

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Washington
COUNTY:	King
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	NOV 1 1974

H/B E 548 730  
 2,110 N 52759410

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
Wilke Farmhouse

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
1920 - 2nd North

CITY OR TOWN:  
Seattle

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:  
#1 - Honorable Joel Pritchard

STATE Washington	CODE 53	COUNTY: King	CODE 033
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**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/> Comments

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
Mr. Forrest O. Smith

STREET AND NUMBER:  
1920 - 2nd North

CITY OR TOWN:  
Seattle

STATE:  
Washington

CODE:  
53

STATE: Washington  
 COUNTY: King  
 ENTRY NUMBER:  
 DATE:

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
King County Auditor's Office

STREET AND NUMBER:  
King County Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN:  
Seattle

STATE:  
Washington

CODE:  
53

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
None

DATE OF SURVEY:  
Federal  State  County  Local

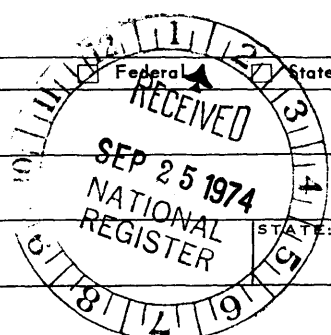
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
Seattle

STATE:  
Washington

CODE:  
53



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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Wilke Farmhouse is a small one and one-half story balloon frame building on a corner lot. Although its most pleasing features are obscured from view by trees, the house possesses that exceptional refinement of form and style characteristic of traditional vernacular buildings (such as barns) that have evolved over several generations and many interpretations. In this case the architectural decoration is fashionable late Victorian or carpenter gothic; however, the plan and structural organization were "tried and true" long before houses were built in this style.

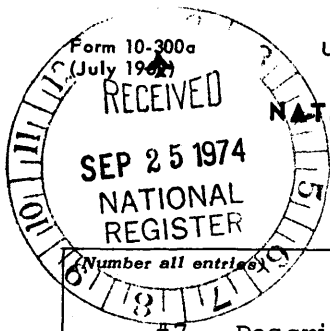
It has a simple plan in the form of a capital "T" with its cross member toward the front or west side. The "T" is created by the intersection of two tall and narrow 1 1/2 story wings of equal height beneath medium gable roofs of the same pitch and joined perpendicularly (one ridge beginning at the midpoint of the other ). Arranged around this building enclosure are three single story porches that are distinguished not only by fine, decorative detailing but by a complex spatial relationship to each other and to the structure as a whole. Looking down from above, the porches would distinctly suggest a hip roof that has had a thick capital "T" removed from the middle of it with a taller house of that shape dropped into the resulting void. (See continuation sheet: roof plan)

In the front wing, on the south side, is a familiar single story bay window, octagonal in plan and engaged for more than half its diameter. There is a double hung window in each of the three completely exposed facets. Beneath the sills and surrounding the lower part of the bay is suspended a deep concrete planter formed like a section from an octagonal ring.

The siding is five inch clapboards between outside corner mouldings, a wide frieze board above, and the stone foundation below. The frieze board is continuous around the main roof with a row of narrow, closely spaced dentils along the upper part where it joins the boxed soffit. A pair of ornamental brackets at right angles to each other is at the top of each corner moulding where they overlap the frieze board and support the soffit. Single brackets are correspondingly placed in the apex of the gable ends and two are intermediate in the roof overhang on the front wall.

Front porch posts are decorated with stop-chamfers and brackets similar to the ones above. Between these brackets is a board with a delicate cut out pattern resembling lace and matching carving on the brackets themselves. Balusters supporting the porch rail have cut out designs and band sawn edges. They are so closely spaced that the voids in between also appear as decorative figures.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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(Continuation Sheet)

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#7 - Description (2)  
Wilke Farmhouse

The bay window has six brackets, one above each moulding on either side of the three windows. The frieze board here is wider than the rest (corresponding to the depth of the planter below it) with two rows of dentils. The lower row consists of tiny pieces that pick up the line of dentils under the eaves on the three porches. Where windows and doors are finished by architrave mouldings, there is a small cornice or drip moulding along the top with a row of tiny dentils tucked under it. These are equivalent to the smaller dentils on the bay window, which occupy the same relative position, and on the first floor level they, too, are in line with dentils under the porch eaves.

There are dentils of five different shapes and sizes evenly distributed throughout the composition.

Windows and doors are positioned with careful attention to symmetry and proportion with the exception of one window that has been offset slightly to accommodate an interior partition.

The front entrance is on the right of the porch, opening into a combination foyer and dining room that includes the bay window. On the left through a break in a chest high partition is the smaller parlor with flooring inlaid in a concentric pattern. Through a door to the back wing are the kitchen, pantry, bathroom, and stairs to the floor above. There are two bedrooms on the upper floor. Here a bathroom has been added, necessitating a change in the stairs; also a bathroom was installed on the back porch, and with these exceptions the building is unaltered.

There are two farm buildings in the back yard still standing but in a deteriorating condition. There was once an orchard south of the house, although the property has been sold and built upon.

The barn is a few yards behind the house and offset slightly toward the side street on the north of the property. It is a complex assembly of gables and sheds that may have been developed in stages. These consist of two contiguous 1 1/2 story gables running parallel to each other and to the street in front. Individually these are similar in proportion to the wings of the house, with clapboard siding to match. Under the eaves along each side is a shed roof section, open at one end. The majority of the rear gable is effectively eliminated toward the south end by a cross gable of equal height and shallower pitch which continues beyond the rear gable to join roofs with the gable in front.

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#7 - Description (3)  
Wilke Farmhouse

The windows and doors are an odd assortment of shapes and sizes, placed almost at random, which suggests that they were salvaged materials.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian;       16th Century       18th Century       20th Century  
 15th Century       17th Century       19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1898

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                      |   |  |
|--|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education   | <input type="checkbox"/> Political      | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi-  | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry    | losophy                                 | _____                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture  | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention   | <input type="checkbox"/> Science        | _____                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape   | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture      | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | Architecture                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human-  | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature  | itarian                                 | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Military    | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater        | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            | <input type="checkbox"/> Music       | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____                                    |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Wilke Farmhouse was built by Charles Wilke in 1898, on what was then the edge of town. He was a building contractor and a sign on top of the barn roof once advertised his services as "carpenter and builder". In subsequent years, when property values rapidly increased due to Seattle's population growth, Wilke divided the southern portion of his property and built houses where his orchard had stood. He also built a number of other homes throughout the central and eastern portions of Queen Anne Hill.

In addition to Mr. Wilke's building activities, the family supported itself to varying degrees with the help of their small farm. The barn housed horses, some chickens and possibly a pig. A large sign once identified the barn as the "Wilke Riding Stables".

After Charles Wilke's death, his widow, Minnie, remained in the home along with their children Amanda, Helen, and Laudeus. Helen, working in an office and Laudeus, in home construction, occupied the house until 1969. Since the property was sold in 1970, there has been one owner who has always been conscious of the historical interest of the buildings. They have undertaken no major alterations, and the house itself is in very good condition.

The farmhouse is a fine example of late 19th Century small-farm architecture, and this is the last remaining complete complex of farm buildings close to the center of Seattle. The house was built not only as a dwelling, but as a showpiece of the carpenter's skill in the art of home construction. It has an unusually warm, inviting quality that is unmistakable. This is due, in part, to the unpretentious traditional form and sensitive ornamental carpentry -- intricate in detail but restrained in application.

The wide verandas are typical of mid-West American architecture from that period, where they served to shade the parlor from the heat of strong sunlight. For different reasons this feature is well suited to the climate of the Pacific Northwest, where it is desirable to shelter the entrance from persistent winter rain.

The farmhouse's structural design is a marvelous solution to the needs

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

City Directories, at the Seattle Historical Society library  
 Personal interview with Mrs. Forrest Smith

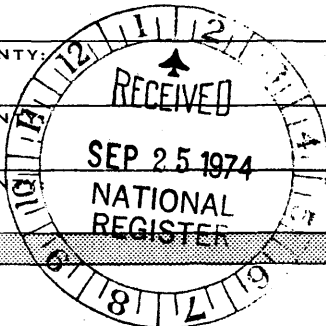
**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		47 ° 38 ' 12 "	122 ° 21 ' 06 "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Less than one

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: Mrs. Margaret A. Corley

ORGANIZATION: c/o Seattle Historical Society DATE: January 30, '71

STREET AND NUMBER: 2161 East Hamlin Street

CITY OR TOWN: Seattle STATE: Washington CODE: 53

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name Charles H. Odegaard  
 Charles H. Odegaard

Title Director - Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission

Date Sept. 16, 1974

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

A. H. Mortensen  
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 11/1/74

ATTEST:  
Wm J. [Signature]  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date 10-29-74

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#8 - Significance  
Wilke Farmhouse

for economy in materials and quick, easy construction. The plan arrangement is ideally suited to the advantages of balloon frame construction where the walls are all nearly two-story flat planer surfaces. The narrow wings reduce the span of the floor and roof joists, enabling the builder to use smaller structural members without going so far as to make the interior spaces excessively narrow or unlivable.

The Wilke property is significant as a complex of related buildings that are evidence of a semi-agrarian way of life that was once common in early Seattle among families with modest incomes. The home is a rare and exceptional example of small farm architecture surviving in an urban setting.



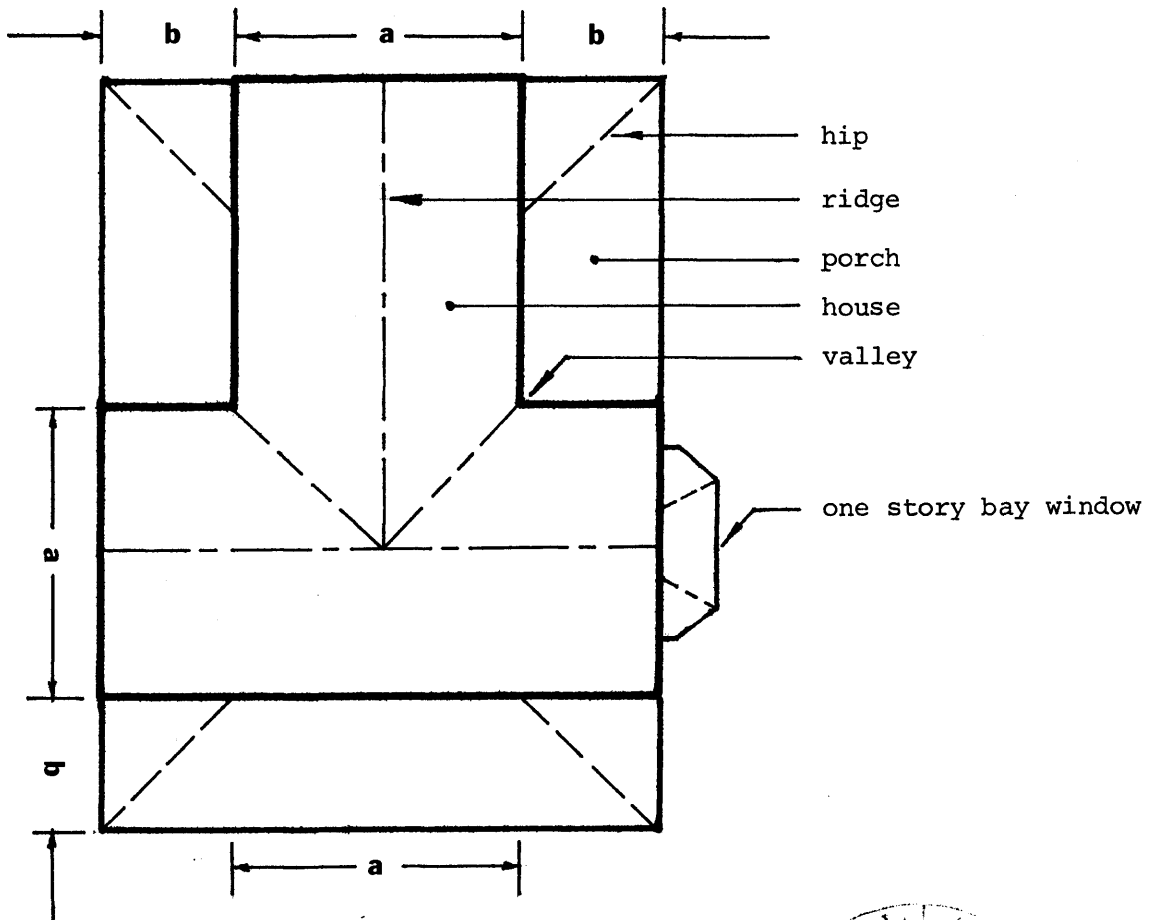
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(Number all entries)

#7 - Description (1)  
Wilke Farmhouse



**FRONT**

**roof plan**

