

# South Tacoma

## Reconnaissance and Intensive Level Historic Property Survey



Public Meeting | October 17, 2023

# Project Information

- A CLG grant is partially funding this project
- As a Certified Local Government (CLG), the City of Tacoma:
  - Maintains a landmarks preservation commission (LPC) and the register of Tacoma Landmarks and historic districts
  - Surveys local historic resources
  - Enforces state and local preservation laws
  - Reviews National Register nominations
  - Provides for public participation in historic preservation activities



*This survey has been financed in part with Federal funds from the National Park Service, Department of the Interior administered by the Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP) and the City of Tacoma. However, the contents and opinions do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the Department of the Interior, DAHP, nor does the mention of trade names or commercial products constitute endorsement or recommendation by the Department of the Interior or DAHP.*



# TYPES OF SURVEYS

Reconnaissance and Intensive

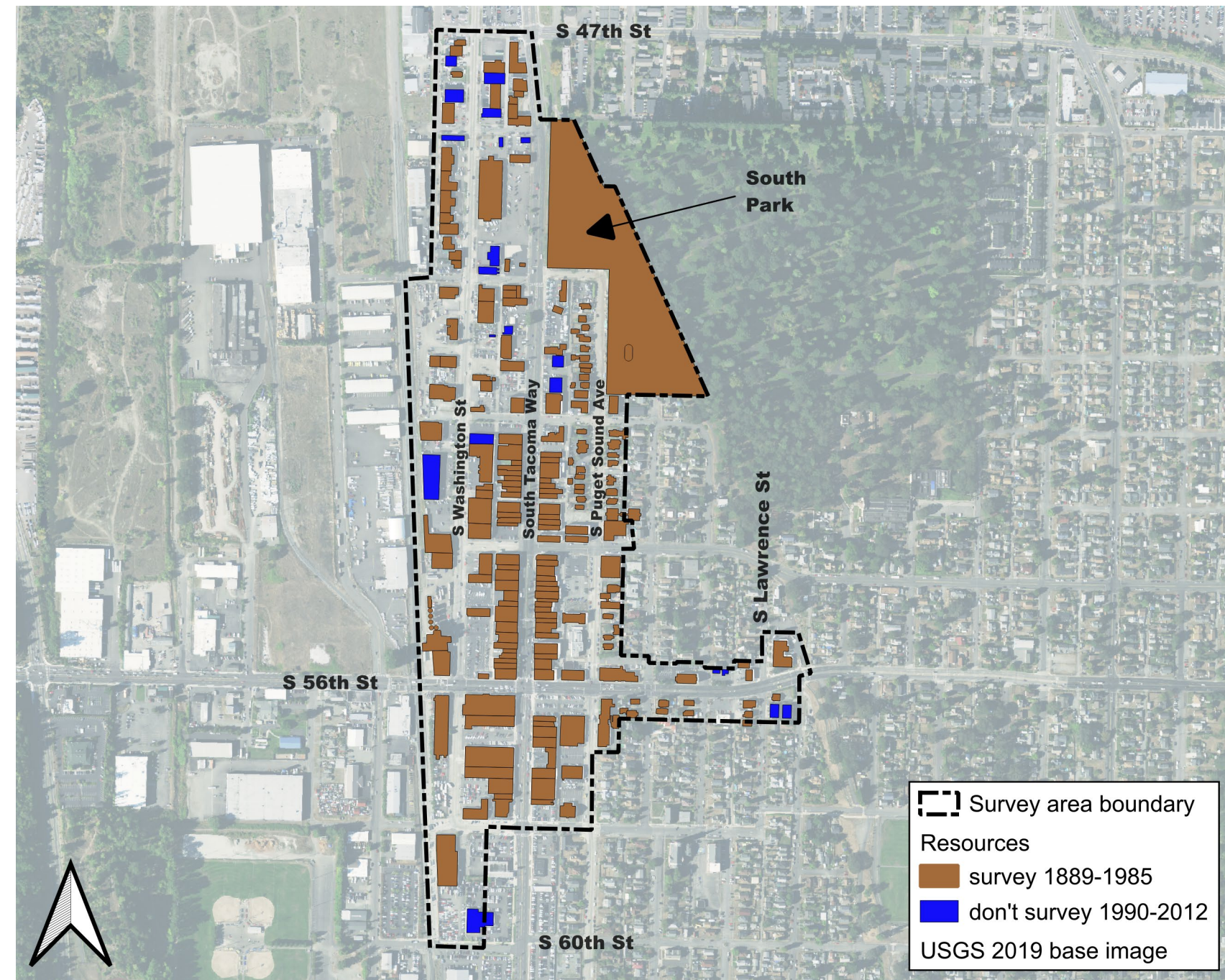
# Reconnaissance and Intensive

- **Reconnaissance (RLS, first step)**
  - “first-look”
  - Conducted from public right of way
  - Architectural style, materials, and features
  - Exterior photographs
  - Historic use and building type
  - Alterations and integrity
  - Physical description
  - Significance statement, eligibility evaluation based on architectural character
  - Approximate date of construction
- **Intensive (ILS, second step for a short list)**
  - RLS data as well as the following
  - Date of construction based on research
  - Architect/builder name
  - More complete photographic documentation
  - Ownership
  - Historic use
  - Significance statement, thorough based on the resource history and context



# SURVEY AREA

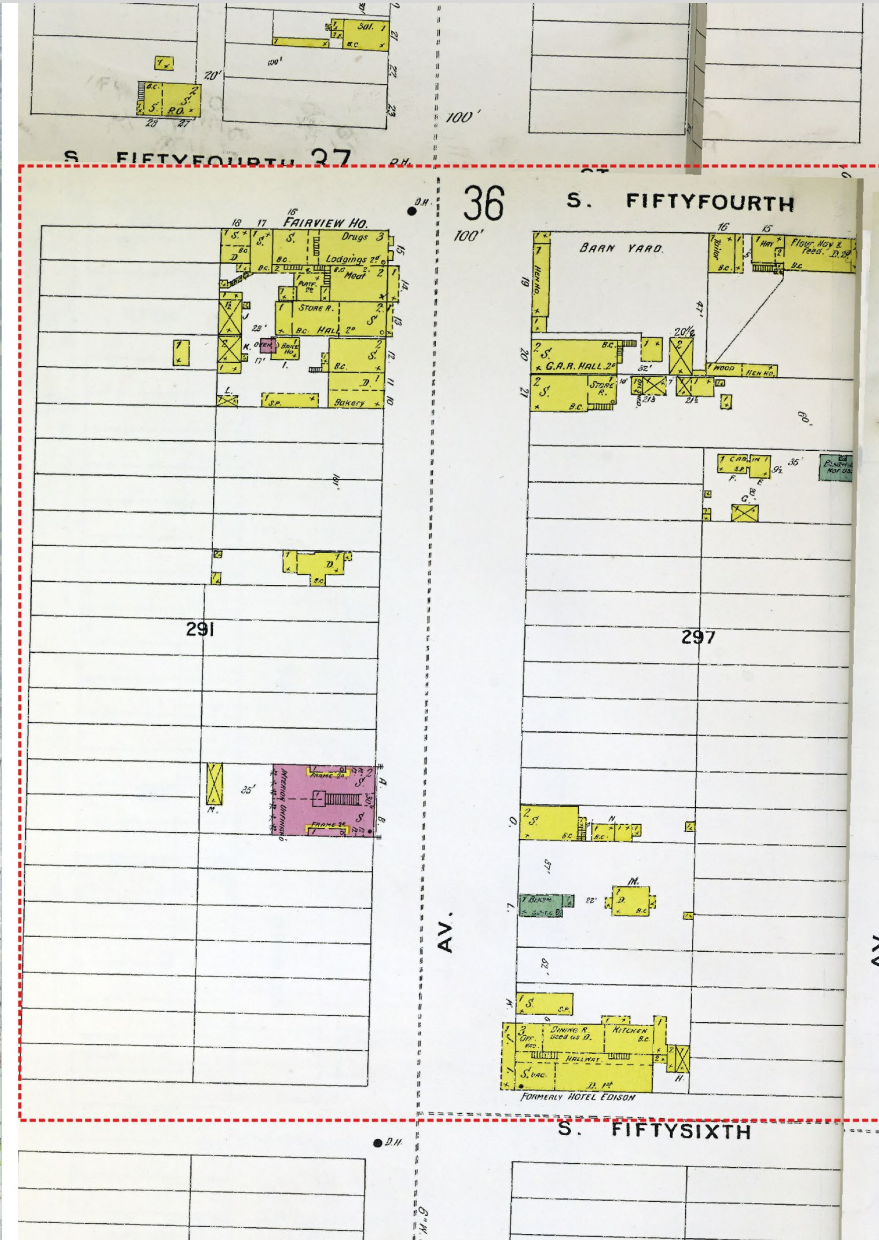
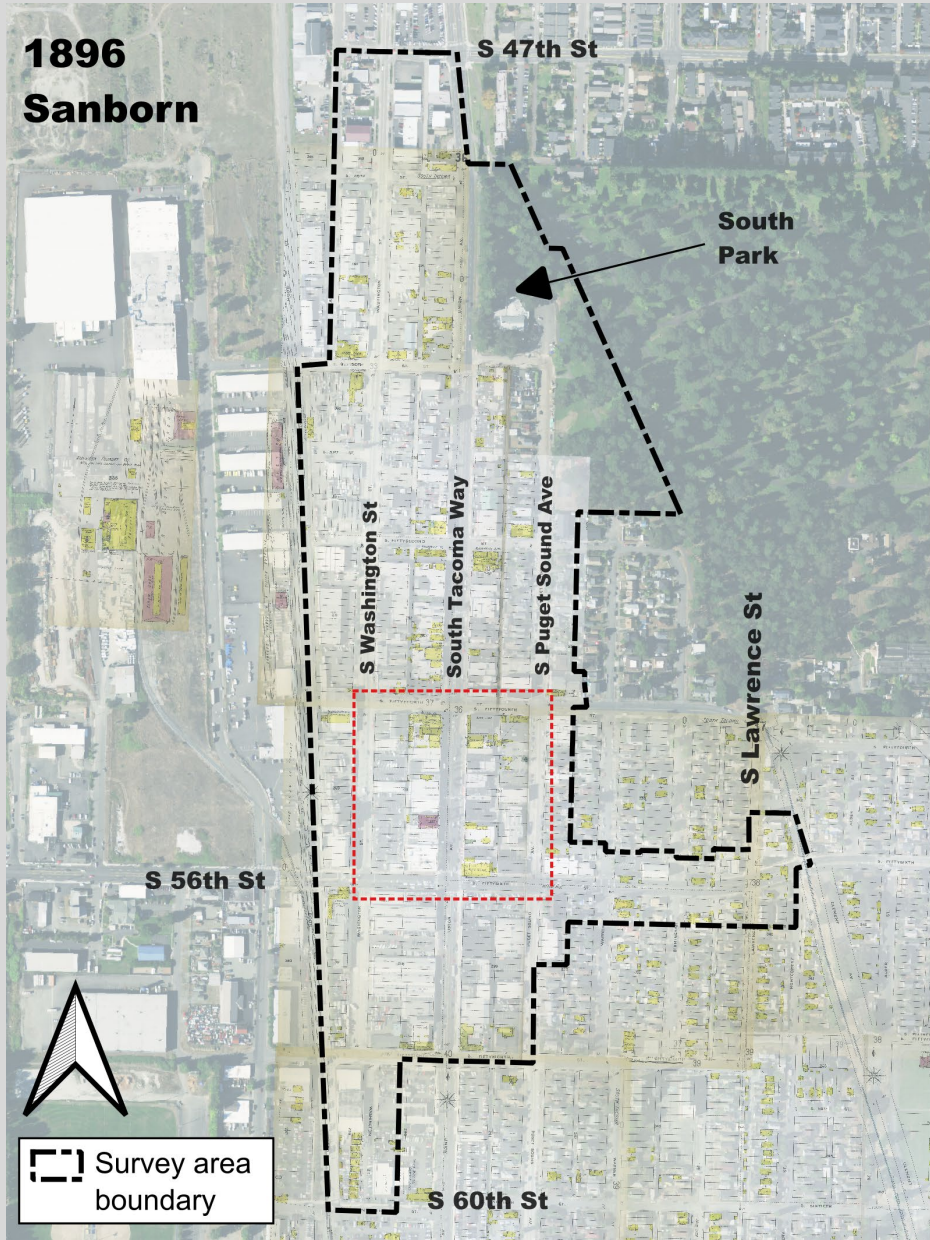
South Tacoma Mixed Use Center



