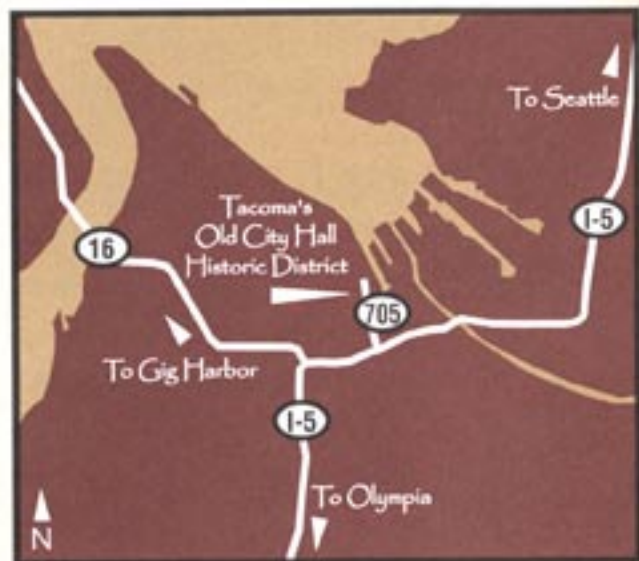




Tacoma's Old City Hall Historic District



Enjoy the Broadway Theater District, adjacent to the Old City Hall Historic District. The nearby Union Station Historic District showcases the new Washington State History Museum and the award-winning adaptation of warehouse buildings for the University of Washington branch campus, as well as the Union Station, restored and enlarged for a new use as the Federal Courthouse.

For information on additional historic sites in Tacoma contact:

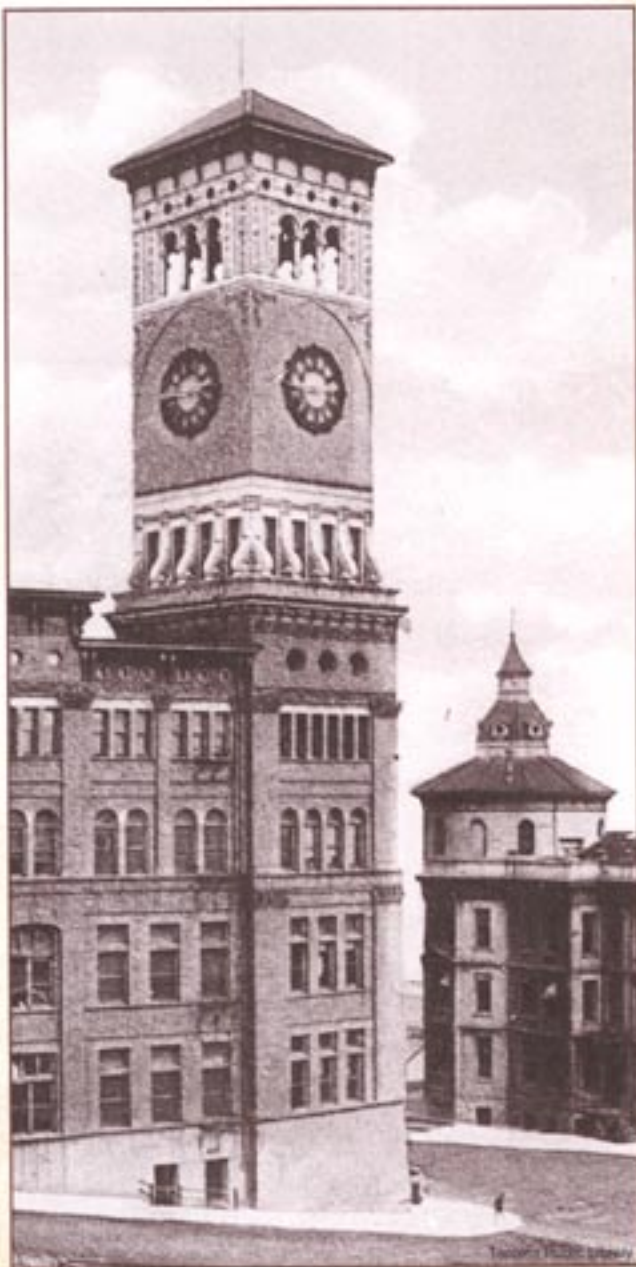


City of Tacoma

Economic Development Dept.
Culture and Tourism Division

Tacoma

747 Market Street, Room 1036
Tacoma, WA 98402
253/591-5220



Firemen's Park and Park Place Building

The site of Tacoma's first fire station is now home to beautiful Firemen's Park, offering breathtaking views of Commencement Bay. The park commemorates Tacoma's first Fire Station and features picnic and viewing areas, historical markers and a signature totem pole carved by Alaskan Indians in 1903. (Map #11)

The adjacent triangular shaped Park Place Building (Map #6) once served as the depot and headquarters of the Puget Sound Electric Railroad Company, a light rail system that operated in the early 1900s. Each day, the popular Interurban Parlor Cars carried as many as 1,600 travelers, who commuted between Tacoma and Seattle.

