WHAT IS THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES?
The National Register of Historic Places is the Nation's official list of cultural resources worthy of preservation. Authorized under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the National Register is part of a national program to coordinate and support public and private efforts to identify, evaluate, and protect our historic and archeological resources. Properties listed in the Register include districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that are significant in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture. The National Register is administered by the National Park Service, which is part of the U.S. Department of the Interior. Included among the nearly 79,000 listings that make up the National Register are:

- All historic areas in the National Park System (www.nps.gov);
- Over 2,300 National Historic Landmarks (www.nps.gov/nhl) which have been designated by the Secretary of the Interior because of their importance to all Americans;
- Properties across the country that have been nominated by governments, organizations, and individuals because they are significant to the nation, to a state, or to a community.

National Register properties are distinguished by having been documented and evaluated according to uniform standards. These criteria recognize the accomplishments of all peoples who have contributed to the history and heritage of the United States and are designed to help state and local governments, Federal agencies, and others identify important historic and archeological properties worthy of preservation and of consideration in planning and development decisions. Listing in the National Register contributes to preserving historic properties in a number of ways:

- Recognition that a property is of significance to the Nation, the State, or the community.
- Consideration in the planning for Federal or federally assisted projects.
- Eligibility for Federal tax benefits.
- Qualification for Federal assistance for historic preservation, when funds are available.

WHAT IS THE PROCESS FOR LISTING A PROPERTY ON THE NATIONAL REGISTER?
Historic places are nominated to the National Register by the State Historic Preservation officer (SHPO) of the State in which the property is located, by the Federal Preservation Officer (FPO) for properties under Federal ownership or control, or by the Tribal Preservation Officer (TPO) if the property is on tribal lands. Anyone can prepare a nomination to the National Register; generally nomination forms are documented by property owners, local governments, citizens or SHPO, FPO or TPO staff. Nominations by States are submitted to a State review board, composed of professionals in the fields of American history, architectural history, architecture, prehistoric and historic archeology, and other related disciplines. The review board makes a recommendation to the SHPO either to approve the nomination if, in the board's opinion, it meets the National Register criteria, or to disapprove the nomination if it does not.
During the time the proposed nomination is reviewed by the SHPO, property owners and local officials are notified of the intent to nominate and public comment is solicited. Owners of private property are given an opportunity to concur in or object to the nomination. If the owner of a private property, or the majority of private property owners for a property or district with multiple owners, objects to the nomination, the historic property cannot be listed in the National Register. In that case, the SHPO may forward the nomination to the National Park Service only for a determination of eligibility. If the historic property is listed or determined eligible for listing, then the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation must be afforded the opportunity to comment on any Federal project that may affect it. (See the Results of Listing (www.cr.nps.gov/nr/results.htm) page and our publication entitled My Property's Important to America's Heritage, What Does That Mean?: Answers to Questions for Owners of Historic Properties (www.cr.nps.gov/nr/publications/bulletins/myproperty) for further information about the meaning of National Register listing.)

The SHPO forwards nominations to the National Park Service to be considered for registration if a majority of private property owners has not objected to listing. During the National Register's evaluation of nomination documentation, another opportunity for public comment is provided by the publication of pending nominations in the Federal Register.

WHAT IS THE RESULT OF LISTING ON THE NATIONAL REGISTER?
Listing in the National Register honors a historic place by recognizing its importance to its community, State or the Nation. Under Federal law, owners of private property listed in the National Register are free to maintain, manage, or dispose of their property as they choose provided that there is no Federal involvement. Owners have no obligation to open their properties to the public, to restore them or even to maintain them, if they choose not to do so. Some States and communities have enacted preservation laws or ordinances that apply to National Register listed properties. To find out about historic preservation laws that may apply to your historic property, follow these links for the address and phone number of your State Historic Preservation Office (http://www.phmc.state.pa.us/), Tribal Preservation Office, or Federal Preservation Office.

In addition to honorific recognition, listing in the National Register results in the following for historic properties:

• Consideration in planning for Federal, federally licensed, and federally assisted projects; Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 requires that Federal agencies allow the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation an opportunity to comment on all projects affecting historic properties either listed in or determined eligible for listing in the National Register. The Advisory Council (www.achp.gov) oversees and ensures the consideration of historic properties in the Federal planning process.

• Eligibility for certain tax provisions; (www.cr.nps.gov/tps/tax/index.htm) Owners of properties listed in the National Register may be eligible for a 20% investment tax credit for the certified rehabilitation of income-producing certified historic structures such as commercial, industrial, or rental residential buildings. This credit can be combined with a straight-line depreciation period of 27.5 years for residential property and 31.5 years for commercial and industrial property.
nonresidential property for the depreciable basis of the rehabilitated building reduced by the amount of the tax credit claimed. Federal tax deductions are also available for charitable contributions for conservation purposes of partial interests in historically important land areas or structures.

- Consideration of historic values in the decision to issue a surface mining permit where coal is located in accordance with the Surface Mining Control Act of 1977; and

- Qualification for Federal grants for historic preservation, when funds are available. For more information on Federal grants for historic preservation and the Federal tax incentive program, visit the NPS Heritage Preservation Services (www.cr.nps.gov) page.

**NATIONAL REGISTER LISTED HISTORIC DISTRICTS IN TACOMA**

**North Slope Historic District**
Tacoma boasts one of the largest neighborhood historic districts in the country with the North Slope Historic Special Review district, which is listed on the Tacoma (1994, expanded in 1996 and 1999), Washington State, and National Registers of Historic Places (2003). The North Slope Historic District encompasses more than 950 properties.

This district was created in response to an initiative from residents who value the atmosphere these historic homes create in the neighborhood. Few homes in the district are high style; instead the neighborhood is composed primarily of middle class Victorian, Craftsman, Colonial Revival and Foursquare style houses, representing a fine collection of Pacific Northwest versions of the residential architecture popular in the United States prior to World War II.

Residents today take great pride in their historic homes, beautiful streets, and enjoy the experience of living a traditional neighborhood lifestyle. Street signs mark the extent of the North Slope Historic District, which extends from North I Street to North Grant Avenue, and between Division Avenue and Steele Street, in the angle where Tacoma's street grid adjusts to follow the shoreline and link Old Town, developed in the 1870s, with New Tacoma which was built to meet the railroad line in the 1890s.

**Old City Hall Historic District**
The Old City Hall Historic District (National Register of Historic Places, 1977, and Tacoma Register, 1978) includes some of Tacoma’s most architecturally important buildings, and served as the City's early commercial, governmental, and entertainment center from 1886 through the 1920s.

High on a bluff overlooking Commencement Bay, this fascinating area provides the best glimpse into the past during the days of boomtown Tacoma. It has been said that the city did not grow; it arrived - by rail - when it was selected as the western terminus for the Northern Pacific Railroad mighty transcontinental line.

Old City Hall (1892), which reflects the grand ambitions of the time, is an outstanding example of the height of the Italianate style in America. Other striking buildings are found throughout the district, including the Northern Pacific Headquarters (1888), the Beaux Arts Elks Temple (1916),
and the Winthrop Hotel (1925). Smaller brick buildings from the time remain as reminders of Whiskey Row, the entertainment district that once thrived on the wages of dock workers and politicians. New uses continue to thrive as buildings are rehabilitated for office, retail and unique urban residences, maintaining the historic character of old Tacoma.

**Union Depot-Warehouse Historic District**

The Union Depot-Warehouse Historic District (National Register of Historic Places, 1980, and Tacoma Register, 1983) flanks Pacific Avenue from South 17th Street to South 23rd Street and extends up the hill to Jefferson Avenue. The Union Depot-Warehouse District is surrounded by the Union Station Conservation District.

The architecture in the district is characterized by rugged brick warehouses and factories, examples of commercial high style and industrial vernacular architecture developed in America in the early 1900s. The district was a major distribution point for goods that arrived by railway during the 1890s through the 1920s.

Union Station (1911) itself is a stunning landmark, with its massive arches and a copperclad dome. The adaptive reuse of Union Station as a Federal Courthouse earned the City of Tacoma a National Preservation Honor Award in 1994.

In 1999, the National Preservation Honor Award again came to Tacoma with the University of Washington, Tacoma’s adaptive reuse of the warehouse buildings along Pacific as its new urban campus. Other buildings in the district are being rehabilitated for use as apartments, businesses, restaurants and shops. Many of the projects in the Union Depot/Warehouse District are outstanding examples of historically sensitive adaptive reuse.

**Stadium-Seminary Historic District**

Tacoma's high-style residential district, the Stadium Seminary National Historic District, is listed on the National Register (1977). The Stadium-Seminary District occupies beautiful tree-lined avenues between North I Street and the shoreline, and between First Street and North 10th Street. A stroll or drive through the Stadium-Seminary District, with its stunning views of Puget Sound, provides insight into the lives of the early lumber barons and railroad executives.

The area is important because it is one of the earliest residential areas of Tacoma and it contains outstanding examples of high style home building from the late 19th to the early 20th century.

**NATIONAL REGISTER LISTED BUILDINGS IN TACOMA**

For a current list of Tacoma Buildings on the National Register please visit: [http://www.tacomaculture.org/historic/properties.asp](http://www.tacomaculture.org/historic/properties.asp)
WASHINGTON HERITAGE REGISTER
The Washington Heritage Register is an official listing of historically significant sites and properties found throughout the state. The list is maintained by the Department of Archaeology & Historic Preservation and includes districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that have been identified and documented as being significant in local or state history, architecture, archaeology, engineering or culture. To date over 10,000 properties represented by over 2,400 listing have been listed on the registers.

Listing in the Washington Heritage Register is strictly an honorary designation and raises the public awareness about historic and cultural values. While there are presently no financial incentives available for the rehabilitation of listed properties, a designation to the Washington Heritage Register can be beneficial in securing state grants or other funding awards for public or non-profit owned properties.

For owners of private properties, the effects of listing in or a determination of eligibility for listing in the Washington Heritage Register, are parallel to the effects of listing in the National Register of Historic Places. No restrictions by the Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation are imposed by a Washington Heritage Register designation when private funds are used to alter a significant property. However, any subdivision of state government or recipient of state funds, shall comply with the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA, Washington Administrative Code 197-11-330) and Executive Order 05-05. These programs require that significant properties, specifically those listed in or eligible for the Washington Heritage Register, be given consideration when state undertakings (permits, grants, construction, etc.) affect historic and cultural values. If significant resources are identified, the Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation considers the effects of a proposed project on such resources, and makes a professional recommendation for appropriate treatments or actions. The Department does not regulate the treatment of properties that are found to be significant; a local governing authority may choose to uphold the Department’s recommendation and may require mitigation of adverse effects to significant properties.

Sites which are listed on the National Register of Historic Places are automatically added to the Washington Heritage Register and hence a separate nomination form does not need to be completed.

The Washington State Heritage Register is governed by several state laws including Senate Bill 363, RCW 27.34.200 and 25-12 WAC. However at this time no specific administrative rules have been developed for the program.

DAHP staff is available to assist with the initial assessments of eligibility of properties to the registers and to provide guidance in the completion of register nominations. For further information on the Washington Heritage Register program, please contact:

Department of Archaeology & Historic Preservation
1063 S. Capitol Way
Suite 106
Olympia, WA 98501
QUALIFYING FOR THE WASHINGTON STATE HERITAGE REGISTER

Each register nomination is reviewed for listing by the Washington State Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP), which is comprised of citizens knowledgeable in Washington's history, archaeology, and architecture. The nine-member board reviews nominations to the registers three times a year, at various locations across the state.

In order to qualify for listing:

- A building, site, structure or object must be at least 50 years old. If newer, the resource should have documented exceptional significance.
- The resource should have a high to medium level of integrity, i.e. it should retain important character defining features from its historic period of construction.
- The resource should have documented historical significance at the local, state or federal level.
- ACHP review and listing requires the consent of the owner.

Steps to Nomination

- An applicant completes a Washington Heritage Register form and submits it to the Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation. Nominations cannot be processed until all sections of the form have been completed. All applications must be typed and edited; no hand written applications will be accepted.
- Once a nomination is considered complete, the state historic preservation officer schedules the nomination for consideration.
- Property owners and nomination authors are informed in writing of the upcoming consideration of the property for listing in the Washington Heritage Register. Private property owners have the right to consent to, or object to, the listing of their property.
- The Washington Heritage Register form is reviewed by the State Advisory Council on Historic Preservation at one of their regularly scheduled meetings.
- Property owners and nomination authors are notified of the state historic preservation officer’s decision.

Owners of properties listed in the Washington Heritage Register receive a certificate of listing. Guidelines and application forms can be found at http://www.dahp.wa.gov/washington-heritage-register
WASHINGTON HERITAGE REGISTER LISTED HISTORIC DISTRICTS IN TACOMA

North Slope Historic District
Tacoma boasts one of the largest neighborhood historic districts in the country with the North Slope Historic Special Review district, which is listed on the Tacoma (1994, expanded in 1996 and 1999), Washington State, and National Registers of Historic Places (2003). The North Slope Historic District encompasses more than 950 properties.

This district was created in response to an initiative from residents who value the atmosphere these historic homes create in the neighborhood. Few homes in the district are high style; instead the neighborhood is composed primarily of middle class Victorian, Craftsman, Colonial Revival and Foursquare style houses, representing a fine collection of Pacific Northwest versions of the residential architecture popular in the United States prior to World War II.

Residents today take great pride in their historic homes, beautiful streets, and enjoy the experience of living a traditional neighborhood lifestyle. Street signs mark the extent of the North Slope Historic District, which extends from North I Street to North Grant Avenue, and between Division Avenue and Steele Street, in the angle where Tacoma's street grid adjusts to follow the shoreline and link Old Town, developed in the 1870s, with New Tacoma which was built to meet the railroad line in the 1890s.

Old City Hall Historic District
The Old City Hall Historic District (National Register of Historic Places, 1977, and Tacoma Register, 1978) includes some of Tacoma's most architecturally important buildings, and served as the City's early commercial, governmental, and entertainment center from 1886 through the 1920s.

High on a bluff overlooking Commencement Bay, this fascinating area provides the best glimpse into the past during the days of boomtown Tacoma. It has been said that the city did not grow; it arrived - by rail - when it was selected as the western terminus for the Northern Pacific Railroad mighty transcontinental line.

Old City Hall (1892), which reflects the grand ambitions of the time, is an outstanding example of the height of the Italianate style in America. Other striking buildings are found throughout the district, including the Northern Pacific Headquarters (1888), the Beaux Arts Elks Temple (1916), and the Winthrop Hotel (1925). Smaller brick buildings from the time remain as reminders of Whiskey Row, the entertainment district that once thrived on the wages of dock workers and politicians. New uses continue to thrive as buildings are rehabilitated for office, retail and unique urban residences, maintaining the historic character of old Tacoma.

Union Depot-Warehouse Historic District
The Union Depot-Warehouse Historic District (National Register of Historic Places, 1980, and Tacoma Register, 1983) flanks Pacific Avenue from South 17th Street to South 23rd Street and extends up the hill to Jefferson Avenue. The Union Depot-Warehouse District is surrounded by the Union Station Conservation District.
The architecture in the district is characterized by rugged brick warehouses and factories, examples of commercial high style and industrial vernacular architecture developed in America in the early 1900s. The district was a major distribution point for goods that arrived by railway during the 1890s through the 1920s.

Union Station (1911) itself is a stunning landmark, with its massive arches and a copperclad dome. The adaptive reuse of Union Station as a Federal Courthouse earned the City of Tacoma a National Preservation Honor Award in 1994.

In 1999, the National Preservation Honor Award again came to Tacoma with the University of Washington, Tacoma’s adaptive reuse of the warehouse buildings along Pacific as its new urban campus. Other buildings in the district are being rehabilitated for use as apartments, businesses, restaurants and shops. Many of the projects in the Union Depot/Warehouse District are outstanding examples of historically sensitive adaptive reuse.

**Salmon Beach Historic District**
The district at Salmon Beach is listed on the Washington Heritage Register, and represents a rare glimpse of the waterfront lifestyle from the first part of the 20th century. The original community was a collection of approximately 100 cabins built on stilts at the base of a steep bluff bordering the Tacoma Narrows. Several cabins, including Cabin #97 (listed on the National Register of Historic Places) are in close to original condition, representing the small, intimate and independent character of the historic Salmon Beach community. The Salmon Beach District is not listed on the Tacoma Register of Historic Places, so changes to buildings in this district do not require review by the Tacoma Landmarks Preservation Commission or Historic Preservation Office.

**WASHINGTON HERITAGE REGISTER LISTED BUILDINGS IN TACOMA**
For a current list of cultural resources in Washington State use the Washington Information System for Architectural and Archaeological Records Data (WISAARD), which allows users to search for listed properties via a map or a text query. Two text queries are available, a simple and advanced, which allows a user to search for properties by historic name, address, city, county, architectural style, built date, historical use, architect and listing status.

Information is available for over 1800 registered historical sites, and over 300,000 inventoried sites, and is constantly being updated. The database includes images of the property, a short summary description about the significance of each resource and a link to the nomination and/or inventory form. Specific components of the records (such as Archeological sites) are exempt from disclosure (RCW 42.56.300) in order to prevent looting and vandalism. The database was funded by a generous grant from the U.S. Federal Highway Administration.

To access WISAARD visit https://fortress.wa.gov/dahp/wisaard/
For a WISAARD tutorial visit http://www.dahp.wa.gov/learn-and-research/find-a-historic-place