

SYNOPSIS

134 East Victoria - Provincial Courthouse Substantial Alteration - Accessibility Ramp

The Province of Nova Scotia intends to renovate the Provincial Courthouse building to make it barrier-free. This will include the installation of an elevator within the existing building footprint, and an exterior accessibility ramp on the north side entrance facing Victoria Square. As a designated heritage property, the exterior ramp constitutes a substantial alteration, which under the NS Heritage Act requires review by the Heritage Advisory Committee.

The courthouse is a very prominent public building of significant heritage value that is worthy of protection. As such, any alteration to the exterior of the building warrants consideration that the heritage value is not diminished. The proposed accessibility ramp design and use of materials complimentary to main building, will perform a critical function (ie. Barrier-free access). These renovations will support the long-term use of the building for a public purpose.

MOTION:

That the Planning Advisory Committee recommend that Council approve the addition of an accessibility ramp as proposed.