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Ottawa, 10th April, 1953.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE INTERLUCE

HISTORIC SITES - ST. LAWRENCE
SEAWAY FLOODED AREA.

On the 2nd of April, with Mr. James Smart, I inspected the area between Morrisburg and Cornwall which will be flooded if the St. Lawrence Seaway Project is undertaken. It is evident that a large number of historic places will be inundated, including early 19th Century houses, churches and cemeteries, but only two of our National Historic Sites. These are at Chrysler's Farm and Mille Roches.

2. The monument commemorating the Battle of Chrysler's Farm, November 11, 1813, is a granite obelisk. It is alongside Highway No. 2, a few miles east of Morrisburg. In a discussion with Mr. Rothwell, of the Ontario Hydro Commission, in March, it had been suggested by the latter that it might be possible to raise the area sufficiently to form an island above the eventual high water level, connecting this island by a causeway to the mainland and reconstructing the monument on its present site. After my inspection I do not think that this suggestion is feasible. The causeway would be at least 2,000 feet long; it and the proposed island would be expensive to construct, and comparatively few visitors could be expected at a site so remote from the main highway. It would appear that the monument will have to be relocated some one-half mile north of its original site bordering the reconstructed No. 2 highway.

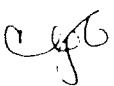
3. If this proposal is adopted, I think that it would be an excellent idea to create a small park, possibly

with an historical museum, interpretative of the battle and local history. Any expenses incurred in the re-locating of this national historic site should be borne by the St. Lawrence Seaway authorities.

4. The cut-stone monument at Mille Roches to commemorate the construction of the Cornwall Canal will have to be moved to a new site, but this will present no difficulties and will only require an additional bronze tablet indicating its original location and the reasons for its relocation.

5. We also visited Sheek Island, which will be completely covered. Confidentially, I am informed that a valuable prehistoric site has been discovered on this island. The archaeology section of the National Museum are aware of this but are extremely anxious to avoid publicity, which might result in unauthorized excavation. This site should certainly be developed if there is a possibility of it being flooded, but I was asked to keep this matter confidential.

6. Although they have not been declared nationally historic, there are many places of great historical interest in this area with which I should like to keep in touch as the project develops, and I shall keep you informed of anything of particular importance.


C. S. Childe,
Superintendent,
Historic Parks
and Sites.