

Mi'kmaq Cemetery

Municipal Heritage Site, Gambo

Description of Historic Place

The Mi'kmaq Cemetery (Borden # DeAn-08) is located on Stephen's Road in the Town of Gambo, NL. It is also accessible from Madeline's Trail, which runs from Middle Brook River Trail across a ridge to Stephen's Road. It is a grassy, fenced cemetery with an estimated thirteen burial plots dating from the late 19th century to early 20th century. The municipal heritage designation includes all the fenced area of cemetery land.

Heritage Value

The Mi'kmaq Cemetery is located on a side road off the main road running through Gambo and is adjacent to a larger Pentecostal cemetery. In terms of adornment, it is a very modest cemetery, with simple rectangular borders marking the burial plots. There are no headstones, as the names of those buried here are uncertain. The people buried here would have been members of the Roman Catholic faith.

The Mi'kmaq Cemetery in Gambo is a tangible link to the community's Mi'kmaq heritage. It is believed that the Mi'kmaq came to the Gambo area before 1780, attracted by the rich natural resources of the area, including fish of many species, birds, land mammals and edible flora. Oral tradition has it that the Joe family were the first Mi'kmaq inhabitants and that they made encampments on Mitchell's Point and Doloman's Point. Oral tradition reports that an early European settler James Pritchett built a plantation on Doloman's Point and that he found aboriginal artifacts such as arrowheads there. Gambo's Mi'kmaq population was eventually assimilated into the white settler population through marriage and the cemetery is one of the few physical reminders of Mi'kmaq culture left in the community.



**Municipal Heritage Designation by
Town of Gambo
September 12, 2011**

