

Admiralty Hotel
Historic Name: Central Hotel
Block 9, Lots 1, 2 & 4
129 Taylor and 901-917 Water Street

Date of Construction: 1928
Gies & Mills Contractors
Owner: Frank U. Smith

1874: The Central Hotel, Port Townsend's longest running hotel, operated for nearly 100 years at the same location, though in two different buildings.

Construction began in 1874 and was completed the following year at a cost of \$6,423.96.

The Hotel was a large three-story wood structure with an ornate balcony around two sides. This became a favorite spot for distinguished visitors and politicians to address the citizens as well as a popular stopping place for ship captains and their wives, steamer passengers as well as "important" people traveling in the area.

Among the more notable visitors were President Rutherford B. Hayes, then-Senator, Benjamin Harrison, Ulysses S. Grant and General William Tecumseh Sherman.

1926: On November 11, 1926, during a severe windstorm, a fire started in the kitchen, which destroyed much of the building. The building was torn down and just two years later rebuilt to the current brick building.

1928: On June 22, 1928, the Central Hotel came alive again. The brick and concrete, fireproof building opened for business with 46 guest rooms and retail space on the street level.

1962: Various members of the Smith family continued to operate the hotel until 1962 when it was sold to a Seattle firm and the name changed to *The Admiralty*.

1970s: In the 1970s the building was renovated into apartments for seniors and the disabled and remains in use for that purpose.