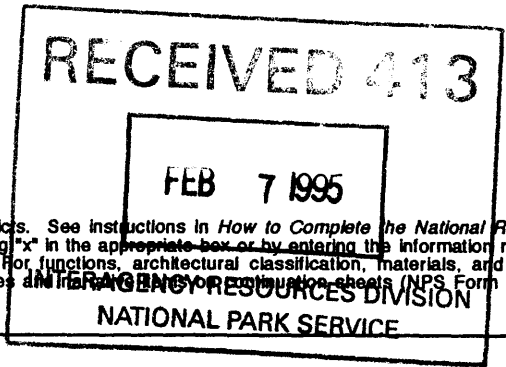


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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 information on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name 712-716 Sixth Avenue
other names/site number Hob Nob Restaurant

2. Location

street & number 712-716 Sixth Avenue not for publication
city or town Tacoma vicinity
state Washington code WA county Pierce code 053 zip code 98406

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.)
Mary M. Sampson 1/31/95
Signature of certifying official/Title 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 certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register.
___ See continuation sheet
- ___ determined eligible for the National Register.
___ See continuation sheet
- ___ determined not eligible for the National Register.
- ___ removed from the National Register.
- ___ other (explain:)

for
Signature of the Keeper Edson H. Beall Entered in the Date of Action
National Register 3/16/95

712-716 Sixth Avenue
Name of Property

Pierce County, Washington
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not incl. previously listed resources in the count.)

| Contributing | Non-Contributing | |
|--------------|------------------|------------|
| 1 | 0 | buildings |
| 0 | 0 | sites |
| 0 | 0 | structures |
| 0 | 0 | objects |
| 1 | 0 | Total |

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

Hilltop Neighborhood

0

6. Functions or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE: specialty store

COMMERCE: restaurant

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE: restaurant

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: neighborhood storefront

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE

walls BRICK

roof ASPHALT: built-up

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.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

SETTLEMENT

Period of Significance

1925-1945

Significant Dates

1925

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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 Engineering Record# _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other
- Name of repository:
City of Tacoma OHP

712-716 Sixth Avenue
Name of Property

Pierce County, Washington
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one

UTM References

(Place additional UTM References on a continuation sheet.)

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|--------------------------------------------------------|-----|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|----|-----|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|----|-----|---|-------------------------------------------------------|--|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|--|--|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|--|--|
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| 5 | 41 | 920 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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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 Cloantha Copass / Gerald K.B. Eysaman
organization eysaman + company date August 20, 1994
street & number 405 Sixth Avenue, N° 200 telephone (206) 272-5924
city or town Tacoma state WA zip code 98402

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 _____
street & number _____ telephone _____
city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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FEB 7 1995

INTERAGENCY RESOURCES DIVISION
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

712-716 Sixth Avenue
Pierce County, WA

Hilltop Neighborhood MPN

Description

712-716 Sixth Avenue is a single story brick commercial building with heavy timber structure. Constructed in 1925, the building was designed as three separate storefront businesses. The building's detailing links it visually with an adjacent apartment building built by the same developer. Located opposite Wright Park on a main east west neighborhood thoroughfare, the 712-716 offered commercial tenants high visibility to neighborhood residents, commuters riding the Sixth Avenue streetcar, as well as park visitors. 712-716 Sixth Avenue represents the property subtype "neighborhood commercial" as described in the property type "Commercial Properties of the Hilltop" in the Hilltop Neighborhood Multiple Property Nomination.

SETTING

The neighborhood in the vicinity of 712-716 Sixth Avenue contains a mix of modest two story single family homes and mid-size, three story apartment buildings. Sited at mid-block, abutting the alley, the building faces across Sixth Avenue into Wright Park. The commercial building was jointly developed with a three story apartment building located west of the site on the corner. The area behind 712-716, sunken below grade, was developed as a lawn/garden area for the apartment residents and retains a large row of poplars along the alley which provide a sense of privacy and enclosure. At the rear and west elevations, the entire basement of 712-716 is exposed and directly accessible to the sunken area.

EXTERIOR

Nearly square in plan, the 712-716 sits at the lot line with no setback from the sidewalk. The street facade is divided into three equal bays, which indicate the three original independent commercial spaces. Narrow brick piers extend up the wall as pilasters to the top of the parapet and separate and frame the three bays. Original transom windows remain at the head of each storefront opening, topped by a single, flat, soldier brick course spandrel. A continuous horizontal band of formed metal molding wraps the entire front facade and extends along both the east and west side elevations. Over the middle of each bay, this metal trim forms a decorative arch which extends slightly above the parapet. Centered within each of the arches, a carved stone plaque displays the respective addresses of each store: 712, 714, and 716. Ornamental iron light fixtures are mounted in the facade at the spandrel line between bays and at the ends.

The western storefront retains the most historical appearance of the three bays. Large windows on raised bases flank a recessed entrance door. In the 1970s, the recessed entrances of the eastern and center shop bays were replaced with plate-glass windows raised on plywood bases and set flush to the front plane of the facade. Much of the original wood trim was retained along the outsides of the window openings, and narrow aluminum dividing frames retain the historic tripartite configuration.

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National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7, 8 Page 2

712-716 Sixth Avenue
Pierce County, WA

Hilltop Neighborhood MPN

Description, cont.

The building is overgrown with ivy, which contributes to the building's sense of history and rootedness in the community. There are contemporary illuminated signs on the front facade and a sign painted on the alley elevation. The building's east elevation has a non-historic side door to a tavern. The rear elevation, while utilitarian and unadorned, features a number of historic windows and three separate entrances. A small balcony at the main floor level is partially enclosed with fiberglass panels at the rear of the building and runs to the street along the west elevation.

INTERIOR

The interior of the building has been modified over time, and the interior space is no longer partitioned into three separate shops. However, the original three separate interior divisions clear. The western area of the interior at the entrance was probably typical of all three spaces. It also contains a raised platform with a continuous counter and row of stools which most likely date to the original confectionery/soda fountain. Generally, the interior materials and details have undergone substantial alteration.

Statement of Significance

712-716 Sixth Avenue is primarily significant architecturally as an example of a neighborhood commercial structure. The property is also significant for its association with themes important in the formation of the Hilltop Neighborhood. Within the Hilltop Neighborhood Multiple Property Nomination, the associated historic context for this property is "Branching Out: 1900-1930." Because of this building's continued use by neighborhood businesses, its period of significance extends from its construction in 1925 to 1945, within the time frame addressed by the Hilltop MPN.

In both its architecture and setting, 712-716 Sixth Avenue remains the most intact neighborhood commercial structure from the Hilltop's second wave of development. Its location along a trolley line and its role in creating a commercial node in a primarily residential area underscore its importance as a document of this property type. Although, as noted in the description section above, 712-716 has undergone alterations associated with its conversion to a single use, the original design remains clearly legible. The shops were designed in 1925 in conjunction with an adjacent apartment structure; no project architect has been identified. Developing the two properties simultaneously assured that the use adjacent to the apartment would be designed to allow maximum lighting into the apartment block, thereby protecting the value of the building.

The circumstances of the construction and use over time of 712-716 Sixth Avenue reflect the important role of local investors in developing real estate in the neighborhood. The property was developed as an investment property by William Virges, a successful Tacoma businessman who

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8, 9, 10 Page 3

712-716 Sixth Avenue
Pierce County, WA

Hilltop Neighborhood MPN

Statement of Significance, cont.

lived nearby. A German immigrant, Virges arrived in New York in 1882 at age twenty-three, and entered the drug business. He moved to Tacoma in 1894, and, with Anton Hurth, organized the Pacific Brewing and Malting Company in 1897. In 1918, his business expanded to include the National Soap Company and the National Coconut Butter Company. Active in civic affairs, Virges also helped in the building of the Tacoma General Hospital. Virges lived at 502 N. Tacoma Avenue. Virges described his project to a reporter as a "permanent investment," presumably to distinguish his income-producing rental properties from the speculative land dealing which was common during Tacoma's early development.

Throughout its history, 712-716 has housed businesses targeted at the neighboring residents. The site's proximity to Wright Park and the Sixth Avenue certainly would help attract customers as well. While the specific businesses changed over time, the neighborhood focus remained the same. In 1928, the building held the Wright Park Cleaners and Dyers and the H.P. Kemp Confectionery. Kemp had owned a popcorn stand downtown before opening his store. By 1935, the Cleaners had closed and the Confectionery turned into a grocery. These changes probably were driven by the economic troubles of the depression. In 1940, the grocery became the Hob Nob Food Shop, and the confectioner opened again. By 1945, the Hob Nob Food Shop had expanded its offerings to include a restaurant. After the war, new businesses opened which reflected greater prosperity and leisure time in the community. Louis Fruchter, a furrier, opened at 712, and The Heatherland Dance Studio took over the long-vacant center space. Fruchter closed his shop in the 1960s, and the dance studio remained into the 1970s. In the 1970s, the Hob Nob Restaurant expanded to occupy the entire building, and remains the sole tenant today.

Bibliography

- "New Apartment House Planned." *Tacoma Daily Ledger*, 1925.
Polk's City of Tacoma Directories
"Tacoma's Newest Apartment Buildings." *Tacoma Daily Ledger*, October 4, 1925: p. B8.
Tacoma Who's Who of 1929. Tacoma, Wash.: South Tacoma Star Line, 1929.

Verbal boundary description

The east 60' of Lots 1 and 2 and the north 10' of the east 60' of Lot 3, Block 615 of Parker's Addition to New Tacoma.

Verbal boundary justification

The nominated property includes the entire parcel historically associated with the property.