

Historic Property Olympia Hardware
Inventory Report for 109 North Capital Way Olympia, Thurston, 98501

LOCATION SECTION

Historic Name: Olympia Hardware **Field Site No.:** 751
Common Name: (#34-771) **OAHP No.:**
Property Address: 109 North Capital Way Olympia, Thurston, 98501
Comments: OLYMPIA/OLYWOMEN

| County | Township/Range/EW | Section | 1/4 Sec | 1/4 1/4 Sec | Quadrangle |
|--------|-------------------|-----------|-----------|-------------|-----------------|
| | <u>T18R02W</u> | <u>14</u> | <u>SW</u> | | <u>TUMWATER</u> |

UTM Reference

Zone: 10 **Spatial Type:** Point **Acquisition Code:** TopoZone.com
Sequence: 0 **Easting:** 507600 **Northing:** 5210000

Tax No./Parcel No. 78500400600 **Plat/Block/Lot** Sylvester/Block4/Lot 6

Supplemental Map(s) **Acreage**
City of Olympia Planning Department .14

IDENTIFICATION SECTION

Field Recorder: Shanna Stevenson **Date Recorded:** 5/31/1989 **Survey Name:** OLYMPIA

Owner's Name: Dennis & Margo Jensen **Owner Address:** 2534 Conger Ct NW **City/State/Zip:** Olympia, WA 98502

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

Within a District? Yes **Survey/Inventory**

Contributing? Local Register

National Register Nomination: 0

Local District:

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

DESCRIPTION SECTION

Historic Use: Commerce/Trade - Business

Current Use: Commerce/Trade - Business

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

Structural System: Brick

Changes to plan: Slight

Changes to original cladding: Slight

Changes to windows: Moderate

Changes to interior: Moderate

Changes to other:

Other (specify):

Cladding Brick

Style Commercial

Roof Material Asphalt / Composition - Rolled

Foundation Brick

Form/Type

Roof Type Unknown

NARRATIVE SECTION

| | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| Study Unit Commerce | Other Women's History | Date Of Construction: <u>1884</u> |
| | | 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 oldest business houses in Olympia, the Olympia Hardware Company building was built in 1884. The firm was begun by Charles Williams in 1854 and he was soon joined by his brother Sam. The Williams' home was just south of the store. The store was originally of frame construction, later faced with brick. Before 1887 the firm sold out to Will Bilger, a Captain Stark and Mr. Going. For a time the firm was known as Bilger and Going. The firm was later owned by Frank Blakesley and later still by Levy Johnson and George Eklund who bought the business in 1928. For many years the store had a tin shop upstairs. The hardware store was on the south side of the building. The north section had a variety of businesses including a paint shop and was the original location of the Harris store. Just after the turn of the century, a saloon and billiard room were located there. From 1941 to 1977 the Kay family restaurant, one of the city's foremost Chinese eateries occupied the space. Lim Shee Kay began the restaurant and operated it for many years. Toy Kay, her daughter-in-law was also active in the business.

Description of Physical Appearance The building is a one-story rectangular, commercial, flat roofed building of brick sidewall construction with the east front faced with stucco. The building has two storefronts separated by cast iron, decorative pilasters which also flank the sides of the building. Cast iron banding along the base of the building extends to form newel posts and frames the clerestory section of the store fronts. The south half of the building is relatively unaltered. In this section, two large plate glass storefront windows flank a recessed center double, wood-framed entry door which is topped by a transom. Large, wood-frame clerestory windows extend across the top of the storefront. A historic light fixture hangs in the recessed entry. Later sloping metal canopy has been installed across the front of the building. The interior of the south storefront originally had a tin ceiling which has been covered over. The north storefront has had half of the plate glass of the storefronts covered over. The recessed entry, topped by a transom remains. The clerestory windows across the rest have the facade have been boarded over. The original entry has been obscured by wood panels and a new, metal framed glass entry door installed.

Major Bibliographic References Walker, C. J. "Time's March Takes Its Toll," Olympian, November 29, 1961.
Interview with Mrs. Nellie Eklund Kirscher.
Interview with Mrs. Lewis Eklund.
Interview with Mrs. Toy Kay.

PHOTOS



View of East (front) facade
taken 7/6/1989
Photography Neg. No. (Roll No./Frame No.):
31-1
Comments: