

BEAR CREEK, Yukon
FHBRO Number: **89-08**
DFRP Number: **20008**
Engineering Office (Building #19)
Bear Creek Compound

The Engineering Office (Building #19) was constructed by the Yukon Consolidated Gold Corporation (YCGC) before 1936 at Bear Creek industrial complex, a service facility for gold mining operations. It originally served as an office building, but this function was relocated to the Engineering Office (Building #28) after 1940, when the latter building was reconstructed in the Bear Creek complex. By 1942, Building #19 was converted to serve as the Engineers' Residence. Operations at the Bear Creek complex ceased in 1966, and the property was acquired by Parks Canada, the present custodian, in 1975.

Reasons for designation

The Engineering Office / Engineers' Residence is a "Recognized" Federal Heritage Building because of its historical, architectural, and environmental values:

As part of the Bear Creek complex, this building is associated with the corporate phase of Yukon's gold mining history, in particular with the YCGC's renewal and expansion program of the 1930s. Designed as an office building and subsequently used as a residence, it exemplifies the practice of converting the site's buildings to meet changing needs.

The Engineer's Residence is simple and functional in design, and exhibits good workmanship and appropriate use of materials. Its one-storey rectangular form is clad with horizontal wood siding, and its gable roof is covered with corrugated sheet metal and topped with a boxed ventilator. A small front porch with a peaked roof supported by paired posts enhances its front elevation. It possesses a wood-frame structure, and its layout is a simple arrangement of bedrooms and other rooms along a central corridor.

The Engineers' Residence reinforces the residential and industrial character of this functionally obsolete but remarkably intact village-like mining service facility, with its with 80 structures and several landscape features relating to large-scale mechanical placer mining. Located at the north side of the open yard, it is part of the mainly residential ensemble that contrasts with the trade, warehouse, and administration buildings opposite.

Character-defining elements

The following character-defining elements of the Office Building should be respected:

- The simple and functional nature of its design, and its overall good workmanship and appropriate use of materials.
- The features of its form, construction, and materials that unify it with the site's other buildings, including its simple rectangular shape, its gable roof, its horizontal wood siding, painted grey, with white trim, its corrugated sheet metal roof-covering, its wood-frame structure, and its rooftop ventilator.
- The simple but distinctive detailing of its front porch and the arrangement and the arrangement and detailing of its windows and doors.
- Its comfortable relationship – due to its form, materials, detailing, and colour scheme – with the other structures and landscape features of the site, in particular the residential buildings at the north end of the yard.

For guidance on interventions, refer to the *FHBRO Code of Practice*. For further information, contact FHBRO.

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