

NARRATIVE SECTION

Areas of Significance/Study Unit Themes: (check one or more of the following)

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

Statement of Significance: (Reference names, dates, events, areas of significance/study unit themes)

Date of Construction: 1909 (Period of significance: 1909-1935)
 Architect/Builder: Plans by the City Engineer's Office; C.A. Opperman, contractor
 Historical Significance: Engine House No. 11 is significant for its association with the development of Tacoma's neighborhoods and the growth of the city's vital municipal services. The building is also an important example of early twentieth century fire station design. The construction of Engine House No. 11 was authorized by City Ordinance No. 3656 on April 14, 1909. The neighborhood surrounding No. 11 was largely developed in the first two decades of this century, and many of the houses display Craftsman style details similar to those found on the engine house. The station itself possesses a distinctly domestic scale that seeks to harmonize with its residential neighbors. The blocky mass of the building, together with its flared gable roof, wide eaves and knee braces imitates the form of Craftsman style "chalets" that were popular residential type in Tacoma at this time. The Progressive Movement and an economic "boom" helped to create political conditions that led most voters to believe that local government should play an expanded and active role in providing for the health, safety and welfare of its citizenry. Engine House No. 11 exemplifies the expansion of municipal services during this period, and it continues to reflect the important legacy of the Tacoma Fire Department.

Additional Description of Physical Appearance & Significant Architectural Features:

(Architectural significance; can include interior & site features; address integrity issues specifically) Engine House No. 11 is located in a residential neighborhood composed primarily of early twentieth century, one and two-story homes. Across 38th Street from the station is the large McKinley School, which dates from the same period. The station is very picturesque with its eclectic design, domestic scale and variety of building materials. The main (east) facade has two segmentally-arched apparatus doors. The lintels over these doors consist of rock-faced ashlar voussoirs. Similarly finished stone is used for quoins at the corners and a belt course on the street facades. Smooth and finished stone is used for sills and a belt course between the first and second stories. The building displays a variety of fenestration patterns, including tall double-hung wood sash windows on the ground floor with segmentally arched transoms. Paired flat-arch casement windows on the second floor of the main facade have transoms whose leaded glass has been removed. Flanking these paired casement windows are smaller windows with stone lintels carved in a volute pattern. A shallow, squared oriel window is set beneath a cross-gable on the north facade and is supported by exposed beams. Other details include: stone plaques on the main facade identifying the station and its year of construction; a cornerstone with the name of the contractor; (cont.)

Major Bibliographic References: (Include books, periodicals, manuscripts, newspapers, legal documents, maps, photos, oral sources, etc.)

- Tacoma City Ordinance No. 3656, April 14, 1909 (available at City Clerk's Office).
- Tacoma Fire Department Annual Report, 1910 (available at Northwest Room, Tacoma Public Library).
- Tacoma Fire Department Records (901 South Fawcett, Tacoma, WA).
- Talbot, Clyde and Decker, Ralph, 100 Years of Firefighting in the City of Destiny, Tacoma: Pyro Press, 1981.

HISTORIC PROPERTY INVENTORY FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

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

Site No.: _____

Site Name:

Historic
Common

Engine House No. 11

Fire Station No. 11

Additional Photographs: (include roll no. & frame no.; date; & view)

(Description #11 cont.)

a wide flaring roof with knee braces and exposed rafter tails; and a small hose tower which rises from the south side of the roof. Surviving interior features include: a brass sliding pole; staircases with turned newels and balusters; a fine pressed metal ceiling on the ground floor; matchstick-board wainscoting; window and door surrounds; paneled wood doors; and closets in the dormitory that functioned as lockers for personal effects. Alterations to the building include: the boarding-over of a large door on the north facade, the replacement of the original apparatus doors, the recent construction of an apparatus door on the west facade to allow fire trucks to drive through the ground floor, the remodeling of kitchen and bathroom facilities, and the replastering of many interior walls and ceilings.