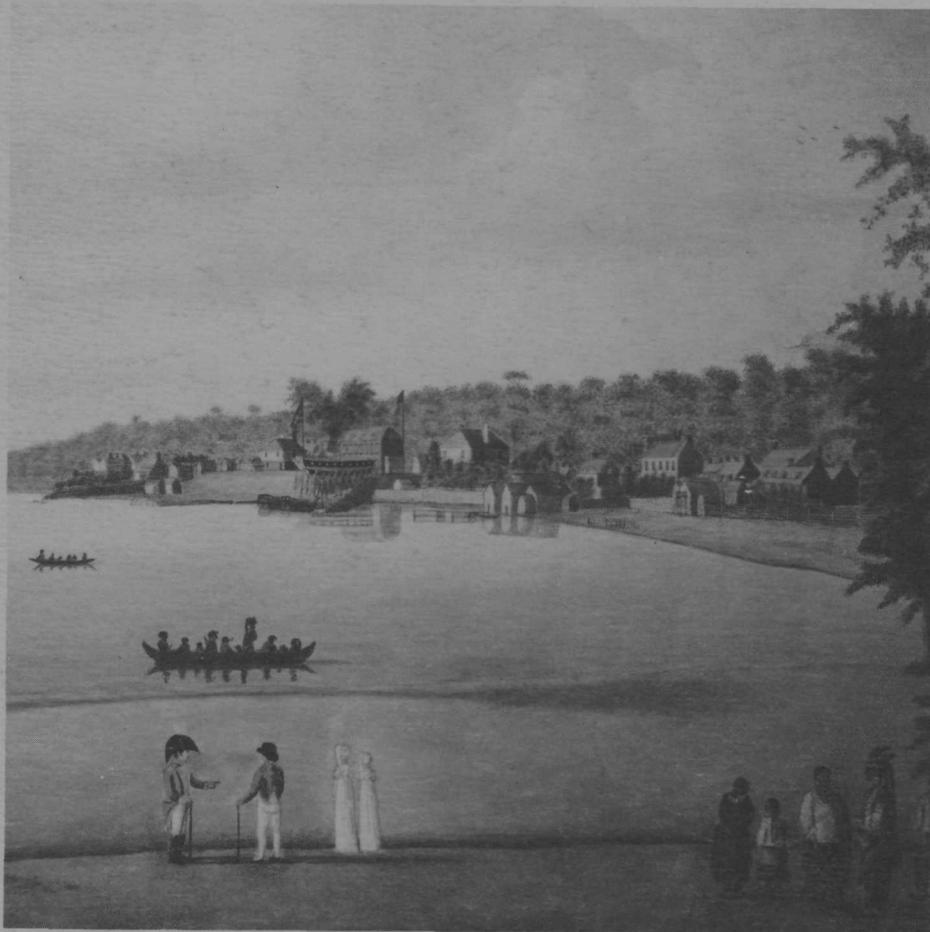




Parks  
Canada

Parcs  
Canada

# FORT MALDEN NATIONAL HISTORIC PARK



## MANAGEMENT PLAN



Canada



Parks  
Canada

Parcs  
Canada

# FORT MALDEN NATIONAL HISTORIC PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN

1983

Ontario Region



## **FURTHER INFORMATION**

For further information on the Fort Malden National Historic Park Management Plan, please contact either:

Area Superintendent,  
Fort Malden National Historic Park,  
P.O. Box 38, 100 Laird Avenue,  
Amherstburg, Ontario.  
N9V 2Z2                      Tel: (519) 736-5416

or

Director,  
Parks Canada, Ontario Region,  
P.O. Box 1359,  
Cornwall, Ontario.  
K6H 5V4                      Tel: (613) 933-7951

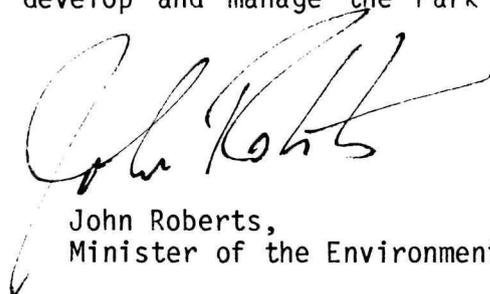
## FOREWORD

Fort Malden has a special place in Canada's history. Established in 1796 near the mouth of the Detroit River, Fort Malden defended the Detroit Frontier for over half a century. Today, restored barracks and the remains of earthworks survive to tell the story of this important military post. Malden's significance was formally recognized in 1940, when the Fort was established as a National Historic Park for Canadians, and indeed for people of the world, to appreciate and enjoy.

This Management Plan describes the purpose of the Park and the Park context, including the physical setting, existing facilities and visitor trends. Park objectives are established and a development concept is put forth that provides an overview of the manner in which the Park will be developed, managed and used in the future in order to achieve these objectives. Detailed programs for the treatment of historic resources, natural resources management, interpretation, visitor services, and Park operations are set out.

The Plan has been prepared through the efforts of Parks Canada staff with the help of interested visitors, groups, agencies and local residents. I would like to thank these participants for their interest and support in the planning process.

Fort Malden is one of Canada's special places. A fascinating site with an exciting story to tell, it is now protected for the benefit of all Canadians. I am pleased to present this Plan describing how Parks Canada will carefully protect, develop and manage the Park in the future.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Roberts", is written over the printed name and title.

John Roberts,  
Minister of the Environment.

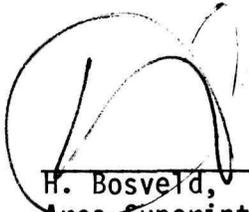
**APPROVED:**



A. T. Davidson,  
Assistant Deputy Minister.



J. C. Christakos,  
Director, Ontario Region.



H. Bosveld,  
Area Superintendent,  
Fort Malden National Historic Park.

**PARKS CANADA  
DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT**

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The Management Plan for Fort Malden National Historic Park is the result of the efforts of many people. Special thanks are due to the residents of Amherstburg, Park visitors, local agencies, and the staffs of Fort Malden and the Ontario Regional Office of Parks Canada.

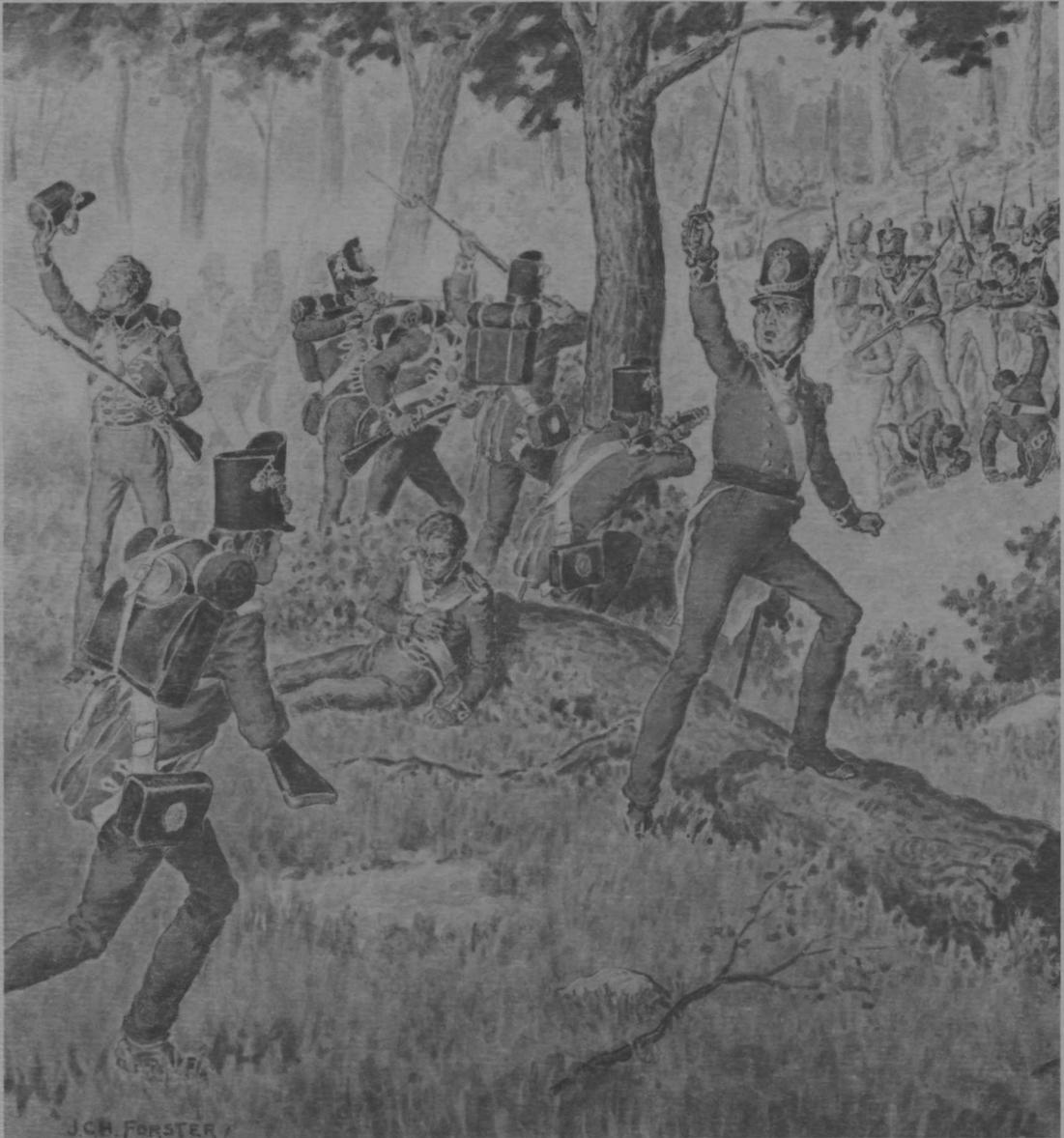
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Battle of Manguagon, War of 1812. From a painting by J.C.H. Forster.  
Photo: Fort Malden National Historic Park

## **SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION**

## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Purpose**

The purpose of the Management Plan is to guide the future management, development and use of Fort Malden. This document provides a terms of reference for future activities by establishing the goals for site development and by providing a concept and guidelines for the achievement of those goals.

### **1.2 Format**

The Plan is organized into four main sections. The first section provides background material on the location of the Fort, its physical and historical resources, problems, and the primary aims guiding Parks Canada's management of the site. Section two describes the development proposals at a conceptual level, and the third section contains more specific development guidelines. The assessment of potential environmental impacts is described in the fourth section. Other information required to support the recommendations of the Plan is located in the appendices.

### **1.3 Planning Process**

The planning process at Fort Malden began with the preparation of themes and objectives in accordance with the established Planning Framework for Historic Parks and Sites (Appendix A). The themes and objectives provide the historical rationale and national context for development of the Park so that its resources will be conserved, commemorated and interpreted in an appropriate manner. Following from the themes and objectives, a Proposal for a Management Plan was prepared and publicly discussed through Parks Canada's public consultation program (Appendix B). Comments received at that time are reflected in this document, the Management Plan for Fort Malden National Historic Park.

### **1.4 Context**

Fort Malden National Historic Park is located in the Town of Amherstburg in southwestern Ontario. Situated on the eastern bank of the Detroit River, the Park is within one kilometre of the Canada-United States border and only twenty-nine kilometres south of the Detroit-Windsor urban area (See Figure One).

Fort Malden became a National Historic Park in 1940, prompted by extensive efforts on the part of concerned local citizens. A small parcel of land was acquired from the Town of Amherstburg, a museum was built, and with strong local support the historical collections grew rapidly. Since then, most of the original fort site has been acquired and there has been an increasing emphasis on interpreting the Park's military history (See Figure Two).

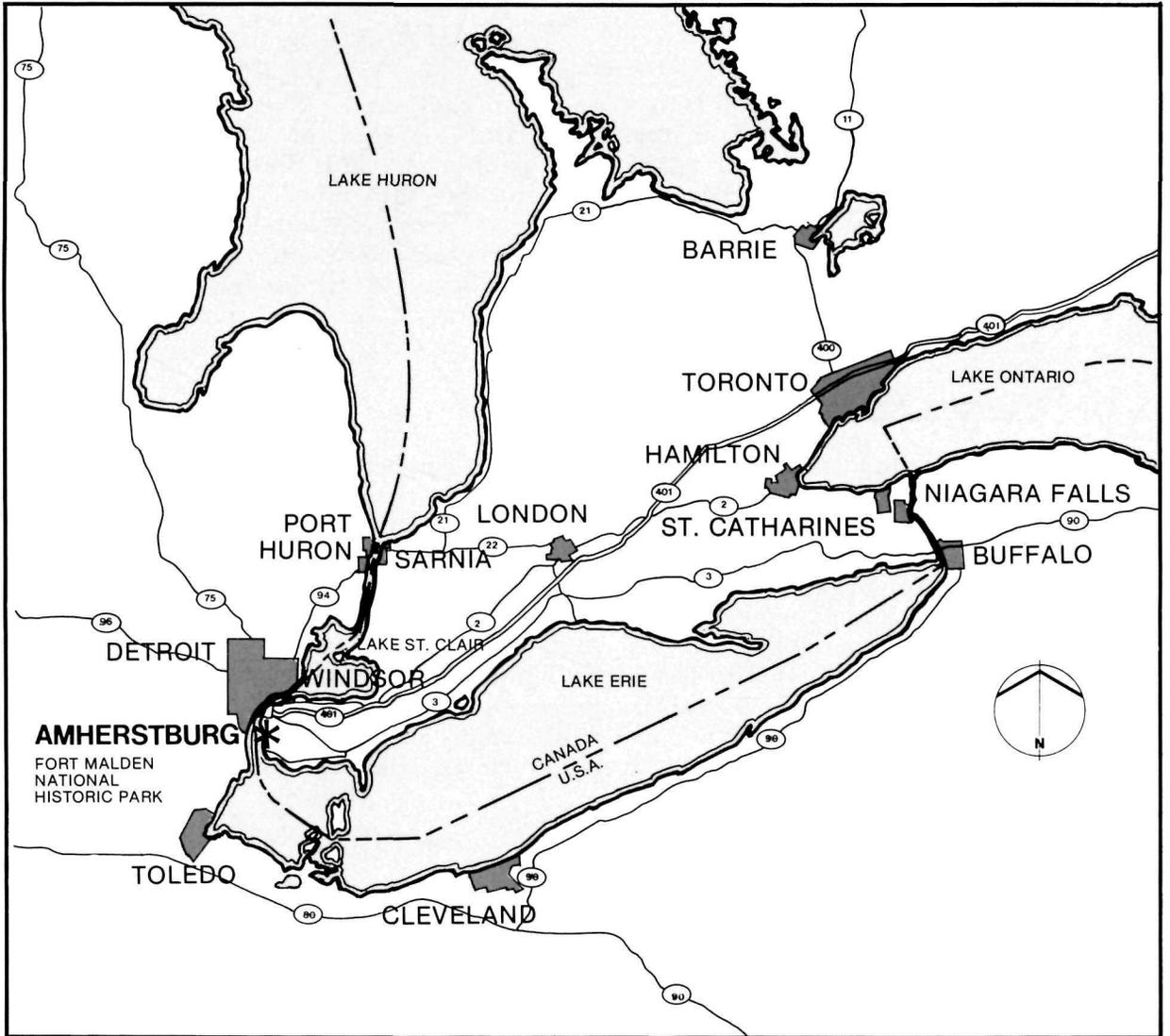
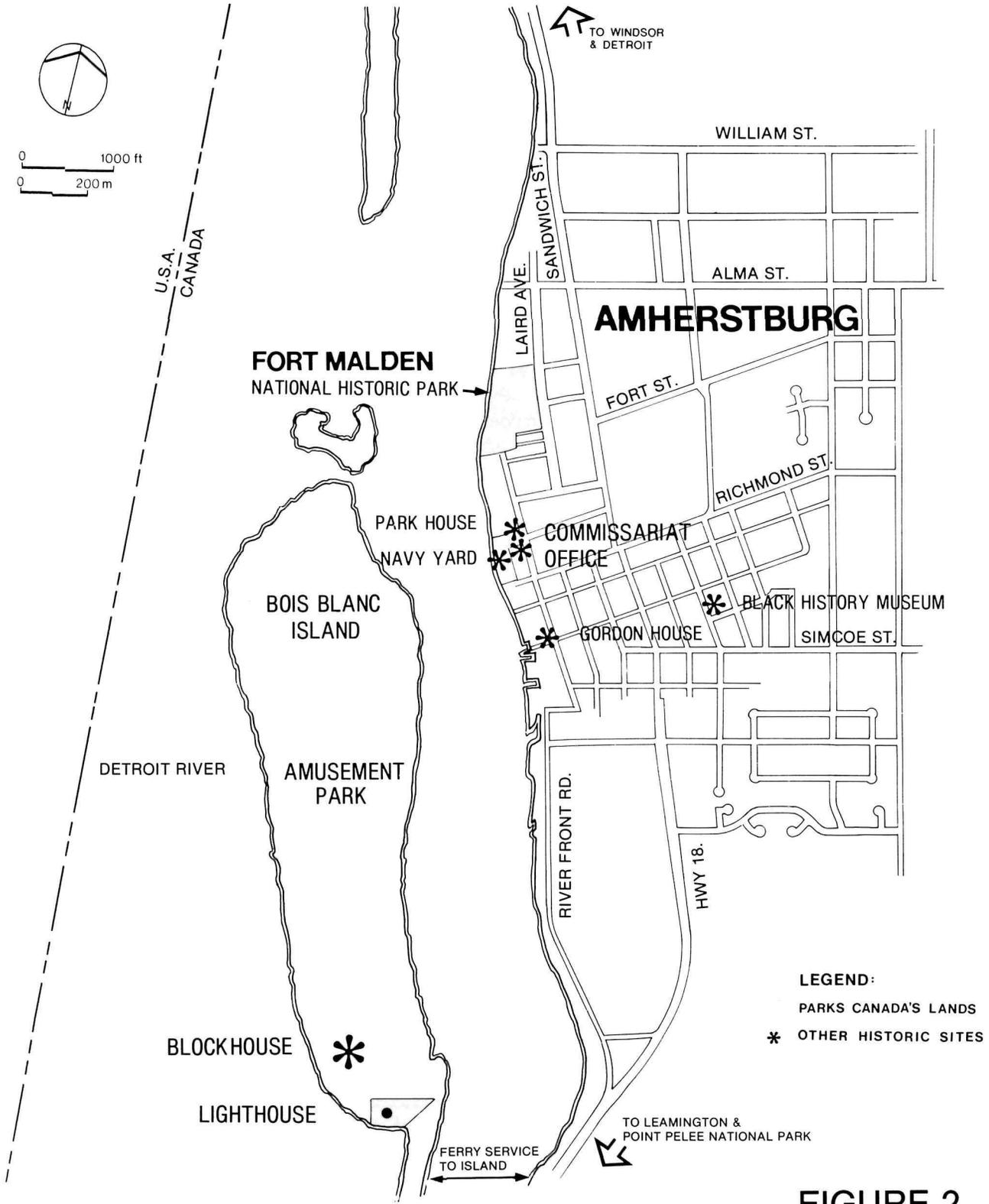


FIGURE 1  
REGIONAL CONTEXT



**FIGURE 2  
PARK SETTING**

## 1.5 Historical Summary

One of 40 National Historic Parks set aside to preserve outstanding examples of Canada's heritage, Fort Malden tells an exciting story.

Strategically located on the Detroit River between Lake Erie and Lake St. Clair, Fort Malden was established in 1796 to replace the British fort at Detroit, which became American territory following the Revolutionary War. Officially known as Fort Amherstburg in its early years, it was headquarters for the Right Division of the British Army and a key post of the British Indian Department. It was the naval station and shipbuilding centre for the Upper Great Lakes.

During the War of 1812, Fort Malden was a base for attacks on several American positions. Successful actions by the British at Detroit, Frenchtown (now Monroe, Michigan), and elsewhere, delayed American attempts to advance an army through Upper Canada and significantly affected the outcome of the war.

The Fort was burned in 1813, occupied by the Americans and subsequently re-occupied by the British who constructed a small Fort on the ruins of the first.

As a navy yard until 1813, it was associated with the construction of vessels used by the British to control activities on the Great Lakes. It was also a location at which a considerable amount of interaction between the British and the Indians took place with such important figures as Brock and Tecumseh playing key roles.

During the Rebellion of 1837-38, regulars from the Fort and local militia suppressed four invasion attempts. Regulars remained on strength for years afterwards to prevent further border troubles.

After regulars were withdrawn from the Fort in 1851, more than 100 enrolled army pensioners from Ireland and their families were settled on the military reserve. Their role was to maintain the Fort and provide a trained military presence. Unlike the regular army, they established themselves as permanent residents and contributed significantly to the early growth of Amherstburg.

By 1859, the military era had ended in Amherstburg and the Fort served as an asylum, a planing mill and finally, a residential area.

In 1921, Fort Malden was acknowledged by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada to be of national historic importance, and in 1940 a small National Historic Park was established. Since that time it has grown steadily to its present size (See Appendix C).

## 1.6 Site Description

The site presently occupies 4.75 hectares (11.75 acres) and is bounded by Fort Malden Road, Laird Avenue, an imaginary westward extension of Elm Avenue and the Detroit River (See Figure Three). Three buildings outside these boundaries are also considered in this Management Plan. They are the Bois Blanc Island Blockhouse and Lighthouse, and the Commissariat Office.

The resources at Fort Malden include:

### 1.6.1 The Existing Earthworks:

Evidence of the earthworks as they existed during the 1840's remains on site. The north-west bastion and the north curtain and ditch have retained much of their original configuration. The north-east and south-west bastions exist only partially today.

### 1.6.2 The Brick Barracks:

The barracks, constructed in 1819-1820, is the only structure on the site built during the military period. In housing British troops during the 1837-38 Rebellion, the barracks building contributed significantly to the important military role of the Fort. The building was recently restored.

### 1.6.3 The Interpretation and Administration Centre:

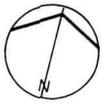
This building (Hough House), constructed in 1861-62 during the "Asylum Period", was designed to house laundry facilities, stores and a bakery. The building was then converted to a planing mill and later to a private residence. Today, it houses interpretive exhibits and administrative facilities.

### 1.6.4 The Visitor Orientation Centre:

Constructed in the 1930's as a museum, this building houses an interpretation theatre, exhibits and orientation space. The basement of the structure is used for storage.

### 1.6.5 The MacGregor House:

The nucleus of this building was constructed in 1861-62 during the "Asylum Period" as a residence for the Medical Superintendent. It was substantially altered later during its use as a private residence. The building is vacant.



0 100 ft  
0 30 m

DETROIT RIVER



LEGEND:

●—● Park Boundary

FIGURE 3  
FORT MALDEN  
PRE-DEVELOPMENT CONDITIONS

1.6.6 The Pensioner's Cottage:

This cottage is one of many constructed for enrolled pensioners replacing British troops in the 1851-2 period. In 1974, the cottage was moved to the site from another location in Amherstburg and restored to its original appearance.

1.6.7 The Foundation Remains:

Preliminary archaeological investigation indicates the existence of extensive buried building foundations related to many periods of the site's earlier use.

1.6.8 The Bois Blanc Island Blockhouse and Lighthouse:

The Blockhouse on Bois Blanc Island is the only existing Blockhouse of three that were originally constructed on the island in 1838 as part of the defence system for Fort Malden. The structure, owned by the Island of Boblo Company Limited, is not presently in use, although it is occasionally visited by those attending the company's amusement park and by boaters using the south tip of the island.

The Lighthouse was constructed in 1836 and, along with the 0.98 hectares (2.45 acres) surrounding it, has been acquired by Parks Canada in order to ensure its protection. This structure is not in use at the present time.

1.6.9 The Commissariat Office:

The Commissariat Office at Amherstburg, located in the King's Navy Yard Park, was constructed in 1831-1832. This single storey brick building contained two offices, one for the pay officer and one for the fuel officer, and a money vault for the pay chest. During the Rebellion period, the Office was pressed into emergency service for the troops rushed to Amherstburg to defend the Detroit frontier. The building was returned to the Commissariat Department in 1839 and remained with them until the office was turned over to the Ordnance land agent in 1855 for use as a residence. The building was sold at public auction in 1863 and has continued in use as a private residence to this time.

**1.7 Themes and Objectives**

In the future development and operation of Fort Malden National Historic Park, Parks Canada's major aims will be:

- to protect and commemorate the heritage resources related to the history of Fort Malden; and

- to encourage public understanding and enjoyment of the aspects of Canadian history represented at Fort Malden.

In order to fulfill these aims, improvements and activities on the site will be based on the following themes:

- the founding of Fort Malden, its role in the defence of the Detroit River area and the continuing history of the site;
- the role of the Royal Navy and Provincial Marine at Fort Malden in the struggle for the control of the Upper Great Lakes; and
- the British Indian Department at Fort Malden and the Indian involvement in the War of 1812 in the Detroit River area.

Minor themes that are not related to the military aspects of Fort Malden but are of special significance will be featured from time to time. These include the later phases of the Fort's history, especially the asylum and lumber mill periods; the site's relationship to the Detroit River, both historically and currently; and the Parks Canada system of which Fort Malden is a part. A detailed statement of the approved themes and objectives for Fort Malden is contained in Appendix A.

The established objectives for Fort Malden include:

- the protection of Fort Malden's historic resources;
- providing visitors with the opportunity to understand and appreciate the themes;
- the improvement of visitor facilities and the aesthetic appearance of the site; and
- the development of the Park in harmony with the Town of Amherstburg.

Through the achievement of these objectives a number of significant aspects of Canada's heritage will be presented to the Fort Malden visitor.

## **1.8 Site Problems**

The problems cited below limit the most appropriate protection and interpretation of Fort Malden's major features.

- 1.8.1 Parks Canada presently has no control over certain properties originally associated with Fort Malden; for example, the Bois Blanc Island Blockhouse. Therefore, the protection and interpretation of the extant structures associated with the established themes cannot be completely achieved at this time.

- 1.8.2 Because the earthworks and buildings of the Fort's significant military periods are not sufficiently evident, visitors have difficulty in appreciating the layout, extent and character of the Fort during these periods in its history.
- 1.8.3 Existing on-site driveways and buildings from the post-military period make it difficult for visitors to appreciate the previous extent and layout of Fort Malden. Remedial actions to improve these conditions were initiated in 1979-80.
- 1.8.4 The existing layout of pathways, the specific location of the on-street parking area, and the location of the buildings does not encourage visitors to follow a desired circulation system. Remedial actions to improve these conditions were initiated in 1979-80.
- 1.8.5 The use of portions of the southern earthworks for private residences makes it difficult for visitors to appreciate the Fort's layout and extent during the 1837 to 1842 period.
- 1.8.6 There is no on-site parking at Fort Malden; facilities are provided by the Town of Amherstburg for 52 cars on Laird Avenue. This parking arrangement occasionally causes inconvenience to adjacent residents. Remedial actions to improve the parking facilities were initiated in 1979-80.
- 1.8.7 MacGregor House, in its present drastically altered form, has not been designated as having national historic significance. The Park has no potential use for the building and its location on the south-west bastion of the earthworks prevents their redefinition.
- 1.8.8 The Interpretation and Administration Centre (Hough House) is in need of a number of structural improvements to meet safety standards and be suitable for Parks Canada purposes.
- 1.8.9 The breakwall along the Detroit River frontage of the site is not uniform in construction methods and appearance. It is beginning to show some signs of deterioration. While it is not a pressing problem at this time, there will be a need in the future to take actions to improve the condition of the breakwall.



Restored men's brick barracks, Fort Malden, 1982.  
Photo: D. Dalman

## **SECTION 2: DEVELOPMENT CONCEPT**

## **2.0 DEVELOPMENT CONCEPT**

The concept for the development, management and use of Fort Malden was based on the need to:

- fulfill and adhere to the policies contained in the Parks Canada Policy;
- establish the direction for achieving Parks Canada's role at the Park in accordance with the themes and objectives; and
- overcome the site problems in a comprehensive manner.

The future improvement and operation of Fort Malden will enable the visitor to better appreciate the themes established for the Park. Through the further development of the interpretation program, the visitor will obtain a better impression of the physical extent and layout of the 1837-42 "Rebellion Period" fortification which the present site conditions most closely represent.

### **2.1 Seven Park Zones**

Seven zones (referred to as units in the Interpretation Plan) will be created within which visitors to Fort Malden will be able to appreciate different Park features (See Figure Four). The seven zones are:

- (1) arrival
- (2) orientation
- (3) pensioner's cottage
- (4) waterfront walk and viewing area
- (5) interpretation and administration centre
- (6) Fort grounds and archaeological remains
- (7) men's brick barracks

The following development, management and uses will occur in each of the seven zones.

#### **Zone 1: Arrival**

Zone 1 will be the main pedestrian and vehicular access point. A parking lot, a formal pedestrian entrance and gate, and picnic facilities will be located within this zone. Vegetation will be used to screen the site's activities from adjacent land uses.

#### **Zone 2: Orientation**

The stone building will house exhibits, the audio-visual theatre, and artifact storage space and will serve as the Park's visitor orientation-reception centre. A public washroom is provided in this building.

Zone 3: Pensioner's Cottage

The pensioner's cottage will house a period display depicting the pensioner's lifestyle. The display will be self-explanatory.

Zone 4: Waterfront Walk and Viewing Area

The walk will direct visitors along the Detroit River waterfront where they will be provided with the opportunity to appreciate aspects of the themes related to the views along the waterfront.

On the grassed area between the pathway and the top of the bank, the potential exists to develop a small seating and viewing area. This would allow visitors to stop and view the Detroit River, the Fort in relation to the river, and Bois Blanc Island, all of which are important to the themes established for Fort Malden.

It is recognized that the breakwalls along the Detroit River may eventually require repair and/or replacement for safety or aesthetic reasons. When this becomes necessary, and subject to the availability of resources, consideration will be given to: the use of a single breakwall; to the reclamation of land lost through erosion; and to the provision of a river-related outdoor exhibit.

Zone 5: Interpretation and Administration Centre

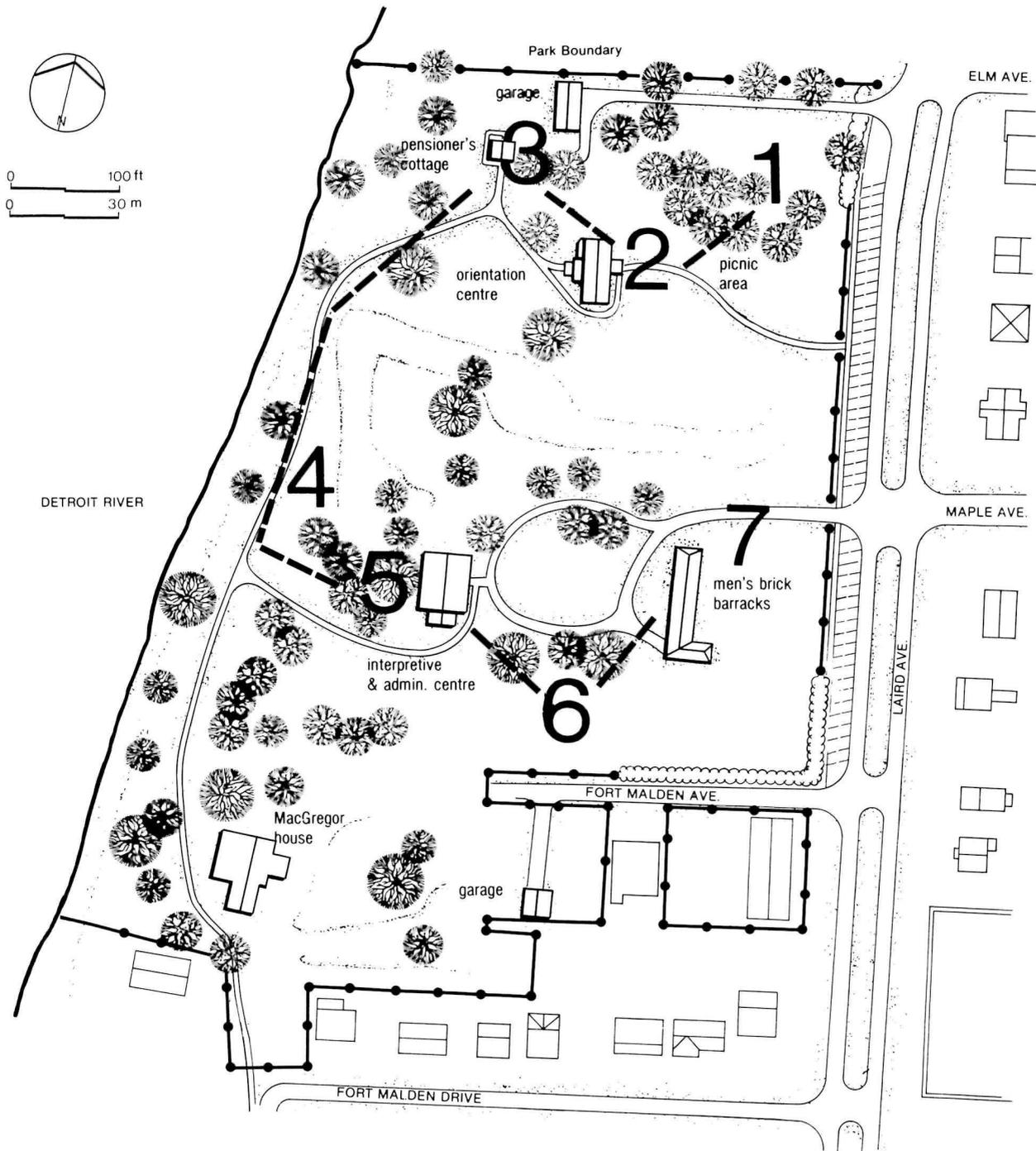
This building will house interpretive exhibits, workspace for staff and special programs as well as Park administration space. The exhibits will be self-explanatory but staff will be available for demonstration or additional information. A public washroom facility is provided in this building.

Zone 6: Fort Grounds and Archaeological Remains

The area inside the earthworks of the "Rebellion Period" Fort Malden will be improved to provide the visitor with a better appreciation of the extent and layout of the fortification. The improvements will include a partial redefinition of the earthworks, the outlining of foundation remains, exposure of selected archaeological remains, and the demolition of the MacGregor House. As the west curtain wall of the earthworks is redefined, the contours will be shaped to leave an opening where the original entrance to the Fort was located. This will help to orient visitors to the original layout of the 1837 fortification.

Zone 7: Men's Brick Barracks

The barracks building has been fully restored to its appearance during the 1837 to 1842 period. The structure will house a period display and will be the location of period animation and special interpretive programs. The kitchen annex, water well and surrounding grounds have also been restored.



**LEGEND:**

- ZONE 1: Arrival
- ZONE 2: Orientation
- ZONE 3: Pensioner's Cottage
- ZONE 4: Waterfront Walk & Viewing Area
- ZONE 5: Interpretation & Administration Centre
- ZONE 6: Fort Grounds & Archaeological Remains
- ZONE 7: Men's Brick Barracks

●—● Park Boundary

**FIGURE 4**  
**SEVEN PARK ZONES**

## **2.2 Two-Phase Implementation**

A two-phase implementation program will be followed for developing Fort Malden National Historic Park. Phase One includes a program of improvements to take place within the existing boundaries of the Park. This phase can be accomplished within five to eight years.

Phase Two includes proposals for some limited expansion of the Park boundary. Up to nine properties, located on Fort Malden Road and Fort Malden Drive, may be involved and these would be acquired only as and when the owners of the properties offer them for sale (See Appendix D). The final decision to purchase properties offered for sale will depend upon Federal Government and Parks Canada priorities. When purchase decisions must be made, the properties on Fort Malden Road should take priority over those on Fort Malden Drive. Under these conditions, Phase Two may take many years to complete. It is not necessary that the first phase be completed before Phase Two begins.

## **2.3 Renew Exhibits**

As part of the overall improvement of Fort Malden, a continuing program to update the exhibits and contents will be undertaken. The Park program to renew exhibits will be based on the themes and objectives established for the site.

## **2.4 Animation**

The improvements outlined in this Plan, together with upgraded interpretive exhibits, are such that only limited animation will be required. Animation activities are not suited to those areas of the Fort which are park-like in character.

## **2.5 Special Groups**

Interpretation programs available to schools and interest groups will be continued and improved as opportunities in restored areas, such as the barracks, develop.

## **2.6 Research**

An essential part of the Fort Malden improvements is the on-going research program. This includes both archaeological and historical investigations which will provide information for the delineation of the remaining foundations of original Fort buildings. Artifacts will be studied and the Fort Malden archaeological resource map will be updated.

The historical research to be carried out will provide information for use in preparing interpretive displays and acquiring artifacts in accordance with the themes and objectives established for Fort Malden. It will also be used in the preparation of animation directives.

## **2.7 Landscape Plan**

As part of the overall improvement of Fort Malden, a landscape plan has been developed. The landscaping on site will maintain the open park-like character of the existing site in order to emphasize the commemorative aspect of the objectives for the Fort. Additional works may be undertaken to buffer the site's activities from adjacent land uses, at the parking lot and along the Park's boundaries. Grounds maintenance will continue as at present. The existing maintenance area will remain but will be screened from view using vegetation.

## **2.8 Visitor Facilities**

Facilities essential for the convenience of visitors will be provided. These include: washroom facilities; picnic facilities; bicycle racks and waste receptacles.

## **2.9 Walkways**

The walkway system at Fort Malden will be improved to encourage visitors to follow a desired route through the site. The walkways will encourage maximum exposure to the interpretive features and exhibits. A more formal pathway will be provided from the men's brick barracks to the parking lot.

## **2.10 Signs**

In consultation with the Town of Amherstburg and the Province of Ontario, Parks Canada will strive to erect improved directional signs to assist visitors to the site.

## **2.11 Lighting**

Only a minimum of outdoor lighting will be provided for security purposes.

## **2.12 Utilities**

Additional utilities, as may be required from time to time, will be provided underground and in consultation with the Ontario Regional Office Archaeologist.

## **2.13 Service Access**

Service and emergency vehicle access to the buildings at Fort Malden will be provided.

## **2.14 Additional Buildings**

No additional buildings should be provided on the site. Additional structures such as transformers and service outlets will be provided as necessary but will be screened from view by natural means.

## **2.15 Off-Site Features**

The off-site features such as the King's Navy Yard, the Commissariat Office and the Bois Blanc Island Blockhouse and Lighthouse should be interpreted as part of the history of Fort Malden. The King's Navy Yard dates from the time of the first military construction at the site (1796-1813), while the Commissariat Office and Bois Blanc Island structures were constructed in the 1830's. All are features important in explaining the historic themes for the Fort, such as its founding and its role in the defence of the area and the role of the Royal Navy in the struggle for the Great Lakes.

Subject to the successful completion of negotiations with the owner, Parks Canada will stabilize and interpret the Bois Blanc Island Blockhouse.

The Bois Blanc Island Lighthouse, accessible by commercial ferry service, will be maintained and interpreted in the most cost-effective manner possible, for example, using self-interpreting displays.

## **2.16 Fort Malden in the Community**

Throughout the development of this concept for Fort Malden numerous discussions have taken place between Parks Canada, the Amherstburg Town Council, the Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee, the Historical Society, property owners adjacent to the Park, and the general public. As a result, a spirit of co-operation exists between the Town and Parks Canada. Support from the Town of Amherstburg has enabled a better redefinition of Fort Malden's historic resources and more convenient visitor access to the site. In complementary fashion, these development proposals reflect local interest and efforts to enhance the heritage character of the Town of Amherstburg.

It is significant that the establishment of Fort Malden as a National Historic Park was prompted in large measure by the efforts of concerned local citizens. Through continued co-operation among all those involved, each within their own particular specialty, the story of the area's past may be presented with a thoroughness that few communities are able to achieve.



Earthworks, northwest bastion, Fort Malden, 1982.  
Photo: D. Dalman

## **SECTION 3: DEVELOPMENT GUIDELINES**

### **3.0 DEVELOPMENT GUIDELINES**

The development guidelines establish performance standards for the implementation of the development concept. The guidelines correspond to the two-phase implementation program. The development plans shown in Figures Five and Seven illustrate how the guidelines can be applied. They are shown as possible development plans since the actual design details of the site improvements will be determined during the final project design and implementation stages.

#### **3.1 Phase One Guidelines**

Phase One includes a program of improvements to take place within the existing boundaries of the Park (See Figure Five). Some improvements should also occur at the Bois Blanc Island Lighthouse and pending successful negotiations with the owner, at the Bois Blanc Island Blockhouse.

##### **Zone 1: Arrival**

3.1.1 An improved visitor parking area will be provided in the northern portion of the Park. The parking lot will be screened from general view using vegetation and designed in such a manner that it blends into the surroundings.

As well as improving the aesthetic appearance of the grounds and site entrance from Laird Avenue, a redesigned parking area will be more convenient for visitors and will improve pedestrian circulation patterns. By installing a new parking area in the northeast corner of the grounds, a 9 metre wide corridor of Laird Avenue will be made available for redefinition of part of the Rebellion Period east curtain wall.

Present parking facilities are adequate for all but peak summer weekend visitation (See Appendix E).

Physical constraints of the site will permit a new parking lot design to accommodate approximately 60 vehicles. The lot will contain space for both automobiles and buses. This is an equivalent number of spaces to the current on-street parking facility.

Subject to negotiations with the Town of Amherstburg, Parks Canada should undertake alterations to the island median on Laird Avenue to permit access to and egress from the parking lot.

- 3.1.2 Access to Fort Malden for boaters using the Detroit River will continue to be provided via the Amherstburg municipal facilities which are only a short distance from the Fort. The walking route passes by important historical features in the Town, including the Commissariat Office. The walking route also provides an opportunity to visit locally operated facilities such as the Park House and the Black History Museum.

### **Zone 2: Orientation**

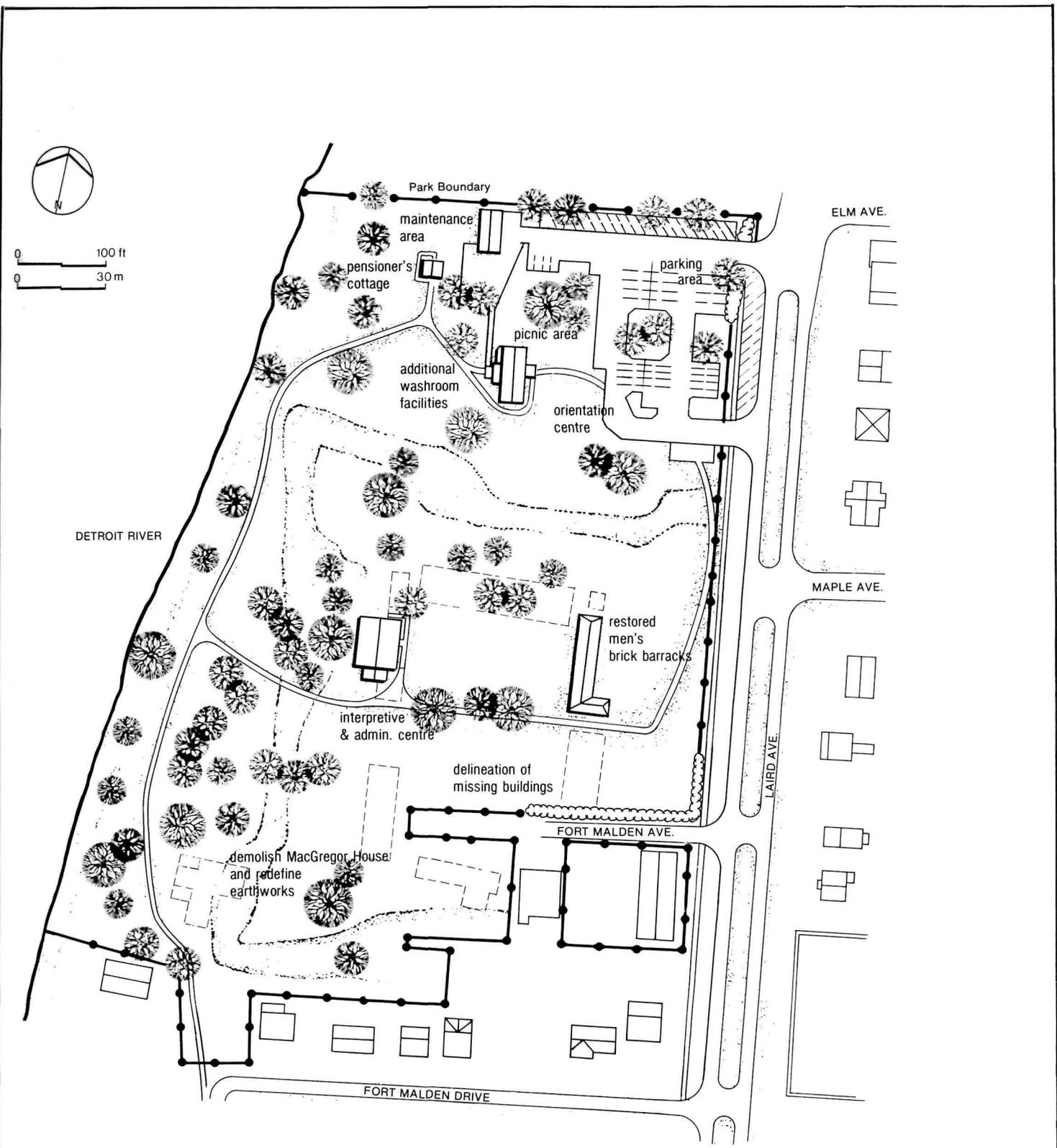
- 3.1.3 The Visitor Reception Centre on the north side of the Park should continue to serve the orientation function. The theatre should be retained and the exhibits improved.
- 3.1.4 The prime function of the Visitor Reception Centre will be to ensure, through the audio-visual program, exhibits, models and guide staff, that visitors are provided with an overview of the interpretive themes of, and facilities at, Fort Malden.

### **Zone 3: Pensioner's Cottage**

- 3.1.5 The restored pensioner's cottage and adjacent area should be used to interpret one of the site's significant themes, the decline of the military importance of the Fort.
- 3.1.6 The grounds immediately surrounding the cottage should be further developed to represent the landscape character that would have been typical of a pensioner's cottage.
- 3.1.7 To enhance the character of the cottage's setting, the maintenance area and adjacent land uses should be screened from view.
- 3.1.8 As the cottage was not originally part of the Fort site, it should be partially screened from view from the earthworks.
- 3.1.9 Except for special events, the cottage should be interpreted in the most cost-effective manner, possibly using self-explanatory displays.

### **Zone 4: Waterfront Walk and Viewing Area**

- 3.1.10 From the waterfront walk, visitors will gain their first view of the Detroit River and Bois Blanc Island. These are both important features in the interpretation of the major themes at Fort Malden. Ideally, the walkway should provide a quiet atmosphere which will permit the visitor to visualize the importance of Malden's strategic location in the context of the 19th Century hostilities.



**LEGEND**

-  Archaeological remains of buildings
-  Park Boundary

**FIGURE 5**  
**PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT PLAN**  
**PHASE I**

- 3.1.11 On the grassed area above the river bank and adjacent to the walkway, a non-intrusive interpretive display, for example, an information panel, will be provided to explain the rationale for Fort Malden's location and the historic significance of Bois Blanc Island.
- 3.1.12 A small river-related outdoor exhibit and seating area should be included in the design of any new erosion control structure along the Detroit River which may be required as indicated in Phase Two.
- 3.1.13 Proper interpretation of the history and features of Fort Malden requires some control of the circulation pattern followed by visitors to the site. Security considerations also suggest the need for some control of visitor entry and exit from the site. Therefore, access to the fort grounds will not be provided from the waterfront.

#### **Zone 5: Interpretation and Administration Centre**

- 3.1.14 Improvements to the Interpretation and Administration Centre will include the enlarging of the galleries through consolidation of smaller rooms, alterations related to visitor safety and convenience, and increased structural support to meet floor load capacity standards.
- 3.1.15 The first and second floors of the structure will be used for interpretive exhibits. Part of the basement will be used as a resource centre and special program area. The remainder of the basement, part of the first floor and all of the third floor will be used for staff and administrative purposes.

#### **Zone 6: Fort Grounds and Archaeological Remains**

- 3.1.16 The first phase of the improvement program includes the relocation of the internal service road, as indicated on the Proposed Development Plan for Phase I. This development is related to the preparation and implementation of a landscape plan for the Park.
- 3.1.17 MacGregor House will be demolished and the south-west section of the earthworks on which it intrudes will be redefined.
- 3.1.18 To achieve maximum cost-effectiveness while meeting the interpretive need to define the Fort more clearly for the visitor, the height of the redefined earthworks should be kept as low as possible. For much of their length, an approximate height of one metre will be all that is required. However, in a few specific locations this maximum will have to be exceeded; for example, some portions of the existing earthworks are 1.9 metres high and any new works will have to be contoured to meet these

in an aesthetically acceptable manner. Therefore, detailed plans for any earthwork redefinition will be reviewed by the Regional Landscape Architect. Any redefinition will be preceded by historical and archaeological research.

