

Historic Property Lybarger House
Inventory Report for 1056 South Boundary Olympia, Thurston 98501

LOCATION SECTION

Historic Name: Lybarger House **Field Site No.:** 567
Common Name: (#34-410) **OAHP No.:**
Property Address: 1056 South Boundary Olympia, Thurston 98501
Comments: OLYMPIA

County **Township/Range/EW** **Section** **1/4 Sec** **1/4 1/4 Sec** **Quadrangle**
[REDACTED] T18R02w 24 NW TUMWATER

UTM Reference

Zone: 10 **Spatial Type:** Point **Acquisition Code:** TopoZone.com
Sequence: 0 **Easting:** 508930 **Northing:** 5209380

Tax No./Parcel No. **Plat/Block/Lot**
32700500013 Ayers Blk 5 SW Quarter

Supplemental Map(s) **Acreage**
City of Olympia Planning Department

IDENTIFICATION SECTION

Field Recorder: Shanna Stevenson **Date Recorded:** 9/18/1985 **Survey Name:** OLYMPIA

Owner's Name: **Owner Address:** **City/State/Zip:**
Mark Foutch 1056 South Boundary Olympia, WA 98501

Classification: Building **Resource Status** **Comments**

Within a District? No Survey/Inventory

Contributing? No Local Register

National Register Nomination: 0

Local District:

National Register District/Thematic Nomination Name:

DESCRIPTION SECTION

Historic Use: Domestic - Single Family House

Current Use: Domestic - Single Family House

Plan: L-Shape **No. of Stories:** 2

Structural System: Balloon Frame

Changes to plan: Moderate

Changes to interior: Slight

Changes to original cladding: Intact

Changes to other:

Changes to windows: Intact

Other (specify):

Cladding Wood - Drop Siding

Foundation Concrete - Block

Style Italian - Italianate

Form/Type

Roof Material Wood - Shingle

Roof Type Hip

NARRATIVE SECTION

Study Unit	Other	Date Of Construction: <u>1887</u>
<u>Education</u>		Architect:
		Builder:
		Engineer:

Property appears to meet criteria for the National Register of Historic Places: No
Property is located in a historic district (National and/or local): No
Property potentially contributes to a historic district (National and/or local):

Statement of Significance

John and Lura Lybarger chose this building site and presumably selected the house design. They built the house or caused it to be built. They added more property to the house and may have expanded it with the one-story addition noted on the Historic Properties Inventory form. Three of their children were born while they lived here, and two died. Mrs. Lybarger's brother died here after being injured in a logging accident. The Lybargers mortgaged this house, apparently to finance their real estate speculation, and sold the house in 1900 in satisfaction of that mortgage. Their name remains on the north-south street that runs through their old subdivision. Mr. Lybarger participated in two organizations that protected property and enriched the social scene. The Michael family certainly lived here longer. The Hymer's are remembered by a surviving neighbor as the family who last were able to maintain the house adequately. The Bobbit's rescued it from neglect and deterioration. W. Shepard may have had something to do with building it and was the second owner. In our opinion, none of these potential claims matches that of the Lybarger's to have the house named for them on the Register. John Gordon Lybarger appears in the 1877 Thurston County Census as a 27-year-old "lumberman" from Pennsylvania. In 1879 he recorded the purchase of a mining claim known as the Eagle Mining Company, located in Stevens County, for \$20 from Courtland Ethridge. The result of this investment is unknown. On October 25, 1880, J. Lybarger married Lura E. Mix five days before her 20th birthday at the home of her parents, James and Mary Mix, at Mud Bay. (Lura's older brother, Randolph, was born at Bush Prairie in 1857, so the Mix family could be numbered among the genuine old settlers of Thurston County. The 1885 County census shows the Lybargers in the Third Ward, which takes in most of the Eastside. By 1885 they had purchased this property, and J. Lybarger was listed as a "logger" residing e. of Eastside, s. of Union," in a regional directory in '88. In the late 1880's a logger could make \$30 - \$100 a month, a good wage. But the Lybargers apparently had more resources and felt able to take more financial risks than an ordinary workman might. Besides adding nearly half a city block to their home grounds, they bought real estate in Swan's Addition and in downtown Olympia. On Feb. 4, 1889, in partnership with John Leland Henderson* and his wife, Harriett E. Henderson, they filed the plat for Henderson's and Lybarger's subdivision of Block 14 and the East Half and Northwest Quarter of Block 23 of Ayers' Addition to the City of Olympia. The north-south streets were named Central (already there from Ayers' Addition), Lybarger, Prospect (now McCormick) an Henderson (now Fir). The cross-streets, already named, were 10th, Union, and Pacific (now 11th). * A John L. Henderson was Principal, Olympia Collegiate Institute, 1886-87. Another man was "president," 1889. J. Lybarger was also apparently a small contractor. He bid unsuccessfully for grading work on all four streets surrounding Block 49 of Swan's Addition, where the Olympia School Board was going to site a new school. (Block 49 now holds the Armory. He was paid \$22 in August, 1889 by the school board for repair work on the Odd Fellows Hall, where the board rented school rooms. At some time he was a member of Columbia (Volunteer) Fire Company No 1, and we concluded (judging from his family burial plot) that he was a member of the Odd Fellows order. The last few years of the 19th century can not have been happy ones for the Lybargers. The nationwide financial panic of 1893, and the rise of Tacoma and Seattle that eclipsed Olympia's commercial prospects, cannot have helped real estate sales on the Eastside. Their partners, the Hendersons (or someone with their exact names) were going through a painful separation-divorce-remarriage cycle that lasted seven years and contributed to a daughter's suicide. As noted earlier, the Lybarger's infant son and a five-year-old daughter died while they lived here, as did Mrs. Lybarger's brother after he fell from a springboard. We cannot tell from the record whether the Lybargers were forced to give up the house they had built, or whether they simply chose to move for other reasons. In any event, on June 4, 1900, they sold the house to Catherine L. Henderson for \$2 and in satisfaction of a \$1200 mortgage. (Catherine Henderson gave her son, John Leland Henderson, power of attorney to complete the transaction. She then sold the house to William Henry Shepard on August 1, 1900. The Lybargers had apparently moved earlier, but tragedy found them anyway. On Feb. 15, 1900, Mrs. Lybarger's mother, Mary Mix, died at the Lybargers' home on the Westside. On July 2 of that year, joy returned with the birth of a son, but a few years later their married daughter Ruth died, at 20, leaving a young daughter. Lura E. Lybarger died in 1908. Her husband later married Lovena Kohl, who died in 1921. J. Lybarger continued residence on the Westside. In 1906 he lived at 1201 Langridge, and he and his son Clarence worked as a "boom man" and mill hand, respectively, for the Mason County Logging Co. From 1915 (or earlier) until his death August 11, 1924, he lived on Ascension Ave. near Division. The only news of his death in the Morning Olympian was a paid funeral notice. After their move to the Westside, the Lybargers had been able to purchase more investment real estate. There were three transactions in 1901 - 03 and one in 1907. Mr Lybarger sold a number of properties during 1919-24, leaving only two plots in the Second Railroad Addition and one in Hayes' Plat to Olympia, plus "a stock of light grocery, confectionery and notions kept at 311 W. Fourth," where his oldest son Clarence lived. The entire estate was valued at just over \$4000 in a day when the inheritance tax threshold was \$10,000. Mr. Lybarger was survived by his son Clarence, 38, who administered his estate; other living descendants were Mrs. Grace Bartsley of Portland; son Roy,; Mrs. Pearl Womack; son Lee; and a granddaughter, Ruth Thacker. The family plot is in the I. Cemetery in Tumwater. There is no one named Lybarger in the Olympia telephone book today. Lybarger Street is a minor way on the Eastside. For what they attempted, contributed, and endured, the Lybargers deserve to have their home remembered in their name.

Description of Physical Appearance

Situated on a rise above the street with a sweeping view of Olympia, this L-shaped two-story house is a wood frame structure built in the Italianate style, resting on a later concrete block foundation. The hip roof is covered with composition shingles and broken by a central brick chimney; it has a prominent cornice with paired brackets. Walls are clad with drop siding. The front (west) facade features a two-story porch with square posts and turned balusters. The offset entry door on the first story is topped by a transom and recessed within a paneled architrave, while a central door opens onto the second story of the porch. Fenestration consists of tall, narrow double-hung sash with one-over-one lights and plain surrounds with prominent head moldings. Across the rear of the house is a one-story, hip-roofed addition, with a wide covered porch on its south and east facades.

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Major Pioneer Title Company Records.
Bibliographic Olympia City Directory.
References

PHOTOS



View of West Facade
taken 9/18/1985
Photography Neg. No. (Roll No./Frame No.):
 17-20A
Comments: