



SIR JOHN JOHNSON HOUSE

NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE
OF CANADA

Management Plan



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February 2007

Foreword



Canada's national historic sites, national parks and national marine conservation areas offer Canadians from coast-to-coast-to-coast unique opportunities to experience and understand our wonderful country. They are places of learning, recreation and fun where Canadians can connect with our past and appreciate the natural, cultural and social forces that shaped Canada.

From our smallest national park to our most visited national historic site to our largest national marine conservation area, each of these places offers Canadians and visitors unique opportunities to experience Canada. These places of beauty, wonder and learning are valued by Canadians - they are part of our past, our present and our future.

Our Government's goal is to ensure that each of these special places is conserved.

We see a future in which these special places will further Canadians' appreciation, understanding and enjoyment of Canada, the economic well-being of communities, and the vitality of our society.

Our Government's vision is to build a culture of heritage conservation in Canada by offering Canadians exceptional opportunities to experience our natural and cultural heritage.

These values form the foundation of the new management plan for Sir John Johnson House National Historic Site of Canada. I offer my appreciation to the many thoughtful Canadians who helped to develop this plan, particularly to our dedicated team from Parks Canada, and to all those local organizations and individuals who have demonstrated their good will, hard work, spirit of co-operation and extraordinary sense of stewardship.

In this same spirit of partnership and responsibility, I am pleased to approve the Sir John Johnson House National Historic Site of Canada Management Plan.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "John Baird". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

John Baird
Minister of the Environment

SIR JOHN JOHNSON HOUSE

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OF CANADA

Management Plan

RECOMMENDED BY:



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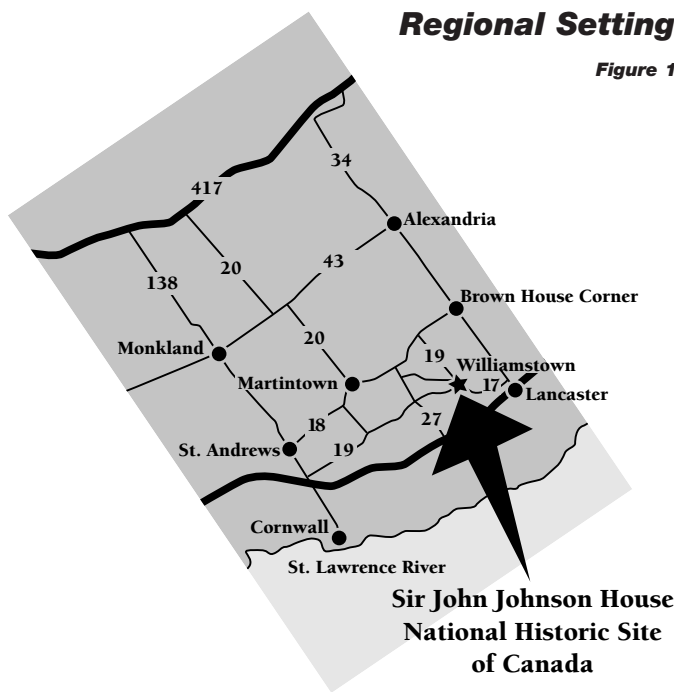
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1.0 Introduction

Sir John Johnson House National Historic Site of Canada (NHSC) is situated on the banks of the Raisin River in the Village of Williamstown in Glengarry County, Ontario. The five-bay Georgian style log house was built for Sir John Johnson between 1784 and 1792. The House is one of the oldest homes in Ontario and was designated as being of national historic significance in 1961. The Site is now part of a system of national historic sites consisting of over 900 sites, 153 of which are administered by Parks Canada. Today, the house is surrounded by a quiet pastoral setting and plays a key role in the 'sense of place' in the heritage community of Williamstown. (refer to Figure 1)



1.1 Purpose of a Management Plan

A management plan for a national historic site sets forth strategies and actions necessary to ensure the site's commemorative integrity (see section 2.2). The Parks Canada Agency Act provides for a management plan to be prepared for each national historic site administered by Parks Canada, and for the management plan to be tabled in Parliament by the Minister of the Environment.

The short term actions specified by a management plan support identified longer term strategies which will lead to the overall achievement of the 10 to 15 year vision or desired state

of the site. Plans are reviewed every five years to ensure short term commitments have been achieved and to ensure the continued relevance of longer term strategies and remaining action items. Public involvement plays a key role in the development and review of all Parks Canada's management plans.

During the planning process Parks Canada actively seeks involvement of the public, staff, relevant agencies and other interests in order to build ownership and a sense of shared responsibility for management and operation of the site; to build a consensus on the vision of the site; and to determine how the vision is to be achieved. Parks Canada must ensure that the socio-economic, cultural resource and environmental implications of the planning proposals are assessed for their significance and considered in the management plan. Parks Canada must also ensure that the plan integrates the services, facilities, program and management of the site with the Village of Williamstown and the surrounding area.

1.2 The Fiscal Context For The Management Plan

The management plan sets out a long term vision for the site and actions to achieve that vision. This is in recognition that work still needs to be done to Sir John Johnson House and the surrounding landscape as well as initiatives to expand the cooperative efforts between Parks Canada and local partners.

During the next five years there is no expectation of resources beyond the existing field unit budget being received to implement the management plan. Progress will be made towards ensuring commemorative integrity and providing quality service through existing resources and partnership with others. The implementation table in section 11.0 of the plan shows that most of the actions of the plan will be implemented within five years using the existing financial and staff resources. Other projects will only be undertaken if additional funds become available.

1.3 Local and Regional Context

Sir John Johnson House NHS of Canada is found on the banks of the Raisin River in the historic Village of Williamstown, which is nestled in the heart of Glengarry County fronting the St. Lawrence River. Settled at the close of the American Revolution, early in its life Williamstown grew into a place of some local importance, and was home to the first Presbyterian church in Upper Canada, but lacking a port, the village was never a serious rival to the nearby City of Cornwall.

Rather, its modest prosperity depended on its function as a service centre for surrounding farmers. Williamstown also became an attractive locale for retired furtraders from the North West Company.

Today the Village still reflects a casual informality, with the main street winding along the river's edge and buildings placed close to the curb, lending to an intimate atmosphere. Williamstown still has more than its share of structures dating to the nineteenth century. These include the Sir John Johnson House NHS of Canada, known locally as the Manor House, the Bethune-Thompson House/White House National Historic Site of Canada (owned by the Ontario Heritage Foundation) and the Presbyterian church of 1812.

So far Williamstown remains “undiscovered”, within the triangle of Ottawa, Montreal and Cornwall. Factors which may encourage more visitors and permanent residents include the proximity of major highways (401, 417), railways, and a border crossing to the USA, a series of small rural villages and friendly people, a landscape which has to a large extent remained in a rural, pastoral, agricultural setting and a range of tourist attractions which reflect the historic importance and ecological diversity of the Glengarry area. Recent work in the tourism sector has recommended that rural and agri-tourism should be encouraged in the area based on the theme “Come to where you're from” which reconfirms the importance of historic sites like Sir John Johnson House NHSC. There is also an international connection of the site to Johnstown, New York in the Mohawk Valley, home to many of the United Empire Loyalists who settled in Glengarry County area including the Johnson family. This is an international partnership with potential.

1.4 National Context

Sir John Johnson House National Historic Site of Canada is part of a family of over 900 national historic sites nation-wide. There are three reasons for the national significance of Sir John Johnson House: its historical connection with Sir John Johnson (who encouraged United Empire Loyalists to settle in the St. Lawrence River Valley after the American Revolution); its age as one of the oldest surviving buildings in Ontario; and its architectural design.

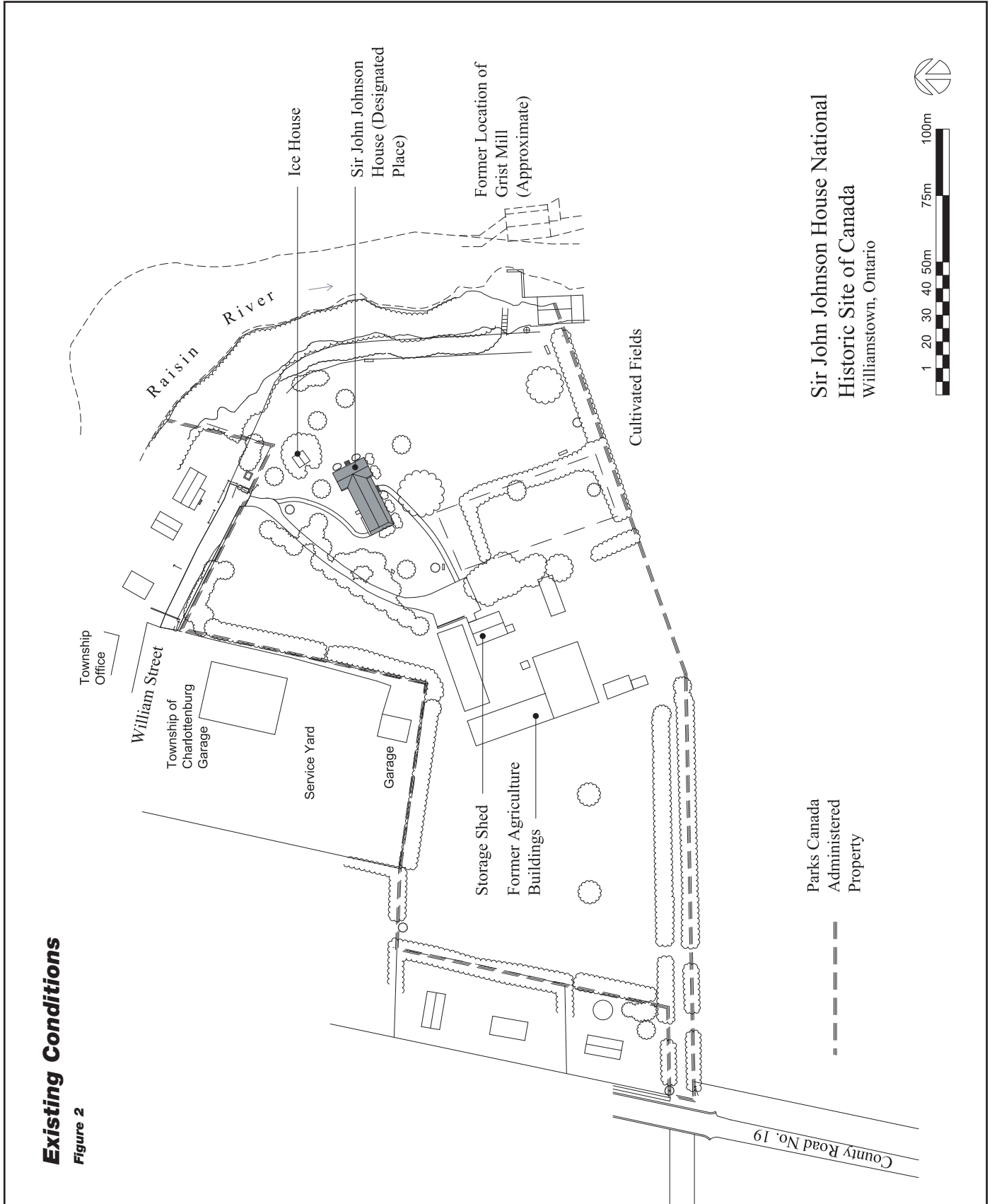
The national programme of historical commemoration is comprised of several distinct yet interlocking parts. In addition to the more than 900 national historic sites, over 580 persons and 350 events and other aspects in Canadian history have been designated as being of national historic significance. Most

commonly, the method of commemoration is by a plaque or simple marker. Places that have been designated as national historic sites may also be commemorated through their acquisition by the federal government for preservation and presentation to the people of Canada, as is the case with Sir John Johnson House. All such designations are declared by the Minister of the Environment on the advice of the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada. Parks Canada now administers 150 national historic sites across Canada, and has contributed to over 60 more through cost-sharing agreements. Through the family of national historic sites, visitors can appreciate the richness and diversity of our past.

1.5 Site Operations

Parks Canada has managed this Site (*refer to Figure 2*) in a low key manner (no Parks Canada staff on site, limited public access) with only a portion of the ground floor of the House available for public use. This area has been leased out since 1975 to the Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry library board as a branch library. The remainder of the ground floor has been sensitively adapted to ensure commemorative integrity and enhanced for public use. An agreement has been completed with the Sir John Johnson Manor House Committee, a local not-for-profit group, to help operate and provide programming at the Site. In 2002, the Manor House Committee became a Parks Canada Cooperating Association, this assists the committee in securing funding for staffing the house, administration costs and revenue generation projects. Parks Canada is responsible for conservation decisions which could impact the heritage resources. The Manor House Committee's activities have included organizing special heritage events, attending special events to promote the Site, hiring and supervising staff for the site, and securing and maintaining the Glengarry Archives for public use.

Other recent capital investments helping to achieve commemorative integrity and ensure the site is in a state so partners can share in the site management include: foundation stabilization, shingle replacement on the roof of the Manor House, new siding on the shed, installation of a fire suppression system, accessible ramps, electrification of the shed, repainting of the house, reshingling of the ice house and preparation of an historic landscape conservation plan. In 2004, interpretive panels were installed on the grounds as well as new directional signage. Emphasis on creative partnerships between Parks Canada and local interest groups and individuals will help ensure effective operations.



Existing Conditions

Figure 2

Sir John Johnson House National
Historic Site of Canada
Williamstown, Ontario

Parks Canada
Administered
Property

2.0 Policy Direction

2.1 National Historic Sites Policy

Canada's national historic sites preserve and present tangible and symbolic aspects of our nation's cultural heritage. As provided for in the *Historic Sites and Monuments Act*, the Government of Canada is dedicated to ensuring that a full range of Canada's human history is represented within a system of national historic sites. The Government of Canada's objectives for National Historic Sites are:

- to foster knowledge and appreciation of Canada's past through a national programme of historic commemoration;
- to ensure the 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 at 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 cornerstones of the National Historic Sites Policy are historic commemoration and commemorative integrity. Commemoration focuses on what is nationally significant about a site, and includes protection as well as presentation. The National Historic Sites Policy states that "...protection and presentation are fundamental to commemoration since without protection there can be no historic site to be enjoyed, and without presentation there can be no understanding of why the site is important to our history and, hence, to all Canadians."

The policy also indicates that commemoration will possess four qualities:

- it will formally be approved by the Minister;
- it will communicate the national significance of what is being commemorated;
- in the case of resources of national historic significance administered by Parks Canada, it will represent the legacy that these resources represent; and,
- it will be enduring.

2.2 Commemorative Integrity

The National Historic Sites Policy notes that commemorative integrity describes the health or wholeness of a national historic site. A national historic site possesses commemorative integrity when:

- the resources that symbolize or represent its importance are not impaired or under threat;
- the reasons for the site's national significance are effectively communicated to the public, and;
- the site's heritage values are respected by all whose decisions or actions affect the site.

A commemorative integrity statement (CIS) is a management tool and is intended to articulate what is of national historic significance about the site, including both resources and messages, in one comprehensive statement. A commemorative integrity statement provides input into decision making by managers but does not, in itself, make decisions. The statement provides information on where value lies and can be used as a framework to assess the impact of proposed action or lack of action. As such, the commemorative integrity statement is a fundamental consideration in the decision-making process.

The commemorative integrity statement identifies all cultural resources and messages at the historic site. It provides objectives against which to measure the health or wholeness of the site and learning objectives to help determine the effectiveness of the heritage presentation programme. Level 1 resources are those which are specifically identified in or directly related to the Board's recommendation, and are thus of national historic significance. They may include the historic site and associated buildings, cultural landscape, built heritage, archaeological resources and collections of moveable objects. Level 2 cultural resources are those which have historic value but are not of national historical significance.

Section 3 of this plan identifies the reasons for the national significance of the site (commemorative intent), its cultural resources and values, and the messages to be conveyed to the public. Section 4 presents the objectives for determining the ideal state of the commemorative integrity of the site, identifies the current state of commemorative integrity and the issues. Sections 7 and 8 present actions which need to be carried out to ensure the long term commemorative integrity of Sir John Johnson House. The complete commemorative integrity statement is located in Appendix A.

2.3 Cultural Resource Management

To ensure that the cultural resources of a national historic site are protected and presented appropriately, Parks Canada has developed a Cultural Resource Management Policy. Cultural resource management is based on five guiding principles: value, public benefit, understanding, respect and integrity. In practice, this requires that cultural resources are identified and evaluated and that their historic value is duly considered in all actions which might affect them. Such actions include preservation and protection, public understanding, enjoyment and appropriate use of them. The principles of cultural resource management have been used to prepare the plan and will continue to guide management decisions which affect the development and operation of the House. Any activity that compromises the commemorative integrity of a National Historic Site will not be permitted.

2.4 Federal Heritage Buildings Policy

Parks Canada, on behalf of the Minister of the Environment establishes policies, standards and goals for the protection of federal heritage buildings. Through the Federal Heritage Buildings Review Office (FHBRO), it also provides criteria and a process for evaluating and designating heritage features and character of federal buildings 40 years or older. A building determined to be a heritage building is either “classified” - the highest designation, or “recognized” which is a secondary level. The policy also provides for case-by-case review of proposed interventions that might affect the heritage character of buildings. Evaluation of a building assists managers in each government department in determining how these cultural resources should be protected and used.

Sir John Johnson House is designated as a recognized building and a heritage character statement was prepared in 1991 to assist site managers in decision making when interventions to the House are proposed. In addition, as the federal department which administers the Federal Heritage Buildings Policy, Parks Canada has developed a Code of Practice for all building managers which discuss the policy framework, heritage character and guidelines for interventions.

3.0 Commemorative Integrity of Sir John Johnson House NHSC

3.1 Commemorative Intent

The national historic significance of the Sir John Johnson House lies in its historical association with Sir John Johnson, its age as one of the oldest surviving buildings in Ontario and in its architectural design.

3.2 Historical Background

In 1776, at the start of the American Revolutionary War, Sir John Johnson left his substantial estate in the Mohawk Valley in New York, and came to Canada. During the war, he organized, funded and led the King's Royal Regiment of New York, which was involved in many border skirmishes. In 1784 he became responsible for the settlement of Loyalists who had fled the United States, in the area from Lake St. Francis to the Bay of Quinte. He was given a substantial grant of land for himself, part of which included the land on which the hamlet of Williamstown is located today.



On his Williamstown property, sometime between 1784 and 1792, Johnson had built a one and a half story, five-bay log structure on a rise of ground, near the Raisin River. A grist mill and a saw mill were built on the river in the same period. While there is little to suggest Johnson ever lived in his Williamstown house, the mills were the focal point in his vision for the community he hoped to encourage at that location. The house was occupied by the overseer of the mill for at least part of Johnson's ownership of the site. The features which can be associated with this period include the original portion of the house and the sites of the former mills.

Before 1820, the house and lands were purchased by Hugh McGillis, a retired fur trader. He continued to run the mills, and, in addition, developed the land agriculturally. He is believed to be responsible for the addition on the west end of the house. The ice house may date from this time. In 1849 the house passed to his nephew, John McGillis, who lived there with his family until 1872. It was likely during this occupancy period that the eastern Gothic Revival addition was made. John McGillis further expanded the agricultural concerns.

Ownership passed in 1872 to Murdoch McLennan, then in 1897 to D.R. Robertson and then to Lionel Deveaux in 1938. By the turn of the century, the mills were silent and the land use became exclusively agricultural. By the early 1900's, there were a number of outbuildings associated with the farming activity on the property, including two barns, and a shed. A fire in 1954 destroyed the main outbuilding complex.

From 1956 until 1971 the property was owned and occupied by Les Soeurs du Sacré-Cœur. The House was declared a place of national historic significance in 1961 on the recommendation of the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada. The house and property were acquired by Parks Canada in 1971 and became a part of a national system of historic sites. Since 1975, the Williamstown Branch of the Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry library has been located in the east wing. In 1994, the Sir John Johnson Manor House Committee, a local not-for-profit group began to take a role in helping to operate the site.

3.3 The Designated Place

The term "designated place" locates and describes the site - its resources and values - in broader contextual terms regardless of current ownership or jurisdictional boundaries. It is synonymous with the term "historic place" in Parks Canada's policy context.

In its deliberations, the HSMBC focussed exclusively on the house. Consequently, the historic place commemorated by the Sir John Johnson House NHS of Canada is defined as the presently existing house. The house is sited in the context of a rural agrarian landscape. It was constructed on a high point of ground near the Raisin River; a location chosen by Sir John Johnson for its suitability as a mill site.

The value of this historic place lies in its association with Sir John Johnson, particularly in the context of this role in the settlement of Upper Canada, and in the age of the house and its physical expression of early vernacular building techniques.

3.4 Nationally Significant Historic Resources

Nationally significant historic resources are described below under the following cultural resource components: built heritage and archaeological resources.

Built Heritage

The physical value of the house lies in its age, construction method, materials, massing, craftsmanship, and design, as well as in the building's orientation, and siting in relation to surrounding landscape elements. The following elements relate directly to national significance (Level one):

- material evidence of the structure's 18th-century construction, including the log construction techniques using squared pine logs;
- vestiges of the original layout and finishes inspired by the aesthetics of British Classicism, e.g. the original five-bay facade and centre-hall plan;
- the irregular massing of the structure as it has evolved over time in so far as it has reinforced the original vernacular character;
- the siting and orientation of the house, on a knoll of land with unobstructed viewplanes out over the Raisin River.

The associative value of the house rests with its linkages with Sir John Johnson, particularly in the context of his role in promoting Loyalist settlement in Upper Canada. Also, as the only surviving house of many once owned by Johnson, it carries a broader association with the life and career of Sir John Johnson.

Archaeological Resources

All archaeological resources known and unknown, which can be associated with the Sir John Johnson ownership period and with the physical evolution of the house are Level one resources. These include: archaeological features associated with construction of Sir John Johnson House, such as remains of the first west wing construction, and the burnt layer from the initial clearing of the land. The value of these resources lies both in their association with the ownership period of Sir John Johnson, and in the physical evidence remaining in-situ.

3.5 Messages

Messages of National Significance are based on the reasons why the site was commemorated. Effective communication focuses on the knowledge and understanding that as many Canadians as possible should have regarding the national significance of the site. The three messages or stories of national historic significance are that:

- Sir John Johnson House is associated with Sir John Johnson. Integral to understanding the site's relationship to Sir John Johnson is the knowledge that he was a Loyalist in the American Revolutionary War who had a prominent role in the subsequent Loyalist settlement of Upper Canada and that the house and mills built for Sir John Johnson provided a focal point to the community of Loyalist settlers in this area;
- the original portion of the structure is one of the oldest surviving buildings in Ontario;
- the original portion of the structure is a rare example in Ontario of log construction.

3.6 Other Heritage Values

In addition to those resources and messages that are directly tied or represent the national significance of Sir John Johnson House, the site possesses other physical and associative values that contribute to the site's heritage character and heritage experience.

Sir John Johnson House is a landmark in the local community and has had a long history as an agricultural/industrial complex. The mills built in association with the house provided a focal point to the community for the first century of its development. When the mills ceased operation, the land and house remained an active agricultural unit until 1954, when the house became a rental property and the associated lands were sold off or rented to local farmers. Because of the importance of the house and its associated activities to the community and because of the continuity of the house and land as an agricultural unit, all other resources and messages which predate 1954 are considered Level 2 cultural resources. The following is a list of other heritage values and messages.

Other Heritage Values

- The Ice House dates from at least the Hugh McGillis period and its value lies in its materials, massing, orientation and association to the evolution of the site.
- The shed is the only surviving building from the outbuilding complex and its value lies in its materials, massing, siting and association to the evolution of the site.
- There are some historic objects associated with various phases (construction, industrial, agricultural) of the house and their value lies in the physical evidence they provide of the evolution of the house.
- All archaeological resources, known and unknown, which predate the occupation of Les Soeurs du Sacré-Cœur provide physical evidence of the evolution of the site.
- Certain landscape features (e.g. riverbank, trees, laneways, vistas) which predate the occupation of Les Soeurs du Sacré-Cœur, provide physical evidence of the evolution of the site.
- that the house is an excellent example of evolved vernacular architecture reflecting building techniques and stylistic trends typical of nineteenth century Ontario;
- that the house has long had a landmark status in town and region and is known as “The Manor House” - dating back to the time of Hugh McGillis;
- that there are relatively few inappropriate modern intrusions in the cultural landscape;
- that Sir John Johnson House is part of the family of national historic sites;
- that the community has played a strong role in protecting the sense of place in Williamstown and in the preservation of other local historic places such as the Bethune Thompson House, St. Mary’s and St. Andrew’s churches and the Nor’westers and Loyalist Museum; and
- that the Province of Ontario has designated the millsites as being of provincial historic significance.

Other Heritage Messages

Messages about the site which are not directly linked to the commemorative intent, but which have significance provincially, regionally or locally and contribute to an understanding of the site as a whole are:

- the story of the life and career of Sir John Johnson;
- the story of the Loyalist emigration to Canada, where they originated and why they came;
- the links to other sites which may be associated with Sir John Johnson;
- that Sir John Johnson House is the only remaining structure of all those that Sir John Johnson owned;
- that in the post-settlement period many fur traders of the North West Company came to this area to retire; Hugh McGillis, John McDonald, Duncan Cameron, John McGillvray and Angus Bethune all lived in the region;
- the importance of the early owners of Sir John Johnson House to the community - Sir John Johnson himself donated the land for the fairgrounds; Hugh McGillis was the first “Laird of Williamstown” and donated the land for St. Mary’s Church and the original part of the cemetery;

4.0 Sir John Johnson House NHSC: Current State Of Commemorative Integrity and Issues

The Commemorative Integrity Statement (CIS) for this Site (refer to Appendix A) was one of the first approved in the system. Since then much work and experience has developed in the development of management objectives. The original objectives from the approved CIS have been enhanced with generic ones from more recent commemorative exercises.

4.1 The Designated Place

As stated in the Sir John Johnson NHSC commemorative integrity statement, the designated place is conserved when:

- there is respect for and maintenance of the orientation and siting of the house and the existing viewplanes to and from the Raisin River;
- the form and fabric of the House is safeguarded and maintained according to Parks Canada's CRM policy;
- decisions regarding the protection and/or presentation of nationally significant resources, values and messages are founded on site-specific knowledge.

Current State of the designated place:

- The nationally significant resources of the Site are currently safeguarded and managed according to Parks Canada's Cultural Resource Management Policy and the FHBRO Code of Practice.
- A good working relationship has developed between Parks Canada and two partners; the Sir John Johnson Manor House Committee and The Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry (SD&G) library board. This is important because the partners carry out the day to day care and maintenance of the house and deliver the messages of national significance under the terms of an agreement with Parks Canada. CRM policies and practices continue to govern the relationship between Parks Canada and its partners. The Sir John Johnson Manor House Committee with the approval of Parks Canada is going to continue to

develop a heritage centre in the portion of the house that they occupy. Their use of the space as a heritage center has not led to any inappropriate changes to nationally significant resources and has improved delivery of messages of national significance by providing to more people the opportunity to visit the site. The use by the library of a portion of the House has had the same positive impact on the delivery of national messages with minimal impact on the resources.

Commemorative Integrity Issue:

- The ongoing viability of this Site is based on having active partners who will operate the Site by working with Parks Canada.

4.2 Other Nationally Significant Historic Resources

As stated in the Sir John Johnson NHSC commemorative integrity statement, the built heritage will be conserved when:

- there is respect for and maintenance of the construction method, massing, craftsmanship and design of the house;
- the massing, form and fabric of the House is safeguarded and maintained by technical and professional experts in accordance with the Cultural Resource Management Policy;
- a regular monitoring and maintenance regime is in place as an integral part of the conservation programme;
- the House's evolutionary changes are respected;
- original fabric in need of replacement is replaced in kind;
- the open spaces and circulation patterns are respected and maintained;
- original structured details are safeguarded and maintained;
- any additions, interventions or repairs are based on an adequate knowledge of the history of the structure and respect the identified heritage values and heritage character;
- interventions to this Federal Heritage Building adhere to the FHBRO Code of Practice.

The archaeological resources will be conserved when:

- any physical interventions to the site are preceded by archaeological consultation in accordance with professional standards;
- records of archaeological investigations (reports, notes and artifacts) are completed, properly maintained and accessible for research and presentation purposes.

Current state of nationally significant historic resources:

- The House is currently managed and conserved according to Parks Canada's Cultural Resource Management Policy and the FHBRO Code of Practice.
- As noted in the State of the Protected Heritage Areas 1999 Report, the last four years have seen considerable improvements in the physical condition, security and fire suppression systems in the House. The first floor is now fully accessible and open to the public, and contains the library, facilities for meetings, office space and kitchen space, all achieved with minimal interference with original fabric and in accordance with CRM principles and practices. As well the roof has been repaired and the exterior was painted in 1998. The second floor, while not open to the public, is stabilized and not impaired or under threat.
- Archeological resources associated with the House are underground and are not impaired or under threat.

Commemorative Integrity Issues

- To date research and physical investigation have been limited. Areas in which further study and investigation are needed include: historical and architectural investigation as needed in order to fully document the Level 1 values of the house; further archaeological investigation as needed in order to identify Level 1 resources; inventories and evaluation of all resources of the site in order to determine Level 1 and 2 cultural resources and where their value lies.
- Although the second floor of the House is stabilized, if it was to become fully accessible, major improvements would have to be made. This could only occur with further research and capital funding. Currently there are no plans to open the upper level.

4.3 Messages

As stated in the Sir John Johnson NHSC commemorative integrity statement, heritage communication programmes will be effective when:

- the diversity of audiences and markets is considered and accounted for;
- quality presentation practices and key messages are incorporated into programmes;
- monitoring of programme content, quality and delivery occurs.

Measures and measurement methodologies will be put in place to determine the effectiveness of the delivery - audience's understanding - on messages based on the learning objectives. Effectiveness measures will need to ensure that:

- a combination of off-site and on-site experiences are employed to meet visitor and non-visitor needs;
- the nationally significant messages are delivered to all main target markets at appropriate places using relevant methods.

Current state in presenting the national significant messages:

- In 2004, Parks Canada installed exterior interpretive panels at key locations around the grounds. They convey the messages of national significance. The panels ensure that visitors have access to messages even when the Site is closed.
- Significant achievements in presentation have been accomplished by the Manor House Committee. There are pamphlets which are widely distributed that cover all the messages of national significance and the contextual ones. Members of the Manor House Committee are active in the community and have a good and cooperative relationship with other national historic sites and museums in the area. The Committee has made contact with other sites related to Sir John Johnson and are discussing twinning and reciprocal visitation. There are temporary exhibits in the House which interpret the messages.
- In 2002 the Sir John Johnson House site was added to the Parks Canada website.
- As a result of the Manor House Committee efforts, the messages of national significance are reaching more people.

- Through the Cooperative Association funding, the committee is able to open the site one day a week year round, especially for visitors wishing to see the interior of the house and use the archives.

Current Issues in presenting nationally significant messages are:

- A number of actions are required to increase and track visitation, expand on-site interpretation, outreach and education, tourism marketing and visitor services.
- Local messages do not overwhelm national messaging

4.4 Other Heritage Values

As stated in the Sir John Johnson NHSC commemorative integrity statement, the Site's other heritage values will be achieved when;

- visitors to the site have the opportunity to learn about Parks Canada's program of commemorating Canada's history;
- all cultural resources are managed in accordance with Parks Canada's CRM policy, and the appropriateness of proposed interventions to the site are reviewed in accordance with CRM policy;
- all whose actions may affect the site recognize the potential impact of their actions, and that every attempt be made to reach agreements with them to respect the historic values of the site;
- the siting, massing and materials of Level two built heritage is respected, and further research is carried out as needed in order to more fully understand the role and relationship of the buildings to the site;
- further archaeological investigation has taken place as needed in order to identify and manage archaeological resources appropriately;
- the evidence offered by landscape features of the evolving nature of the house and site is respected and maintained;
- partners in caring for and/or operating the site are fully involved in planning for the future of the site;
- Parks Canada works with private owners of heritage resources associated with Sir John Johnson House to

ensure mutual benefit to all these resources, both individually and as an interconnected assemblage, and to ensure the consistency of land use in the area;

- the spirit of place of the site (i.e. a rural site surrounded by agricultural land and bordered by a river, with relatively few modern intrusions) is maintained and protected;
- vistas from and to the house are respected and maintained;
- messages of national significance are not overwhelmed by Level 2 messages.

Current State of other heritage values:

- Improvements have been made to various cultural resources (shed, ice house, millstone, ruins of outbuildings) over the last few years.
- A historic landscape conservation study was recently completed which described the evolutionary nature of the property in detail and contained recommendations to direct site work.
- The natural resources on the property are well protected.
- The House is relatively isolated in a village-rural setting and is under no foreseeable threat from development. There is strong interest and feeling for the Site in the local community.
- As is the case with messages of national significance, level two messages are delivered by the Manor House Committee through a range of methods including pamphlets and programming.

Current issues with respect to other heritage values:

- There is a need for a long term maintenance program for the grounds which leads to ongoing issues related to vegetative impact on structures.
- The millstone, one of the few artifacts with a clear connection to the millsite associated with Sir John Johnson, is currently located near the historic house and will be relocated to the millsite interpretive panels.
- As stated earlier, further communication and marketing work is needed.

5.0 Operational Issues

Current operational issues are:

- Visitors services at the Site which includes heritage presentation need to be improved. Visitors are received at the Site by members of the Manor House Committee and staff of the library. The Manor House Committee has a staff there one day a week year round for visitors and for those who make appointments to use the Glengarry Archives. Seasonally, the Manor House Committee hires a summer student to provide interpretation and visitor services to the visiting public. Visitation to the site is in the low hundreds and is not well recorded since there are no permanent staff on site. Most visits are not preplanned and occur as people follow the directional signs located along local roads. The site is visually hidden by trees and the Raisin River and is located away from the center of Williamstown.
- More efficient ways to operate the Site need to be investigated. Areas of concern include energy efficiency, grounds maintenance and recycling. As work proceeds to implement the recommendations of the Historic Landscape Conservation Study additional grounds maintenance requirements will develop with both financial and human resource implications.
- Both third party partners have enhanced the visibility of the Site and improved the delivery of messages of national and local significance without any inappropriate changes to the resources of national significance. Parks Canada needs to continue to monitor and advise partners on the appropriateness of activities to ensure that the site enjoys exposure to Canadians in ways that protect the site with its cultural resources.

6.0 Vision and Guiding Principles

The vision for Sir John Johnson House NHSC has evolved from both its local and its national historic significance. The first comes from the local community and the groups that are interested in the site who have made it clear, through word and action, what they value about Sir John Johnson House and what they would like it to be in the future. The second is a recognition by the people of Canada as a whole who have entrusted the stewardship of nationally significant resources at Sir John Johnson House NHSC to Parks Canada which administers the site on their behalf, guided by the laws and policies authorized by Parliament. Parks Canada provides leadership in management and in promoting stewardship of our national heritage, citizen awareness and the commemorative integrity of the site.

Some clear messages about how people see the site in the future emerged during public consultation. The public indicated that they wanted to see the House return to its past role as a key element in the heritage character of the community. The “spirit of place” should be maintained and protected by ensuring the rural setting with few modern intrusions. The idea of a heritage centre with a variety of educational programs and research capabilities was confirmed as being consistent with the long term need to ensure the site’s commemorative integrity.

All agreed that the future of Sir John Johnson House would be secured through the co-operative efforts of the community working in partnership with Parks Canada. The benefits of increased heritage tourism will be far reaching, helping to further the understanding and appreciation of Canadian history, promoting national and international tourism, as well as contributing to the cultural and economic development of the region.

The vision describes an ideal state 10 to 15 years from now.

6.1 The Vision

In 2020, Sir John Johnson House NHSC is an integral part of the family of heritage sites of national, provincial and local significance in Glengarry County, through the co-operation and efforts of the local community and Parks Canada. As one of the oldest surviving houses in Ontario, this important piece of national and local history reflects a site committed to achieving commemorative integrity and is used and cared for as an active community heritage centre. The grounds retain their character of a tranquil, agricultural setting, with vestiges of its early function as a mill site still visible. The visitor is introduced to the history of the Site and Williamstown and its settlement by United Empire Loyalists with a focus on Sir John Johnson. All visitors see a place where history, heritage, culture and daily life meet.

6.2 Guiding Principles

The following guiding principles are the link between the vision and policies and actions. They have been used to develop the management plan and will continue to guide the management and future use of the site.

Cultural Resource Preservation and Presentation

Ensuring commemorative integrity through the preservation of the cultural resources of the House and the presentation of their national historic significance are the paramount mission of those responsible for managing the site.

Public Stewardship and Partnership

While the site will continue to be owned by Parks Canada for the benefit of all Canadians, community stakeholders will play an essential role in the development, operation, presentation and management of the site in direct co-operation with Parks Canada.

The protection and presentation of the Site's historic values are a public benefit and will be supported by all Canadians.

Co-operative relationships to provide enhanced and complementary heritage programming will be sought out and promoted.

Natural Resource Conservation

Natural features and habitats will be protected and managed to ensure their long-term viability.

Recreational Activities

Recreational activities which respect the historic values of the Site will be permitted.

Regional Integration

Development and operation of the site will contribute to tourism opportunities in Williamstown and in the surrounding region.

Revenue Management

A revenue base for the operation and maintenance of the sites will be developed through innovative and financially sound business decisions and practices.

7.0 Actions to Ensure the Commemorative Integrity of Sir John Johnson House NHS

7.1 The Designated Place

Actions: Ongoing

- Within the overall commemorative integrity goals for the site, Parks Canada will continue to manage the Site as a community heritage centre through partnerships with local groups. The Manor House Committee and the SD&G library board are the current partners who are actively involved. The Committee will operate out of the center and west rooms and are in the process of developing initiatives related to archives, landscape restoration, education and interpretation. The branch library will continue operating in the east room with an special emphasis on collecting and presenting local history.

Short Term

- Explore opportunities to ensure financial viability of the site through creative partnerships between the non-profit, private and public sectors and through effective marketing.
- Increase co-operation with other partners, both private and public, that own or manage heritage sites in SD&G to share historical and market information and technical expertise, and for mutual-promotion.
- Ensure all physical works and proposed activities do not threaten the site's commemorative integrity, and are consistent with Parks Canada's CRM Policy including respecting the values described in the building's Federal Heritage Building Heritage Character Statement.

7.2 The Nationally Significant Historic Resources

Actions: Ongoing

- Continue to protect key architectural features and the integrity of the house and other buildings.
- Continue to protect and monitor archaeological resources according to the highest standards.
- Continue to evaluate nationally significant archeological resources to better understand and present the site's history.
- Continue to support efforts by the Manor House Committee to operate a heritage centre within the recently retrofitted rooms on the west side of the first floor. Sanctioned activities will include the establishment of an archive of local land title documents, public meetings, heritage education activities and fund-raising events.
- Continue to support the operation of the branch library on the east side and encourage both the library and the Manor House Committee where possible to integrate their programs.

Short term

- Complete the historical, architectural and archeological investigations of the Level 1 values of the house, called for in section 6.4 of the site CIS and append them to the CIS.
- Monitor all activities to ensure there are no detrimental impacts on the site's Level 1 resources or design and implement needed mitigation measures.

Long term

- Use of the second floor in the short term is not possible because of public safety and the financial implications of restoration. In the long term, if appropriate to the site's commemorative integrity and feasible, the second floor may be retrofitted for use. The whole building must be monitored and evaluated to ensure that the overall health of the resource does not suffer from the second floor being left in an unused state and that any work undertaken conforms to Parks Canada's CRM Policy, including respecting the values described in the Federal Heritage Building Heritage Character Statements.

