

NEWEST NEIGHBORS ON TACOMA HISTORICAL SOCIETY OPEN HOUSE TOUR

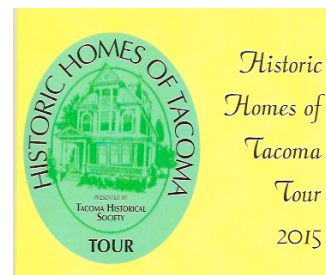
Kathryn Cullen 5/17/15

My husband, Curtis, and I moved to the neighborhood in October 2014, which I suspect made us the newest additions to the tour in more ways than one! We had been living nearly six months apart as my job took me to Portland while the Army maintained his training as a Blackhawk pilot in Alabama. On weekends, I would drive up to Tacoma to search for homes



with my realtor, promising Curtis that I wouldn't ask him to fly out until I was 100% sure I had found "the one". The house at 523 N J won our hearts immediately. We both spent a number of years in the South so we swooned over the colonial architecture combined with newer characteristics unique to the Pacific Northwest. Most importantly, we loved the idea that we could add our own story to a home that has already lovingly sheltered so many others.

I was initially approached to join the home tour while very obviously struggling to plant flowers for the first time. A passing neighbor, Julie Turner, took pity on me and kindly offered her guidance. She perched on our front porch steps and patiently walked me through each step, then shared some of her amazing history in the area. Soon thereafter, I had agreed to meet with the tour docents who convinced Curtis and I that the veritable demolition site we had going throughout the upstairs would actually add some interesting color for those curious about the original structural bones of a historic home (or maybe they just wanted to see how bad things really can get when you're equipped with nothing but hope and a hammer). Despite our initial misgivings, the tour organizers were delightful to work with, showed great personal care for the house, and were genuinely curious to know us better as a couple which has been a lovely introduction to our new community.



Now that the tour is over, we have turned our attention back to settling in and (yay!) preparing for the arrival of our first child due this October! It's a very exciting time for us and already so much richer because of all that we learned about the home that we have the privilege to make our own. Thank you to the 523 N J docents and special thanks to Jean and Jim who were on call for us day and night during the event!