

Trout River, Quebec
Customs and Immigration Building
Route No. 138

HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT

The Trout River Customs and Immigration Building was built in 1932 to designs by the Architectural Division of the Department of Public Works under the direction of Chief Architect Thomas W. Fuller. The custodian department is Revenue Canada. See FHBRO Building Report 89-1 28.

Reasons for Designation

The Customs and Immigration Building was designated Recognized for its design, craftsmanship, site and setting.

Built in response to the increasing international cross-border motor tourist traffic in the late 1920s and early 1930s, Trout River is the largest of the two remaining customs buildings constructed in the Tudor Revival style. Inspired by late medieval English architecture, the most characteristic feature of the Tudor Revival style is imitation half-timbering. Other defining characteristics are prominent gables, bay and oriel windows, leaded glass, and accents of brick or stone, all of which are combined in asymmetrical, picturesque compositions. The Trout River building is an attractive design which exhibits a number of these features. The very good condition of the building attests to the quality of the craftsmanship and materials used.

Despite additions, the original orientation and relationship of the site to the western boundary of Route No. 138 has been retained. Located directly on the highway, the Trout River Customs and Immigration Building is the largest, most prominent and attractive structure on the site.

Character Defining Elements

The heritage character of the Trout River Customs and Immigration Building resides in its exterior elevations and design elements, its craftsmanship and materials, and the character of its setting.

The attractive one-and-a-half storey structure has a gabled hip roof with deep, slightly bellcast eaves supported on heavy brackets. Tudor Revival references include stucco walls with decorative half-timbering, a bay window, prominent gables and hipped dormers. Wood sash windows arranged in groupings of two and three, with multi-pane upper sash or transoms, provided texture and visual interest to the ground floor, with paired multi-light windows in the gables and dormers. The present

Trout River, Quebec-2-

Trout River Customs and Immigration Building (Continued)

Route No. 138

aluminum windows and doors detract from the exterior character; a return to the earlier configuration and material would enhance the character of the building.

The contrast between the pale stucco walls and the dark decorative half-timbering should be retained. Any repair or restoration of the exterior should respect the quality and character of the Tudor Revival design elements.

While the interior layout is somewhat altered and modernized, there are traces of early fabric in the kitchen and bathrooms of the second floor. These vestiges should be recorded and incorporated into any new work.

The original orientation and prominent location of the Customs Building in relation to Route No. 138 and its relation to the rest of the site buildings should be respected and preserved.

Revised
1994.10.25