

# Landmarks Preservation Commission

## Tacoma Community and Economic Development Department



747 Market Street ❖ Room 1036 ❖ Tacoma WA 98402-3793 ❖ 253.591.5220

## TACOMA REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES NOMINATION FORM

This form is required to nominate properties to the Tacoma Register of Historic Places per Tacoma Municipal Code 13.07.050. Type all entries and complete all applicable sections. Contact the Historic Preservation Officer with any questions at 253-591-5220.

### PART 1: PROPERTY INFORMATION (for 'HELP' press the F1 key)

#### Property Name

Historic Point Defiance Lodge Common \_\_\_\_\_

#### Location

Street Address 5717 Roberts Garden Road Zip 98407

Parcel 0221103000 _____	No(s). _____	Legal Description and Plat or Addition: Section 10 Township 21 Range 02 Quarter 31 : & 4 GOVT LOTS 1, 2 & 3 14 21 2E D 2, 3 & 4 GOVT LOTS 1, 2 & 3 & S 1/2 OF SW ALSO 15 21 2E D 1, 2, 3 & 4 GOVT LOT 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6 & E 1/2 OF SW BEING POINT DEFIANCE PARK 647.86 ACS M/L
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#### Nominated Elements

Please indicate below significant elements of the property that are included in the nomination by checking the appropriate box(es) below. These elements should be described specifically in the narrative section of this form.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Principal Structure   | <input type="checkbox"/> Site   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic Additions               | <input type="checkbox"/> Historic Landscaping, Fencing, Walkways, etc.  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ancillary Buildings/Outbuildings | <input type="checkbox"/> Interior Spaces/Other (inventory in narrative) |

#### Owner of Property

Name City of Tacoma

Address 747 Market Street City Tacoma State WA Zip 98402

Is the owner the sponsor of this nomination? Yes ☐ No ☒

#### Form Preparer

Name/Title Melissa McGinnis,  
Historic and Cultural  
Resource Administrator Company/Organization Metro Parks Tacoma

Address 4702 S 19<sup>th</sup> Street City Tacoma State WA Zip 98405

Phone 253-305-1003 Email melissam@tacomaparks.com

#### Nomination Checklist—Attachments

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 Filing Fee (payable to City Treasurer)   | <input type="checkbox"/> Continuation Sheets            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Site Map (REQUIRED)  | <input type="checkbox"/> Historical Plans               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Photographs (REQUIRED): <i>please label or caption photographs and include a photography index</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please indicate): _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Last Deed of Title (REQUIRED): <i>this document can</i>  |   |

FOR OFFICE USE

Date Received \_\_\_\_\_

11/2008

Nominations to the Tacoma Register of Historic Places are processed according to the procedures and standards described in TMC 1.42 and 13.07. Submittal of a nomination form does not obligate the City to place a property on the Register or to extend financial incentives to a property owner. Documents submitted become public record. Additional requirements may be imposed by other City, state or federal regulations.



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*usually be obtained for little or no cost from a titling  
company*

Fee Paid \_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative (continued)**

**PART 2: PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION**

**Extent of Changes**

Please summarize the changes to plan, original cladding, windows, interior and other significant elements by selecting the choices below. If the property has been previously documented, these may be indicated on the Washington State Historic Property Inventory Form. These changes should be described specifically in the narrative section of this form.

	Original Materials Intact			Original Materials Intact	
Plan (i.e.: no additions to footprint , relocation of walls, or roof plan)	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Interior (woodwork, finishes, flooring, fixtures)	Yes Most <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Original cladding	Yes/majority <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Other elements	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Windows (no replacement windows or replacement sashes)	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>			

**Physical Description Narrative**

Describe in detail the present and original (if known) physical appearance, condition and architectural characteristics (use continuation sheets if necessary).

Located at 5715 North Roberts Garden Road, the Point Defiance Lodge sits in the midst of a 760 acre urban park. The Queen Anne residence with Swiss Chalet detailing was designed by Tacoma architect Charles A. Darmer. The lodge was built in 1898 and is the only original park structure still in existence. The construction bid for the house was \$2,200.

An expansive lawn with shrubbery and paths surrounds the house, and North Roberts Garden Road encircles the lawn to the north of the house, creating a peninsula shaped section of land where the house and rose gardens are located, separating the building from other nearby sites including the tennis courts to the east and the 1914 Streetcar Station (Pagoda) to the north. Where plantings and lawn once covered the grounds, a dozen parking stalls are located to the southeast of the building today and are accessed by a driveway directly to the south.

The one-and-a-half story house is irregular in plan with a cross-gabled hipped roof. The four cross gables, one on each elevation, are of varying sizes. A very small polygonal dormer is located on the southeast elevation as well. The house has two chimneys. One is an internal brick unit, and leads to the kitchen where it once was connected to a cook stove. The other is an external stone unit, which connects to a fireplace in the Commissioners' Room. There was a third chimney when the house was built for a fireplace in the house's entry. Referred to as the "central fireplace" in Park Board minutes, this fireplace and chimney were closed up as part of alterations to the house in 1907. The brick surround for the fireplace is intact on the interior of the house but the chimney was removed above the roof line. The north end of the porch is rounded and has a turret roof capped with an ornate finial.

The elevations are complex constructions that utilize various cladding materials. The first floor and above grade portions of the basement are clad with peeled horizontal logs, with the exception of the rear addition bathroom (located on the southeast end) which is clad with vertical boards. A variety of cladding materials (vertical boards, stucco, wood singles, and fachwerk) are utilized for the upper floor. A large porch wraps around most of the building and is supported by simple baseless single columns with a Tuscan-type shaft. Simple half-rounded rectangles form the capitals. The portion of the porch roof over the square turret is supported by two sets of paired

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columns, the only use of paired columns on the house. The wood railings between the capitals feature a rustic bilateral design with the center portion composed of three horizontal rails flanked by side portions ornamented with diagonal rails radiating out towards the columns. Other than the end turrets, the porch is recessed under the main hipped roof of the house.

### **Northwest elevation:**

The front entrance, located on the northwest side of the building, is reached by six poured concrete steps and an ADA accessible ramp located slightly to the south of the stairs. The steps have bent pipe railings attached to square newel posts. There are three evenly spaced porch columns on either side of the main entry. Working from the north, excluding the center bay of the turret, the first fenestration bay has a narrow pair of French doors with three lights each and a single light awning transom. The next bay is the main entry, which extends slightly beyond the main wall of the building. This bay's fenestration pattern is window, door, window. Each window unit is made from a pair of fourteen light casement windows topped by a single light transom, the majority of which are operational casement units. The paired front doors are slightly recessed into the elevation and have two panels on the lower portion of the door and a large glass panel for the upper portion of the door, which is then topped by six lights. A two-light, fixed transom is directly above the entry doors. The wall then has two bays, each with a pair of three-light French doors topped by a single light awning transom. The southwestern turret, which is square with a hipped roof, follows next. It has three bays. The first is composed of four ganged and stacked windows of unequal size. The first set of windows is a double casement window, each unit with single lights. The lower two windows are taller than the upper pair. The next two windows are smaller and step up on the elevation. The lower pair are casement units with ten lights each- the upper pair have eight lights each, with the far left side is operational (casement) and the far right is fixed. The next bay of the turret, which transitions between the southwest elevation and the southeast elevation is occupied by the stone chimney.

The second level of this elevation has a large gabled dormer with extensive eave overhangs and narrow verge boards. The verge boards have decorative ends and are supported by five evenly spaced purlins - rafter tails are exposed. The wall cladding for the gable end is vertical board for the wall above the window and a combination of stucco, fachwerk, and wood shingle for the lower portion of the wall. A pierced slat balustrade supported by a shingle-clad base provides a small balcony area which is partially recessed into the gable end. The fenestration pattern for the balcony is window, door, window, with transoms above all three units. The door has three horizontal glass panels with two horizontal wood panels below. On either side of the door is a single window with two vertical lights. The eight light transoms over the windows are operational hopper units.

### **Southwest Elevation:**

The chimney that occupies the center turret bay is located on the far west end of the elevation. It is formed from large uncut stones on the lower portion, while the structure above the shoulders is comprised from smaller rounded stones. The smaller rounded stones were added over the original brick upper portion of the chimney during the house's 1907 alterations. The final bay of the turret is

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on the far west end of the elevation. This houses a pair of ten-light casement windows on the bottom portion of the opening and stacked directly above are two ganged four-light windows. The porch ends at the turret and starts again at the southern corner of the building. However, a narrow deck with the same ornate railing continues along this elevation.

To the east of the bay is a small bathroom that extends from the main wall elevation. The wall is clad with vertical boards and has two small single-light hopper windows. Directly to the south the wall reverts back to its usual depth and the wraparound porch reappears. The kitchen door is a contemporary wood unit with nine lights in the upper portion and a cross bar design with recessed panels on the lower portion. South of the door is a wood replacement window, a fixed square unit with two vertical lights. South of this window is a small one-over-one, double-hung wood window. The upper sash has ogee lugs. An exact date for the addition of the downstairs bathroom has not been determined, however, the present bathroom, kitchen and rear door configuration dates to a remodeling effort on this portion of the house in 1988 which altered the location of the back door and kitchen window as well as expanded the size of the bathroom to improve the house's function as a rental facility.

The rear of the house is reached by a back staircase, which is constructed of wood with open risers with four steps, a large riser, and then an additional four steps that angle parallel to the building. A wood gate, limiting access to the porch, attaches to the balustrade which is located to the south of the kitchen door.

The second floor of the southwest elevation has a large fachwerk and stucco clad gable located just above the chimney shoulders. The gable is unusual for its double verge board design. The upper portion of the extended gable has verge boards with decorative ends that are supported by purlins. A hipped dormer, with a significant gable extension on the front, extends from the second level of the home. The gable portion of the structure has a single purlin at the ridge line and the ends of the decorative verge board are supported by knee brackets. The lower portion of the gable wall is fackwerk in filled with stucco. Six ganged windows occupy the center of the wall. The three lower windows are all single pane, vertical rectangle units. The center window is a casement unit while the other two are fixed. The three windows located directly above the lower units are each a fixed four-light unit. The small portion of the hipped dormer that is visible extends to the east of the gable and has a ganged pair of rectangular single-light windows.

### **Southeast Elevation:**

The southeast elevation is raised above grade due to the exposed basement on this side of the building. The basement walls which were also clad with peeled log are predominately hidden behind large sections of lattice work screening. This elevation has five porch bays. The entry to the basement from the outside of the residence is below the second bay from the south. It is recessed beneath the porch and is flush with the basement wall. Two four-paneled doors access the space. The main floor has varied wall elevations (three distinct elevation planes) and fenestration. The first two windows are large single-light ganged units located in the kitchen. The wall then recesses slightly and has two bays, each with a double-hung, two-over-two light unit. The upper sashes are smaller than the lower sash and have ogee lugs. The wall recesses yet

again on the final southeast portion. The small section of the wall facing the northeast has one additional double-hung, two-over-two window. The final recess to the wall has a pair of French doors, each with three lights. A single fixed transom is above the doors.

The second floor of this elevation is complex and has two dormers. The largest, located on the southwestern portion of the façade, is a gable dormer with broad eaves and narrow verge boards. The lower portion of the dormer has stucco with fachwerk while the wall cladding above the windows is made from vertical boards. Three ganged windows are centered on the gable. The two end windows are fixed and are comprised by two vertical lights with a fixed eight-light transom above, while the center window is comprised from two casement units with a fixed eight-light transom above. Five purlins extend from the front of the gable and exposed rafter ends have decorative scrollwork. A very small polygonal dormer is located to the northwest. It is clad with wood shingles and has a small single horizontal eight-light window.

### **Northeast Elevation:**

This elevation has a complex massing. The main floor has a clipped corner on the far east with a single bay. The main part of the elevation has a single bay, and the far northwest portion of the elevation has a small angled wall that transitions into a turret. The bays all have four ganged windows, two large single-light casements on the lower portion of the bay and two smaller single-light fixed casements directly above. The upper sets of casement windows appear to have originally been operational, although not all units currently function.

The far eastern and western ends of this elevation have a porch, although the decking continues from the rest of the wraparound porch across this façade. The porch starts again at the turret on the far western end of the façade. The second floor has a large projecting gable with broad eaves. The gable is cantilevered on narrow beams and has a pierced slat balustrade delineating a balcony. Much of the balcony bay is recessed into the wall and has three fenestration bays. The center bay is a pair of single-light French doors. The doors are flanked by a vertical two light window on each side. Three fixed transoms are ganged directly above. The center transom is fixed, while the two side transoms are hopper units.

Cladding on the gable is stucco and fachwerk on the lower portion on the wall with vertical boards on the upper portion. The gable has narrow verge boards supported by five purlins and exposed rafter tails. Both the rafter tails and the verge boards have decoratively cut ends.

### **Interior**

The main entrance of the house opens directly into a large entrance hall, originally labeled as an office on the historic plans. Window seats are located on either side of the front door. The room is paneled fir up to the plate rail level and is then surprisingly decorated with ornate plasterwork similar in style to carved woodwork in common in French Rococo *boiseries*. A simple non-functioning fireplace with two mantels (a smaller shelf located below the main mantel) is centered on the southeast wall. South of the mantel is a door leading to the center hallway. The door has five horizontal panels that have been replaced with glass. The doorknob is black glazed terra

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cotta. The ceiling has elaborate box beams and a contemporary Craftsman Revival light fixture. Four original push-button light switches (in sets of two) with two Jappaned finish plates are located on the southwest wall. The floor in the entry hallway is covered with industrial grade wall-to-wall carpet that continues into the room on either side of the entrance hall. Rooms to the northeast and southwest of the entrance hall are accessed by pocket doors with Eastlake hardware (the pocket doors leading to the Commissioners' Room have been enclosed). The rooms each have paneled walls to the plate rail height, wall paper above the plate rail, and box beams on the ceiling. Ceiling light fixtures are contemporary Craftsman Revival units.

The Commissioners' Room, to the south of the entry hall, has a fieldstone fireplace with a wood mantle on the far southwest wall. The hearth is made from square terracotta tiles. Two sets of French doors located on the northeast wall access the front porch. Ceiling light fixtures are contemporary Craftsman Revival units. The sitting room, to the north of the entry hall, has a pair of French doors that lead out to the porch on the northwest wall. A door on the southwest wall leads to the bed room that runs along the northeast wall of the house.

The first floor bed room, located along the northeast façade, has a door leading to the sitting room on the northwest wall, a French door leading to the porch on the northeast wall, a door way (door is missing) leading to the back hallway along the west end of the southwest wall, and a door leading to the dining room on the east end of the southwest wall. All doors have five panels and have Eastlake door plates with ceramic glazed terracotta door knobs. The room has contemporary Craftsman Revival ceiling fixtures. Wall sconces are early 20<sup>th</sup> century models with polychrome finishes and faux candles. Two original push-button light switches are in the room, but both of the plates are replacements. The floor is covered with a commercial grade carpet. The room has the original picture rail several inches below the ceiling height. The wall below the picture rail has late 20<sup>th</sup> century wallpaper.

The dining room, located on the southeast elevation, has three doors; one on the northeast wall leading to the bedroom, one on the northwest wall, leading to the hallway, and one on the southwest wall, leading to the kitchen. The wall is divided by a plate rail with the surface below the plate rail decorated with late 20<sup>th</sup> century wallpaper and battens and the wall above the plate rail covered with late 20<sup>th</sup> century wallpaper. A picture rail is located just below the ceiling. A built-in corner cabinet, which stops at the plate rail height, is located in the east corner of the room. The bottom of the cabinet has two drawers with glass pulls. The west corner of the room jogs to accommodate the internal chimneystack for the kitchen, which is located to the southwest. The lighting is a contemporary Craftsman Revival ceiling fixture. An original push-button switch with its vintage Jappaned finish plate is intact. Windows in the room have Eastlake design on the finger lifts. All five panels in the door to the hallway have been removed and replaced with glass lights. Doorknob is terracotta with an Eastlake back plate.

The kitchen, located in the southern corner of the building, has three doors. One leads to the dining room on the northeast wall, the door in the southwest wall leads to the outside, and the door to the northwest leads to the hallway. The kitchen was extensively remodeled in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century (archway on the far southeast side of the room and the painted glass shade light fixture) and again in the post-WWII era (cabinets). A single painted upper cabinet unit, with inset Shaker-

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style doors, remains on the northeastern wall. Flooring is vinyl.

A half-bath is located at the southwestern end of the hallway. The doorway opening is not original. It has been enlarged to accommodate ADA access and the trim is considerably more narrow and lacks the plinth block found on the historic trim. The new door has five horizontal panels with an ADA accessible lever instead of the traditional knob. The bath has a post-WWII era porcelain sink and a contemporary toilet. Flooring is vinyl.

Stairs to the second floor are located in the center hallway. A janitorial closet with a four-panel door is located under the stairs (stairs down to the basement originally occupied this location). The stairs have a squared newel post with a button top. Balusters are short due to a tall base rail. A late 20<sup>th</sup> century hand railing is along the northwest wall. The hallway and stairs have the same industrial carpet found on the rest of the first floor. The ceiling light fixture is a contemporary Craftsman Revival. Two single historic push-button light switches are located in the hall. One has the original plate while the second has a contemporary hammered metal plate.

The second floor is not a full level, and as a result a significant portion of the ceiling is lower than eight feet and there are a number of odd angled walls. This level has three bedrooms and one bathroom. The hallway and the bedrooms have a contemporary industrial carpet. A hall closet is located on the southeast wall. The bathroom is located at the southwestern end of the hallway and has a four-panel door. The interior was remodeled in the 1960s-70s. Flooring is vinyl.

The bedroom on the southeast side of the floor has six ganged windows on the southeast wall. Wallpaper in the room has a 1960-1970s design motif. A four-panel door on the southwest side of the room accesses a small closet. The door frame has a clipped corner on the left side where the ceiling/wall elevations change. The closet wall is clad with horizontal board walls. A shadeless light fixture has a polychrome pan indicative of the 1920s-30s.

The bedroom on the northeast side of the house has a small petite dormer cut into the wall. The northeast wall has a door to the balcony flanked by windows on each side. Wallpaper in the room is a 1960s-1970s print. The floor in this room does not have carpet and the original fir floors are intact. A closet is located on the northwest wall.

The bedroom on the northwest side of the house has a balcony on the northwest wall. The balcony is accessed by a center door flanked by windows on each side. Transoms are above all fenestration units. A four vertical panel closet door is located on the west wall. Projecting wall corners in this room have ornate wood plaster protectors. The walls are covered with 1960s-1970s wallpaper. The light switch closest to the closet is the original push button unit with a Japanned finish plate. The floor is covered with an industrial grade carpet.

### Changes over time:

The exterior of the building has had minimal changes other than paint and modest remodeling of the southeast corner of the house to accommodate a downstairs bathroom and modernize the kitchen area. The house's exterior logs were originally stained brown but in 1930 the decision was

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made to paint the entire house. Paint has covered the exterior walls ever since.

The original plans for the house did not call for the completion of the upstairs rooms or the inclusion of a bathroom inside the house. When the Roberts family moved into the house in January 1899 they were a family of five. It may be assumed that utilizing only the one downstairs bedroom would have been inadequate. Park Board minutes note that in April 1902, the Park Board approved appropriating the funds to “complete the residence”. Later than year, in December the Park Board approved the funding to add electric lighting and modern plumbing. A narrative written by Ebenezer Roberts’ daughter Trillium describes some of these improvements. The electric wires hung from the ceilings and the indoor plumbing replaced the pitcher pump and tin sink in the kitchen with a faucet and a porcelain sink. She also noted that the bathroom was updated eliminating a tin tub which stood on four legs artistically designed and painted as lion heads; indicating that there was a bathroom in the house even though one is not drawn on the original plans. At the same time the wood stove in the kitchen was retrofitted with a water tank and hot water coils.

The Park Board voted to make more significant changes to the house in 1907. At that time the central fireplace and chimney in the main entry were closed; cobble stones were added to cover the brick upper section of the chimney for the large fireplace on the south side of the house; a hot air heating plant was installed in the basement for the first floor and one register was installed in the hall of the second floor; the pantry was enlarged; and, a storm door was added to the south entrance.

The 1902 electrical wiring for the house simply hung from the ceiling outside the walls so in 1908 the Park Board decided to install “proper electric lighting and wiring”.

Significant changes and improvements were made to the basement in 1909. The original basement was wood and by 1909 the floor boards were rotten and decayed. The depth of the basement was also not sufficient to be serviceable and the entire basement was deemed unsanitary. A general contractor was hired to excavate the basement to a proper depth and construct concrete foundation, walls and floors.

In November 1925 the Park Board appropriated funds to repair fire and water damage to the house. The nature or extent of the fire is not known but evidence of charred timbers can be seen inside the crawl space above the second floor closet. At this time asbestos slate shingles were installed on the roof.

It is unknown when the downstairs half-bath was added to the house. There is no formal documentation of the addition. It was not there when the Roberts family lived in the house from 1899–1908 based on family photographs but the addition can be seen in an Owen family photograph from the 1950s with a small extension between the chimney and the kitchen door on the south side of the house.

The Point Defiance Lodge functioned as the home of the Park Superintendent from 1899 to 1980. At that time, the house was converted to a rental facility for parties and other private gatherings. To



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better accommodate this new function numerous repairs were undertaken in 1988. Changes made at this time include:

- Remodel the downstairs half-bath to meet the standards of the Americans with Disabilities Act. This included moving the interior door, enlarging the space, and adding an exhaust fan to the exterior of the house.
- Remodel kitchen area – relocate door, relocate south facing window, new siding on the exterior, new cabinetry and new vinyl floor.
- Close off interior stairwell to the basement and convert the space to a closet underneath the stairway from the first to second floor.
- Replace rotten porch decking and porch railing
- Reroof with composite shingle roof
- Add a new chimney liner
- Add a concrete ramp to the front of the house to accommodate accessibility as per the guidelines of the Americans with Disabilities Act.
- Replace lattice around foundation perimeter
- Add latticework screen to the porch railing on the southeast side of the house to prevent falls.
- Replace carpet and wallpaper throughout
- Add new oak mantle to fireplace in the Commissioner's Room (southwest portion of the house)

The most recent repair to the house occurred in 2005 when all the decking on the verandah was replaced with Douglas fir and treated framing members. Throughout the history of the house the verandah decking was replaced several times due to rot and safety concerns.

**Non-contributing resource:** At the southwest corner of the property boundary a small modern gazebo was added in 1993. It was designed and built by Metro Parks Tacoma staff members. It is used for small wedding ceremonies on the grounds of the Lodge.

## PART 3: HISTORICAL OR CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

### Criteria for Designation

Tacoma Municipal Code recognizes six criteria of eligibility for inclusion on the Tacoma Register of Historic Places. Please select any that apply to this property, for which there is documentary evidence included in this nomination form.

- |                                     |   |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | A | Is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or  |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | B | Is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | C | Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | D | Has yielded or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history; or   |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | E | Is part of, adjacent to, or related to an existing or proposed historic district, square, park, or other distinctive area which should be redeveloped or preserved according to a plan based on a historic, cultural, or architectural motif; or                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | F | Owing to its unique location or singular physical characteristics, represents an established and familiar visual feature of the neighborhood or City.   |

### Historical Data (if known)

Date(s) of Construction	<u>1898</u>	Other Date(s) of Significance	_____
Architect (s)	<u>Charles A Darmer</u>	Builder	<u>Albert Miller</u> Engineer _____

### Statement of Significance

Describe in detail the chronological history of the property and how it meets the criteria for the Register of Historic Places. Please provide a summary in the first paragraph (use continuation sheets if necessary). If using a Multiple Property Nomination that is already on record, or another historical context narrative, please reference it by name and source.

The Point Defiance Lodge, built in 1898, meets Criteria A and Criteria C of the Tacoma Register of Historic Places in the areas of architecture and landscape architecture. The Lodge combines a Queen Anne floor plan, massing and finish details with the deep gable overhangs, peeled log exterior and pierce slat balustrades typical of Swiss Chalet designs. Prominent Tacoma architect Charles A. Darmer, who designed the building, described it as being of the "rustic style". The city's acquisition of Point Defiance as a significant urban park in 1888, led to the Park Board hiring landscape architect Edward Otto Schwagerl (1842–1910) and landscape gardener Ebenezer Rhys Roberts (1854-1918) in 1890 to work together to develop the newly acquired park lands of Tacoma including the largest - Point Defiance Park at 640 acres. The Lodge is the only remaining structure from the park's early development reflective of the 19<sup>th</sup> century urban parks movement and the creation of large "country" parks in or near many urban areas during the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

The Point Defiance Lodge is associated with broad patterns of American history in the areas of architecture and landscape architecture. The Lodge embodies distinctive characteristics of both Queen Anne and Swiss-Chalet style architecture and it has retained the great majority of its character defining features since its construction in 1898. As the only original park structure still in existence, the Lodge is closely associated with the park's early development as part of the urban parks movement spreading across the country following the establishment of New York City's Central Park in 1857.

The Lodge is located in Point Defiance Park, a peninsula at the northwest end of Tacoma, Washington. It is surrounded on three sides by the waters of Puget Sound. The peninsula was

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named Point Defiance when Charles Wilkes of the U.S. Exploring Expedition described its defensive potential for protection of Puget Sound. This led to President Andrew Johnson setting aside 640 acres of Point Defiance as a federal military reservation in 1866<sup>1</sup>; just one year after Tacoma's first settler Job Carr staked his claim on Commencement Bay.

Due to its federal designation, Point Defiance remained undeveloped as the city of Tacoma continued to grow following the establishment of Tacoma as the western terminus of the Northern Pacific Railroad in 1873. Along with the railroad came people from all walks of life anxious to make their mark on the new city of Tacoma, including a number of real estate developers and streetcar line builders. Tacoma's population grew from 4,000 people in 1884 to 40,000 people in just six years. As the downtown core became increasingly industrialized, developers began purchasing large tracts of land outside the city center for future home sites including the property just outside Point Defiance. In 1888 Isaac Anderson, Allen C. Mason and Hugh Wallace spearheaded a move to petition the U.S. Congress to let the city use the undeveloped Point Defiance military reservation as a park. It was seen as the ideal terminus for their new streetcar line running from downtown Tacoma through their new housing developments in Tacoma's north and east ends of town.<sup>2</sup> Point Defiance's natural beauty, surrounded on three sides by water with a large tract of old-growth forest, was destined to become an urban oasis for Tacoma's growing population. Once President Grover Cleveland signed the bill allowing use of the land for a park, Mason began constructing the Point Defiance Tacoma and Edison Railway Line. On March 1, 1890 Mason drove the final spike at an opening day ceremony for the streetcar line and the park.<sup>3</sup>

Even though it was considered opening day, few park improvements had been made to Point Defiance. That same year, 1890, the city appointed a Board of Park Commissioners to serve the city council in an advisory capacity and to develop and manage the city's parks, especially the newly acquired Point Defiance Park and a second large park area closer to the center of town, Wright Park. Their first order of business was to hire a visionary landscape architect, Edward Otto Schwagerl (1842-1910), who thought on a grand scale. "Parks are full of Nature's innocent and holy inspirations, and in them are whispers of peace and joy," he said. "Parks are the breathing lungs and beating hearts of great cities."<sup>4</sup> In the same year, the park board hired Ebenezer Rhys Roberts (1854-1918), a no-nonsense landscape gardener who got his hands dirty immediately by planting all Tacoma's early parks. Evidence of his work is still visible in Tacoma's parks today. The Point Defiance Lodge was built to be a home for the Roberts family as he oversaw the park's development. Schwagerl stayed in Tacoma less than two years, leaving Roberts to refine and complete the work they started together.

The headline of an article in the *Tacoma Daily Ledger* on July 3, 1892 read "*Tacoma's Great Pride*" to describe the work undertaken at Point Defiance Park in just two short years. Roberts and his crew had already begun to clear downed trees from the park's entrance and turn a boggy area into an attractive reflecting pond. Flowers, trees and shrubs were planted, trails were constructed from the rustic streetcar shelter to the waterfront, and a huge cedar log bridge was built across Sorex Gulch to connect the entry of the park with the forested northern regions. People from all areas of Tacoma rode the streetcar lines to visit the park and boats stopped along the waterfront to disembark passengers anxious to explore Point Defiance.

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Tacoma's "great pride" in these accomplishments was part of a larger, national American trend in park planning during the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The ultimate goal of designing landscapes for public use and enjoyment was seen as the improvement of American society through harmonious public spaces that were to serve as an antidote to the increasing urbanization of post-Civil War America. Parks were to be graceful, democratic, and rejuvenating, separate from the intrusions of daily life, and sheltered as much as possible from conflicting uses. The American Romantic movement of the first half of the nineteenth century promoted the scenic and aesthetic aspects of nature as important to people's physical and spiritual health. These ideals inspired the conservation movement and the urban park movement of the second half of the century. As industrialization increased in cities and towns across America, communities began to develop large tracts of land typically on the outskirts of cities to create "pleasure grounds" – open, charming, landscaped areas whose primary purpose was to allow city residents, especially workers, to relax in nature.<sup>5</sup> These parks were active with basic amenities but the design also allowed for a certain kind of mental appreciation or contemplation of the landscape.<sup>6</sup> The establishment of New York City's Central Park in 1857 inspired the creation of many other parks and park systems across the country including Chicago's Lincoln Park, Brooklyn's Prospect Park, Boston's Emerald Necklace Park System and Minneapolis-St. Paul's metropolitan park system.

The design philosophy's best-known proponent was the renowned landscape architect Frederick Law Olmstead (1822-1903), one of the designers of Central Park. Even though neither he nor the firm he established designed any of Tacoma's public parks, this spirit of artful rejuvenation in the design of civic green space was present as Point Defiance evolved from peninsula to park. Of all the early structures in the park – streetcar shelter, cedar log bridge, boathouse, animal enclosures, storage buildings, water tower – only the Point Defiance Lodge remains as a reminder of the park's earliest years.

Compared to Frederick Law Olmstead, Edward Otto Schwagerl never achieved the public recognition for his skills as a landscape architect but his design aesthetics followed the same school of thought. Born in Bavaria in 1842, Schwagerl spent his early years in Paris and came to New York at the age of twelve. His career in landscape architecture began when he went to work with Jacob Weidenmann in Hartford, Connecticut. Throughout the 1870s he worked in landscape design in Omaha, St. Louis and Cleveland. While in Cleveland he received the commission in 1879 to design Riverview Cemetery near Portland, Oregon. In 1890 he received the commission to design Tacoma's Wright Park and Point Defiance Park as well as to develop plans for a comprehensive park and boulevard system for the city. He only stayed in Tacoma for sixteen months before moving to Seattle where he accepted the position of Superintendent of Public Parks. In Seattle he laid out the city's Kinnear Park and began the plans for City Park, now Volunteer Park. Schwagerl ended his career designing real estate subdivisions and residential grounds of private citizens. None of Schwagerl's private residence work has been identified and only a handful of public landscapes in Portland, Tacoma, and Seattle remain in somewhat altered form to attest to his professional contributions to the region.<sup>7</sup>

Working alongside Schwagerl and continuing to design and manage Tacoma's park after

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Schwagerl moved to Seattle, was Ebenezer Rhys Roberts. Roberts was born in Wales and began his formal horticultural training at Kew Gardens, the royal botanic gardens of England, where he studied the art of landscape architecture and park building. He came to the United States in 1875 at the age of twenty-one working for a variety of commercial greenhouses and other horticultural business in New York, Arizona and California. Roberts moved to Tacoma in 1888 to develop an 80-acre estate at Wapato Lake for R.F. Radebough, editor and owner of the *Tacoma Daily Ledger* newspaper. Comments about his work such as, "...the park is rapidly becoming the most beautiful vista of landscape in this section of the northwest,"<sup>8</sup> caught the attention of the newly established Tacoma Park Board. They offered him a position in 1890 to work alongside Schwagerl to develop Point Defiance Park and Wright Park. Upon Schwagerl's departure in May 1892, Roberts was made Tacoma's first Park Superintendent and put in charge of the development of all park lands. Even before the Point Defiance Lodge was constructed, Roberts lived in a small dwelling in Point Defiance Park with his growing family. As a testament to his love of nature, Roberts and his wife Mary Anne named their children Ebenezer Jr., Reseda (a native wild flower), Trillium (a native wild flower), and Woodland. Roberts resigned his position with the Park Board in 1908 and later worked for the *Tacoma Ledger* as the horticultural editor for the newspaper. Upon his death in 1918 it was said of Roberts that, "...when he died he left the world that was more beautiful because he lived in it."<sup>9</sup>

In 1898, the Park Board decided to build a more significant home in Point Defiance Park for Roberts and his family. In addition to serving as the home of the Roberts family, the new building would also have a space dedicated for Park Board meetings and an office space for Roberts. The Park Board hired prominent local architect, Carl August Darmer to design the house. Darmer described the house or lodge as being of the "rustic style".<sup>10</sup> The lodge has a Queen Anne-style floor plan, massing and finish details but the deep gable overhangs, peeled log exterior and pierce slat balustrades are Swiss Chalet elements.

Queen Anne style architecture was popular in the United States from 1880 through 1910. The term "Queen Anne" is a misnomer, since this style has little in common with the formal Italian Renaissance Revival architecture that was popular during Queen Anne's reign in England from 1702 to 1714. Instead, Queen Anne designers borrowed architectural forms from the preceding Elizabethan and Jacobean periods. The style was popularized in England by architect Richard Norman Shaw (1831-1912) and his followers. Several sketches of his work were published during the 1870s in the journal *Building News*. Americans who were unable to travel abroad would have seen examples of the nascent Queen Anne style at the 1876 Philadelphia Centennial International Exposition with buildings designed for the British commissioner and delegates. These irregularly massed buildings with half-timbering, extended bays, steep roof lines and multi-lighted windows were illustrated in *American Building Magazine* and *Building News*. The first American example of this style is the Watts-Sherman House (1874) at Newport, Rhode Island designed by Henry Hobson Richardson. Architects and designers could peruse Queen Anne design elements in illustrated style books of the period, including E.C. Gardner's *Illustrated Homes* (1875) and Bicknell and Comstock's *Specimen Book of One-Hundred Architectural Designs* (1880).

The development of the Queen Anne style was, in part, made possible by a fundamental change

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in construction technology – the balloon frame. This lightweight framing technique popularized and mass produced in the later years of the 19<sup>th</sup> century replaced the heavier braced-frame construction. This newer structural system allowed both cheaper and more rapid construction than hewn joints and also allowed greater freedom in creating the irregular floor plans common in these styles.

Although the massing of the Point Defiance Lodge clearly shows a Queen Anne form, a significant number of details (deep eave overhangs, log cladding, and balconies with pierced slat balustrades) show heavy influence from the Swiss Chalet Revival. The Swiss Chalet Revival style was also introduced in design books like A.J. Downing's *The Architecture of Country Houses* (1850). Adapted from traditional versions of Swiss chalets and cottages found in the European Alps for hundreds of years, American models possessed simplistic decorative elements and common building materials, making these homes less expensive to build. Most Swiss chalets in the United States appeared between 1885 and 1915, with the style being more popular in some regions. The style was considered especially appropriate for heavily wooded or mountainous sites, so it is no surprise to find the influence of this style at Point Defiance Park.

Architect C. A. Darmer (1858–1952) would have been well aware of these trends in architectural styles when he designed the Lodge for Point Defiance Park. Born in Germany in 1858, Darmer attended school in Germany and served as a builder's apprentice before studying architecture at Hoexter College. He left Germany in 1879, traveled to England and Australia and moved to San Francisco, California in 1882 where he worked as an architect. Two years later he responded to an advertisement in a Tacoma newspaper and took a position with Tacoma architect William Farrell, creating the architectural firm of Farrell and Darmer. While in Tacoma he designed a number of prominent buildings including the Donnelly, Tourist, Olympus and Carlton Hotels, the first Chamber of Commerce Building, the German Lutheran Church, the Unitarian Church on South Tacoma Avenue, the 1893 Synagogue for Beth Israel, and several school buildings. He also designed a number of residential buildings. By the 1950s much of Darmer's commercial work had been replaced by newer construction. There are approximately 300 buildings known to have been designed by Darmer. Almost half of those have been demolished. Of the remaining buildings nine are individually listed on the Tacoma Register of Historic Places and four others are listed as part of the North Slope Historic District.

Bids for the construction of the Lodge were opened on August 20, 1898. The low bidder, Chas J Watson, could not post the required bond for the project so it was awarded to the second lowest bidder – Albert Miller at \$2,220.00. Albert Miller (1858–1935) came to Tacoma in 1888. Miller is listed in the city directory alternately as a Carpenter, Builder and Contractor. His building experience was more focused on commercial buildings rather than private homes including the Blue Mouse Theater in 1923, the Gray Gables Apartments in 1922 (Tacoma's first condominium), and the Epworth Methodist Church in 1902. In his later years he served as a director of Tacoma Savings and Loan.

Once the contract was signed, work began quickly. In an interview with the architect on October 24, 1898, Darmer was quoted as saying that "The Park Lodge at Point Defiance Park is an interesting building which is now nearing completion. It is in a rustic style and is built of

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undressed logs and heavy timbers and will not be painted.”<sup>11</sup> The project also ran slightly over budget as Darmer noted the cost was going to be \$3,000. The following month, the newspaper reported that, “The keeper’s lodge is approaching completion and is being plastered. A force of workmen is clearing lawns and building the new lodge.”<sup>12</sup> By April 1899 the “...beautiful new house built for Mr. Robert’s residence” had been completed. Situated on a rising knoll, it was “an ideal rural home, built of polished peeled logs, with an immense colonial verandah running around the entire house.”<sup>13</sup> Then in April 1900, it was stated that, “The handsome lodge occupied by Mr. Roberts, the keeper of the park, and his family, is an ornament to the park and greatly improves the appearance of this part of the grounds. It is designed as a memorial house for 1900.”<sup>14</sup>

Aside from the occasional mention in the newspaper and minutes of the Board of Park Commissioners, the majority of what is known about the early history of the Lodge comes from an article written by one of Ebenezer Roberts’ daughters, Trillium Roberts Insel, on the occasion of her 70<sup>th</sup> birthday. *An Inside Story of Point Defiance Park* was published by the *Tacoma News Tribune* on March 5, 1967. Always the family historian and writer, Trillium poetically detailed life in Point Defiance Park at the turn of the last century. Park Board minutes note that there was a discussion about completing the Lodge in 1902 including purchasing wiring for electrical lighting and getting bids for plumbing. Trillium fills in the details here:

“When electricity, obtained from the lines of the City Park Railway was installed in the Lodge, “faucet water” replaced the pitcher pump and a porcelain sink vanquished its tin predecessor. The updating of the bathroom also eliminated a tin tub which stood on four legs artistically designed and painted as lion heads. The black kitchen stove remained, but the installation of hot water coils narrowed the cavernous firebox and a water tank was crowded into the corner with the wood box. Another tedious task eliminated by the electric “drop lights” was the almost daily polishing of glass chimneys for the many kerosene lamps – some quite elegant, of metal and glass, which were used to light the lodge. Although electricity made a progressive change for the better in the facilities of the lodge, it also produced many funny situations. Electricity which operated the streetcars, also supplied electric current to the Lodge. Such was its quality when an outbound car climbed the steep grade of the Pearl Street hill; it consumed most of the power taken by the trolley to pull the hill. Consequently, the lights in the Lodge would dim and sometimes blink out entirely. When the car reached the level stretches, the light in the Lodge would reappear. During a severe thunder and lightning storm the electric wires strung on the outside of the plaster ceiling invited a bolt of lightning into the entrance hall of the lodge. There were some anxious and exciting moments until the fireball was knocked down with a broom and swept outdoors onto the wet lawn.”<sup>15</sup>

On November 18, 1907 a number of improvements and changes to the Lodge are enumerated in the Park Board minutes. They included a storm door for the south entrance, enlarging the pantry, closing the central fireplace and chimney, finishing the outside of the main chimney with cobble stones, add all hot air heating plant in the basement for first floor and install one register in the hall second floor. “Proper wiring” and electric lights were installed in 1908 to replace the somewhat dangerous situation described by Trillium in her narrative.<sup>16</sup>

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Following Ebenezer Roberts resignation in 1908, the records are unclear concerning when the Lodge's next resident moved into the house. The next documented work on the Lodge appears in July 1909 when the condition of the basement becomes an issue. The basement "being now of wood, the floor of boards which have rotted and decayed, the depth not sufficient to be serviceable, and the entire basement unsanitary and of no use; and in need of repairs, it was decided as a matter of economy to permanently improve same, the General Manager was accordingly directed to proceed and excavate this basement to a sufficient depth, and to construct concrete foundation, walls and floor, so that same may be used as a storeroom for bulbs and other necessary purposes."<sup>17</sup> This work was ordered in October 1909 as well as repairs to the hall and glass replacement. A bill for \$12 was ordered paid in November for plastering, tinting, and paper-hanging at the Lodge.<sup>18</sup>

Park Superintendent George A. Hill and his wife were the next residents of the Lodge. Following Hill's death in 1921, the Park Board granted permission for Mrs. Hill to occupy the Lodge until February 1, 1922 and awarded Mr. Hill's salary for December and January (\$150) to Mrs. Hill.<sup>19</sup> Following Mrs. Hill's departure from the Lodge, the Acting Superintendent W. F. Prescott moved in. To help improve living conditions, a new #46 Mueller-return-flue wood furnace was installed in the Lodge in November 1922.<sup>20</sup>

No details have been uncovered but a November 1925 fire in the Lodge was significant enough to require \$1,559.50 in repairs include a new asbestos slate shingle roof.<sup>21</sup> Evidence of this fire can still be seen in the crawl space between the first and second floors of the Lodge.

Superintendent Prescott continued to live in the Lodge until his retirement in 1930. It was during Prescott's tenure in the Lodge that the exterior of the building was painted for the first time. The next confirmed resident of the Lodge was Sherman Ingels in 1937. In 1948, the Park Board contemplated tearing down the Lodge and replacing it with a new cottage for the Park Superintendent. Fortunately, funding for this effort was not forthcoming and a subsequent inspection showed the Lodge to be in excellent structural repair.<sup>22</sup> Instead of tearing it down, the Park Board repainted, installed a new furnace and replaced the roof before the newly promoted Park Superintendent Floyd Owen and his wife Agnes moved into the lodge in 1949. No documentation has been found to date the addition of a downstairs half-bath but the extension can be seen in a photograph of Mr. and Mrs. Owen in the 1950s. The Owens lived in the Lodge until 1970. Even though Owen retired in 1959 he was permitted to reside in the Lodge as a form of pension for his 47 years of service with the Park District.

After Owen moved out of the house it sat empty for several years and was once again considered for demolition. Fortunately, Superintendent of Parks William O. Glundberg offered to move into the lodge in 1974 and to oversee necessary repairs. Glundberg and his family lived in the lodge until 1980. During that time, they undertook needed upgrades to the lighting fixtures, flooring and wallpaper as well as major repairs to the rotten verandah decking.<sup>23</sup> When Glunberg retired in 1980 the Park Board decided to convert the lodge from a private home to a rental facility. Few physical changes to the lodge were made until 1988.



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At that time numerous repairs were undertaken which included:

- Remodel the downstairs half-bath to meet the standards of the Americans with Disabilities Act. This included moving the interior door, enlarging the space, and adding an exhaust fan to the exterior of the house.
- Remodel kitchen area – relocate door, relocate south facing window, new siding on the exterior, new cabinetry and new vinyl floor.
- Relocate stairs on south side of the house to accommodate the relocation of the kitchen door.
- Close off interior stairwell to the basement and convert the space to a closet underneath the stairway from the first to second floor.
- Replace rotten porch decking and porch railing
- Reroof with composite shingle roof
- Add a new chimney liner
- Add a concrete ramp to the front of the house to accommodate accessibility as per the guidelines of the Americans with Disabilities Act.
- Replace lattice around foundation perimeter
- Add latticework screen to the porch railing on the southeast side of the house to prevent falls.
- Replace carpet and wallpaper throughout
- Add new oak mantle to fireplace in the Commissioner's Room (southwest portion of the house)
- Bring electrical wiring and plumbing up to modern codes

The most recent repair to the house occurred in 2005 when all the decking on the verandah was replaced with Douglas fir and treated framing members.

In 2012 the Park Board determined that the best use of the lodge would be to serve as the Visitor Center for Point Defiance Park rather than as a rental facility. This conversion of use did not require any physical changes to the building. All the exhibits downstairs in the Visitor Center are free standing and were designed to fit into the size of the original rooms on the west side of the house. Other rooms on the eastside of the main floor and the three upstairs bedrooms were converted to office spaces without altering any of the interior walls or doors. Prior to this conversion only the employees living in the lodge and their guests or people renting the lodge had ever had the opportunity to enjoy the interior of this beautiful turn-of-the-century house. When the Visitor Center opened on Memorial Day weekend 2012, many of the people visiting the center commented on how they had always longed to see inside and learn more about its history.

### Endnotes:

<sup>1</sup> Herbert Hunt, *Tacoma: Its History and Its Builders*, Chicago, The S.J. Clarke Publishing Company, 1916, Vol. 1, 132.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid, Vol 1, 479.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid, Vol 1, 476.

<sup>4</sup> Kathy Mendelson, "Edward Otto Schwagerl, John Olmstead, and Seattle's Golden Age of Park Planning," *Pacific Northwest Garden History*. 2014. ([www.halcyon.com/tmend/notables.htm](http://www.halcyon.com/tmend/notables.htm).)

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- <sup>5</sup> Galen Cranz, *The Politics of Park Design: A History of Urban Parks in America*, (Cambridge, MIT Press, 1982).
- <sup>6</sup> Galen Cranz, "Parks As Community Places", Urban Parks Institute Annual Conference, 1997. ([www.pps.org/reference/futureparks](http://www.pps.org/reference/futureparks) )
- <sup>7</sup> Jeffrey Karl Ochsner, editor. *Shaping Seattle Architecture: A Historical Guide to Architects*, (Seattle, University of Washington Press, 1994), 55-56.
- <sup>8</sup> "Sunday at Wapato Park," *Tacoma Daily Ledger*, June 24, 1889.
- <sup>9</sup> "A Teacher of Civic Beauty," *Tacoma Daily Ledger*, March 7, 1918.
- <sup>10</sup> "Plans to Beautify Park," *Tacoma Daily Ledger*, July 23, 1898.
- <sup>11</sup> "Anxious for New Homes," *Tacoma Daily Ledger*, October 24, 1898.
- <sup>12</sup> Judith Kipp, "Superintendent's House," unpublished manuscript, June 22, 1987.
- <sup>13</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>14</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>15</sup> "An Inside Story of Point Defiance Park," *Tacoma News Tribune and Sunday Ledger*, March 15, 1967.
- <sup>16</sup> Minutes of Metropolitan Park District Board, November 18, 1907.
- <sup>17</sup> Ibid, July 19, 1909.
- <sup>18</sup> Ibid, November 11, 1909.
- <sup>19</sup> Ibid, December 12, 1921.
- <sup>20</sup> Ibid, September 25, 1922.
- <sup>21</sup> Ibid, November 9, 1925.
- <sup>22</sup> "Repairs Exceed Original Cost," *Tacoma News Tribune*, August 8, 1948.
- <sup>23</sup> "Park Lodge is a Tacoma Landmark," *Tacoma News Tribune*, February 9, 1979.

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"Anxious for New Homes." *Tacoma Daily Ledger*. October 24, 1898: 5.

"Park Lodge is a Tacoma Landmark." *Tacoma News Tribune*. February 9, 1979: A-14.

"Plans to Beautify Park." *Tacoma Daily Ledger*. July 23, 1898: 3.

"Repairs Exceed Original Cost." *Tacoma News Tribune*. August 8, 1948: 7.

"Sunday at Wapato Park." *Tacoma Daily Ledger*. June 24, 1889: 5.

**Narrative Continuation**

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Tacoma Register of Historic Places Nomination  
Point Defiance Lodge  
Point Defiance Park, Tacoma

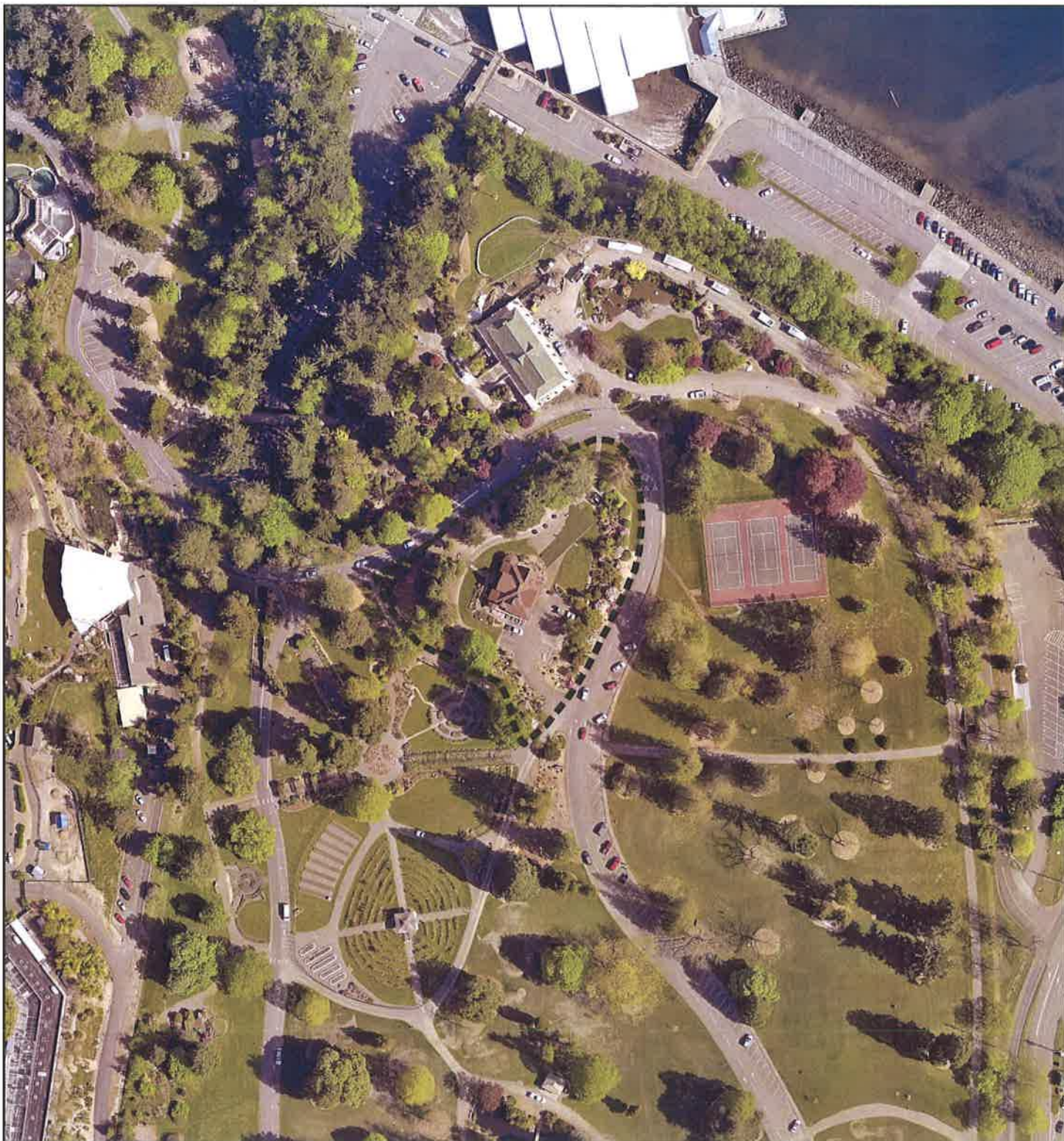


USGS topo map detail showing the location of the Point Defiance Lodge





Tacoma Register of Historic Places Nomination  
Point Defiance Lodge  
Point Defiance Park, Tacoma



Site map showing the location of the nominated building and associated landscape, outlined with a dashed black line. Base map courtesy of City of Tacoma, 2012.





**Tacoma Register of Historic Places Nomination**  
**Point Defiance Lodge**  
**Photograph Index**

**Historic Images**

- 1) Northeast corner view of Lodge under construction, 1898
- 2) Northeast corner view newly completed, 1898
- 3) Northwest corner view, ca 1900
- 4) South side, ca. 1900
- 5) East side, ca. 1910
- 6) North side (includes pond to the north of the house, original Point Defiance streetcar station at the far right with water tower seen faintly in the background), 1902

**Modern Images**

- 7) West side or main entrance
- 8) Close-up of the west side/front balcony
- 9) Underneath west side of the verandah roof including original front door
- 10) Southwest side (accessibility ramp added 1988)
- 11) Northwest corner of verandah
- 12) Underside of verandah roof (northwest corner)
- 13) North side
- 14) East side of Lodge abutting parking lot. Entrance to the basement on the left hand side.
- 15) South side
- 16) Southwest corner
- 17) Main entrance interior room referred to as "office" on the original plans. Note decorative plasterwork seen about wainscoting only found in this room of the house. Recessed pocket doors lead to the adjacent "sitting room"
- 18) Sitting room on the northwest corner of the first floor
- 19) Referred to as the "commissioner's room" on original blueprints, this room in the southwest corner of the first floor now displays interpretive panels about Point Defiance Park.
- 20) Original pocket door hardware
- 21) Original door hardware
- 22) Referred to as the "bedroom" on the original plans, this room on the southwest side of the Lodge's first floor now serves as office space.
- 23) The original dining room located on the west side of the first floor now serves as office space. Around the room is the plate rail described by Trillium Roberts and used to display her mother's plate collection.
- 24) The modern kitchen occupies the same footprint as the original. The location of the door and the window over the sink were added as part of the 1988 repair and remodel to accommodate rentals.
- 25) Stairway from first floor to the second.
- 26) Upstairs bedroom/office on the west side of the house. Doors open to a balcony over the front door.
- 27) Upstairs bedroom/office on the east side of the house. Windows face parking lot side of the property. Door leads to a small closet.
- 28) Upstairs bedroom/office on the north side of the Lodge. Doors open to a balcony facing the Pagoda/streetcar station

## **Deed of Title**

The Point Defiance Lodge is located in Point Defiance Park. The park is owned by the city of Tacoma and operated by the Metropolitan Park District of Tacoma. A formal Deed of Title has not been located.

In 1888 the city of Tacoma was granted use of the Point Defiance property by the Congress of the United States. This act (Senate Bill #3475) allowed the city to use the property for park purposes but the federal government reserved the right take possession of the property if need be without compensation.

“An Act granting the use of certain lands in Pierce County, Washington Territory, to the city of Tacoma, for the purpose of a public park.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, that there is hereby granted to the City of Tacoma, in the County of Pierce, in the Territory of Washington, a license to occupy, improve and control for the purpose of a public park for the use and benefit of the citizens of the United States and for no other purposes whatever, the following described pieces or parcels of land, situated in the county of Pierce and Territory of Washington and described as follows, namely:

Lots one, two, three, four, five and six and the east half of the southeast quarter, and the north-east quarter of the north-west quarter, and the south-west quarter of the northeast quarter of Section 15, Township 21 north, of range 2 East; and, lots one, two and three and the south half of the south-west quarter of Section 14, same Township and Range, and lots one, two and three in Section 10 of the same Township and Range, containing six hundred and thirty-five acres, more or less:

Provided; that the United States reserves to itself the fee of all said lands and that this license is granted up on the express condition that the United States may take possession of and occupy said lands or any part thereof for military or other purposes whenever its property officials see fit to order the same, and without any claim for compensation or damage on the part of said City of Tacoma.”

Approved – December 17, 1888

In 1905, President Theodore Roosevelt signed into law an act (House of Representatives 17019) “granting certain lands to the city of Tacoma, in the State of Washington, for use as a public park” and reversing the 1888 proviso allowing the federal government to reclaim the land. A copy of this act is attached from the United States Statutes at Large Volume 33 – the records of the 58<sup>th</sup> Congress.



given, containing the original name and the new name of the corporation, if the same has been changed, and the term of corporate existence as continued shall be subscribed and acknowledged by the president or vice-president and by the secretary or assistant secretary of such corporation, and shall be filed with such consent or consents in the office of the recorder of deeds, to be recorded by him. Upon the filing of such certificate all the rights, powers, property, and effects of such existing corporation subject to existing liabilities shall vest in and belong to the corporation so reincorporated, continued, or renamed."

Approved, March 3, 1905.

Rights transferred.

**CHAP. 1446.**—An Act Granting certain lands to the city of Tacoma, in the State of Washington, for use as a public park.

March 3, 1905.

[H. R. 17019.]

[Public, No. 179.]

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That the title and fee to lots one, two, and three of section ten, and lots one, two, and three, and the south half of the southwest quarter of section fourteen, and lots one, two, three, four, five, and six, and the east half of the southeast quarter, and the northeast quarter of the northwest quarter, and the southwest quarter of the northeast quarter of section fifteen, of township twenty-one north, range two east, Willamette meridian, in the State of Washington, be, and the same are hereby, granted to the city of Tacoma, in the county of Pierce in said State, for its use as a public park; subject, however, to the right of the United States to at any and all time and in any manner assume control of, hold, use, and occupy, without license, consent, or leave from said city any or all of said lots for any and all military, naval, or light-house purposes, freed from any conveyances, charges, encumbrances, or liens made, created, permitted, or sanctioned thereon by said city: *And provided,* That the United States shall not be or become liable for any damages or compensation whatever to the city of Tacoma for any future use by the Government of any or all of the above-described land for any of the above-mentioned purposes: *And provided further,* That if said lands shall not be used as a public park the same or such parts thereof not so used shall revert to the United States.

Public lands.  
Tacoma, Wash.,  
granted lots for public  
park.

Reversion.

Proviso.  
Nonliability for  
damages.

To revert if not used.

Approved, March 3, 1905.

**CHAP. 1447.**—An Act To extend the time within which actions for the recovery of duties paid in Porto Rico may be brought in the Court of Claims under the Act of April twenty-ninth, nineteen hundred and two.

March 3, 1905.

[H. R. 17102.]

[Public, No. 180.]

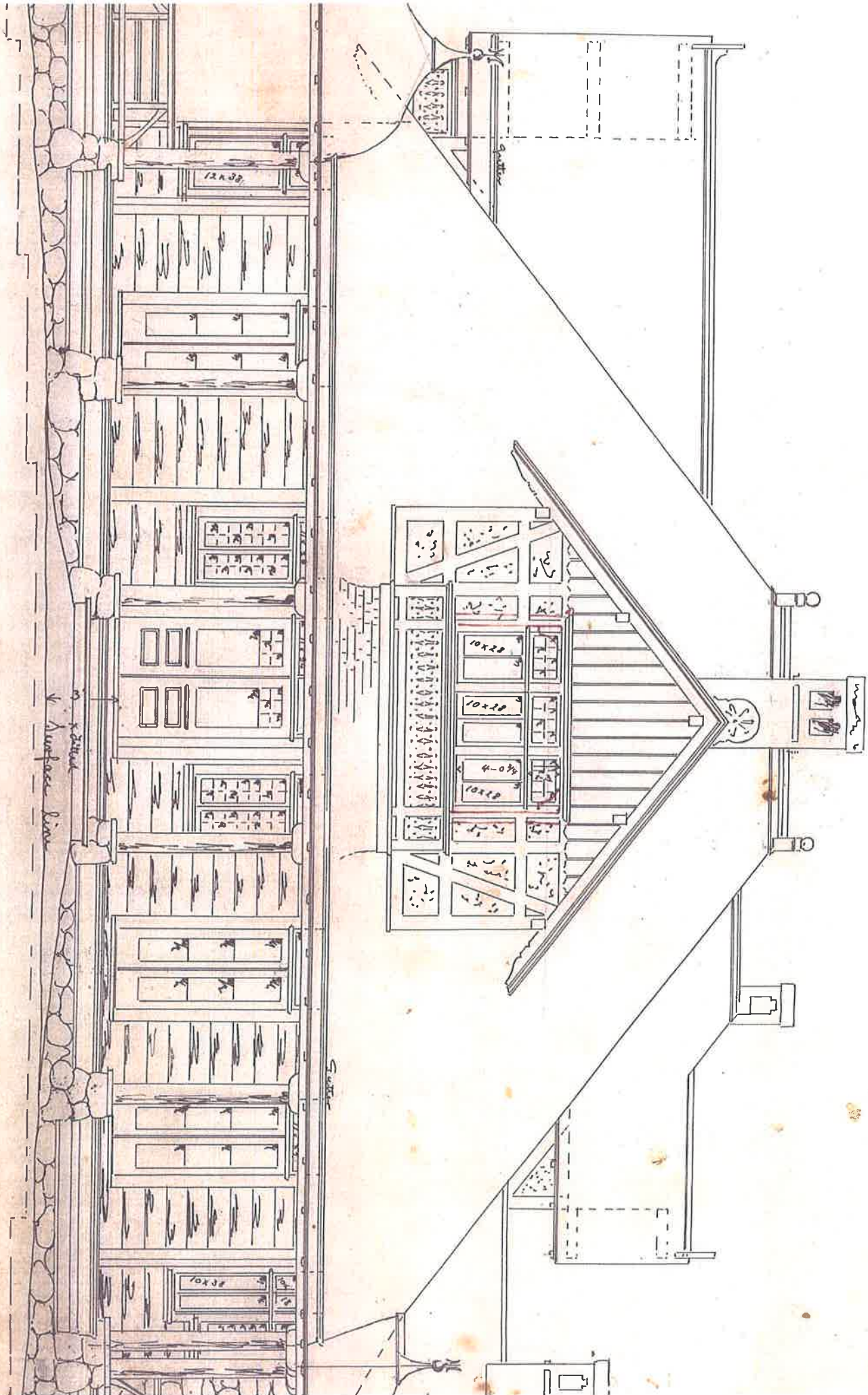
*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That the time within which actions may be brought in the Court of Claims for the recovery of customs duties paid to the military authorities in the island of Porto Rico upon articles imported from the several States and entered at the several ports of entry in Porto Rico from and including April eleventh, eighteen hundred and ninety-nine, to May first, nineteen hundred, under the Act of April twenty-ninth, nineteen hundred and two, chapter six hundred and forty of the laws of the Fifty-seventh Congress, first session, be, and it is hereby, extended until six months from the date of the passage of this Act.

