

MAP KEY

A French Grist Mill/Grenadier's Redoubt/Champlain Memorial

B Lake Champlain Bridge
The first bridge across Lake Champlain was a steel truss design erected across this channel in 1929. Due to structural compromises, that bridge was raised in 2009 and the new bridge reopened in 2011.

C Light Infantry Redoubt

D Toll Keeper's House
During the Depression, it cost one dollar for a vehicle to traverse the bridge. Today's equivalent? 16 dollars!

E Fort St Frédéric

F French Lime Kiln

G Museum

H Parking lot

I His Majesty's Fort of Crown Point

J Gage's Redoubt

K Smith and Bullis Lime Kiln
The surrounding area was dominated by iron ore and lime production in the mid 19th century. Erected by the Smith and Bullis Co. of Port Henry in the 1870s, it is one of the few standing kilns of this type.

L Public Restrooms

M Picnic Pavilion

N Maintenance Building

CROWN POINT STATE HISTORIC SITE

THE LANDSCAPE BEFORE YOU HAS SERVED AS A BOUNDARY BETWEEN CULTURES FOR HUNDREDS OF YEARS. IT DELINEATED TERRITORIES BETWEEN THE KANIEH'KEHAKA (MOHAWK) NATION OF THE HAUDENOSAUNEE (IROQUOIS) CONFEDERACY TO THE WEST AND THE ABENAKI NATION OF THE ALGONQUIAN PEOPLES TO THE EAST.

SAMUEL DE CHAMPLAIN WAS THE FIRST KNOWN EUROPEAN TO TRAVEL THIS VAST LAKE IN 1609. WATERWAYS WERE THE DOMINANT TRANSPORT ROUTES IN THE 17TH C, AND COMMAND OF THIS NARROW CHANNEL COULD CONTROL TRADE AND SETTLEMENT BETWEEN MONTREAL AND NEW YORK CITY. SINCE 1731, THIS AREA HAS BEEN OCCUPIED BY INDIGENOUS, FRENCH, BRITISH, AND COLONIAL FORCES ALL COMPETING FOR STRATEGIC AND COMMERCIAL CONTROL OF THIS CORRIDOR.

Three weeks after shots were fired in Lexington and Concord, George Washington ordered ordnance. Ethan Allen and General Benedict Arnold were dispatched to northern points, raiding Fort Ticonderoga in May 1775. Seth Warner and forty men were ordered to seize Crown Point the following day. The cannon and artillery recovered from both forts were inventoried, sent south via Lake George, across the Hudson River and through Massachusetts during the winter of 1775-76 by Henry Knox. Making good use of the arterial gains, Washington was successful in driving the British out of Boston in March 1776.

Emboldened by their success, Patriot commanders rallied behind the French. After a failed attempt to hold Quebec against the British, Allen and Arnold retreated to Crown Point, then Skenesborough, where Arnold built a fleet of gunboats to defend the colonies from the British counter-invasion. The first naval fleet set sail from Crown Point; but the colonists were defeated at Valcour Island in October 1776. The British recaptured Crown Point, and remained in small garrison until the end of the Revolutionary War in 1783.

In 1910, the forts and immediate surrounding land was gifted to New York State for preservation.

21 GRANDVIEW DRIVE
CROWN POINT, NY 12928

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Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
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Department of Environmental Conservation

Since 1976, the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, which preserves the forts and interprets their place in history, has administered the site. The staff at the site's museum will be happy to provide additional information.

JRW

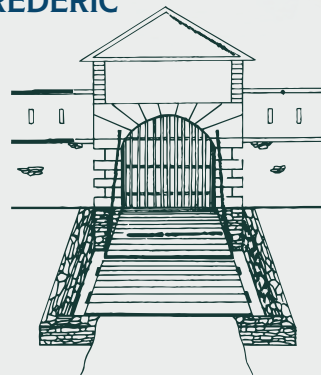
French settlements of la Nouvelle (New) France were sparse and limited to strategic locations along waterways. This offered frequent interaction with Native Peoples, allowing trade opportunities, but largely leaving Indian Nations in sovereign control of their land. Basing their claims to sovereignty on the voyages of Champlain, the French first constructed a small wooden palisade fort on the opposite side of this lake channel. In the fall of 1734, the French home government approved plans for a more permanent and imposing stone redoubt and fortress.

