

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Oregon
 COUNTY: Multnomah
 FOR NPS USE ONLY
 ENTRY DATE: NOV 1 1974



2410 N 50th St

1. NAME
 COMMON: Watzek, Aubrey R., House
 AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION
 STREET AND NUMBER: Boulevard
 1061 SW Skyline Blvd.
 CITY OR TOWN: Portland
 STATE: Oregon CODE: 41
 REPRESENTATIVE: Wendall Wyatt
 CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Oregon's First Congressional District
 COUNTY: Multnomah CODE: 051

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
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 type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY
 OWNER'S NAME: John Yeon
 STREET AND NUMBER: 4305 SW 70th Avenue
 CITY OR TOWN: Portland STATE: Oregon CODE: 41

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION
 COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Multnomah County Courthouse
 STREET AND NUMBER:
 CITY OR TOWN: Portland STATE: Oregon CODE: 41

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS
 TITLE OF SURVEY: Statewide Inventory of Historic Sites and Buildings
 DATE OF SURVEY: 1970 Federal State County Local
 DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Parks and Recreation Branch
 STREET AND NUMBER: Oregon State Highway Division
 CITY OR TOWN: Salem STATE: Oregon CODE: 41

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Oregon
 COUNTY: Multnomah
 ENTRY NUMBER: NOV 1 1974
 FOR NPS USE ONLY
 DATE:

7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

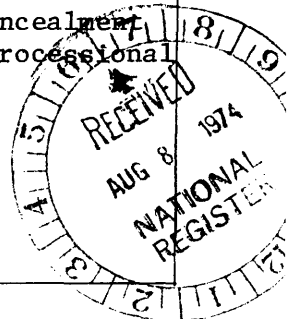
The Watzek house was designed by John Yeon in 1936. He later entered the office of A. E. Doyle (then deceased) for a few months early in 1937 for the preparation of working drawings. Plans and construction were completed in 1937. Supervision of construction, design of gardens, and design of furniture were done by Yeon after leaving the Doyle office.

The extensive use of wood in the house and of native plants in the garden reflected two interests of the owner; lumber, which was his business, and mountaineering, his pleasure. Woods of the region are used for decorative finish as well as for structure. And the garden, outside of the court, is composed entirely of indigenous plants gathered from the wilds.

The design of the house was itself intended to express an allegiance to the regional landscape which had no indigenous style. It admits of many influences; its originality is not strident. It is traditional in its serenity, modern in its use of spare geometric forms including the obliques and triangles of roofs and gables. Yet the house was an abrupt departure from the contemporary fashion for period revivals or the new counter-culture of the International Style. It appeared when there was strong critical interest in regional manifestations of modern art, and was soon widely known through publications and exhibitions as an outstanding example of new regional architecture. It has remained the most pivotal and famous example of modern domestic architecture in the Pacific Northwest.

The plan of the Watzek house provides for occupant and visitor an unfolding sequence of effects which Philip Johnson extolls in recent writing as the processional experience some architecture provides. The approach to the house reveals only reticent blank walls and a single door. Not even the nature of the scenic site is suggested. Through the door one enters an enclosed courtyard with water, flowers, a glimpse of a valley, and the first revelation of the nature of the surrounding house. Passage is controlled past the reflecting pool and under cover to the front door. This door opens into the side of a low narrow hall connecting living and dining rooms and serving also the guest room, library and service wing. There are two axes in the plan which cross at right angles. The first experienced is the entrance hall axis which terminates at the left in the symmetrical dining room with a window wall which panels forest growth and wildflower ground cover like a verdure screen. At the right, the termination is a contrasting solid wall of the living room. Entering this room the space expands and the second axis takes over, terminating at the right in the enclosed court, and at the left through another window wall on Mt. Hood, some fifty miles away over unfolding foreground hills and the Willamette Valley containing Portland. Parallel to this axis is a symbolic mountain-viewing terrace. Concealment and revelation provide elements of surprise and contrast in the processional sequence through courtyard and rooms to distant mountain views.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



