

The life of a Sikh revolves around his Temple (Gurdwara). The Paldi Temple was officially opened on July 1, 1919. The annual July 1 Jor Malla, or festival, hosted by mill founder Mayo Singh, became one of the most important religious gatherings of the early Sikh immigrants.

Newcomers made their way to Paldi because of its status as a mill town and the community took on the atmosphere of a village in Punjab, with the Sikh Temple in the centre.

Even though the New Westminster, Abbotsford and Victoria temples were subsidiaries of the main Vancouver temple, the Paldi temple remained a separate society. In the 1950's it was officially registered under the Societies Act as the Paldi Khalsa Diwan Society.

Paldi is historically, culturally and spiritually significant because of its Sikh gurdwara that was the centre of social and religious activity. The original building was replaced in 1959 by the current gurdwara, which stands in the same location, facing the same direction.

This structure retains the key aspects found in gurdwara's, including the second-floor prayer hall with traditional space for worshippers to sit on the floor, four entrance doors, the Sukh Aasan, a room containing the 104 year-old Guru Granth Sahib holy book, the langar, or dining area and communal kitchen. The second-floor veranda along three sides of the building is representative of some pioneer Sikh temples in B.C., permitting direct access into the prayer hall.

The temple continues to be used by the local congregation and is considered a destination 'mecca' for South Asians from Canada, India and other destinations.

Paldi is a place to honour and respect for the courage, innovation and dedication of the community's economic founder's, early pioneers and later generations who live and work there.