

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PHO 674591

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	MAY 10 1979
DATE ENTERED	JUN 15 1979

**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 Women's Club of Olympia

AND/OR COMMON  
Same

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER  
1002 South Washington Street

CITY, TOWN Olympia  NOT FOR PUBLICATION  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF 3rd - Donald L. Bonker

STATE Washington CODE 53 COUNTY Thurston CODE 067

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 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
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME Women's Club of Olympia

STREET & NUMBER  
1002 South Washington Street

CITY, TOWN Olympia  VICINITY OF  
STATE Washington 98501

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Thurston County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER  
2000 Lakeridge Drive, Southwest

CITY, TOWN Olympia STATE Washington 98502

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE  
- None -

DATE  
 FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN STATE

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input 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 Women's Club of Olympia is a square building located near downtown Olympia. It measures 53 feet by 56 feet. The neighborhood, once composed of detached residences, is now a composite of apartment houses, offices and residences. The principal facade of the building, which is on Washington Street, faces to the west.

Set on a concrete foundation, the clubhouse has three stories and is of frame construction. It has a hip roof of composition shingles. Large dormers, which also have hip roofs, are centered on the main roof hips of the north, south and west facades. A wide bracketed cornice flows around the roofline.

The exterior walls are faced with shingles at the second story level and with narrow clapboard siding on the first floor level. A band of boardwork separates these two exterior textures. Fenestration consists of single, double and triple sets of double-hung, eight-over-one windows. Each dormer has a triple set.

A large front porch on the west facade has a flat roof with a bracketed cornice similar to that of the main roofline. The porch roof is supported by four Tuscan columns, and a balustrade of plain posts encloses the porch itself. The south side has a similarly designed, though smaller, porch for the back entry. The flat roof of the east porch serves as a balcony off the second floor. The removal of a railing which once surrounded this balcony is the only alteration this building has thus far undergone in its seventy year life.

The interior has large meeting rooms on the first floor with beamed ceilings, sliding wood panel doors and corniced woodwork. The second floor was originally a ballroom and dining room. There are kitchens on both floors. The attic and basement are used for storage.

## 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 type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Architecturally, the Women's Club of Olympia is significant because its design is typical for the period on the exterior, but unique in its special interior design, which was expressly for club use. Also, it is one of the few buildings which survives intact in the Olympia area from the early twentieth century.

Its importance in connection with social and humanitarian concerns is based on its role as a cultural and social force, not only in the city of Olympia, but in much broader geographical contexts as well. Founded in 1883, the Club claims to be the oldest women-only club on the West Coast. From a nucleus of a few women who in some cases defied their husbands to attend the first meeting, the club has grown and retained its vitality throughout its 95-year history.

Many dynamic and forward looking women have helped to create and maintain the club. Its first president, Mrs. A. H. H. Stewart was known as the "Mother of Women's Clubs" and founded other clubs in the area. Mrs. Stewart had belonged to the Women's Club in Boston and was the driving force in the Olympia Club's organization. An independent-minded woman she had worked as a bookkeeper and was a graduate of Fremont College. She had married Stewart, who was the Federal Land Commissioner of Washington Territory in Olympia. After his death, she undertook the job of answering letters and recruiting settlers to Washington Territory. Mrs. Stewart was also president of the Women's Suffrage Association in Olympia which was founded in 1873, and she worked steadily for passage of women's suffrage legislation. As president of the Women's Club, Mrs. Stewart encouraged the club to conduct businesslike meetings and to enlarge its horizons away from purely domestic topics. Other prominent early members were Pamela Hale, School Superintendent, and Rev. Sarah E. Whitney, a minister. Mrs. George Funk, another early member, was active in preserving the club's history and publicizing its importance.

As the club grew, it branched out from teaching domestic arts to preparation and discussion of papers dealing with local and national political and social questions. Members were encouraged to read and study topics ranging from healthy clothing to cigarettes and prison reform. The papers are all carefully maintained at the clubhouse and reflect the changing viewpoint and concerns of women in Olympia. The Club provided a forum for such interchanges not otherwise available. Organized as a "social club for self-improvement" to serve Thurston County, the club has been active in numerous philanthropic ventures. From 1896-1909 the club collected and maintained Olympia's only library facility. Later they aided in obtaining a Carnegie grant for a public library, donating their collection and remaining active in its support. Other beneficiaries of their work are the Veterans, retarded children, scholars, community agencies and arts groups.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Notes, clippings and other records of the Women's Club of Olympia, Olympia, Washington.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,0	5,0,7,7,4,0	5,2,0,9,3,8,0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Sylvester's Plat of Olympia, Block 63, N $\frac{1}{2}$  of lot 1 and S $\frac{1}{2}$  of lots 1 and 2 and  $\frac{1}{2}$  vac alley (Parcels # 785D-63-00100-8 and 7850-63-00201-4).

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

(Edited by J. H. Vandermeer)

NAME / TITLE

Shanna Stevenson

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Thurston County Liaison for Washington State Office of Archaeology & Historic

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

Preservation

3132 South Lybarger

943-4212

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Olympia

Washington 98501

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL     

STATE X

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

Jeanne M. Welch 5/2/79

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Charles A. ...

DATE

5.15.79

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

W. Ray ...

DATE

6/19/79

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

for

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	MAY 10 1979
DATE ENTERED	JUN 15 1979

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

---

In its early years the club members met in private homes and later in a downtown building. By 1900 they had purchased their own clubhouse at the present location. That house burned in 1907 and the women were determined to replace it. By selling bonds, baked goods, newspaper subscriptions and writing and selling a song, the women were able to raise \$2,500 for the new clubhouse. The club now has 90 members and is affiliated with national and state Women's Club Federations as a charter member. The club rents the facility to other groups for meetings besides its own. The Women's Club represents the coming together of women's concerns and ideas in Olympia. As a repository of that history, it is remarkable in its longevity and vitality.