

BEAR CREEK, Yukon
FHBRO Number: **89-08**
DFRP Number: **20008**
Tin Shop (Building #4)
Bear Creek Compound

DRAFT

The Tin Shop (Building #4) was constructed in 1918 by the Yukon Consolidated Gold Corporation (YCGC) to replace an earlier building destroyed by fire. It is part of the Bear Creek industrial complex, a service facility for the YCGC's gold mining operations. Although its original function is not known, it was used at one time for the production of welding gas. When the YCGC constructed a new Gas House (Building #5) in 1946, Building #4 became the Tin Shop. It was then used for sheet metal fabrication, metal turning, and possibly plumbing and gauge repair, and its functions were closely linked with those of the adjacent Machine Shop (Buildings #1 and #2). 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 Tin Shop (Building #4) is a "Recognized" Federal Heritage Building because of its historical, architectural, and environmental values:

As part of the Bear Creek complex, the Tin Shop is associated with the corporate phase of Yukon's gold mining history. Its close proximity to the Machine Shop (Buildings #1 and #2), with which it had a close functional relationship, illustrates how trades buildings were required to support mining operations. In addition, as an older building that has been modified and used for different functions, it exemplifies the adaptation of site's structures to meet changing requirements.

The Tin Shop is simple and functional in design, and exhibits good workmanship and appropriate use of materials. Its one-storey rectangular form, which includes a shed extension on the west side, is clad with corrugated metal siding, and its gable roof is covered with corrugated metal and topped by a boxed ventilator. Its front gable end possesses a set of double doors, a single door, and three windows. The interior has been stripped of its tools and equipment, but traces of the former working pattern remain.

The Tin 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. Like the site's other main buildings, it faces the open yard. It is located on the south side and, although set back considerably, is a conspicuous part of the ensemble of trade buildings, and enjoys a functional and visual link with the Machine Shop (Buildings #1 and #2).

Character-defining elements

The following character-defining elements of the Tin 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 unify 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 the double doors, the single door, and the windows of the front gable.
- The visible traces of structural alteration and functional adaptation, such as the west extension.
- The configuration of its work areas and other vestiges of its former function.
- 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 adjacent Machine Shop (Buildings #1 and #2).

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

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