

February 2024



Gindehchik / Rampart House & Zheh Gwatsàl / LaPierre House Historic Sites



Historic Sites Management Plan and Designation Celebration. July 2023



Celebratory group in front of the Cadzow House at Rampart House. July 27, 2023.

The Gindèhchik / Rampart House and Zheh Gwatsàl / LaPierre House Historic Sites Management Plan Signing Ceremony and Rampart House Historic Site Designation was held on July 27, 2023 at Rampart House on the hottest day of the year. This celebration was co-hosted by the Vuntut Gwitchin Government (VGG) and Government of Yukon (YG), and no one could have asked for a more beautiful day: there was hardly a cloud in the sky and not a breath of wind.

The event began with opening prayers and hymns in both English and Gwich'in from Reverend Jeffrey, Marion Schafer and Lorraine Netro, followed by remarks from Chief Pauline Frost, Minister of Tourism and Culture John Streicker, John Firth from the Yukon Heritage Resources Board (YHRB) and Rebecca Jansen, Manager of Historic Sites (YG).

The proceedings featured the official dedication of Gindèhchik / Rampart House as the twelfth Yukon Historic Site and the signing of the updated Gindèhchik / Rampart House and Zheh Gwatsàl / LaPierre House Historic Sites Management Plan. It also included the introduction of the new logo for the sites, designed by Vuntut Gwitchin artist Maureen Charlie. After the ceremony, the approximately 60 attendees toured the grounds, Teresa Frost led the games for the children and the adults, and all feasted on a lunch of moose meat and fry bread provided by the Vuntut Gwitchin Government.

Government of Yukon Historic Sites staff wish to thank all for their warm hospitality, fun games, good food and the little bit of shade that we shared at Gindèhchik / Rampart House.



Minister John Streicker, Tourism and Culture, Government of Yukon and Chief Pauline Frost, Vuntut Gwitsih signing the Management Plan. 2023.



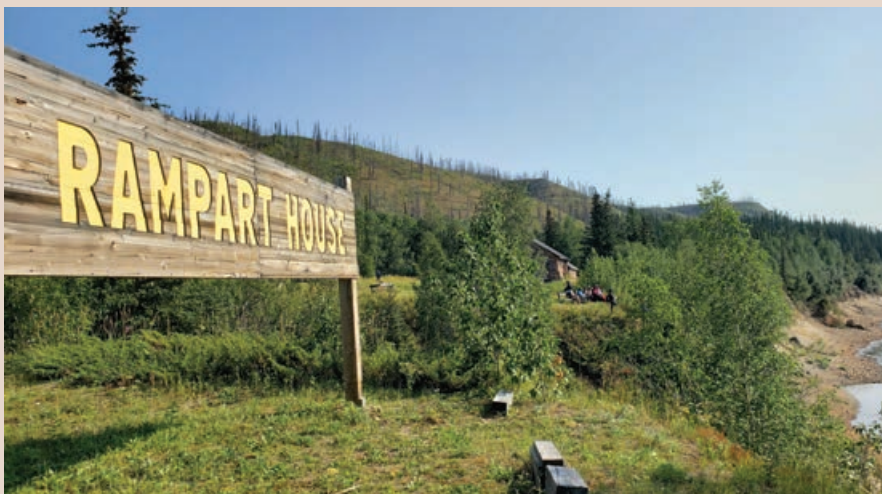
Teresa Frost. Rampart House. 2023



Rebecca Jansen, John Firth, Minister Streiker and Chief Pauline Frost. 2023



The Border Boyz are presented with t-shirts for their hard work and dedication. 2023.



Rampart House and LaPierre House are protected places that connect people, history and culture, promoting understanding and enjoyment for future generations while maintaining authenticity and integrity.

2023



Rampart House. 2023

Acknowledgments:

Historic Sites, Government of Yukon would like to thank Megan Williams, Manager of Heritage, Vuntut Gwitchin Government for her hard work in the collaboration for the conservation of Rampart House and LaPierre House and the development of the second Management Plan, as well as the designation of Rampart House. We are also appreciative of Megan's exceptional hospitality and hard work in coordinating the boats to get us to and from Gindèhchik / Rampart House to celebrate VGG and YG's collaboration on this project.

