

HERITAGE RESTORATION

Aesthetically, Holy Trinity Cathedral is of architectural significance for its Gothic Revival style, and for its interior and exterior design. Little of the Cathedral has been changed, and it retains much of its original features and patina. The apse is illuminated by stained glass windows of exceptional quality, and the leaded windows of the nave are also fine examples of their craft.



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PROJECT HERITAGE OUTCOMES

There are many ways in which this project benefits the Parish as well as the citizens of New Westminster:

Long-Term Conservation and Public Safety

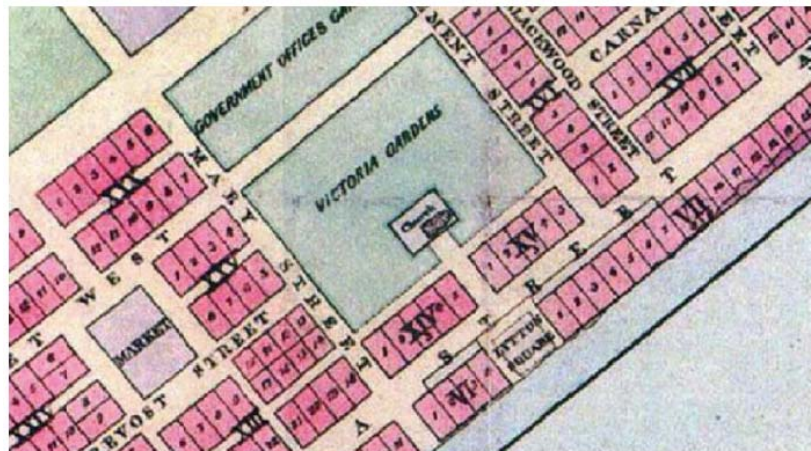
The retention and upgrading of this historic church supports the City's goals of both heritage conservation and sustainability. The maintenance of landmark churches is also important for symbolic and traditional reasons, linking the past to the present and providing visual and symbolic anchors to the community as it develops. Historic churches are typically maintained by the congregation at little or no cost to government, a community benefit that adds to cultural diversity and social programming capacity.

The funds generated through this project will allow Life Safety and BC Building Code upgrading of the historic structure. This will include careful and sensitive seismic upgrading of the unreinforced masonry structure, a very costly procedure that could not otherwise be undertaken. This will not only assist in the long-term conservation of the historic fabric, it will also enable safe occupancy and continued public use of the building.

The level of restoration of HTC will be of the highest order, with particular attention paid to the exterior as well as interior features. The restoration will enable the continuing historic religious use of HTC as a character-defining element.



Plan of New Westminster, 1860. Detail below showing the already-constructed first Holy Trinity Church.



Close up plan of New Westminster, 1860.

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Enhanced Functionality

The improvements to the site will ensure long-term viability of both the historic building as well as the use of the church. These improvements include the physical rehabilitation of the historic church building as well as improved community space incorporated into the new structure.

Provision of Public Amenities

A public plaza will be provided in front of HTC as community public space, and church / community space will be included in the new structure.

Legal Protection of the Heritage Site

In many ways, this church site is the very core of historic New Westminster and the original Mainland Colony. As part of this agreement, long-term legal protection will be provided for this very historic site.

Institutional Preservation

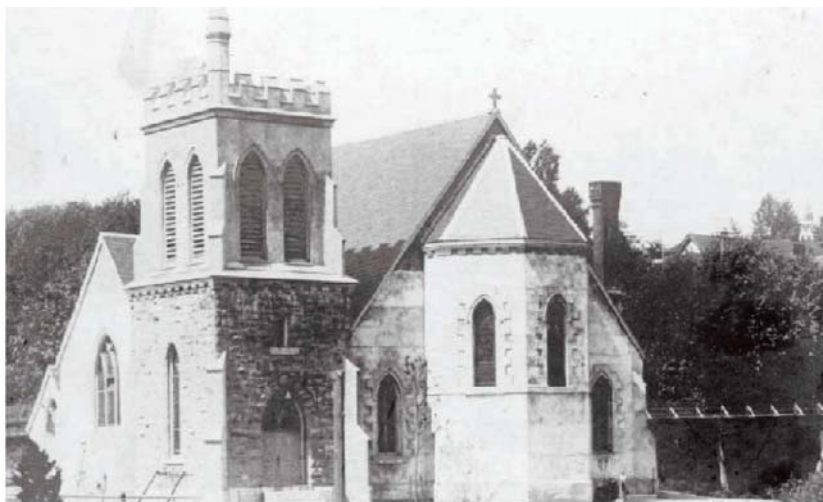
Institutions of faith are critical to the social fabric of the community. HTC, as a long-time anchor to the downtown, has been a trans-formative force that meets the social and faith-based needs of local residents and groups. The location in the downtown core is critical in serving the growing population, those who travel in on the weekend and those who work in businesses downtown.

In addition to its faith-based services, the critical role played by HTC includes:

- Providing space for community functions including programming, events and recreation for seniors and youth programs;
- Hosting arts and cultural events;
- Offering care, a sense of belonging and community counsel for disadvantaged populations; and
- Providing space and programming for recovery and health programs.

Faith-based institutions play a significant role in the development of a holistic community, and HTC is well aligned with current City of New Westminster and senior government policies and strategies in many key areas.

The Parish is challenged by its current outdated facilities, aging infrastructure and high costs of rehabilitation. This project will allow the historic HTC Parish to remain in its current location, and provide improved and expanded facilities for community use and outreach.



HTC view from Clarkson Street, 1900 (JWMA 4100127)

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Sustainability

The redevelopment of the HTC site also supports sustainability in the following ways:

- Economic Sustainability
- Environmental Sustainability
- Social Sustainability
- Cultural Sustainability
- Spiritual Sustainability

The development of complete communities supports the Social Pillar of sustainability. In addition, the geographic proximity of programs and services for downtown residents promotes a compact, sustainable infrastructure through access to alternate forms of transportation. Given projections of continuing increase in the population in New Westminster, the presence of this historic institution offers an anchor of stability as well as a community resource of great public benefit.

CONFORMANCE TO HERITAGE STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES

HOLY TRINITY CATHEDRAL

A comprehensive Conservation Plan has been prepared for Holy Trinity Cathedral. The Cathedral is a listed building on the New Westminster municipal Heritage Register, and is a significant historical resource in the City of New Westminster. The Parks Canada Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada is the source used to assess the appropriate level of conservation and intervention. Under the Guidelines, the work proposed for the Holy Trinity Cathedral includes aspects of preservation, rehabilitation and restoration. All proposed interventions to the site have been assessed using the Standards and Guidelines, and are in compliance.

Contemporary Interventions

The primary intent of the project is a Rehabilitation intervention to the site, including related new construction.

Rehabilitation: the action or process of making possible a continuing or compatible contemporary use of a historic place or an individual component, through repair, alterations, and/or additions, while protecting its heritage value.

In addition to the general Standards for all Conservation projects, there are three additional Standards for Rehabilitation projects:

ADDITIONAL STANDARDS RELATING TO REHABILITATION

- 10 - Repair rather than replace character-defining elements. Where character-defining elements are too severely deteriorated to repair, and where sufficient physical evidence exists, replace them with new elements that match the forms, materials and detailing of sound versions of the same elements. Where there is insufficient physical evidence, make the form, material and detailing of the new elements compatible with the character of the historic place.
11. Conserve the heritage value and character-defining elements when creating any new additions to a historic place and any related new construction. Make the new work physically and visually compatible with, subordinate to and distinguishable from the historic place.
12. Create any new additions or related new construction so that the essential form and integrity of a historic place will not be impaired if the new work is removed in the future.

In a rehabilitation project, additions or new construction may be needed to assure the continued use of an historic place. Standard 11 indicates that when this is the case, such additions or new construction must not obscure, radically change or have a negative impact on character-defining materials, forms, uses or spatial configurations. The proposed related new construction involves the construction of a tower on the Cathedral site. In order to ensure that the project conforms to Standard 11, the following considerations have been taken into account:

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Physical and Visual Compatibility: Standard 11 requires using materials, assemblies and construction methods that are well suited to the existing materials when planning interventions to historic fabric. Visual compatibility is based on the harmonious use of proportions, materiality and detailing in the contemporary interventions, respecting the historic fabric but not attempting to mimic its appearance.

Subordination: Standard 11 also requires an addition to be subordinate to the historic place. This is best understood to mean that the addition must not detract from the historic place or impair its heritage value. Subordination is not a question of size; a small, ill-conceived addition could adversely affect an historic place more than a large, well-designed addition.

Distinguishability: Standard 11 requires that additions or new construction be visually compatible with, yet distinguishable from, the historic place. To accomplish this, an appropriate balance must be struck between mere imitation of the existing form and pointed contrast, thus complementing the historic place in a manner that respects its heritage value. The proposed new construction is clearly contemporary and does not mimic the historic fabric of the Cathedral.

The Standards and Guidelines have been very carefully considered in the design of the proposed interventions, as noted in the stepping back of the tower massing, the use of contemporary materials and the open nature of the plaza design.

SEISMIC UPGRADE

In order to maintain the heritage elements of the Holy Trinity Cathedral a minimally invasive and thoughtful approach to seismic upgrade was formulated.

The team is proposing a seismic upgrade that adds structural elements to the exterior, the attic, and the bell tower rather than furring out or adding concrete to the existing fieldstone walls. All of the elements will be supported by a reinforced foundation.

This approach will yield a life-safety upgrade - a minimum 30% or S3 rating as described by the City of Vancouver.

The benefit to this approach is the preservation of the heritage elements. There will be minimal rebuilding of some exterior elements, but the interior will remain intact with the exception of isolated floor removal and reinstall to accommodate the reinforced foundation.