Porto Rican duties.  
Time extended to  
file claims for refund-  
ing.

Vol. 32, p. 176.

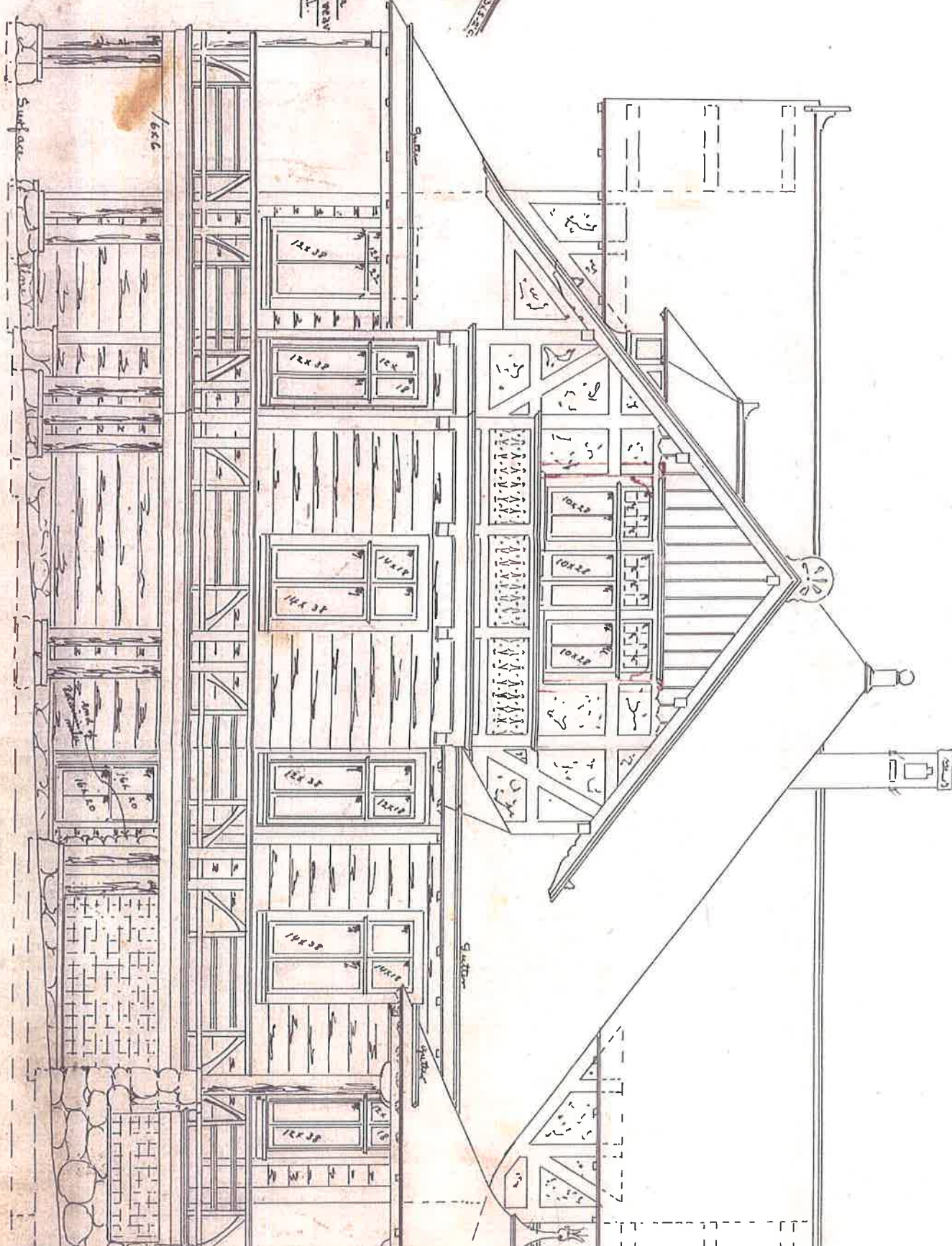
Approved, March 3, 1905.





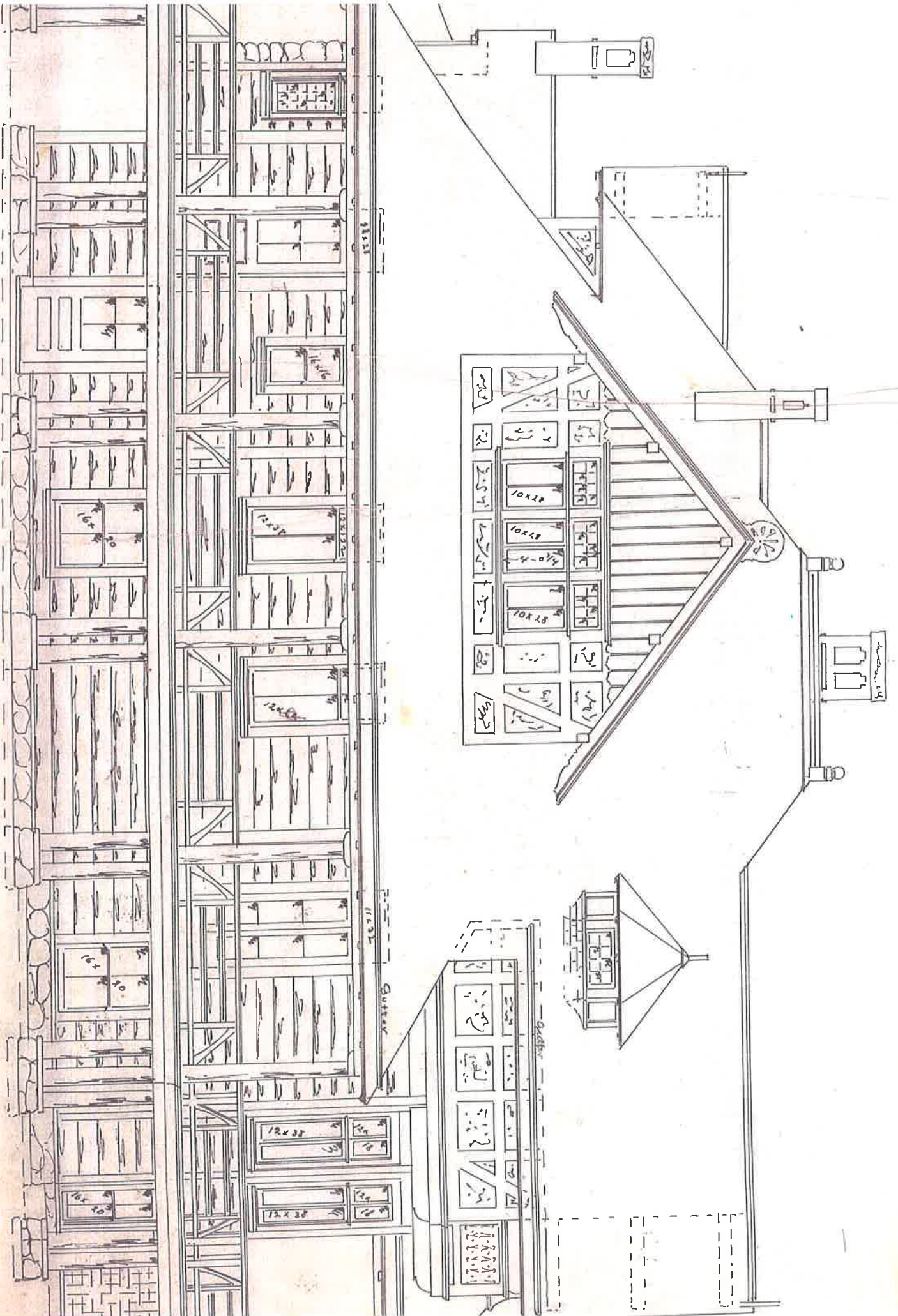
Front Elevation (East)







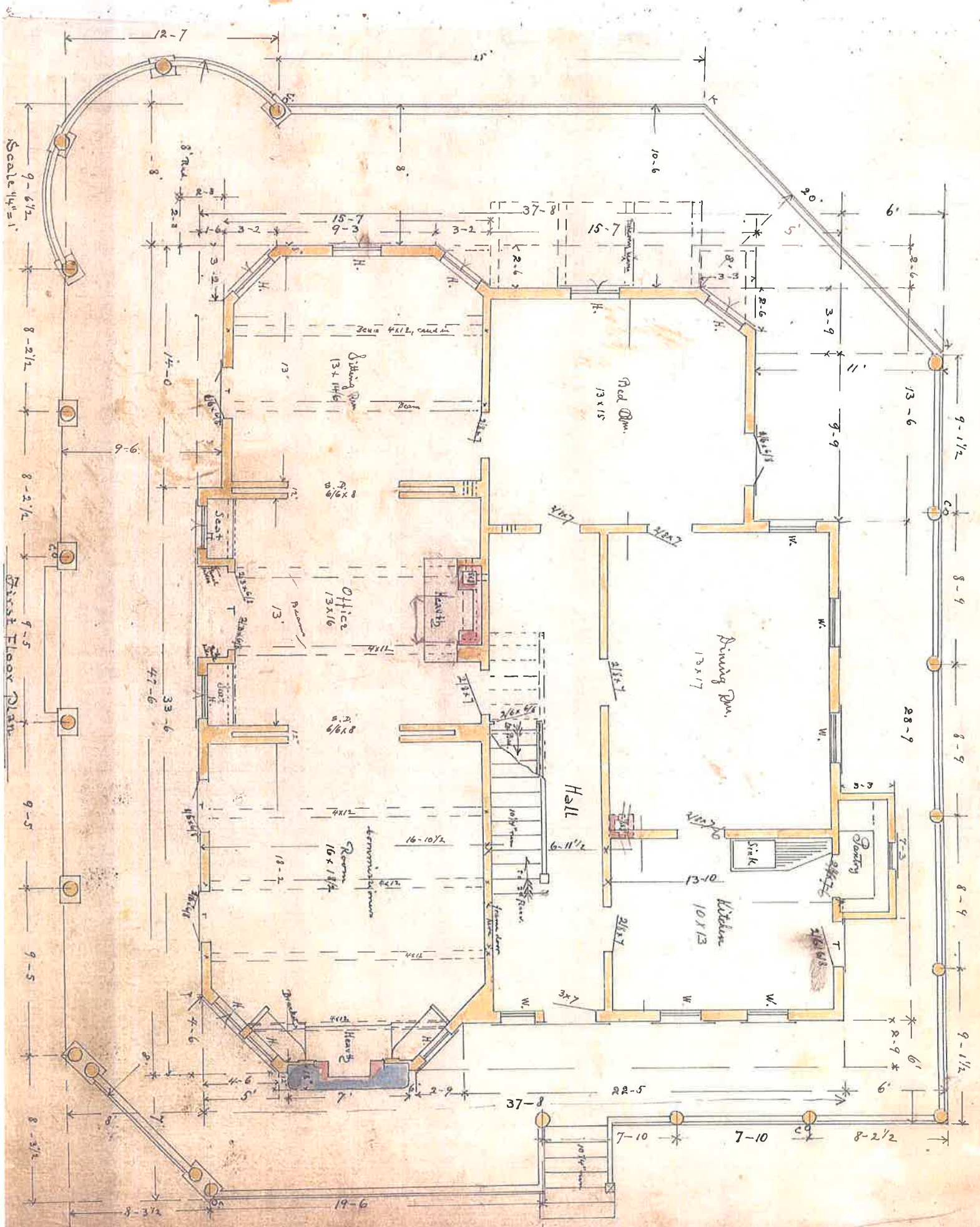
Rear Elevation (West)



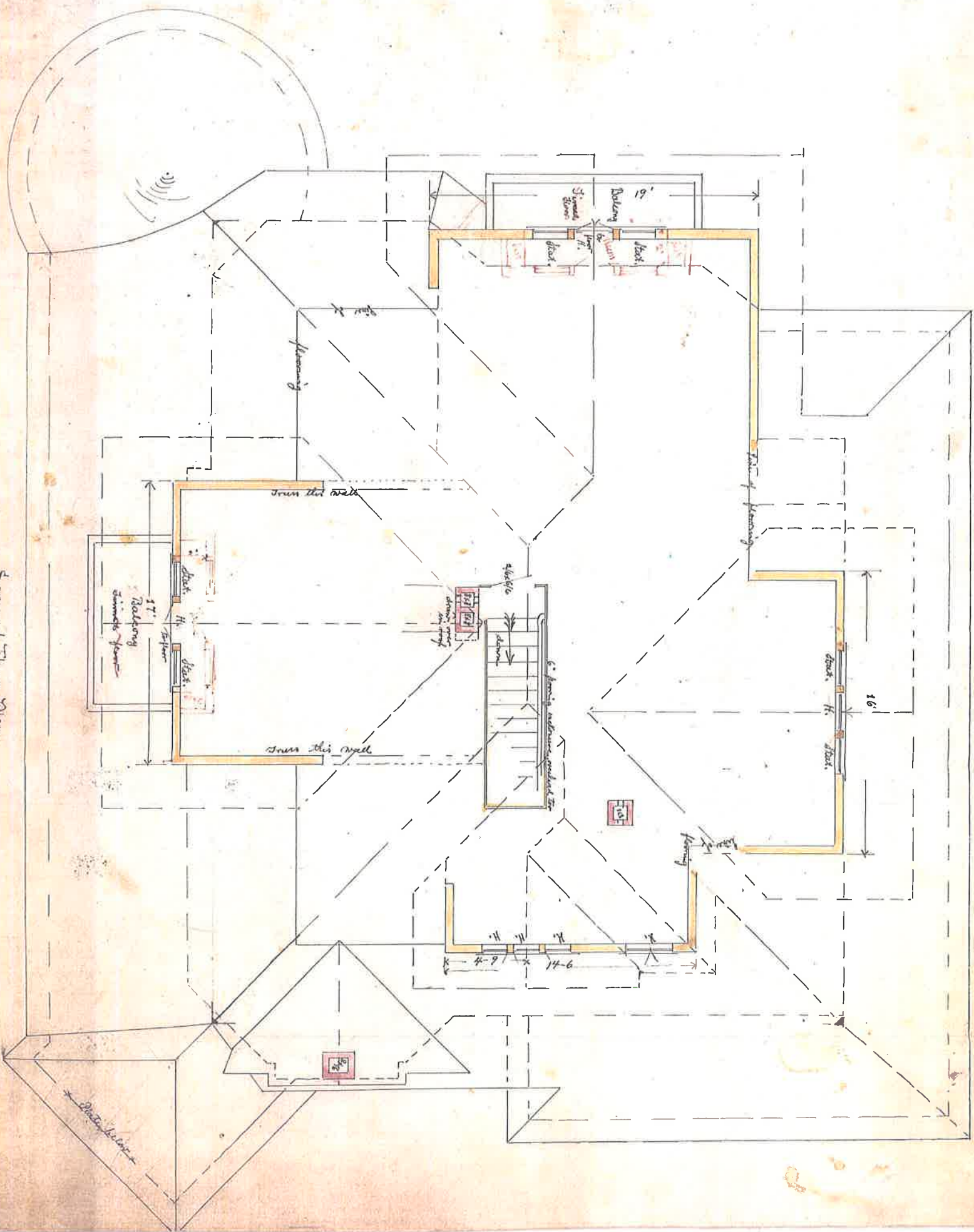








## Second Floor Plan





















Park Lodge, Pt. Defiance Park, Tacoma, Wash.

10/10/02

L





Point Defiance Lodge  
Visitors Center

Closed for the Season

































A.D.  
1898

← Entrance

Employees  
Only

WHEELCHAIR  
ACCESSIBLE  
PARKING





POINT DEFANCE PARK

**The Lodge**

The lodge is the oldest standing building in Point Defiance Park, built in 1898. It was designed by the architect John C. Van Dine and built by the contractor J. H. Van Dine. The lodge was built to serve the growing number of visitors to the park and to provide a place for the public to enjoy the view of the city and the surrounding mountains. The lodge was built in a rustic style, using local materials and featuring a large stone chimney. The lodge was built on a hillside, and the view from the lodge is spectacular. The lodge was built in 1898, and it has been a popular destination for visitors ever since. The lodge is a historic landmark and a great place to visit. The lodge is a great example of early 20th-century architecture. The lodge is a great place to enjoy the view of the city and the surrounding mountains. The lodge is a historic landmark and a great place to visit. The lodge is a great example of early 20th-century architecture.

← Entrance









## POINT DEFIANCE PARK

"Probably no other city in this country has such a beautiful natural park.  
Its setting and relation to the city are unique and ideal... every citizen of Tacoma should feel it a duty and a privilege to become one of the guardians."

— Isaac & Rose 1911, Museum Point for Point Defiance Park

### NAMING

### 1880s 1890s

### 1900s

### 1910s 1920s

### 1940s 1950s 1960s

### 1970s

### Peer into the Past

Point Defiance Park, 1911  
Point Defiance Park, 1911  
Point Defiance Park, 1911

Used





### POINT DEFIANCE PARK'S Exciting New Future

**Improvements are on the way!**  
Over the next several years, a host of new developments will take place in and around Point Defiance Park. They're all part of Destination Point Defiance, a long-term, comprehensive planning initiative to enhance the experience and honor the character of Point Defiance Park. Learn more at [DestinationPointDefiance.org](http://DestinationPointDefiance.org).

<b>PARKWIDE</b> Fort Nisqually improvements Japanese garden renovation New dog park Marina improvements Owen Beach upgrades	<b>POINT DEFIANCE ZOO &amp; AQUARIUM</b> New 35,000-square-foot aquarium featuring hammerhead sharks and sea turtles Renovated Rocky Shores exhibit Renovated polar bear exhibit	<b>ENVIRONMENTAL LEARNING CENTER</b> Linked to Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium For Tacoma Public Schools' Science and Math Institute, and day staff Serving a range of classroom needs	<b>WATERFRONT</b> Dedicated bike and pedestrian trail 11 acres of new recreation space on the peninsula City of Tacoma stormwater treatment facility New long-term parking area	<b>TRAILS AND VIEWPOINTS</b> New trailhead at Pearl Street Improved vehicle circulation and parking Improved trails and viewpoints
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**Look for me!**  
In the forest, look for me and the tracks and scat I leave behind.

**What to do next:**  
- Look for animal tracks and scat.  
- Call animal groups.  
- Visit local libraries, museums, and other places that have information about local wildlife.  
- Visit the Point Defiance Park website for more information.



## Waterfront

Alluring sights, sounds, and scents of Puget Sound.

**Stroll the Shore**  
The public and paved beach that stretches from Owen Beach around the tip of the peninsula to Salmon Beach offers plenty to explore. Stroll with dogs, stroll along the shore, or just sit and enjoy the view. You'll find the perfect spot to enjoy your own private view of the Sound. Know this: You'll find the perfect spot to enjoy your own private view of the Sound. Know this: You'll find the perfect spot to enjoy your own private view of the Sound.

**Walk the Promenade**  
A paved promenade connects Owen Beach to the Point Defiance Marina and Anthony's Restaurant. The three-quarter mile-long promenade features a variety of public art, including poetry etched into the pavement and decorative tiles on the path's edges. Walkers, runners, and bikers are welcome.

**Play at Owen Beach**  
Pack a picnic, build a sandcastle, or enjoy the view. Owen Beach is a beautiful spot to enjoy the view of the Sound. Pack a picnic, build a sandcastle, or enjoy the view. Owen Beach is a beautiful spot to enjoy the view of the Sound.

**Treat Yourself**  
Exceptional views complement your Northwest dining experience at Family-friendly Anthony's Restaurant. Stop by the Point Defiance Marina Complex for seafood, sandwiches, and more. Enjoy your meal with a view of the Sound.

**Rent a Boat, or Launch Your Own**  
Whether you're in the market for an hourly or all-day motorboat or looking for a place to launch or moor your own boat, you'll find what you need at the Point Defiance Marina Complex. The Marina is home to the largest public boat launch in the South Sound, with eight lanes to help get you on the water quickly. Temporary overnight moorage offers boaters an opportunity to come and enjoy all the park has to offer. Kayaks are available for rental at Owen Beach.





































