

Historic Property Barnes Building
Inventory Report for 209 West 4th Olympia, Thurston, 98501

LOCATION SECTION

Historic Name: Barnes Building Field Site No.: 851
Common Name: (#34-672) OAHP No.:
Property Address: 209 West 4th 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: 507470 Northing: 5209900

Tax No./Parcel No. Plat/Block/Lot
78507400201 Sylvester L2 Blk 74

Supplemental Map(s) Acreage
City of Olympia Planning Department .06

IDENTIFICATION SECTION

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

Owner's Name: Barbara B. Taylor Owner Address: 2704 Vacation Drive SW - Olympia, WA 98512 City/State/Zip: Olympia, WA 98512

Classification: Building Resource Status Survey/Inventory Comments
Within a District? Yes State Register
Contributing? Yes Local Register

National Register Nomination: 0
Local District:
National Register District/Thematic Nomination Name: OLYMPIA DOWNTOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT

DESCRIPTION SECTION

Historic Use: Social - Meeting Hall
Current Use: Commerce/Trade - Business

Plan: L-Shape No. of Stories: 2

Structural System: Brick

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

Cladding Concrete Foundation Concrete - Poured
Stucco
Style Spanish - Mission Form/Type
Roof Material Asphalt / Composition - Rolled Roof Type Unknown

NARRATIVE SECTION

Study Unit

Other

Date Of Construction: 1911

Architecture/Landscape Architecture

Architect:

Commerce

Builder:

Social Movements/Organizations

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

This business is one of Olympia's oldest continually operated mercantile dating from 1902. The first business, a grocery called Bolster and Barnes was established in 1902 by John and Harriet Bolster who had come to Olympia in 1889, the year of Washington's statehood. They developed a business on this site which burned and the present structure was built about 1911 in the early 20th century commercial style with the ornate palladian windows which grace the second floor. In 1928, Mr. Bowen bought J. S. Bolster's interest and it became known as Barnes and Bowen Grocers. They featured groceries, bakery goods, fresh fruit, vegetables and delicatessen goods as well as seeds and poultry supplies. They also had a line of housewares. The store is still one of the few which offers bulk seed. The Barnes family is still the owner of the business which occupies an adjoining building to the west of this structure. The Oddfellows Lodge occupies the second floor of the larger structure while apartments are on the second floor of the lower building and other retail businesses are located on the street level. A prominent example of an early 20th century commercial style building, the Barnes Building has well preserved architectural elements and represents the mercantile and fraternal past of downtown Olympia. The second floor of the building was originally the meeting hall of the Knights of Pythias, a group instituted in 1884 in Olympia. The group met in various Oddfellow halls and formed a grand lodge in 1894. The Barnes family was closely associated with the Knights of Pythias. The group in 1937 was suffering financial difficulties and sold the hall to the Oddfellows after their building had burned. The Oddfellow lodge now occupies the second floor. The first group organized in the state was Olympia in 1855 with the name Olympia Lodge No. 1. The group met at various local halls and in 1858 came under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Oregon. In 1862 facing financial difficulties, the lodge surrendered its charter and sold its furniture for debts. In 1867, the lodge was re-instituted and in 1869 purchased land for the present Oddfellows Cemetery. They purchased their own building in 1870 and a second lodge was instituted in Olympia. In 1878 Olympia became the home of the Grand Lodge of the Oddfellows and was at the center of the brotherhood for many years in Washington State. In 1888, the group built a grand three-story structure at the corner of 5th and Main downtown complete with a clock tower. The structure burned in 1936, and the lodge moved to this location in 1938.

Description of Physical Appearance

Adjoining 4th Avenue, the Barnes Building is a large, rectangular concrete structure of two stories with a flat roof. The taller section of the roof, above the second floor meeting hall, is bordered by a Mission Revival style stepped parapet on the front (north) and east facades; portions of the roof to the west and south are ten feet lower and have a flat parapet. Walls are covered with stucco; they are ornamented by wide full-height pilasters topped by a prominent cornice below the parapet and broken by a decorative band with recessed panels between the stories. The first story has modern storefronts with plate glass windows, glass doors and brick kickplates; the transom windows are covered over. The tall portion of the north facade has three large multi-paned windows with arched transoms, with pairs of smaller two-over-two casement windows at either side. The east facade has a similar large arched window flanked by two-over-two casements. The lower portions of the second story have single and paired double-hung sash with one-over-one lights. The building retains its original fenestration and storefront bays with newer plate glass windows on the first floor. The clerestory windows have been covered over by corrugated metal and an art glass canopy on the west front facade has been removed.

Major Bibliographic References

Hensel, Doris, "One Family--Four Generations of Business in Olympia," Olympia News, February 8-14, 1978.

Holmes, H. E., Pioneer Links. Seattle: Press of the Washington Oddfellows, 1913.

"Olympia," Lee Printing Company co., Olympia, 1926.

Rathbun, J. S. History of Thurston County, Washington. Olympia, 1895, Facsimile Reprint, Shorey Book, 1972.

PHOTOS



View of NE corner
taken 10/16/1985
Photography Neg. No. (Roll No./Frame No.):
25-17A
Comments: