

Historic Property Ruddell House
Inventory Report for 901 NE Olympia Avenue, Olympia, WA 98506

LOCATION SECTION

Historic Name: Ruddell House **Field Site No.:** 968
Common Name: (#34-951) **OAHP No.:**
Property Address: 901 NE Olympia Avenue, Olympia, WA 98506
Comments: OLYMPIA

County **Township/Range/EW** **Section** **1/4 Sec** **1/4 1/4 Sec** **Quadrangle**
[REDACTED] T18R02W 14 TUMWATER

UTM Reference

Tax No./Parcel No. **Plat/Block/Lot**
78202700100 Swans Lot 1 Block 27

Supplemental Map(s) **Acreage**
City of Olympia

IDENTIFICATION SECTION

Field Recorder: Shanna Stevenson **Date Recorded:** 10/1/1999 **Survey Name:** OLYMPIA

Owner's Name: **Owner Address:** **City/State/Zip:**
Greg Rolan 901 NE Olympia Avenue Olympia, WA 98506

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

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

Contributing? **Local Register**

National Register Nomination: 0

Local District:

National Register District/Thematic Nomination Name:

DESCRIPTION SECTION

Historic Use: Domestic - Single Family House

Current Use: Domestic - Single Family House

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

Structural System: Plank

Changes to plan: Intact

Changes to interior: Unknown

Changes to original cladding: Intact

Changes to other:

Changes to windows: Extensive

Other (specify):

Cladding Wood - Drop Siding
Shingle

Foundation Unknown

Style Vernacular

Form/Type Single Family - Gable Front and Wing

Roof Material Asphalt / Composition

Roof Type Gable

NARRATIVE SECTION

Study Unit	Other	Date Of Construction: <u>1866</u>
<u>Architecture/Landscape Architecture</u>		Architect:
<u>Politics/Government/Law</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 It appears from available records that the Ruddell House was built about 1866 (Abstract of Title, Newspaper Articles) by Stephen D. and Margaret Stewart White Ruddell.

A native of Kentucky, Ruddell moved west first to Missouri and then came to Washington in 1852. He settled with his then wife, Winnifred Croghan Ruddell on Chambers Prairie. The current Ruddell Road near the intersection of Mullen Road is near their property. The house they built although now remodeled is listed on the Lacey Historic Register and is on Ruddell Road.

Ruddell took an active role in the community including being among the delegates from Thurston County to petition for a separate Territory from Oregon in 1852. He helped build the first schoolhouse in the area and donated land for the Ruddell Cemetery. He served as a volunteer in the Indian War. Winnifred Ruddell died in 1856. The husband of Margaret Stewart White, Ann Elizabeth Bigelow's mother, died in the Indian War in 1856. Ruddell married Mrs. White in 1856.

Ruddell served as County Commissioner and in the House of Representatives as well as being the first Territorial Assessor in the 1850s and 1860s.

From an abstract of title provided by the applicant, the property was purchased by the Ruddells in 1866, along with an adjacent lot. A newspaper article in 1869 gives their residence at Swantown. The 1870 census lists them near the Bigelows. Not only did Ann Elizabeth White Bigelow live nearby but also Mrs. Ruddell's other daughters, Clara White Dunbar and Mary White Byrd, built houses in the 1890s near this house.

Stephen Ruddell died in 1891 and Margaret White Ruddell in 1894. Both obituaries mention their living on the Eastside. The house was sold in 1902 to E. M. McClintic and his wife Theda who lived there until the 1930s. Other owners include W. J. and Thirza Frazier and J. A. and Mary Hershner.

There are few houses in Olympia which date from the 1860s. Additionally the salt-box style of the house is unique in the city.

Description of Physical Appearance Two story salt-box shaped house. The gable-front house has drop siding. The rear gable has decorative shingling. There is a later shed-roofed addition in the rear of the house. Lost Features include: Original wood-frame windows. Original entry door and porch.

Major Bibliographic References Abstract of Title, Lot 1 Block 27, Swan's Addition; Typewritten Manuscript, "The Ruddell Family," Obituary for Margaret Steward White Ruddell, May 11, 1894.

PHOTOS



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

Comments: