

Historic Property Ward's Building
Inventory Report for 317 East 4th Olympia, Thurston, 98506

LOCATION SECTION

| | |
|--------------------------|--|
| Historic Name: | <u>Ward's Building</u> |
| Common Name: | <u>(#34-690)</u> |
| Property Address: | <u>317 East 4th Olympia, Thurston, 98506</u> |
| Comments: | OLYMPIA |

Field Site No.: 717
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:** 507830 **Northing:** 5209930

| | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| Tax No./Parcel No. | Plat/Block/Lot |
| 78503400300 | Sylevester I3 Blk 34 |

| Supplemental Map(s) | Acreage |
|-------------------------------------|---------|
| City of Olympia Planning Department | .17 |

IDENTIFICATION SECTION

Field Recorder: Shanna Stevenson **Date Recorded:** 10/16/1985 **Survey Name:** OLYMPIA

| | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Owner's Name: | Owner Address: | City/State/Zip: |
| B & L, LLC | 3114 41st Way SE | Olympia, WA 98501 |

| Classification: | Resource Status | Comments |
|-----------------|-----------------|----------|
| Building | | |

Within a District? No Survey/Inventory

Contributing? Local Register

National Register Nomination: 0

Local District:

National Register District/Thematic Nomination Name:

DESCRIPTION SECTION

Historic Use: Commerce/Trade - Business

Current Use: Commerce/Trade - Business

Plan: Rectangle **No. of Stories:** 2 plus new m

Structural System: Concrete - Block

Changes to plan: Extensive

Changes to interior: Extensive

Changes to original cladding: Intact

Changes to other:

Changes to windows: Moderate

Other (specify):

| | |
|----------|-------|
| Cladding | Brick |
|----------|-------|

Foundation Concrete - Poured

Concrete

Style Commercial

Form/Type

Roof Material Asphalt / Composition - Rolled

| | |
|-----------|---------|
| Roof Type | Unknown |
|-----------|---------|

NARRATIVE SECTION

Study Unit**Other****Date Of Construction:** 1928Architecture/Landscape Architecture**Architect:**Commerce**Builder:****Engineer:****Property appears to meet criteria for the National Register of Historic Places:**No**Property is located in a historic district (National and/or local):**Yes**Property potentially contributes to a historic district (National and/or local):****Statement of
Significance**

The Wards Building built in 1928 by the Casco Company has long been a part of the mercantile scene in Olympia. One of the first chain stores to locate in Olympia, the Wards store was for many years a catalogue outlet. In the early 1960's, the building was also used by the Olympia School District as a site of the original Olympia Vocational Technical Institute, the forerunner of the present South Puget Sound Community College. The building was renovated retaining a number of its historic exterior features, but completely changing the interior. Listed on the Olympia Register

**Description of
Physical
Appearance**

This is a rectangular concrete building of two stories, with a full basement and a newly-added mezzanine. Its brick front (north) facade is topped by a stepped and arched Mission Revival style parapet, edged by decorative brickwork. The upper story has three bays separated by engaged pilasters, containing wide tripartite windows with rectangular transoms. The ground floor has a new wood and plate glass storefront with a projecting wooden planter box, but maintains the original tile kickplate and full-width transom of small fixture glass tiles. (The mezzanine level is recessed from the front wall, but gains light through the transom.) One of the two original recessed entries with its mosaic tile floor has been retained, but the other has been filled in flush with the sidewalk and incorporated into the new storefront. The remaining entry is topped by a fabric awning. The interior has a new full-height atrium with a large skylight, and the floors are divided into offices and a restaurant.

**Major
Bibliographic
References**

Knox, Esther, A Diary of the Olympia School District, 1852-1976, Olympia School District, 1976.

PHOTOS

**View of** NW corner**taken** 10/16/1985**Photography Neg. No. (Roll No./Frame No.):**26-2A**Comments:**