187 HENDERSON HIGHWAY

ELMWOOD POSTAL STATION (POSTAL STATION F)

PREPARED BY PETERSON PROJECTS – DECEMBER 2009
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Date of Construction: 1935
Building Permit: 2487/1935 (Plans at City Storage)
Architect: Unknown
Contractor: Unknown

ARCHITECTURAL INTEREST:

This two-storey brick and stone structure was an important public structure in Elmwood.

The front (west) façade is symmetrical; the central area projects slightly and holds the main entrance set in an ornate stone frame atop a short flight of stairs and covered by a bracketed hood. Ground floor windows are square headed with arched brickwork above and feature stone lug sills, second storey openings are also square headed. A complete entablature above the second storey windows encircles the entire building. The building’s brick parapet rises in the centre. The building rests on a raised concrete foundation. The words “POST OFFICE” “ELMWOOD” and “1935” are carved in stone.
The north and south façades are plain, with many window openings and an open metal staircase on the north side. The rear of the building features a one-storey addition completed in 1950\(^1\) and a covered loading dock in the northeast corner.

The building stands on its original site, appears to be in good structural condition and has not suffered major exterior renovation.

The building has elements of the Classic Revival style, popular in Canada from 1900 to approximately 1930. This type of building is distinguished by its use of Greek and/or Roman ornamental elements such as columns, capitals, pediments, entablatures, cornices and parapets and the structures are usually symmetrical with monumental proportions and smooth surfaces. Porticos, cupolas and other features are also common.\(^2\)
HISTORICAL INTEREST:

The building was an operational postal station serving the neighbourhood of Elmwood until 1996. It was then converted into a private art gallery (Elmwood Gallery) and has recently become vacant.3

RECOMMENDATION TO HISTORICAL BUILDINGS COMMITTEE:

Under the Historical Buildings By-law, this building meets a number of important criteria:

- its historical importance- an important 1930s institutional building providing modern space for the postal service of the area;
- its associations- its long-term connections to Winnipeg’s postal service;
- its design- an example of the Classic Revival style;
- its architect- N/A;
- its location- defines an important intersection and contributes greatly to the historic streetscape of its neighbourhood; and
- its integrity- its main façades continue to display many of their original elements and design.
ENDNOTES:

1  City of Winnipeg Building Permit, #493/1950, costing $16,000.
3  City of Winnipeg Assessment Rolls, Roll No. 14083562000, 1940-2000.