

**Historic Property**     Olympia Carnegie Library  
**Inventory Report for**   620 Southeast Franklin Olympia, Thurston, 98501

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**LOCATION SECTION**

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**Historic Name:**     Olympia Carnegie Library  
**Common Name:**     (#34-826)  
**Property Address:**   620 Southeast Franklin Olympia, Thurston, 98501  
**Comments:**           OLYMPIA/OLYWOMEN

**Field Site No.:**     798  
**OAHP No.:**

**County**             **Township/Range/EW**   **Section**   **1/4 Sec**   **1/4 1/4 Sec**   **Quadrangle**  
Thurston           T18R02W             14             SW             TUMWATER

**UTM Reference**

**Zone:**   10   **Spatial Type:**   Point             **Acquisition Code:**   TopoZone.com  
**Sequence:**     0 **Easting:**   507780             **Northing:**     5209740

**Tax No./Parcel No.**                                     **Plat/Block/Lot**  
78503600700                                     Sylvester/Block 36/Lots 7 & 8

**Supplemental Map(s)**                             **Acreage**  
City of Olympia Planning Department             .33

**IDENTIFICATION SECTION**

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**Field Recorder:**   Shanna Stevenson             **Date Recorded:**   3/21/1990             **Survey Name:**   OLYMPIA

**Owner's Name:**             **Owner Address:**             **City/State/Zip:**  
John D. Senner, et al             6111 Buckthorn Court NW             Olympia, WA 98502

**Classification:**   Building             **Resource Status**             **Comments**

**Within a District?**   Yes             National Register

**Contributing?**                     State Register  
   Local Register

**National Register Nomination:**   OLYMPIA PUBLIC LIBRARY

**Local District:**

**National Register District/Thematic Nomination Name:**     OLYMPIA DOWNTOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT

**DESCRIPTION SECTION**

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**Historic Use:**   Education - Library  
**Current Use:**   Commerce/Trade - Business

**Plan:**   Square                     **No. of Stories:**

**Structural System:**   Brick

**Changes to plan:**   Moderate                     **Changes to interior:**   Slight  
**Changes to original cladding:**   Slight             **Changes to other:**  
**Changes to windows:**   Slight             **Other (specify):**

**Cladding**             Brick                     **Foundation**             Concrete - Poured  
**Style**                 Beaux Arts - Neo-Classical             **Form/Type**  
**Roof Material**     Asphalt / Composition - Rolled             **Roof Type**             Unknown

## NARRATIVE SECTION

### Study Unit

### Other

Architecture/Landscape Architecture

Women's History

Education

Date Of Construction: 1914

Architect: Blackwell & Baker/Joseph Wohleb

Builder:

Engineer:

Property appears to meet criteria for the National Register of Historic Places:

Yes

Property is located in a historic district (National and/or local):

No

Property potentially contributes to a historic district (National and/or local):

### Statement of Significance

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. A bond issue was approved by the voters, and a new facility opened nearby in 1978. The site is on the National and Olympia Historic Registers. 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.

### Description of Physical Appearance

The building is a square 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 to both the public area on the second level and to the daylight basement. A concrete block addition is on the rear which 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, bar and retail space, but the original interior space has been preserved.

### Major Bibliographic References

Carnegie Libraries of Washington Nomination prepared by J.H. Vandermeer, 1981  
Information from Library Files.

## PHOTOS



View of Southwest corner

taken 3/21/1990

Photography Neg. No. (Roll No./Frame No.):

40-14

Comments: