Du Cros Mausoleum

The building is of stone with a pitched roof and has an apse at the south end. The style is not easily definable. The walls are of rubble, but the corner pilasters are of ashlar which continues to form a band below the eaves: this has dentils beneath it. The doorway is flanked by pilasters above each of which is a small triangular pediment.

Architect(s)
Probably Spencer Chadwick

Year Created
1899

History
The mausoleum was built by Harvey du Cros (1848 - 1918) who came of a Huguenot family which settled in Ireland in the 18th century. He was a keen cyclist, and his interest in tyres led him to set up the Pneumatic Tyre Company. In 1896 he bought Cornbury Park, Oxfordshire, from Viscount Churchill. Then, in 1899, his wife Annie developed terminal cancer. As she did not want to be buried in the ‘cold and bleak’ cemetery at Charlbury, the Vicar asked the Bishop whether du Cros could form a private burial ground in his park. When this was not permitted, having noted that the previous owners of Cornbury had been buried at Finstock, du Cros agreed to pay for a substantial extension of the churchyard there, reserving a large plot for himself. As the plan of the churchyard extension in the diocesan papers is signed by ‘Spencer Chadwick, Architect and Surveyor, 2 Pall Mall East, S.W.’, it seems likely he was the architect of the mausoleum.

The cross which stands in front of the mausoleum bears inscriptions to Harvey and Annie du Cros and their seven sons. Below it are slabs commemorating Sir Arthur du Cros and his second and third wives. Within the burial ground are gravestones to other members of the family, the most recent of whom died in 2001.

Condition
The mausoleum and burial ground are extremely well maintained (2002).

Sources
Oxfordshire Record Office, Ms. Oxf. Dioc. papers c.1819;
Who’s Who of MPs;
Who was Who;
Dictionary of National Biography;
Burke’s Landed Gentry.
Location
Churchyard of Holy Trinity,
Finstock,
Oxfordshire.
OX7 3DE