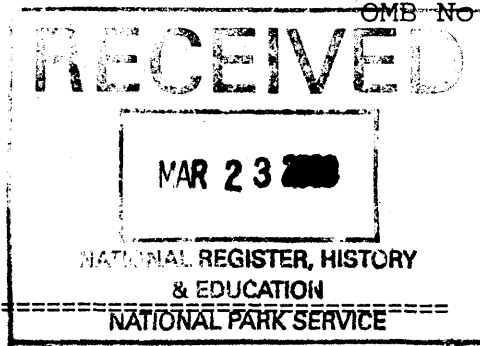


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM



405

1. Name of Property

historic name Tacoma Mausoleum
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 5302 South Junett St. N/A not for publication
city or town Tacoma N/A vicinity
state Washington code WA county Pierce code 053
zip code 98409

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.)

Allyson Paul 2/14/00
Signature of certifying official Date

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 Edson H. Beall 4.21.00
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):

Bob Signature of Keeper Date of Action

=====

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

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u> 2 </u>	<u> </u> buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
<u> 2 </u>	<u> </u> Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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

 NA

=====

6. Function or Use

=====

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Funerary Sub: Mausoleum

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Funerary Sub: Mausoleum

=====

7. Description

=====

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

 Classical Revival

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete

roof asphalt

walls concrete, finished in brick, in places

 concrete masonry unit

other Glass

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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8. Statement of Significance
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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.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture
Social History

Period of Significance 1910- 1925
1930-1950

Significant Dates 1910
1930

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation Euro-American

Architect/Builder George Gove, Building A, 1910
Silas Nelsen, Building B, 1930

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

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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(on 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: Tacoma Historic Preservation Office

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10. Geographical Data

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Acres of Property Less than one acre

UTM References

Zone Easting	Zone Northing
1 10 539810	5228325

Verbal Boundary Description (on continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (on continuation sheet.)

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11. Form Prepared By

=====

name/title Joseph P. Pavia

organization Consultant date 12/15/1999

street & number 1215 1/2 N Anderson St. telephone 253.759.7220

city or town Tacoma state WA zip code 99406

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Additional Documentation

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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.

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Property Owner

=====

name Larry Gaffney

street & number 1002 S Yakima Ae telephone _____

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CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 1 Tacoma Mausoleum Pierce County, Washington

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Narrative Description of property

The Tacoma Mausoleum is a complex of two buildings located adjacent to Oakwood Cemetery in the South Tacoma district of Tacoma, Washington. Immediately north of the mausoleum are Oakwood Cemetery, approximately twelve acres in size, and the Tacoma Cemetery, approximately seventy acres in size. The trees in both cemeteries are primarily old growth Douglas fir and Oregon oak, with grass ground cover and some ornamental shrubbery. The homes in the adjacent residential areas are predominantly cottages and bungalows built between 1906 and 1915, although several more recent houses have been added. A gravel parking lot, approximately one-quarter acre in size, serves the mausoleum across from the newer building and office, bordering South 53rd Street.

Designed by prominent Northwest architects George Gove and Silas Nelsen, the mausoleum is built completely of reinforced concrete, with brick and concrete block facing. Since its dedication in 1910, it has served as a beautiful and fitting tribute to those buried inside.

The two buildings making up the Tacoma Mausoleum are unnamed. For the purposes of description, they will be referred to as Building A and Building B (see sketch map). Each of the buildings has seen successive additions. Therefore, they are described as:

Building A

- Unit A1 – built 1910
- Unit A2 - 1917
- Unit A3 - 1925

Building B

- Unit B1 -1930
- Unit B2 - 1948
- Unit B3 - 1956

Building A

This building contains the first three units of the mausoleum. The original building, designed by George Gove and constructed by Daniel and Ernest Cornell in 1910, features a rectangular plan of approximately 68 by 140 feet and makes up the entire western half of Building A. The second unit (Unit A2) was the first addition. Unit A2 was built in 1917, measures 50 by 215 feet and joins the first building's south side, creating a wing that extends easterly. The third unit (Unit A3) was built in 1925, filling the "L" shape formed by the previous two units, and making the entire building a rectangle 118 by 215 feet in size.

There are two porticoes the entrances to building A. The first is an important feature of the original building, which was designed by George Gove. Four Tuscan columns approximately twenty feet high and two Tuscan pilasters support this west portico. The entablature is plain, except for the inscription "TACOMA MAUSOLEUM". The stepped portico roof leads to a cornice.

