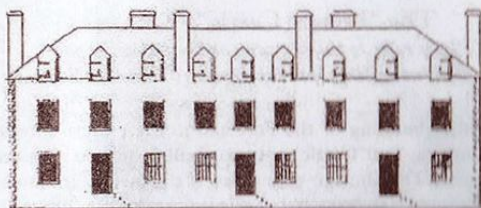
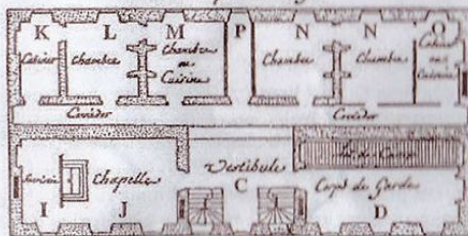


Elevation du côté du sud.

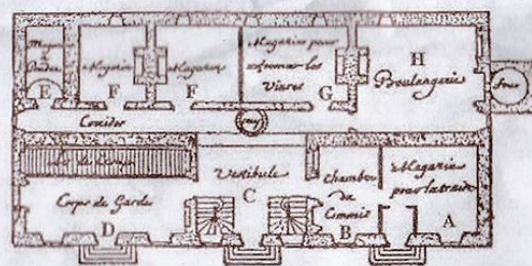


Plan du premier étage.



Second Floor

Plan de la Loge au Des de la chaussée.



Ground Floor

Original floor plans of the "Castle" drawn in 1727

- A. Storeroom for trade goods
- B. Apartment of the trade clerk
- C. Vestibule and well
- D. Guardroom or barracks with "camp bed"
- E. Powder magazine
- F. Storerooms
- G. Provisions storeroom
- H. Bakery
- I. Sacristy
- J. Chapel
- K. Commandant's office; where Robert Rogers is believed to have been confined in 1768
- L. Commanding officer's apartment
- M. Officers' mess
- N. Officers' apartments
- O. Officers' kitchen
- P. Corridor to lake side window

Welcome to
OLD FORT NIAGARA

Your Guide to the Fort



The rich history of Old Fort Niagara spans more than 300 years. Originally used by Native Americans for hunting and fishing, this site was subsequently occupied by French, British, and American forces. Its commanding presence on the great lakes caused it to play a critical role in the French & Indian War, the American Revolution, and the War of 1812.

Old Fort Niagara was restored between 1926 and 1934. It is operated today by the Old Fort Niagara Association, Inc., a not-for-profit organization. Your admission fee and museum shop purchases, as well as grants and donations help keep the site open to the public. Membership in the Old Fort Niagara Association is open to all. Ask for details at the Visitor Center or contact:

OLD FORT NIAGARA ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 169 Youngstown, NY 14174 (716) 745-7611

www.oldfortniagara.org

**YOUR TOUR OF
OLD FORT NIAGARA**

For the most enjoyable and comprehensive visit, we suggest that you follow the tour outlined in this brochure. Members of the Old Fort Niagara staff are available to answer your questions and present living history demonstrations.

Please watch your step on stairs and walls. Small children should be supervised at all times.

No smoking please, in any of the buildings.

Public Rest Rooms

Located in the Visitor Center and behind the Bakehouse at Point No. 10.

Food & Drink

Burgers, wraps, ice cream and a variety of other food & drink are available in the Log Cabin, Point 7, Memorial Day Weekend through Labor Day.

Books and Gifts

Available in the Visitor Center Museum Shop.

Before entering the Fort, we recommend that you view the 15-minute orientation film in the Visitor Center theater. The Visitor Center also features orientation exhibits including the Fort's original War of 1812 Flag. When you exit the Visitor Center, follow the paved walkway into the Fort.

The buildings of Old Fort Niagara represent many different periods of its history. Most are original and were erected between 1726 and 1872. Large plaques, representing the arms of France and Great Britain, indicate the nation responsible for the construction of each.

Fort Niagara contained nearly 100 other buildings during its long history. These have disappeared, but archaeologists have identified their foundations.



French



British

Point No. 1 – Land Defenses/Outer Works (1755-1872)

The Outer Works include a large triangular "ravelin," smaller earthworks and a dry ditch. They were originally laid out by the French during the French and Indian War, designed to protect the Fort from incoming artillery fire and subject attacking troops to a murderous crossfire. The Fort's main walls were rebuilt of concrete and brick in the 1860s but they follow the lines laid out by the French in 1755. The center of the wall is pierced by a passage called the Sally Port.

Point No. 2 – The Gate of Five Nations (1756)

From 1756 until about 1805 the main entrance to Fort Niagara was located on the river side of the South Bastion. The French named the gate in honor of the original Five Nations of the Iroquois Confederacy. The approach to the gate featured a wooden drawbridge that could be raised in times of danger. The original gatehouse was wooden. The present gatehouse is a 1931 reconstruction.

Point No. 3 – The South Redoubt (1770)

The British constructed this building before the American Revolution to protect the main gate and provide a platform for cannon. The ground floor was a fortified gateway with a guard room for twenty soldiers located above.

On December 19, 1813, attacking British troops had to break down the door of the South Redoubt to subdue its American defenders.

Point No. 4 – The Dauphin Battery (1756)

The French built this five-gun battery to protect the main gate.

It is armed with three 6-pounder and two 12-pounder cannon.

Point No. 5 – The Provisions Storehouse (1762)

Constructed by the British, this building originally stood two and a half stories high. It could hold 7,000 barrels of food for the garrison.



In later years the Storehouse was also used as a barracks and stable. Today it houses a maritime exhibit.

Point No. 6 – The Powder Magazine (1757)

The French erected this building which survived the siege of 1759. Its massive arched ceiling, topped by a thick layer of earth, protected the gunpowder from mortar shells. The garrison's ammunition was stored here as late as 1929.

In 1826 William Morgan, considered by Freemasons to be a renegade to their order, was kept prisoner in the Magazine. His mysterious disappearance has never been solved and sparked much anti-Masonic feeling in the United States at the time.

Point No. 7 – The Log Cabin (1932)

Erected in 1932, this structure was intended to represent a log cabin originally built by the French in 1757. The building now houses food sales and dining facilities (seasonal). All proceeds help keep the Fort open to the public.

Point No. 8 – The River Defenses (1839-43)

British construction of Fort Mississauga on the Canadian shore in 1814 exposed the interior of Fort Niagara to bombardment. The problem was remedied between 1839 and 1841 by erection of the massive River Wall. This was of uniform height for its entire length until 1889 when the northern end was torn down. The difference in the stonework resulted from a change in stone suppliers between 1839 and 1840. Guns on the Hot Shot Battery face Fort Mississauga visible across the river in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario. Adjacent to the battery is the Hot Shot Furnace, completed in 1843. Here cannon balls could be heated nearly white-hot. When fired into a wooden ship or building, hot shot would quickly set it afire. The arched Postern Gate was the main entrance to Fort Niagara after 1839.

Point No. 9 – The LaSalle Monument (1932)


The earliest post on the site was established in 1679 by the famous French explorer Rene-Robert Cavelier de LaSalle. He christened it Fort Conti and used it as a base while building his sailing vessel "Griffon" above Niagara Falls.

Point No. 10 – The Bakehouse (1762)

The British constructed this building to replace a French bakery destroyed by fire in 1761. The foundation of the double ovens was salvaged from the earlier structure.



Bread for the Garrison was baked here until 1870. Public rest-rooms are located behind the Bakehouse. In winter they are accessible through the Castle.


 Point No. 11 – *The French Castle* (1726)




The oldest building in North America's Great Lakes region. See complete description on the right.

 Point No. 12 – *The Rush-Bagot Memorial* (1934)

An early armaments agreement was signed by the United States and Great Britain in 1817. Named for its chief negotiators, Richard Rush and Sir Charles Bagot, the treaty limited naval forces on the Great Lakes. The true monument to such efforts is today's unfortified 4,000-mile (6,400km) United States-Canadian border. In clear weather the skyline of Toronto, Ontario can be seen across the 27 miles (43km) of Lake Ontario.

 Point No. 13 – *The Millet Cross* (1926)

Dedicated to the ill-fated French soldiers of Fort Denonville, this bronze cross was erected by the Knights of Columbus in 1926. During the terrible winter of 1687-88 disease and starvation reduced the fort's garrison of 100 men to only 12 survivors. The present monument commemorates a wooden cross under which Father Pierre Millet, a French Jesuit priest, celebrated a Mass of Thanksgiving for the soldiers' survival.

 Point No. 14 – *The North Redoubt* (1771)



The two redoubts were literally forts within a fort. The main difference between them is that the North Redoubt originally had a powder magazine on its ground floor.


Both buildings incorporate two styles popular in 18th century Britain – classical Roman arches and doorways in the stone walls topped by Chinese – style roofs.

 Point No. 15 – *The Three Historic Flags*


Three historic flags commemorate the nations that have held Fort Niagara. The white French flag was flown here from 1726 to 1759. It was the official banner of the Marine Department, responsible for protecting France's colonies. The British Union flag waved here from 1759 to 1796. It was replaced by the modern version in 1801. The 15-star, 15-stripe United States flag was flown at Fort Niagara from 1796 to 1818. Fort Niagara's original 15-star, 15-stripe flag, captured by the British in 1813 is on display in the Visitor Center.

 Point No. 16 – *Blacksmith Shed* (2010)

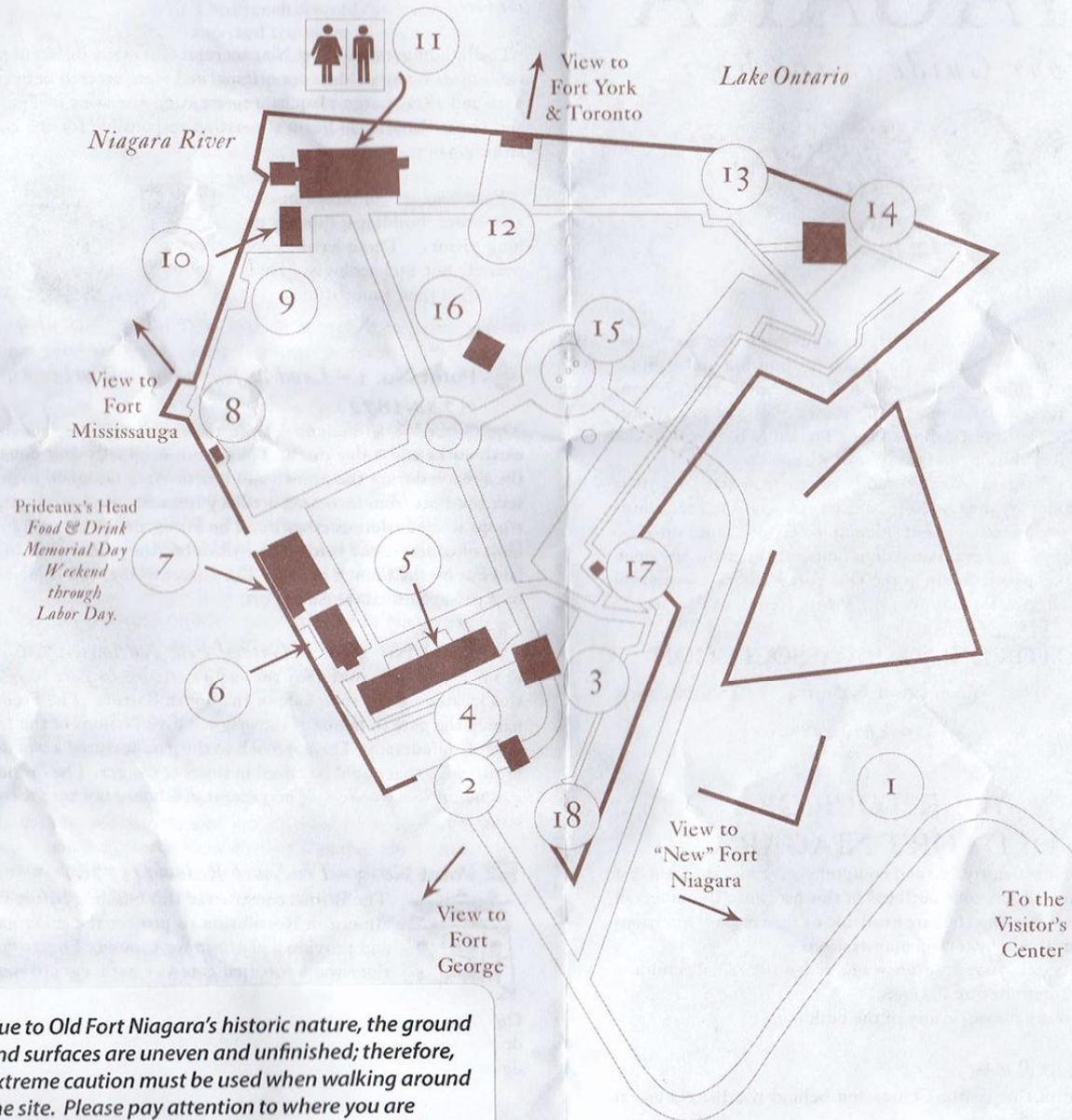
This structure contains a working forge where artisans produce ironwork for the Fort.

