

HALLMARK SOCIETY  
INVENTORY OF HERITAGE BUILDINGS

Name of Recorder: Mary Ann Date: Feb. 6, 1978

IDENTITY: Number, Street, Municipality, City: 932/934 Balmoral Street, Victoria

Name of Building: First United Church (originally First Presbyterian)

CONSTRUCTION: Wall Material: Stone Brick X Frame Other  
Condition of Much  
Structure: Very Good X Fair Poor Altered

HISTORY: Date of Construction: 1912-1915  
Description of Construction Gothic style brick structure with asymmetrical  
and Style: facade; main wing has gable roof with massive bell tower on one  
Name of Original Owner  
(individual or company): 1st Presbyterian Church

Original Use: Church

Name of Present Owner: W.T. Straith et al in trust c/o 1st United Church

Present Use: Church

Brief Biography of In 1862 14 men & 2 women met at Smith's Hall & organized the  
Original Owner: the 1st Presbyterian Church of Vancouver Island; in 1863 the  
foundation was laid at Pandora & Blanshard for the new church, & it was  
dedicated that year; in the same year the present bell was bought in San

Name of Contractors &

Artisans, if known: West Coast Construction Co.; Luney Bros; Stevens Bros.

Name of Architect(s): J.C.M. Keith (both church hall & main structure)

Brief Biography of

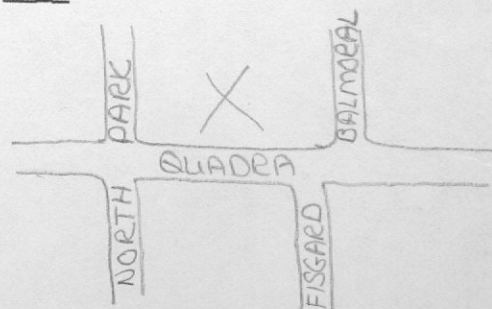
Architect:

Brief History of the Building to the Present;

(additions, alterations, destruction, etc.): The lot was bought in 1911 for  
\$26,750; the church hall & school room were started in the fall of 1912; it was  
completed & dedicated in 1913 & within one year it was found to be too small  
& in May 1914 it was decided to proceed with the erection of the church  
auditorium; in spite of many difficulties (W.W.1) work was completed & it was  
dedicated in 1915; West Coast Construction Co. was hired as contractors for the  
church hall but they weren't properly incorporated; construction was slow & it  
eventually failed; the congregation had to take over a partially complete  
structure & complete it on a day labour basis at a cost of \$34,000; Luney  
Bros. were hired to do the excavation for the main structure & the Stevens

PICTURE

Locate Building on Street  
Plan



Information: Unidentified 1927 newspaper clipping; Times  
Nov. 13/62 p. 17; Times - Apr. 10/54 p. 15; Times - Apr. 4/59  
8/60; 1937 newspaper clipping; Victoria B.C. 1st pres.  
etch, 1862-1922; "Victoria, B.C. 1st United Church Centennial  
needed, attach sheet. Committee - 100 years (1862-1962.)"

Continuation of description of construction & style;

side; large stained glass palladian windows; crenallated edge on top of bell tower; some contrasting cement detailing

Continuation of building

Continuation of original owner's biography:

Francisco & installed; the church was closed from 1867-1876 for lack of a permanent minister; the church grew too small & was sold for a profit.

Continuation of building history:

Bros. to erect the building; the whole thing cost \$130,000; in 1954 a fellowship hall was built, the architects being Sharp, Thompson, Berwick, Pratt, & Craig costing over \$160,000; in 1960 \$35,000 damage was done by fire in a section at the rear; in 1962 the same section was gutted by fire causing \$100,000 damage; the cause was faulty wiring.