

STAFF REPORT

Tugboat Sand Man

Public Hearing: February 28, 1990

Thurston County Courthouse, Building #1, Room 152
2000 Lakeridge Drive S.W., Olympia, WA 98502

Staff Report Prepared by: Shanna Stevenson

Application Number: OHR-90-1

Name of Property: *Tugboat Sand Man*; Historic Name

Location of Property: West Bay Marina
Olympia, WA 98506

Owner: Robert D. Powell
c/o 117 N. Washington St.
Olympia, WA 98501

Date Built: 1910

A. Background and Historical Significance

The *Sand Man* was built in 1910 by Crawford and Reid shipyard in Tacoma, Washington for A. J. Weston, owner of Olympia Sand and Gravel. Weston had commissioned the tug after seeing a nickel-plated 50 h.p. Frisco Standard gasoline engine on display at the Alaska Yukon Exposition in Seattle in 1909. The tug came to Olympia late in 1910 without its superstructure. That was built by Olympia craftsmen including Jake Frisch who built the doors and windows. A new engine was installed in 1922. The tugboat towed scows between Olympia and Steilacoom. In 1925, Weston sold the *Sand Man* to Delta Smyth, a local lumberman and operator of a fleet of tug boats. The tug maneuvered fuel oil scows, log booms and lumber tows. The boat was sold to Fred W. Chadwick of Capital City Towing Company in 1955 and later to Franz Schlottman and then to the current owner. The tug has always operated on the Olympia waterfront and has been host tugboat for "Harbor Days" in Olympia since its inception in 1975. All of the boat above the waterline is now being restored using accurate designs and materials and now is operating with its third engine.

Maritime historian Gordon Newell during a telephone interview noted that no other vessel is as closely associated with Olympia's maritime history or as deserving of recognition.

Source:

Newell, Gordon "Tug *Sand Man*...an Olympia Waterfront Institution". Olympia News, July 6-12, 1977

Telephone conversation with Gordon Newell, February 13, 1990 and February 16, 1990

"The Longer "Sand Man"" Runs the Better She Gets," Pacific Motor Boat, 1930.

Watts, Alice, "This Sand Man Brings Dreams From the Past," Daily Olympian, September 1, 1968 pg. 1.

B. Significant Historical Characteristics

These are the features that contribute to the property's historical significance and which should be preserved and maintained as it is kept up over the years. Important lost features are also listed, because owners are encouraged to consider restoring these features when rehabilitation work is planned. Replacement either by exact restoration of the original or a modern, compatible design is acceptable. Non-historic additions are also listed. The Heritage Commission may make some recommendations regarding these additions.

1. 60 foot long (49 feet government).
2. 14 foot beam with six and one-half foot draft.
3. Fabricated of old growth Douglas Fir.
4. Net tonnage 19 tons.
5. Ironbark stern.
6. Fantail stern.
7. Plumb bow.
8. Rounded front superstructure with casement windows.
9. Pilot house has mast and funnel atop structure.

Non-historic additions:

None listed

C. Qualifications for the Local Register

An attachment to this staff report provides general background about the Olympia Heritage Register and requirements for placement on the register. A second attachment contains the section of the Olympia Historic Preservation Ordinance which gives the criteria for designation to the register.

There are six categories of eligibility as described in the enclosures. The Tugboat *Sand Man* relates to those eligibility requirements as follows:

1. **Significance:** The Tugboat *Sand Man* has significant character, interest or value as part of the development, heritage or cultural characteristics of the county, state or nation.

The *Sand Man* is an important part of Olympia's maritime history as a working tug for 80 years on the waterfront. The distinctively designed tug represents the changes and evolution of waterfront activities from lumbering industry to the tug boat races of Harbor Days.

2. **Age:** The *Sand Man* is 80 years old and so meets the 50 year age criterion.
3. **Possesses at least two elements of integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association:** The *Sand Man* possesses integrity of design, materials, workmanship, feeling and association.
5. The *Sand Man* is well-maintained.
6. **Specific Criteria/Associations:** The *Sand Man* is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of local history as an integral part of Olympia's maritime history and so meets criterion for determining designation to the Olympia Heritage Register.

D. Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends placement of the Tugboat *Sand Man* on the Olympia Heritage Register under criterion #1 at the Primary Level of Significance.

25:sdNOHCSROHR-90-1

Enclosures

STAFF REPORT ATTACHMENT

GENERAL BACKGROUND ABOUT OLYMPIA HERITAGE REGISTER

The Process for Designating Properties to the Register

The Olympia Historic Preservation Ordinance (#4438) in Section 5.B describes this process as follows: Owner approval is required for designation to the register. A public hearing must be held by the Heritage Commission with notice given to the public and the owner(s). Appeals to the Commission's designation decision may be made to City Council within 30 days.

