

NARRATIVE SECTION

Study Unit	Other	Date Of Construction:	<u>1885</u>
<u>Architecture/Landscape Architecture</u>		Architect:	<u>Charles Giles</u>
<u>Other</u>	<u>Cultural Maritime Resources o</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 significance of this house rests on its architectural attributes and the historical importance of its first owner. Charles Giles, the builder of the house, owned a sawmill along the bay within walking distance of his house. A native of the Midwest, he brought a large family with him to Olympia in 1883. The house was built from plans of similar house Giles' sister built in Omaha, Nebraska. Giles prospered in his lumber and shingle business, and eventually expanded his milling operations to Darrington, Washington. He served as a city councilman and lived in the house until his death in 1925. His brother, Milton Giles, was Justice of the Peace in Olympia. The east-west street adjoining the house is named Giles street. The Giles house has many of its interesting architectural details intact and unaltered. This house is distinctive in that Italianate styling is not common in Olympia. It is an example of how nineteenth-century businessmen built their homes near their factories. Its location also takes full advantage of the view of Mt. Rainier and the bay. Their present owners, only the third family to occupy the house, have changed little on the interior of the house and strive to keep the exterior in its nearly original conditions.

Description of Physical Appearance The Giles house sits atop an embankment along West Bay Drive in Olympia, Washington and overlooks Budd Inlet, an arm of Puget Sound. The house is basically a two-story square box with a one story wing extending to the north and another wing extending north from that. The house is a modified Italianate design with hip roofs over the main part of the house and over the wings. Of wood frame construction, the house has beveled siding and rests on a brick foundation. The fenestration is generally long four-over-four double-hung wood sash windows. Most notable of the exterior ornamentation are pairs of ornate brackets which support the eaves every ten feet all along the roofline. This bracketing is repeated on a bay window on the south facade. Another design element is a circular "bullseye" found above the bay windows and elsewhere. The east facade has a small porch offset to the north. It has the original multi-paneled door with brass bell and a glass transom. The porch repeats the bracketing and bullseye motifs. There have been some alterations to the Giles House. On the east facade, two of the long, narrow window were removed to form a large picture window. Also, a porch on the south side has been replaced by a more commodious, but less ornate one. These alterations and the removal of a widow's walk atop the house are the only major changes from the original. The arrangement of rooms in the interior of the house has been little altered, and many of the original appointments, such as chandeliers, brass fittings and oak stair railings are still intact

Major Bibliographic References Family pictures and records.

PHOTOS



View of East Facade
taken 9/1/1997
Photography Neg. No. (Roll No./Frame No.):
43-25
Comments: