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ON THE PERIPHERY OF THE KLONDIKE GOLD RUSH: CANYON CITY, AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
PERSPECTIVE.

Thomas J. Hammer

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**ON THE PERIPHERY OF THE KLONDIKE GOLD RUSH: CANYON  
CITY, AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE**

**By**

**Thomas J. Hammer**

**B.A. (Honours), Simon Fraser University**

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## **ABSTRACT**

This thesis investigates an Upper Yukon River Klondike Gold Rush site known as Canyon City. Canyon City and other sites like it were integral, but peripheral to the Klondike Gold Rush. This study attempts to integrate the oral, archival and archaeological data to provide insights into the day-to-day life of the resident population at Canyon City during the Klondike Gold Rush, 1897-1900.

Over the course of four years, six localities within the former settlement were extensively tested. These include: the West Tent locality, the Canyon Hotel and Saloon, the NWMP Barracks, the Canyon and White Horse Rapids Tramway Co. building, the East Cabin and the Machine/Blacksmith Shop. A total of 17,695 artifacts and 156 faunal specimens were collected during the investigations.

It is argued that the company structured the inhabitants' day-to-day lives within this single industry town. This structuring is evident in the settlement characteristics such as the structured settlement layout, the lack of duplication of services, the predominately male population and the dependence of the residents on the company for sustenance. Although based on limited data, the settlement also appears to have been organized socially—the workers and the owners. Furthermore, the cultural remains and architectural data suggest the general nature of the site was expedient and utilitarian, which not only reflects the logistical problems faced by Klondike era settlements but also the economic motivation of the townsite's owners.

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<b>CHAPTER 5:</b>	
<b>CANYON CITY HISTORIC ARTIFACT ASSEMBLAGE</b>	74
WEST TENT LOCALITY: ARTIFACT ASSEMBLAGE	76
Summary	85
CANYON HOTEL AND SALOON: ARTIFACT ASSEMBLAGE	85
Summary	91
NORTH-WEST MOUNTED POLICE BARRACKS ARTIFACT ASSEMBLAGE	92
Summary	95
CANYON AND WHITE HORSE RAPIDS TRAMWAY OFFICE: ARTIFACT ASSEMBLAGE	96
Summary	102
EAST CABIN: ARTIFACT ASSEMBLAGE	103
Summary	108
MACHINE/BLACK SMITH SHOP: ARTIFACT ASSEMBLAGE	110
Summary	115
 <b>CHAPTER 6:</b>	
<b>DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS</b>	
SITE CHARACTERISTICS	120
SETTLEMENT SUBSISTENCE	128
ABANDONMENT	129
CONCLUSION	133
 <b>REFERENCES CITED</b>	134
 <b>APPENDIX A: TRADITIONAL USE OF CANYON CITY</b>	150
 <b>APPENDIX B: FIELD PHOTOGRAPHS</b>	160

## LIST OF FIGURES

<b>Figure 1.</b>	Map showing location of Canyon City in the Yukon.	7
<b>Figure 2.</b>	Map showing the major routes to the Klondike Gold Fields.	13
<b>Figure 3.</b>	Archival Photo of Miles Canyon, ca. 1899.	15
<b>Figure 4.</b>	Archival Photograph of a tramcart on the tramway.	19
<b>Figure 5.</b>	Archival Photograph of Canyon City Townsite.	22
<b>Figure 6.</b>	Archival photograph showing River steamers and freight on Canyon City Dock	24
<b>Figure 7.</b>	Map of the Canyon City townsite showing the location of the historic features documented during the investigations.	40
<b>Figure 8.</b>	Archival Photo of Canyon City showing the West Tent locality.	45
<b>Figure 9.</b>	Schematic diagram of the features documented at the West Tent Locality.	46
<b>Figure 10.</b>	Archival Photograph of the Canyon Hotel and Saloon ca. 1899.	49
<b>Figure 11.</b>	Schematic diagram of the features documented at the Canyon Hotel and Saloon.	51
<b>Figure 12.</b>	Archival photograph of Canyon City townsite showing the NWMP Post and Storehouse in middle of the photograph.	54
<b>Figure 13.</b>	Schematic diagram of the features documented at the NWMP Barracks.	56
<b>Figure 14.</b>	Archival Photograph of the remains of the NWMP Barracks at Canyon City 1912.	59
<b>Figure 15.</b>	Archival Photograph of original Tramway Office at Canyon City ca. 1897-1898.	61
<b>Figure 16.</b>	Archival Photograph of completed Tramway Office at Canyon City ca. 1898.	62
<b>Figure 17.</b>	Schematic diagram of the features documented at the Canyon and White Horse Rapids Tramway Co. Building.	64
<b>Figure 18.</b>	Archival Photograph of the Tramway Office, metal basin sits below the widow next to the second door to from the left.	66
<b>Figure 19.</b>	Schematic diagram of the features documented at the East Cabin.	69
<b>Figure 20.</b>	A) schematic diagram of the Machine/Blacksmith locality showing estimated perimeter based on depressions observed; B) diagram of the composite feature located in the west portion of the Machine/Blacksmith shop; C) diagram of the composite feature documented in Unit 10 located in the eastern portion of the structure.	71
<b>Figure 21.</b>	Graph of the frequency of functional groups within the overall Canyon City historic assemblage.	76
<b>Figure 22.</b>	Archival Photograph of tramway crew ca. 1899.	119
<b>Figure 23.</b>	Archival Photograph of tramway crew, of note is the women seated behind Norman Macaulay—the man with the cane ca. 1899 (Yukon Archives)	125

<b>Figure 24.</b>	Stone tools recovered from the Tramway Office, L-R: bifacial skin scraper and a backed cobble spall.	172
<b>Figure 25.</b>	L-R: chert endscraper fragment, basalt bifacial skin scraper fragment and a biface fragment recovered during the 1993 preliminary testing.	173
<b>Figure 26.</b>	Ty Heffner and Meagan Williams excavating the prehistoric component at the East Cabin Locality.	173
<b>Figure 27.</b>	West wall profile of N27W27 at the East Cabin Locality.	174
<b>Figure 28.</b>	<i>In situ</i> Agate Basin-Like point at the interface of the B1 and B2 horizons, 9cm BA.	174
<b>Figure 29.</b>	Agate Basin-like point recovered from the East Cabin ca. 2,600 BP.	175
<b>Figure 30.</b>	Obsidian side scraper recovered from the East Cabin, 11cm BA.	175

## **-CHAPTER 1-**

### **INTRODUCTION**

Pierre Berton has noted that the Klondike Gold Rush was one of the best documented adventures of the last 150 years. With the availability of cameras, film, newspapers, books, diaries and recorded interviews, the historian's problem really becomes one of where to focus and what to choose (Davidson 1996).

Archaeological studies concerning the Klondike Gold Rush have typically been centred on a few principal locations such as Skagway, the Chilkoot Trail and Dawson City. In the Yukon, Dawson City and selected sites along the Chilkoot Trail have been the focus of the majority of historical and archaeological research so far carried out (Blee 1991; Bradford 1989; Burley 1985; Burley and Ross 1979a, 1979b; Cooper 1998; Hems and Nieuwhof 1994; Mini 1978; Murray and Hamilton 1986; Spude et al. 1993). Peripheral gold rush transportation settlements along the Yukon River, however, were essential to the success of the gold rush and these settlements ensured the relatively smooth flow of the mass of stampedeers who came from all over the world to the Klondike gold fields (Bennett 1978). The stories of these argonauts are familiar and well documented by historians; even romanticized by the likes of author Jack London and poet Robert Service. However, historians and anthropologists have largely ignored the peripheral settlements along the Yukon River and their resident populations.

With the centennial of the Klondike Gold Rush in 1998, Canyon City, located 10km upriver from Whitehorse was selected by the Department of Tourism, Government of Yukon, to be developed as a historic interpretive site. In support of this program, archaeological investigations were conducted here

Historical Archaeology has a unique position within the social sciences since it is "capable of gaining simultaneous access to the past through multiple, independent categories of evidence" (Schuyler 1977 cf. Deagan 1988: 8). These categories, the database of Historical Archaeology, include "the spoken word, the written word, observed behavior and preserved behavior" (Deagan 1982; Schuyler 1977 cited in Deagan 1988:8). To gain an accurate picture of what life was like at Canyon City, this thesis integrates the 'spoken word'—oral history, the 'written word'—documentary evidence including archival photographs, and the 'preserved behavior'—the archaeological record.

Central to this thesis is the premise that Canyon City was a single purpose company settlement, as indicated by the archival record. It is hypothesized that the company structured the inhabitants' day-to-day lives within the single industry town. By both providing and regulating services, the Canyon and White Horse Rapids Tramway Company dictated the construction and layout of facilities and workers' accommodation within the settlement and even the demographics and subsistence base of the resident population. Finally, since the site was company owned, the abandonment behaviour should be uniform and consistent throughout.

It is argued here that the layout and buildings of Canyon City were specifically structured to meet the needs of the corporate owners in support of the tramway operation. Furthermore, it is expected that commercial services within the site were limited by the corporate structure. In addition, it is argued that the population was principally itinerate, non-local labourers hired by the

possibility of the company or individuals trading, likely with local First Nations for country foods.

Finally, the abandonment behavior present at Canyon City is predicted to have been consistent and uniform throughout the site. It is argued that the Company's interests dictated abandonment behavior. There are no surface remains of the former buildings at the site suggesting all buildings were dismantled and building materials removed from the site in a systematic fashion. A low frequency of usable artifacts remaining at the site would further indicate planned abandonment behavior (Schiffer 1989; Stevenson 1982a; 1982b).

In the following chapters an archaeological perspective of Canyon City is presented. Chapter Two reviews the historical setting of Canyon City, briefly discussing Yukon settlement types, Yukon history and the site itself in terms of the historical record. Chapter Three provides the methodological framework and the research design that guided the four years of archaeological investigations. Chapters Four and Five provide the results of the excavations at the six Canyon City localities under study, detailing the site's layout, architectural data and recovered artifact assemblage. The final chapter synthesizes the results and addresses the questions posed in this introduction.





**Figure 1.** Map showing location of Canyon City (JdUr-5) in the Yukon.  
(1cm=100km).



about the traditional use of the site, Kwanlin Dün First Nation elders did tell of extensive traditional use in the general area during the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries (Hare and Hammer 1995). Traditional activities included fishing, hunting, trapping and recreation. In addition, some of the elders recalled their mothers and fathers talking of Canyon City, some of whom may have worked for the owner of the tramway, Norman Macaulay, at Canyon City during the gold rush. Elder May Hume talked of the trail, which is still visible and cuts through Canyon City, as a traditional trail that begins at Marsh Lake and continues to Lake Laberge, extending over a distance of 100km in length.

Recently, Mark Lindsay, a researcher for the Kwanlin Dün First Nation, uncovered an obituary from 1906 in the *Whitehorse Star*. The obituary was for a Mrs. John who resided at Canyon City and was predeceased by her husband the year before.

## **HISTORICAL OVERVIEW OF CANYON CITY**

### **GOLD RUSH HISTORY - 1800-1899/1900**

Non-native settlement of the Yukon can be divided into three periods. The slow movement of Europeans into the region between the mid-1800s and 1896 characterises the first period. This early development of the Yukon produced much of the background geological and transportation related information on the region, which some researchers argue made the Klondike gold rush of 1898 possible (Bennett 1978; Newell 1987). The second period begins with the Klondike gold rush marking the start of rapid settlement of the region by non-natives and finishes at the end of the gold rush. The third

was not until the 1890s that governmental agencies were established in the interior.

Transportation routes into the region, however, were already established by the time governments became involved in documenting the North. Campbell, an Early Hudson's Bay Company trader, first traversed the Liard River route that was quickly considered too difficult to be feasible. Once the Yukon River was further explored by HBC traders and it was discovered to provide a continuous water route from Fort Yukon to Fort Selkirk, the HBC and the first prospectors such as McQuesten, Mayo and Harper reached the north via the Mackenzie, Peel and Porcupine Rivers (Bennett 1978; Wright 1976). This route became the all Canadian Route advertised by the growing city of Edmonton in the 1898 rush. After 1867 the preferred route into the Yukon interior was the Yukon River via St. Michael's—an all water route (Bennett 1978). By 1869 the sternwheeler *Yukon* was making regular trips up the Yukon River into the interior carrying supplies and news for the prospectors located in the region (Bennett 1978: 17).

It was not until 1880 that the coastal Chilkat Indians granted entrance into the Yukon interior via the mountain passes from coastal Alaska to non-natives. All miners arriving in the Yukon over the steep mountain passes during this time had to confront Miles Canyon and White Horse Rapids. Some travellers, who shot the Canyon and Rapids and lived to tell about it, made this stretch of the Yukon River legendary in their published accounts. W.B. Haskell (1898: 121) writes:

Alaska and the Yukon to the Dawson region. In the spring of 1897 with the docking of the steamer *Excelsior* in San Francisco with \$750,000 worth of Klondike gold, the Klondike gold rush was on (Hunt 1974; Newell 1987).

There were four main routes to the Klondike (Figure 2). First was the all Canadian Route that involved a 2,700 mile journey starting in Edmonton, Alberta, up the Athabasca River to the Mackenzie River and then on to the Peel and Rat Rivers until the Yukon River was reached. The second trail travelled to the gold fields was the all water route that took about a month. Steamers were boarded in San Francisco, Seattle, and Vancouver. The steamers made their way up the Northwest Coast around the Aleutian Islands to Saint Michael's where the Yukon River drains into the Bearing Strait. Once at Saint Michael's, the stampeders boarded river steamers that plowed up river to Dawson City. A third and less popular route was the Ashcroft and Stikine trails; crossing overland through British Columbia to the headwaters of the Yukon River.

The fourth and most popular route was the cheapest way to get to the gold fields (Neufeld and Norris 1996). A total of 35,000 to 40,000 gold seekers used this route during the gold rush (Neufeld and Norris 1996.). This is the Trail of 98. Stampeders boarded the many steamers headed to Dyea or Skagway, settlements situated at the end of Alaska's Lynn Canal and at the foot of the Chilkoot and White Pass Trails respectively. After off loading, the would-be miners traversed the treacherous passes and made their way to Bennett City on Bennett Lake. The geographically short journey to Bennett

could be completed within three weeks, if one had enough money to hire packers, or it could take up to three months if one had to transport their goods themselves (Neufeld and Norris 1996). Once at Bennett, the gold seekers built boats or boarded steamers. The journey continued through the system of southern lakes to Marsh Lake, drained by the Yukon River. Once on the Yukon River the only barriers facing the Dawson City bound Stampeders were Miles Canyon and the White Horse Rapids (Figure 3).

As a result of the mass migration to the Klondike, former settlements boomed and new towns were created. Prior to the gold rush, Dyea, which was once a traditional hunting and fishing camp, had one store owned by Healy and Wilson (Neufeld and Norris 1996: 55). Shortly after news of a gold strike reached the rest of the world, Dyea boasted 200 businesses including 40 saloons, and a variety of theatres, concert halls and bordellos (Neufeld and Norris 1996). The population expanded from approximately 1,000 during the summer of 1897 to 8,000 in the spring of 1898 (Neufeld and Norris 1996). The same phenomenon occurred in Skagway.

There were two major types of settlement that developed along the Klondike trails. The largest and most permanent were the service and distribution centres (Duerden 1980: 16). Skagway, Dyea, Saint Michael's and Dawson City were settlements of this type. These towns were metropolitan, consisting of a variety of services for the stampeders and functioned as the hubs for distribution and transportation. For most stampeders, these types of settlements were jump stations rather than end destination spots. The second

type and the most numerous along the trail and the Yukon River were settlements serving lines of communication (Duerden 1980). These settlements usually consisted of a small resident population and had a single purpose. Lindeman and Bennett cities, the most varied of the lot, functioned mainly as short term boat building camps. Both towns had a high population and provided a variety of services, mirroring those of service and distribution centres. However, this mirroring was a result of the freezing up of the lakes and rivers, therefore ceasing easy transportation and creating a back up of stampeders, who were waiting for the spring thaw. More typical examples of the second type of settlement were situated along the Yukon River en-route to Dawson City. North-West Mounted Police (NWMP) Posts were stationed approximately every 25 miles along the Southern Lakes system and Yukon River and served not only to enforce Canadian law and collect customs from the stampeders but also to aid and inform them during their journey (Berton 1972; Dobrowolsky 1995). A number of wood cutting camps, which serviced the steamers on the Yukon, were also present. Other settlements of this type offered places of rest and lodging as well as services directly related to transportation. Canyon City was one of the latter.

### **Canyon City**

The historic settlement of Canyon City arose as a direct result of the Klondike gold rush. The community was built around the start of a wooden tramway operation that enabled the multitudes of Klondike bound stampeders to circumvent the treacherous Miles Canyon and White Horse Rapids. The





Figure 4. Archival photograph of a tramcart on the tramway (Dawson City Museum F.F. & Frances Engelhart Coll.)

to do so now for your own good, therefore the directions that I give shall be carried out strictly, and they are these :- Corporal Dixon, who thoroughly understands this work, will be in charge here and be responsible to me for the proper management of the passage of the canyon and White Horse Rapids. No women or children will be taken in the boats. If they are strong enough to come to the Klondyke they can walk the 5 miles of grassy bank to the foot of the White Horse Rapids, and there is no danger for them here. No boat will be permitted to go through the canyon until the corporal is satisfied that it has sufficient free board to enable it to ride the waves of safety. No boat will be allowed to pass with human beings in it unless it is steered by competent men, and of that the corporal will be judge. There will be a number of pilots selected, whose names will be on the roll in the Mounted Police barracks here, and when a crew needs a man to steer them through the canyon to the foot of the rapids, pilots will be taken in turn from that list. In the event of the men not being able to pay, the corporal will be permitted to arrange that the boats are run without charge. The rate now charged, 5 dollars, for each boat, seems reasonable (Steele 1915: 311-312).

This declaration guaranteed the success of Macaulay's operation. All travellers were required to report to the NWMP stationed at Canyon City for approval to pass through Miles Canyon and the White Horse Rapids.

Violation of this regulation resulted in a fine of \$100 (Steele 1898: 31). Those who were not deterred and attempted to bypass Canyon City without checking in were, at times, forced in by NWMP gun shots fired over the bows of their scows (Steele 1898: 31).

Early in 1898, a small company settlement owned by Norman Macaulay arose at the start of his tramway (Figure 5). The NWMP records and stamper journals refer to this settlement and surrounding area by several terms: Miles Canyon, White Horse, Miles Canyon and White Horse Rapids and White Horse Rapids. At first, they used these names

interchangeably for the area at the end of the White Horse Rapids, which is the present location of the city of Whitehorse, and the town site of Canyon City. This adds much confusion for researchers in determining exactly where events took place. Rickard (1909) appears to have been the first to call the former settlement Canyon City.

Archival records for the development of this settlement are scarce, making it difficult to determine when the buildings at Canyon City were established. We do know, however, that the settlement eventually consisted of at least 12 log and several tent structures (Figure 5). Archival photographs show that the first section of the Canyon and White Horse Rapids Tramway Co. Office was constructed by the spring of 1898, with the second section added shortly thereafter. A section of the Canyon Hotel and Saloon was also completed at this time. Construction of the NWMP Post was begun after the 5<sup>th</sup> of July, 1898, and appears to have been completed by the 30<sup>th</sup> September, 1898 (Steele 1898a: 21; Wood 1898b: 3). The NWMP storehouse was built in the winter of 1898/1899 (Wood 1898a). From archival photographs it appears the stable, machine/blacksmith shop, dock, a residential cabin and other miscellaneous buildings were all completed by the summer of 1899. By September of 1899 a telegraph line was connected and a telegraph office was established within the NWMP Post, with a second telegraph office in place at the foot of the White Horse Rapids (Wood 1899).

At the height of operation the tramline was processing between 70 and 100 tons of freight per day (Walley n.d.) (Figure 6). At maximum operation the



tramway operated day and night with 23 horses (Price 1898). The numbers of freight hustlers working for the Canyon and White Horse Rapids Tramway Co., estimated from the archival photographs, was between 30 and 35. They were paid \$4.50 a day plus board with fifty cents extra for overtime (Hitchcock 1899: 431).

The tramline transported goods from stampedeers' handmade scows and barges, as well as large, paddlewheel river steamers. Between its origin and Dawson City, the Yukon River was divided into two sections for steamer transportation. The section upriver from Miles Canyon was designated the Upper Yukon and the section down river from the Whitehorse Rapids was referred to as the Lower Yukon. By the summer of 1898 there were full sized river steamers on both the Upper and Lower Yukon. The steamers on the Upper Yukon ran between Bennett City and Canyon City and the steamers on the Lower Yukon ran between Dawson City and the terminus of Macaulay's tramline.

The success of Macaulay's operation prompted an official government survey of the town site. Macaulay also proposed to transform the tramline into a narrow gauge railway in 1899 (Dobrowolsky 1990: 1). It is uncertain whether these events indicate Macaulay's belief in the permanence of his tramway business or whether this was a means to increase the value of his holdings. Macaulay had known that the completion of the Skagway-Whitehorse railway was fast approaching and that its completion would adversely affect his business. Therefore, his possession of the east and west

Atlin, British Columbia, drew a large part of the transient population out of the Yukon. Other areas within the Yukon such as the Kluane-White River region and the Mayo-Keno area saw their own mini-rushes (Bennett 1978; Duerden 1980; Johnston n.d.; Stevenson 1980, 1989a, 1989b; Webb 1993).

Whitehorse located at the terminus of the rail-line became the distribution hub for the Yukon. Although Dawson City's population declined, it still played an important role politically and served the now commercialized placer gold industry. After 1900, roads began to be built further opening the Yukon to new settlements (Bennett 1978; Durden 1980).

The establishment of the railway over the White Pass, a permanent link between the Yukon and the outside world, and large river steamers on the Yukon River made many of the small settlements on the Upper Yukon non-essential. On the trails to the Klondike, towns that once thrived were being abandoned while others located along the rail-line were ensured of their permanency, such as Caribou Crossing. Neufeld and Norris (1996) state that by 1899 only those that could not afford to pay train fare hiked the Chilkoot. Lindeman and various camps along the Chilkoot trail were abandoned by the fall of 1899 (Neufeld and Norris 1996). Bennett still survived, albeit in a smaller capacity, with other short lived settlements established during the first years of the rail transport.

Very little is known about Canyon City in the post-gold rush period once the railway was established and the tramlines ceased to operate. Because Canyon City was a one-industry town, most if not all of its occupants were

that segments of the Canyon Hotel and Saloon may have been used to construct part of the Closeleigh Hotel and Saloon (later named the Pioneer Hotel) located in Whitehorse (John Hatch personal communication 1996). NWMP Corporal Dixon, who was closely associated with Canyon City, built the hotel on Front Street early in 1900 (Ingram and Dobrowolsky 1994: 54). Horback (1976) reports that in 1900 Macaulay also built a hotel in Whitehorse. It is possible that Macaulay and Dixon's venture were one and the same and that the logs from Macaulay's Canyon Hotel and Saloon were used in the Closeleigh Hotel and Saloon's construction.

The 1994, 1995 and 1996 archaeological investigations at Canyon City revealed limited evidence of post-gold rush occupation of the site dating up to the present. A series of wire mesh and wooden pens may post-date the occupation at Canyon City and may be related to the John's occupation of the site. This type of structure is reminiscent of fox farm cages that were popular in the area during the early 1900s (Hare and Hammer 1995). As yet, no one recalls there ever being a fox farm located at Canyon City so the structure's use and time of use are still uncertain. More recent beer and soft drink cans, some with pull-tabs, are scattered intermittently throughout the town site. These recent artifacts are the remains left by the people who used and still use the site as a recreation area. Above the former town site on a flat portion of the eastern terrace is an area with scattered structural remains and artifacts (metal containers). The artifacts (sanitary tin cans) definitely post-date the

### **-CHAPTER 3-**

## **FIELDWORK, RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS METHODOLOGY**

### **PREVIOUS WORK AT CANYON CITY**

Archival research on Canyon City has been sporadically carried out over several years by area and local historians such as Dobrowolsky (1990), Knutson (1990), Scurvey (1995), Sawatsky, Whyard and Horback (1976). Over the last four years I, in co-ordination with the Heritage Branch staff, have been assembling and reviewing these resources as well as pursuing further archival sources concerning Canyon City.

Canyon City was first recorded as an archaeological site by Hunston during a reconnaissance of the area in the early 1980s (Gotthardt 1994). As described, he documented not only an abundance of gold rush era cultural material, but also recorded an earlier prehistoric component documented by lithic flakes eroding out of a trail that passes through the terrace.

The next archaeologist to report on Canyon City was Easton (1987) during an underwater survey of the Upper Yukon River. His survey team located the remains of the Canyon City dock, its foundations and part of the tramway track that were submerged as a result of the damming of the Yukon River in 1958. Easton (1987) collected an oar rest and horseshoe.

In 1993, Gotthardt (1994) carried out preliminary archaeological testing at Canyon City. A total of two days was spent identifying and locating the site's main historic features as well as determining the extent of the prehistoric occupation. A baseline parallel to and 2-4m from the present-day Yukon

and the Canyon Hotel and Saloon (years 3 and 4). In addition, Heritage Branch sought a sample of material culture remains associated with these buildings to permit the interpretation of activities carried out at these localities. The data gathered during the investigations and synthesized in the following months were to be used for restoration, interpretation and display.

A second but important component of the project was its public orientation. High school and post secondary students were hired to assist in the excavations from the Kwanlin Dün First Nation, MacBride Museum and the Yukon Conservation Society. Each year students assisted in excavations as well as provided on site interpretation services to the many visitors to Canyon City, which averaged 2,000 per year. With such high public interest and because of the project's proximity to Whitehorse, several volunteers assisted in the excavations as well.

Third, although the project's applied objectives structured research, they also presented an opportunity to test additional localities in order to gain a broader understanding of the townsite. The additional localities were as follows: the West Tent Locality (years 2 and 4), the "East Cabin" (years 2 and 3), the Machine/Blacksmith Shop (years 3 and 4) and other features as time allowed. Because the objectives of the Heritage Branch and the research were essentially in line with each other, testing of these localities was carried out under the same research design as discussed below and in Chapter One.

Based on initial site reconnaissance prior to the 1994 field season, it was possible to locate all of the major structures shown in archival



based on the potential to yield structural data. For example, the corners of a structure as well as floor joist and other depressions within it were targeted to retrieve dimensional and structural data. No less than a five percent area was excavated from each major structure tested; some localities such as the "East Cabin" and the Machine/ Blacksmith Shop had up to 50 percent their area excavated (Table 1). This large variance regarding area sampled was a result of the size of the structure being tested, with the lowest excavated area fractions coming from the Canyon Hotel and Saloon and the Canyon and Whitehorse Rapids Tramway Office, which each enclosed an area of at least 240m<sup>2</sup>.

All units were excavated by trowel with back-dirt screened through 3mm utility mesh. Excavation proceeded stratigraphically with arbitrary 5cm levels excavated within each stratum until sterile deposits were encountered. Three-dimensional provenience (depth below surface, depth below White River Ash, north coordinates and west coordinates) was recorded only for prehistoric

<i>Feature</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>No. of Units Excavated</i>	<i>Total Area</i>	<i>Area Excavated</i>	<i>Percent Excavated</i>
CC71	Tramway Office	35	252m <sup>2</sup>	35m <sup>2</sup>	14%
CC39	N.W.M.P. Barracks	22	91m <sup>2</sup>	22m <sup>2</sup>	24%
CC11	Canyon Hotel and Saloon	25	220m <sup>2</sup>	26.75m <sup>2</sup>	12.5%
CC2-7	West Tent Locality	23	170m <sup>2</sup>	26m <sup>2</sup>	15%
CC59	Machine/Blacksmith Shop	16	36m <sup>2</sup>	18m <sup>2</sup>	50%
CC86	"East Cabin"	25	36m <sup>2</sup>	25m <sup>2</sup>	69%
CC40	N.W.M.P. Storehouse	1	25m <sup>2</sup>	1m <sup>2</sup>	<1%
CC8	Building outline?	1	40m <sup>2</sup>	1m <sup>2</sup>	<1%
CC75	Tent box frame outline	1	12.5m <sup>2</sup>	1m <sup>2</sup>	8%
CC36	Tent box frame outline	3	27m <sup>2</sup>	3m <sup>2</sup>	11%
CC89	"East Cabin" Privy	1	.71m <sup>2</sup>	0.5m <sup>2</sup>	70%
CC42	N.W.M.P. Privy	1	2.5m <sup>2</sup>	1m <sup>2</sup>	40%
CC18	Privy?	2	2m <sup>2</sup>	0.5m <sup>2</sup>	25%
CC56	Refuse dump	1	1.25m <sup>2</sup>	0.25m <sup>2</sup>	20%

**Table 1.** Table showing the historic features tested during the archaeological investigations at Canyon City including number of units and area excavated.

Oral histories related to the former townsite were sought in each year of the excavations. Oldtimers and First Nation elders visited the site and were asked what they remembered. The results, unfortunately were disappointing. The length of time since the occupation of Canyon City, two generations, coupled with its brief florescence are probably contributing factors.

#### **ARTIFACT ANALYSIS METHODOLOGY**

A large historic artifact collection (N=17,396) was generated during the four years of field investigations. The classificatory scheme used to type the artifacts is largely based on Sprague (1981), Hardesty (1988), Klimko and Hodges (1993), and Blee (1991). The adapted classification attempts to place the artifact within the cultural context of use, based on its meaning/function for the participants of that system (Sprague 1981: 252). Furthermore, the typology devised here attempted to be comparable to that of Blee's, (Blee 1991; Blee and Scott 1992), which is commonly used for assemblages in Skagway.

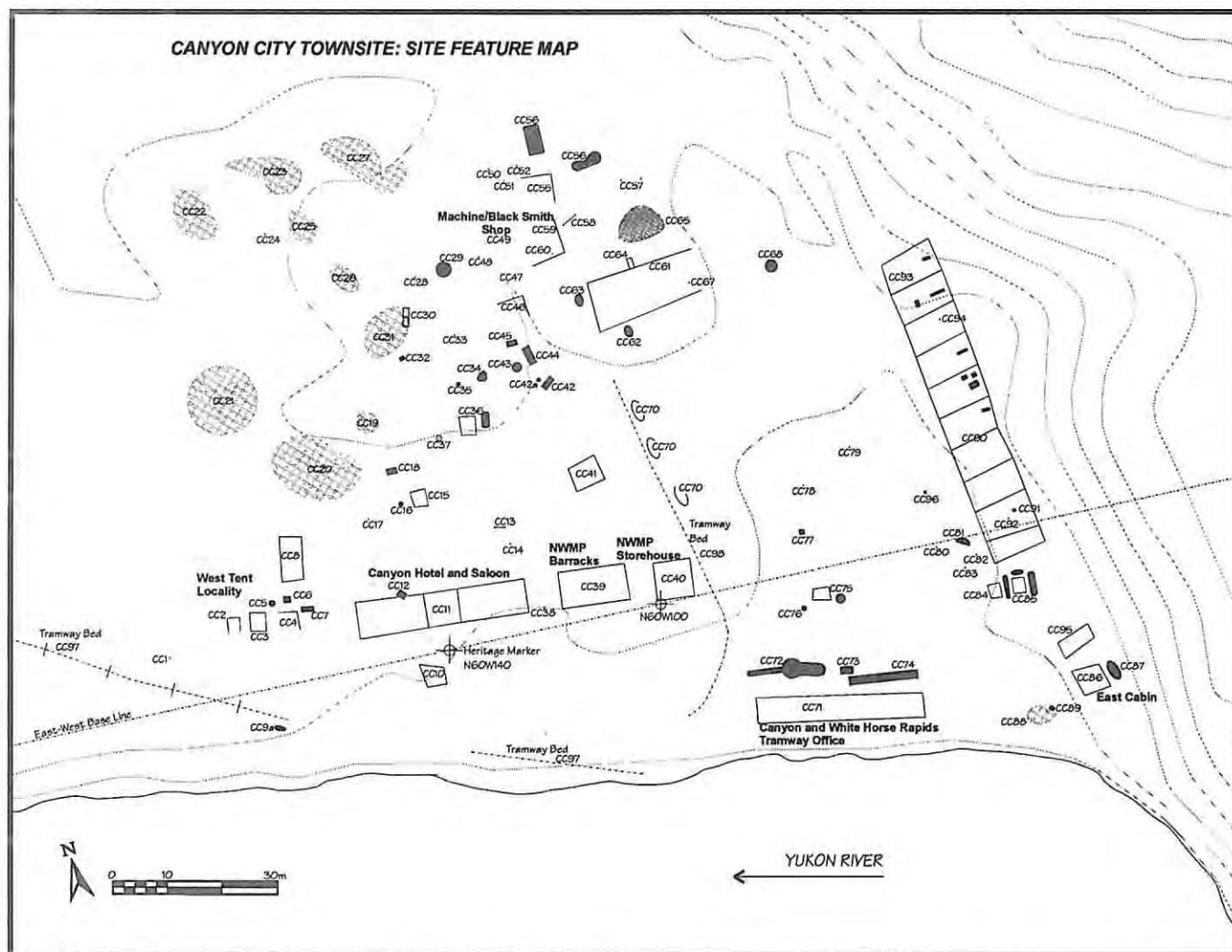
In order to identify the function of several of the unknown structures and comment on the general activities carried out at Canyon City in different localities the material culture was organized into the following functional groups: household (domestic); personal management/clothing; leisure; transportation; communication; hunting/subsistence; construction/structural; working/industrial; and, miscellaneous. All identifiable artifacts were typed according to their primary function and placed within these larger functional

primary purpose of each structure in addition to secondary activities carried out there.

