

DESCRIPTION OF THE HISTORIC PLACE:

The Granite Creek Town Site is a ghost town located 1.1 km southeast of Coalmont on the northwest side of Granite Creek, just upstream of where it flows into the Tulameen River. It is positioned on Lot 781, Blocks A-F including the road allowances. The area between Blocks E and F and Granite Creek, and the Cemetery which sits on Lot 731 are also to be included. Lots 781 and 731 are Crown Land.

The Town Site consists of a cleared, grassy bench overlooking Granite Creek with a few scattered remains of log buildings, dirt roads and a commemorative cairn. The Granite Creek Cemetery, with numerous fenced plots and headstones, is located on a higher, mostly treed bench, overlooking the Granite Creek Town Site.

HERITAGE VALUES

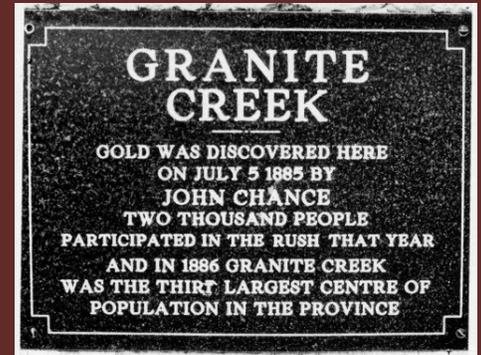
The Granite Creek Town Site is valued because it is the oldest town in the area, as well as being the location of a major placer gold rush in 1885. The discovery of gold at Granite

Creek redirected interest in the area from fur trading to mining. Built by miners searching for gold, the town is a testament to early British Columbia mining history. Two thousand people participated in the gold rush at Granite Creek and it was the third largest centre of population in the province at that time. A cairn erected in 1958 is located in the eastern portion of the town and indicates the historical significance of the site.

This historic place is a symbol of the tenacity of early placer miners who carved from the wilderness a town far from civilized society. The small physical dimensions of the town are extraordinary given that thousands of prospectors were drawn to the area.

The Granite Creek Town Site is notable for its significant Chinese presence. A Chinese section in the northeastern portion of the town illustrates their segregation from the other miners.

The outstanding determination of the early prospectors is evident in the fact that the Granite Creek Town Site remained active until approximately

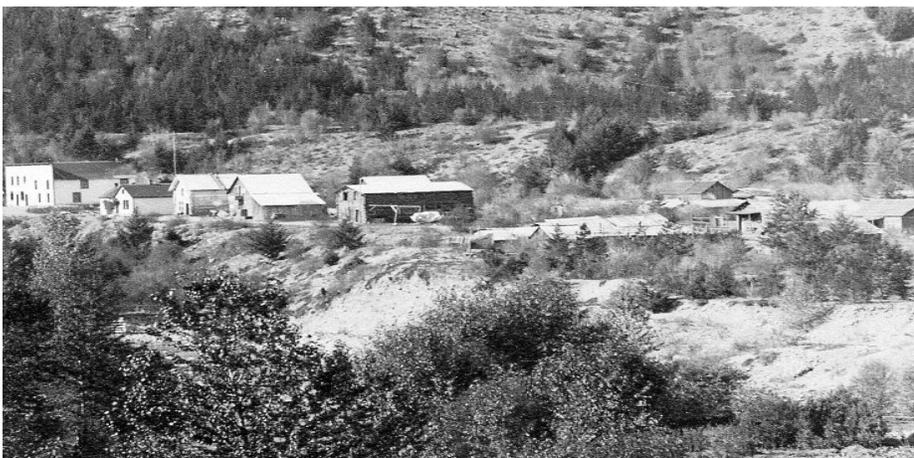


Character-Defining Elements:

The character-defining elements of the Granite Creek Town Site and Cemetery include:

- The ruins of approximately six crude log buildings
- Wagon roads built and used by prospectors and pack teams
- The Town Site's unique location on a distinctive bench overlooking Granite Creek
- Depressions in the Chinese section of the Cemetery from exhumed graves
- Headstone of Foxcrowle Percival Cook

above: "Plaque" Photo courtesy Princeton and District Museum and Archives



Granite Creek After Fire (bef. 1912)
Photo courtesy Princeton and District Museum and Archives



Regional Heritage Update:

The RDOS Board will be embarking upon a Regional Heritage Strategic Plan as one of its core objectives for 2013. The RDOS is currently drafting the Request for Proposals and hope to award the contract to a Heritage Specialist by late summer.

Role of The Heritage Strategy:

To provide a clearly articulated vision that conveys where the strategic plan will take the region in five to ten years. To provide input into corporate work plans and budgets through performance measures.

The consultant will provide the following services/deliverables:

- Compile and analyze existing information regarding physical and cultural heritage resources within the Regional District;
- Design and implement a public consultation process to solicit community input regarding heritage values in the area;
- Assess the level of support throughout the various communities of the Regional District for enhanced protection of those heritage resources;
- Develop options and recommend strategies for implementing a regional heritage conservation service;
- Outline the financial implications associated with the various options; and;
- Deliver Final Heritage Strategic Plan which will provide recommendations and direction to the future growth of a Regional Heritage Program in addition to related policy.

1918 even after a fire gutted the town in 1907. The ruins of reconstructed buildings are scattered throughout the Town Site. It is interesting to note that these ruins include those of F.P. Cook's second store which he rebuilt after a faulty stove pipe in his first store accidentally started the 1907 fire.

This valuable historic place represents an important moment in the continuum of the mining industry of the area. Gold mining in the area brought with it the discovery of platinum and later coal. Subsequently, the discovery of coal precipitated the development of the towns of Blakeburn (now a ghost town), Coalmont and Tulameen.

The Granite Creek Town Site remains as a monument to the pioneer prospectors who discovered and opened up the area. The surrounding natural landscape contributes significantly to the heritage character of this historic place. Historic value lies in the roads in the Granite Creek Town Site which are the original wagon roads built in 1885.

It is notable that the Granite Creek Cemetery overlooking the Granite Creek Town Site is the final resting place for many of the pioneers. It evokes a sense of peace and exemplifies their desire to remain, and forever watch over, the town they built. The massive headstone of F.P. Cook epitomizes the shopkeeper's wealth and standing in the community.

The Chinese section, which lies to the south of the main portion of the cemetery, reflects the segregation of the Chinese, even in death. It is notable that depressions in the ground are evidence of the practice of exhuming graves and returning the remains to China.

Sources:

"White Gold and Black Diamonds – The History of Granite Creek and Coalmont", by Diane Sterne, 2011

"Princeton Mining Records", Books 1 and 2 (1883 to 1886)



"Cemetery 2008A" Photo courtesy Bob Sterne, Coalmont