

Signs for Bull Durham Tobacco once covered walls all over the country.

## A survey of Port Townsend's **GHOST SIGNS & MURALS\***

\*A ghost sign is a faded, painted sign, at least 50 years old, on an exterior building wall heralding an obsolete product, an outdated trademark or a clue to the history of the building's occupancy.

They are “ghosts” because they often reappear after a rainstorm or following the demolition of a neighboring building.

*Society for Commercial Archeology*

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# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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The information, historic photographs and documents assembled here are from the collections of the Jefferson County Historical Society in Port Townsend, Washington. The recent survey photographs were taken in November of 2010 by Brian Moratti on a Sunday morning walk with JCHS Archivist, Marsha Moratti. The murals can be discovered on an easy walk downtown and a climb up the stairs on Taylor Street for a look at the one remaining mural uptown.

The historic photographs come from the historical society's collection of 20,000 images, which are housed at the JCHS Research Center and available to view online at [www.jchwa.org](http://www.jchwa.org). Information is from the Historic Property Survey, a project that has been underway by the historical society for over 10 years.

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Jefferson County Historical Society  
540 Water Street  
Port Townsend, WA 98368

# INTRODUCTION

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For information on historic signs and recommendations regarding their preservation see Preservation Brief #25, *The Preservation of Historic Signs*, Technical Preservation Services, National Park Service, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1991.

This is a survey of Port Townsend's ghost signs and murals. Ghost signs are defined as the disappearing painted letters and illustrations on old buildings, usually advertising a product, service or business. This survey includes newer signs as well; the tradition continues. I have also included information about the buildings and businesses associated with the murals, as well as historic photographs and documents.

Signs painted on buildings once lined the streets of almost every town and city. We may not notice them, but they are part of the cultural background of our community. Many of the signs in this survey are over 100 years old, but many of Port Townsend's signs have been painted over repeatedly. Over the years, signs have been painted and restored with different kinds of paints. Modern paints on brick trap moisture and cause deterioration. The good old toxic lead-based paints kept out water and sunlight better than modern paints but also caused brick deterioration. The traditional lime-based paints let the brick breathe. They are back in use and are the only paints approved for use on brick buildings in Port Townsend.

In Port Townsend we embrace our historic murals and keep them as part of our heritage. Generally, people like the signs, but sometimes don't like the faded look. Many would like to see them restored. Others feel that the signs should not be restored or recreated; their condition is an authentic part of their history.

Marsha Moratti  
May 2011

# DOWNTOWN MURALS

## WATERMAN & KATZ BUILDING 701 WATER STREET



*The mural on the Waterman Katz building. From Union Wharf in November of 2010.*

*photograph by Brian Moratti.*

**Signs speak of the people who run the businesses, shops, and firms.** They project an image, they set a mood and define a place. Signs are signatures. They reflect the owner's taste and personality. They often reflect the ethnic makeup of a neighborhood and its character, as well as the social and business activities carried out there. By giving concrete details about daily life in a former era, historic signs allow the past to speak to the present in ways that buildings by themselves do not.

National Park Service Preservation Brief #25, *The Preservation of Historic Signs*



*The original wooden building is on the right, with the newer brick building, apparently just after construction c1885), on the left. Owners were Sigmund Waterman and William and Israel Katz;*

*JCHS 10.850*

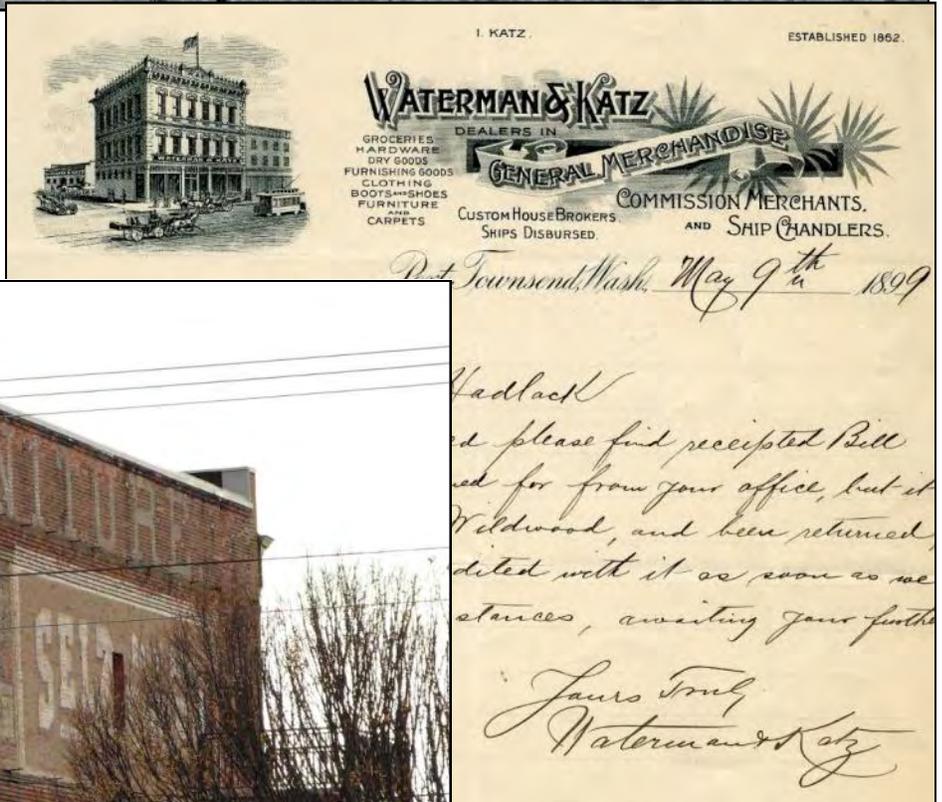
**Built by Sigmund Waterman and William and Israel Katz** for \$20,000, the three-story, brick building housed their long-running mercantile establishment until 1917. The business had been previously operating in a wood-frame building next door. A saloon was operated from the basement for many years. In 1887 a large warehouse was built at the rear of the building. Sigmund Waterman and William Katz both died in 1888. The business was operated by Israel Katz until his mysterious disappearance in 1917.

The building was vacant for many years. Portions of the property were owned by A. Clements Grady, Jack Carroll, Harry Case, Claude and Evelyn Stevens over the years. The 1945 fire map shows that the building was used as automobile storage. James Weir purchased the old building from the Stevens family in 1959 and owned it until his death in 1995. His father, Roderick Weir published the *Jefferson County Herald* in the building from 1952-1959 and James published the *Port Townsend Tradesman* into the 1960s. Weir kept the building empty after 1971. He built partial walls in many configurations, took them down again, and finally boarded up the large front windows.

In 1997 Ballenas Project Management bought the property from the Weir estate and completed a restoration. Offices upstairs were occupied by Peninsula College and the City of Port Townsend. Ancestral Spirits Gallery is located in the remodeled store front on Water Street. In 2006 the upper floors were converted into condominiums after the city offices moved into the new City Hall building. Two small windows were cut into the murals to provide emergency exits for the residences.



Waterman Katz Building in 1978.  
JCHS 34.79



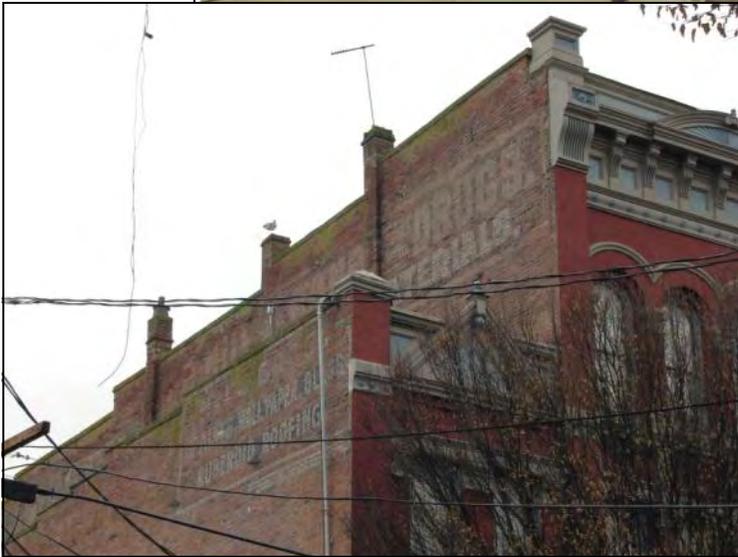
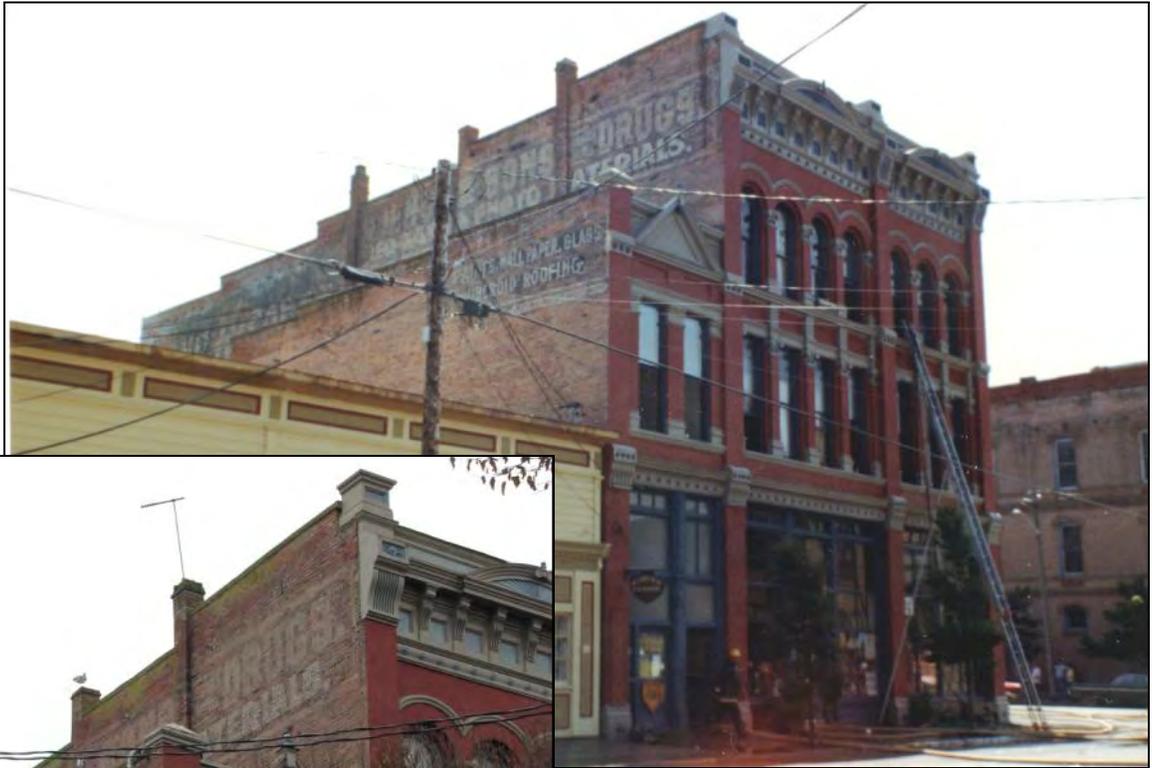
Stationary for Waterman & Katz, Dealers in General Merchandise, May 9, 1899. JCHS Archives



Waterman Katz Building November 2010.

# N.D. HILL BUILDING

633-639 WATER STREET



*N.D. Hill building following a major fire in 1982 (right) and in November of 2010 (left).*



*N. D. Hill Building murals November 2010.*



*N.D. Hill Building from opposite direction on Water Street, c1900. detail JCHS 10.1026*

*N.D. Hill Building, c1930. detail JCHS 10.1024*

**This three-story brick building was built in 1889** at a cost of \$25,000. Elmer H. Fisher was the architect; woodwork was by Cummings and Saunders; brick and stonework was completed by Davis and Wakeman. The upper floors were offices and furnished rooms. Beginning in 1890, N.D. Hill sold drugs, cigars, china and glassware goods. The mural advertises “Kodaks, Photo Materials.” By 1928 the ground floor was vacant.

A tavern occupied the corner storefront from approximately 1933 to 2010, with the top floors functioning as a hotel and long-term apartments. In 1928 the then newly-renovated hotel was called the Deville and rooms rented for 75 cents to \$1.25 a night. The IT tavern opened downstairs in 1933; the Town Tavern began soon after and operated in the location until 2001. The Town was the scene of the bar fight in the movie *An Officer and a Gentleman*.

According to Nathaniel Davis Hill’s granddaughter, Sally Hill, the building turned out to be a grave financial mistake. At the time of its completion in 1891 an economic depression had struck. As was the fate of owners of other large, new buildings in Port Townsend, the structure was placed on the delinquent tax roles in 1916 valued at \$6,000. The building has had internal renovation and external upkeep over the years. In July of 1982 there was a major fire that destroyed much of the interior.

D. H. HILL H. H. HILL



**N. D. Hill & Sons,**  
Wholesale and  
Retail Druggists

STATIONERY, WALL PAPER, MOULDINGS. KODAKS AND SUPPLIES PAINTS, OILS, GLASS, Etc.

HILL'S BLOCK, COR. WATER AND QUINCY STS.

Port Townsend, Wash., Dec 17th. /08. 190

D. H. HILL. H. H. HILL.

*N. D. Hill & Sons,*  
**Wholesale and Retail Druggists.**  
Stationery, Wall Paper, Mouldings,  
Paints, Oils, Etc.

Port Townsend, Wash. *July 27, 1896*

*Messrs Washington Mill Co.*  
*Seattle.*

Enclosed find  
bill for paper. We were entirely  
out of the pattern you wanted.  
So have sent you 13 rolls  
of an other pattern - which we  
hope will be satisfactory.  
Have not sent any border.  
The border that came with  
the paper is a One band  
border (18 inches wide)  
If too wide can select some-  
thing not so wide that will  
probably match the paper  
Equally as well.

Respectfully  
*N. D. Hill & Sons*

card to labor bill received.  
paper and painting was  
only five cents. The bill  
was for two dollars and seventy cents,  
and twelve dollars.  
Respectfully  
N. D. Hill & Sons.

N.D. Hill & Sons business correspondence,  
1896 and 1908.

JCHS Archives

BISHOP BUILDING  
720 WASHINGTON STREET



*Mural on the Bishop Building November 2010.*

Signs often become so important to a community that they are valued long after their role as commercial markers has ceased. They become landmarks, loved because they have been visible at certain street corners--or from many vantage points across the city--for a long time. Such signs are valued for their familiarity, their beauty, their humor, their size, or even their grotesqueness. In these cases, signs transcend their conventional role as vehicles of information, as identifiers of something else. When signs reach this stage, they accumulate rich layers of meaning. They no longer merely advertise, but are valued in and of themselves. They become icons.

National Park Service Preservation Brief #25, *The Preservation of Historic Signs*



*The Bishop Building. Photo by Peter Simpson. JCHS 10.287*

**Built in 1890, the Bishop Block was financed and built by William Bishop Sr. an English seaman who jumped ship in the 1860s.** Bishop operated the building for a number of years, renting out the street-level spaces. His original intent was to have offices on the upper floors, but the economic decline of the 1890s took away the demand. The original street-level occupants were I.D. O'Neill and Co. (insurance) and attorney Oliver Wood. Bishop later sold the building to the Owl Cigar Company which continued to rent out the street level offices and used the upper levels as a tobacco storage and distribution facility. Later, the upstairs became rented rooms.

The Port Townsend Soda Works (bottlers), operated by Tanner and Swan, were long-time ground floor renters during the teens and twenties. In later years the space was occupied by furniture stores. Ed Sims and Jack Carroll were the building's owners during part of this period.

In 1940 the U.S. Navy converted it into a rooming house. Mr. and Mrs. John Pickett (Community Investments) purchased the building c1980, renovated it and opened the Bishop Victorian Guest Suites.

EISENBEIS BUILDING  
824-830 WATER STREET



*Murals on the Eisenbeis Building, November 2010. The Hasting Building is in the background.*

*photo by Brian Moratti*



*Eisenbeis Building murals, 1960s. In the photo above, a metal "Woolsey" sign has been added over the top of the round tobacco mural.*

*detail JCHS 10.131*



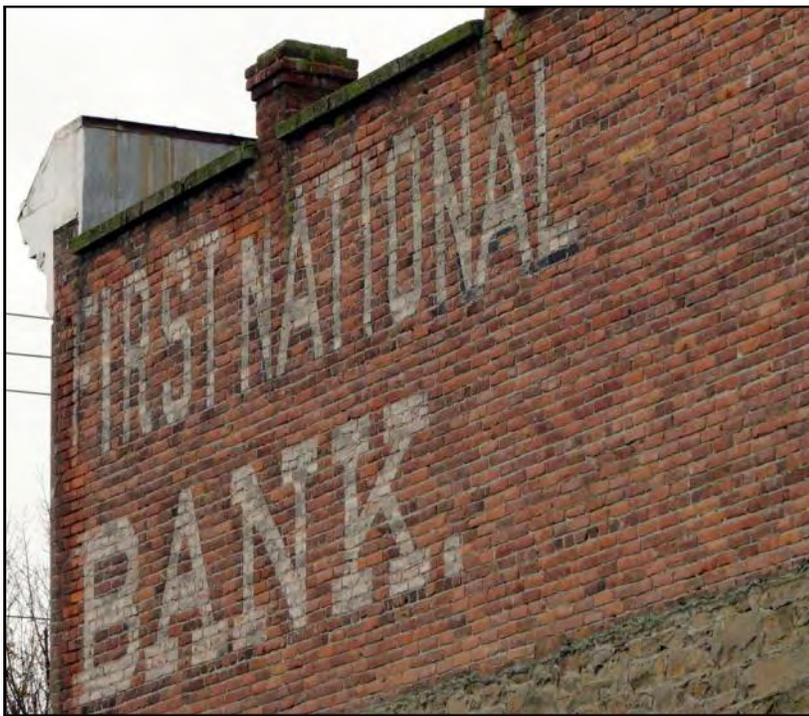
*Water Street, c1938. The bay windows are still on the Eisenbeis Building, center.  
The mural on the neighboring First National Bank building (right) is visible here. JCHS 13.59*

**Charles Eisenbeis, a master baker from Prussia, arrived in Port Townsend in 1858** and opened a shop to manufacture crackers and ship's bread. Mr. Eisenbeis platted real estate tracts and erected business blocks, including the first stone building on Water Street in 1873. This one-story building became the first floor of the Eisenbeis Block. In 1889 he built two additional brick stories and an expansion to the rear of the building. The addition was designed by Whitway & Schroder, architects and gave the building a high style Victorian façade with projecting bay windows on the upper floors. The expansion cost \$16,000.

The original ground floor tenant was a grocery store (1890-91). Later, the original Rose Theater was located in one half of the ground floor of this building until December of 1908 when it moved to its current location on Taylor Street. Various attempts were made to continue theater use at the Eisenbeis Block, but these were abandoned and the theater space became a storage room until 1913, when the space was remodeled as a store front. One tenant of this space was the Mint Saloon.

In 1911, the other half of the ground floor was a furniture store. Around 1901 S.P. Maynard leased the building in order to create a hotel on the upper floors. In the 1940s the second floor was an annex to the Delmonico Hotel, and the third floor was private apartments. The ground floor was remodeled for the Olympic Hardware and Furniture store in 1937, at which time large plate glass windows were installed obliterating the last vestige of the 1873 façade. A fire damaged the building in 1942.

FIRST NATIONAL BANK BUILDING  
810-814 WATER STREET

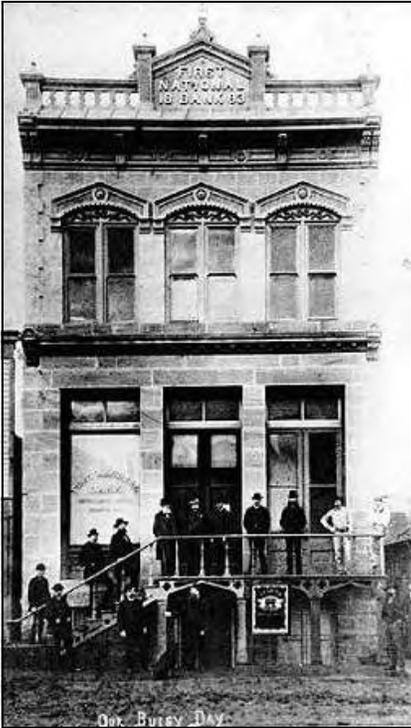


*November 2010.*

*First National Bank Building mural with Eisenbeis Building murals above, November 2010. photo by Brian Moratti*



*Detail, JCHS 13.59, c1938.*



*First National Bank opening day  
c1882. U of W Collection*



*First National Bank c1916  
JCHS 2003.134.484*



*Building (and mural) in the 1950s.  
detail JCHS 10.131*

**Henry Landes deeded the property to the First National Bank, of which he was president.** When the bank opened for business in 1883-4, there was a saloon on the lower, street level entry while the Bank entrance was up a short series of stairs. The top floor was lodging. The building was remodeled in 1902 and 1818 as Water Street was raised and graded.

The bank was still at this location in 1917, but by 1928 the building was used as a grocery store. John Siebenbaum purchased the building for \$5,000 at a tax sale. It had been vacant for some time and the back stairway had rotted away. At that point, the only access to the second floor was through a door from the Siebenbaum Building, next door. This door had been cut through a number of years earlier.

A long time street level tenant was the Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Company, from 1945 to 1964. In 1975 the building was sold by the Siebenbaum Estate Company to Alfred and Rosemary Reirson. From 1987 to 1996, Gail and Kevin Burgler owned the building and began renovation to the main store front. They sold to Jeff Soden and Scott Marsh who proceeded to renovate the upper floor. Various occupants over the years were an auto and marine supply company, real estate office and grocery.



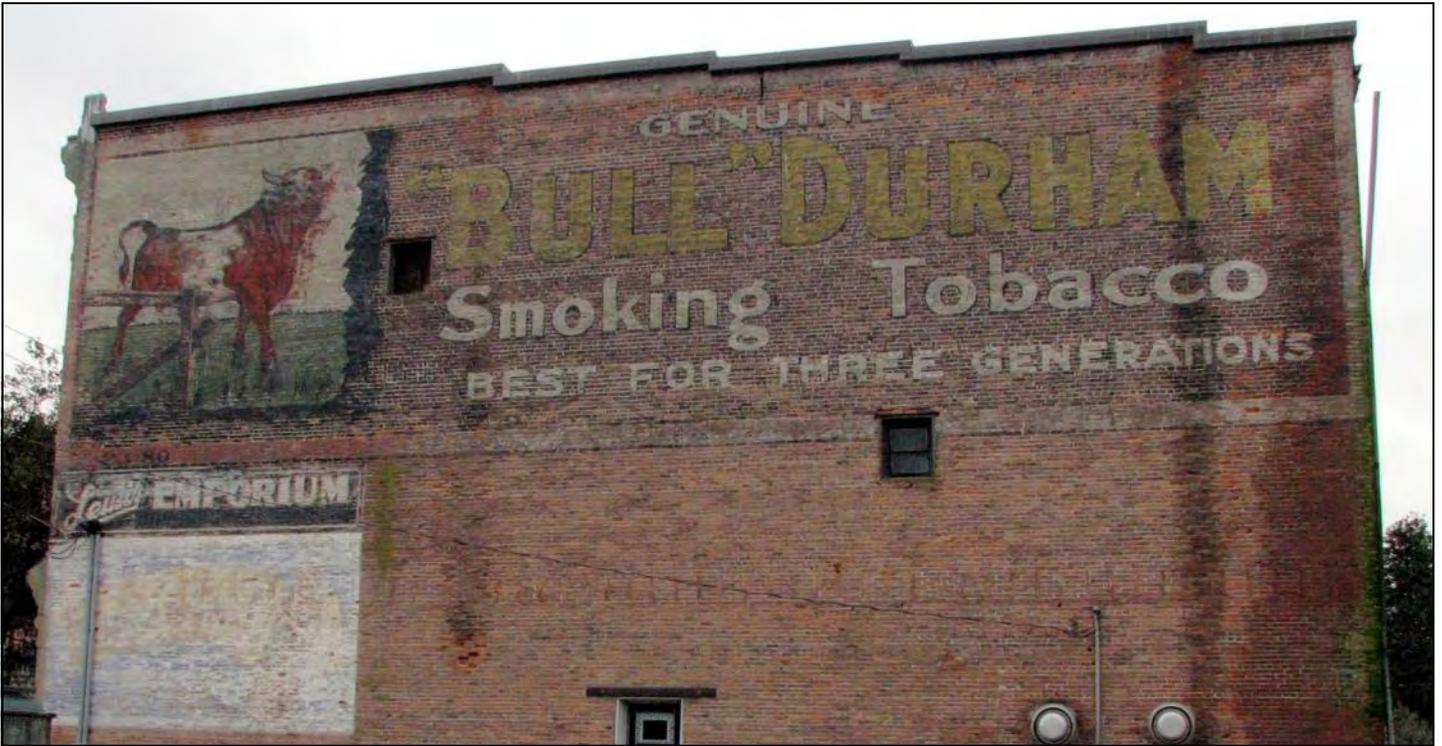
*Prior to the construction of the Eisenbeis Building's upper two floors, First National Bank murals were visible on both sides of the bank building. 1889. detail JCHS 13.77*



*Sign on the back of the building, November 2010.*

# FOWLER-CAINES BUILDING

ALSO KNOWN AS FRED LEWIS BUILDING, CLARENDON HOTEL  
628-630 WATER STREET



*Fowler Caines Building, November 2010.*

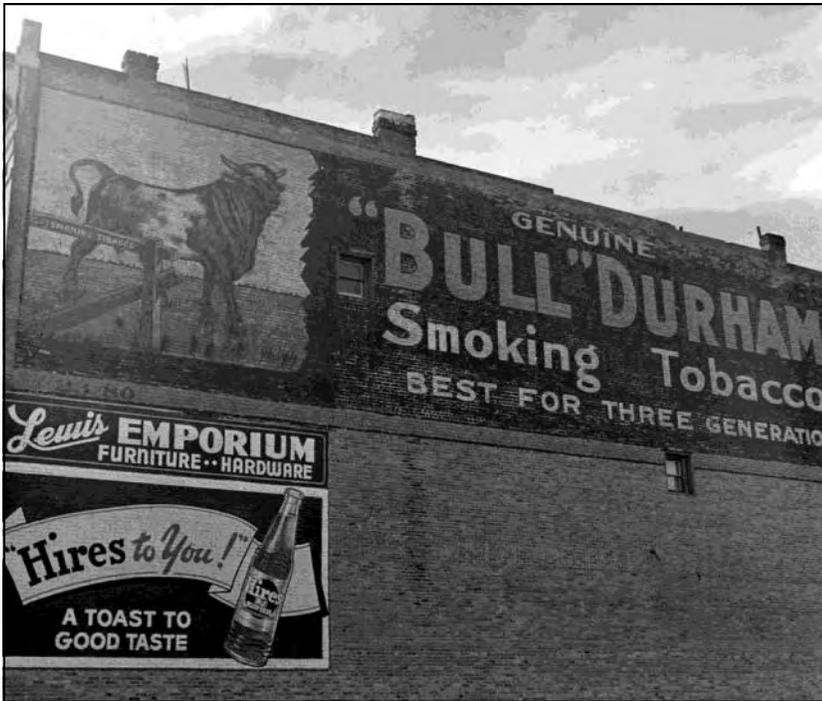


*Fowler Caines Building, c1980s. JCHS 10.503.*



*Fowler-Caines Building 1978. JCHS 34.64*

**Built by Mary Caines Fowler (widow of Enoch S. Fowler) and her son Robert M. Caines as the Claredon Hotel in 1889.** David McFee did the construction and Whiteway and Schroeder acted as Architects for the project. After the Hotel, the second and third floors became furnished rooms for rent. Henry Landes is listed as owner in 1894. By 1907 the ground floor was occupied by government offices such as U. S. Department of Commerce and Labor, U. S. Detention Station, U. S. Immigration Service and Chinese Inspector. In 1931 Fred Lewis purchased the building from the Landes Estate Company, Alaska Rooms, lodging are listed in the 1932 city directory. Mr. Lewis operated Lewis Emporium, new and used furniture, until his death in 1966. The upstairs was used mostly for storage during his occupancy. His estate sold to Harry and Mary Johnson who did considerable renovations to the building at the time. They installed the three sets of double doors on the ground floor. In 1971 Robert E. Haggard purchased the building and put in an apartment upstairs for his own use. A serious fire in 1976 destroyed the roof and part of the third floor with considerable water damage to the rest of the building. Currently the upper floors are in disrepair while the store fronts house thriving businesses. The current building owners are Jeffrey and Karen White.



*Murals on Fowler Caines Building,  
October, 1949. Life Magazine*



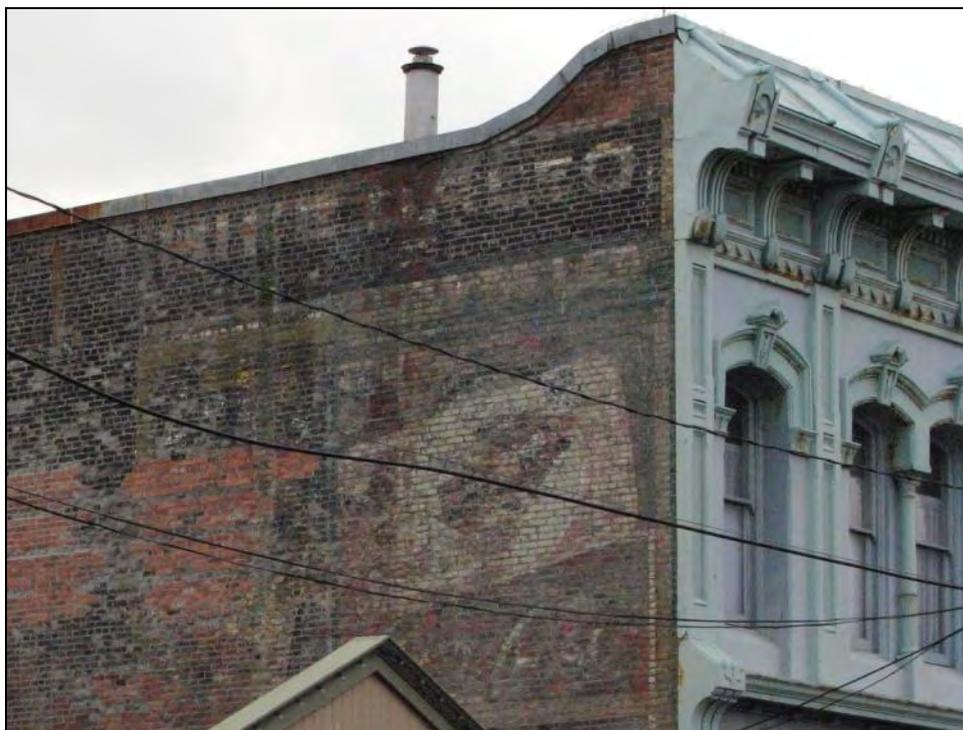
*Fowler Caines Building, 1978. JCHS 34.62*



*Detail of Bull Durham mural, November 2010.*

# C.F. CLAPP BUILDING

ALSO KNOWN AS APRIL FOOL'S, PORT TOWNSEND ART GALLERY  
725 WATER STREET



*Clapp Building murals, November of 2010.*

*photo by Brian Moratti*



*Water Street; the C.F. Clapp Building on the left with the mural that says  
"MIKI DALEO, WINES, LIQUORS & CIGARS." JCHS 13.80.*



*C. F. Clapp building in 1885.*

*JCHS 10.15*

Cyrus F. Clapp arrived in Port Townsend in 1870 with few resources. By 1885 he was a prominent business man and built this substantial two-story building—four bricks thick—for a cost of \$13,000. The soft brick is thought to have come from Hadlock while the cast iron facade applied on the brick face was cast by Washington Iron Works in Seattle.

First occupied by Peyser Brother Dry Goods, the main floor store front quickly became the Merchants Bank, operated by J. H. Feuerbach & C. F. Clapp. The bank operated in this location for a very short time before being sold and moved. Over the years, whether it was early basement saloons or the later main floor taverns, the building is well known for a long history of alcohol related uses. In 1890 a saloon was in full swing, operated by James Donofrio and just two years later the Merchant Saloon, owned by Clapp and leased by Otto Bauer, was operating here.

By 1901 Michael DeLeo moved his Roma Saloon to the Clapp building after a fire destroyed its original spot on Washington Street. During Prohibition the saloon closed down, DeLeo operated the storefront as a grocery and general store. During this same time period the second floor was being used for the Maritime Sailor and the West Coast Marine Union Branch Office.

By 1934, Michael's son Frank opened the Nappeo Athletic Club. Wrestling and boxing matches were held in the rear of the club where a special ring was constructed. Three years later the club was remodeled to include a dance floor and renamed the Club DeLeo; a sign from the 1940s stated that there would be "Dancing On Mill Pay Days Only." There was a card room on the Mezzanine. There were also four (tiny) apartments and four sleeping rooms on the second floor; this upper floor was known to be a very active brothel.

In the early 1960s Harry and Mary Johnson purchased the building and began restoration. The front doors were salvaged from a Seattle Presbyterian Church. The Johnson's bricked up the basement door that once led to the "Fro Street" area where liquor deliveries were made by boat and shanghaied sailors were said to have been cargo on outgoing trips. A large trap door from basement to main floor was sealed.

In 1968 Frank and Edna Smith purchased the building and continued on with the long process of renovating the entire building, with the help of son and daughter-in-law, Frank Jr. and Judy Kay. When they began the process, the card room was still in evidence on the Mezzanine; speaking tubes were uncovered from the upstairs to downstairs spaces. It has since operated as an art gallery and a gift shop with living quarters upstairs.

MILLER BURKETT BUILDING  
ALSO KNOWN AS ELK'S BUILDING, SILVERWATER CAFE  
237 TAYLOR STREET



*Miller Burkett Building's faded murals and a recently added mural for the Rose Theatre, November, 2010.*



*The mural for F.W. Eisenbeis Fancy Groceries is still visible here. detail JCHS 10.325*



*Neither of the grocery murals on the Washington Street side of the building still exist.  
detail JCHS 2003.134.650, JCHS 13.136*

**B.S Miller and Herbert L. Burkett had this grand building constructed on leased land in 1889** at a cost of \$18,000. Creditors took it over soon after the building was constructed. The Key City Amusement Club occupied a portion of the building from 1889-1892. The Yacht Club had an office there in 1892-93. The Union League Club was there around 1894. By 1901 the ground floor and basement were occupied by O. A. Schanz Grocery. In December of 1902 Fred W. Eisenbeis bought out Schanz and carried on the grocery business that had been operating at the location.

It was not until 1905 that Elks Lodge Number 317 purchased the building and established their long running occupancy. The Elks used the upper floors for their organization. The Jefferson Grocery was operating from the ground floor c1911-1915. The E. M. Marr Drug store was doing business on the ground floor in 1932. Lussier Jewelry operated at the site until early 1950. The Elks boarded up the ground floor windows and began occupying the entire building after the jewelry store left the spot. It was rented out for special events but largely used for Elk events over the years. In 1993 the organization sold the building to Richard Miller who, along with David Hero, restored the old building to its original splendor.

# JOHN SIEBENBAUM GARAGE 809 WASHINGTON STREET



*Two views of mural on side of building, November 2010.*

Built in 1917 by Harry Cotton for John Siebenbaum, this building was the first fireproof garage in Port Townsend. It was first occupied by Peninsula Motor Company, of which Siebenbaum was a partner. In 1922 Siebenbaum hired W. J. Buhler as manager. Mr. Buhler purchased the company and operated it as Buhler Motor Company until 1973 when Lee Rea purchased the business and operated as Lee Rea Chevrolet and Oldsmobile. Two other auto-related businesses were in the building until 1981 when Robin Bergstrom's Antique and Classic Autos leased the site.

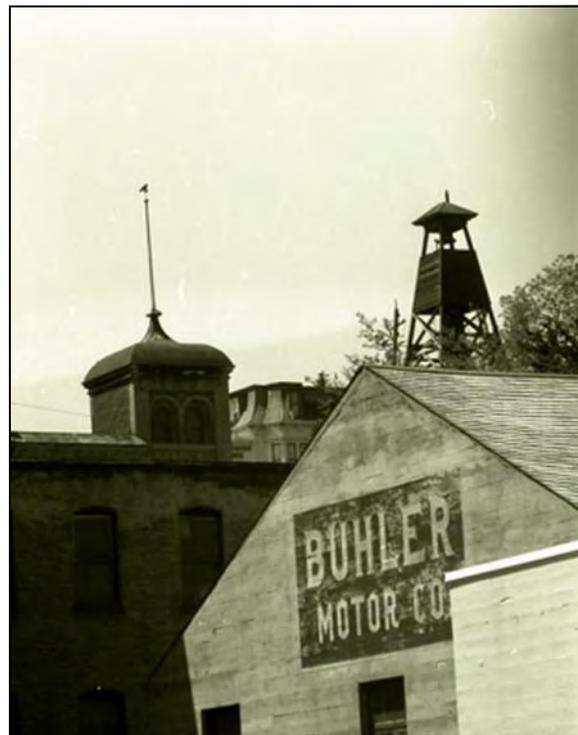




1920s: (left to right) Harry Chapelle, Capt. Morrison, John Siebenbaum (in derby and high white collar) shorter man in derby could be Capt. Sewell. Tall man in battered felt hat is A.D. Smith. The remaining mural is on the wall at the right. JCHS 10.393

The photo on the right was taken by Peter Simpson in the early 1960s. detail JCHS 10.579

The painted-out mural below, as of November 2010.



TERRY BUILDING  
921 WASHINGTON STREET



*Mural on the Terry Building, November 2010.*



*Terry Building, 1985. JCHS 10.482*

**In 1890 the Terry Building was constructed at a cost of \$8,000.** Built on a hill, the building is brick with two levels and a large basement, which has an outside entrance on the west side. The building is narrow and has two bays and three recessed doorways. The doorway on the west side leads to a staircase and the second level.

When completed, six liens had been filed by Quimper Manufacturing Company, Tacoma Lumber, Tacoma Cornice Works, George W. Downs (for lumber), Kreher and Desmond (painters), and L.B. Hastings and Co., suppliers of hardware, stoves, plumbing and gas fittings.

In 1891 the building was occupied by a printing shop and a boarding house. A Chinese laundry operated in the basement for some years. In 1903 the Sunset Telephone Co., was a tenant. This was the first phone company in Port Townsend, which started with 38 customers. The Citizens Electric Company was a tenant in 1907.

Pacific Telephone and Telegraph was in the building from 1909-1916. Later, a tailor, Karl Teitzel also occupied the space. Some of the old mural sign is still visible on the west side of the building: "Tailor made suits on order—Cleaning—Pressing—Repairing."

This property has had many owners over the years. There were numerous mortgages and warranty deeds. The building became vacant for some time. There was no maintenance or upkeep for years. It was used for storage and was crammed with old furniture and debris. In 1980, the building was purchased and cleared, with photos taken to show the sad condition of the interior. In 1981, the building was sold to Phillip Johnson and extensive restoration was begun. In 1985 Jefferson County Historical Society gave Phillip Johnson and Arletta Gould a Mary Johnson Award for historic preservation.

At present, the street floor is occupied by stores, and the second level with offices. A restaurant and entertainment business operates out of the large basement and part of the first floor, with an outside entrance on the west side of the building on the Water Street level.



*Miller Burkett Building (left) and Terry Building on Washington Street, 1890. detail JCHS 13.53*

L.B. HASTINGS.  
W.G. STRONG.

# L. B. HASTINGS & Co.

DEALERS IN

BRASS GOODS,  
BELTING, PACKING,  
GAS & ELECTRIC LIGHT  
FIXTURES

**HARDWARE**

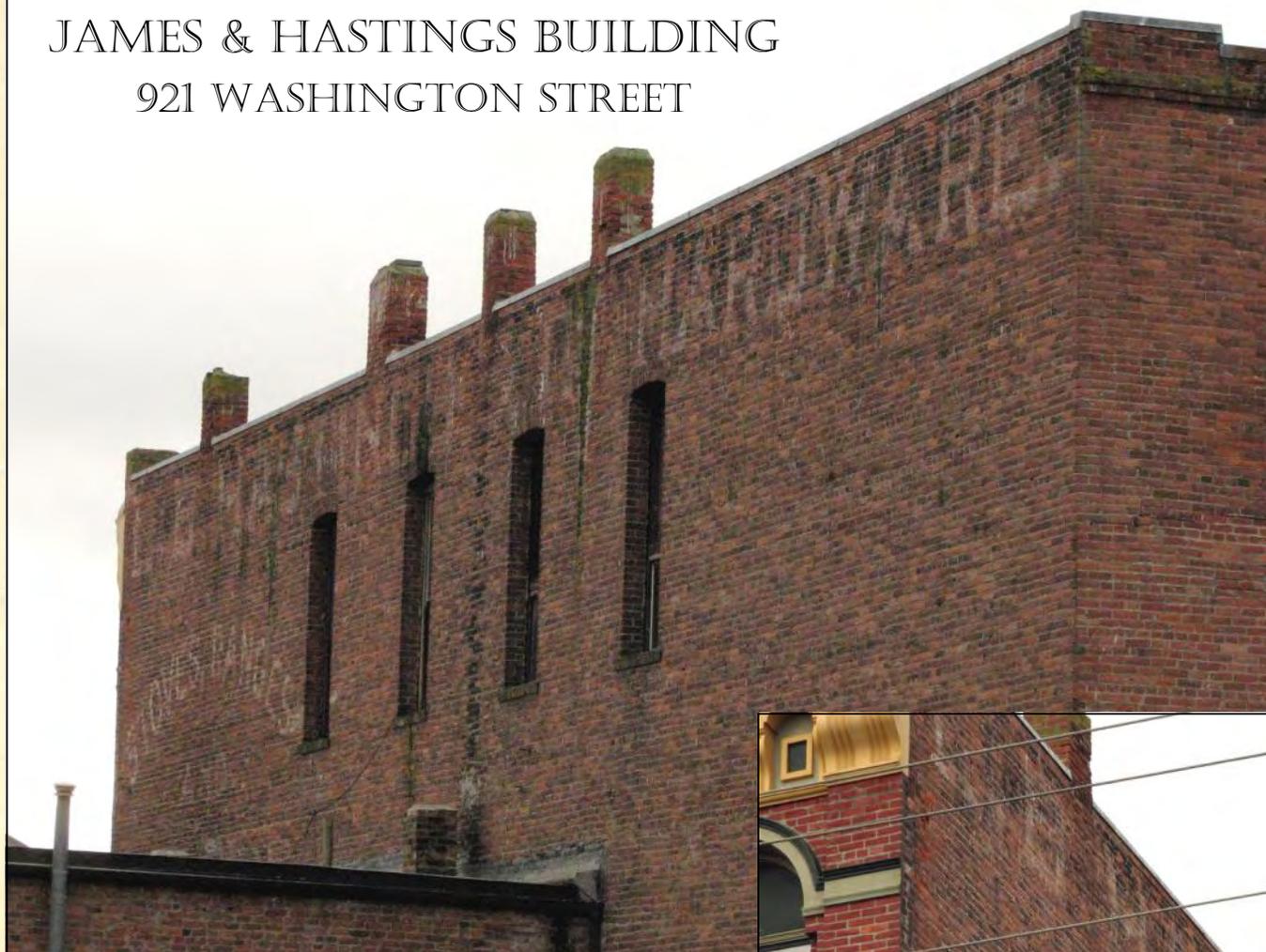
STOVES

CUTLERY      JUDSON POWDER

PORT TOWNSEND, WASH.      July 15 1892

MADE IN ST. LOUIS & N.Y.

JAMES & HASTINGS BUILDING  
921 WASHINGTON STREET



*The mural on the James & Hastings Building as seen from Washington Street, November 2010.*



*Portion of the mural, as seen from Water Street, November 2010.*

*Letterhead from JCHS Archives.*

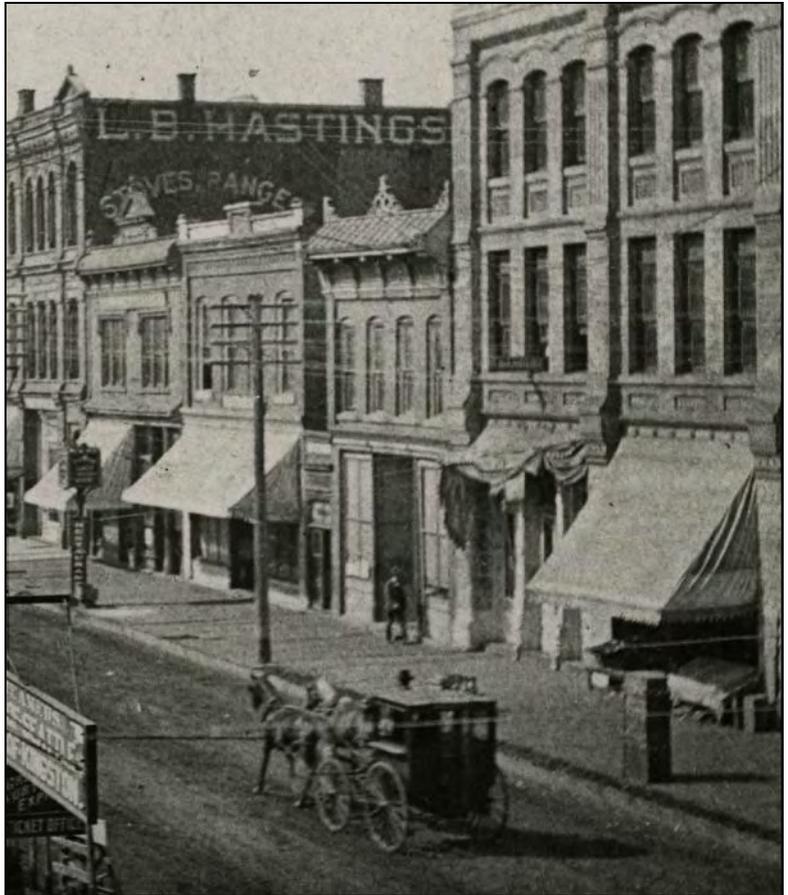
**In 1889 Francis W. James and Lucinda Hastings built this four story brick and stone building.** The primary ground floor tenant was Smith & Ellis, with clothing and dry goods, hardware, stoves, tin wear, boots and shoes. Offices and lodgings were on the upper floors. The L. B. Hastings Company handled hardware, steamboat supplies, logger's supplies, tableware and more. There was a tin shop, managed by George Durfner. In 1890 Smith & Ellis, City Surveyors and Civil and Mechanical Engineers, Port Townsend Gas and Fuel Company, L. B. Hastings & Company and other offices were operating out of the building. Rooms were for rent on the upper floors.

In 1897, J.J. Fenton, the liquor merchant, had a saloon and club rooms in the building. The Vienna Hotel and bar opened October 1, 1900. The Olympic Hotel was operating here by 1920. J. F. Canady of Portland purchased the building in 1921.

By 1930, offices and businesses were back in the building. Victorian Square was established in 1997.

Lucinda Hastings, wife of Loren Brown Hastings, was “the only person to live through, and participate in, the entire early history of the town. Most of the early pioneers died during the 1880s, shortly before the boom period when anticipation that Port Townsend would be the great port of the Puget Sound area seemed to be materializing. She arrived in 1852, the first non-native woman in the area. She survived Indian wars and eked out a subsistence in the wilderness. She saw the town prosper with the promise of a railroad and watched the dreams fade in the depression of 1891.” (from *Victorian Architecture*, Denison & Huntington).

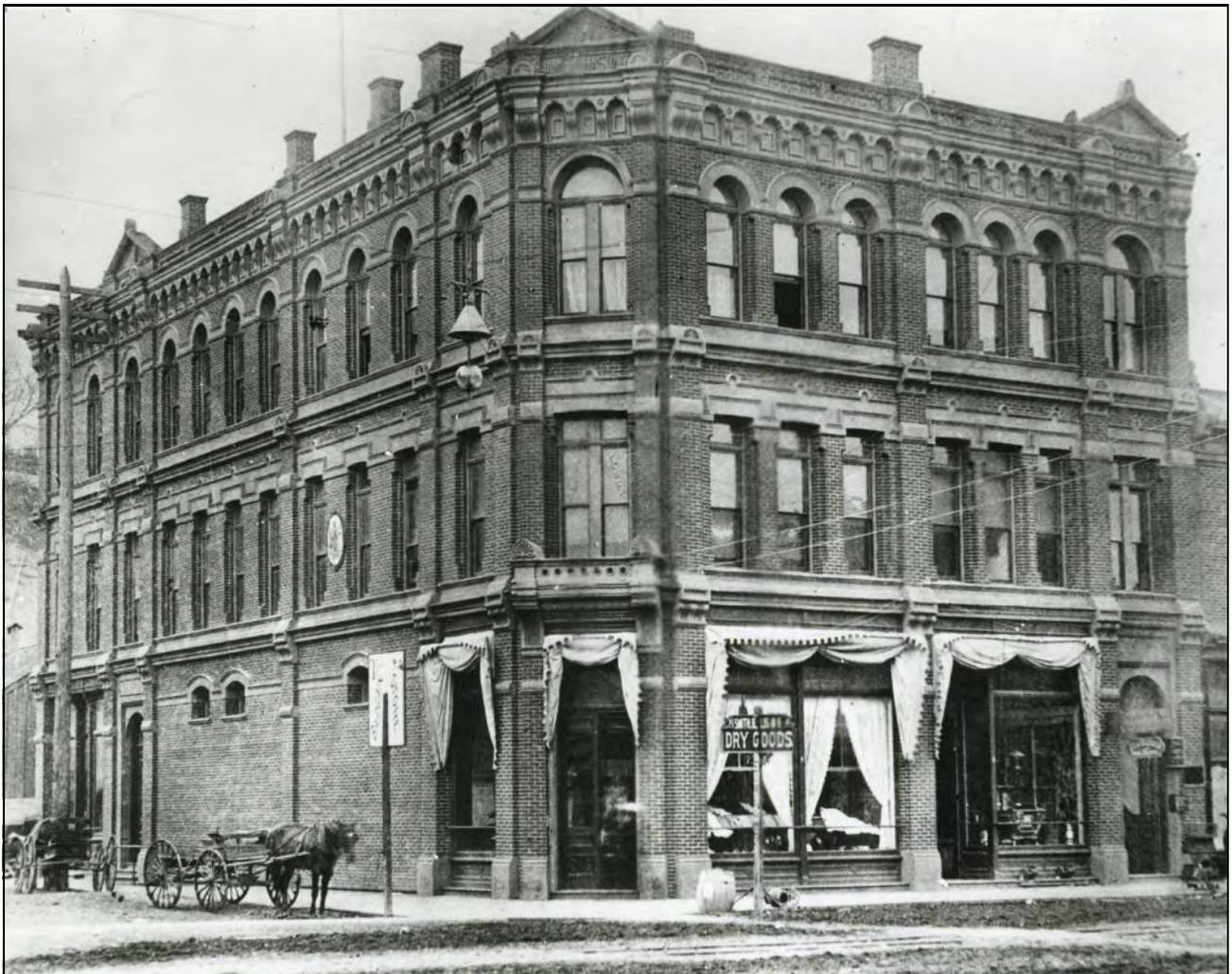
Francis Wilcox James, a native of England, arrived in Port Townsend in 1853. In 1855 he went to La Push as an Indian Agent and Assistant Lighthouse Keeper at Cape Flattery. While at La Push he became well-liked by the Quileute Indians and, as an honoring gesture, they named James Island after him. Upon his return to Port Townsend Mr. James became a store clerk, later managed his own store, and became customs inspector. James is not often mentioned in historical accounts of early Port Townsend but it is widely known that he was a shrewd businessman who invested wisely in real estate during the boom years of the late 1880s and early 1890s. Mr. James is listed in the 1890 Port Townsend City Directory as “Capitalist.”



*Downtown Port Townsend after 1889. The mural for the L.B. Hastings Company advertises stoves and ranges. JCHS 13.97*



*Corner sign of the James & Hastings Building  
November 2010. photo by Brian Moratti*



*The building c1900 when it housed the German Consulate on the second floor.*

*JCHS 10.113*

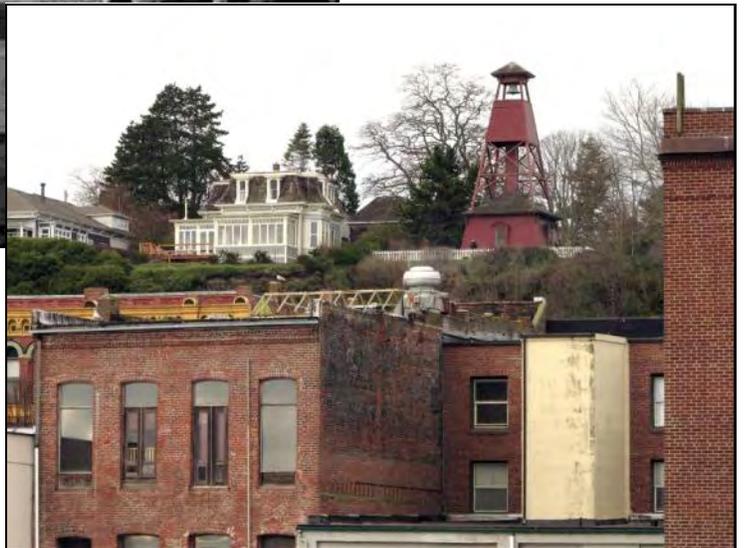
# STERMING BUILDING

## 925 WATER STREET



*Mural on the Sterming Building, next door to the Central Hotel when it was still made of wood..  
detail a U of W photo*

*From Union Wharf, just a faint reminder of this mural remains. November 2010*



George Sterming operated the Belmont Saloon at this site and had the brick building constructed in 1889 at a cost of \$12,000. Contractors on the building were C.P. Wakeman & Co. for the brick work and D. McFee, for the wood work. Popular architects of the day, Whiteway & Schroeder, had offices upstairs. They were the building's designers.

Sterming operated the Belmont in half of the storefront area and rented out the other half. Mr. Sterming died in 1892. The Belmont Saloon continued until Prohibition, operated by John Siebenbaum and Joseph Gichard, and later by Mr. Gichard alone. Long-time businesses located here were N. A. Klassell selling real estate and insurance upstairs, Emil Klinger's shoe store and the Sofie Brothers confectionery and tobacco shop (on the street level). Later notable occupants were Guptill's Sporting Goods and Jefferson Credit Services. Street level spaces became a restaurant in 1979 and the upstairs was converted to an inn about 1985. It became the Belmont once again in 1992.

# UPTOWN MURAL

## DENNIS-HALTEMAN BUILDING

1002-1020 LAWRENCE STREET



*Remains of a mural for the Olympic Hardware Company at the back of the Dennis-Halteman Building, November 2010*

The Dennis-Halteman building was constructed in 1891 and was the first brick building in the uptown business district. The building is referred to as “Katzville,” many mistaking it for a smaller, earlier building constructed by Waterman and Katz in 1871.

By July of 1891 the lot was vacant when Mr. Dennis and Mr. Halteman revealed the architectural plans drawn by E.A. Batwell. The substantial two-story building went from the joint ownership of Mr. Dennis and Mr. Halteman to Mrs. Queen L. Dennis in June of 1901.

From 1911 to 1917 the Katz name was again associated with the site. The Waterman and Katz store purchased the Toggery, which had been operating next door. They expanded the Toggery and put their downtown manager, W.J. Reume in as manager. By 1917, both Waterman and Katz and the Toggery were out of business.

The early businesses occupying the building were an important part of the uptown shopping district. The McLennan Brothers Dry Goods store provided clothing and goods to the town from 1891 to 1907. Stuart Brothers Home furnishings operated in one of the storefronts until 1911. The N.D. Hill Drug Store operated a branch store in the building from 1913 to the 1950s.

In 1928 the building transferred ownership in a sale referred to as the largest single real estate transaction of the year. New owners, Fred J. Bailey and James G. McCurdy, paid \$20,000.

Sanford Lake bought McLennan’s and continued operating at the same location under the name of Port Townsend Dry Goods until his retirement in 1956. Russell Sheffer purchased the business at that time and continued with the original location for another two years before moving it downtown.

In 1981 Tony Larson purchased the building and began the long process of upgrading and remodeling the building and storefronts one by one.

DENNIS-HALTEMAN BUILDING, PAGE 2



*Lawrence Street showing the Halteman Block when Port Townsend Dry Goods and Stuart Brothers were in the building.*

JCHS 12.111



*In October of 1917 the building was renovated and the original tower was removed, being called "unsightly." The entire structure was given a new coating of mortar to make it look like a brownstone front.*

JCHS 10.219

# RECENT MURALS

## CATHERINE MCCURDY BUILDING

834-844 WATER STREET



*The corner of Water and Taylor Streets, 1888.*

JCHS 2003.134.280

Built in 1887 by Catherine McCurdy, widow of Dr. Samuel McCurdy, the town's first doctor. It is said to have cost \$10,000 to build. One of the first tenants on the corner of the busy intersection was the Turpin Drug Store. This was the first in a string of drug stores at this location over the next 94 years. The business changed hands many times, but a pharmacy remained. Ed Barthrop, William Pfeiffer, Rutz and Hill, L. Lamoreaux, Jack Howser, Harry O'Neill, Jim Chase and George Lund each owned the business, sometimes changing the name to reflect their own.

The upper floors operated as the Delmonico Hotel from 1888 to 1979. Mrs. Heneretta Maynard leased the business by 1903 and engaged William Smith to meet boats and trains "in the interest of the establishment."

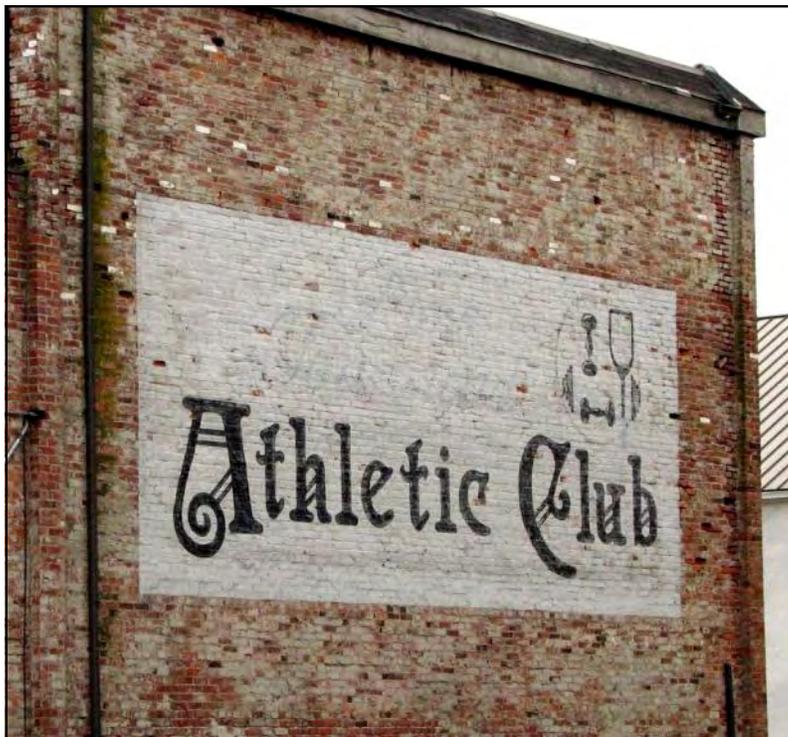
Jeweler's were long-term renters of the storefront. Jago & Niblick was in operation from 1887-1890; W. J. Fritz operated 1907-1938 and Wisniewski Jeweler's was at the site from 1945-1975. Restoration, done in stages, began in earnest after Coila Sheard purchased the building in 1979. Most of the original building structure was still intact.



*The mural for Holly's Flowers has been on the building since the 1980s.*

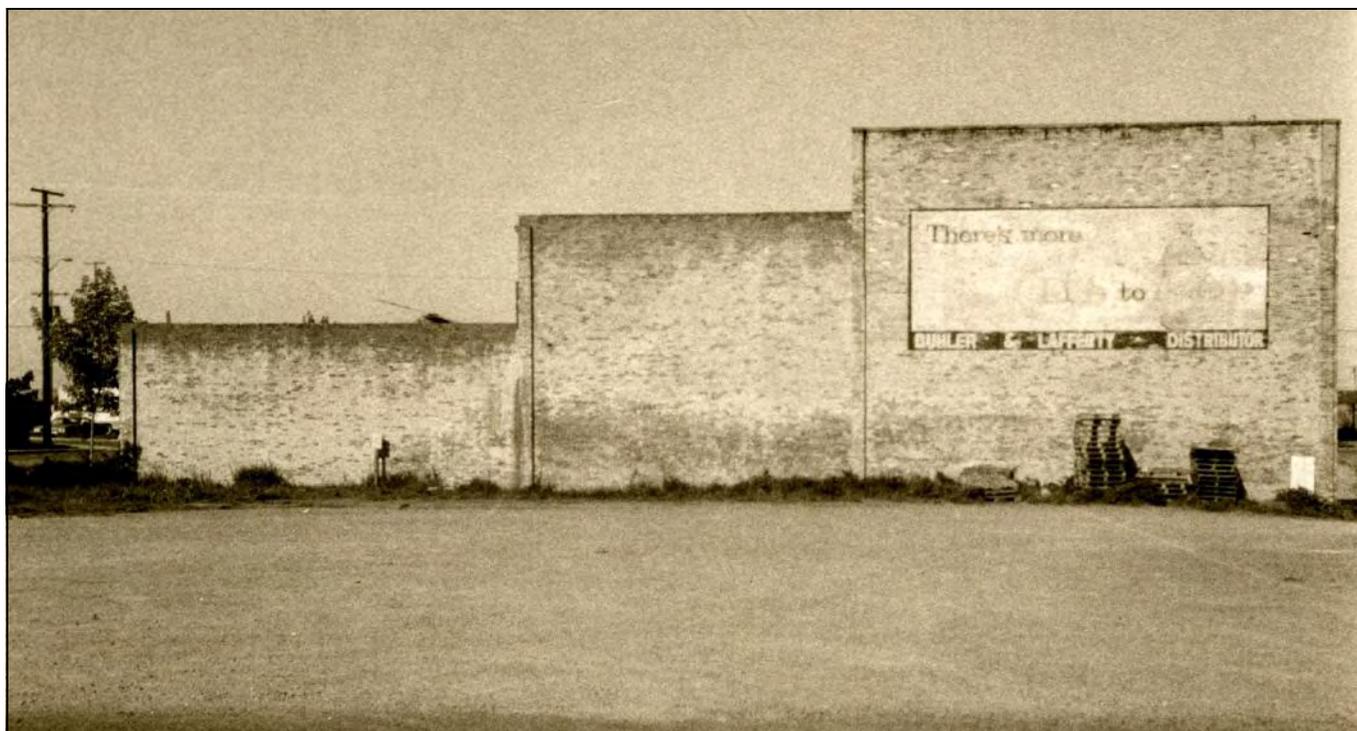
November 2010

RECENT MURALS  
PORT TOWNSEND BREWERY  
229 MONROE STREET



*Back of Old Port Townsend Brewing Company building  
on Monroe Street.*

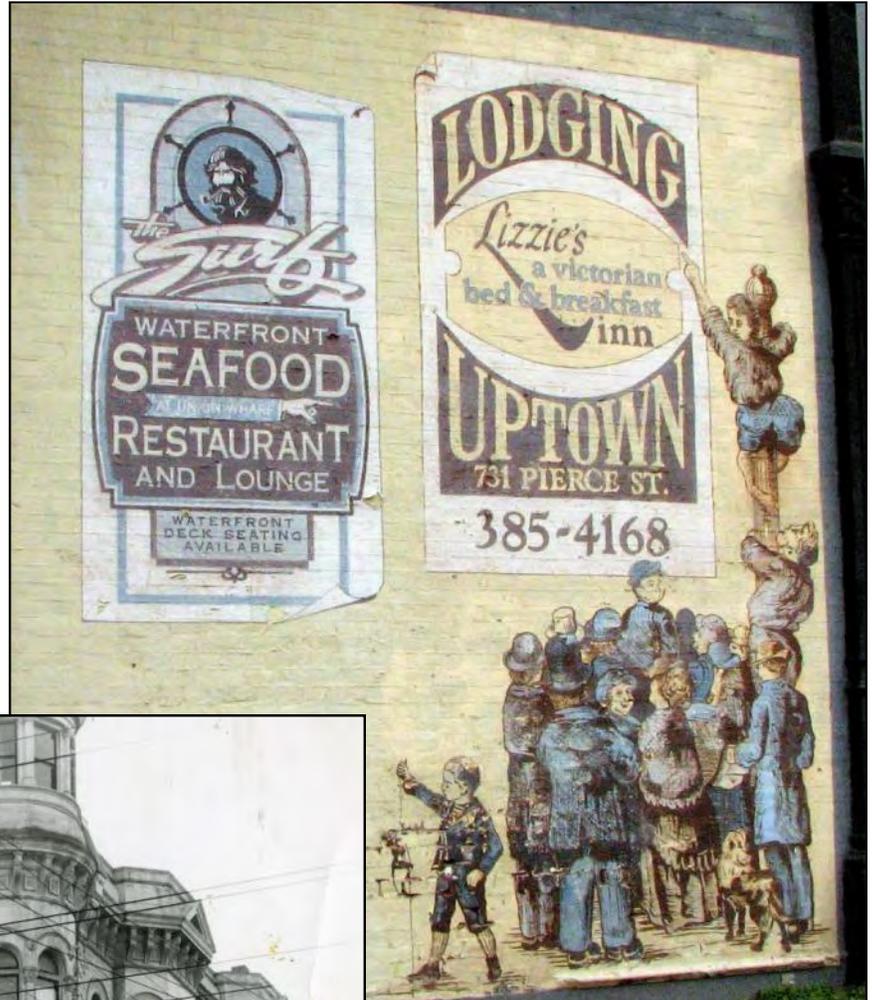
*November of 2010*



*Behind what is now the new City Hall building, a previous mural on the same wall advertised Bubler & Lafferty Distributor.  
They were doing business in the 1940s.*

*JCHS 10.1194.*

RECENT MURALS  
HASTINGS BUILDING  
921 WATER STREET



*Both of these murals are recent, but are for businesses that no longer operate. November 2010*



*There have been many murals over many years on the Taylor Street side of the building. This was taken in the 1970s.*

JCHS 10.49

# RECENT MURALS

NOLTON & ADAMS BUILDING  
(FLAGSHIP LANDING)  
1001 WATER STREET



*In 1987 the building purchased by Edgar and Patricia Sullivan who completed a remodel and modernization .  
The building reopened in 1988. November 2010*



*In 1937 Safeway Stores of Maryland completed an extensive remodel and renovation. Original decoration was removed and the store front modernized. Safeway remained at this site until 1962.*

*JCHS 13.72 detail (left) and JCHS 13.216 detail (right)*

## NOLTON & ADAMS BUILDING, PAGE 2

The building was constructed between 1884 and 1888. In 1889 it was occupied by the Golden Gate Saloon. This was followed by the large Nolton and Adams Hardware Company, sellers of hardware, tin ware, stoves, ranges, carriages, buggies and harnesses. In 1907, it was sold and the name changed to Olympic Hardware. Olympic hardware stayed in the building until World War I, when it moved further down Water Street.

The U.S. Post Office was in the building from 1890 to 1893. Early motor companies, garages and machine shops were the main tenants for many years. The Excelsior Motor Company occupied the space from 1911 to 1920; the N.L. Short Motor Company from 1922 to 1937.

In 1937 Safeway Stores of Maryland did extensive remodeling and renovation. All original decoration was removed and the store front modernized. Safeway remained until 1962.

In 1987 the building was purchased by Edgar and Patricia Sullivan of New Fairfield, Connecticut. They completed another remodel and modernization. The Sullivans sold in 1996 to present owners, Paul G. and Gail Buesnal of Port Townsend.



*From muddy Water Street in the early 1900s (top) and in 1936, (bottom) from the water looking over the collapsed dock that was out back.*

*JCHS 36.20, JCHS 13.124*



*Unidentified family and friends of Sara Vose, taken in the 1940s. Another Coca Cola mural has joined a mural for the Studebaker Erskine automobile.*

*JCHS Collection.*

# RECENT MURALS

## KUHN'S WHITE BLOCK

### 1024-1046 WATER STREET

*In 1979 building owners, Barney and Judy Sabo, commissioned Drew Elicker to paint this mural on the Polk Street side of the building. It commemorates the Tree of Heaven story. As the story goes, in 1860 the Emperor of China sent two Trees of Heaven to San Francisco as a gift. While crossing the Pacific the ship carrying the trees was damaged in a storm and arrived in Port Townsend for repairs. A grateful crew gave one of trees to local citizens. The story has no basis in fact. However this non-native ailanthus glandulosa has done very well spreading its roots along the bluff behind the Kuhn Building. In 2003, branches broke off, smashing into cars parked below. The upper photo was taken in 2010, the lower photo was taken in 1979. JCHS 10.1230*



*Photo taken in the 1920s. The top two stories were removed in 1946. . JCHS 10.829*

Joseph Kuhn built this four-story building in 1890 with costs ranging around the enormous figure of \$100,000. Originally built as a hotel (“the biggest and best”). The hotel portion was unfinished and promises to complete it were still being voiced in 1892. The top two floors had still not been completed in 1906 when Captain Hastings and W. Reynolds purchased the building with the plan of another grand hotel on these floors.

The main entrance was made of sandstone as were the massive pieces supporting the super structure. The second story was of stone and the two stories built above that were of brick trimmed with stone. Originally, the hotel outfitted the fourth floor with dining rooms and a kitchen parlor, reading rooms and general lounging rooms were located on the second floor. This still-impressive building was renovated in 1927 to upgrade street-level storefronts which included a drive in area for auto repair.

The building was again targeted for renovation in 1946, when new owners, Crist and Schaell, purchased it. The two top stories of the building were removed with much fanfare. Over 120,000 bricks were removed by the Myers Brothers, who were able to salvage 60% of the materials. The local general contractor for the job removed the lumber, much of which went into other local buildings. There were a few long-term tenants in the building, one being the Olympic Garage and Equipment Company from 1946-1965. During this era a bowling alley was installed on the second floor.

In 1965 Roy and Lois Bergstrom purchased the building and operated Bergstrom's Sporting Goods until 1978. They completed internal renovations including work on the 16-inch thick brick walls separating four storefronts.

Another long-time business took over this space from 1978-1992. The Sabo family purchased the building and completed more internal renovations, including the installation of an elevator to the second floor. John and Thalia Pryor remodeled still more of the spaces to accommodate offices in the spacious upstairs area and divided the lower store fronts to acquire more individual businesses. Beverly Malagon purchased the building in 2003.