

Historic Property Silsby House
Inventory Report for 606 13th Ave SE, Olympia, WA 98501

LOCATION SECTION

Historic Name: Silsby House Field Site No.: 3532
Common Name: OAHP No.: 55
Property Address: 606 13th Ave SE, Olympia, WA 98501
Comments:

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

UTM Reference
Zone: 10 Spatial Type: Point Acquisition Code: TopoZone.com
Sequence: 10 Easting: 508050 Northing: 5209286

Tax No./Parcel No. Plat/Block/Lot
43700200700 Davis Lot 7 Block 2

Supplemental Map(s) Acreage
.17

IDENTIFICATION SECTION

Field Recorder: ss Date Recorded: 8/31/2005 Survey Name: Olympia

Owner's Name: John & Connie Fenner Owner Address: 606 13th Avenue SE City/State/Zip: Olympia, WA 98501

Classification: Building Resource Status Comments

Within a District? No Local Register

Contributing? Survey/Inventory

National Register Nomination:
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: 2

Structural System: Vertical Plank Construction

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

Cladding Wood - Drop Siding Foundation Post & Pier
Wood - Clapboard

Style Vernacular Form/Type Single Family - Gable Fronter / Homestead Hou

Roof Material Asphalt / Composition Roof Type Gable

NARRATIVE SECTION

Study Unit

Other

Date Of Construction: ca. 1883

Agriculture

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

Located in the eastern part of the downtown area, the property is part of the Swan Donation Land claim, sold to the Pattison Family in 1863, then sold and platted by Joseph Davis in 1873. Davis sold Block 2 to E. W. McMillan in 1881 who sold the property to John and Elvira (Josephine) Munson Silsby in 1883. The Silsby's had come from Bucksport, Maine where he was a sailmaker and miller. They came to Olympia in 1878 where he was a store clerk. He started his own business in a building at what is now 7th and Capitol Way in 1881 and worked with his son—in-law R. L. Weston. His wife, a sister of well known merchant J. H. Munson, died in 1888.

Because there are no property tax rolls available for that period, it is not known for certain that the house was built in 1883. In 1888, facing economic hard times, Silsby's deeded Block 2 to their daughter, Dora May Weston. The property was foreclosed in 1893 and the Weston's filed a homestead on the property in 1896. The 1890 Polk directory the Silsby's are shown at what appears to be this address. The 1891 and 1896 Sanborn Fire Insurance maps show the house.

Silsby remarried in 1890 and died in 1899. His obituary recounted his financial troubles.

Lots 7 and 8 (the house is currently on lot 7) were sold at a sheriff's sale in 1901 to satisfy a claim against the Westons. H. B. and Carrie McElroy bought the property and sold it to Isabella Eastman. There appears to have been work done on the house in 1911 because a lien of labor was filed as well as a claim by Olympia Door Company. (This may have been when the porch was built to the assessor's photo appearance.) The property was sold in 1911 to Roy Strange and subsequently sold many times. There is some evidence that there was a fire in the house at one time. It is not known when the porch was again altered. The addition in the back is evident in the 1930s assessor photo and the garage is evident on the 1947 Sanborn map.

Description of Physical Appearance

One and one half story end gable style house. The cladding is drop or rustic siding. The gabled house has wide eaves with a narrow fascia. The front entry is offset to the east. It appears to have a period door. There is a large sash window on the front façade. There is currently a wrap-around porch which extends around the front and east sides of the house. From the assessor's photo, the porch replaces a hipped roof porch with round pillars and low rail. The windows are two over two and one over one sash. There is center brick chimney. There is an oblong one story flat, roofed rear addition which appears on the 1930s photo. A small garage is on the east side of the property with similar cladding to the main house but with some craftsman detailing. It appears on the 1947 Sanborn map. Non-original additions include the wrap-around porch, front gable cladding and the small rectangular rear-most addition.

Major Bibliographic References

Information from Abstract of Title for the property, provided by the owners. "John A. Silsby" Olympia Tribune Souvenir Edition, May 1891. Thurston County Assessor's Records. Polk City Directories. Obituary for John A Silsby, Washington Standard, July 14, 1899, pg. 3. Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, 1891, 1896, 1908, 1924, 1947.

PHOTOS



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

Comments:



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

Comments: