



1015 North 5th Street • Willow's Photography

# A WALKING TOUR OF THE NORTH SLOPE HISTORIC DISTRICT



1001 North 9th Street • Willow's Photography

TACOMA, WASHINGTON

# TACOMA'S NORTH SLOPE HISTORIC DISTRICT

The North Slope Historic District is a residential neighborhood of 228 acres containing 1,285 homes, making it one of the state's largest historic districts and one of the largest west of the Mississippi. The North Slope district was settled primarily as a residential streetcar suburb with a wide variety of architectural styles.

Originally known as "Job Carr's Hill," most of the district consisted of Tacoma's pioneer founder Job Carr's 166-acre farm, which he purchased from the Northern Pacific Railway for \$6.00 in the 1860s. Carr (1846–1887) founded Tacoma in 1864 directly below the district on the shores of Commencement Bay. Beginning in the 1880s, he sold off much of the farm to be platted for homes, but he and his family retained a 10-acre plot until 1920.

The district had three waves of development tied to the fortunes of the city. The railroad reached Tacoma in 1883 via Portland, but even so the city's population in 1885 was only 7,000. In 1890, just two years after the completion of the Stampede Pass Tunnel linked Tacoma directly with Chicago, the population was 36,000. To accommodate this influx, streetcar lines were built out from downtown along Division Avenue and 6th Avenue. In 1889, real estate tycoon A. C. Mason built a streetcar line out to Point Defiance and bridged several deep gulches that had hindered development of Tacoma's North End. With easy transportation downtown, Job Carr's Hill quickly became a premier residential district with some 45 homes built from 1888 to 1893 for the bankers, real estate brokers, financiers, and railroad professionals of Tacoma's boom. But building stopped following the 1893 crash, and was not helped when the Northern Pacific moved its headquarters to Seattle in 1895 or when the Alaska Gold Rush began on Seattle's docks causing thousands of Easterners to by-pass Tacoma.

By 1900, Tacoma's economic fortunes were looking up. Commencement Bay was ringed with saw mills and shingle mills churning out fine lumber, shingles, and millwork for houses in California and back East. Even the Champs-Elysees in Paris was paved with fir "cobblestones" from Tacoma. Tacoma was growing again as was the North Slope with some 100 new homes added from 1902 to 1912. Well-off lumbermen, attorneys, and the new retail businessmen were building homes here. The North Slope was the height of Tacoma's political power when it was joked that Governor Ernest Lister could "holler" from his porch steps in the North Slope to the Lieutenant Governor, the House Speaker, and Chief Justice.

Following World War I, with better automobiles and roads, America's wealthy began the first suburban exodus from the cities to palatial estates in nearby enclaves. Tacoma's wealthy headed south to Lakewood. In their place came the growing American middle class: teachers, salesmen, government workers, and small business owners. In the North Slope the remaining large plots were divided and sold off, and from 1919 to 1929 another 120 homes were built, mostly modest bungalows, Tudors, and Cape Cods. Development largely ended following the Great Depression.

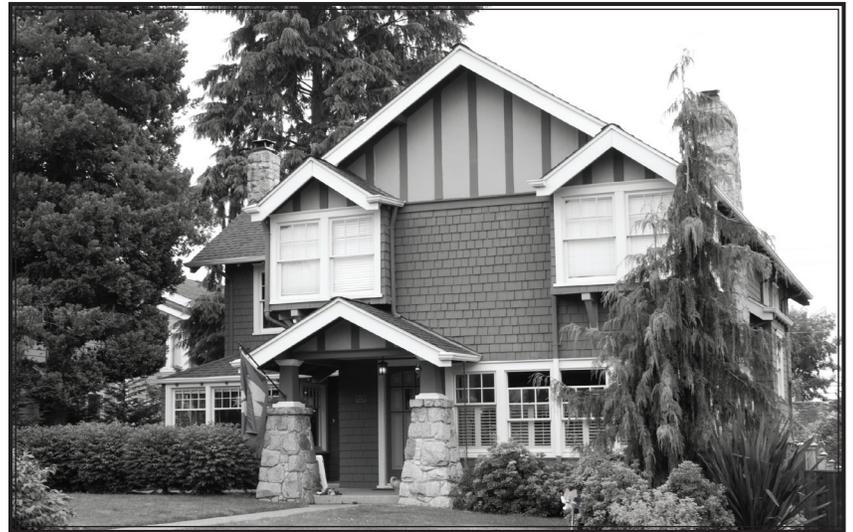
During the 1950s and 1960s the North Slope was largely stable, but increasingly populated by the working class as the new automobile suburbs drew much of the middle class from America's cities. However, by the 1970s and 1980s, North Slope residents saw their neighborhood under attack. Large houses were divided into apartments or worse, torn down and replaced by cheaply built six- and twelve-plexes. When residents' requests for zoning changes fell on deaf ears at city hall, Tacoma's Historic Preservation Officer and North Slope resident Valarie Sivinski suggested creating a historic district.

Initially, the residents' skepticism was only exceeded by that of city hall. The first district created in 1995 only included most on North J Street. Soon residents on other streets realized the advantages of joining the historic district, and in 1998 most of North K, North M, and parts of North I were included in the district. Finally, in 2000, an additional 350 properties were added, extending the boundaries of the North Slope to its current size. In 2002 the district was added to the Washington Heritage Register and the National Register. However, the work did not end there. Fearful that historic zoning overlay would not be strong enough, North Slope residents worked with the city to create a new underlying zoning category, Historic Mixed Residential – Special Review District, which specifically gives the historic district's design guidelines precedent in all land use decisions. The zoning category was adopted in 2006.

Start at 911 North J Street, on the corner of North 9th and J Streets

## 1 911 NORTH J STREET

Next door to the Immanuel Presbyterian Church office, this large craftsman was built in 1915 for Dr. Warren Brown. The building was designed for his office as well as his residence. In addition to being a physician, Dr. Brown was president of the Lennox Investment Company. Dr. Brown was considered one of Tacoma's leading physicians. A resident of Tacoma for more than 30 years, he came from a family background in medicine, both his father and his brother were physicians as well.



Willow's Photography

## 2 901 NORTH J STREET



Tacoma Public Library, BU-11524

The Mission-styled Immanuel Presbyterian Church was designed in 1908 by architect Ambrose Russell. Organized in Old Town in 1888, the church was originally called 2nd Presbyterian. The name changed to Immanuel in 1892 and the present building was constructed in 1909 following a fire. The sanctuary showcases a number of beautiful stained glass windows. The church school building was added in 1929.

### AMBROSE J. RUSSELL

Ambrose Russell was born in India, son of a Scottish missionary. By age 18 Russell decided to design buildings and enrolled at the University of Glasgow. He soon won a scholarship to attend the renowned École des Beaux-Arts in Paris where he became friends with classmate Bernard Maybeck. In 1884 Russell became one of famed architect H. H. Richardson's last apprentices before his death. Before moving to Tacoma in 1892, Russell worked in several U. S. cities, including a brief partnership with Maybeck in Kansas City. He was associated with a number of architects and firms, including Albert Sutton, P. H. Heath, Spalding, and Babcock.

**Spalding, Russell & Heath:**

- 614 North J Street (1901)
- 701 North J Street (1901)
- 1102 North J Street (1901)
- 1202 North J Street (1901)
- 402 North Sheridan Street (1901)
- 414 North Sheridan Street (1901)

**Ambrose J. Russell:**

- 122 North 4th Street (1896)
- 823 North I Street (1895)
- 412 North M Street (1903)
- 423 North Sheridan Street (1895)

**Russell & Heath:**

- 702 North I Street (1902)
- 624 North L Street (1902)

**Russell & Babcock:**

- 1414 North 5th Street (1907)
- 609 North I Street (1907)
- 710 North I Street (1907)
- 901 North I Street (1906)
- 1001 North I Street (1905)
- 702 North J Street (1907)
- 901 North J Street (1908)
- 916 North K Street (1905)

## 3 817 NORTH J STREET

Built in 1889, this Stick style house was the home of John and Virginia Mason. Mason, a native of Illinois, enlisted with the Chicago Mercantile Battery of artillery at the outbreak of the War between the States. He served in General Sherman's first attack on Vicksburg, Mississippi. He was eventually drafted into the military telegraph service. After the war he returned to telegraph service in Chicago and became the chief dispatcher for the Wabash Rail Road line. In 1888 Mr. Mason arrived in Tacoma as assistant superintendent for the Northern Pacific Railway. Virginia Mason was an early suffragette, helping to make Washington one of the first four states to adopt women's suffrage. She helped establish the Franke Toby Jones retirement home. The couple were also active members of First Congregational Church. This building later became the home of Judge John W. Linck. Judge Linck, a native of Illinois, was appointed by President Harrison as a special agent of the United States treasury department for the western region of the United States in 1889. He moved to Tacoma in 1897. Active in Tacoma, he founded the first juvenile court in Tacoma in 1907. He was also one of the first people in Tacoma to support pensions for city firemen.



Tacoma Public Library, BU-698

## 4 816 NORTH J STREET



Willow's Photography

This residence was built in 1940. At 800 square feet it is one of the district's smallest homes and an example of the minimalist traditional style that was prevalent in large numbers right before and after World War II. Minimal Traditional houses reflect the typical roof pitches of earlier styles, with the gabled roofline, but lack the decorative detailing of Tudors, Craftsmen, and many other designs. The need for quick construction time and structures that accommodated changing life-style patterns (with a greater focus on technology and less space for servants) made this style quite popular. One of the early owners was Roy S. McKinnon, a clerk at Belfoy's Shell Service Station.

## 5 702 NORTH J STREET

Russell & Babcock designed this handsome Swiss influenced craftsman in 1907 for James Dege, who came to Tacoma in 1889 from Atlanta where he worked in the clothier trade. Dege began working in a Tacoma bank and was later appointed Deputy Auditor. He began studying law and ran unsuccessfully for the U.S. Senate. In 1898 he became a captain in the First WA Volunteers. In 1901 he returned to the clothing business, partnering with William Milner and opening Dege & Milner, a clothing store.



Willow's Photography

## 6 701 NORTH J STREET



Willow's Photography

Spalding, Russell & Heath designed this shingle style house in 1901 for Henry Rhodes. In 1907, Frederick Heath designed the three-story addition on the north side. Rhodes came to Tacoma in 1890 with his two brothers Charles and Albert and opened a tea and coffee shop, which eventually grew into Rhodes Brothers Department store, Washington's first, and for several decades largest, department store. Rhodes also organized and headed the Rainier National Park Corporation that built Paradise Lodge as well as the roads and infrastructure still in use at the park. Later Rhodes was involved in many large building projects such as the Winthrop Hotel and the Medical Arts Building.

**North 7th Street does not continue because it marks the upper reaches of Garfield Gulch that starts next to Annie Wright, where you can still see it. Bridges crossed it on North I and North K Streets as late as 1898 until it was eventually filled in.**

## 7 523 NORTH J STREET

This was the home of William Bullard, one of Tacoma's early architects. He designed and built this neo-colonial home in 1895, in which he wed his wife Anna Heath. Anna was a teacher, early principal of Lincoln High and member of the school board. Before marrying Bullard, she lived at 424 North M Street.



Willow's Photography

Turn right (south) onto 5th Street

## 8 1014 NORTH 5TH STREET



Willow's Photography

This craftsman was built in 1908 by Koler, Fosdick & Koler. Mary and Joseph Sharmen were early residents of the property. This house is a good example of an early 20th century bungalow—not particularly Craftsman, but not really belonging to any of the other dominate styles of the day. It epitomizes the more petite infill structure that started to appear by 1910 and continued through the 1930s in the district.

### GEORGE W. BULLARD

George Bullard, a native of Illinois, graduated from the University of Illinois in 1882. He started his architectural practice in his home state, but came to Tacoma in 1890 to open the firm of Bullard & Hayward. Bullard practiced in Tacoma for more than 45 years, both individually and in the firms of Bullard & Hill and Bullard & Mason. He designed numerous buildings in Tacoma, including the Y.M.C.A. (714 Market Street), First Congregational Church, Epworth Methodist Church, and the Washington State Historical Society headquarters. Bullard also served as the first president of the Washington State Chapter of Architects.

**Bullard:**

1521 North 5th Street (1903)  
1515 North 7th Street (1890)  
815 North I Street (1906)  
523 North J Street (1895)  
705 North J Street (1904)

**Bullard & Hill:**

622 North Cushman Street (1909)  
916 North L Street (1908)  
1017 North L Street (1908)

## 9 1015 & 1021 NORTH 5TH STREET

The Cornell brothers, Ernest and Daniel, operated one of Tacoma's largest construction firms. In 1905 they built these two residences for themselves: Ernest at 1015 and Daniel at 1021. Since no architect is listed, it's likely that they designed the houses themselves. The Cornell Brothers built many houses in the North Slope as well as First Presbyterian, the grain elevators, the Elks building, and much of the World War I era Fort Lewis. In the late 20th century 1021 underwent a massive addition on the top floor which drastically changed the roofline.



1021 North 5th Street • Tacoma Public Library, BU-2864

## 10 1102 NORTH 5TH STREET



Willow's Photography

The Cornell Brothers built this 1901 Neo-Colonial Four-Square for F. G. Fisher. Fisher came to Tacoma in 1889 and started a shoe business with his brother. In 1895 he opened Tacoma Shoe on Pacific Avenue. By 1906 he joined with Stone to form Stone-Fisher Co., a clothing store that later became the Bon Marche (now Macy's). He was a long time member of the Chamber of Commerce and the Library Board.

### THE CORNELL BROTHERS

Ernest C. and Daniel Cornell, natives of Ohio, moved to Tacoma in the late 1880s. The brothers started working in the contracting business immediately, and for a while partnered together. By the 1920s they helped create the firm of Albertson, Cornell Brothers & Walsh, a large business which constructed roads, erected power stations and a large part of Fort Lewis during World War I. The firm's average payroll included between 400 and 600 men, although to build Fort Lewis the firm employed more than 10,000 men. Daniel Cornell later became vice president of the Washington Paving Company. Both the brothers were active in community affairs, particularly with fraternal orders, and were members of the Masons, Knights Templar, Scottish Rite, Elks, and the Union Club.

1319 North 4th Street (1895)  
615 North Ainsworth Street (1901)  
624 North J Street (1902)  
1102 North J Street (1901)  
1415 North J Street (1901)

407 North K Street (1906)  
409 North K Street (1891)  
613 North K Street (1901)  
707 North K Street (1903)  
1022 North K Street (1901)

The Elliot Hall Apartments were built as an investment in 1913 by Mrs. Celesta P. Wheeler. The building is thought to have cost \$20,000. While many North End residents assume that the tensions between single family dwelling owners and apartment owners are a relatively new dynamic, period newspaper reports indicate otherwise. In 1913, the same year that this complex was built, Charles C. Darling and his wife (who lived next door at 1120 North 5th Street) were apparently unhappy with an apartment building practically in their back yard. To provide privacy for their home, the Darlings built a shed 7 feet wide and 51 feet long along the property line between the two structures. The Darling's referred to the structure as a summer house and a place to dry clothing. Mrs. Wheeler objected, claiming the structure was a "spite" building which blocked light from two of her apartment units.



Tacoma Public Library, BU-10521

 417 NORTH M STREET



Willow's Photography

Sherman L. Blair designed this Four-Square in 1905 for W. A. Stewart, long time county Auditor and Deputy Auditor. More recently this was the home of Valerie Sivinski and Tim McDonald, who were instrumental in the formation of the North Slope Historic District. For a number of years Valerie served as the Historic Preservation Officer for the City of Tacoma. Valerie was killed in 2000 while conducting preservation-related work. The park on North K was later named in her honor. The Washington Trust for Historic Preservation developed the Valerie Sivinski Washington Preserves Fund to help provide funding for local communities to preserve their heritage. The Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation gives an annual Valerie Sivinski Award for Outstanding Rehabilitation as well.

### SHERMAN L. BLAIR

Sherman Blair, a prominent building contractor, was a native of Wellsboro, Pennsylvania. He moved to Tacoma between 1902 and 1903. He worked in construction as both a designer and a contractor until his unexpected death in 1918, at age 60. Mr. Blair served as construction superintendent for Tacoma's First United Methodist Church. The church, dedicated in 1916, was considered Tacoma's best example of Ecclesiastical Gothic Revival. The building was demolished by the Multi-Care Health System in early 2007. Blair specialized in upper-middle class houses built in Tacoma's North End. He was the contractor for at least three more elaborate residences designed by prominent architect George W. Bullard, including Bullard's own residence at 75 West Road, Prospect Hill.

- 1220 North 5th Street (1906)
- 520 North Ainsworth Avenue (1907)
- 516 North Cushman Avenue (1915)
- 520 North Cushman Avenue (1907)
- 524 North Cushman Avenue (1907)
- 810 North Cushman Avenue (1908)

- 515 North I Street (1909)
- 721 North L Street (1905)
- 1017 North L Street (1908)
- 417 North M Street (1906)
- 817 North Sheridan Avenue (1906)

## 13 1401 AND 1415 NORTH 5TH STREET

This Neo-Colonial and the one at 1415 were designed and built by the Cornell Brothers in 1895 for two business partners: William Ferguson (1401) and William Gardener (1415). They operated a plumbing and steam supply company. Ferguson was born in Ireland and came to Tacoma in 1890. Considered one of the founders of First Presbyterian Church, his wife and son donated the chapel that Ralph Adam Cram designed in his memory. In 1941 the Ferguson house became a sanitarium, and in 1948, the Gardener house was included. In the 1960s large additions to both houses were added in the side yards. When the last medical business moved out in 2006, the North Slope Historic District was able to persuade the owner to remove the additions and return the buildings to residences. Currently both houses have been purchased and will be restored to their original appearance.



1401 North 5th Street • Willow's Photography

## 14 1402 NORTH 5TH STREET



Willow's Photography

Proctor & Farrell designed this 1903 Four-Square for Ernest Lister, future eighth governor of Washington. In 1884, at age 14, Lister immigrated with his family from England. His uncle and father operated a local iron foundry where Ernest worked. At the time this house was built, Lister and his brother had formed the Lister Lumber Company and a real estate company. Lister was elected governor in 1913 as the first Democrat to hold the office in more than 12 years. He was re-elected in 1917 but during 1919 he suffered a heart attack and died in office at age 48. During Lister's tenure, Boeing began making airplanes, surveys were completed for the Grand Coulee Dam, and a bridge was built across the Columbia at Vancouver. Tacoma was at the height of its political power at this time: Overton Ellis, Chief Justice, lived at 613 North K Street; Guy Kelly, the Speaker, lived at 924 North L Street, and Louis F. Hart, Lt. Governor (Governor upon Lister's death) lived at 617 North Oaks Street.

### JOHN G. PROCTOR

John Proctor served as the state architect for Washington and designed the Old State Capitol Building (the first Thurston County Courthouse), Western State Hospital, the Old Soldiers Home in Orting, and the Old Pierce County Courthouse (1893). The Proctor business district is named after him since his house was located in that area and his name was used for the telephone exchange. Oliver Perry Dennis, a native of New York, worked as an architect in Tacoma from 1888 until 1901. Most of his work was done in partnership with John G. Proctor under the name of Proctor & Dennis. Dennis later moved to California. Proctor then partnered with Farrell to form Proctor & Farrell.

#### Oliver Perry Dennis:

506 N Ainsworth Avenue (1893)  
1605 Division Avenue (1893)  
515 N Sheridan Avenue (1892)  
517 N Sheridan Avenue (1892)

#### Proctor & Dennis:

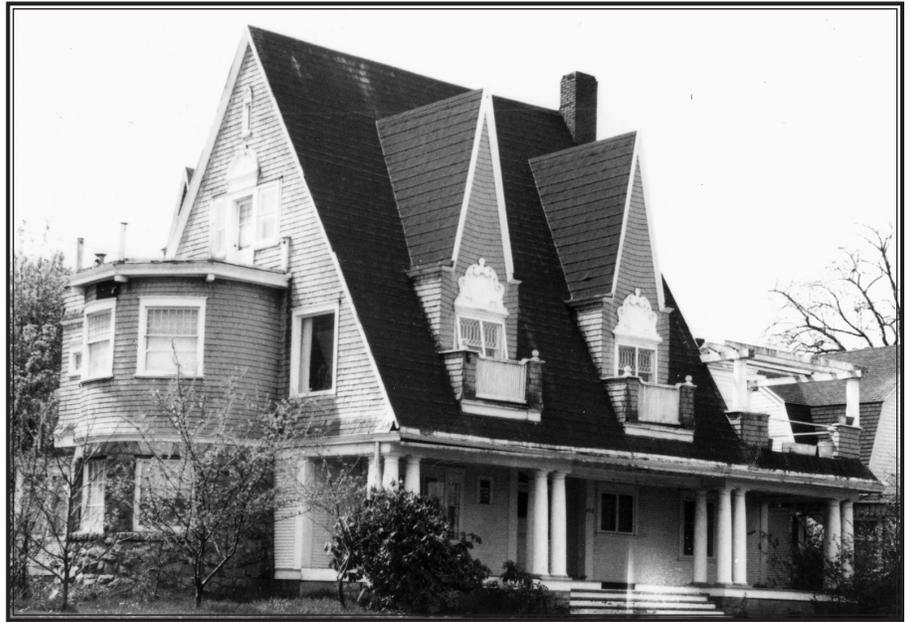
1218 North I Street (1889)  
1220 North I Street (1889)  
517 North J Street (1889)  
714-16 North K Street (1889)  
517 N Sheridan Street (1892)

#### Proctor & Farrell:

1402 North 5th Street (1903)  
922 North 11th Street (1903)  
502 North I Street (1904)  
624 North J Street (1902)  
924 North J Street (1906)

## 15 402 NORTH SHERIDAN STREET

Ambrose Russell designed this unusual shingle-style house in 1901 for attorney Frederick H. Murray. Its extremely high-pitched roof and dormers faced with art nouveau panels are unique. Murray came to Tacoma in 1889 as part of the Northern Pacific Railway law office and later started his own practice. His adopted son, Robert, was a noted treble discovered by the Metropolitan Opera. In 1920 Robert had his New York City debut at age 12. Mr. Murray moved the family to New York to over see his son's career.



Tacoma Public Library, BU-1116

## 16 1501 NORTH 5TH STREET



Willow's Photography

from an evening out and found that thieves had not only stolen cash and jewelry, but had helped themselves to dinner, even carrying off sardines, bread and butter, and a cake! Mr. Barnes served as president of the Tacoma Real Estate Board, and vice-president of the Northwest Real Estate Association. In 1942, the residence became the home of then Lt. Governor Emmett Anderson.

In 1904 Charles Bartz, owner of Tacoma Millwork Supply, built this unique Four-Square with a two-story bay as his residence. Bartz was a native of Germany, and originally settled in La-Crosse, Wisconsin. Although he only lived here a few years, the house showcased his millwork. Most of the woodwork on the main floor was originally golden oak, with imitation birch floors. The second level floors were fir. Sadly many of the interior finishes were lost when it was divided into apartments. By 1907 the house was owned by W. A. Barnes, a Toronto, Canada native who worked in the real estate and insurance industry. The family had quite a surprise in April of 1918—they returned home

After the Bartz residence walk back to North Sheridan and turn left (west)

## 17 515 AND 517 NORTH SHERIDAN STREET

E. L. Sawyer, a real estate developer, had O. P. Dennis design these two houses around 1892. Following the financial crash of 1893, 515 was the home of Frank Graham and attorney, and 517 was home of the Voorhees family. Peter Voorhees, a Detroit native arrived in Tacoma in 1890 to start a flour mill and grain elevator. However, he lost his business in the 1893 crash. The arrival of the Northern Pacific railroad had created massive real estate speculation. As a result only 3 of the 28 Tacoma banks survived the 1893 crash. In Seattle, no banks failed, and thus began Seattle's rise over Tacoma. In 1895 James Hill bought the Northern Pacific Railway from Wright and moved the terminus to Seattle.



517 North Sheridan Street • Willow's Photography

## 18 514 NORTH SHERIDAN STREET



Tacoma Public Library, BU-1126

This 1902 Dutch Colonial designed by George Bullard was the home of Louis Stewart, who came to Tacoma in 1888 from West Virginia. He and his brother formed Kona Koffee in 1905, with Louis serving as president. Louis only lived here a few years, the next residents were William Leslie and Catherine H. McDonald. Mr. McDonald was a cigar dealer.

Through this next section of North Sheridan and North M there are several Craftsman homes, Cape Cods, and Tudor cottages mostly from the North Slope's third building phase from about 1919 to 1930. By this time the North Slope had become an older middle-class urban neighborhood. Residents at the time were salesmen, engineers, carpenters, and bookkeepers.

## 19 720 NORTH SHERIDAN STREET

This 1908 residence was built as a regional variation of the Four-Square style, sometimes referred to as the “Seattle Box.” This style is distinguished by a recessed front porch, which often only covers a portion of the front. Second floor corner windows project on the main façade, and were designed to provide dramatic views. The center of the second floor is also commonly accented with a small exotically designed window or occasionally a pairing of windows. This house was the home of C. A. Mudgett, a local grocer.

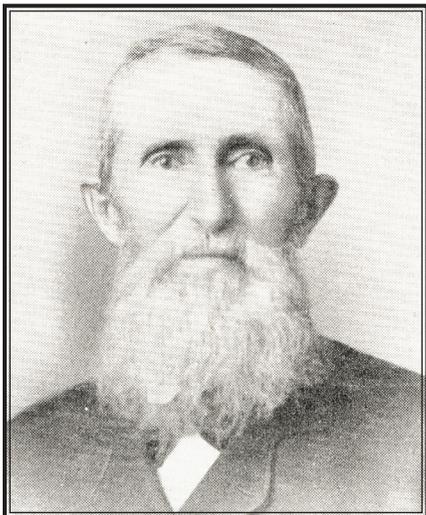


Willow's Photography

## 20 715 NORTH SHERIDAN STREET



Tacoma Public Library, BU-1141



(Job Carr) from Herbert Hunt's *History of Tacoma*, 1916

Here is the heart of the North Slope Historic District, the site of Job Carr's farmhouse (not to be confused with his first cabin in Old Town), fairly close to the center of his farm. This area was originally known as Job Carr's Hill. Carr, a Civil War veteran from Indiana, came to Commencement Bay in 1864 right after the war. That year, the Northern Pacific Railway was granted 40 million acres of public domain land and mineral rights as incentive to build a railroad from Lake Superior to Puget Sound. Carr, alert to the development opportunities, decided to found a city at what he hoped would be the western terminus of the railroad. He, along with his sons Albert and Howard, cleared the land

and built a cabin at what is now Old Town. Carr became the first postmaster and his cabin the post office. He was also the first mayor. Carr filed a Homestead Claim for a farm on the hillside above the new town and paid \$6.00 for the 160-acre farm. His wife, Marrietta, divorced him at age 72, prompting Carr to acquire a mail-order bride. He lived here until his death in 1887. The farmhouse was torn down in 1920.

The house that you see here now was built in 1920 as the home of noted Tacoma architect Roland Borhek. Borhek came to Tacoma in 1907 and worked here until he retired in 1942. Originally from Boston he came west in 1905 and became chief draftsman for Augustus Warren Gould of Seattle, designing several large buildings in Seattle, Tacoma, and Spokane. In 1910 Borhek opened his own firm in Tacoma. He designed the Rialto Theatre, the Puget Sound Bank Building, and the Pacific Garage. He also designed Jason Lee Middle School (1927) the first middle school in Washington State. He served as president of Tacoma Architects Association for a decade and was affiliated with the American Institute of Architects.

Turn right (North) on to North 9th Street

## 21 1215 NORTH 9TH STREET AND 901 NORTH M STREET

This area is known as “Miller’s Corner” after Albert Miller, a building contractor and apartment owner. Miller built the apartments at 915 (1922) and 909 (1911) as well as 901 (1917) and 1215 North 9th Street (1918). The apartments have had several name changes though out the years: Orchid Apartments (1919–1933), Holly Apartments (1943–1980), and the current name McKellar was given in 1981. Miller also built the residences at 909 (1911) and 915 (1922) North M Street.



901 North M Street • Tacoma Public Library, BU-955

## 22 815 NORTH L STREET



Tacoma Public Library, BU-10117

This 1925 English Revival Cottage is almost Storybook in style, with its faux thatched roof. It was the home of Fred J. and Elizabeth Stabbert. Mr. Stabbert operated a plaster business. He was a member of Calvary Baptist Church and also served as the director of the Tacoma Rescue Mission.

## 23 901 & 903 NORTH K STREET

These two handsome Queen Anne homes are all that remains of twelve similar homes nicknamed “the twelve apostles.” Sadly, the Tacoma Housing Authority razed the other 10 “apostles” in the 1960s. They were designed by architects Bullard & Haywood in 1892 for Tacoma tycoon A. C. Mason. Lemuel T. Root was the building contractor for the houses, and was responsible for more than sixty residences in Tacoma. Root later attended a Baptist seminary in Kentucky and was pastor of many churches in the Northwest. The last building he constructed was the Baptist church in Hoquiam. A. C. Mason came to Tacoma in 1883 with about \$2.50 and quickly went into the real estate business. He eventually bought land along the bay in North Tacoma and built houses there. He built the first bridges across the gulches on North I and Proctor streets and gave them to the city so that streetcars could bring buyers to his properties. He was also heavily involved in electric and gas utilities. He was part owner of the Tacoma Hotel and gave the money to build the Elks Building. He had business interests throughout the Northwest and Alaska.



Willow's Photography

## 24 1012 NORTH 9TH STREET



Willow's Photography

Although altered, this 1888 residence is one of only two remaining houses known to be designed by Katherine Lockwood Squire, architect for the Tacoma Building Association. Squire was Washington's first professional female architect and designed more than two-dozen buildings in Tacoma. Very little is known about Ms. Squire. It is thought that her husband may have been Frank O. Squire, the building inspector for the Tacoma Building and Savings Association. Ms. Squire left Tacoma in 1888; a newspaper account from the time period mentions her husband's illness as the reason for moving. This was the home of Deputy City Treasurer S. T. Armstrong.

These Craftsman houses were built in 1925. 1005 was the home of Steve G. Victor, a native of Marmara, Greece. He worked at the Pacific Oyster and Fish Company at Tacoma's Crystal Palace Market. Steve and his brothers purchased the business in 1928, renaming it the "Victor Brothers Fishmarket." Steve was particularly active at St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church, and was a co-founder of the organization. 1009 was the home of William and Mina Gray. William was involved with the Tacoma Kenworth Company, a commercial truck sales firm.



1005 North 9th Street • Willow's Photography

**Turn Right (East) onto J Street, and return to starting point.**

### The North Slope Historic District

The residents of the North Slope appreciate the special character of the neighborhood. This character is maintained, in part, by its inclusion on the Tacoma Register of Historic Places, which helps preserve the architectural character of the historic district through regulation of exterior alterations and new development. The designation won't prevent changes—it helps insure that changes are appropriate to the style of the individual structure and the context of the district. The historic status of the district provides owners with economic incentives for building rehabilitation.

Regulations are administered by citizens serving on the Tacoma Landmarks Preservation Commission, using a set of design guidelines developed for the North Slope. Only exterior elevations and property improvements are regulated; there is no regulation of interior changes or exterior paint color. The primary concern is to retain the original building character and materials; if replacement of building elements is necessary, the preference is to replace with like materials.

### Benefits of Owning Property in the North Slope Historic District

- Rehabilitation expenses may be eligible for the Special Valuation Tax Assessment program.
- Protection from incompatible alterations and new construction
- Protection from demolition of historic properties
- Guidelines and advice provided to assist homeowners when they plan an alteration
- Flexibility in building code requirements to protect historic structures
- Protection of property values

---

**Funded by Historic Tacoma, the North End Neighborhood Council,  
and the North Slope Historic District**

**Researched by Brian Kamens, Marshall McClintock, Kim O'Rourke,  
and Caroline Swope of Historic Tacoma**

**Designed and Edited by Erin E. Clarkson  
2008**

# NORTH SLOPE HISTORIC DISTRICT WALKING TOUR: THE SQUARE

This tour is a quick introduction to the North Slope Historic District. The route tours the heart of the district and introduces you to a variety of styles and architects. The tour mostly follows the shape of a square, returning you to the starting point.

1. 911 North J Street
2. 901 North J Street
3. 817 North J Street
4. 816 North J Street
5. 702 North J Street
6. 701 North J Street
7. 523 North J Street
8. 1014 North 5th Street
9. 1015 & 1021 North 5th Street
10. 1102 North 5th Street
11. 417 North L Street
12. 417 North M Street
13. 1401 & 1415 North 5th Street
14. 1402 North 5th Street
15. 402 North Sheridan Avenue
16. 1501 North 5th Street
17. 515 & 517 North Sheridan Avenue
18. 514 North Sheridan Avenue
19. 720 North Sheridan Avenue
20. 715 North Sheridan Avenue
21. 1215 North 9th Street & 901 North M Street
22. 815 North L Street
23. 901 & 903 North K Street
24. 1012 North 9th Street
25. 1005 North 9th Street



Maps courtesy of Mapquest.com