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Report of the Annual Meeting

Some Historic and Prehistoric Sites of Canada

National Parks Branch and Department of the Interior

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SOME HISTORIC AND PREHISTORIC SITES OF CANADA

BY

THE NATIONAL PARKS BRANCH, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

During the past year very favourable progress was made in connection with the acquisition, preservation and marking of sites or events of a national character and the commemoration of the public services of a number of outstanding personages, prominent in the early history of the Dominion, on the recommendation of the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada.

Since the inception of this national work in 1919, it may be of interest to know that from the various sites or events reviewed, two hundred and twenty-one have been selected by the board for commemoration. One hundred and fifty-four of these have to date been acquired by deed of gift, transfer, purchase or licence of occupation and one hundred and twenty-nine memorials erected.

A very artistic design of bronze tablet is used to mark these sites. This carries the historic data in brief but educational form. Where no remains or building exist on the site being marked, a standard in the form of a monolith, rubble-stone cairn or large boulder is erected to carry the tablet.

From the letters of commendation and large number of inquiries received, it would appear that public interest in the history of Canada is greater to-day among our people than at any former period.

SITES MARKED

In addition to the sites already marked (see previous reports of the Canadian Historical Association) the following were recommended during the past year:—

Canso, N.S.

A cairn, to which is affixed a bronze tablet, was erected on the south side of School street, directly opposite the Canso Public School building, to commemorate Canso's historic importance as one of the earliest settlements in Nova Scotia. It was first developed as an important fishing station by the French in the 16th century; fortified by the British in 1720; later the scene of several combats between them and the French and Indians, and the rendez-vous of the expedition of Pepperell and Warren against Louisbourg, in 1745. The memorial was unveiled with fitting ceremonies on July 2, 1928.

First Post Office in British North America, Halifax, N.S.

A bronze tablet was affixed to the outer wall, at the right hand entrance to the Post Office building at Halifax, to commemorate the establishment in that city, in 1755, of the first post office in the Dominion of Canada, as now constituted.

King's College, Windsor, N.S.

A bronze tablet was affixed to the exterior wall of the stone chapel building on the King's College University grounds to mark the original site of King's College, the oldest University in the King's overseas dominions, which was founded in 1789 by Right Reverend Charles Inglis, first Bishop of Nova Scotia, and other United

on the west bank of the Oldman river. This vital industry has since contributed greatly to the development of Western Canada. The memorial was unveiled on July 18, 1928, with appropriate ceremonies, in the presence of a distinguished and representative gathering.

Barkerville, B.C.

A cairn, to which is affixed a bronze tablet, was erected on the side of the provincial highway just outside the town of Quesnel, to mark one terminus of the Yale-Cariboo Wagon Road, completed in 1865. This place was the centre of old Cariboo, whose gold fields, discovered in 1861, have added over forty millions to the wealth of the world.

Sir George Simpson, Kootenay Park, B.C.

A cairn, to which is affixed a bronze tablet, was erected at the junction of the Simpson and Vermilion rivers and adjacent to the Banff-Windermere highway, fifty miles west of Banff, Alberta, to commemorate the public services of Sir George Simpson, Governor of the Hudson's Bay Company's territories (1821-1860), under whose guidance the "Far West", the "Far North" and the Arctic coast of Canada were explored. He was the first white man to cross the Rocky mountains by Simpson Pass, having accomplished this while on his memorable journey around the world in 1841. The memorial was unveiled on September 20, 1928, by Governor Charles V. Sale, of the Hudson's Bay Company.

ACQUISITION AND PRESERVATION OF SITES

The following action was taken with respect to the acquisition of other historic properties recommended for commemoration by the Board and the preservation of monuments and structures, already administered by the Department.

MARITIME PROVINCES

Louisbourg, Cape Breton

The major portion of the lands included in the original site of the fortress were purchased and steps taken to enclose them with a suitable design of fence. Most of the buildings, located thereon were removed with a view to future development work on the area.

Fort Cumberland (Beauséjour), N.B.

The park area was fenced, paths constructed leading to important points of interest, the moat drained, steps built up the embankment to the main earthworks and the casemate cleaned out and repaired. A number of sign boards were also erected at various points for the information of visitors.

Fort Howe, Saint John, N.B.

A considerable amount of loose rock was removed from the steep bluff at the junction of Rockland road and Main street as a precautionary measure for the safety of pedestrians and a large flag-staff was erected in a conspicuous location at the highest point in the park.

Fort La Have, La Have, N.S.

Permission was obtained from the Department of Marine and Fisheries to erect a memorial on the lighthouse reserve at La Have, to mark the site of the fort built there by de Razilly, in 1632.

Fort Jemseg, Lower Jemseg, N.B.

A plot of land adjacent to the public highway was donated by Mr. F. C. Nevers on which to erect a cairn and tablet to mark the site of Fort Jemseg, built in 1659, during the English possession of Acadia.

QUEBEC

First Railroad in British North America, St. Johns

A licence of occupation was executed by the Canadian National Railway Company granting permission to place a tablet on the outer wall of the railway station building in St. Johns, to mark one terminus of the first railway in British North America.

Battle of September 6, 1775, near St. Johns

A plot of ground 25 feet square, adjacent to the St. Johns-Lacolle highway, was donated by the shareholders of the St. Johns Golf Club on which to erect a cairn and tablet to commemorate the events associated with the engagement which took place at Montgomery's Creek on September 6, 1775.

Chaudiere Portage, Hull

A licence of occupation was executed by the city granting permission to erect a memorial on an area situated in the centre of Montcalm street, adjacent to the Aylmer road, to mark the site of the first portage of the Chaudiere.

Fort Chambly, Chambly

Most of the existing stone work of the outer walls and bastions of the fort were repaired, repointed and capped with a cement coping and a protection wall placed around the bastions facing the river. A monument was erected in the old cemetery, adjacent to the fort, to carry the commemorative bronze tablet to the memory of the soldiers and others who are buried there.

Fort Lennox, Ile-aux-Noix

Additional repair work was carried out on the several massive stone structures located on the site to ensure of their future preservation and also on the north and south arched stone entrances. The old cemeteries were cleaned up and refenced.

ONTARIO

Fort Wellington, Prescott, Ont.

Extensive improvements were made to the several buildings on the site and the work of repairing the inner palisades was practically completed. The popularity of this site is evident from the increased number of tourists who visited the place during the past year.

Bishop Alexander Macdonell, St. Raphael.

A licence of occupation was executed with the Roman Catholic Episcopal Corporation of the Diocese of Alexandria, granting permission to place a monument on a small plot of ground facing the parish church at St. Raphael West, and lying immediately adjacent to the main highway to commemorate the public services of Bishop Macdonell.

Martello Shoal Tower, Kingston.

The wooden roof was removed so as to make the tower conform with its original design, the stone work pointed and repairs made to the small landing dock and entrance.

Battle of the Longwoods, near Wardsville.

A plot of ground 25 feet square, immediately adjacent to the London-Chatham highway, was donated by Mr. Roy Henderson on which to erect a cairn and tablet to commemorate the events associated with the engagement which took place on March 4, 1814, between Canadian and United States troops.

WESTERN CANADA AND BRITISH COLUMBIA

Wawanesa, Man.

A licence of occupation was executed with the village granting permission to erect a cairn and tablet on a plot of ground between the Sunshine Highway and the Souris river to commemorate the historic events associated with the early fur trading posts which existed in the vicinity of the confluence of the Assiniboine and Souris rivers.

Indian Treaty No. 6, Fort Carlton, Sask.

Mr. W. P. Urton has donated a plot of land adjacent to the main road from Prince Albert to Carlton Station on which to erect a cairn and tablet to commemorate the events associated with the signing of Indian Treaty No. 6, in August, 1876.

Point Grey, Vancouver, B.C.

A licence of occupation was executed by the Provincial Government granting permission to erect a memorial in the British Columbia University grounds, between the waters of English Bay and Marine Drive, to commemorate the meeting of Vancouver and the Spanish explorers in June, 1792.

Pacific Cable, Bamfield, B.C.

A licence of occupation was executed by the Pacific Cable Board granting permission to erect a bronze tablet on the front wall of the Cable Building at Bamfield to mark one terminal of the Pacific Cable, which was completed in 1902.

WORK FOR THE FUTURE

The following sites, events and services of important personages have been recommended to the Department by the Board as being of national importance, and will be dealt with from time to time:—

Admiral d'Anville's Encampment, Bedford Basin, N.S.
 Battle of Grand Pré, near Grand Pré, N.S.
 First Atlantic Cable, North Sydney, N.S.
 Major Gilfrid Studholme, Saint John, N.B.
 Battle of the Petiscodiac, Hillsborough, N.B.
 Battle of de Repentigny, near Charlemagne, P.Q.
 Jacques Cartier's Landing, Gaspé, P.Q.
 First Paper Mill in Canada, St. Andrews, P.Q.
 Valcartier, P.Q.
 Temiscouata Portage, Cabano, P.Q.
 Lachine Massacre, Lachine, P.Q.
 Champlain's Landing Place, Morrison's Island, P.Q.
 Fort Coteau du Lac, Coteau du Lac, P.Q.
 Battle of Chateauguay, Allan's Corners, P.Q.
 Ile aux Basques, opposite Trois Pistoles, P.Q.
 The Royal Navy, Lake Champlain, Ile-aux-Noix, P.Q.
 First Stage Coaches and Postal Service, Quebec, P.Q.
 First Patent in Canada.
 Southwold Earthworks, near St. Thomas, Ont.
 Mission of Ste. Marie 1, near Midland, Ont.
 Action at Thomas McRae House, near Chatham, Ont.
 Nanitoke, Ont.
 Canoe Route Montreal to Lake Huron, Mattawa, Ont.
 Glengarry Landing, near Edenvale, Ont.
 First Salt Works in Canada, near St. Catharines, Ont.
 First Petroleum Wells, near Bothwell, Ont.
 Starting Point of Brock's Expedition to Detroit, Port Dover, Ont.
 Sir Charles Bagot, Kingston, Ont.
 Lord Sydenham, Kingston, Ont.
 Butler's Burying Ground, Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ont.
 Normandal Furnaces, near Tilsonburg, Ont.
 Yonge Street, Toronto, Ont.
 Brant's Ford, Brantford, Ont.
 Dundas Street, Toronto, Ont.
 Danforth Road, Hamilton, Ont.
 Capture of the Tigress and Scorpion, Pentaguishene, Ont.
 Defence of Upper Canada, War 1812-14, Kingston, Ont.
 Amherstburg Navy Yard, Amherstburg, Ont.
 Fort Drummond, Queenston Heights, Ont.
 Sir Gordon Drummond, Toronto, Ont.
 First Electric Telegraph, Toronto, Ont.
 Ridgeway Battlefield, near Fort Erie, Ont.
 Niagara Portage, Stamford, Ont.
 Arctic Discovery and Exploration, Ottawa, Ont.
 Indian Treaties, Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ont.
 Duck Lake Battlefield, Duck Lake, Sask.
 Battle of Fish Creek, near Rosthern, Sask.
 Fort à la Corne, near Prince Albert, Sask.

Rocky Mountain House, Alta.
Henry House, Alta.
Fort Fork, Alta.
David Thompson, Jasper Park, Alta.
Fort Alexandria, B.C.
Fort Victoria, B.C.
Simon Fraser, Musqueam, B.C.
Fort Steele, B.C.
Yukon Gold Discovery, Dawson City, N.W.T.