



DAWSON WALKING TOUR

NIHÈ DÄHCH'E, SHÒ TR'INLAY WELCOME

Exploring Dawson is a unique experience—a magical mix of past and present. Wooden boardwalks and false-front buildings stand as reminders of the settlement's gold rush beginnings, while Indigenous citizens have used this land and these waterways for millennia.

Today, Dawson is home to the self-governing First Nation Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, which means “People of the Klondike River” in the Hän language.

Dawson also remains a key supply centre for mining and industrial activity on the nearby Klondike creeks. It also boasts lively arts scene, including a post-secondary art school, formed through a partnership between the First Nation, the Dawson City Art Society, and Yukon University. Many downtown buildings make up the Dawson Historical Complex, a National Historic Site that welcomes thousands of visitors each year.

Follow this self-guided tour to explore the structures and spaces that illustrate the social life, First Nations history and cultural connections in this unique northern community.

The tour is split into three sections: north, central and south Dawson. Each walk takes about 45 minutes.

Enjoy!

A Brief History of Dawson

For millennia, the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in people moved with the seasons throughout their Traditional Territory, which includes the land that would become Dawson City. They followed animal and plant cycles for sustenance.

At the confluence of the Klondike and Yukon rivers is Tr'ochëk. It is one of a series of fish camps Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in used historically. People met there to fish, hunt, feast and trade.

In August 1896, a gold discovery on Bonanza Creek led to unprecedented rapid change, as gold-seekers came from all over the world. With prospectors and miners came storekeepers, bankers, saloon keepers, as well as prostitutes, gamblers and the seedier side of town life. The lure of gold created a boomtown and amenities followed, such as electricity, and telegraph and telephone service.

Dawson's population peaked at 30,000 during the height of the Klondike Gold Rush in 1898, and it became Yukon's first territorial capital.

With the influx of settlers using their lands and resources, the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in were displaced from the Dawson town site and from their fish camp, Tr'ochëk. Renowned as a skilled negotiator, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in leader Chief Isaac was able to secure a site five kilometres down the Yukon River and establish a settlement for his people. This became known as Moosehide Village.

In the 1950s, the federal government stopped funding the day school at Moosehide Village and school-aged children were taken away to residential schools. At this point Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in families moved back to Dawson in the mistaken belief that they would be reunited with their children.

In 1953, the territorial government administration and title of capital city moved south to Whitehorse, which had grown exponentially with the construction of the Alaska Highway during the Second World War. By that time Dawson's population had dropped to about 800.

In the 1970s, many Yukon First Nations advocated for land-claim settlements and self-governance, building on the courage and determination of their leaders and Elders.

Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in signed its Final Agreement in 1998. As a self-governing First Nation, the *Indian Act* no longer applies to Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in.

Currently, the year-round population of Dawson and its immediate surrounding area is roughly 2,300. The town's major economic-drivers are tourism and resource extraction. Although gold mining continues on Klondike creeks, the large dredge operations of the early 1900s have given way to smaller operations. Some have been family-run for generations.

Over the years, many factors helped preserve Dawson's historic buildings. The town's population declined while tourism increased. There were municipal efforts to protect the historic town site, and the town has a long-standing fire department. Additionally, Parks Canada and other partners and building owners have actively preserved the Dawson Historical Complex National Historic Site of Canada since its designation in 1959.

Use this guide to plan your route, explore, and learn more about Dawson.

What's in a name?

The word Klondike is a mispronunciation of the Hän word Tr'ondëk. According to Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Elder Angie Joseph-Rear:

“Our name Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in tells the story of our ancestral occupation of the ancient site Tr'ochëk. Tr'o refers to a special rock—hammer rock—used to drive salmon weir stakes into the river bed. Ndëk is a water way or river. Hwëch'in means people or dwellers. Liberally translated it means people who live at the mouth of the Klondike River. Newcomers to our land heard Tr'ondëk and changed it to Klondike.”

Though sometimes known as “Dawson City,” this settlement is technically a town. It was incorporated in 1902 under the name “City of Dawson,” and appears on most maps as simply “Dawson.”



DAWSON CENTRE

Begin your tour of central Dawson at the Visitor Information Centre. The knowledgeable staff can answer your questions about the town and its surrounding area.

On this part of the tour you will find a number of historical buildings that were once or are now home to fraternal organizations: the Yukon Order of Pioneers, the Arctic Brotherhood, the Fraternal Order of Eagles, the Freemasons, and the International Order of Odd Fellows.

These organizations provided help—food, shelter, and other assistance to citizens—while also supporting civic order and formal education. While they played an important role in supporting their members and some aspects of the community, they were built on exclusionary principles. For the most part, they pointedly excluded women, Indigenous people, and others, such as Asian, African American and Jewish residents.

Photo: Government Telegraph Office, 1901.

DCM 1984.203.1

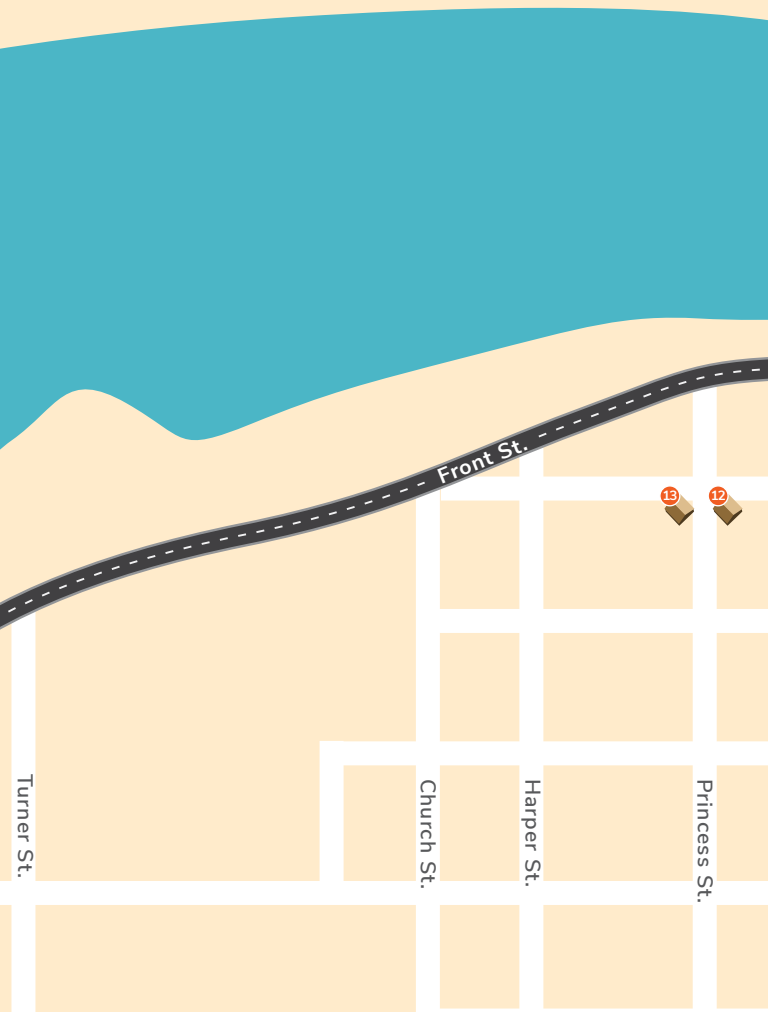


Historic Sites



• DAWSON CENTRE •

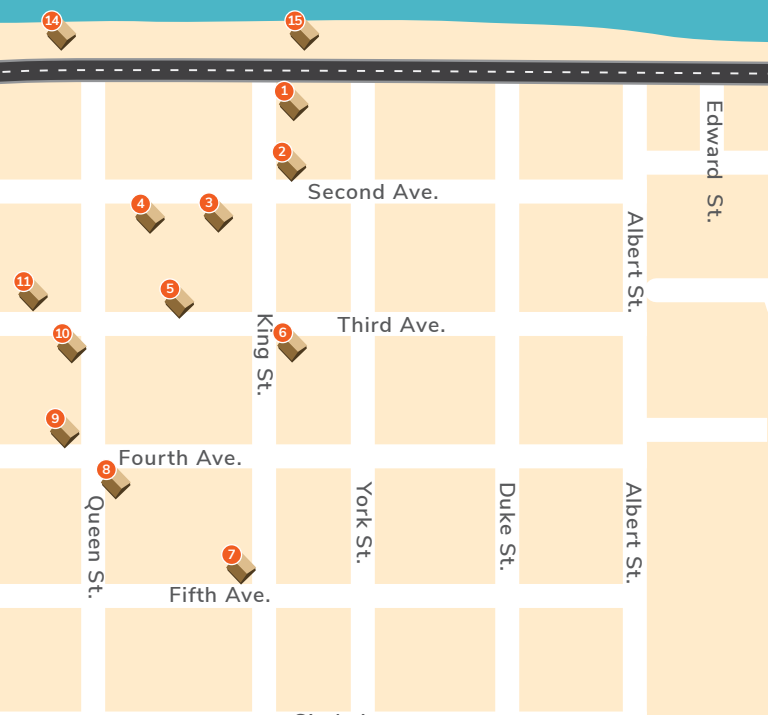
- 1 Visitor Information Centre
- 2 Yukon Order of Pioneers Hall
- 3 Strachan's Groceries and Warehouse
- 4 Dawson Gospel Hall
- 5 Caley's Store
- 6 Klondike Kate's Restaurant
- 7 St. Mary's Rectory and Church
- 8 Arctic Brotherhood Hall
- 9 Masonic Lodge
- 10 SOVA
- 11 Westminster Hotel
- 12 Odd Fellows Hall
- 13 Bombay Peggy's
- 14 Bank of Commerce
- 15 BYN Co. Ticket Office



DAWSON CITY WALKING TOUR

We welcome you to
experience our *history*.
Please respect the *privacy* of
the *property* owners.

YUKON RIVER





This two-storey building is a reconstruction of the old Alaska Commercial Company (ACCo) office building that once stood at this corner.

ACCo began operation on the Upper Yukon River in 1869. In the early 1890s, the company faced major competition for trade from the North American Transportation and Trading Company. After gold was discovered in the Klondike, both companies built stores and warehouses in Dawson.

The ACCo office was one of more than 50 buildings, mainly warehouses, along the waterfront constructed to house the large quantity of goods brought in by river steamers. ACCo became the Northern Commercial Company in 1901.

Commanding Officer's Residence, Royal
Canadian Mounted Police, March 7, 1940.
DCM 2004.628.1.1





The Yukon Order of Pioneers (YOOP) was established in 1894, under the motto: “Do unto others as you would be done by.” It was founded by miners and merchants at Forty Mile, an early Yukon mining settlement. At that time, membership was limited to non-Indigenous men who had lived in the Yukon Valley since 1888.

Early mining camps used miners’ meeting to enforce good behaviour among the settlers. Indigenous people who lived in the area had their own laws and systems for resolving conflict, but those were either not known or not recognized by the settlers.

YOOP’s Grand Lodge was moved from Forty Mile to Circle City, Alaska, and then to Dawson City. Lodges opened in Rampart House, Mayo and Whitehorse. As the Canadian government became more established in Dawson City with the Klondike Gold Rush, YOOP evolved into more of a fraternal organization.

Today, YOOP still exists as a fraternal organization dedicated to helping Yukoners. It has honorary members from Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in, dating back to Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in Chief Isaac. Women have also gained honorary status and a Ladies Auxiliary to the YOOP is based in Whitehorse.

The first YOOP hall built in Dawson fell into disrepair by 1921. In 1926, the Northern Commercial Co. donated a two-storey log structure, which had served as an office.

That building burned down in 1966, and this present YOOP building was relocated from Bear Creek, an outlying community where Yukon Consolidated Gold Company was headquartered. This building was damaged by another fire in the 1980s, and the renovations—along with the addition of decks and accessibility ramps—have somewhat masked its original design.



Second Ave. was a commercial district, and this building has been occupied by a long list of merchants. In 1902, two restaurateurs used the property, and then from 1904 to 1914 it was a clothing business. It was also a bakery, a cigar store, and eventually a hardware store.

Duncan Strachan purchased the hardware store in the mid-1930s and converted it to a grocery store in the 1950s. Strachan built the warehouse next door in the 1950s as warm storage for his grocery business. Its size and simple architecture are typical of commercial warehouses built after the Second World War.

This building is an excellent example of a rehabilitated historic commercial building in use as a contemporary commercial structure. It has undergone both interior and exterior renovations but still maintains its heritage character.

Strachan's warehouse
YG photo





Construction of this simple two-storey frame structure was completed in 1900. It was first occupied by merchants Robert Purves McLennan and Charles Milne. By 1902, it was operating as both a restaurant and barber shop. The building was owned by the Syndicat Lyonnais du Klondike and managed by Louis Paillard, although he never ran a business out of it.

Andrew Rystogi owned the building between 1907 and 1933. Rystogi owned a number of buildings, saloons and hotels in Dawson. Over the years this building housed a restaurant, hotel, an optician, and a barber shop.

In 1972, Northern Canada Evangelical Mission purchased the building to use as a Gospel Hall. By 1975, the Far Eastern Gospel Crusade of Canada (now SEND International) had taken over the building. Both missionary organizations have mandates to bring organized religions to Indigenous people.

Throughout the years, the relationship between Indigenous people and missionaries has been complex. According to Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in's K'änächá Group, Indigenous people were drawn to organized religion because of its community, celebration and spirituality. But these religions were also involved in running residential schools, which took Indigenous children from their homes and communities with devastating impacts.

By 1984, the building was sold to private owners.



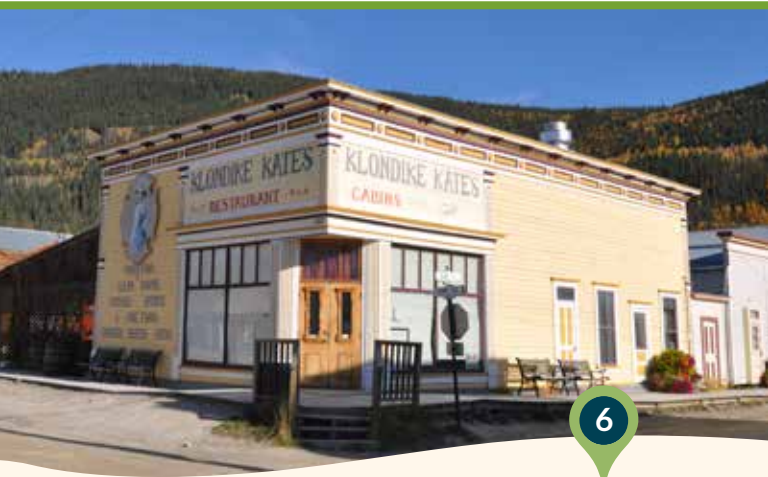
5

This building was constructed in 1901, as a furniture store and boarding house. Frank Lowe, of Lowe's Mortuary, ran the furniture store from 1902 to 1908, and then he moved to a new location. This building has had many iterations since its construction, including a restaurant, lodging house and bakery.

Fred Caley purchased the two-storey structure in 1948. He ran a grocery and clothing store out of the ground floor and lived upstairs. Caley was born in England in 1904. He arrived in Dawson when he was 18 years old to search for a long-lost uncle whom he never found.

While primarily a grocer, Caley had a keen interest in mining and often provided grubstakes—credit for food and supplies ahead of the mining or prospecting season. Caley is famous for grubstaking Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in citizen Art Anderson who staked asbestos claims on his trapline near the old Forty Mile townsite. The area became the Clinton Creek Asbestos Mine and town site. Anderson was later inducted into the Yukon Prospectors' Association Hall of Fame.

Caley was known as a generous man who often helped those in need. He also owned and preserved many of Dawson's historic buildings.



6

It is easy to imagine what downtown Dawson looked like in 1905 while standing at the intersection of King St. and Third Ave.

Across the street, the owner of the *Dawson Daily News* had just moved Madame Tremblay's Store building a block west from King and Fourth Ave. The Palace Grand Theatre was called the Auditorium then, named by owner "Arkansas Jim" Hall who made a fortune from his Eldorado Creek claim. Even with Dawson's declining population, this was a bustling area both day and night with two theatres, two newspaper offices, the post office and a nearby hotel.

Klondike Kate's Restaurant was constructed before 1901. Like many commercial buildings of this era, it has a single storey simple frame construction, with a false front and corrugated metal covering the roof. From 1904 to 1915, this lot was used by a photographer and two grocers. In 1917, the building was sold to the Northern Commercial Company, who used the site as storage or as a grocery store.

In 1977, the interior was converted to a café, and the following year additional buildings were added to the site to use as a motel. In 1990, Klondike Kate's opened, named after a dancer and performer who worked in Dawson at the height of the Klondike Gold Rush.



7

This is the third Roman Catholic church built in Dawson. Father Judge, known as the “Saint of Dawson,” built the first church in the far north end of town. It burned in 1898, soon after it was constructed. Father Judge was able to rebuild it through a generous donation of \$30,000 from Big Alex McDonald, a Klondike miner and entrepreneur. Find out more about Father Judge on page 33.

The current St. Mary's Church was built in 1904, in response to the first signs of the town's decline. Father Emile Bunozy, who later became Bishop of Prince Rupert and Yukon, was the rector at the time. He decided to build this combination school and chapel away from the cathedral on Front Street and closer to the shrinking business centre.

Originally, there was a Catholic school on the ground floor and the church on the upper floor. The school had two large classrooms and a music room. Its initial enrollment was 54 students. The school operated until 1966.

The second St. Mary's on Front St. was dismantled by Father Rivest and Pierre Nolasque “Jack” Tremblay in 1923. Most of the materials were used to construct Christ the King Church in Mayo, while the altar and the bell were installed here. The bell found in the bell tower is nicknamed “Maria.”

Find out more about the complex relationship between the church and Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in citizens on page 38.



This building was originally a hall for the Arctic Brotherhood (AB), a fraternal organization formed by 11 intoxicated men on a ship heading north to Skagway, Alaska. They decided that the organization's badges would be champagne and beer corks. The first formal meeting of the organization was in Skagway in February 1899. The Dawson chapter, known as Arctic Camp No. 4, was founded in November 1899.

At its height, the organization had a network of 32 camps in the northwest and roughly 10,000 members—exclusively non-Indigenous men. The AB's motto was "No Boundary Line Here," to show that the border between Alaska and Yukon did not affect the brotherhood, and perhaps that they did not recognize the border as it was formalized in 1898.

The AB's mandate was to encourage goodwill, promote social and intellectual interaction, and advance the interests of its members.

The first Dawson meeting drew just four men, but membership numbers rose rapidly. The hall was built with member donations and completed in October 1901. By 1931, the organization was defunct, and the last Yukon member died in 1956.

From about 1925 to 1933, the building served as Dawson's community centre. The Fraternal Order of Eagles used it between 1929 and 1943, after their building burned. The City of Dawson gained title to the building in 1951.

Diamond Tooth Gertie's opened in 1971 as Canada's first legal gambling hall. It is named for Gertie Lovejoy, a Klondike Gold Rush era dance hall queen. The casino is run by the Klondike Visitors Association and proceeds from gambling are invested back into the community.

The Arctic Brotherhood Hall building was designated a Municipal Historic Site in 2015.



This building was originally constructed and furnished by the Carnegie Foundation in 1903, to serve as a free municipal library for Dawson City residents. It opened on August 16, 1904, with building materials coming as far away as Toronto. Its architect was Robert Moncrief, who also worked on the Bank of Commerce building on the waterfront.

The library's collection started with 1,700 books, periodicals and newspapers. When it opened to the public, it already contained Jack London's stories, just a few short years after London's experiences in the Klondike. The building quickly became a symbol of culture and community in town.

The library was moved to the public school after a fire broke out on the main floor in 1920. The books were later transferred to the Dawson Museum where they are currently in storage.

In February 1934, the building was sold to the Masonic Lodge. The Yukon Lodge No. 45 held regular meetings with local Masons until the 1980s, when it became a seasonal meeting place, with many members coming up from Whitehorse.



10

This building houses the Yukon School of Visual Arts (SOVA). The school is run through a unique partnership between the Dawson City Arts Society, Yukon University and the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in. The school offers a foundation year of post-secondary school, equivalent to the first year of a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree.

The Dawson Trading Company constructed the north end of this building in 1910. In 1921 it was sold to H.G. Blankman, and then J.N. Spence operated a store here in 1925. The property was purchased by the Northern Commercial Company in 1938. It later became home to Dawson's Government Liquor Store.

When the building was condemned, the community lobbied to save it. The building underwent extensive renovations and reopened in 2001. SOVA's first class began in 2007. New classes begin each fall, and student work is often displayed in the downstairs Confluence Gallery.

The addition on the south end of the building is the Yukon University Dawson campus, called Tr'odëk Hätr'unohtän Zho, the Klondike Learning House.



11

The Westminster Hotel sits on three lots and is composed of several buildings constructed when space in Dawson was at a premium.

The four building facades are typical of gold rush construction styles, the one on the right being simplest, while the other three have characteristics of the Edwardian era. Over the years, the buildings have housed a grocer, an ice cream shop, and the offices of the Klondike Thawing Machine Company.

John “Curly” Salois owned one of the buildings in the 1930s. He bought the other two and connected them to create this hotel. Salois’s nephew and his wife, Fabian and Eileen, took ownership in the 1950s and ran the hotel, beer parlour, and cocktail lounge until the 1990s. For some years they had a diner located in the far right building as well.

The distinctive pink building colour originated with Fabien. He mixed all the paint he could find together so there was enough to cover the combined façades.

Both of the hotel’s drinking spots are local favourites. The beer parlour is known as “The Pit”, and the lounge continues to be a popular live music venue.



James Greene, an undertaker, originally purchased this property in June 1901. The Independent Order of Odd Fellows (IOOF) appears to have leased the property and purchased it in June 1907 without obtaining clear title. The IOOF is a non-political and non-sectarian international fraternal order founded in 1819 in Baltimore, Maryland. It focuses on recreational activities as well as the promotion of charity and the betterment of society.

The IOOF began renovations and expansion to the small one-storey building on the property, which were completed by April 1910. It obtained clear title by 1911. The renovated building contained a meeting hall and dance floor, cloak and smoking rooms, as well as a kitchen and dining rooms. The IOOF continued to occupy the structure into the 1950s, and finally surrendered its Dawson City charter in 1964.

The IOOF removed its whites-only clause in 1971. In 2001, all genders were able to join.

The Klondike Visitors Association (KVA) purchased this property in 1980. It stabilized the structure with a new foundation, fixed the roof, and added new siding.

The Odd Fellows Hall is now home to The Klondike Institute of Art and Culture. It features a public art gallery and a performing arts venue. In 2019, the building was gifted a Hän name, Dënäkär Zho, which means “a house of mixed colours.” The name was selected by the Elder’s Council to heal the building’s segregated past.



Built in 1900, this house was originally owned by the managers of the Canadian Bank of Commerce and located in the north end of town on the corner of Front and Albert streets.

In 1902, it was sold to miners J.A. Chute and A.E. Wills of the Gold Run-Klondike Mining Company, who used the house as a residence and business headquarters. The building was associated with the mining industry until 1924, when it was sold to a woodcutter named Fred Johnson.

In the early 1940s, Vera Margaret Dorval—known to locals as Bombay Peggy—acquired the house to run her bootlegging business and brothel. In 1998, Wendy Cairns purchased the building and moved it to its present location. She restored the building and opened the historic inn and pub in 2000.



14

The old Canadian Bank of Commerce is an excellent example of the Renaissance Revival building style and is one of Canada's finest surviving structures clad in decorative pressed metal.

It is one of the few remaining historical buildings on Dawson's waterfront. Its prominent location reflects the bank's significance within the community.

Originally housed in a tent, the bank was relocated several times before settling into this building, which was designed and built by W.P. Skilling and Robert Moncrieff in 1901. It cost \$30,000 to build, which would be equivalent to roughly \$680,000 today.

The Bank of Commerce offered important services, such as the buying and melting of gold into bricks and the brokering of gold on the world markets.

The bank operated here continuously until 1989, when it moved to Second Ave. The building was designated a National Historic Site of Canada in 1988, and a municipal historic site in 2013. It is currently owned by the town.

Robert Service, known as the Bard of the Yukon, worked as a teller at this bank in 1908. Throughout his life he became famous for writing hundreds of poems, including *The Cremation of Sam McGee*. Service's Dawson cabin can also be visited at 602 Eighth Ave.



15

Riverfront buildings were important in Dawson, functioning as provisioning centres for the Klondike goldfields. This is the only remaining riverfront structure associated with freighting and warehousing. It is an excellent illustration of early riverfront construction.

Built by the British Yukon Navigation Company (BYN Co.) around 1900, the ticket office is valued for its good aesthetic design, reminiscent of a railway station with its deep bracketed eaves.

BYN Co. was formed in the winter of 1900-1901, as a subsidiary of White Pass and Yukon Route. The company thrived during the early twentieth century, expanding its steamer fleet holdings and building its own steamers. The success of businesses in Yukon was often determined by BYNCo freight rates, and thus the company held great influence. However, construction of the highway to Dawson and Mayo made river transportation obsolete, and the company ceased operation in 1955.

The building is currently used as the NWT Dempster Highway Visitor Centre, and it is a recognized Federal Heritage Building.

The Yukon Rose on the riverbank.
YG Photo





DAWSON NORTH

Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in citizens, who had been displaced to Moosehide Village in the early 1900s, began moving back to Dawson in the 1950s. They settled in the North End of town, which was primarily bush and swamp. It was least suited to building housing and the last area to be developed.

The Canadian government stopped supporting the housing program at Moosehide Village around 1952, and it took more than a decade for officials to decide on a strategy to house the former residents. In the meantime, they lived as well as they could in tents and shacks while struggling through difficulties with a lack of garbage collection, water provision, and disease.

By the 1980s, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in gained greater control. With its new housing program and partnership with the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, the First Nation helped ensure an adequate supply of safe, desirable homes for its citizens in the north end of Dawson and in a nearby subdivision.

Photo: Moosehide Village.

*Yukon Archives, Anglican Church of Canada,
Diocese of Yukon fonds, 89/41 #1342*

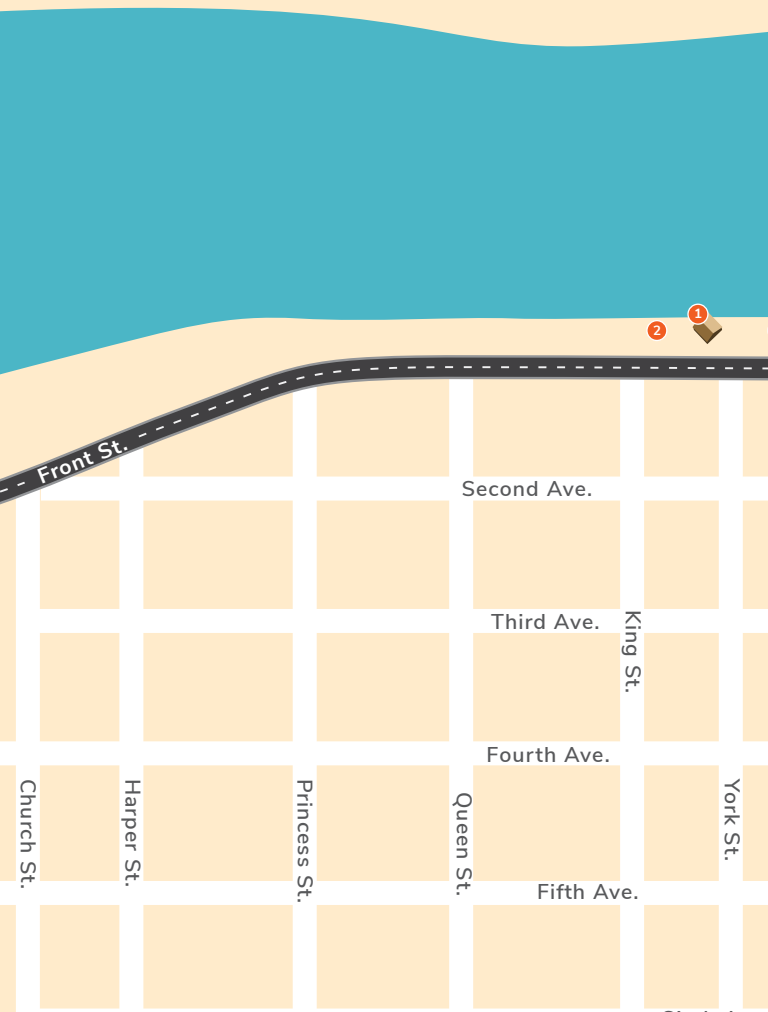


Historic Sites



• DAWSON NORTH •

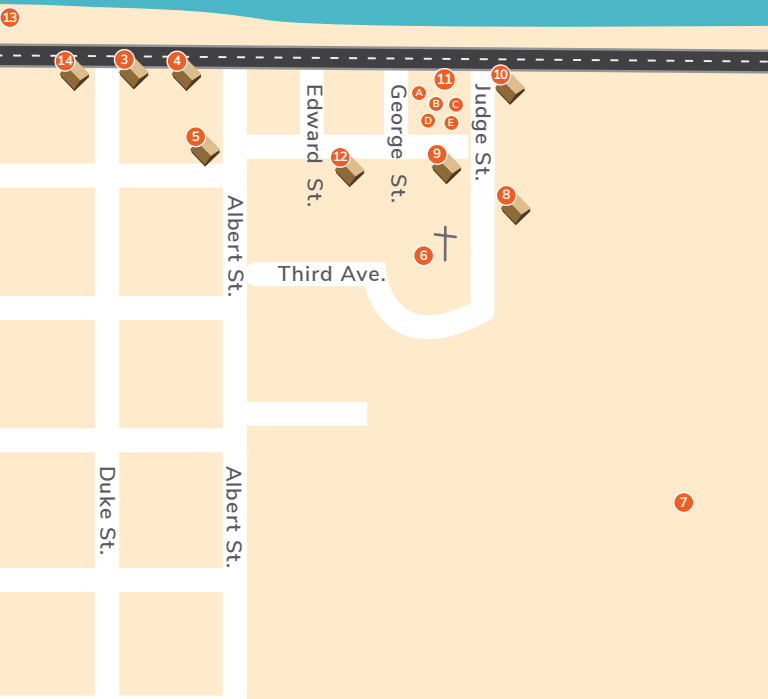
- 1 Dänojà Zho Cultural Centre
- 2 Residential school plaque
- 3 Yukon Sawmill Co.
- 4 Dawson Firefighter's Museum
- 5 First Nation Development Corporation
- 6 3rd Ave. Cemetery
- 7 Moosehide Slide
- 8 de Lion House
- 9 Denhardt Cabin
- 10 Father Judge Memorial and Sacristy
- 11 Whitehouse Cabins
- 12 Willie DeWolfe House
- 13 Elders' Bench
- 14 Hän Fisheries



DAWSON CITY WALKING TOUR

We welcome you to
experience our history.
Please respect the privacy of
the property owners.

YUKON RIVER





1

“The Cultural Centre is a symbol of our history, our perseverance, pride and hope. It rose from the desire to make a strong presence in the Traditional Territory of the Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in that would speak to and for us and would not be bound to the gold-rush era. The Centre would show that we are a strong people.”

Quote from Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in citizen Jackie Olson

Dänojà Zho means “Long Ago House” in the Hän language. The centre opened in July 1998 to share the history and stories of the Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in, and to open new pathways to reconciliation.

The contemporary architecture reflects on the community’s ancestral connection to the land and dependence on the Yukon River for food and transportation. From this riverside location, both Moosehide Village—located five kilometres down the Yukon River—and the Moosehide Slide (find out more about this landmark on page 33) are within view. This is an important community value.

Over the years, Dänojà Zho has become a meeting place for public programming, education outreach and cultural tourism. The centre is a community gathering place where the accomplishments of the Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in are shared and celebrated.

The centre was designed by Yukon firm Mauer and Kobayashi Architects, and was awarded the Lieutenant Governor of BC Award of Merit in Architecture in 1999. It incorporates stylized fish drying racks and a traditional hut in its design.

Visitors are encouraged to meet the Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in staff and tour the Hammerstone and Gathering Room Galleries. The centre’s gift shop supports community and Indigenous artists.

Find open hours, tour schedule and fees at danojazho.ca.



Located overlooking the Yukon River by the Cultural Centre

Residential schools are a dark and shameful chapter in Canada's history. Indigenous children from all over the Yukon, including Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in children as young as four years old, were taken from their families and brought to residential schools, such as Chooutla School in Carcross. This deeply traumatized the children and their families.

For the most part, the schools were run by religious organizations and funded by the Canadian government. Their goal was to assimilate Indigenous children into white society.

In 2007, the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement came into effect following the largest class action lawsuit in Canadian history. In 2008, the Government of Canada apologized for the abuse, suffering, and cultural dislocation that resulted from residential schools throughout Canada. Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in students were included in both the settlement and the apology.

The plaque was put in place by the K'änächá Group. This group of Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in citizens and Elders has worked together on healing projects and community education about residential school and its intergenerational effects.



This building represents the role that the lumber and mining industries played in the growth and development of Dawson. Its expansion paralleled the town's evolution from mining camp to well-established supply centre.

The Yukon Sawmill Co. was established in 1898 by J.F. Burke and the Alaska Commercial Company. It was one of the earliest sawmills to operate in the Dawson area.

During peak production it had the largest machine shop north of Vancouver, a foundry, and a lumberyard that stretched over three city blocks.

By 1901, the new Yukon Sawmill Company Office, was constructed at the corner of Duke and Front streets. This building housed the machine shop, sales area, offices and storage.

The machine shop business expanded in 1902, reflecting the change in the economy from supplying the building construction industry to providing a much-needed supply and repair service to the mining companies operating in the Dawson region.

The two-storey building with oversize windows, hipped metal clad roof and black lettering is a prominent feature on Front Street. The facades and corner entrance are typical of commercial properties built in Dawson in the early 1900s. Its high ceilings bring the building height to the equivalent of a four-storey structure, adding to its imposing presence on the waterfront.

The company stopped operating sometime between 1919 and 1923. By 1931, this building was being used as a cold storage warehouse. It was purchased by the Cassiar Asbestos Company in 1963.

The Yukon government acquired this building in 1967. Since then it has undergone extensive restoration and was designated a Yukon Historic Site in 2005.

➤ Dawson Firefighters Museum ➤



On Thanksgiving Day 1897, a fire spread through the centre of Dawson's newly built town site, destroying its wooden buildings and calling attention to the need for an organized fire brigade.

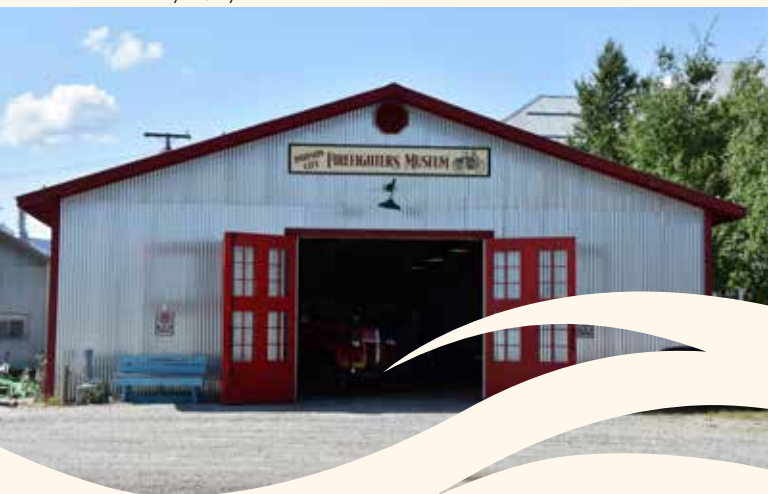
By July 1898, the settlement had acquired a fire steamer apparatus, a precursor to the fire engine, and by October of 1898 the Dawson City Fire Brigade began operations. It is still operating today as the oldest fire department in Yukon. Currently, it is run by volunteers under the direction of the Dawson City Fire Chief.

The fire department also runs the Dawson City Firefighters Museum as a non-profit organization. It houses an impressive array of artifacts relating to Dawson's firefighting history, including pictures, memorabilia and vintage fire engines. The interesting collection of vehicles show the evolution of firefighting in Dawson. The restoration of the horse-drawn Clapp and Jones Fire Steam Pumper was a major project for the group.

Admission to the museum is by donation. Find out more at dawsonfirefightermuseum.com.

Dawson City Firefighters Museum

Photo courtesy of Sally Robinson





In 1984, the Chief Isaac Group of Companies was established to own and manage the business interests of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in. It operates as a for-profit corporation, mandated to create sustainable wealth for the First Nation.

Its group of five companies provide a broad range of services throughout Yukon, including property management, transportation, housing, and heavy equipment rentals. A recent project focuses on innovations in food security and agriculture in the north.

The corporation's name honours Chief Isaac, who was renowned as a skillful leader and made sure that newcomers survived through food scarcity during the Klondike Gold Rush. Chief Isaac is also remembered for ensuring the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in people could live well at Moosehide Village after they were displaced from Tr'ochëk and Dawson.

View of Tr'ochëk.
YG Photo





With headstones dating back to 1897, this is the earliest cemetery in Dawson City. Located on the hillside immediately north of Third Ave. at Edward St., the area is now overgrown with spruce and poplar trees, and an undergrowth of rose bushes. The burial plots are mostly unmarked, with a few wooden headboards and fences surrounding the graves.

Early Dawson was not an easy place to live. Food was expensive and of poor quality. The town was built on a bog, with no facilities for sanitation.

St. Mary's hospital, a small log building run by Father William Judge, was located nearby, and it was a very busy place. The first burial in the cemetery was Bert Stickney, who died at age 26 on May 16, 1897. In October of that year, a government inspection of the hospital resulted in a \$7,000 stipend to cover expenses involved in a typhoid epidemic. In 1898 and '99, the three doctors in town were overrun with rampant cases of typhoid fever and scurvy.

The Dawson City Cemeteries Walking Tour is available at the Visitor Information Centre for a self-guided tour of the last resting places of Dawson residents, including Father Judge and Percy DeWolfe.



7

A distinctive feature of Dawson, this landslide site is called the Moosehide Slide or Ĕdhä dädhëçą, meaning “weathered moosehide hanging” in the Hän language.

Formed by a prehistoric landslide, this is a dominant feature of Dawson’s landscape. Historically, it signaled the end of the journey along the Yukon River to the Klondike.

There are many versions of the Hän foundation story describing the origin of the slide. This one was told by Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in Elder Mary McLeod in 1974.

“In early days there were cannibals everywhere and they bothered people. So, one time people climb hill near where is now Moosehide to get above them. Lots of big trees on these hills that time. People had only axe made of sharp rock in those days. They cut down the biggest tree with stone axe and they throw that tree down the hill on cannibals. That tree start big slide. It kill all the cannibals.

That slide is shaped like hide of moose so people call the place Moosehide.”

The Moosehide Slide was designated a Municipal Historic Site in 2018, for its cultural, historical, and aesthetic values.



de Lion House



8

Business was good when George de Lion built this residence, originally on Fifth Avenue, around 1902. De Lion was an affluent Dawson businessperson who built the Villa de Lion Hotel in West Dawson in 1899 and the Monte Carlo Theatre downtown in 1900. De Lion also owned a ferry on the Yukon River so patrons could cross the river to his hotel.



Denhardt Cabin



9

This rustic one-room cabin is like many residences that would have dotted the landscape during the Klondike Gold Rush. Miner Paul Denhardt built this house prior to 1899.

This is one of six remaining properties of a similar age and style in Dawson, but this is the only property from this time period in the north end of town that remains unchanged. It has an undeveloped landscape and its outbuildings are in their original locations.

The cabin is well-crafted, with round-log construction, square-notched corners and a gable roof clad with corrugated sheet metal that overhangs the entranceway. It has a frontier style and a functional design. The shed and outhouse illustrate how people in this remote town commonly reused materials, such as sheet metal, corrugated metal, and flattened fuel cans.

This site, including the cabin, outbuildings and lot, was designated a Municipal Historic Site in 2012.



10

Father William H. Judge, S.J., was a Jesuit missionary who arrived in Dawson City in the spring of 1897, at the beginning of the Klondike Gold Rush. He established a church and hospital, tending to the medical and spiritual needs of the town.

Judge worked tirelessly for others, helping everyone who sought his aid, often to the detriment of his own fragile health. He died of pneumonia on January 16, 1899, at age 49. It is said that the town of Dawson shut down on the day of the funeral for the “Saint of Dawson.”

He was buried in the church on Front Street, on the left (gospel) side of the altar. The marble stone was added in 1904, and it was left in place when the church was demolished in 1923.

All that remains of the church is its sacristy, a room that housed vestments and other items used in worship. The priest would have used the room to prepare for a church service.

In 1987, the federal government designated Judge as a Person of National Significance for his life-long work. The inscribed plaque was placed in a large boulder at his gravesite in his honour in 1991.



Located along a narrow curving road with landscaped yards and mature trees, these five buildings have a sense of timelessness. Now called the Whitehouse Cabins, they're available to rent as visitor accommodations during the summer season.

Though the buildings have had various owners since their construction, they're named for Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in citizen Joseph Edward Whitehouse. He was listed as the proprietor in 1939, and again for numerous years from 1961. Whitehouse was born near Dawson City in 1909. His mother died in 1916, after which he lived in Prince Rupert, BC, and then in England from 1920 to 1925.

Upon his return to Yukon in 1925, he worked as a bookkeeper, raised and trained sled dogs, and had a mail run.

In 1929, he worked on a dredge for Yukon Consolidated Gold Company until he married Irene Silas in 1934.

He worked for Yukon government in various capacities, finally becoming road foreman of the area from Stewart Crossing north and west. In 1973, the Whitehouse family retired to Whitehorse.

Cabin A, pictured above

The style of this single-storey log cabin is typical of the early cabins built in Dawson. While it was reconstructed between 2004 and 2010, it still retains much of the material from the original cabin. It is made with saddle-notched logs, chinked with lime compound and whatever insulating materials were on hand, such as rags, newspaper, and oakum.



Whitehouse Cabins



B

The railed balconies tie the two structures physically and visually, maintaining the appearance and character Dawson might have had between the 1920s and 1960s.



C

This building is sided with flattened fuel cans, and has a shed roof made of galvanized metal.

D

This single storey simple frame building was constructed after 1950.



E

Considering the materials used and the condition of the wood, this building was likely built in the 1950s or 1960s.





Willie DeWolfe Cabin



A miner named Edward Monahan built this house in 1902 and lived here until 1912. It was constructed with square notched logs and has a metal gable roof.

A Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in prospector named Willie DeWolfe purchased this cabin in 1958. He was the son of Percy DeWolfe, who carried the mail between Dawson and Eagle, Alaska, from 1910 to 1949. It was a difficult and arduous journey and Percy earned the moniker Iron Man of the North.

Percy married a Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in woman, and their children—Willie and his siblings—would sometimes help their father on the long, frozen route to Eagle and back.

The annual Percy DeWolfe Memorial Mail Race follows the Yukon River 321 kilometres (200 miles) along the historic mail route of legendary mail carrier Percy DeWolfe.



Elders' Bench



Take a relaxing break on the Elders' Bench and enjoy the stunning views of the Klondike River, West Dawson, and down the river towards Moosehide Village. This bench is a popular stop for Elders, who sit here and share stories.



The first Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in government office opened in this building in 1971. At that time the First Nation was known as the Dawson Indian Band.

Respected Elder Percy Henry, who was elected Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in chief in 1969, bought the building from the Cassiar Asbestos Company for \$1. Opening a dedicated First Nation government office signaled the start of a dramatic change in the governance structure of Yukon. It foreshadowed the importance of the land claims and self-government agreements that would follow.

After the government offices moved out, this building was converted into a state-of-the-art fish processing plant. In 1983, the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in joined forces with the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation to create Hän Fisheries as a complement to the existing salmon industry. It gave 15 to 18 fishers the opportunity to sell their catch for processing and resale.

Salmon were caught with nets in the Yukon River below Dawson City. Then the fish were picked up near the historic town site of Forty Mile and transported to this building for processing, packaging, and shipping.

Hän Fisheries was a reliable venture for numerous years, employing 15 people on the processing line and providing a stable market for fishers to sell Chinook and Chum salmon.

By 1987, Hän Fisheries began selling packed chum roe caviar in American and Japanese markets. The operation also expanded to a salmon retail shop on Front St. and a salmon barbecue operation. A decline in salmon stocks led to the closure of Hän Fisheries in 1997.

The building is currently being used for storage.



DAWSON SOUTH

In this part of the tour you will find out more about Tr'ochëk, government buildings, and several historic homes—notably those of Pierre Berton and Jack London. You will also visit St. Paul's Anglican Church and learn more about the church's role in Dawson's development.

Both Anglican and Catholic missionaries travelled to the North to convert Indigenous populations. Although First Nations people have a rich history of traditional spirituality, some Indigenous people were drawn to the introduced religions. Some adopted the Christian faith, and some combined it with their own sacred and traditional beliefs.

These and other religions were also associated with residential schools, which operated from the early 1900s to the 1980s in Yukon. Find out more about Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in citizens' experience of these schools in a book published in 2009, titled *Tr'ëhuhch'in năwtr'udăh'a/Finding our way home*.

Photo: Dawson City with Klondike City buildings visible in the foreground, c.1923

DCM 2006.1.6



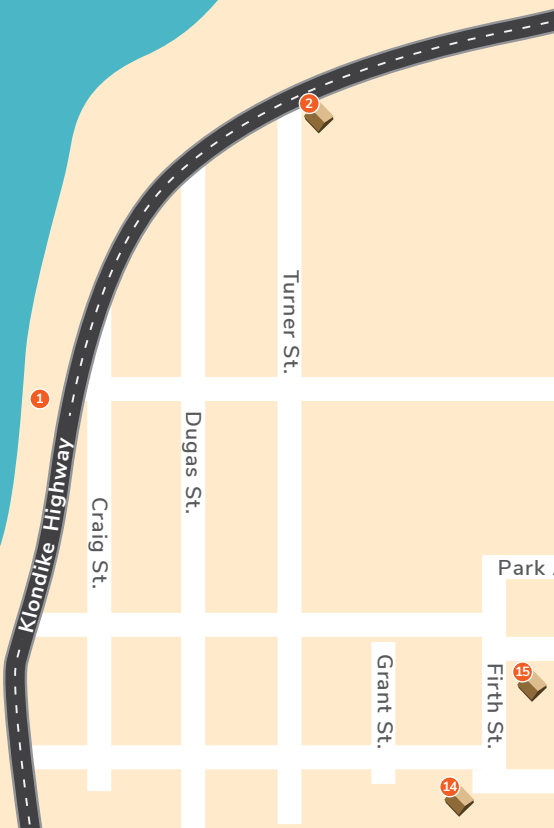
Historic Sites



• DAWSON SOUTH •

- | | | | |
|----|----------------------------|----|-----------------------------------------|
| 1 | Tr'ochëk Lookout | 11 | Tyrrell House |
| 2 | Government Reserve | 12 | Pinkerton House |
| 3 | St. Paul's Anglican Church | 13 | Berton House |
| 4 | Yukon Hotel | 14 | Jack London House |
| 5 | Strait's Auction House | 15 | Telegraph Office |
| 6 | St. Paul's Hostel | 16 | Troberg House |
| 7 | Bishop Stringer's House | 17 | Minto Park |
| 8 | Customs House | 18 | Old Territorial Administration Building |
| 9 | Henderson House | | |
| 10 | Wyman House | | |

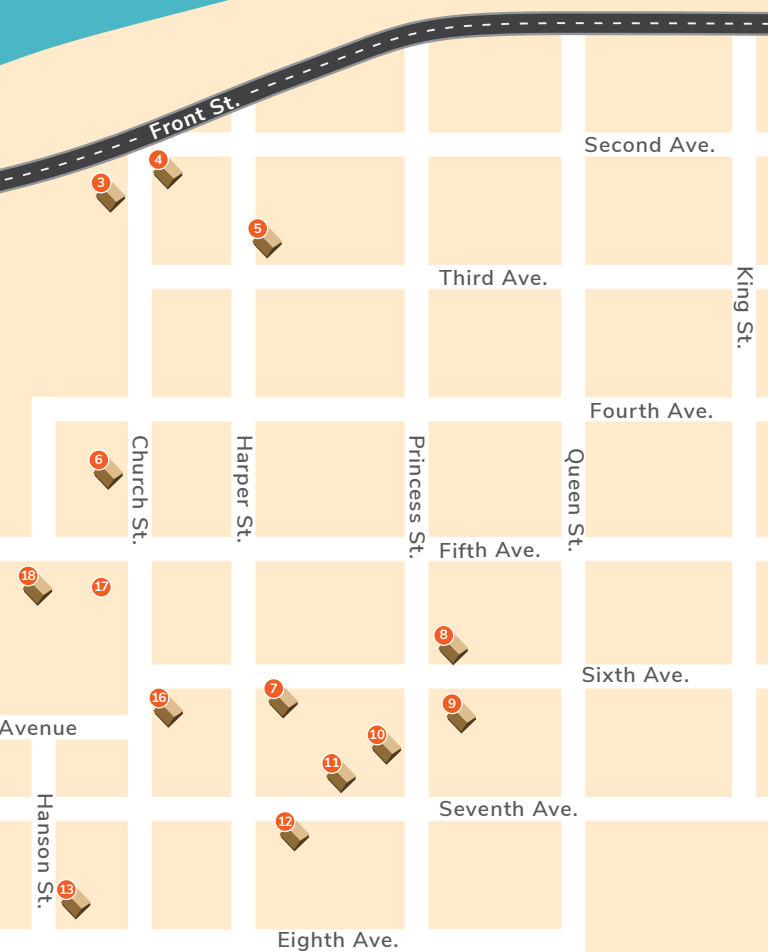
KLONDIKE RIVER



DAWSON CITY WALKING TOUR

We welcome you to
experience our history.
Please respect the privacy of
the property owners.

YUKON RIVER





1

Look across the river to see Tr'ochëk, located on the point of land between the Klondike and Yukon rivers. It is the heart of Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Traditional Territory.

For millennia, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in people came here to fish for salmon, hunt moose up the Klondike Valley, and meet with neighbouring First Nations to feast, trade, and intermarry.

During the Klondike Gold Rush, newcomers displaced the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in people from Tr'ochëk. It was renamed Klondike City in 1897. It was a busy boomtown with stores, saloons, tents and cabins crammed onto every piece of land suitable for building. In fact, one merchant predicted there would be a rivalry between Dawson and Klondike City in years to come, but that wasn't to be. Once the rush subsided and gold prices dropped, Klondike City was abandoned.

The Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in reclaimed the site, and today it is a fish camp for citizens. The importance of Tr'ochëk in the First Nation's history and culture is formally recognized through the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Final Agreement and more recently through its designation as a National Historic Site.

Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in seeks to protect Tr'ochëk's cultural resources and create a peaceful place of natural beauty for relaxation and contemplation. It is a place where citizens and others can learn about the First Nation's history and culture.



After the gold discovery in 1896, the federal government reserved 40 acres of land in Dawson. It is bounded by Front St. to the west and south, Seventh Ave. to the east, and Church St. to the north.

The land was occupied by Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in people who moved there after their cabins at Tr'ochëk were purchased by prospectors and miners. They were only able to spend one winter in the new location before they were displaced further downstream to Moosehide Village.

The Government Reserve contains many of Dawson's key historic public buildings, as well as Fort Herchmer, Minto Park and the Victory Gardens. This area is made up of distinct, formally designed structures and spaces, providing examples of Gothic Revival, Frontier Mission and Neoclassical architectural styles.

Several government buildings in Dawson, including the Commissioner's Residence and the Court House, were designed by architect Thomas W. Fuller. These buildings convey the sense of optimism the government had in Dawson's future. They also convey a sense of control and authority, and the imposition of a new sovereignty on Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in lands. At that time, there was no consideration given to the First Nation's long-established systems of governance, laws, or justice.

The North-West Mounted Police constructed Fort Herchmer on the reserve, and in 1898 they were augmented by members of the Yukon Field Force, a contingent of the Canadian army. Today, two log buildings remain: the NWMP jail and the Married Officers Quarters.

Learn more about these sites and others in the Dawson Historical Complex through tours with Parks Canada.



The Anglican Church was a strong force encouraging the development of government in Yukon during the Klondike Gold Rush. Reacting to the influx of newcomers and the problems that came with a growing population, Bishop Bompas requested the federal government send police and government officials to the territory.

Rev. Frederick Flewelling was the first Anglican missionary to arrive in the Klondike. He settled with Hän-speaking parishioners at Tr'ochëk fish camp in 1896, and then moved to Moosehide Village a couple of years later.

In 1897, Rev. R.J. Bowen arrived in Dawson City to hold services for the gold miners. These first services were held in a log cabin. The back of the cabin was living quarters, and Bowen and his wife slept in the loft.

Rev. H.A. Naylor succeeded Rev. Bowen in June 1899, and he collected money to build the first Anglican Church in Dawson. It was a small, humble structure, which was already slated for replacement by 1902. St. Paul's Anglican Church was built and held its first service on the coronation day of King Edward VII on August 9, 1902.

Architect Thomas W. Fuller, a member of the congregation, drafted plans for the building. The pointed arches, spire, and tracery in the front window are in a Gothic Revival style, while the round windows of the square towers are distinctly Romanesque.

St. Paul's Anglican Church was designated a National Historic Site of Canada in 1989, as a significant example of a mission church in the Gothic Revival style.

Yukon Hotel



This two-storey, false-front log building is one of the oldest buildings in Dawson City. It was constructed in 1898 by J.E. Binet and was originally known as the Binet Block.

The second Commissioner of the Yukon, William Ogilvie, rented it as office space for Crown timber and land agents until 1900. It was then used as a residence before it was sold in 1909 to Henry Freeman, who opened the Miner's Rest Hotel. In 1931, the building was renamed the Freeman Hotel.

Emma Wilson purchased it in 1934, after her adjacent hotel burned. She renamed it the Yukon Hotel and operated the business until 1957. Miners and others who lodged here enjoyed this location because it was quiet and provided more privacy than other downtown hotels.

The National Trust for Canada purchased the building in 1975. Vacant and decaying, the building underwent a complete rehabilitation and was fitted with six small apartments.

The Yukon Hotel represents a typical commercial structure built at the height of the Klondike Gold Rush. The building was privately sold in 1984 and continues to operate as a hotel.

This building was recognized as a National Historic Site of Canada in 1982.



This boomtown structure was built in 1901, as Strait's Auction House and Second Hand Store. The building is a simple wood frame construction with false-front façade typical of many commercial buildings in Dawson City from that era.

Ebenezer Strait sold groceries, hardware, tobacco, furniture, clothing, guns and ammunition until the late 1910s. The store had two paid employees in 1902, when the incorporation of the City of Dawson led to a tax increase from \$150 to \$500. Strait was one of the 41 merchants who kept their business open after this increase.

Strait's Second Hand, or the Guns and Ammo Building, as it was also known, was abandoned for several years and slated for demolition in 1971.

The picturesque building was a favourite with visiting and local artists. Albert Fuhre, a local artist, headed a citizens group to save it. The group raised the \$600 purchase price and donated it to the Klondike Visitors Association (KVA). The KVA added temporary bracing, but left it tilted to demonstrate the influence of permafrost on Dawson's structures.

When the bracing threatened to go through the fragile tilted walls, Don Cox bought the building and straightened it.



For more than 30 years, St. Paul's Hostel was a residence for children from remote areas who attended public school at either the Dawson's public school or St. Mary's Catholic School.

In the 1920s, the Anglican Church opened the hostel to care for students with one Indigenous parent and one non-Indigenous parent. The hostel had a mission similar to that of a residential school: to assimilate Indigenous children into the dominant culture.

At the hostel, the children were instructed in practical skills, such as household management and carpentry. They were also responsible for duties, such as tending the garden, maintaining the grounds, cleaning the hostel, and chopping wood.

Overall, the hostel was underfunded. Expenses were partially covered by the federal government and by student fees from families that could afford them. The church was responsible for raising the shortfall. As a result, students were fed cheap low-quality food. They often subsisted on watery oats, low-grade sugar, and low-quality meats.

The hostel closed in 1954. The building no longer exists, but some former students remember the hostel for the beatings and abuse they suffered there.

To tell their stories of St. Paul's Hostel and other residential schools, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in citizens created The K'änächá Scrapbook. K'änächá means "Taking Care." The book is considered to be a way forward for healing and a defining document of the First Nation. It was published in 2009 as Tr'ëhuhch'in näwtr'udäh'ą / *Finding our way home.*



The historic home of Anglican Bishop Isaac Stringer stands as a testament to the resilience of the man himself. While the story of having to literally eat his boots for survival during a disastrous trip can be read on the board in front of the house, Stringer was much more than “the Bishop who ate his boots.”

In 1892, Isaac Stringer was recruited by the Anglican Church Missionary Society to work with the Inuvialuit in the Arctic. He and his wife, Sadie, established a permanent mission at Herschel Island–Qikiqtaruk using donations from the crews of whaling vessels anchored in Pauline Cove. To fill some pressing needs, Stringer studied dentistry while he was on leave. Sadie was a nurse.

In 1903, Isaac was suffering from the effects of snow blindness and the family moved to southern Yukon. He was posted to Dawson in 1907, where he called for the recognition of legal status for First Nation people and compensation for their land.

This building was constructed by barrister H.E. Ridley some time before 1902. It was taken over by St. Paul's Church in 1905 and remains a residence in the care of the Anglican Church.



This structure is a good example of the remaining historic residences in the area, with its corner lot, picket fence and landscaping. An irregularly shaped three-bedroom frame and log dwelling, the Customs House has undergone extensive restoration and reconstruction. Virtually none of its visible parts are original.

When constructed in 1902, it was a simple three-room house with front and side verandas and a shed at the rear. Slightly more elaborate than the many frame houses of Dawson, it had a roof with front and side gables, and hipped slope at the back.

Through the years, this single-storey building has housed some of the people involved in providing supplies and services to Dawson, including dentistry, hardware, telephone operation, transportation and government. The designation Customs House is a misnomer as it was only used as the residence of the federally-employed customs agent for a short time, from 1953 to the early 1960s.

Dr. John Brown and his journalist wife, Faith Fenton, lived here. Fenton was Canada's first female newspaper columnist.

It is currently a private residence.



Henderson House



Prospector Robert Henderson built the upper level of this house in 1901. Its design is representative of an upper middle-class family dwelling in Dawson at that time. More recently, the owners felt the need for more space and elevated the house, an elegant solution to preserving the historic features of the original residence.

Henderson was a prospector in the area before the Klondike Gold Rush. The Canadian government credits him as a co-discoverer of the gold on Bonanza Creek that started the gold rush, along with George Carmack, Dawson Charlie, and Keish (Skookum Jim Mason).

In 1902, Henderson sold this house to George White Fraser, Dominion Land Surveyor and Civil and Electrical Engineer.

Later in the 1930s, it came back to the Henderson family when Robert's son, Grant, lived here. Grant Henderson worked as an assayer for the Yukon Gold Company and was active in mining in the area. Grant's son, Chester, grew up here and would go on to work for Yukon Gold Company.



This structure is one of three located on the same block with a similar size and style. These buildings are typical of single-family dwellings in Dawson in the early 1900s. They're located on small or partial lots and have small landscaped yards. The addition of a wheelchair access ramp and small studio on the back of the building have allowed for modernization of the building while respecting its early architectural style.

This single-storey building was likely constructed by Asa "Assey" Wyman in 1901 across the lot boundaries. He did not purchase the second portion of the property until 1903. According to local stories, this house was built on top of a barge that came down river. The barge was hauled to the site and the house built on it.

A group of people gather on the Midnight Dome.
YG Photo





Tyrrell House



11

The Tyrrell House, dating from the early 1900s, was originally located on Church Street. It is a squared two-storey log house with interlocking notches and a gable roof covered with corrugated metal.

Canadian geologist J.B. Tyrrell constructed the house and lived in it until 1908. Tyrrell had led a geological survey over the Dalton Trail to Dawson. His work, which included an extensive photographic record and articles on mining, enabled subsequent mining developments in the area.

He left the Geological Survey of Canada in 1899. Afterward, he returned to Dawson and worked as a consultant engineer specializing in gold mining. He eventually moved his headquarters to Toronto and passed away there in 1957.

This house continues to be used as a private residence.



12

This house is an important part of the historic character of this area. Its hipped roof, open porch, wood framed windows and wood siding are typical of early residential properties in Dawson in the early 1900s.

Although John Wallace Pike owned this property in 1902, it is likely that he subdivided the land and sold the portion on which this building is constructed to Bertram Pinkerton in 1902. Pinkerton built this house as his residence, and then purchased the adjacent north half of the lot in 1907. Originally from Ontario, he came to Dawson City in search of gold and prosperity but worked mainly in the mail service and for the White Pass and Yukon Route.

O'Brien Brewing and Malting Co. wagon at the corner of Church and Front streets.

YG Photo





13

This house is named for Pierre Berton, noted prolific author of more than 50 Canadian history books. It was built in 1901, and it became home to the Berton family in 1920—the same year Pierre was born. The family lived here until 1932.

In 1961, Pierre's mother, Laura Beatrice Berton, published *I Married the Klondike*, a vivid memoir of her 25 years in Yukon.

The house was rehabilitated in the early 1990s to become the Berton House Writers' Retreat program operated by the Writers' Trust of Canada and the Klondike Visitors Association. Since Berton House opened in 1996, authors from as far as Japan have lived and worked here for periods of a few months to a year. They also contribute to the vibrant cultural life of Dawson by giving readings and hosting events during their residencies.

Two major renovations were undertaken to accommodate the needs of visiting writers, but the exterior remains true to the Berton-era. More information about Pierre Berton, the writers-in-residence program and the history of the house can be found on interpretive panels outside the house.

Berton house view from the street.

Photo courtesy of Michael Gates





14

Famed author Jack London was born in California. In 1897 when he was 21, he hiked the Chilkoot Pass into the Yukon River drainage. He stopped to guide other stampeders' boats through the treacherous waters of Miles Canyon / Kwäninlen—which means “water running through a narrow passage” in Southern Tutchone—and White Horse Rapids. Then he set out for the Klondike to prospect for gold.

London only spent one year in Yukon. Disillusioned with gold mining and afflicted with scurvy, he returned to California in 1898. London wrote two successful novels about the north, *White Fang* and *Call of the Wild*. They are still in print and have been translated into 50 languages.

This cabin was originally located at Henderson Creek in the Klondike goldfields. One half of the cabin was taken to Pioneer Square in Oakland, California—aptly renamed Jack London Square—and the other half with Jack London's inscription on one wall was relocated here.

Currently, the Klondike Visitors Association operates and maintains the Jack London Museum. Find out more at jacklondonmuseum.ca.



15

This small-scale Neoclassical Revival building was designed by Thomas W. Fuller and constructed in 1899. It was originally located just east of the Court House, in the Government Reserve.

Telegraph services operated from this location for 15 months before they were moved to the telegraph annex of the Post Office, a more central location in town. The Telegraph Office became Fuller's construction headquarters, office and residence.

In 1908, the MacLaren family bought the building and moved it from the Government Reserve to its present location. It continued as an upper-scale family residence for the next 75 years. The Dawson City Museum has used it for various purposes since the 1980s, and it has undergone rehabilitation by the Government of Yukon.

The Dawson City Telegraph Office is a designated Yukon Historic Site. It was one of six Dawson City public buildings designed by Thomas W. Fuller and was the first project where he was given sole responsibility for design and construction. This is the only architecturally designed telegraph office in Yukon, and it illustrates the Canadian government's confidence in Dawson's continued prosperity. Fuller went on to become the Chief Dominion Architect for Canada.

The Telegraph Office represents a major communications system connecting Yukon to the south and the extraordinary development of the historic 2,700-kilometre Dawson-Ashcroft Telegraph Line.



This house was constructed in 1902, and has been home to many long-time Dawson residents over the years.

It is believed this house was first constructed as a residence for H.D. Hulme. In 1904, it was purchased by George Black, a prominent lawyer in Dawson. Black was appointed Commissioner of the Yukon in 1912, and he sold the house when he recruited a regiment and then went overseas to serve in the First World War. John Murphy bought the house in 1914. He had mining claims in the area and later worked for the Yukon Consolidated Gold Company. The Troberg family eventually bought the house in 1921. Ralph Troberg was an active member of the community, as well as the Yukon Order of Pioneers Grand Historian.

While the house has undergone extensive renovations over the years, its original style and character have remained intact.

Path along the Yukon River.
YG Photo





Minto Park is Yukon's first formal park and a landmark in the community. Established in 1904, it was named for the first Governor General to visit Yukon, Governor General Gilbert Elliot-Murray-Kynynmound, the 4th Earl of Minto.

The park was designed to complement the Neoclassical architecture of the Old Territorial Administration Building (OTAB). The formal landscape and expansive green space emphasized the OTAB's stature and architecture within the community.

The landscaping is typical of federal government properties constructed during the early 20th century. It was developed in cooperation with the Dawson Horticultural Society to provide a formal green space and recreation area that showcased a strong federal presence. Its design and amenities helped reinforce the site as the administrative centre of the territory and the social and recreational focal point of the community.

The Victory Garden, located north of the OTAB, includes a granite cenotaph installed in 1924 to honour Yukon soldiers who fought in the First World War.

In 1992, the community reconstructed the Victory Garden using a period landscape plan. The cenotaph remains in its original location and is flanked by two field guns that were installed in 1924 as part of the memorial. The Victory Garden and Cenotaph in Minto Park provide a tangible link to the sacrifices Canadians made in the first and second world wars.

Minto Park was designated a Municipal Historic Site in 2013.

Old Territorial Administration Building



The Old Territorial Administration Building (OTAB) was designed by Thomas W. Fuller in the Neoclassical style. Its construction in 1901 lent an air of permanence to the community and was intended to illustrate Canada's sovereignty in the North.

This substantial structure reflected Dawson's evolution from a booming mining camp to a prosperous capital with a promising future. It was the legislative and administrative headquarters of the new Yukon Territory, housing government offices, as well as the territorial legislative assembly.

The OTAB's history over the next 60 years paralleled the territory's economic and political fortunes. By 1910, Yukon was experiencing a critical decline, and the government centralized its territorial and federal services into this building. It remained the centre of the federal and territorial government until the capital was moved from Dawson to Whitehorse in 1953.

At various times, this building has been home to the local post office, a radio station, the tax collector's office, and the public school. Since 1962, it has housed the Dawson City Museum.

The OTAB was designated a National Historic Site of Canada in 2001. It is a symbol of the establishment of the first substantial, ongoing linkage between the northern territories and southern Canadian society, and it signifies the federal government's commitment to the administration of this north-western part of Canada.

It currently houses law courts, government offices, and the Dawson City Museum. Find out more about the museum at dawsonmuseum.ca.



We hope that you enjoyed your tour of Dawson City. Thank you to Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, Dawson City Museum, and Parks Canada for their contributions. Additional thanks to Jackie Olson, Angie Joseph-Rear, Jody Beaumont, Sue Parsons, Glenda Bolt, Wayne Potoroka, Jim Taggart, Sally Robinson, Michael Gates, and Leighann Chalykoff, who provided research, writing and content towards this updated publication.

If you have additional information, please contact the Government of Yukon Cultural Services Branch at 867-667-3458.

Second Edition, published 2020.

Photos: Government of Yukon, Cathie Archbould and Dawson City Museum