



FOCUS ON TACOMA'S HILLTOP NEIGHBORHOOD

February 17, 2023



Sponsors



Consultants



Guided  Methods

Monette L. Hearn, MEd

Project Lead

thehistoricblackwa@gmail.com | 206-659-5395



STUDIO
TJP

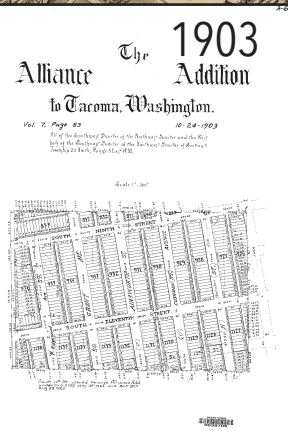
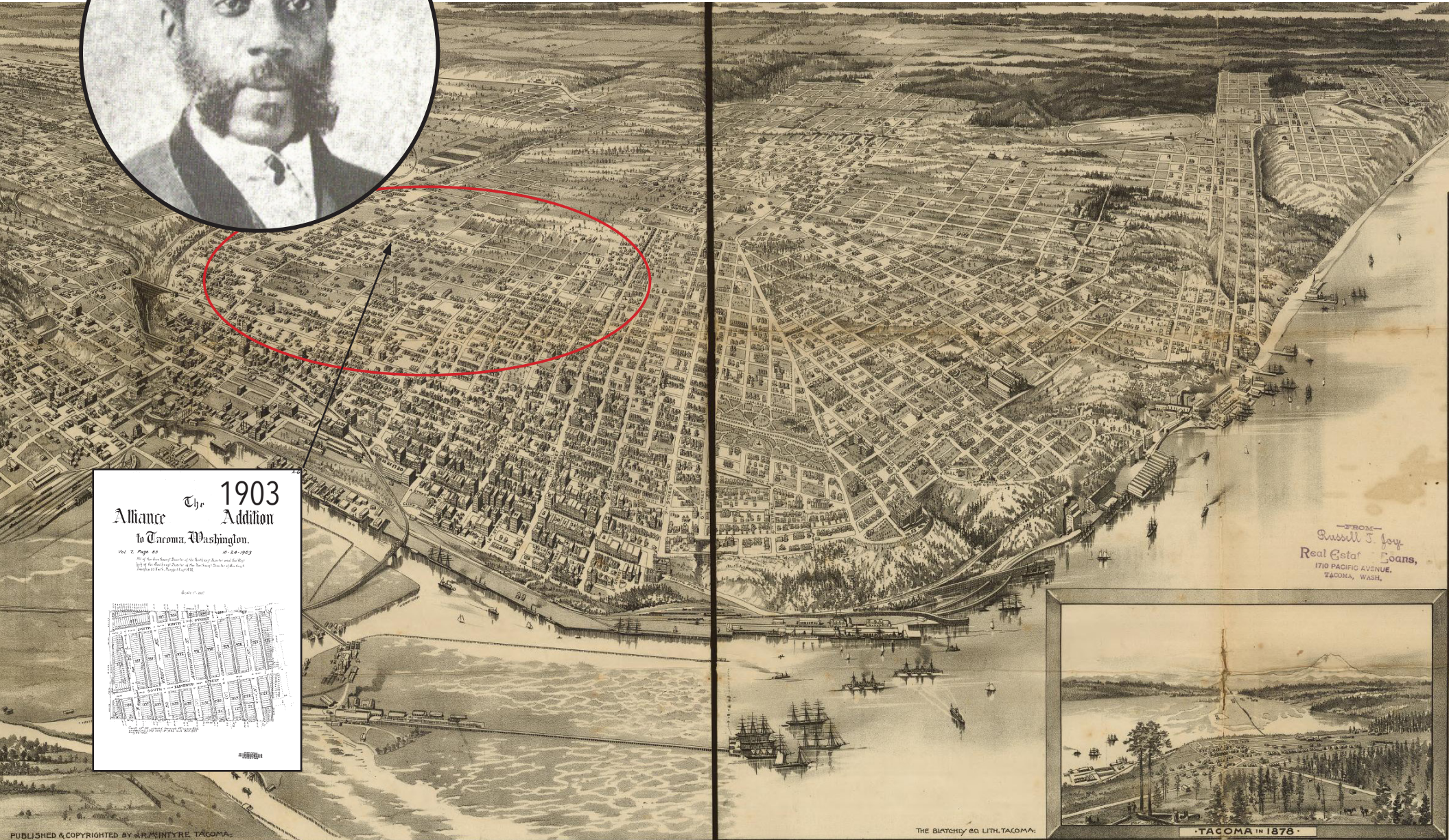
Ellen F.C. Mirro, AIA

