

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name RHODES, HENRY A. & BIRDELLA, HOUSE
other names/site number Rhodes Mansion; Tacoma North Slope Hist. Dist. ID# J701

2. Location

street & number 701 NORTH J STREET not for publication
city or town TACOMA vicinity N/A
state WASHINGTON code WA county PIERCE code 053 zip code 98403

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)
[Signature] 6.19.06
Signature of certifying official Date
WASHINGTON STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.
(See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:
 entered in the National Register
 See continuation sheet.
 determined eligible for the National Register
 See continuation sheet.
 determined not eligible for the National Register
 removed from the National Register
 other (explain): _____

[Signature] Signature of Keeper: Edson H. Beall Date of Action: 8.2.06

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
_____1_____	_____	buildings
_____0_____	_____	sites
_____0_____	_____1_____	structures
_____0_____	_____	objects
_____1_____	_____1_____	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

_____N/A_____

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

_____NONE_____

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC

Sub: SINGLE DWELLNG

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC

Sub: SINGLE DWELLING

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN:

SHINGLE STYLE

Materials

foundation STONE

roof ASPHALT

walls WOOD: SHINGLE

other _____

Narrative Description

See Continuation Sheet

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

B removed from its original location.

C a birthplace or a grave.

D a cemetery.

E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

F a commemorative property.

G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

See Continuation Sheet

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE _____

COMMERCE _____

Period of Significance

1901-1922 _____

Significant Dates

1901 _____

1907 _____

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

RHODES, HENRY A. _____

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

SPALDING, RUSSELL & HEATH (architect)

HEATH, FREDERICK K (architect)

9. Major Bibliographical References**Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other
- Name of repository: _____

10. Geographical DataAcreage of Property LESS THAN 1 ACRE**UTM References**

TACOMA NORTH 1:24000

1 10 541000 523440
 Zone Easting Northing

2 _____
 Zone Easting Northing

3 _____
 Zone Easting Northing

4 _____
 Zone Easting Northing

 See continuation sheet.**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

See Continuation Sheet

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

See Continuation Sheet

11. Form Prepared Byname/title MARSHALL R. MCCLINTOCKorganization N/A date 11/01/05 (revised by DAHP staff 5/17/06)street & number 701 NORTH J STREET telephone (253) 572-5474city or town TACOMA state WA zip code 98403

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

- A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

name MARSHALL R. MCCLINTOCK & JOHN GEOFF CORSO

street & number 701 NORTH J STREET telephone 253-572-5474

city or town TACOMA state WA zip code 98403

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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PIERCE COUNTY, WASHINGTON

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NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION:

SETTING

Located in Tacoma, Washington, within Tacoma's North Slope Historic District (National Register of Historic Places, site ID: J701), the Henry A. & Birdella Rhodes House sits within an early residential district with a mix of middle-class and working-class residents. The home sits on a 90' x 100' lot and sits back from the street in the northwest corner of the lot. The dwelling faces east, perpendicular to the street, on a small rise about three feet above street level. When approached from the east on North J Street, the house looks deceptively large.

A wood white-picket fence atop a stone retaining wall surrounds the property along the west and south. The fence continues at ground level along the eastern boundary, where the property shares a drive with the adjoining property, and then sweeps up to the porte-cochere. A tall concrete retaining wall surmounted by the wood white-picket fence abuts the alleyway along the northern boundary. This retaining wall and belowground, three-car garage opening into the alleyway was added in 1999, resulting in the removal of the original garage.

EXTERIOR

The Shingle style house was built in 1901, and boast a large two-story wing added to the north end of the home in 1907. The house is a 6,300 sq ft, two and one-half story, wood-frame residence with a wood shingle exterior. The hipped roof (originally wood shingles) has a steep pitch that resolves into a nearly flat, wide eave. The pitch of the principle roof increases the length of the ridgeline and establishes a visual horizontal that gives the impression that the central portion of the house rises slightly higher than the ell. The two brick chimneys are massive but unpretentious. Six hipped dormers emerge from the principle roof. Five of the dormers have 6-pane, double casement windows. The sixth dormer on the west elevation has a ribbon of three, 9-pane single casement style windows.

The massing of the home is low, horizontal and asymmetric. A stout, round, two-story bay window, set on a stone foundation, rises from the southeast corner of the dwelling. A wide veranda with a side entrance is set back from the southeast corner. The asymmetry is enhanced by the projecting ell at the northeast corner. The walls are sheathed from eave to foundation in wood shingles (originally stained brown), typical of the Shingle style.

The wide, overhanging boxed eaves have no brackets or other decoration except for the profile of the wood gutters. Beneath the second-story windows is a narrow string-course

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(about 5 inches wide) of wood trim that reprises the gutter profile and ties the windows into a strong horizontal.

South elevation

Because the front of the house is perpendicular to the street, the south elevation faces the street. Towards the west corner of the second story is a 15-paned transom over a single-pane double casement window. Toward the east corner are two, small 6-paned casement windows separated by a decorative wooden spandrel panel. On the first story is a large, three-paned oriel window surmounted with a decorative balustrade. Dominating the south elevation at the eastern corner is a stout, two-story bay on an exposed stone foundation. The second-story bay features three, single-pane double-casement windows with 15-paned transoms above. The first story bay has three, fixed single-paned windows with single-paned transoms above. The bay originally offered views of Mt. Rainer in the distance.

East elevation

The east elevation serves as the main façade to the home. It boasts a round, two-story bay window that anchors the southeast corner. Just beyond the bay at the second story is a long, narrow double casement window of 18 panes. Above the front door on the second story is a double casement window with a 15-paned transom, followed by a Palladian window with double casement windows in the center and single casement windows on either side. Below, on the first story is a small oriel with 9-paned, double casement windows. Hidden beneath the veranda is a large picture window and transom flanked by one-over-one sash windows.

At the northeast corner, the 1907 ell projects out about 10 feet, the width of the original veranda. However, a gentle curved two-story bow window across the eastern end of the ell softens its angularity. The bow is further emphasized by a slight curve in the roof of the veranda, knee wall and rough stone foundation. The second story features a ribbon of seven casement windows in three groups surmounted by transoms of 8 panes, 16 panes and 8 panes respectively. The first story, beneath the veranda roof, has a ribbon of seven, six-over-one double-hung windows.

The wide veranda is accessed from its south side. Its roof is supported by 16 Tuscan half columns sitting on a broad, shingled knee wall. At the ell a second door provides access to the great room. The veranda terminates at the north end in a porte-cochere supported by columns on stone piers.

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North elevation

The massive chimney of the great room dominates the north elevation. Two hip roof dormers with 6-pane, double casement windows emerge from the roof. On the east end of the second story, a large single-paned window with a 10-paned transom looks toward Commencement Bay. In the northwest corner is a small kitchen porch set on two Tuscan half columns with a hipped roof. At the northwest corner, a ribbon of four one over one-sash windows recalls the original sleeping porch (now a large master bath). Prior to the addition of a breakfast nook and mud porch in 1999, the 1907 ell at the second story reached the western edge of the 1901 house with a 10 ft sleeping porch. The kitchen porch was below.

Western elevation

Almost completely hidden from view, the western elevation is barely six feet from the west property line. Except in one instance, the windows on this elevation are simple, one-over-one sash windows. A much more decorative window opens on to the stairwell. It is a double casement window with a 15-pane transom surmounted by a decorative arched wooden panel. Toward the northwest corner is a large, contemporary picture window with two flanking sash windows as well as a small contemporary bay window, part of recent changes to the kitchen area.

INTERIOR

The interior of the house includes extensive fir floors, woodwork, wainscoting and pocket doors. On the first floor of the 1901 house, a large central hall bisects the house with front parlor and back parlor to the south and dining room and kitchen to the left. A stairway with two intermediate landings rises at the end of the hallway. A large, second-floor landing provided access to five bedrooms and bathroom. A narrow, enclosed stair continues to the billiard room on the third floor.

The 1907 ell added a large third parlor at the north end of the first floor. On the second floor, a hallway was extended through a north-end bedroom (creating a smaller bedroom) to a new large master suite with bedroom, large closet, bathroom and sleeping porch. On the third floor, the ell added a large bedroom and closet accessed from the billiard room. It is unknown what other interior changes may have been made during this remodel.

The 15.5 x 13.5 ft front parlor has a carved fir fireplace on its west wall, and opposite is a small oriel window with nine-pane double casement windows on the east wall. A fir picture rail divides the 9.5-ft walls into a 7 ft field, a 1.5 ft frieze and 10" fir baseboards. The entry to the front parlor consists of a fir colonnade composed of box rails, Tuscan half columns and a latticework grille. In the southwest corner, the large bay – centered on Mt. Rainer in the distance. The lathe and plaster walls in the front and back parlors were originally colored

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with dark forest green calcimine. A 5.75 ft, five-paneled pocket door separates the front parlor from the 11.5 x 12 ft back parlor.

The back parlor room features a 9 ft wide, waist high, box window composed of three angled, single-paned windows creating a deep fir shelf on the southern wall. There is a simple one-over-one sash window along the western wall while an alcove on the northern wall provides a small closet and doorway to the entry hall.

Pocket doors separate the entry hall from the 14 x 15 ft dining room. The dining room walls consist of 5.5 ft paneled fir wainscoting surmounted by a plate rail. The northeast corner features a small, built-in cabinet with leaded glass doors at the plate rail level. The north wall has a large pocket door into the 1907 side parlor or "great room".

The 1907, 15 x 25 ft great room is a fine example of an American Arts & Crafts interior: large box beam ceiling, fir battens on the walls separated by panels of painted burlap, and a large, high-mantled fireplace faced with Grueby art tile. The room has a central light and seven wall sconces around the room. The eastern wall features a slight curve with a ribbon of seven, six-over-one-pane windows. The fireplace is flanked on one side by a large 16-over-one-pane picture window. The western wall features a small, 4.5 x 7.5 ft nook. The 7-inch frieze area around the room contains a mural of the local landscape by local artist, Mary Fields, added in 2004.

Upstairs, the 1901, 13 x 15 ft master bedroom features a 5.5 ft bay in the southwest corner. The western wall features two sizeable closets at either end with a stove flue in the center. Flooring, doors, and trim throughout the second and third floors are fir.

In 1907 a new master suite was added to the north end of the second floor. This 16 x 23 ft, master bedroom features a fireplace faced with small, white and green tiles and a large picture window with a view of Commencement Bay.

OUTBUILDINGS

An under-ground three-car garage, which opens to the alleyway, was added in 1999. It is considered a non-contributing feature.

ALTERATIONS AND REHABILITATION PLANS

The exterior of the house has remained intact since 1907. As with many houses, the kitchen and bathrooms have seen the most change. In 1974, the kitchen underwent an extensive modernization, and the butler's pantry was transformed into a downstairs bathroom. In 1999, the kitchen and bathrooms were extensively remodeled again. The kitchen was

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remodeled and extended by enclosing the original back porch for the addition of a breakfast nook and mudroom. On the second floor, the 1901 bathroom and the small room created by the 1907 hallway were combined into a larger bathroom. In addition, in the sleeping porch was transformed into a large master bath while original master bath became a large walk-in closet, and the original closet was removed. There are no plans to alter the current configuration of the house.

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NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

Constructed in 1901, the Henry & Birdella Rhodes House is historically significant under criterion B for its direct connection to successful businessman and civic leader, Henry A. Rhodes. The home is also significant under criterion C as a property that embodies the work of two of Tacoma, Washington's most celebrated architects, Ambrose J. Russell and Frederick Heath. The house possesses high artistic values and is an excellent example of the Shingle style as it manifested in the Pacific Northwest.

The home's period of significance begins in 1901, the date of construction, and ends in 1922, the date when the Rhodes sold the property and moved into a larger home in southern Pierce County. As home to one of the more prominent citizens of the community, and designed by a noted architect, the property was featured a variety of times in the local newspaper, the *Tacoma Daily Ledger*.

Criteria B

Born in 1863 on a farm outside Trempealeau, Wisconsin, Henry A. Rhodes attended Galesville University in Galesville, Wisconsin. Early on Rhodes had a vision of becoming a successful business entrepreneur and around 1880 took a teaching position to gain capital for a business venture he and his brother had hoped to start. By 1882, at the age of 19, Henry and his brother, Albert had managed to buy a small general store in Trempealeau, Wisconsin, which they ran successfully for about four years.

In 1886, Henry married Birdella Booher. Their first child, Vera, arrived a year later. Business setbacks led Henry and Birdella, now with two children, Vera and Edward, to move in 1892 to Tacoma where another of Henry's brothers, Will, had recently located. At the time Tacoma was bustling with activity and appeared to be a good place for the Rhodes to start over again. With \$1,000 worth of capital, he and his brother, Will, opened Rhodes Brothers Store. The shop sold tea, coffee, spices and a variety of household items. However, their timing couldn't have been worse. Within a year, the county and Tacoma suffered a severe economic depression during the "Panic of 1893".

Rhodes and his brother struggled for the next five years but kept a positive attitude. The business climate in the Puget Sound region soon changed however. In 1897 gold was discovered in the Alaskan Yukon and companies like the Rhodes Brothers Store took advantage of the opportunity to help stock the would-be miners with essential supplies. During this time, Henry and Will's brother, Albert invested in the company and moved to Tacoma. Will went north to open a temporary store at Dyea, Alaska.

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In Tacoma the economy rebounded. Between 1900 and 1910 the population grew from 37,714 to 83,743 people. By 1920, the population had reached 96,743. Business was good for the Rhodes brothers.

With the company on firm ground, in 1901 Henry commissioned the architectural firm of Spalding, Russell & Heath to design a home for his family on North "J" Street. A year later, his brother, Albert also hired the firm to design a home for him on North "I" Street. At the time the area was home to many of Tacoma's newly moneyed class. The design of Henry's home followed the east coast Shingle style, a rare architectural style in the Pacific Northwest.

For the next 20+ years the dwelling served as Henry and Birdella's home. This was a prolific time in Henry career. As he amassed his personal fortune, he became a civic leader in the community, and established himself as a principal organizer in Tacoma's financial and business circles.

In 1901, Henry and his brothers expanded their business into the Rhodes Brothers Department Store, the first so-called "department store" in Washington state. Quickly it became a landmark retail business in Tacoma. Happy with the design work on their homes, in 1903 Henry and his brothers commissioned the architectural firm of Russell & Heath to design a new larger store for them at 950 Broadway. Over the next five years the business continued to grow and prosper and in 1907, the Rhodes brothers opened a store in Seattle, which Albert managed. The Tacoma store was expanded by the addition of three stories in 1911, also designed by Frederick Heath. During the teen and twenties, the store became well-known throughout the Puget Sound. As a marketing tool, the brothers installed a variety of road signs that were peppered across state highways boasting that: "All Roads lead to Rhodes, Tacoma". Henry Rhodes remained head of the department store until 1925, when it was sold but retained the Rhodes name.

In addition to being a successful merchant, Henry Rhodes was an active civic leader in Tacoma and western Washington. Most importantly, Rhodes was instrumental in opening Mt. Rainier National Park to the broad public. In 1914, he helped organize the 13-member Seattle-Tacoma Park Committee, which eventually became the Rainier National Park Company (RNPC). Members included railroad magnet Samuel Hill, lumber baron C.D. Stimson, and financier Chester Thorne. The company enlisted local investment and lobbied the state and national government to create better roads to and within the park. The company also wanted to establish and run hotels and camping areas in the park. One of its early projects was the construction of Paradise Inn in 1916. Fifteen years later the RNPC played a prominent role in the development of Sunrise Lodge as well. Rhodes served on the

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directors of RNPC from 1915 until 1926, then became president of the company, a position he held until 1931. Following his presidency of the company, he remained on the board of directories until the time of his death. Under Rhodes leadership, the RNPC played a key role in the master plan development for the park, and much of the park infrastructure existing today can be linked directly to Henry Rhodes leadership.

His other business ventures include the organization of the Tacoma Shipbuilding Company, which during World War I, completed several large wooden vessels for the U.S. Shipping Board. In 1913 Rhodes formed the Rhodes Investment Company, which handled various real estate transactions in and around Tacoma. In the 1920s he formed United Rhodes Reality Company, which constructed a variety of buildings in the city including the Winthrop Hotel (1925), and several apartments. Among the most important properties is the Rhodes Medical Arts Building (1930), a grand multi-story Art Deco high rise.

Well known in financial and banking circles along the Pacific Coast, he served a number of terms on the board of directors of the Federal Reserve Bank for the Twelfth District. His civic involvement includes being one of the founding members of the Tacoma Commercial Club (1895) and served as its treasurer and vice-president. Later he helped engineer its merger with the Tacoma Chamber of Commerce in 1908 and served as its president in 1909, remaining an active member for many years. In 1909, Rhodes headed the Tacoma charter commission that gave the city its current form of government. He also had an interest in public service. He helped finance the Edward B. Rhodes American Legion Building, as a memorial to his son who was killed in action in 1918. He was a member of the University-Union Club and the Tacoma Golf and County Club.

Birdella Rhodes, Henry's wife, was also active in a variety of Tacoma's civic and cultural affairs. She was a member of the Tacoma Garden Club and the Aloha Club as well as a leader in the local suffrage movement.

Henry and Birdella lived at 701 North J Street until 1922 when they moved into a new home in southern Pierce County. By now a wealthy and well-respected citizen of Tacoma, Henry undertook construction of a grand new home on Steilacoom Lake in southern Pierce County. Completed in 1922, "Rhodesleigh" was a large 70 acre estate Tudor Revival Estate designed Frederick Heath. In declining health, Henry and Birdella sold "Rhodesleigh" in 1939 and return to Tacoma. Birdella died two years later in 1941. Henry remarried in 1943 and died in October of 1954.

Upon the move to Rhodesleigh, Henry and Birdella's daughter and son-in-law, Vera and Audsley Fraser, became the new owners of 701 North J Street. They lived in the house until

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1924. Fraser was an executive at Rhodes Department Store and also served as a director of the Rainier National Park Company and as board member of Puget Sound National Bank.

The third owner of the home was Dr. Leo J. Hunt who purchased the property in 1932. He and his family resided in the home for 30+ years. Dr. Hunt operated his medical practice out of the house, using the front parlor as his waiting room, and the back parlor as his clinic. He sold the home in 1966. By the early 1970s, the house began to fall into disrepair. In 1974, Tacoma architect, Dusty Trails, bought the home and began an extensive restoration of the house. Trails sold the home in 1976 to Dr. E.W. Wiegman, then president of Pacific Lutheran University. Wiegman and his family resided in the home for just two short years, during which time Dr. Wiegman ran his campaign for governor from the house's third floor. He sold the property to Arnold Shain in 1978. Shain, owner of Tacoma's legendary Stanley and Seafort's restaurant, and his family lived in the house until 1986.

Attorney Lou Anne Sterbick-Nelson and Judge Dennis L. Nelson occupied the house from 1986 to 1998. Judge Nelson was the primary author of the tribal law code for the Puyallup Tribe of Indians and served as their first Chief Judge during the 1990s. The husband and wife team were active in local politics, and the house served as planning headquarters for numerous political campaigns. Mayor Karen Vialle, Tacoma's first woman mayor, started her campaign for a second term at the house. In 1996, then State Senator Adam Smith launched his first campaign for the Ninth Congressional District from this house.

In 1998, Greg and Barbara Sheldon purchased the house and undertook some major upgrades to the kitchen and bathrooms. The current owner of the home purchased the property in 2002.

Criteria C

The Henry & Bridella Rhodes House was built in two stages under the direction of two of Tacoma's premier architects: Ambrose J. Russell and Frederick H. Heath. Henry Rhodes commissioned the original house in 1901, when Heath had just joined as a partner with the architectural firm of Spalding & Russell. In 1907, Rhodes commissioned the slightly younger Heath, who now had his own firm, for a large addition to the home. Apparently happy with Heath's work, Rhodes asked Heath, now senior partner in Heath, Gove & Bell, for the design of another home called "Rhodesleigh" in 1922.

Ambrose J. Russell's design for the original 1901 house follows the Shingle Style variant of Queen Anne with its horizontal, asymmetric massing and a round two-story bay sheathed in stained, wood shingles. Coupled with colonial details, such as Tuscan columns and a Palladian window, the home is typical of Shingle style designs in the Pacific Northwest.

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Ambrose J. Russell

Ambrose Janvier Russell (1857-1938) was born in India but his family soon returned to their native Scotland. From 1875 to 1880, he studied architecture at the University of Glasgow. From 1881 to 1884, he studied at the Ecole des Beaux Arts, Paris. While in Paris he formed a lifelong friendship with fellow student, Bernard Maybeck. Upon his arrival in the United States, in 1884 Russell moved to Boston where he worked with H. H. Richardson until shortly before his death in 1886. He then moved to Kansas City, Missouri, where he joined Maybeck at the architectural firm of Van Brunt & Howe. After working for Van Brunt & Howe, Russell formed a brief partnership with Maybeck in Kansas City but business was slow. Maybeck headed for California, and Russell moved to St. Louis, Missouri.

In St. Louis he worked briefly with the architectural firm of Eames & Young but by 1892 had moved to Tacoma. Initially, Russell worked for the Cottage Home Building Company as its Architectural Department Manager. His designs include the 1892 Shingle style Smith-Stewart House (4305 N. 42nd). By 1893 he had his first independent commission, the Davey House (N. 5th & Sheridan) and formed a partnership with Portland, Oregon transplant Albert Sutton. The partnership lasted two years after which Sutton moved to San Francisco. Russell then formed a brief partnership with George W. White in 1899, followed by another partnership with architect A. Walter Spalding the next year. Frederick Heath joined the firm in 1901. Spalding left the partnership in 1902, and Russell & Heath continued as a firm for another year until 1903. In 1905, Russell joined with his former draftsman, Everett Babcock, to form a new partnership, which lasted until 1911. Russell continued working until his death in 1938 and designed many important buildings in the Pacific Northwest. His projects include the Governor's Mansion in Olympia; and the Armory, the Masonic Temple, the Perkins Building and Rust Mansion in Tacoma, and the Standard Building in Vancouver, BC. Much of Russell's early work is reflective of the Shingle style.

Shingle style

Identified by noted architectural historian Vincent Scully in the 1950s, the Shingle style occupies a design space between the informality of the Queen Anne style and the Colonial Revival's formal Georgian strand. It borrows the massing and asymmetry of Queen Anne and some of its picturesque features, such as turrets, an abundance of complex windows, and broad verandas. From the Colonial Revival, it borrows embellishments, such as Palladian windows, classical columns, balustrades, and oval windows. To this borrowing is added a strong low, horizontal continuity and a near uniform sheath of wooden shingles.

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The style emerged on the East coast in the 1880s, especially in the work of W. R. Emerson, H. H. Richardson, R. S. Peabody, and the firm of McKim, Mead & White. By the 1890s the Shingle style was declining among the Eastern wealthy in favor of more formal neo-colonial and Beaux Arts styles. However the style continued to blossom across the rest of the country as dozens of young architects, trained in the large east coast firms, moved west. Also helping the migration of the style was the publication of photos of shingle style homes in architectural journals like *Inland Architect* and *Western Architect*.

In Tacoma, Russell was aware of the work of his colleagues on the East coast and often worked in the Shingle style taking direct inspiration from H.H. Richardson and McKim, Mead & White. Tacoma was not only a town of lumbermen, but its sawmills were churning out wood shingles for California and the mid-West. The style was a natural fit and one that continues to influence the architecture of the Pacific Northwest. Among the Rhodes House, Russell designed several other dwellings in the style.

Russell's 1892 Smith-Stewart House (4305 N. 42nd) shows a distinct Richardson influence with its shingles, cross-gambrel roof, turret with conical roof, and recessed porch with wide arch and balcony above that recalls Richardson's Stroughton House (1883). About 1896, Russell designed two small, Shingle style houses that demonstrate the versatility of the form on a small lot. The quaint house which Russell built for himself at 1222 N. 4th Street, has an unusual half-gambrel roof, recessed porch, and a small, one-and-a-half story bay with pedimented gable. The Albertson house (823 N. "I" St.) is a small, two-story house with a wide, front-facing gambrel roof, recessed porch, and a squat, two-story bay on a rough stone foundation to one side. In 1898, Russell designed a fine Shingle style house for F. W. Sheard (421 N. Yakima). This two-and-a-half story house features a sharply-pitched, cross gable roof whose lines appear to cut into the second floor, coupled with a dramatic three-story, polygonal bay on one side and a two-story bay on the other. The complex interplay of lines recalls aspects of McKim, Mead & Bigelow's 1879 classic "Alden House on Fort Hill".

In 1901, the same year as the Rhodes house, Russell also designed the Murray House (402 N. Sheridan) with its soaring two-story, side facing gable roof that sweeps forward over the veranda. It recalls the 1884 Cresson House by McKim, Mead & White, who decorated their vast roof slope with three, asymmetrically-placed, rounded dormers. Russell emphasizes his roof's height with two dormers whose gable roofs are even more sharply peaked. The dormers are decorated with Art Nouveau patterns, which Russell may have seen from the 1900 Paris Exposition. To one side is a large two-story bay with balustrade with a rough stone first story that comes directly from Richardson's "Stonehurst", Paine House (1886). In 1902, Russell designed the two-and-a-half story Stevens house (801 N. Yakima), an interesting example of the Shingle style transitioning toward the Craftsman. The side-facing

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National Park Service

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HENRY & BIRDELLA RHODES HOUSE
PIERCE COUNTY, WASHINGTON

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gable roof features very wide eaves (like the Rhodes house) that overhang simple bay windows on either side. A recessed porch extends to one side. The second story is slightly proud of the first, creating a visual divide between first and second stories (again similar to the Rhodes house). The house rests on a stone foundation that is exposed as the hillside falls away to the rear of the house. Russell's Stevens house recalls a wing of Mckim, Mead and White's "Wave Crest", John Codwin house (1885) but also shows similarities to contemporaneous work of Maybeck (the Issac Flagg house, 1901), Charles and Henry Greene (the Duncan-Irwin house, 1901) and Gustav Stickley's magazine *The Craftsman* (1902).

Russell, also worked in other architectural styles. The 1892 Vaeth House (422 N. "E" St.) is rendered in the Queen Anne style, while the 1901 Albert Rhodes House (702 N. "I" St.) is a classic example of English Revival. The 1905 Gower House (417 N. "E" St.) is a large Georgian Revival style home, while the 1905 Rust Mansion (1001 N. "I" Street) was executed in the Neo-Classical style.

Frederick H. Heath

Frederick Heath's 1907 addition to the north end of the Rhodes House may have been anticipated in discussions of the 1901 plans. At its simplest, the ell is a 16-foot extension of the north end of the house shifted 10 feet to the east. The void on the ell's west elevation is filled with a second-story sleeping porch covering a kitchen porch below. Heath's addition is sensitive to Russell's initial vision, enhancing the flowing shingle surfaces with a graceful shallow curve to the ell's eastern wall, which is amplified by the veranda roof, knee wall and rock foundation below. The addition's horizontal features – especially the ribbon of casement windows – continues Russell's strong horizontal lines, especially in the wide overhanging undecorated eave. Inside, the large "great room" is a beautiful example of an American Arts & Crafts interior: large box beams on the ceiling, fir battens on the walls separated by panels of painted burlap, a nook, and a large, high-mantled fireplace faced with Grueby art tile.

Frederick H. Heath (1861-1953), was born in La Crosse, Wisconsin, and began his career in the printing trades at the age of 13. At the age 20 he moved to Minneapolis to pursue a printing career but ended up working in the offices of architect Warren H. Hayes as a tracer. Over the next 10 years Heath worked his way up to chief draftsman and gained a vast knowledge about the art and science of architecture. In 1889, Frederick's father, William, and brother, Charles, moved to Tacoma to start a building and contracting business.

Perhaps at the urging of his father and brother, and with the advice of his wife's doctor to try another climate, in 1893, Frederick at the age of 32 moved to Tacoma. It is unclear where he worked for the next few years, perhaps in his father's business. Frederick opened his first

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office in Tacoma in 1896, but little is know of his early work. In 1901, Heath became a junior partner with the firm of Spalding & Russell. Following the departure of Spalding in 1902, A.J. Russell and Heath continued as partners through 1903. It was during this time that Heath became the official school architect for the Tacoma School District, a position he will hold for some 11 years. His appointment as school architect gave Heath sufficient security and notoriety to launch his own firm by 1903. Except for a brief partnership with Luther Twitchell from 1908 to 1910, Heath worked without a partner until 1912.

In 1912, Frederick Heath's luck with partners changed with the creation of the firm of Heath & Grove, a partnership that would last the rest of his life. George Gove had arrived in Tacoma in 1908 and before joining Heath had practiced on his own. In 1914, the partnership expanded with the addition of Herbert Bell.

Heath's practice lasted just short of sixty years in Tacoma and his monumental works can be seen today across the Northwest. His various firms designed some 600 projects including many homes, schools, churches, and commercial structures. In the Tacoma area, his buildings include St. Patrick's Catholic Church, the First Church of Christ Scientist, First Lutheran, Lincoln High School, Central School, Knights of Pythias Temple, and Sandberg-Schoenfelds Building. His projects several commission by Rhodes including Paradise Inn on Mt. Rainier, the National Reality Building, the Rhodes Brothers Department Store, Rhodesleigh and the addition to the nominated building.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet –

HENRY & BIRDELLA RHODES HOUSE
PIERCE COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Section number 9, 10 Page 1 of 2

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Henry A. Rhodes' residence. *Tacoma Daily Ledger*, 07/21/1901, illus.

Tacoma Daily Ledger, Chamber of Commerce Edition, 1906, pg 14, illus.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet –

HENRY & BIRDELLA RHODES HOUSE
PIERCE COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Section number 9, 10 Page 2 of 2

Architectural Souvenir, Russell & Babcock, Delisle & Milliken, 1906?,(unpaged), illus.

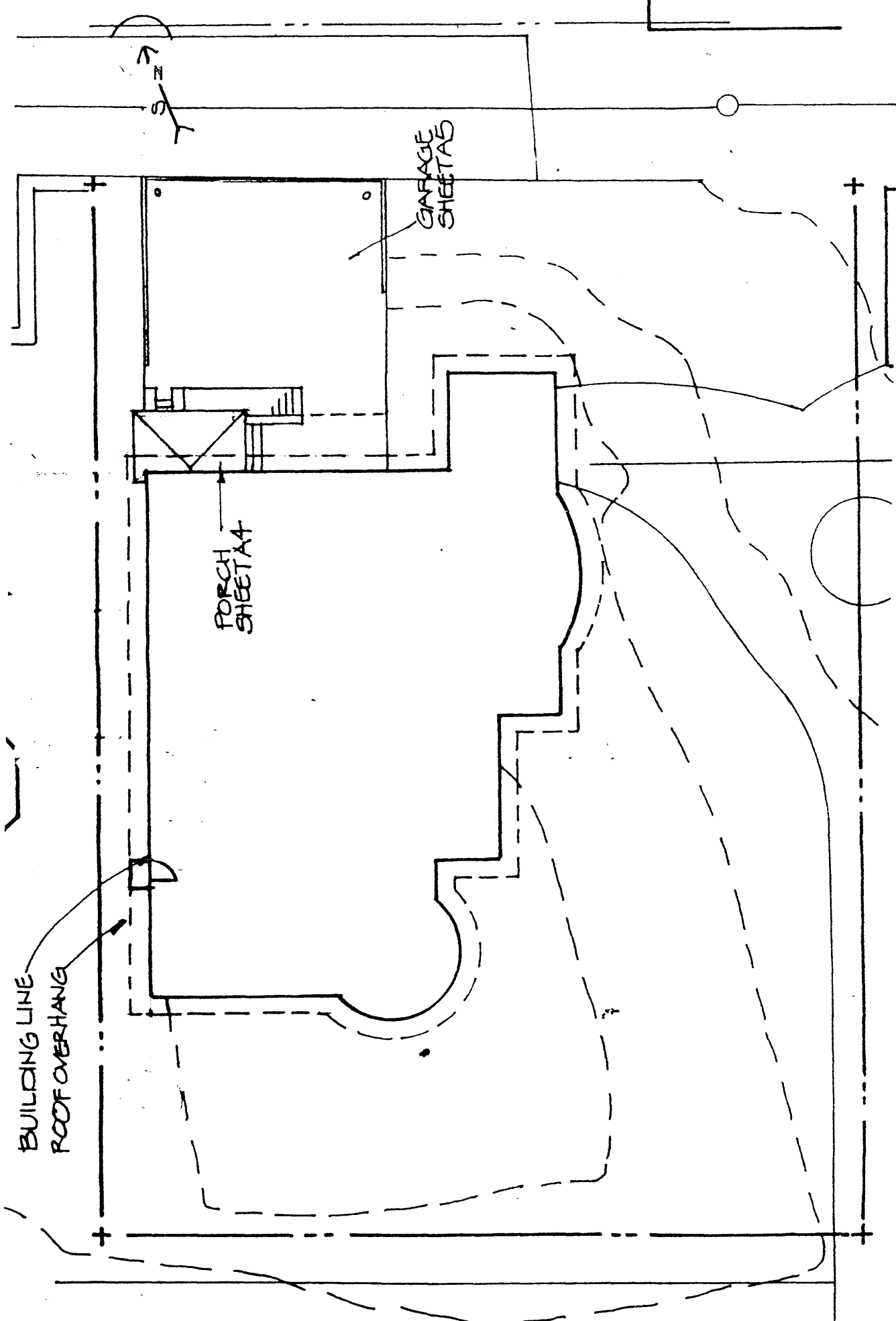
Fine Old House Restored, *The News Tribune*, 02/24/74, G-6, illus

Verbal Boundary Description

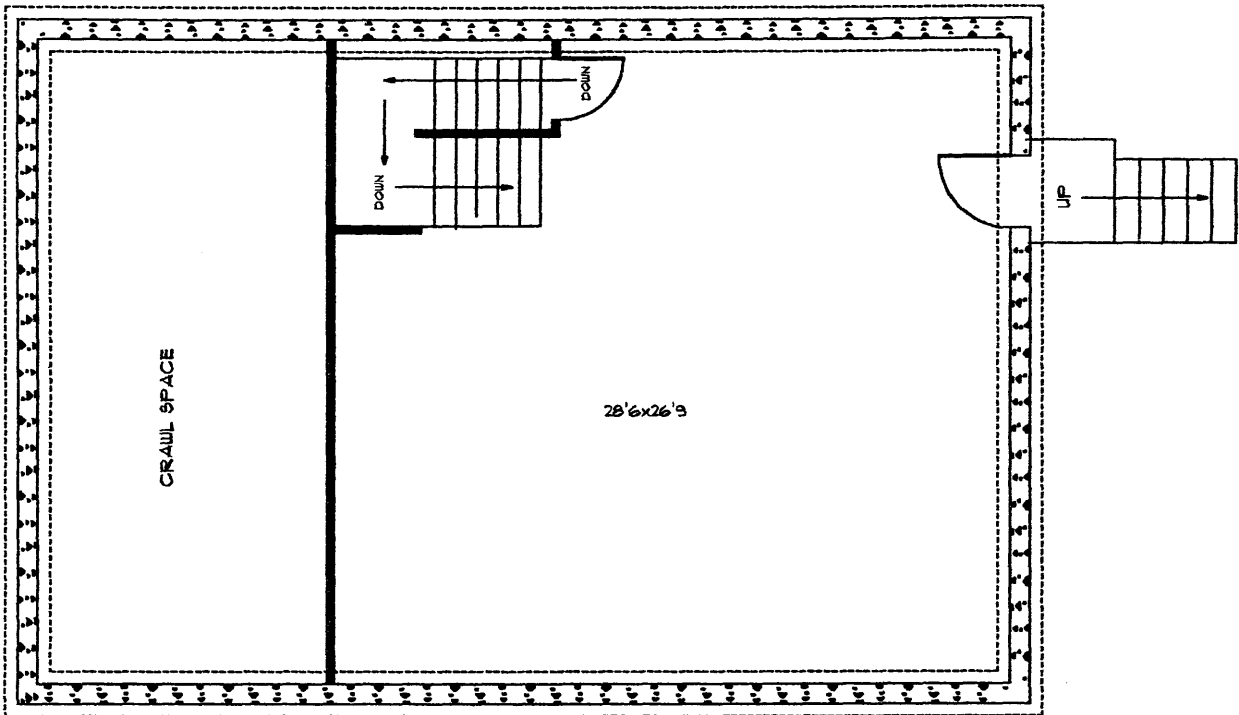
The nominated are is located on Lots 11 and 12, Block 3719, Map of New Tacoma, Washington Territory, according to plat filed for record February 3, 1875 in Pierce County, Washington. Together with the westerly half of North 7th Street, vacated by Ordinance No. 1841 of the City of Tacoma abutting thereon. Also together with the vacated southerly 10 feet of alley vacated by Ordinance No. 4836 of the City of Tacoma abutting upon the above described property, in Pierce County, Washington.

Boundary Justification

The nominated property encompasses the entire urban tax lot that is occupied by the Henry & Birdella Rhodes House.

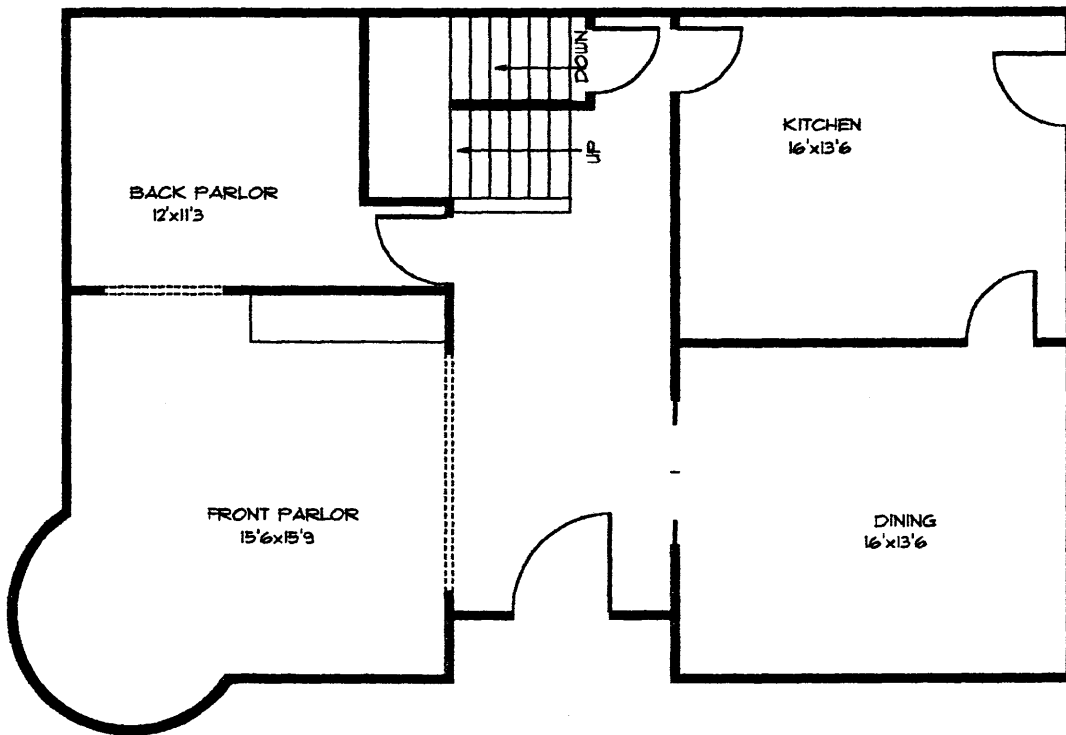


Site Plan of Rhodes, Henry and Birdella House
701 N. J Street, Tacoma, WA



○ BASEMENT
 SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"

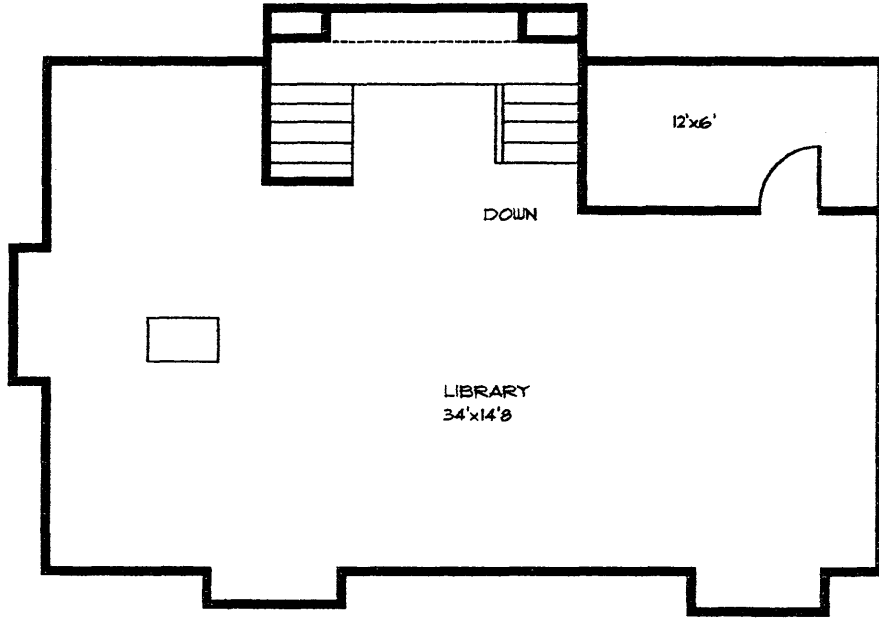
1901



○ MAIN FLOOR
 SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"

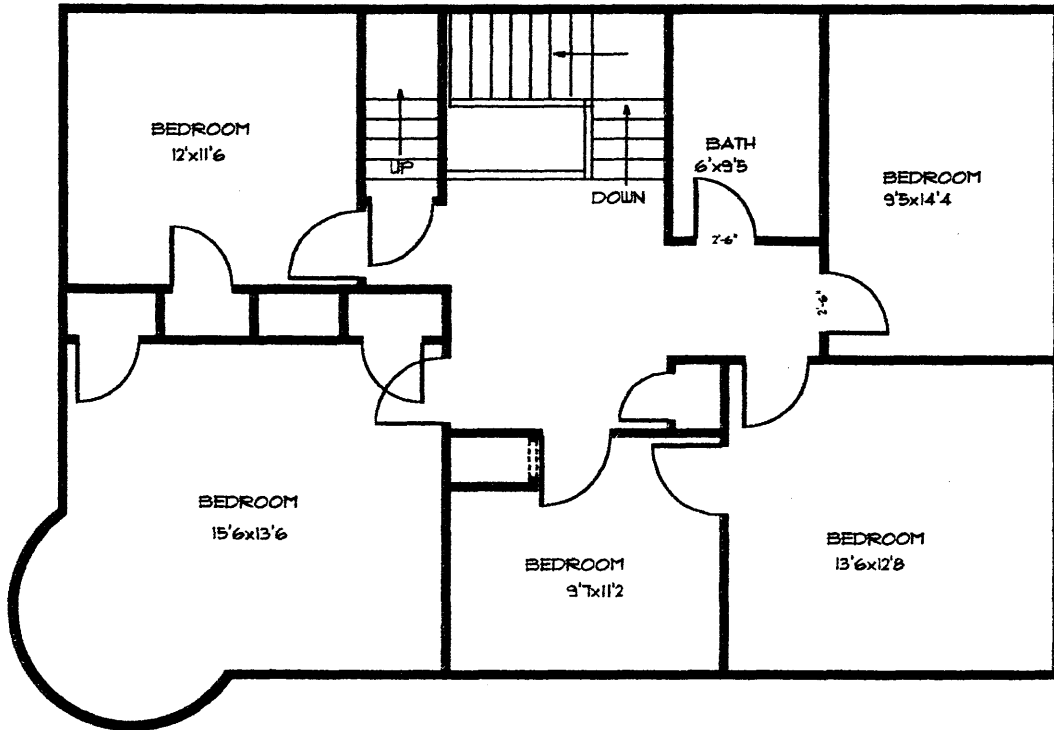
Floor plan: Basement and main floor, 1901

Rhodes, Henry and Birdella House
 701 N. J Street, Tacoma, WA



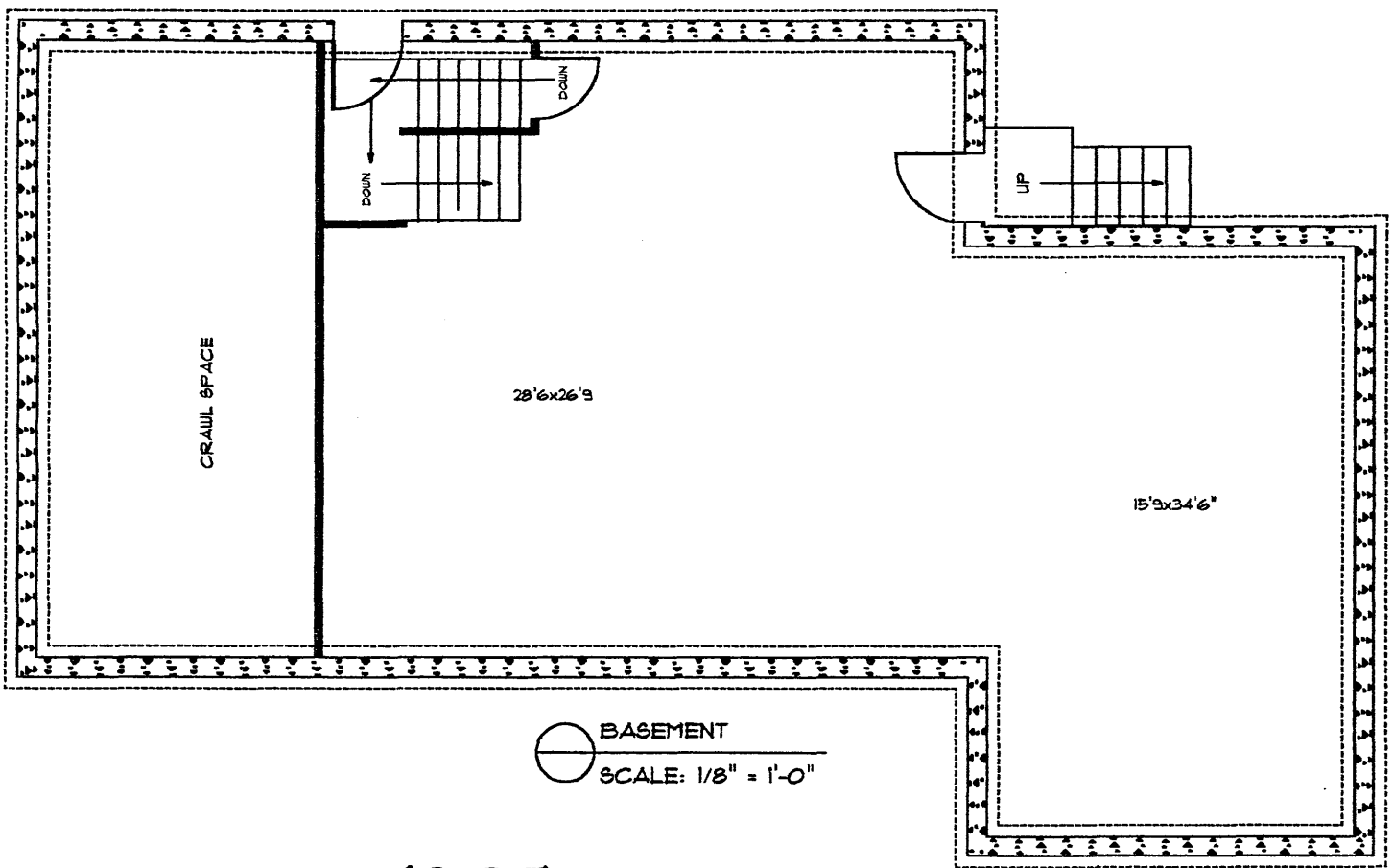
⊙ ATTIC
SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"

1901

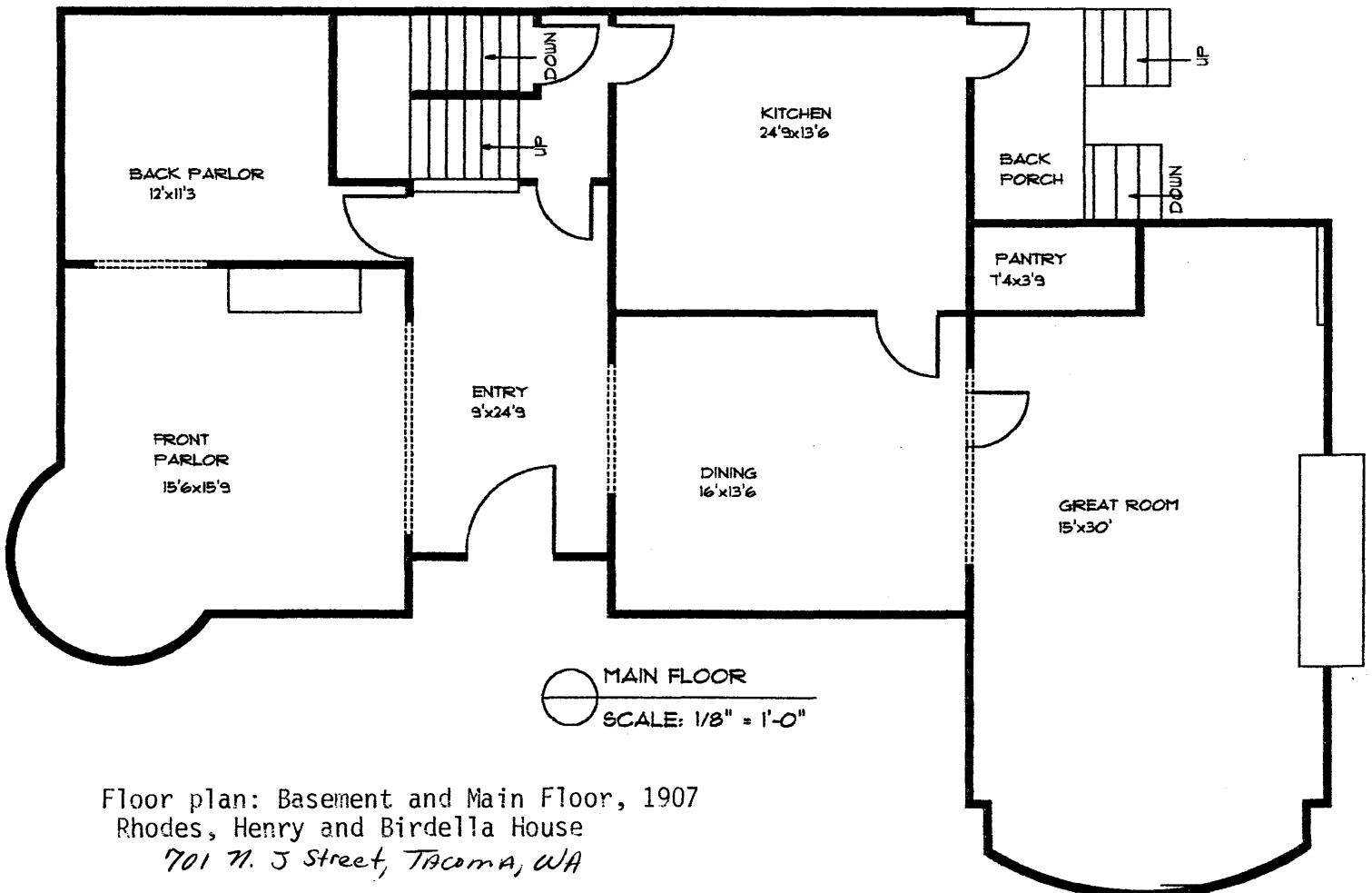


⊙ UPPER FLOOR
SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"

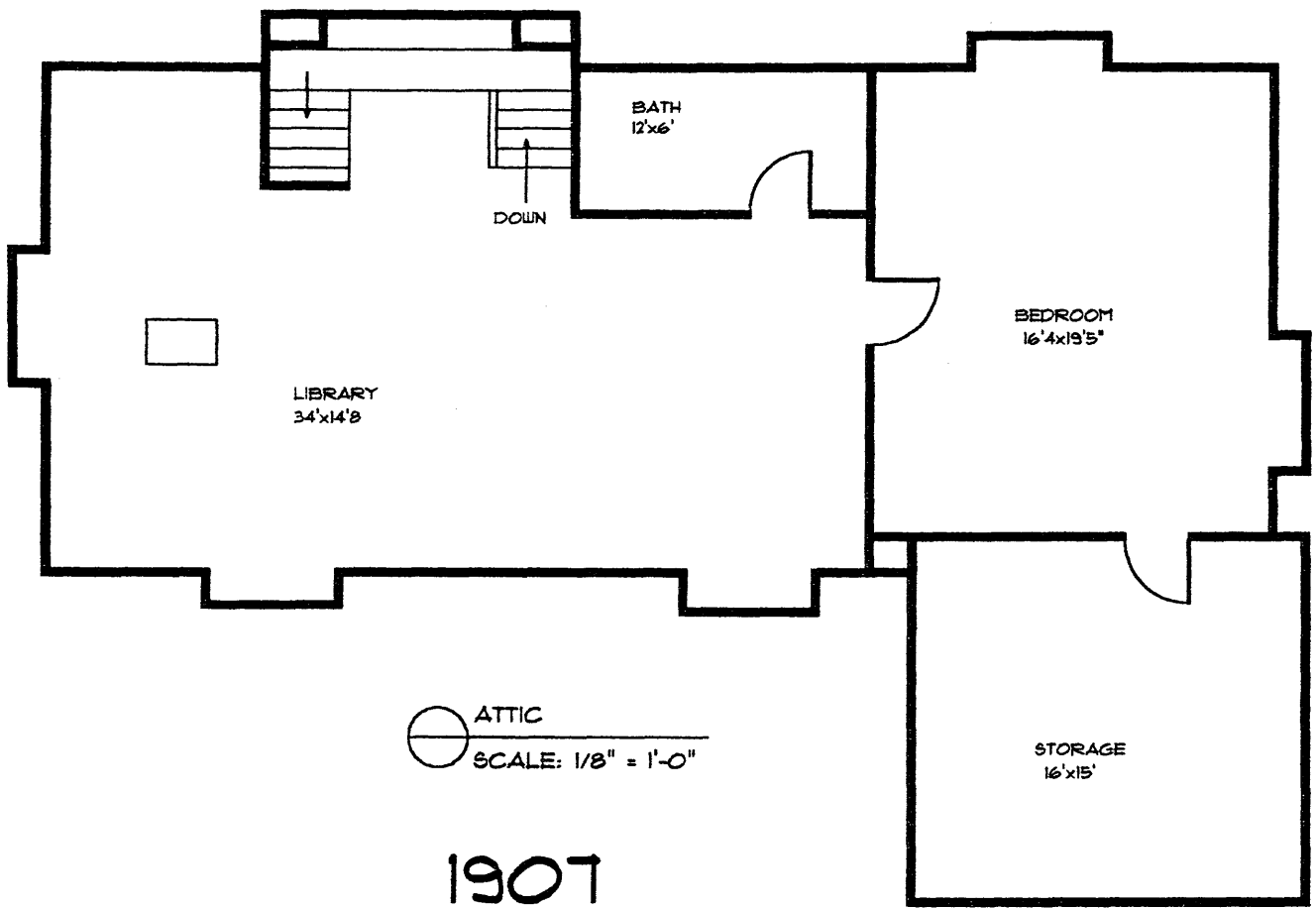
Floor plan: Attic and Upper Floor, 1901
Rhodes, Henry and Birdella House
701 N. J Street, Tacoma, WA



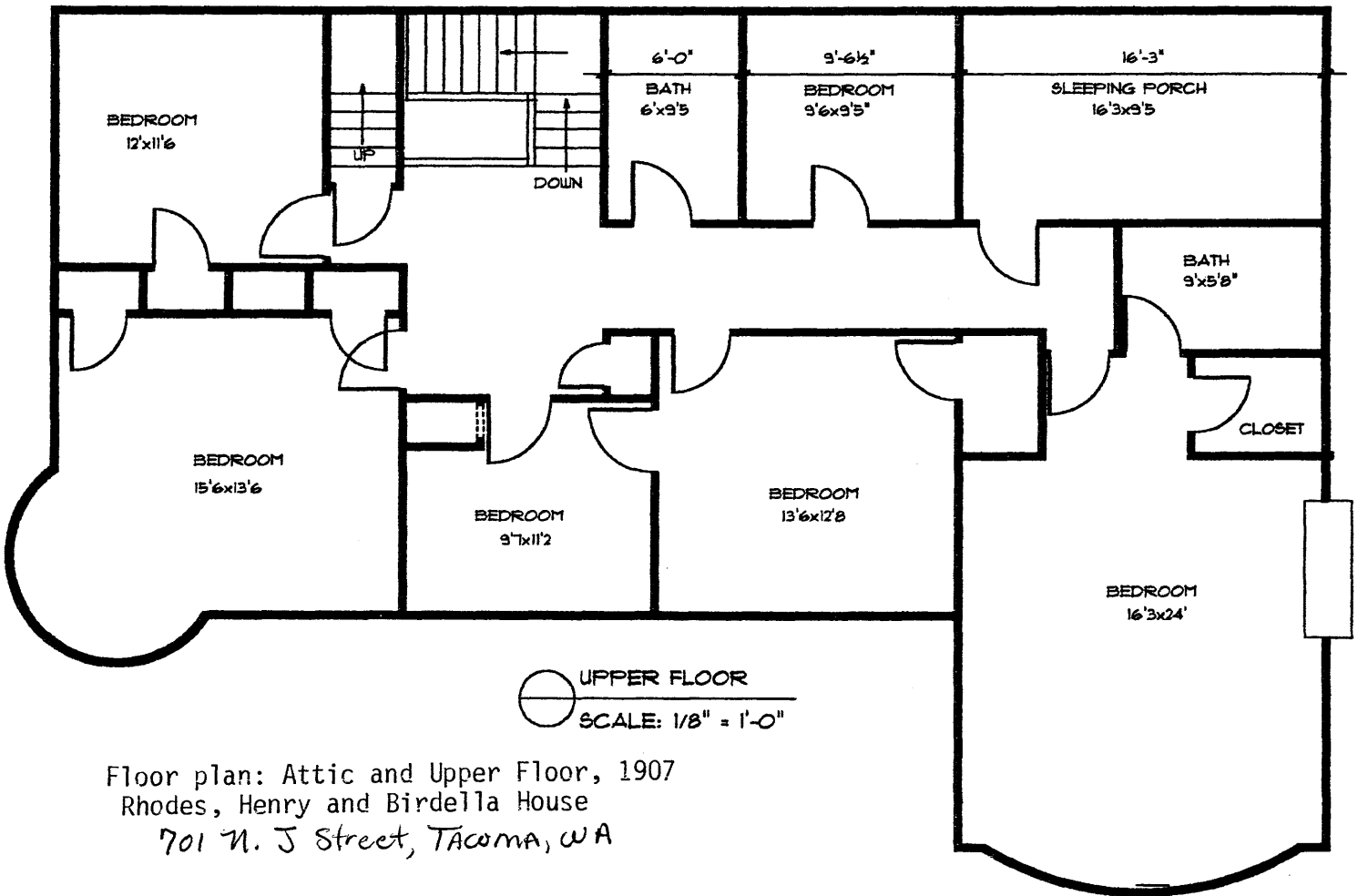
1907



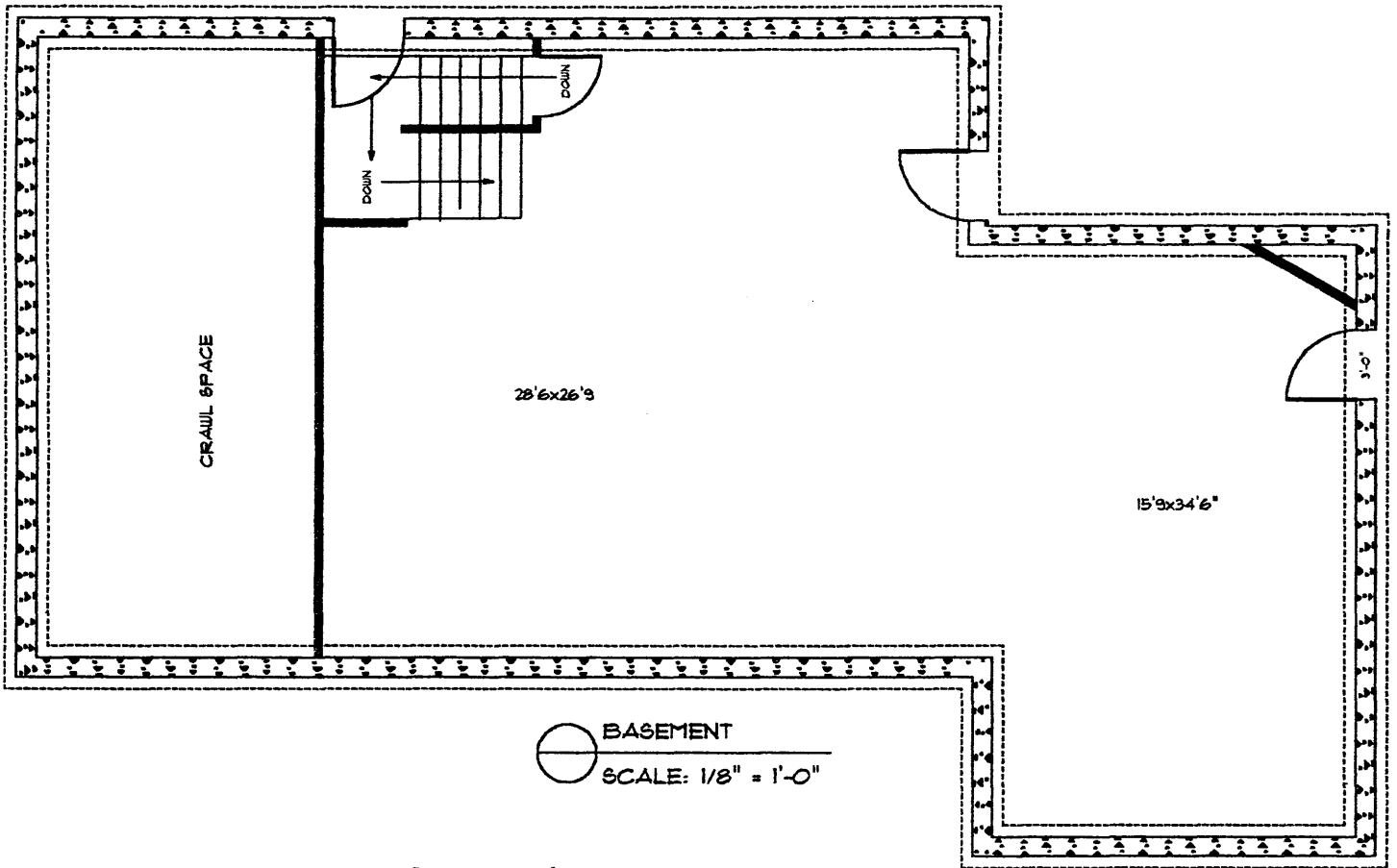
Floor plan: Basement and Main Floor, 1907
Rhodes, Henry and Birdella House
701 N. J Street, Tacoma, WA



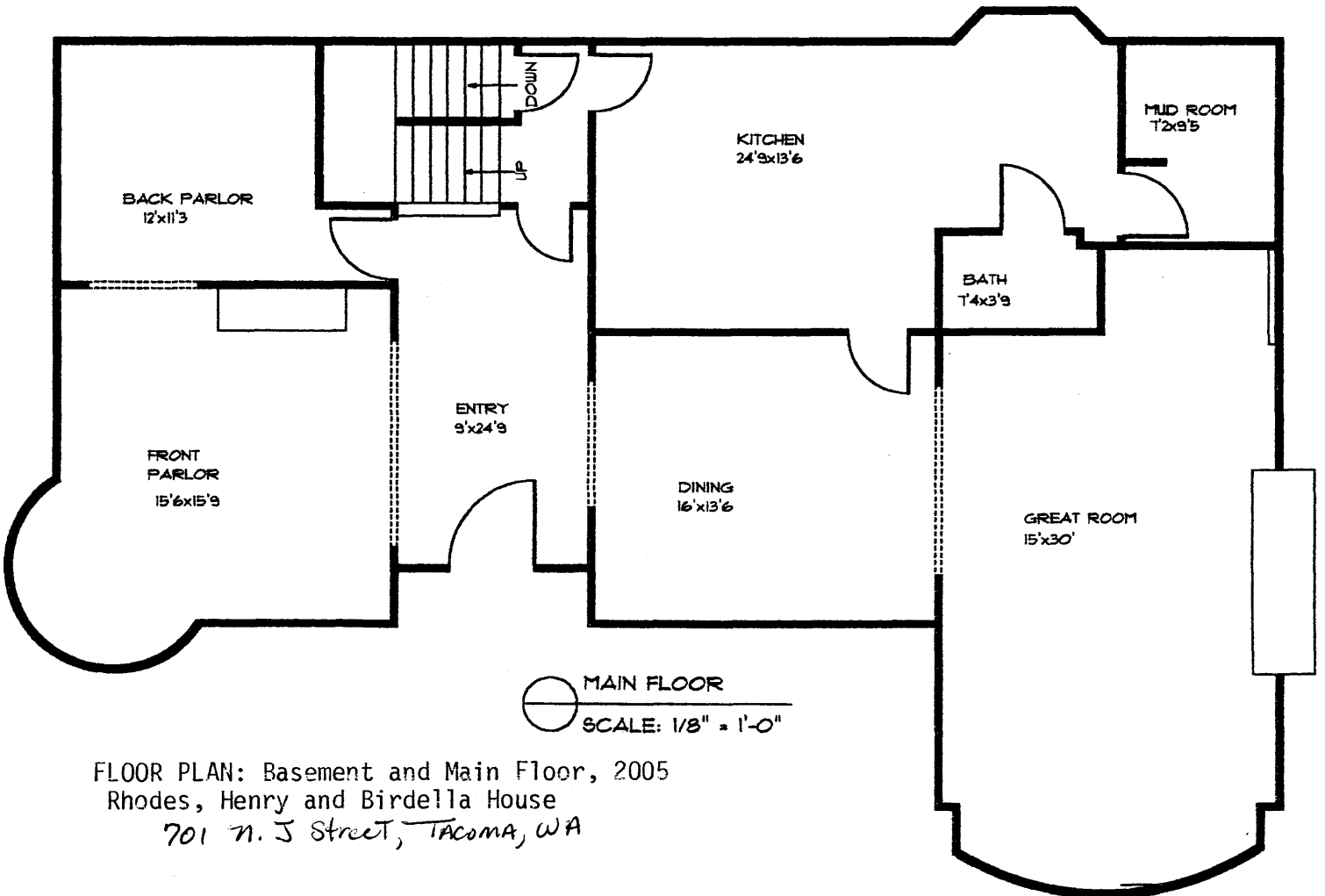
1907



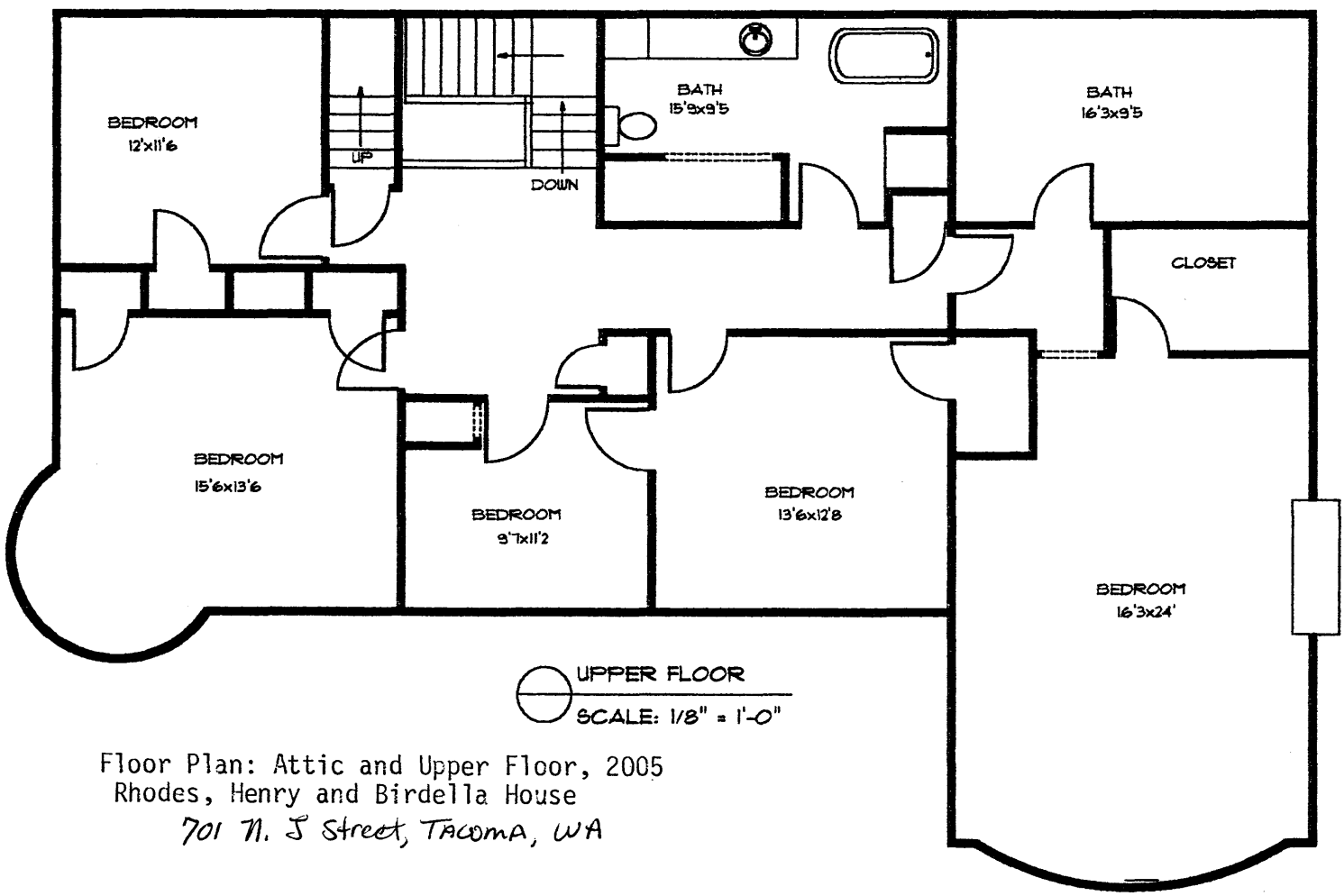
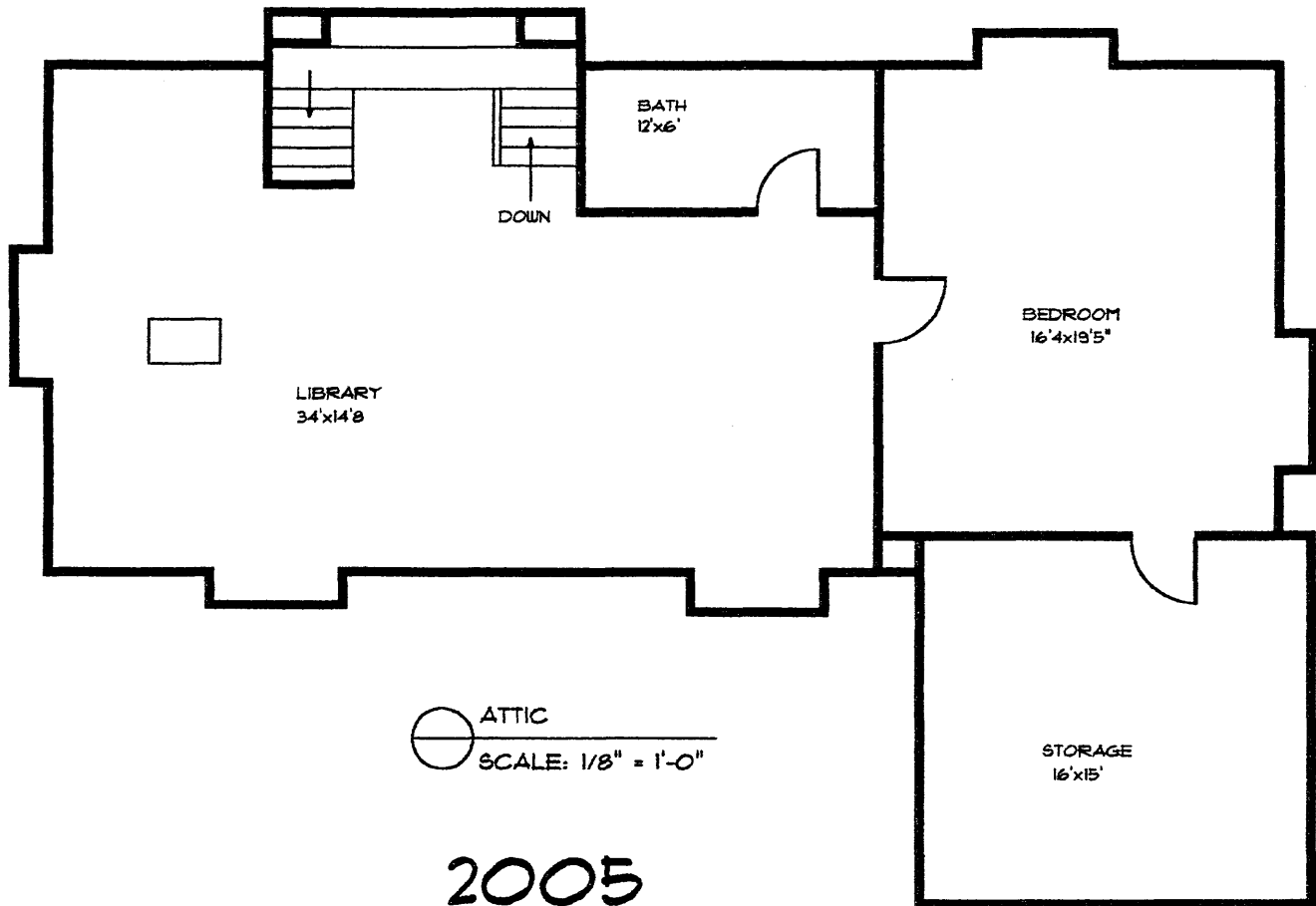
Floor plan: Attic and Upper Floor, 1907
Rhodes, Henry and Birdella House
701 N. J Street, Tacoma, WA



2005

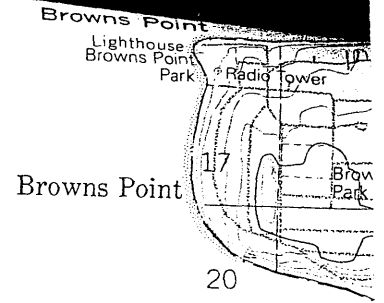


FLOOR PLAN: Basement and Main Floor, 2005
 Rhodes, Henry and Birdella House
 701 N. J Street, Tacoma, WA



Floor Plan: Attic and Upper Floor, 2005
 Rhodes, Henry and Birdella House
 701 N. J Street, Tacoma, WA

Rhodes, Henry abd Birdella House
701 N. J Street, Tacoma, WA



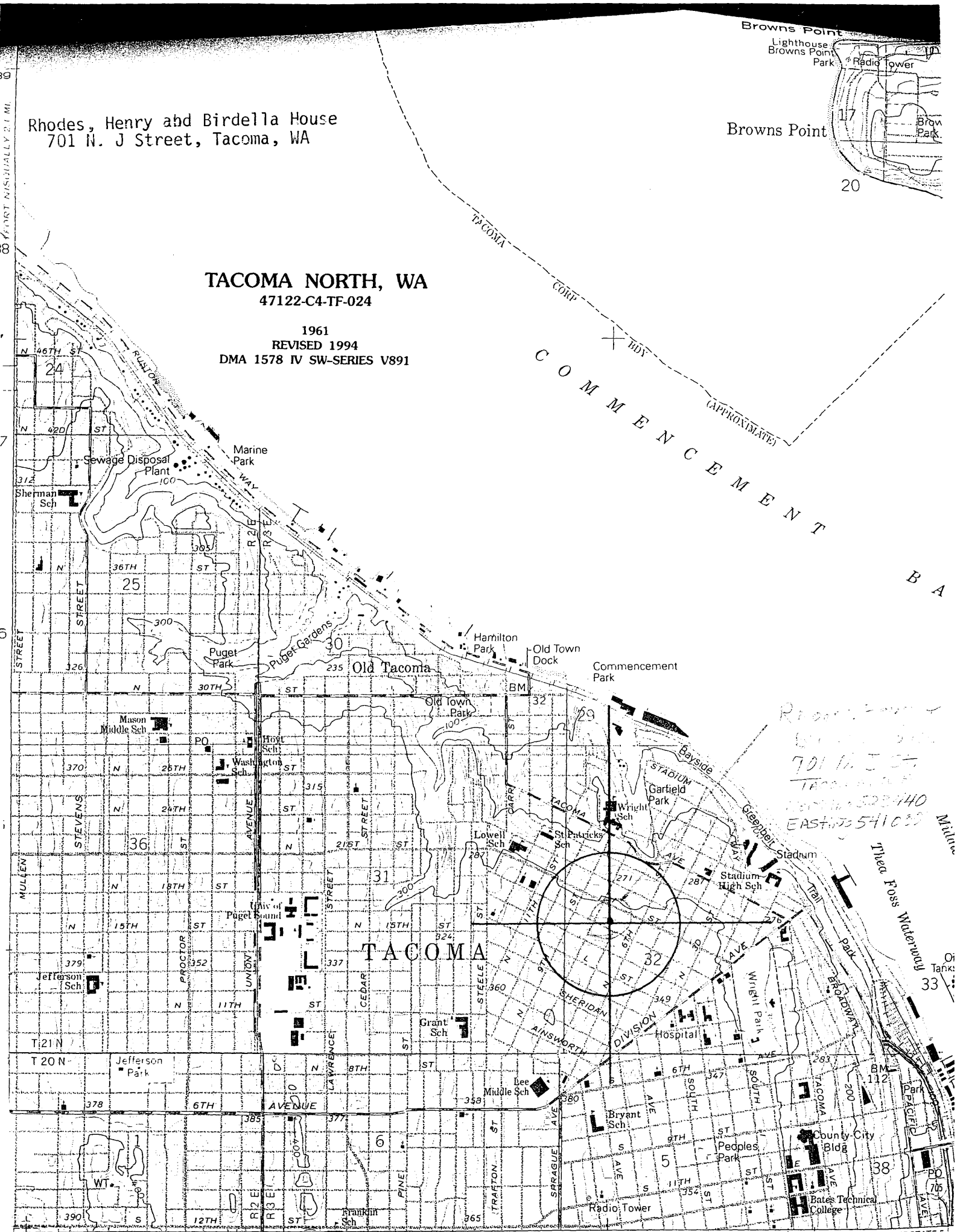
TACOMA NORTH, WA

47122-C4-TF-024

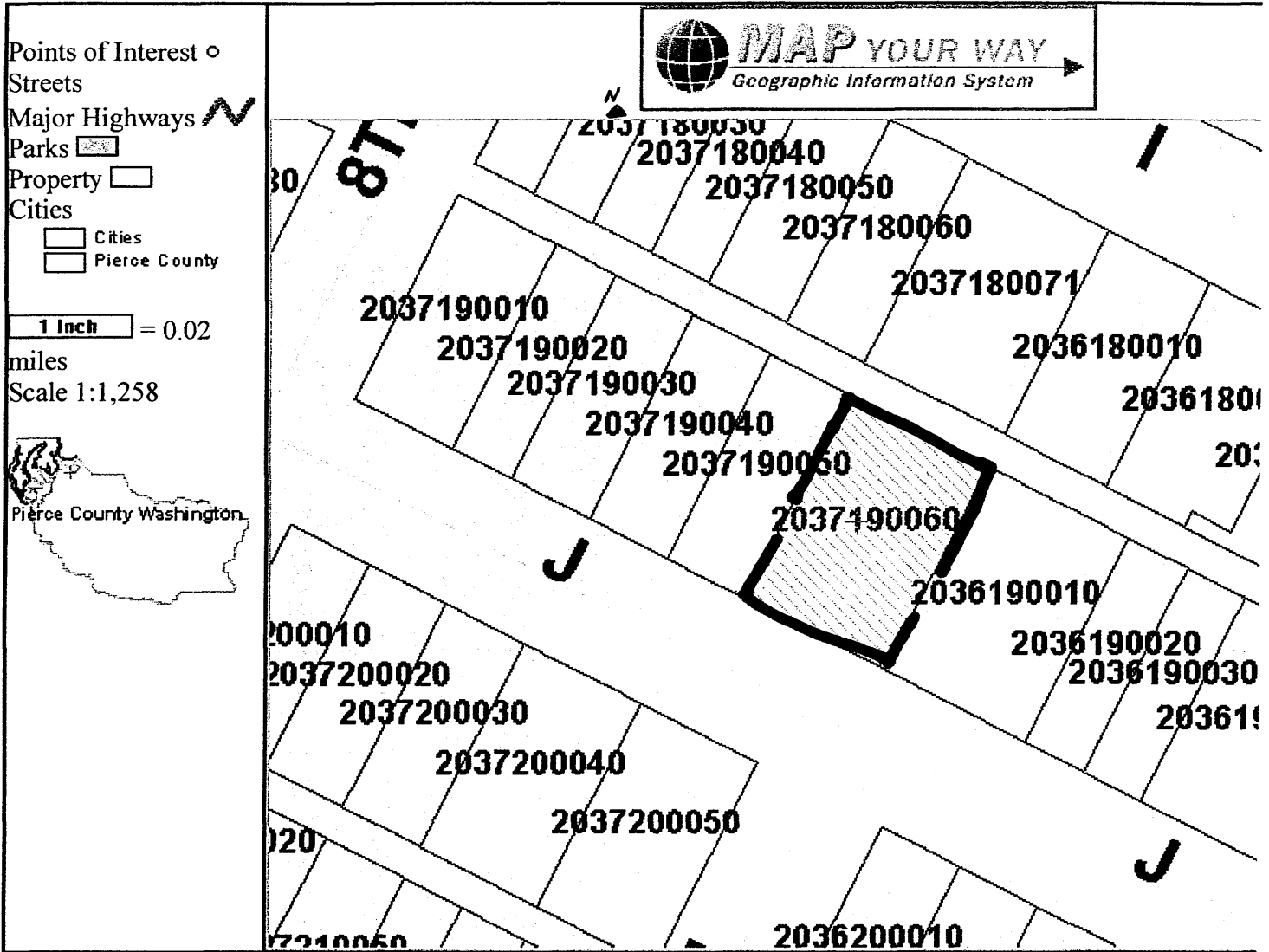
1961
REVISED 1994
DMA 1578 IV SW-SERIES V891

COMMENCEMENT

BA



701 N. J Street
TACOMA, WA
509-528-4140
EAST 73 541033



Tax Parcels Report

Range 3, Township 21, Section 32, Quarter SW

Identify results for Tax Parcels.

Tax Parcel	Acres	Land Value	Improvement Value	Land Use	More Information
2037190060	0.1492	120300	510900	SINGLE FAMILY DWELLING	More Assessor-Treasurer Information

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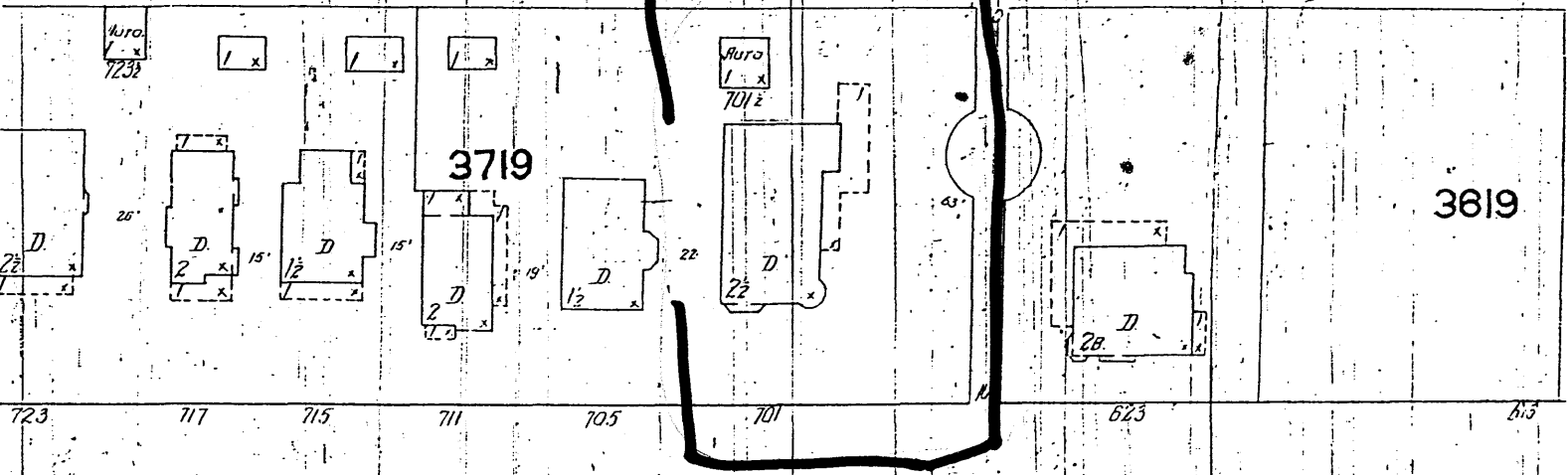
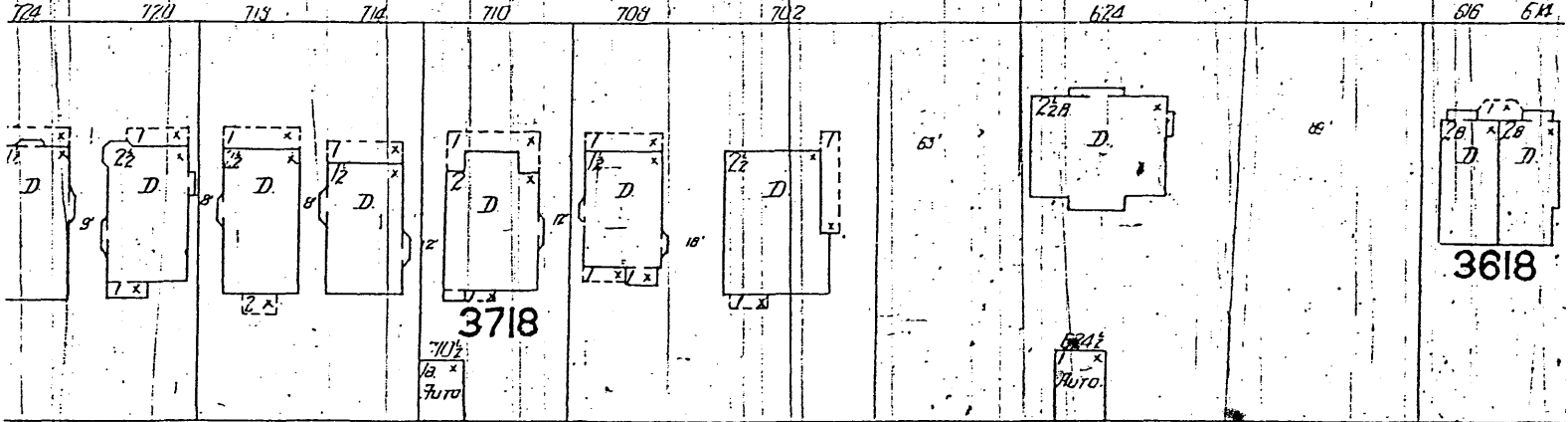
Rhodes, Henry & Birdella House
701 N. J Street, Tacoma, WA

