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Quintessential in Cambridge: The Galt Post Office

BY KARL KESSLER

magine you're building a movie set, or perhaps a model railroad. Your setting: the quintessential North

American "main street." You'll need a post office.

You'd be hard pressed to find better inspiration than the one presiding at Dickson and Water streets in the Galt section of Cambridge.

Although 80 years old, the Galt post office is in good shape, a testament to its construction. The nearly symmetrical limestone facade extends down both streets, displaying fine but restrained classical decoration that contrasts with the rough-faced stone of the walls. These twin elevations meet at the corner: a double entrance with granite steps, beneath a 3½-storey clock tower graced with elegant details, a dash of Art Deco and a copper dome.

Original light fixtures and bronze grilles above the doors contribute to the handsome composition, little changed since the day the post office sold its first stamp.

Canada's Department of Public Works chief architect's branch designed the building during T.W. Fuller's 10 years at the helm. Fuller oversaw the design of more than 100 federal buildings and, during the Depression, the Public Works Construction Act financed the construction of dozens of these, including Galt's post office.

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