

BEAR CREEK, Yukon

FHBRO Number: **89-08**

DFRP Number: **20008**

Garage and Fire Hall (Building #16)

Bear Creek Compound

The Garage and Fire Hall (Building #16) was constructed before 1935 by the Yukon Consolidated Gold Corporation (YCGC). It is part of the Bear Creek industrial complex, a service facility for the YCGC gold mining operations. In 1931, it served as a dormitory. Its most recent function was a garage, and before this it was a fire hall. Alterations include the blocking of a large doorway and other openings at the rear, and the installation of a large double door on the west side. 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 Garage and Fire Hall is a “Recognized” Federal Heritage Building because of its historical, architectural, and environmental values:

As part of the Bear Creek complex, the Garage and Fire Hall is associated with the corporate phase of Yukon’s gold mining history. It is also an example of the response to the need for fire protection and vehicle storage when the facility was undergoing renewal and expansion in the 1930s.

The Garage and Fire Hall is simple and functional in design, and exhibits good workmanship and appropriate use of materials. Because of its original function as a dormitory, it is long and narrow in form. Its rectangular wood-frame structure is clad with corrugated metal siding and its gable roof is covered with metal. Its front gable has two pairs of large, double doors that open into an elongated rectangular space. A third set of double doors, located in the west elevation at the rear, opens into a smaller area. There are windows on the west elevation and there is exterior evidence of former openings on the rear gable elevation and near the rear of the east elevation. The interior walls are sheathed with shiplap boarding.

The Garage and Fire Hall 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 is located on the north side adjacent to the main entry road, and opposite the cluster of trade buildings, and enjoys functional and visual links with the Garage and Storage Building (Building #15) to the east.

Character-defining elements

The following character-defining elements of the Garage and Fire Hall 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 other buildings on the site, including its rectangular shape, its gable roof, its corrugated metal siding and roof covering, and its wood-frame structure.
- Its three sets of double doors, and their relationship with the three vehicle bays in two separate sections, and its arrangement of windows.
- Its interior shiplap sheathing.
- 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 Garage and Storage Building (Building #15) to the east.

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

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