



The Grand Portage Guide



Grand Portage: Once a Good Site, Always a Good Site

Superintendent Tim Cochrane

The popular real estate adage: “Location, location, location,” certainly applies to Grand Portage National Monument. Further, the adage applies through time, from antiquity to today. The Grand Portage route – used in prehistory and history – is but one example of the importance of location. The Grand Portage is aptly located to marry continental travel and trade networks by water routes and more immediately to avoid a nasty series of falls and rapids on the lower Pigeon River. If you were hauling heavy packs over the Portage, you might also appreciate its physical layout which minimizes the toil of extraneous climbs and descents while making steady progress towards the other end.

There are many other examples of the importance of location here at Grand Portage, some “grand” and others perhaps less well known. The current “picnic area” east of the historic depot area, on the other side of Grand Portage Creek, is a great example of how a “good site” was re-occupied and re-used through time. There are layers of history in this “picnic ground,” including an ancient camp site. Ancestors of Ojibwe and other tribes camped here and used stone tools. Much later, the North West Company’s men camped here, carrying their large canoes up on shore and when upside down, these canoes provided temporary shelter. On this location, the U.S. Indian Department built a school; later its successor the Bureau of Indian Affairs built a warehouse and store. One Grand Portage headman, Charley Muckazo, lived below the crest of the small knoll there. Master Ojibwe artisans, the sisters, Mrs. Spruce and Mrs. Tamarack resided just below the stone bridge. They could make just about anything using materials gathered nearby, including canoes, decorative woven cedar mats, dolls, birch bark containers, and moccasins.

One mostly forgotten enterprise that was perched atop the knoll in the picnic area was the American Fur Company’s fish station, operating from roughly 1836-1841. When profits from furs began to diminish, the American Fur Company

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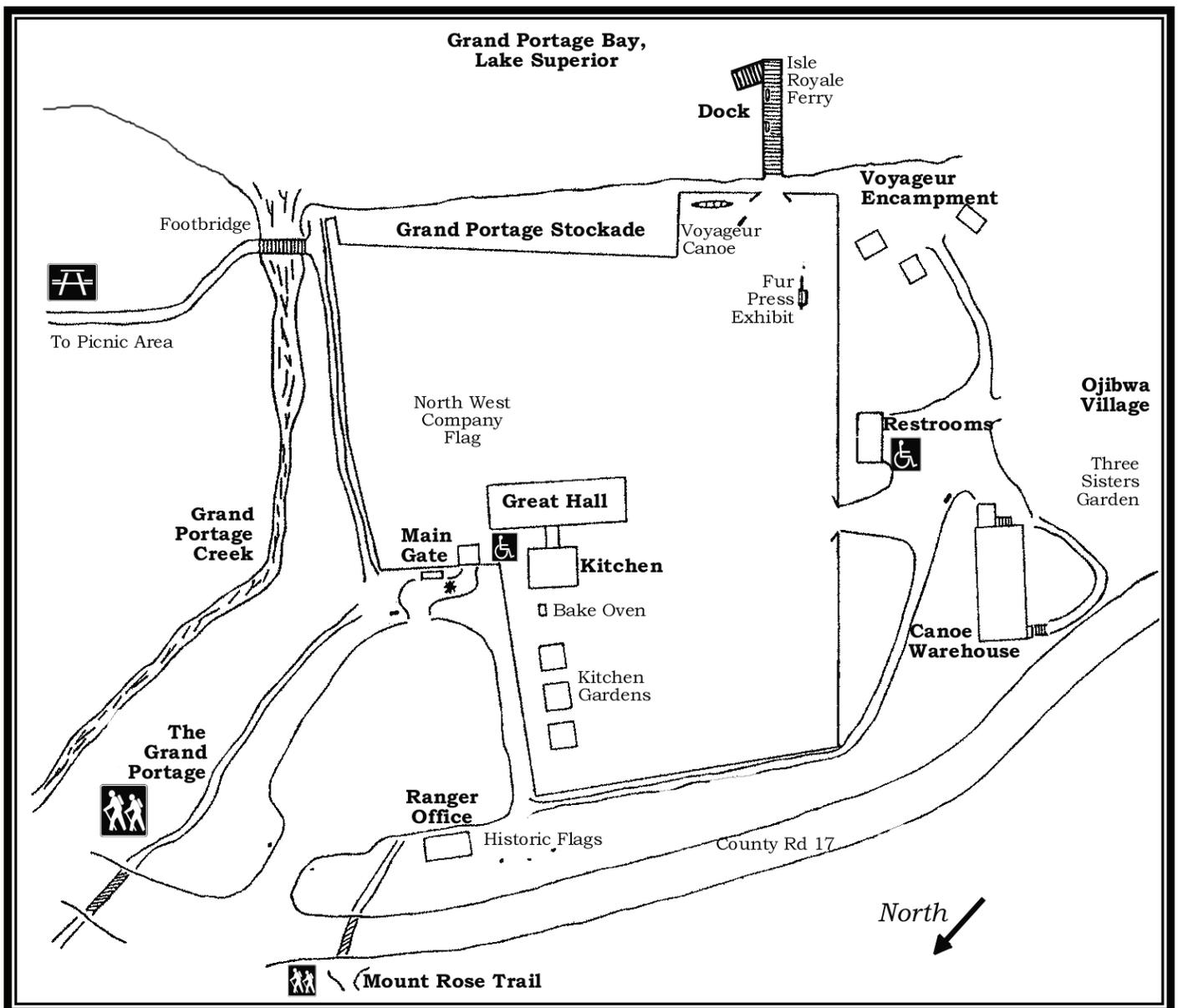
Boozhoo Bonjour Welcome

Welcome to Grand Portage. We are pleased you are here and exploring "Portage" with us. There is much to see and do. Please join our interpreters and participate in the past. Please ask us about the fur trade and its ingenious technology, or its novel customs. Or come and learn about the intrinsic links between the fur traders and the nearby residents, the Grand Portage Ojibwe.

The Staff of Grand Portage National Monument

A GUIDE TO HELP YOU FIND YOUR WAY AT GRAND PORTAGE NATIONAL MONUMENT

More than 200 years ago, the North West Company concentrated its business activities in and around the stockade. Four of the most important structures have been reconstructed on their original foundations: The Great Hall, kitchen, warehouse, and gatehouse. National Park Service employees staff these buildings. You will find rangers wearing dress appropriate to the period, or in the NPS uniform. The stockade and most of the buildings are open daily from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.



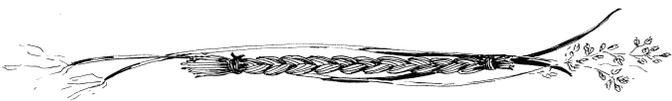
ACTIVITIES & RANGER-CONDUCTED PROGRAMS

LIVING HISTORY DEMONSTRATIONS

Come to the Voyageur Encampment and Ojibwe Village, where you will see demonstrations of Ojibwe and voyageur life in the late 1700s. While there, see our American Indian Three Sisters garden, and witness the firing of a North West Company trade gun.

Visit the Great Hall, historically furnished circa 1790s. Also in the Great Hall, there is a Try-It-On historic clothing exhibit where *you* can fit into history!

Follow your nose to the kitchen, where you can see period cooking and baking demonstrations from mid-June through early September. Don't miss our historic heirloom garden and outdoor bake oven located just behind the kitchen.



RANGER-CONDUCTED INTERPRETIVE PROGRAMS

History comes alive when you take part in an interpretive program here at Grand Portage. Park rangers will transport you back in time, where you can become part of the story that unfolds before you!

These programs range in length from 20 minutes to 60 minutes. Be sure and check the “Program” sign next to the main gate for program topics, locations, and starting times. *Please note: Our program schedule is subject to change without notice due to staffing or weather conditions.*

VIDEO PRESENTATIONS

We offer video programs, on request, inside the Great Hall. A staff member there will be happy to start a program for you. There are several to choose from:

- The Northwest Passage – Running time is 10 minutes
- On the Road With Charles Kuralt – Running time is 5 minutes.
- The Voyageur – Running time is 20 minutes.
- The Birch Bark Canoe Builder – Running time is 30 minutes.

SELF-GUIDED ACTIVITIES

HIKING TRAILS

The Grand Portage: The 8½-mile *Grand Portage* is open for hiking. Two campsites are available for primitive camping at Fort Charlotte. A free permit is required, and can be obtained at the ranger station or at one of three registration boxes located along the Grand Portage.

Mt. Rose Trail: The Mt. Rose trail, located across from the parking lot entrance, is a paved ½-mile-long nature trail which climbs 300 feet for a spectacular vista of the depot and Lake Superior. Approximate hiking time is 1 hour. A self-guiding trail brochure is available at the trail head.

BROCHURES AVAILABLE

We offer several brochures for your use and enjoyment:

- NPS Grand Portage Map and Guide
- Ojibwe Lifeways
- Historic Garden
- Bird Checklist
- Mt. Rose Trail

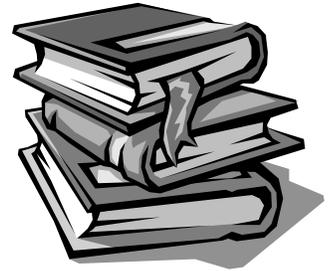
JUNIOR RANGER PROGRAM

Become a Grand Portage Junior Ranger! This program, for kids ages 7 to 13, is free. Activity guides can be picked up at the Great Hall. You should allow at least 1½ hours to complete this activity. When finished, kids are awarded a Junior Ranger badge and a Voyageur's contract. This is a family activity and we encourage parents to get involved and enjoy the program with their kids! Children under the age of 7, or those with special needs, will require the assistance of an adult.

BOOKS WORTH BROWSING

To help alleviate the isolation of winter posts, the North West Company provided reading materials. Daniel Harmon, a North West Company clerk wrote,

“Most of our leisure moments (and which is nearly nine tenths of our time) will be spent reading, and conversing on what we have read.”



The following titles may be found in *your* local library:

“Keeping Promises: What is Sovereignty and Other Questions About Indian Country” by Betty Reid and Ben Winton, 2004. Western National Parks Association, Tucson, AZ . 39 pg.

“The Yellowknife Journal” by Jean Steinbruck & Harry Duckworth, 1999. Signature Editions, 72 pg.

“Early Fur Trade on the Northern Plains: Canadian Traders Among Mandan & Hidatsa Indians, 1738-1818” by W. Raymond Wood & Thomas D. Thiessen, 1985. University of Oklahoma Press, Norman, OK. 353 pg.

“Crucible of War: The Seven Year’s War and Fate of Empire in British North America” by Fred Anderson, 2001. Vintage Press, 912 pg.

“North of Athabaska: Slave Lake and Mackenzie River Documents of the North West Company, 1800-1821” by Lloyd Keith (editor), 2001. McGill-Queen’s University Press, Montreal & Kingston, Canada. 504 pg.

“The Open-Hearth Cookbook” by Suzanne Goldenson, 2006. Alan C. Hood & Company, Inc., Chambersburg, PA. 164 pg.

These books are also available at the Eastern National bookstore in the Grand Portage National Monument’s Great Hall.

The Grand Rendezvous

Ranger Karl Koster

The hustle and bustle of summer activity peaked with the North West Company Rendezvous held here at Grand Portage. This was the time when furs from wintering posts, which reached into Canada, were delivered down the historic *Grand Portage*. The annual Rendezvous is still celebrated here during the second full weekend of August. The event is held in conjunction with the Rendezvous Days and Pow Wow, sponsored by the Grand Portage Band of

Lake Superior Chippewa. The annual gathering is our biggest and grandest celebration of the year, a time when Grand Portage comes alive and reflects on its rich heritage. Re-enactors from across the country and Canada gather to camp and challenge each other. This is one event you do not want to miss. Music, dancing, craft demonstrations, and hands-on workshops ensure an exciting weekend at the National Monument.



FRIENDS OF GRAND PORTAGE



As a member of our non-profit association, you can support the National Monument. We invite you to join us for the opportunity to be personally involved in Grand Portage's vibrant historic & contemporary communities.

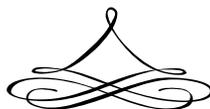
Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State/Province _____ Zip/Postal Code _____

- Keep me posted on Friends of Grand Portage news by e-mail at: _____
- I love Grand Portage! Please contact me, because I'd like to assist the board to plan events & projects!
- Enclosed is my check (US funds) payable to *Friends of Grand Portage*. My dues or contributions are tax-deductible, because we are a 501(c) 3 organization. Enroll me for the current year as a:

- Patron \$100
- Sustaining Member \$50
- Contributing Member \$35



- Regular Member \$25
- Student Member \$10
- Add'l contribution \$ _____

Mail to: Friends of Grand Portage, c/o MHS, 345 Kellogg Blvd. W., St. Paul, MN 55102-1906

Past Meets Present in the North West Company Kitchen

Ranger Steve Veit

The year could be 1797. Wood fires burn, fish is cooked over open coals on the kitchen hearth, and the aroma of baking bread wafts from the outdoor bake ovens as Ojibwe women and voyageur laborers hurry to prepare a mid-day feast for the partners of the North West Company at their interior headquarters at Grand Portage.

Alexander Mackenzie, a prominent North West Company partner and 18th century explorer, recalled the assorted social classes and some of the dining fare found at the Rendezvous in the late 18th century, “The mode of living at the Grand Portage is as follows: The proprietors, clerks, guides, and interpreters mess together, to the number of sometimes an hundred, at several tables, in one large hall, the provision consisting of bread, salt pork, beef, hams, fish, and venison, butter, peas, Indian corn, potatoes, tea, spirits, wine, &c. and plenty of milk, for which purpose several milch cows are constantly kept. The mechanics have rations of such provision, but the canoe-men, both from the North and Montreal, have no other allowance here, or in the voyage, than Indian corn and melted fat.”

Mackenzie’s written observations provide us with one of only a few first-hand accounts describing the types of food consumed in the mess house and the associated role of the adjacent kitchen in preparing these lavish meals during the annual Rendezvous in mid-July. At this time, a personal chef and baker, accompanying the partners from Montreal, would arrive and supervise the kitchen operation. These men directed a staff primarily composed of up to twelve Native women, who prepared the multi-course meal that was served around lunch time each day in the mess house prior to the business meetings. As for the one thousand voyageurs that passed through Grand Portage during Rendezvous – they camped outside of the stockade and subsisted on the standard rations of corn and grease supplied by their employer. Their only helping of food from the kitchen came in the form of fresh baked bread from the ovens, a welcomed treat when compared to their usual fare.

The Rendezvous at Grand Portage was truly a culmination and celebration of the year’s trade by one of



Mary Vanderpoel watches kettles filled with meat and vegetables simmer during Rendezvous Days.

the most successful businesses of the 18th century. The North West Company conducted business on a global scale, ordering trade goods from its base of operations in Montreal, along with Europe, Asia, Africa, and South America. Understandably, the procurement of food supplies was no different – the opulent lifestyles of the partners, as noted in Mackenzie’s writings, become even more apparent when reviewing the inventories and journals of North West Company posts. Coffee was imported from North Africa, tea came from China, and cocoa was shipped from Central and South America. Rum and refined white sugar made their way to Grand Portage from the West Indies, lime juice from South America, olive oil from Greece, Double Gloucester cheese from England, spices from Asia and the Middle East, and wines from France and Spain. Butter and flour for baking bread and biscuits came from Detroit and Michilimackinac, while large sums of food were also procured locally from the Ojibwe.

With the absence of abundant fur-bearing animals in the region by the 1780s, the Grand Portage Ojibwe employed other means to acquire the trade goods they desired from the North West Company. They provided valuable services as guides and interpreters, built canoes, laced snowshoes, worked in the kitchen as cooks, and supplied food to the post. Maple sugar was harvested in the spring, a wide variety of berries during the summer, wild rice in the

fall, and fish throughout the year. Without the support of the local Ojibwe, it is very doubtful that the North West Company would have enjoyed the success they experienced during their years in Grand Portage.

With the coming of cooler nights in August, the pageantry of Rendezvous faded, as the partners departed Grand Portage for their winter posts. Gone, too, then were the days of delicacies such as roasted beaver tail and buffalo tongue, salted cod, choice cuts of meat, fine wines, and fresh loaves of bread from the bake oven. For the small contingent of men who remained to look after the post year-round, the fare was again reduced to the mundane. With few exceptions, one-dish meals consisting of potatoes, fish, and wild rice made up the bulk of the diet for those wintering at the depot. The partners' professional chef was replaced by a laborer, perhaps an ex-voyageur who was no longer fit to paddle canoes and portage goods, but still owed the company his time in order to pay off debts accrued over his career. The winter ahead was bound to be a long one and it wouldn't be long before thoughts turned to the warmth of summer and the return of tastier foods!

Fast forward over 200 years, where a visit to Grand Portage National Monument on a summer's day in 2006 is filled with sights, sounds, and smells that invigorate the senses and transport visitors back to the time of a successful North West Company during its heyday at Grand Portage.

Today, visitors will still find wood fires burning and work going on in the kitchen, much like it did in the 18th century. You can always find a staff member in our historic kitchen diligently engaged in preparing dishes from the 18th century using the cooking techniques of the past.

Whether it is baking shortbread in a Dutch oven, roasting meat over the coals in the fireplace, baking bread in the outdoor Quebec oven, cooking a stew over the fire, frying fish in oil, or a host of other possibilities, you'll find that the reconstructed kitchen at Grand Portage National Monument functions much like it did 200 years ago. Today, however, daily cooking at the monument is done primarily as a means to demonstrate 18th century cooking techniques and to help visitors understand the workings of the North West Company. Opportunities abound for the monument's aspiring chefs and bakers. Staff favorites include pound cake, scones, shortbread,

roasted venison stuffed with garlic, fish pastries, rhubarb pie, wild rice with blueberries, vegetable stew, spicy carrot cake, scalloped potatoes, herring stuffed with garden lovage, and of course, fresh bread from the outdoor oven, just to name a few.

By examining the 1797 inventory of goods shipped to Grand Portage and countless historic cookbooks, the park staff compiled information and reproduced several recipes containing ingredients readily available to the North West Company in the 18th century. As a result, it is no longer an uncommon site to see our cook adding a dash of lime juice to a raspberry cordial on a hot summer day, pulling dandelions from the depot grounds for salad greens or to fry the blossoms in oil, or even preparing macaroni and cheese with homemade noodles and Double Gloucester cheese. (Thomas Jefferson had this dish prepared for his guests in the White House.)

As cooks today in the kitchen, we certainly have it



Isaac Walters turns a venison roast using a cage spit and cooking andirons.

easier than our counterparts from the 18th century. Our hard-working maintenance staff keeps an ample amount of dry, split wood right outside the kitchen door and we have easy access to safe, running water. However, in our daily kitchen routine, we do struggle with some of the same difficulties that confronted the chefs over two centuries ago – gauging and regulating temperatures without the use of a convenient oven control, swarms of flies, drafty and smoky conditions on windy days, and potential danger from fires or burn injuries. In spite of all this, working in the kitchen can often be one of the most rewarding experiences for park staff,

(Continued on page 12)

Where In Time Is the North



NWC depot expanded,
Ft. Charlotte likely built

1785



La Verendrye guided
to Grand Portage
from Nipigon.
Voyageurs mutiny at
length of portage

Beginning of
American
Revolution

1775



1731



Ojibwe people
immigrate to North
Shore from Sault Ste.
Marie and become
established at Grand
Portage

1200-1500

Treaty of Paris cedes
Canada to the British

1763

Surrender of British at
Yorktown ends
American Revolution

1781

NWC part
McKenzie
Pacific O
before Lev

1

1670

Hudson's Bay
Company founded



1768

British independent trader
John Askin builds a small
post at Grand Portage

1783

Peace of Paris Treaty
places Grand Portage
on U.S. side of new
border

Jay
N
t

1754-1760

French & Indian War



1789

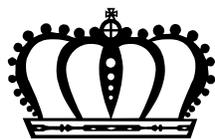
George Washi
becomes 1st P
dent of the U

AD—1000

Archaeological
evidence of earliest
Native American
activities at Grand
Portage

1760

George III becomes
King of England



1779

Wartime restrictions on fur
trade cause independent
traders at Grand Portage to
combine efforts and re-
sources to form the North
West Company!



1789

Beginning
French Revol

North West Company?



The NWC holds its last Rendezvous at Grand Portage before moving to establish Ft. William

1802



Treaty of 1854 between U.S. and Minnesota Chippewa establishes Grand Portage Indian Reservation

1854



Grand Portage National Monument established

1958



A faltering NWC merges with Hudson's Bay Company

1821

Isle Royale compact signed by Grand Portage Headmen relinquishes control of Isle Royale "Minong"

1844

MN Historical Society conducts first archaeological excavations at Grand Portage. Indian CCC begins reconstruction of stockade

1936-1937



Mer Alexander reaches the ocean 11 years after Lewis and Clark!

1793

1794
Treaty signed. NWC is required to leave U.S. soil

1804



NWC founding partner Simon McTavish dies, company tries to stay competitive with the Hudson's Bay Company

1804

Lewis & Clark's Corps of Discovery begins trek to Pacific Ocean

ington resi-U.S.

1843

Grand Portage Ojibwe families number 35. Since the NWC left, an American Fur Co. post and a Catholic mission have been established. The AFC also ran a fishery at Grand Portage between 1837-1841



1861

American Civil War begins. U.S. Army engineers survey Grand Portage Bay



1938-1940

Reconstruction of Great Hall begins. This structure burns down in 1969. Current Great Hall built in

1972



1882

Harbor project in Grand Marais creates jobs. Many Grand Portage residents relocate for work and establish "Chippewa City" in Grand Marais

of tution

Through an Artist's Eye: A Glimpse of Fort Charlotte

Chief Resources Management Dave Cooper

Located at the west end of the Grand Portage, Fort Charlotte was an advance supply depot and jumping off point for North West Company canoe brigades paddling up the Pigeon River to the Canadian upper country. Named for Queen Charlotte (the wife of King George III), its palisaded walls protected traders' goods, supplies, and living quarters from the 1790s to about 1802.

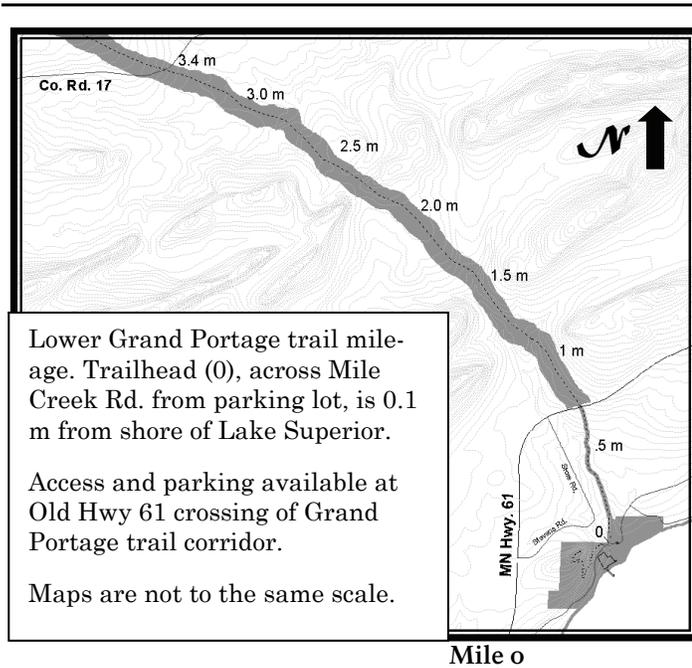
Very few eyewitness accounts of Fort Charlotte have survived. Fur traders' accounts are sparse, and what little they say is of the loading of the canoes at the river's edge and a few squabbles amongst the traders.

The physical evidence of Fort Charlotte is a little more revealing of its history. The first effort to document the remains of the old fort was in 1922, when the Minnesota Historical Society sent a team to survey the site. Using cameras and homemade yardsticks, the team carefully measured old trench lines, cellars, and chimney rubble piles to develop an accurate map of Fort Charlotte and an adjacent fort (whose name has not survived) owned by the short-lived XY Company, a hostile competitor in the fur trade.

In the 1970s, a team of divers under the direction of archeologist Douglas Birk carefully conducted underwater archeological excavations on the riverbed offshore of Fort Charlotte. The excavations yielded many artifacts illustrating hundreds and perhaps thousands of years of human use of the Grand Portage and Pigeon River. Stone tool remnants suggest very early use of the portage by native peoples. French artifacts from the 1730s to 1750s included ceramics, bottle glass, gunflints, buttons, and beads. The area of the North West Company dock yielded British-period artifacts (1760s-1803) including axes, musket balls, hardware, lead bale seals, trade silver, beads, fragments of canoes, canoe paddles, dishware, glassware, bottles, shoes, moccasins, smoking pipes, buttons, kettles, barrel staves, window panes, knives, an inkwell, and fire steels. Bottle glass and pipe stems dated to the American period (1804-present) were also found in this area.

The archeological excavations produced a more detailed view of Fort Charlotte, including examples of the supplies that were stored and loaded there, components of canoes, remains of the Northwester's wharf, and examples of the everyday possessions and tools used by the fort's residents.

Today, the site is heavily overgrown with brush and trees. The National Park Service protects the site as an important archeological resource and databank, but many visitors do not have the ability and time to visit this remote backcountry site, and those few who do have a difficult time imagining what this place



There was probably no single trailhead for all the traders spread along Grand Portage Bay. The most direct route from the Grand Portage possibly ran to the lake on the east side of the stream.

0 to 0.5 m

During the 1930s and 1940s, several Village structures were relocated from the lakeshore area of the Monument to sites farther inland. This first section of the Grand Portage passes through the heart of the modern Anishinabe community.

0.5 to 1.0 m

IO

A Rough Guide to the Grand Portage

The Grand Portage crosses through time, and across MN Hwy 61, along this stretch. Trader journals mention the "parting trees" near this area, where they entered the woods and lost sight of Grand Portage, the Bay and Lake Superior. It is still where you enter the woods of the voyageurs.

1.5 m

A gap in the steep highlands was an important landscape feature that determined the location of a suitable portage. It developed along a geological fault zone, where erosional forces could remove materials more easily than from the surrounding ridges.

1.5-2.5 m

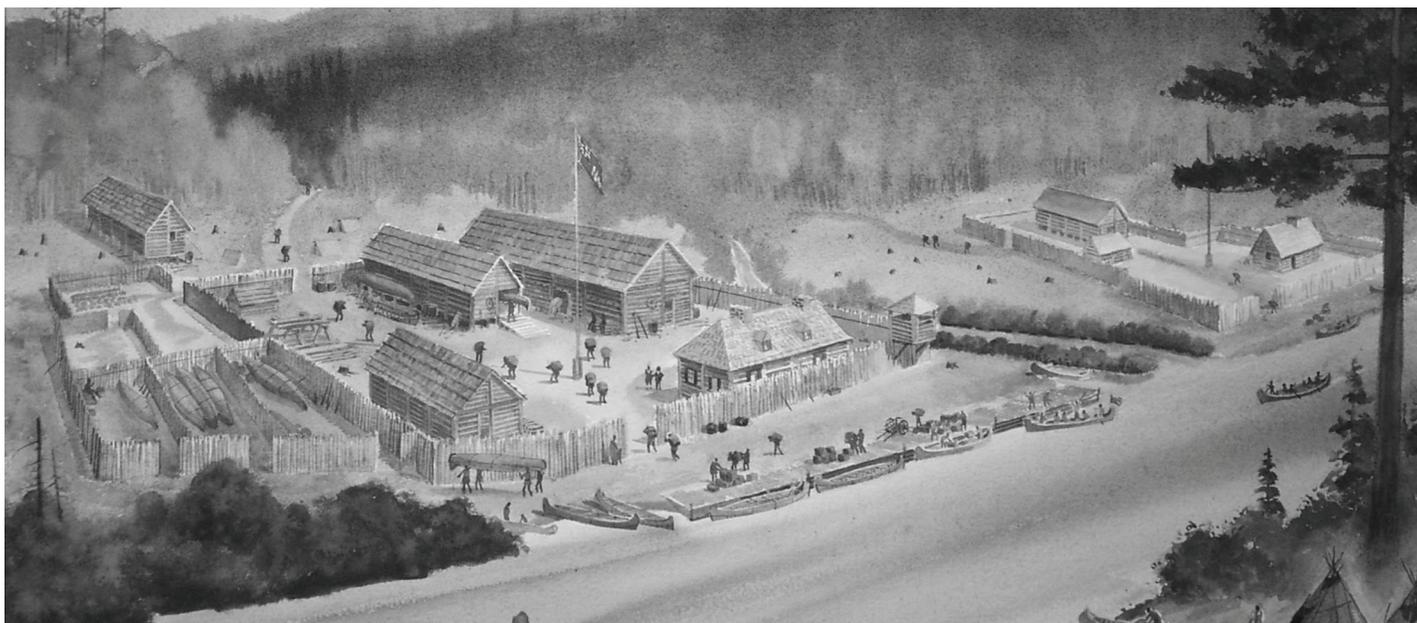
This section of the Grand Portage has short steep slopes where the trail passes through two smaller gaps and stream drainages.

3.0 m

A footbridge carries the trail across Poplar Creek. Analysis of surveys from the 1820s and recent field research provide evidence that today's trail is closely aligned with the historic Grand Portage at this point.

3-4 m

Registration boxes at the trailheads on both sides of Old Hwy 61 make it easy for hikers to check in or leave comments, whether headed to Ft. Charlotte or Lake Superior.



Fort Charlotte

by Howard Sivertson

must have looked like over two hundred years ago.

How does one bring such an interesting place as Fort Charlotte back to life, a place whose residents are long gone, and where there are no photographs, drawings, or detailed reminiscences to guide us?

For this task, Grand Portage National Monument turned to North Shore artist Howard Sivertson. Son of an Isle Royale commercial fishing family, Howard has used his considerable artistic talents, throughout his storied career, to bring together the present and the past in rich detail: the world of 1930s fisher-

(Continued on page 13)

3.4 to 4.5 m

A few large red pine are scattered among the aspen-birch-spruce-fir forest as the Grand Portage gradually ascends a ridge. A historic pose (rest spot) may have been located along this grade.

4.5 to 5.5 m

Distant highlands can be glimpsed through the trees as the trail passes along the crest of a ridge. Large white pine are found amid ancient white cedars, which were well grown trees even when the voyageurs passed here.

6.0 m

The 1820s surveys indicate the Grand Portage cut through a dry “beaver meadow,” instead of the pond-wetland complex found today. Beavers were driven nearly to extinction by the fur trade, but today a 1/8th-mile-long footbridge tops an actively maintained dam, and passes within a few feet of the resident beaver's lodge.

6.5 to 7.0 m

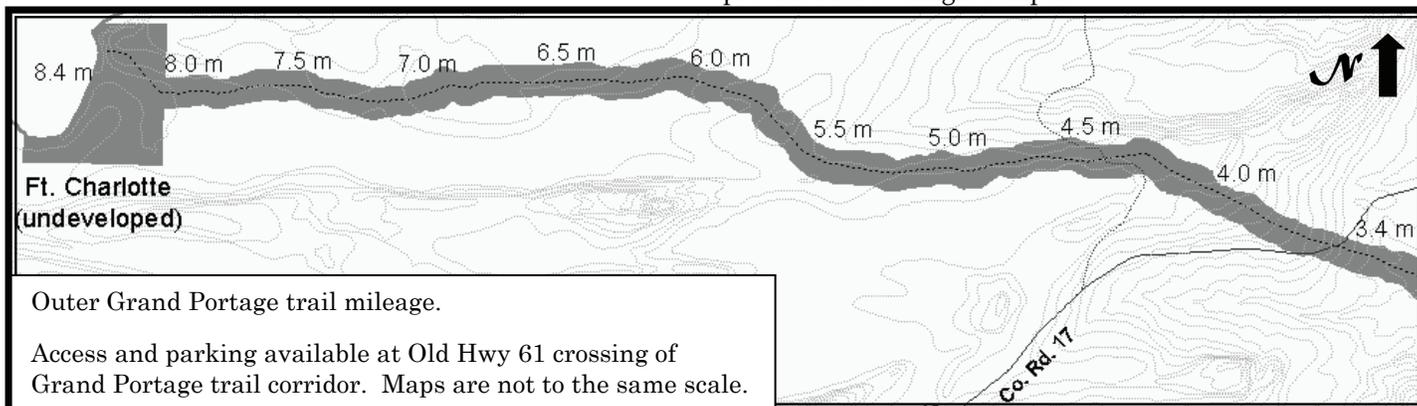
The outer portage is shielded from the moderating effect of Lake Superior by the ridges and highlands it passes through. As a result, both daily and seasonal temperatures are more extreme than along the eastern sections of trail. It can be 25-30°F warmer near Ft. Charlotte than on the lakeshore during the summer.

7.0 to 8.0 m

The distance from roads and other sources of disturbance makes evidence of wildlife more abundant along the outer portage corridor. Watch for moose and bear, and listen for wolves.

8.4 m

Canoeists still use the Pigeon River and the Grand Portage to complete journeys from the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. Two group sites and a latrine are provided for overnight campers.



(Continued from page 7)

Scalloped Potatoes



Fresh Lake Superior Herring and Strawberry Flummery heating on a gridiron and trivet in the kitchen's fireplace.

simply because every day presents exciting new challenges and opportunities. During your stay with us here in Grand Portage, we encourage you to drop by the kitchen and explore all that it has to offer, and learn more about cooking methods, the types of food prepared, and the people behind the operation of the North West Company kitchen.

Try your own hand with 18th century cooking! Included for you to try at home are the following recipes from the staff collection that have been successfully prepared in the historic kitchen. We hope you enjoy!

Rhubarb Pie

9-inch pie crust

8 cups rhubarb

1 $\frac{3}{4}$ cup brown sugar

$\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon ground cloves

2 teaspoons cinnamon

Combine rhubarb, spices, and sugar. Simmer and stir occasionally for one hour on low heat so that sugar does not burn. Prepare crust and fill. Bake in a Dutch oven approximately 40 minutes at 350°F.

Both rhubarb powder and rhubarb root are listed on the Grand Portage inventory of 1797. Cloves, cinnamon, and sugar also appear along with the lard and flour for producing the pie crust.

5 potatoes, washed, peeled, and thinly sliced

2 onions, thinly sliced

2 tablespoons butter

2 tablespoons flour

2 teaspoons dried parsley

2 teaspoons salt

1 teaspoon black pepper

2 $\frac{1}{2}$ cups milk

Mix potatoes with flour and spices. Place in a Dutch oven. Add onions, butter, and milk. Cover and bake 40 minutes at 350 °F.

In order to supplement their diet, the North West Company had a garden at Grand Portage. Alexander Mackenzie stated that "nothing but potatoes have been found to answer the trouble of cultivation." Following the company's motto of "Perseverance," William McGillivray ordered the post manager in 1800 to plow ground and plant crops east of Grand Portage Creek. The 1797 inventory shows two packets of garden seeds, that may have been intended for use here or destined for other posts. Today our kitchen garden produces heirloom vegetables that reflect what could have been grown at other North West Company posts throughout the interior.



Historic Gardener Margaret Plummer-Steen tends the kitchen gardens while "Pierre" the scare crow looks on.

(Continued from page 1)

(AFC) turned to commercial fishing. They leaped into fishing thinking it would be their next great money maker. They established a “fish station” on this knoll. They hired a handful of Grand Portage Ojibwe as fishermen on a higher pay scale than their voyageur employees because the Portage men knew where fish could be caught. They caught whitefish and trout – including the lean trout we prefer to eat today and the “siskiwit” or oil rich trout.

There was a “dwelling house for Cote,” the clerk in charge “situated on a gentle rising ground, overlooking the Bay..” a store, two men’s houses, one cooper’s shop, one fish store, a stable barn, and a root house near the beach. The largest of the buildings was over 40 feet long. Three acres of potatoes were “under cultivation” and a horse grazed nearby. Thirteen men arrived in August 1836 and brought “a great number of barrels of salt and corn, flour, and 8 bales of trading goods.” The salt was for brining fish in barrels as a preservative so the fish could be taken to markets in Michigan, Ohio, and even New York. Besides employing a number of Portage men as fishermen, the AFC traded corn, flour, and ammunition to Ojibwe on a per barrel basis.

Forces and influences beyond local control would shape this business enterprise. Too many fish were caught for market, an economic depression hit limiting consumers’ purchasing power, too little barrel wood was found, and salt

was hard to come by to “pickle” the fish. One influence that did not have an effect was the international border, as American fishermen set nets almost as far north as Thunder Bay. Unlike today, they knew no one was watching the international border.

The AFC businessman starting the fish station at Grand Portage hoped to add fur trading on the side. However, unknown to him, doing so violated a secret agreement the AFC had with the Hudson Bay Company (HBC) for exclusive trading privileges (read: monopoly). The HBC paid 300 pounds sterling a year to the AFC so they would not operate on the border. Lack of competition meant Grand Portage Ojibwe had to trade their furs for less value at Fort William. Noting this “arrangement” as it was called, the HBC governor objected to renewed trading at Grand Portage.

Just like today in some large offices, the “left arm” of the operation did not know what the “right arm” was doing. International business practices had a tremendous impact on what happened in this “picnic area” hundreds of years ago. The valuable location and its advantages and resident people were sideswiped by a deal made miles away. Although this story is not well known, this location and hence the many stories associated with it, are part of the pageantry and layers of history at Grand Portage. Please enjoy your visit and inquire with us about these lesser stories and tucked away places. Thank you for visiting this multi “layered” historic location.

(Continued from page 11)

men, 1850s sailors, and 1790s voyageurs and Ojibwe people.

Using the 1922 archeological map, historical depictions of other fur trade posts, current photographs of the Fort Charlotte area, knowledge of fur trade architecture, clothing, and work practices, and his own imagination, Howard has brought Fort Charlotte out of the misty past, and presented it on a busy summer day in the 1790s. Down-bound brigades of North canoes are unloaded of their winter bounty of furs. Heavily-burdened men carry 180- pound loads of furs towards the Fort Charlotte warehouses, or head east down the Grand Portage towards the main depot on Lake Superior. Exhausted men return up the portage, bearing pack loads of trade goods and provisions destined for the Northwest. The valuable North canoes are stored in small

picketed enclosures at the north end of the fort, to protect them from the XY Company, whose new, smaller fort sits just upstream, and where a small brigade of XY canoes are unloading. Ojibwe Indians camp in bark lodges on the opposite shore, making and repairing North canoes for the traders, visiting Grand Portage to conduct their own trade, or perhaps passing through on a fishing and food-gathering expedition to nearby Isle Royale.

The Howard Sivertson painting of Fort Charlotte will be displayed in the new Grand Portage Visitor Center, opening in 2007, along with many original artifacts from Fort Charlotte. We hope you’ll be able to return next year to learn more about the fascinating history of Grand Portage and Fort Charlotte.

AREA INFORMATION:

There are a few places nearby to purchase light meals, snacks, gas, and other necessities.

The food and lodging information provided here is for the convenience of our visitors, and is not an endorsement by the National Park Service.

SERVICES:

Grand Portage Trading Post, Post Office & Gas – Located a short distance from the monument. Turn left out of main stockade parking lot onto Mile Creek Road. Trading Post, Post Office and SPUR gas station is approximately 3/4 mile on the right between Mile Creek Road and Highway 61. Phone: 218-475-2282

Grand Portage Lodge/Gift Shop – Located a short distance from the monument. Turn left out of main stockade parking lot onto Mile Creek Road. The Grand Portage Lodge is approximately ¼ mile on the left. Phone: 218-475-2401

Ryden's Border Store, Cafe Hotel & Gas – Located 3 miles north of Grand Portage National Monument on Highway 61. Go straight out of the stockade parking lot on Store Rd. Take the right fork past the Trading Post to Highway 61. At Highway 61 turn right. Follow Highway 61 to Ryden's. Phone: 218-475-2330

Voyageurs Marina – Located about 1½ miles from the monument. Turn right out of main stockade parking lot and go over stone bridge. Follow County Road 17 to your left, up over the hill and past the church and school. Continue to follow County Road 17 1½ miles, to the east side of the bay. The marina will be on your right. Under new management. Phone 218-475-2476.

CAMPGROUNDS:

Grand Portage Marina & Campground – Marina Rd. (adjacent to Grand Portage Lodge & Casino), Grand Portage, MN, 55605. Phone 218-475-2476

Judge Magney State Park – 4051 E Hwy 61, Grand Marais, MN, 55604. Phone: 218-387-3039

Go-Fer Campground – 1201 East 5th Street, Grand Marais, MN, 55604. Phone: 218-387-1252

Grand Marais Recreation Area – Highway 61, Grand Marais, MN, 55604. Phone: 218-387-1712

LOCAL STATE PARKS:

Grand Portage State Park – 9393 E Hwy 61, 5 miles east of Grand Portage. Offers a scenic trail to the spectacular Pigeon Falls. The park has a visitor contact station and sales area. There are no camping facilities. Phone: 218-475-2360

Judge C.R. Magney State Park – 4051 E Hwy 61, 14 miles west of Grand Portage. Offers trout fishing and white-water kayaking on the Brule River. There are 6 miles of summer hiking trails and 5 miles of winter ski trails. A well-maintained trail winds along the river to the Upper and Lower Falls and the Devil's Kettle, a large pothole into which half of the river disappears. Phone: 218-387-3039

Cascade River State Park – 3481 W Hwy 61, 45 miles west of Grand Portage. Offers spectacular waterfalls along the Cascade River. There are also scenic overlooks of Lake Superior. There are 18 miles of trails through a birch and spruce forest. The park has a 40-site campground, picnic facilities, and plenty of lake and river fishing. Phone: 218-387-3053

Need Special Assistance?

For help or questions concerning accessibility at the park, please contact any park ranger, or Accessibility Coordinator, Ranger Jon Sage.

218-387-2788 Voice/TDD

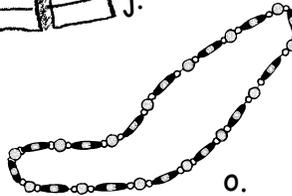
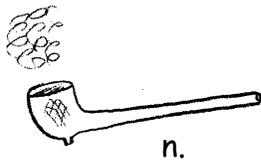
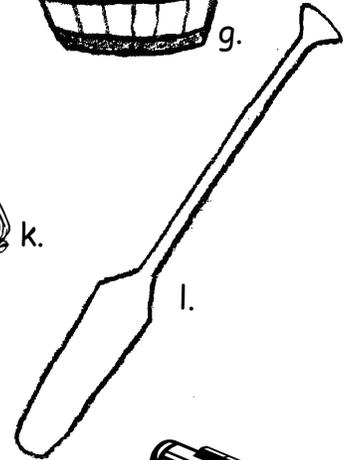
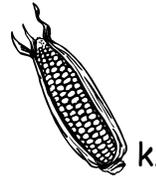
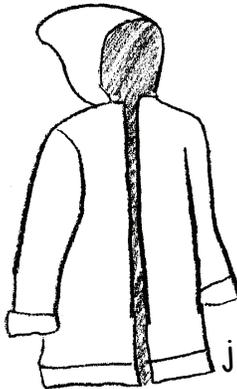
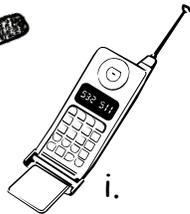
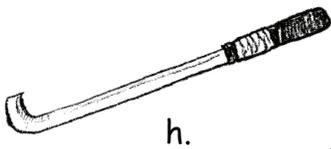
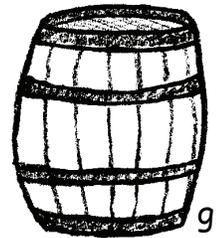
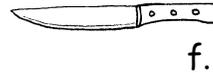
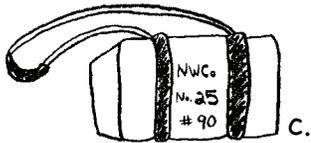
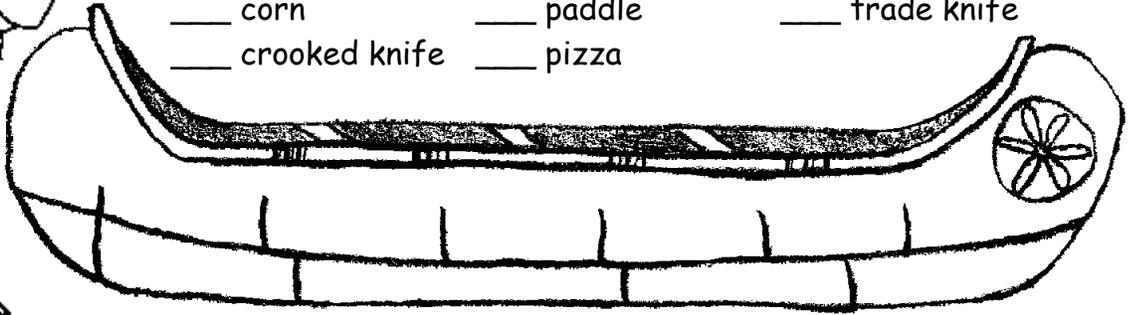
218-387-2790 FAX

jon_sage@nps.gov

Pierre did very well at the Grand Portage Rendezvous.
 Help him pack his canoe for winter in
 the north woods. What will he need?



- | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| ___ barrel | ___ flag | ___ sneakers |
| ___ capot | ___ flashlight | ___ striker |
| ___ cell phone | ___ iron kettle | (fire steel) |
| ___ clay pipe | ___ pack | ___ trade beads |
| ___ corn | ___ paddle | ___ trade knife |
| ___ crooked knife | ___ pizza | |



Circle the items he should pack, then color Pierre and his canoe!

Pierre would not have the pizza, cell phone, sneakers or flashlight.
 Order of item letters are: g, j, i, n, k, h, a, p, m, c, l, b, d, e, o, and f.

A FEW TIPS TO HELP YOU ENJOY YOUR VISIT

Lead Park Ranger Jon Sage

- Wear sturdy footwear when walking on Monument trails. Please stay on the trails. Watch closely for roots and uneven ground to avoid tripping.
 - Do not drink water from streams or lakes unless you first boil or treat it.
 - Never hike alone. Always tell a friend/relative where you are going, and when you plan to return.
 - When hiking in the backcountry during summer months, the use of insect repellent and/or head nets is strongly recommended.
-

REMINDERS AND HELPFUL INFORMATION

- Notify a park employee if you encounter any situation you feel is unsafe.
 - All plants and animals are protected within Monument boundaries. Please help us protect them by not feeding animals or picking plants.
 - Pets and smoking are not permitted inside the palisade walls or inside buildings.
 - Please keep bicycles out of the palisade and secured to the bike rack provided. Do not lock bicycles to sign posts or trees.
 - A picnic area is located east of the palisade across Grand Portage Creek, and may be reached by walking the path between the creek and the palisade and crossing the footbridge.
-

VISITING ISLE ROYALE NATIONAL PARK

Information about ferry service to Isle Royale National Park is available at the Ranger Station.
Ferry schedule information is posted on the information board
located next to the ranger station entrance.

For more information about Grand Portage National Monument, contact:

Superintendent, Grand Portage National Monument,

P.O. Box 668, Grand Marais, Minnesota, 55604.

Voice/TDD: 218-387-2788 Fax: 218-387-2790

Visit our website at www.nps.gov/grpo,

or contact us by e-mail at GRPO_interpretation@nps.gov

*This document can be obtained in alternate formats.
Please contact the park's accessibility coordinator to make a request.*