

Upper Fort Garry Land Use from 1835-1989: A Study of Previous Impacts,
Potential Intact Remains and the Heritage Impact Assessment Program

File # E4.2.7.D1Lg-21

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March 1989

INTRODUCTION

This report summarizes the land use history of Upper Fort Garry and its environs by describing the structures that stood in and around the fort complex from 1835 to ca. 1890, as well as all buildings constructed in the study area after 1885. The study area is bound on the south by the Assiniboine River, on the west by Garry Street, on the north by Broadway and on the south by the Canadian National Railway line behind Union Station (Figure 1).

The report is divided into six sections; two deal with constructional phases at Upper Fort Garry, three relate to a discussion of land use based on the 1895, 1918 and 1955 fire insurance plans, and the final section pertains to present (1989) and future land use. In this way, the extent of all architectural/archaeological features at Upper Fort Garry can be correlated with post-1890 building locations. Because land use at the forks of the Red and Assiniboine rivers has been discussed in detail elsewhere (Guinn 1980), as has the constructional history of Upper Fort Garry (Loewen and Monks 1986), there will be limited discussion regarding construction phases at the upper fort. This report relies largely on illustrated locations of the fort buildings as well as tabular description of building dimensions. Locations of post-1885 buildings and tabular information regarding their methods of construction and dimensions are also included. The objective of the report is to identify areas which may potentially contain intact heritage resources, in order to facilitate their management under the Heritage Resources Impact Assessment Program.

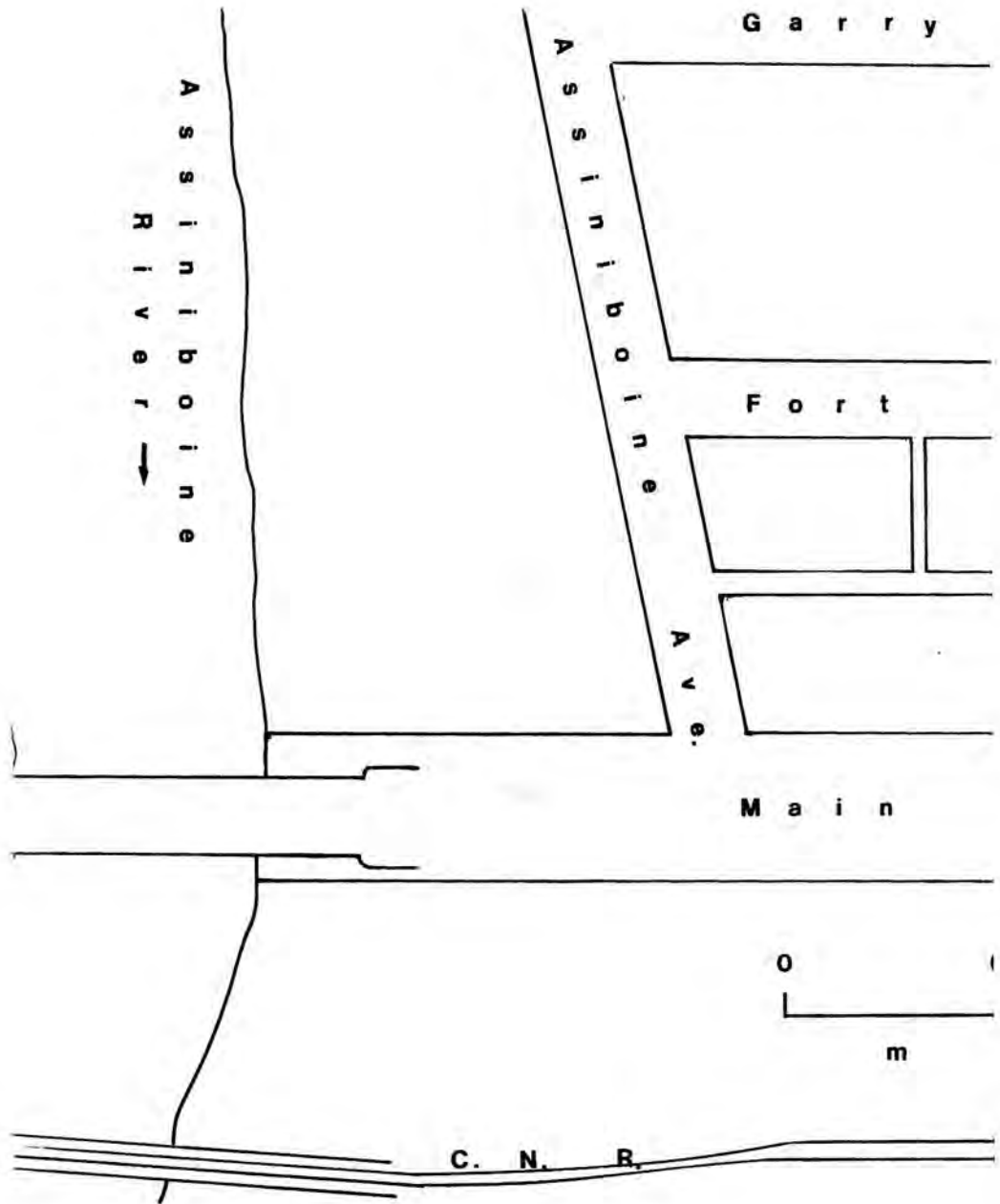


Figure 1. Study area location using present (1989) street orientation.

UPPER FORT GARRY PHASE 1. (1835-1850)

Construction at the upper fort began in 1835 with two storage buildings, the Main House, the fort walls and the bastions. Table 1 lists the dimensions and function of those structures built between 1835 and 1850. Structures whose locations are known are illustrated in Figure 2. Several structures were only temporary and therefore provenience is not known. By 1852, sixteen buildings were located within the complex, while three were situated north, and two west, of the fort (Figure 2). The locations and dimensions of the stable and Courthouse west of the fort are based on the 1848 Moody map (Warkentin and Ruggles 1970:193). In all probability, fort structures were built on either stone foundations or directly on the ground surface. Whereas the Main House contained a cellar, it is not known which additional buildings, if any, also had cellars beneath the main floor. Any cellars would probably have been filled during and after fort utilization and therefore, would have a greater tendency to survive any post-1890 impacts than would building foundations or sill logs.

During the first 15 years of its operation, the fort was used as: (1) an administration centre, storage facility and retail outlet for the Hudson's Bay Company; (2) a military post to house the 6th Regiment of Foot between 1846 and 1848; and (3) as a civil administration centre for the Red River Settlement.

Between 1846 and 1848, during its use as a military post, the interior of the fort was divided in half longitudinally. The three storage buildings along the west wall were remodelled into barracks to accommodate the troops and the Main House was used as the Officer's quarters. HBC employees used the buildings along the east wall. This eastern area was fenced and a new gate

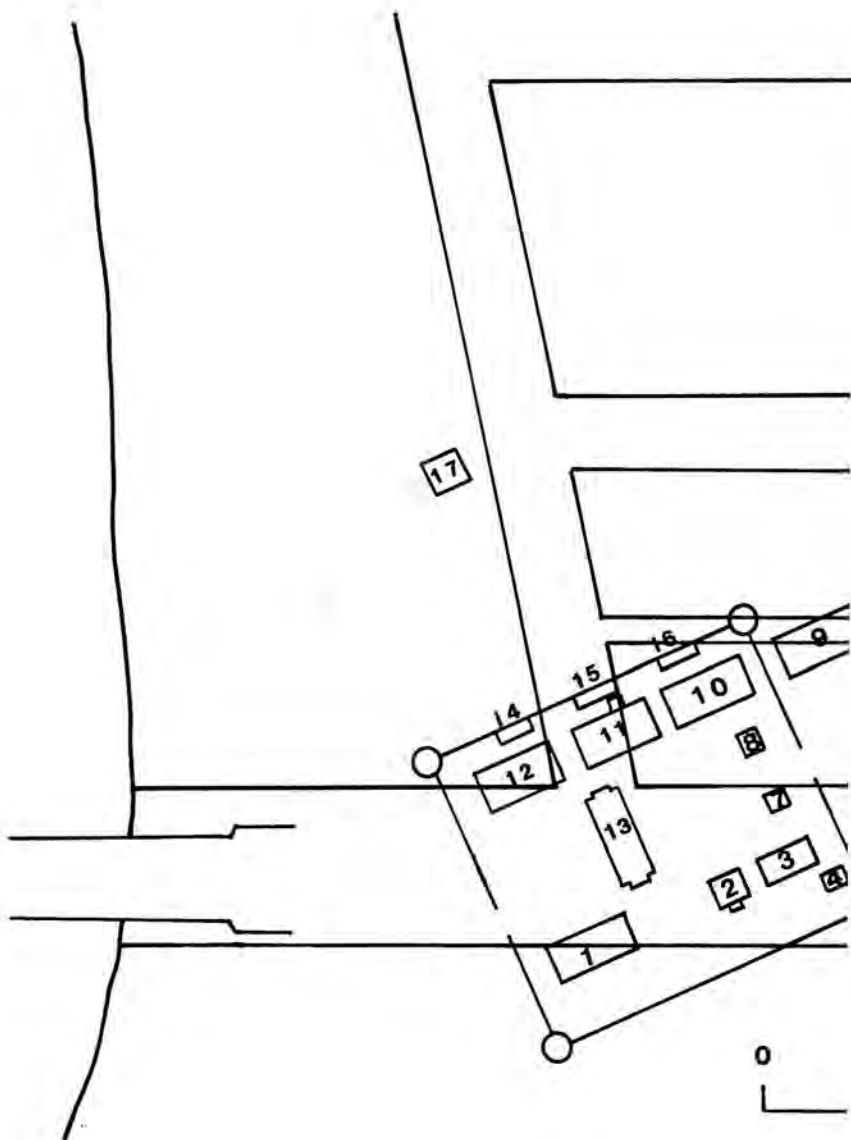


Figure 2. Location of buildings at Upper Fort Garry ca. 1835 to ca. 1850. Building numbers illustrated correlate with those listed in Table 1.

Table 1. Summary of Upper Fort Garry Buildings 1835-1850. (1)

#	Name	Date	Function	Construction Details (2)
1	Fur Store	1836-37	Storage/Barrack	Stone Foundation, Post and Beam, 22 m x 9.1 m
2	Warehouse	1835-37	Warehouse/Barrack	Stone Foundation, Post and Beam, 22 m x 9.1 m
3	Main House	1835-37	Residence	Stone Foundation, Cellar, Post and Beam, 21.3 m x 10.7 m
4	Recorder's House	1835-1837	Residence	Post and Beam, 11 m x 7.3 m
5	Men's House	1835-1837	Residence	Post and Beam, Latrine on West Side, 12.8 m x 7.3 m
6	Sales Store	1839	Sales/Storage/Office	Timber foundation, Post and Beam Construction, 22 m x 9.1 m
7	Yellow Store	1841-44	Warehouse/Barrack	Stone Foundation, Post and Beam, 22 m x 9.1 m
8	Cook House	pre-1845	Kitchen	No Data Available
9	Flour Store	1846	Storage/Threshing	Wood Foundation, Tongue and Groove Frame, 22 m x 9.1 m
10	Bakery	ca. 1846	Bakery	No Data Available
11	Cook House	1846	Kitchen	No Data Available
12	Bake Oven	1846	Stone Oven	No Data Available
13	Magazine	1847	Storage	No Data Available
14	Pemmican Store	1848	Storage/Threshing	Wood Foundation, Tongue and Groove Frame, 22 m x 9.1 m
15	Privy	1835-36	Privy/Midden	No Data Available
16	Privy	1841-44	Privy/Midden	No Data Available
17	Privy	1841-44	Privy/Midden	No Data Available

Table 1. continued

18	Bell tower	pre-1845	Tower	No Data Available; Located Half Way Along East Wall
19	Stable	ca. 1846	Stable	No Data Available; Stood West Fort
20	Courthouse	ca. 1844	Courthouse/Gaol/Hospital	No Data Available; Stood Northwest of Fort

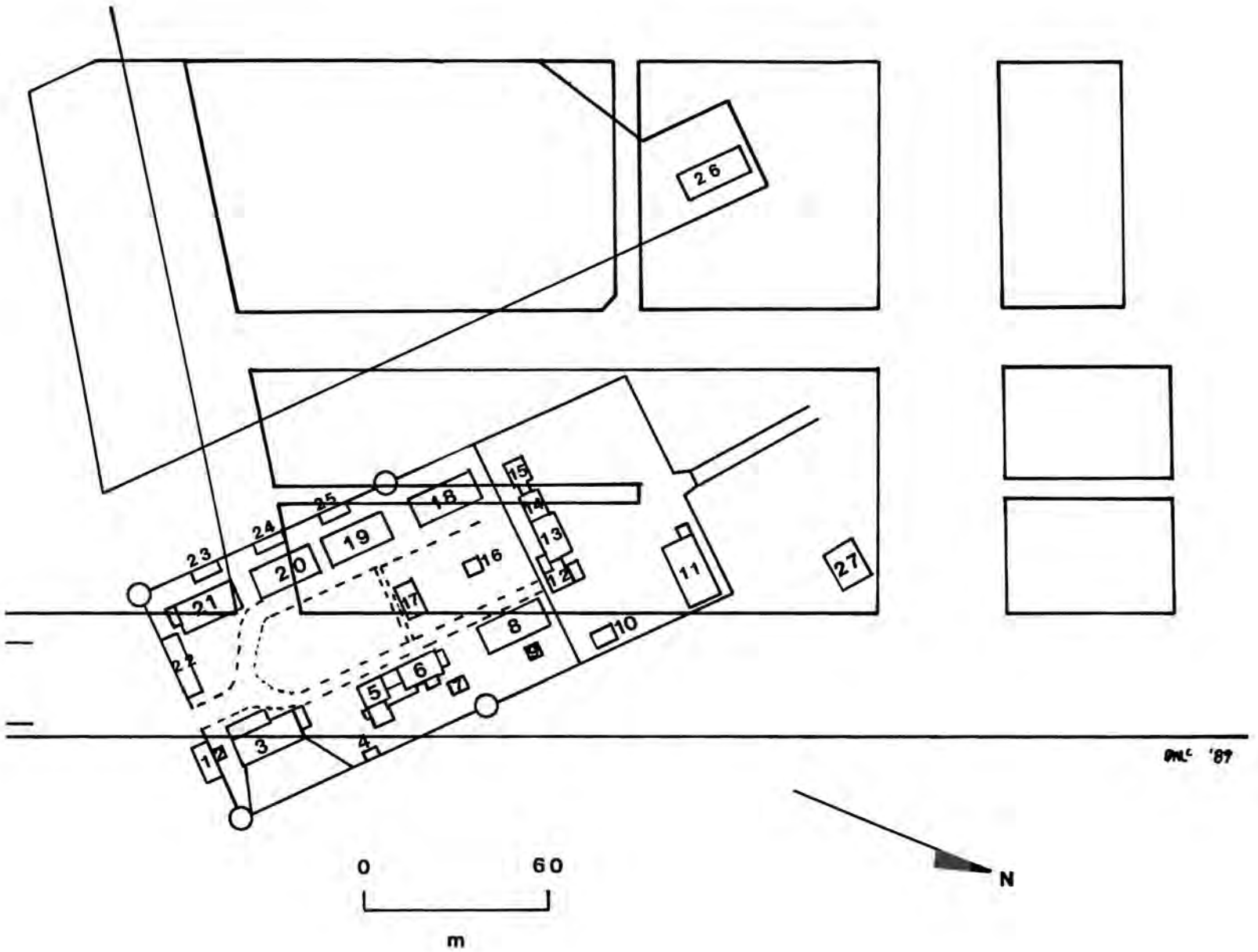
1- Based on Loewen and Monks 1986: 207-209.

2- First dimension is north-south measurement, second is the east-west dimension.

was established in roughly the centre of the east wall. The loss of the three storage buildings along the west wall precipitated the construction of two storage buildings outside of the stone walls in 1846 and 1848. The storage function of the buildings along the west wall of the fort returned when the regiment left the upper fort in 1848. Following the departure of the military, the fort once again resumed the function of fur trade and civil government administration centre. Because of its importance to the northern department of the HBC fur trade, several buildings were added and the walls of the fort extended to form a much larger fort complex. The enlarging of Upper Fort Garry characterizes the second constructional phase.

UPPER FORT GARRY PHASE 2. (1850-1880)

The second phase corresponds with construction activity that either refurbished extant buildings, annexed extant structures with lean-tos, walkways or porches, or added new structures. The walls of the fort were also extended and the gate, which currently stands along Main Street, was installed. By the mid-1870s, there were 24 buildings within Upper Fort Garry, two north of the fort, and one west of the complex (Figure 3). This latter was the



Location of buildings at Upper Fort Garry ca. 1850 to ca. 1860. Numbers illustrated correlate with those listed in Table 2.