 Point No. 17 – *Scarp Walls and Casemates* (1872)

Fort Niagara's earthen walls were reinforced with concrete and brick between 1863 and 1872 due to tensions with British Canada over the American Civil War. Tempers had cooled by 1872 and guns were never mounted here. Steps descend to the South Casemate Gallery containing four 24-pounder cannon whose fire would interlock with that of the North Gallery visible across the ditch. Firing slits for riflemen and a powder magazine are located at the end of the gallery.

 Point No. 18 – *18-Pounder Battery* (1840-72)

During the War of 1812 Fort Niagara exchanged furious artillery barrages with British-held Fort George visible across the river. Heavy guns were placed here and along the river wall during the 1840s to bear on Canada but were never fired in anger. Within sight on the American side are the surviving structures of "New" Fort Niagara, established after the Civil War. This area became Fort Niagara State Park in 1965. The lovely stone lighthouse was built in 1871 and used until 1993.



Due to Old Fort Niagara's historic nature, the ground and surfaces are uneven and unfinished; therefore, extreme caution must be used when walking around the site. Please pay attention to where you are walking. Assistance is available in the Visitor Center.



The "French Castle" – Point 11

Please refer to the diagrams on the following page.
Do not cross railings into exhibit areas- alarm will sound!

The oldest building of the Fort and in the eastern interior of North America, the "Castle" was originally the sole structure of Fort Niagara. To calm the suspicions of the hostile Iroquois, the French designed it to resemble a large trading house. The building was, in actuality, a strong citadel capable of resisting Indian attack. The Castle has been restored to its pre-1755 appearance, at which time most garrison facilities were located within its walls. Following expansion of the Fort in 1755-57, the Castle was used as officers' quarters. Army families resided here as late as World War I.

The building was designed by Gaspard-Joseph Chaussegros de Lery, chief engineer of New France. His layout of the ground floor included storerooms, a powder magazine, bakery, guardhouse, and well. Living quarters and a chapel were on the second floor. Overhanging or "machicolated" dormers on the attic level provided defensive positions for muskets and light cannon and gave the structure its original French name – the "machicolated house." The term "Castle" was probably not in general use until U.S. officers lived here in the 1830s.

One of the most important parts of the ground floor was the Trade Room (A&B). During the French regime, Fort Niagara was a trading post as well as a military fort. Natives came here in great numbers to exchange furs for manufactured goods.

The vestibule (C) contains a 25-foot-deep well. It provided water for the Castle's occupants from 1726 until about 1815 and was then sealed, only to be discovered and reopened in 1926. A popular local legend, first recorded in 1839, tells of the headless ghost of a murdered French officer said to haunt the well. When the moon is full, the story goes, he arises to search for his missing head.

The chapel (J) on the second floor was the earliest permanent church in western New York. Across the vestibule is a barracks room (D), originally home to about 30 French soldiers. More comfortable apartments (K-O) line the lake side of this floor. The narrow room (K) at the west end of the corridor was used briefly in 1768 as a cell for Robert Rogers, the famous ranger of the French and Indian War and hero of the historical novel Northwest Passage. Accused of treason by British authorities, Rogers was kept chained and guarded here while being taken to Montreal for trial.

The wooden roof of the Castle was removed during the War of 1812. Earthen ramparts were constructed atop the building with cannon placed on the attic floor to bombard Fort George. Here, in the midst of a furious cannonade on November 21, 1812, a soldier's wife, Betsy Doyle, helped load a cannon and gained fame as a heroine of the War of 1812.

The Castle was restored between 1926 and 1933. Mid 18th century furnishings were reproduced in an effort to make the Castle appear as it did during the French occupation.