The fort was named for Jean-Frédéric Maurepas, the Minister of Maritime Affairs on the court of Louis XV. Completed in 1737, it housed a garrison of 200-300 men and provided safe harbor and encouragement to settlers inhabiting surrounding areas.

FORT ST. FRÉDÉRIC

1 ENTRY TO FORT ST. FRÉDÉRIC

This rectangle of stone marks the location of the dry moat, or ditch, that protected the entrance to Fort St. Frédéric. The ditch was about twelve feet deep. Entry was controlled by a drawbridge that spanned the ditch and by an iron gate (portcullis) that could be dropped to seal the entrance. The guardhouse was located just inside the fort wall. The entryway passed through the guardhouse and led into the main yard (parade ground). The guardhouse was a two-story structure that housed the King's Interpreter of Indian Languages, barracks, and a hospital. The end walls of the guardhouse can be seen about 20 feet to the right and left.



2 THE PARISH OF ST. FRÉDÉRIC

The stone chapel that stood here served the soldiers and settlers from the surrounding country. French soldiers usually retired at age forty and were then granted land near the fort. Civilian settlers were encouraged to relocate with incentives such as eighteen months of food and ten heads of cattle. Surviving records of births, deaths, baptisms, and marriages in the parish from 1731 to 1759 offer valuable information about their lives.

3 TERREPLEIN

You are standing on the terreplein (pronounced tear-a-plane) - the grass-covered walkway between the fort's inner and outer walls. This is where cannons were placed and where soldiers stood to fire muskets through slits in the outer wall. Originally, the outer wall was seven feet higher than it is today.

4 BAKERY / BEE HIVE OVENS

Below the inside wall of the terreplein are the remains of four beehive ovens where bread, a military staple, was baked. These structures were likely enclosed within a building and the ovens lined with brick. To heat the oven, a fire was first built inside. After the fire died down, the ash was raked out. The heat retained by the brick kept the oven warm for hours to allow for baking. In a single day, 900 loaves could be baked. Archaeological excavations conducted before stabilization of these remains revealed evidence of French ovens beneath them. Following the British capture of Crown Point in 1759, the British used the French ovens until they collapsed and had to be replaced.

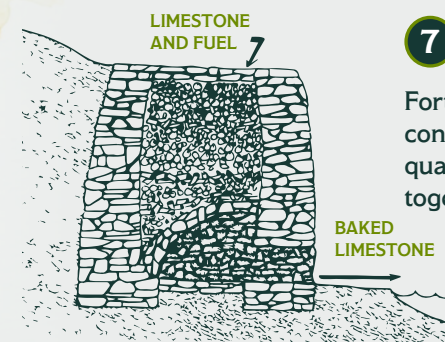
5 TOWER REDOUBT / CITADEL

This sandy area marks the dry ditch that protected the entrance to the redoubt - a four-story tower that

contained a bake oven, well, guardroom, storerooms, armory, dungeon, and commander's quarters. The redoubt's stone walls were twelve feet thick and six stories high, making it an imposing presence on the shoreline. The stone used to decorate doors, windows, and corners, had chiseled margins and bush-hammered (rough) centers, characteristic of the French style.

6 BASTION DU MOULIN

This corner of the fort was referred to as the Bastion du Moulin (mill) as it faced a stone windmill (where the Champlain Memorial now stands). The mill was used for grinding grain for flour but was additionally fortified with several cannons to also serve as an outpost fort. The wind blades were attached to a rotating wooden dome which could be turned to catch the prevailing winds.

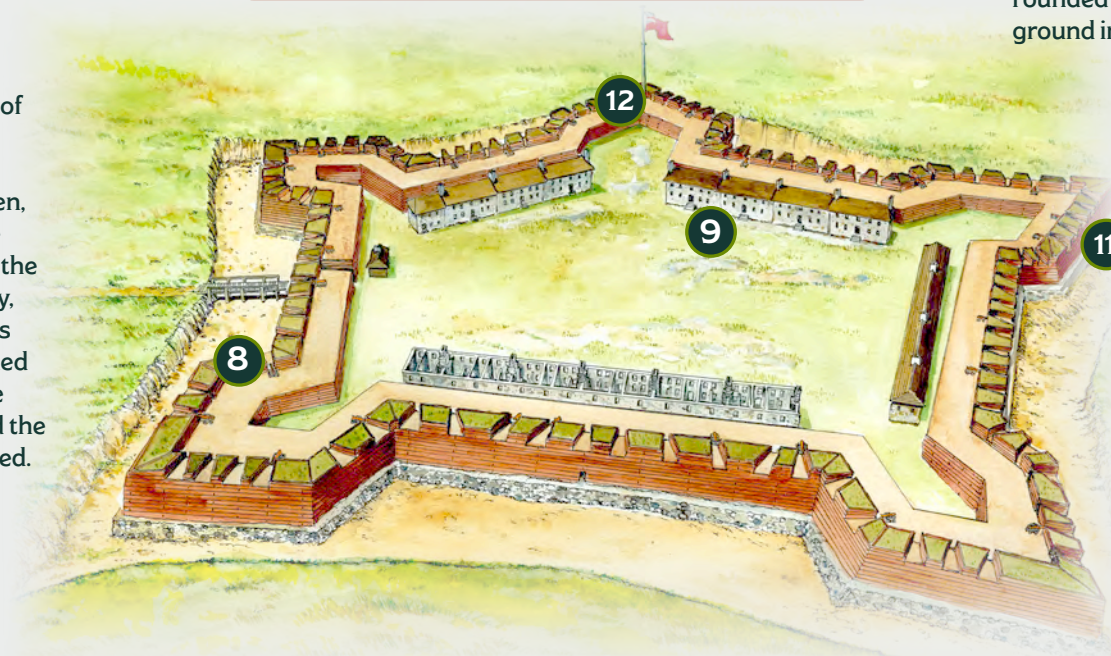


7 LIME KILNS

Fort St. Frederic was constructed with locally quarried stone held together with mortar. The mortar was made by baking chunks of limestone, crushing it into powder, and mixing

the powder with sand and water. The limestone was baked in enormous ovens known as kilns that were built into the banks along the shore. The round, stone-lined hole below the fence was once part of a limekiln.

HIS MAJESTY'S FORT OF CROWN POINT



General Jeffrey Amherst advanced up the lake in spring 1759 with 13,000 soldiers determined to capture Fort St. Frédéric. After the British seized Fort Carillon, the garrisons stationed here knew they could not hold this ground any longer; they evacuated, detonated the citadel and windmill, and withdrew to New France.

Amherst decided to utilize higher ground and beginning in 1759, it took more than 3,000 carpenters, masons and soldiers four years to complete construction of the British fort. Walls were constructed of squared logs that rose twenty-seven feet above the stone foundation. Crown Point is comprised of a system of fortifications encompassing the entire northern end of this peninsula.

8 ENTRANCE TO THE FORT

9 LIVING QUARTERS

The officers' barracks (left) and soldiers' barracks (right) show differences in construction, such as in the fireplaces and chimneys. The stone structures, to the right of the sign, were part of an officers' barracks that was never completed; they are now covered for protection. A two-story wooden armory was located across the parade ground directly ahead.

10 BRITISH VILLAGE + REDOUBTS

The commanding sightlines provided over land and water is evident here. Outside the western walls (to your right) was a village of a few dozen buildings inhabited by many retired and active-duty soldiers living outside the fort. To the south is the site of Gage's Redoubt - one of three smaller fortifications built to protect the main fortress from overland attack.

11 WALLS AND BOMBPROOFS

The walls of the British fort here were constructed of three parallel walls of squared timber supported by beams running through them to form a crib which was then filled with soil. Rooms called bombproofs were located within the inner sections of the wall. Today, rounded depressions at the southern end of the parade ground indicate where bombproofs were located.

In 1773, a chimney fire started in the soldiers' barracks. It spread through the log walls to the powder magazine, causing an enormous explosion that destroyed the bastion wall.

12 FLAG BASTION

A dry ditch was cut and blasted into the bedrock around the entire fort. This section of the dry ditch is approximately the same depth as it was in the eighteenth century. The timber walls were originally three times the height of the earth now resting on top of the stone foundations. Timber bracing was added temporarily to support and protect the exterior section of the wall.