

88-110

Winnipeg, Manitoba  
**Postal Station B**  
1048 Main Street

## **HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT**

Postal Station B of Winnipeg was built in 1907 in accordance with plans designed under the auspices of David Ewart, Chief Architect of the Department of Public Works. Since 1917, this building has housed different government services in addition to post office functions. It is still owned by the Department of Public Works. See FHBRO Building Report No. 88-110.

### **Reason for Designation**

The Postal Station B was designated "Recognized" because of the quality of its design and execution. It provides a solid architectural expression of federal government presence. In addition, it has a positive impact on the built environment of Main Street in Winnipeg.

The architecture of the two façades, which face the street and are linked by the former main entrance located on the angled corner, is inspired by the Renaissance style. This classical order establishes a government presence, which became increasingly necessary in the beginning of the century when the population of this district of Winnipeg grew considerably. Postal Station B is therefore an essential point of reference for the historic continuity of this residential area.

The interior of this building has undergone many modifications and its entrance on the corner has been blocked off. However, the division of space on the main floor has remained unchanged, despite changes to the finishes and the addition of a hung ceiling, which conceals the capitals of the columns. As a result of this new ceiling, the transoms of the lower bays have been blocked.

### **Character Defining Elements**

The heritage character of Postal Station B lies in its street façades and in some interior features of interest such as the columns and their capitals, the plan and counters of the ground floor.

The classical order of these facades is seen in the rusticated stone first floor, a brick second floor with quoins and an entablature. All this masonry, well selected and executed, has easily stood the test of time and merits proper maintenance. If repointing is necessary, traditional methods and materials should be used.

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**Postal Station B** (Continued)

The decorative details of the entablature should be preserved for as long as possible or faithfully reproduced, if this is deemed necessary. Given the layout of this building, the re-opening of the former main entrance on the corner is desirable.

Any major interventions to the interior should be preceded by investigations to identify historic elements and features for incorporation into new design. For instance, removal of the suspended ceiling from the ground floor could be studied. By so doing, these public places would regain their original height, the capitals of the columns would be revealed and the building would be lit by natural lighting from the transoms of the bays.

It would be desirable for this building to continue to house Postal Station B as well as other community services. In so doing, its architectural qualities and traditional social role could be better protected.