

# FHBRO HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT

## GARAGE & STORAGE BUILDING NO.15, BEAR CREEK INDUSTRIAL COMPOUND, BEAR CREEK, YK

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FHBRO number: **89-008**  
DFRP number: **20008**  
Resource name: **Garage & Storage Building No.15**  
Address: **Bear Creek Industrial Compound, Bear Creek, Yukon**  
FHBRO status: **"Recognized" Federal Heritage Building**  
Construction: **1935**  
Designer: **Not known**  
Original function: **Vehicle repair and storage**  
Current function: **Not known**  
Modifications: **Addition to south-east elevation**  
Custodian: **Parks Canada Agency**

### **Description of Historic Place**

Garage and Storage Building No.15 consists of a simple, one-storey, rectangular wood-frame structure sheathed in corrugated steel siding with a gable roof and one-storey shed addition. Located in the Bear Creek Compound, Garage and Storage Building No.15 is one of a number of buildings loosely arranged around the compound's central yard. The designation is confined to the footprint of the building.

### **Heritage Value**

Garage and Storage Building No.15 is a "Recognized" Federal Heritage Building because of its historical associations, and its architectural and environmental values.

#### Historical value:

Garage and Storage Building No.15 is associated with the corporate phase of Klondike gold mining in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Built by the Yukon Consolidated Gold Company (YCGC) to house vehicle repairs and storage, Garage and Storage Building No.15 is also associated with the 1930s rejuvenation phase of the Bear Creek Compound. During this phase, the Yukon Consolidated Gold Company (YCGC) launched the expansion and upgrading of this industrial plant which included the general refurbishment of buildings, the rebuilding of several dredges, the improvement of the internal transportation network, an extensive prospecting project, and the construction of new buildings.

#### Architectural value:

Garage and Storage Building No.15 is a good example of a multi-purpose building type at the Bear Creek Compound, and served as a vehicle repair and vehicle storage building. Constructed of good quality, durable materials, the level of craftsmanship is consistent with a frontier situation and a mining community that was not intended to be permanent. Garage and Storage Building No.15's utilitarian design is flexible and efficient, and consists of a wood frame shell with large double doors to admit vehicles.

#### Environmental value:

Garage and Storage Building No.15 reinforces the corporate industrial character of this obsolete placer gold mining area. The building is located among the Compound's cluster of industrial buildings, which are loosely arranged around the central yard, and set within the unique

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landscape of tailing piles produced during dredging operations that stretch for miles around Bear Creek, into the Klondike River Valley.

## **Character-Defining Elements**

The following character-defining elements of the Garage and Storage Building No.15 should be respected:

Its role as an illustration of the corporate mining phase of Klondike gold extraction in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century is reflected in:

- the building's simple, functional design and materials that are consistent with its use and its frontier location.

Its utilitarian design, and good quality materials as manifested in:

- the building's simple, rectangular form and gable roof;
- the large double doors, some of which have the characteristic horseshoe hinges;
- the flexible interior layout consisting of two vehicle bays fitted with ceiling slings for block and tackle;
- the use of durable, utilitarian materials; and,

The building's compatibility with the corporate industrial character of this obsolete placer gold mining area as evidenced in:

- its scale and materials;
- its location as part of the loose arrangement of buildings around the compound's central yard.

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

August 2003