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# **PROVINCE HOUSE**

**NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE OF CANADA,**

**CHARLOTTETOWN, PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND**

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## **COMMEMORATIVE INTEGRITY STATEMENT**

February 2001

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**APPROVAL PAGE**

Province House National Historic Site of Canada  
Commemorative Integrity Statement

*Approved by:*

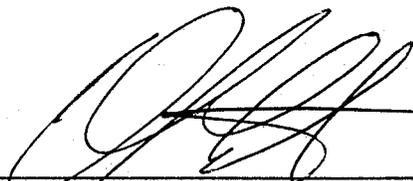


15. 3. 2001

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Christina Cameron

*Director General, National Historic Sites*



26/02/01

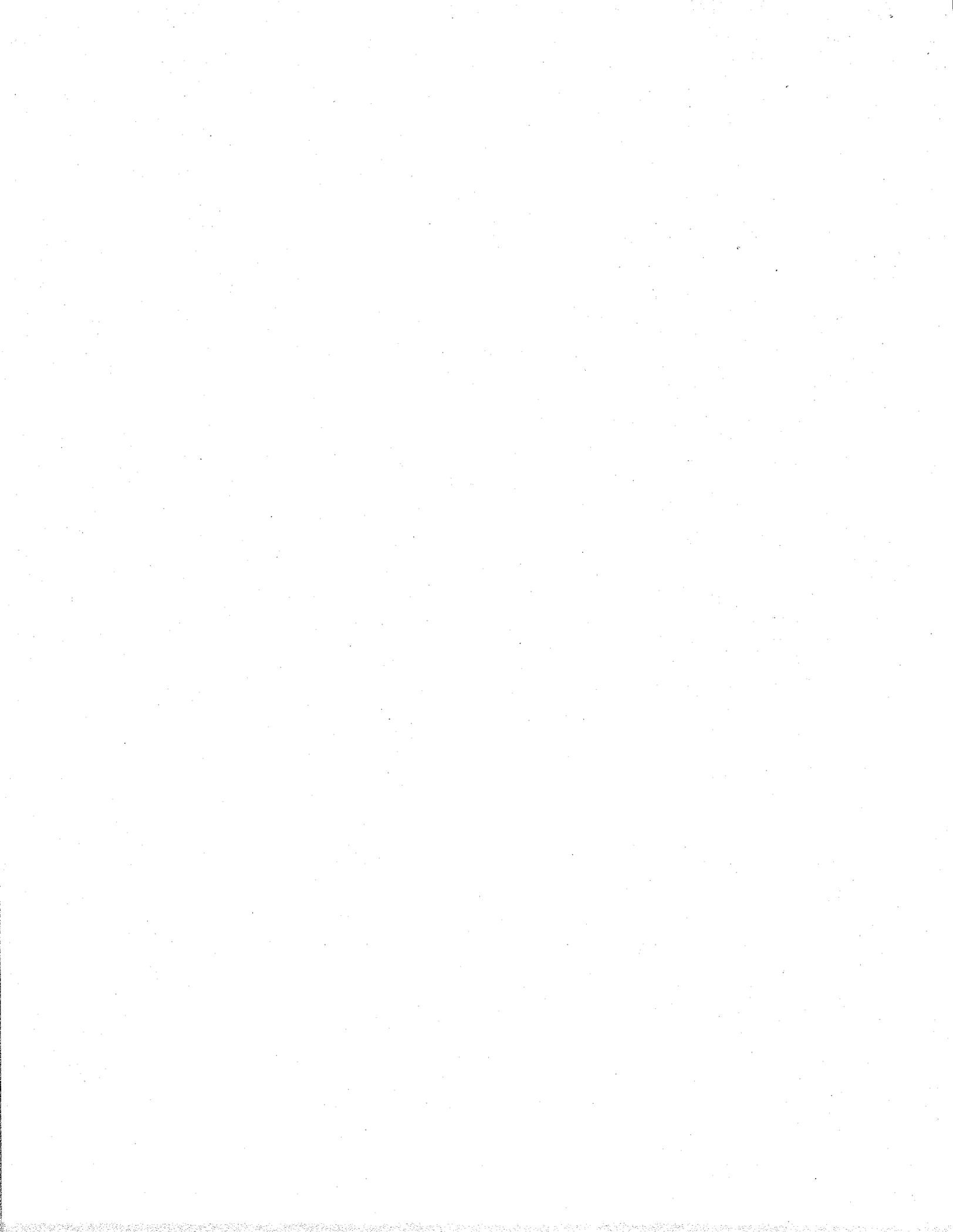
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David Lipton

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# INTRODUCTION

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## The Purpose of this Document

Parks Canada administers an internationally renowned system of national historic sites on behalf of all Canadians. Parks Canada's most important responsibility concerning these sites is to ensure their commemorative integrity. The purpose of this document is to define the commemorative integrity of Province House National Historic Site of Canada in the form of a statement. The document is a fundamental management tool that will assist managers in decision-making. The Commemorative Integrity Statement (CIS) also provides a basis for assessing Parks Canada's level of achievement in attaining its mandated responsibilities.

