

1204 Port Washington Road History

North Pender Island, B.C.

Chronology

1. Washington Grimmer arrived from England via Australia in 1882
2. In 1885, he bought ~ 1400 Acres of The Grimmer Valley on North Pender



"GRIMMER VALLEY"

3 A...Spencer Percival and his wife, Annie, arrived on Pender in 1902 and purchased the 160-acre farm from Washington Grimmer including the Grimmer House. He renamed it "Sunnyside Ranch". It is now Known as "The Old Orchard Farm"

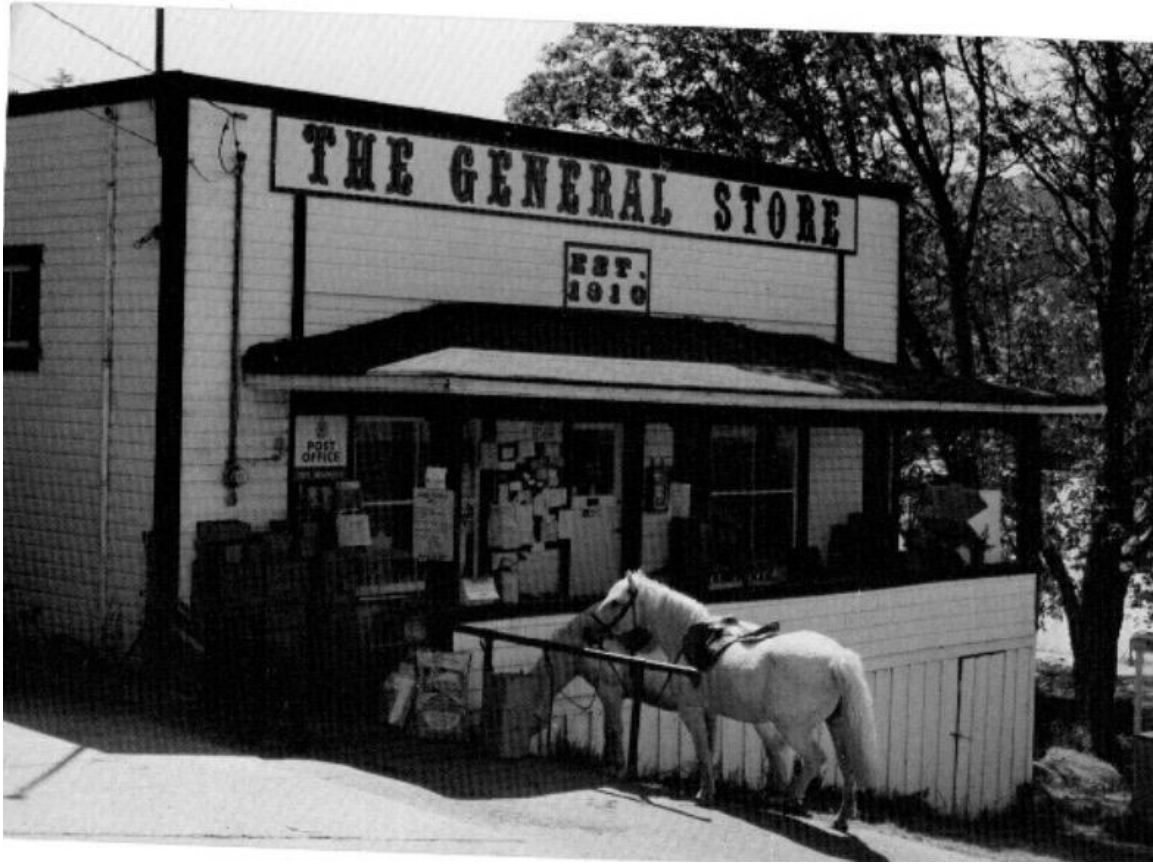


"SPENCER and ANNIE PERCIVAL" ~1910



"OLD ORCHARD FARM" with 1204 PT. WASHINGTON" property at centre bottom, ~ 1942

3 B...In 1910 Spencer Percival built "THE GENERAL STORE" (1910-1988) at Port Washington Dock. He donated an acre of land on which St. Peter's Anglican Church was originally built and gave a 99-year lease to build the Port Washington Community Hall close by.



"PORT WASHINGTON GENERAL STORE" 1965

C... In 1935, he separated two acres at the corner of Port Washington Road and Bridges Road and built a house to lure the first doctor to the island (1214 Bridges Road).

D... Dr William Mckay and his wife Beatrice, came to the island and lived there for approximately three years until Dr Mackay died.

E...Mrs Beatrice Mckay and her sister, Miss Neta MonTeeth (French teacher) built the cottage next door, at **1204 Port Washington Road**, and divided the land again ~ 1-acre parcels each (1938-1940).



"OLD ORCHARD FARM" and "PORT WASHINGTON DOCKS, (1891)", 1214 Bridges and 1204 Pt Wash" properties shown, centre left, ~ 1940

F... Mrs McKay sold 1214 Bridges Rd to a spinster, Miss Busteed. They became great friends, held many tea parties and gave French lessons in the front yard. Miss Busteed drove an old English Morris. A garage was built on Port Washington Rd by the old prune plum tree in the front yard.

(Hugh and Bunty England, neighbours remember when the garage was torn down)

G...Mrs Keefer bought 1204 Port Washington Rd from Mrs McKay and Miss Monteeth in 1958 (Felicity Nicol's Grandmother). The house was kept in the Nicol family from 1958-2008 but was minimally cared for.

H...In Aug 1998 Anne Davis & Rod Maclean bought 1214 Bridges Road (the original doctor's home), where Anne continued to Direct "Port Washington Montessori Children's House" in its second location, following its original opening on Paisley Road in 1995. They did extensive renovations to the property transforming a simple cottage into a beautiful family home.

I...In 2002, Anne Davis & Rod Maclean, rented 1204 Port Washington Road from Brian & Felicity Nicols. During this time, they did significant cleaning and clearing, returning the orchard to its original splendor, and gradually restoring the building. The house became the new location for Port Washington Montessori, and the two properties were cared for as one. The corner lots became sister properties again, and the orchard flowed as Spencer Percival had intended.

J... In August 2008, Anne and Rod bought 1204 Port Washington road from Brian & Felicity Nicols and continued to improve the property with many modern amenities, including custom wood fencing, landscaped gardens, patios and stone walls

** This corner was the hub of the Port Washington community. The ferries used to come into the dock, the old Grosvenor House offered rooms for travelers and the General Store and Post Office serviced the community until 1988. The doctors house on the corner, this neighboring cottage, and the beautiful orchard flowing down to the sea have been lovingly maintained as Island Heritage Sites. Walking down to the docks to meet the float plane bringing family members from afar, conjures memories for us, and also for our forefathers and what they might have felt walking the same path, arriving by ferry or small rowboat.



"PRINCESS MARY", Port Washington dock early 1930's, arrived twice a week on Pender, "Boat Days"
*View of the Grosvenor House on the right