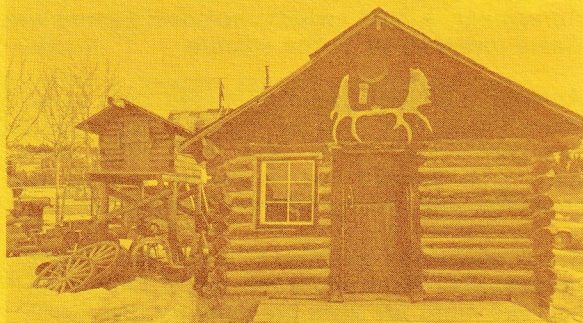


According to Yukon poet Robert Service, "Sam McGee was from Tennessee where the cotton blooms and blows". However, Yukoners knew him as a cheery freighter on the old Whitehorse-Kluane wagon road [later the Alaska Highway]. McGee was also a prospector with claims at Burwash as well as Windy Arm and the Wheaton River near Carcross.



Sam McGee's Cabin (Cache at left)

Engine #51 was built originally in 1881 by the Brooks Locomotive Works for the Utah & Northern Railroad acquired by the White Pass and Yukon Route at the time of the Klondike gold rush. It arrived in Skagway in 1898 and became White Pass & Yukon Route #1 while the company was building its narrow-gauge 110-mile line to Whitehorse.

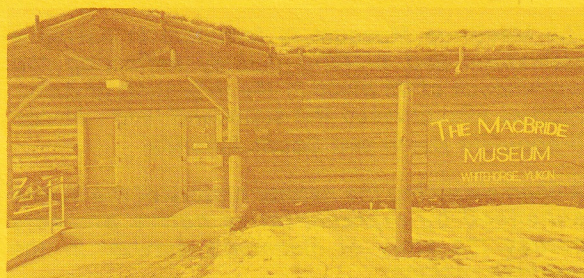
Extensively rebuilt in 1900, it was re-numbered #51 and served for many years. It was retired in the late 1930's and assigned to the MacBride Museum in 1955.

(Photos by Delahaye)

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TO



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MacBride Museum

MacBride Museum Society

An historical society was formed in Whitehorse on December 20, 1950 for the collection and preservation of all items of Yukon history. Fred Arnot of Customs & Immigration was the first president, Mrs. W.S. Copeland, vice-president and W.D. MacBride, agent and PR for White Pass & Yukon Route secretary-treasurer. The Board of Directors included Them Kjar, Thomas Bain, J. McLutchie, R.J. Meek and Mrs. George Black.

Thwarted for a year in its efforts to obtain use of the old government telegraph building at First and Steele streets as a museum, the society, under newly-elected president Bill MacBride acquired it in January 1952. Due largely to his interest and hard work, MacBride's museum became a prominent Whitehorse attraction. In 1958 the collection was enhanced by the acquisition of the large copper nugget.

MacBride retired to Vancouver in 1961, leaving a viable institution that became part of a Centennial complex in 1967 when the new City Hall, Fire Hall and museum were built. Named to honour Bill MacBride, the new museum was opened by Princess Alexandra on May 29, 1967.

At that time the Yukon Territorial Government had begun the collection of Yukon wildlife which is today housed in the new John Cowan wing. Opened in May 9, 1975 by Mrs. Cowan and Commissioner James Smith, the basement of the new wing was designed to eventually accommodate rotating displays of the National Museum in Ottawa.

Of recent years, museums have sprung up all over the territory. As the work of the Yukon Historical Society was concentrated on the MacBride Museum, on November 8, 1976 it became the MacBride Museum Society.