

Historic Property Olympia National Bank
Inventory Report for 422 South Capitol Way Olympia, Thurston, 98501

LOCATION SECTION

Historic Name: Olympia National Bank **Field Site No.:** 731
Common Name: (#34-711) **OAHP No.:**
Property Address: 422 South Capitol Way Olympia, Thurston, 98501
Comments: OLYMPIA

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

UTM Reference

Zone: 10 **Spatial Type:** Point **Acquisition Code:** TopoZone.com
Sequence: 0 **Easting:** 507620 **Northing:** 5209860

Tax No./Parcel No. **Plat/Block/Lot**
78501400601 Sylvester Blk14 L6
78501400601

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

IDENTIFICATION SECTION

Field Recorder: Shanna Stevenson **Date Recorded:** 10/16/1985 **Survey Name:** OLYMPIA

Owner's Name: KBJ Investments **Owner Address:** 3434 Martin Way E **City/State/Zip:** Olympia, WA 98506

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

Within a District? Yes Survey/Inventory

Contributing? Yes National Register
State Register

National Register Nomination: OLYMPIA NATIONAL BANK

Local District:

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

DESCRIPTION SECTION

Historic Use: Commerce/Trade - Financial Institution

Current Use: Commerce/Trade - Business

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

Structural System: Concrete - Poured

Changes to plan: Intact **Changes to interior:** Intact

Changes to original cladding: Intact **Changes to other:**

Changes to windows: Extensive **Other (specify):**

Cladding Concrete **Foundation**

Terra Cotta

Style Beaux Arts - Neo-classical **Form/Type**

Roof Material Asphalt / Composition - Rolled **Roof Type** Unknown

NARRATIVE SECTION

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-------|
| Study Unit | Other |
| Architecture/Landscape Architecture | |
| Commerce | |

Date Of Construction: 1914
Architect: Joseph Wohleb, consulting 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 One of the most ornate and classically designed of the downtown buildings, the Olympia National Bank was built in 1914-15 with Joseph Wohleb as the supervising architect. The bank was organized in 1899 as Olympia State Bank and was located in the Stevens Block, which was on Capitol Way between third and fourth streets. First trustees were C. H. Kegley, C. S. Reinhart, Millard Lemon, George B. Lane and George H. Funk, all prominent business and professional men. Shortly after its founding in 1900, the directors voted to make the institution a national bank. They moved to the Chilberg building in 1901. In 1912, the bank was taken over by the Schmidt Estate, the owners of the Olympia Brewery. This brought in F. M. Kenney as the cashier and some of the Schmidt associates from Montana when Leopold F. Schmidt became president of the bank. In 1914 the decision was to build a new bank and they moved in on November 1, 1915. The structure was built to reflect the most up-to-date banking procedures and to quote a local newspaper, "One cannot gaze upon the solid, artistic white tile without a feeling that here is beauty, strength and progressiveness. The building is a classic, both in point of exterior appearance and interior finish and arrangement." The building was built upon a lot owned by the Schmidt estate and Joseph Speckart and the entire lot of 24 x 90 feet was covered. The structure was built to be entirely fireproof and features a Wilkeson sandstone foundation. The second floor was leased by prominent attorneys and professionals, some of whom held offices on the directorship of the bank. The structure originally had a balustrade topping the building which has been removed. Restored inside and out in 1977, the building typifies the "Bank as Temple" concept in American life.

Description of Physical Appearance This is an elongated concrete structure of two stories with a flat roof, built in the Neo-Classical style. Its front (west) and south walls are faced with elaborated cream-colored terra cotta cladding. The roof is bordered by an imposing cornice with modillions and dentils, below which is an unadorned frieze, with new raised letters spelling out the occupant's name. Below the frieze, the facades are graced by massive fluted pilasters resting on a low plinth; they divide the front wall into three bays and the south wall into eight. The pilasters have Corinthian capitals spanned by a lower frieze panel with cartouches. Centered on the front facade are the double entry doors, topped by a pedimented hood supported by over-sized brackets. Above the hood is a sculpted eagle. First-story fenestration is tall tripartite windows with transom of newer stained glass. At the rear of the south wall is a side entry door with a pedimented hood. Second-story fenestration is newer metal-framed picture windows with casement sidelights. The interior contains elaborate plasterwork and some of the original furnishings, and is still used as a bank. The building appears to be maintained in good condition.

Major Bibliographic References "Olympia National Bank is Serving a Useful Purpose in Community," Morning Olympian, March 15, 1916.
"Many Buildings are Design by Wohleb," Morning Olympian March 15, 1916.

PHOTOS



View of SW corner
taken 10/16/1985
Photography Neg. No. (Roll No./Frame No.):
26-24A
Comments: