

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	DEC 8 1978
DATE ENTERED	JUL 20 1977

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

### 1 NAME

HISTORIC The Henry Drum House

AND/OR COMMON  
Drum House

### LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER  
9 St. Helens

CITY, TOWN Tacoma VICINITY OF 6th - Floyd V. Hicks  
— NOT FOR PUBLICATION CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE Washington CODE 53 COUNTY Pierce CODE 053

### CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

### OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME  
Mr. Peter T. S. Rasmussen, Mr. D. L. Hobbs and Mr. Terry B. Owen

STREET & NUMBER  
8404 27th Street West

CITY, TOWN Tacoma VICINITY OF Washington 98466 STATE

### LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Pierce County Assessors Office

STREET & NUMBER  
County City Building

CITY, TOWN Tacoma STATE Washington

### 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE  
None

DATE

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN STATE

## 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Henry Drum House is located on its original site, No. 9 St. Helens Avenue, Tacoma, Washington. The structure occupies the northerly one-third portion of an 87 and one-half foot by 120 foot lot. The site gently slopes from St. Helens Street to the eastern perimeter of the building line. The grade then drops 20 feet to the street level of Broadway. Several large chestnut and maple trees occupy the site.

The building is a fine example of the Queen Anne style popular during the 1880s and 1890s in the Pacific Northwest. The building might be classified as a cross between the "pattern book" and the "classic" Queen Anne. The plan is somewhat more elaborate than the usual Queen Anne "pattern book" style. The exterior surfaces of the house are defined by a variety of contrasting materials. The most distinguishing features of the building are its asymmetrical facades, offset entries, angular bays and carefully contrasting strata of clapboard and fancy butt shingles. The Queen Anne style is also manifested in a narrow, rectilinear plan varied by projecting bays and porches, with the longitudinal axis running in an east-west direction. The roof, formed by a multiple ridge, hip and valley configuration, is terminated at gable ends on the east, west and north elevations of the building. Highly detailed Fascia at the gable ends are characteristic of this style. The original roof was composed of cedar shingles, but now consists of deteriorated asphalt shingles.

The three stories contained within the house are clearly defined by major horizontal trim details. In most cases, major window elements are vertically aligned. The basement elevations consist entirely of block granite foundation walls, 18 inches thick, with granite lintels spanning window and door openings. The main floor is defined by a horizontal band, 30 inches wide, consisting of cedar trim boards and vertical tongue-in-groove cedar elements. The second floor is defined by two 30-inch horizontal fascias, the lower element consisting of reverse scallop shingles that traverse the girth of the building. The upper fascia repeats the same horizontal detailing that exists on the basement story. The steeply pitched roof puts a strong cap on the entire composition. The treatment of the gable ends forms a major visual element of the three elevations of the building. At the very peak of the gables turned wooden elements form lattices in front of very elaborate patterns of shingle-work. The combination of these elements provides very interesting visual patterns at the roofline. Windows in the gable ends are set within the projecting bays, which feature 45-degree slanted walls, and sash of various designs on all three faces. The building originally had beautiful stained glass transoms above clear glass sash on all three major elevations. Above these windows are bracketed, pent hoods clad with diamond-patterned shinglework.

Formal entrance to the Drum House was originally gained from the sidewalk level on C Street (now Broadway), up a flight of stairs with a granite block retaining wall, to the basement or ground-floor level. A set of wood steps to the entry porch brought the visitor to the main-floor entryway. At an unknown later date, formal access was achieved from St. Helens Street to the South. The relocation of the major approach to the house was probably due to the widening and regrading of C Street.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES      c.1888                                      BUILDER/ARCHITECT      unknown

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

While the Drum House has certain interesting and unique architectural features, its primary value is an historic site, based on the man who originally occupied it, Henry Drum.

Drum was born on November 21, 1857 in Girard, Illinois. He was the only child of William Drum, a prominent merchant and Masonic leader, and Mary S. (McConaughy) Drum. Henry Drum received his boyhood education from public schools and at the age of 18 obtained a teaching certificate. He taught intermittently over the next few years to put himself through college at Illinois State University. In 1880, after completing his college courses, he moved to Farmer City where he entered the brick manufacturing business. It was a less profitable enterprise than Drum had originally expected and he decided to follow the advice of Noah Coffman, a former classmater, and joined him in Hebron, Nebraska. Coffman, like Drum, had also taught school but was now working as a cashier in the Exchange Bank of Walker J. Thompson. Within a year of his arrival in Hebron, Drum had finished his teaching term and was working alongside Coffman in the bank; moreover, he struck a warm friendship with Thompson and the two of them jointly speculated in Nebraska real estate and livestock.

In 1883, Drum accompanied Thompson, Coffman, and Thompson's parents and sister to Tacoma, a young and thriving community of about 4,000 inhabitants in the Territory of Washington. Thompson purchased the city's first and oldest banking institution, the Bank of New Tacoma (established in 1880 by H. C. Bostwick and W. B. Blackwell), which he reorganized and renamed the Merchants National Bank. Drum was initially the bank's first assistant cashier, then its cashier, and in 1889 became its vice-president. Coffman went on to Chehalis where he founded a bank of his own.

The bonds between Drum and Thompson drew tighter in the City of Destiny. In November, 1884, Drum married Thompson's younger sister, Jessie, and for the next ten years the Drum family, which eventually included five children, resided next door to the Thompsons. In fact, the Drum House at Number 10 C Street, which later became Number 9 St. Helens, was erected only ten feet away from the Thompson residence despite the ample availability of land on which to locate the structure -- a striking manifestation of the closeness of the two families.

Drum made a substantial contribution to Tacoma's early development, both as a businessman and as a civic leader. Besides his interest in the bank, Drum was a major stockholder and director in several of the city's prominent businesses, including the Fidelity Trust Company, the Pacific Navigation Company, the Skagit Railway and Lumber Company, the Tacoma Lumber and Manufacturing Company, the Tacoma Woodworking Company, and the Washington Loan and Investment Company. In 1887, Drum was appointed to the Tacoma School Board, a position for which his teaching experience superbly qualified him. He sat on the Board for three years, retiring as its president in 1890.

In 1888, he served as a Park Commissioner and likewise as a member of Tacoma's first

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Bonney, W. P., History of Pierce County, III, Chicago, Pioneer Historical Publishing Company, 1927.
- Hawthorne, Julian, History of Washington, I, New York, American Historical Publishing Company, 1893.
- Hunt, Herbert, Tacoma: Its History and Its Builders, Vols. I-III, Chicago, the S. J. Clarke Publishing Company, 1916.

(continued on attached sheet)

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one

UTM REFERENCES

A 

1	0
ZONE	

5	4	2	0	0	0
EASTING					

5	2	3	4	4	0	0
NORTHING						

B 

ZONE	

EASTING					

NORTHING					

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Based on information supplied by:  
Russel Scheidelman and Patricia Sias

ORGANIZATION

Tacoma Community Development Dept., Office of Historic Preservation

DATE

8/27/76

STREET & NUMBER

909 S. Broadway

TELEPHONE

(206) 593-4960

CITY OR TOWN

Tacoma

STATE

Washington

## 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*Russel M. Scheidelman*

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

November 30, 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

*Wm. Hunt*

DATE

7/20/77

DIRECTOR OF ARCHES, FOOT AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

*Charles D. ...*

DATE

7-19-77

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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library board. He was very active in partisan politics and unusually successful as a candidate. Despite his affiliation with the Democratic Party, he still managed to win election in the predominantly Republican city. Drum was elected Mayor in 1888, defeating A. C. Smith, his GOP opponent, by 52 votes out of a total of 1,712. His term of office lasted one year, from May 1, 1888 to May 7, 1889; while his policies were not distinguished as exceptionally dramatic or revolutionary, they were nevertheless pragmatic, sometimes imaginative, and above all responsive to the needs of the rapidly growing community. Tacoma's population was increasing at a tremendous rate in this period, multiplying nearly 33 times between 1880 and 1890. It was during these years that Tacoma transformed from a settlement to a major city, and Mayor Drum used his powers to facilitate that process. One of the major problems facing the young community was sewage disposal. On August 4, 1888, the City Council, under Drum's leadership, passed an ordinance penalizing anyone who transported "any swill or garbage" in an open vehicle through the city. Two weeks later the Council established Tacoma's first sewage system. Transportation was another concern and the Drum Administration encouraged the development of streetcar systems, establishing safety regulations for their use, vacated properties for the construction of streets, set street grades, and instituted traffic and "parking" regulations for horses, mules, livestock and wagons.

