

HISTORIC PROPERTY INVENTORY FORM

APR 4 1986

State of Washington
Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation
111 W. 21st Ave. KL-11
Olympia, WA 98504
(206) 753-5010

IDENTIFICATION SECTION

Site No.: _____
Site Name: Historic Fire Station No. 2
Common N.A.
Field Recorder: Mark Brack
Date Recorded: July 15, 1985
Owner's Name: City of Tacoma
Street: 747 Market Street
City/Town: Tacoma
County: Pierce
Zip Code: 98402

LOCATION SECTION

Street Number 2701 So. Tacoma Avenue
City/Town Tacoma Zip Code 98402
County Pierce Twp. N/A Range _____ Sect _____ 1/4 Sect _____
Tax No./Parcel No. 202711-001-0
UTM References Zone 10 Easting 542460 Northing 5231360
Tacoma South, WA.

Status:
National Register
State Register
Survey/Inventory
Determined Eligible
Other (NHL, HABS, HAER) Indicate

Classification _____ Date: _____
District _____
Site _____
Building _____
Structure _____
Object _____

Acreage: Less than one.
Legal boundary description: Sahm's Addition to New Tacoma, Block 2711, Lots 1-6 and those portions of lots 7 & 8 lying north westerly of Jefferson Avenue.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Photography Neg. No.: Roll 1, Neg. #10
(Roll No. + Frame No.)
View: North and west facades, facing SE
Date: August 1985

DESCRIPTION SECTION

Materials & Features/Structural Types:

Roof Material:
Wood Shingle
Asbestos/Asphalt Shingle
Slate
Tar
Metal (specify) _____
Other (specify) _____
Roof Type:
Gable
Flat
Monitor
Gambrel
Shed

Foundation:
Hip
Pyramid
Sawtooth
Other (specify) _____
Log
Post & Pier
Stone
Concrete
Block
Poured
Brick
Other (specify) _____

Style/Form: (Check one or more of the following)

Pioneer/Homestead
Greek Revival
Gothic Revival
Italianate
Second Empire
Stick/Eastlake
Queen Anne
Shingle Style
Richardsonian Romanesque
Chicago School/
Sullivanesque
Beau Arts Classicism
Princess Anne
Neo-Colonial
Dutch Colonial
Spanish Colonial
English Revival
Bungalow
Craftsman
American Foursquare/
Classic Box
Prairie Style
Art Deco/Moderne
Commercial Vernacular
Vernacular
Other (specify) _____

Cladding (Exterior Wall Surfaces):
Log
Horizontal Wood Siding { Rustic/Novelty
Clapboard
Wood Shingle { Split Shakes
Re-sawn
Machine Shingle

Height/No. of Stories:
One
One and one-half
Two
Two and one-half
Three
Other (specify) _____

Asbestos/Asphalt Shingle
Brick Masonry
Stone Masonry
Stucco
Terra Cotta
Carrara Glass
Vinyl/Aluminum Siding
Other (specify) Concrete

Integrity: (include detailed description in 'Additional Description' section)

Intact	Slight	Moderate	Excessive
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Changes to house plan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Changes to windows	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Changes to roof shape	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Changes to interior plan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (specify)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

NARRATIVE SECTION

Areas of Significance/Study Unit Themes: (check one or more of the following)

- | | | | |
|---|--|---|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture/Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Politics/Government/Law | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Arts | <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment/Recreation | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Ethnic Heritage (specify) _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Science & Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Health/Medicine | <input type="checkbox"/> Social Movements/Organizations | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community Planning/Development | <input type="checkbox"/> Manufacturing/Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Statement of Significance: (Reference names, dates, events, areas of significance/study unit themes)

Date of Construction: 1907, remodeled 1934-35 (Period of significance: 1907-1935)
 Architect/Builder: 1907: architect - Paul Bergfeld; contractors - Knoell Brothers. 1935: Architect - Silas E. Nelsen
 Historical Significance: Fire Station No. 2 is significant for its association with the development of Tacoma's vital municipal services, and the building itself provides an example of the unemployment relief projects created by government during the Great Depression. Such depression relief projects were labor intensive and aimed at reducing unemployment and stimulating the economy. The station is also an important local example of Depression-era fire station design.

Station No. 2 was first erected in 1907 as a two-story building. At the time of its construction, it was the largest station in the city, except for headquarters, and it serviced a large, fast growing area. In 1933, the State Emergency Relief Administration gave a grant-in-aid (No. C275) to the City of Tacoma to erect two fire stations. This was the second largest grant allotted to Pierce County projects during that year. A decision was made to remodel Station No. 2 rather than erect two completely new stations. The second story was removed, some new floors and walls were built of concrete, and the remaining brick walls were finished with a smooth cement stucco. The station was detailed with simple Art Deco style ornamentation, a frequent choice of Depression-relief projects. No. 2 is the only Tacoma station with a handball court - a popular feature of stations across the country.

Additional Description of Physical Appearance & Significant Architectural Features:

(Architectural significance; can include interior & site features; address integrity issues specifically) Fire Station No. 2 is located in a neighborhood of mixed commercial and residential properties. Most of the structures in the surrounding area were erected in the early 20th century; however, Tacoma Avenue experienced some commercial redevelopment in the 1960's. Station No. 2 is located on a sloping site which allows the concrete basement to be above grade on east elevation where it is equipped with large apparatus doors. The station is constructed of reinforced concrete, concrete block and brick, which is finished with cement stucco. The apparatus room is the most prominent element of the main (west) facade. It is slightly taller than the rest of the structure, which has a flat roof, and is surmounted by a hip roof with a large skylight. The three apparatus bays are separated by piers with shallow incised verticle bands. Similar piers delineate the other elevations. Slightly corbelled horizontal bands form a cornice which encircles the building. Other details include: a hose tower with attached chimney; double hung, 1/1, 4/4 and 6/6 wood-sash windows; a wooden balcony over the basement on the east elevation; a simple Art Deco cast-stone door surround on the main facade; and metal Art Deco lettering identifying the station and its year of construction.

Interior features include: a handball court on the basement level; wooden lockers, chair rails, door and window surrounds, and wainscoting; and 1935-era wood and glass apparatus doors on the basement level. Alterations include: the construction of new interior walls to separate the firefighters from the apparatus floor, the remodeling of the kitchen and bath facilities, and the removal of the original apparatus doors on the main facade.

Major Bibliographic References: (include books, periodicals, manuscripts, newspapers, legal documents, maps, photos, oral sources, etc.)

- Nelsen, Silas. Telephone interviews, July 1985, 9025 Harborview Drive N. Gig Harbor, WA 98335.
- Tacoma City Ordinance No. 3105, Sept. 1, 1907 (available at Tacoma City Clerk's Office)
- Tacoma Christian Endeavor Souvenir. Tacoma: Bell Press, July 1, 1907, p 22. (available at Washington State Historical Society Museum).
- Tacome Daily Ledger, June 9, 1907, p 17; August 11, 1907, p 16; December 29, 1907, p 22.
- Tacoma Fire Department Annual Report, 1907 (available at the Northwest Room, Tacoma Public Library).

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(Continuation Sheet)

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Site No.: _____

Site Name:

Historic
Common

Fire Station No. 2
N.A.

Additional Photographs: (include roll no. & frame no.; date; & view)

Continued Major Bibliographic References:

Tacoma News Tribune, August 9, 1935.

Talbot, Clyde and Decker, Ralph, 100 Years of Firefighting in the City of Destiny, Tacoma: Pyro Press, 1981.

Washington Relief Administration Files, Record Group 055, Boxes 7, 8, 9, 21 and 74 (available at Washington State Archives, Olympia, WA.)

Original 1934 Blueprints (available at the Buildings Division, City of Tacoma)