

Statement of Significance

Description of Historic Place

The Vallican Heritage Hall is a single storey decommissioned vernacular school house set on a large lot facing Slocan River Road, situated in the Slocan Valley community of Vallican at the confluence of the Little Slocan and Slocan Rivers, on the traditional territory of the Sinixt people.

Heritage Value

Built in 1930, the Vallican Heritage Hall is representative of the single story, vernacular one room schoolhouses designed by the Department of Public Works and built throughout British Columbia until the advent of the Second World War. The standard design is reflected here with a vestibule entrance, a long bank of north-facing windows, peaked roof and shingle cladding.

The Vallican Heritage Hall is valued as one of the last vestiges of the original non-native settlement established in the early 1900s on the edge of the Slocan River. Originally known as Barker's Siding, the settlement was situated close to Brown's Hotel a halfway house providing "the only stopping place on the Slocan River" between Nelson and Slocan City. With a name change around 1912, Vallican was included in the Canadian Pacific Railway's 1913 timetable for their Columbia Slocan route.

The Vallican Heritage Hall served the area as a school until 1968 and is valued as a reminder of the importance small communities placed on education, it is further valued for the role it had played in creating and maintaining a sense of place. That community focus continued with the Nelson School Board transfer of the property to the Vallican Heritage Hall Society in the 1980s on the condition that the building operate as a public community hall. It fulfills that role as a community-led and maintained venue for events and the arts.

Character Defining Elements

- The elements that define the Vallican Heritage Hall include:
- the form, scale, massing and details of the vernacular style including:
- gable roofs with closed soffits
- small stoop porch attached to vestibule entrance with improvised flag pole
- lean-to addition on the south east side of the building with south and east facing entrances
- straight edge Cedar shingle cladding and associated trim and facias
- original window assemblies and openings including:
- bank of seven 4 over 4 single glazed north facing sash windows
- two small casement windows on the north side of the vestibule
- one small rectangular window opening on the south face of the vestibule
- one small square window on the south side lean-to addition
- brick chimney between the vestibule and classroom on the north side interrupts the soffit
- concrete chimney on the south east corner with:
- wrought iron supports attached to the roof peak
- timber clad base with metal straps inside the lean-to addition
- louvered ventilators in the gables
- large open classroom

2017 Photographs



Top: Looking north east showing the lean-to extension, concrete chimney and its supports

Bottom: The rear of the building with the rear door enclosed with the south side lean-to. The shed roof is a modern addition.



Top left: Lean-to and chimney **Top right:** Chimney and its supports

Bottom: North side showing the bank of seven 4 over 4 sash windows



Top left: north west corner showing chimney at the intersection of the vestal and the school room, closed soffits and trim details

Top right: flag pole attached to the stoop entrance

Bottom: the north bank of windows looking west, corner trim boards, and soffits





Rear and north side of the building

Archival Photographs

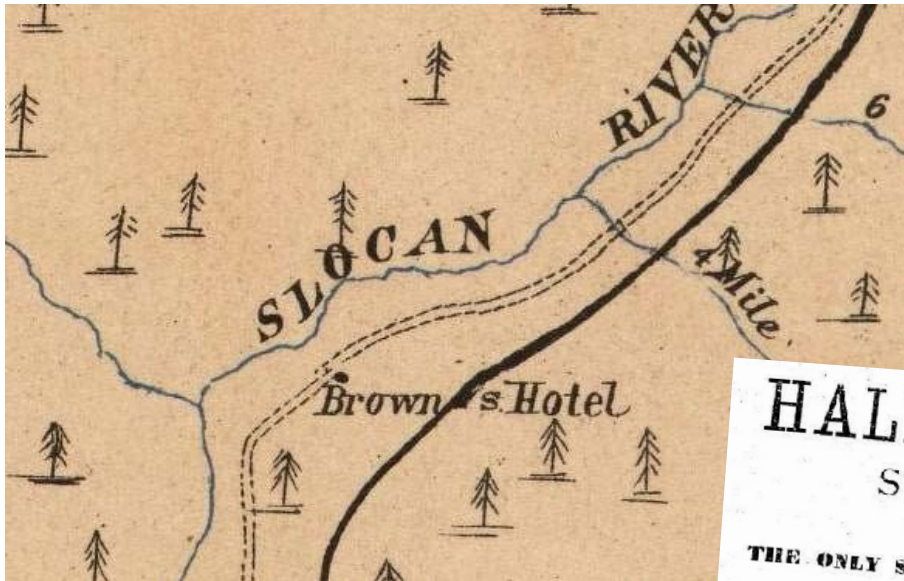


Vallican Heritage Hall looking north from Slocan River Road in 1982 (top) and 2017 (bottom).
Source: Vallican Heritage Hall Society

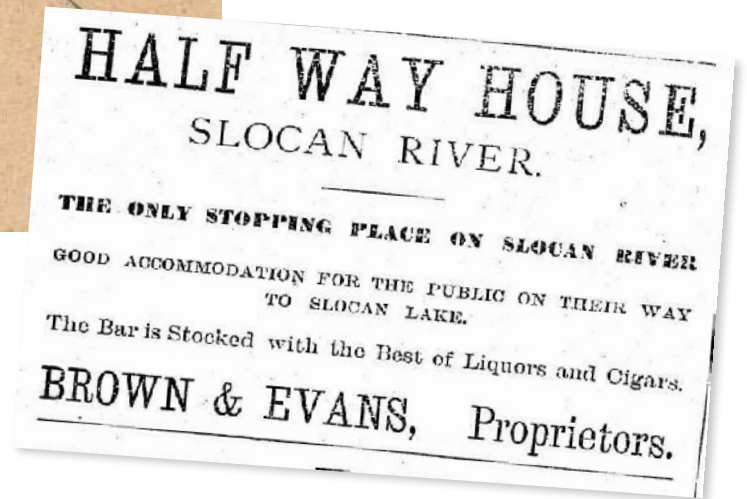


Vallican Heritage Hall south elevation in 1982 (top) and 2017 (bottom).
Source: Vallican Heritage Hall Society

Maps



Ad in the Nelson Daily Miner, 1892



Perry's Mining Map of 1893 showing the halfway house known as Brown's Hotel



Department of the Interior Southern British Columbia 1924 - CVA Map 1190



Vallican Heritage Hall located on a 2016 aerial view

Background

The Vallican site is over 3000 years old and is the largest intact prehistoric village settlement in the Slokan Valley and the largest house-pit site remaining in the West Kootenay Region. This archeological site was first officially recorded in the late 1940s and formally surveyed by the Heritage Conservation Branch in the 1980s. Significant investigative work was done on the site in the 1980s as a result of a proposed bridge and highway. Remains removed during the archeological survey were repatriated to the site for reburial by the Sinixt Nation in the 1990s.

Vallican means 'valley settlement' and originally spanned both sides of the Slokan River. A post office was opened in 1916 with Tom Edgar serving as post master until its closure in 1959. Originally, students attended a school at Winlaw but the population was soon large enough to qualify for their own school which opened in 1930 and operated until its closure in 1968.