

Dawson, Yukon  
**Dawson News Publishing Company Plant**  
123 Third Avenue

## **HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT**

The plant of the Dawson News Publishing Co. was constructed in late summer 1901 as a warehouse for Barrett and Hull, commission merchants. The architect is unknown. Purchased by the News in March, 1910, the building was extensively modified to accommodate their publishing, printing and jobbing business. The rear one-quarter of the building, destroyed in a 1940 fire, was reconstructed to its original pattern, in 1985-1986. The plant is now the property of the Canadian Parks Service, Environment Canada. See FHBRO Building Report 88-12.

### **Reasons for Designation**

The News plant was designated Recognized because of the important historical theme with which it is associated, the associations it had with important individuals, the integrity of its historic environment and the symbolic importance it has within the community.

The News plant is closely associated with "journalism in the North." Of the more than 12 newspapers which sprang up in Dawson following the rush, the News was the most durable representative, extending from 1899 to 1954. Two individuals closely associated with the News plant first as Linotype operators and later as proprietors, are Harold Malstrom and Helmer Samuelson. Both are somewhat tragic figures, who fought against the odds to maintain Dawson's newspaper. In its present, partially restored state the plant presents essentially the same appearance in the Dawson City streetscape as it did in 1910. To the Dawson citizenry and the majority of visitors who can hardly miss the painted sign on its false front, the News plant is a conspicuous landmark.

### **Character Defining Elements**

The heritage character of the building derives from the asymmetrical false-fronted street elevation determined by its warehouse origins, and adapted to suit its later newspaper office use. Those elements belonging to its 10 years as a warehouse; i.e. the outline of the facade, the operable windows, the "Stanley Scearce" sign (preserved beneath a number of paint layers) and the stub pieces of a wood framed awning deserve preservation. The changes brought about by the conversion to a newspaper office; i.e. the set of front doors, reworked central window and "Dawson Daily News" sign equally deserve preservation.

Dawson, Yukon

**Dawson News Publishing Company Plant** (Continued)

Internally, many of the architectural elements, mechanical/electrical/heating equipment, built-in furnishings and machinery associated with the building's use as a newspaper building office survive. In the context of industrial archaeology the Dawson Daily News is a unique document. Those elements in the attic which bear witness to the near fatal fire of 1940; i.e. the charred Queen rod trusses and architectural fabric, should be preserved. The building should only be used for functions which will not jeopardize evidence of its pre-1924 industrial past.

1989.10.31