



U.S. Customs House in 1888

BY C.W. LATTIN *8/19/04*
Our picture shown here was taken in 1888 at the U.S. Customs Office and Murray's Store at Point Breeze.

This building also served as the U.S. Post Office, which was established here in April 1888. The point Breeze Post Office was discontinued in 1914.

This rather small wooden structure served a variety of purposes as we can see from the signage attached to it. Not only so we see "U.S. Customs Office" at the top, but also the name "H.C. Murray General Store Fish & Tackle." Under this is a sign indicating "Point Breeze Post Office." What appears to be a chalkboard

advertises "Fish Tackle For Sale."

Information written on the back of the photo provides us with some more data. The people are identified as follows from left to right as: "Dexter Murray and his two daughters, Captain Hiram C. Murray (standing in the center), L.R. Rogers — hotel proprietor and Oscar Munn, Customs Collector." There are also two black dogs in the picture, one of which is standing on his hind legs by the seated girl.

It is also noted on the back of the picture that this building burned down and that it was "replaced by cottages." The bay window may have been

designed as a business window so people either paying customs or getting mail did not have to actually enter the store.