

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 89000500

Date Listed: 6/30/89

Louis S. Marsh House  
Property Name

King  
County

WA  
State

Multiple Name

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This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

*for* Patrick Andrews  
Signature of the Keeper

6/30/89  
Date of Action

=====

Amended Items in Nomination:

The nomination form contains an inappropriate Criterion for this property. Criterion A is selected, but the State intended to nominate the property under Criterion B for its association with Louis Marsh. Leonard Garfield with the SHPO has clarified this. The form is now amended to delete Criterion A and add Criterion B.

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

MAY 18 1989

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

NATIONAL  
REGISTER

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 Marsh, Louis S., House  
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 6604 Lake Washington Boulevard  not for publication  
city, town Kirkland  vicinity  
state Washington code WA county King code 033 zip code 98033

3. Classification

|   |   |                                     |                              |
|---|---|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Ownership of Property                       | Category of Property                            | Number of Resources within Property |                              |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | Contributing                        | Noncontributing              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public-local       | <input type="checkbox"/> district               | <u>1</u>                            | <u>0</u> buildings           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public-State       | <input type="checkbox"/> site                   | <u>          </u>                   | <u>          </u> sites      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal     | <input type="checkbox"/> structure              | <u>          </u>                   | <u>          </u> structures |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> object                 | <u>          </u>                   | <u>          </u> objects    |
|   |   | <u>1</u>                            | <u>0</u> Total               |

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A  
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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  request for determination of eligibility 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  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.  
James E. Thon March 30, 1989  
Signature of certifying official Date  
Washington State Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation  
State or Federal agency and bureau

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 and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:  
 entered in the National Register.  
 See continuation sheet.  
 determined eligible for the National Register.  See continuation sheet.  
 determined not eligible for the National Register.  
 removed from the National Register.  
 other, (explain:)  
Patrick Adams 6/30/89  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

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**6. Function or Use**

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Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

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Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

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**7. Description**

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Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

20th Century Revivals: French Eclectic

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Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation concretewalls brick

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roof slateother wood, copper

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**Describe present and historic physical appearance.**

The Louis Marsh House is a large two and one-half story brick French Eclectic Style mansion built in 1929 and designed by architect Edwin Ivey. The house is dominated by a tall steeply pitched hip roof and corner tower, and is characterized by multipaned leaded glass windows, an ornate interior, and landscaped grounds. The house sits on a rise above an expansive lawn, overlooking Lake Washington with views of the Olympic Mountains beyond. The property also includes the remnants of the original landscaping in the rear, including a series of pools and retaining walls. Currently, the property is being subdivided and new houses are being constructed on the original front lawn. Consequently, the nominated parcel includes the house, and a small front and back yard.

The house, which is built on an L-shaped plan, measures about 65 feet across the front (west) elevation and 40 feet along the perpendicular south side wing. The house rests on a concrete foundation (with a full basement), the walls are built of orange, buff, pink, and grey brick laid in Flemish bond, with hand hewn redwood half-timbering on the northern bay of the facade, and the hip roof is covered in Vermont slate shingles. A brick chimney with a corbelled cap rises from the center of the roof ridge. Decorative copper gutters and downspouts are still intact.

Fenestration across the facade is composed of multipaned leaded casement windows set in flat headed openings with brick lintels and sills. The windows are enframed by operable wood plank shutters. The northernmost bay of the front facade is a sunporch glazed with casement windows. The windows are set within large arched openings, framed by redwood timbers. Hipped dormer windows project from the north slope of the roof.

At the southwest corner of the facade, a square entry tower rises the full height of the house and is capped by a hipped roof, surmounted by a metal weathervane. The tower is open at the ground level, and shelters the front door. The tower base is entered through flat arched openings, spanned by carved timber lintels which are supported by Indian head corbels. The upper story casement window on the tower is glazed with diamond panes. Above the second story is a large brick frieze with a decorative brick dentil course.

South of the tower, the south side elevation is characterized by a variety of flat headed multi-paned casement windows, with hipped dormers breaking through the eaves of the roof. On the rear, the elevation is divided between the projecting gabled south wing with casement windows, and the perpendicular wing, which is spanned by an arcaded porch composed of a shed roof and timber posts and braces.

The interior plan of the house has never been altered and most of the original finishes are intact. Entry to the house is made through a massive wooden door with giant wrought iron hinges. The door opens to a two story stairhall, with the living room and dining room to

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the north, and the library and billiards room to the east. The floor of the entry hall is covered with tiles in subtle shades of mauve, green, grey, and brown. An L-shaped stairway, with a slender iron railing, rises to the second floor balcony. The living room and dining room feature hand-adzed ash panelling, ceilings with hand carved ash beams, and floors of white oak joined by butterfly pegs. The living room is dominated by a large sandstone fireplace and two sets of French doors with leaded glass. French doors in the dining room lead to the front sunporch. The billiard room is faced in ash panelling. The second floor features a large hallway, a three-room master bedroom suite, two additional bedroom suites, several sitting rooms, bathrooms, and a glazed sleeping porch. The attic contains the maid's living quarters, and the fully finished basement includes an original photographic darkroom, wood and metal workshop, pistol range and wine cellar. Throughout the interior, door and windows are surrounded by molded architraves, the original pewter light fixtures are intact and hardware includes ornate decorative iron hinges on doors.

To the rear of the house remnants of the original landscaping, designed by Fred Cole, include a raised terrace surrounded by a low stone retaining wall, a slate walkway, and two empty ponds with concave stone walls that formed part of a series of pools. The backyard is now bordered by evergreens, deciduous trees, and shrubs. The front lawn, which slopes to a waterfront park across Lake Washington Boulevard (once part of the Marsh estate), is being subdivided and new houses are being constructed on the grounds. However, the development will preserve the integrity of the main house.

**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)  A  B  C  D  E  F  G

|   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)<br><u>Architecture</u><br><u>Engineering</u><br><br><br><br><br> | Period of Significance<br><u>1929-1939</u><br><br><br><br>Cultural Affiliation<br><u>N/A</u><br><br><br> | Significant Dates<br><u>N/A</u><br><br><br><br> |
| Significant Person<br><u>Louis Marsh</u>  | Architect/Builder<br><u>Edwin Ivey</u>   |   |

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Louis Marsh House is the among the most architecturally significant residences along the eastern shore of Lake Washington, and is closely associated with the career of pioneer aviation engineer and philanthropist Louis Marsh. Built in 1929 and designed by Seattle architect Edwin Ivey, the Marsh house is an outstanding example of the suburban Period Revival styles of the era, and is distinguished by fine materials and handcrafted ornament. Although now hemmed in by high density development on the original grounds, the well-preserved house is well preserved, and remains an important remnant of Kirkland's history before the population boom of the post-World War II years.

Historic Background: Louis Marsh was born in Neilsville, Wisconsin, in 1892, and moved to Washington in 1905, when his family bought waterfront property near the Lake Washington Shipyard just south of Kirkland. Kirkland was developed in the late 19th century by Englishman Peter Kirk and his associates (incorporated as the Kirkland Land and Improvement Company) who hoped to establish a giant steel mill and company town at the site. Land for the community was cleared in 1891 and 1892, after which engineers surveyed the site and laid out a town. In addition to houses, five brick commercial buildings were constructed in the center of Kirkland (of which three survive and are listed in the National Register). But the mill was crippled by the Depression of 1893, and by 1899, the last of the company's assets were sold.

The sale dashed hopes that the Kirkland area would become the "Pittsburgh of the West" but the town did not die. Several businesses, including a woolen mill started in 1892, continued to prosper and a shipyard at nearby Houghton was greatly enlarged in 1901 when it was sold to the Bartsch and Tompkins Transportation Company. In 1905, the town was incorporated as a third class city; and in the following decades, it slowly evolved as a service center on the east side of Lake Washington, surrounded by small farms and a few suburban cottages. Ferry service provided the town with good connections to Seattle before the construction of bridges at mid-century, and the Lake Washington Ship Canal (completed in 1917) insured that Puget Sound ship traffic could reach Kirkland docks.

Like other modest residences in the area, the original Marsh family home, built in 1905, was a simple side gable frame cottage (now demolished), and the Marsh family

See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

"Boeing: First Fifty Years," Seattle Post-Intelligencer, July 12, 1966, Tommorrow section, pp. 1-29.  
Ivey, Edwin. Drawings and plans. "L.S. Marsh Residence." In possession of Mr. and Mrs. W.H. Hall, Kirkland.  
"Louis Marsh Dies," Seattle Post-Intelligencer, April 22, 1980.  
Phillips, Reynold, and Jack Whitese, "Louis S. Marsh, Man of Metal," Air Museum News, January, 1981, pp. 1, 4.  
"Seven Car Crash Kills Seattle Architect," Seattle Post-Intelligencer, February 27, 1940.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):  
 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 # \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet  
Primary location of additional data:  
 State historic preservation office  
 Other State agency  
 Federal agency  
 Local government  
 University  
 Other  
Specify repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of property 2.8 acres  
Quadrangle Name: Bellevue North Quadrangle Scale: 7.5 x 15 minute  
UTM References  
A 110 559730 5279240 B              
Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing  
C                   D                  

See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

Beginning at the northeast corner of the intersection of Lake Washington Boulevard and the Marsh Commons drive, proceed east along the drive approximately 100 feet to point of beginning. From point of beginning, proceed north approximately 90 feet, proceed east 70 feet, proceed south 90 feet, proceed west to point of beginning.

