

**Historic Property** George B. Lane House  
**Inventory Report for** 1205 West Bay Drive Olympia, Thurston, 98502

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**LOCATION SECTION**

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**Historic Name:** George B. Lane House **Field Site No.:** 813  
**Common Name:** (#34-840) **OAHP No.:**  
**Property Address:** 1205 West Bay Drive Olympia, Thurston, 98502  
**Comments:** OLYMPIA

**County** **Township/Range/EW** **Section** **1/4 Sec** **1/4 1/4 Sec** **Quadrangle**  
**[REDACTED]** T18R02W 04 sw TUMWATER

**UTM Reference**

**Zone:** 10 **Spatial Type:** Point **Acquisition Code:** TopoZone.com  
**Sequence:** 0 **Easting:** 506600 **Northing:** 5211160

**Tax No./Parcel No.** **Plat/Block/Lot**  
67400003900 Parker Hayes/South 165 Feet of Lots 39 and 40

**Supplemental Map(s)** **Acreage**  
City of Olympia Planning Department .82

**IDENTIFICATION SECTION**

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**Field Recorder:** Shanna Stevenson **Date Recorded:** 7/1/1992 **Survey Name:** OLYMPIA

**Owner's Name:** Margaret Striplin **Owner Address:** 18635 5th SW **City/State/Zip:** Normandy Park, WA 98166

**Classification:** Building **Resource Status** **Comments**

**Within a District?** No **Survey/Inventory**

**Contributing?** **State Register**

**National Register Nomination:** 0

**Local District:**

**National Register District/Thematic Nomination Name:**

**DESCRIPTION SECTION**

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**Historic Use:** Domestic - Single Family House

**Current Use:** Commerce/Trade - Professional

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

**Structural System:** Unknown

**Changes to plan:** Moderate

**Changes to original cladding:** Slight

**Changes to windows:** Slight

**Changes to interior:** Moderate

**Changes to other:**

**Other (specify):**

**Cladding** Wood - Drop Siding

**Style** Gothic - Gothic Revival

**Roof Material** Asphalt / Composition

**Foundation** Concrete - Block

**Form/Type**

**Roof Type** Gable

**NARRATIVE SECTION**

<b>Study Unit</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>Date Of Construction:</b> <u>1891</u>
<u>Architecture/Landscape Architecture</u>		<b>Architect:</b>
<u>Other</u>	<u>Cultural Maritime Resources o</u>	<b>Builder:</b>
		<b>Engineer:</b>

**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 George B. Lane House is architecturally significant because it exhibits Gothic revival design elements uncommon in Southwest Washington. It is also one of the few early houses to take advantage of the scenery around Olympia. It commands a view not only of the water but also of the city of Olympia and Mount Rainier. Although the modern addition to the rear and some modern windows detract from the integrity of the house, the facade does remain intact and its verge boards and spindle work are unmistakable marks of its 19th century origins. The house is also significant because of its association with local political leaders. The original owner, George B. Lane, was Mayor of the City of Olympia. Another early owner, T. A. Eastridge, was a City Councilman. Also, early residents recall the house being called the "Governor's Mansion," although no association with a state governor has yet been established.

**Description of Physical Appearance** The George B. Lane House is located on the sloping west side of Budd Inlet, an arm of Puget Sound. The lot upon which the house stands is bordered on the north and west by natural vegetation and on the south by an unused fuel storage depot. To the east lies West Bay Drive and Budd Inlet. The principle facade of the house faces east, undoubtedly to exploit a fine view of Mount Rainier, the dominant feature of the landscape. The original plan of the house was basically rectangular, with the longer axis running north and south, but the east facade was broken by a complex arrangement of extensions and bays. Some new construction has been added in the rear of the house including a long rectangular wing built in 1968. The new wing extends the north facade 45 feet to the west, so the structure is not basically L-shaped. The present owners call the house "Seven Gables" and, as the name implies, it has seven large, steeply pitched gables--three on the east facade, one each on the south and north facades, and two on the west facade. A covered porch spans the entire east facade extending outward in conformity to the corners and bays of the first floor facade. The porch is supported by turned columns and decorated below the roofline with vertical turned spindles. Surrounding the porch is a balustrade with plain, slender posts, apparently not of the original design. The house is roofed with composition shingles. Along the roofline of the entire original structure the eaves are trimmed with intricate cutwork, which also appears above the second floor bay window on the east facade. The old part of the house has rustic siding and the new addition, grooved plywood siding. The fenestration of the old part is composed mostly of long, narrow double-hung windows. Because of its steeply pitched gable the house conveys the feeling of Gothic revival design, although some of the decorative elements are most typical of Queen Anne architecture. In its early years, the house was elaborately landscaped with four tier rock terraces on all sides. A grape arbor adjoined the south end of the house forming a kind of patio. On the rounds was large orchard supplying a variety of fruits and nuts. A gravity water system fed by a spring on the hill behind the house provided its water. Originally a carriage house, barn and chicken house were part of the property. These similar in design to the house. The upper ground behind the house, a heavily wooded area, was referred to as "the park." A stake fence surrounded the property. An unusual half-circle stairway led from the driveway to the house. The two front entries on either side of bay the window on the main floor originally featured etched glass windows. The north entry opened on the only stairway to the second floor and a central entry where doors opened to other rooms of the first floor, including the kitchen, where appointments included wainscoting and a dish rail. The south entry led directly to the parlor, which was highlighted by a stained glass window, which, unlike some of the original appointments, still intact. The pantry which adjoined the kitchen had pass-through drawers and cupboard accessible from a built-in cherrywood hutch in the dining room. The living room and parlor had sliding doors. The woodwork was cedar throughout the house in a bulls eye design. Floors were also cedar. There were fireplaces in the two rooms with bay windows: the living room on the first floor and the master bedroom on the second. The fireplaces were faced with glazed brick. The living room fireplace mantel was especially ornate, with built-in shelves and carved woodwork. There was a bedroom and half bath at the south of the house. The second floor had a bull bath and four bedrooms, each of their doors having a transom. The third floor was not originally faced with lattice work as was the enclosed back porch. In addition to the existing decorative verge boards, there was originally additional trim along the tops of the verge boards, as well as at the crown of the roof of each gable. A lovely cutwork border stood atop the second floor bay as well as around the top of the porch spindle work and as a balustrade where the plain rail now stands. Quite a few changes have been made in the house since it was built in 1891. A one-story extension of the kitchen was added. Later, the house was broken up into apartments and much of the original interior was torn out and altered. There is now an extensive addition to the rear of the house done in 1969 and some windows have been altered. Little remains of the extensive landscaping and none of the out buildings remain. Nonetheless, the house remains an impressive structure. Although much of the original trim has been removed, the extant design and ornamentation remain a charming bit of the past.

**Major Bibliographic References** "Seven Gables--An Uphill Job for Both Custodians and Guests." Olympia, WA Daily Olympian. October 29, 1967, p.11.  
 "Landmark on the Block." Olympia, WA Daily Olympian. January 13, 1976 p. A-1.  
 Personal interview with Mrs. Karl Helenius (Daughter-in-law of an early owner).  
 Personal interview with Mary E. Anderson, (Daughter of an early owner who came to the house in 1912).

**PHOTOS**



View of East Facade  
taken 9/1/1997  
Photography Neg. No. (Roll No./Frame No.):  
43-26  
Comments: