

Landmarks Preservation Commission

Tacoma Community and Economic Development Department



747 Market Street ❖ Room 345 ❖ Tacoma WA 98402-3793 ❖ 253.591.5254

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 Office with any questions at 253-591-5254.

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

| Property Name | |
|--|---|
| Historic Name <u>Wahlgren's Florist shop & Wahlgren house</u> | Common Name <u>201 & 205 N. Yakima Avenue</u> |
| Location | |
| Street Address <u>201 & 205 North Yakima Avenue</u> | Zip <u>98403</u> |
| Parcel No. <u>2032150040</u> | Legal Description and Plat or Addition: <u>Lots 10,11 and 12, Block 3216, Map of New Tacoma, W.T., which was filed for record in the office of the Pierce County Auditor February 3, 1876, records of Pierce County, Washington; Together with that portion of vacated alley which attaches by operation of law. Situated in the County of Pierce, State of Washington. Section 32 Township 21 Range 03 Quarter 42 : NEW TACOMA</u> |
| 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic Additions | <input type="checkbox"/> Historic Landscaping, Fencing, Walkways, etc. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Accessory Buildings/Outbuildings | <input type="checkbox"/> Interior Spaces/Other (inventory in narrative) |
| Owner of Property | |
| Name <u>A&A PROPERTY HOLDINGS LLC</u> | |
| Address <u>1020 S 344TH ST STE 201</u> | City <u>Federal Way</u> State <u>WA</u> Zip <u>98003</u> |
| Is the owner the sponsor of this nomination? If not, please provide evidence that the owner has been contacted. | |
| Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | |
| Owner Signature, if possible: | |
| Form Preparer | |
| Name/Title <u>Kathleen Brooker</u> | Company/Organization <u>Historic Tacoma</u> |
| Address <u>P.O. Box 7664</u> | City <u>Tacoma</u> State <u>WA</u> Zip <u>98417</u> |
| Phone <u>(206) 619-9115</u> | Email <u>kbrooker1@gmail.com</u> |
| Nomination Checklist—Attachments | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> \$100 Filing Fee (payable to City Treasurer) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Continuation Sheets |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site Map (REQUIRED) | <input type="checkbox"/> Historical Plans |

04/2017

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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- Photographs (REQUIRED): *please label or caption photographs and include a photography index*
- Other (please indicate): _____
- Last Deed of Title (REQUIRED): *this document can usually be obtained for little or no cost from a titling company*

FOR OFFICE USE

Date Received _____

Fee Paid _____

Narrative (continued)

PART 2: PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Extent of Changes

Please summarize the changes that have been made to the original plan, exterior, materials, 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 <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Original cladding/exterior materials | Yes <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 original (if known) and present physical appearance, condition and architectural characteristics of the site (context, location), exterior (all four walls), and interior. Please include a list of known alterations and their dates (use additional sheets if necessary).

See Appendix I

Narrative Continuation

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 documented evidence included in this nomination form.

- A Is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or
- B Is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or
- 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
- D Has yielded or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history; or
- E Abuts a property that is already listed on the Tacoma Register of Historic Places and was constructed within the period of significance of the adjacent structure; or
- 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 | 1902, 1949 | Other Date(s) of Significance | 1928, 1934, 1949, 1950 |
| Architect(s) | N/A | Builder | J.E. Darling, Ray R. Kelly |
| Architectural Style(s) | Queen Anne, Modernist | Engineer | N/A |
| | | Material(s) | wood, masonry |

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 that lists the relevant criteria (use additional sheets if necessary). This section should include a thorough narrative of the property's history, context, occupants, and uses. If using a Multiple Property Nomination that is already on record, or another historical context narrative, please reference it by name and source.

See Appendix II and Appendix III

Appendix I: Appendix I: Part 2: Physical Description Narrative

Site

The small commercial building and adjacent residence 201 and 205 North Yakima Avenue respectively are located in the southwestern part of Tacoma's Stadium business district and well within the Stadium-Seminary National Register Historic District. Situated one block west of Division Avenue at the northwest corner of North Yakima Avenue and North 2nd Street, the corner on which these buildings sit characterizes the transition from more commercial uses to the east to primarily residential to the west. The 200 block of North Yakima Avenue is intact with no significant development since 1950 when the florist shop was built.

The buildings share a large rectangular lot (75' x 120'), which slopes downward to the north and is vacant on its northern half. The residence at 205 North Yakima occupies the western portion of the southern half of the lot, while the commercial building at 205 North Yakima Avenue occupies the eastern portion. The residential building is set back from North Yakima Avenue and is currently largely obscured from the right-of-way by dense vegetation. The commercial building is more visually prominent on its corner location and is separated from the surrounding sidewalks by small lawn areas transitioning to Roman brick planters with small bushes. A small paved driveway is located at the rear of the commercial building and accessed off of North 2nd Street.

201 North Yakima Avenue

A single-story commercial building constructed in 1949, 201 North Yakima Avenue features an irregular plan following a small rear addition to the western half of the northern elevation in 1950. The Modernist-style building is capped with a flat roof and surrounding tall parapet clad in non-original painted corrugated metal panels. The southern and eastern façades also feature an extending metal awning which contains original, recessed metal lighting features. Characteristic of its use, these two street-facing facades are enframed window walls with original plate glass windows and aluminum frames set on a low bulkhead of Roman brick and bordered by low Roman brick planters. The main entrance to the building is accessed from a concrete pathway off North Yakima Avenue and exhibits a single leaf, single glass pane commercial door with an ornamental aluminum push bar and glass transom above.

The less prominent western and northern elevations are clad in asbestos shingles (likely original) and exhibit limited fenestration and architectural detailing. The rear (north) addition from 1950, and now historic itself, is set back and not clearly visible from North 2nd Street due to a mature shrub located within a rock planter. This addition sits atop a raised concrete foundation and has non-original, two-light sliding windows in wood frames and a painted solid door accessed via a small set of concrete stairs. The rear addition also abuts a small portion of the extending porch of the adjacent residence at 201 North Yakima Avenue. Similar to the northern elevation, the western elevation exhibits limited fenestration consisting of a solid panel door and non-original two-light sliding window.

The building is in good overall condition and has not been substantially altered following the rear addition, which was completed only one year after the building's original construction. These alterations include the previously mentioned replacement of windows on the 1950 addition and the removal of a

neon sign. It is likely that the metal panels on the parapet, added sometime after 2016, conceal the original blue vitrolite glass tiles.

205 North Yakima Avenue

205 North Yakima Avenue is a two-story residence constructed in 1902 and featuring elements of the Queen Anne style. Rectangular in plan, it sits on a granite masonry foundation with basement and is capped by a front-facing gable roof with lower cross gables sheathed in asphalt shingles with an approximate one-foot overhang and punctuated by a masonry chimney near its northeastern corner. Vertical wood shake siding with an open keyway and even buttline sheathes a wood-frame structural system. Its primary, street-facing southern façade is framed above by the gable roof with a decorative cornice return and two original wooden-framed double-hung windows set centrally within the gable end. A non-original pent roof is situated below this gable ends and shelters the primary entrance, which is accessed via short concrete steps. Originally, a single-family residence, the building was converted to multi-family prior to the 1930s, resulting in the infill of a ground-level, inset porch and the installation of the two individual entrances, both of which contain wood-paneled and glass doors. East of the entryway, the building contains two, original, wood-framed double-hung windows, one of which is set within the canted, southeastern ground-level corner.

The eastern and western elevations are similar, and both feature short gable-ends with cornice returns and original, wood-framed, double-hung windows. On the eastern elevation, a bay window is located underneath the gable end, while a diamond-shaped window sits below on the western elevation. The eastern elevation also includes two sets of concrete stairs leading from the basement level to the main floor above and sheltered by a short shed roof. A small porch is also situated at the northern end of the eastern elevation above a storage shed or connecting passage, which abuts 201 North Yakima Avenue to the east. Remaining windows on both the eastern and western elevations are original, wood-framed and double-hung.

The northern elevation exhibits two enclosed porches, which extend out from the wall plane. On the main level, the enclosed porch runs the width of the building and exhibits three, potentially non-original, wood-framed picture windows and one original double-hung window at the western end. Situated atop this porch, is a secondary enclosed porch on the upper level, which is placed within the gable end. This porch does not appear to be original and does not exhibit the same wood-shake siding found throughout the rest of the building; rather, it is sheathed in vertical wood siding. This upper enclosed porch is capped by a shed roof and exhibits three-over-three wood-framed windows.

The building is in good overall condition with most of its original windows intact. However, it has seen some alteration since its initial construction. Many of these alterations likely occurred when the when the Wahlgren's bought the house in 1928 and increased the number of boarders. These alterations include the infill of the front porch and addition of a secondary entrance, the possible enclosed porch on the north elevation, and the addition of the storage shed at the northeastern corner of the building. Regardless of these alterations, the building retains a high level of overall integrity and is still representative of an early 20th century Queen Anne-style residence.

Appendix II: Part 3: Historical or Cultural Significance

Statement of Significance

At a 118 years of age for the Walhgren house at 205 N. Yakima Avenue and at 71 years of age for the Walhgren Florist Shop at 201 N. Yakima Avenue, both buildings meet the minimum criteria for inclusion on Tacoma's Register of Historic Places. Its history and residents are indicative of the development of that district as well as Tacoma itself, especially the important place the flower and bulb industry had in Tacoma and the South Sound from the 1920s through the 1960s. As a boarding house from the late 1920s until the 1980s, it is an example of working class or "missing middle" housing. Although the house has had some changes, those have been largely minor and are largely historic themselves. The florist shop is a fine example of early small-scale modernist architecture and is almost entirely intact.

The Walhgren house is a listed building in the Stadium Seminary National Register District. The house and shop sit well within the boundaries of the 1977 Stadium-Seminary Washington Heritage and National Register Historic District. They sit within an intact block of that district, which includes the 1890 Born-Lindstorm House (224 N. Yakima), listed individually on the Tacoma Register of Landmark Places, and the 1906 McNeeley House (223 N. Yakima). Within one block are several individually listed city landmarks: The Legacy Apartments (711-15 N. 1st), Wright Park, Crescent/New York Apartments (322 N. G), and the North Slope Historic District (Washington Heritage and National Register listed as well). Within two blocks are more city landmarks: 1904 John & Ella Snyder House (612 N. 4th St.), 1914 Ansonia Apartments (219 N. Tacoma Ave), 1928 Dorothy Apartments (301 N. Tacoma Ave) and 1924 First Presbyterian Church (20 S. Tacoma Ave.).

The shop and house at 201 and 205 N. Yakima Avenue meets the following criteria for inclusion on the Tacoma Register of Historic Places:

- Criterion A for its association with the major flower and bulb growing industry in and around Tacoma from the 1920s to the 1960s. Fred P. Walhgren established a florist business here in 1934 that continued for about 68 years, operated in later years by his wife and children. The business is also associated with Japanese-American Robert T. Mizukami and his Fife Gardenville Greenhouses as well as Tacoma's annual Daffodil Festival and parade. In addition, the house provided housing for a host of working and lower middle class residents of Tacoma.
- Criterion B for its association with the lives of persons and communities significant to Tacoma's past. It is associated with Harry Nash, a Washington Territory pioneer who established a thriving Tacoma butcher and meat market business. It is also associated as the residence and business site of Swedish immigrant Fred P. Walhgren, his wife Dora, and their children Lillian M. and Fred G., who all operated a successful florist business at the site for some 68 years.
- Criterion C for embodying for embodying the distinctive characteristics of a type and period. The florist shop at 201 N. Yakima Avenue is an excellent and rare example of Modernist-style commercial architecture in the Stadium District and exhibits a high quality of design through its enframed window walls, flat roof with parapet and extended awning with recessed light fixtures, decorative entry door, and Roman brick planters. The house at 205 N. Yakima Avenue has undergone some alterations since its initial construction; however, it remains clearly representative of the Free Classic variant of the Queen Anne-style modest residence constructed in the early 20th

Century and exhibits many character-defining features of the style, including its steeply pitched and cross-gabled roof, asymmetrical entrance, wood shake siding, and projecting bay and decorative windows.

