

The Deportation Cross

Constructed in Moncton and designed by R. A. Fréchet, the architect of the Memorial Church in Grand Pré, the Deportation Cross marks the place where the Acadian deportees were loaded onto row boats and taken out to the transport ships anchored in Minas Basin.

In 1924, the Deportation Cross was erected on a small piece of land deeded to the Acadians by the Dominion Atlantic Railway. It was located beside the railway tracks about 1.5 miles from the Memorial Church. The Dominion Atlantic Railway installed a platform so that passengers could get off the train and stand by the Cross.

The Cross was officially unveiled and blessed on 19 August 1924 in the presence of 280 people who took part in the "Pilgrimage to the Land of Evangeline," organized by the Montreal newspaper *Le Devoir*.

In 2005, the Cross was moved to Horton Landing (originally called Pointe Noire by the Acadians). It is from this location that the deportations in 1755 actually took place. The present site of the Deportation Cross belongs to Parks Canada.

Since 2005, a ceremony takes place by the Deportation Cross on the 28th of July, the official Day of commemoration of the *Grand Dérangement*. The *Grand Dérangement* (Great Upheaval) refers to the period between 1749 and the early 1800s and includes the decades when Acadian families frequently had to move from one place to another. The Deportation of the Acadians took place between 1755 and 1764.

Since 2005, the Acadian Odyssey Commission has erected a number of monuments to commemorate the *Grand Dérangement*. The bilingual monument includes: a small replica of the Deportation Cross, a text giving general information of the *Grand Dérangement* and a more specific text related to the place where the monument is located. For the location of these monuments, see www.snacadie.org.



Symbolism: The Latin cross is the traditional symbol of Christianity. The trefoil or cloverleaf decoration on the three extremities symbolizes the trinity of God and hope. The circle in the centre of the cross is cut by four spears or lances. The circle symbolizes the universe and the spears symbolize the crucifixion and violence.