

**Pidhirney House**  
**751 Highway 97B NE**  
**Salmon Arm, B.C.**  
**Circa 1923-1929**

Previous location: NW corner of Fraser Avenue NW and Hudson Street NW (prior to 2008)

**Description**

The Pidhirney House is a one-and-a-half storey, vernacular style house located at R.J. Haney Heritage Village & Museum in Salmon Arm. It was built sometime between 1923 and 1929 for cemetery caretaker Ivan (John) Pidhirney and his wife Polly. The house was moved to the Village in 2008 and a foundation and basement were poured in 2009.<sup>1</sup>

**Values**

The Pidhirney house has aesthetic and heritage values.

The Pidhirney House has aesthetic value as an intact historic house originally located within the City limits of Salmon Arm. It was built sometime after 1923 when Ivan (John) Pidhirney began acquiring land in Salmon Arm. The house was later added to, which demonstrates the house's, and family's, growth over time. At its initial construction, the residents of the house were served by an outhouse on the lake side of the property. The house boasts its original flooring, wainscoting, trim, and wall board.

The house is valued for its association with the Pidhirney family, who were part of a group of Ukrainian settlers taken advantage of by the Schwab Land Company. The settlers were land owners in Sarto, Manitoba and the company had convinced them to swap their land for property in Seymour Arm. When they arrived in the Shuswap in 1919, they discovered there was no arable land.<sup>2</sup>

The exact date of when the family of five moved to Salmon Arm is not known. In April 1923, John Pidhirney purchased land from the City of Salmon Arm on Fraser Avenue N.W. The family moved to a lakefront property near the first community dump, on the edge of an area known as "Chinatown."

The Pidhirney daughters found work in domestic service and at the Montebello hotel and John worked for the City of Salmon Arm as a labourer taking care of the Mt. Ida Cemetery.

Pidhirney passed away in his 67<sup>th</sup> year in 1944. Polly Pidhirney sold the house and adjoining lots to Jacob and Fiina Mack in 1946.

**Character Defining Elements**

Building:

- One-and-a-half storey stick frame house
- Wood frame construction
- Steep pitch gable roof with projecting eaves
- Double hung, sash windows
- Wrap around veranda with boxed eaves and columns

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<sup>1</sup> Former address: 321 Fraser Ave. NW, found on Lot 4, Plan EPP981

<sup>2</sup> Pidhirney and his countrymen spent the winter in Seymour Arm and a deal was struck between the Schwab Land Company and the settlers for a different property in Grindrod. The Schwab Land Company gave James Carlin a down payment but failed to pay him out. Carlin demanded the Ukrainians pay the balance of \$30/acre of land to transfer title. Having signed over their properties in Sarto, Manitoba without compensation, their finances were stretched.

- Cove wooden cladding
- Original tongue and groove wainscoting, wall board, trim, and wood floors