



Trolley Times

North Slope Historic District Inc. May 2018
501(c)(3) Organization Volume 86

Native Plants to Highlight May's Gardening Program

Pierce County Master Gardener Marilyn Newton will join us on **May 24th** to discuss the use of native plants and trees in our gardens. As well as showing us the types of plants and where to use them, Ms. Newton will discuss their care so that we can successfully include these Northwest-loving plants and trees in our yards and gardens.

Come for an interesting evening of discussion and questions/answers about how to make our city yards reflect our climate.

Questions? Call Judy Martin, 253-572-3058.

**May 24, 6:30 for Coffee Time
7:00 for Program
Immanuel Presbyterian Church
Basement Entrance on N 9th**

Try a NSHD Walking Tour for May's Historic Preservation Month

By Jay Turner

Make a walking tour of the NSHD by starting with houses near where you live, and expand out as you find houses of interest. To get started, find the walking tour suggestions in our web pages:

TacomaNorthSlope.org and then click on ***History, Articles, & Photos***. Go to **Chapter 11 - Walking Tour**. Print out a NSHD map from the Home page, and mark it up to make your very own tour.

The Walking Tour comes in 2 parts: First one is in a booklet put out by Historic Tacoma and the North End Neighborhood Council. Print your own copy or print parts of it. It is way too long for one walking tour, so you may want to make it a driving tour. Or, split it up and walk it in stages. Be selective and go to those of most interest to you.

The second way to do a walking tour is to use the houses we have highlighted in the *Trolley Times* in the selection called "From the Archives." There are almost two dozen homes there, and they will make a different type of tour: the articles concentrate on **who** lived there, rather than on the house style. For instance, Bing Crosby lived at 1112 N. J when he was a small child.

My favorite is the first one in the list, on N. I St., where a wealthy Gig Harbor woman moved her entire house by barge to Tacoma - in two pieces - so she could live next door to her daughter! Walk by 1224 N. I St.



Bing Crosby 1112 N J St c.1977

The Architecture of the North Slope

A New Series: by Julie Dugan

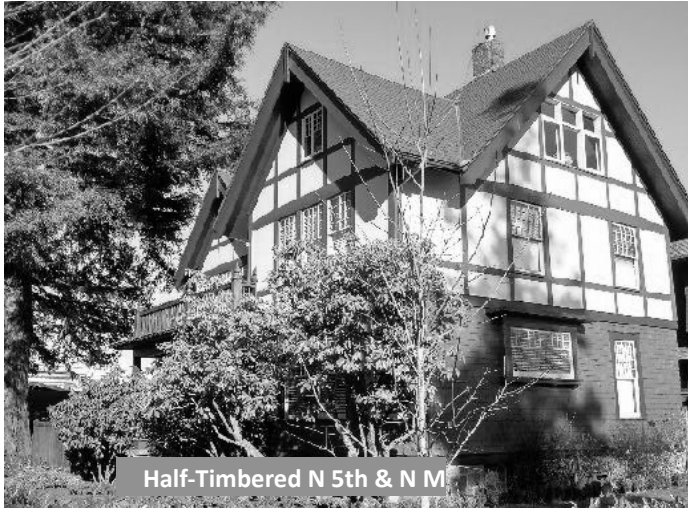
The Many Faces of Tudor - and a Storybook



N 7th and N Sheridan

Walking along the streets of the North Slope you've probably noticed some dramatic, sloped rooflines, off-center doors or chimneys, and even half-timbered houses that reminded you of Shakespeare's England. That's no coincidence. These are characteristics of Tudor Revival style homes, and the North Slope has a lot of them. Peaking in popularity in the 1920's, Tudor Revivals were part of a Period Revival trend in architecture. During that time, much of our architecture became a nostalgic representation of Medieval Europe, England and Colonial America. The popularity of the Tudor Revival was boosted by a theatrical Hollywood twist, a medieval fairytale spinoff, called Storybook style. The Storybook style took on both

the look of Tudor as well as European Medieval architecture. Our North Slope holds a lot of Tudor Revival style homes, some with a little whimsical Storybook magic thrown in.



Half-Timbered N 5th & N M



Can you find this NSHD Storybook?

During the 1920's Tacoma was becoming more densely populated, and more original homesteaders were parceling off their larger lots to sell for infill housing. Builders used the economical standardized plan books for their designs and often built a few at a time. Tudor Revival was popular with builders and public alike. These middle class Tudors had a variety of facades, wood sided, half-timbered, brick and other masonry. Some of the Storybook homes were plaster over masonry.



Brick Tudor N 6th & N M

Common exterior features of the Tudor Revival:

- Steep-pitched roofs with offset front-facing gable
- Arched doors or windows
- Asymmetrically placed chimneys, archways and doors
- Decorative brick work on chimneys

Next Issue: The American Foursquare

Saving Our Past Tells Us Who We Are Today

By Lauren Hoogkamer, Historic Preservation Coordinator, City of Tacoma

May is Historic Preservation Month, and we want to recognize the importance of our residential historic districts. There are two residential historic districts on the Tacoma Register of Historic Places—the North Slope and the Wedge, which are also on the National Register. Additionally, the city has four more residential National Register districts— Stadium/Seminary, Salmon Beach, Buckley's Addition, and College Park.

While the downtown commercial historic districts tell the story of Tacoma's development in terms of industry, business, and civic institutions, our residential districts tell us about the lives of Tacoma's past residents. Housing locations and architectural styles tell us how people lived, where they came from, and the importance of community. By preserving the original materials in a residential district we are preserving the work of craftsmen and artisans, as well as materials that

can't be replicated, such as old growth wood windows.



Homeowners in the historic districts are taking on the important responsibility of preserving and maintaining these historic artifacts. The stories of how these districts were created will one day become part of the neighborhood history.



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North Slope Streets to See Improvements This Summer

By Mitch Robinson

In 2015, the Tacoma Streets Initiative was passed by Tacoma voters. Since that time, North Slope residents have been patient as other nearby neighborhoods have started to enjoy the benefits from much needed improvements.

Finally, it's our turn.

Beginning this summer, (primarily in August), we will see a number of streets/blocks improved as part of the city's *2018 Residential Street Restoration Program*. Of course, this is only a small percentage of the work that needs to happen in the North Slope, but it is a start.

Of most interest is that North K Street, from Division to N. Steele, will be repaved with a hot-mix overlay. According to a letter from Tacoma Public Works which North K Street residents received, each block will be closed (except for local traffic) for 1-4 days to prepare it for paving. Then, 1-3 weeks later, the street will be paved, and usually open 4-6 hours later after it cools.

The area of K Street by Hank's Bar actually used to be a trestle bridge in the early 1900's, so it will be interesting to see what's found underneath current paving, depending on how deep the dig goes in that area.



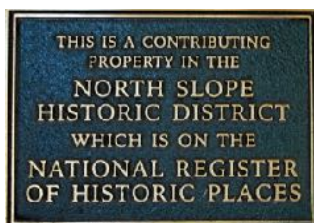
A number of blocks that feed off North K will also have work done this summer. For other information, visit: <http://tacomastreetsinitiative.org>

Beyond 2018, the city still has plans for more North Slope improvements. As one example, according to Erik Sloan with the City of Tacoma, a good portion of North 5th Street is targeted for 2019, in cooperation with Tacoma Public Utilities as water main work will be taken on at the same time.

Get ready for a summer of street improvements in the North Slope Historic District!

FOR SALE NSHD BRONZE PLAQUE

Want a Plaque for Your House?



If you would like a bronze plaque to mark your house as part of the NSHD **National Register of Historic Places**, the NSHD, Inc. Board has them for sale. Plaques are about 5 x 7 and cost \$80 each.

To purchase, contact Karen May
253-779-0160, or klmay@wamail.net

The Board of Directors for NSHD, Inc can be found on the web page: TacomaNorthSlope.org

NSHD GARAGE SALE ON JULY 14TH

It's time to clean out your closets and attic in anticipation of the annual NSHD Garage Sale:

Saturday July 14th, from 9am to 4pm

Here's how it works: Maps listing participating homes are handed out the day of the sale at 515 North M St. Shoppers won't receive the maps until 9am so you won't have early birds.

Fill out the form below and attach \$8 cash or check made payable to NSHD. Mail or deliver to:

Judy Martin, 515 N.M St.

Contact Judy Martin with questions 253-572-3059

Name _____

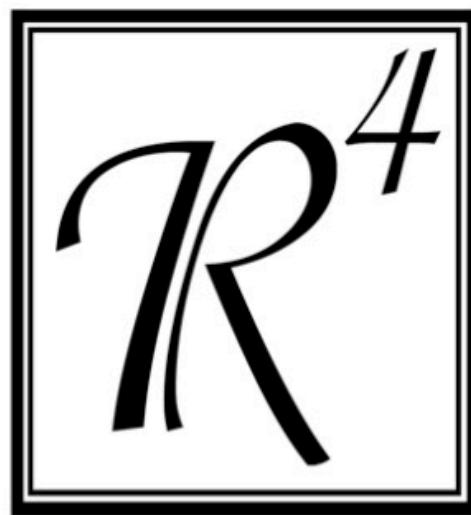
Address _____

Where is the sale? Circle one: Parkway or Alley

One item you like to feature in the map and advertising.
(example: baby clothing, plants) _____

Mail or drop off by 7/11/2018 (with \$8) to

Judy Martin 515 N.M St.



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News Around the NSHD...

1. Is there someone who would like to do a **Trolley Times delivery route**? Call me if you do! Julie Turner 253-383-2329

2. **National Night Out** is on **Aug. 7**, a Tuesday evening, to get acquainted with your neighbors. Get together with your block of residents, and make sure you have a way to communicate with each other in case of a rash of break-ins or vandalism. Setting up a **Block Watch group** is easy - someone on the block hosts a meeting of nearby residents. All exchange emails and/or phone numbers with each other, and choose someone to be the leader. This is a simple and effective way to help keep our neighborhood safe by making it hard for crime to get a toehold. Passing the word around works to help us all keep an eye out for trouble and report it.

3. The promised **crosswalk for North I St.** will not be started until July, 2018, with an estimated completion date of November. The crosswalk will be at North 4th and North I St, with concrete bump-outs on the northeast and the southwest

corners. There will not be bumpouts on the other other two corners because of the bus stops. There will be ADA curb ramps, too, but the crosswalk will not be protected with flashing lights at this time. If you have questions, call: **Darius Thompson, Project Manager**, at 253-573-2410 in Public Works Dept.

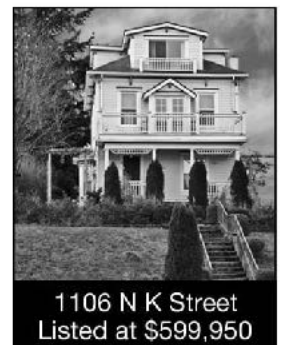
4. District 2 Council Member Robert Thoms is deployed to Afghanistan for 6 months with the Navy; City Council has appointed Justin Camarata to fill in for Thoms. **Contact Mr. Camarata at: (253) 594-7848** at the City Council office or on his cell: (253) 229-2508.

5. Tacoma Historical Society's 24th Annual **Home Tour will be May 5 & 6**. Tickets may be purchased at Stadium Thriftway and Pacific Northwest Shop. For other details and locations of the homes go to: www.tacomahistory.org/historic-homes-of-tacoma

Julie Turner, Editor

Pricing Historic District Homes.... Easier Said Than Done!

Valuing North End properties is far from a simple, standard or consistent practice. Various factors such as finishes, character, garage, view, lot size, and much more can have a **HUGE** affect on your homes value.



As you can see in the above referenced Team Tuttle listings, the listing & sale prices can vary dramatically throughout the Historic District. If you are interested in learning what your home would sell for in this current **BOOMING** market, contact Team Tuttle for a free consultation!

teamtuttle@tkrei.com | 253.224.5500 | TKREI.com | 1302 N I St, 98403



FROM THE ARCHIVES . . .

Taken from the National Register of Historic Places, NSHD Nomination

The Queen Anne-style home at 520 North L St. was built in 1900 as the home of Carl A. Darmer, an architect who became a prominent designer of many buildings in Tacoma. He was born, and trained as an architect, in Germany, and came to San Francisco in 1882. He moved on to Portland, Oregon for a short time before arriving in Tacoma in 1884. He took a position with architect William Farrell that lasted for the next ten years.

In 1885, Darmer married Sophia Schulz, who was also from Germany, and the couple had a son and a daughter. The home he designed for his family in 1900, with O. F. Larson as the contractor, had "...four rooms on the first floor, part of which has hardwood floors, and electrical fixtures, a fireplace and a concrete basement."



520 North L St.



1601 North 8th

Darmer became one of Tacoma's better-known and most prolific architects for his work with Farrell and with Cutting. A wide variety of Darmer-designed structures, with these two partners, remain throughout Tacoma. In 1888, "Tacoma Daily Ledger" reported 31 buildings designed by Farrell and Darmer.

In NSHD, in fact, today you can walk by several more homes, credited only to Darmer, but actually done during his partnerships with either Farrell and Cutting:

- 1601 N. 8th (1892) with Farrell
- 1505 N. 6th (1903) with Cutting
- 1509 N. 6th (1903) with Cutting
- 1501 N. 6th (1903) with Cutting

Darmer left Farrell to form his own firm after 1900, in partnership with architect Otis Cutting. Together they designed such structures as the First Presbyterian Church, the former People's Store downtown, the F.S. Harmon and Co. building, as well as a variety of residences, business blocks, schools and hotels.

CALL BEFORE YOU HAMMER

Within NSHD boundaries, all exterior changes to the structure of a house, other than painting and minor repairs, **MUST** be reviewed by the Historic Preservation Officer to determine if the changes need a Landmarks Preservation Commission review. Before you start, calling the Historic Preservation Office and talking to either Reuben McKnight or Lauren Hoogkamer might save you time and trouble because sometimes your project can be approved by an administrative approval process, instead of a formal review.



Historic Preservation Officer, Reuben McKnight, at 253-591-5220 for information, or email reuben.mcknight@cityoftacoma.org

Historic Preservation Coordinator, is Lauren Hoogkamer, 253-591-5254 and her email is: lhoogkamer@ci.tacoma.wa.us

Projects that you need to call about include:

- Changing or replacing windows
- Changing or replacing siding
- Adding, replacing or changing a porch or deck or dormer

Don't forget to check out the Design Guidelines for NSHD. You can find them on the NSHD website, TacomaNorthSlope.org



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