

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2004 the City of Olympia authorized the Olympia Heritage Commission to undertake a review of the City’s historic preservation program and to recommend preservation priorities for the next several years. This report summarizes the findings of the Commission and offers a comprehensive “roadmap” to guide future preservation policies, planning and programs which will revitalize and strengthen the Historic Preservation program of Olympia.

The 2004 Olympia Historic Preservation Plan consists of four distinct elements.

A. Background information about Olympia’s historic preservation program, including:

Section I – The importance of historic preservation

Section II – A brief, thematic overview of Olympia’s history and its significant historic resources

Section III – A History of the City’s preservation program since its inception in 1983

Section IV – A summary of the legal basis for historic preservation

Section V – A definition of the City’s responsibilities toward its own historic resources

Section VI – Local incentives options for historic preservation

Section VII – Historic preservation partnerships

B. Comments and observations gathered from both a series of interviews with community stakeholders (developers, business owners, relevant City departments, preservation professionals, etc.) and from a public Historic Preservation Forum open to all Olympia residents. (See Section VIII)



4th Avenue looking east from near Washington St. *Postcard from a private collection.*

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- C. A prioritized list of initiatives recommended by the Olympia Heritage Commission to revitalize and strengthen the Historic Preservation program including: (See Section IX)**
- **Completing Program Infrastructure Changes** including Historic Preservation Comprehensive Plan Chapter Revisions and Historic Preservation and Design Review Ordinance changes.
 - **Increasing Public Outreach** through public programs and projects identified in a proposed Outreach Plan for the Olympia Historic Preservation Program.
 - **Creating Increased Intra/Inter-Governmental Cooperation** by identifying and clarifying the role of the Heritage Commission in commenting on the city's plans and policies as well as appropriately coordinating with State General Administration regarding state-owned historic properties.
- D. A series of appendices providing further information about Olympia's historic resources and local historic preservation.**
- **Appendix A** – Web Resources for Historic Preservation
 - **Appendix B** –Selected Bibliography of Olympia History
 - **Appendix C** – Map of Identified Historic Resources in Olympia
 - **Appendix D** – List of Identified Historic Resources in Olympia by Decade