

Historic Property Central School
Inventory Report for 317 Union Olympia, Thurston, 98501

LOCATION SECTION

Historic Name: Central School **Field Site No.:** 799
Common Name: (#34-827) **OAHP No.:**
Property Address: 317 Union Olympia, Thurston, 98501
Comments: OLYMPIA

County **Township/Range/EW** **Section** **1/4 Sec** **1/4 1/4 Sec** **Quadrangle**
 T18R02W 23 NW TUMWATER

UTM Reference

Zone: 10 **Spatial Type:** Point **Acquisition Code:** TopoZone.com
Sequence: 0 **Easting:** 507920 **Northing:** 5209300

Tax No./Parcel No. **Plat/Block/Lot**
83909400100 Williams Plat Lot 1 Block 94

Supplemental Map(s) **Acreage**
City of Olympia Planning Department .18

IDENTIFICATION SECTION

Field Recorder: Shanna Stevenson **Date Recorded:** 8/1/1990 **Survey Name:** OLYMPIA

Owner's Name: John C. Hawthorne **Owner Address:** 3425 24th Avenue NE **City/State/Zip:** Olympia, WA 98506

Classification: Building **Resource Status** **Comments**

Within a District? Yes Survey/Inventory

Contributing? State Register

National Register Nomination: 0

Local District:

National Register District/Thematic Nomination Name: 690

DESCRIPTION SECTION

Historic Use: Education - School

Current Use: Domestic - Multiple Family House

Plan: Rectangle **No. of Stories:** 2

Structural System: Balloon Frame

Changes to plan: Moderate

Changes to interior: Extensive

Changes to original cladding: Slight

Changes to other:

Changes to windows: Slight

Other (specify):

Cladding Wood - Clapboard

Foundation Concrete - Poured

Style Greek Revival

Form/Type

Roof Material Asphalt / Composition

Roof Type Gable

NARRATIVE SECTION

Study Unit	Other	Date Of Construction: 1858
<u>Education</u>	<u>Women's History</u>	Architect: <u>remodl/Benjamin Harned</u>
<u>Politics/Government/Law</u>		Builder:
		Engineer:

Property appears to meet criteria for the National Register of Historic Places: Yes
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 Central School is an excellent example of 19th century public architecture and retains many of its distinctive Greek Revival features. Historically, the building is associated with early education and government in the area. Originally the location of one of the first institutions of higher learning in the territory, the building was also used as the first permanent Thurston County Courthouse and, for many years, as the primary school facility in Olympia. Although moved one block in 1906, the building retains its decorative elements and integrity making it one of the oldest frame structures in Olympia and one of the finest remaining examples of pioneer Greek Revival architecture in the region. When completed in 1858, the school building houses the Puget Sound Wesleyan institute, a successor to the Puget Sound Institute organized in 1856. The Wesleyan institute had reorganized in 1857 under the auspices of Reverend Isaac Dillon and the Methodist Episcopal Church, with a number of local notables on the board and 60 students who met in temporary quarters in the Masonic Temple. By November 1857, plans were underway to build a suitable school building. With Hall and Taylor as contractors, the building was built in a Greek Revival Style typical of other mid-19th century public structures in the area, including the territorial capitol. Rev. Isaac Dillon and his wife were teachers at the Puget Sound Wesleyan Institute for girls and boys in 1856. Puget Sound Wesleyan occupied the building until 1861 when, strapped for funds, it reformed into two more schools--the Olympia Union Academy and the Olympia Collegiate Institute--and relocated to another building. The school eventually merged with the University of Puget Sound. In 1862, Thurston County Commissioners, who had not met at a permanent location, purchased the structure and hired Benjamin Harned to remodel the structure for their use. The commissioners met in the structure for the next nine years. But the location was less than ideal. Reached over ungraded streets, wooden sidewalks, and through woods from downtown, many thought the building "too remote" for business convenience. Thus, in 1871, the structure was leased by the county to a girl's seminary and altered again. The seminary was taught by Mrs. Pamela Case and Miss Carrie Churchill, who conducted school there until 1875. In that year, the county traded the inconvenient property to the Olympia School District in exchange for the town school building at 6th and Franklin Streets closer to downtown.

Description of Physical Appearance Located near downtown Olympia, the central School building and detached annex are adjacent rectangular, two story, wood frame buildings sided with clapboards and resting on concrete foundations. The original school building, constructed in 1858 (modified later in the nineteenth century), is an example of the Greek Revival style common to public buildings of the period in the Northwest. The annex, although built 26 years later (1884). Reflects a compatible design. Both buildings were moved a short distance in 1906, but maintain good integrity. The gable roof of the school building has a temple silhouette, pedimented gable ends, projecting boxed cornice, and an unornamented frieze. Pilaster corner boards frame the building. The front (east) facade of the building has four double-hung sash windows disposed symmetrically across the second story. On the first story of the facade, the double door entry is offset to the south, flanked by a fixed multi-paned window on the south and a fixed multi-paned window and a double-hung sash window on the north. The north gable end has a double entry flanked by double-hung sash windows on the first floor, three double-hung sash windows on the second story, and a central window on the attic level. The south gable end has two sash windows on each story and one attic level. The south gable end has two sash windows on each story and one attic level. Most of the windows on the front and sides have projecting entablature hoods. Simple open porches shelter the front and side entries. The west (rear) facade of the building has three non-historic windows and one original window on the second story. The first story has two rear access doors sheltered by small porches, with new windows flanking the entries. A small shed has been added to the rear. A brick chimney rises from the east slope of the gable roof.

Major Bibliographic References Bowden, Angie Burt Early Schools of Washington Territory. Lowman and Hanford, Seattle, 1935.
 Knowx, Ester. A Diary of the Olympia School District, 1852-1976. n.p., n.d.

PHOTOS



View of
taken

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

Comments: