

Statement of Significance

Original location: shore of Howser (Duncan) Lake.

Current location: Meadow Creek Museum, 13435 Highway 31, Meadow Creek, BC



Billy Clark with bear skin outside the cabin. *source: Lardeau Valley Historical Society*

Description of Historic Place

The Billy Clark Cabin is a pioneer log cabin with shingled gables originally built on the shore of Duncan Lake, BC and moved to its current location at the Meadow Creek Museum in 2009.

Heritage Values of Historic Place

BC pioneer, Billy Clark, immigrated from England in 1907 and settled at the foot of Duncan Lake at Howser where he built the subject cabin in 1919. Its heritage value lies in the fact that the cabin is the one tangible artifact that survived the flooding of the lake and valley by the Duncan Dam and is valued as a key connection to the area's pre-1960s pioneer life that disappeared with the dam construction.

The cabin, rescued from Howser shortly before flooding of the reservoir behind Duncan Dam in 1966, was moved to the Meadow Creek "Clay Pits" where it was to serve as a warming-hut for a planned small-scale ski-hill. When the proposed ski-hill plans fell-through, the cabin remained at the Clay Pits until it was moved to the Meadow Creek Museum grounds in 2009. With its relocation to the museum, social and cultural value is added for its interpretive role at the museum illustrating a key period and way of life of the surrounding area.

Character Defining Elements

The elements that define the Billy Clark Cabin are:

- the form, scale and massing of a one room log cabin
- its traditional log construction with cement chinking between the logs
- original window and door openings with trim
- gables with square-cut shingles
- original roof structure under later modifications
- horizontal planks on two interior walls
- railroad spike in one of the logs

Current Photographs



Top left: showing end elevation of the cabin with the door which would have accessed the lean-to addition seen in historic photographs

Top right: showing opposite end elevation with window opening

Bottom: - side elevation with door and two side windows

Half of the original roof remains clad with metal panels



Top: showing side elevation and large opening created when the cabin was adapted as a warming hut for the proposed ski hill, this replaced a small window opening

Bottom left: showing intersection of logs at the corner of the cabin

Bottom middle: - showing gable shingles, closed soffit and trim board

Bottom right: cement chinking between the logs and railroad spike

Archival Photographs



Billy Clark's cabin at Howser on the shore of Duncan Lake.

Billy Clark's cabin at Duncan Lake

Top: the cabin on the lake shore.
source: Lardeau Valley Historical Society

Right: the original door and side windows
and the square beams the cabin supporting
the cabin.

*source: Touchstones Nelson Archives
WALLACE4091*





Above: Billy Clark at his cabin in the 1930s showing the door with side windows, shingled gable ends and shingled roof. Note the lack of fascia boards which were a later addition. source: BC Archives 193501-001

Left: the cabin in winter.

source: *Lardeau Valley Historical Society*



Left: Billy Clark and Hatfield with bear skins. The photo shows the gable end and earth platform the cabin sat on.

below: Billy Clark and Harry Tomlinson outside the cabin in 1932.

sources: Lardeau Valley Historical Society



Billy Clark inside his cabin. Before relocation the interior walls were clad in horizontal boards. Visible in these mid-century photos is sheet of transparent plastic on the walls held up by vertical wood strips. *sources: Lardeau Valley Historical Society*

