

PH0666769

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	APR 12 1978
DATE ENTERED	JUL 31 1978

# 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 Pacific Brewing and Malting Company

AND/OR COMMON

## LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER  
South 25th between 'C' Street & Jefferson Avenue

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN  
Tacoma

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF 6th - Norm Dicks

STATE  
Washington

CODE  
53

COUNTY  
Pierce

CODE  
053

## CLASSIFICATION

### CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

### OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

### STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

### PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

## OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Multiple - list attached

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

VICINITY OF

STATE

## LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. County-City Building

STREET & NUMBER  
930 Tacoma Avenue South

CITY, TOWN

Tacoma

STATE

Washington

## 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE  
City of Tacoma Landmark Preservation Inventory

DATE  
July 9, 1975

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS Community Development Department

CITY, TOWN

Tacoma

STATE

Washington

## 7 DESCRIPTION

### CONDITION

EXCELLENT  
 GOOD  
 FAIR

DETERIORATED  
 RUINS  
 UNEXPOSED

### CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

### CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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

The Pacific Brewing and Malting Company complex in Tacoma, Washington, is comprised of thirteen closely-grouped factory structures. Much of this courtyard complex was erected between the years 1900 and 1913 and was designed by the noted Tacoma architect C. August Darmer. Without exception, the brewery buildings are of brick masonry, many of them framed in wood, iron, or steel. They range from one to six stories in height, depending upon their original function in the brewing process. The complex owes much of its visual cohesiveness to an extensive use of corbelled brickwork and to the repetition of round and segmental-arched openings.

Imposingly sited on a hill which rises sharply to the west, the brewery occupies an old industrial neighborhood just south of Tacoma's central business district. The structures are arranged in three separate tiers up the slope of the hill, fronting on "C" Street, Holgate Street, and tracks of the Burlington Northern, Inc. The complex is bounded on the west, along its uphill edge, by Jefferson Avenue. With the exception of the Bottling Shop (Building #10), all of the brewery buildings are situated south of 25th Street. Today the surrounding neighborhood consists of warehouses and construction-oriented businesses lodged in late 19th and early 20th century factory structures. Active industries are located in the Puyallup Valley to the east toward Mt. Rainier, and residential neighborhoods occur further up the hill to the west and south.

#### Inventory of Buildings (refer to sketch map)

The history of the Pacific Brewing and Malting Company's physical plant remains somewhat sketchy. The identification of brewery buildings, their original uses and dates of construction is partially based upon the incomplete records of C. A. Darmer, including some original drawings. Few people recall the brewery operation itself, because soap rather than beer was manufactured on the site for so many years. The following inventory of buildings is a collection of data gathered from various sources, none of them individually conclusive.

#### Building #1 - Photo #1 and 3

Original use: Ice factory  
Construction date: 1908  
Architect: C. A. Darmer  
Building: Miller and Biehn  
Structural system: Steel and reinforced concrete  
Distinguishing features: 2-3 stories; brick facing with corbelled detail at windows, doors, and cornice; round and segmental-arch openings; wooden sash; concrete slab floors; shed roof appendages at third and fourth floor levels; third floor level contains six 10,000 gallon vats, twenty 4-wheel transport carts and one 25 foot oak suction fan.  
Present use: Warehouse  
Alterations: No major alterations known

#### Building #2 - Photo #1, 2 and 3

Original use: Malting tower (used for malt sprouting and/or grain drying)  
Construction date: 1908, built simultaneously with ice factory  
Architect: C. A. Darmer  
Builder: Miller and Biehn  
Structural system: Steel and reinforced concrete

# 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 type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES                      C. 1891-1913                      BUILDER/ARCHITECT    C. August Darmer, architect

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The brewing industry has long been a major economic force in the Puget Sound region, in spite of temporary setbacks. Olympia, Rainier and Carling brewing companies were able to survive Prohibition; other breweries, especially in Tacoma, were not. Of particular note was the Pacific Brewing and Malting Company, originally known as the Puget Sound Brewing Company. Before Prohibition put a halt to all beer-making in Washington state in 1916, this company operated a large and prosperous business. Comprised of over one dozen brick masonry structures, the brewery complex remains essentially intact today. Together the buildings form an unusually rich example of turn-of-the-century industrial architecture in Tacoma.

Tacoma was an ideal location for brewing because of its proximity to fresh water, transportation facilities, and the fertile farmlands of the Puyallup Valley to the east. Hops were an important early crop in the Valley, with one grower of note being Ezra Meeker, Pierce County pioneer and promoter of preserving the Oregon Trail as a national monument. From its beginnings Tacoma was a center of immigration - it was the city's German settlers who dominated the early brewing industry. Puget Sound Brewing Company was no exception. It was not surprising, therefore, that most of the brewery complex and numerous buildings for the company's subsidiary businesses, were designed by the German architect C. August Darmer.

Darmer received his architectural training and served an apprenticeship in the carpentry and building trades in his native country. After working for a number of builders in Germany he emigrated to the United States, first to San Francisco and Portland, and eventually to Tacoma in 1884, where he became an assistant to one William Farrell. In 1885 the two men became partners. Darmer has been popularly called the pioneer architect of Tacoma. This is particularly well-illustrated through his association with the Pacific Brewing and Malting Company, its founders and its later investors. An attached list of structures shows the extent of his work for this client. Besides those buildings listed, Darmer also designed Germania Hall and the Carlton Hotel for Anton Huth, as well as the William Virges residence (Stadium-Seminary Historic District, National Register, 1977). Huth and Virges were two of the original incorporators of the company.

The Puget Sound Brewing Company was incorporated August 7, 1891, with \$6000,000 in capital stock. John D. Scholl served as President, Peter A. Kalenborn as Secretary, and Anton Huth as Treasurer. Both Scholl and Huth functioned as proprietors. An early advertisement claimed the brewery to be "The best appointed brewery in Washington . . . We guarantee satisfaction, and are prepared to fill the largest as well as the smallest orders from abroad at short notice". It is possible that the brewery maintained ownership in various saloons. According to the 1891 Tacoma City Director, John D. Scholl was involved in at least two saloons, one with Paul Scholz, the second with Gottlob Layher. Layher was also proprietor, along with Ernest Otto, of the New Damfino Saloon. In fact, city directories reveal that a small community of saloons and residences of people associated with the brewing industry existed in the proximity of the early Puget Sound Brewing Company complex.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Articles of Incorporation: Puget Sound Brewing Company (1891); Pacific Brewing and Malting Company (1897).  
 Hunt, Herbert. Tacoma: its history and its builders: a half century of activity. Chicago, Clarke, 1916.  
 The Power Specialist. March, 1928.

(continued on attached sheet)

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Approx. 6 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A 110 542660 5231580  
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING  
 C         

B           
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING  
 D         

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property is bounded on the east by South 'C' Street, on the west by Jefferson Avenue, on the north by South 25th, and on the south by an irregular line connecting the south facades of Buildings #1, 5, 11, and 13a, (see sketch map). A single building on the northwest corner of S. 25th and Holgate is also included within the proposed District.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME/TITLE Caroline Gallachi, Community Development Dept., Tacoma, Washington  
Florence K. Lentz, Historic Preservation Specialist

ORGANIZATION	DATE
<u>Office of Archaeology &amp; Historic Preservation</u>	<u>January, 1978</u>
STREET & NUMBER	TELEPHONE
<u>111 West 21st Avenue</u>	<u>(206) 753-1707</u>
CITY OR TOWN	STATE
<u>Olympia</u>	<u>Washington 98504</u>

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL    STATE    LOCAL X

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 Jeanne M. Welch, Deputy  
 TITLE    DATE 4/2/78

**FOR NPS USE ONLY**

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

DATE 7/31/78

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAELOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION [Signature]  
 ATTEST [Signature]  
 CLERK OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

SECRET OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER  
 DATE 7/25/78

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

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Mr. Michael A. Ebert  
6218 Sixth Avenue  
Tacoma, Washington 98406

Mr. Myron Christianson  
Solar Manufacturing Company ✓  
2501 South Holgate  
Tacoma, Washington 98402

Mr. Maring Quist  
Mar - Jon Contractors, Inc. ✓  
2512 South Holgate  
Tacoma, Washington 98402

A. J. Roberts  
Utility Supply Company ✓  
2520 South Holgate  
Tacoma, Washington 98402

Mr. George Boscovich  
The Brower Company ✓  
P.O. Box 1135  
Tacoma, Washington 98401

Mashisa Umeya  
Pacific Cold Storage Company ✓  
2535 Jefferson Avenue  
Tacoma, Washington 98402

Mr. Richard A. Beulke  
Regional Vice President ✓  
Burlington Northern, Inc.  
8th Floor, Central Building  
Seattle, Washington 98104

Mr. W. L. Taylor  
Regional Counsel ✓  
Burlington Northern, Inc.  
350 Central Building  
Seattle, Washington 98104

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Distinguishing features: 5-6 stories; brick facing with corbelled detail identical to ice factory; ground-floor fanlight windows on Holgate Street; sash and remaining window openings identical to ice factory; concrete slab floors. Contains the following malting and soap-making equipment:

Level #1 - 12-pyramid shaped belly dumps suspended above a masonry monolith, 12 x 36 lineal foot masonry kiln.

Level #2 - 12 various-sized iron wheels which are connected to others on various levels to comprise a pulley system that ran all machinery.

Level #3 - Various pulleys and belts, storage tanks, testing mixers, 100 x 29 foot steel sieve and 5-ton rotator, all in working order.

Level #4 - A steel sieve same as on the previous level, steel track for transport carts and gravity flow system. Various iron wheels wall mounted.

Level #5 - 2 oak vats, 19,800 gallons steel tank, steel sieve same as on the two previous levels, balance scale used in measuring liquids (5 ton capacity, still workable).

Level #6 - Steam press, oak tank 15 x 10 foot. 10 transport carts, oak vat and steel vat, belt drive mixing pot with iron blades, 30 foot oak blower suspended by timbers.

Present use: Vacant

Alterations: None known; sash and glazing deteriorated.

Building #3 - Photo #1 and 2

Original use: Puget Sound Brewing Company brewhouse (first structure in complex)

Construction date: c.1891

Architect: Unknown. C.A. Darmer added a "basement" in 1895.

Structural system: Timber frame, unfired brick facing

Distinguishing features: 3 stories; round-arch and lintel openings; sandstone stringcourse and keystones; diapered cornice design in brickwork. Contains the following brewing and soap-making equipment:

Level #1 - 6 oak vats, contents unknown, steel tanks, 1 flywheel elevator, still operable. 6 beer-bottles depicting Puget Sound Beer and Mt. Tacoma Beer, Washington Territory.

Level #2 - Work tables, some hand tools, receipts, work orders and log books.

Level #3 - Various tanks and vats, several wooden racks and hand-operated tools of undetermined use.

Present use: vacant

Alterations: Some door and window openings bricked in; 'C' Street brick facade severely deteriorated.

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Building #4 - Photo #2

Original use: Wagon shed (used for storage of beer wagons)

Construction date: 1913

Architect: C. A. Darmer

Builder: J. Wallin

Structural system: Brick piers, wood beams

Distinguishing features: 1 story; series of brick piers with concrete foundations formed wide drive-in openings.

Present use: Warehouse and retail, construction materials.

Alterations: Extensive exterior alterations including replacement of all doors and windows; open air interior now fully enclosed with new siding and stable-style doors.

Building #5 - Photo #6 and 10

Original use: Stable (ground floor) and warehouse (upper floors)

Construction date: 1913

Architect: C. A. Darmer

Builder: O. F. Larson

Structural system: Timber frame (uncertain) with brick facing

Distinguishing features: 3-4 stories; granite base; segmental arch and lintel window openings; geometric brick corbelling similar to ice house; ground floor reinforced slab; stable doors to rear; abuts Tacoma Ice and Cold Storage Company building to south (a newer structure outside district boundary)

Present use: Electrical equipment warehouse

Alterations: Only minor alterations in sash and doors apparent; one of the more intact buildings in the district

Building #6 - Photo #6 and 10

Original use: Stable and/or warehouse

Construction date: 1913

Architect: C.A. Darmer

Builder: O. F. Larson

Structural system: Timber frame (uncertain) with brick facing

Distinguishing features: 1-2 stories; segmental-arch and lintel windows; granite base; absence of decorative brick corbelling; ground floor reinforced slab; stable doors to rear.

Present use: Electrical equipment company offices

Alterations: Sash newly replaced; Holgate Street facade entirely spray stuccoed.

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Building #7 - Photo #7 and 9

Original use: Grain storage

Construction date: 1901

Architect: C. A. Darmer

Builder: J. Dickson

Structural system: Iron frame (uncertain), brick facing

Distinguishing features: 2-3 stories; granite base; connected to the malting tower across Holgate (Building #2) by underground tunnel; corbelled trim ties remaining structure on Holgate to adjoining cold storage building; blind openings on Holgate Street facade.

Present use: Contracting company

Alterations: 6-story grain storage tower (at rear facing railroad tracks) recently dismantled; adjacent free-standing grain bins removed.

Building #8 - Photo #7

Original use: Cold storage (contained ice tanks, storage, and spent grain bagging operation)

Construction date: 1901

Architect: C. A. Darmer

Builder: J. Dickson

Structural system: Iron frame, brick facing

Distinguishing features: 1½-2 stories; granite base; segmental-arch windows with double hung sash; fanlight transom over paired sash at ground story on Holgate Street; corbelled detail at roofline and over fanlights is good example of brewery's design theme.

Present use: Contracting company offices and shop

Alterations: Interior remodelled for office and shop purposes; replacement of sash; office entrance rebuilt.

Building #9 - Photo #4, 5, and 8

Original use: Boiler house (contained fuel storage, engine room, boiler)

Construction date: 1901

Architect: C. A. Darmer

Builder: J. Dickson

Structural system: Iron frame, brick facing

Distinguishing features: ½-1 story; granite base; round-arch windows with fanlight transoms and corbelled trim above, on both Holgate and 25th St., elevations; segmental-arch windows at rear fronting railroad tracks were fuel shutes; variant corbelled pattern at cornice line; concrete parapet now exposed.

Present use: Contracting company warehouse

Alterations: Corrugated iron roof, galvanized iron cornice and finials capping brick pilasters all removed; polygonal smokestack above 25th Street facade



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demolished; footbridge to boiler house roof across tracks from stockhouse (Building #12) now removed; most window openings obscured by signs.

Building #10 - Photo #14

Original use: Bottling shop

Construction date: 1900 - a "frame bottling shop" (either removed or enclosed when present masonry structure erected)  
1913 - second story addition to bottling shop

Architect: C. A. Darmer (for both buildings)

Builders: 1900 - C. Sayre  
1913 - G. Frier

Structural system: unknown

Distinguishing features: 2-story; brick faced, broad segmental-arched openings; decorative brick trim is restrained and different from that of buildings in complex proper; building appears especially well-maintained.

Present use: Warehouse and offices, construction materials

Alterations: Original multi-paned sash covered over; exterior brick surfaces painted.

Building #11 - Photo #11 and 12

Original use: Brewhouse

Construction date: 1900

Architect: C. A. Darmer

Builder: J. C. Dickson

Internal systems design: Chas. Kalstner & Company, Chicago, Illinois

Structural System: unknown

Distinguishing features: 4 stories; lintel window openings at second and third stories; blind round-arch windows at fourth; sandstone lintels and sills; elaborate corbelling at roofline.

Present use: Cold storage company offices and warehouse

Alterations: Steep hipped roof with dormers, stacks and lantern all removed; bridge over tracks from storage tower demolished.

Building # 12 - Photo #11, 12, and 13

Original use: Stockhouse

Construction date: 1903

Architect: C. A. Darmer

Builder: J. Dickson

Structural system: Iron frame (uncertain), brick facing

Distinguishing features: 2½ to 3½ stories; facade fronting Burlington tracks is equally divided into three bays by continuous pilasters; ground story is recessed for freight loading, cast iron columns support; blind lintel and segmental-arch windows with sandstone trim; attic story has elliptical window openings; corbelled trim at cornice repeats brewery design theme.

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Present use: Cold storage company warehouse  
Alterations: none known

Building #13 - Photo #11, 12, and 13

Original use: Stockhouse additions  
Construction date: 1911 and ?  
Architect: C. A. Darmer  
Builder: Miller and Biehn

(Architect and builder unconfirmed for Building #13a)

Structural system: Steel frame, brick facing

Distinguishing features: 2-3 stories; granite base; facade treatment continues that of adjacent stockhouse on elevations fronting railroad tracks; on Jefferson Avenue, facade treatment for Stockhouse (Bldg. #12) and adjoining additions (Bldgs. #13, 13a) practically identical, including segmental-arch openings and corbelling

Present use: Cold storage company warehouse  
Alterations: none known

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In 1897, new incorporation papers were filed changing the name of the firm to Pacific Brewing and Malting Company. William Virges, Samuel S. Loeb and Anton Huth signed the document. The purposes of the corporation were expanded to include the business of general brewers and maltsters, the manufacturing, wholesaling and retailing of wine, spirituous and malt liquors and merchandise, the buying and selling of brewers' and saloon supplies, the operation of saloons, and the purchase of any real or personal property which might be required in carrying out the business. Anton Huth and William Virges continued as key individuals in the business until Huth's death in 1916.

Huth's biography in Hunt's History of Tacoma and his obituary dated September 5, 1916, in the Tacoma Daily News illustrated even further the extent of his brewery holdings and other business interests. Born in Hesse-Darmstadt, near Frankfort-am-Main in Germany, he learned the trade of brewer and maltster in the home of the beer-making industry. Huth arrived in Tacoma in 1888. Sources conflict, but either Huth or Virges bought out the interests of Scholl around 1895, and the 1897 incorporation signaled the company's consolidation with the Milwaukee Brewing Company. Huth also held interest in the Puget Sound Malting Company (in Tacoma) and the Tacoma Bottling Company in San Francisco. When Anton Huth died he was considered one of the wealthiest men in Tacoma, with a fortune worth over one million dollars. Apart from his brewing concerns he owned the Germania Hall, the Carlton Hotel, the Ansonia Apartments, the Chickering Building, and other real estate in Tacoma, as well as mining properties in Oregon and a large shipping business which serviced Alaska, the Orient and the Philippines.

Huth's death occurred nine months after Prohibition went into effect in Washington state. William Virges and the Huth Estate were left with an almost new, two million dollar, fire-proof complex, and a need to keep these structures productive. The chronology is unclear, but it appears that for a time (1920-1927) the factory produced "near beer". An article in the March, 1928 Power Specialist notes that certain machine parts installed on an air compressor in the brewery were so durable that they appeared new when the equipment was dismantled after "near beer" production ceased in 1927.

During these years, Pacific Brewing and Malting also produced malt for a yeast plant at Sumner, Washington. But the most successful alternative to brewing was found in the production of soap, for the two industrial processes involved similar machinery and work flow patterns. In part of the brewery facility, soap production began in 1918. A 1927 newspaper article headlined its story of the local enterprise saying, "Tacoma soap factory helps make world cleaner place: when prohibition made brewery a white elephant, its owner put the big pachyderm to making legal suds . . ."

The National Soap Company manufactured Playmate Soap in the old brewery complex until 1959, when the business closed permanently in the middle of a working day. Soap still remains in the vats today. In 1926, 7 million pounds of soap were produced in the six-story malting tower on "C" Street. The following is a description of the soap-making process at National as provided in the 1927 article mentioned above:

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*While the prominent raw material at the beginning was coconut oil, other materials are also now used including palm oil, soya bean oil and of course the caustic soda, which combined with the fats to produce the emulsion resulting in soap.*

*The main building used for soap making is six stories high. The oils come into the basement in barrels and it is removed by forcing hot steam into the bungholes. It is pumped to the top story and comes back to the fifth story into six great tanks having a capacity for 80,000 pounds.*

*Into these tanks hot steam is forced cooking the oil and caustic together. When the mixture has reached a proper consistency salt is added to combine with the surplus glycerine contained in the oils and fats. The salt combining with the glycerine is heavier than the soap and it drains off at the bottom of the tanks and runs through pipes to the glycerine plant where it is filtered, then put through a vacuum rendering plant that causes the salt to recycle and releases the glycerine which is then recovered. The salt comes out ready to use over again and the glycerine is marketed . . .*

*With the glycerine removed the soap mixture is ready for the final processes. It is dropped through pipes, a hot liquid, to the floor below, where it is poured out into great forms to cool.*

*When cool the sides of the form are removed and there stands a beautiful cake of soap. It is too large for ordinary hand use, however, as that cake weighs 1200 pounds, is five feet long, four feet high and 14 inches thick.*

*On a wheel truck it is run into a machine with a series of steel wires which are drawn through the cake lengthwise and it is converted into slabs about 2 inches thick. Another machine with more taut wires cuts the slabs into smaller cakes. If the soap is for soap chips or powder it now goes to the drying room. If it is for the regular commercial cake of "Playmate" soap . . . the cakes are run through a machine which shapes the cake, prints the label on both sides and passes it on a belt to a final machine which wraps it and sends it out to the packers.*

*Further processes are needed for the soap flakes and soap powder now growing so popular. Stacked up like building bricks to dry, the soap strips are left for 6 weeks. Then they are run through a machine like a fodder cutter, which slices off the soft soap into long strips which are conveyed to a drying room which is simply a huge tank with perforated bottom of steel. Into this room the strips will be piled two feet deep over the whole tank, which is approximately 50 feet long and 25 feet wide. A series of screws like propellers of a ship at one end of the tank start slowly across the tank, turning the soap strips, which look like a big bowl of noodles. It takes these screws an entire day to cross the tank.*

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*By the time they have come across the soap is ready for a similar tank on the floor below. The perforated steel bottom of the tank is hinged and the soap "noodles" are simply dropped to the tank below and there they go through a similar drying, with a heavy draught of air to help. After passing through three of these air blasts tanks with the screw propeller agitators the soap is thoroughly dried out and ready for flakes, or for further processing into soap powder in a grinding machine . . . .*

The original Puget Sound Brewery brewhouse has stood vacant and unused since a union dispute ended soap production there in 1959. However, adaptive uses have been found for nearly all other structures within the larger complex of the Pacific Brewing and Malting Company. As a result, industrial equipment used in both brewing and soap-making now remains in place only in the early brewhouse, and in the adjacent malting tower on "C" Street. The other eleven structures have been gutted or to some extent internally remodelled to create warehouses and office space. In recent years, the demolition of a polygonal smokestack and a six-story tower on Holgate Street have somewhat altered the familiar profile of the factory.

On the whole, however, the architectural integrity of the brewery is exceptional, both in terms of its present-day landmark quality and in terms of its original design. The Pacific Brewing and Malting Company complex is thought to be the most extensive example of Darmer's industrial architecture remaining in Tacoma. His meticulous style is apparent in the continuity of facade rhythms, materials, and detail which he achieved over a thirteen year construction period. The brewery is significant, too, as a remnant of Tacoma's industrial past, associated with an early and economically important industry of Puget Sound.

Review of the architectural work in the building construction of the Pacific Northwest, particularly in Tacoma, Washington, as carried out by C. A. Darmer. Compiled by C. A. Darmer. Typescript in Tacoma Public Library, n.d.

- 1898 -- Remodeled a store on Pacific Avenue for the Puget Sound Brewing Company.
- 1904 -- Pacific Brewing and Malting Company's one story, brick building on Pacific Avenue and 8th to Cornell Brothers (contract let).
- 1906 -- Supplied complete plans for the Pacific Brewing and Malting Company's brick store at Kennewick.
- 1909 -- Pacific Brewing and Malting Company's store building at Pasco.
- 1912 -- To O. F. Larson, the brick store building at Rainier for the Pacific Brewing and Malting Company; also three story brick store and hotel building on Pacific Avenue near 24th for Pacific Brewing and Malting Company.

Buildings constructed as part of the brewery complex proper, on South 25th between 'C' Street and Jefferson Avenue:

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- 1895 -- Addition of a basement for the Puget Sound Brewing Company on South 'C' Street.
- 1900 -- Let the contract for the Pacific Brewing and Malting Company's brick brewhouse and brick powerhouse to J. C. Dickson and a frame bottling shop to C. Sayre.
- 1901 -- Let the Pacific Brewing and Malting Company's engine house and bridge brewhouse and warehouse to J. Dickson, also boiler house and stack and cold storage building.
- 1903 -- Pacific Brewing and Malting Company's brick store building in Centralia to J. Dickson (contract let).  
Pacific Brewing and Malting Company's brick stock house on South Jefferson to J. Dickson (contract let).
- 1905 -- Rebuilding the Pacific Brewing and Malting Company's Jefferson Avenue frame building #2320 (let to Miller and Biehn) to G. Frier, office fittings on Jefferson Avenue.
- 1908 -- To Miller and Biehn, the Pacific Brewing and Malting Company's malthouse addition and erection of Ice Factory on South 'C' Street.
- 1911 -- To Miller and Biehn, the three story, brick and steel stockhouse addition for the Pacific Brewing and Malting Company on Jefferson Avenue.
- 1913 -- J. Hansen for the three story, brick hotel building for Pacific Brewing and Malting Company at Ruston.  
O. F. Larson, the three story concrete stable and warehouse for the Pacific Brewing and Malting Company plant on 'C' Street.  
J. Wallin, the one story, brick wagon shed on South 25th.  
O. F. Larson, the rebuilding of Easton Store.  
G. Frier, second story addition to bottling shop.

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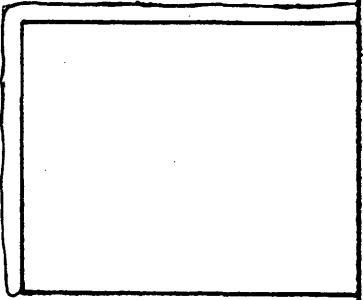
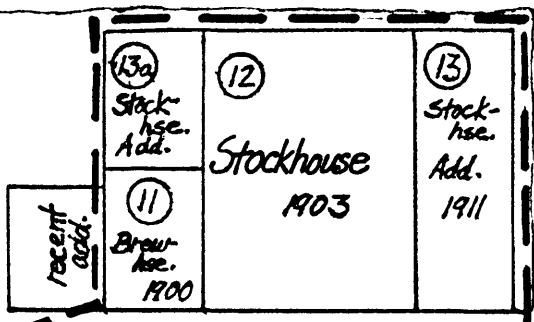
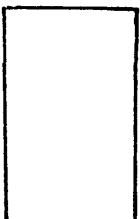
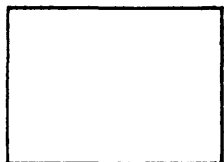
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Rockhill, H. K. "Tacoma soap factory helps make world cleaner place". Tacoma News Tribune, 1927.

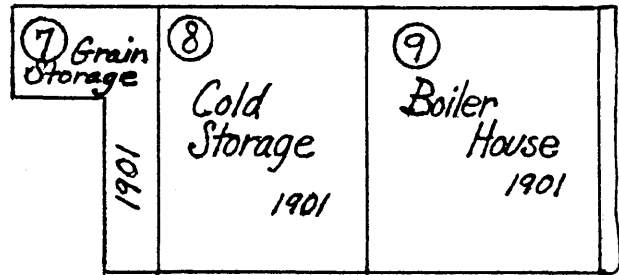
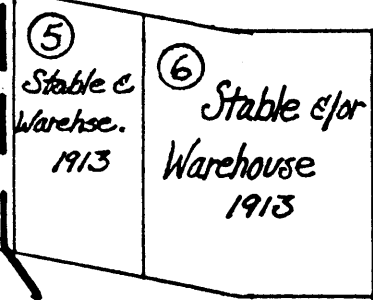
Tacoma City Directories: 1891, 1892, 1916.

Tacoma News Tribune articles: October 28, 1973  
September 5, 1916

JEFFERSON AVENUE



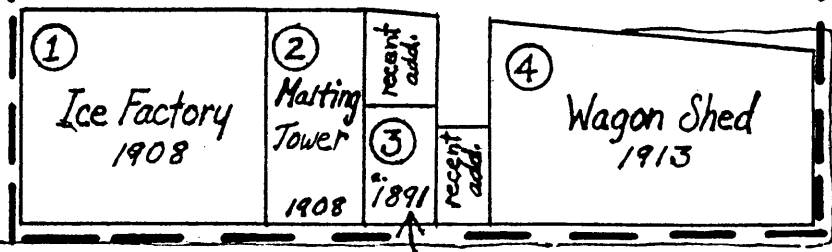
NORTH →



PACIFIC BREWING AND MALTING COMPANY  
TACOMA, WA.

HOLGATE STREET

So. 25<sup>TH</sup> STREET



F.K. Lentz  
2/78

Not to Scale

So. 'C' STREET

Puget Sound Brewing Co.  
brewhouse