

Historic Property

Inventory Report for 325 East 4th Olympia, Thurston, 98501

LOCATION SECTION

Historic Name:

Field Site No.: 718

Common Name: Cunningham's Furniture (#34-691)

OAHP No.:

Property Address: 325 East 4th Olympia, Thurston, 98501

Comments: OLYMPIA

County	Township/Range/EW	Section	1/4 Sec	1/4 1/4 Sec	Quadrangle
<u> </u>	<u>T18R02W</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>SW</u>		<u>TUMWATER</u>

UTM Reference

Zone: 10 Spatial Type: Point Acquisition Code: TopoZone.com

Sequence: 0 Easting: 507870 Northing: 5209940

Tax No./Parcel No.

Plat/Block/Lot

78503400400

Sylvester L4 Blk 34

Supplemental Map(s)

Acreage

City of Olympia Planning Department

.17

IDENTIFICATION SECTION

Field Recorder: Shanna Stevenson

Date Recorded: 10/16/1985

Survey Name: OLYMPIA

Owner's Name:

Owner Address:

City/State/Zip:

James Nissing, etal

407 Adams Street SE

Olympia, WA 98501

Classification: Building

Resource Status

Comments

Within a District? No

Survey/Inventory

Contributing?

Local Register

OHR-86-38

National Register Nomination:

Local District:

National Register District/Thematic Nomination Name:

DESCRIPTION SECTION

Historic Use: Commerce/Trade - Business

Current Use: Commerce/Trade - Business

Plan: Irregular

No. of Stories: 2

Structural System: Balloon Frame

Changes to plan: Extensive

Changes to interior: Extensive

Changes to original cladding: Intact

Changes to other:

Changes to windows: Extensive

Other (specify):

Cladding Wood - Drop Siding

Foundation Brick

Stucco

Concrete - Poured

Glass - Carrera Glass/ Vitrolite

Style Art Deco - Streamlined Moderne

Form/Type

Commercial

Roof Material Asphalt / Composition

Roof Type Gable

Asphalt / Composition - Rolled

Unknown

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NARRATIVE SECTION

Study Unit

Other

Date Of Construction: 1896

Commerce

Religion

Architect:

Builder:

Engineer:

Property appears to meet criteria for the National Register of Historic Places:

No

Property is located in a historic district (National and/or local):

No

Property potentially contributes to a historic district (National and/or local):

Statement of Significance

Built about 1896, Cunningham's is the only pioneer storefront which remains in downtown. The building originally had a hotel upstairs frequented by millworkers for the nearby mills on the port fill. The first floor was a grocery store. The building was purchased in 1918 by the Cunninghams who operate a furniture business at the site. The building to the southeast was built in 1940 and the entire store was extensively remodeled in 1952. Formerly the sidewalk on the east side of the structure was a ring mounted in the sidewalk originally used to tie up horses. This property was also the site of the first Methodist Church in Olympia built in 1856. The Methodist met first in 1852 in the Burmeister saloon, the only building in town large enough for the meeting and later in the first Olympia school house. The first minister was Rev. John F. DeVore whose efforts to build the church are a longtime legend in Olympia history. Rev. DeVore sought funds from local businessmen to build the structure and when he approached Captain Clanrick Crosby, the wily Tumwater businessman told DeVore he could have all the lumber he could carry and raft in one day for free to build the church. Crosby did not suspect the strength and tenacity of the young minister who old settlers say carried out 30,000 feet of lumber that day--enough to build his church. The Methodists exchanged their original lot in 1890 for the Fifth and Adams and moved to the southwest corner of that intersection in 1894.

Description of Physical Appearance

Cunningham's Furniture occupies three connected buildings. The main building is a two-story, gable-roofed wood frame structure built in Pioneer style on a later concrete foundation. Its front (north) facade is distinguished by a tall, squared false front with a prominent bracketed cornice topped by a central false gable. Wrapping around the front and south facade of the ground floor is a modern storefront with large plate glass windows and double glass entry doors with aluminum framing, topped by a narrow metal canopy. The second story of both facades has rows of paired double-hung sash with one-over-one lights, which are all painted over. At the northeast corner is a tall projecting neon sign. The one-story, flat-roofed Art Moderne style addition to the west has a front facade clad with deep red structural glass tiles, topped by a stepped parapet. It also has ground floor plate glass windows topped by a metal canopy and another neon sign. The building along the rear of the other two structures is a two-story flat-roofed concrete structure, topped by a parapet with raised piers and very shallow gable form on the east wall. The east wall has a small store plate glass window, two entry doors and a tall garage door on the ground floor, and a row of tripartite windows with transoms on the upper floor. The rear wall has two small entry doors on the first floor, and single and paired double-hung sash with one-over-one lights along the upper floor.

Major Bibliographic References

Rogers, George, "Equipping Olympia's Saints: Historical Sketches of First United Methodist Church of Olympia," brochure published by the Church, n.d.

Stevenson, Shanna, Lacey, Olympia and Tumwater: A Pictorial History, Donning, 1985.

Interview with Mrs. Dorsey Cunningham.

PHOTOS

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View of north facade (shown), east facade

taken 10/16/1985

Photography Neg. No. (Roll No./Frame No.):

26-3A.4A

Comments:

