

JUNE 2021

Robinson Roadhouse



COVID-19

Robinson Roadhouse Historic Site is open to visitors. We recognize that people are eager to get out and explore Yukon but we ask that visitors respect the wishes of Yukon communities and adhere to the guidelines described below when visiting our historic sites. All orders and recommendations issued by Yukon's Chief Medical Officer of Health apply at historic sites including:

- Organized gatherings are limited to 20 people indoors and 100 people can gather outdoors, with physical distancing.
- All visitors must wear masks in indoor public spaces or when social distancing is not possible,
- Maintain a 2-metre distance from those not in your own household,
- Clean your picnic table before and after you use,
- Practice the Safe 6 +1; and
- Self-isolate for 14 days, if necessary, prior to visiting a historic site.

Please note

- No one is permitted to self-isolate at a historic site.
- Non-residents who are required by law to travel through Yukon within 24 hours cannot stay or stop at a historic site.

Stay up to date on the latest guidelines by consulting [Yukon.ca](https://www.yukon.ca) or the **COVID-19 information line** at **1-877-374-0425**.

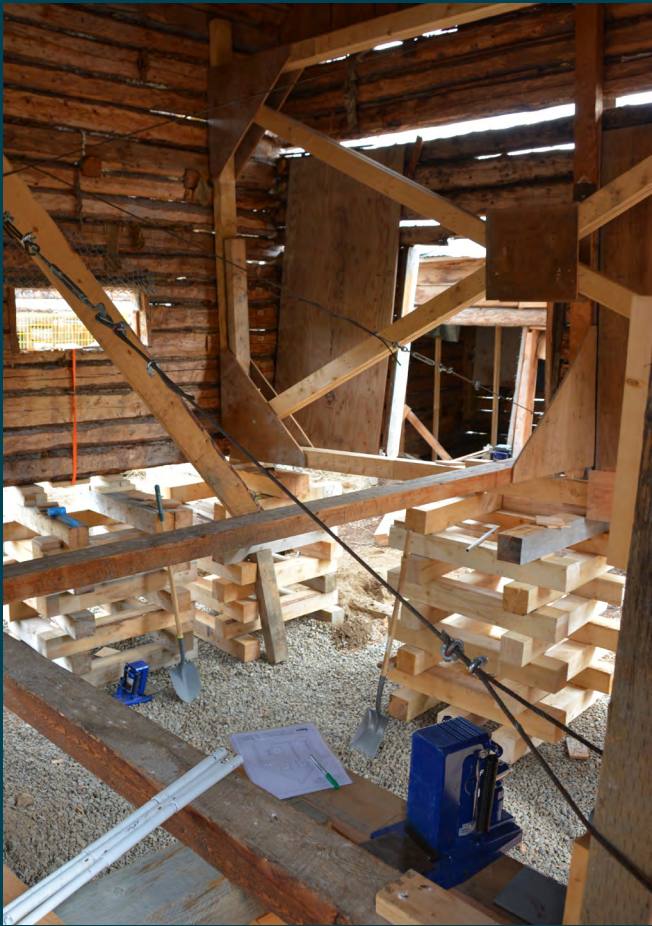


Photo credit: Government of Yukon ▲



Building conservation activities continue on the Robinson Roadhouse. ▲



Group on Carcross Rd. – Robinson. Left to right: John and Emma Burns with their three children in front; Cary and Jackie Mackintosh with their four children in front. Each family has one set of twins. YA, Amy Clethero fonds. 001/44 #5

From 1906 to the 1950s, the Whitehorse Star diligently recorded a surprising number of comings and goings to this seemingly remote locale. Robinson was a hub for the miners in the Wheaton River area, and geologists checking out the mining prospects or dropping off their horses to overwinter at McConnell's Ranch. It was a centre for woodcutters, trappers, big game outfitters, waterfowl hunters, and visitors spending a few days with Charlie McConnell and his wife Florence. According to Laurent Cyr, White Pass pastured horses here that were used on the winter Overland Trail to Dawson. Thousands of tonnes of ore were transferred from horse-drawn carts – and later trucks – to the railway at this little siding. It was the site of cattle sales, a trial, the capture of lost dogs and an escaped criminal, and even a rest stop for the mysterious Lillian Alling during her odyssey from New York toward Siberia. Although a large US Army camp was based here during the building of the Alaska Highway, little information is readily available about that time. In 1953, hundreds of people boarded BYN busses bound for Robinson to attend a day of picnicking and activities hosted by the Bartenders Union.

Unfortunately, the Star did not record the travels of the First Nations families in the area. Although the Robinson flag station and roadhouse were not established until the early 1900s, this area had long been a crossroads of First Nation travel routes. People travelled from Fish Lake southwest of Whitehorse overland to Robinson and from there to Tagish, Caribou Crossing and even over the mountain passes to the Pacific coast. Other routes led west to Kusawa and Dezadeash lakes. More recently, we know that several families were hunting and trapping in this area including Kitty and Billy Smith, the Burns family Albert Sam, Eva Sam, and Mary Billy. Robinson marked one of the boundaries of the hunting territory of noted big game outfitter Johnnie Johns.

Source

Robinson Roadhouse Historic Site. *Bibliography of Archival Resources and Site Chronology*. Helene Dobrowolsky, Midnight Arts. January 2020

SPECIAL EVENTS

Historic Places Days 2021: Every Place, a Story

Saturday, July 3, 2021 11 to 3 pm

Join the Historic Sites Unit and the Yukon Heritage Resources Board in celebrating Canada's Historic Places Days at the Robinson Roadhouse Historic Site.

There will be site tours, snacks and games for the whole family to join.

All are welcome.

Learn more at
www.historicplacesday.ca

Selfie Contest

From July 3 until July 31, we are encouraging digital selfies with your favourite historic place.

Post your selfie creation with **#historicplacesday**, tag the historic place, and tag and follow **@nationaltrustca**. You will be entered to win \$1000 for yourself, AND \$1000 for your site!

Training: Conservation of Log Buildings Course

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, we are unable to offer the Log Building Conservation Course until further notice.



Photo credit: John Schwindt.
Robinson area building circa 1978.