

FHBRO HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT GOVERNMENT OF CANADA BUILDING, EDMUNSTON, N.B.

FHBRO Number: 04-085
DFRP Number: 04782
Resource Name: Government of Canada Building
Address: 22 Emmerson Street, Edmunston, New Brunswick
FHBRO Status: "Recognized" Federal Heritage Building
Construction: 1962
Designer: Gerald Gaudet of Leblanc, Gaudet and Associates, Moncton, N.B.
Original Function: Post office and general office space
Current Function: Post office and general office space
Modifications: Addition of a glass conservatory above the ground storey on the building's east side (1992), installation of white painted metal ladders and guardrails at the rear of the building, introduction of barrier-free access ramps, removal of entrance from parking area, and replacement of original windows.
Custodian: Public Works and Government Services Canada

Description of Historic Place

The Edmunston Government of Canada Building is a squat, two storey building with a flat roof and a prominent cornice line. The front elevation of the cubic mass is emphasized through a rectilinear grid pattern, composed of three planes divided into five bays by the building's painted concrete piers. The ground storey bays are recessed between the concrete piers and are surmounted by smooth-faced, cream-coloured brick infill panels in a Flemish bond pattern, then by window panels and painted concrete beams. Secondary façades are not sub-divided into three planes as the front, but do expose the concrete frame and feature the same rectangular brick infill panels below window units and along outer bays. Windows are aluminum frame. The building is prominently located in downtown Edmunston's service centre area. The designation is confined to the footprint of the building.

Heritage Value

The Edmunston Government of Canada Building is a "Recognized" Federal Heritage Building because of its historical associations, and its architectural and environmental values.

Historical value

The Edmunston Government of Canada Building is a useful example of the rapid expansion of federal government services in small communities across the country, in the period following the Second World War. Built early in Edmunston's significant Post World War II building boom, the most recent phase of the community's development, the building is useful in illustrating the city's current mixed economy of services, education and industry, which contributes to its status as a regional centre.

Architectural value

The Edmunston Government of Canada Building is a good example of the predominant aesthetic of federal government buildings in the post-war period. This standard federal design shows the influence of

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the International Style of architecture. The functional quality of the Edmunston Government of Canada Building is good, and its interior layout is standard for federal buildings of the era. A known example of the work of Gerald Gaudet of Leblanc, Gaudet and Associates, the Edmunston Government of Canada Building was carefully constructed using good quality materials and craftsmanship.

Environmental value:

The Edmunston GOCB reinforces the institutional character of Edmunston's service centre area, which includes the city hall and the fire station, through its scale and aesthetic design. The building has retained its historical relationship with its associated landscape and is a familiar landmark in the community of Edmunston due to its prominent location and its use.

Character-Defining Elements

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

Features that distinguish the building's good quality aesthetic design, International Style, functional design, craftsmanship and materials, as seen in the:

- cubic massing with an overall rectilinear grid pattern;
- overall horizontality, emphasized by the building's squat height, flat roof and strong cornice line;
- balanced composition of the main façade, where three planes are divided into five bays by the building's concrete piers;
- the ground storey's recessed bays between concrete piers;
- visual emphasis on the front façade;
- architectural expression of the building's concrete frame;
- simplicity of forms and the lack of decoration;
- variety of surfaces and textures;
- smooth façade surfaces, particularly as found in the brick panels and the large window units;
- contrasting colour scheme, which features strong colours for the concrete beams and piers and bright cream-coloured brick infill in a Flemish bond pattern;
- standard interior layout, where the ground level houses the main public entrance lobby with postal counters and sorting area, and the second storey contains adaptable office space;
- solid structure, consisting primarily of steel beams, concrete framing and poured-in-place concrete;
- quality exterior brick; and
- remaining higher quality interior finishes, such as the terrazzo flooring, the aluminium handles and some doors.

The manner in which the building reinforces the institutional character of its setting, as evidenced in its:

- scale;

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- prominent cornice line;
- established colour scheme; and,
- material vocabulary.

Its status as a familiar landmark in the community of Edmunston, due to:

- its location on a prominent site along a main thoroughfare; and
- its use as a post office.

For guidance on interventions, please refer to the *Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada*. For further information contact FHBRO.

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