DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
NATIONAL MONUMENTS - NATIONAL PARK

FILE NO.
PART I.

NATIONAL MONUMENTS
"FORT ST. CHARLES"

LAST DATE ON TOP.

My Dear Sir:

Permit me to refer again to the question of

reserving as monument ground in Northern Minnesota

the site of old "Fort St. Charles" I have been at
work since my return to St. Paul to obtain an exact
survey of the spot upon which the Fort had been erect-
ed, but I am told it is absolutely impossible to
get a surveyer to visit that part of the country
before sometime in June. There is no regular steam-
boat communication with the place and travel over
land is impossible. I hope in your great goodness
you will be able guard this great history spot from
an aggressive filing until I am able to send you
an exact description.

With many thanks for your kindnesses to me when
I had the pleasure of calling on you in Washington, I
am

Very Sincerely

Mr. Fred Dennett

[Signature]
The Rt. Rev. John Ireland,
St. Paul, Minnesota.

Dear Sir:

In reply to your note of May 29, in which you explain your inability thus far to secure a survey of the tract of ground formerly occupied by Fort St. Charles, I have to advise that by telegram of April 23d, the Register and Receiver of the local land office at Crookston, Minnesota, were directed to withdraw from all forms of entry, sections 23 to 27, inclusive, T. 168 N., R. 34 W., Minnesota, within which you advised me the said old fort was located. This withdrawal will hold until we are advised of a definite description, by public survey numbers, of the smallest area necessary to preserve the location by the creation of a National monument. Under the act of June 8, 1906, permitting the creation of National monuments, the smallest area compatible with the object sought is permitted to be reserved.

Very respectfully,

G.O.B.

Commissioner.
Township No. 167   Range No. 34   Mes.

[Diagram of a map with grid lines indicating sections 1 through 36, with an 'X' mark in section 19-21.]
Cedar Chip Lands

Township No. 167  Range No. 35  Mer.

Restrict
to entry
subject to
drainage
charges
by circular
March 27
1907

[4-590.]

Approximately all Vacant
Township No. 168  Range No. 35  Mes.
My Dear Sir:

At last I am able to send you a Blue-print indicating exactly the site of old Fort St. Charles. I think everything is marked so distinctly on the map that you will be able to tell at once the piece of land on which the ruins of the Fort were discovered.

The question now is, has that bit of land been homesteaded. Rumor has it that this is the case. I will be pleased to receive from yourself a letter telling me whether the land has been homesteaded or not and if homesteaded, giving me the name of the occupant. If the land has not been homesteaded please reserve, for the time being, a fractional forty-acre tract upon which the Fort was located. I will communicate further with you on the matter.
or perhaps I may see you in Washington.

Permit me to thank you very cordially for your great kindness on the holding back from occupation the land in the Northwest angle; in giving us full time to make exact surveys and to know just what we want kept out of the market.

Very Sincerely

[Signature]

Mr. Fred Dennett
July 21, 1909.

Relative to old Fort St. Charles, Minnesota.

The Rt. Rev. John Ireland,
St. Paul, Minnesota.

Sir:

I have received your letter of July 17, transmitting a blue print of the tracts of land in Northern Minnesota within which are located the ruins of old Fort St. Charles, considered heretofore in a personal visit and through correspondence with this office.

Relative to Lot 4 of Sec. 24, T. 168 N., R. 34 W., it appears from the tractbooks of this office that this lot, together with Lots 2, 3, 5 and 6, was entered as a homestead by Martin P. Magnusson, on July 15, 1904. His homestead entry was numbered 7605 and contained in all 157.05 acres. As far as this office knows, this was a bona fide entry and under the law the entryman has as yet two years more in which he can prove up upon his land, if he desires. Five years having elapsed, he may submit
proof immediately or at any time during the next two years.

In view of this situation there appears to be but one course to pursue and that is to have an effort made to secure from Mr. Magnussen a relinquishment of Lot 4, which contains 36.90 acres, or the \( \frac{3}{4} \) of Lot 4, which I think would be sufficient for a National Monument, if the blue print which you have submitted shows approximately the correct location of old Fort St. Charles. Under the provisions of the act of June 8, 1906, such relinquishment is specially provided for, but there is no provision of law by which the entryman may be paid for relinquishing land for National monument purposes, the act of relinquishment being purely patriotic and gratuitous on his part. If the entryman will not relinquish the \( \frac{3}{4} \) of Lot 4, he might relinquish a five or ten acre tract of square form which shall embrace the ruins of the old Fort. These are simply suggestions for your consideration.

The form of relinquishment is immaterial but I suggest that it be similar to the form submitted on separate sheet herewith.

On receipt of Mr. Magnussen's relinquishment, a
form for a proclamation creating Fort St. Charles National Monument will be submitted to the President for his signature.

Very respectfully,

Acting Commissioner.
The Honorable Secretary of the Interior,
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

Under the provisions of Section 2 of the act entitled "An Act for the Preservation of American Antiquities", approved June 3, 1906, I hereby relinquish to the United States (here describe by public survey descriptions, if possible, the land to be relinquished, with its acreage) the same being a part of my homestead entry No. 7605, made in the Crockston land office July 15, 1904. The original entry embraced Lots 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6, Sec. 24, T. 168 N., R. 34 W., Minnesota, containing 157.90 acres.

This relinquishment is made for the purpose of permitting, by proclamation of the President, the creation of a National monument which shall embrace all of the lands hereby relinquished.

(signature)

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My Dear Sir:

I beg leave to thank you very cordially for your kind letter with its enclosures. I understand very well the situation regarding Lot 4 of Sec. 24, T. 168 N., R. 34 W., I have communicated the contents of your letter to my friends in Winnipeg who have been taking a more direct interest in the site of old Fort St. Charles. When a final decision has been come to I will take pleasure in again communicating with you.

Very Sincerely

[Signature]

Mr. Fred Dennett
UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
REGION TWO
300 KEELINE BUILDING
OMAHA, NEBRASKA

November 23, 1937

The Director
National Park Service
Washington, D. C.

Subject: Fort St. Charles, Minnesota

Dear Mr. Director:

In compliance with Mr. Spalding's letter of November 16, we are enclosing two copies of a memorandum, on the above subject, prepared by Edward A. Hummel.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]
Paul V. Brown
Acting Regional Director