more development along its route. As downtown business blocks expanded, people—and sometimes houses—were moving southward. With the building of the Temple of Justice to house the Supreme Court in 1912 and, in anticipation of the construction of a permanent state capitol in the 1920s, the trend of development was assured. Although the area was still considered remote, when Lincoln School was built in 1921, it soon became the heart of the neighborhood. Children of doctors and bankers, Olympia Brewery workers, state officials, downtown business owners, clerks and lumber barons sat in rows in class and mingled on Stevens Field, the playground for the whole city. The South End, as it was called, became a place where everyone—millworker and mill owner—rubbered shoulders.

But again, changes transformed the neighborhood. As state government grew in the 1960s, the Capitol Campus expanded across Capitol Way to build over an entire section of houses, apartments and Olympia’s only high school. The interstate freeway carved off the southern tip and Capitol Lake inundated the winding estuary on the western boundary. The remaining part of the neighborhood consciously began to value its historic structures and shaded streets of a traditional residential area. Now called the South Capitol Neighborhood, it claims an identity worth saving. The area was designated a National Register Historic District in 1991. The District was recognized for its history, architectural character, and the overall integrity of the residential neighborhood, including plentiful shade trees and extensive landscaping.

**NEIGHBORHOOD ARCHITECTURE**

The oldest house surviving in the neighborhood, at 202 East 21 Street, was built in 1878, and while modified over time, still displays its basic structure with tall narrow windows and Classic-influenced triangular pediment with returned eaves. In the following decades, houses were built by local carpenters using plan books in styles now called Pioneer or Vernacular. As local mills turned out a variety of trim, houses sported the new decorative elements such as spindle-work, window trim and shingles cut in elaborate patterns. Houses in this Victorian or Queen Anne style expressed an exuberant love of ornamentation that reeled in the bustling new possibilities of the industrial era.

Inevitably, there was a reaction to the excesses of this period, and tastes shifted to a simpler, more hand-crafted style touted by reformers in the Arts and Crafts movement. This change in style coincided with the height of home building in the neighborhood, from the 1910s—1920s, and is amply represented by bungalows employing wood cladding or California-style stucco, with overhanging eaves, prominent dormers and wide entryways. Tudor-style wood trim accents some houses. Some houses display elements of more than one period as styles transitioned from one mode to another. One company, prolific both locally and nationally, the Tumwater Lumber Mills (TLM), built “kit” houses that could be assembled from precut parts, complete with hardware and instructions. There are some architect-designed homes, most frequently from the office of Joseph Wohleb, Olympia’s signature architect.

By the end of the twenties most of the neighborhood was built. Some of the larger lots were divided as residents gave up keeping cows and large gardens. After World War II, infill homes adopted suburban ranch styles with the garage placed in front—the car culture triumphant—rather than in the rear, accessed by traditional alleys.

**TOUR**

This walking tour highlights a selection of houses chosen from among many equally storied and architecturally significant sites. Note the round bronze markers on properties throughout the neighborhood awarded by the Olympia Heritage Commission, another source of information for visitors. This publication was sponsored by the South Capitol Neighborhood Association with funding from the City of Olympia. Historian: Anne Kilgannon
Photographer: Doug Walker, CPP, FP
Designer: Warren Wilkins

*Another style also prevalent, the English Revival, has close eaves, a steep roofline and arched entryways. Tudor-style wood trim accents some homes. Some houses display elements of more than one period as styles transitioned from one mode to another.*

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*Another popular style was the Four-square. These houses are usually two, or two and one-half stories, notably boxy in shape, with hipped rooflines, prominent dormers and wide eaves. Decoration is restrained, with simple but substantial posts on porches, wood siding and divided light windows.*

*The city of Olympia was first settled in the 1840s along the original waterfront and then spread east, west and south up the enclosing hills. The first developments in this area were a trail from Tumwater blazed through the forest and a wooden bridge that traversed the Deschutes estuary leading to a wagon road, now signposted The Old Oregon Trail. Soon logging operations carved out areas for settlement and several homesteads located here. Significantly, town founder Isaac Stevens built his home and office nearby, one of the first houses in the neighborhood, and the beginning of the close association with territorial and state government.*

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J.B. Stentz House 223 East 18th, 1917 Craftsman bungalow, Wohleb design. Stentz carried on the Oly. Lumber business in partnership with the Buckeye Extract Company, manufacturing food-flavoring extracts. He also sold toiletries, medicinal preparations, confections, baking supplies, teas, coffees and tobacco.

Ellen Parrott House 401 East 18th, 1904 Pioneer style home built for $500 for mother of David and Fred Parrott, a prominent firm of Parrott and Hahn, still in business.

John and Della Clemens House 418 East 18th, a small but well-appointed Craftsman bungalow erected in 1929 for E.H. Tomlinson, a local tailor, incorporating some timbers from the old Opera House.

Judge Wright House 504 East 17th, Wohleb designed this house with its distinctive portico and Palladian windows for Superior Court Judge Wright and his wife Fanna in 1923. Supreme Court Justice Edgar Schellenbach and his wife Ethel also resided here.

Beginning with the John Dunbar house at 122 East 17th and walking west toward Capitol Way are many finely preserved Craftsman bungalows, built during the building boom of 1910-1920s. Note all the variations of this popular housing style, including the distinctive porte cochere that still exists at the Frank Phillips House. 224 East 17th. Built for dentist “Bockey” Phillips and his wife Helen Whiting, a music teacher, a two-story frame house with a Tumwater cut-put trim.

George House 125 East 17th, Pioneer style home built in 1896, one of several of this early style on this block. Has an outbuilding from same era.

Preston M. Troy House 115 East 17th, 1893 Victorian home owned by Troy family. Preston served as city attorney and county prosecuting attorney, president of Olympia National Bank, and was active in local organizations. Son, Smith Troy grew up here and returned for his term and was said to keep a cow he milked himself.

Prentice Moore House 110 West 21st. Allegedly named for the first territorial governor, was the play-field for the entire city. Besides school sport contests, special community events took place here, from early agricultural fairs to mock war exercises.

J. Otis House 203 East 18th, 1914 Craftsman bungalow, Wohleb designed for Otis, a local Realtor and officer of Capital Savings and Loan.

Lincoln School Washington and East 21st. Saved and refurbished, one of the four Mission Revival schools designed by Wohleb, built in 1921. Originally served 1-8th grades. Designed by Steves Field, named for the first territorial governor, was the play-field for the entire city. Besides school sport contests, special community events took place here, from early agricultural fairs to mock war exercises.

J. Otis House 203 East 18th, 1914 Craftsman bungalow designed for Otis, a local Realtor and officer of Capital Savings and Loan.

Emmett Parker/Mills House 167 Columbia, 1904 Craftsman bungalow. Parker served on the State Supreme Court from 1919-1931, losing his law practice to his son Jesse Mills was mayor of Olympia 1917-1920.

A cluster of Tumwater Lumber Mill houses all built on Columbia between 1920-1921. Showing the variety of designs offered, from Craftsman bungalows to Dutch Colonial style: #1522, #1528, #1532, #1602, and #1606.

The Music Studio 1513 Columbia, 1910 extensively restored Craftsman bungalow designed by H.L. Ellsworth who built several other houses in the area: a Craftsman bungalow duplex in 1927 at 209-211 West 19th designed by Wohleb, a smaller bungalow next door at 203 West 19th in 1921, and even smaller one on 1111 Columbia in 1923.

Frank Liby Apartments 1500 Water, built in 1922, owned by Liby, cashier at Security Bank. Roofing houses and duplexes have also provided housing choices here.


Neuffer House 1625 Water, Craftsman bungalow built in 1906 for downtown jeweler Paul Neuffer.

Janet Moore House 105 West 17th, 1911 Craftsman bungalow. Daughter of P.B. Moore, who came to Olympia in 1863 as Collector of Revenue for WA and Idaho. At 17, she became a charter member of Women’s Club and helped establish Carnegie Library. She taught school for over 40 years, beginning in the 1880s. She lived here until 1907 when she moved to a home designed by her brother J.M. Dawley, both local contractors.

C.H. Springer House 103 West 17th, 1917 Colonial Revival design by Wohleb. Springer started the Springer and White Mill in 1887, which shaped hand-selected logs to eastern US and Japan, and later the Olympia Door Company. Selected the fine wood to build his home. Helpful found and was president of Olympia Federal Savings and Loan in 1906, served on other financial institution boards.

Nathaniel Redpath House 219 West 19th, built in 1907 on 7th Street and moved to this location in 1927, losing its wrap-around porches in the process. Local physician, served as city health officer. Had one of first cars in Olympia and was an early member of the Olympia Auto Club.

M.C. and Bertha Elyge House 1825 Water, 1906 restored Queen Anne. Bertha established a millinery store 1879 and ran it for 35 years.

Noyes G. Talcott House 222 West 19th, 1915 Foursquare built for H.R. Luepke, cashier at Olympia Brewing Company; later purchased by Noyes Talcott, and son Richard, of pioneer jeweler family. Another Talcott House built for George and Addie Talcott in 1917, a Craftsman bungalow with Colonial Revival elements, can be seen at 2035 Capitol Way. This house won a preservation award in 1994.

Paude House 215 West 19th, 1926 English Tudor Revival. Max Baude, “one of the town’s leading tonalistic artists” according to historian Gordon Newell, operated a barbershop in the Kneeland Hotel patronized by legislators.

Trullinger House 121 West 19th, 1923 Craftsman bungalow, home of J. Truman Trullinger, Mayor of Olympia 1917-1920. Also served on the State Supreme Court 1909-1933.

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