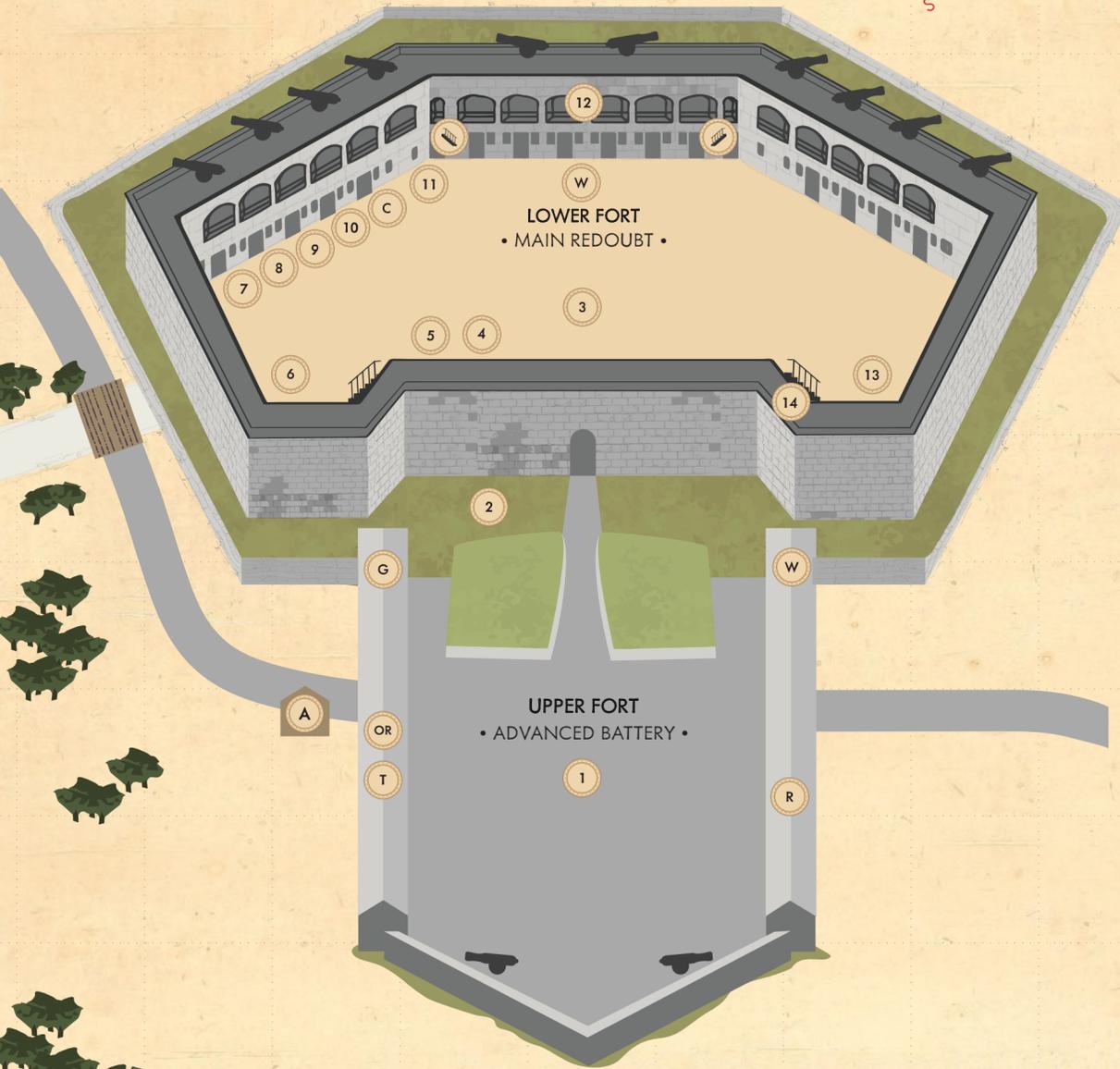


FORT HENRY SELF-GUIDED TOUR

MAP OF FORT HENRY



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You are about to witness the past come to life. As you travel through Fort Henry you will see what it would have looked like garrisoned by the British Army in the year 1867.

Discover Fort Henry's storied past in its place as the Citadel of Upper Canada.

A

ADMISSIONS

Fort Henry was built from 1832–1837 to defend the terminus of the Rideau Canal and the Naval Dockyard in Kingston Harbour. When completed it was the largest and most costly fortification built in British North America west of Quebec City and was designed as the key site in a network of fortifications for the defence of Kingston and its harbour.

1

ADVANCED BATTERY

Initially separate from the main redoubt, the 32-pounder guns of this battery controlled the entrance to the naval dockyards and Kingston Harbour. The two long buildings on either side are the Commissariat Stores. These two long ranges of buildings were built to house various functions that did not need to be in the main redoubt. The arched ceilings of the rooms called casemates helped protect those inside against "bombs" (explosive cannonballs).

2

DRY DITCH

The entire redoubt is surrounded by a dry ditch, measuring 12 metres (40 feet) wide and 9 metres (30 feet) deep. Faced with stone, this barrier was too big to be easily crossed—attackers trying to do so would be exposed to rifle fire from loopholes in the walls.

3

PARADE SQUARE

This roughly rectangular space was where the upward-firing mortars were located, infantry soldiers drilled, and special events took place. Below the parade square were five giant cisterns that held the Fort's water supply.

4

GARRISON CELLS

The four sets of garrison cells were used to keep soldiers being punished for minor crimes with the most common being drunkenness. Detention was either solitary or mixed. Solitary confinement meant the prisoners could not leave their cell except for fresh air while mixed confinement meant that hard labour was given as well, such as breaking stones and extra cleaning duties.

5

PRIVIES

The men's and women's privies were used by the rank and file soldiers and their families. Fresh water was collected in five underground water cisterns underneath the Parade Square and held behind a sluice gate. Occasionally the gate would be opened to flush the waste from the privies through a drainage tunnel that led west into Navy Bay.

6

OFFICERS' QUARTERS

The single storey walls on the west and east sides accommodated the commissioned officers in private rooms along with the Officers Mess, the place where they ate and socialized. British Officers during the nineteenth century reflected the British social system. Commissioned Officers held the social rank of gentlemen and came from families that could afford to purchase rank in the Army and support the lifestyle that was expected of them.

7

REVERSE FIRE CHAMBERS

In the north-west and north-east corners of the redoubt, a space was dug into the far side of the ditch, with gun ports facing the redoubt's walls. Any soldier trying to cross the ditch or scale the walls would have been fired at by the three 18-pounder carronades that provided "reverse fire" from this chamber.

8

MARRIED QUARTERS

Regiments allowed a certain number of soldiers to marry provided they received permission which depended on rank, good conduct badges, and that the soldier's future wife was of "good character" in the opinion of the commanding officer. Each family was given a set area of their own in the room divided with posts and hanging curtains.

9

SCHOOLROOM

Fort Henry's military school system was run in the schoolroom by qualified schoolmasters and schoolmistresses where during the day, children, and during the night, soldiers, would attend class. In the morning infants' classes, spelling, reading, and singing were taught whereas reading, writing, dictation, geography, and arithmetic was taught to the older children. Soldiers' class included reading, writing, and arithmetic as they were integral to future advancements in the soldiers' military career.

10

BAKERY

The brick-lined ovens were designed to bake the large amounts of bread required daily by the garrison. The purpose of having the ovens built within Fort Henry was to be able to keep feeding the garrison even if the Fort was under siege.

11

SOLDIER'S COOKHOUSE

Each soldier was issued daily as much as 1.5 pounds of bread, 1 pound of potatoes, and ¾ pound of meat as well as smaller amounts of coffee, tea, sugar, salt, and pepper. In the cookhouse a boiled meat and potato stew was the regular meal the soldiers cooked for their noontime meal.

12

BALCONY ROOMS

Most of the Fort's living quarters were built into the depth of the north-facing walls. Soldiers lived in casemated rooms on the upper level, while storerooms were located on the lower level. Today they house various museum exhibits featuring artefacts which tell various parts of Fort Henry's history.

13

INTERNMENT EXHIBITS

Fort Henry was used as an Internment Camp facility during the 1838 Rebellions and the First and Second World Wars. Artefacts and narratives are featured in these two rooms.

14

RAMPARTS

The top of the redoubt formed a platform for much of Fort Henry's garrison artillery. There would have been 19 guns for use to defend against a land attack from the North. The 24-pounder guns had a maximum range of 1800 metres.

SAFETY INFORMATION

- » Do not climb on the walls, bleachers, or cannons
- » Exercise caution as doorways are low and staircases can be narrow and steep
- » There are loud noises during historic weapons demonstrations
- » This site is smoke/vape free