

FRED AND IDA TERRY BUILDING

Common Name: Zee Tai Building
916 Water Street

Built: 1885-1887

1888: The Zee Tai Company, the most successful Chinese store in early Port Townsend, seems to be the first occupant of this building that was constructed by Fred and Ida Terry.

The Zee Tai Company carried general merchandise and was well known for opium smuggling, gambling and the illegal importing of Chinese labor. Opium dens were located in the basement with wooden bunks were furnished with mats and wooden pillows. Fan Tan, Mah Jong, and other popular gambling games were played here as well.

The upstairs was used as a residence.

1889: The Zee Tai Company cleared \$100,000 in 1889.

1893: Terry defaulted on his mortgage and Myer Lewis took over ownership of the building while the Zee Tai Company continued to operate here.

1901: Myer Lewis's estate sold the property to N.G. Lung Hing.

1930: George Welch purchased the property when the Zee Tai Company business left the area.

Businesses that followed the Welch purchase include:

- Nowack's Shoe Repair
- Robert Richards Restaurant
- Erchinger's Bakery
- Port Townsend Bakery
- Water Street Grocery
- North by Northwest