

FHBRO HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT ALFRED W. DOLBEL HOUSE, FORILLON NATIONAL PARK, QC

FHBRO Number: **01-66 j**
DFRP Number: **05132**
Resource Name: **Alfred W. Dolbel House**
Address: **Forillon National Park, QC**
FHBRO Status: **"Recognized" Federal Heritage Building**
Construction: **1890**
Designer: **Unknown**
Original Function: **Residence**
Current Function: **Vacant**
Custodian: **Parks Canada**

Reasons for Designation

The Alfred W. Dolbel House has been designated a "Recognized" Federal Heritage Building because of its historical associations and its architectural and environmental values:

Historical value

The Alfred W. Dolbel House is associated with the national theme of the cod fishery in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, which was the main activity and the driving force behind the Gaspé economy for several centuries. The building bears the name of one of its occupants, Alfred W. Dolbel, an agent of the William Fruing & Company, and like the other buildings in Grande-Grave, illustrates the pivotal role played by cod exporters and merchants in the settlement of the region, and the social structure and economic dynamics that shaped traditional Gaspé fishing villages like this one.

Architectural value

The Alfred W. Dolbel House is a two-storey, monumental building with a low hip roof, and is a forerunner, in very simple form, of the foursquare house that became popular in the early 20th century. Other elements typical to the foursquare house are evident in the well-preserved interior, and include unique decorative elements. Despite its distinctive style, the Alfred W. Dolbel House features, in both look and function, many of the Neoclassical elements common to the neighbouring houses, and demonstrates a continuity in building traditions in domestic architecture at Grande-Grave.

Environmental value

The Alfred W. Dolbel House reinforces the present character of Grande-Grave which still evokes the former settlement, and blends with the marine landscape of Forillon owing to its design which is compatible with other buildings in Grande-Grave, and to its siting which is well-integrated with the site's topography. The Alfred W. Dolbel House is the last in a string of buildings along the coast that characterize the cultural landscape of the south shore of the Forillon Peninsula. A familiar landmark in the area, the house speaks to the presence of a former, traditional Gaspé coastal fishing village.

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Character-Defining Elements

- Features specific to a foursquare house, such as the simple massing and large scale, the building's monumental appearance, the strong symmetry, and the low hip roof;
- The components that illustrate continuity in the use of building methods and techniques that are specific to this vernacular neoclassical tradition, in particular the use of wood as a building material, the clapboard and vertical plank siding and the contrasting exterior trim;
- The decorative elements and finishes inside the house, which are distinct from the elements commonly found in houses in Grande-Grave;
- The interior layout which is representative of Neoclassical houses and consists of two floors with four rooms around a centre hall;
- The addition at the back of the house, a common feature of foursquare buildings and typical of houses in Grande-Grave;
- The great similarity of style, form and materials that creates the overall harmony of the buildings in Grande-Grave;
- The relationship of the house to its setting which consists of a rugged coastline, as well as its relationship to the spread-out settlement of Grande-Grave.

For advice on interventions related to this building, please refer to the FHBRO Code of Practice. For more information, please contact the FHBRO.

March 2002

FEDERAL HERITAGE BUILDINGS REVIEW OFFICE
National Historic Sites Directorate, Parks Canada
25 Eddy Street, 5th Floor, Hull, QC K1A 0M5
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