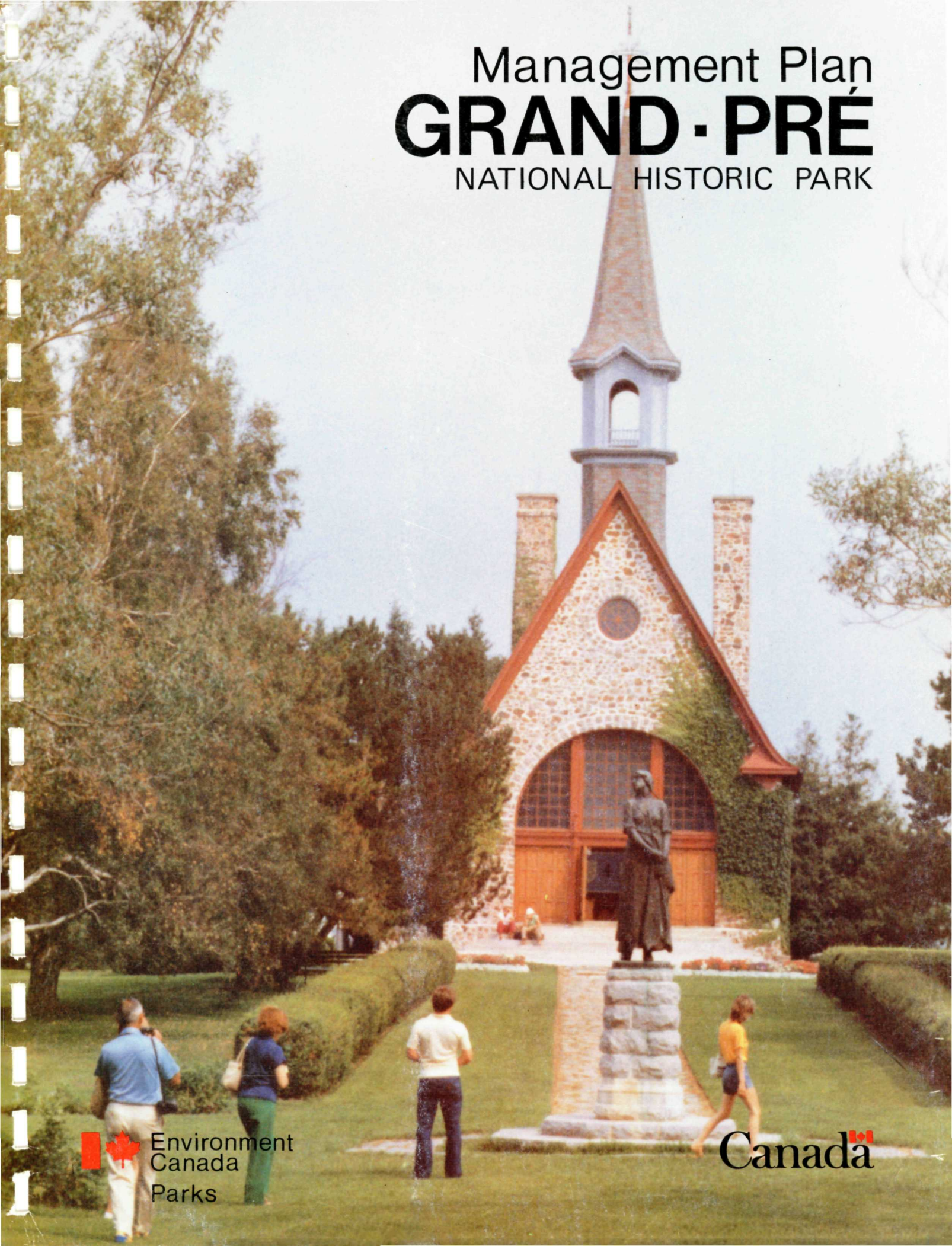


Management Plan

GRAND-PRÉ

NATIONAL HISTORIC PARK



GRAND-PRÉ

NATIONAL HISTORIC PARK

FOREWORD

The Grand-Pré area of Nova Scotia has played a special role in the history of Canada. The historic significance of the area and the events that took place there were formally recognized when Grand-Pré National Historic Park was established in 1961. Surrounded by reclaimed marshlands on the shores of Minas Basin (part of the Bay of Fundy), the park commemorates the Acadian community that evolved in the area between 1682 and 1755 and the subsequent expulsion of the Acadian people.

This management plan describes the purpose and context of Grand-Pré National Historic Park. Themes and objectives are presented, and a development program put forward to guide the manner in which the park will be developed, managed, and enjoyed in order to achieve its objectives. Detailed proposals for the treatment of historical and natural resources, interpretation, visitor services, and park operations are set out. The proposal regarding the memorial church will be completed within the next five years, largely in response to the wishes of the Acadian community. Funding for the other proposals will be allocated as improvements in the national economic situation permit the government to ease its financial restraint program or as sources of non-government funding can be found. The major decisions that have been made are summarized in the plan highlights for quick reference; they are explained in greater detail in the plan.

Parks staff, with the help of interested citizens, organizations and local residents have worked on this project over the last three years. I would like to thank members of the public for their participation and support in the planning process; they helped to formulate and evaluate approaches that led to the final decisions contained in this document.

Grand-Pré National Historic Park is a cherished Canadian site. Its beauty is now protected for all Canadians, in honour of a thriving culture that was tragically banished. This plan indicates how Grand-Pré will be developed, managed and protected for future generations. I am pleased to have this opportunity to share it with all interested Canadians.



The Honourable Tom McMillan, P.C.
M.P. Hillsborough
Minister of the Environment

Management Plan
GRAND-PRÉ
NATIONAL HISTORIC PARK

APPROVED:



for

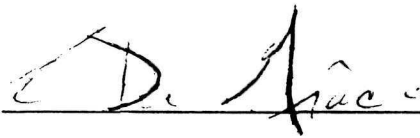
A.T. Davidson
Assistant Deputy Minister



W. Turnbull
Director, Atlantic Region



H. MacLellan
Acting Area Superintendent



C. DeGrâce
Park Superintendent

ENVIRONMENT CANADA
PARKS
APRIL 1985

PLAN HIGHLIGHTS

1. INTERPRETIVE SALES OUTLET

A sales outlet will directly complement Parks' other efforts to interpret the Acadian history of Grand-Pré to Canadians.

2. ORIENTATION AND CULTURAL EXPRESSION

An outdoor orientation exhibit and a pavilion will provide an overview of the park facilities and stories for individual visitors and tour groups. The pavilion will also serve as a stage for special cultural events and performances.

3. ACCESS AND CIRCULATION

A formal pedestrian walkway system will facilitate traffic flow through the ornamental gardens.

4. OUTDOOR INTERPRETIVE EXHIBITS

The memorial atmosphere of the park will be preserved and the ornamental gardens enhanced through the installation of four interpretive islands, among other measures.

5. MEMORIAL CHURCH

Changes in the ground floor of the memorial church will create a commemorative atmosphere and provide for appropriate interpretation of one of the major themes, the expulsion of the Acadians. The basement will be used for supplementary interpretation of other stories.

6. AUDIO-VISUAL THEATRE

This new facility to be located west of the memorial church will provide a dramatic interpretive program accenting the human dimension of the other major theme, the evolution of the Acadian community in the Minas Basin area prior to the expulsion.

7. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH

A long-term archaeological research program will survey the park and investigate features identified initially. This work will provide information and material for the park's interpretation program as well as identify and therefore permit the protection of the pre-expulsion cemetery and other historic resources.

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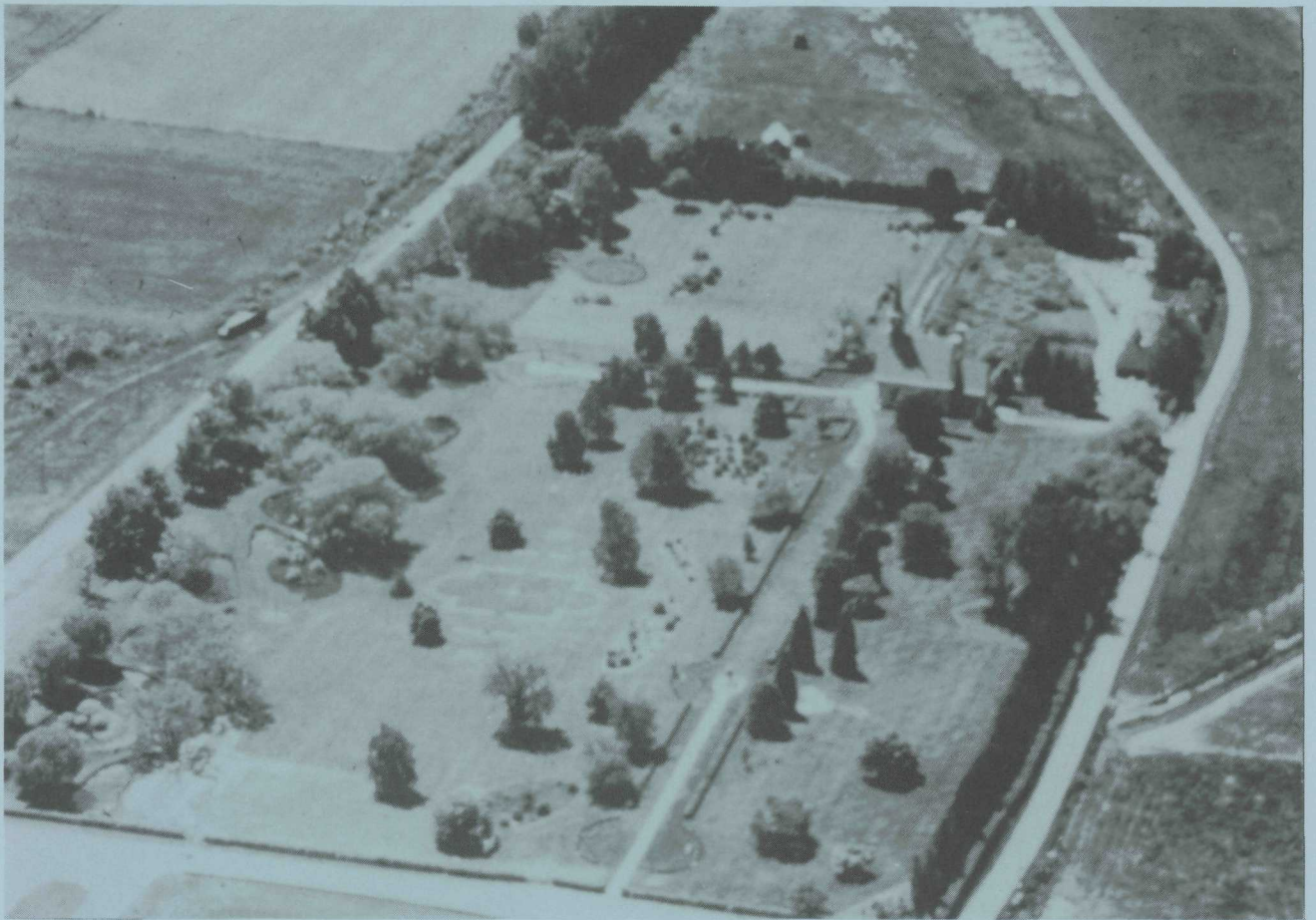
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introduction



AERIAL VIEW OF THE PARK

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Purpose of the Management Plan

This management plan establishes a comprehensive framework for the long-term protection, interpretation and use of Grand-Pré National Historic Park. The plan is an expression of Parks' policies for this specific park. It contains information on the historical themes to be presented, the park objectives to be achieved over time, strategies for protecting and interpreting important historic and archaeological resources, and the programs and facilities to be provided for visitor understanding and enjoyment. The plan describes the special nature of the park, why changes are necessary, and what changes will be made.

This management plan will be subject to periodic review in case new information or changing circumstances suggest a need for revisions. If significant revisions are being considered, then the involvement of the public, including Acadian and local communities, will be sought.

1.2 The Purpose of the Park

Since the arrival of the first settlers from Port-Royal, more than three centuries ago, which was to lead to the establishment of a prosperous agricultural economy, the Grand-Pré area has become the revered focal point of a strong and lasting affection in the hearts of the close to 3 million Acadians now living in North America. This feeling is supported by the area's historical association with more than 70 years of flourishing cultural activities abruptly interrupted by the Acadian people's saddest and most heroic moments, that being the expulsion from their beloved dykelands. This same love for the ancestral homeland and its brave founders was the driving force behind the initial development of a memorial park to the Acadians.



A PAINTING OF "OLD ACADIA" by DUSAN KADLEC

John Frederic Herbin erected a stone cross on the grounds in about 1909 to mark what he believed to be the old Acadian graveyard. In 1917, he deeded the property to the Dominion Atlantic Railway Company, which capitalized on the tourist appeal of the "Land of Evangeline", on the condition that the assumed site of the old church of St-Charles be given to the Acadians for the construction of a memorial. The statue of Evangeline, the heroine of Longfellow's poem, was commissioned by the railway company and unveiled in 1920 while the memorial church, built by La Société Nationale l'Assomption, was dedicated in 1922. Grand-Pré provided a focus for Acadian patriotism and consciousness during the 1920's and still generates the same emotions in the minds of Acadians in the 1980's.

The Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada considered Grand-Pré in May, 1955, and stated "that in the opinion of the Board the Grand-Pré Memorial Park possesses historical features which would make it eminently suitable as a National Historic Park."

La Société Nationale l'Assomption signed a sale contract with officials from Ottawa in 1956, outlining specific conditions to perpetuate the special character of the park when it agreed to sell the memorial church and its site. The surrounding property owned by the Dominion Atlantic Railway Company was also acquired at the same time by the federal government as part of the overall transfer agreement.

The purpose of Grand-Pré National Historic Park is then to commemorate the Acadians of the Minas Basin and the expulsion of the Acadians from their ancestral homeland; to protect for all time the memorial landmarks, cultural resources, ornamental gardens and physical environment that make up the special atmosphere and nature of the park; and to encourage public understanding, appreciation and enjoyment of the Acadian historical heritage through appropriate visitor facilities and services and the continued use of the park for cultural events and patriotic celebrations.

1.3 Park Themes

Themes are statements of those aspects of a place's history which are of national significance. Themes are established early in the planning process of a national historic park in order to help define its historic rationale and national context. With this information, research and planning efforts can be concentrated on the important aspects of a park's history and resources.

Themes for Grand-Pré National Historic Park were established in the Themes and Objectives statement which was prepared by the Atlantic Regional Office and approved by Program Headquarters in October, 1980. These themes and objectives were included in a newsletter for the first public discussions held in the winter of 1982.

Comments indicated the public's dissatisfaction with one of the major themes, "the expulsion and subsequent resettlement of the area" and its current interpretation in the memorial church. Most of the Acadian and local people felt that the Acadian and Planter cultures should not be mixed in a "sanctuary" designed to create a reflective and commemorative atmosphere to recall the story of the deported Acadians. The conditions of the sale contract signed in 1956 between the Federal Government and La Société Nationale l'Assomption formed the basis for the Acadian community's opposition to the "bi-cultural" theme. These conditions pertained mainly to the historic significance of the park, the memorial character of the church and objects to be displayed such as the statue of Notre-Dame de l'Assomption and the Acadian flag.

Based on these comments, Parks asked the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada, which advises the Minister responsible for Parks, to clarify the park's national historic significance and appropriate commemoration of the park themes.

The Board recommended that:

Grand-Pré National Historic Park is of national significance by virtue of the fact that the area was a centre of Acadian activity from 1682 through to the expulsion and that there remains, to this day, a strong attachment among Acadians to this, the heart of their ancestral homeland.

The Board also recommended that:

the interpretive program at the park deal exclusively with the life of the Acadian community in the Minas Basin up to the expulsion and be supported through additional historical and archaeological research, as required.

Concerning the Planters (Pre-Loyalists), the Board recommended:

additional local commemoration of the pre-Loyalists, beyond the plaque at Horton's Landing, was appropriate and that the Atlantic Region (Parks) should, as resources permit, investigate such options as placing a commemorative exhibit in a suitable historic structure through a cooperative agreement.

The Minister approved the above recommendations and Parks revised the themes as follows:

Major: The evolution of the Acadian community in the Minas Basin area, 1682-1755.

Major: The expulsion.

Sub-Theme: Evangeline/romantic literature.

Minor: The place of the park's origin in the evolution of an Acadian consciousness in the 20th century.

Parks officials are currently conducting a site selection study for the commemoration of the Planters and have already met with a number of interested individuals and groups. Several sites in the local area are now under evaluation.

1.4 Park Objectives

While the themes focus on the historic significance of persons, places and events, the objectives are an expression of management intent and provide direction for the protection of historic resources, for interpretation of the themes, and for visitor use. The objectives for Grand-Pré National Historic Park are:

1. To identify and evaluate the park's resources and ensure protection of significant resources.
2. To provide appropriate interpretation of the approved themes.
3. To provide for visitor use opportunities oriented to the historic resources of the site, with the preservation of the memorial atmosphere as expressed by the existing park.

park context and resource analysis



DEDICATION OF MEMORIAL CHURCH, August 16, 1922
Source: Centre for Acadian Studies, University of Moncton, N.B.

2. PARK CONTEXT AND RESOURCE ANALYSIS

2.1 Historical Context

The Grand-Pré area is an integral part of Acadian history. For more than 70 years, between the 1680s and 1755, Acadians dyked and farmed the marshlands of Minas, which grew to be the largest population center of Acadia/Nova Scotia. In 1755 the Acadians were deported from their homes in Acadia, an event immortalized at Grand-Pré by Longfellow's *Evangeline*. Acadians living in the Maritimes during the 1920s played a major role in developing the memorial park, now Grand-Pré National Historic Park, at Grand-Pré.

2.1.1 Acadian Settlement at Minas

Pierre Melanson, Pierre Terriot and their families left Port-Royal in the early 1680s to settle in the Minas Basin area. Through further migration and natural increase, Minas became the largest of the three main areas of Acadian settlement by 1700. Acadian communities were scattered along the marshlands of the basin and its rivers. The principal village was Grand-Pré which stretched along the upland bordering the marshland between present-day Wolfville and Hortonville.

The fertile salt marshes of the Minas area made the region the granary of Acadia. Acadian



ACADIANS BUILDING A DYKE ON THE GRAND-PRÉ MARSH

Painting by: LEWIS PARKER

dykes reclaimed the marshes which were then planted with grain. In addition, the Acadians planted orchards and vegetable gardens and raised livestock. Surplus agricultural goods, especially grain, were traded down the Bay of Fundy to neighbouring French and British colonies for goods otherwise unavailable to the Acadians.

During the years of warfare between France and England in the late 17th and early 18th centuries, Minas developed with little disruption, except for one devastating attack. In 1704 Benjamin Church's expedition from New England attacked the Minas communities, wreaking great havoc.

The Minas Acadians, like the majority of Acadians, decided to remain in Acadia when the Treaty of Utrecht ceded the colony to Great Britain in 1713. They adopted a position of neutrality and, over the next few decades, consistently refused to take an unqualified oath of allegiance to the British crown. When hostilities between England and France resumed, the Acadians remained neutral.

During the War of the Austrian Succession, the Minas Acadians played reluctant host to the military. Three expeditions against Annapolis Royal from neighbouring French colonies made camp at Minas between 1744 and 1746. Approximately 500 New England auxiliary troops from Annapolis Royal stayed at Grand-Pré in the early winter of 1746-47, en route to Chignecto where they planned to attack the de Ramesay expedition.

De Ramesay's men attacked and defeated the New Englanders at Grand-Pré during the early hours of 11 February 1747. The British later reaffirmed sovereignty and, in 1749, established a small post at Grand-Pré which they garrisoned until 1754.

By 1750 an estimated 2,450 Acadians were living in Minas, exclusive of Pisiquid and Cobequid, with estimated populations of 1500 and 900, respectively, which had developed to such an extent by the early 18th century that they were considered separate districts. Grand-Pré was the largest settlement, with an estimated 1,350 residents.

2.1.2 Expulsion

In 1755 Governor Charles Lawrence and the council of Nova Scotia, demanded an unqualified oath of allegiance from the Acadian deputies representing the Annapolis Royal and Minas areas, and, when they refused, ordered the expulsion of all Acadians from Nova Scotia. The military force for this undertaking was to be supplied by 2000 New England troops who had been raised for the capture of Fort Beauséjour and by the regular British troops serving in Nova Scotia.

Lieutenant Colonel John Winslow of Massachusetts was placed in charge of the deportation in the Grand-Pré area. Troops came to Grand-Pré in late August and remained until late December, making their camp in the area around the church of St. Charles. Men and boys of 10 and over heard the deportation order in the church on 5 September and were held prisoner there until they were placed aboard transport vessels. Approximately 2,200 men, women and children were uprooted from the Grand-Pré area and at least 700 buildings destroyed.

The commanding officers of the British forts at Pisiquid (Windsor, N.S.), Annapolis Royal and Chignecto oversaw the deportation from the other areas of Acadia. Not all Acadians were taken; many were able to elude capture, particularly in the more remote areas.

Approximately 6000 Acadians were placed on transport vessels bound for Massachusetts, Maryland, Pennsylvania, New York, Connecticut, Georgia, Virginia, North Carolina and South Carolina. In Virginia, the exiles were not permitted to land and were re-routed to England. In many cases, the Acadians' travels had only begun.



EXPULSION OF THE ACADIANS, 1755 (hooked tapestry) ; Jocelyne Doiron and the
Coopérative artisanale de Chéticamp, Nova Scotia

It is estimated that a total of 10,000 Acadians were deported between 1755 and 1764, when they were permitted to own land in Nova Scotia once again. The deportation order remained in force during the Seven Years War (1756-1763) and each year, more Acadians were taken prisoner and removed.

2.1.3 Evangeline

Although Acadians were removed from their homes throughout Acadia, Grand-Pré has become most strongly identified with the expulsion as a result of the publication of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's romantic poem *Evangeline* in 1847. *Evangeline* told the story of Evangeline Bellefontaine and Gabriel LaJeunesse, two young Acadians of Grand-Pré separated on their wedding day by the deportation. Longfellow's sympathetic and romantic rendering not only reawakened public awareness of the deportation story in English-speaking readers but also contributed to the growing spirit of nationalism among Acadians in the late 19th century.

2.1.4 Grand-Pré Park

Grand-Pré Park began as a memorial to the deported Acadians. John Frederic Herbin, a local historian, poet, jeweller and a descendant of the Acadians (on his mother's side), purchased the property in 1907 with the intention of developing an Acadian memorial park. Herbin erected a stone cross to mark the cemetery of the Acadian church of St. Charles. In 1917 he sold the park to the Dominion Atlantic Railway Company, with the stipulation that the site of the Acadian church would be given to the Acadian people for the construction of a memorial.

The Dominion Atlantic Railway Company landscaped the grounds at Grand-Pré and drew on the Evangeline story to attract visitors to the park. In 1920 the company unveiled the statue of Evangeline.

Acadian efforts at Grand-Pré in the 1920s commemorated their history and, at the same time, incorporated Acadian national symbols which had been adopted during the national conventions of the 1880s. The Société Nationale l'Assomption took possession of the church site in 1919 and constructed the memorial church in 1922, financed by a public subscription campaign among Acadians and Acadian descendants throughout North America. In 1923 the Acadians placed a statue of their patron saint in the memorial church. They also displayed the Acadian flag in the building. Ceremonies surrounding these contributions and other events at Grand-Pré usually took place in mid-August, as close as possible to the Acadian feast day. Grand-Pré Park provided a focus for the Acadian Renaissance during the 1920s and remains a special site for Acadians today.

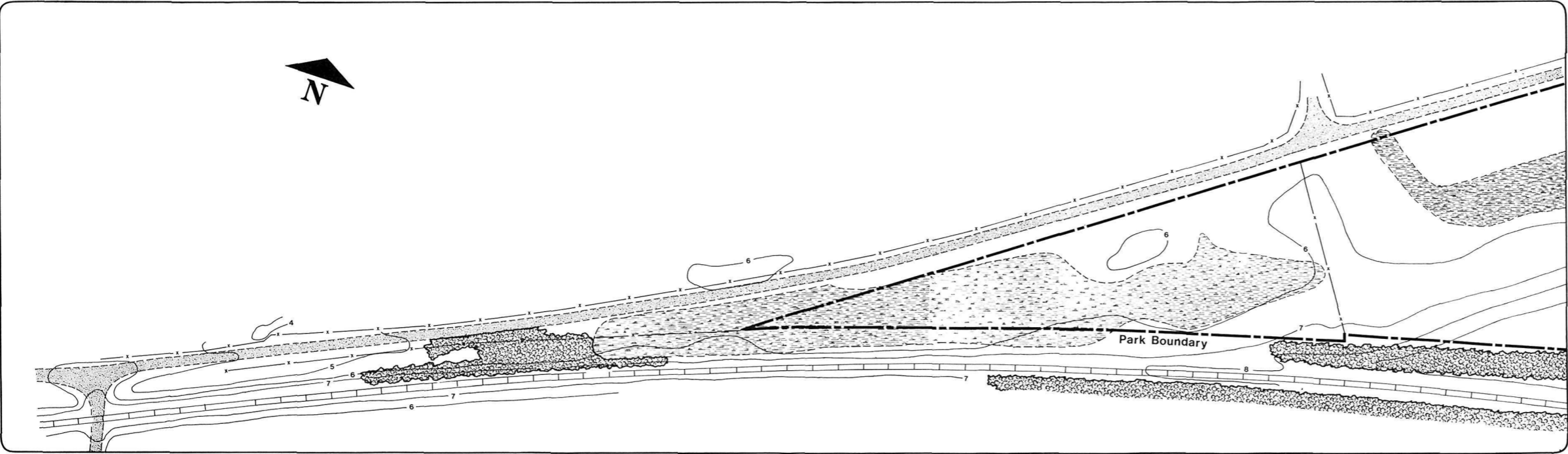
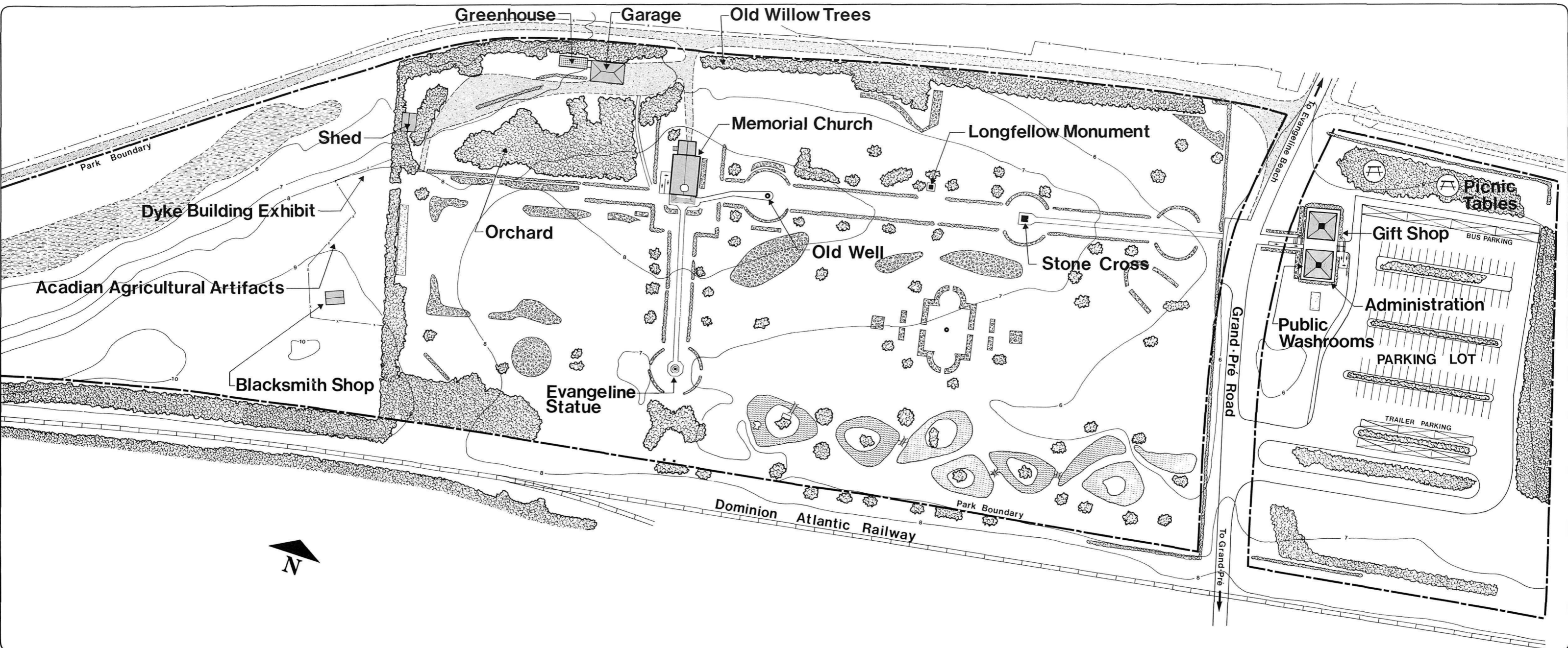
The federal government acquired the park in 1957 and declared it a national historic park in 1961.

2.2 Existing Development

The park consists of about 11 hectares (27 acres) of relatively flat land and is bounded by agricultural marshlands to the north, east, and west and by a railway line to the south. The Grand-Pré road to Evangeline Beach separates the parking, visitor and administrative facilities from the ornamental gardens.

Picnic tables are placed among trees north of the paved parking lot. The lot holds 106 cars and 4-10 campers/tour buses. A gift shop (operated on a concession basis), an information counter with two interpretive exhibits, public washrooms and park offices are all located in the building complex next to the parking lot. The gift shop is a popular service, especially with bus tours, and provides a variety of souvenirs from Nova Scotia and some imported goods.

On the other side of the Grand-Pré road are the ornamental gardens designed by a Montreal architectural firm working under contract to the Dominion Atlantic Railway Company from a concept originally conceived by John Frederic Herbin. For six decades the Grand-Pré gardens have been an attraction in themselves, quite separate from the historical theme they memorialize. Despite this unbroken popularity, it is interesting to note that the gardens have changed over the years. The most significant change occurred when the main park entrance was shifted from directly in front of the Evangeline statue to its current location. This alteration was necessitated by the demise of the Grand-Pré train station and the advent of automobile travel. Nonetheless, the gardens continue to offer a rare form of passive recreational experience to park users.



GRAND-PRÉ

NATIONAL HISTORIC PARK
Existing Development

- Trees
- Flower Beds
- Hedges

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The park currently has stone paths linking the entrance of the ornamental gardens to the stone cross marking the old Acadian cemetery, the old well to the memorial church, and the Evangeline statue to the memorial church. Access to the rest of the park is done on grass through a variety of possible routes in the ornamental gardens as visitors choose which particular facility or feature they wish to view.

A monument to Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, a donation from the Government of Nova Scotia in 1955, stands to the side of the grassed path leading on to the memorial church.

The memorial church was built between 1922 and 1930 from donations by descendants of deported Acadians throughout North America. It was built with local stone in a style which recalls the French origin of the Acadian settlers. The memorial church was intended to be used as an Acadian museum, art gallery and/or library and therefore was never consecrated. The memorial church houses an exhibit that has not changed much since 1961. The park's reserve collection of artifacts and a variety of other material are currently stored in the basement of the memorial church. Access to the area is restricted to park staff.

The bronze statue of Evangeline, designed by noted Canadian sculptor, Philippe Hébert, and completed by his son, Henri, was commissioned by the Dominion Atlantic Railway Company and erected in 1920 at the park entrance then located near the train station. The statue and the memorial church have become the symbol of the park and one of the major landmarks in the Annapolis Valley.

A stand of old French willows (*Salix Alba*) behind the memorial church is reputed to have been planted during the Acadian period.

The apple orchard located west of the memorial church constitutes an interesting link with the past since the Acadians were the first to develop orchards in this part of the province.

The park's maintenance garage and greenhouse are located north of the orchard.

The western section of the park, overlooking the dykelands and completely screened from the ornamental gardens, contains three other on-site exhibits.

Analysis of Existing Development

1. Gift Shop — The future of the gift shop needs to be reviewed in light of its current popularity and its potential in the overall visitor experience.
2. Park Administration Building — Part of the building is used to serve a minor reception/information function and this creates serious space constraints on both visitors and park staff.
3. Grand-Pré Road Crossing — Visitor safety needs to be improved through additional measures.
4. Ornamental Gardens — All three stone paths providing for circulation in the gardens have an uneven surface. This makes walking or pushing a wheelchair awkward and sometimes dangerous especially for senior or handicapped citizens. Dew-drenched grass is also causing a visitor safety and convenience problem. The full impact of the original entrance perspective with the Evangeline statue and the memorial church in the background has been lost in the current visitor circulation pattern through the ornamental gardens.

5. Memorial Church — The broken factory glass panes above the entrance door create a negative visual impact on a building designed to commemorate the expulsion. The current use of the memorial church's interior should be reviewed in light of its intended purpose as referenced in the sale contract and the aesthetic qualities of the structure's original design. The basement could have potential for better uses.

2.3 Current Interpretive Resources

Visitors to Grand-Pré National Historic Park gain an understanding, appreciation and enjoyment of the park's historical heritage through a variety of interpretive resources used in conjunction with existing facilities. A park brochure provides the historical context and outlines the various steps in the development of the park. The park's interpretive staff also provide virtually all bus tour groups and 15-20 percent of individual visitors with a guided tour to interpret the various facilities found on the park grounds and supplement the interpretation of the major themes. Visitor reception and orientation and general information functions are also performed by the park guides. A more detailed description of the exhibits and features previously mentioned will now follow.

A large demographic map of the Maritime region showing the distribution of the French-speaking population and the location of major Acadian-related sites, and a model of de Ramesay's attack on New Englanders at Grand-Pré in 1747 are located in the administrative building, next to the information counter.

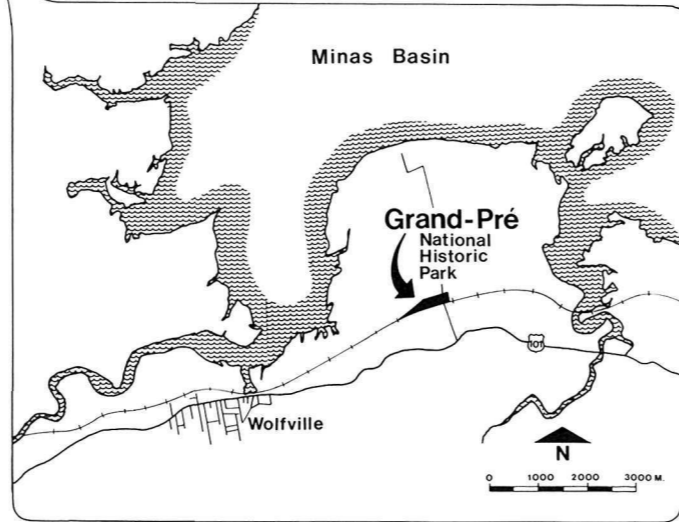
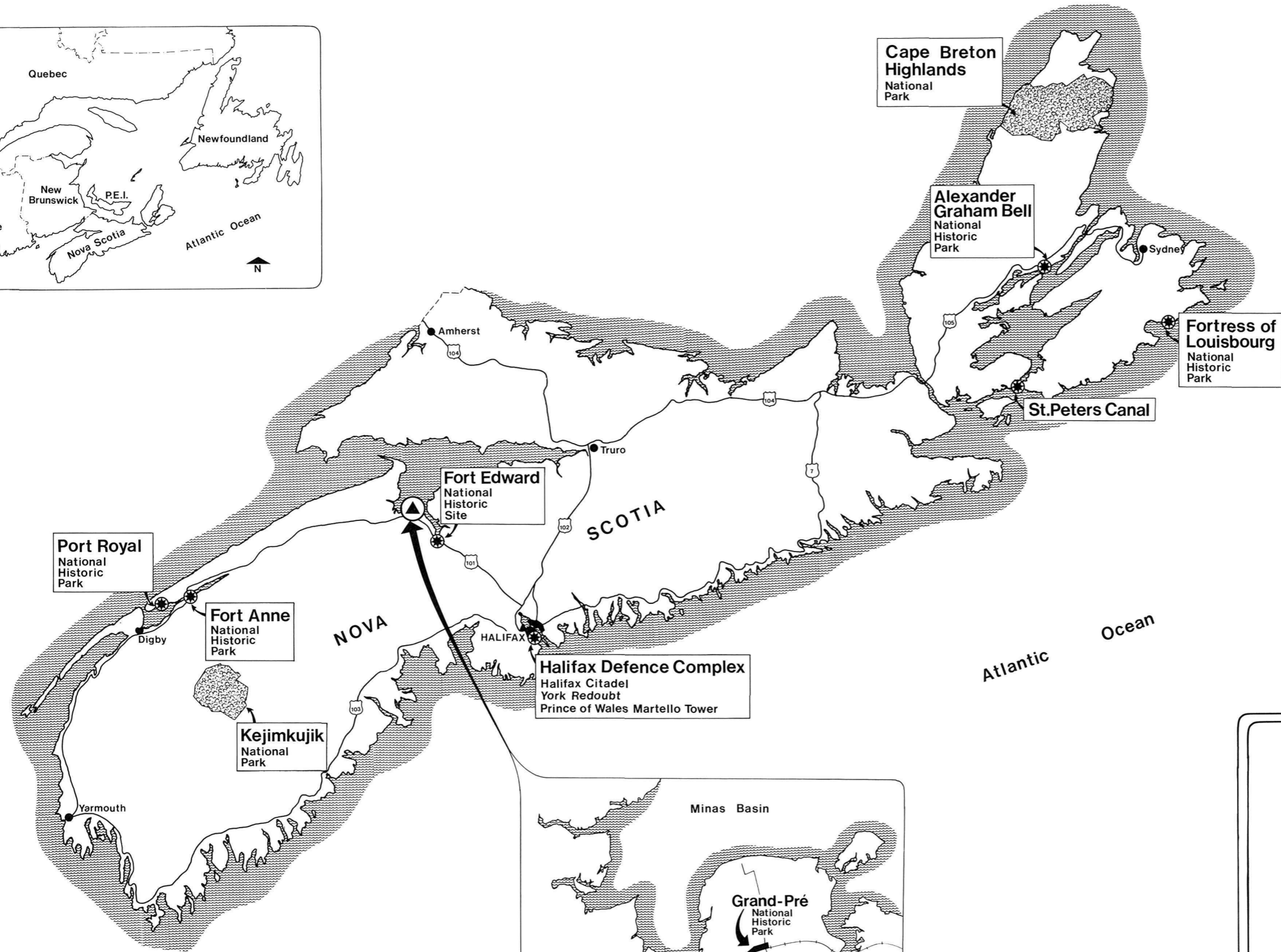
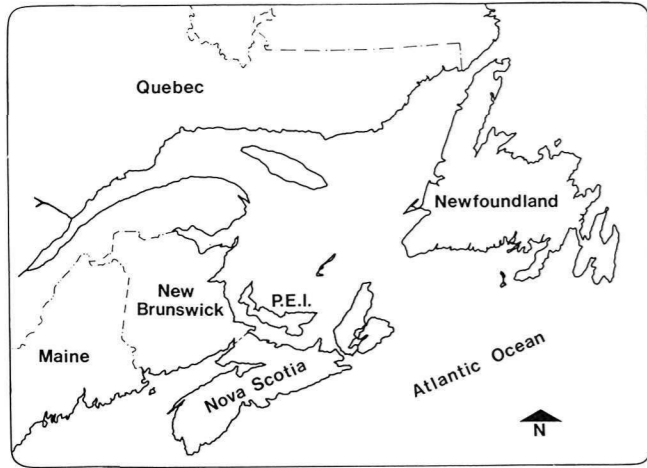
John Frederic Herbin erected a cross in about 1909 using stones from the remains of what he believed to be Acadian foundations to mark the cemetery of the church of St. Charles. In 1925, after Herbin's death, the Acadian community placed two plaques on the cross to commemorate his work. An archaeological excavation by Parks, as part of the restoration and stabilization of the cross in the summer of 1982, uncovered evidence of at least four burials here. This confirmed Herbin's claim and the interpretive value of his cross.

The interior of the memorial church underwent significant alteration in the early 1960's to accommodate the installation of the major portion of the current fixed-flow exhibit. The exhibit employs graphics and artifacts to tell the story of Acadia's development, the 1755 deportation, the resettlement of the Acadian farmland by the Planters, and the contribution of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's *Evangeline* to the immortalization of the Acadian story. In the late 1790's, a tapestry interpreting Acadian flax harvesting was added to the exhibit. Information panels on the same theme were installed shortly thereafter. The statue of Notre-Dame de l'Assomption, patron saint of the Acadians, which was commissioned and placed in the memorial church in 1923 by "la Société Mutuelle l'Assomption" and the memorial church committee, is made of Carrara marble and is located at the front in a quasi-chapel, flanked by a few display cases of Acadian-related artifacts.

The western section of the park contains three on-site exhibits: the blacksmith shop acquired in 1968 from the French shore area, Yarmouth County, and believed to be over 150 years old; the Acadian agricultural artifacts, farming equipment (original and reproduced) of the eighteenth and nineteenth century; and an outdoor exhibit interpreting Acadian dyke construction techniques.

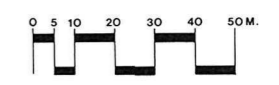
Analysis of Current Interpretive Resources

Appropriate thematic interpretation could be described as Grand-Pré's basic problem as it relates to the following resources:



GRAND-PRÉ NATIONAL HISTORIC PARK Regional Setting

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Planning



1. Interpretive Staff — the existing park interpretation program places heavy emphasis on the guide service. There is no other interpretive medium that exploits the resources and facilities found on the park grounds; not to mention the guide service's role in reception and orientation. The guides also have to make up for the lack of interpretive material on the first major theme, the evolution of the Acadian community in the Minas Basin area from 1682 to 1755. There are not enough guides to interpret the diversity of park themes. Therefore, more attention will have to be placed on other interpretive media in future given the current restraint period.
2. Ornamental Gardens — The gardens are a very popular resource of the park and should be used accordingly to improve the visitor experience. The quiet, restful atmosphere created by the well-maintained grounds is an excellent setting for park interpretation.
3. Memorial Church — The current exhibit located on the ground floor does not capitalize on the imposing spatial qualities of the memorial church. It cuts up the floor area in such a way that the visitor has no opportunity to enjoy the high vaulted ceiling and attractive arched windows. The installation of the exhibit deprived the church of the opportunity to serve as a memorial; rather, it has turned the building into an uninspiring exhibit hall. The exhibit itself relies on maps as its prime graphic tool and this does not contribute to creating an effective commemoration of the expulsion story. Given the direction received from the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada and the subsequently revised themes for the park, the interpretation of the Planters in the memorial church is inappropriate.

Originally, the statue of Notre-Dame de l'Assomption was displayed on a cut-stone pedestal in the main body of the church. Since the statue represents the patron saint of the Acadians, it deserves greater prominence than it is given at present. Moreover, the statue is a work of considerable beauty and it could play a more effective interpretive role were it displayed properly.

The basement space is currently not well used. The place has potential, because of its central location in the park, to serve a visitor-related function and provide much-needed office space.

4. Blacksmith Shop — The building does not relate to the Minas Basin area and is not within the time frame of the park's major themes. The shop is a popular feature in the park; however, its future interpretive use should be examined in light of this fact.

2.4 Regional Setting and Land Use Planning

Grand-Pré National Historic Park is located 100 kilometers north-west of Halifax, off Highway No. 101 and near the town of Wolfville, at the eastern entrance of the Annapolis Valley. This highway is used by tourists arriving in Nova Scotia by ferry at Yarmouth (from Maine) or at Digby (from New Brunswick). The park is surrounded by reclaimed marshlands stretching to the shores of Minas Basin (part of the Bay of Fundy) and offers scenic views of Cape Blomidon, an impressive cuesta escarpment, and the pastoral countryside.

Two documents were reviewed in order to assess regional land uses and their possible effects on the park in the future: the *Grand-Pré Hortonville Draft Plan* (1973) which was later incorporated in the *County of Kings Municipal Development Plan* (1978).

Analysis of Regional Setting and Land Use Planning

The park's strategic location offers good potential for continued increase in visitor attendance.

The Grand-Pré area is not expected to experience significant urban development in the years ahead; due to the Municipal Development Plan designations of Country Residential District, and Agricultural District, the future land uses in the Grand-Pré area will follow those currently being practiced (farming and small-scale forestry); and development of the marshlands other than for agricultural purposes is unlikely due to their unique ecological and historical value and would be subject to Federal-Provincial agreement.

2.5 Park Visitors

2.5.1 Visitor Profile

A visitor survey for historic parks in Southwestern Nova Scotia conducted in 1978 revealed that 37% of visitors to Grand-Pré were from the United States, 29% from Nova Scotia, 10% from Ontario, 8% from other Atlantic provinces (mainly New Brunswick) and 16% from elsewhere.

About 75% of the Grand-Pré visitors surveyed had planned in advance to visit the park. Most had learned of the park through the school system, tourist literature, or conversations with people who knew the park.

Sixty-five percent of the visitors to Grand-Pré were there for the first time. The remaining 35% averaged 5 visits in the last five years.

Twenty-eight percent of Grand-Pré visitors were with a bus tour. About 73% of bus tour visitors were American meaning that one out of every five visitors to Grand-Pré is an American on a bus tour and that more than 50% of Americans come to the park on a bus tour.

The great majority, 78%, were on extended trips from home (3 or more days) while 18% were on day trips (the remainder being on week-end or two-day trips).

2.5.2 Visitor Use Patterns

The 1978 survey indicated that about half of those interviewed had spent 30-60 minutes touring the park. Fourteen percent stayed less than 30 minutes while 33% spent from 60-180 minutes on-site. The average length of stay was 56 minutes. The following is a breakdown of how they spent their time while at the park:

- 12.6% of visitors surveyed had toured the park with a guide
- 92.8% had visited the memorial church
- 94.4% had toured the ornamental gardens
- 61.1% visited the blacksmith shop
- 72.9% visited the gift shop
- 6.4% only used the picnic facilities next to the parking lot

Among those surveyed in 1978, the most common visitor flow pattern within the park was: the memorial church, the ornamental gardens, the blacksmith shop, the gift shop. The second most common pattern was: the memorial church, the blacksmith shop, the ornamental gardens, the gift shop.

2.5.3 Visitor Trends and Projections

A study in 1983 on estimates of visits and facility usage provided the following findings:

In the ten years from 1973 to 1982, the total number of visitors to Grand-Pré increased by approximately 55% overall (from 82,437 to 128,263). Peak season growth has been less dramatic increasing approximately 18% since 1973 (from 57,039 to 67,460), whereas the shoulder season experienced a phenomenal growth of nearly 140% (from 25,398 to 60,803). Under the assumption that present trends will continue into the future, it is projected that total visits in 1995 should reach levels around 175,000 for the entire operating season or an increase of approximately 38% from 1982 levels. It is also expected that about 1,500 groups will be visiting the park during the 1995 operating season.

Total number of visitors in the park showed a first and largest peak occurring around 9 a.m. and a second but smaller peak at 3 p.m. Hourly group visitor arrivals for the Sundays in July and August of 1982 indicated that the heaviest loading of group visitors was in the 9 to 10 a.m. period followed by the next heaviest loading in the 2 to 3 p.m. period.

Estimated minimum parking requirements in 1995 for an average Sunday's peak hour would be 95 parking spaces. 1982 group arrival times revealed that the current 10 bus parking spaces were able to accommodate the peak loadings.

Analysis

Projections of peak loadings both in terms of total number of visitors and number of groups arriving simultaneously are useful planning guidelines. These figures can be used to determine loading demand on facilities and the unequal surging of numbers during peak hours caused by group arrivals. With this information in hand, it is then possible to calculate the size required for specific user facilities. The parking lot for example will not need to be increased in size.

development concept



OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE MEMORIAL CHURCH IN AUGUST 1930 MARKING THE 175th.
ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEPORTATION
Source: Centre for Acadian studies, University of Moncton, N.B.

3. DEVELOPMENT CONCEPT

3.1 Planning Process and Public Participation

Preparation of the development concept started with the collection of information on history, archaeology, interpretation, visitor use, existing resources and operational needs. This included comments from the public on the themes and objectives and the current interpretation program and visitor services and facilities at the park. The analysis of all this information led to the revision of the themes, the recognition of Grand-Pré's special qualities and features and the identification of a series of public concerns and management problems to be addressed.

The park's unique character was seen in terms of its national historical and emotional significance as an Acadian heritage site, its integral part in the local culture for sixty years, its commemorative nature as expressed by the reflective atmosphere of the ornamental gardens and by landmarks such as the stone cross, the Evangeline statue, the memorial church and the statue of Notre-Dame de l'Assomption, its peaceful natural environment, and its popular association with the fictitious story of Evangeline.

Some of the key public concerns included:

- Grand-Pré should be a commemorative park to the Acadians, consistent with the agreement by which the memorial church and the land were transferred/sold to the federal government.
- More emphasis should be placed on the Acadian lifestyle during the pre-expulsion and expulsion periods.
- The gift shop should continue to be operated at its current location but should offer appropriate material related to the park.
- The ornamental gardens should be kept in their present condition.
- A reception and orientation facility should be built, but its architectural style should not detract from the ornamental gardens.
- The existing pathways should have a better surface and cover more of the ornamental gardens.
- More emphasis should be placed on visual material to better illustrate the Acadian lifestyle and story.
- The memorial church should not be used for exhibit space on various cultures and stories, but should be used to create a commemorative atmosphere to the memory of the deported Acadians. Displays and information should be presented elsewhere in the park, possibly in the basement of the memorial church.
- An audio-visual presentation on the life of pre-1755 Acadians should be given in a suitable structure.

Other problems identified by park management were:

- The nature of the interpretive material related to the Acadian pre-expulsion story limits the options for effective interpretation of this major theme.
- There are no facilities to provide orientation to the park grounds for all visitors.
- The current exhibits located in the memorial church distract from the meditative atmosphere and the strong architectural qualities of the interior.
- The park receives an unusually large number of bus tours, often arriving simultaneously at peak periods.

A proposed concept was then prepared to address all these factors and many other specific suggestions received from the public. It aimed at providing a reception/orientation facility for park visitors, enhancing the commemorative, natural and interpretive qualities of the

memorial gardens, enhancing the commemorative qualities of the memorial church and developing a dramatic interpretive program to accent the human dimension of the park's revised themes. The concept proposed to meet these objectives through the following basic elements:

- the construction of outdoor orientation facilities;
- the development of an extensive pedestrian walkway system;
- the installation of four outdoor interpretive exhibits and an audio-visual theatre;
- changes in the interior of the memorial church to create a commemorative atmosphere and provide for interpretation;
- the implementation of a long-term archaeological research program.

Public comments were generally supportive of the proposed concept. The concept was seen to be respectful of the special nature of Grand-Pré National Historic Park and effective in fulfilling the park's themes and objectives. Many specific suggestions were basically variations of the concept and refinements of the proposals.

Parks received:

- public support on the revised themes;
- suggestions on interpretive material and techniques that could be used to implement the various concept proposals;
- other alternatives for the layout of the pedestrian walkway and the content and order of the interpretive exhibits;
- unanimous public support on the creation of a commemorative atmosphere for the interpretation of the expulsion story in the memorial church;
- suggestions as to a more convenient and extensive use of the audio-visual theatre.

Public comments were then increasing in level of detail in parallel with the progress in the preparation of the development concept.

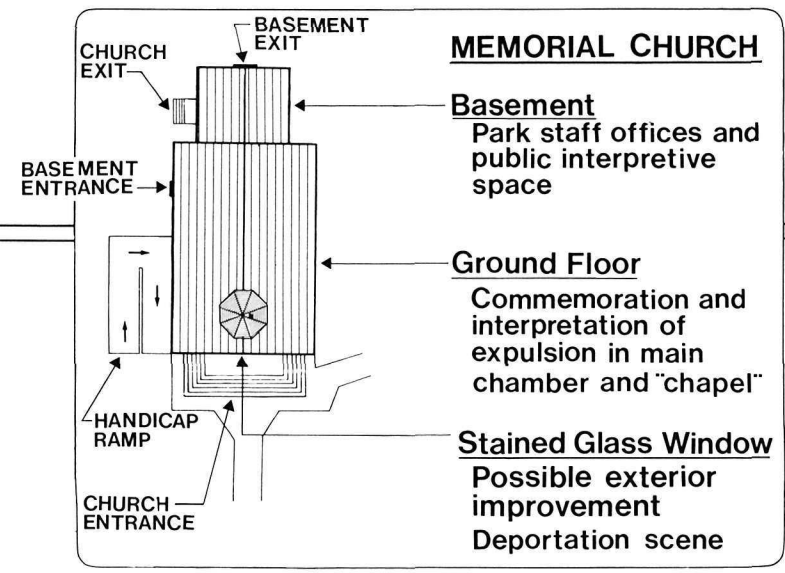
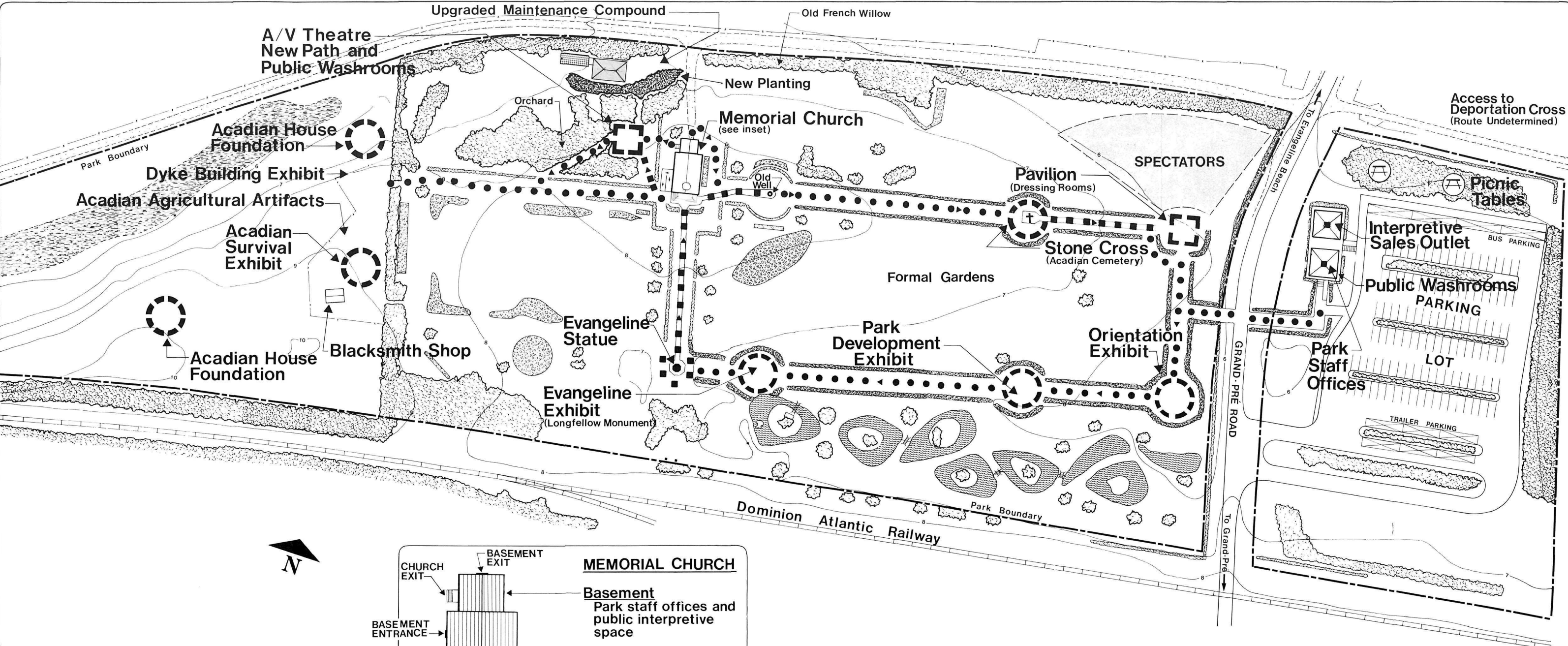
After carefully studying the many specific suggestions received from the public on the concept, Parks was able to build on its proposals and produce a development concept resulting in an enhanced visitor experience. This new visitor experience is summarized in the following section.

3.2 Visitor Experience

After leaving their vehicle at the parking lot in the entrance area located off Grand-Pré Road, visitors to Grand-Pré National Historic Park will find in the adjacent building complex an interpretive sales outlet, a small outdoor information booth, public washrooms and park staff offices.

After entering the new pedestrian walkway system across Grand-Pré Road, visitors will then start their self-guided tour at the orientation exhibit with an overview of the park's facilities. Tour groups will be directed to the pavilion for orientation. The pavilion is also designed to serve as a stage for cultural events. All visitors will then come to an exhibit interpreting the place of the park's origins in the evolution of an Acadian consciousness in the 20th century. The third interpretive island will be found prior to the Evangeline statue and will be devoted to the park's sub-theme — Evangeline/romantic literature.

Visitors will then be able to enjoy the original entrance perspective, looking at the Evangeline statue and the memorial church in the background. Approaching the memorial church, visitors will notice a stained glass window depicting a deportation scene above the front doors.



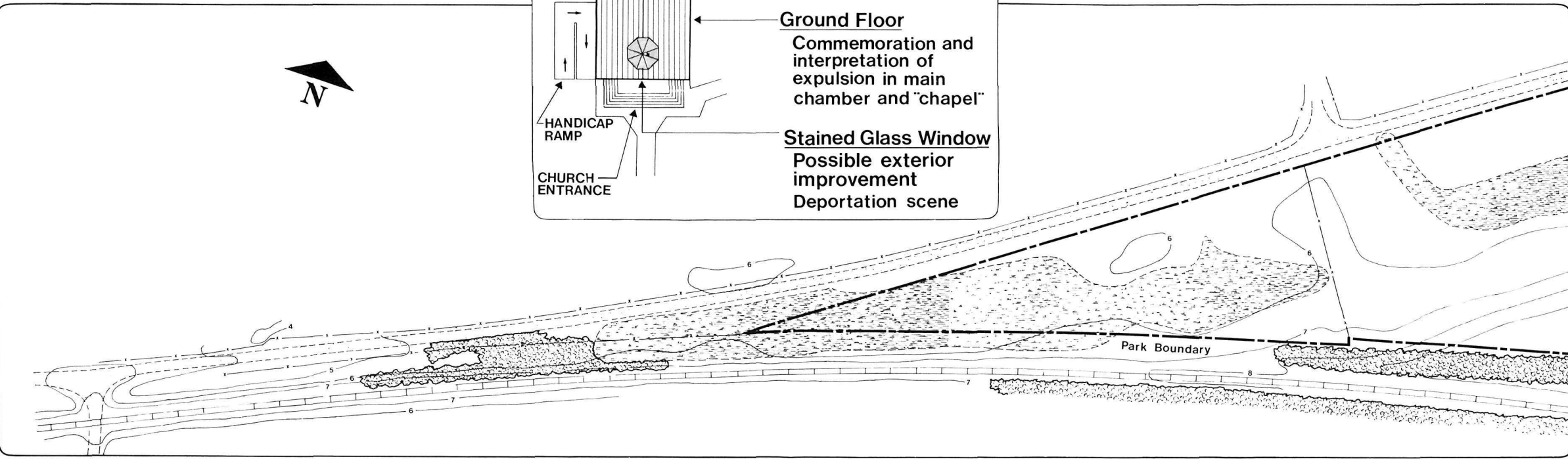
GRAND-PRÉ

NATIONAL HISTORIC PARK

Development Concept

- On Site Exhibit
- New Structure
- New Path
- Upgraded Existing Path

Environment Canada
 Parks
 Atlantic Region
 Planning



They will experience in the main chamber a commemorative tribute to the deported Acadians. The small room at the back will tell visitors the story of the expulsion. Visitors will find in the basement an interpretation of the pre-expulsion Acadian lifestyle in the Minas Basin, as well as the development of the park and the parallel Acadian Renaissance movement.

Visitors will then walk over to the audio-visual theatre where a program on Acadian life in the Minas Basin between 1682 and 1755 will be presented.

Continuing on the new walkway visitors will enter the western section of the park. There visitors will see a dyke building exhibit, some Acadian agricultural artifacts and two Acadian house foundations/ruins. The blacksmith shop will stand as a symbol of the return of the Acadians to the Maritimes after the expulsion. Visitors will also be given some information on the return of the Acadians and related Acadian historic sites in the Maritimes.

Coming back past the memorial church, visitors will be able to take a resurfaced stone path to the old well (reputed to have been dug by British troops during the expulsion period). A further section will then bring visitors to the stone cross and the exhibit on the Acadian cemetery. The walkway will then bypass the new pavilion on the way back to the entrance area.



ORIGINAL ENTRANCE PERSPECTIVE OF THE EVANGELINE STATUE AND THE MEMORIAL CHURCH IN THE BACKGROUND

development program



THE HERBIN CROSS MARKING THE SITE OF THE OLD ACADIAN CEMETERY AND PLAQUE PLACED BY THE ACADIAN COMMUNITY IN 1925

Source: Nova Scotia Information Service

4. DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

4.1 Future Plans

The following guidelines describe in more detail how Parks plans to develop Grand-Pré National Historic Park in the future and the reasons behind these decisions. They are an expression of the park's themes and objectives, Parks Policy, the park's special features and qualities and public comments. Except for the changes to the interior of the memorial church, capital development funds are not budgeted for the short-term 5 year period. Implementation of the proposed developments will be on a longer term as resources permit.

4.1.1 Entrance Area

This area is just across from the ornamental gardens on the east side of the Grand-Pré Road. Parks will keep the parking lot at its present size with the picnic tables at the north end. Estimates of the number of future visitors did not show any need for further expansion of these facilities. The gravel/dirt pull-off on the west side of the Grand-Pré Road, near the current entrance to the ornamental gardens, will be converted into a lawn. This will improve the appearance of the entrance area and stop vehicles from parking there and raising clouds of dust.

The gift shop will continue to operate in the same location. In future, it will be an interpretive sales outlet supporting Parks' responsibility to encourage public understanding and appreciation of the park themes and heritage resources. Its staff will serve the visitors in both official languages. The interpretive sales outlet will directly complement Parks' other efforts to interpret the history of Grand-Pré to Canadians. Items for sale, whether crafts, souvenirs, mementos, books, publications, or general information, will relate to the park themes reflecting the Acadian history of Grand-Pré.

The information function currently filled by the room in the park administration building will be provided in the area of the building complex. That building will be improved to accommodate the administrative staff.

The public washrooms will remain unchanged as they were found adequate for current and future use.

The new Grand-Pré visitor experience, although self-guided, will call for the use of guides at strategic points in the park. For example, a guide will greet visitors at the building complex to provide information, introduction and orientation. This brief personal reception service will maintain the park's long-standing tradition and adequately prepare the visitors for their new park experience.

4.1.2 Access and Circulation

In addition to the guide at the entrance area, every reasonable effort will be made by Parks to improve visitor safety at the Grand-Pré Road crossing. Access to the ornamental gardens will be through a new entrance south of the current one. Visitors will begin their self-guided tour via the new pedestrian walkway provided for the safety and convenience of all strolling through the ornamental gardens.

The pedestrian walkway will now include a rectangular loop in the eastern section of the ornamental gardens. While providing direct access to the memorial church if needed, the new route will also blend in with the existing path and the rectangular ornamental gardens while bringing visitors closer to the beautiful pond area with its big willows.

4.1.3 Orientation and Special Cultural Events and Performances

Individual visitors will be given an overview of the park's facilities at the orientation exhibit. This exhibit will be located to permit a symmetrical pattern with the pavilion at the other corner of the rectangular loop.

Tour groups will utilize the pavilion at the location of the current garden entrance. This attractive structure will provide a sheltered assembly area where a guide will give a talk on the park and its history. The pavilion will also be used by both Acadian and local communities to enjoy special cultural events and performances. The carefully designed facility with its dressing rooms, raised floor, and the vast adjacent lawn will make it suitable as a stage for a natural amphitheatre. Parks adopted the public recommendation for an expanded pavilion with dressing rooms because this improvement will enable the pavilion to be more effectively used as a stage where theme-related plays, music festivals, concerts and dance shows could be presented.

4.1.4 Park Development Exhibit

The park development exhibit, will interpret the park's minor theme, i.e., the place of the park's origins in the evolution of an Acadian consciousness in the 20th century. The exhibit will recall the work of John Frederic Herbin, the Dominion Atlantic Railway, and the Acadians, in the early years of the park. A bust of J.F. Herbin will pay him proper tribute.

4.1.5 Evangeline Exhibit

The third interpretive island, the Evangeline exhibit, will be located prior to the Evangeline statue. This exhibit will be devoted to the park's sub-theme — Evangeline/romantic literature. It will expand on Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's romantic fictional character, Evangeline, and on her role in popularizing a version of the Acadian expulsion story. Visitors will find portions of the Evangeline story and the relocated bust of Longfellow. The emphasis will be more on the heroine than on the author.

4.1.6 Memorial Church

The memorial church's ground floor will be used exclusively to commemorate the expulsion story. This will involve removing all current exhibits to recreate the commemorative atmosphere as originally envisaged for the church. The statue of Notre-Dame de l'Assomption will also be moved to its original location at the front of the main chamber and placed on its original base. The changes in the interior of the memorial church will reflect its role as a monument to the deported Acadians. The small room, where the statue of Notre-Dame de l'Assomption is now displayed, will be used to tell the story of the expulsion. These changes will ensure compliance with conditions of the 1956 sale contract between the federal government and "La Société Nationale l'Assomption", satisfy public concern and conform with the revised themes.



STAINED GLASS WINDOW THAT WILL BE INSTALLED OVER THE ENTRANCE OF THE MEMORIAL CHURCH

A stained glass window depicting a deportation scene, above the memorial church's entrance, will constitute an effective improvement to the church's commemorative value. The stained glass window is intended to be a cooperative project (to celebrate the national parks centennial in 1985) where the Acadian community can participate in and support financially the successful completion of the window.

The basement of the memorial church will be able to provide additional space suitable for interpretation of the pre-expulsion Acadian lifestyle in the Minas Basin (to supplement the audio-visual theatre), as well as the development of the park and the parallel Acadian Renaissance movement. The artifact collection stored there now will continue to be held in trust by Parks. The collection will be assessed for its relevance to the park's themes.

4.1.7 Audio-Visual Theatre

A new audio-visual theatre will be built and located west of the memorial church amid the apple orchard. The low profile structure will be hidden from other points in the ornamental gardens. Here will be shown an audio-visual program on Acadian life in the Minas Basin between 1682 and 1755, a major theme at the park. The theatre could also be used for other films related to park themes and stories. Their production will be contingent on the availability of funds and personnel within Parks or in a joint effort with outside organizations. The audio-visual theatre will be located close to the memorial church and will include public washrooms for the convenience of the visitors. A new pedestrian walkway will link this facility to the memorial church and will take visitors through the orchard to the western section of the park.

4.1.8 Maintenance Compound

The maintenance compound will be upgraded and screened properly from the audio-visual theatre. The maintenance staff parking area will be removed to further improve the site. The greenhouse operation will be phased out over time in accordance with conclusions from a recent feasibility study.

4.1.9 Western Section of the Park

The new pedestrian walkway will encourage visitors to see the western section of the park. At the dyke building exhibit, visitors will learn about the special techniques by which Acadians were able to reclaim land from the sea and develop a prosperous agricultural economy. Farm implements used by Acadians at the time will be shown at the Acadian agricultural artifact display. In addition to these existing resources, Parks will suitably stabilize and interpret the two Acadian house foundation/ruins excavated in 1972 and 1973. Although the blacksmith shop does not belong to the pre-expulsion period and does not, in fact, fit in with any of the park's themes, Parks will keep it in its present setting. Along with the fourth interpretive island, the Acadian survival exhibit, the blacksmith shop will be a symbol of the return of the Acadians to the Maritimes.

In the Acadian survival exhibit, to be located next to the blacksmith shop, Parks will give visitors some information on the return of the Acadians to the Maritimes after the expulsion. This will link Grand-Pré National Historic Park to the Survival of the Acadians National Historic Site in St-Joseph de Memramcook, New Brunswick. It will also indicate other Acadian-related parks and sites in the Maritimes.

4.1.10 Landscaping

Landscaping will be upgraded with the formal appearance of the ornamental gardens emphasized. Parks will also begin a replacement program of trees that are diseased or nearing maturity. Parks will determine the age of the old French willows (*Salix Alba*) found behind the memorial church, as well as ensure their longest possible life in the park. This work will contribute to fulfilling the first park objective of identifying and evaluating the park's resources. Finally, efforts will be made to resolve the flooding problem in the area of the ponds and weeping willows, site of the new walkway.

4.1.11 Return Route

The pedestrian walkway will include a formalized return route through the gardens. The rectangular loop will also allow some individuals to have direct access to the memorial church from the entrance area. A resurfaced stone path will take visitors to the old well. A further section will then bring visitors to the stone cross and the exhibit on the Acadian cemetery. The Acadian cemetery will be appropriately outlined and interpreted for the public. The exhibit will emphasize the significance of the Acadian cemetery as part of the interpretation of the major theme on the pre-expulsion period. The walkway will then bypass the new pavilion on the way to the entrance. Short cuts through the ornamental gardens will also be possible for visitors who would rather wander freely through the park grounds as they make their way back to the visitor services area. Several openings in the hedges bordering the pedestrian walkway will be designated for that purpose.

4.1.12 Archaeological Research Program

Parks will conduct an archaeological survey of the park as an initial step in locating below-ground resources such as buildings and other traces of human occupation. Following which, as resources and schedules permit, some of the archaeological features identified as a result of this survey will be investigated. This was recommended by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada. This work will be important in conserving resources from the Acadian period, in the interpretation program and in increasing our knowledge of the park's below-ground resources and pre-expulsion Acadian history.

4.1.13 Artifact Collection

At the present time the federal government Financial Administration Act, Section 52, makes it difficult for Parks to loan, give or sell Crown-owned surplus items in its custody. However, new regulations will soon permit those Crown-owned artifacts that are of no relevance to the park themes, but are of local or regional interest to be returned to private individuals or offered on a loan-basis to local historical societies or museums. This entire process would require several years.

4.1.14 Possible Cooperative Proposal

In 1924 Acadians erected an iron cross near the deportation site. Situated about two kilometers east of the park next to the railroad, the site of the cross does not belong to Parks. Parks is attempting to ensure that public access to the cross and minor improvements and long-term maintenance of the site are provided by working cooperatively with individuals and organizations involved.

4.2 Impact Assessment and Review

4.2.1 Introduction

The Federal Environmental Assessment Review Process (EARP) was initiated by Cabinet in 1973. All actions with environmental implications are subjected to identification, measurement and evaluation procedures to the degree dictated by the magnitude of the potential for adverse effects. The EARP process largely parallels the planning process. Existing negative impacts may demonstrate the need for planning, and help identify issues to be mitigated through the planning exercise. Not all potential adverse impacts can be resolved in the management plan stage; some must be dealt with at the level of more detailed design. In all cases the effectiveness of mitigation must be monitored and the documents made public.

4.2.2 Environmental and Archaeological Impact Assessment

National Historic Parks Policy 2.1.1 states: "Parks will assess the impact of its proposed actions on the prehistoric, historic and natural resources in national historic parks". The intention is to ensure that potential adverse environmental impacts are identified and assessed so that they can be avoided or else mitigated as much as possible.

Base Information

The park's existing facilities and known resources were carefully identified and evaluated during the inventory and analysis stages of the planning process. This work determined the historical significance and/or interpretive potential of the various features found on the park grounds. No further archaeological investigations were undertaken to begin the delicate and long-term task of uncovering any of the below-ground resources suspected to be present in and around the park. Evidence of at least four burials, confirming the location of the cemetery of the church of St-Charles, was uncovered however at the site of the stone cross during an archaeological excavation by Parks, as part of the restoration and stabilization of the cross in the summer of 1982.

Assessment of natural and archaeological resources was performed through an on-site inspection related to the development proposals by staff from Parks's Atlantic Regional Office.

Potential Environmental Impacts

No significant adverse environmental effects were identified during the screening process that took place at the development concept stage. Proposals contained in this management plan, being variations and refinements of the initial proposals, do not require a re-assessment of their potential impacts.

The construction of the interpretive exhibit islands and outdoor orientation facilities will have no anticipated impact on the sites chosen for their location.

The creation of the extensive walkway system will not impact on the ornamental gardens. It will be designed in accordance with Parks standards for this type of walkway. Such a trail will accommodate wheelchairs and visitors of all ages, and therefore must have a smooth and firm surface. The material chosen will blend in with the lawns and not affect the aesthetic qualities of the ornamental gardens. The addition of hedges along the walkway will further improve the appearance of the gardens.

The construction of the audio-visual theatre in the apple orchard will necessitate the removal of approximately half a dozen trees but the presence of the new structure will not be noticed by visitors approaching the memorial church as the theatre will be situated in a natural depression. New planting will screen the maintenance compound.

Alternatives Examined

The option of building a new visitor reception centre was considered in an attempt to provide a reception/orientation facility for park visitors and much-needed additional interpretation space. This alternative would have had a major impact on the commemorative, natural, and interpretive qualities of the memorial gardens and was, consequently, rejected. Alternative locations for the orientation exhibit, the pavilion and the interpretive exhibits were also considered in relation to traffic flow, historic resources and the memorial gardens.

Evaluation of Significance of Proposals

The various physical components of this management plan are consistent with the intent

of Parks Policy. The facilities proposed for Grand-Pré National Historic Park will not present a significant risk to potential archaeological resources, or cause significant environmental degradation, as long as certain mitigating measures are taken.

Guidelines and Mitigating Measures

- Apart from the archaeological survey of the park proposed as an initial step in locating below-ground resources such as buildings and other traces of human occupation, salvage archaeology will take place at the various sites involving soil disturbance. This will constitute a monitoring provision to ensure that no adverse impacts will occur. This salvage archaeology will be required for all the new facilities as well as for a trench that will have to be dug to connect the public washrooms in the audio-visual theatre to the existing sewage disposal system next to the Grand-Pré Road. Trenching will also have to be performed in order to supply electricity and water for the audio-visual theatre and its public washrooms from the existing power line at the maintenance compound and the existing water supply at the back of the memorial church.
- The walkway system will be designed in such a manner as to harmoniously blend with the ornamental gardens.
- A more detailed environmental screening and impact statement of proposed facilities will take place when detailed design work for these facilities is undertaken.

4.2.3 Socio-Economic Impact Assessment

Future development plans for Grand-Pré National Historic Park are expected to result in a series of positive socio-economic impacts on the local area, park visitors and all other citizens concerned with Acadian heritage conservation.

The management plan proposals were produced in close co-operation with interested individuals and organizations and received strong public support. Implementation of the plan will strengthen this rapport that was successfully established between Parks and the public.

Improved visitor understanding of the park's themes, an enhanced visitor experience, and a more stimulating and memorable visit will be important outcomes of the better plan proposals. Parks' commitment to heritage preservation for the benefit and enjoyment of all Canadians and future park users will be further demonstrated by a long term archaeological research program.

Plans for the park will have no negative impact on the policies of the County of Kings Municipal Development Plan which strongly support the maintenance of current land uses. Grand-Pré will indeed continue to fit in very well with the surrounding economic activities and land use mosaic.

Positive short-term economic impacts will be created during the construction of the various proposals contained in the management plan as a variety of occupational skills and related materials will be required. This impact will however not extend into the operation and maintenance phase of the plan as no permanent positions are expected to be created in the re-developed park.

The conversion of the gift shop into an interpretive sales outlet will encourage public understanding and appreciation of the park themes and heritage resources. It will also provide interested groups and individuals with opportunities to get involved in complementing the interpretation program at the park and in supplying appropriate material. The socio-economic benefits generated by this participation should be felt throughout the various locations in the Maritimes where the ideas and skills can be found.

The pavilion will also provide a stage for the expression of contemporary Acadian cultural life through theme-related plays, music festivals, concerts, and dance shows. The positive social impact of this new facility will also be experienced by the local community as it will be able to use the pavilion to present special cultural events and performances in conjunction with the park's interpretation program.

The potential negative social impact created by the removal of the Planter or post-expulsion exhibits/artifacts from the ground floor and basement of the memorial church will be mitigated by the Planter site selection study being undertaken by Parks' Atlantic Regional Office. A new location will be found where the Planters and their contribution can be more suitably commemorated.

It is also expected that visitors will be spending more time in the park due to additional visitor and interpretive facilities and activities. This greater attraction combined with the forecasted increase in the number of visitors in the years ahead could very well bring about a spin-off effect on other sectors of the tourist industry in the immediate area and even the region. Private enterprise would have to take some appropriate steps to reap the benefits of this situation but the potential definitely appears encouraging.

plan implementation and staffing



INTERIOR VIEW OF MEMORIAL CHURCH IN 1930

Source: Public Archives of Nova Scotia

5. PLAN IMPLEMENTATION AND PARK OPERATIONS

5.1 Implementation Strategy

This chapter of the management plan outlines the priorities for implementing the decisions described in preceding chapters. The framework will be used by Parks in preparing forecasts of its program and planning the sequence of its expenditures on the development of Grand-Pré.

Two factors govern the implementation strategy put forward. First, development and construction will be undertaken in line with the current federal government restraint program. Second, Grand-Pré is a popular national historic park and must remain operational during construction and development. When possible, major construction work will be undertaken during the off-season.

The first order of priority for the next five years will be to attempt to recreate a commemorative atmosphere on the ground floor of the memorial church. This work is required for Parks to satisfy the obligations under the 1956 contract between the federal government and La Société Nationale l'Assomption. It was also made clear from the public participation process that remedial action concerning the current "bi-cultural" exhibits in the memorial church was an urgent priority. This will make the interpretation program conform to the approved themes of the park while replacing a 23 year-old exhibit and maintaining present levels of service. Planter commemoration will be provided initially at a temporary location at the existing information counter in the park administration building while a permanent site is being sought outside the park.

A second order of priority should cover all on-site exhibits, the pavilion, the audio-visual theatre and the basement of the memorial church and improvements to the administration building. These developments will be dependent on new funding which will become available when the national economic situation improves.

The third order of priority will comprise the upgrading of the maintenance compound and the long-term archaeological research program.

Cooperative projects such as the stained glass window for the memorial church and the deportation cross will be undertaken separately with the timing for the former project to closely coincide with the work inside the memorial church.

5.2 Staffing

Park staff need not be increased in the future as a result of this plan. The new Grand-Pré visitor experience, although self-guided, will call for the use of guides at strategic points in the park. In this way the tradition of personal guide service will be maintained. Although there will be more walkways, landscaping and facilities to maintain, the existing park staff will be able to handle the additional workload.

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John Gasparac was responsible for the map preparation and graphic design.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Richard Blache".

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National Park Planner

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