

NARRATIVE SECTION

Study Unit	Other	Date Of Construction: <u>1910</u>
<u>Agriculture</u>		Architect:
<u>Manufacturing/Industry</u>		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 home was built in 1910 for J. J. Brenner. Brenner, a native of Wisconsin, first started working in lumber operations there and came to Olympia in 1885. He first purchased oyster land from Indians on Mud Bay in 1892. He replanted the beds and started a wholesale oyster house in Olympia which expanded to become the largest wholesale oyster business on the Pacific Coast as the Brenner Oyster Company. Brenner was among the first oystermen to use a system of leveling and diking in native beds. Brenner built a number of processing and packing plants in Olympia beginning with a building on waterfront pilings in 1893. He later built another building on the corner of 4th and Simmons St. Still later another structure was built on 4th Street in 1928 where the present Oyster House is now located. In 1951, he moved his packing plant to Oyster Bay. Brenner was instrumental in promoting and recognizing the importance of the native Olympia oyster. The house is now owned by Dick Hemstad, former State Senator.

Description of Physical Appearance The Brenner House is a large, rectangular wood frame structure of two-and-one-half stories, built in the Craftsman style on a poured concrete foundation. Its gabled hip roof is covered with wood shingles, and has wide eaves with ornamental brackets and carved rafter tails, and wide gable-end fascia boards. The roof is broken by an original shed-roofed dormer on the front (west) facade, and a wide shed-roofed dormer of newer vintage across the rear. First-story walls are clad with shingles in alternating wide and narrow courses, and the second story is stuccoed, with horizontal banding between stories. A brick chimney rises on the south wall. Centered on the front facade is a flat-roofed enclosed porch of later vintage, with a side entry door and a large multi-paned front window. Flanking the porch are tripartite windows with double-hung sidelights and multi-paned transoms. The second story has a tripartite window with an arched leaded glass transom above the porch, flanked by bracketed square bays at the corners of the facade, which have paired single-hung sash with multi-paned transoms. A one-story addition extends to the north, with paired garage doors facing the street. It is topped by a partially covered deck. Spanning the rear facade is a one-story addition with extensive windows, and doors leading to a deck offering panoramic views of Olympia. The house has been altered from its original design.

Major Bibliographic References Hunt, Hubert, Washington, West of the Cascades, S.J. Clarke Publishing, 1917.
Steele, E.N., The Rise and Decline of the Olympia Oyster, Elma, Fulco Publications, 1957.

PHOTOS



View of NW corner
taken 10/4/1985
Photography Neg. No. (Roll No./Frame No.):
23-36A
Comments: