

**FHBRO HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT
GAS HOUSE NO.5, BEAR CREEK INDUSTRIAL COMPOUND,
BEAR CREEK, YK**

FHBRO number: **89-008**
DFRP number: **20008**
Resource name: **Gas House No.5**
Address: **Bear Creek Compound, Bear Creek, Yukon**
FHBRO status: **"Recognized" Federal Heritage Building**
Construction: **1946**
Designer: **Not known**
Original function: **Gas House (acetylene and oxygen used for arc welding)**
Current function: **Curatorial storage space for the Klondike National Historic Site**
Modifications: **Removal of an acetylene compressor and overhead crane.**
Custodian: **Parks Canada Agency**

Description of Historic Place

Gas House No.5 consists of a simple, two-storey, rectangular wood-frame structure with a one-storey lean-to sheathed in grey cove siding, white trim and corner boards, and a gable roof with roof ventilators. Located in the Bear Creek Compound, Gas House No.5 is one of a number of buildings loosely arranged around the compound's central yard. The designation is confined to the footprint of the building.

Heritage Value

Gas House No.5 is a "Recognized" Federal Heritage Building because of its historical associations, and its architectural and environmental values.

Historical value:

Gas House No.5 is associated with the corporate phase of Klondike gold mining in the early 20th century. Built by the Yukon Consolidated Gold Company (YCGC) to produce the oxygen and acetylene used for arc welding and machinery repairs on the dredges, Gas House No.5 is also associated with the final operational phase of the Bear Creek Compound (1941-66) during which time only a few new buildings were erected.

Architectural value:

Gas House No.5 is a good example of a purpose-designed gas-generating building. Constructed of good quality, durable materials, the level of craftsmanship is consistent with a frontier situation and a mining community that was not intended to be permanent. Gas House No.5's utilitarian design is simple, efficient, and well suited for the production of oxygen and acetylene, in that it consists of a wood frame shell with roof ventilators, concrete floor and foundation, and large doors to admit vehicles and machinery.

Environmental value:

Gas House No.5 reinforces the corporate industrial character of this obsolete placer gold mining area. The building is located among the Compound's cluster of industrial buildings, which are loosely arranged around the central yard, and set within the unique landscape of tailing piles produced during dredging operations that stretch for miles around Bear Creek, into the Klondike River Valley.

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Character-Defining Elements

The following character-defining elements of the Gas House No.2 should be respected:

Its role as an illustration of the corporate mining phase of Klondike gold extraction in the early 20th century is reflected in:

- the building's simple, functional design and materials that are consistent with its use and its frontier location.

Its utilitarian design, and good quality materials as manifested in:

- the building's simple, rectangular form and gable roofs;
- the gable roof's boxed ventilators with pyramid roofs;
- the large double doors with horseshoe hinges;
- the efficient interior layout with areas for oxygen and acetylene production, storage of cylinders, and an office;
- the features purposely-designed to resist explosions including a concrete floor and foundation, and an interior lined with 26-gauge aluminum sheeting;
- the use of durable, utilitarian materials; and,
- original equipment including electrolysis tanks.

The building's compatibility with the corporate industrial character of this obsolete placer gold mining area as evidenced in:

- its scale and materials;
- its location which is set back but part of the loose arrangement of buildings around the compound's central yard.

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

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