

Montréal, Québec  
**Postal Station H**  
1420 Ste. Catherine Street West

## **HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT**

Montreal's former Postal Station H was built in 1913-14 to the design of the Department of Public Works and under the supervision of Cox and Amos, Architects, Montréal. Public Works Canada is the custodial department. See FHBRO Building Report 89-127.

### **Reasons for Designation**

The former Montréal Postal Station H was designated a Recognized heritage building for its architectural and environmental significance.

The building is a good example of the massing and decorative schemes used for many early 20th century public buildings constructed in the Beaux Arts manner. Although no longer used as a post office, the building retains the essence of its original layout, which effectively housed post office facilities. The materials used are of high quality, finely detailed and well executed. The building site remains virtually unchanged since construction.

### **Character Defining Elements**

The heritage character of Postal Station H is defined by its exterior and interior design elements, and by the layout of the ground level and major corridors.

The postal station is an imposing rectangular block elaborated in the Beaux-Arts style, with building elevations arranged according to a classical tripartite division. The main elevations along Ste. Catherine and Bishop streets are symmetrical, with a rusticated ground floor in dressed Stanstead granite supporting four giant, partially engaged Ionic columns of buff sandstone. Windows with carved spandrel panels are evenly spaced between these columns. The whole is capped by a denticulated cornice and stepped parapet. The Ste. Catherine St. facade features a central arched entry, an entablature incised with "Post Office Station H", and a coat of arms in cast copper on the parapet wall. These features are integral to the character of the building. The design composition, the individual elements, and the fine materials of the main elevations should be retained and carefully maintained.

The ground floor interior largely retains its original grand classical scheme: ten-foot-high grey Mississiquoi marble dado, square pillars capped by elaborate Ionic

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capitals, coffered ceiling, full-height windows on the Ste. Catherine and Bishop streets facades, and marble writing desks. The open character of the main lobby should be retained, as should all surviving original finishes and fittings throughout the building. New uses for the former postal station should seek to enhance the building's original layout and preserve the integrity of its site.

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