



## NARRATIVE SECTION

Study Unit

Other

Date Of Construction: 1928

Ethnic Heritage

Architect:

Architecture/Landscape Architecture

Builder:

Politics/Government/Law

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

Located in the South Capitol Neighborhood just south of the State Capital Museum, the Bowman/Smith House is a large English Builder style brick residence. According to available information the house was built about 1927 by Jesse B. and Wava Bowman. Bowman a local oysterman. The house has fine lumber and appointments. The house was also owned by Newton and Clara Bader and Earl and Tillie Bean. Charles and Amanda Benek Smith owned the house from 1948 until 1982. Amanda Benek Smith was Olympia's first woman mayor and the first woman mayor of a capital city in the United States. She served as mayor and Commissioner of Police and Fire from 1953 to 1960. She presided over the construction of the freeway through Olympia and believed in "doing things for the little people." She died in 1996. The house has subsequently been significantly enlarged.

### Description of Physical Appearance

The Bowman House is a large, rectangular one-and-one-half-story structure of raked-finish brick masonry, built in simplified English Revival style on a poured concrete foundation. Its steep cross-gabled roof is covered with composition shingles and has close eaves and a simple molded cornice with returns at the gables; it is broken by a brick chimney on the south facade. The front (east) facade features a tall gable offset to the south, and an adjacent wide shed-roofed dormer. Below the dormer is a projecting porch with round brick arched topped by a small gable; the porch shelters the mahogany entry door. Fenestration includes single and paired double-hung sash with one-over-one lights, and brick sills and lintels, and a tripartite window in a rectangular bay on the south facade. The rear facade features leaded glass doors leading to a patio, and a second-story balcony. The north facade has two entry doors. At the northwest rear corner is a detached double garage of similar design. A large two-story addition which is difficult to distinguish from the original has been added to the west side of the house.

### Major Bibliographic References

Interview with Amanda Smith.

## PHOTOS



View of northeast corner

taken 10/2/1985

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

22-13A

Comments: