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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

MATHER MEMORIAL... NATIONAL *** MONUMENT

FILE NO. 0-35

PART 1

PROPOSED MONUMENT
MATHER MEMORIAL

LAST DATE ON TOP

IMPORTANT

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ARNO B. CAMMERER,

Director.

MATHER MEMORIAL ISLAND IS FAVORED

Park and Planning Board Definitely Puts Proj- ect on Program.

Plans for the purchase of an island in the Potomac River near Great Falls to be used as a memorial to the late Stephen T. Mather, famous director of the National Park Service, were discussed yesterday at a meeting of the National Capital Park and Planning Commission.

Members of the commission expressed approval of the idea. The plan is still in a formative stage and no definite action has been taken. Just how far the commission will be able to go with the memorial island to the man who instituted the National Park Service is not known, as the lack of funds may delay it for some time. However, it is on the commission's program and will eventually receive more definite consideration.

Members of the commission also talked over the report on river pollution made recently by the Public Health Service as it applies to local waters.

They also discussed ways and means to coordinate the program of the Federal Employment Stabilization Board with other building programs so that overlap might be avoided and all possible economies effected.

Routine matters, including the discussion of current land transfer problems, were taken up later in the afternoon. The commission will not meet today.

Washington Star.
April 18, 1933.

The

W.

STEPHEN MATHER MEMORIAL ISLAND IN POTOMAC URGED

Proposal Is Made to Honor
Father of National Park
Service.

PLAN TO BE DISCUSSED
AT MEETING THIS WEEK

Col. Grant Says No Funds Are
Available for Project at
Present, However.

Charles W. Elliot, 2d, director of planning of the National Capital Park and Planning Commission, today announced that his organization is recommending that an island in the upper Potomac River, near Great Falls, be set aside as a memorial to the late Stephen T. Mather, director of the National Park Service of the Interior Department.

Lieut. Col. U. S. Grant, 3d, vice chairman and executive officer of the commission, made it clear there are no funds available at present to purchase land for this memorial. Mr. Elliot explained that there are several possibilities for appropriate memorials in the upper Potomac to Mr. Mather, who was a member of the commission.

Meeting Starts Thursday.

Starting Thursday, the commission will hold a three-day meeting, and the Mather memorial proposal will be discussed by Col. Grant and Mr. Eliot as one of the outstanding items on the program. Mr. Mather was a close personal friend of both Col. Grant and Mr. Eliot.

The director of planning asserted today that three islands are in mind for the memorial, but he declined to state the exact location, inasmuch as land purchasing is involved.

It is particularly fitting, Mr. Eliot said, that the Mather Memorial should be included in the future George Washington Memorial Parkway, which will run southward from Great Falls, on both sides of the Potomac River, to Fort Washington, Md., and Mount Vernon, Va. Mr. Eliot pointed out that former Representative Cramton, Republican, of Michigan, who was the co-author with Senator Capper, Republican, of Kansas, in setting up legislation to create the George Washington Memorial Parkway, sponsored the bill for the Mather Memorial. Congress has authorized a suitable memorial to Mr. Mather and subsequently the Mather Memorial Association was formed among the late director's friends, and they are attempting to have a suitable park area created as a lasting memorial to the man who instituted the National Park Service. Mr. Mather was a former newspaper man.

Helped Preserve Gorge.

Having in mind Mr. Mather's pre-eminent work in creating National parks in the West, his friends here believe that the wild islands in the gorge of the Potomac area more nearly approximate the National parks in which he was interested, than any other locality hereabouts. Further, Mr. Eliot asserted, Mr. Mather was particularly instrumental in preserving the gorge of the Potomac at Great Falls, when it was suggested that hydro-electric development should be permitted there.

During its meeting, the commission will turn its attention to land purchases, land transfers between various agencies of the Government here and the program of the Federal Employment Stabilization Board, designed to map out a planning program for public works.