- Criterion F. Wahlgren's Florist shop at 210 N. Yakima has been a prominent feature of the corner of N. Yakima Avenue and N. 2nd Street since its construction in 1949. It is prominently represented on a wall mural in the outdoor seating of the local restaurant Shake Shake Shake (124 N. Tacoma Ave.) along with other prominent buildings in the Stadium district: Stadium High School (111 N. E St.), First Church of Christ Scientist (902 Division), and the Roberts Brothers Grocery (now MBA Architects, 124 N. I St.). Both 201 and 205 and the Wahlgren family are featured in the book *Tacoma's Stadium District*.¹

Building history

201 North Yakima Avenue

Fred P. Wahlgren designed the Wahlgren's Floral Shop at 201 N. Yakima Avenue after a building that Lillian and he saw in San Francisco while attending a flower show there after the end of WWII. In 1949, he had Ray R. Kelly Construction build it.² With simple, clean lines, this building is a fine example of a small commercial building in the Modernist/International style. The open front allows a sweeping view of the interior that was an especially effective display in the evening as shown in the Richards Studio photograph (Fig. 8).

Raymond R. Kelly (1910 – 1984) was a prominent Tacoma building contractor active primarily in the 1940s through the 1960s. Kelly ran for city council in 1953 and served on the Tacoma School Board.

205 North Yakima Avenue

The house at 205 N. Yakima Avenue was built in 1902 by contractor Jacob E. Darling for Harry and Ellen Nash.³ It is a modest house with front-facing primary gable and lower cross gables in the Free Classic variant of the Queen Anne style. It is likely a pattern book design, such as 210 and 212 North Yakima across the street. Pattern book designs are common in the Stadium-Seminary and North Slope National Register Historic Districts. Other of Jacob E. Darling's houses share its general form and style, such as 4619 South Yakima Ave. (1903) and 620 North Oakes St. (1907). Other nearby houses share the same general form and Free Classic style, such as the row of four Russell & Heath designed cottages around the corner at 803 – 809 N. 2nd St. In 1977, it was specifically listed in the Stadium-Seminary Washington Heritage Register and National Register District nomination.⁴ The house was later owned by George R. and Nellie J. Carlaw and then by the Wahlgren family into the 2000s.

Jacob E. Darling (~1862 – 1929) was born in Canada and immigrated to America as a child, his family living in Michigan. By 1901, Darling was in Tacoma working as a building contractor. The Tacoma-Pierce County Building Index shows him responsible for several buildings, primarily houses (e.g. 4619 S. Yakima and 3608 & 3612 S. Sheridan). By 1904, he branches out into real estate, insurance and loans as the firm

¹ J. Keniston-Longrie, K. Longrie & A. Longrie, *Tacoma's Stadium District* (San Francisco: Arcadia, 2010), Pg. 111.

² Michael Sullivan (personal communication, 04/15/2020)

³ Tacoma Daily Ledger, 10/26/1902, pg. 24.

⁴ Caroline A. Gallacci, Stadium-Seminary Historic District Nomination, National Park Service, 05/26/1977

of J. E. Darling & Son. By 1920, however, he has moved to the Alaska Territory working again as a building contractor.⁵

Owner and Occupant History

The Nash Family – 1902 - 1915

Harry Nash (~1868 – 1938) was born in 1868 to Benjamin Franklin Nash, a billiards hall keeper and his wife Martha, a dressmaker, in Hillsboro, Wisconsin. By 1885 he is in Tacoma at the age of 18.⁶ In the 1889 Tacoma City Directory, he is listed as working as a bookkeeper at Ira F. Kneeland & Company, a meat market.⁷ By 1893, Harry is working as a meat cutter at the Washington Market Company, a meat wholesaler. That same year he marries Ellise (Ellen) Witzel, also born in Wisconsin and now working as a cook in domestic service.⁸ By 1895, it appears that Nash has his own butcher business, which will have various locations over the years but primarily in the 900 block of Broadway. In the 1910 U.S. Federal Census, Harry and Ellen are living at 205 N. Yakima with their four children Roy (14), Clarence (11), Ralph (9) and Gladys (6). By 1916, Harry and Ellen have left 205 N. Yakima and disappear from the Tacoma City Directory. By 1928, Harry and Ellen are living with their son Clarence in Sacramento, CA. Ellen dies in 1936, and Harry follows in 1938.

From 1916 to 1917, brothers Howard D. (1894 – 1982) and Ross E. Chastain (1887 – 1956) live at 205 N. Yakima along with Herman J. Schroeder (1883 – 1966). They are likely renting. Howard is a salesman with Cromwell & Chastain, a furniture manufacturer, and later works for the Harmon Company. In 1918 he enlists as a 2nd Lieutenant in the Army in 1918. His brother Ross and Herman Schroeder were sales managers at Love-Warren-Monroe Dry Goods, located in the Morris-Miller Building (2102-06 Pacific Ave.), a contributing structure within the Union Depot Warehouse Historic District. In 1918, the house was home to Pauline & William H. Spindler, who was a manager at the Rhodes Department Store.

The Carlaws – 1919-1927

From 1919 until 1927, the house was home to George Raymond (1881 – 1960) & Nellie Jane Black (1881 – 1957) Carlaw (often misspelled “Carlow”). George was born in Minnesota to a Scots father and a Canadian mother. His wife Nellie was also born in Minnesota, and they were married in 1907. While it is unclear when they arrived in Tacoma, George and Nellie first appear in the Tacoma City Directory in 1918. George is employed by the Northern Pacific Railroad as a train dispatcher, a job he would hold for at least 20 years. They were joined by up to two boarders at various times: Nan Wickersham, a nurse, from 1920-22, Lester S. Wing, a draftsman, in 1920, and Joseph McGuire, a clerk, in 1921.

The Wahlgren Family

Fred P. Wahlgren (1879 – 1850) and his wife Dora (1885 – 1981) occupied 205 N. Yakima in 1927 with their two children Frederick G. (1913 – 2007) and Lillian M. (1921 – 2009). Dora would live at the house until her death with Lillian living there until the early 2000s.

Fred P. Wahlgren was born in Sweden about 1879, and immigrated with his family to America in 1889.⁹ Fred first appears in 1896 in the Tacoma City Directory. He is boarding with Otto W. Wahlgren, likely a

⁵ United States Federal Census, 1920

⁶ Washington Territory Census, 1885

⁷ R. L. Polk & Co., *Tacoma City Directory*

⁸ Pierce County Auditor, Marriage Records, 1893

⁹ Washington District Court, *Declaration of Intention*, 02/15/1900, pg. 167

relative. Both men work at the North Pacific Railroad Shops: Otto as a machinist and Fred as a boilermaker and later as a machinist. Otto had come to Tacoma from Chicago, and it is likely Fred had as well. Fred would work at the NPRR Shops until 1923 or 27 years. During most of this time the family resided at 5312 S. Lawrence Street.

In 1912, Fred married Theodora “Dora” Catherine Mertens in Olympia, WA. Born about 1885 in Wisconsin, but her family later moved to Minnesota. Her family moved to Minneapolis where she attended business school¹⁰ and worked as a clerk in a department store.¹¹ It is unclear how Dora and Fred met since she had not lived in Washington prior to her marriage. It is possible they had met earlier, or relatives in Minnesota may have arranged the marriage. Or, Fred and Dora may have met via personal ads or “mail order” marriage broker. Marriageable women were in short supply in the West, and men seeking wives wrote letters to churches and published personal advertisements in magazines and newspapers.

By 1924, Fred had left his machinist position at the Shops, perhaps as a result of an injury or ill health. The 1924 Tacoma City Directory lists Fred as “President” of the Directory Information Company along with William A. Ashton and Clarence E. Muckler with a capitalization of \$50,000.¹² Ashton had been a machinist at the NPRR Shops, while Muckler had been a publisher of the *Tacoma Church Record*.¹³ The venture did not last past 1925, probably due to Muckler’s death that year. Over the next three years, the Tacoma City Directory entry for him lists no employment.

In 1928, Fred and Dora move to 205 N. Yakima Avenue. They now have a 15 year-old son, Frederick Gerald born in 1913, and a seven year-old daughter, Lillian Margaret born in 1921.

The family lived in the first floor. Almost immediately, they took in boarders, who lived on the second floor and possibly the basement. Although it is not clear when it occurred, the Wahlgren’s enclose the inset front porch and add a second exterior door to reach the second floor. By 1929, they appear to have eight rooms available that house an amazing 16 people. All the boarders are married couples, one with two children. While city directories are only a yearly snapshot, the Wahlgren’s hosted an average of nine boarders a year through the 1930s and an average of 11 through the 1940s. It would continue operating as a boarding house into the 1960s.¹⁴ The occupations include nurse, teachers, bookkeepers, salesmen, dentist, veterinary, managers, bricklayers, stenographers, and auto mechanic.

In 1929, he is working at the Piggy Wiggly Grocery, and in 1930, he appears to have returned to a machinist position at the NPRR Shops¹⁵. In 1931, Fred embarks on a new business: Tip Top Golf Greens, a miniature golf course located at 620 N. 1st Street (Columbia Bank today) that lasts only a year. His son Fred G. is now working as a clerk at Puget Sound Power & Light, where he’ll work until he joins his father’s business.

In the 1932 *Tacoma City Directory*, Fred P. is listed as a “gardener”. However, by 1934 he is listed in the directory as a “florist” in the personal listings and as in the “Florists - Retail” section in the business

¹⁰ 1901 *Minneapolis City Directory*

¹¹ U.S. Federal Census, 1910

¹² *Seattle Daily Times*, “New Incorporations,” 02/09/1924, pg. 8.

¹³ R. L. Polk & Co., *Tacoma City Directory*, 1924

¹⁴ *Ibid.*, 1928 - 1965

¹⁵ U.S. Federal Census, 1930

listings. He operated the florist business from his home at 205 N. Yakima. By 1936, he had constructed a wooden shop near the site of the current shop.¹⁶ Lillian would join her father in the business when she graduated from Stadium High School about 1939. By the 1945 *Tacoma City Directory*, the business is identified as “Wahlgren’s Floral,” and the permit history for 205 N. Yakima shows that a building sign was added that year.

From the 1920s through the 1950s, bulb and flower growing flourished in the Fife and Puyallup valleys. By 1941, it was estimated that Pierce, Thurston and Whatcom counties produced one third of all daffodils in the United States. The annual Daffodil Festival is a reminder of this industry. Lillian Wahlgren recalled providing daffodils for many floats over the years. Also, many of the flower growers were Japanese-Americans who lost their businesses during the WWII interment. Lillian recalled that her father was one of the few florists who bought from Robert T. Mizukami’s Gardenville Greenhouses in Fife, WA, after the war. She also learned Japanese flower arranging techniques there.¹⁷

Robert T. Mizukami (1922 – 2010) was born near Star Lake, WA. In 1937, the Mizukami family purchased Gardenville Greenhouses in Fife, WA. The outbreak of WWII forced the family’s interment at Camp Harmony, Puyallup, WA, and then Camp Minidoka, ID. In 1943, he enlisted and joined the vaunted 442nd Regimental Combat Team, fighting in Italy and France and earning a Purple Heart. At the end of the war, the Mizukami’s returned to Fife and resumed the flower business. Robert was active in the movement to repeal racially discriminatory state and federal laws. He was also a charter member of Fife’s city council, served as its police chief, and its second mayor.¹⁸

In 1949, Fred P. Wahlgren had Ray R. Kelly Construction build a Modernist style shop of his own design after one he had seen in San Francisco.¹⁹ However, Fred P. died the following year on November 1, 1950. His wife Dora took over the business with the assistance of her children. Lillian worked in the shop, and Fred G. handled the accounting. In 1951, a small storage area was added to the rear of the shop. Dora and Lillian would continue to live at 205 N. Yakima. Lillian and Fred G. continued the business after Dora’s death in 1981 until about 2002. Wahlgren’s Floral would operate for some 68 years at this location.²⁰

¹⁶ Sanborn Map Company. Tacoma, Pierce County, Washington, 1936.

¹⁷ Michael Sullivan (personal communication, 05/18/2020)

¹⁸ Robert T. Mizukami obituary, *Seattle Times*, 05/16/2010, Pg. B4

¹⁹ Michael Sullivan (personal communication, 04/15/2020)

²⁰ Lillian M. Wahlgren obituary, *Tacoma News Tribune*, 10/08/2009, Pg. A-7.

Appendix III: Maps and Photographs

Part 1: Site map, maps, photographs, and clippings: . . . Pages 1 – 8

Part 2: Contemporary building photographs: Pages 9 – 19

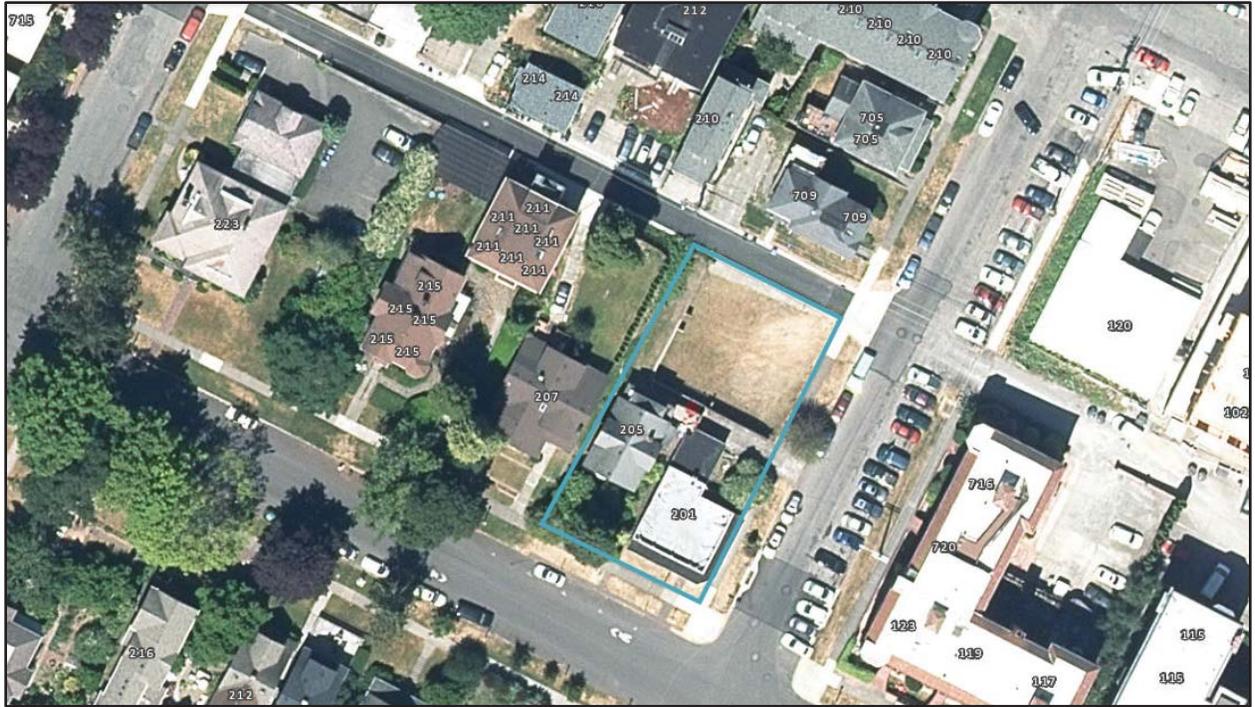


Figure 1. Aerial photo with the nominated parcel in light green at 201 - 205 N. Yakima Avenue. (DART)



Figure 2. Site Plan. The 201 - 205 N. Yakima Ave. parcel and buildings highlighted in green. (DART)

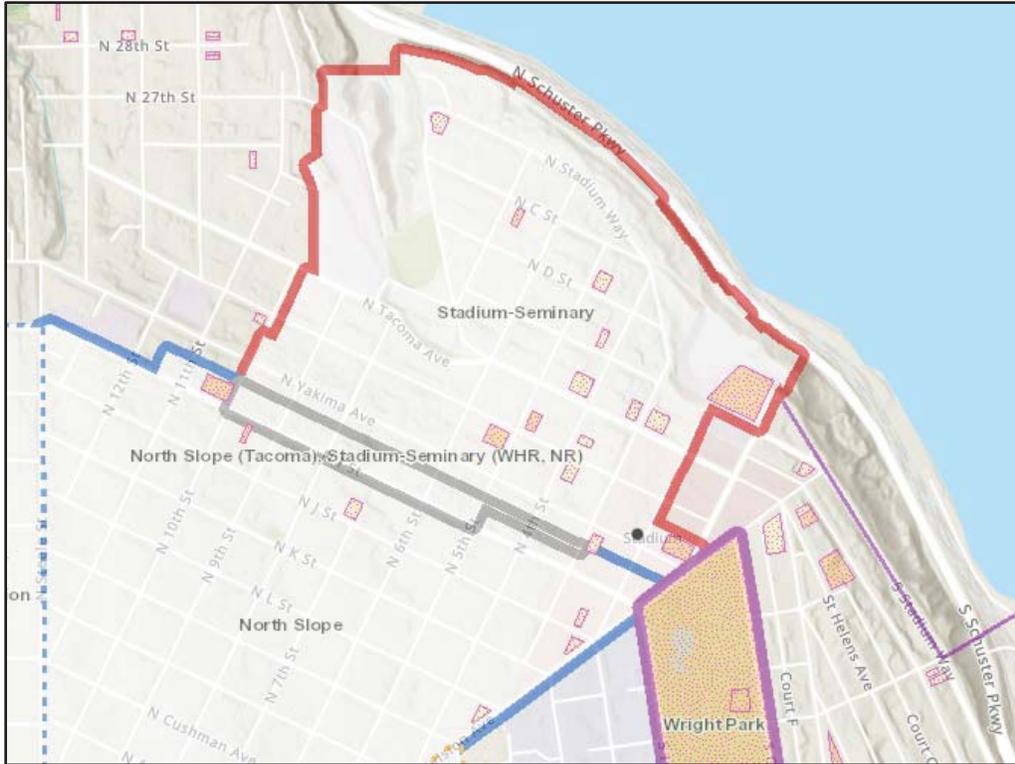


Figure 3. Stadium area historic districts and individual landmarks. The black dot indicates the nominated parcel. (DART)



Figure 4. 1920 aerial photo, Detail with 205 N. Yakima in red. (General Photo. Coll., BAC-002, Tacoma Public Library)

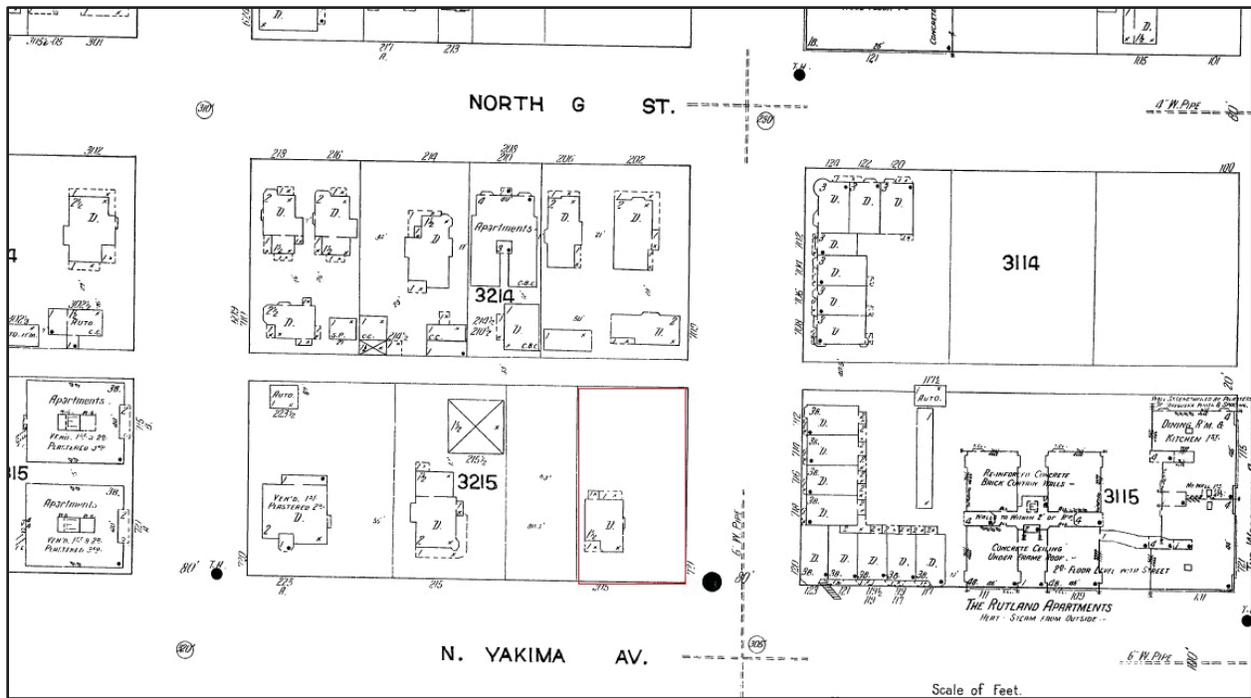


Figure 5. Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, Vol 1, 1912, pg. 53. Detail with 205 N. Yakima Ave. in red.

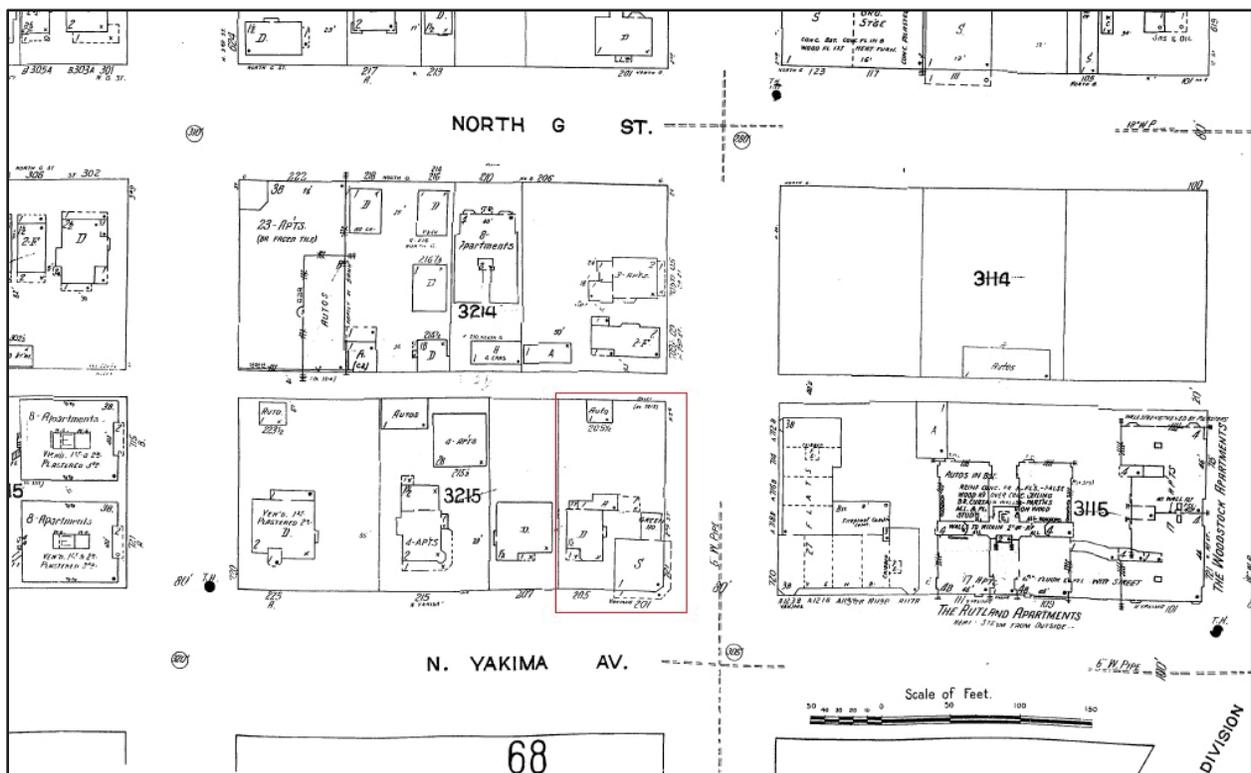


Figure 6. Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, Vol. 1, 1950, pg. 53. Detail with 201-205 N. Yakima Ave. in red.



Figure 7. "Harry Nash's New Home," *Tacoma Daily Ledger*, 10/26/1902, pg. 24.



Figure 8. Wahlgren Florists. 09/02/1949, Richards Studio, A44649-6, Tacoma Public Library



Figure 9. Wahlgren Florists, interior, 09/02/1949, Richards Studio, A44649-3, Tacoma Public Library



Figure 9. Detail. Wahlgren Florists, 11/09/1951, Richards Studio, D62121-2, Tacoma Public Library

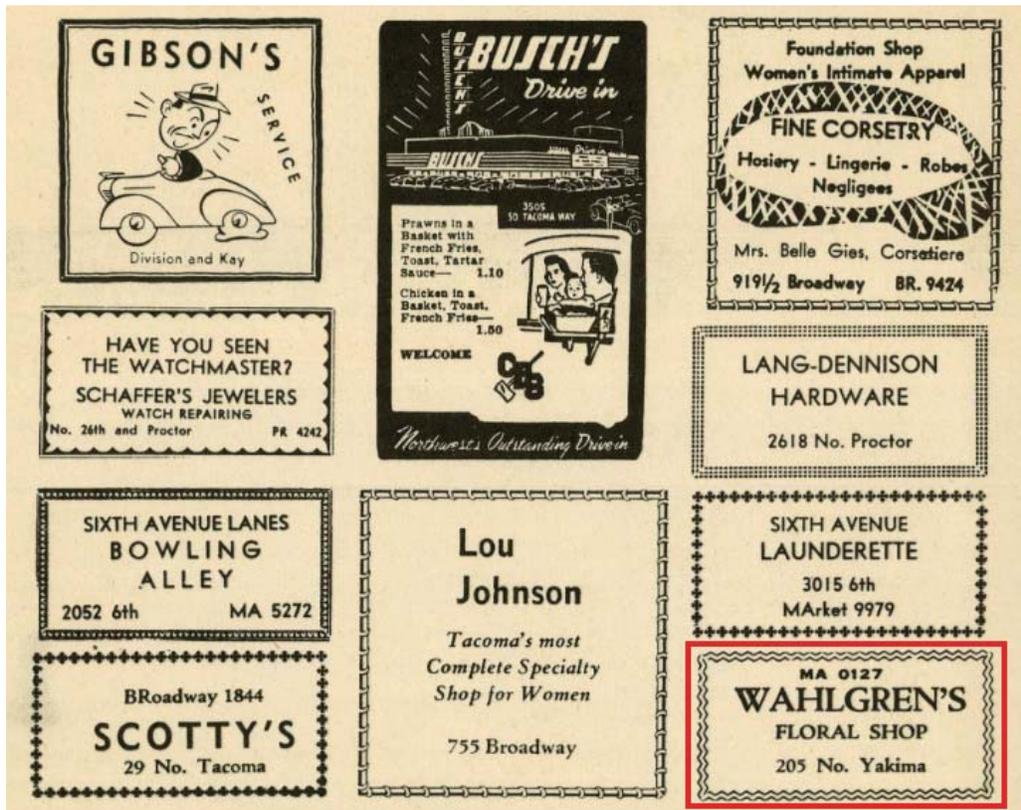


Figure 10. Wahlgren Floral ad. Detail, *Trail*, College of Puget Sound, 03/26/1952

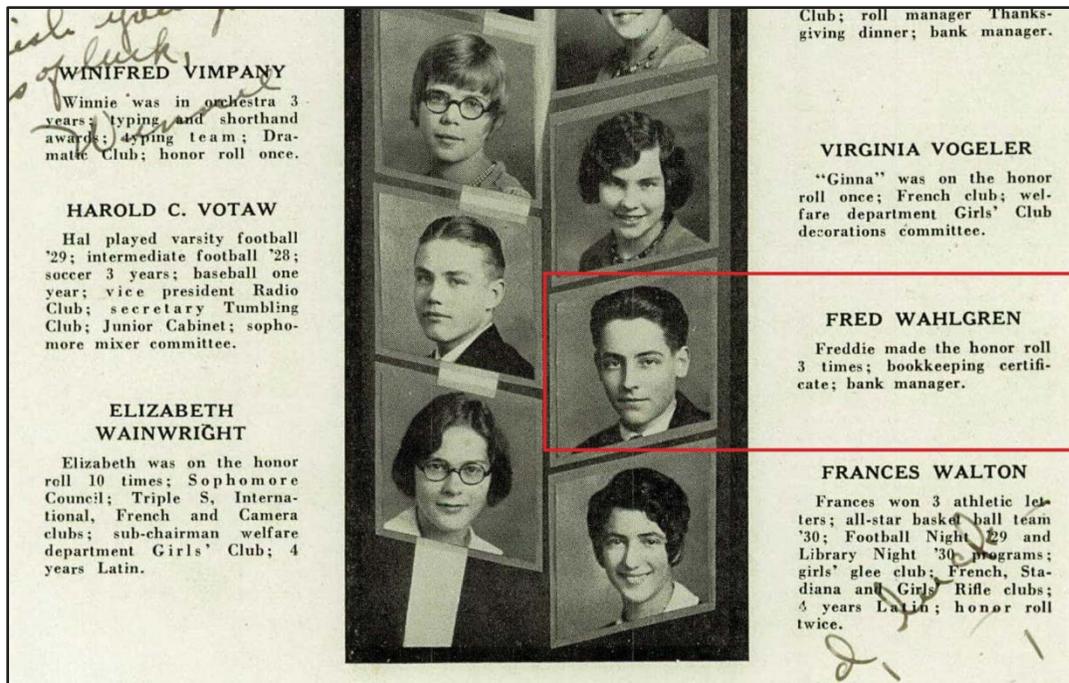


Figure 10. Fred G. Wahlgren, 1929, *Tahoma*, Stadium High School.



Figure 11. *Tacoma News Tribune*, 12/12/1954, p. A10



Figure 12. Overview of 201 N. Yakima Avenue, view northwest



Figure 13. Detail of primary (south) elevation, 201 N. Yakima Avenue, view northwest



Figure 14. Detail of east elevation, 201 N. Yakima Avenue, view north



Figure 15. Rear addition of 201 N. Yakima Avenue, view west



Figure 16. 201 N. Yakima Avenue as depicted on mural at Shake Shake Shake restaurant at 124 N. Tacoma Avenue



Figure 17. Primary (south) and east elevations of 205 N. Yakima Avenue, view north



Figure 18. West elevation of 205 N. Yakima Avenue, view to northeast



Figure 19. East and north elevations of 205 N. Yakima Avenue, view to west

201907311036

Electronically Recorded

Pierce County, WA LMACUMB

07/31/2019 3:37 PM

Pages: 2 Fee: \$104.50

CTI 0152455-16

When recorded return to:
Aleskey Guyvoronsky
A&A Property Holdings, LLC
1020 S. 344th St. Unit 201
Federal Way, WA 98003

Filed for record at the request of:



CHICAGO TITLE
COMPANY OF WASHINGTON

5605 112th Street East, Suite 900
Puyallup, WA 98373

Escrow No.: 0152455-16

STATUTORY WARRANTY DEED

THE GRANTOR(S) Wahlgren Denny Real Estate, LLC, a Washington limited liability company for and in consideration of Ten And No/100 Dollars (\$10.00) , and other valuable consideration in hand paid, conveys, and warrants to A&A Property Holdings, LLC, a Washington Limited Liability Company

the following described real estate, situated in the County of Pierce, State of Washington:

Lots 10, 11 and 12, Block 3215, Map of New Tacoma, W.T. which was filed for record in the office of the Pierce County Auditor February 3, 1876, records of Pierce County, Washington;

Together with that portion of vacated alley which attaches by operation of law.

Situate in the County of Pierce, State of Washington.

Abbreviated Legal: (Required if full legal not inserted above.)

Tax Parcel Number(s): 203215-004-0

For reference only, not for re-sale.

| | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 4506209 | EXTX |
| Electronically Recorded | |
| Pierce County, WA | LMACUMB |
| 7/31/2019 3:37 PM | |
| Pages: 1 | Excise Collected: \$16,020.00 |
| Proc. Fee: \$0.00 | Tech Fee: \$5.00 |

STATUTORY WARRANTY DEED
(continued)

Dated: July 22, 2019

Wahlgren-Denney Real Estate, LLC

BY: *Fred G. Wahlgren, Jr. Manager*
Fred G. Wahlgren, Jr.
Manager

State of WASHINGTON
County of PIERCE

I certify that I know or have satisfactory evidence that Fred G. Wahlgren, Jr is the person who appeared before me, and said person acknowledged that he/she signed this instrument, on oath stated that he/she was authorized to execute the instrument and acknowledged it as Manager of Wahlgren Denney Real Estate, LLC to be the free and voluntary act of such party for the uses and purposes mentioned in the instrument.

Dated: 7.22.19
Yolanda Meyer
Name: Yolanda Meyer
Notary Public in and for the State of WA
Residing at: Bonney Lake
My appointment expires: 10.10.19



For reference only, not for re-sale.

HISTORIC TACOMA

EDUCATION.

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www.HistoricTacoma.org

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Communications Director

May 26, 2020

A & A Property Holdings LLC
1020 S. 344th Street, Suite 201
Federal Way, 98003-8711

RE: 201-205 North Yakima Ace. Tacoma WA

To Whom It May Concern:

Historic Tacoma is a non-profit preservation advocacy organization. We are submitting a nomination to the Tacoma Register of Historic Places for your property at 201-205 North Yakima Avenue, parcel #2032150040. We believe that both the house and floral shop are eligible for landmark designation.

If you have concerns about this application, please rely to info@historictacoma.org or to my attention at Historic Tacoma, PO Bpx 7664, Tacoma WA 98417.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Brooker
President



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info@historictacoma.org

Mailing Address

PO Box 7664
Tacoma, WA 98417

Sincerely,

Kathleen Booker

[Type here]