

FHBRO Number 90-31

Grosse Île, Quebec

The Anglican Chapel (No. 42)

The Grosse Île Anglican Chapel dates from 1877-1878. The initial plans were drawn up by from the Department of Public Works. However, three individuals are associated with this building: the Protestant minister, Mr. Prime, for the relocation of the tower to the facade; Frédérick Montizambert, for the form and the number of openings as well as for the pew arrangement; and Mr. P. Valin for the sketches of these alterations. The Anglican Chapel is the property of the Department of Canadian Heritage and is part of the Grosse Île and the Irish Memorial National Historic Site. See FHBRO Building Report 90-31 (Part II: 1861-1 880).

Reasons for Designation

The Grosse Île Anglican Chapel was designated Recognized for its importance to local history, for its aesthetic and functional qualities as well as for environmental reasons.

In 1857, the Canadian government became responsible for the Grosse Île quarantine station. Under the direction of medical superintendent A. Von Iffland, the “health” and “disease” sectors were reversed and an extensive repair and building program was instituted. In the 1870s, the new medical superintendent, Frédéric Montizambert, continued the work of his predecessor. The new Anglican Chapel dates from this period.

Not only does the Anglican Chapel come to us intact, but it lends a picturesque touch, both through its form and its location, to a site whose intended purpose was anything but picturesque. Its simple and functional design is representative of Protestant chapels.

The immediate environment of the Anglican Chapel has been largely preserved. Because of its location, the building is very prominent and helps make this place of worship one of the attractions of the guided tour.

Character Defining Elements

The heritage value of the Anglican Chapel is defined by its Gothic Revival style of architecture, its clear spatial organization and its interior decor which remains intact. It also derives from its location and its relationship with the site of the central sector cemetery and the site of the Anglican Presbytery.

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The Anglican Chapel is a small, elongated wooden building set on masonry pillars. Its square bell tower is located on the left side of the facade, slightly forward. A lean-to extends the rectangular volume, which corresponds to the nave, to accommodate the choir. The effect of verticality produced by the building is accentuated by its metal-clad pitch roof, board-and-batten siding, mitre arch openings and the buttresses on the side walls. The gently pitched pavilion roof of the bell tower, however, moderates this sense of heavenward movement. Any interventions should not disturb the integrity of this architectural scheme.

Despite its simplicity, this Chapel has several noteworthy decorative elements. Finials adorn the gables of the facade and the lean-to; the top of the bell tower is pierced by small openings which repeat the pointed shape of the windows; the masonry chimney has a relatively elaborate cap.

Generally, it is recommended that the longevity of all the original components be ensured through an effective maintenance program. The roof cladding, the steps providing access to the Chapel which are missing their landing, as well as the treatment of the spaces between the pillars should be rethought.

The Chapel interior is virtually devoid of ornamentation. The five-sided false vault simply follows the contour of the roof framing, while the walls of the nave are finished in plaster down to the wood panelling, to which the pews are attached. Also noteworthy is the stained glass of the small windows, which allow filtered light to enter, fostering an atmosphere of reverence and contemplation, as well as the oil lamp holders placed along the centre aisle and in the choir.

The Chapel's location on a raised wooded site makes it quite prominent; the beauty of this environment should be preserved. It would also be advisable to redevelop the immediate surroundings, in a manner respectful of the historical context of this sector of the island.

For further guidance, please refer to the *FHBRO Code of Practice*.

Translation
