

Statement of Significance
District of West Vancouver Municipal Hall
750 17th Street
West Vancouver, BC
May 2008



Historic Place

The historic place is the West Vancouver Municipal Hall, built in 1964 and located at 750 17th Street. Designed by Toby Russell Buckwell Architects in a modernist style, the District's offices stand on a south-facing slope, quite distinctive in appearance from the surrounding houses and apartment blocks. The parking structure south of the building does not comprise a part of the historic place.

Heritage Value

The historic place has heritage value for its association with governance and leadership of the District of West Vancouver. The seat of local government for nearly a half-century, it is here that decisions have been made that have shaped the District's future.

This building, which has been iconic in West Vancouver's built fabric, also has architectural value as a seminal public building in the West Coast modernist manner, which is better known for its residential architecture. The upper floors appear to float over the slightly set back ground floor, and are distinguished by the delineation of each storey and roof level with a pronounced extended slab over a sloped horizontal fascia band. The ground floor of the building is faced in distinctive white exposed aggregate prefabricated concrete panels, with glass dominating the upper storeys.

Character-defining Elements

The character-defining elements of the District of West Vancouver Municipal Hall include:

- The horizontally articulated massing, with clearly defined floor and roof plates
- The curtain wall fenestration
- The decorative white exposed-aggregate preformed concrete panels of the main floor, with a trompe-l'œil decorative pattern
- Interior elements, include the precast concrete staircase with its 'floating' steps and aluminum handrail and balusters, and the extensive use of floor-to-ceiling interior doors
- The Council chamber and its decorative finishes