

# GHOST TOWNS

of NorthWest BC

**Alice Arm**

**Anyox**

**Kitsault**

**Dorreen**

**Port Essington**

# GHOST TOWNS

of NorthWest BC

**Rob Bryce – UNBC Continuing Studies**  
**Kelsey Wiebe – Curator, Heritage Park**  
**Museum**  
**Ken Newman – City of Terrace**



Anyox  
Alice Arm  
Kitsault

Kincolith

New Aiyansh

Pearse Island

Dorreen

Kitselas Canyon

Terrace

Port Essington

Digby Island  
Prince Rupert

Data SIO, NOAA, U.S. Navy, NGA, GEBCO  
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Image Landsat

Google earth

Imagery Date: 4/9/2013 lat 54.903627° lon -129.401286° elev 3677 ft eye alt 103.86 mi

# Alice Arm

## Then

- Named after Alice Mary Tomlinson, wife of Reverend Robert Tomlinson
- Four Scandinavian prospectors, Ole Evindsen, Ludwig Eik, Ole Pearson, and E. Carlson discover silver deposits in 1910 up the Kitsault River Valley
- 1917 Dolly Varden Silver Mine starts production
- By 1919, a 23 km long narrow gauge railway was built up the Kitsault Valley by the Dolly Varden Mining Company.
- 1923 -27 the railway was utilized for logging operations
- Approximately 20 million ounces of silver were produced between 1919 and 1959 by a few different owners of the property
- One room Alice Arm school was built in 1922 for up to 60 students
- Mid 1940's the railway was replaced by a road
- The Anyox Smelter processed some of the Dolly Varden Mine Silver
- Had a Post office, hotel , store etc

## Alice Arm

### NOW

- Mineral exploration still occurring up the Kitsault River Valley by Dolly Varden Silver Ltd
- Jeff Wolrige and Anyox Electric have a few water licenses up the valley
- A portion of a dam that provided power in the past still remains at the outlet of Kitsault lake
- The town consists of mainly summer cottages
- Two year round residents

## Alice Arm



Courtesy of BC Archives collections - Call Number: D-00266

Web: [www.bcarechives.gov.bc.ca](http://www.bcarechives.gov.bc.ca) Email: [access@www.bcarechives.gov.bc.ca](mailto:access@www.bcarechives.gov.bc.ca)

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Title: "Alice Arm, BC."

## Alice Arm



## Alice Arm



Courtesy of BC Archives collections - Call Number: D-01358  
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Title: Alice Arm



# Alice Arm



## Alice Arm



## Alice Arm



## Alice Arm



## Anyox - Then

- Anyox, an anglicized version of the Nisga'a word Anyoose, meaning "hidden water".
- Brought into production in 1914 by Granby Consolidated Mining, Smelting and Power Co., Ltd.
- Company town – single resource
- Anyox good fortune
  - 3 million gold vein
  - Special blue clay
- Eastwood multiple-arched type with a length of 208 m and a maximum height of 42 m - One of the largest in Canada
- Modern and self-sufficient town was built around the mine to accommodate over 2500 people
- Deadly Sulphurous fumes
- "Stolen" light bulbs
- Great Depression & demise in 1935
- The fire of 1942

## Anyox - Now

- Very remote with few visitors
- Anyox Hydro Electric wants refurbish the dam and start generating power – 30 MW
- LNG aspirations
- Educational Travel Tours
  - Dam
  - Powerhouse – Regional District Heritage site
  - Cemetery
  - Slag pile
  - Coke plant
  - General store

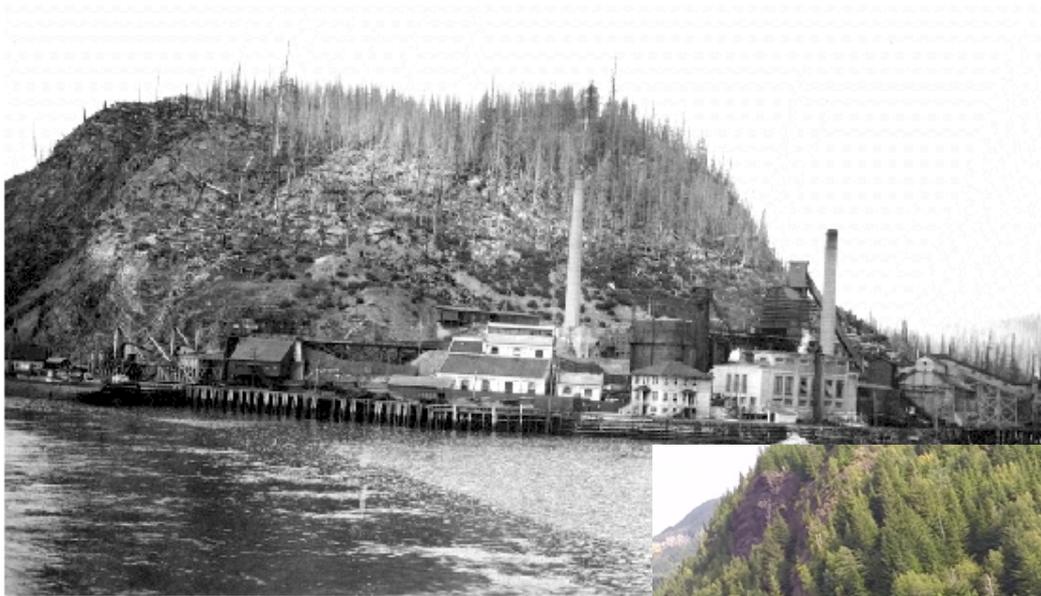


Processed From Host on Thu Jun 25 14:12:59 2015

**Title:** The powerhouse at Anyox.

## Anyox Powerhouse before and after





From Host on Thu Jun 25 14:30:33 2015

## Anyox Coke Plant before and after

Title: Coke Plant, Granby Consolidated S



# Anyox



Courtesy of BC Archives collections - Call Number: D-01311

Web: [www.bcarchives.gov.bc.ca](http://www.bcarchives.gov.bc.ca) Email: [access@www.bcarchives.gov.bc.ca](mailto:access@www.bcarchives.gov.bc.ca)

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Title: Anyox

## Anyox

Courtesy of BC Archives collections - Call Number: D-09603

Web: [www.bcarchives.gov.bc.ca](http://www.bcarchives.gov.bc.ca) Email: [access@www.bcarchives.gov.bc.ca](mailto:access@www.bcarchives.gov.bc.ca)

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Title: 600 Tons of Copper, Granby Consolidated Smelting ...









**Anyox Cemetery**

## Kitsault

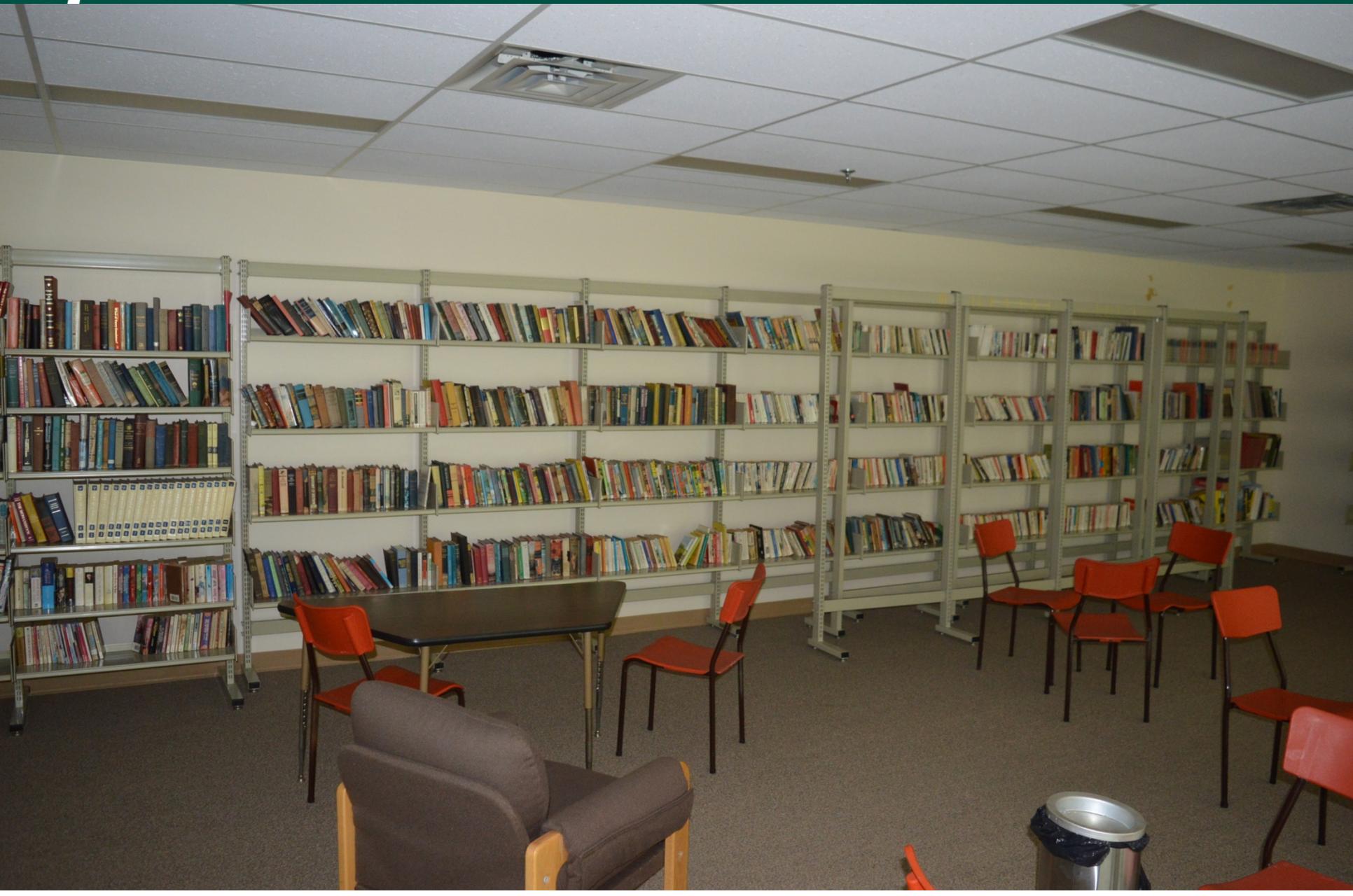
- Modern day ghost town
- Two operating phases
  - 1968-72 – 500 residents – Silver City
  - 1981-82 – 1200 residents
- 2004 – bought by Indian-American businessman Krishnan Suthanthiran for \$5.7 million
- Amenities
  - Rec centre – gymnasium, fitness centre
  - Apartments 210 units, 92 houses
  - Swimming Pool, hot tub
  - Library
  - Movie theatre
  - Shopping centre
  - Pub
  - Curling Rink
  - Racquet ball courts
  - Hospital

## Kitsault Now

- Very exclusive
- Maintained
- Avanti molybdenum mine
- LNG export terminal
- Research centre
- Wellness Centre and retreats
- Documentary
- Krishnan Suthanthiran
  - President, Proud American Party - [www.proudamerican.net](http://www.proudamerican.net)
  - President and founder of the *Best Medical* group of companies  
<http://www.teambest.com/>















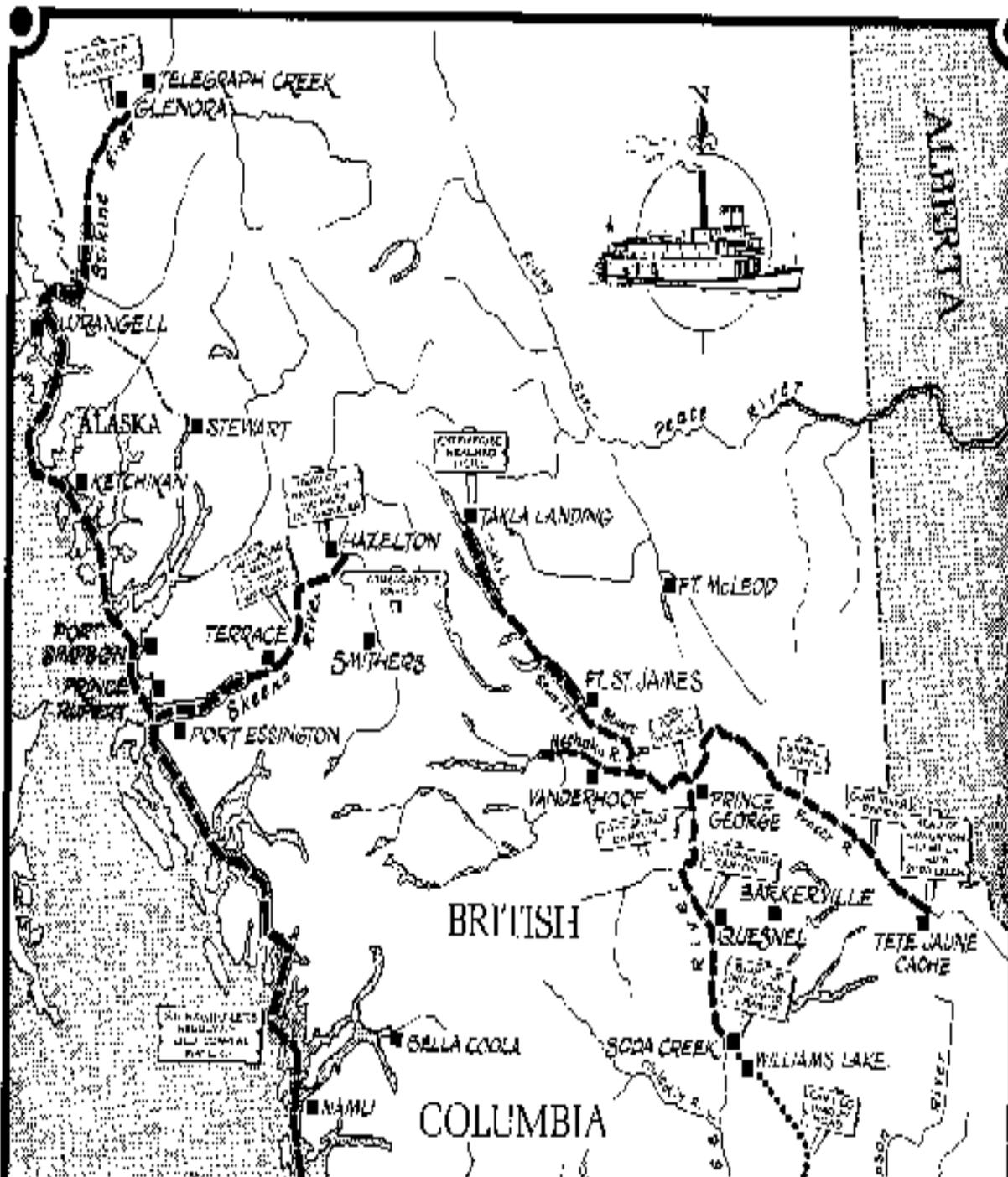


**Spa Xksuutks  
(Port Essington)**

Kelsey Wiebe, Heritage Park Museum



Robert Cunningham. BC Ghost Towns. <http://itsmysite.com/cgi-bin/itsmy/go.exe?page=1&domain=1&webdir=bchistory>.



Via Art  
Downs,  
Paddlewheelers on  
the  
Frontier.

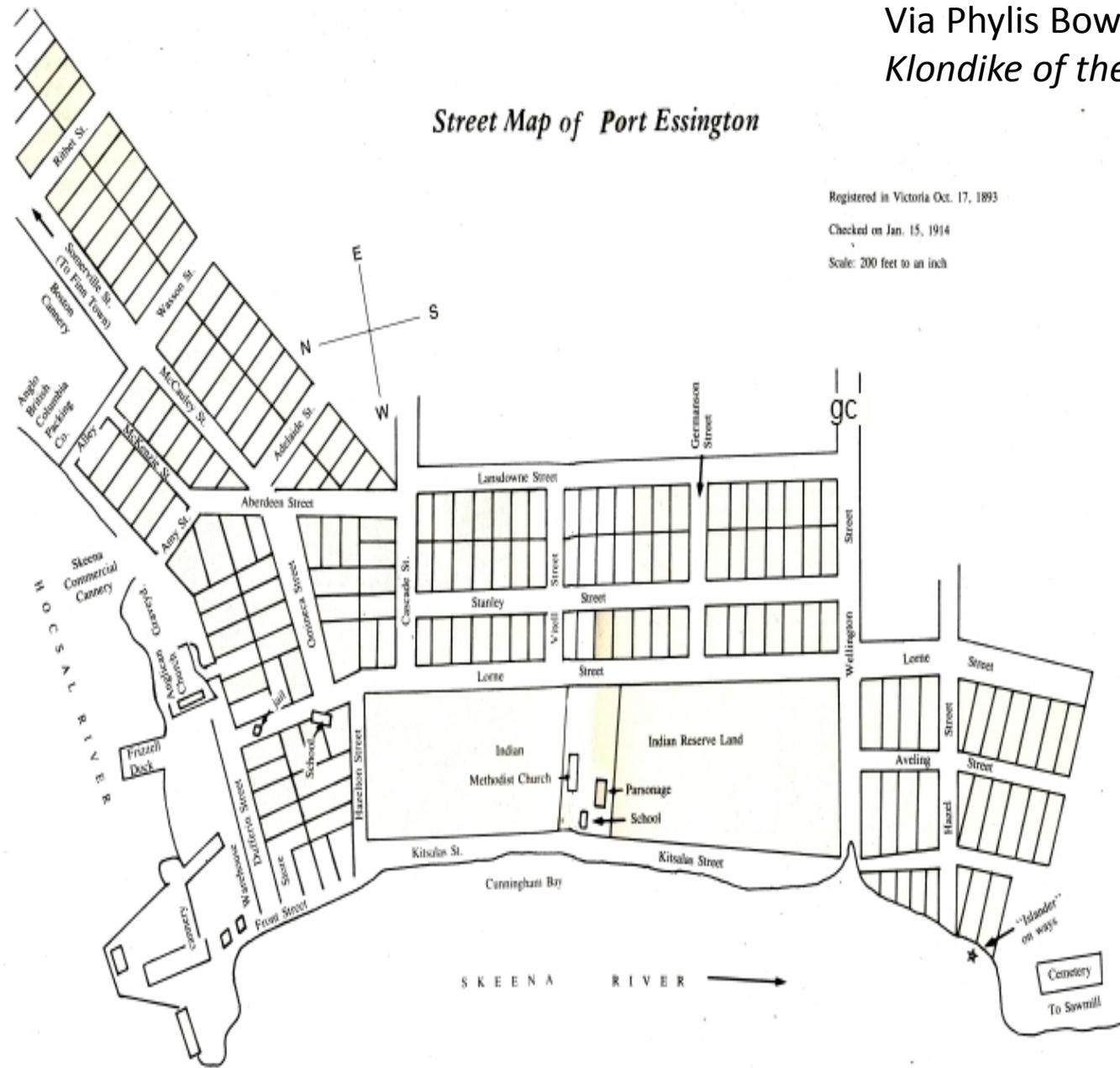
Via Phylis Bowman,  
*Klondike of the Skeena.*

### Street Map of Port Essington

Registered in Victoria Oct. 17, 1893

Checked on Jan. 15, 1914

Scale: 200 feet to an inch





*Indian Reservation  
Port Essington*

'Indian Reservation,'  
Port Essington, 1909.  
United Church of  
Canada Archives  
, From Mission  
to Partnership  
Collection,  
93.049  
item  
#384 N.



Port Essington; Cunningham's Store in Left Foreground, 189-. Photographed by Hannah or Richard Maynard. BC Archives A-04170.



J. CUNNINGHAM

HOTEL CALEDONIA

O' A RAOSTAD JG TELER

MACKENZIE & JACKSON  
GENERAL MERCHANTS

Robert Cunningham. BC Ghost Towns.

<http://itsmysite.com/cgi-bin/itsmy/go.exe?page=1&domain=1&webdir=bchistory>



'Shops along Shore at  
Port Essington, BC.'  
Note on back reads 'R.  
Cunningham & Sons -  
Probably Port  
Essington,' and 'NW  
coast canoe.' Historical  
North Coast  
Photograph Album,  
Northern BC Archives &  
Special Collections  
2006.45.11.



*Port Essington Skeena River  
1888.*

Port Essington,  
Skeena River, 1888.  
UBC Special  
Collections BC124.



Steamer "Port Simpson" at Port Essington.  
190-. BC Archives B-01266.



Title: Students at the Port Essington Day School.

189-. BC Archives B-05843.



Accessed From Host on Sat Oct 15 19:18:52 2011

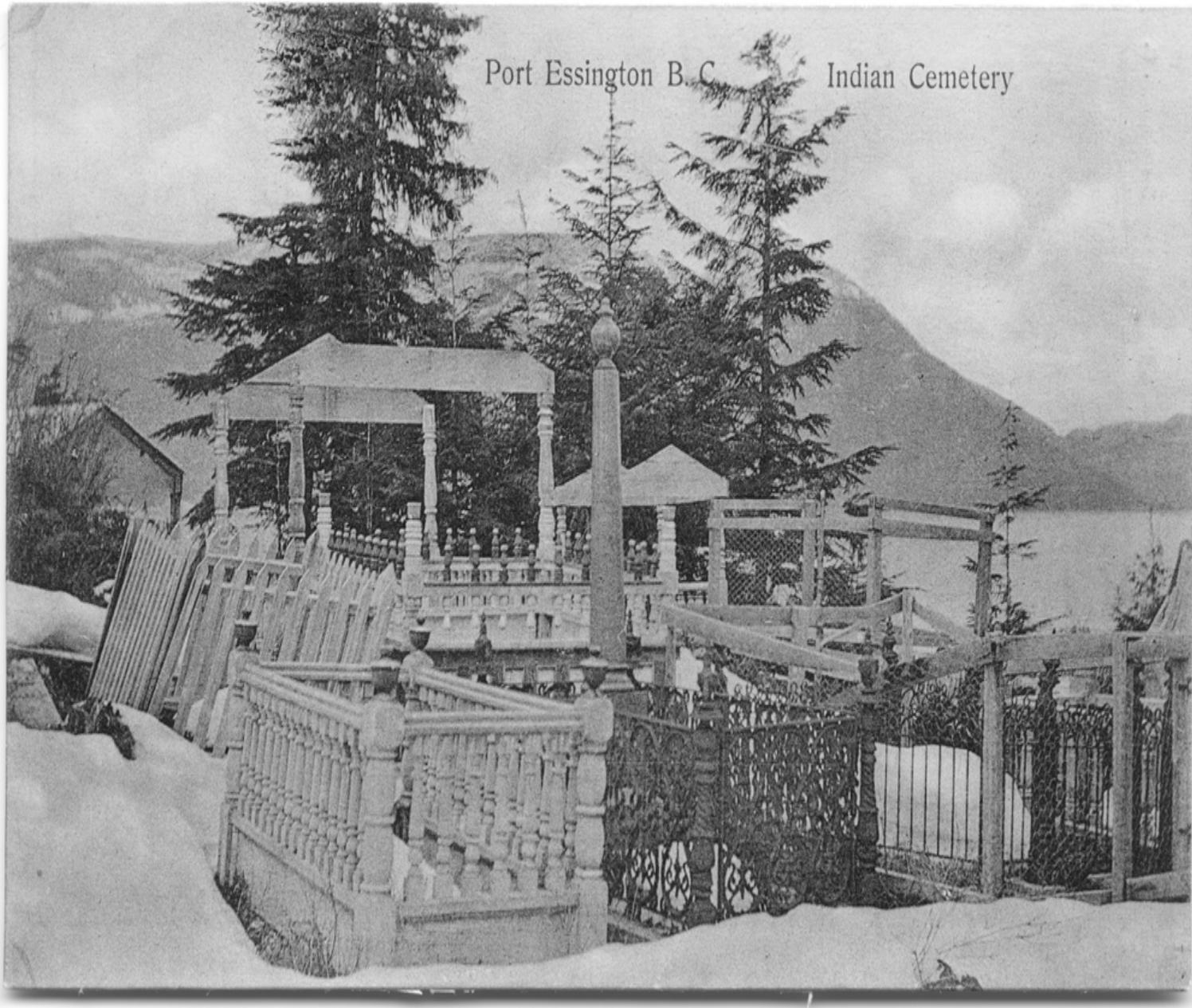
**Title: Indian Revival Meeting at Port Essington, 1897.**

'Indian Wedding, Port Essington,' 1931.  
Photographed by Dr. Large and Mr. Thomas.  
United Church of Canada Archives, From  
Mission to Partnership Collection, 93.049 item  
#388.





A street in Port  
Essington, circa  
1899 or 1900.  
Photographed by  
Major James Skitt  
Matthews. City of  
Vancouver  
Archives AM54-S4.



'Indian Cemetery,' Port Essington, 1909. United Church of Canada Archives, From Mission to Partnership Collection, 93.049 item #385.

Salmon Fishing,  
Skeena River, B.C.



Note on back of photograph: '... The canning industry is carried on extensively here. Indians, Chinamen, and Japanese are principally employed in the work. The Indians come here from the Skeena River, Queen Charlotte Islands, Kitamaat, and Pt. Simpson to work during the summer. Numerous hotels however prove a great and sad disadvantage often robbing them not only of their hard earned money, by their manhood also. Rev. Mr. Freeman, Meth. Missionary there school, church and hospital.'

Drying the nets, Port Essington, between 1905 and 1909.  
Photographed by Dr. R. W. Large. United Church of Canada Archives,  
From Mission to Partnership Collection, 93.049 item #2779 N.



'Joseph Restaurant,' Port Essington. No date.  
BC Archives F-07637.



Port Essington Cannery Workers  
Quarters, circa 1914. BC Archives E-01331.

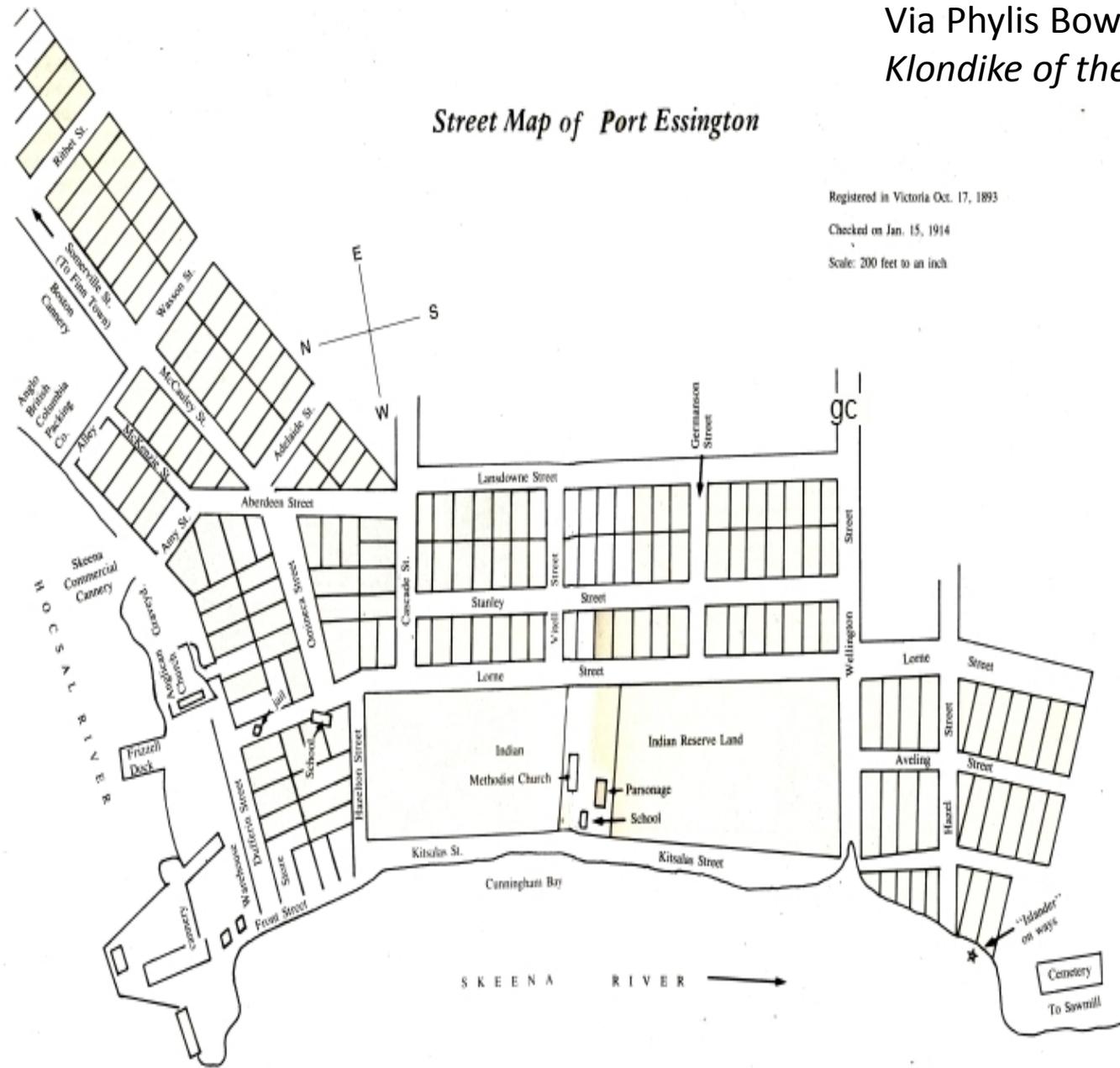
Via Phylis Bowman,  
*Klondike of the Skeena.*

### Street Map of Port Essington

Registered in Victoria Oct. 17, 1893

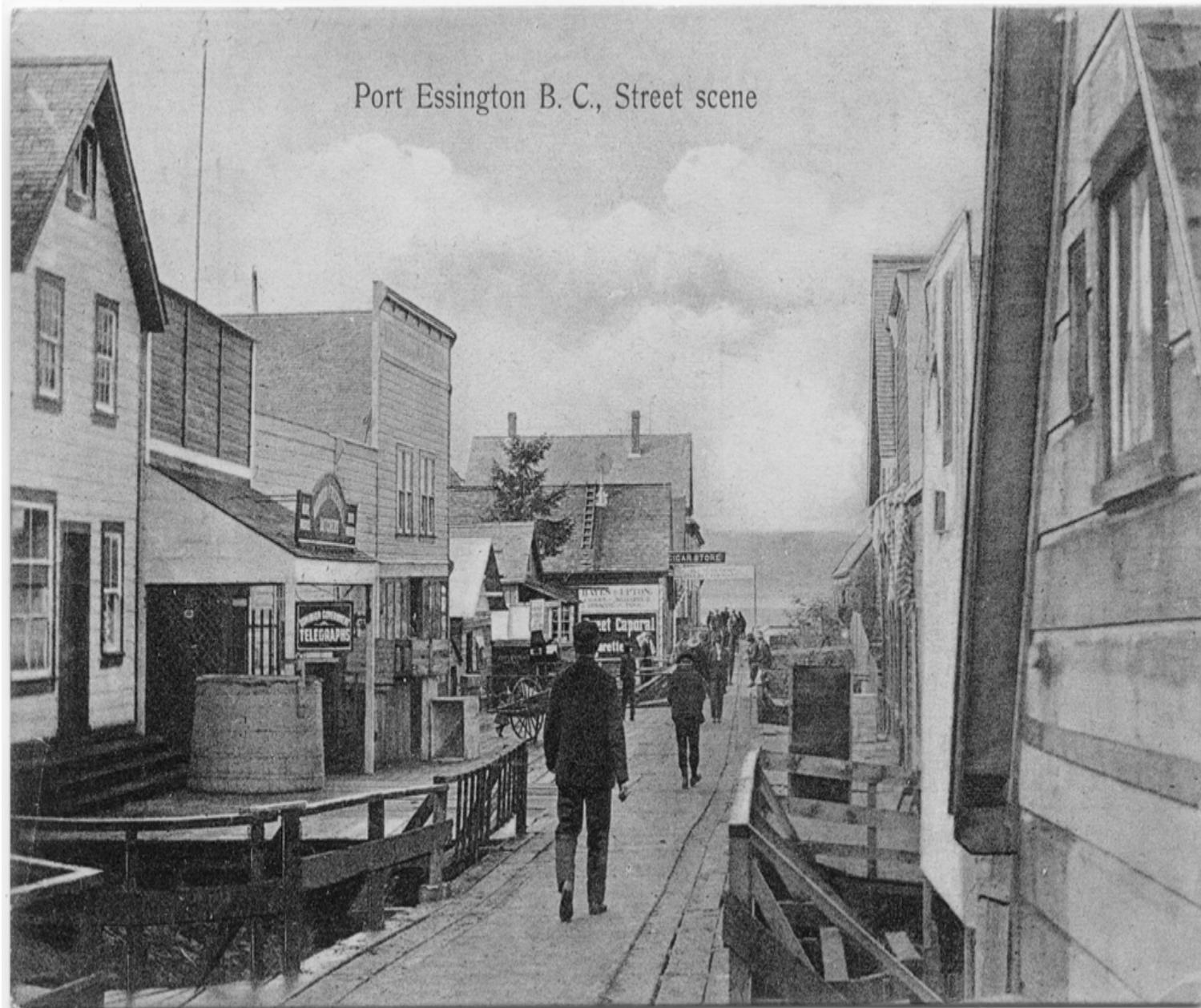
Checked on Jan. 15, 1914

Scale: 200 feet to an inch





Port Essington, circa 1926. Photographed by Major James Skitt Matthews. City of Vancouver Archives AM54-S4.



Port Essington Street Scene, 1909. United Church of Canada Archives, From Mission to Partnership Collection, 93.049 item #383.



Port Essington; Frizzell's Wharf and the Skeena Commercial Cannery, circa 1915. BC Archives E-01326.



'Port Essington Indian Village,' circa 1915. BC Archives E-01337.



Title: Port Essington, Dufferin Street

Dufferin Street, Port Essington, 192-.



Dufferin Street, Port Essington, circa 1903.  
BC Archives E-01330.



'View of Port Essington, BC from Bridge,' circa 1873-1920. The Archdeacon W. H. Collison fonds, Northern BC Archives & Special Collections 2009.7.1.066. Note on back reads: "The staff at the summer Hospital at Port Essington to accommodate the native fishermen & families also other people on the Skeena. Centre row: Miss Clark, myself & Miss Hall. Front row: our cook Salamoe & helper on the boat. Top L. : Summer doctor Dr. Ashley Armstrong, caretaker Mr. Brown, laundry man".



Interior of Port  
Essington  
grocery store,  
1907. Sign  
above table  
reads 'Morrow  
& Frizzell.'  
North Coast &  
Central BC  
Postcard  
Collection,  
Northern BC  
Archives &  
Special  
Collections  
2011.3.1.7.



Skeena Commercial Cannery at Port Essington, 1911. BC Archives C-04940.

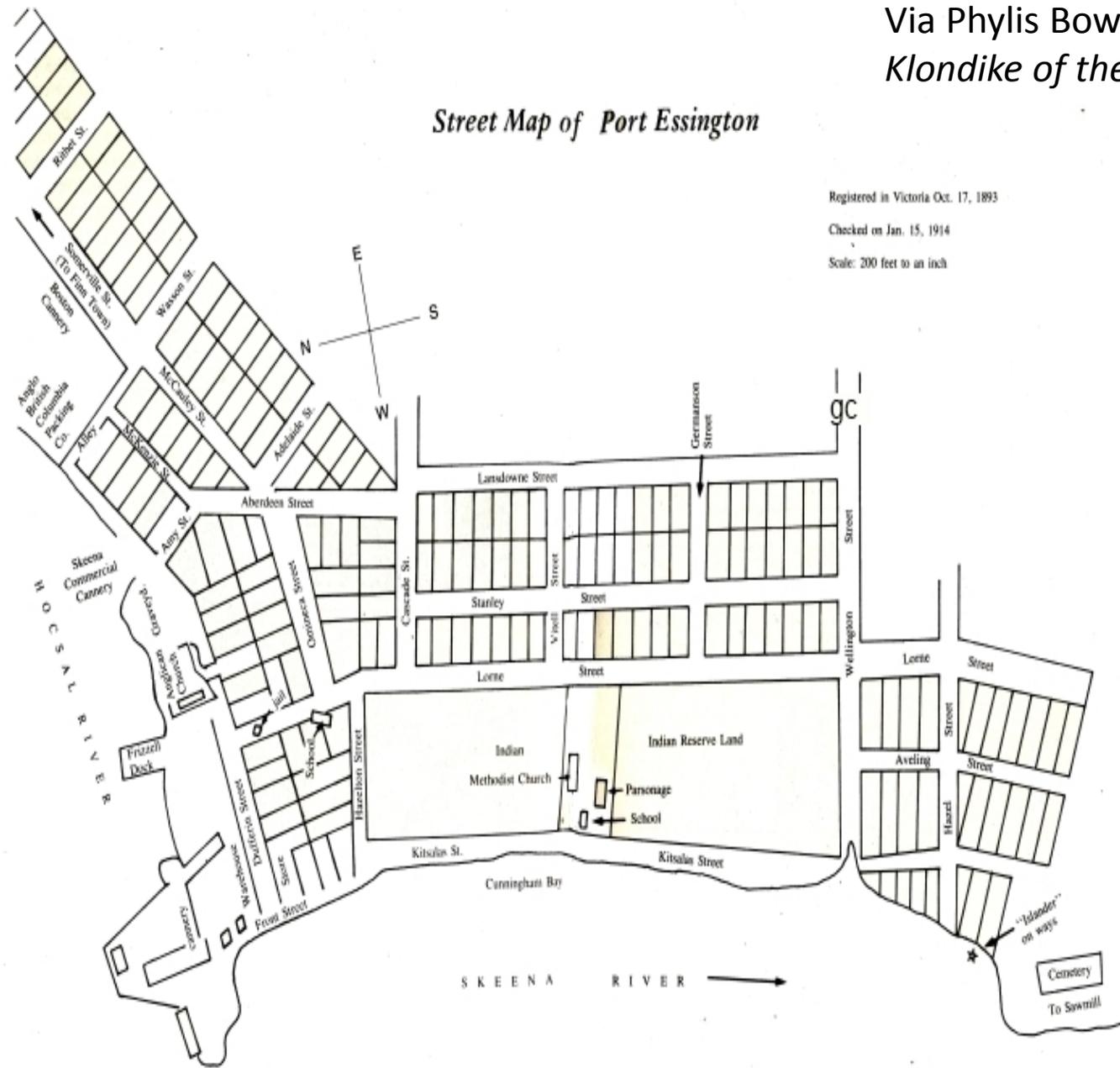
Via Phylis Bowman,  
*Klondike of the Skeena.*

### Street Map of Port Essington

Registered in Victoria Oct. 17, 1893

Checked on Jan. 15, 1914

Scale: 200 feet to an inch







# Dorreen

## Past & Present

prepared by

Ken Newman

for

UNBC , Terrace Campus

Presentation

Ghost Towns of the Northwest, Past & Present

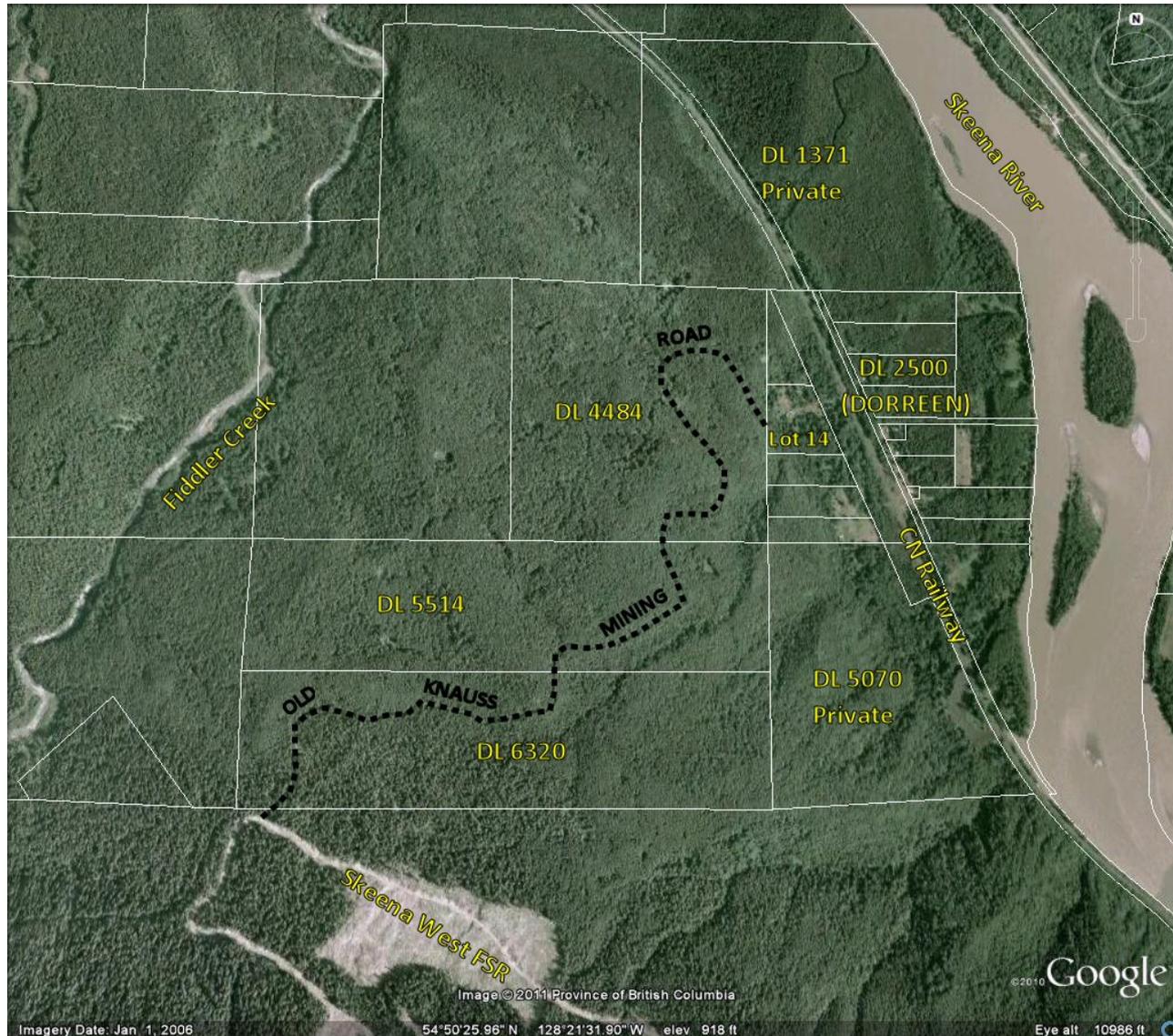
October 28, 2015



# Dorreen, B.C.



# Dorrean Access



# Access into Dorreen along old mining road



Section of mining road from Fiddler FSR used by ATV & 4x4 which connects to newer road leading to CNR tracks northeast of Dorreen.



Section of original mining road branching off road used by ATV & 4x4 leads to Lots 11 & 12 at Dorreen

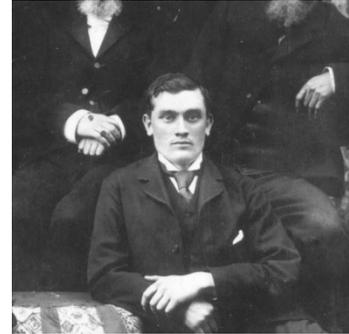
2011 Photos

# Dorreen is DL 2500



# Key Individuals

## Ernest J. Dorreen



- New Zealander
- A engineer working for the GTP
- GTP construction in Skeena Valley 1908-1914
- GTP Construction Camp located at Dorreen
- 1911 Census identifies E.J. Dorreen on the Skeena at a placed called Dorreen's construction camp.
- Newspaper clippings dated June 14, 1914 have Dorreen leaving Prince Rupert by steamship for Vancouver.



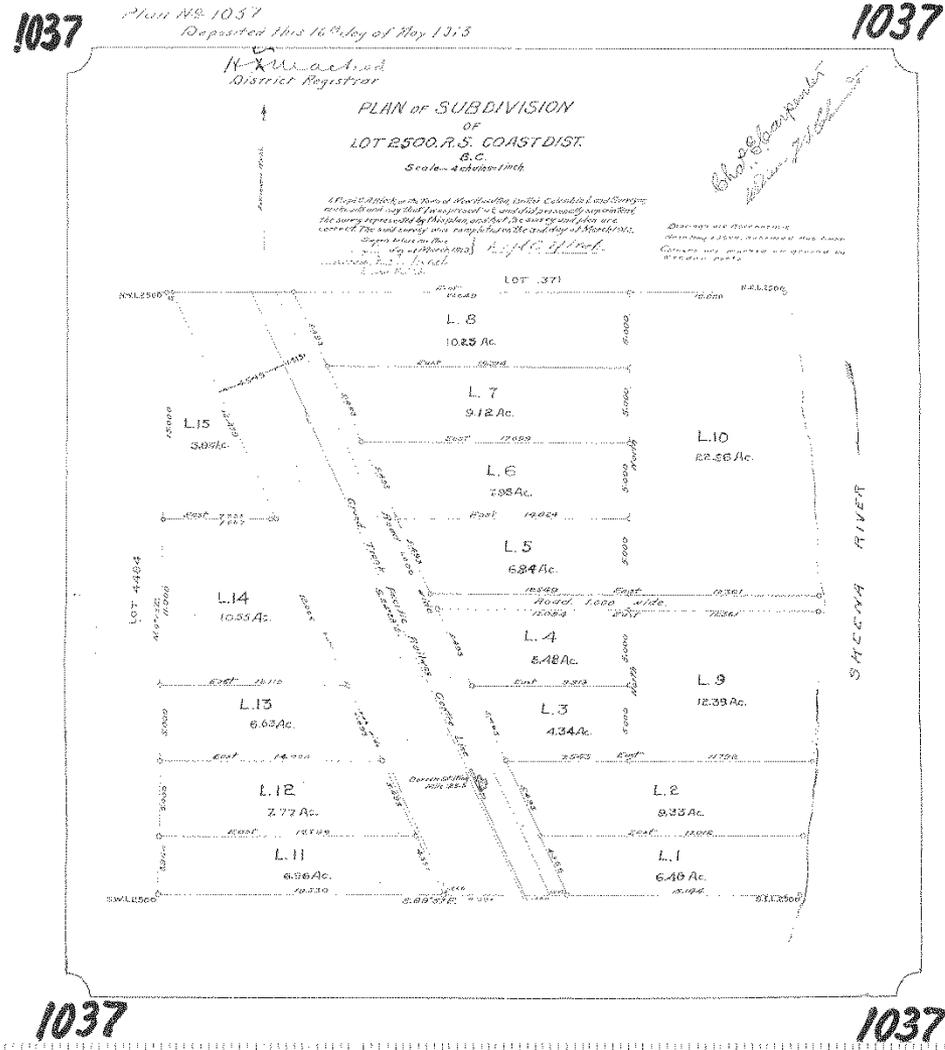
# Charles E. Carpenter

- Founder of Dorreen
- Carpenter came to the region as a gold prospector
- Pre-empted District Lot 2500 in 1911 and subdivided it into 15 lots shortly after. Plan register in 1913.
- Carpenter homestead on Lot 10 of DL 2500
- Sold first lot to Thomas McCubbin – Lot 3
- In addition to farming he cut cedar poles for sale
- Died in early 1930s
- Carpenter Creek – 10 km south of Dorreen

# Dorreen is DL 2500

- List of purchases in order of purchase starting in 1924.
- Lot 9 – E. Hogan
- Lot 11 – W. Horwill
- Lot 12 – J. Loen
- Lot 14 – C. Olson
- Lot 4 – A.R. Leake
- Lot 1 – T. Scully
- Lot 5 – J. Carpenter
- Lot 6 – T. Hennessey
- Lot 7 – H. White
- Lot 8 – O. Lundeen
- Lot 15 – O. Hanson
- Lot 13 – unknown

Source : D. Horwill notes of Dorreen



# Thomas McCubbin

- Store owner at Pacific
- First to buy land in Dorreen - Lot 3
- Built the Dorreen Store in 1920s
- Owned the store until 1935 or 1936



McCubbin's  
Store at Pacific

Photos courtesy of website  
"The McCubbins "

# Lewis Knauss

- Prospector
- Came to Dorreen in 1911
- Staked Fiddler Group claim in 1912 on northeast slope of Knauss Mtn.
- Developed claim in 1914 and built road from Dorreen to mine.
- His mine eventually bought out and operate sporadically until the early 1950s.

Knauss Mtn as viewed from Dorreen Store with modern day train station in foreground



# William and Florence Horwill

- Arrived in Dorreen in 1924 to manage Dorreen Store for Thomas McCubbin
- Bought Lot 11 from Charles Carpenter in 1924
- William farmed and had greenhouses selling produce to Hazelton, Terrace and Prince Rupert.
- Florence operated the store and post office
- William was also the Justice of the Peace and sub-mining recorder.
- Bought store from McCubbin in 1935 (or 1936)
- Operated store until his death in 1958
- Florence sold store in 1960 to Ray Ord of Smithers



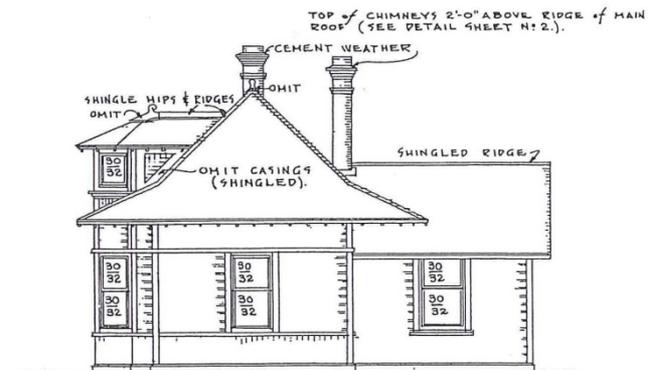
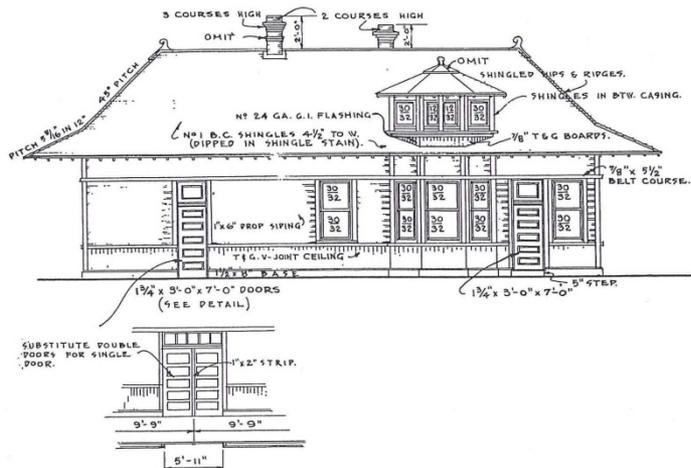
Denis Horwill Photos

# Dorreen the Railway Community

- Grand Trunk Pacific built a station at Dorreen in 1913
- Station existed until early 1970s
- Many of the residence were employed by the railway
- Only transportation in the Valley until highway built



Dorreen Station 1940s



GTP Design 'A' Station Plans

# Dorreen the Farming Community

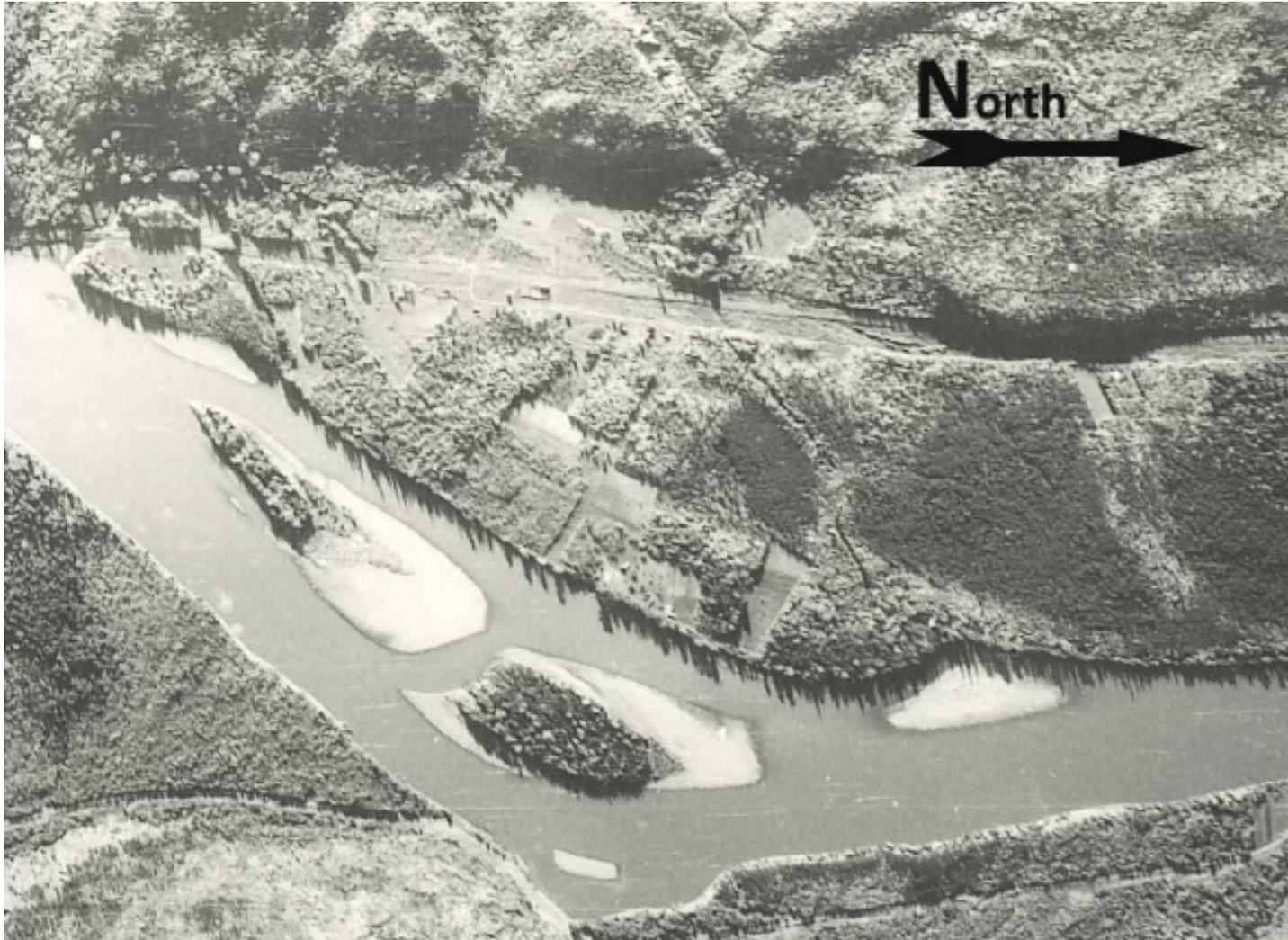
- Many early residence farmed commercially and for subsistence
- Good growing soils along the river
- Still see some fruit trees remaining
- Shipped fruit, vegetables and bedding plants by train to neighbouring communities,
- The Horwills had a large 24' x 100' greenhouse



Strawberry Field in Dorreen

Canadian Archives Photo PA-011222

# Dorreen Aerial Photo 1947



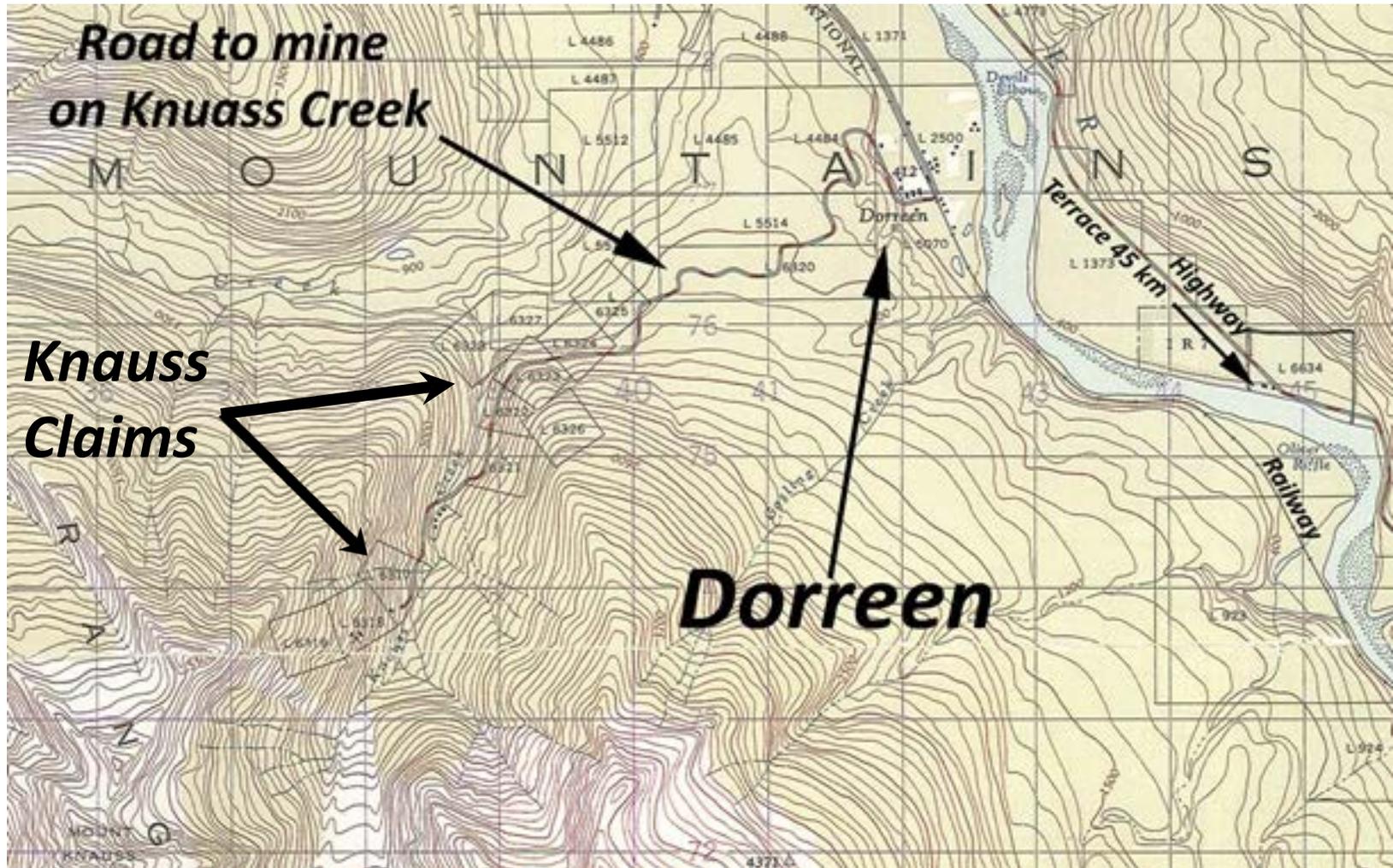
1947 BC Gov't Air Photo

# Dorreen the Mining Town

## Mining

- Placer gold at Lorne Creek
- Knauss Fiddler Mine
  - L. Knauss 1912-1916 – built a road to the mine
  - 1923 80 tons of ore shipped by JF Duthie
  - 1926 JW Tredway built aerial tram line shipped 100 tons of ore
  - 1926-1949 mine not operating
  - 1949 Dorreen Mines Ltd buys property rebuild road, build mill and 2800 ft aerial tram across Knauss Creek
  - 1949-1953 Dorreen Boom years
  - Mine closed in 1953
- Other mining/prospecting across the Skeena
- Many working in area mining lived in Dorreen

# Knauss – Fiddler Mining Claims



1961 Canada NTS Map

# Dorreen General Store

- Located on a approx. 1 acre parcel subdivided from Lot 2 (3?)
- Built in around 1920 by Thomas McCubbin of Pacific
- Was the centre of town across the road from the GTP Stn.
- Was like the local government agents office. Post Office and sub-mining records office and Justice of the Peace
- Operated until about 1960.



Dorreen Store during 1936 flood  
D. Horwill Photo



# Dorreen School

- First School maybe as early at 1916-18
- School built in 1922 by Charles Carpenter near where the store was.
- 1930 new on room school built on 1 acre parcel of Lot 4 land donated by Carpenter.
- Records starting in mid-1920 show never more than 12 kids attended.
- School closed in 1953. Last teacher Mrs. Elaine Gregg



School in 1938



School in 2011

# Dorreen the Tourist Destination

## Dorreen Enterprises

- Own Lots 3 , 11, 12 and store (Lot A)
- A family from California bought the properties in the 1960s.
- Attempted to do a tourist resort / fishing lodge

## Seven Sisters Ventures

- Art Bates and partners from California/Washington bought two large lots near Dorreen in the 1990s.
- Proposed a \$20 Million hut to hut hiking tourist operation in mountains on the west side of the Skeena.
- Grand plans included a lodge at Dorreen and an aerial tram across the Skeena.

# Homes of Dorreen



Lot 6 Tom Hennessey's Cabin



Lot 9 Eugene Hogan's House



Lot 10 C. Carpenter Home



Lot 4 Charles Leake Home

# Homes of Dorreen



Lot 11 Bruce Webb House



DL 5070 Swedish cabin



Lot 2 Bob McLean's House



Lot 14 Olson House

# Dorreen Directories

## DORREEN

a station on the G. T. P. Ry, 6 miles east of Pacific, on the Skeena River, and 125 miles east of Prince Rupert, at base of Fiddler Mountain. Population 20. Local resources: Mining, including promising prospects of gold and sulphite ore, carrying good values in silver, gold, etc. Agriculture has a promising outlook also.

Address mail Doreen, via Lorne Creek post office, distant 3 miles.

Burns John mining  
Carpenter Charles farming and mining  
Deering John railway man  
Evans E J farming  
Fiddler Creek Gold Mining Co  
Henry Follie farming  
Kirby Patrick railway man  
Ludwig P G farming  
McCubbin & Haydon general store  
McDonald Roderick farming  
McNichol Peter mining  
Michael Arthur farming  
Prestly lineman  
Taylor Charles farming  
Vallee Cyril mining

Wrigley's BC Director 1918

## DORREEN

a P.O. and flag sta. on C.N.R. and Skeena River, 4 m. west of Lorne Creek. In Skeena Prov. Elec. Dist. Pop. 40.

Blaychuck J sectmn CNR  
Canadian Government—  
Postmaster—W E Horwill  
Telegraphs—W E Horwill opr  
Carpenter Chas E ranching  
Dorreen Mine W J Tredway mgr  
Dorreen School W E Horwill sec  
Frost J sect formn CNR (Ritchie)  
Hambly Geo ranching (Ritchie)  
Hibbard Miss H M sch tchr  
Hillyard Albt J farming  
Hogan Eugene miner Doreen Mine  
Horwill Wm E genl store and PM  
Johnson A farming  
Johnston A F miner (Ritchie)  
Jones J miner  
Lamb R A farming (Lorne Creek)  
Leake Chas H farming (Lorne Creek)  
Leake F carpenter  
Leake W A teleg opr (Lorne Creek)  
Lojn John B & B formn CNR  
McDonald Hugh owner Walverly Group  
McDonald J H miner  
McNaughton A miner (Lorne Creek)  
Michiel Arthur F farming  
Olson C carpenter  
Patrick John sectmn CNR  
Poljano F sectmn CNR  
Rega H sectmn CNR  
Stoynoff J sect formn CNR  
Taylor Chas farming  
Tredway Mine  
Walverly Group H McDonald owner

Wrigley's BC Director 1932



Tom Hennessey (left) and Roy Scully in front of Tom's Cabin  
c. 1950

Photo courtesy of Howard Neighbor

# Lorne Creek - before Dorreen

- Before the railway Lorne Creek was the place
- Gold discovered in 1884
- 180 miners working the creek in 1885
- Hydraulic mining into early 1900s, other smaller outfits into 1930s
- Small community continued for short time after



Leake Family Homestead & Post Office at  
Lorne Creek 1926

Photo courtesy of Jim Lamb

# Lorne Creek



Dorreen and Lorne Creek used to be connected by a road with a bridge across Fiddler Creek.

# Dorreen & Pacific



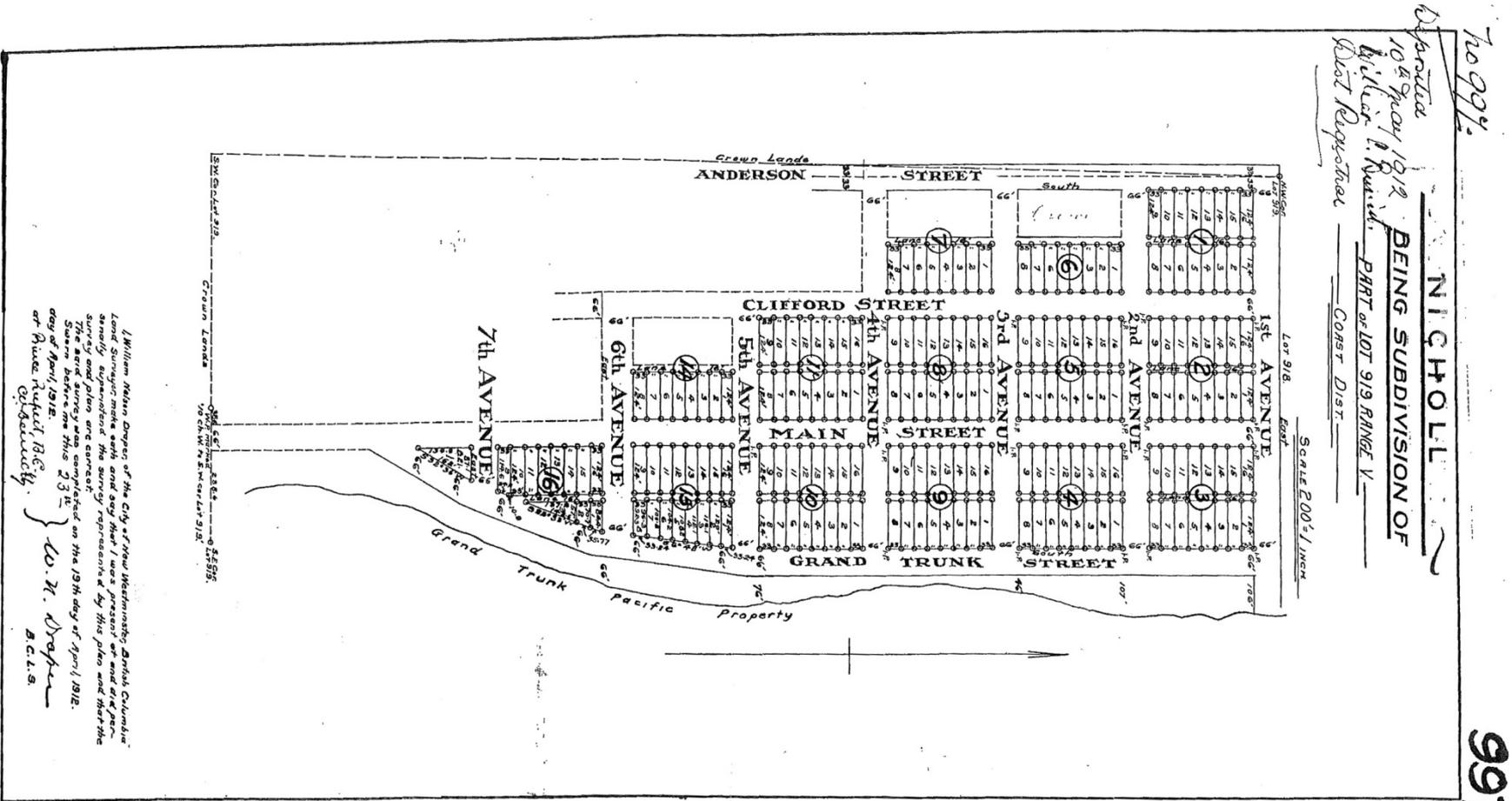
# Pacific

- Pre-empted by Jens Anderson in 1909 who sold land to the GTP
- Originally known as Nicholl before the GTP
- Located 10 km south of Dorreen
- First Divisional Point on GTP east of Prince Rupert
- Early on was bigger and more significant than Dorreen
- Roundhouse and wye yard
- Had store, school and hotel



Thomas McCubbin's General Store at Pacific  
Photo courtesy of website "The McCubbins "

# Pacific (Nicholl) Town Plan Registered in 1912



*7099%*

*Approved 10th day 1912*  
*William P. Nicholl*  
*Abstract Registered*

**NICHOLL**  
 BEING SUBDIVISION OF  
 PART of LOT 919 RANGE V  
 CONST DIST

**997**

I, William Nelson Dwyer of the City of New Westminster, British Columbia, Land Surveyor, make oath and say that I was present at and did personally supervise the survey represented by this plan and that the survey and plans are correct.

Said survey was completed on the 19th day of April, 1912.

Witness my hand and seal this 23rd day of April, 1912.

*W. N. Dwyer*  
 B.C.L.S.

# GTP Nicholl-Pacific Station



GTP Design F Station built in 1913.  
Notice name plate says "Nicholl"

Photo courtesy of website "The McCubbins "

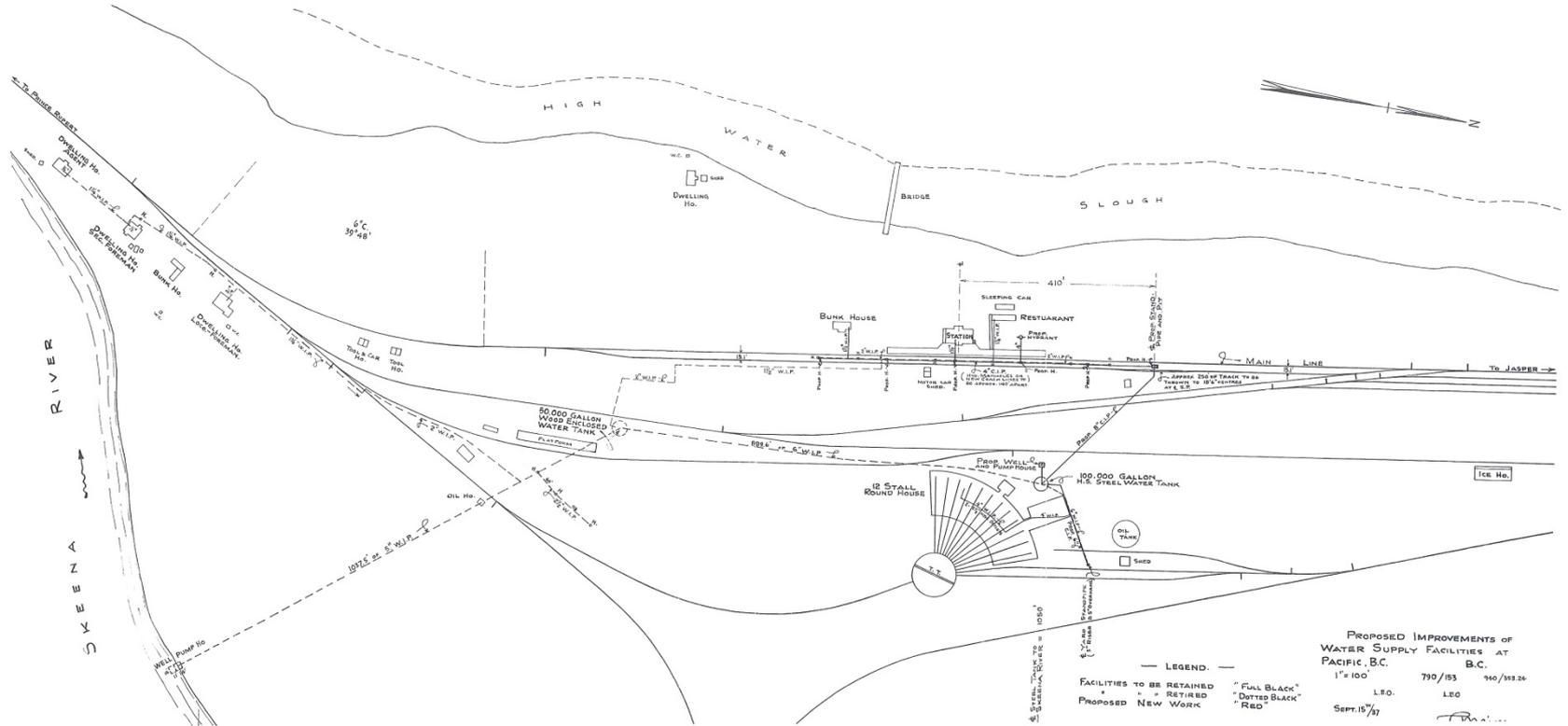
GTP Train stopped at Pacific in 1915.  
Notice name plate says "Pacific"

Canadian Archives Photo  
PA-011225

Original Station burnt down in 1930s

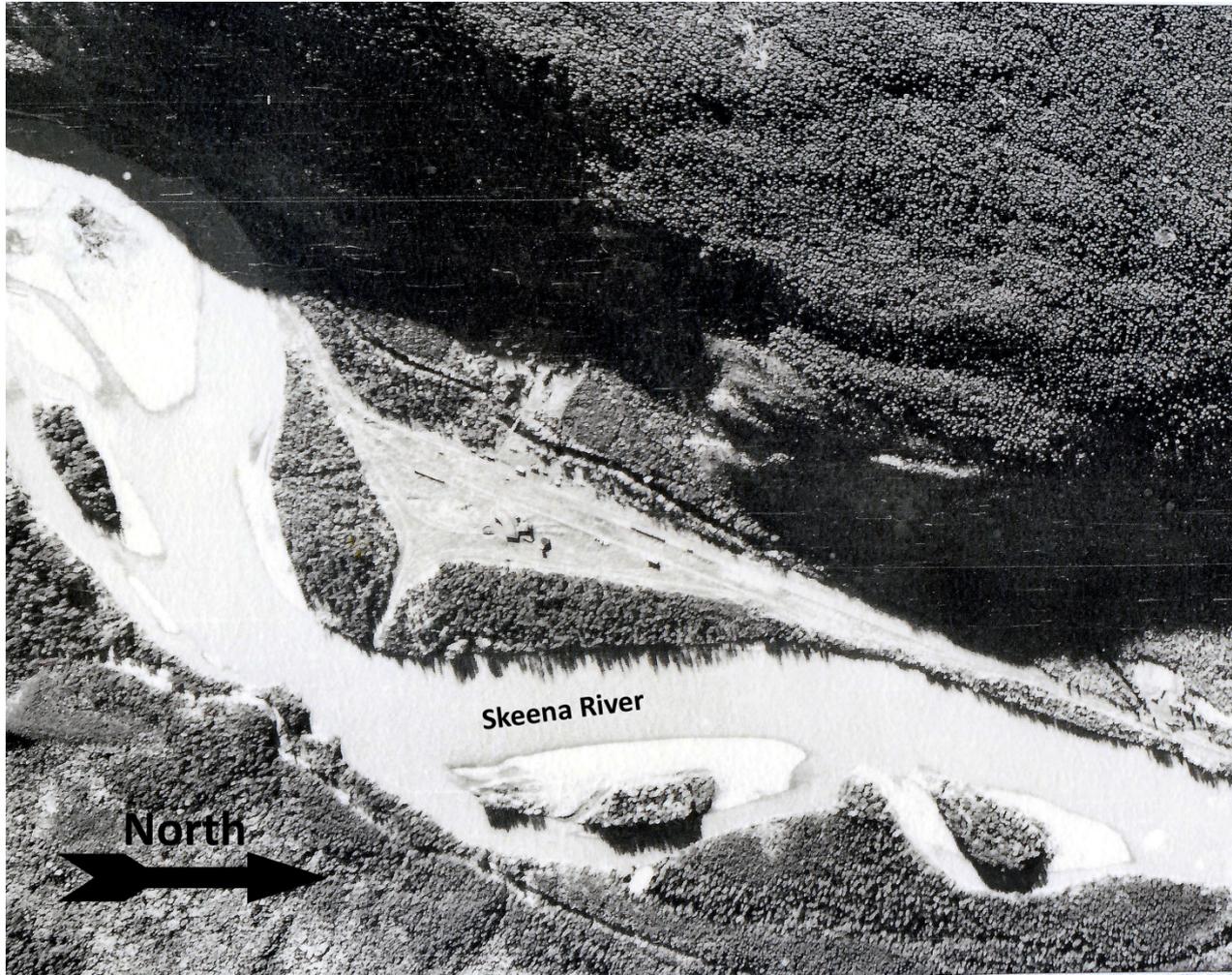


# Pacific GTP Yard Plan - 1937



Pacific GTP Yard plan courtesy of Les Kozma

# Pacific Aerial Photo 1947



1947 BC Gov't Air Photo

# GTP Roundhouse at Pacific



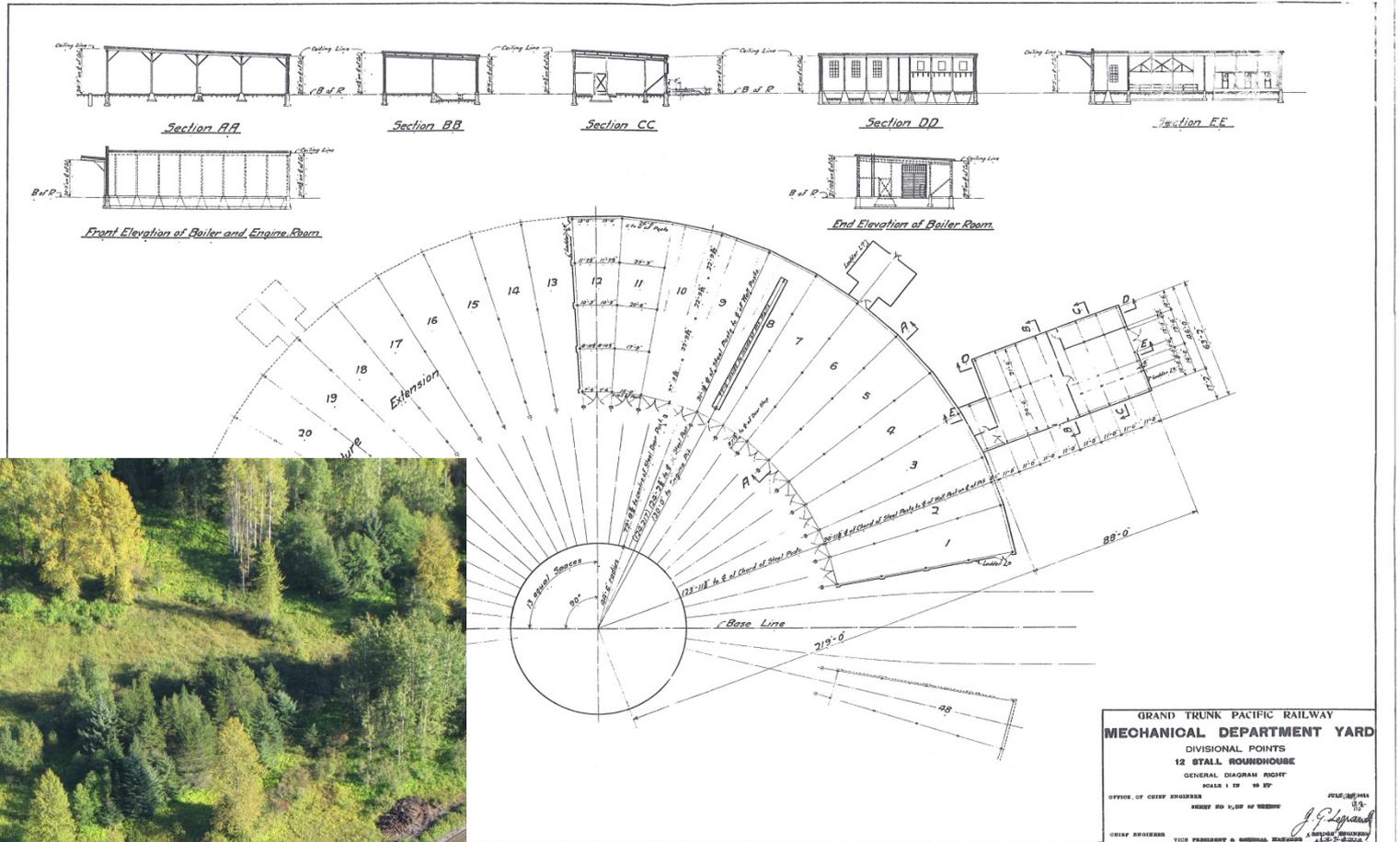
GTP Roundhouse at Pacific in 1921  
(BC Archives Photo)

GTP train and roundhouse during  
1936 flood (UNBC Archives Photo)



Roundhouse foundation, 2011

# Pacific Roundhouse Plans



1914 GTP 12 Stall Roundhouse Plan

Courtesy Les Kozma

2013 Aerial View of Pacific Roundhouse site

# Pacific of Old



Downtown Pacific  
Courtesy of "The McCubbins" website



View from rail tracks toward Pacific during 1936 flood  
Courtesy of "The McCubbins" website



Pacific second GTP Station  
Courtesy of "The McCubbins" website



Nichol Hotel  
Courtesy of H. McRae

# Modern Day Pacific

