

Historic Property Talcott Jewelers
Inventory Report for 420 South Capitol Way Olympia, Thurston, 98501

LOCATION SECTION

Historic Name: Talcott Jewelers **Field Site No.:** 755
Common Name: (#34-775) **OAHP No.:**
Property Address: 420 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:** 507670 **Northing:** 5209910

Tax No./Parcel No. **Plat/Block/Lot**
78501400701 Sylvester Plat/ Bock 14/Lots 7 and 8

Supplemental Map(s) **Acreage**
City of Olympia Planning Department .07

IDENTIFICATION SECTION

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

Owner's Name: Janice/Richard Talcott **Owner Address:** 420 Capitol Way S **City/State/Zip:** Olympia, WA 98501

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

Within a District? Yes Local Register

Contributing?

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:** two

Structural System: Brick

Changes to plan: Moderate

Changes to interior: Moderate

Changes to original cladding: Extensive

Changes to other:

Changes to windows: Extensive

Other (specify):

Cladding Brick
Stucco
Metal - Aluminum Siding

Foundation Brick

Style Commercial

Form/Type

Roof Material Asphalt / Compostion - Rolled

Roof Type Unknown

NARRATIVE SECTION

Study Unit	Other	Date Of Construction: <u>1883</u>
<u>Commerce</u>		Architect:
<u>Politics/Government/Law</u>		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 Talcott family has been in the jewelry business for over 100 years in Olympia and since 1882 at this site. Lucius Lord Talcott operated a dry goods store in Pittsfield, Illinois. After a disastrous fire there in 1871, he came west with his son Charles in 1872 and established Talcott Brothers, Inc. in Olympia. The beginning inventory was a small satchel of jewelry and watches. They originally located their store at Capitol and State. After a fire at that location in 1882, they constructed one of the city's first brick buildings at this site that year. Brothers George Noyes and Lucius "Grant" later joined Charles and their father. The Talcott Brothers designed the State Seal at this location in 1889 and Charles Talcott cut the die. The Washington Supreme Court met in the second floor of the store in 1891. The Talcotts quickly added a variety of goods to their store including groceries, sewing machines, lamps, silverware, china, crystal, cutlery, pianos and organs. They offered the first soda fountain in the city and the first delivery wagon. They also were opticians, and made dental crowns, rubber stamps and notary seals. They sold paints and "Occidental Silver polish" which was made from the minerals on their property at Chambers Prairie near Olympia. The Talcott Brothers made the first set of gold teeth on the Pacific Coast. They also specialized in umbrellas with hand-carved wooden handles. In 1907, the size of the brick store was doubled to its current size. In later years the store has specialized in jewelry, the oldest continuously operating jewelry store in the state. Five generations of Talcotts have owned and operated the store. Lucius was the first owner and then his sons, Charles, Grant and George. George's son, George "Noyes" Talcott then managed the store for many years. He has been succeeded by his son, Richard Noyes Talcott and grandson, Richard Noyes Talcott, Jr. who now operates the store. Members of the Talcott family have long been prominent in civic and business organizations. Charles and Grant were longtime volunteer firemen and Olympia's first fire department substation was named in Grant Talcott's honor. After the 1949 earthquake, the Talcotts undertook a "modernization" of the storefront which changed the original brick facade to its current altered appearance. The Talcott Store site is listed on the Olympia Heritage Register.

Description of Physical Appearance This is a two story, flat-roofed, vernacular commercial building of brick construction with a false front. The second story has four newer metal frame windows. The building is faced with vertical sheet metal panels. The front facade is spanned by a wide umbrella awning. Irregularly shaped newer plate glass display windows slant towards a deeply recessed double metal-framed glass entry doors topped by a metal framed glass transom. A deep marble kickplate and top border frame the display windows. The entry pavilion is carpeted and the outer part of the building has concrete sidewalls.

Major Bibliographic References Information from Richard Talcott, Jr.
"You may not know us for our Umbrellas...", brochure published by Talcott Jewelers.
Daily Olympian, November 8, 1939.
Seattle Times, May 17, 1953.

PHOTOS



View of West (front) facade
taken 5/31/1989
Photography Neg. No. (Roll No./Frame No.):
29-19
Comments: