

Dawson City was built in the heart of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in traditional territory where the First Nation gathered to fish, trade and feast. In 1897 Chief Issac moved his people downriver to Moosehide, to protect them from nefarious influences of the newcomers.

"Helter-skelter, in a marsh, lies this collection of odds and ends of houses and habitations ... A row of barrooms called Front Street; the side streets deep in mud; the river bank a mass of miners' boats, Indian canoes, and logs; the screeching of the sawmill; the dismal tuneless scraping of the violin of the dancehalls, still wide open; ..., all of this rustling made the scene more like the outside of a circus tent, ..."

-Webb, John Sidney "The River Trip to The Klondike" Century Illustrated Monthly Magazine, Vol. 33 (November 1897-April 1898), pg. 683



Klondike National Historic Sites
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You Had To See It To Believe It

DAWSON CITY THROUGH THE EYES OF THE GOLD RUSH PHOTOGRAPHERS



University of Washington, Adams and Co. 22

MAP OF DAWSON HISTORICAL COMPLEX

NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE OF CANADA

1. Bank of British North America
2. Bigg's Blacksmith Shop
3. Commissioner's Residence
4. Dawson Daily News Building
5. Klondike Thawing Machine Company
6. North West Mounted Police (NWMP) Married Officer's Quarters
7. Palace Grand Theatre
8. Post Office (former)
9. Red Feather Saloon
10. Robert Service Cabin
11. Ruby's Place
12. Territorial Courthouse
13. Black Residence
14. B.Y.N. Ticket Office
15. Harrington's Store
16. Ft. Herchmer Jail
17. Ft. Herchmer Stables
18. Lowe's Mortuary
19. Macaulay Residence
20. Madame Tremblay's Store
21. N.C. Co. Warehouse
22. NWMP C.O.'s Residence
23. Oak Hall Store
24. St. Andrew's Church
25. St. Andrew's Manse
26. Third Avenue Complex
27. West's Boiler Shop

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Map - Scott Fleming

The Klondike Gold Rush was the most photographed event of its time. A handful of photographers were determined to document the spectacle unfolding in front of their eyes. You had to see it to believe it.

Dawson Historical Complex National Historic Site is a collection of over 2 dozen buildings remaining from the gold rush era nestled in the living, historical community of Dawson City, Yukon.

During the Klondike Gold Rush, Dawson City erupted, overflowing with a transient population of 30,000, catering to any whim imaginable to the miners in the goldfields.

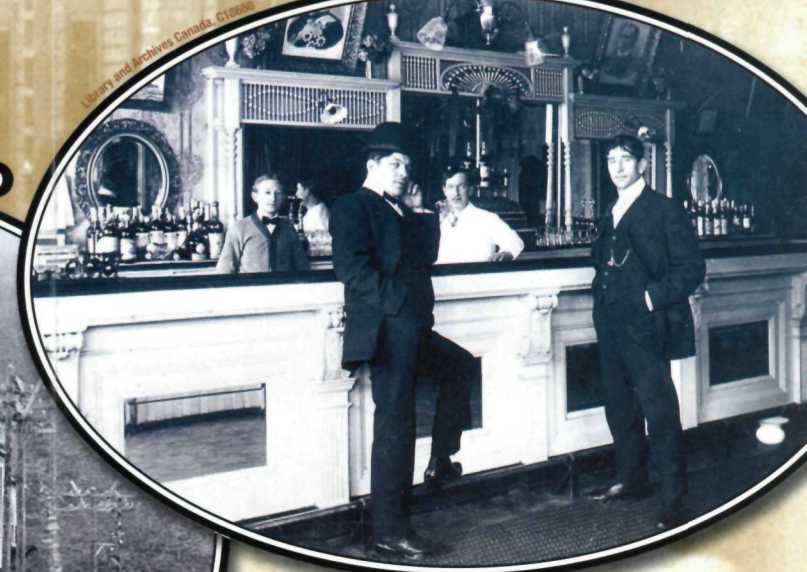
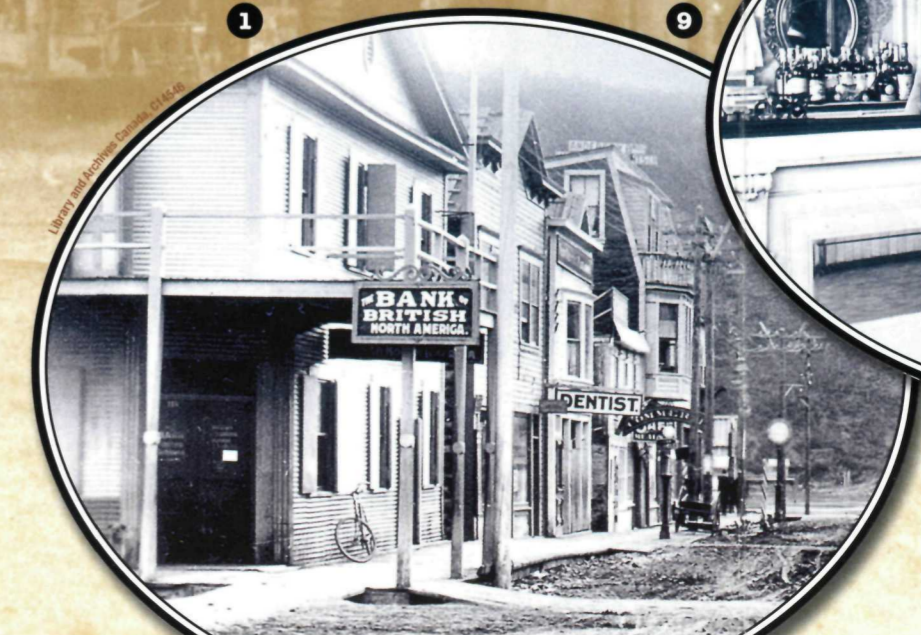
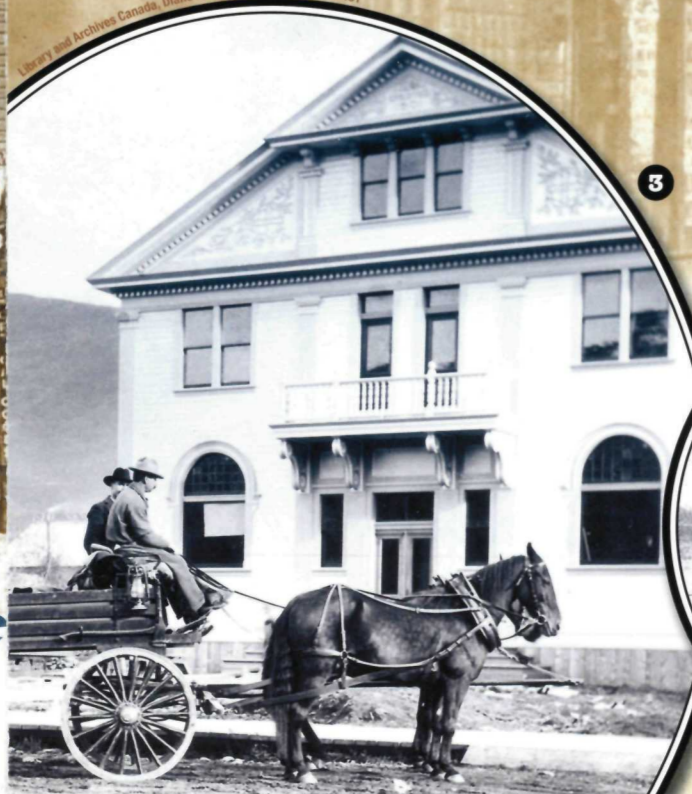


"As one walked for the first time down the smoothly beaten street, it was an animated scene, and one upon which the new-comer gazed with wonder." - Adney, Tappan "The Klondike Stampede" pg. 181

"Dawson changed its shape almost daily, almost hourly. There were no maps and no street addresses, for tents, cabins and men were constantly shifting." - Berton, Pierre "The Klondike Quest" pg. 128

Dawson evolved quickly from a mining camp into a bizarre tilt-a-whirl boom town. The facade of Victorian elegance masked plank board construction on a swamp. By 1904, the streetscapes of the now Edwardian-styled city were a popular subject matter for photographers.

New strikes in Alaska and the inevitable push towards corporate large scale mining emptied the town of its stampedeers. Fires, floods, and permafrost took their toll on the fabled city. The buildings disappeared, but the glass plate negative taken on the corner of 2nd Ave and Queen at midnight remains... These visual records stand as testament to an adventure that captured the imagination of the world.



Background Image: Second Avenue, University of Washington, 08
 Insights on Resources:
 • Front Street, VPL, 22789 - View from across river, VPL, 0228, 04
 • Tents on river bank, YA, Yukon House Collection, 61728, 81
 • Dawson waterfront, 1893, Library and Archives Canada, 18173010
 Quotes:
 Hitchcock, Mary E. "Two Women in the Klondike" pg. 98

DAWSON HISTORICAL COMPLEX

NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE of CANADA



"Here is Dawson at last. No pictures we have seen, no descriptions we have read or heard, compare with the reality."