TACOMA RESOURCES

City of Tacoma, Tacoma Culture
http://www.tacomaculture.org/

Tacoma is a city rich with culture, history and historic architecture. From the earliest Native American inhabitants, to the first Euro-American settlers, to the subsequent waves of immigrants from both the United States and abroad, many peoples have contributed to Tacoma's cultural landscapes and the city that visitors and residents view today. Over the course of its history, Tacoma's appearance and form have changed as a result of the activities of its residents. The Tacoma area has numerous archaeological resources of cultural, ethnohistorical and scientific importance.

In addition, Tacoma has a rich architectural legacy in the form of buildings dating from the 1870s through the 1960s, which demonstrate the activities, hopes, and aspirations of its people as well as represent significant contributions to design thought. Incorporated in 1874, Tacoma became an important destination as the western terminus for the transcontinental railroad system. The railway connection to the deepwater port on Puget Sound established the city as a major link in national and international commerce, and attracted laborers, investors, and industrialists to the South Sound area.

Tacoma's downtown features several shining examples of urban adaptive reuse that have won local, state and national awards.

Downtown Tacoma represents the wealth, hope and vigor of the early days of industry and speculation in the Pacific Northwest. Nationally renowned architects were commissioned for Tacoma's industrial, residential and commercial buildings. High style examples include the Chicago School, Beaux Arts and Art Deco. Neighborhoods developed around streetcar lines in a rich tapestry of styles, from examples of vernacular working class homes, to middle class Victorian and Craftsman styles, to high style homes exhibiting a range of design fads from the 1880s through the 1930s.

Historic Tacoma
http://www.historictacoma.org/

Historic Tacoma is dedicated to preserving Tacoma's architectural legacy through education and advocacy. Their mission is to "promote, conserve and enhance Tacoma's architectural character."

Tacoma Historical Society
253 472-3738
info@tacomahistory.org
http://www.tacomahistory.org/

The Tacoma Historical Society’s Resource Center provides researchers with access to a collection of historic newspapers, photos, directories and other materials.
Tacoma Landmarks Preservation Commission
The Historic Preservation Office is located in the landmark Tacoma Municipal Building (Medical Arts Building, 1930), at:
Community and Economic Development Department
747 Market Street, Room 1036
Tacoma, WA 98402-3793
253.591.5200
landmarks@cityoftacoma.org

The Landmarks Preservation Commission is an 11 member volunteer commission made up of Tacoma residents and professionals, appointed by the City Council through the Council's Appointments process. The Landmarks Preservation Commission is established by Tacoma Municipal Code 1.42. Tacoma's Landmarks and Historic Districts are regulated by TMC 13.07. Commissioners represent a variety of professional expertise, including architecture, history, planning, construction, engineering, real estate, the arts and art history, in addition to three at large members.

The Commission reviews and approves applications for changes to registered Landmarks and buildings within local historic districts, reviews nominations and advises City Council regarding additions to the Landmarks Register, and participates in the planning process.

Tacoma Public Library-Northwest Room
1102 Tacoma Ave. South
Tacoma, Washington 98402
253.591.5666
http://www.tacomapubliclibrary.org

The Library's Northwest Room & Special Collections are a veritable treasure trove of information about the exploration, growth and development of Tacoma and the Puget Sound Region. Unique databases (created by library staff) provide easy access to a variety of usually difficult-to-find information and compelling stories about the people, places and events that shaped our region's history. What is available online represents a very small part of the Northwest Rooms resources.

Located in the downtown Main Library's original 1903 Carnegie Library, the Northwest Room is home to the Library's collection of materials on Tacoma and the Pacific Northwest, genealogy, photography, newspapers and rare books. The Northwest Room is a selective repository for the archives of the City of Tacoma, and provides public access to many local and regional planning documents and environmental impact statements.
REGIONAL AND STATE RESOURCES

Historylink.org
http://www.historylink.org/
An online, frequently updated, searchable database of articles relating to Puget Sound history.

National Trust for Historic Preservation (Western Region)
5 Third Street, Suite 707
San Francisco, California 94103
Phone: 415-947-0692
Fax: 415-947-0699
wro@ninthp.org
www.preservationnation.org/western

The National Trust for Historic Preservation's Western Office serves Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Washington, and Pacific Island Territories. The Trust encourages public participation in preservation, provides resources and limited financial assistance through grant and loan programs, and publishes widely.

Puget Sound Regional Archives
Pritchard-Fleming Building
3000 Landerholm Circle SE, MS-N100
Bellevue, WA 98007-6484
(425) 564-3940
PSBranchArchives@sos.wa.gov
Repository for government records from Washington State, including tax rolls, property assessment, and maps.

University of Washington Special Collections
http://www.lib.washington.edu/specialcoll/

The Special Collections Division is the Libraries' major resource for rare and archival materials covering a broad range of topics, formats, and periods. The collection has many resources on the history of the Pacific Northwest, including drawings, photographs, blueprints and other information on regional architecture and architect. Special Collections also houses the official Archives of the University of Washington.

Washington Historical Society Research Center
Washington State Historical Society
http://www.washingtonhistory.org/wshrc/default.aspx
Toll-free 1-888-BE THERE (1-888-238-4373)

The Washington State History Research Center provides public access to historical archives, special collections, digital collections and research library, while also serving as the principal
repository for the Society's artifact collections, special collections, and digital collections. The special collection includes the following types of resources, relating to Washington state and regional history: photographs, archives and manuscripts, posters, maps, printed ephemera, books, and finding aids. The museum collection of artifacts presently numbers over 90,000 items, including artworks, clothing, archaeological artifacts, ethnographic materials, tools, equipment, and furniture. The digital collection includes electronic records, documents, digital audio and video files, and digital photography and images.

**Washington State Department of Archaeology & Historic Preservation**

Suite 106  
1063 South Capitol Way  
Olympia WA 98501  
360-586-3065  

The Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP) is Washington State's primary agency with knowledge and expertise in historic preservation. DAHP advocates for the preservation of Washington's irreplaceable historic and cultural resources which include significant buildings, structures, sites, objects, and districts. Through education and information, DAHP provides leadership for the protection of our shared heritage.

The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) for Washington State is a Cabinet-level agency managed by a Governor-appointed Director. The agency was established in 1967 in response to the National Historic Preservation Act.

**Washington Trust for Historic Preservation**

Stimson-Green Mansion  
1204 Minor Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98101  
206.624.9449  
info@preservewa.org

The Washington Trust works to solve local preservation issues. It plays a critical role in saving landmarks by using tools such as the Most Endangered Historic Properties program and the Valerie Sivinski Washington Preserves Fund to provide media attention, technical help, and a small amount of financial assistance to help insure that they are saved.

It also facilitates several federally funded programs in conjunction with the Washington State Department of Archeology and Historic Preservation including the Heritage Barn Initiative, Historic Courthouse Program, Mainstreet Program, and Washington's National Maritime Heritage Area.
FEDERAL RESOURCES

Advisory Council on Historic Preservation  
http://www.achp.gov/
Provides oversight of the National Register of Historic Places and other information on historic preservation.

National Park Service  
http://www.cr.nps.gov/places.htm
Administers the Federal Government's cultural resources programs and provides a large number of links to technical information, Park Service programs, and other items of interest.

National Register of Historic Places  
http://www.cr.nps.gov/nr/
Provides an overview of the National Register of Historic Places, listing procedure, criteria, and more.

Technical Preservation Services  
http://www2.cr.nps.gov/tps/index.htm
Technical articles and resources useful for those rehabilitating or maintaining historic buildings. Includes recommended approaches to restoration, energy retrofitting, ADA accessibility, painting, masonry restoration, etc.