

HISTORIC PROPERTY INVENTORY FORM

State of Washington, Department of Community Development
Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation
111 West 21st Avenue, KL-11
Olympia, WA 98504 (206) 753-4011

IDENTIFICATION SECTION

Field Site No. 34-720 OAHF No. _____ Date Recorded 10/16/85
Site Name Historic Elks Building
Common n/a
Field Recorder Shanna Stevenson/Tom Costantini
Owner's Name Jack Armstrong
Address 2625 58th Avenue N.W.
City/State/Zip Code Olympia, WA 98502

LOCATION SECTION

Address 607-613 South Capitol Way
City/Town/County/Zip Code Olympia/Thurston/98501
Twp. 18N Range 2W Section 14 1/4 Section SW 1/4 Section SW
Tax No./Parcel No. 78500700300 Acreage less than one
Quadrangle or map name Tumwater Scale: 1:24,000
UTM References Zone 10 Easting 507560 Northing 5209700
Plat/Block/Lot Block 7, Sylvester Plat of Olympia, Lot 3 &
Supplemental Map(s) _____
east 10 feet of Lot 4.

Status

- Survey/Inventory
- National Register
- State Register
- Determined Eligible
- Determined Not Eligible
- Other (HABS, HAER, NHL)
- Local Designation

PHOTOGRAPHY

Photography Neg. No. 26-34A
(Roll No. & Frame No.)
View of east facade
Date 10/16/85

Classification District Site Building Structure Object
District Status NR SR LR INV
Contributing Non-Contributing
District/Thematic Nomination Name Downtown Olympia MRA

Number of contributing resources: 1 building
noncontributing resources: 0

DESCRIPTION SECTION

Materials & Features/Structural Types

Building Type Fraternal hall
Plan Rectangular
Structural System Concrete/Masonry
No. of Stories Four

Cladding (Exterior Wall Surfaces)

- Log
- Horizontal Wood Siding
 - Rustic/Drop
 - Clapboard
- Wood Shingle
- Board and Batten
- Vertical Board
- Asbestos/Asphalt
- Brick
- Stone
- Stucco
- Terra Cotta
- Concrete/Concrete Block
- Vinyl/Aluminum Siding
- Metal (specify) _____
- Other (specify) _____

Roof Type

- Gable Hip
- Flat Pyramidal
- Monitor Other (specify) _____
- Gambrel
- Shed

Roof Material

- Wood Shingle
- Wood Shake
- Composition
- Slate
- Tar/Built-Up
- Tile
- Metal (specify) _____
- Other (specify) _____
- Not visible

Foundation

- Log Concrete
- Post & Pier Block
- Stone Poured
- Brick Other (specify) _____
- Not visible

High Styles/Forms (check one or more of the following)

- Greek Revival
- Gothic Revival
- Italianate
- Second Empire
- Romanesque Revival
- Stick Style
- Queen Anne
- Shingle Style
- Colonial Revival
- Beaux Arts/Neoclassical
- Chicago/Commercial Style
- American Foursquare
- Mission Revival
- Spanish Colonial Revival/Mediterranean
- Tudor Revival
- Craftsman/Arts & Crafts
- Bungalow
- Prairie Style
- Art Deco/Art Moderne
- Rustic Style
- International Style
- Northwest Style
- Commercial Vernacular
- Residential Vernacular (see below)
- Other (specify) _____

Vernacular House Types

- Gable front
- Gable front and wing
- Side gable
- Cross gable
- Pyramidal/Hipped
- Other (specify) _____

Integrity	(Include detailed description in Description of Physical Appearance)	Description of Physical Appearance			
		Intact	Slight	Moderate	Extensive
Changes to plan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Changes to windows	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Changes to original cladding	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Changes to interior	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (specify)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

NARRATIVE SECTION

Study Unit Themes (check one or more of the following)

- Agriculture
- Architecture/Landscape Architecture
- Arts
- Commerce
- Communications
- Community Planning/Development
- Conservation
- Education
- Entertainment/Recreation
- Ethnic Heritage (specify) _____
- Health/Medicine
- Manufacturing/Industry
- Military
- Politics/Government/Law
- Religion
- Science & Engineering
- Social Movements/Organizations
- Transportation
- Other (specify) _____
- Study Unit Sub-Theme(s) (specify) _____

Statement of Significance

Date of Construction 1919 Architect/Engineer/Builder Joseph Wohleb, architect Level of Significance: local
 In the opinion of the surveyor, this property appears to meet the criteria of the National Register of Historic Places
 In the opinion of the surveyor, this property is located in a potential historic district (National and/or local).
 Period of Significance: 1919 - 1937

The Elks Club Building is historically significant for its association with the civic and social life of Olympia as reflected in the community's fraternal halls. The distinctive brick building, designed by Joseph Wohleb in a straightforward design with Craftsman-like detail, was built in 1919 and has been associated with the one of the city's most prominent fraternal and philanthropic organizations. It is the only historic building built exclusively for a fraternal lodge still standing in Olympia.

Formed in 1891, the local chapter of the Elks Club was a successor to other men's social clubs in Olympia including the Bachelor and O'Shanty clubs. Actor Charles Vivian, founder of the national Elks movement, visited Olympia in 1872 and found fertile ground for his ideas in the city which was, at the time, the cultural center of the Washington Territory. The O'Shanty Club was formed after his visit and in 1891 all the club's members joined in establishing the Elks Club.

The formation of the Elks Club came in the wake of statehood and the early membership included state officials, Olympia businessmen, and others. The group was briefly dissolved in 1898 because of internal changes and moved to Tacoma in 1899 but was reorganized in 1902 in Olympia under the same number (186) as the original designation. Activities in the early years of the 20th century included baseball, orchestra and band concerts, and legislative dances. During these early years, the lodge met in the Woodruff Block between Third and Fourth Streets on Capitol Way.

As membership in the organization grew with the growth in maritime industries and state government, the Club commissioned fellow Elk Joseph Wohleb to design an expanded facility across from the town square. The new building coincided with an new emphasis on providing charitable and civic assistance to the community. For example, the Elks were in the forefront in raising money for the war effort through the sale of Liberty Bonds and encouraged patriotism through concerts and community sings. The lodge was closely associated with Camp Lewis and provided a haven for soldiers stationed there. In civic

Description of Physical Appearance

The Elks Club Building is an imposing four story concrete structure with a brick veneer and Craftsman Style ornament located across from Sylvester Park in downtown Olympia. The front (east) facade and the front portion of the south wall are faced with brick and ornamented extensively with blue and white terra cotta in geometric patterns. The flat parapet has inset diamond shaped and rectangular plaques and a large central panel inscribed "BFO ELKS 186." Below the parapet is a prominent cornice with vertical projecting elements spanned by incised designs. Below the cornice are paired consoles and similar diamond-shaped plaques. Two projecting belt courses encircle the third story with inset tiles in geometric patterns between them. Between the third and second story windows are circular plaques. Fenestration in the upper floors consists of paired casements with terra cotta sills and multi-paned transoms.

The central arched entry on the ground floor has been converted into a small storefront; flanking it are two side bays. The right bay has two small storefronts with plate glass windows and recessed doorways. The bay is crowned by a second floor plate glass window flanked by multi-paned casements. The left bay has a wide plate glass window and a single recessed entry and is topped by a multi-paned transom. The piers between the storefronts have high concrete bulkheads. In 1928, architect Wohleb altered the first and second story windows to create the asymmetrical arrangement of today and installed the plate glass windows and transoms. The front entry also had an art glass canopy over the entry which was removed at that time. The building is maintained in good condition and the interior includes the original second floor ballroom.

Major Bibliographic References

Fultz, Hollis B., Elkdom in Olympia—A History, Warren's Quickprint, Olympia, 1966.

HISTORIC PROPERTY INVENTORY FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

State of Washington
Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation
111 W. 21st Ave. KL-11
Olympia, WA 98504
(206) 753-5010

Site No.: 34-720

Site Name:

Historic
Common

Elks Building

n/a

Date: 10/16/85

Statement of Significance: (continued)

activities, the club was instrumental in reorganizing the Olympia Chamber of Commerce which had declined in importance prior to the Elks' help, and the Club helped lead the drive to construct the downtown Hotel Olympian.

Two major charitable activities received special Elks attention beginning in the 1920s. The Jingle Club raised money for the needy at Christmas through an early telethon sponsored with radio station KGY, and the Elks initiated efforts to aid cripple children in the local community. During the Depression years of the 1930s, the Elks philanthropic efforts increased in importance. The Jingle Club continued to be an important source of assistance to poor families and the Elks provided wood for the unemployed and planted relief gardens. The Elks also served as the official patrolling unit during the March 1933 hunger strike staged in Olympia.

During World War II, the Elks Club directed their efforts at assisting the men stationed at Fort Lewis and established a USO center in Olympia. The club became a popular spot for visiting military personnel, including General Dwight Eisenhower.

Many of the fund raising efforts for these charities were held at the club house. But in 1958, the club built a new building on 4th Avenue, and the old Elks Club has remained vacant except for the ground floor storefronts. Today, the Elks Club Building is the only structure built exclusively as a fraternal hall still standing in Olympia.

CHUCK CLARKE
Director



STATE OF WASHINGTON

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

111 West Twenty-First Avenue, KL-11 • Olympia, Washington 98504-5411 • (206) 753-4011 • SCAN 234-4011

March 18, 1988

Ms. Carol Shull
Chief, National Register Branch
National Park Service
1100 L Street, Room 6209
Washington, DC 20240

Re: Elks Building (Downtown Olympia
MRA), 607-613 South Capitol
Way, Olympia, Thurston County,
Washington

Dear Ms. Shull:

We have received notice that the owners of the above referenced property, included in the Historic Resources of Downtown Olympia Multiple Resource Area nomination, wish to have their property listed in the National Register of Historic Places. You had determined the property eligible for listing on June 17, 1987. The enclosed notarized statement supercedes the earlier objection.

If I can be of further assistance, please call me at (206) 586-2901.

Sincerely,

Leonard T. Garfield
Architectural Historian

mr

