

Frenchman's Landing (Little Fort Niagara)

Subject Area: Social Studies

New York State Social Studies Learning Standards

Standard 1

History of the United States and New York

Students will:

- Use a variety of intellectual skills to demonstrate their understanding of major ideas, eras, themes, developments, and turning points in the history of the United States and New York.
 - Distinguish between near and distant past and interpret simple timelines,
 - Investigate key turning points in New York State and United States history and explain why these events or developments are significant.
 - Gather and organize information about the important achievements and contributions of individuals and groups living in New York State and the United States,
 - Prepare essays and oral reports about the important social, political, economic, scientific, technological, and cultural developments, issues, and events from New York State and United States history,

Overview

In 1745, the French built a small blockhouse and storehouse at the upper end of the portage from Fort Niagara at a location known as “Frenchman’s Landing”. When only canoes were used to ship goods, Frenchman’s Landing was the terminus of the Old French Portage. It was located at the present site of Tenth Street and Buffalo Avenue. A New York State Historic Marker commemorates the site.

Fort Little Niagara was built to protect the route from a trading post established in Lewiston at the present site of Artpark and another trading post at a landing above Niagara Falls. It was built to protect the valuable portage that ran between the two trading posts.

In 1751, the end of the portage was moved a few hundred yards south and Fort Little Niagara was constructed to replace the small French blockhouse and storehouse. Built by Daniel Joncaire, son of Louis Joncaire, Fort Little Niagara was also known as Fort du Portage. It consisted of a log stockade around barracks, storehouses, stables, and a blockhouse. Fort Little Niagara was a dependency of Fort Niagara.

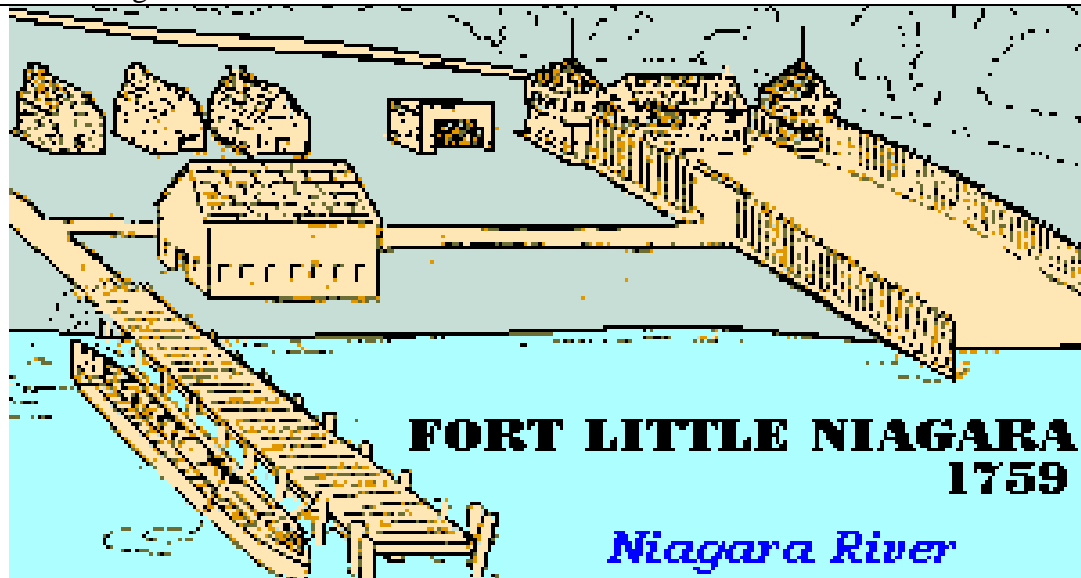
During the French and Indian War, the French destroyed the fort to prevent its capture by the British. When the British arrived, the only part of the fort they found was the chimney from the fort's barracks. This chimney became known as the "Old Stone Chimney". The Old Stone Chimney from Fort Little Niagara was incorporated into Fort Schlosser, a fort built by the British in 1760 to replace Fort Little Niagara. With the exception of the lower story of the castle at Fort Niagara, the Old Stone Chimney is the oldest structure in Western New York. It is the only reminder of all the commercial and military activity by the French and English rule at the upper end of the portage.

Activity

Students will explain why the French built Little Fort Niagara at the upper end of the portage.

Extension Activity 2

Label the stockade, blockhouses, pier, storehouse and canoe in this illustration of Fort Little Niagara.



Source: dmna.ny.gov

Extension Activity 2

The burning of Fort Little Niagara by the French was an event associated with the French and Indian War. They will broaden their knowledge of the French and Indian War by accessing the *Discover the French and Indian War: Interactive French and Indian Wars Timeline* at <http://www.wqed.org/tv/specials/the-war-that-made-america/> on the *War That Made America* Web Site.

Extension Activity 3:

To understand the need for the British to improve their relationship with the Native Americans, students will complete the assignment *Student Resource Page 1-1Original Document “Building Forts in Their Hearts”* available at <http://www.wqed.org/tv/specials/the-war-that-made-america/downloads/11buildingfortsintheirhearts.pdf>

References

Intensive Level Survey Historic Resources – Downtown Neighborhood City of Niagara Falls: Phase I at <http://buffaloah.com/surveys/nf/3.pdf>

List of New York State Historic Markers in Niagara County, New York at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_New_York_State_Historic_Markers_in_Niagara_County,_New_York

Niagara County Historical Society’s Bicentennial Moments :Fort Little Niagara at <http://www.niagara2008.com/history122.html>

New York’s Forts and Military History at <http://www.northamericanforts.com/East/nywest.html#schlosser>

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