for the adjacent Ferry House.

John Leary hired the architect John Graham Sr. to execute the Ferry House project. A native of Liverpool, England, Graham was trained at King's College on the Isle of Man. His architectural practice began in Seattle in 1900. Graham's contributions to Seattle's architectural character came chiefly in the form of commercial and institutional structures. Among his more distinguished works are Trinity Church, the Bon Marche and Frederick and Nelson Department Stores, and the Dexter Horton Building.

Although he is believed to have worked in close tandem with Tiffany Studios in the design of the Ferry House, Graham is thought to have been equally responsible for its Craftsman influences. Having received his training in England, the architect was no doubt exposed to the Arts and Crafts Movement as it was espoused and practiced by William Morris, Phillip Webb and Charles Voysey. In character the Ferry House bears many similarities to the work of Charles Voysey. It has all the charm of an English country house, with external use of half-timbering and stuccoed surfaces; informal, picturesque massing with an emphasis on large chimneys and multi-paned, casement windows. Internally, the house has a variety of spaces stemming from a central great hall into dining room, living room and library. Combined with these larger rooms are intimate nooks and recesses with distinctive fenestration,

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See attached sheet.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Approx. 1 1/2

QUADRANGLE NAME Seattle North

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES

A 1,0 5,11,7,0 5,27,56,4,0

B

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See attached sheet.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Florence K. Lentz

Based on Information supplied by:

Nancy Duckwall Yee
and Seattle Office of Urban Conservation

ORGANIZATION

Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation

DATE

October, 1978

STREET & NUMBER

111 W. 21st Avenue

TELEPHONE

(206) 753-1707

CITY OR TOWN

Olympia

STATE

Washington

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL X

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Jeanne M. Welch

TITLE Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE February 20, 1979

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 9-18-79

ATTEST:

W. Ray Jones

DATE 4/17/79

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

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a musician's gallery, a handsome stairway, and charming bedrooms much in the manner of Voysey and Morris. Jane Campbell of Sotheby Park Bernet Los Angeles identified more specifically the "Craftsman" influences within the house in an appraisal made in April of 1978: "use of oak-carved panels; use of art pottery tiles in the fireplaces and bathrooms; windowseats in the living room; overall simplicity of line and extreme attention to detail." As a superb specimen of the Arts and Craft Movement in America, the Ferry House holds an important place in the evolution of 20th century domestic architecture.

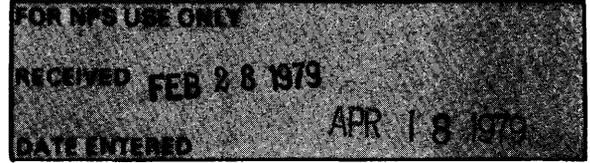
Although precise documentation has yet to be produced, the interiors of the Ferry House are held by a number of qualified art historians and connoisseurs to be the work of Tiffany Studios of New York. Mrs. Ferry spoke often to friends and relatives of Tiffany's coming to Seattle in person to work on the house, and of his crucial involvement in its overall design. Tiffany experts have recently singled out two specific elements of the interior which they believe to have been executed by the artist himself. One of these is the dining room's mosaic fireplace of iridescent gold glass tesserae and opaque chunks of pale blue, green, and yellow glass. The other is a four-panel leaf-patterned window in the great hall.

Despite the fact that she was unable to attribute the following elements directly to Tiffany, Jane Campbell of Park Bernet felt that they were certainly typical of the work of Tiffany Studios: "open hearth in the entry hall with enclosed bookcase above; stencilled ceilings in the living room; iridescent glass-trimmed bookcases; hanging light fixtures and sconces on both floors; tiled fireplaces in living room and entry hall; carved ceiling in the music room; eclectic use of interiors as illustrated in the Art Nouveau wood paneled dining room contrasted with the stark paneling utilized in the entry hall, and contrasted carved and paneled ceilings." Hugh F. McKean, consultant to the Metropolitan Museum, has concluded that the Ferry House, with its "commitment to quality and taste (that) give it genuine importance as a work of art", may be the only Tiffany interior which remains intact, without having been subjected to restoration or "improvements".

In 1934, two years after her husband's death, Laurena Ferry vacated and rented her magnificent home. In 1946, she sold the property for \$46,000 to the Episcopal Church for use as the deanery of St. Marks Cathedral. In September of 1978, the house was acquired from the Church for \$325,000 by an individual who intends to occupy it as a private residence. Covenants which will prevent the alteration or removal of significant elements of the home have been attached to the deed, and the house has been locally designated by the Seattle Landmarks Preservation Board.

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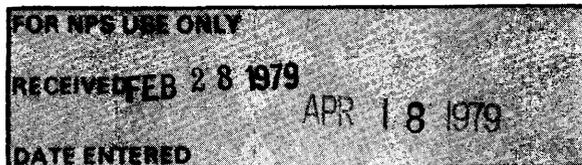
1. Bagley, Clarence. History of Seattle. Chicago, S.J. Clarke Publishing Co., 1916.
2. Correspondence from:
 Jane Campbell, Sotheby Parke
 Bernet Los Angeles

 Hugh F. McKean, Charles Hosmer Morse Foundation

 J. Jonathan Joseph
3. Seattle Post Intelligencer: April, 1946; April, 1972
4. Yee, Nancy Duckwall. "Louis Comfort Tiffany and the Ferry and Leary Houses, Seattle, Washington"
 Draft copy of thesis submitted to University of Washington, 1978.

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The nominated property consists of:

Parcel A:

That portion of the south half of the southwest quarter of the southeast quarter of section 20, township 25 north, range 4 east, W.M., in King County, Washington, described as follows:

Beginning on the south line of said subdivision at a point which is north $89^{\circ}14'15''$ east 285.56 feet from the southwest corner of said subdivision; thence north $0^{\circ}04'25''$ west 279.23 feet to the true point of beginning; thence south $0^{\circ}04'25''$ east 85 feet; thence north $89^{\circ}14'15''$ east 237 feet; thence north 66° east 38.02 feet, more or less, to a point on a line which is parallel with and north $0^{\circ}04'25''$ west 209.23 feet from the south boundary of said subdivision; thence north $89^{\circ}14'15''$ east 308 feet, more or less, to the westerly line of 10th Avenue north as it existed prior to May 10, 1945; thence northerly along said avenue line 71 feet, more or less, to a point which bears north $89^{\circ}14'15''$ east from the true point of beginning; thence south $89^{\circ}14'15''$ west 598.63 feet to the true point of beginning; except that portion condemned by the City of Seattle for the Superior Court Cause No. 359242, and except that portion lying westerly of a southerly extension through Parcel A of the westerly boundary of Parcel B as described and amended below.

Together with:

Parcel B:

That portion of the south half of the southwest quarter of the southeast quarter of section 20, township 25 north, range 4 east W.M., in King County, Washington, described as follows:

Beginning at the intersection of the west line of 10th Avenue north as it existed prior to May 10, 1945, with a line which is parallel with and north $0^{\circ}04'25''$ west 279.23 feet from the south boundary of said subdivision; thence south $89^{\circ}14'15''$ west 350 feet; thence north $0^{\circ}04'25''$ west 70 feet; thence north $89^{\circ}14'15''$ east 355 feet more or less, to said west line of 10th Avenue north; thence southerly along said avenue line 71 feet, more or less, to the point of beginning; except that portion condemned by the City of Seattle for the widening of 10th Avenue north under Ordinance No. 73188 in King County Superior Court Cause No. 359242. Except for the westerly 103.00 feet thereof.