

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 Fire Station No. 1
Common Fire Electrical Maintenance Shop
Field Recorder: Mark L. Brack
Date Recorded: July 12, 1985
Owner's Name: City of Tacoma
Street: 747 Market St
City/Town: Tacoma
County: Pierce
Zip Code: 98402

LOCATION SECTION

Street Number 425 S. Tacoma Ave.
City/Town Tacoma Zip Code 98402
County Pierce Twp. N/A Range --- Sect --- % Sect ---
Tax No./Parcel No. 200410-001-0
UTM References Zone 10 Easting 542030 Northing 5233880
Tacoma North, WA.

Acreeage: less than one
Legal boundary description: New Tacoma Plat, Block 410, lot 4
(Station No. 1 occupies lot 4, the Fire Alarm Station occupies lots 1-3)

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

- Classification: District, Site, Building, Structure, Object
Date: Previously Surveyed 1981

PHOTOGRAPHY

Photography Neg. No.: Roll 2, Neg. #10
(Roll No. + Frame No.)
View: West and south facades, facing NE
Date: August 1985

DESCRIPTION SECTION

Materials & Features/Structural Types:

- Roof Material: Wood Shingle, Asbestos/Asphalt Shingle, Slate, Tar, Metal, Other
Roof Type: Gable, Flat, Monitor, Gambrel, Shed
Foundation: Hip, Pyramid, Sawtooth, Other, Block, Poured, Brick, Other

- Cladding (Exterior Wall Surfaces): Log, Horizontal Wood Siding, Wood Shingle, Split Shakes, Re-sawn, Machine Shingle

- Asbestos/Asphalt Shingle, Brick Masonry, Stone Masonry, Stucco, Terra Cotta, Carrara Glass, Vinyl/Aluminum Siding, Other

- Height/No. of Stories: One, One and one-half, Two, Two and one-half, Three, Other

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

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

- Additions to house plan, Changes to windows, Changes to roof shape, Changes to interior plan, Other

Table with 4 columns: Intact, Slight, Moderate, Excessive

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: 1919 (period of significance: 1919-1935)
 Architect/Builder: Chris Wick, contractor
 Historical Significance:

Fire Station No. 1 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 Station No. 1 was authorized by City Ordinance No. 7060 on August 14, 1919. The building was opened on January 1, 1920 and was Tacoma's first fire station built exclusively for motor driven fire equipment. Station No. 7 (demolished) was also begun in 1919, and both stations reflected the prosperity of the immediate post-war period. Station No. 7 was constructed of brick, but Station No. 1 is anomaly, for it is a wood-frame structure clad in shingles and clapboards. The use of such flammable materials is very unusual, since most fire stations erected after 1900 were of masonry. The building beautifully realizes the ideals and motifs of Craftsman style design. Its domestic appearance is typical of the period for stations in districts of single-family homes. Its appearance at this location is a bit strange, since the neighborhood is characterized by early twentieth century, multi-story masonry structures. It is the only historic station in Tacoma whose scale and materials are notably different from the character of its neighborhood. In 1964 the fire fighting responsibilities of No. 1 were transferred to another station and the building is now used for storage.

Additional Description of Physical Appearance & Significant Architectural Features:
 (Architectural significance; can include interior & site features; address integrity issues specifically)

Fire Station No. 1 is located in a neighborhood of mixed commercial and residential properties. The scale and materials of this fire station contrast with the multi-story masonry structures that dominate the surrounding area. Station No. 1 is located on a sloping site, which allows the concrete basement to be completely above grade on the east elevation where it is equipped with large apparatus (fire truck) doors. Surmounting the basement is a frame structure whose detailing incorporates Craftsman style motifs popular in the early 20th century. The first floor is clad in alternating bands of wide and narrow clapboards. The upper half-story repeats this pattern with shingles. The station's gable roof is pierced on the south slope by a shed roofed wall dormer, and on the north slope by a large offset gable. A small gable-roof ell is cantilevered over the basement on the rear (east) elevation. The station's primary facade on Tacoma Avenue features two large apparatus doors on the first floor. Other details include double-hung, 1/1 wood sash windows; exposed rafter tails; knee braces; and a half-timbered motif at the gable ends. The interior plan is essentially intact, and original detailing includes: matchstick-board wainscoting, staircases, and certain bathroom fixtures. The most notable alterations to the station involved the remodeling of the kitchen and restroom facilities, and the replacement of the original apparatus doors.

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

- Decker, Ralph. Telephone interview, August 1985
- Tacoma City Ordinance No. 7060, August 14, 1919. (available at the Tacoma City Clerk's Office)
- Tacoma Fire Department Records. (901 South Fawcett Avenue, Tacoma, WA.)
- Talbot, Clyde. Telephone interview, August 1985.
- Talbot, Clyde and Decker, Ralph 100 Years of Firefighting in the City of Destiny. Tacoma: Pyro Press, 1981.