

= Pacific Tower (Seattle) =

The Pacific Tower , formerly the Pacific Medical Center , is a 16 @-@ story building on Beacon Hill in Seattle , Washington . It is located at 1200 12th Avenue South . It was completed in 1932 and opened in 1933 as a Marine Hospital Service facility . The lower floors of the facility still function as a medical center today . Amazon.com occupied much of the building as its headquarters for several years . Much of the space was left vacant after Amazon relocated to South Lake Union . In 2013 , the State of Washington agreed to a 30 @-@ year lease of 13 floors . Seattle Central Community College subleases six floors for its healthcare training program .

The building was designed by Carl Frelinghuysen Gould of Bebb and Gould with assistance from John Graham & Company . The architecture has a distinctive Art Deco style . The structure is perched on a hill overlooking downtown Seattle and is a prominent piece of the city 's skyline . It has been listed in the National Register of Historic Places and has been recognized as a landmark by the City of Seattle . The building was retrofitted to better withstand an earthquake in the 1990s . However , portions of the building suffered significant damage and required repair due to the 2001 Nisqually earthquake .

= = History = =

The building was opened in 1933 by the U.S. government as a United States Marine Hospital Service hospital . Replacing a facility in Port Townsend , it opened with 312 beds in 1933 . The hospital originally served veterans , merchant seamen , the US Coast Guard , the US Lighthouse Service , and poor and indigent people defined as ? federal compensation cases ? . In 1951 , it was re @-@ designated as a US Public Health Service facility along with all other Marine hospitals . In 1953 , a three @-@ story annex was constructed on the east end of the building to serve outpatient clinics . Two stair towers were added to the south face in 1975 . The building continued to grow in 1980 as a laboratory and primary care addition were built . The federal government ceased operation of the facility and other similar hospitals in 1981 . Control was shifted to Seattle , and the city chartered the Pacific Hospital Preservation and Development Authority (PHPDA) . The PHPDA owns the property and uses long @-@ term tenants with leases . Lease revenues are advance the PHPDA ? s mission of providing health care services to low @-@ income uninsured and under @-@ insured persons in King County . The lease agreement with WRC.Com Tower LLC was signed in 1998 and was terminated in 2012 .

A \$ 9 @. @ 3 million county bond paid for seismic improvements between 1991 and 1994 . A new tower was constructed on the north side of the building to create a buttress for the original structure . The addition was designed by architects Zimmer Gunsul Frasca , and received an award from the American Institute of Architects for is innovate design that was inline with the building 's historical facade . The project created 70 @, @ 000 sq ft (6 @, @ 500 m2) of additional space that was not initially occupied . As the medical organization struggled financially , attempts to lease at least 155 @, @ 000 sq ft (14 @, @ 400 m2) of the building failed over the course of several years . With medical facilities continuing to occupy the bottom two floors of the building in 1998 , Amazon.com signed a sublease for \$ 1 @. @ 5 million a year through 2010 .

The building suffered substantial damage during the 2001 Nisqually earthquake as the structure 's upper floor twisted in a corkscrew fashion . On the top three floors , 80 percent of the perimeter walls were damaged . A brick pinnacle on the upper roof collapsed and fell through a roof on the 10th floor . An elevator shaft and five floors were flooded when a mechanical water line ruptured . There were no injuries but it was estimated that the repairs would cost \$ 6 million . During repairs , efforts were made to reuse the brick and terracotta , and the same colors and style were sourced when replacement was needed .

Amazon continued to occupy their floors during rehabilitation of the structure . In 2003 , the clinical group practice of the PHPDA officially split off to form a 501 (c) 3 health care organization , PacMed Clinics (doing business as Pacific Medical Centers or PMC) . The Pacific Medical Center Clinic continues to operate in the first two floors of the building . In 2010 , Amazon.com ended its

sub @-@ lease with WRC.Com Tower LLC and began the move of its headquarters to a new campus in the city 's South Lake Union neighborhood . Much of the building was left vacant without new tenants moving into the space . The location outside of downtown Seattle was a constraint for businesses .

Washington State House Speaker Frank Chopp spearheaded a plan to use government funding to move community college health programs into the building . In August 2013 , the PHPDA announced a 30 @-@ year lease with the Washington State Department of Commerce for 13 stories of Pacific Tower . Six of the stories will be subleased to Seattle Central Community College for its healthcare training programs . Multiple nonprofits are prospective tenants . Chopp and other state lawmakers planned on consolidating several district offices into the location .

= = Design = =

Architectural firm Bebb and Gould , assisted by the John Graham Company , designed the original structure . Carl Frelinghuysen Gould designed it in an Art Deco style . Located 350 ft (110 m) above sea level at the northern edge of Beacon Hill , the 239 ft (73 m) tower overlooks downtown Seattle and Elliott Bay . The 259 @, @ 703 sq ft (24 @, @ 127 @. @ 2 m2) building sits on a 9 @. @ 5 @-@ acre (3 @. @ 8 ha) landscaped property . It was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1979 . In 1992 , the building received landmark status from the city . The northern addition completed in 1994 was considered significant by the American Institute of Architects . It was noted that the exterior of the building could have been supported by new beams and trusses . Instead , the new space integrated almost seamlessly with the original building while being seismically beneficial .

The main building and its surrounding campus are surrounded by manicured grounds . The property includes six buildings near the primary structure . These were originally quarters for officers but have since been converted into laboratory and office space . The buildings are in the same style as the main building with facades that include terracotta and brick in patterns resembling woven baskets . Other additions include a parking garage and smaller metal buildings . The property is surrounded by a detailed wrought iron fence .