Eight-foot high double fir doors give entry to the building and are framed in a recessed casing with a keystone on the lintel. A wrought iron grille covers a pair of transom windows above the double door. Curved niches five feet high are set into the wall on either side of the door, each framed with a sill and an arch and keystone and finished in colors that contrast with the white glazed tile finish of the exterior walls of building A1.

A curved concrete stairway with cast concrete railing leads from the sidewalk on South Alder Street up a 20-foot incline to the portico on building A1, which is the most prominent exterior feature on this side. A four-foot retaining wall runs south from the foot of the stairway to the gated entry to the property.

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Section 7 Page 2 Tacoma Mausoleum Pierce County, Washington

Surrounding the portico on building A1 is a shouldered architrave and parapet, with cast reliefs representing a drape ornamenting the upper corners, which are in turn topped with a small finial. A spiked finial stands at the peak of the parapet, supported by a three-stepped base. The roof of the first unit, as well as all the additions, is flat, with skylights running down the center to provide natural light to the interior. The roof material is asphalt.

The second unit of the mausoleum (A2) was constructed in 1918, joined to the south side of the first, and is 50 by 215 feet. Its west-facing facade features three 6-foot high stained glass keystone arch windows, with matching windows on its east façade. Corners of this wing are boxed out, with a small parapet at the roofline. The finish material of this addition matches the glazed white tile of the original building (A1), and is the last use of this finish material on the buildings.

The north and south walls of the first mortuary building and addition (A1 & A2) consist of pressed and glazed brick, pilastered at 8-foot intervals. Extensive deterioration of the glazed surface over the years led to its covering by tan paint, though some of the glazed finish is still visible.

The third unit (A3), designed by Silas Nelson, and constructed in 1926, completes the first building, is added to the north and rear of the original building and joins the long axis of building A2. The finish material of unit A3 is a light tan brick, though the pilasters are continued in the same style and interval as found on unit A1.

Unit A3 currently provides the main entrance to Building A, due to its proximity to the parking lot and to the entry to building B. The entry is marked by the eastern portico, which has a twelve foot high concrete roof, supported by two buttressed square posts and two Tuscan columns. The cantilevered roof extends another ten feet beyond the columns to provide a covering to the driveway. Nine trapezoidal finials ornament the corners and center of the portico roof, with flat arched windows flanking eight-foot fir double doors. Tan painted brick facing covers the exterior, with an ornamental parapet of approximately five feet surmounting the wall above the porch roof the front roofline. This parapet bears a second identification sign: TACOMA MAUSOLEUM. Unit A3 measures approximately 68 by 75 feet.

The interior of Building A is oriented from west to east, with four hallways running the length of the building. There are also three intersecting hallways, two at each end of the first and third units, and a central hallway leading to the second unit (see sketch map). The crypts are covered in Vermont marble, and are stacked six rows high. Marble shelving at each crypt provides an area to place flowers and mementos.

Units A1 and A3 feature twenty family apartments of eighteen crypts each. The apartments in unit A1 are separated with marble partitions connected across the front with chains, while the apartments in unit A3 use marble posts with chains attached to the crypt wall separating the apartments.

The roof of Building A is flat, punctuated with skylights to provide natural light for the interior. The skylights in unit A1 are peaked, running down the center of each hallway, while those in A2 and A3 are raised. Unit A2 skylights contain one three-paned clear glass window in a rectangular frame, while unit A3 has four six-paned textured glass windows and one eight-paned stained glass window on each end of the hallway.

The floors of the hallways are finished in white octagonal ceramic tile, with gray striping to define areas such as the floor in front of the family crypt apartments.

Unit A1 has a crypt containing documents that was sealed in 1910 and designated to remain sealed until the year 2910.

BUILDING B

Building B, designed by Silas Nelsen, is located immediately to the northeast of Building A3. Building B contains the three most recent units/construction phases of the Tacoma Mausoleum: Unit B1, built 1930; Unit B2, built 1948; and Unit B3 built in 1956. The plans by Silas Nelsen included each of these increments, which,

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Section 7 Page 3 Tacoma Mausoleum Pierce County, Washington

now that they have been constructed, differ from each other in fenestration, interior finish materials, and colors, showing an evolution of styles. The exterior changes from the classic elements similar to those found on Building A to a simplified Art Deco style punctuated with shadow lines and rectangular glass block windows. The exterior finish ranges from plain stucco, divided by pilasters, to painted brick, to the latest addition in painted concrete block. The roof for the entire building is flat and it measures 140 by 300 feet. Inside, hallways are oriented south to north.

The first of the two entrances to building B is adjacent to the East Portico of Building A. This portico is also supported by Tuscan columns, one on each of the four corners, and is topped by finials. The entry here is also via eight-foot high fir doors flanked by textured glass sidelights with x-shaped muntins.

The second entry is at the southern end of building B2. It is by means of double steel and glass doors flanked by double rows of glass blocks. A glass block window approximately seven feet high and matching the doors and flanking windows in width occupies the second floor immediately above this entry and provides light to the Mausoleum office.

The north and south exterior walls each feature three stained glass semicircular arched windows, with tan colored brick covering the exterior. The west exterior wall is plain stucco, partitioned with seven pilasters. The windows have suffered some deterioration, while the walls are in excellent condition. The size of Unit B1 is 100 by 140 feet.

The fifth mausoleum unit (B2), built in 1948, extends eastward from the fourth (B1), and is approximately 100 by 160 feet. The design for Unit B2 migrates into a simple Art Deco style featuring concrete block exterior walls, with a large mullioned frosted block glass bay windows at the north end. The second entry is at the southern end of building B2. It has two steel and glass doors flanked by double rows of glass block. A glass block window approximately seven feet high and matching the width of the doors and flanking windows occupies the second floor immediately above this entry and provides light to the Mausoleum office.

The interior of Building B reflects differing styles in accord with the time of each unit's construction. Unit B1 is similar to Building A, with three hallways running northward. Stained glass arched windows are located at the end of each hallway. The crypts are faced in Alaskan marble and are six levels high. There are no apartment arrangements as those found in Building A.

Unit B2 departs from the classically based dimensions of B1. The floor is recessed to create a larger and more spacious interior. The central hall is an atrium, with a second level or mezzanine accessed by a winding stairway. Two catwalks or bridges connect the opposite sides of the mezzanine. A large window of textured glass block and there divided light skylights along the ceiling provide natural light, while the ceiling is covered with translucent plastic panels, through which shines colored fluorescent light.

The crypts in Unit B2 are faced in Italian marble, which is softer and warmer in appearance than the white, streaked with black, used in the previously constructed units.

Unit B3 extends eastward from B2 approximately fifty feet, containing the crematorium and refrigeration rooms as well as additional crypts. The unit has two hallways each with a mezzanine. The railing for the mezzanine in units B2 and B3 is burnished aluminum. A peaked skylight runs down the center of the roof, and is covered with fiberglass roofing. A large bay window of clear glass on the east wall provides additional natural light.

The flooring of Units B2 and B3 depart from the octagonal ceramic tile of unit B1. In these last two units square linoleum tile is used for flooring.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 1 Tacoma Mausoleum Pierce County, Washington

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SIGNIFICANCE

The Tacoma Mausoleum was the first building of its kind on the Pacific Coast, serving as a model for other such buildings throughout the West. It also serves as a fine early example of reinforced concrete construction. Built in 1910, it typified the Progressive Era's belief in the improvement of human institutions, including the goal of replacement of earth burial with above-ground interment. It also reflects the faith of the leaders of Tacoma, who believed that their city, then a major industrial center, would remain preeminent on the Northwest coast. Enlarged over several decades, it currently holds the remains of approximately 3,000 of Tacoma's citizens. The buildings were designed by two prominent Northwest architects, George Gove and Silas Nelsen, and constructed by Daniel and Ernest Cornell, contractors for many fine local buildings.

The area in which the Tacoma Mausoleum is located was known historically as Hunt's Prairie. Located approximately four miles south of the Tacoma town site, this locale was used for centuries by the Nisqually people as a hunting ground. The Hudson's Bay Company later used the land in the 1830's and 1840's for the grazing of cattle and sheep for use at nearby Fort Nisqually.

The Northern Pacific purchased a large part of the prairie in 1873 to lay its rail line from Tacoma southward to the Columbia River at Kalama. With the exception of the prairie line and a few dairy farms, Hunt's Prairie remained unoccupied until 1890, when the railroad located its repair shops there. The newly arriving workers settled the area and established the town of Edison in 1891. The City of Tacoma annexed the town four years later. A year after Northern Pacific RR Co. constructed the prairie line, it donated approximately twelve acres for use as a cemetery for the community. This cemetery is the oldest in the City of Tacoma. In 1881, the Tacoma Land Company, the real estate agent for the railroad, donated another seventy acres immediately north of Oakwood, which became Tacoma Cemetery. The location of these cemeteries provided a logical site for the Tacoma Mausoleum.

Criterion A

The Community Mausoleum Movement

Mausoleums are above ground facilities used for burial of human remains. Community mausoleums did not exist prior to 1900, though their use by private families dates to ancient times.

The opening of the Tacoma Mausoleum in 1910 represented a new trend in American mortuary practices. The founders were influenced by the Progressive movement, with its underlying belief in the reform and perfection of human institutions through developments such as the prohibition of alcohol, and new inventions such as airplanes and the generation and use of electricity.

In an advertisement in the *Tacoma Daily Ledger* of February 26, 1911, the Tacoma Mausoleum Association outlined the principles behind the mausoleum movement.

While this mode of burial is comparatively new to this age, it seems to have a place and part in the great general wave of reform and progression that is now sweeping the world, and is but an outward desire for a more sanitary, humane, and permanent way of caring for the dead than earth burial ever has or can afford.

The article also explained the genesis of the movement. The concept of a community mausoleum was developed by W.I. Hood, a salesman from Chicago, who patented his idea and created the International Mausoleum Association in 1904. The association organized and worked with local boards of trustees to construct and operate the buildings, with the first mausoleum opening in Ganges, Ohio in 1908.

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Section 8 Page 2 Tacoma Mausoleum Pierce County, Washington

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It was through this mausoleum association that the Tacoma Mausoleum Association was organized in 1909, the officers including undertaker Conrad Holka, contractor Ernest Cornell, meatpacker Thomas Carstens, attorney Fredrick Murray, grocer Allen Love, and furniture maker George Dickson.

The groups of men comprising this local Mausoleum association have faith in Tacoma and were convinced that this modern and up-to-date method should be here represented. This prompted them to lend it their influence and support, which has resulted in giving Tacoma the distinction of having the largest and most beautiful Mausoleum west of the Mississippi divide.

An endowment of \$10,000 was established, the interest from which paid for grounds maintenance. Individual crypts sold for \$150 each, with the purchaser becoming a member of the Association.

The Tacoma Mausoleum was dedicated in July 1910. A newspaper article printed shortly afterward expressed the interest in the new building. "The Tacoma Mausoleum in Oakwood Cemetery which was recently dedicated, is already providing one of Tacoma's great points of interest. It is visited by scores of people each day who express their surprise at its magnitude and beauty."

An article in the *Tacoma Daily Ledger* about a year later reflected an even greater interest in the mausoleum beyond Tacoma.

The February (1911) number of *The Concrete Age*, a monthly magazine, contains a large size cut of the Tacoma Mausoleum, accompanied by an article explaining the building and its construction in detail... It sees in the community mausoleum plan a new field for the use of reinforced concrete, which it predicts in time will supersede all other methods of caring for the dead.

The same article also noted the fact that "many eastern papers...made mention of the Tacoma Mausoleum, noting in particular the dedicatory service and the sealing of a crypt containing historical matter for a thousand years, this seeming to be considered something of more than ordinary unusualness".

Criterion C

The Tacoma Mausoleum

An article in the *Tacoma Daily Ledger* of September 19, 1909 announced the construction of the Tacoma Mausoleum "Work Begins at Once" was the headline.

The building will be the first of its kind on the Pacific coast, and is designed to be a model for many others the National Mausoleum company contemplates building in California, Oregon, and Washington in the near future.... The Tacoma building will be the first of its type to be erected on the coast, and will contain several features that are practically unique in the United States.

The article listed several advantages of the mausoleum.

The first of these... is freedom from dampness. No underground burial, it is contended, can secure this great consideration.... In the mausoleum such a state of affairs can never exist. The circumstances that attend dampness are forever eliminated.

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Section 8 Page 3 Tacoma Mausoleum Pierce County, Washington

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Another advantage cited was the security of the remains entombed inside.

The practice of robbing graves to secure material for the dissecting table is...increasing rather than decreasing.... Each casket will occupy its own compartment which will be closed with a wall of solid concrete four inches thick and harder than flint.... There will be absolutely no possibility of the desecration of the dead.

A third advantage was the building's permanence. Comparing the mausoleum to the Pantheon of Rome, the story stated that "the materialize used there was identically the same as that to be used here, and the passing of a thousand years will see no change in the mausoleum, except to render its walls harder and stronger". Lastly, the mausoleum association expected the building to provide "a simple yet effective method of prevention of the obnoxious decay that takes place in the ground.

The Architects

The Tacoma Mausoleum Association announced that "George Gove, a Tacoma architect, has drawn plans for (the mausoleum), his design,... being of a classical nature, highly in keeping with the character of its surroundings". The trustees selected George Gove to design the mausoleum. The mausoleum was among Gove's first commissions. Born in Rochester, Minnesota in 1869, Gove studied in Paris before coming to Tacoma in 1908, becoming partners with Fredrick Heath and Herbert Bell. Already well established, Heath was best known for his design to convert the burnt out shell of the chatequesque Tourist Hotel into a modern high school building, and designing the Tacoma Stadium, the first concrete facility of its type west of the Mississippi River. Together, Heath and Gove designed many of the landmark buildings Tacoma enjoys today, including the Key Bank (National Realty) building (1912), which stood 17 stories and was the tallest building west of the Mississippi at that time.

The mausoleum's classical design was typical of Gove's orientation toward ostentation in public buildings. His designs for the Tacoma School district built before World War I made great use of brick and rusticated stone, emphasizing the importance of the structure, be it the Roman appearance of the mausoleum, or the Gothic image of Lincoln High School (1913) and the Central School Administration building (1912). Gove personally designed the buildings at Western State Hospital at Steilacoom (1923-25), the Northern State Hospital at Sedro-Wolley (1925), and the Lutheran Home at Puyallup (date unknown)

Gove was a founder of the Tacoma Society of Architects in 1914, and received a citation for his work from the American Institute of Architects in 1949. Upon his death in 1956, the *Tacoma News Tribune* noted: "there are many to cherish the memory of George Gove, but in particular will be the many architects who as younger men who had the benefit of his wise counsel and the inspiration that comes through association with an acknowledged expert in his field."

Silas Nelsen, the mausoleum's later architect, was a protégé of Gove, and entered into practice in 1917 at the age of 18. Opening a solo practice, Nelsen designed the main and regional branches of the Tacoma Public Library (1927-1952). Nelsen's buildings tended to reflect the prevailing style of the period. His first buildings varied from classical to colonial, while later works had a distinctly modern flavor. His buildings styles range from the scholastic Gothic of the University of Puget Sound in Tacoma (1923) to the International style Tacoma Public Utilities Building (1953).

Construction of the Tacoma Mausoleum was under the supervision of Daniel and Ernest Cornell. Earnest Cornell arrived in Tacoma in 1888, with his brother Daniel joining him a year later. Their contracting firm built the first Tacoma Elks building (1916), the first Presbyterian Church of Tacoma, (1925), and some of the buildings at Fort Lewis (1918-1919). Their best-known work was Thornewood, the palatial estate of Tacoma financier Chester Thorne (c. 1915)

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Section 9 Page 1 Tacoma Mausoleum Pierce County, Washington

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Bibliographical References

Tacoma Daily Ledger

September 19, 1909 "Mausoleum to be Built Here."

October 10, 1909 "New Tacoma Mausoleum to be Ready for Use within Next 30 days".

February 26, 1911 "Tacoma's Beautiful Time-Defying Mausoleum".

March 5, 1911, "Tacoma Mausoleum Attracts Attention".

June 4, 1911, Advertisement (Illustration).

February, 17, 1929, "New Units to Mausoleum are Planned".

Tacoma News Ledger

January 27, 1918, (Photo of addition under construction).

Pacific Builder and Engineering Magazine

September 25, 1909, p. 14 (Mausoleum by George Gove, Architect).

Tacoma News Tribune

April 5, 1940 (Obituary & Editorial, Daniel Cornell, includes reference to Ernest Cornell)

September 1, 1956 (Obituary and Editorial, George Gove).

December, 4, 1977 (Article on Silas Nelsen)

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Section 10 Page 1 Tacoma Mausoleum Pierce County, Washington

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at the south boundary of Oakwood Cemetery, the southwest corner of the cemetery, thence 110 feet west, then 70 feet north to the driveway on Alder Street, then follow easterly line of the driveway then southeasterly 83 feet to the south line of the cemetery then east along south line 171 feet to the beginning.

These lines are justified by the legal description associated with the property. These boundaries include the property containing the two mausoleum buildings and a storage shed, belonging to the Tacoma Mausoleum Association.

* NOTICE *

* * *

* The complete text from sections 3 (if applicable), 7, 8, and *
* the bibliography from section 9 should be printed on contin- *
* uation sheets, of which this is a sample. Use the header *
* shown at the top of this page, filling in the name of the *
* property, county and State, and section number, and using *
* a running page number. When the property being documented *
* is part of a multiple property listing, use the alternative *
* header given below. *

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