

Steamer Wharf

When the railway went through in 1892, a steamer wharf was constructed and the community became the railhead and coastal boat terminal for Bonavista Bay.

The 439-ton Dundee was built by A. & J. Inglis at Glasgow, Scotland in 1900 and registered in Newfoundland in the same year. The S.S. Dundee was the fourth ship in the Reid Newfoundland Company's Alphabet Fleet, a group of coastal boats that serviced Newfoundland and Labrador during the early 1900's. It carried mail and passengers around Bonavista Bay and to points north from its home port in Clode Sound, later renamed Port Blandford after her first master, Captain Darius Blandford.

Port Blandford's steamer wharf was equipped with rails which allowed trains to load and unload directly onto boats. After the death of Captain Blandford in 1917, Dundee was mastered by Captain George Blackmore until Christmas Day 1919, when it went aground in Notre Dame Bay. The passengers and crew were stranded on the ship for two days because heavy seas and slob ice made rescue impossible. On the second day, when the ship began to take on water, the S.S. Clyde was able to reach the floundering Dundee and remove the passengers and crew before the ship sank.

With the building of the Bonavista Branch Line the coastal boat's importance diminished, and the steamer wharf was eventually removed in the 1950's.

