

HASTINGS ESTATE BUILDING

833-839 Water Street
(old address 315-317 Water Street)
O.T. Block 8 Lot: 6 & 8

Built 1889

The Architect was E. H. Fisher of Seattle; brick and stone work by C. P. Wakeman & Co.; Mr. Packard, woodwork; Mr. Roberts, painter; Mr. Davis, plaster work.

Constructed by the Hastings Estate Company which consisted of the widow of Loren B. Hastings, Lucinda, and their children. This elaborate building has three stories and a basement. It cost \$35,000—45,000 to build. It was said to be “the handsomest building in Port Townsend” with a thirty-eight foot inside court reaching to a skylight in the roof.

There were many tenants leasing space on the upper floors over the years: The Hastings Estate Company, State Bank of Washington, Key City Business College, Washington Stevedore Company, Office of City Health, Office of U.S. Quarantine, physicians, dentists, attorneys, engineers, real estate offices, investment companies, tailors, contractors and insurance offices.

The upper floor businesses left during the Great Depression and a “house of ill repute” was said to have moved in. It was eventually closed down by the City.

The Building has had many store fronts which include:

1897: The Sunol Saloon with bar goods, cigars and club rooms.

1920: 1966: Main floor tenant Carl Olberg’s Shoe Store.

1939-1953: Hane’s Hardware

1953-1962: Widell’s Sporting Goods

Ryr’s Custom Jewelry and Heiner Tamme both occupied the space for many years.

1979: Phoenix Rising Bookstore

Extensive restorations were started in 1976, 1989 and 1994.

The Hastings Estate Company still maintains ownership of the building. It was listed on the Washington Trust for Historic Preservation’s Ten Most Endangered List in 2007 because of deferred maintenance and owner inquiries about demolition. The upper floors have been unoccupied for decades.

JEFFERSON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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