## Survey Area

- 208 resources, approx.
- Industrial, Commercial, Residential properties and a City park
- Most built between 1889 and 1985
- 20 built in 1990s and 2000s that will not be surveyed due to age

1896  
Sanborn



## Past Development

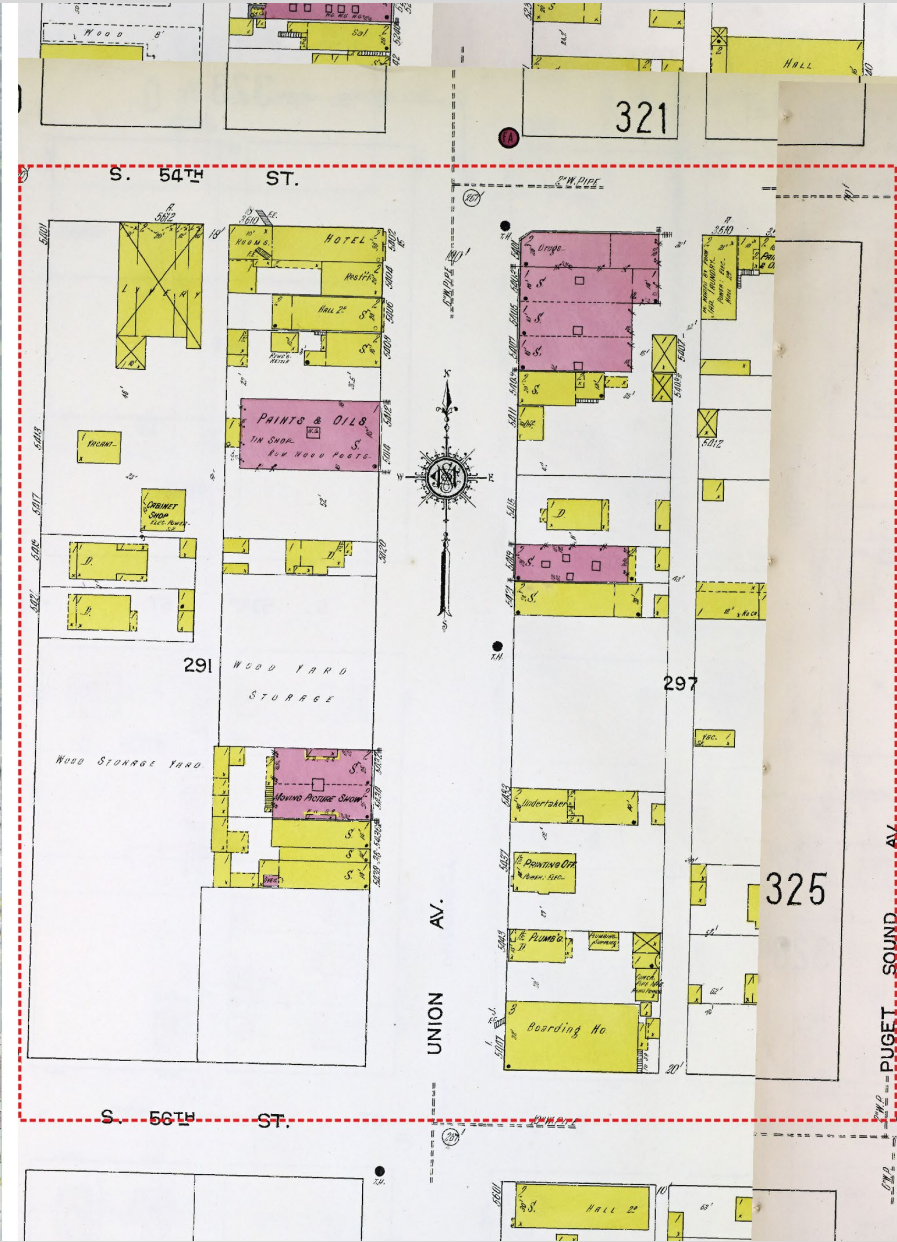
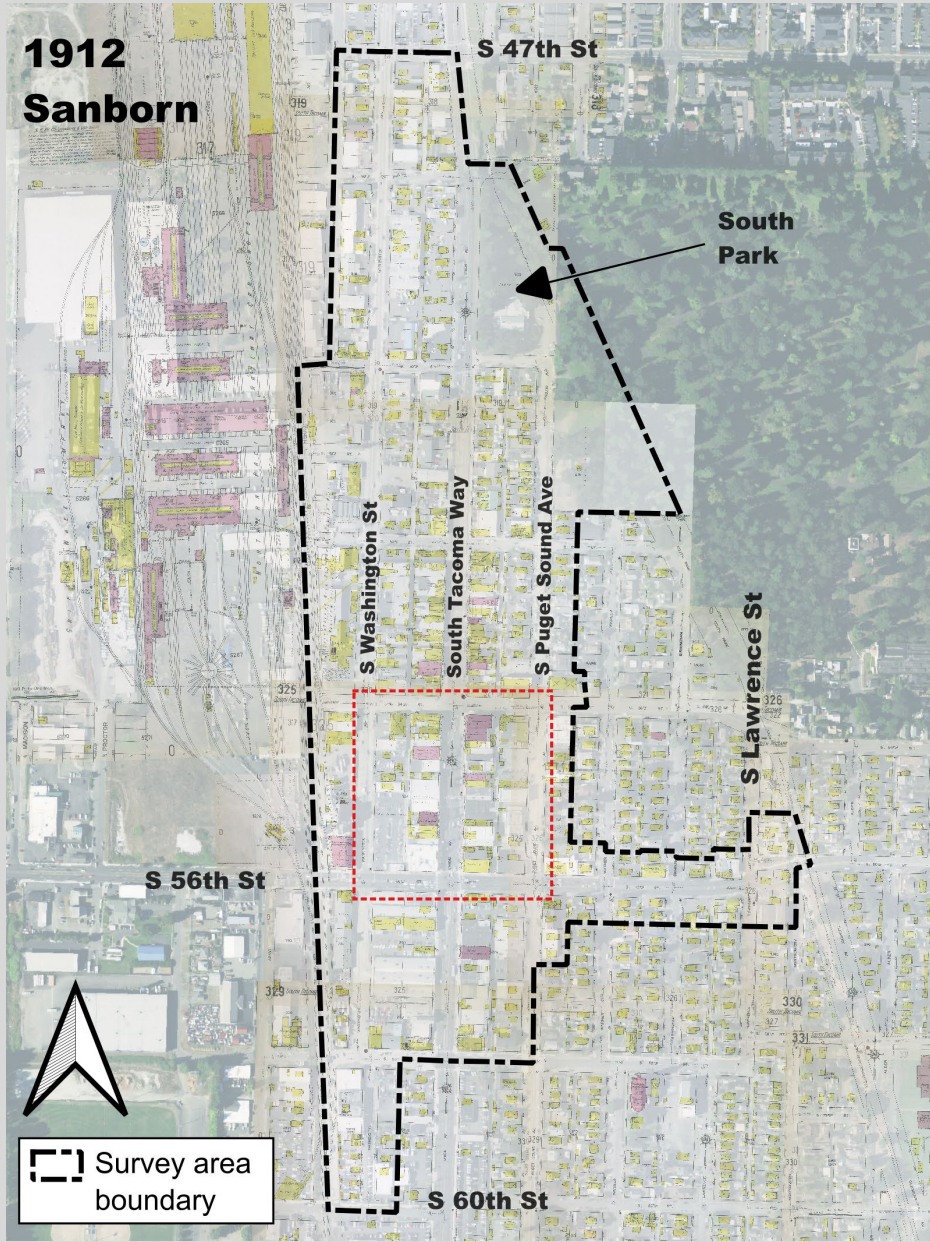
- Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps
- Historic aerials
- Plat records
- Census data
- Newspapers




All historic images courtesy of the Tacoma Public Library – Northwest Room



# 1912 Sanborn



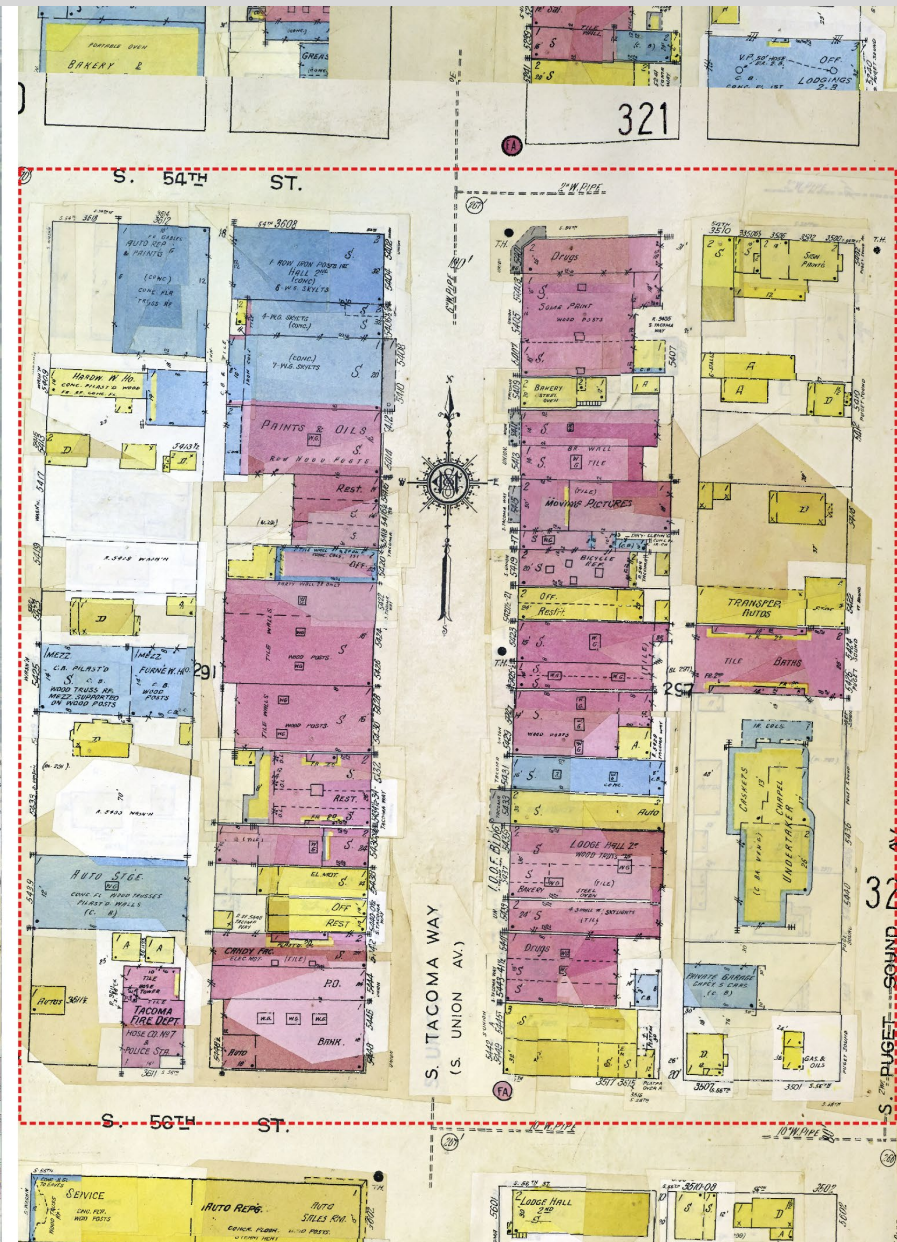
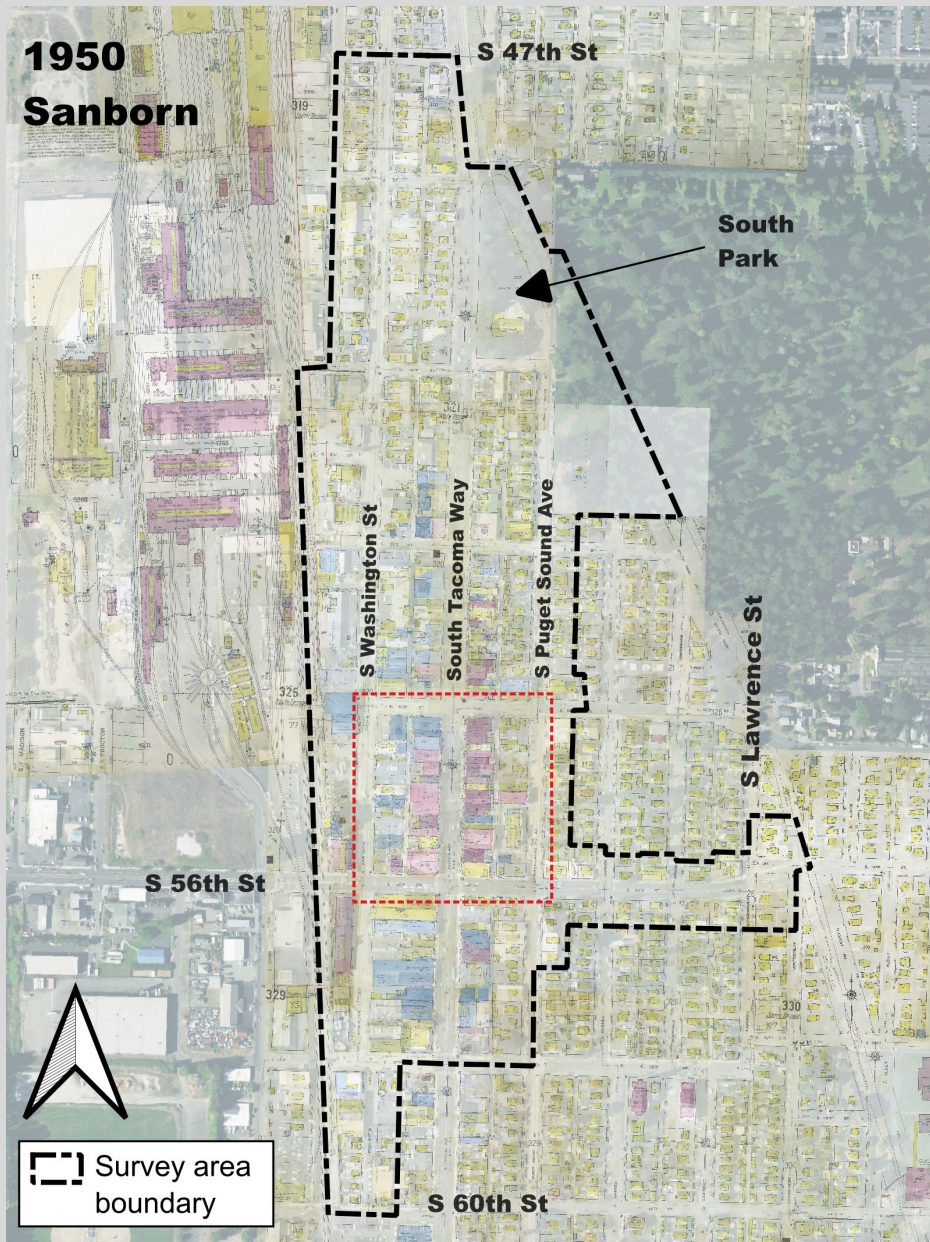
## Past Development

 Survey area boundary



All historic images courtesy of the Tacoma Public Library – Northwest Room

# 1950 Sanborn



# Past Development



All historic images courtesy of the Tacoma Public Library – Northwest Room



# NEXT STEPS

Research, Data Entry, Survey Report, Public Meetings

Field work	• September 2023
Public meeting #1	• October 17, 2023
WISAARD data entry	• October-December 2023
Survey report 1 <sup>st</sup> draft	• May 2024
Survey report 2 <sup>nd</sup> draft	• June 2024
<b>Public meeting #2</b>	<b>• July-August 2024</b>
Open House	• July-August 2024
Final report	• August 31, 2024

## Schedule

The second public meeting conveying findings and recommendations will occur in July or August of 2024

# South Tacoma Historic Property Survey

## How to Get Involved

- Email [landmarks@cityoftacoma.org](mailto:landmarks@cityoftacoma.org)
- Read more at [www.cityoftacoma.org/historicpreservation](http://www.cityoftacoma.org/historicpreservation)

The screenshot shows the City of Tacoma website. At the top left is the City of Tacoma logo, featuring a bridge and the text 'CITY OF THE CITY OF TACOMA' and '1884'. To the right of the logo is the text 'City of Tacoma WASHINGTON'. Below the logo and text is a navigation bar with buttons for 'RESIDENTS', 'SERVICES', 'GOVERNMENT', 'BUSINESS', and 'VISITORS'. On the left side of the page is a dark blue sidebar with a list of links: 'Historic Preservation', 'About', 'Cultural Resources', 'Design Review', 'Projects', 'Financial Incentives', 'Heritage Project Grant Program', 'Historic Preservation Code Amendments', 'Historic Preservation Month', 'Historic Preservation Awards', 'Historic Preservation Events', 'Landmarks Preservation Commission', 'Nominating a Landmark', 'Prairie Line Trail Interpretive Plan', 'Resources and Helpful Links', 'Standards for Historic Projects', 'Tacoma's Historic Districts', 'Tacoma Landmarks', and 'Walking Tours'. The main content area features a large image of a city skyline with a bridge. Below the image is the heading 'Projects' and a breadcrumb trail: '» Government » City Departments and Offices » Planning and Development Services » Historic Preservation » Projects'. There is a 'Print Friendly' icon. The main heading is 'South Tacoma Historic Property Survey 2023-24'. The text below reads: 'A Historic Property Survey will be conducted within the South Tacoma Mixed Use Center (MUC) to inventory a sample of historic properties, starting in Fall 2023 and continuing into 2024. Public input is sought to help select which buildings will be documented.' The next paragraph states: 'This inventory project is led by the City of Tacoma's Historic Preservation Office in an effort to update the city's inventory of historic and cultural resources. One goal of the inventory is to include thorough public outreach so that we better understand what is important to the community. This project reflects our dedication to equity and antiracism and the inclusion of voices that have been underrepresented.' The following paragraph says: 'The project will record approximately 200 buildings built in or before 1985, similar to the surveys done for the McKinley and Lincoln neighborhoods in 2021 and 2022.' The next paragraph explains: 'Buildings will be documented through digital photography from the public right-of-way along with field observations on construction, materials, function, and architectural features. Historical research will be done to address the broad patterns of development for the neighborhood, not individual buildings. Inventory forms will be created in the online WISAARD database, maintained by DAHP. Current photos will also be uploaded with each form. A final public meeting will be held later next summer to report back on the project, including the survey findings.' The next paragraph states: 'The project is partially funded by a Certified Local Government grant from the Washington Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation. As such, this project will comply with Washington State Standards for Cultural Resource Reporting. At a high level, this project will help the City's Planning and Development Services office to better understand the historic resources in the South Tacoma neighborhood, for the purposes of planning, research, economic investment, and public information. There is little existing data on historic properties within this neighborhood.' The final paragraph asks: 'Do you have ideas about which buildings in the South Tacoma Mixed Use Center have historic and/or cultural significance? Let us know!'

# Additional Resources

## How to Research Your Building

- Tacoma Public Library's NW Room
  - Online ORCA database
  - Sanborn Maps
  - City Directories
  - Clipping files
  - Newspaper archives (microfilm)
- Tacoma Historical Society
  - [www.tacomahistory.org](http://www.tacomahistory.org)
  - Museum, collections, publications

The screenshot shows the Tacoma Public Library website. At the top, there is a search bar with the text "Search the Catalog by Keyword" and a search icon. Below the search bar are navigation links: "Catalog", "Books & More", "Online Library", "Programs & Events", "Services", and "About". A yellow banner below the navigation links contains the text: "New masking guidelines in effect, Masks are required in libraries for the first hour of each day." Below this banner is another yellow banner with the text: "All Tacoma Public Library branches will be closed on Friday, June 10th for Staff In-Service day. Plan your visit with this list of all closures." The main content area features a large banner for the "Northwest Room at Tacoma Public Library" with a collage of historical images and a circular logo. Below the banner are five buttons: "Search Collections", "Blog", "Research Guides", "FAQ", and "Contact". Below the buttons is a section titled "Search Collections" with a large image for "ORCA Online Records and Collections Access". At the bottom, there are three circular icons: "Image Archive", "Tacoma-Pierce County Buildings Index", and "Tacoma-Pierce County Obituary Index".