

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

For NPS use only

received JUL 23 1985

date entered AUG 23 1985

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Frederick H. Murray House

and/or common N.A.

2. Location

street & number 402 North Sheridan Avenue ___ not for publication

city, town Tacoma ___ vicinity of

state Washington code 053 county Pierce code 053

3. Classification

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Category | Ownership | Status | Present Use |
| <input type="checkbox"/> district | <input type="checkbox"/> public | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private | <input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied | <input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> structure | <input type="checkbox"/> both | <input type="checkbox"/> work in progress | <input type="checkbox"/> educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence |
| <input type="checkbox"/> site | Public Acquisition | Accessible | <input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious |
| <input type="checkbox"/> object | <input type="checkbox"/> in process | <input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted | <input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> being considered | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted | <input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| | n/a | <input type="checkbox"/> no | <input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other: |

4. Owner of Property

name Harvey Gollins

street & number 402 North Sheridan Avenue

city, town Tacoma ___ vicinity of state Washington 98403

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Pierce County Assessor's Office

street & number 2401 South 35th Street

city, town Tacoma state Washington 98409

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

(1) Washington State Inventory of Cultural Resources

title (2) Tacoma Cultural Resources Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1981 ___ federal state ___ county local

depository for survey records (1) Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation
(2) Tacoma Community Development Department

city, town (1) 111 W. 21st, Olympia Washington 98504
(2) Tacoma state Washington 98402

7. Description

| | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| Condition | | Check one | Check one |
| <input type="checkbox"/> excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated | <input type="checkbox"/> unaltered | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good | <input type="checkbox"/> ruins | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered | <input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fair | <input type="checkbox"/> unexposed | | |

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Located in Tacoma's north end near the Stadium-Seminary Historic District (National Register, 1977), the Frederick H. Murray House is a three-story frame residence dominated by a steeply pitched gable roof and steeply pitched gable dormers. The house, reflecting elements of the Queen Anne, Shingle, and Colonial Revival styles, is sided with clapboards on the first story, cedar shingles on the upper stories, and rests on an ashlar foundation. The massive roof has been re-sided with composition shingles.

The north slope of the east-west gable sweeps to the first story, sheltering a recessed porch which spans the front facade. The porch is supported by four symmetrically placed groups of three Tuscan columns. The front doorway is framed by sidelights and an elliptical transom light. Above the porch, two steeply pitched gable roof dormers rise almost the full height of the roof, forming the most dramatic element on the facade. Sided with shingles, the face of each gable is concave, creating an undulating movement on the facade. The dormers are lighted by paired sash windows with interlacing tracery in the upper sash. A balconette, with balustraded railing, projects from each dormer. Each dormer window is crowned with a large wooden cartouche-like ornament. To the west of the north slope (and above the western part of the first story porch) is a second sun porch. A trellis, supported by squat columns, covers the porch. Behind and slightly above the sun porch is a small shed dormer lit by paired casement windows. The east (side) elevation of the house is dominated by a two-story bow bay sided with rough face stone on the first story and shingles on the second. The first story is lighted by one-over-one double-hung sash windows; the second story is lighted by 28-over-one sash. A balustraded railing surrounds the roof of the bay forming a porch. Above the bay in the gable wall are two double-hung sash windows flanking a door which leads to the rooftop porch. The door is surmounted by a rounded hood which creates a Palladian motif. A small window with ornamental hood lights the attic level.

South of the bow bay on the east elevation are two one-story projecting bays, a side entrance, and three roof dormers. The central, round headed dormer provides access to a second story porch, while the eastern dormer is similar to the dormers on the front facade with gable roof and ornamental crown.

The rear (south) facade has a bay window on the first floor, an oriel window on the second, and paired sash windows with ornamental hood on the third. A small window with hood lights the attic level. The west facade has a three story bay projecting beneath the gable roof.

The house stood for nearly eighty years without any major reconditioning work being done. The cedar shakes have been covered with composition shingles twice on the front and rear slopes. The three-sided bay to the rear of the bow bay lost its supporting construction and was restructured. Former owners removed the original windows on the west side of the house and replaced them with aluminum windows. A wooden fire escape has been built against the rear facade.

The interior of the house was converted into apartments approximately forty years ago, and most of the original interior features were removed. Outstanding among the remaining original features is a large stone fireplace (reminiscent of H.H. Richardson's influence) in the entry hall. A stairway to the second floor also remains as does some of the original woodwork.

8. Significance

| Period | Areas of Significance—Check and justify below | | | |
|-------------------|---|------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| prehistoric | archeology-prehistoric | community planning | landscape architecture | religion |
| 1400-1499 | archeology-historic | conservation | law | science |
| 1500-1599 | agriculture | economics | literature | sculpture |
| 1600-1699 | X architecture | education | military | social/ |
| 1700-1799 | art | engineering | music | humanitarian |
| 1800-1899 | commerce | exploration/settlement | philosophy | theater |
| X 1900- | communications | industry | politics/government | transportation |
| | | invention | | other (specify) |

Specific dates c. 1902 **Builder/Architect** Russell and Babcock

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Frederick H. Murray house is a significant example of turn-of-the-century residential architecture in Tacoma. Designed by the prominent Tacoma firm of Russell and Babcock, the house reflects an eclectic but well integrated mix of Queen Anne, Shingle, and Colonial Revival motifs, testimony to both the transition in domestic design during the period and the sophistication of the architects. The well-preserved house is distinguished by a massive and steeply pitched gable roof, dramatic dormers, a continuous fabric of shingles on the upper stories, and freely rendered classical detail. Although other houses in Tacoma share these features, the Murray house is a highly individual expression of the eclecticism of the age.

Many of Tacoma's finest examples of turn-of-the-century architecture are attributed to Russell and Babcock and in particular to A.J. Russell of this firm. These include numerous residences in and near the Stadium-Seminary Historic District (National Register, 1977); many other fine homes; and commercial buildings such as the Perkins Building, Tacoma Armory, and Woodstock, Rutland, and Earlham Court Apartments. Russell received his architectural training at the École des Beaux Arts in Paris and was associated during his life with architects H.H. Richardson, Bernard Maybeck, and, in Tacoma, Albert Sutton and Everett P. Babcock.

Ambrose Janvier Russell was born October 15, 1857, in Trivandram, southern East India. When Russell was six, his Scottish missionary father moved the family from the Indies to a fishing village in northern Ireland. Ambrose was later educated in Glasgow, Scotland, and studied architecture at the University of Glasgow. In 1881 Russell entered the École des Beaux Arts for three years of classical study in architecture. At the École, he was a student of Guadet¹ (or Gaudet) and also formed a lifelong friendship with his fellow student, Bernard Maybeck.

Russell graduated from the École in 1884 and located in Boston, aligned himself with the architectural firm of Henry Hobson Richardson (also a graduate of the École des Beaux Arts) and worked there until shortly before Richardson's death in 1886. Russell next worked briefly in Worcester, Massachusetts, and then moved to Kansas City, Missouri, where he worked with Van Brunt and Howe for about one year and later formed a brief partnership with Maybeck. Russell then moved to St. Louis, Missouri, to work with Evans and Young, designers of the San Francisco Customs House.

In 1892 Russell moved from St. Louis to Tacoma, Washington. In 1893 he designed his first residence in Tacoma (the Davey House) at North Fifth and Sheridan (one block from the F.H. Murray house). Also in 1893, Russell formed his first Tacoma partnership with Albert Sutton, designer of the Annie Wright Seminary and other Tacoma landmarks.

¹Papers of Patricia A. Sias, former Historic Preservation Officer of the City of Tacoma, and conversation of April 24, 1982.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bonney, W.P. History of Pierce County, Washington. Vol. 1. Pioneer Historical Publishing Company, Chicago 1927.

Hawthorne. History of Washington, The Evergreen State, From Early Dawn to Daylight. Vol. 1. American Historical Publishing Company, New York 1893.

(continued)

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name Tacoma North, WA

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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B

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| Zone | | | Easting | | | | Northing | | | | | | | |

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| Zone | | | Easting | | | | Northing | | | | | | | |

H

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|------|--|--|---------|--|--|--|----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
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| Zone | | | Easting | | | | Northing | | | | | | | |

Verbal boundary description and justification Lot 7 except the west two feet of the south ten feet of the north 41 feet thereof, and all of Lots 8 and 9 in Block 3428 of map of Tacoma filed for record February 3, 1875, office of County Auditor. Also ten foot northeasterly strip of alley abutting and attached, by Tacoma Ordinance #9522.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

| state | n/a | code | county | code |
|-------|-----|------|--------|------|
| | | | | |

| state | n/a | code | county | code |
|-------|-----|------|--------|------|
| | | | | |

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Michele Y. Crosby

Edited by Leonard Garfield
Archaeology & Hist. Pres.

organization N.A.

date January 18, 1983

street & number 9959 Lake Washington Blvd. N.E. #22 telephone (206) 453-1420

city or town Bellevue

state Washington 98004

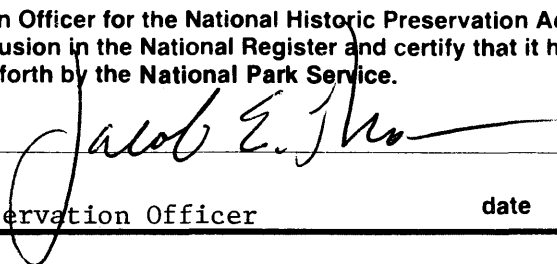
12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature



title State Historic Preservation Officer

date June 19, 1985

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register;

Entered in the
National Register

date

8/23/85

for 
Keeper of the National Register

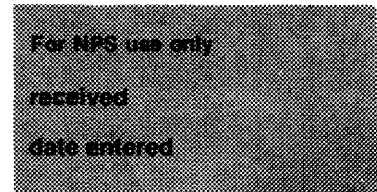
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet

Item number

8

Page

2

The firm of Russell and Babcock was perhaps the most famous and long-lived of Russell's early partnerships. Biographical information on Everett P. Babcock is somewhat conflicting; however, it appears that Babcock was a native of New York City, born June 13, 1874, educated in private schools in New York, and graduated from the Washington College of Tacoma. He was employed with the Northern Pacific Railroad drafting department, the engineering department of the City of Tacoma, and he was involved in the design of Tacoma's Carnegie Library as an engineer with the New York-based Kent and Jardine firm. Russell and Babcock became friends, and Russell shared his classical Beaux Arts training with engineer Babcock. Under Russell's "tutelage," Babcock passed his architectural boards, and the firm of Russell and Babcock was formed.

In the first two decades of the twentieth century, Russell and Babcock designed an impressive number of fine homes and buildings in Tacoma's burgeoning Seminary and downtown areas, as well as the Governor's Mansion in Olympia; the Standard Bank Building in Vancouver, British Columbia; Seattle's First Baptist Church; the Peninsula Hotel in Gig Harbor; and Sunrise Lodge at Mount Rainier National Park.

Tacoma structures attributed to Russell and Babcock include the Perkins Building, New York Building, Rochester Hotel, St. Peter's Church, Tacoma Country Club at American Lake (both first and second buildings), Woodstock, Rutland, and Earlham Court Apartments, Tacoma Armory, Christ Church Parish Hall (Bishop Wells Hall), Lake City Elementary School, Point Defiance Pavilion (razed), and the Masonic Temple and Norton Memorial on St. Helens Avenue. Residences in Tacoma designed by Russell and Babcock include the Richard Vaeth House, 422 North E Street; the George Dickson House, 501 Tacoma Avenue North; the Mrs. George Gower House, 417 North E Street; and the Frederick Kellogg House, 615 North Yakima (all in the Stadium-Seminary Historic District), as well as many others.

After the Russell and Babcock partnership dissolved, Babcock moved to Portland, Oregon, where he bought out the established firm of F.A. Taylor and Company and conducted an interior design business under the firm name of Babcock and Riley. Russell remained in Tacoma until his death in 1938 and practiced under the firm names of Russell, Lumm and Lance, and Russell, Lance and Muri. Russell was affiliated with the Tacoma Society of Architects, and in 1936 received from that organization the title "Honorary Secretary for Life."

Frederick Hume Murray, the first resident of 402 North Sheridan, came to Tacoma with the Northern Pacific Railroad legal department in 1889. Murray was born in Mitchell, Iowa, on May 16, 1860, graduated in 1883 with A.B. and A.M. degrees from Iowa College in Grinnell, and received his law degree in 1889 from the University of Iowa City. He went to work for the railroad and was sent to Tacoma in July of 1889. In May of 1890 he formed the law partnership of Shank and Murray with Judge John A. Shank. In May of 1891 he married Miss Phenie Carruthers of Brooklyn, Iowa. In June of 1892, Murray was appointed City Attorney of Tacoma by Mayor Huson and served in that position until 1894, "filling the position with dignity and credit and well maintaining his reputation as a

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National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

8

Page

3

progressive man determined and destined to succeed."² On June 28, 1913, Murray was elected President of the Tacoma-Pierce County Bar Association, the second man to serve in that capacity.

The Murrays had an adopted son, Robert, who became nationally renowned in the early 1920's for his amazing ability to sing notes higher than the highest note on a piano, some inaudible to the human ear. He was discovered in Tacoma by Frances Alda of New York's Metropolitan Opera and sent to New York for voice lessons where famous opera stars, including Caruso, heard him and attested to his talents and abilities. Some time after a well-publicized Tacoma concert in 1922, Murray gave up his prosperous Tacoma law practice to oversee his son's musical career, and the entire family moved to New York. However, when Robert reached puberty, his voiced changed in both quality and range, ending a short but renowned music career. Frederick H. Murray died in New York in 1947.

²Hawthorne, History of Washington, The Evergreen State... 1893. Vol. 1, p. 669.

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**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

9

Page

2

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Sias, Patricia A. An Examination of Influences on Selected Tacoma Architecture, 1890-

1914. University of Puget Sound Thesis, Tacoma, Washington, 1971.

Tacoma News Tribune. September 8, 1947; November 11, 1936; January 22, 1936.