

4374 Wilkinson Rd.,
Victoria, B.C.,
V8Z 5B7,
October 8, 1974.

L.I. Programme,
1415 Vancouver Street,
Victoria, B.C.

Dear Sirs;

This Society was incorporated to encourage the preservation of heritage buildings in the capital region of Greater Victoria. We have been asked by Mr. Dick of the Songhees Indian Reserve to support his application for funds to restore the longhouse on the Songhees Reserve. We submit that this project is a worthy one. The building dates from 1912 and is constructed entirely of wood with a cedar shake roof. The structure is particularly important, not only as a community resource for the Indian people, but also as a type of construction which reflects the needs, the resources and the traditions of the early community as a whole. It resembles almost exactly the large farm barns which once were common to British Columbia but which have now almost disappeared with the utilization of modern materials and different styling. The original function of this building, however, was quite different, and it is this unique combination of function and design that makes the building particularly important.

The proposed renovations, while including an extension and a kitchen which would increase the suitability of the structure for community use, is nevertheless to be completed in natural materials which would not destroy its heritage value.

We should very much like to see this building repaired. We feel that its very existence depends upon work being done upon it in the near future, and its loss would mean the disappearance of one of the very last of the early Indian longhouses, a structure of interest to both natives and non-natives alike.

Yours sincerely,

(Mrs.) Carolyn Smyly,
Executive Member,
Hallmark Society.