

Historic Property Reed Block
Inventory Report for 520 - 524 South Washington Olympia, Thurston, 98501

LOCATION SECTION

Historic Name: Reed Block **Field Site No.:** 830
Common Name: (#34-723) **OAHP No.:**
Property Address: 520 - 524 South Washington 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:** 507720 **Northing:** 5209780

Tax No./Parcel No. **Plat/Block/Lot**
78502500701 Sylvester L7 & 8 Blk 25

Supplemental Map(s) **Acreage**
City of Olympia Planning Department .17

IDENTIFICATION SECTION

Field Recorder: Shanna Stevenson/Tom c **Date Recorded:** 10/17/1985 **Survey Name:** OLYMPIA

Owner's Name: Mottman Associates **Owner Address:** 724 Columbia St NW Ste 200 **City/State/Zip:** Olympia, WA 98501

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

Within a District? Yes Survey/Inventory

Contributing? Local Register

National Register Nomination: 0

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:** 2

Structural System: Brick

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

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

NARRATIVE SECTION

Study Unit	Other	Date Of Construction:	<u>1891</u>
<u>Architecture/Landscape Architecture</u>		Architect:	
<u>Politics/Government/Law</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 One of the oldest of the downtown business blocks, the Reed Block was built in 1891 by Thomas Milburne Reed near the site of his original home. Reed was born in Kentucky and taught school there briefly. He came west in the California Gold Strike of 1849 and filled a number of county offices there as well as studying law. Reed came to Olympia in 1857 as an agent of the Wells, Fargo & Co. 's Express. He also kept a store on Capitol Way as well as being a surveyor. The holder of a number of public offices he was elected to the Territorial Council and was president of that body; He was also twice elected Territorial Auditor. In 1889 he was a member of the Constitutional Convention and was elected state auditor. He was also closely associated with the Masonic Lodge in Olympia. The Reed Block was the Olympia Post Office for a time and with its proximity to the Old Capitol was home to the Daily Olympian for a time and during the 1920's was the Olympia motor stage depot for a thriving transportation business. Olympia was the hub of motor stage transportation taking revenge on its snub by railroad interests in the 19th century. The building was severely damaged in the 1949 earthquake which resulted in the loss of its brick parapet and the infilling of some windows. It was renovated in 1986.

Description of Physical Appearance The Reed Block is a rectangular, flat-roofed, two-story structure of brick masonry. The front (west) and south walls have lot their elaborate brick cornice and have been stuccoed. The front has three storefront bays with plate glass windows and recessed entries, separated by pilasters and topped by a flat metal canopy, above which the transoms have been filled in. The southwest corner pilaster has a carved stone capital at the transom level. The south facade has varied fenestration; it has three storefronts at its east end, and the entry doors to the second floor apartments, beneath a similar metal canopy. The second floor of the front facade has three groups of three double-hung windows topped by painted arches; the south facade has a row of similar windows in groups of two, in recessed arched surrounds, with a continuous ornamental belt course below the sills.

Major Bibliographic References Blankeship, Mrs. George E., Early History of Thurston County, Washington, Olympia, 1914."Olympia," Lee Printing Co., 1926.

PHOTOS



View of SW corner
taken 10/17/1985
Photography Neg. No. (Roll No./Frame No.):
27-2A
Comments: