

NIGOLINE

Its name probably derives from the Latin terms 'novus' and 'novalia', which indicated reclaimed land subject to the payment of tithes to the bishop or to the powerful monasteries of Brescia.

The ancient parish church, dedicated to Saint Euphemia, rises between the white walls of the cemetery, which can be reached by following a charming little road that from the town centre climbs the morainic hill to the west. Its current appearance is that of a 15th-century church, but the walls of the façade to the west and the apsidal body to the east of a much older church dating back to the 8th century are still visible. Inside, there are 14th- and 15th-century plaster paintings and on the walls of the presbytery there is an important fresco cycle with the story of the Passion of Jesus and the martyrdom of St Euphemia attributed to the Brescian painter Floriano Ferramola (early 16th century).

The Church of St Euphemia remained a point of reference for the Christian community until 1578 when the population decided to build the new parish church dedicated to St Martin in a position closer to the settlement that had been rising towards the plain in the meantime.

Opposite the new parish church stands the imposing Palazzo Monti della Corte, an austere residence of the family of the same name that dates back to the 17th century but incorporates traces of older buildings.

The historical centre of Nigoline does not have a square proper, but is developed by means of the contrada typology in which the buildings are arranged in a line along the streets. In order to respect the orientation to the sun of the main fronts, the buildings are perpendicular to the road if the latter has a north-south orientation and parallel to it if the route is east-west.

In particular, along today's via De Gasperi, once called contrada del Torrazzo, there are interesting low-medieval buildings, including a well-preserved 14th-century tower house.

Secluded on the road leading to S. Eufemia is Palazzo Torri, formerly Federici della Corte. In the second half of the 19th century, this important residence was the seat of a significant literary coterie promoted by its owner Paolina Torri Calegari.

To the east of the old town is the ancient contrada dei Grumi, once directly crossed by the road to Timoline. On the area stood the Oratory of San Defendente erected for protection against floods and natural disasters. In the 19th century, a large part of the village was acquired by a single estate that moved the road outside and built a manor house with an adjoining private church. Among its illustrious personalities, Nigoline counts Monsignor Geremia Bonomelli (1834-1914), Bishop of Cremona, writer, historian and sociologist, in whose honour the name of the village was changed in 1971 by adding the term Bonomelli.