

**Historic Property** Titus House  
**Inventory Report for** 1601 Southwest Sylvester Street Olympia, Thurston, 98501

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**LOCATION SECTION**

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**Historic Name:** Titus House **Field Site No.:** 639  
**Common Name:** Smith Troy House (#34-517) **OAHP No.:**  
**Property Address:** 1601 Southwest Sylvester Street Olympia, Thurston, 98501  
**Comments:** OLYMPIA

**County** **Township/Range/EW** **Section** **1/4 Sec** **1/4 1/4 Sec** **Quadrangle**  
                     T18R02W 23 NW TUMWATER

**UTM Reference**  
**Zone:** 10 **Spatial Type:** Point **Acquisition Code:** TopoZone.com  
**Sequence:** 0 **Easting:** 507360 **Northing:** 5208730

**Tax No./Parcel No.** **Plat/Block/Lot**  
38600500100 Capital Place L1 & 2 Blk 5

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

**IDENTIFICATION SECTION**

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**Field Recorder:** Shanna Stevenson/Tom C **Date Recorded:** 9/27/1985 **Survey Name:** OLYMPIA

**Owner's Name:** Donald B. Daniels **Owner Address:** 1601 Sylvester Street SW **City/State/Zip:** Olympia, WA 98501

**Classification:** Building **Resource Status** **Comments**  
**Within a District?** Yes Survey/Inventory

**Contributing?** Yes

**National Register Nomination:** 0

**Local District:**

**National Register District/Thematic Nomination Name:** SOUTH CAPITOL NEIGHBORHOOD HISTORIC DISTRICT

**DESCRIPTION SECTION**

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**Historic Use:** Domestic - Single Family House  
**Current Use:** Domestic - Single Family House

**Plan:** T-Shape **No. of Stories:**

**Structural System:** Balloon Frame

**Changes to plan:** Slight  
**Changes to original cladding:** Intact  
**Changes to windows:** Intact

**Changes to interior:** Slight  
**Changes to other:**  
**Other (specify):**

**Cladding** Brick  
**Style** French - French Eclectic  
**Roof Material** Slate

**Foundation** Concrete - Poured  
**Form/Type**  
**Roof Type** Gable  
Hip  
Conical

## NARRATIVE SECTION

### Study Unit

### Other

Date Of Construction: 1923

Architecture/Landscape Architecture

Architect: Hill, Mock & Griffin

Commerce

Builder:

Politics/Government/Law

Engineer:

Property appears to meet criteria for the National Register of Historic Places:

Yes

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

Perhaps the premier home of the South Capital Neighborhood, the Titus house was built in 1923 for Leon Titus in a design by the architectural firm of Hill, Mock and Griffin of Chehalis and Tacoma. Titus was active in automotive businesses beginning in 1913 in Centralia. He later owned agencies in Olympia, Tenino, Aberdeen and Hoquiam. In 1923 he started the Northwest Appliances firm, a distributor for Ford Motors equipment in Montana, Northern Idaho and throughout Washington. He built Olympia Motors at 522 E. 4th in Olympia. The house was owned by Judge Raymond and Margaret Clifford from 1930 to 1944 and by the architect's widow for a brief time in 1944. From 1945 to 1964 it was the home of Attorney General Smith Troy and his family. During this period Governor Mon Wallgren sought to have it acquired by the state as an official guest residence but was dissuaded by Troy. Other owners have been Jack and Karen Armstrong and Donald Daniels and Barbara Daniels Blakely. The slope down to Capital Lake was originally landscaped and some large trees were lost during the Columbus Day Storm of 1962. Landscaping was by Cole of Seattle. The kitchen has been remodeled and the original garage converted into a family room and a large deck added to the west side of the house. Fine appointments such as copper gutters, bottom glass windows and a slate roof as well as fine interior decor make the house a uniquely valuable addition to the historic resources of Olympia. The Original weathervane is by Todhunter of New York City.

### Description of Physical Appearance

Located on an elaborately landscaped lot adjacent to the State Capitol Campus, the Titus House is a large, T-shaped one-and-one-half-story structure of French Eclectic style, built of brick masonry on a poured foundation. Its hipped and gabled roof is covered with variegated slate, and has close eaves and copper gutters; it is broken by flat-roofed and hip-roofed dormers, some recessed in wells, and by brick chimneys rising on the north and south facades. A round tower in the northeast corner of the "T" is capped by a conical roof with a weathervane in the form of a broom-riding witch. The tower's first story holds the main entry door with its ornate hinges. Fenestration is leaded glass casements, which are ornamented with rondelles and varying-shaped pieces of stained glass. The former garage in the east wing has been converted into an interior room, which overlooks a patio at the southeast corner. A large deck of recent vintage spans the west facade, overlooking Capitol Lake. To the north of the house is a new carport with brick sidewalls and a hip roof. The house is maintained in excellent condition. A high brick fence has been installed around the house.

### Major Bibliographic References

Cornish, Billie, "Historic Olympia Home: The Titus House," Naturally Northwest, State Capitol Museum, 1982.  
"Olympia," Lee Printing Co., 1926.  
Information from Barbara Daniels Blakely.

## PHOTOS



View of northeast corner

taken 9/27/1985

Photography Neg. No. (Roll No./Frame No.):

21-5

Comments: