

NARRATIVE SECTION

Study Unit

Other

Date Of Construction: 1882

Architecture/Landscape Architecture

Women's History

Architect:

Politics/Government/Law

Builder:

Engineer:

Property appears to meet criteria for the National Register of Historic Places:

Yes

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 Calvin and Pamela Hale Residence is significant for its close association with the career of Captain Hale. Waitstill L. Hale also arrived her husband Clavin H. and family in 1851. Mrs. Hale and her husband were from Maine. An early settler in the territory, Captain Hale played a vital role in the state's development and served in important elected and appointed positions during most of his life in Olympia. The accomplishments of Captain Hale's second wife, Pamela, were also quite considerable and together they became one of Olympia's most influential couples. Although Captain Hale only lived in this house the last five years of his life, it remains the one building in the community that reflects the life of this prominent early Washingtonian. The building is also a good example of a Queen Anne cottage. Though in size and detailing it is a relatively modest expression of the style, it is typical of Queen Anne cottages erected across the United States. Calvin H. Hale began life in Maine in 1818. He was trained as a shipbuilder and became involved in the merchant trade and acquired the title of Captain. In 1842, he was elected to the Maine State Legislature and he served in that body for four years. In 1851, he brought his young family around South America by ship and settled in Olympia. At that time, Olympia was but an infant settlement and the Hales were actually one of the few families in the town. Hale rapidly established his reputation and by the next year he was elected to represent Thurston County at the Monticello Convention. Captain Hale was one of the forty-four representatives who prepared and signed the 'Monticello Memorial' which successfully petitioned President Fillmore to create a new Washington Territory out of the larger Oregon Territory. The site of the convention (Longview, Washington) became known as the birthplace of Washington State. Soon after this convention, Captain Hale homesteaded a 320 acre parcel (which included the present house site) under the Donation Claim Land Law. He was also appointed a trustee of the first Olympia school and served one term as a district court judge. In 1845, Hale won a seat in the first territorial legislature's House of Representatives as a member of the Whig party. Captain Hale was one of only twenty-seven legislators at that first session. He introduced House Bill No. 1, which established a law code commission that developed into Washington's Supreme Court. Hale also became a member of the legislature's education committee. By 1857, he had joined the Democratic party and was elected county coroner. In 1860, he was re-elected to the House, and one year later was appointed to the University of Washington's first Board of Regents. In 1862, Hale received his most important commission. He was appointed by President Lincoln to be the Territory's Superintendent of Indian Affairs, a position with a considerable amount of patronage. In the next two years, he helped to negotiate a confiscatory treaty with the Nez Perce Tribe of Eastern Washington. This new treaty diminished by 90 percent the Tribal lands guaranteed by an 1855 treaty. Hale accomplished this by bargaining with certain factions that were not empowered to speak for the whole tribe. The agreement was enacted, although Congressional payments to the Indians never arrived. By 1868, Hale's responsibilities again focused on Puget Sound and he became an Olympia City Trustee (a councilman). He was re-elected to this position in 1878 and 1882. He also began the Washington Water Manufacturing Company, which laid the first wood-pipe water system for Olympia. Captain Hale's first wife died in 1870. He then married Miss Pamela Case in 1872. Pamela Case had come from New York to teach and she was soon appointed to the Territorial Board of Education. In 1882, she became the first woman to be elected Thurston County Superintendent of Schools. Also in 1882, Captain Hale was elected Vice President of the Washington Industrial Association, and in that same year, the Hales erected the house on Tullis Street considered in this nomination. In 1883, Calvin Hale became a member of the State Council, a body which later developed into the State Senate. While serving on the Council, he cast his vote for women's suffrage. The following year, Captain Hale was elected to an office in the Pioneer Association of Washington Territory and served that organization until his death in 1887, two years before Washington obtained statehood. After Calvin Hale's death, Pamela Hale continued to make business deals, including gaining control of the local gasworks company. She was also a partner to the development of the prestigious Olympia Hotel. She would be remembered by a fellow teacher as a woman of great intelligence and prestige. The Hale's pre-1882 residences are no longer standing. Indeed, most of the structures from Olympia's early period of development have disappeared and many of the city's late Victorian homes have also been lost. The Hale house is one of several Queen Anne Style cottages remaining in Olympia. Larger Queen Anne homes actually survive in greater quantities within the city. This may be the case in the Hale House, for it repeats a common plan of the era with its front facade arrangement of small ornamented porch and off-centered polygonal bay window with pedimented gable. The building today provides a pleasant accent to the later neighborhood around it. The primary facades of the Hale House have maintained their historic integrity and continue to provide the community with an important reminder of the career of one of Olympia's preeminent settlers.

