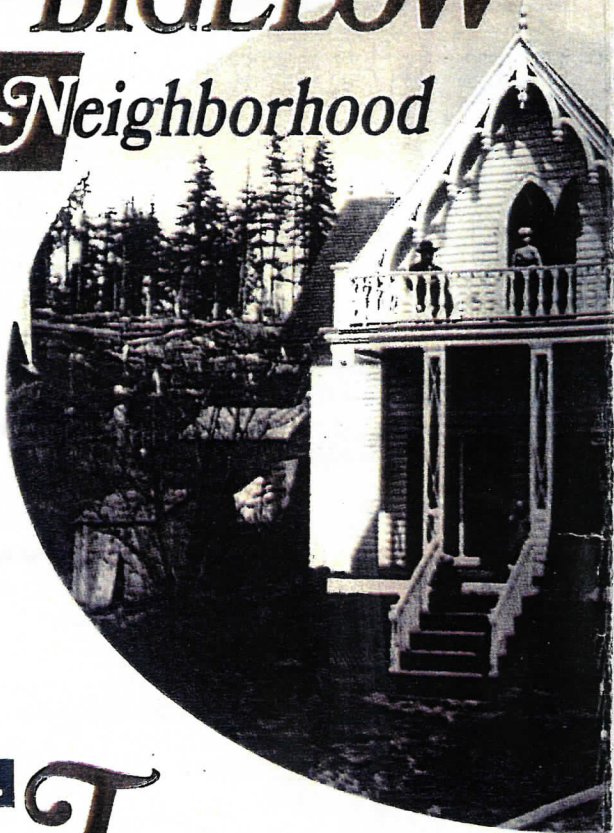


BIGELOW

Neighborhood



1.

T

he Bigelow House is a Carpenter Gothic style home, one of the oldest frame buildings in the State of Washington. The house was built in 1854 by Daniel Richardson and Ann Elizabeth White Bigelow. It has remained in the same family since it was built and retains all of the papers, books and artifacts associated with this important pioneer family.

Daniel Bigelow, a New York native, came to the Puget Sound Country in 1851 when it was still part of Oregon. He received a law degree at Harvard and then headed westward over the Oregon Trail by ox team. He chose Olympia as the most promising city on the Sound. Bigelow opened a law office in Olympia shortly after he arrived and chose a Donation Land Claim and built his house on it above Budd Inlet.

Below: Bigelow House, ca. 1860,
from the Bigelow House
Collection.

(See map #1)



Bigelow was an influential member of the new settlement.

His Fourth of July speech in Olympia in 1852 is considered the turning point of the effort to create a separate territory for Washington from Oregon. He served in almost all the elected positions in Thurston County and was a delegate to the first Territorial Legislature. He formulated the first education law of Washington and helped start one of the first colleges in Washington which later became the University of Puget Sound.

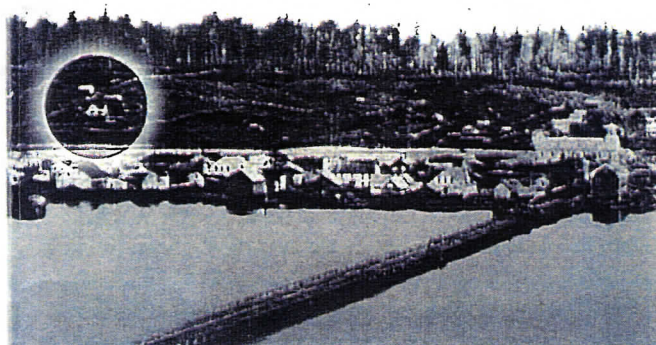
Bigelow was a voice for woman's suffrage and with Susan B. Anthony helped start the Washington Woman's Suffrage Association. Miss Anthony visited the house in 1871. Bigelow's speech before the Washington Legislature that year is a landmark in the woman's suffrage movement.

Ann Elizabeth White Bigelow also made the journey west over the Oregon Trail with her mother and brothers and sisters. At the age of 14, she had charge of an ox team. Her family settled at Chamber's Prairie

near Olympia and she was one of the first school teachers in the Territory, teaching students in the Packwood House near the Nisqually River in 1853.

The original cabin where Bigelow took his bride (he was 30, she just 18) is still on the property. The Bigelow family later included eight children. Daniel Bigelow died in 1905 and his wife Ann Elizabeth in 1926. Their descendants have lived on in the house which both on the interior and exterior remains much as it was built in 1854.

Below: One of the earliest views of Olympia showing the East Side and the Bigelow House to the left of the photograph, ca. 1869. Photograph from the State Capital Museum. *(See map #1)*



The Bigelow Neighborhood honors Daniel Richardson Bigelow and his wife Ann Elizabeth White Bigelow who owned most of the land now in the neighborhood. Many of the homes were built by the Bigelow and White Families and the historic Bigelow House is the centerpiece of this historic neighborhood which overlooks Budd Inlet.

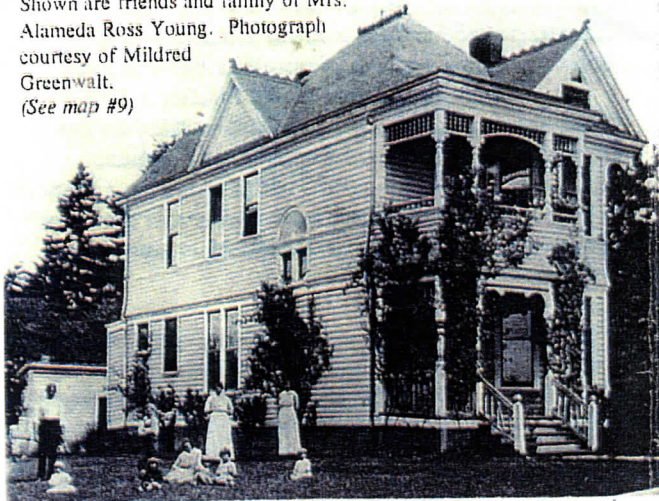
2. Curtiss House, 903 E. Glass Ave.

A good example of the Victorian Cottage style, the house was first owned by dressmaker and milliner, Carolyn Curtiss and was built ca. 1903. It is on the Olympia Heritage Register.

3. Bigelow-Bailey House, 936 E. Glass Ave.

The restored decorated pioneer house was built about 1893 by the Bigelow family who held the property as a rental for many years. The house was restored in the 1980's.

Below: The Byrd House, photograph ca. 1915.
Shown are friends and family of Mrs.
Alameda Ross Young. Photograph
courtesy of Mildred
Greenwalt.
(See map #9)



4. Seventh Day Adventist Church, 618 N. Puget

The Seventh Day Adventist Church of Olympia was organized in 1892 with seven members at the home of James Boggs. After meeting in various rented quarters and at another nearby location, they occupied this church in 1939. It was designed by noted Olympia architect Joseph Wohleb. The New Life Baptist Church, the first predominantly Black church in Olympia, purchased the building in 1979.

5. Howell House, 413 N. Quince St.

Bennett Howell, an early Olympia teamster and liveryman, built this house using one of the oldest building methods in the area, box construction. This type of construction pre-dates "balloon frame" buildings with the familiar web of dimensional lumber. Instead wide cedar planks were placed close together making up the sidewalls. The house is listed on the Olympia Heritage Register as an example of a working class home built on the Eastside, one of the city's earliest residential areas. There is also a large spring behind the house, one of many on the Eastside of Olympia.

6. Funk House, 1202 E. Olympia Ave.

The Funk House is high style Queen Anne house. Its well-preserved exterior offers a prime look at the ornamentation produced by area millworks for residential construction. George and Goldie Robertson Funk were prominent Olympians active in civil, legal and intellectual circles. The Funks purchased the house in 1906, shortly after it was built and lived there until Mr. Funk's death in 1955. The house is listed on the Olympia and National Registers of Historic Places.

7. Clark House, 1126 E. Olympia Ave.

The house was built about 1900 by Thomas Clark and has had some alterations, including a rear section added in 1940.

8. Dunbar House, 1118 E. Olympia Ave.

This decorated Pioneer Style House was owned by Supreme Court Justice R. O. Dunbar who was a member of the 1889 Constitutional Convention and the Territorial Council and House of Representatives. His wife was Clara White Dunbar, a sister of Ann Elizabeth White Bigelow. It is listed on the Olympia Heritage Register.

9. Byrd House, 1106 E. Olympia Ave.

An excellent example of the Queen Anne style on the eastside, the house was built ca. 1891 by George and Mary White Byrd according to available records. Mrs. Byrd was the sister of Ann Elizabeth White Bigelow. The house was later owned for many years by Mrs. Alameda Ross. The house is both an Olympia and National Register property.

10. Sparks House, 1018 E. Olympia Ave.

One of the best examples of a Victorian Cottage style house in Olympia, the house was built by City Clerk, Charles Sparks, and his wife, Avis, in 1904. It is listed on the Olympia Heritage Register.

11. Johnson House, 1002 E. Olympia Ave.

The Craftsman/Bungalow style house was built about 1912. John and Anna Johnson owned the house. He was track foreman for the Olympia Light and Power Company which ran the street car line.

12. Rudkin House, 1005 E. Olympia Ave.

The Frank Rudkin House is an outstanding example of residential architecture from the early 20th century in Olympia, reflecting elements of both later Queen Anne and post-Victorian house styles. Built in 1905 by one of the state's outstanding jurists and Chief Justice of the State Supreme Court, the house is important both for its association with the accomplishments of Rudkin and as an illustration of housing for the city's professional elite at the turn of the century. The house is listed on the Olympia and National Registers of Historic Places.

13. Guyot House, 902 E. Olympia Ave.

The house was built in ca. 1928 by John Norris. In 1932, his sister-in-law and her family Nettie Dobbins Guyot and Fred Guyot moved into the house. Their daughters were

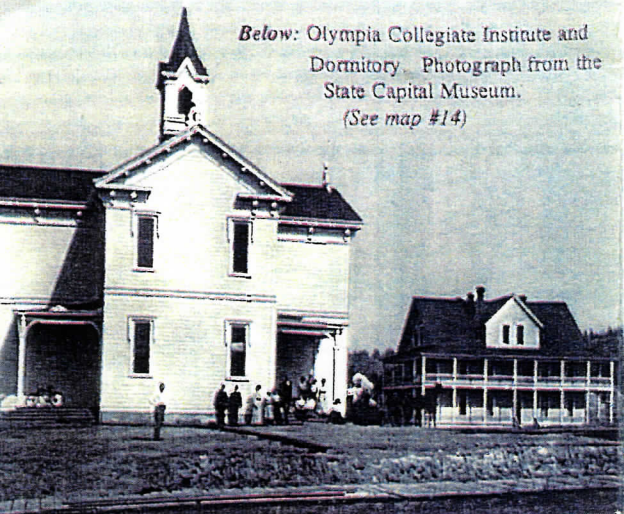
This brochure has been financed in part with Federal funds from the National Park Service, Department of the Interior administered by the Washington State Department of Community Development (DCD), Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (OAHP) and the City of Olympia. However, the contents and opinions do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the Department of the Interior, DCD, or OAHP. This program received Federal funds from the National Park Service. Regulations of the U.S. Department of Interior strictly prohibit unlawful discrimination in departmental Federally Assisted Programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, age or handicap. Any person who believes he or she has been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility operated by a recipient of Federal assistance should write to: Director, Equal Opportunity Program, U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, D.C. 20013-7127.



Gladys and Grace. Grace, one of Olympia's first telephone operators, continued to live in the house until 1986. The iron gate and concrete bulkhead belonged to a larger property once owned by the Dobbins family next door. There was a huge

barn backing on the alley where horses could be rented which remained until 1920. The Craftsman style house retains its historic features incorporating unique uses of concrete and wrought iron.

*Below: Olympia Collegiate Institute and
Dormitory. Photograph from the
State Capital Museum.
(See map #14)*



14. Site of Olympia Collegiate Institute

Olympia's first college was founded in 1858 with the help of Daniel Bigelow. The Methodist College was initially located downtown. In 1875, the Methodists erected a new college building for the Union Academy at this site. The Methodists later moved the college to Tacoma. By 1883, the school was then known as the Olympia Collegiate Institute and in 1890, a dormitory was built. The last graduating class left the school in 1893. Another college took over the structure in 1894. Olympic College was a stock supported institution which remained at the site until 1906. The Pacific Lutheran Evangelical Seminary was dedicated here in 1907 and used the building until 1914. They were followed in 1914 by the Olympia School District which used the building until 1916 as a high school. The Lutherans sold the old school in 1924 and it was later torn down.

15. Budd Inlet

Budd Inlet is the southernmost point on Puget Sound. It was named by Lieutenant Commander Charles Wilkes for Thomas A. Budd acting master of the Peacock and a member of the U.S. Exploring Expedition of 1841. Budd was appointed midshipman in 1829 and left the Navy briefly. He was killed in action March 22, 1862 during the Civil War.

The east waterway for years was important to a huge veneer plant which faced on State Street. Tugs and barges carrying sawdust used the waterway and the pilings can still be seen at low tide, as can the mouth of Moxlie Creek.

For more information contact the
City of Olympia at 753-8031
Copyright City of Olympia and
Olympia Heritage Commission 1993



City of
OLYMPIA