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Report of the Annual Meeting

## National Historic Parks and Sites, 1954-55

National Historic Sites Division, National Parks Branch et Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources

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## NATIONAL HISTORIC PARKS AND SITES, 1954-55

BY THE NATIONAL HISTORIC SITES DIVISION, NATIONAL PARKS  
BRANCH, DEPARTMENT OF NORTHERN AFFAIRS AND  
NATIONAL RESOURCES

THE RESTORATION, preservation and administration of National Historic Parks and Sites and the commemoration of the public services of outstanding persons in Canadian history is carried on by the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources through the National Historic Sites Division. The Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada, an honorary body of recognized historians, representing the ten provinces of the nation, acts in an advisory capacity to the Minister in this work. The Board was placed on a statutory basis by the Historic Sites and Monuments Act in 1953.

The members of the Board are as follows: Chairman, Professor Fred Landon, London, Ontario; the Honourable E. Fabre-Surveyer, Montreal, Quebec; the Reverend A. d'Eschambault, Genthon, Manitoba; Professor M. H. Long, Edmonton, Alberta; Dr. Walter N. Sage, Vancouver, British Columbia; the Honourable Thane A. Campbell, Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island; Dr. W. Kaye Lamb, Dominion Archivist, Ottawa, Ontario; C. E. A. Jeffery, St. John's, Newfoundland; Dr. A. G. Bailey, Fredericton, New Brunswick; Dr. F. J. Alcock, Chief Curator, National Museum of Canada, Ottawa, Ontario; Dr. C. Bruce Fergusson, Halifax, Nova Scotia; Richmond Mayson, Prince Albert, Saskatchewan. A. J. H. Richardson, Chief, National Historic Sites Division, Ottawa, Ontario, is Secretary to the Board.

The annual meeting of the Board was held in Ottawa, June 7th-11th, 1954, and many matters relating to Canada's historical background were reviewed. Of the many sites which have been considered by the Board to date, 491 have been marked or acquired.

### NATIONAL HISTORIC PARKS

*Fort Anne National Historic Park* is situated in Annapolis Royal, Nova Scotia. The museum building, restored in 1935, was originally the Officers' Quarters and was built in 1797-8 under the supervision of Edward, Duke of Kent, the father of Queen Victoria, when he was commander-in-chief of the British forces in North America with headquarters at Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Extensive painting was done during the year both inside and outside the museum, and improvements were made to the walks and roads. The museum acquired additional exhibits of historical interest.

Visitors registered at the Park numbered 19,677, an increase of 380 over the figure of the previous year.

*Port Royal National Historic Park* is situated at Port Royal (formerly Lower Granville), Nova Scotia. A replica of the original Port Royal Habitation marks the exact site where the first European settlement in Canada that was more than a trading post was established in 1605 by the Sieur de Monts and Samuel de Champlain. Champlain

himself chose the location and drew up the plan of settlement from which the present replica was built.

During the year improvements were made to the grounds surrounding the Habitation, and all building interiors were oiled.

Registration at the Park reached 20,892, 5,146 more than the year before.

*Fortress of Louisburg National Historic Park* is situated about three miles from the town of Louisburg, Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia. Louisburg was a focal point in the long struggle between English and French in North America which culminated in the possession of Canada for the British Crown. Built by the French after the Treaty of Utrecht in 1713 and named in honour of their sovereign, Louis XIV, the fortress was twice captured by the British and destroyed after the final conquest in 1760.

Considerable restoration work was undertaken during the past year. Work started in 1952 was continued at the old hospital site where 640 feet of wall were rebuilt. The old French bakery and bake oven were uncovered and partially rebuilt. One skeleton was removed from the site and several relics found. Excavation and maintenance work in other parts of the Park was continued.

The total number of visitors who signed the register at the museum during the year was 16,504, a decrease of almost 4,000.

*Fort Beauséjour National Historic Park* is situated near Sackville, New Brunswick. Built by the French, the fort was intended to be an Acadian stronghold against the undefined claims of the English to Acadia. Around the fort the Acadians had their homes and farms. It was captured by the British under Monckton in 1755, after which time the fort was strengthened and its defenses extended by a system of entrenchments, traces of which still remain.

General maintenance work was done during the year to keep the building and grounds in good appearance. Damage to the museum building resulting from hurricane "Edna" necessitated considerable repairs.

Visitor registration at Fort Beauséjour was 23,245, an increase of 1,815.

*Fort Chamblu National Historic Park* is situated about twenty miles southeast of Montreal on a conspicuous headland on the Richelieu River. The first fort, built by the French in 1665 as a protection against the Iroquois, was of wooden construction. It was later rebuilt of stone, this work being completed in 1711. In 1760 the fort was surrendered to the British, who with a small garrison, held it until 1775. In that year the Americans captured the fort, but evacuated it in the following year. The fort was soon afterwards repaired and garrisoned by Sir Guy Carleton and later played an important part in the war of 1812.

Much painting was done of the woodwork inside and outside the fort and repainting was continued on the old walls of the fort and on the retaining wall near the river. Repairs were made to the paths and roads.

Visitors registered during the year numbered 70,505, 1,815 less than the year before.

*Fort Lennox National Historic Park* is located on Ile-aux-Noix in the Richelieu River, about thirteen miles south of St. Johns, Quebec. The present fort which stands near the site of one previously erected by the French, was built by the Imperial authorities in the period from 1819 to 1827. The island, comprising an area of 150 acres, was acquired by the National Parks Service in 1921, and extensive works have since been carried out on the buildings and grounds.

During the past year much was done to maintain the appearance of the fort and grounds, the woodwork was painted and the trees and shrubs trimmed. Minor repairs were made to the buildings and picnic tables were built.

Attendance at the Park, according to the registration figures, rose from 8,829 in the preceding year to 11,899 in 1954-55.

*Fort Wellington National Historic Park* is situated at the east end of the town of Prescott, Ontario, adjacent to Highway No. 2. The fort, named after the Duke of Wellington, was erected when the British authorities decided to fortify Prescott as one of the most vulnerable points of attack in the War of 1812, and as the main base for the defence of communications between Kingston and Montreal. It remains as it was when finally completed in 1838, an impressive landmark.

Repairs were made to the palisades over the year, a concrete gun carriage was constructed, buildings were painted and grass removed from the mounds and moats.

9,046 visitors signed the register at the Park, an increase of 912.

*Fort Malden National Historic Park* is in Amherstburg, Ontario. The original fort was built in 1797-9 by the Second Battalion, Royal Canadian Volunteers. It was strengthened in 1812 as the principal military station on the western frontier, and was dismantled and abandoned in 1813. Only slight evidences of the original fortifications remain, but the existing earthworks and the only old building still standing are as early as 1823 at least.

The third floor of the Old Fort Residence was remodelled and put into use for the first time as part of the museum. All pioneer and military exhibits have now been placed in that building. During the year much repair work was done on the Bake Oven wing of the Old Mess Hall, and the walks were covered with stone dust.

Attendance figures at the fort showed a decrease from 17,418 in 1953-54 to 17,252 in 1954-55.

*Lower Fort Garry National Historic Park* is situated on the west bank of the Red River about twenty miles north of Winnipeg, Manitoba, and comprises an area of approximately 12.75 acres. It was built between 1831 and 1839 by the Hudson's Bay Company and, although never besieged, played an important part in meeting the threat of war and rebellion. Indian Treaty No. 1 was signed there on August 3, 1871. It remained a place of considerable importance until about 1882 when the head of navigation for the Red River was removed from there to old Colville Landing on the opposite side of the river near Selkirk. It was transferred to the Canadian Government in 1951 subject to the continuance of a lease of the buildings and grounds to the Motor Country Club until December 31, 1955.

General maintenance work was done during the year, and the parking lot was paved.

*Fort Prince of Wales National Historic Park* is situated at the mouth of Churchill River, Churchill, Manitoba, and comprises an area of approximately fifty acres. The fort was built from plans drawn by English military engineers to secure control of Hudson Bay for the Hudson's Bay Company and England. Construction was commenced in 1733 and completed in 1771. It was surrendered to, and partially destroyed by, a French naval force under La Perouse in 1782. Its ruins, which are among the most interesting military remains on this continent, have been partly restored and more than forty cannon have been unearthed. Those suitable have been mounted on the walls of the fort.

General supervision was carried out.

*Fort Battleford National Historic Park* is situated in the Town-site of Battleford, four miles south of the City of North Battleford and comprises 36.7 acres. The buildings include the Superintendent's House, Inspector's Cottage, Guard Room, Hospital, Stable, and Barracks. Only the first-mentioned building was part of the original Mounted Police Post established there in 1876 by Colonel James Walker and linked up with such posts as Macleod, Fort Walsh, Calgary, Edmonton, Carlton, and Swan River. Located in the territory of the Cree Indian, this old post had a stabilizing and encouraging effect in the settlement of the Prairie Provinces, and, during the Rebellion of 1885, many settlers sought shelter and protection there. It was also the place of execution of those who were sentenced to death for participation in the Frog Lake Massacre.

A new Administration-Residence building was erected during the year. New cases were built to take care of recent acquisitions of small-arms, extensive painting was done, and the roads and parking area were gravelled. Three stone pillars were erected at the entrance to the Park, to one of which was affixed a tablet recording the historic events associated with the fort's historic past.

Visitors to the Park numbered 12,178, an increase of 787.

#### RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Extensive work was carried on at the Halifax Citadel National Historic Site, where restoration of the three-storey stone Cavalier Block, the largest building in the fortress, was completed. Arrangements have since been made for housing in this building the historical collections formerly in the Nova Scotia Provincial Museum, a very large collection of social history and early craft material and portraits, which should well interpret Nova Scotia's early life to the public and broaden the display at the Citadel beyond the purely military field.

At Baddeck, N. S., construction was started on a historical museum of a different sort for the department. It will house a remarkable collection of relics showing the scientific discoveries and inventions in many fields of Alexander Graham Bell and his associates.

The boyhood home of the late Right Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King in Kitchener, Ontario, was transferred to the Federal Government

and established as "Woodside National Historic Park". "Woodside" is a graceful mid-nineteenth century house which had been restored and partly refurnished with period furnishings by the Mackenzie King Woodside Trust.

#### NATIONAL HISTORIC SITES

*Early Transatlantic Flights, Harbour Grace, Newfoundland.* A cut stone monument was erected in honour of those aviators who, between 1919 and 1937, undertook uncharted flights across the Atlantic.

*Sir Robert Borden, Grand Pré, N. S.* A cut stone monument and standard table were erected to mark the birthplace of Sir Robert Borden, distinguished Canadian statesman. He was born at Grand Pré in 1854, served as Prime Minister of Canada from 1911 to 1920, was a member of the Imperial War Cabinet and War Conference 1917-18, and represented Canada at the Versailles Peace Conference in 1919 and the Washington Conference in 1921-22. He died in Ottawa in 1937.

*Captain James Cook, Halifax, N. S.* In Halifax a memorial was erected in Fort Needham Park to commemorate the first survey work of the famous navigator, Captain James Cook, which was carried out in Nova Scotia and the St. Lawrence during the years 1758 to 1762.

*La Coupe Dry Dock, Near Aulac, N. B.* A cut stone monument was erected to mark the remains of what is possibly the earliest dry dock in North America. The exact date of construction is not known, but it may well have been built in the late seventeenth century by the French. The flow of water from the La Coupe River was regulated to permit the entrance and exit of vessels of moderate size. Here, it is thought, they were built, repaired or stored, the place being inaccessible to hostile English privateers.

*Julia Catherine Beckwith Hart, Fredericton, N. B.* A secondary tablet was erected to honour Julia Catherine Beckwith Hart (1796-1867), the first native-born Canadian novelist. Her first and most prominent work was *St. Ursula's Convent*, published in 1824. The tablet was unveiled on May 11, 1954.

*Montreal Curling Club, Montreal, P. Q.* A tablet was placed on the wall of the Montreal Curling Club, founded in 1807, commemorating it as the oldest curling club in America. The tablet was unveiled on November 23rd, 1954.

*Wyandot Council House, Near Amherstburg, Ontario.* A tablet has been erected beside the Wyandot Cemetery to mark the site of the ancient Council House of the Wyandot Indians, descendants of the early Hurons, who were consistent allies of the British during the War of 1812. The tablet was unveiled on November 11, 1954.

*Ayling-Reid Flight, Wasaga Beach, Ontario.* A cut stone monument and standard tablet commemorates the first non-stop flight across the Atlantic from the mainland of Canada to England. It was made by two young airmen, James R. Ayling and Leonard G. Reid, in 1934. The tablet was unveiled on August 28th, 1954.

*Hon. David Mills, Chatham, Ontario.* The long public service of the Honourable David Mills was commemorated by the erection of a tablet in his honour, in the Municipal Building, Chatham. Mr. Mills was Minister of the Interior in the Mackenzie Administration, 1876-78. In 1896 he was appointed to the Senate, and in 1902 he became judge of the Supreme Court, holding the post until his death in 1903. The tablet was unveiled on October 14, 1954.

*Sir Samuel B. Steele, Orillia, Ontario.* A secondary tablet was erected at Orillia in honour of Sir Samuel Benfield Steele, distinguished soldier and police official. He served as Superintendent of the Royal North West Mounted Police from 1885 to 1901, and Commander of the South African constabulary from 1901 to 1906. He served with the Canadian forces in the South African War and in World War I, and died in London, England, in 1919. The tablet was unveiled on July 8, 1954.

*Lemuel Sherman's Barn, Thamesville, Ontario.* The role played by Lemuel Sherman's barn in the War of 1812 was commemorated by the erection of a secondary tablet at Thamesville. During the war, General Procter, retreating along the Thames, made Sherman's home his temporary headquarters, while Tecumseh occupied part of the barn. The remainder of the barn served as a military hospital. The pursuing American forces occupied the barn, using it as an advanced dressing station. The historic building was later destroyed by fire. The unveiling took place November 17, 1954.

*Fort St. Joseph, St. Joseph's Island, Ontario.* A tablet was placed on a cairn to mark the site of the cemetery at Fort St. Joseph, in which there are the graves of the soldiers and fur traders who died there between the years 1796 and 1812.

*Alexander Ross, Winnipeg, Manitoba.* To honour this fur-trader and historian a tablet was placed on the Ross House in Winnipeg and unveiled in June 1954. Ross was the author of *The Red River Settlement*, the first published history of the Red River country. He was Sheriff and member of the Council of Assiniboia. He was born in Scotland in 1783, and died in the Red River Settlement in 1856.

*Haultain — Davin — Ross, Regina, Saskatchewan.* A cut stone monument was erected in Regina bearing three standard tablets commemorating three outstanding men in public life.

Sir Frederick W. G. Haultain (1857-1942): statesman and jurist. Premier of the North West Territories, 1891-1906; Chief Justice of Saskatchewan, 1912-38; Chancellor of the University of Saskatchewan, 1917-39.

Nicholas Flood Davin (1843-1901): orator, journalist and author. Founded the *Regina Leader* in 1883, Member of Parliament for West Assiniboia, 1887-1900 and author of *The Irishman in Canada*.

The Hon. James Hamilton Ross (1856-1932): pioneer rancher, member of the North West Council and Assembly, member of the Territorial Executive Council, Commissioner of Public Works, Treasurer, Secretary; Commissioner of the Yukon Territory in the pioneer days of the Klondyke; appointed to the Senate of Canada in 1904.

*Anthony Henday, near Red Deer, Alberta.* The exploits of the intrepid Western fur trader, Anthony Henday, were commemorated on August 22nd, 1954, when a cut stone monument with standard tablet was unveiled. Henday set out in 1754 from Fort York on Hudson Bay on a 1,000 mile trip by canoe and foot to invite the Indians to trade furs at Hudson's Bay Company posts. Henday is said to have been the first white man to meet Indians of the Blackfoot Confederacy, and to have sighted the Rocky Mountains north of Colorado.

*Dr. W. D. Albright, Beaver Lodge, Alberta.* The outstanding contributions of Dr. William Donald Albright (1881-1946) to the development of agriculture in the Peace River district were commemorated by a tablet placed on a field stone cairn at Beaver Lodge. Dr. Albright was the organizer and first Superintendent of the Beaver Lodge Experimental Station. For thirty-one years he helped to shape the agricultural pattern of the Peace River Country. The unveiling took place on September 15, 1954.

*Rev. John G. Brick, Peace River, Alberta.* A permanent memorial was raised to a pioneer Anglican missionary who was one of the first to introduce farming to the Peace River district. A tablet was unveiled on September 12, 1954, to the Reverend John Gough Brick. Born in England in 1836, he came to Canada, and was chosen in 1881 to establish a mission at Fort Dunvegan in the Peace River Country. For the next thirteen years he devoted his life to furthering the work of the mission and developing the agricultural possibilities of that area. He died in 1897.

*David Thompson on the Columbia, Castlegar, B. C.* A monument to David Thompson (1770-1857), famed explorer of western Canada, fur trader, and the first man to descend the mighty Columbia River from source to mouth, was erected at Castlegar. Thompson, a trader with the North West Company, discovered the headwaters of that river, in 1807, and travelled its length in 1811. Before leaving the West in 1812, he prepared a map that has been the basis for all subsequent maps of that area. The tablet was unveiled on November 7, 1954.

*Emily Carr, Victoria, B. C.* Formal national recognition was paid to Emily Carr (1871-1945) by the erection of a granite memorial in her honour at Victoria. Miss Carr surmounted ridicule to win a foremost place among the artists and writers of Canada.