Description of Physical Appearance

The Calvin and Pamela Hale Residence is a one and one-half story wood-frame Queen Anne Style cottage. As is characteristic of the Queen Anne Style, the building exhibits an irregular profile and a variety of surface embellishments. The building sits on what was once a 320 acre homestead. Today, the area is composed of single family homes dating from the turn of the century through the present time. The building has recently been restored, and replacement materials have been carefully reproduced to imitate the original elements. The owners also removed two later shed additions and added a deck and new bay window on the south and east elevations. The latter two additions have not significantly impacted the integrity of the building and the main elevations of the Hale Residence still look much like they did when the house was first erected 110 years ago. The cottage sits on a brick foundation and has a shallow crawl space beneath its floor. The structure is clad in cedar novelty siding. Projecting from the building are two polygonal bay windows topped with pedimented gables. The pediments of these gables are ornamented with fishscale and diamond shingles arranged in decorative patterns. The gable on the south side has a scroll sawn screen at the peak of its cornice. Each bay has three windows. The center window has a multi-paned upper sash over a single pane lower sash. The other windows in the house are one-over-one double-hung wood sash. A newer casement window has been added in the gable of the building's central roof. A porch is located on the west side of the home and is partially attached to the bay window on that elevation. The porch has chamfered posts, a low hip roof, and decorative wood elements applied to the frieze. The floor of the porch was recently replaced and a new porch rail is being installed. This replacement copies the fragments that survived from the original porch and consists of an interesting pattern of spindles and short balusters. The original turned

Historic Property Hale House
Inventory Report for 902 East Tullis Olympia, Thurston, 98501

newels have survived. The main door to the house is located behind the porch and is ornately detailed with Eastlake-inspired woodwork, a multi-paned window with pressed glass lights (a central etched glass pane was apparently destroyed years ago), and a filigreed door knob. The composition of the structure is completed by a steeply pitched gable roof. Part of the roof has been re-clad with cedar shingles; however, asphalt roofing remains on some roof sections. The gable above the bay window on the west side projects from this main roof on a parallel axis, while the gable above the south bay window is set at a cross-axis. Two chimneys on the building have recently been repaired with new corbelled caps. A boxed cornice detailed with simple wood modillions graces the eave of the building. The residence has an irregular floor plan that is based on a four-foot module. Most rooms measure approximately twelve feet by twelve feet. A central hall divides the residence. Other primary spaces include two bedrooms, a kitchen, dining room, and parlor. Ceilings are ten and one-half feet high. Interior details include tongue and groove fir flooring and simply molded baseboards, windows, and door trim. The dining room has two built-in china cabinets and a window seat in the bay window. Originally, the open passage between the dining room and parlor was larger and ornamented with columns at the sides. These were removed several years ago and the size of the passage was slightly diminished by a new sheet rock siding. A kitchen ell is located on the east side of the building. The kitchen's interior has been totally altered and a small bay window and fan light have been added at the rear to bring more light into this remodeled kitchen. The new bay is much smaller than the original ones found on the other elevations. The current owner also removed a later shed addition attached to this ell that had been erected to provide bathroom facilities for the residence. A new wooden deck has been added on the exterior of the building around the bay and kitchen. The Hale Residence now occupies a standard city lot on the corner of Tullis and Yew Streets. A c. 1910 shed with a new garage door sits on the east side of this lot and does not contribute to the property's significance. The Hale Residence is obviously the oldest building in the neighborhood, though there is a similar Queen Anne cottage a few blocks away. The Hale House is executed in the Queen Anne Style, although it is smaller and less flamboyant than many of its contemporaries. Nevertheless, the building's form and detailing are typical of many Queen Anne cottages that were built in the 1880's and 1890's.

**Major
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PHOTOS



View of West Facade
taken 7/1/1997
Photography Neg. No. (Roll No./Frame No.):
43-6A
Comments: