

To: Marygrace Goddu and the Olympia Heritage Commission

Date: January 17, 2021

Statement of Significance

Please accept this application for the house located at 208 18th Ave. SW, Olympia, WA to be placed on the Olympia Heritage Register. The house is located in the South Capital Neighborhood Historic District and has already been granted the 10-year special tax valuation.

The house at 208 18th Ave. SW was constructed in 1924 and is a “Ready Cut Home” from the Tumwater Lumber Mills Company. The Tumwater Lumber Mills Company (TLM) was a local business founded and run by 7 siblings of the Anderson family who were Swedish immigrants. TLM was founded in 1918 and began producing ready-cut homes in 1921. The idea behind the concept was that the ready cut house would reduce waste at the mill as well as where the house was to be built. All of the lumber for a house would be numbered and delivered to the site as one package for assembly. Many companies both local and national were involved in this industry including Sears and Roebuck.

According to the National Trust for Historic Preservation, more than 100,000 pre-cut or kit homes were built in the United States between 1908-1940. An April 2, 1931 article in the Daily Olympian estimated that 500 homes in the local area were TLM houses.¹ Additionally, several TLM house have been placed on the Olympia Heritage Register.

The house at 208 18th Ave SW is model #361 of TLM and it was constructed in 1924. A TLM catalogue page and a publicity still photo is included to show what the house looked like in 1924. The house was recently renovated and a recent photo is attached to show its current condition. The current appearance looks very much like its original appearance.

¹ All of the information in this paragraph came from the article “Tumwater family sold kits for ready-cut homes” by John Dodge published in the Daily Olympian on February 27, 2014

The house also was home to prominent local citizens as well. It was constructed in 1924 for Maude H. Tamblin. Ms. Tamblin graduated from Olympia High School in 1891. She was a long-time secretary to the board of public lands. Ms. Tamblin ran for Commissioner of Public Lands in 1912 one of the very few women who ran for state office at that time.²

The house was purchased by Ernest L. “Bud” and Barbara K. Meyer in 1947. Bud and Barbara Meyer lived in the house for well over 50 years raising 9 boys. Bud and Barbara Meyer were both graduates of Olympia High School with Bud graduating in 1932 and Barbara graduating in 1936. The house remains in the Meyer family.

Bud Meyer was a prominent local attorney and practiced law in Olympia for 60 years. He was involved in many civic affairs including serving as Olympia City Attorney from 1960 to 1978. The April 2020 issue of the Thurston County Historical Journal contained an article about an incident which featured Bud Meyer in his role as Olympia City Attorney. The issue of the journal is included in the submission and the article begins on page 32.

Additionally, Bud Meyer served as a board member for the Olympia Federal Savings and Loan for over 40 years. He was also an original member of the Providence St. Peter’s Hospital Board from its inception until 1996. Bud Meyer also did a great deal of legal work for St. Martin’s College (University) which in 1991 awarded him the President’s Medal for more than 20 years of service. Upon his passing, the City of Olympia issued a proclamation recognizing his service to the City of Olympia and to the Olympia community, a copy of which is attached.

The house at 208 18th SW should be included on the historic for both architectural as well as historical importance. The house is an outstanding example of the Tumwater Lumber Mills ready cut house. The exterior look of the house retains the look and original appearance. The internal footprint of the house is identical to the original footprint. Maude Tamblin and Bud Meyer also were

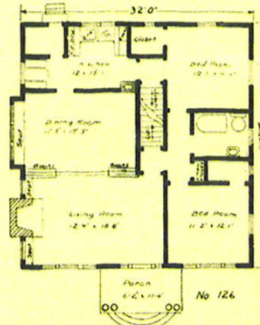
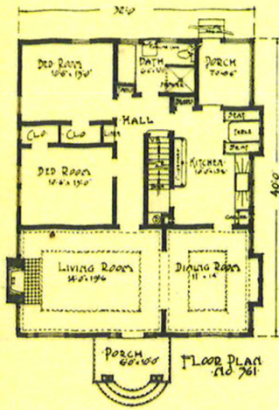
² Information on Maude Tamblin was gleaned from the obituary on file with the Tumwater Masonic Cemetery and the website: <http://www.herhatwasinthering.org/biography.php?id=8008>

interesting and historically important individuals in the development of the City of Olympia. The house should be included in the register as the Tamblin/Meyer house.



Proclamation honoring Ernest L. "Bud" Meyer, dated January 22, 2002.

Artistic and Well Designed—Either Plan Provides for Three Bed Rooms on Second Floor



Specifications—Style 361 & 126

FOUNDATION:—Raised 2 feet from ground. Sufficient beams and posts 6x8, thus eliminating brick partition in basement.

FRAME:—2x8 first floor joist and box sills; 1x3 bridging; 2x4 studding; 2x8 rafters and 2x8 ceiling joists. Partition studding in attic.

FLOORS:—Subfloor 1x10; 13/16x3 1/4" vertical grain flooring; attic floor of shiplap.

WALL:—8'-6" ceiling, double constructed throughout; 1x8 shiplap; felt paper; 5" cedar siding.

ROOF:—No. 1 "A" cedar shingles on 1x6 surfaced sheathing; 2' projection lined with 1x4 V ceiling; porch columns.

INTERIOR FINISH:—8" base board and shoe; 5" Mission casing and special head casing; picture mouldings for all rooms.

BUILT-IN FEATURES:—No. 361—Buffet; kitchen cabinets; cooler; breakfast table and seats; linen closet; book cases at each side of fire place; shelving for closets; medicine cabinet; French doors. No. 126—Kitchen cabinet with cooler; breakfast nook; linen closet; medicine cabinet; seat in bay window and each side of fire place; shelving.

PAINT:—Exterior—two coats of paint or stain. Interior—three coats of white or ivory paint, or filler, varnish and stain.

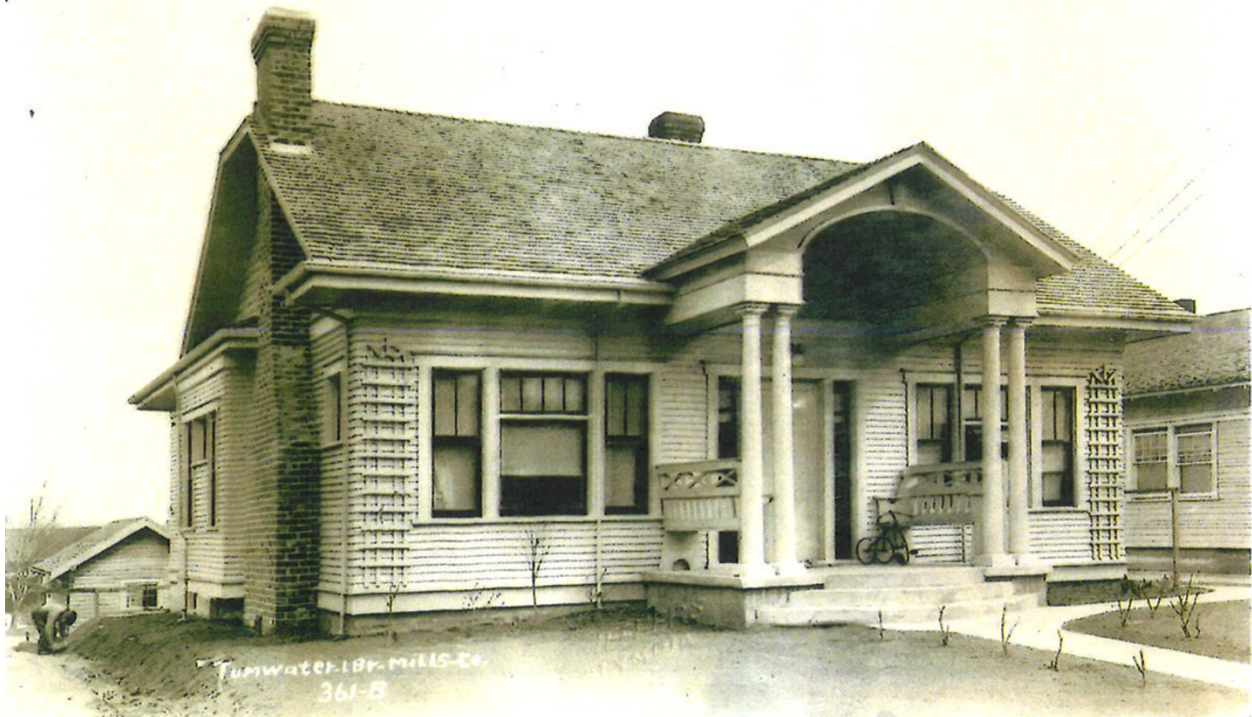
LATH:—No. 1 lath for all inside plaster work.

MATERIAL:—All lumber and millwork furnished in No. 1 clear and common Douglas fir.

HARDWARE:—All rough and finish hardware. Finish hardware in old copper or brass plated cylinder front door lock; flashing; down spout.

For Price List See Last Page

Page Thirty-One



Catalogue of Tumwater Lumber Mills and publicity still of the house at 208 18th Ave SW



Current condition of the house at 208 18th Ave SW