On November 11, 1889, the State of Washington came into being, and Drum played a major role in its early development. He did not seek reelection as Mayor but ran for a seat in the State Senate. Again, his popularity overcame partisan prejudice and he was elected, becoming the only Democrat to sit in the Upper House of the new State Legislature. The Senator, who was twice reelected, belonged to the Revenue, Taxation, and Education Committees. Perhaps his greatest achievement in Olympia was the passage of a bill which modernized the public school systems of Seattle, Tacoma and Spokane. He continued in public life and was appointed by President Benjamin Harrison as one of two national commissioners from the State of Washington to the World's Columbian Exposition at Chicago. In 1892, Drum was selected by Governor John H. McGraw to serve as a trustee of the Reform School for Boys and Girls at Chehalis. He held this position for six years.

The Depression of 1893 was particularly disastrous for Tacoma, wiping out two-thirds of the banks. The Merchants National Bank made several desperate attempts to secure loans which might fend off insolvency but was unsuccessful. The doors closed and Thompson, Drum, and other bank officials were indicted and tried by a Federal court in connection with the bank failure, but were acquitted of all charges. In the midst of this crisis, Drum borrowed \$15,000 against his house and lost title to it in 1894 when he defaulted on the mortgage payments. In consequence of these setbacks, Drum accepted an appointment in 1895 as deputy customs collector for the District of Puget Sound, which had headquarters in Tacoma, and served in this capacity for two years.

In 1897, Drum left Tacoma in order to seek business opportunities in other parts of the Pacific Northwest. He spent a year in Wrangell, Alaska engaged in customs brokerage and a year and a half in Spokane, Washington engaged in real estate and insurance. During the next few years, he served as chairman of the Democratic State Central Committee and, as  
historian

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Herbert Hunt claims, "was largely instrumental in guiding the policy of the party."

At the turn of the century, Governor John R. Rogers appointed Drum to the State Board of Control, a committee in charge of State penal and corrective institutions. This assignment took him to Olympia, where, after the Governor's death eleven months later, Drum resigned his position and opened a real estate and insurance business which he conducted successfully for several years.

Drum moved to Seattle in 1905. Here he managed the Ballard Drop Forge Company, a large iron and steel manufacturing enterprise. During his seven year stay in the city, Drum continued to actively participate in civic affairs. He was selected by Mayor Hiram C. Gill, for example, to sit on the newly created Municipal Plans Commission, whose report and recommendations concerning municipal expansion were to influence city policies for years to come.

Henry Drum was a man of principle and a man of compassion. In 1912, when Governor Ernest Lister offered to appoint him Warden of the State Penitentiary at Walla Walla, Drum refused the position on the grounds that he could not conscientiously carry out the death penalty against anyone. A year later the State Legislature abolished capital punishment, and this time the former Mayor accepted the position. In 1919, the Legislature restored the death penalty; and when, in 1921, Drum was called upon to perform an execution, he resigned in protest. This action drew commendation from friends and strangers alike in all parts of the nation. As Warden, Drum enacted policies and made recommendations highly influential on the future course of the State prison system. Believing that work dignifies he sought ways in which to usefully employ the prisoners. He established a farm, for example, on which the convicts could cultivate much of their own food. One of his final actions as Warden was to investigate the feasibility of establishing an automobile license plate plant at the prison, an innovation which he strongly endorsed.

After his resignation in 1921, Drum returned to Tacoma, where he took up residence in the Gravelly Lake area not far from his old friends and in-laws, the Thompsons. The former Mayor died on March 20, 1950 at the age of 92.

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Insurance Maps of Tacoma, Washington, I (1885) and I (1912), New York, Sanborn Map Company.

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Tacoma Data, published by the City of Tacoma, 1976.

Tacoma News Tribune (TNT), November 21, 1933; November 20, 1934; March 20, 1950.