See continuation sheet

**Boundary Justification**

The nominated property includes the house and immediate lawn historically associated with Louis Marsh, but excludes the surrounding grounds and ancillary structures which have been substantially altered through new construction.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Leonard Garfield, with assistance from Mr. and Mrs. W.H. Hall  
organization Office of Arch'y and Hist. Pres. date \_\_\_\_\_  
street & number 111 West 21st Avenue telephone (206) 753-4011  
city or town Olympia state Washington zip code 98504

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kept horses and raised chickens on the property. Louis attended school in Kirkland and at Seattle's Broadway High School before entering the University of Washington, where he studied mechanical engineering. Upon graduating in 1917, Marsh was immediately hired by the fledgling Boeing Aircraft Company, founded the previous year. His starting job was as draftsman on the Model C twin-float seaplane, the firm's first production contract.

At Boeing, Marsh was part of the company's original engineering staff, which consisted of Marsh and two later presidents of the firm, Claire Egtvedt and Philip G. Johnson. Throughout his career, however, Marsh chose the metals lab over the executive suite, experimenting with materials and tools, and conducting endless tests on the metals and welding techniques that would soon revolutionize airplane construction. Within a decade, Marsh was an acknowledged (and largely self-taught) leader in the field of physical metallurgy, and was named chief metallurgist for the company at a time when metals were replacing wood and cloth in the design of aircraft.

Marsh played an instrumental role in many of the metallurgical breakthroughs that led to Boeing's dominance in the aviation industry. One of his most important early advances was establishing a process for arc-welding the light steel tubing used in the framework of the Boeing PW-9 pursuit plane of 1923. In the following years, Marsh established the rigorous materials standards, tests, and quality controls that were necessary as metal production increased in the 1920s. Finally, in 1930, Marsh pioneered the design of the Boeing Monomail, the first all-metal modern transport plane. But Marsh did not limit his expertise to Boeing's lab. His advice was sought by the entire industry, and according to newspaper reports, Marsh spent a large part of his early years with the company as a travelling trouble shooter, often working on specifications and drawings from hotel rooms. Marsh remained with the firm until World War II (during which period he corrected defects in the B-17) but retired in 1945 to pursue his many outside interests.

Marsh was a noted amateur musician, as well as a strong supporter of the Seattle Opera, the Seattle Symphony, Seattle Ballet, Children's Hospital, the University of Washington, and such local organizations as the Kirkland Senior Center and St. John's Episcopal Church. In 1974, he donated 300 feet of waterfront to the city for use as a park, and upon his death in 1980, he bequeathed his house to the Children's Home Society.

Architectural Significance: In 1929, the year before he married, Marsh commissioned Seattle architect Edwin Ivey to design a large suburban home on his family's Kirkland property. The mansion, reflecting the French Eclectic style of the period, included handcrafted features, expensive materials, and special rooms for Marsh's many hobbies, including a darkroom, firing range, billiard room, metal shop, and wine cellar. Architect Ivey was born in Seattle in 1883, graduated from the University of Pennsylvania school of architecture in 1910, and practiced in the Seattle area until his death in 1940. He specialized in Period Revival houses and was associated over the years with several well-known area architects including Arthur Loveless and Elizabeth Ayers, whom he hired after she became the first woman graduate of University of Washington architecture school. Special handcarved elements (like the Indian head corbels at the entry) were carved by Jon Erickson of Seattle. The grounds were designed by Fred Cole, a British-trained landscape architect, and included gardens, pools, and a large lawn.

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Marsh constructed his house at a time when other wealthy Seattle area residents were building large homes on the lakeshore and at other suburban locations. Other examples include the James G. Eddy House in Medina (1927; National Register, 1982) and the Miller Freeman House in Bellevue (1925; now demolished). With construction of the Lacey V. Murrow Bridge (1940), the Eastside was opened to more intensive development, and in the post-war years, new housing surged. Soon, formerly sparsely settled communities were incorporated as new suburban cities, including Bellevue, Medina, Yarrow Point, Hunts Point, and Clyde Hill. Suburbanization continued at a rapid pace in the 1970s and 1980s, and condominium construction transformed the appearance of Lake Washington Boulevard between Bellevue and Kirkland. Today, the Marsh House is one of the few grand houses remaining from the earlier era and, although the grounds are being subdivided, the house retains its significance as an important example of the 1920s Period Revivals.