7.3 Messages

Action: Short term

- Work will continue with all partners to develop and deliver an appropriate heritage presentation program. (*refer to Section 8.0*) The presentation program will be based on the national strategic direction called Engaging Canadians. Linkages to the family of National Historic Sites will be included.

7.4 Other Heritage Values

Actions: Ongoing

- Continue working with all partners to interpret the grounds surrounding the historic site (i.e. the house itself) in accordance with the Sir John Johnson House Historic Landscape Conservation Study.

Short term

- Protect and maintain the storage shed. The partners will use it as a multi-purpose covered structure for interpretation (e.g. displays), storage and work area.
- Protect and maintain the ice house and partners will include it in the interpretation of the Site's history.

Long term

- Continue working with all partners to rehabilitate the landscape surrounding the house as a tranquil, agricultural setting, with vestiges of past use as a mill site. This conservation approach ensures that the several significant periods illustrated in the landscape will be recognized and presented. Examples of proposed initiatives include reinstating the ornamental and the vegetable gardens, completing archaeological investigations of the mill site, exposing and stabilizing the foundations remaining from the agricultural period and working with abutting property owners to ensure the Site's historic setting is maintained.

8.0 Heritage Presentation and Outreach

The “spirit of place” is manifested in many things, some tangible and some intangible. At Sir John Johnson House some of the ways in which this spirit comes alive is through special events and programs operated by the Manor House Committee. For others, just wandering on the grounds or in the House generates feelings of the spirit of the place. However all partners agree that a more comprehensive heritage presentation programme needs to be planned for the future incremental delivery. The programme has to reflect the capabilities of the partners operating this site and be based on marketing and effective communication concepts.

Actions: Short term

- Prepare a long term heritage presentation plan through a co-operative effort between the Manor House Committee, the library and Parks Canada. At its core, the plan will identify the desired presentation program outcomes, intended audiences, specific messages to be communicated, methods to be employed, and measurement techniques to gauge success. The plan would focus on communications and marketing and would highlight how to most effectively present the messages of both national and local significance through partnership opportunities. The Plan would consider ideas and actions to enhance the public service offer and community based support for the Site such as: a walking tour brochure illustrating the various periods of Site occupancy, the relocation of the millstone, and the development of heritage-related educational learning events.
- Through planning efforts and on-going dialogue between site partners and Parks Canada, agree on overall program operational priorities and scale of delivery, in consideration of resource levels available.

Long term

- Develop methods to gather basic statistics on visitor and special events (customer database).
- Develop an approach to evaluate public understanding of the messages of national and local significance.
- Support ways to integrate this heritage site and its values into the tourism strategy of Williamstown and the surrounding Counties.
- Encourage more collaborative efforts with the family of National Historic Sites with a focus on other national historic sites of Canada in the area: Saint Raphael's Ruins, Inverarden House, Bethune-Thompson House, Battle of Crysler's Farm, and MacDonell-Williamson House.
- Make a special attempt to increase ties (e.g. twinning) to Johnstown, New York in the Mohawk Valley, the original home of many of the United Empire Loyalists in the area and the Johnson family.

9.0 Operations

Actions: Ongoing

- Continue to share costs between Parks Canada, the Manor House Committee, and the library.
- Continue to incorporate practices and new developments in technology that result in a net reduction in the use of energy.
- Continue to work with all partners to develop a more stable base of human and financial resources.
- Ensure steps are taken to encourage and build the relationship between Parks Canada, the Manor House Committee, the library and others to promote actions that ensure commemorative integrity (*refer to Section 8.0*) and lead to an effective and efficient site operation.

Short term

- Provide convenient facilities for the public to reduce, re-use and recycle materials on site.
- Develop a grounds maintenance program for the Parks Canada administered property.

10.0 Environmental Assessment

In compliance with the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* (CEAA) of the federal government, Parks Canada must appraise the effects of its own projects on the natural, socio-economic, and cultural environment. As Management Plans may propose actions or activities which could result in significant environmental implications, an environmental appraisal using this process is required.

All actions with environmental implications are subject to identification, measurement, and assessment procedures to the degree dictated by the magnitude of the potential for adverse effects. Not all potential adverse impacts can be resolved in the Management Plan stage; some must be dealt with at the level of more detailed design and park operation. An Environmental Assessment was completed of the Management Plan and no significant environmental effects were found from the proposals as described in the Plan. The environmental assessment was done by Kelli E. Saunders, Resource Consultant in August 2000 and can be obtained by contacting Parks Canada.

11.0 Implementation - Working Together

Partnerships and Community Involvement

As stressed throughout this Plan, partners will continue to play a fundamental role in the operation and management of this site. Parks Canada will continue to nurture its existing relationships, with a focus on the Manor House Committee and the library. More has to be made of Sir John Johnson House as part of a larger family of historic sites and heritage tourism destinations, and more emphasis must be placed on the role of stakeholders, along with opportunities for partnerships.

Business Plans

Parks Canada uses its annual business planning process to identify the specific initiatives that will be undertaken to ensure that the parks and historic sites achieve ecological and commemorative integrity, respectively. The management plan provides the strategic direction upon which a site's business plan is based. The business plan will identify the specifics of

when and by whom the management plan strategies will be implemented. The business plan will also ensure that priorities are based on commemorative integrity, client service, and wise and efficient use of resources. The Superintendent will report on the implementation of the plan through the bi-annual State of the Protected Heritage Areas Report.

The implementation of the many provisions of this management plan is dependant on the availability of financial resources. Government appropriations and partnerships are the major funding mechanisms to implement this plan. The following implementation table shows most planned actions (*priorities 1 and 2*) will be implemented within five years using existing field unit resources and partnerships. Any other projects will only be undertaken if additional funds become available.

Implementation of this management plan is the responsibility of the Superintendent of Sir John Johnson House National Historic Site of Canada. The following table outlines the various projects required to achieve commemorative integrity at the site. Implementation priority categories are:

1. The project or activity must proceed as a high priority action and funding is in place or earmarked in future years. The project or activity is necessary to achieve commemorative integrity or quality service to clients, or has a significant bearing on future projects aimed at ensuring commemorative integrity.
2. The project has an impact on commemorative integrity or on quality of service to clients, and should proceed subject to results from above, should funding become available due to savings extracted from priority one items.
3. Implementation is preferable but not essential to ensuring commemorative integrity or quality service to clients. Project should be considered as opportunities and funding availability permit.

12.0 Management Plan Review

The Management Plan will be reviewed on a five year cyclical basis to ensure its continued relevance to changing economic conditions, legislation and policy. The effectiveness of the plan implementation, including the current state of commemorative integrity and the program of activities at the Site will also be reviewed on a regular basis by all partners.

Plan Implementation

Management Plan

Activity	Implementation Priority	Reference	Funding in place for implementation within 5 years
Continue to manage the Site as a community heritage centre through partnerships with local groups.	1	7.1	Yes
Explore opportunities to ensure financial viability of the Site through creative partnerships.	1	7.1/8.0	Yes
Increase co-operation with partners.	1	7.1/8.0	Yes
Ensure all physical works and proposed activities do not threaten the site's commemorative integrity.	1	7.1	Yes
Continue to protect and monitor archaeological resources.	1	7.2	Yes
Continue to evaluate archeological resources.	1	7.2	Yes
Continue to support efforts by the Manor House Committee to develop a heritage center.	2	7.2	No
Continue to support the operation of the branch library.	2	7.2	No
Complete an historical investigation of the Level 1 values of the house.	1	7.2	Yes
Monitor all activities to ensure there are no detrimental impacts on the site's Level 1 resources.	1	7.2	Yes
In the long term, if appropriate and feasible, the second floor may be retrofitted for use.	3	7.2	No
Work will continue with all partners to develop and deliver a comprehensive presentation program.	1	7.3/8.0	Yes
Work will continue with all partners to develop, present and manage the grounds of the site in accordance with Historic Landscape Conservation study.	2	7.4	No
Retain the storage shed and use it as a multi-purpose covered structure.	2	7.4	Yes
Retain the ice house and use it for interpretation.	2	7.4	No

