

Chinese Gardens



Chinese Gardens – 2014

Heritage Register - Site

- 1) **Historical Name:** Chinese Gardens
- 2) **Common Name:** Chinese Gardens
- 3) **Location:** Lower Rossland
- 4) **Date of Construction:** c. 1898

SIGNIFICANCE

The Chinese Gardens, covering over 70 acres of land in lower Rossland, are culturally and historically significant to Rossland. For over 50 years, until the 1950's, fresh fruit and vegetables were grown here and sold to the people of Rossland by the Chinese farmers who peddled their produce, door to door, from large baskets hanging from a yoke worn across their shoulders. The small farms were worked by hand and independently - each farmer had his own tiny shack and garden plot and water was supplied Trail Creek. Some land was owned by the

Chinese but most was leased. While playing an important role in the community in terms of food production, the Chinese were not accepted socially by the white population.

Today this area is identified mostly by open grassland, around Trail Creek as it flows down the Trail Creek Valley to the Columbia River. There is little evidence of the Chinese farms and their owners - some fruit trees, a rock wall, rock piles, trenches and depressions where there were once root cellars.