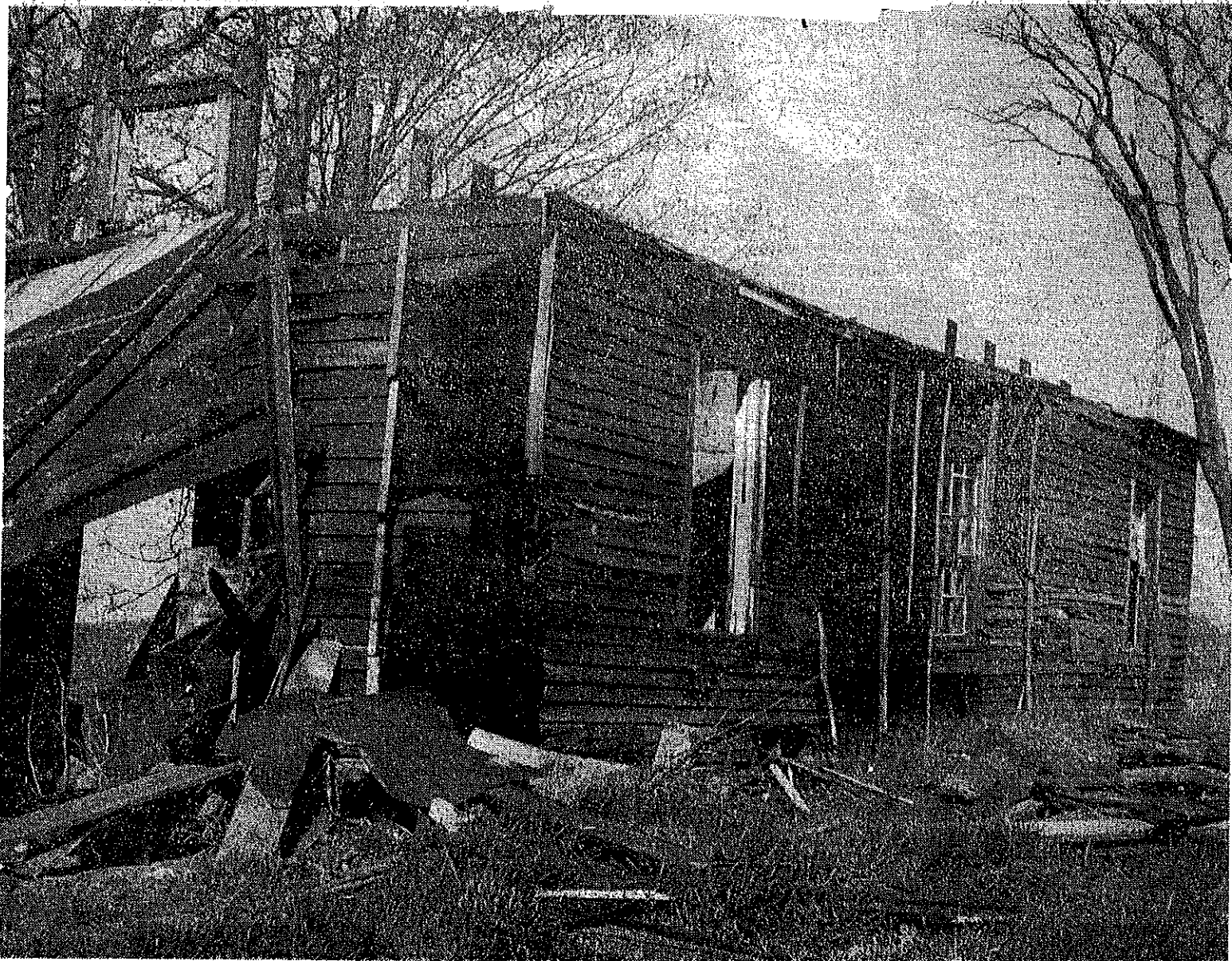


MISSION SCHOOL 1852

**LOCATED ON BLUFF NEAR THE CORNER OF
SPRING & PORTER STREETS**

PETOSKEY, EMMET COUNTY, MICHIGAN

HISTORICAL FIRST BUILDING IN PETOSKEY IS TORN DOWN



Petoskey's first building; the old Mission School located on the bluff near the corner of Spring and Porter streets was razed last weekend to make way for construction of a new addition

to the city now under way. The above photo was taken just before workmen tore down the south wall.

New Addition is Started At Mission Site

By Tom Warren

The first building in Petoskey, erected in 1852, was torn down last week to make space for the first home of a 35-home 1951 addition to the city. Plans for the new sub-division will be submitted to the City Council at the next meeting by Earnest W. Priebe, present owner of the land.

The 1951 edition home will pose a striking contrast to the mission home which still stands on Porter Street just off US-131

During the process of tearing down the old structure, several links with the past were uncovered.

Among the debris of the half-dismantled building were found nearly a half-dozen pairs of old, handmade shoes, believed to have been made by the locality's first cobbler, James Bartlett.

Extracted from Northern Michigan Review, dated May 15, 17, 1951

Hand-hewn rafters and foundations, requiring many hours of patient craftsmanship to complete made up the framework of the building. Several newer sections had been added to this original building but neither weathered the years so well as the main portion of the old structure.

Though several reasons have been offered for the Mission school being erected where it was, it is believed that Rev. Peter Dougherty selected the site during the winter of 1851-52 because of a nearby spring.

Early in the spring of 1852, Andrew Porter arrived at the site overlooking the bay and Chippewa and Ottawa Indian encampments in the valley below.

Lumber for the buildings was sent from the mill on Grand Traverse Bay near the Old Mission by Dougherty.

Transporting the building material proved to be a major problem for the pioneer. The road cleared through the dense woods, was too rough with stubbles to permit transportation of the heavy cargo.

Indians offered their services and are said to have carried over half of the wood supplies from where they were unloaded from boats to the building site. The remainder was carried on pony-drawn carts.



Mrs. Arthur Hinkley, 617 Porter Street, holds one of the old shoes found in the debris. This shoe is believed to have been made by a James Bartlett, the first cobbler to settle here, according to Mrs. Hinkley who is a direct descendant of Andrew Porter. The shoe was entirely hand stitched and the soles were pegged.

Mrs. Arthur Hinkley of 617 Porter Street who now lives in the old Porter home and is a descendant of the Jarman's who followed Porter at the Mission, states that when Andrew Porter returned to Pennsylvania after the Mission school was built he left instructions with the Indians that a spot should be cleared for the house.

When he returned from his trip, he found one tree standing on the high bluff from the thousands of virgin trees that he had left there a short time before. The tree, well over 100 years old, was removed by Hinkley last year. It had rotted and became dangerous.

The Mission home was completed during the same summer. It housed Mr. and Mrs. Porter and his mother, Ann.

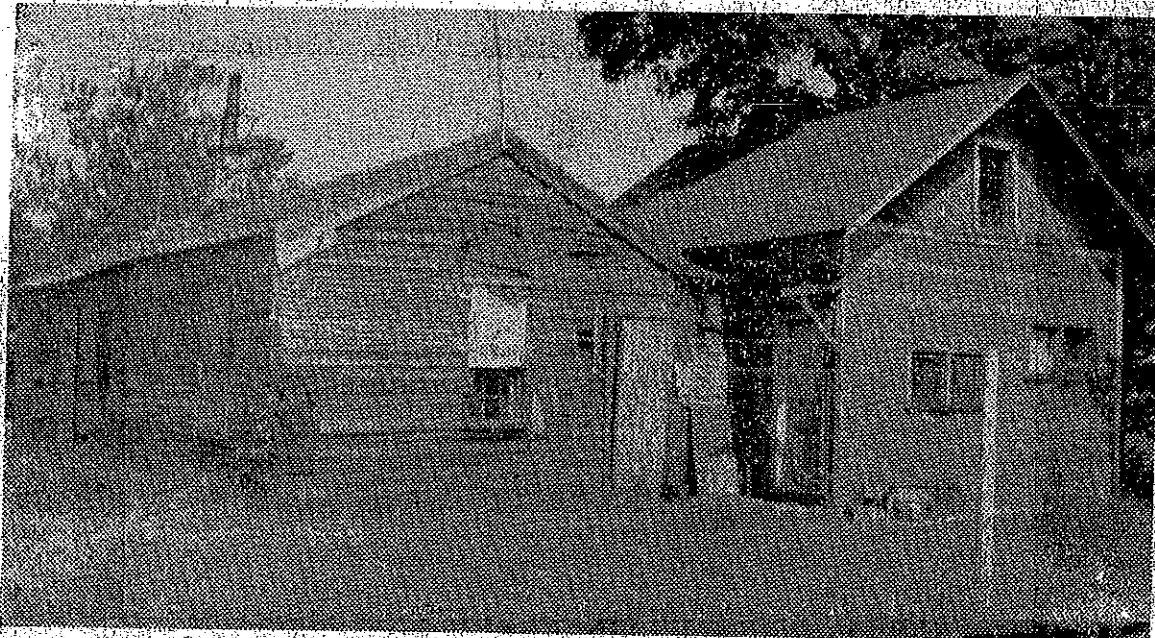
Porter taught the Indians for over 20 years at the mission school, led them and serving as postmaster for the area. During this 20 year period, in 1867, his mother died and fellow citizens began to make their way to the region. By 1873, his work as a missionary was finished.

Nathan Jarman, a close personal friend, moving from Pine Lake, stopped for the night to see Porter who persuaded him to farm his 100 acres which now lies within the city of Petoskey.

Porter and his wife moved on but the Jarman and Porter families were joined by the marriage of Ruben Porter to Sarah Jarman who remained in Petoskey.

In the following years, Jarman's wife continued as teacher to the Indians but the school ceased to hold the importance it formerly held as other schools sprang up in the growing community.

City's 99 Year Old First School Razed



PETOSKEY'S FIRST SCHOOL (left) has been torn down to make way for progress just a year before the city's centennial celebration. Miss Harriet Kilborn, chairman of the centennial committee has been trying to salvage a few relics or boards for the celebration and for the future.

Several years after the departure of Andrew Porter, the kitchen and wood range replaced the bench and school books as the mission school became a home and continued in that capacity until it was razed last week.

Elizabeth Jarman, the last of the family to live at the mission school, died about 25 years ago, ending the Jarman reign at the mission.

Modern civilization made its first encroachment on the old building about a quarter of a century ago when electricity was installed, Mrs. Hinkley said. Before the installation Aunt Lizzie, as Elizabeth Jarman was known to the family, used to visit the Porter home to read her newspapers, Mrs. Hinkley added.

Running water was piped into the old mission school about the same time, Mr. Hinkley said, but he could not give the exact year.

Petoskey's closed link to its founding origin now becomes the Porter residence which still remains in excellent condition despite its near 99 years of usage.

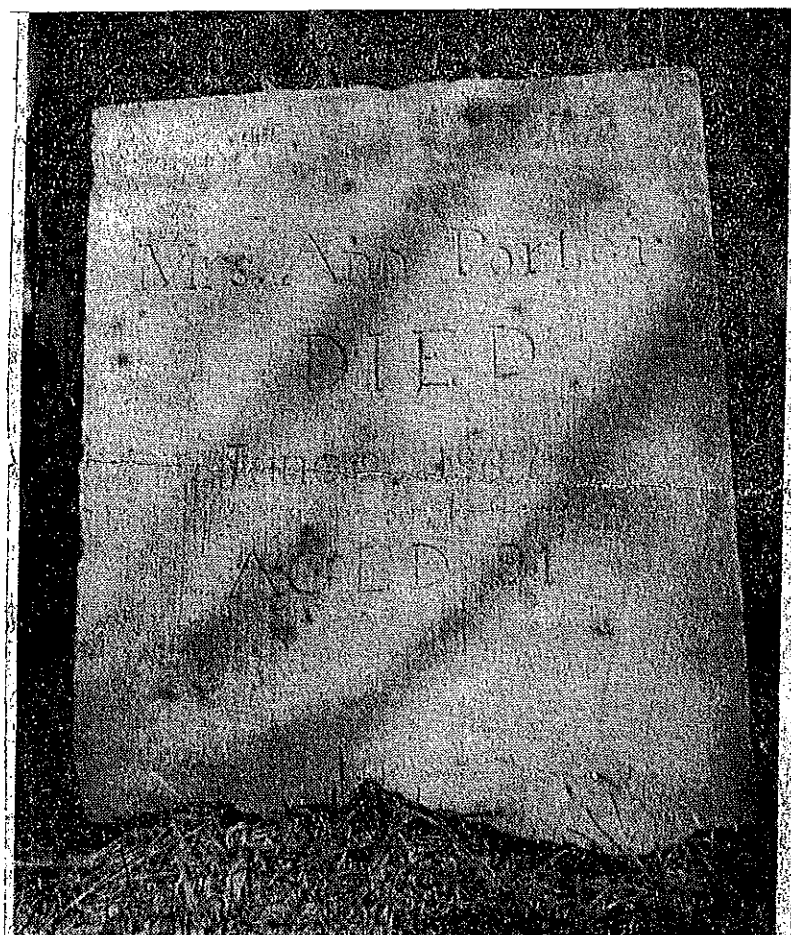
Like the school only a portion of the building as it now stands was erected by Porter and his Indian craftsmen.

To these who consider things of the past sacred, it was a staggering blow to see the nucleus of Petoskey's birth being cast aside for progress.

The new restricted addition to the city will share only the view of the bay with the past. That portion of the past connected with the old mission school is dead.

The school was built by the Rev. Andrew Porter, pioneer Presbyterian missionary to Petoskey. According to records with Miss Kilborn the mission station was occupied June 1, 1852 and the school was opened for Indians in October of that last year. There were only a few white families in the entire area at the time.

It wasn't until 1876 that the first public school was opened and 173 pupils were enrolled during the year. This was three years after the railroad and 24 years after the mission school was established on Porter-st, just off U.S. 131.



One of the relics found years ago on the site of the first cemetery behind The old mission house is the above tombstone that marked the grave of Mrs. Ann Porter, mother of Andrew Porter. The stone, made of lime rock is still in excellent condition. Mrs. Hinkley said that when Mrs. Porter died she was buried in a hand-made casket constructed of pine and lined inside and out with birch bark. At the turn of the century when the graves were removed to the present location in Greenwood Cemetery, the casket was found to be in excellent condition.

{All Evening News photos by Fred Lovelace

**TOMBSTONE
Mrs. Ann Porter
DIED
June 12, 1867
AGED 91**