

NARRATIVE SECTION

| | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|--|
| Study Unit | Other | Date Of Construction: <u>1910</u> |
| <u>Manufacturing/Industry</u> | | Architect: |
| <u>Other</u> | <u>Women's History</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 For environmentally aware people over a wide area of the Pacific Northwest, the words "Nisqually Delta" are practically synonymous with the name "Flo Brodie". This dedicated and enthusiastic woman devoted a vast amount of time and incredible energy over the years to spur preservation of the sole remaining unspoiled river delta on Puget Sound as habitat for native wildlife, a stopover for migratory birds and a marine ecosystem.

As a transplanted Easterner, moving to Seattle and later, Olympia, in the post-World War II era, she liked to point out to Northwest residents that she became aware of the pollution of our air and water, overcutting of forests, destruction of wildlife habitat and other ills of civilization in America early in her life, and had a desire to save some of what remained pristine in this region while still possible.

She believed that accurate information, delivered to those in positions to implement policy, was the prime weapon for success in any environmental campaign. Her tireless research and enthusiasm for educating the public, aided by a flow of photocopied material, along with attending state and federal governments produced positive results. Concerned citizens were inspired over the years to resist proposals to turn the crucial delta of the historic Nisqually River, originating in the glacial ice of Mount Rainier and flowing on to Puget Sound, into an over built, industrialized port, a super garbage dump, aluminum mill or other speculative ventures considered by politicians and business tycoons.

She first came to Olympia with her attorney husband - he was recruited to work in state governmental legal processes, she as an independent interior designer with Seattle affiliations. She quickly became involved with Washington State Capital Museum and contributed much volunteer time to a growing program of fine arts exhibitions and collecting by this cultural outpost.

A lasting friendship formed with Miss Margaret McKenny, ardent environmentalist and enlightened educator, from a pioneer Olympia family, turned her major interest to the Preservation of Nisqually Delta, and an association of like-minded citizens was formed in 1969. Flo Brodie served as president of Nisqually Delta Association from that year through 1980, continuing in an emeritus capacity until a lengthy battle with cancer resulted in her death on May 30, 1992.

Continuous efforts of the NDA and its supporters contributed much toward the designation of over 1,300 acres as a National Wildlife Refuge in 1974. The following year, Flo Brodie was named Environmentalist of the Year by the Washington Environmental Council, with formal presentation of the award made by the first woman to become Washington's Governor, Dr. Dixy Lee Ray.

The modest hoe of Flo Brodie, near the Capitol Campus, served as the focal point for Nisqually Preservation efforts and a research center for students from The Evergreen State College, which became the eventual recipient of her library and archives. Her photocopy machine, seldom at rest during her lifetime, was donated to the downtown office of South Puget Environmental Education Clearing House, more widely known as SPEECH.

After earlier years spent in Amstradam, New York, and Boston, Massachusetts, in more than a quarter century residing in Olympia, Flo Brodie, a truly rugged and determined individual with unflinching good will and flashes of New England humor, spearheaded the successful movement to save the Nisqually Delta for future generations, along with Margaret McKenny and other individuals with similar interests. She was a moving force in establishing a viable program of fine arts exhibitions and education at Washington State Capital Museum. She worked toward realizing the Margaret McKenny Memorial Park in Capitol Forest as a lasting tribute. With no children of her own, she became an inspiring mentor to many young people with a consuming interest in regional environmental issues.

The archives collected and organized with so much effort remain in permanent archived form, accessible to benefit present and future students appreciative of the beauties and wonder of our natural world.

The house was originally the office of the Chambers Packing Company which operated a slaughterhouse in this area around the turn of the century.

Description of Physical Appearance One and one-half story side gable house with a front gable on the north end. A shed roof dormer is over the front entry which is offset to the south on the front facade. Six-over-one multipane windows.

Major Bibliographic References Compiled by Del McBride, Curator Emeritus
Washington State Capital Museum

PHOTOS



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

Comments: