

OWP NO. 1024-1070
EXP. DATE 10/31/83

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only
received **MAR 15 1983**
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic ^{House} Stuart ~~Residence~~ and Gardens

and/or common Stuart/Balcolm Residence

2. Location

street & number 619 West Comstock _____ not for publication

city, town Seattle _____ vicinity of ~~Congressional district~~

state Washington 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	n/a	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<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:

4. Owner of Property

name J. Elizabeth Balcolm

street & number 619 West Comstock

city, town Seattle _____ vicinity of _____ state Washington 98119

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. King County Administration Building

street & number 500 4th Avenue

city, town Seattle _____ state Washington 98104

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Inventory of Historic Resources has this property been determined eligible? _____ yes no

date 1979 _____ federal _____ state _____ county local

depository for survey records Seattle Office of Urban Conservation

city, town Seattle _____ state Washington

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Stuart residence, built in 1926, is an impressive example of eclectic residential architecture in Seattle. Designed by A.H. Albertson in a modified English Georgian style, the residence dominates its surroundings on the south slope of Queen Anne hill. The concrete based, wood frame and brick veneer structure includes a garden level, two floors and a very large attic. The structure features cast stone and wrought iron detailing and lead divided window panes. The high pitched roof and lofty chimneys create a picturesque and variegated line. The cedar shingled roof has copper hips and gutters and lead finials.

The large terraced site is supported on the west and south by massive retaining walls. The site features a generously landscaped formal garden and a rose garden. Many flowering shrubs and trees indigenous to the area are incorporated.

The northern facade facing West Comstock is the location of the main entry. The overall impression of this side of the home is unimposing and inviting as the garden level is not visible. A cast stone entrance way frames the delicate wrought iron and glass entrance door. The broken pediment above the arched entrance door handsomely incorporates the window of the bathroom above. Cast stone quoins accent the entry as well as all corners of the brick structure. Most of the windows are double hung. Windows on the second floor are divided into small rectangular panes by lead glazing bars. Sills are cast stone. The northern facade is arranged with the main entrance in the center and shallow hipped roof pavilions at each end project out toward the street.

On the eastern facade, a wing containing a garage and chauffer's quarters extends eastward from the main structure. A single dormer is incorporated into the roofs of this portion of the house.

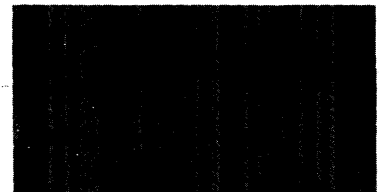
The western and southern facades are more impressive as the garden level is fully exposed. The southern side incorporates a loggia with arched colonnade of cast stone, delicate wrought iron railing, and awnings. The plan of the house is H-shaped and as with the north facade, shallow hipped roof pavilions extend from the residence at each end. Brick is used on the first and second floor and stuccoed concrete at the garden level. Arched windows and doors at the garden level repeat the effect created by the loggia above. Arched French doors connect the gallery to the loggia and the ballroom to the garden at that level. A centrally placed stone inset and other cast stone detailing are incorporated. Five dormers accent the roof on the south side.

The west facade is dominated by the impressive chimney which rises up to the height of the ridge of the roof. The chimney is tied to the roof by a rod detailed with delicate wrought iron work.

Mrs. Stuart desired to have large main rooms for entertaining. She had plans at the time the house was designed to adopt two children (although she never did) and consequently included a nursery and a nurse's bedroom.

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On the first floor, the residence has both a main and side entrance on West Comstock. The main entrance is approached on a basketweave brick walkway leading to a terrace. A large arched glazed wrought iron door opens to a small vestibule. The wrought iron is patterned in an intricate dogwood pattern. The floor of the vestibule is inlaid marble.

The vestibule leads to a large arched oak door which opens into a small hall with an adjacent half bath. The hall is intersected by a spacious gallery. The gallery is paralleled by a loggia of equal size and connected to the loggia by a set of arched French doors. The loggia has a dramatic view of Elliott Bay, Mount Rainier, and downtown Seattle. At each end of the gallery, arched French doors lead to the dining room on the east and living room on the west. Oak parquet flooring runs throughout the main first floor rooms and a plaster cornice in a decorative motif encircles the ceiling. In the living room the plaster cornice has recently been covered by a pine coving. An antique pine and tile mantel installed by the current owner has replaced the original. Both the living room and dining room have plaster paneled walls. The chandelier and sconces in the dining room are not original. The "squared" spiral main staircase has intricately shaped oak treads and delicate wrought iron railings with a dogwood motif. The beautiful wrought iron work is attributed to the same firm which did similar work in the Olympic Hotel (National Register, 1979). The handsome staircase strongly relates all three floors of the house.

Original features of the kitchen include handsome tile and ash counter tops. Other first floor features include a breakfast room, service pantry, service stairs and a two-car garage.

The second floor contains four bedrooms, a large nursery, two bathrooms, and an owner's suite consisting of a bedroom, a dressing room and a bathroom. The owner's bedroom has a small fireplace well located on axis with the hallway. Oak flooring extends throughout the main rooms. Walls of the bathrooms are covered with handmade tile, each room featuring a different luxuriant color. The bathroom serving the nursery has inlaid tile depicting Mother Goose rhymes and low fixtures. Bathrooms also contain their original fixtures including small sinks for brushing teeth, large pedestal sinks and coved bathtubs. The owner's suite has all of its original imported French light fixtures and the ceiling in the dressing room has the original hand painted floral designs.

The garden level is fully exposed on the south side and partially exposed on the west side. The main staircase from the first floor leads down to the large ballroom which occupies the western end of the garden level. The ballroom has four sets of French doors which open onto the formal garden. The floor of the ballroom is oak in a herringbone pattern and the ceiling is encircled with a plaster cornice. A large classical fireplace is centered on the western wall. Adjacent to the ballroom and the stair hall is a small library. The ceiling of the library is paneled in wood. A passage leads from the stair hall to the formal garden. The remainder of the basement level includes two staff bedrooms, a bathroom, a laundry, boiler room, store rooms and two service stairways.

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 checked="" 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 1928

Builder/Architect A.H. Albertson

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Stuart residence is one of Seattle's finest eclectic homes. Built in 1926 in modified English Georgian style by a prominent patron of the arts in Seattle, it remains today a particularly impressive showplace on Queen Anne Hill. The carefully preserved and maintained home is distinguished by its architecture, formal terraced gardens, and impressive site.

DeEtte McAuslan Smith Stuart (1892-1979) was the daughter of a pioneer Washington family and a longtime patron of the arts in Seattle.

Born in Seattle, DeEtte McAuslan was the second in a family of two daughters. Her parents were John McAuslan and Lillie Crutcher McAuslan. Lillie's father Albert Crutcher represented the Knapp-Burrell Implement and Hardware Company of Portland in Seattle during the late 1880s. Burned out in the great fire in 1889, the family continued in the implement and hardware business in Seattle. Seattle's Polson Company is an outgrowth of these early efforts. John McAuslan became a Klondiker in 1897 and Mrs. McAuslan accompanied him for a short time on a trip to the Klondike in 1899. The McAuslans built their family home on Queen Anne (now demolished) at the turn of the century.

Both DeEtte and her sister Marie attended the University of Washington. DeEtte worked for the Dexter Horton Bank for several years after attending college; she married Grant Smith, a Seattle contractor with substantial oil properties in Louisiana. Mr. Smith's firm, Grant Smith and Company, constructed a number of downtown buildings including the Olympic Hotel and the White Henry Stuart Building. A specialist in irrigation construction, he had prime responsibility for the Denny Regrade, a major engineering effort which reduced one of Seattle's major hills to a more amenable elevation. Four months after their marriage, Mr. Smith died in 1923.

After her husband's death, DeEtte McAuslan Smith built the subject of this nomination to provide a gracious home for herself, her mother, and her older sister. Mr. George Teufel and Mr. Paul Carlson had taken over the management of Mr. Smith's construction firm and Mrs. Smith entrusted the job of building her residence to them. Mrs. Smith was a major stock holder in the Metropolitan Building Company and had contact with the architect A.H. Albertson through his involvement on the White Henry Stuart Building and other downtown buildings. This resulted in both the architect and the contractor undertaking one of their few residential projects.

Mrs. Smith married Charles E. Stuart in 1931. Mr. Stuart had graduated in engineering from the University of California at Berkeley in 1909, and at the time of his death he was president of Grant Smith and Company as well as Delta Security Company.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Albertson, A.H. "Inspired by Nature," The American Architect, February, 1930, p. 34
 Brown, Larry, "Stuart Estate to Aid Hospitals, Schools," The Seattle Times: October 5, 1979, p. F9
 Duncan, Don, "Seattle's Architectural Yardstick," The Seattle Times: April 12, 1970, p. 9
 "The Northern Life Tower - Seattle," Architect and Engineer: December 1929, P. 35

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name Seattle North

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A

1	0	5	5	7	7	6	5	5	2	7	5	2	1	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

Lots 8, 9, and 10 of Block 26, Comstock's Supplementary Addition, including contiguous vacated smaller tracts.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state n/a code county code

state n/a code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Earl D. Layman, City of Seattle Historic Preservation Officer

organization Office of Urban Conservation date July 7, 1982

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 National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature [Signature]

title Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer date 3.10.83

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the National Register. date 4/14/83

Keeper of the National Register

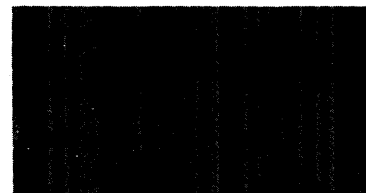
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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Mr. Stuart died in 1946. For the three decades following her marriage, Mrs. Stuart gave of herself and of her material benefits to local arts organizations, schools, and charities. She was a founder of the Seattle Opera Association, a member of the National Council of the Metropolitan Opera, a council member of the National Symphony of Washington, D.C., and the Seattle Art Museum.

Mrs. Stuart donated her Queen Anne home to the Seattle Opera Association. It was offered by the Association for sale and purchased in 1975 by Maurice C. Balcom. Mrs. Stuart was also the donor of the sculpture, *The Dance*, at the Seattle Opera House. Following her death in 1979, Mrs. Stuart left assets of more than \$23 million. Among the beneficiaries were the University of Washington for first year scholarships (\$1 million), Children's Orthopedic Hospital (\$750,000), First Presbyterian Church (\$500,000). Trust fund income went to the Seattle Art Museum for a DeEtte McAuslan Stuart wing for early European porcelain and to the finalists in the Pacific Northwest regional auditions for the Metropolitan Opera.

The Stuart Residence was designed in 1926 by the local firm of A.H. Albertson, Joseph W. Wilson, and Paul Richard, Associates. Principal design is attributed to Albertson.

Abraham H. Albertson was born in New Jersey in 1872. He attended Columbia University and graduated with a degree in architecture in 1895. In 1907, he came to Seattle as a supervising architect for the White Henry Stuart Building (since demolished). His most important commission was the Northern Life Tower (National Register, 1975) for the Northern Life Insurance Company, founded in Seattle in 1906. This building, built in 1928, is considered an influential early work in the Modernistic or Art Deco style. In 1962, the Seattle Chapter of the American Institute of Architects issued a special citation for the Northern Life Tower "in recognition of an older building's professional excellence and enduring quality."

His most significant commission after the Northern Life Tower was St. Joseph's Church, Seattle, an austere but awesome monolithic concrete structure, also locally recognized as an innovative accomplishment in architectural aesthetics. Other buildings in Seattle by Albertson include numerous churches, the Cobb Building, the YMCA, and the old Law Building and the student infirmary on the University of Washington campus, Cornish School (National Register, 1977), old Children's Orthopedic and the Women's University Club.

Albertson was a fellow of the American Institute of Architects, and he served for several years as president of the Seattle chapter of the AIA. Albertson retired in 1949 and died in 1964.

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The Seattle Times: September 27, 1923, p. 1, (Obit., Grant Smith)

The Seattle Times: September 19, 1979, p. C8, (Obit., DeEtte Stuart)

The Seattle Times: February 4, 1946, (Obit., C.E. Stuart)

The Seattle Times: May 24, 1953, Arch. Scrapbook. (A.H. Albertson)