

HISTORIC PROPERTY INVENTORY FORM

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 Engine House No. 8
Common Fire Station No. 8
Field Recorder: Mark L. 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 4301 South L Street
City/Town Tacoma Zip Code 98408
County Pierce Twp. N/A Range _____ Sect _____ % Sect _____
Tax No./Parcel No. 89 3502-605-0
UTM References _____ Zone 10 Easting 541820 Northing 5229370
Tacoma South, WA

Acreage: less than one.
Legal boundary description: Tacoma Land Company's 6th Addition, Block 9225, Lots 1 and 2

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

Classification Date:
District
Site Previously _____
Building Surveyed 1980
Structure
Object

PHOTOGRAPHY

Photography Neg. No.: Roll 1, Neg. #8
(Roll No. + Frame No.)
View: West and north elevations, facing NE
Date: August 1985

DESCRIPTION SECTION

Materials & Features/Structural Types:

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

Foundation:
Hip Log
Pyramid Post & Pier
Sawtooth Stone
Other (specify) _____ 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)
Eclectic

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) _____

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

Additions to house plan
Changes to windows
Changes to roof shape
Changes to interior plan
Other (specify)

Intact	Slight	Moderate	Excessive
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

NARRATIVE SECTION

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

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

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

Date of Construction: 1909 (Period of significance: 1909-1935)
 Architect/Builder: Plans by the City Engineer's Office. John Huntington, contractor.

Historical Significance: Engine House No. 8 is significant for its association with the development of Tacoma's neighborhoods and the growth of the city's vital municipal services. The building is also an important local example of early twentieth century fire station design. The construction of Engine House No. 8 was authorized by City Ordinance 3727 on June 2, 1909. The neighborhood surrounding the station was largely developed in the first two decades of this century, and many of the homes display Craftsman style details. The fire station possesses a distinctly domestic scale that seeks to harmonize the building with its residential neighbors. Its blocky mass, together with its flared gable roof, wide eaves and knee braces imitate the form of Craftsman style "chalets" that were a very popular residential type in Tacoma at this time. The Progressive Movement and an economic boom helped to create political conditions that led most voters to believe that local government should play an expanded and active role in providing for the health, safety and welfare of its citizenry. Engine House No. 8 is the best preserved fire station of this period in Tacoma, and it continues to reflect the important legacy of the Tacoma Fire Department.

Additional Description of Physical Appearance & Significant Architectural Features:

(Architectural significance; can include interior & site features; address integrity issues specifically)

Engine House No. 8 is located in a residential neighborhood composed primarily of early twentieth century one-story houses. However, homes from later periods can be found throughout the area. The station is located on a sloping site which allows the partial basement on the east facade to be completely above grade. The building is very picturesque, with its eclectic design, domestic scale, and variety of building materials. The main (west) facade has two large flat-arch apparatus door openings articulated with smooth-finished stone lintels and keystones. Similarly finished stone is used for sills and a belt course beneath the second floor windows. Gray brick is used to create quoins at the corners and for window lintels on the north and east facades. The building displays a variety of fenestration patterns, and window types include both double-hung and casements. The two pairs of casement windows on the second floor of the main facade are detailed with leaded glass transoms. Flanking these are smaller windows with stone lintels carved in a volute pattern. A shallow, squared oriel window, supported on exposed beams, is set beneath a cross gable on the north facade. The windows of the oriel have leaded glass transoms similar to those found on the main facade. Other details of the exterior include: stone plaques identifying the station and its year (cont.)

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

Tacoma City Ordinance No. 3727, June 2, 1909. (available at the Tacoma City Clerk's Office)

Tacoma Fire Department Annual Report 1909 (available at Northwest Room, Tacoma Public Library)

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

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(Continuation Sheet)

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Site No.: _____

Site Name:

Historic
Common

Engine House No. 8

Fire Station No. 8

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

(Description. cont.)

of construction; a wide flaring roof with a carved bargeboard, knee braces and exposed rafter tails. The interior of the building is largely intact, and original features include: a brass sliding pole; a fine pressed metal ceiling on the ground floor; a staircase with newels and turned balusters; matchstick-board wainscoting; wooden paneled doors; door and window surrounds, baseboard and picture moldings; and closets in the dormitory that functioned as lockers for personal effects. Notable alterations to the building have involved the removal of the hose tower, the remodeling of the kitchen and bathroom facilities, and the replacement of the original apparatus doors and their transoms.