

Historic Property The Firs  
Inventory Report for 1816 Northwest 27th Olympia, Thurston, 98502

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**LOCATION SECTION**

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Historic Name: The Firs Field Site No.: 97  
Common Name: (#34-326) OAHP No.:  
Property Address: 1816 Northwest 27th Olympia, Thurston, 98502  
Comments: COUNTY

County Township/Range/EW Section 1/4 Sec 1/4 1/4 Sec Quadrangle  
TUMWATER T18R02W 03 SW TUMWATER

UTM Reference

Zone: 10 Spatial Type: Point Acquisition Code: TopoZone.com  
Sequence: 0 Easting: 505942 Northing: 5213120

Tax No./Parcel No. Plat/Block/Lot  
83002400200 West Olympia/Block 24/Lots 2, 3, 10 and 22

Supplemental Map(s) Acreage  
City of Olympia Planning Department < one

**IDENTIFICATION SECTION**

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Field Recorder: Shanna Stevenson Date Recorded: 7/1/1992 Survey Name: COUNTY

Owner's Name: Gretchen Christopher Matzen Owner Address: 1816 NW 27th City/State/Zip: Olympia, WA 98502

Classification: Building Resource Status Comments

Within a District? No Survey/Inventory

Contributing?

National Register Nomination: 0

Local District:

National Register District/Thematic Nomination Name:

**DESCRIPTION SECTION**

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Historic Use: Domestic - Single Family House

Current Use: Domestic - Single Family House

Plan: Rectangle No. of Stories: one

Structural System: Balloon Frame

Changes to plan: Moderate

Changes to interior: Moderate

Changes to original cladding: Moderate

Changes to other:

Changes to windows: Moderate

Other (specify):

Cladding Shingle

Foundation Stone

Style Vernacular

Form/Type Single Family - Side Gable

Roof Material Asphalt / Composition

Roof Type Gable

**NARRATIVE SECTION**

Study Unit	Other	Date Of Construction:	<u>1908</u>
<u>Other</u>	<u>Historic Maritime</u>	Architect:	
		Builder:	
		Engineer:	

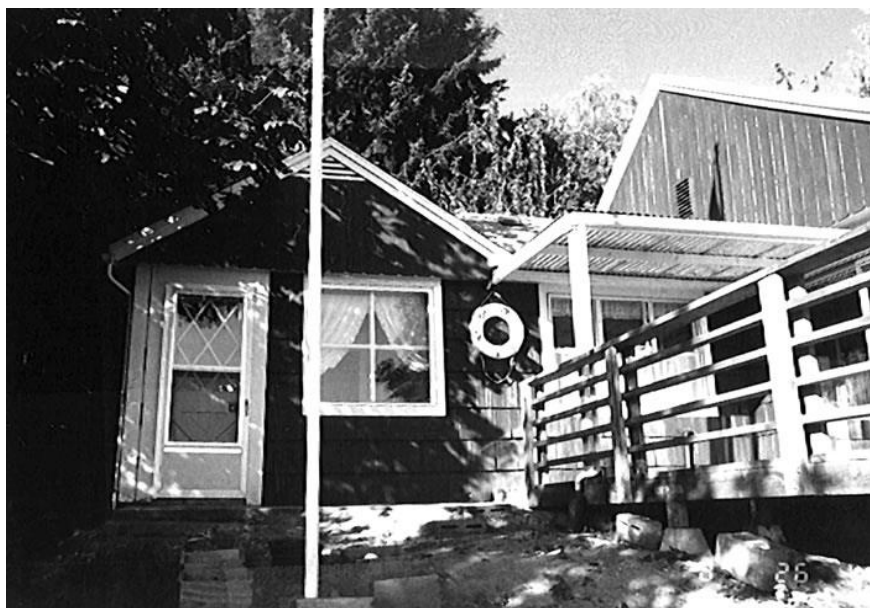
Property appears to meet criteria for the National Register of Historic Places: No  
Property is located in a historic district (National and/or local): No  
Property potentially contributes to a historic district (National and/or local):

**Statement of Significance** From available information, Theodore Brown purchased part of his father's original Donation Land Claim and built this cottage on the waterfront which he called, "The Firs". Blankenship describes it as "one of the best known summer cottages on the Olympia waterfront". Other accounts describe it as "an open headquarters for the city's youth from around 1910 and 1930". Auntie Brown's beach house, "The Firs", features a singing dog all the clam chowder a younster could inhale, and loads of hospitality, "according to How the West Was Once. Other owners included Mark Richards, Robert Moynan and Archie Swensen. Gretchen Matzen purchased the house in 1973.

**Description of Physical Appearance** This is a one-story gable-roofed structure with front gable-roofed structure with front gable extension. It has cedar shingle siding with vertical boards in the gables. There are a variety of windows including large multi-pane picture windows, one over one sash, metal sliding glass door and casement windows. It has a cobblestone foundation. Interior has unique pine paneling with doors, cabinets cut out to match the paneling. Original dock is now not usable. Non-historic additions include a south side addition and newer windows.

**Major Bibliographic References** Blankenship, Mrs. George, comp., And ed. Early History of Thurston County, Washington. Olympia: n.p., 1914. Jefferson Middle School, How the West Once Was, 1974.

**PHOTOS**



View of Southeast Corner  
taken 11/1/1991  
Photography Neg. No. (Roll No./Frame No.):  
copy of print  
Comments: