

Historic Property Seventh St. Tunnel
Inventory Report for 7th Street / between Columbia and Adams Olympia, Thurston, 98501

LOCATION SECTION

Historic Name: Seventh St. Tunnel
Common Name: (#34-743)
Property Address: 7th Street / between Columbia and Adams Olympia, Thurston, 98501
Comments: OLYMPIA

Field Site No.: 737
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: 507760 Northing: 5209670

Tax No./Parcel No. Plat/Block/Lot
site=7th St. Tunnel

Supplemental Map(s) Acreage
City of Olympia Planning Department

IDENTIFICATION SECTION

Field Recorder: Shanna Stevenson Date Recorded: 10/17/1985 Survey Name: OLYMPIA

Owner's Name: Burlington Northern Owner Address: King Street Station 303 South Jackson City/State/Zip: Seattle, WA 98104

Classification: Structure Resource Status Comments

Within a District? No Survey/Inventory

Contributing?

National Register Nomination: 0
Local District:
National Register District/Thematic Nomination Name:

DESCRIPTION SECTION

Historic Use: Transportation - Road-Related (vehicular)
Current Use: Transportation - Road-Related (vehicular)

Plan: Unknown No. of Stories:

Structural System: Concrete - Poured

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

Cladding Foundation
Style Form/Type
Roof Material Roof Type

NARRATIVE SECTION

Study Unit	Other	Date Of Construction: <u>1914</u>
Science & Engineering		Architect:
Transportation		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 Seventh St. Tunnel is part of the long frustrating history of Olympia's attempts to obtain railroad service. Bypassed in 1873 by the Northern Pacific as western terminus, Olympia built their own narrow gauge spur to Tenino, some 15 miles distant and the nearest connection with the mainline in 1878. In 1890 however after the declaration of Olympia as the capital of the new state of Washington, offers from railroads abounded. The Union Pacific offered to build a line from Portland to Seattle via Olympia; the Port Townsend Southern, operators of the narrow gauge line proposed to extend its line from Port Townsend to Portland via Olympia and the Olympia, Tacoma and Grays Harbor Railroad offered a line from Tacoma to Grays Harbor via Olympia. All of the offers were contingent upon offers of cash and concessions from Olympia. Olympia did give \$50,000 but they refused to allow the Olympia, Tacoma and Grays Harbor Railroad (associated with the Northern Pacific) to run the railway in front of 7th St. homes. The Northern Pacific had to build a tunnel. The tunnel was completed in 1914 and lined in reinforced concrete. Measuring 1001 feet long, the tunnel is now part of the St. Clair-Gate Line. The top of the tunnel on 7th Street was used as an extension of Sylvester Park and dances and other events were held on the street which was first covered with wooden slats and later paved.

Description of Physical Appearance 1001 feet long, poured concrete

Major Bibliographic References Information from Burlington Northern Bridge Department.
Newell, Gordon, Rogues, Buffoons and Statesman, Seattle, Superior Publishing, 1975.

PHOTOS



View of
taken
Photography Neg. No. (Roll No./Frame No.):

Comments: