



King County

Department of Natural Resources & Parks
Historic Preservation Program
2913 Franklin Ave E, Suite A
Seattle, WA 98102

October 15, 2021

[sent by electronic mail]

Elsa Croonquist
Executive Director
Vashon Heritage Museum
ElsaCroonquist@VashonHeritage.org

RE: Determination of eligibility, 10105-10115 SW Bank Road, APN 3123039033 & 3123039042

Ms. Croonquist,

This letter is in response to your request of October 13, 2021 to look at the eligibility of the Vashon Heritage Museum and adjacent house located at the referenced addresses. I have reviewed the oral and written documentation provided by you and your staff, and by Holly Taylor of Past Forward NW Cultural Services and have determined that the properties are eligible for local landmark designation as a rare extant example of an early church and parsonage on Vashon Island. According to church archives, it was organized as the Vashon Evangelical Lutheran Congregation in 1907, with the church building dedication occurring in July 1909. The parsonage was built on the same property later that year. It appears the church remained active at this site until they constructed a new building about a mile south in the late 1950s/early 1960s.

This historic resource consists of the church building and parsonage, both of which still retain their overall form, massing, location, and primary fenestration. The church is a vernacular structure with a small degree of Gothic Revival detailing in the windows and it has a non-historic one-story front addition and a one and one-half story rear addition. The front addition is compatible with the historic character of the church, as it is a slightly larger enclosed version of the porch that was likely on the building when it was constructed. The rear addition sits behind the primary rear plane of the building forming an "L" plan and does not interrupt the overall form or massing of the historic building. Both additions are clad in horizontal siding that is in keeping with the main building.

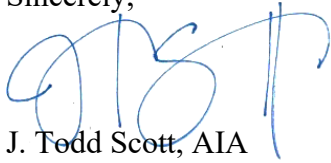
The parsonage is a simple one and one-half story bungalow form with some Colonial Revival detailing on the porch and eaves. It appears to be largely intact with some minor changes to fenestration and front porch detailing. Despite the additions to the church, and minor alterations to the parsonage, the pair still reads as a church and adjacent residence and is a relatively rare intact example of this coupling not only on Vashon Island, but in rural King County. Consequently, our office would consider the pair eligible as a King County Landmark based on Criterion A3 of King County Code 20.62.040. That criterion is what we typically refer to as the

“architectural criterion” and typically “Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, style or method of design or construction...”

It is possible the church building may also be eligible under KCC Criterion A1, which is a resource “associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of national, state, or local history.” This would include the church building’s use as a community gathering place and non-profit incubator of sorts over the last 50+ years since the congregation moved into their new building. Additional research and documentation is needed to determine eligibility under this criterion at this time.

If you have any additional questions regarding this matter, please feel free to contact me at (206) 477-4545 or todd.scott@kingcounty.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'JTS', with a stylized flourish extending from the end.

J. Todd Scott, AIA
Preservation Architect/Planner

cc: Holly Taylor, Past Forward NW Cultural Services
Sarah Steen, King County Landmarks Coordinator