

## St. Mary's Parish Addition

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**T**his church is a landmark -- one of the oldest surviving wooden churches on Cape Breton Island. The structure, with its imposing tower, is a venerable icon along the No. 4 Provincial Highway which leads to the CBRM. The mission statement for the design study was to effectively incorporate a commodious narthex, office, hospitality room, barrier-free access, and barrier-free washroom facilities.

The proposed schematic design attempts to respect the geometry, language, and heritage of the original architecture. Consequently, the new narthex is composed of sloped-roof forms and traditional "porches" tied into the framework of the existing spire. The design seeks to resolve the requirement for significant increases in floor area, by creating a sculpted, gable-framed addition; which is subservient, in scale, to the original tower and steeply-pitched roof.

Typical of the original church, this proposal emphasizes the central doorway, pediment gable, and roundhead window motifs. In



essence, the proposed design for this narthex addition seeks to respect the historical and noble architectural significance of the original church, while maintaining its humble and timeless charm, and unique sacred qualities.

