

BEAR CREEK, Yukon

FHBRO Number: **89-08**

DFRP Number: **20008**

Carpentry Shop (Building #6)

Bear Creek Compound

The Carpentry Shop (Building #6) was constructed in 1908-09 by the Canadian Klondike Mining Company, probably to serve as a blacksmith and shoeing shop. After the Yukon Consolidated Gold Corporation (YCGC) established a service facility for its gold mining operations at the Bear Creek industrial complex in 1936, the building's shoeing section (at the rear) was used as a carpentry shop. As the 1930s was a period of renewal and expansion at Bear Creek, and by this time horses were replaced by motor vehicles, the original functions of the building were replaced by carpentry. 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 Carpentry Shop is a "Recognized" Federal Heritage Building because of its historical, architectural, and environmental values:

As part of the early phase in the history of the Bear Creek Compound, the Carpentry Shop is associated with the corporate phase of Yukon's gold mining history, with links to both the Canadian Klondike Mining Company and the YCGC. It illustrates the site's early development and the necessity to adapt its buildings to meet changing requirements.

The Carpentry Shop is simple and functional in design, and exhibits good workmanship and appropriate use of materials. It is a rectangular wood-frame structure with a gable roof. Its walls are clad with corrugated sheet metal, and its roof, which is surmounted by a boxed ventilator, is covered with the same material. There are double equipment doors with diagonal boards and single inset doors in the front gable, and the rear gable has a single door. Each of the side elevations has four windows. The interior is a single open space, and some equipment – including a 50-horsepower electric motor, a line shaft system built to power four machines, and a workbench – remains in place.

The Carpentry Shop 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. It is located behind the Auto Repair Shop (Building #7), and is part of the ensemble of trade buildings whose front gables face north.

Character-defining elements

The following character-defining elements of the Carpentry Shop 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 unite it with the site's other buildings, including its simple rectangular shape, its gable roof, its metal corrugated siding and roof covering, and its rooftop ventilator.
- The arrangement and detailing of its doors and windows, and its double doors with diagonal boarding.
- Its open work area, which occupies the entire building.
- The vestiges of the carpentry shop equipment, including the electric motor, the line shaft system, and the workbench.
- 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 other trade buildings nearby.

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

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