

EISENBEIS WOOD BUILDING

Common Names: U.S. Customs House, Lighthouse Café

Address: 955 Water Street

Old Address: 339-341 Water Street

O.T. Block 9, Lots 7 & 8

Date of construction: 1878

Builder: Charles Eisenbeis

By the last half of 1878 Charles Eisenbeis had completed the two-story wood structure.

December 1878: The U.S. Customs House was moved to this location, their previous site being advertised for rent.

1885: With the Customs House still at this location, the east side of the building was leased to Noland and Zen, a dry goods store.

1878-1885: The upstairs portion of the building was being used as a boarding house.

1890: The Commercial Hotel replaced the U.S. Customs House and boarding house accommodations. The Axtell Saloon was operating on Water Street frontage as well.

1907: John Mehling moved his tailor shop to the building and also sold tobacco. A restaurant was being operated in the east half of the building.

1912: Peter Erickson was operating a shoe and harness repair shop next to Mehling's Tailor Shop.

1915: Mehling's had been replaced by a restaurant.

1930s: The Coffee Cup Café was operating at this location.

1940s: The building housed the Italian Café and Hampden Brown's Electric Shop.

1968: The Lighthouse Café has been operating at this location since 1968.

JEFFERSON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

540 WATER STREET
PORT TOWNSEND, WA 98368
WWW.JCHSMUSEUM.ORG