

Portage Park Resort and Additions

8. Portage Park Resort and Additions, Portage Point north of and including Outlet Avenue; North Point and along the northern shores of Portage Lake

Cemeetery at
Old Portage
(Location
Unknown)



The area where the settlement of Portage was located was included in Manistee Township at the time of Manistee County's organization in 1855. Onkama Township became a separate entity in 1867. After several parties had owned the enterprise at Portage, a land contract

was issued in 1866 for the mill's sale to Porter and Bates, which later became Porter and Company of Chicago. To harness the swift waters of Portage Creek to operate the water-powered mill and to facilitate the floating of the logs to it, a dam had been erected causing the waters of Portage Lake to rise higher and higher. The water level of Portage Lake would fluctuate, often as much as 5 or 6 feet, flooding the lands of those people residing and/or farming around the Lake. Also, Porter and Company would not allow these settlers without paying a heavy toll to use the bridge pier that was built out into Lake Michigan just north of the present location of the Sunset House on the Lakeisle Avenue Road End just west of Lakeside Avenue.



Early
Sunset
House

Some Early Portage Park Views



8793 (Upper) and 8817 (Lower) South Portage Point Drive

So, the homesteaders dug in 1871 what became the Channel that lowered the level of Portage Lake. The lowering of the Lake left high and dry 3,000,000 feet of logs and caused the closing of the water-powered mill. Augustine W. Farr in 1870 had become the general agent and manager of the Portage Mills for Porter and Company. In



Early
Portage Park
Name Signs

1882, a couple of years after the steam-powered mill was moved to the present-day Onekama, Farr purchased the property. The original Portage Park Resort was platted in 1915, after the Northern Michigan Transportation Company acquired the property from Farr by a land contract issued in 1909.

The plat for Portage Park Addition was recorded in 1917 and included land east of Portage Park along the Portage Lake shoreline. The plat for Portage Park Addition No. 1 was filed in 1921; it included more land along Lake Michigan as well as north of Portage Point Drive.

8775 Norwood
Avenue





8876
Lakeside
Avenue