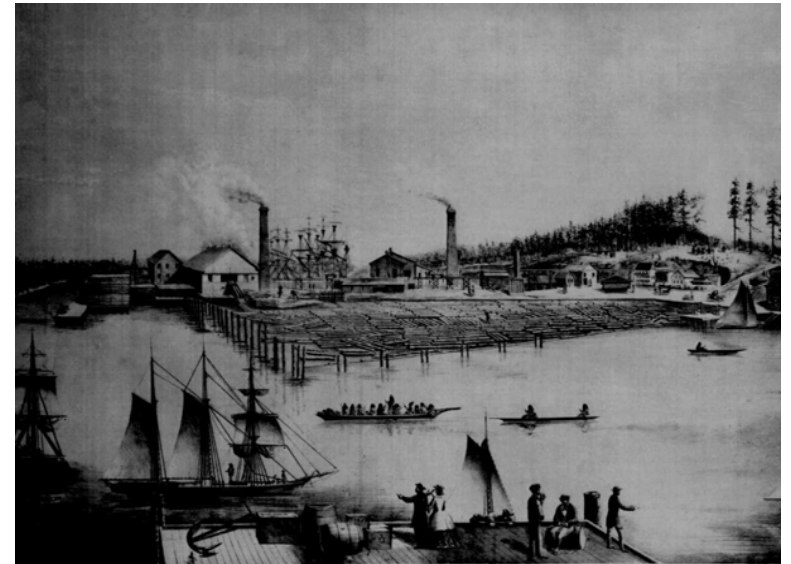


Walking Tour of Historic Port Gamble

A National Historic Landmark
Since 1966



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The sawmill that William Talbot and Andrew Pope founded on Gamble Bay in 1853 remained in operation until Dec. 1995. It was the longest continually operating mill in the United States at that time. Now, the mill is gone, but the little town that grew up around it gives visitors a chance to see how early lumbering communities looked and functioned.

Fewer than 1,000 settlers lived on the Sound in 1853, and most of them were busy felling enormous trees, or working in mills that sawed the logs into lumber for the San Francisco market. Their mills were built close to the water for easy transport, and their towns were built on the bluffs above. Their communities closely resembled the New England or Midwest Villages where they had been born. Steeped churches and gabled clapboard houses with steep roofs and picket fences were common, but these simple buildings were soon replaced with more updated and stylish structures when the rail tied the region to the East in the 1880's. Change moved slowly in Port Gamble because it was a company town. Some early buildings remained in use, and Pope & Talbot continued to construct many structures in a modified New England style.

Pope & Talbot was a leader in both lumbering and shipping. Prudent business practices helped the company weather severe economic downturns that bankrupted many of its competitors. It shipped Port Gamble lumber to Australia, Peru, England, Hawaii, and other points around the globe. It burned sawdust to power a "flouring" mill. It welcomed settlers throughout the region to shop at the town's general store, a particularly welcome source of income in the early years.



25

Rainier Garages
Built Unknown

Some of the garages were possibly built as cabins for unmarried men early in the twentieth century. They were later converted to garages as the need for cabins diminished.

This set of 3 garages were converted into a business in 2006.



26

Walker-Ames House
Built 1888—1889

The most elaborate dwelling in town. This was the resident manager's house. It's front door faces the bay because important visitors arrived by sea. It is Queen Anne-style architecture, popular on Puget Sound after railroad connections made it possible to purchase stained glass and intricate wood-work from Eastern mills. Wm. Walker's daughter Maude married Edwin Ames who served as resident manager from 1883-1914.



21

Automotive Repair & Service Station

Built 1920

One of the last structures erected in town, this building symbolizes the rise of the automobile which reduced the need for company towns after WWI.



22

Water Tanks

Built Unknown

The townsite might not be so intact without this pair of 50,000-gallon water tanks. These tanks and its predecessors likely played a role in limiting the spread of fire.



23

Meat & Produce Market

Built 1903

Fresh meat and produce raised by local farmers were sold here. The market closed in 1916 when the new store was built and its operations moved there. It was later converted into a garage.



24

Michael S. Drew House

Built 1870

As timber agent for Pope & Talbot, Drew bought so much land that the company became the largest owner of timber in Washington. Michael and Susan Drew lived here with their five children in 1880. The Drew family also built their house and paid the company an annual ground rent of \$1 per year.

Port Gamble residents first lived close to the shore, near the mill and blockhouse that offered protection from anticipated, but unrealized, attack. In 1858 Pope & Talbot platted a town on the bluff above the mill.

In 1875 the Puget Mill Company at Port Gamble was the largest holder of timberlands in the Washington Territory. In 1877 the Company bought the Utsalady mill on Camano Island and in 1878 it bought the prosperous mill at Port Ludlow.

Andrew Pope died in 1878, leaving Capt. Talbot with both mill sites to operate and manage. Wm. H Talbot came from San Francisco to help his father; and Cyrus Walker, the General Manager, took over in a single-handed style.

In 1881 William C. Talbot died. The Puget Mill Company at the time owned 4 sawmills, 4 tugs, 150,000 acres of timberland, 14 cargo/lumber ships and lands in Maine, San Francisco, Oregon and Washington Territory, and shipments of lumber went all over the world. Cyrus Walker managed everything, but never forgot where he began. "Port Gamble is my life," he was known to say.

Following the Alaskan Gold Rush of 1896 the company found married men to be the most reliable workers. They built rental houses, a school, and a church to attract men with families. Single men slept in company-owned cabins or dormitories and ate at the cookhouse.

In 1890 the company expanded the town westward, constructing a new neighborhood with dozens of houses for families arriving by rail.

The 1893 panic resulted in the demise of many small lumber mills. During this period, Puget Mill closed the Utsalady mill permanently and the hours were reduced at the Port Ludlow and Port Gamble mills.

In 1913, Cyrus Walker died in San Francisco. One of the nearby logging camps at Port Ludlow was named, *Camp Walker*, in his memory.

On October 14, 1925, the Puget Mill Company sold its entire holding to the Charles R. McCormick Lumber Company of Delaware. Although a Pope & Talbot representative always served on the board of directors, business practices during the McCormick ownership contrasted sharply with those of the past. McCormick Lumber spent \$3.3 million to upgrade the mill and rebuilt the mill on too large a scale in relation to the timber supply...this would come back to haunt them.

A nationwide economic depression began in 1929 and by 1932 the production in the timber industry was at its lowest since 1904. The McCormick Company permanently closed the mill in 1935. When McCormick Lumber eventually filed for bankruptcy, Pope & Talbot bought the



17



18



19



20

Houses for Married Workers

Built 1873

Houses 12, 14, 15, and 16 were apparently built to the same plan. They were likely erected by Pope & Talbot and rented to families at reasonable rates.

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

Built 1879

The church's steeple and original Congregational affiliation echo the New England origins of its founders. Pope & Talbot helped build and maintain the church to encourage church attendance.

James A. Thompson House

Built 1859

Thompson sharpened saws at the mill almost until the day of his death in 1911. James and his wife Sarah raised their family of five in this house. The Thompson family also built their house and paid the company an annual ground rent of \$1 per year.

Houses Moved From Port Ludlow

Built 1899—1901

The shallow slope of the roof and the windows of this bungalow-style house reveal it was built much later. This home plus others homes (16A, 20A, 31A, 31B and 39) were erected at Port Ludlow and barged to Port Gamble sometime in the 1920's.



13

Captain Daniel B. Jackson House
Built 1871

Jackson commanded Pope & Talbot's steamboat fleet and was the town's third postmaster. He built his house on company land and paid \$1 rent per year. In 1880 Jackson and his wife Mary lived here with three sons, two daughters, a daughter-in-law, three grandchildren, and a Chinese manservant.



14

Leo & Goldie Hammersmith House
Built 1918—1919

Leo came to Pope & Talbot from the Hammersmith Mill in Yelm, WA. Leo married Goldie on July 4, 1915, which was also Goldie's 18th birthday. Leo and Goldie had no children. Leo retired as mill manager in 1958, moved to Portland and passed away in 1961.



15

Captain William & Laura Gove House
Built 1873

By 1884, this master from Maine had seen more log tugboat service on the Puget Sound waters than any man living. He commanded the Favorite, the Yakima, the old Goliah, the Cyrus Walker, the Tyee, and the Wanderer.



16

Chuck & Pat Hirschi House
Built c. 1860's

Chuck worked to support his family after his father died, starting to work at the mill at the age of 16. He worked at the mill for 49 years, never taking a single day of sick leave. Best known for his gift of story telling and delivering moonshine that the family made, but his singing is what earned him his treasured nickname, "Ace in the Hole...."

company's Puget Sound assets in 1938 and regained control of the mill and town at Port Gamble, this time operating under the name Pope & Talbot.

The number of buildings at Port Gamble reached a peak of about 160 in the 1930's when the company barged more than two dozen homes from nearby Port Ludlow.

In the mid 1960's, Pope & Talbot recognized a rare opportunity in Port Gamble, to protect and preserve this small part of the past for future generations. Pope & Talbot rebuilt and restored 30 houses and buildings, located utilities underground and installed gas street lamps, replicas of the past. In 1966, Port Gamble was declared a National Historic Landmark. Eighty-five structures survive, allowing visitors to view a range of architecture popular in the Puget Sound region over a sixty-year period. The oldest, the Thompson House, was built in 1859. The "newest" is the automotive repair and gas station built in 1920. All buildings except the fire station and Masonic Lodge stand on their original sites.

On November 30, 1995, the mill whistle blew its last time in Port Gamble. Pope & Talbot made the decision to close the mill; until its closure, the mill was the oldest continuously operating mill in operation in North America.

1996 brought new life into the town of Port Gamble. Pope Resources reacquired the town and set about refurbishing it to its glory days. In this long-term commitment to Port Gamble, Olympic Property Group is in charge of maintaining the houses, buildings, all common lawn areas, cemetery, church, museum and the water/sewage treatment plants.

This is the long-term commitment that the founding fathers made to the ten men from Maine who trusted them enough to make that first journey.

Today Port Gamble is still a company town. The family homes are available for lease, as are company offices. The quaint New England church is the site of many destination weddings, along with the new outdoor Hood Canal Vista Pavilion. The rolling green spaces host the Medieval Fair, Old Mill Days and the Civil War Re-enactment in June, the North Kitsap Arts & Crafts Festival in July, and a host of other local events throughout the year. Check our web page for an up-to-date listing on rentals, weddings or events at www.portgamble.com or call us for more information at 360.297.8074.



9

Masonic Lodge
Built 1871—1872

Reportedly the oldest surviving Masonic hall in Washington, it is still used today by Masons and Eastern Star. Built where the general store stands today, the lodge was moved here in 1907.



10

New York House
Built 1863

Originally the company Guest house, it long served as hospital, office, and home for the town's resident physician. The origin of the house's name is lost, but historic documents reveal that in 1860 and in 1878 the resident physician was from New York.



11

Clarence R. & Lulu (Hovey) Cranmer House
Built 1890

Clarence was a past Master of the Franklin Lodge in 1896. Lulu died at the age of 32 on June 15, 1904 and is buried in the Port Gamble Cemetery.



12

Morrill Pope House
Built 1900—1901

This house was barged over from Port Ludlow after 1929. At Port Ludlow, this house was Morrill Pope's house, who was supervisor of the mill. This house replaces the earlier John Seavey house that had stood here since 1870.



5

Puget Hotel Stable
Built 1906—1907

It was built in 1907 to serve guests at the company's Puget Hotel. The stable's use for its intended purpose was short lived since by 1920 the horses were retired and automobiles were stored there. By 1946 the building housed the company's maintenance shop, and around 1953 served at least briefly as a fire station. Today, the building is still used as the company maintenance shop.



6

Duplex
Built 1918—1919

The building was constructed as a "Girls Dormitory in connection with the Puget Hotel," and was likely situated some distance from other dwellings in a paternalistic effort to protect single female workers. Chinese came to Port Gamble about 1870 and worked as laborers, timekeepers, cooks, servants, and laundrymen. The Chinese lived in this house in the 1920s and 1930s.



7

Community Center/Post Office
Built 1906

Designed by Seattle architects Bebb & Mendel. A barber, doctor, dentist, and post master served residents here. On the 2nd floor dances, plays, movies, and basketball games entertained them. The theater also served as a meeting hall for the mill employees and gatherings for the children at Christmas.



8

Fire Hall
Built Unknown

The fire station building, its origin uncertain, was apparently installed or moved between the Masonic lodge and the community hall sometime between 1929 and 1956. The mill workers acted as a volunteer fire department for the mill and town. The building was converted to a commercial use in 2001.



1

Port Gamble General Store
Built 1916

The first building was constructed in 1853 on the mill site, a "rough structure" built of lumber shipped from Maine and shingled with cedar split cut nearby. Employees picked up paychecks at the office. The store sold coffee, pickles, boots, crockery, brooms, windows, toys, gloves, tools and other goods to employees, settlers, sailors, loggers, and the S'Klallam tribe. The current building is the 5th store building.



2

Viewing Platform

Hood Canal is where ships heavy with lumber headed for distant ports. The mill stood below on Gamble Bay's western shore. The S'Klallam lived across the bay at Little Boston and commuted to the mill, first by canoe, later by row boat, finally by car.



3

Puget Hotel
Built 1903

Was designed by the Seattle firm of Boone & Corner and "run in a first-class manner." The Hotel had 52 rooms, plus the Paul Bunyun room, Blue Ox Tavern, and soda fountain. The Hotel was damaged during the Columbus Day storm of 1962 and eventually torn down in 1963.



4

Buena Vista Cemetery

The cemetery contains 115 known graves of individuals from ten countries. It is also the burial site of Gustav Englebrecht, first US Navy person killed in action in the Pacific.