

Mesachie Lake Hall

Location: 9315 South Shore Road, Mesachie Lake, BC

Formally Recognized: 2015/08/12

Other Names: Mesachie Lake Community Hall

Construction Dates: 1947-1948



Front View of Mesachie Lake Hall



Back View of Mesachie Lake Hall

Statement of Significance for Mesachie Lake Hall

Description of the Historic Place

The Mesachie Lake Hall is a utilitarian, one-storey wood-frame building located on a large recreational park directly off the main road, at 9315 South Shore Road, in the rural town of Mesachie Lake, in British Columbia. This hall consists of a hipped-roof elevated entryway, a large rectangular main section topped with a Dutch Gable roof and a smaller rectangular side section topped with a steep mono-pitched roof. At the back of the hall is a much smaller square section with a hipped-roof. This historic place includes the building and surrounding grounds.

Heritage Values

The Mesachie Lake Hall has significant heritage value in its long continuous use as a community meeting place. There is also value found in the hall's association with the early development of the Mesachie Lake community. The hall also represents the early settlement patterns in the Cowichan Lake area. Finally, there is heritage value in the Mesachie Lake Hall's representation of the communities built by logging companies in the Cowichan Valley.

Built in 1947 by the Hillcrest Logging Company, the Mesachie Lake Hall illustrates the relationship between early logging companies and their workers. The communities surrounding Cowichan Lake were all built by logging companies and many of the early buildings still exist today. The Hillcrest Logging Company built the Mesachie Lake Hall as a central place of social and recreational activities for its workers and their families. The hall remains as a reminder of why the community of Mesachie Lake was developed.

Opened in 1948, the Mesachie Lake Hall has been in continuous use for over sixty years. This hall has been used a community meeting place where locals can interact and socialize. During the early years of the hall, it contained a general store and provided goods to local community members. Currently, the hall now has a post office and provides a central communication system to the community. There is significant heritage value in the services the hall has continuously provided to the community of Mesachie Lake. The grounds surrounding the Mesachie Lake Hall include a baseball diamond, tennis courts, and a playground. Since the early days of the community, these grounds have continued to provide a form of recreation to the community.

The community of Mesachie Lake successfully developed because of the resources provided by the Hillcrest Logging Company. The Mesachie Lake Hall is one resource that has continuously contributed to the development of the Mesachie Lake community, and allowed the community to flourish after the closure of the mill. This association between the hall and the long-term development of the community has significant heritage value.

The Mesachie Lake Hall represents the settlement patterns of the Cowichan Lake area. As Cowichan Lake was developed by logging companies, the communities grew around the original mill locations and near lake shores. The location of the Mesachie Lake Hall is evidence of these settlement patterns.

Character-Defining Elements

Key elements that define the heritage character of the Mesachie Lake Hall include:

- Continued use as a community meeting place and recreational location
- Original location off South Shore Road in Mesachie Lake in a central area of the community
- Clear visibility of hall from South Shore Road in Mesachie Lake and open surrounding grounds
- The interior elements of the building related to its use as a social centre, including its stage, open character of the main interior space, and high ceilings
- The simple massing, horizontal siding, main Dutch Gable roof, mono-pitched roof, and hipped-roof
- The hipped-roof entry vestibule



Side View of the Front of Mesachie Lake Hall

Historical Information

Timeline

- 1947. The Mesachie Lake Hall is built by the Hillcrest Logging Company.
- 1948. The Mesachie Lake Hall is officially opened.
- 1948. New addition to the original general store inside the hall.



View of Mesachie Lake Hall from South Shore Road

Current Information

Function

- The Mesachie Lake Hall is still currently in use as a community hall
- The Mesachie Lake Hall provides recreational services, Canada Post services, and is rentable for events

Construction

- No recent construction

Heritage Status

- Pending Provincial Recognition