

FHBRO Number 90-31

Grosse Île, Quebec

The Bakery (No. 18)

The Grosse Île Bakery was built between 1902 and 1910 to replace an earlier one built in 1877. Its plans were undoubtedly prepared by an architect from the Department of Public Works. In 1942, the Bakery still served the same function. It was later used by Agriculture Canada to store fodder. The Bakery is currently unoccupied. It is the property of Parks Canada and is part of the Grosse Île and the Irish Memorial National Historic Site. See FHBRO Building Report 90-31 (Part IV: 1901-1 920).

Reasons for Designation

The Bakery, which is one of the few remaining service buildings on Grosse Île, was designated Recognized mainly for its architectural qualities.

Sobriety and symmetry are the distinctive characteristics of the aesthetic of this small wooden building. The lantern with windows on all four sides, located in the middle of the block, gives the Bakery its original profile.

The functional design of the Bakery was effectively suited to the program, which was to define spaces for the preparation of bakery products.

The Bakery's architecture draws from a formal vocabulary belonging to turn-of-the-century domestic architecture. The good condition of the building attests to the quality of its materials and workmanship.

Character Defining Elements

The heritage value of the Bakery resides in its architectural form, which is directly associated with its functional design, and in the judicious choice of building materials and techniques.

The Bakery is a small, single-storey, almost square building, which draws its charm from the lantern that sits atop the hipped roof. The eastern slope has projecting eaves which once covered a verandah. The chimney, which pierces the middle of the lantern, effectively expresses the building's primary function: the preparation of bakery products. It is recommended that any changes that might affect the integrity of this original profile be avoided, although it would be desirable to restore the verandah on the eastern side based on available iconographic documents.

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The vernacular character of the Bakery is evident in its clapboard siding and attractive hung sash windows, which allow light to enter the block and the four sides of the lantern. Ongoing maintenance of these wooden elements is essential. The hung sash windows should be repaired rather than replaced, since they define the formal character of the Bakery. Should this prove impossible, care must be taken to ensure that the new windows faithfully reproduce the design and materials of the originals.

It may be worthwhile to verify whether the roof was originally covered with asphalt shingles. If it was not, consideration should be given to returning to the original roofing material. The brick chimney, which terminates in corbelled rows of bricks, also merits preservation.

The spatial organization of the Bakery is still very legible. For interpretation purposes, restoring the partition separating the small rooms adjoining the main room, which were formerly used for preparation and cooking, could be considered. The Bakery was amply ventilated and lit by the many hung sash windows, including eight in the lantern. Care must be taken to preserve this quality of the interior space. Stabilization of the chimney should not compromise its harmony.

The interior finishing materials, which are also drawn from the vernacular vocabulary, are essential for maintaining the integrity of the Bakery. Wood-panelled walls and ceilings, panel doors or batten doors with diagonal bracing, and various mouldings are all elements of the decor to be preserved. The old hardware and the pieces of furniture associated with the building's function deserve the same respect.

The Bakery, the Immigrants' Kitchen and the Old Wash House form a service core which helps provide a better understanding of the organizational layout of a quarantine station. The traces of the other service buildings (Forge, Ice Storage Building, etc.) and the former access roads are all resources to be preserved and that can be used for interpretation purposes. Finally, the ground around and below the building may contain architectural and artifactual stratigraphic vestiges associated with its occupation.

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

Translation

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