

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. 15
Common N.A.
Field Recorder: Mark L. Brack
Date Recorded: July 16, 1985
Owner's Name: City of Tacoma
Street: 747 Market Street
City/Town: Tacoma
County: Pierce
Zip Code: 98402

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

Classification Date:
District
Site previously surveyed
Building 1980
Structure
Object

LOCATION SECTION

Street Number 3510 E. 11th Street
City/Town Tacoma Zip Code 98421
County Pierce Twp. N/a Range - - Sect - - 1/4 Sect - - 1/8 Sect - -
Tax No./Parcel No. 227 520-043-0
UTM References Zone 10 Easting 545 660 Northing 5235720
Tacoma North, WA

Acreage: less than one
Legal Boundary Description: Ashton's Replat of Tacoma Tidelands, Block 10 Lots 1 - 3.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Photography Neg. No.: Roll 1, Neg. #2
(Roll No. + Frame No.)
View: NW and SW elevations, facing east
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) _____

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Additions to house plan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Changes to windows	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Changes to roof shape	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Changes to interior plan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (specify)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> <u>Architecture/Landscape Architecture</u> | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Politics/Government/Law</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Arts | <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment/Recreation | <input checked="" 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) _____ |

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

Date of Construction: 1928 - 1929 (Period of significance: 1928 - 1935)
 Architect/Builder: Morton J. Nicholson, Architect - Walesby Construction Company, Contractor

Historical Significance: Fire Station No. 15 is significant for its association with the development of Tacoma's port/industrial area and the growth of the city's vital municipal services. The building is also an important local example of the innovations in fire station design that followed the motorization of firefighting equipment. Station No. 15 was erected in a newly annexed tideflat section of the city, and it shared the fireboat's responsibilities for answering calls along the waterfront. Its jurisdiction also included the industrial zones further removed from the water and a residential district in northeast Tacoma. The introduction of motorized equipment allowed stations to be reduced in height to one story, as firemen no longer required separation from the station's horses. Consequently, fire stations developed an even greater domestic appearance. Zurier describes these buildings as "bungalow" stations. Station No. 15 utilized an enlarged version of the floor plan of Nos. 10 and 14, yet stylistically it is articulated quite differently. The station's Hispanic design reflects popular Period Revival tendencies of the 1920's, which were shared by fire stations across the country. It is the only fire station in the city to display such Hispanic-inspired details. Like the Fireboat Station, its picturesque quality is very different from the utilitarian industrial character of the surrounding area. The growth of the city and the general economic prosperity which preceded the Depression

Additional Description of Physical Appearance & Significant Architectural Features:

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

Fire Station No. 15 is located in a port/industrial area characterized by warehouses, factories and undeveloped land. The simple Spanish-inspired detailing of the building is typical of Period Revival structures of this era. The station was constructed of hollow tile, with a finish coat of rough textured stucco. Projecting from the northwest facade is the two bay apparatus room, which is covered by a gable roof perpendicular to the primary roofline. The main pedestrian entrance to the building is through a small porch recessed behind the arcade on the west corner of the building. The corner pier of this arcade has a small buttress. The dormitory wing is located at the rear of the main gabled section. It has a flat roof behind a tiled parapet wall. The hose tower is also on the rear of the station and is articulated with arched louvered vents, a pyramidal roof, and exposed beams in imitation of Hispanic vigas. Windows are 1/1 and 3/1 double-hung wood sash. A band of five 1/1 windows illuminates the station's dayroom. The interior is in an excellent state of preservation. Original features include: a tiled bathroom with marble stall partitions, plywood lockers in the dormitories, and a dining nook with Craftsman style furniture. The

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

- Tacoma Daily Ledger, March 14, 1928, p. 1; December 28, 1929, p.12.
- Tacoma Fire Department Annual Report, 1929 (available at Northwest Room, Tacoma Public Library)
- Tacoma Fire Department Records (901 South Fawcett Avenue, Tacoma, Washington)
- Tacoma News Tribune, March 14, 1928, p.1.

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HISTORIC PROPERTY INVENTORY FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

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Site No.: _____

Site Name:

Historic
Common

Fire Station No. 15

NA

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

Significance (cont'd)

prompted voters to approve a bond issue in 1928 that included funds for four new stations, the fire alarm station and the fireboat. Fire Station No. 15 exemplifies the growth of the city and its services, and it continues to reflect the important legacy of the Tacoma Fire Department.

Description (cont'd)

most notable alterations include: the remodeling of kitchen cabinetry and the replacement of the original segmentally-arched wooden apparatus doors with flat-arch metal and glass roll-up doors.

Bib. References (cont'd)

Talbot, Clyde and Decker, Ralph, 100 Years of Firefighting in the City of Destiny, Tacoma: Pyro Press, 1981.
Zurier, Rebecca, The American Firehouse, An Architectural and Social History, New York: Abbeville Press, 1982.
Original 1928 blueprints (available at the City of Tacoma's Building Division)