

# Features



## 6392 Lakes Rd

### History of the Property

Both the original cabin and the current house were designed and built by pioneer Cowichan Valley architect Douglas James (1888-1962), who maintained a practice in the Cowichan Valley until the early 1940's, before moving to Victoria to go into partnership with his brother.

Mr. James designed many well-known Duncan buildings that are still standing today, including those housing Just Jake's restaurant, the Old FireHouse Wine Bar, and the original Cowichan Leader building on Craig Street.

As to the history of this property specifically, here's some information from provided by the seller and obtained from Richard Rodman and in his book about the James Architects. This information has not been verified by Ken Neal

"First cottage was built by Douglas James in 1928. The new house replaced (the) cottage after it burned. Here is where he built 40'boat named Tang O' Sea. Boat plans were found by Richard Rodman in the building up from the house. The name of the cottage and house which still stands may have been named D. James Dorset; by Col. Broome and Mrs. Broome who bought the property in about 1945. He a retired Indian army officer, she was a socialite. His dogs, yellow labs were the love of his life. He enjoyed walking in the woods with his dogs. His dogs were buried and had headstones in a dog cemetery on the property. Mrs. Rodman had been in the house a year. (They bought from Broome's) when Col. Broome's beloved Tippy died. So that the dog could be with others, he requested he be buried there. Mrs. Rodman agreed. Two grave diggers from St Peters arrived with an oak casket decorated with brass and they erected a headstone after the burial. Col Broome named the house 'Highbury' after the district of London he was from. The Rodman's kept the name for the thirty years they lived there after the Broome's. Col Broome was always seen in his tweed jacket and tie. He sold to the Rodman's in 1960. When the Rodman's moved in the house it was pink with turquoise trim and covered on Boston Ivy. The overturned concrete cistern was where the original cottage was."