

Dawson City, Yukon
Former NWMP Stables
Government Reserve, Site 4, Parcel U4

HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT

The Stables building was built in 1903 to designs by Robert Moncrieff to accommodate police horses. At some time prior to 1925, it was reduced in size by about 40%. In 1972, it was acquired by Environment Canada. The building remained vacant for many years then underwent stabilization work in 1982. It is now used as unheated storage space by Klondike National Historic Sites and is interpreted on the Government Reserve walking tour. Environment Canada is custodian of the property. See FHBRO Building Report 87-69.

Reason for Designation

The building was designated Recognized because of its association with the NWMP and their role in administering the northern territories and the exercise of Canadian sovereignty in the area and because it is an important component of the group of four surviving Fort Herchmer/Government Reserve structures.

Character Defining Elements

The heritage value of the building resides in the entirety of its surviving early materials and those features that characterize it as a NWMP stable of the period. Details such as the ventilated cupolas, and the narrow stall windows are more refined than those found in some of the more crude log counterparts of this building. Many interior and exterior features of the stables survive, these should be protected.

The setting of the property, the Fort Herchmer complex, has been modified by the removal of most other NWMP buildings and development in the area over the past thirty years. More recent site development has reinstated and clarified the relationship between the surviving buildings of the complex in which the NWMP Stable plays an important part. Future site development should retain or even strengthen this connection through the use of historic precedent, compatible circulation patterns or landscaping.

The building now serves primarily as an artifact and secondarily as unheated storage. These uses are appropriate as they make fewer demands on the building than a more active use might.

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