

Celtic Cannery

Built by the Welch Bros., Celtic Cannery opened in 1897 and in 1902, BC Packers purchased Celtic Island and Deering Island to form Celtic Shipyards. About 25 Japanese families employed in the fishing industry resided in single family homes on the north and south shores of Celtic Island and on Middle Island, known today as Deering Island. A vibrant community developed and remained until their forcible and unjust removal in 1942 from the BC Coast. Celtic continued to provide moorage and ship maintenance service throughout the 20th century. In 1950 the Celtic Cannery building and numerous fishing boats burned down in a waterfront fire. A board and batten net storage and drying shed destroyed by fire in 1995 was the last evidence of the once thriving Japanese community.

In memory of the presence of Kwanichi and Natsu Sasaki and the many other Issei and Nisei families who contributed to the success of the Celtic community.



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