- 3.1.19 The original entrance on the west side of Fort Malden will be partially redefined so that the visitor will feel a sense of arrival at what once was a significant fortification.
- 3.1.20 From the time of construction of the original Fort, various structures have been built and destroyed, and original foundations have occasionally been overlain by those from later period structures. In the future, archaeological and historical research will be used as a basis to determine which extant structural remains are more important than others, and therefore which structures will be selected for interpretive presentation.
- 3.1.21 To help visitors visualize the size, number and arrangement of "Rebellion Period" buildings within the Fort, building locations should be clearly marked. Where possible, the remaining foundations of original Fort structures will be delineated for public viewing. The delineated foundations should be supported by other interpretive aids such as signs, illustrated pamphlets or a model depicting the Fort during that period.
- 3.1.22 Since the size and layout of the present Fort Malden most closely reflects the structures of the 1837-42 period, foundations outlined by markers at ground level will be those of this period. However, the exposure and stabilization of other foundations will depend upon the results of the archaeological research. The themes and objectives established for the site allow for a balance in the presentation of the 1812 and 1837-42 periods. How the balance is to be achieved will depend on the archaeological findings.
- 3.1.23 Wherever foundation outlining or earthwork redefinition is undertaken there should be a clear definition between original fabric and modern materials.
- 3.1.24 Wherever possible, existing mature trees should not be disturbed for the purposes of building delineation or earthwork redefinition.
- 3.1.25 Regardless of the approach taken to the exposure and interpretation of archaeological finds, Parks Canada will ensure the protection of all historic resources and remains on the site which relate to the established themes and objectives.

**Zone 7: Men's Brick Barracks**

- 3.1.26 The building, including the kitchen annex and immediate grounds, has been restored and furnished to depict military life during the Rebellion Period, 1837 to 1842.
- 3.1.27 The interpretive effort at the barracks will provide visitors with the opportunity to appreciate the garrison lifestyle associated with Fort Malden.
- 3.1.28 The barracks will be the central location for limited animation of selected 19th Century activities.

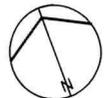
**Bois Blanc Island Historic Properties** (See Figure Six)

- 3.1.29 The Blockhouse on Bois Blanc Island is one of three that were constructed as part of the 1838 defence system for Fort Malden. It is presently owned by the Island of Boblo Company Limited. The Lighthouse was constructed in 1836 and has been acquired by Parks Canada from the Ministry of Transport. Both structures are extremely important in supporting the theme of the Fort's role in the defence of the area.

Parks Canada will therefore seek to protect both of these structures. Acquisition of the Lighthouse has ensured its preservation but some method of control is needed for the Blockhouse. Subject to negotiations with the owners of the property, Parks Canada's preferred method of control is ownership. Other methods of protecting the structure such as leasing arrangements, again subject to agreement with the property owners, will be considered if purchase is not feasible.

Access to the island and its historic structures is currently provided by a commercial water transit service. This service will meet adequately any foreseeable future need for transit.

- 3.1.30 Subject to the successful completion of negotiations with the owners of the Blockhouse, Parks Canada will stabilize the building.
- 3.1.31 Interpretation facilities at both properties would be desirable but the island location poses access and security problems should large numbers of visitors be encouraged. Overcoming these difficulties would require significant and on-going operational expenditures. Therefore, any interpretation of either structure will be done in a low-key manner requiring a minimum of resources; for example, display panels or self-guiding tour pamphlets could be used.



0 500 ft  
0 152 m

Blockhouse



Light House



Township of Malden

Concession 1  
Lot 5

DETROIT  
RIVER

DETROIT  
RIVER

Township of Malden

Concession 1  
Lot 6

Compensating Dyke

LEGEND :



PARKS CANADA'S LANDS

FIGURE 6  
SOUTHERN PORTION  
BOIS BLANC ISLAND

### **3.2 Phase Two Guidelines**

Phase Two includes proposals for limited expansion of the Park boundary (See Figure Seven). There is no schedule for expansion and no end date is planned by which expansion must be completed. Completion of these long-range developments will depend upon Parks Canada's spending priorities at the time.

Up to nine properties may ultimately be involved in expansion. However, if acquisition occurs, it will take place only when the properties become available for sale on the open market. Since Parks Canada will be in the position of responding to property offers which may be made at any time, some acquisitions may be made in Phase One rather than Phase Two. It is anticipated, however, that many years will pass before some of the properties become available and the expansion proposals are therefore considered in Phase Two.

- 3.2.1 Along the east and south sides of the Park there are significant sections of the earthworks which are on private and municipal land. It is proposed that the Park be expanded by purchasing property as it is offered for sale (See Appendix D, Property Acquisition Policy). This will enable the perimeter of the Fort to be redefined.
- 3.2.2 Assuming that all the indicated properties are eventually acquired, the location of any buildings which existed in the Fort during the "Rebellion Period" can be delineated. This will further aid the visitor in appreciating the Fort and the structures formerly associated with it.
- 3.2.3 The guidelines established for Phase One earthworks redefinition and building foundation delineation will continue to apply through Phase Two.
- 3.2.4 Should acquisition of the Blockhouse not be achieved in Phase One, and depending upon any agreements in effect with the property owners, Parks Canada will continue through Phase Two to pursue the preservation of the structure through ownership as long as its condition warrants. This will again be subject to negotiations with the property owners at the time.
- 3.2.5 The condition of the breakwall along the Detroit River will continue to deteriorate over time and replacement will eventually become necessary. This occurrence is still some years off and the project is therefore included in Phase Two. Improvements which should be considered during this project are: the use of a single breakwall structure, the reclamation of land lost through erosion, and the provision of a river-related outdoor exhibit.
- 3.2.6 Prior to any development related to replacement of the present breakwalls the Regional Office Archaeologist shall be consulted. The opportunity should be provided for salvage archaeology.

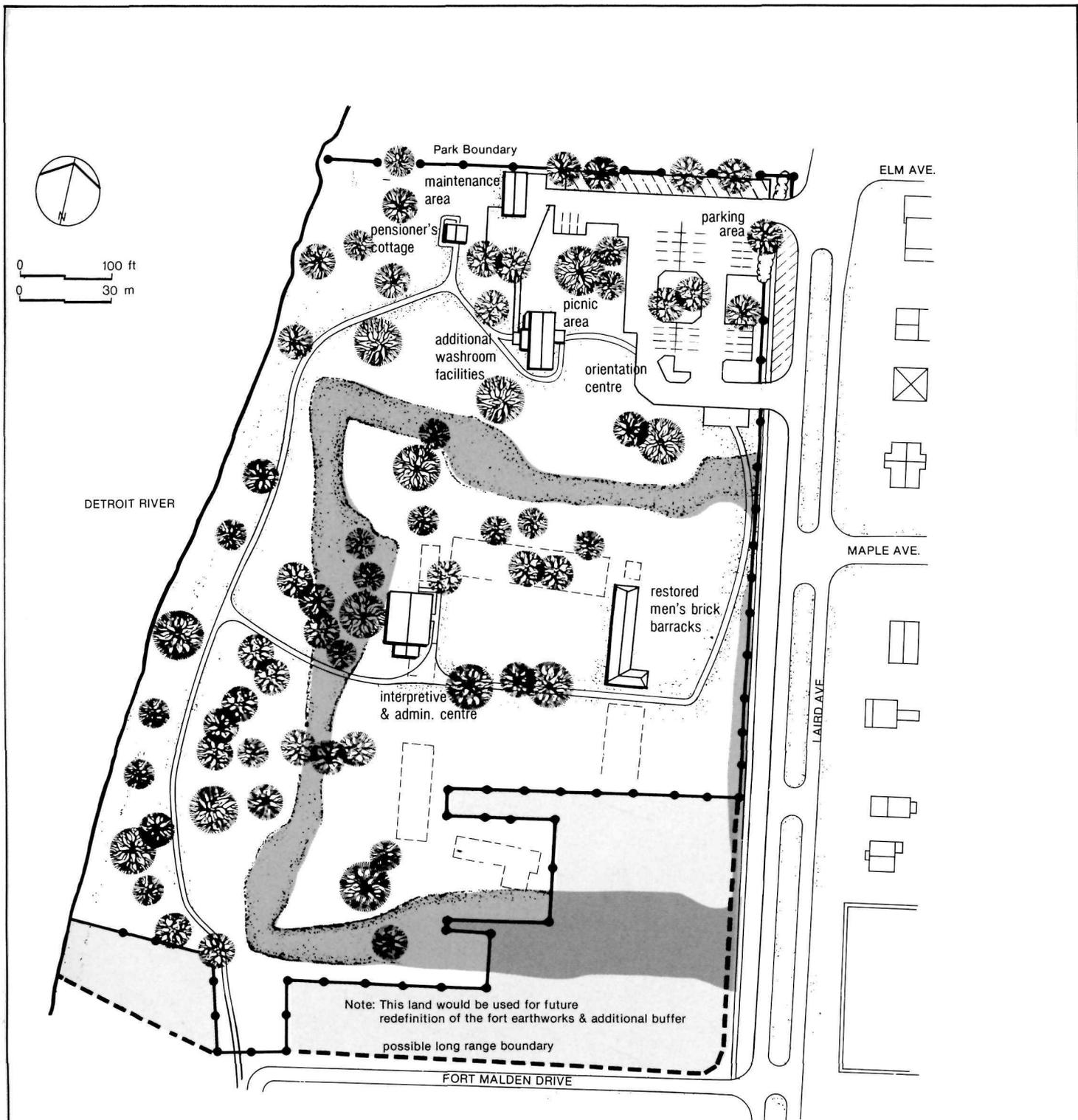
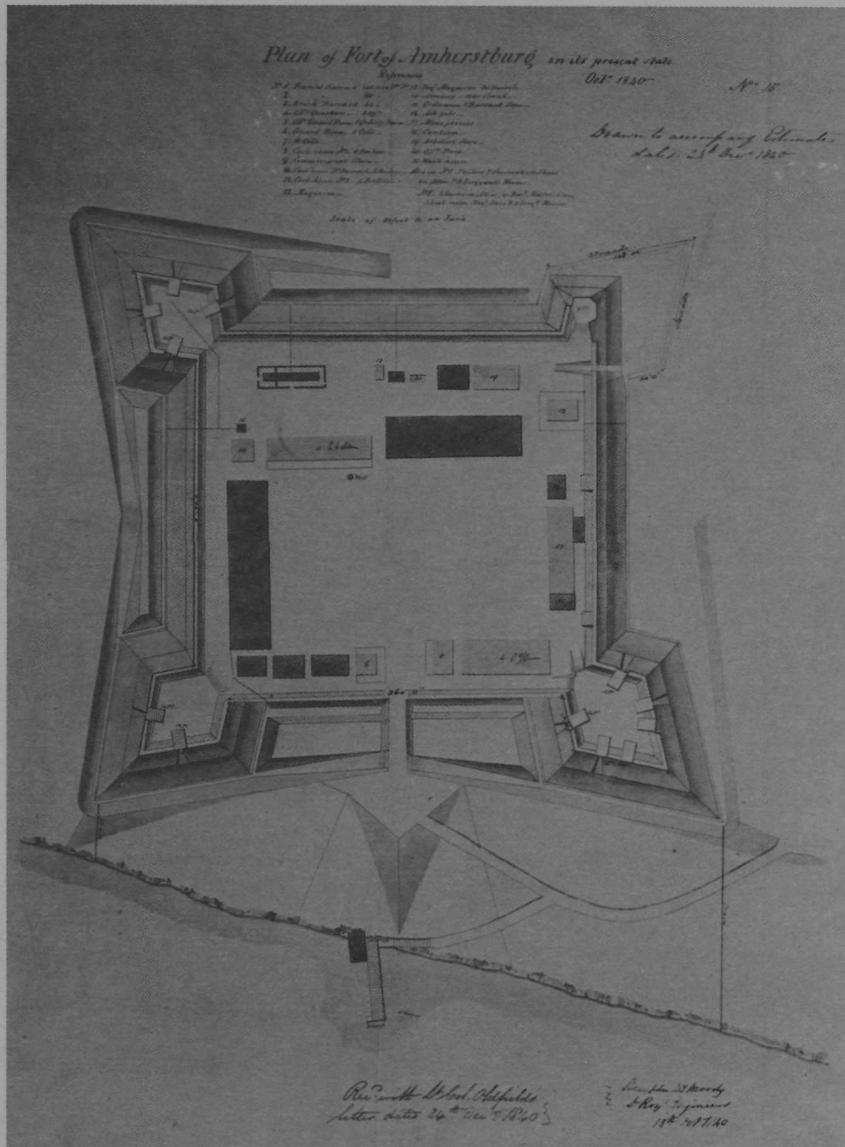


FIGURE 7  
 PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT PLAN  
 PHASE II



Plan of Fort Malden, 1840.  
 Photo: Public Archives of Canada

# SECTION 4: ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND REVIEW PROCESS

## **4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND REVIEW PROCESS**

### **4.1 Introduction: E.A.R.P. Program Guidelines**

The current Federal Environmental Assessment and Review Process (E.A.R.P.) was initiated by Cabinet in 1973 and has evolved through a set of changes in 1977. All actions with environmental implications are subject to identification, measurement and evaluation procedures to the degree dictated by the magnitude of the potential for adverse effects. The E.A.R.P. process largely parallels the planning process: existing negative impacts may demonstrate the need for planning, and help identify issues to be mitigated through the planning exercise. Not all potential adverse impacts can be resolved in the Management Plan stage; some must be dealt with at the level of more detailed design. In all cases the effectiveness of mitigation must be monitored and the documents be made public.

Parks Canada adheres to the Federal Environmental Assessment and Review Process as follows: "The consequences of any proposed projects, program or activity under Parks Canada's management and control, or on lands under its jurisdiction must be considered as early as possible in planning, and this assessment incorporated in the decision to proceed with, reject or modify the proposed action. Consideration should be given to the full range of possible adverse impacts: biophysical, socio-economic, cultural, archaeological, historical and aesthetic." (Parks Canada Policy, 1979)

### **4.2 Procedure**

The following preliminary screening provides a general indication of the potential impacts of developments proposed for Fort Malden National Historic Park. The impacts considered include those on:

- existing historical and archaeological resources;
- existing natural resources;
- the on-site socio-economic conditions; and
- the socio-economic conditions within the Town of Amherstburg.

The impact assessment method used for this preliminary screening was a checklist approach, listing the proposed actions, impact categories and predicted effects in a matrix. The potential environmental impacts were classified into four categories:

- positive impact;
- negative impact;
- unknown impact (requiring further study); and
- no anticipated impact.

From this a statement is prepared which provides a general assessment of the environmental consequences associated with the Management Plan proposals. Impacts are predicted on the general screening level which corresponds to the level of detail

appropriate to a Park Management Plan. The results of the impact assessment have been incorporated into the Plan guidelines. Some guidelines provide limitations to control types and degrees of potential impacts while others provide direction for detailed investigations and make development contingent upon their successful completion. As the Plan proposals are implemented, the results will be monitored to ensure the timely identification of unforeseen effects.

#### **4.3 Historical and Archaeological Resource Impacts**

Impacts of the Plan proposals on the historical resources of the site fall into four main project areas:

- a) Redefinition of the earthworks will be a cut-and-fill type of construction. This operation will have a negative impact on any archaeological materials located in the ditches associated with each curtain wall undergoing redefinition.
- b) The proposal to expose selected archaeological remains as they may be found on the Fort grounds could result in deterioration or complete loss of certain materials as they are uncovered or disturbed. Where foundations of different periods in the site's history overlay one another, a potential also exists for damage to significant resources.

The potential negative impacts in (a) and (b) will be mitigated by actions planned in consultation with the Regional Office Archaeologist and careful investigation of the archaeological resources prior to formulation of interpretation concepts and exposure of resources.

- c) The demolition of MacGregor House does constitute a negative impact although this building has not been designated of national historic significance. This impact will be mitigated by preservation of a complete interior and exterior photographic record of the building. Detailed "as found" drawings, both plans and sections, will also be preserved. These records now exist but their completeness will be verified prior to removal of the structure.
- d) In order to minimize the socio-economic impacts of Park expansion the planning proposals for property acquisition are based on the "willing seller" principle. This may result in a negative impact on the historic resources on Bois Blanc Island if purchase is not possible. The impact will be mitigated by consideration of methods of protecting the resources other than direct ownership by Parks Canada.

#### **4.4 Natural Resource Impacts**

Impacts on the natural resources resulting from implementation of the planning proposals for Fort Malden will be negligible. Several projects, such as installation of a new parking area,

redefinition of portions of the earthworks, and relocation of pathways, could have minor negative impacts on existing vegetation, drainage, and soils. These will be mitigated through careful, detailed landscaping and construction supervision. It is anticipated that very little mature vegetation will be removed.

#### **4.5 Socio-Economic Impacts**

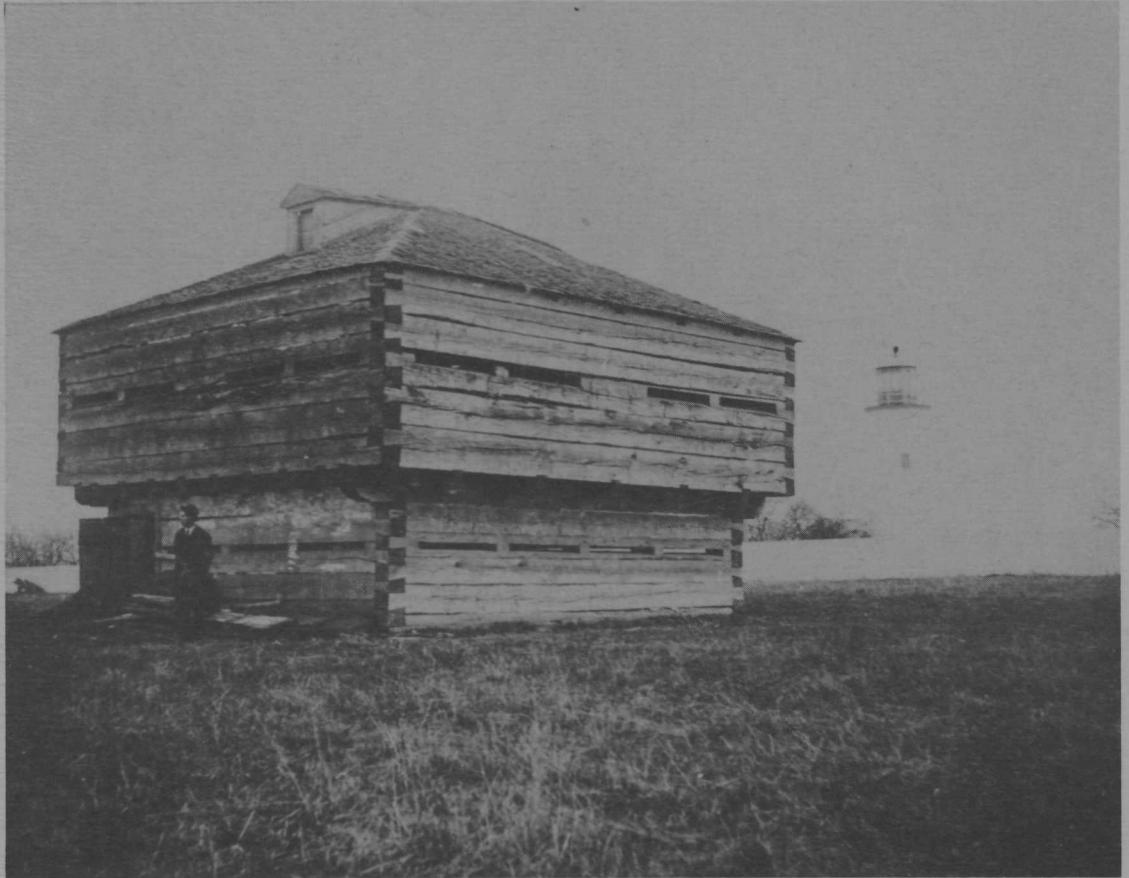
The proposed developments at Fort Malden are not expected to cause a significant increase in the number of visitors to the site. Impacts on the Town of Amherstburg are therefore expected to be negligible. However, some very positive impacts will result from Park expansion, including better visitor understanding of the Fort's themes and preservation of potential archaeological sites.

The negative impacts which could result from the Park expansion proposals were considered during the planning process and have been mitigated through adoption of a policy to purchase properties only when they are offered for sale by their owners.

#### **4.6 Conclusion**

The net impact resulting from site development is predicted to be positive. The Amherstburg community has indicated its interest in enhancing the Town's historic resources and atmosphere. The Plan for Fort Malden maintains and improves an historic resource which is supported by local interest in heritage preservation.

Educational and recreational opportunities associated with the historic resource will be enhanced by the proposals relating to Park expansion, landscaping, earthwork redefinition, and on-site traffic and pedestrian movement. The resulting improvements in site aesthetics, visitor safety, and convenience of access to the Fort's interpretive resources will result in a higher quality visitor experience without compromising the protection of historic resources.



Bois Blanc Island block house, c. 1895.  
Photo: Ontario Archives

## APPENDICES

**APPENDIX A**

**THEMES AND OBJECTIVES FOR FORT MALDEN**

The following themes and objectives were approved by the Assistant Deputy Minister at the outset of the planning process for Fort Malden, and have guided the preparation of the development concept contained in this Plan.

**Statement of Themes**

The themes for this site are:

- a) The founding of Fort Malden, its role in the defence of the area, and its decline.
- b) The British Indian Department and Indian involvement in the War of 1812 in this area.
- c) The role of the Royal Navy in the struggle for the Great Lakes.

**Statement of Objectives**

The objectives for this national historic site are to:

- a) Preserve the extant military parts of Fort Malden.
- b) Explain the significance of the Fort, the Navy, and the Indians in the context of the development of Canada, with major emphasis on the War of 1812 period to the Rebellion of 1837.
- c) To emphasize the commemorative aspect (in view of the limited extant parts of the Fort), by the creation of a semi-formal park-like atmosphere appropriate to an urban area.
- d) Provide a low-key recreation area, with activities which will not interfere with visitors' appreciation of the history of the site, nor despoil the historical remains.
- e) To develop some features of the site which Parks Canada owns as soon as possible.

## APPENDIX B

### PUBLIC CONSULTATION PROGRAM

Parks Canada provides opportunities for the public to actively participate in the development of its Management Plans. To reflect the continuing public interest and involvement in the planning of Fort Malden National Historic Park and to ensure that development proposals would be integrated into the Town of Amherstburg in a positive manner, a public consultation program was an important part of the preparation of this Management Plan.

During the early stages of the planning program, the Superintendent, Park Planner and Public Consultation Co-ordinator held informal meetings with identified interest groups and officials in the Amherstburg community. These meetings included representatives from:

- the Amherstburg Town Council;
- the Amherstburg Planning Board;
- the Amherstburg Historical Society;
- the Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee; and
- adjacent property owners.

These consultations provided useful information and opinions which were considered in the preparation of planning proposals for Fort Malden. A summary entitled Fort Malden National Historic Park - Proposal For A Management Plan, documented the planning proposals for public review and comment.

The summary was presented to key representatives from the Amherstburg community and all of the adjacent property owners in personal meetings with Parks staff. A public open house was held and all members of the public were invited to attend. The Superintendent also held meetings with representatives of Town Council and the Amherstburg Historical Society.

All comments received on the Proposals For A Management Plan were considered in the final preparation of this Management Plan.

## APPENDIX C

### HISTORICAL BACKGROUND INFORMATION

#### Introduction

Fort Malden was first developed by the British in 1796 when they withdrew from Detroit under the terms of the Jay Treaty. Before the War of 1812, the defences of Fort Malden were generally in a ruinous state and the post was not considered to be significant from a military standpoint. As soon as war was imminent, however, the Fort gained in importance as a military centre.

During the War of 1812, troops stationed at Fort Malden played an important role in the skirmishes and battles of the Detroit River region. In the first action of the war, the American vessel Cayuga was captured in the Detroit River by the Provincial Marine based at Fort Malden. From the Fort the successful attack on Detroit was launched under General Isaac Brock. Soldiers from the Fort, military volunteers and Indians who had congregated there used Fort Malden as a base for raids and attacks on the Americans at Frenchtown, Fort Meigs and Fort Stephenson. These raids ended after the loss of the British fleet in the Battle of Lake Erie forced the British to abandon and burn Fort Malden.

#### The Indians and the Indian Department

Perhaps the most important function of Fort Malden prior to the War of 1812 was as the base of the British Indian Department. From the Indian Department stores at the Fort, presents were distributed to the various Indian Nations from Upper Canada and the United States. The Americans regarded Fort Malden not as an important military post but as the centre of the Indian Department and consequently a significant threat to the American Northwest. As a result several unsuccessful attempts to capture Malden were made by the American General Hull in 1812.

#### The Royal Navy and the Provincial Marine

Fort Malden was also significant as a base and dockyard for the Royal Navy and Provincial Marine. Between 1797-1799, when the Marine Department was first established at Amherstburg, and September 1813, when the fleet sailed for Put-In-Bay to engage in the Battle of Lake Erie, several bateaux, boats and ships were built in the navy yard which was protected by the Fort.

Prior to the war, the Provincial Marine acted as a supply transport service between Forts Malden, Erie and St. Joseph. During the war the Provincial Marine retained its role of supplying these posts while also acting as a navy on the Upper Lakes. The Marine was so important to the survival of Fort Malden that when the squadron under Barclay was defeated at the Battle of Lake Erie, the post was immediately abandoned and burned by the retreating troops.

### **Post War of 1812**

After the Fort was abandoned by the British in 1813, the Americans occupied its site and built a smaller fortification. When the British re-occupied the site in 1815 the fortifications were in ruins. Some construction was completed in 1819-1820 but by 1835, plans were being made to abandon Fort Malden. The post was no longer considered necessary from a military standpoint because more amicable relations had developed between British North America and the United States.

### **The Rebellion of 1837-38**

Fort Malden was soon, however, to regain its importance. In December 1837, a small group of rebels led by William Lyon Mackenzie attempted an ill-fated armed uprising against the Canadian government. The government faced a more menacing threat in 1838, however, when American sympathizers conducted a series of border raids. British troops and Canadian militia based at Amherstburg played a key role in defending the western frontier from several attacks by "the brigands".

On January 8, 1838, a small army of these American sympathizers, led by the notorious "patriot" E.A. Theller, occupied Bois Blanc Island opposite Amherstburg. The following day, the rebels, sailing in the captured schooner Ann, fired grape and cannon shot into the Town before being captured near Elliott's Point. Three more attempts to invade Canada were made in 1838 along the western frontier but these were all repulsed. The garrison at Fort Malden took part in the action at Fighting Island and Pelee Island and provided reinforcements to repel the attack on Windsor in December 1838.

### **The Post Rebellion Phase**

Because of the increasing threat of European conflict in the 1840's the majority of British regulars were withdrawn from Canada. British troops were replaced by enrolled pensioners who were to be settled in the colony. The enrolled pensioners scheme was devised to satisfy a need in the transition period from the time when British forces were withdrawn from Canada until Canada organized her own armed forces. Captain J.G.D. Tullock settled 120 pensioners in Amherstburg and 70 in Penetanguishene in small white-washed cottages on neatly laid out streets. Elsewhere the plan was a failure but at these two posts, the plan to use pensioners to replace regular army garrisons was a success.

### **Asylum and Post-Asylum Phase**

In 1855, the Ordnance land at Fort Malden was placed under the control of the Provincial Government. In 1859, Malden was assigned to the Provincial Asylum at Toronto. From 1859 to 1869 Fort Malden served as a lunatic asylum servicing the seven western counties. In 1870 the Western Ontario branch was relocated to London, Ontario, and the buildings and land were again transferred to the Federal Government. In 1874 and 1875 the Fort area was subdivided into lots and sold. From 1875 to 1940 when Fort Malden was declared a National Historic Park,

the Fort property was used primarily for residential and industrial purposes. Since establishment of the Park, a significant portion of the property originally associated with the Fort has been acquired by Parks Canada.

**APPENDIX D**

**PROPERTY ACQUISITION POLICY**

The possible purchase of all properties considered in this Plan has been discussed with the individual owners concerned. Property would only be acquired under the following circumstances:

1. Private properties necessary to embrace the remaining earthworks should be acquired if and when they are offered for sale by the owner.
2. Properties would only be purchased at the time they are offered if funds are available and if the purchase price is fair and reasonable.
3. Any municipal properties indicated as desirable for acquisition (road allowances) would only be pursued with the support and approval of the Amherstburg Town Council.

The proposed acquisition program is long-term with no deadlines. While the ultimate acquisition of the properties is important to the achievement of objectives established for Fort Malden, the time period is not critical.

Under this acquisition policy, it is possible that one of a group of houses would be purchased by Parks Canada while those surrounding it would remain in private hands. In this case, a number of options could be considered following discussion with concerned parties:

1. The house could be leased back to the original owner.
2. The house could be leased to another individual.
3. The house could be used by Parks Canada for administrative purposes.
4. The house could be removed.

**APPENDIX E**

**EXPECTED ATTENDANCE LEVELS**

At present approximately 80,000 visits are made to Fort Malden annually. This level fluctuates from year to year depending upon the number of scheduled special events that are undertaken. Peak attendance occurs in July and August when weekend attendance varies between 700 and 1200 visitors per day. The total number of visits to Fort Malden in the 1981-82 season was 80,827.

If present trends continue it is expected that annual visits to Fort Malden in the near future will be between 80,000 and 100,000.