

interpretive prospectus

july 1975

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FORT STANWIX

NATIONAL MONUMENT / NEW YORK

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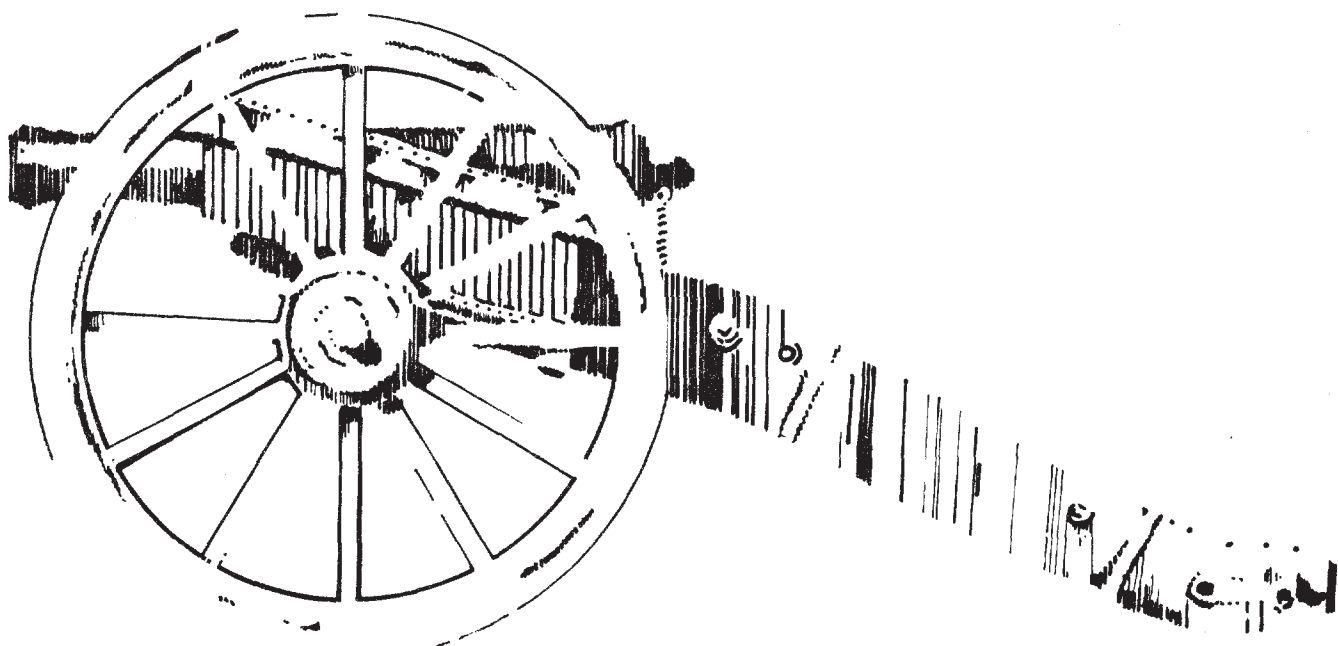
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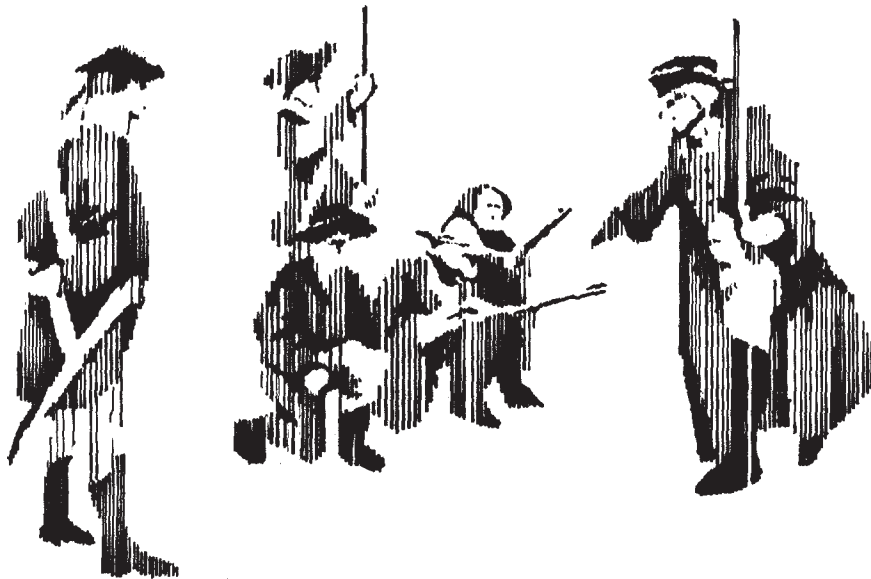
FORT STANWIX NATIONAL MONUMENT



INTERPRETIVE PROSPECTUS

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STATEMENT OF LEGISLATIVE SIGNIFICANCE



Fort Stanwix National Monument was a long time in establishment. Its authorization occurred in 1935, but was tied to a donation of lands which delayed the park's emergence.

Fort Stanwix itself was lost long ago when the city of Rome grew over its foundations. The fact that the original site was covered by streets and business blocks was doubtless responsible for the legislative concern with land and the terms of its acquisition, over and above their concern with the site's significance. Only one phrase of the act makes reference to Fort Stanwix's potential for public benefit: the site is to be "preserv(ed) as a national monument for the benefit and inspiration of the people and shall be called the 'Fort Stanwix National Monument'."

Secretary of the Interior Harold Ickes made specific reference to the fort's national significance when he testified in behalf of its establishment. He said that Stanwix was "the site of a battle of great importance in American History," referring, doubtless, to the Revolutionary War siege.

The park was authorized by act of Congress, approved August 21, 1935 (49 Stat. 655).

INTERPRETIVE THEME

"Along with Forts Brewerton, Niagara, Pitt, Ticonderoga, the two Loudouns, and lesser posts, Fort Stanwix was an important link in the chain of defenses that helped create British North America during and following the Great War for Empire. It was also a center for the administration of Indian affairs in the north, and as such was the site of the highly important Treaty of Fort Stanwix in 1768.

"Its major claim to national significance lay in its thwarting of the western phase of the British plan for 1777. As such, it is a integral part of the story of Burgoyne's defeat at Saratoga, the "Turning Point of the Revolution." St. Leger's failure to secure the Mohawk and reach Albany to form a junction with Burgoyne contributed to American victory at a critical time when a British victory *might* have been a death-blow to the fight for independence."

— John F. Luzader

The Construction and Military History of Fort Stanwix

The Fort Stanwix Master Plan, which predates the decision to reconstruct the fort, states that the Park Service goal is "to preserve the site of the fort and interpret the events which took place there; the strategic importance of the site in controlling the Mohawk River-Wood Creek portage; the significance of the Treaty of Fort Stanwix negotiated and signed here in 1768; and the decisive role played by the fort in repulsing St. Leger's attack in 1777, a repulse which contributed to the capture of Burgoyne at Saratoga."

The same document identified briefly the basic interpretive theme for the area. "The story to be told at Fort Stanwix is that of the strategic importance of the fort site, the role of the fort in St. Leger's repulse, and the effect of this repulse on Burgoyne's campaign. The Treaty of Fort Stanwix will be treated as a subtheme, as will the structural history of the fort."

Fort Stanwix will be a federally protected historic site because it was the focus of a related series of events, and this historical continuum must be the primary subject for interpretation. Visitors must understand the strategic and commercial importance of the fort's location in a historic valley passage at the place of a critical portage. They should comprehend events of the French and Indian Wars associated with the area and its forts; the regional impact of loyalist Sir William Johnson, a bigger-than-life personal influence among Indians and settlers alike; and the provisions and import of the 1768 Treaty of Fort Stanwix. Many of these factors, some historians hold, tended to incline settlers in the important Mohawk Valley to loyalist sympathies during the Revolution because their effect was to settle and to quiet Indian claims and depredations, thus making orderly and

secure expansion there and further west possible, and the result was associated with the crown.

Against this background the advance of British General Barry St. Leger on the American-held fort will have meaning: the valley was not only a route to his rendezvous in Albany with Lieutenant General John Burgoyne, and thus a part of a larger British design for victory in the northern colonies, but it was also a route through a tactically important valley inhabited by settlers who, it was thought, tended to favor the crown's cause and might be expected to support its troops.

All of the events that occurred during the days of crisis in August 1777 — including the Battle of Oriskany and the American raid led by Marinus Willett on the Indian and British camps — must be related to St. Leger's siege of the fort. The Battle of Oriskany, an effort on the part of the Tryon County Militia to lift the siege, was a defeat for the Colonials, but provided sufficient diversion to insure the success of the Willett raid, which resulted in much plunder. That event, in combination with the relief column sent by General Philip Schuyler, led by Benedict Arnold, and preceded by the tales of the eccentric Hon Yost Schuyler, cost St. Leger his Indian allies and left him much reduced in supplies for support of the siege and the further advance of his force. The siege was lifted, St. Leger withdrew to Canada, and Fort Stanwix became synonymous with victory for the Americans.

Beyond this, visitors should not leave the site without understanding the important role the British failure at Fort Stanwix played in their defeat at Saratoga a short time later. The entire story of Fort Stanwix should be set in a frame of reference that begins, at least, with the British strategy of a two-pronged advance from Canada to secure the Mohawk and Hudson Valleys. This done, the forces were to rendezvous at Albany, at which point they hoped to be joined by other troops from the south, expecting then to develop further plans. The American success at Fort Stanwix operated to deprive the plan of a significant force, and to leave any British forces moving down the Hudson exposed to a flanking attack. All told, it resulted in making Burgoyne's situation at Saratoga more hopeless than simple defeat on that battlefield would have rendered it, and thus contributed significantly to his surrender there and to an important American victory. Saratoga was, in its turn, the catalyst that produced other significant results for the American revolutionary cause: the French intervention, a badly needed boost for Colonial morale and reassurance to Colonial resolve; and the discouragement of Tory sympathizers. In the end all of this led to Yorktown.

The continuum of mankind is both wonderful and fearful. Fort Stanwix was like one of several small pebbles moving to become an avalanche — an avalanche that ripped a critical part of North America from English control, and set off shock waves within the Colonial empire of that power that still reverberate today.

At the least, that story and this continuum must be interpreted.

THE RESOURCE

THE SITE

Fort Stanwix is to be reconstructed in its entirety to duplicate its appearance at the time of the British siege in 1777. Exhaustive archaeological investigation and historical research have been executed and will permit the fort to be built again on its original site — until recently occupied by business blocks and streets in downtown Rome, New York.

The dominant feature of the park must be the reconstructed fort. Its visual impact *is* interpretation, albeit unspoken and unaccompanied. For the purposes of this park and its story, the entire site should be carefully planned so that the walls and bastions of the reconstruction say, without competition or interruption, "This was a stronghold — a fortified place so effective and so large in its protection of great numbers of men that invaders could not safely go around it, leaving its power intact to threaten their rear or flank." In the midst of a 20th-century city, the unencumbered glacis, the moat, the walls, and the ravelin will all communicate this important military insight, and should be allowed to do so of their own integrity, without self-conscious assistance through other developments.

To this end great care should be taken in developing and landscaping the 15-acre fort site. Nonhistoric landscape planning and design should be kept to an absolute minimum, if not ruled out altogether. The historic creek to the east of the fort is nonexistent due to the passage of time and construction-related land leveling. It should be restored at least in contour so that its functional relationship to the garrison (as a sewer and perhaps as a water supply) will be clear. It will probably be necessary to locate a small maintenance facility in the north corner of the park, but this building should be carefully designed to be as inconspicuous and low in profile as possible. Walks, some of which will be located roughly along the route of the Oneida Carrying Place trail, will need to be designed to provide a circular trail around the fort. Surfacing should be carefully studied in order to be as authentic and unobtrusive as possible while at the same time providing a safe and relatively easily maintained walking surface.

Plans should provide for the opportunity to light the reconstructed fort at night. In view of the current energy crisis, it is philosophically difficult to recommend immediate lighting of the reconstructed fort at night. However, it would be appropriate to provide utilities and fixtures so that the opportunity to activate

exterior illumination is available. The reconstructed Fort Stanwix will occupy a fundamental position in the revitalized urban community of Rome, and it should be considered an aesthetic ornament to the community as well as a historic restoration. Well-placed lighting, located to draw attention to the structural form and texture of the reconstruction without resorting to total light coverage, would be desirable. In other words, exterior illumination that would be full of deep shadows and highlights calling attention to planes, forms, and occasional details would be best. Needless to say, illumination would also contribute to protection of the resource.

Other exterior lighting will also be required along the entrance walk to permit the reconstruction to accommodate public service and interpretive programs in the evening. Lights for this purpose need to be utilitarian, but great care should be exercised in design so that the fixtures can be either of appropriate historic design or virtually invisible, and so that no more light than is absolutely necessary for the sake of safety is provided. The team urges use of historically designed light sources for this function.

THE RECONSTRUCTION

As has been stated, Fort Stanwix will be totally reconstructed to reflect its appearance in 1777, complete with necessary and ravelins. Authenticity will be the keynote in all regards, although modern materials may be required in some situations. The interior of the fort, including its parade, is to be included in this totally authentic reconstruction; all interior spaces will be built as they would have existed in 1777, to be available for management or interpretive use and development as needed, but within the limits of their historic appearance.

Utilities will need to be provided throughout the reconstruction. The fort should be wired for electricity in all areas, including refurnished historic rooms and the bombproofs. Environmental controls (heating and air conditioning) should be provided for all interior spaces whose planned uses would require such controls. Provision should be made for the park staff to regulate temperatures in some areas at certain times. Various divisions at Harpers Ferry Center should be closely consulted for standards, capacities, locations, and character of all such utility services.

All administrative, support, and interpretive facilities will be located inside the reconstruction. The floor-plan diagram indicates the use assignment for each individual building or room. In general, the ravelins, drawbridge, sally port, necessary, northwest and southwest bombproofs, bakehouse, guardhouse, headquarters building, east barracks, a south casemate, officers' quarters in the

north casemate, a section of the west casemate, and the parade ground will be historically refurnished to reflect their appearance, use, and occupancy during the British siege of Fort Stanwix in 1777, the time of the fort's prime historic significance. Comfort stations will be located in the storehouse to the right of the entrance gate; a sales facility for the park's cooperating association will be located in the casemate to the left of the entrance gate, together with an office for the interpretive staff. Administrative areas for other members of the park staff will be located in the east casemate and in portions of the west and north casemates. A mixed-media audiovisual facility will be located in the west barracks, and the northeast bombproof will be used for administrative storage.

Some portion of the spaces reserved inside the fort for administrative use should be designed to provide change rooms, lounge, and lunch facilities for the costumed interpretive staff at Fort Stanwix. A library-staff training room will be needed for use by both management and the interpretive staff. Storage and curatorial space for the Fort Stanwix museum collection must be provided in the amount of 750 square feet.

Architects and engineers should, again, work closely with park staff and the Division of Museum Services at Harpers Ferry Center to identify administrative space and facility requirements for other utilities such as water in curatorial areas.

THE PLAN FOR INTERPRETATION

ENTRANCE – INFORMATION/ORIENTATION

Signs to identify the park should be located at the edge of park land near the corner of Erie Boulevard and Park Street, and near the corner turn from Erie Boulevard into James Street. These signs should be designed to be compatible with the townscape without sounding a jarring note when seen against the background of the reconstructed fort. They should proclaim only the identity of the site, the organization responsible for its management, and its open hours. In regard to the latter, the sign should be designed to permit changes in open times from season to season, day to day, hour to hour.

Visitors will enter the park, having left their automobiles or alighted from tour buses at a nearby parking area or garage, using a walk located along the route of the Oneida Carrying Place trail. They will enter the fort using the main entrance facing south on Erie Boulevard, through the ravelin. A costumed sentry will be stationed at this location in the summer to provide visitor-contact services and to hand out minifolders. In the wintertime, or when weather prevents this activity being accomplished in the ravelin, the sentry will be stationed in the guardhouse just past the drawbridge and will perform the same functions there. He will be expected to answer visitors' questions about the locations of various facilities and programs inside the fort, and will need to be thoroughly familiar with community services as well. If fees are to be collected, he will be charged with this function also.

Visitors will use Fort Stanwix on a self-guiding basis with the basic tour outlined in the minifolder. A map of the structure which identifies activities and developments associated with all of the fort's rooms should be provided in this publication, together with an introductory statement of the site's national significance, as identified by its interpretive theme, and a narrative describing the historic events associated with the fort.

WEST BARRACKS INTERPRETIVE PROGRAM

The West Barracks will be put to adaptive use, housing the park's basic interpretive program. The barracks should be divided into two program areas each seating from 70 to 100 persons, which can house alternating showings of an audiovisual program.

Both rooms of the West Barracks should be equipped to show the audiovisual production, and both should be "decorated" with visual materials that are at once historic and interpretive in nature: blowups of historic illustrations of Fort Stanwix, the siege, the Willett Raid, the Battle of Oriskany; blowups of garrison orders or any other historic paper materials that can be or have been located; wall-mounted shadow boxes containing objects uncovered in archaeological excavations (shown with low lighting); period artifacts associated with the Indians, and with both the British and Colonial troops. The wall decorations will be just that — decorative — but they should be planned to communicate the subject-matter significance of the fort: a military installation in which American soldiers withstood a siege by British troops and their Indian allies. The artifacts should stress the conflict in the wilderness.

While both rooms will be equipped and used to show the basic audiovisual production for Fort Stanwix during periods of heavy park visitation, one of the rooms should be planned to be used also as a special program, exhibit, and meeting room during the off-season. Accordingly, it should have additional equipment such as a podium and a public-address system, as well as motion picture and slide projectors. It should, in addition, be planned in close cooperation with the Division of Exhibits at Harpers Ferry Center so that wiring will be substantial and flexible enough to permit the installation of temporary exhibits with their panels, dividers, and special light fixtures.

The basic audiovisual program, which will be shown in these two rooms alternately as demand indicates, will be a mixed-media production lasting from 10 to 15 minutes. Some time flexibility is available to audiovisual producers because the two facilities accommodating from 70 to 100 people each will allow the park to accommodate as many as 420 to 600 visitor entries per hour. It is difficult to make a firm evaluation of the number of visitors who are likely to come to Fort Stanwix on an average summer weekend, but it does seem that 420 to 600 visitors per hour is a fairly safe volume for which to plan. If the program were to last longer than 15 minutes, each theatre being thus reduced to only two showings and two 10-minute exchanges per hour, the production could be seen by from 280 to 400 people per hour — still a seemingly safe capacity.

As stated, the audiovisual program will be a mixed-media production for which audiovisual producers should feel free to use the widest variety of visual and sound effects, singly or in combination. Visuals need not be limited to film media, but might also include diorama settings and symbol exhibits, among other things. It should be drab in its aesthetic theme, conveying a sense of the Revolutionary War fought here at the farthest frontier on land recently belonging to or contested by several strong Indian tribes and alliances. Its mood should be that of isolation, privation, and danger, set against a background that acknowledges the sometimes uncertain identity of the adversary (it was almost impossible to discern the allegiance of the average Indian or settler or to detect the British-hired foreign mercenaries), and the sense of high stakes in this faraway place.

The subject matter of the production should be the primary interpretive theme of the park set forth earlier in this prospectus. This then should be communicated against a background of the narrative history of Fort Stanwix: building from a frame of reference that encompasses the French and Indian War, at which time the first fort was constructed at the Oneida Carrying Place, and moving through the events at the portage leading up to the Revolutionary War, with the

production's climax contained in the British siege of 1777, the Battle of Oriskany, and the Willett Raid. The significance of the site, the relationship of the siege to the late defeat of the British at Saratoga, and the ultimate outcome of the Revolutionary War, together with the significance of that war to Americans and peoples in other lands today, can be drawn from the narrative history with ease and delicacy.

It is suggested that the audiovisual producers seriously consider using a first-person historic figure approach to this production. Lieutenant Colonel Marinus Willett was the central actor in the drama of Fort Stanwix. He participated in the French and Indian Wars, was at Fort Stanwix when the British laid siege to it, and led the raid on the Indian camps following the Battle of Oriskany that resulted in the disaffection of Britain's Indian allies and substantially contributed to lifting the siege. He, in other words, was an eyewitness to most of the important events associated with Fort Stanwix. And, wonder of wonders, a nearly first-person biography survives. Edited by his son, it was published in 1831 and reprinted by the Arno Press in 1969, and is entitled *A Narrative of the Military Action of Captain Marinus Willett*. We are not often so fortunate as to have such an excellent ready-made central character available for our film presentations.

REFURNISHED ROOMS AND LIVING INTERPRETATION

Significant portions of the reconstructed fort will be authentically refurnished as specified in part 3 of this prospectus and as noted on the floor-plan diagram.

Refurnishings will be planned to communicate the appearance and equipment of the fort from May 1777, through December 1777. The refurnishings should be carefully and accurately done to the smallest detail and should include such things as the authentic surface on the parade ground, the whipping post, and the dirt and general overcrowding that were experienced at the fort during this critical time.

Furnishings should employ the use of reproductions when necessary and advisable because major reliance will be placed upon living interpretation for visitor enjoyment of the structure, and because it is desirable to avoid the use of room barriers whenever possible. Insofar as is practical and possible, historic light sources should be employed. Fireplaces should work and be kept burning. Maintenance should be carefully planned in connection with the furnishings study to preserve the sense of immediacy that should be achieved in the refurnished and repopulated fort.

Visitors will experience the reconstruction on a self-guiding basis directed only by their inclination and the information available to them on the floor-plan map contained in the park minifolder. They will explore the fort and, in the course of doing so, encounter interpretive personnel, costumed in a manner appropriate to the time and their function, engaged in activities of living interpretation.

Costumed interpreters will not assume a first-person posture in talking with visitors. They will, rather, be costumed interpreters engaged in historic activities, thus being free to discuss all facets of the history of the fort, the details of their costume, or the secrets of their craft with visitors.

The costumed interpretive staff should consist of three enlisted men, one officer, and one woman. This staff may be enlarged to any extent practical or possible, preserving the above ratio of enlisted men to officers and not going beyond the presence of two women (the maximum number that can be documented as having been present in the fort at the time of the siege).

One of the costumed enlisted men will ordinarily be stationed in the ravelin or at the guardhouse to provide visitors with information and orientation. The other staff members should range around the fort pursuing a planned series of appropriate activities in the areas that are historically suited for those activities. Soldiers and/or the two ladies at Fort Stanwix did the following things, any or all of which would be suitable living-interpretation programs: drilling for both ceremonial and functional purposes; mounting the guard; bullet making; cooking and baking; powder horn carving; provisioning and securing the issue of rations; housekeeping or camp collman duty (by mess); gambling with cards, dice, or at whist; drinking rum; butchering; tanning or curing hides; enduring punishment (whipping and running the gauntlet, or working with a 6-inch by 24-inch log tied to a leg); serving on wood and water details; horseshoeing; repairing weapons; and servicing artillery. Research may alter or expand this list, which is included here only as a general indication of the possible range for such activities.

The park's interpretive staff should select from this wide variety of activities and put together a living-history program that is suitable for the time of the year, the time of the day, and the personnel available. The staff is encouraged to use their own initiative in constructing this program, keeping in mind that the intent of the entire effort is to communicate to visitors the quality of life and the condition of the soldiers at Fort Stanwix during the siege of 1777.

When visitors have seen the audiovisual program and have experienced as much of the fort and its living-interpretation program as they like, they will be encouraged to leave via the sally port and to walk around the reconstruction for the purposes of enjoying a reprise of this citadel that stopped the British advance through the Mohawk Valley.

WAYSIDE AND FUNCTIONAL SIGNS

The circumferential walk around the exterior of the fort, mentioned above, should be a continuance of the entrance walk, which is to be generally aligned in conformity with the Oneida Carrying Place trail. It should also be surfaced with materials as natural as possible, keeping in mind the practical necessity for snow removal and drainage presented by the climate of upper New York State.

In addition to being a walk that will provide a view of the exterior of the fort from all angles, the trail will also contain five interpretive wayside signs. These should be designed to be compatible with the architecture of the fort, and should be as low key as possible. Great care should be taken to avoid their intruding excessively upon the historic scene.

They should be located according to the site map in the park folder, and should have messages as follows:

- **The Oneida Carrying Place Trail And Series Of Forts.**

This sign, perhaps the most ambitious of the series, should communicate to visitors the fact that they are about to walk along a historic trace — the portage between the Mohawk River and Wood Creek. The historic function of the portage should be explained briefly, and the numerous forts erected to protect it should be located. Fort Stanwix should be identified as one of the last and most formidable of these forts.

- **The Mohawk River.**

The Mohawk River, its valley, and Wood Creek should be the subject of this wayside. The sign should have a map showing the relationship of the two rivers to the general geography of the region. It should describe the historic importance of the valley and the portage to the early Indian trade and to the later tactical plans of the British Army.

- **The Creek Area.**

The subject matter here is the little creek that is to be restored, at least in contour, east of the fort. The wayside should identify the uses of the creek by the fort garrison.

- **British Gun Battery.**

This sign will explain the location in this vicinity of a British gun battery, turned against the fort at the time of the siege. It should discuss the general character of artillery used by the British during the siege.

- **British Siege Trenches.**

Situated near the site of the trenches dug by St. Leger's men in an effort to bring their artillery into closer range of the fort, this sign should discuss the effectiveness of the British weapons against the earthworks, the volume of fire directed against the garrison during the siege, and the tactical motive of the British commander in digging this unsuccessful trench. This sign will suggest the ultimate outcome of the siege.

Other functional signing may be needed. The park entrance signs previously discussed should be located with care so that they identify the site. Signing to identify parking facilities will be needed, and should be worked out in cooperation with the appropriate authorities.

Depending on the ultimate character of parking facilities, visitors may require some signing aid to reach the fort main-gate entrance (as opposed to the sally-port gate). Because visitors should generally exit via the sally port, some exit signing may be needed on that door, which should be designed as a one-way door.

TOURS AND GUIDED WALKS

Guided tours will not be scheduled as a regular part of the interpretive program. All tours will be specially scheduled on a reservation basis, and should be conducted by the supervisory interpreter and the curator insofar as is possible to insure highest quality service.

School tours should be closely coordinated with the local board of education and the individual teachers to insure that they occur at a point in the school curriculum when the story of Fort Stanwix has most meaning to the student, as well as to insure that classes are properly prepared for their visit to the site. In general such school tours will be aimed at students in the fifth, sixth, seventh, and eighth grades, the years during which New York and United States history are emphasized in the local curriculum.

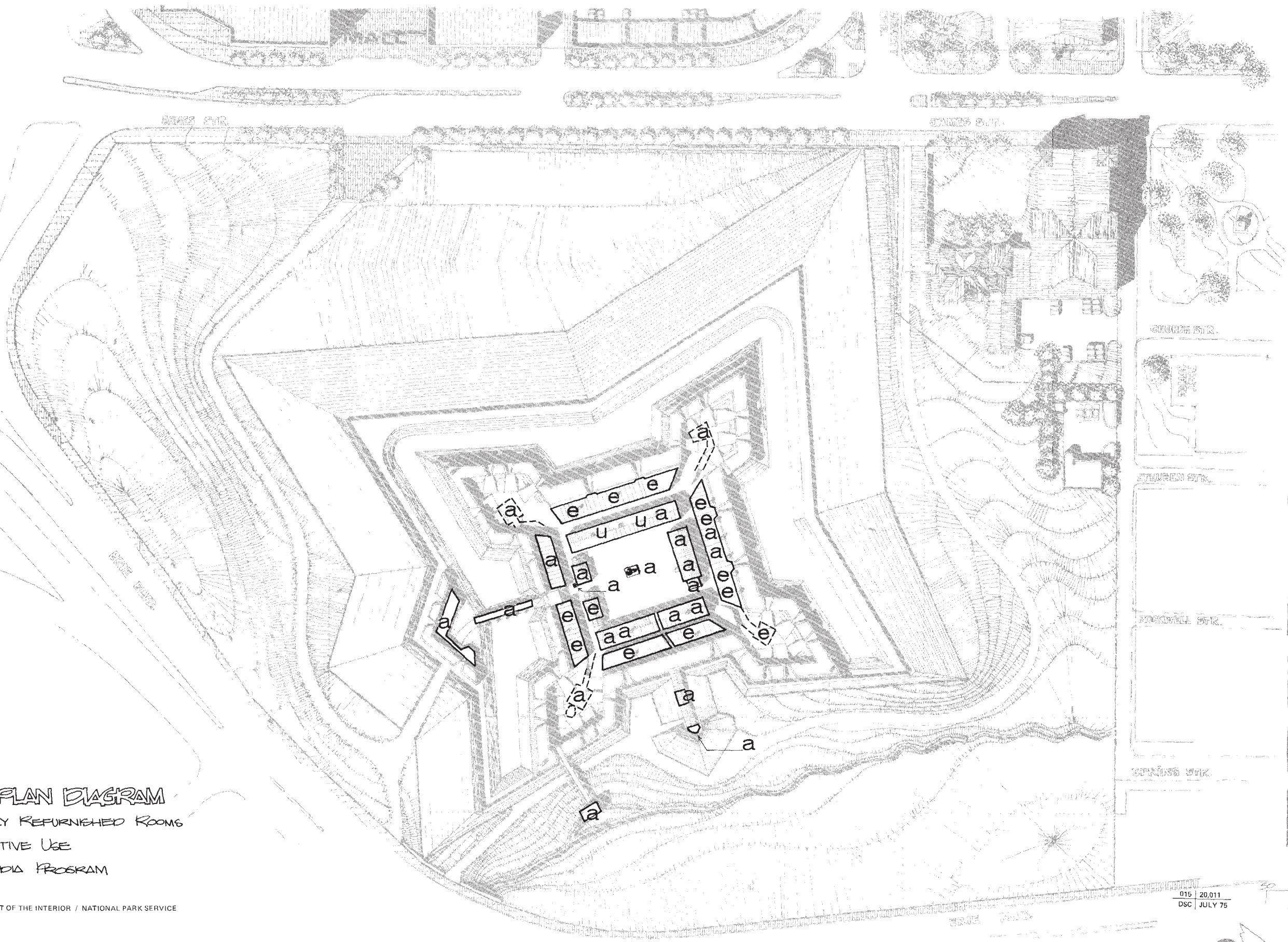
The park staff is encouraged to develop pre-visit class materials, and, if possible, to conduct special pre-visit orientation sessions for teachers. It would be a good idea to develop materials in two packages. The first, a brochure generally outlining the mechanics of arranging a tour and including a discussion of the educational opportunities available at the park, could be rather widely sent to educational institutions at the beginning of each school year. The second package of materials should be sent to individual teachers after they have scheduled a tour. This package would contain a precise plan for the conduct of the tour, background material on the history of the fort, historic maps and other illustrations and teaching aids, together with suggestions for followup activities or discussions in which the class might engage following their visit.

FORT STANWIX NATIONAL MONUMENT

FLOOR PLAN DIAGRAM

- a HISTORICALLY REFURNISHED ROOMS
- e ADMINISTRATIVE USE
- u MIXED-MEDIA PROGRAM

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR / NATIONAL PARK SERVICE



015 20.011
DSC JULY 75

SCALE IN FEET

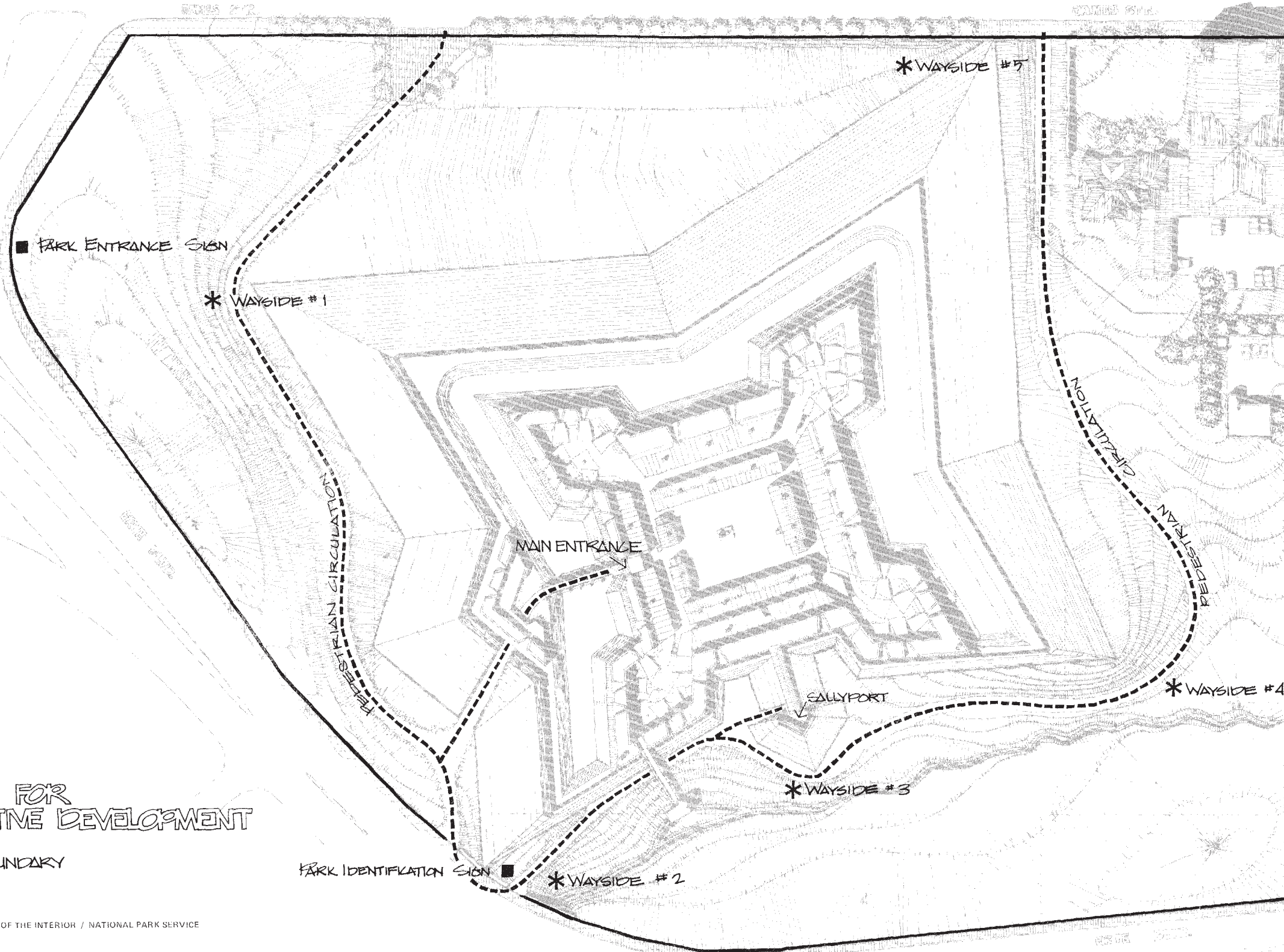
UFG 430-701

FORT STANWIX NATIONAL MONUMENT

SITE PLAN FOR INTERPRETIVE DEVELOPMENT

— NPS BOUNDARY

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR / NATIONAL PARK SERVICE



015 20,010
DSC JULY 75

SCALE 1" = 100'

(CPO 8-6-75)

The above suggestions are intended only to emphasize the need for the park staff to deal vigorously with school tours at Fort Stanwix. The site is one that has much local interest, to say nothing of significance, and every effort should be made to insure that young people experience the park in a meaningful and orderly fashion.

The park should also make special efforts to provide good tour experiences for senior citizens in Rome and for handicapped visitors (in particular, the deaf, and the mentally retarded, as institutions for them are located in Rome). Some special training or special equipment may be needed for interpreters taking such tours. Generally those visitors who are handicapped by lack of hearing bring their own interpreter, but the park may wish to secure special training for one of its staff members in order to insure that all its tours are maximally effective and accurate.

An audio tour system should be considered for interpreting the refurnished interior of the fort during the off-season, or in the event personnel restrictions severely limit the living-interpretation program.

A Telesonic system might be suitable, with a program developed to cover all of the refurnished areas in the fort. The tour might be conducted by Marinus Willett (or, perhaps, some fictional enlisted character) and should communicate the use and occupancy of all of the rooms together with the quality of life and the experience of the soldiers in the fort during the British siege of 1777. Music and suitable sound effects could be employed to give life to the narrator's description of activities.

It should be emphasized that an audio tour would be much less desirable than the living-interpretation media for the fort experience. It is recommended here for consideration primarily in recognition of personnel restrictions, but the park and the region are urged to exert strenuous efforts to insure that Fort Stanwix will have an interpretive staff adequate to maintain the basic living-interpretation program.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

The reconstructed fort and its restored downtown site offer enormous opportunities for special activities and programs that can be used to serve the cultural and public-service interests of the community of Rome, as well as to advance the cause of in-depth interpretation of the park's several themes. These programs do not need to be confined in subject matter to the Revolutionary War, the Willett Raid, or the Battle of Oriskany; they can provide the opportunities to offer substantial interpretation of both the earlier and later historic events associated with the fort, as well as some of the more interesting aspects of its

reconstruction, such as its archaeological investigation and the work of reconstruction itself.

The plan proposes several facilities which may be used for these purposes. The secondary audiovisual room will be available for special programs at all times when the density of visitation does not require its being used to show the standard audiovisual program about the fort's history and significance. The fort parade, which should be equipped with electrical hookups suitable for audiovisual and public-address system use, can also be the setting for events of this nature. The fort grounds themselves will offer a large arena for special events that can have meaning to the community and the park. All should be considered as platforms for the interpretation of Fort Stanwix and its history, and for use by the community in advancement of community goals.

In this connection the park staff should certainly plan and organize special events on some specific occasions (they are already embarked on such efforts). August 3 (during Fort Stanwix Days, the first week in August), should surely be commemorated by a special program, perhaps of speeches, band concerts, special brigade drills, and any other program elements that the staff feels able or inclined to incorporate. That day would also be a suitable time to provide a special program revolving around the reputed "first raising in battle" of the American flag. August 6 would be the day on which the Battle of Oriskany and the Willett Raid should receive some attention, and perhaps the celebration could include a specially organized tour, with interpretive guides, to the sites of these two associated events.

The Fourth of July should, of course, be celebrated at Fort Stanwix. Music by local bands, interpretive talks on the history of the flag and the regulation of its usage, together with an artillery salute and a rededication of the flag itself, would all be appropriate elements for a program of this sort at this time.

The garrison at Fort Stanwix customarily fired its artillery in celebration of Christmas and New Year, and this too might provide an appropriate program that would have interpretive value. The exciting events of actually firing some of the large guns could be buttressed by discussions of the comparative capabilities of the British and American weapons during the siege, of the technical aspects of firing heavy artillery, of the artistry in the design of such weapons, of the legends that have traditionally surrounded artillery men and their weapons, of the ceremonial usage of such pieces, and of the crews that serviced the tubes and their rather intricate and quite specialized occupation. Or the guns might be simply fired on these occasions (an initial explanation having been made to the citizens of Rome explaining the custom), routinely and without further interpretation, as church bells are customarily rung at certain times.

Winter months would be a fine time for a series of lectures in the alternate audiovisual room. Such a series might concern itself with the wider subject of the American Revolution and its impact upon the world. The Battle of Saratoga and its relationship to Fort Stanwix would be suitable for treatment in such a lecture series (indeed, as would any of the battles of the Revolution); as would the armies of that war, both English and American; their equipment and weaponry; their life in the field (as opposed to in the garrison); biographies of the leaders of the Revolution, and of the commanders and enlisted men who served at Fort Stanwix; the National Park Service archaeological investigation of the fort; and the technical aspects of the fort's reconstruction. A whole separate series could treat the artifacts that were recovered during the course of the archaeological investigation as they relate to antiques. Park Service personnel, local authorities, visiting dignitaries, and specialists from nearby colleges and universities could all be called on for such programs, which could be followed by informal discussion/refreshment get-togethers at which historic teas, cookies, and sweet breads could be served. Such occasions might, indeed, serve as the proving ground for living-interpretation cookery.

The parade ground might become the location of summer evening films shown perhaps on an entrance-fee basis. Any film having to do with a related Revolutionary War park or the Revolutionary War in general would be appropriate for such showings and could be accompanied by brief talks that would tie the Fort Stanwix story to the film subject matter.

The fort green could be used as the parade ground for special programs by reactivated military units demonstrating drill and camp life on a special event basis. It could also serve as the site of local craft fairs perhaps sponsored cooperatively with the Rome Community Art Center.

Many areas of the fort could be used for special meetings of community-service groups, perhaps initiated by invitation to introduce the membership to the new park, and continued on a once-a-year basis for the purpose of cementing community relations and acquainting people with changes in the park's management and programs. Such groups could be given special tours of the facility or be shown new programs as they are instituted. In the event dinners or luncheons are customarily associated with the meetings of such groups, it would seem that a local catering organization could provide food services; the fort's parade would be a delightful site for luncheon or dinner meetings in the summer, spring, or fall, while other spaces might be cleared and used for such occasions in less climatically benign times.

The backup audiovisual room could be used, during the off-season, for special exhibits. Various organizations circulate such shows, and the Bicentennial is likely to produce an abundance of exhibits having the war in its various aspects, and the 18th century in America, as central themes. The Division of Museums at Harpers

Ferry Center can assist the park staff in locating and selecting such shows, which could be opened by a guest lecturer. The park itself might organize such a show: an in-depth exhibition of the site's archaeological collections could be organized with the assistance of the Harpers Ferry Center, presented, and perhaps circulated afterwards.

The same room could provide gallery space for local artists and craftsmen to display crafts and paintings of the Revolution, for concerts of period music, poetry reading, or the dramatic reading of period journals or declamations on the subject of the war and its period by local theatre groups.

The above are ideas offered for consideration by the park staff. They can be combined or selected at random, and any or all programs could be developed cooperatively with local organizations such as the Rome Historical Society, the Daughters of the American Revolution, the Sons of the Revolution, the Revolutionary War Roundtable, the Council for Northeast Historical Archeology, the Explorer Scouts, Butler's Rangers, the Tryon County Militia, the Third New York Regiment, the Brigade of the American Revolution, and (even!) the United Empire Loyalists.

Off site programs offer other good opportunities. Especially, the park should develop two programs for use by schools and other interested organizations at off site meetings. A slide-sound program should be produced from the records of the archaeological dig to document and describe this very important part of our management and development of the area. It might be accompanied by a small, portable exhibit of some of the secondary objects recovered. Similarly, careful photographic records should be made during the course of the reconstruction of the fort. Whether by slide or motion picture, a full documentation should be secured of this outstanding effort and these materials should be later developed into a program that explains the processes and actual work of reconstruction. The use of programs of this sort should not be limited to local schools; they should be made available to the entire community, as well as to institutions at more distant locations. It is recommended that they be developed in close cooperation with appropriate specialists so that they will be suitable for showing to university students interested or majoring in archaeology or historic architecture.

PUBLICATIONS

The park minifolder has been described in an earlier section of this document. It should contain a self-guiding tour map of the site together with another self-guiding schematic of the fort's interior showing what programs are available where. It would be desirable to have a small map of the site's location in relation

to the community of Rome printed somewhere in the minifolder so that it may be placed in motels and at local visitor-contact points to help visitors find their way to both the park and its parking lot. The text of the minifolder should have a narrative discussing the national significance of the site together with a rather general history of the important events associated with it. Illustrations of this text would be desirable.

A historical handbook should be prepared and published to be sold as inexpensively as possible. This publication, which might take the form of the traditional historical handbook but which might also be designed in a new format, will require the preparation of a new manuscript especially for this purpose. It should be liberally illustrated with historic pictures and maps, and the use of some color is strongly urged.

A companion publication treating the archaeological excavation of Fort Stanwix in some detail and with considerable scholarship should also be prepared. Hanson and Hsu's archaeological report can be condensed and edited to provide the manuscript; the photographs taken during the course of the dig would provide excellent and fascinating illustrations. It would be desirable if this booklet could also sell for a minimum price and take the same general form and design as the historical handbook in order that the two might be sold with a slipcase as a package.

Other publications should be commissioned as necessary. Of greatest importance are several that relate to primary subthemes in the park's history that will not be treated in an exhaustive fashion by the site's day-to-day interpretive program. Of particular concern are monographs on the Treaty of 1784, the story of the "first Stars and Stripes" flown in a combat situation (including an account of the controversy that has surrounded this event over the years), the Willett Raid, and the Battle of Oriskany. Manuscripts for all of these monographs should be secured from recognized scholars in the field, and their publications should be as handsome as possible with suitable illustrations, maps, and bibliographies.

The park should, as soon as possible, undertake a series of historical reprints. Of particular interest would be reprints that might be presented in an Eyewitness Series: the Orderly Books of the fort; the journals and diaries of soldiers who participated in its construction, siege, and battles; and the Scott and Muller accounts.

Finally, a children's book should be prepared in cooperation with a commercial publisher. A general children's book is recommended with a narrative designed to tie the Revolutionary War and its battles together into a meaningful whole for young people. Particular emphasis should be placed on the battles at Minuteman,

the Battles of Saratoga, Yorktown, and Fort Stanwix — in other words on the battles associated with National Park Service sites, but especially those that relate to Fort Stanwix. Again, the publications should be well illustrated in color and written to appeal to young people from the fourth through the eighth grades.

SALES

The sales facility at Fort Stanwix, to be located in the casemate at the left of the entrance drawbridge, will doubtless be established as an agency of Eastern National Parks and Monuments Association. This course is recommended.

The facility should offer a wide range of books on the Revolutionary War, its leaders, and significance. Literature of this sort should not be confined to subjects closely associated with Fort Stanwix, but should cover the entire subject area and time period of the conflict.

There will of course be demand for postcards of the fort and its refurnished interior. (Slides of this same material should also be offered.) Hopefully, some postcards could be developed that would be calculated to interest children. A nice approach to this problem would be postcards with drawings that are intended for coloring by the youngster himself. The subject matter of such postcards needs to be simple, as do the line drawings, but the cards can illustrate developments at the park and contain simple interpretive messages.

The agency is encouraged to develop some souvenir items for sale by either local merchants, the Rome Historical Society, or as a last resort, the agency itself. Final decisions regarding materials of this sort must await the development of the sales facility proposed by the Rome Historical Society and the emergence of community interest. When the final decisions can be reached, it is recommended that the agency assume a leadership role in developing reproductions of some of the more interesting objects uncovered in the process of the archaeological dig for sale as souvenirs. A great deal of glassware and ceramics was recovered, all of which presents useful opportunities for good interpretive mementos of the park visit. In addition, the refurnishings themselves will provide prototypes, which may be offered for sale in the form of miniature reproductions of the cannons, or replicas of such things as canteens and belts. Similarly, living-interpretation programs may provide byproducts that would be suitable for sale or consignment for souvenir resale purposes. Identification of items of this sort will need to await the determinations of research and program development, but the staff is encouraged to be alert to possibilities as these activities progress, and to work in close cooperation with the community to secure the availability of truly quality souvenirs.

SCOPE OF COLLECTIONS



The archaeological investigations at Fort Stanwix produced an excellent and large collection of artifacts. A wide variety of materials have been recovered; the 18th- and 19th-century ceramics and glass are outstanding. The collection as a whole presents a fine record of the cultural continuum at the site, and of the history of Rome.

The archaeological collection at Fort Stanwix, now that it has been disassociated from the site, should be listed as an entity on the National Register. At the same time, the collection should be fully cataloged, recorded, and preserved (most of this work has already been done).

The collection will be invaluable as a research aid to refurbishing the fort and to the illumination of the more specialized areas of its history. It will doubtless also have interest for some years to scholars working in the field of cultural artifacts. For these reasons (in addition to its inclusion on the National Register), it should be maintained at the park.

As time passes and park development reaches completion, it may be that management will feel it advisable to consider depositing the collection with some other institution. This would be appropriate only if experience has shown that it is no longer needed at the park for development purposes, or that there is little save specialized interest in it. Needless to say, disposition will need to be made in conformity with requirements of the Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and the Management of Museum Properties Act of 1955, and to a highly reputable organization.

Because the archaeological collection is both big and, in part, fine, it is recommended that it be stored at the park in a fashion that will permit the average visitor to look at large portions of it. The collection storage area might be located in the casemate near the sally port exit from the fort or the adjacent rampart wall. There, in a room that would be equipped with suitable environmental controls (heat, dehumidification, and perhaps air conditioning, as curatorial specialists deem advisable) the bulk of the collection could be stored in the standard museum storage cabinets or shelves, fronted by a series of display cases in which examples taken from the entire span of the material could be exhibited with appropriate labels to describe the generic character and particular identity. Content of these cases could be changed from time to time, and they could be located behind a barrier that would set off a viewing area through which visitors might walk. The system will permit visitors to enjoy the richness of the collection in an unsupervised situation that will not interfere with the management and preservation activities that will need to be associated with it. Some portion of the nonpublic use area should be set aside by architects for curatorial work with the collection. Water and an exhaust fan will be needed in this area, as will space for catalog files and work tables for cataloging and minor preservation activities.

Since Fort Stanwix is to be refurnished, the objects making up the refurnishing will represent an important area of the park collections. Objects for refurnishing will be specified and acquired in conformance with approved furnishing plans. Most of these objects are likely to be reproductions due to the scarcity of original objects for these types of buildings and to the cost of such original objects.

It is suggested that the Division of Museum Services and the park consider instituting a new system for their recording and managing reproductions, in the instance of reproductions only. There seems little point in cataloging reproduction items intended for refurnishing into the National Park Service standard museum cataloging system. That system is predicated upon the assumption that the object has historic and/or intrinsic value, which requires substantial curatorial documentation. This does not apply, in most instances, to

reproduction objects. A more efficient and effective management system might consist of an inventory of such reproduction furnishings. This might take the form of a simple file which could include information about the research documentation responsible for the character of the object as well as its source and cost — information that would be extremely useful in the event of loss or wear which would necessitate replacement. The Division of Museum Services should have the last word on this matter, but it does seem that the National Park Service has reached a point in its reliance upon reproductions for furnishing purposes that makes it appropriate to consider developing a system that more suitably records such objects for the sake of greater efficiency and economy.

Living-interpretation activities at the park should employ no original objects but should rely entirely upon reproductions. The objects should be managed in the same way the reproduction furnishings are managed.

Doubtless, over the years, the park will have the opportunity to acquire or be given historic objects. They should accept or acquire only those which have known and direct association with the 18th-century period at Fort Stanwix. Objects which have no association with the fort or with this period should be channeled to the Rome Historical Society for their interest or acquisition. Needless to say, historic objects acquired in this fashion should be fully cataloged within the National Park Service standard museum cataloging system.

Space for a small library should be provided near the interpretive offices in the administrative area of the reconstructed fort. The park should not attempt to build a vast library, but will need a resource of library materials that will be adequate to the needs of their staff in developing the interpretive program. Included in such materials would certainly be all books about Colonial America, the Revolutionary War, the 18th century in New York State, and the later history of Rome, New York, as well as biographical materials relating to all of the important historic figures that participated in the events associated with the site and the Revolutionary War. Standard reference works on china, glass, and other cultural materials will be needed to interpret the archaeological collections.

The library collection should extend to pictorial and pamphlet materials, and suitable systems for managing such items should be established — a picture and a vertical file. Acquisition of materials in these areas, however, should be generally confined to those that relate directly to Fort Stanwix and the artifacts recovered from its site, and should not encompass the entire story of Colonial America during the Revolutionary War or of the city of Rome.

RESEARCH REQUIREMENTS

Developments proposed at Fort Stanwix will require substantial additional research. In priority order, the park should program research as follows:

1. Exhaustive investigations of the Battle of Oriskany and the Willett Raid.
2. Historic resource management plan including a research management plan for the purpose of assessing the present status of research, and planning for its orderly pursuit and accumulation.
3. Furnishings studies for all areas of the fort proposed for this type of development (underway).
4. Research studies for the programs in living interpretation which will include investigation of details of costuming, equipment, and activities of the garrison at the time of the siege.

Other research opportunities exist in abundance, many of which might produce manuscripts that would be desirable publications for the park's sales facility. Of particular interest would be studies of the Oneida Carrying Place; of the settlers of the Mohawk Valley, their culture, their conduct during the Revolution, and their background; of the British and American forces contesting domination of the portage; of the various Indian treaties associated with Fort Stanwix; and of the several tribes that actively participated in the siege of the fort. The list of biographical studies that should be undertaken is fairly long, and should include investigations of Peter Gansvoort, Marinus Willett, Barry St. Leger, Sir William Johnson, Joseph Brant, and Walter Butler, as a start.

Studies such as those noted above, not associated with research required by development of the park, can often be undertaken by the park staff with considerable benefit to both the individual doing the investigation and the interpretive program. Projects of this sort should be assigned to qualified historians, and their work should be publishable. Within this context, the subjects noted above are only beginning suggestions. Doubtless, numerous other topics will suggest themselves, and the park staff is encouraged to foster research efforts of this sort that will add to their program and to the competence of their staff.

STAFFING



The interpretive staff should open the park for visit or use every day except Christmas, twelve months a year. Hours may vary, and should be tailored primarily to accommodate visitor-use patterns as these become apparent. Appropriate winter hours for the interpretive program in this urban environment would be 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday; 9 a.m. to 12 noon on Saturday, and 1 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Sunday and Wednesday. Summer hours might be more regular, with the park opening at 10 a.m. every day and remaining open until 8 p.m.

Whatever the hours, the park will need, in addition to its supervisory interpreter and curator (both of which positions should be permanent), full-time coverage of the following positions for interpretation:

Sentry (one — Information/Orientation)

Enlisted men (three — Living Interpretation)

Officer (one — Living Interpretation)

Woman (one — Living Interpretation)

During slow periods, one enlisted man can staff the park sales facility. At other times seasonal help will be required for this.

The suggested schedule represents a core staff, and may be expanded as seasonally appropriate.

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APPENDIX — FLOOR SPACE

North Casemate	2,600 square feet in six rooms
West Casemate	2,600 square feet
Southwest Casemate	1,080 square feet
Southeast Casemate	1,200 square feet
East Casemate	920 square feet and 720 square feet
Headquarters	1,000 square feet
Guardhouse	400 square feet
Storehouse	600 square feet
Bakehouse	320 square feet
Northeast Bombproof	250 square feet
Northwest Bombproof	290 square feet
Southwest Bombproof	320 square feet
East Barracks	1,150 square feet and 770 square feet
West Barracks	2,100 square feet

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As the Nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has basic responsibilities to protect and conserve our land and water, energy and minerals, fish and wildlife, parks and recreation areas, and to ensure the wise use of all these resources. The Department also has a major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities and for people who live in island territories under U.S. administration.

