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NARRATIVE SECTION

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

Agriculture		Conservation	
Architecture/Landscape Architecture	X	Education	ļ
Arts		Entertainment / Recreation	i
Commerce		Ethnic Heritage (specify)	1
Communications		Health/Medicine	:
Community Planning/Development		Manufacturing / Industry	•

Military	0
Politics/Government/Law	
Religion	
Science & Engineering	0
Social Movements/Organizations	
Transportation	
Other (Specify)	0

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

unit themes) 1911 (Period of significance: 1911-1935) Date of Construction: Plans by the City Engineer's Office; Department of Public Works. Contractor Architect/Builder: Engine House No. 13 is significant for its association with the development of Tacoma's neighborhoods and Historical Significance: 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. 13 was authorized by City Ordinance No. 4521 on August 11, 1911. The residential and commercial zones surrounding No. 13 were largely developed in the first two decades of the century. The station 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 imitate the form of Craftsman style "chalets" that were a popular residential type in Tacoma at this time. No. 13 was the last station of this type erected in the city. 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. In 1911, the municipal government was the single largest builder in the city, spending hundreds of thousands of dollars on such projects as roads, bridges and powerplants. Engine House No. 13 exemplifies the great 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: Fire Station No. 13 is located in Tacoma's Proctor neighborhood, adjacent (Architectural significance; can include interior & site features; address integrity to its small commercial district. Most buildings in the area are one or one issues specifically) and one-half stories in height and were built in the early twentieth century. However, many homes also date from the 1920's, 30's and post-World War II periods. Large supermarkets near the station are also later additions. Station No. 13 combines materials and stylistic motifs in a manner that is typical of the eclectic architectural trends of this period. The station was erected over a large daylight basement, which is used as a storage facility. The building's red brick walls are laid in a stretcher bond. On the second floor the walls are finished with a smooth coat of stucco. The main(south) facade is articulated with two large apparatus doors on the ground floor. Above these doors are banded casement windows with transoms A carved stone belt course forms sills beneath the second floor windows, as does a rock-faced belt course on the first floor. Windows on the north facade are double-hung,1/1, wood sash. Windows on other elevations are hinged and casement sash. The middle third of the west facade's wall projects slightly to accommodate a stairway. Other extensior details include: a small Palladian-motif window on the gable ends, a wide eave with sloping soffit and knee braces, decorative recessed panels beneath the belt course on the first floor, and a small cross-gable on the north end of the west facade. The interior is (cont'd)

Tacoma City Ordinance No. 4521, August 6, 1911 (available at the City Clerk's Office) <u>Tacoma Daily Ledger</u>, July 9, 1911, p.34; July 16, 1911, p.32; December 31, 1911, p.19. <u>Tacoma Fire Department Annual Report, 1911</u> (available at Northwest Room, Tacoma Public Library) <u>Tacoma Fire Department Records (901 South Fawcett, Tacoma, Washington)</u>

(cont'd)

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:	te Name: Historic	Engine House No. 13
	Common	N.A.

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

Description (cont'd)

largely intact; however, the dormitory space has been divided into two separate rooms. Original elements include: two brass sliding poles, staircases with newels and balusters, wooden door and window surrounds, an elaborate pressed-metal ceiling on the ground floor, and closet/lockers in the dormitory. Alterations include: the replacement of the original apparatus doors and transoms, the removal of leaded glass transoms above the windows on the second floor, and the removal of the original hose tower on the west side of the roof.

Bib. References (cont'd)

Talbot, Clyde and Decker, Ralph, <u>100 Years of Firefighting in the City of Destiny</u>, Tacoma: Pyro Press, 1981. Historic photographs in the files of the Northwest Room, Tacoma Public Library.