

**Historic Property** Morris House  
**Inventory Report for** 110 Southwest 26th Avenue Olympia, Thurston, 98501

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**LOCATION SECTION**

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**Historic Name:** Morris House **Field Site No.:** 669  
**Common Name:** (#34-566) **OAHP No.:**  
**Property Address:** 110 Southwest 26th Avenue Olympia, Thurston, 98501  
**Comments:** OLYMPIA

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

**UTM Reference**  
**Zone:** 10 **Spatial Type:** Point **Acquisition Code:** TopoZone.com  
**Sequence:** 0 **Easting:** 507600 **Northing:** 5207860

**Tax No./Parcel No.** **Plat/Block/Lot**  
38500701400 Capital Park L13 Blk 7 parts of Lot 14-17

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

**IDENTIFICATION SECTION**

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**Field Recorder:** Shanna Stevenson/Tom C **Date Recorded:** 10/2/1985 **Survey Name:** OLYMPIA

**Owner's Name:** Jeff Berschauer **Owner Address:** PO Box 8487 **City/State/Zip:** Lacey, WA 98509

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

**Structural System:** Balloon Frame

**Changes to plan:** Intact **Changes to interior:** Intact

**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:	<u>1918</u>
Architecture/Landscape Architecture		Architect:	
Politics/Government/Law		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 house, one of the finest in the area, was built ca. 1918 by Supreme Court Justice George E. Morris. The house was later owned by the Johns family and by Mel and Irma Morris from 1937 to 1963 and for many years by Nels Hanson. Mel Morris owned the most prestigious ladies' wear store in downtown Olympia for many years. Justice Morris was born in 1862 in Utica, New York, graduated from Albany Law School and practiced Law in New York. He was Seattle City attorney in 1891 and Superior Court Judge there from 1902 to 1909. He served on the Supreme Court from 1909 to 1918 and was chief justice from 1915 to 1916.

**Description of Physical Appearance** Located on a large, ornately-landscaped lot, the Morris House is a spacious, two-and-one-half-story wood frame structure, built in the Colonial Revival style with Craftsman influence, resting on a poured concrete foundation. Its hipped gable roof is covered with composition shingles, has narrow eaves with a simple molded cornice supported by paired brackets, and narrow pent roofs at the base of the gables. The roof is broken on the front (south) facade by two hipped gable dormers with similar bracketed cornices, and by a brick chimney rising on the west wall. The front facade features a one-story, flat-roofed porch with tapered columns, a simple molded cornice and second-story corner piers spanned by a wrought iron railing. The porch shelters the paneled entry door, which has leaded glass sidelights. Extending from the east wall is a flat-roofed porte-cochere with similar columns and cornice. Fenestration includes single and banded double-hung sash with six-over-one lights, arched multi-paned casements in the dormers, and small quarter-round windows in the gables. The interior features a wide stairway paneled in mahogany, with a tripartite window at the landing. At the rear of the house is a detached double garage of similar design, with paneled, side-hinged doors. The house is unaltered from the original and is maintained in excellent condition.

**Major Bibliographic References** Pioneer Title Company Records.  
Fagan, Mary, "Background and Selection Patterns of Justices of the Washington State Supreme Court: 1889-1974," research paper, Pullman, 1974.

**PHOTOS**



View of southeast corner  
taken 10/2/1985  
Photography Neg. No. (Roll No./Frame No.):  
22-20A  
Comments: