

## **Statement of Significance for the chimney of Michael Keogan's chimney**

### **DESCRIPTION OF HISTORIC PLACE**

The stone and slate chimney, which is all that remains of Michael Keogan's cabin, is located on a Minter of Transportation and Infrastructure right of way between Alba Rd., and Okanagan Hwy (Hwy 97), approximately two kilometers south of Okanagan Falls. The chimney sits on a grassy area with a few scattered log remains of the original home. The coordinates are 49 degrees, 20' 8.1" N, 119 degrees, 34' 12.8" W.

### **HERITAGE VALUES**

The significant value of this site is it was built for 'proving-up' on one of Michael Keogan's pre-emptions. Mr. Keogan was an Irish-born American who came in to the country at the time of the Rock Creek gold rush, and was the first white man to be crown-granted land at Okanagan Falls. In March 15, 1876 he received a crown grant for Lot 10 which extends for over a mile along the East bank of the Okanagan River.

Keogan later pre-empted lots 292 and 511, and the old rock-chimneyed log cabin beside the main road half a mile south of the Falls was built for proving-up one of these pre-emptions.

This historic place is a symbol of the tenacity of early settlers who carved from the wildness a home far from civilized society.

This represents a colourful era in the history of the south Okanagan, the gold rush era, and it's affiliation with many of the community's ancestors.

It has survived the gold rush; the flooding of Shuttleworth Creek in 1936 in Okanagan Falls

### **CHARACTER DEFINING ELEMENTS.**

Key elements that define the heritage character of Keogan's chimney include:

- The ruins of the crude homestead, as well as the chimney.
- It is one of the few structures left in the community of Okanagan Falls that dates back over one hundred years.

It is a memorial to the ancestors of Okanagan Falls, of which many descendants live close by today.