

Youbou Community Hall

Location: 8550 Hemlock Street, Youbou, BC

Formally Recognized: 2015/08/12

Other Names: Youbou Hall, Youbou Community Hall & Bowling Alley

Construction Dates: 1929-1931, 1951



Front View of Youbou Community Hall



View of Youbou Community Hall from Hemlock Street

Statement of Significance for Youbou Community Hall

Description of Historic Place

The Youbou Community Hall is a large, two and a half storey, white utilitarian building located at 8550 Hemlock Street in Youbou, BC. This building has a gable-roofed main building with a large shed-roofed extension at the southwest side and a small shed extension to the northeast. The front of the Youbou Community Hall has a partially enclosed porch on the main building and a covered multi-storey staircase on the large extension. This historic place is limited to the building footprint.

Heritage Value

The Youbou Community Hall has significant heritage value in its association with the early development of the Youbou community. This hall represents the settlement patterns in the Cowichan Lake area. There is immense heritage value in the Youbou Community Hall's long continuous use as a community meeting place and recreational location.

Built on land donated by the Empire Logging Company, this historic place represents the settlement patterns of the early logging community of Youbou. The Youbou Community Hall's location on its original site and its proximity to the lake shore, Yount Elementary School, New Hope Community Church, and other important services provides the present community with a glimpse into the early layout of the Youbou community. Heritage value can be found in this physical depiction of the early development of Youbou.

Opened in 1931, the Youbou Community Hall is the oldest hall still in use in the Cowichan Lake area. As such, this hall provides the most direct link to the communities that were formed during the early logging days of Cowichan Lake. The Youbou Community Hall has significant heritage value due to its association with both the development of Youbou and of the Cowichan Lake area.

In 1951, the Youbou bowling alley was added to the community hall, and has been in continuous use since. As the only sanctioned hand set bowling alley in Canada, the Youbou Lanes provides a unique historic and recreational experience to both community members and visitors. There is significant heritage value to be found in the well-maintained original elements of this bowling alley, as well as in the recreational contribution Youbou Lanes has made to the community of Youbou.

The social qualities of the Youbou Community Hall have significant heritage value. As a centre for community events, this hall has continuously provided the people of Youbou with a place to socialize and interact. Due to its central and convenient location, as well as its variety of resources, the Youbou Community Hall has also become a community gathering place for all ages.

Character-Defining Elements

Key elements that define the heritage character of the Youbou Community Hall include:

- Continued use as a community meeting place and recreational location
- Use of the hall for community events
- The hand-set bowling alley
- Original location and visibility from the main road
- The interior elements of the building related to its use as a social centre, including the stage, open character of the gymnasium, meeting room, and high ceilings
- The *Youbou Community Hall & Bowling Alley* signage
- All of the interior elements related to the use of the bowling alley, including the lanes, scoreboards, pin-setters seats
- The murals and signage, as well as all original materials, within the bowling alley



View of Youbou Lanes Signage

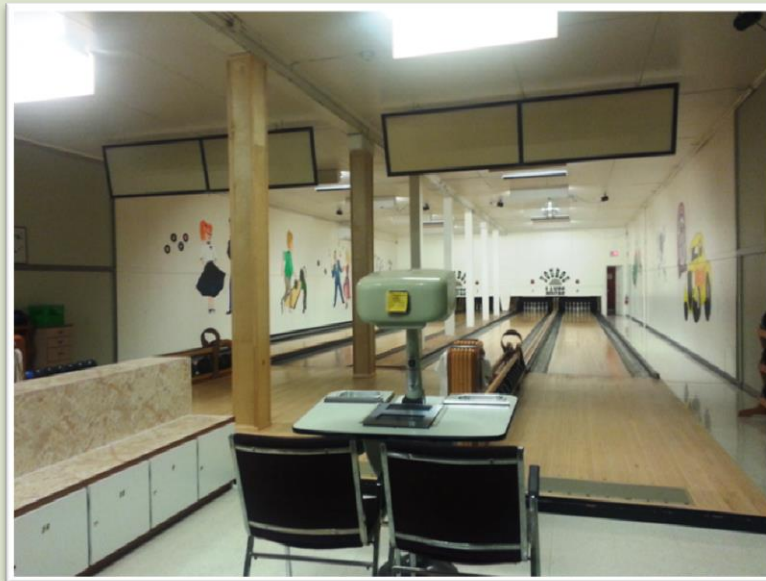
Historical Information

Timeline

- 1931. May 1st; Youbou Community Hall is officially opened.
- 1951. The bowling alley and upstairs dining hall were added.

Important Facts

- The site for the hall was donated by Empire Logging Company.
- Events at the hall included themed dances, Christmas parties, sports, roller skating, and an annual bazaar.



View of the Youbou Lanes Bowling Alley

Current Information

Function

- The Youbou Community Hall continues to function as a community hall. The hall provides public bowling, multiple rentable spaces, a community computer room, and a playschool.

Construction

- Recent additions include the playschool, community computer room, new floors, and an office extension.

Heritage Status

- Pending Provincial Recognition.