Thank you to the Vuntut Gwitchin Government for nominating Rampart House as the twelfth Yukon historic site and recognizing the importance of this special place.

Thank you to the Yukon Heritage Resources Board for your diligent work in assessing these nominations and providing recommendations to Minister Streicker and thank you to the Minister for your role in designating this historic site.

Gindèhchik / Rampart House and Zheh Gwatsàl / LaPierre House Historic Sites logo for the co-managed sites was created by Maureen Charlie. The logo depicts Rampart House and LaPierre House with the Porcupine River, pussy willow branches and fireweed flowers. We are honoured to have Maureen contribute her talent and vision and we extend our thanks.

We would also like to thank the following in making this day a wonderful celebration to recognize the value of Gindèhchik / Rampart House and Zheh Gwatsàl / LaPierre House Historic Sites:



Megan Williams coordinating boats to transport visitors to Rampart House, July 27, 2023



Boat drivers:

- Phillip Bruce
- Ryan Cardinal
- Hal Frost Jr.
- Harold Frost Sr.
- Marvin Frost Sr.
- Pauline Frost and Roger Hamburg
- Travis Frost
- Robert Kyikavichik
- Vernon Kyikavichik
- Esau Schafer
- James Smith

Catering:

- Marla Charlie
- Faye Elias
- Merrence Lloyd

Elders Transportation:

- JB Garin, Canadian Helicopters

Event Coordinator:

- Teresa Frost

Musicians:

- Jamie and Josh Tetlich



“ The Designation of Rampart House as a Yukon Historic Site and the signing of the Gindèhchik / Rampart House & Zheh Gwatsàl / LaPierre House Historic Sites Management Plan are important milestones in meeting our objectives stated in Chapter 13 of the Vuntut Gwitchin Final Agreement, but today’s celebrations also highlight the importance of this work. To see the community enjoying the site, sharing stories and bringing Rampart House to life with music and laughter are at the core of what we do. I am grateful to Vuntut Gwitchin for sharing this special place and for all of those who have contributed to the process so far.”

Rebecca Jansen, Manager,
Historic Sites, Government of Yukon





Lorraine Netro with sister Florence Netro. 2023.

“ Our work at Gindèhchik and Zheh Gwatsàl over the years has been a great experience with a high level of community interest and support for the work at the site in addition to exemplary collaboration with Yukon Government. When we talk about co-management in other areas we always use Rampart House as an example for best practices. Many members of the work crews return year after year to Rampart House, and even crew members who don't return often pursue employment in a similar field. We hope to continue building and supporting the relationship of the community with these sites through work crews, training, enhanced infrastructure, community camps and visitor tours. ”

Megan Williams, Heritage Manager,
Vuntut Gwitchin Government.



Rebecca Jansen, Minister John Streiker, Chief Pauline Frost, Reverend Jeffery, Marion Schafer and Lorraine Netro. 2023





Shirley Kakfwi. July 27, 2023.

“ I was honoured to share this time and land with the people of Old Crow for a short while. Being the first John Firth to set foot in Rampart House in 130 years was an incredible experience that I shall never forget. ”

John Firth.



Tim Green and John Firth, Yukon Heritage Resources Board. 2023



Allan Benjamin. July 27, 2023



Brent Riley and Lee Whalen on the Porcupine River. 2023



Brent Riley with camera. Cadzow House in the background. July 2023

Brent Riley, Historic Sites Restoration Planner, Government of Yukon, has retired!

Since 1995, Brent Riley has worked collaboratively with Vuntut Gwitchin Government, Heritage Managers, Citizens, and the Border Boyz, as well as Historic Sites colleagues for the conservation and maintenance activities on the sites of Rampart House and LaPierre House.

Brent's skills, expertise, and dedication to the protection of Rampart House and LaPierre House has been instrumental in the documentation and planning for the conservation work at the sites. Brent has also provided his knowledge to the preparation of the 1999 and 2022 Rampart House and LaPierre House Historic Sites Management Plans and the 2023 Rampart House designation.

"Vuntut Gwitchin Government would like to thank Brent Riley for his service as a historic building restoration expert, workplan developer, site photographer, and all-around good sport about delayed boats, missing socks, 6-hour boat trips, crew ups and downs and all those chainsaw marks on the logs. Throughout his time working with us Brent has provided steady, methodical work plans, instructions, information and advice. He will be greatly missed, and we wish him all the best in his future endeavors."

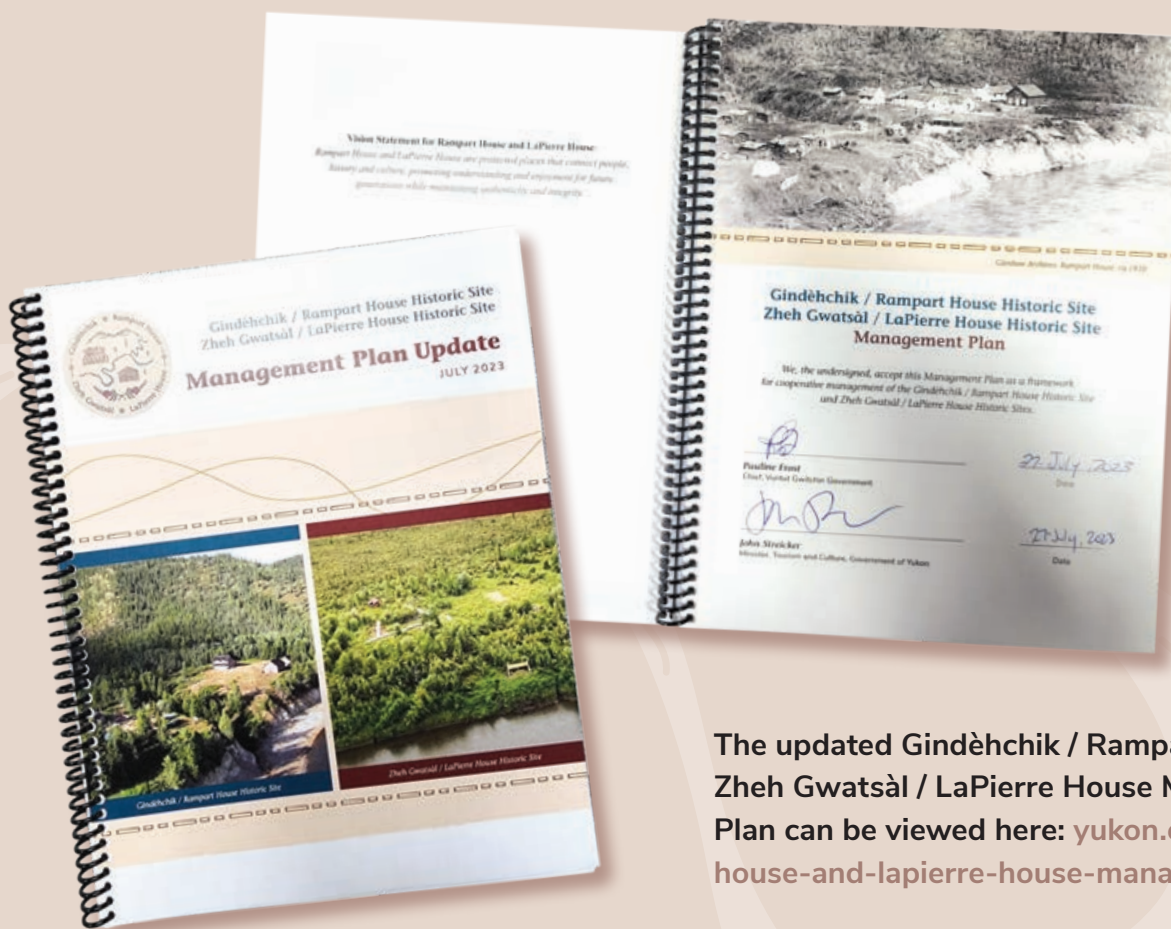
Megan Williams, Heritage Manager,
Vuntut Gwitchin Government

Gindèhchik / Rampart House and Zheh Gwatsàl / LaPierre House Historic Sites Management Plan



Rampart House. July 2001

Informed by extensive community engagement, the Gindèhchik / Rampart House and Zheh Gwatsàl / LaPierre House Historic Sites Management Plan guides the protection, conservation and interpretation of the heritage resources at both historic sites for the next 10 years. The plan includes increased recognition of Gwich'in language and cultural history and aims to build local capacity by employing Vuntut Gwitchin Citizens in its implementation.



The updated Gindèhchik / Rampart House and Zheh Gwatsàl / LaPierre House Management Plan can be viewed here: yukon.ca/rampart-house-and-lapierre-house-management-plan

Gindèhchik / Rampart House Historic Site and Zheh Gwatsàl / LaPierre House Historic Site Management Plan Update – excerpts:

The *Vuntut Gwitchin Final Agreement*, Chapter 13, Schedule B identifies Rampart House Historic Site and LaPierre House Historic Site as significant heritage sites and recognizes their values to Vuntut Gwitchin, Yukoners and others from outside the region.

In accordance with the terms of the Final Agreement, in 1999, a Management Plan was developed and approved for the management of both Rampart House Historic Site and LaPierre House Historic Site. One provision was that the management plan be reviewed periodically. For the past several years, conservation and interpretation activities have been undertaken at the sites by the Vuntut Gwitchin Government (VGG) and Government of Yukon (YG) under the guidance of that plan. It is appropriate now to update that Management Plan for these co-owned and co-managed sites to include the work already done and identify new and future issues that will affect the sites.

The two historic sites will continue to be collaboratively managed by representatives from both Vuntut Gwitchin Government and Government of Yukon.

VGG and YG are responsible for the annual planning of conservation activities on the sites. The work is based on the numerous studies that have been undertaken over the years that have

identified the heritage resources, their condition, and the recommended treatments to apply in order to protect, conserve and interpret the sites.

The *Historic Resources Act* provides for the recognition and protection of historic and cultural resources in the Yukon. It sets out the definitions, mechanisms, and procedures for designating sites by giving them formal recognition and bringing them under government protection.

Once a site is designated, or formal notice of intent to designate is issued, then “No person shall carry out an activity that will alter the historic character of a site.” Further provisions in the Act describe the mechanisms for enforcing this structure or permitting activity. Other than protecting the site, the Act is not specific on how the site is to be managed. The Government of Yukon adopted the *Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada* and uses this document as a best practice in the management of historic places.

Since both sites were removed from subsurface staking (Rampart House, Order-in Council 2003/91 and LaPierre House, Order-in-Council 2003/92), mining activity cannot take place on the historic properties.



Photo by G. Baird. Rampart House. 1976



GINDÈHCHIK-RAMPART HOUSE

Gindèhchik-Rampart House is an important place within the Vuntut Gwitchin traditional territory. Seasonally occupied for millenia, the Gwich'in name for Rampart House is Gindèhchik, meaning "Fish Spear Creek Mouth". Gindèh is the fish spear carried in the long-ago story of Ch'ataiyuukaih and Ch'ii Choo.

The buildings here are the best-preserved example of a 20th century fur trading post in the north Yukon. The Hudson's Bay Company (HBC) set up a post here in 1890, but left after only three years because of competition from American traders. In 1904, independent trader Dan Cadzow set up his business here. He reused the old HBC buildings, and later built his own. During this time many Gwich'in families built cabins and traded here.

Anglican Church missionaries followed the traders. With the help of the congregation they built a church in 1918 and a rectory in 1919. These buildings are an important illustration of the development of the Anglican Church in the Yukon. They are the oldest Christian buildings in Vuntut Gwitchin territory. Services were primarily held by Gwich'in church workers and visiting clergy.

The history of Rampart House is intertwined with the Yukon-Alaska International Border. Both the Turner Survey Expedition (1888), and the later International Boundary Survey (1911-12) were temporarily based here to survey the 141st meridian. When the HBC moved their post here, this was only the second point along the international boundary to be accurately surveyed. A Royal Northwest Mounted Police detachment was established in 1914 to patrol the border.

For the Gwich'in at Rampart House, the international border had negative impacts. In 1911, many Gwitchin were forced to quarantine because of an alleged smallpox outbreak. Their homes and possessions were burned by officials from the International Boundary Survey. Increased enforcement of border taxes and regulations separated families and isolated the Gwich'in from their traditional lands. In response many people moved away, and by 1940 Rampart House was mostly abandoned.

Today Rampart House is a successful example of co-management between the Vuntut Gwitchin and Yukon governments. Many Vuntut Gwitchin citizens have worked on the conservation and maintenance of the site.



Yukon Historic Site designation plaque installed at Rampart House .July 27, 2023.



St. Luke's Anglican Church conservation. Rampart House. 2023

Thank you to the Management Plan Steering Committee and the Vuntut Gwitchin Heritage Committee that guided the updated Management Plan:

Robert Bruce Jr., VG
Jane Montgomery, VG
Marion Shaffer, VG
Megan Williams, Heritage Manager, VGG
Rebecca Jansen, Manager, YG
Barb Hogan, YG
Brent Riley, Restoration Planner, YG
Ty Heffner, Yukon Archeologist, YG

Conservation Recognition

Over the past 25 years 50 community members have worked at Rampart House. Every year, work crews spend time at the site to undertake building conservation activities and site maintenance. They have also added a work camp in a clearing east of the historic buildings that consists of four tent frames for crew accommodation, a larger structure housing the kitchen / dining / gathering area, and an outdoor cooking/relaxing area (also used for drying and smoking meat and fish). There is also a water storage tank, washing facilities, an outhouse, and two small storage structures in the work camp area, one log and one frame and plywood.

Long term crew members:

Wilfred Josie (14 years)
Freddy Frost (13 years)
Joseph Bruce (12 years)
Donovan Frost (9 years)
Harvey Kassi (8 years)
Moses Lord (8 years)
Kibbe Tetlich (7 years)
Phillip Bruce (6 years)
George Nukon (6 years)
Warren Smith (4 years)

And our cooks:

Bertha Frost (5 years)
Darrell Charlie (4 years)
Margaret Frost (4 years)
Jolene Geddes (3 years)



*Harvey Kassi, Wilfred Josie, Warren Smith, Andy Johnsgaard, Peter Frost.
Cadzow Store conservation. Rampart House. 2000.*



Wilfred Josie. 2019.



*Harvey Kassi and Donovan Frost,
west side job site. Rampart House. 2016.*



*Phillip Bruce, Harvey Kassi milling logs,
west side job site. Rampart House. 2016.*



Cross piece ready to install.
Rampart House Church. 2023.



Joseph Bruce. Rampart House Church. 2023. (Shawn Cindrich photo)



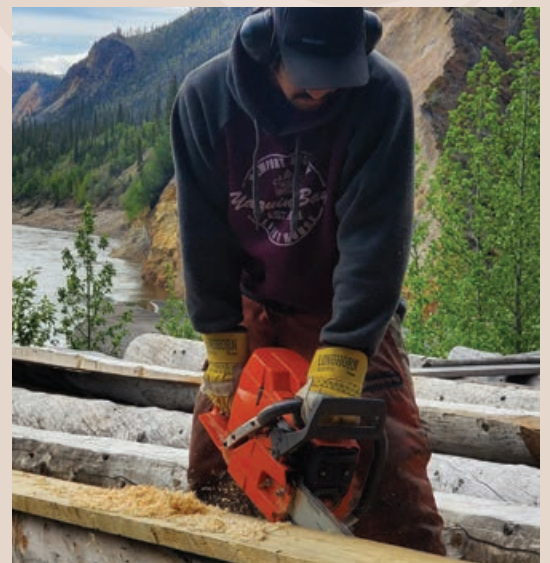
Rampart House view from the high bluff 2023. (Shawn Cindrich photo)



Joseph Bruce, Donovan Frost. Westside job site,
milling logs. Rampart House 2023.



Donovon Frost,
Wilfred Josie. 2023.



Donovon Frost., 2023.



Jolene Geddes, Darius Elias, Phillip Bruce, Vernon Kyikavichikwith Desmond and Vernon Jr, Deanna Kyikavichik, Donovan Frost, George Nukon, Harvey Kassi, Bertha Frost. Rampart House. 2016.



