Old Territorial Administration Building

National Historic Site of Canada

Dawson City, Yukon

Commemorative Integrity Statement
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Old Territorial Administration Building
Dawson City

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Overview

The Old Territorial Administration Building, located at 594 Fifth Avenue near the corner of Fifth Avenue and Church Street in Dawson City, Yukon, is the most imposing of an ensemble of outstanding buildings declared to be national historic sites in the historic gold rush town of Dawson. Built in 1901 to provide all federal government administrative functions under one roof, it was the largest building erected in Dawson in its early period. Over the course of its history, it has housed numerous government functions, and currently houses the Dawson City Museum and Yukon Government offices. The building and property are owned and maintained by the Yukon Government. The building continues to be a landmark and plays a vital role in the life of Dawson, and the Yukon Territory generally.

The building’s architectural form also represents a pragmatic adaptation to the arctic environment of its community. It was designated a National Historic Site of Canada in 2002. The extent of the designation is the building and property within the perimeter of legal lot REM.Q 6568 (See Appendix, section 6.3).

1.2 National Historic Sites Program Objectives

The National Historic Site Program Objectives are the objectives of the Government of Canada for the national historic sites program:

- To foster knowledge and appreciation of Canada’s past through a national program of historical commemoration.
- To ensure the commemorative integrity of national historic sites 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 owners of national historic sites in their efforts to ensure commemorative integrity.

1.3 Commemorative Integrity

1.3.1 Definition of Commemorative Integrity

Commemorative integrity describes the health and wholeness of a national historic site. A national historic site possesses commemorative integrity when:
**1.3.2 Definition and Purpose of the Commemorative Integrity Statement**

A Commemorative Integrity Statement is a document which identifies what is meant by commemorative integrity at a particular national historic site. It provides a baseline for planning, managing, operating, reporting and taking remedial action.

The document is divided into six parts:

1. **Introduction**
2. **Designation and Context**
3. **Resources Directly Related to the Reasons for Designation as a National Historic Site**
   This section of the Commemorative Integrity Statement identifies the resources that relate directly to the reasons for the site’s designation. It also describes the historic values of these resources, which can be physical as well as associative or symbolic. These values must be safeguarded and communicated. The Commemorative Integrity Statement provides guidance,
4. **Reasons for National Historic Significance**
   This section of the Commemorative Integrity Statement identifies the reasons for designation as a national historic site, as well as any additional, essential information required to ensure their understanding. It provides guidance, through objectives, on integrity in presentation and effective communication with audiences.
5. **Resources, Values and Messages Not Related to the Reasons for Designation as a National Historic Site**
   This section of the Commemorative Integrity Statement covers resources, messages and values that are not related to the reasons for designation as a national historic site. Objectives provide guidance on the management of these.

6. **Appendices**

**1.3.3 Uses of the Commemorative Integrity Statement**

A Commemorative Integrity Statement guides site management by:

- identifying what is most important about a site relative to the national historic designation and, for Parks Canada sites, ensuring that matters relating to national significance, including resources and messaging, are the highest management priority.
- ensuring that there is a focus on the “whole”, and not just the individual resources providing the
fundamental document to guide management planning and preparation of a conservation and presentation plan (for the National Historic Sites of Canada Cost-Sharing Program), which detail specific actions to be carried out.

- enunciating a set of heritage values and objectives which can be used in analysing and evaluating the impact of development and adaptive re-use proposals on a site or nearby property.
- providing the basis for design guidelines for development which may take place within or nearby and which may have an impact on the national historic site.
- giving direction on heritage messages for marketing plans and programs.
- providing the foundation for reporting to Canadians on the state of national historic sites.

1.4 Cultural Resource Management Policy

Cultural resource management is an integrated and holistic approach to the management of cultural resources. It applies to all activities that affect cultural resources, including the care taken of these resources and the promotion of public understanding and enjoyment of them. The objective is to manage cultural resources in accordance with the principles of value, public benefit, understanding, respect and integrity.

Parks Canada’s Cultural Resource Management Policy defines cultural resources as places or human works that have been determined to have historic value. Cultural resources include those directly related to the reasons for the site’s national significance and those not related but which possess historic value.

The Policy is the basis for management of cultural resources by Parks Canada. Other owners of national historic sites are encouraged to apply the principles and practice from the Cultural Resource Management Policy. Effective cultural resource management practice is based on:

- an up-to-date inventory of resources;
- an evaluation of resources to determine which are to be considered as cultural resources and what it is that constitutes their historic value;
- consideration of historic value in actions affecting conservation and presentation. Most, if not all, operational activities have an impact on conservation or presentation;
- monitoring and review to ensure that conservation and presentation objectives continue to be met effectively.

A Commemorative Integrity Statement sets out the results of the first two points above in order to facilitate the third and fourth. The objectives in a Commemorative Integrity Statement specify that the site should be managed in accordance with the principles and practice of the Cultural Resource Management Policy. In addition to the principles and practice noted above, management under the Cultural Resource Management Policy means:

- cultural resources and their values are inventoried and evaluated, and these records are kept up to date;
- there are no uses or threats that reduce the potential for long-term conservation and future understanding and appreciation of the cultural resources;
- any modification to the site or its cultural resources is based on sound knowledge and respect for the historic values of the resources and is preceded by adequate research, recording, and
investigation
• conservation measures are based on direct, rather than indirect evidence, follow the path of least intrusive action, and are clearly recorded;
• any new work at or adjacent to the site is sensitive in form and scale to the site and its associated resources;
• monitoring and review systems are in place to ensure the continued survival of the cultural resources with minimum deterioration;
• reproductions and reconstructions are marked in such a way as not to be confused with the originals they are intended to represent;
• the historic value of the resources is fully considered and integrated into the planning, conservation, presentation and operational programs.

2.0 DESIGNATION AND CONTEXT

2.1 Designation

Designation refers to the establishment of a national historic site. It occurs when the Minister approves a recommendation for national historic significance from the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada. The Old Territorial Administration Building was first considered for designation as part of a composite commemoration in 1973, when the HSMBC recommended that it be included as one of the “C” List of buildings selected to comprise the designated structures of the Dawson Historical Complex National Historic Site of Canada. This recommendation was subsequently approved by the Minister. This means that the O.T.A.B. is a cultural resource of national historic significance associated directly with the commemorated site of Dawson City.

For the present purpose, this commemorative integrity statement focuses on the values associated with the separate commemoration of the Old Territorial Administration Building as a national historic site of Canada in its own right. The relevant minute of the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada dates from its meeting in June 2001, when the Board recommended that it be declared a national historic site. At that time, the Board recommended the site name as “Old Territorial Administration Building National Historic Site of Canada/Lieu historique national du Canada de l’Ancien-Édifice-Administratif-du-Territoire”

At that time, the Board also recommended that the old Territorial Administration Building is of national historic importance because:

• it symbolizes the establishment of the first substantial, ongoing linkage between the territories north of sixty and southern Canadian society;
• it represents the federal government’s commitment to the administration of this north-western part of Canada; and,
• it is an excellent example of the buildings produced under the federal Public Works building program at the turn of the 20th century.

2.2 Commemorative Intent

2.2.1 Definition
Commemorative intent refers to the reasons for a site’s designation as a national historic site, as determined by the Ministerially-approved recommendations of the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada. A Commemorative Integrity Statement contains a Statement of Commemorative Intent which provides the answer to the question “When and for what reason was this site designated by the Minister responsible for the Historic Sites and Monuments Act as a national historic site?”

2.2.2 Statement of Commemorative Intent for the Old Territorial Administration Building National Historic Site of Canada

Commemorative Intent: The Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada minutes of June, 2001 clearly articulate the reasons for designation, comprising three elements. The reasons for designation are:

- it symbolizes the establishment of the first substantial, ongoing linkage between the territories north of sixty and southern Canadian society;
- it represents the federal government’s commitment to the administration of this north-western part of Canada; and,
- it is an excellent example of the buildings produced under the federal Public Works building program at the turn of the 20th century.

2.3 Designated Place

2.3.1 Definition

Designated place refers to the place designated by the Minister of Environment on the recommendation of the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada. Information on what constitutes the designated place for a particular historic site is drawn from the minutes of the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada.

2.3.2 Description of Designated Place

Based on the Minute of the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada, the following definition of the designated place has been provided:

“The Board recommended that the boundaries of the site include that portion of Lot 1, Group 2, Plan 10470, CLSR, Dawson, Yukon comprising the Old Territorial Administration Building and grounds, excluding the lot and buildings to southeast of the Administration Building (Submission Report 2001-06, Fig. 4, p. 263).”

2.4 Historic and Geographic Context

2.4.1 Historic Context

The Old Territorial Administration Building in Dawson City is one of a select group of buildings surviving from the early era of the community’s history. Built in 1901 only five years after the Klondike Gold Rush, it was for much of its existence closely associated with several important aspects of Yukon history, including the development of mining, the attainment of territorial status, and early federal administration in the new territory. For many years, the building housed all core
functions of both the federal and territorial governments. The building of such an impressive structure in the remote location of Dawson was a clear physical statement of the Canadian government’s determination to fulfill its administrative role, while asserting sovereignty of the territory contiguous with the American state of Alaska. It has also been noted that the imposing architectural design of the building indicated the federal government’s awareness of the need for visual symbols for the new territory and to provide a tangible link to the culture of Canada in other regions. To this day, the building continues to occupy an important role as a symbol of the Government of the Yukon Territory and it continues to be an important fixture on Dawson’s cultural landscape.

The building was designed by Thomas W. Fuller, a government architect, who was sent by the federal government to design and oversee construction of its major public buildings in Dawson, including the Dawson Post Office, Territorial Court House, Commissioner’s Residence, Public School, and Telegraph Office. (The architect’s father, Thomas Fuller, senior, was a partner in the Toronto team of Fuller and Jones, chosen in 1859 to design the Centre Block of Canada’s first parliament buildings in Ottawa. Fuller Sr. was Chief Dominion Architect 1881-1897, a position held later by his son. It was therefore a prominent family associated with the design and construction of some of Canada’s most important public buildings of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The younger Fuller had a major impact on the cultural landscape of Dawson, as he designed the community’s major early public buildings, all of which but the public school having survived to the present.)

Arriving in 1899, Fuller determined to design a very large structure to house all federal and territorial government functions under one roof. In commissioning such a monumental building in this remote location, the federal government signaled its commitment to assert and maintain its sovereignty over its northern territories. Before the discovery of gold in 1896, the federal presence was limited to small numbers of surveyors and Northwest Mounted Police. With the rapid influx of prospectors and other fortune-seekers during and after the rush, the federal role necessarily changed quickly. Proclaiming the Yukon Territory in 1898, the federal government ensured itself a major role in shaping the history of Canada’s most northwesterly region and that valuable royalties from gold mining and the sale of liquor would flow to its coffers. When completed, the building had cost $100,000 and was the largest and most elaborate of all of Dawson’s early public buildings.

2.4.2 Geographic Context

Dawson City is located at the confluence of the Yukon and Klondike Rivers in the northwestern region
of Yukon, about 500 km north of Whitehorse, and only about 100 km from the international boundary with the State of Alaska. This region has been inhabited by First Peoples, including the Tr’ondek Hwech’in, for thousands of years. For newcomers with social and cultural ties to the south, however, the town’s geographical isolation was a defining feature of the town since its inception in the Gold Rush era. In its early decades, the town was accessible only by river. Its remoteness and the high cost of transportation influenced the nature of the building materials imported from the south.

The town was built on a narrow strip of low-lying land at the confluence of the Yukon and Klondike Rivers, one of the few sites with relatively level land accessible to river boat traffic, as well as to the Gold Fields. Building construction was partly determined by the rigorous arctic climate, characterized by extremely cold temperatures in the long winters, and high temperatures in the brief summers. With the sub-surface of the ground comprising three different types of material, that is, gravel, permafrost, and discontinuous permafrost (a mixture of gravel and permafrost), architects were obliged to seek imaginative design solutions to construct buildings that could accommodate the specific characteristics of Dawson’s environment. The Old Territorial Administration Building exemplifies the pragmatic approaches necessary to adapt to the geography and climate of this far northerly location.

3.0 RESOURCES DIRECTLY RELATED TO THE REASONS FOR DESIGNATION AS A NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

This section contains details on the resources - the whole and the parts of the whole - which are directly related to the reasons for designation.

3.1 Designated Place

3.1.1 Description

The designated place comprises the Old Territorial Administration Building and designated portions of the lot surrounding the building. The centrepiece of the designated place is the building itself, a monumental structure of Neoclassical inspiration that, when built, sharply contrasted with rude frame structures on the northwest corner bordering Fifth Avenue and Church Street and informal outbuildings to the rear. Even today, it is an imposing presence in Dawson and visible from various parts of the town.

3.1.2 Historic Values

Historic value is a value or values assigned to a resource, whereby it is recognized as a cultural resource. These values can be physical and/or associative.

The key resource of the designated place is the Old Territorial Administration Building. Its monumental and notable design continues to be a landmark within the community. The scale affirmed the government’s recognition of the importance of administration in the north. As well, the orientation of the long side of the building to the front maximized its visual impact, impressing on approaching visitors the power and authority of the federal government that erected it. The organization of its facade into a five-part composition and a bilaterally-symmetrical plan, with central and flanking pavilions, imparts a highly formal appearance to the structure.
From its inception to the present, the building has been readily visible from both Fifth Avenue and Church Street. Its setback from the street distinguishes it from other buildings in Dawson and emulates southern Canadian capitals. This approach contrasted dramatically with the commercial and many residential structures in Dawson, which were generally sited to abut the sidewalk, with minimal landscaping. As well, a high degree of retention of historic fabric, coupled with occupancy of its original site, have imbued the building with authenticity. Other important values of the designated place include the design and character-defining features of the landscape, which was always an integral component of the overall concept. The provision of green space in front of the building and on its north side was intended to set off the showpiece structure. The wide central board walk leading
to the front entrance of the building is another defining feature, historically intended to convey its importance to visitors. In this regard, the continued use of the front entrance as a route of access and egress is considered an integral heritage value.

3.2 Landscapes and Landscape Features

3.2.1 Description

Located within the original government compound of Dawson, the Old Territorial Administration Building was historically separated from the commercial and residential sectors of the town by a green space, comprising formal landscaping on the north (Victory Garden) and west (front) sides. Within a few years after construction, a formal park, named Minto Park after the governor general, had been laid out on the southeast side. Immediately, the park became an important public space for various public gatherings, including sports events and military drills. The Victory Garden is defined by diagonally-configured paths dividing the rectangular space into triangular quadrants, and converging at a round central planting bed. Reconstructed in 1992, the landscape continues to be an integral part of the designated place.

3.2.2 Historic values

As an excellent example of the Department of Public Works building program of the early twentieth century, it reflects the Department’s careful choice of a site and positioning of the building on the site for both convenient access and public profile.

The historic values of the commemorated landscape include the layout and key physical elements of the formal grounds on the north and west sides of the Old Territorial Administration Building. An early defining feature was a fence around the perimeter of the grounds in front of the building, which served to demarcate the area of the grounds and also impart a more formal quality. The provision of a wide walkway approach to the front entrance is historically important as it was designed to set off the building and impart to visitors a sense of arrival. The placement of new trees along the edge of the property, integral to the overall design concept, is an important heritage value, but the trees themselves are not considered cultural resources.

Of equal importance to the green space at the front is the formal landscape of Victory Garden to the north of the building. This park was a site of commemoration and community use since established only a few years after the completion of the building in 1901. The current Victory Garden is not identical to the original garden but has been compressed into the west half of the former garden. The rectangular space is divided by diagonal intersecting gravel paths. At their convergence is a circular planting bed which provides a focal flower display. Consequently, the central flower bed is no longer in its original location.

The cenotaph, originally installed in the central bed in 1924, now situated at the eastern edge of the restored landscape, is not directly associated with the reasons for commemoration of the national historic site. However, it is nevertheless a component of important associative community values and is discussed in the third element of commemorative integrity, below.

Important viewscapes associated with the building’s historic values include the view from Fifth
Avenue towards the building, and the three-quarters view from the Victory Garden to the building.

**3.3 Buildings and Structures**

**3.3.1 Description**

The building is of two and a half stories, measuring 48.9 by 13.1 metres (160 feet by 43 feet). Its facade is elaborate, organized into twelve bays and three pedimented pavilions, which project beyond the intervening sections in the manner of other federal public buildings of this era. For the administration building in Dawson, the central pavilion was separated from the corner pavilions by three-bay extensions. Classical detailing was provided throughout, including double Ionic columns flanking the central entry, fluted pilasters positioned at regular intervals between the evenly spaced windows, carved scroll work on the window surrounds and within the pediments, and dentils along the cornice. From the outset, the building was capped by a metal hipped roof.

![Image of the building](National Archives of Canada PA 16583)

Inside, the building was organized according to the functions it was intended to house. On the main level, a central lobby was flanked by symmetrical staircases leading to the second floor. To the left, on the north side, a large room housed the offices of the mining recorder, while the offices of the Commissioner of the Yukon Territory were laid out to the south of the entrance lobby.
Later referred to locally as “the big cabin”, its wood-frame construction reflected the need for lightweight building materials that could be readily transported to the north. The raising of the first floor above grade gave greater visual prominence to the building but it also reflected an adaptation of the building to local conditions. Owing to the permafrost and the ever-present risks of shifting ground under the foundations, Fuller opted to build a platform frame beneath the building structure, resting on nineteen rows of sills and posts hammered five feet into the ground. The walls were constructed as a double shell, initially insulated with sawdust and tar paper. He also raised the building a further five feet above the ground by designing a device to insulate it and prevent the structure from releasing heat that might melt the permafrost on which it rested.

At the same time, Fuller’s reliance on imported woods and finishing materials expressed a desire to construct a building that would showcase the commitment and values of the government that commissioned it. Use of the classical idiom, with such features as tripartite vertical forms, pilasters, and details such as dentils, cornices, and pediments, imparted a character of permanence and pedigree even to a newly-erected building. The flag pole at the crest of the entrance pediment is also of importance and is shown in the earliest photographs of the completed building. Another value is the building’s colour, which replicates the original colour scheme of the structure and that of the other government buildings Fuller designed in Dawson City.

3.3.2 Historic Values

The historic values of the building include the presence of much original cove siding on the exterior, and the continuation of the building’s massing, with remarkably little change since built in 1901. Another physical value is the platform frame under the structure, an ad hoc solution for a large, permanent, centrally heated structure.

An important value is the continuation, with minor modifications, of the entrance area on the first floor to the courtroom on the second floor, which document the organization of space, and the building’s pattern of use over its tenure as the centre of government administration. Another of the values of the original plan is the fact that visitors enter the courtroom from the hallway leading from the top of the central staircase. In so doing, as they approach they view the judge’s dais, which was originally designed to be the focal point of a planned axial view.

Many other interior components, while reproductions of the originals, add to the historic appearance of the building: the “V” matchboard fir panelling in many rooms, including the court room and the Mines Recording Office (now the North Gallery), which also have richly detailed ceilings. Other valued components include transom windows and picture rails throughout. These reproductions compliment and add to the existing original elements such as the centre staircase connecting the lobby area to the court room, its balustrades and intricately carved newell posts. The service stairwell in the north end of the building, along with its balustrade and fir V-matchboard panelling, represents another original component of the building.

On the second floor, the Yukon Council Chamber, which also later served as a court room, was restored in the 1980s. It features an elaborately carved arch over the dais, and rich vertical V-joint fir panelling. Overall, this room possesses a high degree of authenticity in its original floor plan, the fenestration, and surviving fabric, complimented by new fabric that accurately replicates the missing
elements. The dais, witness box, handrails, and the table with balustrade are all authentic cultural resources directly associated with the commemorated building. The two-storey brick vault at the south end of the east side of the building, one of the few surviving brick structures dating to the turn of the century, though modified to accommodate a staircase, retains much of its original fabric and contributes to the authentic appearance of the building’s exterior. It also speaks to the original function of the building.

3.4 Archaeological Sites

3.4.1 Description

The site may have archaeological elements containing artifacts that potentially document the history and evolution of the building and grounds of the Old Territorial Administration Building. These may include vestiges of the former 1904 drainage system at the site, the location of former fence lines and posts, trees, and other landscape features of the early period of the building’s history.

3.4.2 Historic Values

The values of the archaeological sites include their documentation of early patterns of use associated with the operation of the building as a public facility. Specifically, the vestiges of the former drainage ditch documents the supporting engineering works required to maintain a large wooden structure in the particular climatic conditions of Dawson.

3.5 Objects

3.5.1 Description

The Old Territorial Administration Building possesses a number of moveable cultural resources that are directly related to the commemorative intent of the site. These include photographs of the interior and exterior of the building and its landscape, its construction and maintenance; architectural drawings, and records of government departments (including the Department of Mines and the Attorney General). The resources of national historic significance include surviving original furnishings such as the original dais, witness box, and handrails in the courtroom. Other cultural resources may include building fragments acquired in the course of building restoration, such as bricks from the vault.

3.5.2 Historic values

The values of any historic objects include their documentation of the history and use of the pre-eminent public building and grounds in the evolution of Dawson.

3.6 Objectives for the Designated Place and its Cultural Resources

These objectives are designed to promote the preservation and repair of the physical resource and to encourage the continuing appropriate use of the resource to reinforce its overall meaning.

The resources (designated place, landscapes and landscape features, buildings and structures,
archaeological sites, objects) directly associated with the commemorated site will not be impaired or under threat when:

- the resources and their associated values are respected;
- management decisions are based on adequate and sound information and are made in accordance with the Cultural Resource Management Policy and the Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada;
- the resources and their associated values are not lost, impaired or threatened from natural process, for example erosion and decay, within or outside of the site;
- the resources and their associated values are not lost, impaired or threatened from human actions within or outside of the site;
- the managers of the building are working with other owners of national historic sites in Dawson to maintain linkages for the protection of all of these outstanding heritage places;
- the records associated with the restoration of the building have been assembled and are being protected to ensure that knowledge of the cultural resources of the original building and subsequent changes is maintained in perpetuity, and;
- the historic values of the resources are communicated to visitors and stakeholders.

**Designated Place**

- The visibility of the building as a landmark within the community is maintained.
- Viewplanes of the building from Fifth Avenue and Church Streets are maintained.
- The non-commercial character of the designated place is maintained, that is, the setback of the building from the street and the continuation of tree plantings around the west and north perimeters of the property.
- managers of the building are working with other authorities to maintain the complementary character, scale, and density of adjacent properties.
- The building is maintained on its original site.
- Good documentation of the historical evolution of the building, its collections and structural components is maintained. Documentation of the 1986 restoration and subsequent changes is the responsibility of the Yukon Government.

**Building and Structures**

- The building is safeguarded in terms of its form, materials, and massing, particularly on the Fifth Avenue and Church Street facades.
- The layout and the reconstructed interior and original exterior elements identified above are protected, maintained and monitored.

**Landscapes and Landscape Features**

- The alignment and width of the front walk and the pathways of the Victory Garden are maintained and monitored.

**Objects**

- Objects related to the construction and operation of the building are inventoried, researched,
Archaeological Sites

- Documented in-situ resources of the commemoration period and in-situ remains in areas of “potential archaeological significance” for the same period are respected in accordance with archaeological conservation practices.

4.0 EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION OF THE REASONS FOR DESIGNATION AS A NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

Protection is only one part of commemorative integrity. As the National Historic Sites Policy states (p. 78): “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.”

4.1 Reasons for Designation as a National Historic Site

The reasons for designation as a national historic site express, in the form of messages, why this place was designated a national historic site.

4.1.2 Reasons for Designation

The Old Territorial Administration Building was designated for three reasons, as outlined in the Statement of Commemorative Intent, which states that the building:

- symbolizes the establishment of the first substantial, ongoing linkage between the territories north of sixty and southern Canadian society.
- represents the federal government's commitment to the administration of this north-western part of Canada; and
- is an excellent example of the buildings produced under the federal Public Works building program at the turn of the 20th century.

4.2 Context Messages

4.2.1 Definition of Context Messages

Context messages are those messages that are essential to understanding the reasons for designation of the site. While context messages are essential to understanding the reasons for designation, they are not reasons for national significance.

4.2.2 Context Messages

The Old Territorial Administration Building is a national historic site, a place designated by the Government of Canada as a site of importance to all Canadians.

Messages of National Historic Significance
1. The Old Territorial Administration Building symbolizes the establishment of the first substantial, ongoing linkage between the territories north of sixty and southern Canadian society.

Context Messages

- The building was established soon after the Klondike Gold Rush and its history is intimately linked to this event.
- The first territorial government sat in this building, establishing the roots of the modern territorial government that exists today.

2. The Old Territorial Administration Building represents the federal government’s commitment to the administration of this north-western part of Canada

Context Messages

- The building was erected to facilitate on-going Canadian administration of the region, symbolizing Canadian sovereignty of the territory bordering Alaska and was the centre of administrative, regulatory, legal, and judicial services necessary for the successful development and operation of the Yukon Territory for more than fifty years.
- For many years, virtually every function of the federal and territorial governments was housed in this building.
- The Territorial Council and Legislature were housed in this building from 1901 to 1953.
- The federal commitment to Yukon had an enormous impact on the political, social, economic, and cultural development of the northwest part of Canada.

3. The Old Territorial Administration Building is an excellent example of the buildings produced under the federal Public Works building program at the turn of the 20th century.

Context Messages

- The building’s large size, its classically-based design, and formally elaborated exterior detailing mark it as an important work by the federal government in northern Canada.
- The building is a second-generation extension of the national architectural program of the Public Works team that also designed the Langevin Block, the first Manitoba Legislative Building, and other key government structures across the country.
- The building is a cornerstone in the suite of federally-designed buildings in Dawson, including the Post Office, the Commissioner’s Residence, the Court House, the School, and the Telegraph Office.
- The building exhibits the fine design, detailing, and craftsmanship of the Public Works architects.
- The classical design of the building, typical of early 20th century buildings in Canada, consists of the symmetrical elevation and floor plans, regularly spaced openings, and architectural details such as the pilasters and pediments and other details of classical inspiration. Classicism was favoured for public buildings for its dignified designs, and because it referred to the origins of Western culture in the ancient civilizations of Greece and Rome.
- The building was designed and built to accommodate local conditions of extreme cold and permafrost.
4. *The Old Territorial Administration Building is a national historic site, a place designated by the Government of Canada as a site of importance to all Canadians because of its national historic significance.*

4.3 Objectives

The reasons for designation as a national historic site are effectively communicated to the public when:

- The overall heritage presentation experience conveys the reasons for designation as a national historic site.
- Visitors and the site stewards understand the reasons for designation as a national historic site.
- Management decisions are based on adequate and sound information and are made in accordance with the *Cultural Resource Management Policy* and the *Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada*.

5.0 RESOURCES, VALUES AND MESSAGES NOT RELATED TO THE REASONS FOR DESIGNATION AS A NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

Some resources, values and messages are not related to the reasons for designation. This section contains information on these resources, as well as messages and other values which are important but not related to the reasons for designation.

In applying the first element of commemorative integrity, emphasis is clearly on resources directly related to the reasons for designation as a national historic site and their values. However, the Cultural Resource Management Policy applies to all cultural resources, as well as significant ecosystem features.

A Commemorative Integrity Statement is developed to assist managers or owners in managing all the resources for which they have responsibility. The overall stewardship of a national historic site is called into question and commemorative integrity is threatened if resources not related to the reasons for designation are not managed in accordance with the Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada.

5.1 Resources Not Related to the Reasons for Designation as a National Historic Site

5.1.1 Buildings and Structures

5.1.1.1 Description

The Dawson Cenotaph was dedicated by the Great War Veterans Association on 25 September 1924. It was installed in the planting bed in the centre of Victory Garden and has been associated with the Old Territorial Administration Building for eighty years, comprising most of the history of the building. As a result of the reduction of the size of the restored Victory Garden, the cenotaph, though still in its original location, is now placed at the eastern edge of the landscaping. It is the focus of pilgrimage activities, especially Remembrance Day services honouring the courage and sacrifice of
Canada’s soldiers in the two World Wars and the Korean War. Archaeological evidence of other gold rush and pre-gold rush activities may also be found in the designated place.

5.1.1.2 Historic Values

As an authentic cultural resource, both the cenotaph’s form (a stone obelisk) and its original stone material comprise important components of its historic value. Other integral resources of value are the two flanking artillery guns, which are long-standing components of the memorial.

5.1.2 Objects

5.1.2.1 Description

Any objects associated with the operation and occupancy of the building subsequent to its closure in 1953, until its occupancy by the Dawson City Museum, are considered to be cultural resources. Two Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada plaques were formerly mounted on either side of the entrance to the building.

5.1.2.2 Historic values

The historic value of the objects described in 5.1.2.1 reside in their documentation of the history of the building.

5.2 Objectives for Cultural Resources Not Related to the Reasons for Designation as a National Historic Site

The resources (designated place, landscapes and landscape features, buildings and structures, archaeological sites, objects) will not be impaired or under threat when:

- management decisions are based on adequate and sound information and are made in accordance with the principles and practice of the Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada.
- the resources and their associated values are respected;
- management decisions are based on adequate and sound information and are made in accordance
with the principles and practice of the Cultural Resource Management Policy;

- the resources and their associated values are not lost, impaired or threatened from natural processes, for example erosion and decay, within or outside of the site;
- the resources and their associated values are not lost, impaired or threatened from human actions within or outside of the site; and
- the historic values of the resources are communicated to visitors and stakeholders.
- The building houses the Dawson Museum, which has been and continues to be a major cultural institution in Dawson.

5.3 Messages Not Related to the Reasons for Designation as a National Historic Site

- T.W. Fuller was chief architect of the Department of Public works from 1927 to 1936, and as such he oversaw the design and construction of hundreds of buildings, which served to establish the federal presence across Canada.
- The Old Territorial Administration Building is owned by and is of prime importance to the Yukon Government.
- The Old Territorial Administration Building is linked thematically to a number of other commemorations by the government of Canada, including the Dawson Historical Complex, Dredge No. 4, and Trochëk National Historic Site of Canada.
- Owing to its use and functions over the years, the Old Territorial Administration Building is a site of importance to the community of Dawson.
- Among other functions, the building housed the school, and the radio station CFYT, as well as other post-1953 activities, including the community’s post office from 1953 to 1962.
- The Dawson City Museum and Historical Society and Parks Canada played an important role in the restoration of the Old Territorial Administration Building by the Yukon Government.

5.4 Objectives for Messages Not Related to the Reasons for Designation as a National Historic Site

The messages not related to the reasons for designation as a national historic site are effectively communicated to the public when:

- part of the heritage presentation experience conveys the messages not related to the reasons for designation as a national historic site.
- the messages not related to the reasons for designation as a national historic site and their presentation do not overwhelm or detract from the presentation and understanding of the site’s national historic significance.
- visitors understand the messages not related to the reasons for designation as a national historic site.
6.0 APPENDICES

6.1 Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada Minutes and Plaque Texts


The Old Territorial Administration Building, 594 Fifth Avenue, Dawson City, Yukon Territory

Designation

The Board recommended the Old Territorial Administration Building for designation as a National Historic Site to be marked by means of a standard plaque.

Site Name

The Board recommended the site name as: Old Territorial Administration Building National Historic Site of Canada, lieu historique national du Canada de l’Ancien-Édifice-Administratif-du-Territoire.

Designated Place

The Board recommended that the boundaries of the site include that portion of Lot 1, Group 2, Plan 10470, CLSR, Dawson, Yukon comprising the Old Territorial Administration Building and grounds, excluding lot and buildings to southeast of the Administration Building (Submission Report 2001-06, Fig. 4, p. 263). (See Appendix 6.3).

Commemorative Intent

The Old Territorial Administration Building is of national historic importance because:
- it symbolizes the establishment of the first substantial, ongoing linkage between the territories north of sixty and southern Canadian society;
- it represents the federal government’s commitment to the administration of this north-western part of Canada; and,
- it is an excellent example of the buildings produced under the federal Public Works building program at the turn of the 20th century.


“Status Report Dawson City Buildings
The historicity of the various buildings in Dawson City was considered by the Board in June 1967. In the consideration of these buildings the Board established two distinct categories; an “A” list for those determined to be clearly of national historic importance and which should be acquired and restored and a “B” list of those declared to be of significance and for which “the Minister should make arrangements to ensure that their present status continues”....

A third list, “C” (below) has been prepared by the Branch and comprises buildings required either for
environmental protection purposes because they were under threat, or to preserve the historical aspects of streetscapes in which the Branch now has a considerable investment as a result of its acquisition of the buildings in lists A and B, or for administrative reasons. All the buildings in list “C” fit the period of 1906 or before. Among the buildings acquired for administrative purposes, the Territorial Administration Building will become the Visitor Reception Centre for Dawson City: the Court House is being used as a summer staff residence: the N.W.M.P. quarters, Bombay Peggy’s, Whitehorse residence, 2-storey Log House and sod-roofed cabin will also probably be adapted as summer staff residences. The exteriors of the other buildings will be stabilized and they will be preserved as essential elements of streetscapes.

(1) Harrington’s Store
(2) Great Northern Airway’s Office
(3) Lowe’s Mortuary
(4) Yukon (Miner’s Rest) Hotel
(5) R.N.W.M.P. Co’s Residence
(6) R.N.W.M.P. Jail
(7) R.N.W.M.P. Stable
(8) Territorial Administration Building
(9) Court House
(10) Ladue Mill
(11) Bombay Peggy’s Residence
(12) Whitehouse Residence
(13) Two-Storey Log House (west side of Seventh Avenue)
(14) Sod-roofed Log Cabin (south end of Seventh Avenue)
(15) Two cribs.”
6.2 List of Commemorative Integrity Statement Team Members

Mike Fraser          Regional Manager
                     Northern Region Headquarters Dawson City
                     Highways and Public Works, Government of Yukon

Doug Olynyk          Historic Sites Coordinator, Heritage Resources
                     Tourism & Culture, Government of Yukon

Henry Procyk         Development Control Officer Town of the City of Dawson

John McCormick       Cost Share Planner, Western Canada Service Centre, Parks Canada, Vancouver

Lyle Dick            West Coast Historian, Western Canada Service Centre, Parks Canada, Vancouver

Julia Pike           Director/Curator, Dawson City Museum

Cheryl Thompson      Director, Administration, Dawson City Museum

Louise Ranger        Director, Dawson City Museum

Ken Snider           Director, Dawson City Museum

John Gould           Director, Dawson City Museum

Joyce Caley          Director, Dawson City Museum

Michael Gates        Cultural Integrity Specialist, Yukon Field Unit, Parks Canada, Whitehorse
6.3 Maps of the Designated Place, Old Territorial Administration Building
National Historic Site of Canada

Dawson Historical Complex NHS
SS Keno National Historic Site
Dawson City, Yukon

Map 1: Street Map of Dawson Showing Location of the OTAB

Map 2: The designated Place for OTAB (Grey shading) in Lot L North is to the Right
Map 3: Old Territorial Administration Building and associated landscape which comprise the designated place

6.3 Maps of the Designated Place, Old Territorial Administration Building National Historic Site of Canada, continued