

Dawson, Yukon
Robert Service Cabin
8th Avenue at Hansen

HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT

The cabin was constructed in 1898-99 during or shortly after the Klondike Gold Rush. It was designated as being of national significance by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board in 1967 and acquired by Parks Canada in 1970. The building was restored and stabilized in 1983-84. It is currently preserved and in use to commemorate Robert Service at Klondike National Historic Sites. The Canadian Parks Service, Environment Canada is the custodian of the building. See FHBRO Building Report 88-12.

Reason for Designation

The building was designated Classified because of its close association with Robert Service and because it is a rare example of an early miner's cabin from the gold rush period. It is an important landmark that is known across Canada.

The 8th Avenue site has retained a great deal of its historic character.

Character Defining Elements

The heritage value of the Robert Service cabin resides in its rustic low-lying form, the entirety of its fabric, and design, and in the rustic character of the site.

All authentic fabric and authentic design features associated with the the gold rush period and occupancy by Robert Service should be meticulously maintained. Should repairs prove necessary, all work should be preceded by careful assessment and study to ensure appropriate conservation measures are taken and minimal original fabric is lost.

The present use is appropriate, as access to the building is restricted. This results in little wear and tear being imposed on the building. Considering the value of the building, it is recommended that the fabric be monitored so any negative impacts can be identified and avoided.

1989.10.31