



City of Vancouver *Land Use and Development Policies and Guidelines*

Community Services, 453 W. 12th Ave Vancouver, BC V5Y 1V4 ☎ 604.873.7344 fax 604.873.7060
planning@vancouver.ca

VICTORY SQUARE GUIDELINES

(Sub-area "C2" of Downtown District Official Development Plan)

*Adopted by City Council on April 4, 2006
Amended on July xx, 2020*

Contents

	Page
1	Application and Intent 1
2	General Design Considerations 2
2.1	Neighbourhood and Streetscape Character 2
2.2	Guiding Design Principles 2
2.6	Light and Ventilation 4
2.8	Noise 6
2.9	Privacy 7
2.10	Safety and Security 7
2.11	Access and Circulation 7
3	Uses 8
4	Guidelines Pertaining to Form of Development 8
4.1	Height and Massing 8
4.2	Yards and Setbacks 14
4.3	Exterior Design 14
5	Architectural Components 18
5.1	Rooftop Features 18
5.2	Windows and Glazing 19
5.3	Exterior Walls and Materials 21
5.4	Awnings and Canopies 22
5.5	Signage 23
5.6	Lights 23
5.7	Cornices and Parapets 24
7	Private and Semi-private Open Space 24
8	Public Realm 24
9	Interiors 25
10	Accessibility 25
	Appendix A - Glossary of Terms 26
	Appendix B - Block-based Street Wall Characteristics 28

Note: These guidelines are organized under standard headings. As a consequence, there are gaps in the numbering sequence where no guidelines apply.

1 Application and Intent

These guidelines are to be used in conjunction with provisions of the Downtown District Official Development Plan (DODP) regarding sub area 'C2'. These guidelines address individual developments, both for heritage buildings and new construction. They should be consulted in seeking approval for developments in the Victory Square area. As well as assisting applicants, the guidelines will be used by City staff and the Vancouver Heritage Commission, whenever appropriate, in the evaluation of development applications.

The intent of these guidelines is to ensure that revitalization of the physical environment of the Victory Square area is achieved by a combination of heritage conservation and sensitive new development that is inspired by a thorough understanding and respect of the area's established heritage character.

The guidelines focus on conserving and retaining existing scale, form and fabric of Victory Square's heritage environment while encouraging a sensitive, creative and contemporary approach to new construction within the heritage context.

Further, these guidelines encourage a comprehensive design process that is informed by a sound understanding of the architectural context. The guidelines support this process by providing researched information and observation on the established patterns of the built environment.

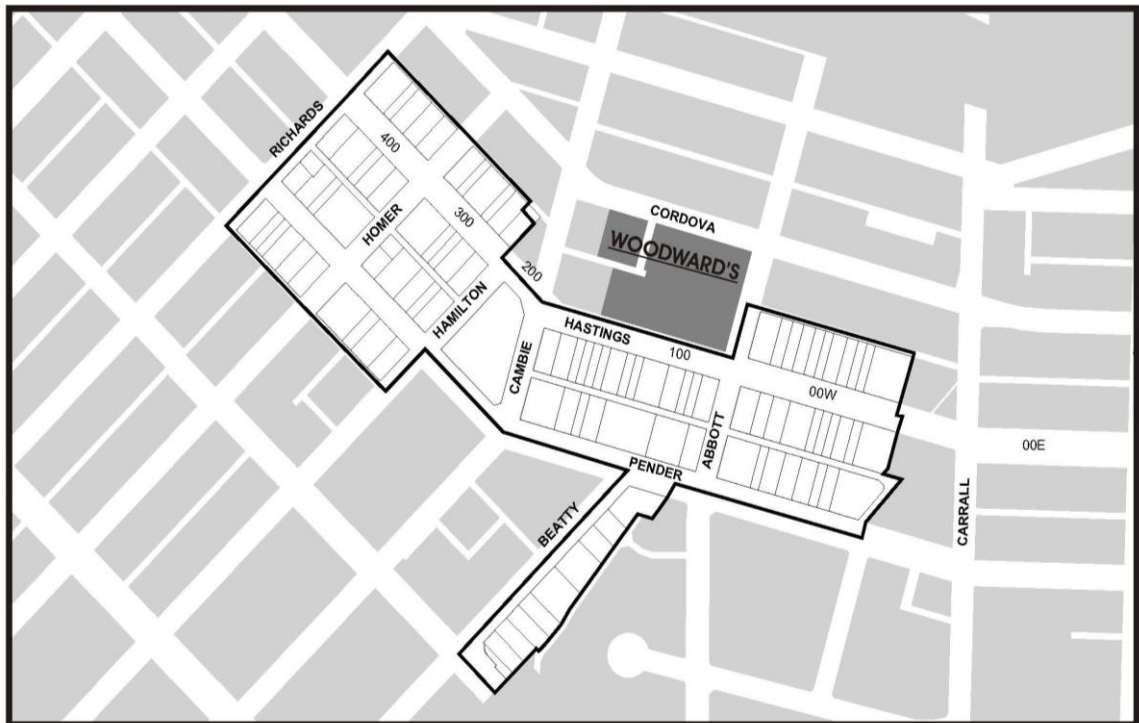


Figure 1 – Victory Square Area Boundary

2 General Design Considerations

2.1 Neighbourhood and Streetscape Character

Urban Form

The Victory Square area is the core of historic downtown Vancouver. The area's distinctive urban form was influenced by the economic forces that shaped the city's early development. The primary element that laid the base for the development of urban form is the street pattern established by two major east-west street-grid systems converging in the area. At the converging point of these grids is Victory Square Park, one of the Vancouver's earliest public spaces. In the 1920's, Hastings Street overtook Cordova Street to become the City's dominant commercial corridor. Hastings Street remained as Vancouver's busiest shopping street until the 1950's.

The main characteristics of the historic urban form as found in the Victory Square area are:

- dense urban commercial pedestrian realm with narrow building frontages reflecting a 7.6 m (25') subdivision pattern;
- characteristic "saw tooth" street wall profile created by varying building heights;
- streetscape of late Victorian and Edwardian era commercial buildings;
- cubic massing, dense site coverage and robust continuous street walls with internal setbacks for light wells and courtyards;
- masonry as a predominant building material; and
- features such as punched window openings and projecting cornices at the roof line.

The area hosts an important collection of early 1900's commercial buildings. The predominant building type is low to mid-rise with continuous street frontage. There are also a handful of prominent taller buildings with landmark qualities, such as the Sun Tower, the Dominion building and the West Pender building. Approximately half of the building stock in the area is listed on the Vancouver Heritage Register. Many more buildings that are not listed have distinctive heritage character, and therefore they may be considered for conservation.

Victory Square Park

Victory Square Park, the site of the Vancouver's first court house, is a significant urban open space. Since 1924, when the Cenotaph was erected at the intersection of the two axes of Hastings Street, this has been the City's primary place of Remembrance Day ceremony. It has an irregular wedged shape narrowing towards the north and is surrounded by older buildings built out to the street line.

2.2 Guiding Design Principles

The Victory Square Policy Plan (2005) envisions the revitalization of the area achieved through a combination of rehabilitation of existing buildings and new development that respects the scale and character of the historic urban form.

The following overarching design principles apply to both heritage buildings and new buildings. Most subsequent sections of this document outline guidelines separately for heritage and new buildings.

Definitions

For the purpose of these guidelines, heritage buildings and potential heritage buildings are buildings for which conservation is an objective and which may qualify for various incentives. Heritage buildings refer to those buildings that are listed on the Vancouver Heritage Register or designated under the Heritage By-laws. Potential heritage buildings are those buildings that are not listed on the Vancouver Heritage Register but they have heritage values therefore should be considered for retention and conservation. For purpose of simplicity, “heritage building” is used throughout the document to refer to both heritage buildings and potential heritage buildings.

For a list of buildings in Victory Square that are listed on Vancouver Heritage Register, please visit the City’s website at:

<http://vancouver.ca/commsvcs/planning/heritage/Register.htm>.

The various incentives available for heritage buildings are to encourage quality conservation. Legal designation under the Vancouver Charter is required to qualify for the heritage incentives. The decision to grant incentives for conservation of a heritage building is subject to eligibility criteria and the final decision lies with the City. For further information on Heritage Building Rehabilitation Program, visit the City’s website at:

<http://vancouver.ca/commsvcs/planning/heritage/incentives.htm>.

Principles for Heritage Buildings

1. *Heritage buildings of the Victory Square area should be conserved.*

Conservation strategies that can be utilized include preservation, rehabilitation, or restoration. These strategies are aimed at retaining the heritage values of the building as defined by character-defining elements established by, but not limited to, the Statement of Significance (SOS) for the building. (For more information on a building’s SOS, please see Appendix A: Glossary of Terms).

2. *In general, a high level of retention is preferred. If possible, the entire heritage building should be retained, including the structure, exterior architectural components and detailing, as well as the interior, whenever applicable.*

Any intervention to a heritage building requires a sensitive approach to design. (For more detail on conservation practices please refer to the document “Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada”, which is available under the title “Library” on the web site of Parks Canada at www.pc.gc.ca).

Reconstruction or reconstitution of lost building elements, although not considered to be a conservation strategy, may be considered if it is supported by appropriate research work and is based on historic photo of physical evidence.

Facadism, defined as retention of the principal facade(s) of the building while the rest of building structure is demolished, is generally not desirable. However, under special circumstances, it may be difficult to retain the entire building. Staff will consider partial retention of a heritage building on a case-by-case basis.

3. *Additions to a heritage building should be architecturally compatible with but clearly distinguishable from the existing building. They should generally be visually subordinate to the main heritage structure.*

Principle for New Buildings

1. *Any new building should be respectful of the scale and character of the existing Victory Square urban form, but should have a contemporary architectural expression.*

This principle applies equally to all redevelopment sites throughout the area, acknowledging that the architectural and urban design response should address unique conditions found on a particular site.

A contemporary architectural response and design excellence are strongly encouraged.

The contextual design should be based on a thorough analysis and re-integration of the architectural components of a building and its context, such as: scale, form and massing, facade patterning, detailing and materiality.

Principles for Existing Buildings without Identified Heritage Values

1. *Retention and renovation of existing non-heritage buildings is desirable, particularly if they are structurally sound and in good condition. However, this will be at the applicant's choice and these buildings will not qualify for heritage incentives.*
2. *The heritage context of the Victory Square area and conditions of the existing building should be taken into consideration in any alteration or addition to an existing building.*

Principles for Developments with Both New Construction and Conservation of Heritage Buildings

1. *In evaluating developments that include both new construction and conservation of heritage buildings, principles for both new buildings and heritage buildings as stated above apply.*

2.6 Light and Ventilation

- 2.6.1 In general, sufficient daylight access should be provided to all new residential units created by new developments. This livability principle should be applied in view of the established building typologies of the area.

(Note 1: The DODP does not contain a regulation for horizontal angle of day light, as many District Schedules do. However, in assessing applications, staff will use this regulation as a standard of comparison. In addition, they will refer to the document "Guidelines for New Development Adjacent to Hotels and Rooming Houses" when appropriate.)

(Note 2: Under Section 2.6, a living area means a living room, a dining room, a bedroom, and a den/study. It does not include a kitchen, a bathroom, and a storage area. Further, a living room is considered a primary living space. A bedroom, a dining room and a den are considered secondary living spaces.)

- 2.6.2 The use of "borrowed light" may be considered in some cases. The following description should serve as a starting point in design exploration to find the best solution for a particular development. A creative, flexible and negotiable approach is encouraged.

- (a) Where direct access to daylight cannot be provided to a living area, when located at the rear of a unit (i.e. the portion that is located away from exterior light sources), daylight may be borrowed from exterior wall windows through another living area adjacent to these windows; and
- (b) Where it is proposed that a living area that does not have direct access to daylight is to be enclosed, at least one wall of the enclosed area with primary exposure to the building's exterior wall windows should be located no more than 7.6 m (25') away from the building's exterior wall windows and of no less than 60% transparent or translucent glazing.

(Note: The interpretation of this guideline will depend on various factors pertaining to a specific development. Applicants are encouraged to review day lighting performance, exterior envelope, fenestration patterns, and interior space planning at the inquiry stage.)

2.6.3 When a development includes a courtyard, the following guidelines should serve as a starting point in design exploration to find the best solution for a particular development. A creative, flexible and negotiable approach is encouraged.

- (a) When the clear dimension (building face to building face) of the courtyards is a minimum 9.2 m (30') or greater, a living area can face into them;
- (b) In double-fronting units, i.e. street/courtyard or lane/courtyard, a minimum clear courtyard dimension of 6.0 m (20') and a courtyard height/width ratio of 1.5 to 1.0 may be acceptable provided no living areas face onto the courtyard. Secondary living spaces may face onto the courtyard on the highest floor only;
- (c) Building massing should maximize sun access to courtyard level including terracing of upper levels on the south side of courtyards;
- (d) In determining the optimal configuration of the floor plans under a courtyard scheme, factors such as site location, site topography, building orientation and sun light performance will be taken into account;
- (e) Courtyard width will be measured to any obstruction including exterior corridors; and
- (f) Where courtyards exist in adjacent developments, new developments are encouraged to link open space with adjacent courtyards yet maintain privacy and security.

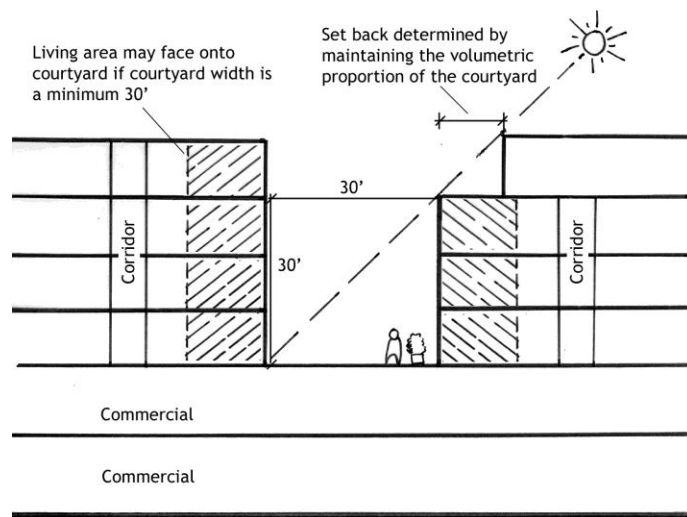


Figure 2 – Courtyard Design (Section)

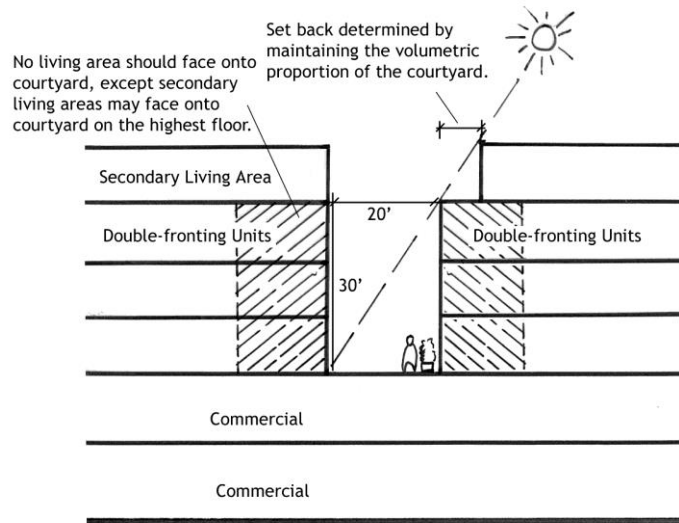


Figure 3 – Courtyard Design for Double-fronting Units (Section)

2.6.4 Where new development abuts or is adjacent to existing development with light wells along the sidewalls or windows on the sidewalls, adequate light and ventilation for that existing development should be maintained. (Please refer to “Guidelines for New Development Adjacent to Hotels and Rooming Houses”.)

2.6.5 Mechanical ventilation of commercial space should be exhausted at a location having the least impact on residential livability. This should ideally be at the roof, especially for restaurant kitchen exhaust.

2.8 Noise

The noise impact on residents created by commercial activities, such as parking and loading, exhaust fans, as well as by entertainment uses should be minimized. It is recognized that some pre-existing acoustic challenges, such as adjacent to major traffic routes, can not be eliminated by design of an individual building. The intent, however, is to provide a good building program from a noise reduction perspective by well-considered site planning, substantive building envelope design and sound interior wall construction detailing in order to minimize any of the effects of noise on the development.

A development permit application for dwelling uses shall require evidence in the form of a report and recommendations prepared by persons trained in acoustics and current techniques of noise measurement, demonstrating that the noise level in those portions of the dwelling units listed below meet the following acoustic standards.

Portion of Dwelling Units	Noise Level (Decibels)
bedrooms	35
living, dining, recreation rooms	40
kitchen, bathroom, hallways	45

Notable factors impacting acoustic strategies include the ability to provide adequate interior ventilation so that exterior windows can be closed, and the ability to provide double or triple glazed windows in heritage buildings. The following are some of the methods that can be considered to mitigate the noise impact:

- (a) orienting bedrooms away from noise sources;
- (b) providing mechanical ventilation;
- (c) using sound-deadening construction materials and techniques; and
- (d) noise generated by the development itself, such as parking and loading activities, exhaust fans, and entertainment uses, can be mitigated by location and design.

