

Historic Property First Masonic Meeting
Inventory Report for 100 Block East Olympia Street Olympia, Thurston, 98501

LOCATION SECTION

Historic Name: First Masonic Meeting **Field Site No.:** 819
Common Name: Site Marker (#34-681) **OAHP No.:**
Property Address: 100 Block East Olympia Street 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:** 507600 **Northing:** 5210130

Tax No./Parcel No. **Plat/Block/Lot**
City Right of Way Adjacent to Blk 2 Sylvester

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

IDENTIFICATION SECTION

Field Recorder: Shanna Stevenson **Date Recorded:** 10/16/1985 **Survey Name:** OLYMPIA

Owner's Name: **Owner Address:** **City/State/Zip:**
City of Olympia 8th & Plum Olympia, WA 98501

Classification: Object **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: Recreation and Culture - Museum
Current Use: Recreation and Culture - Monument/Marker

Plan: Unknown **No. of Stories:**

Structural System: Unknown

Changes to plan: Unknown **Changes to interior:** Unknown

Changes to original cladding: Unknown **Changes to other:**

Changes to windows: Unknown **Other (specify):**

Cladding **Foundation**
Style **Form/Type**
Roof Material **Roof Type**

NARRATIVE SECTION

Study Unit	Other	Date Of Construction: <u>1852</u>
Social Movements/Organizations		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 The Masons were an influential group in early Olympia and Washington life. this marker is at the site of the first meeting place of that group in Olympia. the Olympia Lodge No 1., F.& A.M. is the oldest organization in Washington having the distinction of being formed in 1852 and was the first assemblage of Masons north of the Columbia River and west of the Rocky Mountains. An Oregon Territorial group had formed in 1848. A group of Olympia and petitioned the Grand Lodge of Oregon for a dispensation for Olympia Lodge. The seven men are among the most prominent in early Olympia area history--Thornton F. McElroy; M. T. Simmons, leader of the first party to permanently settle on Puget Sound at Tumwater; N. Delin, Smith Hays, and Ira Ward, all early day lumber mill operators; and A. K. Skidmore. Other first members were F. A. Clark and C. H. Hale. The dispensation for their charter was given on November 25, 1852--at this time Olympia was still a part of Oregon Territory. The charter was granted on June 13, 1853 to Olympia Lodge No. 5. (Later changed to Lodge No. 1 when Washington became a Territory.) The first meetings were held in a two-story building on Second Street on the south side, the same block where the first legislature met. This was a temporary site and plans were immediately made to build a permanent hall. This building was financed by T. F. McElroy, M. T. Simmons, Edmund Sylvester (who donated lots from his plat of Olympia for the structure) and C. Etheridge who built the hall. Built in 1853, the Hall was used for many uses including a Legislative Meeting Site and school and was located at the southeast corner of Capitol Way and 8th. This original structure was razed in 1911 and a new one built which was also torn down in the 1960s. The marker reads, "Original meeting place, Olympia Lodge No. 1 F. & A. M. Dec. 11, 1852. Laid by the M. W. Grand Lodge of Washington Dec. 10, A. L. 5927, Robert A Wilson, Grand Master. "

Description of Physical Appearance

Major Bibliographic References Blankenship, George E., comp. History of Olympia Lodge No. 1, F. & A.M., Olympia, Washington, 1852-1935. n.p., n.d.
"A Brief History of Olympia Lodge No. 1 F. & A.M., Olympia, Washington, 1852-1952." n.d., n.p.

PHOTOS



View of general
taken 10/16/1985
Photography Neg. No. (Roll No./Frame No.):
25-26A
Comments: