

Dawson Historical Complex National Historic Site Commemorative Integrity Statement

National Historic Site Objectives

National Historic Sites objectives are summarized in Parks Canada's Guiding Principles and Operational Policies;

- * To foster knowledge and appreciation of Canada's past through a program of historical commemoration.*
- * To ensure the commemorative integrity of national historic sites administered by Parks Canada by protecting and presenting them for the benefit, education, and enjoyment of this and future generations, in a manner that respects the significant and irreplaceable legacy represented by these places and their associated resources.*
- * To encourage and support the protection and presentation by others of places of national historic significance that are not administered by Parks Canada.*

Commemoration focuses on what is nationally significant about a site, and includes protection as well as presentation. The National Historic Sites Policy states that;

protection and presentation are fundamental to commemoration since without protection there can be no historic site to be enjoyed, and without presentation there can be no understanding of why the site is important to our history and, hence, to all Canadians.



Dawson in the aftermath of spring breakup in 1925. The gold rush period streetscape, surrounding hills and Moosehide Slide are all prominent in this image.
PC, Townsend Coll.

Definition and Purpose of Commemorative Integrity

Commemorative integrity is used to describe the health or wholeness of a national historic site. A national historic site possesses commemorative integrity when the historic values and those cultural resources symbolizing or representing its importance are not impaired or under threat, when the reasons for the site's national historic significance are effectively communicated to the public, and when the site's heritage values are respected by all whose decisions or actions affect the site.

The purpose of a commemorative integrity statement is to focus our management of a site on what is most important; and to ensure that we address the whole (the "site"), not just the parts (the "individual resources"). For national historic sites, commemorative integrity is key to developing and implementing work plans, along with service to clients and ensuring efficient use of public funds. Commemorative integrity is also the basis for reporting to Canadians on the state of their national historic sites.

To effectively focus on commemorative integrity it is necessary to identify and evaluate those characteristics of a site that led to its recommendation by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada (HSMBC) and designation by the Minister. Those characteristics that make the site of importance to all Canadians are level 1 cultural resources. Characteristics of the site determined to have a historic value of regional or local importance are level 2 cultural resources. All level 1 and 2 cultural resources will be managed by Parks Canada according to the principles of the Cultural Resource Management Policy.

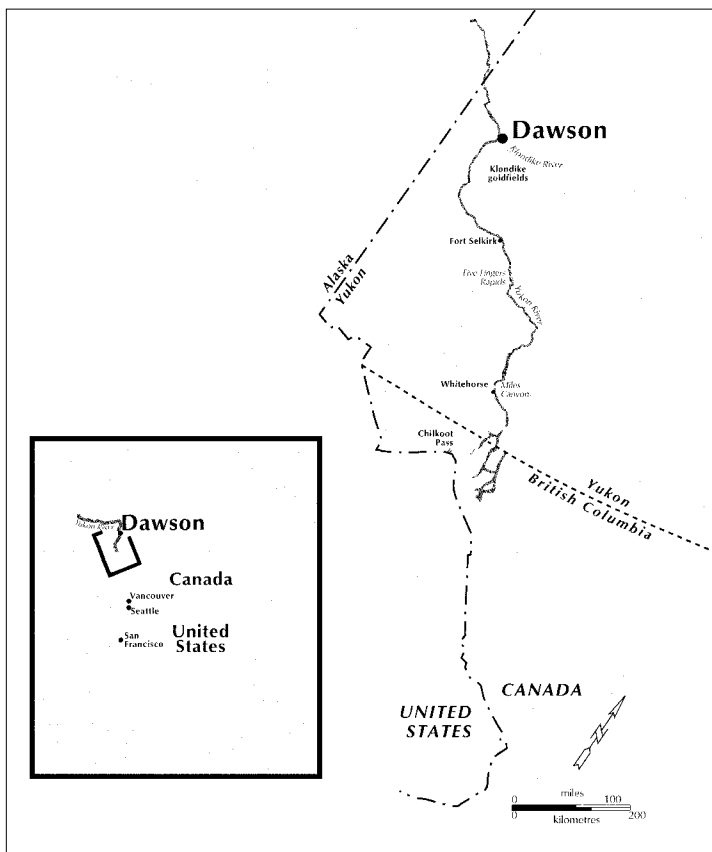
A sound grasp of historic value is essential to ensuring commemorative integrity. This includes a definition of what constitutes the extent of the nationally-designated historic place. The Parks Canada Cultural Resource Management Policy requires that evaluation of resources not only determines their levels, but "what it is that constitutes their value", that is to say, what particular qualities and features make up the historic character of the cultural resource. Historic value can reflect both physical (tangible or artifactual) as well as symbolic (intangible or associative)

attributes. It can be derived from an association with many periods in history, a single episode, or from the interaction of nature and human activities.

It is those level 1 values, that is those attributes of resources or messages, of importance to all Canadians, that shall be the highest management priority for Parks Canada. These values and the threats to them are described in more detail in the section "Commemorative Integrity".

Dawson Historical Complex National Historic Site is a living community. The administration and management of the community is largely the responsibility of the local municipal government. Other groups with an interest in the character of the community include departments of both the Territorial and Federal governments, the Tr'on dek Hwech'in First Nation, the Dawson City Museum and Historical Society, the Klondike Visitors' Association, Klondyke Centennial Society, and individual citizens and tourism businesses of the town. Portions of the town (described in Appendix A) are owned and managed by Parks Canada as part of the commemoration program for the National Historic Site. In the following discussion the complete town is considered in its commemorative context. Details of cultural resource management for the site will involve both individual action by Parks Canada for those resources under its management and co-operative involvement in the overall commemoration of the site's national historic significance.

Located on the Yukon River in the center of the Yukon Territory, Dawson gained world notoriety during the Klondike Gold Rush of 1896-98. Lost Moose



Commemorative Intent

Commemorative intent is a statement of what is nationally significant about the site. It refers specifically to the reasons for the site's national significance, as determined by the ministerially-approved recommendations of the HSMBC.

In the case of Dawson, the Board recommended in 1959, *that Dawson be regarded as a 'historical complex' of national importance and studied as such.* The recommendation concerning the "historical complex" indicates that the Board intended to commemorate Dawson as an ensemble, rather than a designation of individual structures. In terms of thematic associations, the Minutes also suggest a close relationship between the designation of this complex and the theme of gold mining, and especially the Klondike Gold Rush.

The connection was made explicit in the further HSMBC recommendations of June 1967, *that the commemorative undertaking at Dawson City should deal with the full extent of the Gold Rush and its impact on Canadian history.* Other pertinent documents include the HSMBC plaque text for Dawson, and the texts for particular buildings in the town, which tend to confirm the focus on the gold rush and its immediate aftermath.

A logical end point to the period of commemoration was suggested in the 1969 Minutes, *further to the Board's 1967 recommendation, the Minister had approved in principle "a program which includes the acquisition, preservation and where necessary restoration of a number of representative Dawson City buildings to the 1898-1910 period."* At the same time, it is also recognized that the impact of the Klondike Gold Rush clearly extended well after this date.

On the basis of the HSMBC recommendations and ministerial decisions the following Statement of Commemorative Intent can be determined for Dawson;

Dawson, a historical complex of national significance, is commemorated for its association with the full extent (1896 - 1910) and impact of the Klondike Gold Rush.

Commemorative Integrity

The National Historic Sites Policy states that a site has commemorative integrity if:

1. the resources that symbolize or represent its importance are not impaired or under threat,
2. the reasons for the site's national historic significance are effectively communicated to the public, and
3. the site's heritage values are respected by all whose decisions or actions affect the site.

These three elements cover the major responsibilities of Parks Canada in the management of the National Historic Site. To measure the success and effectiveness of this management commemorative integrity objectives have been identified and listed after the description of each of the three elements. Therefore, at Dawson, commemorative integrity will be ensured when:

1. Resources that Symbolize or Represent the National Significance of Dawson Historical Complex are Not Impaired or Under Threat

Resources imbued with these level 1 historic values are those that symbolize or represent Dawson's national significance. These resources are thus instrumental in, or integral to, the designation of national historic significance. At Dawson these resources include attributes of the historic place, in situ resources and moveable resources. Those level 1 resources are the cultural resource management focus of the Parks Canada program. The following level 1 cultural resources must not be threatened or impaired:

DAWSON

While others sped to the gold laden creeks, Joe Ladue put his faith in real estate and claimed this flat. In 1897 William Ogilvie, D.L.S., surveyed Joe's Townsite and his claim was recognized. By late 1898 Dawson was seething with 30,000 optimists who had come to seek the substance of their dreams in the surrounding hills and creeks. Within three years, though a handful had won fortunes from the muck, large mining companies held most of the rich ground, and at least 20,000 stampederers had departed in quest of other Eldorados. Until 1953 Dawson was the capital of the Yukon Territory.

The approved text for Dawson Historical Complex confirms the association of the commemoration of Dawson with the gold rush of 1898.

1.1.a. Historic Place - Values

Background

The historic place is defined by the flat of land at the confluence of the Yukon and Klondike Rivers, comprising the original townsite plan as surveyed in 1897-98 by James Gibbon, DLS. The flat is bounded by the Yukon and Klondike Rivers, and the ridge culminating in the Midnight Dome, the high hill rising above the Moosehide Slide. Within these physical boundaries, and on the original survey, Dawson developed quickly into a boom town of 30,000 inhabitants. The historic place therefore is characterized by the original orientation and locations of the surveyed streets, as well as a series of identified *in situ* structures built on the surveyed lots within the period of commemoration, 1896-1910.

In this regard, an important component of the historic place is the ensemble of buildings built between 1898 and 1910 which document Dawson's early development during and immediately after the Klondike Gold Rush. In their hasty construction and mix of boom-town facades, these buildings evoke the image of a gold rush town, and contribute significantly to the overall spirit of the place. The buildings document several important aspects of the town's historical development, especially its role as the administrative, financial, commercial, social, and transportation centre of the territory in its formative stages.

Only the buildings specifically identified by the HSMBC are level 1 resources, yet all of Dawson's buildings of the Gold Rush era are important to maintaining the sense of place, and to achieving the aims of commemorating Dawson as a "historical complex." It is therefore recognized that commemorative integrity will depend, not only on the protection and presentation of the identified level 1 cultural resources, but the involvement of other government and heritage agencies and owners in the stewardship of the buildings, features and cultural resources associated with the commemoration.

Associative Values

The symbolic, or associative importance of Dawson focuses on the town's role as the principal administrative, commercial, and supply centre in the Yukon Territory during the era of the Klondike Gold Rush. The strategic siting of the town at the confluence of the Klondike and Yukon rivers ensured its key role as the staging centre for gold mining activity, in equipping and distributing prospectors and their equipment to the gold fields, in providing the administrative and commercial infrastructure to support the mining during and after the Gold Rush, and in connecting this mining community to the outside world. The associative values pertain to two aspects of commemorative intent.

The association of Dawson with the full extent of the Gold Rush as represented in the associations of individual buildings with administrative, transportation/ communication, commercial/ service, financial, religious, literary, and social functions, and in the town's

Dawson City gains much of its historic value from its geographical location and the layout and appearance of the town. PC, Habiluk Coll.



relationship to the surrounding gold fields and gold mining, transportation connections to the outside world by road, rail and river.

The association of Dawson with the general impacts of the Klondike Gold Rush, including:

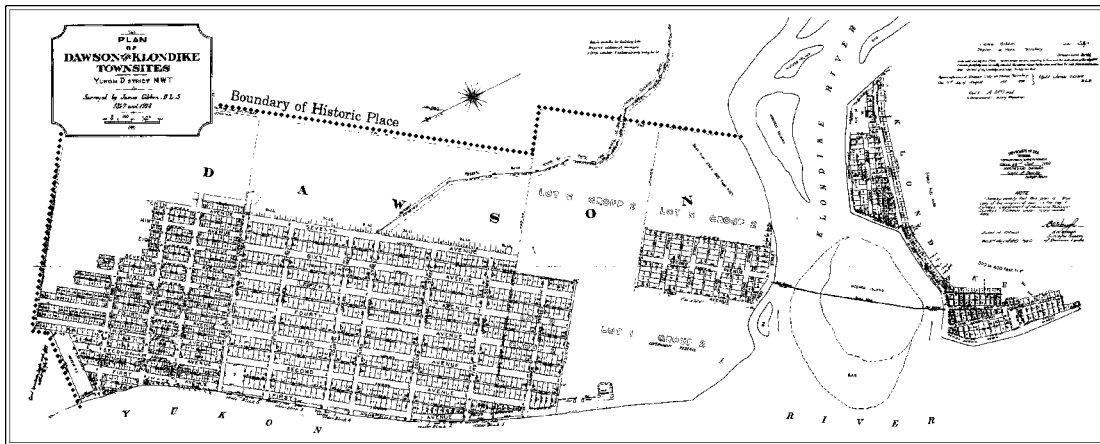
- Dawson as a reflection of the character of the Klondike Gold Rush and its impacts;
- the impact of the Gold Rush on the development of the Yukon Territory;
- the impact of Dawson and the Gold Rush on the collective imagination of Canadians.

Physical Values

The physical values of the commemorated historic place comprise the following characteristics:

- the flat of land bounded by the confluence of the Klondike and Yukon Rivers and bordered by the hills, which established the physical boundaries of the townsite;
- the plot of the 1897-98 survey, with its grid street layout and orientation of buildings;
- the historical complex of buildings featuring those identified by the HSMBC, townscape features and landscape vestiges associated with the period of commemoration;
- streetscapes of historical buildings, which as a historical complex contribute to the overall sense of place, e.g. the frontier character of structures, unpaved streets, boardwalks, collection of boomtown facades, permanent government structures, and a mix of vernacular constructional techniques.

Further physical values relate to the isolated wilderness setting of the town, as defined by the undeveloped and rugged terrain around Dawson, and represented in the Midnight Dome and surrounding hills, rivers and the Moosehide Slide, the viewscapes of the regional landscape from the town, and extreme climatic conditions including permafrost, and their impact on the town's development.



The historic place for Dawson Historical Complex NHS is defined by the original boundaries of Dawson as surveyed by James Gibbon, DLS in 1897/98. CLSR/Yukon Engineering Services



1.1.b Historic Place - Objectives

The historic place will be safeguarded when:

- linkages and cooperation with other authorities to advocate for and enhance the integrity of the historic place are actively encouraged and fostered (e.g., historic control bylaws of Dawson and Territorial heritage legislation);
- streetscapes of historical buildings, representing the era of the Gold Rush or its aftermath, are maintained;
- the level 1 buildings remain on their original sites, and their materials, massing, and interrelationships are maintained;
- new construction/landscape modification in Dawson is compatible with and sensitive to the heritage character of the site, in accordance with Cultural Resource Management principles;
- sympathetic external renovations and/or new construction will be encouraged within the historic place;
- sympathetic development of the landscape as viewed from the town is encouraged to ensure the maintenance of the original visual relationship between town, river and surrounding hills;
- the street configuration of the 1897-98 survey is respected and retained.

**Dawson Buildings
Identified by the
HSMBC**

The first Dawson buildings noted by the HSMBC were the Robert Service Cabin and the Auditorium Theatre (Palace Grand), both declared of national historic significance in May 1959. A further 16 buildings were identified by the HSMBC at its June, 1967 meeting. These buildings include an "A" list of buildings, which the Board recommended should be acquired and restored, and a "B" list of properties considered to be "in good hands," for which acquisition was not recommended.

The "A" list of 1967 comprised:

- (1) The Commissioner's Residence**
- (2) The Post Office**
- (3) The Palace Grand Theatre**
- (4) The Daily News Building**
- (5) The Bonanza Hotel**
- (6) The Robert Service Cabin**
- (7) The Strait Store**
- (8) Ruby's Place**
- (9) Dawson Hardware No. 1**
- (10) Caley's Store**
- (11) Klondike Thawing Company**
- (12) "No. 27" Residence**
- (13) A Saloon [Red Feather]**
- (14) A Blacksmith Shop [Billy Biggs']**

The "B List" of 1967 consisted of the following buildings:

- 1) Carnegie Library (Masonic Temple)**
- 2) Bank of British North America**
- 3) Canadian Bank of Commerce**
- 4) St. Paul's Anglican Church**

Since 1967, three additional buildings have been identified as nationally historically significant.

- **Northwest Mounted Police Married Quarters, October 1969**
- **the former Territorial Court House, 1980**
- **Yukon Hotel, 1982.**

1.2.a. *In situ Resources - Building/Structures - Values*

The value of the *in situ* buildings and structures (listed in Appendix B) resides in their documentation and representation of a variety of architectural styles and building types typical of Dawson's role as the major administrative, commercial, financial, supply, and transportation centre during the Klondike Gold Rush. Among the physical characteristics of the buildings which define their national historic significance are:

- evidence of hasty and impermanent construction, to meet immediate functional needs;
- the arrangement of commercial buildings cheek-by-jowl, without side yards;
- evidence of wood frame (either plank or platform framing) and log construction;
- the distinctive and somewhat eclectic mix of Victorian and Edwardian components on vernacular buildings;
- the prevalence of additions and continuing renovations to existing structures, reflecting rapid changes in ownership and use patterns in the Gold Rush era;
- boomtown false fronts;
- a mix of forms of exterior cladding, including prefabricated wooden or pressed-metal exteriors;
- the form and massing of buildings on their original location, orientation and siting;
- original roof coverings.

1.2.b. *In situ Resources - Buildings/Structures - Objectives*

The buildings and structures associated with the Dawson designation, i.e. surviving buildings from the period 1896-1910, as well as identified structures erected subsequently (e.g. Ruby's Place) will have commemorative integrity when:

- the level 1 buildings are preserved and maintained on their original sites;
- the documentation of designated buildings, including heritage recording, restoration/stabilization specifications and work carried out, maintenance specifications and FHBRO interventions, is preserved and maintained;
- representative samples of removed historic fabric will be preserved and maintained for reference purposes;
- heritage defining elements for individual buildings will be preserved and maintained;
- the physical integrity of the buildings is preserved and maintained and they are managed in accordance with CRM Policy.
- partners are encouraged and supported to protect and maintain structures in their care.

Winaut's Store, a Parks Canada level 2 resource, contributes to the character of the Dawson Historical Complex.
PC

1.3.a. *In situ Resources - Landscape Vestiges - Values*

In addition to the historic place, buildings/structures and collections, a large number of landscape vestiges are essential to documenting the site's history. The vestiges include traces of former buildings, roads, railways and other structures, both above and below the present surface of the ground, within the plot of land of the original survey of Dawson.

1.3.b. *In situ - Landscape Vestiges - Objectives*

The landscape vestiges at Dawson Historical Complex NHS will have physical integrity when:

- the vestiges of former buildings related to commemorative intent (i.e. dating from 1898-1910) managed by Parks Canada are identified, protected and maintained;
- the landscape vestiges related to commemorative intent managed by other partners are identified, protected and maintained.



1.4.a. Moveable Resources - Values

A considerable number of level 1 moveable resources provide important documentation and communication of Dawson's role in the Klondike Gold Rush. Moveable resources of national historic significance will be identified, based on the following criteria:

- the objects are authentic artifacts, whose provenance has been established through research and documentation, and
- the objects are directly associated with one of the HSMBC identified structures in the Dawson Historical Complex during the era of the Klondike Gold Rush, 1896-1910, or
- the objects are directly associated with the impact of the Klondike Gold Rush on Canadian history.

1.4.b. Moveable Resources - Objectives

The site's objects and collections which are cultural resources will be safeguarded when:

- all objects/collections relating to Dawson have been evaluated according to the commemorative intent;
- site-specific resources related to commemorative intent have been identified, protected, and maintained;
- strategies are in place for effective presentation; and
- access is ensured for research and presentation.

2. Reasons for the Site's National Historic Significance are Effectively Communicated

The Klondike Gold Rush brought thousands of newcomers to the Yukon and changed the way Canadians thought about the north. NAC, PA 16173

The second element of commemorative integrity focuses on the effective communication of the reasons for the site's national historic significance. Each of the elements of commemorative intent forms an important component of the messages which must be delivered if the site is to have commemorative integrity. This means that visitors to the site must understand not only the role of Dawson as it relates to the full extent of the Klondike Gold Rush, but also the role of this place in defining and communicating the full impact of the gold rush on Canadian history.

Effective communication of national messages also implies that the messages are based on

research, knowledge, and awareness and sensitivity to current historiography regarding the elements of commemoration. It also suggests that presentation is balanced. This means that various perspectives on the events associated with this site are communicated. Moreover, the individual components of the story should not be treated in isolation, but are integrated into the presentation of the history of the site as a whole.

Further, changes to the site over time are important to communicating the full story of this place. In the case of Dawson, the commemorative intent places a particular emphasis on a specific period, i.e., 1896 to 1910. Nevertheless, presentation of the site's evolution over time will be important to communicating a full understanding of the national significance of this place.



2.1. *Nationally Significant Messages - Values*

To achieve commemorative integrity the following learning objectives for Dawson Historical Complex NHS must be understood by the audience:

1. Dawson as a historical complex associated with the full extent (1896 - 1910) of the Klondike Gold Rush.

Messages supporting this learning objective include the role of Dawson as:

- * the result of the larger phenomena of economic forces, events and personalities associated with the Klondike Gold Rush.
- * a product of the specific demographic, economic and social forces of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries and the resulting ideals associated with the frontier.
- * a reflection of the character of the Klondike Gold Rush including the international and cosmopolitan mix of people of many races and cultures and of all ages and both sexes.
- * a commercial centre for the Klondike Gold Fields ensuring sufficient food, construction materials and mining equipment were available.
- * a transshipment point between the river boats bringing equipment and supplies into Dawson and the road system and railway carrying them into the Klondike Gold Fields.
- * the centre of a dynamic social life for the regional population.
- * the centre of administrative, regulatory, legal and judicial services necessary for the successful development and operation of a placer mining camp.
- * a centre providing transport and communication services between the Yukon and the Outside.
- * a centre providing industrial production, manufacturing and repairs services to the Klondike Gold Fields.
- * an example of the boom and bust communities typical of Canadian northern development and reflected in its architecture and urban streetscapes.



Communication of nationally significant messages takes many forms at Dawson.
PC

2. Dawson as a historical complex associated with the full impact of the Klondike Gold Rush.

Messages supporting this learning objective include Dawson as:

- * an experience altering the collective imagination of Canadians and leading to a new vision of the north as part of Canada and its effects upon the development of northern investment and government policy on the north.
- * contributing to the international view of Canada as a northern nation.
- * an exemplar for landscape-based Canadian literature and artistic impressions of the land.
- * a support of northern tourism using the idea of the northern frontier.
- * a symbol of the changes affecting northern Canada through the twentieth century.

2.2. Nationally Significant Messages - Objectives

The reasons for Dawson Historical Complex national historic significance will be effectively presented when as many as Canadians as possible:

- understand the site's national significance and its role in Canadian history;
- have knowledge of the linkages between the messages of national significance and the site's level 1 resources and other related resources;
- have knowledge of the structural and communication values of level 1 resources as defined in Appendix B;
- and when measures and measurement processes are in place to determine the effectiveness of message delivery.

3. The Site's Heritage Values are Respected

3.1. Heritage Values

Dawson Historical Complex NHS is a Parks Canada heritage place, one part of a system of national and international heritage places. The natural and cultural heritage represented by these places is our legacy as Canadians and a significant element of Canadian identity.

Beyond the values of national historic significance, the heritage values associated with Dawson Historical Complex National Historic Site also include the important role played by the town of the City of Dawson in promoting and protecting the historic place, pre-existing relationships between Parks Canada and the local heritage community of Dawson and the Territory. The local heritage community comprises the Dawson City Museum and Historical Society, the Town of the City of Dawson, the Tr'on dek Hwech'in and other First Nations groups, the Klondike Visitors' Association and the Klondyke Centennial Society.

Other heritage values are the level 2 cultural resources managed by Parks Canada including heritage buildings and collections of moveable resources, and messages relating to the history of this place beyond the themes and period of commemoration. These resources and messages do not relate to the national designation, but are important to the documentation and

The Klondike Visitors Association offers visitors to Dawson a glimpse into the dance hall atmosphere of the gold rush at the Palace Grand Theatre.
PC



communication of Dawson's history beyond the gold rush.

Additional heritage values comprise the related histories and interrelationships of Dawson Historical Complex and other national historic sites relating to the Klondike Gold Rush (i.e. Chilkoot Trail), industrial mining (i.e. Dredge No. 4), and to the history of river transportation in the Yukon (i.e. the S.S. Keno and S.S. Klondike).

3.2. Heritage Values - Objectives

The site's heritage values will be respected and maintained when:

- Level 2 resources are managed according to the Cultural Resource Management Policy;
- the level 2 messages pertaining to Dawson's history and development and its contribution to the history of the Yukon are communicated to the public;
- Dawson's membership in the larger national commemorative program of national historic sites and nationally-designated persons, events and other aspects of Canadian history (especially Discovery of Gold, Father Judge, Martha Louise Black, Joseph Tyrrell, William Ogilvie, and others) is communicated in site presentation programs;
- Dawson's thematic relationship with other Gold Rush/Mining historic sites and museums is effectively communicated;
- the history of First Nations in the history of the Dawson region is effectively communicated;
- the role of the community and other organizations in the protection and presentation of Dawson's history is valued and encouraged (i.e. KVA, YTG, Dawson Museum, Churches);
- the continuing presence of First Nations people, government and the mining community in Dawson contributes to the sense of place;
- Parks Canada is working cooperatively with other stakeholders to protect and present Dawson's history;
- site programs acknowledge and respect the First Nations and mining communities in heritage presentation.

Appendix A: Level 1 Buildings Associated with the Commemoration of Dawson Historical Complex NHS

Building	Status	Ownership
Commissioner's Residence	extant	Parks Canada
Post Office	extant	Parks Canada
Daily News Building	extant	Parks Canada
Robert Service Cabin	extant	Parks Canada
Ruby's Place	extant	Parks Canada
Klondike Thawing Machine Company	extant	Parks Canada
A Blacksmith Shop [Billy Biggs']	extant	Parks Canada
NWMP Married Quarters	extant	Parks Canada
Former Territorial Courthouse	extant	Parks Canada
Bank of British North America	extant	Parks Canada
A Saloon [Red Feather]	reconstruction	Parks Canada
Palace Grand Theatre	reproduction	Parks Canada
Caley's Store	extant	Private
Yukon Hotel	extant	Private
Carnegie Library	extant	Private
Canadian Bank of Commerce	extant	Private
St. Paul's Anglican Church	extant	Church
Dawson Hardware Store	delisted by HSMBC, June, 1970	
Strait Store	delisted by HSMBC, Nov., 1973	
No. 27 Residence	delisted by HSMBC, Nov., 1973	
Bonanza Hotel	No longer extant	-

Appendix B: Historic Values of Dawson Buildings Identified by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada

Each of the level 1 buildings identified by the HSMBC contribute both physical and associative values important to the commemorative integrity of the national historic site. These values are determined by the relationship to historic place and the messages of national historic significance and are summarized for below.

NWMP Married Quarters



The North West Mounted Police (NWMP) Married Quarters is an integral component of the Fort Herchmer complex of police buildings representing the federal government presence in the early period of Dawson's history. It is valued for its close association with the NWMP and its role in establishing law and order during the gold rush, the exercise of Canadian sovereignty in the northern territories, and its important role in the development of the community. The physical resource is defined by its log construction, low-walled, low-pitch form, surviving interior elements, and its setting in the Government Reserve with other early NWMP structures.

Former Territorial Courthouse



The heritage value of the courthouse is defined by its role as a major public building contributing to the federal government presence in Dawson's formative era. Architecturally, its heritage character relates to its formal, classically-inspired design and detailing, remarkable for its richness in such a remote location. This building has values for its important historical associations, its architecture, the high standards of craftsmanship, and its importance as a Dawson landmark. It is a rare example of a turn of the century courthouse executed in wood.

Post Office



Built in 1900, the post office was designed by federal architect Thomas W. Fuller. In use until 1923, it illustrates the establishment and exercise of Canada's sovereignty through the construction of imposing federal buildings and the importance of communications with the Outside. The building, an excellent example of a pre-1914 wooden post office, gains its heritage character from its design, the quality of interior workmanship and materials, and as a rare example of a federal building displaying every detail of its original purpose and design.

Commissioner's Residence



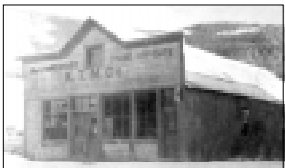
Another Fuller building, the Commissioner's Residence (1901) was an architectural statement of the extension of Canadian government administration into the Yukon Territory. Its prominent location within the community and the imposing facade, a renovation completed in 1908, reinforced the roles of administrative and social leadership exercised by the Commissioner. This strong presence in the community is reinforced by the landscaping and built features of the yard.

Ruby's Place



Ruby's Place, built in 1902 as a lodging house, is associated with the theme of prostitution in Dawson. In Dawson, Ruby's Place is valued for its illustration of Dawson's social history during the Gold Rush and its aftermath, especially the gender imbalance that prevailed. Further, its architecture, which imposed an elegant Edwardian false front on a vernacular wood structure, well illustrates the boom town character which is integral to the national historic significance of this community and its cultural landscapes.

Klondike Thawing Machine Company



The limited seasonal access to Dawson from Outside and the need to transship freight through Dawson to the goldfields made warehouses and storage buildings of great importance. The heritage character of the KTM building (1899) is defined by its false front, simple frame construction and the large windows facing the street.

Robert Service Cabin

The cabin of the poet Robert Service is one of the few residences in Dawson dating from the Klondike Gold Rush. The association of the cabin with the "Bard of the Yukon" and its representation of the vernacular character of the many small residences erected by newcomers in the earliest period of Dawson's development are noteworthy elements. Architecturally, its heritage value resides in its low-lying form, its fabric, design, and the rustic character of the site.



Palace Grand Theatre

The association of the Palace Grand Theatre with the romantic excitement and frontier glamour of the Gold Rush is reflected in the fanciful wooden false front facade of this building. The arrangement and size of spaces within the theatre reflect the character of Dawson's imported and locally prepared entertainments. As the building is a 1962 reproduction of the original turn of the century building, the structure's values are associative and do not include the fabric of the building itself.



Red Feather Saloon

The large plate glass windows, framed with roman pillars of wood, expose the attractive and ornate interior inviting passers-by into this reconstructed 1902 saloon. Associated with the active social life of Dawson, the building's history reflects the important role of public places in a community where many residences were confining, airless cabins. The saloon's place amidst other reconstructed structures on Third Avenue contribute to the overall atmosphere of contemporary Dawson.



Bank of British North America

The original log building used by the Bank of British North America burnt in April 1899, and the present fireproof structure was built by Big Alex Macdonald later the same year. Its heritage character is defined by its location in the heart of downtown Dawson, its massing, surface finish of corrugated iron sheeting and the quality of its interior fittings and furnishings. The role of banks in connecting an important new mining area to the international financial world through their assay office and banking services is an important element of its commemoration.



Billy Bigg's Blacksmith Shop

Originally constructed as a hotel in 1899, this building became a blacksmith shop in 1907. Over the next half century, it housed blacksmith operations providing services to miners, both individual and corporate, until Billy Bigg's retirement in the mid-1950s. The building's contributions to the heritage character of Dawson are based upon its connections and services to the goldfields and the agglomeration of additions and modifications to the original structure, typical of the many and varied uses to which the building was put.



Daily News Building

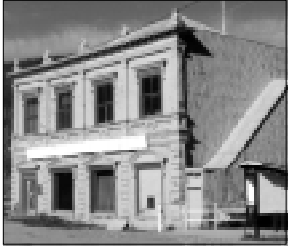
Serving as a warehouse for the first ten years of existence, the Daily News building (1900) was modified in 1910 to become the home of the community's newspaper. The newspaper played an important role in informing the world about life in the Klondike and establishing the enduring mythology of the north. The building's heritage character is defined by the high false front and its simple frame construction.



Yukon Hotel

Built in the fall of 1898, this two-storey log building with a facade of milled lumber was typical of commercial structures built at the height of the gold rush. Between October 1898 and October 1900, the federal government rented it for offices. During the next fifty-seven years, it was used as a hotel. Its physical values lie in its milled log construction, and well-designed facade, featuring a flared cornice and decorative brackets where the false-front meets the eaves of the gabled structure behind. The building illustrates the tendency, common in Dawson, to conserve scarce materials by re-using buildings to serve the needs of a variety of occupants.





Canadian Bank of Commerce

Noted for its distinctive and rare pressed metal facade, this bank branch was designed and constructed in 1901. Physical values of the building lie in its elaborate classical Renaissance styled facade, which present the image of stability and permanence in the context of a gold rush town. The building symbolizes the role of financial institutions in Dawson's history, and the specific role of this bank in transacting and assaying gold, and in financing commercial development of the community from the Gold Rush era to 1989.



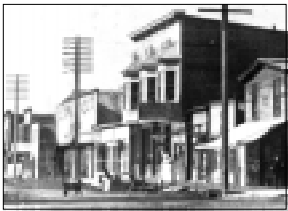
Carnegie Library

Built in 1903-04 with a grant from the Carnegie Foundation, this two-storey building is remarkable both for the role it played in the cultural life of this remote Gold Rush town and for its form. As a library the building connected the people of Dawson to the wider world through its books and magazines and the many meetings held there. The building's most distinctive physical values are its pressed metal facade and interior, stylistically organized into a symmetrical classical renaissance design, with a classical entrance portico as the central focal point. The colour and texture of the surface evokes the image of a stone building, imparting a sense of permanence and refinement in this frontier setting.



St. Pauls Anglican Church

The Anglican Church has played a significant role in the life of the Yukon's people. The Church Missionary Society first sent a missionary to the First Nation people of the Yukon basin in the 1860s. In June, 1897 an Anglican minister arrived in Dawson to serve the spiritual needs of the white miners flooding into the territory. The growth of the congregation led to the construction of the present structure in 1902. Its continuing use as a church makes it one of the few buildings in present day Dawson that performs its original function.



Caley's Store

A fine example of the Edwardian commercial architecture built at the turn of the century, Caley's store was originally a combined furniture/upholstery shop, a restaurant and a boarding house. Within the decade it had been converted to a rooming house reflecting the demand for transient housing in the community. The building is noteworthy for its representation of the diverse commercial functions provided by Dawson to the surrounding Gold Fields and its false front, large shop windows and the cantilevered box bay windows on the second floor.

