

FHBRO HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT SCIENCE BUILDING, SYDNEY N.S.

FHBRO number: **01-061**
DFRP number:
Resource name: **Science Building**
Address: **210 George Street, Sydney, Nova Scotia**
FHBRO status: **"Recognized" Federal Heritage Building**
Construction: **1966**
Designer: **Larson and Larson**
Original function: **Classrooms and laboratories for a junior college facility**
Current function: **vacant**
Modifications: **Converted into offices and laboratories for the Canadian Centre for Mineral and Energy Technology (CANMET); interior substantially modified in 2002**
Custodian: **Public Works Government Services Canada**

Reasons for Designation

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

Historical value:

The Science Building is associated with the significant expansion during the 1950s of post-secondary institutions, in particular the provision of academic training in under serviced regions. Part of the later phase of a planned "campus" of buildings begun by the Arts Building, it is also associated with the provision of support to the coal extraction and steel industries by the federal government through the research work undertaken by the Ottawa-based Canadian Centre for Mineral and Energy Technology (CANMET) which used the building during the 1980s and 1990s as a laboratory.

Architectural value:

The Science Building is a good, late example of the American Colonial Revival style. The building's symmetrical, brick-clad, two-storey rectangular form features a projecting central entrance pavilion and is capped with a low-sloped roof terminated by brick gables rising to large central chimneys which are typical of the style. The revival aesthetic is also reflected in the applied decorative millwork elements at the entrances, as well as in the non-historically correct placement of certain elements such as the doors under the chimneys at the gable ends which were incorporated to meet modern requirements.

Environmental value:

Located in the northern section of the downtown commercial core of Sydney, the Science Building shares its site with the matching Arts Building (built 1956), and was designed to incorporate elements that would reinforce the mixed institutional/residential character of the neighbourhood. Minor changes have not modified the open character of the building's site.

Character-Defining Elements

The following character-defining elements of the Science Building should be respected.

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Its role as an illustration of the expansion of post-secondary institutions during the 1950s, in particular the provision of academic training in under-serviced regions, is reflected in:

- the location of the building, as part of an academic campus along with the Arts Building, in the oldest area of downtown Sydney.

The building's American Colonial Revival style, successful functional plan, competent craftsmanship and good quality materials, as manifested in:

- the formal, symmetrical composition of the brick building, which consists of a rectangular plan, a projecting central entrance pavilion with pediment, evenly spaced large multi-paned windows, a continuous cornice, and a low-sloped gable roof with large brick chimneys rising from the gable ends;
- the use of applied Classical decorative millwork around the entrances, and consisting of pilasters, an entablature and a broken pediment;
- the location of entrances at the gable ends, and the use of over-scaled window openings, both of which reflect the functional requirements of this modern interpretation of the style; and,
- the good quality materials and craftsmanship exhibited in the exterior brickwork and millwork.

The manner in which the building reinforces the mixed residential / institutional character of the setting, as evidenced in:

- the compatible scale of the building vis-a-vis the neighbouring structures; and,
- its matching relationship with the Arts Building which creates the campus setting.

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

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