

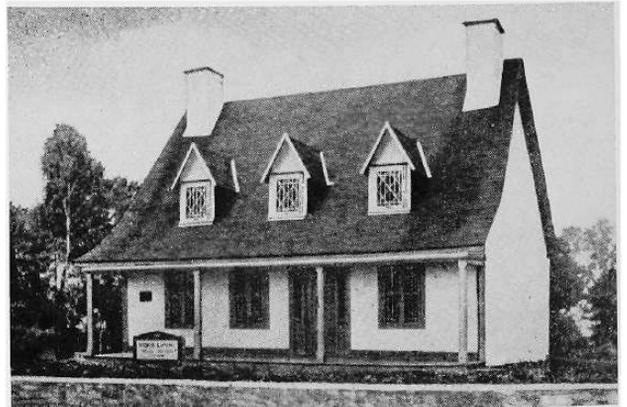
Fur Trade Sites: CANADA

J. D. HERBERT

Mr. Herbert is the director of the Manitoba Museum of Man and Nature in Winnipeg. His illustrated talk, entitled "Canadian Historic Sites of the Fur Trade," was presented at the North American Fur Trade Conference on November 2, 1965. The brief explanatory text which accompanies this photographic essay is adapted from Mr. Herbert's talk. The sites are confined to those where structural remains still exist or where significant excavations have taken place.

IT IS OCCASIONALLY forgotten that the fur trade began much earlier than we may think and that it had its beginnings on the extreme east of this continent. Port Royal (above) was established by Pierre Du Gua de Monts in 1605 on the Minas Basin off the Bay of Fundy. Destroyed by the British in 1613, its remains were discovered and its restoration was begun in 1938.

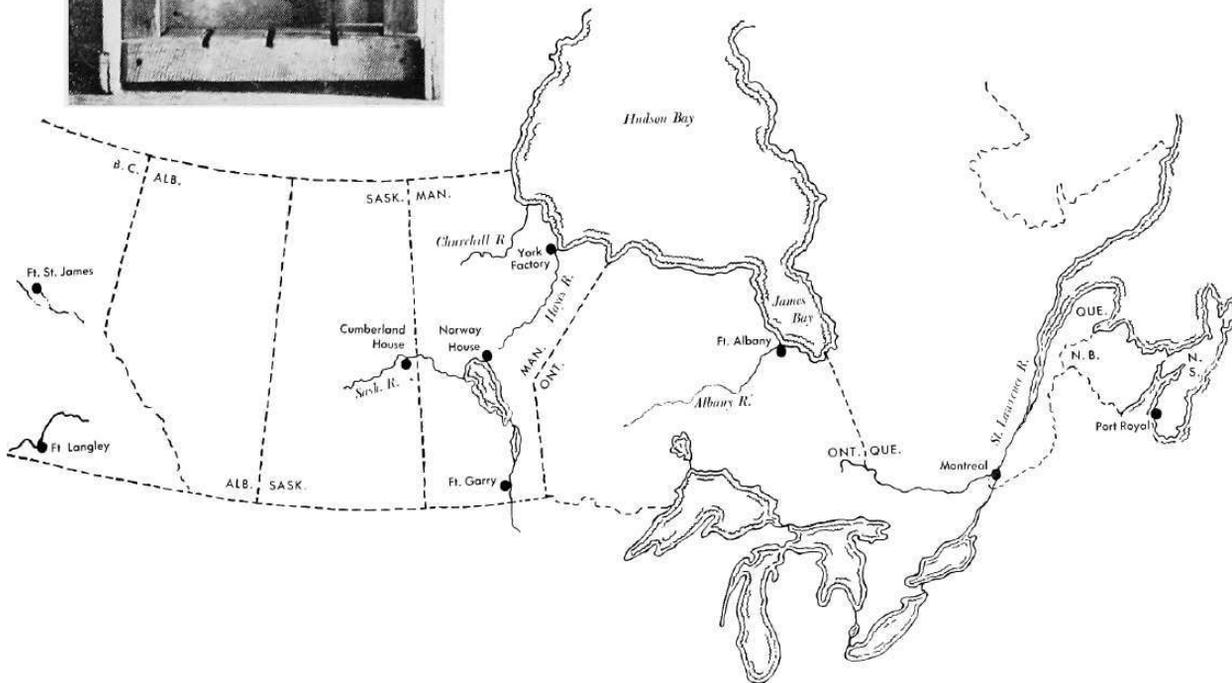
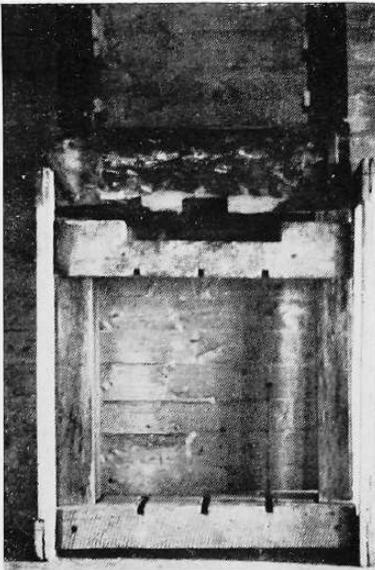
Le Manoir Lachine (lower right), in the general vicinity of Montreal on Lac St. Louis, is associated with Sieur de la Salle and was constructed about 1670. It may well be the oldest house in Canada. To the north and west, along the Albany River in Ontario is the site of the Hudson's Bay Company's Fort Albany (lower left). The old store pictured here was built approximately a hundred years ago. It has recently been demolished.

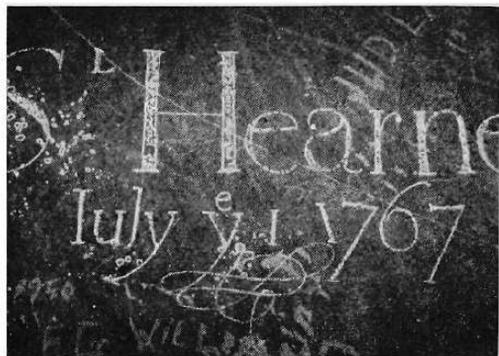




YORK FACTORY stands on the bank of the Hayes River in Manitoba where it empties into the western side of Hudson Bay. The warehouse (above) is the only building remaining. Although it still belongs to the Hudson's Bay Company, it has been abandoned for a decade and is rapidly deteriorating through vandalism and neglect.

At the left is a fur press used until fairly recent years at York Factory — surely the latest of its kind in North America. It is made of solid English oak timbers and uses neither a screw nor a lever, the weight of the wood being sufficient to compress the skins.

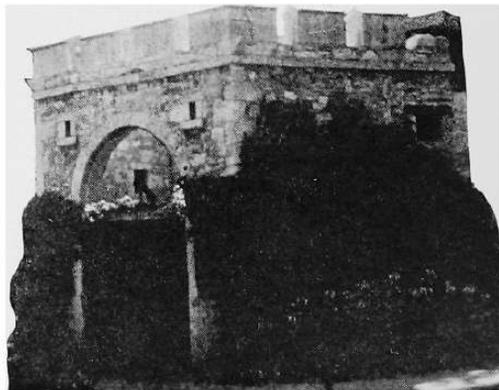


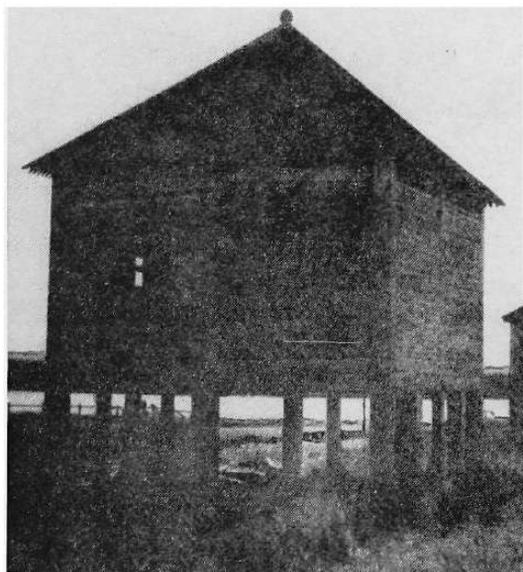


PRINCE OF WALES FORT (upper left) was established in the 1730s by the Hudson's Bay Company. Situated on the north side of the mouth of the Churchill River, this stone stronghold had forty-foot walls which defied French attempts to demolish it in 1781. This Manitoba fort is a national historic park, administered by the Canadian government, and has been partially restored. Up the Churchill about two miles is Sloop's Cove where in 1767 Samuel Hearne chiseled his name on this rock (top right). Inland and south at Playgreen Lake and the Jack River stands Norway House (center), erected about 1825 and owned by the Hudson's Bay Company. The most complete fur trade fort



remaining in Canada is Lower Fort Garry (lower left), constructed during the 1830s and 1840s. A national historic park since 1951, it is the pride of the National Parks Branch. This photograph is of the southwest bastion which looks as it did when first built. All that is left of Upper Fort Garry is a stone gate (lower right), today belonging to the city of Winnipeg. Now in the heart of the downtown area, this fort was erected in 1835 near the junction of the Red and Assiniboine rivers.





WESTWARD in Saskatchewan, in the midst of a more modern establishment, stands the old stone magazine at Cumberland House (upper left). Its exact age is unknown, but it is reputedly over a hundred years old. Much farther west, in British Columbia, is Fort Langley, built on the left bank of the Fraser River in 1827. This view (center) shows one of the buildings which has been reconstructed by the National Parks Branch.

At Stuart Lake, farther north in the same province, Simon Fraser erected a post in 1807 which came to be known as Fort St. James. This picture (upper right) is of a fish cache, possibly the only one of its kind in Canada, which points up the fact that the inland posts of this area survived on the annual salmon catch. The last photograph in this east-to-west look at Canada's fur trade sites is the bastion at Nanaimo on Vancouver Island (right) which, strictly speaking, had nothing to do with the trade. Although it was built in 1852 by the Hudson's Bay Company, it was designed to protect a town established to develop coal mines for the British Royal Navy. The structure was moved from its original site a short distance away in 1891.





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