

HISTORIC WAREHOUSE DISTRICT BUILDINGS

University of Washington, Tacoma

Established as a result of widespread community support and statewide efforts to expand access to higher education, the University of Washington Tacoma opened its doors in 1990. Because of its location in a historic warehouse district, the campus plays a vital role in revitalizing and transforming downtown Tacoma. The transformation of warehouse space into university buildings earned nationwide recognition for architectural excellence and historic preservation: the project received the 1999 Honor Award for Regional and Urban Design from the American Institute of Architects and an award from the National Trust for Historic Preservation. The project included renovating six historic warehouses with 133,000 square feet of space.

A
The Mattress Factory - Built 1908, 1912 / Renovated 2003
The Mattress Factory is made up of two buildings with very different histories. The southern part was originally the Lindstrom-Berg Cabinet Works and the northern part was a factory built for the Harmon Furniture Company. "Ghost writing" ads for the firm can still be seen on the building's exterior and on other restored buildings on campus.

B
Snoqualmie - Built 1902 / Renovated 1996
Harnessing the power of the 270-foot Snoqualmie Falls, the Pacific Northwest's first hydroelectric plant began producing electricity for Tacoma and Seattle in 1899. This building, erected a few years later, housed the giant transformers needed to reduce the voltage coming directly from the plant. The Snoqualmie Falls Power House supplied electricity to most of Tacoma, including the 600 volts needed for the electric trolleys.

C
Garretson Woodruff & Pratt - Built 1891 / Renovated 1995
The optimism and excitement of the economic boom of the late 1880s and early 1900s is reflected in this building, designed by Frederick A. Saxon. Built in a Romanesque style with obsidian pressed brick and terra-cotta trim, the detailing is some of the best in the district. When it was new, a grand staircase offered views of Mount Rainier from the landings.

D
West Coast Grocery - Built 1890 / Renovated 1996
Tacoma Grocery's founders intended to establish the largest wholesale grocery in the Pacific Northwest and put up this building to house its expanding business. Local architects Proctor and Dennis gave this building an Italian Renaissance style.

E
Pinkerton - Built 1889 / Renovated 1985, 2003
A fine example of railroad hotels of the era, the Italianate-style addition was built of brick and ornamented with cast-iron detailing in the facade. An elegant, two-story lobby and grand staircase led to one of the 40 "electrified" rooms for 50 cents a night. The bottom floor, with a separate entrance on Broadway, housed several businesses catering to the needs of passengers, including tobacco shops, a barbershop and a bath.

F
Carlton Center - Built in 1909, renovated in 1985
Originally built as the high-end Carlton Hotel — 32 of the 120 rooms even had a private bath — the building served railroad passengers for many years. Owner Anton Huth named the hotel after his son. It was one of the earliest restoration projects in the Union Station Historic District and now serves as office space for a variety of tenants, including the University of Washington Tacoma.