2.9 Privacy

Residential privacy in relation to other units, pedestrians, and adjacent development is an important aspect of project livability and neighborliness.

- (a) Unit orientation, window placement and screening should be designed to enhance privacy;
- (b) Balconies and decks fronting courtyard should be oriented, screened or landscaped to reduce direct overlook of adjacent residential uses or other units in the project; and
- (c) In developments with courtyards, when appropriate, stacked units may be considered to reduce privacy conflicts due to access corridors.

2.10 Safety and Security

Safety and security are key components of livability. New development, both residential and commercial, should provide a secure environment through attention to principles of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED).

- (a) Separate lobbies and circulation (including elevators) should be provided for retail, office and residential uses. Lobbies should be visible from the street;
- (b) The design of parking facilities should provide for personal safety and security. Underground residential parking, including pedestrian access routes from parking into the building, should be secure and separate from commercial parking. Underground parking levels to be well illuminated and walls painted white, with featured colors for way finding purposes. Stairs and elevator lobbies to be provided with wire glass areas for views in and out;
- (c) Buildings should maximize opportunities for surveillance of sidewalks, entries, circulation routes, semi-private areas, children's play areas and parking entrances. Blind corners and deeply recessed entries should be avoided. Visibility into stairwells and halls is desirable. Laundry facilities, amenity rooms, and storage rooms should be grouped together and visible for surveillance;
- (d) Residential lighting should ensure good visibility of access routes and landscaped areas without excessive lighting levels, glare or overspill to neighbours; and
- (e) Access routes from building to residential garbage should be separate and secure from commercial garbage.

2.11 Access and Circulation

An active pedestrian environment with a strong sense of street enclosure is encouraged. It is important that vehicular and service functions remain on the lane, so as not to conflict with pedestrian activity.

- (a) Vehicular access to parking, loading, and service areas should be provided from the lane; and

- (b) Where no lane exists, access may be provided off the street. However, negative impacts of vehicular entrance parking ramps and service areas should be minimized through proper treatment such as enclosure, screening, quality finishes, sensitive lighting and landscaping.

3 Uses

The DODP allows a wide range of uses in the Victory Square area. Here are the guidelines:

- 3.1** Other than those street frontages where the DODP requires retail, retail-commercial or service uses, any of the listed uses should be considered in any level of any building, subject to livability and design standards of these guidelines, and the applicable Building By-law requirements; and
- 3.2** On streets where retail continuity is required at grade, a significant portion of the ground floors should be dedicated to retail, retail-commercial or service uses, or can be converted into such uses in the future. DODP requires that the entrances to buildings, including offices, hotels, banks, financial institutions, shall not exceed a total of 25 feet of frontage. This regulation applies to social housing projects as well.

4 Guidelines Pertaining to Form of Development

4.1 Height and Massing

Intent

The intent is to retain the existing scale and character of street walls in Victory Square.

Descriptions of Built Form Characteristics

Area-wide built form characteristics are stated in Section 2.1. Block-based street wall characteristics are contained in Appendix B. These descriptions should be consulted prior to the development of a specific design response.

Guidelines for Heritage Buildings

- 4.1.1** Generally, additions on top of heritage buildings may be considered but should be limited to one storey, and set back from the heritage street facade. However, additions of more than one storey may be considered:
 - (a) when their placement is towards the rear of the site where they will not visually intrude on the scale of the street or the heritage building; or
 - (b) when the existing building is low-scale (i.e. one to two storeys) in comparison to adjacent buildings. In this case, the addition above the heritage facade should be architecturally differentiated, with care given to the proportional relationships and facade patterning between old and new portions.
- 4.1.2** When setback from existing street wall is required, the additions should be incorporated so as to reinforce the predominant street wall, e.g. the setback should be substantial so that street wall “reads”. (*See Figure 7*)
- 4.1.3** Rear addition to and/or expansion of existing heritage buildings on unused portions of the site generally may be considered up to the maximum permitted height limit (21 m/70’), in order to maximize development potential of the site. This is subject to meeting heritage and new building principles as well as satisfactorily addressing issues such as the visual impact of the addition on the heritage building and surrounding buildings as well as livability considerations.

Guidelines for New Buildings

General

- 4.1.4 Distribution of height and massing on site should be influenced by the scale and character of existing streetscape.
- 4.1.5 The appropriate built form for the area consists of robust continuous street walls, with internal setbacks for courtyards and light wells. Tower forms with lower-level podiums are not considered appropriate.

Street Wall Height

- 4.1.6 Minimum street wall height is 7.6 m (25').
- 4.1.7 Maximum street wall height should relate to existing streetscape, in order to preserve and/or reinforce the “saw tooth” profile of the streetscape.

There are generally two typical street wall conditions in Victory Square:

- (a) In a block face that contains buildings with consistent low scale street wall heights, new development should have a similar street wall height, setting back any portion of the building above the predominant existing street wall height.

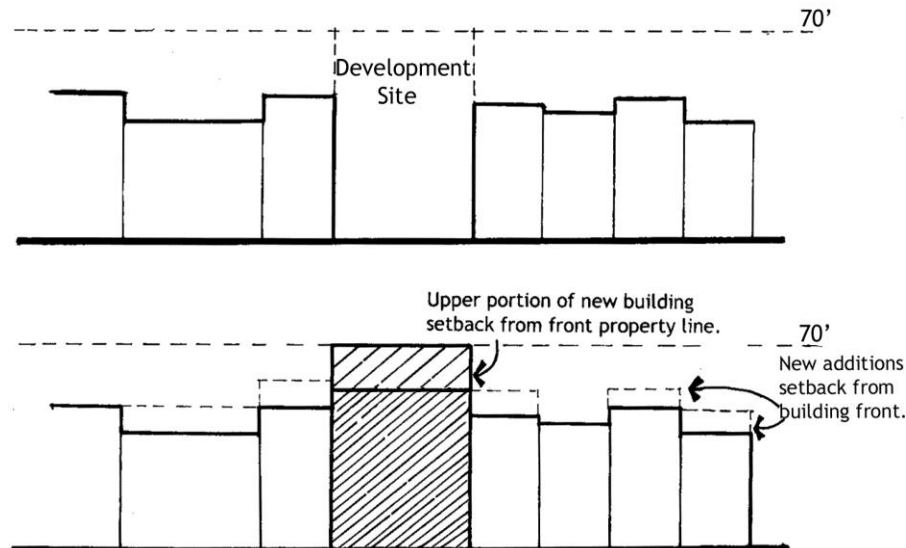


Figure 4 – A Street Wall Condition of Consistent Low Scale Height

Where a block face is of a consistent low scale street wall but with many non-heritage buildings that are likely to be developed over time, new development with a wider range of street wall heights may be acceptable.

- (b) In a block face that contains buildings with significantly varying street wall heights, i.e. with pronounced “saw tooth” pattern, new development with a range of street wall heights may be acceptable, as long as the “saw tooth” pattern is not diminished or eliminated. This guideline applies whether the block face contains numerous heritage buildings or very few heritage buildings.

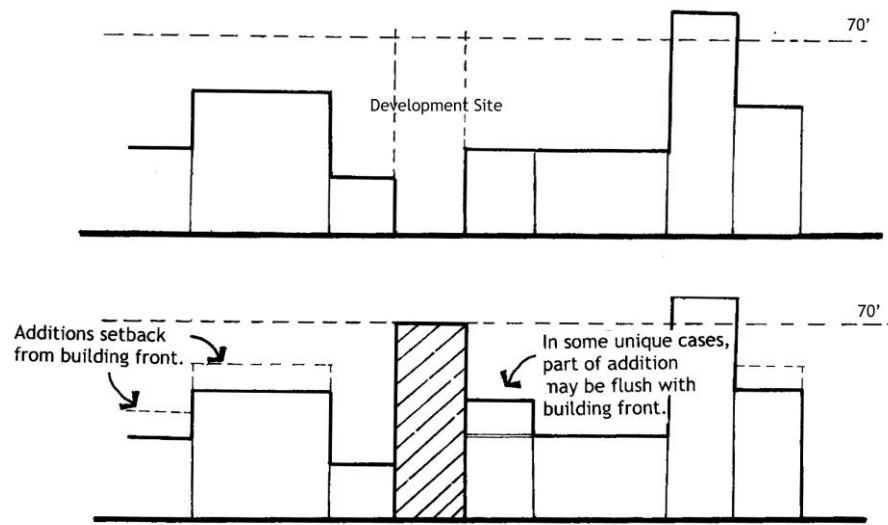


Figure 5 – A Street Wall Condition with Pronounced Saw Tooth Pattern

- 4.1.8 In the case of large sites (e.g. site frontage greater than 23 m/75'), it may be necessary to vary the proposed street wall heights in order to reinforce the visual pattern created by traditional development on 25' to 50' sites, when use of other architectural treatments is not considered sufficient to achieve this.

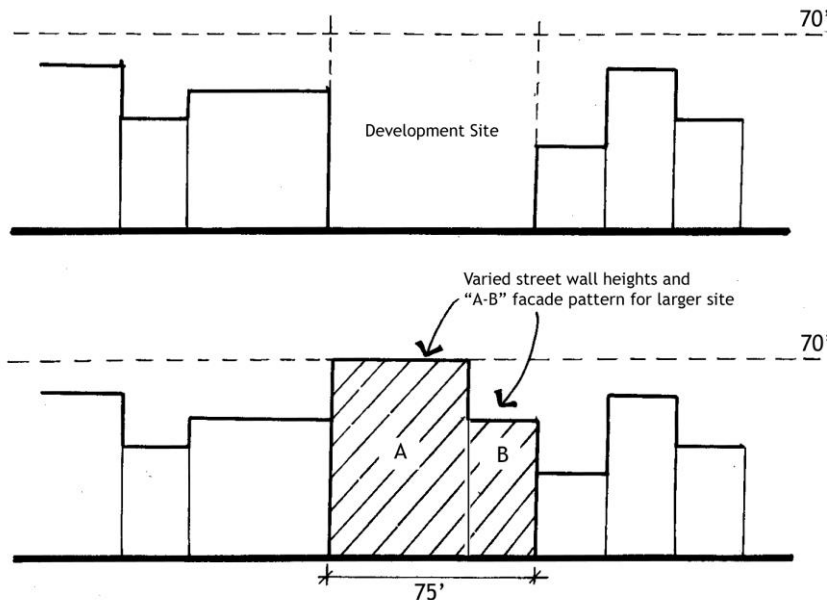


Figure 6 - Varying the Street Wall Heights within a Development with Large Frontage

Height and Massing Above the Street Wall

- 4.1.9 Portions of the buildings that are setback above the street walls should be incorporated so as to reinforce the predominant street wall, e.g. the setback should be substantial so that the street wall “reads”. (See Figure 7)

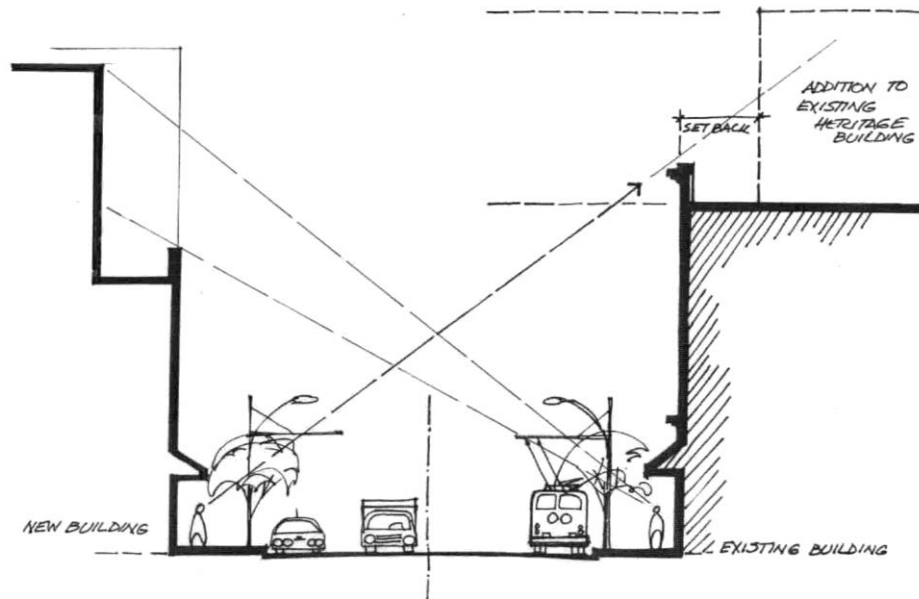


Figure 7 – Cross Section Showing Upper Level Building Setbacks

- 4.1.10 In determining appropriate height and massing, consider both the livability of residents in the new development, as well as its impact on natural light access, views, privacy of adjacent developments.
- 4.1.11 On certain sites there may be a potential for some conditional height increase beyond 21m (70'). In no cases, however, shall the maximum height be more than 30m (100'). Besides the provisions of the DODP, any height and massing relaxation would include evaluation of the level of contextual compatibility achieved and the public benefit derived from the proposed development, based on the priorities set by the Victory Square Policy Plan (2005).

4.1.12 There are various ways that height and massing can be arranged. The following diagrams illustrate examples.

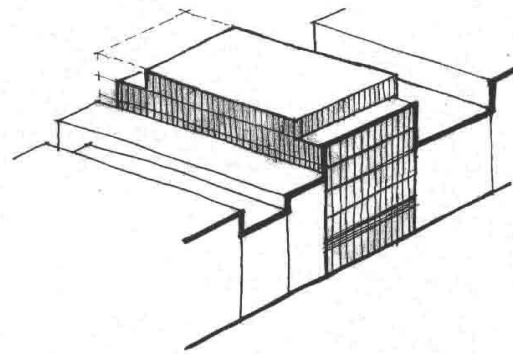
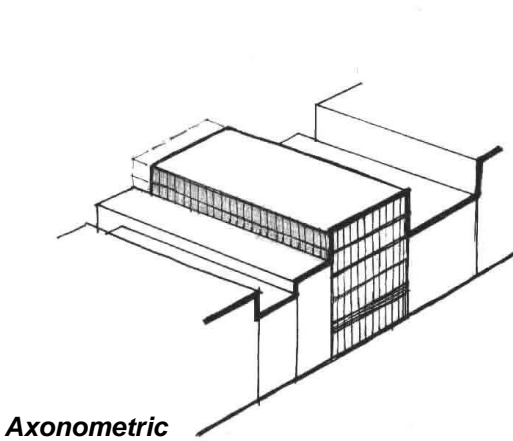
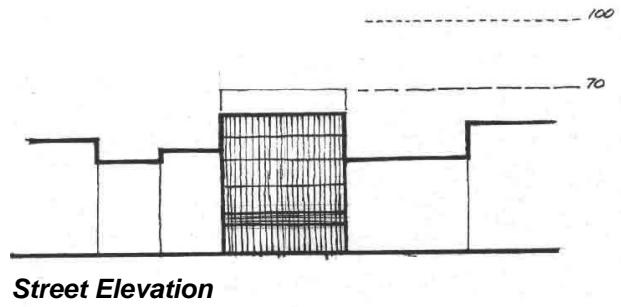
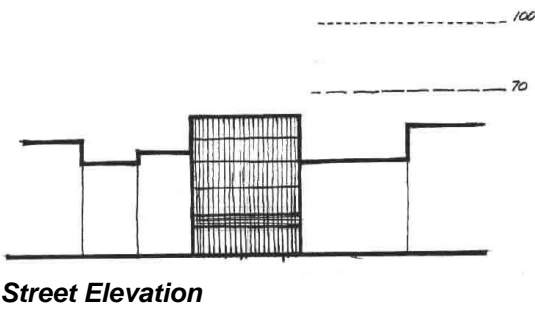
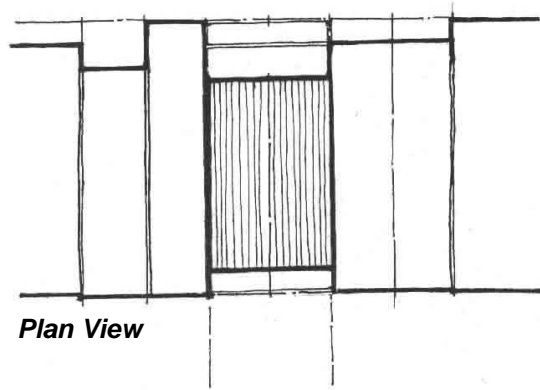
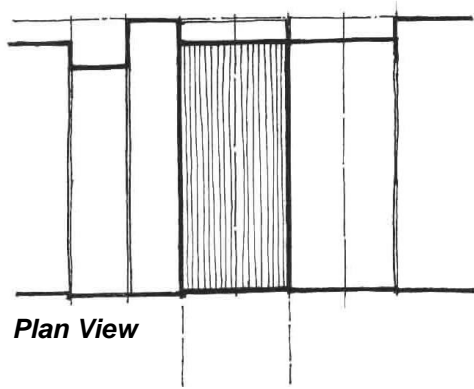
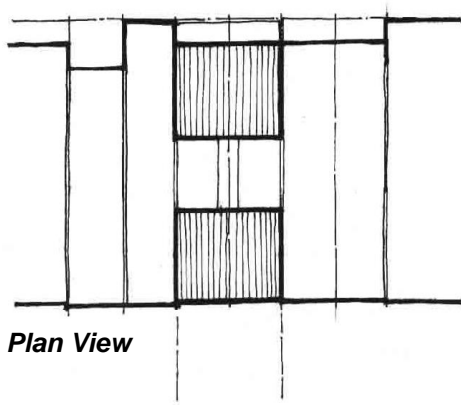
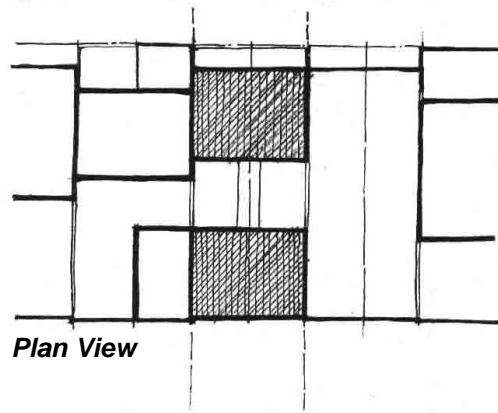


Figure 8 - Evenly Distributed Massing with No Setback

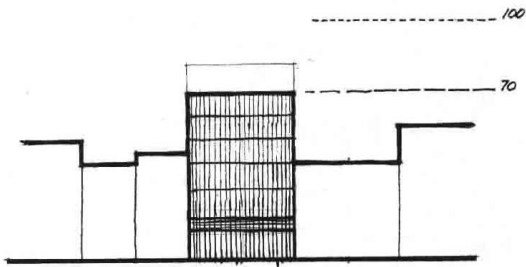
Figure 9 - Evenly Distributed Massing with Upper Setbacks



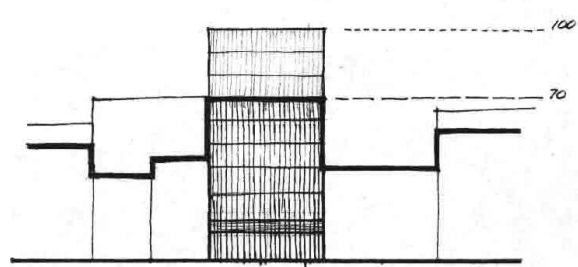
Plan View



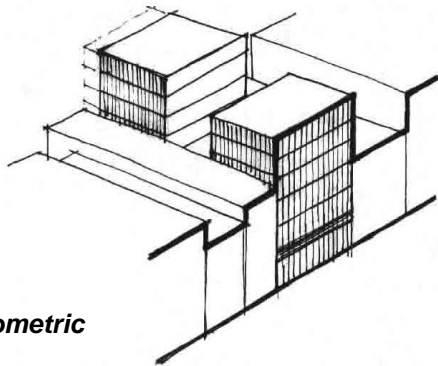
Plan View



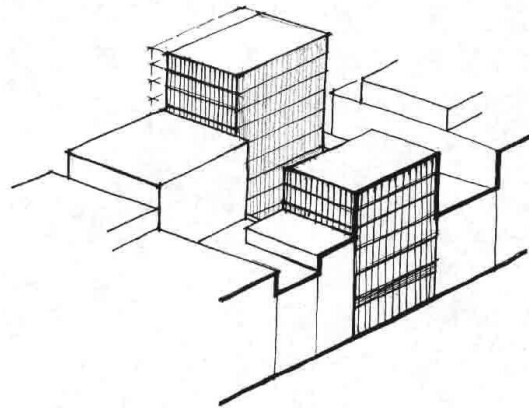
Street Elevation



Street Elevation



Axonometric



Axonometric

Figure 10 – Courtyard Scheme

Figure 11 – Courtyard Scheme with higher massing at back

4.2 Yards and Setbacks

Intent

The traditional patterns of yards and setbacks of Victory Square should be respected in heritage conservation and in construction of new buildings.

Descriptions of Established Patterns

Historically, buildings in the Victory Square area were typically built out to the front, side, and often, rear property lines. Older residential or hotel buildings often had partial side yard light wells on one or both sides of the buildings. Encroachments onto City streets, in the form of bay windows, cornices, basement areaways and fire escapes were not uncommon.

Guidelines for all Buildings

- 4.2.1 While all heritage buildings and character buildings should retain their original relationships to the front and side property lines at all existing floors, new buildings should be built to the front and side property lines.
- 4.2.2 Generally, there should be no setback from the lane at grade and at any commercial levels above, i.e. the lower level lane facade and lane facade for any commercial uses should be flush with the rear property line. However, where there are exits to the lane, it is preferred that the building be set back 2 ft to ensure that an alcove is not created.
- 4.2.3 For residential uses that usually are located in the upper portion of a building, rear setbacks will be required. Livability is a major consideration in determining how much rear setback is required. Factors affecting livability include utility constraints such as power lines and transformers, challenges posed by courtyard schemes which tend to push the building massing towards the rear of the site, etc.
- 4.2.4 New residential buildings are required to provide light and air to all habitable rooms of a dwelling unit. The use of side light wells at the mid-depth of the site and possible extension to the lane maybe considered, subject to livability and building code considerations.
- 4.2.5 Street level arcades parallel to the street are generally not supported since such design elements interfere with the block massing and create public safety and vandalism concerns.

4.3 Exterior Design

This section describes the patterns of established building facades in the area and provides exterior design guidelines based on these patterns. It is not the intent for these guidelines to be prescriptive, especially for new buildings; rather, they should be used as the starting point for a good contextual design.

4.3.1 Overall Facade Composition

Intent

The prevailing facade composition established by heritage buildings in the area should be respected. New development should respect the traditional appearance and proportions of the facades of heritage buildings.

Descriptions of Established Patterns

In the Victory Square area, the typical streetscape rhythm comprises of one or more bay widths in each building. While the individual bay width varies from building to building, this pronounced facade patterning can be found in heritage buildings of various street frontages throughout the area and it creates texture and visual interest to the built environment.

The fenestration patterns of Victory Square's early buildings are:

- (a) vertically oriented with a substantial masonry or stone sill;
- (b) punched openings with a roughly equal solid to void ratio; or
- (c) sometimes windows are grouped with decorative horizontal bands underneath them. These horizontal bands are contained between visually dominant vertical bay divisions.

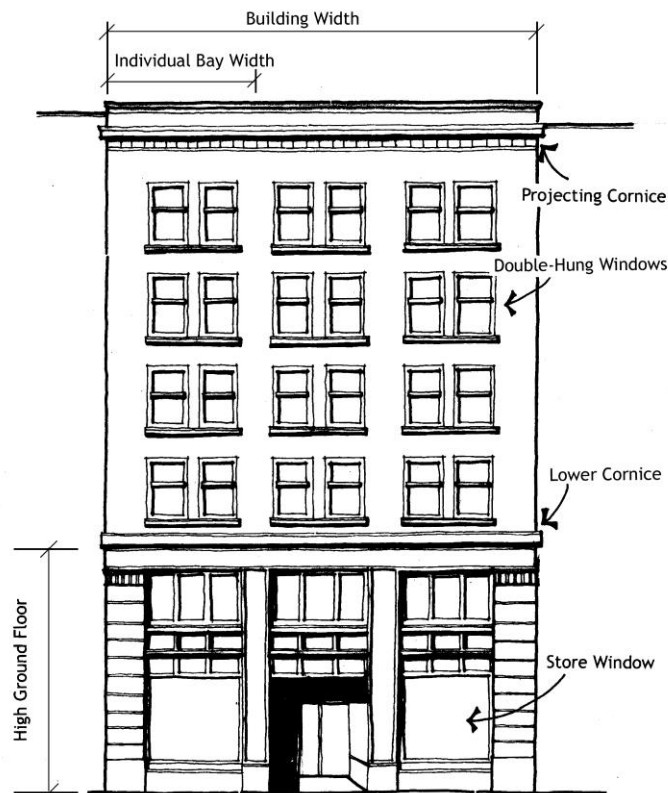


Figure 12– Overall Facade Composition

Guidelines for Heritage Buildings

- 4.3.1.1 Heritage buildings including all of their architectural elements (columns, pilasters, bay windows, entries and store fronts, etc.) should be retained and restored. Historic photos, drawings and other available evidence should be used to support the restoration or replication of decorative elements of historic significance on the facade.
- 4.3.1.2 Existing windows of heritage buildings should be retained and restored.
- 4.3.1.3 Where existing bays (i.e. bay windows) or other elements project over city properties, necessary agreements pursuant to the Encroachment By-law should be pursued. The City Engineer's Encroachment Guide will assist the owner in achieving required encroachment agreements noting that all Building By-law and safety concerns must be satisfactorily addressed.

