

Dawson, Yukon  
**Black Residence**  
Fifth Avenue and Turner Street

## **HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT**

The Black Residence, Dawson, was built in 1900. The designer is unknown. By 1918 an attic dormer was cut into the roof, a south porch added, and two additions to the rear made. A breakfast nook was annexed somewhat later. As a result of rehabilitation work in 1978-1979 the breakfast nook and rear additions were demolished. The addition which had served as an office, was replaced by a modern structure matching in outline that which it replaced. The building is now the property of the Canadian Parks Service, Environment Canada. See FHBRO Building Report 88-12.

### **Reasons for Designation**

The Black Residence was designated Recognized because of: the important individuals associated with the house; the very good quality of the workmanship and skillful handling of materials; and the integrity of the historical relationship between the building and its associated landscape.

An unusually long list of individuals of national, regional and community interest have resided in the Black Residence; J. Langlois Bell (Assistant Gold Commissioner/Barrister) ca. 1900-1903, Thomas Dufferin "Duff" Pattullo (Assistant Gold Commissioner/Broker/Premier of British Columbia) ca. 1905-1906, Chester A. Thomas (Manager Yukon Gold Co.) 1908-1916, George T. Coffey (Manager, Yukon Gold Co.) ca. 1920-1924, George Black (Yukon Commissioner/Member of Parliament/Barrister) 1929-1948, Martha Munger Black (Amateur Botanist/Author/Member of Parliament) 1929-1948.

In the context of four-square frame houses of the period the Black Residence is very well crafted and soundly built. The selection and installation of grooved roofing, interior wood joinery, millwork, door hardware, sheet metal and wallpaper finishes are notable. The garden layout and landscape features which distinguished the Black Residence, particularly during the occupancy by Martha Black, while not restored, could be recovered.

### **Character Defining Elements**

The heritage character of the building lies in the elegantly proportioned central building mass, with its steeply pitched hip roof and indented hip dormers, to which is joined a number of dissimilar yet complementary masses with low pitched roofs.

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**Black Residence** (Continued)

Tall, graceful, vertical sliding windows, 2/2 at the ground floor and 7/2 (upper sash with diagonally set muntins) at the second floor, are carefully disposed at the exterior. The building has been designed in the round and substantial change on any elevation will adversely effect the composition as a whole.

Internally, the building retains its original floor plan on both floors. The sheet metal lined room which served historically as a kitchen is of special importance. Seven different patterns of plate, manufactured by the Metallic Roofing Co., of Toronto, are preserved in the embossed ceiling.

Prior to carrying out the recent rehabilitation work, an investigation of historic wallpapers on the Black Residence was made. An exceptionally rich collection of side wall, frieze and ceiling papers was discovered. The redecoration of the interior, utilizing the information from wallpaper and paint analysis, would add greatly to the heritage value of the interior.

Archaeological and landscape architectural investigation of the Black Residence grounds have been made and a ca. 1938 period landscape design developed. The implementation of this scheme would greatly enhance the heritage and aesthetic values of the property.

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