

Toronto, Ontario
Postal Station D
328 Keele Street

HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT

Postal Station D was constructed in 1935-36 to the designs of Toronto architect James Henry Craig. It is a building of medium size in a modern classical idiom characteristic of federal design in the mid and late 1930s. A large extension was erected in 1957, two years after Craig's death but designed by his firm of Craig and Madill. The custodial department is Public Works Canada. See FHBRO Building Report 87-06.

Reasons for Designation

Postal Station D has been designated a Recognized heritage building because of the strength and simplicity of its original design, which on the exterior has survived relatively unchanged; and because of its continuing contribution to the stability of its urban environment. The 1957 addition is of secondary concern; it is notable because it is successfully low key and has not seriously compromised the integrity of the original building.

Character Defining Elements

The heritage character of this property is defined primarily by the visible façades of the original 1936 building.

The front elevation is a severely symmetrical exercise in a modern classical idiom, with a seven-bay center portion flanked on either side by two projecting entrance pavilions. The center portion is of brick, lightly articulated to create vertical pilasters, surmounted by a broad frieze of cut stone. The entrance pavilions are entirely of cut stone (Canadian limestone and granite in accordance with conditions laid down by the Department of Public Works) with some rather fine detailing in the fluted quarter columns and stylized cornice moulding, and in the bronze grills above each door. The side elevation repeats the simple brick and stone cladding of the front façade. These façades should be carefully maintained and any repair or restoration that is required carried out with meticulous attention to material and detailing.

The front and side façades of the 1957 addition are of secondary interest; their compatibility with the original façades should be maintained.

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