

Dredge No.4 National Historic Site Commemorative Integrity Statement

Dredge No. 4, 1941. PC,
Fontaine Coll. GS 5.1-37

National Historic Site Objectives

National Historic Sites objectives are summarized in Parks Canada's Guiding Principles and Operational Policies;

- * To foster knowledge and appreciation of Canada's past through a national program of historical commemoration.*
- * To ensure the commemorative integrity of national historic sites administered by Parks Canada by protecting and presenting them for the benefit, education, and enjoyment of this and future generations, in a manner that respects the significant and irreplaceable legacy represented by these places and their associated resources.*
- * To encourage and support the protection and presentation by others of places of national historic significance that are not administered by Parks Canada.*

Commemoration focuses on what is nationally significant about a site, and includes protection as well as presentation. The National Historic Sites Policy states that;

protection and presentation are fundamental to commemoration since without protection there can be no historic site to be enjoyed, and without presentation there can be no understanding of why the site is important to our history and, hence, to all Canadians.



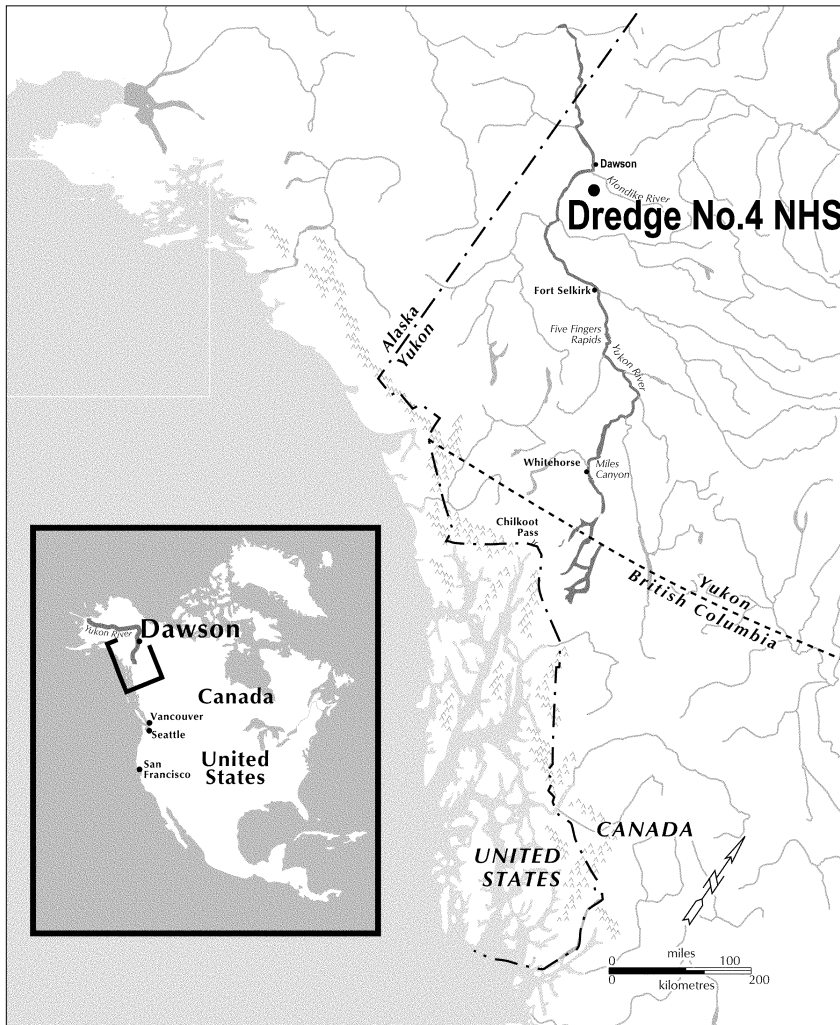
Definition and Purpose of Commemorative Integrity

Commemorative integrity is used to describe the health or wholeness of a national historic site. A national historic site possesses commemorative integrity when the historic values and those cultural resources symbolizing or representing its importance are not impaired or under threat, when the reasons for the site's national historic significance are effectively communicated to the public, and when the site's heritage values are respected by all whose decisions or actions affect the site.

The purpose of a commemorative integrity statement is to focus our management of a site on what is most important; and to ensure that we address the whole (the "site"), not just the parts (the "individual resources"). For national historic sites commemorative integrity is key to developing and implementing work plans, along with service to clients and ensuring efficient use of public funds. Commemorative integrity is also the basis for reporting to Canadians on the state of their national historic sites.

To effectively focus on Commemorative Integrity it is necessary to identify and evaluate those characteristics of a site that led to its recommendation by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada (HSMBC) and designation by the Minister. Those characteristics that make the site of importance to all Canadians are Level 1 cultural resources. Characteristics of the site determined to have a historic value of regional or local importance are Level 2 cultural resources. All Level 1 and 2 cultural resources will be managed by Parks Canada under the principles of the Cultural Resource Management Policy.

Dredge No. 4 is located in the Klondike goldfields just outside of Dawson, Yukon. Lost Moose



A sound grasp of historic value is essential to ensuring commemorative integrity. This includes a definition of what constitutes the extent of the nationally-designated historic place. The Parks Canada Cultural Resource Management Policy requires that evaluation of resources not only determine their levels, but "what it is that constitutes their value", that is to say, what particular qualities and features make up the historic character of the cultural resource. Historic value can reflect both physical (tangible or artifactual) as well as symbolic (intangible or associative) attributes. It can be derived from an association with many periods in history, a single episode, or from the interaction of nature and human activities.

It is those Level 1 values, that is those attributes of resources or messages, of importance to all Canadians, that shall be the highest management priority for Parks Canada. These values and the threats to them are described in more detail in the section "Commemorative Integrity Objectives".

A statement of commemorative integrity is necessarily site specific. In developing such a statement, the starting point is the articulation of the site's commemorative intent, followed by the identification of the significant historic resources which relate to commemorative intent and a description of the how the three elements of integrity should be attained. It is explicitly recognized that a range of historic values, from the national to the local, may exist for any given site.

Commemorative Intent

Commemorative intent is a statement of what is nationally significant about the site. It refers specifically to the ministerially-approved recommendations of the HSMBC. For Board minutes relevant to Dredge No. 4 see Appendix 1.

The principal Board direction for Dredge No. 4 came in 1967, when it recommended that the operation of mining dredges in the Yukon was a theme of national historic significance. At that time, the HSMBC made two additional recommendations relating to the protection and presentation of cultural resources associated with this nationally-significant theme. First, it recommended that the feasibility of preserving Dredge No. 11 be investigated, and second, that a display be established *to exhibit the evolution of mining methods from early to modern and centered if possible around the dredge.*

These recommendations were amplified in 1987, when the Board recommended that Dredge #4, *should be stabilized and become the centre for the interpretation of the corporate period of gold extraction in the Klondike, at least for the time being.* The HSMBC also recommended that, *this facet of resource exploitation be interpreted in a modest fashion at Dredge No. 4 until such time as Bear Creek's relative significance can be evaluated through a comparative study placing it in context.*

A decade later, the Board confirmed the national historic significance of the dredge and approved a Statement of Commemorative Intent for Dredge No. 4 NHS:

Dredge No. 4 symbolizes the importance of dredging operations in the Yukon (1899-1966), and aspects of the evolution of gold mining in the Klondike from early labour-intensive to later corporate industrial phases of gold extraction.



YCGC No. 4 dredging on Bonanza Creek in the mid-1950s. NFB, GS 5.3-2

Commemorative Integrity

The National Historic Sites Policy states that a national historic site has commemorative integrity if:

1. the resources that symbolize or represent its importance are not impaired or under threat,
2. the reasons for the site's national historic significance are effectively communicated to the public, and
3. the site's heritage values are respected by all whose decisions or actions affect the site.

These three elements cover the major responsibilities of Parks Canada in the management of the National Historic Site. To measure the success and effectiveness of this management, commemorative integrity objectives have been identified and listed after the description of each of the three elements. Therefore, at Dredge #4 National Historic Site, commemorative integrity will be ensured when:

1. Resources that symbolize or represent the national significance of Dredge No. 4 are not impaired or under threat

Resources imbued with these Level 1 historic values are those that symbolize or represent the national significance of Dredge No. 4. These resources are thus instrumental in, or integral to, the designation of national historic significance. Those Level 1 resources are the cultural resource management focus of the Parks Canada program. The following Level 1 cultural resources must not be threatened or impaired:

1.1.a. Historic Place - Values

Background

Dredge No. 4 National Historic Site is a preserved bucketline sluice dredge used to mine placer gold located in its last place of operation. Originally constructed in 1912-13 by the Canadian Klondyke Mining Co., the dredge worked the gravels of the Klondike River valley. In 1940 the vessel reached the end of the good ground on the Klondike. It was dismantled. All major mechanical components were refurbished and installed in a new wooden hull and superstructure constructed on Bonanza Creek. In September, 1941 Dredge No. 4, by now run by the Yukon Consolidated Gold Corporation (YCGC), continued mining up Bonanza Creek until finally shut down in the fall of 1958.

Located on the Bonanza Creek mining claim where it sank in 1959, Dredge No. 4 was an important component of the corporate industrial mining complex in the Klondike. The site is managed by Parks Canada though the entire Bonanza Creek valley contributes to the commemorative integrity of the dredge. Other groups with an interest in the character of the creek include departments of both the Territorial and Federal governments, mining companies and individual claim holders.

The designated place, Dredge No. 4, gains its value as a representative example of the integrated and extensive nature of corporate industrial dredge mining in the Yukon during the 20th century. The period of commemoration dates from the arrival of the first dredge in the Yukon in 1899 to the final shutdown of the YCGC dredge mining operations in 1966. The dredge and its connections to other aspects of the goldfields reflect the heavy capital investment in technology and infrastructure necessary to support corporate industrial mining, the all-encompassing character of resource and activity management needed to maximize profits, and the extensive changes to both the natural and social environment of the central Yukon made during the period of corporate industrial mining. These combine to tell the story of the development of the Yukon Territory as a major mining region of Canada over the last century.

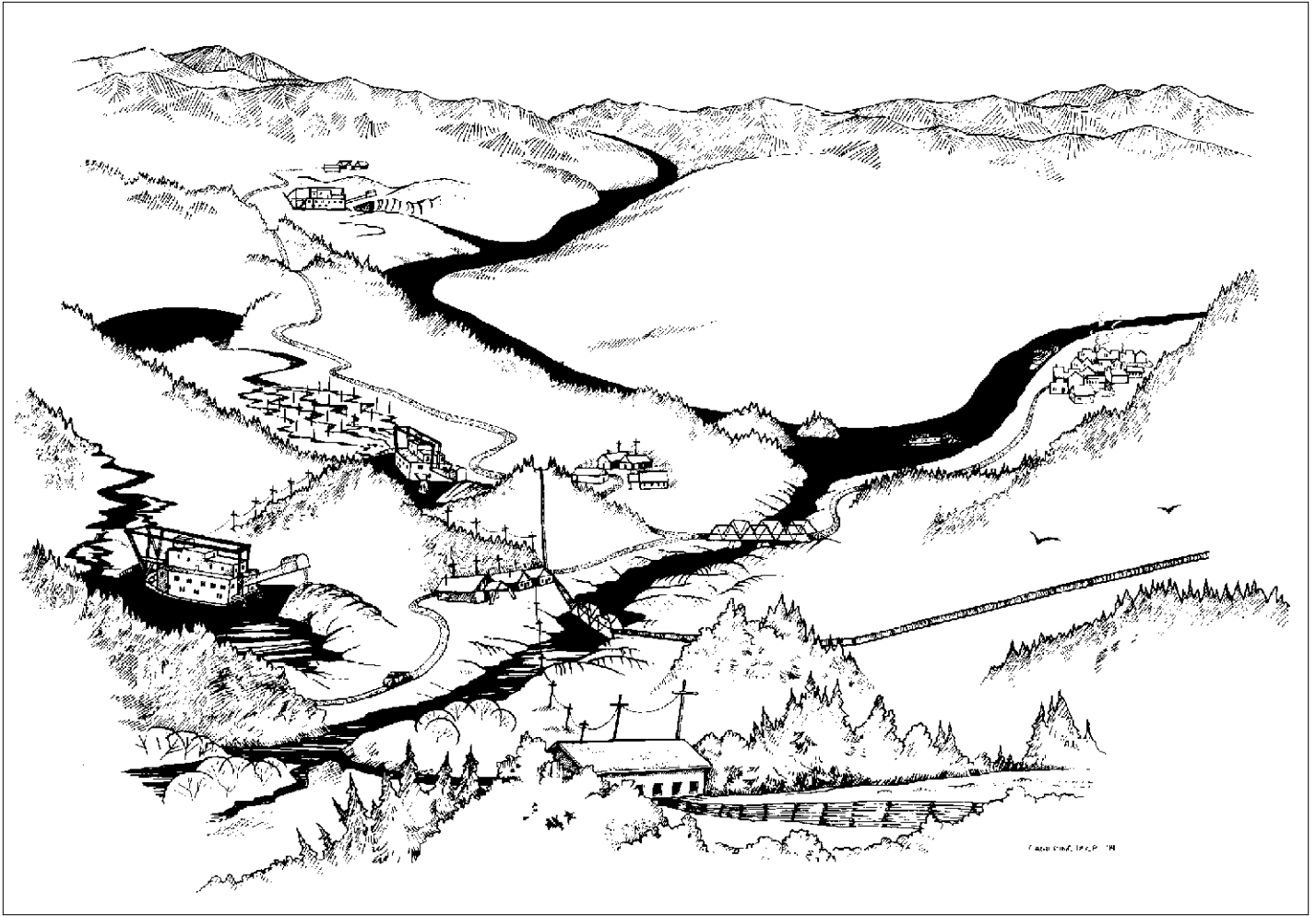
Physical Values

Those features which define the national historic significance of the site, an example of the wooden-hulled, bucket line/sluice gold dredges operating in the Klondike, include:

- the completeness of the vessel in its hull, superstructure, gold processing facilities and ancillary equipment;
- the surviving unity of the original vessel and its fittings and equipment;
- the quality of the construction of the vessel and its components;
- its mass,
- its surface materials as expressed in texture and colour;
- those structural components developed specifically for use in northern dredging, including hardened bucket lips, heating systems (steam boilers and electric heaters) and double walls.
- shore deadmen and the related cable system.
- the broad defining characteristics of importance are:
 - * systems associated with the vessel's structure.
 - * systems associated with the vessel as a piece of mining equipment

Dredge No. 4 NHS in its creek setting, 1996. PC





Associative Values

The associative sense of place for Dredge #4 resides in the visual presence of the dredge as a dramatic symbol of corporate industrial mining in its working environment and its necessary working links to other components of the regional mining complex.

The following associative values relating to the dredge should be protected:

- the relationships between operational components of the dredge at the site.
- the landmark value of the dredge within the creek valley.

The dredge's associations within the Klondike industrial mining complex should also be understood and protected:

- its physical proximity to Bonanza Creek, the field of dredging activity;
- its linkages to regional corporate infrastructure, i.e. Bear Creek camp, power plants, business office, dredge camps, the network of roads, power and telephone lines;
- its linkages to extra-regional infrastructure (Transportation-SS Klondike and inland water transportation, the White Pass and Yukon Railroad, Heavy manufacturing support-Marion, Ohio, Government and Financing).

1.1.b. Historic Place - Objectives

The Historic Place will be safeguarded when:

- Important sightlines, essential to communicating national historic significance are respected and revealed to the visiting public. These include:

- * an unimpeded view of the dredge is established and maintained from visitor access points;

Overview of Klondike
dredge operations in the
1930s.
PC, C. Deer



Dredge No. 4 as originally constructed by the Canadian Klondike Mining Company in 1912, here loading wood in August, 1913.

YA, Davis Col GS 5.1-58

- * the presence and values of Bonanza Creek to the dredge are acknowledged by future developments;
- * visual access from the dredge and visitor access points to the surviving cable ways and deadmen is preserved;
- The physical integrity of the historic place and associated resources that symbolize the national importance of Dredge No. 4, are not impaired or under threat. These include:
 - * its appearance, defined by its mass, surface materials and colour, is retained;.
 - * the structural framing system of the dredge is respected and revealed;
 - * the dredge's integrated gold processing system and related technologies are respected and revealed;
 - * structural and technological features of the dredge developed for northern dredging are respected and revealed.
 - * all the cultural resources of national historic significance contributing to the historic place are identified, and strategies for protection and monitoring are put in place;
 - * documented changes to the site are respected and revealed;
 - * the dredge is maintained in its culturally-modified landscape setting. Cultural and natural features important to the overall setting include the Bonanza Creek, valley setting, road, power line cuts, etc.;
 - * when all remaining physical evidence relating to the operation and maintenance of dredge operations (i.e. bucket line, deadmen and cables, tailing piles) is respected by appropriate site relationships and revealed to the public in a meaningful way;
 - * a strategy for the protection, maintenance and monitoring of the dredge is in place.
 - * a strategy for the effective understanding and communication of the values of the National Historic Site is in place.



1.2.a. Moveable Resources - Values

The level 1 moveable resources are important contributors to the values and messages of Dredge No. 4 National Historic Site. These resources gain their value by:

- being authentic artifacts and primary documents directly related to Dredge No. 4, whose provenance has been established through research and documentation.
- being authentic artifacts identified as coming from that pool of Y.C.G.C. equipment, tools, fittings, machinery and materials used to equip and/or repair company dredges in the period 1912-1958 (i.e. the operational life of Dredge No. 4) whose provenance has been established through research and documentation.

Dredge No. 4 in 1914
showing the vermiculated
character of the tailings
NAC YCGC Col GS 5.1-8

Repairs were a regular
feature of dredge
operations.
YA Whitehou, KG 14.23-17

1.2.b. Moveable Resources - Objectives

The level 1 moveable resources of Dredge No. 4 NHS will have integrity when:

- they have been identified, evaluated, protected and are maintained.
- strategies are in place for effective presentation of the reasons for national historic significance.
- access is ensured for research and presentation.





Thawing ground for dredge operations on Lower Bonanza, ca. 1916. YA, Black Coll. KG 14.26-6

2. Reasons for the Site's National Historic Significance are Effectively Communicated to the Public

The second element of commemorative integrity focuses on the effective communication of the reasons for the site's national historic significance. Each of the elements of commemorative intent forms an important component of the messages which must be delivered if the site is to have commemorative integrity. This means that visitors to the site must understand not only the operation of dredges in the Yukon, but also the role this corporate industrial mining activity had in shaping aspects of Canadian history.

Effective communication of national messages also implies that the messages are based on research, knowledge, and awareness and sensitivity to current historiography regarding the elements of commemoration. It also suggests that presentation is balanced. This means that various perspectives on the events associated with this site are communicated. Moreover, the individual components of the story should not be treated in isolation, but are integrated into the presentation of the history of the site as a whole.

Further, changes to the site over time are important to communicating the full story of this place. In the case of Dredge No. 4, the commemorative intent places a particular emphasis on a specific period, i.e., 1899 to 1966. Presentation of the site's evolution over time will be important to communicating a full understanding of the national significance of this activity.

2.1. Nationally Significant Messages - Values

To achieve commemorative integrity the following learning objectives for Dredge No. 4 NHS must be understood by the audience:

*** Dredge No. 4's operations in the Yukon represents a nationally significant example of corporate industrial mining in Canada.**

Messages supporting the learning objective include:

1. Acquisition of large, secure land holdings for mining was required.

The huge amounts of money needed to build the integrated industrialized mining system of the corporate era required long term security of the land holdings to ensure an adequate return on the investment. Placer mining legislation, the consolidation of claims and the creation of concessions illustrating the relationship between the mining industry and the Federal Government are important elements of this message. This message should cover the period from the granting of the first concession in 1898 through to the Yukon Consolidated Gold Corporation consideration of other properties in the early 1950s.

2. Administrative, transport and supply, banking, and labour infrastructure was needed.

To attract and effectively invest large amounts of corporate capital there is a requirement for basic infrastructure. In Yukon this infrastructure included the establishment of Government regional administration, the development of an efficient and reasonably priced transportation system such as that provided by the WP&YR Railroad, the steamboats and the road and rail networks reaching into the Klondike, the availability of services and suppliers to meet mining needs, the provision of banking services to handle the large volumes of money associated with corporate development and operation, and the availability of a large labour force.

3. Appropriate water management was developed.

Placer mining is ultimately dependent upon two things - gold and water. In the Klondike the naturally present flows of water were insufficient to support the extensive water requirements of industrialized mining. An important element of the evolution of the mining method in the Klondike is the various methods and organizations that attempted to manage water resources. This is tied to the technological, economic and political history of the territory.

4. Power was made available at a reasonable cost.

To sustain the year round operation of the mining corporations and meet the huge demands for power to run the dredges, mining companies needed a reliable, consistent, and inexpensive source of power. The search for, and development of, this power system focuses on how the miners adapted elements of the environment to their growing demand for power. The message will cover all aspects of power supply but will focus on the development and operation of the electric power network after 1905.

Dredge No. 4 mining in
the Klondike Valley, 1913.
YA, MacBride, GS 5.1-31



5. A centralized and all-encompassing mining management was established.

The Klondike Gold Fields spawned an amazing array of mining systems. Many collapsed quickly, others failed to adapt to changing conditions, and corporate mining superseded most forms for a half century. The evolution of mining management systems in the Klondike presents specific information on those factors shaping decision-making, a key element in the understanding of the choices made in this example of northern development. At the dredge the messages will focus on the history of the large Klondike companies and corporations and the way they built up their mining management systems.

6. Information was collected for long-range planning.

Another aspect of corporate operations is the minimizing of uncertainty. Mining operations are subject to a range of variables and miners seek to control or manage as many of these as possible, largely through the collection of information. Vertically integrated corporations, like Yukon Consolidated Gold Corporation, have great power to reduce these uncertainties and do so through political, economic, and social actions as well as firm control over field and office operations. Examples of the messages here include the operation of prospect drilling programs, labour-management relations, policy collaboration with the Yukon Gold Commissioner, and the company's detailed accounting system.

7. Extensive field operations utilizing expensive, imported industrial equipment were undertaken.

The details of the industrialized mining system and its operation are an important element in using the visitor's personal experience to tie them into the larger issues of the corporate mining era. Details of the typical mine face operations in the 1930s and 40s including prospecting, ground preparation, and mining as well as the support services such as dredge camps, Bear Creek, and Dawson City and the relationships between them should all be presented.

8. A floating labour pool used by the corporation affected the social history of Dawson as a company town.

There were dramatic changes in the organization and character of Klondike society as the mining industry transformed from the independent miners and gold fields communities of the gold rush to the seasonal workers and barracks of industrialized corporate mining. Messages on these changes and the lifestyle and working conditions of corporate workers should be presented at the Dredge.

Overhauling a dredge
bucket line in the field. PC,
Townsend Col KG 14.23-5

*** The transformation of Klondike gold mining from early labour intensive to corporate industrial phases, 1896-1966.**



Messages supporting the learning objective include:

1. Capital was an important element in the successful exploitation of this isolated mining region.

By tracing the changing character, volume and focus of investment in mining operations in the Klondike region it is possible to trace the central importance of capital in the development of dredge operations in the Yukon. The role of business promoters, such as Joe Boyle, in attracting capital investment should also be noted.

2. Appropriate technologies for the economic exploitation of the Klondike mineral resources were developed and applied.

The history of technology change in the Klondike mining industry provides another indication of the character and purpose of the transformation from hand mining to machine operations.

3. During the transformation to corporate industrial mining the region's social and economic character were changed.

The consequences of economic and technological change are reflected in the social environment of the Klondike region. This would include the changing employment and ownership patterns of the different mining methods and operations and their effect upon the Yukon.

4. Corporate industrial mining strengthened the integration of the Yukon's economy and society into the western world.

The scale and character of the corporate industrial mining which developed in the Klondike drew tighter those connections between the Yukon and the larger economy of the outside. Further, the political and administrative connections between the Territory and the national government and driven by corporate mining interests provide insights into the nature of intra-governmental relations in Canada.

2.2. Nationally Significant Messages - Objectives

The reasons for the national historic significance of Dredge No. 4 will be effectively presented when as many Canadians as possible:

- understand the site's national significance and its role in Canadian history.
- have knowledge of the linkages between the messages of national significance and the site's level 1 resources and other related resources.
- and when measures and measurement processes are in place to determine the effectiveness of message delivery.

Dredge No. 4 under
reconstruction in 1941.
PC, Fontaine Col GS 5.2-19



3. The Site's Heritage Values Are Respected

3.1. Heritage Values

Other heritage values associated with Dredge No. 4 include its membership in the larger family of national historic sites, and its specific relationships to national historic sites and other heritage attractions in the Yukon and northern British Columbia. These values include the historical thematic relationships between gold rush sites and plaques (Chilkoot Trail NHS, Discovery of Gold plaque) and sites associated with the consolidation of gold mining operations (Bear Creek camp, Joe Boyle plaque), and the association of gold mining consolidation sites with the development of urban infrastructure (Dawson Historical Complex NHS) and transportation linkages (S.S. Keno NHS, S.S. Klondike NHS, Ridge Road trail); and other related mining heritage sites, such as the Upper Bonanza Reserve, the Yukon Ditch and the various power plants in the region.

