

Walk Tacoma 2021: The History Behind the Names Tour



Stop 1: Wright Park (Charles Wright)

For a man who never called Tacoma home, Charles Wright made a lasting impression on the city both professionally and personally. He served on the Board of the Northern Pacific Railway, which identified Tacoma as the best option for the location of the line's western terminus. Wright also served as President of the Tacoma Land Company, which oversaw the donation of several large

tracts of land to the city to be used for parks. The Charles Wright Academy was rounded in 1957, named to honor the man who did so much to ensure Tacoma's success in the beginning and for future generations.

Narrator: Melissa McGinnis, Historic and Cultural Asset Manager at Metropolitan Park District of Tacoma



Stop 2: Tacoma School District Building (Willie Stewart)

Willie Stewart has always been known for his long-term service and ongoing commitment to the community and Tacoma schools, particularly in the Lincoln District and the Hilltop. As a practitioner of racial reconciliation, he has been a consistent calming influence in situations involving racial friction or

conflict. A longtime public school educator, Willie became the first black school principal in Tacoma history when he took on the role at Lincoln High School in 1970. He spent 36 years working for the Tacoma School District as a teacher and administrator and sat on the Tacoma School Board from 1999 to 2005 and remains heavily involved in local organizations.

If you have time, go visit the Willie Stewart Academy at 1818 Tacoma Ave South.

Narrator: Linda Caspersen

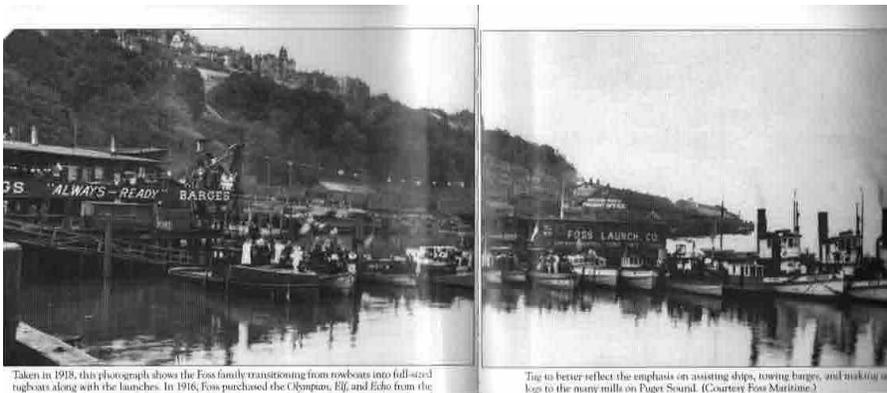


Stop 3: Hosmer House (Theodore Hosmer)

The oldest building in Downtown Tacoma was originally located at 750 St. Helens Avenue, and was home to Theodore Hosmer - the Northern Pacific Railroad's first general manager of the Tacoma Land Company - and his wife, Louise, from 1875-1882. Theodore was unanimously chosen as the first mayor of Tacoma in 1882. He was also

a founder of the Union Club on Broadway and the Tacoma Yacht Club, president and founder of the Tacoma Opera House Company, a trustee of Annie Wright School, and a charter member of the Washington State Historical Society.

Narrator: Emily Nakada-Alm (Downtown On the Go Events Coordinator), with information from Tacoma Public Library's Northwest Room.



Taken in 1908, this photograph shows the Foss family transitioning from rowboats into full-sized tugboats along with the launches. In 1916, Foss purchased the *Olympian*, *Ell*, and *Echo* from the

Tag to better reflect the emphasis on assisting ships, towing barges, and making up logs to the many mills on Puget Sound. (Courtesy Foss Maritime.)

Stop 4: Foss Harbor Marina (Thea Foss)

Tacoma's "working waterfront" has seen many changes since the late 1880s, and the Foss Boathouse (now Foss Maritime) has changed right along with it.

Driving much of that change was the Foss

family matriarch, Thea Foss. She was known not only for her business sense, but for her warm and generous heart. Learn more about this dynamic woman at the park that bears her name.

Narrator: Karen Haas; Learn about Karen at: <http://karenstoryteller.com/>



Stop 5: Thea's Park (Thea Foss)

One often hears the name "Thea Foss" around Tacoma. They even named a waterway after her. But, who was she and why do we honor her memory? Visit the Thea Foss Waterway and listen to local historian Karen Haas tell the tale of this remarkable Norwegian immigrant who bought a rowboat and founded a maritime empire.

Narrator: Karen Haas; Learn about Karen at:
<http://karenstoryteller.com/>