

SOVEREIGNTY, SUBSTANCES, SMALL CENTRES AND SUBS:

Closed Post Offices of the Northwest Territories

This exhibit shows all the closed post offices on the Northwest Territories (using the boundaries as set from 1912-1999) including those operated by the US and Great Britain. Name changes are not shown unless the post office at that location has actually closed. Many unique or very scarce items and markings are shown.

The material is organized chronologically or alphabetically around four themes as follows:

Sovereignty

Canada needed to demonstrate effective occupation and use of its arctic region to prove its sovereignty. This was accomplished through detachments of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police in the high arctic, weather stations in the Queen Elizabeth Islands and the military base at Alert. Post offices in themselves were expressions of Canadian sovereignty.

During World War II and the Cold War, the US had several large infrastructure projects in the NWT including the Crimson Route, the Pinetree Line and the Distant Early Warning Line to help protect North America. Several US post offices operated in the NWT. British Forces even had a short-lived post office associated with research on Ellesmere Island.

Craig Harbour (1922-56)	APO 692 Frobisher Bay(1942-49)
Bache Peninsula (1926-33)	APO 693 Southampton Island (1943-45)
Dundas Harbour (1925-51)	APO 4880 Padloping Island (1943-47)
Winter Harbour (1947)	APO 677-1 Frobisher Bay (1954-55)
Isachsen (1948-78)	APO 863 Frobisher Bay (1955-58)
Mould Bay (1949-97)	APO 677-5 Frobisher Bay (1958-59)
Alert (1950-73)	APO 440 Frobisher Bay (1959-60)
Cape Herschel (1953-54)	APO 228 Frobisher Bay (1960-63)
Alexandra Fiord (1954-63)	APO 677-1 Resolution Island (1958-59)
MPO 310 (1973-99)	APO 432 Resolution Island (1959-61)
	BFPO 625 Borup Fiord (1988)

Substances

Non-renewable resource extraction is the theme presented in this section. Both mining and hydrocarbon based communities are shown. In some cases, a support or staging area for mineral production had its own post office (e.g. Great Bear Lake). In the 1940-70 period, it was common to have company towns around a mine but fly-in/fly-out operations are the norm now. During World War II, the US built the Canol Project to take inland oil to Alaska. Several US post offices were associated with this development. Some of the scarcest of all NWT post offices fall into this category as they were often open for a short period with small populations.

Great Bear Lake (1932-33)	Canol (1942-45)	Discovery (1960-69)
Cameron Bay (1933-37)	APO 999 Fort Smith & Norman Wells (1943-44)	Pine Point (1964-88)
Port Radium (1937-82)	APO 999-1 Canol (1942-44)	Tungsten (1968-86)
Camsell River (1933-35)	APO 999-2 Norman Wells (1942-43?)	Strathcona Sound (1975-76)
Camlaren (1938-39)	APO 473 Canol (1943)	Nanisivik (1976-2003)
Outpost Island (1941-42)	APO 473-1 Norman Wells (1943)	Lupin (1981-92)
		Polaris (1982-2002)

Small Centres

Small communities or settlements are shown in this section. These post offices operated in remote locations and generally closed when the populations dwindled or an entire community was relocated due to its isolation.

Port Burwell (1933-78)	Reindeer Depot (1948-62)	Rocher River (1950-63)
Fort Ross (1940-48)	Reindeer Station (1962-68)	Cameron Hills (1964-65)

Subs

This section focuses on the two special post offices set up for visits of Canada's Governor General (the *SS Distributor* and Fort Michener) and the sub post offices, retail post offices, franchise outlets and gross margin offices that operated in the larger urban or regional centres of the NWT. Many of these offices were short-lived and are very hard to find.