Guidelines for New buildings

- 4.3.1.4 The design of the facade should complement the historic vertical ordering of facades in the area. They should be designed to achieve the same level of visual interests as that of heritage buildings. However, the proposed design should be in a contemporary manner. Some examples of a compatible design approach include:
- (a) A stronger definition of the ground floor level;
 - (b) The upper facade is organized to complement the traditional vertical elements such as pilasters, columns and bays;
 - (c) Windows, if any, is arranged to reflect the fenestration pattern of heritage buildings; and
 - (d) There can be a distinct design resolution to define the upper edge of the facade.
- 4.3.1.5 New buildings in excess of 15.2 m (52') in width should seek to establish a facade rhythm through the use of contemporary architectural expression to break down the facade so as to reflect the fine-grain texture of the historic streetscape.
- 4.3.1.6 Projecting balconies are generally discouraged on the street facade.

4.3.2 Lower Facade

Intent

The scale, configuration and rhythm of the lower facade, i.e. that portion of the building made up of the ground floor level, of the heritage buildings in the area should be recognized and respected.

Descriptions of Established Patterns

The lower facades in heritage buildings are typically defined by a minor cornice, decorative band and often a sign band. A high ceiling is often a prominent feature, as are narrow bay width and separate access to upper floors. The ground floor is typically used as the store front. These store fronts usually are transparent with large display windows. Other common features include large glazed transom and recessed entryway embellished with decorative tiles, stone or terrazzo paving. The base plate was often made of decorated wood.

Traditionally, street level entry doors for stairs to upper floors were incorporated into the facade in a separate vertical bay with details relating to the design of the store front entry(s) but in a less elaborate expression. Often the entry was recessed from the street sidewalk.

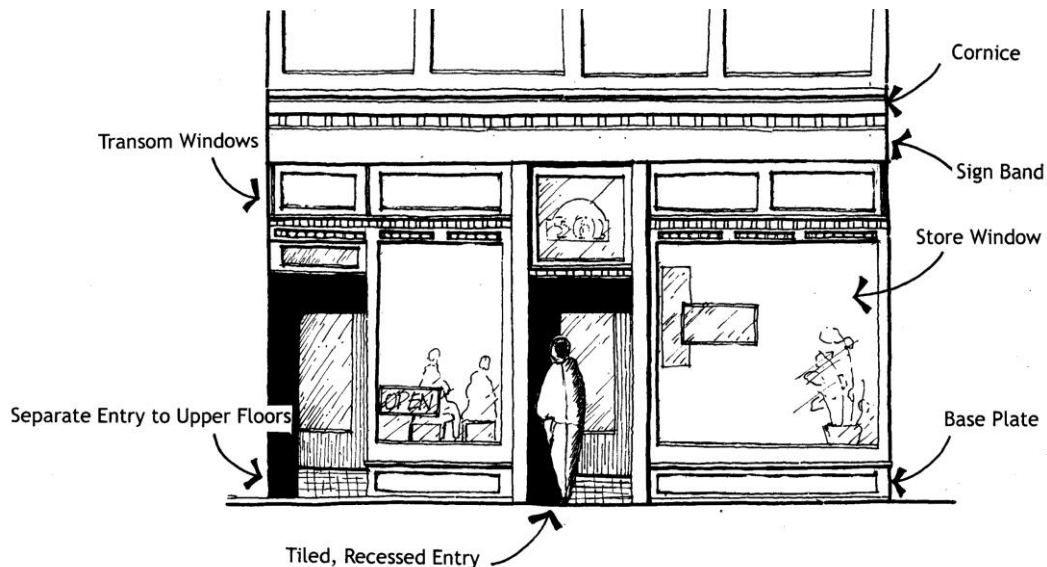


Figure 13 – Store Front Composition

Guidelines for Heritage Buildings

4.3.2.1 Existing store front configuration and architectural features should be retained on heritage buildings. If restoration or replication is needed, historic photos and drawings should be used as a source. In the case of a lack of physical or historic evidence, the following heritage features may be considered in the design process:

- (a) cast iron elements;
- (b) a high percentage of glazing, in the display window area, transoms windows and in the entry door(s);
- (c) recessed entries, with a rectangular or trapezoidal plan;
- (d) transom window above the entry, often stretching the full width of the store front, above the recessed entry;
- (e) base plates rich in detail and of durable materials;
- (f) detailing of the floor surface in the entry recess with tiles (especially small mosaic tiles), terrazzo, stone or other similar durable decorative materials;
- (g) a store front cornice; and
- (h) lighting and signage.

4.3.2.2 Store front widths should generally reflect the historical range of 7 m (23'). Consolidation of two or more individual retail tenancies into one is permitted. However, retention of existing heritage facade features is required, even if this means retaining a redundant entry configuration.

4.3.2.3 Additional access from the street to upper floors should be in a configuration typical of heritage buildings.

Guidelines for New Buildings

4.3.2.4 The ground floor of new buildings should provide the fine-grain texture and pedestrian interest by subdividing wider street frontages (wider than 16 m/52') into narrower bay elements and by providing an appropriate level of detailing.

4.3.2.5 The design of the ground floor should be informed by, and compatible with, the historic store fronts of the area, but should not be replicas.

- 4.3.2.6 When uses other than retail, retail-commercial or service uses are proposed and deemed appropriate, they should provide the same level of pedestrian interests as retail shops by incorporating a good design with similar level of detailing of traditional store fronts in Victory Square.

4.3.3 Lane Facade

Intent

Each building should play its part in making the lanes of Victory Square safe places for all users and visually orderly when viewed from adjacent buildings. Lanes are also the preferred location for vehicular access to parking contained within buildings. This function should be taken into consideration in building design.

Descriptions of Established Patterns

Many heritage buildings in Victory Square traditionally had a plainer and simpler architectural expression facing the lane than that facing the main street. Lanes in the area often contain some original elements with authentic heritage character, including granite paving and overhead wires. The overhead wires may have implications on livability.

Guidelines for All Buildings

- 4.3.3.1 The architectural characteristics of the lane facade of a heritage building should be considered an important aspect of the building's heritage character.
- 4.3.3.2 The design of the lane facade should consider that pedestrians will use the lane and that people in surrounding buildings will overlook it. Loading facilities and parking garage entries should be finished in suitable materials or painted of colors similar to the building which they serve.
- 4.3.3.3 Garbage containers and loading bays should be recessed within the volume of the building and screened from view. The materials and color of these screens should be compatible with the overall lane environment.

5 Architectural Components

This section should be read in conjunction with the document "Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada", which is available under the title "Library" on the web site of Parks Canada at www.pc.gc.ca. Whereas the aforementioned document outlines the prescribed practice on heritage building conservation, this section supplements with guidelines unique to Victory Square.

5.1 Rooftop Features

Intent

The intent is to encourage the retention of existing rooftop features, such as mechanical penthouses, skylights and water towers, and to permit the addition of appropriate rooftop elements on existing buildings (heritage and non-heritage) as well as on new buildings.

Descriptions of Established Patterns

Rooftop structures for mechanical services are authentic and important elements of Victory Square's early buildings.

Guidelines for All Buildings

- 5.1.1 Where feasible, existing mechanical penthouses and water towers on heritage buildings should be retained.
- 5.1.2 New elements such as guards, handrails, skylights and planters for rooftop outdoor spaces should generally be set back from primary facades and not visible from the sidewalk on the opposite side of the street.
- 5.1.3 If it is not possible to set back those rooftop features for equipment or they are visible from the sidewalk on the opposite side of the street, these features should be at least screened.
- 5.1.4 The cladding material for new architectural additions should be compatible with those of the main building.

5.2 Windows and Glazing

Intent

The intent is to recognize the importance of traditional windows in establishing the heritage character of the area and to ensure that windows and glazing in new buildings respect and complement these traditional fenestration patterns.

Descriptions of Established Patterns

The windows in Victory Square buildings are important to the character of the area. While most windows are double or single hung (vertically sliding) sash, there are also examples of pivoting, casement and fixed sash. They can be found individually or grouped in pairs or threes. Wood is the predominant material, although there are some steel sashes that can be found in the area.

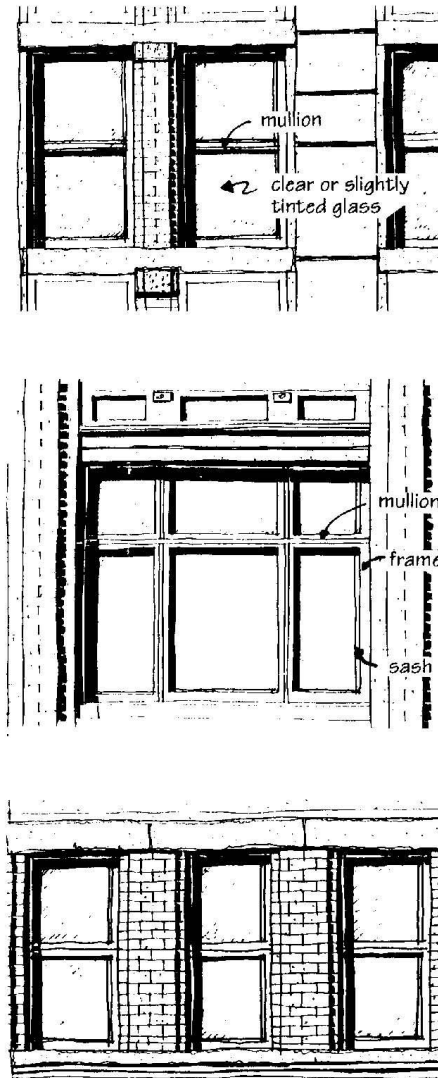


Figure 14 – Window Details

Guidelines for Heritage Buildings

- 5.2.1 The original windows or more recent replacements in the historical forms and materials are encouraged to be retained, repaired and rehabilitated whenever feasible. Replacement of wooden windows should be in wood that match the appearance (shape, proportion, type of operation, detail, color and clarity of glass) of the originals.
- 5.2.2 Where rehabilitation of original windows is not feasible, the use of new replica windows based on original appearance and profiles, derived from historical research, is encouraged.
- 5.2.3 Lintels and sills should be retained.
- 5.2.4 If new windows have to be installed in a heritage building and historical information is not available, the following criteria developed based on the typical wood window construction in the area can be referenced:
- (a) windows should have frames and sash with dimensions similar to traditional wood windows;
 - (b) the window should be divided into a minimum of two sash or panes; more divisions are also possible;

- (c) windows should be operable and the method of opening should replicate that of traditional window types - double hung, casement or pivoting; hopper windows or horizontally sliding windows are discouraged;
- (d) clear glass is encouraged; tints, colored or mirrored surfaces are not acceptable;
- (e) frames and sash should be of wood or steel;
- (f) the sash should be recessed within the window frame to create the appearance of a punch window; and
- (g) window openings should have a distinct lintel and sill.

Guidelines for New Buildings

5.2.5 Guideline 4.3.1.4 calls for new buildings to have facades that reflect established fenestration patterns in the Victory Square area. Window and glazing design may be a way of achieving this, however, it is not expected that they replicate heritage details.

5.3 Exterior Walls and Materials

Intent

The intent is to retain the heritage character of the area by using building materials traditionally found in Victory Square for heritage conservation and by allowing new materials to be introduced in new constructions that are compatible with the surroundings.

Descriptions of Established Patterns

The building materials commonly used in the heritage buildings in the area are:

- (a) standard clay brick in a range of warm tones, noting that some historic brick was painted originally while others have been painted over time;
- (b) granite and sandstone;
- (c) terracotta, tile and glazed brick materials and decorative elements;
- (d) cast iron and pressed metal decorative elements, particularly cornices;
- (e) wood elements for ground floor base plate, windows, bay window framing;
- (f) stucco or cement rendered surfaces; and
- (g) specially treated concrete finishes for rear or for some secondary surfaces.

Guidelines for Heritage Buildings

- 5.3.1 The retention of existing materials and introduction of new materials for necessary repair should follow “Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada”.
- 5.3.2 New ventilation units and fireplace flues should not be added to the exterior walls but may be added to roofs of heritage buildings.

Guidelines for New Buildings

- 5.3.3 New materials that have not been commonly used in the area will be considered but will be evaluated to ensure that they are compatible with the area. Some examples that are considered compatible include:
 - (a) areas of smooth-finish poured concrete or pre-cast concrete panels;
 - (b) painted steel columns and framing elements for store front openings or the delineation of vertical facade articulation; and
 - (c) glazed surfaces which are articulated in a manner inspired by traditional facade ordering.

- 5.3.4 Materials that generally should be avoided include:
- (a) surfaces which imitate historic materials in a different form (e.g., aluminum or vinyl siding with embossed wood graining, composite board materials);
 - (b) textured stucco; if stucco is used it should have a smooth surface and be limited to side walls, roof top additions and small areas of the main facade; and
 - (c) decorative marble or granite tiles unless used as accent materials in a store front.
- 5.3.5 Color schemes and color placement should reflect traditional color schemes and color placement found on heritage buildings in Victory Square.
- 5.3.6 The exposed sides and rear of buildings should be treated in similar materials to the principal street facade, although usually with less decorative elements.

5.4 Awnings and Canopies

Intent

The intent is to encourage the use of awnings and canopies reminiscent of the originals of Victory Square.

Descriptions of Established Patterns

Historically, most commercial buildings in Victory Square had awnings for sun or rain protection. They were large and played an important role in the streetscape and public realm of the area. Retractable fabric awnings (laced, not stapled) were the most common type. They are typically of a three or four point, or triangular shape.

Guidelines for All Buildings

- 5.4.1 Awnings or canopies should be designed to fit within the dominant structural elements of the lower facade. This usually means awnings and canopies should be fitting within the overall design of the store front, below the intermediate cornice and between vertical columns or pilasters.
- 5.4.2 Awnings and canopies should respect the edges of facade features. For example, they should meet the facade at the top or bottom of transom windows of sign bands but not in the middle.
- 5.4.3 In some instances, for heritage buildings, metal and glass fixed canopies may be appropriate, particularly if there is archival evidence of any precedent on the building or similar types of buildings in Victory Square. Retractable fabric awnings are encouraged for use on heritage buildings, however, fixed, three or four point, or triangular shaped fabric canopies are an acceptable alternative.
- 5.4.4 The fabric (usually heavy canvas, not shiny or translucent vinyl) can be a solid color, preferably a traditional dark color, or striped and usually the ends of the frame are left open. Plain valences, with or without a sign band, are acceptable.
- 5.4.5 For new buildings, a wider range of canopies and awnings will be considered provided the design and materials are compatible with the area character.
- 5.4.6 Curved and unusually shaped fixed awnings are not desirable. Internal illumination of low quality fabric and vinyl awnings or canopies is not considered appropriate for the area.

- 5.4.7 Where the sidewalk in front of the store fronts slopes across the facade of the building, awnings or canopies should respond to the stepping of store front elements by also stepping at the vertical separation between store fronts.
- 5.4.8 Generally, consistency in style and color of awnings or canopies across the width of a facade that has multiple store fronts is recommended.

5.5 Signage

Intent

The intent of the sign guidelines is to achieve a harmonious visual environment by allowing a wide range of sign types that collectively reflect the area's history and by allowing new, contemporary signs that are compatible with existing signs.

Guidelines

- 5.5.1 The following signs are generally considered appropriate signage types for the area:
- (a) projecting signs (usually with a horizontal orientation);
 - (b) fascia or store front sign band signs (horizontal and traditionally incorporated immediately below the store front cornice and above the transom windows);
 - (c) letters (painted or raised) applied directly to the building surface;
 - (d) awning signs;
 - (e) historic painted signs or murals which are conserved; and
 - (f) neon signs.

(Note: Regulations for signs are to be found in the Sign By-law.)

5.6 Lights

Intent

The intent is to ensure that the design, location, intensity and colors of nighttime light sources mounted on private buildings are appropriate for Victory Square.

Guidelines for All Buildings

- 5.6.1 Lighting design should consider the impact on the public streets. It is ideal that the sidewalks of Victory Square should be illuminated with a soft, even light. In order to achieve this, it is important that light fixtures on private properties be located at a pedestrian scale to avoid glare for pedestrians and that light sources are warm in color and similar to daylight in their rendition of colors.
- 5.6.2 Surface mounted or on projecting arms, the design of the fixtures selected should be authentic and appropriate to the character of the heritage building or, in the case of a new building, should be in a contemporary style that is compatible with the adjacent buildings and area character.
- 5.6.3 The quality of illumination should be natural, warm and not overly intense. Incandescent quality (i.e. color corrected to the incandescent spectrum) is desirable.

5.7 Cornices and Parapets

Intent

Cornices and parapets should be conserved whenever appropriate in heritage buildings.

Descriptions of Established Patterns

Cornices and parapets have a significant historic role in Victory Square buildings. Their historic features generally comprise, but not limited to:

- (a) strong projecting cornice shape, sometime with a raised parapet on the main facade;
- (b) materials characteristic of the area, such as metal, corbelled brick, stone; and
- (c) decorative finials, signs plates or date markings.

Guidelines for Heritage Buildings

There is no specific guideline besides those contained in the document “Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada”.

7 Private and Semi-private Open Space

Semi-private open space is important in the livability of residential buildings, whether new construction or rehabilitation of existing buildings.

- 7.1 Semi-private open spaces should generally be provided at the rear of the building, in internal courtyards (often above the commercial level) or on the rooftop.
- 7.2 Common roof decks above the second floor are encouraged as semi-private open spaces, subject to consideration of overlook, scale relationships, view blockages and noise impacts on units and properties below.
- 7.3 The visual impact of rooftop open spaces should be considered for heritage buildings, particularly with respect to the design and visibility of stair access penthouses, guards, handrails, screening, awnings and landscape elements.

8 Public Realm

There are some features of heritage buildings in Victory Square that encroach into the street Right-of-Way.

- 8.1 Where encroachment of historic elements such as bay windows, cornices and fire escapes contribute to the character of a heritage building they are encouraged to be retained and conserved.
- 8.2 Existing areaways, including their glass prisms (covered or not) may be considered for retention and rehabilitation. Areaways attached to heritage buildings require careful consideration to determine if retention and rehabilitation is practical or economically feasible. A key criterion to consider is whether an areaway is identified as a character defining element in the Statement of Significance for the heritage building to which it is attached. The retention and rehabilitation of areaways and their glass prisms where they exist or existed in the past (covered or not) will be guided by the City's Areaway Principles Guide (under development).
- 8.3 The planting of street trees and other sidewalk improvements contemplated as part of development on private properties need to be coordinated with the overall public realm plan. Please consult with Development Planners regarding the emerging public realm plan.

9 Interiors

Interior fixtures and features which are identified as character-defining elements of a heritage building should be conserved as part of the rehabilitation. These features may include shop interiors, stairwells, light wells, structural framing of note, special wall finishes, light fixtures and hardware with heritage values.

10 Accessibility

The provision of access for the disabled is an important aspect of building rehabilitation and efforts should be made to improve the accessibility of existing buildings. Efforts should be made to provide disabled access that does not compromise the heritage values of existing buildings. In this regard, the compliance alternative provisions of the Vancouver Building Bylaw should be consulted.

Appendix A - Glossary of Terms

For more definitions on heritage building features, please refer to the document “Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada”, which is available under the title “Library” on the web site of Parks Canada at www.pc.gc.ca.

<i>Base Plate</i>	The vertical wall surface below the store front window and above the sidewalk surface; traditionally finished in wood or tile.
<i>Bay</i>	The regularly spaced primary structural module of a building.
<i>Bay Window</i>	A polygonal projecting element from the wall surface, usually an extension of the internal floor level and containing windows.
<i>Corbelling</i>	Usually in brick masonry; brickwork projecting successively with each course.
<i>Cornice</i>	A projecting decorative elements at the top of the wall surface; the uppermost part of an entablature, which is composed of an architrave, a fascia and a cornice.
<i>Double-hung</i>	A type of window with two glazed sash elements which slide vertically, one up and one down, in a plane one in front of the other; single hung is similar but only one sash moves vertically.
<i>Fascia</i>	The narrow horizontal trim band usually found at the roof edge.
<i>Fenestration</i>	The pattern and rhythm of windows in a facade.
<i>Mosaic Tile</i>	Very small ceramic or glass tiles used to form a decorative pattern.
<i>Mullion</i>	A support member between adjacent windows.
<i>Muntin</i>	A slender division bar between two panes of glass in a window sash.
<i>Parapet</i>	The vertical projection of a wall above the adjacent roof level.
<i>Pilaster</i>	A flat vertical decorative element slightly protruding from the wall surface; often an expression of the internal structural bay system of a building, although not necessarily performing any structural work.
<i>SOS</i>	<p>A Statement of Significance (SOS) is a document describes the heritage value of a historic place (e.g. heritage building), their meanings and imbued messages, and clearly identifies what should be protected. The heritage value is embodied in its character defining materials, forms, location, spatial configurations, uses and cultural associations or meanings. The SOS provides a link between identified heritage values and the fabric of the historic place to ensure the heritage values are conserved.</p> <p>A Statement of Significance can be used as a tool for managing change in a historic place. It does so by informing parties (owners, architects, heritage consultants, and planners) involved in the conservation and revitalization of the place, and can assist by outlining broadly what to conserve and where change may be permitted.</p>

<i>Street Wall</i>	The front portion of the building that stands flush with other buildings and with no front yard setback.
<i>Terrazzo</i>	A highly polished cast-in-place marble and aggregate concrete floor material; a variety of speckled patterns and colors are possible.
<i>Transom</i>	The horizontal window area above a large window, door or store front; often operable for ventilation.

Appendix B - Block-based Street Wall Characteristics

As a reference guide, the following are the general characteristics that define the street walls of each block in the Victory Square area, as observed by City staff. These characteristics should be studied and taken into consideration for massing proposals of any new development and redevelopment.

400 block West Hastings

- Buildings in this block are of 2 – 3 storey low scale (average height 40'), and of frontages ranging from 26' to 52';
- The “saw tooth” pattern is evident in this block. However, heights do not vary significantly;
- On the north side of the street, there is no building listed on Vancouver Heritage Register (VHR), however, some buildings have potential to become listed;
- On the south side of the street, all buildings are Heritage B listed buildings; and
- This is the starting block of the heritage precinct of Victory Square. Immediately to the west are the higher buildings of the Central Business District.

300 block West Hastings

- The Dominion Building anchors the eastern end of the north side of the street. Its height (250') and landmark qualities should be respected;
- The rest of the north side contains low to mid-rise buildings; heights vary from 2 to 4 storeys, 3 of the buildings are Heritage B listed buildings; and
- On the south side of the street all buildings are of 2-storey high. There is no building listed on VHR, however, some buildings have potential to become listed.

100 block West Hastings Street

- The north side of the street contains the development site for Woodward's buildings. The imposing massing of the original Woodward's building that was built in 1918 provides a sense of enclosure on the street;
- The south side of the street (the Ralph block) has an important collection of heritage and character buildings. Heights vary. The contrast between higher and lower buildings set a dynamic rhythm in the streetscape (“saw tooth” patterns); and
- Street Right-Of-Way narrows from 80' to the west to 66' within this block and further east, creating an intimate scale on the street.

0 block West Hasting Street

- The Army & Navy building, the new Portland Hotel Society building, and the original Woodward's building at corner of Hastings and Abbott Streets (although not in this block) are the dominant elements in the streetscape;
- Building heights vary significantly (from 30' to 70') on both sides of the street, establishing “saw tooth” patterns; and
- While there is only one VHR listed building in this block, there are many buildings on both sides of the street that should be evaluated for heritage status.

400 block West Pender Street

- On the north side of the street, building heights drop from the east (90' of Central City Lodge) to the west (roughly 40'). Street wall is robust. 2 buildings are VHR listed. The building at corner of West Pender and Richards Streets may have potential heritage values;
- The Century House which is at 432 Richards Street is a designated heritage building under the Vancouver Heritage By-laws;
- On the south side of the street, the West Pender Building is one of the landmark buildings in the area, at approximately 120'. Other existing buildings are of a low-scale, ranging from 1 storey to 3 storeys. 2 of these buildings are Heritage B listed. Others may have potentials to become listed; and
- Similar to 400 block West Hastings Street, this is also the starting block of the Victory Square heritage precinct. There are taller buildings immediately to the west, across Richards Street.

300 block West Pender Street

- This block has exemplary low-rise heritage street walls on both sides of the street. The average of the consistent street wall heights is 40';
- There are many Heritage B listed buildings in this block, with one designated building (Page House at 330 West Pender Street) under the Vancouver Heritage By-laws.

100 block West Pender Street (north block face)

- There is a robust street wall on the north side of the street (south side is not in the Victory Square precinct), with lower buildings in the western half of the block and higher buildings in the eastern half;
- Existing buildings are either built relatively recently, or VHR listed buildings, or buildings that may be listed; and
- Land slopes down from the west to the east. Street Right-of-Way is increased to 90' in this block and this width is continued easterly for one more block.

0 block West Pender Street (north block face)

- On the north side of the street, building heights vary significantly;
- There are VHR listed buildings as well as buildings that may be listed. There are also a few vacant lots that present opportunities to reinforce a “saw tooth” pattern in the streetscape; and
- The south side of the street is of a higher massing (International Village Mall, which is not in the Victory Square precinct). Its treatment at lower levels, however, relates well to a pedestrian scale at grade.

500 block Beatty Street (east block face)

- This block has a well-established streetscape pattern consisting of higher massing heritage buildings (or character buildings) that were previously used as warehouses. Several of them are converted to residential uses;
- Sun Tower at the north end of the block is a well-known landmark for the precinct and the surrounding areas; and
- A predominant feature of the street wall is the “saw tooth” pattern delineated by the strong cornice lines of individual buildings.

