



City of Seattle
Department of Community Development/Office of Urban Conservation

Landmark Nomination Form

Name The Parker Mansion Year Built Completed 1909
(Common, present or historic)

Street and Number 1409 East Prospect Avenue

Assessor's File No. 134630-0200 Account Number _____

Legal Description Plat Name _____ Block _____ Lot _____

Lots 13 and 14, Block 12, Capitol Hill Addition to the City of Seattle, Division No. 3, according to plat recorded in Volume 10 of Plats, Page 10, in King County Washington. TOGETHER WITH: that portion of the northeast quarter of Section 29, Township 25 North, Range 4 East, W.M., in King County Washington, described as follows: Beginning at the Southwest corner of said lot 13, thence West 100 feet along the South line of said lot 13 extended; thence North 109 feet parallel to the West line of said lot 13, thence West 100 feet to the Northwest corner of said lot 13, thence South 109 feet along West line of said lot 13 to the point of beginning; Being known as lots 11 and 12, Block 12, Capitol Hill, according to the unrecorded plat thereof).

Present Owner _____ Present Use residence

The Lightbearers, Incorporated
Address 1409 East Prospect, Seattle

Original Owner George H. Parker Original Use residence

Architect Unknown Builder Unknown

DESCRIPTION

The building is located at the north end of Capitol Hill on the southeast corner of the intersection of East Prospect and 14th Avenue East. It stands across the street from the southeast entrance to Volunteer Park, directly south of that park's water tower. The property encompasses four city lots. The house occupies a 2500 square foot footprint, and covers the two lots perpendicular to 14th Avenue East. The remaining two lots parallel East Prospect, and contain the gardens and a small carriage house located at the southeast corner of the property.

The house is an excellent example of the Colonial Revival style of architecture, and is relatively unaltered. The only obvious exterior changes are the enlarged kitchen window on the east elevation of the building, and the replacement of original clapboard siding with stucco sometime after 1946. At that time, the balustrade which surmounted the second floor porch and ornamented the dormers was removed.

The principal north facade of the building is distinguished by two pairs of two-story corinthian columns that flank the main entry. The columns support a third story porch which extends out from a large dormer. The entablature details are rich in classical ornament including fillets, modillion, dentil, cyma, and cyma reversa detail. A second floor porch is supported by square rusticated columns which feature egg and dart moldings. The first floor porch has very broad curved corners that connect its leading edge to the sides of the building.

The fenestration of the north facade is arranged in three bays with windows and dormer treatments further emphasizing the grand entry. The first story windows of the diningroom, vestibule and drawing room each have panels of leaded, beveled, clear glass across their upper quarters. The entry doors and sidelights are recessed, and feature oak double doors flanked by columns and fluted pilasters. The alcove ceiling consists of raised moldings and recesses panels, a detail that is repeated throughout the house. The hardware is brass and features a gothic inspired motif of pointed arch, shields, and heraldic ribbons. The bell place matches the escutcheon of the door handles.

The west facade of the building features a large semicircular bay. Rising from the roof of the bay are a pair of corinthian columns that support the entablature of the third floor roof. The columns flank french doors and a fixed panel window off of the second floor, northwest bedroom. The third story features a balcony beneath which are pairs of decorative corbels.

The principal feature of the south elevation is a centrally located stained glass window attributed to Louis Comfort Tiffany. The window is distinguished by a large center panel of clear glass flanked by leaded glass panels featuring yellow roses with tendrils of leaves. Facing the wall on the right hand side is the covered back porch.

The porte cochere extends out from the east elevation. It is supported by square columns duplicated elsewhere on the building. The projection of the interior breakfast room provides the second floor deck for the upstairs mirrored salon.

The Interior:

Vestibule:

The main entry of the house is through a small vestibule that opens on to a central foyer by means of a large double paneled mahogany door. The walls of the vestibule are covered with canvas. Painted on the canvas is a repeated design featuring a traditional French panel with stylized leaf and urn motifs. Moldings around the doorway are mahogany. A ceiling light fixture features a beaded and beveled glass canopy, and a cut and etched flat glass globe.

Foyer:

The foyer is distinguished by an 18" cornice molding that replicates in miniature the exterior cornice. Mahogany panels form the wainscoting. The canvas, which covers the upper wall, is apainted with a sawtooth and leaf motif. Arches on either side of the foyer form the doorways that lead to the diningroom on the east and the drawing room on the west. A Tiffany fixture fills the entire ceiling space of the foyer. It features eight plate mirror wedges radiating from a centerpiece that consists of a gilded bronze sunburst around a tulip shaped signed Tiffany chimney. A box molding surrounds the glass and connects the entire fixture to the ceiling cornice. The southern wall of the foyer opens to the stairs leading up to a mezzanine landing, window seat and Tiffany window. The stairs feature newel posts in the form of small corinthian columns in mahogany.

Diningroom:

The diningroom is located in the northeastern quadrant of the house, and is the only room in the house that features oak rather than mahogany finishes. It has a large fireplace on the east wall with plain terra cotta tiles on its face. Flanking it are a pair of small windows and a pair of single wall sconces that match the main lighting fixture. The raised molding a recessed panel motif of the wainscot is repeated elsewhere in the house. The wainscot is approximately five feet high. Above it is an applied tapestry fabric that covers the remainder of the wall. On the north wall there are two built-in china cabinets. The ceiling features a central box molding which surrounds a large Art Nouveau fixture. The fixture consists of four milk glass cylinders that are affixed to wrought brass stylized leaves and hung from an organically shaped chain. The ceiling has the most exquisite painting in the house. It features two different applications of tromp l'oeil palm fronds and ferns peaking over a wrought iron fence. The southern wall of the room consists of a built-in buffet with a back splash of beveled glass mirrors. Doors lead to the breakfast room and butler's pantry.

Drawing Room

The drawing room to the west of the foyer has the same heavy cornice as the foyer. On the southern wall is a fireplace that is centered on the wall. Over the mantle is a rectangular beveled mirror with reverse radius cuts on the corners. Surrounding the mirror is a frame-work of a rosette pattern with an over carving of a ribbon shape "x"-ing over the pattern underneath. On either side of the fireplace are fluted pilasters. Corbels support the mantel and side mantels. There are two filled holes on the fluted pilasters where a pair of sconces have been removed.

The face of the fireplace is clad in hand made tiles that are soft green to camel variegated. There are ten patterned tiles of dragons and rosettes spaced equally on the face. The hearth matches the face tile. The walls are covered in green silk.

Unless otherwise noted all the floors in the main downstairs are detailed like this. There is an inch strip of mahogany that is inset into the edge of the floor where it butts up to the mahogany molding. There is an 18" band of flooring that is laid at 45° that surrounds the flooring. The field is installed with the strips going north and south.

The western wall features the bay alcove. It has five windows. The light fixture in the alcove has been removed and there is a pyramidal shaped brass cover over the hole. The light fixture is original with the house and is heavy brass with faceted globes. On either side of the alcove is a small bench built into the wainscot. On either side of the bench is a small corinthian column with a space between the size of the bench. There is quite a bit of water damage on the most northern bench back and arm rest. The ceiling is canvas with border and flourishes.

Library

The library is accessed through the drawing room by means of a pocket door and portier drapery. The southern wall has a pair of "L" shaped built-in glass doored bookcases on either side of a large window.

The west wall has a medium sized window and a door that opens onto the outer porch. The eastern wall has a door that opens onto the back part of the foyer.

The northern wall has a fireplace that has a large barrel vaulted mantel which springs from a small corinthian column that rests on the horizontal mantel. The tympanum is filled with a beveled mirror and is surrounded by the same rosette with ribbon frieze following the shape of the arch. The tiles depict a green grove of trees across the top of the opening, with plain green tiles on the face and hearth.

On either side of the southern window attached to the wall are a pair of square chimneyed lights. The one on the right is a farm scene and the one on the left is woodlands. Each of the four panels is different.

Library continued

The center ceiling mounted light fixture is a signed Tiffany fixture of heavy square tube brass with leave overlays and cone shaped irridescent globes.

The phone room has a small window on the southern wall, a sink on the western wall and a sawtooth painted frieze around the ceiling. The walls are stretched canvas.

Mezzanine Landing

The landing at the mezzanine level with the "Tiffany" window has deeply curved walls that lead up to the second floor and the same raised molding and recessed panel ceiling found down-stairs. Engaged columns are at the corners where the curved wall meets the alcove that houses the "Tiffany" window. The landing of the second floor has deeply boxed molding in rectangles. Each surrounding ceiling panel is stenciled. The same cornice and deep floor molding, floor details and doors are here.

Baron's Room, Second Floor

The Baron's room opening off of the landing is in the northwest corner of the house. It has a fireplace very similar in style to that in the library. The tympanum is a beveled mirror. On either side of the barrel vault are square columns decorated with the rosette and ribbon motif found downstairs. The tiles on the face are stylized leaves. The hearth is cracked and the tile has been painted. To the west of the fireplace is a small built-in bench with a back of paneling.

The western wall has a pair of french door on either side of a fixed center panel. They are built into an alcove. The northern wall on the left is a small built-in dressing room with mirrored doors, one rewired gas light, a ceiling fixture and a leaf and square brass fixture with white globes. To the right is a master bath with claw footed tub and tile wainscot around all side about five feet up.

In the alcove between these two rooms is a window. On the ceiling is a very lovely single Tiffany cone shaped globe.

In the center of the main room is a Tiffany fixture with wrought square brass and leaf overlays and cone shaped irridescent globes.

Surrounding the room is the same cornice and deep molding as the main floor. The flooring details are consistent. The walls are covered with purple silk.

Berenice's Room, Second Floor

Directly south of the Baron's room is Berenise's Room. It is the same size as the library directly beneath it. On the north wall is a swiss cabinet that has been built around a fireplace that has been boarded up. The fireplace details are unknown. The eastern wall has a small sink room that is connected to a large walk-in closet.

Middle Room Second Floor

The middle room on the northern side of the second floor is Anthony's room. It has a pair of french doors that open out onto the front upper deck. On the eastern wall is a pair of doors. One leads into a large closet. The other to the left opens onto a small sink room. The room is painted with panels of soft yellow with garlands of wisteria festooned around the upper corners of the panels. The ceiling has garlands of flowers around the room. The muralling is in very poor repair in this room.

Mirror Room, Second Floor

The Mirror Room is in the northeastern corner. It was once used as a salon. The Western wall is covered with beveled mirror. There are two hidden doors covered with mirrors and having touch latches. One goes into a walk-in closet, and the other opens into the space behind Anthony's sink. That door is difficult to open, but I am assuming that there is a small sink there also. The southern wall has a door that opens onto the upper desk. The eastern wall has a fireplace with a mirrored mantel piece. The surrounding tile is in the french tradition of gilt, soft rose and pale blue sprays of flowers where several tiles are needed to complete the pattern. On either side of the fireplace is a small window. The light fixture is a "Lalique" style pink fantasy with gilt findings. There are a pair of sconces on the east and north walls that might have been set so that the bed could have been at a 45° to the room and the sconces would have been on either side.

Directly south of the mirror room is a bathroom remodelled. South of that is a small room the size of the bathroom that is called the sewing room and south of that is the maid's room.

Third Floor

The third floor is accessed by back stairs. The landing is a large foyer for the room on this floor. The southwest room was the nanny's room. It is quite small and has a dormered window, and large closet.

Directly north of the nanny's room is the room used by the Mother-in-law. It has a fireplace that is less refined than those found on the first and second floor. The wood used throughout this floor is fir including the floors.

The fireplace has a beveled mirror over the mantel. The tiles on the face are primitive terra cotta with a occasional rosette tile. There is a bank of windows that open onto a pseudo-balcony on the western wall. The northern wall has a dormer window. Newer muralling.

The middle room on the third floor was probably a child's room. On the northern wall is a pair of french doors that open onto an enclosed private deck. The muralling is soft orange nasturtiums in fair condition. There is a closet on the eastern wall.

The northeastern room was also a child's room. It has muralling that is in poor repair. There is a flue on the eastern wall flanked by a window on each side. The murals are pink roses.

South of that room is a bathroom that was remodelled in the 1960's. South of that room is an irregular shaped room called the box room.

The Basement:

The main landing area of the basement is approximately the size of the foyer above it. There is a sawtooth frieze painted around the ceiling edge that is similar to the frieze in the phone room. Off the landing to the west is a large meeting room. All basement floors are fir. The meeting room features a fireplace in the southern wall that consists of painted brick in an ashlar pattern with a center inset of jousting knights with fleur de lis and castles.

Also located in the basement are four store rooms, a remodeled bathroom, two bedrooms and access to a back stairway.

Photographs:

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Reviewed

Baron Gordon
Historic Preservation Officer

Date

September 16, 1985