

Historic Property Sunset Life Building
Inventory Report for 522 South Franklin Olympia, Thurston, 98501

LOCATION SECTION

Historic Name: Sunset Life Building Field Site No.: 773
Common Name: (#34-793) OAHP No.:
Property Address: 522 South Franklin 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: 507840 Northing: 5209820

Tax No./Parcel No. Plat/Block/Lot
78503500701 Sylvester's Plat/Block 35/ Lots 7 & 8

Supplemental Map(s) Acreage
City of Olympia Planning Department .16

IDENTIFICATION SECTION

Field Recorder: Shanna Stevenson Date Recorded: 6/1/1989 Survey Name: OLYMPIA

Owner's Name: William and Sheryl Perkins Owner Address: 522 Franklin Street SE City/State/Zip: Olympia, WA 98501

Classification: Building Resource Status Survey/Inventory Comments

Within a District? No

Contributing?

National Register Nomination: 0
Local District:
National Register District/Thematic Nomination Name:

DESCRIPTION SECTION

Historic Use: Commerce/Trade - Business
Current Use: Commerce/Trade - Business

Plan: Rectangle No. of Stories: one

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 Concrete - Poured

Style Commercial Form/Type

Roof Material Asphalt / Composition - Rolled Roof Type Barrel Vault

NARRATIVE SECTION

Study Unit	Other	Date Of Construction: <u>1925</u>
<u>Commerce</u>		Architect:
<u>Religion</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 structure was originally built as a garage and purchased in 1922 by the First Congregational Church for use as a "Community House" and used for classes and meetings. In 1937 the building was sold to Sunset Life Insurance Company. The company was locally founded that year as part of the American Underwriter's Corporation. The building was originally a textured concrete block structure with large multi-pane windows. Sunset Life occupied the building until 1958. It has subsequently been used as professional offices.

Description of Physical Appearance The building is a rectangular structure faced in stucco with a stepped parapet on the front (west) and rear (east) facades. The front has large one-way plate glass storefront windows flanking the main entry. A central entry has rounded glass block sidelights flanking metal-framed, glass double entry doors with a large textured glass transom. The building has corner pilasters with recessed panels below the windows. The south wall has 15 one-way glass casement windows with a top transom and bottom awning works. The north wall windows have all been filled in except for four multi-pane metal obscure glass windows on that facade. Some of the original ashlar faced concrete block is evident on this side. The windows all have concrete sills and metal awnings on the south side. A small concrete block extension is on the northwest corner. Letters reading "SUNSET" have been placed on the south sidewalk adjoining the building.

Major Bibliographic References Insurance Group Marks Anniversary" Daily Olympian, May 1, 1950.
"United Churches History," United Churches, 1981.
"Sunset Life Insurance Company: The First Fifty Years, 1937-1987." Commemorative booklet from Sunset Life.

PHOTOS



View of SW Corner
taken 6/1/1989
Photography Neg. No. (Roll No./Frame No.):
37-20
Comments: