

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 (OAHF) 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 OAHF.

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.

For more information contact the City of Olympia at 753-8031.

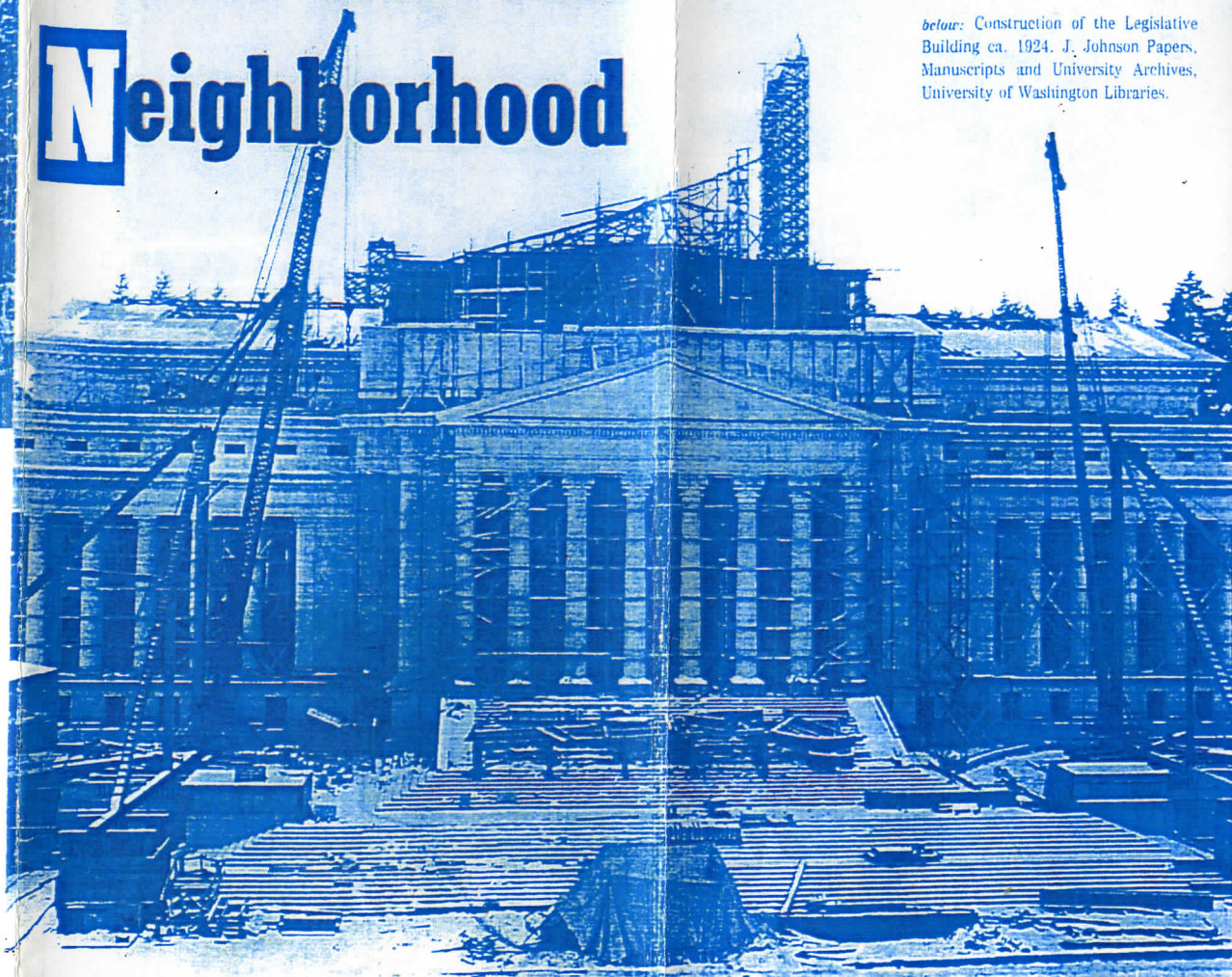
Copyright  
City of Olympia  
and  
Olympia Heritage Commission  
1992



City of  
OLYMPIA

printed on recycled paper  
Graphic Design by Ken Brown • Duo-Tones and Photo  
Placement by Designers Service Bureau • Printed by  
City Press • Tuncatolu bu Graphic West

# SOUTH CAPITOL Neighborhood



below: Construction of the Legislative Building ca. 1924. J. Johnson Papers, Manuscripts and University Archives, University of Washington Libraries.

*The History* of Olympia's South Capitol Neighborhood is closely linked to the history of Washington's Capitol Campus. As early as 1893, plans were made to build a grand new capitol on the hill above downtown Olympia. Construction of the first building—the Temple of Justice—did not start, however, until 1911. The domed Legislative Building, centerpiece of the capitol grounds, was completed in 1928.

In the first decades of the 20th century, Olympia residents banked on the future by building hundreds of houses near the new Capitol Campus. Although the

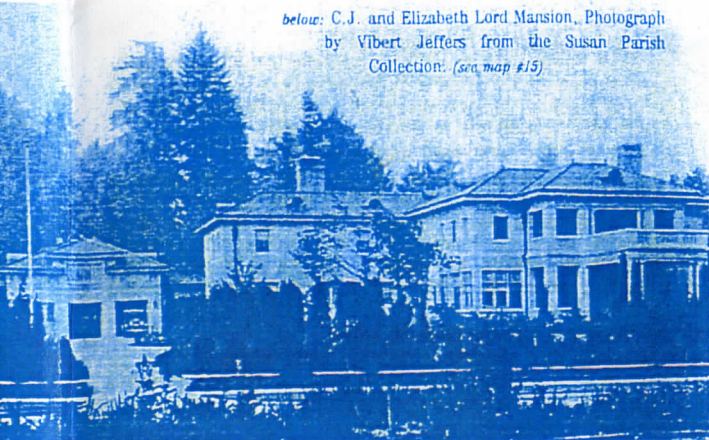
oldest house in the district dates from 1878, the majority of homes were built between 1900 and 1929.

Nearly every building style of the late 19th and early 20th centuries can be found in this neighborhood: Olympia's premier architect, Joseph Wohleb, is represented by 11 buildings, including the Lord and McCleary Mansions and the Mission Style Lincoln School. Other architects whose work can be seen here include Elizabeth Ayer, Edwin Ivey, W.H. Whitley and J. Lister Holmes.





*below: C.J. and Elizabeth Lord Mansion. Photograph  
by Vibert Jeffers from the Susan Parish  
Collection. (see map #15)*



Some homes are expansive and elegant, built in what architects call "high style." Others are small and modest, the houses of working folks. Taken together with the neighborhood's churches, parks, corner store and elementary school, they present a clear picture of Northwest life in the years before World War II.

In 1991 the South Capitol Neighborhood was listed on the National Register of Historic Places. With more than 440 properties, it is one of the largest National Register Districts in Washington. Many homes also bear the bronze plaques of the Olympia Heritage Register. Please remember that these are private residences. Only the Lord Mansion (now the State Capital Museum) and the McCleary Mansion are open to the public.

The walking tour loop is about 1.2 miles and takes about 45 minutes to complete. The District is served by city buses 12, 13, and 15 as well as the Capitol Shuttle.

*right: Elizabeth Ayer, first  
woman graduate of the University of Washington School of  
Architecture. Lacey Museum  
Photograph. (see map #14)*



*left: Joseph Wohleb. Photo-  
graph from the Wohleb Family.*



excellent example of the Craftsman/Bungalow Style. It housed a music studio during the 1930's and was recently restored by the owners. The wide porch and brackets are typical of the style.

**2. 1522, 1528, 1532, 1602, 1606 S. Columbia**

These houses were built during the early 1920's as demonstration models by the Tumwater Lumber Mills Company of Olympia. This company pioneered precut houses in the west under the name "Tumwater Ready Cut Homes". Tumwater Lumber Mills built over 500 homes in Olympia, and featured this row of houses in their promotional materials. Some have a gambrel (Dutch Colonial) roofline.

**3. 1607 S. Columbia, Hanson House**

Built by Olympia's foremost architect, Joseph Wohleb in 1914 for Bertha and O.C. Hanson, a local oyster grower, this imposing house is a mixture of Craftsman/Bungalow and English Revival styling.

**4. 1617 S. Columbia, Parker House**

The home of Emmett Parker, a Washington Supreme Court Justice and his wife Emma G. Parker, this is another variation on the Craftsman/Bungalow Style built in 1904. Notice the hipped dormers extending from the roofline with a window railing.

**5. 127 W. 17th, Winstanley House**

Guy and Hattie Winstanley built this large Craftsman/Bungalow in 1910. He was the proprietor of The Smokeshop in downtown Olympia which was at the center of local political life. Distinctive elements of the house include the broad eaves, half timbering and decorative porch rail.

**6. 1628 S. Water, Dufault House**

One of the many well-preserved Foursquare style houses in the area, this house was built ca. 1903 by Manda and Charles Dufault, who was an Olympia businessman and city councilman. Its bell-cast hipped roof and sculptured brackets under the eaves are typical of the style.

**7. 1626 S. Water, Neuffer House**

This handsome house was built in 1906 by Paul and Emily Neuffer. He first established his jeweler's business in Olympia in 1890. The wide roof dormers add to the low-slung effect of the Craftsman/Bungalow style.

**8. 303 W. 17th, Springer House**

The Springer House is one of the especially fine homes in the area which was built in the Colonial Revival Style in 1917 by architect Joseph Wohleb for C.H. and Eva Springer. Springer was a local lumberman and mill owner. Notable elements of the house are the Georgian dormer windows and classic porch design.

**9. 1821 S. Water, Chambers Packing Company**

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

**10. 1825 S. Water, Eugley House**

An eclectic design, this house was built ca. 1908 by M.C. and Bertha Eugley. Mrs. Eugley was a local milliner. The turret is said to be reminiscent of a house built on the Rhine River in Germany.

**11. 1910 S. Water, Labaree-Kelly House**

This 1910 Colonial Revival house was built in 1923 for Rose Labaree. The unique entryway was restored from historic photographs.

**12. 221 W. 20th, French House**

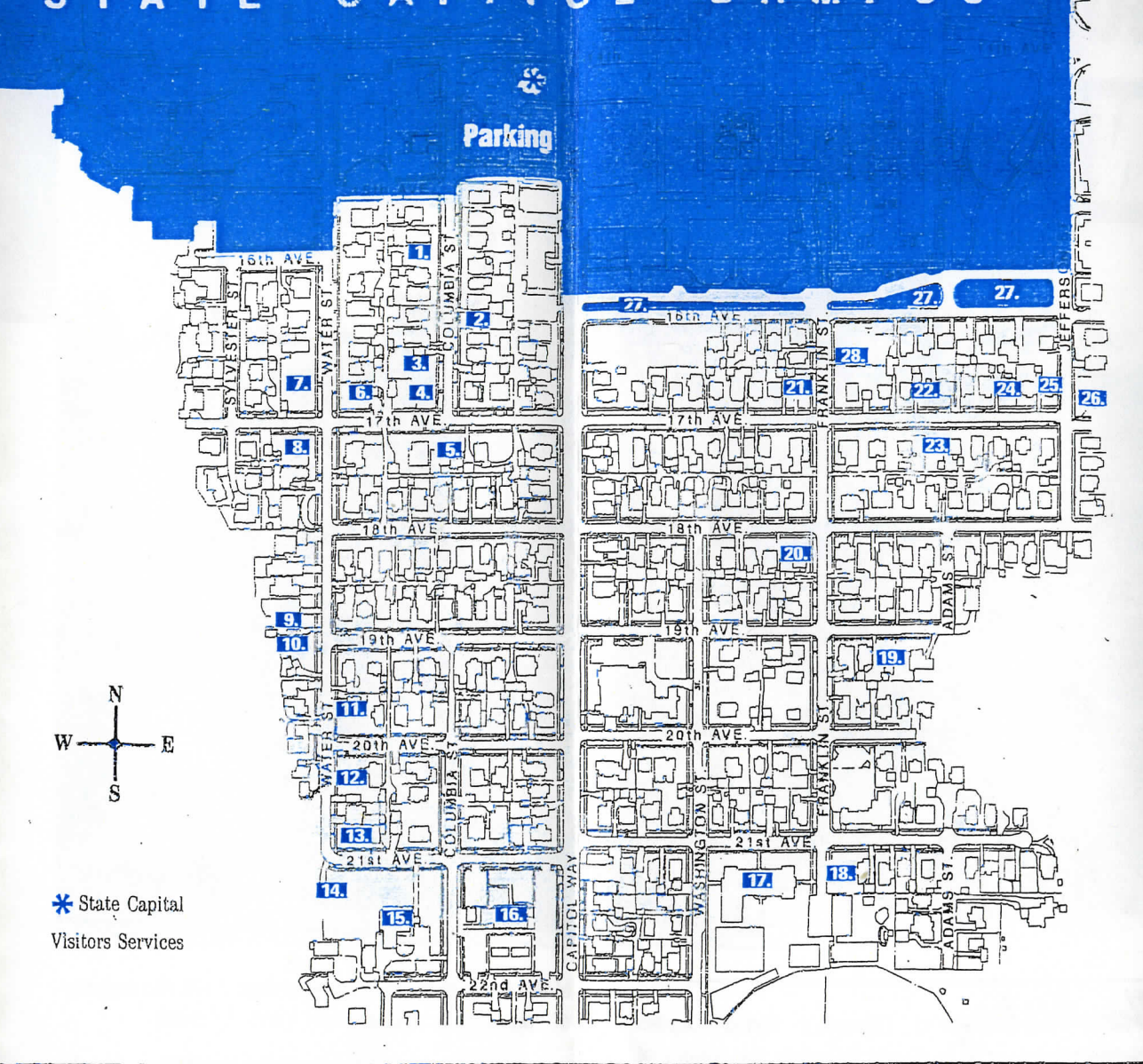
This Craftsman/Bungalow style house was built ca. 1912 by Ursula Clark and was later the home of Washington Supreme Court Justice Walter French and his wife Bessie. The combination of shingles and clapboard cladding is characteristic of the style.

**13. 2020 S. Water, Christensen House**

This home was built in 1920-21 by Frank Christensen, a local attorney and his wife Ruby. The house was featured in an Olympia promotional booklet in 1926. Notice the rolled roofline which is unusual in Olympia.

**14. 301 W. 21st, Bridges House**

One of the most distinctive and finest homes in the city, the English Revival style Bridges House was built in 1923 in a design by architect



Elizabeth Ayer, a native Olympian, who was the first woman graduate of the University of Washington School of Architecture. She practiced with Edwin Ivey of Seattle. The home was built for Jesse B. and Mary S. Bridges. Jesse Bridges was a Washington Supreme Court Justice who served on the bench from 1919 to 1927. Fine elements include the arched entryway and plaques on the facade.

**15. 211 W. 21st, State Capital Museum**

The C.J. and Elizabeth Lord House was built in 1923-24 in a Mission revival design by Joseph Wohleb. It is perhaps Wohleb's finest expression of his Southern California architectural roots. Lord was Olympia's foremost banker, and also served as its mayor. The house he commissioned features extraordinary uses of interior wood and a beautifully landscaped setting. Its grounds were designed by a gardener from Kew

Gardens, London. The mansion now houses the State Capital Museum, open 10-4 Tuesday through Friday, 12-4 weekends. The Museum features exhibits about South Sound Indians, and Territorial/ State History as well as changing displays.

**16. 111 W. 21st, McCleary House**

The impressive Henry and Hildur McCleary House in Olympia was built between 1923 and 1925 at a cost of over \$100,000. One local tale contends that McCleary, who was a creditor of C.J. Lord's bank, asked Joseph Wohleb to build him a house that would overshadow the Lord Mansion. McCleary was a local timber baron and mill owner. (McCleary, Washington, was his company town.) The house is an imposing, two-story English renaissance design of brick and stone, with extensive use of fine wood and stained glass. The foyer is open for public view 8 to 5 during the week.



**17. 213 E. 21st, Lincoln School**

The Lincoln School was one of four Mission style schools designed for the Olympia School District by Joseph Wohleb who was then district architect. The structure was built in 1922 for \$115,607 and replaced an earlier Lincoln school which was built in the area in 1891. Typical of the Mission style schools are the tile roof, stone plaques and arched windows with marbled glass.

Adjacent to the school to the south is Stevens Field, long a center of recreation in Olympia. The area was platted by Hazard Stevens, son of first territorial governor Isaac Stevens. George C. Mills, a local hardwareman and school trustee purchased the land and deeded it for athletic purposes to the Olympia School District for \$6000 in 1923.

**18. 301 E. 21st, Buell House**

Arthur and Naomi Buell had this house built in 1931-32 by Forrest Meeker in their own design. Mr. Buell was a bridge engineer who incorporated the arch motif repeatedly into his "House of Many Arches."

**19. 311 E. 19th, Cunningham House**

This house, an outstanding example of the Art Moderne/International style, was designed by G.B. Reishus for Dorsey and Goldie Cunningham, local business people in 1940.

**20. 223 E. 18th, Stentz House**

This Craftsman/Bungalow house was built in 1917 for J.B. and Birdie Stentz in a Joseph Wohleb design. Stentz was owner of the Olympia Buckeye Extract Company which specialized in spices, flavorings and other products before World War II.

**21. 224 E. 17th, Phillips House**

Built in 1922 in a Tumwater Lumber Mills pre-cut design, this house was built for Dr. Frank "Hockey" Phillips and his bride, Helen Whiting. She was a music teacher and he was a well-known dentist in Olympia.

**22. 320 E. 17th, Morford-Mallery House**

The house was built ca. 1908 for William Morford, one of the first street-car conductors in the city, and his wife Velma. Another resident was George L. Harrigan, uncle of singer Bing Crosby.

**23. 321 E. 17th, Vance house**

This English Revival Style house was built ca. 1925 by Thomas and Gertrude Vance. Mr. Vance was a local attorney. The steeply pitched gable and entry are typical of the style.

**24. E. 17th Street**

The 400 block of East 17th Ave. contains an excellent row of variations on the Craftsman/Bungalow style.

**25. 426 E. 17th, John Dunbar House**

The John Dunbar House was built in 1920 for John and Marie Dunbar. John Dunbar served as Washington State Attorney General from 1923 to 1933. Marie Dunbar later became chief social reporter for *The Seattle Times*.

**26. 504 E. 17th, Wright House**

Designed by Joseph Wohleb, the house was built in 1923 for Thurston County Superior Court Judge D.F. Wright and his wife Fanna. The house was later the home of Washington Supreme Court Justice Edgar Ward Schwellenbach and his wife Ethel. Distinctive architectural elements include the port cochere sheltering the driveway and the palladian windows on the house.

**27. Maple Park**

Maple Park was created in 1871 when Hazard Stevens deeded four acres of his plat for a park, provided that the city pay for the planting and protection of 100 maple trees. By early December of that year, Stevens had planted the trees and received \$200 for his work. When the capitol campus was expanded in the early 1960's, the original trees were removed to make way for the present parkway. The maples standing here now were planted in 1971.

**28. 301 Maple Park, Ogden House**

Built in 1896 by lumberman Harold Ogden, the house is a rare example in Olympia of the Shingle Style. It was also the home of George and Helen Gordon Mills. Mills was State Treasurer and a mayor of Olympia. The five sided dormers with multipane windows and the broad porch