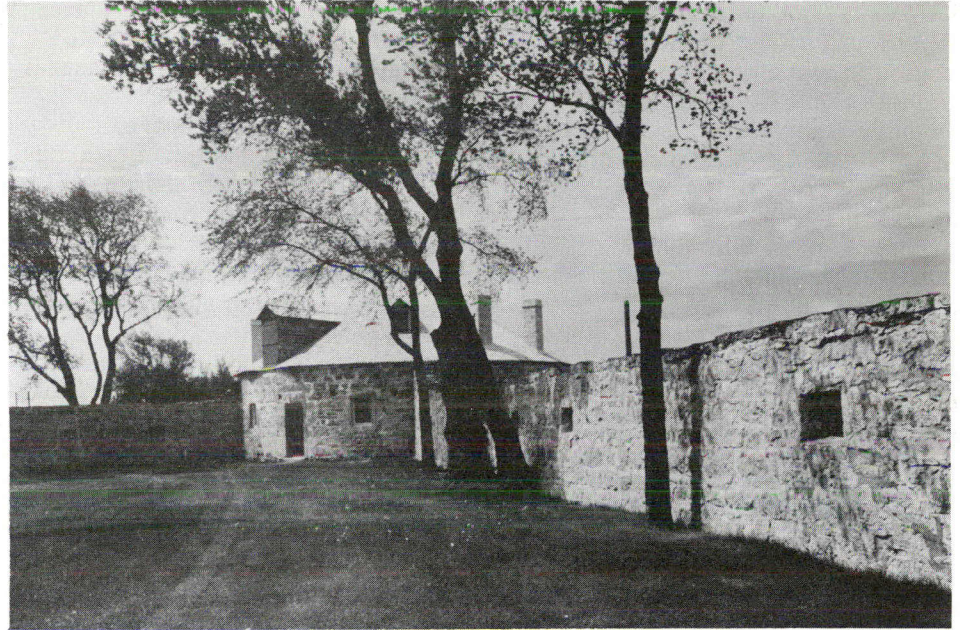


Extensive restoration program for Lower Fort Garry

Major development of Lower Fort Garry National Historic Park in Manitoba, will cost almost \$3 million during the next five years, the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs announced recently. This work at the stone fur-trade post on the banks of the Red River will complete the extensive restoration begun in 1964. The cost of that program was \$1.7 million.

Although the fort, 20 miles north of Winnipeg, looks with its limestone walls like a military post, it never saw battle. Construction was started in 1831 and it was used by the Hudson's Bay Company primarily as a fur-trade provisions centre. However, soldiers were stationed briefly at the fort in the mid-nineteenth century. In 1873-74, 150 recruits of the first contingent of North-West Mounted Police received their basic training at the fort prior to the "long march" to Fort Whoop-Up (near the present site of Lethbridge, Alberta). It also served as Manitoba's first penitentiary and, later, as an insane asylum.

The new development program will include restoration of the Warehouse/Penitentiary, the Men's House, the



The south-west bastion was used as a wash-house and cook-house, later as a storehouse and still later as a summer

Doctor's Office, the walls and the bastions.

But before this work is started, the highway running along the west side of the fort will be relocated with the co-operation of the Province of Manitoba. The realignment of Highway 9

house for the children of the Company Commissioner. (Photos courtesy of Department of Indian and Northern Affairs.)

will rid the area of traffic noises and restore calm to Lower Fort Garry. It will also provide space for visitor facilities.

History of Lower Fort Garry

- . In 1826, Upper Fort Garry (located at the present site of Winnipeg, Manitoba and named after Nicholas Garry, Deputy Governor of the Hudson's Bay Company) was severely damaged by flooding.
- . A new location 19 miles down the Red River was chosen and construction of Lower Fort Garry began in 1831. The walls and bastions of the fort were completed in 1848.
- . Upper Fort Garry was too firmly established, so the lower fort did not become the centre of the Red River Colony as expected by Governor George Simpson.
- . From 1831 to 1911, Lower Fort Garry housed a retail shop. A brewery, distillery, sawmill and flour mill were also located there. Crops were grown outside the fort's walls.
- . In 1846, the 6th Regiment of Foot were stationed at the fort because of threat of war between Britain and the United States.
- . The Warehouse, built to house supplies for the fur trade, was a military barracks (1846-48); a penitentiary (1871-77) and an insane asylum (1885-86).
- . The Men's House, built in the 1850s to house Hudson's Bay Company em-



The fur loft building, where the original fur press used by the Hudson's Bay Company still exists. Some of the marks

used to distinguish the bales belonging to the Company can be seen on the walls of the upper storeys.