

**FHBRO HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT
GOVERNMENT OF CANADA BUILDING, WOODSTOCK, NEW BRUNSWICK (95-81) / PAGE 1**

FHBRO number: **95-81**
DFRP Number: **04718**
Resource name: **Government of Canada Building**
Address: **680 Main Street, Woodstock, New Brunswick**
Construction: **1955 (Government of Canada), extensively renovated in 1989-1991**
Original function: **Government offices and post office**
Current function: **Government offices: Canada Employment and Immigration, Canada Post, Agriculture Canada**
Custodian: **Public Works and Government Services Canada**
FHBRO status: **'Recognized' Federal Heritage Building**

Reasons for designation

The Government of Canada Building at Woodstock is a 'Recognized' Federal Heritage Building because of its historical, architectural, and environmental values:

Historical value: Like many buildings erected by the Government of Canada during the 1950s and 1960s, the Government of Canada Building (GOCB) in Woodstock illustrates the expanding responsibilities of the federal government during the post-war period, and thus the need to accommodate more government employees and a wider range of functions. Constructed in 1955 to house the postal, unemployment, customs, and RCMP services for the town and region of Woodstock, it was one of a few hundred government buildings under construction in urban centres across the country in 1955, just after the Chief Architect's Branch had been reorganized to cope with the surge in construction.

Architectural value: Designed by the newly-created Building Construction Branch, the Woodstock GOCB, like most buildings constructed by the federal government in the mid-1950s, is conservative, functional, and economical in design, but built according to good-quality and up-to-date construction standards. As it occupies a sloping site, its principal façade, which has a projecting pavilion in one corner, is two storeys high and the other elevations rise three floors. Its horizontality is emphasized by its strip windows, which are separated by brick walls with sandstone trim. The building has a reinforced concrete structure. Its interior finishes are typical of its day: plaster walls (although many new partitions are gypsum board), plaster ceilings (although most are hidden by suspended ceilings), and terrazzo, vinyl, and carpet floors.

Environmental value: As one of the largest structures in Woodstock, located at the intersection

of two main streets, and the home of several federal government services for the town and the surrounding rural area, the GOCB not only stands apart from its neighbours, many of which are commercial and public buildings, but is a well-known landmark within the community.

Character-defining elements

The following character-defining elements of the Government of Canada Building in Woodstock should be respected:

Its illustration of the expansion of federal government services in the 1950s:

- Its identifiable association with hundreds of other buildings constructed by the federal government in urban centres across Canada during the post-war period of expanded government services, and its continued use for federal government services.

Its simple, functional design and good-quality construction:

- Its simple form, and its rectangular massing, which responds to the sloping site and is relieved by the corner pavilion.
- The use of economical but good-quality exterior materials: brick with sandstone trim.
- Its horizontality, which is emphasized by its massing, its flat roof, and its strip windows.
- Its functional layout, which can be (and has been) updated to accommodate changing requirements.
- The overall good quality of its original construction.
- The plain but good-quality interior features and finishes that remain in place, including the plaster ceilings and walls, terrazzo floors, etc.

Its relationship with the community:

- Its status - due to its large scale, its prominent location, and its ongoing use and as the home of the region's federal government services - as a familiar and an identifiable landmark within the community.

For guidance on interventions, refer to the *FHBRO Code of Practice*. For further information, contact FHBRO.

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