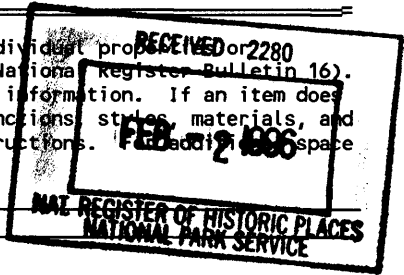


NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in "Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms" (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.



1. Name of Property

historic name William and Ruth Knight Lustron House
other names/site number Jafra Inc. of Georgia Lustron
Demonstration Home

2. Location

street & number 1976 Northside Drive
city, town Atlanta (n/a) vicinity of
county Fulton code GA 121
state Georgia code GA zip code 30318

(n/a) not for publication

3. Classification

Ownership of Property:

- private
- public-local
- public-state
- public-federal

Category of Property

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property:

| | <u>Contributing</u> | <u>Noncontributing</u> |
|------------|---------------------|------------------------|
| buildings | 1 | 1 |
| sites | | |
| structures | | |
| objects | | |
| total | 1 | 1 |

Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

Name of related multiple property listing: Lustron Houses in Georgia.

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets the National Register criteria. () See continuation sheet.

Mark R. Edwards
Signature of certifying official

1/26/96
Date

Mark R. Edwards
State Historic Preservation Officer,
Georgia Department of Natural Resources

In my opinion, the property () meets () does not meet the National Register criteria. () See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency or bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register

Carol Ashull 3-18-96

determined eligible for the National Register

determined not eligible for the National Register

removed from the National Register

other, explain:

see continuation sheet

Signature, Keeper of the National Register

Date

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions:

Domestic:single dwelling

Current Functions:

Domestic:single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

Other:Lustron

Materials:

| | |
|------------|--------------------|
| foundation | concrete |
| walls | metal:steel/enamel |
| roof | metal:steel |
| other | windows:aluminum |

Description of present and historic physical appearance:

The William R. and Ruth Knight Lustron House is located at 1976 Northside Drive, Atlanta, Fulton County, Georgia. The house erected in May, 1949 is the original Lustron dealer demonstration home for the Atlanta area franchise operated by Jafra, Inc. of Georgia. The president of Jafra, was W. R. (Bill) Knight who operated the franchise until 1950 when the Lustron Corporation folded. Mr. Knight is the current owner of the house.

The house is believed to be #20 (the I.D. plate is missing) and is one of the first manufactured of 2,498 sold and produced by the Lustron Corporation. The building retains its complete structural and architectural integrity with only a few minor alterations.

The Knight Lustron House is an example of the Westchester Deluxe two-bedroom model and measures 1,085 square feet.

The house is a one-story, side-gabled ranch type erected on a concrete slab. The exterior porcelain-enameled steel panels are light green and measure two-feet square. The enameled steel exterior doors with glass inserts are gray. Window frames are yellow. The stationary and casement windows are aluminum framed. Porcelain-enameled dark green tile-like roof shingles remain. The roof overhangs slightly at the front and rear but is nearly flush at the gable ends.

The front facade features two picture window groups, each consisting of two-light windows flanking a fixed picture window. The main picture window for the living room is a bay window; the bay being one of the upgraded features of the "deluxe" package. The other picture window is located in the front bedroom.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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The main entrance to the house is located on the south side facade. A small porch area supported by a enameled porch post with a decorative zigzag trellis in yellow remains. The dining room picture window is also located on the south facade. The front porch light fixture is original.

The north side facade features four, small, symmetrically-placed aluminum windows.

The rear facade has a window group for the kitchen area, a single bathroom window, a rear door, and a picture window group for the rear bedroom.

The interior of the house features a living room/dining room area, a kitchen, utility room, a bathroom, two bedrooms, and closet space. The interior is also covered with porcelain enameled steel panels measuring 2' x 8'. The panels are vertically scored to give a paneled appearance. The living room/dining room, kitchen, and utility room panels are a light gray. Ceiling panels measure 4' x 4' and are also light gray. Bedroom panels are yellow and gray, and pink and gray. The closet doors are gray. Panels in the kitchen, utility room, and bathroom are two-feet square. The bathroom panel colors are light blue with a gray ceiling.

Design features include built-in wall furniture and closet space with sliding doors. Between the dining area and kitchen is a buffet with shelves and drawers on one side and kitchen cabinets with shelves and drawers on the other side.

The built-in steel unit between the living room and front bedroom contains a mirrored bookcase on one side and a mirrored vanity and counter top with drawers and doors for closet space on the other side. This unit also features sculpted lines.

Exterior and interior wall corners are rounded and contribute to the clean, streamlined look of the Lustron home.

The two bedrooms have steel porcelain-enameled flush pocket doors which slide and roll on overhead tracks. There is no protruding hardware on these doors. All closet and storage doors are of the bypass sliding type. The original steel bathroom pocket door has been replaced with a sliding wooden door.

The utility room features gray panels which conceal the phone service box and the plumbing hook-ups for water and sewer. Originally the electrical circuit breaker box was concealed but has been replaced. Hookups for both washer and dryer are also located behind removable panels.

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National Park Service

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Section 7

The original heating system remains. The duct work contained in the attic space is located directly above the ceiling panels. There are no heat registers, rather, the hot air heats the ceiling panels and through a plenum chamber radiates the heat into the interior of the house. The identification tag (believed to be #20) placed below the furnace is missing.

The original stamped steel bathtub measuring 5' 1/2" and built-in counter with three drawers remain. The toilet and wash basin have been replaced.

The kitchen features a steel single-bowl sink and counter top, however, the combination dishwasher/clothes washer was removed. The Lustron steel drawers and base cabinets used in the kitchen, vanity, and bathroom are all interchangeable.

Additional changes made to the house have been mostly cosmetic. They include installing wall-to-wall carpeting on top of the original asphalt floor tile. The original horizontal Venetian blinds have been replaced with curtains. The original gutters have been replaced with aluminum. The large picture windows have been replaced.

A 1960s, two-story, wood-framed and concrete block guest house/garage is located at the rear of the property.

The current owner and former Lustron dealer, Mr. William Knight, continues to praise the exceptional design features of the Lustron house. During the short period of Lustron sales, Mr. Knight operated the franchise under Jafra, Inc. of Georgia, he sold 50 Lustron contracts of which only 10 were ever constructed within the metro Atlanta area. His house served for the first year as the Lustron demonstration home. Rich's Department Store in Atlanta was hired to handle the interior design of the model home.

Mr. Knight purchased the Lustron franchise from a Florida company in May, 1949. After the Lustron Corporation folded in June of 1950, Mr. Knight continued his real estate career for over 30 years. He and his wife, Ruth, eventually moved into the Lustron demonstration home. Mr. Knight is a World War I veteran and is 96 years old.

Of the ten Lustron homes constructed in the metro Atlanta area, seven have been located. One has been demolished; two others are still unknown.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria:

A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): N/A

A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions):

Architecture/Engineering

Period of Significance:

1949

Significant Dates:

1949

Significant Person(s):

n/a

Cultural Affiliation:

n/a

Architect(s)/Builder(s):

Roy Blass and Morris Beckman - Illinois architects (designed prototype for the Porcelain Products Company (later renamed Lustron Corporation)).

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Section 8

Significance of property, justification of criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above:

Narrative statement of significance (areas of significance)

The Knight Lustron House is significant in architecture and engineering as an example of post-World War II prefabricated housing and an excellent and intact example of the "Lustron" type of prefabricated house. This innovative and unusual type of prefabrication employed porcelain-enamel baked on steel panels. Erected on a steel frame, easy to maintain, and supposedly well-priced, the Lustron house was touted as the technologically advanced prefab answer to the housing shortage after WWII.

The Lustron Corporation (a subsidiary of the Chicago Vitreous Co.) was formed by Carl Strandlund, an engineer who received a patent for his steel panel design. The Lustron prototype, designed by Illinois architects, Roy Blass and Morris Beckman, was developed to encourage Americans to adopt a new "domestic ideology," efficient and technologically advanced, but conducive to informal, family-centered activity. The floorplan and style were departures from the revival style homes which were thought to now be unsuited for the modern family. The Lustron was contemporary and functionally designed using more modern lines.

The Knight Lustron House retains much of its original historic fabric and is a good example of the Westchester Deluxe model. Features such as the front bay window, easy-care enameled steel panels, space-saving sliding doors, and built-in components such as the living room book shelves/bedroom vanity are some of the many architectural features used to create a comfortable and modern home. The Knight Lustron House with its many design features provides a glimpse into American domestic life in the late 1940s.

The Lustron house represents an important type of prefabricated housing and is significant for its association with important developments in post-World War II prefabricated housing.

National Register Criteria

The Knight Lustron House meets Criterion A as an example of the type innovative use of modern material technology (enameled steel) and marketing techniques (through demonstration homes and dealer franchises) that were used to meet the demands of a severe housing shortage following World War II. The Lustron house clearly contributes to the broad patterns of American history by its association with post-World War II prefabrication efforts. It is also

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Section 8

an example of one of the most innovative efforts by a corporation to alleviate the severe housing shortage.

The Lustron House meets Criterion C as an example of the type of creative house design used for prefabricated housing during the late 1940s. The house illustrates a modern, ranch design with high-tech features. Besides the easy-care enameled steel panels, the house features space-saving sliding doors, good storage and closet space, a radiating heat system, and never fading exterior/interior wall colors. The Knight Lustron is a good example of the Westchester model manufactured by the Lustron Corporation. The Westchester model is defined in the Multiple Property Nomination, Lustron Houses in Georgia, Section F, Associated Property Types.

Criteria Considerations (if applicable)

Criterion Exceptions

The Knight Lustron House meets Criterion G. It is an intact example of a Westchester Deluxe model Lustron and was the first demonstration home for the Atlanta metro area. Although the Lustron house type is less than 50 years old, the Lustron house has been the subject of recent research and sufficient information is available to allow for professional objectivity.

Period of significance (justification)

1949 - date the house was constructed.

Contributing/Noncontributing Resources (explanation, if necessary)

Contributing:

1 - Lustron House

Noncontributing:

1 - Garage

Developmental history/historic context (if applicable)

Refer to the Lustron Houses in Georgia, Multiple Property Documentation Form.

9. Major Bibliographic References

"Bill Knight Heads Jafra, Handling Lustron Homes." The Atlanta Journal, June 5, 1949, pg. 15.

Coombs Lustron House, Porter Co. Indiana. National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, Sept. 17, 1992.

Interviews

William R. Knight, Owner, 4/13/94, 12/29/94.

Tom Fetters, Author, 1/5/95, 1/19/95, 1/27/95, 2/3/95.

Wolfe, Tom and Garfield, Leonard, "A New Standard for Living: The Lustron House, 1946-50," Perspectives in Vernacular Architecture, 1989, The Curators of University of Missouri Press, Columbia, Missouri.

Previous documentation on file (NPS): (x) N/A

- () preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- () previously listed in the National Register
- () previously determined eligible by the National Register
- () designated a National Historic Landmark
- () recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
- () recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary location of additional data:

- (x) State historic preservation office
- () Other State Agency
- () Federal agency
- () Local government
- () University
- () Other, Specify Repository:

Georgia Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):

n/a

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one acre.

UTM References

A) Zone 16 Easting 739940 Northing 3744850

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary is indicated by a heavy black line, drawn to scale on the attached tax map.

Boundary Justification

The Knight Lustron House property encompasses the intact 1949 Lustron house and one nonhistoric wood-framed and concrete block garage/guesthouse.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Lisa Raflo, National Register Coordinator
organization Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources
street & number 500 The Healey Building, 57 Forsyth Street, NW
city or town Atlanta **state** Georgia **zip code** 30303
telephone (404) 656-2840 **date** 7/1/95

(HPS form version 10-29-91)

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 9

Name of Property: William and Ruth Knight Lustron House
City or Vicinity: Atlanta
County: Fulton
State: Georgia
Photographer: James R. Lockhart
Negative Filed: Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Date Photographed: March 1995

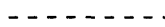
Description of Photograph(s):

- 1 of 7. Front facade; photographer facing west.
- 2 of 7. Front and side facade; photographer facing southwest.
- 3 of 7. Rear facade; photographer facing east.
- 4 of 7. Main side entrance; photographer facing north.
- 5 of 7. Dining room; photographer facing southwest.
- 6 of 7. Living room; photographer facing northeast.
- 7 of 7. Bedroom vanity; photographer facing south.

William and Ruth Knight Lustron Hse.
Atlanta, Fulton Co., Georgia

Tax Map

Boundary: 

Scale: 1"  = 120'

