

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 01000429

Date Listed: 4/25/2001

Nisqually Power Station
Property Name

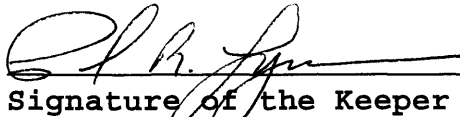
Pierce
County

WA
State

N/A

Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.


Signature of the Keeper

4/25/01
Date of Action

=====
Amended Items in Nomination:

Certification:

This is to confirm that the SHPO verifies that this *nomination* 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 the opinion of the WA SHPO, the property *meets* the National Register Criteria and is recommended for listing at the *local level* of significance. [The original nomination certification boxes were left unmarked.]

Location:

The code for Pierce County is: 053 [The nomination form should conform to the NR standards.]

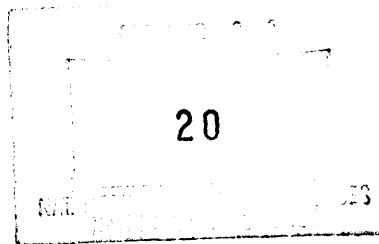
Verbal Boundary Justification:

The boundary justification is amended to refer to the historical extent of the power substation property within the city of Tacoma.. [No justification was provided with the original nomination.]

These revisions were confirmed with Greg G. of the WA SHPO office.

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)



**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).

429

1. Name of Property

historic name Nisqually Power Substation...

other names/site number Tacoma Substation & Storage House

2. Location

street & number 2416 South C Street (25th & C Street) not for publication
city or town Tacoma vicinity _____
state Washington code ____ county Pierce zip code 98402

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] 3/14/01
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

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form

Nisqually Power Substation

Pierce County, Washington

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

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u>Government</u>	Sub: <u>Public Works</u>
<u>Industry</u>	<u>Energy Facility</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u>Other</u>	Sub: <u>Under Rehabilitation</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Commercial Style with Craftsman Influences

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Reinforced Concrete/Stone masonry

roof Steel frame, wood T&G subroof, Raised seam galvanized metal

walls reinforced concrete-1st floor, unreinforced brick masonry main second floor

other _____

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

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.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Engineering

Period of Significance 1911 Significant Dates 1911

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above) _____

Cultural Affiliation _____

Architect/Builder Hamilton F. Gronen, Blows & Tuell Contractors

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

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form
Nisqually Power Substation
Pierce County, Washington

9. Major Bibliographical References

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 # HAER Inventory/Tacoma Union Depot Warehouse District, 1979

Primary Location of Additional Data

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: Tacoma Public Library, City of Tacoma Public Records

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than 1 acre

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone Easting	Northing	Zone Easting	Northing
1	<u>10 542670</u>	<u>5231660</u>	3	_____
2	_____	_____	4	_____

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

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Michael Sullivan/ Valerie Sivinski/ Jennifer Lovejoy
organization Artifacts-Consultants in Architectural Conservation date _____
street & number 1109 A Street, Suite 1 telephone (253) 572-4599
city or town Tacoma state WA zip code 98403

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form
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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

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Dale Chihuly .. contact:: Dale Chihuly/ Mary Killiman

street & number 1111 NW 50th Street telephone (206) 781-8707

city or town Seattle state WA zip code 98109

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 1 Narrative Description

name of property Nisqually Power Substation
county and State Pierce, Washington

The Nisqually Power Substation consists of two structures, the main transformer building and a much smaller storehouse with brick wall enclosed material yard connecting the companion buildings. The buildings and courtyard display a unified, common design that is imparted by the use of high quality materials including hard burned clinker brick and Wilkeson sandstone. The main building of the Nisqually Substation is a lofty, hipped roof, two-story structure that sits on the corner of 25th and C Streets. The building looms over much of the surrounding brick masonry neighborhood and reinforces its industrial heritage and robust character. Across 25th Street to the south, the main building faces the sprawling Pacific Brewing and Malting Company complex (NR 7/31/78) and is within 1 block of the Union Depot/Warehouse Historic District (NR 4/2/80). It is connected to the smaller one-story storehouse by an eight-foot brick wall that encloses the materials yard between the two buildings. The substation was designed by Hamilton F. Gronen, chief engineer for the City of Tacoma and built by the contractors, Blows and Tuell in 1911. The substation was finished on budget and ahead of schedule at a cost of \$103,000 for the building, plus \$80,000 to furnish the building with the needed equipment.

The original detailed drawings for the building ensemble have survived. On linen, drawn with infinite precision in India ink, the sixty-eight pages of drawings show each detail of the building group in its original design intent. They also serve as a remarkable statement to the durability of the original materials and provide a diary of the modifications and changes that have occurred during the structure's 90-year life.

The front elevation of the main building faces east onto South C St. The first story is open plan with a uniform pattern of reinforced concrete columns that carry the second floor. The main entrance to the building is centered on the east elevation. The first floor walls are constructed with reinforced concrete faced with Wilkeson sandstone set in a random ashlar arrangement. The sandstone base delineates the floor level between the ground level and the soaring transformer chamber on the level above. The second story is faced with dark red toned hard burned clinker brick laid in an English bond pattern with four rows of stretchers to every row of headers. The brick was obtained locally from the Goss Brick Company of Tacoma.

The large power building measures 170 feet by 66.5 feet in footprint. The windows of the structure follow a regular rhythm with square, deep set, six light casement windows around the ground floor placed in pairs on the east and west walls and in sets of three on the north and south. The windows are emphasized by wide, smooth sandstone sills, headers and vertical breaks against the rusticated stone facing. There are six pairs of windows on the daylight east side of the building, three flanking each side of the main entry. On the north end there are two sets of three lights with the southern sets partially in a well created by the rise of 25th Street. On the north wall facing into the courtyard there are three sets with a man door replacing one of the lights in the middle set. The western windows follow the pattern of the east elevation with four pairs set in wells. Overhead doors replace two pairs, one bay in from each end, and a man door interrupts the southernmost set.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 2 Narrative Description

name of property Nisqually Power Substation

county and State Pierce, Washington

On the dominant second floor level, very large openings and wood frame tilt windows light the bright open interior volume. The openings follow the pattern of the lower windows with seven openings on the east and west, two on the south and three on the north. The 11 foot 8 inch wide main windows that ring the east, north, and west elevations are 13 foot 4 inches in height and are divided by a timber cross member into six over six main lights and upper three light transoms. Above a corbelled belt course that rings the structure is a course of windows that copy the ground floor in size, shape and configuration. All of the upper story windows have wide sandstone sills and Douglas fir sash and frame.

The main building is capped with a low-hipped roof with a deep overhang that once featured beautiful metal scrolled eave brackets. The sheet metal brackets ringing the frieze have been lost to the elements but the wide soffit, flared eaves and pronounced eave overhang that give the building a Craftsman influence, remain intact. A rich dentil cornice survives just below the overhang along with the majority of the original sheet metal work and attachments. The overall profile of the building and roof is undiminished by the missing decorative elements, and the overall presence of the structure ideally reflects its purpose as an electrical powerhouse and a sturdy public utilities landmark.

The more diminutive storehouse mirrors the larger building, with a low-hipped roof of its own and a three-foot overhang. The roofing for the main building and storehouse was originally a special green tile that was imported from Europe. It has since been changed to a ridged sheet metal.

The storehouse has its main entrance on 24th Street. This elevation is symmetrical with double doors in the center and a large six light window above. There are two double hung, 6 over 6 windows on either side of the doors. The foundation of this building is Wilkeson sandstone with the upper section of the building in brick. The rear elevation of this building opens onto the courtyard through two single man doors. The interior of the storehouse has been divided into several offices and a set of restrooms dating from the 1970's. A suspended grid ceiling and lighting system has been installed below the original cement based plaster walls and ceiling.

The courtyard walls are approximately 8 feet tall from the C street entrance. There is an entrance in each wall halfway between the two buildings marked by two simple columns made of Wilkeson sandstone. A rusticated sandstone cap tops the walls. An decorative iron gate once protected this yard, today it is gone. The courtyard was paved with a smooth red brick, different in color and type than the brick used for the courtyard walls and the buildings.

The building is a distinct example of early twentieth century power station design though today there are no transformers, switch panels or electrical units left in the main operations chamber. The primary interior space in the building is the second story transformer chamber where the ceilings reached 36 feet to the bottom cord of the steel trusses. The expansive volume is uninterrupted by columns or partitions. The floor is concrete with three large wood floor cutouts for hoisting equipment from below with the gantry crane. The three foot thick brick walls are covered in

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Section 7 Page 2 Narrative Description

name of property	Nisqually Power Substation
county and State	Pierce, Washington

cement based plaster on the inside that refines indented arches that frame the main windows. Above the arches on the east and west walls are iron beam tracks for a 20-ton electric traveling gantry crane. White glaze tile wainscoting rings the main floor.

The original equipment installed by Blows and Tuell included the electric crane (which still exists in the space), oil pumps, transformers, generators and the switches that controlled the equipment. The wiring was contained in piping and conduits enclosed in the reinforced concrete columns and floors. This wiring reappeared at the switchboards for the various control areas. In the 1930's and again in the late 1950's, the City of Tacoma decentralized power transmission and transforming stations, reducing the size and scale of equipment in the Nisqually Station. A central stair that climbed from the ground floor entry into the main transformer room was removed and the floor section infilled with steel girder columns and timber decking. A single low section of tiled wall on the upper floor is all that remains.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

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Section 8 Page 1 Narrative Statement of Significance

name of property Nisqually Power Substation

county and State Pierce, Washington

The significance of the Nisqually Power Substation is based on its central role in the City of Tacoma's pioneering efforts as one the first cities in the country to construct, manage and deliver hydroelectric power through a publicly owned utility system. The building is also important as a remarkably intact early example of power station architecture as it evolved into large-scale public works forms later seen in municipal public works buildings, hydroelectric projects, and dams throughout the country.

The southern Puget Sound area, by virtue of its location in Washington State's unique geological environment, was a prime location for the development of hydroelectric power well before the massive Columbia River projects of the Federal government in the 1930's. Western Washington seemed, at the end of the 19th century, to have an inexhaustible supply of water and the plentiful river systems fed by Mt. Rainier and the Cascade Mountains presented a promising opportunity for dam construction and power generation. The Nisqually River hydroelectric dam and generating plant at La Grande, along with the transmission lines and central city substation, were put into service in 1912. The publicly funded and built system provided power to the entire city and became the first municipal effort in Washington State to harvest hydropower outside a recognized political jurisdiction.

The Nisqually substation building at the corner of 25th and C Streets was integral to the system and to Tacoma's pioneering efforts in the development of Washington State public utilities. Since its construction, the entire Pacific Northwest region has advanced in population and economic growth because of the ability to produce abundant, affordable power through hydroelectricity. The region has also realized that its policies and pattern of building hydroelectric systems over the last century is leaving a lasting effect on the environment and natural systems.

One of the first people to recognize the possibilities of the region was not a resident of the city. Charles Wright was a Philadelphian industrialist and the president of the transcontinental Northern Pacific Railroad. Wright also oversaw the Tacoma Land Company that directed the management of the vast property acquired as land grants by the NP, including most of the city of Tacoma. He was influential in the decision to put the terminus for the Northern Pacific Rail Road in Tacoma, an act that guaranteed the city's future growth. As a major stockholder in the Tacoma Land Company he donated land to Tacoma for schools, parks, churches, hospitals and the county courthouse. In 1884, during a visit to Tacoma, he asked the city for a franchise and incorporated Tacoma Light and Water Company.

Tacoma grew at an astounding rate in the next few years. The population in 1885 was 7,000; by 1890 it had grown to 36,000. Tacoma Light and Water was not prepared to expand as rapidly as needed to keep up with the growing needs of Tacoma. Critics of the company complained that the power TL&W provided to the city was outrageously priced and inefficient. Responding to the growing criticism and accusations from the public, Wright suggested, rather impulsively that the city buy him out.

In the 1880's, the issue of publicly owned utilities was a controversial idea. In Tacoma and other western cities and towns, it was hotly debated. Voices were strong and loud on the subject since in nearly every case across the country,

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electrical power was a service commodity provided by private companies. The debate over public competition in the private marketplace and fair pricing of a naturally provided resource began in the 1880s and raged for years.

The council members of Tacoma had often argued about the idea of producing power municipally. The city was not convinced that it was in a position to run a utilities company when Wright offered them the opportunity to buy. But after enduring nearly ten years of questionable water supply and extraordinary power prices, residents had had enough. Wright was offering them the opportunity to start with an established company.

In 1892, a committee was appointed to investigate the feasibility of a municipal power plant. Their research indicated that purchasing Wright's Tacoma Light & Water would cost significantly less than attempting to build a new system. This suggestion was not widely embraced. Many believed that Wright's system was poorly designed with little regard for future growth. The debate continued, but in the end council members were convinced the purchase was their best bet for a municipally run utility.

In 1893, the city purchased TL&W for the price of \$1,750,000. Only McMinnville, Oregon, which began operating a small municipal power utility in 1889, predated the Tacoma decision to provide power to customer owners. It was soon clear however, that the system had been misrepresented during negotiations with Wright's agents. The sale had not included all of the land or all of the equipment that the city assumed it would. Many of the systems it did own were dilapidated and out of date. Lawsuits began and citizens of Tacoma cried fraud. Dramatic debate and many trips to the courtroom followed. The final word came when the state Supreme Court found no evidence of fraud or misrepresentation. (Morgan, 319.)

The city spent nearly a decade updating systems and making repairs to the Tacoma Light and Water Company. During this time, the community continued to depend largely on private utility companies to provide their electricity. The power from these companies was expensive and unregulated. In the early 1900s with the addition of new wells that needed a great deal of additional power to transport the water to the city, council members once again made a push towards a municipal hydroelectric generating plant.

City attorney Theodore L. Stiles, who helped draft the state constitution years earlier, had a suggestion to aid the city in creating a dam on the Nisqually. He had determined that the city could condemn public lands outside of the city limits for public use in an attempt to harness the energy of mountain-fed streams through hydroelectric power. His opinion was upheld by the state Supreme Court. (Dorpat and McCoy, 281.)

In January of 1909, in a pioneering act of public ownership of utilities, Tacoma citizens approved a \$2,000,000 bond issue to build a dam and powerhouse at La Grande Canyon on the Nisqually River. Using the river to power a hydroelectric plant would bring Tacoma the power it needed to service not only streetlights and municipal buildings,

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but also homes of the residents of Tacoma for electric lighting and cooking. The power generated by the new plant would be transmitted 32 miles to the new Nisqually Power Substation on the corner of 25th and C Streets.

In 1910, the process of acquiring lands for the Nisqually plant began. The city purchased the land for \$197,000. The building of the plant, transmission line, and substation began in February of 1910 and finished in August of 1912 at a cost of \$2,354,985. This cost was significantly less than other hydroelectric plants that were being built in the country by private companies and syndicates.

Tacoma was fortunate to be located near such abundant resources in an era when environmental damage was of virtually no concern. The site for the Nisqually plant proved ideal for generating power. Five Mt. Rainier glaciers fed the Nisqually River above LaGrande. The water source fluctuated greatly depending on the season, but even during its lowest point in the early fall months, the ability to produce power was not compromised due to the ambitious design of the flow routing system and generating plant. The water was diverted from the river two and half miles from the plant. It was then channeled through a 10,015-foot concrete-lined, unplastered tunnel, then over the canyon of the Nisqually in a 10-foot riveted steel pipe on a bridge 360 feet long, and finally through 1,006 foot concrete conduit to the inlet channel of the reservoir created by the dam. (Bonney, 1185.)

There were five riveted steel pressure pipes that led down the hill to the powerhouse. The powerhouse was divided into three sections: the generator room, the low tension switching room, and the high tension switching room. On the main floor were four Allis-Chalmers 8000 HP, 450 R.P.M. Francis, inward flow, reaction type, horizontal turbines. Connected to each turbine was an Allis-Chalmers 6600 volt, three phase, 60 cycle, 6000 K.V.A. generator. The power from the generator was carried through a sectional bus to four banks of transformers where the voltage was stepped up from 6600 to 55,000 volts. The high-tension power was carried through a system of busses and switches to two outgoing thirty-mile underground transmission lines leading to the substation in Tacoma. (Bonney, 1185.)

At the Nisqually Substation the transmission lines "climb out of their underground conduits...and thence reach out their mesmeric fingers..." (TDL 2/19/13) to enter the building at it's southeastern corner. Next, the process of stepping down the power from 55,000 HP to a more manageable 4,000 HP took place and the power was sent to the circuits of the city.

The Nisqually Power Substation in Tacoma was finished in 1911 at a cost of \$103,000 for the building, plus \$80,000 to furnish the building with the needed equipment. The building was designed by Chief Engineer of the power plant, Hamilton F. Gronen and built by contractors Blows and Tuell. Gronen commented that the "city has no better building" and praised the contractors in the Tacoma Daily Ledger on June 18, 1911...

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The contractors are entitled to all credit for their work at the sub-station... They were anxious to acquit themselves well and they have done so. Not only have they conformed to the specifications throughout, but they have even gone further and bettered the specifications in many places. (34)

Gronen deserved praise, too. The building was painstakingly designed. The original drawings still exist and display his sense of importance regarding the building. Drawn on starched linen with infinite precision in India ink, the sixty-eight pages of drawings show the meticulous attention to detail that went into the building's design and construction. Gronen wanted the builders to understand his design and follow it fastidiously. The evidence of his commitment to quality and to creating a monument to technology is thoroughly illustrated in the well-preserved drawings.

With the completion of this hydroelectric system in 1912, Tacoma's residents had access to the cheapest power in the history of the city and some of the lowest rates in the country. Because the city was created by the arrival of the transcontinental railroad, which also provided the modern comfort of electricity, Tacoma homes never used gaslights and were dependent on the utility. On February 19, 1913, the *Tacoma Daily Ledger* reported "Tacoma's Unlimited Power Cheapest in Country"(2/19/1913). The plant was built at a fraction of the cost of comparable systems in the country. The city celebrated its success by lowering the cost of power to its residents, charging an unheard of one-cent per kilowatt-hour.

With the introduction of inexpensive power, the city hoped to attract more industrial and manufacturing companies.

With a hydro-electric plant costing \$2,100,000 and developed at the lowest cost per horsepower of any in the United States, and with the power rate lower than any other city, Tacoma has taken it's place in the fore ranks of North American cities in it's bid for manufacturing industries. It takes cheap power and plenty of it to attract new industrial enterprises, and Tacoma can now qualify in either of these particulars. (TDL. 02/19/1913)

Tacoma's shipping port, tideland lots, and location as the terminus to the Northern Pacific Rail Road brought many manufacturers to the city. With the addition of "unlimited power" Tacoma became hard to beat as an ideal location for industry. The state-of-the-art system at Nisqually attracted many new companies and Tacoma grew by leaps and bounds. With the success of the Nisqually project under its belt, Tacoma municipal utilities were off to a grand start.

As Tacoma grew, the need for power increased and in 1926, the Lake Cushman hydroelectric system came on line. This plant provided Tacoma with 50,000 HP of new power. With this new system and the advances in technology since the completion of the Nisqually plant, some updating was needed at Nisqually.

In 1938 the Nisqually Power Substation was modernized, at a cost of \$100,000. The original 50,000 and 4,000-volt oil circuit breakers were replaced with new station transformers of 30,000-kilowatt capacity. Tacoma still had "one of the most modern downtown electrical distribution systems in the country." (Tacoma PUD Information Book, p. 29)

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The Nisqually Substation remained an important location for Tacoma Public Utilities until the late 1950s. At that time, a new open air, fully automated substation was built across the street and the original substation was deemed obsolete.

In December of 1960 the building was sold empty of all original electrical equipment to Leo and John Gallagher of the Puget Sound Mattress and Felt Company for \$30,500. PSM&F Co. owned the building until 1965, when they sold it to Tacoma Plastics, Inc. Tacoma Plastics owned and used the building as a molding plant and shipping operation for about thirty years. In 2000, the building was sold to glass artist Dale Chihuly and is currently undergoing restoration.

The Nisqually Power Substation is no longer connected to the municipal power system. Its original function has long since been computerized and relocated, but the powerful building and its distinctive architectural form continues to convey more than just an obsolete purpose and dated message. Like a retired railroad station, this very specialized structure completes an important sentence in the region's narrative, explaining in brick and stone how the natural environment was exploited and imported into the city for social and industrial purposes. It also demonstrates the monumental importance of public works projects during the first decades of the century when the scope of government projects and collective public endeavors was expanding in America.

Twenty years after the Nisqually substation was built, U.S. Senator Homer T. Bone from Tacoma used the success of his hometown's efforts to build its own hydroelectric system to bolster Franklin D. Roosevelt's plans to build federal dams and power plants on the Columbia River. In a region where hydroelectric power transformed the frontier into a modern economy, the Nisqually substation is emblematic of the earliest efforts at building publicly owned utilities and shared systems of economic advancement and basic human needs.

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Nisqually Power Substation

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NPS Form 10-900-a

OMB No. 1024-0018

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Section 9 Page 1 **Major Bibliographical References**

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Archives and Depository Files

Tacoma Public Library, Northwest Room

Tacoma Public Library, Historic Building Index files, Unpublished manuscripts

Tacoma Historic Preservation Office

Washington State Historical Society, Special Collections

University of Washington, Manuscripts and Architectural Records Section, Seattle

Campus

Washington State Archives, Olympia

Secondary Sources

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Sandborn Insurance Maps, 1912, 1950

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National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 9 Page 2 Major Bibliographical References

name of property Perkins Building
county and State Pierce, Washington

Newspapers

- Tacoma Daily Ledger*. "New Substation Pride to City." 06/18/1911. p.34.
Tacoma Daily Ledger. "Modern City Power Substation Controls all of City's Current." 02/19/1913.
Tacoma Daily Ledger. "Tacoma's Unlimited Power Cheapest in Country." 02/19/1913.
Tacoma Daily Ledger. "Nisqually Power Plant Equipped With Latest Economical Devices." 02/19/1913.
Tacoma News Tribune. "Harry E. Blows, Builder, Dies." 04/30/1955
West Coast Trade. "Nisqually Power Plant." 1913. p.25-26.

Other Periodicals

- Hotel Tacoma*. Tacoma Hotel Co. Inc. 1924.
Industrial Tacoma: A Presentation of Basic Facts for Industry. Tacoma Chamber of Commerce, Tacoma, WA. 1946.
Spike's Illustrated Description of Tacoma, Washington. W.B.C. Spike & Co. Publishers, Tacoma, WA. 1891.
Tacoma Commercial Club and Chamber of Commerce Annual Report: The Heart of Tacoma. Tacoma Chamber of Commerce. 1920.
Tacoma Illustrated: A Careful Compilation of The Resources, Terminal Advantages, Institutions, Climate, Business, and Manufacturing Industries of the "City Of Destiny". Balwin, Calcutt & Co., Chicago. 1889.
Tacoma: The Industrial Center of the Pacific Northwest. By Clinton A. Snowden. Reprint. Chamber of Commerce Edition Tacoma Ledger. March 5, 1908.
Tacoma: The Manufacturing City of the Pacific Coast. Tacoma Commercial Club and Chamber of Commerce. Tacoma, WA. 1911.
Utilities Plan: A Land Use Management Plan Element, Draft, March 22, 1993. Conducted by the Tacoma Planning Commission consistent with the Washington State Growth Management Requirements.

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form

Nisqually Power Substation

Pierce County, Washington

NPS Form 10-900-a

OMB No. 1024-0018

(8-86)

United States Department of the Interior

National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 10 Page 1 Geographical Data

name of property Nisqually Power Substation

county and State Pierce, Washington

Written Legal Description

Lots 1 to 6 inclusive, Block 2406, The Tacoma Land Company's First Addition to Tacoma, Washington, according to plat recorded July 7, 1884 in plat Book B in records of Pierce County, Washington.

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form
Nisqually Power Substation
Pierce County, Washington
NPS Form 10-900-a
(8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

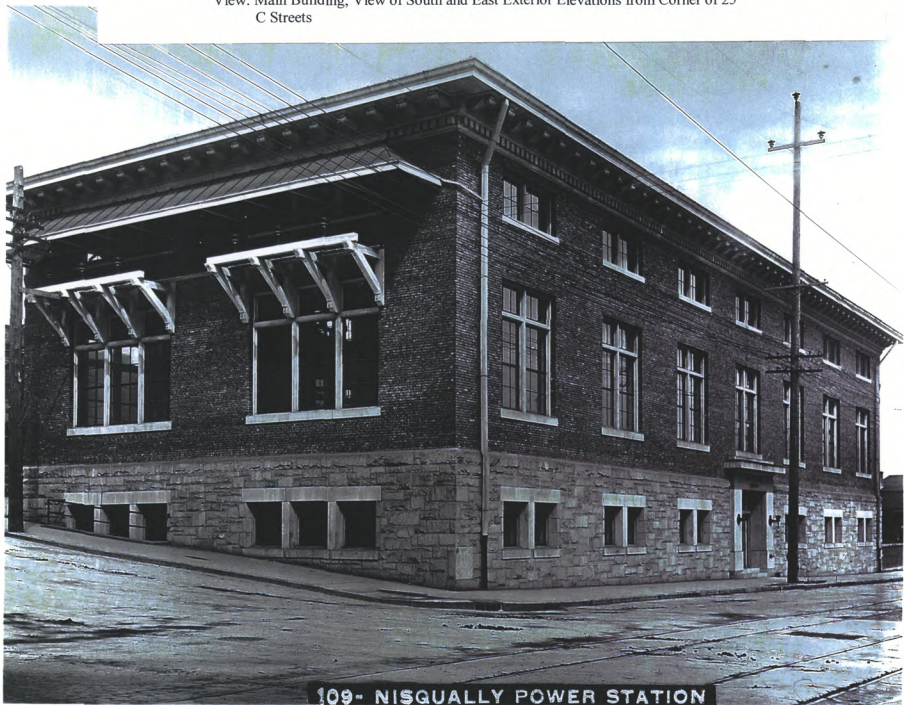
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section _____ Page _____
name of property _____

_____ county and State

National Register of Historic Preservation Nomination Form – Section 12
NISQUALLY POWER SUBSTATION, 2416 S. C Street, Tacoma, Pierce Co., WA
Historic Photograph, c. 1912, Photographer Unknown
Original Negative Located at the Washington State Historical Society
View: Main Building, View of South and East Exterior Elevations from Corner of 25th
C Streets





National Register of Historic Preservation Nomination Form – Section 12
NISQUALLY POWER SUBSTATION, 2416 S. C Street, Tacoma, Pierce Co., WA
Historic Photograph, c. 1912, Photographer: Boland
Original Negative Located at the Washington State Historical Society
View: Main Building, View of East and North Exterior Elevations from Corner of 24th
C Streets

BOLAND
7313290



380-T

National Register of Historic Preservation Nomination Form – Section 12
NISQUALLY POWER SUBSTATION, 2416 S. C Street, Tacoma, Pierce Co., WA
Historic Photograph, c. 1912, Photographer Unknown
Original Negative Located at the Tacoma Public Utilities Photographic Archives
View: Storehouse and Main Building, View from the Corner of 24th and C Streets
Facing Southwest



National Register of Historic Preservation Nomination Form – Section 12
NISQUALLY POWER SUBSTATION, 2416 S. C Street, Tacoma, Pierce Co., WA
Historic Photograph, c. 1910, Photographer Unknown
Original Negative Located at the Tacoma Public Utilities Photographic Archives
View: Main Building, Looking East at Construction of Main Building

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form
NISQUALLY POWER SUBSTATION, 2416 S. C Street, Tacoma, WA
Photographs, September, 2000

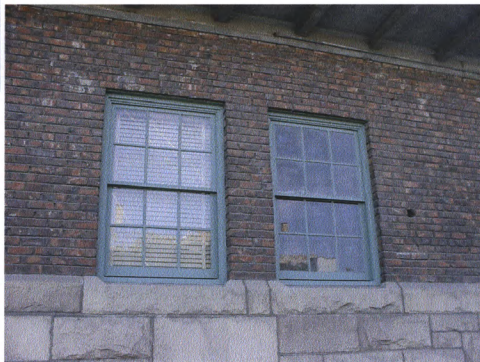
Nisqually Power
Substation,
Pierce County, WA
Detail: Storehouse, West
Elevation, Looking East
09/00, J.Lovejoy, Photo



Nisqually Power
Substation,
Pierce County, WA
Detail: Storehouse Main Door,
Looking South
09/00, J.Lovejoy, Photo



Nisqually Power
Substation,
Pierce County, WA
Detail: Storehouse, Typical Double-
Hung Windows, Looking
South
09/00, J.Lovejoy, Photo



National Register of Historic Places Registration Form
NISQUALLY POWER SUBSTATION, 2416 S. C Street, Tacoma, WA
Section 12: Photographs, September, 2000



Nisqually Power
Substation,
Pierce County, WA
Detail: Roof/Cornice Dentil,
Southwest Corner, Looking
Northeast
09/00, M.Sullivan, Photo



Nisqually Power
Substation,
Pierce County, WA
Detail: Wooden Louvered Roof
Vent, Looking East
09/00, M.Sullivan, Photo



Nisqually Power
Substation,
Pierce County, WA
Interior Detail, First Floor, Look-
ing South
09/00, M.Sullivan, Photo

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form
NISQUALLY POWER SUBSTATION, 2416 S. C Street, Tacoma, WA
Section 12: Photographs, September, 2000



Nisqually Power
Substation,
Pierce County, WA
West Elevation,
Looking East
09/00, M.Sullivan, Photo

Nisqually Power
Substation,
Pierce County, WA
North Elevation,
Looking South
09/00, M.Sullivan, Photo



Nisqually Power
Substation,
Pierce County, WA
East and South Elevations,
Angle Looking Northwest
09/00, M.Sullivan, Photo

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form
NISQUALLY POWER SUBSTATION, 2416 S. C Street, Tacoma, WA
Section 12: Photographs, September, 2000

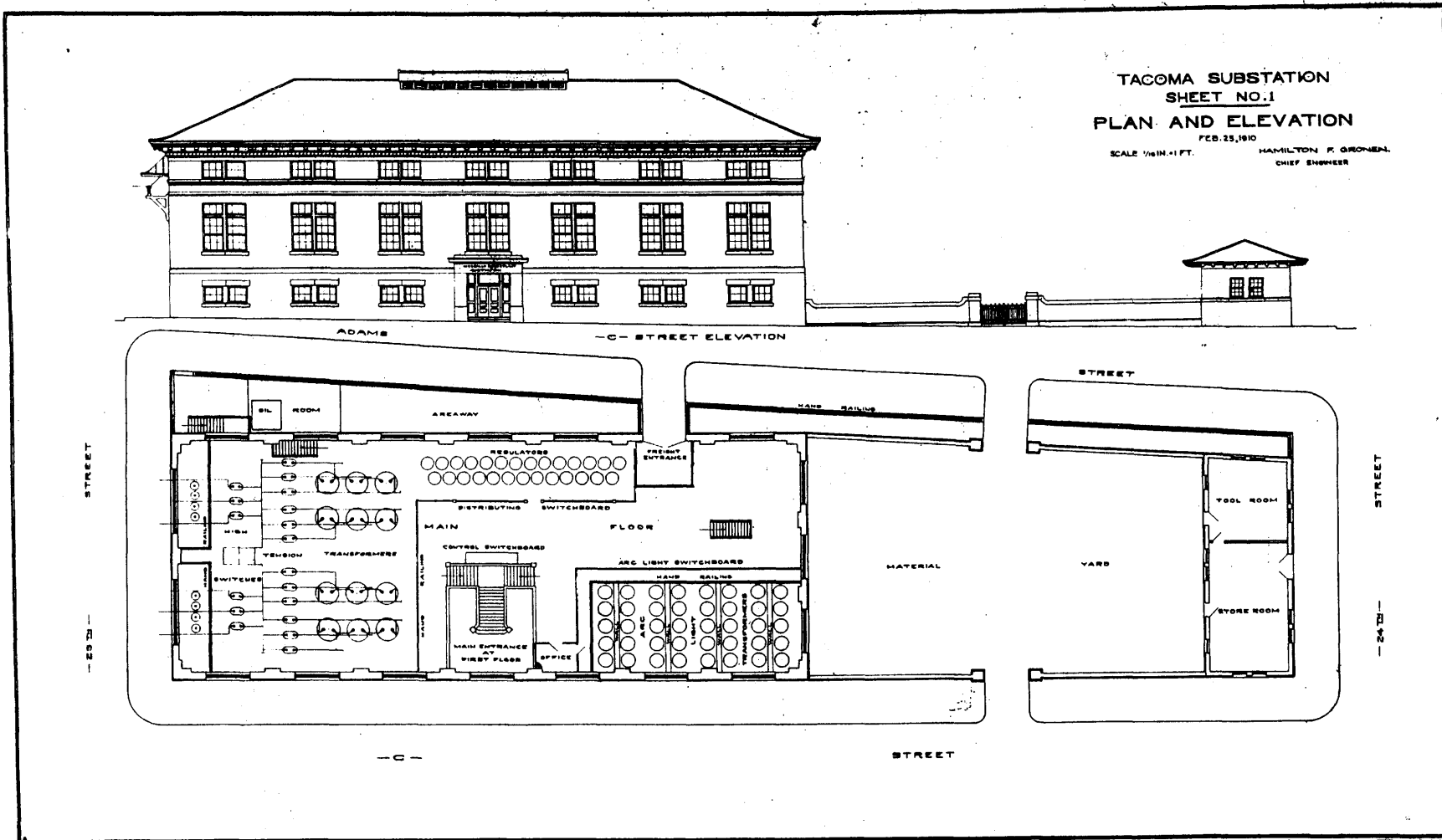


Nisqually Power Substation, ▲
Pierce County, WA
Interior View, Main Floor,
Looking South
09/00, M. Sullivan, Photo



Nisqually Power
Substation,
Pierce County, WA
West Interior Wall,
Typical Window Set, Main
Floor
09/00, M. Sullivan, Photo

