

FROM THE ARCHIVES...

Taken from the National Register of Historic Places Nomination

The house at 923 North M St, was the home of Givin G. Hicks, who was a native of Olympia, his grandfather having been among the first settlers to arrive in what was then Oregon Territory – before the days of Washington Territory or State. Colonel Hicks was involved in real estate and building in the "early boom

days, but like many others went broke for it." He worked as a collector for the IRS for many years, and then moved to California, where he was "fortunate in oil speculation."

He returned to Tacoma in 1909 a wealthy man, and purchased his brother's home (923 North M), where he would build a "finer home for himself and family." On the site were locust trees planted by him 20 years before, which he claimed were "the first and original locust trees brought to the Northwest by his grandfather 60 years ago."

The residence at 923 N. M St. was completed at a cost of \$8,000 in 1909. The house was designed with nine rooms, and featured "two large fireplaces in the living and dining rooms, and a large billiard room in the attic ...," as well as "quarter-sawn oak finishing" on the main floor, and birds-eye maple in the kitchen. The original architect and builder are unknown.