3. SIGNIFICANCE

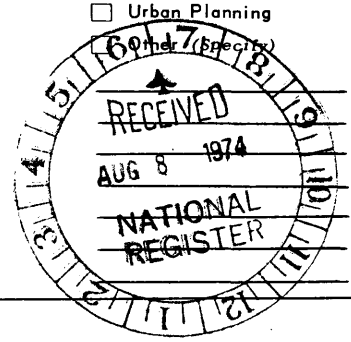
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1937**

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/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

The Aubrey R. Watzek House in the west hills overlooking metropolitan Portland is one of the most widely acclaimed examples of modern residential architecture in Oregon. The house was designed by John Yeon, a member of the architectural firm of A. E. Doyle and Associate, and completed in 1937. Gable roofs, single story wings, wood construction, and other forms of the local vernacular tradition combined with an open interior spatial organization make the house one of the influential landmarks in development of a regional domestic style sometimes referred to as the "Northwest Style."

Native Oregonian John B. Yeon joined the firm of A. E. Doyle and Associate early in his career. Through association with the firm's principal, Pietro Belluschi, Yeon sharpened his appreciation of regional qualities. He has received several awards of merit for his work. In 1956 he was awarded the National Institute of Arts and Letters architecture award, the Arnold W. Brunner memorial prize. It was reported at the time that the recognition was for an over-all contribution to the field rather than for a particular design. Progressive Architecture awarded Yeon special recognition for the technically innovative Portland Visitors' Information Center (1949) which Yeon designed in association with Wick, Hilgers, and Scott. Yeon's designs have been published in several foreign-language professional journals, and his works have been included in exhibitions at the Museum of Modern Art in New York. He currently lives in retirement in Portland.

Aubrey R. Watzek was born at Davenport, Iowa, in 1889. Following his graduation from Yale University in 1909 and Harvard Law School in 1913, he settled in Portland, Oregon, where he pursued a long and distinguished business career. The Oregon community came to recognize him as a civic leader, humanitarian and patron of the arts.

After the death of Mr. Watzek in 1973, the house came on the market and was subsequently purchased by John Yeon, the original architect. Mr. Yeon is not living in the house and does not have concrete plans for its future, but states that the house is not for sale. It is being maintained in good condition.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET, ITEM 9.

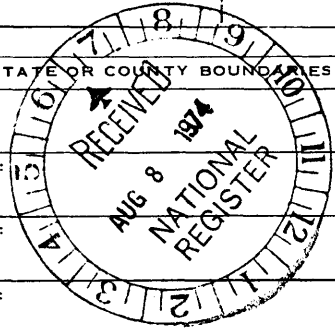
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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	° ' "	° ' "		45 ° 30 ' 55 "	122 ° 44 ' 36 "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 7/10

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Paul B. Hartwig, Park Historian, and D. W. Powers III, Temporary Assistant

ORGANIZATION: Oregon State Highway Division DATE: July 16, 1974

STREET AND NUMBER:
State Highway Building

CITY OR TOWN: Salem STATE: Oregon 97310 CODE: 41

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

[Signature]

Title State Parks Superintendent

Date August 2, 1974

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

[Signature]
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 11/1/74

ATTEST:
[Signature]
 Keeper of The National Register

Date 10-30-74

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Oregon	
COUNTY	
Multnomah	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	NOV 1 1974

(Number all entries)

WATZEK (AUBREY R.) HOUSE CONTINUED

2. Location

The Watzek House is located in the NE 1/4 Sec. 6, T. 1S., R. 1 E. of the Willamette Meridian in Multnomah County, Oregon.

9. Bibliographical References

Books:

Vaughan, Thomas and George McMath, A Century of Portland Architecture, (Portland: Oregon Historical Society, 1967) pp. 165-67, 212.

Ross, Marion Dean, A Century of Architecture in Oregon 1859-1959, (Woman's Architectural League of the Oregon Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, June, 1959) pp. 19, 21.

Exhibitions and catalogues:

Museum of Modern Art, Art in Our Time, 1939, page 305.

Museum of Modern Art, Built in USA, 1939-1944, page 40-41.

Museum of Modern Art, Art in Progress, 1944, page 185.

Magazines:

Ross, M. D., "125 Years of Building," AIA Journal, June 1968, p. 186.

House Beautiful, February, 1946, "One of the Great Houses of America," page 80-87.

Ladies Home Journal, March 1949, "Perfection in Portland," page 46-48.

OWI exhibitions during WW II overseas.

