

Heritage Park Museum

General Information

Type of Resource: Municipal heritage site including several historic buildings

Also Known As: Heritage Park

Civic Address: 4702 Kerby Avenue

Legal Property Description: Lot 4, DL 837, Plan 965, Except Plans 1610, 10644 and 12584

Property Identifier: 014-089-815

Construction Date: 1983

Current Owner: City of Terrace

Community Heritage Register: Resolution No. 054-2006

Designated Municipal Heritage Site: Heritage Designation Bylaw No. 1516-1996



Statement of Significance

Description of Historic Place

This recognition applies to the land as well as the buildings, structures, garden and physical landscape within the boundaries of Heritage Park Museum. Heritage Park Museum is located on 1.73 acres of municipal park lands adjacent to a community park and a seniors' care facility within a residential neighbourhood north of downtown Terrace. The structures at Heritage Park Museum include eight historic log buildings dating from 1910 through 1930, a large post and beam artefact storage shed, an open-fronted post and beam wagon shed, a replica school house and a replica blacksmith shop. The museum property and its collection of historic log structures are designated as a municipal heritage site.

Heritage Value of Historic Place

The collection of original log structures at Heritage Park Museum has heritage value because it offers an example of historic log building techniques. This collection is exemplary of the styles of construction that were employed by newcomers to the Terrace region when they first settled on land. The log buildings at Heritage Park Museum were relocated to the museum site from homesteads in the Terrace region.

The collection of artefacts at Heritage Park Museum are of significant value because they offer a rare glimpse into the social and economic life of Terrace from early British, European and Chinese settlement through to the 1960s. Historical aspects of trapping, mining, farming, logging and general homesteading are all represented at Heritage Park Museum through interpretation of the artefact collection.

A small heritage garden at Heritage Park Museum has value because it supports a variety of plants that came from homesteads in the region. There are a number of ornamental plants and fruit trees scattered throughout the 1.73 acres which were donated by families that arrived in Terrace during its inception. These natural elements provide a valuable link to the original farming and homesteading past of Terrace.

The museum's location also has significant heritage value due to the connection of this property with the First and Second World War's. In response to the threat of Japanese invasion along the northwest coast of British Columbia during World War II army personnel were dispatched to the communities of Terrace and Prince Rupert. Significant infrastructure projects, such as roads, sewer systems and hospitals, were built by the Canadian government during the war effort. The location where Heritage Park Museum now stands was the site of a large military hospital constructed in the 1940s. This hospital was established to treat casualties in the event a Japanese invasion occurred along the coast. Following the war years the hospital was used as a home for the aged. In the 1950s, elderly First World War veterans were transferred to this hospital from Essondale Mental Hospital in Coquitlam, B.C.

The City of Terrace has placed a time capsule at Heritage Park Museum. This time capsule contains items representative of the community on its 75th anniversary in 2003. It is intended that the time capsule will be opened in 2078 on the event of the city's 150th birthday. This item is valued by the community because it commemorates Terrace as it was in 2003 with the intention of providing historical information to citizens seventy-five years from now. It shows a concerted effort on the community's part to ensure that a piece of history is recorded and preserved for future generations.

Character Defining Elements

The key elements that relate to the heritage value of Heritage Park Museum include the:

- eight historic and authentic log buildings:
 - I. Belway Mining Cabin (1910)
 - II. Fred Hampton Barn (1912)
 - III. Homesteader Cabin (1914)
 - IV. Lineman's Cabin (1919)
 - V. Kalum Lake Hotel (1920)
 - VI. Bruce Johnstone Cabin (1921)
 - VII. Dix's Dance Hall (1925)
 - VIII. Trapper's Cabin (1930)
- collection of artefacts housed in the buildings at the Museum
- heritage garden and heritage plants located on the museum grounds
- land where the museum is located was a former WWII Hospital site
- time capsule placed at the site

Additional History Information Heritage Park Museum

History

Heritage Park Museum was established in 1983 by a group of community volunteers lead by Fred and Mamie Kerby. This group acquired several historic log structures from the surrounding Terrace area. The City of Terrace provided a site on municipal park lands to establish the museum. The individual buildings were dismantled, transported and reassembled at their current location forming the museum's collection of log buildings. These log structures are directly linked to the early years of settlement in the Terrace region and are representative of the construction techniques and styles of the period, which utilized the abundant natural resources available to the early settlers in the northwest.

The **Belway Mining Cabin** was moved from a location 31 km north of Terrace on the northeast corner of Kalum Lake, in the vicinity of Wesach Creek. This cabin is the oldest building at Heritage Park Museum. It was built in 1910 as part of Joe Belway's mining endeavours and is typical of cabins that were built with basic hand tools such as the axe, broad-axe, hammer and saw.

The **Fred Hampton Barn** was built in 1912 and was located approximately 4.5 km north of Terrace and was relocated to the museum site by helicopter. This barn is a sturdy structure essential for homesteading and was owned by an English immigrant named Fred Hampton.

Tom Conroy built the **Homesteader Cabin** in 1914 in hopes of attracting a wife to his homestead located in the vicinity of Rosswood, 31 kilometres north of Terrace. Ironically, after constructing such a fine two-storey home Mr. Conroy never did marry.

The **Lineman's Cabin** was built in 1919 and was representative of the cabins that provided overnight accommodation for the workers who patrolled the Dominion Telegraph Company's branch line north to Anyox, BC. These cabins were placed about a one day walk from one another along the trail so that workers had somewhere to stay for the night.

The **Kalum Lake Hotel** was originally located 22.5 km north of Terrace and was built by George Cobb in 1920. Mr. Cobb originally intended the building to be a roadhouse for workers who were travelling north to mine or log. Later the building was purchased by a couple from Florida, Everett and Ethel Dix who operated it as a hotel through the depression years. They promoted it as a wilderness lodge and catered to American anglers and hunters.

The **Bruce Johnstone Cabin** was built in 1921 by Albert and Ted Johnston. They built this structure for Bruce Johnstone on his hotel property at the hot springs located on the southern shore of Lakelse Lake. This building was constructed as a barn and was later converted to a residential use.

Dix's Dance Hall, built in 1925, was located 22.5 km north of Terrace on the southern shore of Kalum Lake beside the Kalum Lake Hotel. This building was used as a community gathering place for picnics and Saturday night dances. This building is unique as it is the only building on the museum site that was built by placing the logs vertically. This allowed the use of shorter timber materials and avoided the time consuming task of constructing corner notches.

The **Trapper's Cabin** is the final historical log structure in the collection at Heritage Park Museum. This small cabin was built by Paul Schulte in 1930 and was used as a warm and dry place to overnight while running isolated trap lines. The original location of the cabin was near Deep Creek, approximately 7 kilometres north of Terrace.