

**Historic Property** Legion Way Trees  
**Inventory Report for** Legion Way Between Plum & Central Olympia, Thurston, 98501

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**LOCATION SECTION**

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Historic Name: Legion Way Trees Field Site No.: 868  
Common Name: (#34-895) OAHP No.:  
Property Address: Legion Way Between Plum & Central Olympia, Thurston, 98501  
Comments: OLYMPIA

County Township/Range/EW Section 1/4 Sec 1/4 1/4 Sec Quadrangle  
TUMWATER T18R02W 04 NE TUMWATER

**UTM Reference**

Zone: 10 Spatial Type: Point Acquisition Code: TopoZone.com  
Sequence: 0 Easting: 508440 Northing: 5208800

Tax No./Parcel No. Plat/Block/Lot  
Legion Way Trees Swan's Additions

Supplemental Map(s) Acreage  
City of Olympia Planning Department

**IDENTIFICATION SECTION**

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Field Recorder: Shanna Stevenson Date Recorded: 7/1/1997 Survey Name: OLYMPIA

Owner's Name: City of Olympia Owner Address: PO Box 1967 City/State/Zip: Olympia, WA 98501

Classification: Site Resource Status Comments

Within a District? No Survey/Inventory

Contributing? Local Register

National Register Nomination: 0

Local District:

National Register District/Thematic Nomination Name:

**DESCRIPTION SECTION**

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Historic Use: Landscape - Natural Feature

Current Use: Landscape - Natural Feature

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: 1928

Architecture/Landscape Architecture

Architect:

Military

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 project was part of a beautification project sponsored by the American Legion. Businesses and civic groups contributed to the fund to plant the trees. On November 11, 1928 a dedication and planting was held. Sweet Gum trees were planted in memory of World War I dead. Honored were Ira L. Cater and Alfred William Leach, both Olympia natives who died in the war in 1918. The Veterans of Foreign Wars organization in Olympia is named for Cater and the American Legion for Leach. The corners at Eastside and Legion street had oak trees planted in memory of the Spanish-American and Civil War dead. Legion Way was named in 1927. In the 60 years since they were planted, the trees have grown to become a leafy archway in summer and a sculptural delight in winter. This is the only extant ceremonial tree avenue in the city.

**Description of Physical Appearance**

Sweet Gum and Oak Trees planted Legion Way between Plum and Central. Non-historic additions Trees next to Jack-in-the-Box and Energy Office Building

**Major Bibliographic References**

"Sunshine Here for Armistice Day's Parade", Morning Olympian, November 13, 1928, p1.

**PHOTOS**



View of Looking East

taken 7/1/1997

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

41-14A

Comments: