

**Historic Property** Olympia Oyster House  
**Inventory Report for** 320 4th Avenue West Olympia, Thurston, 98501

**LOCATION SECTION**

**Historic Name:** Olympia Oyster House **Field Site No.:** 804  
**Common Name:** Olympia Oyster House (#34-831) **OAHP No.:**  
**Property Address:** 320 4th Avenue West Olympia, Thurston, 98501  
**Comments:** OLYMPIA

**County** **Township/Range/EW** **Section** **1/4 Sec** **1/4 1/4 Sec** **Quadrangle**  
                     T18R02W 14 NW TUMWATER

**UTM Reference**  
**Zone:** 10 **Spatial Type:** Point **Acquisition Code:** TopoZone.com  
**Sequence:** 0 **Easting:** 507370 **Northing:** 5210000

**Tax No./Parcel No.** **Plat/Block/Lot**  
91003400000 FCT B65 L6 & 7

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

**IDENTIFICATION SECTION**

**Field Recorder:** Shanna Stevenson **Date Recorded:** 7/1/1992 **Survey Name:** OLYMPIA

**Owner's Name:** T&L Limited Liability Co **Owner Address:** 420 W. Bay Road NW **City/State/Zip:** Olympia, WA 98502

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

**Within a District?** No **Survey/Inventory**

**Contributing?**

**National Register Nomination:** 0

**Local District:**

**National Register District/Thematic Nomination Name:**

**DESCRIPTION SECTION**

**Historic Use:** Industry/Processing/Extraction - Processing Site

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

**Plan:** Rectangle **No. of Stories:** 1

**Structural System:** Concrete - Block

**Changes to plan:** Moderate

**Changes to original cladding:** Intact

**Changes to windows:** Moderate

**Changes to interior:** Extensive

**Changes to other:**

**Other (specify):**

**Cladding** Concrete

**Style** Commercial

**Roof Material** Asphalt / Compostion - Rolled

**Foundation** Concrete - Poured

**Form/Type**

**Roof Type**

## NARRATIVE SECTION

**Study Unit**

**Other**

Commerce

Other

cultural maritime resources of

**Date Of Construction:** 1923

**Architect:** Wohleb

**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 building was built as the opening house for oysters for the Olympia Oyster Company which was housed previously at a wooden building at this location. The oysters were harvested at Oyster Bay (Totten Inlet) and were brought by boat from floating culling housed to this location to be opened, packed and refrigerated for wholesale and retail. Several other oyster packing facilities were built along Fourth Street as well. With the improvement of overland roads to Oyster Bay, the packing facilities moved closer to the oyster beds. This structure was built in 1923 in a Joseph Wohleb design. An oyster bar was installed in the 1930's in the front of the building and in the 1940's the entire structure became a restaurant which required extensive remodeling of the building. It has been modernized throughout the years with newer windows and entry.

**Description of Physical Appearance**

One story concrete building with a barrel vault roofline. Newer metal frame windows are on the front (south) facade which abuts the sidewalk on the front and adjoins the waterfront on the west. Large multi-pane windows are on the west side (one has been filled in) and the rear has newer large picture windows in metal frames. 1997: The building was completely renovated with additional widow openings and interior alterations.

**Major Bibliographic References**

Interview with Dr. Reed Ingham, July, 1992.  
Steele, E.N., Rise and Decline of the Olympia Oyster, Fulco Publication, 1957.  
Maddox, Dawn, "Joseph Wohleb: resident architect of the state Capital," Landmarks, Vol. IV., No. 4.

## PHOTOS



**View of** Southwest corner

**taken** 9/1/1997

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

43-3

**Comments:**