

HISTORIC PROPERTY INVENTORY FORM

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

IDENTIFICATION SECTION

Field Site No. 34-707 OAHP No. _____ Date Recorded 10/16/85
Site Name Historic Jeffers Studio
Common n/a
Field Recorder Shanna Stevenson/Tom Costantini
Owner's Name Richard Panowicz
Address 4040 Sunset Beach Dr.
City/State/Zip Code Olympia, WA 98506

LOCATION SECTION

Address 500 & 502 South Washington
City/Town/County/Zip Code Olympia/Thurston/98501
Twp. 18N Range 2W Section 14 ¼ Section SW ¼ ¼ Section SW
Tax No./Parcel No. 785025001 Acreage less than one
Quadrangle or map name Tumwater Scale: 1:24,000
UTM References Zone 10 Easting 507670 Northing 520850 520985
Plat/Block/Lot Block 25, Sylvester's Plat of Olympia, West 40
Supplemental Map(s) _____
feet of north 30 feet of Lot 1.

Status

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

PHOTOGRAPHY

Photography Neg. No. 26-21A
(Roll No. & Frame No.)
View of NW corner
Date 10/15/85

Classification District Site Building Structure Object Number of contributing resources; 1 building
District Status NR SR LR INV noncontributing resources; 0
Contributing Non-Contributing
District/Thematic Nomination Name Downtown Olympia MRA

DESCRIPTION SECTION

Materials & Features/Structural Types

Building Type Photographer's studio
Plan Rectangular
Structural System Masonry
No. of Stories Two

Cladding (Exterior Wall Surfaces)

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

Roof Type

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

Roof Material

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

Foundation

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

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

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

Vernacular House Types

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

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

MAY 6 1987

JUN 17 1987

NARRATIVE SECTION

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

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

Statement of Significance

Date of Construction 1913 Architect/Engineer/Builder Joseph Wohleb, architect Period of Significance: 1913-1937

In the opinion of the surveyor, this property appears to meet the criteria of the National Register of Historic Places

Level of Significance: local

In the opinion of the surveyor, this property is located in a potential historic district (National and/or local).

The Jeffers Studio Building is significant as the first example of Joseph Wohleb's commercial architecture and for its association with the city's most important photographers. One of the first works of Joseph Wohleb after he came to the area from California, the Jeffers Studio reflects many of the Mission Revival characteristics typical of his work. The structure was built for Joseph Jeffers, who with his brother, wife, and son established the city's premier studio for over half a century. During the course of their work, the Jeffers compiled a significant archive of photographs which recorded the history of Olympia and state government and which are recognized for both their historical and artistic value.

Joseph Jeffers came with his parents to Olympia in 1881. He worked in lumber mills as a young man and developed an avocational interest in Kodaks, cleaning and trading them until 1902. At that time, he began work as a traveling photographer and returned to Olympia in 1904 to open his own studio, with his brother H.W. The Jeffers brothers originally worked from a small frame studio at the site but in 1913 commissioned architect Wohleb to design a structure tailored to their needs. The new studio building included a distinguished Mission Revival Style and such necessary features as a large sloping glazed panel to light the second floor studio. The studio building was Wohleb's first design in downtown Olympia, probably his most innovative, and among his finest commercial buildings. The structure established the Mission Revival motif that Wohleb would use in successive downtown buildings.

Between 1904, when Joseph Jeffers established his Olympia studio, and 1972, when Jeffers' son Vibert died, the Jeffers family photographed virtually every aspect of official and private Olympia, including state legislators, babies, weddings, graduations, businesses, and many scenes of daily Olympia life. The collection is an outstanding record of the growth of a community and the capital. Joseph Jeffers died an untimely death when he fell in the

Description of Physical Appearance

The Jeffers Studio Building is a two story stucco-veneered structure built in 1913 and designed in the Mission Revival Style by architect Joseph Wohleb. Facing Washington Street and adjoining 5th Avenue, the Jeffers Studio is a rectangular, two-story structure built on a poured concrete foundation. Its flat roof is crowned by a crenellated parapet with a central raised arch on the front (west) facade which has raised letters reading "Jeffers Studio 1913." The front facade has three double-hung sash windows on the second story, sheltered by a wide tiled hood with ornamental brackets. The north wall has two similar windows with individual hoods. At the second floor on the north facade is a tall, sloped pent window (now covered with corrugated fiber-glass) recessed in the parapet, which admitted light to the photography studio. The ground floor has two wide storefront bays on the front facade with a central recessed double door entry. Below the windows are multi-colored tile kickplates. Above the windows is a flat metal canopy hung from chains, which wraps around onto the north facade above a similar window with a tile kickplate. The transoms above the front windows have been filled but remain open on the north wall. At the rear of the north wall is another plate glass window and a side entry door. One of the front entry doors leads into a ground floor shop with an upper balcony while the other opens to a foyer with a graceful curved staircase leading up to the former photography studio. The building is maintained in excellent condition.

Major Bibliographic References

Hunt, Hubert, Washington West of the Cascades, S.J. Clark Company, Tacoma, 1917.

"Olympia," Lee Printing Company, Olympia, 1926.

Maddox, Dawn, "Joseph Wohleb: Resident Architect of the State's Capital," Landmarks, Vol. IV, No. 4.

HISTORIC PROPERTY INVENTORY FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

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

Site No.: 34-707

Site Name:

Historic
Common

Jeffers Studio

n/a

Date: 10/16/85

Statement of Significance: (continued)

Olympic Mountains in 1924 while on a photographic expedition. But his wife and son Vibert continued his work until Vibert's death in 1972. The Jeffers collection is still intact and is privately owned. A video illustrating the collection is available and prints from the collection have been used in a number of publications and exhibits about Olympia history.