

Dawson City, Yukon
British Yukon Navigation Company Ticket Office
Front Street at King Street

HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT

The BYN Building was constructed as an open warehouse associated with the adjacent dock facilities, by the Alaska Commercial Company in 1900. By 1901 a portion of the building was enclosed. The enclosed area was expanded at the south end and the remaining open warehouse and power plant removed, leaving the building generally in its present form. In addition to warehousing, the building has served as both a riverboat and airline transportation ticket office. The building was acquired by Parks Canada in 1980. As part of stabilization work undertaken by Parks Canada in 1982, the building's foundations were replaced and other repairs carried out. The Environment Canada Parks Service is custodian of the building.

See FHBRO Building Report 88-12.

Reason for Designation

The former British Yukon Navigation Company ticket office was designated Recognized because of its association with the development of Dawson City as a provisioning centre for the Klondike gold fields after the gold rush. All other riverfront buildings and facilities have been removed, leaving this structure as the only surviving example of early riverfront construction associated with freighting and warehousing. Its original construction, various functions, and evolution illustrate several phases of Dawson's development.

The building is a key element on the Dawson riverfront.

Character Defining Elements

The heritage value of the BYN building resides in its overall architectural form and character and those aspects of its design, structure and fabric that relate to its warehousing and ticket office function.

The building is a low, single story, hipped-roof, form oriented to both Front Street and the Yukon River. Its deep, bracketed eaves are reminiscent of railway station design without the detail of execution.

Initially constructed as an open, heavy-timber, braced frame warehouse, the evolution of the building and the sequence of additions are evident in the details and fabric.