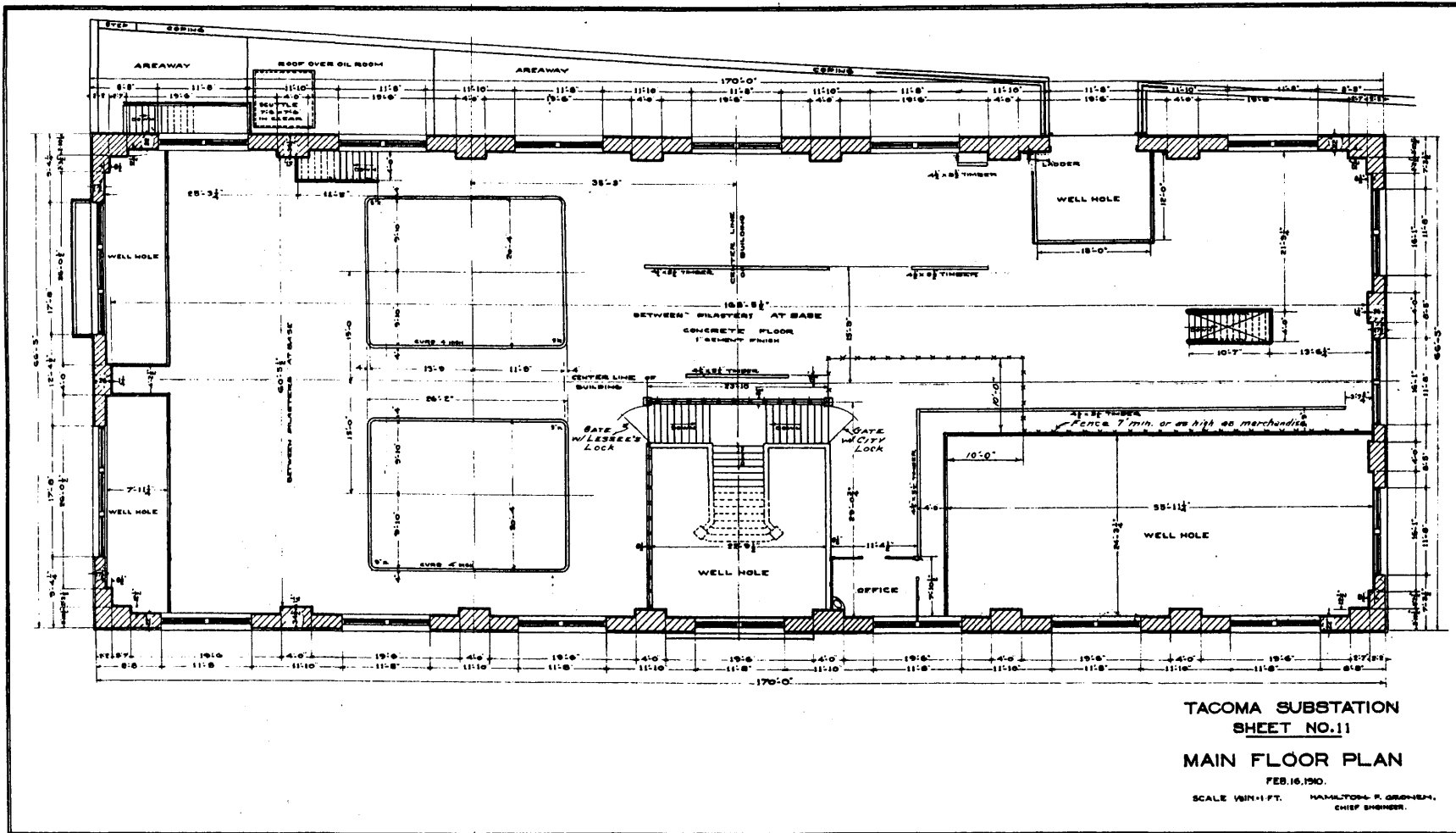
National Register of Historic Preservation Nomination Form – Section 12
 NISQUALLY POWER SUBSTATION, 2416 S. C Street, Tacoma, Pierce Co., WA
 Copy of Original Drawings: Plan and Elevation



SHEET NO. 186

Ng 508A
 Drawn by H.D.
 Traced by W.P.
 Checked by H.F.G.
 Approved M.F.G.

National Register of Historic Preservation Nomination Form – Section 12
 NISQUALLY POWER SUBSTATION, 2416 S. C Street, Tacoma, Pierce Co., WA
 Copy of Original Drawings: Main Floor Plan