SANBORN MAP 1912

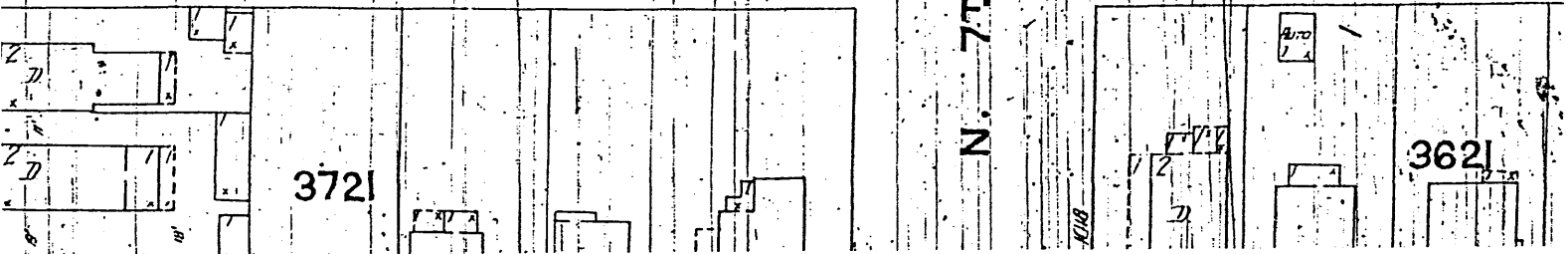
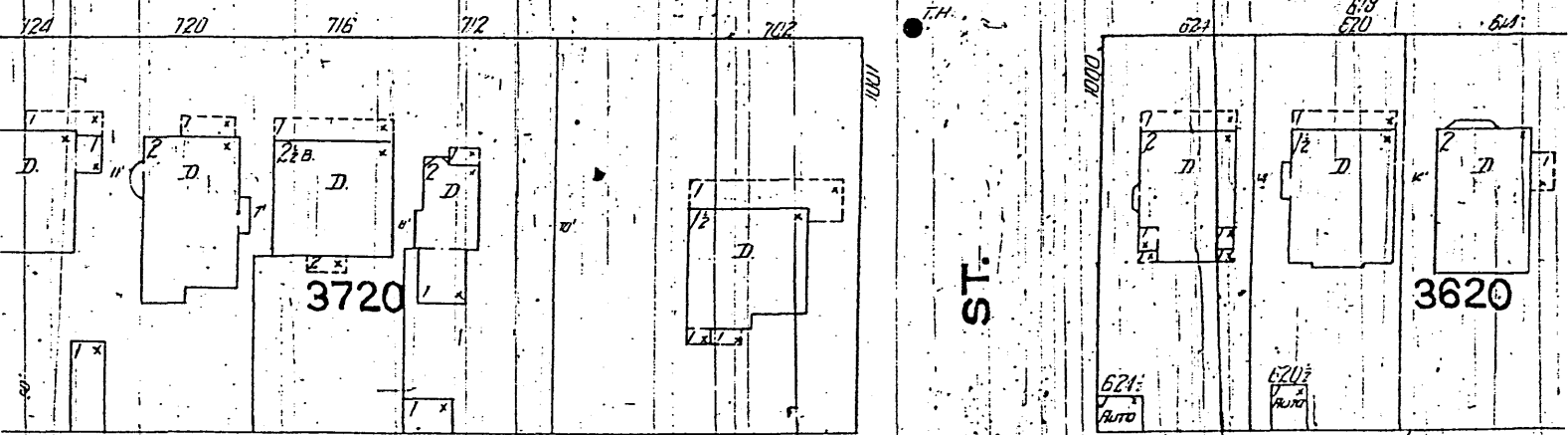
Sanborn Map, 1912, Tacoma, WA

NORTH I ST.

Rhodes, Henry & Birdella House
701 N. J Street, Tacoma, WA



ORTH J ST.



N. 7TH ST.

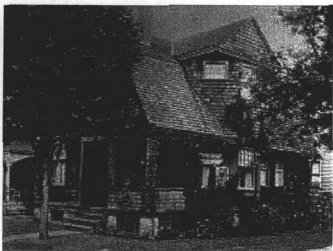
Shingle Style examples by Ambrose J. Russell in Tacoma



Smith-Stewart House
4305 N 42nd St.
Built 1892



Sheard House
421 N. Yakima
Built 1898



Russell House
1224 N 4th St.
Built 1896



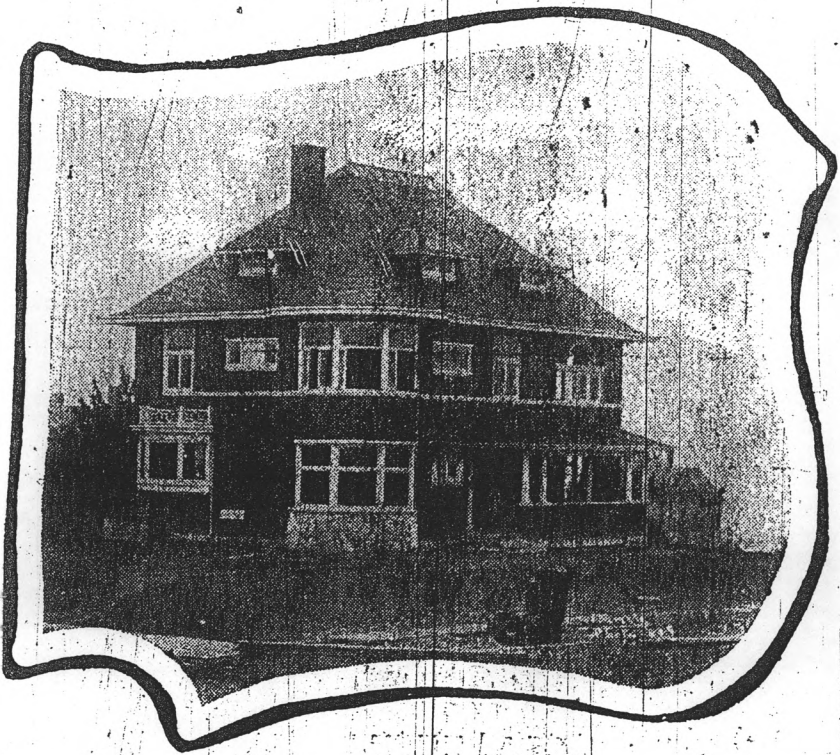
Albertson House
823 N I St.
Built 1896



Murray House
402 N Sheraton St.
Built 1901



Stevens House
801 N Yakima St.
Built 1902



Residence of Henry A. Rhodes, 716 North J Street.

Spalding, Russell & Heath, architects, 422 California Bldg. Photo by French.
Lumbering by Thomas Hurley, 1133 Commerce street. Russell & Erwin Mfg. Co.'s
hardware furnished by Henry Mohr, 1153 Pacific avenue. Galvanized iron work
by E. Miller Cornice and Roofing Co., 1114 Commerce street.
This house is piped for gas lights and gas range.

Tacoma Daily Ledger, 11/24/1901, p.19

Rhodes, Henry & Birdella House
701 N. J Street, Tacoma, WA



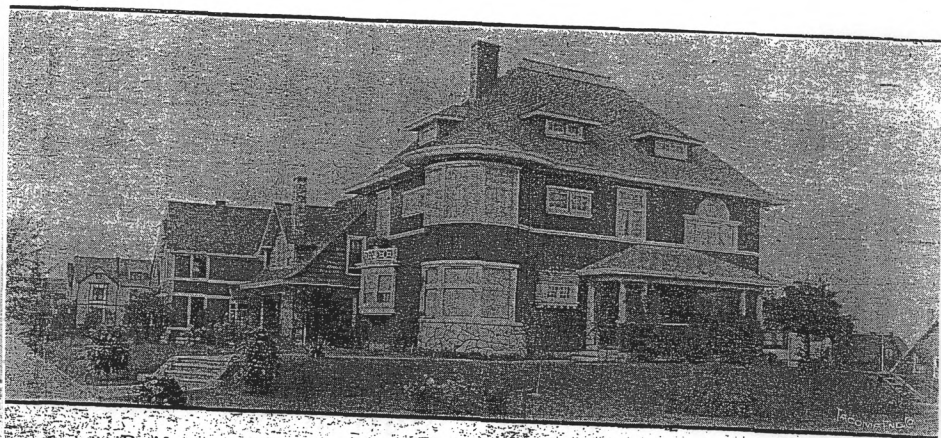
RESIDENCE OF H. A. RHODES

Russell & Babcock, Architects

TPC 21007

Architectural Souvenir, Russell & Babcock
Delisle & Milliken, c.1906, np

Rhodes, Henry & Birdella House
701 N. J Street, Tacoma, WA



Residence of H. A. Rhodes, a Prominent Merchant, at Seventh and J Streets.

Residence of H. A. Rhodes
Tacoma Daily Ledger, Chamber of Commerce Edition
1906, pg 14

Rhodes, Henry & Birdella House
701 N. J Street, Tacoma, WA

vs of Building, I

HENRY A. RHODES' RESIDENCE.



Tacoma Daily Ledger, 07/21/07, p. 15

Rhodes, Henry & Birdella House
701 N. J Street, Tacoma, WA

At an expense of several thousand dollars, the residence of Henry A. Rhodes at North Seventh and J streets has been completely remodeled. The house and the grounds surrounding the house are now among the most beautiful to be found in Tacoma. The interior finish of the house is extremely artistic, while broad verandas, large bay windows and artistic architectural effects make the exterior especially attractive. Frederick Heath, the architect, designed plans for the remodeling of the house. Mr. Rhodes is a member of the well-known firm of Rhodes Brothers.



Asahel Curtis photograph of Rainier Park Company President Henry Rhodes (front), Mount Rainier National Park Superintendent O.A. Tomlinson (middle), and National Park Service Director Stephen Mather (right), against a backdrop of Mount Rainier, 1928.

(Photo courtesy of the Washington State Historical Society, Tacoma, Washington)

Rhodes, Henry & Birdella House
701 N. J Street, Tacoma, WA

**rhodes
es Here**

At Age of 91

**Pioneer Merchant
and Civic Leader
Played Active Part
in City Development**

Henry A. Rhodes, 91, pioneer Tacoma merchant and civic leader, died at his home Tuesday following a brief illness.

Born in Trempealeau County, Wisconsin, where he received his education and embarked on his first business venture, he came to Tacoma in 1892. In this year he founded a tea and coffee business which, was subsequently expanded into the department store later destined to become a Tacoma landmark. Associated with him in the original venture were his brothers Will and Albert, both now deceased, who later achieved notable retail successes in Seattle.

Henry Rhodes was active in the department store until 1925, when the business was sold. Following his retirement from the retail business he acquired real estate properties and was active in their operation until the time of his death.

From his earliest years of business activity Mr. Rhodes took a keen interest in civic affairs. He was among the first directors of the Tacoma Chamber of Commerce and later served as its president. In 1909 he headed the charter revision committee which gave the city its commission form of government.

Headed Winthrop Hotel
His name is linked with many business and community enterprises which have figured in the city's development. He played a prominent part in the campaign to bring to Tacoma a new hotel and in 1924 was elected president of the Citizens Hotel Corporation. Following a reorganization of the company he continued until 1941 to direct hotel affairs as president of the Hotel Winthrop Corporation. A charter subscriber of the Western Washington Fair Association, he continued his interest in this enterprise throughout his active life.

During World War I he organized the Tacoma Shipping Board Company which completed several large wooden vessels for the U.S. Shipping Board. Over a period of many years, much of his time was devoted to the affairs of the Rainier National Park Company. Following his retirement from the presidency of this company in 1931, he continued on the board of directors until the time of his death.

Director of Reserve Bank
Well known in financial and banking circles along the Pacific Coast, he served a number of terms on the board of directors of the Federal Reserve Bank for the Twelfth District. Evidence of his interest in the American Legion is the Edward B. Rhodes Memorial Building erected in memory of his son, Edward, who was killed in action in 1918.

Mr. Rhodes was a member of the University-Union Club, Tacoma Country and Golf Club and the Chamber of Commerce. Surviving are his wife, Pearl W. Rhodes, of the home in the Ansonia Apartments, and her daughter, Mrs. Leo Bagley of Tacoma's daughter, Mrs. Audley



Death Claims Pioneer — A resident of Tacoma for 22 years, Henry A. Rhodes, founder of Rhodes Bros. department store, civic leader and Tacoma booster, died at his home Tuesday at the age of 91.

**H. A. Rhodes
Stricken Here**

(Continued From Page One)

Tacoma, Vera L. Fraser of New York City and Mrs. Elizabeth Kennedy of Palo Alto, Calif.; three great-grandchildren, Edward Skewis Browne, Macaline Browne and Audsley Bridges, all of Tacoma; a sister, Mary Constock of Galesville, Wis., a brother, Charles W. Rhodes of Menlo Park, Calif.; and, among many nephews and nieces, five in the Puget Sound area, Mrs. John Mueller and Mrs. Reymaldine Halday of Tacoma and William Rhodes, Mrs. Aubrey Wilton and Mrs. Frank Dain of Seattle.

Funeral services will be held Friday at 1 p.m. at the Buckley-King Mortuary. Burial services will be private.

Tacoma News Tribune
10/20/54

Rhodes, Henry & Birdella House
701 N. J Street, Tacoma, WA