

FHBRO Number 90-31

Grosse Île, Quebec

The Guard Post (No. 35)

The Grosse Île Guard Post dates from 1905. Its plans were possibly prepared by an architect from the Department of Public Works. The Guard Post continued to function in its original capacity until the closure of the quarantine station, in 1937, and during the military occupation. It was then used as a museum by Agriculture Canada. The Guard Post is the property of the Department of Canadian Heritage and is part of the Grosse Île and the Irish Memorial National Historic Site. The Guard Post is currently unoccupied. See FHBRO Building Report 90-31 (Part IV: 1901-1 920).

Reasons for Designation

The Grosse Île Guard Post was designated Recognized for its architectural qualities and its environmental significance.

The architecture of the Guard Post reveals aesthetic concerns marked by the picturesque heritage of the nineteenth century and influenced by the Shingle style of New England. Its functional design was particularly interesting since it permitted an unobstructed view on all sides, thanks to its polygon-shaped second storey. Its good state of preservation is evidence of the quality of the building materials and techniques used.

The Guard Post attests to the desire to isolate the healthy immigrants from the village inhabitants.

Character Defining Elements

The heritage value of the Guard Post resides in its distinctive architectural form and the choice of appropriate building materials and techniques. The understanding of this building is indissociable from its site on the isthmus which links the western and central sectors of Grosse Île.

The architectural form of the Guard Post creates a very picturesque appearance. The first floor, built on a square plan measuring barely 3.85 metres on each side, is topped by an octagonal-plan second storey. A polygonal roof, with bellcast eaves, adds height to this small building. The corners of the lower level of the building are protected by small pitched roofs.

The design of the Guard Post was not accidental. It stemmed from the need to provide

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a panoramic view of the sector to be monitored. Thus, the octagonal shape of the second story made it possible to avoid the blind corners of the square plan and to install eight windows providing a 360-degree view. These formal elements define the heritage value of the Guard Post.

Despite its small size, the Guard Post attracts attention because of its charming exterior treatment. The walls and small roofs are covered with wooden shingles, as was formerly the roof, which is now protected by tin-plate shingles. The overall effect is enhanced by the touches of darker colour of the roofs and the corner posts. The authenticity of this minimalist decor could be verified by research on the original colouring.

The heritage value of this building also resides in its interiors spaces and the staircase leading to the second storey. The panelled front door, the casement windows and the panelling of the walls and ceilings are elements characteristic of this composition. It is recommended that these elements be maintained.

Originally, a wooden gate and fence made it possible to control movements of persons coming and going.

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

Translation
