



## Placing Wahlgren's Florist Shop on the Tacoma Register of Historic Places

City of Tacoma | Planning and Development Services

Infrastructure Planning and Sustainability  
Committee

January 13, 2021



## OVERVIEW

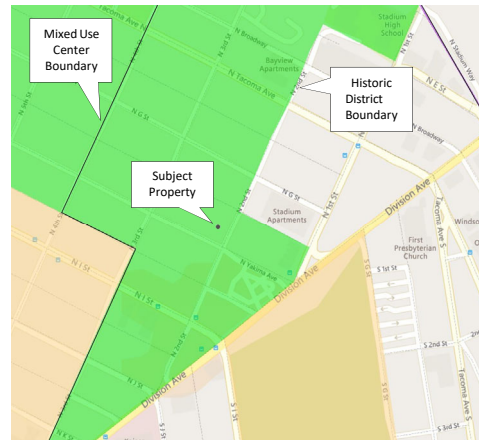
- Landmarks Preservation Commission's recommendation to designate 201 N Yakima as historic
- Seeking recommendation to full Council
- Discuss demolition review process



## BACKGROUND



- 201 and 205 N Yakima lie within the Stadium Seminary National Register District and within the Mixed Use Center
- Both properties are planned for redevelopment



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## BACKGROUND



### 201 N Yakima

- Built in 1949 for Wahlgren's Florist Shop
- Many architectural elements remain
- Alterations include loss/covering of Vitrolite glass parapet, removal of sign, and an addition
- Not inventoried in the Stadium Seminary Nation Register District nomination



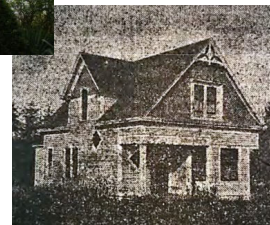
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## BACKGROUND



### 205 N Yakima

- Built c. 1902 as residence
- Converted to multifamily before 1930s
- Alterations include infill of alcove porch, additional entrances, an additional porch, and removal of ornamentation
- “Secondary” structure in the Stadium Historic District nomination



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## BACKGROUND



FEBRUARY 2020  
HISTORIC PROPERTY ASSESSMENT

### 201 & 205 N YAKIMA AVENUE



- Demolition within the district requires review by LPC
- Owner submitted a historic assessment report for LPC review,
- On 4/22, LPC recommended formal consideration of both properties for historic designation per TMC 13.12.570
- This recommendation has been pending IPS scheduling

PREPARED BY:  
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## BACKGROUND



Landmarks Preservation Commission  
Tacoma Community and Economic Development Department

747 Naitai Street • Room 343 • Tacoma WA 98402-3793 • 253.591.1232

### 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 12.07.050. Type all entries and complete all applicable sections. Consult the Historic Preservation Office with any questions at 253-591-1232.

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

<b>Property Name</b>	
Name: <b>Wahlgren's Florist Shop &amp; Millinery</b>	Common Name: <b>221 &amp; 205 N. Yakima Avenue</b>
<b>Location</b>	
Street Address: <b>221 &amp; 205 North Yakima Avenue</b>	Zip: <b>98403</b>
<b>Legal Description and Plat or Addition</b> (Add 20-11 and 22-12, Block 2124, Map of Box 1000, N. 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th, 30th, 31st, 32nd, 33rd, 34th, 35th, 36th, 37th, 38th, 39th, 40th, 41st, 42nd, 43rd, 44th, 45th, 46th, 47th, 48th, 49th, 50th, 51st, 52nd, 53rd, 54th, 55th, 56th, 57th, 58th, 59th, 60th, 61st, 62nd, 63rd, 64th, 65th, 66th, 67th, 68th, 69th, 70th, 71st, 72nd, 73rd, 74th, 75th, 76th, 77th, 78th, 79th, 80th, 81st, 82nd, 83rd, 84th, 85th, 86th, 87th, 88th, 89th, 90th, 91st, 92nd, 93rd, 94th, 95th, 96th, 97th, 98th, 99th, 100th, 101st, 102nd, 103rd, 104th, 105th, 106th, 107th, 108th, 109th, 110th, 111th, 112th, 113th, 114th, 115th, 116th, 117th, 118th, 119th, 120th, 121st, 122nd, 123rd, 124th, 125th, 126th, 127th, 128th, 129th, 130th, 131st, 132nd, 133rd, 134th, 135th, 136th, 137th, 138th, 139th, 140th, 141st, 142nd, 143rd, 144th, 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## ISSUES



(continued)

- The site is within the Mixed Use Center, as well as within the Stadium Historic District, representing potentially competing policy objectives for Council to weigh.
- The Mixed Use designation was created in 1993. The National Register Historic District was established in 1977. The overlap between the two areas is over 10 blocks.
- Designation will also significantly impact the proposed development project on the site. The owner is opposed to the designation.

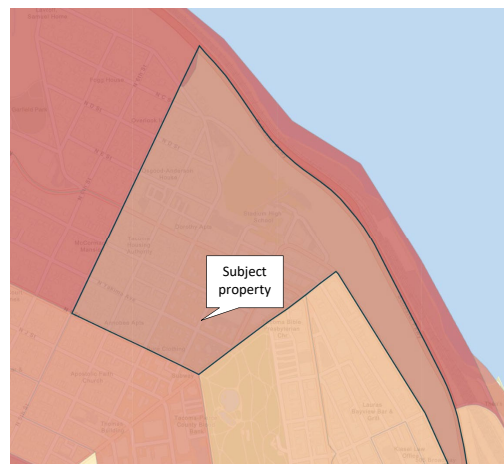


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## HEALTH, EQUITY & SUSTAINABILITY ANALYSIS



- Designation of the Wahlgren's Florist Shop could prevent or reduce the number of new housing units available in this area, which is a very high opportunity area.
- There is not an economic analysis that quantifies this effect, however, and the Landmarks Commission did not review the merits of any future development.
- Generally, staff believes that historic preservation promotes walkability and livability within a city, and potentially enhances the urban experience for all groups.



Tacoma Equity Map

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## OUTREACH



- The process for Landmarks designation includes public meetings and hearing as outlined in TMC 13.07.
- The properties have been discussed at 5 Commission meetings:

April 22	Consideration of Historic Assessment report
Aug 12	Preliminary review of nomination
Sept 9	Public Hearing
Sept 23	Review of comments and testimony
Oct 14	Adoption of findings and recommendation

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## OUTREACH



- The Commission received approximately 16 written comments at its April meeting, and 19 written and oral comments were received at the September hearing.
- Hearing comments (15) generally fell into the following categories:
  - Buildings are historically and/or architecturally significant (9)
  - Concerned with the proposed development (4)
  - General support (5)

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## OUTREACH



(Comments, continued)

- Opposing comments (4) included:
  - The Wahlgren family does not support
  - City needs housing
  - Supporters of nomination want to prevent apartment buildings
  - City needs development
  - Buildings do not meet historic criteria

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## NEXT STEPS



- Council Committee Review – January 13, 2021
- City Council Consideration – pending
- Resolution Effective Date – pending

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## RECOMMENDATIONS



The Landmarks Commission recommends the Infrastructure, Planning and Sustainability Committee forward the following to City Council for consideration and approval:

- Adoption of a resolution designating the Wahlgren Florists Shop at 201 N Yakima to the Tacoma Register of Historic Places.

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### **Placing Wahlgren's Florist Shop on the Tacoma Register of Historic Places**

City of Tacoma | Planning and Development Services

**Infrastructure Planning and Sustainability Committee**

**January 13, 2021**