

NARRATIVE SECTION

Study Unit **Other** Date Of Construction: 1929
Architect: TLM
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 One of five house built by Tumwater Lumber Mills who pioneered precut houses in the west. Headquarters in Olympia, they demonstrated their work in neighborhoods all over the city. One of the demonstrated their work in neighborhoods all over the city. One of the most cohesive and dramatic examples of their work is the five house row of the houses on Rogers Street. The company featured the Rogers Street Houses in their promotional literature as exemplifying their work. The mills were operated by six brothers assisted by their two sisters, the Anderson Family. Natives of Sweden, they migrated one by one to different regions of the U. S. and finally reunited in Olympia. Arthur, Sten, Ossian, Edward, Karl and Olaf were joined by Amy and Lilly as well as their parents. They left one brother, Donald, in Sweden. The older brothers began their logging operations at Mud Bay and in Lewis County. In 1922, they began the Tumwater Ready Cut Homes, prefabricated lumber which could be quickly and easily framed. The mill was located where the present Olympia Brewery now stands. The first operation of its kind in the West, the pre-cut houses were sold nationally and internationally with great success. Materials included drawings, specially marked lumber which indicated the section of the house and the type of building material, finishing lumber of doors, windows and built-ins, including cabinetry, fireplaces and wainscoting. "We Furnish Everything in Wood, Paint and hardware," was their slogan. Literature from the company boasted that anyone could build the houses in a matter of days. The brothers once demonstrated the farming of a five room bungalow in one day. The company also produced pre-cut barns and outbuildings. As many as 500 homes were built in Olympia by the firm according to one newspaper report. This group of the houses illustrates particularly well the range of finishing details available for the precut houses as well as their ability to remain affordable and attractive over 50 years. The Andersons also pioneered other lumbering practices. They imported the first Swedish gang-saw which allowed the sawing of small timber which had previously been wasted in the first great sweep of logging across Washington. They also developed the process for the first sulfite pulp mill on the U. S. Pacific Coast. They also operated in Everett, Tacoma and Coos Bay, Oregon, finally ceasing operations in the 1950's. This house was built in 1929. First owners were Harold and Gertrude Potts. Mrs Potts was the Principal of Garfield School.

Description of Physical Appearance 1. Rectangular one and one-half story house with end gables. 2. Front gable offset to the south. 3. Front entry is a recessed arch offset to the south end of the front gable section. 4. Front door is arched with leaded glass inset. 5. Fenestration includes six-over-six double hung sash and multi-paned french doors. 6. Stucco cladding.

Major Bibliographic References Pioneer Title Co.

PHOTOS



View of taken
Photography Neg. No. (Roll No./Frame No.):

Comments: