

**Historic Property** John and Elise Adams House  
**Inventory Report for** 135 Cushing St St NW, Olympia, WA 18

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**LOCATION SECTION**

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**Historic Name:** John and Elise Adams House **Field Site No.:** 3553  
**Common Name:** **OAHP No.:** 3553  
**Property Address:** 135 Cushing St St NW, Olympia, WA 18  
**Comments:**

**County** **Township/Range/EW** **Section** **1/4 Sec** **1/4 1/4 Sec** **Quadrangle**  
T18R02W 15 NW SW

**UTM Reference**

**Tax No./Parcel No.** **Plat/Block/Lot**  
85003701700 WOODRUFF ADDITION TO OLYMPIA LT 16 N8F ALL 17 & 18

**Supplemental Map(s)** **Acreage**

**IDENTIFICATION SECTION**

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**Field Recorder:** Jennifer Kenney **Date Recorded:** 10/25/2013 **Survey Name:**

**Owner's Name:** **Owner Address:** **City/State/Zip:**  
DIVERS, DONALD K & 2802 N WARNER ST Tacoma, WA 98407  
EMBER

**Classification:** Not Identified **Resource Status** **Comments**  
Local Register Olympia Heritage Register

**Within a District?** No

**Contributing?**

**National Register Nomination:**

**Local District:**

**National Register District/Thematic Nomination Name:**

**DESCRIPTION SECTION**

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**Historic Use:** Domestic - Single Family House

**Current Use:** Domestic - Multiple Family House

**Plan:** **No. of Stories:** 2

**Structural System:**

**Changes to plan:** **Changes to interior:** Extensive  
**Changes to original cladding:** **Changes to other:** Extensive  
**Changes to windows:** **Other (specify):** Converted to triplex i

**Cladding** **Foundation**  
**Style** Other **Form/Type** Single Family  
Unknown

**Roof Material** **Roof Type**

**NARRATIVE SECTION**

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<b>Study Unit</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>Date Of Construction:</b>
		<b>Architect:</b>
		<b>Builder:</b>
		<b>Engineer:</b>

**Property appears to meet criteria for the National Register of Historic Places:**

**Property is located in a historic district (National and/or local):**

**Property potentially contributes to a historic district (National and/or local):**

**Statement of Significance**     The house was built circa 1900 on the site of an orchard. John J. Adams and his wife owned Lots 17 and 18 for many years. Mr. Adams was a Swedish speaking Finn. Born in Finland around 1862, he immigrated to the United States between 1885 and 1890. In Olympia John Adams worked for the City of Olympia street department. Besides his regular duties, he became an assistant foreman and commissioner of the department. A newspaper article on February 7, 1914 noted that the City Council voted to increase Mr. Adams' daily wage by 25 cents in recognition of his "additional service." Later, according to City Directories, John Adams served as a laborer in the Olympia Veneer Company. Many Scandinavian immigrants worked in the mills of Washington State's Capital City. Mr. Adams also appeared to have been involved in the local Swedish-Finnish community.

The name of the wife of John J. Adams varies in the surviving records. It ranges from Elise/Elsie (1910 Federal Census), Katherine (1915-1916 City Directory), Elizabeth (1920 Federal Census), Katrina (1925 City Directory), Catherine (1930 Federal Census), Lizzie (1934 City Directory), and Elise (1943 Chain of Title). It certainly seems to be the same person. Perhaps her real name was a Swedish-Finnish version of Elizabeth Katherine or Katherine Elizabeth. In any case, she was a Swedish speaking Finn like her husband. Born around 1865 in Finland, she immigrated to the United States in 1900.

Mr. and Mrs. Adams had an adopted daughter name Ester or Esther. She was born in Colorado around 1902 or 1903, and was noted in Olympia newspaper accounts for her recitations in Swedish and singing at public programs. Ester/Esther lived with her parents into the 1920s. At that time she was working as a stenographer or recorder for the Washington State Secretary of State Office.

**Description of Physical Appearance**     The John and Elise Adams House is largely intact though the house was converted to a triplex in the 1960s, and addition built onto the back. The siding and windows are original. The house has a front porch and divided light windows on the front and one upstairs.

**Major Bibliographic References**     Historian Drew Crooks, Thurtson Title Company, Ancestry.com, the Daily Olympian

**PHOTOS**

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

**Comments:**