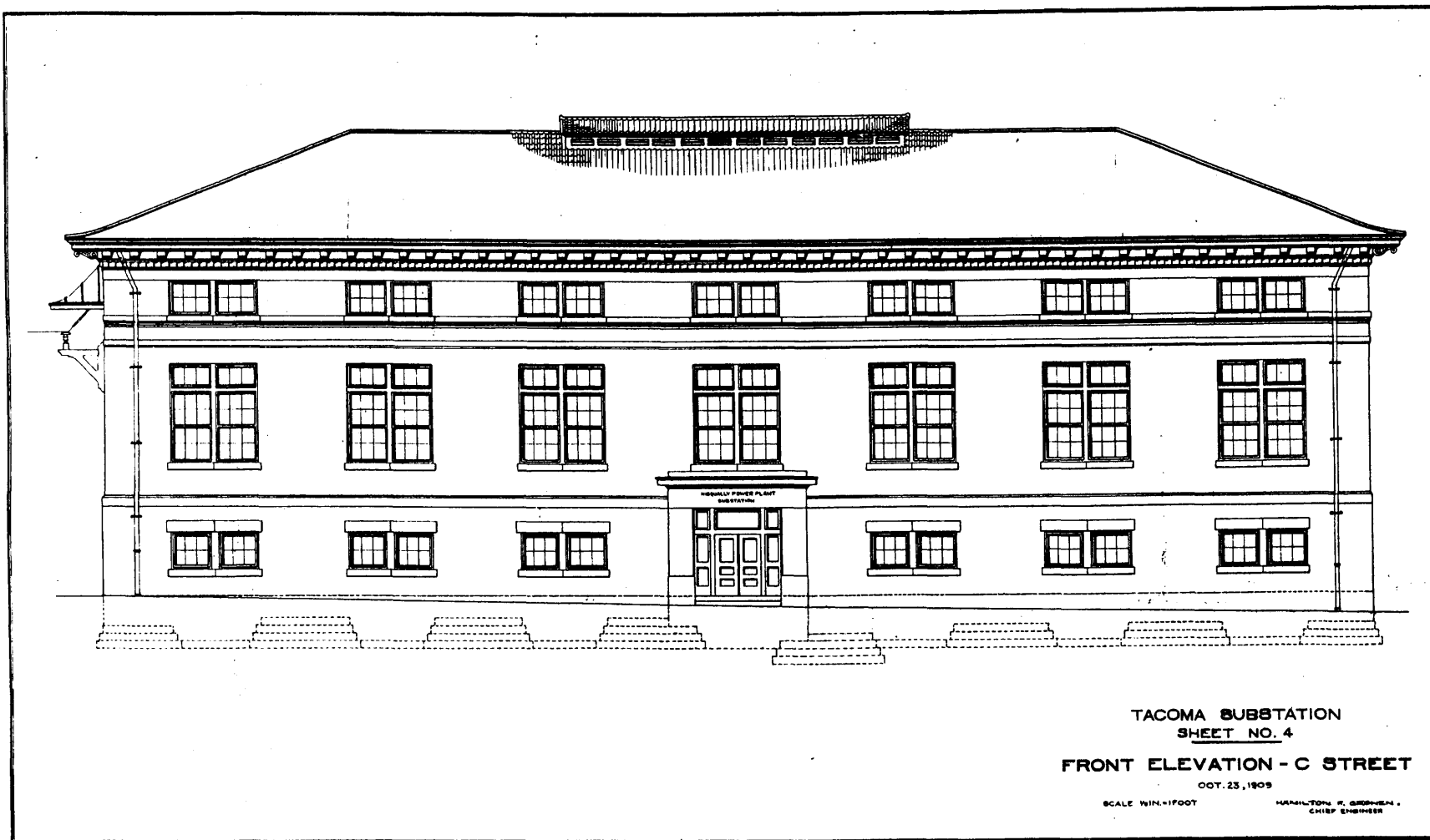


Drawn by H.D.
 Traced by W.P.
 Checked by H.F.G.
 Approved by H.F.G.

11

S.T.C. # 387460

National Register of Historic Preservation Nomination Form – Section 12
NISQUALLY POWER SUBSTATION, 2416 S. C Street, Tacoma, Pierce Co., WA
Copy of Original Drawings: Front (East) Elevation, C Street



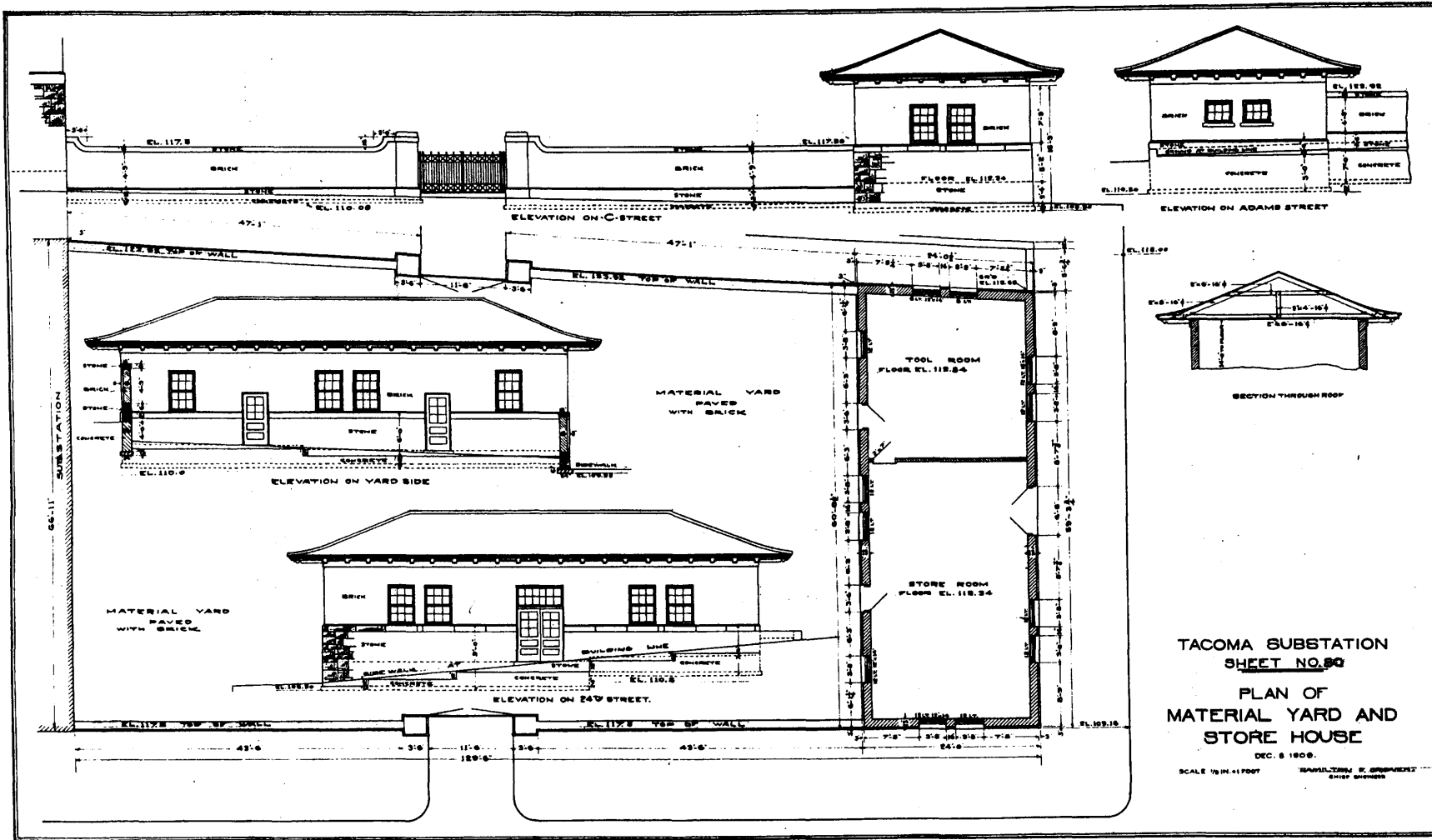
TACOMA SUBSTATION
SHEET NO. 4
FRONT ELEVATION - C STREET
OCT. 23, 1909
SCALE 1/4" = 1' FOOT
HAMILTON F. GIBBONSON,
CHIEF ENGINEER

Drawn by H.D.
Checked by W.P.
Designed by H.F.G.
Engineered by H.F.G.

4

S.T.C. 387455

National Register of Historic Preservation Nomination Form – Section 12
 NISQUALLY POWER SUBSTATION, 2416 S. C Street, Tacoma, Pierce Co., WA
 Copy of Original Drawings: Plan of Material Yard and Store House



TACOMA SUBSTATION
 SHEET NO. 80
 PLAN OF
 MATERIAL YARD AND
 STORE HOUSE

DEC. 8 1908.
 SCALE 1/8" = 1'-0"
 RAUFELTZER & BERNHART
 CIVIL ENGINEERS

Drawn by E.D.
 Checked by J.W.

#80

S.T.C. # 387517