

10-23  
(May 1929)  
6-7410

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
FORT HILL NATIONAL PARK

FILE NO. 0-35  
PART 1

PROPOSED MONUMENTS

FORT HILL  
-----

LAST DATE ON TOP  
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IMPORTANT

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ARNO B. CAMMERER,  
*Director.*



*BROWN*  
*HOPPOCH*

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

WASHINGTON

October 12, 1934.

*Mr. Wirth*  
*for report*

Memorandum for Mr. Chatelain,  
Mr. Wirth.

*also note subsequent letters  
already in file*

John I. Scull, First National Bank, Somerset, Pennsylvania, came into the Office late the other evening and said that as a result of a talk he had had with Mrs. Ickes it had been suggested to him that he come in and talk with either Mr. Cammerer or me. It appears that his interest is in a prehistoric Indian mound about 20 miles southwest of Somerset, locally known as Fort Hill.

It appears that some archaeological digging has been carried on and that artifacts discovered here are in the possession of the state archaeologist. Apparently the area is privately-owned and Mr. Scull would like to see it acquired and a local museum developed similar to that of the archaeological Wayside museum on the south rim of the Grand Canyon.

I suggested the possibilities of acquisition under the sub-marginal land program and it appears that a Mr. Caldwell is making some investigations of other areas in that locality for Mr. Wirth. I explained to Mr. Scull the limitations on the submarginal land program, but he suggested that some local financial assistance might be secured in the event the property could not be acquired for an average of \$10.00 per acre. I wish Mr. Wirth would have Mr. Caldwell look into the possibilities of Fort Hill.

*Wirth*

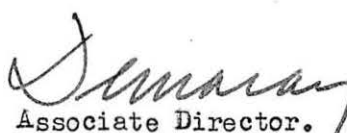
I also suggested that a museum building might be secured under FERA as a local relief project, the materials, log and stone, to be secured through an arrangement with nearby CCC camps which I think are under the Forest Service. I suggest that a little ingenuity might easily work out a plan whereby a museum could be built.

The next problem was how suitable exhibits could be arranged in the event the rest of the program was worked out and proper supervision given to necessary digging at Fort Hill. I suggested that Mr. Scull contact the Smithsonian Institution with the thought he might persuade them to send an archaeologist to Pennsylvania to look over the proposition and that they might undertake the supervision of such a project as was the case in connection with the excavation in the Ocmulgee field in Georgia.

I promised Mr. Scull that I would have Mr. Chatelain's Division look up to see whether there was any information in Washington regarding Fort Hill and would have him contact the Smithsonian Institution as to whether they had any information concerning it and their attitude toward

such a project.

It would be appreciated if you both would give me reports that I might send on to Mr. Scull to show our interest.

  
Associate Director.

10-39.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
WASHINGTON

Happach  
Will you let  
me know what action  
is taken on this?

Brown

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
OFFICE NATIONAL PARKS, BUILDINGS  
AND RESERVATIONS

Lee Brown

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
OFFICE NATIONAL PARKS, BUILDINGS  
AND RESERVATIONS

MEMORANDUM TO: *[Signature]* *1/24/34*

A copy of Mr. Demaray's memorandum  
has been forwarded to the First District,  
requesting that they look into the matter.

M. C. HUPPICH.

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
WASHINGTON

October 24, 1934.

Memorandum for Mr. Demaray:

Re: Your memorandum of October 12 concerning Indian Mound  
near Somerset, Pennsylvania.

The Smithsonian Institution informs us that they have practically no information concerning Fort Hill, the Indian mound about twenty miles southwest of Somerset, Pennsylvania. They further suggested that any available information would be in the possession of Dr. Donald A. Cadzow, State Archeologist of Pennsylvania. We have today written to Dr. Cadzow, requesting any data that he might have.

The Smithsonian questions that the site is of sufficient importance to warrant sending an archeologist there to conduct excavations.

  
Verne E. Chatelain

*When report from  
Dr Cadzow is received  
please send in to me  
WSP*

*With M. J. M.  
can you  
the type you  
go me*



UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
WASHINGTON

*Winter  
Chatellier*

October 24, 1934.

Dr. Donald A. Cadzow,  
State Archeologist,  
Department of Public Instruction,  
Pennsylvania Historical Commission,  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

Dear Dr. Cadzow:

The National Park Service has need of information concerning an Indian mound about twenty miles southwest of Somerset, Pennsylvania, and known locally as Fort Hill.

The Smithsonian Institution informs us that you are probably in possession of more data on this site than anyone else.

Any information that you can furnish regarding Fort Hill would be highly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

(SGD.) A. E. DEMARAY

A. E. Demaray  
Acting Director

WJW:CT





COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION  
PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
HARRISBURG



Addison Pa.  
10/28/34

*Mr. Demaray*  
*Mr. Chalilow*  
*[Signature]*

A.E.Demaray,  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
WASHINGTON D.C.

Dear Mr. Demaray:-

Fort Hill, Somerset County, Pennsylvania is an Indian site which has stirred the interest of amateur archaeologists and a few professionals for more than fifty years. It is not a mound but a hill near the junction of Casselman river and McClintock Run. The top, which comprises an area of approximately seven acres, appears to have been artificially leveled. In many ways it is similar to Spanish Hill in Bradford County of this Commonwealth. I have seen numerous artifacts which were found on the site, and in a brief and necessarily superficial exploration made during one day last month my assistants and I uncovered two fire pits which contained sherds of Indian pottery, fragments of bone, a few beads etc. etc. . We were unable to obtain the permission of the owner of the most interesting part of the site to make a more systematic exploration so further investigation by my staff has been deferred until permission can be obtained.

Several stone mounds have been found on the sides of the hill, and it is possible that a thorough search between the fort and the streams would disclose others.

I was talking with the President of the local archaeological society a few days ago and he spoke hopefully of the possibility of developing Fort Hill into an archaeological park with a small museum and a series of life size model groups on the level top of the hill.

The unusual beauty of the site and its accessibility from a paved highway suggest whether or not future explorations produce any finds of importance it would lend itself admirably to a development such as has been discussed. Such a development might be of genuine



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION  
PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
HARRISBURG

"2"

value in giving the general public in Western Pennsylvania, as well as others traveling the National Pike, a conception of the development of man such as cannot be readily obtained in large museums. In my opinion the site is well worth further anthropological investigation and the proposed project worth serious consideration.

If at any time I can give you information about Pennsylvania please do not hesitate to call upon me.

Sincerely,

*D.A. Cadzow*  
D.A. Cadzow

DAC/W

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
WASHINGTON

*Mr. Chatelain*  
*Wirth*

October 30, 1934.

Memorandum to Mr. *Wirth* ~~Demaray~~:

This is in response to your attached memorandum of October 12 regarding an investigation of Fort Hill, in Somerset County, Pennsylvania.

A copy has been sent to District Officer, Melvin B. Borgeson, with the request that the area be investigated for its submarginal possibilities.

Mr. Chatelain's memo has been noted.

Wirth.  
*Wirth*

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
OFFICE NATIONAL PARKS, BUILDINGS  
AND RESERVATIONS

November 7, 1934.

Memorandum for Mr. Wirth:

Please note the attached letter from Dr. D. A. Cadzow, State Archeologist of Pennsylvania, with regard to Fort Hill, Somerset County, Pennsylvania.

Have you had any information from your First District about the possibilities of this as a sub-marginal land project?

*A. E. Kemmerer*  
Associate Director.

Enclosure 584982.



UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
WASHINGTON

November 7, 1934.

6-35  
J. H. Hill

Dr. D. A. Cadzow,  
State Archeologist of Pennsylvania,  
Addison, Pennsylvania.

Dear Dr. Cadzow:

I have received your letter of October 28 regarding Fort Hill, Somerset County, Pennsylvania, and thank you for the information furnished.

We are interested in archeological projects such as has been suggested, but as to whether we will be able to give any aid toward such a project is doubtful as we understand the land is held by the present owner at a figure above what could be considered as a sub-marginal land project.

Sincerely yours,

(SGD.) A. E. DEMARAY

A. E. Demaray,  
Associate Director.

cc: John I. Scull,  
First National Bank,  
Somerset, Pennsylvania.

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION.  
PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
HARRISBURG

C O P Y

December 4, 1934.

Mr. Markley Stevenson,  
District Inspector,  
U. S. Department of the Interior,  
225 South Fifteenth Street,  
Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Mr. Stevenson:

I am delighted to give you what information I have about Fort Hill, Somerset County. As you know from your investigations the hill is a natural formation. Historically, it has been a landmark since the days of Washington in Somerset County. In pre-historic times it was occupied by Indians, probably because it could be easily defended and had springs near its summit.

I have partly investigated the hill archaeologically and can assure you of the Indian site. Several stone mounds are located on the south side. These are still to be explored.

This past fall we explored one of the most important sites in the State a short distance away on the Youghiogheny.. We expect to be working in the region next summer.

You ask if there are any other valuable Indian sites in Pennsylvania. In Fayette, Westmoreland, Washington and Greene Counties we have recorded more than two hundred fifty Indian sites. Most of these are still to be explored scientifically. The famous Ohio mound culture extends into the State in this section and several mounds are recorded on the Youghiogheny. There is another site similar to Fort Hill in Bradford County, Pennsylvania. This is known as Spanish Hill and there is considerable local interest in its preservation.

If there is any additional information, I can give you do not hesitate to call upon me.

Sincerely yours,

(Sgnd) Donald A. Cadzow,  
Archaeologist.

C k



UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
STATE PARK DIVISION

COPY FOR INFORMATION

*Suppued 12/13/34*  
225 S. 15th Street,  
Philadelphia, Pa.,  
December 10, 1934.

Mr. Melvin B. Borgeson, District Officer,  
County Office Building,  
White Plains, N. Y.

Subject: Report - Fort Hill, Somerset County, Pa.

Dear Mr. Borgeson:

Replying to Mr. Wirth's letter to you dated October 23rd, copy of which was forwarded to me together with copy of Mr. Demaray's memorandum to Mr. Wirth dated October 12th.

On November 23rd I made an inspection and investigation of the Fort Hill Area, Somerset County, Pa., with Mr. J. H. Caldwell, Project Manager of the Laurel Hill Project, Penna. R-3.

With regard to the authenticity of Fort Hill as an Indian Mound, I submit the attached copy of letter dated December 4th received from Mr. Donald A. Cadzow, Archeologist of the Pennsylvania Historical Commission. Summing up Mr. Cadzow's letter, it would seem that while this Hill was probably at one time occupied by Indians, it apparently remains to be determined whether it was in any sense a permanent occupation or only a casual one. From Mr. Cadzow's letter I also take it that no definite association of this site with any event in history has been established. It is simply another Indian camp site. Also from Mr. Cadzow's letter, it would seem that there are a number of more or less similar sites in this general vicinity both in Pennsylvania and adjoining states.

In view of all the above, and particularly in view of the present lack of definite historic significance, I feel that consideration of the question of acquiring Fort Hill as a historic monument cannot be answered until more facts are known.

With regard to the possibility of including Fort Hill in the program of land acquisition under the Land Program, I wish to report as follows:

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Mr. Melvin B. Borgeson,  
December 10, 1934. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

STATE PARK DIVISION

- 2 -

Fort Hill is located in the southwestern part of Somerset County, Pa., on the Casselman River, approximately sixty miles southeast of Pittsburgh and forty-five miles south of Johnstown, Pa. (see attached U. S. Geological Sheet, Confluence Quadrangle, Pa.). Fort Hill rises very abruptly from the Casselman River on the north and almost as abruptly from McClintock Run on the south. The so-called Indian Mound or Fort from which the place takes its name is a naturally flat topped mound resting on top of the main ridge above the military crest of the latter. The farm on which the mound is located appears to be under good cultivation. The north slopes of Fort Hill are very steep, falling abruptly to the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad and the village of Fort Hill in the valley of the Casselman River. The latter is polluted with sulphur water from coal mines in that vicinity. The south slope of Fort Hill, down to McClintock Run, is much less abrupt. By including the entire water shed of McClintock Run (as indicated on the map), it would probably be possible to secure sufficient sub-marginal agricultural land to make an acceptable project and, at the same time, include Fort Hill itself. McClintock Run does not appear to be polluted with sulphur water. There are a number of small farms in this valley in poor condition and not productive. The ground is stony and the population does not appear to be prosperous. McClintock Run is a pleasant mountain stream and <sup>its valley</sup> presents possibilities for development for recreation purposes. The terrain would lend itself fairly well to this purpose but not as well as the Laurel Hill Area now being considered.

Fort Hill is relatively inaccessible. It is considerably farther from centers of population than the Laurel Hill Area. The nearest improved highway is approximately two miles away. From this point to Fort Hill, and within the area itself, there are only dirt roads in poor condition and on steep grades. The nearest trunk highway is the National Pike, approximately ten or twelve miles distant to the south.

In view of all the foregoing, I cannot recommend consideration of Fort Hill under the Land Program at this time.

Sincerely yours,

Markley Stevenson,  
District Inspector,  
E.C.W.

MS:AES

(See P.S. - page 3.)



UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Mr. Melvin B. Borgeson, <sup>ROOSEVELT</sup> NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
December 10, 1934. STATE PARK DIVISION

- 3 -

P.S. - Reference is made to the area marked "Humbert Area" on the attached map. I inspected this area with Mr. Caldwell on the same day that we made the inspection of the Fort Hill Area and wish to report as follows:

The Humbert Area includes a portion of the valley of Laurel Hill Creek lying from seven to ten miles downstream from the Laurel Hill Area and extending approximately from King School to Humbert, Pa. By taking in the main valley and certain tributary valleys, it would probably be possible to include sufficient sub-marginal agricultural land to qualify this area under the Land Program requirements. There are no improved roads in the area. The streams and valleys are very picturesque in places. There are a number of locations where it would be possible to develop recreation areas. I believe Mr. Caldwell has reported that it would be possible to secure several thousand acres in this area at about \$15.00 an acre. It is my understanding, however, that this is all one holding and includes no land under cultivation at the present time which makes it not so good for the Land Program. Outside of this area, however, there are a number of farms which I would classify as sub-marginal. While this area is relatively inaccessible and farther from centers of population than the Laurel Hill Area, I would recommend it for consideration under the Land Program ahead of the Fort Hill Area.

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
STATE PARK DIVISION

*Chapman*



522 County Office Bldg.

Mr. Conrad L. Wirth  
Assistant Director  
National Park Service  
Interior Building  
Washington, D. C.

SUBMARGINAL LAND DIVISION

Subject: Report - Fort Hill Area,  
Humbert Area, Pennsylvania.

Dear Mr. Wirth:

We enclose Mr. Stevenson's report on these areas together with copy of letter from Mr. Cadzow, Archaeologist of the Pennsylvania Historical Commission at Harrisburg.

In view of the contents of this report, we cannot recommend consideration of these areas at the present time.

Very truly yours

MELVIN B. BORGESON  
District Officer  
District One

By:

*Fred H. Fairweather*  
FREDERIC H. FAIRWEATHER

CC Mr. Stevenson

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

STATE PARK DIVISION  
Washington, D. C.  
December 24, 1934.

*Chalala  
Shouldn't I  
notify some  
one about  
this? [initials]*

MEMORANDUM TO: Mr. Demaray

SUBJECT: Report of Investigation Fort Hill Area, Pa.

In response to your memorandum of October 12, the following report and recommendation of Inspector Markley Stevenson is attached with a letter from the State Archaeologist.

You will note that Inspector Stevenson does not believe that this area can be considered as a Land Program project.

In response to your memorandum of November 23, on the Spanish Hill area, an investigation is being made, the results and report of which will be given you upon receipt.

*Conrad L. Wirth*

CONRAD L. WIRTH,  
Assistant Director.

Enclosure 497546

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
WASHINGTON

IN ANSWERING REFER TO

*Chittenden*  
*Wheeler*  
*Wright*  
*Hammer*  
*Isleworth*  
*Brown*

January 11, 1935.

Mr. John I. Scull,  
First National Bank,  
Somerset, Pennsylvania.

*0-35*  
*Fort Hill*

*Fig. 8B*

Dear Mr. Scull:

In pursuance of our conversation in October, the National Park Service has made an investigation of the Fort Hill area in your locality.

On November 23, Mr. Markley Stevenson, District Inspector, Emergency Conservation Work, made an inspection with Mr. J. H. Caldwell, Project Manager of the Laurel Hill Project in Pennsylvania. Although the Smithsonian Institution has not been in a position to undertake an archeological investigation of Fort Hill, we have received an opinion on the archeological value of the site from Mr. Donald A. Cadzow, State Archeologist for Pennsylvania.

I regret to inform you that the situation at present does not look very favorable for the development of the area through the State Park ECW and Sub-Marginal Land programs. If a project were undertaken there, it would have to include considerably more land than Fort Hill itself, in order to fulfill the requirements of the land program. Furthermore the relative inaccessibility of the area from the centers of population works against the project.

It would seem possible, however, to undertake a development through the FERA program along the lines suggested during our conversation. If the National Park Service can be of any further aid to you in these respects, please feel free to consult with us.

Sincerely yours,

(SGD.) A. E. DEMARAY

A. E. Demaray  
Associate Director

*2W*  
REL:CT:tvw





# THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF SOMERSET

SOMERSET, PENNSYLVANIA

January 17th 1935.

JOHN I. SCULL  
VICE PRESIDENT

Mr. A. E. Demaray,  
Associate Director,  
National Park Service,  
Department of the Interior,  
Washington, D.C.  
Dear Mr. Demaray:

Thank you for your letter of January 14th in regard to Ft. Hill.

It is a disappointment to learn that there is little prospect of developing the site through the State Park E.C.W. and Sub Marginal Land programs. I'll explore the possibilities of doing something through the F.E. R. A. and when the new State Administration has settled down will try to get the State Historical Commission more actively interested.

At present the Commission's interest is focussed on a site only fifteen or twenty miles south of Ft. Hill where Cadzow made finds of some importance last fall, just before bad weather put an end to the digging season. I enclose a clipping from the N.Y. Times which indicates the possible implications of what has already been found on a site which has been hardly more than scratched.

Please accept my warm thanks for the active way in which you followed up our conversation. Any time the shifting kaleidoscope of events presents a pattern into which Ft. Hill and the Park Service would seem to fit logically I shall not hesitate to call it to your attention.

Sincerely yours,

*John I. Scull*

McNeil, Boston; Ben  
Holyoke, Mass., and William  
Pidgeon, Rochester.

## TRACES IROQUOIAN ROUTE.

Archaeologist Finds Evidence That  
Indians Came East Via Penn-  
sylvania.

First authentic evidence that the Iroquois Indians migrated eastward through Southwestern Pennsylvania has been reported to Dr. James N. Rule, Superintendent of Public Instruction in Pennsylvania and chairman of the Keystone State Historical Commission, by Donald A. Cadzow, the commission's archaeologist, upon his return from a five-month archaeological expedition to Western Pennsylvania counties.

All existing records and texts on the history of American Indian movements and occupancies of the Eastern United States will need revision if Cadzow, in additional researches, is able to check more definitely on evidences already disclosed, reports Capitol News. He feels reasonably certain that his findings this Fall, showing Western Pennsylvania occupancy by the Iroquois, will be verified in work already planned to start as soon as ground is workable in the Spring.

Because no scientific researches had been conducted before in Pennsylvania to tell them differently, archaeologists have maintained that the Iroquoians had migrated from the lower Mississippi through Ohio to New York, and found their way into Pennsylvania from the North. Cadzow's findings were along the banks of the Youghogheny River, a branch of the Ohio, at Suterville, in Southern Allegheny County, and at Somerfield, in Somerset County. Skeletons, pottery and implements of distinctive Iroquoian characteristics, with burials typically Iroquoian, were uncovered at each place.

These finds date back 1,000 to 1,500 years, according to the State archaeologist, and his theory is that these Indians left the main migration body going into Northern Ohio and New York, went up the Ohio and Youghogheny, and down the Potomac, where a large Iroquois fortification is known to have been built across the river from Mount Vernon. They did not like the salt water section and finally came north to the Susquehanna Valley, driving out the Delawares, Algonkians and others in the Eastern section.

Operator Found Dead.

Jan 9 (AP).—

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10-223  
(July, 1934)

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

CROSS REFERENCE

File No. 1-35 Ft. Hill

March 3, 1936

From:  
To :

With  
Second Regional Office

SUBJECT

Investigation of the proposed Ft. Stenwick  
N.M., in N.Y., and the proposed Ft. Hill N.M.,  
Penn.

ORIGINAL LETTER FILED

1-35 Ft. Stenwick