

Historic Property Weidner Auto Court
Inventory Report for 915 South Capitol Way Olympia, Thurston, 98501

LOCATION SECTION

Historic Name: Weidner Auto Court **Field Site No.:** 738
Common Name: (#34-745) **OAHP No.:**
Property Address: 915 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:** 507610 **Northing:** 5209410

Tax No./Parcel No. **Plat/Block/Lot**
78506500002 Sylvester portion Blk 65

Supplemental Map(s) **Acreage**
City of Olympia Planning Department .34

IDENTIFICATION SECTION

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

Owner's Name: Richard S. Koch **Owner Address:** 3000 Limited Lane NW Ste 150 **City/State/Zip:** Olympia, WA 98502

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: Domestic - Hotel
Current Use: Domestic - Multiple Family House

Plan: L-Shape **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: Intact **Other (specify):**

Cladding Shingle - Concrete/Asbestos **Foundation** Concrete - Poured

Stucco
Unknown

Style Tudor **Form/Type**

Roof Material Asphalt / Composition **Roof Type** Gable

NARRATIVE SECTION

Study Unit

Other

Date Of Construction: 1929

Architecture/Landscape Architecture

Architect: Joseph Wohleb

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

One of the most unusual of the downtown structures, the auto court is a remnant of the past when Capitol Way was part of Old Highway 99 and a major through road. The building was built on an unusual L-shaped lot in a design by Joseph Wohleb in 1929 in a design by Joseph Wohleb in 1929 in a Tudoresque style by Ernie Weidner. Weidner was born in Chicago and first came west to Seattle as a sales manager of Leopold Schmidt. His brother O. Weidner also came to the area and together they operated the Otto Braeger Saloon. O. bought his brother out in 1929 and built the Wedner Rummy Club in downtown Olympia. Ernie went back to working as a brewery sales manager but purchased this unusually shaped lot and erected the auto court.

Description of Physical Appearance

This is an L-shaped, two-story wood frame structure of simplified English Revival style on a poured concrete foundation, with an open courtyard following the shape of the "L." Its gable roof is covered with composition shingles, and gradually steps upward toward the rear of the building, following the gentle slope of the lot. The slightly overhanging upper story is supported by brackets; it is clad with stucco, with decorative half-timbering on the double gables of the front facade, on either side of the courtyard. The overhang steps up toward the rear, following the roofline. The first story is clad with asbestos siding; its front facade features storefronts with multi-paned entry doors and plate glass windows on either side of the courtyard. The remainder of the first story is taken up by garages, with paneled side-hinged doors, and entry doors to the upper apartments. Second-story fenestration is single, paired and tripartite double-hung sash with six-over-one lights.

Major Bibliographic References

Information from Col. James Weidner.

Maddox, Dawn, "Joseph Wohleb: resident architect of the state Capital," Landmarks, Vol IV., No. 4

PHOTOS



View of East facade

taken 10/17/1985

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

27-27A

Comments: