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CHESTERFIELD INLET HISTORIC SITES AND TRAILS PROGRAM

MASTER PLAN

March, 1986

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The consultant planning team, coordinated by Bruce K. Downie of PRP Parks: Research & Planning Inc. also included:

Mr. Mike Keffer, Keffer & Assoc., Almonte, Ontario, and
Ms. Caroline Anawak, Kivalliq Consulting, Management and
Training Services Ltd., Rankin Inlet, NWT.

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Bruce K. Downie
PRP Parks: Research & Planning Inc.
March, 1986

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INTRODUCTION

1. The Project Context

The Government of the Northwest Territories and the local business community of the Keewatin Region have recently begun to work toward the greater fulfillment of the tourism potential of the Keewatin. In 1984 and 1985, the Keewatin Chamber of Commerce directed "The Keewatin Regional Tourism Development and Marketing Strategy". The major objectives of the study were:

- a) to identify and evaluate the tourism potential of the region;
- b) to assess the relationships between products and markets; and
- c) to provide a strategy which would guide local tourism development.

A significant component of the study results was the identification of potential tourism opportunities and the context of individual communities within the region. Tourism development and marketing strategies were prepared which reflected community and business aspirations, resource opportunities and available means to implement development.

From this overall strategy, specific community initiatives are now flowing. This plan for the Chesterfield Inlet Historic Sites and Trails Program is one such initiative. The Tourism Strategy identified the theme "Exploration of the North" for the community of Chesterfield Inlet. More specifically post-contact history of the whalers, the R.C.M.P. and the missionaries is very important to the evolution of the community and the region as a whole. Resources are available in the community which are central to the exploration theme and an interest in and support for the development of tourism opportunities related to these resources seems to be present.

The Department of Economic Development and Tourism hired the consulting firm PRP Parks: Research & Planning Inc. to prepare the plan with the assistance of Kivalliq Consulting and Management Services and in cooperation with Department officials and members of the community.

2. The Regional Context

The Keewatin Region encompasses in its 592,000 sq. km. the geographical centre of Canada. Predominantly influenced by the presence of Hudson Bay and the location north of the tree line, it is a region of sparse population, largely focussed on the resources of the land and the sea. The pattern of growth from family units widely dispersed on the land, to small communities, and most recently to the emergence of larger regional centres, has occurred largely since 1900. Chesterfield Inlet has played an important part in this process because of its origin as one of the earliest location in the region for such important developments as the establishment of missions by the Catholic Church, of trading posts by the Hudson Bay Company, and of outposts of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. Other communities in the region, such as Eskimo Point and Baker Lake, had similarly early beginnings resulting from the same influences.

Chesterfield Inlet today is a community of about 250 people, almost entirely Inuit. The community is located on a small bay on the south shore of the mouth of Chesterfield Inlet (see Figs. #1 & 2). It is a key location for inland travel along the inlet to Baker Lake as well as being well situated relative to the game of the region. The people still depend to a great extent on fishing, hunting and trapping. Rankin Inlet which emerged as a nickel mining centre in 1955 and has grown to be the transportation and administration centre of the region, is 101 air km to the southwest.

3. The Plan

The task set by the Terms of Reference for this project was to develop a master plan and interpretive plan for a Historic Sites and Trails Program for the community of Chesterfield Inlet. The basis of the project was the recognition that historical resources were available in the community, and that the Tourism Strategy for the Keewatin Region recommended the development of three historic themes:

1. the post-contact history of the whaling;
2. the activities of the R.C.M.P.; and
3. the mission activities of the Catholic church.

A master plan for the Historical Sites and Trails Program is needed to determine the scope and direction of such a program, identify the appropriate resources for inclusion, detail the level and nature of protection and presentation means for the resources, and to document the financial and scheduling implications of implementation. Closely associated with these decisions are the plans for interpreting these historic themes to the visiting public. The interpretive planning components have been incorporated into the master plan to facilitate the acceptance and implementation of the proposed program. The interpretive components address the audiences, messages and means of communication that are considered most relevant to the Chesterfield Inlet Historic Sites and Trails Program.

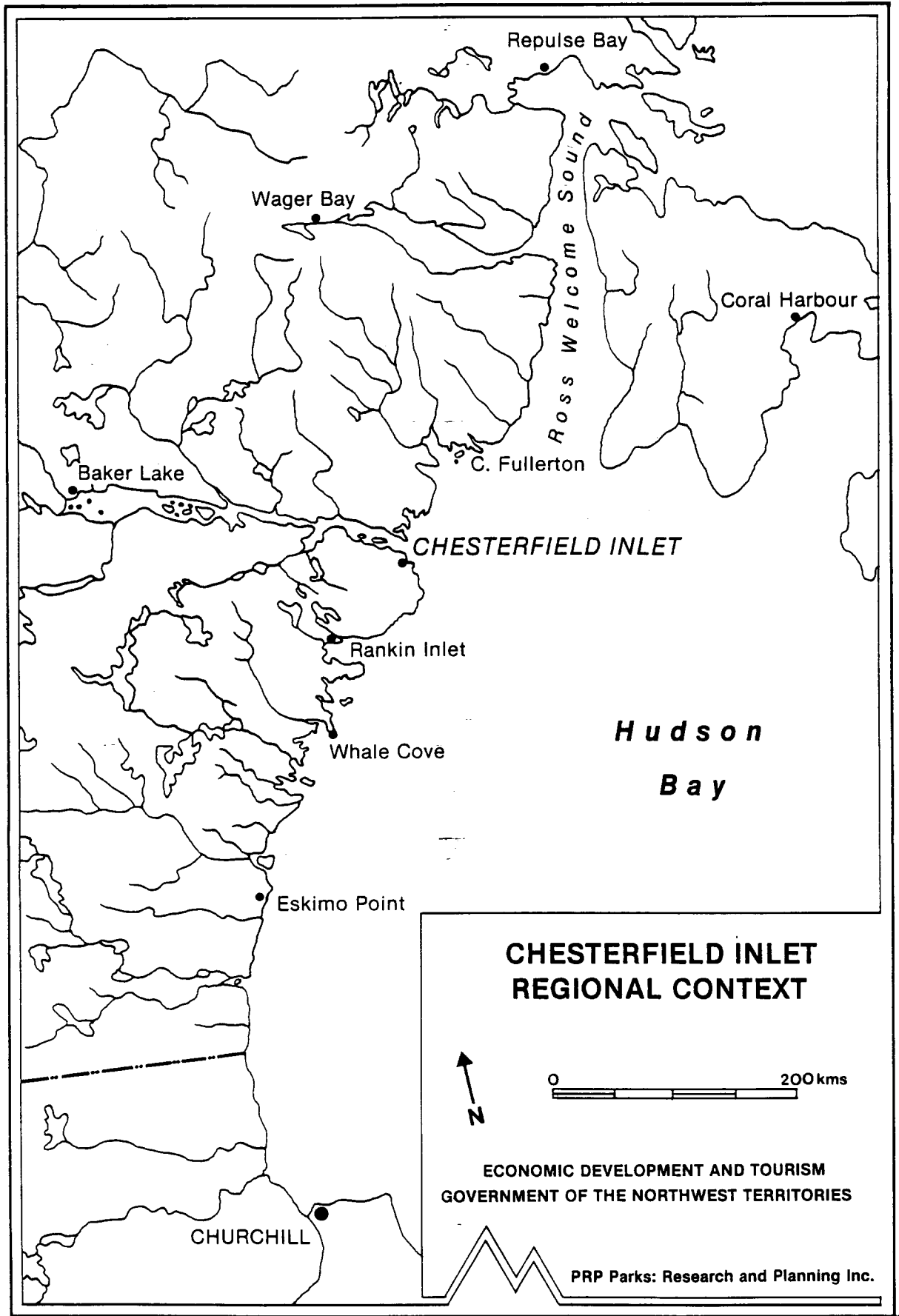
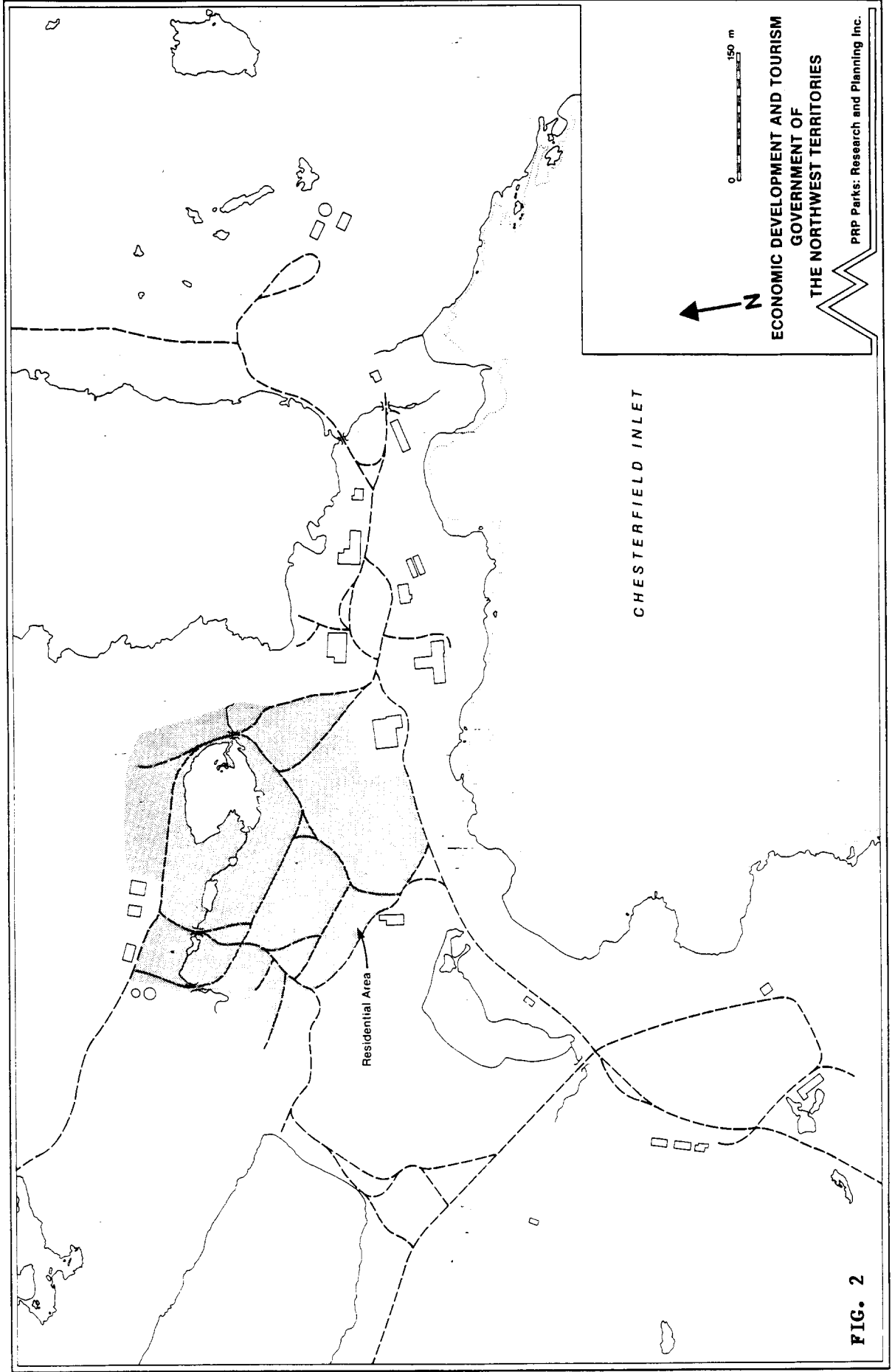
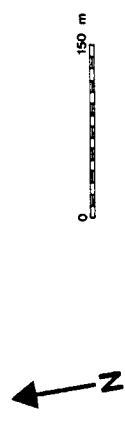


FIG. 1

CHESTERFIELD INLET



CHESTERFIELD INLET



**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM
GOVERNMENT OF
THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES**

PAP Parks: Research and Planning Inc.

FIG. 2

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

To establish a comprehensive and effective historic sites and trails program a clearly defined set of goals and objectives for the program is essential. They take into account the previously determined themes, the potential visitor and the evaluation of community resources and historic records. The subsequent plan proposals are the means whereby these goals and objectives can be achieved. Also it is against these goals and objectives, that the effectiveness of the program, its development and operation, can be measured.

GOALS:

1. to provide meaningful opportunities for visitors to appreciate the historical development of the community of Chesterfield Inlet and the surrounding region;
2. to maintain the existing historical resources of Chesterfield Inlet;
3. to attract visitors to the community of Chesterfield Inlet and stimulate the local economy; and
4. to complement other community tourism initiatives.

OBJECTIVES:

1. to develop a day-long activity of historical interest for visitors to the community;
2. to protect and utilize the historical buildings still found in the community;
3. to present the historical themes identified for Chesterfield Inlet in order that the public can appreciate their significance and their role in setting the stage and influencing the development of the community. The themes are: whaling; missionaries; and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police;
4. to present in meaningful and interesting ways, the messages associated with each of the identified themes and the available resources;
5. to utilize cost effective means of presenting the messages associated with each of the themes identified; and
6. to provide opportunities for members of the community to be involved in and to benefit from the development of the Historic Sites and Trails Program.

HISTORICAL THEMES

1. Themes

The theme 'Exploration of the North' was identified as the primary focus for developing a community image that would encourage both stop-over and extended stay tourist visitation. Within this broad theme specific sub-themes have been selected as the basis for further study and development of a Chesterfield Inlet Historic Sites and Trails Program that will achieve the tourism objectives. These sub-themes are 'whaling', 'the Royal Canadian Mounted Police', and 'missionaries'. Each one of these themes is discussed briefly below to indicate the general focus and scope of the story which should be presented to the visitor.

These sub-themes will be used throughout this plan for the Historic Sites and Trails Program of Chesterfield Inlet as the framework for developing an integrated package of facilities, activities and materials to communicate the history of the community.

1.1 Whaling

Whaling is an activity which significantly affected the nature and extent of the interaction between the Inuit and the Euro-American cultures. The evolution of the activity in the Chesterfield Inlet region, including the activity's location, techniques, challenges, products, economy, and the role of the Hudson's Bay Company, is an



interesting and important story. An especially important part of the whaling story is the participation of the local Inuit. Their contribution to the whaling activity of the area should be highlighted. At the same time, this theme should also develop an appreciation of the cultural context into which the whalers from the south inserted themselves and the influence they had on the lifestyle of northern people.

1.2 Royal Canadian Mounted Police

The coming of the Northwest Mounted Police is directly related to the whaling activity of the region. This relationship to the major economic activity as well as the relationship of the R.C.M.P.'s law enforcement responsibilities to the social fabric of the community in which the church played a major role, should be drawn out. In this way this theme will assist in linking the sub-themes within the community. The activities of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police are also closely related to the land and the environment of the north. The many stories of their exploits and patrols would provide a dramatic and intriguing means of conveying the messages of this theme. This theme should also develop an awareness of the beginnings of government influence on the north and its people.

1.3 Missionaries

The missionaries had an enormous impact on the people of the north. In Chesterfield Inlet this impact is a long standing one considering the early establishment of the Catholic mission in the community. The impact is also of large scale. The facilities and services that were developed by the church prior to the involvement of government in the educational, social and economic wellbeing of the community were extensive. An awareness of the significant role played by the church in the provision of community services would be essential to the development of this theme. To achieve a proper perspective, however, recognition should be given to the transition of the responsibility for these facilities and services to government and the community. Also very important in this theme is the cultural change brought about by the example and influence of the church. An appreciation should be provided of the traditional beliefs and practices that were given up in favour of the Christian traditions.

2. Historical Overview

An understanding of the historical context of the Chesterfield Inlet themes is helpful. With this background knowledge one can more fully appreciate the significance of the existing resources and the appropriateness of the development proposals for the Historic Sites and Trails Program. An historical overview of the region is presented here to set the stage for more detailed descriptions of the specific themes and the assessment of the community resources. Both Pre-Contact (the events of the period prior to Inuit contact with the white man), and Post-Contact periods are important to the historical context of Chesterfield Inlet. It is important to note that much remains to be known about the evolution of the human history of the Canadian arctic. Although valuable work has been undertaken, there are areas of controversy and gaps in our knowledge that will certainly stimulate continued efforts by historians and archaeologists to piece together a more complete picture.

2.1 Pre-Contact History

The modern day Inuit found along the northwestern coast of Hudson Bay descended from a succession of Inuit cultures that have inhabited this area over the last 4,000 to 5,000 years. The first of these Inuit cultures known as the Arctic Small Tool tradition (so named because of the tiny blades of flint used to cut bone and ivory for the making of tools) evolved along the east shore of the Bering Strait during the time period 2,000 to 800 B.C. Under warmer climatic conditions than presently exist in the north, these people spread across the Canadian arctic over a period of about two centuries.

The Arctic Small Tool tradition that occupied the lower Arctic islands and mainland were known as the Pre-Dorset culture. The various groups of Pre-Dorset people ranged from the Barren Grounds to the High Arctic, however, it was the core group that remained in the species rich area of Foxe Basin, Hudson Bay and northern Hudson Bay that are thought to have inhabited the eastern Arctic until 800 B.C. This Pre-Dorset group evolved into a more advanced culture known as the Dorset culture, also called the 'Tunit', and are associated with the period from 800 B.C. to 1000 A.D. Noted for their technological development, the Dorset culture was distinguished from the Pre-Dorset by such innovations as the snow house, the snow knife, and sled shoes to protect the runners when travelling over snow and ice. The spread of the Dorset people coincided once again with a general climatic warming trend and they resettled a large part of the area previously settled by the Pre-Dorset culture.

By 1000 A.D., following the disappearance of the Arctic Small Tool tradition, a new tradition called the Thule culture, had emerged in Alaska. The Thule people were whale hunters and during another climatic warming trend moved east along the Arctic coast taking with them dogs, kayaks and umiaks. By 1200 A.D. the Thule culture had established villages across the Canadian arctic and down the west coast of Hudson Bay. Although it is not totally understood whether the Thule people

absorbed or eliminated the Dorset people, the Thule culture, dating from 1000 to 1600 A.D. is now recognized as the direct ancestor of the modern Inuit.

A number of local cultures of the present day Inuit emerged from the traditional Thule way of life when another climatic cooling period discouraged interaction between the widely separated communities. Each group adapted its culture to the resources of the specific area upon which it was dependent. The names of the specific groups reflect these specific characteristics: the Netsilingmiut, the people of the seal; the Pallimiut, the people of the lake; and Okkosiksalikmiut, the soapstone people.

For Chesterfield Inlet, two of these culture variations are especially important. The first is the Qaernermiut, the northernmost sub-group of the caribou Eskimo. While descriptions of their territory vary, it appears that Chesterfield Inlet is well within most defined ranges. Cultural influences on the Qaernermiut were from both the north and the south, but in the last two hundred years the Aivilingmiut to the north have had the greatest interaction due to the mutual interest of both cultures in the whaling of Hudson Bay and the opportunities it has afforded.

2.2 Post-Contact History

The pattern of historical evolution in the Chesterfield Inlet region during the relatively brief period since the arrival of the white man, is relatively simple and consistent with many parts of arctic Canada. The initial contacts between the Inuit and the white Europeans came as a result of the search for the Northwest Passage. In Hudson Bay this was as early as 1612. But it wasn't until the mid 1700's that explorers following the coastline of Hudson Bay found and were excited by the seeming potential of Chesterfield Inlet as the long sought after westward route. Attention quickly shifted to other more promising areas and to the search for overland routes to the western sea when it was reported that the end of the inlet was reached and no passage was found.

Explorers' reports of whales along the west coast of Hudson Bay encouraged another burst of activity in the region. The Hudson's Bay Company launched the initial but economically unsuccessful venture during the 1700's. In the late 1800's after the development and decline of a whaling industry in the Cumberland Sound area, whalers moved into the northwestern part of Hudson Bay which included the Chesterfield Inlet and Wager Bay area. The need for wintering stations and bases for trade with the Inuit of the region resulted in the establishment of permanent settlements.

As with other areas in Canada, trading activity and frontier settlement encouraged a variety of other activities. One of the most important of these was the initiative of the churches to send missionaries both to convert the indigenous people to Christianity and to support and facilitate their assimilation into white society. Because of the

prominence of Chesterfield Inlet as convenient contact point between white and Inuit involved in whaling and trading, the site became the location of the first mission in the Keewatin.

Similarly, the early government initiatives aimed at regulating the whaling activity and establishing sovereignty in the region resulted in the establishment of permanent outposts of the Northwest Mounted Police (later, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police). In spite of this government interest, it was the church in the early years that provided facility and social service support to the native communities that developed around these focal points of activity.

It was much later, during the mid 1900's, that increasing government involvement began to replace the church's contribution in the economic and service aspects of the community.

3. Description of Themes

3.1 Whaling

A route to China through the Northwest Passage was the primary reason that early explorers were attracted to Hudson Bay and more specifically to Chesterfield Inlet. Sir Thomas Button's entry into Hudson Bay in 1612 marked the beginning of a sequence of explorers focussed on the same objective. However, it wasn't until 1747 that Chesterfield Inlet was identified by Captain William Moor as a potential route. The Hudson's Bay Company took an immediate interest in this new possibility and supported further exploration of the area with expeditions by both John Bean and William Christopher. Bean failed to find the Inlet but Christopher explored Chesterfield Inlet reaching the end of Baker Lake on his second trip in 1762. Christopher's trip reports recording the lack of westward passage through Chesterfield Inlet were important also because of his sightings of whales off Marble Island. The Hudson's Bay Company eagerly undertook to develop whaling activity in the area between 1765 and 1782. However, the attempt proved to be unprofitable and the Company ceased its efforts.

The main period of whaling in northwestern Hudson Bay (1860 - 1915) was initiated by two American whalers who had until that time been whaling in Cumberland Sound. Captain Christopher Chapel and his brother Edward decided to move their whaling activity after hearing positive reports regarding whale sightings in northwestern Hudson Bay. Their efforts were well rewarded as they departed from the area in 1861 with more whale bone than had ever been obtained from a Davis Strait fishery. In the decade that followed, over 59 voyages were made to Hudson Bay with all but two being from American ports. The Hudson Bay whaling grounds extended along the northwest coast from Marble Island in the south, along the coast into Roe Welcome Sound and on up to Lyon Inlet in the north. Given the large stock of whales found in the Bay, it was believed that they were from a different stock than those of the Cumberland Sound area. Flow whaling, the employment of the local population, the initiation of ongoing trade, and the establishment of wintering stations were all to find their place in the Bay whaling industry.

Wintering stations at locations along the coast developed a permanence from repeated use. Major locations were Marble Island, Depot Island, Fullerton Harbour and Repulse Bay. It was around these locations that groups of Inuit, particularly the Aivilingmiut and the Qaernermiut would congregate to trade with the whalers who offered guns, whaleboats, utensils, telescopes and other useful items that greatly changed the material culture of the Inuit. Employment opportunities were numerous as the Inuit were relied upon to hunt caribou and other traditional game, to provide fresh meat to prevent scurvy, to man the whaleboats, to act as guides during winter travel and to make and repair clothing. The establishment of trade and employment between the Inuit and the whalers resulted in a more centralized distribution of the Inuit along the coast. Although this new distribution pattern developed, traditional game resources, such as caribou, seal and muskox were still sought with

the gun and whaleboat greatly increasing the success rate.

The whaling journal of Captain George Comer (1903 - 04) provides recognition of the fact that Chesterfield Inlet was one of the locations at which the Inuit would congregate to establish trade and seek employment. Many entries illustrate the point: September 23, 1903, Comer refers to having met with officers of the 'Neptune' and that Commander Low was about to enter Chesterfield Inlet with a launch to recruit natives; Saturday, March 18, 1904, a sled arrived from Chesterfield Inlet to trade with the 'Neptune' and 'Era'; Sunday, April 10, 1904 there is reference to a sled arriving from Chesterfield Inlet with muskox skins for the steamer; May 31, 1904, his entry describes how two native boats, probably whaleboats sold to the Inuit by the whalers, had been used for hunting walrus just south of Chesterfield Inlet. It is obvious from Comer's journal that Chesterfield Inlet had definitely felt the influence of whaling in Hudson Bay.

During the fifty-five year history of the whaling industry in the area, the gun and the whaleboat were probably the most significant items introduced into the Inuit material culture. The gun ensured more individual success while hunting and therefore contributed to the independence of the Inuit. The sale of the whaleboats, which required a small crew, encouraged the need for cooperation. The year round contact with the whalers wintering in the Bay had a more far reaching impact than the previous two hundred years when contact with explorers looking for the northwest passage had been very infrequent and for short periods of time. By the time whaling drew to a close in 1915, the life of the Inuit along the northwest coast of Hudson Bay had been greatly altered by this prolonged contact which resulted in the incorporation of many aspects of the Euro-American culture.

3.2 Royal Canadian Mounted Police

By 1880 most of the lands now known as the Northwest Territories had been transferred to Canada from Great Britain, however, the Canadian government had done nothing to establish sovereignty over the arctic. The activities of whalers had been without regulation and there were suspicions that the Americans might claim the arctic using the whalers as a pretext since the American wintering stations had been established on Canadian lands.

In an attempt to establish sovereignty, the government decided to send the North West Mounted Police into the arctic to provide a year round presence. On September 23, 1903, under the direction of J.D. Moodie the first North West Mounted Police outpost was established at Cape Fullerton. While sovereignty was the primary reason for the establishment of the post, the police officers were responsible for the administration of whaling licenses, collecting customs, controlling the flow of liquor and maintaining order in the north. When the 'Neptune' sailed from Cape Fullerton in 1904, three policemen were left to man the outpost, which was maintained continuously for the next ten years.

In 1906 the second detachment was opened in Churchill to serve as Division Headquarters. The coast between the two posts was then patrolled regularly. In 1914 following the establishment of the Hudson's Bay Company Trading Post, and the Roman Catholic Mission at Chesterfield Inlet, the Chesterfield Inlet detachment was established and the Fullerton outpost closed. Although the Fullerton detachment was later opened temporarily, it was closed permanently in 1919.

The network of detachments also continued to grow. Besides the Division Headquarters in Churchill, a post was established at Baker Lake, serving as an important contact for the Chesterfield Inlet detachment. First established in 1915 by Inspector Beyts, it was closed shortly thereafter (1918) but was reopened in 1938.

In 1921 the Royal North West Mounted Police became the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. Their expanded activity in the Chesterfield Inlet area is evidenced by the construction of a new four man post in Chesterfield Inlet and by the many patrols they undertook. Records describe especially long or dangerous patrols in some detail. Inspector Joyce, for example, comments on a patrol in 1930 by Constable McCormack who travelled from Chesterfield Inlet to the post at Wager Bay and Repulse Bay and back again by dog team, covering 1,000 miles. Patrols varied in length up to a few months. Officers contacted the Inuit residents on route to establish friendships, confidence and good will. The Chesterfield Inlet detachment was responsible for summer patrols by boat to Southampton Island, Baker Lake, Marble Island and Depot Island. Winter patrols by dog sled were made to places such as Fort Churchill, Cape Fullerton, Rankin Inlet and Baker Lake.

Many stories relating the exceptional, unusual and ordinary tasks of the officers at Chesterfield Inlet are documented in the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Annual Reports which appear in the Sessional Papers of Canada. The number of officers at the detachment varied, but usually one or two senior constables and a few special constables, often Inuit, were employed. Generally the special constable would be hired during peak work periods to work with dog teams, for extensive boat travel, at ship time and for construction. Like the church, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police provided non-traditional job opportunities for the Inuit.

The annual reports also illustrated the growth of Christianity among the Inuit and the implications for the responsibilities of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. In 1925 it is recorded that "Notwithstanding the fact that missionaries have been here for some years now established in the district they have made few converts to Christianity, and the few who have been received into the church still practise and believe in shamanism, etc." By 1928 the following was recorded: "Child murder, desertion of the old and cripples, wife trading, etc. are now things of the past amongst the Christians, and I might add, also amongst those natives who have been coming in contact with the Christian natives, but who have not become Christians." These statements reflect the success that was experienced by the mission workers in attempting to convert the Inuit to Christianity. As well, it shows how traditional religious or superstitious beliefs were being altered over time, often in a way that

reduced the type of crime in which the Royal Canadian Mounted Police might otherwise have become involved.

Overall, it appears that the Chesterfield Inlet detachment had an extensive area of responsibility. Dog sled and launch fulfilled most transportation needs of the detachment depending upon the time of year. Additional facilities were built for the Chesterfield Inlet detachment in 1949 and 1950. First, two separate quarters were built for Inuit special constables. In the second year, a married residence was constructed. The Royal Canadian Mounted Police remained an integral part of Chesterfield Inlet until 1963 when the detachment was closed and Chesterfield Inlet was administered from the newly established base at Rankin Inlet.

3.3 Missionaries

Throughout northern Canada the activity of the fur traders and whalers was followed by representatives of two major religious denominations, the Anglican and Roman Catholic churches. In eastern Canada, particularly the arctic region, missionaries followed the routes explored and exploited by the whalers, while inland and further to the west in the Mackenzie Valley the establishment of fur trade posts initiated the spread of Christianity.

In 1894 as a result of whaling in Cumberland Sound, Anglican missionary Reverend Edmond Peck was given the task of establishing a permanent mission at Blackhead Island. It is not surprising that the Anglican church was first to establish in the Cumberland Sound area since "Anglicanism was closely linked to the Honourable Company which was desirous of making the natives faithful subjects of his Britannic Majesty." This policy was certainly to the advantage of the Anglican clergy.

"Spreading the word" was a challenge in the eastern arctic as the sparse population distribution necessitated extensive travel by sled and dog team or aboard various types of whaling vessels which frequented first the Cumberland Sound area and later northwest Hudson Bay. Both the Anglican and Roman Catholic churches worked diligently in their efforts to convert the Inuit, with varying results from place to place. With both churches active certain communities inevitably became divided along religious lines, having representation from both denominations. The strength of each church depended on when the missions were established, the individual characteristics of the church representatives, and the degree to which one denomination could operate without competition from the other. The history of Chesterfield Inlet was undoubtedly shaped by these factors.

In 1899 the Diocese of Keewatin was created as the result of a decision to divide the Diocese of Moosonee. Later, in 1910, the Keewatin Vicariate was formed and Father Turquetil was selected to direct the establishment of a church mission at Chesterfield Inlet. As yet, neither the Anglican nor the Roman Catholic church had established

missions on the northwest coast of Hudson Bay. Indeed the absence of the Anglican church at Chesterfield Inlet allowed for the expansion of the Roman Catholic church to the extent that virtually the entire population of Chesterfield Inlet became Roman Catholic.

On September 3, 1912, Father Turquetil and Father Leblanc arrived on the Hudson's Bay Company supply ship, the Nascopie and by September 22 the first mission building was sufficiently complete to hold a high mass, the first witnessed by the Inuit of the area. Although initially dependent on the Hudson's Bay ship the Nascopie, the Roman Catholic missions eventually acquired their own vessel, the Therese, to provide transportation to other missions in the Hudson Bay area. When in 1925 Father Turquetil was installed as Perfecture Apostolic, his efforts and energies extended well beyond Chesterfield Inlet, as missions were initiated at various locations: Eskimo Point (1924), Coral Harbour (1926), Baker Lake (1927), Igloolik (1929), and Pond Inlet (1929). To a large extent he was responsible for the expansion of the mission field in the Keewatin area.

Meanwhile the physical growth of the Roman Catholic denomination was evident in the form of the addition of a church to the mission building in 1927. As well, in 1931 a hospital was built by the Roman Catholic church and was served by the Sisters of Charity (Grey Nuns of Nicolet). They arrived on July 5, 1931 to operate the hospital and were able to move into their new premises on October 3.

From the first highmass of September 22, 1912 until his retirement in

1942, Father Turquetil dominated and directed the religious life of Chesterfield Inlet, giving inspiration to all of the many priests, sisters and staff who worked with him. During his thirty years at Chesterfield Inlet, thirty missions were established, a ship had been acquired and a hospital built to provide for the physical needs of the local people who fondly remembered him as "Grand Father". In 1942 Father Lacroix replaced Father Turquetil as Bishop and the importance of Chesterfield Inlet as a significant religious centre continued under his direction. The Ste. Therese Hospital which was expanded in 1949 and 1956, now serves as a well equipped home for handicapped adults. A Federal Day School was built and opened in 1951. A new mission building was a major addition to the church's facilities in 1954. A hostel was also constructed in 1954-55 to accommodate students from outlying areas. In 1969, the hostel saw its last group of children, as education was becoming available at a number of places in the Northwest Territories resulting from government involvement. Named Turquetil Hall, the former hostel was demolished in 1984 after serving as an adult education centre since the late 1960's. A new church was also built in 1964 to accommodate the growing congregation.

The major role that Chesterfield Inlet has played from 1912 to the present day in terms of a religious, educational and medical centre for the Keewatin area is clearly a function of the initiative and effort of the Roman Catholic Church.

RESOURCES

The development of an Historic Sites and Trails Program depends on the availability of a variety of resources that are both authentic and interesting to the visiting public. Sufficient resources must be present upon which to build interpretive opportunities for public appreciation of the messages that are important to the historical themes to be presented. There are a number of buildings within the community of Chesterfield Inlet that are valuable historical resources illustrating the identified themes. In addition there are other related sites that will contribute significantly to the public appreciation of the theme messages. Similarly, modern facilities can play a role in facilitating the development of the program through the coordination of the sub-themes into the modern context.

Assessments of all these resources were carried out in the community with a view to identify the relevance and potential of community resources to contribute to the public presentation of the identified themes. The most relevant resources are identified in Figure 3. Each is discussed separately in the analysis statements that follow. Basic information concerning the resource, its relationship to a theme, its historical interest and any considerations relevant to its possible use in the Historic Sites and Trails Program are provided for each.

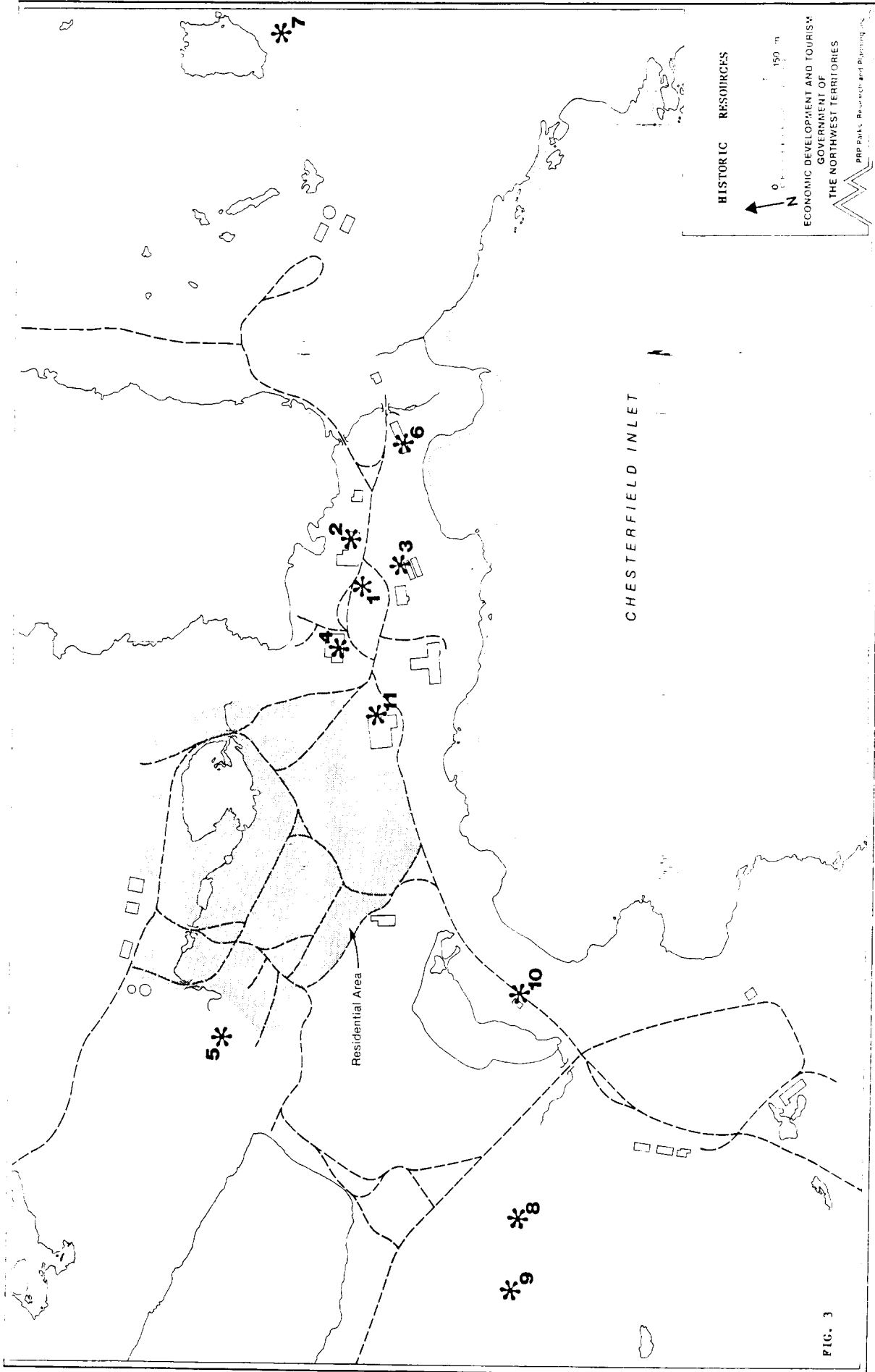


FIG. 3

1. Historic Sites Analysis

Site # 1 Roman Catholic Mission - Original Building (1912)

Theme: Missions

Location: Lot 51 - next to the present church sanctuary, between Mission Lake and the bay.

Description: The building is a small rectangular structure approximately 4.5 m by 9.0 m. It is one and a half stories high with three small gabled windows along the west side of the building on the upper level. Also on the western side, there are three larger rectangular windows on the main level. The remaining three sides are without windows. A single door is situated on the north side of the building. Inside the structure is relatively sound although the main floor has heaved slightly. The stairway to the second floor is sound and is accessed through a door to the left upon entering the building.

Historical Interest: The building is of exceptionally high historical significance being the oldest mission in the Keewatin. Because it has retained much of its original character it provides an excellent opportunity to illustrate the early days of the mission in Chesterfield Inlet. The building is not situated on the original site although it has been moved only a short distance further away from Mission Lake. It was moved at the time of the construction of the new sanctuary because it would have been too close to the new building.

Resource Sensitivity: The building is presently unused except for the storing of dead bodies during the winter until a burial can take place in the spring. This use has probably been instrumental in the protection of the building since the community wishes to have such a facility and because the nature of the use discourages vandalism and unauthorized use. The Church has no real need for the structure and would probably have removed it if the community had not encouraged its retention. ←

Site # 2

Roman Catholic Mission Building (1954)

Theme:

Missions

Location: Lot 51 - attached to the present church sanctuary between Mission Lake and the bay.

Description: The building is a two story rectangular structure approximately 22.5 m by 10.5 m. The main entrance is at the southwest corner of the original building (1954) where it is now attached to the present church building built in 1964. The entrance leads into the main room of the first floor which is greater than half the width and extends the length of the building. The end of the room has a partition which separates a chapel area at one end from the remainder. On the other side of the main floor are a number of smaller rooms including a kitchen, storage space and a furnace room. The upper floor is a series of nine bedrooms, some storage space and washroom facilities. The present church consists of a sanctuary, reception area and furnace room and is an addition of approximately 23.0 m by 10.0 m.

Historical Interest: The original building was constructed in 1954 and was actively used until a few years ago. It represents a more recent, but important stage in the evolution of Chesterfield Inlet and the role of the church in the community. The building was a major focus of the religious life and social activity in the community in its early years. As such it is a significant historical resource with considerable public interest.

Resource Sensitivity: The building is presently used as a general storage area. Much of the building is unused and remains filled with books and supplies that were present during the last active period of use. Plans for the building are uncertain. Some significant remodelling or even dismantling of the structure were suggested as possible in the near future.

Theme: Missions

Location: Lot 53 - across the road to the south of the original mission building, between Mission Lake and the bay.

Description: Three buildings are clustered on the south side of the mission property. Two are identical structures approximately 21.0 m long and 6.0 m wide and are situated side by side. The third building, adjacent to the road, is approximately 20.5 m long and 10.5 m wide. They are single story structures of rectangular shape and an outward appearance that reflects their origin and continued use as storage and workshop structures. The area immediately adjacent to the buildings is similarly littered with machine parts, both salvagable and otherwise. The outward appearance of all the buildings is similar with shingled walls, low pitched roofs, large doors and small windows. The main entrances are all on the east side of the buildings while the main workshop building, closest to the road, also has large doors along the north side. The two identical buildings have additions that have a metal, semi-circular, wall and roof configuration distinctly different from the construction of the remainder of the complex.

Historical Interest: These structures originate from the earliest period of development at Chesterfield Inlet. They are an important part of the story of northern development, the necessity of supplies and equipment that could maintain the communities facilities and services through the long, cold winter. The buildings have experienced continued use and modification from their earliest days to the present. The details of their role in the evolution of the community, although highly significant, do not have as much public interest as other resources on the site.

Resource Sensitivity: The buildings continue to be used for storage of fuel and supplies as well as the central workshop area for the mission complex. As long as the buildings remain an active use area the their character will be retained in spite of continuing maintenance and possible alteration of the structures. It is unlikely that major changes will be undertaken in the near future that would totally alter the exterior visual impression of the buildings.

Site # 4

Roman Catholic Hospital

Theme:

Missions

Location: Lot 51 - at the southwest corner of Mission Lake.

Description: The Roman Catholic Hospital is an imposing structure in the community. It is a three story structure, approximately 33.5 m by 20.0 m. The main entrance leads to the second level where the main reception area, chapel, staff quarters and kitchen are located. The lower level is devoted primarily to equipment functions such as power, heat, water, etc. The upper level is the ward for hospital patients. The building has a very characteristic appearance, with large windows on all three levels all along the front of the building which is facing almost due south. The roof line is topped by a large cross and is raised in a small facade form concealing a flat roof. The main entrance vestibule and side entrances with fire escapes are exterior attachments to the building. A few small outbuildings are situated adjacent to the hospital.

Historical Interest: The hospital was constructed in 1931 and was a major facility not only in the community of Chesterfield Inlet but in the Keewatin as a whole. It represents one of the major roles of the church in the community throughout the existence of Chesterfield Inlet and is of high historical significance and public interest. The buildings have experienced continued use and modification from their earliest days to the present which will affect the potential for appreciating the beginnings of the church's health care ministry in the community. The outbuildings have been less altered and have interesting histories.

Resource Sensitivity: The building continues to be used as the mission hospital but now serving the needs of special handicapped patients who have been moved here from around the eastern arctic. The general function of the facility as a community and regional hospital has decreased with greater government involvement in providing such facilities throughout the Northwest Territories. This transition culminated in the moving of the nurses station into its own facility in 1978. Nevertheless the site and the present building are representative of a major contribution of the church in the community. As long as the building remains in active use, the character of its outward appearance and the compatibility of its function will be retained in spite of continuing maintenance, such as the replacement of windows undertaken recently and other possible alterations to the structure.

Site # 5a, 5b, 5c

Graveyard and Gravesites

Theme:

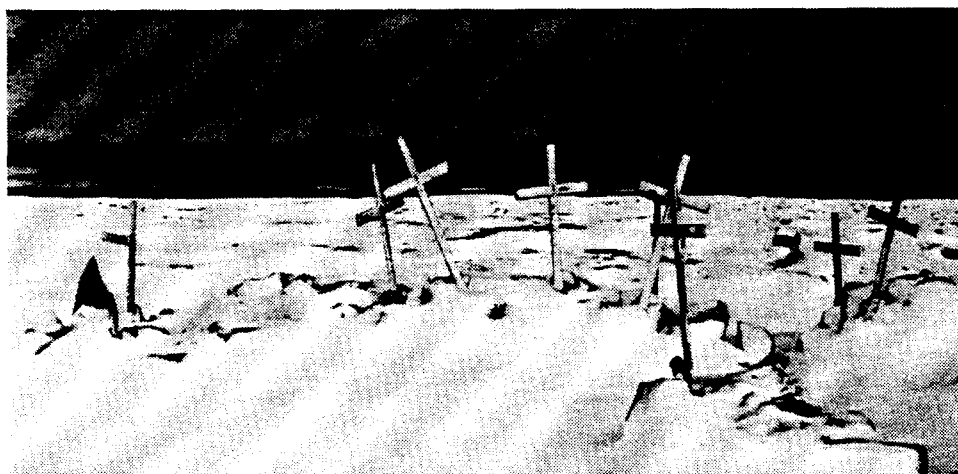
Missions

Location: (see Fig. #4)

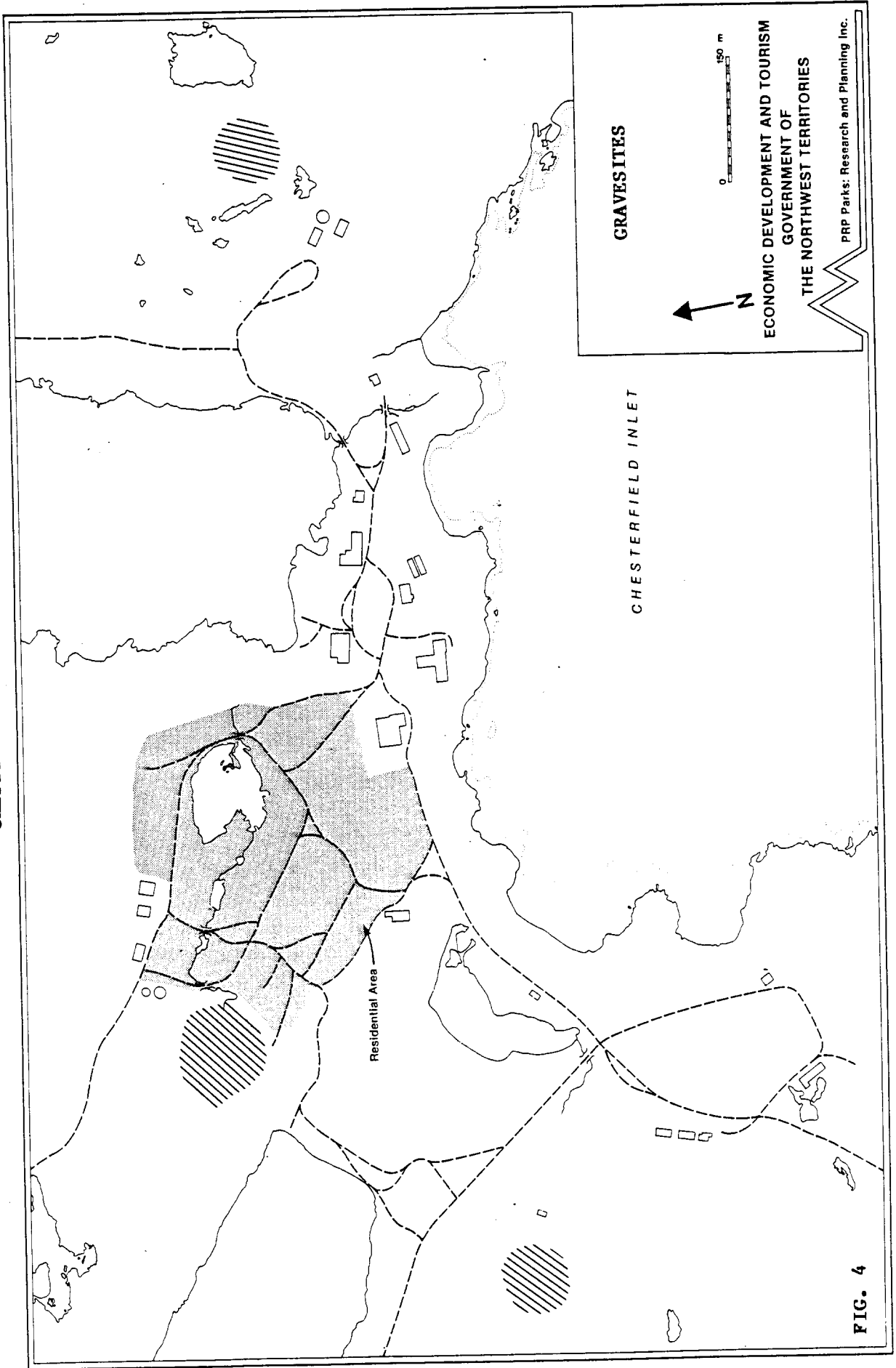
Description: Three burial areas are prominent adjacent to the community. The major cemetery is situated just beyond the built up area of the community to the northwest a distance of approximately 500 m from the original mission building. Here wooden caskets are laid on the ground and covered with rocks. Small, engraved, wooden crosses have been placed at the head of the graves. Many of the crosses have been weathered so significantly that the engraving is unreadable. An unusual stone marker is also present in the cemetery in memory of the Rev. Father Honore Pigeon (1897-1934). Another cluster of gravesites is located near the crest of the ridge northeast of the community also approximately 500 m from the original mission building. Only three prominent sites are readily visible. One grave is very recent (1978) while the others are considerably older. A third cluster of gravesites is located west of Dog Lake on the south side of the airport road.

Historical Interest: The historical significance of the various gravesites, or the presence in these areas of people who were community leaders or important figures in the historical evolution of the community, has not been investigated in this study. Consideration of these characteristics is essential to determine the potential significance of the sites to the Chesterfield Inlet Historical Sites and Trails Program. There is a moderate level of significance and public interest in such sites from the general perspective of the burial customs and environmental practicalities.

Resource Sensitivity: The sites are obviously sensitive to human disturbance and the tendency towards exposure and deterioration by natural elements is also recognized. These sensitivities are the result of the characteristics of the burial practices and the nature of the terrain, soils, exposure and climatic conditions. With increased numbers of visitors, greater protection will be needed to prevent disturbance to both the sparse vegetative cover and the stone work of the graves themselves.



CHESTERFIELD INLET



GRAVESITES

CHESTERFIELD INLET



0 100 m

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM
GOVERNMENT OF
THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

PRP Parks: Research and Planning Inc.

FIG. 4

Theme: Whaling

Location: Lot 52 - at the eastern extremity of the community between Mission Lake and the bay.

Description: The Hudson Bay Company property has three main buildings - a residence, a storage building and the main store and warehouse building. The main building, built in 1912, has a long rectangular shape about 35.5 m long and about 8.5 m wide. The front of the building with the majority of the doors and windows, faces slightly east of south. With this orientation, the warehouse end of the building is adjacent to the shore where a ramp and platform provide for easy movement of goods from the supply ship. The northwest facing side of the building, facing the road into the community, has no windows and only one small, unused door. The long virtually unbroken wall and roof line show warping of the structure from age but the maintenance of the building has prevented significant exterior decay. The peaked roof is interrupted by three low windowed gables on the front of the building. The store area inside the main public entrance is relatively small with a similarly small office area separating the store from the warehouse behind. The store and office have interior finishings such as wallboard and linoleum, that are not present in the warehouse. In the warehouse pallets of food stuffs and dry goods are stacked among the support beams. A stairway on the south side of the building leads to the second level. Sloped ceilings with a centre clearance of about 3 m extend the length of the building providing extensive storage area above both the store and warehouse below.

Historical Interest: The building is an important landmark in the community that has a high level of historical significance and public interest. The structure originates from the earliest period of development at Chesterfield Inlet and is an important part of the story of northern development and the relationship between the Inuit and the early Euro-American whalers and traders that were active in the region at the turn of the century. The buildings have experienced continued use from their earliest days to the present. Maintenance has been undertaken and the internal appearance of the store area has been altered, although major modifications are not apparent.

Resource Sensitivity: Under the present continuing use, it is unlikely that the state of the resource will change significantly in the future. The structure appears sound and could withstand increased visitor use and appreciation without being unduly impacted. It is unlikely that major alterations which might affect its character would be undertaken as long as the Hudson Bay Company continues to operate the store in the building.

Site # 7

Thule Site

Theme:

Whaling

Location: east of the community near the crest of a large hill approximately 500 m from the original mission building.

Description: This site includes the remains of Thule semi-subterranean houses, burial cairns, tent rings, boat rests, and meat caches. Site surveys and excavations have been carried out and reported, including Mathiassen (1927) and Wenzel (1970).

Historical Interest: The site provides an opportunity for visitors to appreciate the physical hardship and lifestyle of the people of the Hudson Bay coast in the pre-contact period. The subject matter is of high historical interest but many other sites exist all along the coast of Hudson Bay where visitors can gain a similar appreciation. Also the relationship of the site to the community themes is peripheral rather than being a major focus.

Resource Sensitivity: The site is highly sensitive to visitor use. Altering or dismantling of the rock structures, removal or trampling of vegetation, and the displacement or removal of artifacts would greatly alter the character of the site. Easy access to the site from the community adds to the vulnerability of the site.

Site # 8

Royal Canadian Mounted Police Residence

Theme:

Royal Canadian Mounted Police

Location: Lot 67 - west of the community and south of the airport road - approximately 750 m from the original mission building.

Description: The building is a single story rectangular structure approximately 5 m by 10 m. It faces slightly south of east with the door and three windows located on the front of the building. Two additional windows are located on the north east side of the building and the remaining sides are unbroken wood panelling. The house was locked and deserted but through the windows the main living room and kitchen area of a recently rennovated residence was visible. A broken front window exposed the interior of the building to the elements. The building is in relatively good condition.

Historical Interest: It is assumed for the purposes of this plan that the building is one of the staff residences built by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police in 1949 or 1950. However, there is some question as to whether this was actually one of the residences or one of the other detachment buildings. Fire destroyed other buildings of the complex a couple of years ago. Further research would be necessary to confirm the original use and therefore the age of the building. The building itself has little historical value but could serve, through its role in the evolution of the detachment at Chesterfield Inlet, as an appropriate place in which to interpret this theme.

Resource Sensitivity: The structure could deteriorate from neglect, especially if the exterior is not secured from the elements.

Site # 9

Royal Canadian Mounted Police Grave Site

Theme:

Royal Canadian Mounted Police

Location: Lot 67 - west of the community and south of the airport road behind the Royal Canadian Mounted Police residence - approximately 875 m from the original mission building.

Description: The grave site is fenced and includes a large marble tombstone topped by a cross. The grave is that of Maggie Agnes Clay, wife of Staff Sargeant S.S.Clay. She died at the age of 32 in 1924 in a incident involving the detachment's sled dogs.

Historical Interest: As a reminder of an isolated, rather unusual and unfortunate event, the grave site is of relatively low historical interest. The date of the event and the relationship to the life and tasks of the Chesterfield Inlet detachment, however, provide some focus for public interest in the site.

Resource Sensitivity: As with all grave sites, this site too has a tendency towards exposure and deterioration by natural elements. The sites is less sensitive to human disturbance due to the protection afforded by the fence. Other grave sites in the area would be more easily impacted by increasing visitor activity in the area.

2. Other Resources

Site # 10

Community Fish Plant

Theme:

Location: on the road frontage of the southeast boundary of Lot 65

Description: The building is a small single story rectangular structure approximately 4 m by 8 m. Details of the interior were unavailable at the time of the community assessment.

Historical Interest: The building was recently constructed to provide a central and community based location for the preparation of fish for market and shipment. It is an indicator of modern ideas and facilities being integrated into the traditional activities of the Inuit of the community.

Resource Sensitivity: The facility is currently being used by members of the community and is managed by the Council.

Site # 11

Community Recreation Centre and Offices

Theme:

Location: Lot 56 - in the centre of the community.

Description: The building is a large irregularly shaped structure with three different levels. It houses the Council Chambers, offices and reception areas for the community administration functions and a gymnasium and associated facilities for community events and recreational activities.

Historical Interest: The building was opened in 1985 providing a central recreation and community administration facility. It is a modern facility which illustrates the evolution of the community and the recognition of new opportunities and responsibilities.

Resource Sensitivity: The facility is currently being used by members of the community and is managed by the Council.

THE VISITOR

1. Introduction

The visitor analysis component of this project is not intended to be a thorough investigation of existing or potential visitor use through the implementation of specific research efforts. Rather the objectives of this discussion are: to identify in broad terms the potential markets from which the historic sites program in Chesterfield Inlet will draw; and to describe in general terms the types of potential visitors so that programs and facilities can be developed appropriately. These objectives are to be met from the review and analysis of existing information.

The existing data has recognized limitations. Annual reports of visitor and trip characteristics have been produced by the Department of Economic Development and Tourism. However, many components of the data, especially for specific regions, must be interpreted with caution. This is especially true for the Keewatin where sample sizes are relatively low.

More particular to this study, there has not been specific research carried out with respect to visitor interest in visiting historic sites. Also, the number of visitors presently coming to Chesterfield Inlet is very low and their activities and characteristics are largely undocumented.

The major current review of travel information in the Keewatin is the work by Marshall Macklin Monaghan contained in 'The Keewatin Regional Tourism Development and Marketing Strategy'. This brief assessment will be drawn largely from this source and focus on the applicability of the available data to the situation at Chesterfield Inlet.

2. The General Context of Tourism in the Northwest Territories

Tourism is a remarkably significant growth industry in the NWT. It has an important economic benefit but at the same time it is influencing change in the economic system. It is also influencing change in the personal lifestyles of the people of the NWT and the community settings in which they live. It is understandable that such change will occur considering that the estimated annual number of visitors now exceeds the total population of the Territory and the dollars they spend amount to over \$50 million each year.

These impressive figures, however, are not similarly applicable to the Keewatin Region. It receives a disproportionately low level of visitors and the accompanying economic benefits. The majority of visitors are recorded in the Fort Smith Region, with another third recorded in the Inuvik Region. Furthermore, many more visitors to the Keewatin are travelling on business rather than vacations. Up to 75% of the Keewatin

Region travellers are business travellers while the percentages are 57% for the Baffin Region, 36% for the Inuvik Region, and 31% for the Fort Smith Region. Recent trends show a decrease in travel to the Fort Smith Region with an increase in the Baffin Region which may be a good future indicator for the Keewatin. Trends in the ratio of business to recreational travel are not clear.

3. Activities

Visitors to the Keewatin have indicated participation in activities such as sightseeing, photography, fishing and buying handicrafts. These activities plus hunting, canoeing/kayaking and visiting historic sites are noted as desired activities although not undertaken due to a lack of time. It is reasonable to assume that given sufficient time, opportunities and the prior knowledge of those opportunities, that visitors would plan to take part in these desired activities more frequently.

The implications are significant for Chesterfield Inlet. Hunting and fishing are potentially more important visitor activities as well as being the basic activities of the community residents, guided trips can provide opportunities for photography and nature appreciation, and the community is very important for its central role in the historical development of the region. Thus there is potential to increase visitor numbers and extend the present length of stay through the development of these visitor opportunities. It should be noted that visiting museums



and historic sites is a much more significant activity for visitors to the Northwest Territories as a whole, as opposed to only those presently visiting the Keewatin. This suggests that even greater potential exists for this activity to become more popular and significant among the activity packages of the Keewatin as more historical resources and museum programs are made accessible.

4. Visitor characteristics

Existing data on travellers to the Keewatin, as mentioned earlier, indicates a vast proportion of the travel to the Keewatin is for business purposes. Although the proportion may change, it is certain that this component of the region's visitors will remain extremely significant in the foreseeable future.

Those visitors participating in a tour group make up the vast majority of the non-business travellers. They are generally older, more wealthy and reside primarily in the United States. Those not part of an organized group tend to be younger, from central or western Canada, and with a greater tendency towards average incomes. These market groups would appear to be growing ones in present demographic trends in North America, as our population ages and singles and childless couples increase.

Preference trends show indications of the importance of personal hobbies, interests and activities in the choice of holiday destinations. Similarly the importance of personal service and experiential activities appear to be more desirable. Once again these are positive signs for Chesterfield Inlet and the entire Northwest Territories as the community-based tourism approach is a more personal approach to the individual needs and wants of the visitors and at the same time more fully benefits the community.

5. Markets

Three potential visitor markets can be identified as significant for the Chesterfield Inlet Historic Sites and Trails Program as a result of the review of current travel information and trends. These markets are: the business traveller, tour groups, and the individual recreationist. Each group varies in present and potential numbers and specific characteristics within each group narrow its scope with reference to Chesterfield Inlet. Consequently some discussion and clarification follows.

- a) **The business traveller:** This is potentially a relatively large market group. It already composes the vast majority of travel to the Keewatin Region and will inevitably remain a high proportion of travellers in the future. This market group, however, is not largely attracted to the community as a result of recreational opportunities but rather will take advantage of opportunities that exist in conjunction with business itineraries. This is especially true of rather small scale opportunities such as the Historic Sites

and Trails Program. It is more likely that business travellers to the region could be attracted to the community for more extensive commitments of time to activities such as fishing or adventure holidays. Nevertheless, business visitors will be users of the program in Chesterfield Inlet, perhaps extending their stay or filling otherwise uncommitted time. Positive experiences for these visitors will also pay off in more widespread public interest and serve as a catalyst to return for more lengthy holidays.

- b) **Tour groups:** As an existing major market segment in the Northwest Territories presently, considerable effort should be directed at encouraging the expansion of their activity packages into more communities in the Keewatin. The program in Chesterfield Inlet is well suited to small tour groups and would be an attractive component of a tour. The difficulty associated with this market segment is that general interest tours are not as popular as those developed on a specific activity or destination. The reasons for this lack of performance are not totally clear, but a greater enthusiasm in 'selling' the Keewatin to tour operators, especially those presently operating in the Churchill area and around Hudson Bay, will be needed. The potential for Chesterfield Inlet to become a part of a general tour itinerary will also depend on efforts to coordinate a wider variety of visitor opportunities in the community. The specialist tour, although possible, is a much smaller market segment. Cultural/Historic tours are less likely to include communities such as Chesterfield Inlet in the near future and other avenues for stimulating public interest and appreciation of the historic and cultural value of the area will be needed.
- c) **The individual recreationist:** Although visitor numbers will be relatively small, there appears to be potential for growth in this market segment. The Historic Sites and Trails Program can contribute significantly to attracting visitors, encouraging them to stay longer in the community, and perhaps encouraging them to take part in other activities in and around the community that they had not initially planned for. Positive experiences for this group will also be extremely important in creating more widespread public interest and increasing visitor numbers.

In summary, the market potential for the Chesterfield Inlet Historic Sites and Trails Program is good. Numbers will not be high. Nor will those numbers be achieved without considerable marketing effort, particularly in terms of vacation packages. High quality products and marketing mechanisms will be necessary. Also it will be necessary to coordinate other efforts in the community, for the Historic Sites and Trails Program cannot be relied upon in isolation to stimulate and maintain increasing tourism to the community. It will, however, make an important contribution.

PLAN COMPONENTS

1. Overview

The Chesterfield Inlet Historic Sites and Trails Program is an attempt to draw together the historic resources of the community and present them, and the stories they represent, in a meaningful way to visitors to the community. The unifying mechanism is an interpretive brochure on the history of the community that will be keyed to a pathway leading visitors on a circle tour. Along the way there will be interpretive displays and signs that will add to the messages conveyed in the brochure.

The interpretive brochure is a basic level of interpreting the themes of the community. It is a valuable starting point, but would not achieve all of the goals and objectives specified for the Historic Sites and Trails Program. It is therefore further recommended that in addition to adopting the same basic principle of an interpretive brochure and trail that opportunities be expanded for presenting the messages associated with each theme. This includes visitor access to a number of the existing heritage buildings that are present in the community. These buildings, which are central to the main themes being developed, will provide indoor opportunities for more extensive displays and greater appreciation of the story.

Specific sites of particular historical significance or interest proposed for special displays or developments are discussed in this section of the plan. Any number of combinations of the identified components to the sites and trail system are possible alternatives, but all the sites identified together make up the preferred system.

2. The Trail and Interpretive Brochure

The trail will originate and terminate at the community centre. Initially the pathway will follow the shoreline of the bay, past the Hudson's Bay Company complex and out to the ridge east of the community. It will then return to the mission complex, through the community to the graveyard and on to the R.C.M.P. residence. The pathway will then return to the community centre past the fishplant. The brochure will provide an overview of the historical development of Chesterfield Inlet highlighting the themes discussed previously in this plan, and will provide site specific messages at identified sites along the route.

Table #1 identifies each site proposed for some form of designation within the sites and trails program. Each site is listed in sequential order along the trail and is located in Fig. #5. The extent of development, such as signing or interior displays, is also indicated.

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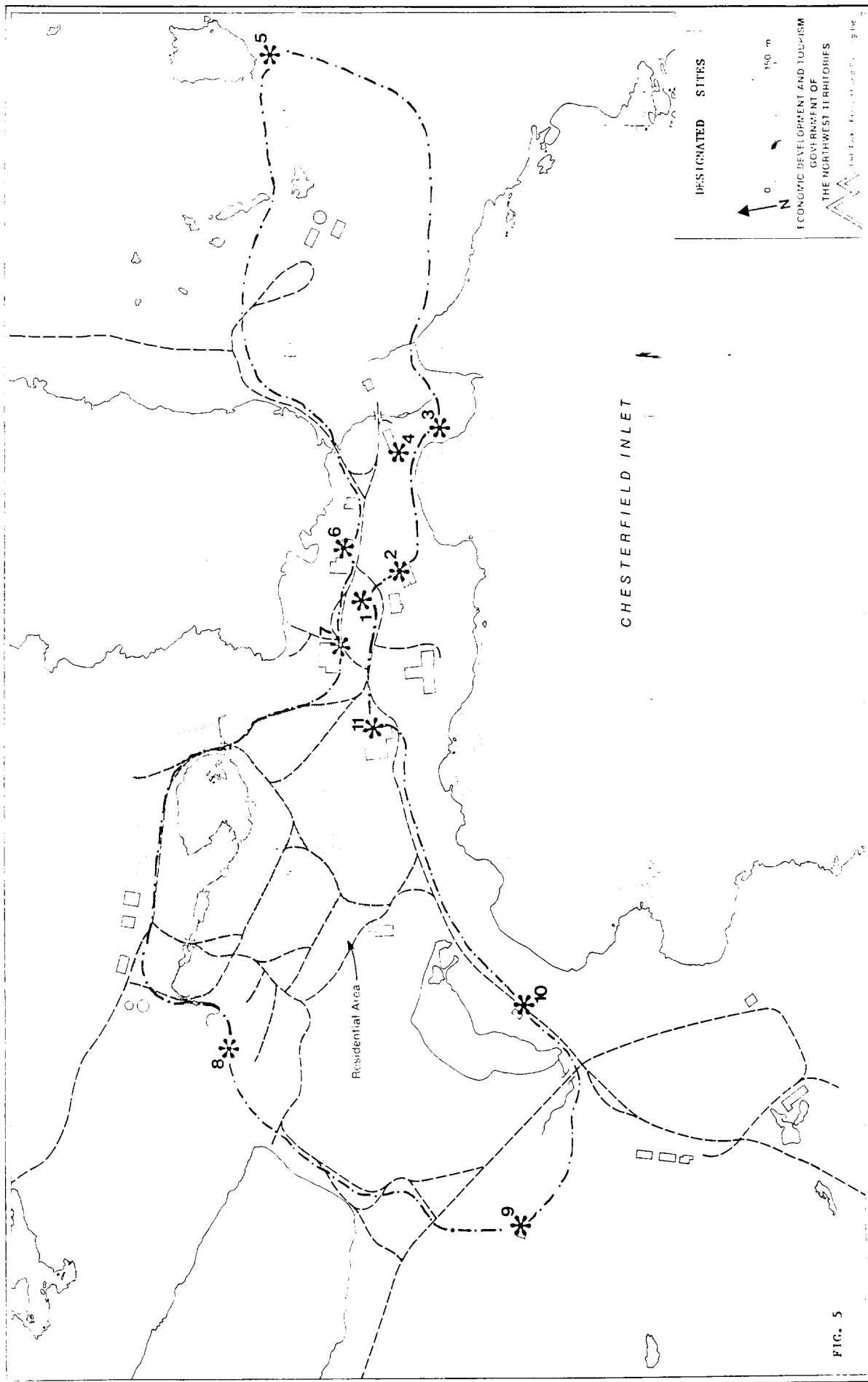
CHESTERFIELD INLET HISTORIC SITES AND TRAILS PROGRAM

SITE DEVELOPMENT SUMMARY

No.	Site	Development
1	R. C. Mission (1912)	interior displays
2	Mission - Service Bldgs.	<u>exterior</u> signage
3	Hudson's Bay Company Post	<u>exterior</u> signage .
4	Hudson's Bay Company Post	interior displays
5	Thule Site	<u>exterior</u> signage
6	R. C. Mission Bldg. (1954)	interior displays & A/V
7	Hospital	<u>exterior</u> signage
8	Graveyard	<u>exterior</u> signage
9	R.C.M.P. Residence	interior displays & A/V
10	Community Fish Plant	<u>exterior</u> signage
11	Community Centre	interior display

Table #1

Specific details regarding the interpretation messages, mechanisms and facilities is not provided here but is discussed in the next section of the plan.



1-9-11/12 Buy
1-126

3. Designated Sites

Site # 1 Roman Catholic Mission - Original Building (1912)

Theme: Missions

Proposals:

interior

- * this building will be used as the primary location for interpreting the mission theme. Displays will emphasize the early history of the settlement and the role of the church in the origin and growth of Chesterfield Inlet.
- * the character of the building will be maintained. A minimal amount of repair will be necessary to ensure visitor safety, protection for the structure and the facilitation of interpretive displays.



Site # 2 Roman Catholic Mission - Service Buildings

Theme: Missions

exterior

Proposals:

- * access to the buildings is not recommended. Interpretive signage will be placed outside the buildings at a suitable location.

Site # 3 & 4 Hudson's Bay Company Post

ex/12

Theme: Whaling

Proposals:

- * an exterior display will be developed just south of the building (25 - 50m) that will provide an opportunity to convey the importance of the site characteristics to the location and functions of the buildings.
- * access to the storage area of the main building, especially the upper level is highly desirable. A portion of the upper level will be devoted to a small collection of artifacts that will be indicative of the use of the building at the time of its construction. Interpretive displays will also be provided there that will focus on the whaling and trading story of the early years in the Keewatin.



Site # 5 Thule Site

Theme: Whaling

extension

Proposals:

- * an interpretive display will be provided in the vicinity of the site which will provide an appreciation of the site and the lifestyle of the inhabitants. At the same time the interpretive site will provide a suitable vantage point from which a perspective will be gained of the Thule site in relation to Huson Bay and the present community.

Site # 6

Roman Catholic Mission Building (1954)

interior / AV

Theme:

Missions

Proposals:

- * the building will be used as a meeting place as it was in the past. Visitors will use the facility as a resting spot and an opportunity for a midday meal. Local foods will be prepared and provided by local people. Local crafts could also be displayed and/or sold.
- * Audio/visual productions will be shown in the same way movies were shown in the past. The history of the region including the context of pre-contact history and the recent activities of whaling, the missionaries and the R.C.M.P. will be depicted.
- * the chapel area will be refitted and also provide opportunities for displays focussing on the more recent changes in the community of Chesterfield Inlet and the changing nature of the church's involvement in the community.
- * the upper floor will be left as is, with minor repair and clean up. Through a small display, it will provide opportunities for presentation of the building's former use and the importance of the mission at Chesterfield Inlet in the Keewatin region. An alternative use of the upper floor, which may be considered in the future, would be as a lodge facility linked with the facilities proposed for the main floor.
- * repairs and refinishing of the interior of the building will be necessary, especially the main floor. The building has kitchen facilities, plenty of space and a good layout for providing the opportunities described above.

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Site # 7 Roman Catholic Hospital

Theme: Missions

ex'cu

Proposals:

- * general access to the hospital is not recommended. Interpretive signage will be placed outside the buildings. A suitable site will be chosen to the east of the hospital between it and the church, where a perspective on the entire church property and operation may be gained.
- * the interpretive signage will encompass the outbuildings of the complex, and access to explore unused buildings may be considered.



Site # 8 Graveyard

Theme: Missions

Proposals:

- * care should be taken to avoid uncontrolled visitor access to the graveyard. Designated pathways to interpretive signage at the periphery of the site and to the central cross will be clearly developed and their use strongly encouraged.
- * only the main graveyard should be recognized as a focus for visitor interest. Available information should encourage visitors to respect the integrity of the other gravesites around the community and the pathway for the community tour will avoid these areas.

Site # 9 Royal Canadian Mounted Police Residence

Theme: Royal Canadian Mounted Police

Proposals:

- * the building will be used as a display area for visitors to gain an appreciation of the life and activities of the R.C.M.P. Journal extracts and photos will play an important part in the communication of this story.
- * the building will require minimal repair and maintenance. The building itself is not a highly important part of the story but is a link and an appropriate location for the story to be told.

Site # 10 Community Fish Plant

Theme:

Proposals:

- * general access to the fish plant is not recommended. Interpretive signage will be placed outside the building. The nature of the operation of the plant may be of interest but perhaps more significant will be the plant as an indicator of change in the modern community of Chesterfield Inlet.

Site # 11 Community Centre

Theme:

Proposals:

- * a display will be placed in the reception area of the community centre focussing on modern Chesterfield Inlet. The focus will be on the community's changing characteristics and organization.

INTERPRETATION

1. Introduction

The interpretive strategy for the Chesterfield Inlet Historic Sites and Trails Program depends heavily on all the components of the program working together effectively to involve the visitor in a total appreciation of the themes, representative resources and messages.

The goals and objectives for the Historic Sites and Trails Program, identified earlier in this plan, establish the context for the interpretive plan. The primary goal is to **provide meaningful opportunities for visitors to appreciate the historical development of the community of Chesterfield Inlet and the surrounding region.** The Program objectives also, set the stage for developing an appropriate interpretive program. The objectives identify the need for: meaningful and interesting ways to present the historical themes messages; protection and utilization of the historical buildings; and opportunities for members of the community to be involved. Also identified is the objective to develop a day-long activity for visitors that can be achieved using cost effective means.

These considerations have led to the concept for the Historic Sites and Trails Program outlined in the Alternative Plan Components section of the plan. More specific objectives for the proposed interpretive techniques and messages have been identified as follows:

1. to utilize existing information and ideas in the development of interpretive messages;
2. to present messages in a logical order;
3. to develop a variety of communications mechanisms; and
4. to provide opportunities for community involvement in communicating with the visitor.

The interpretive brochure and trail provides the basic opportunities for presenting the messages associated with each theme. In addition, visitor access to a number of the existing heritage buildings that are present in the community is crucial to fully achieve the interpretive objectives. These buildings, which are central to the main themes being developed, will provide indoor opportunities for more extensive displays and greater appreciation of the story while ensuring a major segment of the program is available during times of adverse weather conditions. Specific messages and interpretive mechanisms to be developed at each point along the trail are discussed in this section of the plan.

2. The Trail and Interpretive Brochure

The brochure will provide an overview of the historical development of Chesterfield Inlet highlighting the themes discussed previously in this plan, and will provide site specific messages at identified sites along the route. The intention of the brochure is to relate the specific sites to the entire historical context of the community and the region, rather than to repeat the messages presented at each site. Because it will be the visitor's introduction to the trail and the specific historic resources, it should be an overview that encourages and entices the reader to take a more active part in investigating the trail.

3. Site Interpretation

Site # 1 Roman Catholic Mission - Original Building (1912)

Theme: Missions

Messages:

- * the life and work of Father Turquetil
- * the early history of the settlement and the role of the church in the origin and growth of Chesterfield Inlet
- * the relationship of the mission at Chesterfield Inlet to the work of the church in the Keewatin Region
- * the history of this mission building - the original structure, location and use; alterations to the structure; the transition to newer and expanded facilities
- * the other buildings and facilities associated with the early mission building
- * the tenure and contributions of other church leaders active during the time span of this original mission building

Techniques:

- * exterior sign: building identification and recognition of its significance to the history of the community
- * interior displays: photographs, sketches, text, etc.
- * separate pamphlet concerning the building and its characteristics and history

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Site # 2 Roman Catholic Mission - Service Buildings

Theme: Missions

Messages:

- * the nature and extent of services developed to support the mission work in the community
- * the difficulties in maintaining services
- * the evolution of responsibility for services from the church to the Territorial Government

Techniques:

- * exterior sign: building identification - sketches and text

Site # 3 Hudson Bay Company Post

Theme: Whaling

Messages:

- * the site characteristics important to the trading and supply functions of the post
- * the changes in the modern day supply system

Techniques:

- * exterior sign: building identification - maps, sketches and text

Site # 4 Hudson Bay Company Post

Theme: Whaling

Messages:

- * the whaling and trading history in the Keewatin
- * the significance of the location of Chesterfield Inlet to the HBC
- * the use and character of the building at the time of its construction
- * the goods exchanged
- * changes in the operation and role of the HBC with the growth of the community and the changes in transportation and services to Chesterfield Inlet

- what about more details about whales caught, products & their use, markets, ships involved?

Techniques:

- * access to the upper floor of the HBC main store building - separate entry from the outside is preferable
- * interior displays: photographs, sketches, text, etc.
- * a small collection of displayed artifacts - illustrating the earliest period of the HBC post operation



Site # 5 Thule Site

Theme: Whaling

Messages:

- * the lifestyle of the inhabitants - tools and techniques for hunting and fishing, other associated structures such as boat rests, meat caches, burial cairns
- * the materials and needs of the people can be related to the whaling and trading theme

- * the structure of the semi-subterranean house - parts and function
- * the relationship between man/land-water
- * the important characteristics of the site for successful living, especially those relevant to the relationship with the whaling and trading activity
- * the seasonal living conditions and hardships

Techniques:

- * signage: site orientation - maps, sketches and text. Located at a suitable vantage point from which a perspective will be gained of the Thule site in relation to Huson Bay and the present community. Preferrably a platform with different messages for different views *

Site # 6 Roman Catholic Mission Building (1954)

Theme: Missions

Messages:

- * an overview of the region's history including the context of pre-contact history and the recent activities of whaling, the missionaries and the R.C.M.P.
- * the church in education and medical services - the rise and fall of Chesterfield Inlet as a regional service centre (including Turquetil Hall)
- * the more recent changes in the community of Chesterfield Inlet and the changing nature of the church's involvement in the community - including the recognition of the 75th Anniversary of the Catholic Mission (1987 - the official 'opening' of the Historic Sites and Trails Program could coincide with this celebration)
- * the Inuit heritage and the changing nature of lifestyles with the establishment and growth of Chesterfield Inlet
- * presentation of the nature of the former uses of the building and the importance of the mission at Chesterfield Inlet in the Keewatin region

Techniques:

- * Audio/visual productions shown in the same way movies were shown in the past
- * visitors will use the facility as a resting spot and an opportunity for a midday meal. Local traditional foods will be prepared and provided by local people

- * interior displays: photographs, sketches, text, etc.
- * taped short wave radio conversations - prepared by the children of the community illustrating communication with home for children at boarding school in Chesterfield Inlet
- * a small collection of mission artifacts displayed in the chancel area - illustrating the period immediately following construction of the building
- * Inuit craft and cultural displays

Site # 7 Roman Catholic Hospital

Theme: Missions

Messages:

- * the nature and extent of medical services developed by the church
- * the physical structure of the hospital, past construction phases, and its present use
- * the evolution of responsibility for medical services from the church to the Territorial Government

Techniques:

- * exterior sign: building identification - photographs, sketches and text

Site # 8 Graveyard

Theme: Missions

Messages:

- * comparison with the burial cairns of the Thule culture - the graveyard as an indicator of cultural change
- * community leaders

Techniques

- * designated pathways to interpretive signage at the periphery of the site and to the central cross

Site # 9 **Royal Canadian Mounted Police Residence**

Theme: **Royal Canadian Mounted Police**

Messages:

- * the life and activities of the R.C.M.P.
- * the role and evolution of the Chesterfield Inlet R.C.M.P. detachment in the Keewatin Region
- * the history of the remaining building
- * the relationship of law enforcement to cultural values
- * other roles of the R.C.M.P. in the community

Techniques

- * interior displays: photographs, sketches, text, etc.
- * journal and annual report extracts and photos
- * radio play based on journal entries

Site # 10 **Community Fish Plant**

Theme:

Messages:

- * the nature of the operation of the fish plant
- * comparison to traditional fishing techniques and uses
- * the plant as an indicator of cultural change in the modern community of Chesterfield Inlet

Techniques

- * exterior sign: building identification - photographs, sketches and text

Site # 11 Community Centre

Theme:

Messages:

- * modern Chesterfield Inlet - the focus will be on the community's changing characteristics and organization

Techniques

- * interior display - photographs, sketches, text, etc. in the reception area of the community centre

IMPLEMENTATION

Implementation of the plan in a coordinated and efficient manner is an important consideration. The schedule for implementation may be affected by the availability of funds or the necessity to gain consensus, or a number of other factors. However, it is recommended that the phases identified in this outline be followed in spite of the length of time necessary to complete the implementation process. The phases reflect the necessity to research and plan effective communication mechanisms for the entire sites and trail system before implementing the individual components.

This discussion of the phasing and costs of plan implementation is unavoidably general. The plan implementation clearly depends on a number of approval and negotiated agreement factors that must be investigated prior to further advancement of the program. Most importantly these include agreements for use or purchase of buildings and agreements concerning community involvement in the program.

In particular the Catholic Church has tentative plans to utilize the Mission Building (1954), and a high priority should be placed on entering into discussions with the church concerning possible shared use arrangements. This particular structure is central to the plan concept described here and if the building were unavailable, the trail routing and sequence could be significantly altered. The plan is described as though use of the kitchen, main floor activity room and chapel area are available. Alterations to and use of other portions of the building are possible within the framework of this plan. Indications are that the Hudson's Bay Company are very willing to see the original building be utilized as part of the Historic Sites and Trails Program. However, formal discussions to confirm this, are advised.

Once support for the program is assured, the plan components identified in Table 2 can be pursued in the order in which they have been discussed. Adherence to the phasing suggestions will assist in the clear and efficient process of implementation.

Broad capital cost estimates are provided for facility developments, but it should be recognized that much greater accuracy will be possible only when more details regarding the content and extent of displays and signage have been developed. The estimates provided should prove sufficient for decision making purposes. They are in 1986 dollars.

Some considerations regarding cost and implementation should be noted in conjunction with these cost estimates.

- * although individual prices for various planning and construction projects have been given, it is more feasible to achieve those final costs if projects are undertaken jointly for cost efficiency. A good example is the trail brochure and exterior signage. Indeed, all of the design and text preparation of brochures, displays and signs would most efficiently be done as a single project as shown. However, the tasks have also been separated in the table to provide

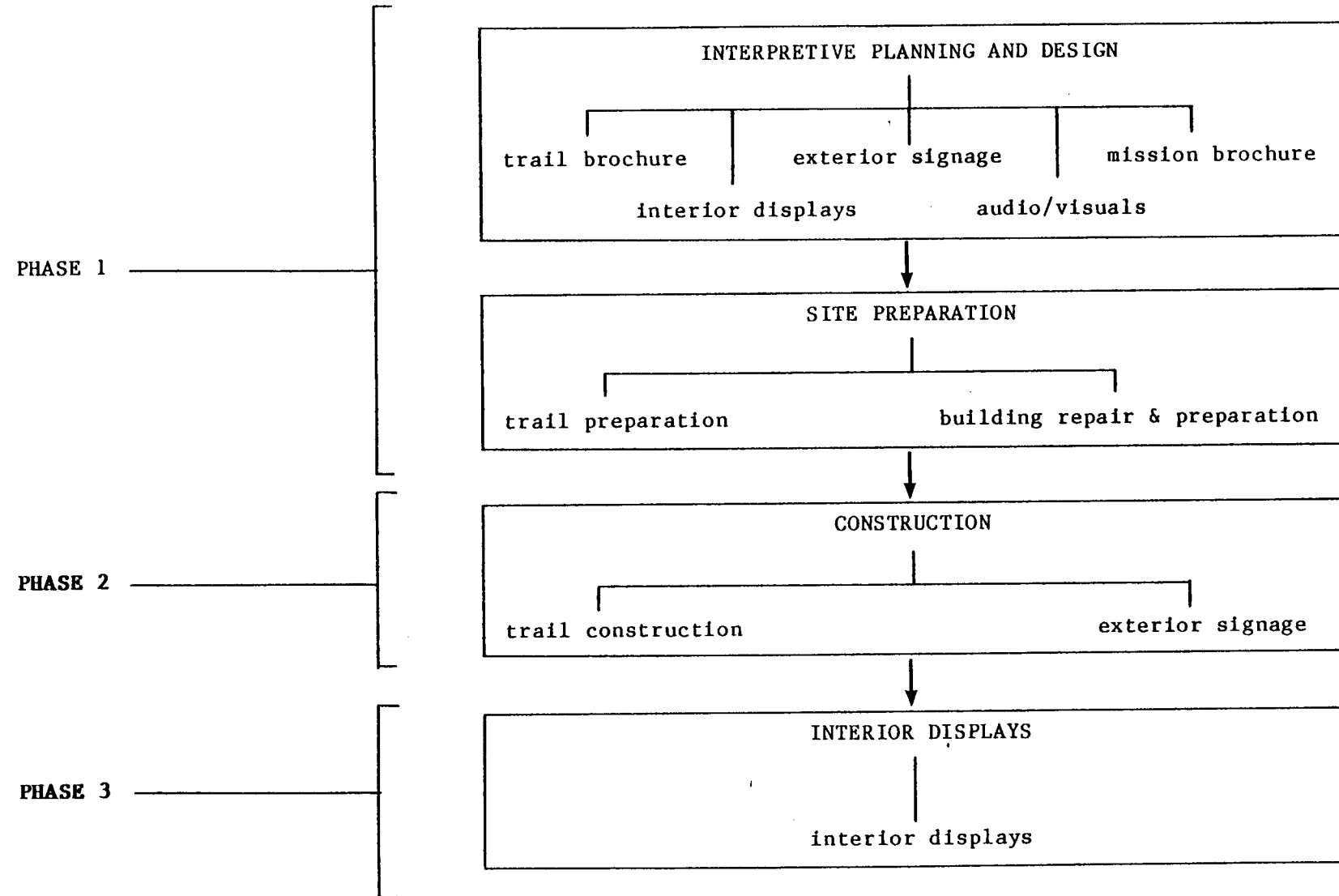
a more detailed appreciation of the costs associated with various elements.

- * building repair and preparation is not considered to be an extensive undertaking. Clean-up and minor repair to ensure building soundness and protection from deterioration is the focus. Provision of electricity for lighting and audio/visual programs will be necessary but is lacking only in the R.C.M.P. residence.
- * a variety of funding sources could be utilized for implementing the plan. Utilizing funding assistance programs available to the community could significantly reduce the amount of direct budget allocations that would have to be made to undertake the work. This is especially true for the construction components of the program. Every effort should be made to take advantage of existing programs.
- * community involvement in the development and operation of the program is difficult to determine for costing purposes at this time. Only one assumption has been made in the cost estimates regarding community volunteer involvement - the preparation of short wave radio tapes by the children of the community. Under the direction of the individual preparing the audio/visual materials, the children would be asked to pretend they were at boarding school in Chesterfield Inlet during the 1950's and to write and record a conversation with a parent in their home community. They would arrange for an adult to take part in their taping.
- * the desired quality and extent of the interior displays determines to a large extent the cost of production. Often the reverse is the practical reality so that available funds is the determining factor. The funding situation is presently unknown, so an estimate for simple, inexpensive displays has been identified.
- * only a very few aspects of the program are considered optional. An example is the viewing platform on the east end of the trail.

**PLAN IMPLEMENTATION
CAPITAL COST ESTIMATES FOR FACILITY DEVELOPMENT**

PROJECT	TASK	PURPOSE	TASK COST (\$000's)	PROJECT COST (\$000's)
Interpretive Planning and Design	trail brochure	* determine routing of trail * <u>locate trail stops</u> * identify theme and logo * prepare text * design & layout * printing	15.	68.
	interior displays	* planning & design	20.	
	exterior signage	* identify messages * prepare text & illustrations	8.	
	mission brochure	* prepare text * design & layout * printing	5.	
	audio/visuals	* slide shows * short wave radio tapes * radio play	20.	
	trail preparation	* <u>route preparation and clean-up</u>	7.	
	building repair & preparation	* mission (1912) * mission (1954) * R.C.M.P. residence	20.	
	trail construction	* construct trail * prepare & install trail markers * construct viewing platform	38.	
	exterior signage	* construct & install signs	35.	
	interior displays	* construct displays	80.	
Site Preparation			27.	
Construction			73.	
Interior Displays			80.	
			TOTAL	248.

PHASING FLOW CHART OF PROJECTS



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