

Dawson City, Yukon  
**Harrington's Store**  
Third Avenue Northwest Corner Princess Street

## **HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT**

The two-storey commercial building, commonly known as Harrington's Store, was constructed in early 1902 as a combination store and rooming house. Incorporated in the structure are portions of the single storey 1901 commercial building that previously occupied the site.

External modifications include the replacement of a single door and show window by a single, smaller show window (1904-1935), the removal of all original siding and window units at the south and east elevations up to the height of the second floor, and their replacement by plain horizontal boarding and a single recycled six-light fixed sash at each elevation (1968-1972), the demolition of the original shed roofed annex at the west elevation (1968-1972), and the partial restoration of the 1904-1935 ground floor appearance (ca. 1976).

The replacement of the original foundation and ground floor framing and flooring and the demolition of most internal partitioning (1968-1972) has left little trace of the evolution of the earlier interior configurations.

The building is owned by Environment Canada, the Canadian Parks Service and is operated as an exhibit space. See FHBRO Building Report 88-12.

### **Reasons for Designation**

Harrington's Store was designated Recognized largely on the basis of environmental criteria: the integrity of its historical relationship within the streetscape, the contribution it continues to make to the character of the historic district and the strong identity it has within the community.

The building's relationship to Third Avenue and Princess Street is essentially the same as it was when built in 1902. While no longer part of a fully developed streetscape, Harrington's Store anchors one corner of a historically important street intersection and is critical to its integrity. The use of the building as a drop-in centre, temporary visitor reception centre and exhibition hall have contributed to its conspicuous identity within the community. The location of the building, at a major Dawson intersection, should ensure its continued prominence.

### **Character Defining Elements**

The heritage character of the building derives from the Italianate architectural treatment given the street elevations, particularly the boxed cornice and panelled

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**Harrington's Store** (Continued)

frieze, the square-sided oriel window placed at the salient angle, the richly ornamented double front door, and the painted cove shiplap siding.

The interior is notable for its traditional plan arrangement - second floor rooms accessed by a flight of stairs rising to a single door on the Princess Street elevation.

The partial restoration of the principal elevations has gone some way towards re-establishing the exterior character of the building. The restoration/rehabilitation of the minor elevations would enhance the appearance of the building. A tenancy which would justify rehabilitation of the second and ground floors, for residential and commercial/institutional use respectively, would enrich the streetscape character of the area.

The historic relationship between the building and the once bustling thoroughfares of Third Avenue and Princess Street derived, in part, from the proximity of the building to the lot lines and boardwalk, the awnings along both principal elevations and the dressed show windows. The maintenance and/or development of these features would contribute to the Gold Rush character sought by the community.

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