It is recognized that not all artifacts recovered represent the function they were initially designed for (Blee 1991: 84; Sprague 1981), even without artifact alteration. As well, some artifacts cross into two or more functional groups. In such instances the nature of artifacts and their relation to function is problematic; however, by using this type of classification one artifact is not the sole determinant of an activity or function. Rather, the functional groups from a specific locality are viewed together and in relation to each other according to their relative frequency thus reducing the effect of anomalies such as the unaltered, secondary reuse of artifacts.

Faunal remains were identified and catalogued separately. Remains were identified to species where possible using the resources at the Archaeology Branch, Government of Yukon. The number of identified specimens present (NISP) were tabulated for each locality where faunal remains were present.





**Figure 7.** Map of the Canyon City townsite showing the location of historic features documented during the investigations.

The pen enclosure, located at the base of the eastern terrace, is one of the largest features observed at the site. It is rectangular in shape consisting of 10 pens and was fenced with chicken wire. The feature appears to be the remains of a fur farm which likely dates to around the First World War, 1914-1920, when fur farming boomed all over the Yukon (McCandless 1985). Figure 5, page 22, is an archival photo of Canyon City and the only one so far encountered that provides a good view of the eastern terrace of the site. This photograph was likely taken in 1899 and shows the "East Cabin" on its right margin. The two small tents north of the cabin are likely CC84 and CC85. Beyond these two wall tents, however, there is no indication of a significant feature such as the pen enclosure. The pens were likely constructed much later than the gold rush occupation of Canyon City and may be associated with the post-Gold Rush materials atop of the eastern terrace.

CC8, a rectangular berm outline located behind the West Tent Locality, and CC41, a building outline, do not show up on any of the 24 historic photographs of Canyon City. The photographs span the years 1897 to 1900. Within CC41 several sanitary tin can fragments were observed along with metal flashing and other burnt building debris suggesting a post-Gold Rush date (at least post 1904) for the occupation of this structure. No artifacts were on the surface in and around CC8 and the one unit excavated within this structure yielded no time sensitive artifacts. Its absence from the photographs is the only evidence suggesting it is not contemporaneous with the Gold Rush.

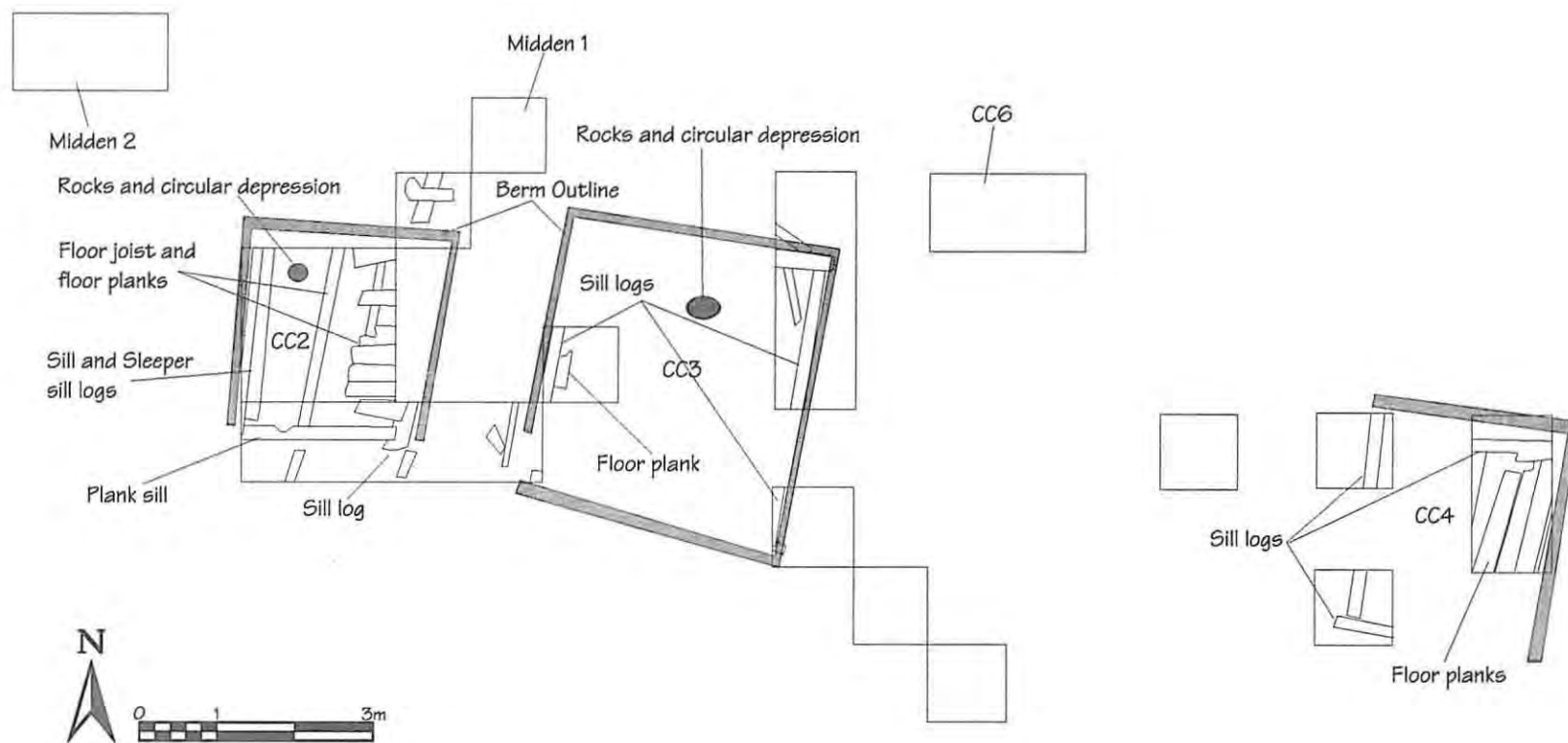
buildings were placed according to some structured plan and it follows that Macaulay's company imposed this structuring.

#### **WEST TENT LOCALITY: FEATURES**

The West Tent Locality was sampled during the 1995, 1996 and 1997 archaeological investigations. It is located approximately 8m west of the Canyon Hotel and Saloon. The locality covers an area of approximately 17m east to west by 10m north to south. A number of Gold Rush era photographs depict three wall tents lined up side by side from east to west (Figure 8). Today, only the berm outlines of the three still exist (features CC2, CC3 and CC4). Immediately behind the berm outlines are four shallow rectangular depressions, three of which were tested. The goals of the excavations at this locality were to first gather structural data about the tents including their dimensions, and second to infer what types of activities were associated with their use.

A total of 23 units were excavated at the West Tent Locality equaling 26m<sup>2</sup>. Placement of the units was judgmental and rested solely on the presence of berms or depressions. As a result of the investigations several intact structural features were documented, three middens identified and 1,635 artifacts and 27 faunal specimens collected.

Intact structural features between 5 and 10cm below surface relate to the box frames built as bases for each of three tents (Figure 9). Two square berm outlines defined the location of the two western most tents and an L-



**Figure 9.** Schematic diagram of the features documented at the West Tent Locality.

CC2 and CC3 are directly associated, then it is likely that the entire floor area of each tent was not planked. Rather, a portion of the area inside the tent may have been left uncovered for the placement of a stove or heater. The floor planks were placed directly on the ground in CC3 and CC4 but were raised with the aid of sleeper sills and floor joists in CC2. The archival photographs of this area furnish no further information of the box frames or platforms because the canvas wall tents were placed on the outside thereby covering the frames.

#### **CANYON HOTEL AND SALOON: FEATURES**

Approximately 8m directly east of the West Tent Locality are the remains of the former Canyon Hotel and Saloon (Roadhouse). All that exist today of the former log structure is a rectangular berm outline surrounding north-south running floor joist depressions and a east-west running centre sill depression. This outline is well defined along segments of the north, east and south walls but fades into the natural terrain towards the east along the south and east walls. Gold Rush era photographs of the Roadhouse show that the log structure consisted of three cribs, or conjoined sections, with four entranceways along its south wall (Figure 10). The number of entrance ways likely reflect the internal division of the different functions of the Roadhouse such as a restaurant or saloon and sleeping quarters. It is likely that the number of doorways do not exactly represent the number of different functions or internal divisions. In addition, a cold cellar existed 10m south of the

structure that was later used for refuse deposition. This latter feature was not tested.

Investigations were carried out at the Roadhouse locality during the 1994, 1995, 1996 and 1997 field seasons. The goals were to gather structural information and determine and differentiate activity areas within the building.

A total of 25 units were excavated of which three were 50x50cm, one was 2x1m, another was 2x2m and the remainder were 1x1m in size (Figure 11). The total surface area excavated was 26.75m<sup>2</sup>, which is a 12.5 percent area sample of the entire structure. Like all the localities investigated at Canyon City the placement of excavation units was judgmental, guided by the goals of the testing. Of the 25 units, 14 were placed along the perimeter of the building to provide a cross section of the berm and determine the placement of sill logs. The remaining eight units were excavated within the berm outline to test the inside of the former structure. Several intact structural features were documented allowing for an accurate estimate of the dimensions of the building at 31.5x7m (103ft6in.x23ft).

Foundation and flooring features of the Roadhouse were documented in 16 of 25 units excavated. All wood remains were in a severe state of decay, and none showed evidence of burning.

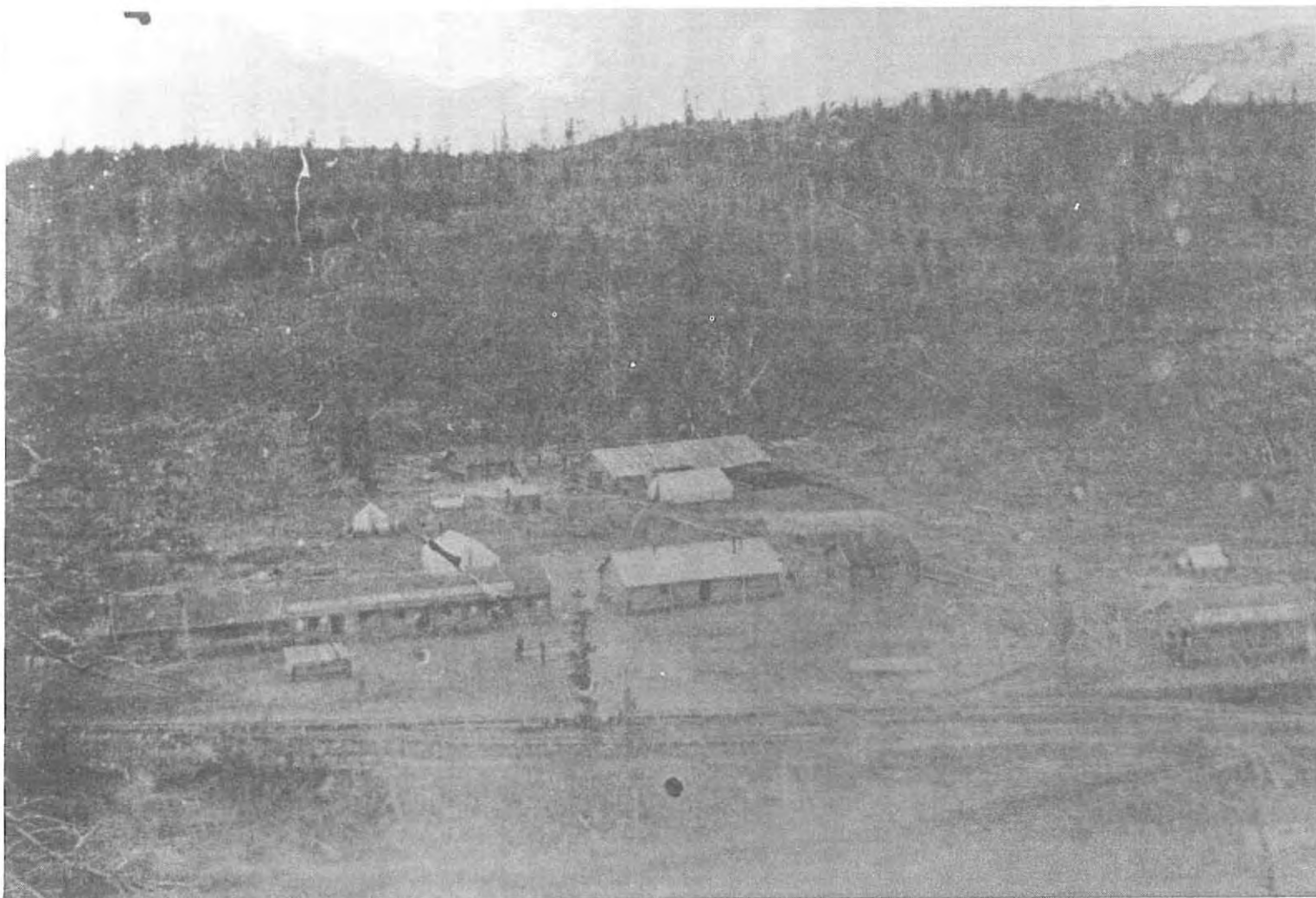
Wall sill logs were present within eight units of those placed on the building perimeter. The north sill remains in Unit 1 terminated within the southeast quadrant of the unit and it is likely that the point of termination represents the northwestern corner. The southeast corner of the structure



was documented within Unit 22 with the presence of the east and south sill log remains. These two units were used for determining the dimensions of the structure. A large basalt cobble and a complete evaporated mild can were observed to the north and just along the side of the north sill log in Unit 3. The cobble may have functioned to stabilize the north sill while the metal container could have functioned as a cap or a sleeve for a post.

A total of 11 units intersected floor joist and centre sill depressions. However, intact remains of floor joists in line with their respective depressions were observed in only four units. Two of the units had remains that were probable floor joists but appear to have been displaced. Their displacement likely occurred during the dismantling of the structure. A stack of logs running north to south was documented in Units 10, 11 and 12 located in the southeast portion of the Roadhouse. The stack consists of nine logs in width and three to four logs deep. The logs, which may have been floor joists, appear to have been stockpiled in this location after the Canyon Hotel and Saloon was dismantled.

Remains of a doorstep or walkway were present in Units 19, 20, and RHTP 1,2, and 3. These consist of four 15x9cm (6ftx3ft1/2in.) planks placed parallel to each other and secured by wire nails to three small poles, 4cm in diameter. Its presence indicates the placement of a doorway at this location (Figure 11). Oriented by archival photographs, Units 17, 18 and 21 were placed along the south perimeter where other entranceways were believed present. Steps or walkways were not encountered within these units.



**Figure 12.** Archival photograph of Canyon City townsite showing the NWMP Post and Storehouse in middle of the photograph (Yukon Archives Beatty Coll.).



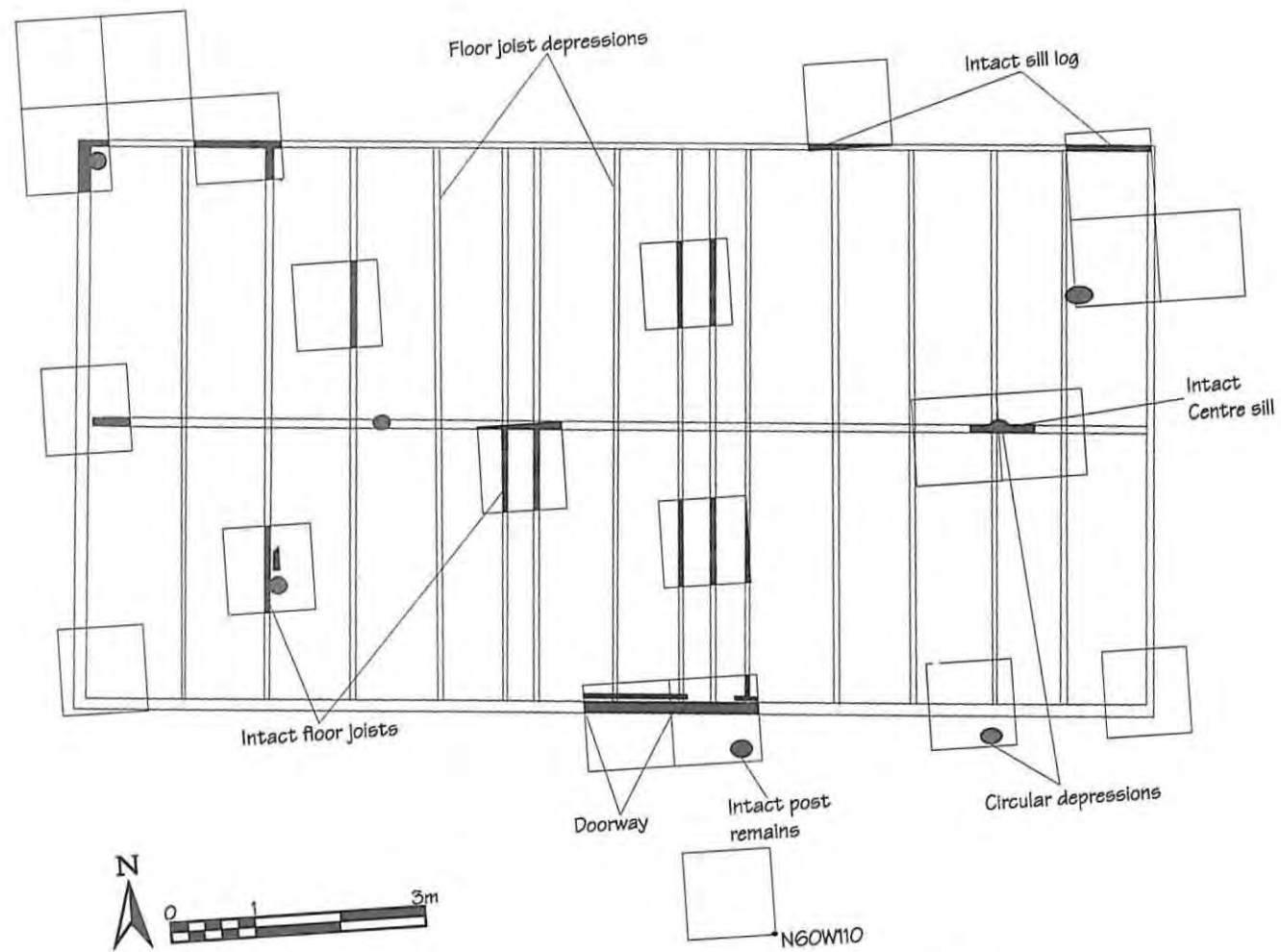


Figure 13. Schematic diagram of the features documented at the NWMP Barracks.

but were set directly atop the ground, therefore, no depression would have been left. The two post-hole depressions along the centre sill likely represent vertical logs to support the roof's ridgepole.

Evidence of the doorway was observed in units N62W111 and N62W110. Seven wire-drawn 6in. spikes were recovered on the top of the south sill. Three of the spikes were parallel to each other with their shanks extending into the east wall and two spikes laid parallel to each other extended into the square from the west wall while another spike extended into the west wall. The placement of six of the spikes suggest they held in a door frame. The distance between the heads of the spikes was 94cm or approximately 3ft1in. This measurement is close to standard door frame width. Although uncertain, the south sill log appears to be thinned by notching thereby making the sill part of the door frame as well.

The stratigraphic profiles of the excavated units are informative. Before laying the foundation logs, the area was leveled through excavation. A trench running the length of the building was excavated for both the south and centre sill logs. Once this was complete the sill logs were put in place and the floor joists then placed directly on the ground. The rest of the building was constructed on this foundation.

A photograph dated to 1912 clearly depicts the NWMP Barracks still standing with no evidence of fire (Figure 14). This photograph reveals two important details. First, the Barracks were not dismantled and moved during the abandonment of Canyon City and second the fire that charred the logs of

the barracks must have occurred after 1912. The structure, however, must have been salvaged before its burning since extensive charcoal was not observed within the structure itself.

#### **CANYON AND WHITE HORSE RAPIDS COMPANY TRAMWAY OFFICE: FEATURES**

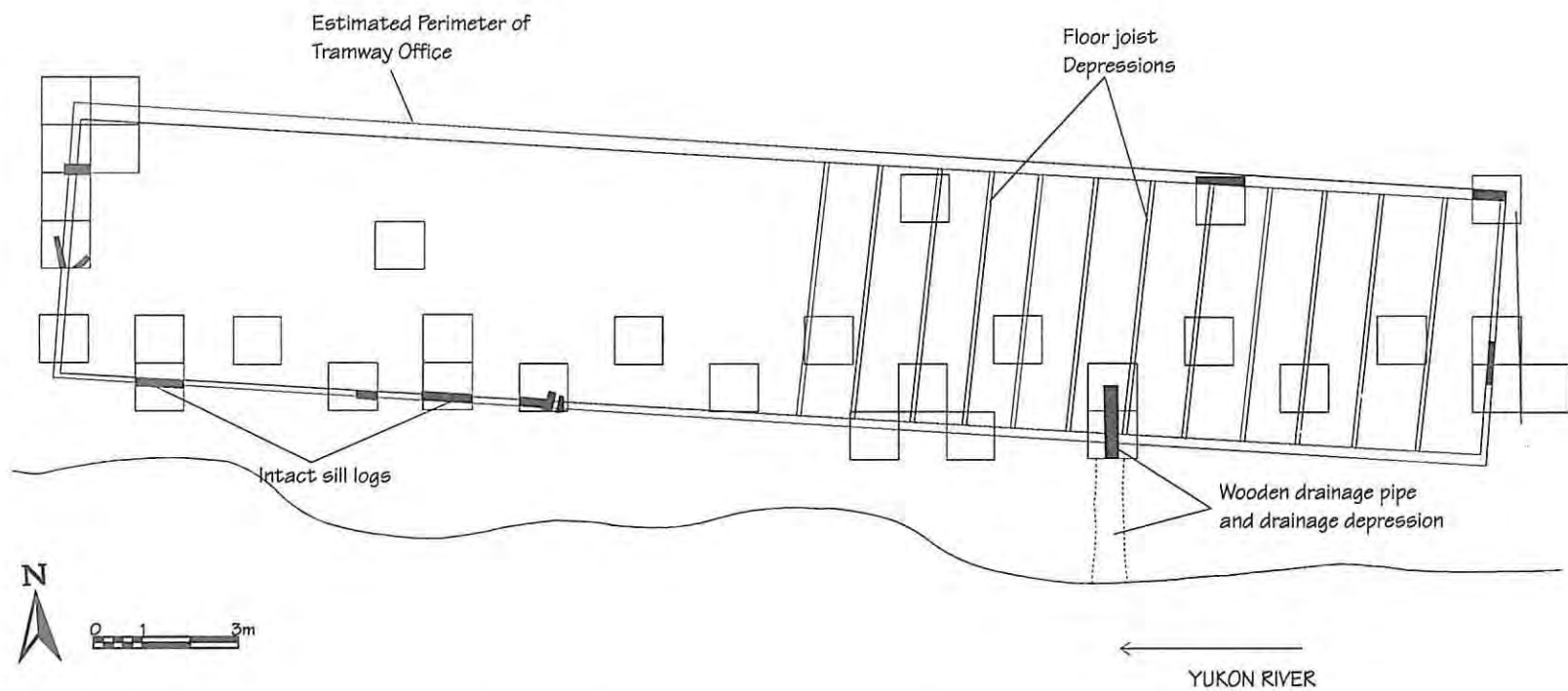
The remains of the former Canyon and White Horse Rapids Company Tramway Office building are located 10m east and 20m north of the NWMP Storehouse. It is prominently located in the eastern portion of the site and would have been one of the first buildings seen by the oncoming stampede. This structure and the Machine/Blacksmith Shop are the only two structures directly related to Macaulay's tramway operation.

Archival photographs show that the building was constructed in at least two phases. The western most section (Figure 15), consisting of three cribs and two entranceways, was built first, probably in late 1897. The eastern half of the structure, consisting of two cribs and two entranceways, was then completed by the end of 1898 (Figure 16). The east and north berms and several floor joist depressions are the only evidence today of the building. A well-used footpath that runs along the southern perimeter of the site has erased any traces of a south berm that may have existed.

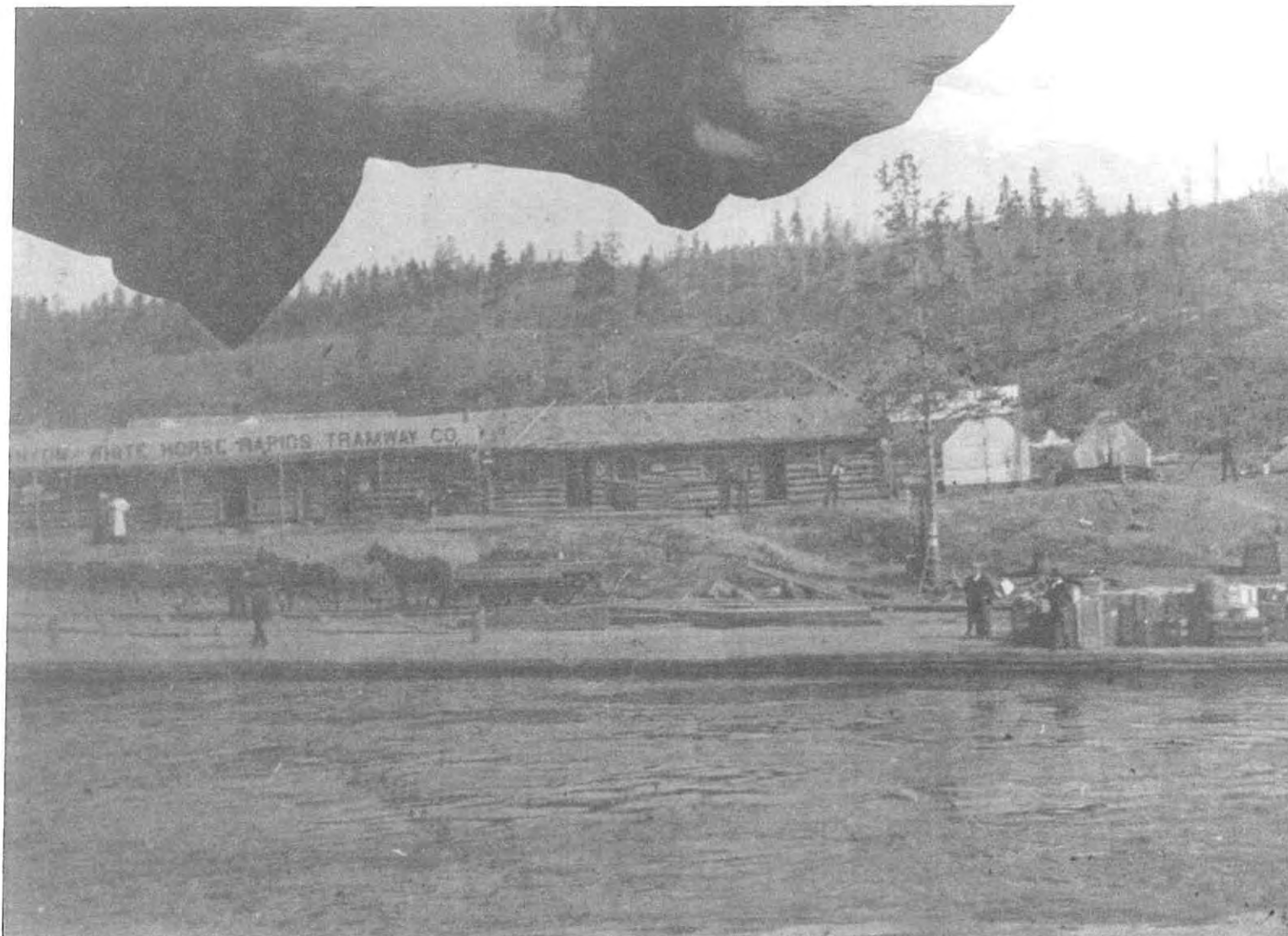
The Tramway Office was the focus of archaeological investigations during the 1994 field season. A total of 35 units (1x1m) were excavated. Few intact wooden features were present and those present were in an extreme state of decay making a functional identification difficult. Features ranged in depth from 5-20cm below surface and some of the remains encountered did



**Figure 16.** Archival photograph of completed Tramway Office at Canyon City 1899 (University of Washington Libraries, Goetzman photographer.)



**Figure 17.** Schematic diagram of the features documented at the Canyon and White Horse Rapids Tramway Co. Building.



**Figure 18.** Archival photograph of the Tramway Office, metal basin sits below the widow next to the second door to from the left. (Dawson City Museum B.H. Risdon Coll.)



All of the features documented within the East Cabin locality were heavily charred, presumably a result of the building being destroyed by fire. All of the features encountered above the intact floor joists were fragmented and in extreme disarray, also indicating wall and roof collapse.

Logs placed parallel to each other in the southern and northern excavations units are identified as floor joists and/or foundations remnants (Figure 19). Planks were most likely secured to these joists in order to create a smooth floor surface. The absence of floor joists in two of the units located near the middle of the building suggests the presence of a shallow cellar. The outer dimensions for the cabin are inferred by the outer limits of the logs. Thus, the building can be estimated to be 5.2x4.9m (17x16ft).

During removal of floor joists in the northeastern units of the locale a door latch was recovered. In addition, the logs, some of which have been displaced within units N25W22 to W24, suggest the presence of some sort of door step or porch area. This entranceway would have been located within the southern tent extension.

The stratigraphy of the cabin reveals that a dirt platform was created on a 3 degree incline to create a level building surface. The overburden above the floor joists likely came from the sod roof of the cabin and tent extension. This layer was riddled with fragmented burned wood and was rich in historic material culture.

### THE MACHINE/BLACKSMITH SHOP: FEATURES

Test excavations in 1994 tentatively identified the Machine/Blacksmith Shop, located at the back of the townsite across from the stables. None of the archival documents or oral data provide accounts of such an activity occurring at Canyon City. Further excavations in 1995, 1996 and 1997 confirmed the building's function largely through the types of artifacts recovered. Although neither documentary nor oral history data mention the presence of such a building, gold rush era photographs do depict a log structure in the northeast portion of the town (Figure 5). It is assumed this building is the one being reported upon here.

A total of 18m<sup>2</sup> was excavated within the 6x6m perimeter of the Machine/Blacksmith Shop. These excavations recovered a large sample of artifacts, second in abundance only to the East Cabin locality. As well, several features were documented.

The perimeter of the Machine/Blacksmith Shop is marked by four linear depressions that form a square 6x6m (19ft6in.x19ft6in.) in size. These depressions, probably resulting from sill logs, are taken to represent the exterior walls of the structure. No *in situ* sill logs were encountered during the excavations. Floor joists and floor joist depressions were also absent. A heavy concentration of artifacts indicates the structure likely had a dirt floor. Like most other buildings at the site, it appears to have been dismantled during the abandonment of Canyon City.

During the 1996 and 1997 excavations a large composite feature was exposed and documented. This is tentatively identified as a forge. It was confined to an area of 1x3m located in the northwestern corner of the building (Figure 20b). Consisting of wood and sheet metal, it is associated with a high frequency of burned coal and slag. Intermixed with the sheet metal were various artifacts including a solder bar, a horseshoe and various small reworked iron fragments. One of the unburned pieces is a milled fragment with a peg hinge. Charred and unburned fragments were present as well.

A plank feature, also in the northwest corner runs north to south and is 170cm long and 55cm wide (5ft6in.x1ft10in.). It consists of two sections that are joined together by the western most plank. The planks that make up the feature range between 15-20cm (6-7.8in.) in width and 60cm (2ft) in length. At their northern limit all five planks are attached with nails to an underlying cross piece. The western most plank, which has a latch at its northern end is 97cm (3ft2in.) in length and is attached to two short cut logs before its southern terminus. Underlying these remains is a relatively thick dark stained floor deposit (3-4cm) littered with reworked metal pieces and nails. This suggests that the planks represent a collapsed internal feature of the Machine Shop, most likely a workbench for working metal near the forge.

A second composite feature was located in the eastern half of the structure (Figure 20c). Three southwest to northeast running 5x15.2cm (2x6in.) planks with three underlying cross pieces were directly associated with numerous rubber strapping fragments. This feature is reminiscent of a

effort. Trenches were excavated for the NWMP Barracks and an earthen platform was constructed for the East Cabin. Nevertheless, all of the architectural data collected suggests that the structures were expediently built without significant improvements added over time.

<i>Locality</i>	<i>Artifact Count</i>	<i>Percent of Area Excavated</i>	<i>Relative Contribution to Assemblage</i>	<i>Rank</i>
East Cabin	6158	57%	24.4%	1
NWMP Barracks	2413	21%	17.6%	2
Machine/Blacksmith Shop	3372	50%	15.6%	3
Canyon Hotel and Saloon	1846	12.5%	14.9%	4
Tramway Office	1661	14%	13.2%	5
West Tent Locality	1635	15%	12.8%	6
Surface and Underwater	121	—	0.3%	7.5
CC89	101	70%	0.3%	7.5
CC75	22	8%	0.2%	8
CC36	13	11%	0.1%	9.5
NWMP Storehouse	12	>1%	0.1%	9.5
CC42	22	40%	0.1%	9.5
CC56	16	20%	0.1%	9.5
CC8	2	>1%	0.02%	10
CC18	1	25%	0.01%	11
<b>Total</b>	<b>17395</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>—</b>

**Table 4.** Table showing artifact counts and each locality's relative contribution to the historic artifact assemblage from Canyon City.

(date after which) of manufacture. Of course this is problematic, since the *terminus post quem* of an artifact refers to the earliest date it was introduced to consumers, and artifacts may be used long after actual production. With this in mind, however, very few artifacts have a *terminus post quem* dating after 1900, or the period in which site abandonment took place.

Eight functional groups represent the Canyon City historic artifact collection as well as a miscellaneous group that was created for unidentified items. The construction/ structural and household functional groups dominate the collection with the rest of the groups, except for the miscellaneous group, having frequencies lower than 10% (Figure 21).

<b>FUNCTIONAL GROUP</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>FUNCTIONAL GROUP</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>Household</b>		<b>Transportation</b>	
Ceramics	15	Bridle apparatus	1
Bottle/glassware	364	Bearing	2
Complete bottle	1	Bailing wire	1
Bottle fragments	296	<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>
Medicinal fragments	52	<b>Communication</b>	
Jar fragments	15	Glass insulator	15
Lead foil	1	<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>
Cork stopper	1	<b>Hunting and Subsistence</b>	
Metal container	69	Cartridge casings	5
Miscellaneous container	3	Slugs	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>453</b>	Gun hardware?	1
<b>Personal Management/Clothing</b>		<b>Total</b>	<b>8</b>
Buttons	52	<b>Construction/Structural</b>	
"Mother of Pearl"	9	Building hardware	45
Glass	5	Strapping	45
Ferrous	38	Fastenings	387
Clothing	56	Nails	382
Unidentified textiles	55	Screw	1
Wool coat	1	Grommet	3
Footwear	398	Nut	1
Leather and rubber footwear	370	Window glass	98
Heel tacs	25	<b>Total</b>	<b>530</b>
Eyelet	3	<b>Working/Industrial</b>	
Personal hygiene	11	Axe File	1
Mirror	8	<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>
Shave cream cap	1	<b>Miscellaneous</b>	
Eye dropper	2	Beveled glass	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>517</b>	Unidentified ferrous fragments	105
<b>Leisure</b>		<b>Total</b>	<b>106</b>
Tobacco	1		
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>		
<b>ARTIFACT TOTAL 1635</b>			

**Table 5.** West Tent locality artifact functional groups and counts.

activities, thus suggesting that the tents were used as dwellings. The total assemblage, as discussed below, suggest the more permanent residents of Canyon City used the dwellings rather than hotel guests.

Household related artifacts comprise 28 percent of the West Tent locality collection. A total of 15 ceramic sherds were recovered from Midden 1, a small concentration located north of the tents. All of the ceramic sherds



condiment storage, liquor consumption and medicinal. Contents of most of the fragments can only be speculated upon since glass colour is only loosely associated with contents (Hardesty 1988). To type them as liquor or condiment bottles solely on the basis of colour would be tentative at best. The majority of bottle fragments collected do appear to be related to liquor consumption however.

Several base fragments were recovered but only one has a maker's mark. This specimen is green and has partial body and base segments intact. Embossed on the base is "C.S. &...165...". This is the manufacturing mark of C.S. & Co. of St. Helens, Lancaster, England. The Cannington, Shaw and Company produced bottles with C.S. & Co. between ca. 1875 and 1913 (Toulouse 1971: 147). This company produced narrow neck and wide mouth pale and dark green bottles with the narrow neck bottles for wines and spirits (Toulouse 1971).

Other alcohol related bottles include one complete specimen, a green 12 oz dip-mould bottle with a down-tooled finish with cork wire still attached (Jones and Sullivan 1989). Two clear bottle fragments with paper label still attached are definitely associated with liquor consumption. The label indicates that the fragments are from a Jameson's Blend bottle, a brand of scotch whiskey. A total of 104 fragments from a green gin case bottle were recovered. In addition, a Hiram Walker and Sons lead foil fragment was collected. The Hiram Walker company produced and still produces several brands of liquor.

<b><i>Taxon</i></b>	<b><i>Element</i></b>		<i>Vertebrae</i>	<i>Metatarsal</i>	<i>Ulna</i>	<i>Ribs</i>	<i>Tibia</i>	<i>Sacrum</i>	<i>NISP</i>
	<i>Long Bone</i>	<i>Irregular Bone</i>							
Mammal									
Goat?				1					1
Cow			1			2		1	4
Moose			1						1
Caribou			1						1
Large	3	3	5		1	6	1		18
Medium	1	1							2
Unidentified		1							1
<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>29</b>

**Table 6.** Faunal remains collected from the West Tent locality.

CC6 and Midden 2 (Table 6). The exception is a sawed large mammal rib excavated from the middle tent. At least four species of mammal are represented in the assemblage including goat or sheep (domestic?) (*Ovis/Capra*), cow (*Bos taurus*), moose (*Alces alces*), and caribou (*Rangifer tarandus*). Cow is represented by one butchered vertebrae, two sawed ribs and a sawn sacrum. Two butchered vertebrae fragments indicate the presence of moose and caribou. Large mammals, which would most likely be cow, moose or caribou, are represented by 18 specimens, all butchered by saw. One long bone fragment and one irregular bone fragment represent medium mammals. One metatarsal of what appears to be a domestic goat or sheep was collected, this has evidence of butcher marks on its proximal posterior face.

The fauna recovered, as well as other food related artifacts seems low considering the tents were likely occupied seasonally for three years. Hitchcock (1899: 431), however, states that the freight hustlers who worked for Macaulay on the tramline received room and board. Therefore, it is likely that food consumption at the West Tents was minimal since most of the meals

fragments as well as heel plates and heel tacs. Many of the leather fragments have boot, brass lace clasps and/or eyelets. These items likely represent the types of footwear used by the occupants and appear to be work-rubber boot related. Footwear is second only to nails in its frequency at this locality.

Personal hygiene items used by the tent's occupants include mirrors, shaving cream and an eyedropper. What has been identified as the top of a shaving cream tube manufactured by the Crown Perfumery in London, England, was collected from the western-most tent. The mirror fragments came from the middle tent as did the eyedropper. The eyedropper was recovered in two fragments, a pipette fragment and a pipette with pipette-cap fragment. Both fragments fit together and the pipette-cap appears to be manufactured from rubber.

A Lambert and Butler tobacco metal container slip-lid was collected and represents smoking as a leisure activity. The poor representation of the leisure activities group (0.1%) is somewhat surprising. However, it is likely that the majority of the bottle fragments recovered at the West Tent locality and classified in the household functional group represent alcohol consumption. The low representation of smoking paraphernalia is perplexing and cannot be explained.

Two buckles, a bearing for a tramcar, and a bailing wire fragment make up the transportation functional group. This group is under represented at 0.2 percent, which is not surprising given the domestic use of the tents.

also included within the group. The original function of the strapping was most likely for binding crates, but due to their fragmentary condition, they probably functioned as interior fastening devices. Flat glass, which has been tentatively identified as window glass, was recovered from all three tents. This is somewhat problematic since no windows are evident in the archival photographs of the tents. It is just as likely that the flat glass represents mirror fragments or picture frame glass. Rounding out the construction/structural functional group for this locality are three grommets and one screw.

The work/industrial group has a very low representation within the collection, less than one percent. The lone artifact is an axe file recovered within the middle tent.

Finally, the miscellaneous group includes one beveled glass fragment and a large number of unidentified ferrous fragments. The latter were collected from two of the middens and all three tents. They are thin and flat and likely came from metal containers and crate strapping but were too small to categorize confidently. The glass fragment is flat and rectangular in shape with three factory beveled edges. Its function is unknown.

### **Summary**

The assemblage from the West Tent locality suggests that the tents were used as dwellings or sleeping quarters rather than as warehouse or other purposes. The high frequency of household and personal management/clothing related artifacts within the collection supports this conclusion. The occupants were likely the freight hustlers who worked for

specimens. The amber bases include nine cup-bottom mould and two turn-paste mould bottles (Jones and Sullivan 1989). One clear base fragment recovered from the surface in the northern part of the Roadhouse has a "P" with a circle border representing the Pierce Glass Company of Pennsylvania who made bottles from 1905-1917 (Toulouse 1971: 412). Given this date range, the specimen represents a post-

<b>FUNCTIONAL GROUP</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>FUNCTIONAL GROUP</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>Household</b>		<b>Leisure</b>	
Tableware	8	Tobacco plug	2
Ceramic	4	Pipe stem	1
Ferrous spoon and bowl	2	Poker chip fragments	60
Ferrous handle lugs	2	<b>Total</b>	<b>63</b>
Bottle/glassware	547	<b>Transportation</b>	
Tableware	8	Bridle apparatus	1
Bottle	527	Horseshoe nail	1
Medicinal	4	<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>
Bottle/glassware?	8	<b>Hunting and Subsistence</b>	
Lead foil fragments	53	Cartridge casing	5
Cork	2	<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>
Wire cork clamp	7	<b>Construction/Structural</b>	
Metal container	231	Building hardware	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>848</b>	Strapping	3
<b>Personal Management/Clothing</b>		Fastenings	132
Button	13	Washer	1
"Mother of Pearl"	1	Nail	126
Glass	3	Bolt	1
Ferrous	9	Grommet	4
Clothing	11	Brick	1
Textiles	9	Window glass	450
Footwear	2	<b>Total</b>	<b>586</b>
Personal hygiene	16	<b>Miscellaneous</b>	
Mirror	16	Wire	5
Sewing and Safty pins	2	Unidentified	289
Pencil	2	<b>Total</b>	<b>294</b>
Money	1		
Personal adornment	3		
<b>Total</b>	<b>48</b>		
<b>ARTIFACT TOTAL</b>		<b>1846</b>	

**Table 7.** Canyon Hotel and Saloon artifact functional groups and counts.

1935 (Toulouse 1971: 544). The small base diameter of the bottle coupled with the threaded finish suggests the bottle was either for medicinal or condiment purposes. Three wide mouth jar finishes, with cork-like closures, were collected and appear to be associated with food storage. As well, four plate-mould medicinal bottle fragments are present.

A total of eight clear and amber bottle, stopper-finishes were recovered as well as two down-tooled cork-finishes. The finishes are likely associated with the consumption of alcohol since one amber finish had a "Canadian Club Whisky" lead cork foil still adhering. In addition, a similar clear finish was recovered on the surface near the river with a "Glenlivet" lead cork foil still adhering to it. Although it cannot be definitively stated, it is also more than likely that the vast majority of other bottle fragments are associated with the consumption of alcohol. Other artifacts related to the consumption of alcohol include two corks, seven fragments of wire cork clamps and 53 fragments of lead cork foil. Several types of liquor and companies manufacturing the liquor are represented. Included within the collection are Imperial Brand Whiskey, Canadian Club Rye Whisky, Glenlivet Scotch, Whyte and Mackay of Glasgow Scotch Liqueur and Compass Brand liquor. The foil fragments were recovered throughout the Roadhouse; however, they did tend to cluster within Units 19, 20 and 3. The quantity of liquor related artifacts reflect the building's use, at least in part as a licensed saloon (Wood 1898d). Bottle fragments were recovered from each unit at the Roadhouse locality except for Units 11 and 14,



safety pin. Personal adornment items within the collection include two ferrous plates from badges and one badge pin. Sixteen mirror fragments are included in the personal hygiene category. One 1891 copper United States five-cent piece and two pencil fragments complete the assemblage. Items were recovered from a number of units from both the western and eastern portions of the structure. The baleen fragment may be associated with female clothing.

Gambling and smoking are the leisure activities represented with the Canyon Hotel and Saloon artifact assemblage. A total of 60 clay (ceramic), blue and white poker chips were recovered from Units 3, 19 and 20. The 60 fragments represent at least 12 individual poker chips and were recovered from near the north and south sill logs. Incised on the chips is a scene of dogs playing poker with the words "NO MONKEYING" bordering their circumference. The high frequency of chips suggests gaming activities were taking place within the saloon portion of the Roadhouse, an activity not reported in archival documentation.

Smoking related artifacts include two tobacco plug clasps, one circular-shaped and one heart-shaped, and a pipe stem. The manufacturer for the tobacco has not been determined.

The hunting and subsistence and transportation functional groups make up less than two percent of the collection. Five spent brass cartridge casings, all of which were being produced during gold rush times, were recovered. One bridle ring and a horseshoe nail fragment are included within the transportation functional group.

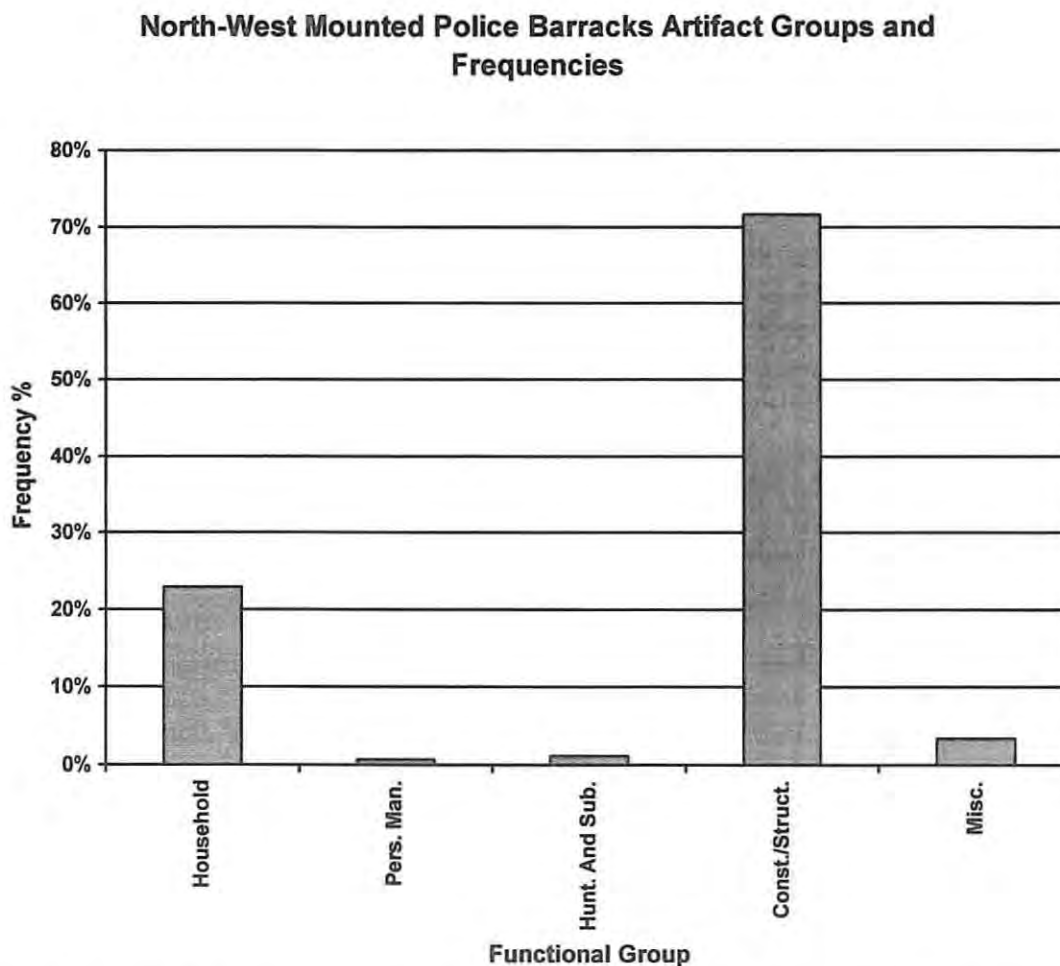
because of the business nature of the Saloon. The leisure functional group has the highest frequency within the Roadhouse assemblage in comparison to other locale's assemblages. Poker chip fragments are the most notable leisure item recovered from the Roadhouse. Their concentrations in the centre of the structure along with lead foil caps suggest that the Saloon portion of the Roadhouse was located in this area. The distribution of bottle glass, although not really concentrated, tends to be more numerous in the west half of the structure. Looking at the archival photographs (Figure 5), it appears that the western portion of the Roadhouse was one large room as suggested by the lack of entrance ways along this section. The three entrance ways to the east may be to smaller rooms related to a hotel operation.

It is difficult to determine exactly how the artifacts from the Roadhouse came to rest where they did since the structure appears to have had a floor. The smaller artifacts, which are the majority of the bottle glass collection, may have passed through the cracks between the floorboards. Larger pieces may have been deposited either prior to the floor being put in place or during the structure's dismantlement. Except for the green bottle base recovered on the surface with the post-gold rush maker's mark, all the artifacts are contemporaneous with the gold rush.

#### **NORTH-WEST MOUNTED POLICE BARRACKS ARTIFACT ASSEMBLAGE**

One of the goals of archaeological investigations at the North-West Mounted Police Barracks was to determine, if at all possible, the full range of activities carried out within the structure. Wood (1898a) states that the Barracks

case that the foils and alcohol related bottle glass represent confiscated liquor since consumption of alcohol by NWMP officers and non-commissioned officers was looked down upon by the upper echelons of the NWMP (Steele 1898a). Thin clear and manganese tint bottle glass were recovered as well, indicating the presence of medicinal aids as well as one clear wide mouth, cork-finish jar fragment. One metal three-pronged fork and a white-glazed ceramic sherd represent tableware. An ornate metal plate and two C-clasps relate to furniture.



**Figure 24.** Graph of the frequency of functional groups within the North-West Mount Police Barracks historic assemblage.

(Phillips and Klancher 1982). The Enfield specimens (n=4) are .45 calibre revolver cartridges. Other cartridges include .22 calibre rim-fire (n=19), .30 calibre (n=1) and 7mm (n=1) centre fire. A single fishhook included in this functional group is a large jigging hook and relates to subsistence activities.

Telegraph wire was observed along the western wall of the NWMP barracks but not collected. This suggests that the location of the telegraph equipment within the building was in the vicinity of the western portion of the structure. The telegraph was established at Canyon City within the barracks during September of 1899 (Wood 1899).

As earlier noted, window glass is the majority (65%) of the construction/structural functional group. A total of 960 window fragments was recovered within N69W108 located just outside of the north wall of the building. This quantity suggests a window was present in the immediate vicinity. Both wire-drawn and machine-cut nails were collected and make up 32 percent of this functional group. Other construction/structural items collected include flashing, strapping, chinking fragments and a glazier point.

The miscellaneous group contains wire fragments and unidentified ferrous fragments. It contributes little to the interpretation of the activities at the NWMP Barracks.

## **Summary**

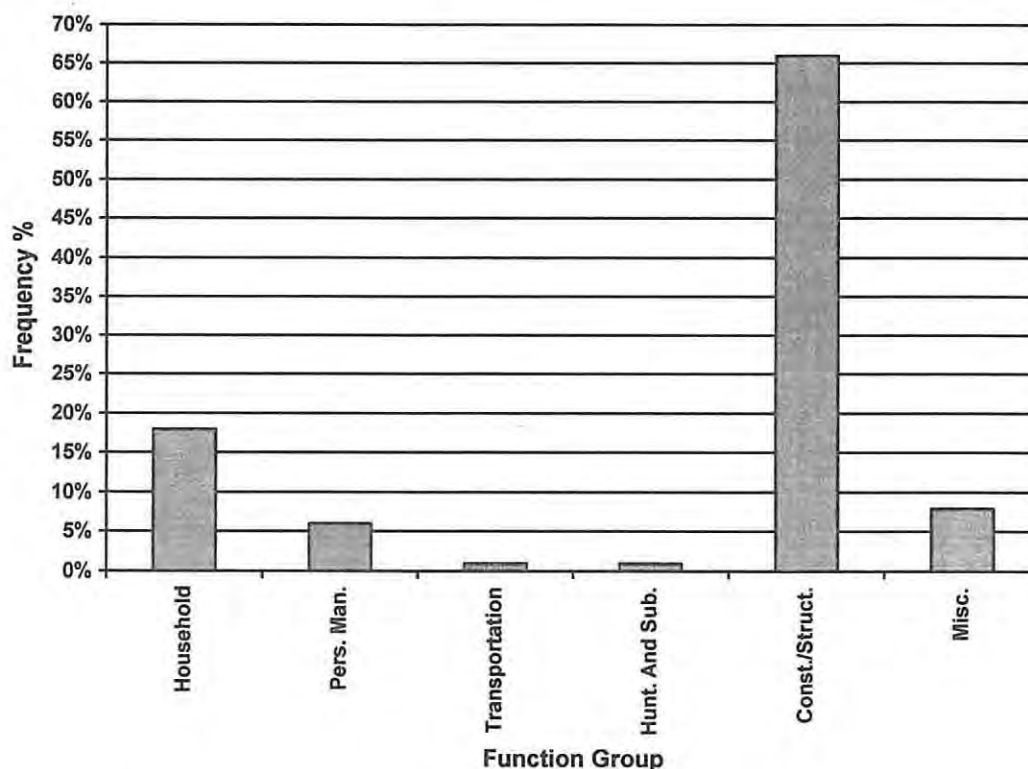
Although the majority of the assemblage was collected outside of the structure, in the northwestern corner, the types and distribution of the artifacts within the structure suggest at least two room divisions—the western portion of

possible since it was slated by Yukon Heritage Branch for reconstruction. A 14 percent area sample of the Tramway Office was completed resulting in the recovery of 1,661 historic artifacts (Table 9, Figure 25). Six functional groups are represented including household (18%), personal management clothing (6%), transportation (1%), hunting and subsistence (1%), construction/structural (66%) and Miscellaneous (8%).

The tramway office was identified through archival photographs. A white banner with "CANYON & WHITE HORSE RAPIDS TRAMWAY COMPANY CO" in several of the photographs identified the log structure as the location for the company office. The structure is 30m in length and it is likely that only a small portion of the building was allocated for the administration of the Tramway business. So far, no records on how business was carried out have been found. It is assumed that arrangements and payments for freighting goods and boats around the Canyon and Rapids were carried out within the building as well as other business related duties such as paper work, storage and money collection. The assemblage, however, suggests other uses for the building. Although the construction/structural functional group dominates the assemblage the variety of household and personal management/clothing artifacts indicate some use as a dwelling.

A total of 296 historic artifacts are represented within the household functional group. A variety of types are present including tableware, bottle glassware, metal containers, lighting related items and stove pipe remains.

### Canyon and White Horse Rapids Tramway Office Artifact Groups and Frequencies



**Figure 25.** Graph of the frequency of functional groups within the Canyon and White Horse Rapids Tramway Office historic assemblage.

the structure. All were plate-mould with a flanged or patent lip (Jones and Sullivan 1989). One clear medicinal type bottle with some of the contents still inside, had the mark "PC 0..0". This may be a maker's mark but could also represent a lot number. Based on the contents aroma, the contents within the bottle appear to be a clove extract of some type. A second complete medicinal bottle is a stout green tinted bottle with "Ayers", "Lowel Mass", and "Pills" embossed on the sides and the maker's mark on its bottom is an incised "c". The pill bottle provides the manufacturer of the pills and its origin,



clustering, the bottles do represent a variety of activities which appear to have been carried out within the building including liquor consumption, food consumption and medicinal related.

Five complete metal containers were collected from the Tramway office. A single end seam, with a capped-on-threaded lid can and a smaller condensed milk can were excavated from within the wooden pipe feature previously described. A hole-in-top lapped seam container with a filler diameter of 1 4/16in., a diameter of 3in. and a height of 4 4/16in. was collected from S1E2. This container approximates Burley and Ross's (1979: 63) type 44 No.2 (2lb) which is pre-1907 and held either meats, fruits, or vegetables. Another tin recovered matches Burley and Ross's (1979: 68) type 47, a pre-1904 "1 Lb. Net" can that likely held pork and beans, soup or stew. A unique tin with a height of 10/16in. and a diameter of 2 8/16in. was collected and may be tobacco related (Murray and Hamilton 1986). The top edge on this container is curled and a lid fragment accompanied the container. The remaining metal container artifacts are key and tin fragments. The latter were classified as metal containers based on their thickness and curvature.

Rounding out the household functional group are two brass lamp hardware fragments and ten stove pipe fragments collected from the northwestern corner of the building.

The personal management/clothing artifact functional group has a diverse array of artifact types. A total of 34 buttons are included in the collection from the Tramway Office. The buttons were manufactured from

slugs are .22 calibre, six of which were made by the Dominion Arms Company. Revolver cartridges include a 45mm, two .44 calibre (one Smith and Wesson the other a Winchester) and a .38 calibre Winchester casing. Two 30-30 United Metallic Cartridge Company casings were also present. One 12 gauge shot gun primer was collected. According to Barnes (1985) all of these cartridge types were produced during gold rush times.

The construction/structural group dominates the Tramway Office assemblage with window glass contributing 73 percent. Window glass clusters suggest six general areas of concentration (S6E8; S6E19; S6E16-S8E18- S9E16, S2E20; S6E20; and, S5E26; see figure 20). These concentrations reflect the location of windows both on the outside and possible windows placed inside the structure. Interior windows may reflect the office nature of the building. The abundance of window glass suggests that windowpanes were not salvaged when the structure was dismantled. A total of 261 nails are present in the Tramway Office collection. Most (82%) were wire drawn, however, some machine-cut nails are present as well. The majority of the nails came from the eastern part of the building, the portion having a floor. Other construction/structural related artifacts include washers, grommets flashing and strapping.

The Miscellaneous group contains 130 unidentifiable fragments and 10 wire fragments.

<b>FUNCTIONAL GROUP</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>FUNCTIONAL GROUP</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>Household</b>		<b>Hunting and Subsistence</b>	
Tableware	37	Ammunition	21
Ceramic	21	Cartridge casing	16
Spoon	2	Slug	5
Utensil fragments	3	Fish Hook	2
Ferrous frying pan	1	<b>Total</b>	<b>23</b>
Ferrous coffee pot	1		
Ferrous pot lid (60 fragments)	1	<b>Transportation</b>	
Ferrous plate/bowl (6 fragments)	1	Bridle apparatus	19
Ferrous plate (16 fragments)	1	Horseshoe nail	1
Tin white enamel plate	1	Oar lock	1
Unidentified Cookware	2	<b>Total</b>	<b>21</b>
Pail	1		
Pot lugs	2	<b>Working/Industrial</b>	<b>3</b>
Bottle/glass ware	329	File	3
Bottles	312	<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>
Medicinal	17		
Lead foil	8	<b>Construction/Structural</b>	
Metal containers	1000	Building hardware	19
Stove/heater		Flashing	3
Ferrous body fragments	1896	Strapping	12
Cast iron stove legs	4	Door hardware	3
Furniture	25	Pad lock	1
Lantern	4	Fasteners	1704
<b>Total</b>	<b>3288</b>	Washer	1
		Screw hook	1
<b>Personal Management/Clothing</b>		Grommet	6
Buttons	23	Nails	1083
Glass	1	Staples	611
Shell	3	Nut	1
Clay	1	Bolt	1
Ferrous	18	Window Glass	68
Clothing	14	Chinking	112
Textile	12	Fencing (Chicken wire)	16
Footwear	2	<b>Total</b>	<b>1919</b>
<b>Personal Hygiene</b>	<b>14</b>		
Laundry bluing	1	<b>Miscellaneous</b>	
Hair dye bottle	10	Wire	19
Mirror fragments	3	Ferrous fragments	807
Personal Adornment: Hair pin	1	<b>Total</b>	<b>826</b>
Ink Bottle			
<b>Total</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>Artifact Total</b>	<b>6158</b>

**Table 10.** East Cabin artifact functional groups and counts.

units and show no spatial concentrations. Two ferrous spoon fragments were collected along with what appear to be ferrous fragments from utensil handles. Also recovered were a sample of metal cooking/tableware artifacts including a

from a post-bottom mould bottle and two clear with green tint fragments originated from a cup-bottom mould bottle. Four of the clear with green tint fragments are rim shards from wide-mouth jars. Two complete vials were also collected; one with a cork and contents still intact. The content's aroma suggests cinnamon extract. One clear body fragment was collected that still had portions of its paper label adhering. The letters identified are "Crosse... B...". This likely represents a bottle of which Crosse and Blackwell, Ltd, of London England manufactured the contents. This company bottled food and condiments beginning in 1830 with continued production to the present (Toulouse 1971: 113). The consumption of liquor is represented by the bottle fragments recovered as well. One amber stopper finish with the lead foil still adhering from a Canadian Club Whiskey bottle was collected as well as two clear stopper-like finishes which are similar to the Glenlivet Scotch finish recovered from the surface of the site. A total of 17 lead cork foil fragments are present, one of which is from an Imperial Whiskey bottle. One complete but melted medicinal bottle and 16 fragments from plate mould bottles complete the collection.

Metal containers are represented by 1000 fragments. Several different closure types are evident including slip lid/cap, threaded lid/cap, lever lid and hole-in-top. Except for the latter, all are commonly used for non-perishable goods such as spices, tea and cocoa (Burley and Ross 1979; Murray and Hamilton 1986; Rock 1981). Both single- and double-end seams are represented. The double end-seam for perishable goods was not in common

on one of the large mammal specimens and five of the medium mammal phalanges. The latter probably represents the skinning of the animal.

Four cast iron stove/heater legs and 1896 ferrous stove body fragments are included within the household group. The stove fragments, which were significantly thicker than the usual tin can fragments and not curved, were recovered within units N27W28, N28W27 and N28W28. This indicates that the stove/heater was located in the western portion of the structure. One ornate upholstery button and 24 C-clasps represent furniture, and four brass tube fragments represent the presence of a lantern.

The personal management/clothing functional group is relatively small but diverse. Twenty-three buttons were collected including glass, shell, clay and ferrous. The ferrous buttons are most numerous with 11 from Levi Strauss and Company clothing. A ferrous Carhart glove button was also recovered. Also associated with clothing are 12 textile fragments and two footwear fragments. The textile fragments are small and burnt hampering further identification. A charred leather fragment and sole are identified as footwear.

Personal hygiene activities are represented by three mirror fragments a small cluster of laundry bluing, and a fragmented hair dye bottle. The bottle was manufactured in a plate mould and embossed on it is "C DAM SCHINSK LIQUID HAIR DYE NEW YORK". Caution should be used in automatically assuming gender since it may have been used for mustaches as well. The recovery of a hair pin, however, appears to reflect the presence of a female.

within the cabin. Other items included within the construction structural group are window glass, chinking, chicken wire and building hardware. A small key-padlock is included with the building hardware but is more likely a lock for a strong box.

Miscellaneous items includes 19 wire fragments and 807 small unidentified ferrous fragments.

### **Summary**

The assemblage recovered from the East Cabin clearly supports the assumption that it functioned as a dwelling. Activities carried out included the preparation and consumption of food as well as personal management type activities. The predominance of metal tablewares over ceramic tablewares is informative since it explains the relative absence of ceramics in other buildings. The evidence suggests that metal tableware was chosen over ceramic, likely because it is more durable.

The matrix in which the assemblage was recovered consisted of burned wood and fire burned clay. There is little doubt that the cabin burned down with much of its material contents still inside. In this respect, it is a case of catastrophic abandonment representative of a single moment in time (Kent 1990). The timing of the fire is of concern. None of the archival documents mention a fire during the gold rush occupation of Canyon City. One archival photograph (Figure 3) shows evidence of what appears to be a recent fire along the tramway during the time the tramway was in operation. The only other structure showing this amount of fire damage is the North-West Mounted



<b>FUNCTIONAL GROUP</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>FUNCTIONAL GROUP</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>Household</b>		Pipe collar	4
Ceramics	7	Smithing	52
Bottle/glassware	23	Solder bar	1
Bottle	22	Solder fragments	12
Jar	1	Graphite rod	1
Metal container fragments	4	Coke and slag fragments*	38
<b>Total</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>Reworked Items</b>	<b>290</b>
<b>Personal Management/Clothing</b>		Reworked bars	71
Button	1	Reworked nuts and bolts	169
Ferrous	1	Reworked hooks	5
Footwear	10	Reworked strapping	1
Buckle	1	Reworked anchor	3
Heel piece	5	Reworked ring	3
Rubber boot	4	Reworked barrel hoop	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>11</b>	Reworked ferrous collar	1
<b>Leisure</b>		Reworked ferrous rods	28
Tobacco plug	1	Reworked pipe	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	Diamond shaped ferrous piece	1
<b>Transportation</b>		Bars with spur	5
Bridle apparatus	42	Smithing/Machining Detritus	773
Oxen shoe	1	Angular ferrous fragments	269
Horseshoe nail	850	Globular ferrous fragments	7
Bailing wire	20	Brass globular fragment	1
Bearing	3	Circular ferrous pieces	496
<b>Total</b>	<b>916</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>1153</b>
<b>Hunting and Subsistence</b>		<b>Construction/Structural</b>	
Cartridge casing	1	Building hardware	20
Lead pellet	1	Strapping	10
Gun cleaning apparatus	1	Latch	5
Butt plate	1	Hinge	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	Brace	4
<b>Communication</b>		Glazier points	114
Glass insulator	1	Fastenings	516
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	Washer	49
<b>Working/Industrial</b>		Grommet	2
Tools	18	Screw	8
Hardware tool box	1	Staple	1
Handles	3	Nuts and Bolts	60
Axe file	1	Hooks	6
Cleaver (homemade)	1	Nails	390
File	1	Window glass	10
Metal punches	2	<b>Total</b>	<b>660</b>
Chisel	6	<b>Miscellaneous</b>	
Lid lifter	1	Sheet metal	151
Clamp	1	Strapping	127
Ferrous adze head?	1	Rubber	120
Chain	1	Leather	4
Repair links	10	Textile	3
Ferrous pipes	5	Wire	13
		Clay	2
		Unidentified Ferrous fragments	299
		<b>Total</b>	<b>592</b>
		<b>ARTIFACT TOTAL</b>	<b>3372</b>

\*Total weight of amount of coke and slag fragments recovered is 3.4kg or 7.5lbs.

**Table 12.** Machine/Blacksmith Shop artifact functional groups and counts.

thickness and most likely represent one bottle. One has a portion of the label still adhering with a woman's head and bordering letters "...oria...". The size of the remaining label has made it difficult to determine origin or contents. Judging from the curvature of the glass it appears to have been a relatively small bottle that may have contained condiments. One white coloured glass shard is included within the household group but its function has not been identified. All of the bottle glass was collected within the east half of the structure.

Metal containers are represented by four body fragments. They are identified as tin can fragments due to their curvature and thickness. Too little remains of them to associate them with a particular food group or function. They may also have served a secondary function such as containers for storing fasteners.

One button and ten footwear fragments make up the personal management/clothing functional group. The button is a ferrous cast. two-hole button most likely from a jacket or trousers. Five heel plates, four rubber boot fragments and a boot buckle constitute the footwear assemblage. The footwear fragments were distributed throughout the locality without clustering. One tobacco plug clasp was present. This is the only indication of a leisure activity occurring within the confines of the Machine Shop.

Hunting and subsistence also have a low frequency within the total assemblage. This is somewhat unexpected since a blacksmith shop is the most likely place within the former townsite where reloading ammunition would

bridle apparatus. The latter category include bridle harness fragments, various sizes of bridle rings, brass rivets and an end-ferrule for a neck yoke.

Approximately 34 percent of the Machine Shop assemblage consists of artifacts related to machining and blacksmithing. During excavation 3.4kg of what appears to be coke and slag were collected from the northwestern units of the locality. Two solder bars were present, including one with the embossed label "E.S. and Stetson". Several melted solder fragments and what has been tentatively identified as a graphite contact rod for welding were also recovered. Tools within this group number 18. They include a small hardware metal box, triangular file, an axe file and a ferrous adze head. Tools that appear to be directly related to blacksmithing include a machined cleaver, six chisels, a hot-plate lid lifter and two metal punches. The metal punches and machined cleaver show evidence of direct pressure from hammer blows.

Two hundred and ninety ferrous items have clear evidence of being reworked. This consists of non-factory reshaping and cutting. The homemade cleaver and punch, which are both included in the tool types, are examples of finished products from blacksmithing and machining. Other reworked items include nuts and bolts, hooks, strapping, barrel hoops, iron bars and strapping. These may be the byproducts of reworking other items and not actual functional items.

Smithing/Machining detritus is the most abundant artifact type within the working/industrial functional group comprising 67 percent of this group. Angular ferrous fragments and circular ferrous pieces make up the majority of

tramline. Furthermore, it is evident that recycling metal for new parts or the re-adaptation of parts into other items was an essential activity.

The low proportion of domestic, personal management/clothing and leisure groups indicate that the structure was not used as a dwelling. The activity of blacksmithing is not well documented for the Klondike Gold Rush. It is likely that most settlements, even peripheral settlements like Canyon City, would have had a blacksmith within the community. Although beyond the scope of this thesis, the Machine/Blacksmith Shop provides a unique look into the work of the Blacksmith in the Klondike.

a NWMP post and associated storehouse, stable, machine/blacksmith's shop, a wooden wharf as well as a number of tents for storage and dwellings. The resident population, which is estimated from historic photographs, was approximately 30 to 35 individuals and was predominantly male (Figure 28).

In August 1899, Macaulay sold his interests in the tramway to the White Pass Railway, for \$185,000. The tramline continued to operate for the next ten months, after which operations ceased, allowing the railway a complete monopoly on the transportation of freight in the Upper Yukon.

Beginning in 1994 four field seasons of archaeology were conducted at Canyon City that resulted in the documentation and mapping of 98 historic features, and the collection of 17,395 historic artifacts and 156 faunal specimens. Excavations concentrated on six major features or activity areas at Canyon City that include the West Tent locality, the Canyon Hotel and Saloon, the North-West Mounted Police Barracks, the Canyon and White Horse Rapids Tramway Company building, the "East Cabin", and the Machine/Blacksmith shop. During the excavations at these localities architectural data was collected with particular reference to construction strategies and materials. Artifacts recovered from each locality provide information on activities carried out within each of the buildings tested.

The history and archaeology of Canyon City are unusual in the context of the Klondike gold rush in that Canyon City was primarily, if not exclusively, a single industry townsite that was not mining based. Furthermore, the almost

complete absence of post-gold rush occupation of the site provides for a material culture record that is largely limited to the gold rush period.

The archaeology of Canyon City offers an opportunity to describe a peripheral Klondike gold rush era settlement. Specifically, the structural data and the material culture recovered from Canyon City provide insights into the processes of a single industry settlement within the northern frontier. The inhabitant's day to day lives appear to have been structured by the artificial environment created by the company. This structuring is apparent in the settlement characteristics of the site and in the nature of the subsistence base of the occupants. The dominant type of abandonment apparent at Canyon City does appear to have been as predicted—planned permanent abandonment. Within these areas data is lacking in the historic/archival records of the Klondike gold rush. The excavation of Canyon City and the analysis of the material culture appear to demonstrate that the single industry focus of the townsite dictated the layout and composition of the town's infrastructure and activities; that the profitability of this gold rush period transportation enterprise was sufficient to support a seasonal settlement almost entirely supplied through external and remote sources; and, that the processes of abandonment at Canyon City were primarily determined by company interests. As a conclusion each of these issues is examined.

#### **SITE CHARACTERISTICS**

The gold rush occupation of Canyon City was but three hectic years. To refer to Canyon City as a town let alone a city is an overstatement.



these sites, which are assumed to be dwellings, were scattered about in a haphazard fashion. This haphazardness did not occur at Canyon City during the gold rush occupation of the site even though, as it appears within the photographs, there were suitable, undeveloped areas for occupation. Another indication of the structuring of the camp is the concentration of metal container middens in the northwestern portion of the site. There are no indications of structures in this area, which suggests that the townsite had a designated area for refuse disposal. The placement of structures and other features at Canyon City appears to have been largely determined by Macaulay's plan of the site and considerations of continued use by him.

The archaeology identified the function of several of the features that had been previously unknown including the West Tents as dwellings, the East Cabin as a dwelling, a portion of the Tramway Office as a dwelling and the CC59 as a Machine/Blacksmith shop. The Canyon Hotel and Saloon and NWMP Barracks and the Miles Canyon and White Horse Tramway building were identified through photographs. Besides identifying the activities that were carried out within each of these structures, the archaeological data indicate no duplication of commercial services. With thousands of gold seekers passing through the site on their way to the gold fields more than one restaurant or saloon likely could have been supported. It is apparent, therefore, that Macaulay exercised monopolistic control over all economic activities carried out within the settlement. This interpretation is supported further by Macaulay's efforts to obtain a complete monopoly on freight

notable that ceramics are nearly absent making up less than 0.1 percent of the collection. This is surprising in two respects. First, with the presence of a hotel and saloon, one might expect ceramic wares to have played an important role, especially in the restaurant function. Second, the near absence of ceramics is not duplicated in other household related artifacts, which account for 30 percent of the total assemblage. Two contributing factors likely account for the low frequency of ceramics observed.

First, virtual lack of ceramics may be explained by logistics, the utilitarian nature of the settlement and Macaulay's concerns with profits. Tin or metal serving dishes would likely have been the choice of the company due to their durability, thereby avoiding the potential for broken dishes needing replacement in a region where logistics make the replacement of items an expensive exercise. The second factor is that ceramic consumption is greatly influenced by women (Klein 1991). Through examining different 19<sup>th</sup> century ceramic assemblages, Klien suggests that logistics is not the sole determinate influencing the frequency within an assemblage. Klien (1991) argues that the increased role of women in the domestic sphere is also a major contributing factor. The Canyon City assemblage supports this conclusion. A single woman is present in but two archival photographs of Canyon City (Figures 5 and 29) and it is difficult to confirm whether or not these are the same women. The assemblage contains four artifacts that can be confidently associated with the presence of women at the site; two baleen fragments and a broach pin from the Tramway Office and one hair pin from the East Cabin. Coupled with

the archival photographs, the assemblage suggests that women were not major contributors to the archaeological record at Canyon City; therefore, supporting the site's demographics as male dominated.

The isolation and utilitarian nature of the site is best illustrated by the assemblage from the machine/blacksmith shop. Thousands of angular iron pieces were recovered and are likely the byproducts of intensive reworking and recycling. The shop would have been the maintenance centre for the settlement and was an integral part of the tramline's day to day operation. Canyon City's isolation demanded that repairs be conducted on the spot with the materials on hand. Archibald (1981), for example, indicates that incoming supplies to the Klondike could be received within a month at the very earliest (Archibald 1981: 46-53). Another factor affecting the intensity of recycling would have been expense. For example, a simple repair chain link, an item that would have been utilized by the Tramway Company frequently, had cost \$0.20 per dozen in 1910 (Hudson's Bay Company 1977) and each repair link weighs approximately 0.6 of a pound. Based on freight rates provided by Steele (1898), Bennett (1978) and Archibald (1981) it would have cost \$6.04 to ship four dozen repair links to Canyon City via the Chilkoot trail or 7.5 times the original cost of \$0.80. To ship the same units via the St. Michael's route was less expensive at \$1.82 or 2.3 times the original cost but there would have been a time cost involved since this is a longer route than the Chilkoot.

Despite the preceding statement, recycling and reuse of household goods was not evident to any considerable extent at the site. A total of 740 tin

cabin's location and amenities suggest that the individual(s) that lived there held some sort of distinct status within the camp. Although hypothetical, this could have been Norman Macaulay's cabin. The woman in Figure 5 standing outside the entrance of the East Cabins entrance may have been a resident of the cabin as well.

The faunal remains support a hypothesis that individuals residing within the East Cabin had a higher status within the community. The two assemblages with the highest faunal remains recovered include the West Tents (n=27) and the East Cabin (n=105). While the frequency of cuts within each assemblage are too small to accurately compare, the NISP difference between the two assemblages may be an indicator of status. As discussed below, the occupants of the site were dependent on imported goods; therefore, fresh meat would likely have been a luxury.

### **SETTLEMENT SUBSISTENCE**

Archival data indicate that the occupants of Canyon City relied heavily on imported foods. Macaulay supplied his workers with room and board and the NWMP received monthly rations. These rations were merged with the Company's, and the NWMP took their meals within the Roadhouse with the rest of the workers. Dominated by tin cans, the artifact assemblage recovered from Canyon City reflects this dependence.

Faunal remains (n=156) are relatively scarce throughout the site. Only 20 identifiable bones are present and most of these are rabbit recovered from the East Cabin. Moose and Caribou are represented by one bone each. If the

occasional floor plank; materials that were presumably unworthy of salvaging. The lack of surface or subsurface remains suggests that buildings were systematically dismantled and moved.

The most likely place for reuse of these materials would have been in the nearby town of Whitehorse. During the winter of 1900 both buildings and businesses were moved to Whitehorse from other short-lived Yukon River settlements such as Bennett City, British Columbia (Ingram and Dobrowolsky 1994: 7). Although not confirmed, John Hatch, a Yukon old-timer, has indicated that he now resides in two sections from the Canyon Hotel and Saloon. Presumably these had been used to construct part of the Closeleigh Hotel and Saloon, later named the Pioneer Hotel, located in Whitehorse (John Hatch personal communication, 1995).

Not all of the structures were dismantled at the end of the gold rush. Photographs dated to 1912 show two buildings at Canyon City (Figure 14). Two of the photographs were taken from the dock and clearly depict the NWMP Post with its roof missing. The angle of the photograph shows the rest of the townsite except for the eastern corner. No other structures are standing, demonstrating the Tramway Office, Storehouse, Roadhouse, West Tents, Machine/Blacksmith Shop and the stable had been dismantled prior to 1912. Two additional photographs show the front face of an abandoned Cabin, similar to the East Cabin. This structure, however, appears to be located on the top of the eastern terrace of the site and likely represents the post-gold rush occupation of the site.



concerned about its assets ranging from buildings and machinery to hammers and axe files.

Five of the six structures—the West Tent locality, the Canyon Hotel and Saloon, the NWMP Post, the Canyon and White Horse Rapids Tramway Office, and the Machine/Blacksmith shop—underwent planned, permanent abandonment. The NWMP barracks appears to have been the only one of these structures not to be dismantled during abandonment. A detachment had already been established at Whitehorse by 1902, the year the Canyon City force was removed. This would have reduced, if not eliminated the need to move the structure. The four dismantled structures most likely represent the liquidation of the tramway operation's Canyon City assets. However, with a ready market for building materials but five miles down river in the growing town of Whitehorse, the company liquidated their remaining assets at the site through their removal. In so far as usable artifacts were scarce, planned abandonment is also reflected in the excavation assemblage.

Another factor in the systematic dismantlement of the settlement is large scale economics. White Pass and Yukon Railway were the indirect owners of the settlement in its post 1899 days. The railway company on several occasions bought out potential competition only to shut it down thereby further establishing its monopoly. Bennett (1978: 64) states that by 1907 the Railway's aggressive corporate strategy of eliminating competition was successful. It is likely that the operations at Canyon City were one of the several victims of the large corporation.



occupation of the site or how typical the cultural processes at Canyon City were as compared to other sites along the Yukon River during the gold rush era. Work is needed at similar settlements to better illuminate their role in the Great Stampede of '98 and their significance in the development of the Yukon. The use of the archival and oral history data coupled with the archaeological study of a settlement integral to the Klondike gold rush provides a fresh perspective on, as Pierre Burton states, "one of the best documented adventures of the last 150 years."

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and area was extensive and was for a much longer period than that of the Gold Rush occupation.

### **CANYON CITY PRECONTACT ASSEMBLAGE**

A total of 275 artifacts were recovered that can be attributed to the pre-contact occupation of Canyon City. Artifacts associated with First Nation occupation were collected from all of the major localities tested. Where not recovered in disturbed contexts, the remains were recovered from below the White River tephra dated ca. 1260 BP (Clague et. al. 1995). The wide horizontal distribution artifacts at the site indicate First Nations at one time or another utilized the entire lower terrace. However, the material cultural remains are not in enough quantity for definitive interpretation. This appendix summarizes the pre-contact remains collected at Canyon City over the four years of investigations. To emphasize the spatial distribution of the remains each major locality at Canyon City is discussed separately.

### **WEST TENT LOCALITY: PREHISTORIC ASSEMBLAGE**

One large, shale thin flake with retouch along its right lateral margin was recovered on the surface by CC2 at the West Tent locality. The excavator believed it to be a generic rock and set it aside. It appears to have been recovered from unit N71W177. Five chert flakes were collected in disturbed contexts from this unit as well. An *in situ* large, shale side scraper (13cm<sup>2</sup>) was recovered from CC2, Unit N74W176 below the White River Ash in the southwestern quadrant of the unit. It has abrupt, normal retouch on its convex, distal end.



One is a grey chert proximal core reduction flake with unifacial normal retouch on its lateral edge and may be a side scraper fragment. The second chert flake is a medial/distal flake fragment with minimal normal retouch on its distal end. These artifacts were probably once used as cutting/scraping tools.

**CANYON AND WHITE HORSE RAPIDS TRAMWAY OFFICE:  
PREHISTORIC ASSEMBLAGE**

A total of 162 lithic artifacts were recovered during the 1994 investigations at the Canyon and Whitehorse Rapids Tramway Office (this includes a 2x2m unit placed to the south of the structure). Four stone tools are included within this assemblage with the remaining artifacts classed as debitage except for one possible granite net sinker.

Basalt is the most dominant raw material making up 80 percent (n=129) of the raw material used. Chert (n=25) contributes to 15 percent of the collection and obsidian, chalcedony, quartz and granite contribute less than five percent each. None of the raw material is greatly exotic. Basalt is ubiquitous in the general area, chert is found in lesser quantities, and granite is also readily available. Milky quartz occurs sparsely throughout the region and the obsidian most likely came from an obsidian source within the St. Elias/Kluane area (Clark 1991).

Debitage makes up 97 percent of the Tramway Office collection. Some of the flakes recovered suggest bipolar reduction. The most common type of debitage is shatter. Coarse grained basalt constitutes 91 percent of the shatter type. Core reduction flakes and trimming flakes contribute to 17 and 31 percent of the assemblage respectively. The largest flake within the

ash. The collection suggests that general tool maintenance and food and hide preparation occurred in the area of the Tramway Office.

### **EAST CABIN PREHISTORIC ASSEMBLAGE**

The pre-contact occupation documented underneath the ruins of the East Cabin appear to be related to a single occupation below the White River Ash tenuously dated between 1,750-2,600 BP. Included within the collection are an Agate Basin-like projectile point and a black obsidian side scraper. The remaining 87 artifacts are debitage as a result of stone tool maintenance. The pre-contact assemblage appears to be a single component likely representing one occupation.

The most spectacular artifact collected at Canyon City is the complete Agate Basin-like projectile point recovered in the southeast quadrant of N29W27 at 36cm below the surface and 7cm below ash. The point was situated at the bottom of the B1 horizon in the yellow sand interface between the B1 and B2 horizons. The point displays masterful flint knapping and is made from grey chert. The flaking is relatively parallel with collateral to subradial flake scar orientation. The basal edges of the point display evidence of edge grinding. It is 8.34cm in length with a maximum width of 2.2cm and thickness of 0.75cm. These measurements fall well within the range of variation of Agate Basin-like points found in the Subarctic (Kunz and Rainier 1995: 23, Table 2).

Blood residue was noticed on the blade of the point and was sent to Margaret Newman of the University of Calgary for blood residue analysis. The blood on the point was determined to be caribou blood.

Two charcoal samples were collected from the interface of the B1 and B2 horizons (9-12cm below ash) and a third was collected from 7-9cm below ash. The returned dates are 1,750 $\pm$ 40 BP (Beta 85596), 2,420 $\pm$ 50 BP (Beta 099457) and 2,600 $\pm$ 60 BP (Beta 099458). These dates appear to be too young for the Agate Basin-like point style associated with them. This type of point occurred in the western Subarctic ca. 8,000 to 10,000 BP (Kunz and Rainier 1995). Caution should be used with the outright rejection of such young dates. The 1995 date of 1,750 BP was collected between 7-9cm below the ash with the other two collected from 9-12cm below ash. Therefore, the dates appear to be stratigraphically correct. Furthermore, the small standard errors suggest that the dates are accurate. If they were contaminated by the historic burning of the East Cabin it is reasonable to expect much larger deviations as well as a broader range between each date as a result of differential contamination. Thus, the simplest explanation is that the dates accurately reflect the pre-contact occupation at the East Cabin.

#### **SUMMARY**

The distribution of pre-contact artifacts recovered over the four years of investigations at Canyon City indicate that the entire lower terrace was utilized in the distant past at one time or another. The dates obtained establish First Nation occupation of this locality by at least 2,600 BP. It is more than likely that once the lower bench on which Canyon City sits became habitable the local First Nations people quickly occupied it.

## APPENDIX A - REFERENCES CITED

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B-Figure 1. View of Canyon City to the west.

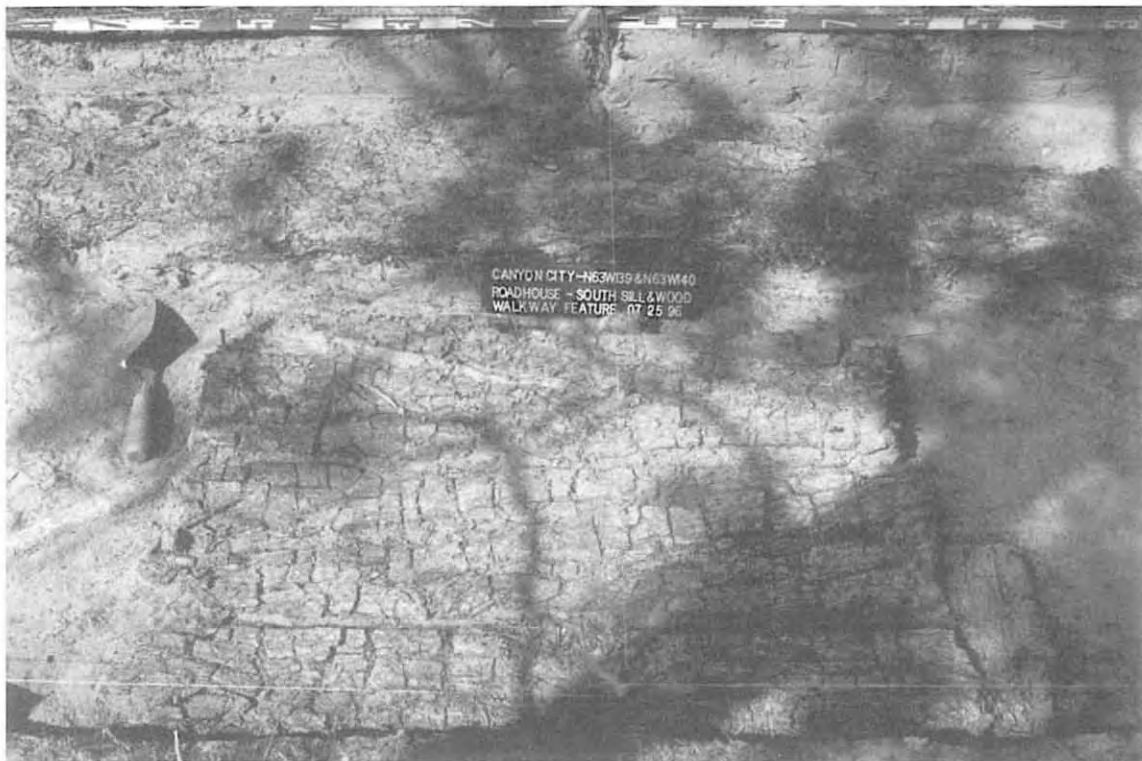


B-Figure 2. Sara Neilson (YCS) explains tin can technology to visitors at the site.





B-Figure 5. Floor joist remains from the North-West Mounted Police Barracks.



B-Figure 6. Remains of a wooden doorstep along the south wall of the Canyon Hotel and Saloon.

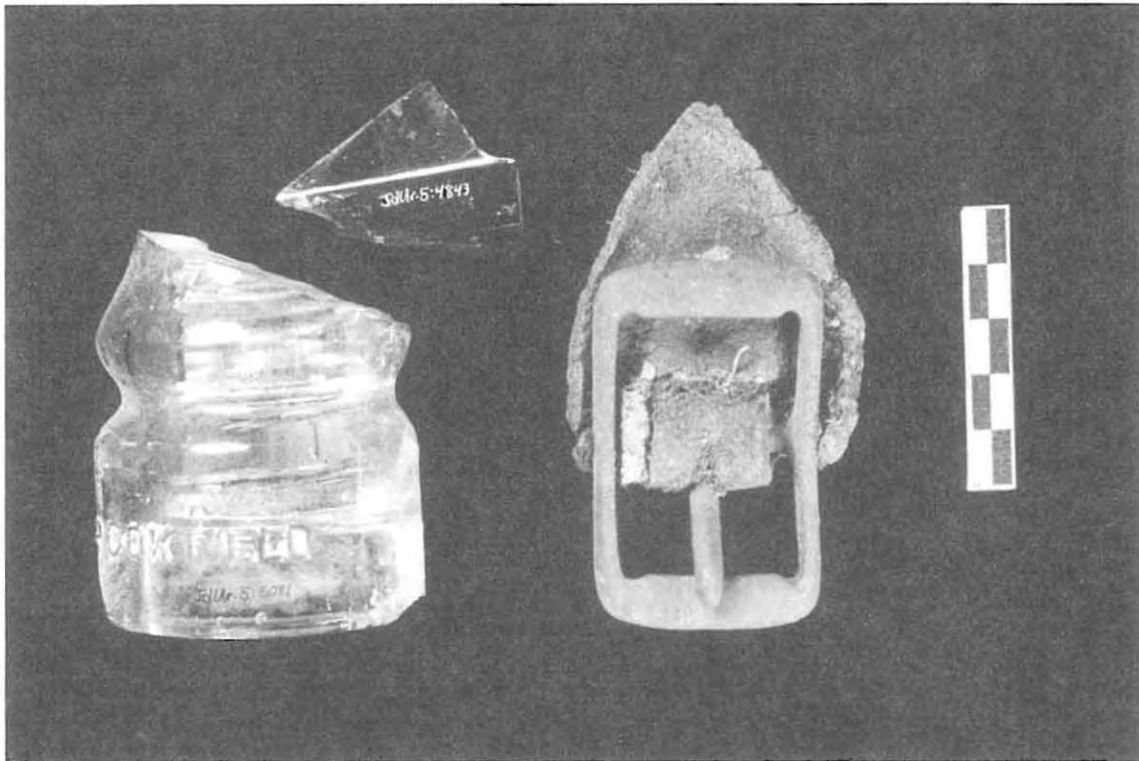




B-Figure 9. View of the charred remains of the East Cabin.



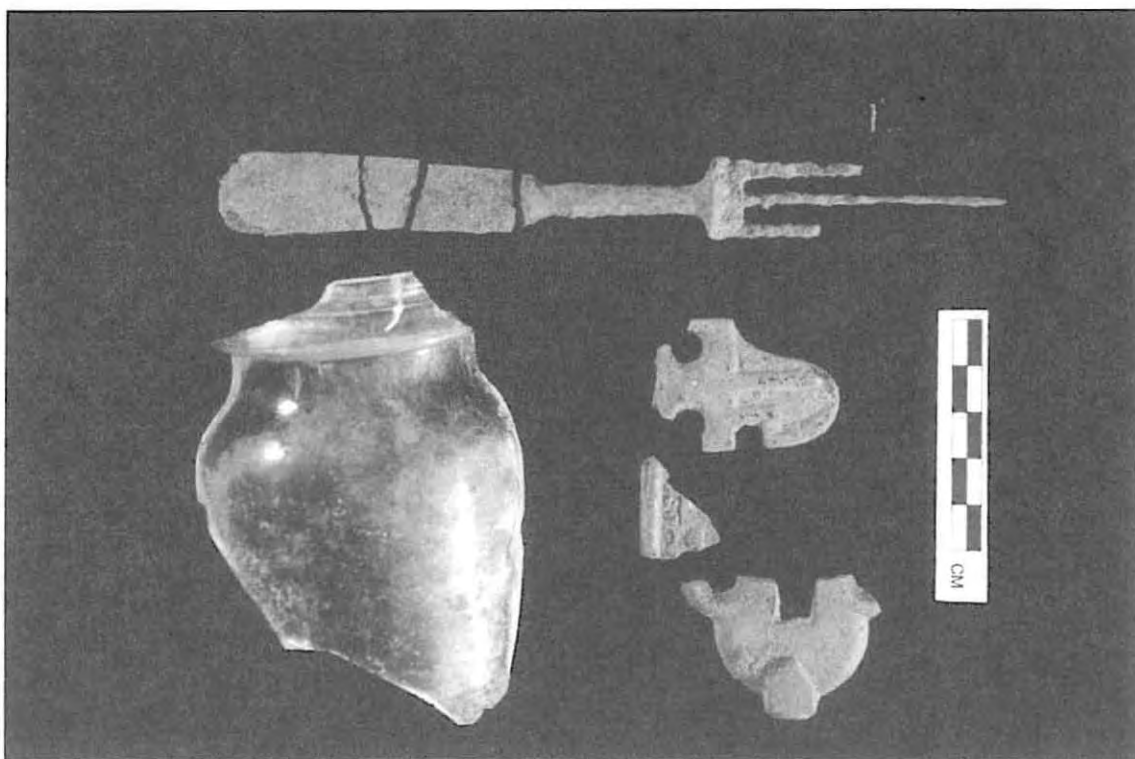
B-Figure 10. Excavation of charred floor joists at the East Cabin Locality.



B-Figure 13. Historic remains recovered from the West Tent Locality including a glass insulator fragment, a fragment from a gin case bottle and a buckle.



B-Figure 14. Poker chips and liquor bottle foil recovered from the Canyon Hotel and Saloon.



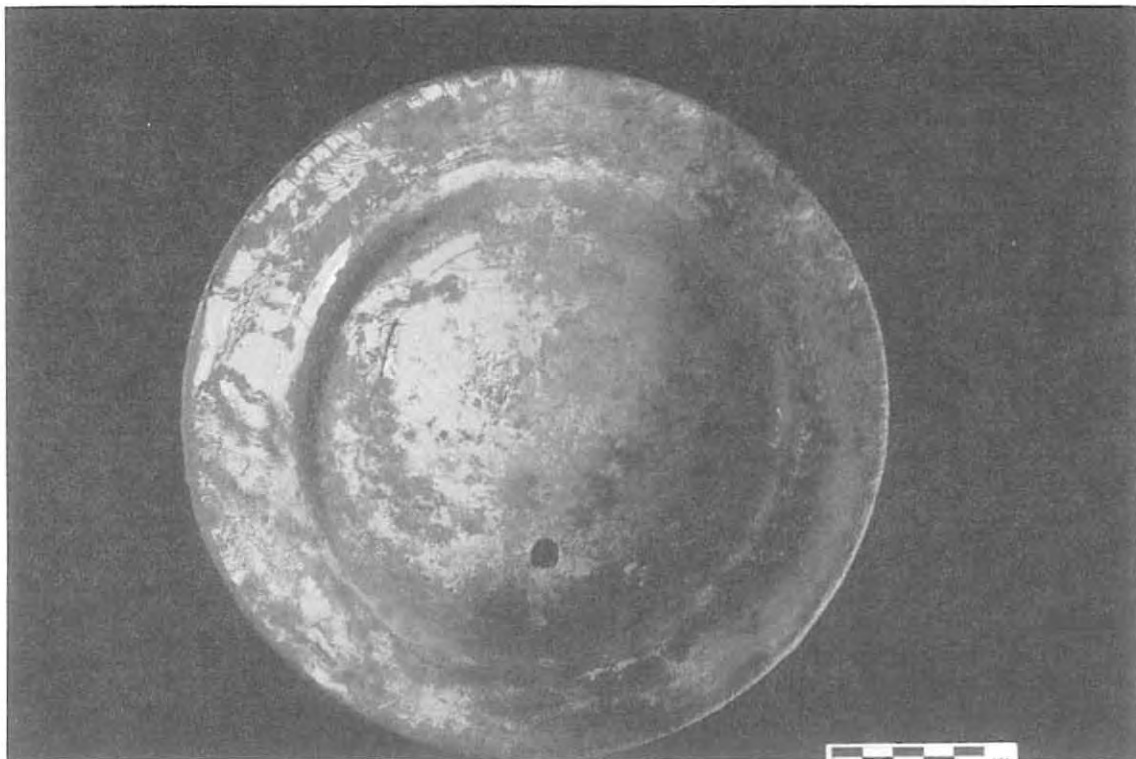
B-Figure 17. Household related artifacts from the NWMP Barracks. Top: a three pronged fork, Bottom (L-R): wide mouth jar and three ornate hardware fragments.



B-Figure 18. Monetary related artifacts recovered from the Tramway Office (L-R): 1894 United States Half dollar, 1854 Upper Canada Bank Token and 1891 Canadian 10 cent piece.



B-Figure 21. East Cabin artifacts (L-R) medicinal bottle, ink bottle and vial with contents still intact.

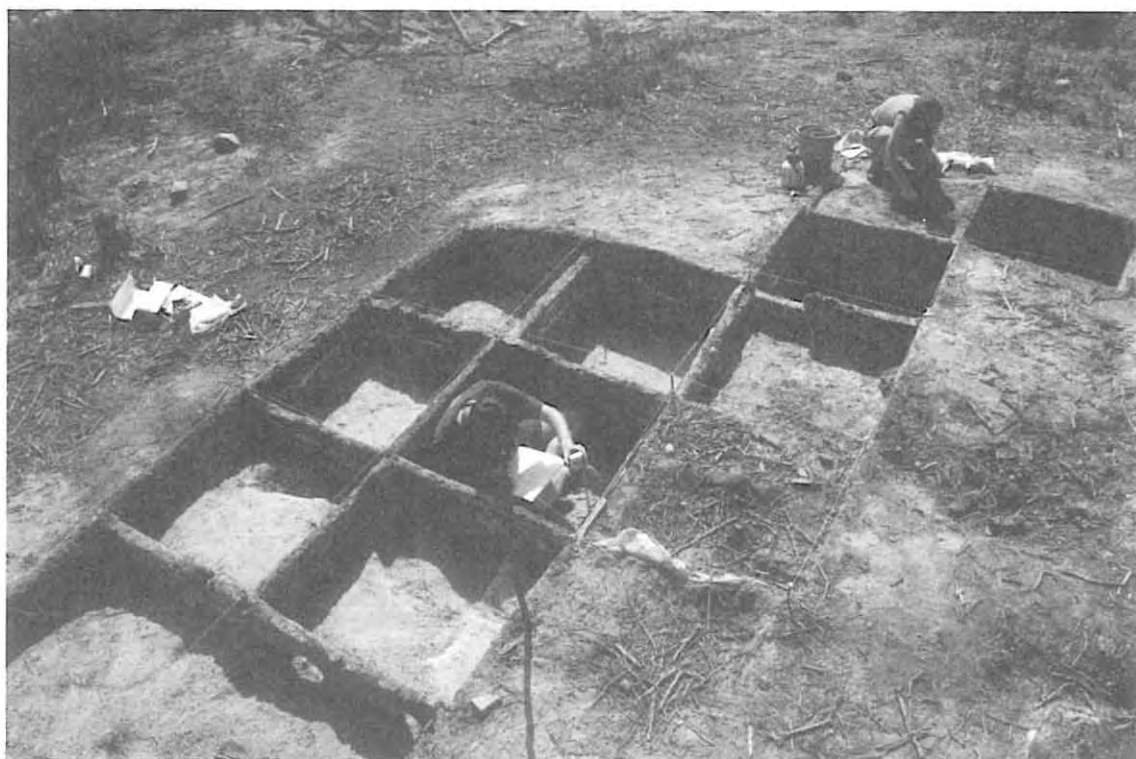


B-Figure 22. White enamel tin plate recovered from the East Cabin.





B-Figure 25. L-R: chert endscraper fragment, basalt bifacial skin scraper fragment and a biface fragment recovered during the 1993 preliminary testing.



B-Figure 26. Ty Heffner and Meagan Williams excavating the prehistoric component at the East Cabin Locality.



B-Figure 29. Agate Basin-like point recovered from the East Cabin ca. 2,600 BP.



B-Figure 30. Obsidian side scraper recovered from the East Cabin, 11cm BA.