

FHBRO HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT

BORDER CROSSING FACILITY, BEEBE, QC

FHBRO number: **00-102**
DFRP number: **06353**
Resource name: **Border crossing facility**
Address: **2, rue Principale, Highway 247, Beebe, Quebec**
FHBRO status: **“Recognized” Federal Heritage Building**
Construction: **1932**
Original function: **Border crossing**
Current function: **Border crossing**
Custodian: **Canada Customs and Revenue Agency**

Reasons for Designation

The Beebe border crossing facility is a “Recognized” Federal Heritage Building primarily because of its environmental and architectural values.

Historical value:

In the wake of the smuggling scandal of 1926, the federal government commenced construction of numerous customs and immigration posts along the Canada-U.S. border to control the land circulation of goods and persons. The construction of the Beebe border crossing facility was a product of this concern to strengthen our border with the United States.

Architectural value:

The border crossing facilities built in the late 1920s were often simple brick or wood structures fitted with canopies to protect the vehicles. Their appearance changed over the next decade, probably in response to the U.S. government’s decision to build imposing brick edifices, usually in the colonial Georgian style, at the main border posts. With the clear intention of asserting its cultural and political distinctiveness, the Canadian government chose the neo-Tudor style. The Beebe border crossing facility, a one-and-a-half storey building whose stucco walls and gables are set off by half-timbering, is a representative example from this period.

Environmental value:

Built in the very heart of the village, the Beebe border crossing facility is not only one of the most important components of the urban landscape, but also one of the handsomest in terms of its aesthetics. It receives most cross-border traffic in the region by far.

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Character-Defining Elements

The following character-defining elements of the Beebe border crossing facility should be respected:

- The formal elements which help make this small one-and-a-half storey building a good example of a neo-Tudor border crossing, particularly its picturesque form embellished with gables and its wet-dash cladding separated by half-timbering;
- The materials and construction techniques used for the half-timbering (terracotta, wet dash and wood);
- The concept of a breezeway to protect the vehicles;
- The relationship of this border crossing facility with the street and the Canada-U.S. border which it serves;
- Its formative value and high visibility in the urban fabric of Beebe.

For guidance on interventions, please refer to the *FHBRO Code of Practice*. For further information contact FHBRO.

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