

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**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 Joseph Kraus House Residence
and/or common

2. Location

street & number 2812 Mt. St. Helens Place not for publication
city, town Seattle vicinity of congressional district 3rd
state Washignton code 053 county King code 033

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Anders Anderson
street & number 2812 Mt. St. Helens Place
city, town Seattle vicinity of state Washington 98144

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Department of Assessments
street & number 708 King County Administration Building
city, town Seattle, state Washington 98104

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Seattle Inventory of Historic Resources has this property been determined eligible? yes no
date June, 1979 federal state county local
depository for survey records Office of Urban Conservation, 400 Yesler Building
city, town Seattle state WA 98104

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 checked="" 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 Joseph Kraus Residence, built in 1911 for industrialist Joseph Kraus, is one of Seattle's finer examples of eclectic residential architecture. Designed by J.E. Douglass, in what is popularly referred to as the "Tudor" style, the seventeen room residence consists of two full stories as well as a finished attic story and basement. The external form is a simple two-story rectangle with steep pitched roofs having broad gables and smaller, projecting gabled bays. The first story is faced in precisely laid brickwork with the second and attic stories designed to imitate half timbering with stucco-faced infill.

The west facade includes a flat-roofed entrance porch approached from a curving sidewalk, with a set of approach stairs at the left. A recessed entrance leads to a segmental-arched front door with side-lights. The arch form is repeated at the right side of the entrance with a wide segmental-arched window. At the left side, the entrance is flanked by a large, three-sided bay window placed beneath an overhanging, gabled, second story bay. This bay projects forward several feet from a broader but identically proportioned attic story gable also located to the left of center. A large shed roofed attic dormer serves to balance the composition at the right side of the west elevation. Similar patterns of composition emerge at each of the three remaining elevations, each emphasizing a large attic gable formed to the center or left of center and a smaller projecting gable located to the extreme left of each elevation. The east elevation is almost identical to that of the west, with only minor fenestration changes. A large, segmentally arched stairwell window is placed at the center of the second story. On the south elevation, a curved first story bay in the dining room is of particular interest.

The majority of windows are of the double hung sash variety, with upper sashes frequently divided into numerous small rectangular panes. Transoms generally occur above first story windows and many are filled with colored glass designs. Window panes in doors and sidelights are frequently bevelled.

The interior of the house is arranged traditionally, and survives in a remarkable state of preservation. The first floor is divided into two halves by a wide central hallway leading toward a grand staircase directly opposite the front entrance. A large parlor and a large dining room open to the right of the hallway, with the library located to the left side at the front of the house. A kitchen and butler's pantry are located in the northeast corner of the floor. Bedrooms are accommodated in the second story, and a large apartment with outstanding views has been built within the original servants quarters in the attic. Careful attention to detailing and finishes is evident throughout the interior, but most pronounced in the major first story spaces and rooms. Dark stained mahogany and fir are frequently used in panelling and trim, and hardwood floors are bordered in dark stained inlays. Leather wall coverings are simulated in the library and woven tapestries are custom designed and installed in the dining room above the plate rail. Most of the original Art Nouveau lighting fixtures and luster shades survive, and particularly fine Tiffany-styled colored glass windows appear in each of the important rooms.

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Continuation sheet

Item number 7

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Perhaps the most remarkable interior features are the central staircase and an unusual Art Nouveau stairwell window designed with colored glass side panels and a segmentally arched transom, in which plant forms run freely across the borders and into the central transparent panes.

The Kraus residence is situated in the residential district of Mt. Baker, fronting on both Mt. St. Helens Place and Mt. Adams Place. The immediate neighborhood is characterized by curving drives encircling an elongated knoll overlooking Lake Washington to the east and Mt. Baker Park to the north and west. Gracious and pleasantly landscaped homes dating from the first two decades of the Twentieth Century line the sides of these drives and represent several of the popular eclectic styles of the period. Owing to their higher elevations, a number of these homes including the Kraus residence, are afforded with striking views of Lake Washington and the Cascades. Typical of affluent residences of the period, landscape elements at both the front and back of the house were given careful consideration. Although poorly maintained over the years, the most important elements have survived including a low retaining wall adjacent to the sidewalk in front, a concrete fountain, pool, and several ornamental plantings.

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 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 checked="" 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 1911 **Builder/Architect** J.E. Douglass

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Joseph Kraus residence, built in 1911, is one of Seattle's finer examples of "Tudor" styled residences constructed during the era of eclectic design in residential architecture. It and several other equally impressive estates such as the Hainsworth house in West Seattle and the Stimson/Green mansion in First Hill, reflect a period of urban growth and economic expansion during which affluent Seattle families sought the comforts of traditionally styled and luxuriously appointed houses. Designed by J.E. Douglass, the external form is carefully composed with an informal arrangement of bays, gables, and windows. Aside from the half timbering, exterior detailing is restrained. Corbels and concave brackets support overhangs and the small divisions of upper window sashes introduce a contrasting scale. Moldings are used to sharply define the upper edges of beams and bargeboards. The pseudo halftimber-stucco exterior is believably designed, and over the years has weathered into a rich, mellow patina. Few of Seattle's "Tudors" imitate the character and flavor of Elizabethan architecture as faithfully as the Kraus house.

Also of significance are the major interior spaces at the first floor, including the parlor, the dining room, the library and the central hallway and staircase. With the exception of inappropriately painted woodwork in the parlor, and a water stain in the dining room tapestry, all are in an excellent state of preservation. All but one original chandelier survive and most of the original light fixtures and luster shades remain. Custom designed colored glass windows and transoms are of excellent quality; particularly the large, arched stairwell window. There are strong indications that Louis Tiffany was commissioned to design and execute the windows and lighting fixtures; however documentation has yet to be produced. According to a former owner, Mrs. Saul Haas, Belgian glass and fixtures were ordered following construction of the house, but were destroyed in the early days of the First World War before their shipment to the United States. This allegedly required Mr. Kraus to obtain his glass domestically through Tiffany.

The Kraus House was featured in the 1913 Homes and Gardens of the Pacific Coast, published by the Beaux Arts Society.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Homes and Gardens of the Pacific Coast, Beaux Arts Society, 1913.
Seattle Office of Urban Conservation Case Files.

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name Seattle South

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	0	5	5	3	7	8	0	5	2	6	9	4	2	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H

Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification

The nominated property consists of Lots 2 and 3, Block 51 of the Mt. Baker Park plot in Seattle, Washington.

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 Staff Edited by F.K. Lentz
Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation

organization Office of Urban Conservation date February, 1980

street & number 400 Yesler Building telephone (206) 625-4501

city or town Seattle, state Washington 98104

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Jacob E. Thom

title _____ date 1/20/82

For GCRS use only

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

Melvin Byrum date 2/25/82

Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the National Register

Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration