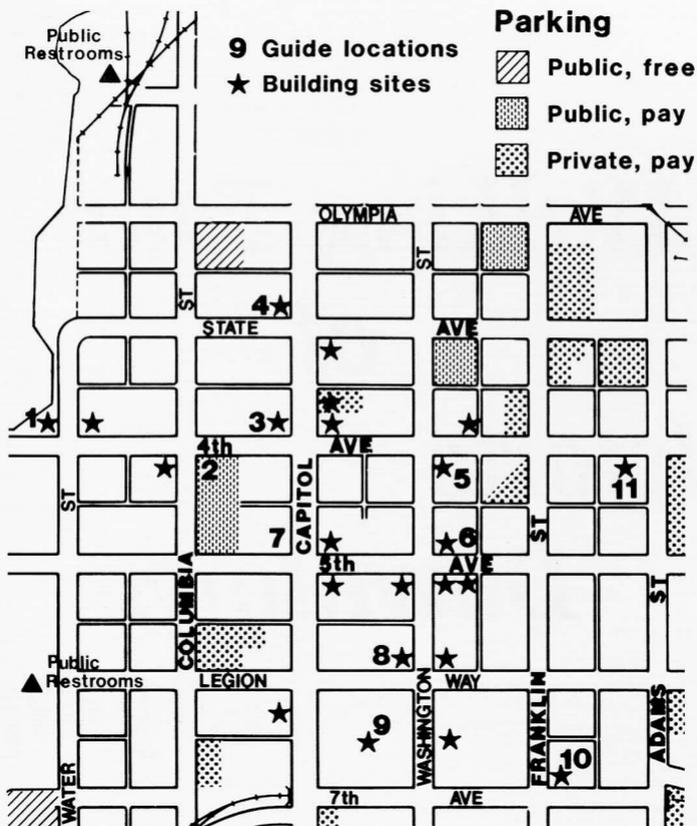


A Walking Tour of Historic Downtown Olympia



Main Street (Capitol Way) at the turn of the Century. View is looking south. The intersection is 4th Avenue. Olympia Heritage Commission photograph.



Welcome to downtown Olympia's historic business core. The fine collection of older buildings that are included on this tour represent earlier architectural styles from various periods in the city's history. These buildings reflect not only the typical kinds of commercial building styles used throughout this country in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, but also the localized circumstances, tastes, values and aspirations of early Olympia residents.

In 1983 a local historic ordinance was passed and the Olympia Heritage Commission appointed to act as the city's chief advisory body on matters of history and historic preservation. The Heritage Commission invites you to use this guide to acquaint yourself with historic downtown. (You may also wish to participate in the guided tours during the Wooden Boat Show in May and during Harbor Days over the Labor Day weekend.)

The buildings and sites included on the tour mark the location of some of the significant events that have shaped Olympia's history. Few buildings remain from the 1800s, and of those that do, few remain in their original form. Most of the buildings in the heart of downtown were built during the first three decades of the 20th Century and it is these buildings that set the tone for downtown's look and feel. You may notice a characteristic "look" in the traditional 19th and early 20th Century commercial buildings. Their similar parts have a consistent, organized and coordinated appearance, and their facades (building fronts) are visually related to their neighbors.

Many of the downtown street-level facades have been altered over the years but the second stories have remained unchanged. Olympia is fortunate to have escaped damage by a major fire; however, earthquake damage has taken its toll. The cover photograph shows Olympia's Main Street (now Capitol Way) taken just before the turn of the century looking south with the 4th and Capitol intersection in the foreground. It was the April 13, 1949 earthquake that damaged many of the buildings in the main downtown blocks between 4th and 7th Streets. Many of the buildings which did survive lost some of their decorative detail because of earthquake damage. During your tour, compare the vintage photographs with the buildings as they look today.

This is an exciting time for downtown Olympia. The renewed commitment of Olympia's citizens is evident in the construction of new facilities, the facade improvements, and the restoration and adaptation of some of our vintage buildings. The challenge is to meet the commercial needs of today's downtown while continuing to preserve our unique historic assets.

Downtown's Early Development

The development of downtown Olympia started with an orientation to the waterfront, as did many of the early settlements, because of the difficulty of overland travel through dense forests. Olympia's first settlers were Levi Lathrop Smith and his partner Edmund Sylvester who came to the area in 1846.

After their arrival, Smith settled in the downtown area and Sylvester on the Tumwater prairies. Smith established a store and hotel near where Olympia Avenue intersects Capitol Way. This was the northerly tip of the peninsula into Budd Inlet called "Cheetwoot" by Nisqually Indians which meant "bear."

With the death of Smith in 1848, Sylvester under Oregon Territorial law inherited the town site of Olympia. After a trip to the California gold fields, Sylvester returned to his claim and authorized a surveyor to lay out the town which he called "Olympia" at the suggestion of Isaac Ebey, probably for the fine view of the Olympic Mountains.

The plat of the town was similar to a New England Village, perhaps recalling Sylvester's Maine heritage, with a town square and an orientation toward saltwater. Sylvester reserved land in his plat for schools, the Masonic Hall and 12 acres for capitol grounds and the town square (now called Sylvester Park).

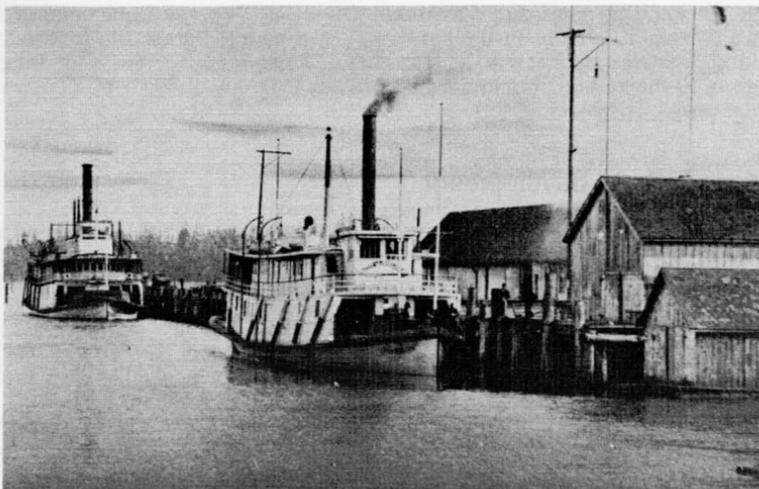
Sylvester took over Smith's store near Olympia Avenue and opened a hotel in the same location. The first customs house on Puget Sound was located nearby in 1850, and the first territorial legislature met in 1853 in a store and hall built by Sylvester near the corner of what is now Olympia Street and Capitol Way.

All of what we know today as the Port of Olympia is land created by fill. Olympia Avenue (originally 2nd Street) was the northern limit of downtown in 1870. Extreme high tides flooded buildings as far as Fifth Street and at low tide, everything south of Priest Point Park was in mud flats. Present day shoreline boundaries resulted from dredge and fill operations that took place between the early 1890s and 1911.

Today's shoreline configuration is much changed from its original appearance in the town's early days. Capitol Lake was a large tide flat area. It was part of Budd Inlet's West Bay and the Deschutes River Waterway.



Fourth & Main during Olympia's horse & buggy era. State Capital Museum photograph.



Percival's Dock. Olympia Heritage Commission Photograph.

1. Percival Landing — 1860

Samuel Percival was a native of Massachusetts who came to Olympia in 1853 three years after the first ship had arrived in Olympia. He operated a store at Main and Second Streets, built and operated a sawmill on Percival Creek, and built Percival Dock in 1860.

Timber trade made up the major traffic on the Sound but the steamers were the best source of news in these early days until the advent of the telegraph in 1864. Passenger travel by steamer continued into the 1920s when highway travel became more convenient.

Government mapping of Puget Sound in 1866 set the stage for the dredging of Olympia's mud-bound harbor which allowed for the continued use of Percival Dock. Percival built a new dock along Water Street in 1891 but even this new dock was plagued by flooding during high water tides.

Samuel's son John was given charge of the dock in 1877 at age 16 and continued to work as agent for a succession of steamboat and navigation companies until 1936.

2. Barnes Building — 1914 S.W. Corner of Fourth and Columbia

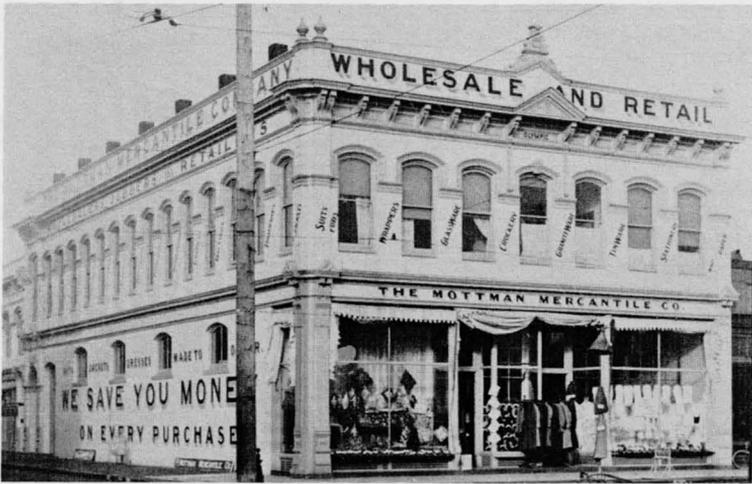
Built by John and Harriet Bolster and their son-in-law John Barnes. They had come to the area in 1890 and began a grocery business in 1902. Although several fires have struck their business, the Barnes have remained in the same location for the past four generations.

The most outstanding features of this early 20th Century building are the parapet roofline and the multi-muntin palladian windows in the upper center, 36-foot high section of the building which was built to house a lodge hall. The south and west wings of the building are 10 feet lower. The transom windows above the storefronts, typical of 19th Century and early 20th Century commercial buildings, are covered. Note the decorative band that separates the first and second story. The building once had a wooden canopy along Columbia Street.

Wright Building — 1908 N.E. Corner of Fourth and Water

This is a good example of the early 20th Century style which was built originally as a waterfront hotel.

Note the similarities in roofline, decorative band separating the first and second stories, the pillars and the transom windows (now removed or covered) that both the Wright and Barnes buildings display.



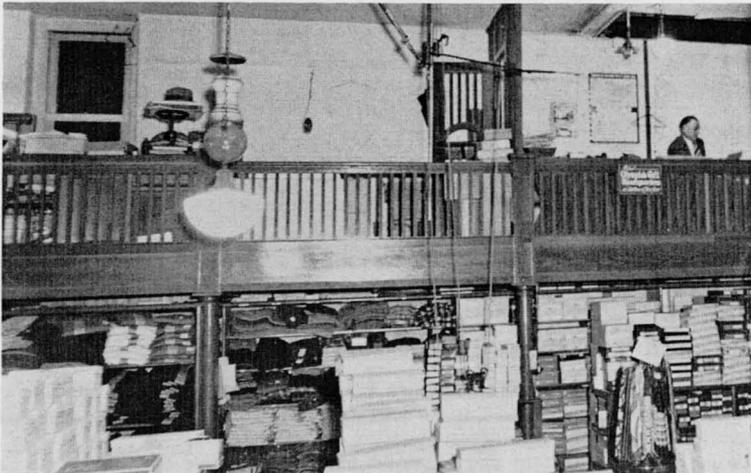
Early Mottman Mercantile Co., courtesy of Phyllis Mottman.

3. Mottman Building — 1888/1911 N.W. Corner of Fourth and Capitol

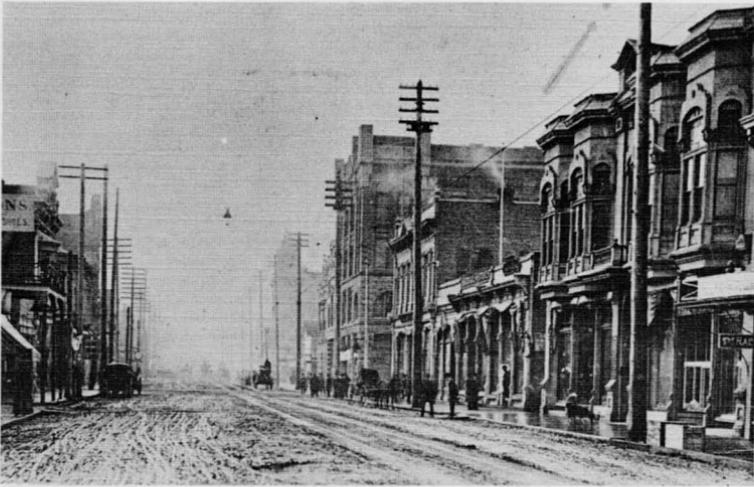
Much changed from its original appearance, this building was constructed as a two-story building by Toklas and Kaufman, pioneer merchants. George Mottman became its next owner in 1896, expanding it in 1911 with a 20-foot extension to the west and the addition of a third story. In the process, the lower story windows were enlarged on the south end (along Fourth Avenue), and a six-foot wide, multi-paned transom window inserted all along the Fourth Avenue and Capitol Way frontages. Building entrances were also changed and door knobs lowered to accommodate George Mottman's small stature. In addition, the first elevator in Olympia was installed, and instead of stairs, there were floor-to-floor ramps for carts and prams. The store was equipped with wire baskets on a wire and pulley system which traveled overhead carrying money and receipts between the sales tables and the cashier's desk on the mezzanine.

Following the 1949 earthquake, other changes were made. The wood trusses behind the first floor transom windows were added. The transom and show windows were removed on the 20-foot west addition, and the small first floor window was added. The curved heads of most of the second floor windows were also changed to flat heads.

Mottman's remained open until 1967 with little change, and in 1952 merchandisers spoke of it as the only store of its kind left in the United States. The building is on the National Register of Historic Places.



Mottman store interior, courtesy of Phyllis Mottman.

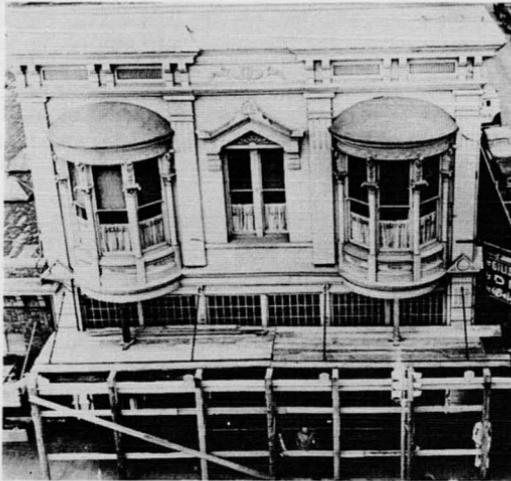


Woodruff Block circa 1890. State Capital Museum photograph.

Labor Temple Building — 1887 *West side of Capitol Way, near State.*

Heavily damaged by the 1949 earthquake, the Labor Temple Building (originally the Woodruff Block) lost much of its distinctive 19th Century front. The original building had bay windows and a balcony on the second floor where speakers addressed groups and reviewed parades. President Harrison once spoke from the balcony. Present day remnants of the 1800s fabric of the building can be seen in the old windows on the alley and in the north wall facing State Street.

Many fraternal and patriotic organizations used this hall built by Sam Woodruff who came to Olympia as a printer and bookseller.



Olympia Heritage Commission photo. Taken after 1949 earthquake by William P. Conser.

Chambers block — 1886 *N.E. Corner of Fourth and Capitol*

Built by Mayor A. H. Chambers to house businesses and offices on the site of the town pump, the corner of 4th and Capitol was also the location of the cannon installed by frightened settlers during the Indian Uprising of 1855-56.

The building once had ornate bay windows and a decorative cornice on its Capitol Way side. They have now disappeared through the ravages of earthquake and time.

Features of the building that still remain from the 1800s include the pilasters on which the words "Olympia Foundry" can be seen. Also, the typical 1800s long narrow sash windows with decorative lintels remain along 4th Avenue on the second floor.

Barnes Bank Buildings — 1869 *Adjacent to Old Daily Olympian Building on Capitol Way*

The small rectangular structure was built in 1869 by George A. Barnes as Olympia's first bank and first brick building, one of only three in Washington Territory at that time. Bricks were manufactured by William Billings of Olympia. Because the bricks from this area were not good quality, they deteriorated quickly.

In the 1880's Olympia First National Bank purchased the bank building and when the **Olympian** newspaper offices were built next to the Barnes structure the Barnes Bank was attached and stucco was applied to match the **Olympian** offices.

George Barnes was an early settler in Olympia coming from the east in 1850 and from Portland, Oregon in 1851 to this area. He became a prominent citizen organizing the first volunteer fire department, serving as mayor, and helping to attract the Mercer girls to Olympia. He was also active in promoting the building of a railroad to Tenino from Olympia.

Its modernized facade belies it as one of the oldest of Olympia's downtown buildings.



State Capital Museum photo. Note hose drying tower, now gone.

4. Old City Hall and Fire Station — 1912 *N.W. Corner of State and Capitol*

The seat of government until 1967 for the city, this building once housed all the functions of municipal government. It is on the State Register of Historic Places and the Olympia Heritage Register. The building was designed by George Gove (1869-1956) of Tacoma, who also designed Olympia's masonic temple and high school, both demolished. The Old City Hall is an example of neoclassical revival architecture as was commonly used for commercial structures around the turn of the century. Note the neoclassic cornice treatment along the roofline and the tower (now gone) where the fire hoses were hung to dry. The building was the seat of city government for over 50 years and is still the home of the city's fire department, which traces its origin back to the 1850s. It is a direct descendant of the first engine company in the state.

The present fire department building is very near the place where the city had its origins. It was on this site that the founder of Olympia, Edmund Sylvester, operated a livery stable that was the end of the line for all overland stages from Cowlitz Landing (near what is now Toledo). The site continued to be used in the livery business until around the turn of the century. It was acquired in 1911 by the city for the purpose of constructing a city hall.

The importance of a fire department to early 20th Century communities is signified by the fire truck entrance through the main, elaborate facade, while entrance to City Hall was from the unadorned south side of the building. The history of firefighting in Olympia is significant since it was the first community in the territory to own and operate a fire engine.

Old Daily Olympian — 1930 S.E. Corner of Capitol and State

The rectangular mission style building was one of prominent architect, Joseph Wohleb's most distinctive works. Wohleb came to Olympia from California around 1911 and was the city's most prolific architect for several decades. His predominantly stucco design Mission style incorporated tile insets, tile roofs, canopies and other Spanish detailing. The southern portion of the building along Capitol Way is a later addition.

5. Security Building — 1926 S.E. Corner of Fourth and Washington

Built in 1926, the Security Building was designed by the Seattle architectural firm of A. H. Albertson and is one of Olympia's finest buildings. Builders were the Dawley Brothers of Olympia.

The structure is built on 300 pilings 60 feet in length which give it an earthquake proof base, since it is built in a fill area of Olympia.

The rectangular five-story structure is built in the Sullivanesque style and expresses the symmetrical style of the first skyscrapers. The building is of brick with buff-colored terra cotta facing. It is most remarkable for its rosette and other natural designs, also worked in terra cotta which crown the cornice, decorate window lintels and march around the bands of the facade, ornament the doorways, and form a quoin-like effect at building corners. First floor windows are segmented plate glass with transoms. Most notable here are the mahogany newel posts on the windows and around the panes of glass.

The finest materials were used in the construction including Mother-of-Pearl granite on the entry columns on 4th Street and Sacra Porte marble on the entry plazas. Inside the vestibule on 4th Street Napoleon Gray and Belgian Black marbles are used. The ceiling of that area is also ornately finished with rosettes in plaster.

Elbert M. Chandler, a prominent businessman and civil engineer, organized the project of building the Security Building, which originally housed a bank on the first floor for which it is named. The building has long been home to Olympia's most prominent professionals and businesses. For many years it had an elevator operator. Note the mythological part lion/part eagle griffins that adorn the corners of the upper cornice. The United States was on the gold standard when the building was constructed and legend tells us that griffins were created by the sun god to guard gold and hidden treasure.

Columbia Building — 1914 North Side of Fourth, next to the State Theater.

Built in 1914 by Fred Stocking and P.M. Troy, two prominent Olympia businessmen, the building is at the site of the Columbia Hall, first town hall for Olympia and longtime meeting place for the community. It was named for the first fire engine of the town, "The Columbia."

The original Columbia Hall was completed November 26, 1869 and dedicated with a ball and a supper. The ground floor rooms were occupied by the fire department, city offices and city council chambers. The floor above was used as a ballroom, theater and opera house. The building burned completely in 1914 after which the present building was built. The street level storefronts have been changed but the second story remains unaltered.

The present-day building on the second floor speaks in classical terms with its terra cotta white facing. The cornice has decorative rosettes under it. A terra cotta hood covers the main entry inscribed with "Columbia Hall" and the original first floor window configuration is still visible on the east side of the building.



Photograph by Joseph Jeffers • 1985. First Light Media Collection.

6. Jeffers Studio — 1913 S.E. corner of 5th & Washington.

It was built as a photography studio for Joseph Jeffers who had come to Olympia in 1904.

The Jeffers family were prominent photographers from the turn of the century until the death of Vibert Jeffers in 1972. Joseph Jeffers was a well-known photographer until he met his death in a climbing accident in the Olympic Mountains. He was the official legislative photographer for many years and captured the passing pageantry of the history of Olympia on film.

One of Joseph Wohleb's first works in Olympia, the structure exhibits very effectively the mission design which was Wohleb's trademark and which shaped much of the character of Olympia's downtown.

The two-story stucco structure has a crenelated parapet roofline with a panel on a rounded crest inscribed with "Jeffers Studio 1913." The nearly square building has a north facing light panel which although now covered by fiberglass is still in evidence. The north light window was a necessity for early day photographers before the modern lighting techniques.

Martin Building — 1920 S.W. Corner Fifth and Washington

Joseph Wohleb designed this two-story square dark brick structure for businessman Donald Martin. The original parapet wall, sign and marquee were lost in the 1949 earthquake. Notice the band that separates the two floors and the ceramic tiles that are interspersed among the brick for a decorative effect. The east side doorway to the upper floor apartments has a tile motif in the floor reading "The Martin."

Donald Building — 1924 East of Jeffers Studio on Fifth Avenue

Another Wohleb-designed mission style building, the Donald Building, was constructed for Donald Martin, prominent hardware store owner as an investment property.

