

NARRATIVE SECTION

Study Unit

Other

Date Of Construction: 1915

Commerce

Architect: Casco Company

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

The Rex Building was built in 1915 by the Casco Company owned by Millard Lemon as part of his development of 4th Avenue. The name of the building comes from the Rex Theater which occupied the first floor northwest storefront. The building has undergone substantial renovation and is listed on the Olympia Heritage Register.

Description of Physical Appearance

This is a large, rectangular concrete structure rising two stories. Its flat roof is bordered by a decorative parapet on the front (north) and west facades. The stucco walls are ornamented by full-height engaged pilasters, a decorative band with recessed rectangular panels between the stories, and similar recessed panels above the second-story windows. The front facade has five bays with modern storefronts, which have plate glass windows and glass doors in aluminum frames, and kickplates of various materials including tile. Their multi-paned transoms are basically intact. The northwest corner storefront is deeply recessed. A new flat canopy with a decorative fascia extends across the front facade and around the west facade to the first bay just below the clerestory band. The west facade has seven bays, with plate glass storefronts in several and an original storefront at the southwest corner which has wood-frame plate glass windows and clerestories and a tile kickplate. The upper story has the original wide tripartite windows with rectangular transoms, in arched recesses.

Major Bibliographic References

Blankenship, Mrs. George, Early History of Thurston County, Washington, Olympia, 1914.
Obituary for Gerry Lemon, Daily Olympian, January 14, 1976. p. A6.
Material from the Lemon Family.

PHOTOS



View of NW corner

taken 7/6/1989

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

31-14

Comments: