

NARRATIVE SECTION

Study Unit	Other	Date Of Construction: <u>1927</u>
<u>Commerce</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 Ammon T. Rabeck came to Olympia from Ohio in 1888. He first worked in lumber mills and in 1901 opened a small organ store at the present site of the Montgomery Ward Building. He expanded his stock to sell bicycles, pianos and sewing machines, but his first love was music and after converting George Barnes' carriage on the same block, he established a full-fledged music store. He became the first agent for phonographs in Olympia. Rabeck's Music was the oldest of its kind of music business in southwest Washington. In 1904, Rabeck started in the music publication business. He published many of his own compositions, the most famous, "The Rhododendron March. " He moved to the Cunningham's Building briefly and in 1927 built this building. His brother and nephew, Clarence Rabeck, carried on the business at this location until 1946 when Yenney's bought the business. They moved from this location, still in the music business, in 1963. The building has been occupied by a number of concerns since that time and is presently undergoing a major renovation and rebuilding. This building is listed on the Olympia Heritage Register.

Description of Physical Appearance After substantial renovation, only the front facade and rear walls of the building are remaining. The facade has a capped parapet roofline. The top of the building has a relief stucco design matching the lines the parapet. Vertical panes of obscure glass separated by wood muntins form the front clerestory band. The side ends of the building on the front facade are flanked by pilasters with relief design. The storefront has plate glass display windows with a recessed center main entry. The entry door is wood-frame glass with a similarly framed transom. An adjacent store window to the west is bowed glass adjoined by another recessed, woodframe entry door. The building has tile kickplates. The rear of the building has been demolished. Since renovation, the building has been in poor repair.

Major Bibliographic References "Rabeck Had First Music Store In Olympia of Last Century," Daily Olympian, April 29, 1941.
"Rabeck's Music House Carried Large Stock," Daily Olympian, March 15, 1916

PHOTOS



View of North (front) Facade
taken 6/1/1989
Photography Neg. No. (Roll No./Frame No.):
37-3
Comments: