

NATIONAL SURVEY OF HISTORIC SITES AND BUILDINGS

1. STATE New York	2. THEME(S). IF ARCHEOLOGICAL SITE, WRITE "ARCH" BEFORE THEME NO. XX Architecture (Colonial)
3. NAME(S) OF SITE Fort Crown Point (Amherst)	4. APPROX. ACREAGE 100 acres
5. EXACT LOCATION (County, township, roads, etc. If difficult to find, sketch on Supplementary Sheet) To the west of the south end of the Lake Champlain Bridge, and New York Route 8.	
6. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PRESENT OWNER (Also administrator if different from owner) State of New York; The Crown Point Foundation, P.O. Box 1977, Grand Central Station, N.Y., N.Y. 10017.	
7. IMPORTANCE AND DESCRIPTION (Describe briefly what makes site important and what remains are extant)	

Fort Crown Point, in its ruined but unaltered state, is the finest existing architectural and archeological type specimen in the United States for further study of a superior example of 18th century military engineering.

French, British, Americans--all in turn, have claimed this strategic point which juts into Lake Champlain. The French built Fort St. Frederic at Crown Point in 1731 as a base for attacks on the northern British colonies. General Sir Jeffery Amherst forced them to evacuate the ruined fort in 1759. Construction was started in 1760 on the new British fort, called Crown Point or Amherst, which was located about 200 yards from the old French post.

In 1773 disaster struck the great new fort. A fire broke out, the powder magazine inside the fort blew up, and the entire fort was damaged. While the engineers drew plans for rebuilding, the main garrison and heavy cannon were moved south to Fort Ticonderoga. The Revolution, however, broke out before Fort Crown Point could be rebuilt. In May, 1775 Col. Seth Warner and the "Green Mountain Boys" captured the small housekeeping garrison of Fort Crown Point and in 1775-76 the post was used as a staging area for the attack on Canada. In 1777 the Americans abandoned the fort on the approach of the British army from Canada and General Burgoyne used Fort Crown Point as a supply depot and magazine during his siege of Fort Ticonderoga. Thereafter Fort Crown Point played a minor role during the Revolution and was never rebuilt. The area of the fort reverted to pastureland and orchard which it has remained ever since. About 1900, the State of New York acquired the Crown Point forts from

(Continued)

8. BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES (Give best sources; give location of manuscripts and rare works)

See page 2.

9. REPORTS AND STUDIES (Mention best reports and studies, ex. NPS study, IIAB, etc.)

Charles S. Marshall, "Crown Point and Plattsburg," (Mg. National Park Service, October 14, 1937).

10. PHOTOGRAPHS 4103-05, 4111-15 ATTACHED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO EXCELLENT	12. PRESENT USE (Museum, farm, etc.) Museum	13. DATE OF VISIT Sept. 11, 1967
14. NAME OF RECORDER (Signature) <i>Charles W. Snell</i> Charles W. Snell	15. TITLE Historian	16. DATE Oct. 25, 1967

* DRY MOUNT ON AN 8 X 10 1/2 SHEET OF FAMILY HEAVY PAPER. IDENTIFY BY VIEW AND NAME OF THE SITE, DATE OF PHOTOGRAPH, AND NAME OF PHOTOGRAPHER. GIVE LOCATION OF NEGATIVE. IF ATTACHED, ENCLOSE IN PROPER NEGATIVE ENVELOPES.

(IF ADDITIONAL SPACE IS NEEDED USE SUPPLEMENTARY SHEET, 10-317a, AND REFER TO ITEM NUMBER)

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL SURVEY OF HISTORIC SITES AND BUILDINGS
SUPPLEMENTARY SHEET

This sheet is to be used for giving additional information or comments, for more space for any item on the regular form, and for recording pertinent data from future studies, visitations, etc. Be brief, but use as many Supplement Sheets as necessary. When items are continued they should be listed, if possible, in numerical order of the items. All information given should be headed by the item number, its name, and the word (cont'd), as, 6. Description and Importance (cont'd) . . .

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STATE New York	NAME(S) OF SITE Fort Crown Point (Amherst)
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7. Continued:

private ownership. Except for the minor removal of stones by settlers for building purposes, Fort Crown Point remains intact in its ruined condition, much as it must have appeared during the Revolution.

Condition

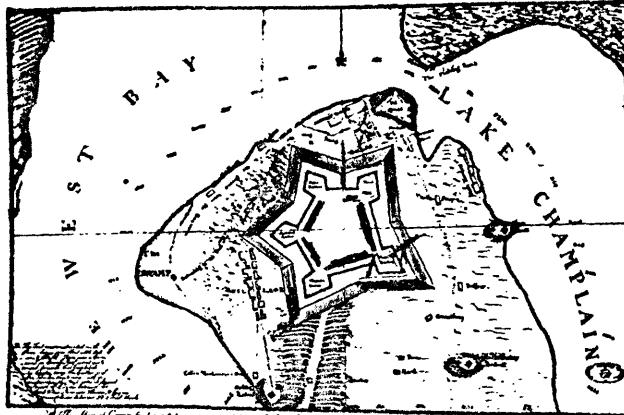
Constructed in the 1760s, Fort Crown Point is a five-sided fort of tremendous size. The post was three times as big as nearby Fort Ticonderoga and contained within its walls a 6 1/2-acre parade ground. Like Ticonderoga, Crown Point is built on the same system of fortification that was developed by the great French military engineer, Marquis de Vauban (1633-1707). A deep ditch or dry moat, about one-half mile in circumference, which was dug out of limestone by the British soldiers, still surrounds the fort. The ramparts, 25 feet thick, almost the same height, and faced with solid masonry, were formed from the stone and dirt thrown up from the moats. These walls, together with most of the stonework, and the five great bastions extending from the corners are still largely intact, although overgrown with trees, bushes and grass. Inside are the well-preserved remains of two of the three original stone barracks. Except for minor stabilization, the two structures are unaltered and the barracks that face the entrance are in remarkably fine condition, their sides, walls, and fireplaces almost as good as when erected. Only the end walls remain of the third barracks.

The setting of the fort is unchanged and the Crown Point State Reservation also includes the ruins of the much-smaller French Fort St. Frederic, and of the nearby early French and English village sites.¹

8. Bibliographical References:

Francis Parkman, Montcalm and Wolfe (2 vols., Boston, 1893);
Hoffman Nicherson, The Turning Point of the Revolution (Boston, 1928)
New York: A Guide to the Empire State (American Guide Series) (New York 1947), 538; W. Max Reid, Lake George and Lake Champlain (New York, 1910)
"Interim Report of the Joint Legislative Committee to Study Historic Sites,"
Legislative Document (1950), State of New York, Albany, 1950.

¹Fort St. Frederic has been declared eligible for the Registry of National Historic Landmarks in connection with Theme V, French Exploration and Settlement.



Top: Sketch map drawn in 1774. While artist apologizes for its being out of proportion, map indicates location of English village.
 Bottom: Sketch map closer to scale drawn in 1960. Confirms locations of old foundations, road beds, etc. . . .