Architectural Historian

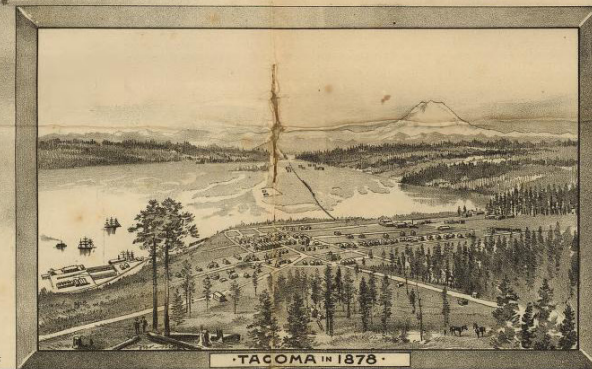
ellen@tjp.us | 206-854-5374

EARLY TACOMA

George Putnam Riley (1833-1905) purchased 67 acres in Tacoma before 1900



FROM
Russell T. Joy
Real Estate Loans,
1710 PACIFIC AVENUE,
TACOMA, WASH.



TACOMA, WASHINGTON.

1893.

- 1-The Commercial Bank.
- 2-Tacoma Hotel.
- 3-Hyams, Fennell & Company's Clothing House.
- 4-Tacoma National Bank.
- 5-Washington National Bank.
- 6-Fidelity Trust Company.
- 7-Imperial Loan & Trust Company.
- 8-Continental Bank.
- 9-Columbia National Bank.
- 10-Fidelity Hotel.
- 11-Wyatt Drug Company.
- 12-Bank of British Columbia.
- 13-W. L. McDonald's Cigar Store.
- 14-Dawson, Stewart & Hagerly, Irregular Lands.
- 15-Tacoma Lumber & Manufacturing Company.
- 16-Wm. Gardner & Co.'s Plumbing Supply House.
- 17-Arlington Hotel.
- 18-Children's National Bank.
- 19-Union Savings Bank & Trust Company.
- 20-Pawcett Bros. Agricultural Implement House.
- 21-Bowling Green American Bank.
- 22-West Coast Grocery Company.
- 23-Tacoma Leather & Building Company.
- 24-Jensen Dorr Company's Butcher House.
- 25-H. E. Burman's Commission House.
- 26-Northwestern Supply Company.
- 27-Hess, Crutwell & Kellogg's Wholesale Grocery.
- 28-Mechanics' Block.
- 29-Owen Wood's Building.
- 30-H. R. Richmond & Co.'s Wholesale Paper House.
- 31-Cascade National Company.
- 32-Tiger Brand Brewery.
- 33-Fleetwood, The Hatter.
- 34-La Payette Hotel.
- 35-Tacoma Novelty Company.

- 36-Pacific Commercial Company.
- 37-Vaughan & Merrill Company's Stationery House.
- 38-Taylor Bank.
- 39-Merrick Brothers Clothing House.
- 40-A. B. Cook & Company's Rubber House.
- 41-London & San Francisco Bank.
- 42-Court House.
- 43-Hotel Chalmers.
- 44-J. J. McLeary's Grocery House.
- 45-Wheeler, Ogden & Company's Sash and Door Factory.
- 46-Chamber of Commerce.
- 47-Cornell L. Huska's Undertaking Establishment.
- 48-Metropolitan Savings Bank.
- 49-W. W. Skyles & Company, Undertakers.
- 50-Schwartz's Art Store.
- 51-Cavender & Fowler, Real Estate, Loans & Ins. Co.
- 52-City Hall.
- 53-Pacific Supply Company.
- 54-Barnes Building.
- 55-R. E. Anderson & Company's Mortgage Loan Agency.
- 56-Merchants National Bank.
- 57-Stewart & Holmes Drug Company.
- 58-D. H. Johnston's Piano House.
- 59-Tacoma Grocery Company.
- 60-Crescent Creamery.
- 61-Olympian Hotel.
- 62-Grove Brothers.
- 63-Garretson, Woodruff, Pratt Company.
- 64-Pacific National Bank.
- 65-National Bank of Commerce.
- 66-Northern Pacific National Headquarters.
- 67-Tacoma Smelting & Refining Co.
- 68-Rochester Family Hotel.

SOME NOTABLE EARLY BLACK TACOMA RESIDENTS



Photo courtesy: Tacoma Police
Department



Horace Lawhorn (1862-1921), was Tacoma's first African-American police officer. He arrived in Tacoma in 1890. The police department then adopted a policy of having at least one black officer on the force.

Lawhorn built this house at 825 State Street in Central Tacoma.



Photos courtesy:
Tacoma Public
Library



Nettie Asberry is not only seen as the first African-American woman to earn a doctoral degree in the nation but spent her life championing social issues in Tacoma.

In 1903 Henry and Nettie Asberry bought the house at 1219 S 13th Street from Charles E. Gibson and his wife for \$1,500.

SEGREGATED TACOMA 1930s

REDLINING

D1—Three highly respected Negro families own homes and live in the middle block of this area facing Verde Street. While very much above the average of their race, it is quite generally recognized by Realtors that their presence seriously detracts from the desirability of their immediate neighborhood.

D3—There are several Negro families (three known) who own property and live in this area. This constitutes a sufficient hazard to justify a 4th grade rating.

D4—This is recognized as a Negro District, and 30% of the area's population are all that race. In addition to this, the improvements are somewhat more heterogeneous than in 'C-7' and 'C-8', and general maintenance is of somewhat lower grade.

D5—This area is the 'Melting Pot' district of Tacoma. This is particularly true in the section South of 13th Street. In the Southern portion along the Railroad tracks, there is a considerable amount of light industry. This also applies to the 'red hatched' district South of this area which is undeveloped and sparsely settled. Lot values in this area are from \$3.00 to \$20.00 per front foot.

Horace Lawhorn's house

Nettie Asberry's house

RESTRICTIVE COVENANTS: EXAMPLE NARROWMOOR ADDITION

- G. No part or parcel of land or improvement thereon shall be rented or released to or used or occupied, in whole or in part, by any person of African or Asiatic descent, nor by any person not of the white or Caucasian race, other than domestic servants domiciled with an owner or tenant and living in their home.

INFLUX OF WORKERS FOR WWII

USO #2 at 713 Commerce was the segregated USO for Black servicemen

Because the Civil Rights act didn't pass until 1964, servicemen, ex-servicemen and their families were restricted to living in the redlined areas on the map.



Richards Studio, Tacoma



1960-1970 CIVIL RIGHTS & AFRICAN AMERICAN LEADERS IN THE HILLTOP

THE MOTHER'S DAY DISTURBANCE, MAY 11 1969 –
a movement about URBAN RENEWAL IN TACOMA
led to the formation of THE BLACK COLLECTIVE

Harold Moss (1929-2020),
Mayor of Tacoma 1994-96



James L. Walton (1939), City
Manager 2003-2005



Thomas Dixon,
E.D. Tacoma Urban League



Rosa Lee Franklin (1927),
State Senator 1993-2011

Memorial march for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Sunday, April 7, 1968

