

The Town of Gibsons Heritage Registry

When George Gibson and his two sons first landed near the site of Winegarden Park in 1886, they recognized the special beauty and potential of this area.

The Gibson pre-emptions, and those of other settlers, eventually were incorporated into the Village of Gibson's Landing in 1929, and expanded into the Town of Gibsons in 1965, now with a population of 4,000 within its 4 square mile boundaries. The Gibsons Heritage Inventory is a record of area buildings and natural features with important ties to our shared past.

From the oldest building (St. Bartholomew's Bethlehem Chapel) to one of the newest (the Wharfinger Building), Gibsons features fine examples of period architecture and building materials.

The Gibsons Advisory Heritage Commission has embarked on an ambitious project to identify and record these character buildings and geographical features, and have created the Gibsons Heritage Inventory as a research tool for future generations.



Photo from Helen McCall collection
Courtesy Sunshine Coast Museum & Archives

FROM COWS TO PIGS: Free-ranging cows enjoy the view from Armours Beach, c. 1938. The first Town Hall (now the Pigs' Rugby Clubhouse at 574 Marine Drive) is to the right.



Setting a standard for community service, generosity and hospitality that continues to this day, George Gibson donated land for the original Methodist (later, United) Church which stood next to the site of present-day Pioneer Park. His statue, sculpted and cast on the Sunshine Coast by reknowned artist Jack Harman, stands just a few feet from Gibson's own final resting place, in the tiny family cemetery.



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ALSO OF INTEREST:



HERITAGE PLAYHOUSE (*Women's Institute Hall*)
662 North Road (Corner North Rd. & Gibsons Way)

Designated Heritage Site (1989). The Women's Institute Hall served as a cultural centre from the date of its construction in 1929 (by volunteers) until the 1960s. Following extensive restoration (by volunteers) in 1998-99, it reopened in March, 2000 as the Heritage Playhouse and is again the cultural hub of the community.



ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH
(*Bethlehem Chapel*) - 1892
Corner North Road & Gibsons Way (Hwy. 101)

The oldest building in Gibsons, it has served as the area's Anglican Church for over 100 years. The building was recently restored incorporated into the new church as Bethlehem Chapel. A 1901-vintage steamship bell and 70-pound brass bell call parishioners to worship.



Visit the
Sunshine Coast Museum & Archives
716 Winn Road, Gibsons BC
(open Tues. - Sat., 10:30am - 4:30pm)
for another look at our
Coastal heritage!



*Self-
Directed*

HERITAGE

WALKING

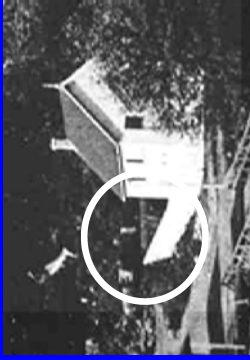
TOUR

*of
Historic
Gibson's
Landing*

GIBSONS, THEN ...

Vintage photos courtesy Sunshine Coast Museum & Archives, 716 Winn Road, Gibsons

AND NOW



PIONEER PARK / GIBSONS FAMILY CEMETERY - 1910

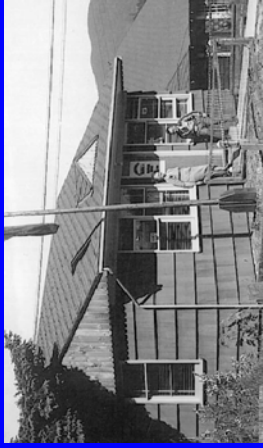
The tiny Gibson family cemetery that has been preserved as part of Pioneer Park is the final resting place of the community founder and some members of his immediate family. Upon the death of his wife, Charlotte, in 1910 George Gibson donated land from his original pre-emption for construction of the Gibsons Methodist Church, with the stipulation that a cemetery be created for interment of the Gibson family. In the 1960s, the building was sold and moved. The stone steps and fence surrounding the cemetery were built in 1971. It is believed the roses in the cemetery are from slips taken from Charlotte Gibson's favourite bushes.



STONEHURST (Doc Inglis' House) - 1914

529 Gibsons Way (NOTE: PRIVATE RESIDENCE)

Originally built as the home/office of Dr. Fred and nurse Alice Kathleen Inglis and their six children, some of Stonehurst's 22 rooms first served as the Coast's only medical centre. When local Methodist minister J.S. Woodsworth resigned his position in protest against the church's pro-War stance in 1917, the Inglis invited the Woodsworth family of seven to share their home. At Stonehurst, Inglis and Woodsworth debated socialism, humanism, pacifism and eventually worked out the democratic socialist philosophy that would form the foundation of Woodsworth's Co-operative Commonwealth Federation party (forerunner to today's NDP).



GIBSONS TELEPHONE OFFICE (Jacks Lane Bistro)

546 Gibsons Way - 1949

The first telephone office (1910) operated out of Harry and Lou Winn's front room; 38 years later, they moved the exchange to its own premises in this cottage. Automation made it redundant in the 1970s. Plywood patches the original fir floors, where the exchange connected to basement equipment. The building is currently closed. Stairs beside the building lead to Jacks Lane and Marine Drive.



ORKESTRA INN (Marina House) - 1914 - 1924

564 Marine Drive - NOTE: PRIVATE RESIDENCE

Designed and built by Dr. Frederick Inglis, this well-preserved example of early home construction in Gibsons is notable for its picturesque massing, unusual roof construction with very generous overhangs and 16" wide fascia boards impressive in scale for a building this size. The building still features its original siding and sliding fir windows. Originally built as three separate apartments, it was converted to a single-family dwelling by film producer Zale Dallen in the 1980s. Once a popular B&B, it is now a private home with separate suite.



BALLENTINE APARTMENTS—1943

426 Marine Dr.

Constructed by "Bal" Ballentine, these five funky water-view suites on two levels have housed many Gibsons characters and businesses. The extensively-restored unit now in use as Daffadownilly Gallery was formerly a bakery.



WYNGAERT'S GENERAL STORE (Village Store) - 1922

416 Marine Dr.

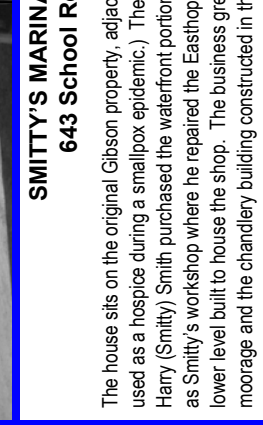
Ice cream has been sold on this site since 1930. The small building on the equally small lot (20 feet in width) was originally constructed as a dressmaking shop for Dollie Heino. Mrs. Heino's business closed in 1923 and the building sat vacant until Frank Wyngaert opened a general store there in 1930. In the mid-1930s the building was extended, with an ice cream parlour/tea room and living quarters added on lower levels. Wyngaert sold the building in 1945.



MOLLY'S REACH—1926

647 School Road

Built by C.P. Smith (father to "Smitty" of "Smitty's Marina") this building housed (in turns) a grocery, hardware, insurance and liquor store. It sat vacant until leaping to international prominence on the CBC "**Beachcombers**" TV show as the café "Molly's Reach." After the series ended, Gwen Edmonds rescued the building and opened "Molly's for real." In the parking lot at the rear of the building, note the black walnut tree planted by George Gibson, Jr.



SMITTY'S MARINA HOUSE & CHANDLERY—1948-1950s

643 School Road NOTE: PRIVATE RESIDENCE

The house sits on the original Gibson property, adjacent to the site of George Gibson's second home (the first was burned after being used as a hospice during a smallpox epidemic.) The property was purchased by Charles P. Smith in 1926. In 1947 C.P. Smith's son Harry (Smitty) Smith purchased the waterfront portion of the lot from his father and built "the blue house." The family living room served as Smitty's workshop where he repaired the Easthope engines favoured by the fishing fleet. Eventually the house was raised and a lower level built to house the shop. The business grew to include Smitty's Boat Rentals and Marina, with additional docks for private moorage and the chandlery building constructed in the 1950s. The building is currently owned by Smitty's son, John.



GIBSONS GOVERNMENT WHARF

1947

One of the last and best working government wharves in BC, this timber-and-piling structure can accommodate a sea-going ship. Originally built in 1901, rebuilt in 1947 and revitalized in 1999 with the addition of the Wharfinger Building, breakwater walkway and gazebo, the Wharfinger Building is a central part of the area's culture. The unique West Coast Log Homes structure features carvings by sculptor Steve Stevens.