Basis for Decision Making Regarding Designation to the Register

Criteria for determining eligibility to the Olympia Heritage Register is found in Section 5A of the Olympia Historic Preservation Ordinance. Properties may be designated if they are:

1. At least 50 years old (or lesser age if they are exceptionally important)
2. Associated with the heritage, culture and development of the City in at least one of several ways, such as:
 - a. Outstanding examples of earlier architectural styles or construction methods; or
 - b. Associated with important historical events or with persons significant in local history; or
 - c. Comprise a district representative of an earlier period.
 - d. Archaeological sites are also eligible.

THE FULL LIST OF DESIGNATION CRITERIA FROM ORDINANCE #4438 IS ENCLOSED.

Review of Changes to Heritage Register Properties

Properties designated to the Olympia Heritage Register are subject to an advisory review process by the City's Heritage Commission when any changes are proposed to exterior architectural features, identified historic interior features of public buildings, or to any proposed demolitions or new construction on the property. The purpose of the review is to try to prevent detrimental alterations to or destruction of significant historic features of the property. Standards guiding the review are the "Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Rehabilitation 1983." Copies are available at the Olympia Historic Preservation Office or Planning Department.

CRITERIA FOR DETERMINING DESIGNATION TO THE OLYMPIA HERITAGE REGISTER

(Section 5.A. of Ordinance #4438)

Any building, structure, object, site or district may be designated for inclusion in the City Heritage Register if it has significant character, interest or value as part of the development, heritage or cultural characteristics of the city, state or nation; is at least 50 years old, or is of lesser age and has exceptional importance; possesses at least two elements of integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association; is well-maintained; and if it falls into at least one of the following categories:

1. Is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of national, state or local history.
2. Embodies the distinctive architectural characteristics of a type, period, style or method of design or construction, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction.
3. Is an outstanding work of a designer, builder or architect who has made a substantial contribution to the art.
4. Exemplifies or reflects special elements of the City's cultural, social, economic, political, aesthetic, engineering or architectural history.
5. Is associated with the lives of persons significant in national, state or local history.
6. Has yielded or may be likely to yield archaeological information important in pre-history or history.
7. Is a religious property deriving primary significance from architectural or artistic distinction or historical importance.
8. Is a building or structure removed from its original location but which is significant primarily for architectural value, or which is the surviving structure most importantly associated with a historic person or event.
9. Is a birthplace or grave of a historical figure of outstanding importance.
10. Is a cemetery which derives its primary significance from graves of persons of transcendent importance, from age, from distinctive design features, or from association with historic events, or cultural patterns.

Those features which the Heritage Commission will be concerned about are listed in the staff report for each property and will become part of the official register designation action. Compliance with any advice on proposed changes to the historic property is voluntary on the part of the owner or person proposing the change. If, however, changes result in the loss of the building's historic character, the Heritage Commission may remove it from the Heritage Register after public hearing. The review process for proposed changes to historic properties on the Heritage Register is to take no more than 30 days and is tied to application for other existing City permits.

In addition, a recently enacted property tax exemption for historic renovations requires binding review and approval of the renovation before the tax exemption is granted. A separate meeting to review renovation plans must be arranged for any properties wishing to claim this exemption.

NOTES FOR OLYMPIA HERITAGE REGISTER HEARINGS

NOMINATIONS

I. PROCESS

- A. Public Hearing--Heritage Commission
- B. Appealable to City Council within 30 days

II. BASIS FOR PLACEMENT

- A. Must be 50 years old.
- B. Must fall into at least one of 12 categories. Key ones:
 - #1 Association with historical events
 - #2 Embodies distinctive historical architectural style, type, method of construction
 - #3 Outstanding work of architect/builder
 - #4 Reflects special elements of city's history
 - #5 Association with person important in history

III. AFTER PLACEMENT ON REGISTER

- A. Changes are reviewed
- B. Advisory review--NOT ADDITIONAL NEW REGULATIONS

Purpose of Review--To aid in maintaining building's significant historic characteristics.

Significant historical features are listed at time of nomination:

- Extant . . . don't destroy
- Lost . . . bring back when can

IV. PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION WITH RENOVATION

- A. The review for this is done at a separate time.
- B. This review is NOT advisory.
- C. The list of significant features must not be destroyed if property tax exemption is to be granted.
- D. Also, buildings that have lost major features must restore them through exact

11. Is a reconstructed building that has been executed in a historically accurate manner, within a suitable environment and which is congruent with the City's history.
12. Is a creative and unique example of folk architecture and design created by persons not formally trained in the architectural or design professions, and which does not fit into formal architectural or historical categories.

restoration or modern adaptation in order to receive the tax exemption.

