

ENOCH FOWLER BUILDING

226 Adams Street
(Leader Building)
O.T. Block 42 Lots 6 & 8

Built 1874

Enoch Fowler constructed the two-story, three-foot-thick sandstone building. The sandstone blocks were brought over from a quarry on Indian Island. Built as a “commodious fireproof store.”

In 1875 Fowler was advertising the building for rent as follows:

Theatrical performance, per night, \$5.00

For Lectures and Concerts, \$2.50

For Social Dances, \$2.50

For Public Balls, \$5.00

In an Eva Bash essay on “Fowler’s Hall” she reported:

“...it was a favorite place to hold dances...A small stage was built in the first floor and here a number of musical entertainments were given by local talent. I remember attending one of these when the daughter of Capt. Hopper of the Revenue Cutter, “Rush” danced the Highland Fling in Scottish costume.”

In 1878 the Port Townsend Lodge No. 6 (Masonic Temple) purchased the building for \$3,100. They made improvements as time and financing became available; a fence was built around the property, an alley built in the rear and an outhouse was constructed.

In 1879 five iron doors were installed in the side windows and other plans were carried out in anticipation of leasing parts of the building to Jefferson County as a courthouse.

The Lodge continued to use the building until 1887. Jefferson County rented space for a courthouse for \$30 per month until Jefferson County purchased it in 1887 for \$4,000.

In 1897 C.L. Terry leased the building for \$5 per month with a five-year lease for the Port Townsend Seaman’s Friend Society (also known as the Seaman’s Bethel). According to Eva Bash, a Mr. Johnson operated the Seaman’s site after Terry for a time.

In 1916 the *Port Townsend & Jefferson County Leader* began its long occupation of the building and purchased it in July of 1928. The building is now the oldest occupied two-story masonry building left standing in Washington State.

JEFFERSON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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