Appendix C: Analysis of HSMBC Recommendations

This appendix reviews the major recommendations of the HSMBC with regard to the commemoration of the historical complex at Dawson, Yukon.

Few explicit references to the reasons for the Dawson designation appear in the Minutes of the HSMBC. The Minutes for the Fall, 1959 meeting suggest the Board's original impetus to designate Dawson buildings was in response to initiatives by the Minister to develop the tourism potential of the Yukon Territory and the Minister's "concern about restraining the encroachment of commercialism upon truly historic features." The Board recommended "That Dawson be regarded as a 'historical complex' of national importance and studied as such." (HSMBC Minutes, November, 1959, p.4).

The recommendation concerning the "historical complex" confirms the Board's intention that the identified buildings in Dawson should be commemorated as an ensemble, rather than as individual structures. In terms of thematic associations, the Minutes also suggest a close relationship between the designation of this complex of buildings and the theme of gold mining, especially the Klondike Gold Rush. The connection is made explicit in the HSMBC recommendations of June 1967, "that the commemorative undertaking at Dawson should deal with the full extent of the Gold Rush and its impact on Canadian history."

The gold rush relationship is also apparent from the succession of recommendations in which Dawson and gold mining are treated as components of a larger program of research proposed by

the HSMBC. When the Board met in Dawson in June 1967, it reviewed the "Dawson complex," and examined four aspects of "the matter": "1) Museum Pieces; 2) Buildings; 3) Gold Mining Equipment; 4) Transportation Equipment." As a priority, it recommended "that arrangements be made to collect, catalogue, and where required acquire the wealth of material literally 'lying about' the Dawson area and related to the history of the Gold Rush. This material includes the contents of the museum and various buildings." From the foregoing, it is clear that the initial commemoration of Dawson was inseparably linked to the history of the gold rush.

In filling out the picture of commemorative intent, the HSMBC plaque texts for Dawson and some of the buildings are helpful. The text for Dawson confirms the association of the commemoration of Dawson with the gold rush of 1898. It also notes that large mining companies held most of mining lands within three years of the rush.

Plaques have also been erected for the Yukon Hotel and the Former Territorial Court House in Dawson. National historic significance for the Yukon Hotel is based upon the statement that the hotel was "typical of commercial structures built at the height of the gold rush." The social and administrative functions of the building are also noted in the text. The Court House plaque anchors the commemoration to the gold rush through reference to the original 1898 court house. However, the focus is on the structure which replaced it, a "substantial frame building" to "convey an air of dignity and stability." The association with architect, Thomas W. Fuller, designer of other federal buildings in Dawson is also noted. The period of commemoration is bounded by the reference to the use of the structure as a court house until 1910.

The accumulated Board recommendations and plaque texts suggest that the commemoration of the Dawson Historical Complex relates both to the association with the Klondike Gold Rush and the period of consolidation of Dawson as an urban centre in the Yukon Territory following the rush. The specific aspects of Dawson's role are not explicitly mentioned, although references to the role of the courts and the NWMP in the Territorial Court House text, underscore the importance of governmental and administrative functions in Dawson's development. Moreover, the choice of particular buildings for designation implies other components of Dawson's commemorated role. The two banks points to Dawson's role as a financial centre, while the selection of the Bonanza and Yukon Hotels, Ruby's Place, Palace Grand Theatre, and the Red Feather Saloon suggest the importance of Dawson as a centre of social life in the Territory.

The period of commemoration can be taken from the recommendations and the plaque texts. Virtually all nationally-designated structures were built between 1898 and 1903. The Married Officers' Quarters and the Robert Service Cabin apparently are the only designated buildings dating from the actual gold rush of 1898, or its immediate aftermath. The majority of the commemorated Dawson buildings were built in the period of consolidation following the gold rush, during which Dawson's status as the principal commercial, financial and government centre in the Yukon Territory was confirmed. While the intended closure date is not explicit, the cessation of use of the second Territorial Court House as a law courts in 1910, seems an appropriate date for the completion of the consolidation of the town following the gold rush.

FORMER TERRITORIAL COURT HOUSE

Concern that Dawson's law courts should convey an air of dignity and stability within the community prompted replacement of the original 1898 log court house with this substantial frame building in 1900-01. It was designed, along with several other federal buildings in Dawson, by Department of Public Works architect Thomas W. Fuller. As Dawson's gold boom dwindled, the volume of court cases declined, and trials ceased to be held at this court house in 1910. It subsequently served as headquarters for the Royal Northwest Mounted Police.

YUKON HOTEL

When it was built in the fall of 1898, the Binet Block stood at the southern end of a business district extending north to King Street. A two-storey log building with a facade of milled lumber, it was typical of commercial structures built at the height of the gold rush. The lower floor with its large windows was meant for commercial use, and the upper for residential. Between October 1898 and October 1900, the Federal Government rented it for offices. During the next fifty-seven years, it was used as a hotel, under such varied names as The Miner's Rest, The Freeman, and the Yukon Hotel.