

Historic Property Chambers Block
Inventory Report for 100 North Capitol Way Olympia, Thurston, 98501

LOCATION SECTION

Historic Name: Chambers Block Field Site No.: 708
Common Name: (#34-675) OAHP No.:
Property Address: 100 North Capitol Way Olympia, Thurston, 98501
Comments: OLYMPIA

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

UTM Reference

Zone: 10 Spatial Type: Point Acquisition Code: TopoZone.com
Sequence: 0 Easting: 507620 Northing: 5209960

Tax No./Parcel No. Plat/Block/Lot
78501300701 Sylvester's Plat/Block 13/Lots 7&8

Supplemental Map(s) Acreage
City of Olympia Planning Department 13

IDENTIFICATION SECTION

Field Recorder: Shanna Stevenson Date Recorded: 7/1/1989 Survey Name: OLYMPIA

Owner's Name: Desner Prop Ltd Ptnrshp #2 Owner Address: 112 East 4th Avenue Suite 204 City/State/Zip: Olympia, WA 98501

Classification: Building Resource Status Comments

Within a District? Yes Survey/Inventory

Contributing? Local Register

National Register Nomination: 0

Local District:

National Register District/Thematic Nomination Name: OLYMPIA DOWNTOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT

DESCRIPTION SECTION

Historic Use: Commerce/Trade - Business

Current Use: Commerce/Trade - Business

Plan: Rectangle No. of Stories: 2 + mezzanin

Structural System: Unknown

Changes to plan: Moderate

Changes to interior: Moderate

Changes to original cladding: Slight

Changes to other:

Changes to windows: Moderate

Other (specify): removal of cornice &

Cladding Brick

Foundation Brick

Stucco

Metal - Cast Iron

Style Commercial

Form/Type

Roof Material Asphalt / Compostion - Rolled

Roof Type Unknown

NARRATIVE SECTION

Study Unit	Other
Architecture/Landscape Architecture	
Commerce	

Date Of Construction: 1886
Architect: Charles Patnade
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): Yes
Property potentially contributes to a historic district (National and/or local):

Statement of Significance The Chambers Block is one of the oldest and most prominent of the early downtown business blocks. The structure was built in 1887 for businessman and Olympia mayor A. H. Chambers. The architect was John G. Proctor of Tacoma. He also designed Western State Hospital, the old Pierce County Courthouse and several residences in Tacoma. Newspaper articles of the time recount the pride and workmanship of the building. Stone for the foundation came from Mud Bay and brickwork was by Patnude and Bleuvelt, local brick manufacturers and masons. The building is at the site of the old town pump of Olympia and at this location during the Indian Uprising of 1855-56, city residents installed a cannon as part of a stockade along 4th Avenue. A. H. Chambers was a prominent businessman and civic booster. The son of pioneer David Chambers, he owned a meat packing business which he started as Chambers Packing in 1870. Chambers was mayor of Olympia during the time the block was being built and was instrumental in bringing St. Peter Hospital to Olympia, also in 1887. Chambers also promoted St. Martin's College. Listed on the Olympia Heritage Register

Description of Physical Appearance This is an elongated two story brick masonry structure, the building has a flat roof and is faced with concrete. The west and south facades have cast iron columns which imitate rusticated stone and have pedimented capitals. The second story has engaged pilasters and a cornice panel. Tall, narrow double-hung sash windows on the second story are topped by recessed panels. Clerestory windows are above the storefronts on the west and south sides. The west facade has had the storefronts filled in with concrete block on the first floor. On the second floor, two replacement bay windows flank a center window with a sunburst design. Storefronts on the south side have been altered and have newer plate glass storefronts and metal framed glass doors. Some storefronts are faced with carrara glass.

Major Bibliographic References R. Kenneth Evans, "A. H. Chambers Packing Company Established in 1870 and the First on the Entire Pacific Coast," Daily Olympian, November 20, 1937.
Blankenship, Mrs. George E., Early History of Thurston County, Washington, Olympia, 1914.

PHOTOS



View of SW corner
taken 7/1/1989
Photography Neg. No. (Roll No./Frame No.):
31-20
Comments: