

Ontario Regulation 9/06 Assessment

Address: 66 Queen Street

Date: July 2024

Prepared by: Heritage Planning Staff



Executive Summary

The J.W. Woods building at 66 Queen Street is a five-storey, stone-clad office and commercial building on the south side of Queen Street between Metcalfe and Elgin Streets. The building is a rare example of an early 20th century commercial building in Centretown designed in the Romanesque Revival architectural style. The building, designed by notable Ottawa architect James Mathers, was constructed in 1900 as the first building for the Woods Manufacturing Company, one of the most well-known outdoor outfitters in Canada. The building was used as a warehouse, wholesale store,

and main headquarters for the company until 1903, when it was re-purposed as a Custom House and government offices.

Similarly to other early businesses and industries in the area, the building's location was influenced by the proximity to the Canadian National Railway. The building's change in function from industrial use to institutional and commercial reflects the area's broader change from an industrial centre to its contemporary function as part of Ottawa's central business district.

The property has cultural heritage value for its design, associative and contextual values. It meets five of nine criteria for designation under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act.

Criterion 1	
The property has design value or physical value because it is a rare, unique, representative or early example of a style, type, expression, material or construction method.	Yes
Response to Criterion	
The property has design value as a rare remaining example of an early 20 th century commercial building in Centretown designed in the Romanesque Revival architectural style. The Romanesque Revival style was popular in Canada from the 1840s to the early 1900s. The style was frequently used in civic, commercial, institutional, and religious buildings. The building at 66 Queen Street features typical elements of the Romanesque Revival Style including its heavy massing, rusticated stone cladding, and arched window openings.	

Supporting Details

The property located at 66 Queen Street contains a five-storey office and commercial building clad in stone and designed in the Romanesque Revival architectural style by Scottish-born Ottawa architect James Mather.



The property at 66 Queen Street is located on the south side of Queen Street between Metcalfe and Elgin Streets. *GeoOttawa*, 2019.

Description of Building

- Five storey building with three bays and rectangular massing
- Rusticated stone cladding
- Two-storey windows extending from first to second storey, with segmental arches, voussoirs and keystones

- Secondary stone cornice above the second storey
- Principle entrance with decorative woodwork and corbels below cornice
- Metal spandrel panels separating third and fourth storey windows, inscribed with “J.W Woods, 1900” in central bay
- Third floor rectangular windows
- Two-storey tall stone pilasters with simple stone capitals on third and fourth storey
- Fourth storey segmentally arched windows with voussoirs, and keystones.
- Heavy stone secondary cornice above fourth storey
- Fifth storey windows with flat arch, voussoirs, and exaggerated key stones.
- Copper architrave, frieze, and cornice above fifth storey.



North façade of 66 Queen Street, *City of Ottawa*, 2024.



Second and third storey window openings featuring inscribed spandrel panel. *City of Ottawa*, 2024.

Description of Architectural Style

The building at 66 Queen Street is an example of the Romanesque Revival style used in a commercial building in Ottawa. The Romanesque Revival style first appeared in Canada as early as the 1840s and was popular throughout the 19th century.¹ The style is inspired by the classical elements in 11th and 12th century medieval architecture.²

The key characteristics of Romanesque Revival style buildings include a heavy massing, brick or rusticated stone cladding, square towers, hipped and gabled roofs, and medieval-inspired classical detailing like corbel tables and elaborate capitals.³ Romanesque Revival style buildings typically feature rounded-arched window and door openings, which are often topped with large voussoirs, as well as elaborate decorative carvings and sculptures.⁴ The Romanesque Revival style was frequently used in buildings on 19th century main streets due to their adaptability and suitability for commercial activity.⁵

¹ Shannon Ricketts, Leslie Maitland, and Jacqueline Hucker, "The Romanesque Revival Style," *A Guide to Canadian Architectural Styles – Second Edition* (Canada: Broadview Press, 2004), 93.

² Shannon Ricketts, Leslie Maitland, and Jacqueline Hucker, "The Romanesque Revival Style," *A Guide to Canadian Architectural Styles – Second Edition* (Canada: Broadview Press, 2004), 93.

³ Shannon Ricketts, Leslie Maitland, and Jacqueline Hucker, "The Romanesque Revival Style," *A Guide to Canadian Architectural Styles – Second Edition* (Canada: Broadview Press, 2004), 93.

⁴ "Romanesque Revival (1840-1900)," *OntarioArchitecture.com*, accessed July 2024.

⁵ "Federal Heritage Buildings, Marshall Building, Ottawa, Ontario," *Parks Canada*, accessed April 2024.

National and Local Context

The first phase of the Romanesque Revival style appeared in Canada in the 1840s. John Ruskin, a 19th century English art critic, advocated for the Gothic and Romanesque styles over the use of Classical styles and Greek architecture.⁶ Due to Ruskin's inspiration, as well as the general use of revival styles in the 19th century, the Romanesque Revival became to be frequently used in commercial, civic, religious, and industrial buildings in Europe and North America.⁷

The second phase of Romanesque Revival was influenced by American architect, Henry Hobson Richardson. This style, referred to as Richardson Romanesque, is a lighter and smoother version of the early Romanesque Revival style.⁸ Thomas Fuller, a British architect, used this style extensively during his time as the chief architect of the Department of Public Works in Canada from 1881 to 1896.⁹ Under Fuller's direction, many post offices in Canada were constructed in the Richardson Romanesque style.¹⁰

The Romanesque Revival style was meant to evoke a sense of permanence and stability. As such, it was a popular choice for important 19th century civic, commercial, and religious buildings in Canada.¹¹ In Ottawa, the Romanesque Revival style is featured in churches and in commercial buildings on historic main streets. In Centretown, particularly areas proximal to Parliament Hill, the style was commonly used for commercial and institutional buildings in the late 19th and early 20th century, including several designed by James Mather such as the Rideau Club, Grand Union Hotel, and British American Bank Note Company building. Many of these adjacent examples have been demolished and 66 Queen Street remains as a rare example of this era of Centretown's development.

⁶ "Romanesque Revival (1840-1900)," *OntarioArchitecture.com*, accessed July 2024.

⁷ "Romanesque Revival (1840-1900)," *OntarioArchitecture.com*, accessed July 2024.

⁸ "Romanesque Revival (1840-1900)," *OntarioArchitecture.com*, accessed July 2024.

⁹ Shannon Ricketts, Leslie Maitland, and Jacqueline Hucker, "The Romanesque Revival Style," *A Guide to Canadian Architectural Styles – Second Edition* (Canada: Broadview Press, 2004), 97.

¹⁰ "A Chronology of Canadian Postal History – 1881 Thomas Fuller," *Canadian Museum of History*, accessed July 2024.

¹¹ Shannon Ricketts, Leslie Maitland, and Jacqueline Hucker, "The Romanesque Revival Style," *A Guide to Canadian Architectural Styles – Second Edition* (Canada: Broadview Press, 2004), 97.



This building at 428 Bank Street was Bate & Co. grocery store and is an example of the Romanesque Revival style used for a commercial building in Centretown.¹² *Google Images*, 2024.

¹² "Bate & Co." *Urb-site.blogspot.com*, accessed July 2024.



The Union Bank Building at 128 Wellington Street, a federally recognized heritage building, featuring the Romanesque Revival style used for an institutional building.¹³

¹³ "Union Bank Building – Federal Heritage Buildings," *Parks Canada*, accessed July 2024.



Designed by W.E. Noffke, St. Theresa's Roman Catholic Church at 95 Somerset is an example of the Romanesque Revival used in a religious building. *City of Ottawa*, 2023.

Criterion 2	
The property has design value or physical value because it displays a high degree of craftsmanship or artistic merit.	Yes
Response to Criterion	
The building has physical value as it displays a high degree of craftsmanship for an early commercial building in Ottawa. This is demonstrated through the building's rusticated stone cladding, carved stonework, and the use of material detailing in the building's copper architrave, frieze, and cornice, and metal spandrel panels. These features are indicative of a high-level craftsmanship and skillful manual labour.	

Supporting Details

The building at 66 Queen Street has physical value because it displays a high degree of craftsmanship for an early commercial building in Ottawa. The building's façade features rusticated stone cladding. Rustication is a decorative masonry technique that requires manually cutting back stone to achieve a rough finish and is a definitive element of Romanesque Revival style buildings.¹⁴ The building's façade also features exaggerated stone keystones and cornice brackets with carved foliage and geometric detailing. Elaborate stone detailing is often characteristic of Romanesque Revival buildings. In the subject building, the stone carvings are subtle but display a sense of artistry that is rare for early commercial buildings. Both the rustication of the subject building's stone cladding and the carved stone detailing would have required skilled manual labour to create and demonstrate a high level of craftsmanship.

The building features a copper architrave, frieze, and large cornice at its roofline, as well as metal spandrel panels between the third and fourth storey windows. The use of mixed materials through this metal detailing is indicative of a high standard of craftsmanship and design. These elements contribute to upholding a high standard of design for an early commercial building in Ottawa.

¹⁴ "Rustication," *OntarioArchitecture.com*, accessed July 2024.



Fifth storey and roofline featuring copper architrave, frieze, and cornice. *City of Ottawa, 2024.*



First storey showing carved stone keystones and cornice brackets, as well as rusticated stone cladding. *City of Ottawa, 2024.*

Criterion 3

The property has design value or physical value because it demonstrates a high degree of technical or scientific achievement.

No**Response to Criterion**

Heritage staff have compared the building to others of similar age or typology and consulted relevant secondary sources including newspaper articles and architectural history books. Staff's review concluded that this property exemplifies typical construction methods for buildings of its type. The property does not meet this criterion.

Criterion 4	
The property has historical value or associative value because it has direct associations with a theme, event, belief, person, activity, organization or institution that is significant to a community.	Yes
<p>Response to Criterion</p> <p>The property at 66 Queen Street has associative value because it has direct associations with James W. Woods and the Woods Manufacturing Company. James W. Woods established the Woods Manufacturing Company in 1895. The Woods Manufacturing Company was one of the most well-known outdoor outfitters in Canada. The company provided supplies for historic explorations, including the 1906 Amundsen Northwest Passage Expedition, and is credited with introducing the first down-filled parka and sleeping bag. The building at 66 Queen Street was constructed as the Woods Manufacturing Company's first warehouse, wholesale store, and main headquarters in Ottawa. Due to the rapid expansion of business, the Woods Manufacturing Company only used this space from 1900 until 1903. The building at 66 Queen Street is the last built remnant of a significant Ottawa business which remains in business today.</p> <p>Sir James W. Woods, O.B.E. was a significant member of Ottawa's business and charitable communities. Aside from his position as president of the Woods' Manufacturing Company, Woods was active in Ottawa's early real estate community, and involved with several local organizations including the Ottawa Board of Trade, Ashbury College, and the YMCA. Woods was also a militia officer, and was knighted after World War I.</p>	

Supporting Details

The property at 66 Queen Street has historical value because it is directly associated with Sir James W. Woods, O.B.E. and the Woods Manufacturing Company. The building at 66 Queen Street was the first building constructed in Ottawa for the Woods Manufacturing Company.¹⁵ The Woods Manufacturing Company was established by James W. Woods as a small company in 1895. The company produced "everything needed by lumbermen, surveyors, and prospectors from underclothing to snowshoes."¹⁶

The building at 66 Queen Street, designed by notable Ottawa architect James Mathers, was constructed as the Woods Manufacturing Company's warehouse, wholesale store, and main headquarters.¹⁷ At the time of construction, the Woods Manufacturing Company were manufacturing their products in Montreal, Quebec. The building at 66 Queen Street was erected to move all production and wholesale to Ottawa.¹⁸ Upon opening, the building's basement was used for packing, the first floor was occupied by offices and showrooms, the second and third storeys were for storage, and the fourth

¹⁵ "Next Spring Business Block to be Built on Queen Street," *The Ottawa Citizen*, October 26, 1899.

¹⁶ "Death Occurs Col. J.W. Woods At Home Here," *The Ottawa Journal*, December 20, 1930.

¹⁷ "The Woods' Building in Slater Street," *The Ottawa Evening Journal*, November 30, 1903.

¹⁸ "Next Spring Business Block to be Built on Queen Street," *The Ottawa Citizen*, October 26, 1899.

and fifth storeys were used as factory space.¹⁹ Due to the rapid expansion of business, the Woods Manufacturing Company only used this space from 1900 until 1903. After they vacated the building, it was used for various government organizations including as a Customs House, offices for the Board of Railway Commissioners, and offices for the Canadian National Livestock Records until the late 20th century.

In 1903, the company constructed a new building at Slater and Elgin Streets. The building, known as the Woods Building, was also designed by James Mather.²⁰ The Woods Manufacturing Company only used this building from 1903 until 1906, when the company opened a larger building directly beside their building on Slater Street.²¹ This building was known as the Canadian Building. Both buildings were demolished in 1965 for the construction of Confederation Park.²² In 1907, the company also constructed a factory in Hull and since demolished. The building at 66 Queen Street is the last built remnant of a significant Ottawa business.



The Woods and Canadian Buildings at Slater and Elgin Streets, 1938. Dept. of Public Works / Library and Archives Canada / PA-046857.

¹⁹ "Next Spring Business Block to be Built on Queen Street," *The Ottawa Citizen*, October 26, 1899.

²⁰ "The Woods' Building In Slater Street," *The Ottawa Journal*, November 30, 1903.

²¹ "New Woods' Building, Seven-Story Structure to be Erected on Slater Street, East of Present One," *The Ottawa Citizen*, January 9, 1905.

²² "Ottawa Landmark Disappears," *The Ottawa Journal*, January 23, 1965.

The Woods Manufacturing Company started in the 1890s as a small outfitter for lumber camps in the Ottawa Valley.²³ By the early 20th century, Woods Manufacturing had grown from a local Ottawa business to one of the most well-known outdoor outfitters in Canada.²⁴ The company had factories in Ottawa, Toronto, Welland, Winnipeg, and Ogdensburg, New York.²⁵ The company provided supplies for historic explorations, including the 1906 Amundsen Northwest Passage Expedition, the 1913 Stefansson Canadian Arctic Expedition, and the Roosevelt Field Expedition in 1925.²⁶ The Woods Manufacturing Company are known for their production of canvas and down products including golf bags, tents, sleeping bags, blankets, and coats. The company is credited with introducing water repellent canvas for tents, the first gas mask for the Canadian army in World War I and, most notably, the first down-filled parka and sleeping bag.²⁷ The Woods Manufacturing Company exists today as “Woods” and continues to manufacture modern outdoor gear and products.²⁸

**You'll be sharing
a secret —**

When you take to the wilds with your Woods Sleeping Robe, you'll be sharing a secret with heroes of exploration like ROALD AMUNDSEN, KERMIT ROOSEVELT, COMMANDER BYRD, SIR HUBERT WILKINS, and BRADFORD WASHBURN. *All of them took Woods Down-Insulated Robes.*

It's a secret Woods got from waterfowl which use down to insulate their nests from Arctic cold and damp. Waterfowl down is warmer than wool, cotton or kapok—and it has only a fraction of the weight!

We're filling orders as fast as exclusive Woods materials come in. *It's wise to wait for a Woods.*

WOODS Arctic Down-Insulated
Garments and Sleeping Robes

WOODS MANUFACTURING COMPANY LIMITED
Ogdensburg, N. Y. In Canada—Ottawa, Ont.

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1946 advertisement for Woods Manufacturing Company Limited, ebay.com, accessed July 2024.

²³ “Ottawa Business Romances – Woods Manufacturing Co., Limited,” *The Ottawa Journal*, September 21, 1920.

²⁴ “Woods Suppliers Used by Campers In All Countries,” *The Ottawa Journal*, May 4, 1935.

²⁵ “Woods Supplies Used by Campers in All Countries,” *The Ottawa Journal*, May 4, 1935.

²⁶ “James W. Woods,” *Sandy Hill History*, accessed July 2024.

²⁷ “Come to Village Square...” *The Ottawa Citizen*, September 4, 1996.

“James W. Woods,” *Sandy Hill History*, July 2024.

²⁸ “Our Story,” *Woods Canada*, accessed July 2024.

The Woods Manufacturing was established by James W. Woods. Woods was a prominent members of Ottawa's early Ottawa's business and charitable communities for over 40 years. Aside from his position as president of the Wood's Manufacturing Company, Woods was active in Ottawa's early real estate community. He commissioned the building on 66 Queen Street and the former Woods and Canadian buildings, all of which were eventually leased by government organizations. In 1910, Woods also built the Roxborough Apartments on Laurier and Elgin Streets, which was demolished in 1965.²⁹ Woods was involved in a number of local organizations—he was president of the Ottawa Board of Trade, Ashbury College, and of the former County of Carleton Protestant Hospital.³⁰ Woods was involved with Ottawa's Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA), and helped raise money to construct the organization's building at 123 Metcalfe Street in 1909.³¹ Woods was also a militia officer throughout World War I, and was knighted after the war.³²

Born in Kildare, Quebec in 1863, Woods established his business in Ottawa in 1895.³³ He lived at 323 Chapel Street in Sandy Hill with his wife, Ida Edwards—daughter of prominent Ottawa lumberman, John C. Edwards—and five children, from 1898 until his death in 1930.



Portrait of James W. Wood. *The Ottawa Journal*, September 21, 1920.

²⁹ "Death Occurs Col. J.W. Woods at Home Here," *The Ottawa Journal*, December 20, 2024.

³⁰ "Death Occurs Col. J.W. Woods at Home Here," *The Ottawa Journal*, December 20, 2024.

³¹ "Death Occurs Col. J.W. Woods at Home Here," *The Ottawa Journal*, December 20, 2024.

³² "James W. Woods," *Sandy Hill History*, accessed July 2024.

³³ "Death Occurs Col. J.W. Woods at Home Here," *The Ottawa Journal*, December 20, 2024.

Criterion 5

The property has historical or associative value because it yields, or has the potential to yield, information that contributes to an understanding of a community or culture.

No

Response to Criterion

Based on research conducted by Heritage Staff, the property does not yield information that contributes to the understanding of a community or culture. The property does not meet this criterion.

Criterion 6	
The property has historical value or associative value because it demonstrates or reflects the work or ideas of an architect, artist, builder, designer or theorist who is significant to a community.	Yes
Response to Criterion	
The property has historical and associative value because it demonstrates and reflects the work of architect James Mather, one of Ottawa's most prominent and prolific architects in the late 19 th and early 20 th century. Mather produced designs in a number of different architectural styles, including the Romanesque Revival style exhibited by 66 Queen Street, many of which are lost to demolition. The building serves as a relatively unaltered demonstration and reflection of Mather's early 20 th century designs.	

Supporting Details

The subject property was designed by architect James Mather, who practiced in Ottawa for approximately 50 years from 1872 until his retirement in 1922. Mather was born in Scotland in 1833 and emigrated to Ottawa in 1872. Few examples of Mather's works in Scotland are known, however he was a prolific designer of residential, commercial, and institutional buildings following his arrival in Ottawa.

Mather's earlier Ottawa works were largely designed in the Second Empire style, the most well-known example being Laurier House located in Sandy Hill at the corner of Laurier Avenue and Chapel Street. Constructed in 1878 for jeweller John Leslie, the house later was later occupied by Prime Ministers Sir Wilfred Laurier and William Lyon Mackenzie King and now serves as a museum.³⁴ Mather designed several prominent buildings in this style which have been lost to demolition, including the former Rideau Club on Wellington Street and the Grand Union Hotel on Elgin Street.³⁵

Simultaneously, Mather practiced in other styles, producing the Gothic Revival design for First Baptist Church on Elgin Street, constructed in 1878. By 1900, Mather's work was increasingly influenced by the Romanesque Revival style and the subject building at 66 Queen Street specifically reflects this stylistic transition. Mather's work as a contracted architect for the Bank of Ottawa further reflected this style, evidenced in designs for branches in Kemptville and Parry Sound.³⁶ Later works were simpler in character but retained some classical elements, including the Stephen Building on Queen Street and apartments and shops for M. Drazin at Dalhousie and Murray (Photos).

³⁴ Andrew Waldron, *Exploring the Capital: An Architectural Guide to the Ottawa-Gatineau Region*, (Vancouver: Figure 1 Publishing), 2017.

³⁵ "James Mather," Biographical Dictionary of Architects in Canada 1800-1950, accessed July 2024.

³⁶ "James Mather," Biographical Dictionary of Architects in Canada 1800-1950, accessed July 2024.

Given the few significant alterations to the exterior of the subject property, its role as an example of James Mathers' stylistic evolution at the start of the 20th century, and the limited remaining examples of Mather's work, the subject property at 66 Queen Street has historic and associative value because it demonstrates and reflects the work of architect James Mather.

Criterion 7

The property has contextual value because it is important in defining, maintaining or supporting the character of an area.

No

Response to Criterion

The property does not meet this criterion. The building at 66 Queen Street is located in the area historically referred to as Uppertown, today forming the northernmost portion of Centretown. This area, which includes the subject property, features a mix of office, institutional, commercial, and residential buildings from various eras. This mixed character is exemplary of the area's long-term transition from its earliest role as an industrial centre to its contemporary function as part of Ottawa's central business district. Due to its changing and mixed character, the subject property does not define, support, or maintain a specific character of the area.

Criterion 8	
The property has contextual value because it is physically, functionally, visually or historically linked to its surroundings.	Yes
<p>Response to Criterion</p> <p>The building at 66 Queen Street has contextual value because it is historically and functionally linked to its surroundings. The building's location was chosen due to its proximity to the former Canadian Atlantic Railway, which ran along the Rideau Canal. At the time of construction, the building at 66 Queen Street was surrounded by other early industries and businesses, including the Bell Telephone Building, the Grand Union Hotel, the Office of the Free Press, and the Ottawa Electric Building. Initially constructed as a wholesale, warehouse, and factory for the Woods Manufacturing Company, the building at 66 Queen Street has been used as government office space, and later residential and commercial space, since 1903. The change in function of the building at 66 Queen Street reflects the area's change from an industrial centre to its contemporary function as part of Ottawa's central business district.</p>	

Supporting Details

The building at 66 Queen Street has contextual value because it is historically and functionally linked to its surroundings. The building is located in historic Uppertown, now known as the northern portion of Centretown. At the time of construction, the building's location was selected due to its proximity to the Canadian Atlantic Railway (now the Canadian National Railway), which ran along the Rideau Canal just a few blocks east of the subject property.³⁷ Railway-dependent services and industries shaped the early character of this area of Centretown before it transitioned to a business district.³⁸ In the early 20th century, the building at 66 Queen Street was surrounded by other early industries and businesses on Queen Street, Sparks Street, and Elgin Street, including the Bell Telephone Building, the Grand Union Hotel, the Office of the Free Press, and the Ottawa Electric Building. Today, only the building at 66 Queen Street and the Ottawa Electric Building remains on this streetscape.

Since its initial development, the north end of Centretown has been influenced by government and commercial activity, and its proximity to Parliament Hill. Throughout the 20th century, this area of Centretown evolved from an industrial area to a business and residential area.³⁹ Initially constructed as a wholesale, warehouse, and factory for the Woods Manufacturing Company, the building at 66 Queen Street has been used as government office space, and later residential and commercial space, since 1903. The change in function of the building at 66 Queen Street reflects the area's change from an industrial centre to its contemporary function as part of Ottawa's central business district.

³⁷ "Next Spring Business Block to be Built on Queen Street," *The Ottawa Citizen*, October 26, 1899.

³⁸ ERA Architects, *Centretown Heritage Inventory*, 2020, 32.

³⁹ ERA Architects, *Centretown Heritage Inventory*, 2020, 31.

Criterion 9

The property has contextual value because it is a landmark

No**Response to Criterion**

The subject property does not meet this criterion. Although distinct among modern high-rise office and residential buildings, the subject property is not considered a landmark in the downtown core, nor is it commonly referenced for the purposes of wayfinding.

Sources

A Chronology of Canadian Postal History – 1881 Thomas Fuller,” *Canadian Museum of History*, accessed July 2024.

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