

Historic Property American Legion Hall
Inventory Report for 219 Southeast Legion Way Olympia, Thurston, 98501

LOCATION SECTION

Historic Name: American Legion Hall **Field Site No.:** 733
Common Name: (#34-716) **OAHP No.:**
Property Address: 219 Southeast Legion 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:** 501440 **Northing:** 5209700

Tax No./Parcel No. **Plat/Block/Lot**
78507600100 Sylvester L1 & 4 Blk 76

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: Kolb Family Investments **Owner Address:** 2101 4th Ave E #201 **City/State/Zip:** Olympia, WA 98506

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

Within a District? Yes Survey/Inventory

Contributing? Yes National Register
State Register
Local Register

National Register Nomination: AMERICAN LEGION HALL
Local District:
National Register District/Thematic Nomination Name: 1281

DESCRIPTION SECTION

Historic Use: Social - Meeting Hall
Current Use: Commerce/Trade - Professional

Plan: Square **No. of Stories:** 2 1/2

Structural System: Concrete - Poured

Changes to plan: Intact **Changes to interior:** Unknown
Changes to original cladding: Intact **Changes to other:**
Changes to windows: Intact **Other (specify):**

Cladding Brick **Foundation** Concrete - Poured
Stucco

Style Commercial **Form/Type**
Roof Material Asphalt / Composition - Rolled **Roof Type** Unknown

NARRATIVE SECTION

Study Unit

Other

Date Of Construction: 1921

Architecture/Landscape Architecture

Architect: Joseph Wohleb

Entertainment/Recreation

Builder:

Military

Engineer:

Social Movements/Organizations

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 American Legion Hall, designed by Joseph Wohleb in a utilitarian but distinctive style, has served many civic functions in its 65-year history including a post office and civic center. One of the first posts organized in Washington, the hall is the oldest in continuous use in Washington and one of the oldest in the U. S. specifically designed as an American Legion facility. The Alfred William Leach Post No. 3 was organized in Olympia in 1919, the third in the state. The building was designed in 1920-21 and completed in 1921. The Olympia Rotary and members of the Legion assisted in the construction of the building. The National Guard leased the structure for a number of years. The 245th Coastal Artillery group met here until the construction of the Armory in 1930. The building was renovated in 1939 for an ice arena by Wohleb and the addition to the east dates from 1948. In 1924 the American Legion band was formed. That group has continuously performed over the years at almost all public functions in Olympia including parades, concerts and ceremonial events. The band was rated first nationally in 1938 and 1939 and in subsequent years has placed high in national competitions the latest a second in 1965. The building was severely damaged in the 2001 Nisqually earthquake and underwent a substantial renovation in 2003.

Description of Physical Appearance

: The American Legion Hall is located across from Capitol Lake abutting "Legion Way" on the north named for the center. The hall is a square, two-and-one-half-story brick structure of utilitarian design. The roof has a flat section to the east and a wide vaulted section to the west. The stucco-clad front (north) facade is topped by a parapet which forms a wide gable in front of the vaulted section. (The rear has a similar parapet.) The parapet is edged with brick, and the wall is decorated with horizontal and vertical brick bands. A wide brick archway at the left of the facade leads to the recessed main entry door, with an adjacent small window. This a brick-famed wooden entry door to the east of the window and arch on the first floor. There are three, six pane windows just above and to the east of the arched entry. The West side of the building has three sets of six-over-one windows on this face, paired windows on the ends a three in the center section. They are topped by similar brick famed six pane windows. The two sections are divided by brick and stucco designs. The gable end has three six-pane windows set in a brick frame which echoes the triangular brick outline on this façade. The west side has sets of three six-over-one windows on the second floor between pilasters which are topped with brick. The end sections have smaller six pane windows on the second floor. The first floor has small windows on the north end with two bay openings with wooden doors and two sets of three windows. The rear (south) of the building has an area recessed under the main building supported by columns. There are six paned windows on the second floor and two windows on the east side. Inside the L on the east side are six paned windows on the second floor and six-over-one windows on the first floor along with varies first and second floor entrances. The interior and exterior were renovated in 2003.

Major Bibliographic References

Stevenson, Shanna, "Olympia Downtown Walking Tour," 1980.
Interviews with David Swift, September, 1986.

PHOTOS

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View of NW corner

taken 10/16/1985

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

26-30A

Comments: