

February 13, 2007

To: File

From: Steve Teel, TCP/SWRO 887

**Re: Summary of PLP Search and Site History
Former Irondale Iron and Steel Plant
562 Moore Street East, Irondale, Washington**

The Former Irondale Iron and Steel Plant produced iron and/or steel intermittently from 1881 to 1919 (Britton, 1991; Roe, 1995). Owner/operators of the plant during this period consisted of the Puget Sound Iron Company of Washington Territory (1879-1882), Puget Sound Iron Company of California (1882-1889), Pacific Steel Company (1901-1904), Seattle Iron and Steel Company (1903-1904), Irondale Furnace Company (1906-1908), Irondale Steel Company (1908-1909), Western Steel Company (1909-1913), and Pacific Coast Steel Company of Seattle (1914-1919).

The following table summarizes the status of the above operators:

Corporate Status of Irondale Iron and Steam Plant Owner/Operators 1879-1919			
Owner/Operator	Years Operated	Status	Source of Status
Puget Sound Iron Company of Washington Territory	1879-1882	Transferred to Puget Sound Iron Company of California.	Britton, 1991
Puget Sound Iron Company of California	1882-1889	Not registered in the State after 8/23/1909. Dissolved from Records as a Corporation on 7/1/23.	WA Office of the Secretary of State
Pacific Steel Company	1901-1904	Transferred to Seattle Iron and Steel Company	Britton, 1991
Seattle Iron and Steel Company	1903-1904	Sold to Irondale Furnace Company at a Receiver's Auction	Britton, 1991
Irondale Furnace Company	1906-1908	Transferred to Irondale Steel Company	Britton, 1991
Irondale Steel Company	1908-1909	Transferred to Western Steel Company	Britton, 1991
Western Steel Company	1909-1913	Involuntary Bankruptcy	Britton, 1991
Pacific Coast Steel Company of Seattle (mill operator)	1914-1919	Dissolved from Records as a Corporation on 7/1/23.	WA Office of the Secretary of State

I checked with the Washington Secretary of State's Office on January 11, 2007 (see attached e-mail). They responded to me by phone on the same day with the answers to my questions (shown in the above table).

Chain-of-Title information was obtained from Jefferson County Public Works. A summary is as follows:

- State of Washington to Puget Sound Iron Co.: March 8, 1893
- Irondale Furnace Company to Irondale Steel Corporation. August 25, 1909
- James A. Moore, a widower, to Irondale Steel Co.: October 20, 1909
- Irondale Steel Co. to Western Steel Co.: November 10, 1909 and January 8, 1910
- A.I. Smith to Western Steel Corporation: November 17, 1909
- Robert Campbell Kerr to Moore Investment Company: November 23, 1909
- Moore Investment Company to Western Steel Corporation: January 8, 1910
- M.A. Willison, G. Willison, and N.F. Willison to Western Steel Corp.: February 14, 1910 and April 26, 1910
- N.F. Willison to Western Steel Corp.: March 10, 1910
- Western Steel Corporation to Western Horseshoe Manufacturing Company: August 11, 1911
- Western Steel Co. to Metropolitan Trust Co.: March 25, 1912 and December 19, 1913
- Metropolitan Trust Co. to Occidental Steel Co.: August 15, 1912
- State of Washington to Western Steel Corporation: February 27, 1914
- Occidental Steel Co. to Pacific Coast Steel Co. (a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of California): July 9, 1914
- J.A. McGuire, Sheriff to G.B. Van Norman and M.L. Fox: November 19, 1914
- M.L. Fox and K. Fox to American Trades and Savings Bank: January 7, 1918
- Western Horseshoe Mortgage Co. to B.C. Wait, C.E. Kurth, and American Trades and Savings Bank: July 13, 1929
- American Trades and Savings Bank to Booth Fisheries Company: August 19, 1929
- Pacific Coast Steel Company and Bethlehem Steel Company to Pacific Coast Steel Corporation: March 14, 1930
- Bethlehem Steel Corporation (a Delaware corporation and the former corporate name of Pacific Coast Steel Corporation) to Bethlehem Steel Company (a Pennsylvania corporation): December 29, 1936.
- Bethlehem Steel Company (a Pennsylvania corporation) to Sam Henderson: June 8, 1939.
- Robert P. Fletcher, Jr., not individually but solely as Trustee in Bankruptcy of the Estate of Booth Fisheries Company, a Delaware corporation to Booth Fisheries Corporation, a Delaware corporation: August 8, 1939
- Booth Fisheries Corporation to H.F. Haines: August 31, 1939
- Sam Henderson to Capt. H. F. Haines: October 21, 1939.

- Capt. H. F. Haines to Cotton Engineering and Shipbuilding Corporation: January 12, 1943.
- Cotton Family Limited Partnership, a Washington limited partnership to Jefferson County, a municipal corporation: December 30, 2002

Historical Notes

According to Britton (1991, p. 85) two oil-fired 20 ton capacity open hearth furnaces were installed at the site in the summer of 1909. In the spring of 1910, the first fuel oil shipment arrived at the plant and was transferred into a “steel-lined concrete tank with a six thousand-barrel capacity located just south of the blast furnace area” (Britton, 1991, p. 88).

Bethlehem Steel Corporation was dissolved in 2003 following its 2001 bankruptcy.

Cotton Engineering and Shipbuilding was not listed in the 1941 Port Townsend phone book. It is shown in the 1952, 1953, 1954, and 1958 phone books at an address of 126 Madison. The 1952 Metsker’s Atlas for Jefferson County shows that H. Cotton and Myrtle Cotton owned several parcels in Port Townsend in addition to the Irondale site. Cotton Engineering and Shipbuilding does not appear in the 1961 phone book. According to the Office of the Secretary of State, Cotton Engineering and Shipbuilding changed its name to “Cotton Corporation” in 1962 and their corporation license expired in 2002.

The only known commercial use for the former steel mill site after the mill shut down in 1919 was as a log storage yard by the Port Townsend Paper Company. Logs were stored at the site from about 1977 to 1999 (JCHHS, 2001).

References

Britton, D. F., 1991, The Iron and Steel Industry in the Far West, Irondale, Washington, University Press of Colorado, Niwot, Colorado.

JCHHS (Jefferson County Health and Human Services), 2001, Site Hazard Assessment.

Roe, J., 1995, “Chapter 8, Irondale” *in*: Ghost Camps and Boom Towns, Montevista Press, Bellingham, Washington.