

**Historic Property** White House  
**Inventory Report for** 1431 - 11th Avenue SE Olympia, Thurston, 98501

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**LOCATION SECTION**

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**Historic Name:** White House **Field Site No.:** 900  
**Common Name:** (#34-853) **OAHP No.:**  
**Property Address:** 1431 - 11th Avenue SE Olympia, Thurston, 98501  
**Comments:** OLYMPIA

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

**UTM Reference**  
**Zone:** 10 **Spatial Type:** Point **Acquisition Code:** TopoZone.com  
**Sequence:** 0 **Easting:** 509020 **Northing:** 5209300

**Tax No./Parcel No.** **Plat/Block/Lot**  
32700600005 Ayers B6 portion

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

**IDENTIFICATION SECTION**

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

**Owner's Name:** Edward/Lillian Peeples **Owner Address:** 1431 - 11th Avenue **City/State/Zip:** Olympia, WA 98501

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

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

**Contributing?** State Register  
Local 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:** Domestic - Hotel

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

**Structural System:** Balloon Frame

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

**Cladding** Shingle - Concrete/Asbestos **Foundation** Brick  
**Style** Queen Anne **Form/Type**  
**Roof Material** Asphalt / Composition **Roof Type** Gable  
Hip

**NARRATIVE SECTION**

Study Unit

Other

Date Of Construction: 1893

Architecture/Landscape Architecture

Architect:

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 William G. and Amanda White house stands in an area of Olympia once known as "Swantown" where White was a carpenter and lumberman. Although no one owner stands out as an historical or prominent figure, several accounts about the house mirror Olympia's history. It is said that the house was built partly with money loaned by governor Elisha P. Ferry in 1893. A former resident of the house claims it was one of the town's most handsome homes around the turn of the century when it was owned by Theodore L. Brown.

**Description of Physical Appearance**

The three story home at 1431 Eleventh Avenue East in Olympia is an eclectic blend of Queen Anne and Eastlake architectural styles. Built in 1893 by William White, the 17 room house originally overlook Swantown Slough, an inlet of Puget Sound. The large frame resident is basically rectangular in plan with a hipped roof although gabled roof lines intersecting the main form tend to confuse the appearance of the roof. The most dominant feature is the square tower, scaled a full three stories and emerging from the northeast corner of the building; it is capped by a steep pyramidal roof with finial. The house is most notable for its ornate decoration. Turned spindles, cross pieces, balusters and posts adorn the porches and gables. Angled and vertical boarding enhance gable ends and tower. In addition to scrolled brackets supporting each horizontal eave, the barge boards themselves are adorned by very delicate carved designs. Decorative dentils underpin all of the eaves as well as the Italianate square bay windows on either side of the house on the main floor. The house has a rather ordinary fenestration, but the decorative surrounds on the first story extend below the window opening and into a stylized water table, delineated by vertical boarding and small cornice, continuous around the base of the house. The house remains largely as built. The major modification is the application of an asbestos material over the original wood siding. The roof is clad with asphalt shingles and each crest line carries what appears to be a metal railing of the type used on concrete porches; this last is probably the most obtrusive alteration. A vent or flue of recent construction rises from the rear of the house. The present owners have made several changes on the grounds: a prominent gazebo at the northeast corner of the lot and a three-bay carport adjacent to the main building. Later additions include a pair of lions flanking the entry walk. The interior of the house has been refurbished by its present owners and although several appointments in the kitchen-pantry area have been altered, the main floor is still intact. During the tenure of the one of its many owners, the house was divided into apartments. Several of the walls put in place then have been removed in accordance with the original construction. The flooring and appointments of the ballroom have been removed and a small building to the rear of the house was built with this timber. Among the original fixtures is the main floor bathroom which still has an 1890's vintage water closed, tub and sink. In addition to the front and back parlors, on the main floor there is a bedroom or morning room adjacent to the bathroom and kitchen which is a customary feature of 19th century houses. The pantry and kitchen have been altered but the dining room exhibits some lovely spindle work, a favorite embellishment of the day. The side porch opens onto the dining room. All of the interior doorways have transoms to allow light into the rooms. The interior woodwork is cedar and follows the medallion design of the exterior molding. Historic Features for White House: 1. Large frame residence with a basically rectangular plan. 2. Hipped roof. 3. Square tower on the northeast corner of the building capped by a steep pyramidal roof with a finial. 4. Ornate decoration including turned spindles, cross pieces, balusters and posts on the porches and gables. 5. Angled and vertical boarding on gables ends and tower. 6. Scrolled brackets supporting each horizontal eave. 7. Decorated barge boards. 8. Square bays on the east and west sides of the main floor. 9. Decorated dentils underpinning the eaves and bay windows. 10. Decorative surrounds on the first story which extend below the window opening and into a stylized water table, delineated by vertical boarding and small cornice, which is continuous around the base of the house. 11. Interior doorway transoms. 12. Interior doorway transoms.

**Major Bibliographic References**

**PHOTOS**



**View of** North Facade

**taken** 9/1/1997

**Photography Neg. No. (Roll No./Frame No.):**  
43-18

**Comments:**