
FHBRO Number 90-31

Grosse Île, Quebec

**The Vaccination and Medical
Examination Office (No. 34)**

The Grosse Île Vaccination and Medical Examination Office was built around 1906-1907 according to plans undoubtedly prepared by an architect from the Department of Public Works. Following the closure of the quarantine station, it housed Grosse Île employees, and is still used for this purpose today. The Vaccination and Medical Examination Office is the property of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and is part of the Grosse Île and the Irish Memorial National Historic Site. See FHBRO Building Report 90-31 (Part IV: 1901-1920).

Reasons for Designation

The Grosse Île Vaccination and Medical Examination Office was designated Recognized for the quality of its architectural design and for its environmental significance.

The design of the house and the choice of the site, on the isthmus connecting the hotel sector with the village sector, are particularly successful from a functional viewpoint. The large verandah that encircles the building as well as the balconies located on the upper storey illustrate the importance attached to the panoramic views of the island, its bays and the St. Lawrence River.

The Vaccination and Medical Examination Office is a reminder of the medical care provided to immigrants on Grosse Île. It is closely associated with the role played by the island as quarantine station for the port of Québec. It is also interesting to note that this building stands near the Medical Assistant's House (No. 38).

Character Defining Elements

The Vaccination and Medical Examination Office is characterized by its architectural form in the style of a vacation cottage. Its heritage value resides in a judicious choice of building materials and techniques specific to vernacular architecture. Finally, the understanding of the building is indissociable from its site.

It is a small, almost square, one-and-a-half storey building, with a pitched roof and a single dormer on each long side. Its character of a small vacation cottage derives from several formal elements which must be preserved at all costs. The most obvious is unquestionably its "panoramic" verandah, which circles the entire building. In addition,

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six of the ten openings on the ground floor are doors, although the door that provided access to the second floor via an inside staircase should be excluded. The balconies extending from the roof over the verandah are also noteworthy. The porch or external vestibule, centred in the middle of the facade, contributes to the regularity and symmetry of the building.

The heritage value of this house is also due to its simple ornamentation. An ongoing maintenance program should be set up to ensure the longevity of the original doors and windows as well as the integrity of the exterior wooden siding. Special attention should be given to preserving the wooden brackets that adorn the posts of the verandah as well as the turned wooden balusters.

Despite the past use of this house as a residence, the interior retains most of the original layout: four rooms on the ground floor, four rooms on the second floor, plus a bathroom.

The interior decoration of the house is sober. The fluted door casings, which set off the smooth walls, are characteristic elements of domestic architecture worthy of conservation. The same is true of the fireplace, with its dark wood mantel, which portrays classical motifs. 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
