

Historic Property Buell House
Inventory Report for 301 - 21st Avenue SE Olympia, Thurston, 98501

LOCATION SECTION

Historic Name: Buell House **Field Site No.:** 842
Common Name: (#34-886) **OAHP No.:**
Property Address: 301 - 21st Avenue SE Olympia, Thurston, 98501
Comments: OLYMPIA

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

UTM Reference
Zone: 10 **Spatial Type:** Point **Acquisition Code:** TopoZone.com
Sequence: 0 **Easting:** 507660 **Northing:** 5208280

Tax No./Parcel No. **Plat/Block/Lot**
85301100500 Wright Central L5 Blk 11

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

IDENTIFICATION SECTION

Field Recorder: Shanna Stevenson **Date Recorded:** 7/1/1997 **Survey Name:** OLYMPIA

Owner's Name: Frederie MacInnes **Owner Address:** 301 - 21st Avenue SE **City/State/Zip:** Olympia, WA 98501

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

Within a District? Yes Survey/Inventory

Contributing? Yes Local Register

National Register Nomination: 0

Local District:

National Register District/Thematic Nomination Name: SOUTH CAPITOL NEIGHBORHOOD HISTORIC DISTRICT

DESCRIPTION SECTION

Historic Use: Domestic - Single Family House

Current Use: Domestic - Single Family House

Plan: Rectangle **No. of Stories:** 1 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 Shingle

Foundation Concrete - Poured

Style Tudor

Form/Type

Roof Material Asphalt / Composition

Roof Type Gable

NARRATIVE SECTION

Study Unit	Other	Date Of Construction: <u>1931</u>
<u>Architecture/Landscape Architecture</u>		Architect: <u>Forest Meeker/Arthur & Naomi Buell</u>
<u>Entertainment/Recreation</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 Arthur and Naomi Buell had this house built in 1931 and 1932. The Meeker Brothers (Forest Meeker) built the house which was designed by Mr. & Mrs. Buell. Mr. Buell was a bridge engineer with the State of Washington and incorporated the arch motif into many areas of the house. Mrs. Buell calls the house, "The House of Many Arches," and describes it as a "unique, practical home. The house was built of clear first growth timber. Arched areas included the arched openings between rooms, arched openings for the fireplace, oval steps leading to the house. an arched entrance and front door, and arched coves on the interior of the house. There was even an arch over the toilet in the bathroom. Red brick fireplaces were built in both the first floor and the basement. Mrs. Buell emphasized that only the best oak was used on the floors which were hand finished as well as the woodwork which features some mahogany. Mrs. Buell emphasized that the kitchen as well as some of the other built-ins in the house were one of a kind built to ingeniously accommodate the Buell family. The pride with which Mrs. Buell described the house and its construction was evident in the interview with her. Because of the proximity of the house to Lincoln School, Mrs. Buell worked with school children at the house. During World War II, Mrs. Buell was in charge of taking care of some children if Olympia were attacked. The house was also a central neighborhood play area. The house was featured in a book and movie about Olympia homes and Mrs. Buell recalls that they did not have a refrigerator so "Mr. Goldberg asked if he could put one of his on display for the home tour. The house only had an ice box and cooler at the time. Mr. Buell was a bridge engineer with the State of Washington for over 36 years. The Buells owned the house from the time it was built until 1983 when the present owners purchased the house. The sense of neighborhood and pride in the crafting of this house which was conveyed by Mrs. Buell make this house a distinctive part of the residential history of Olympia.

Description of Physical Appearance These are the features that contribute to the property's historical significance and which should be preserved and maintained as it is kept up over the years. Important lost features are also listed, because owners are encouraged to consider restoring these features when rehabilitation work is planned. Replacement either by exact restoration of the original or a modern, compatible design is acceptable. Non-historic additions are also listed. The Heritage Commission may make some recommendations regarding these additions. 1. One and one-half story cross gable house with steeply pitched gables. 2. Concrete foundation and combed cedar shingle siding. The front (north) facade has a flared base and a projecting rectangular bay window. 3. Gable roofed enclosed porch with recessed arched opening and arched door with arched window. 4. Variety of windows including double hung sash, picture window and smaller windows. 5. Garage is located under the house. Interior: 1. Built-in corner cabinets in the kitchen. 2. Arched ceilings. 3. Built-in mail box. 4. Fireplaces upstairs and downstairs. 5. Woodwork and built-ins. C. Qualifications for the Local Register An attachment to this staff report provides general background about the Olympia Heritage Register and requirements for placement on the register. A second attachment contains the section of the Olympia Historic Preservation Ordinance which gives the criteria for designation to the register. There are six categories of eligibility as described in the enclosures. The Buell House relates to those eligibility requirements as follows: 1. Significance: The Buell House has significant character, interest or value as part of the development, heritage or cultural characteristics of the county, state or nation. The Buell House is a well-maintained property built by a family with pride and craftsmanship which is centrally located in the South Capitol Neighborhood. Both Mr. & Mrs. Buell were active in the neighborhood and in projects associated with Lincoln School. The house is basically unaltered from the original and retains its historic features. 2. Age: The Buell House is 59 to 60 years old and so meets the 50 year age criterion. 3. Possesses at least two elements of integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association: The Buell House possesses all elements of integrity. 4. The Buell House is well maintained. 5. Specific Criteria/Associations: The Buell House meets criterion #2 for determining designation to the Olympia Heritage Register in that it embodies distinctive architectural characteristics of a type, period, style and method of construction and represents a distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction.

Major Bibliographic References Source: Information from the current owners and interview with Mrs. Buell, March 19, 1991.

PHOTOS



View of North Facade

taken 7/1/1997

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

42-0A

Comments: