

Historic Property Steele House
Inventory Report for 1010 Franklin Street SE Olympia, Thurston, 98501

LOCATION SECTION

Historic Name: Steele House **Field Site No.:** 869
Common Name: (#34-899) **OAHP No.:**
Property Address: 1010 Franklin Street SE Olympia, Thurston, 98501
Comments: OLYMPIA

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

UTM Reference
Zone: 10 **Spatial Type:** Point **Acquisition Code:** TopoZone.com
Sequence: 0 **Easting:** 507680 **Northing:** 5209380

Tax No./Parcel No. **Plat/Block/Lot**
78506200100 Sylvester L1 Blk 62

Supplemental Map(s) **Acreage**
City of Olympia Planning Department .15

IDENTIFICATION SECTION

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

Owner's Name: Chris Keegan et al **Owner Address:** 2818 Riverlea Dr SE **City/State/Zip:** Olympia, WA 98501

Classification: Building **Resource Status** **Comments**
Within a District? No Survey/Inventory
Contributing? National Register
State Register
Local Register

National Register Nomination: STEELE, ALDEN HATCH, HOUSE
Local District:
National Register District/Thematic Nomination Name:

DESCRIPTION SECTION

Historic Use: Domestic - Single Family House
Current Use: Domestic - Multiple Family House

Plan: Square **No. of Stories:** 2

Structural System: Plank

Changes to plan: Slight **Changes to interior:** Extensive
Changes to original cladding: Slight **Changes to other:**
Changes to windows: Slight **Other (specify):**

Cladding Wood - Clapboard **Foundation** Post & Pier
Style Italian - Italianate **Form/Type**
Roof Material Wood - Shingle **Roof Type** Hip

NARRATIVE SECTION

Study Unit

Other

Date Of Construction: 1870

Architecture/Landscape Architecture

Architect:

Health/Medicine

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 Steele House is architecturally significant for its age and design. Few structures of any kind remain from as early as 1870 in the lower Puget Sound area. Historic photographs of the house show it is a relatively unaltered and rare example of the Vernacular Italianate Style with its long narrow windows, original shutters, hipped roof and paired posts on the porch. The social and humanitarian significance of the house rests on its association with its original and long-time owner, the eminent physician, Dr. Alden Hatch Steele. Doctor Steel came from his native New York to the Oregon country in 1849 and served as post surgeon at Fort Dalles, Fort Stevens and Fort Steilacoom. He as an arbiter of Indian disputes and doctor for the Nisqually and Chehalis Indian Reservations. He earned a reputation as one of the most capable and progressive physicians in the Pacific Northwest. He was particularly noted in medical circles for pioneering the use of chloroform in surgery in the Northwest. When Doctor Steele retired from the Army in 1869, he moved to Olympia and built his house shortly thereafter. Active in politics, business and religious affairs, he was a Regent of the Territorial University, a director of the First National Bank of Olympia, and an organizer of the first Episcopalian Bishopric in the Northwest. He was an outstanding contributor, both in civic and medical endeavors, and was an asset to early Olympia.

Description of Physical Appearance

1. Two-story square structure with a lower two-story gable roofed addition. 2. Main house originally set on a post and pier foundation. 3. Hipped roof on the main section of the building. 4. Plank side wall construction. 5. Narrow clapboard cladding. 6. Full width, flat roofed, front verandah across the west (front) facade. 7. Verandah is supported by four pairs of narrow posts which have an arched opened work central section with a short entablature on the top section. 8. Centered on the west facade, the main entry is recessed with sidelights and a transom with the original panel door.

Major Bibliographic References

Source: Hunt, Herbert, 1917. Washington West of the Cascades. Chicago: S.M. Clarke Publishing Co. Vol. III, pp. 220-221.

Lenggenhager, Werner and McDonald, Lucille. 1969 Where the Washingtonians Lived. Seattle: Superior Publishing Co., pp. 72.

PHOTOS



View of West Facade

taken 7/1/1997

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

41-16A

Comments: