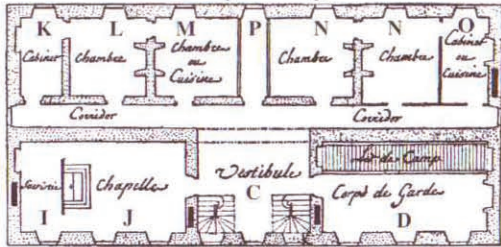


Elevation du côté du sud.

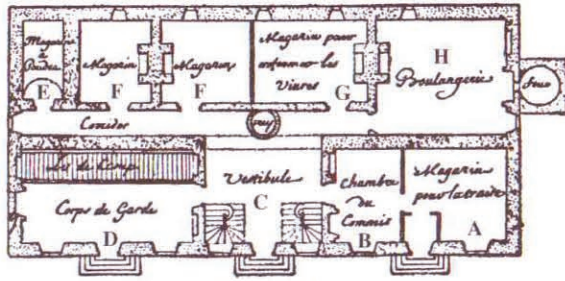


Plan du premier étage.



Second Floor

Plan de l'étage au-dessus du chaudière.



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 history of Old Fort Niagara spans more than 300 years. During the colonial wars in North America a fort at the mouth of the Niagara River was vital, for it controlled access to the Great Lakes and the westward route to the heartland of the continent. With the completion of the Erie Canal in 1825, however, the strategic value of Fort Niagara diminished. It nonetheless remained an active military post well into the 20th century.

The three flags flown daily above the parade ground symbolize the nations which have held Fort Niagara. Each competed for the support of a fourth nation: the powerful Iroquois Confederacy. The French established the first post here, Fort Conti, in 1679. Its successor, Fort Denonville (1687-88) was equally short-lived. In 1726 France finally erected a permanent fortification with the construction of the impressive "French Castle." Britain gained control of Fort Niagara in 1759, during the French & Indian War, after a nineteen-day siege. The British held the post throughout the American Revolution but were forced, by treaty, to yield it to the United States in 1796. Fort Niagara was recaptured by the British in 1813. It was ceded to the United States a second time in 1815 at the end of the War of 1812.

This was Fort Niagara's last armed conflict, and it thereafter served as a peaceful border post. The garrison expanded beyond the walls following the Civil War. Fort Niagara was a barracks and training station for American soldiers throughout both World Wars. The last army units were withdrawn in 1963. Today, the U.S. Coast Guard represents the only military presence on the site.

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, in cooperation with the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. Admission fees, Museum Shop sales, grants and donations provide support for operation of the site. Membership in the Old Fort Niagara Association is open to all. Ask for details at the entrance or the Museum Shop or contact:

Old Fort Niagara Association  
PO Box 169  
Youngstown, NY 14174-0169  
tel. (716) 745-7611 • www.oldfortniagara.org

## Follow the Tour

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 conduct demonstrations.

Please display your tickets.

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 behind the Bakehouse at Point 13.

## Snacks and Gifts

Available at the Museum Shop, Point 16.

## Your Tour of Old Fort Niagara

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, Great Britain and the United States, 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 are now uncovering their foundations.

Begin your tour at Point 1, which serves as an Orientation Center for visitors to Old Fort Niagara.

### Point 1 — The Provisions Storehouse (1762)

Constructed by the British, this building originally stood two 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.

### Point 2 — 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 supply 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. Exhibits on the history and archaeology of Old Fort Niagara are located at Point 2.

### Point 3 — Dauphin Battery and Gate of the 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 drawbridge was protected by five cannon located in the Dauphin Battery. The gun positions facing the Canadian shore were installed in the 1840s. The Dauphin Battery and the stone gatehouse were reconstructed in 1931.

From Point 3 you can see the hills of the Niagara Escarpment 8 miles (13km) upriver. On clear days the mist from Niagara Falls is sometimes visible 14 miles (22km) to the south.

### Point 4 — 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 5 — 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.

### Point 6 — Scarp Walls and Casemate Gallery (1872)

The earthwork walls of Fort Niagara 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 designed to contain 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 7 — The Land Defenses (1755-1872)

Although rebuilt in concrete and brick in the 1860s, these walls follow the lines laid out by the French in 1755. The center of the wall is pierced by the Sally Port, constructed in the 1860s.

The only way to reach the Sally Port from Point 7 is to descend the stairs at the North Bastion near Point 9.

The Outer Works include the large triangular "ravelin," smaller earthworks and a ditch. The ditch was kept dry and, with the other outworks, protected the main walls from cannon fire and assault. The Outer Works are restored to their appearance during the siege of 1759, during which the British established gun batteries within 100 yards (91m) of the Fort. The site of the nearest battery was among the buildings visible by the lake shore. Intense cannon fire from that point nearly demolished the Fort's North Bastion.

### Point 8 — The Three Historic Flags

Visible inside the Fort from Point 7 are the three historic flags commemorating the nations that have held Old 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, was returned to the museum in 1994.

### Point 9 — The North Redoubt (1771)

The two redoubts were literally forts within a fort. The main ditch did during the French occupation.

