

Historic Property Springer House
Inventory Report for 303 Southwest 17th Avenue Olympia, Thurston, 98501

LOCATION SECTION

Historic Name: Springer House Field Site No.: 644
Common Name: (#34-523) OAHP No.:
Property Address: 303 Southwest 17th Avenue Olympia, Thurston, 98501
Comments: OLYMPIA

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

UTM Reference
Zone: 10 Spatial Type: Point Acquisition Code: TopoZone.com
Sequence: 0 Easting: 507430 Northing: 5208610

Tax No./Parcel No. Plat/Block/Lot
38600200100 Capital Place L1 Blk 2 & part L2

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

IDENTIFICATION SECTION

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

Owner's Name: John Dlouhy Owner Address: 303 17th Avenue Southwest City/State/Zip: Olympia, WA 98501

Classification: Building Resource Status: Survey/Inventory Comments:

Within a District? Yes Local Register

Contributing? Yes

National Register Nomination: 0

Local District:

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

DESCRIPTION SECTION

Historic Use: Domestic - Single Family House

Current Use: Domestic - Single Family House

Plan: Rectangle No. of Stories: 2 1/2

Structural System: Balloon Frame

Changes to plan: Intact

Changes to interior: Unknown

Changes to original cladding: Intact

Changes to other:

Changes to windows: Intact

Other (specify):

Cladding Wood - Clapboard

Foundation Concrete - Poured

Style Colonial - Colonial Revival

Form/Type

Roof Material Asphalt / Composition

Roof Type Gable

NARRATIVE SECTION

Study Unit

Other

Date Of Construction: 1917

Architecture/Landscape Architecture

Architect: Joseph Wohleb

Manufacturing/Industry

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

The Springer House is another of the especially fine residences in the South Capital Neighborhood and is important because of its association with the lumber industry in Olympia. The house was built in 1917 by C. H. Springer in a design by Joseph Wohleb. Springer was born in Oregon in 1861 and came to Tumwater in 1884 where he worked at the Cooper Mill. In 1887 he started the Springer and White Mill in Olympia which was later known as the Olympia Door Company and as the Springer Mill Company. Many of the logs for the mill came from the Shelton area and Mr. Springer used to ride horseback to buy logs himself. Much of the millwork produced went east by rail. In the 1930's the firm shipped Japanese squares to Japan via water. These were 12 inch by 12 inch squares which were re-manufactured in Japan. The lumber, sash and door operation was run by one Bates steam engine which boasted an enormous 20 foot diameter fly wheel with 1000 horsepower. In 1935, the mill was electrified. The mill was in business until 1938-40 when the Springer interests moved to Eugene, Oregon with the depletion of area timber. Springer Mill Company also owned and operated what is now the Acme Fuel Company. Mr. Springer helped organize and was president of the Olympia Federal Savings and Loan Association in 1906 and was on number of boards of directors of other financial institutions. Springer is said to have personally selected all the lumber used in the house which is one of the finest in Olympia and befits Springer's stature in the community. Listed on the Olympia Heritage Register

Description of Physical Appearance

Located on a large corner lot and raised above street level, the imposing, two-and-one-half-story Springer House is a rectangular wood frame structure built in Georgian Revival style on a poured concrete foundation. Its gable roof is covered with composition shingles and has narrow eaves and a prominent modillioned cornice with returns; the roof has three gabled dormers on the front (north) facade, and paired gabled dormers on the rear. Walls are clad with clapboards, and a wide brick chimney rises on the east facade. Centered on the front facade is a flat-roofed porch with Tuscan columns and a prominent cornice, topped by a chinoiserie balustrade and corner posts with finials; the porch shelters the paneled entry door, with its leaded glass transom and sidelights. Flanking the porch are tripartite double-hung windows with eight-over-one lights. Other fenestration includes double-hung sash with similar lights, and arched multi-paned windows in the gables and dormers; above the front porch is a small polygonal bay window. A one-story, flat-roofed open porch along the east wall is topped by balustrade and corner posts with finials, and the south facade has a rectangular bay topped by a similar balustrade. A two-story, gable-roofed projection extends to the west, with a second story oval window on the front facade. An arbor extending to the west leads to a gable-roofed garage built in similar style to the house. The house is maintained in excellent condition.

Major Bibliographic References

Maddox, Dawn, "Joseph Wohleb: resident architect of the State Capital," Landmarks, Vol. IV, No. 4.
Sapp, Bernice, "Pioneer Memorials for 1951" typewritten manuscript at the Washington Room, Washington State Library.
Interview with Ted Naden, son-in-law of C. H. Springer.
Ingham, Dr. Reed, "The 17th Street Story," Olympia News, May 5, 1982.

PHOTOS



View of north facade

taken 9/27/1985

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

21-12

Comments: