

# 1115 North 11th

Taken from the National Register of Historic Places nominations for Tacoma

Robert O. Duff and his wife, Rosa, lived in a house built by Robert in 1902 at 1115 North 11<sup>th</sup> St., conveniently on the K Street Trolley line. The couple had six sons and one daughter.



Frank Durr Residence at 809 North Sheridan Avenue (1892). His two sons, Ralph M. and George W. followed in his footsteps. By 1908 Robert's focus shifted to development rather than actual construction; he was joined by his son Ralph in the real estate business, but George continued on as a builder.

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*As a side note, the home is currently under renovation by R4 Construction. The contractor told me that the owner informed him that there is an old, disused bomb shelter with a basement entrance in the home. I was told there was electricity in the shelter at one time, but it's now just a dark, damp room entered via a small door from the basement. The shelter extends clear across the side lawn toward the next house. It was probably built between the mid-1950s, into the 1960s - a cold war idea popular during this time period. Editor*

Duff was born on March 15, 1841 in Spencerville, Canada. Reportedly he immigrated to the United States in 1878, and is listed in the 1880 census as living North Dakota. He moved to Tacoma c.1888 and started a construction business, building many homes in and around Tacoma during the building boom of the 1890s.

Duff and his partner, Alexander M. Bain, created many dwellings within what is now the North Slope Historic District. They acted as architect and contractor for the Lincoln K. Boyle Residence at 1315 North 11th Street (1889), the Bain Building at 1102 North Sheridan Avenue (1889), Professor Max Meyer Residence at 1105 North Sheridan Avenue (1889) and the Nelson E. Handsaker Residence at 1017 North Cushman Avenue (1889).

Acting alone, Duff was the architect and contractor for the John Handsaker Residence at 1015 North Cushman Avenue (1889), and the