

### **Valley Methodist Church**

Other names: Valley Church, Mt. Ida, Mt. Ida United Church, Mt. Ida Church

**751 Highway 97B NE**

**Salmon Arm, B.C.**

**1911**

Previous location: Corner of Foothill Road and Donnelly Road (1911-1988)

### **Description**

The Valley Methodist Church is a modest wooden one-storey structure with a steeply pitched roof. Constructed in 1911, this historic place includes the church and surrounding grounds. Located at R.J. Haney Heritage Village, it is commonly called the Mt. Ida Church.

### **Values**

The Valley Methodist Church has historic, spiritual, and aesthetic value based on its association with early settlers, its use as a parish for 60 years, and its Gothic Revival design, respectively.

Contractor Henry Riddle, and congregation volunteers, built the structure in 1911 from stock blueprints also used for the churches at Silver Creek and Hedgman's Corner. The church at Hedgman's Corner was sold sometime between 1906 and 1911 and the windows, doors, and pews were re-used in the Valley Methodist Church.<sup>1</sup> The new church cost \$1000 to build and opened free of debt.

The church was originally built at the corner on Foothill and Donnelly Roads, at "Raby's Corner," on land donated by W.J. Wilcox. The parcel of land was a half acre square divided by Foothill Road. The church and shed stood on the northwest portion, while a stable stood on the smaller southeast share. The stable was used to shelter parishioners' horses during services. The church was dedicated by Rev. James Calvert with the first trustees being William Anderson, John Calvert, Sam Rumble and James Raby.

Services were held year-round, though not on every Sunday. The church was part of a ministerial circuit serving Chase, Tappen, Notch Hill, Mt. Ida, and Silver Creek. Sometimes additional services were offered by the minister, who served both the Canoe and Salmon Arm Methodist churches.

With church unification in 1925, the Valley Methodist Church congregation joined the United Churches of Canada. By 1951, the building was referred to as the Valley Church, Mt. Ida. Sometime later, the church became known as the Mt. Ida United Church.<sup>2</sup>

The Mt. Ida United Church closed in 1971 and was purchased by the Church of Jesus Christ and Latter-day Saints (Mormon) congregation to be used as a gathering place until the late 1980s.<sup>3</sup> The building was then purchased by the Salmon Arm Museum in 1988 and moved to R.J. Haney Heritage Village.

### **Character Defining Elements**

Site:

- Mature plantings
- Traditional landscaping
- Generous yards around the church

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<sup>1</sup> See Ephemera file MS 142 in the Archives at R.J. Haney Heritage Village & Museum and see District of Salmon Arm tax database, Trustees of the Methodist Church paid taxes on 1.2 acres at SW 15 20 10 in 1911.

<sup>2</sup> Blair Galston, the B.C. Archivist for the United Church of Canada at Vancouver School of Theology, was unable to establish if the name of the church was ever legally changed. Since its arrival at R.J. Haney Heritage Village & Museum, the church has been commonly referred to as the Mt. Ida Church.

<sup>3</sup> Darryl Auten, retired United Church Minister.

**Building:**

- Demonstrates original elements of the Gothic Revival style including the arched wood windows, spire, and steeply pitched roof—an achievement in design for early settlers
- The open layout
- Simple massing and rectangular wood frame form, gabled vestibule
- Brick chimney, horizontal bevelled siding, and shake roof
- The white colour of the building

**Heritage Character:**

- Its relationship with first European settlers of the area which illustrates settlement patterns
- Being a social gathering place for more than a hundred years