

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received **JUL 23 1985**

date entered **AUG 23 1985**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic William Ross Rust House

and/or common N.A.

2. Location

street & number 1001 North "I" Street not for publication

city, town Tacoma vicinity of

state Washington code 053 county Pierce code 053

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<u>n/a</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Edgar V. and Claudia Rombauer

street & number 1001 North "I" Street

city, town Tacoma vicinity of state Washington 98403

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Pierce County Assessor

street & number 2401 South 35th Street

city, town Tacoma state Washington 98409

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

(1) Washington State Inventory of Cultural Resources
 title (2) Tacoma Register of Historic Places has this property been determined eligible? yes no
 date (1) 1981
 (2) 1976 federal state county local

depository for survey records (1) Office of Archaeology & Historic Preservation
 (2) Community Development Department
 city, town (1) 111 W. 21st, Olympia Washington 98504
 (2) 747 Market Street, Tacoma state Washington 98402

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Rust House is located within an older north end residential neighborhood in Tacoma, Washington. It is situated on a hill and from the north (rear) side of the building one can view Commencement Bay. Immediately to the north and east is the Stadium-Seminary Historic District (National Register, 1977). On the west and south are primarily older homes and apartment buildings. The house is listed in the Tacoma Register of Historic Places.

The Rust Mansion is a well-preserved three story Neoclassical house, constructed of Wilkeson sandstone and dominated by a monumental Roman Doric portico. The house, which rests on a raised basement, has a hip roof surfaced with glazed ceramic tiles. Although "L" shaped in plan, the house appears rectangular from the principal (south) facade and side elevations, with symmetrical fenestration, rounded two-story bays at each corner of the front facade, and a one story semi-circular wing projecting on the west. An open veranda spans the facade, terminating on the east side in a porte-cochere. The veranda is composed of paired Roman Doric columns supporting a full entablature with modillioned cornice and frieze of triglyphs and metopes. The columns and entablature extend across the facade of the semi-circular west wing as well. The entablature of the veranda is surmounted by the second story porch railing, which has turned balusters, panels with geometric patterns, and paired newel posts. Fenestration is disposed symmetrically across the facade. Ten-over-one double-hung sash windows with projecting entablature hoods predominate on the front and side elevations but fixed oval windows are located on the second story of the side walls. The central front entry is framed by an elliptical fanlight and sidelights. Access to the second story porch is gained through a glass panelled door framed with sidelights. Symmetrically arranged gabled dormers project from the roof. The dormers, sided with wood shingles, have gable returns, corner pilasters, and round head sash windows.

The cornice of the house is treated as a classical entablature, with modillions, dentils, and a frieze of triglyphs and metopes. The soffits of the cornice are enriched with rosettes and paterae. But the most distinctive feature of the facade is the two-story curved portico with four grand Roman Doric columns and a classical entablature identical to the entablature of the main house. The entablature is crowned by a balustraded balcony with turned balusters and newel posts topped with curved pediments. Access to the third floor balcony is provided by an arched entry crowned by a broken pediment.

The "L" shaped plan of the house is visible on the rear (north) elevation where the eastern half of the house extends beyond the western, forming a shallow wing. A recessed porch on the east wing is flanked by Tuscan columns. Windows on the rear elevation are more irregularly disposed and vary from the ten-over-one configuration to include six-over-one, four-over-one, and one-over-one double-hung sash.

The driveway under the porte cochere is at the basement level on the east side of the house. The triple Doric columns of the porte cochere rest on square sandstone bases. Bordering the curved driveway is a sandstone balustrade. Sandstone stairs lead from the driveway to the southeast corner of the porch. Sandstone balustrades border the portico at the main front (south) entry as well.

The main floor of the Rust House is rich in a variety of classical decoration. Each room features a different fireplace design, ceiling ornament, and door treatment. Some consistency is maintained through the repetitive use of a combined dentil and egg and dart

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motif in cornices and ceiling beams. In the main reception hall and living room, Ionic columns and pilasters are prominent. Wood paneling predominates as a wall covering and, in some places, the original green tapestry wallpaper is still intact. Ceilings are coffered and ornamented with plaster pargework.

The most distinctive feature on the first floor is the reception hall fireplace. Its design suggests a serlian motif. It is constructed as a small alcove one step above the reception hall floor. Pairs of unfluted columns (repeated as pilasters on the alcove wall) frame the opening. A raised floral panel with center medallion is above the fireplace mirror. This pattern is repeated around the stilted arch at the entry. Metal wreaths, swords, and other forms of decoration ornament the marble fireplace.

The first floor portion of the staircase leading to the second story is being reconstructed where it had been altered when the house was converted into apartments. Three steps lead to a quarter turn landing. The remainder is a dog leg stair ending at a spacious landing and hallway at the second floor. An egg and dart motif decorates the wood paneling and the denticulated cornice below the coved ceiling on the second story. The upper stairs and landing have turned balusters interrupted in part by Ionic columns. Wall corners and window sides have Ionic pilasters.

The second story is divided into an east wing with bedrooms and baths for guests, and a west wing for the family. To enter the latter, one passes through a panelled partition containing opaque colored glass windows. Ceilings are coved with a simple picture frame molding. As on the first floor of the house, the fireplaces incorporate ceramic tile with wood combining floral patterns, recessed paneling, pilasters, and other forms of classical detailing. A center stair leads to the third floor which originally contained servants' sitting rooms and bedrooms and a spare guest room.

Straight stairs with wood paneling lead from the main entry to the basement ballroom. Partitions currently enclose portions of the original billiard and entertainment rooms. The main decorative features are its wood paneling, open beam ceiling, raised orchestra chamber, and massive concrete fireplace.

The exterior of the house is unaltered although some deterioration of the portico columns and roof are evident. The interior was altered when the building was converted into apartments. The present owners are, however, returning it to a single family residence. On the grounds is a detached garage, noted for its interior turntable, which should be considered a part of the nomination. The frame garage was built at the same time as the house. It is a one story flat roof building sided with clapboards. An egg and dart motif ornaments the cornice. Several ten-over-one and three-over-one double-hung sash windows light the garage. The metal, upward-folding garage door is new; originally, the garage had wooden doors. Above the garage doors are six round windows linked by a floriated garland motif.

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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1905- 1911 **Builder/Architect** Ambrose J. Russell & Everett P. Babcock

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The William Ross Rust House is historically significant for its association with industrialist W.R. Rust who established the Tacoma smelter in 1889 and built it into one of the leading industrial enterprises in the region. Rust's influence spread far beyond the city of Tacoma. He founded two company towns in Pierce County, helped develop mining concerns in Alaska, and managed the investments of the J.P. Morgan-Guggenheim interests in Alaska. His well-preserved residence, built in 1905 at the height of his early success, is a significant local example of the Neoclassical style, dominated by a two story portico and distinguished by classical detail and ornate interiors. The house was designed by prominent Tacoma architect Ambrose J. Russell of the firm of Russell and Babcock.

In 1889, William Ross Rust arrived in Tacoma to purchase Dennis Ryan's Tacoma Milling and Smelting Company. Previously, the 37-year-old Rust has spent 13 years in Colorado learning about and investing in the refining and smelting business at Black Hawk, Denver, and Aspen. In buying Ryan's mill, Rust noted the advantageous location on Puget Sound and the proximity of the natural resources needed for metal production. After spending one year in rebuilding, the Tacoma smelter began smelting lead. Copper refining was added in 1902, and three years later, the first electrolytic copper refinery on the Pacific Coast was constructed at the facility. At this time, the smelter was considered the largest single enterprise of its kind in the Northwest, a fact that attracted the Guggenheim interests in New York. The Guggenheims sought to consolidate the Tacoma facility into their American Smelting and Refining Company and began negotiations with Rust to purchase it. Because Rust and the Guggenheims could not agree on the purchase price, Bernard Baruch was retained as a negotiator. The sale was completed in 1905.

From that time until 1916, Rust remained in charge of local smelter operations. His work related to the smelter included the formation of two towns. Ruston, the town which bears his name, is located adjacent to the Tacoma smelter and is an incorporated Pierce County town separate from Tacoma. Fairfax, which no longer exists, was located in eastern Pierce County on the Carbon River. This latter town was established as a company town for coal miners who provided fuel for the smelting operations in Tacoma. The smelter, which Rust guided through the first 26 years of development, was also a major force in the development of those areas of the Northwest that provided the natural resources needed at the facility. In addition to his Washington activities, Rust began to invest in mining concerns in Alaska, an activity which also attracted J.P. Morgan and the Guggenheims. Until 1912, Rust was president of the Northwestern Commercial Company, the holding company for the Morgan-Guggenheim western interests.

William Rust's contributions to the development of Tacoma continued until his death in August 1928. He was involved in over a dozen business concerns, including his own investment firm. In 1921, his business success was reflected in the construction of the Rust Building, located in the central business district of Tacoma. During World War I he was involved in the establishment of Fort Lewis as a military base. He guided the development of such facilities as the Young Men's Christian Association, and the Tacoma General Hospital which he endowed at his death.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bonney, William Pierce, History of Pierce County, Vol. III, pp. 8-13, Chicago, 1927.
 Morgan, Murray, Puget's Sound, Seattle, University of Washington Press, 1979.
 Sias, Patricia A., An Examination of Influences on Selected Tacoma Architecture, 1890-1914,
 U.P.S. Master's Thesis, 1971; available at Tacoma Public Library.
 Tacoma Daily Ledger, November 26, 1985; August 21, 1928.

10. Geographical Data

Acree of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name Tacoma North

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

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5	2	3	4	7	0	0
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 Zone Easting Northing

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Verbal boundary description and justification The Rust Mansion is located in the northwest quarter of Section 32, Township 21 North, Range 3 East, W.M. It includes Lots 5 through 12 of Block 4017, including 10 feet of alley vacation (Ordinance 9605) in the New Tacoma Addition to the City of Tacoma. The parcel No. is 204017.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	n/a	code	county	code

state	n/a	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

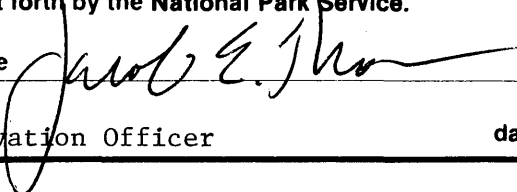
name/title	Caroline Gallacci, Preservation Planner	Editorial Assistance:	Leonard Garfield, OAHP
organization	Pierce County Planning Department	date	April 2, 1985
street & number	2401 South 35th Street	telephone	206/591-7172
city or town	Tacoma	state	Washington 98409

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 

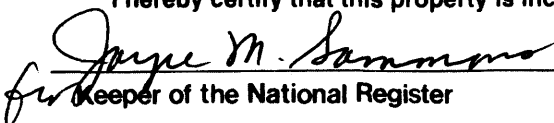
title State Historic Preservation Officer date June 19, 1985

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Entered in the
National Register

date 8/23/85


Keeper of the National Register

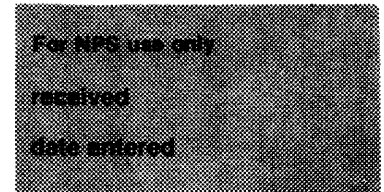
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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When the sale of the smelter to the Guggenheims was completed in 1905, Rust received a share of Bernard Baruch's negotiation fee. With this money, Rust constructed the family mansion on "I" Street in Tacoma's north end. He retained the architectural firm of Russell and Babcock to design it. This firm was responsible for designing a large number of homes for Tacoma's more affluent citizens. Many are located in the Stadium-Seminary Historic District (National Register, 1977) adjacent to the Rust Mansion. Amborse J. Russell came to Tacoma in 1892 after receiving his classical training in architecture at the Beaux Arts in Paris. He worked for one year in the offices of H.H. Richardson in Boston. He also worked in the offices of Van Brunt and Howe in Kansas City and for Evans and Young in St. Louis. One year after his arrival in Tacoma he formed a partnership with Everett P. Babcock, a New York native whose first recorded job in Tacoma was supervising the construction of the Tacoma Public Library. But local evidence suggests that Russell was the major designer in the firm.

Russell chose the Neoclassical style in designing the Rust Mansion. Dominated by a two story portico, veranda, and full entablature, the house embodies the distinctive characteristics of its type in the city. The interior features elaborate classical ornament. While the use of Neoclassical detailing was popular in Tacoma's housing, in terms of its scale and the complexity of design motifs, the Rust House is architecturally unique. It is the only one of its scale in the city.

The Rust family, including William's wife Helen and two sons Howard and Henry Arthur, lived in this house until 1911, the year that Howard died. At that time a new house was constructed a few blocks away at 521 North Yakima Avenue because Mrs. Rust could not live in the house so closely associated with the death of her son. The latter house is located in the Stadium-Seminary Historic District.

The smelter that Rust built remained in continuous operation from the day in 1890 when Rust lit the first furnace. The smelter is scheduled to close its doors in the spring of 1985. This leaves the house, which Rust built with money from the sale of the smelter, the major visible reminder of the history of the smelter and of Rust's early contributions to Tacoma's growth.