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Gia Mugford, Wedge Ex-Officio



# Written Comment

## Landmarks Preservation Commission Planning and Development Services Department

**Date:** December 11, 2024  
**Time:** 5:30 p.m.  
**Location:** Hybrid (see below)

**Staff**

Reuben McKnight, Historic Preservation Officer  
Susan Johnson, Historic Preservation Coordinator  
Mary Crabtree, Administrative Assistant

**SUBMITTAL:**

Written comments received by 12:00 p.m. on the meeting day.

**SUBJECTS:**

Comments are addressing the following agenda item(s):

**PUBLIC HEARING – NOMINATION TO THE TACOMA REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**

A. 411 South M Street

**NUMBER OF COMMENTS:**

Four



The City of Tacoma does not discriminate on the basis of handicap in any of its programs or services. To request this information in an alternative format or to request a reasonable accommodation, please contact the Historic Preservation Office at (253) 591-5220 (voice) or (800) 833-6388 (TTY).

¿Necesitas información en español? 한국어로 정보가 필요하십니까? Cần thông tin bằng tiếng Việt? Нужна информация на русском?

ត្រូវការព័ត៌មានជាភាសាខ្មែរ? 📞 Contact **TacomaFIRST 311** at **(253) 591-5000**

**From:** [Ross and Julie Buffington](#)  
**To:** [Landmarks](#)  
**Subject:** LPC Hearing 12/11/24. 411 S. M Street  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 4, 2024 11:02:45 AM

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I am writing to register my strong support for the nomination of 411 South M Street to the Tacoma Register of Historic Places.

This 1891 residence is the oldest in the Wedge National Historic District and is one of the oldest in the city of Tacoma. It clearly reflects the early establishment of the Wedge neighborhood as a vibrant community and is a major contribution to the history of our city.

Unfortunately, this house sat vacant for many years but the current owners, Mark Guatney along with Jess and Chris, have done an outstanding job of stabilizing and restoring it. It will continue to play a large role in Tacoma's history throughout the 21st Century.

The adjacent carriage house is another critical element of the history of the Wedge.

Only a very few such stables still exist in Tacoma.

As a resident of the Wedge Historic District, I am aware of the importance of the historic designation in preserving the character of our neighborhood. The listing of 411 S. M Street as an individual historic property will be an essential element in keeping our community's history for future generations.

I encourage all members of the Landmarks Preservation Commission to vote in favor of adding this historic property to the Register of Historic Places.

-Ross Buffington

502 S. Sheridan Ave.

Tacoma, WA. 98405

**From:** [Kandace Espinosa](#)  
**To:** [Landmarks](#)  
**Subject:** Nomination of Shurz House to Historic Register  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 4, 2024 4:31:10 PM

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Dear Historic Preservation Commissioners,

I am writing to support the nomination of the Shurz House (411 S M St.) to the Tacoma Register of Historic Places.

I believe it to be the oldest house in the Wedge District, and a home I admired long before its restoration begun. There was so much visible potential but needed to be in the right caring hands.

The Guatney Family has proven to be the right people to bring the home back to life. Additionally, they have been a wonderful addition to the neighborhood and Wedge community.

Thank you for consideration.

Kandace Espinosa  
514 S Cushman Ave  
Tacoma, 98405

**From:** [Marshall McClintock](#)  
**To:** [Landmarks](#)  
**Subject:** 411 S. M Street nomination  
**Date:** Thursday, December 5, 2024 10:49:07 AM

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I would urge LPC to approve the nomination of 411 South M Street to the Tacoma Register of Historic Places.

The house is the oldest in the Wedge NR district as well as being the oldest in the Wedge Conservation District. It is next door to the individually landmarked McIlvaine house at 413 S. M St., and it is adjacent to the Tacoma Wedge Historic District.

Perhaps more importantly, this house and its restoration represents the incredible resiliency and sustainability of historic buildings. This house stood empty with virtually no maintenance for some 40 years. Yet its primary structure has remained sound, and it has even retained much of its original decoration. Its new owners have returned it to a habitable, useful and integral building in the Wedge Historic District.

Marshall McClintock  
701 North J Street



# North Slope Historic District

908 North M St.  
Tacoma, WA

December 11, 2024

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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ROGER JOHNSON  
HEATHER STRAUB

City Clerk at City of Tacoma. org  
Reuben McKnight, HP Officer  
Susan Johnson, HP Coordinator

Dear Commissioners,

The house at 411 North M Street is applying to be listed individually on the Tacoma Historic Register. This letter is to inform you that the North Slope Historic District, Inc. Board of Directors and our representative on the LPC, Deborah Cade, wish to support this application and thank the sponsors and others who worked to make it happen. The homes in the Wedge Historic District represent a cross-section of homes built in Tacoma's early days, and they still remain as homes for families and as examples of how livable historic homes can be in a modern world.

We in the North Slope Historic District wish to thank Julie and Ross Buffington for their letter of support for the property at 411 North M St. and for their long-time work in the Wedge Historic District.

Sincerely,

Julie S. Turner, Secretary  
North Slope Historic District, Inc.  
Tacoma, Washington