

City of Tumwater Heritage Tree Nomination form for a Japanese Bigleaf Magnolia at the Schmidt House

Updated: 2023.04.25 by Jim Sedore – Lizardgym@gmail.com for the Tumwater Tree Board

Heritage Tree Nomination Form

<https://survey123.arcgis.com/share/9df701646e0a40039372ff7494fe1576?>

Trees that have historical significance, by virtue of age, association to a historical structure, district, person or event, rare or unique species, or significant stand (grove) of trees can be designated as Heritage Trees, and therefore provided with special protections.

1. Who is submitting this nomination?

☐ Landowner ☒ Resident ☐ City ☐ Other

Nominator Contact Information

Nominator:

Name: **Karen Johnson**

Email: **karen@olytumfoundation.org**

Daytime Phone Number: **360. 943-2550**

Address: **Karen Johnson, Curator – Olympia/Tumwater Foundation
PO Box 4098**

Tumwater, WA 98501

2. What criteria does this tree meet?

- ☐ Historical: A tree which by virtue of its age, its association with or contribution to a historical structure or district, or its association with a noted resident or historical event.
- ☒ **Rare: One or very few of a kind, or is unusual in some form of growth or species.**
- ☐ Specimen: Age, size, health, and quality factors combine to qualify the tree as unique among the species in Tumwater and Washington State.
- ☐ Significant Grove: Outstanding rows or groups of trees that impact the City landscape.

3. Please provide an **address or location of the tree(s).**

THE SCHMIDT HOUSE C/O THE OLYMPIA/TUMWATER FOUNDATION
330 SCHMIDT PLACE
TUMWATER WA 98501

The tree is located SE of the front door, West of the sidewalk about 50 feet North of the entrance gate.

4. Please **provide as much information about the tree as you can (size, type, age).**

A. Genus/Species: ***Magnolia obovata*** – Japanese Bigleaf Magnolia

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Magnolia_obovata

B. Size: Approximately 50 feet tall and 50 inches diameter breast height (DBH). Precise measurements will be taken by the Tumwater consulting arborist.

C. History:

According to Karen Johnson, Olympia/Tumwater Foundation Curator (2023)

- Bob Crim, long-time caretaker of the Schmidt House, says the Schmidt family had a practice of planting a tree or shrub on the grounds as a birthday present for family members. When Bob was first employed by the Schmidt's, in 1959, he asked Clara Schmidt about the magnolia tree. She said it had been planted 12 years before, giving a transplanting date of 1947. She also said it was about 6' high when planted, so it would have already been several years old at that time. Its estimated age would then begin about 1940.
- Photos attached
- Native to Japan
 - According to the website, Monumental Trees, this tree may be the largest specimen in a garden in the world. Undoubtedly, there are still magnolias of this type in the wild in Japan, Korea, and Russian islands where the tree is native. And who knows how big/old those natives are? After the Tumwater consulting arborist measures this tree, Jim may submit the data to the Monumental Tree website.
https://www.monumentaltrees.com/en/gbr/england/westsussex/7432_bordehill/15181/
 - *The current largest Japanese Bigleaf Magnolia in a garden is in the park of Borde Hill, Haywards Heath, England, United Kingdom. This Japanese Bigleaf Magnolia (Magnolia obovata) '15181', can be found in the park of Borde Hill in Haywards Heath (county of West Sussex). The girth of the tree, measured at a height of 60 cm, is 3.07 m (Jun 2010, TheTreeRegisterOwenJohnson). Its **height is around 14 m** (Jun 2010)*