National Park Service
Cultural Landscapes Inventory

2000

Revised: 8/2026



Fort Stanwix NM Landscape

Fort Stanwix National Monument

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Introduction

The Cultural Landscape Inventory (CLI)

The Cultural Landscape Inventory (CLI) is a comprehensive inventory of all cultural landscapes in the National Park System. Landscapes that are listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places, or are otherwise managed as cultural resources and in which the National Park Service has, or plans to acquire, legal interest are included in the inventory. The CLI identifies and documents each landscape's location, size, physical development, landscape characteristics, character-defining features, and condition. Cultural landscapes have approved CLIs when concurrence with the findings is obtained from the park superintendent and all required data fields are entered into the Cultural Resources Information System (CRIS-CL) database. In addition, for landscapes not currently listed on the National Register and/or without adequate documentation, concurrence is required from the State Historic Preservation Officer, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, or the Keeper of the National Register.

Scope of the CLI

The information contained within the CLI is compiled from primary and secondary sources and through on-site surveys of the landscape. The level of investigation is dependent upon scoping the need for information. The baseline information collected provides a comprehensive look at the historical development and significance of the landscape. Documentation and analysis of the existing landscape identifies character-defining characteristics and features and allows for an evaluation of the landscape's integrity and an assessment of the landscape's condition. The CLI also includes historic maps, drawings, and images; photographs of existing conditions; and a site plan that indicates major features. The CLI documents the existing condition of park landscape resources and identifies impacts, threats, and measures to stabilize condition. This information can be used to develop strategies for improved stewardship. Unlike a Cultural Landscape Report (CLR), the CLI does not provide management recommendations or treatment guidelines for the cultural landscape, but it may identify stabilization measures.

The Cultural Resources Information System (CRIS)

CRIS is the National Park Service's database of cultural resources on its lands, consisting of archeological sites, historic structures, ethnographic resources, and cultural landscapes. Cultural Resources Inventory System (CRIS) replaces three legacy inventory systems: ASMIS (archeology), CLI (cultural landscapes), and LCS (historic structures); and it reinstates the former ERI (ethnographic resources). This Cultural Landscape Inventory document reflects the information in a corresponding CRIS Cultural Landscape record.

Statutory and Regulatory Foundation

The legislative, regulatory, and policy directives for conducting and maintaining the CLI within CRIS are:

- National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966 (16 USC 470h-2(a)(1)) Sec. 110
- Executive Order 13287: Preserve America, 2003. Sec. 3 (a and c)
- Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Federal Agency Historic Preservation Programs
- Pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act, 1998. Std. 2
- Cultural Resource Management Guideline, 1997, Release No. 5, page 22; issued pursuant to Director's Order #28 (DO-28)

The NHPA requires the identification, evaluation, and nomination of historic properties to the National Register of Historic Places and the maintenance and expansion of an inventory of cultural resources. DO-28 requires a cyclic assessment of the current condition of cultural landscapes based on an assessment interval, with a default of six years.

Use

Beyond fulfilling legal and policy requirements, park staff can use the Cultural Landscape Inventory in the following ways:

- To learn about park cultural landscapes (all staff)
- To inform management decisions (park managers)
- To inform project planning and development (park managers, facility managers, project managers, compliance specialists)
- To monitor the condition of the cultural landscape and take measures to protect its significance and integrity (cultural resource managers, facility managers)
- To recognize the stabilization and treatment needs of landscape features and plan work within cultural landscapes to address the needs (facility managers, cultural resource managers)
- To understand the cultural value of natural systems in a cultural landscape (natural resource managers)
- To create programming and educational materials based on site history (interpretation and education specialists)
- To recognize impacts within cultural landscapes and enforce protection measures (visitor and resources protection staff)

General Information

Property Level and CLI Numbers

Inventory Unit Name: Fort Stanwix NM Landscape

Resource Level: Cultural Landscape

CRIS-CL Resource ID: 650027

Inventory Status: Complete

Park Information

Park Name: Fort Stanwix National Monument

Alpha Code: FOST

Park Organization Code: 1760

Region: Northeast

Restricted: Yes

Landscape Description:

Fort Stanwix National Monument (NM) is located in Rome, Oneida County, New York. Federally owned and managed by the National Park Service (NPS), the 16-acre park features a reconstructed Revolutionary War-era fort, with related outworks. The park's purpose is to preserve the location, resources, and stories associated with the military, political, and cultural events that occurred at and around the site of Fort Stanwix and to provide opportunities for visitor understanding, appreciation, and stewardship. President Franklin Delano Roosevelt signed the enabling legislation for the national monument into law in August 1935.

Fort reconstruction began in the mid-1960s in tandem with an urban renewal program in downtown Rome to build two large city blocks anchored by a pedestrian mall. The NPS completed a master plan for Fort Stanwix in 1967. This plan recommended full reconstruction of the fort, the ruins of which lay beneath the City of Rome's downtown. Subsequently, the city's urban renewal program cleared approximately 70 structures and five streets. At the same time, a multi-year archeological investigation of the site of Fort Stanwix informed reconstruction of the fort that began in 1974. In 1976, the partially completed reconstructed fort opened to the public in time for the nation's celebration of the 200th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. In 1977-1978, further reconstruction work was done.

The reconstructed fort currently consists of an earth and timber-clad, reinforced concrete structure that surrounds three freestanding buildings and a small parade ground, along with frame casemates that are built into the four outer earthen walls. One remaining original feature, the remains of a brick hearth, is located within the reconstructed fort. Some original buildings and features of the fort remain unreconstructed, including two bombproofs, the Headquarters, Guard House, Ravelin, Bake House, the Necessary, and the Sallyport and its Redoubt.

Outside of this structure, the fort is covered in turf, as is the surrounding property. The outer edges of the fort on the north, south, and west sides are composed of a berm followed by a ditch, a parapet, a low palisade fence, and a glacis. Beyond the glacis the landscape is maintained as lawn, except for a small meadow area. Deciduous trees line North James Street and a mixture of evergreen and deciduous trees and shrubs stand north of the fort to screen the maintenance garage and other buildings north of the site. The Marinus Willett Collections Management and Education Center, built in 2005 at the southwest corner of the site, offers exhibit space and visitor services. Interpretive waysides

are located along the asphalt and stone walkways that loop around the site and lead to the fort's entrance. A reconstructed water feature, the Branch of Technohat Creek, runs to the east of the fort.

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY

The site of Fort Stanwix, but not the reconstructed structure, was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1962 and is listed in the National Register of Historic Places, for the events that transpired there during the American Revolution. The Fort Stanwix site possesses national significance under National Register Criterion A in the area of Military. Built in 1758 by the British, taken over and rebuilt by the Americans in 1776, and garrisoned until 1781, Fort Stanwix played a significant role in American history during this period. By 1840, the last remnants of the earth and timber Fort Stanwix had disappeared beneath the burgeoning village of Rome. According to the 1981 National Register documentation, only the site – not the reconstructed above-ground features – is considered a significant historic resource. The period of significance for the site is 1758 to 1781, encompassing the original British construction of the fort and extending until the last permanent American garrison in 1781.

ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION SUMMARY AND CONDITION

The historic integrity of the Fort Stanwix National Monument Landscape is evaluated by comparing landscape characteristics and features present during the period of significance, 1758-1781, with the existing conditions as assessed in 2026. The landscape surrounding Fort Stanwix is a reconstruction suggesting the open space present during the period of significance. Other than the open character, it bears no resemblance to what the historic landscape would have looked like. Historically a frontier region composed of meadow and old growth forest, the fort was sited on top of an embankment that dropped approximately 19 feet down to the Mohawk River. While that landscape surrounding the fort was certainly open in character, it was presumably unkempt meadow scattered with stumps from the cut trees used to build the fort. The trees also would have been cleared to keep the area open for strategic purposes in defending the fort. Archeological investigations informed reconstruction of the fort, which was essentially completed in 1976, and these features are present today: glacis, counterscarp, pickets, ditches, bridge, bastions, curtain walls, casemates, barracks, storehouse, sentry boxes, bombproof, whipping post, flagpole, cannon, and a parade ground. Several original structures were not reconstructed within the fort: guard house, headquarters building, two bombproofs, bakehouse, sally port, and ravelin.

Fort Stanwix National Monument contains no landscape features that contribute to the historic significance of the site. All of the landscape features are either modern, non-historic reconstructions, or outside the period of significance. While the area surrounding the reconstructed fort was not intended to replicate the historic landscape, the reconstructed topography at the base of the fort and including the glacis is believed to be historically accurate.

Condition:
The condition of the park landscape is evaluated as "good." The property shows no clear evidence of major negative disturbance and deterioration by natural and/or human forces. The property's cultural and natural values are as well preserved as can be expected under the given environmental conditions. No immediate corrective action is required to maintain its current condition.

Landscape Hierarchy Description:

Fort Stanwix National Monument consists of one landscape, the boundaries of which are coterminous with the park boundaries.

Landscape Type:

Historic Site

Other Names:

Other Name:	Fort Schuyler	**Other Name Type:**	Historic
Other Name:	Fort Stanwix	**Other Name Type:**	Both Current And Historic
Other Name:	Fort Stanwix National Monument	**Other Name Type:**	Current

Site Plan



Site map, 2026.

Concurrence Information

Superintendent Acknowledgment:

Park Superintendent Acknowledgment: Yes

Park Superintendent Acknowledgment Date: 12/12/2000

Completion Status Explanatory Narrative:

A draft CLI (Level 2) or the Fort Stanwix NM Landscape was completed by John Auwaerter in 1998 and revised by David Uschold in 1999 to incorporate park review comments. The final CLI for the Fort Stanwix NM Landscape was approved by the Superintendent on December 12, 2000. Condition reassessments for the site were approved by the Superintendent on August 10, 2007; July 17, 2013; September 25, 2023; and September 22, 2025.

This CLI Update was completed by Jeff Killion, Historical Landscape Architect at the Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation, Boston, Massachusetts. Field work for the CLI was completed in June 2026. The park contact for this project is Kevin Wyrick, Superintendent, Fort Stanwix NM (Kevin_Wyrick@nps.gov)

SUMMARY OF CLI REVISIONS, 2026

• The management category for the Fort Stanwix NM Landscape is Category B (Medium NPS Priority for Preservation and Maintenance), as based on definitions published in the 2025 “CLI Professional Procedures Guide.” The site of the fort, but not the reconstructed structure or landscape, is listed as nationally significant in the National Register of Historic Places (1981, Criterion A, Military) and is a designated National Historic Landmark (1962), for the events that transpired there during the American Revolution and for the information potential of the archeological resources. The reconstructed landscape (ditches, counterscarp, glacis) abuts the reconstructed fort (a reinforced concrete structure covered with earth and faced with timbers), which is located on the site of the original fort.
• The area (Military) and period of significance (1758-1781) for this nationally-significant property is unchanged. An update to the park’s National Register chapter is underway; upon its completion the CLI will be revised if needed.
• The Chronology and Physical History and Analysis and Evaluation chapters document changes in the landscape since the original CLI was completed in 2000.
• The overall landscape condition was evaluated as “Good” in 2000 2007, 2013, and 2025. The proposed landscape condition evaluation for 2026 is “Good.”
• Site plans and existing condition photographs are updated.

Concurrence Graphic Information:

Author: Craig Davis at NP-FOST
Date: 12/12/2000 12:43 PM
Normal
Receipt Requested
TO: David Uschold at NP-FRLA
CC: Paul Weinbaum at NP-NARO, Gary Warshefski
Subject: CLI Copies Received
---------- Message Contents

Scpt. Conc.

David--

The copies of the CLI have been received safe and sound in the park. Thank you. THANK YOU. THANK YOU VERY MUCH!! Superintendent Warshefski was very pleased. Your good work is appreciated.

We have looked over the draft SHPO conveyance letter and it's on the right track.

A quick comment or two for your consideration. It might be better if paragraph four ("The present submission . . .") gets moved up to paragraph two or three to emphasize the focus of this compliance review action. Paragraph two may need to be deleted since Fort Stanwix doesn't plan on sending other CLI reports to the NY SHPOs office.

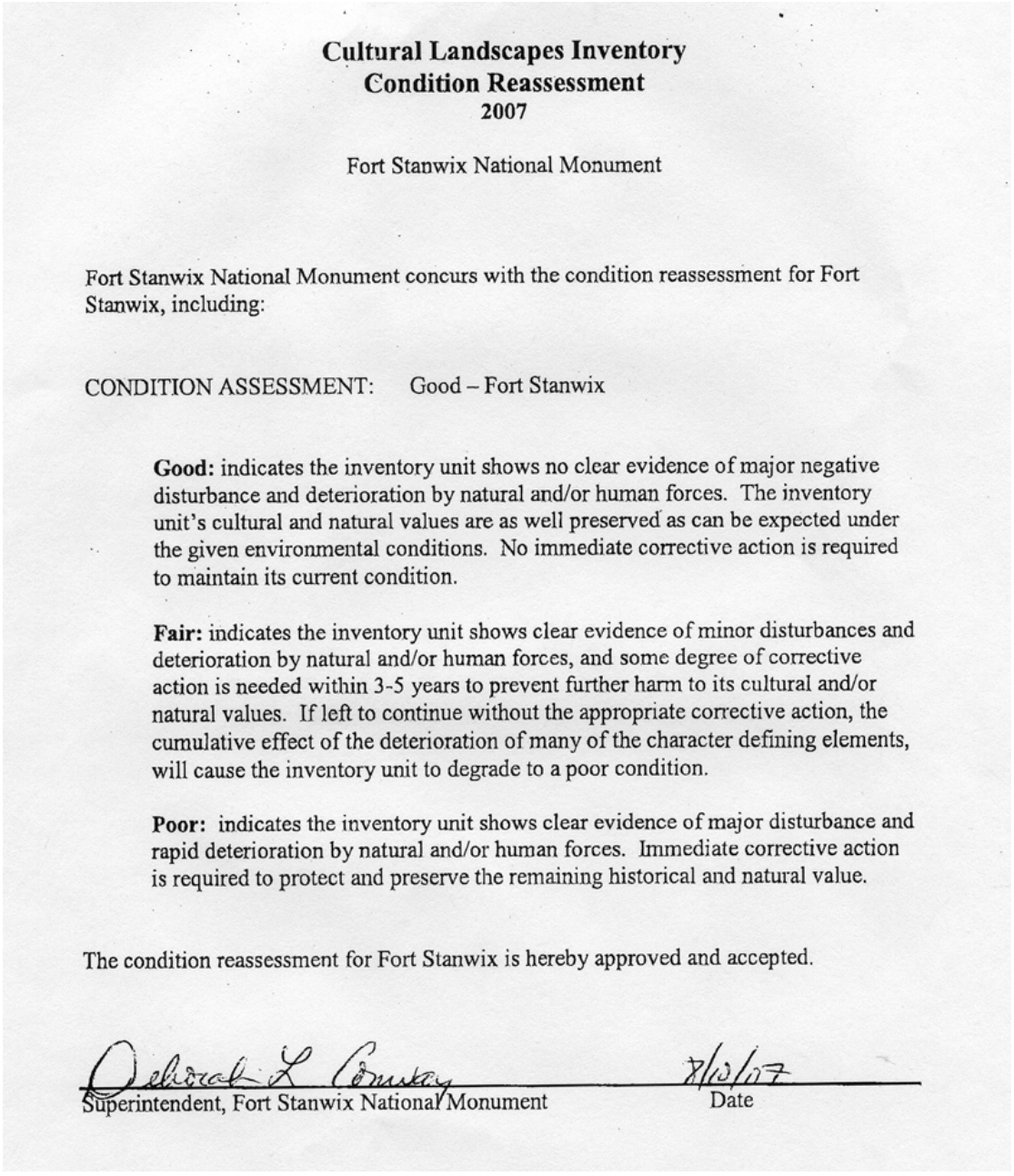
It's a good draft letter; but we'd like to see the letter shortened where possible (there's a lot of description of what the CLI is, for example).

Are you still planning on getting the final draft letter to us today? I know you were waiting on discussing the text of the letter with Paul before you gave us the 'go ahead.' Please let me know where we stand.

Thanks.

Craig.

Park concurrence form, December 12, 2000.



Cultural Landscapes Inventory
Condition Reassessment
2007

Fort Stanwix National Monument

Fort Stanwix National Monument concurs with the condition reassessment for Fort Stanwix, including:

CONDITION ASSESSMENT: Good – Fort Stanwix

Good: indicates the inventory unit shows no clear evidence of major negative disturbance and deterioration by natural and/or human forces. The inventory unit's cultural and natural values are as well preserved as can be expected under the given environmental conditions. No immediate corrective action is required to maintain its current condition.

Fair: indicates the inventory unit shows clear evidence of minor disturbances and deterioration by natural and/or human forces, and some degree of corrective action is needed within 3-5 years to prevent further harm to its cultural and/or natural values. If left to continue without the appropriate corrective action, the cumulative effect of the deterioration of many of the character defining elements, will cause the inventory unit to degrade to a poor condition.

Poor: indicates the inventory unit shows clear evidence of major disturbance and rapid deterioration by natural and/or human forces. Immediate corrective action is required to protect and preserve the remaining historical and natural value.

The condition reassessment for Fort Stanwix is hereby approved and accepted.

Deborah L Conway — 8/10/07

Superintendent, Fort Stanwix National Monument — Date

Condition reassessment form, August 10, 2007.

FEB-07-2001 14:01 FT STANWIX NATL MONUMENT P.02

New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
Central Region
6105 E. Seneca Turnpike, Jamesville, New York 13078-9516

315-492-1756

FAX: 315-492-3277

Gary P. MacLachlan
Regional Director

NEW YORK STATE OFFICE OF PARKS, RECREATION AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
Bernadette Castro
Commissioner

January 24, 2001

Gary Warshefski
Superintendent
Fort Stanwix National Monument
National Park Service
112 E. Park St.
Rome NY 13440

RE: NPS
Fort Stanwix
Cultural Landscape Inventory
Rome, Oneida County
00PR5654

Dear Mr. Warshefski:

Thank you for providing the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) with the Cultural Landscape Inventory (CLI) for Fort Stanwix National Monument, which is listed in the National Register of Historic Places and is designated as a National Historic Landmark. This information has been reviewed in accordance with Section 106 of National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (as amended).

Based on this review, the OPRHP concurs with the general CLI findings that extant landscape features do not contribute to the property's significance due to age or high degree of alteration. We do note, however, that while the landscape's views and vistas have been altered and/or lost, the general open nature of the grounds is instrumental in conveying the significance of the site. The OPRHP will review future undertakings based on this assessment. We also concur with the CLI findings that areas outside the fort footprint may be archeologically sensitive. Any future undertakings at the property must include measures to perform appropriate archeological investigation.

The OPRHP appreciates the opportunity to comment on the CLI. If you have any questions please call me at 315-492-1756. To expedite our reviews, the OPRHP project number **00PR5654** should be used in any future correspondence regarding this review.

Sincerely,

Christine Capella Peters
Historic Sites Restoration Coordinator
Historic Preservation Field Services

An Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Agency
printed on recycled paper

TOTAL P.02

SHPO concurrence letter, January 24, 2001 (3 pages).

Significance (Pages 13-14, Part 1), the Analysis and Evaluation Summary (Page 1, Part 3) and the National Register Information (Pages 3-4, Part 4). The report was written by John Auwaerter, State University of New York, and David Uschold, NPS Historical Landscape Architect. The report was reviewed and agreed with by Paul Weinbaum, NPS Regional Historian.

If you concur with our determination of ineligibility for the landscape resources of Fort Stanwix National Monument, please sign on the space provided and return this letter to me within 30 days. Should you have any questions feel free to call me at (315) 336-2090. If you have questions regarding the CLI program feel free to call David Uschold, CLI Program Coordinator, at (617) 566-1689 or Paul Weinbaum at (617) 223-5057.

Sincerely,

Gary W. Warshefski
Superintendent

Enclosures (2)

I concur with the above-stated determination of ineligibility regarding the landscape resources of Fort Stanwix National Monument.

State Historic Preservation Officer: _____

Date: _____

cc without enclosures:

Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
Tony Opalka
J. Winthrop Aldrich
David Uschold
Paul Weinbaum
Craig Davis

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Fort Stanwix National Monument
112 East Park Street
Rome, New York 13440

IN REPLY REFER TO:
H4217 (FOST)

December 18, 2000

COPY

Ms. Bernadette Castro
State Historic Preservation Officer
New York State Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation
Agency Building #1, Empire State Plaza
Albany, NY 12238

Dear Ms. Castro:

The National Park Service (NPS) is currently in the midst of a national effort to inventory its cultural landscapes as part of its expanded effort to inventory its historic properties. In the mid-1990s, the NPS consulted with you with respect to the List of Classified Structures (LCS), an inventory of structures, buildings, and objects. The Cultural Landscapes Inventory (CLI) effort takes into account sites and landscape features that are contributing resources or contribute to the significance of historic properties. While the LCS inventoried structural features, the CLI takes a more comprehensive approach to properties, inventorying all above ground resources such as natural features, vegetative elements, and other landscape features not encompassed by the LCS. Conducted in accordance with Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act, it is the National Park Service's intent to submit to you for your information and, where required, your review and concurrence, completed CLI reports for the national parks in New York.

The present submission includes the CLI for Fort Stanwix National Monument. In most cases, the CLI describes which landscape characteristics and character-defining features contribute to a site's historical significance. The findings of this CLI recommend that the landscape resources of Fort Stanwix do not contribute to the site's historical significance (as already documented in the existing National Register form, 12/28/81). The exterior appearance of the fort is based on historic documentation and uses a minimal degree of conjecture. No attempt was made to recreate the historic landscape. Although the landscape does not contribute to the National Register eligibility of the site, this does not lessen the value of the site as an important cultural resource.

Based on the enclosed CLI, we seek your concurrence with our determination that the extant landscape characteristics and features of Fort Stanwix do not contribute to the significance of the National Monument, and that finding should supplement the current National Register documentation. We call your particular attention to the Statement of

Cultural Landscapes Inventory
Condition Reassessment
2013

Fort Stanwix National Monument
Fort Stanwix

Fort Stanwix National Monument concurs with the condition reassessment for Fort Stanwix, including:

CONDITION ASSESSMENT: Good – Fort Stanwix

Good: indicates the inventory unit shows no clear evidence of major negative disturbance and deterioration by natural and/or human forces. The inventory unit's cultural and natural values are as well preserved as can be expected under the given environmental conditions. No immediate corrective action is required to maintain its current condition.

Fair: indicates the inventory unit shows clear evidence of minor disturbances and deterioration by natural and/or human forces, and some degree of corrective action is needed within 3-5 years to prevent further harm to its cultural and/or natural values. If left to continue without the appropriate corrective action, the cumulative effect of the deterioration of many of the landscape characteristics will cause the inventory unit to degrade to a poor condition.

Poor: indicates the inventory unit shows clear evidence of major disturbance and rapid deterioration by natural and/or human forces. Immediate corrective action is required to protect and preserve the remaining historical and natural values.

The condition reassessment for Fort Stanwix at Fort Stanwix National Monument is hereby approved and accepted.

Kimberly Szewczyk, Acting Superintendent 7/17/13
Superintendent, Fort Stanwix National Monument Date

07/17/2013 08:14 FAX 13153345051 FT STANWIX NM 002

Condition reassessment form, July 17, 2013.

Cultural Landscapes Inventory
CLI Update Certification Form
2025

Fort Stanwix National Monument

Fort Stanwix NM Landscape

Fort Stanwix National Monument concurs with the update for the following CLI, including:

CONDITION ASSESSMENT: Good – Fort Stanwix NM Landscape

Good: indicates the inventory unit shows no clear evidence of major negative disturbance and deterioration by natural and/or human forces. The inventory unit's cultural and natural values are as well preserved as can be expected under the given environmental conditions. No immediate corrective action is required to maintain its current condition.

Fair: indicates the inventory unit shows clear evidence of minor disturbances and deterioration by natural and/or human forces, and some degree of corrective action is needed within 3-5 years to prevent further harm to its cultural and/or natural values. If left to continue without the appropriate corrective action, the cumulative effect of the deterioration of many of the character defining elements, will cause the inventory unit to degrade to a poor condition.

Poor: indicates the inventory unit shows clear evidence of major disturbance and rapid deterioration by natural and/or human forces. Immediate corrective action is required to protect and preserve the remaining historical and natural values.

The CLI Update at Fort Stanwix National Monument is hereby approved and accepted.

KEVIN WYRICK Digitally signed by KEVIN WYRICK
Date: 2025.09.22 18:12:58 -04'00'

Superintendent, Fort Stanwix National Monument Date

Park concurrence form, September 22, 2025.

Cultural Landscapes Inventory
CLI Update Certification Form
2026

Fort Stanwix NM Landscape

Fort Stanwix National Monument

Fort Stanwix National Monument certifies the CLI update for the Fort Stanwix NM Landscape, including:

CONDITION ASSESSMENT: Good – Fort Stanwix NM Landscape

Good: indicates the inventory unit shows no clear evidence of major negative disturbance and deterioration by natural and/or human forces. The inventory unit's cultural and natural values are as well preserved as can be expected under the given environmental conditions. No immediate corrective action is required to maintain its current condition.

Fair: indicates the inventory unit shows clear evidence of minor disturbances and deterioration by natural and/or human forces, and some degree of corrective action is needed within 3-5 years to prevent further harm to its cultural and/or natural values. If left to continue without the appropriate corrective action, the cumulative effect of the deterioration of many of the character defining elements, will cause the inventory unit to degrade to a poor condition.

Poor: indicates the inventory unit shows clear evidence of major disturbance and rapid deterioration by natural and/or human forces. Immediate corrective action is required to protect and preserve the remaining historical and natural values.

The CLI update for the Fort Stanwix NM Landscape at Fort Stanwix National Monument is hereby approved and accepted.

KEVIN WYRICK Digitally signed by KEVIN WYRICK Date: 2026.08.12 08:21:22 -04'00'

Superintendent, Fort Stanwix National Monument Date

Park concurrence form, August 12, 2026.

Seq. No.	File Name	Caption

Revision:

Revised By	Type of Revision	Revision Date	Revision Explanatory Narrative
Jeff Killion		08/10/2007	Condition Reassessment
Jeff Killion	Change in Condition	07/17/2013	Condition reassessment completed as scheduled.
Uschold		12/21/1999	The draft CLI, Level 2, was completed by Auwaerter in 1998 and revised by Uschold in 1999 to incorporate park review comments.
Jeff Killion	CLI Update	09/22/2025	Three levels of effort have been developed for CLI Updates: A, B, and C. Level C is limited to a condition reassessment of the landscape; Level B includes C and is a targeted update of select data fields; Level A includes C and is a comprehensive update of all data fields. This 2025 update to the Fort Stanwix NM Landscape CLI has been conducted at a Level C effort. See Landscape Documents in CRIS-CL for correspondences with park.
Jeff Killion	CLI Update	08/12/2026	Three levels of effort have been developed for CLI Updates: A, B, and C. Level C is limited to a condition reassessment of the landscape; Level B includes C and is a targeted update of select data fields; Level A includes B and C and is a comprehensive update of all data fields. The update to the Fort Stanwix CLI has been done at a Level A effort.

Geographic Information

State and County:

State/Territory	County
New York	Oneida County

Area (Acres): 15.52

Land Tract Number(s)

01-101

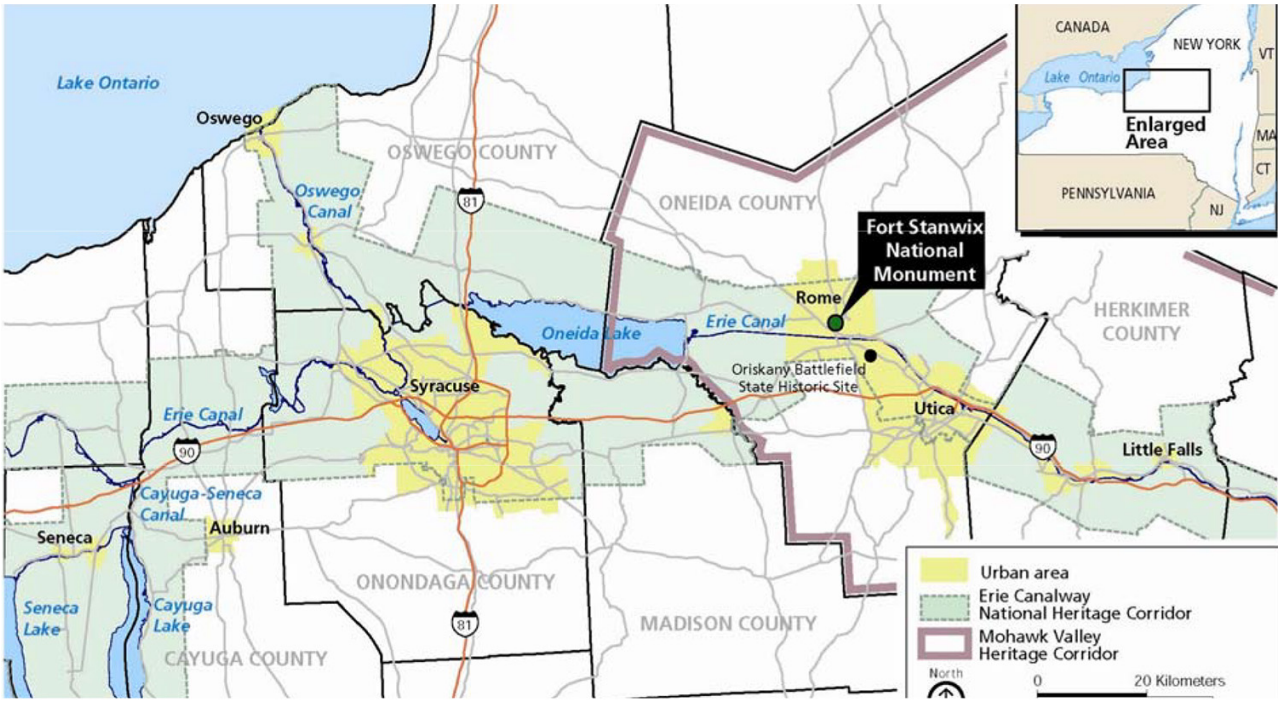
Boundary Description:

The CLI project area is coterminous with the park's boundary. The park's boundary was determined during the urban renewal process, within the constraints of Rome's street grid. The northeast boundary is defined by East Park Street and the property lines of St. Mary's Church, the east and south boundaries by Black River Boulevard and Erie Boulevard, and the northwest boundary by North James Street.

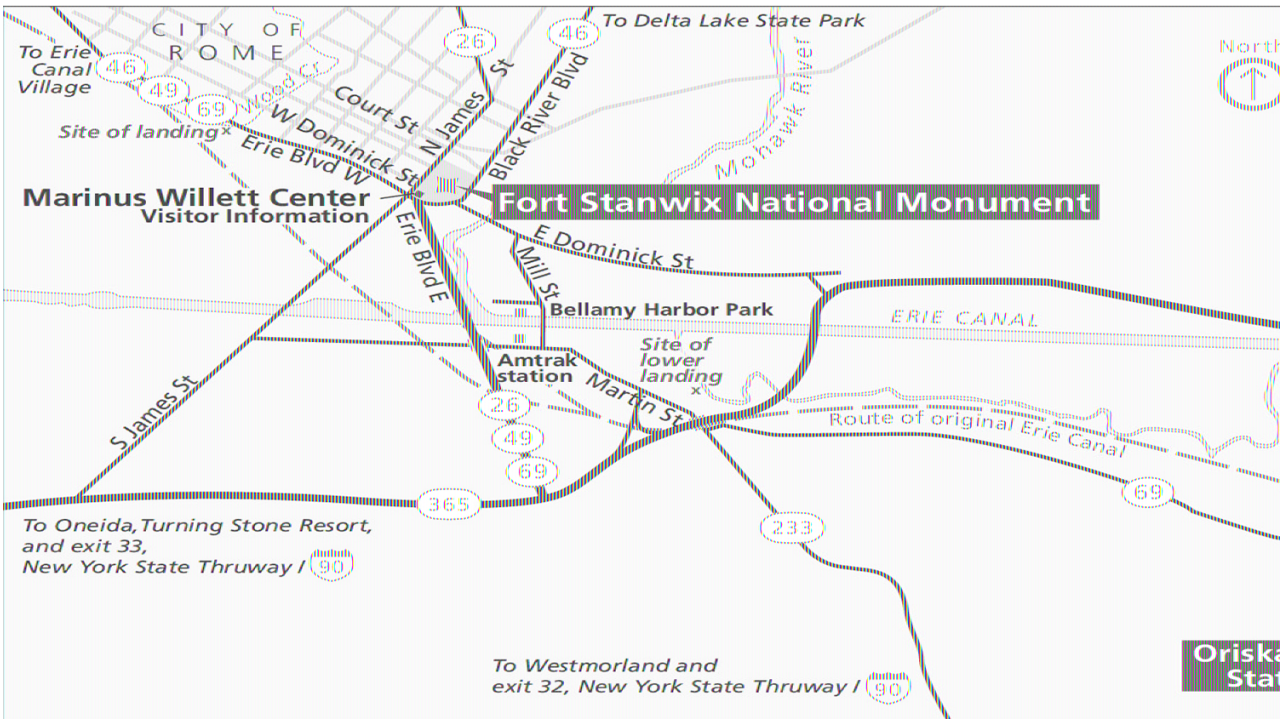
Boundary Coordinates

Source	Type of Point	Latitude	Longitude	Narrative
Aerial Photograph	Polygon	43.211829	-75.456177	
Aerial Photograph	Polygon	43.211532	-75.455568	
Aerial Photograph	Polygon	43.211699	-75.455206	
Aerial Photograph	Polygon	43.212004	-75.454949	
Aerial Photograph	Polygon	43.211201	-75.453291	
Aerial Photograph	Polygon	43.210041	-75.454117	
Aerial Photograph	Polygon	43.209789	-75.454423	
Aerial Photograph	Polygon	43.209592	-75.454901	
Aerial Photograph	Polygon	43.209434	-75.455896	
Aerial Photograph	Polygon	43.209389	-75.457143	
Aerial Photograph	Polygon	43.20943	-75.457386	
Aerial Photograph	Polygon	43.209532	-75.457549	
Aerial Photograph	Polygon	43.209684	-75.457651	
Aerial Photograph	Polygon	43.20995	-75.457837	

Location Map:



Map showing the park's relationship with other population areas and cultural areas. (GMP 2009: 2)



Fort Stanwix National Monument is located in the heart of Rome, New York. (National Park Service, Harpers Ferry Center)

Regional Landscape Contexts:

Type of Context: Cultural

Description:

Cultural context is the general human overlay on the physical form of the landscape. Fort Stanwix National Monument is in downtown Rome, New York, a small city of approximately 32,170 (2020 census) located along the main east-west corridor of upstate New York approximately 100 miles west of Albany. This east-west corridor initially developed along natural riverine and geologic systems, the importance of which were then reinforced through construction of the Erie Canal, and later, railroads and the New York State Thruway. Ten miles to the southeast is Utica while Syracuse is approximately 40 miles west (see Regional Context graphic).

The development of Rome was historically centered near the intersection of the Erie and Black River Canals, around the present site of Fort Stanwix. However, through massive urban renewal projects begun in the 1960s, including the reconstruction of Fort Stanwix, the historic downtown was in large part replaced by new larger urban blocks, a pedestrian mall on Dominick Street, and less dense development. To reinvigorate the downtown core, the pedestrian mall was removed in the early 2000s to reintroduced vehicular traffic.

To the north, Fort Stanwix National Monument abuts the Gansevoort-Bellamy Historic District, which was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1975. This historic district includes portions of North James, Court, and Park Streets (encompassing St. Peter's Church and rectory, Old City Hall, the Old Post Office, and the Oneida County Courthouse). St. Peter's Church and the Old City Hall are both highly visible from most parts of Fort Stanwix.

Type of Context: Physiographic

Description:

Physiographic context is the large-scale physical forms and patterns of the landscape such as hill, plateau, ravine, drumlin, etc. Fort Stanwix National Monument is located at the boundary of two major physiographic regions, the Glaciated Allegheny Plateau, extending south and east of Rome; and the Great Lakes region, extending west and north. These two regions define a major watershed divide: the Mohawk River, located about 1,000 feet to the east of the site, drains into the Atlantic through the Hudson River; Wood Creek, located about one mile west, drains into the Great Lakes. While Fort Stanwix remains on high ground above the Mohawk River, this embankment has become less prominent with the urban development of Rome.

Type of Context: Political

Description:

Political context is the overlay imposed on the landscape through general land use, zoning, legal restrictions, transportation, utilities, population, and political jurisdiction (e.g., state, county, city, borough, or village). Fort Stanwix National Monument is located in the City of Rome, Oneida County, NY, within the Utica- Rome metropolitan statistical area. The city is located in the 23rd Congressional District. The National Monument site occupies approximately 16 acres and is bordered by main thoroughfares surrounded by a mixture of commercial, residential, light industrial, and institutional land uses, none of which were present during the fort's period of occupation

Management Information

General Management Information

Management Category:	Category B (Medium NPS Priority for Preservation & Maintenance)
Management Category Date:	12/12/2000

Management Category Narrative:

The management category for the Fort Stanwix NM Landscape is Category B (Medium NPS Priority for Preservation and Maintenance, formerly Should Be Preserved and Maintained), as based on definitions published in the 2025 “CLI Professional Procedures Guide.” The site of the fort, but not the reconstructed structure or landscape, is listed as nationally significant in the National Register of Historic Places (1981, Criterion A, Military) and is a designated National Historic Landmark (1962), for the events that transpired there during the American Revolution and for the information potential of the archeological resources. The reconstructed landscape (ditches, counterscarp, glacis) abuts the reconstructed fort (a reinforced concrete structure covered with earth and faced with timbers), which is located on the site of the original fort.

Management Agreements:

Type of Agreement: Cooperative Agreement

Management Agreement Expiration Date:

Management Agreement Narrative:

In 2008, the NPS established a cooperative management agreement with the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and
Preservation for assisting Oriskany Battlefield State Historic Site and the Steuben Memorial State Historic Site. Through this agreement, the NPS provides resources and equipment to Oriskany Battlefield and Steuben Memorial as needed for events, programming, and site maintenance.

Type of Agreement: Other

Management Agreement Expiration Date:

Management Agreement Narrative:

In 2022, the NPS entered into a co-stewardship management agreement with the Oneida Indian Nation of New York to promote mutual cooperation, communication, collaboration, and assistance with resource protection, interpretation, and public relationships. This union also includes various park and tribal partners known as the “First Allies Partnership Group,” which meets quarterly.

Legal Interests:

Type of Interest: Fee Simple

Legal Interest Narrative: Tract 01-101.

Located in managed wilderness?: No

Adjacent Lands Information

Do Adjacent Lands Contribute? No

Adjacent Lands Narrative:

Adjacent lands are lands outside the cultural landscape boundary, including lands inside or outside the park. The lands directly adjacent to the park cannot be considered as contributing to the site's historical significance because they have experienced urban development and possess a very different character than they did during the fort's existence. The neighboring buildings all post-date the documented period of significance, 1758-1781. However, the adjacent lands are useful in interpreting the history of Fort Stanwix through the contrast between the timber fort and its open site and the urban buildings of the surrounding city. Several areas in close proximity to the park add to the interpretive story of Fort Stanwix. These areas include the Lower Landing site, Muck Road Swamp, Wood Creek, the Tomb of the Unknown Revolutionary War Soldier, and the features or sites within the Gansevoort Historic District. In addition, the Oriskany Battlefield, six miles southeast, is closely tied to the history of Fort Stanwix.

National Register Information

National Register of Historic Places

Eligibility: Listed

Eligibility Date: 12/28/1981 12:00:00 AM

Significance Level: National

Contributing: Individual

Classification: District

Documentation Narrative Description:

The site of Fort Stanwix was declared a National Monument through an act of Congress on August 21, 1935 (49 Stat.665), although no property was acquired at the time by the federal government. In the 1960s the City of Rome's urban renewal program cleared approximately 70 structures and five streets from the fort site to prepare for reconstruction. Full title to the fort site was conveyed to the US Government in 1973. Groundbreaking for the fort reconstruction project was held on August 23, 1974.

On November 23, 1962, the site of Fort Stanwix became a National Historic Landmark (NHL) under the jurisdiction of the Historic Sites Act of 1935. The NHL theme was identified as "X. War for Independence." The NPS National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings form described the site's role during the American Revolution and the 1768 Treaty of Fort Stanwix. The documentation described the site at that time (1962) as "built over with roads, houses, and commercial developments."

In 1966, with the establishment of the National Historic Preservation Act, the Fort Stanwix was listed on the newly established National Register of Historic Places. In 1975 the adjacent Gansevoort–Bellamy Historic District was listed on the National Register. Local-level significance was identified in the areas of Architecture and Urban Planning. The district included St. Peter's Catholic Church, which abuts the park's north boundary.

On December 28, 1981, National Register documentation for Fort Stanwix was accepted by the Keeper of the National Register. Significance for the 16.2-acre site was identified at the national level under Criterion A in the area of Military. The overall era of significance was identified as 1700-1800, with specific dates as 1758-1781, corresponding to the fort's construction and abandonment, and 1976-1978, the dates of the fort's reconstruction. The documentation noted that, "Because the current Fort Stanwix was reconstructed in the 1970s, it is only the site of the old Fort Stanwix that should be considered the significant historic resource to be nominated to the National Register." The documentation described the reconstructed fort; the surrounding berm, ditch, a parapet, and glacis; and five log structures in the parade ground. Regarding the grounds, "Landscaping around the perimeter of the fort provides a historic meadow setting although the integrity of the larger setting has been lost due to urban development."

On February 8, 1996, the New York State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) concurred with the NPS that none of the buildings or structures at the site contributed to the historic significance of the property. The features included: Bastions, Bridge, Cannons, Curtain Walls, Ditch, East Barracks, East Casemate-North Building, East Casemate-South Building, Flagpole, Glacis, North Casemate, Parade Ground, Pickets, Sentry Boxes, South Casemate-East Building, South Casemate-West Building, Southwest Bombproof, Storehouse, West Barracks, and West Casemate. On August 20, 1996, and additional feature, the Whipping Post, was evaluated as not significant.

On January 24, 2001, the New York SHPO concurred with the findings of the Cultural Landscape Inventory for Fort Stanwix. Significance for the 15.5-acre site was identified at the national level under Criterion A in the area of Military. The period of significance was listed as 1758-1781, beginning with construction of the fort and extending until the last permanent American garrison. The CLI determined that the site's landscape resources were ineligible for listing. The CLI also recommended future National Register documentation should extend the end date to 1790 to include the important treaty activities that took place at the fort in 1784, 1788, and 1790. The CLI did not evaluate specific features, as none contributed to the site's significance.

According to research conducted for this CLI and the categories of National Register documentation outlined in the "CLI Professional Procedures Guide," the area and period of significance for the Fort Stanwix NM Landscape are adequately documented in the 1981 National Register documentation form. The existing documentation adequately describes the site's historic resources that contribute to its significance. Therefore, for purposes of the CLI, the Fort Stanwix NM Landscape is considered "Listed-Documented."

Pre-CLI Documentation Status: Listed - Documented

CLI SHPO/THPO Concurrence Date: 12/28/1981 12:00:00 AM

CLI Concurrence Narrative:

Statement of Significance for National Register of Historic Places:

The Fort Stanwix site possesses national significance under Criterion A in the area of Military. Built in 1758 by the British, taken over and rebuilt by the Americans in 1776, and garrisoned until 1781, Fort Stanwix played a significant role in American history during this period. By 1840, the last remnants of the earth and timber Fort Stanwix had disappeared beneath the burgeoning village of Rome. According to the 1981 National Register documentation, only the site – not the reconstructed above-ground features – is considered a significant historic resource. The period of significance for the site is 1758 to 1781, encompassing the original British construction of the fort and extending until the last permanent American garrison in 1781.

CRITERION A

Military:
The historic Fort Stanwix was sited at the Oneida Carry, known by the Oneida as “De-O-Wain-Sta,” a strategic one-mile or longer portage, depending on water levels, that connected the Great Lakes and Atlantic watersheds via Wood Creek and the Mohawk River. Fort Stanwix was constructed by the British in 1758 to replace five smaller forts built in the area during the French and Indian War. Fort Stanwix replaced Fort Williams (replaced by New or Pentagon Fort), Bull, Newport, Craven, and Wood Creek. With the conquest of Canada in 1763, the British withdrew from Fort Stanwix. It continued to serve, however, as an important center for Indian affairs, and it was here in 1768 that the Iroquois signed the Boundary Line Treaty that made possible a significant surge of westward settlement. Due to its temporary method of construction, the fort deteriorated and was finally abandoned by the British in 1774.

In 1776, the Americans repaired and regarrisoned the deteriorated British fort. As part of their effort to divide the colonies, a British coalition force began the Siege of Fort Stanwix on August 3, 1777. Although the Americans suffered heavy losses at the nearby Battle of Oriskany on August 6, the efforts at Fort Stanwix repelled the combatant force attack on the fort by August 23, 1777, resulting in the retreat of the British force to Canada. The failure of the British to take Fort Stanwix was a significant factor leading to the surrender of the main force under British General John Burgoyne at Saratoga on October 17, 1777. Permanent garrison was ended at Fort Stanwix in 1781.

After 1781, the fort was again the scene of important Indian affairs, notably the Treaty of Fort Stanwix in October 1784, which set terms for a separate peace with the Iroquois Confederacy. This treaty ceded large parts of their lands to the United States. Four additional treaties took place at the fort. In 1788 the Oneida Indian Nation and the State of New York Land Treaty took place at Fort Stanwix. Also in 1788 and again in 1790, the Onondaga Indian Nation signed treaties with the State, and also in 1790 the Cayuga Indian Nation signed a treaty with the State. After 1790, the State maintained a blockhouse for supply storage within the fort military until around 1815, but the last remnants of the fort complex were replaced by urban development by 1840.

The present Fort Stanwix is a partial reconstruction built between 1974 and 1978. While the site is considered a significant historic resource, the fort itself, as a reconstruction, and the surrounding landscape, is ineligible for the National Register due to its current design being somewhat conjectural and due to its modern construction materials and methods. Fort Stanwix National Monument occupies a 15.5-acre parcel that was cleared through Rome’s Urban Renewal Master Plan, and its boundaries are defined by urban development that occurred after the documented period of significance (1758-1781).

National Register Significance Criteria:

Significance Criterion A - Associated with events significant to broad patterns of our history

National Register Area of Significance:

Area of Significance Category: Military

Area of Significance Subcategory:

Narrative:

National Register Criteria Consideration:

National Register Periods of Significance (with Historic Context Themes):

Time Period: CE 1758 - CE 1781

Historic Context Theme	Subtheme	Facet	Other Facet
Shaping the Political Landscape	The American Revolution	War in the North	

Time Period: CE 1768 - CE 1768

Historic Context Theme	Subtheme	Facet	Other Facet
Shaping the Political Landscape	Early Military Landscapes (pre-1776)	Early Military Landscapes (pre-1776)	

NRIS Information:

NRIS Name:	Fort Stanwix (NHL)
NRIS ID:	66000057
Other Name:	11/23/1962
NRIS Name:	Fort Stanwix
NRIS ID:	66000057
Primary Certification Date:	12/28/1981

State Register Documentation:

Identification Number:	90NR02066
Name:	Fort Stanwix
Listed Date:	06/23/1980

National Historic Landmarks:

National Historic Landmark? Yes

Theme:

Contributing: Individual

NHL ID: 65000057

NHL URL:

Date: 11/23/1962

Statement of Significance for National Historic Landmark:

Theme X. War for Independence

World Heritage Site:

World Heritage Site? No

Category:

WHS ID:

WHS URL:

Date:

Is Resource within a designated National Natural Landscape: No

Chronology and Physical History

Chronology:

Year	Event	Major Event Narrative
CE 1500	Settled	Since earliest times, area around future Fort Stanwix used by the Iroquois as a portage route between the Mohawk River and Wood Creek, known as the "De-O-Wain-Sta" or Oneida Carrying Place.
CE 1705	Established	Oriskany Patent established, but not yet subdivided.
CE 1758 - 1761	Built	Fort Stanwix constructed by the British, replacing five smaller forts that protected the Oneida Carry during the French and Indian War.
CE 1763	Altered	British end garrison at Fort Stanwix after conquest of Canada; fort continues to serve as center for Indian affairs.
CE 1768	Established	Boundary Line Treaty is signed at Fort Stanwix.
CE 1774	Abandoned	The barracks are destroyed by fire, and the British abandon the fort entirely.
CE 1776	Altered	The Continental Army begins to rebuild and regarrison Fort Stanwix, renaming it Fort Schuyler.
CE 1777	Military Operation	Continental Army repulses the British in the Siege of Fort Stanwix.
CE 1781	Destroyed	Fire destroys barracks buildings and flood damages earthworks. Permanent garrison at Fort Stanwix is withdrawn.
CE 1783	Built	A blockhouse is built on the parade ground.
CE 1784	Established	Treaty of Fort Stanwix is signed at the fort.
CE 1785	Land Transfer	A portion of the Oriskany Patent that included Fort Stanwix and the Oneida Carry is auctioned as an "Expense Lot" and acquired by Dominick Lynch.
CE 1788	Established	Oneida and Onondaga Indian Nations sign treaties with the State of New York at the fort.
CE 1790	Established	Onondaga and Cayuga Indian Nations sign treaties with State of New York at the fort.
CE 1794	Built	A blockhouse is again built on the parade ground.
CE 1796	Platted	William Weston draws a map for Lynch establishing the village of Lynchville.
CE 1797	Built	Western Inland Lock Navigation Company builds a canal across the Oneida Carry adjacent to site of Fort Stanwix (present Erie Boulevard).
CE 1817 - 1825	Built	Construction on the Erie Canal begins in Rome, south of Fort Stanwix, completed in 1825.
CE 1819	Established	After citizens reject the village’s original, Lynchville, it is incorporated as Rome.
CE 1828	Purchased/Sold	Last parcels of land on site of fort are sold.
CE 1839 - 1851	Built	Construction begins on the Black River Canal, located along east border of present Fort Stanwix; completed by 1851. The Syracuse and Utica Railroad begins operations.

Year	Event	Major Event Narrative
CE 1840	Urbanized	By this time, last remnants of the fort's earthworks had been removed and replaced by residential and commercial development.
CE 1844	Altered	Erie Canal is enlarged and relocated to south border of present Fort Stanwix on old Inland Canal alignment (Erie Boulevard).
CE 1853	Built	New York Central Railroad begins operations.
CE 1870	Established	Rome is incorporated as a city.
CE 1918	Abandoned	Erie Canal and Black River Canal are abandoned by 1918, with the opening of the Barge Canal.
CE 1927	Purchased/Sold	The State of New York purchases a small plot at the site to commemorate Fort Stanwix.
CE 1935	Memorialized	Site of Fort Stanwix declared a National Monument.
CE 1954	Built	Black River Boulevard is opened over old canal bed.
CE 1961	Planned	Planning begins on Rome's Urban Renewal Program. The city proposes that Fort Stanwix be reconstructed as centerpiece of downtown Urban Renewal master plan.
CE 1962	Memorialized	Site of Fort Stanwix is designated a National Historic Landmark.
CE 1965	Designed	Architect Charles Stotz of Pittsburgh develops preliminary design concept for the reconstruction of Fort Stanwix.
CE 1965	Excavated	First archeological investigations related to reconstruction project undertaken by Col. Duncan Campbell.
CE 1965	Purchased/Sold	City of Rome receives first federal funding through its Urban Renewal Agency and purchases property containing the site of Fort Stanwix.
CE 1966	Memorialized	Site of Fort Stanwix is listed without documentation on the National Register of Historic Places.
CE 1967	Designed	At the request of the City of Rome, the NPS publishes a master plan for the reconstruction of Fort Stanwix.
CE 1969	Land Transfer	The Federal Government approves $10 million funding for the Rome Urban Renewal project, including the reconstruction of Fort Stanwix. The land is transferred to the NPS.
CE 1970 - 1972	Excavated	NPS begins a full-scale archeological investigations of the Fort Stanwix site in 1970-1972.
CE 1970 - 1974	Demolished	In 1970-1974 the Rome Urban Renewal Agency demolishes some 70 buildings on the site and removes four city streets. Demolition is largely completed by July 1974.
CE 1974	Reconstructed	Reconstruction of Fort Stanwix (circa 1777 appearance) begins under direction of historical architect Orville W. Carroll.
CE 1975	Built	The NPS builds a one-story maintenance building on the northeast side of the site.
CE 1976	Built	Phase One of Fort Stanwix reconstruction is completed, and the fort opened to the public.
CE 1981	Memorialized	Fort Stanwix documentation is approved on the National Register.

Year	Event	Major Event Narrative
CE 1987	Built	A garage wing is added to the maintenance building.
CE 2004	Rehabilitated	Park rehabilitates/replace existing sidewalks. (PMIS 109024-11299)
CE 2005	Built	NPS constructs the Willett Center at the southwest corner of the park to serve as the park's primary visitor orientation, education, and collections management facility
CE 2008	Built	The park improves visitor signage. ((PMIS 98864)
CE 2014 - 2015	Repaired	The park resurfaces the Parade Ground. (PMIS 109027-178973 / PEPC 29475)
CE 2015	Removed	Several tree removals are completed. (PEPC 56554)
CE 2016	Removed	The park removes several shrubs at the Willett Center. ((PEPC 67537)
CE 2020	Repaired	The park makes repairs to sidewalks and capstones. (PMIS 306710 / PEPC 94331)
CE 2022	Built	The park corrects accessibility deficiencies at the Willett Center. (PMIS 227309)
CE 2023	Repaired	Completed maintenance projects include pruning, application of pesticides and herbicides, installation of a new bench and new sign. (PEPC 116755)
CE 2024	Planned	The park completes an EF-2 Tornado Emergency Response and Assessment. (PMIS 342960)

Physical History:

EARLY SETTLEMENT, to 1758

Occupation in eastern North America is usually considered to date from the Late Pleistocene period from sometime between 12,000 B.P. and 16,000 B.P. The retreat of the glaciers allowed the development of tundra vegetation which helped to support large herd animals, deer, and migratory birds. The period is characterized by a hunting and gathering adaptation, an association with extinct Pleistocene megafauna, and a specific fluted point technology. While mammoth remains are relatively rare in the Northeast, mastodon remains are more numerous. Even so, there is a general lack of direct association of artifacts with these species in the Northeast. Rather, caribou constitute the chief faunal remains associated with Paleo-Indian hunters. (GMP-EA 2009: 35)

Paleo-Indian sites in the Northeast have chiefly been found on well-elevated locations, the margins of low, swampy ground formerly occupied by lakes and less frequently on only slightly elevated grounds. Group size would likely have been small. There is some evidence that Paleo-Indian settlement patterns were technology-based and that raw lithic materials, stone tool-kit refurbishment and big-game food procurement were part of the seasonal rounds of subsistence activities. (GMP-EA 2009: 35)

The park's 2009 General Management Plan reported 46 prehistoric sites in the Rome vicinity, ranging from Archaic to Woodland. Additionally, work at Fort Stanwix NM in 1975 encountered a number of prehistoric artifacts that included Otter Creek, Brewerton, Lamoka, Fox Creek, and Levanna projectile points. The points represent the Late Archaic, Early Woodland, and Late Woodland Periods. This multi-component site had one intact feature: a hearth associated with a Lamoka (Late Archaic) point. While many of the artifacts may have been displaced when the original fort was built in 1758, their presence suggests a high probability of finding prehistoric artifacts in intact soil horizons, if such exist, in the park area. The park's location was a known portage area and was likely utilized from the beginning of human settlement in Central New York. (GMP-EA 2009: 35-36)

By the early 17th century, Europeans had begun to explore the interior of New York. Henry Hudson traveled up the Hudson River in 1609. A trading post was established at Fort Orange (Albany) between 1624 and 1626 by the Dutch. The Dutch West India Company's land grant system controlled use of the land, which tended to discourage settlement. Even under English control, after 1644, settlement west of the Hudson was slow to develop. (GMP-EA 2009: 36)

Expansion into areas west of the Hudson was also hampered in part by British-French conflicts. These conflicts culminated in the French and Indian War (Seven Years War, 1756-1763), which ended with the French surrendering all of Canada. It was during this war that the British built a series of forts to help protect their supply lines. (GMP-EA 2009: 36)

FORT STANWIX, 1758-1790

The site of Fort Stanwix has long been a funnel for commerce, settlement, and military activity. Located along the “De-O-Wain-Sta” or Oneida Carrying Place, the area was used since earliest times as a portage between two great watersheds: the Great Lakes and the Atlantic Ocean via Wood Creek and the Mohawk River, located only one to six miles apart at this point (depending on water level) (Figure 1). Because it was one of two water routes between New York and Canada, the Oneida Carry took on great strategic significance. With permission from the Iroquois, the British built Fort Stanwix in 1758 (replacing five smaller nearby forts) during the French and Indian War on top of high ground above the Mohawk River (Figure 2). The fort was named after Brigadier General John Stanwix. The site of Fort Stanwix was within the colonial land grant called the Oriskany Patent, but this patent had not yet been divided.

With the British conquest of Canada, Fort Stanwix temporarily lost its strategic importance, and the British withdrew in 1763. The British continued to use the fort, however, as a center for Indian affairs (Figure 3). It was there in 1768 that the Boundary Line Treaty was signed with the Iroquois that allowed European settlement east of a line stretching from west of Fort Stanwix south and west to the Ohio and Tennessee Rivers. In 1774 the barracks were destroyed by fire, prompting the British to abandon the deteriorated fort completely.

Siege of Fort Stanwix:
In 1776 Fort Stanwix took on renewed strategic importance as the Oneida Carry once again became a contested area between the United States and the British in Canada. In this same year, the Americans began to rebuild Fort Stanwix along the lines of the abandoned old structure, with cedar logs harvested from the surrounding swamplands for the structure and sod to cover the earthworks. The Americans renamed it Fort Schuyler, although the old name continued to be used.

In 1777 the British began their three-pronged offensive to split the American colonies by gaining control of New York State. One force, under the direction of General Barry St. Leger, was to head down the St. Lawrence, cross Lake Ontario to Oswego, then capture Fort Stanwix and proceed down the Mohawk Valley to meet the other two British forces at Albany. Leger’s forces, however, met unexpected resistance when they began their siege on Fort Stanwix on August 3 (Figure 4). In aid of Fort Stanwix, American General Nicholas Herkimer assembled the Tryon County Militia and approached from the east along the Mohawk Valley. On August 6, 1777, Herkimer met American Loyalists and Indian troops at Oriskany, a few miles east of Fort Stanwix, and engaged in one of the Revolution's bloodiest battles, known today as the Battle of Oriskany. The Iroquois had been recruited to serve on both sides, and this battle broke the Iroquois Confederacy’s Great Law of Peace that had been in place for generations.

With the Battle of Oriskany ending in somewhat of a stalemate, most of the British and the Indian force involved in the battle retreated to join the siege of Fort Stanwix. St. Leger finally withdrew from Fort Stanwix on August 23rd, abandoned the siege, and returned to Canada. St. Leger intended to join Burgoyne but arrived too late. The defeat of the British attack on Fort Stanwix was a significant factor leading to the surrender of British General John Burgoyne and his depleted forces at Saratoga on October 17, 1777.

Post-Battle Uses:
Fort Stanwix itself saw no further battle in the war, but the Americans kept permanent garrison there until 1781 when a fire again destroyed the barracks and flooding eroded the earthworks. Two years later the blockhouse was rebuilt on the parade ground. In October 1784 the fort was the site of the Treaty of Fort Stanwix, which set terms for a separate peace with the Iroquois Confederacy to cede large parts of their lands to the United States. In 1788 two treaties were negotiated at Fort Stanwix between the Onondaga and Oneida Nations and the State of New York. Two additional treaties were signed in 1790 between the Onondaga and Cayuga Indian Nations and the State. After this time the fort deteriorated as the timber rotted and the earthworks eroded. However, for reasons unknown another blockhouse was built on the parade ground in 1794 and was used for housing military supplies and remained until about 1815. (HSR 1973: 15-16)

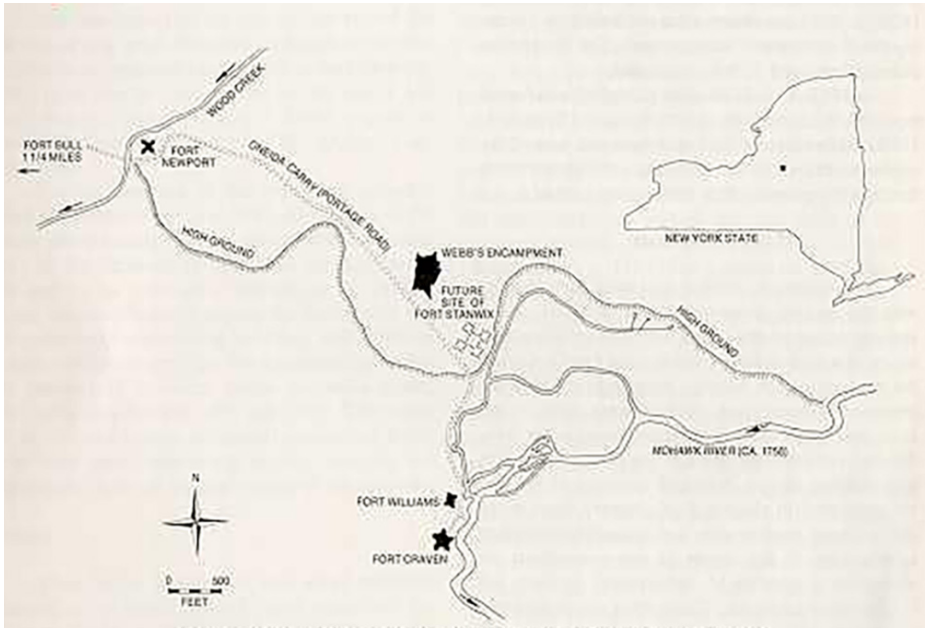


Figure 1. Oneida Carrying Place and pre-1758 forts. (Hanson and Hsu 1975)

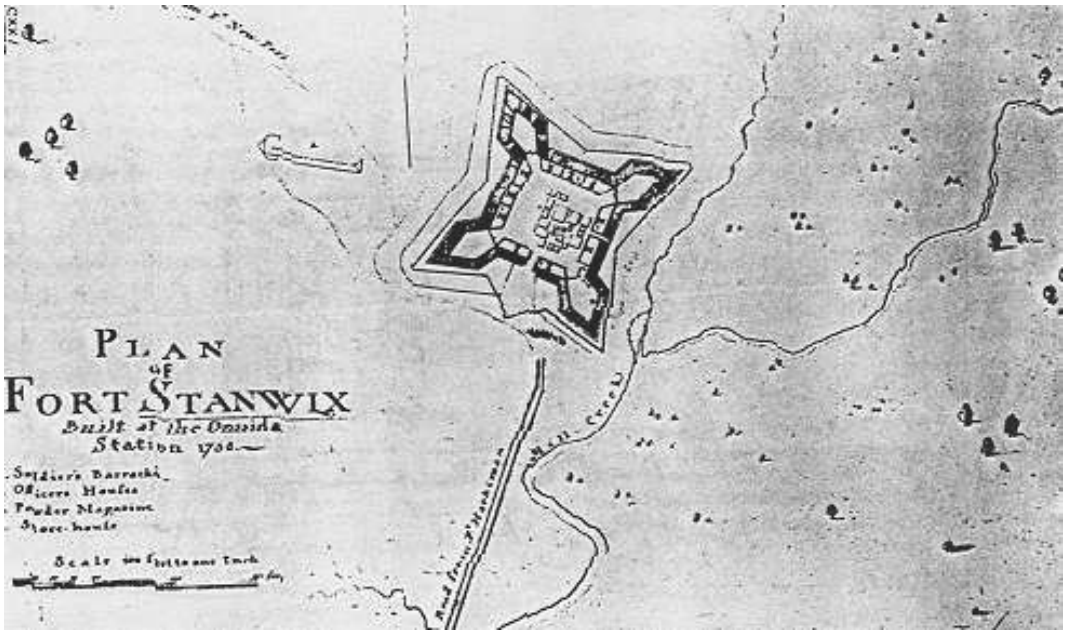


Figure 2. Plan of Fort Stanwix, c.1759. The Oneida Carry is faintly visible south and west (image left) of the fort. (Fort Stanwix NM Library)

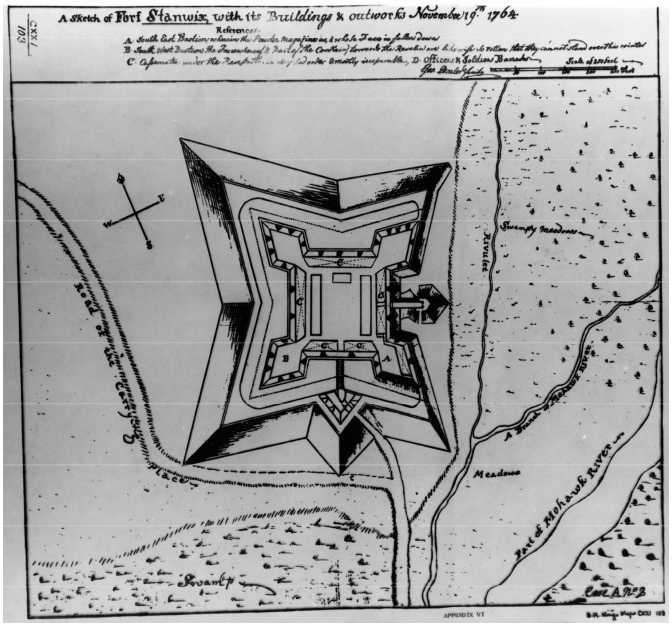


Figure 3. This 1764 sketch shows the orientation and design of Fort Stanwix as a British fort. Note the Oneida Carry. (NPS Historic Photograph Collection, Harpers Ferry Center. From Zenzen 2009: 3)

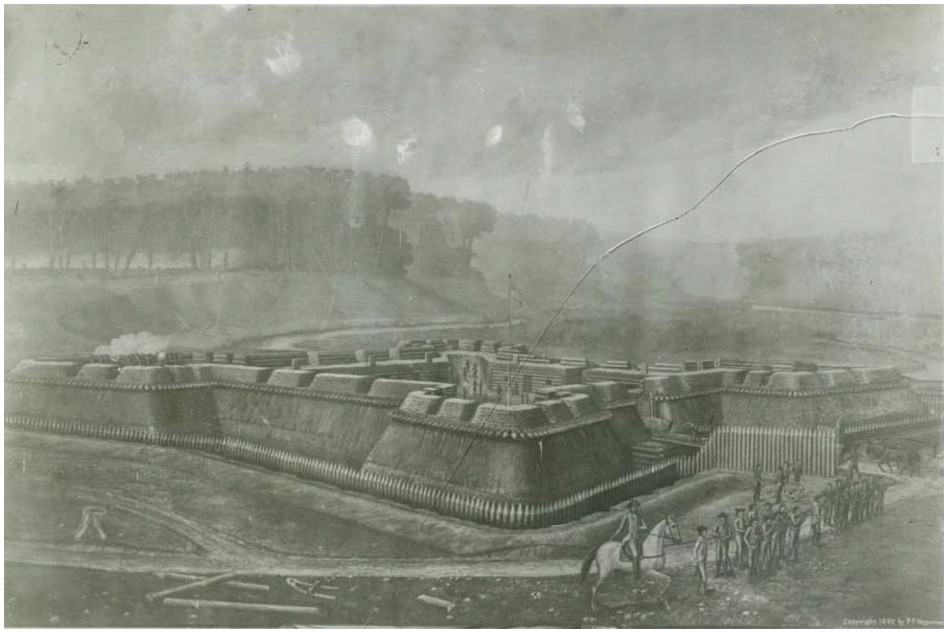


Figure 4. Peter Hugunine's 1897 painting depicts Fort Stanwix as it appeared 1777, view looking northeast. The Oneida Carry is in the foreground. (Rome Historical Society, Photographic Collection. From Zenzen 2009: 11)

FORT STANWIX AND THE CITY OF ROME, 1785-1960

Euro-American settlement in the Rome area began around 1785 with the survey of the Oriskany patent. William Livingston and Alida Hoffman acquired a 460-acre parcel that included the sites of Fort Stanwix and the Oneida Carry Portage. The parcel was sold to Dominick Lynch, a New York

City merchant who established the settlement of Lynchville. In 1796 Lynch hired William Weston to lay out a village plan. Lynch named the future city Lynchville; one of the main streets he named "Dominick" after himself, and the other, "James" after his son. The ruins of Fort Stanwix occupied the eastern part of block twelve in the village plan. (GMP-EA 2009: 36,38)

Water transportation at this time was seen as one of the best ways to improve the transportation infrastructure of a community, allowing agricultural, lumbering, and manufacturing interests to send goods to larger regional markets quickly and cheaply. The building and maintenance of canals was viewed as cheaper than construction and maintenance of land transportation systems. The town's first canal was the Western Inland Lock Navigation Canal that linked Wood Creek and Mohawk River. Built in 1797, its east-west alignment tracked just south of the fort site, along the present-day Erie Boulevard, while an associated feeder canal from the river lay to the southeast of the fort (Figure 5). (GMP-EA 2009: 36)

In 1800, Lynchville had a population of 1,497, and by 1810 it had grown to 2,003. In 1817 work began on the east-west oriented Erie Canal that linked Lake Erie to the Hudson River/New York City. This canal was located around one mile south of Lynchville, and when completed in 1825 helped spur population growth in communities along the canal route, including Rome, the new name for Lynchville. (In 1819 the village was incorporated under the new name when local citizens objected to the name Lynchville.) In 1844 the Erie Canal was enlarged and relocated to the alignment of the old Western Inland Lock Navigation Canal. Work was also underway on the Black River Canal east of the fort site, along the present-day Black River Boulevard. This north-south oriented canal ran from Rome to Watertown/Lake Ontario and provided access to the timber and mineral reserves to the north. Concurrently, railroads impacted Rome, beginning with the Syracuse and Utica Railroad in 1839 and the New York Central Railroad around 1853. By 1850, Rome had a population of 7,920 and in 1870 was incorporated as a city. (GMP-EA 2009: 37)

Fort Stanwix's proximity to the Erie and Black River Canals and the New York Central Railroad crossings over the canals, made it central to Rome's industrial, commercial, and residential growth. Gradually, evidence of the fort disappeared under city development. In 1838 when the Thomas Stryker House was being built at the northeast corner of Spring and Liberty Streets (near the northeast bastion), it was noted that "...part of the old fort was a distressed looking place. There was a mound and there were ditches and trenches, and the grounds were used to deposit dead dogs, hogs, cats, horses and all the rubbish of the town." By 1840 traces of the old earthworks were gone, as land on the site of Fort Stanwix had been sold and developed with residential and commercial buildings.

Commercial development in the fort area was especially extensive. The 1907 New Century Atlas of Oneida County and Sanborn maps from 1884, 1899, and 1924 indicate commercial buildings lining each of the streets in this area. Uses for these map-documented structures ranged from stores, hotels, theaters, an express office, a harness shop, a warehouse, a boys club, and a drug store. Extensive development seems to have occurred in the interior of the lots, as well as on the street fronts. Remains of some, or all, of these structures are probably extant on the site. It is also possible that remains of shaft features such as privies, wells, or cisterns also exist in these areas. It is also probable that intact surfaces survive in some locations, opening the possibility of intact prehistoric archaeological sites as well as historic sheet midden deposits in these areas. (GMP-EA 2009: 37)

By 1918 the wider Erie Barge Canal was built around one-half mile south of the fort site, thus abandoning the Erie Canal and Black River Canal that passed just south and east of the fort. Rome continued to prosper well into the 20th century because of its ready access to transportation, water power, raw materials for industry, and agriculture. The town's most famous products were from the cheese, iron, copper, and brass industries, with Revere Copper and Brass Corporation probably the most well-known. During the mid-20th century, the development of Griffiss Air Force Base, established in 1941, provided a boost to Rome and the base became Central New York's largest single employer with a work force of between 13,000 and 15,000. By 1960, Rome had a population of 51,646.

Establishment of the National Monument:

During this period, there had already been several attempts to memorialize or rebuild the fort. In 1923 the first organized efforts were taken to memorialize Fort Stanwix by the Rome Kiwanis Club as part of a ten-year plan to mark significant historic sites in the Mohawk Valley. Although the City of Rome celebrated the sesquicentennial of Fort Stanwix in 1927, little action was taken on this plan. The State of New York, however, did purchase a small plot at the site in commemoration of Fort Stanwix. In 1929 the City of Rome proposed a committee to investigate and report to the State Legislature on the possibility of establishing a state museum at Rome to commemorate the Siege of Fort Stanwix in 1777, but no action by the State was taken on this proposal.

Rome then turned to the federal government for assistance. In 1933 the Rome Chamber of Commerce petitioned the Secretary of the Interior Harold Ickes, through Congressman Fred Sisson, to consider the establishment of a federal park and memorial on the site of Fort Stanwix. Sisson's efforts resulted in the passage of legislation on August 21, 1935, that established the site of Fort Stanwix as a National Monument. Ickes supported the bill, noting that the area was "the site of a battle of great importance in American history and is worthy of federal protection..." The fort's original British name of Fort Stanwix was used as opposed to the later American name of Fort Schuyler.

At the time of its designation, the site was examined and recommendations were made for its management. The National Park Service (NPS) recommended that a monument not be built on the site, but instead, that a marker be placed. As such, no boundaries were set for the monument. Because there was no funding attached to the legislation and no land was acquired for it by the NPS, downtown Rome remained largely unaffected by the designation. In the meantime, the Black River Canal was filled in and became Black River Boulevard. (GMP-EA 2009: 5)

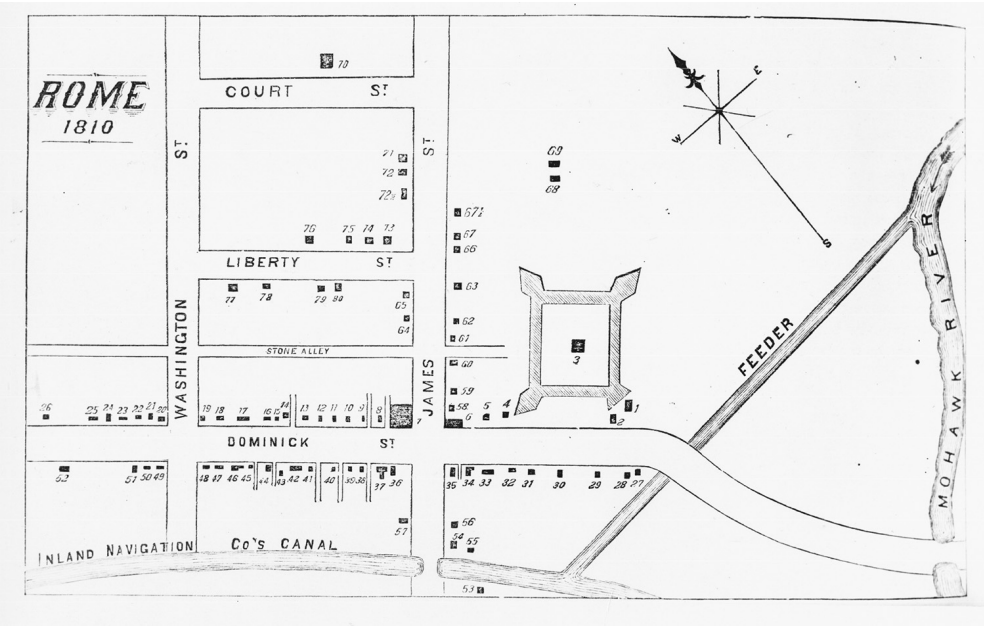


Figure 5. This 1810 map of Rome shows where the remains of Fort Stanwix stood in relation to the streets of buildings of the growing village. Note the residence on the south bastion. (Courtesy of NPS Historic Photograph Collection, Harpers Ferry Center. From Carroll 1973: 163)

THE RECONSTRUCTION OF FORT STANWIX, 1960-1976

The 1960s began a time of great change in Rome. With the construction of arterial roads along the old canal beds, the opening of freeways, and the growth of Griffiss Air Force Base, development began to spread outward and away from the city. There was fear that the city's main employers could downsize, leaving the city in economic hardship. To attract people back to the city and to diversify its economy, the leaders of Rome embraced the federal Urban Renewal Program. A project was then developed for downtown, called the Fort Stanwix Central Business District Urban Renewal Project, to nearly completely rebuild the downtown and create a tourist economy centered on a reconstructed Fort Stanwix and other historic sites in the city. Rome had already utilized urban renewal during the 1950s with the creation of Midtown Plaza, a large shopping center along the south side of Erie Boulevard adjacent to downtown.

It was in July 1961 that Mayor Charles T. Lanigan officially proposed the reconstruction of Fort Stanwix as part
of Rome's Urban Renewal program. With ample Federal funds and powers of condemnation, the Rome Urban Renewal Agency (RURA) began to plan for rebuilding Fort Stanwix as the focal point of the downtown redevelopment. Planning for the project gained momentum in 1962 when the site of Fort Stanwix was designated a National Historic Landmark under the jurisdiction of the Historic Sites Act of 1935. In the same year, Gilbert Hagerty of the Fort Stanwix Museum worked with architect Charles M. Stotz of Pittsburgh in developing the first preliminary design for the fort's reconstruction. In 1964 RURA requested the assistance of the NPS in developing reconstruction plans for the fort site within their Urban Renewal Project. The next year, the first archeological investigations related to reconstruction were undertaken by Col. Duncan Campbell. The excavations helped inform preparation of a master plan by the NPS in 1967, which detailed reconstruction of the fort and visitor facilities (Figures 6, 7, and 8).

After $10 million in federal funding was approved for the Urban Renewal Project in 1969, the site for Fort Stanwix NM was purchased through RURA and donated to the federal government. The park's

boundaries were determined by Rome's street grid. Clearing of the 15.5-acre parcel was underway by 1970 and targeted for completion by July 1974. The reconstruction project removed all buildings, structures, and landscape features from within the 7-block area bounded by James Street, Dominick Street, Park Street, Black River Boulevard, and Erie Boulevard/Whitesboro Street. The corner of James and Dominick Streets was historically the heart of downtown Rome. Removed from this area were over 70 buildings, including 19th and early 20th century commercial buildings lining James Street and portions of Dominick Street; high-style Greek Revival, Italianate, and Second Empire-style houses; and West Liberty, West Dominick, Spring, and East Willett Streets. This area comprised one of the oldest sections of the city. (GMP-EA 2009: 13)

The design of the new fort was based on evidence found in historic maps, drawings, and in-depth archeological investigations undertaken at the site by the NPS between 1970 and 1972 (Figures 9, 10, and 11). The goal was to recreate its appearance during the Siege of Fort Stanwix in 1777. While the appearance of the new fort was as historically accurate as the documentation permitted, its construction was a mix of old and new construction techniques. Much of the structure was built of reinforced concrete and steel, then covered in wood and sod (Figure 12).

The landscape around the new Fort Stanwix was intended to be simple, because planners acknowledged it would be difficult to reconstruct the historic wilderness setting (Figure 13). As noted in the "Comprehensive Design Report" prepared for the NPS in 1973:
"The resurrection of Fort Stanwix...an early military outpost once dominating a wilderness scene... will parallel the reconstruction of downtown Rome, but the Fort will now face a distinctly different setting inherent in the surrounding urban condition.... The recreated historic scene should be as authentic as possible to the very limits of the lands comprising Fort Stanwix, where the abruptness of change will only reinforce its interpretive impact." (Duryea and Wilhelmi, 1973)

The NPS selected Fort Stanwix as one of 22 official Bicentennial development areas, in part because much of the planning work had been completed. In September 1974 the B.S. McCarey Company of Rome began work on the project. While local, state, and federal support secured nearly $6 million for fiscal year 1975, the NPS still had to implement the total reconstruction project in stages. Stage One, to be completed before the Bicentennial celebrations, included all landscaping and construction of the ditch, rampart walls, glacis, south casemate, west barracks, storehouse, east casemate, east barracks, and interior of the southwest bastion. The new, but incomplete, Fort Stanwix opened in time for the Bicentennial in 1976. (Zenzen 2004: 71,97)

Support Facilities:
Although the 1967 master plan proposed a visitor center and parking lot, there was only enough funding for the fort and grounds (see Figure 8). In the meantime visitor contact services, interpretive staff offices, and museum collections were housed in the fort while administrative staff occupied the Rome Historical Society building just north of the park boundary. The only other structure constructed at this time was a one-story maintenance building on the northeast side of the site in 1975. A garage wing would be added to the maintenance building in 1987 to provide more room for storage and allow for a carpentry shop to repair and build reproduction pieces for fort buildings on-site. (EA 2003: 3-11; Zenzen 2004: 136-137)

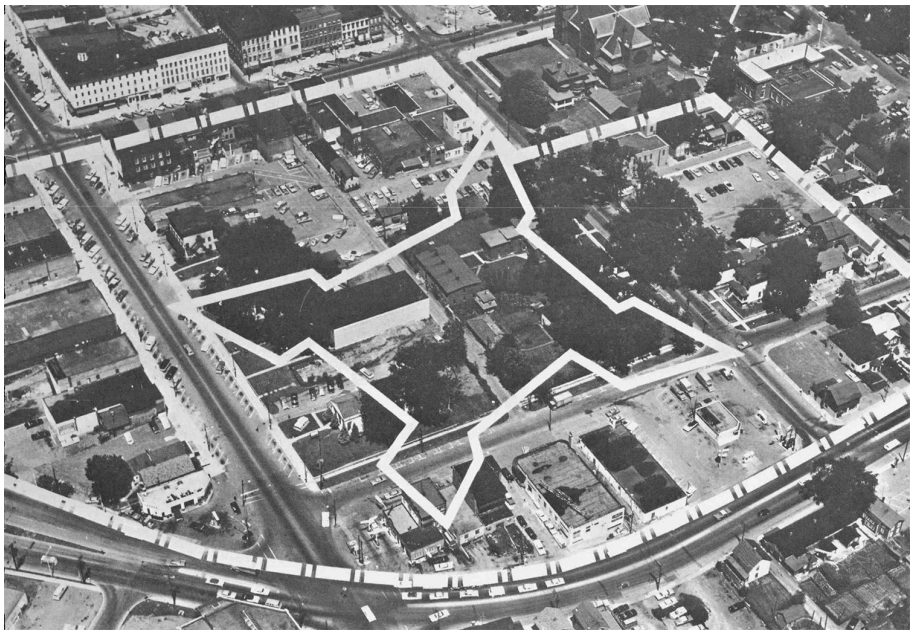


Figure 6. Outline of Fort Stanwix National Monument and park boundaries, overlaid on an aerial photograph, 1967, view looking northwest. (Fort Stanwix Master Plan, 1967. Denver Service Center, eTIC, Document #D2, 1967)

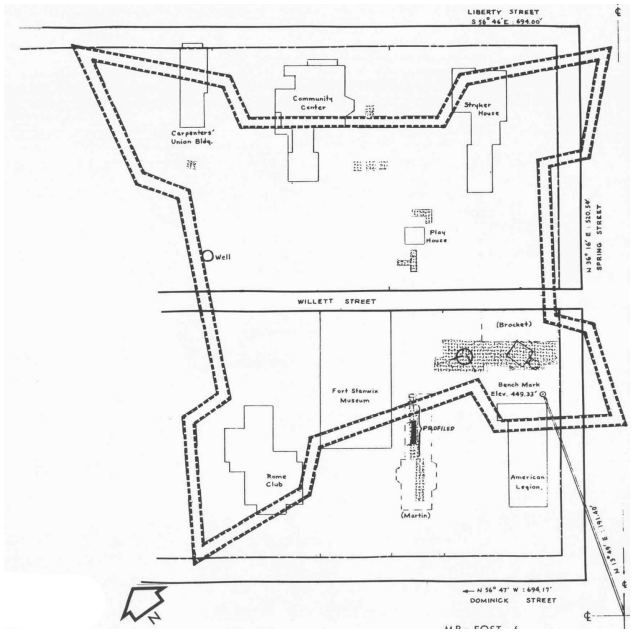


Figure 7. Outline of Fort Stanwix atop plan of extant buildings and structures, 1967. (Fort Stanwix Master Plan, 1967. Denver Service Center, eTIC, Document #D2, 1967)

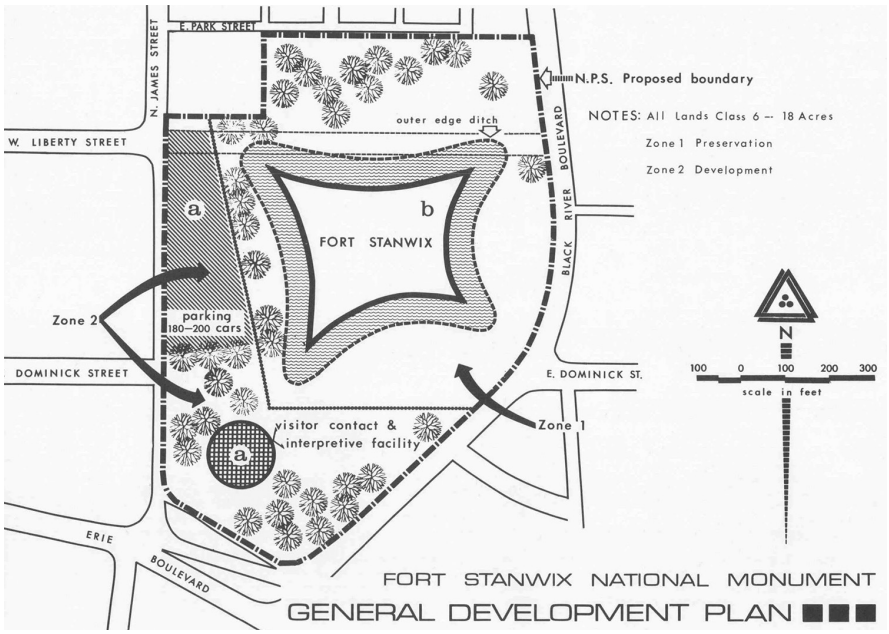


Figure 8. Map showing a visitor contact station and on-site parking lot. (Fort Stanwix Master Plan, 1967. Denver Service Center, eTIC, Document #D2, 1967)



Figure 9. View of excavations in 1970. (Hsu 1971: 10)

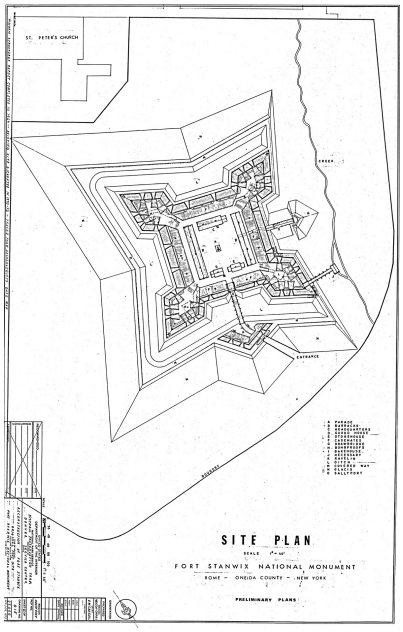


Figure 10. Plan of the reconstructed Fort Stanwix, 1973. (Denver Service Center, eTIC dwg. 015-25000)

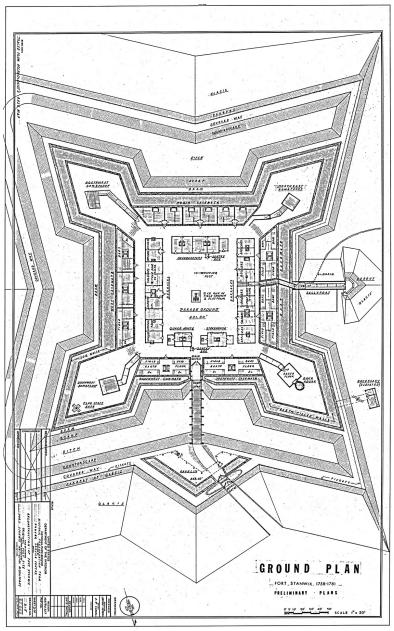


Figure 11. Detailed plan of the reconstructed Fort Stanwix, 1973. (Denver Service Center, eTIC dwg. 015-25000)



Figure 12. On the far right, the exposed concrete structure waits for the log facing. (NPS Historic Photograph Collection, Harpers Ferry Center, West Virginia. From Zenzen 2004: 74)

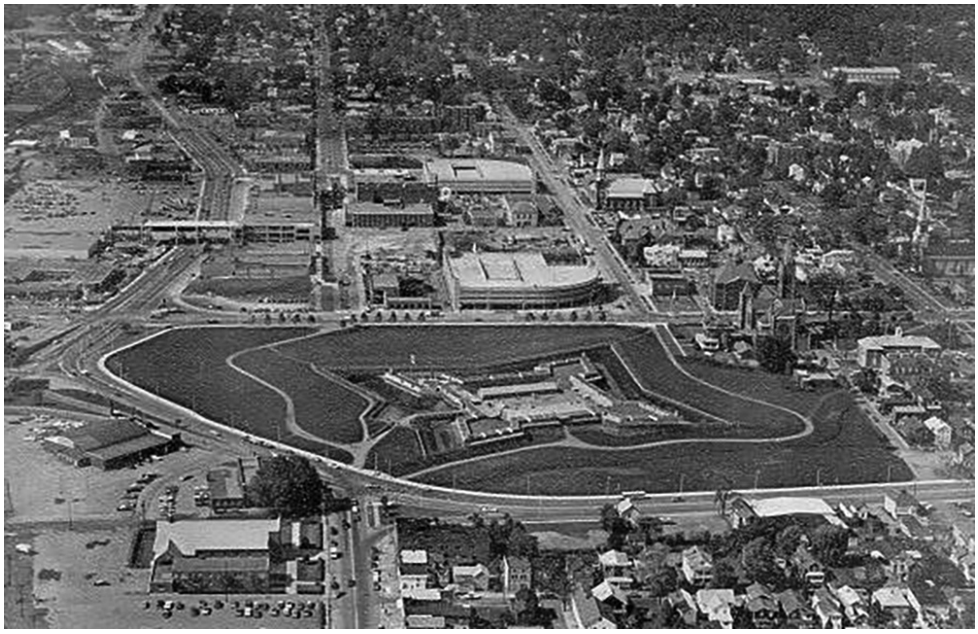


Figure 13. Aerial view of the park after the fort's reconstruction, 1976. (Fort Stanwix NM Archives)

PLANNING, CONSTRUCTION, AND STEWARDSHIP, 1976-2026

With the official opening of the fort, planning moved forward on the second phase of the reconstruction project, which again was awarded to J.S. McCarey Company. The NPS identified three major areas to build: the west and north casemates; the northeast, southeast, and northwest bastions; and three bombproof passageways under the bastions. Construction began in November

1977, amounting to about $700,000. (Zenzen 2004: 107)

While Fort Stanwix was intended to be a complete and accurate reconstruction, based on the fullest possible documentary and archeological investigation, constraints of time and money caused some elements of the reconstruction to be deferred indefinitely: the necessary or elevated privy, the ravelin protecting the drawbridge, the sallyport, and the guardhouse and the headquarters building on the parade ground. (Zenzen 2004: 106-107)

While it is likely the landscape surrounding the fort was composed of open fields containing the stumps of the cut trees, to recreate that scene would be conjectural. At first the area surrounding the reconstructed fort was kept as an open meadow. That is, grass was left to grow freely as it may have when the original fort was occupied. However, some members of the public would later see the uncut grasses as unsightly. (GMP-EA 2009: 40)

In 1981 documentation for listing Fort Stanwix in the National Register of Historic Place was completed. The documentation clearly recognized that the reconstructed fort structure did not have integrity as defined by the National Register, but the site itself was an historic resource for its association with the American Revolution.
In 2000 a Cultural Landscape Inventory for the site confirmed that the National Register listing recognized that the landscape also did not have integrity and should not be considered an historic resource, and contained no landscape features that contribute to the historic significance of the site: “All of the landscape features are either modern (circulation, buildings, vegetation), non-historic reconstructions (branch of the Technohat Creek), outside the period of significance (setting), or so altered that they no longer convey conditions during the period of significance (topography: embankment above Mohawk River).” (GMP 2009: 40, quoting CLI 2000: 43)

Willett Center:
Nearly 40 years after initially proposed, the NPS constructed a visitor center in 2005 at the southwest corner of the park to serve as the park’s primary visitor orientation, education, and collections management facility. Named after Marinus Willett, the officer who was second-in-command of the fort during the siege, the building included exhibits, audiovisual presentations, a bookstore, and a climate-controlled museum collections storage area for 450,000 objects (Figures 14 and 15). The building’s low-profile design, and its stone and brown-stained wood exterior, blended in with the surrounding landscape. (GMP-EIS 2009: 5; EA 2003)

The north end of the building featured a concrete patio bordered by low curvilinear stone walls with built-in benches and adjacent planting beds. The construction of the Willett Center did not, however, prompt the development of adjacent on-site parking as proposed in the 1967 master plan. Parking facilities remained located off-site to the west, across James Street, in a public parking garage and adjacent surface parking lots.

General Management Plan:
In 2009 the park completed a combined General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (GMP-EA) to define the basic management philosophy to guide park management decisions over the next 15 to 20 years and assess the probable impacts of the proposed plan and its alternatives. The park’s Preferred Alternative proposed significantly broadening the context of interpretation and collaborative heritage development and preservation initiatives involving local and regional partners. The alternative was also identified as environmentally preferred, since it provided a greater number of benefits with minimal adverse impacts. (GMP-EA 2009: ii)

Among the issues raised in the GMP-EA related to the landscape was the overall lack of accessibility for visitors with disabilities (particularly those with physical impairments), the difficult and often dangerous pedestrian crossing at James Street, and inadequate informational and wayfinding signage. Other issues included the deterioration of the maintenance facility and the rising cost of leasing space at the Rome Historical Society for park administration. (GMP-EA 2009: 13-14)

Resource management recommendations included rehabilitation of the fort features identified in the Historic Structures Inventory (formerly List of Classified Structures) as being in fair or poor condition,

and reconstruction of fort structures that have not yet been initiated (e.g. the ravelin), if feasible. (GMP-EA 2009: 22)

Foundation Document:
In 2016 the park completed a Foundational Document to provide basic guidance for planning and management decisions. The report identified three fundamental resources and values to focus planning and management efforts on what was truly significant about the park: Fort Stanwix Archeological Sites; Fort Stanwix National Monument Museum Collections; and the Reconstructed Fort, Parade Ground, and Landscape. (FD 2016: 2,6)

Regarding the cultural landscape, the report noted that the park is not attempting to present an "accurate representation of what once existed there" because the landscape was indifferently maintained during the period of historical significance. Among the concerns were accessibility deficiencies, the presence of small sinkholes in the landscape around the fort, and erosion of parage ground surface materials. (FD 2016: 2,6,17)

Landscape Projects Since 2000:
Since the original CLI was completed in 2000, the park has completed numerous projects related to the landscape. Among them are:
• Rehabilitate/Replace Existing Sidewalks (2004, PMIS 109024-11299)
• Improve Visitor Signage (2008: PMIS 98864)
• Resurface Parade Ground (2014-2015, PMIS 109027-178973/PEPC 29475)
• Tree Removal (2015, PEPC 56554)
• Shrub Removal at Willett Center (2016: PEPC 67537)
• Repair Sidewalks and Capstones (2020, PMIS 306710/PEPC 94331)
• Correct Accessibility Deficiencies at the Willett Center (2022, PMIS 227309)
• Maintenance Projects: pruning, application of pesticides and herbicides, new bench, new sign (2023, PEPC 116755)
• EF-2 Tornado Emergency Response and Assessment (2024: PMIS 342960)

Other landscape-related projects are underway or proposed:
• Complete Baseline National Register Nomination Documentation (underway, PMIS 206110)
• Repave and edge trails, prune vegetation at Willett, herbicide and pesticide applications (underway, PEPC 128849)
• Resurface Pedestrian Trails around Park (proposed, PMIS 256621/PEPC 35123)
• Rehabilitate Visitor Service Infrastructure (Proposed, PMIS 307322)
• Fort Stanwix NM Support for Demolition/Renovation of City of Rome Fort Stanwix Parking Garage (Proposed, PMIS 323266 / PEPC 106716)

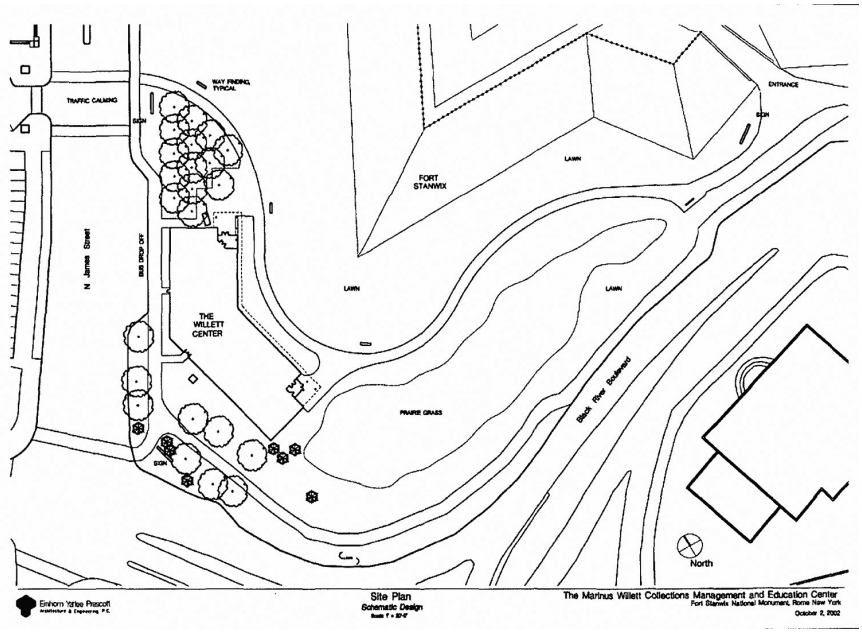


Figure 14. Conceptual site plan for the Willett Center, 2002. (Willett Center EA 2003: 3-7)



Figure 15. Artist rendering of the proposed Willett Center, 2002. (Willet Center EA 2003: 3-5)

Uses

Functions and Uses:

Major Category	Category	Use/Function	Historic	Current	Primary
Defense	Fortification	Battery (Defense)	Yes	No	Yes
Education	Interpretive Landscape		No	Yes	Yes
Recreation/Culture	Monument (Marker, Plaque)		No	Yes	No
Defense	Arms Storage		Yes	No	No
Landscape	Leisure-Passive (Park)		No	Yes	No
Defense	Fortification	Parade Ground	Yes	No	No
Government	Government Office	Visitor Contact (Visitor Center)	No	Yes	No

Public Access:

Public Access: Other Restrictions

Public Access Narrative:

Park walkways are open from dawn to dusk. Hours at the fort and the visitor center (Willett Center) vary throughout the year. Accessible parking is reserved in a pull-off in front of the fort and is available next to the Willett Center on North James Street. Visitor parking is located in a garage and surface lots on the west side of North James Street.

Associated Ethnographic Group

Ethnographic Study Status: Yes-Unrestricted Information

Ethnographic Narrative:

The 2009 report, “Oriskany: A Place of Great Sadness: A Mohawk Valley Battlefield Ethnography” by Joy Bilharz, with assistance from Trish Rae, is a special ethnographic report from the NPS Northeast Region Ethnography Program. The project focused on the Mohawk Valley battlefield and Fort Stanwix.

Analysis & Evaluation of Integrity

Analysis and Evaluation of Integrity Narrative Summary:

The historic integrity of the Fort Stanwix National Monument Landscape is evaluated by comparing landscape characteristics and features present during the period of significance, 1758-1781, with the existing conditions as assessed in 2026. The landscape surrounding Fort Stanwix is a reconstruction suggesting the open space present during the period of significance. Other than the open character, it bears no resemblance to what the historic landscape would have looked like. Historically a frontier region composed of meadow and old growth forest, the fort was sited on top of an embankment that dropped approximately 19 feet down to the Mohawk River. While that landscape surrounding the fort was certainly open in character, it was presumably unkempt meadow scattered with stumps from the cut trees used to build the fort. The trees also would have been cleared to keep the area open for strategic purposes in defending the fort. Archeological investigations informed reconstruction of the fort, which was essentially completed in 1976, and these features are present today: glacis, counterscarp, pickets, ditches, bridge, bastions, curtain walls, casemates, barracks, storehouse, sentry boxes, bombproof, whipping post, flagpole, cannon, and a parade ground. Several original structures were not reconstructed within the fort: guard house, headquarters building, two bombproofs, bakehouse, sally port, and ravelin.

Fort Stanwix National Monument contains no landscape features that contribute to the historic significance of the site. All of the landscape features are either modern, non-historic reconstructions, or outside the period of significance. While the area surrounding the reconstructed fort was not intended to replicate the historic landscape, the reconstructed topography at the base of the fort and including the glacis is believed to be historically accurate.

LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISTICS AND FEATURES
The next section presents an analysis of landscape characteristics and their associated features and corresponding Historic Structures Inventory (HSI, formerly List of Classified Structures) names and numbers, if applicable. It also includes an evaluation of whether the feature contributes to the property's National Register eligibility for the historic period, 1758-1781, contributes to the property's historic character, or if it is noncontributing, undetermined, or managed as a cultural resource. If a feature is non-contributing, it is evaluated as "compatible" (visually congruent with the historic character of the landscape) or "incompatible" (visually incongruent with the historic character of the landscape).

Landscape Characteristic: Natural Systems and Features

Natural systems and features are the natural aspects that have influenced the development and physical form of the landscape, and can include geology, geomorphology, hydrology, ecology, climate, and native vegetation. Fort Stanwix was built on the portage trail known as the Oneida Carry between the Mohawk River and Wood Creek, a narrow divide between the Atlantic and Great Lakes watersheds. While this natural watershed system is still in place on a regional scale, the urban development of Rome has substantially altered site-specific drainage characteristics. There are no longer any landscape features remaining on the site that convey this natural drainage system.

Feature Evaluations:
n/a

Landscape Characteristic: Spatial Organization

Spatial organization is the three-dimensional organization of physical forms and visual associations in a landscape, including the articulation of ground, vertical, and overhead planes that define and create spaces. During the period of significance between 1758 and 1781, Fort Stanwix was the only major structure in the vicinity. It stood on top of high ground overlooking the Mohawk River to the south and east. It has been conjectured that the fort was in a clearing amid a region composed of meadow and old-growth forest.

The historic spatial organization of a single, large structure set in an opening in the woods is conveyed by the vast open lawn areas, and a small meadow area, that surrounds the reconstructed fort, as well as several narrow tree masses alongside the park's property lines, especially to the north and west. Single trees and small groups of trees along the south and east property lines are separated by numerous gaps through which the surrounding urban environment of buildings, roads, and parking lots is visible. Buildings in the adjacent Gansevoort-Belamy Historic District, notably City Hall and St. Peter's Church, are prominent and provide a sense of urban enclosure to the north and northwest. Such enclosure is not as well defined to the southwest, south, and east due to the wide roads and large spaces between buildings beyond these roads.

Feature Evaluation:
--Parade Ground.
(non-contributing, managed as a cultural resource)
Within the fort itself, the parade ground served as the central organizing space. It was historically enclosed by two barracks buildings and a storage building, headquarters building, and guardhouse, which created an open, square-shaped open space used for troop musters and drills. Today, the reconstructed parade ground is bordered by the two barracks buildings and the storage building. Its shape is now rectangular, as the headquarters building and guardhouse were not rebuilt. The parade ground serves as open space for demonstration programs and circulation. Completed in 1976 (Figures 16 and 17).

Landscape Features:

Feature Name	CLI Feature ID	Feature Contribution	CRIS-HS Resource ID	Associated CRIS-AR ID	FMSS Record Type	FMSS Record Number	FMSS Exact Match
Parade Ground	210895	Noncontributing - Managed as a Cultural Resource	040661				No

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Figure 16. The grass-covered Fort Stanwix parade ground, view looking northeast. The space itself features a sentry box, whipping post, and cannon. In the background is the north casemate and the east barracks. (OCLP 2026)



Figure 17. Parade ground, view looking southwest. At image left is the east barracks. In the background are the south casemate-west building, and the west barracks. The roof of the north casemate is in the foreground. (OCLP 2026)

Landscape Characteristic: Land Use

Land uses are the principal activities in a landscape that form, shape, and organize the landscape as a result of human interaction. Just prior to the American Revolution, five European families lived near Fort Stanwix, and it is likely they had cleared some land for agriculture. During the period of significance, 1758-1781, land uses surrounding Fort Stanwix consisted primarily of open space for defensive purposes, transportation (the Oneida Carry, Mohawk River and Wood Creek), and forest. The original route of the Oneida Carry is believed to have passed through what is now the south entry to the fort. A military road extended from the fort to the carry and continued down the valley to the east.

As the fort deteriorated and finally disappeared during the early 19th century, its site became the center of the village of Rome, with the junction of the Erie and Black River Canals at the southeast corner of the present fort site. A dense concentration of brick and frame industrial, commercial, and residential buildings were constructed there during the 19th century. The corner of Dominick and James Streets was the commercial
heart of the city, and several high-style Greek Revival, Italianate, and Second Empire-style houses of the city's
prominent residents were located east and north of this corner.

In the early 1970s, the 7-block, 15.5-acre site was cleared of all buildings, structures, and landscape features as part of the Rome Urban Renewal Master Plan, through which the present Fort Stanwix was reconstructed. The remainder of downtown Rome along North Dominick Street was also cleared in large part during this time. Although the fort was reconstructed to approximate its appearance in 1777, and the landscape was initially open meadow, today it is maintained as mown lawn and a small area of meadow, except for plantings used to screen buildings on the west and north sides. The boundaries of this landscape were determined by roads developed after the period of significance and by the Rome Urban Renewal Master Plan adopted in 1967.

Today, land use surrounding Fort Stanwix NM is a mixture of commercial, residential, light industrial, and institutional urban uses that were not present during the historic period. The reconstructed fort is used for educational and commemorative purposes, rather than military. The open lawn area is a public open space with pedestrian walkways. The park's visitor center (Willett Center) is located at the southwest portion of the site while the maintenance building is located along the north edge. Present land uses within and surrounding the park differ markedly from the largely-frontier landscape and military uses present during the period of significance. Therefore, existing land uses do not contribute to the historic significance of the site.

Feature Evaluations:
n/a

Landscape Characteristic: Topography

Topography is the three-dimensional configuration of the landscape surface characterized by features (such as slope and articulation) and orientation (such as elevation and solar aspect). Historic Fort Stanwix occupied high ground overlooking the Mohawk River to the southeast. The edge of the embankment ran along the east and south sides of the fort. In the reconstruction of Fort Stanwix, the elevation of the fort entries, parade ground, and earthworks of the fort complex were set at historic levels. The scarp and counterscarp formed sloping sides of an 8-foot deep ditch surrounding the rampart walls on the north, west, and south sides. The glacis rose at a 40-degree angle to a height of 6 feet at its parapet. From the crest of the parapet the earth gradually sloped down to the original ground level with an approximate distance of 75 feet.

The historic drop in elevation down to the Mohawk River along the east side of the fort was proposed, but could not be recreated due to development outside of the site that largely filled in the historic embankment. The portion of the site to the north and west was purportedly level and was recreated at an elevation of between 445 and 452 feet. The small intermittent creek on the east side of the fort is the low point at 441 feet.

The historic topography surrounding the fort, the major feature of which was the embankment above the Mohawk River, could not be duplicated in the reconstruction due to urban development of canals, roads, and buildings. However, the area immediately surrounding the fort has been reconstructed to reflect the overall sense of the historic topography (see Cover). Overall, beyond the glacis, the existing topography does not reflect conditions during the period of significance and therefore does not contribute to the historic significance of the site.

Feature Evaluations:
n/a

Landscape Characteristic: Vegetation

Vegetation includes deciduous and evergreen trees, shrubs, vines, groundcovers, and herbaceous plants and plant communities, whether indigenous or introduced in the landscape. During the period of significance, 1758-1781, Fort Stanwix was sited in a clearing within a climax northern hardwood forest. Swamplands were likely to the east along the Mohawk River. There is no documentation of specific plant materials present during the period of significance and within the modern boundaries of the site. Existing vegetation dates to 1976 or after and consists of perimeter plantings, areas of meadow, and mown lawns. Overall, the existing vegetation does not represent the historic appearance of the site contribute to the historic significance of the site.

Feature Evaluations:
--Lawns.
(non-contributing, compatible)
The park's most predominant type of vegetation is maintained lawn that covers the fort's glacis around the north, west, and south glacis, and the open spaces between the walkways and the surrounding streets (Figure 18).

--Meadow.
(non-contributing, compatible)
A small area maintained as meadow stretches alongside the walkway between the fort and the visitor center. This former lawn area is now filled with numerous species of milkweed. The size of the meadow has been greatly reduced due to fire hazard concerns (Figure 19).

--Trees along Streets.
(non-contributing, compatible)
Several groups of deciduous trees can be found along the park's south boundary, straddling the sidewalk that runs alongside Erie Boulevard. Most are on city property. Scattered deciduous trees stand on park property along the south and east boundary, on the inside edge of the sidewalk that parallels Black River Boulevard.

--Vegetation along North and West Boundaries
(non-contributing, compatible)
The park's west boundary features a line of mature, regularly-spaced red maples (Acer rubrum) separated by a gap. Standing along the inside edge of the sidewalk that parallels North James Street, the trees were intended to screen adjacent development to the west (Figure 20). Along the north boundary, the maintenance garage area features mature Amur maple (Acer grinnala), white pine (Pinus strobus), arborvitae (Thuja occidentalis), and rock elm (Ulmus thomasii). These trees generally screen the building but not the fenced yard on its south side. East of the maintenance garage along Park Street is a continuous row of mature white pine (Pinus strobus) interspersed with a few oaks (Quercus sp.), as well as a mass of burning bush (Euonymus alatus) (Figure 21).

--Willett Center Plantings.
(non-contributing, compatible)
The densest concentration of woody vegetation is located at the Willett Center, especially around the patio (Figure 22). Plant species here include white ash (Fraxinus americana), basswood (Tilia americana), viburnum (Viburnum sp.), serviceberry (Amelanchier canadensis), and cinquefoil (Potentilla sp.).

Landscape Features:

Feature Name	CLI Feature ID	Feature Contribution	CRIS-HS Resource ID	Associated CRIS-AR ID	FMSS Record Type	FMSS Record Number	FMSS Exact Match
Lawns	210896	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
Meadow	210897	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
Trees along North Boundary	210898	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
Trees along Streets	210899	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
Willett Center Plantings	210900	Noncontributing – Compatible					No

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Figure 18. View looking northwest at the lawns at Fort Stanwix, the site's predominant groundcover. (OCLP 2026)



Figure 19. View looking southeast at a portion of the milkweed meadow and some of the trees along the property boundary. (OCLP 2026)



Figure 20. Mature maples line portions of the park's northwest boundary, along North James Street (image left). In the foreground is the grass-covered west glacis while in the background is city hall (left), St. Peter's Church, and the church parsonage. View looking north. (OCLP 2026)



Figure 21. Deciduous and evergreen vegetation mark the park's north boundary, view looking west. (OCLP 2026)



Figure 22. View looking southwest at plantings around the park's visitor center. (OCLP 2026)

Landscape Characteristic: Circulation

Circulation refers to the spaces, features, and applied material finishes that constitute systems of movement in a landscape. The original Fort Stanwix was built along the Oneida Carry, a strategic one-mile or longer portage, depending on water levels, that connected the Great Lakes and Atlantic watersheds via Wood Creek and the Mohawk River. The Oneida Carry is believed to have tracked along the south and west sides of the fort. A military road extended from the fort to the carry and continued down the valley to the east.

Construction of canals in the late 18th and early 19th centuries improved local and regional transportation, with three canals in proximity to Fort Stanwix. In 1797 the Western Inland Lock Navigation Company built a canal adjacent to site of Fort Stanwix (present Erie Boulevard). The Erie Canal was originally completed south of Rome in 1825 until its relocation to the widened Western Inland canal in 1844. Construction of the Black River Canal just to the east of the fort site (present day Black River Boulevard) was completed by 1851. By this time, railroads connected to Rome and by 1918 the Erie Canal and Black River Canal were abandoned with the opening of the Barge Canal south of Rome. The canals were filled in and replaced by streets and urban development.

Rome's urban renewal project and the reconstruction of the fort in the late 1960s and 1970s removed the streets and buildings from the proposed park boundary, which was coterminous with public roads that largely remain today. These streets include Park Street, a narrow city street; James Street, four-lanes and partially-divided; Black River Boulevard (NY Route 26), a four-lane arterial state highway; and Erie Boulevard (NY Routes 46/49/69), the major arterial state highway through the downtown area. The current configuration of streets and their associated concrete sidewalks was completed in 1976, as were the park's two interior walkways.

Feature Evaluations:
--Patio at Willett Center.
(non-contributing, compatible)
Built in 2005 on the north side of the building, the scored, irregular-shaped concrete patio is defined by curving seat walls and planting beds (see Figure 22). It connects to the park's walkway at two points.

--Walkways.
(non-contributing, compatible)
There are two primary walkways in the park. The walkway that tracks through the southern part of the site connects to North James Street and Black River Boulevard. It connects to a spur that leads to the main entrance on the south side of the fort and a spur that leads to the south entrance of the Willett Center. When the Willett Center was built in 2005, the walkway's alignment was adjusted to intersect with the building's patio. The walkway that tracks through the northern and eastern parts of the site also connects to North James Street and Black River Boulevard, and features a short spur that ends at the service entrance (sally port) on the east side of the fort and another spur that leads to the maintenance area and Park Street. The walkways, which are also used by maintenance vehicles, are built of asphalt covered with a reddish-gray gravel. The walkways are necessary features to provide visitor and staff access, and are generally compatible with the character of the reconstructed site.

Landscape Features:

Feature Name	CLI Feature ID	Feature Contribution	CRIS-HS Resource ID	Associated CRIS-AR ID	FMSS Record Type	FMSS Record Number	FMSS Exact Match
Patio at Willett Center	210901	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
Walkways	210902	Noncontributing – Compatible					No

Landscape Characteristic: Buildings and Structures

Buildings are elements constructed primarily for sheltering any form of human activity in a landscape, while structures are elements constructed for functional purposes other than sheltering human activity. The original Fort Stanwix was built in 1758, rebuilt in 1776, and garrisoned until 1781. It was designed as a temporary structure with timber and earth construction. By 1840, all visible traces of Fort Stanwix were gone and the site was developed with streets and buildings typical of a small urban city. In the early 1970s the fort complex was reconstructed as an earth and timber-clad reinforced concrete structure designed to approximate the appearance as it appeared in 1777. The reconstructed fort opened in 1976 with a second construction phase completed in 1978. Several original structures were not reconstructed within the fort: guard house, headquarters building, northwest and northeast bombproofs, and the bakehouse in the southeast bastion. Also, the necessary, sally port, and ravelin outside of the fort walls were not yet reconstructed.

Reconstructed features include bastions, curtain walls, casemates, barracks, a bombproof, storehouse, and sentry boxes. Defensive structures outside of the parade grounds include a berm, draw bridge, scarp, ditch, counterscarp, palisade fence, and glacis. The park includes a visitor center (Willett Center), and a maintenance garage.

Feature Evaluations:
--Bastions (4).
(non-contributing, managed as a cultural resource)
The four original bastions projected outward to comprise the fort's four corners, and were shaped to provide mutually supporting arcs of fire over the approach to the curtain wall. The four reconstructed bastions (northeast, southeast, southwest, northwest) feature concrete constructed walls with split log siding and periodic openings for cannon (Figure 23). They are around 14 feet tall and feature fraise poles (pointed stakes). Completed in 1976 and 1978.

--Bridge.
(non-contributing, managed as a cultural resource)
Drawbridge and bridge components were defensive constructions used to limit access to main gate opening in curtain wall. The reconstructed structure now serves as primary visitor entrance. The fixed bridge portion spans the ditch and measures 11-by 60-feet. The drawbridge portion at the north end, now fixed in position, measures 11-by 10-feet and two chains connected to two weights traveling on curved vertical tracks (Figure 24, see also Cover). Heavy wood railing lines each side of the bridge. Completed in 1976.

--Concrete Retaining Walls.
(non-contributing, compatible)
Reinforced concrete walls support grade changes between the reconstrued earthworks and the adjacent urban setting. The wall located at the northwest corner of the site is around 70 feet long and up to three feet high. The wall at the southeastern portion of the site serves as a headwall for the culvert that drains the dry creek and is around 15 feet long and up to five feet high. Both walls

are topped with black-painted, tubular steel railings.

--Curtain Walls (4).
(non-contributing, managed as a cultural resource)
Curtain walls were the defensive works that connected the bastions and could accommodate openings that allowed defensible access to fort's interior. The south and east curtain walls at the reconstructed fort had openings for the main gate and the sally port, respectively. The fort's curtain walls are around 14 feet high, comprised of concrete faced with split logs and projecting fraise poles (Figure 25). Completed in 1976.

--Ditches.
(non-contributing, managed as a cultural resource)
Ditches were characteristics of the moats of medieval fortifications, functioning to extend exterior slopes of ramparts without adding height to the works. The reconstructed ditch is a 10-foot-deep trench surrounding three sides of the on three sides (absent on east). The ditch is comprised of specific parts: scarp-interior slope, ditch-floor of trench, counter scarp-outer slope, and covered way. There is sod on the surface of the ditches to reduce erosion (Figure 26). Completed in 1978.

--East Barracks.
(non-contributing, managed as a cultural resource)
Barracks at the original fort supplemented troop quarters located in the casemates. In the reconstructed fort this 1–story, 120-by-20-foot structure features a gabled shingle roof, four brick chimneys, and featheredge board siding (Figure 27). Constructed in 1976.

--East Casemate - North Building.
(non-contributing, managed as a cultural resource)
The original casemates were used as barracks and storage for provisions and ordnance. This reconstructed 1-story, 60-by 20-foot building abuts the east curtain wall and features a hand-hewn, squared log roof and split-log siding. Completed in 1976-1978, it contains administrative offices and curatorial storage.

--East Casemate - South Building.
(non-contributing, managed as a cultural resource)
The original casemates were used as barracks and storage for provisions and ordnance. This reconstructed 1-story, 60-by 20-foot building abuts the east curtain wall and features a hand-hewn, squared log roof and split-log siding. Completed in 1976, it houses a lounge, lockers, toilets, and weapon storage.

--Glacis (3).
(non-contributing, managed as a cultural resource)
The glacis is that part of the sloping earthworks built outside of the ditch to provide a section of ground easily observable by sentries and guarded by the fort's guns. The reconstructed fort's glacis (north, west, and south) features sod-covered earth built up to 6 feet above the counterscarp of the ditch that slopes away from the ditch (Figure 28, see also Figure 19). The glacis was created from earth extracted from the ditch. Completed in 1978.

--Maintenance Garage.
(non-contributing, compatible)
North of the fort complex is the park maintenance garage, constructed by the NPS in 1975. This one-story building is constructed of tinted concrete block and a metal roof. Access is gained from Park Street at the rear of St. Peter's Church. A garage wing was added to the building in 1987.

--North Casemate.
(non-contributing, managed as a cultural resource)
This casement originally housed the commandant's quarters and a dining room. The 1-story, approx. 120-by 22-foot structure abuts the north curtain wall and has a hand-hewn timber roof, six brick chimneys, and split log siding (see Figure 16). Five rooms are furnished in the 18th-century style with working fireplaces, and one room contains remnants of an original brick hearth.

Constructed in 1978.

--Pickets.
(non-contributing, managed as a cultural resource)
Pickets were collectively an important defensive structure intended to prevent the enemy foot soldier from having direct access to the curtain walls and bastions. The fort reconstruction has over 2,000 pickets set into the earth of the covered way, just inside the glacis (Figure 29). Protruding vertically from soil, a typical picket is 12 feet long and 7-inches diameter, consisting of peeled wood posts sharpened at one end. Installed in 1976.

--South Casemate - East Building.
(non-contributing, managed as a cultural resource)
The original casemates were used as barracks and storage for provisions and ordnance. This reconstructed 1-story, 60-by 20-foot building abuts the south curtain wall and features a squared log roof and split log siding. Constructed in 1976.

--South Casemate - West Building.
(non-contributing, managed as a cultural resource)
The original casemates were used as barracks and storage for provisions and ordnance. This reconstructed 1-story, 60-by-20-foot building abuts the south curtain wall and features a squared log roof and split log siding (Figure 30). Constructed in 1976.

--Sentry Boxes.
(non-contributing, managed as a cultural resource)
Sentry boxes provided shelter for sentries exposed to hostile fire. The 1-story, 3.5-foot square structures are 6 feet tall and feature pyramidal shingle roofs. There are seven at Fort Stanwix: one at the tip of each bastion, two on the parade ground, and one southeast of the bridge. Built in 1978.

--Southwest Bombproof.
(non-contributing, managed as a cultural resource)
Bombproofs were strong structures built to withstand indirect artillery fire, and at the original fort were located on each bastion, excluding the Southeast Bastion. This bombproof reconstruction depicts the typical 18th-century design and is the only one that has been reconstructed. It is embedded in earth with a plank-lined entry passage. The walls are 12-inches-thick concrete. Completed in 1976.

--Storehouse.
(non-contributing, managed as a cultural resource)
Historically used to store provisions, it may also have been used as the post commissary. The reconstruction now contains two visitor restrooms. The 1-story structure features a gabled shingle-roof with shed shingle-roof ells on the east and west elevations (Figure 31). The building is clad in feather-edge siding. Completed in 1976.

--West Barracks.
(non-contributing, managed as a cultural resource)
This barracks housed both the troops and officers of the garrison. In the reconstructed fort this 1-story, 120-by-20-foot structure features a gabled shingle roof, four brick chimneys, and featheredge board siding. Completed in 1976, it houses a visitor contact station and theater (Figure 32).

--West Casemate.
(noncontributing, managed as a cultural resource)
The original casemates were used as barracks and storage for provisions and ordnance. The 1-story, approximately 120-by 22-foot structure abuts the west curtain wall and has a hand-hewn timber roof and split log siding. Museum storage occupies most of south portion of building and is completely finished, while the north portion is finished to resemble its 18th-century appearance. Completed in 1976-1978.

--Willett Center.

(non-contributing, compatible)
The Marinus Willett Collections Management and Education Center was constructed in 2005 in the southwest corner of the site, near the corner of Erie Boulevard and North James Street (see Figure 21). The building provides public exhibit areas and amenities, interpretive spaces, storage space for historic artifacts, and staff support space. The building features a low-profile design with a stone and brown-stained wood exterior that blends with the surrounding landscape.

Landscape Features:

Feature Name	CLI Feature ID	Feature Contribution	CRIS-HS Resource ID	Associated CRIS-AR ID	FMSS Record Type	FMSS Record Number	FMSS Exact Match
Bastions	210903	Noncontributing - Managed as a Cultural Resource	40640				No
Bridge	210904	Noncontributing - Managed as a Cultural Resource	40644				No
Curtain Walls	210905	Noncontributing - Managed as a Cultural Resource	40642				No
East Barracks	210906	Noncontributing - Managed as a Cultural Resource	40645				No
East Casemate - North Building	210907	Noncontributing - Managed as a Cultural Resource	40646				No
East Casemate - South Building	210908	Noncontributing - Managed as a Cultural Resource	40659				No
Glacis	210909	Noncontributing - Managed as a Cultural Resource	40649				No
North Casemate	210910	Noncontributing - Managed as a Cultural Resource	40650				No
Pickets	210911	Noncontributing - Managed as a Cultural Resource	40651				No
Sentry Boxes	210912	Noncontributing - Managed as a Cultural Resource	40652				No
South Casemate - East Building	210913	Noncontributing - Managed as a Cultural Resource	40653				No
South Casemate - West Building	210914	Noncontributing - Managed as a Cultural Resource	40660				No
Southwest Bombproof	210915	Noncontributing - Managed as a Cultural Resource	40654				No

Storehouse	210916	Noncontributing - Managed as a Cultural Resource	40655				No
West Barracks	210917	Noncontributing - Managed as a Cultural Resource	40656				No
West Casemate	210918	Noncontributing - Managed as a Cultural Resource	40657				No
Concrete Retaining Walls	210919	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
Maintenance Building	210920	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
Willett Center	210921	Noncontributing – Compatible					No

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Figure 23. View looking southeast at the fort's northwest bastion. (OCLP 2026)



Figure 24. View looking south from the fort interior at components of the main gate's bridge. (OCLP 2026)



Figure 25. The east curtain wall connects the southeast bastion and the northeast bastion (background right). (OCLP 2026)



Figure 26. View looking west at the north ditch. At image left are the northeast bastion, north curtain wall, and northwest bastion. (OCLP 2026)



Figure 27. The fort's east barracks on the east side of the parade ground, view looking south. (OCLP 2026)



Figure 28. View looking southwest across the grass-covered west glacis. In the background (image right) is the visitor center. (OCLP 2026)



Figure 29. View of pickets adjacent to the southeast bastion. (OCLP 2026)



Figure 30. View looking southwest at the south casemate-east building. (OCLP 2026)



Figure 31. The reconstructed storehouse serves at visitor restrooms on the south side of the parade ground, view looking southwest. (OCLP 2026)



Figure 32. The fort's west barracks on the west side of the parade ground, view looking southwest. (OCLP 2026)

Landscape Characteristic: Constructed Water Features

Constructed water features are built features and elements that utilize water for aesthetic or utilitarian functions in the landscape. There is a single constructed water feature at Fort Stanwix, a branch of Technohat Creek located east of the fort. This creek is a reconstruction of the natural stream that may have existed during the Revolutionary period, as shown on several historic maps.

Feature Evaluation:
--Branch of Technohat Creek.
(non-contributing, compatible)
Fresh water was a critical commodity for fortifications. This creek was reconstructed in 1976 based on a course shown on historic maps. The creek is typically dry, carrying only storm water runoff and snowmelt (Figure 33). The grass channel is 3-to 5-feet wide and includes metal grate drain covers spaced along its length. The channel briefly becomes two channels at the purported location of the fort's original privy. As the creek was recreated entirely on conjecture, it is not managed as a cultural resource.

Landscape Features:

Feature Name	CLI Feature ID	Feature Contribution	CRIS-HS Resource ID	Associated CRIS-AR ID	FMSS Record Type	FMSS Record Number	FMSS Exact Match
Branch of Technohat Creek	210922	Noncontributing – Compatible	040658				No

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Figure 33. The intermittent stream known as Technohat Creek flows east of the fort. (OCLP 2026)

Landscape Characteristic: Views and Vistas

A view is the expansive and/or panoramic prospect of a broad range of vision that may be naturally occurring or deliberately contrived. A vista is a controlled prospect of a discrete, linear range of vision, which is deliberately contrived. Given its position on high ground, historic Fort Stanwix likely commanded an expansive view across
the Mohawk River to the south, east, and west. Cleared areas around the fort enhanced the extensive views for defensive purposes. For the fort's reconstruction, the grounds were kept open to suggest these historic views, despite the presence of urban development just beyond the park boundaries. As such conditions remain today, the existing views and vistas do not contribute to the historic significance of the site.

Feature Evaluations:
--Interior Views to/from Fort.
(non-contributing, compatible)
The reconstructed fort and the surrounding lawns and meadow comprise the views to and from areas within the park boundaries. These elements evoke the historic setting of the fort within an open area. Walkways, signage along the walks are not major distraction The locations of the Willett Center and maintenance garage on the edge of the park help mitigate their visual impacts.

--Distant Views to/from Fort.
(non-contributing, incompatible)
Urban development comprises the views to and from areas beyond the park boundaries. To limit the presence of the surrounding urban setting, screens of trees were planted along the park's north and west boundaries. This function is intact, although there are some gaps in the vegetation. Views to the south and east down the embankment to the Mohawk River were not screened. Although some trees have been planted on the south boundary, few have planted along the east boundary. Views to adjoining urban properties, notably St. Peter's Church and City Hall, are used for interpretive purposes to contrast "historic" and existing conditions (see Figure 20).

Landscape Features:

Feature Name	CLI Feature ID	Feature Contribution	CRIS-HS Resource ID	Associated CRIS-AR ID	FMSS Record Type	FMSS Record Number	FMSS Exact Match
Interior Views to/from Fort	210923	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
Distint Views to/from Fort	210924	Noncontributing – Incompatible					No

Landscape Characteristic: Small Scale Features

Small-scale features are elements that provide detail and diversity for both functional needs and aesthetic concerns in the landscape. Several small-scale features are associated with the fort reconstruction and are managed as cultural resources: cannons, a flagpole, pickets, and a whipping post. Other small-scale features serve as visitor amenities or are associated with park infrastructure.

Feature Evaluations:
--Bicycle Racks.
(non-contributing, compatible)
Slatted wood and steel bike racks are located at the Willett Center and at the fort entrance. Both are painted light brown.

--Bollard Lights.
(non-contributing, compatible)
Six bollard lights are positioned around the patio on the north side of the Willett Center patio and three are located along the walkway on the building's south side. Their low-profile designs and black color make them inconspicuous in the landscape.

--Cannons.
(non-contributing, managed as a cultural resource)
The original fort had embrasures for 35 cannons. New cannons were produced for this reconstruction. There are currently eleven cannons: four 3-pound guns, four 6-pound guns, and three 9-pound guns. The cannon carriages are built of red oak.

--Flagpole.
(non-contributing, managed as a cultural resource)
Many military posts of the time used flagstaffs consisting of upper and lower poles, similar to ship mast construction, and possibly built by ships' carpenters. At the reconstructed Fort Stanwix, a 40-foot tall, red cedar flagstaff features upper and lower poles, complete with ship mast details, such as cheek boards, trestle trees, cross trees, caps, and trucks. The flagpole stands on the southwest bastion. Installed in 1976.

--Footbridges at Technohat Creek.
(non-contributing, compatible)
Two wood plank footbridges measuring approximately 9-by-8-feet span the ditch that tracks along the lawn on the east side of the site. The bridges allow maintenance machinery to this area of the park.

--Park Signs.
(non-contributing, compatible)
Park entrance signs are located along the walkways in the southern portion of the site. Each sign is brown and green with white lettering and is hung from a brown-painted, square timber that is anchored into the top of a stone-faced concrete pier capped with bluestone. The sign south of the fort faces Erie Boulevard while the sign west of the fort faces North James Street.

--Trash Cans.
Circular trash cans can be found throughout the site. They are painted black and are generally inconspicuous.

--Waysides.
(non-contributing, compatible)
Standard waysides consisting of plastic panels supported on angled, black-colored posts are located in the fort. Some of the waysides along the walkway and at the Willett Center entrance feature angled panels anchored in stone-faced concrete structures capped with bluestone.

--Whipping Post.
(non-contributing, managed as a cultural resource)
Flogging was common form of punishment recorded at Fort Stanwix as evidenced by having a whipping post in such a prominent location. The peeled wooden post is approximately 9-inches in diameter and 7.5-feet tall terminating in a round finial. Four iron rings are stapled into the post near the top. Installed in 1976 (see Figure 16).

Landscape Features:

Feature Name	CLI Feature ID	Feature Contribution	CRIS-HS Resource ID	Associated CRIS-AR ID	FMSS Record Type	FMSS Record Number	FMSS Exact Match
Cannons	210925	Noncontributing - Managed as a Cultural Resource	40641				No
Flagpole	210926	Noncontributing - Managed as a Cultural Resource	40648				No
Whipping Post	210927	Noncontributing - Managed as a Cultural Resource	40647				No
Bicycle Racks	210928	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
Bollard Lights	210929	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
Footbridges at Technohat Creek	210930	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
Park Signs	210931	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
Trash Cans	210932	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
Waysides	210933	Noncontributing – Compatible					No

Landscape Characteristic: **Archeological Sites**

Archeological sites are the locations of ruins, traces, or deposited artifacts in the landscape and are evidenced by the presence of either surface or subsurface features. Only sites identified in approved National Register documentation are identified in this report. The 1981 National Register documentation does not identify archeological sites; however, an update to this documentation is currently underway (2026). The update will likely identify the brick hearth, which is an in situ archeological feature. According to the 1998 “Archeological Overview and Assessment,” in the area outside of the fort footprint there is the potential to find remains tied to the history of the fort, but more likely, to the 19th-century history of Rome.

Condition

Assessment Interval (Years): 7

Next Assessment Due Date: 08/12/2033

Condition Assessment and Impacts

Condition Assessment: Good

Assessment Date: 08/12/2026

Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:

The condition of the park landscape is evaluated as “good.” Existing resources are well-maintained and in good condition.
Good: The property shows no clear evidence of major negative disturbance and deterioration by natural and/or human forces. The property’s cultural and natural values are as well preserved as can be expected under the given environmental conditions. No immediate corrective action is required to maintain its current condition.

Condition Assessment: Good

Assessment Date: 09/22/2025

Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:

The overall landscape is well-maintained and in good condition.

Condition Assessment: Good

Assessment Date: 09/25/2023

Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:

Provisional. The condition reassessment for this CLI has been delayed due to the effects of Covid-19 travel restrictions and staffing shortages. In the meantime, the most recent condition assessment will remain in place until it is reassessed. Planning and scheduling for this update will occur in FYs 2023-2024.

Condition Assessment: Good

Assessment Date: 07/17/2013

Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:

In consulting with Keith Routley at the park and with concurrence from the Superintendent, the Fort Stanwix landscape is in good condition. The definition of “good” is as follows: “The inventory unit shows no clear evidence of major negative disturbance and deterioration by natural and/or human forces. The inventory unit’s cultural and natural values are as well preserved as can be expected under the given environmental conditions. No immediate corrective action is required to maintain its current condition.”

According to project statements in PMIS for Fort Stanwix, the parade ground will soon be rehabilitated and resurfaced (PMIS 109027, 178973), sidewalks surrounding the park have been repaired or replaced (170698); and asphalt trails around the fort have been maintained or will be in subsequent years as part of cyclic maintenance (142225, 178131, 167178). There are proposed projects to improve trail connections between the park and the Erie Canalway and the Oriskany Battlefield (144364, 144403). On the planning side, a Historic Resource Study and National Register Nomination are proposed for FY 2015 (42329).

Condition Assessment: Good

Assessment Date: 08/10/2007

Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:

Fort Stanwix shows no clear evidence of major negative disturbance and deterioration by natural and/or human forces. The cultural and natural values are as well preserved as can be expected under the given environmental conditions. No immediate corrective action is required to maintain its current condition.

Condition Assessment: Good

Assessment Date: 12/12/2000

Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:

This condition assessment was determined in consultation with the park staff and superintendent.

Impacts

Type of Impact: Impending Development

Other Impact:

External or Internal: External

Impact Narrative: Land uses continue to evolve in the areas around the park, which is visible from the park grounds.

Date Identified: 08/12/2026

Resolved? No

Treatment

Stabilization Measures

Treatment Documents

Document Type: General Management Plan

Document Date: 2009-01-01

Title:

IRMA Link:

Narrative:

In 2009 the park completed a combined General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (GMP-EA) to define the basic management philosophy to guide park management decisions over the next 15 to 20 years and assess the probable impacts of the proposed plan and its alternatives. The park's Preferred Alternative proposed significantly broadening the context of interpretation and collaborative heritage development and preservation initiatives involving local and regional partners. Resource management recommendations included rehabilitation of the fort features identified in the Historic Structures Inventory (formerly List of Classified Structures) as being in fair or poor condition, and reconstruction of fort structures that have not yet been initiated (e.g. the ravelin), if feasible. (GMP-EA 2009: ii,22)

The GMP-EA proposed three management areas:
--Development Area: This area would accommodate existing or expanded park operational and visitor facilities. The Willett Center is located within the development area and is characterized by contemporary construction within an urban context in visual proximity to the fort. Ideally, the Willett Center serves as the first point of contact for visitors to Fort Stanwix National Monument. During times when carrying capacity might be exceeded, park staff would take appropriate steps to manage visitor flow (e.g. offering alternative programming at other locations in the park).

--Gathering Area: A large portion of the green space (mown lawn) at the fort is a valuable community asset in an otherwise developed urban environment. The west lawn, where archeological resources would not be threatened, would continue to be used for large public gatherings and events (e.g. Honor America Days). Such appropriate events and programs serve to remind all citizens of our shared heritage.

--Fort Experience Area: This is the area encompassing the fort and its immediate environs where visitors experience what life was like in the fort through interpretive and educational programs. Under this alternative, to help evoke a greater sense of the historic landscape, cultural landscape studies would be undertaken to establish appropriate meadow grasses and wildflowers in select but limited areas adjacent to the fort. (GMP-EA 2009: 21-22)

Treatment Type: Rehabilitation

Treatment Completed: No

Bibliography and Supplemental Information

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Landscape Documents:

File Name	Date	Attachment Type	Source
FOST_Fort Stanwix NM Landscape_CLI Updates Notes_2025.pdf			