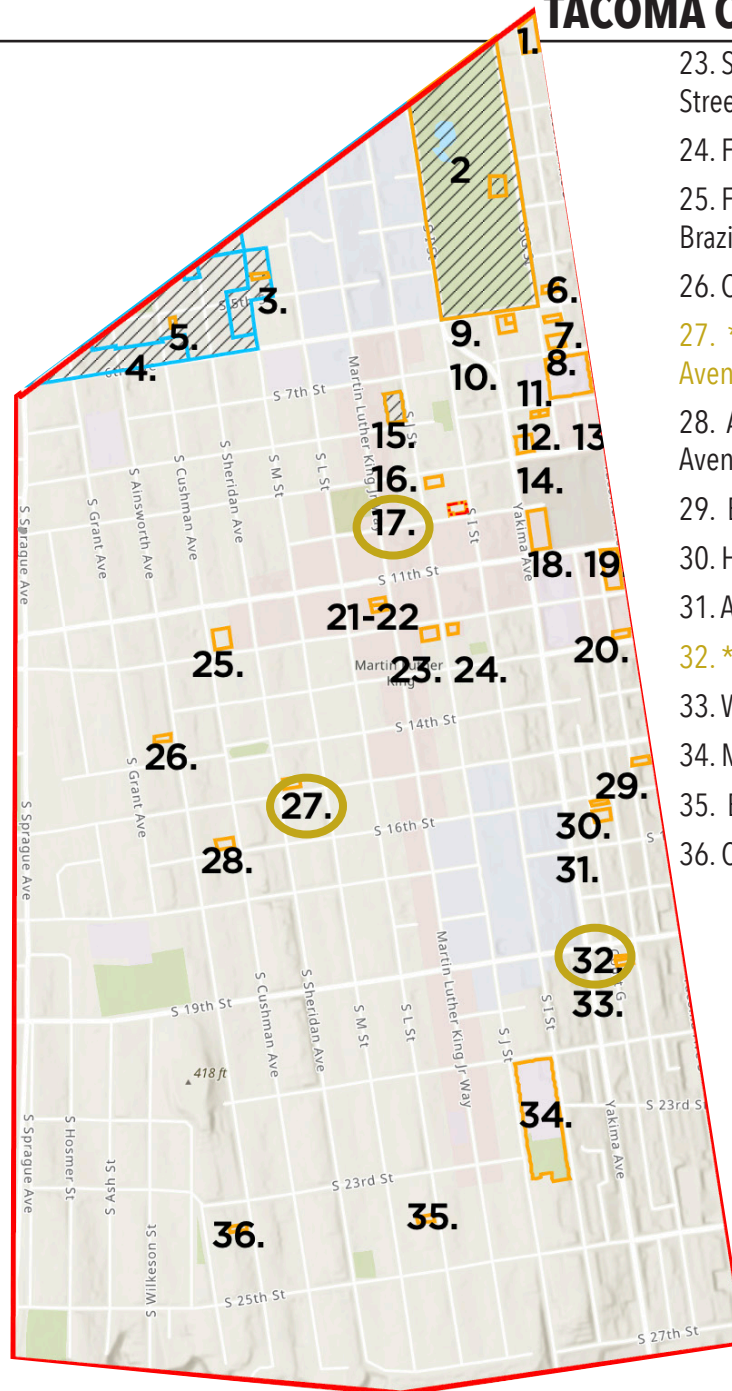
photo from Tacoma Public Library

They marched from South "J" Street
to 9th, swung down to Tacoma
Avenue and turned right to gather in
front of the County-City Building.



TACOMA CITY LANDMARKS IN HILLTOP

1. First Presbyterian Church, 20 Tacoma Avenue S
2. Seymour Conservatory (Wright Park) 316 S G Street
3. Alvin & Anna McIlvaine House, 413 S M Street
4. Wedge District (WHR, NR) conservation district
5. Johnson-Gehri, Residence, 1416 S 5th Street
6. Yuncker, John F. House, 519 S G Street
7. Hilltop - Agnew House, 605 S G Street
8. Marymac/Carlton Apartments, 615 S 7th Street
9. Hilltop - Hob Nob Restaurant, 712 6th Avenue
10. Wright Park Condos, Yakima Avenue
11. Central Administration / Central Elementary , 601 S 8th Street
12. Thomas Carroll Double House, 708 & 710 S 8th Street
13. Buren/Holden Apartments
14. St. James Apartments, 821 Yakima Avenue
15. South J Street Historic District
16. McIlvaine Apartments, 920 S 9th Street
17. Swedish Mission Tabernacle* 901 S 10th Street
18. Armory, 1001 Yakima Avenue
19. Carnegie Library (Tacoma Public Library) 1102 Tacoma Avenue S
20. Olympic Garage, 1224 Tacoma Avenue S
21. Kellogg-Sicker building, 1110-12 Martin Luther King Jr Way
22. HC Pochert building, 1114-16 Martin Luther King Jr Way



23. Schultz Apartments, 1002 -1004 Earnest S Brazill Street
24. First Swedish Baptist Church, 1201 S J Street
25. Fire Station - Fire Station No. 4, 1453 Earnest S Brazill Street
26. Cone/Reynolds House, 1244 S Ainsworth Avenue
27. *Charles Madsen House, 1419 S Sheridan Avenue
28. Adam Pfenning House, 1524 S Cushman Avenue
29. Brenden House, 1510 Tacoma Avenue S
30. Hillside Grocery, 1602 S G Street
31. Anderson House, 1610 S G Street
32. * Frank Calvert House, 1908 S G Street
33. W.G. Nyman House, 1910 S G Street
34. McCarver Elementary, 2111 S J Street
35. Burkee-Francois House, 2326 S L Street
36. Olsen House, 2314 S Ainsworth Avenue

* 17. changed to Sure House Open Bible Church, a black church in 1996

*27. The Jenkins Family lived in the house from around 1975 to 1988.

* 32. George and Corenner Byrd owned the home 1965 - 1991. Byrd was a Porter at Wutzkes Town Barber Shop.

PATTERNS OF DEVELOPMENT, HILLTOP

HOSPITALS:

Tacoma General

St. Josephs (1973-1974, Bertrand Goldberg)

SCHOOLS

Stanley Elementary

McCarver Elementary

Bates Technical College

Evergreen State College Tacoma Campus

TACOMA PUBLIC LIBRARY MAIN BRANCH

PIERCE COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT/CORRECTIONS

TACOMA ARMORY

PARKS

Wright Park/Seymour Conservatory, Neighbors Park, People's Park, Ferry Park, Sewell Park, Sheridan Park, McCarver Park, Grant Park

COMMERCIAL CENTER ON MLK JR. WAY

HISTORIC NEIGHBORHOOD COMMERCIAL

RESIDENTIAL MULTI-FAMILY

RESIDENTIAL SINGLE FAMILY



FOCUS ON CHURCHES, HILLTOP

First Presbyterian

New Jerusalem,
St. Rita Catholic



Allen AME, Shilo Baptist, Swedish Mission
Tabernacle/Sure House, Victory Outreach



Peace Lutheran
Mt. Tabor



Lamb of God
Christian...



God's Pentacostal



2150 S. Cushman

AREAS OF IMPORTANCE IN BLACK HISTORY, HILLTOP

Route of
Martin
Luther King
Jr march
1968

Alliance
Addition
1903

1. Nettie Asberry's house, 1219 S 13th Street
2. Allen AME (African Methodist Episcopal), 1223 Martin Luther King Jr Way
3. Shilo Baptist Church
4. Tacoma City Association of Colored Womens Clubs, 2316 S Yakima Avenue
5. Prince Hall Masons, 1702 Martin Luther King Jr Way
6. Pentacostal Church, 2501 Tacoma Avenue S.

Murals ★

7. Grant Park/Triangle Park
8. Buffalo Soldiers Museum
9. People's Center 1602 Martin Luther King Jr Way



EQUITY INDEX, 2022

The Equity Index = access to opportunity

There are 32 indicators which are distributed into five categories:

1. livability (i. e. safely walk to school)
2. accessibility (i.e. transit routes and sidewalks)
3. economy (i.e. earn a living wage job)
4. education
5. environmental health (i.e. access healthy food)