## What is Commemorative Integrity?

In order to ensure commemorative integrity, or to evaluate whether a site possesses commemorative integrity, one must have a clear idea of what commemorative integrity is in a site-specific context. It describes the health or wholeness of a national historic site. Commemorative integrity also provides concrete, practical direction for the planning, management and operation of a site. Commemorative integrity addresses four key concerns:

- it focuses our management decisions on what is most important;
- it ensures that there is a focus on the whole site, not just the individual resources;
- it is one of the Business Plan accountabilities along with service to clients and efficient use of public funds;
- and it is the basis for reporting to Canadians on the state of the national historic sites.

According to policy, a national historic site will possess commemorative integrity *when the resources that symbolize or represent its importance are not impaired or under threat, when reasons for its national historic significance are effectively communicated to the public, and when its heritage values are respected by all whose decisions or actions affect the site.*



Figure 1 Queen's Square: Province House NHS in centre, 1876 courthouse (now Hon. George Coles Building) on right, 1969 (National Air Photo Library)

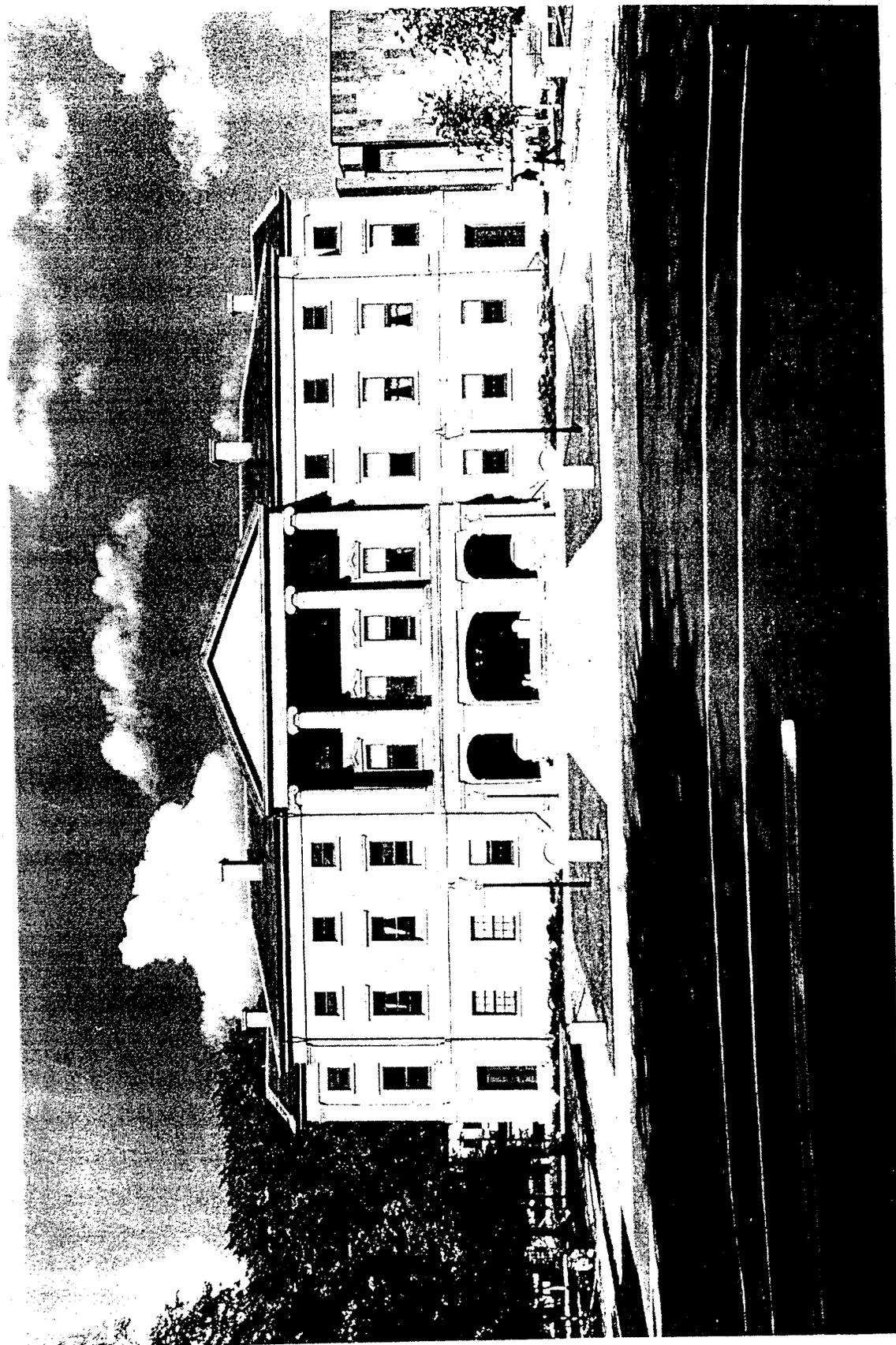


Figure 2 Province House National Historic Site, 1985 (Parks Canada)

## The Statement Outlines the Elements of Commemorative Integrity

The Commemorative Integrity Statement was developed in accordance with the Cultural Resource Management Policy (CRM) criteria and the principles, methodology and definitions stated in the Guidelines for the Preparation of Commemorative Integrity Statements, 1995.

The statement is divided into three sections: 1. a policy background, 2. the commemorative intent and 3. the commemorative integrity of the site. The third section outlines the three elements of commemorative integrity. The first element identifies cultural resources that symbolize or represent the national significance of the site. The second states the messages of national significance and the third identifies the site's other heritage values. The site's cultural resource inventory is included in appendix I.

## NATIONAL HISTORIC SITES OBJECTIVES

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The Minister of Canadian Heritage is responsible for recognizing and commemorating persons, places and events of national historic significance in Canada. This mandate is detailed in the Historic Sites and Monuments Act, Parks Canada's Guiding Principles and Operational Policies (1994) and the National Historic Sites Policy. The objectives of these policies provide the basis for achieving Parks Canada's mandate within the National Historic Site Program. They are:

- *"To foster knowledge and appreciation of Canada's past through a national program of historical commemoration.*
- *To ensure commemorative integrity of national historic sites administered by Parks Canada 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 places of national historic significance that are not administered by Parks Canada."*

The Cultural Resource Management Policy provides guidance for managers for achieving these objectives. The goal is to *"manage cultural resources in accordance with the principles of value, public benefit, understanding, respect, and integrity."* This goal is reaffirmed in Parks Canada's National Business Plan which states that Parks Canada is accountable for ensuring the commemorative integrity of national historic sites. The practice of cultural resource management requires that four elements be in place in all decision-making:

- 1) the inventory of resources,
- 2) the evaluation of resources,
- 3) the consideration of historic values, and
- 4) the monitoring and review of ongoing activities.

These activities are management requirements for defining and ensuring commemorative integrity. This document integrates the results of the first three activities.

## **COMMEMORATIVE INTENT**

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### **The National Historic Site**

### **HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

Province House has long been regarded as the “Cradle of Confederation.” In September 1864, 23 leading politicians from Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and the province of Canada (now Ontario and Quebec) met in the legislative council chamber to discuss proposals for colonial union put forward by the Canadian delegation. By the end of the conference, they had reached general agreement on the principles of confederation. Detailed terms were later hammered out at conferences in Quebec City and London. These proposals became law as the British North America Act, which created the Dominion of Canada in 1867.

Province House has been the focal point of Prince Edward Island’s public life since its completion in 1847. For many years after the Island government was established in 1769, the legislature met in taverns and private homes. Then in 1837, Lieutenant-Governor Sir John Harvey recommended construction of a “colonial building” to safeguard the public records. This proposal was soon expanded to provide accommodation for the legislature, supreme court and government officials. The building was to be constructed on Queen Square, the central square that had been set aside in the original layout of the town for administrative and church buildings.

A design competition was held in 1839. First prize was won by Isaac Smith, a Yorkshire-born architect and builder who had constructed other public buildings in the Island. Smith’s design was for a three-storey structure in the neo-classical style popular in the British colonies in the first half of the 19th century. The building was characterized by its regular balanced elevations, with central porticos, projecting wings and pilasters. The internal design was similarly balanced with a central stairway extending to the third storey. On the ground floor were offices for colonial administrators and, at the eastern end of the building, the supreme court room. The major public rooms were located on the second storey with the legislative council chamber and the legislative assembly at either ends of the building and the legislative library in the middle, facing the stairway.

Funding for the project was granted by the legislature in 1842 and construction contracts were signed that autumn. Island tradesmen were awarded all but one of the contracts: sandstone for the

exterior walls was purchased from Nova Scotia. Furniture for the offices and meeting rooms was made by such prominent Island cabinetmakers as Charles Dogherty and Mark Butcher. On 26 January 1847, the Island legislature met for the first time in its new home and in June, the Supreme Court moved into its ground floor rooms. Locally designed, built and furnished, Province House represented the epitome of Island craftsmanship of the mid 19th century, a time of prosperity and achievement.

The Supreme Court continued to make its home in Province House until 1872. By the late 1860s, increasing public business had led to severe overcrowding and in 1869, the Assembly and Council passed an act to raise money for construction of additional public buildings in Charlottetown. Work on the new court house and post office, designed by Halifax architect David Stirling and located on Queen Square west of Province House, began in the summer of 1870. In October 1872, the supreme and insolvency courts, prothonotary office and land registry moved to the new building. This building was purchased by the federal government following Prince Edward Island's entry into confederation in 1873. The provincial government then constructed a new court house east of Province House. Completed in 1876, this building served as the Island's supreme court until 1976 when it was seriously damaged by fire. It has since been rehabilitated and now houses provincial government offices.

It is as the site of that first meeting of colonial delegates in September 1864 that Province House has its unrivalled place in Canadian history. The Charlottetown Conference was first organized to discuss union of the three Maritime colonies. The Canadian coalition government formed in June 1864 was committed to pursuing a federation of all the British North American colonies and its representatives secured invitations to the conference to present their more comprehensive plan. Maritime union, which had never had any real support, was soon shelved to permit the delegates to hear the Canadians' views on a federal union. Between 1 September and 8 September, discussions took place on the political, constitutional and financial aspects of confederation. At the end of the conference, sufficient agreement had emerged on the principle of a federal union to justify continuation of discussions at Quebec. More important, the broad outlines of Canada's future constitution appeared from the Charlottetown deliberations. Constitutional principles agreed on at Province House and formalized and refined at the subsequent Quebec and London Conferences resulted in the British North America Act of 1867.

The importance of the Charlottetown Conference was officially acknowledged by the Canadian government on the 50th anniversary of the conference in 1914 when a commemorative bronze plaque honouring the Fathers of Confederation was placed in the legislative council chamber. During the 1920s, the chamber was refurbished to reflect its historical importance. This historic character was further recognized in 1974 when the Canadian and Island governments signed an agreement to undertake a major restoration program to preserve the building and present the story of the conference. The agreement allocated some areas to federal government use, some to provincial use and some to shared use, especially during sessions of the provincial legislature. The exterior of the building was cleaned and restored to its appearance in 1850. In the interior, the legislative council chamber (the "Confederation Chamber"), library, hallways and a series of administrative offices were restored and refurnished to the 1864 period. The supreme court chamber (altered over the years to accommodate offices) was restored to its original size and renovated as a

theatre for audiovisual presentations. Restoration was completed in 1983. Since that time, four ground floor refurbished offices have been returned to modern administrative use: two by the provincial government and two by Parks Canada.

Province House continues to play a vital role in the political life of Prince Edward Island. The provincial legislature continues to meet in the assembly room at the eastern end of the second floor, its entrance facing the entry to the legislative council room at the end of the central hall. The overall layout of the room is essentially unchanged although unlike most legislatures in Canada, the government members sit to the left of the speaker, rather than to the right. Much of the furniture in the assembly, including the members' desks and chairs and the speaker's chair and canopy, formed part of the original furnishings of the building.

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## **HISTORIC SITES AND MONUMENTS BOARD OF CANADA RECOMMENDATIONS**

A site's national significance is articulated in a Statement of Commemorative Intent. The rationale is contained in recommendations by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada to the Minister. Relevant excerpts from the minutes that contribute to development of the Statement of Commemorative Intent follow. The complete text of HSMBC minutes relating to Province House has been included as Appendix 2.

In October 1966, the Board moved that

*The Board is satisfied that the Province Building is of national historic significance but it cannot recommend that the Federal Government aid in its preservation and maintenance under the terms of the letter of April 21, 1966 which the Premier of Prince Edward Island has sent to the Chairman of the Board.*

The letter referred to in this motion had been received by the Chairman of the HSMBC, Dr. C. Bruce Ferguson, from Premier Alexander B. Campbell of Prince Edward Island, dated 21 September 1966. In it, Premier Campbell enquired whether the Board would take over Province House as a historic site and assume financial responsibility for its administration and maintenance while permitting the provincial government to have perpetual use of the legislative assembly and several other offices.

The October 1966 recommendation formed the basis of the establishment of Province House as a national historic site. In subsequent years, the Board made a variety of recommendations affecting Province House. In June 1980, the Board discussed the national historic significance of court houses in Canada and concluded:

*The Committee agreed that an ad hoc approach to the identification of Canadian Court Houses of national significance would not serve the purposes of the Board. A lengthy discussion of possible selection criteria ensued, following which the Committee recommended that Court Houses selected for commemoration by the Board would be identified as falling into one of three distinct categories.*

*These categories are:*

*Category I*

*One Court House in each province which is to be commemorated as being representative of the judicial institution in that province.*

*The Committee then began the selection of those Court Houses which were to be recommended for commemoration by means of a plaque, under Category I.*

*The Committee recommended the following Court Houses to be of both national historic and architectural significance as being representative of the judicial institution in their respective provinces and in the Yukon Territory,*

*4) For the Province of Prince Edward Island  
Province House, Charlottetown; Prince Edward Island*

*The Committee recommended that as the judicial function of Province House will be handled in the interpretation of the structure no action be taken. Should the Law Courts Building in Charlottetown be restored the Committee recommended that it be plaqued as being representative of the judicial institution in Prince Edward Island.*

The text for the plaque commemorating Province House was approved in November 1981.

#### PROVINCE HOUSE

*Completed in 1847, this neo-classical building was designed and built by local architect Isaac Smith to accommodate the provincial legislature and administrative offices. It also housed the Island's Supreme Court until 1872. Province House retains its central role in Island public life, with the Assembly holding sessions here. In September 1864 it was the scene of the first conference on colonial union. Delegates from the colonies of Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Canada met in the legislative council chamber, now the Confederation Chamber, to begin discussions which led to confederation in 1867.*

*Achévé en 1847, cet édifice de style néo-classique fut conçu et construit par l'architecte local Isaac Smith pour l'Assemblée législative et l'administration coloniale. La Cour suprême de l'île y siège aussi jusqu'en 1872. L'édifice, où l'Assemblée se réunit encore, conserve son importance dans la vie publique de l'île. En septembre 1864, les délégués des colonies de l'Île-du-Prince-Édouard du Nouveau-Brunswick, de la Nouvelle-Écosse et du Canada se réunirent dans la salle du Conseil législatif, devenue la salle de la Confédération, pour entamer les discussions qui aboutirent à la Confédération de 1867.*

In November 1990, the Board considered the national historic significance of Great George Street, extending from the Charlottetown waterfront to Province House NHS.

Following some discussion, the Board recommended that

*stretching from Richmond Street to the Charlottetown waterfront and including Province House, Great George Street, with its strong associations with the birth of this nation and its richness of domestic architecture, such [sic] of which dates from the Confederation era, is an historic district of both national historic and architectural significance and should be commemorated as such by means of a plaque.*

*The Board further expressed the hope that the very special “sense of place” created by the Great George Street historic district would be maintained and that the sympathetic restoration and renovation of buildings within it would be encouraged.*

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## **STATEMENT OF COMMEMORATIVE INTENT:**

The Statement of Commemorative Intent is derived primarily from the Board minutes of October 1966 and June 1980.

The Statement is as follows:

**Province House National Historic Site of Canada was designated a national historic site in 1966. The reason for national significance is:**

- **it is the site of the Charlottetown Conference of 1864, which led to confederation in 1867;**
- **it is a fine example of the neo-classical architectural style;**
- **it is representative of the judicial institution of Prince Edward Island.**

# COMMEMORATIVE INTEGRITY

## Cultural Resources that Symbolize or Represent the National Historic Significance of Province House National Historic Site of Canada

This first element of commemorative integrity refers explicitly and solely to those resources that were instrumental in, or integral to, the designation of national significance. “Level I” cultural resources relate directly to the commemorative intent of the site that reflects the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada recommendations of national significance.

### 1.1 DESIGNATED PLACE

The designated place consists of Province House delineated by its footprint.

#### Historic Value

Province House as a whole is valued because:

- it is the site of the Charlottetown Conference of 1864
- it is a fine example of the neo-classical architectural style
- it is representative of the judicial institution of Prince Edward Island
- it forms one end of the Great George Street Historic District and remains an important component of Queen Square.

#### Commemorative Integrity Objectives

The designated place is not impaired or under threat when:

- Level I cultural resources are protected and managed in accordance with the CRM Policy
- a high level of community awareness of and understanding of Province House NHS is maintained
- developments in adjacent areas remain sympathetic to Province House NHS in location, scale and architectural style
- viewplanes up and down Great George Street from Province House NHS to the waterfront and viewplanes between Province House and surrounding streetscapes are maintained

### 1.2 IN SITU RESOURCES

The in situ resources consist of Province House National Historic Site, a fine example of the neo-classical architectural style, and representative of the judicial institution of Prince Edward Island.

Province House NHS was the site of the Charlottetown Conference of 1864, the first meeting that led to Canadian confederation in 1867.

**Province House as a whole is valued because:**

- it contains the Confederation Chamber where the delegates to the Charlottetown Conference held their meetings in September 1864.
- it is a fine example of the neo-classical architectural style demonstrating many interdependent characteristics of the style, including: symmetrical design both on the exterior and interior, balanced elevations with central porticos with pediments, and decorative use of pilasters and columns employing antique (Ionic) orders.
- from 1847 to 1872, it housed the supreme court and judicial offices for the province of Prince Edward Island.

Commemorative Integrity Objectives

**The in situ resources are not impaired or under threat when:**

- Level I cultural resources are protected and managed in accordance with the CRM Policy;
- the architectural characteristics of the Confederation Chamber are maintained;
- the characteristics of the neo-classical style, both on the exterior and interior, are maintained;
- Parks Canada works with the province of Prince Edward Island to ensure that the defining characteristics of the architectural style are maintained, including the internal configuration of the building, in particular the three main rooms on the second storey and the architectural detailing of the interior.

**1.3 OBJECTS**

The artifact collection at Province House consists of approximately 1500 items. Approximately 50 of these items, based on visual appearance, documentary sources and tradition, are thought to have been in the building at the time of the Charlottetown Conference and have remained there since that time. The chairs and tables in the Confederation Chamber are noteworthy examples of this category. An inventory of the artifact collection, available in electronic form in the AIS data base, is maintained by the Registrar, Atlantic Service Centre.

**Historic Value**

- The artifacts are directly linked to the role of Province House as the site of the Charlottetown Conference.
- Research suggests that all of the artifacts evaluated as Level I cultural resources have been located within Province House since the time of the conference in 1864.

## Commemorative Integrity Objectives

- **Relevant artifacts are not impaired or under threat when:**
  - they are managed in a way that ensures their protection and survival.
  - artifacts evaluated as Level I cultural resources that have traditionally been located in the Confederation Chamber remain in that room.

## Messages of National Significance

This second element of commemorative integrity relates to presentation, which facilitates public understanding of national significance. It focuses on the reasons for national historic significance, and is derived from the Commemorative Intent for Province House National Historic Site of Canada. The reasons for national historic significance are the basis of Level I messages that must be effectively communicated to both site visitors and the public.

The Level I messages that convey the national significance of Province House NHS are:

*Province House National Historic Site was the site of the Charlottetown Conference of 1864, the first meeting that led to Canadian confederation in 1867.*

In September 1864, a group of influential politicians from the colonies of Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Canada met at Province House to begin discussions on a union of the British colonies in North America. By the end of the conference, they had reached general agreement on the principles of confederation. Detailed terms were later hammered out at conferences in Quebec City and London and became law as the British North America Act, which created the Dominion of Canada in 1867.

*Province House National Historic Site is a fine example of the neo-classical architectural style.*

Based on study of the architectural forms and motifs of ancient Greece and Rome, the neo-classical style was commonly employed for public buildings in the British North American colonies between 1820 and 1860. Designed by the premier Island architect/builder of his day, Isaac Smith, Province House exhibits many of the characteristics of the style, including symmetrical design both on the exterior and interior, balanced elevations with central porticos with pediments, and decorative use of pilasters and columns employing antique (Ionic) orders.

*Province House National Historic Site is representative of the judicial institution of Prince Edward Island.*

The architectural design for Province House included space on the ground floor for the supreme court room and offices for court officials. The Supreme Court continued to make its home in Province House until 1872 when the supreme and insolvency courts, prothonotary office and land registry moved to the newly constructed court house and post office, located on Queen Square west of Province House. Following the transfer of this building to the government of Canada after Prince Edward Island entered confederation in 1873, the province built a new court house east of Province House.

## Learning Objectives:

The presentation of these messages will be effectively communicated when:

- as many Canadians as possible understand that Province House is the site of the Charlottetown Conference of 1864.
- as many Canadians as possible understand that Province House is a fine example of the neo-classical style of architecture.
- as many Canadians as possible, understand that Province House is representative of the judicial institution of Prince Edward Island.
- the primary messages are not obscured or overwhelmed by secondary messages or other heritage considerations.
- the historic value of Level I cultural resources is incorporated within the presentation of messages of national significance.
- the effectiveness of the communication of Level I messages is measured and monitored.

## The Site's Other Heritage Values

This element of commemorative integrity deals with all other resources and messages that, upon evaluation, do not meet criteria established for Level I.

### Level II Cultural Resources

Level II resources are not of national significance. However, their local or regional associations, historical significance and aesthetic or environmental qualities are valued.

#### 3.1 Curatorial Collection

Approximately 1200 items of the collection are evaluated as Level II. This category includes artifacts that are part of the lease agreement between the federal and provincial governments (i.e. furniture purchased by provincial government) that are, for reasons of design or tradition, unlikely to date to 1864, and antiques purchased by Parks Canada as part of the restoration process. Within this latter group are some items that are known to have been made in Prince Edward Island: these are of particular importance (e.g. Trenamen tall-case clock). The painting of the ball held at the Charlottetown Conference by Dusan Kadlec, donated to Province House by the Themadel Foundation of St. Andrews, New Brunswick, hangs in a small office immediately outside the Confederation Chamber.

#### Historic Value

- Artifacts that have traditionally been located within Province House reflect the historical evolution of the site.
- Antiques that are not site-specific reflect the material culture of the Maritimes.
- Antiques that are Island-made are rare and reflect the material culture of Prince Edward Island.
- The Dusan Kadlec painting of the conference ball reflects the interest of private philanthropic organizations in commemorating Canada's history.

#### Commemorative Integrity Objectives

- **Relevant artifacts are not impaired or under threat when:**
  - they are managed in a way that ensures their protection and survival.
  - artifacts that have traditionally been located in Province House remain in the building.

### 3.2 Related Commemorations

Eight HSMBC plaques commemorating Province House and the seven Island Fathers of Confederation are located on the grounds adjacent to Province House. Although the grounds do not form part of the designated place, Parks Canada is responsible for maintenance of the HSMBC plaques and, as a major stakeholder in the administration of the area, undertakes financial commitments to its overall maintenance. A large bronze plaque, donated to the Island government by the government of Canada to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Charlottetown Conference, is set on the walls of the second main hall, immediately outside the Confederation Chamber. Ardgowan National Historic Site (located approximately 2 kilometres from Province House) commemorates the home of William Henry Pope, a prominent Island politician and Father of Confederation. The HSMBC plaque commemorating the Great George Street historic district is located at the waterfront end of Great George Street. Province House NHS forms the northern end of the view of Great George Street from the plaque location.

#### Historic Value

- The HSMBC plaques and the bronze 50th anniversary plaque reflect the federal government's efforts to recognize Canada's history.

#### Commemorative Integrity Objectives

- **The plaques are not impaired or under threat when:**
- they are managed in a way that ensures their protection and survival.

### 3.3 Level II Messages

- Province House was designed and built by Isaac Smith, a prominent Island architect and builder.
- Province House played, and continues to play, an important role in Island public life as the Island legislature and as the centre of administration.
- Province House was designed and built by Islanders of Island material, except for the exterior stone.
- The restoration and refurbishing of Province House illustrates the federal-provincial partnership to preserve Province House as the "Cradle of Confederation".
- Province House forms one end of the Great George Street Historic District.
- Province House was, and continues to be, an important component of Queen Square, which was the centre of the town for religious, political and social purposes.

- Province House NHS is part of the family of Canada's national historic sites.
- Ardgowan National Historic Site (located approximately 2 kilometres from Province House) commemorates the home of William Henry Pope, a prominent Island Father of Confederation. During the Charlottetown Conference, Pope entertained the conference delegates at an afternoon luncheon at Ardgowan. (See Appendix 3 for list of homes of Fathers of Confederation that are now national historic sites.)

### **3.4 Learning Objectives**

These messages are effectively communicated when the following objectives are met:

- Level II messages are effectively communicated to Canadians but do not overwhelm Level I messages.
- the effectiveness of the communication of Level II messages is measured and monitored.



## APPENDIX 1

### INVENTORY OF RESOURCES

#### In situ

Province House Level 1

#### Historic Objects

1500 artifacts generally falling into the following 4 categories:

- artifacts leased from the province of PEI and assumed, on the basis of style and tradition, to date to 1864 or before (ca. 50) Level 1
- artifacts leased from the province of PEI and assumed, on the basis of style and tradition, to date from after 1864 (ca. 150) Level 2
- antiques bought by Parks Canada as part of the restoration process (ca. 1050) Level 2
- reproductions acquired for restoration (ca. 250) Other

#### Plaques and Monuments

8 Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada plaques commemorating Province House NHS and the 7 Island Fathers of Confederation Level 2

Bronze plaque given to the province of Prince Edward Island by the government of Canada on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Charlottetown Conference Level 2



## APPENDIX 2

### RELEVANT EXCERPTS FROM HISTORIC SITES AND MONUMENTS BOARD OF CANADA MINUTES

May-June 1960

Mr. Taylor spoke of the condition of the Province Building in Charlottetown and in particular of Confederation Chamber. It was moved, seconded and carried:

That the Board recommend that the Minister draw this Building to the special attention of the inter-governmental committee of the Canadian Centennial;

That the RAIC [Royal Architectural Institute of Canada] be asked to carry out a photographic survey of architectural details and obtain measured drawings of this structure as part of the National Inventory project.

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October 1966

The Board recommended the following resolution:

The Board is satisfied that the Province Building is of national historic significance but it cannot recommend that the Federal Government aid in its preservation and maintenance under the terms of the letter of April 21, 1966 which the Premier of Prince Edward Island has sent to the Chairman of the Board.

---

June 1970

Province Building

The following English text was approved:

#### PROVINCE BUILDING

Completed in 1847 from grey freestone cut in Nova Scotia, this legislative building has remained unchanged to the present day. Its Georgian style is a fine example of the regularity, symmetry and order of the eighteenth century classical form. In September, 1864, the first conference on Canadian federation was held in the Legislative Council room, now the Confederation Chamber.

The Secretariat was asked to provide a new French inscription.

[This plaque was not erected.]

June 1980

The Committee agreed that an ad hoc approach to the identification of Canadian Court Houses of national significance would not serve the purposes of the Board. A lengthy discussion of possible selection criteria ensued, following which the Committee recommended that Court Houses selected for commemoration by the Board would be identified as falling into one of three distinct categories:

These categories are:

#### Category I

One Court House in each province which is to be commemorated as being representative of the judicial institution in that province.

The Committee then began the selection of those Court Houses which were to be recommended for commemoration by means of a plaque, under Category I.

The Committee recommended the following Court Houses to be of both national historic and architectural significance as being representative of the judicial institution in their respective provinces and in the Yukon Territory.

4) For the Province of Prince Edward Island  
Province House, Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island

The Committee recommended that as the judicial function of Province House will be handled in the interpretation of the structure no action be taken. Should the Law Courts Building in Charlottetown be restored the Committee recommended that it be plaqued as being representative of the judicial institution in Prince Edward Island

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November 1981

### PROVINCE HOUSE

Completed in 1847, this neo-classical building was designed and built by local architect Isaac Smith to accommodate the provincial legislature and administrative offices. It also housed the Island's Supreme Court until 1872. Province House retains its central role in Island public life, with the Assembly holding sessions here. In September 1864 it was the scene of the first conference on colonial union. Delegates from the colonies of Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Canada met in the legislative council chamber, now the Confederation Chamber, to begin discussions which led to confederation in 1867.

Achévé en 1847, cet édifice de style néo-classique fut conçu et construit par l'architecte local Isaac Smith pour l'Assemblée législative et l'administration coloniale. La Cour suprême de l'Île y siège aussi jusqu'en 1872. L'édifice, où l'Assemblée se réunit encore, conserve son importance dans la vie publique de l'Île. En septembre 1864, les délégués des colonies de

l'Ile-du-Prince-Edouard du Nouveau-Brunswick, de la Nouvelle-Ecosse et du Canada se reunirent dans la salle du Conseil législatif, devenue la salle de la Confederation, pour entamer les discussions qui aboutirent a la Confederation de 1867.

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November 1990  
Great George Street,  
Charlottetown, P.E.I.

Following some discussion, the Board recommended that

stretching from Richmond Street to the Charlottetown waterfront and including Province House, Great George Street, with its strong associations with the birth of this nation and its richness of domestic architecture, such of which dates from the Confederation era, is an historic district of both national historic and architectural significance and should be commemorated as such by means of a plaque.

The Board further expressed the hope that the very special "sense of place" created by the Great George Street historic district would be maintained and that the sympathetic restoration and renovation of buildings within it would be encouraged.

The Board then thanked Mr. Hunter for his superb paper and presentation on Charlottetown's Great George Street.

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June 1992

#### GREAT GEORGE STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT

Great George Street is richly evocative of both its 18th-century origins and its subsequent, development as one of Charlottetown's principal streets. Clearly focused to Province House, the seat of Island government and the birthplace of Confederation, the street has traditionally been lined with homes and public buildings. In 1864 the Fathers of Confederation attending the Charlottetown Conference landed on the wharf at the bottom of this street, and some delegates stayed in, the nearby Pavilion Hotel. Houses influenced by British classicism were the first buildings on Great George Street. Over the years, structures designed in a variety of styles gradually joined and complemented them. The graceful architectural evolution of the street has allowed soaring stone church towers to mingle successfully with simple wooden and brick buildings. A harmony in use, scale and setting among its structures, cohesively meshed with memories of the great events the street has seen, continues to convey a clear sense of its place in our national history.

L'ARRONDISSEMENT HISTORIQUE DE LA RUE GREAT GEORGE

La rue Great George rappelle abondamment ses origines du XVIIIe siècle et sa transformation subséquente en l'une des principales rues de Charlottetown. Orientée vers Province House, siège du gouvernement de l'Île-du-Prince-Édouard et berceau de la Confédération, elle est depuis toujours bordée d'édifices publics et de maisons particulières. En 1864, les pères de la Confédération, venus assister à la Conférence de Charlottetown, débarquèrent sur le quai situé à son extrémité, et certains délégués séjournèrent à l'hôtel le Pavilion, à proximité. Aux premières demeures inspirées du classicisme britannique qui y furent construites vinrent s'ajouter peu à peu des bâtiments de divers styles. Et des églises aux imposants clochers de pierre y côtoient avantageusement de simples constructions de bois et de brique. L'harmonie d'usage, d'échelle et de situation de ses bâtiments, alliée à l'empreinte des événements marquants dont elle a été témoin, souligne nettement la place que cette rue occupe dans l'histoire de notre pays.

Approved by the full Board

February 8, 1992

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### **November 1992**

Fathers of Confederation Landing Place, Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island

#### Background

The Board was requested to consider recommending that the Parks Service become involved in the development and management of a commemorative park on the waterfront at the foot of Great George Street, in Charlottetown. The park is being developed at the site at which the Fathers of Confederation landed for the Charlottetown Conference of 1864.

#### Recommendation

Given that the site of the proposed urban park has no in situ resources associated with the theme of Confederation, the primary interpretive theme at Province House National Historic Site, the Board was not prepared to recommend that the proposed park site was, in and of itself, of significance at the national level.

None the less, as the site was at one end of Great George Street National Historic District, and Province House at the other, the Board believed that it was important that the site remain an open public space. Consequently, it urged the Parks Service to provide professional expertise, such as that of landscape architects, to support the Charlottetown Area Development Corporation in its efforts to develop a park at the landing place location.

## APPENDIX 3

### RELATED COMMEMORATIONS

#### National Historic Sites: Residences of Fathers of Confederation

##### New Brunswick

Chandler House/Rocklyn (Edward B. Chandler)	Dorchester
Tilley House (Sir Samuel L. Tilley)	Gagetown
Belmont House/R. Wilmont House (Robert Wilmot)	Lincoln

##### Nova Scotia

Jonathan McCully House (Jonathan McCully)	Halifax
Henry House (William A. Hem-y)	Halifax

##### Ontario

Bellevue House (Sir John A. Macdonald)	Kingston
Eamscliffe (Sir John A. Macdonald)	Ottawa
George Brown House (George Brown)	Toronto

##### Prince Edward Island

Ardgowan (William H. Pope)	Charlottetown
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##### Quebec

Chapais House (Jean C. Chapais)	Kamouraska
Etienne-Paschal Taché House (Sir Etienne-Paschal Taché)	Montmagny
Sir George-Etienne Cartier (Sir George-Etienne Cartier)	Montreal



## APPENDIX 4

### CIS TEAM MEMBERS

Judith Tulloch, Historian, Atlantic Service Centre

Sharon Larter, Manager, Client Services, Historic Sites, Prince Edward Island

Rob Thompson, Manager, Park/Site Planning and Establishment, Atlantic Service Service

Elizabeth Crook, Registrar, Atlantic Service Centre