

## SECTION V

### PUBLIC STEWARDSHIP OF THE PAST

#### Defining the City's responsibilities to its own historic resources

From Old City Hall to Percival Landing to the trees along Legion Way, the City of Olympia owns and maintains more than two dozen significant historic properties. These public resources deserve protection—not only for their intrinsic historic value, but also for the richness and texture they add to Olympia. It is important, too, for the City to demonstrate good stewardship of these assets as an example to private citizens with historic properties of their own.



One of the last remaining brick alleyways that can be found in the City. This one is located between Capitol Way and Columbia St. *Olympia Heritage Commission photo.*

In planning for any municipal project, City departments should consider the effect their work may have on historic resources. Employees whose work may affect historic sites or buildings should be made aware of Olympia's official Historic Inventory and the Olympia Heritage Register. They should, as resources allow, have access to training the principles of historic preservation and, in some cases, how to recognize the presence of archaeological artifacts. This training should be performed in consultation with the Heritage commission and State Historic Preservation Office.

The city should consider the effects of capital improvement projects (streets sewers, transportation, sidewalks, etc.) on important historic materials.

Efforts should be made to retain historic features found in or along public rights-of-way, such as brick alleyways, inscriptions, sidewalk imprints, streetcar poles and horse-tethering rings. If possible, historic building materials that must be removed should be considered for recycling into other history-related projects.

Consideration should be given to the location of street trees, utility poles, bus shelters and other visible infrastructure so they do not obscure or detract from the facades of historic properties.

## City of Olympia Historic Resources

Consideration should be given to replacing current landscaping that already hides such buildings with plantings that allow those facades to be seen and appreciated. If possible, care should be taken, however, not to remove existing plantings, particularly trees that are over 50 years old that are deemed historic in their own right.

Consideration should be given to retaining historic artesian wells with perhaps some latitude in the interpretation of public water-source law so they can still be used in some way, with adequate testing for water quality. Consideration should be given to the value of the wells as an educational opportunity and as an asset to downtown Olympia.

Whenever possible, publicly funded art projects should be encouraged to incorporate appropriate historic themes. Public art installations could be viewed not only as “art” but as possible historic sites of the future.

Olympia should continue to work with the Nisqually and Squaxin Island Tribes to identify, preserve and interpret Native archeological/historical sites. Under federal law, the City is required to notify both local tribes and the Washington State Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation whenever tribal artifacts are uncovered. Such notification must take place prior to the removal of objects or any further disturbance of the site.

Archeological surveys could be made (in cooperation with local tribes) of resources known to exist at Priest Point Park and McAllister Springs. Consideration should be given to negotiating a Memorandum of Understanding with the Washington State Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation for access to state archaeological data.

The city should consider working with other appropriate groups including the Chinese-American community identify and preserve historic archaeological sites.

With regard to non-Native archaeological materials, the Heritage Commission makes the following recommendations:

- 1) Archaeological materials recovered in Olympia should stay in the Olympia area.
- 2) Recovered materials should be donated to the State Capital Museum (Washington State Historical Society) with the understanding that these materials should be returned to the City when a local museum is established.
- 3) Duplicate materials (such as bottles) should be donated to appropriate area museums or community organizations.

# City of Olympia Historic Resources

## Historic Properties Owned by the City of Olympia

Name	Address
Old Olympia City Hall	108 State Avenue NW, Olympia, Thurston, 98501
Olympia City Hall	900 Plum St SE, Olympia, WA
West Side Fire Station	Near Garfield School
Fir Street Pumphouse	Block bounded by 7 <sup>th</sup> Avenue, Fir Street, 9th Avenue and McCormick Street, Olympia, Thurston
Stevens Field Water Tower	Washington Street NE
**Blankenship House (located in the County)	513 Flora Vista Dr. NE Olympia, Thurston, 98506
**McAllister Springs Artesian Wells and Facilities (located in the County)	2345 SE Old Pacific Hwy Olympia, Thurston, 98513
**Priest Point Park	2600 East Bay Drive NE, Olympia, Thurston, 98507
Legion Way Trees	Legion Way Between Plum Street & Central Street Olympia, Thurston, 98501
**Percival Landing	5th Avenue & Water Street Olympia, Thurston, 98501
**Olympia Watershed	Henderson Blvd. Olympia, Thurston, 98501
Bigelow Park	Bigelow Avenue NE
Woodruff Park	Harrison Avenue NW
**Bigelow Springs Park	Near the Bigelow House
First Legislative Meeting, Site Marker	214 Capitol Way N., Olympia, Thurston, 98501
Brick Alley Way	Alley Way between Columbia Street NW & Capitol Way & State Street NW & 4th Ave. W., Olympia, Thurston, 98501
Sidewalk Imprints	South Capitol Neighborhood and various other locations
Historic Markers (interpretative markers and individual OHC properties)	
Brick streets underlying existing pavement	
Other street elements or inscriptions	
Streetcar/Trolley pole	Near 11 <sup>th</sup> Street NE & Capitol Way
Westside Pumphouse	Near Harrison Avenue and West Bay Drive
<b>**May have archaeological resources.</b>	

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