

## Attachment 5

### *Statement of Heritage Significance and Photographs of Cathedral*

# Statement of Significance

Holy Eucharist Cathedral - 501 4 Avenue - New Westminster, BC



Early photograph of the recently completed Holy Eucharist church, circa 1969. Source: Holy Eucharist Cathedral Parish Archives

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## Statement of Significance



### Description of Historic Place

The Holy Eucharist Cathedral is a large, rectangular Modern church building with a flat roof and central copper dome located on 4th avenue at the corner of 5th street in New Westminster, British Columbia.

### Heritage Value

Constructed in 1968-69, the Holy Eucharist Cathedral is valued as the see of the Bishop of the New Westminster Ukrainian Greek Catholic Eparchy, governing the Eparchy's 12 parishes of British Columbia. The temple-like, formal design, and its high-visibility corner location and siting, give the church building the air of a landmark.

This church and hall complex symbolizes the culmination of over 25 years of effort by local Ukrainian Catholics to achieve an adequate and permanent parish in New Westminster, starting in 1941 at the Holy Spirit church in the Queensborough neighbourhood, followed by two subsequent attempts in the 1950s and 60s to formalize the St. George's parish in different locations before the current property was developed. The unrelenting fundraising, organization and perseverance of this community, resulting in a successful and well-functioning church and hall, was likely one of the reasons this parish was chosen by the Major Archbishop of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church (UGCC) as the cathedral and headquarters for a new Eparchy in British Columbia when it was established in 1974.

The architectural design is very significant in that it represents a Modern, mid-century interpretation of a traditional Byzantine basilica, illustrating the optimism and progress envisioned in urban renewal approaches of the 1960s era and the relevancy of the engaged and forward-thinking parish of the time, while still paying homage to Catholic and Ukrainian church design traditions and symbols. Byzantine in its square footprint and capped by a dome, the simplified, rectangular form is punctuated by tall, slim windows which emulate the rhythm of classical columns. A prominent element of the facade is the over-scaled stairway, adding a formality to the ascent to the central front doors, not unlike the experience at a classical temple or courthouse. The design's formality is softened through the use of pared-down, flat

architectural elements which give the church its Modern identity along with the use of trending 1960s finishes such as stucco and aluminum-frame windows. The balance of Modern and traditional treatments continue on the interior where colourful byzantine icons and wood-carved furnishings embellish an otherwise rectilinear and naturally-lit Modern space.

The Holy Eucharist church holds further value for its association with its designer, architect Bing Gregory Marr (1926-1991) who is remembered as one of the first registered Chinese-Canadian architects in BC. His firm, B. G. Marr & Associates, was known for Modern apartment buildings and complexes and was co-author of an important 1969 study commissioned by the City of Vancouver - "Restoration Report: The Case for Renewed Life in the Old City".

The Holy Eucharist church is valued as a continuous sacred site and community hall serving New Westminster's Ukrainian Catholic community, and contributing to the preservation of Ukrainian culture, language and traditions since 1969.

### **Character-Defining Elements**

- Sacred, community and cultural use since 1969
- Association with a nearby or adjacent rectory residence
- Prominent location on a corner lot in New Westminster's historic Queen's Park neighbourhood
- Mid-Century interpretation of Byzantine basilica design
- Formal, institutional scale, massing and design
- Rectangular form with flat roof and central copper-clad dome with metal cross
- Symmetrical, rhythmic elevations punctuated by tall, slim sky-blue windows extending from the floor to roofline cornice.
- Curved roofline cornice, arcaded where it meets the walls
- Central double-door entrance with arched hood and feature art-glass window above depicting the Resurrection of Jesus Christ.
- Exterior walls clad in white, pebble-dash stucco
- Large exposed aggregate concrete stairway

### **Interior elements:**

- Square footprint
- Traditional sacred spaces: narthex, nave, sanctuary, sacristy, confessionals.
- Traditional church spaces: clerestory (windows in dome), choir loft, crying room.
- Crystal chandelier suspended from dome
- Carved-wood five-legged altar, tabernacle (similar in form and design to the church itself), offertory, side-tables, tetrapod and processional cross
- Bishop's throne
- iconostasis - a wall of icons separating the sanctuary from the nave
- The extensive use of painted icons (images of holy persons) in the Byzantine artistic tradition (relatively flat perspective, heavy use of gold paint and halos)
- Wooden pews
- Built in sound system
- Church hall with kitchen



**Current Photographs - exterior**



Front view



Rear view





Side view  
(facing 5th Street)



Side view  
(facing parking lot)



**Current photographs - interior**



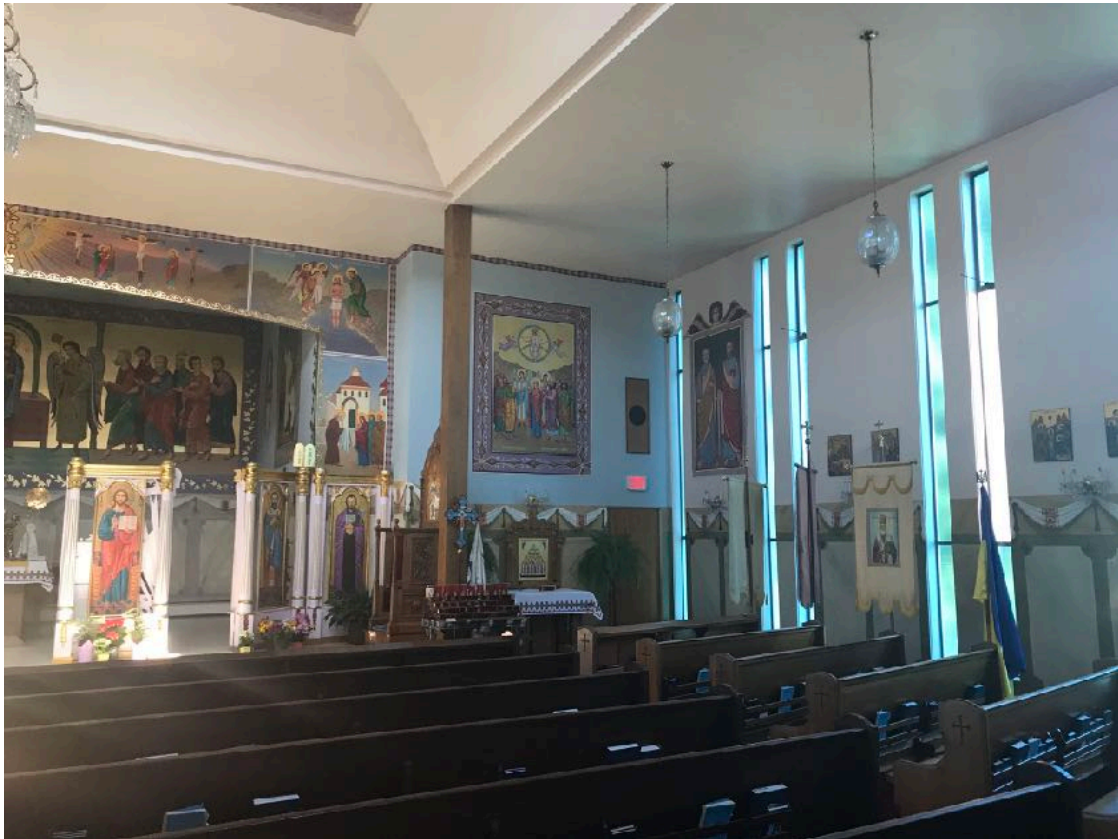
View of sanctuary from the choir loft



View of sanctuary from the nave



View of sanctuary and side wall (facing parking lot)



View of sanctuary and side wall (facing 5th St.)





View of dome interior and clerestory windows



View of choir loft from the nave and the rear wall of the interior where washrooms, crying room and confessionals are located



View of sanctuary furnishings

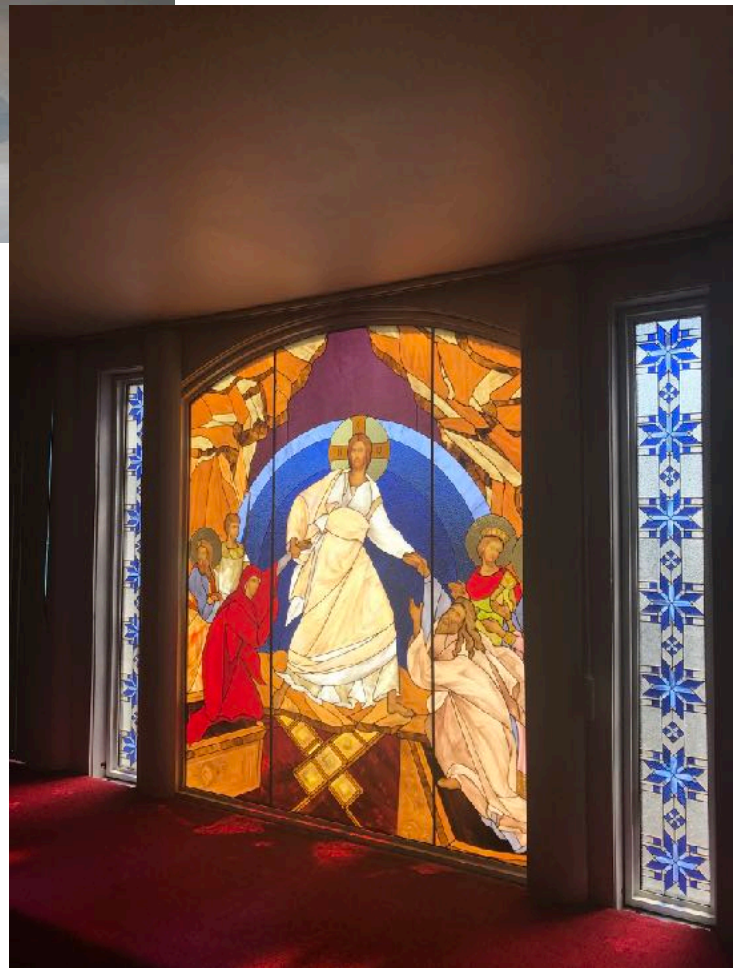


View of altar and tabernacle





View of an example of one of the many traditional gold icon paintings on the interior.



View of art glass feature window located above the front entrance door. This was commissioned by an artist in the Ukraine to replace the original blue glass window above the front door

## Archival Photographs



Above: The first parish church, Holy Spirit in Queensborough, completed in 1943. The rectory in this photo dates from the early 1960s.

Below: The Holy Spirit hall and school completed in 1947.

Source: Holy Eucharist Cathedral Parish Archives



323 Queen's Avenue, the house that served as St. George's Church and hall from 1963 until 1969. Source: Jubilee Commemoration booklet 1952-1977 - Holy Eucharist Cathedral Parish Archives



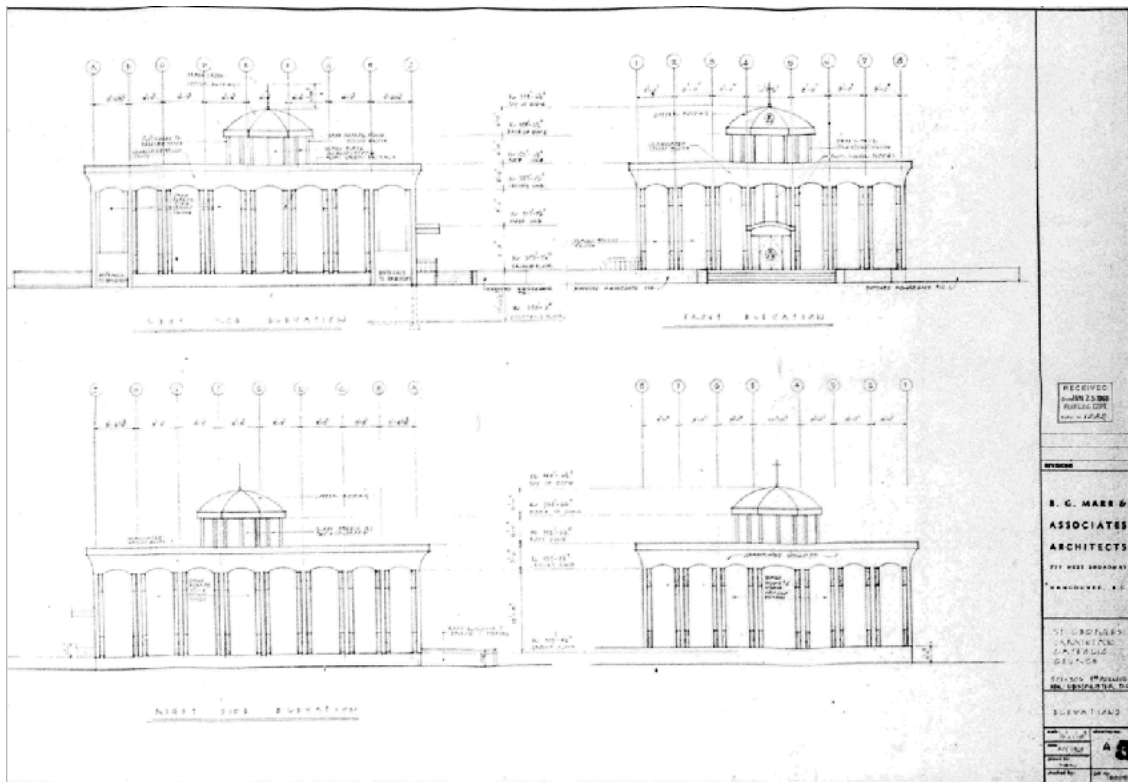


323 Queen's Avenue, the house that served as St. George's Church, after church service on a Sunday in 1966. Source: Jubilee Commemoration booklet 1952-1977 - Holy Eucharist Cathedral Parish Archives





Clipping from Columbian newspaper.  
December 21, 1966.  
Source: Holy Eucharist  
Cathedral Parish Archives

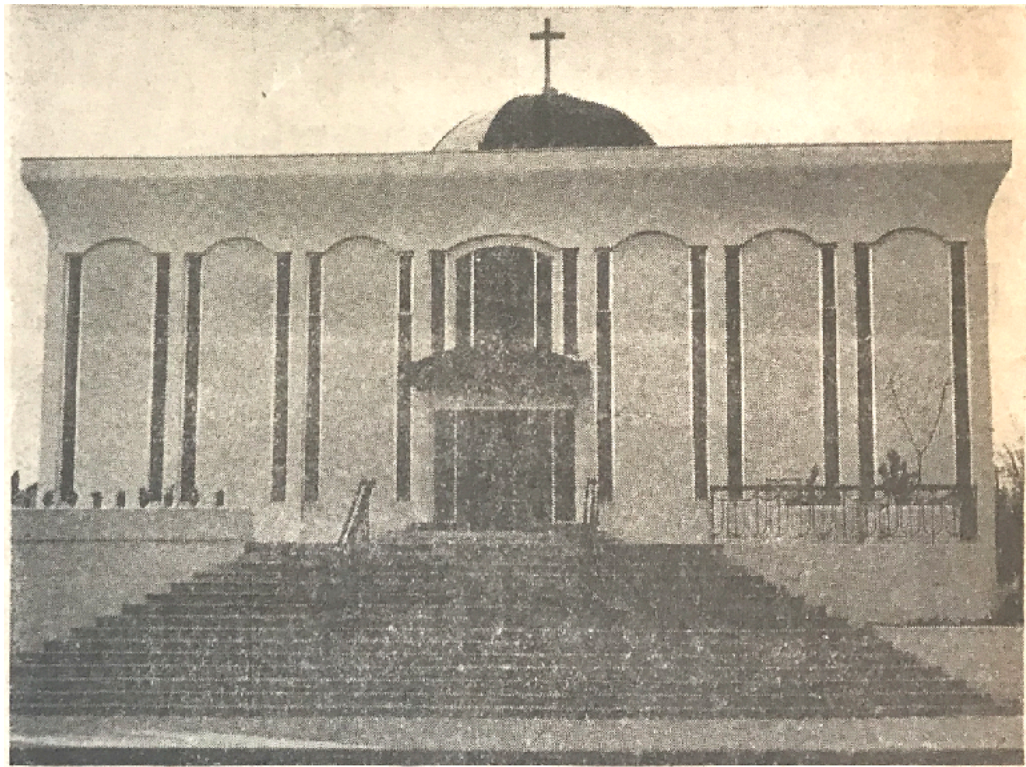


Elevation drawings for St. George's Ukrainian Catholic Church - June 1968. B. G. Marr and Associates. Source: Holy Eucharist Cathedral Parish Archives





Early photograph of the recently completed Holy Eucharist church, circa 1969.  
 Source: Holy Eucharist Cathedral Parish Archives



A photograph of the Holy Eucharist published in the Columbian newspaper in March 1971, describing its 'contemporary' design.

Source: Holy Eucharist Cathedral Parish Archives

The contemporary architecture of the Most Holy Eucharist Catholic Church in New Westminster blends smoothly with the traditional minaret atop the building. The bold vertical architectural lines of the church are softened with horizontal curves.  
**MARCH, 1971** — Columbian photo by David Dunnally



Early photograph of the Holy Eucharist church, likely mid-1970s.  
Source: New Westminster Public Library historic photos database # 2624