Bertha Frost. Rampart House. 2007



Joseph Bruce, Donovan Frost, Margaret Frost, George Nukon, Phillip Bruce, Magwa. Rampart House Crew. 2018.



Freddy Frost, Foreman for 13 years. Rampart House. 2006.



Kibbe Tetlich. Rampart House. 2006.



Peter Charlie, Derek Kapuschak, Joseph Joseph Bruce, Wilfred Josie. Rampart House Crew. 2015.



Kibbe Tetlich, Joseph Bruce, Phillip Bruce, Darrell Charlie, Harvey Kassi with kids Riley Bruce Taureau and Dredyn Kassi. Border Boyz. Rampart House. 2013.



Joseph Bruce, Wilfred Josie, Devyn Kassi, Kibbie Tetlich, Harvey Kassi. Rampart House. 2012.



Jolene Geddes. Rampart House. 2016.



Bertha Frost. 2002.



Marvin Frost, Andy Johnsgaard, Freddy Frost, Moses Lord, Stanley Njootli Sr. Rampart House. 2001.



Wilfred Josie, Joseph Bruce, George Nukon, Margaret Frost, Brent Riley, Gisli Balzer. Rampart House. 2010.



Peter Charlie, Wilfred Josie, Daryl Charlie, Freddy Frost, Dan Kemble, Kibbie Tetlich, Doug Olynyk. Rampart House. 2008

Gindèhchik / Rampart House Historic Site



Photo: Rampart House. 2023.

The historic use of Rampart House begins centuries before contact with outsiders, when the site was occupied by early peoples who camped here for seasonal hunting and harvesting activities.

The evidence of this is found in the archaeological record of bone fragments, hearths, stone flakes, and tools. Beginning in the late nineteenth century, the site continued to be used as a seasonal gathering place for First Nations and a centre for trade with outsiders.

By the 1940s, people had relocated to Old Crow and Rampart House stopped being an occupied site. Instead, it continued to be visited by community members from both Old Crow and Gwich'in who reside in Alaska.

Over the years, visitors travelling by canoe have stopped at Rampart House and it has become a key part of the river experience for tourists. Some features have been added to the site for the benefit of the visitors including a site identifier sign, interpretive signage and a cleared campsite.



Interpretive sign at Rampart House. 2014.



Porcupine River to Rampart House. 2023



Rampart House. 2023

Zheh Gwatsàl / LaPierre House Historic Site



Interpretive panel installed at LaPierre House. 2018

There are several key periods of use identified in the chronology of LaPierre House. Its location and bountiful environment made it a stopping point along the travel routes that connected the site with Fort McPherson to the east, Herschel Island to the north and Old Crow downriver to the west. The site was used beginning in the 1850's as a winter supply site by the Hudson's Bay Company (HBC) and a formal post was established there in 1868. Subsequently, the Anglican Church purchased the buildings and continued to use the site. There were several Gwich'in cabins built and in 1925-1935 the Jackson Brothers set up a store there. After 1940 no further occupation of the site took place.

The site continues to be visited seasonally by hunters primarily travelling there in winter via snow machine or dog sled from



Cache at LaPierre House. 2022

Fort McPherson or Old Crow. The number of winter visitors ranges from ten to forty. A limited number of three or four groups of river tourists also visit the site in the summer. Accurate visitation rates are not known for certain since there is no on-site logbook to record visits. When needed, work crews have visited the site to monitor its condition and add interpretative features such as the boardwalk and site signage.



Yukon Archives. Tidd Collection. Two women with a sled and snowshoes on the west side of the creek, looking southeast. The NWMP detachment is visible on the other side of the creek as is the corner of the Cadzow House at Rampart House. Winter. Ca. 1920's.

All photos © Government of Yukon except where indicated.

View this newsletter online at yukonheritage.com

This newsletter is provided by the Rampart House and LaPierre House Management Committee.

For more information, please contact:

Megan Williams
Manager, Heritage
Vuntut Gwitchin
(867) 966-3261 ext. 270
megan.williams@vgg.ca
vgfn.ca

Historic Sites Planner
Government of Yukon
(867) 393-6291
heritage.planning@yukon.ca
yukonheritage.com

