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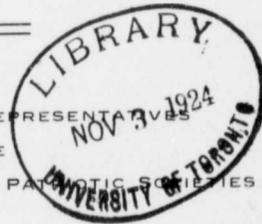


Ontario Historical Society

ORGANIZED 1888
INCORPORATED 1899

Memorandum to accompany the Plans
of the
Restoration of Old Fort York

SUBMITTED TO THE REPRESENTATIVES
OF THE
HISTORICAL, MILITARY AND PATRIOTIC SOCIETIES
AT
A MEETING IN THE CANADIAN INSTITUTE
12TH JANUARY, 1909



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BRITISH FORCES

Detachments of which have been Quartered in the
OLD FORT YORK and TORONTO
between 1795 and 1870.

1ST DRAGOON GUARDS.
19TH LIGHT DRAGOONS.

13TH HUSSARS.
GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S BODY
GUARD.

Royal Navy.
Royal Artillery.

10th Brigade Royal Garrison Artillery.
Royal Marine Artillery.

Royal Engineers.

Royal Sappers and Miners
Royal Military Train.

Queen's Rangers.
3rd York Militia.
8th King's Regiment.
Royal Newfoundland Regiment.
Glengarry Light Infantry.
Loyal Indians. (Givens.)
1st Royal Scots.
5th Foot.
6th Foot.
15th Foot.
16th Foot.
17th Foot.
20th Foot.
23rd Foot.
24th Foot.
30th Foot.
32nd Foot.
34th Foot.
37th Foot.
40th Foot.
41st Foot.
47th Foot.
49th Foot. (Brock's Regt.)

60th Rifles.
63rd Foot.
65th Foot.
68th Foot.
69th Foot.
70th Foot.
71st Foot.
73rd Foot.
76th Foot.
79th Foot.
81st Foot.
89th Foot.
93rd Foot.
100th Royal Canadians.
103rd Foot.
104th Foot.
1st York Militia.
1st Durham Militia.
De Watteville's Regiment.
Royal Canadian Volunteers.
Canadian Voltigeurs.
Canadian Fencibles.
Royal Canadian Rifles.

Compiled with the assistance of the Archives Department, Ottawa.
Ontario Historical Society, 12th Jan., 1909.

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County Societies under Affiliation with the Ontario Historical Society

Peel Pioneer Historical Society.....	Brampton
Wentworth Historical Society.....	Hamilton
Simcoe Pioneer and Historical Society.....	Barrie
Belleville and Bay of Quinte Historical Society.....	Belleville
Thorold and Beaver Dams Historical Society.....	Thorold
Elgin County Historical Society.....	St. Thomas
Norfolk County Historical Society.....	Simcoe
Women's Elgin Historical Society.....	St. Thomas
London and Middlesex County Historical Society.....	London
Ottawa Women's Canadian Historical Society.....	Ottawa
Bruce County Historical Society.....	Southampton
The Huron Institute.....	Collingwood
Lennox and Addington County Historical Society.....	Napanee
Lundy's Lane Historical Society.....	Niagara Falls
Women's Wentworth Historical Society.....	Hamilton
Grenville County Historical Society.....	Prescott
Kingston and Frontenac Historical Society.....	Kingston
Niagara Historical Society.....	Niagara-on-the-Lake
Oxford County Historical Society.....	Woodstock
Peterborough Historical Society.....	Peterborough
Halton County Historical Society.....	Milton
Lambton County Historical Society.....	Sarnia
Women's Bowmanville Historical Society.....	Bowmanville
Victoria County Historical Society.....	Lindsay
Essex County Historical Society.....	Windsor
Northumberland County Historical Society.....	Cobourg
Tecumseth Historical Society.....	Thamesville
Brant Historical Society.....	Brantford
Thunder Bay Historical Society.....	Fort William
Canadian Methodists' Historical Society.....	Toronto
Women's Canadian Historical Society.....	Toronto
Imperial Order Daughters of Empire.....	Toronto
U. E. Loyalists' Association.....	Hamilton
York Pioneer and Historical Society.....	Toronto
U. E. Loyalists' Association.....	Toronto

Societies Associated in Defence of the Fort.

Army and Navy Veterans.....	Toronto
Veterans of 1866.....	Toronto
Battleford Column Association.....	Toronto
North-West Field Force Association, 1885.....	Toronto
South African Veteran Association.....	Toronto
The Navy League.....	Toronto
British Empire League.....	Toronto
Canadian Club.....	Toronto
St. George's Society.....	Toronto
Ontario Society of Artists.....	Toronto
The Board of Education.....	Toronto
Old Fort Protection Association.....	Toronto



View from Half-Moon Battery looking west. Stanley Barracks in the distance.

From "The Old Fort"—J. E. Geeson.

Memorandum to Accompany the Plans for the Restoration of Old Fort York Prepared by the Ontario Historical Society.

FOR a number of years there have been discussions in progress with respect to the use and future of this OLD FORT. When in 1903, it was agreed with the Dominion Government that this Fort property would, together with the other Ordnance lands comprising the Garrison Common, be transferred to the City of Toronto, it was a part of the Agreement that this old Fort should be "restored and maintained by the City as an Historical Memorial for ever."

While there have been many projects suggested, with respect to a use to be made of it, there have been no plans proposed for its restoration, and much unrest has been thereby occasioned.

The Ontario Historical Society, on behalf of the County Historical and Patriotic Societies in Ontario, and of the local Societies in Toronto, has been actively interesting itself in its preservation and restoration.

In negotiations opened with the Mayor of Toronto in July last, I undertook, on behalf of the Society, that if the City would make surveys of the Fort as it now exists, and of the land attached to it, the Society would prepare the necessary plans for its restoration.

It had been ascertained by the Society that considerable encroachment had been made upon the Fort property, as originally reserved and agreed to be conveyed to the City by the Government.

The preliminary work, desired, has been done by the City, and these encroachments are shown on the City's plan submitted herewith.

The boundaries marked thereon show the original outlines of the Old Fort property reserved years ago by the Government, for the preservation of the Fort, and none of which has been patented to any other parties, the title still remaining in the Crown.

On the NORTH side, the Grand Trunk yard, as at present appearing to be used, comes closer than it should to the north side of the road from the Bathurst Street bridge, and also to the foot of the NORTH-EASTERN Ramparts. At the EAST end the original Eastern Bastion, from which the "12 Noon Gun" of Old Times, used to be fired, has been entirely cut down by the occupants of the Park Blackwell Co., and they have also come too closely to the SOUTH-EASTERN Ramparts. The rest of the Fort property is practically undisturbed.

The plan for Restoration now presented, prepared under the instructions of the Society by Messrs. Langley & Howland, is based upon the retaining by the City of the whole of the Fort property, but with the exception of the eastern bastion, cut away by the Park Blackwell Co., can at once be proceeded with.

The earliest original plans have been obtained by the courtesy of Dr. Doughty, of the Dominion Archives at Ottawa, the whole of the Imperial Ordnance plans affecting Canada having recently been transferred to the Archives by the Imperial authorities.

In the plan of November, 1813, which includes a large part of the adjacent neighborhood, the location and details of the Old Fort, as then existing are shown, practically in general outline the same as at present. The valley of the Garrison Creek is shown, and the elevated knoll on which the Fort was situated, with the Creek running along its foot and forming the ditch for the northern bastion.

In the plan of March, 1816, the details of the ramparts and interior buildings of the Fort are separately given with detailed measurements and cross-sections. This plan is also published in Robertson's Landmarks, page 293, Vol. V.

In the plan of November, 1851, a survey made by Mr. (now Sir) Sandford Fleming shows the Fort still intact, the Creek still running along its northern and around its eastern ramparts. The buildings and the interior are practically the same as in 1816, and most of the buildings shown are still existing.

Comparison of the plan prepared by the City, with these original plans, and examination on the ground show that the ramparts of

the Fort exist exactly on the same alignment as of old, but sadly worn away by the wasting of well nigh one hundred years

The Society's Plan, now presented, builds the old Ramparts up again to their original condition, and restores them as a complete Fortress.

At the WEST there was originally a sunken ditch for the protection of the Western Batteries. This was filled in at the time of the construction of the Garrison sewer by the City. It is proposed that it shall be restored to its original condition, and the earth excavated applied to the restoration of the earth-work of the ramparts. The top of the Ramparts will be 15 feet in width, on this it is proposed there should be a promenade, following the whole circuit of the fortress, and having on the South face, overlooking the Lake, seats placed for the use of visitors.

At the foot of the Ramparts, outside, will be replaced the continuous line of wood pickets, which originally encircled the Fort, and are peculiar to this class of Stockaded Forts. Some of these pickets are still in place, and are also shown in early drawings and photographs, being pointed, and set inclining outwards at an angle, as a *chevaux de frise*, and forming the Palisades.

At the EAST and WEST entrances, at the ends of the original roadway, as still existing through the Fort, it is proposed that there should be erected two Memorial Gates, of adequate character, following the examples of the restoration of the ramparts at Quebec, and providing, as there, a continuous footway over the roadway and around the ramparts. One of these to be known as the "Brock" Gate, the other as the "Simcoe" Gate, in memory of the two leading Personages in our history when the Fort was first established.

The roadway to the Eastern gate would rise up to the entrance as of old. The Western gate would communicate with the road to the west by a suitable bridge crossing over the restored sunken ditch.

In the INTERIOR, the batteries will be replaced, as per the original plans, and the guns, which in later years have been removed, and are reported to be in store elsewhere, will be placed back in position.

The buildings of the Barracks, Block Houses and Magazines, which practically remain in the same positions as in 1816, will be repaired.

At the EAST end, next the east gate, there was the "Officers' and Men's Guard Houses," having a verandah in front, as shown in the drawing in "Robertson's Landmarks," page 7, Vol. VIII., and on

the plan of 1816. In this the "Queen's Rangers Lodge," or Lodge No. 3 of Ancient York Masons, met in 1799-1800. It is proposed that this building shall be restored in its original form.

Near the NORTH-WEST bastion there is still in fair order the one-storey brick "Senior Officers' Quarters" of 1813. In the cellar is still remaining the solid masonry vault, in which the "military chest" of the Province used to be kept. This building has been held in continuous occupation as Headquarters, either for the Garrison or for the Military District, since its inception, until a few years ago, when the headquarters were removed to the Stanley Barracks.

In the SOUTH RAMPARTS is the "No. 1 BLOCKHOUSE," on a stone foundation, in the exact position shown on the plan of November, 1813, and so indexed, again on a plan of July, 1814, and again on the plan of 1816.

On the NORTH side of the roadway are two long, one-storey Barracks. These buildings are constructed of hewn logs, but are now clapboarded. They are divided into four cottages, each with large, quaint fire-places in the low-ceilinged rooms.

In the CENTRE are, the original POWDER MAGAZINE; the large No. 2 BLOCKHOUSE, with flagstaff above, and the STONE MAGAZINE, over the doorway of which there is cut on the keystone the inscription, "34 Geo. III.," making its date 1794.

At the WEST end, on each side of the western roadway, are still existing, but in sad repair, the original "SOLDIERS' BARRACKS," being two long, one-storey brick buildings, each divided into three cottages.

All these buildings are shown and indexed on the plan of 1816. There is, therefore, ample material for restoration. It is suggested that these buildings and barracks when restored might well be used as museums and as permanent quarters for old Military Veterans, who would be the guardians of the Fort and guides for visitors.

If the names of the Regiments, which in the last hundred years have been quartered within this old Fort, were placed over the doors, there would be a noble record which would include almost all the older regiments of the British Army which have served in America and the Regiments early raised in Canada for her defence, which were afterwards either disbanded or merged into other regiments.

The Restoration proposed is a simple and practical one, which can be immediately begun, and which would preserve the memories of this historic spot for the education of our youth, be a reverend Memorial to the men who gallantly served our country and be an attraction to the travelling public and for the enjoyment of our own Citizens.

These Plans are respectfully submitted by the Ontario Historical Society to the Historical and Military Societies for their consideration.

BARLOW CUMBERLAND,
President O.H.S.

Toronto, 12th January, 1909.

Extract from the Address of Major-General Brock when opening the House of Assembly of Upper Canada, at York, on 27th July, 1812:

"We are engaged in an awful and eventful contest. By unanimity and despatch in our councils and by vigour in our operations, we may teach the enemy this lesson, that a country defended by free men, enthusiastically devoted to the cause of their King and Constitution, cannot be conquered."