

NATIONAL HISTORIC SITES SERVICE

MANUSCRIPT REPORT NUMBER 78

FORT HERCHMER, DAWSON:

PAST & PRESENT

by

Edward F. Bush

June 1972

NATIONAL AND HISTORIC PARKS BRANCH

DEPARTMENT OF INDIAN AFFAIRS AND NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT

Fort Herchmer, Dawson, Y.T.

Past & Present

by

Edward F. Bush

The Manuscript Report Series is printed in a limited number of copies and is intended for internal use by the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. Copies of each issue are distributed to various public repositories in Canada, for use by interested individuals.

Many of these reports will be published in Canadian Historic Sites: Occasional Papers in Archaeology and History, and may be altered during the publishing process by editing or by further research.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction.....1
Part I Fort Herchmer in Retrospect.....3
Part II Fort Herchmer: Past & Present.....92
Part III The Fort Herchmer That Was.....138
Bibliography..... 210

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

Part I

Figure 1 Plan of Dawson & Klondike Townsites by James Gibbon, D.L.S., 1897 and 1898.....	9
Figure 2 "B" Division, Dawson, July 1900.....	13
Figure 3 A Platoon of the Yukon Field Force Drilling.....	15
Figure 4 Fort Herchmer looking southeast, 1900.....	17
Figure 5 Group of Officers on Porch of former Commanding Officer's House, July 1900.....	21
Figure 6 N.-W.M.P. on Parade, 24 May 1901.....	23
Figure 7 Outside New Barracks, 1899.....	25
Figure 8 Government Reserve, Dawson, 1901.....	29
Figure 9 View of Fort Herchmer, 2 Dec. 1900.....	31
Figure 10 Officers' Quarters.....	35
Figure 11 Officers' Mess.....	37
Figure 12 Officers' Mess, 1900.....	39
Figure 13 Plan of Barracks, 1902.....	45
Figure 14 Commanding Officer's House.....	47
Figure 15 Stables in 1972.....	51
Figure 16 Blueprint for Stables.....	53
Figure 17 Officers' Quarters.....	57
Figure 18 Building for the N.-W.M. Police.....	59
Figure 19 Blueprint for Combined Gaol, Penitentiary & Asylum.....	61

Fig. 20 Barrack Square, 1905.....	65
Fig. 21 Hospital-cum-Gaol 1972.....	67
Fig. 22 Blueprint for Converted Gaol.....	69
Fig. 23 Plan of Fort Herchmer, 1912.....	73
Fig. 24 Territorial Court House, now Offices National Historic Sites Service, 1972.....	77
Fig. 25 Unit of Yukon Field Force Returning to Barracks, 24 May 1900.....	87
Fig. 26 Similar scene as in Fig. 25, May 1972.....	89
Fig. 27 First Avenue near site of Fort Herchmer Today.....	91

Part II

Fig. 28 Extant Officers' Quarters, 1972.....	95
Fig. 29 Officers' Quarters, 1972.....	97
Fig. 30 Officers' Quarters, 1972.....	99
Fig. 31 Gaol & sometime Hospital, 1972.....	105
Fig. 32 Old Gaol, 1972.....	107
Fig. 33 Front Entrance of Gaol, 1972.....	109
Fig. 34 Northeast Angle Gaol.....	111
Fig. 35 Southeast Angle of Gaol.....	113
Fig. 36 Old Gaol from Southeast, 1972.....	115
Fig. 37 Stables, south side, 1972.....	121
Fig. 38 Stables, north side, 1972.....	123
Fig. 39 Stables from southwest, 1972.....	125
Fig. 40 Stables east end, 1972.....	127
Fig. 41 Stables, close-up east entrance, 1972.....	129

Fig. 42 Commanding Officer's House, from the southeast, 1972.....	131
Fig. 43 Commanding Officer's House, rear view, taken from the southwest, 1972.....	133
Fig. 44 Group on Verandah of unidentified house in 1902.....	135

Part III

Fig. 45 Front Entrance, Commanding Officer's House, 1900.....	141
Fig. 46 Barrack Square facing southwest, 1905.....	143
Fig. 47 Group on Verandah Major Wood's House on 4 May 1902.....	145
Fig. 48 Yukon Field Force Changing Guard, 1899.....	147
Fig. 49 Last Guard Presenting Arms, Yukon Field Force, 26 June 1900.....	149
Fig. 50 Quarter-master's Store, 1900.....	153
Fig. 51 West Side of Guard-room, looking north, 1900.....	155
Fig. 52 Northwest Corner of Gaol, 1906.....	161
Fig. 53 N.-W.M.P. on Parade, undated.....	167
Fig. 54 Evening Parade Yukon Field Force, 26 June 1900.....	169
Fig. 55 Blueprint, Tool House & Latrine.....	171
Fig. 56 Blueprint of Sergeants' Mess, 1904.....	173
Fig. 57 Sergeant Major's Quarters, July 1900.....	179

Fig. 58 Troops of Yukon Field Force Packing Up.....	181
Fig. 59 Yukon Field Force on Parade.....	183
Fig. 60 Police Barracks, undated.....	185
Fig. 61 Insp. Starnes Inspecting Victoria Day Parade, 1901.....	187
Fig. 62 Police Barracks, 1900.....	189
Fig. 63 Yukon Field Force Drilling, 1900.....	191
Fig. 64 Police & Prisoners Roofing.....	193
Fig. 65 Last Guard, Yukon Field Force, 26 June 1900.....	195
Fig. 66 Rear of Police Barracks, 1900.....	197
Fig. 67 Police Patrol Leaving with the Mail for Herschel Island, 29 Dec. 1908.....	199
Fig. 69 Prisoners, Police Barracks, 1900.....	201

Introduction

The purpose of this paper is to tell the story of the once neat and thriving North-West Mounted Police post established at the confluence of the Klondike and Yukon rivers in the summer of 1897, of which but four buildings stand today. The one-time rectangular compound, with barrack square, flag-pole and parade ground, has long since passed into the limbo of forgotten things; in its stead a complex of storage sheds, garages, warehouses and the several trim buildings of the present R.C.M.P. Dawson Detachment dominate the scene. The fate of Fort Herchmer, named for Lawrence W. Herchmer, Commissioner of the force after 1886, was determined by the sub-arctic conditions of the Klondike climate in conjunction with the reduced commitments of the police detachment stationed at this northerly outpost. At the height of the celebrated gold-rush, Dawson's itinerant population was estimated at between 20,000 and 25,000 souls; today it has a year-round population of some 600 to 700.

Part I of this paper will relate the history of the post, for which unfortunately source material, other than perhaps the Dawson Daily News, becomes meagre after 1914. Part II will describe existing individual buildings dating from the post's early years, and Part III past buildings for which some information is available.

The principal source for the information contained in this paper is the annual Reports of the North-West Mounted Police 1894-1914; thereafter the reports, particularly with the re-organization of the force as the Royal Canadian Mounted Police in November 1919, cease to record such detail, dealing rather with broader aspects of the force's augmented functions. In addition, manuscript archival sources such as the Yukon Territorial Records, the Northern Administration Records and the Records of the R.C.M.P. proved a useful adjunct. A protracted and painstaking perusal of the Dawson Daily News through some 50 reels of microfilm might yield further information on the fate of some of the buildings, but this would entail weeks of research of dubious value. Secondary or published sources offer little of a detailed nature on the post per se.

Part I Fort Herchmer in Retrospect

By the early 1890s the Yukon region, yet to be raised to the dignity of a separate territory, was attracting the attention of the Canadian authorities in far-away Ottawa. Originally the remote region in the far northwest, cut off from the coast by the Alaskan Panhandle, had been the purlieu of the Hudson's Bay Company, whose interest had been fur rather than gold. But none the less, prospectors had been active for a number of years along the various tributaries of the mighty Yukon in search of gold, sesame to fortune. By the early 1890s such success had attended their efforts that the federal government anticipated something in the nature of a gold-rush, a stampede made up of all sorts and conditions of men, in which the maintenance of law and order, indeed of Canadian sovereignty itself, might well tax the resources of the young dominion. The lawlessness of the American west had set an evil precedent.

And so in the summer of 1894 a North-West Mounted Police officer of outstanding character was despatched to the Yukon to report on the requisite force to police the territory. Inspector Charles Constantine was the right man for this highly responsible assignment. He had had long and varied experience in the unsettled regions of the west, having served with both the Red River expedition of 1870,

and the militia at the time of the North-West Rebellion. Thereafter he had joined the North-West Mounted Police, and so had had the better part of a decade's service with them at the time of his Yukon assignment. Having covered the territory with practised eye, Constantine recommended a 50-man force composed of 2 commissioned officers, a surgeon, 3 sergeants, 3 corporals, and between 35 and 40 constables. Each man should have had a minimum of two years' service with the force, should be between the ages of 22 and 30, in top physical condition; non-drinkers should have preference.¹

The following summer, 5 June 1895, Constantine left Seattle, Yukon-bound via St. Michael on the Alaskan coast and thence by stern-wheeler up the Yukon to the scene of his future labours. The party, consisting of Constantine, his wife, an inspector, surgeon and a 17-man detachment, arrived at Fort Cudahy, then nearing completion, the first of the police posts in the Yukon, on 24 July 1895.² Fort Cudahy was situated some 15 to 20 miles upstream from the Yukon-Alaska boundary. Fort Constantine, designated the first N.-W.M.P. headquarters in the territory, was completed the following summer, 1896³ near Fort Cudahy.

Fort Constantine's pre-eminence was to be shortlived. On 17 August that same summer George Carmacks with his two Indian partners, acting on a tip given him by the veteran Canadian prospector, Robert Henderson, struck gold on Rabbit

Creek, a tributary of the Klondike, some 50 miles to the southeast of Fort Constantine. The strike was of such unprecedented promise that a gold-rush was foreseen. In his report of 20 November that fall, Constantine recommended the establishment of a new post at the mouth of the Klondike which was duly put in train in the summer of 1897.

This point will be the base of supplies for the new diggings and will in all probability be the largest camp in the country. Nearly 350 claims have been already registered in this district.... I intend to erect at this place in the spring two buildings, one a barrack room, the other a lock-up. 4

A 40-acre site was accordingly selected on the river flat at the confluence of the Klondike and the Yukon rivers, fronting directly on the latter. Writing to the Deputy Minister of the Interior on 24 September 1896, Constantine reported,

I have the honor to state for your information that I have reserved for the use of the Police Dept. and other Govt. purposes 40 acres of Dom. Govt. Lands, more or less, at the mouth of the Klondike River in the angle of its junction with the Yukon River, on the north side. 5

William Ogilvie, celebrated astronomer and land surveyor and fated to be the first commissioner of the territory, completed a survey of the site the following summer.

The early N.W.M.P. reports, written during the first two hectic seasons of 1897 and 1898, with the stampede in full spate, are understandably vague as to exactly which buildings were put up in the summer of 1897 and which the following year.

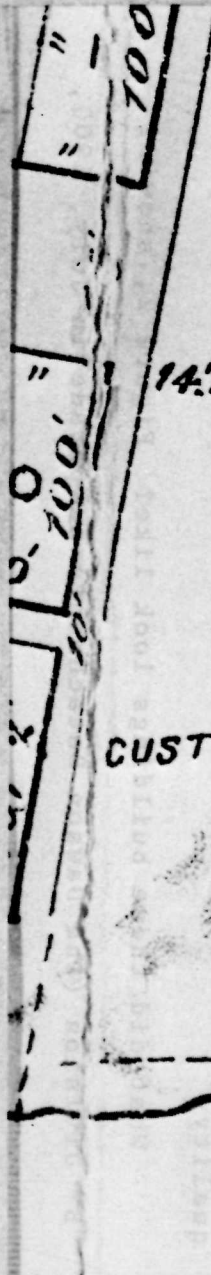
It is evident from Figure 1, a portion of the plan of Dawson and the Klondike based on a survey of James Gibbon, D.L.S., dating from this period, that the nine original buildings composing Fort Herchmer were arranged in the form of an inverted U, with the open end facing the river. The original buildings, according to Constantine's report of 18 January 1898 were, with the exception of the storehouse, of logs, hewn on three sides, at great cost of physical labour for want of a sawmill. As with all other commodities in Dawson at the time of the gold-rush, wood was costly: \$35 per cord. The police managed to secure 50 cords for \$10 each, but they had to haul it to the site themselves. Dry and seasoned wood was to be had at a distance of 40 to 50 miles up-river,⁶ and so the police had to make do with green wood.

These early buildings at the post were single-storey log structures with small windows and slab and mud roofs.

A previous report describes the method of construction at Fort Constantine, which no doubt was equally applicable to Dawson. First the site was stripped of as much moss as possible, a laborious task. The foundation logs were then laid on the remaining moss, the latter being compressed as the walls went up. The moss that had been stripped from the ground was dried and used as caulking between the logs in order to render the buildings draught-proof. The gently sloping roofs were built of heavy lumber or slabs covered with earth or moss to a depth of 12 to 16 inches.⁷

Fig. 1

(Map Division, Public Archives of Canada)
Plan of Dawson & Klondike Townsites,
Yukon District, N.W.T., by James Gibbon,
D.L.S., 1897 and 1898.

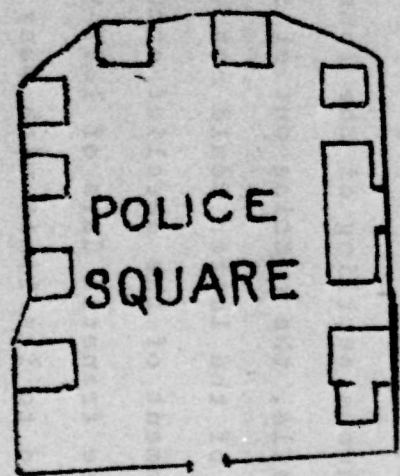


14'10"

CUSTOM OFFICER'S
HOUSE



GOLD
COMMISSIONER'S
HOUSE.



This was the best method of construction that could be managed at the time, but one fraught with problems in the future. The consequent melting of the permafrost (never far beneath the surface) on which the buildings were set resulted in inevitable and continuous settling of the foundations, the warping of floors and walls, the putting out of alignment of doors and windows (many of the latter would not open in winter), and the eventual abandonment of the derelict structures. But for the present, in those frenetic days of 1897-99, with the small force utterly taxed to its limit with many duties not its proper function at all, the construction of Fort Herchmer was a creditable achievement. By the standards of the time and place, the log barracks, guard-room and hospital were considered reasonably comfortable.

In the summer of 1898 the following buildings went up at the post:

commanding officer's quarters	30' x 24'	
hospital	65' x 20'	
hospital lean-to	25' x 10'	
sergeants' quarters	18' x 12'	
guard-room (with 24 cells)	70' x 30'	
guard-room extension (34 cells)	80' x 24'	
quarter-master's store	80' x 30'	8

Of these the commanding officer's quarters, hospital and guard-room were built under contract. Inasmuch as no seasoned lumber was available, the construction was deemed of good quality.⁹

What did these buildings look like? Figure 2, showing "B" Division (the Dawson Detachment) on parade in July, 1900,

shows in the right background the commanding officer's house, at that time with a porch but no verandah. To the left of it the log rectangular building first served as a hospital, but in the summer of 1898 it was converted to sergeant major's and sergeants' quarters (right and left respectively).¹⁰

Figure 3 shows the same buildings at closer range, with a squad of the Yukon Field Force performing calisthenics with rifles in the foreground.

Figure 4 shows the guard-house, which served as the guard-room, gaol, penitentiary, and at one period as a lunatic asylum, an L-shaped building in the centre foreground. This photograph dates from 1900, when the configuration of the post had altered from its original layout in 1897 and 1898, but the guard-room survived in its original form until 1910. It was ill-designed for its multiple functions, dreadfully over-crowded, and police reports repeatedly called for a new building.

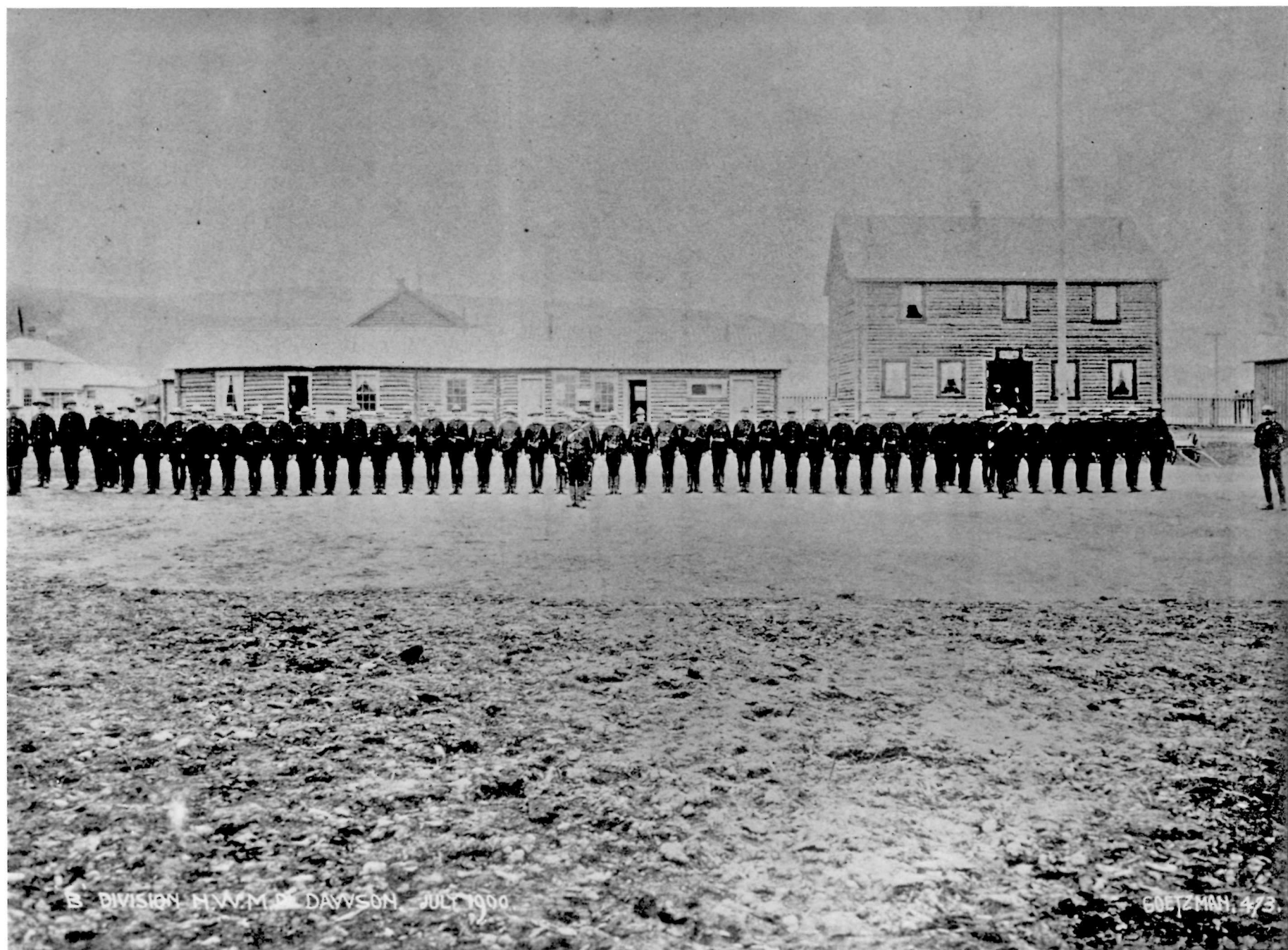
In the year 1900, a daily average of 40 prisoners was confined in this building. The guard-room was divided into sections or cell blocks: one was for long-term prisoners serving sentences of over two years; another for short-term; a third for female inmates, and yet another for the confinement of "lunatics", as the mentally deranged were called in those days. The wooden cells were arranged in a double row down the centre of the building, with corridors around the sides. The green lumber of which the cells were

Fig. 2

(Picture Division, Public Archives)

"B" Division, Dawson, July 1900.

Commanding Officers House right background,
Sergeant Major's and Sergeant's Quarters
centre background.



B DIVISION N.W.M. DE DAVVSON JULY 1900

GOETZMAN, 473

Fig. 3

(Picture Division, Public Archives)

A Platoon of the Yukon Field Force
Drilling. Commanding Officer's House
to the right in background, Sergeant's
Quarters to its left.



ARSS & DUCLÓS
PHOTOS
DAWSON

Fig. 4

(Picture Division, Public Archives)

Fort Herchmer, looking southeast, 1900
L-shaped building middle foreground is
the Guard-room cum Gaol. Yukon River
to the right.



constructed had so warped and shrunk by 1900 that cracks up to one-quarter inch wide opened in the partitions, permitting notes to be passed from cell to cell. As early as 1901 the building was condemned as over-crowded, a fire hazard, and ill-designed. Its fronting on First Avenue, one of the main thoroughfares of the town, was unsatisfactory from the point of view of security, and yet worse was the close proximity of the old Bank of Commerce Building (shown in Figure 4 fourth from left foreground) later used as an employees' mess, which overlooked the penitentiary section of the guard-house from a distance of only three feet. However, in 1898 and 1899 these were problems for the future, for the force had its hands more than full during the stampede.

Superintendent S.B. Steele, who replaced Constantine in September 1898, reported shortly after his arrival that there was insufficient prison accommodation and that the officers' and sergeants' quarters were inadequate. Superintendent Constantine's house now served as the officers' quarters, with accommodation for three, but which in fact four must share. It is surmised, though by no means certain, that the building referred to is that shown in Figures 2 and 3 on the right. Figure 5 shows a group of officers seated on the porch of what presumably is their quarters. Note the double doors, log construction, and two rectangular 12-paned windows on either side of the entrance. The one new feature shown in this photograph is what appears to be a rectangular

transom above the door.

Another building dating from the early days (1899) was a two-storeyed log barracks, a corner of which is shown in the photograph of the police drawn up on parade on 24 May 1901 (Fig. 6). A close-up of presumably the same building, dating from 1899, is shown in Figure 7. This may have been the building referred to in Superintendent Steele's report for 1898:

It will be necessary to erect a building 30' x 100' to be used as a quarters, mess room and kitchen for the corporals and constables.... 11

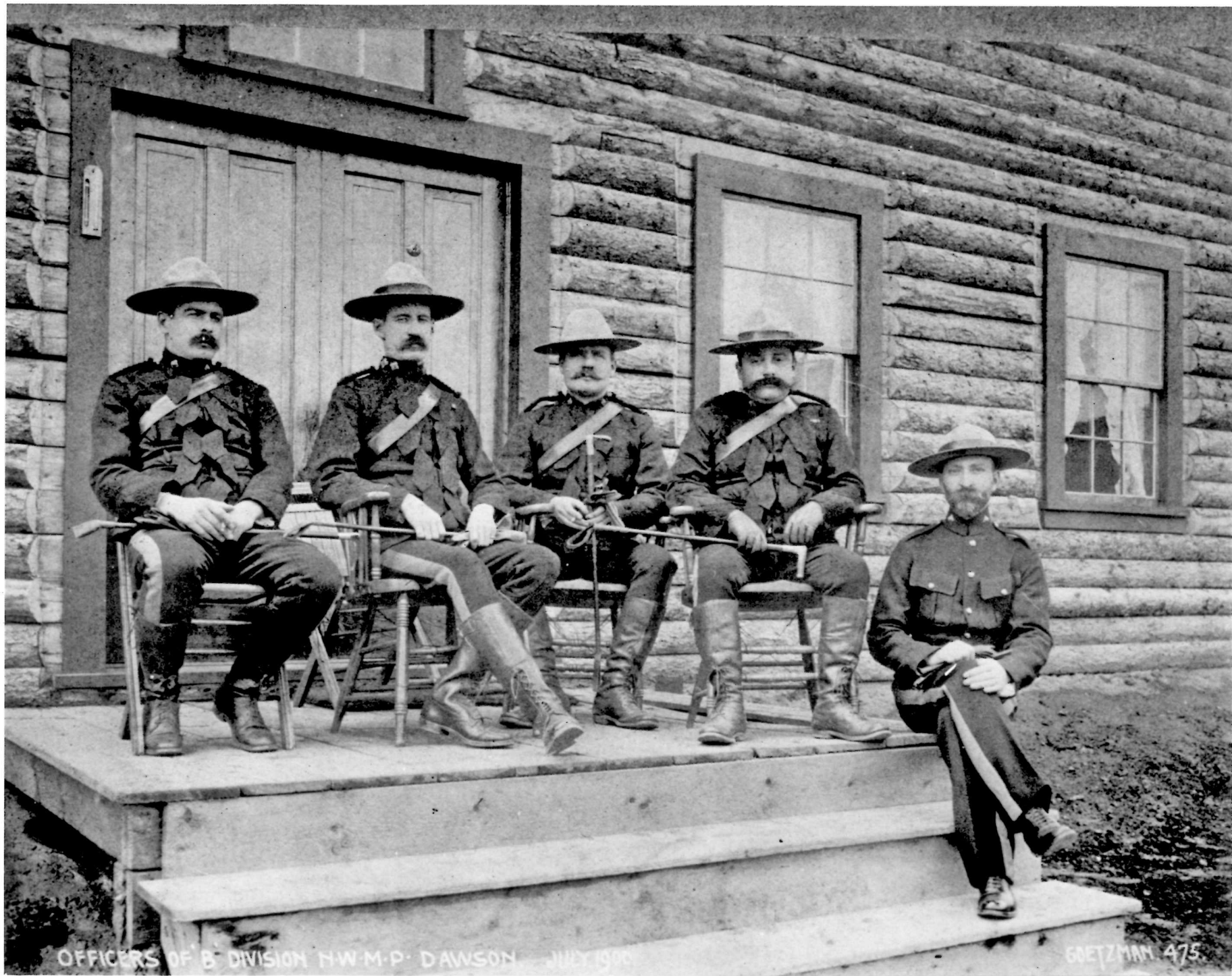
The legend accompanying the photograph in Figure 7 refers to "the new barracks, 1899." Since research unearthed no detailed plan of the post before 1901, the position of this building is not certain. Too often the annual reports confuse the terms "barracks" and "barrack rooms." The other barracks were one-storeyed buildings.

Some time between 1899 and 1901 the configuration of the post was drastically altered to a rectangular form, in which buildings surrounded the barrack square on four sides with the flag-pole in the centre. This transformation was probably undertaken in 1899, for Steele reported in 1898,

For next year, in the interests of economy and health, it will be necessary to tear down the buildings on the right and left of the old square /presumably that shown in Figure 1/ level the ground, and move the old stockade and drain the enclosure.... 12

Fig. 5

(Picture Division, Public Archives)
Group of Officers on Porch of former
Commanding Officer's House, now
Officers' Quarters, July 1900. From
left to right: Insp. W. Scarth,
Supt. Z.T. Wood, Insp. W.R. Routledge,
Insp. C. Starnes, and Assist. Surgeon
W.E. Thompson.



OFFICERS OF B DIVISION N.W.M.P. DAWSON JULY 1906

GOETZMAN 475

Fig. 6

(Picture Division, Public Archives)

N.-W.M.P. on Parade at Barracks,

Dawson, 24 May 1901.



Fig. 7

(Picture Division, Public Archives)

Outside "New Barracks, 1899". Back row,

left to right: Cpl. R. McNeill, Const.

J.S. Piper, Const. Kembry, Cpl. Read,

Const. J. Connor, Const. Gregory,

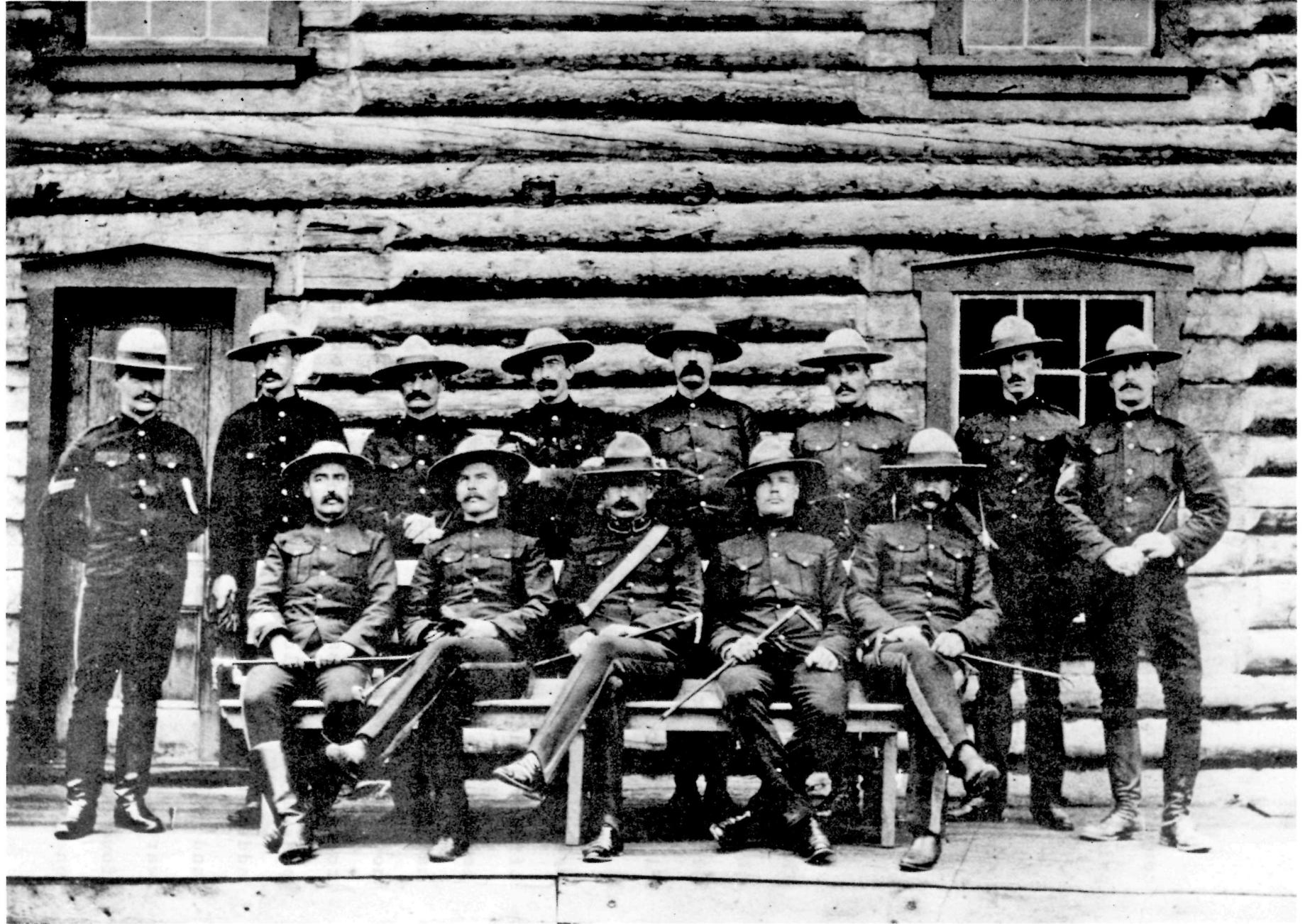
Const. McNeill, Sergt. T. Tweedy.

Front row, left to right:

S/sgt. Corneil, Const. T. Rogers,

Insp. W. Scarth, Const. Jealous,

Const. S. Carter.



Inspector C. Starnes' report for 1900 recorded considerable face-lifting at the post with the assistance of prison labour.

The row of unsightly old buildings across the square from the orderly room have been removed, the barrack square levelled and gravelled, broad wooden sidewalks have been laid down, several old 'rookeries' in the old square have been pulled down, stumps removed and the ground levelled for drill purposes. A large amount of prison labour has been expended in improving the barrack grounds, and the proposed improvements next season will make this a creditable post. 13

The report for 1900 goes on to detail a number of functional changes in individual buildings, making rather a mare's nest of the whole record. The former officers' mess of the Yukon Field Force (troops drawn from various units of the permanent force stationed in the territory until 1900) had been taken over by the police as quarters for the commanding officer, and a verandah added to the front and rear of the house. The sergeants' mess, formerly the old officers' mess, had been papered and painted throughout. This building was now considered quite comfortable and presentable, but it was to be condemned as past redemption before many years had passed. The officers' mess had a dining room and kitchen added. The hospital had been renovated, the interior painted and papered, iron cots provided, and matting laid down in the wards. A 12-stall stable had been built; no reference was found to its predecessor--its successor, finished in 1903, is one of the four extant buildings today. The police occupied

the barracks used previously by the Yukon Field Force: this building measured 150' x 20', with a 60' x 20' lean-to,¹⁴ but unfortunately there is no mention as to whether this was a one- or two-storeyed building.

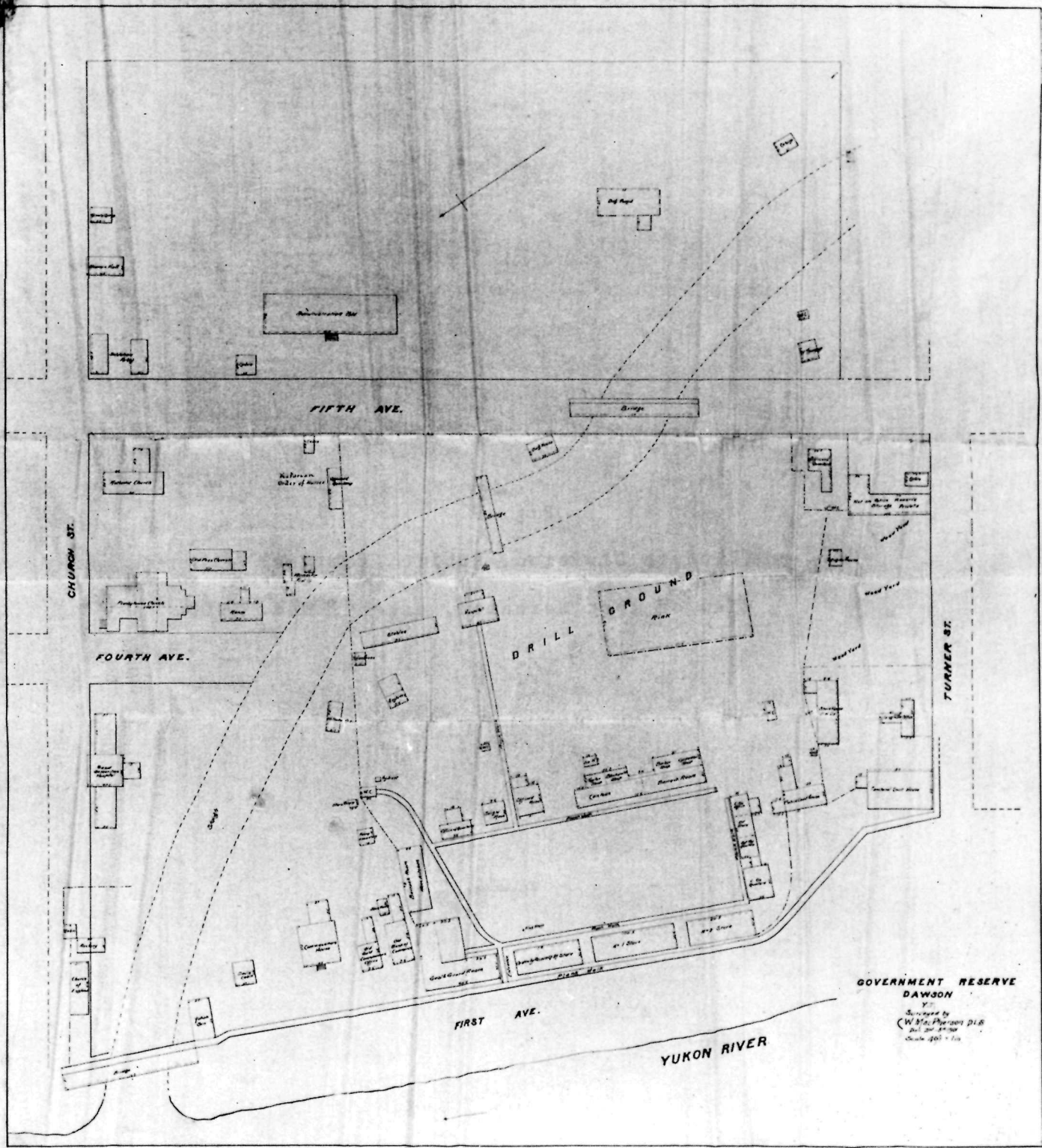
Figure 8, a detailed plan of the post in 1901, shows clearly the layout at that time, and as it was to remain for several years. It must have presented a neat, military and creditable appearance in what was one of the most northerly outposts of empire.

One can readily imagine a leisurely perambulation of the barracks square in 1901. Starting in a clockwise direction from the former commanding officer's quarters (now officers' quarters) one notes first the two 80' x 30' and 100' x 30' stores, with their backs to First Avenue. Next came the L-shaped guard-room, cum penitentiary and gaol, a building oft condemned as a firetrap and ill-designed. The police had to act as gaolers and asylum attendants, for which they were in no wise trained, in addition to all their other onerous duties.. Superintendent Wood complained in 1901 that the guard-room had been added to from time to time, as occasion demanded, and that it was particularly unsuited for the incarceration of long-term convicts. The penitentiary was overlooked by the Bank of Commerce mess, very much to the prejudice of security. This curious cheek by jowl arrangement dated from 1897, when for the sake of security in Dawson's early and turbulent days, the Bank of Commerce was permitted

Fig. 8

(Manuscript Division, Public Archives)

Government Reserve, Dawson, 1901.



GOVERNMENT RESERVE
DAWSON
Yukon
Surveyed by
W. H. Pearson D.L.S.
July 20th 1910
Scale 1:1000

Fig. 9

(Picture Division, Public Archives)

View of Fort Herchmer, taken 2 Dec. 1900.



to build close beside the police post; the police provided escort for shipments of bullion. It was agreed that when the bank moved its premises into town (as it subsequently did once the town had settled down) the government would buy the old building at its current value from the bank. The bank retained the building, however, as a mess for its employees. Continuous efforts on the part of the government and the N.-W.M.P. to get rid of the incubus were frustrated until 1914, when at long last the building came down. Indeed the bank mess survived its incongruous bedfellow by a good four years. The guard-house and bank mess are seen in Figure 9 in the centre of the photograph, dating from December 1900.

Continuing in a clockwise direction around the square, one next comes to the 79' x 29' two-storeyed barracks, the roof of which is visible in Figure 9, with a close-up of the front entrance in Figure 7. This building contained a mess room and kitchen on the ground floor and a barrack room on the second. This barracks may have been one of those taken over from the Yukon Field Force on its withdrawal from the territory in 1900.

Of the four extant buildings on the site of Fort Herchmer, the one in the best state of preservation, the officers' quarters or married quarters (to use the more recent designation) is unfortunately the one whose origins are somewhat obscure. The building in the right background of Figure 6, showing police on parade in 1901, according to the plan of the

post of the same year, is the officers' quarters. Although the construction and the configuration of this building with that extant today (see Figure 10) are similar, it will be observed that the latter has but two windows, whereas the former appears to have four on the same face. The dimensions (38 ft. x 18 ft.) on the 1901 plan are not inconsistent with those of the present building, whereas the structure marked "R.C.M.P. Residence" on the 1964 plan is of a different shape, and it is believed, two-storeyed. Hence, although the location and type of structure of the extant married quarters is more or less in concurrence with the building on the 1901 plan, the identification is not definite. For this reason the date of construction of the officers' quarters to date cannot be determined. One thing is certain, however, and that is that the officers' quarters put up in 1903, and at first incorrectly identified with the extant building on the 1964 plan, is quite another structure, being two-storeyed. Nay, a contrary conclusion would prove awkward to reconcile with what stands today in old Dawson. Consider the photograph of a group of police outside the officers' mess (1914) (Fig. 11), which is readily identifiable with the extant structure (Fig. 10). Finally Figure 12 shows a group of officers at the entrance to their mess in 1900. Compare the window and stove pipe in Figures 10 and 11; likewise the front entrances shown in Figures 10 and 12 are not dissimilar, although the first photograph dates from 1971 and the second from 1900, three

Fig. 10

(Technical Services, Dept. Indian
Affairs & Northern Development)

N.-W.M.P. Officers' Quarters, latterly
R.C.M.P. Married Quarters.

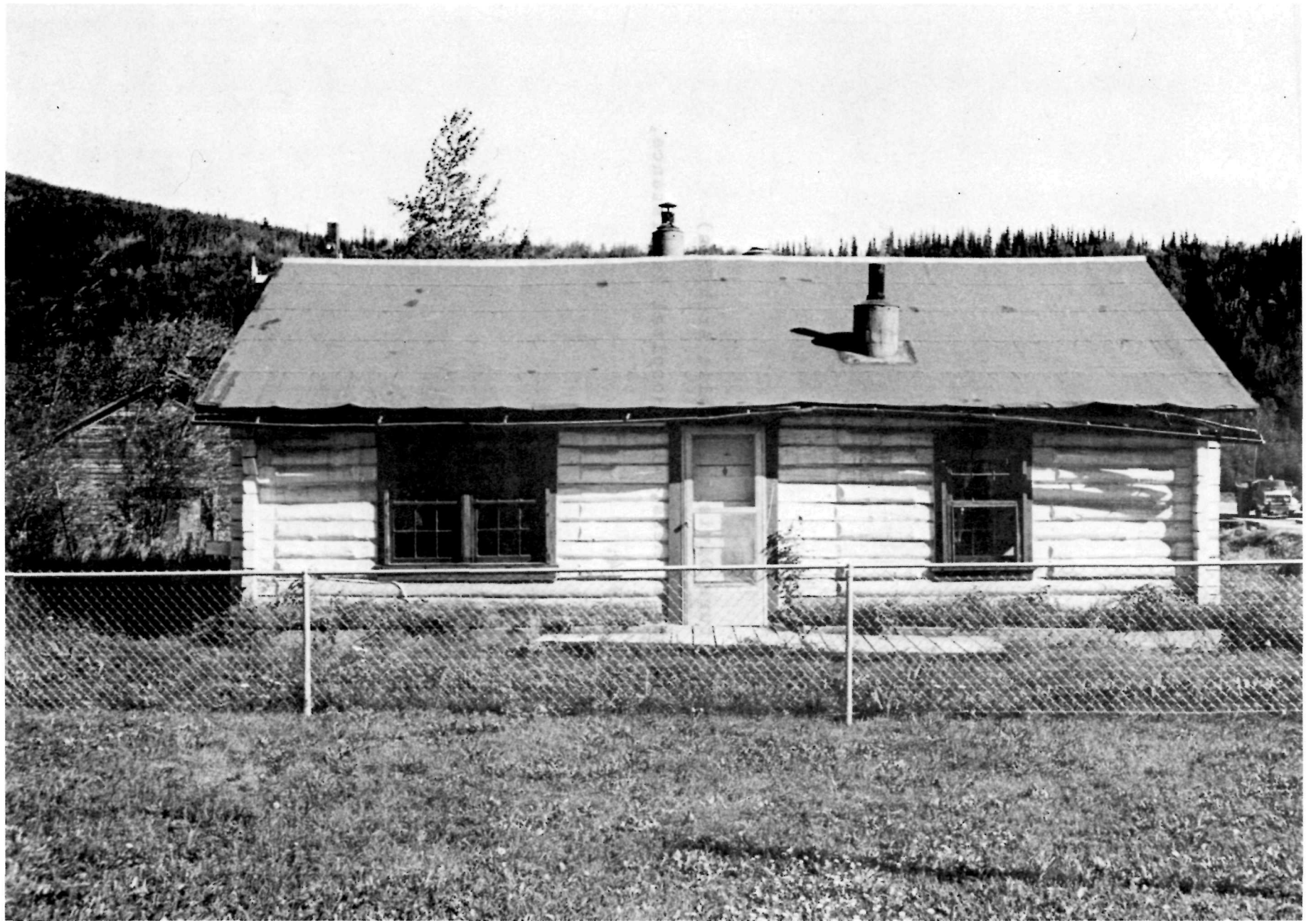


Fig. 11

(Picture Division, Public Archives)

Officers' Mess, with Hospital in distance,
about 1914.

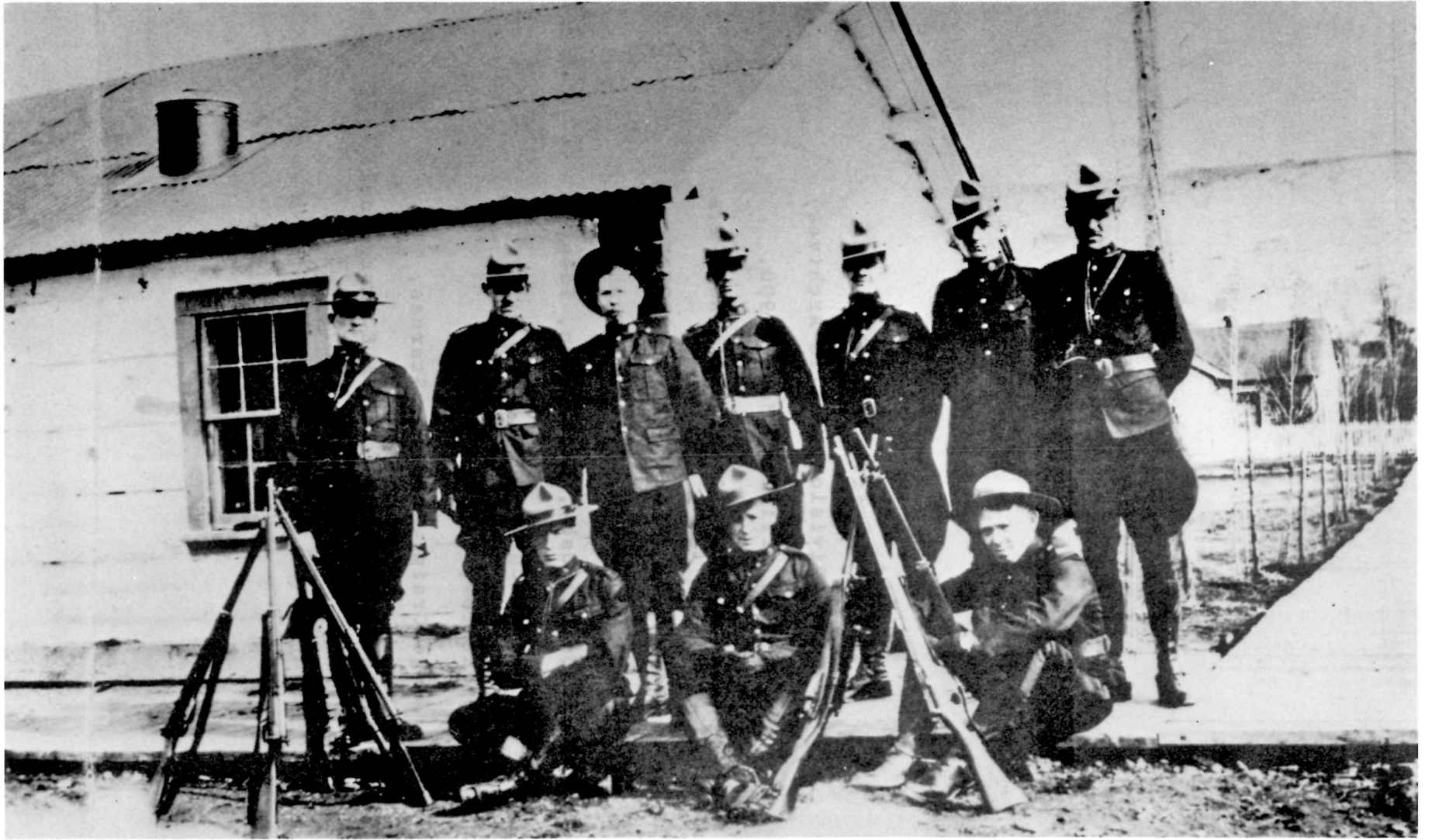


Fig. 12

(Picture Division, Public Archives)

N.-W.M.P. Officers' Mess, 1900.

Back row, left to right: Insp. T.A.

Wroughton, Surgeon W.E. Thompson,

Insp. D. Howard, R.P. McLennan,

Insp. L. Cosby, Dick Cowan, Insp.

W. Routledge.

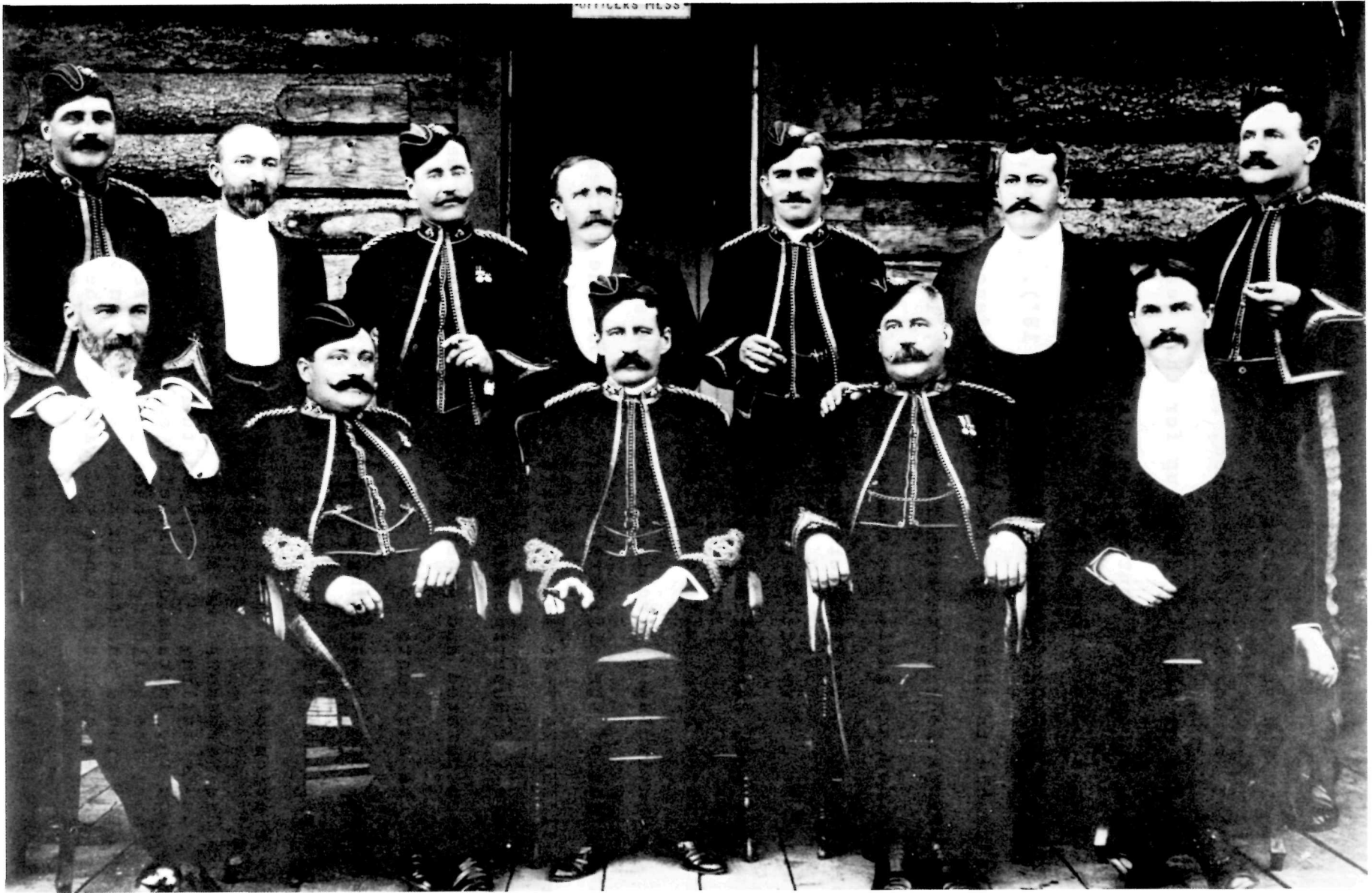
Front row, left to right:

Judge Craig, Insp. C. Starnes,

Supt. Z.T. Wood, Insp. A.E. Macdonnell,

E.C. Sincler.

OFFICERS MESS



score and ten years earlier. The date of construction of this building has not been determined, but it was prior to 1901, for it appears on the plan drawn up for that year (Fig. 8). As noted in an earlier context, an officers' mess was built in 1898, whose dimensions (18' x 18') do not concur with the old married quarters standing today (38' x 18'). It is, however, reasonable to infer that the extant residence dates from the 1898-99 period; hence with the hospital, later converted to a guard-room and gaol, the oldest of the four surviving remnants of what was once Fort Herchmer. The officers' quarters is indeed in a very much better condition than the other three, and has been described of recent years as habitable. The other three have suffered grievously from the ravages of time.

Continuing a circuit of the barrack square of 1901, to the right of the officers' quarters stood the sergeants' mess, a building 26 feet square, said originally to have served as quarters for Superintendent Constantine. In 1900 the building had been painted and papered throughout, and was a mess in which the sergeants could take pride. A few years later, however, due to settling of the foundations, the term "mess" was more applicable in its civil and non-military, sense. A description of 1904 makes this plain.

The Sergeants' Mess leans to one side and appears to be falling. To walk on the lower floor gives one the impression of being on a ship in a heavy sea; the building has been jacked up repeatedly but the ground underneath keeps sinking on one side faster than the other and rising in the centre. 15

Following the sergeants' mess one comes upon the officers' quarters, a squarish structure, on the 1901 plan measuring 31' x 36', with a 13' x 19' extension in the back. This is the building which has been hitherto identified as the surviving R.C.M.P. residence, or married quarters, based on a comparison of the 1901 plan with the site survey of 1964. As demonstrated earlier, although the configuration of the officers' mess according to the 1901 plan and the R.C.M.P. residence shown on the 1964 plan concur, no such building is to be found today on the site. In any case, the building originally built to serve as the officers' mess had to be given up to serve as the police magistrate's court (see Fig. 8 between the commanding officer's office and the territorial court house); the officers had to be messed elsewhere. In 1901, Superintendent Wood recommended that a new mess be built for the officers, and their present mess converted to an officers' residence or married quarters.¹⁶ In 1902, the original mud roof was replaced with shingles.

Completing our tour of the 1901 barrack square, the last building on the left is a long rectangular one, 158' x 21', half of which was a barrack room and the other half the canteen. The 1902 plan identifies this building as No. 2 and 3 barrack rooms. This building had been inherited from the Yukon Field Force. The 75' x 20' x 10' barrack room held 21 cots and was cold and dark with poor ventilation. By 1904, the foundations were in very poor shape.¹⁷

The canteen, occupying half of the aforesaid building, had been set up in July, 1900. Here various commodities were sold at prices much lower than those in town, and more in line with police pay. Dawson prices at the turn of the century were still very high. Inspector Starnes had secured a "wet canteen" by 1901¹⁸ whereby the men off duty could have a few beers at a price they could afford. The wet canteen provided the men with an economical alternative to the hotels and saloons in town, with their exorbitant prices and questionable company. The present canteen (1901), however, was too small, combining in one room (about 75 ft. x 21 ft.) the wet and dry canteens and recreation room.

Back of this same building in 1901 were two extensions: the first, measuring 53 ft. x 15 ft., was shared more or less half and half by a tailor's shop and a blacksmith's shop; the second, 61 ft. x 30 ft., housed the barber and a carpenter's shop. This was a temporary expedient, being replaced the following year with a single building housing the artisans' shops, located northeast of the barrack square, more or less between the lunatic asylum and No. 1 barracks.

To complete a description of Fort Herchmer as it was in 1901, it is only necessary to mention the outlying buildings: the 44 ft. x 31 ft. single-storeyed hospital with an extension on the rear 10 ft. x 24 ft.; a 94 ft. x 20 ft. stables a mere 30 feet from the hospital (hardly a salubrious arrangement, one would think) a 16 ft. x 10 ft. henhouse by one corner of

the stables; and the lunatic asylum of dimensions 24 ft x 37 ft. located just 100 feet from the hospital (see Fig. 8).

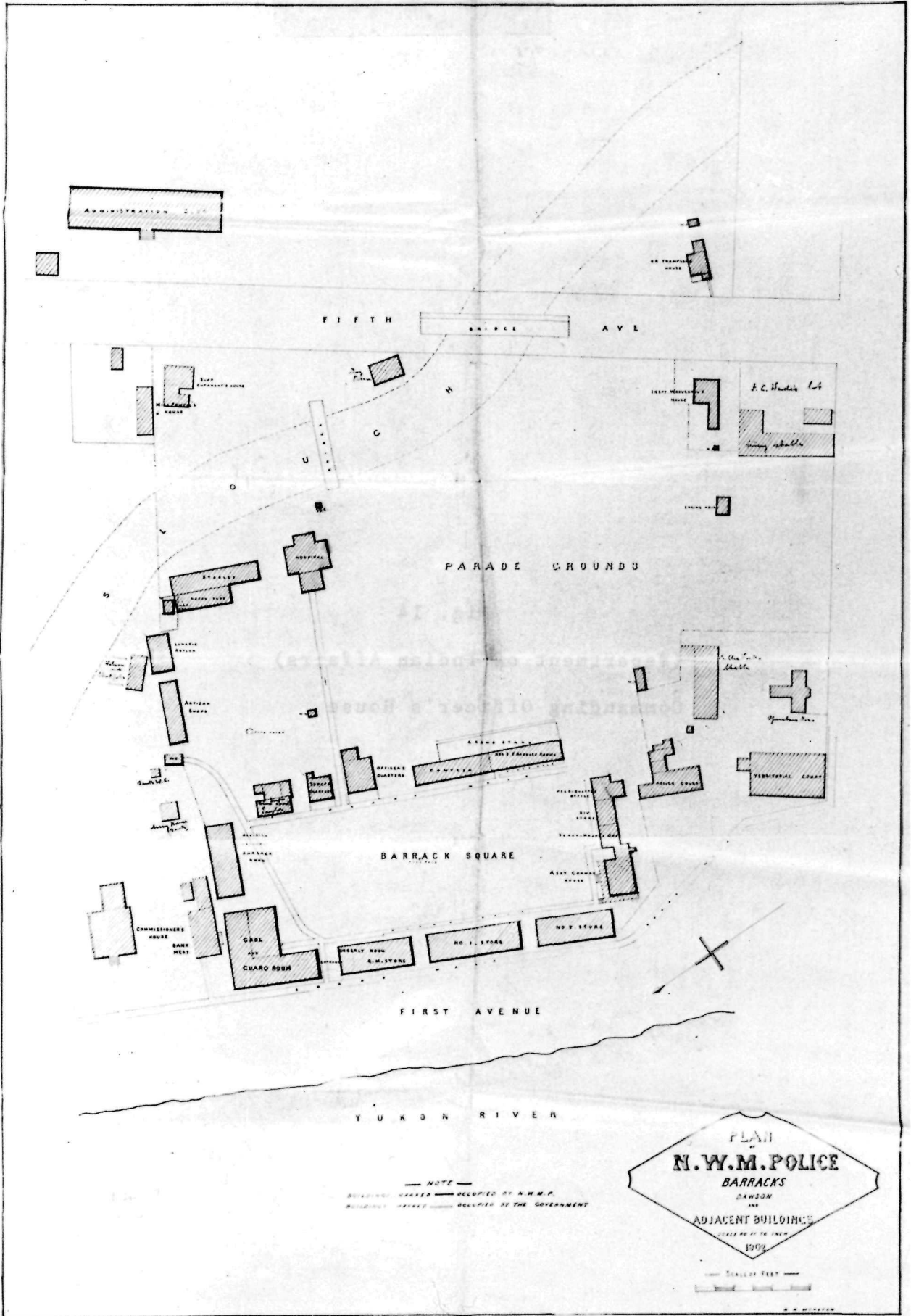
Turning to Figure 13, which is a plan of the post in 1902, one notes a few changes, although the layout of the compound is basically the same.

A new log building, two storeyed, 67 ft. x 20 ft., had replaced the old artisan annexes back of the canteen and No. 2 and 3 barrack rooms. The ground floor was shared by the carpenter's, blacksmith's, tailor's and painter's shops, and the second floor given over to the quarter-master's stores. This building was fitted with brick chimneys (no doubt as a fire precaution) and electric light.¹⁹ A grandstand facing the parade grounds was built back of the canteen and barracks in place of the former artisans' shops, and the asylum was moved back to the barrack line, farther from the hospital. Additional windows were installed in the asylum and it was painted, which must have rendered it slightly less depressing to the incarcerated unfortunates for whom the harsh, rigorous conditions of Dawson had proved too much. The more severe cases, along with the longer term convicts, were sent out to New Westminster. The hospital had a new addition, 21 ft. x 24 ft., to serve as an operating theatre; it had now assumed its cruciform shape which it has retained to this day, through all the vicissitudes of service as a guard-room and gaol.

Fig. 13

(Manuscript Division, Public Archives)

Plan of N.-W.M.P. Barracks, 1902



NOTE
 BUILDING WALLS — OCCUPIED BY N.W.M.P.
 BUILDING WALLS — OCCUPIED BY THE GOVERNMENT

PLAN
 N.W.M. POLICE
 BARRACKS
 DAWSON
 AND
 ADJACENT BUILDINGS
 SCALE 1/4" = 10' - 0"
 1909

SCALE IN FEET

H. W. GILBERT

Fig. 14

(Department of Indian Affairs)

Commanding Officer's House



In the summer of 1902 (although local authority inclines to 1901), one of the four extant buildings was put up; it is in derelict shape today, although said to be restorable. A frame two-storeyed house with attached kitchen and a cellar with furnace was built on Fifth Avenue, facing the Administration Building, for Superintendent Cuthbert. (See Fig. 14 for a photograph of the house as it stands today). The house at first had no verandah, but the building of one was approved by the Comptroller in June 1903.²⁰

1902 was a busy season. The old guard-room had its ceiling whitewashed and walls painted. Cellars were dug under the assistant commissioner's house and the hospital for the installation of furnaces, which surely one would think a sina qua non during the long subarctic Dawson winter. The bark was removed from all the log barracks, and whitewash applied. The south end of the barrack square was levelled and filled in. A new floor was laid in No. 1 barracks, and all four barrack rooms were lined inside with matched lumber.²¹

Full precautions were taken against fire, which so often had devastated the town. All wiring was checked by electricians. Stove pipes, chimneys, flues were inspected regularly, and the fire inspector detailed to carry out monthly inspections of all buildings throughout the winter months (1902-3).²²

The canteen had proved popular during 1902. Monthly sales averaged \$1,400 and at the end of August stock on hand was valued at \$13,900. The canteen had a salutary effect on morale and discipline, since the men were less inclined to frequent the hotels, saloons and dance halls in the town during their off-duty hours. The canteen had both a billiard table (though generally there was not enough room to use it) and a piano, but lacked a proper library or reading room.²³

Life for the men at Fort Herchmer was no longer so stark, but the isolated location and rigorous conditions, the long winters with their few hours of daylight, as well as the not inconsiderable temptations afforded a young man by a still booming mining town, demanded men of stable disposition and self-control. Most of the reports speak well of the conduct of the detachment, although disciplinary measures were not infrequently called for. Dawson was no place for those with a taste for dissipation, particularly on a force with military-style discipline.

The summer of 1903 saw the erection of a new 32-stall stable with a cow stable at one end; this too is one of the four extant buildings, the attached photograph (Fig. 15) having been taken in the spring of 1972. The rectangular frame structure, with pitched roof and cupola, was built between the artisans' shops and the walk leading to the hospital. The estimate (\$3,363.75) was to include rustic outside walls, matched flooring in the harness room, dressed

Fig. 15

(author)

Stables spring 1972, south-east.



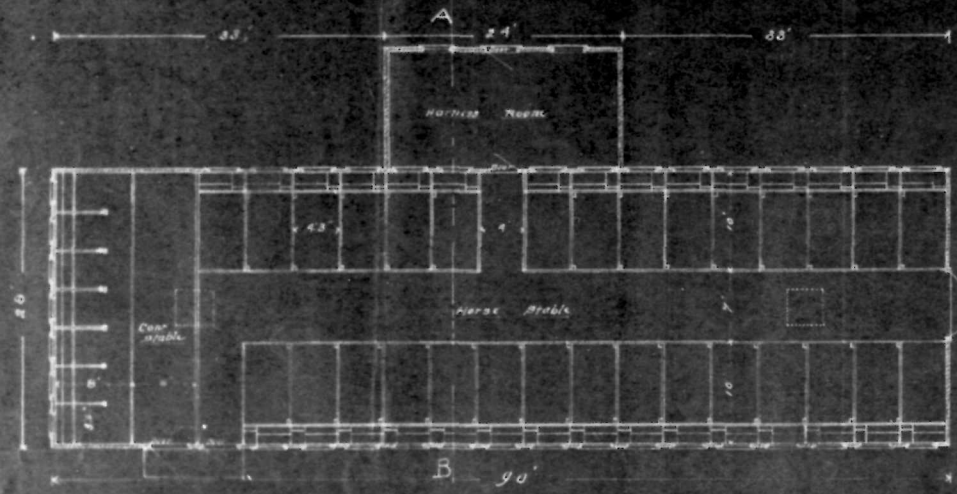
Fig. 16

(Manuscript Division, Public Archives)

Blueprint for Stables, Dawson.

PLANS for STABLE.
 N.W.M. POLICE
 DAWSON

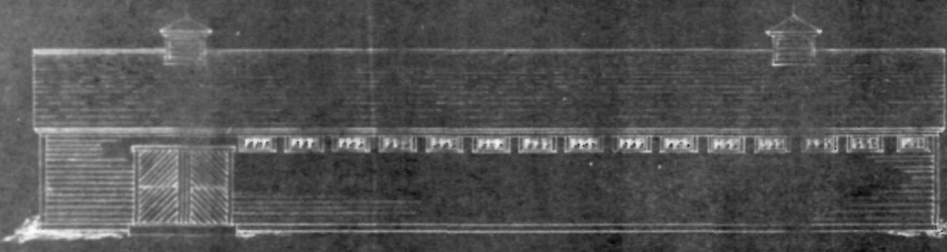
Y.T.



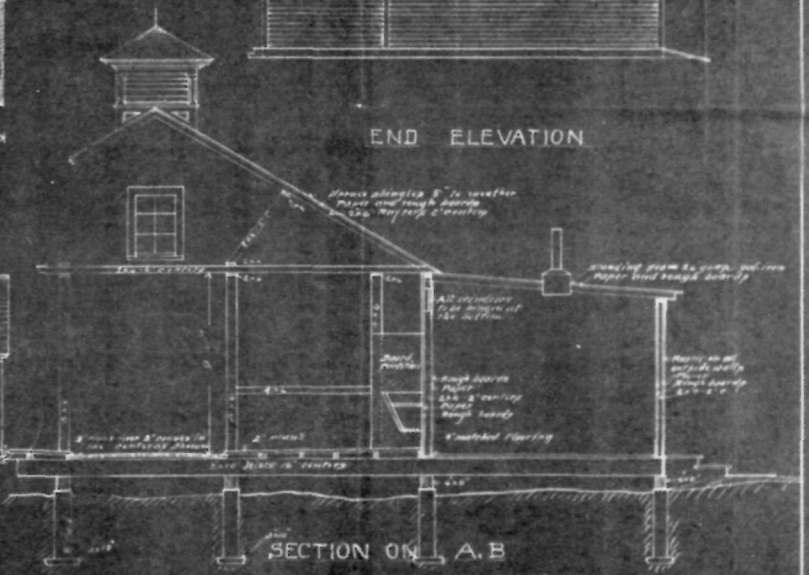
FLOOR PLAN



END ELEVATION



SIDE ELEVATION



SECTION ON A.B

Scale 1/4" = 1'-0"

Scale 1/4" = 1'-0"

Dawson

boards, a cornice, and a galvanized iron roof. The contractor was Robert Moncrieff, who did much of the contracting for the police in Dawson. The new stables were finished by the end of June 1903, and orders given for the removal of the old one, built of logs by police labour in 1900. Figure 16 is a reproduction of the blueprints drawn up for its construction. Comparison of Figures 15 and 16 leaves one in no doubt that today's structure is identical to the one built in 1903. In May 1972, when the photograph in Figure 15 was taken, the old stables was in standing water, unapproachable except with waders.

The second major job completed in the summer of 1903 was the building of an officers' quarters. In April of that year plans were submitted for a two-storeyed frame house to comprise offices, reading and recreation rooms on the ground floor, and rooms for single or married officers upstairs, for which Moncrieff submitted a tender for \$2,418.00.²⁵ As finally approved and built, however, the officers' quarters were modified to provide more living accommodation, and another building was planned to include offices and a reading room on its ground floor, and bed chambers on the second floor (see Fig. 17 and 18 respectively). The officers' quarters (Fig. 17) were completed in the summer of 1903 at a cost of \$3,200; even so, it was evidently necessary to rent additional accommodation in town.²⁶

The second frame two-storeyed house, designated on its blueprints merely as "Building for the N.-W.M.P. Dawson, Y.T." featured two offices on the ground floor and a reading room, of dimensions 15 ft. x 21 ft.; upstairs were four bed chambers. Flooring was of 4-inch matched spruce boarding. The upstairs quarters were designed for either single or married officers. In deference to the Klondike winter, heavier sills, rafters and sheeting on the walls were recommended.²⁷ The fate of these two buildings is not known; they have long since disappeared from the scene.

In the summer of 1903 all the sidewalks and fences about the post were repaired, the log buildings lime washed and the frame structures painted. The barrack grounds were graded and sown with grass and clover. The assistant commissioner's house and the guard-room were jacked up, a periodic make-shift necessity until pile foundations were introduced. New quarters were built for Inspector Taylor, and his former residence converted for use as a reading and recreation centre. This building was the last on the post with a mud roof. Both it and the sergeants' mess were due for demolition (1903).

The 1903 report first mentions details of the asylum. At one time, prior to this date, the mentally deranged were confined in the guard-room, along with those who had fallen afoul of the law. But in 1903 lunatics were confined in, of all things, an unused water tank! This was a wooden structure, within which the police had built two tiers of cells, six in

Fig. 17

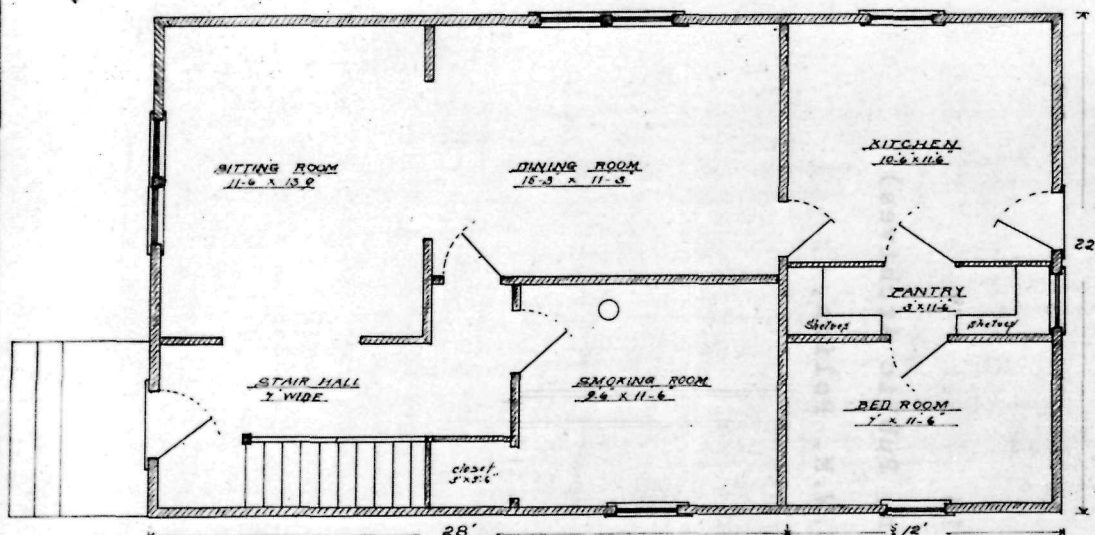
(Manuscript Division, Public Archives)

"N.-W.M.P. Officers' Quarters,

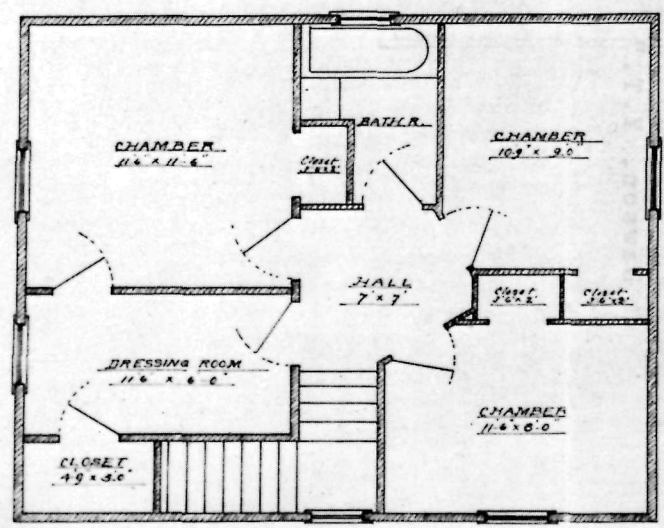
Dawson, Y.T."

N. W. M. POLICE
 OFFICERS' QUARTERS
 DAWSON, Y. T.

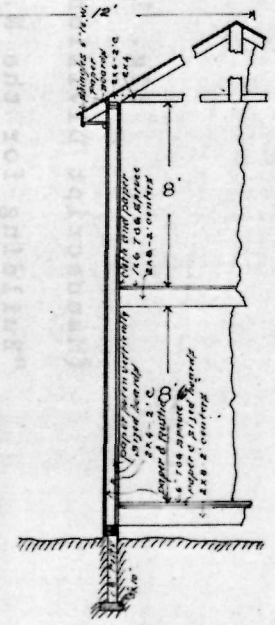
SCALE 1/4" = 1'-0"



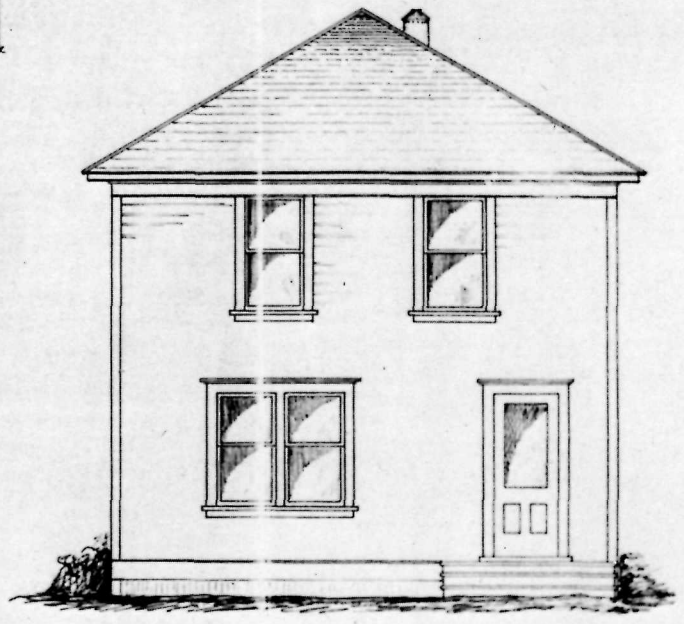
28'
 FIRST FLOOR PLAN



SECOND FLOOR PLAN



SECTION



FRONT ELEVATION

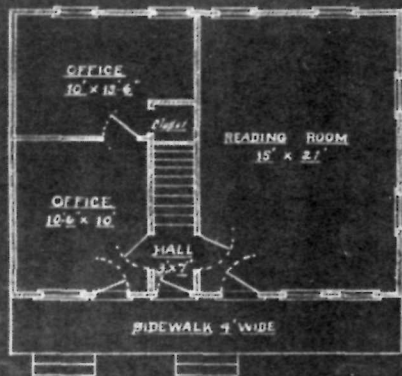
Fig. 18

(Manuscript Division, Public Archives)

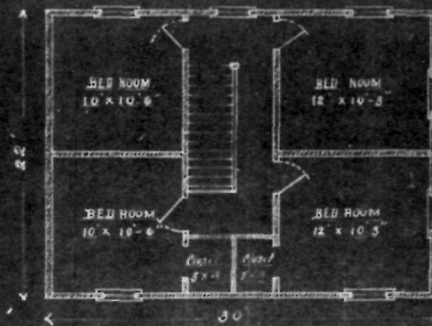
"Building for the N.W.M. Police,

Dawson, Y.T."

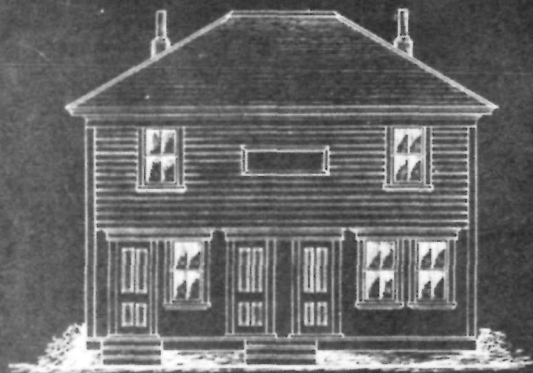
BUILDING FOR THE N.W.M. POLICE DAWSON Y.T.



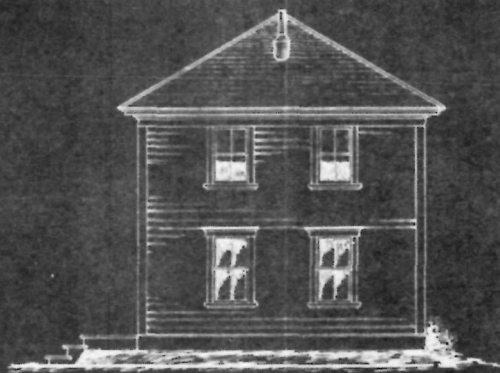
FIRST FLOOR PLAN



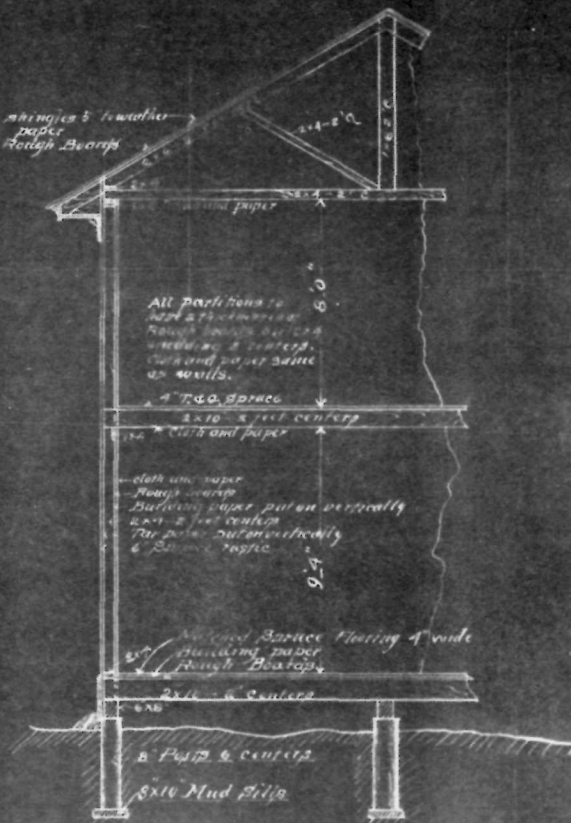
SECOND FLOOR PLAN



FRONT ELEVATION.



END ELEVATION.



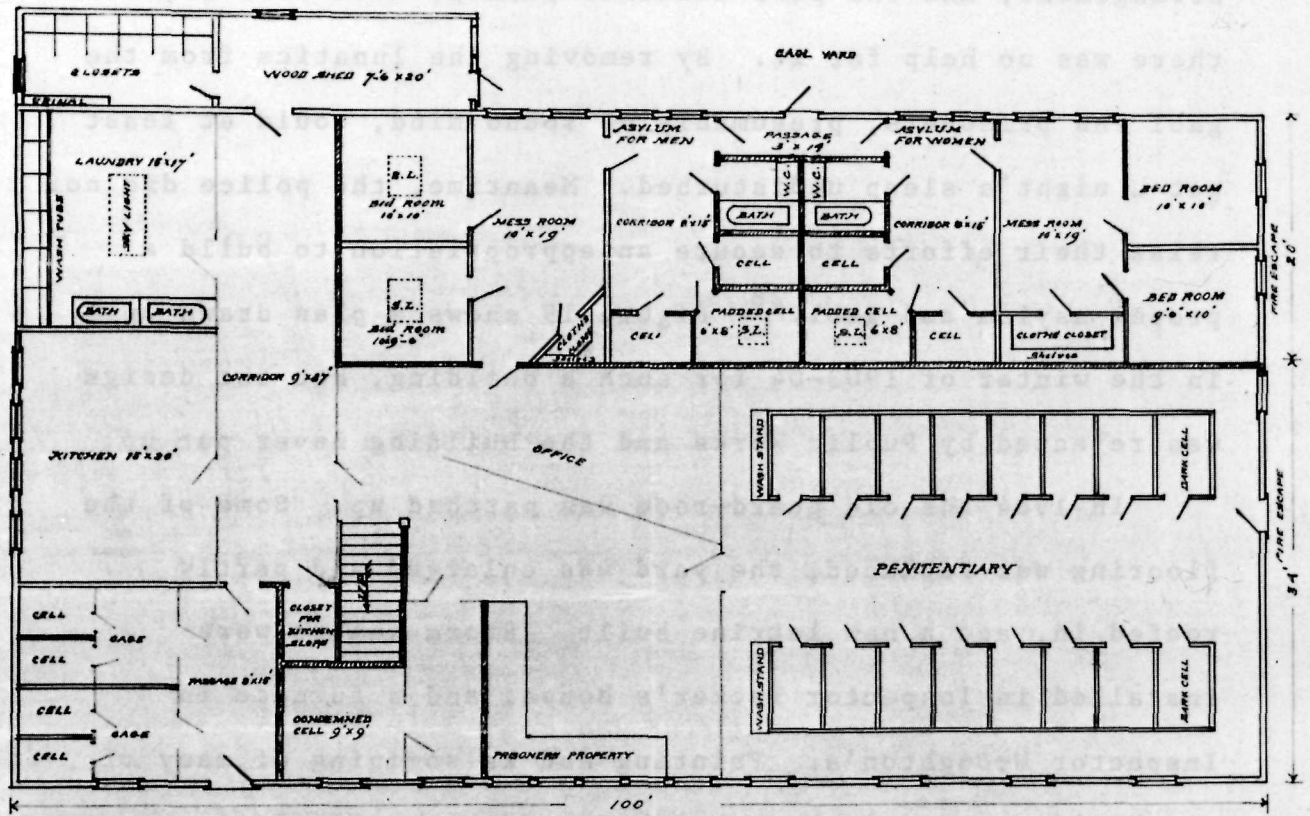
SECTION - SCALE 3/8 INCH = 1 FOOT.

SCALE 3/8 INCH = 1 FOOT

R. Mousley

Fig. 19

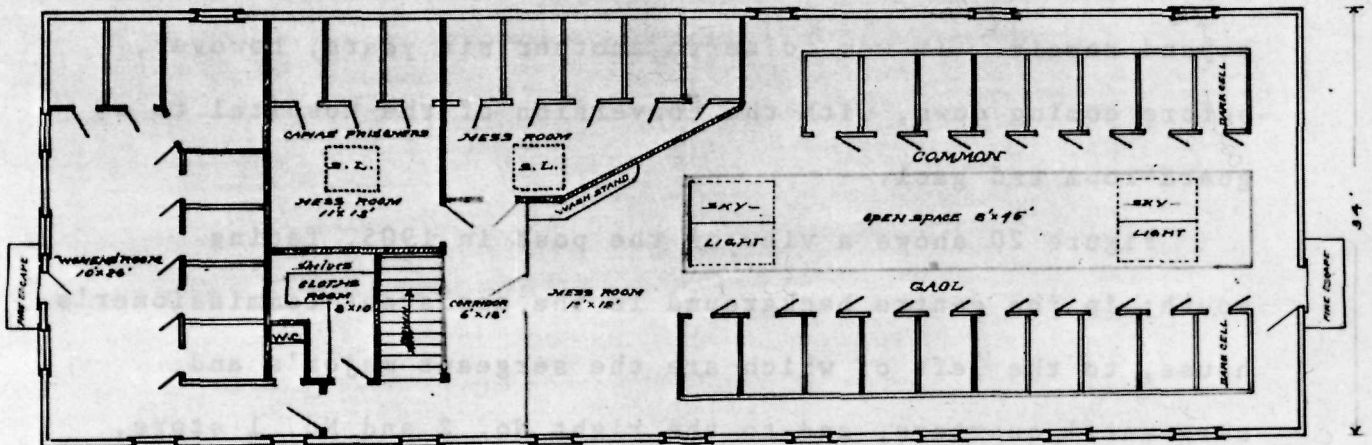
(Manuscript Division, Public Archives)
Blueprint of Plans for a Combined Gaol,
Penitentiary and Asylum. It was never
built.



FIRST FLOOR PLAN

SCALE 1/8" INCH = 1 FOOT

Blue lines indicate steel grating



SECOND FLOOR PLAN

all. The police were anything but happy with this makeshift arrangement, and the poor lunatics perhaps even less so, but there was no help for it. By removing the lunatics from the gaol the prisoners, presumably of sound mind, could at least get a night's sleep undisturbed. Meantime, the police did not relax their efforts to secure an appropriation to build a proper asylum and gaol.²⁸ Figure 19 shows a plan drawn up in the winter of 1903-04 for such a building, but the design was rejected by Public Works and the building never put up.

In 1904 the old guard-room was patched up. Some of the flooring was replaced, the yard was enlarged and partly roofed in, and a new latrine built. Storm sashes were installed in Inspector Tucker's house, and a furnace in Inspector Wroughton's. Painting and kalsomining of many of the buildings did much to brighten up the post. Again a new guard-room was recommended, since the current one was deemed beyond repair. It was to serve another six years, however, before coming down, with the conversion of the hospital to a guard-room and gaol.

Figure 20 shows a view of the post in 1905, facing south; in the centre background is the assistant commissioner's house, to the left of which are the sergeant major's and sergeants' quarters, and to the right No. 2 and No. 1 store, and in the right foreground the flag-pole. At this date Fort Herchmer still wore a military aspect, as did so many posts beyond the fringes of settlement in the old west. Many

of the buildings were in a ramshackle condition, but the police had done their best with the means available. By 1905 Dawson itself was past its prime and the federal government less inclined to spend money.

For the next five years, 1905-10, only the more pressing emergency repairs were undertaken. In 1909 the guard-room roof, leaking badly, called for attention. It was covered with corrugated iron. The commanding officer's house, assistant surgeon's house and stables were jacked up and painted. All the log buildings, which included the majority on the post, were re-caulked and kalsomined. The officers' mess was re-papered and painted, and the anteroom made over. In February 1909 Inspector Wroughton's quarters were partially destroyed by fire, upon which he moved into the house formerly occupied by Superintendent Cuthbert which, as mentioned previously, is one of the four surviving buildings from the old post. The house is located on Fifth Avenue, opposite the Administration Building, now used as a museum.

By 1910, Dawson prices had so settled down that the police no longer considered the carrying of dry goods necessary in the canteen, apart from socks and handkerchiefs..

The year 1910 witnessed a few changes. The hospital was gutted, but the structure survived in salvageable condition; the decision was then taken, for want of the means to replace the old building, to convert the charred hospital to serve as guard-room and gaol. Figure 21 shows the building as it

Fig. 20

(Picture Division, Public Archives)

View of the Barrack Square, Fort

Herchmer, 1905

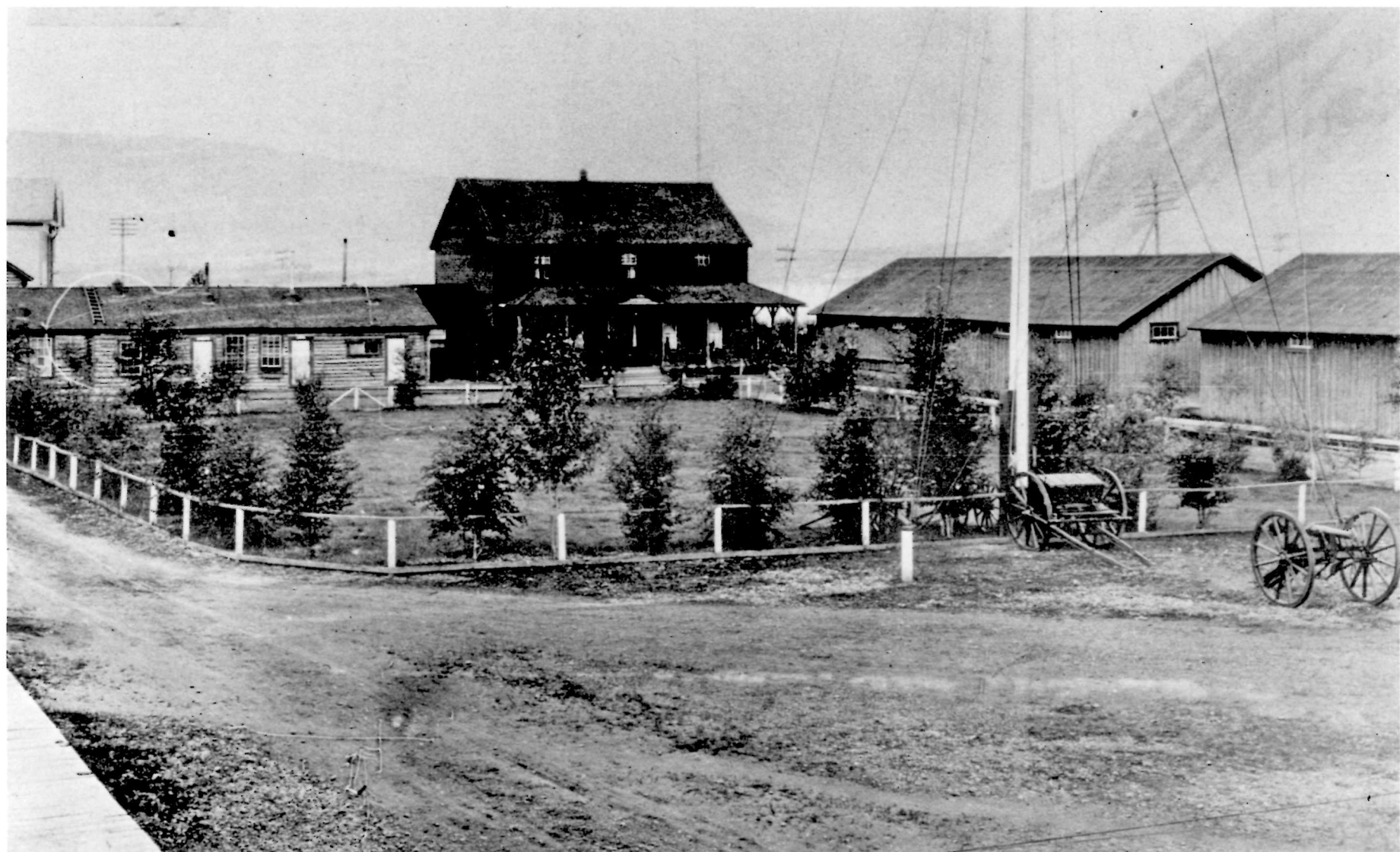


Fig. 21

(author)

Hospital and former Gaol, spring 1972,
south-west view

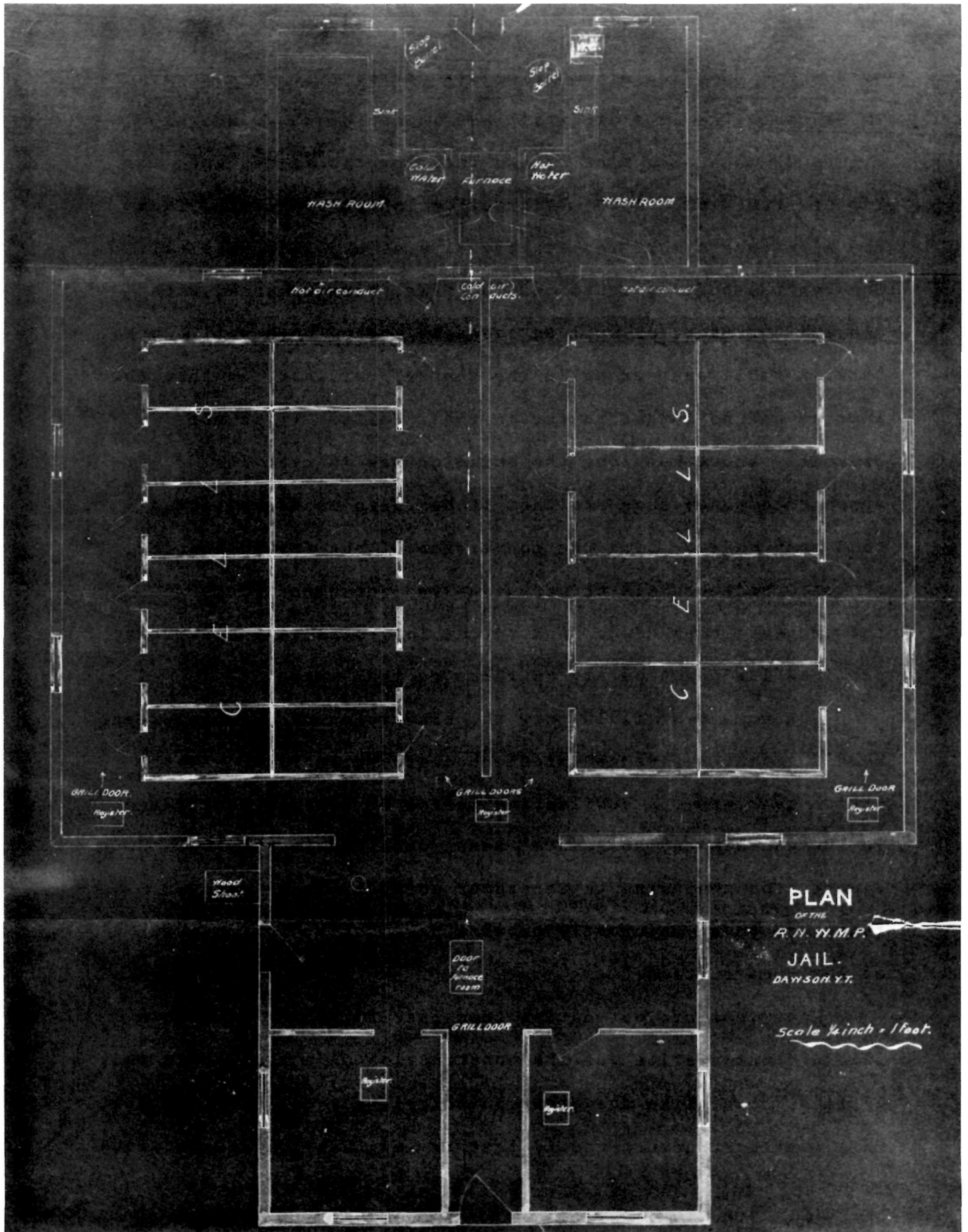


Fig. 22

(Manuscript Division, Public Archives)

"Plan of the R.N.-W.M.P. Jail,

Dawson, Y.T."



PLAN
 OF THE
 R. N. Y. M. P.
JAIL.
 DAWSON, Y.T.
 Scale 1/4 inch = 1 foot.

stands today, a forlorn-looking structure, like so many others in Dawson. The bars are still set in one of the windows. Figure 22 is a blueprint of the interior, as re-designed for its new function. Note the cruciform shape, inherited from the structure's more respectable days as a police hospital. The central portion contained 20 cells, back to back, with central corridor, as well as passages around both cell blocks. Later a table was set up in the central corridor, so that the inmates had no longer to eat in their cells. It is not presently known how long the building was in use; its appearance today suggests that it has been abandoned for a good many years. With the conversion of the former hospital the oft-condemned old structure at the northwest corner of the compound came down. And so the long-offending bank mess outlived its contemporary by three to four years.

The same year (1910) saw the conversion of Superintendent Wood's former residence (middle background in Figure 20) to office quarters. A bewildering series of changes took place in the canteen and sergeants' mess, detailed in the 1910 report, too confusing to record or unravel; rooms changed function, on an apparently provisional basis, for the want of new construction.²⁹

One minor project dating from 1910 for which we have a little documentation was the construction of a tool house and latrine which, like the other buildings, has not survived. This little structure was 17 feet in length by 8 feet in width

and was single-storeyed. The framework was of two-by-fours, and the outer walls were covered with two layers of boards. Reproductions of the blueprint appear in Part III.

Reference to Figure 23 indicates that by the year 1912 the appearance of the post had altered. It will be noted at once that the buildings (the guard-room and No. 1 barracks) at the north end of the compound have quite disappeared. The old barrack block taken over from the Yukon Field Force was demolished and the site levelled. This may have been the building shown in Figure 13 housing the canteen and Nos. 2 and 3 barrack rooms, with the grandstand at the back overlooking the playing field and parade ground. In any case, the building shown in this location had disappeared by 1912. A stockade was built around the guard-room, and a new skylight installed; the building's exterior was kalsomined. A fence of sawn logs was put up on the west and north sides of the barrack square. A new roof of corrugated iron was added to the quarter-master's stores. The grounds to the east of the barrack square were ploughed and readied for seeding with grass and clover. The bridge across the slough (Fig. 23) had become rickety and was to be re-floored with sawn logs in the fall.³² The year 1912 witnessed a considerable tidying up of the post.

Water closets made their humble and utilitarian appearance on the post by 1912, and no doubt were considered a boon, particularly during the long months of winter. The officer commanding "B" Division, writing to the commissioner early in

Fig. 23

(Manuscript Division, Public Archives)

Plan of Fort Herchmer as it was in 1912

MINNO FARK

ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

FIFTH AVE

BRIDGE

SLOUGH

PLOUGHED & READY FOR SOWING IN WHEEL & COVER

PLANTED FENCE WITH TREES INSIDE ROAD WAY

PLOUGHED & READY FOR SOWING IN WHEEL & COVER

PLANTED FENCE WITH TREES INSIDE ROAD WAY

FENCED LAWN PLANTED WITH TREES

PROPOSED ALTERATIONS & NEW SIZES FOR STORES MARKED IN RED.

WOOD YARD

MAIN BARRACK BUILDING

STABLE

WOOD SHED

WOOD SHED

NEW PUBLIC OFFICE

COURT HOUSE

NEW STORE

NEW STORE

NO 1 STORE

NO 2 STORE

GOVERNMENT HOUSE

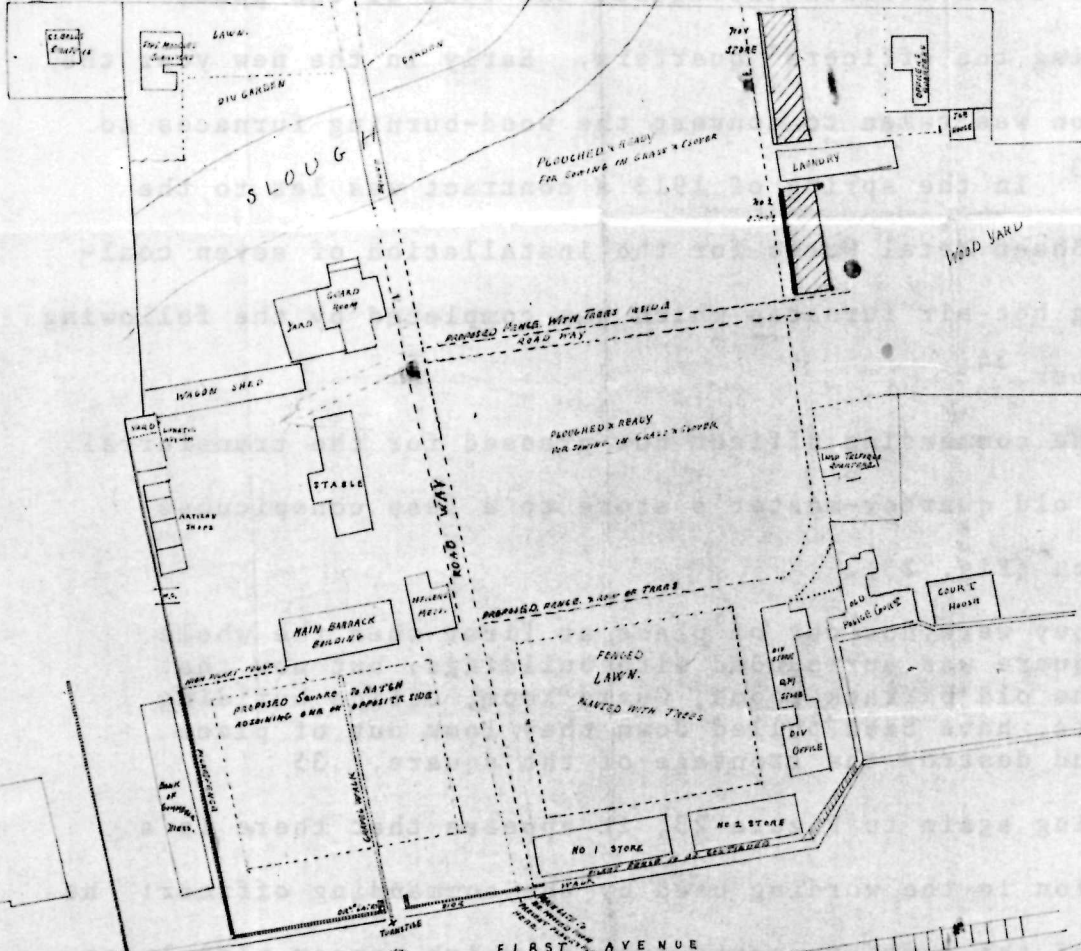
FIRST AVENUE

RAILROAD TRACK

YUKON RIVER

R.N.D.M.P. BARRACKS
Dawson, Y.T.

TO TOWN



December of that year, mentioned that water closets had been installed in both the sergeants' quarters and in the barracks. Apparently in this respect other ranks had preference over the officers, for the estimates included \$2,650 for the installation of flush toilets throughout the rest of the post, including the officers' quarters. Early in the new year the decision was taken to convert the wood-burning furnaces to coal.³³ In the spring of 1913 a contract was let to the Yukon Sheet Metal Works for the installation of seven coal-burning hot-air furnaces which was completed by the following September.³⁴

The commanding officer now pressed for the transferral of the old quarter-master's store to a less conspicuous location (Fig. 23).

They were not out of place at first when the whole square was surrounded with buildings, but now that the old barrack rooms, Guard Room, office building etc. have been pulled down they look out of place and destroy the frontage of the square. 35

Referring again to Figure 23, it appears that there is a confusion in the wording used by the commanding officer: he wrote of the quarter-master stores, which appear plainly on the south end of the square between the divisional office (former commanding officer's house) and the divisional store. Surely he was referring in the above letter to the No. 1 and No. 2 stores, which appear on the plan directly on First Avenue. The move was made, the two buildings flanking the laundry in their new position. Two squares, marked in Figure

23 "ploughed and ready for sowing in grass and clover," were then laid out and fenced with 3-strand wire and a top rail. A square was laid out and fenced in front of the barracks and a number of trees were planted along the fences. Fresh gravel was laid on roadways and some board sidewalks were re-built. The old lunatic asylum, mercifully not in use for the past five years, was pulled down and the lumber used for a coal shed. The building formerly used as a divisional store (Fig. 23) was now fitted up as an asylum, and a sick bay set up in the gaol for those not ill enough to be sent to hospital. By October 1913 flush toilets had been installed in all the buildings, and coal-burning furnaces had replaced the wood-burners, at an anticipated savings of between \$4,000 and \$5,000 in annual fuel bills. The 1913 report noted that many of the post's buildings must still be considered highly flammable, and recommended the use of beaver board as wall lining in place of "balloon frames with cotton."³⁶ The following year this was done in the commanding officer's and staff sergeant Bell's house.

Further repairs and improvements were carried out in 1914. Steel shingles replaced wooden ones as a fire preventative. The frame buildings were painted and the log whitewashed. A number of buildings were jacked up and new joists and supports installed in the foundations. The officers' quarters was re-floored, as were the ground floors of the barracks and canteen building. The force was fortunate in having the services of a skilled prisoner, an artisan

Fig. 24

(author)

Territorial Court House, spring 1972,
from west.



from San Francisco, who did excellent work at a considerable savings to the budget.³⁷

Shortly after eight o'clock on the morning of 8 March 1914 one of Dawson's periodic conflagrations broke out on the post, in the coal chute at the back of the headquarters offices, presumably the onetime commanding officer's house at the southwest corner of the old compound. The interior was gutted but the records and files in the safes were found undamaged. This building was of logs lined with cotton, a design long condemned for its flammable nature.³⁸ Following the fire the headquarters offices were moved into the old court house (see Figs. 23 and 24); note the date 1901 on the end gable.³⁹ The following spring an appropriation was granted for the installation of water closets in this building, the cost not to exceed \$230. In March 1914 a wash basin and bathtub were installed in the sergeants' mess; hitherto the sergeants had had to cross over to the barracks for a bath or wash-up.

In the summer of 1915 all the log buildings were white-washed, and a new board sidewalk was built on Front Street the entire length of the post, with the police supplying the lumber and the town the labour. The old boardwalk had become rotten and unsafe. Several buildings would need the jacking up treatment the following year, the report continued, recommending for the first time a new system of securing foundations on piles driven down to gravel or bedrock. This

would be, it was asserted, a very considerable improvement on the then current system of laying the foundations directly on the ground.⁴⁰

Superintendent Knight's report for 1916 gave details on the new method for the prevention of settling. The substratum at Dawson was composed of what Knight described as glacial muck over gravel. Originally, the townsite had been under thick growth and moss, but with the clearance of this to make way for construction the sun had ready access to the permafrost, not far beneath the surface. Laying foundations directly on this, with the weight and heat of the building, created a morass beneath the buildings, in which foundations settled and simply rotted away. Buildings were thrown askew, doors and windows opened reluctantly and floorboards became so warped that they creaked underfoot. In the case of the commanding officer's house, for example, the foundations had settled as much as a foot in places, and the ground beneath was a quagmire on which it was futile to lay new foundations.

But a remedy was at hand, borrowed from the mining industry. Live steam from a boiler was used to bore down holes, much as the miners sunk their shafts. Once gravel or bedrock was reached, usually 10 to 20 feet down, piles were driven down these holes. The foundations were then laid on these piles, which it was hoped, would make for a stable foundation. The whole operation was under the charge of Staff-Sergeant Evans, at a saving for labour of some \$3,000.⁴¹

This is the method used in the arctic to this day. Generally buildings are mounted on piles a foot to a foot and a half above the ground, but this does not seem to have been the case in Dawson. In any case with the excavation of cellars as furnaces came into use, pile foundations, one would suppose, were no longer practical or necessary.

Both the stables and the guard-room required the same treatment the following season. In the case of the latter building, the window frames had become so rotted and warped that nails no longer would hold; neither could the windows be opened easily since the frames were so warped out of alignment. The log buildings and fences were again whitewashed in 1916, and the roadways laid with ashes from the furnaces. Sidewalks were repaired, and the roofs of all the buildings were painted.

Commencing with 1917 the annual reports of the N.-W.M.P., so soon due for complete re-organization and extension of function, give few if any details of construction work at individual posts. In November 1919 the very name of the force was changed to Royal Canadian Mounted Police by federal legislation. The headquarters were moved from Regina to Ottawa, although the prairie capital retained headquarters for training command.

Thereafter, as far as current research has gone, detail rapidly fades. Today the post, once known as Fort Herchmer, looks totally different; the military or para-military

appearance has utterly disappeared. The current Dawson Detachment of the R.C.M.P. has a very neat functional office and quarters, much like any police station anywhere in a small town. To one familiar with the post as late as 1915, or perhaps into the 1920s there are but the four surviving buildings, only one of which is in good state of repair.

The site today, with its warehouses, garages, storage depots, mobile equipment and lorries, leaves the visitor with a keen sense of disappointment. The scene is a busy industrious one, dominated by diesel and gas-powered vehicles; in the midst of this bustle of current activity stand two hulks of buildings dating from the early days (gaol and stables), to one side the old married quarters, a neat log cabin and more distantly the large frame house with scarce a pane of glass unbroken.

The former Territorial Court House alone is a well preserved building from the past in the immediate precincts of onetime Fort Herchmer. For a time the old court house served as a hospital following the destruction by fire of St. Mary's Hospital at the far end of town. But in December 1970 the building was appropriated for the use of the local National Historic Sites Service staff.

A memorandum dated 22 September 1949 in the Yukon Territorial Records cites three buildings in the old N.-W.M.P. compound in Dawson which were then still in the hands of the police. The buildings are referred to by number, but

unfortunately the plan to which these numbers refer has been lost from the file. We are thrown back therefore on inference.

Building No. 14 is cited as having been occupied by the married member in charge of the Dawson detachment, and is thought to be the married quarters extant today. It is described as a very old log building (cabin would be a more apt description) with the last extensive repairs to its foundations done in 1935. This building (see Figure 10) is described as being quite habitable and easy to heat. Moving it to a more suitable location in 1949 would, however, have entailed dismantling and re-construction, which hardly seemed practical. Certainly this description could hardly be applied to the commanding officer's house today, although in 1949 it may have been in better state of repair. Neither the guard-room nor the stables fit the above description, and so, unless another building answering to this description has disappeared from the scene since the date of this memorandum (22 October 1949), it appears a reasonable assumption that the said building No. 14 likely refers to the sometime officers' quarters. This is none other than the neat little cabin shown in Figure 10, which the present commander of the Dawson detachment states was used as married quarters as late as 1966. In 1967 the police moved into new married quarters in closer proximity to their office.

Building No. 18 which figures in this same memorandum, may be the commanding officer's house on Fifth Avenue (see

Fig. 14). Local authority inclines to 1940 as the last date when it was used as a residence. If this assumption be correct, the building according to the memorandum was taken over by the Canadian Legion in February 1948, having been abandoned by the police three years previously. An expenditure of thousands, the report continues, would be necessary to bring this building up to habitable standards.

The building adjoining the present police detachment office, according to Corporal J.A. Armstrong, in command of the Dawson detachment, was "the old office and guard-room," not used for that purpose since 1962. This obviously is a successor to both the original L-shaped structure at the northwest angle of the old compound, and to the converted police hospital currently standing.

So must end a resumé of the post's history based on the information presently available from research. The site today is not recognizable at all to one familiar with the scene sixty years ago. Three of the surviving hulks of buildings are readily identifiable with those forming the original post; the evidence for the fourth, the married quarters, is less positive, but reasonably conclusive. The labelling on several of the plans included in this report varies for the building show in the location most readily identified with that of the surviving married quarters. The building may have been moved, or one or more of the plans may be in error. The earliest plan (1901) identifies the building

as officers' quarters; the one for the following year, as far as can be made out from the semi-legible lettering, as Inspector Taylor's quarters in this position. The 1913 plan has a barracks 80 ft. in length where the previous ones had the officers' quarters, with the latter to its right, but of a different shape or configuration from that of the surviving building. One is in a measure forced back on conjecture, pending further research, should additional sources be discovered.

The contrast between past and present is shown graphically by the two photographs in Figures 25 and 26. The former shows a platoon of the helmeted Yukon Field Force swinging back to barracks along a dusty First Avenue following a parade on 24 May 1900. Fort Herchmer in its pristine state, a northerly outpost of empire, is clearly seen. The second photograph, taken in May 1972, from approximately the same position but slightly different angle, is the scene today, a quiet residential street which might be (apart from the ice-locked river facing it) anywhere in Canada.

It is not intended to end on a note of disillusionment. Many of Dawson's streets poignantly recall a lusty and roistering past, whether the passage of such things is to be a matter of sentimental regret or not. But the site of the old Fort Herchmer, through no fault of that magnificent force, the R.C.M.P., but through the agencies of time and weather, allied with economic change, in its present emasculated

condition, creates a nostalgic and forlorn impression on the visitor, be he historian or no.



Fig. 26

(author)

Similar scene as in Fig. 25, May 1972.



Fig. 27

(author)

First Avenue near site of Fort Herchmer,
spring 1972.



Part II Fort Herchmer: Past and Present

As stated in the introduction, this section will deal exclusively with the four buildings which have survived wind and weather to the present--the officers' quarters, the stables, the hospital cum gaol, and the commanding officers residence.

The Officers' Quarters

This by all odds is the best preserved of the four buildings, which in itself does not say much, since the other three are in a delapidated state.

Although the location, configuration and structure of this building would lead one to identify it with the one marked 'officers' quarters' on the 1901 plan, a comparison of three views of the extant building (Fig. 1, 2 and 3), also Figure 10 in Part I, does not accord in all aspects with the building shown in the background of Figure 6, dating from 1901. Both the officers' quarters of 1901 and the extant building are single-storeyed log structures, with gently pitched roofs. The building shown in this location on the 1901 plan of the compound is of a shape similar to the one standing now, and used as late as 1966 as R.C.M.P. married quarters--rectangular shape, with extension in the back (see Fig. 1-3). On the other hand, today's

building seems of lesser length (38 ft?), and it will be observed from Figure 10 in Part I that it has but two windows in the front, one of which is double, whereas the building identified as officers' quarters in 1901 (see Fig. 6 in Part I) has three single windows in front. These aspects of the two buildings, of similar structure and design, make it awkward to identify them as one and the same.

The report for 1898 records "additions to the officers' quarters (18 ft. x 18 ft. and 18 ft. x 16 ft.)" but there is no mention as to when the quarters were originally built¹-- presumably in the summer of 1897, when the compound was first built. The same report mentions that the officers' quarters had previously been occupied by Superintendent Constantine, and that the building had accommodation for only three officers.² By 1901 the building was condemned; it could only accommodate three, although it was conceded that it might serve as married quarters.³ All of which does not help us with the identification of this building. The extant structure is in by far the best condition, which hardly concords with the one cited in these early years. The date of this building hangs therefore on conjecture at the time of writing. As pointed out in Part I the extant married quarters must not be confused with the officers' quarters built in 1903, a two-storeyed building of more or less square configuration. It is possible of course

Fig. 28

(Department of Indian Affairs & Northern
Development)

Extant officers' quarters, used until 1966
by the R.C.M.P. as married quarters.



Fig. 29

(Department of Indian Affairs & Northern
Development)

Extant Officers' Quarters, side view.

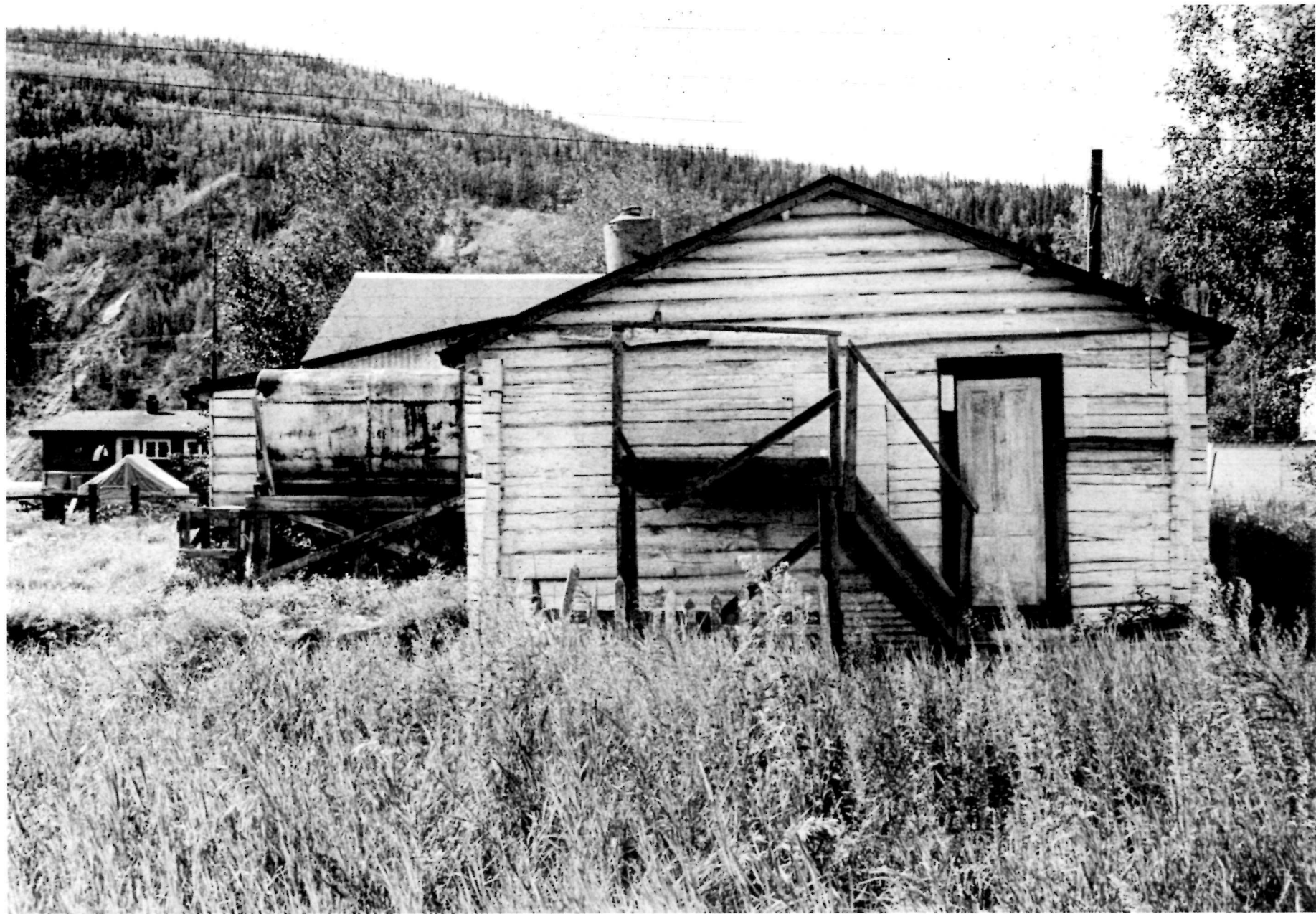


Fig. 30

(Department of Indian Affairs & Northern
Development)
Extant Officers' Quarters.



that the building dates from before the turn of the century; but there the matter must rest for the present.

A memorandum from the Yukon Territorial Records dated October 1949 states that this building (unfortunately the plan to which the memorandum refers is missing from the file) is habitable and easy to heat, and had been last used by the police as late as 1966 as a married quarters. Extensive repairs had been done to the foundations in 1935, but there had been considerable settling since that time.⁴

The Hospital cum Gaol

The first hospital operated by the N.-W.M.P. was housed in the one-storeyed rectangular log structure at the south end of the barrack square. (see Fig. 3 in Part I), but in 1898 this building was converted to sergeant's and sergeant major's quarters,⁵ and later still to the commanding officer's office and divisional stores. This same year (1898) the hospital which was to serve the force for a dozen years was built at the east end of the reserve, about 250 ft. from the barrack square. The dimensions of the building given in Superintendent Steele's report for 1898 are 65 ft. x 20 ft., (which do not agree with the dimensions given on the 1901 plan: 44 ft. x 31 ft. for the main part). To this was added a 21 ft. x 24 ft. extension for use as an operating theatre. The building (and despite the discrepancy in the dimensions we are inclined to identify this 1898

construction with the extant hospital cum gaol) was built under contract, unavoidably with unseasoned lumber, which was to create trouble before many years had passed.⁶ That summer, at the peak of the gold-rush, both wards were full of typhoid patients. This may be considered the institution's baptism of fire. Typhoid was rife because drinking water was taken direct from the Yukon River. As originally built, the one-storeyed log structure, with pitched roof and rectangular shape, had an extension to the rear of smaller dimensions.

In 1900 the interior was painted and papered, matting was laid in the wards, and commodious linen cupboards provided, so that in the words of Superintendent Steele "I know of no more comfortable hospital in the force."⁷ The assistant surgeon's report for the same year gives further detail. A shingled roof replaced the original, which likely was of mud. Additional shelving was installed in the surgery, and a cupboard built for drugs. Iron cots were provided for the wards. He considered the Fort Herchmer hospital to be the brightest and best equipped in the territory.⁸

In 1902 a second extension, 21 ft. x 24 ft., was added, so that the hospital now assumed its cruciform shape, which made it so distinctive,⁹ and the same season a cellar 16 feet square was excavated for the installation of a furnace.

Surgeon Pare's report for 1904 complained that the hospital floors were in poor condition. The green lumber, all available at the time of construction, had warped, and

wide cracks opened between the boards, which made it difficult to keep the floors clean. He recommended that the floors of the operating room and the dispensary should be laid with linoleum as soon as possible, no doubt as a hygienic measure. He considered that the hospital was adequate for the present. At this date it comprised a general ward, a private ward, operating theatre, dining room, an orderlies' room, bath room and a kitchen, also a hospital sergeants' room and the dispensary. Only 30 feet separated the hospital from the stables, not a particularly apt arrangement.¹⁰

In 1910 the hospital was converted to a guard-room and gaol following the partial gutting of the notorious old guard-room, gaol and penitentiary at the northwest end of the barrack square. The contract was taken out by James G. Purden, to be completed by 1 November 1910. It was a considerable task. The windows were fitted with one-inch iron bars not more than 4 inches apart; in fact precise specifications were given for this operation:

the bottom log or window sill to be bored down six inches so as to let the bars go in at the top and then be raised three inches into top holes, then a large spike driven through the holes at bottom and underneath the bars so as to hold them three inches into top and bottom logs. 11

Two cross bars of 3 inch x $\frac{1}{2}$ inch flat iron were fitted to form a grill, with the vertical bars passing through them. The walls and ceilings were lined with matched boarding, and

the cell floors were laid with 3-inch tongue and groove lumber. The walls were built up to double thickness, and lined with Russia iron. The outside walls of the cells were made of 2-inch x 4-inch lumber. The roof of the whole structure was raised by two feet. Galvanized iron tanks were supplied for each washroom. The furnace from Inspector Wroughton's house was installed, and the furnace-room floor bricked.¹² Figure 22 in Part I (page 69) is a blueprint of the converted gaol. The guard-room proper was in the front extension. Two cell blocks, totalling 20 in all, were housed in the central section of the building, with washrooms in the rear extension. Figures 4 to 9 inclusive are photographs taken of the old gaol in the spring of 1972. The log construction, and pitched corrugated iron roof are readily observable. By the following year, 1911, the new gaol was giving good satisfaction, and the old guard-house cum gaol was demolished. In 1912 a new skylight was installed, and a stockade fence erected around the structure. A former firehall was moved to the back of the building to serve as the prison laundry.¹³ In 1913 new flooring was put in, and a coal-burning furnace installed.¹⁴ This same season it was found that the shingled roof was leaking badly, and it may well have been at this time that the corrugated iron roof was built. A year-round supply of water was laid on.¹⁵ The 1914 report recorded that the coal furnace was giving excellent service, and that water closets had been installed.

Fig. 31

(author)

Front entrance Gaol, Spring 1972.



Fig. 32

(author)

Gaol, from south-west, spring 1972.



Fig. 33

(author)

Front entrance Gaol, spring 1972.



Fig. 34

(author)

North-east angle Gaol, spring 1972.

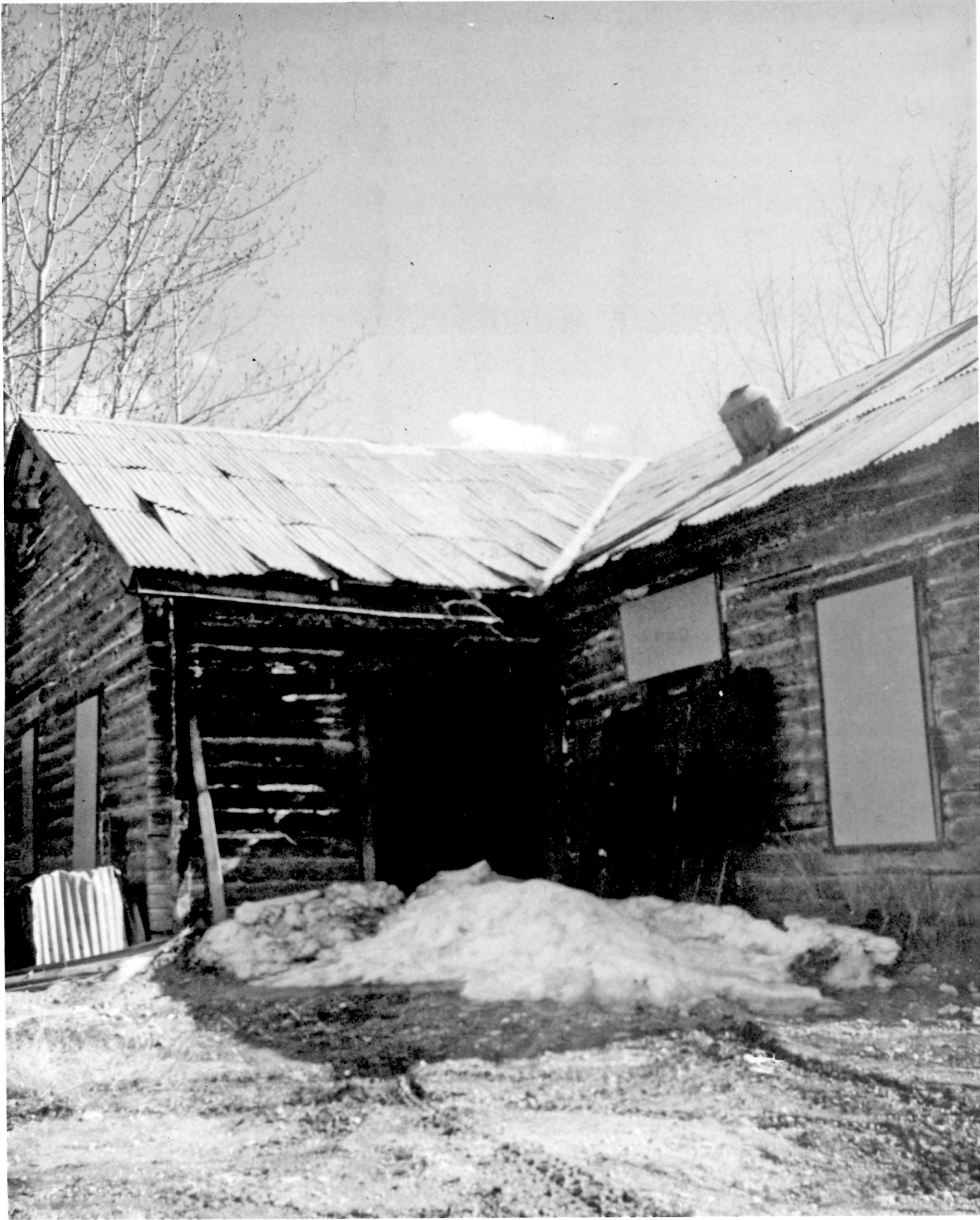


Fig. 35

(author)

Gaol from south-east, spring 1972.



Fig. 36

(author)

Gaol south-east angle, spring 1972.



The building had been improved in appearance with a fresh coat of paint.¹⁶ In 1915 a table to seat ten prisoners was set up in the central corridor, so that they need no longer take their meals in their cells. The new arrangement was found to be easier, from the point of view of security, for the provost and guards. The building was lime-washed by the inmates.¹⁷ By 1916 rotting foundations and the inevitable settling had done their work. Windows opened only with difficulty, and the window frames were in such a condition that they could scarcely hold nails. The corridors required new flooring.¹⁸

This completes the information available on this building, which is today in a rather forlorn condition, but no doubt restorable. It is not known when it was abandoned, but it appears not to have been in use, or kept up, for many years.

The Stables

This structure, built under contract by Robert Moncrieff in 1903, replaced a former log 12-stall stable put up in 1900. No information has been found on the first stable prior to this; presumably the N.-W.M.P. would have had one. The log structure put up in 1900 was built by the police themselves; it was reported as well caulked and warm.

The new stable, unlike its predecessor, was to be of frame construction, and considerably more elaborate in design.

It was to have "rustic" outside walls, dressed boards, a cornice, matched flooring in the harness room, attached harness and saddle rooms, and a cow stable at one end. A blueprint of the design appears in Figure 16, Part I, (page 53). The over-all dimensions measured 90 feet x 28 feet. The 32 horse stalls were 4 ft. 3 in. wide, and the 7 cow stalls 5 ft. 6 in. The harness room formed a rectangular extension, 24 ft. in length, on one side of the building. Two cupolas on the ridge of the pitched galvanized iron roof added a decorative finish to the building. The estimate for construction, including labour, came to \$3,363.75.¹⁹ The site chosen for the new stables was that between the artisans shops and the walk leading to the hospital. The following estimate covering building materials submitted by Moncrieff, the contractor, in April 1903, gives an idea of the stables' construction:

450	lineal ft., 8' posts	@ 10 cts	45.00
490	"3x10 mud sills	1225	
490	"6 x 8 sills.....	1960	
60	pc 2 x 10 x 28 joists.....	2860	
18	" 2 x 10 x 12 "	360	
22	" 2 x 10 x 14 "	513	
100	" 2 x 4 x 18 studding.....	1200	
2000	lineal ft., 2 x 4 plates, braces &c	1333	
100	pc.2 x 6 x 18 rafters.....	1800	
13	" 2 x 6 x 14 "	182	
50	" 2 x 6 x 28 ties for roof...	1400	
50	" 2 x 4 x 16 braces "	540	
5300	ft. dressed 2" plank floor	5300	
	rough boards.....	8500	
	plank for mangers.....	1200	
40	pc 4 x 6 x 18 posts for stalls.....	<u>1440</u>	
		29813 @ \$50.00	1490.65

28 pc. 6"x6"x8' round corners, stall partitions.....		28.00
3500' rustic outside walls)		
360' matched flooring, harness room) 4860 @ \$55.00		267.30
1000' dressed boards, cornice &c.,)		
30000 shingles.....	7.00	210.00
36 small windows complete	7.00	252.00
8 large " "	12.00	96.00
6 doors " "	12.00	72.00
900 lbs nails		108.00
30 rolls paper	3.00	90.00
material for ventilators.....		20.00
340 ft. gal. iron roof (harness room).....	22	74.80
610 hours carpenter work.....	1.00	<u>610.00</u>
		\$3363.75

The stables were completed the summer of 1903 at a total cost of \$3,525.²⁰ With its completion the old stables built in 1900, were demolished.

Figures 10 to 14 show the stables as they stood in the spring of 1972, in standing water. By 1913 the roof leaked, and the use of steel shingles was recommended. That same year running water was made available on a year-round basis.²¹ The inevitable settling of the foundations had become a problem by 1916; a foundation of piles driven down to gravel was to be introduced the following year. At this point the annual reports of the police cease to record constructional detail; hence it is not known whether this project was implemented or not. Figures 13 and 14 give some idea of the conditions in the region, with the permafrost so near the surface. The building at present appears to be in somewhat better shape than the gaol to the casual observer.

The Commanding Officer's House

In 1901 or 1902 a frame two-storeyed house with attached kitchen in the back was built for Superintendent Cuthbert on Fifth Avenue, across from the Administration Building. Local authority gives the date of construction as 1901, but mention of the project appears in the 1902 report. The house had a cellar with a furnace.²² The over-all dimensions of the house are approximately 30 ft. across the front by 45 ft. in length. The cellar measured originally 16 ft. square. The position and the configuration of the building today compared with the site plan of 1902 leaves no doubt as to the identity of the present commanding officer's house on Fifth Avenue. It is a frame house of by no means unusual design, with a medium hip roof. The house as originally built had no verandah; Superintendent Cuthbert, the first resident, in 1903, requested one, which was approved that summer by the Comptroller. The house at that time, so soon after its construction, required painting.²³ Figure 15 is a photograph of the house as it is today, taken from the front, and Figure 16 a view of the back of the house from the southwest. Figure 17 is a photograph taken in 1902 of a group on the verandah of a frame house, with Superintendent Wood standing in the doorway. It will be noted that the construction of this house is similar to that described above; on the other hand, if the date attributed to the photograph in Figure 17 (1902) is correct, this indeed must be a

Fig. 37

(author)

Stables, southern exposure, spring 1972.



Fig. 38

(author)

Stables north-east angle, spring 1972.



Fig. 39

(author)

Stables from the south-west, spring 1972.



Fig. 40

(author)

Stables east end, spring 1972. This series (Fig. 31-41 incl.), taken 9 May 1972, found this building standing in a foot of water due to permafrost.



Fig. 41

(author)

Close-up east entrance Stables, spring 1972.



Fig. 42

(author)

Commanding Officer's House, originally
built for Major Cuthbert,
from the south-east, spring 1972.



Fig. 43

(author)

Commanding Officer's House, rear view,
south-west angle, spring 1972.



Fig. 44

(Picture Division, Public Archives)
Group on Verandah unidentified house,
1902. Z.T. Wood standing in door,
Mrs. Wood sitting just below. George
Wood sitting in front of Mrs. Wood.
Mrs. C. Starnes sitting on left of
Mrs. Wood.



different house, for in 1902, as we have seen, Superintendent Cuthbert's house had no verandah. Also the verandah in the photograph in Figure 17 is open, whereas that on the Cuthbert house (the current one) is enclosed. We are not inclined, therefore, to identify the house shown in Figure 17 with the present structure. The plan of 1902 shows three houses, other than Cuthbert's: Inspector Wroughton's, Dr. Thompson's and one marked "Wilson & Stackpole's" house. This photograph of the group on the verandah may have been of one of the other three; it definitely was not the assistant commissioner's house on the square, which was of log construction.

By 1912, only ten years after its construction, the commanding officer's house was in a very poor state of repair. Despite the cellar the foundations had settled, in one place as much as ten inches, in another six. The stresses and strains had split the wallpaper in every room. Most of the water pipes leaked, probably for the same reason. The tank alongside the kitchen stove was split beyond repair, as was that on the roof. The verandah was warped out of shape. The furnace was not operating properly, and the wiring was unsafe. Prison labour was used to cope with the manifold repairs and maintenance.²⁴

In 1914 the house was re-painted, and the walls lined with beaver board. By 1916 the house had settled to such a degree that the system of steam-thawed holes for the installation of a pile foundation was resorted to. The

sleepers on which the building rested had rotted away in the quagmire to which the ground was reduced beneath the foundations. These were replaced, set on piles.²⁵

Thereafter detail fades from the reports, and we are left with the house as it stands today. Local authority holds that the house was last used as a residence in 1940. According to the memorandum cited in Part I (pp. 81-82), assuming that the commanding officer's house is the one therein referred to, the house was taken over by the Canadian Legion in February 1948, having been abandoned by the police three years earlier. At that time the house was deemed in a very bad state of repair, with many thousands of dollars required to renovate it. Today it is considered in poor condition, but restorable.

Part III The Fort Herchmer That Was

This section will deal directly with those buildings which have disappeared from the scene, but about which research has produced some information. This will entail some repetition of descriptive matter in Part I, but in the following pages buildings will be individually treated. Some anomalies will appear, for the source material is not sufficient to resolve all discrepancies. Some photographs will be included for which scant information is to be found in the text, on the basis that the pictures will be of assistance to the interpretative staff.

The Commanding Officer's Quarters

The original commanding officer's quarters, a two-storeyed log house with a pitched roof, and originally with a front porch but no verandah, was built as nearly as can be determined in 1898. It measured 30 ft. x 24 ft., and as with all the other buildings at the time, was perforce built of unseasoned lumber.¹ According to the 1900 report, this house first served as the officers' quarters for the Yukon Field Force. A good idea of the house may be had from Figure 2 in Part I (page 13), also Figure 3 Part I (Page 15), both of which date from 1900. A close-up of the porch and the front entrance may be seen in Figure 5, Part I

(page 21) dated July 1900, and again in Figure 1 on the following page, also taken in the summer of 1900. It will be readily noted that the front entrance, with the double doors, log construction, and flanking windows are identical. These close-ups also compare closely with the more general view of the house in Figure 3 of Part I, to which reference has already been made. Figure 1 on the following page is of a group of N.-W.M.P. and Yukon Field Force officers.

In 1900 a verandah running the entire frontage of the building was added, with a similar one at the back, with the kitchen, in the form of an extension, shifted to one end of the building.² The house had now assumed the appearance as shown in Figure 2 (1905), with a close-up of the verandah in Figure 3 (1902). It will be noted that the supports for the verandah roof are the same in the two pictures, but that the entrance in Figure 3 (identified in the legend as Major Wood's house, 4 May 1902) does not correspond with the double doors in the pictures taken in 1900 (Figure 1) and on page 15. The photograph in Figure 3 may have been taken at the back entrance, or the front entrance may have been modified. Unfortunately the photograph of the house with the verandah dating from 1905 does not give sufficient detail of the front entrance to justify a definitive conclusion. To the best of our knowledge there was only one other two-storeyed log-building

Fig. 45

(Picture Division, Public Archives)

Front entrance Commanding Officer's House, 1900.

Back row, left to right: Capt. Thacker, Y.F.F.,

Insp. W. Scarth, N.W.M.P. Middle row;

Insp. C. Starnes, N.W.M.P., Col. Hemming, Y.F.F.,

Supt. Primrose, N.W.M.P., Surgeon Major Foster

Y.F.F.; Front row; Surgeon W.E. Thompson, N.W.M.P.,

Lieut. McClean, Y.F.F..



Fig. 46

(Picture Division, Public Archives)

Barrack Square facing southwest, 1905.

Sergeant Major's quarters, and Headquarter's

Offices in low log building to left;

Supt. Wood's former residence centre,

Stores to right. Yukon River visible in background.

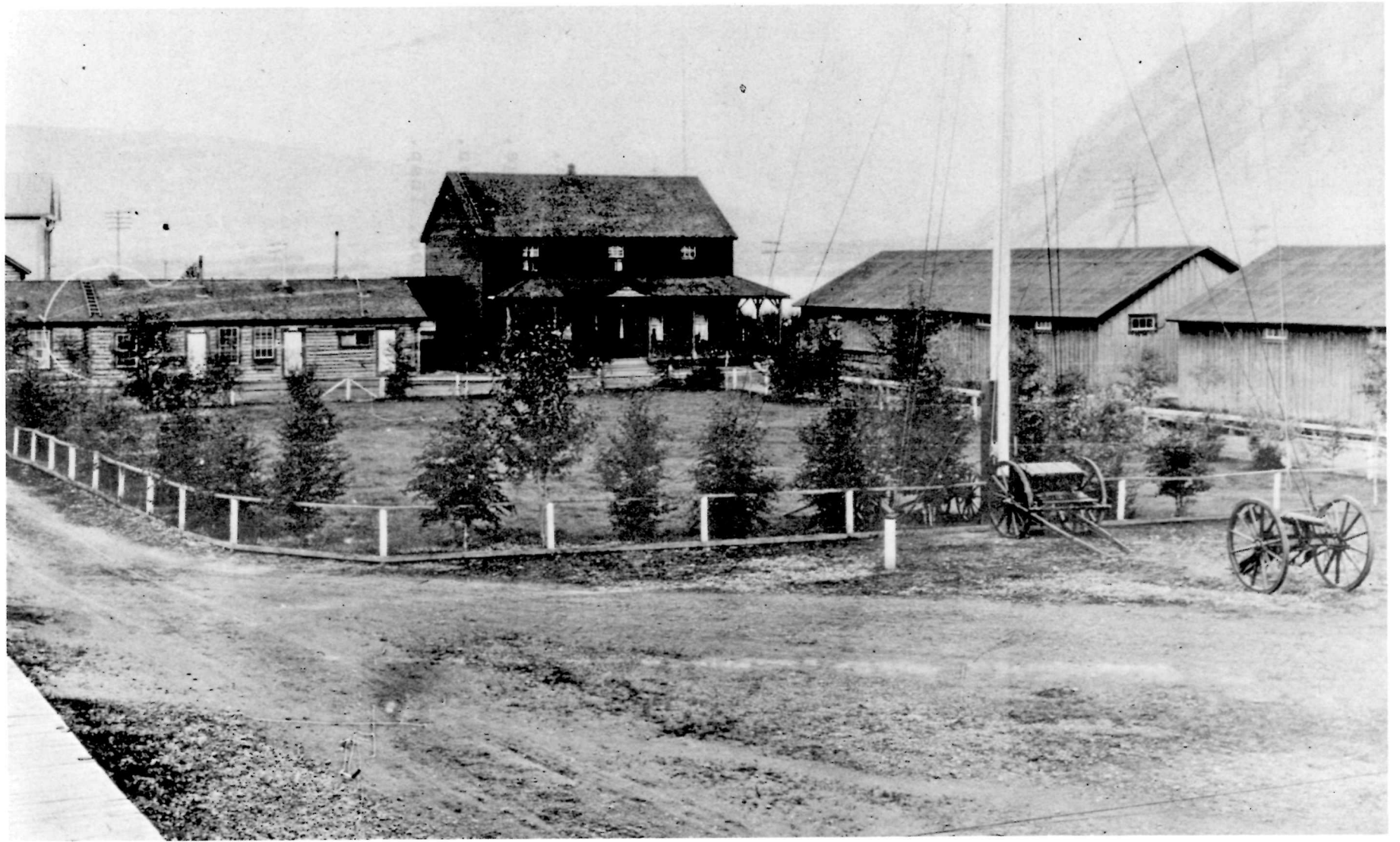


Fig. 47

(Picture Division, Public Archives)

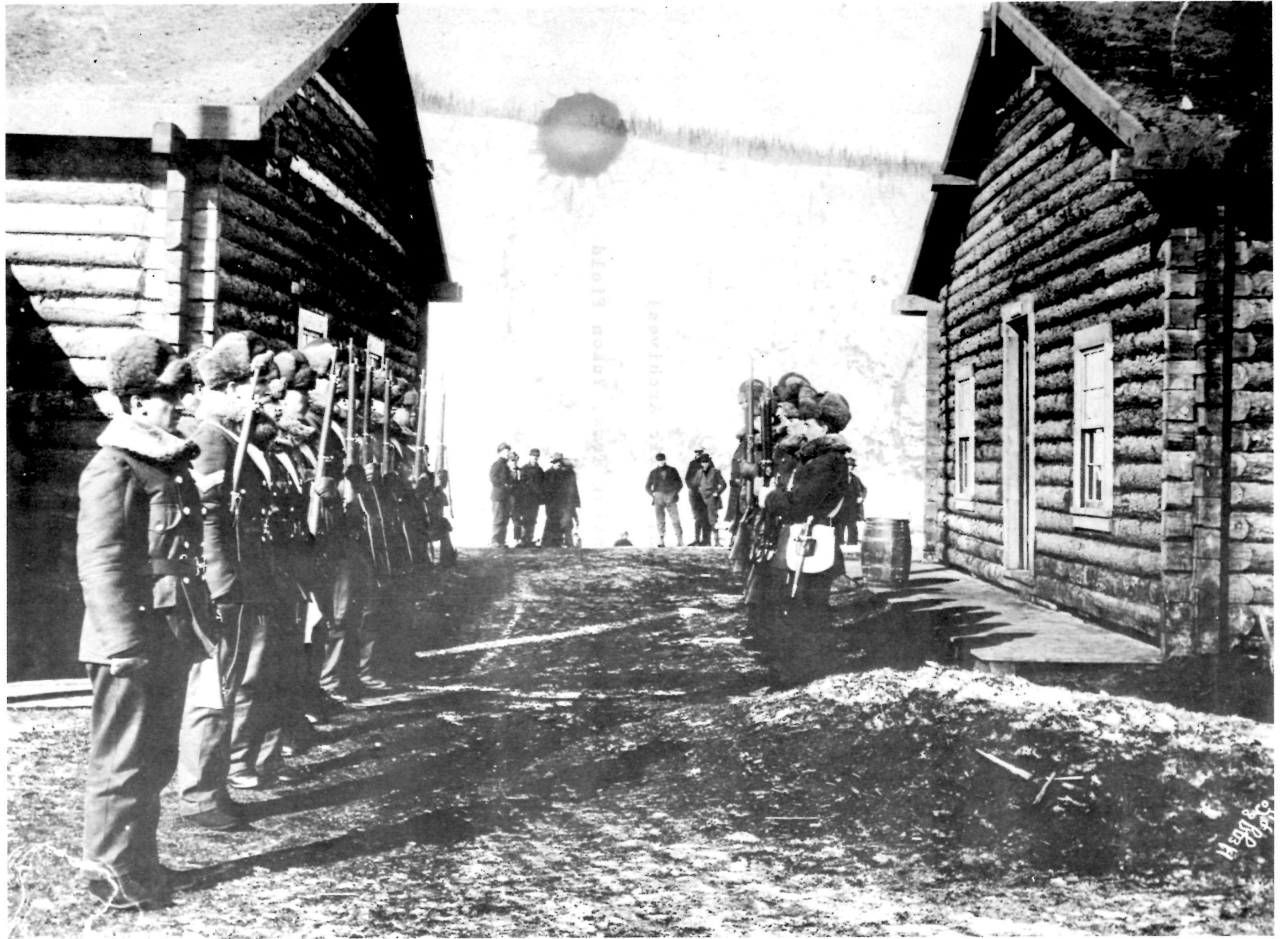
Group on verandah of Major Wood's House,
4 May 1902. Front row, left to right:
Dick Cowan, Insp. Howard, Insp. McDonell,
Insp. Cosby. Second row: Insp. Routledge,
Eddie Sinkler, Sam Marks, Insp. Wroughton,
George Wood. Third row: Supt. Wood, Insp.
Starnes, Surgeon W.E. Thompson.



Fig. 48

(Picture Division, Public Archives)

Yukon Field Force changing guard
between the Quarter-master's Store
and the Guard-room, 1899.



H. S. & Co.
1909

Fig. 49

(Picture Division, Public Archives)

Last Guard presenting arms, Yukon Field
Force, 26 June 1900.



on the post at the time (1902); this was the barrack building next the guard-room and gaol on the opposite side of the barrack square from Superintendent Wood's house. It is surmised therefore that the group photographed on the verandah in Figure 47 was at Major Wood's house, but this admittedly is open to question. In 1910 the house was converted for use as office quarters.³

The fate of this house, as of so many other structures dating from the pristine days of Fort Herchmer, is unknown.

West Side Barrack Square Along First Avenue

Referring to Figure 20, taken in 1905, two one-storeyed rectangular buildings of frame construction and pitched roofs, appear to the right of Superintendent Wood's house. These were No. 2 and No. 1 stores respectively; the dimensions of the former, according to the 1902 plan, were 80.5 ft. x 30.5 ft., and of the latter, 100.5 ft. x 30.5 ft. These storage sheds date from 1898.⁴ They were moved in 1913 to the south-eastern extremity of the police reserve, flanking the laundry.⁵ Their final disposition is unknown.

Observe closely the photographs in Figures 48 and 49, the first dating from 1899, showing a detachment of the Yukon Field Force changing the guard, the second taken on 26 June 1900 on the occasion of the mounting of the last guard pending withdrawal of the force from the territory. The river in the background in both photographs is undoubtedly

the Yukon. Referring now to the plan of the post in 1901 (see Fig. 8 on page 29) it will be observed that there are four buildings along First Avenue, among which these two photographs could have been taken. But recalling that No. 1 and No. 2 Stores were of frame construction rather than log, it is readily deduced that the ends of the single-storeyed log structures in these photographs were none other than the quarter-master's store and the guard-room cum gaol. Figure 48 shows the gabled ends of both buildings, and Figure 49 the south end of the guard-room only. Comparing these two photographs with those shown in Figures 50 and 51, taken in 1900, the same sentry box appears in the three photographs taken in that year. Assuming this deduction to be correct, Figure 51 shows the west side of the old guard-room and gaol, and Figure 50 the west side of the quarter-master's store, the windows of both of which looked out on First Avenue and the Yukon River.

Quarter-master's Store and Orderly Room

This, as can be plainly seen in Figure 50, was a one-storeyed log building of rectangular shape (80 ft. x 30 ft.) with a pitched roof, built in 1898.⁶ In 1902 the quarter-master's store was moved to the second floor of a new building (67 ft. x 20 ft.) at the northern end of the reserve next the lunatic asylum (see Fig. 13 on page 45).⁷ This 1902 plan still shows the quarter-master's store in its

Fig. 50

(Picture Division, Public Archives)

Quarter-master's Store, west side, facing
the Yukon River, 1900.



Fig. 51

(Picture Division, Public Archives)

West side of Guard-room, looking north, 1900.



original location, but the report of the same year records the move to the new building. By 1913 this building had disappeared from the scene, but in what year is unknown.

The Guard-room cum Gaol-Penitentiary

This was a single-storeyed L-shaped log structure, which served diverse and incompatible functions in the course of its 12-year career. The incommensurate structure was built of green logs in the hectic summer of 1898, when all hell broke loose at the height of the stampede. It measured 70 ft. x 30 ft., in which were housed 24 cells, with an extension 80 ft. x 24 ft., accommodating 34 cells,⁸ giving it its L-shaped configuration. Within the crowded noisome structure were confined short-term (under two years) prisoners of both sexes (though segregated), long-term convicts serving sentences of more than two years, and for a time, lunatics. In 1900 the daily average of inmates confined was 40, with as many on occasion as 52. The gaol was divided into separate departments (we have no plan of the old gaol): the penitentiary for long-term convicts, a gaol for those serving less than two years, a women's section, and yet another for lunatics. The latter compounded the difficulties of maintaining discipline under such crowded conditions. In the words of Inspector Starnes' report for 1900:

With nine lunatics confined during the early part of the year, the discipline of the jail was hard to maintain, and the continuous noise was hard on convicts and others... We can expect, from past experience, a number of lunatics before spring. 9

A much needed addition, 35 ft. x 30 ft. was built in August 1900, comprising the kitchen, laundry, "casual cells", cage and ante-room. The guard-room was moved from the south end of the building (see Fig. 48 right) "to the angle of the jail", and fitted with a death cell, two "observation cells" and four cells for the accommodation of defaulters within the force.¹⁰ This new arrangement allowed the guards a complete view of the cells from the guard-room, adding to the security of the gaol. A female ward was set up at the east end of "B" block, with moveable partitions; the reason for this provision being that there was a considerable fluctuation in the numbers of women confined.¹¹ Most were prostitutes, alcoholics or dance-hall denizens.

"B" block in the main was to be fitted up as a penitentiary this same year (1900); this department contained 18 cells, and was next to the Bank of Commerce mess, (see Fig. 8, p. 29). Starnes recommended in his 1900 report that the floors be sheeted with steel, and the ironwork of the cells overhauled. The cells in "A" block (south, see Fig. 8 p. 29) should be treated in similar manner. The roof needed to be replaced: the present one was composed of 1-inch lumber "with joints overlapped" on "A" section, and

1-inch boards on "B" section (the penitentiary and womens' block). Starnes recommended a roof of 2-inch plank covered with 2 inches of sand and corrugated iron. This roof would be lighter, stronger and better insulated than the present one, topped with mud. The walls should be lined with 2-inch shiplap; at present, he noted, the logs had so warped that notes and articles of small size could be slipped between them.¹²

The following year Superintendent Wood was recommending the demolition of the gaol and guard-room. The building was ill-designed for its purpose, over-crowded, added to piecemeal from time to time, on a provisional basis. It was particularly ill-suited for the confinement of long-term convicts; this section was overlooked by the Bank of Commerce mess from a distance of only a yard, which certainly constituted a security risk.¹³

Superintendent Wood's report for 1901 complained that the double row of wooden cells down the centre of each wing had so deteriorated that the inmates could pass notes from cell to cell through quarter- to half-inch cracks. He recommended that long-term prisoners be sent out to the penitentiary at New Westminster, and subsequently this was done. The gaol had no yard or enclosure, and so prisoners had to be sent out on work details in charge of a constable; the long-term convicts, however, were worked only in close proximity to the building.¹⁴

The only photographs found of the guard-room and gaol are those found in Figures 4 (from the north looking south, with "A" block paralleling First Avenue on the right, and "B" block at right-angles to the left), and Figure 51 (looking north along "A" block).

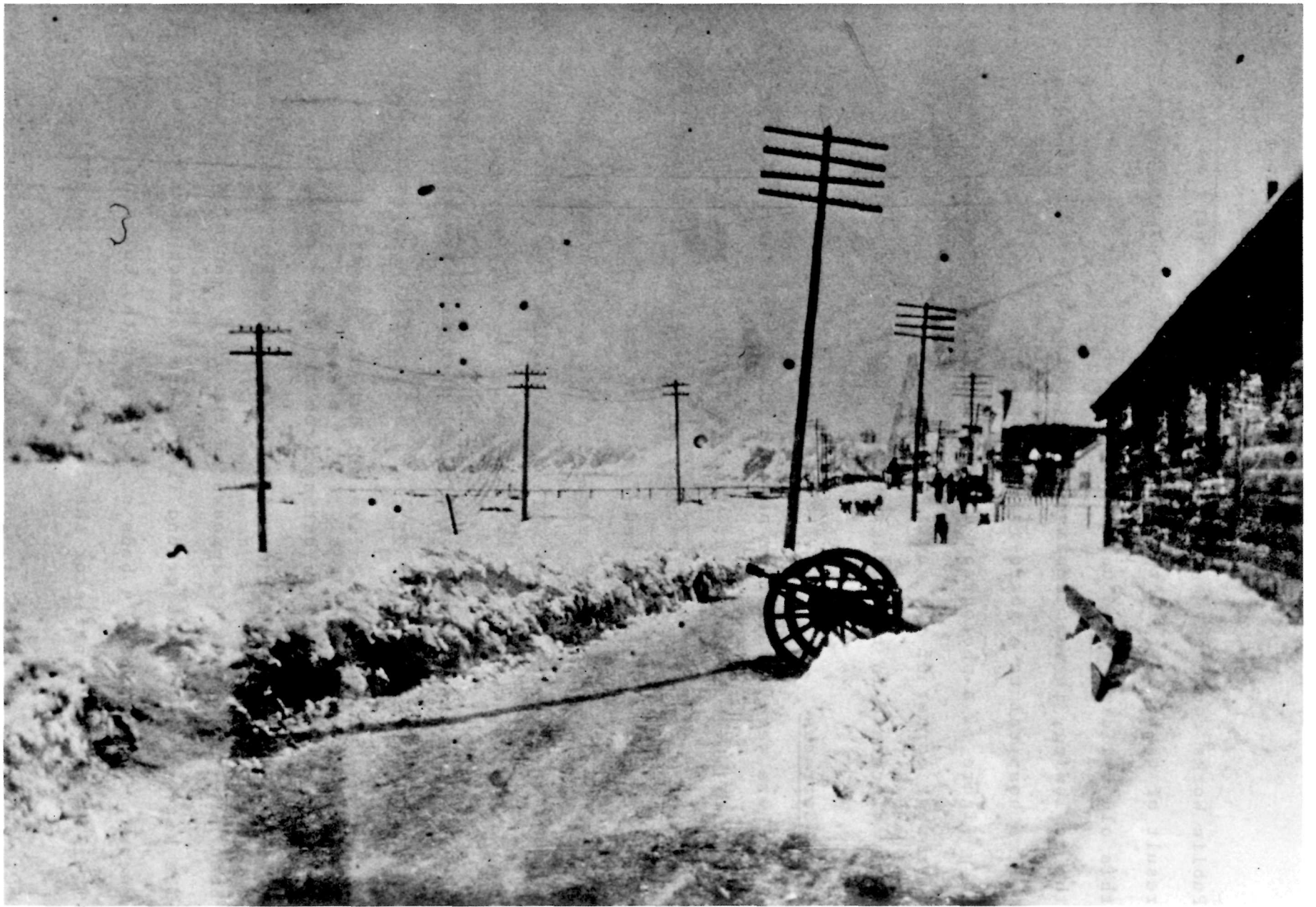
An altercation lasting over ten years over the contentious issue of the closely adjacent Bank of Commerce mess has been dealt with in Part I. It will be recalled that the bank mess survived the gaol, which finally came down in 1910.

In 1902 the ceilings of the gaol were whitewashed, and the walls painted. The 1903 report again condemned the building as unsuited to its function, ill-designed, and ill-situated, on one of the town's principal streets. In 1904 Superintendent Wood was harping on the same theme, but with the additional warning that the building was a virtual fire-trap. Both wings or blocks were heated with stoves, with pipes therefrom running throughout the building. The timber was tinder-dry. Should fire break out there would inevitably be great loss of life among the inmates. The inevitable rotting and settling of the foundations had done its work; floors were warped, walls out of plumb, doors and windows could be opened only with difficulty. Wood strongly recommended the construction of a properly-designed building.¹⁵ The project was approved at ministerial level, but as described in Part I, the police and the Department of

Fig. 52

(Picture Division, Public Archives)

North-west corner Guard-room, fronting
on First Avenue and Yukon River, showing
noon-day gun. 1906.



Public Works could not agree on a design, and perhaps as a result of that, or reluctance to provide the necessary funds, this old building stood until 1910. In that year, or early the following, it was demolished, with the conversion of the police hospital to a guard-room and gaol.

Figure 52 a photograph dating from 1906, shows the northwest corner of the gaol: St. Paul's Church may be dimly discerned in the background of this wintry scene.

No. 1 Barracks

There were in all four barrack buildings, the identification of which is not easy. The 1902 plan of the post (see Fig. 13 on page 45), as well as that of the previous year, shows a building marked "Division Kitchen and Barrack Room" next to the guard-room and gaol on the north side of the barrack square. This rectangular log building measured 75 ft. by 30 ft.,¹⁶ which fits the building marked on these two plans. The eastern end of this barracks may be seen in Figure 6 (page 23), and a bit of the opposite end in Figure 4 (page 17). Unlike all but the Superintendent's house among the buildings dating from the early days, No. 1 barracks was 2-storeyed; its date of construction has not been determined, but it appears on the 1901 plan of the post. The kitchen was on the ground floor, and barrack room on the second; it contained 24 beds or cots, and the building was fitted with two ventilator shafts, cupola-like structures on

the ridge of the roof at either end. No. 1 barracks cannot have provided very salubrious accommodation, for the 8-foot ceiling was too low, ventilation was poor, and the windows were too small;¹⁷ no doubt, because of warped sashes, the windows opened only with difficulty, if at all, in winter.

This same building accommodated barrack room No. 4, which because it was but 28 ft. in length (compared with a full 75 ft. for No. 1 barrack room) must have shared the ground floor with the kitchen. Barrack room No. 4 measured 28 ft. by 20 ft., but it had a 10-foot ceiling. It too suffered from poor ventilation, the windows would not open in the winter, and its proximity to the kitchen added nothing to the atmosphere. Finally the kitchen measured 12 ft. by 18 ft., with a 10-foot ceiling. A bathroom was built on as a lean-to, but there was no drainage for the water after use.¹⁸ Surgeon L.A. Paré's report for 1904 found this barracks scarcely up to the standards of the day; but on the other hand, it need not be condemned. The proximity of the bank mess precluded the building of an extension to the rear.

No. 1 barrack room on the second floor, along with the other three barrack rooms, had its walls lined with matched lumber and was painted in 1902; it was also re-floored.¹⁹

This building, along with the other barracks on the east side of the square, was taken down sometime in 1912, and the logs used to build a fence in the form of a stockade across

the front of the square where the old gaol and quarter-master's store had stood, and along the north side of the post from the river front to the artisans' shops.

No. 2 and 3 Barracks

Passing along to the east side of the square one comes to another log 1-storeyed building, with the usual pitched roof, 75 ft. in length by 20 in width; built for the Yukon Field Force in 1898, this barracks was taken over by the police on the departure of the troops in 1900. This building contained No.'s 2 and 3 barrack rooms, with 10-foot ceilings. Like No. 1 barracks, this one was ill-ventilated, cold and dark, with poor foundations.²⁰ It is surmised on the basis of topographical features in the background and of the general appearance of the building appearing on the extreme right in both photographs, that the camera was trained on the southeast corner of the barrack square. (Figure 53 is undated, and Fig. 54, 1900). If this be accepted, the building in the left background is the barracks taken over from the Yukon Field Force, containing No. 2 and 3 barrack rooms, and the canteen. The two photographs were taken at a corner of the compound: the background features, mountains and the Yukon River, lead one to conclude that this is the southeast corner, by process of elimination. (Compare Fig. 6, page 23, with the foregoing, Fig. 6 showing the northeast corner of the compound.) With reference to the plans of the compound

1901 and 1902, the building in the left background of Figures 53 and 54 may definitely be identified with No. 2 and 3 barracks and that to the right of it as the headquarters office.

The former originally had two extensions in the rear accommodating the tailor's, barber's, blacksmith's and carpenter's shops. In 1902 these extensions were removed, and windows installed along this back wall.²¹ The 1902 plan of the compound also shows a grandstand erected at the rear of the barracks, facing the parade ground.

In 1912 "the old log barracks rooms were pulled down,"²² presumably this building and No. 1 barracks previously described. The report does not give the reason for demolition--perhaps deterioration of the structures due to the continuous settling of the foundations, or perhaps simply the reduced requirements of the force.

Tool House and Latrine

The only reason for devoting any space to this little shed is that research unearthed a bit of information concerning it. Fig. 55 is a blueprint of the plan. The tool shed was built in 1910 in an undetermined location; a frame structure of two-by-four, 17 ft. in length by 8 in width, the pitched roof was single-boarded and sheeted with

Fig. 53

(Picture Division, Public Archives)

N.W.M.P. on Parade, n.d., with No. 2 & 3
barracks left background, headquarters
office right background.

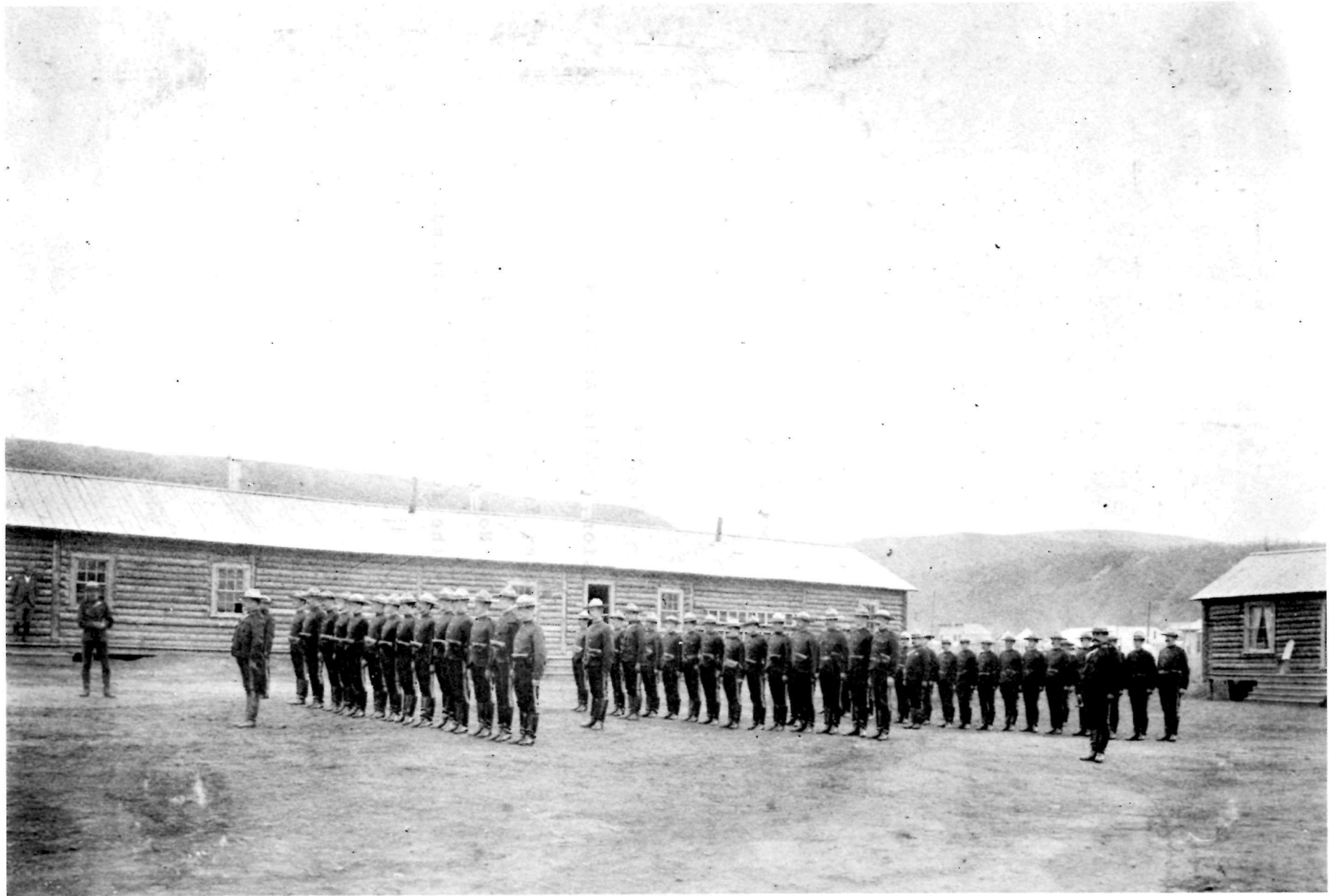


Fig. 54

Picture Division, Public Archives)

Evening Parade, Yukon Field Force,

25 June 1900. No. 2 & 3 barracks

then used by the force left background.

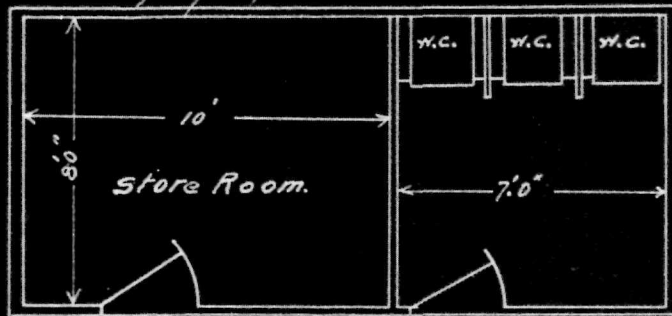


Fig. 55

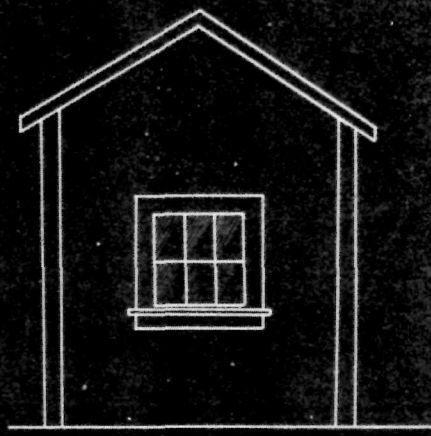
(Manuscript Division, Public Archives)

Blueprint of Tool House & Latrine, 1910.

2x4 Frame
Rough Boards
T. & S. Boards.



Front.

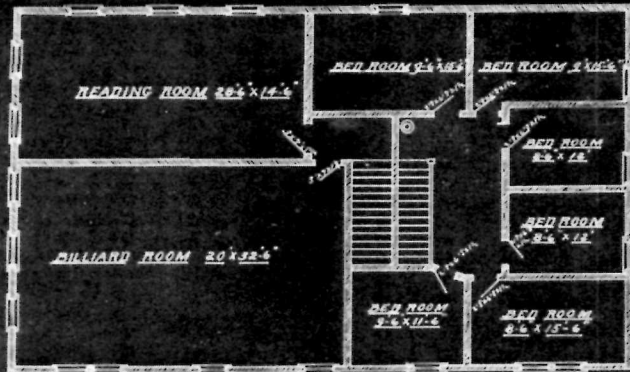


End.

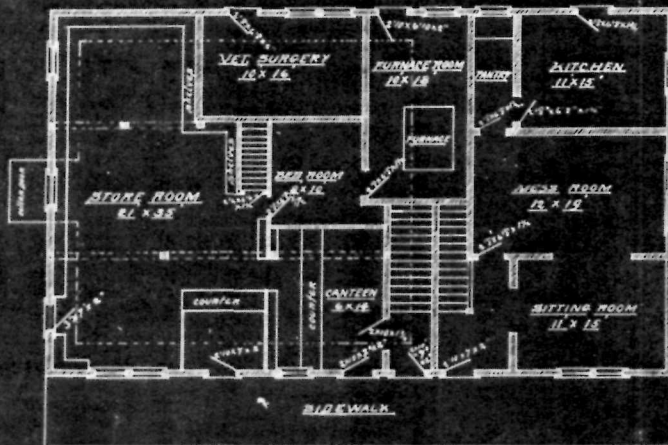
Fig. 56

(Manuscript Division, Public Archives)

Blueprint of Sergeants' Mess, 1904.

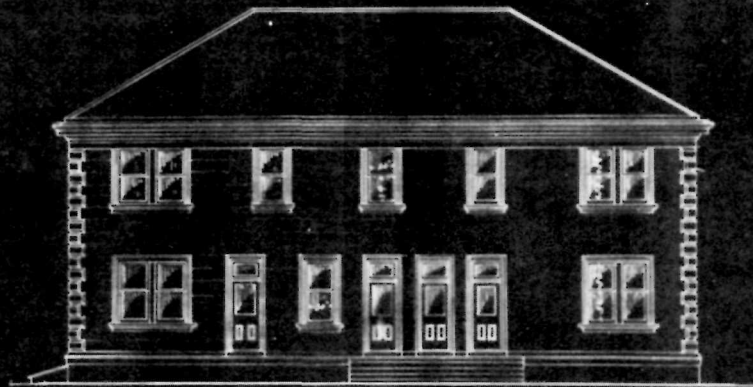


SECOND FLOOR PLAN



FIRST FLOOR PLAN

SERGEANTS' MESS
AND
CANTEEN
FOR THE
R.N.W.M. POLICE
DAWSON
Y.T.



FRONT ELEVATION

scale 1/4" = 1'

iron. The store room section measured 8 ft. by 10 ft., and the lavatory 7 by 8, with three water closets. A \$60 tender secured the contract.²³

Sergeants' Mess

The original sergeants' mess, as far as has been determined, was housed in the centre portion of the rectangular single-storeyed log structure, with a pitched roof, located at the southern end of the barrack square alongside Superintendent Wood's house (see Fig. 2 page 13). Built sometime between 1897 and 1899, the building at first had been used as an officers' mess, and prior to that, as seen in Part I, as the police hospital. In 1900 the building was painted and papered throughout, and was considered, by the standards of the time, quite comfortable.²⁴ By 1901 (see plan for that year, Fig. 8 on page 29) the eastern extremity of this building had become the commanding officer's office, and the centre portion divisional stores. By 1902 the roof needed replacement, and two years later the building was deemed beyond repair.²⁵ In 1904, therefore, plans were drawn up by Robert Moncrieff for a new sergeants' mess (see Fig. 56), at an estimated cost of \$12,000. This was to be a 2-storeyed house, with a truncated hip roof; the ground floor was to comprise a mess room and kitchen, store room, veterinary surgery (oddly enough), furnace room (apparently there was no cellar), and canteen. On the second floor were

to be found a billiard room, reading room, and six bedrooms, no less. Asbestos and sheet metal exterior walls and pressed steel on the interior walls and ceiling were proposed, at an additional cost of \$2,400.²⁶ A file from the R.C.M.P. Records gives additional detail on the construction of the building. The lumber was to be of dry native spruce. The joists for the cellar and first floor were to be of 2 by 12, and for the second floor of 2 by 10, in each instance with "18 inch centres." In the attic the joists were to be of 2 by 6, with 2 ft. centres. The roof was to be covered with 8 inch shiplap, tar paper, and 26-gauge galvanized corrugated iron. The furnace (a No. 65 portable Hillborn hot-air) was designed to maintain a 75 degree heat at exterior temperatures down to 45 below zero. The hot air pipes were to be of tin, and the cold air of 26-gauge galvanized iron.²⁷ These plans were forwarded to the Comptroller on 14 January 1904 for approval; a year and a half was to pass, however, before construction got under way. In the spring of 1905 the Comptroller ordered revisions in the plans of an unspecified nature ("to bring specifications in line with actual necessities"). Moncrieff got the contract, and the building was completed and taken over by the police in October 1905.²⁸

Neither the location of this building nor its final disposition are known; it does not appear on the plan of the post dating from 1913.

Sergeant Major's Quarters

Completing a circuit of the old barracks square, the last building to be considered was a 1-storeyed log building of rectangular shape, approximately 70 ft. in length by 20 in width, the western end of which was the sergeant major's quarters, adjacent to Superintendent Wood's house. A close-up of the front entrance of this structure is shown in Figure 57 from which it may be seen that as with all the early buildings, this one was built of logs, with a shallow-pitched roof. Comparing the photograph in Fig. 57 with that in Fig. 58 (legend for which reads "Yukon Garrison, Packing Up, 1900") the similarity of the buildings is unmistakable, although not enough is shown in either case to make identification positive; but referring to Fig. 2 from Part I (page 13), it is evident that the two photographs cited above (Fig. 57 and 58) are of the right end of this building, which was the sergeant-major's quarters. Fig. 58 is of men of the Yukon Field Force packing for departure, indicative that this building was originally used by them, subsequently by the police. As with a number of other buildings the final disposition of this one is not known.

Epilogue

Very little remains of Fort Herchmer, and that has been covered in Part II. In conclusion, it is proposed to include the remaining photographs which have not been identified in

the hope that they may be of assistance to the design staff in completing the jig-saw puzzle.

Figs. 59 to 64 inclusive show buildings, on the basis of the physiographical features in the background, at the northeast corner of the barrack square. All the photographs, with the exception of the one with the palisade (undated) were taken in 1900. The 2-storeyed building in the left background of Fig. 59 looks like No. 1 barracks, but the buildings fronting it have not been identified. Fig. 60 is taken in the same quarter, but little of the buildings can be seen because of the palisade. The same physiographical feature appears in the background of Fig. 62 as in Figs. 59 and 60, but the buildings have not been identified. The buildings shown in Figs. 59 and 63 are obviously identical. The slide in the background of Fig. 64, showing the police and prisoners working on the roofs, has been taken in the same quarter as the preceeding ones.

Figure 65 shows the last guard of the Yukon Field Force parading on 26 June 1900. The mountain in the background is the identical one with that appearing in Figures 60 and 62, hence it is inferred that this photograph too shows the east side of the barrack square. The building in the background of Figure 65 may therefore be the barracks housing No. 2 and 3 barrack rooms, with the canteen, shown on the plan for 1902 (page 45).

Fig. 57

(Picture Division, Public Archives)

Sergeant-Major's Quarters, July 1900.

Compare the structural detail in this picture with that shown from a greater distance in Fig. 1 and 2.

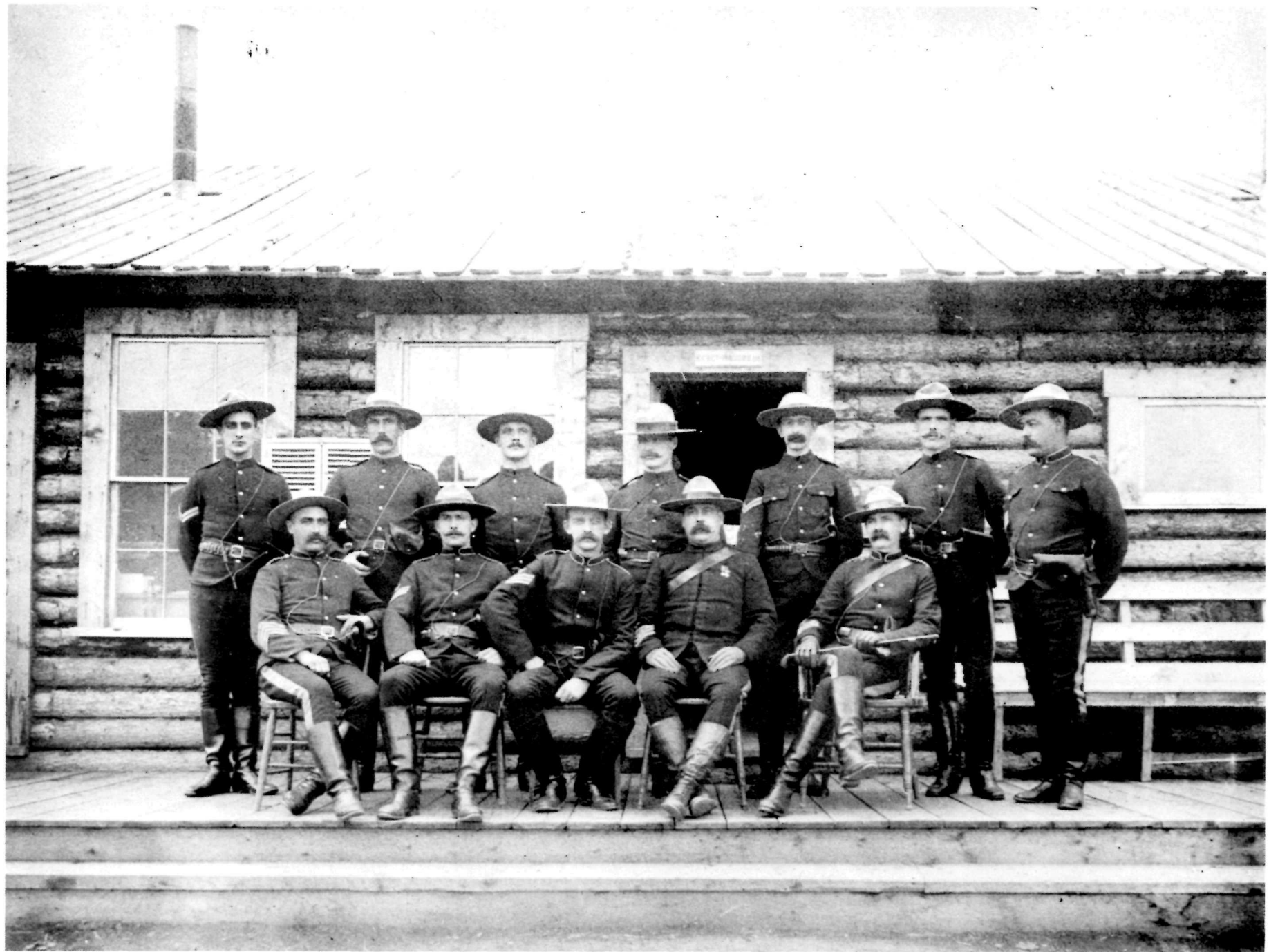


Fig. 58

(Picture Division, Public Archives)

Troops of the Yukon Field Force packing up for departure. Compare structural details of this building with those shown in Fig. 1, 2 and 57.



11780
1900

YUKON CARR PACKING DEP, DAWSON

Fig. 59

(Picture Division, Public Archives)

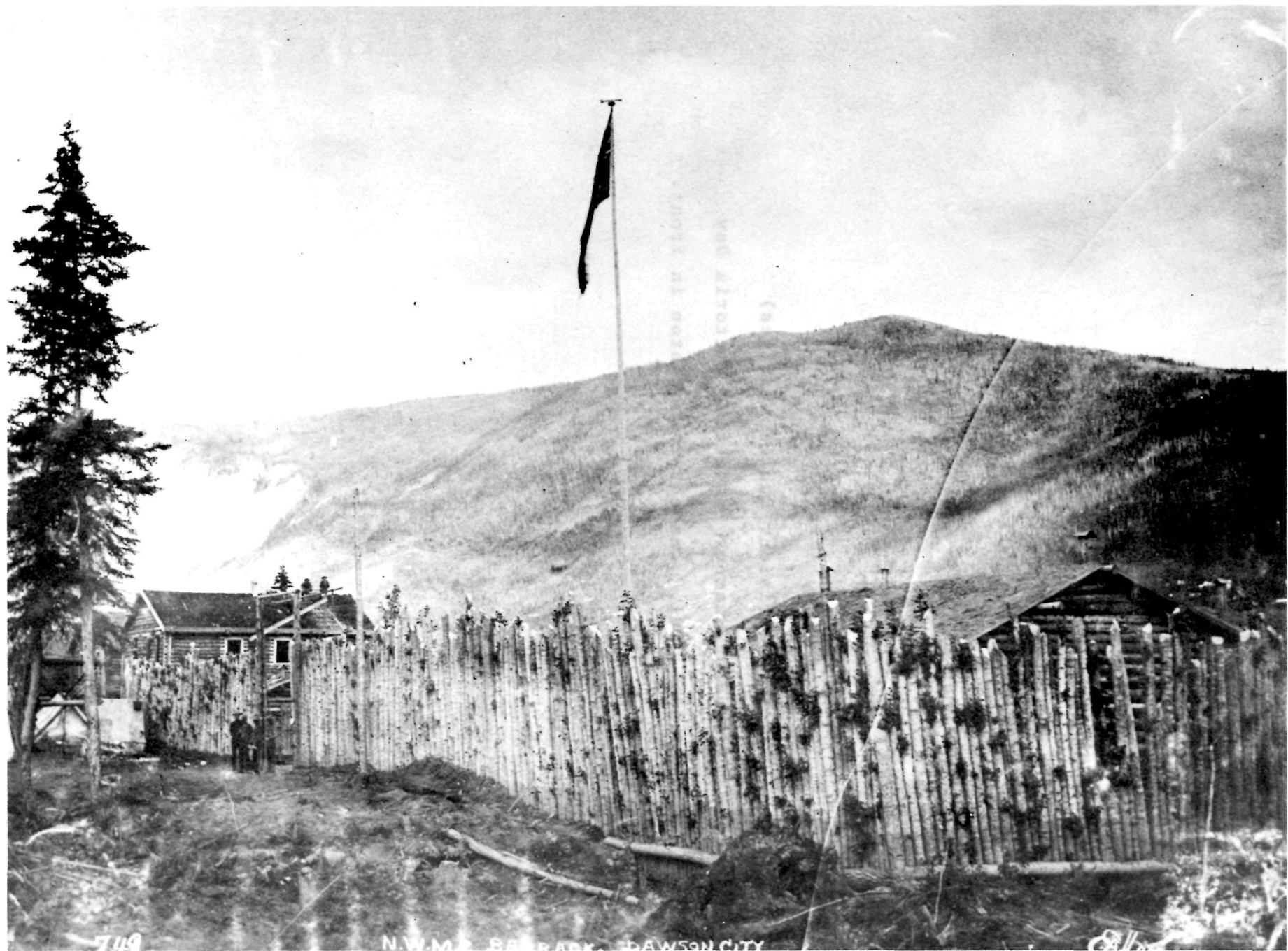
Yukon Field Force on Parade. Camera
looking to the northeast: note slide.



Fig. 60

(Picture Division, Public Archives)

N.-W.M.P. Barracks, undated.



719

N.W.M. BARBARA DAWSON CITY

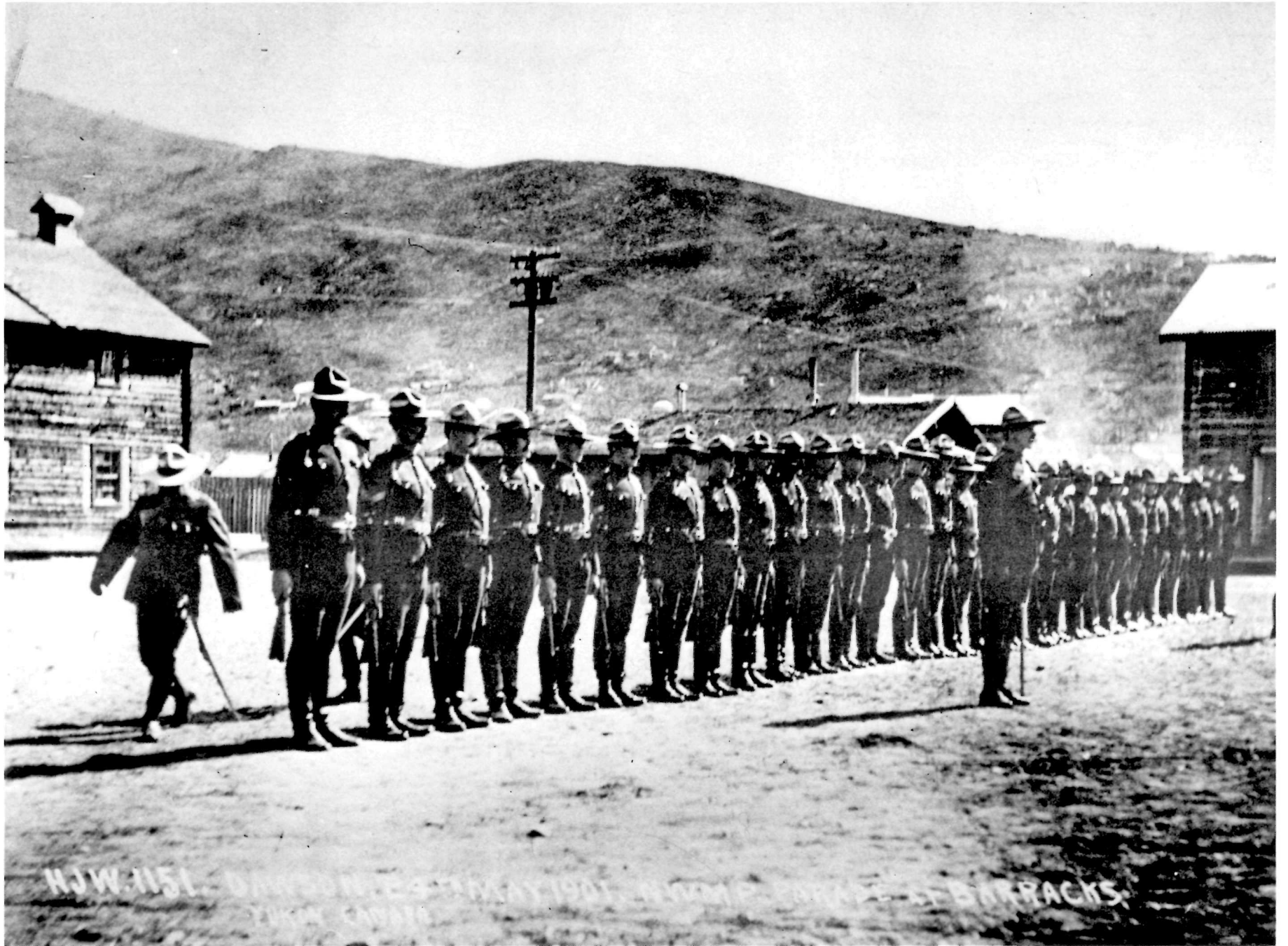
8/1

Fig. 61

(Picture Division, Public Archives)

Inspector Starnes inspecting Victoria Day

Parade, 1901. Inspector Wroughton in front.



HJW:151. BAND MARCHING MAY 1901. CAMP BARRACKS.

Fig. 62

(Picture Division, Public Archives)

Police Barracks, 1900. Buildings not identified; slide and hills in background indicate same quarter as preceeding photographs.



Fig. 63

(Picture Division, Public Archives)

Yukon Field Force drilling, 1900.



Fig. 64

(Picture Division, Public Archives)

Police and Prisoners Roofing. Note
slide in background.



Fig. 65

(Picture Division, Public Archives)

Last guard Yukon Field Force parading
26 June 1900.



Fig. 66

(Picture Division, Public Archives)

Rear of Police Barracks, Dawson, 1900.

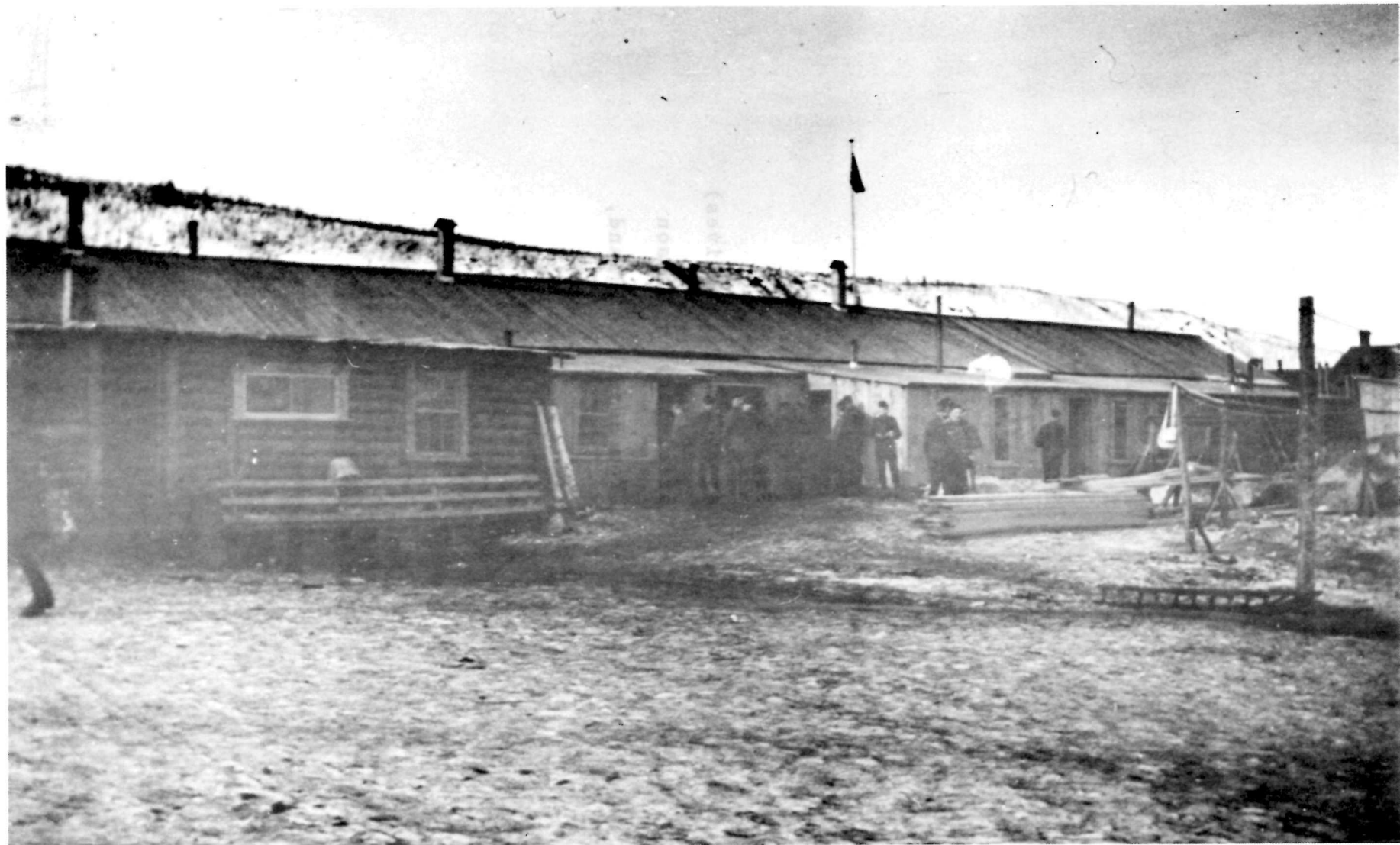


Fig. 67

(Picture Division, Public Archives)

R.N.-W.M.P. Patrol leaving Dawson
with the Mail for Herschel Island,
29 Dec. 1908.



Fig. 68

(Picture Division, Public Archives)

Prisoners, Police Barracks, Dawson,
1900.



Part I: Endnotes

- 1 Report of N.W.M.P. 1894, (Ottawa: Queen's Printer, 1895)
(hereafter designated merely N.-W.M.P. and the year of
the Report), p. 81.
- 2 N.-W.M.P., 1895, p. 21.
- 3 N.-W.M.P., 1896, p. 232.
- 4 Ibid., Appendix DD, Report of the Yukon Detachment,
Fort Constantine, 20 Nov. 1896, pp. 235-6.
- 5 PAC., RG 91, Yukon Territorial Records, file 4607,
Constantine to Deputy-Minister of the Interior, 24 Sept.
1896.
- 6 N.-W.M.P., 1897, Constantine Report, pp. 310-11.
- 7 N.-W.M.P., 1894, p. 82, Constantine Report, 10 Oct. 1894.
- 8 N.-W.M.P., 1898, Part III, Yukon Territory, Report of
Supt. Steele, 10 January 1899, p. 16.
- 9 Ibid., p. 15.
- 10 Ibid., p. 14.
- 11 Ibid., p. 15.
- 12 Ibid.
- 13 N.-W.M.P., 1900, Part III, Appendix B, Report Insp.
Starnes, 1 Dec. 1900, pp. 49-50.
- 14 N.-W.M.P., 1898, Part III, Yukon Territory, Report
Supt. Steele, pp. 23 & 16, 10 Jan. 1899.
- 15 PAC., RG 18, A 1, R.C.M.P. Records, file 648 of 1904,
Z.T. Wood to Comptroller, 29 June 1904.

- 16 N.-W.M.P., 1901, Part III, Report Supt. Wood, p. 7.
- 17 R.C.M.P. Records, A 1, file 648 of 1904, Report Surgeon Paré, 25 June 1904.
- 18 N.-W.M.P., 1900, Part III, Appendix B, Report Insp. C. Starnes, 1 Dec. 1900, p. 51.
- 19 N.-W.M.P., 1902, Part III, Appendix B, p. 96.
- 20 Ibid., pp. 67-8.
- 21 Ibid.
- 22 R.C.M.P. Records, A 1, file 356 of 1914, Z.T. Wood to D.A. Cameron (bank manager), 15 Nov. 1902.
- 23 N.-W.M.P., 1902, Part III, Appendix B, Report Insp. W.H. Routledge, p. 79, 1 Dec. 1902.
- 24 R.C.M.P. Records, A 1, file 469 of 1903, 10 April 1903.
- 25 Ibid., file 469 of 1903, Assist. Commissioner to Comptroller, 17 April 1903.
- 26 N.-W.M.P., 1903, Part III, Appendix B, p. 48.
- 27 R.C.M.P. Records, A 1, file 469 of 1903.
- 28 N.-W.M.P., 1903, Part III, p. 6, Report Assist. Comm. Wood, 1 Dec. 1903.
- 29 N.-W.M.P., 1910, Part III, Appendix A, p. 216, Report Supt. Snyder, 30 Sept. 1910.
- 30 R.C.M.P. Records, A 1, file 213 of 1913, O.C. "B" Div. to Comptroller, 17 Dec. 1912.
- 31 Ibid., file 213 of 1913, letter 23 Oct. 1912
- 32 N.-W.M.P., 1912, Part III, Appendix A, p. 241.

- 33 R.C.M.P. Records, A 1, file 6 of 1913, O.C. "B" Div. to Comptroller, 5 Dec. 1912, and reply 13 Jan. 1913.
- 34 Ibid., file 213 of 1913.
- 35 Ibid., file 213 of 1913, O.C. "B" Div. to Commissioner, 7 Jan. 1913.
- 36 N.-W.M.P., 1913, Part III, Appendix A, pp. 275-6.
- 37 N.-W.M.P., 1914, Part III, Appendix A, pp. 224-5.
- 38 Ibid., p. 226.
- 39 Canada: Sessional Papers, 1915, No. 25, p. 65.
- 40 R.N.-W.M.P., 1915, Part III, Appendix A, p. 237.
- 41 R.N.-W.M.P., 1916, Part III, Appendix A, pp. 304-5, Report Supt. R.S. Knight, 30 Sept. 1916.
- 42 Yukon Territorial Records, file 4607-2, memorandum 22 Oct. 1949.

Part II: Endnotes

- 1 N.-W.M.P., 1898, Part III, Report of Supt. Steele, p. 16.
- 2 Ibid., p. 14.
- 3 N.-W.M.P., 1901, Part III, p. 7.
- 4 RG 91, Yukon Territorial Records, file 4607-2 memo.
22 Oct. 1949.
- 5 N.-W.M.P., 1898, Part III, p. 14.
- 6 Ibid., 1899, Part III, p. 15.
- 7 Ibid., 1900, Part III, Appendix B, pp. 49-50.
- 8 Ibid., Appendix G, p. 68.
- 9 Ibid., 1902, Part III, Appendix B, p. 96.
- 10 RG 18 A 1 R.C.M.P. Records, file 648 of 1904, Surgeon
Paré's report, 25 June 1904.
- 11 Ibid., file 579 of 1910.
- 12 Ibid.
- 13 N.-W.M.P., 1912, Part III, Appendix A, p. 241.
- 14 Ibid., 1913, Part III, Appendix A, p. 285.
- 15 Ibid., pp. 275-6.
- 16 Ibid., 1914, Part III, Appendix A, p. 233.
- 17 Ibid., 1915, Part III, Appendix A, p. 245
- 18 Ibid., 1916, Part III, Appendix A, p. 304-5.
- 19 R.C.M.P. Records, file 469 of 1903.
- 20 N.-W.M.P., 1903, Part III, Appendix B, p. 48.
- 21 N.-W.M.P., 1913, Part III, Appendix A, pp. 275-6.
- 22 Ibid., 1902, Part III, Appendix B, pp. 67-8.
- 23 R.C.M.P. Records, Vol. 256, file 469 of 1903, letter
7 May 1903.

24 Ibid., Vol. 442, file 213 of 1913.

25 N.-W.M.P., 1916, Part III, Appendix A, pp. 304-5.

Part III : Endnotes

- 1 N.W.M.P., 1898, Part III, p. 16.
- 2 Ibid., 1900, Part III, Appendix B, pp. 49-50.
- 3 Ibid., 1910, Part III, Appendix A, p. 216.
- 4 Ibid., 1899
- 5 RG 18 A 1, R.C.M.P. Records, file 213 of 1913.
- 6 N.W.M.P., 1898, Part III, p. 16.
- 7 Ibid., 1902, Part III, Appendix B, p. 96.
- 8 Ibid., 1898, Part III, pp. 15-16.
- 9 Ibid., 1900, Part 3, Appendix B, pp. 39-40.
- 10 Ibid., p. 41.
- 11 Ibid.
- 12 Ibid., p. 41.
- 13 Ibid., 1901, Part III, p. 7.
- 14 Ibid., p. 13.
- 15 RG 11 Series IV, Department of Public Works Records,
file 274524, letter Z.T. Wood, 1 Dec. 1904.
- 16 R.C.M.P. Records, file 648 of 1904, Report of
L.A. Paré, 30 June 1904.
- 17 Ibid.
- 18 Ibid.
- 19 N.W.M.P., 1902, Part III, Appendix B, pp. 67-8.
- 20 R.C.M.P. Records, file 648 of 1904
- 21 N.W.M.P., 1902, Part III, Appendix B, pp. 67-8.

- 22 R.C.M.P. Records, Vol. 442, file 213 of 1913, letter
J.D. Moodie to Commissioner, 23 Oct. 1912.
- 23 Ibid., file 579 of 1910.
- 24 N.W.M.P., 1900, Part III, Appendix B, pp. 49-50.
- 25 R.C.M.P., file 648 of 1904, Paré Report, 25 June 1904.
- 26 R.C.M.P. Records, file 26 of 1906, Z.T. Wood,
14 Jan. 1904.
- 27 Ibid., memorandum on specifications.
- 28 Ibid., memorandum enclosed with letter 26 Feb. 1906.

Bibliography

Primary Manuscript Sources and contemporary Printed Sources only were used in this report, the former in the Manuscript Division of the Public Archives, and the latter in the Public Archives Library.

Reports of the North-West Mounted Police. Queen's & King's Printer, Ottawa, 1894-1917.

Canada: Sessional Papers, 1915, No. 25.

RG 11, Series IV, Department of Public Works Records.
file 274524.

RG 18 A 1, R.C.M.P. Records, files 469 of 1903, 648 of 1904,
26 of 1906, 6 of 1913, 213 of 1913, 356 of 1914.

RG 91, Yukon Territorial Records, files 4607, 4607-2.

