



Bridgewater Railway Station

The railway came to Bridgewater in 1889, and consequently, the town gained another impressive public building. Designed by Vincent Griffiths of New York, this station is an architectural style which defies categorization. It could be Stick style, with its stick-work under the gabled peak facing the river. It could be Shingle style, but it has the fancy stick-work. It could be Romanesque Revival, but the tower has a barn-style tower roof instead of a Romanesque Revival one. It is probably closest to an early Arts and Crafts style, though that only took hold in Bridgewater beyond 1910. Regardless, the iconic tower, quaint rustication of the bottom storey beneath the veranda, the lovely detailing in the gabled peak and the frieze underneath the roof combine to make a building which becomes the face of the community; it was, after all, the first thing several generations saw upon arriving in Bridgewater, creating countless first impressions. Train service passing through Bridgewater was abandoned in 1976, and the station was abandoned. It burned on December 12th, 1982, and the remaining structure was demolished. In its approximate place now stands the LaHave Street-Old Bridge Street intersection, along with the Dairy Queen and Wendy's.

- Michel Breau, Built Heritage Promoter, 2009

Sources: *One Hundred Years: A Pictorial History of Bridgewater*, by the Friends of the DesBrisay Museum and the Bridgewater Heritage and Historical Society (1999).