

Historic Property Ward's Building
Inventory Report for 317 East 4th Olympia, Thurston, 98506

LOCATION SECTION

Historic Name: Ward's Building
Common Name: (#34-690)
Property Address: 317 East 4th Olympia, Thurston, 98506
Comments: OLYMPIA

Field Site No.: 717
OAHP No.:

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

UTM Reference

Zone: 10 **Spatial Type:** Point **Acquisition Code:** TopoZone.com
Sequence: 0 **Easting:** 507830 **Northing:** 5209930

Tax No./Parcel No. **Plat/Block/Lot**
78503400300 Sylevester I3 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:**
B & L, LLC 3114 41st Way SE Olympia, WA 98501

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

Within a District? No Survey/Inventory

Contributing? Local Register

National Register Nomination: 0

Local District:

National Register District/Thematic Nomination Name:

DESCRIPTION SECTION

Historic Use: Commerce/Trade - Business

Current Use: Commerce/Trade - Business

Plan: Rectangle **No. of Stories:** 2 plus new m

Structural System: Concrete - Block

Changes to plan: Extensive

Changes to interior: Extensive

Changes to original cladding: Intact

Changes to other:

Changes to windows: Moderate

Other (specify):

Cladding Brick

Foundation Concrete - Poured

Concrete

Style Commercial

Form/Type

Roof Material Asphalt / Composition - Rolled

Roof Type Unknown

NARRATIVE SECTION

Study Unit	Other
Architecture/Landscape Architecture	
Commerce	

Date Of Construction: 1928
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): Yes
Property potentially contributes to a historic district (National and/or local):

Statement of Significance The Wards Building built in 1928 by the Casco Company has long been a part of the mercantile scene in Olympia. One of the first chain stores to locate in Olympia, the Wards store was for many years a catalogue outlet. In the early 1960's, the building was also used by the Olympia School District as a site of the original Olympia Vocational Technical Institute, the forerunner of the present South Puget Sound Community College. The building was renovated retaining a number of its historic exterior features, but completely changing the interior. Listed on the Olympia Register

Description of Physical Appearance This is a rectangular concrete building of two stories, with a full basement and a newly-added mezzanine. Its brick front (north) facade is topped by a stepped and arched Mission Revival style parapet, edged by decorative brickwork. The upper story has three bays separated by engaged pilasters, containing wide tripartite windows with rectangular transoms. The ground floor has a new wood and plate glass storefront with a projecting wooden planter box, but maintains the original tile kickplate and full-width transom of small fixture glass tiles. (The mezzanine level is recessed from the front wall, but gains light through the transom.) One of the two original recessed entries with its mosaic tile floor has been retained, but the other has been filled in flush with the sidewalk and incorporated into the new storefront. The remaining entry is topped by a fabric awning. The interior has a new full-height atrium with a large skylight, and the floors and divided into offices and a restaurant.

Major Bibliographic References Knox, Esther, A Diary of the Olympia School District, 1852-1976, Olympia School District, 1976.

PHOTOS



View of NW corner
taken 10/16/1985
Photography Neg. No. (Roll No./Frame No.):
26-2A
Comments: