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Fort Walsh

NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

MANAGEMENT PLAN



Canada




FORT WALSH NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE MANAGEMENT PLAN


Approved



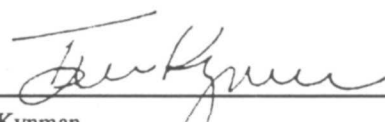
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CANADA'S GREEN PLAN
PLAN VERT DU CANADA

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PREFACE

FORT WALSH NHS MANAGEMENT PLAN

Fort Walsh National Historic Site was created in 1968 to protect and present the location of Fort Walsh; a major North-West Mounted Police Post and centre for commercial trade from 1875 to 1883. The historic site, situated within the picturesque Cypress Hills area of Saskatchewan, was developed to preserve an outstanding example of Canada's cultural heritage, and to promote awareness and appreciation of that heritage among all Canadians.

This Management Plan outlines how Fort Walsh National Historic Site will be developed and operated in the future. It describes the facilities, services and programs which will be available to visitors and elaborates upon how site resources will be protected and preserved in the 1990s.

Ideas and concerns expressed by the public through two rounds of public consultations represent the core of the Fort Walsh Management Plan. I am particularly pleased by the involvement of the Saskatchewan First Nations Community in the proposals and concepts presented in this document.

I am pleased to approve this plan, and I am confident that it will serve as an important guideline in the effort to commemorate Fort Walsh National Historic Site.

Jean J. Charest

Minister of the Environment



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1.0 Introduction

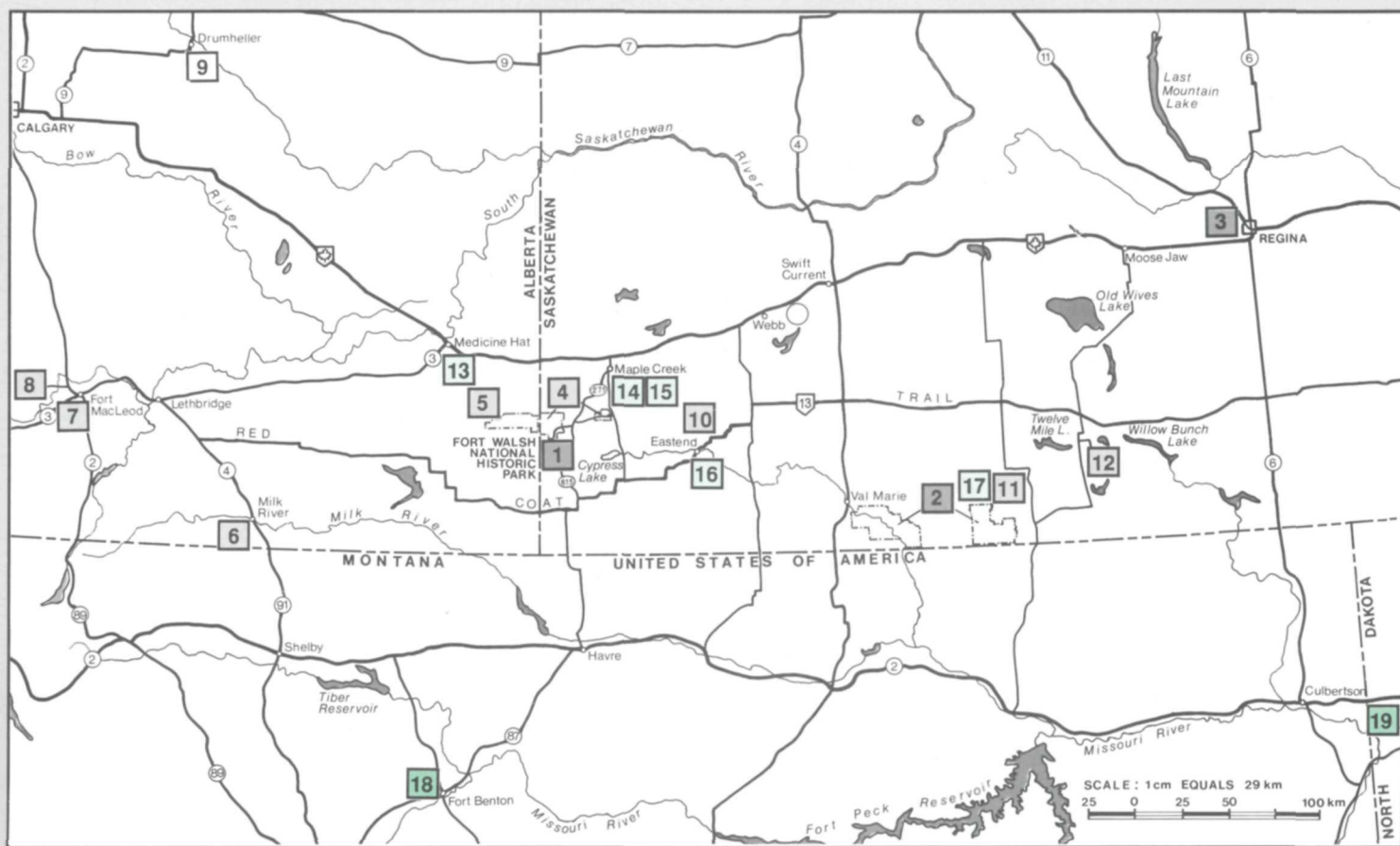
1.1 BACKGROUND

Fort Walsh National Historic Site is situated within the Cypress Hills area of Saskatchewan, 55 Kilometres southwest of Maple Creek (Figure 1). The site served as a major North-West Mounted Police Post and centre for commercial trade from 1875 to 1883, the year the original fort was dismantled and abandoned.

By the 1890s, the site had become the headquarters for a private ranching operation. This activity continued until the early 1940s when the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) acquired the property and constructed a remount ranch on the site of the original fort to breed horses for use in equestrian training and the force's famous Musical Ride. When the RCMP remount operation was moved to Ontario in 1968, the property was transferred to the Canadian Parks Service (CPS).

In 1972 Fort Walsh was formally proclaimed a national historic park, encompassing a land base of 650 hectares which made it one of the largest national historic sites in the Canadian Parks System (Figure 3). Despite this relatively recent designation as a national historic park, the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada (HSMBC) had recommended the site to be of national historic significance in 1924. This was followed in 1926 by the erection of a commemorative plaque and cairn to recognize Fort Walsh as a centre of law and order in the Canadian West. In 1964 the HSMB further recommended that the Cypress Hills Massacre was an event of national significance "...because of its influence on the passage of the bill to establish the North-West Mounted Police ...". During Canada's 1967 Centennial, the Board reinforced the importance of Fort Walsh by recommending that its commander and founder, James Morrow Walsh, be commemorated as an "eminent" Canadian. This significance was reinforced in 1972 when the Federal Minister declared the formation of the North-West Mounted Police to be of national historic significance and a distinctive monument was unveiled at Fort Walsh in 1975.

Since 1968, the CPS has developed a visitor program and maintenance operation at Fort Walsh NHS. Centred upon the adapted remount ranch buildings at the fort site and at Farwell's Trading Post, the CPS has also introduced a major visitor reception centre with an exhibit hall, audio-visual theatre and food service, an internal transportation system, and a seasonal staff of interpreters who present the Fort Walsh story through tours and special programs. The operation of the site, which is open to the public from May 15 to Thanksgiving, is supported by a small administrative staff based in Maple Creek, Saskatchewan.



Federal Jurisdiction

- 1 Fort Walsh National Historic Site (Sask.)
- 2 Grasslands National Park (Sask.)
- 3 RCMP Museum (Regina, Sask.)

Provincial Jurisdiction

- | | |
|---|---|
| 4 Cypress Hills Provincial Park (Sask.) Centre and West Block | 9 Tyrrell Museum of Palaeontology (Drumheller, Alta.) |
| 5 Cypress Hills Provincial Park (Alberta) | 10 Isaac Cowie's Post (Eastend, Sask.) |
| 6 Writing-on-Stone Provincial Park (Milk River, Alta.) | 11 Wood Mountain Provincial Historic Park (Sask.) |
| 7 Fort Macleod Provincial Park (Alberta) | 12 St. Victor's Petroglyphs (St. Victor, Sask.) |
| 8 Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump (Alberta) | |

Regional Jurisdiction

- 13 Medicine Hat Museum (Medicine Hat, Alberta)
- 14 Maple Creek Old Timers' Museum (Maple Creek, Sask.)
- 15 Jasper Cultural & Historic Centre (Maple Creek, Sask.)
- 16 Eastend Museum (Eastend, Sask.)
- 17 Rodeo Ranch Museum (Wood Mountain Regional Park)

United States

- 18 Fort Benton (Montana)
- 19 Fort Union Trading Post National Historic Site (North Dakota)

FIGURE 1. Regional Setting and Heritage Resources



1.2 MANAGEMENT PLAN

CPS began a management planning program for Fort Walsh NHS in 1989. The plan outlines how the site will be developed and operated with respect to CPS policy. It describes the facilities, services and programs which will be available to visitors and elaborates upon how site resources will be protected and preserved.

Developed by a CPS planning team, combined with two rounds of public consultation in Saskatchewan, the ideas and concerns expressed by the public involved in the planning process represent the core of the Fort Walsh Management Plan.

1.3 CANADIAN PARKS SERVICE POLICY

This Management Plan applies CPS policies to develop operational and long term strategies for achieving the commemorative objectives for Fort Walsh National Historic Site. The National Historic Sites Policy (proposed) treats preservation, protection and presentation as integral parts of the commemorative mandate. The policy sets out objectives, describes how to achieve them, and provides guidelines for evaluating the program using such concepts as commemorative integrity. These objectives are:

- ✓ to foster knowledge and appreciation of Canada's past through a national program of historical commemoration;

FORT WALSH NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE MANAGEMENT PLANNING PROCESS

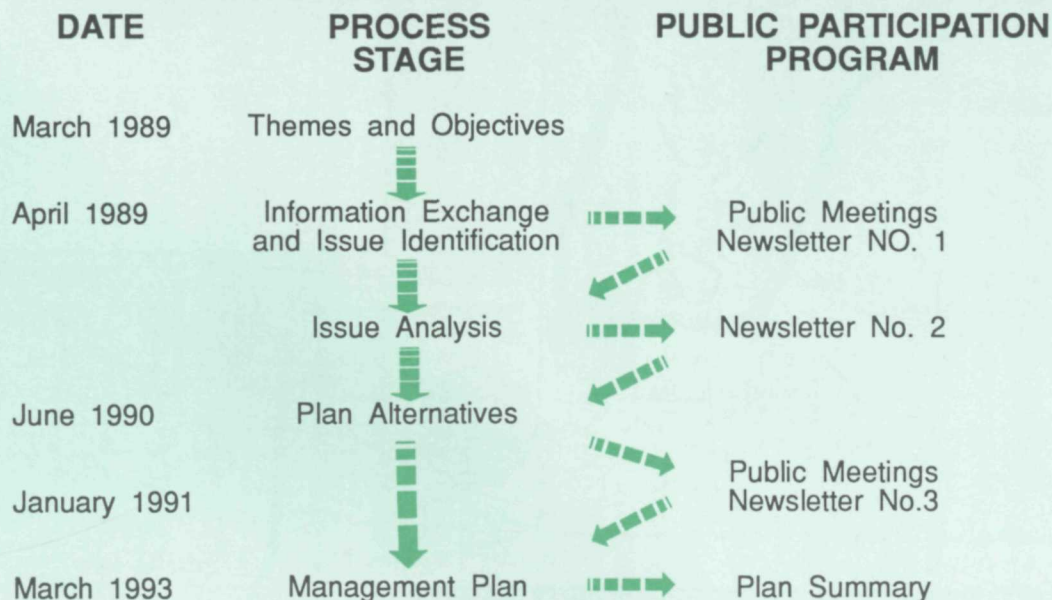
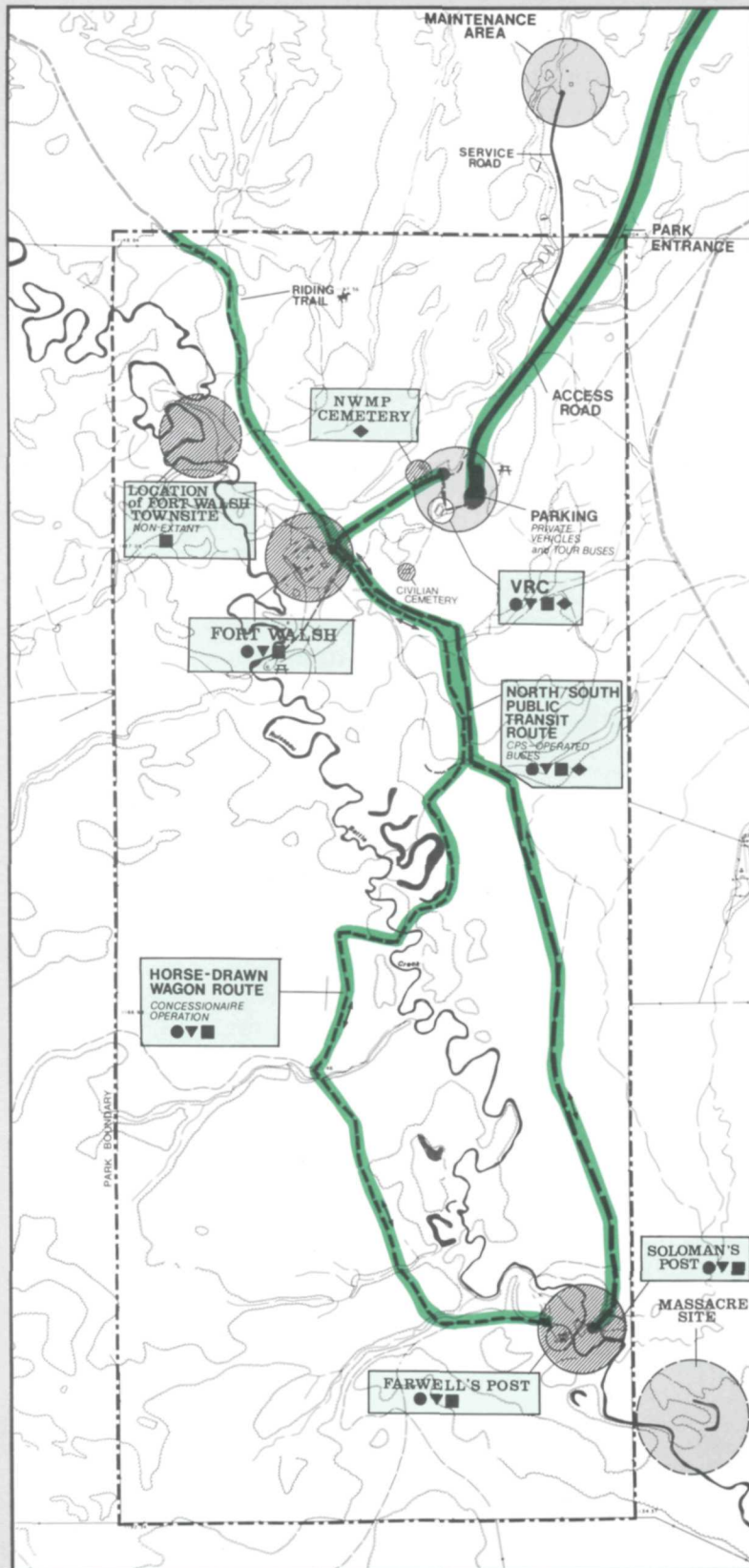


FIGURE 2



NODES

● Contemporary

● Historic

VISITOR EXPERIENCE

- Education
- ▼ Entertainment
- Heritage
- ◆ Local Interest

CIRCULATION

Park Access Road

CPS Internal Public Transit

Horse-Drawn Wagons

REGIONAL SETTING

CONTEXTE RÉGIONALE



FIGURE 3. Existing Facilities and Resources



- ✓ to ensure the commemorative integrity of national historic sites administered by CPS by protecting and presenting them for the benefit, education and enjoyment of this and future generations, in a manner that respects the significant and irreplaceable legacy represented by these places and their associated resources;
- ✓ to encourage and support the protection and presentation by others of resources of national historic significance that are not administered by CPS.

Further policy direction is provided in the proposed Cultural Resource Management (CRM) Policy, which is a complement to the Historic Sites Policy. CRM provides guidance for management planning and identifies the principles and practice by which cultural resources are cared for and presented by CPS. The CRM policy objective is to manage cultural resources administered by the CPS in accordance with the principles of value, public benefit, understanding, respect and integrity. The practice of cultural resource management provides a framework for decision-making, which ensures that the historic character for which resources are valued is identified, recognized, considered and communicated.

The preparation of this Management Plan followed the established CPS management planning process (Figure 2).

2.0 NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE CONTEXT

2.1 HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Each national historic site represents some aspect of Canadian history. Theme statements provide the historic rationale and national context for planning and development so that resources are conserved, commemorated, managed and interpreted in an appropriate manner. Four themes have been identified to present the story of Fort Walsh. These themes are based upon historical significance and not upon the existence of representative physical resources.

The primary themes are:

1. Aboriginal People in the Cypress Hills;
2. Whoop-Up Country and the Cypress Hills Massacre;
3. The North-West Mounted Police and Canadian Sovereignty in the Northwest;
4. Ranching and the Remount Station Era.



2.1.1 Primary Themes

1. Theme One: Aboriginal People in the Cypress Hills

The Cypress Hills are a dissected, flat-topped plateau covering an area of about 2500 square kilometres in southwestern Saskatchewan and southeastern Alberta. As this outlier of land was accessible during the Pleistocene Epoch, the Cypress Hills may have been visited and exploited by Pleistocene hunters as early as 13,000 years ago. In more recent times, but prior to contact with Europeans, Aboriginal groups occupied the Cypress Hills on a seasonal basis. As the hills were an area of plentiful resources (game, lodge pole pine), they provide shelter and access to food during the winter. In the summer the aboriginal people moved out onto the plains to hunt the buffalo.

The Cypress Hills, prior to the arrival of the North-West Mounted Police (NWMP), have been described as a “no-mans land” or as a “buffer zone” on the Plains. Scholars have suggested that no one group of people possessed the social structure, political organization or the resources to maintain control over the Cypress Hills territory. Whether or not the hills were controlled by any one group, there is archaeological evidence of camps being established and returned to on a seasonal basis. More recently, there are historical accounts of large Assiniboine wintering camps, Cree and Blackfoot hunting parties and Blackfoot sundances in the Cypress Hills.

As exploitation of furs in western Canada became more intensive in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, aboriginal groups such as the Cree and Assiniboine migrated to the Plains as traders and buffalo hunters. During this fur trade era, the Cypress hills were frequented by Metis “winterers” or hivernants who traded and hunted for buffalo meat, which was made into pemmican, the staple of the fur trade transport brigades. These winter camps had to be established since the Metis’ westward and southern search for buffalo had gradually taken them further away from the settlements of Red River and St. Laurent. To return home every year was no longer practical. These Metis winterers, like the Indians, occupied the Cypress hills because of the shelter provided and to exploit its abundant supply of game. The remains of a number of these wintering sites have been found throughout the Cypress Hills and one is located within Fort Walsh NHS.



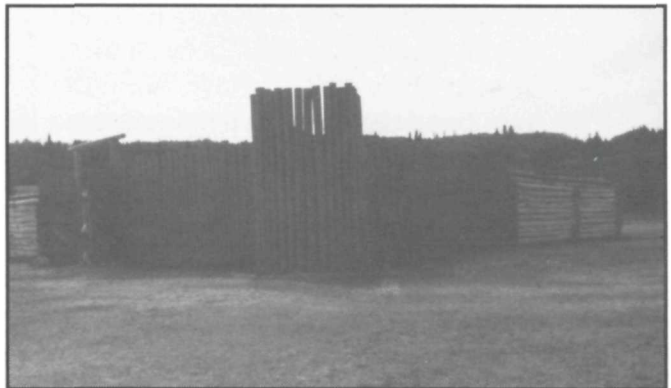


2. Theme Two: Whoop-Up Country and the Cypress Hills Massacre

By the mid-nineteenth century, the trade in furs was pushing into new frontiers in western Canada. In the southern prairies, the traditional pursuit of the beaver pelt had been replaced by a competition for the rapidly decreasing buffalo herds and their valuable hides. In an area which encompasses the southern portions of Alberta and Saskatchewan and the northern portion of Montana, known as "Whoop-Up Country", the competition for buffalo hides was particularly intense. A significant trade in guns, robes, and the notorious whiskey developed along the region's two major transportation routes, the Whoop-Up Trail and the Fort Walsh-Fort Benton Trail, which connected the Canadian territory with the Montana communities at Fort Benton and Helena.

American companies such as I.G. Baker and T.C. Power sent trading representatives, such as Abe Farwell and Moses Soloman, to winter in the Canadian territory. They obtained the valuable buffalo hides and furs from the aboriginal people in exchange for food, clothing, hardware goods and, increasingly, whiskey. The buffalo hides were destined for factories in the industrialized eastern U.S. where they were converted into industrial belting and robes.

It was a diverse assembly of characters and groups who exploited the resources in Whoop-Up Country during the last decades of the nineteenth century. The aboriginal people sought food, clothing and shelter; American traders pursued buffalo hides and furs; others, primarily American, gathered wolf skins. It was in this competitive and volatile atmosphere that the Cypress Hills Massacre took place.



The events which led to the nationally reported "Cypress Hills Massacre" began in May 1873 when some Cree reportedly stole horses from a party of wolfers who were enroute to Fort Benton, Montana. Seeking revenge, the wolfers went in search of their horses, only to lose the trail in the Cypress Hills near the trading posts of Abe Farwell and Moses Soloman in the Battle Creek Valley. There was also a band of Assiniboine camped in the immediate vicinity. Following a night of drinking and another misunderstanding over the missing horse of a trader, shooting broke out between the wolfer-trader party and the Assiniboine.



The wolfers fired from a concealed position along Battle Creek at the exposed Assiniboine encampment. Approximately 25 Assiniboine and one member of the wolfer-trader party were killed.

The Cypress Hills Massacre acted as a catalyst for the dispatch of the NWMP to the Canadian West. The police arrived not only to protect the aboriginal people but to secure Canadian sovereignty in Whoop-Up Country.

3. Theme Three: The North-West Mounted Police and Canadian Sovereignty in the Northwest

Using the Royal Irish constabulary and other imperial police forces as models, the federal parliament approved the formation of the NWMP with broad powers to provide law enforcement for the Northwest Territories. With this mechanism in place, the Canadian government responded quickly to the events of the Cypress Hills Massacre and the realization that Canadian authority in the northwest was fragile. Based on a central authority in Ottawa, the NWMP quickly became a powerful presence on the frontier. They controlled the flow of liquor, assisted the treaty makers, enforced the Indian Act, patrolled the border and generally served as the federal representatives for Prime Minister John A. Macdonald's National Policy.

In 1875, the NWMP established Fort Walsh in the Cypress Hills at a site chosen by Superintendent James Walsh. Fort Walsh remained the western headquarters of the NWMP from 1878 to 1882. Because it was a traditional home of aboriginal people, many Plains Indians, including leaders such as Piapot and Nikaneet (Foremost Man), wanted to establish their reserves in the Cypress Hills area. They were prevented from doing so by the federal government which feared alliances between aboriginal people residing in the Canadian and American boundary area. A major incident arose in 1876 when Sitting Bull's Dakota arrived in Canadian territory after the Battle of the Little Big Horn. Negotiations between Sitting Bull and Major James Walsh defused this potential crisis and the stay of the Dakota in Canadian territory passed without incident.



By 1879, some aboriginal people were allowed to settle in the Cypress Hills and were given assistance to establish an agricultural economy under the federal government's Home



Farm policy. Meanwhile the police established firm ties with the ranching community which began to appear in the Cypress Hills region. The settlers from eastern Canada, Britain and the United States adjusted more readily to the way of life being encouraged and enforced by the police. The laws enforced by the police laid down acceptable codes of behaviour transplanted from the Anglo-Canadian culture of eastern Canada.

The NWMP presence at Fort Walsh was also responsible for the dominant influence of American entrepreneurs in the early years of western Canadian settlement. Seeking refuge after the arduous three month trek from Dufferin, Manitoba, some police officers sought assistance at Fort Benton. While there, they forged strong ties with I.G. Baker, a prominent merchant who established a major presence at the Fort Walsh townsite along with fellow American T.C. Power. The presence of the police, and the economic activity they generated in supply contracts for goods and equipment, were principally responsible for pulling the Fort Benton merchants out of a state of economic recession.

4.1 Theme Four: Ranching and the Remount Station Era

The NWMP presence at Fort Walsh was followed by the establishment of a ranching community in the Cypress Hills. These ranchers, predominantly from Eastern Canada and the United States, took advantage of the region's excellent cattle grazing potential. By the 1890s, shortly after fire had swept through the abandoned Fort Walsh site, Wellington Anderson and David Wood established a ranch on the Fort Walsh property. While the land changed hands several times over the years, the ranch occupation survived until 1942 when the then owner, Mr. Frank Nuttall, sold the Nuttall ranch to the RCMP.

The RCMP continued to use the land for ranching by establishing a Remount Station to train and raise horses for the Musical Ride and equestrian training for recruits. The Mounties, during their tenure in control of the original Fort Walsh property, also demonstrated an early commitment to heritage commemoration by building their remount facilities to replicate as closely as possible the appearance and location of several 1875-1882 era structures. The ranching story provides an important link between the community that neighbours the historic site today and the historic era when the NWMP patrolled the hills.





2.1.2 Commemorative Intent

A national historic site is said to possess commemorative integrity when the resources that symbolize or represent its importance are not impaired or under threat, when the reasons for the site's national historic significance are effectively communicated to the public, and when the heritage values are respected by all whose decisions or actions affect the site. The commemorative intent of Fort Walsh National Historic site, or the purpose for which the site was originally designated as nationally significant by the Minister of the Environment, on the recommendation of the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada, is to commemorate the role of Fort Walsh in establishing Canadian control in the NorthWest following the 1873 Cypress Hills Massacre.

The Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada has made four separate recommendations linking the historic significance of Fort Walsh to the establishment and operation of the North-West Mounted Police in the Canadian West. CPS will protect, preserve and present the cultural resources and landscape associated with the national historic significance of this site and visitors to the site will receive a comprehensive overview of the national significance of Fort Walsh in the Visitor Reception Centre. The site operation will not focus upon one specific period of interpretation. At the Fort Walsh site itself, the remount ranch buildings and landscape will centre upon its occupation by the NWMP from 1875 to 1882. The buildings and presentation program at the trading posts will emphasize the events leading up to the 1873 Cypress Hills Massacre. The theme "Aboriginal People in the Cypress Hills" will be presented through the interpretation of archaeological resources throughout the site. CPS will also work with the Saskatchewan aboriginal community to develop interpretive programs compatible with this theme.

2.2 PLAN OBJECTIVES

The 1989 Themes and Objectives for Fort Walsh NHS provide the historic rationale and a national context for the development and operation of the site. They outline appropriate policies and standards for the conservation, commemoration and interpretation of the historic site's resources. The objectives for Fort Walsh included discussion of regional integration, historic resource protection, visitor services, interpretation, marketing, and site operations.



2.3 DESCRIPTION OF RESOURCES

2.3.1 Site Plan

Fort Walsh NHS is 650 hectares in size. The site contains several important extant reconstructed structures, numerous archaeological resources and an impressive natural landscape. Over the past twenty years there has been considerable contemporary facility development at Fort Walsh NHS including a road system, a Visitor Reception Centre (VRC), a maintenance compound and a water system, as well as a road network developed to link the VRC, fort area and trading posts. Figure 2 shows the historic site as it currently exists.

2.3.2 Cultural Resources

1. Historic Artifact and Archaeological Specimen Collection

The Fort Walsh artifact collection consists of two main groups; the historic objects and period reproductions used for the site's ongoing interpretation program and the specimens assembled from years of archaeological investigation.

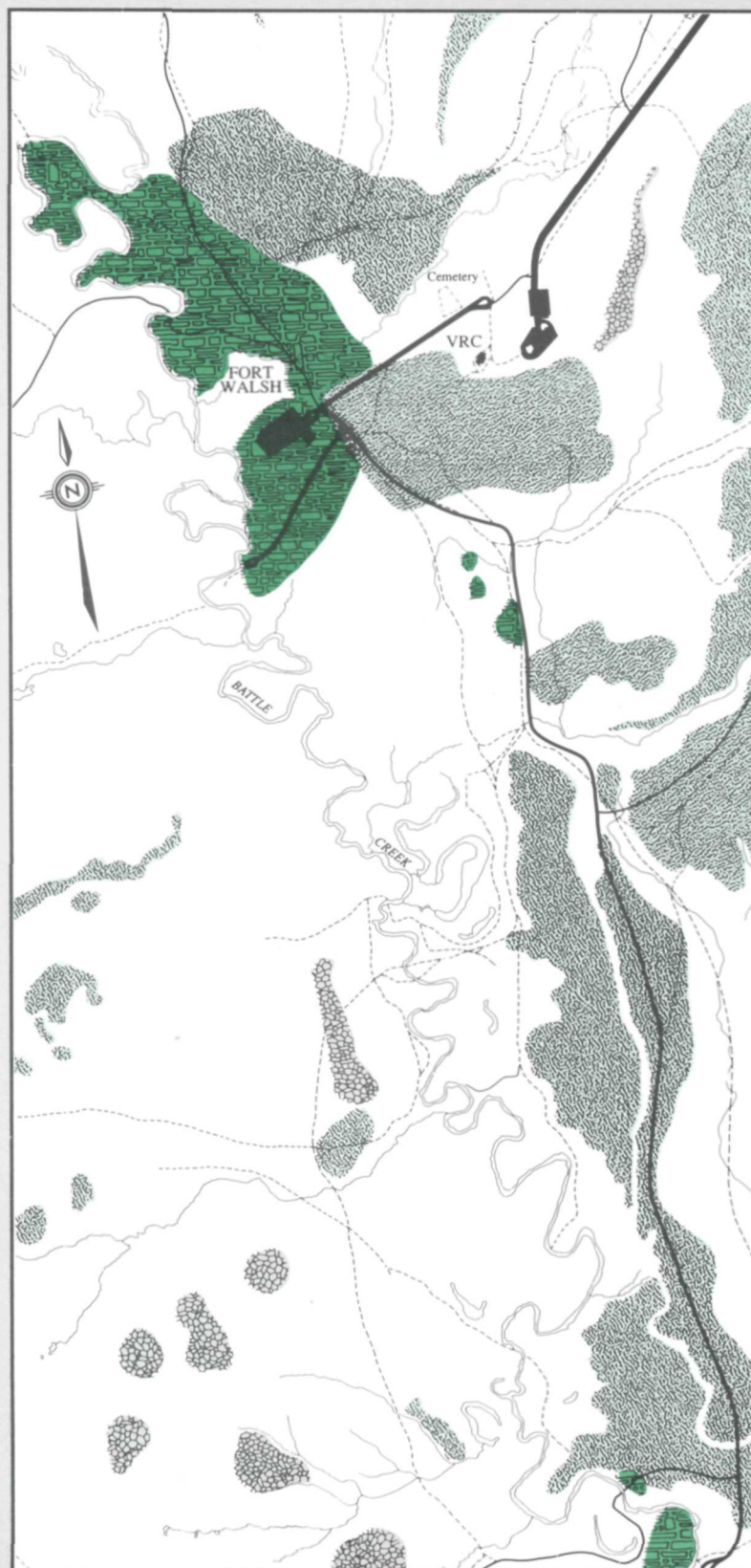
A. Fort Walsh Interpretive Collection

The Fort Walsh Interpretive Collection consists of historic objects and period reproductions used primarily as furnishings at Farwell's Post, and period costumes worn by the interpreters at this site.


The fort has period furnishings in one room in the Non-Commissioned Officer's Quarters as well as a modest number of artifacts in the Artisans Building. Furnishing plans for the fort's Commissioner's Residence and NCO Quarters are complete as well as a Costume Plan for period NWMP uniforms. At the end of each visitor season, vulnerable artifacts from Farwell's Post are removed for winter storage in the Visitor Reception Centre.

B. Fort Walsh Archaeological Collection


Archaeological investigations at Fort Walsh were conducted from 1972 to 1979. In the fall of 1972 archaeological testing was undertaken at the reconstructed Farwell and Solomon trading posts to verify the accuracy of the building locations and construction and to delineate the location of the Cypress Hills Massacre events. The following year a five season program of archaeological research was initiated at the NWMP post and the adjacent townsite in order to provide information to guide site development and interpretation. In 1978, the project took a broader view of the site, involving a survey to inventory all prehistoric and historic archaeological resources within the boundaries of Fort Walsh (Figure 4).



ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

 Indian encampment site with stone rings, cairns, etc.

 Euro-American or Metis site
Surface features - cellar, refuse, or cache pits.

 Indian site - lithic scatter only

 Existing Roads / Trails

 Historic Roads / Trails

 Old Fence Lines



SCALE:

METRES

REGIONAL SETTING

CONTEXTE RÉGIONAL



FIGURE 4. Survey of Site's Archaeological Resources.



The archaeological research in the 1970s produced a collection of over 100,000 archaeological specimens which are currently housed in the CPS Archaeological Laboratory in Winnipeg. The large majority of this collection is directly associated with the occupation of the police post from 1875 to 1882 or Theme 3: "NWMP and Canadian Sovereignty in the North-West."

2. Extant Resources

A. Fort Walsh Area

The buildings in the fort area are not from the historic occupation of Fort Walsh by the NWMP. The log structures within the palisade, with the exception of the NCO Quarters, were constructed during the 1942-50 period by the RCMP to serve as the support structures for the Remount Station (Figure 3). Cypress Hills residents familiar with log construction were hired to build these structures which were placed on the approximate location of the originals. The location, building material and general configuration was based upon research information gleaned from oral interviews and available documentation.

From 1943 to 1968 these structures were used by remount station staff. When the CPS assumed control in 1968 these buildings were adapted for a variety of uses that included fire equipment storage, staff quarters, exhibit areas and an audio-visual facility.

The buildings in the fort area have been evaluated by the Federal Heritage Buildings Review Office (FHBRO). Two buildings, the Commissioner's Residence and Stable, were determined to be "Recognized" heritage buildings. This designation ensures that any proposed intervention must carefully respect their architectural style, building construction and layout. The other eight buildings eligible for review were evaluated as "Not Heritage" by FHBRO which means that the CPS has no particular direction from FHBRO with regard to these structures. Heritage Character Statements for the Commissioner's Residence and Stable are contained in the Appendices of this plan.

B. Farwell and Soloman Posts

The construction of buildings at Farwell and Soloman Post was initiated by the RCMP in 1965 as a Canadian Centennial Project. Like the remount ranch buildings constructed earlier, the design and construction of these buildings was based upon available research at the time. When the CPS assumed control in 1968, they decided to integrate these reconstructed buildings into the historic site's interpretation program. By 1973, the two posts had been completed and the Farwell buildings furnished with historic objects and period reproductions. Soloman's Post, while not open to the public, remains an important part of the period landscape.



3. Cultural Landscape Features

A. Cemeteries

Fort Walsh NHS contains two cemeteries in the vicinity of the Visitor Reception Centre; the North-West Mounted Police Cemetery and the Civilian Cemetery (Figure 3). When the HSMBC recommended Fort Walsh to be of national historic significance in 1924, the site of Fort Walsh was on private ranch property. In 1926, arrangements were made by federal officials to have a cairn erected on the site of the original NWMP cemetery.

This cairn was the beginning of an ongoing program to recognize and protect the cemetery which has prevailed to the present time. The grave markers were maintained and a fence introduced to protect the site.

The other cemetery, now known as the “civilian cemetery”, is located on the knoll west of the Visitor Reception Centre. Known initially as the “Indian” cemetery, this site contains a number of grave markers recognizing civilians who died in the vicinity during the Fort Walsh era. This cemetery is defined by a simple log fence and an interpretive sign.

B. Cypress Hills Massacre Site

The Cypress Hills Massacre Site is commonly believed to be a small meadow area abutting the historic site’s southeast boundary. When the RCMP transferred its remount ranch and the associated property to the federal government in 1968, the land transaction did not include the massacre site. The forty to fifty acre parcel containing the massacre site remains under the private ownership of the Nuttall family who use the land as part of their ranching operation. As this resource will remain in the private domain for the foreseeable future, there is no public access.

C. Historic townsite

Shortly after the NWMP established Fort Walsh in 1875, a townsite was occupied north of the police post across Spring Creek. Prominent American merchants such as I.G. Baker and T.C. Power from Fort Benton established stores and were joined by other entrepreneurs attracted by supply contracts for goods and equipment. At its peak, the Fort Walsh townsite supported several hundred residents.

In 1973 CPS archaeologists mapped and tested the Fort Walsh townsite. Eighty-three depressions and a single rock pile were recorded. A number of the depressions were test excavated in an attempt to interpret their function. The townsite has not been investigated to its fullest potential. Excavations have been limited and most identification and interpretation is based on depression fixtures, some artifacts and comparisons with the few townsite historic records and photographs.

**D. Ranching Era Resources**

Archaeological remains of the ranching occupation, circa 1890-1942, have been identified. They include the foundations of a ranch house, evidence of outbuildings and gardens, an early dam site and other physical features of ranching activity adjacent to Spring Creek. These resources have not been investigated by archaeologists beyond a basic survey. The ranching resources have not been incorporated in the site's interpretation program.

E. Aboriginal Resources

Among the pre-contact and early historic archaeological resources at Fort Walsh NHS are major encampments consisting of teepee rings and stone tool debris, sites consisting solely of stone artifact scatters, some graves, cairns and cache sites (Figure 4). To date, most of these sites have been found on the ground surface. Other sites are no doubt below ground, but little investigation has been conducted for subsurface prehistoric sites.

The most common type of surface features observed at the historic site are those associated with the aboriginal occupation of the area. Usually located on exposed bench tops or along hill slopes, only a couple of these aboriginal sites are thought to be pre-contact. The majority relate to the 1875-82 occupation of the area.

The 1979 archaeological site survey also identified and located several important occupation sites associated with Metis people. Depressions and cellars near Farwell's Post are believed to be associated with Metis occupants who moved into the Cypress Hills by the mid-nineteenth century as part of their seasonal hunting cycle. One identified site is believed to be the homestead of Edward Mackay, a Metis trader and later a contractor in the Fort Walsh area.

**F. Historic Trails**

The present boundaries of Fort Walsh NHS contain an extensive network of approximately 19 historic trails. The major arteries are the remnants of the old wagon trails which intersected at Fort Walsh and linked the police post to Fort MacLeod to the west, Fort Benton to the south and the Qu'Appelle district to the east. These major trails are now referred to as the Fort Benton, Whoop-Up Country and Qu'Appelle trails.



2.3.3 Natural Resources

1. Geographic Area

While Fort Walsh NHS is commemorated for its historic associations, the site boundaries contain what is in many ways a microcosm of the natural history of the Cypress Hills. The Cypress Hills are a dissected, flat-topped plateau covering an area of about 1,000 square miles in southwestern Saskatchewan and southeastern Alberta situated at the northern extension of an escarpment known as the Missouri Couteau. Geologists have referred to the Cypress Hills as “the hills that shouldn’t be”. They are a small remnant of a large depositional plateau which existed in the region forty-million years ago that was later almost totally eroded away.

Throughout history the abundant natural resources contained in the Cypress Hills have attracted human habitation. Prior to European contact, aboriginal groups occupied the Cypress Hills seasonally as part of their annual movement to hunting grounds in the summer and to sheltered areas in the winter. Not only were the hills an area of plentiful resources (flora, game, timber) in summer, they provided an environment for small and large game during the winter. Another key natural resource used by aboriginal people was the lodge pole pine. When the glaciers retreated from the plains, these trees survived as a key natural feature in the Cypress Hills ecosystem.

2. Vegetation

Although it is a comparatively small land base, the Fort Walsh area contains a diverse array of vegetation which includes grassland, shrub and open woodland. The contemporary landscape is more heavily forested than the historic era when intensive use of the tree cover for building construction and fuel left Battle Creek Valley in the vicinity of Fort Walsh only sparsely vegetated with aspen, poplar, balsam, and small scattered bushes. There was also heavy livestock grazing within the site area during the Fort Walsh era.

Today, the CPS does not actively intervene with respect to the site’s natural landscape. There is an ongoing horse grazing lease which has a minimum impact on the Fort Walsh vegetation pattern.

3. Wildlife

Fort Walsh NHS has proven to be an attractive habitat for wildlife prevalent in the Cypress Hills. Deer, moose and elk are a common sight, particularly during the autumn hunting season when this activity in adjoining lands encourages game to congregate within the site boundaries. No hunting is allowed at Fort Walsh NHS. Fishing is allowed if the visitors have a current Saskatchewan fishing license pursuant to provincial regulations. The only other wildlife activity that has to be monitored at Fort Walsh is the beaver population along Spring Creek.



2.4 REGIONAL CONTEXT

2.4.1 Regional Economy and Labour Force

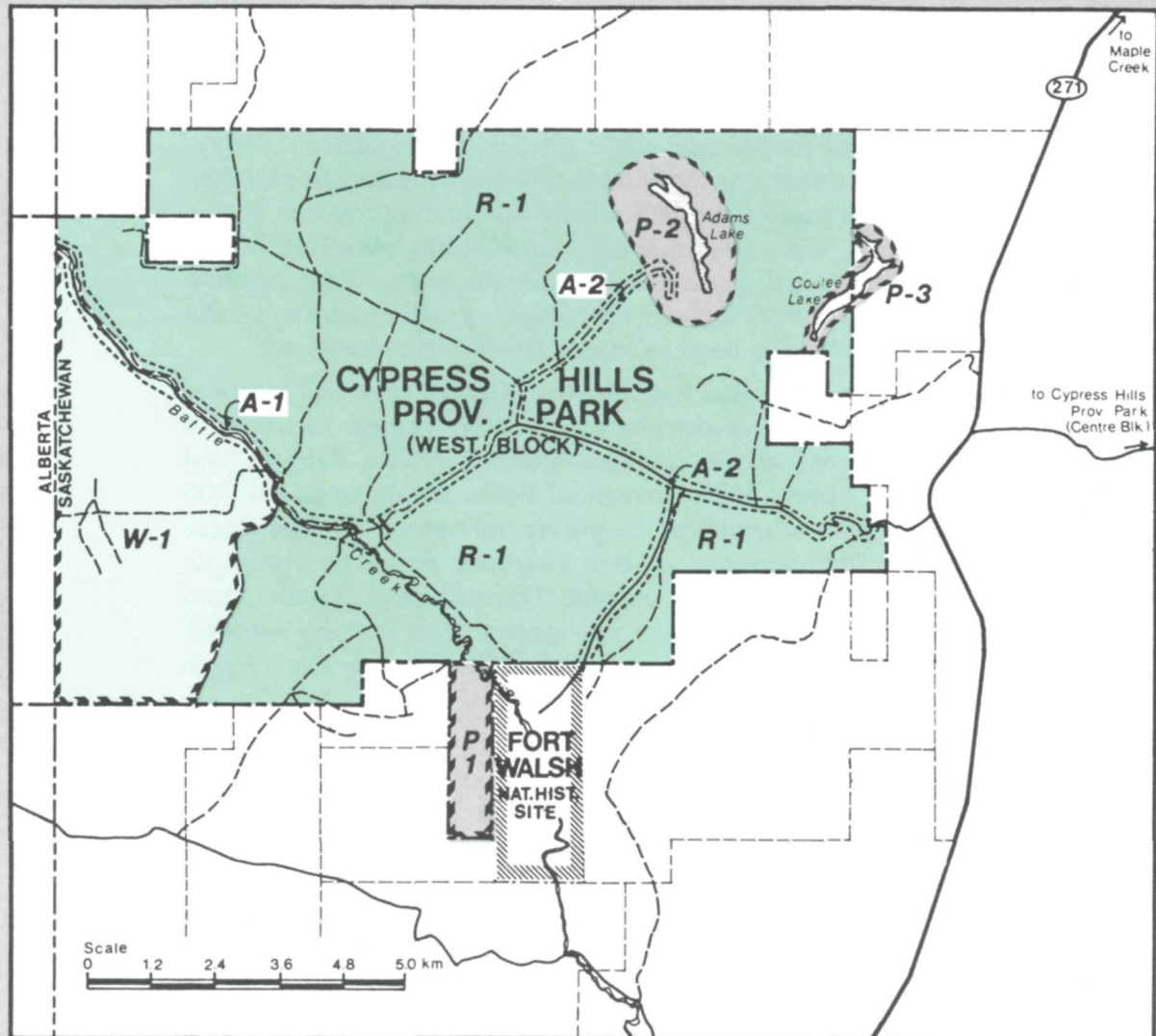
Fort Walsh NHS is situated 55 kilometres southwest of Maple Creek, Saskatchewan, (pop. 3,000) the major regional service centre and the location of the historic site's administration office. Today, ranching and grain farming continue to represent the backbone of the local economy as more than 40% of the labour force works in this traditional sector. To a certain degree the area has benefited from a thriving oil and natural gas industry in recent years. Few regional residents, however, were directly employed, and the majority of the economic spin-offs have been in Maple Creek's service sector.

Canada's recent recession has hurt the Maple Creek and regional economy. One positive development in the region has been a burgeoning interest in the tourism industry. The Alberta and Saskatchewan Cypress Hills Provincial Parks attract over 400,000 people annually to both sides of the provincial boundary. The Horse Shoe Regional Tourism Association has been formed to promote regional tourism. They target enroute Trans-Canada travelers and destination visitors from the prairie provinces as their primary markets. The CPS is working with this organization to integrate Fort Walsh into the tourism packages for this region.

2.4.2 Adjacent Land Use

Fort Walsh NHS is located adjacent to two major provincial parks in the Cypress Hills administered by the Alberta and Saskatchewan governments respectively (Figure 5). Fort Walsh had maintained an ongoing relationship with the provincial parks involving interpretation programs, road access and resource management. In August 1989, an Interprovincial Parks designation for the Alberta and Saskatchewan Cypress Hills parks was officially announced. The objective of this designation is to co-ordinate park management in four key program areas: marketing and promotion, regional economic opportunities, visitor services and natural resource management. From the perspective of Fort Walsh NHS, this Interprovincial Park designation will provide new opportunities for marketing and tourism development and the promotion of an ecosystem approach to the management of protected areas.

Several ranching families also live on land adjacent to Fort Walsh National Historic Site. Over time, the staff at Fort Walsh have developed a positive relationship with their ranching neighbours. Currently a formal mutual aid agreement is being negotiated with regional ranchers. CPS also provides access to the Hanson and Demchenko properties as well as the University of Regina Biological Station by means of the east-west road allowance which runs north of the fort area through the historic townsite, crosses Battle Creek and proceeds to the western boundary of the national historic site.



MANAGEMENT ZONES

ACCESS ZONES
A-1, A-2

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ZONE
R-1

PROTECTION ZONES
P-1, P-2, P-3

WILDERNESS ZONE
W-1

Figure 5. Regional Land Use / Ownership



2.4.3 Visitor Use and Trends

Fort Walsh attracts 25,000 visitors annually. Approximately 45% are Saskatchewan residents and about 40% reside in Alberta. According to a visitor survey, the majority of visitors are on trips averaging ten days, four of which are spent in Saskatchewan and one in the Maple Creek area.

The majority of visitors come to Fort Walsh either for its history and RCMP association, or for entertainment and "something to do". Children under fifteen years of age constitute about 30% of visitors, the largest single group. While at Fort Walsh, visitors spend an average of two hours. Almost everyone goes in the Visitor Reception Centre, 95% go to the fort and approximately 90% to the trading post.

2.4.4 Potential Fee Revenue

It is the policy of CPS to introduce an entrance fee once an acceptable level of operations and development has been achieved. At that time, the specific charge will be determined by a national fee structure.

To date, no final decision has been made with respect to the fee issue at Fort Walsh. It would involve the construction of a kiosk at the entranceway to the national historic site and its staffing during the hours of operation.

2.5 VISITOR ACTIVITIES, SERVICES AND FACILITIES

2.5.1 Visitor Facilities

Fort Walsh contains a number of contemporary visitor facilities (Figure 3). Once visitors arrive at the historic site, they can park their car in the main parking area which has space for 90 cars and at least ten buses. Visitors then proceed to the Visitor Reception Centre (VRC) which functions as an orientation area, exhibit and theatre area, as well as the food service and restroom location. The majority of the VRC space is dedicated to the major exhibit which presents specific historic information by means of panels, artifacts and visuals.

From the VRC the majority of visitors take advantage of the site's free transportation system. The bus system takes visitors every one-half hour from the VRC to the trading post, and then to the fort and back to the VRC. In past years, Fort Walsh has also offered horse-drawn wagon rides. Operated under a concession agreement, this service takes tours between the fort area and Farwell's Post on a fee basis when it is operating.



Fort Walsh also provides several attractive picnic sites. For people who want to be near their vehicles, there is a small picnic area in a wooded area adjacent to the parking lot or visitors can use a shuttle bus service to a picnic site located adjacent to Battle Creek, a short distance southwest of the fort area. This area has a picnic shelter, cooking facilities and toilet facilities.

2.5.2 Interpretation Program

Visitors can participate in a varied interpretive program. Upon arrival, one can view an exhibit and several audio-visual programs in the Visitor Reception Centre. From there the visitor is encouraged to take the bus or horse-drawn wagon to the Solomon and Farwell trading posts. The latter, a reconstructed facility, is fully furnished to the 1870s period and staffed by interpreters in period costumes. Following that interpretive experience, people return to the fort area at the north end of the site where guides offer tours of selected buildings. There are also interpretive signs at the Fort Walsh townsite area as well as introductory interpretive panels at the NWMP and civilian cemeteries.

2.6 SITE OPERATION

Fort Walsh NHS is part of CPS' Saskatchewan South District. The administration of the site is the responsibility of an Operations Manager who manages a small administrative infrastructure with Headquarters in Maple Creek, Saskatchewan. This group oversees the Visitor Activities, Finance and General Works functions of Fort Walsh which is open to the public from May 15 to Thanksgiving. The Operations Manager also oversees a number of service and concession agreements which govern bus transportation, food services, janitorial services, the horse-drawn wagon operation and the grazing lease.



2.7 PLAN ALTERNATIVES

In April 1989 public meetings and information sessions were held in Saskatchewan and southeastern Alberta to introduce the Fort Walsh management planning program. Discussions with interest groups and the general public formed the basis for a public input newsletter distributed in August 1989. The CPS planning team subsequently developed two plan alternatives based upon policy considerations, the views of other government agencies and interest groups, and comments from the first round of public consultations.



The Fort Walsh alternatives outlined a range of options for directing the national historic site's future operation and development. Because Fort Walsh is a relatively developed national historic site with a well-defined infrastructure, the Fort Walsh alternatives were motivated by two central factors: the protection of the historic resources and the visitor experience that CPS should strive to provide at the national historic site in the future.

CPS presented the plan alternatives for Fort Walsh at public meetings held in Saskatchewan in January 1991 and through a widely distributed public newsletter. As well as its public presentation, CPS submitted its plan alternatives to an assessment by different disciplines within the department as part of the Environmental Assessment and Review Process.

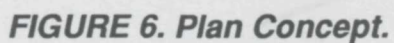
With respect to the Fort Walsh Management Plan, a comprehensive Environmental Screening Report was prepared by Natural Resource Conservation, Prairie and Northern Region, Canadian Parks Service. This report is available upon request from the Operations Manager, Fort Walsh National Historic Site or the Management Planning Division, Prairie and Northern Region, Winnipeg.

3.0 MANAGEMENT PLAN CONCEPT

3.1 MANAGEMENT PLAN OVERVIEW

The following section will define the CPS approach to the protection and commemoration of Fort Walsh NHS. The specific plan proposals will then be followed by the plan implementation framework. The planning team recommends that implementation occur over a ten year period. The initial emphasis will be placed on development of the fort area's potential and presentation of Theme One, "Aboriginal People in the Cypress Hills", together with a general enhancement of the visitor experience. To meet public expectation, expressed during the public consultation program, renewed emphasis will be given to building upon Fort Walsh's relationship with the surrounding community, particularly the ranchers, interprovincial parks and Saskatchewan aboriginal community. Of major importance is the challenge to interpret the important role played by aboriginal peoples in the Cypress Hills.







This plan provides opportunity for an expanded and more comprehensive interpretation of Fort Walsh's four themes by building upon the existing physical resources and interpretive approaches at Fort Walsh NHS to offer a comprehensive site experience within the traditional two to three hour visit (Figure 6 and 7). While the priority target market will be the entertainment experience group, there will be developments particularly well suited to the heritage and education experience groups. The introduction of attractions such as self-guided hikes on the site's heritage trails and possible interpretive programs led by the Nikaneet Band should confirm Fort Walsh as the major cultural heritage attraction in the Cypress Hills region. CPS wants to involve its visitors in the history of Fort Walsh by providing enhanced services, programs and facility developments that will enable them to experience directly the historic resources within the unique natural environment of the Cypress Hills.

3.2 VISITOR EXPERIENCE

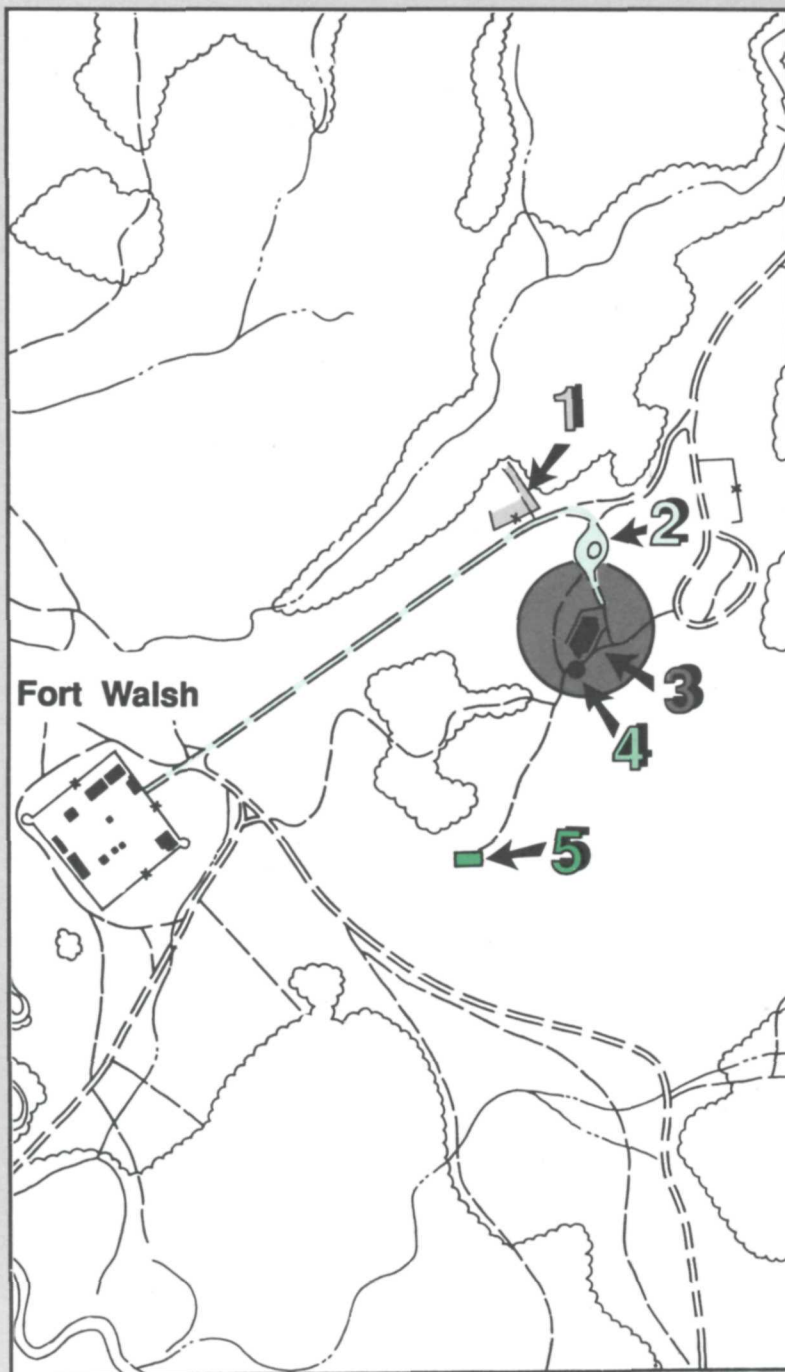
CPS is seeking to involve visitors actively in the history of Fort Walsh, its historic resources and the unique natural environment of the Cypress Hills. An important goal of any protected area under Environment Canada's jurisdiction is to provide local residents and visitors with information and opportunities to increase their awareness and understanding of the area's natural and cultural values and to relate these experiences to modern lifestyles.

Upon arriving at the site, visitors will be directed to the Visitor Reception Centre along a redesigned walkway where they will be greeted by site staff and introduced to the site's four themes through interpretive media. Following this introduction, visitors will set their own itinerary; a visit to the fort and its many activities, a hike and picnic along Battle Creek, interpretive presentations at the townsite, or leisurely enjoyment of the site surroundings are but a few of the possible activities.



In the short-term, visitors can continue to take the bus transport from the Visitor Reception Centre to Farwell's post where they will be immersed in the historic events of "Whoop-Up Country." Demonstrations and interpretation through use of costumed animators will take place.

CPS will develop the fort area as a resource centre to present "The North-West Mounted Police and Canadian Sovereignty in the North-West" theme. Visitors will tour the rejuvenated buildings, see the police in their uniforms and experience demonstrations of historic activities.



VRC AREA REDEVELOPMENT

- 1** NWMP Cemetery Improvements
- 2** CPS Shuttle Bus
- 3** VRC Expanded Services Lookout Deck
- 4** Major Orientation Sign Upgrade (*Paved*)
- 5** Civilian Cemetery Improvements

REGIONAL SETTING

CONTEXTE RÉGIONAL



FIGURE 7. VRC Redevelopment.



A highlight, particularly for school groups, will be the Fort Walsh Educational Room under consideration for the Commissioner's Residence. This room will provide a base for the exploration of the Fort Walsh story through a range of educational resources including Edu-kits, maps, and other materials.

Fort activities will be complemented by the development of a traditional/native encampment by the Nikaneet Band. For walking enthusiasts, a trail network will be developed to take advantage of the site's beautiful natural setting and to interpret Theme One, "Aboriginal People in the Cypress Hills." All these activities will be geared to allow the visitor to discover the themes and resources of Fort Walsh National Historic Site at their own pace and level of interest.

3.3 REGIONAL RELATIONSHIPS

Over the past 20 years Fort Walsh NHS has established various relationships with the regional ranching community, the adjacent provincial parks and regional communities such as Maple Creek. Fort Walsh staff will continue to build upon these regional links but resource restrictions will limit the historic site to a participatory role. These are several issues which merit special consideration in this section.

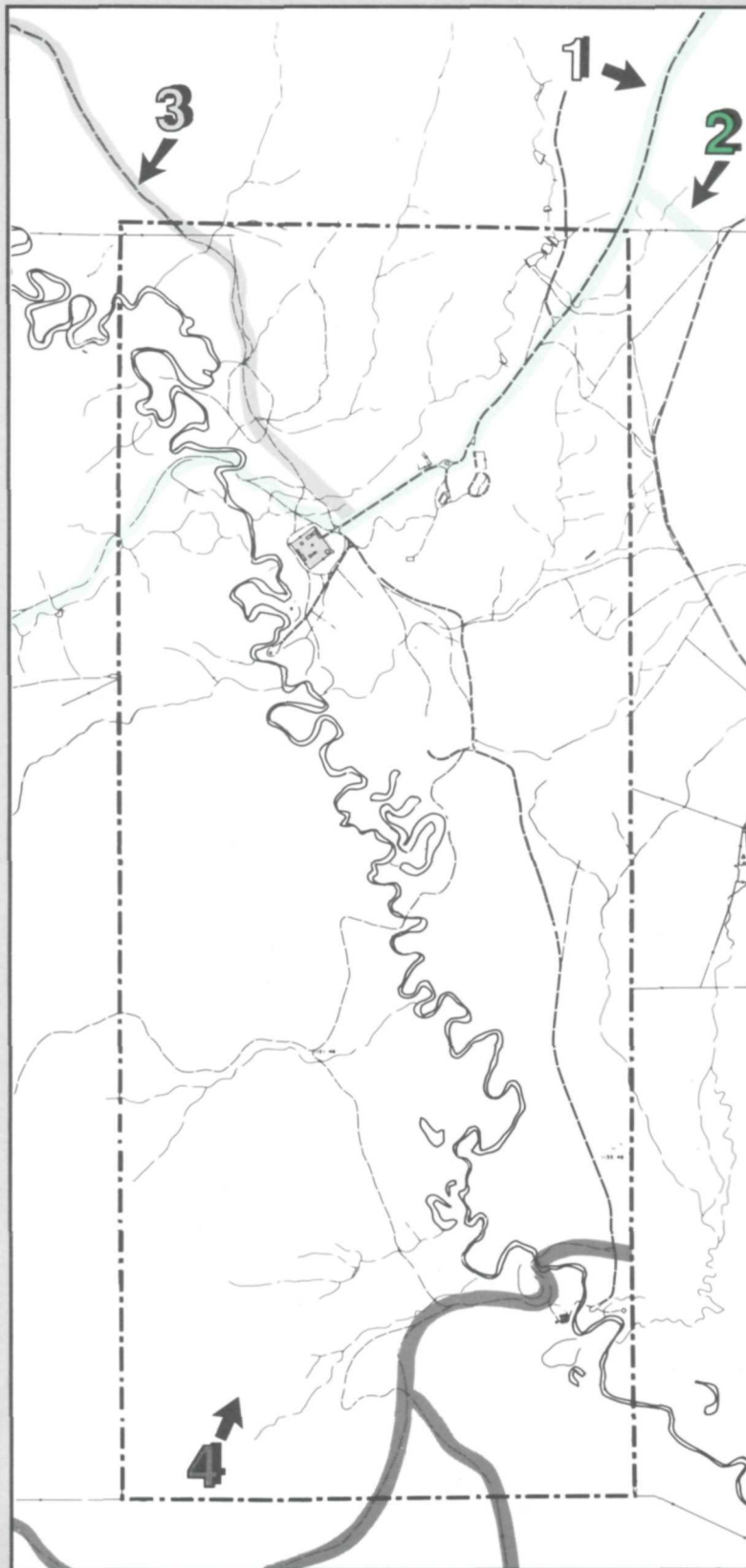
3.3.1 Cypress Hills Massacre Site

In declaring the Cypress Hills Massacre to be an event of national significance in 1964, the HSMBC also recommended that the site be acquired. As previously noted, when the RCMP transferred its property at Fort Walsh to the federal Department of Indian and Northern Affairs in 1968-69, this land transaction did not include the massacre site.

To acquire or lease the Cypress Hills Massacre site would guarantee protection of the site and allow CPS to provide public access to a nationally significant archaeological resource. Therefore, it remains the long term objective of CPS to acquire the Cypress Hills Massacre Site on a "willing seller-willing buyer" basis or make arrangements to lease the property. CPS will continue to maintain contact with the owners of the property who have indicated that the site will remain part of their ranching operation for the foreseeable future.

3.3.2 Municipal Road Allowances Through Fort Walsh NHS

When Fort Walsh was acquired by CPS, a primary objective was to ensure the protection of heritage resources by eliminating all non-site vehicle traffic on the visitor reception centre-fort trading posts route and on trails through the historic townsite (Figure 8). Municipal road allowances and rights of way through the site have caused some operational concerns over the years.



EXISTING MUNICIPAL ROAD ALLOWANCES

- 1** East-West Road Allowance
- 2** East Boundary Proposal for Access to Nuttall's *(Rejected by RM)*
- 3** Ranger STN Road Allowance *(Closed)*
- 4** South Boundary Road Allowance *(Closed)*

REGIONAL SETTING



CONTEXTE RÉGIONALE

FIGURE 8. Existing Municipal Roads.



Of particular concern has been the east-west road which runs north of the fort through the historic townsite area, crosses Battle Creek and proceeds to the western site boundary. It provides the only access to the Hanson, Demchenko and University of Regina Research Station properties. This road is sensitive to weather conditions, particularly as it approaches Battle Creek.

The long term objective will be the negotiation and elimination of all road allowances traversing the existing site land base. CPS will continue to use some of these roads for necessary general works functions and fire control situations. In the short term CPS will meet with the Regional Municipality of Maple Creek and the property owners to establish an agreement on appropriate access/egress through the historic townsite area. CPS's position will highlight the archaeological significance and fragility of the resources in the area immediately east of the Battle Creek crossing. CPS will also complete the necessary research to confirm the specific legal status of the Fort Walsh road allowances and rights of way.

3.3.3 Interprovincial Park Designation for Alberta and Saskatchewan Cypress Hills Parks

Fort Walsh has maintained an ongoing relationship with the adjacent provincial parks involving interpretation programs, road access and resource management. A major objective of this planning program was to define what Fort Walsh's relationship will entail with the neighbouring provincial and other federal parks.

In August 1989 an "Interprovincial Park" designation for the Alberta and Saskatchewan Cypress Hills parks was officially announced. As previously noted, the objective of this designation is to co-ordinate park and site management in four key program areas: marketing and promotion, regional economic opportunities, visitor services and natural resource management. From the perspective of Fort Walsh NHS, this Interprovincial Park designation will provide new opportunities for marketing and tourism promotion. CPS will pursue opportunities in co-operative marketing, interpretation and resource management as and when they occur. This relationship is an excellent opportunity for CPS to promote the principles of ecosystem management and environmental citizenship.





3.3.4 The Saskatchewan Aboriginal Community and Fort Walsh NHS

Archaeological sites at Fort Walsh NHS and at other locations throughout the Cypress Hills attest to the important cultural relationship between the aboriginal people and this geographic area. In the development of site themes, this importance is recognized in Theme One, "Aboriginal People in the Cypress Hills." The challenge facing CPS is to help identify effective ways and means to involve the Saskatchewan aboriginal community in the presentation of their history.

Saskatchewan aboriginal representatives have commented on the lack of the aboriginal presence at Fort Walsh. To address this situation at the local level CPS will work closely with the Chief and Council of the local Nikaneet Band to explore interpretive opportunities, training programs and other initiatives. Discussions have been initiated with the Nikaneet Band regarding the development of an aboriginal encampment area at Fort Walsh to present aspects of the Band's history.

3.3.5 Museums/Historic Sites Network

CPS will continue to work with the Saskatchewan heritage community through the well-established Saskatchewan Museums network. This may include co-operative heritage projects with the two major heritage organizations based in Maple Creek; the Maple Creek Old Timers' Association and Jasper Cultural Centre. Fort Walsh staff will also establish contacts with the appropriate authorities in Alberta, Saskatchewan, and the United States to develop the historic links that exist between Fort Walsh and the regional heritage resources. These stronger ties may encompass joint marketing and promotion, exchange of research information, exhibits and other co-operative activities.

3.3.6 Partnerships

CPS will have to encourage the development of effective partnerships at Fort Walsh if the program is to expand. One avenue to explore may be the formation of a co-operating association for Fort Walsh and surrounding attractions, such as the Cypress Hills provincial parks, to supplement services/programming offered by CPS. Presently, to govern fire control CPS is negotiating a formal mutual aid agreement with local governments and residents. Discussions are also progressing regarding a common sewage and waste disposal facility to serve Fort Walsh and the Cypress Hills provincial parks.

In the short term, Fort Walsh will sponsor annual information sessions at the national historic site to discuss issues of mutual concern with the Cypress Hills community and adjacent parks. These meetings could be combined with interpretive programs. Fort Walsh NHS will also continue to work in co-operation with the Horse Shoe Regional Tourism Association to develop a marketing strategy for the region's resources.



3.4 RESOURCE PROTECTION AND TREATMENT

3.4.1 Introduction

CPS is committed to the ongoing protection of the historic and natural resources at Fort Walsh National Historic site. Protection of the structural and archaeological resources involves an ongoing program of archaeological and historic research, building investigation and maintenance, and monitoring of the environmental impact associated with the various visitor service programs. Treatment of the historic resources must conform to the guidelines contained in the Cultural Resource Management Policy adopted by CPS in 1990.

All the buildings at the historic site will meet requirements for safety and security. Every attempt will be made to provide access for the disabled without compromising the historical fabric of the resources.

3.4.2 Archaeological Specimens - Protection and Treatment Framework

CPS has a substantial archaeological specimens collection at its archaeological facility in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Specimens from this collection will be identified for integration into the Fort Walsh NHS interpretation program. These specimens will be assessed in terms of their condition, thematic relationship and suitability for inclusion in the site's interpretation program. Coordination of this project would be pursued in accordance with Collections Management System Directives and be the combined responsibility of the site, Archaeological Services, Historic Resource Conservation and Curatorial Services, PNRO.

3.4.3 Historic Structures

Although no extant structures have survived from the historic 1875-1882 era, CPS will retain the majority of structures for interpretation and operational purposes. To define the conservation approach to the surviving structures, the following conservation terminology will apply:

Preservation: consolidating and maintaining the existing form, material and integrity of historic resources.

Interim Protection: processes of a temporary nature such as bracing in response to an emergency situation or while awaiting further development. The principal criteria are non-destructive activity, reversibility and reduction of deterioration.



Stabilization: A program of temporary or permanent upgrading to ensure the stability and security of the asset and to reduce maintenance requirements and deterioration. The primary emphasis is on protection, without significant adaptation or restoration.

Rehabilitation: The modification of layout, finishes, structural capacity and services to satisfy various contemporary requirements while preserving the integrity of surviving historic fabric.

1. Fort Walsh

No structures have survived from the original Fort Walsh era, 1875-1882. There are, however, ten extant log buildings at the site which were erected by the RCMP between 1943 and 1948. These structures were designed to serve as a remount station for breeding and raising horses for the force, as well as to recreate the historic atmosphere of the original fort. As a centennial project, the RCMP complemented those 1940s structures by reconstructing the NCO Quarters at the fort as well as the Soloman and Farwell trading posts at the south end of the national historic site.

CPS proposes to retain most of these fort buildings for specific use in the site's interpretation program. Specific proposals for their treatment are identified in the Interpretation Section. Two structures have been identified as "Recognized" heritage buildings by the Federal Heritage Building Review Office (FHBRO). This special designation for the Commissioner's Residence and stable ensures that any proposed intervention to these particular buildings must carefully respect their architectural style, building construction and layout.

CPS does not intend to restore these existing reconstructed structures to a particular date. The interpretation program will also stress that these buildings are not from the original Fort Walsh occupation, 1875-1882. Conservation will be for the most part the rehabilitation of the existing resources.

2. Farwell and Soloman Posts

These resources were erected by the RCMP in 1967-68 as a Centennial project. Their construction was based upon available historical information. Subsequent research has indicated that the trading posts are relatively accurate period reconstructions which have been well integrated into the Fort Walsh interpretation program.

Ongoing maintenance of the Soloman and Farwell posts is recommended. This maintenance schedule, however, will be coordinated with the long term objective to phase out the bus transportation system to Farwell and Soloman posts.



3.4.4 Cultural Landscape Features

1. Cemeteries

The two cemeteries are directly associated historically to the Fort Walsh era with particular relevance to Theme Three, "The NWMP and Canadian Sovereignty in the Northwest." The original commemoration of the historic site centred upon the protection of the NWMP cemetery and the federal police force maintain a special interest in the resource. To protect the NWMP and Civilian Cemeteries, CPS proposes the following development in accordance with CPS policy governing Human Remains, Cemeteries and Grave Sites (Figure 6):

- ✓ pursue further research on the individuals buried in both the NWMP and civilian cemeteries;
- ✓ introduce of the original fence design around the graves within the NWMP cemetery; and
- ✓ improve the trail system linking the VRC to the civilian cemetery which will receive a comprehensive preservation treatment. This upgrading will involve some improvements to the fences and grave markers to make this a more relevant interpretive resource.

2. Original Trail Alignments

The historic wagon trails crisscrossing Fort Walsh NHS have excellent interpretive potential. To take advantage of these trails for hiking and as a route for the horse-drawn wagon operation carries with it corresponding environmental responsibilities. CPS will investigate and monitor the environmental impact of the various interpretation and visitor programs. This process will involve a comprehensive archaeological reconnaissance and monitoring program for the corridors impacted by the horse-drawn wagon routes and hiking trails.

3. Historic Townsite

CPS will continue to monitor the archaeological resources contained in the historic townsite area. The priority area of concern will remain the riverbank area along Battle Creek where erosion is resulting in the loss of cultural resources in the townsite area.

A salvage archaeology project will be pursued in the riverbank area of the Fort Walsh townsite. This project would rescue the information which is being lost through riverbank erosion and enhance this area in the long term as a destination for visitors.

4. Ranching Era Resources

Many of the ranching era resources (circa 1890-1940) were identified in the 1978 Archaeological Survey of the site. Although these resources will not play a key role in the site's interpretation program, a monitoring system will be introduced. The particularly vulnerable area is the building foundation remains along Spring Creek.



5. Aboriginal Resources

Fort Walsh NHS will place a priority emphasis on the protection and interpretation of resources associated with the occupation of the Cypress Hills by aboriginal peoples. Towards this end, CPS will review the 1978 survey of archaeological resources pertaining to aboriginal occupation of the site and confirm a strategy for their ongoing protection. This strategy will be linked to the discussions with the Nikaneet Band about their potential involvement in an Interpretation program at Fort Walsh NHS.

CPS will coordinate a regional pre-contact history study to support the commemoration of Theme One, "Aboriginal People in the Cypress Hills." This project will involve a comprehensive literature review relating regional prehistory (southwestern Saskatchewan, southeastern Alberta, Montana), specifically to the Cypress Hills. CPS will strive to involve the Saskatchewan aboriginal organizations in this project as well as the Saskatchewan Archaeological Society and other relevant heritage groups.

In the long term CPS will initiate an archaeological inventory of a subsurface, pre-contact aboriginal site to expand the knowledge level and to provide a land base for interpreting this aspect of Theme One. This public-oriented project could involve trained volunteers or be run as a co-operative venture with regional universities or archaeological groups.

The other area where further archaeological analysis will be required is the probable Metis hivernant site on the west side of Battle Creek adjacent to Farwell's Trading Post.

3.4.5. Natural Resource Protection

The natural history features of Fort Walsh NHS are a major asset which require protection and a modest level of resource management by CPS.

A. Site Conservation Plan

CPS will prepare a Conservation Plan which addresses the historic site's various natural resource management issues.

B. Hunting

No hunting is allowed on the Fort Walsh NHS. CPS will initiate discussions with the appropriate Saskatchewan conservation agencies to explore a more formal agreement with respect to the enforcement of the hunting ban at Fort Walsh.

C. Horse Grazing Lease

Fort Walsh NHS will continue its horse grazing lease on a controlled basis. It is an appropriate use of the land base and adds an important element to the site's character. The capacity for grazing will be assessed as one component of the proposed Conservation Plan.



D. Fire Control Plan

CPS will prepare a Fire Control Plan. The plan will be a very pragmatic assessment of the site's wildfire and structural fire suppression requirements and identification of the necessary training and equipment. This plan will be the framework to assess the feasibility of a more formal mutual aid area agreement with the surrounding municipalities and the Province of Saskatchewan.

E. Sewage and Waste Disposal System

CPS will prepare a comprehensive evaluation of the Fort Walsh NHS sewage and waste disposal system to ensure that the method of sewage disposal meets environmental standards and does not impact negatively on the water quality of Battle Creek. Discussions are ongoing with the Province of Saskatchewan to develop a new sewage disposal system for Fort Walsh NHS.

3.5 INTERPRETATION PROPOSALS

3.5.1 Introduction

Interpretation of the major themes at Fort Walsh will be based upon a diverse program of activities centred upon access to the historic site's diverse resources. CPS will develop the hiking trails and the aboriginal interpretation program to allow visitors to experience the site on a firsthand basis. At the same time, enhancement of key visitor facilities such as the Visitor Reception Centre and the fort area will be a central objective of this Fort Walsh Management Planning Program.

Demonstrations, exhibits and period furnishings will be important ways to communicate the major themes, as well as increase public awareness and the appeal of the site. Interpretation staff in period costumes and uniforms will continue to be the central players in the program.

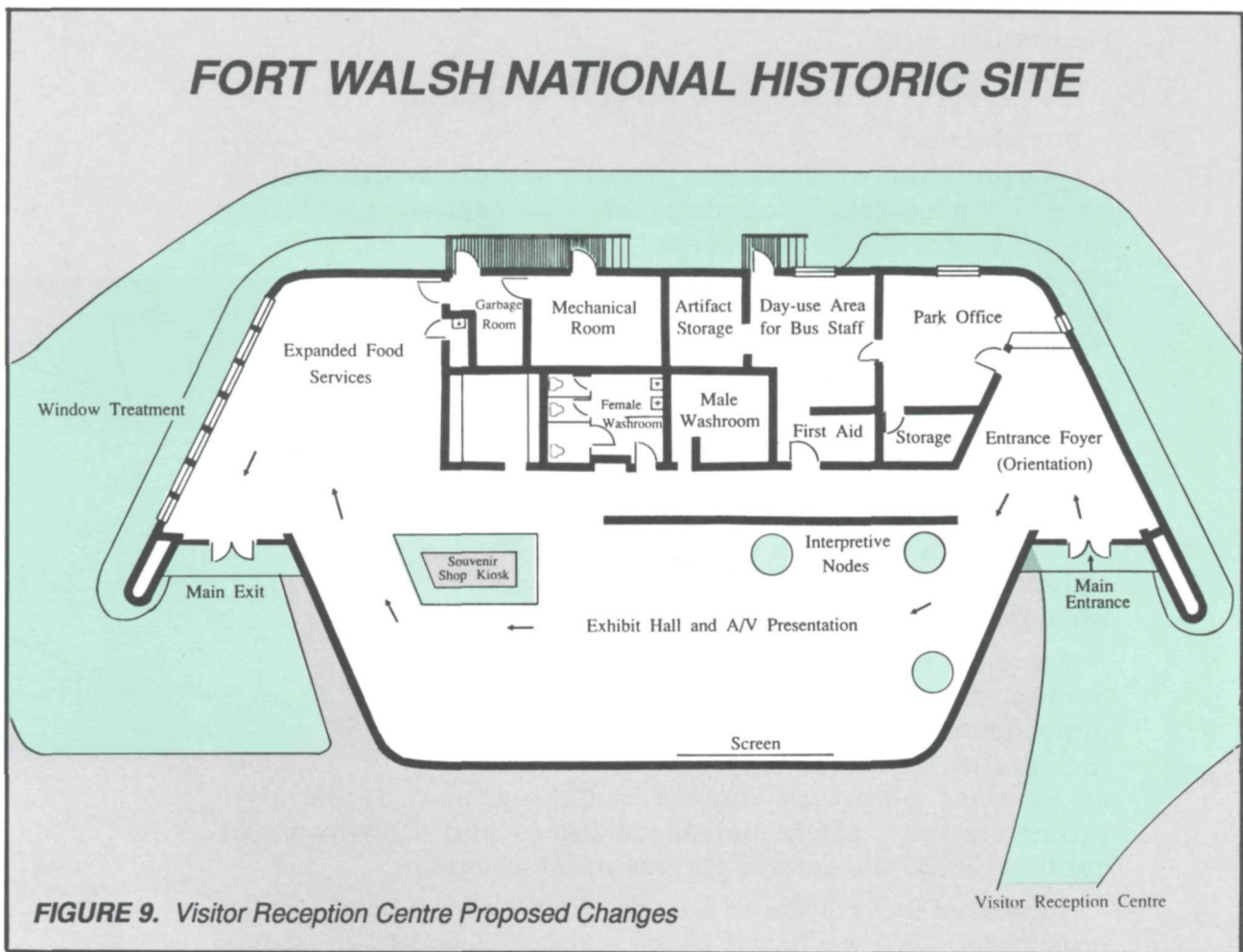
A detailed description of how the Fort Walsh themes will be interpreted will be based upon a specific communications strategy to be outlined in the Site Service Plan. The following approach is proposed for the site's interpretive resources.





3.5.2 Visitor Reception Centre

Thematically, emphasis in the VRC interpretation program will focus on Theme One, "Aboriginal People in the Cypress Hills" and Theme Two, "Whoop-Up Country and the Cypress Hills Massacre". Functionally, the existing exhibit hall and the audio-visual theatre will be combined to form a public space which will contain a presentation area, interpretive media and video presentation capacity (Figure 9). The video presentation will provide an orientation to the site and an overview of the four themes. This space reallocation will also allow for a modest expansion of the souvenir shop and food services area. Another key change at the Visitor Reception Centre will be the addition of a window and a lookout deck at the south end of the building.





3.5.3 Trading Posts

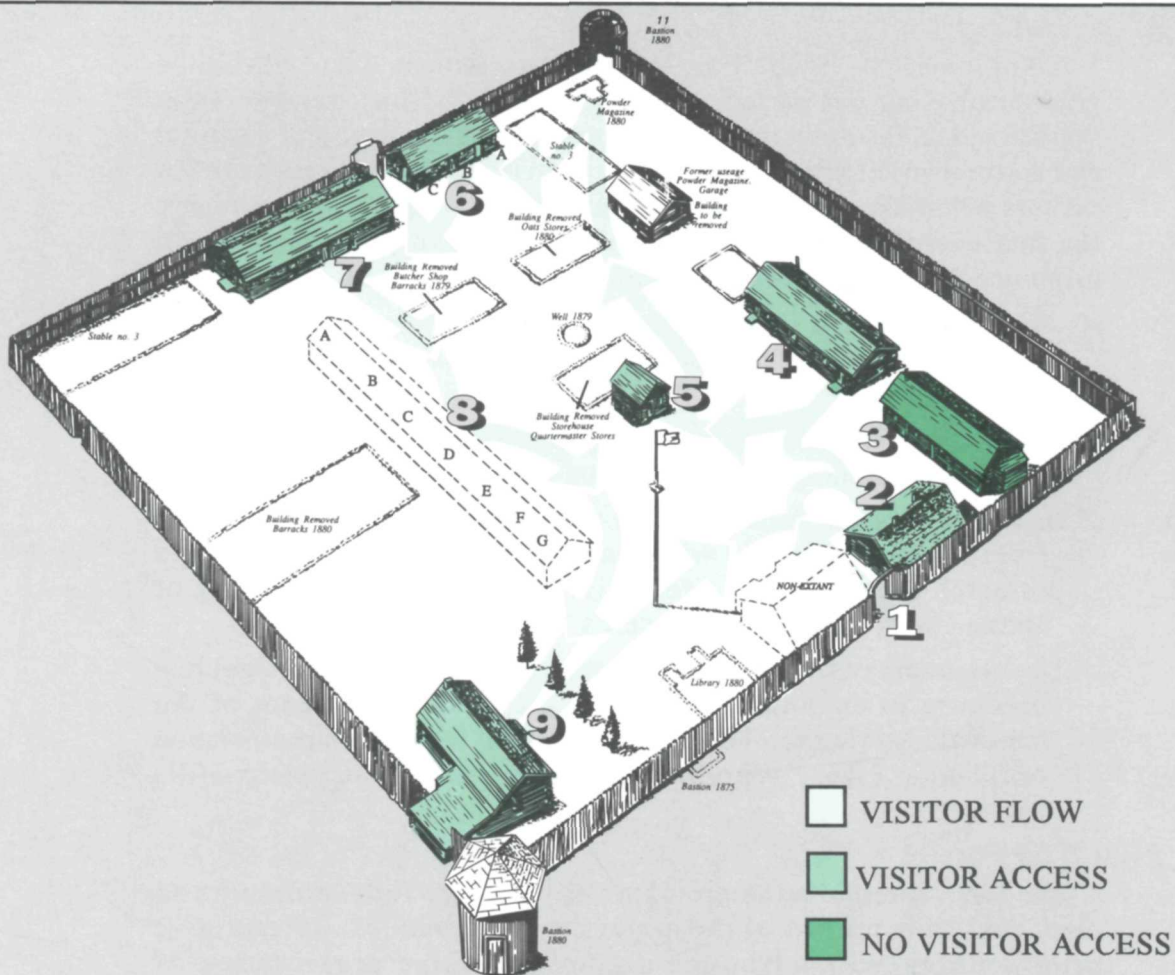
A key objective of the Fort Walsh Management Plan will be the gradual phasing out of the current gas-powered bus transportation system and its resulting impact upon the national historic site's natural and cultural environment. In the long term this policy will mean fewer visitors will make their way to the trading posts. Therefore, to prepare for this eventuality, several initiatives will take place which will influence the interpretation program at the trading posts.

- ✓ A comprehensive feasibility study will be undertaken to explore alternative modes of transportation that could be used at Fort Walsh NHS;
- ✓ In the short term, demonstrations and interpretation through use of costumed animators will take place at Farwell's Post;
- ✓ In the context of presenting the role of aboriginal people in the Cypress Hills, the site will consider the merit of developing a research program at the Metis hivernant site on the west bank of Battle Creek adjacent to Farwell's Trading Post; and
- ✓ Development of the trading post area walking tour and self-guiding brochure to explore and discover the southwest corner of the national historic site. This information will focus upon presentation of Theme Two, "Whoop-Up Country and the Cypress Hills Massacre".

3.5.4 The Fort

The fort's interpretation program will undergo redevelopment to meet the expectations of the major target audiences. Interpretive programming will introduce a comprehensive presentation of Theme Three, "The NWMP and Canadian Sovereignty in the North-West." Visitors will continue to enter the area within the palisade by the east gate. They will be greeted by staff in period costumes who will direct them to the adjacent building, the Superintendent's Residence, for orientation. CPS will continue to preserve most of the reconstructed buildings within the fort area to represent its occupation by the NWMP from 1875 to 1882. There will be no attempt to return the fort complex to a particular date, i.e, 1878. The preservation approach to the buildings will emphasize the plan's intent to adopt these reconstructed buildings, not to create the impression that they are restored original structures. The recommended building use, interpretive function and visitor flow is shown in Figure 10.

The expanded interpretive program in the fort area is intended to increase its attraction to school groups who visit primarily during May and June. It will also provide a more exciting venue for the entertainment market which consists primarily of family groups on afternoon outings while camping at the adjacent provincial parks. Site staff will not be animating the role of the police but limited functional demonstrations may be provided.



PRESENT USE

- 1 Main Fort Entrance
- 2 Visitor Orientation
- 3 Park Staff Office
- 4 Interpretive Exhibit/
5 Interpretive Facility
- 6 Interpretive Facility
 - A. Storage
 - B. Carpenter Workshop
 - C. Blacksmith Workshop
- 7 Stable
- 8 Barracks Building
 - A. Veterinary
 - B. Washrooms
 - C. Baths
 - D. Barracks
 - E. Division Stores
 - F. Officers Stores
 - G. Sergeant Major's Quarters
- 9 Commissioner's Residence
- 10 Replica of Original Flagpole
(to be added)
- 11 Bastion Roof (to be added)

NORTHWEST MOUNTED POLICE

- 1 Main Entrance
- 2 Superintendent's House
- 3 Officer's Mess
- 4 Museum
- 5 Generator Shed
- 6 NWMP
 - A. Sick Horse Stable
 - B. Carpenter's Shop
 - C. Blacksmith Shop
- 7 Stable
- 8 Barracks Building
 - A. Veterinary
 - B. Washrooms
 - C. Baths
 - D. Barracks
 - E. Division Stores
 - F. Officers Stores
 - G. Sergeant Major's Quarters
- 9 Commissioner's Residence
- 10 Flagpole
- 11 Bastion Roof

HISTORIC USAGE

- 1 Main Fort Entrance
- 2 Wash's Quarters
Hospital/Prisoners
after Confinement
- 3 Kitchen
Officer's Mess
Orderly Room
- 4 NCO Quarters kitchen / mess
- 5 Guardhouse
- 6 Historic
 - A. Sick Horse Stable
 - B. Carpenter's Shop
 - C. Blacksmith's Shop
- 7 Stable
- 8 Barracks Buildings
 - A. Veterinary
 - B. Washrooms
 - C. Baths
 - D. Barracks
 - E. Division Stores
 - F. Officers Stores
 - G. Sergeant Major's Quarters
- 9 Commissioner's Residence
- 10 Flagpole
- 11 Bastion Roof

FIGURE 10. Fort Interpretive Treatment.



Building 1 Superintendent's Residence

- ✓ Design and implement a preservation treatment to the building exterior;
- ✓ Adapt the interior of this building to serve as a major orientation area for Theme Three. The interpretive presentation will emphasize the formation of Fort Walsh as a police post, the post's relationship to the adjacent townsite community, and the historical interaction between the police and the aboriginals in the region;
- ✓ Rehabilitate the public washrooms; and,
- ✓ Encourage all fort visitors to begin their visit to this resource by observing the orientation information available at this facility. This includes a scale model of Fort Walsh.

Building 2 Officers' Mess

- ✓ Design and implement a preservation treatment to the building exterior; and,
- ✓ Rehabilitate this building interior to serve as the headquarters for Visitor Activities staff. It will contain their dress area, lunch facilities, washrooms and library.

Building 3 Non-Commissioned Officers' Quarters

- ✓ Carry out further architectural and historic research to confirm the historic exterior appearance and interior layout of this structure;
- ✓ Use this building to interpret the role of the NWMP Non-Commissioned Officers with particular emphasis upon their lifestyle, accommodation and activities at Fort Walsh; and
- ✓ Furnish two rooms to represent its occupation by the Non-Commissioned Officers posted to Fort Walsh. The two rooms would be designated to interpret their living quarters and eating area functions.

Building 4 Guard House

- ✓ Adapt this building to interpret its historic function as the Fort Walsh Guard House. It will be furnished with period reproductions and interpreted to emphasize the law and order function of the NWMP.

Garage (Magazine)

The erection of this building was a response to the need to have a shelter for a car and a truck at the remount ranch, and not because of the historic importance of the "Magazine" or the ammunition storage building which it was intended to represent.

- ✓ Removal of this structure from the fort area is recommended. Its fire equipment will be relocated to the north room in the Artisans Building and the remaining equipment to the maintenance compound.

**Building 5 Artisans Building**

Built in 1945-46, this building was subdivided to serve as a carpenter's shop, blacksmith's shop and sick horse stable for the remount station. Research prior to the reconstruction work indicated there had been either a single structure or else three separate structures serving these same functions in the same general area of the original fort.

- ✓ Carry out the furnishing of two rooms with period reproductions to interpret the artisan function at Fort Walsh. The middle room will emphasize the wheelright and blacksmith function. The south room will be furnished to interpret the role of the carpenter during the police occupation.

Building 6 Stable

Reconstructed in 1943, this structure served as the principle stable for the remount station and was situated on what was believed to be the location of one of the stables from the original fort. FHBRO has designated this building a "Recognized" heritage building. The remount ranch era remains of particular interest to residents of the Cypress Hills region and the RCMP who retain a very active interest in the history of the force. The CPS recognizes the importance of the remount ranch era in the overall development of the historic site.

- ✓ Carry out the required preservation work for the structure;
- ✓ Develop this building as the central (site) resource to interpret the theme, "Ranching and the Remount Station Era." A small exhibit will be introduced at its entrance to explain the RCMP remount ranch era, 1942-68; and,
- ✓ No major changes to the interior of the building are required. CPS will consider the addition of some equipment representing the horse maintenance function.

Building 7 Bakery/Meat House/Ice House

- ✓ In the short term, these three buildings will be retained. They will then be removed and replaced by a contemporary building to serve interpretive and operational functions.

Two of these structures, the Meat House and Ice House, were built and located circa 1945 south of the ranch along Battle Creek. The bakery was built in 1945-46 to serve as a granary for storing oats for the horses. The Meat House was moved to its present location in 1958 to provide additional storage facilities while the Ice House was moved to its present location in 1967.

Although constructed of logs, these buildings were not intended to represent historic structures. They were positioned on the approximate site of a large barracks building from the 1870s and are now in very poor structural condition. Furthermore, they presently do not serve appropriate interpretive, visitor service or operational functions.



- ✓ Following a feasibility study, a new contemporary building will be constructed adjacent to the foundation of the historic 1878 Barracks buildings. It will be similar in appearance and size to buildings that existed in the historic era but will not be a building of a definite period, authenticity and function.

The 1878 Barracks building historically housed several functions: the Division and Officers' Stores, the Sergeant Major's Quarters, Men's Barracks, washrooms and baths, as well as the office of the Fort Walsh veterinarian. To interpret these historic functions, furnished spaces would represent the veterinary office, the Officers' Stores and barracks. Other rooms would be designed as multipurpose space for community events and artifact and period reproduction storage in the winter season. The historic site requires adequate collections storage and management space to accommodate its considerable collection.

Flagpole

The existing flagpole in the fort area is in the wrong location, smaller than the original and reflects a different operational system. CPS proposes to identify the correct location and to replicate the original flagpole in size, dimension and operational system. The flagpole was a major symbol of the Canadian presence at Fort Walsh. Various events can be demonstrated on the parade grounds in the area of the flagpole.

Building 8 Commissioner's Residence

One of the first structures to be erected at the site in 1943, this building represented the residence of A.G. Irvine, Assistant Commissioner of the NWMP during the Fort Walsh era. This structure has been rehabilitated externally and internally by CPS and is presently vacant. The following treatment is proposed.

- ✓ Completion of the necessary repair work on the external logs;
- ✓ Furnish three rooms with period reproductions: the Commissioner's Office, living room and bedroom;
- ✓ Consider the adaptation of some interior space to serve as the Fort Walsh education room. Specific educational resources will be introduced to establish a discovery room with a variety of support educational materials related specifically to the Fort Walsh themes. This development is aimed specifically at the education market who seek special programs to complement their classroom learning through active participation and hands-on access to historic resources; and
- ✓ Consider reintroducing features of the cultural landscape in front of the Commissioner's Residence. This would include spruce trees and cannons but no formal fences or gardens. The service plan will identify specific interpretive programs to take advantage of this important landscape feature.

**Palisades/Bastions**

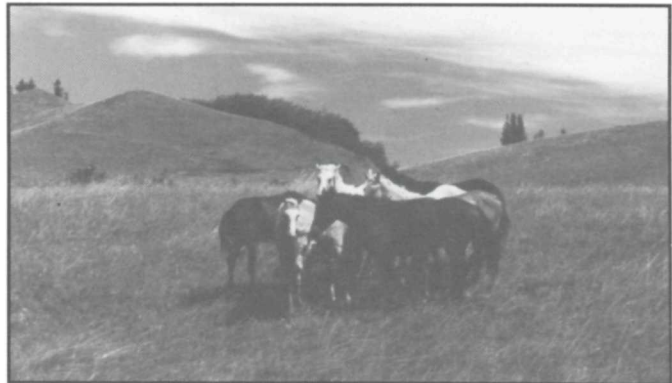
- ✓ Continue to investigate ways and means to return the reconstructed palisade to its more historically accurate appearance; and
- ✓ If historic and archaeological evidence can substantiate it, introduce the roof on the northwest bastion to reflect its original appearance and function.

Landscape Features

- ✓ Remove the existing interpretive signs and building identification markers for the fort grounds, and replace them with a pamphlet and orientation information available in the Superintendent's Residence; and
- ✓ Encourage use of the fort grounds by heritage groups interested in historic interpretation; and
- ✓ Introduce accurate reproductions to the fort landscape such as wagons, rain barrels and other support material to enhance its appearance and interpretive potential.

3.5.5 The Townsite

- ✓ Introduce an interpretive program to highlight the historic importance of the townsite area northwest of the fort. This project could be carried forward as a public archaeology program, if the level of interest by provincial/local archaeology organizations is adequate to make such a project viable; and
- ✓ Consider introducing signs and support material for the townsite area to enhance visitor use by identifying the location and significance of the buildings and activities.

**3.5.6 Ranch Resources**

From the 1890s onward, the Fort Walsh property was the base for a succession of ranching operations. The foundation remains of the Nuttall Ranch are readily visible north of the fort road adjacent to Spring Creek. CPS will interpret this theme by encouraging site visitors to visit these resources. An outdoor exhibit will be considered in the service plan. These resources will also be included in the self-guided walk. CPS will seek the participation of local ranchers such as Mr. Nuttall and regional heritage groups in the development of this theme.



3.5.7 Heritage Walking Trails

CPS will develop a trail network to take advantage of the site's beautiful natural setting. Four main networks are proposed.

1. Wood Mountain Trail loop
2. Trading Post Trail loop
3. Townsite/Battle Creek Valley Trail loop
4. New Hiking Trail

These trails will be designed for safe public access by school groups, tours and individuals. These trails will interpret Theme One, "Aboriginal People in the Cypress Hills." CPS will seek the involvement of aboriginal people in the development and operation of this trail network.

3.6 VISITOR SERVICES AND SUPPORT FACILITIES

Public access to a national historic site is essential to its interpretation. Public access to visitor services and interpretive activities at Fort Walsh will be provided in the following ways.

- ✓ Convenient opening hours to allow a broad segment of the public to attend. Fort Walsh currently offers generous spring hours but during the peak summer months, as the site's programming is enhanced, opening hours may be expanded to accommodate special events;
- ✓ Access for disabled visitors. To offer meaningful programs to disabled audiences is an ongoing challenge to CPS. The Fort Walsh Access Plan defines specific objectives for special needs visitors at Fort Walsh NHS;
- ✓ Accessible walking routes. There is a great deal to see in this large site. Routes to the different areas of Fort Walsh NHS will be sign posted and existing pathways will be regularly maintained.
- ✓ Signs, graphics and support material. This information is necessary to enhance visitor use of the park by communicating the location and significance of each area, building and activity on the site. This "user information" will be presented in as clear and concise a fashion as possible; and
- ✓ Access to staff at any time when the historic site is open. As part of their job, all interpreters will be prepared to answer visitor questions or know who to contact for additional information. It is important for Fort Walsh management to keep abreast of current visitor concerns and interests by speaking regularly with site interpreters.

3.6.1 Special Needs Visitors

In 1989 Treasury Board announced a new federal policy on accessibility of real property for disabled persons. As a result, CPS has prepared an Access Plan for Fort Walsh NHS. The plan outlines how the site can make its facilities and services accessible to persons with moderate to severe impairments of sight, hearing and mobility.

A modified service plan approach has been used to develop the Fort Walsh Access Plan based upon the conceptual framework outlined in A Planning Outline: "How to Make Canada's National Parks and Historic Sites Accessible to Physically Disabled Persons" All existing services, facilities and historic structures, including the interpretive themes, were examined to determine the degree of accessibility currently offered at Fort Walsh NHS and where appropriate, to identify opportunities to provide greater levels of accessibility. All opportunities identified are consistent with the standards set by the Canadian Standards Association.

3.6.2 Site Access

- ✓ Place highway signs to provide clear direction to Fort Walsh NHS. This is particularly important for the entertainment market, many of whom complement their visit to the Cypress Hills Park with a visit to Fort Walsh;
- ✓ Place a major orientation sign at the parking area to introduce the visitor to the site's services, layout and interpretive opportunities; and,
- ✓ Redesign the pathway from the parking area to the existing VRC entrance to allow safer access for special needs visitors.

3.6.3 Visitor Reception Centre

- ✓ Redesign the south end of the VRC to allow for a view of the park and its spectacular Cypress Hills setting;
- ✓ Redesign the food services area to allow for an increased seating area and better storage for the concessionaire;
- ✓ Designate and design space in the VRC for the expansion of the existing souvenir sales shop;
- ✓ Designate space in this structure for the winter storage of artifacts and reproductions; and,
- ✓ Introduce a major lookout deck at the south end of the Visitor Reception Centre and incorporate panels for orientation purposes.



3.6.4 North-South Public Transit Route

Since the historic site opened to the public in 1968 visitors have travelled a one lane two-way road along the bench above Battle Creek Valley from the Visitor Reception Centre to Farwell's Post. Because there are problems with the grade and surface of this road, coupled with the environmental impacts associated with its operation, a five year objective of CPS will be to phase out the current gas-powered bus transportation system at Fort Walsh NHS. In the short-term a comprehensive feasibility study will be undertaken it will explore alternative modes of transportation in the context of the existing interpretation program and changes which will see a greater emphasis on the fort and the site's aboriginal resources.

3.6.5 Horse-drawn Wagon Operation

CPS supports the concept of the horse-drawn wagon as an alternative means of transportation for the site visitor. However, the use of the existing route along the Battle Creek Valley has damaged the site's historic trails and this route is subject to erosion and degradation.

In recent years, CPS has not received any expressed interest from the private sector to operate the horse-drawn operation as a concession agreement. Fort Walsh staff will explore different administrative approaches to this service. If an operator can be obtained, the wagon service will be offered on a reservation basis during the spring visitor shoulder season and on a daily basis during the summer.

The following guidelines will govern the development of the wagon service operation:

- ✓ Its feasibility will be examined in the context of the transportation feasibility study; and
- ✓ If the horse drawn-wagon operation is put back in place, designate a staging/storage area for the wagon service operation adjacent to Battle Creek north of the road to the Battle Creek campground. A storage facility conforming to CPS safety and design standards will be erected by CPS to support major repairs, maintenance and other operational requirements.

3.6.6 Picnic Facilities

- ✓ Increase the promotion of the picnic site facilities at the two existing site locations; one adjacent to the parking area and the other at the Battle Creek location.



3.7 MARKET DIRECTION

3.7.1 Introduction

This plan recognizes that the main visitor audience for Fort Walsh will continue to be regional school groups, families on vacation, and those groups and individuals interested in a heritage experience. CPS intends to consolidate and enhance its market position with these groups by offering a comprehensive site experience within the traditional two to three hour visit. The main objective of this plan is to enhance the quality of the visitor experience, not to increase visitation.

CPS will have to make its main audiences aware that Fort Walsh will offer a more diverse range of interpretive opportunities in the long term. The key to this diversification will be the development of interpretive programs to recognize aboriginal history as well as the introduction of the heritage walking trails for those visitors who wish to directly experience the site landscape.

3.7.2 Marketing Strategy

The CPS will prepare a marketing strategy for Fort Walsh which addresses the current needs of its visitors and prepares the site for future shifts in visitor trends and needs. Key aspects of this marketing strategy will include:

- ✓ A strong emphasis upon the marketing opportunities associated with the Cypress Hills Interprovincial Park designation;
- ✓ Continued promotion of Fort Walsh through proven channels such as the Saskatchewan tourism infrastructure, the Trans-Canada Visitor Information Centre at Maple Creek, the Saskatchewan Museums network and the Horse Shoe Regional tourism association;
- ✓ Build upon the heritage tourism opportunities provided by associated regional historic sites such as Fort MacLeod, Fort Benton, Montana and other resources;
- ✓ Consider the introduction of a comprehensive pre-trip orientation package in cooperation with interprovincial parks. It will be designed to encourage the continued support of the main Fort Walsh audiences, the family groups, the heritage community, educational groups and bus tours; and
- ✓ Cross market with other CPS National Historic Sites and National Parks in Saskatchewan and Western Canada.



3.8 SITE ADMINISTRATION AND OPERATION

3.8.1 Administration

The implementation of this management plan will require some organizational change at Fort Walsh NHS. Timely implementation will require the allocation of additional financial resources. The Operations Manager will continue to oversee the site operation from the Maple Creek office under the direction of the Superintendent, Saskatchewan South District.

To meet the expanded responsibilities in the areas of interpretation and visitor services, the site requires a full time rather than the present half time person for the Visitor Activities officer.

The role of the Visitor Activities officer will be expanded to include greater responsibility for marketing, liaison with the provincial parks and the museum network as well as the expanded coordination responsibilities associated with the site's new direction. The Visitor Activities officer also has major responsibilities for Collections Management in terms of site preparation and closing procedures. The General Works staff will also require the necessary funding to maintain acceptable CPS Asset Maintenance standards.

3.8.2 Operational Facilities (On-Site)

The operational facilities at Fort Walsh have been well maintained over the years. Changes to certain facilities are required to meet safety, storage and work efficiency standards.

Projects that will proceed include:

- ✓ Adaptive use of the Officer's Mess Building at the Fort (Figure 10) to house the seasonal Visitor Activity staff. The redesigned facility will house their library, washrooms, showers, lunch facility, changing area and storage function; and
- ✓ Redesign the VRC office space to provide workspace for the Operations Manager and Visitor Activities officer, and storage for artifacts and reproductions in the off season.

3.9 ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

This Management Plan for Fort Walsh National Historic Site was screened in accordance with the Environmental Assessment and Review Process (EARP) Guidelines Order and the Canadian Parks Service Management Directive 2.4.2. At a conceptual level, and based on available information, potentially adverse effects predicted to occur from the implementation of plan provisions were determined to be either insignificant or mitigatable with known technology. Mitigation measures proposed will be budgeted for, implemented, and monitored for effectiveness.



The main criteria used in the assessment of this plan were the protection of cultural and natural heritage resources and the maintenance of site integrity. Screening of the Fort Walsh Management Plan focused on the following design elements:

- ✓ Regional Interrelationships
- ✓ Natural Resource Protection
- ✓ Cultural Resource Protection
- ✓ Interpretation proposals
- ✓ Visitor Service and Support Facilities
- ✓ Site Administration and Operation
- ✓ Market Direction

The Fort Walsh Management Plan is a conceptual guide for site operation and administration. Environmental effects may result from insufficient information in the plan proposal concepts and/or the resource information. Several plan elements require more detailed site planning and analysis prior to implementation. Project proposals will be subjected to further assessment. These screenings will identify specific requirements and will be designed to assess and monitor individual effects and cumulative impact.

Project proposals in which it is determined that environmental effects are insignificant in isolation may act synergistically or cumulatively with other plan proposals to result in significant effects. In accordance with paragraph 45 of Management Directive 2.4.2 the following plan provisions are accepted on a conditional basis pending the results of further area development planning to determine their cumulative effect.

- ✓ Municipal Road Allowance Usage
- ✓ Site Access (roads, trails, horse use)
- ✓ Site Waste Management Strategy
- ✓ Site Interpretive Facilities/Historic Resources
- ✓ Natural Resource Protection
- ✓ Grazing/horse use



4.0 MANAGEMENT PLAN IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK

4.1 INTRODUCTION

CPS will prepare a comprehensive implementation strategy to ensure that the provisions of the plan are carried out in a systematic and timely fashion.

Responsibility for the preparation of this strategy will rest with the Operations Manager, Fort Walsh NHS, with the co-operation of the various disciplines represented on the management planning team.

The implementation of many provisions in this management plan are dependent on the availability of financial resources and an adequate base of research. Approval of this plan does not constitute automatic approval of funding for implementation. Standard federal government financial management requirements, funding procedure approvals and the directives of control agencies responsible for government spending and accountability will be adhered to at all stages of the implementation.

The following framework will guide the preparation of the implementation strategy for the site.

MANAGEMENT PLAN IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK

PLAN PROVISIONS	PHASE 1 (Year 1-5)	PHASE 2 (Year 6-10)
I Regional Relationships		
1. Municipal Road Allowance Agreement	✓	
2. Interprovincial Park Communication	✓	
3. Nikaneet Band Aboriginal Interpretation	✓	
4. Partnership Project with Sask. Museum network		✓
II Cultural Resource Protection and Treatment		
1. NWMP cemetery and grave sites treatment	✓	
2. Civilian cemetery and grave sites treatment		✓
3. Regional Pre-contact History Study	✓	
4. Aboriginal history site Excavation	✓	
5. Townsite Salvage Archaeology	✓	
6. Ranching Era Resource Assessment		✓
7. Métis Hivernant Site Investigation		✓
8. Historic Resource Conservation	✓	



MANAGEMENT PLAN IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK

PLAN PROVISIONS	PHASE 1 (Year 1-5)	PHASE 2 (Year 6-10)
III Natural Resource Protection		
1. Site Conservation Plan	✓	
2. Fire Control Plan	✓	
3. Sewage and Waste Disposal System Review	✓	
IV Interpretation		
VRC		
1. Structural modifications to Exhibit Hall and Audio Visual Theatre	✓	
2. Media Presentation in VRC	✓	
Fort Area Superintendent's Residence		
3. Preservation Treatment of Superintendent's Residence	✓	
4. Orientation information/public facilities	✓	
Officer's Mess		
5. Preservation Treatment and interior adaptation	✓	
N.C.O. Quarters		
6. Preservation Treatment	✓	
7. Completion of furnishing plan and implementation for West and Middle rooms	✓	
Guard House		
8. Preservation treatment and interior modification		✓
9. Furnishing plan and implementation		✓
Artisans Building		
10. Preservation Treatment		✓
11. Furnishing of Carpenter Shop and Blacksmith Shop	✓	
Stables		
12. Preservation Treatment (FHBRO Recognized building)	✓	
13. Interpretive Exhibit	✓	
1878 Barracks Building		
14. Feasibility Study	✓	
15. Building design and construction		✓
16. Furnishing plan and implementation		✓
17. Flagpole replication	✓	

**MANAGEMENT PLAN IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK**

PLAN PROVISIONS	PHASE 1 (Year 1-5)	PHASE 2 (Year 6-10)
Commissioner's Residence		
18. Preservation treatment (FHBRO Recognized building)	✓	
19. Furnishing plan & implementation for Commissioner's Office, Library Room and bedroom	✓	
20. Development of kitchen area as education room	✓	
21. Fort Site Services; Upgrading water & sewer		
Townsite		
22. Townsite interpretation	✓	
Ranch Resources		
23. Outdoor exhibit	✓	
Heritage Walking Trails		
24. Wood Mountain Trail loop	✓	
25. Townsite/Battle Creek Valley Trail loop	✓	
26. Trading Post Trail loop		✓
V Visitor Services		
1. Transportation Feasibility Study		
2. Orientation signs	✓	
3. Visitor Reception Centre access (includes bus turnaround if access funding available)	✓	
4. VRC design improvements to food services/saleshop	✓	
5. Introduction of VRC outdoor deck	✓	
6. Horse drawn wagon infrastructure		✓
7. Picnic Facilities		✓
VI Marketing		
1. Pre-trip orientation package	✓	
VII Park Operation and Maintenance		
1. Evaluation of Fort Walsh sewage and waste disposal system	✓	



APPENDIX #1

Cypress Hills, Saskatchewan

Stable/Building No. 6

Fort Walsh NHS

HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT

The stable was built in 1943 to a design prepared by the RCMP in Ottawa, possibly with the assistance of the Department of Public Works. Refinements to the basic design were made on site by the chief logman/site foreman and the then commissioner Stuart Taylor Wood. A number of alterations were made to the stable during the breeding ranch/remount station era (1943-c1968) to improve operational efficiency and economy; i.e. the replacement of a number of single standing stalls by box stalls (1957-58), the boarding of the ceiling, and the cutting of a double door in the south gable end. The building is presently the property of the CPS.

See Building Report 88-68.

Reasons for Designation

The stable was designated Recognized mainly for its historical associations, functional design, craftsmanship, and environmental qualities.

The stable, by far the largest building on the remount station and the most important from an operational standpoint, was one of only three buildings constructed in 1943. It continued to serve as the principal stable for the horse-breeding operation until its move to Pakenham, Ontario in 1968. The stable played a direct role in maintaining the mounted tradition of the RCMP for 25 years and is a symbol of the Mounted Police in 20th century Canada.

The stable, as constructed with single standing stalls ranged along opposing walls, and a central combined driveway and feed alley was a proven design with good functional qualities. Windows placed high on the wall at each stall provided adequate light and a free circulation of air, essential to the health of the animals. Stale air was drawn off at the ceiling by a pair of roof ventilators. Some improvement in distributing feed and bedding or cleaning the stable was undoubtedly made by adding the double door at the south gable end.

The careful workmanship demonstrated in the stable building can be attributed to the training and experience of the chief logman hired on the recommendation of the National Parks Bureau. The straight, smooth, even-sized logs, the carefully scribed and fitted corners and the well positioned cross-walls attest to his skill.

The size of the building and its obvious use (conveyed by the fittings and lingering odour) gives it a distinctive landmark status within the Fort complex.



APPENDIX #1

Cypress Hills,
Saskatchewan Stable/Building No. 6 (Continued)

Character Defining Elements

The heritage character of the stable resides in its form, in the extant historic fabric of the structure itself, and in the relationship it has with the balance of the complex.

The small, regularly spaced, windows cut in the upper courses of logwork on the long sides of the building, the wooden roof ventilators, and the Dutch batten doors clearly identify this building as a stable. Anything which would detract from this unambiguous and familiar symbolism should be avoided.

The stable, as constructed in 1943, despite the avowed intention of replicating an 1870s vernacular architecture, clearly borrowed from the rustic style popularized in Canada's National Parks. The regularity of the log diameters, the gable and purlin log construction, and the fully intersecting cross walls are all indicative of the style. As a concession to current standards of animal husbandry, roof ventilators were introduced in the roof. In the interests of economy sawn red cedar shingles, factory-made window units and off-the-shelf hardware were used.

The stable building is a valuable survivor of the earliest remount station building program. Any change to the building (architectural details, finishing or fittings) now would severely diminish its heritage value both intrinsically and as a resource associated with the RCMP in more recent decades and their efforts to preserve the traditions of the force.

Excepting the museum/interpretation building of 1967 and the more recent palisade reconstruction, the configuration of buildings which comprised the horse-breeding establishment between 1948 and 1968 has remained essentially undisturbed. It is still possible to decipher the role each building played in that establishment. The practical considerations behind the location of the stable initially (distant from the men's quarters and adjacent to the river and open fields), are still apparent.

Retention of the ten surviving remount station era buildings in place is important to the protection of the character of the site.



APPENDIX #1

Cypress Hills, Saskatchewan

Commissioner's Residence/Building No. 1

Fort Walsh NHS

HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT

The Commissioner's Residence was built in 1943 to a design prepared by the RCMP in Ottawa, possibly with the assistance of the Department of Public Works. Refinements to the basic design were made on site by the chief logman/site foreman and the then commissioner Stuart Taylor Wood. Various alterations have been made to the building by the CPS since 1972, to bring it into closer conformity with the conjectural appearance of the former Irvine Building which stood in the same general area. The original annex was demolished c1977 to permit the reconstruction of an 1880s period palisade on its original trace. A new annex, in closer conformity with the conjectural appearance of a kitchen wing on the former Irvine Building, was constructed in 1983. The entrance porch and roof covering of the main building have been similarly re-worked. The building is the property of the CPS. [4mSee[0m Building Report 88-68.

Reasons for Designation

The Commissioner's Residence was designated Recognized mainly for its historical associations and environmental qualities.

The Commissioner's Residence was one of the first "historic shells" built at Fort Walsh to house the operational requirements of the remount station as well as give the outward appearance of an older building. Between 1943 and 1951 it was occupied by ranch employees involved in the day to day operation of the ranch. From 1951 to the early 1960s the building was used by Stuart Wood as a retirement residence. The long occupancy of the Commissioner's Residence by RCMP personnel involved in the remount station operation, qualifies it as a very good illustration of the symbolic importance of the Mounted Police in 20th century Canada and the attention placed on the force's equestrian tradition. The building is directly linked with Stuart Taylor Wood, former commissioner of the RCMP, who selected the site of the remount station, negotiated its purchase and guided its design. Beyond the high profile normally associated with his position as head of the force, Wood initiated numerous projects which reflected his keen interest in the history and traditions of the Mounted Police.

The good aesthetic qualities of the building and its identification with the Assistant Commissioner A.G. Irvine give it a distinctive landmark status within the Fort complex.



APPENDIX #1

Cypress Hills, Saskatchewan

Commissioner's Residence/Building No. 1 (Continued)

Character Defining Elements

The heritage character of the Commissioner's Residence resides in the features of the building related to its occupation by ranch employees and retired commissioner Stuart Taylor Wood. It also resides in its deliberate hierarchical setting within the complex.

The Commissioner's Residence, as constructed in 1943, clearly borrowed from the rustic style, popularized in Canada's National Parks. The regularity of the log diameters, the gable and purlin log construction, the fully intersecting cross walls and the dominant field-stone fireplace are all indicative of the style. In the interests of economy, sawn red cedar shingles, factory made window units and off-the-shelf hardware were used.

In an attempt to better recapture the character of the Fort as it appeared in the 1880s, a number of alterations, detrimental to the heritage character of the building have recently been made, namely: the replacement of the original shingle roof finish by boarding, the removal of the field-stone fireplace and hardwood flooring, and the replacement of the palisade log/stave constructed porch. Consequently, surviving fabric with some links to former remount station personnel or to Commissioner Wood has been seriously reduced. The concrete foundations, log walls, and roof purlins may be all that remains from the 1940s period. Further alterations would severely jeopardize its present heritage status.

The special position that the Commissioner's Residence occupies within the Fort (at a distance from the men's barracks and outbuildings and separated by a wide lawn from the parade square) is undoubtedly a concession which was made in the past, in recognition of the rank and importance of the occupant. The historic relationship between surviving remount station buildings and their associated landscape should be retained.





