

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 90002154

Date Listed: 12/27/90

Harry Vanderbilt Wurdemann House
Property Name

King
County

WA
State

N/A
Multiple Name

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 *Autawilla J. Lee*
Signature of the Keeper

12/27/90
Date of Action

=====
Amended Items in Nomination:

Statement of Significance: The Period of Significance should be revised to read, "1914."

This information was confirmed with Leonard Garfield of the Washington State Historic Preservation Office.

DISTRIBUTION:

National Register property file
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

RECEIVED
DEC 17 1990

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 10-900-a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Wurdemann House, Harry Vanderbilt
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 17602 Bothell Way N.E. not for publication
city, town Lake Forest Park vicinity
state Washington code WA county King code 033 zip code 98155

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>2</u>	— buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	—	— sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	—	— structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	—	— objects
		<u>2</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.

Joseph E. Ihm December 7, 1990
Signature of certifying official Date

Washington State Department of Community Development 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. Autawietta J. Lee 12/27/90
 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:)

for Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)
Domestic/single dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)
Domestic/single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Mediterranean Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete
walls wood: weatherboard
roof wood: shingles
other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Situated on the north shore of Lake Washington in northern King County, the community of Lake Forest Park is nestled on gently sloping hills covered with evergreen trees and natural undergrowth. Because of the large lot sizes in the residential community, natural land forms and vegetation are still evident. The built environment includes both modest and grand homes most surrounded by one-acre yards retaining a traditional suburban atmosphere that contrasts sharply with the denser and more contemporary housing in the neighborhoods that surround it.

The Harry Vanderbilt Wurdemann House is one of eight houses originally built in the community, each of which reflected mandated design standards and were built on a grander scale than the middle class bungalows which followed. Bordered on the northeast by 47th Avenue N.E., on the southwest by Ballinger Way, and on the southeast by Bothell Way (at the historic entrance to the community), the Wurdemann House is sited on a knoll above a terraced front lawn with sweeping views of Lake Washington. Originally, the estate was entered through a circular drive off Bothell Way; the property is now approached by a small street to the north which eliminates the grand procession to the front entry. But concrete steps still rise from the front lawn to the portico. The two acre lot is enclosed on the north and east by an iron rail fence with brick piers. South of the house, on grounds that were once the side yard of the original four-acre estate, some evergreen trees remain but much of the site has been cleared for future home construction. This southern parcel is now under separate ownership.

Built in 1914, the Wurdemann House is a two story wood frame structure, resting on a concrete foundation, faced in 12-inch lapped siding, and rising to a low-pitched hipped roof with widely overhanging eaves underscored by console brackets. The roof is sheathed in cedar shingles applied in 1990. The house is based loosely on a Mediterranean villa style (a popular form for suburban housing of the period) and is built on a rectangular, symmetrical plan. The house measures 78 feet across the front (southeast) facade, and 44 feet deep. The facade is framed by shallow pavilions that project on the north and south sides. Between these bays a broad portico (measuring 26 feet) spans the recessed central facade and shelters the main entry. The portico is composed of an entablature supported by four sets of paired Tuscan columns. The roof of the porch is surmounted by a panelled railing which serves as a second floor balcony. Extending out from the porch, a balustrade with turned balusters borders the front facade.

Three sets of multipaned French doors provide access to the porch. French doors are also placed in the center and side elevations of the pavilions. On the second story, French doors are placed across the facade and the rear elevation, providing access to the central balcony, the wrought-iron balconies off the side pavilions, and a rear porch. Windows elsewhere on the building are multipaned casement units with wood surrounds and sills. Some of the French doors on the lower level, heavily damaged or removed, were replaced in kind in 1990.

Projecting off the northwest and southwest corners of the house are one story, flat roof extensions. The northwest wing includes the kitchen, and is glazed with multipaned casement windows and French doors with transoms. This section was extensively rehabilitated in 1990 after a non-compatible brick wing, built in the 1950s, was removed. The southwest wing is a glazed sunroom. The roofs of both wings are ornamented with extended rafter tails that create a pergola-like effect. The rear elevation of the house features a central porte-cochere, composed of a full entablature and four Tuscan columns. The rear is entered through French doors.

The interior plan of the Wurdemann House is both grand in scale and relatively compact in plan, containing only 2,738 square feet. The first floor includes three formal rooms arranged on a linear plan. The front doors open to a grand central hall. Fluted pilasters divide the walls into panelled surfaces, trimmed with heavy cornice moldings. Against the south wall is the original fireplace frame, including fluted pilasters and an entablature-like mantelpiece. The marble surround was replaced in 1990 after the original had been stolen. Dominating the hall is the graceful curved staircase (reconstructed in 1990), which divides into two flights—one to the south and one to the north—as it rises to the second floor landing. To either side of the grand hall are formal rooms lighted by French doors. The library is to the south and the dining room is to the north. Both

See continuation sheet

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 2

rooms feature classical moldings executed in cherry. Throughout the first floor, the original wood floors remain intact. The kitchen in the northeast wing has been completely replaced with new fixtures and finishes.

Upstairs, the four bedrooms are arranged in a linear plan against the east wall, and have access to the balconies through French doors. The rooms are simple, rectangular plans, with new drywall and a new oak finish floor. At either end of the second floor hall are bathrooms which include some of the original tile work.

The Wurdemann estate in 1916 included several outbuildings. The gardener's cottage/garage was the largest of the auxiliary buildings and sits parallel to the house on the west side, separated by a large drive. Although this building was originally built by the Wurdemanns, it was not finished and occupied until later years. Because the estate was large with elaborate landscaping, the gardener's cottage was used by most of its owners for a live-in gardener, and now contains parking space for three cars in addition to the living quarters.

The cottage is a wood frame structure, with a concrete foundation, clapboard siding, and a hipped roof with new cedar shingles. The house features a three-bay garage on the north end, and is lighted elsewhere by double-hung wood sash windows. A dormer window rises from the center of the roof, and provides light to a second floor living space. The cottage was extensively rehabilitated, and most of the doors and windows were replaced, as were the interior walls, floors, and trim. Also on the grounds is a small wood shed that was originally part of the estate. But other buildings known to have existed—including a poultry house, boiler shed, and greenhouse—are gone, and the deteriorating barn southwest of the house is located on a parcel under separate ownership.

8. Statement of Significance

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

 nationally statewide locallyApplicable National Register Criteria A B C DCriteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Community Planning and Development
Architecture

Period of Significance

1914-1924

Significant Dates

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Stuart (first name not known)

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

Built in 1914 on a prominent site overlooking Lake Washington, the Harry Vanderbilt Wurdemann House is significantly associated with the development of the planned residential community of Lake Forest Park, and a good example of suburban architecture from the period. The house was the largest and most distinctive of the original properties in the community, specifically designed to be an architectural showplace that would set a standard for the town and serve as an advertisement for prospective residents. Located at the historic gateway to Lake Forest Park, the Wurdemann House has been a local landmark since its construction, and is the best reflection of the ideals of the founders of North Seattle's first middle class suburb.

Historical Background: In 1909, Seattle realtor (and future mayor) Ole Hanson and his colleague A.H. Reid located 1,300 acres at the north end of Lake Washington on which they sought to develop a new suburban community. At the time, North Seattle was mostly forested and only sparsely settled. The same year, a group of wealthy Seattle businessmen established a private community north of the city along Puget Sound, known as The Highlands. It was the first rural suburban enclave in the area. By December, Hanson, Reid and their investors formed the North Seattle Improvement Company to purchase, plat, and handle sales for a less exclusive community to be known as "Lake Forest Park." The goal of the promoters was to create "a residential park unequalled in size and unsurpassed in beauty by any other place in the world." Unlike The Highlands, where ownership was limited by covenants and wealth, Hanson and Reid extended the country living concept to the middle-class, creating a bedroom community where residents could live "in the country while still working in the city."

To develop their plans, the group hired Bertram Corlett, a civil engineer, who platted the community following natural contours. According to Reid, "Lake Forest Park is the only large Northwest subdivision platted entirely to contour." The developers also promised considerable natural amenities. "While the best artistic genius money can hire is in charge of development work," they promised, "the strict fiat has gone forth that all natural beauty must be preserved, no tree will unwittingly be cut down ... that the streams, springs, lakefront ... all the flora and fauna with which Nature blessed this lakeshore must not be defiled by man." In 1910, the firm hired Asahel Curtis to illustrate a brochure promoting these visual qualities.

In addition, Hanson and Reid offered for sale eight prime lots at a very low price to anyone who would build an architect-designed house according to specific requirements including a minimum size and cost. The "first eight" were to set the tone for the entire community and raise the value of the surrounding property. The Wurdemann House was the largest and most prestigious of these homes. Several owners of the "first eight," including A.H. Reid and Harry Wurdemann, had sufficient faith in this plan to build their own country estates as well as buy several additional lots on speculation.

Taking advantage of the beauty of Lake Forest Park and its stately first eight, A. H. Reid became one of the few real estate brokers in the Seattle area to use newspaper ads to sell land. By 1916, Reid was the sole developer of the community, and half page advertisements for Lake Forest Park appeared on a daily or weekly basis in Seattle newspapers. Understanding the desire of working families to own their own "estates" outside of the city, the advertisements presented the grand nature of the development along with the affordability of the lots. Although the houses that followed the first eight were primarily designed in the popular bungalow style, Lake Forest Park was unique because the relatively modest houses were located on large lots.

Harry Vanderbilt Wurdemann came to the Northwest in 1880, when, as a youth he worked as an engraver and topographer with the geological survey. Due to problems with his eyes, Harry Wurdemann transferred from architecture to medical school at Columbia University (now George Washington University). He completed his education by studying abroad in London,

See continuation sheet

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 2

Paris, and Vienna for a year. After serving in the U.S. Army, and teaching at Marquette University, Wurdemann settled into a practice as a doctor of ophthalmology first in Milwaukee, then in Chicago.

In 1908 Dr. Wurdemann married May Audrey Flynn. A year later, a disastrous fire destroyed his family's home and the Wurdemanns decided to move west. The Wurdemanns purchased a four and one-half acre block in Lake Forest Park in 1912 where the first schoolhouse and real estate office sat. By 1914, their house had been built from lumber milled in Lake Forest Park by Bill Rowe. The Wurdemanns' new residence featured a spiral staircase, marble fireplace, and commanding views of the lake.

After completing the house, the Wurdemanns began work on the grounds. May Wurdemann enjoyed gardening and had a hand in the planting of rose bushes, apple trees, a cherry orchard, and a garden. The family cow wandered about the grounds among the trees. Auxiliary buildings such as a greenhouse, poultry house, boiler shed, barn shed, and gardener's cottage and carriage house also dotted the property. The Wurdemann children, Tom and Audrey, did not attend the local schools, but were instructed by tutors until they were sent to private schools in Seattle. Audrey began writing poetry soon after the Wurdemanns moved into their new home. At the age of 16, Audrey published House of Silk, a book of poems. She later received a Pulitzer Prize for Bright Ambush in 1934. Audrey married poet Joseph Auslander and lived in New York City and later Washington D.C. where her husband served as the English poetry consultant at the Library of Congress.

Dr. Wurdemann continued his medical practice in Seattle as a partner in the Harter/Shannon Clinic in the Cobb Building. He was also a prolific author of articles in medical journals and books such as Reference Handbook of Medical Science (1915). Wurdemann was a member of the Rainier Club, the Seattle Golf and Country Club, the Seattle Yacht Club, and the National Committee for Prevention of Blindness. In 1924, the Wurdemanns sold their Lake Forest Park home and moved to Seattle's Denny-Blaine district to be closer to their children in Seattle. Their Seattle residence is now part of the Bush School property.

Adolph Linden purchased the Wurdemann House in 1924. Linden had married Esther E. Anderson whose father owned the Puget Sound Savings and Loan Association. When Mr. Linden's father died, he left a large estate to the Lindens and Mr. Linden assumed the bank presidency. As a leader in the Swedish Baptist Church, Linden used his new mansion as the showplace of the 1926 church convention. Reportedly, Linden spent \$100,000 for landscaping, pool, and a brick and iron fence.

Although Adolph Linden was an important figure in banking and real estate (including building the Camlin Hotel), his local prominence came from his pioneering efforts in the broadcast industry. As a founder of the American Broadcasting Company (no relation to the ABC of today), his goal was to link radio stations throughout the United States. Before its collapse in 1929, the American Broadcasting Company owned stations in Seattle, Spokane, San Francisco and nine other cities stretching from the West Coast to Chicago. Linden purchased KJR in Seattle and invested additional money to create an all-live radio station assembling an impressive staff of well paid announcers, singers, and musicians including a dance band, a symphony orchestra and a string trio. Adolph Linden's enterprises were ambitious and expensive, and apparently paid for, in part, by money embezzled from his bank. He was convicted in 1929, and the house was sold in 1930.

Roy L. Maryatt, owner of Maryatt Electrical Laundry Company and American Linen Supply, purchased the Wurdemann House in 1930 to provide a peaceful country life for his family. Mr. Maryatt's involvement in the community included serving as the director of the District 181 School Board. Unfortunately, one of their children drowned in a wading pool on the property in 1934, and in 1935 the Maryatts sold their home to Walter Brown, owner of the railroad which ran from Renton to Seattle via Rainier Avenue. This transaction between Maryatt and Brown was described in 1935 newspapers as "one of the largest property transactions of the year involving one of the Seattle area's more splendid homes." Following the short occupancy of Walter Brown and his family, the Wurdemann House was sold to John E. Clancy, a tavern owner and former "boss" of the first ward. John Clancy was reportedly gregarious, debonair, and generous. In a 1919 Shoreline Journal interview, Lake Forest Park resident Mabel Gwinn responded to an inquiry about Clancy saying "... it was a very profitable business." In 1943 the Clancys sold the property to Mrs. True Uncaphor, owner of the Sun Life Insurance Company, who needed a large house for her three adopted children. Mrs. Uncaphor sold the house two years later in 1945.

Arie and Wilhemina Vanderspek has visited the Wurdemann House in 1924 and considered purchasing it from Harry Wurdemann. Arie Vanderspek, consul for the Netherlands and international banker, purchased the building in 1945 because, according to his daughter Geraldine Kangsley, "It was the people, that wonderful community to live in," and because Mr.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 3

Vanderspek's sister required a quiet place to recuperate. The Vanderspeks opened their home to foreign dignitaries and guests as well as to their neighbors. Two strictly observed rituals in the Vanderspek home were the 11 a.m. coffee hours and 4 p.m. tea times when many neighbors dropped in to enjoy the mansion and its friendly owners. The Vanderspek's son John, a botanist, grew spectacular raspberries in the garden, and begonias, palms and orchids in the greenhouse. John and his wife Pam lived in the gardener's cottage for two years. The Vanderspeks sold the house in 1959. In the 1970s and 1980s, the house passed between several owners, and was rehabilitated in 1989 and 1990.

Architectural Significance: The Wurdemann House is a locally significant example of suburban residential architecture, developed in a community that self-consciously promoted a suburban ideal. Although other houses in Lake Forest Park were built in the bungalow idiom, the Wurdemann House reflected the Mediterranean style frequently adopted in country homes outside large metropolitan areas in the years before World War I. As employed in the Wurdemann House, the style combines sensitivity to its rural setting through the use of ample French doors, balconies and porches, with a formal symmetry and grand scale. As the largest and most elaborate of the "first eight" houses in Lake Forest Park, the Wurdemann House became the centerpiece of this residential community and set a tone which developers hoped other residents would follow.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Barbara Drake Bender, Growing Up in Lake Forest Park: Early Decades in North Seattle (Shoreline Historical Society: Edmonds, WA 1983-1988).
Barbara Drake Bender, "Remembering Early Lake Forest Park," (Lake Forest Park, 1988).
Shoreline Historical Society, Shoreline Memories, Vol. I-II (Shoreline Historical Society: Seattle, 1975).

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

UTM References

A	<u>10</u>	<u>554360</u>	<u>5289150</u>			
	Zone	Easting	Northing			
C						
	Zone	Easting	Northing			

B						
	Zone	Easting	Northing			
D						
	Zone	Easting	Northing			

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Lots 7 and 8 and that portion of Lots 1 and 2 described as follows: beginning at the most easterly corner of said Lot 1; thence northwesterly along the northeasterly line of said Lot, 20 feet; thence southwesterly on a straight line to the most westerly corner of said Lot 7 in said Block; thence along the southeasterly line of said Lots 1 and 2 to the poitn of beginning, all in Block 13, Lake Forest Park, according to the plat thereof recorded in Volume 20 of Plats, page 41, Records of King County, Washington.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The nominated property includes the entire legal parcel that includes the Wurdemann House, gardner's cottage, and lawn. An additional rear two acres, once owned by Wurdemann, is under separate ownership and has been cleared in preparation for new home construction.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

Name/title	<u>Kathy Saunders, Peggy St. Cyr (edited by L. Garfield)</u>	date	<u>November 1990</u>
organization		telephone	<u>(206) 362-1979</u>
street & number	<u>14047 20th N.E.</u>	state	<u>Washington</u> zip code <u>98124</u>
city or town	<u>Seattle</u>		