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Report of the Annual Meeting

Some Historic and Pre-Historic Sites of Canada

Canadian National Parks Branch et Department of the Interior

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SOME HISTORIC AND PRE-HISTORIC SITES OF CANADA

BY

THE CANADIAN NATIONAL PARKS BRANCH

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Very favourable progress was made during the past year in connection with the acquisition and marking of historic sites of national importance throughout the Dominion, on the recommendation of the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada. Since the inception of this work in 1919 one hundred and thirteen sites have been acquired and eighty-three marked by the erection of memorials. A bronze tablet of a very artistic design, symbolic of Canada, bears the historic data pertaining to the event being commemorated. Where no suitable remains exist on the site on which to place the tablet, an inexpensive standard in the form of a cobble-stone cairn or large boulder is erected to carry it.

At important sites acquired, permanent caretakers are engaged to supervise the site and buildings and to carry out repairs necessary. At smaller sites, part-time caretakers, resident in the immediate vicinity, are engaged to supervise them.

Ready co-operation has been accorded the department in this national undertaking by local historical societies and affiliated organizations.

A summary of the past year's operations is enumerated hereunder.

SITES MARKED

In addition to those mentioned in previous reports of the association, the following memorials were erected during 1926:—

MARITIME PROVINCES

Louisbourg, Cape Breton

A cairn and tablet were placed on the historic site property controlled at that place to mark the site of King's Bastion, which in olden days was the entrance to the fortress and which contained the Governor's residence, barracks and chapel. Adjoining it was the Place d'Armes. The unveiling was carried out on August 10 with appropriate ceremonies.

Fort Nashwaak, Devon, N.B.

A cairn and tablet were placed in the small park facing Gibson street to mark the site of the fort erected by Governor Villebon at the junction of the St. John and Nashwaak rivers in 1692. Many raids were directed from it against New England by the French, one of which resulted in the capture of Fort William Henry at Pemaquid, in August, 1696. Fort Nashwaak was abandoned by the French in 1698.

Bathurst, N.B. (Nicolas Denys)

A cairn and tablet were erected on a plot of land at the intersection of Main and Murray streets, which was provided by the town, to commemorate the public services of Nicolas Denys, who, in 1654, was

appointed Governor and Lieutenant-General of the Coasts and Islands of the Gulf of St. Lawrence from Canso to Gaspé. He was one of the pioneers in trade and the fishing industry, a naturalist and an author of a classical work on Acadia. His chief residence was at Point au Père, where he died and was buried in 1688.

QUEBEC

Fort Lennox, Ile-aux-Noix

A tablet was placed on the outer wall at the north entrance to the fort marking the site as one of the gateways to Canada and an advance post against Iroquois and other invaders. The fort was built by the French before 1759 and additional works added in 1775. The whole place was rebuilt by the Imperial authorities from 1812 to 1827 and the several massive stone buildings are in a remarkable state of preservation.

Fort St. Jean, St. Johns

A boulder and tablet were placed on the military reserve, facing Champlain street, to mark the site of the fort constructed there in 1748, by M. de Lery. This post was for a long time the rendezvous for all military expeditions towards lake Champlain. It was destroyed in 1760 to prevent the British from capturing it. Part-time caretaker appointed.

Fort Three Rivers, Three Rivers

A boulder and tablet was placed on a plot of land near the Customs building, to mark the site of the fort which was built there in 1634 and which later became the cradle of Three Rivers and a centre for fur trade with the Indians. It was besieged on many occasions by the Iroquois and demolished after the treaty of peace with them in 1668.

Fort de Maisonneuve, Montreal

A tablet was placed on the outer wall at the right hand entrance to the Customs building, which now stands on the site of the fort built there in 1645 by Paul de Chomedey, Sieur de Maisonneuve, and which is recognized as the birthplace of Montreal.

St. Louis de Blandford, near Arthabaska

A tablet was supplied those locally interested for placement on a memorial cairn which was being erected to commemorate the founding of the settlement there by Charles Heon in March, 1825.

ONTARIO

Fort de Lévis, Adam's Point, East of Prescott

A cairn and tablet were erected on a small plot of land, adjacent to the Montreal-Toronto highway, donated by Mr. James Adams, to mark the site of the fort constructed by Captain François Pouchot in the spring and early summer of 1760. Its garrison was forced to surrender, after a gallant defence, on August 25, 1760, to the British army commanded by Sir Jeffrey Amherst. Siege batteries were established on Adams point and island. The unveiling ceremonies were carried out on August 25 in accordance with arrangements made by the Prescott Board of Trade. Part-time caretaker appointed.

Fort Cataracqui or Frontenac, Kingston

A tablet was affixed to the southern wall of the entrance gate to Tête du Pont Barracks to mark the site of the fort erected there in July, 1673, by Count de Frontenac and which was rebuilt by La Salle in 1675. For many years it was the key to the west, the base of La Salle's explorations and a French outpost against the Iroquois and British.

Richmond (Death of the Duke of Richmond)

A cairn and tablet were erected on a plot of land adjacent to the highway from Bell's Corners to Richmond, which was donated by Mr. Samuel Mann, in memory of the services, self-devotion and tragic death of Charles Lennox, Fourth Duke of Richmond, who died there on August 28, 1819. The unveiling ceremonies were carried out on August 28 in accordance with arrangements made by the municipal councils of the village of Richmond and the township of Nepean. Part-time caretaker appointed.

Rideau Canal, Ottawa

A tablet was affixed to the central pillar of the bridge over the canal on the north side of Connaught Place, to commemorate the one hundredth anniversary of the beginning of its construction under the direction of Lieutenant-Colonel John By, R.E., in September, 1826. The unveiling ceremonies were carried out on August 19 under the auspices of the Ottawa Women's Canadian Historical Society.

Fort Wellington, Prescott

A tablet was affixed to the outer entrance wall bearing the historic events associated with the fort which was constructed in 1812-13 by the British as a main post for the defence of the communication between Kingston and Montreal. This Fort received its name in honour of the victory gained at Salamanca on July 22, 1812. The tablet was unveiled on August 25 with appropriate ceremonies arranged for by the Prescott Board of Trade and Women's Institute.

Port Talbot

A cairn and tablet were erected on a plot of land immediately adjacent to the Talbot Road, which was donated by the Talbot Estates, to commemorate the historic events associated with that place and the founding of the settlement by Colonel Thomas Talbot on May 21, 1803. The unveiling ceremonies were carried out on June 30 in accordance with arrangements made by the Elgin Historical and Scientific Institute.

Ottawa (Allan R. Crawford)

A tablet was erected inside the entrance to the Public Archives building in commemoration of the valour and sacrifice of Allan Rudyard Crawford, Commander and Scientist of an Arctic Expedition to Wrangel Island, 1921-23.

Ottawa (Arctic Expedition)

A tablet was affixed to the inner entrance wall of the Public Archives building to the memory of those who perished in the Canadian Arctic Expedition of 1913-18.

Fort William

A cairn and tablet were erected in Heath Street Park commemorating the early historic events associated with that city. The mouth of the Kaministikwia, for ages the gateway of canoe traffic with the interior, became later the lake terminal of great transcontinental railways.

Waterloo Pioneers, Kitchener

A tablet was supplied the Waterloo Historical Society for placement on the memorial tower which they erected to commemorate the founding of the settlement there in 1800 by Joseph Schoerg and Samuel Betzner, Jr. The unveiling ceremonies were carried out on August 25, 1926, under the auspices of the above Society.

WESTERN CANADA

Fort Walsh, near Maple Creek, Sask.

A cairn and tablet were erected on lot 1, group 17, in the northeast corner of section 21, township 7, range 29, west of the 3rd meridian, to mark the site of Fort Walsh, an old Northwest Mounted Police post, established in 1875. It was the headquarters of Commissioner Irvine until December, 1882, when the post was removed to Maple Creek.

Fort Macleod, Macleod, Alta.

A cairn and tablet were placed on the Public Works Reserve, adjacent to Twenty-third street, to commemorate the arrival of the Northwest Mounted Police, in October, 1874, and the building of the fort on the island immediately to the northeast of the town. Their coming brought law and order into a wild and lawless country.

Fort Edmonton (Augustus), Alta.

A cairn and tablet were placed on the surveyed road allowance passing through river lot 8, Fort Saskatchewan Settlement, to mark the site of Fort Augustus, established by the Northwest Company in 1794 and Fort Edmonton, established by the Hudson's Bay Company, in 1795. Rivals in trade, allies in danger, these companies carried the flag and commerce of Britain from the shores of the Atlantic ocean and Hudson bay, to the Pacific and Arctic oceans. Both forts were abandoned in 1807. Part-time caretaker appointed.

Bella Coola, B.C. (Sir Alexander Mackenzie)

A large memorial shaft to which is affixed a bronze tablet was erected on lot 1361, range 3, Coast district, Bella Coola, which was recently identified without doubt as the western terminal of Sir Alexander Mackenzie's transcontinental voyage across North America. He with his nine companions arrived at this spot on July 21, 1793. A facsimile of the inscription he wrote on the rock was embedded therein in cement.

ACQUISITION AND PRESERVATION OF SITES

Control of a number of other historic properties, deemed by the board to be of national importance, was obtained and preservation work to prevent further deterioration carried out at a number of sites or structures previously acquired, as follows:—

MARITIME PROVINCES

Fort Cumberland, N.B., near Sackville

Repairs were made on the walls of the old powder magazine, the English entrenchments cleared of debris, a flag pole erected and other minor improvements completed. The site of the fort with adjacent lands was created a national historic park.

St. John, N.B. (First Marine Compound Engine)

Permission has been granted by the Department of Public Works to place a tablet on the pilaster at the entrance to the Customs building to commemorate the invention of the Compound Steam Engine, by Benjamin Tibbitts, in 1842.

St. John, N.B. (First Steam Fog Alarm)

Permission has been granted by the Department of Public Works to place a tablet on the exterior entrance to the Customs building to commemorate the invention of the First Steam Fog Alarm, by Robert Foulis, in 1854.

Canso, N.S.

The town of Canso has executed a lease of occupation covering a site on which it is proposed to erect a cairn and tablet to mark the site of Fort Canso, built by the British in 1720 and which was the scene of several combats between them and the French and Indians.

King's College, Windsor, N.S.

A lease of occupation was executed by the Board of Governors granting permission to place a tablet on the chapel, which now stands on the site of the original college, the oldest university in the King's overseas dominions, founded in 1789.

QUEBEC

Fort Chambly, Chambly.

Considerable repairs were made on the walls of the old stores, buttress walls, etc., and a cement coping placed on them; the roof and wall of the dungeon and powder magazine were re-sheathed and painted and the masonry re-pointed. In the old cemetery the grounds were levelled, the fence repaired and sundial reset.

Fort Lennox, Ile-aux-Noix

Further preservation work was carried out on the several stone buildings on the site, including repairs to masonry, painting of roofs, doors and windows, replacement of sash and glass, construction and replacement of eave troughs, etc.

ONTARIO

Fort Wellington, Prescott

The outer and inner palisades were repaired and replaced where necessary, a water supply system installed, a new fence constructed around the north and east sides of the property and general repairs carried out on the masonry and woodwork of the blockhouse.

Fort St. Joe, St. Joseph's Island

Considerable restoration work was carried out on the old ruins including the pointing of the masonry on the chimney, magazine and ovens and recoping them.

McKee's Point, Sandwich

Permission was granted by the town of Sandwich for the erection of a cairn and tablet on a triangular plot of land at the intersection of Sandwich and Main streets to mark the site of the embarkation of General Brock's troops to capture Detroit in 1812.

Point de Meuron, near Fort William

A plot of land was donated to the department by Col. S. C. Young on which to erect a memorial to mark the site of the Kaministikwia Portage which was used by early traders and explorers.

Toronto. (First Electric Telegraph Line)

Permission has been granted by the civic authorities to place a tablet on the wall of the old City Hall, on the south side of Front street, to mark the spot from which the first electric telegrams were exchanged with an office in Hamilton, which was the other terminal.

WESTERN CANADA

Fort Langley, Langley, B.C.

Repairs to prevent further deterioration were carried out on the original old log building on the site. These included the clinking and plastering of the openings between the logs, construction of stairs, laying of floors, whitewashing, etc.

Nanaimo, B.C.

The city of Nanaimo has granted permission for the erection of a memorial on Dallas Square to mark the site of the first coal mine in British Columbia.

Gleichen, Alta. (Indian Treaty No. 7)

The Department of Indian Affairs has provided a site adjacent to the main highway, which area was surrendered by the Indians, on which to erect a cairn and tablet to mark the spot on which Indian Treaty Number 7 was signed.

Fort La Reine, Portage la Prairie, Man.

The civic authorities have, by license of occupation, provided a site on parish lot 22 on which to erect a memorial to mark the site of Fort La Reine built by La Vérendrye in 1738.

WORK FOR THE FUTURE

The following sites have been considered of national importance by the Board and will be commemorated in due course:—

- First Post Office in British North America, Halifax, N.S.
- Battle of Grand Pré, near Grand Pré, N.S.
- Yorkshire Settlement, Chignecto, N.S.
- Joseph Wallet des Barres, Sydney, N.S.
- Fort La Have, N.S.
- Admiral d'Anville's Encampment, Bedford Basin, N.S.
- Tonge's Island, N.B.
- Sir Howard Douglas, Fredericton, N.B.
- Battle of de Repentigny, near Charlemagne, P.Q.
- Jacques Cartier's Landing, Gaspé, P.Q.
- Second Battle of Châteauguay, near Allan's Corners, P.Q.
- Ile-aux-Coudres, near Baie St. Paul, P.Q.
- Temiscouata Portage Route, Cabano, P.Q.
- First Paper Mill in Canada, St. Andrews, P.Q.
- First Steamship in Canada, Montreal, P.Q.
- Lachine Massacre, Lachine, P.Q.
- First Railroad in Canada, St. Johns, P.Q.
- Champlain's Landing, Allumette Island, P.Q.
- Battle of Two Mountains, near Rivière des Prairies, P.Q.
- Fort Coteau du Lac, near Coteau, P.Q.
- Battle of Fort Lennox, Ile-aux-Noix, P.Q.
- Southwold Earthworks, near St. Thomas, Ont.
- Mission of Ste. Marie I, near Midland, Ont.
- Action at House of Thomas McCrae, near Chatham, Ont.
- Nanticoke, Ont.
- Vrooman's Battery, near Queenston, Ont.
- Ridgeway Battlefield, near Ridgeway, Ont.
- Weishuhn's Redoubt, near Willoughby, Ont.
- Navy Island Shipyard, near Chippawa, Ont.
- Battle of the Longwoods, near Wardsville, Ont.
- Battle of York, Toronto, Ont.
- Point Pelee, near Leamington, Ont.
- Montreal-Lake Huron Portage Route, Mattawa, Ont.
- Glengarry Landing, near Edenvale, Ont.
- Montgomery's Tavern, Toronto, Ont.
- Point au Baril, Maitland, Ont.
- Fort Norfolk, Turkey Point, Ont.
- Port Dover, Ont. (Starting Point Brock's Expedition 1812).
- Bishop John Strachan, Cornwall, Ont.
- First Salt Works in Canada, near St. Catharines, Ont.
- First Petroleum Wells, near Bothwell, Ont.
- Fugitive Slave Movement, Windsor, Ont.
- Sir Charles Bagot, Kingston, Ont.
- Lord Sydenham, Kingston, Ont.
- Butler's Burying Ground, Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ont.
- Normandale Blast Furnaces, Tilsonburg, Ont.
- Indian Treaty, Lower Fort Garry, near Winnipeg, Man.
- Duck Lake Battlefield, near Duck Lake, Sask.
- Battle of Fish Creek, near Rosthern, Sask.
- Fort Cumberland, Cumberland House, Sask.

Fort à la Corne, near Prince Albert, Sask.
Jasper House, near Jasper, Alta.
Rocky Mountain House, near Red Deer, Alta.
Henry House, Alta.
First Coal Mine in Alberta, Lethbridge, Alta.
Barkerville, B.C.
Fort Alexandria, Alexandria, B.C.
Fort Hope, Hope, B.C.
Fort Steele, B.C.
Yukon Gold Discovery.