Continue to rehabilitate the landscape surrounding the house.	2	7.4	No
Develop a tool and procedures to gather basic statistics on visitor and special events.	3	8	No
Develop an approach to evaluate public understanding of the messages of national and local significance.	3	8	No
Support ways to integrate this site with the tourism strategy of Williamstown and the surrounding Counties	3	8	No
Encourage more collaborative efforts with the family of National Historic Sites of Canada and work with the National Historic Sites Alliance for Ontario.	3	8	No
Increase ties to Johnstown, N.Y.	3	8	No
Continue to share capital initiatives and operational costs between Parks Canada, the Manor House committee, and the library.	1	9	Yes
Continue to incorporate new technology to reduce the use of energy.	1	9	Yes
Continue to work with all partners to improve the base of human and financial resources.	1	9	Yes
Provide convenient facilities for the public to reduce, re-use and recycle materials on site.	1	9	Yes
Develop a grounds maintenance program.	2	9	Yes

Sir John Johnson House

NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE OF CANADA

Commemorative Integrity Statement – Appendix A

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1.0 National Historic Sites Objectives

Under the national historic sites program Parks Canada has the responsibility:

- To foster knowledge and appreciation of Canada's past through a national program of historic commemoration.
- To ensure the 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.

2.0 Definition and Purpose of Commemorative Integrity

A Statement of Commemorative Integrity is a means to describe the health or wholeness of a national historic site. A national historic site possesses commemorative integrity when:

- the resources that symbolize or represent its importance are not impaired or under threat,
- the reasons for the site's national historic significance are effectively communicated to the public, and
- the site's heritage values are respected by all whose decisions or actions affect the site.

The purpose of a statement of commemorative integrity is to specify the following:

- what is nationally significant about the site;
- what resources of the site are of national historic significance: what constitutes their value and what their appropriate physical condition should be;
- what resources of the site embody other heritage values; what constitutes their value and under what conditions can they be said to be respected; and
- what messages about the site's national historic significance should be communicated to the public, and how the effectiveness of this communication will be evaluated.

3.0 Background

In 1776, at the start of the American Revolutionary War, Sir John Johnson left his substantial estate in the Mohawk Valley in New York, and came to Canada. During the war, he organized, funded and led the King's Royal Regiment of New York, which was involved in many border skirmishes. In 1784 he became responsible for the settlement of Loyalists who had fled the United States, in the area from Lake St. Francis to the Bay of Quinte. He took a substantial grant of land for himself, part of which included the land on which the hamlet of Williamstown is located today.

On his Williamstown property, sometime between 1784 and 1792, Johnson had built a one and a half story, five-bay log structure on a rise of ground, near the Raisin River. A grist mill and a saw mill were built on the river in the same period. While Johnson probably never lived in his Williamstown house, the mills were the focal point in his vision for the community he hoped to encourage for that location. The house was occupied by the overseer of the mill for at least part of Johnson's ownership of the site. The features which can be associated with this period include the original portion of the house and the sites of the former mills.

Late in the 1810s, the house and lands were purchased by Hugh McGillis, a retired fur trader. He continued to run the mills, and, in addition, developed the land agriculturally. He was probably responsible for the addition on the west end of the house. The ice house may date from this time. In 1849 the house passed to his nephew, John McGillis, who lived there with his family until 1872. It was likely during this occupancy period that the eastern Gothic addition was made. John McGillis expanded the agricultural concerns further.

Ownership passed in 1872 to Murdoch McLennan, then in 1897 to D.R. Robertson and then to Lionel Deveaux in 1938. By the turn of the century, the mills were silent and, the land use became exclusively agricultural. By the early 1900s, there were a number of outbuildings associated with the farming activity on the property, including two barns, and a shed. A fire in 1954 destroyed the main outbuilding complex.

From 1956 until 1971 the property was owned and occupied by Les Soeurs du Sacré-Cœur. The house and property was then purchased by the Government of Canada. Since 1975, the Williamstown Branch of the Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry Library has been located in the east wing, while the rest of the house has remained vacant.

4.0 Commemorative Intent

The commemorative intent of Sir John Johnson House NHS of Canada focuses on what is nationally significant about the site. It refers specifically to the reasons for the site's significance, as determined by the ministerially approved recommendations of the HSMBC.

The recommendation of the HSMBC in May 1961 was "that in the opinion of the Board, this house is of national historical importance because of its age, historical association and architectural design, and that the Minister take steps to have it preserved as a National Historic Site." The plaque text amplifies this statement as follows:

In the centre of this eclectic house is one of the oldest buildings standing in Ontario. It was built here between 1784 and 1792 as part of a mill site developed by Sir John Johnson to encourage Loyalists to resettle along the St. Lawrence River after the American Revolution. The original five-bay house is constructed of logs in the French-Canadian manner. With its extension to the west after 1813, and the addition of a Gothic Revival wing on the east side in the 1860s, the house provides an excellent record of vernacular building in early Canada.

The Statement of Commemorative Intent for Sir John Johnson House NHS is:

The national historic significance of the Sir John Johnson House lies in its historical association with Sir John Johnson, its age as one of the oldest surviving buildings in Ontario and in its architectural design.

5.0 Definition of Historic Place

In its deliberations, the HSMBC focussed exclusively on the house. Consequently, the historic place commemorated by the Sir John Johnson House NHS of Canada is defined as the presently existing house. The house is sited in the context of a rural agrarian landscape. It was constructed on a high point of ground near the Raisin river; this location was chosen for its suitability for a mill site. The value of this historic place lies in its association with Sir John Johnson, particularly in the context of his role in the settlement of Upper Canada, and in the age of the house and its physical expression of early vernacular building techniques.

6.0 Resources that Symbolize or Represent the Importance of S. J. J. House NHS of Canada

The resources representing the importance of Sir John Johnson House NHS of Canada are those that directly relate to the site's national historical significance. According to the Cultural Resource Management Policy, they are Level 1 cultural resources. The designation of national historic significance results from the recommendation made by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada to the Minister of Canadian Heritage. Where site resources have not been specifically recommended by the Board, their national historic significance can be determined on the basis of their relationship to the commemorative intent of the site.

6.1 Built Heritage

Context

The Sir John Johnson House is an example of evolved vernacular domestic architecture, particularly remarkable for its age, design (the particular combination of construction methods and stylistic attributes) and for its historical association. The original five-bay section of the house was constructed between 1784 and 1792 as a residence for Sir John Johnson's mill supervisor. This is the sole surviving property of many once owned by Johnson, a Loyalist leader whose activities included the organization and promotion of Loyalist settlement after the American Revolutionary War. Activities in support of this effort included the establishment of a millsite at Williamstown. Mills were built to encourage and attract settlers to the area and provided a focus for the community. Many of the original settlers had fought in the battalion funded and commanded by Sir John Johnson during the Revolutionary War. While the house was probably never occupied by Johnson, it was an integral part of his vision for the community and was in his ownership until 1819.

Over time, the house was expanded to accommodate its function as the home of resident landowners. In about 1830 the building was extended to the west by two bays creating a low, rectangular structure with an asymmetrical facade. A final, two-

storey extension to the east was constructed ca. 1860. This portion of the building is set at right angles to the earlier wings with its main elevation facing northeast. The resultant structure is an irregularly massed building which provides a remarkable documentary record of vernacular building methods of the 18th and 19th centuries in Canada.

The physical value of the house lies in its age, construction method, materials, massing, craftsmanship, and design, as well as in the building's orientation, and siting in relation to surrounding landscape elements. The following elements relate directly to national significance:

- material evidence of the structure's 18th-century construction, including the log construction techniques using squared pine logs;
- vestiges of the original layout and finishes inspired by the aesthetics of British Classicism, e.g. the original five-bay facade and centre-hall plan;
- the irregular massing of the structure as it has evolved over time in so far as it has reinforced the original vernacular character;
- the siting and orientation of the house, on a knoll of land with unobstructed viewplanes out over the Raisin River.

The associative value of the house rests with its linkages with Sir John Johnson, particularly in the context of his role in promoting Loyalist settlement in Upper Canada. Also, as the only surviving house of many once owned by Johnson, it carries a broader association with the life and career of Sir John Johnson.

6.2 Archeological Resources

All archaeological resources known and unknown which can be associated with the Sir John Johnson ownership period and with the physical evolution of the house are Level 1 resources.

These include: archaeological features associated with construction of the Sir John Johnson House such as remains of the first west wing construction, and the burnt layer from the initial clearing of the land.

The value of these resources lies both in their association with the ownership period of Sir John Johnson, and in the physical evidence remaining in situ.

6.3 Landscape Elements

Because there are no landscape elements that can be positively associated with the Sir John Johnson period, there are no Level 1 landscape resources.

6.4 Commemorative Integrity Indicators for level one cultural resource

The cultural resources which embody the significance of Sir John Johnson House NHS of Canada - the central core of the house and the Level 1 archaeological resources - will not be impaired or under threat when appropriate conservation methods for Level 1 cultural resources are in place following CRM policy principles. These will include:

- respect for and maintenance of the construction method, massing, craftsmanship and design of the house;
- respect for and maintenance of the orientation and siting of the house and the existing viewplanes to and from the Raisin River;
- respect for and conservation of all archaeological resources associated with the Sir John Johnson period of ownership;

To date research and physical investigation has been limited. Areas in which further study and investigation is needed include: historical and architectural investigation as needed in order to fully document the Level 1 values of the house; further archaeological investigation as needed in order to identify level one resources; inventories and evaluation of all resources of the site in order to determine Level 1 and 2 cultural resources and where their value lies.

7.0 Messages of National Significance Associated with S. J. J. House N.H.S. of Canada

7.1 Messages

The national historic significance of the site will be effectively communicated when the public understands that:

- Sir John Johnson House is associated with Sir John Johnson. Integral to understanding the site's relationship to Sir John Johnson is the knowledge that he was a Loyalist in the American Revolutionary War who had a prominent role in the subsequent Loyalist settlement of Upper Canada and that the house and mills were built for Sir John Johnson provided a focal point to the community of Loyalist settlers in this area;
- the original portion of the structure is one of the oldest surviving buildings in Ontario;
- the original portion of the structure is a rare example in Ontario of pièce-sur-pièce construction.

7.2 Commemorative Integrity Indicators for messages of national significance

Commemorative integrity will be achieved when the general public is given the opportunity to become aware of the commemorative intent of Sir John Johnson House National Historic Site, and when visitors to the site are given the opportunity to understand the messages of national significance. "Awareness" on the part of the general public indicates basic knowledge that includes the principal facts stated above. "Understanding" on the part of site visitors means an more in-depth knowledge.

8.0 Other Heritage Values of Sir John Johnson N. H. S. of Canada

While resources directly linked to the commemorative intent of the designation of Sir John Johnson House NHS of Canada are considered to have the highest value as cultural resources, there are other resources and messages that also have value and contribute to the character of the site. Sir John Johnson House is a landmark in the local community and has had a long history as an agricultural/industrial complex. The mills built in association with the house provided a focal point to the community for the first century of its developments. When the mills ceased operation, the land and house remained an active agricultural unit, until 1954 when the house became a rental property and the associated lands were sold off or rented to local farmers. Because of the importance of the house and its associated activities to the community and because of the continuity of the house and land as a agricultural unit, all other resources and messages which predate 1954 are considered Level 2 cultural resources. These include:

8.1 Built Heritage

The Ice-house

The small, square (4.82 m. by 4.82 m.) fieldstone ice-house is a simple, pitch-roofed structure with an entry door on the west gable elevation and additional windows apertures above the door and in the middle of each side elevation. The ice-house dates from at least the Hugh McGillis period and is a Level 2 cultural resource. Its value lies in its materials, massing and orientation and in its association to the evolution of the site.

The Shed

A utilitarian, rough-sawn lumber structure of one storey with loft under a pitched roof, the shed has a single wide door on its north side. Measuring 9.25 m. by 12. 37 m., it rests on a concrete pad and is currently covered in asbestos shingles. This shed is the only surviving building from the outbuilding complex dating from at least the Deveaux period. It is a Level 2 cultural resource. Its value lies in its materials, massing and siting and its association to the evolution of the site.

8.2 Historic Objects

There are some Level 2 historic objects associated with the various construction phases of the house. These include a number of architectural components such as trim, doors, architectural hardware, paint and wallpaper sample and chimney caps. Their value lies in the physical evidence they provide of the evolution of the house.

There is a mill stone, which may be associated with the industrial phase of the occupation of the property. Finally, there are objects in the shed which may date from the agricultural phase of the occupation of the property. These artifacts will be regarded as Level 2 until such time as their association can be determined.

8.3 Archaeological Resources

Beyond the archaeological resources identified as Level 1 resources, all archaeological resources known and unknown which predate the occupation of Les Soeurs du Sacré-Cœur may have heritage value as evidence of the evolution of the site and house. In order to identify such value and to manage these resources appropriately, it may be necessary to carry out further research.

8.4 Landscape Features

Landscape features which predate the occupation of Les Soeurs du Sacré-Cœur provide physical evidence of the evolution of the site and may be regarded as level two cultural resources. They include natural landscape features such as the riverbank, the trees, laneways, hedgerows, open areas; vistas to and from the house; and the remaining foundations of the burned outbuildings.

8.5 Messages

Messages about the Site which are not directly linked to the commemorative intent, but which have significance provincially, regionally or locally and contribute to an understanding of the site as a whole are:

- the story of the life and career of Sir John Johnson;
- the story of the Loyalist emigration to Canada, where they originated and why they came;

- the links to other sites which may be associated with Sir John Johnson;
- that Sir John Johnson House is only remaining structure of all those that Sir John Johnson owned;
- that in the post settlement period many fur traders of the North West Company came to this area to retire; Hugh McGillis, John McDonald, Duncan Cameron, John McGillvray and Angus Bethune all lived in the region;
- the importance of the early owners of Sir John Johnson House to the community - Sir John Johnson himself donated the land for the fairgrounds; Hugh McGillis was the first “Laird of Williamstown” and donated the land for St. Mary’s Church and the original part of the cemetery;
- that the house is an excellent example of evolved vernacular architecture reflecting building techniques and stylistic trends typical of nineteenth century Ontario;
- that the house has long had a landmark status in town and region and is known as “manor house” - dating back to the time of Hugh McGillis;
- that there is a relative lack of inappropriate modern intrusions in the cultural landscape;
- that Sir John Johnson House is part of a family of national historic sites;
- that the community has played a strong role in protecting the sense of place in Williamstown and in the preservation of other local historic places such as the Bethune-Thompson House, St. Mary’s and St. Andrew’s churches and the Nor’westers and Loyalist Museum; and
- that the Province of Ontario has designated the millsites as of provincial historic significance.

8.6 Commemorative Integrity Indicators for other heritage values

The site's heritage values are respected by all those whose decisions or actions affect the site when:

- visitors to the site have the opportunity to learn about Parks Canada's program of commemorating Canada's history;
- all cultural resources are managed in accordance with CRM policy, and the appropriateness of proposed interventions to the site are reviewed in accordance with CRM policy;
- all whose actions may affect the site recognize the potential impact of their actions, and that every attempt be made to reach agreements with them to respect the historic values of the site;
- the siting, massing and materials of Level 2 built heritage is respected, and further research is carried out as needed in order to more fully understand the role and relationship of the buildings to the site;
- further archaeological investigation has taken place as needed in order to identify and manage archaeological resources appropriately;
- the evidence offered by landscape features of the evolving nature of the house and site is respected and maintained;
- partners in caring for and/or operating the site are fully involved in planning for the future of the site;
- Parks Canada works with private owners of heritage resources associated with Sir John Johnson House to ensure mutual benefit to all these resources, both individually and as an interconnected assemblage, and to ensure the consistency of land use in the area;
- the spirit of place of the site - ie a rural site surrounded by agricultural land and bordered by a river, with relatively few modern intrusions - is maintained and protected;
- vistas from and to the house are respected and maintained.
- messages of national significance are not overwhelmed by Level 2 messages