

Hilliard Clare Masonic Hall

Address: 480 Vancouver Street

Date of Construction: 1955

Other Names: Prince George Masonic Temple Ltd.

Adopted by the Heritage Commission: 2018-9-27

Last Updated: 2018-9-27



Courtesy of Trelle Morrow (2018)

Description

The Hilliard Clare Masonic Hall (2018), formerly known as the Prince George Masonic Hall, consists of a two-story building with a basement. The main floor provides office rental space which the second floor provides accommodation for Masonic functions. The site location of the building is at the south east corner of 4th Avenue and Vancouver Street in downtown Prince George.

Heritage Value

Heritage Value in the Modern style of architecture is found in the Hilliard Clare Masonic Hall constructed in 1955. The architects were strong proponents of the Modern perspective, as were other firms in the early post WW2 era.

The Masonic Hall architectural heritage value is exemplified through functional detailing of building parts, and a sense of repose in a three-dimensional expression. The exterior stucco finishes are unadorned, window patterns coordinated in the building parts and a strong sense of functional differentiation exists in the building.

Heritage value is enhanced through the retention of the original building form as constructed. Although there has been an addition, to house an elevator, put onto the south end of the original building this has not interfered with the basic Modern design of 1955. The building form exhibits heritage value straight out of the design tenets resonating in the School of Architecture at UBC in the 1950s. Functional design has dictated varying exterior wall treatments relative to the differing plans for the main floor and second floor occupancies.

There is significant heritage value in the re-naming of the Prince George Masonic Hall. Hilliard Clare is a local son having served his working life at Northern Hardware in the city, also serving as a city alderman, as well as having previously held the position of Worshipful Master of the Masonic Hall. His name is now attached to the building which indicates the esteem in which he is held.

Character-Defining Elements

- Continuous window band on the main floor of the Vancouver Street and 4th Avenue elevations. The bands provide a contrasting pattern to the plain surfaces building elevations.

- Uninterrupted office space modules are evident on the main floor of the building, with the entrances located at each end of the building. One on 4th Avenue and on Vancouver Street.
- The private area for Masonic functions on the second floor is represented with solid exterior walls. Small box windows are provided for nominal daylight, and to provide subdued light in the Masonic Hall room.
- The main floor window bands have been repeated in the Reception room on the second floor and provide good natural lighting.
- The flat brick surfaces of the building addition on the south end, circa 1985, houses the elevator. And complements the lines of patterning on the original building.
- The original massing of the architectural design has been retained sign construction.

Images

Vancouver Street View - 1955



Courtesy of Trelle Morrow (1955)

Vancouver Street View



Courtesy of Trelle Morrow (2018)

4th Avenue View



Courtesy of Trelle Morrow (2018)

Reception Room, second floor



Courtesy of Trelle Morrow (2018)

Masonic Hall Room, second floor



Courtesy of Trelle Morrow (2018)

Carpet Logo



Courtesy of Trelle Morrow (2018)

Hilliard Clare



Courtesy of Trelle Morrow (2018)

Other Information

Place any additional information of relevance here. Information may include, but is not limited to:

- Architect/Contractor: McCarter & Nairne / Prince George Construction Ltd.
- Legal description: Lot 32 Block 154 District Lot 343 Plan Lot 1268 Lot 1, Block 154, Plan 1268, District Lot 343, Cariboo Land District.
- Level of Heritage Recognition: Heritage Register

Sources:

- Downtown Prince George (Prince George Downtown Business Improvement Association)
- Morrow, Trelle A. *Living Legacies: 100 Years of Prince George Architecture*. 2015
- Morrow, Trelle A