

SURVEY-INVENTORY FORM
COMMUNITY CULTURAL RESOURCE SURVEY

1. NAME

Historic Olympia Public Library (*Carnegie Library of Woodlawn*)
and/or Common Carnegie's

2. LOCATION

Street & Number South Franklin and East 7th
City, Town Olympia - vicinity of
State WA County Thurston

UTM References:
Zone 10 Easting 507800
Northing 5209700
Tumwater 1:24 000 - not for publication

3. CLASSIFICATION

Ownership: public private both
Status: occupied unoccupied work in progress
Present Use: agriculture commercial educational entertainment government
industrial military museum park private residence
religious scientific transportation other: Restaurant

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

Name John and Susan Senner
Street & Number 719 O'Farrell
City, Town Olympia - vicinity of State WA 98502

5. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

6. FORM PREPARED BY

Name/Title J.H. Vandermeer, Historian
Organization Office of Archaeology & Historic Preservation Date July 1981
Street & Number 111 West 21st Avenue Telephone (206) 753-9685
City or Town Olympia, State WA

7. DESCRIPTION

Condition: . excellent good fair deteriorated ruins unexposed
Circle one: unaltered altered
Circle one: original site moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance
attach photo

The old Olympia library is a basically square building with one corner removed for a formal entry hall. The exterior finish is mostly buff-colored brick, but there is extensive decorative use of buff-colored terra cotta and red brick. Most of the windows are aluminum sash, although a few of the originals remain and an attempt has been made to restore the original appearance of the others with wooden grills intended to simulate the original muntins. A formal stairway leads to an inside landing leading both the main public area on the second level and to the daylight basement. An unobtrusive concrete block addition in the rear also leads to the basement. Two lamp standards, each with three globes, stand as sentinels flanking the formal entry. Inside, the building has been converted to a restaurant and bar, but the original interior space has been preserved.

Verbal boundary description: Parcel number 78503600700.
Lots 7 and 8, Block 36 of Sylvester's Addition to
Olympia as recorded in Vol. 1 of Plats, Page 14, Records
of Thurston County.

Acreage: **less than one**

8. SIGNIFICANCE

Specific dates 1914

Builder/Architect

Blackwell & Baker,
Joseph Wohleb

a. History

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, and the Good Templar collection eventually became part of the State Library. The direct ancestry of the present Olympia 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. A Carnegie grant of \$25,000 enabled the city to construct this building in 1914. After many years of service, an addition was built in 1960, and the basement became the main public area. Even with the addition, however, space was inadequate. There were also leaks and electrical problems. A bond issue was approved by the voters, and a new facility opened nearby in 1978.

b. Evaluation of Significance

This building, like other Carnegie Libraries, played an important role in the cultural and intellectual life of the community. Except for the corner entry, it is quite typical of other such libraries in the state, and this design is similar to one of Carnegie's suggested plans. The noted local architect, Joseph Wohleb, was associated with the principal firm, and this is one of the first buildings with which he was associated after coming to this area from California. Several of his buildings are already on the National Register.