

FHBRO HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT POSTAL STATION “A” ANNEX, SAINT JOHN, NB

FHBRO number: **02-047**
DFRP number: **03892**
Resource name: **Postal Station “A” Annex**
Address: **65 Canterbury Street, Saint John, NB**
FHBRO status: **“Recognized” Federal Heritage Building**
Construction: **1952**
Designer: **G.C. Brault, DPW Chief Architect**
Original function: **Office accommodation**
Current function: **Unchanged**
Modifications: **Double hung wood windows replaced with aluminum thermal units; extensively renovated between 1991-94 including replacement of all mechanical services, refurbishment of common spaces and office accommodation and repair and upgrading of the exterior envelope; site has been landscaped with brick paving stones, planters and wrought iron railings; location of main public entrance changed to Postal Station “A” Annex; loading dock area converted into outdoor area for staff.**
Custodian: **Public Works and Government Services**

Reasons for Designation

Postal Station “A” Annex is a “Recognized” Federal Heritage Building because of its historical associations, and its architectural and environmental values.

Historical value:

Postal Station “A” Annex is associated with the post-war expansion of the federal government. Built to house several federal government tenants, Postal Station “A” Annex illustrates the federal government’s efforts to kick-start the city’s revival by consolidating their office accommodations. Located in the central business district of Saint John, Postal Station “A” Annex is the earliest example of the 1950s urban renewal phase and modernization of the downtown core of the city.

Architectural value:

Postal Station “A” Annex is a good example of a modern style building. A five-storey rectangular, red brick and concrete building with a flat roof, Postal Station “A” Annex’s overall form and massing is influenced by the heavy, industrial aesthetic of the Bauhaus. Constructed of good quality, durable materials, the building’s modern sensibilities are expressed through its horizontal emphasis, and the use of modern materials such as glass, steel and concrete.

Environmental value:

Postal Station “A” Annex is compatible with the character of the area, which consists of a mixed residential and commercial neighbourhood, owing to its scale, materials and setback from the street. Located in the central business district of Saint John and flanked by 19th century brick commercial buildings, Postal Station “A” Annex is well known to residents in the immediate area.

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Character-Defining Elements

The following character-defining elements of the Postal Station “A” Annex should be respected:

Its role as an illustration of the post-war expansion of the federal government is reflected in:

- the building’s modern design and its location in the central business district of the city.

Its modern design, and good quality materials and craftsmanship as manifested in:

- the building’s cubic form and massing which are influenced by the heavy, industrial aesthetic of the Bauhaus;
- modernist elements such as the building’s crisp lines, the horizontality of the ribbon windows, the concrete banding at the windows, and the treatment of the building’s corners;
- the use of modern, exterior materials such as glass, steel and concrete.

The building’s compatibility with the mixed residential and commercial neighbourhood as evidenced in:

- its scale, materials and setback from the street.

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

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