

Historic Property Employment Security Building (Information Only)
Inventory Report for 310 Maple Park Ave, Olympia, WA 98501

LOCATION SECTION

Historic Name: Employment Security Building (Information Only) **Field Site No.:** 3542
Common Name: **OAHP No.:** 6
Property Address: 310 Maple Park Ave, Olympia, WA 98501
Comments:

County **Township/Range/EW** **Section** **1/4 Sec** **1/4 1/4 Sec** **Quadrangle**
[REDACTED] T18R02W 23 TUMWATER

UTM Reference
Zone: 10 **Spatial Type:** Point **Acquisition Code:** TopoZone.com
Sequence: 10 **Easting:** 507677 **Northing:** 5208979

Tax No./Parcel No. **Plat/Block/Lot**
60800200100 Maple Park B 1 & 2 also 1/2 Vac 15th & All Franklin St. on E

Supplemental Map(s) **Acreage**

IDENTIFICATION SECTION

Field Recorder: ss **Date Recorded:** 1/29/2006 **Survey Name:** OLYMPIA-MODERN

Owner's Name: **Owner Address:** **City/State/Zip:**
Washington State PO Box 41019 Olympia, WA 98504
Department of General
Administrat

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

Within a District? No Survey/Inventory

Contributing?

National Register Nomination:

Local District:

National Register District/Thematic Nomination Name:

DESCRIPTION SECTION

Historic Use: Government - Government Office

Current Use: Government - Government Office

Plan: Rectangle **No. of Stories:** 3

Structural System: Concrete - Poured

Changes to plan: Intact

Changes to interior: Unknown

Changes to original cladding: Intact

Changes to other:

Changes to windows: Intact

Other (specify):

Cladding Concrete - Poured

Foundation Concrete - Poured

Style Modern - Articulated Frame - Concrete

Form/Type Commercial

Roof Material Asphalt / Composition - Built Up

Roof Type Flat with Eaves

NARRATIVE SECTION

Study Unit	Other	Date Of Construction: <u>1962</u>
<u>Architecture/Landscape Architecture</u>		Architect: <u>Harmon, Pray and Dietrich</u>
<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 "Unemployment benefits were first issued in Washington state in 1939. Cash was in short supply and unemployed workers lined up for cash payments to help them support themselves while they looked for work. Benefits provided modest financial stability to buy food and meet mortgage or rent payments. It also helped communities maintain consumer spending and jobs as the economy struggled to rebound. The maximum weekly payment was about \$15 with an average of just under \$12. The average wage for all workers in the state was about \$27 per week at that time.

He federal government established a network of placement offices in 1907 to help immigrants find jobs. Staff became federal employees under the War Manpower Commission in 1942.
Four years later the employment service was returned to the states and with it a cooperative agreement between the Bureau of Labor Statistics and Employment Security to prepare and publish current employment figures.
In response to the post-World War II slump in the economy and the need to help a flood of returning veterans, unemployment insurance staffing increased to include Veterans Employment Representatives, employment counselors and staff trained to provide services to persons with disabilities.
By the end of the sixties, the department was administering programs under the Manpower Development and Training Act, the Civil Rights Act and several others that later were consolidated under the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act.
Special programs for unemployed workers who were not eligible for regular benefits were established. These included Extended Unemployment Compensation, Trade Readjustment Assistance and Disaster Unemployment Assistance.
In the 1970s, the Job Service Employer Committees recognized employers as customers and acknowledged that the ability to serve workers is directly related to meeting employer needs.
The importance of business as a customer was emphasized in the early 1980s in the federal Job Training Partnership Act, which required business participation in advisory committees. During the past decade, the creation of the WorkSource partnership -- which includes both state and local organizations -- has raised that business focus to a much higher level.
WorkSource has become the cornerstone for improving access to employment and training services via career one-stop centers in state. This approach, coupled with technology-based self-service, makes it possible to serve a greater number of people than ever, including helping more than 200,000 people find jobs each year." (Quoted from the Department of Employment Security Website.)

This is one of two twin buildings constructed in 1962 as part of the first development of the east capitol campus The Highways-Licenses Building and Employment Security Buildings were designed by Harmon, Pray and Detrich architects. They were described as "classic contemporary." The Highways-License Building was remodeled in 1995 to incorporate an exterior stair tower which has altered its appearance. This building remains as it was built.

Description of Physical Appearance This is a three-story, articulated concrete frame modern building located on the south end of the Capitol Campus. It has a flat roof with projecting eave line. The rectangular window openings are framed by concrete and have panels above and below the casement windows. The windows wrap around the corners and the east and west ends have a large concrete panel in the center with a pierced design. The entry of the building faces south onto Maple Park.

A contemporary account of the building called it a "classical contemporary" structure. The exterior of manufactured stone with exposed aggregate was done to approximately the color of sandstone. The building has 91,000 square feet and cost \$2,000,000 (another account says \$1.8 million) to build. The Employment Security and Highway-Licenses Buildings were built so the "the view of the distinguished Legislative Buildings [not] be obstructed or diminished."

The building was built so that new offices could be created quickly with all lighting, heating, air conditioning and phone service available. It has acoustical ceilings and air conditioning and was built to have its own gas fired heating plant rather than relying on the central capitol steam heat system.

Major Bibliographic References http://fortress.wa.gov/esd/portal/info/history/index_html
"The Capitol Group of Washington State," Governor's Office ca. 1962.

PHOTOS



View of Southeast Façade
taken 1/15/2006
Photography Neg. No. (Roll No./Frame No.):

Comments: