

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic O.K. Palmer House

and/or common N.A.

2. Location

street & number 673 N.W. Pennsylvania not for publication

city, town Chehalis vicinity of

state Washington code 053 county Lewis code 041

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	n/a	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Sue Beckman

street & number 673 N.W. Pennsylvania

city, town Chehalis vicinity of state Washington 98532

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Lewis County Courthouse

street & number 351 N.W. North Street

city, town Chehalis state Washington 98532

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Washington State Inventory of
 Cultural Resources

has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1985 federal state county local

depository for survey records Washington State Office of Archaeology & Historic Preservation

city, town 111 W. 21st Ave., KL-11, Olympia state Washington 98504-5411

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The O.K. Palmer House is a two and one-half story rectangular frame structure located on a landscaped double lot in a residential neighborhood of Chehalis, Washington. Built in 1910, the house has a cubic plan, hip roof, widely overhanging eaves, and box bay windows, all characteristic of the American Foursquare, or Classic Box, idiom of the early 20th century. Immediately northwest of the house is a rectangular frame garage with hip roof built in a similar style.

The house is built on a nearly square plan and rests on a foundation of sandstone blocks laid in regular courses. The exterior walls of the house are sheathed in narrow gauge horizontal bevelled siding. The house is capped by a low pitched hip roof with widely extended eaves supported by elongated block modillions. A central hip roof dormer projects from the east, or front, slope of the roof; shed roof dormers project from the north and west slopes. A brick chimney rises above the roof on the south slope.

The front, or east, facade of the house is spanned by a low sandstone porch wall. At the northeast corner of the facade, a hip roof porch shelters the front entry. The roof of the porch is supported by fluted columns resting on sandstone plinths. The overhanging eaves of the porch roof echo the eaves of the main roof and are underscored by similar modillions.

Rectangular window bays, resting on large brackets and sheltered by bracketed hip roofs, project from the north and south elevations at the first story level. Second story box bay windows project from the north and south corners of the front facade, supported by paired brackets. A small balustraded balcony projects from the paired windows in the center of the second story front facade. The rear (west) elevation features an enclosed second story sleeping porch, glazed with four-over-four double hung windows. The enclosed rear first story porch is glazed with fixed multi-paned windows.

Windows across the house are variously sized but predominately double hung sash with leaded glass upper sashes and single paned lower sashes. The front door has bevelled glass sidelights. Openings are surrounded by simple trim and molded window heads. Historic photographs indicate that the exterior of the Palmer House appears today essentially as it did when first constructed.

The interior of the house is nearly unaltered as well and features large sandstone fireplaces in the livingroom and basement and beamed ceilings in the entry hall, livingroom, and dining room. The first floor features dovetailed oak and Philippine mahogany floors. Original wainscoting remains intact as do some of the original built-in cabinets with leaded glass panels. Straight-reversed stairs with a landing rise to the second floor which features four bedrooms.

The garage, located immediately to the northwest of the house, is built on a rectangular plan with hip roof and dormers. The garage is sided with horizontal bevelled wood siding and has a large sliding door on the east facade.

Resource count: 2 contributing buildings (house and garage); 0 noncontributing

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below							
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion				
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science				
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture				
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/				
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian				
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation				
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)					

1910: date of construction

Specific dates 1910-1935: period of significance

Builder/Architect

Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The O.K. Palmer House is historically significant for its association with a pioneer Chehalis manufacturer whose large lumber firm made significant contributions to the local economy throughout the first half of the 20th century. The Palmer Lumber Company produced a wide range of millwork including doors, windows, cabinetwork, and components for ready-cut houses which were shipped nationwide. Palmer's house reflects an elaboration of the Foursquare, or Classic Box, Style popularized by the ready-cut housing companies with which Palmer himself was associated.

Osmer K. Palmer was born in Indiana in 1872 and came to Chehalis in 1906. He had previously worked for the hardwood division of the Studebaker Corporation in Memphis, Tennessee, then a wagon manufacturer. In Chehalis, Palmer established the Palmer Manufacturing Company (later called the Palmer Lumber Company) and began manufacturing wooden columns and gutter troughs. Shortly, the company expanded into the manufacture of doors, windows, cabinetwork, and finished lumber. By the 1930s, it was reported that the company produced a "large portion of the millwork" in the Chehalis area, a region noted for prodigious lumber mills.

The Palmer Company was also involved in the production of ready-cut and prefabricated houses. For many years in the early 20th century, the company was associated with the Gordon Van-Tine Company of Davenport, Iowa, one of the nation's leading distributors of ready-cut catalog houses. Palmer was a west coast manufacturer for the Iowa firm, shipping ready-cut houses across the western United States. The Palmer Company also provided millwork for the Montgomery Ward catalog sales of windows, doors, and cabinets. By Palmer's retirement in the 1940s, the firm employed over a 100 workers and the company's physical plant included a manufacturing plant in the center of the city (seriously damaged by fire in the 1950s) and a large lumber yard. When Palmer sold the business in 1943, it was reputedly one of the largest business transactions in Chehalis history. After his retirement, Palmer remained active in community affairs. He died in 1952.

Architecturally, the Palmer House reflects the American Foursquare Style which widely influenced residential design in the early 20th century. Distinguished by its cubic massing, extended eaves, rectangular bay windows, and lack of historical ornament, the Palmer House is among the best examples of the style in the area. Comparable examples of the style are included in the Washington State Inventory of Cultural Resources for both Chehalis and Centralia and include 326 S.E. Washington in Chehalis, 311 North Iron in Centralia, 402 North Rock in Centralia, and 409 Silverwood in rural Lewis County.

9. Major Bibliographical References

- "Chehalis Mill," Centralia Daily Chronicle, February 12, 1943.
"Chehalis Residences," Chehalis Bee Nugget, May 14, 1915.
"Death Takes O.K. Palmer," Centralia Daily Chronicle, June 3, 1952.
Hansen, Mrs. Arthur, (widow of O.K. Palmer) Interview, October 1985.
"Palmer Firm Busy Industry," Centralia Daily Chronicle, June 7, 1953. (continued)

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name Centralia

Quadrangle scale 1: 62,500

UTM References

A	1 0	5 0 1 9 0 0	5 1 6 8 0 0 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
C			
E			
G			

B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing
D			
F			
H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

Lots 1, 2, & 4 of John Forrest's Subdivision of Lot 3, Block 5, Donohoe's Addition to the City of Chehalis.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	n/a	code	county	code
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state	n/a	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Shanna Stevenson	Edited by Leonard Garfield Archaeology & Historic Pres.	
organization		date	October 1985
street & number	3032 South Lybarger	telephone	(206) 943-4212
city or town	Olympia	state	Washington 98501

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title

date

7/3/86

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Entered in the
National Register

date

5-15-86

Keeper of the National Register

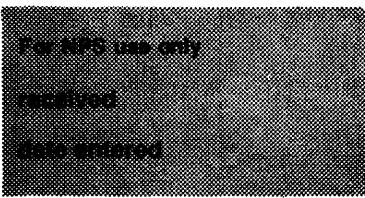
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Continuation sheet

Item number

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"Palmer Rites Held Saturday," The Chehalis Advocate, June 12, 1952.