

Hammond Area Plan

Early History of Hammond

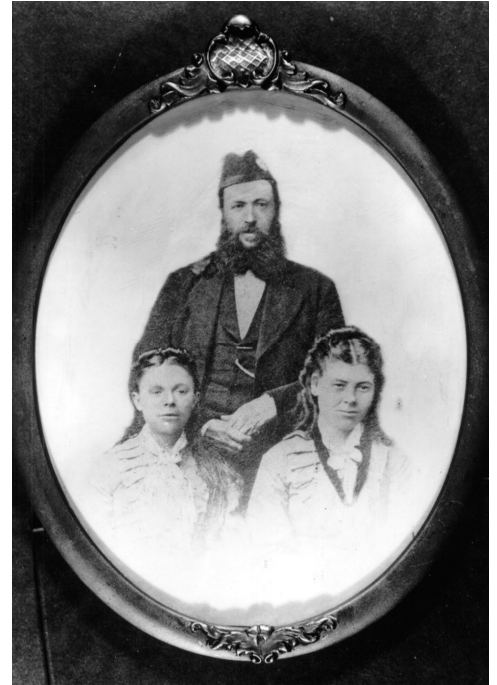


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Prior to settlement, the area we know today as Hammond was one of five Katzie communities located in various areas of southwestern British Columbia. Settlement in this area of Maple Ridge began in the 1860's and was referred to as "Katzie" prior to it being a registered township.

The first settlement began in the year 1860 when the first Pre-emption act was promulgated by Governor Douglas on January 4th, and provided for the granting of rights to un-surveyed crown lands to an extent not exceeding 160 acres, at a purchase price not exceeding two dollars and fifty cents per acre. In the same year, my father, John McIver, returned from the service of the Hudson Bay Company, whom he had served for eight years took up 160 acres, part of which is where we are today. The beautiful home and grounds of the present Hartnell home is located on part of it.

John McIver (written in 1933, Published in The Gazette, 1958)



Above Photo: The original John McIver posed with his wife and sister (1890) on a trip back to Scotland.
Maple Ridge Archives—P00615



Photo at Left: Doan Hartnell, owner of Hammond Mill built this house overlooking the Fraser River (1925).
Maple Ridge Archives—P00633

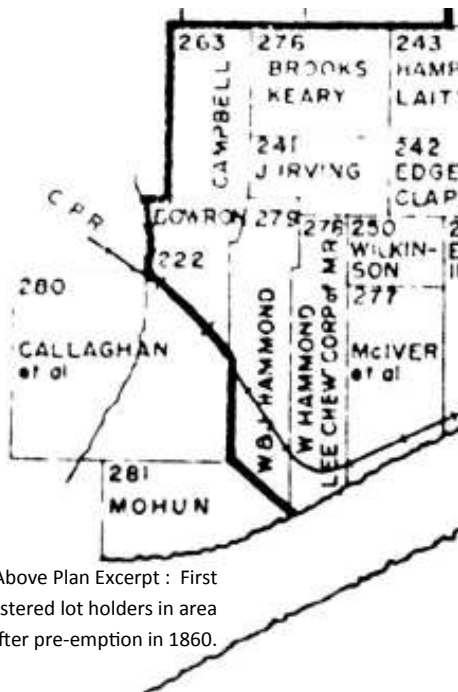
In his 1933 notes John McIver described the area during early settlement as "heavily timbered down to the river's edge". The Fraser River was the major travel route, transporting people and goods. During particularly cold winters the river would freeze and prevent travel until it thawed.



Above Photo: Looking east along the Fraser River from Hammond (1924-1928).
Maple Ridge Archives—P00331

The Hammond brothers, William (aged 19) and John (aged 22) arrived in the area from Fenstanton England in 1862. Ten years later, they pre-empted the land that they would eventually donate to the future town of Port Hammond. Most of the lower portion of Hammond, shown southwest from the railway on the plan below, was donated by Emmeline Mohun. Edward Mohun, Emmeline's husband, drafted the town layout. Construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway line, station and yards began in 1882 and in August 1883 the township of Port Hammond Junction was registered in the New Westminster Court House.

The Hammond brothers donated several acres of land to the CPR on the condition that the first railway station in Maple Ridge would be in Hammond. Labourers flocked to the area during railway construction, which included Chinese immigrants, and Hammond became a tent town overnight. In these early years, Port Hammond Junction also served as a supply depot and headquarters for railway construction and the town continued to grow with businesses, such as hotels and bars, in response to the influx of labourers and industry.



Above Plan Excerpt : First registered lot holders in area after pre-emption in 1860.

The year of 1885 was a big one with the opening of the Hammond Post Office and completion of the Hammond Station. The first train pulled into Hammond in November 1885 and for many years after, the CPR continued to employ many of the labourers who helped construct the railway as section hands.

The opening of the railway expanded the transportation network year-round and put Port Hammond Junction on the map. The railway was extended further west to Vancouver (known as Granville at the time) in 1887.



Above Plan: Copy of town Plan that was registered in 1883, showing the street grid pattern. Most of that pattern still exists today.

Maple Ridge Archives



Photo at Left: Hammond Station with hand car on the tracks (1899).

Maple Ridge Archives— P03849

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