

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



# National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form

This form is for use in documenting multiple property groups relating to one or several historic contexts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900-a). Type all entries.

### A. Name of Multiple Property Listing

Women's History in Olympia: First Settlement (1846) to 1948

### B. Associated Historic Contexts

Settlement (1846) to Statehood (1889)

Statehood (1889) to Suffrage (1910)

Suffrage (1910) through 1948

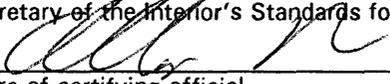
### C. Geographical Data

The area is the historical city limits of Olympia.

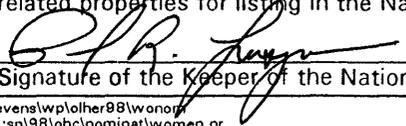
See continuation sheet

### D. Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this documentation form meets the National Register documentation standards and sets forth requirements for the listing of related properties consistent with the National Register criteria. This submission meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60 and the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Planning and Evaluation.

  
Signature of certifying official 3/3/99  
Date  
Allyson Brooks, State Historic Preservation Officer, Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation  
State or Federal agency and bureau

I, hereby, certify that this multiple property documentation form has been approved by the National Register as a basis for evaluating related properties for listing in the National Register.

  
Signature of the Keeper of the National Register 4/12/99  
Date

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## E. Statement of Historic Contexts

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Discuss each historic context listed in Section B.

### Introduction:

Identifying and putting into context women's history sites in Olympia, Washington provides a new way of looking at history and historic sites in this area. Women have always been present and participants in the history and development of Olympia but finding them requires a different perspective and methodology. By developing a context for evaluating these important resources and understanding their significance, the opportunities for their protection and preservation are enhanced. This context statement also provides a starting point for further research, study and documentation of women's history in Olympia.

Women in Olympia, as in every community, have been active contributors to its development, culture and well-being. They established the first religious, educational and cultural institutions. They taught the area's children and campaigned for suffrage and social reforms. They worked in their own businesses and professions while enriching the community's cultural and civic life. They helped to establish important institutions such as libraries and hospitals and preserved the environment. They were active in local and state politics giving women a voice in the democratic process. During the national emergencies of the two World Wars, they worked at home and on the battlefields.

Many historic resources remain in Olympia to reflect the importance of women's contributions to its history. Women often hosted organizational meetings and work parties in their homes. Many of these houses associated with women leaders are still extant in Olympia. The schools, churches, clubhouses, hospitals and business establishments where women worked are still visible. The buildings including the City Hall and legislative buildings where women shaped our government and where laws affecting women were made are in Olympia. The parks and open spaces preserved by women's efforts remain as a tribute to their work. The Carnegie Library and State Capital Museum which were the result of the efforts of local women still stand and are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

### Organization of the Multiple Property Group:

The multiple property documentation form identifies one historic context--Women's History in Olympia: First Settlement (1846) to 1948. The historic context is divided into three general periods: Settlement (1846) to Statehood (1889); Statehood (1889) to Suffrage (1910); and Suffrage (1910) through 1948. Within these periods the themes of Settlement, Education, Suffrage, Religion, Women's Organizations, Businesses, Professions, Government, Women in Reform Movements, Cultural Contributions, and Wartime Contributions are explored. Each of these themes is documented chronologically. The property types associated with the context are: Women's History Related Residences; Women's Organizations Clubhouses; Women's Work Places; and Government Buildings. This MPD does not include pre-historic or historic resources before 1846 or those after 1948. Survey data does not indicate the existence of a district.

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### HISTORIC CONTEXT

#### Setting

Olympia is at the southernmost point on Puget Sound in Thurston County, Washington State. Geologically, it was formed by changes in the earth's crust carved through several glacial periods which downcut the main channels through glacial erosion and glacial deposition. Olympia, at the head of the inlet, was the southernmost extent of one of the latest of these glacial periods about 13,000 years ago. The city is located on a peninsula of what was originally tideland, flanked by deep tidal sloughs on the east and west sides. The topography of the city has been drastically changed from its original appearance by the dredging of the Olympia Harbor beginning in the 1890's, which filled the west side of downtown. The largest dredging took place in 1910-1911, which added some 29 blocks east and north of downtown. The dredging filled the east side slough and connected downtown with that residential area. Olympia was one of the earliest permanent American settlements on Puget Sound beginning in 1846.

#### Prehistoric Cultural Activities

The main prehistoric ethnographic group of the Olympia area were the Puyallup-Nisqually Indians, who are part of the Coastal Salish group. The group principally described by ethnologists as being in the area were called the Stehtsasamish, who had a village at the south end of Budd Inlet at the outfall of the Deschutes River. The name of this village group was "st tcas bc." This group may have ranged widely however as various seasons and food gathering activities took place throughout the year. Descendants of the Indians that lived along Budd Inlet are now members of the Squaxin and Nisqually tribes.<sup>1</sup> The area was known variously as Stu-chus-and, Stichas, and Stechass with various meanings of "bear's place." Waterman identifies the old village site in the present city of Olympia, B 1 s - t c E' t x u^ d, "frequented by black bears" in the western part of the city.<sup>2</sup>

Women of the Coastal Salish lived and worked with their families in the area which is now known as Olympia for probably hundreds of years before first permanent American settlement in the area in 1846.

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<sup>1</sup>Carpenter, Cecelia, Personal Correspondence, 1994.

<sup>2</sup>Waterman, T.T., "Geographic Names on Puget Sound: a portion of manuscript #1864," Smithsonian Institution ca. 1920.

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The English Vancouver Expedition were the first recorded Euro-Americans to visit the area in 1792. On May 20, 1792, an expedition of sixteen men under the command of Lt. Peter Puget departed the Vancouver Expedition main ship, Discovery, anchored off what is now Bainbridge Island, in two small boats. Puget explored Southern Puget Sound including Budd Inlet in an attempt to locate the Northwest Passage. After the reconnaissance work of Puget, Vancouver named the area south of the Narrows in his honor.<sup>3</sup>

The first Euroamerican settlement activity in the vicinity was by the Hudson Bay Company who first established a storehouse near the Nisqually River in 1832. The establishment of the Hudson's Bay Company at Ft. Nisqually began a period of intermarriage between area Indian women and the Hudson's Bay Company employees. The material culture of Indian women substantially improved with introduction of wool blankets and metal implements through white contact. Indian women also worked for the Hudson's Bay Company.

In July 1841, the U.S. Exploring Expedition under Lt. Commander Charles Wilkes visited Puget Sound. Wilkes, Lt. Thomas Budd and Mr. Henry Eld set out in three boats and reached the head of the inlet on July 9 and described the falls of the "Shutes River." Some members of the party were dispatched on an overland exploration south of Budd Inlet.<sup>4</sup>

**I. FIRST SETTLEMENT (1846) TO STATEHOOD (1889)****A. SETTLEMENT**

Euro-American women although slow to settle in Olympia after its settlement in 1846, quickly became catalysts in the development of the city and an integral part of its cultural, economic and social life.

**1. Settler's Experiences**

First documented American settlement of the area was in 1845 when the Simmons Party settled near the falls of the Deschutes River. The following year Levi Smith and Edmund Sylvester claimed the site of what is now Olympia.

Levi Smith died shortly thereafter and the title to the town was passed to his partner Edmund Sylvester who after an ill-fated trip to the California Gold Rush, officially platted the town of Olympia in 1850. The site was at the important intersection of the northern branch of the Oregon Trail or the Cowlitz Trail and Puget Sound.

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<sup>3</sup>Meany, Edmond S., "Notes and Documents", Pacific Northwest Quarterly, Vol.30, pp 177-217.

<sup>4</sup>Meany, Edmond S., "Notes".

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Although women were well-represented in the first party of Americans to permanently settle on Puget Sound at Tumwater in 1845, Olympia's first two permanent American residents--Edmund Sylvester and Levi Smith were unmarried when they first arrived in 1846 to settle at what is now Olympia.

One non-native woman may have preceded Sylvester and Smith as an Olympia resident. Mary Otchin and her, husband, Thomas, a retired Hudson's Bay Company employee, claimed in later reminiscences to have lived in what is now Olympia in 1841 They were among the Red River Settlers who were sent to establish a British presence in the area around Ft. Nisqually. Their residence in Olympia has never been confirmed.<sup>5</sup>

The early American settlement of Olympia was influenced by the Donation Land Claim Law of 1850. That law granted 320 acres to a single man and 640 acres to a married couple who were residing in Oregon Territory (of which Olympia was a part) by December 1, 1850. One-half was granted to the husband and the other half to the wife in her own right. For a second group who arrived between December 1, 1850 and December 1, 1853 (later an extension of time was made to December 1, 1855), 160 acres and 320 acres were granted a single man and married couple respectively. A later Supreme Court case allowed a single woman to pursue a DLC in her own name. In order to qualify, the claimant had to reside on and cultivate the land for four consecutive years.<sup>6</sup>

As a result women were in great demand but also the development of towns was slowed as settlers located on large tracts of land to take advantage of the new land law.

Anna Pattison stated more frankly the role of women in claiming land under the law:

"In those days to every man was given the chance to take up 640 acres of land and, as an encouragement to the women who to endure the trials and privations of the wilderness, for a very few years the government made the offer to her of an equal amount of land as that her husband was given, as sort of a recompense for her hardships. Uncle Sam gave us women this land just as he would a new dress or something else we wanted real badly, for it was a recognized fact the women were worth as much as the men in settling up and developing the new country."<sup>7</sup>

Olympia's history was also influenced by its status as a governmental center which attracted well-educated men and women to the area. Olympia was established as the first post office in Northern Oregon in 1850 and later was named the first Custom House on Puget Sound in 1851. Olympia was named the county seat when Thurston County was established in 1852, still part of Oregon Territory. In 1853, Olympia, by then a substantial settlement, was named the temporary capital city of the newly organized Washington

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<sup>5</sup>Obituary for Thomas Otchin, Hillsboro Argus, December 14, 1906, pg. 1.

<sup>6</sup>Information from "Celebrate, BLM's 50th Anniversayr - 1946-1996" pamphlet, n.d.

<sup>7</sup>Blankenship, pg 128.

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Territory and was later confirmed as the permanent capital in 1855. When Washington achieved statehood in 1889, Olympia retained its title as capital.

Women continued to be in short supply in Olympia until the town's prominence as a mercantile and government center was established in the mid-1850s. Of the six settlers which Bancroft mentions as arriving in 1846 to Olympia, the three who settled in Olympia were single--Alonzo Poe, Daniel Kinsey and Antonio Rabbeson. Kinsey married Ruth Brock in 1847 and Rabbeson married Lucy Barnes in 1854.<sup>8</sup>

Similarly, the migrations of 1847 either brought single men or families who settled outside the Olympia area on acreages. Overall settlement was slowed to the northwest by the Gold Rush of 1849 to California.

The 1850 census for Lewis County (Olympia was part of Lewis County Oregon until 1852) gives only a sprinkling of women. It appears that Susan Simmons Rider (married to Samuel), Catherine Simmons Broshears, and Rebecca Ebey were Olympia's only women residents.<sup>9</sup>

Mrs. Simpson Moses came with her husband from the east coast in 1851 after he was named as customs collector for the Port of Entry at Olympia. Waitstill L. Hale also arrived with her husband Calvin H. and family in 1851. Mrs. Hale and her husband were from Maine. He was a shipbuilder and seaman who later became active in politics and held several offices including Superintendent of Indian Affairs for Washington and Idaho Territories.

By 1852 more women came to the area including Mary Ann Kandle Barnes. She came with her husband George A. and younger half-brother John Miller Murphy. Barnes was a local merchant. Mrs. Barnes is often mentioned in reminiscences as the first American woman settler in Olympia.

David C. Beatty only recalled Mrs. Simpson Moses and Mrs. George Barnes in 1852 when he arrived in Olympia.<sup>10</sup> David Drewery recalled Sarah Yantis, Jerusha Hays, Mrs. Scott, Charlotte and Lucy Barnes, Mrs. Cock and her daughters Carrie, Annie and Roxie and Mrs. Barnes as being in Olympia when he arrived in 1853.<sup>11</sup>

Georgiana Percival Ford stated that her mother, Lurana Ware Percival, was the sixth woman to settle in Olympia besides Mrs. George Barnes, Mrs. Simpson Moses, Mrs. Hale, Mrs. Close, Mrs. Fisher and Mrs. Wiley when she came in January of 1853. She also stated that there were still many Indian women in Olympia at that time.<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>8</sup>Hubert Howe Bancroft, *History of Washington, Idaho and Montana, 1845-1889*, San Francisco: History Co., 1890, pg. 6.

<sup>9</sup>1850 Manuscript census from Washington Room, Washington State Library Collection.

<sup>10</sup>Blankenship, Georgiana, *Tillicum Tales*, pg. 83.

<sup>11</sup>Blankenship, pg. 317.

<sup>12</sup>Blankenship, pg 336.

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Women recalled that they hired Indian men and women to help with the housework, especially washing and ironing.<sup>13</sup> Sarah McAllister recalled that "My mother took three girls to train as servants; Mrs. Momoedich, her sister, Satco, and bright little Ynsaquecibut (the Scully family girl). We also had the man, Momoedich, and a boy, Clipwalen . . ." <sup>14</sup>

Carrie Cock Dunlap, who came to Olympia in 1853 with her family and wrote an extensive memoir about Olympia's earliest days noted, "In the domestic side of life the Indians played an important part." She continued, "Indian women were helpful in many kinds of domestic service, especially in washing, but nothing would induce them to undertake ironing. . . I really do not know how we could have lived in any comfort without the Indians. They brought us oysters, clams, fish, berries, wild plums, nuts, and "la goom stick". All these things not easily obtained by the whites, were sold to use at reasonable prices." She also recalled that canoes paddled by Indian men and women were the chief means of transportation. She also noted as did Georgiana Percival that Chinese men were also employed by many households for domestic work.<sup>15</sup>

Carrie Cock Dunlap recalled that residents shopped at the Hudson's Bay post at Nisqually or at Tumwater. She noted that the ladies of the community joined in providing music for a joint meeting of the Methodists and Presbyterians. She remembered that the women of community took on the task of nursing the sick since there were no doctors or hospitals.<sup>16</sup> Georgiana Percival Ford recalled that "for years we were our own dress makers and milliners, took care of each other when sick, and in fact, did all kinds of work, even to making most of our furniture." <sup>17</sup> Like many communities, Olympia women soon formed into groups for community benefit. "A sewing society was soon formed, and at the first fair \$500.00 was cleared, which sum was used to finish off the second story of the school house and furnish it with seats, two chairs, a table and lamps, that the clergymen of any denomination might hold divine service." <sup>18</sup>

**2. American Women During the Indian War**

Carrie Cock Dunlap also told about Olympia during the Indian War of 1855-56. She recalled that families came from the outlying areas into Olympia and a stockade was constructed from "Budd's inlet on the west to an arm of the sound on the east." She noted that most of the men left to join volunteers and the women took in those who came to

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<sup>13</sup>Blankenship, pg. 336.

<sup>14</sup>Told By the Pioneers, Vol I, pg. 168.

<sup>15</sup>Carrie Cock Dunlap, "Ancotty," manuscript at the Oregon Historical Society, pg. 102-106.

<sup>16</sup>Ibid.

<sup>17</sup>Blankenship, pg 336.

<sup>18</sup>Blankenship, pg. 336.

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Olympia for refuge. She also noted that many Indian employees left and the ones that remained had to have some way of identifying themselves. "The women of Olympia applied themselves to making blue cloth caps with red bands around them, as a badge of Indian fidelity." She said that the women and girls learned to use firearms and "mounded bullets."

After the Indian War the population of Olympia increased and women continued to serve the community. George Blankenship writes, "The women of Olympia took their part in raising the funds to build the first town hall; they helped to buy the first hand-brake fire engine; they took an active part in the construction of the narrow gauge railroad to Tenino. Their method of raising funds for any specific purpose was generally by means of a "grand ball," which cost the men \$10 to play, including a midnight supper, they danced until daylight, and such suppers as wood make the modern "banquet" look like a hobo handout."<sup>20</sup>

**3. Mercer Expedition**

In 1860, there were 967 men and 522 women in Thurston County. This disparity which was true throughout Washington, led New Englander, Asa Mercer, to entice a group of about 10 young women to come to Washington Territory from Lowell, Massachusetts in 1864. One of these women, Annie Adams, married Robert Head a printer of Olympia. A year later Mercer decided to try a larger expedition, and in January 1866 a larger group of about 100 young women, widows and families set sail for Washington aboard the *Continental*. Members of the Olympia community helped settle members of the group. Daniel and Ann Elizabeth Bigelow were among those assisting the Mercer Expedition members. Several of the members of this group eventually settled in Olympia as follows:

Olive and A. A. Manning settled in Olympia. Her daughter Georgiana Stevens married Mr. John F. Gowey of Olympia. Nina Manning married Lewis Treen, another member of the Mercer party and they settled in Olympia. Her son, Edward Stevens, was a telegraph operator in Olympia. Mrs. Lord married Mr. Elder of Olympia and her daughter Clara Lord taught school in Olympia. Mary Anne Griffin married Mr. S. Hartley of Olympia in 1868. Annie Conner, taught school in Olympia and married Mr. Hartsuck. Anna Peebles was welcomed by George Barnes and his wife and worked as a deputy collector of revenue for \$75.00 per month. Her sister Libbie Peebles became the first woman clerk of the legislature. Harriet Stevens operated a private school and taught in Olympia.<sup>21</sup>

The only property extant in Olympia associated with the Settlement period is the Bigelow House.

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<sup>19</sup>Dunlap Manuscript, pp. 127-130.

<sup>20</sup>Blankenship George, Light and Shade of Pioneer Life on Puget Sound, Olympia, 1923, pg.25.

<sup>21</sup>Engle, Flora, "The Story of the Mercer Expeditions," Washington Historical Quarterly, Vol. VI., No. 4, October 1915, pg. 225-237. Roger Conant, Mercer's Belles: The Journal of a Reporter, Edited by Lenna A Deutsch, Washington State University Press, 1992.

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Continuation Sheet**Section number  E  Page  8 **B. EDUCATION**

The schooling of children was often the province of women and Olympia was no exception. Although the earliest school in Olympia was taught by David L. Phillips (other sources say A. W. Moore) in 1852, by 1855 Miss Babb was operating a private school and when Olympia School District was formed in 1861, Lizzie B. Smith was the teacher. Reverend George Whitworth and his wife Eliza Thompson Whitworth opened a private boarding school for boys and girls in 1855.<sup>22</sup> Similarly Rev. Isaac Dillon and his wife were teachers at the Puget Sound Wesleyan Institute for girls and boys in 1856.<sup>23</sup>

At various times during Olympia's early years, there were not enough funds to open the public schools and women opened private institutions. In 1865 Miss Eliza Giddings and Miss Mercie Slocum opened their own school but Miss Slocum taught in the fall of the same year as a public teacher. She was joined the next year by Miss Mary O'Neal. Other women teachers mentioned in the 1860s and 1870s were Hattie Stevens, Miss Patterson, Nellie Huntington, Mrs. Ann White and Mrs. Thompson, Miss Mary Post and Miss Cass.<sup>24</sup>

The majority of the school administrators were men. However, Pamela Hale was appointed school principal and in 1882 she was elected as the county school superintendent. The first elected woman in Thurston County, Mrs. Hale served as County Superintendent for the next six years.<sup>25</sup>

Pamela Case Hale came to Washington in 1871. She opened a school for girls that year with Miss Carrie Churchill and was noted as being from New York at that time. She married Calvin Hale in 1872. She taught at the private Union Academy in 1873. Later, she was appointed to the Territorial Board of Education in 1881.

Mrs. Hale was a founding member of the Woman's Club of Olympia in 1883, she was active in local business affairs and was a member of the State Teachers' Association when it was organized in 1889. She was in the Unity Club and the president of the Ladies' Relief Society in 1892 and 1895. Pamela Hale also preached in the Unitarian Church. She later taught school in Olympia and moved to San Diego. Her date of death is unknown.<sup>26</sup>

By the mid 1880s, the school term was extended to six months and more teachers were needed. Although the school principals continued to be men, Olympia's Central School employed Misses M. Freeman, Lizzie Brown, Janet Moore and Mary Kennedy as teachers while Miss Lydia Allen handled the Eastside School and Miss Rose Broden taught at the Westside School.

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<sup>22</sup>Pioneer and Democrat, III, 26, Mar. 19, 1855.

<sup>23</sup>Pioneer & Democrat, IV, 47, October 3, 1856.

<sup>24</sup>Bowden, Angie, Early Schools of Washington Territory, Seattle, Lowman and Hanford Co, 1935.

<sup>25</sup>Knox, Esther, A Diary of the Olympia School District, 1852-1976. Published by the Olympia School District.

<sup>26</sup>Biographical profile of Pamela Case Hale prepared by Alma Greenwood.

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In 1886, the first high school course of study was taught by Minnie Freeman. The superintendent's wife, Mrs. Brinthall, also taught at the high school. Out of the a staff of 16 in 1890, two were men. In the 1890s teachers received about \$50 per month and principals received \$55 while the Superintendent was paid \$75. The teachers and some principals were women while the superintendent was a man. With the construction of a new High School in 1907, a domestic science class was introduced for girls. Mary McFadden Miller donated the land for the first high school in memory of her husband, William Winlock Miller. Land for all of the succeeding high schools has also been donated by descendants of Mrs. Miller.

Long-time women teachers in Olympia included Amelia Dittman, who started teaching in Olympia in 1893 and taught for 46 years. She was known as a strict disciplinarian.<sup>27</sup> Janet Moore taught in Olympia Schools for more than 40 years, mostly at Lincoln School.

Throughout the early years of the 20th century most of the principals continued to be men with women as teachers. The district also hired school nurses and occasionally a woman janitor.

Ella Allen ran for the school board in 1913, the first woman to do so but was soundly defeated. It was Mrs. Frances H. Walthew who was the first woman elected to the Board in 1919. The second woman, Esther Knox was not elected until 1951 and served until 1983. Other woman Olympia school board members are: Barbara Roder (1981-present); Mary Farrington, (1983-present); Pamela Boyd (1983-91); Edie Harding (1993-present).

In 1917 Rebie Kerr Beach, wife of Superintendent C. E. Beach, organized the Mothers' Congress or PTA units at each school in the district. The PTA's started lobbying the school board for improvements and raised money for needed amenities such as pianos. They even lobbied to allow dances in the high school gymnasium.

By the 1920s and 1930s more men were employed as teachers but they were still outnumbered by women. In 1932 the woman-lead PTA re-organized the cafeterias at all of the schools.<sup>28</sup>

Extant properties associated with women in education include the Janet Moore House, the Goldie Robertson Funk House, Lincoln School, Old Washington School, the Hale House and the Puget Sound Wesleyan Institute Building.

**C. SUFFRAGE**

Olympia, as territorial and state capital, was an important location for the campaign for women's suffrage. Noted suffragist Susan B. Anthony stopped in Olympia in 1871 on her first western campaign. Anthony came with Abigail Scott Duniway to Olympia in October, 1871 where she gave a lecture at Olympic Hall [sometimes called Tacoma Hall] (the site is at 4<sup>th</sup> and Columbia). After touring the Sound area, Anthony returned to assist at the first women's suffrage convention in Washington, which commenced on November 8, 1871, also at the Olympic Hall. The Washington Women's Suffrage Association was formed at the convention which was lead by Mrs. M.C. Allen. Miss Anthony also visited the Moore and Bigelow Homes on her visit and is believed to have stayed at the Moore house which was at 1513 Capitol Way.<sup>29</sup>

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<sup>27</sup>Knox, pp. 20-37.

<sup>28</sup> Knox, pg.

<sup>29</sup>Washington Standard October 21, 1871; Washington Standard November 11, 1871.

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Daniel Bigelow and his wife Ann Elizabeth were both suffragists. Daniel Bigelow, a member of the Territorial Legislature in 1871 when Susan B. Anthony visited Olympia, introduced a suffrage bill shortly after Anthony spoke before the legislature. His speech was reproduced widely. The Bigelow House where Miss Anthony was feted at a dinner still stands in Olympia. A Thurston County Suffrage group was also formed in 1871 headed by Mrs. A. H.H. Stuart, Mrs. Pamela Hale, Elwood Evans, Mrs. Clara E. Sylvester and John Miller Murphy. The Suffrage Association met again in 1873 in Olympia and heard Abigail Duniway urge 'political expedience." In 1881 the Washington Legislature in Olympia granted married women the right to own property. After another speech by Duniway, the House passed the suffrage bill but it lost in the Council. Finally on November 13, 1883 the legislature passed the right to vote for women which was signed by then Governor Newell on November 23, 1883. A jubilant celebration was held at the Columbia Hall in Olympia. Women's right to vote in Washington however, was somewhat short-lived. In 1887, the Supreme Court struck down the law on a technicality and the legislature re-enacted the law. In 1888, the Supreme Court struck down the law entirely. The fight for suffrage was waged until after the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and Olympia women continued to be at the center of that fight. A referendum on suffrage was part of the election for statehood in 1889 and women again converged on Olympia.

In 1909, the Washington Equal Suffrage Association rented a house near the capitol campus for the headquarters during that session of the legislature. An active lobby was carried on Olympia presenting the constitutional amendment to the legislature providing for Woman Suffrage, which was submitted to the people on a referendum which passed in 1910. The Olympia Equal Suffrage Club was part of the final push for Women's Suffrage in Washington in 1910 as well. Women's suffrage was granted in 1920 nationally.<sup>30</sup> Extant properties associated with women's suffrage history in Olympia include the Bigelow House, the Hale House, the Lord House, and the Meyer House (sites of Suffrage Association Meetings), and the Old State Capitol, where suffrage was passed in 1910.

**D. RELIGION**

Women were often deeply involved in the establishment and support of local churches. Without their organizational and fund raising abilities, the churches would not have existed.

**1. Church Organizations**

Early churches depended on their women members for a variety of services. St. John's Episcopal Church ladies gave a fair in December 1863 to raise funds for a church building. The "Sewing Society" of the church was supplemented by the "Busy Bees" group among the girls of the parish and "The Dime Reading Society". The women's groups paid for re-fitting of a stained glass window for the new church as well as carpet and pew cushions. The large rose window which is still in the church was the gift of a group of women from the church. Women were also among the early organists at the church.<sup>31</sup>

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<sup>30</sup>Stevenson, Shanna "November 1883: When Washington women first won the right to vote, The Olympian, November 20, 1983, pg. 5 of "Totem Tidings,"

<sup>31</sup>Rev. Thomas Edwin Jessett, M.A., comp. "St. John's Church of Olympia (1853-1941), 1941, n.p.

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The Unitarian Society was started in Olympia in 1872. Almost immediately a "Women's Society" was started and gave a festival at Columbia Hall in June, 1872.

"The decorations of the room and the tables exhibited exquisite taste. Strawberries, raspberries, ice cream, lemonade and a number of good things were temptingly displayed and dispensed by the hands of beautiful women. During the evening the Anvil Polka was performed by an improvised orchestra with an anvil, cymbal and triangle accompaniment. The tableau "Starting of the Fancy Ball," and the pantomime of Lord Bateman were given. The entertainment was well planned, realizing a handsome sum for the Society."

By 1873, the ladies had saved enough money to buy a lot for the church site. The ladies continued to present pantomimes accompanied by berries, cake and ice cream to raise funds. In 1890 Janet Moore gave a program at a Unitarian Conference. The women raised money in the 1890s to purchase an organ for their church.<sup>32</sup>

The women of the Unitarian Church also gave a benefit for the railroad:

The ladies of the Unitarian Society will give an entertainment and strawberry and ice cream festival in Columbia Hall, Tuesday evening, June 16, (1874) for the benefit of the railroad. Miss Smith, a sister of Mrs. Stork, and a teacher of widespread popularity, has generously consented to aid in the enterprise. With talent from abroad and talent at home the ladies expect to give to the public something enjoyable in the way of a stage entertainment; after which strawberries and cream, with other refreshments, will be served to suit the demand of each and all.<sup>33</sup>

One account notes:

The Ladies Sewing Society, sponsored by the churches, besides doing sewing for the community and sponsoring an annual fair just before Christmas every year, also used the paper on several occasions to publish a "card" proclaiming to the world their displeasure at the cruelty of a husband or the immorality of a woman.<sup>34</sup>

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<sup>32</sup>McDowell, Esther, Unitarians in the State of Washington 1870-1960 Frank McCaffrey Publishers, 1966. pp.13-26.

<sup>33</sup>Washington Standard, June 13, 1874.

<sup>34</sup>Simmons, Katherine, "The Cultural Beginnings of Olympia, Washington, 1850-1865.", State College of Washington Thesis, 1948, quoting the Washington Standard, II, 21, April 5, 1862, pg. 26.

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Ten of the charter members of the First Congregational Church in Olympia in 1873 were women--Mrs. A. H. Steele, Mrs. C. P. Taylor, Mrs. C. A. Huntington, Miss Nellie Huntington, Mrs. R. A. White, Mrs. O. B. Manning, Mrs. A. J. Littlejohn, Mrs. B. W. Hewitt, Mrs. A. P. Corts, and Miss Jane Parker.<sup>35</sup>

Mary Eliza Thompson Whitworth came with her husband George Whitworth to Olympia in 1854 to found the First Presbyterian Church. The Presbyterian Ladies' Aid Society purchased the lots for the first church at the southeast corner of Legion Way and Franklin Street for \$475. The women of the First Christian Church served a similar role starting in that denomination in 1891.<sup>36</sup>

Reverend Sarah Whitney is noted as one of the founders of the Woman's Club of Olympia in 1883. Harriet Noble Henderson became interested in the Pentecostal movement after the turn of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and donated a site and assisted in building of the Pentecostal Mission on Puget Street in Olympia.<sup>37</sup>

A 1913 newspaper lists church women's groups for the Congregationalist Ladies Aid; Methodist Episcopal Ladies Aid; Baptist Ladies Aid; Lutheran Ladies Aid; Episcopal Guild, Catholic Order Foresters, and Presbyterian Ladies Aid.<sup>38</sup>

### 2. Sisters of Charity of Providence

The Sisters of Charity of Providence were a French Catholic Canadian religious order which permanently settled in the Washington in 1856. A group of nuns had first come to Olympia in 1852 but decided against settlement here. They began their ministry in Vancouver, Washington in 1856. They founded schools and hospitals. In 1881 the Sisters of Providence established a boarding school in Olympia known as the Providence St. Amable Academy for the education of children. The school later became St. Michael's school and still operates at a newer school building.

They extended their mission by founding a hospital near the school on the present Capitol Grounds in 1887. The hospital was needed to serve the casualties from the many logging accidents in the area where single men were injured who were without families to care for them.

The first Sisters of Providence hospital and school building in Olympia were designed by Mother Joseph (Esther Pariseau) of the Catholic order, who as a trained carpenter and woodworker designed and help build the institutions. The hospital was first located on what is now the capital campus and later moved to the West Side in 1924. Part of the hospital was a nursing school which was started in 1919 at the first hospital and continued until

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<sup>35</sup>United Churches History, 1981.

<sup>36</sup>"John Pray Led In Organization," *Olympian* March 23, 1941.

<sup>37</sup>Obituary for Harriet Henderson, *Morning Olympian*, March 6, 1925.

<sup>38</sup>"Club Women Organize Pure Food Council; Ask Ordinance; Meet Monday," *Olympia Recorder*, July 29, 1913, pg. 1.

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1953. During World War II, the U.S. Cadet Nurse Corps took over the nursing program. The hospital was the beneficiary of a longstanding tradition of women helping to raise funds. The Ladies of Charity, an auxiliary group for the hospital, helped raise funds through bazaars in the 1890s when funding for the hospital was in jeopardy and also for providing electricity to the hospital in 1897. The successors to this group, the St. Peter Hospital Auxiliary, have raised thousands of dollars for the work of the hospital. The hospital moved from west Olympia to northeast Olympia in 1971 and has become a regional medical center as part of the Providence Health System.

Extant properties associated with women's religious history in the context period in Olympia are the St. John's Episcopal Church, the Harriet Henderson House and the Old St. Peter's Hospital.

### II. STATEHOOD (1889) TO SUFFRAGE (1910)

#### A. WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS

By the 1880s women were beginning exert their influence even more in Olympia, and were ready to step outside the realm of church work for social gatherings and self-improvement.

##### 1. The Woman's Club of Olympia

The Woman's Club of Olympia was founded in 1883 and claims to be the oldest woman's club in the west. A group of nine women first met in the Edmund and Clara Sylvester House, some of whom were defying their husbands to do so. Many of the women had been active in the suffrage campaigns of the 1870s. Mary Shelton, daughter of the city's founder, returned from a trip to San Francisco with the idea of the club. She and her compatriots including Mrs. Pamela Hale, County School Superintendent, Mrs. Phoebe Moore, wife of the first State Librarian, Rev. Sarah Whitney, Mrs. Mehitable Elder, Mrs. Abbie H. H. Suart, Mrs. Mary Bricker Hartsuck, Mrs. Ella T. Stork, and Miss Janet Moore were the founding members. They called themselves, "The Women's Social Club for Mutual Improvement." They met in members homes focusing first on social and literary subjects. Members gave papers on literature, travel, music and education. Later the members campaigned for women's and children's rights. The club operated the first public library in Olympia.

The women later met in rooms in Mrs. Stuart's Building at the corner of Capitol Way and Legion Way and still later purchased a clubhouse (the Hartsuck House). When that burned, they determined to build their own clubhouse in 1908. They built it on the same site as the rented structure at a cost of \$6,000. The architecture fit in with the surrounding homes. The club has long raised funds for scholarships and continues its philanthropic work. The building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The club became an even stronger force when it was allied with the Washington Federal of Women's Clubs. Janet Moore was very active in the State Women's Club Movement. She was the daughter of P. D. and Phoebe Moore. Her father came to Olympia in 1863 as Collector of Revenue for Washington and Idaho. Miss Moore was a charter

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member of the Olympia Women's Club, when she was only 17. She taught school in Olympia for over 40 years beginning in the 1880's. She was also instrumental in establishing the Olympia Carnegie Library and the State Training School for Girls in Grand Mound in 1913. As president of the Washington State Federal of Women's Clubs, she spearheaded the drive to abolish the use of a communal drinking cup in schools. The house which she built and where she lived with her brothers still stands.

Mrs. A. H. H. Stuart, a founder of the Olympia Woman's Club was from Boston and a graduate of Tremont College. She came on a visit to Olympia in 1871 and returned to marry Robert G. Stuart, receiver for the U.S. Land Office in 1873. When Mr. Stuart died in 1891, there were hundreds of unanswered letters of inquiry which he had received. Mrs. Stuart volunteered to answer them and induce settlers to this area. In 1875 she wrote a pamphlet about this area and went on to receive a legislative appropriation to carry on her work. She was known as "the mother of the Woman's Club." She died in 1902.

### 2. Ladies' Relief Society

Thirteen women met on December 10, 1888 at the Tacoma Hall [Olympic Hall] to form The Ladies' Relief Society of Olympia. The purpose of the organization was "the relief and assistance of the worthy poor of the City of Olympia." They performed many acts of neighborliness and kindness such as providing groceries, fuel, clothing and medicines as well as jobs and donations. The group annual gave a "Thanksgiving Ball" as a fund raiser for their work. "Tickets for the first dance in 1888 were \$1, refreshments, 25 Cents." The hall was donated and music provided by the, "Olympia Orchestral Union." The group provided assistance to the Orchestral group at their "New Year's Ball." At one time, The Ladies Relief Society proposed establishing the, "Olympia Widow and Orphans Home" and purchased land for the facility but it was not built. Eventually government agencies took on the work of the group. Longtime members were Mrs. Jessie Mills, Mrs. Van Bridenstine, Mrs. J. F. (Emma) Kearney, and Mrs. J. W. Faulkner. The group officially disbanded in 1948.<sup>39</sup>

### 3. Eenati

Another long-lived women's group in Olympia is Eenati. This group started in 1899 as a self-improvement group mostly made up of mothers and daughters. The group has met in members' homes or at the Woman's Club Building. A paper or program is presented at each meeting. The group was always limited to 30 members. The word Eenati is Chinook for "beyond." The name was proposed by Mrs. John Dunbar to signify that the women had higher aspirations. The Club continues in operation.<sup>40</sup>

Properties associated with women's organizations history in Olympia are the Woman's Club Clubhouse, the Kearney House, the Hale House, the Janet Moore House, the Mowell House, the Dunbar House, the Mills House, and the Funk House.

<sup>39</sup>"Oldest Relief Group in State Disbanded." Olympia News, October 21, 1948.

<sup>40</sup>Information from longtime member Esther Parr.

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Women in Olympia not only worked inside their homes but also worked in a variety of businesses, oftentimes related to their domestic realm.

**1. Entrepreneurs**

Many women owned their own businesses. Rebecca Howard, a black woman, was the proprietress of Pacific House at Main and Third Streets beginning in the 1860s and was known as a fine cook. Along with Ms. Howard, there were several women engaged in running rooming houses in early Olympia. Mrs. Mary Munn ran the Columbia House at 4<sup>th</sup> and Columbia as well as the Tilley House, and Carlton House in Olympia.<sup>41</sup>

In the 1890 City Directory for Olympia, the most common employment for women was as a domestic followed by dressmaker and teacher. Women also worked as bookkeepers, clerks, photographers, printers, stenographers and one woman owned an organ and piano store. Mary Page is listed as a draughtsman.<sup>42</sup>

Bertha Eugley was one of Olympia's earliest businesswomen. She established a millinery store in Olympia in 1878 and continued in business until after the turn of the century for 35 years.<sup>43</sup> Another businesswoman was Carolyn Curtiss who was listed as a dressmaker and milliner in City Directories around 1903.

E. B. Crews built a rooming house on Capitol Way in 1918 with 18 rooms for his daughter, Jesse Crews Gibbons. Mrs. Gibbons operated the boarding house until 1962. She hosted Supreme Court Judges, legislators and others during her long tenure. The building was later made into apartments. Mrs. Gibbons died in 1972.

Other businesses throughout the years have also been owned by women in Olympia including Kay's Cafe which was operated by Lim Shee Kay with her husband, Suie Kay. She came to Olympia in 1915 from China and helped young men who came later came from China to assimilate here. She opened her cafe in 1940. She died in 1987 at 100 years of age.

In 1940, Jocelyn Dohm built her own print shop with her father, Edward, in a design by her sister Phyllis Dohm Mueller. Since that time, Ms. Dohm has practiced the art of hand printing at the shop which is an English Revival Style building built entirely of cedar with a board and batten interior and cedar exterior shingles for siding and roofing.<sup>44</sup>

Another longtime business owner was Anna Blom who owned a used book store in Olympia for over 40 years.<sup>45</sup>

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<sup>41</sup>Stevenson, Shanna, Lacey, Olympia and Tumwater: A Pictorial History. Donning Publishers, Norfolk, Virginia, 1985, 1996, pg. 61.

<sup>42</sup>R. L. Polk Directory 1890 for Olympia.

<sup>43</sup> Newberger, Marie Rowe, Seattle Times March 26, 1933.

<sup>44</sup>Information provided by Ms. Dohm for Olympia Heritage Register.

<sup>45</sup>Stevenson, Lacey Olympia, pg. 208.

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### 2. Manufacturing

Women were often employed as laundresses. One business which employed several laundresses was the Olympia Hand Laundry on 4<sup>th</sup> Street.

Beginning in 1909 and continuing through the 1930s, the Olympia Knitting Mills produced knitted scarfs, swimsuits, sweaters and coats which were shipped nationally. The claim was made that the moist climate of Olympia was ideal for knitting. Much of the work was done by local women who operated the knitting machines and were active in the union at the mills.<sup>46</sup>

Many women worked at the Olympia Canning Company cannery which began its operations about 1912 and continued through 1959 in north downtown Olympia. Here the finest quality of peaches, berries, apples plums, pears and clams and vegetables were processed and shipped to premium grocers throughout the United States and Europe. Women sorted and peeled fruit in the cannery. Many women also worked at the Cannery Ranch near Gull Harbor where some of the fruit was grown.

Besides working on oyster floats in local bays, many Japanese and other women worked shucking oysters in the 1910s and 1920s in the shellfish processing industry on Olympia's waterfront.

Women also worked as telephone operators, often spending long hours at the switchboard in the telephone switching office in downtown Olympia in the Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Building.

### 3. Prostitution

Other women worked at less savory professions. By the 1910s the "Tenderloin" district of Olympia was well established below or north of 3<sup>rd</sup> or what is now State Street. Maps of the period show many "female boarding" houses adjacent to saloons. This area which had been the original settlement area for the city, had been left to this element as the town moved southward away from the waterfront. A civic reform movement coupled with the temperance forces of the city called for the elimination of this element from the city. Also by 1910, plans were being made to dredge the harbor to create a deep water port in northern Olympia and open the area to new businesses and rail lines.

A December, 1910 newspaper article reported on the sweep:

For the first time in many years Olympia is without a restricted district and the denizens of the lower end of Main street have quietly gathered their belongings and slipped away leaving that end of town with a few exceptions, vacant. The word was passed around the town early Wednesday afternoon that the tenderloin district of Olympia was a thing of the past . . . the houses have closed, the inmates seeking newer fields.<sup>47</sup>

<sup>46</sup>Stevenson, Olympia, Lacey, and Tumwater, pg. 102.

<sup>47</sup>Newell, Gordon, Rogues, Buffoons and Statesmen, Superior Publishing, Seattle: 1975, pg. 270.

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The 1910 paper notes that the buildings at 101, 102, 105, 106, 108, 115 and 124 South Main Street, (now Capitol Way) were houses of prostitution and lists 21 women who had paid fines to the police in October, 1910 for prostitution.<sup>48</sup>

One publication mentions Billie Witham as a local madam in 1899 and talks about prostitution activities in the Kneeland Building at 4<sup>th</sup> and Main around the turn of the century.<sup>49</sup>

Extant properties associated with women's business and working history include the Eugley House, Curtiss House, Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Building, Olympia Canning Company Buildings, the Olympia Knitting Mills Buildings, Gibbons Rooming House, Sherwood Press and Kay's Cafe.

### III. SUFFRAGE (1910) TO 1948

#### A. PROFESSIONS

As women gained more rights and opportunities, they entered into the professional life of the community and left their mark in these areas which had traditionally been dominated by men.

##### 1. Library

Library service in Olympia began in 1869. A building was donated in that year by Captain D. B. Finch to the Good Templars Lodge with the stipulation that the lodge maintain a reading room. Books and magazines were contributed by other citizens. This and other reading rooms served the city for many years. The Good Templar collection eventually became part of the State Library. The present Public Library began in 1896 when the Woman's Club of Olympia began collecting materials. The club maintained service until 1909, when the city took over its collection of 900 books. In 1911, the collection moved to the Thurston County Educational Club and Miss Selina Sharp was the librarian. Women of the community lead by Janet Moore and other Woman's Club members secured a Carnegie grant of \$25, 000 which enabled the city to construct a library building in 1914. After many years of service, an addition was added to the library in 1960, and the basement became the main public area. Even with the addition, however, space was inadequate. A bond issue was approved by the voters, and a new facility opened nearby in 1978. Early head librarians were primarily women including Mabel Smith, 1914 to 1917; Elizabeth Satterthwaite, 1917 to 1926; Mrs. Bess B. Gressman, 1926-28; Dorothy Alvord, 1928-1932; Claire E. Angel 1932-33; and Lillian Collins 1933-1956. The Carnegie Library Building is on the National Historic Register.

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<sup>48</sup>"Action Filed Against Property Owners of Resorts Below the Line," Olympia Daily Recorder, November 10, 1910, pg. 1.

<sup>49</sup>Meier, Gary, Those naughty ladies of the Old Northwest, Ben Oregon, Maverick Publications. pgs. 35, 78.

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Other women were aiming for professions as well. Olympia native Elizabeth Ayer has the distinction of being the first woman graduate of the University of Washington Architecture School in 1921. She worked for architect William Willatsen and then for Ivey & Riley architects as an "office girl." She continued to work with Edwin Ivey. She took a leave of absence in 1922 and worked in New York City for Cross & Cross, and with Grosvenor Atterbery. She returned to the Ivey firm in 1927. In 1927, she took another leave of absence and toured for a year in Europe. With the Ivey firm, she designed many notable traditional style residences in Seattle, Olympia and throughout Washington. She later continued her firm as Ayer & Lamping, specializing in classically designed homes. During World War II, she worked for the U.S. Engineers Office. Miss Ayer retired from her architectural practice in 1970 and moved to Panorama City in Lacey where she died in 1987. Several of her residential designs are in Olympia, including the Allen/Beals House, Muench House and the Judge Bridges House.<sup>50</sup>

Other local woman architects include Phyllis Dohm Mueller who designed the Kormesser House and elements of other homes and Mary Page who reputedly was the one of the first women to complete an architecture course at the University of Illinois in 1878. The Ward House is attributed to her.

During the 1940's local attorney Trena Worthington built five houses on Hillside Drive and environs. All of the houses were constructed from basically the same house plan which Mrs. Worthington copied from an award winning design from Architectural Digest of the period. Mrs. Worthington was her own contractor and let bids for each job. She lived in all of the houses with the exception of two of them. She incorporated used brick and Chehalis brick and slightly modified the decorative motifs of each one.

**3. Law**

Julia Waldrip Ker was Olympia's first licensed attorney. A native of Iowa, she came to Olympia in 1891. She married Clyde Waldrip in 1900 and George Ker in 1921. She was admitted to the Washington Bar in 1912. She was elected as city treasurer and served three terms. She began her law practice in 1915. She became Olympia's police judge in 1926, reputedly the first to hold that position in the U.S. She died in 1949.<sup>51</sup>

Othila Carroll Beals was another notable Olympia attorney. The daughter of Federal Judge Patrick P. Carroll, Mrs. Beals was born in New Orleans in 1875. She came with her family to Olympia in 1880 and then went to Seattle in 1886. She was the first woman to be graduated from the University of Washington School of Law, graduating with her husband in the first class in 1901. During World War I, Mrs. Beals took over her brother's place as a justice of the peace in Seattle--the first woman to hold that position--and later

<sup>50</sup>Ochsner, Jeffrey Karl, editor, Shaping Seattle Architecture, A Historical Guide to the Architects, University of Washington Press, Seattle, 1994., pp. 210-215.

<sup>51</sup>Obituary for Julia Waldrip Ker, Daily Olympian, July 1, 1949.

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was elected to the post. She was involved in many American Legion activities and in 1927, she accompanied General John Pershing on a goodwill tour of Europe. She was a member of a number of Seattle and Olympia philanthropic groups.<sup>52</sup>

### 4. Medicine

As early as 1874, "Dr. Mary O. Brown" advertised that she was a "physician and accoucher" who gave particular attention to women and children. She noted her office was "at her residence on 10<sup>th</sup> Street, between Adams and Franklin."

Flora Chambers Mustard was born in Olympia and graduated from the University of Southern California Medical School in 1907. She practiced medicine with her husband, John Mustard in Olympia for many years. She died in 1967.<sup>53</sup>

Another woman, Emma Riddle, had a longtime alternative medicine practice in Olympia. She is variously listed as a chiropractor and naturopath in city directories starting in 1921. She acquired a large home on East Bay Drive in 1925 and operated the "Riddle Nerve Sanitarium" at that location until 1949. She died in 1952.<sup>54</sup>

The Maxwell Maternity Home which was on the West Side at the Old Percival House at the base of Harrison Avenue for many years was operated by Lola Cassidy Maxwell, a nurse. Mrs. Maxwell was from Iowa and graduated from Dumon's Hospital at Centralia. She opened a maternity hospital at 723 West 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue in 1923 which she operated until her death in 1936. Well over 2,000 babies were born at the facility which was noted the "exceptionally low mortality rate."<sup>55</sup> Another maternity home was located at 2301 S. Capitol Way during the 1910s called "Olympia Hospital." Before the early teens, most babies were delivered at home. The maternity homes were operated before babies were delivered in hospitals. The Maxwell Maternity Home is not longer extant, however the Olympia Maternity Home building still exists.

St. Peter Hospital operated a nursing School beginning in 1919 at the wooden hospital on what is now the capitol campus and continued the school at the west side hospital until 1953. During World War II, it was part of the U.S. Cadet Nurse Corps.

Extant properties associated with professional women include, the Muench House, Westhillsyde, the Bridges House, the Meyer House (Emma Riddle Nervatorium), the second St. Peter's Hospital, the Kornmesser House, the Ward House and Mrs. Worthington's houses. Extant properties associated with women's history in promoting and staffing the library include the Janet Moore House, the Ada Mowell House and the Carnegie Library.

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<sup>52</sup>Obituary for Othilia Carroll Beals

<sup>53</sup>Obituary for Flora Chambers Mustard, Sunday Olympian April 9, 1967, pg. 14. Obituary for John J. Mustard, Olympian, June 15, 1926.

<sup>54</sup>Polk City Directories, 1921-1949. Obituary for Emma Riddle, Olympian, August 23, 1952.

<sup>55</sup>Obituary for Lola Maxwell, Daily Olympian, May 28, 1936, pg. 3.

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### **B. WOMEN IN GOVERNMENT**

Because of Olympia's position as county seat and territorial and state capital, Olympia's history of women in government is especially rich.

Many women worked in government jobs at the former Thurston County Courthouse and Old State Capitol Building downtown. Currently the Superintendent of Public Instruction offices are located there. Women Superintendents of Public Instruction include Josephine Preston (1913-1929), Pearl Wanamaker (1941-1947) and contemporary women Judith Billings (1989-1997) and Teresa Bergeson (1997 to present).

As Territorial and State Capital, Olympia has seen generations of elected officials, including women who have shaped the history of the state. The first woman to work for the legislature in 1868, was Libbie Peebles, one of the Mercer Girls. The first women legislators, elected in 1912, were Frances C. Axtell from Whatcom County and Nena J. Croake, from Pierce County in 1912. Since that time over 190 women have served in the legislature. Women legislators from Olympia included Mary Stuart Lux, Jennifer Belcher, Cathy Wolfe, Sandra Romero, Karen Fraser, Jolene Unsoeld, and Lela Kreidler.

Other elected women to serve state government in Olympia include Belle Reeves who was Secretary of State from 1938-1948; and Dixie Lee Ray, who was the State's only woman Governor from 1977-1981. Women Supreme Court Justices include Carolyn Dimmick (1981-1985); Roselle Pekelis (1995 -1996); Barbara Durham (1985 - present); Barbara Madsen (1993 - present).

Other state-wide elected women are Deborah Senn, Insurance Commissioner (1993 - present); Jennifer Belcher, Commissioner of Public Lands ( 1993 - present) and Christine Gregoire, Attorney General (1993- present).

Many of the wives of the state's governors served active roles including Mary Alma Lister, who helped organize the Red Cross in Olympia in 1917; Jean Gardner, who co-chaired the state's centennial in 1989; Nancy Evans who fought for the preservation of the Governor's Mansion; and Lois Spellman (1981-1985), who promoted Washington Arts and Crafts. First Ladies served as hostesses and received dignitaries on behalf of the state.

Amanda Benek Smith was Olympia's first woman mayor and the first woman mayor of a capital city in the United States. She served as mayor and Commissioner of Police and Fire from 1953 to 1960. She presided over the construction of the freeway through Olympia and believed in "doing things for the little people." She died in 1996. Holly Gadbaw was mayor from 1988-1990 and councilmember (1982-present). Other Olympia women city council members include: Mary Stuart Lux (1982- 1996), Joan Kelly (1982-1988); Cora Pinson (1988-1992), who was Olympia's first black council member; Sandra Romero (1990-1993); Nina Carter (1990-1994); Margaret McPhee (1994-present); Jeanette Hawkins (1994-present); and Laura Ware (1996-present).

Other elected women were Ruby Swan Young who served as county treasurer from 1938 to 1946. Annie Gaston was county auditor in the 1910s. Women County Commissioners are Marj Yung (1974-1979), Karen Fraser (1981-1989), Diane Oberquell (1989-present) Linda Metcalf (1992) and Judy Wilson (1994-present).

Extant properties associated with women's government history include the Old State Capitol Building, Old Thurston County Courthouse, Old Olympia City Hall, the State Capitol Campus, Josephine Corliss Preston House, and Amanda Smith House.

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### C. WOMEN AND REFORM MOVEMENTS

With their right to vote in 1910, women began to use their political and moral clout to make needed changes in the social and governmental fabric of the city.

#### 1. **Women's Christian Temperance Union**

From available records, it appears the Women's Christian Temperance Union was formed in Olympia in about 1883 at a meeting at the Tacoma Hall. Active members in the group included Emma and Mary Page. They held a reorganization meeting in 1894. Western Washington Conventions for the WCTU were held in Olympia in 1900 and 1910. In 1912, the women of the Women's Christian Temperance Union lead the call for a local option election and prevailed upon a group of businessmen to form an "Anti-Saloon Executive Committee," to back the proposition which ultimately failed. By 1913 it appears that there were two WCTU chapters in Olympia, a central and west side group. Women of the WCTU were also active in the 1914 vote in Washington which succeeded in enacting prohibition in Washington.<sup>56</sup>

#### 2. **Civic Improvement Club**

The Civic Improvement Club was organized in June, 1904. Early officers were Mrs. George E. Filley, Mrs. D. S. Paisley, Mrs. F. V. Donnelly, Mrs. A. S. Ruth and Mrs. L. B. Faulkner. The club immediately began to work for improvements in the appearance of the city. They urged the city to provide for garbage collection and debris. They supported planting of trees and awarded prizes for the best children's gardens. They lead the beautification of Maple Park and tree planting around the city. They organized by wards of the city. They urged the city to outlaw driving stock down Main Street (Capitol Way). They planted flowers and beautified school grounds. They built a ladies' bath house at Priest Point Park, and built bird houses for the park. They organized Junior Civic Leagues to stop vandalism. The group financed their work through an annual rose show.<sup>57</sup>

In the 1910s the women of the Civic Improvement Club conducted general beautification and cleanup of the city and improvement of school grounds. In 1910 they were lead by Annie Frost Macleay, Mrs. Allen White, Mrs. E. N. Steele and Mrs. Nathan Porter. The group also sponsored a general cleanup day for the city.<sup>58</sup>

By 1920, they had lobbied the city sufficiently so that it was taking care of much of the work which had been begun by the group and they disbanded. The Woman's Club took over the presentation of the "Rose Cup," which had been the highlight of the annual flower show sponsored by the club.<sup>59</sup>

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<sup>56</sup>Newell, pg. 272.

<sup>57</sup>Civic Improvement Club Minutes, 1904-1920 at the Olympia Woman's Club.

<sup>58</sup>"Olympia Cleanup Day Set for Arbor Day, April 14--Civic Club Elects Officers," Daily Olympian, March 22, 1910.

<sup>59</sup>Civic Improvement Club Minutes.

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A newspaper article from 1913 notes that a coalition of women had formed the "Olympia Pure Food Council." Their purpose was to secure a city ordinance for the regulation and inspection of the handling and sale of food stuffs. The group had worked a year on the project and met at the Woman's Club. The list of groups gives an insight into the active women's groups in the city at that time which included: Women's Educational Club, Woman's Club, Eenati Club, Country Club, Rebekahs, Pythian Sisters, Degree of Honor, Women of Woodcraft, Helping Hand, Westside WCTU, Congregational Ladies' Aid, Baptist Ladies' Aid, Methodist Episcopal Ladies' Aid, Lutheran Ladies' Aid, Episcopal Guild, Catholic Order Foresters, Parent-Teachers Association, Royal Neighbors, Presbyterian Ladies' Aid, and Civic Improvement Club.<sup>60</sup>

**3. Young Women's Christian Associaton (YWCA)**

1945, ten women met in Olympia to discuss founding a YWCA branch in Olympia. Mildred Lemon was the first Board Chairman and Miss Francis Simas was the first Executive Director. They purchased the Kearney House at 220 Union in 1948. The founding of the branch was spurred by the fact that two thousand young women were working for the state and that there were many service wives living in Olympia as well without a group to help them. The new YWCA facility provided a residence for young women which continued until the 1970s. The group worked to monitor legislation for wages and hours and conditions related to working women. They also sponsored social activities. As time went on the YWCA went on to tackle human rights, nuclear power, warfare and campaigned for the ERA. They have also provided help for Rape Relief, a Woman's Shelter and Work Options for Women from this facility.<sup>61</sup>

The Woman's Club Clubhouse, the YWCA Clubhouse, the Emma Page Fountain in Sylvester Park and the Georgiana Blankenship House are extant properties associated with the Reform movement in Olympia.

**C. CULTURAL CONTRIBUTIONS**

The cultural life of Olympia was the domain of its women who organized to preserve history, promote the arts and provide community amenities.

**1. Daughters of the American Revolution--Sacajawea Chapter**

The Sacajawea Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution was organized in Olympia in 1905. The charter members were Mrs. Mary A. Bryan, Mrs. Sally Foster Eaton, Mrs. Lou J. Filley, Mrs. Malvina Loring Hill, Mrs. Rio Newton Howard, Mrs. Helen Gordon Mills, Mrs. Elizabeth Reynolds Lord, Mrs. Mary E. McKenzie, Mrs. Edith McKenzie

<sup>60</sup>"Club Women Organize Pure Food Council; Ask Ordinance; Meet Monday," Olympia Recorder, July 29, 1913, pg. 1.

<sup>61</sup>"The Olympia YWCA: A Story of Challenge," n.a., n.d. manuscript from the YWCA.

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Morrison, Mrs. Fannie Steele O'Brien, Mrs. Ella Rowell Smith, Mrs. Sue O'Bannon Porter Streets, Mrs. Gertrude Wheeler Vance. The DAR contributed to the DAR House at the Alaska-Yukon Exposition in Seattle, to the George Washington Statue on the University of Washington Campus and sponsored a room in the Chapter House at the University of Washington. During World War I, the DAR contributed to Liberty Bonds and equipped each man from Thurston County with a sewing kit. One member, Mildred Stanford worked overseas as a hospital "Searcher."

The DAR awarded prizes for patriotic education and observed George Washington's Birthday with a Colonial Ball for many years. The group also marked several historic sites in Thurston County including the End of the Oregon Trail, the Medicine Creek Treaty site and aided in the marking of the Old Oregon Trail.<sup>62</sup>

### 2. Art, Literature and Drama

An Amateur Dramatic Club was formed in Olympia which included several women. Proceeds from their plays were used to paint the town hall and for other such purposes, including the building of a home for a family that was burned out.<sup>63</sup>

In 1870 when Hazard Stevens and P. B. Van Trump climbed Mt. Rainier, Fanny Yantis and Lizzie Ferry, made them an American flag. Other women helped the party by preparing meals as they went along.<sup>64</sup>

As early as 1850s Mrs. M. A. Hamm gave vocal lessons and conducted a concert.

Artists include Mrs. E. O. Kimball wife an early minister painted one of the most memorable early views of Olympia. Helen Parker McMicken also painted early scenes in Olympia. Ida B. Smith was a photographer in Olympia in the late 1890s and early teens.<sup>65</sup>

Georgiana Mitchell Smith Blankenship was a longtime librarian in Spokane and came to Olympia in 1892. Mrs. Blankenship was the author of "Tillicum Tales" which was a compilation of reminiscences of Thurston County pioneers. She was also President of the Thurston County Historical Society and a member of the Woman's Club. She died in 1936.

### 3. State Capitol Museum

Ida Yeager Burford, a native Olympian, was the organizer and founder of a wide variety of civic and educational projects in the capitol city and Thurston County including:

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<sup>62</sup>History and Register 1924 Daughters of the American Revolution, DAR, Lowman and Handford Co., 1924.

<sup>63</sup>"Living Pioneers of Washington," by Edmond S. Meany, regarding Annie Frost Macleay, Seattle P.L., April 28, 1916.

<sup>64</sup>Allison Ladd, "Historical Survey of Olympia's Women," Research Project Pacific Lutheran University, May 1977, manuscript at the Washington Room, State Library, pg. 8.

<sup>65</sup>Ladd pg 12.

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the Daughters of Washington Pioneers; Girl Scouting in Thurston County; the Thurston County Pioneer Association; and was a founding member of Olympia branch, American Association of University Women (AAUW).

Mrs. Burford was one of the leaders to create a permanent state historical museum at C.J. and Elizabeth Lord Mansion. Elizabeth Lord donated her large home to the state in 1939 for use as a museum. Mrs. Burford helped form the State Capitol Museum Historical Association (SCMA) and promoted legislation to have the association named official trustee for the museum in 1941. When the museum opened in March 1942 she was its first curator-director, a position she continued for more than 10 years. In this capacity, along with the Daughters of Pioneers and the SCMA, she helped secure many of the manuscripts, furnishings, artifacts and wardrobes that make up the museum's basic collection. She died in 1964.

#### 4. Cultural life

Early social events were often organized by women in Olympia to benefit causes. A "calico ball" was held in 1865 on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July to benefit the construction of the wagon road across the Cascade Mountains. The next year the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Ball was held to raise money to purchase a hose carriage for the local fire department.<sup>66</sup>

The Territorial Republican noted the Election Ball in Olympia on November 16, 1868, "The supper furnished by the ladies, and under their management and directions was simply magnificent." The Firemen's Ball, December 24, 1870, was noted in The Daily Pacific Tribune, "The dancing hall was tastefully decorated with flags, brilliantly lighted . . . An excellent band, composed of three string and two wind instruments. . . Dancing was kept up until four o'clock in the morning, at which hour the assembly broke up."<sup>67</sup>

Women recalled fondly the boating clubs and other social activities such as performances, picnics, clambakes, balls, and tableaux. Ada Sprague Mowell wrote about the social scene as she recalled it some years later:

While Society was much more general then than now, there was a little inner circle . . . Within reasonable limits, everyone knew everyone else and parties were given on a large scale. You had to tread softly so as not to offend. Many kept books, a record of each party to which you were invited and when you returned it. Also your own party with its invitation list and when it was canceled. . . Party calls were obligatory and it was a criminal offense to omit a dinner call. . . Once or twice a year, you would see women smartly gowned, clutching card cases in white gloved hands, hurrying along residence streets returning calls. Many had regular Days at Home. . . . All state officials were called upon promptly and they, even the Governor's wife, returned the call.

<sup>66</sup>Allison, Ladd C., "Historical Survey of Washington's Women," Research Project, Pacific Lutheran University, 1977, pp.13-14, quoting Rathbun, p. 46 and Washington Standard, June 30, 1866.

<sup>67</sup>Williams, Jacqueline, "We Danced All Night," Columbia, Spring, 1998, pp. 36-37.

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Then, as now, the Governor's and Legislative Balls were great events. Only then, not to go to the Governor's reception and ball, even if only as a spectator, was a calamity . . . Practically every women called on all the "Legislative Ladies" and it took some time for all those calls to be returned. We each entertained them at luncheons and at least one big tea when several entertained together.

The ball of the year, however, was the Charity Ball, given by the Ladies Relief Society. It was like the famous Assembly Balls and though the tickets for sweet charity's sake, brought a high price, they were in great demand.<sup>68</sup>

### 5. Environment

Margaret McKenny is widely known for her work as an environmentalist. She was born in Olympia in 1885, the daughter of T. I. and Cynthia Adelaide King McKenny. Her father was a Superintendent of Indian Affairs for Washington Territory. She attended Providence Academy, the University of Washington and Lowthrop School of Landscape Architecture. She returned to Olympia in 1919 and established a progressive kindergarten and primary school.

She designed several wild flower and bird sanctuaries on the East Coast. She spent three years on the staff of the American Museum of Natural History with the Nature Lore School, served six years as publications coordinator for the Garden Clubs of American and several terms as executive secretary of the City Gardens of New York. Her first book was Mushrooms of Field and Wood in 1929. She co-authored with Roger Tory Peterson A Field Guide to Wildflowers of North America. She went to author 15 books including The Savory Wild Mushroom in 1962.

In the 1950s she lead the effort to save Sylvester Park and Watershed Park in Olympia from development. In 1965, she started the eventually successful campaign to preserve the Nisqually Delta from development. She was recognized in 1967 with a campsite in Capitol Forest and in 1966 was the recipient of a national conservation award.

Locally, she taught classes and was the official consultant on tree plantings in Olympia. She also helped preserve the oak trees on Legion Way. She died in 1969.<sup>69</sup>

The extant properties associated with cultural history include the Olympian Hotel and the Temple of Justice where legislative balls were held, the Ida Yeager Burford House, the Lord House (State Capital Museum), and the Georgiana Blankenship House. The Margaret McKenny House is extant along with Watershed Park and Sylvester Park.

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<sup>68</sup>"Mowell, Ada Sprague, "Olympia in My Lifetime," n.d., Washington (State) Biographical File, Washington State Library.

<sup>69</sup>Information compiled by Gayle Palmer. Obituary for Margaret McKenny, Daily Olympian, August 1969.

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### D. WORLD WAR I

Women in Olympia worked primarily in the homefront in the first World War, flexing their by-then strong organizational muscles to support the war effort.

#### 1. **Olympia Red Cross**

The Olympia Red Cross was organized on February 18, 1917 when 26 women met at the Governor's Mansion, hosted by Mary Alma Lister, wife of then Governor Ernest Lister. Red Cross women took first aid classes, organized sewing and knitting committees and helped with soldiers at what was then Camp Lewis. Prominent women in organizing the Red Cross included Elizabeth Lord, Ada McCleary, Emma Ingham, and Louis Ayer. Women in the rural areas were formed into 26 auxiliaries. Already existing women's groups in the city of Olympia formed into circles for sewing and knitting. An estimated 800 women sewed for the Red Cross producing some 19,470 hospital garments and 3,108 refugee garments.

A special committee made surgical dressings which included gathering, sorting and drying of sphagnum moss. The women were assisted in their work by the men of the Elks club which provided all the moss. Some 27,145 dressings, and 10,000 gauze ward masks were made. The knitters produced 5,092 garments including stockings. Local groups helped in making boxes to ship the materials. Even the manual training program at the High School assisted with this. The Red Cross also provided entertainment for Camp Lewis soldiers.

They also did home services work and one woman, Mrs. C. E. Rose, died in helping others during the influenza outbreak in 1919. They helped sell bonds, collected clothing and linens for war refugees. They also provided Christmas packets for servicemen. Many local businesses donated goods and space for their efforts as well.<sup>70</sup>

#### 2. **The Minute Women**

Another group active in World War I were the Minute Women. They were organized under a state and local "Council of Defense." Ada S. Mowell organized the Thurston County group. An Idaho native who grew up in Tumwater, Ada Sprague Mowell was a long-time teacher in public schools in King County, Skagit City, Littlerock, Hoquiam, Tumwater and Olympia and principal of Lincoln School. After her marriage to Dr. John Mowell in 1898, she became active in community affairs.

She was the only woman member of the Thurston County Council of Defense and actively worked with the Red Cross. She organized and headed the Minute Women who assisted in the war effort. The women assisted in the sales of Liberty bonds and helped with the Hooverizing campaign to save sugar, flour and all cereals. They collected \$.10 per individual per month and conducted local censuses to accomplish this work. They also distributed propaganda materials to locals. Mrs. Mowell organized women by school district. Their work continued after the war into the 1930s.

Mrs. Mowell was a longtime member of the Olympia Woman's Club and helped get the Carnegie Library built in Olympia. She also lead the effort to clean up the Union/Pioneer Calvary Cemetery in Tumwater during the 1920s. She continued to serve the community until her death in 1953.

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<sup>70</sup>Louise Ayer, , History of the Thurston County Chapter American Red Cross," n.d. manuscript.

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Clara Elizabeth Van Etten was active during World War I when she was decorated by Armenia for her Veteran's Relief efforts.<sup>71</sup> Othilia Carroll Beals was awarded the French Officier de l'Instruction Publique medal for her involvement in obtaining employment for French war brides coming the United States after World War I. She was vice-president of the American Legion Women's Auxilairy for Western Washington.<sup>72</sup>

The Daughters of the American Revolution, Sacajawea Chapter in Olympia also assisted in the war effort (see DAR section above).

Properties associated with World War I women's history include the Mowell House, the Martin Building, the Elizabeth Lord House, Othilia Carroll Beals House and the Governor's Mansion.

### D. WORLD WAR II

As in World War I, women worked on the homefront for the war effort by helping with bond drives, saving food and contributing items such as nylon stockings. Unlike World War I, women from Olympia joined the branches of the services and saw active duty.

Women also served in other capacities.

Two hundred local women were being recruited as volunteer observers in the aircraft warning service, Red Cross ladies went back into uniform and a women's motor corps was organized and uniformed. Its members learned to change tires and make mechanical repairs. . .The Junior Chamber of Commerce opened the Olympia Army-Navy Club on the ground floor of the old statehouse to provide hospitality of sorts for the increasing numbers of lonesome soldiers from Fort Lewis who were haunting the city streets in a vain search for something to do on a 12-hour pass.<sup>73</sup>

During World War II, the Armory was the location of the "Filter Board" which was an aircraft monitoring center. Enemy aircraft spotters reported via radio to volunteer staff at the Armory on what kinds of aircraft were noted. The range of the Olympia Filter Board was as far away as the Olympic Peninsula because the Olympic Mountains prevented radio waves from reaching Seattle to which Olympia reported. Filter Board workers staffed "jacks" to listen to spotters.<sup>74</sup>

Women learned cooking techniques from local county agents to preserve foodstuffs and get along on rationed products. Women from the Zonta club collected nylon and silk stockings for the war effort.

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<sup>71</sup>Women of the West, Washington.

<sup>72</sup>Obituary for Othilia Carroll Beals, Daily Olympian, May 26, 1970 pg. 10.

<sup>73</sup>Newell, Rogues, Buffoons, pg. 418.

<sup>76</sup>Telephone interview with Caroline Hartsuck Wright who volunteered at the Filter Board during 1942.

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The USO Club on 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue provided entertainment for local soldiers and was staffed by local women. Groups formed such as the Navy Mothers Club to assist with USO activities.

After the War, Muriel Hopp, ex WAC, was initiated into Alfred William Leach post of the American Legion in Olympia as its first female member.<sup>75</sup>

The State Capitol Legislative Building and the Olympia Armory, where women worked as plane spotters, are extant in Olympia.

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<sup>75</sup>ibid, pg. 438.

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**F. Associated Property Types**

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**I. Name of Property Type** Women's History Related Residences

**II. Description**

Eligible properties are residences associated with the productive lives of women who were prominent in the areas of women's history noted in the MPD, "Women's History in Olympia First Settlement (1846) to 1948. They are located in all areas of the city and represent a variety of periods and architectural styles.

**III. Significance**

Because many of the activities associated with women's suffrage campaigns, reform movements, charitable work and social interaction took place in women's homes, these properties are significant under Criterion A because they are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history. These properties may be significant under Criterion B because they are associated with the lives of particular women who are important in the areas of women's suffrage, education, charitable activities, reform, cultural activities, professional work or government. They may also be significant under Criterion C as examples of designs of women architects and represent the work of masters in that field.

**IV. Registration Requirements**

**A. PHYSICAL**

Eligible properties encompass the range of styles and methods of construction of the mid-19th to the mid-20th century. The eligible properties have good integrity of form, windows, porches and siding. Alterations to exterior historic features should be minimal. Additions on the rear of the buildings would be permitted.

**B. ASSOCIATIVE**

Eligible properties are at least 50 years old and are associated with the productive lives of women who have been identified and may be identified in the future as being significant in the context of women's history in Olympia. These sites reflect the themes expressed in the Women's History in Olympia: First Settlement (1846) to 1948 thematic statement.

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I. Name of Property Type Women's Organization Clubhouses

II. Description

Eligible properties are buildings that served as official meeting places and clubhouses for women's organizations. They are generally of wood construction and are former residences or are in the residential style.

III. Significance

These properties are significant under criterion A because they are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of women's history in Olympia. These clubhouses were often not only meeting places of the owner club but of other women's groups as well. As women became more active outside the home, they lead the way in campaigning for civic improvements in Olympia such as a library, city beautification, pure food laws, and elimination of overt prostitution activities. The YWCA in later years addressed the issues of young working women. The genesis of these causes were the meetings conducted at these women's clubs.

IV. Registration Requirements

A. PHYSICAL

Eligible properties are at least 50 years old and exhibit good integrity of the windows, porches and overall form. Exterior changes to the buildings should be minimal.

B. ASSOCIATIVE

Eligible properties are associated with women's club activities and services and have documented significance when evaluated in the context of women's history in Olympia. They reflect the themes expressed in the Women's History in Olympia First Settlement (1846) to 1948 thematic statement.

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I. Name of Property Type Women's Work Places

## II. Description

Eligible significant work places are properties where the business owner or a significant number of employees were women. They include two subtypes:

### A. Industrial and Commercial Properties:

These properties are generally located inside or adjacent to the downtown commercial area. Examples include Olympia Knitting Mills, Olympia Canning Company, Pacific Telephone and Telegraph, Sherwood Press, Kay's Restaurant and Gibbons Rooming House.

### B. Professional Properties:

These are located throughout the city. These properties include schools, as well as a hospital and nursing school, and a library.

## III. Significance

These properties are significant under Criterion A because they are associated with the commercial and professional life of the city in ways which have made significant contributions to the broad patterns of our history. These places reflect the contributions of women who worked outside their homes either on a seasonal or full time basis as employees, professionals and business owners.

## IV. Registration Requirements

### A. PHYSICAL

Eligible properties are industrial, commercial and professional sites which exhibit good exterior integrity reflecting the period in which women worked in or owned the properties. They are at least 50 years old.

### B. ASSOCIATIVE

Eligible properties are associated with women's contributions to the commercial and professional life of the city as workers and entrepreneurs. The commercial sites reflect the preponderance of women employees in some industries, including knitting mills and the cannery as well as women who established their own businesses. The professional places are properties where women worked in professions. The properties should have documented significance when evaluated in the context of women's history in Olympia. They reflect the themes expressed in the Women's History in Olympia: First Settlement (1846) to 1948 thematic statement.

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I. Name of Property Type Government Buildings

II. Description

Eligible significant buildings are located on or near Capitol Way and are primarily monumental structures reflecting the importance of state, county or local government. Olympia's status as territorial and state capital creates a focus in this area as women campaigned for women's rights, worked for government and eventually held elective offices. In addition these sites are the locations for important rulings and legislative actions related to women's rights in Washington.

III. Significance

These properties are significant under Criterion A because they are associated with events in the history of the city, county and state influenced by elected women and events which affected women's lives. They may potential be significant under Criterion B because they are associated with the lives of particular women significant in local, state and national history.

IV. Registration Requirements

A. PHYSICAL

Eligible properties are located within the City of Olympia. They should be at least 50 years old and have good exterior integrity and reflect the period in which the events in the context statement took place and the period in which the persons identified in the context statement were active.

B. ASSOCIATIVE

These buildings are associated with the history of government related to women's rights and issues, and with the women who actively took part in government as elected officials and government employees. The sites should have documented significance when evaluated in the context of women's history in Olympia and be associated with the themes expressed in the Women's History in Olympia: First Settlement (1846) to 1948 thematic statement.

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## **G. Summary of Identification and Evaluation Methods**

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Discuss the methods used in developing the multiple property listing.

The "Women's History in Olympia: First Settlement (1846) to 1948" Context Statement is based upon a comprehensive survey of the City of Olympia by Shanna Stevenson and Tom Costantini and subsequent historical research by Shanna Stevenson. The property types referenced in this document were identified as a result of that work.

The historic context and property type statements were based on a review of survey data and relevant literature. The development of this context required re-evaluation of survey data to look for the role of women in the significance of properties, many of which had already been registered. Additional archival research was done on these properties. The use of unpublished reminiscences and manuscripts was helpful in establishing women's roles in historical events and periods. The period of significance dates from first settlement (1846) to 1948 and the geographic limits are the city limits of Olympia.

The typology of property types was based on the associative qualities of the properties in the context of women's history in Olympia in the context time period. Unfortunately many of the properties associated with women's suffrage and other significant events in women's history in Olympia have been razed.

The context statement is designed to provide an evaluation framework for women's history in Olympia. It is based, in addition to the review of survey data, on a review of published and unpublished sources relevant to women's history in Olympia.

The standards of integrity for listing of representative properties were based on the National Register standards and the knowledge of the condition of existing properties. Information from research literature and survey information was used to arrive at specific standards of integrity. National Register Bulletin 16B was consulted in the development of the document.

Because of the diversity in types of properties and their distribution in the city, there does not appear a cohesive area for a historic district under this thematic statement.

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See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional documentation:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> State historic preservation office | <input type="checkbox"/> Local government |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other State agency                 | <input type="checkbox"/> University       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Federal agency                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Other            |

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I. Form Prepared By

name/title Shanna Stevenson, Senior Planner

organization Thurston Regional Planning Council

date July 1998

street & number 2404 Heritage Court SW #B

telephone (206) 786-5480

city of town Olympia

state WA zip code 98502-6031

stevens\wp\olher98\wonon  
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