

85 PRINCESS STREET – HALLMARK RESTAURANT
R.J. Dupuis Construction Company Limited, 1959



Block after block of large brick and stone warehouses is rarely interrupted in the Exchange District National Historic Site. One exception is this one-storey restaurant, built in 1959, replacing a large warehouse that had been built on the site in 1910.

The straight, clean lines of the front façades, the use of metal and glass and plain surfaces are all elements of the International Style, which came to prominence after 1950. Winnipeg has many fine examples of the style, especially in the offices along Broadway. This building is a unique example of the style applied to a small building.

Elements of the exterior included its recessed corner entrance framed by large windows and topped by an overhanging marquee. Stone and tile cladding give the exterior a varied appearance.

The interior has seen alterations and upgrades as the tenants have changed.

The original restaurant, the Hallmark Restaurant, lasted only a short time, followed by a number of other restaurant.

Responsible for the design and construction of the restaurant was the R.J. Dupuis Construction Company, organized ca.1940 and builders of several other buildings throughout the city. One of its largest contracts was the conversion of the Roxy Theatre, 385 Henderson Highway, into the Roxy Bowling Lanes in 1960.

Elements of the building that would require approval if alterations were planned are:

Exterior-

- one storey structure with flat roof located on the northeast corner of Princess Street and McDermot Avenue with main façades facing west onto Princess Street and south onto McDermot Avenue, side façade facing the south wall of the neighbouring building and rear wall facing east onto a parking lot and back lane; and
- west and south façades with their smooth-cut ashlar limestone cladding and other unadorned cladding finishes, large display windows and recessed corner entrance covered by a marquee.

Interior-

- none.