

Statement of Heritage Significance – Bassett House

Prepared by: Okanagan Falls' Heritage Society

Prepared for: Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen

The Bassett House is a pre-fabricated structure built in the early 1900's. It was purchased by the Dick Bassett family and shipped in pieces by rail from Winnipeg to Okanagan Landing and then by paddle wheeler down the lake to Penticton and, finally, by horse and wagon to Okanagan Falls, which is the oldest planned community in the South Okanagan. The Bassett family was in the freighting business and handled all the stagecoach and freight hauling business in the South Okanagan at the turn of the century. The house was purchased by the Okanagan Falls' Women's Institute in 1982 and donated to the Heritage Society in 1983 to restore and maintain.

The Bassett House has significance to the community of Okanagan Falls for several reasons:

1. It has been restored and converted into a museum by the Heritage Society to educate the children of the community in their local history.
2. It is a living history for many of the community's seniors who frequented the house in their childhood as guests of the Bassett family and who continue to visit and work on the house as members of the Heritage Society.
3. It is a repository of historical artifacts of the era and of the local people.
4. It is a center of interest to tourists passing through the community as it is one of a very few buildings remaining in the area that dates back a hundred years.