

Restoration Spotlight:
The Making of a Restaurant for “T’s”
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From bedrooms to shower stalls and now to fine dining, the 75-year-old Nurses’ Quarters building on the southeast tip of the Port’s Point Hudson property has been given new life with a 25-year lease to the established T’s Restaurant (www.ts-restaurant.com).



T’s future dining room, with sweeping views of the Sound from the southeast tip of Point Hudson, was formerly partitioned into sleeping quarters for the nurses at the original quarantine station.

“We had been looking for another location for a few years,” says Nancy Tocatlian, who along with her husband Gary has owned T’s since 2004. “Someplace that was easier to find, with a little more exposure—and especially with a water view.”

It’s quite common for visitors who know T’s by reputation alone to call ahead for “a table with a water view.”



T’s current (and decidedly unglamorous) location on Washington Street.

“They expect that, especially in Port Townsend,” says Nancy, who has laughingly referred clients to a stroll on the beach on the backside of the buildings across the street from the restaurant’s current (and decidedly unglamorous) location on Washington Street.

With the remodel of the Nurses’ Quarters presently in full swing, by June T’s diners should be enjoying expansive views of the Sound and Point Hudson Marina—from a 3,000-s.f. building that has sat unused for the past five years, its future in doubt.

Port leadership has long thought that the dilapidated Nurses’ Quarters—formerly the shower building for the resort and marina, and originally living quarters for the nurses at the quarantine station—would make a good restaurant, but as Deputy Director Jim Pivarnik puts it, “we made it clear we were not in the restaurant business.” The Port would remodel the building shell, but the tenant would need to be responsible for installing a commercial kitchen and all interior improvements.

With that understanding, the Tocatlians started talking with the Port about relocating two years ago. “It’s been a very slow and steady process, but one that’s going to pay off for everybody in the long run,” says Nancy.

The Port has invested \$175,000 into the building remodel, which has included gutting the interior, re-engineering the roof trusses to compensate for the removal of load-bearing walls, fixing the roof, installing new electrical and plumbing, asbestos abatement, and insulating the floors to seal out the creosote smell from the old foundation. New double-paned windows were custom-built to the original specifications as was a railing above the portico that had been removed in the 1940s. The building will be wheelchair-accessible, with a ramp to the front door and ADA-compliant bathrooms.



A railing above the portico that had been removed in the 1940s has been rebuilt to its original specifications.

Hoch Construction, a Port Angeles firm that specializes in historic preservation, worked from plans drawn by Port Townsend architect Richard Berg and approved by the City’s Historic Preservation Committee.

The Tocatlians are changing the restaurant's décor from "Tuscan" to "beach cottage," and while the famous dinner menu won't change much, T's will be serving lunch—pastas, paninis and hamburgers—for the first time in three years.

The new dining room will seat approximately the same number of tables as does the current restaurant (21), but the new bar and cocktail lounge (created by enclosing a porch) will be larger and more separate, and two welcome additions will be a private dining room seating 14-16 and outdoor seating on a new southwest-facing deck.



T's new bar and cocktail lounge will be located in the space created by enclosing a porch (the alcove pictured at right).

"Our current customers are very excited about the move," Nancy says. "It's real exciting for everyone. I can't just wait to be down there [at Point Hudson]."

"And when we get those people from out of town who want their water view, we can say yes," she says with a satisfied chuckle.

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Article and photos by *The Conversation* Editor, Shelly Randall