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Archaeology at the Klondike National Historic Sites,  
Dawson City, Yukon: The 1982 Field Season

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Sites

A total of seven historic sites were archaeologically investigated within the K.N.H.S. over the course of a 12 week field season in 1982. In order of investigation, these sites included the North West Mounted Police (Fort Herchmer) Jail, the N.W.M.P. Stables, the British Yukon Navigation Company Ticket Office, St. Andrew's Presbyterian Manse, J.A. West's Boiler Shop, Bigg's (Oakden's) Blacksmith Shop and Robert Service's Cabin (Fig. 1).

Throughout this field season, the K.N.H.S. Archaeology Project continued to orient its operations specifically towards providing support services for the development of the Klondike National Historic Sites. In this regard, I worked closely with the design architects, restoration engineers and photogrammetrists from Headquarters; the historian and extant recorders from the Prairie Regional Office; as well as the Sites' engineer, extant recorders and curator.

For the most part, the information required from the archaeology project concerned historic grade, structural foundations systems, buried structural remains, utility features, access features and artifact data. To accommodate these requests within the optimistic schedule for archaeological research prior to structural stabilization while maintaining professional standards, a strategy of archaeological testing operations was implemented at each site.

This strategy incorporated surface survey and assessment procedures to determine site potentials; surface collection to supplement or, in some cases, replace excavations; alternate grid unit and short trench excavations to replace time consuming full scale



excavations; and so on. While such testing operations may be perceived as being somewhat rudimentary, tentative and precipitant, they are nonetheless research methods which allow the archaeologist to retrieve a certain amount of information in a relatively short period of time. In terms of the project's mandate and schedule, this strategy was both advantageous and expedient.

The primary reason for deciding upon a testing strategy was to keep pace with the K.N.H.S. program of structural stabilization. The schedule for archaeology has had to be accelerated to keep abreast with this stabilization program for various reasons. On the one hand, the time required to stabilize a building is much less than that needed to restore it. In other words, more buildings can be stabilized, and consequently more archaeological sites affected, in a much shorter period of time than that required for restoration. Indeed, the 1982 season witnessed the most ambitious program of structural stabilization yet in the K.N.H.S. On the other hand, stabilization inevitably requires extensive repair and/or construction activities which have an adverse impact on both the surface and buried archaeological resources associated with each development site.

More than in any previous year, the 1982 archaeology project has had to undertake major salvage campaigns in the face of imminent site disturbance or destruction as a result of structural stabilization. During this season, four out of the seven sites investigated were immediately impacted by site development to such an extent that, at best, large sections of the archaeological record have been irreparably damaged. However, by working in close conjunction with the Sites' Engineering and Architecture sections, many other segments of the archaeological sites were successfully capped and preserved prior to stabilization. Also, it is fortunate that scabilization activities are generally concentrated in and immediately around the structures themselves. As such, many of the surrounding properties have been left virtually intact. In both cases, future archaeological investigation is made possible. Similarly, the remaining three sites from this season, as with many other sites within the K.N.H.S., are not immediately threatened by site development thus warranting continued archaeological research of the Klondike National Historic Sites.

The following "end-of-season" report briefly describes those sites investigated during the 1982 field season in terms of their history, the work undertaken and significant discoveries.

The North West Mounted Police Jail (Fig. 2)

To paraphrase Richard Stuart (1981), it is known that this

log structure was one of five N.W.M.P. buildings constructed in 1898 as a component of Fort Herchmer in the Government Reserve, Dawson City. Originally built as a hospital, the simple rectangular structure underwent a number of alterations over the course of its history. Structurally it appears as though no major alterations were made to the building after 1918. Prior to this date the building had assumed its extant cruciform shape through the construction of east and west additions. An important alteration was the transformation of this building from a hospital to a jail, effected by 1910. By the 1930s, until its abandonment in the 1940s, the structure also served as a storage building.

Although the jail was first tested archaeologically in 1978 (Burley and Ross 1979a), subsequent test excavations have been conducted at this site for the past three years. In 1980, it was decided to further explore the exterior areas along the south wall of the structure to ascertain and document the building's foundations (Ross 1980). In 1981, archaeological investigations were concentrated in interior areas of the building, most notably in the south cell block and the east (rear) lavatory/laundry room (Ross 1981a). From observations made in 1981 concerning unique artifact concentrations near the lip of the cellar, it was decided that the 1982 archaeological investigations would concentrate primarily in and around this cellar before the site was capped and the building stabilized.

The cellar is roughly 4.19 m square and straddles the area of junction between the north and south cell blocks (the original hospital wards) and between these cell blocks and the west guard room addition (formerly the operating room). Built in 1902 to house a furnace, the cellar is surrounded by a rough stone, dry masonry wall with evidence of pointing on its exposed surfaces. Embedded into this wall is a circuit of foundation posts around the cellar's perimeter. In the northwest corner of the cellar, providing access from the exterior ground surface just east of the operating/guard room's extant north wall doorway, a tin clad, sawn board coal chute was also observed and documented.

Although a high ground frost level and high water table severely impeded investigations on the cellar floor, salvageable surface litter was systemically collected and a shallow one metre trench was excavated along the base of the cellar's west wall. The types and quantities of artifacts so recovered (eg., numerous typewriter parts, plumbing parts, nails, and so on) seem indicative of the most recent storage function of the building. However, as in 1981, excavations and artifact collections from around the lip of the cellar (in that area which would originally have constituted the crawlspace between ground surface and the structure's floor) revealed a high number of shards from a large variety of glass chemical/medicine bottles. These

artifacts may indeed relate to the hospital activity at the site. Of particular significance was the retrieval of a large wooden strong box. While markings on this box possibly identify it as coming from the Victoria Order of Nurses, it contained a number of ledgers and documents specifically relating to the jail operations from, apparently, the pre-1910 period.

Other archaeological activity at this site included the further documentations of structural foundation members and the salvaging of artifacts in and around the building once started. Also, a roughly 2 x 1.5 m pile river cobbles located at the exterior northeast corner of the lavatory/laundry room was methodically dismantled and recorded. However, no interpretation of this feature is available at this time.

#### The North West Mounted Police Stable (Fig. 3)

In 1903, this building was erected and outfitted to replace the original, smaller log stable in Fort Herchmer. Unlike its predecessor, this new stable was of frame construction and more elaborate in design. This design included rustic outside walls, dressed boards, pitched roof, cupolas, a cow stable at one end and a harness/saddle room attached to the north (Bush 1972). As with the jail, this building was stabilized immediately after archaeological activities for the season ceased. This stabilization required some foundation trenching but, for the most part, surviving components of the archaeological site have been capped by extensive gravel fill.

This site was initially tested archaeologically in 1978 (Burley and Ross 1979a). In 1981, this testing continued in the exterior east yard area which substantiated a number of discrepancies between the original blueprints for the stable (Bush 1972) and the extant structure. Most notably, these investigations located the previously unsuspected, non-extant cow stall portions of the structure (Ross 1981a). For the first time this past season, testing operations were concentrated solely on interior areas. In this regard, surface artifacts, especially those from the harness room and those exposed by construction, were collected. Also excavated was a 1 x 12 m trench, oriented north to south, which transversed the stables proper and continued across the floor of the harness room.

A number of interesting, and in one case surprising, structural details were noted. To begin with, three different floor systems were uncovered in the stables proper and as many as five floors were noted in the harness room. In both cases, the lowest courses of flooring were badly decomposed and appear to have been replaced or recovered with subsequent layers of heavy planking or discontinuous board and plank sections. The topmost floor in the harness

room consisted of nicely dressed tongue and groove boards. While there were some indications of the floor in the stable having extended across the central runway (which bisects the stable from east to west and provides access to the stalls to left and right), no definite evidence in support of this supposition was found.

Joists were also observed directly underneath the floorboards in both the stable and harness room. While the joists in the harness room ran north-south, those in the stable were oriented east-west, likely to provide added support under the stalls. East-west wall sills were encountered directly underneath each of the structure's corresponding walls. Also, two floor beams occurred, flanking the central runway. These floorbeams demarcated the ends of the stalls as well as provided footings for the roof support timbers.

Underneath these sills and floor beams, no substantial structural support members were found. At the southernmost limit of the trench, a set of stacked board sections was discovered underneath the south wall. Similarly, under the north wall of the stable (the south wall of the harness room) an obvious concentration of river cobbles occurred which might represent some form of ground fill, levelling or structural support. In any case, no foundation posts were located in the excavations. What was surprising was that the foundation trenching for stabilization also revealed no foundation posts under the structure. This is completely contrary to the original blueprints for the stable.

In terms of artifacts retrieved from the season's work, the archaeological record for this site was surprisingly shallow. Indeed, the vast majority of artifacts occurred immediately on top of and directly underneath the floorboards. Of those artifacts recovered, many relate distinctly to a livery activity. These include D-rings, harness rings, buggy steps, and so on.

#### The British Yukon Navigation Co. Ticket Office (Fig. 4)

This site had not been archaeologically investigated prior to this year. Extensive surface collections from underneath the extant structure have, however, been undertaken by the extant recording crew. These artifacts have been turned over to the Sites' Curatorial Section. Stabilization of the structure, effected later in the season, did not entail any disruptive foundation excavation. Rather, the building has been raised onto a substantial gravel pad. As such, the surviving archaeological record associated with this structure has been completely preserved underneath this gravel fill.

Based on Stuart's research (1982), this frame building was initially constructed in 1900 by the Alaska Commercial Company as part of its dockside warehouse. The ticket

office was subsequently taken over by the Northern Commercial Company's "Northern Navigation" division in 1902 and then in 1913 by the White Pass and Yukon Route's subsidiary, the British Yukon Navigation Company. From the 1930s to the 1970s, the building's utilization shifted from river steamer services towards the growing air transport industry with such occupants as the British Yukon Aviation division, Great Northern Airlines, Northward Airlines and, finally Canadian Pacific Airlines. During the latter decades of its history, the building's function also changed from that of a ticket office to that of a storage shed.

Of at least equal historic importance is the fact that this ticket office is only a remnant of a much larger complex of docks and warehouses which originally extended to the north and west. Initially, gang planks and barges, acting as floating piers, were utilized to transfer passengers and goods to and from this area of the waterfront. In 1900, a more efficient landing facility was installed which consisted of a large open warehouse, placed on a platform well back from the water from which piers extended into the river. In 1901, the south end of this warehouse was enclosed to house the ticket office and, in 1902, a boiler house was installed at the north end to provide heat to the large N.C.Co.'s warehouses and store across the street. Between 1908 and 1910, a large pier was built extending out to deep water and a new enclosed warehouse was affixed to the west of the original open storage space. During the 1918 spring break up of the river ice, the pilings under the wharf were cut away, rendering the pier and warehouses useless. At some time, likely around 1919, the dock and warehouses were dismantled and removed. Later, the structure housing the boilers disappeared as well.

To accommodate stabilization activities, the ticket office was to be moved off its site to the north. It was felt that the erection of temporary support cribbing could severely disturb any surface features associated with the non-extant warehouses in this area. Consequently, all archaeological investigations of this site were concentrated to the north and west of the ticket office. Due to the superficial nature of the expected disturbance, these investigations relied solely on surface surveys and documentation. In this regard, two survey lines were cut through the dense brush from the ticket office to the existing boilers of the non-extant boiler house. These lines conformed with the orientation of floor beams underneath the ticket office. It was believed that any surviving remnants of the warehouse platform or its support pilings would thus be exposed. No such remnants were located. In fact, the only noteworthy surface features in this northern area of the site were the 70 h.p. steam

boilers from the 1902 power plant. A third survey line which ran west from the street to the water front also revealed no surface features associated with the warehouses. However, a network of wharf pilings was observed and documented at the very edge of the river which likely relate to the historic docks.

#### St. Andrew's Presbyterian Manse (Fig. 5)

The manse was built in 1901 (Stuart 1981). This frame building has been described as Dawson City's single example of "Second Empire" architecture. As such, the manse was generally deemed to be the second most beautiful and costly residence in the city, after the grandiose Commissioner's Residence. Essentially, the exterior of the structure, at least, has remained unchanged throughout its history, although a number of alterations regarding energy conservation were made to the building ca. 1921. Also, the manse was used more or less continuously as the minister's home until the closure of the Presbyterian church in 1932. Until the late 1940s the building continued to be used seasonally by community voluntary organizations.

Scheduled for rehabilitation and full exterior restoration in 1982, archaeology was first undertaken at the site during the 1981 field season (Ross 1981a). This research uncovered and documented such sub-surface structural information as the foundation system, siding/skirting, sawdust insulation boxes, a coal chute in the cellar, and a buried step leading up to the rear door. Also, a number of landscape features were noted including more contemporary rose gardens, the possible decomposed remains of a boardwalk connecting the manse to the adjacent church and the absence of an historic trellis beneath the front bay window. Due to the instability of the structure, all 1981 archaeological investigations were relegated to the exterior areas of the site.

This season's rehabilitation required that the manse be moved off its site and that a full basement be excavated and installed. It was therefore decided that archaeological research would focus on interior areas prior to this destructive activity and that all such activity would be closely monitored. Consequently, after the structure had been stabilized, raised and its flooring removed, the entire interior ground surface was systematically searched and all artifacts collected. During the trenching operations for the placement of skids, a large, though shallow, concentration of ceramics was uncovered just south of the front door porch. This concentration was composed primarily of saucer fragments representing some 15 different decorative patterns with maker's marks from England, France, Germany and Japan.

Once the building had been moved, archaeological excavations were concentrated in the previously inaccessible cellar. Besides a good artifact yield indicative of residential and personal activities, these excavations revealed a number of important features. Underneath a fairly thick layer of muck and debris, an intact floor was uncovered in the cellar. Composed of rough hewn planks oriented east to west, the floor appears originally to have been continuous across the cellar. This floor, in relation to the elevation of ground level and the manse floor, suggests that head clearance in the cellar would have been low. Of particular interest was the discovery of the privy in the cellar. Located behind a low wall of vertical wood planks just to the southeast of the brick chimney, this privy consisted of a large removable metal tub or tray, for the collection of excrement, set inside the plank box seat. Also, the forced air furnace, to the north of the privy, was documented.

During the installation of the modern basement, a second concentration of artifacts was found. This was a surprisingly large concentration located in the front yard of the manse, at a fair distance from the building. This concentration included more ceramics, a large number of glass bottles and bottle fragments, metal objects and a vast quantity of enamelled tinware plates, cups, bowls and pots. The presence of such a large refuse midden virtually in the front yard of one of Dawson's most prestigious residences is something of a conundrum. A preliminary interpretation of this feature may be that it represents the disposal of refuse over the banks of the slough which historically ran through this area of the site.

#### J.A. West's Boiler Shop (Fig. 6)

Little is known concerning the history of this building except for what can be gleaned from the municipal tax rolls, land titles and business directories. From these sources, it appears as though this property may have originally been utilized for a residence from approximately 1903 to 1906. It is also possible that, sometime around 1909-1910, a carpentry shop may have operated on this site. In 1914, Jesse A. West, a machinist, also identified as a blacksmith, is recorded as being the owner of the property. It is not until about 1915-1916 that "J.A. West, Boiler Manufacturer and General Repairing" is recorded as operating from this site. Through interviews with local informants, it is also known that West continued his Boiler Shop activities throughout the 1930s and 1940s.

Besides very limited collection of a few special artifacts by the curatorial crew, no research whatsoever had been done on this site before. Yet the boiler shop offers a unique opportunity for material culture research. Although



the site has suffered somewhat at the hands of time, the forces of nature, and indiscriminate vandalism, the archaeological record, in the form of extensive interior and exterior surface artifact litter, has remained virtually intact since Jesse West abandoned the site ca. 1950. As such, the interior of the building still contains the forge, the sheet rollers, the drill press and the arc welder from the boiler manufacturer and repair operations. Of perhaps greater significance, the designated work areas, denoted by work benches, drawers and storage cupboards are still in place accompanied by large concentrations of tools, templates, parts and so on. Throughout the east and south yard areas, there are numerous boilers, boiler sections and parts. A proper distribution analysis of this wealth of artifact data could teach us much about the organization and operation of such a light industrial complexes as the boiler shop which would provide invaluable comparative insights into the commemoration of other light industries such as blacksmith shops, machine shops, saw mills, rock crushing operations and so on.

In the summer of 1983, this building is scheduled for interim stabilization. While this stabilization should not pose a threat to the buried archaeological record since no work on the foundation system is proposed, the installation of extensive interior bracings for the superstructure will severely disturb the in situ placement of interior artifacts. This would, in essence, obliterate important material cultural information such as the identification of distinct work areas within the building, the inventory of equipment and supplies associated with these areas and the identification of obscure, often hand-made, tools and parts in unique association with these specific areas.

It was therefore decided that the entire interior area would be gridded off; surface litter in each unit would be systematically investigated; detailed inventories of this litter for each unit would be made; and representative samples of each unique artifact type collected. In this way, valuable data could be salvaged before major disturbance while allowing for the opportunity to conduct a proper and thorough distributional analysis at some later date. To facilitate this analysis, the services of the photogrammetry crew from Headquarters were secured prior to collection. As such, each photograph of each unit will provide a precise record of in situ artifact locations. Piecing all photographs together into a photo mosaic will also accurately document the pattern of distribution over the entire site, both for the interior and exterior areas.

Given the staggering quantity of artifacts on this site, this collection activity will have to be completed next field season. Similarly the distribution analysis and in-depth artifact analysis will also have to be postponed indefinitely. However, some very significant finds were

made at this site. These finds include a large variety of paper artifacts ranging from letterhead, business cards, labels, invoices, bills, and so on from a number of businesses in and around historic Dawson City. Many of these artifacts have absolute dates printed on them. In some instances, these dated pieces of paper relate directly to J.A. West and indicate that he was operating his business at a much earlier date than has previously been suspected. In this regard, the Boiler Shop may indeed be well within the historic time period of the K.N.H.S. commemoration.

#### Bigg's (Oakden's) Blacksmith Shop (Fig. 7)

This building has evolved through four stages of construction and expansion. Based on Cristal Becker's work with the Period Architecture Section, Ottawa (1982), it appears that the original frame structure, which comprises the front section of the extant building, was constructed before 1899 and was used as the Great Northern Hotel until ca. 1904. Between 1904 and 1907, the usage of this building is unknown. The building was purchased in 1907 by William Oakden and became a blacksmith shop. It appears that during the Oakden occupation, the three rear log and frame additions were affixed to the original structure. In 1924, Alexander "Billy" Biggs purchased this property and operated the blacksmith shop until his death in 1955.

Due to its highly advanced state of deterioration, stabilization plans identify a major overhaul of the entire building beginning in 1983. Archaeological work at this site, therefore, concentrated on the testing and assessing of the nature and extent of the buried archaeological record for use by the Parks Canada design team and for identifying areas of the site warranting future investigations prior to actual development. To facilitate excavations, the grassy area to the south the structure was chosen for investigations, as was the open, easternmost interior space of the rearmost addition.

The exterior excavations were positioned following an alternate grid pattern, in such a way as to adequately test the corners of the original building and each of its subsequent rear additions. Mid-wall units were also excavated for comparative purposes. These excavations noted that a number of areas of this site had previously been excavated. Nevertheless, the site did offer a high information yield. This included evidence of a possible boardwalk which appears to have extended from Third Avenue, along the building's south wall, to the double doors located in the southwest section of the first rear addition. Also, the remains of what might be a ramp leading up to these doors were exposed and recorded.

Information concerning the foundation system and other structural details were also revealed. In this regard,

three to four different foundation systems were utilized underneath the overall structure. The original building stands on a series of foundation piles, embedded deeply into the frozen ground. While no evidence of a wall sill was found in this area, remnants of the skirting at the base of the building was exposed. The first rear addition, stood on short round posts which were shallowly set into the ground. These posts have since deflected to the east. Evidence of skirting and a wall sill were also found here. The second rear addition is built of log. In contrast to the first two buildings, this annex has no foundations. The base wall log rests directly on original ground surface. The last rear addition is an anomaly. In this case, a deeply set foundation pile was found underneath the back south east corner while no other piles, posts or sleepers were found elsewhere along its south wall.

In the interior of the rearmost annex, a short trench was excavated to bisect the building. These excavations attempted to locate information regarding the structure(s) which originally stood on this section of the site prior to the present annexes. These investigations appear to have been somewhat successful. While no definitive structural remains were uncovered, the distribution of artifacts and debris as well as the soil stratigraphy suggest that areas of this section of the site may have been affected by some such phenomena as encapsulation by a structure other than the extant one.

In terms of the artifacts, some general observations can be made. While artifacts from the upper levels of all excavated units showed direct association with blacksmithing activities, artifacts from the lower levels appear to relate more towards personal and residential usage. Also, the latter type of artifacts generally appear in greater numbers towards both the west and east limits of the site. Similarly, with regards to the interior trench, blacksmithing artifacts occur centrally within the area of investigation, while personal and residential artifacts occur at the north and south extremes of the trench.

#### Robert Service's Cabin (Fig. 8)

Robert Service's cabin may have been built as early as 1897, although the first land title was not granted until 1909. This title was given to Mrs. Matilda Day who gave it over to Mr. John N.E. Brown in the same year. In 1910 Brown, in turn, transferred the property to Mrs. Edna B. Clarke who retained ownership until 1949 (Leung and Macdougall 1873). In any event, this building was used as a residence.

Virtually nothing is known about this building's occupants prior to 1909. However, for 21 months, from 1909 to 1910 and again from 1911 to 1912, Robert W. Service, the Yukon's most famous poet and novelist, lived and wrote in

this cabin. In 1917, the Klondike Chapter of the International Order of the Daughters of the Empire decided to use the cabin's growing tourist appeal for the war effort by holding large public teas on the grounds around the cabin. So began the building's most continuous function - that of a major tourist attraction, first under the I.O.D.E., followed by the Klondike Visitor's Association, and presently by Parks Canada.

Today, this log cabin with notched corners remains much as it did during the Service occupation. However, alterations have been effected since the I.O.D.E. intervened in the operation and maintenance of the site. These alterations primarily constituted repairs for the upkeep of the cabin as well as embellishments to enhance its tourist appeal. Changes have been made to the interior furnishings, the corner roof supports, the front steps, the front door, windows, and roof. Also, the surrounding grounds have been maintained and a boardwalk installed. Around 1960, the foundations of the cabin were to have been replaced as were the lower two or three courses of wall logs.

Imminent development of this site by the K.N.H.S. identifies a major restoration program which will include repairs or replacement of the foundations. Since no archaeological research had been conducted at this site before, it was decided that the first task was to test the area immediately below the building's walls to assess the nature and extent of possible previous construction work. This operation revealed a very homogenous soil matrix, few artifacts and a cribbed foundation system consisting of sawn plank sections and square dressed timbers. All such wood members were obviously non-original and therefore confirm the information that the foundations of the cabin had been reworked. Such activity with its invariable impact on the archaeological record, precluded further archaeological investigations in this vicinity. However, adjacent yard areas appear to be more promising for archaeological research.

As with the cabin itself, little is known about the early utilization of the grounds surrounding the building. During Service's occupation, the cabin stood in the center of a large grassy yard, surrounded by clusters of willows and aspens. Some information also exists concerning neighboring structures. One such structure, which appears to be another residence but which has been tentatively identified as a food cache, stood behind the cabin, up the hill on a terrace. Today, the grassy yard survives but most of the original neighboring structures are no longer there. Of the building behind the cabin, only the empty terrace remains. Given the high population density of Dawson City at the turn of the century and the limited amount of useable land in the city's center it is known that the surrounding hillsides were extensively built-up. It is therefore likely

that other cabins once stood in close proximity to the Service cabin, possibly even in the present yard. Archaeological research should be able to locate such structures if indeed they did exist.

To test for non-extant structures as well as attempt to identify more clearly the structure above and behind the cabin, major archaeological investigations were concentrated behind the cabin, extending from its rear door to the foot of the hillside terrace. This area was decided upon for a number of reasons. For one thing, it was hoped that a collection of refuse from the cabin above Service's would be discovered at the base of the terrace which would facilitate the identification of the building. Also, an historic photograph of the cabin, dated ca. 1909, shows what appears to be a shack or shed immediately behind the cabin which is not mentioned in any of the historical or architectural reports.

These excavations proved to be highly successful, not in identifying the cabin on the hill but, in finding the structural remains of the shed immediately behind the Service cabin. This structure was, like the cabin itself, of log with notched corners. It measured approximately 3 meters north-south and more than 2 meters east-west, extending beyond the limits of the excavation. Although few artifacts were retrieved, other data were exposed and documented. In this regard, the interior of this structure was characterized by extensive wood chips, tree bark and board fragments overlying a distinct layer of sawdust. Protruding from the west wall of the excavations was the tip of a large saw. As such, this structure is now thought to be the wood shed directly associated with the cabin. It is proposed that future archaeology be conducted in other yard areas to explore for other structural and landscape features which may relate, either directly or indirectly, with the history of this cabin.

### Conclusions

Over a twelve week field season in 1982, the K.N.H.S. Archaeology Project was able to successfully investigate seven historic sites within Dawson City, Y.T. As in previous years, this project's research design has been oriented towards providing services and information in support of Parks Canada development. As a result of the intensive work load, the limited time factor, and the disturbance on many of these sites by development activities, this research design has also been geared towards archaeological testing and salvage operations. Having to contend with this type of research design does indeed limit the full potential of archaeological research contributing to the K.N.H.S. commemoration. "Yet", as James Deetz points out:

in doing such archaeology, more often than not new and useful information, which can be placed in the context of broad and current social-scientific thought, is forthcoming, even though it was not explicitly being sought before the fact of excavation (Deetz 1977: 21-33).

In this regard, archaeology can and does contribute to a more accurate and detailed picture of historic Dawson City, especially when combined with such other research as history and extant recording.

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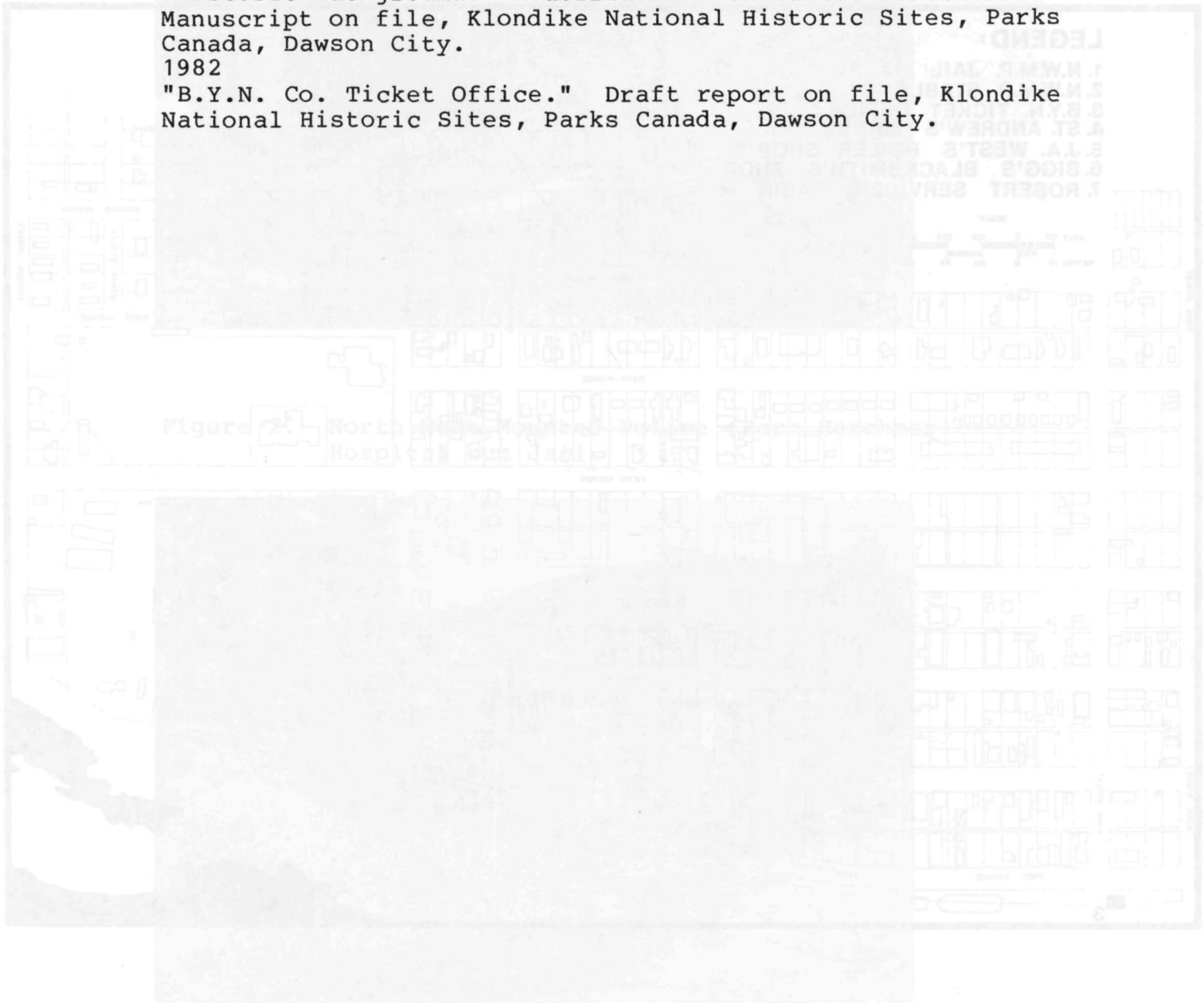


Figure 3. N.W.M.P. Stable.

Figure 1. K.N.H.S. Properties at which Archaeological Investigations were Conducted in 1982.

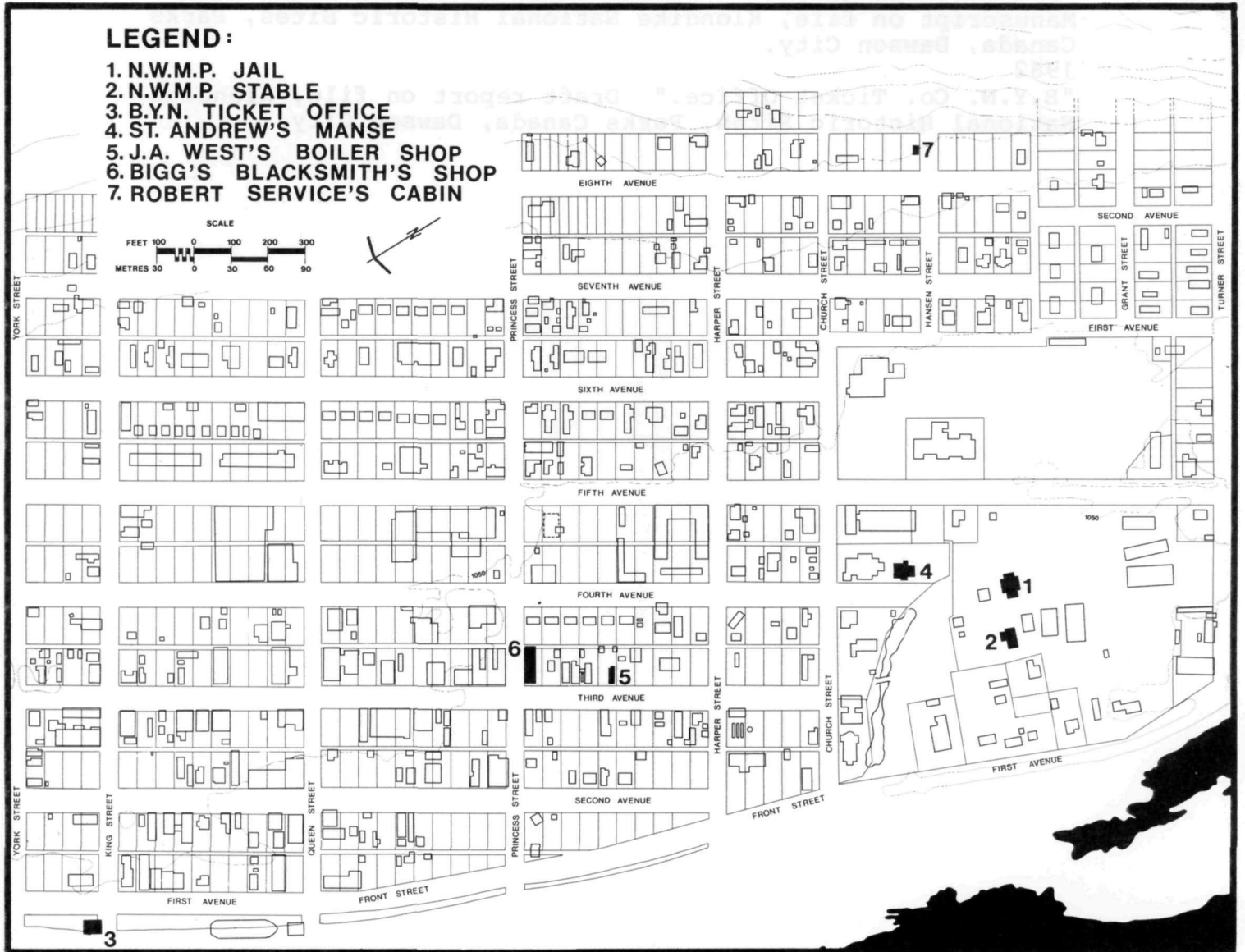






Figure 2. North West Mounted Police (Fort Herchmer) Hospital cum Jail.



Figure 3. N.W.M.P. Stable.



Figure 4. The British Yukon Navigation Co. Ticket Office.



Figure 5. St. Andrew's Presbyterian Manse.



Figure 6. J.A. West's Boiler Shop.



Figure 7. Bigg's (Oakden's) Blacksmith Shop.

1897  
Photograph by  
the  
of  
to  
©  
1981

Canada



Figure 8. Robert Service's Cabin.



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