The rectangular stucco two-story building has crenelated parapets flanking a center flat roofline. The first floor has plate glass windows with transom windows above the canopy. Store entrances have umbrage doorways. Six sets of sash windows are on the second floor and a bracketed, tile-covered hood shelters the center four sets of windows. This hood was originally covered with tiles. At either end of the building are relief carved ornaments inscribed with the building date.



Donald Building on the left, Capitol Theater on the right. Photograph by Vibert Jeffers© 1985. First Light Media Collection.

Capitol Theater — 1924 *North side of Fifth across from the Donald Building.*

The theater and adjoining office building were built by the longtime theater family, the Zabels, a design by Joseph Wohleb.

The stucco theater has a distinctive classical revival cornice which has a decorative entablature. A central inscription, "Capitol Theater" is flanked by terra cotta Pegasus figures. The original sign now hangs on the corner.

Across the facade and hidden under the large marquee added in 1948 are five long, narrow stucco arches, capped by circular leaded art glass insets, each depicting one of the muses: music, painting, sculpture, architecture and poetry. Alternating with the muse windows were theatrical terra cotta masks designed by W. T. Benda. Flanking the center are two more arches — these with terra cotta and circular grille work. At the base of each arch is a plate glass door. Below the arches were more design work and an iron grille with a leaded glass canopy. The entryway was done in Alaskan marble with a central ticket booth.

7. Pacific First Federal — 1914 *N.E. Corner of Fifth and Capitol*

The Pacific First Federal Building dominates one of Olympia's busiest corners at Fifth and Capitol. Built in 1914 by the Beezer Brothers, the eclectic classic style structure is replete with decorative touches which are reminiscent of Roman and Greek Temples.

The two-story rectangular structure has a highly decorative roofline with dentils. The main facade has a number of pilasters topped by Corinthian capitals which separate the window openings. The building is faced in cream-colored terra cotta. The main entrance to the west of the facade has a decorative parapet supported by brackets. The decoration is topped by an eagle in terra cotta. The band around the top of the second floor has cartouches between the pilasters. A band also separates the first and second floors. Second floor windows have been altered but first floor windows are in the original configuration, although their upper portions have now been replaced by stained glass.

The interior was restored in 1977 by Pacific First Federal. The elaborate plasterwork was reconstructed and some original furnishings re-installed. An antique teller cage, although not original to this building, adds to the interior ambience.



Pacific First Federal on the left, Walker building on the right. Photograph by Vibert Jeffers. © 1985. First Light Media Collection.

Walker Building — 1916 S.E. Corner of Fifth and Capitol

This early 20th Century style building houses retail shops and offices. It has pilasters and pillars separating the window spaces, on both its first and second floors. A band separates the two stories and transom windows are above the chain held canopy over the first floor. The rectangular structure is covered in stucco. Recent renovations have included segmented windows on the first floor. This window change was done within the confines of the original storefront openings. An earlier remodeling changed the early 20th Century second floor windows on Capitol Way to larger, aluminum windows.

8. Hotel Olympian — 1920 N.W. Corner of Legion and Washington

Originally called "The Olympian" this simplified Georgian Revival style hotel officially opened its doors July 16, 1920.

Built of reinforced concrete with a light brick and terra cotta facade, the Hotel Olympian remains as a tangible example of Olympia's triumphant struggle to remain the State's seat of government.

The lack of a first class hotel had been used as a club against Olympians in attempts to move the Capitol elsewhere. Funds to build the hotel were raised locally, but the building contract was awarded to the Stevenson Company of Chicago. Upon completion, the hotel was leased to two local brothers, John and Thad Pierce.

Built 15 years after the State Capitol began its occupancy across the street in the Old Capitol Building, the Olympian Hotel accommodated the Legislature and its needs. Thus, it has a more spacious lobby than is usually found in hotels of this size. Originally there were four dining rooms; one main and three private. 1975 saw the end of the building's continuous operation as a hotel, with its conversion to a low-rent senior citizen housing with shops and restaurant on the first floor. The mezzanine ballroom was restored in 1980 and is used for dance classes, dances and other functions.

The interior of the hotel has been greatly changed but the marble stairway leading to the mezzanine promenade remains, as well as the wood baluster. Shortened arched windows overlook the dining rooms from the mezzanine. This was an excellent orchestra device for flooding the dining room with music. Elevators serviced the floors of the 155 guest rooms, half of which contained bathrooms.

Reed Block — 1890 *N.E. Corner of Legion and Washington*

The Reed family built the office building which has lost some of its decorative elements due to earthquake damage in 1949, but still boasts decorative pilasters and arched windows.

T. M. Reed came to Olympia in 1857 as a Wells Fargo agent and later served as Washington Territorial Surveyor and Auditor. A part of the original Sylvester Plat of Olympia, the Reeds built their home on that block and later the business building. It housed the Olympian Newspaper during the years the Capitol was across the street. The Post Office was also here prior to construction of the Capitol Way building in 1914, as was the stage depot.



Note art glass canopy over Elks Building entrance.

8. Elks Building — 1919 *North of Governor House Hotel on Capitol Way*

This four-story brick-faced concrete building was designed as an Elks Lodge by local architect Joseph Wohleb, himself a prominent member of the Elks Brotherhood. The building, facing Sylvester Park on Capitol Way, served the club until 1958 when it moved to its new building on Fifth and Sylvester.

The facade of the building is most remarkable for its decorative cornice with symmetrically-spaced blue and white bracketing. This cornice is embellished with diamond- and rectangular-shaped terra cotta inserts. Other designs on the facade are worked in blue and white terra cotta including diamond and round panels. A central panel on the crest of the building is inscribed with "BPO Elks 186." The first- and second-floor windows were altered by Wohleb in 1928 to the asymmetrical arrangement that remains today. An art glass canopy once spanned the sidewalk over the main entrance. Its outline can still be seen in the brick.

Sylvester Park — 1850

The square was designated on the 1850 plat of the town of Olympia by its founder, Edmund Sylvester. Sylvester was one of the earliest settlers on Puget Sound, having come to the Oregon Territory in 1843 from his native Maine.

He brought his New England heritage to bear on the future of the town by utilizing the town square idea in his plat for the town.

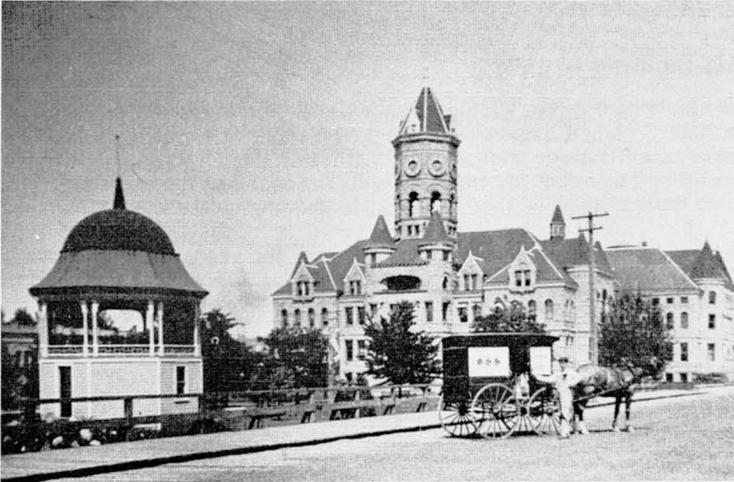
In the early years the public square was mainly a grazing spot for the town's livestock. During the Indian Uprising of 1856 a wooden blockhouse was built on the square which was large enough to hold the entire village of Olympia. After the Indian scare the structure was used as the city jail and later torn apart to plank town streets.

Sylvester Park *continued.*

The square was the scene of many gatherings. In 1874 railroad volunteers came to the square to begin the construction of a community railroad to Tenino since Olympia had been by-passed by the main line of the Northern Pacific. The Fourth of July was often celebrated in the square with parades, the "Goddess of Liberty" and clambakes accompanied by music and speeches. In 1893 the square was officially designated "Sylvester Park" and the town council undertook to landscape the park. An ornate Victorian gazebo was built and later a gold fish pond around it. May fests, Memorial Day services, bicycling, horseback riding, baseball games, circuses and dances were all held in the park.

In the years between 1901 and 1927 when state government was at the Old Capitol, the Square was known as "Capitol Plaza." During those years the Plaza was the natural gathering place to view the dignitaries visiting the Capitol of Washington. William Jennings Bryan, President Teddy Roosevelt, President W. H. Taft and Franklin Roosevelt all addressed crowds in the park from the steps of the Capitol.

The old gazebo was torn down in 1928. A replacement gazebo was built in 1976 as a Bicentennial project. The park is on the Olympia Heritage Register.



Old State Capitol and Sylvester Park. State Capital Museum photograph.

Old State Capitol — 1892 *(East Wing, 1905)*

The facade facing Sylvester Park is the original building, constructed in 1891-92 as the Thurston County Courthouse. Its architect was Willis Ritchie of Spokane, who designed similar courthouses in Spokane, Port Townsend, and other Washington cities. After serving for eight years as the Courthouse, the building was sold to the state in 1901 for use as a Capitol Building. The east annex, designed by the same architect, was built at this time, completed in 1905. The building housed the State Legislature and state offices between 1905 and 1928. It is now the home of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, and is on the National and State Registers of Historic Places, as well as the Olympia Heritage Register.

The original building is a complex Victorian composition in a Richardson Romanesque style, typical of county courthouses and other government buildings of this era throughout the country. The main building is constructed of Chuckanut sandstone, the east annex of Tenino sandstone. The building had eight conical turrets and an eight-sided clock tower. The tower and six of the conical turrets no longer exist. The tower was lost in the 1928 fire and the turrets in the 1949 earthquake.

10. Carnegie Library — 1914 N.E. Corner of Seventh & Franklin

This building is a well-preserved example of the libraries built with grants from the great iron and steel magnate, Andrew Carnegie. It represents a distinct type of early-twentieth century architecture. The building served as the community library until 1978. It has been adapted for reuse as a restaurant, but the original interior space has been preserved.

Built of buff-colored Chehalis brick in the "public library" style, the design is typical of other such libraries in the state, except for the corner entry. Brick is the most common material. Most are rectangular, although ours is square with one corner removed for a formal entry hall. Also, typically, there is an impressive flight of stairs leading from the ground level to the main public area on the second floor. In Olympia's library, the outside stairs lead to a mid-level interior landing between the street level basement and the second floor. Matching pairs of outdoor lamps often flank the stairs of the main door, as in our library. Elements of Classical architecture, such as the columns and cornices on our library, are also typical.

An unobtrusive rear concrete block addition was built in 1960, and the basement became the main public area.

The principal architectural firm was Blackwell and Baker of Seattle, but the noted local architect Joseph Wohleb was associated with the firm on this project. It is one of the first buildings with which Wohleb was associated after coming to this area from California.

The building is on the Olympia Heritage Register and the National and State Registers of Historic Places.

11. Wards Building — 1928

The Wards Building is a good example of a historic "working" building in Olympia.

This brick-faced concrete building is topped by a decorative crown. The building has unusual small-paned transom windows made of luxfer glass. The original two recessed entrances contain decorative tile work between the door and the sidewalk. The upper story window rhythm matches that of the Clyde Building on the western corner of the block.

The street-level storefronts have been altered over the years and the interior of the building has been completely remodeled to accommodate a restaurant, shops and offices. It was built to house the Montgomery Ward Department Store.

Cunningham's — 1896 S.W. Corner of Fourth & Adams

Cunningham's is the only remaining pioneer wooden store front building downtown. Originally the Olympia Mercantile Company, and later a grocery store, the building housed a commercial hotel upstairs where mill workers boarded. Horse tethering rings remain in the sidewalk along Adams Street, a remnant of this earlier era.

Except for its modernized storefront at street level, the building's exterior remains in its original form. It has a crowning gable and second floor windows that have been painted over. A new foundation and the carrara glass covered addition next door were added in 1940.



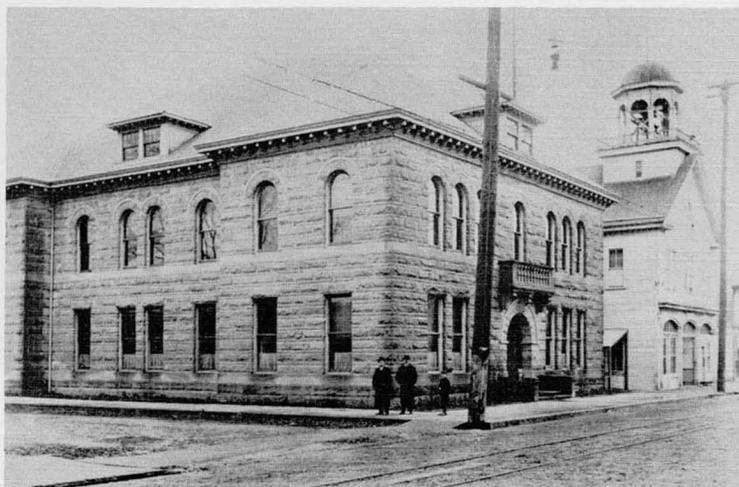
Prepared by the City of Olympia Heritage Commission, City Hall, 900 Plum Street, Olympia.

Much of the material in this brochure is based on research by local historian and Heritage Commission member Shana Stevenson. Other Commission member contributions include: photographic prints by Roger Easton; and Hotel Olympia research by Sandra Singery-Romero.

Prints from the Jeffers Photo Collection are available through First Light Media.



Reed Block (N.E. corner of Legion & Washington) after the April 1949 earthquake. Olympia Heritage Commission photograph.



The original Columbia Hall (1869-1914) and the old County Courthouse (1900-1934) (N.E. corner of 4th & Washington). State Capital Museum photograph.