

BEAR CREEK, Yukon
FHBRO Number: **89-08**
DFRP Number: **20008**
Engineering Office (Building #28)
Bear Creek Compound

The Engineering Office (Building #28), originally a large mess hall and bunk house at the Arlington camp of the Yukon Consolidated Gold Corporation, was relocated to YCGC's Bear Creek industrial complex, a service facility for the YCGC's mining operations, in 1940. At its new location, it was converted for use as an office building. A two-storey concrete addition provided vault space, and a one-storey shipping office linked it to the adjacent Warehouse No. 1 (Building #27). It provided offices, records space, a drafting area, and other amenities for engineers, geologists, accountants, and others working at the mining facility. Operations at the Bear Creek complex ceased in 1966, and the property was acquired by Parks Canada, its present custodian, in 1975.

Reasons for designation

The Engineering Office (Building #28) is a "Recognized" Federal Heritage Building because of its historical, architectural, and environmental values:

As part of the Bear Creek complex, the Engineering Office is associated with the corporate phase of Yukon's gold mining history. Relocated from the YCGC's Arlington camp in 1940, it also illustrates the changes brought about following the renewal and expansion program of the 1930s.

The Engineering Office is simple and functional in design, and exhibits good workmanship and appropriate use of materials. The building's two-storey rectangular form is clad with horizontal wood siding, painted grey, with white trim. It is topped by a metal-covered gable roof with a boxed ventilator. The front elevation of the wood-frame building extends into a single-storey wood-frame link to Warehouse No.1 to the east, and a concrete addition, which served as a vault, is set back on the west side.

The Engineering Building reinforces the industrial character of this functionally obsolete but remarkably intact village-like mining service facility, with its 80 structures and several landscape features relating to large-scale mechanical placer mining. Like the site's other main buildings, it faces the large open yard. It enjoys a visual and functional link with the adjacent Warehouse No. 1 (Building #27).

Character-defining elements

The following character-defining elements of the Engineering Office 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 rectangular shape, its gable roof, its grey wood horizontal siding, its corrugated metal roof covering, its rooftop ventilator, and its wood-frame structure.
- The arrangement and detailing of its doors and windows.
- Its comfortable relationship – due to its form, materials, detailing, and colour scheme – with the other structures and landscape features of the site, particularly the adjacent Warehouse No. 1 (Building #27).

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

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