

MOUNT BAKER BLOCK
910-914 Water Street
O.T. Block 40, Lots 1&3
Corner of Water and Taylor Streets

Date of Construction: 1890

Architects: Whiteway & Schroeder

Owner Charles Eisenbeis, born in Prussia in 1832, arrived in Port Townsend in 1858. He died here in 1902. A man with multiple interests, he became the first mayor of the town.

After constructing several buildings, Eisenbeis started building the Mount Baker Block. Originally, it was planned to be a five-story, ninety-six room hotel costing \$100,000. However, at the same time, another “first class” hotel was planned and Eisenbeis joined the promotion of the other hotel.

Eisenbeis decided to construct a four-story business block with eight stores on the ground level and sixty-nine offices above, complete with elevator, at a cost of \$80,000. Only the Kuhn Block was to be more expensive.

The building was nearly complete when the town’s economy began to collapse as the railroad failed to come to town. Eisenbeis suspended interior work on the building. The top two floors were never more than framed in.

There are multiple rooms underground, which connect with three tunnels under the sidewalks. One runs along the front of the building on Water Street and two more connect with the first and run across Water Street toward the harbor. There has been much speculation as to the use of these tunnels. Some of them are now blocked off.

In 1987 descendents of the Eisenbeis family sold the building to the Mount Baker Corporation, Sam Kyle, president. Since that time the building has undergone extensive restoration and continues to be upgraded and renovated.