A second story has been added and the Park Place Building is now used for business offices.



City of Tacoma



Map #5

Tacoma Public Library

Key to District Map

1. Olympus Hotel - 1909
2. Old City Hall - 1893
3. Northern Pacific Building - 1888
4. Elks Lodge - 1916
5. Spanish Stairs - 1916
6. Fireman's Park/Park Place Building - 1902
7. Bostwick Building - 1889
8. Bradley Hotel - 1890
9. Winthrop Hotel - 1924
10. Fawcett Fountain - 1908
11. Totem Pole - 1903



Map #6

City of Tacoma

Elks Building and Spanish Stairs

A classic example of the beaux-arts style, the Elks Temple was designed by architect E. Frere Champrey, a graduate of the famous French school of architecture, the Ecole des Beaux-Arts. The ornate design style is also found on the nearby Pantages Theater.

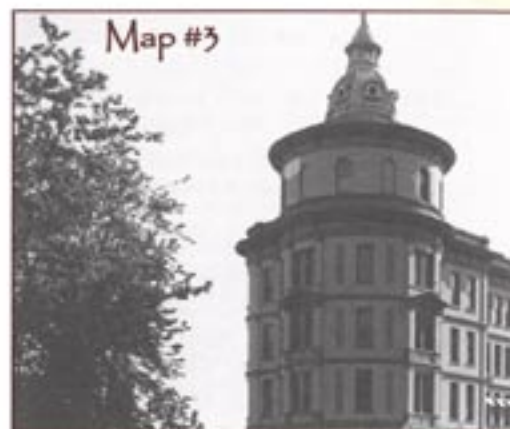
Tacoma Elks Lodge No. 164 was reputed to be one of the wealthiest fraternal organizations on the West Coast. The grand building at 7th and Broadway was built at a cost \$135,000 in 1916, and was celebrated with three days of dedication ceremonies. The first floor recreational facilities included a gymnasium, a handball court, locker room and bowling alley. An opulent ballroom and banquet room were located on the second floor, and the third level, called the club floor, featured two beautiful Italian fireplaces, a library, billiard room, card room, and a dining room.

Named after the famed Spanish Steps in Rome, the grand stairway leading from Commerce Street to Broadway was installed as an afterthought along the south side of the Elks Building.



Northern Pacific Building

The Northern Pacific building was designed in the popular Italianate style by Charles Talbot, the railroad company's Vice President, and built in 1888 on a bluff overlooking Commencement Bay.



In addition to serving as the Railroad's headquarters, it housed some of the Northwest's most prominent businesses. In 1900, Weyerhaeuser Company also set up its headquarters in the building when the company expanded their Minnesota timber dynasty into the abundant forests of Washington.

The building is still used for offices, and has been restored to reflect its distinctive past. Visitors may enjoy strolling through the halls to view elegantly framed historic photos and the grand staircase. One can sense the activity at the turn of the last century and imagine it as a focal point for the ambitious town, which called itself the "City of Destiny."

With the belief that pedestrians should always be able to quench their thirst while walking in Tacoma, Mayor A.V. Fawcett presented a twelve-foot high stone water fountain to the City in 1908. The historic fountain can be seen on Pacific Avenue at the western entrance to Fireman's Park beside the landmark Northern Pacific Railroad Headquarters building.

Old City Hall Historic District

High on a bluff above Commencement Bay stands one of Tacoma's most fascinating areas, the Old City Hall Historic District. A walk around the district will transport you back to a time when people arrived in Tacoma from around the world to build new lives in the great Pacific Northwest Territory.

It has been said that the City of Tacoma did not grow, it "arrived" – by rail in the mid-1800s when it became the Western Terminus for the Northern Pacific Railroad's Transcontinental Line. As a result of winning the competition for the railhead/destination for the entire Northwest coast in 1873, Tacoma became known as "The City of Destiny," and many buildings found in the Old City Hall District were vital to the early boomtown.

Like most railroad towns that sprang up throughout the United States during this era, the layout of downtown Tacoma was designed to work with the railroad and port commerce

on Puget Sound's deepwater Commencement Bay. The close proximity of the landmark City Hall and the Northern Pacific Railroad headquarters buildings illustrate the founding role of the railroad in Tacoma.



The buildings highlighted in the historic district were designed by some of the most renowned architects of their time. Their style and vision enriched the character of Tacoma, which is apparent as you walk through-out this fascinating district. The buildings that remain today represent the social, economic and political powers that guided Tacoma's first vigorous growth.

Today visitors can relive Tacoma's past while browsing through the many antique stores and gift shops nestled among upscale restaurants and lively pubs that now enliven these historic buildings.

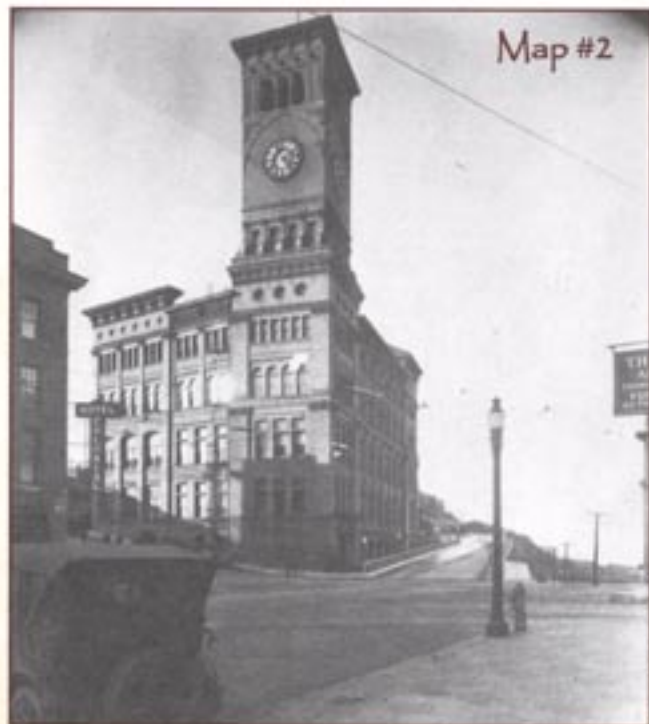
Step back into another time in Tacoma's Old City Hall Historic District, a fascinating part of the Northwest's colorful heritage.

Old City Hall

When the Old City Hall traded building sites to locate directly across from the Northern Pacific Railroad Building, the architectural and civic center of turn-of-the-century Tacoma was born. Built in 1893, this warm brick structure served as the center for city government for 60 years. San Francisco architects Hatherton and McIntosh, who also designed San Francisco's City Hall, created a fine example of the Italianate style for Tacoma. The completion of the Old City Hall marked the close of Tacoma's first major building boom that opened with the arrival of the Western Terminus of the Union Pacific Railroad. Old City Hall remains an outstanding landmark in Tacoma.

The building's 187-foot tower has a two and one-half ton Westminster chime-clock, donated by Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Wallace in 1904.

Today visitors may do business, dine in or shop in the majestic building, while taking in the panoramic view of Commencement Bay.



Pacific Avenue

The shops and restaurants found on Pacific Avenue enjoy the comfortable scale of some of the most historic buildings in Tacoma. When constructed in the 1880s, the original first floor businesses ranged from clothing and grocery stores to saloons and shooting galleries. The upper floors were used as meeting places for fraternal, social and religious organizations.

William Farrel and C. A. Darmer were the most prolific architects of Tacoma's early years and designed much of this social center. Darmer designed the store at 734 Pacific Avenue (now Drakes Pub) for Drake & Schrieber Wholesale Liquors, which opened shop in 1888. The Victorian era is well represented in an ornate wooden building at the head of 8th Street. Many Victorian homes were once found in Tacoma's prestigious downtown housing district along Broadway to the north of the Elks Building.

A little farther down the street is the Johnson Cox Company, which has been located in the Maritime Building for over 80 years. Built in 1886, the Maritime Building was once the home of the Casino Theater and *The Morning Globe* newspaper, both owned by the gambler Harry Morgan. Morgan financed the *Morning Globe* as competition for *The Tacoma Daily Ledger* due to its many highly critical articles about his infamous casinos and brothels. Much of this end of Pacific Avenue was once a popular part of the disreputable Whiskey Row.



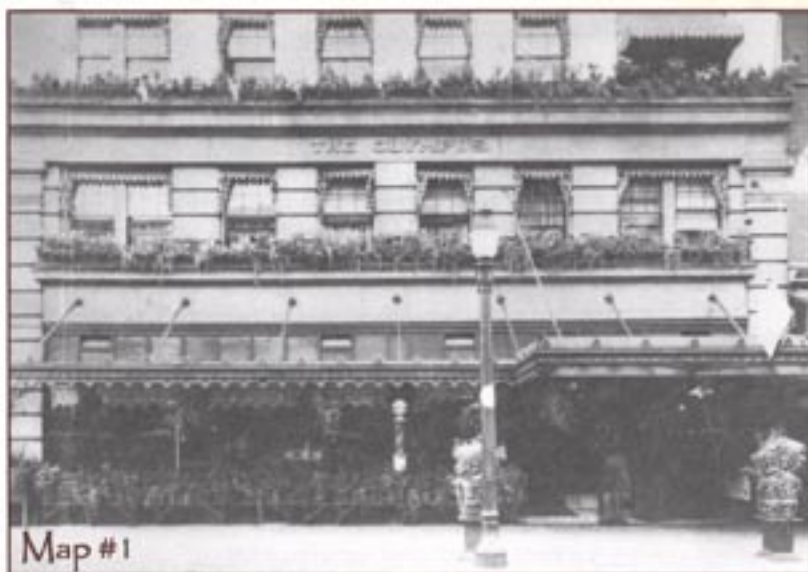
Hotels

Whiskey Row was the nickname of the blocks between 7th and 9th Streets, earned because they once supported a concentration of saloons, brothels, and gambling houses which catered to men who arrived in Tacoma in the late 1800s to work the railroads and wharves. When Prohibition was introduced in Washington State in 1919, the area gained some respectability.

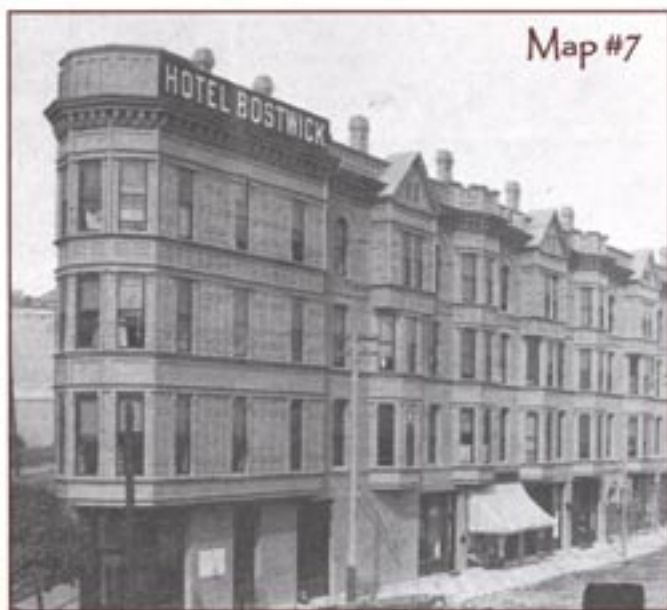
The Olympus Hotel is one remnant of that colorful era. It is being restored for housing, and will offer a pub and restaurant featuring the original bar, which was hand-carved by monks in France. The bar was originally destined for California, but it was gambled away in a poker game to the owner of the Olympus Hotel.

The Bradley, Bostwick, Olympus and Winthrop Hotels were built between 1889 and 1924 along the former Whiskey Row. While they no longer offer overnight accommodations, each has found a new use in the rich tapestry of downtown Tacoma.

Dr. Henry Clay Bostwick, Tacoma's first practicing physician and bank president, constructed the building that bears his name in 1889, the year Washington became a state. For many years the unique building offered a first class hotel on the upper three floors, while the first floor housed a bank and one of Tacoma's finest jewelry stores. It is now one of only a few commercial buildings that remain from Tacoma's Victorian period, spared from the urban renewal wrecking ball because of its small size and triangular shaped lot. In recent years, a popular coffee shop has revitalized the ground floor and enhanced the Broadway Theatre District. The top floors, including an Eastlake style stairway, are being restored. Twenty apartments will enjoy the huge bay windows overlooking the city.



The Olympus Hotel was built in 1909 by Olympia Brewing Company owner Leopold Schmidt on the site where Harry Morgan's controversial Theatre Comique, a notorious saloon, gambling house and brothel, was once located.



The tradition of standing and removing your hat during the national anthem reportedly began at the Bostwick Hotel in 1893. During a meeting of the Washington Commandery of the Loyal Legion of the United States, Civil War veteran Russell O'Brien proposed the resolution that members always stand and remove their hats during the national anthem.