The cultural landscape surrounding Dredge No. 4 contributes to the understanding of the significance of dredging in the Yukon. Those elements enhancing understanding include the the confined linear space of the Bonanza Creek valley, typical of the Klondike mining district, that is defined by the dredged valley bottom and surmounted by the treed slopes and crowns of the surrounding hills; the vermiculated deposits of dredge tailings, the scarred hillsides and the evidence of dredge operations, both surficial and buried.

This understanding is also enhanced by the Parks Canada collection of level 2 resources related to the theme of dredging in the Yukon. These include equipment, material and places representative of the full range of dredge operations, i.e. prospecting, removal of overburden, thawing and infrastructure support (power, water, labour and management) with good informational value for presentation and research.

The site's other heritage values also encompass several level 2 messages of importance to an understanding of the site and its contexts. These include the importance of the natural history and ecology to the development of the cultural landscape of Dredge No. 4 NHS. Another message of value is the Department's role in the stewardship of this cultural resource, including such major conservation measures as the refloating of the Dredge in 1993.

The important place the site plays in the regional history of the Yukon should also be acknowledged and presented as a level 2 message. The public should understand the importance of dredging operations in the Yukon as expressed through the social, economic and political development of the territory.



Dredge No.4 near Ogilvie Bridge, Aug., 1922.
YA, Davies Col GS 5.1-55

A further value is the importance of community involvement in the enhancement and delivery of commemorative integrity at Dredge No. 4. This includes the importance of community understanding of and support for the retention of the regional landscape of industrial gold mining features created during the period of commemoration, i.e., 1899-1966.

3.2. *Heritage Values - Objectives*

The other heritage values of the site will be respected and maintained when:

- Parks Canada is working cooperatively with other stakeholders to protect and present the full history and heritage of dredge mining operations in the Yukon;
- Level 2 resources are managed according to the Cultural Resource Management Policy;
- the level 2 messages pertaining to Dredge No. 4 and the Klondike Gold Fields are communicated to the public;
- Dredge No. 4's relationship with other NHS in the Yukon is effectively communicated.
- Dredge No. 4's membership in the larger family of national historic sites is communicated.

Appendix A: HSMBC Recommendations on Dredge No. 4

Gold dredging in the Yukon was first brought to the Board's attention in 1963. At that time the question was deferred for future consideration. The June, 1967 Board meeting in the Yukon however, considered a wide range of northern proposals including the operation of dredges. Their deliberations concluded with a recommendation: *That the Minister investigate the feasibility of preserving Dredge No. 11 intact if it could be made available to the Department free of charge or for a nominal sum. The Board recommended that the operation of dredges in the Yukon be considered of national historic importance, that a display be established consisting of mining equipment to exhibit in the broad sense the evolution of mining methods from early to modern and centred if possible around the dredge; a mining cabin complex should be included.*

The program undertook a feasibility study on Dredge No. 11 but found the options overly expensive. An alternative development plan using Dredge No. 4 was prepared. This more modest plan led to the acquisition of Dredge No. 4 in 1970. Dredge No. 4, by its large size, had the advantage of being a more dramatic example of dredging operations. The dredge was also close to the HSMBC plaque commemorating the discovery of gold at Discovery Claim and was thus more amenable to being integrated into the regional interpretation plan for the goldfields. It was however, partially buried, its hull covered in 6 metres of frozen overburden following its sinking in 1959.

By the end of the 1970s, the portions of the dredge above grade had been cleaned up and public tours of the vessel were available. A gradual expansion of the interpretive program at Dredge No. 4 made it one of the most popular visitor sites in the area, some 20,000 people by the late 1980s.

This interest and a desire to more completely fulfil the interpretive responsibilities led to planning in the mid-1980s, to raise the dredge and stabilize it. In November, 1987, the Board reviewed the program's work in the Dawson area and offered the following advice on Dredge No. 4; *The Board recommended that Dredge No. 4 should be stabilized and become the centre for the interpretation of the corporate period of gold extraction in the Klondike, at least for the time being;*

While the Gold Room at Bear Creek should be maintained, a major commemoration of Bear Creek as the centre for corporate mining activity in the Klondike was thought to be premature. It was recommended that this facet of resource exploitation be interpreted in a modest fashion at Dredge No. 4 until such time as Bear Creek's relative significance can be evaluated through a comparative study placing it in context.

Following the Board's recommendations, the program undertook an extensive research and stabilization program for the dredge including the dramatic raising of the dredge in 1991-92 and a program of structural rehabilitation. In June, 1997 the Board confirmed the national historic significance of Dredge No. 4.