

**Historic Property** Harris Drygoods  
**Inventory Report for** 518 South Capitol Way Olympia, Thurston, 98501

---

**LOCATION SECTION**

---

**Historic Name:** Harris Drygoods **Field Site No.:** 760  
**Common Name:** (#34-780) **OAHP No.:**  
**Property Address:** 518 South Capitol Way Olympia, Thurston, 98501  
**Comments:** OLYMPIA

**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:** 507650 **Northing:** 5209840

**Tax No./Parcel No.** **Plat/Block/Lot**  
78501500101 Sylvester's Plat/Block 15/Lots 1 and 2

**Supplemental Map(s)** **Acreage**  
City of Olympia Planning Department .25

**IDENTIFICATION SECTION**

---

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

**Owner's Name:** Harris Drygoods Limited Partnership **Owner Address:** 112 E 4th Avenue, Suite 204 **City/State/Zip:** Olympia, WA 98501

**Classification:** Building **Resource Status** **Comments**  
**Within a District?** Yes Survey/Inventory OHR-86-3  
**Contributing?** Local Register OHR-04-06

**National Register Nomination:**  
**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/ (1 1/2)

**Structural System:** Concrete - Block

**Changes to plan:** Moderate **Changes to interior:** Extensive  
**Changes to original cladding:** Extensive **Changes to other:**  
**Changes to windows:** Extensive **Other (specify):**

**Cladding** Concrete **Foundation**  
Stucco  
**Style** Commercial **Form/Type**  
**Roof Material** Asphalt / Compostion - Rolled **Roof Type** Unknown

## NARRATIVE SECTION

Study Unit

Other

Date Of Construction: 1896

Commerce

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**

Harris Drygoods began with calico beads and moccasins for the Indian trade in Olympia in 1869. Isaac Harris first located his store in the block between State and Third near the Olympia Hardware building. Harris came west in 1853 first to Salem, Oregon and later to Walla Walla and Montana. The Indian trade grew into pioneer trade with yardage, drygoods and boots. This building was built in 1896 measuring 90 by 100 feet. Isaac Harris' sons, Gus and Mitchel joined him in the business. Mitchel Harris was twice elected mayor of Olympia and was for a time a member of the Capitol Commission. The store originally had an ornate storefront which has since been altered.

**Description of  
Physical  
Appearance**

This is a flat-roofed, vernacular, rectangular building of brick construction faced with stucco with a false front. The top part of the building has plain stucco face. A broad, flat metal canopy supported by chains spans the front (west) facade. The storefront has full-length metal frame plate glass windows. The entry is offset slightly to the south. The display windows slant in towards the entry which has double metal frame glass doors with a metal frame transom. The building steps down from the front facade to the rear which is evident on the south alley side.

**Major  
Bibliographic  
References**

"Harris Company Pioneer Store," Daily Olympian, April 20, 1941.  
"Olympia", Lee Printing Co., 1926.  
Blankenship, Mrs. George, comp. and ed. Early History of Thurston County Washington. Olympia: 1914.

## PHOTOS



View of Front west Facade

taken 5/31/1989

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

29-22

Comments:



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

Comments: