

THE CAMPAIGN FOR **Fort de la Présentation**

History Worth Fighting For

MONUMENTAL PHASE

Interpretive Center



FORT DE LA
PRÉSENTATION

OUTPOST ON THE
OSWEGATCHIE

www.fort1749.org



A Monumental Opportunity

For nearly 50 years, community leaders have sought to bring back the Fort and fully develop it as an international heritage site, culminating in the efforts of the Fort La Présentation Association in the 1990s.

After more than a decade of behind-the-scenes work, a \$10-million environmental cleanup and increasing community awareness and support, now is the time to build. We will begin with the **Fort Interpretive Center**.

Coming together for the common good...

“The Fort Project is a dynamic demonstration of how a group of citizens, working together, can make a difference in their community’s future.”

– Judges’ remarks, Ogdensburg’s All America City Application



Founder’s Day Weekend Reenactment Activities

A Shared Heritage

In 1749, a French and Iroquois alliance established a “mission fort” where the St. Lawrence and Oswegatchie rivers meet. It stood where the current U.S. City of Ogdensburg is located, on what is now the U.S./Canadian border between New York State and the Province of Ontario.

Named “Fort de la Présentation” by the Fort’s founder, the Catholic missionary Abbé François Picquet, it was one of only four forts constructed in New York during the French colonial period (1749-1760).

The Fort brought several cultures together – American, Canadian, Native American, French and British – for worship, trade and protection. The strategic St. Lawrence Valley location made the Fort a valuable military asset in three wars, each time serving a different national interest – the French in the French and Indian War, the British in the American Revolution, and the Americans in the War of 1812.

The Fort is considered the founding settlement of the City of Ogdensburg, New York, which grew around the Fort in post-Colonial years. In later years, the Fort was torn down and the site used for industry beginning in the 19th century. The property ultimately became a vacant brownfield site, until the Fort La Présentation Association obtained and remediated the property.

Please join us in bringing back this historic treasure that tells the story of our past – and holds the promise of our future.



Progress to Date

Pre-construction Stage – 1999 to present

Over the past 10 years, the all-volunteer Fort La Présentation Association has achieved the following milestones:

- **Obtained the project site** – 22 acres on the St. Lawrence River, adjacent to the archeological remains of the Fort.
- **Retained a team of professionals** with the expertise to promote the Fort project and to design and reconstruct the Fort with historical accuracy.
- **Spearheaded clean-up of the site** with state and federal funding, NYS oversight and cooperation from the ExxonMobil Corporation.
- **Established Founder’s Day Weekend and The War of 1812 Symposium** as annual, major heritage events that bring thousands of visitors to the Ogdensburg area each year.
- **Developed classroom and Living History Day programs** to educate teachers and students about the Fort and the region’s development during the 18th and 19th centuries.
- **Pursued historic site registry listings;** the property is now listed on the NYS Register of Historic Places and is awaiting final approval for a federal listing.
- **Established a base of members, underwriters and donors** to support annual activities and an endowment fund.
- **Secured \$1,500,400 for pre-construction efforts** from federal, state, county and city elected officials, Fort organizers, local businesses, and private donors.
- **Forged collaborations with our City, Greater Ogdensburg Chamber of Commerce, and more than 20 other partners to date,** so that the Fort’s development will encourage and spur activities that advance shared education, waterfront development and community/regional revitalization goals.
- **Returned the historic Abbé Picquet monument,** an obelisk which once stood on the Fort site, to the project property in 2009 and created a public setting for outdoor interpretive panels.
- **Developed plans for the Fort Interpretive Center,** which includes educational displays, interactive exhibits and meeting facilities. The Interpretive Center will be the first permanent structure built. It will provide a year-round venue for indoor and outdoor events, enhancing Ogdensburg’s waterfront efforts.

Restoring a landmark, revitalizing a region...

“One of the historic jewels in New York State, Fort de la Présentation once played a vital role in the formation of our nation. The fully developed Fort site has the potential to attract thousands of tourists, which will help stimulate the region’s economy through new development and job creation. I am proud to support the restoration of this beautiful, historic site.”

– U.S. Senator Kristin Gillibrand

Project Overview

When complete, the Fort site will include:

- The historic Abbé Picquet monument, relocated to the Fort project site in 2009.
- Interpretive Center offering displays, educational opportunities and events space. The building will also provide a permanent home for the Ogdensburg Chamber, which will help us staff a Welcome Center for visitors to the Fort site, community and region.
- Reconstructed Fort, including a chapel, missionary’s quarters, commandant’s house and barracks.
- Native American village with longhouses and cabins.
- Lawn amphitheatre seating, open field for reenactments and other events, picnic area, walking trails, river vistas.
- Parking, dockage and encampment areas for reenactments – visitors to the site can arrive by land or water to enjoy major events or a personal encounter with history.



Teaching tomorrow's leaders...

“The Fort gives students a deeper and broader understanding of history than can ever be garnered from a textbook...”

– Nancy LaFaver, Teacher and Lisbon Town Historian

“It’s a fun and interesting way to learn about the French and Indian War...”

– Comment from local student

Fort Interpretive Center Concept Drawings

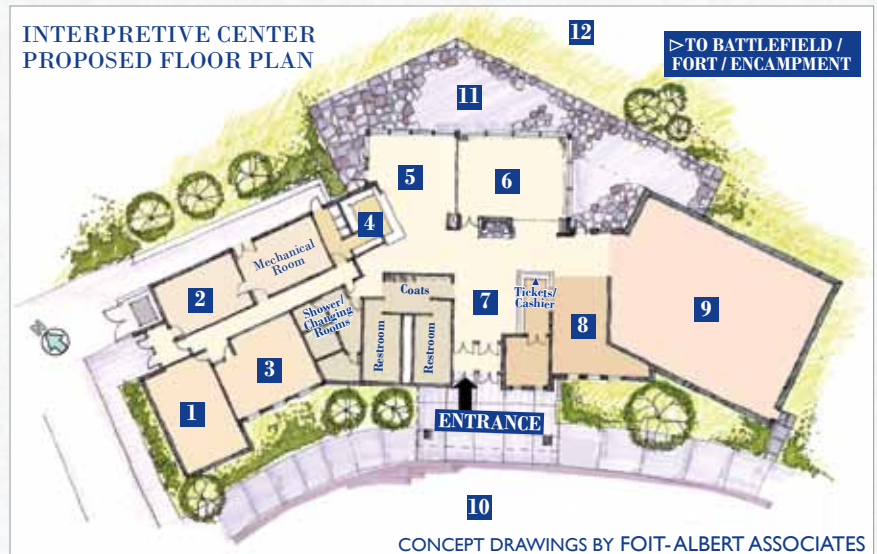


The Fort Interpretive Center — Description

The Interpretive Center will be a vibrant, year-round educational and meeting facility. It will feature permanent and changing exhibits, interactive and new media presentations, ongoing programming, and facilities for indoor and outdoor activities and events. The Center will showcase the history of the site – focusing on all of the cultures that interacted there – in ways accessible to children, and interesting to adults. Skilled history interpreters and reenactors will be available to help visitors experience the living culture of the Fort.

Planned facilities and features include:

- Archives of historical materials **1**
- Conference Room **2**
- Office Suite (shared) for the Fort Association and Greater Ogdensburg Chamber of Commerce **3**
- Kitchen **4** and Café **5**
- Classroom/Auditorium **6**
- Welcome Center **7**, with Gift Shop **8** offering heritage and local-pride merchandise
- Exhibit Gallery including a “Children’s Discovery Center” **9**
- Oval Garden with flagpoles and heritage plantings **10**
- Patio for outdoor activities **11**
- Interpretive Trails showcasing the site’s history, battlefield, woods, and water features **12**





Announcing the Campaign for Fort de la Présentation Monumental Phase

Our goal is to raise \$5,000,000 for construction of an Interpretive Center to tell the story of the Fort from the American, Canadian, Native American, French and British perspectives. The Interpretive Center will be the first building constructed and will provide a year-round education and events facility. It will also serve as a catalyst for the development of the entire Fort site.

Levels of Giving and Donor Recognition

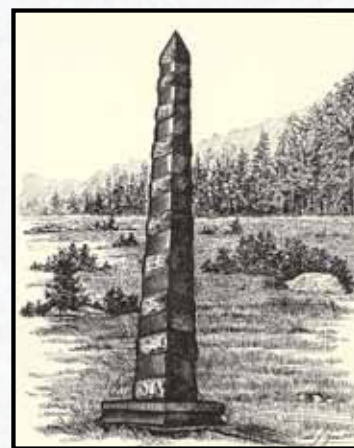
- **Capstone Level** – \$25,000 and up
- **Cornerstone Level** – \$10,000 up to \$25,000
- **Pedestal Level** – \$2,500 up to \$10,000
- **Foundation Level** – \$1,000 up to \$2,500
- **Campaign Roll Call** – All donors

Those contributing \$1,000 or more will be recognized on a scale model of the Abbé Picquet monument, which will be on permanent display in the Interpretive Center. In addition, these major donors will also receive a limited-edition framed print (right) of the monument.

All donors, at any level, will be recognized in the “Monumental Roll Call,” a permanent record of those who made the Interpretive Center possible.



Ogdensburg Mayor Bill Nelson received his Monumental Contributor print from Fort Association President Barbara O'Keefe



Picquet Monument, drawn by local artist Nikki Ryan

CONCEPT DRAWINGS BY FOIT-ALBERT ASSOCIATES



INTERPRETIVE CENTER ENTRANCE ELEVATION



INTERPRETIVE CENTER BATTLEFIELD ELEVATION

Fort Interpretive Center Concept Drawings



INTERPRETIVE CENTER PARKING LOT ELEVATION



Student essay contest winners and their teachers, Living History Day

Honoring our heritage, fostering our future...

“This Interpretive Center, and later the replica fort that will be built, will be an important heritage tourism destination, an engine of economic development, and an important cultural institution for the community. This project deserves support from all of us who are interested in where we came from and where we are heading.”

–Trent Trulock,
St. Lawrence County Historian
and Executive Director,
St. Lawrence County
Historical Association

Project Benefits

- **Restores a significant heritage site** – Despite the region’s extensive colonial history, there are no heritage sites along this part of the St. Lawrence River that focus on the European settlement period and the three wars fought there.
- **Strengthens education** –The Fort creates a close-to-home, cost-effective heritage resource which allows students from New York and Native schools in the U.S. to explore their joint history without traveling to Canada.
- **Creates a new, major tourist destination** – As a major heritage site, the completed Fort project has the potential to attract as many as 145,000 visitors and generate \$4.3 million annually in direct revenues and \$10.8 million in overall economic benefits.
- **Enhances waterfront resources** – The Fort Project reclaims a 22-acre abandoned brownfield site on the St. Lawrence River, supporting and encouraging additional and related development along Ogdensburg’s shoreline.
- **Creates an attractive space for recreation and events** – The Fort Project’s buildings and grounds will offer a variety of spaces for outdoor activities, from large-scale history-focused events and school field trips to weddings, meetings, community events and family picnics.
- **Fosters community and regional pride** – In 2006, the Fort Project was one of the key community projects highlighted in Ogdensburg’s All America City application, receiving some of the highest marks for how well it exemplified the community’s heritage, spirit and vision for the future.
- **Increases multicultural understanding** – The Fort Project provides a tangible, hands-on way to learn how diverse cultures can form complex relationships and together create entirely new ways of life.



Mark Valley (center) and New York State French and Indian War 250th Anniversary Commemoration Commissioners

Join the Fight

The groundwork has been laid. Now we need your help to continue the fight...

Over the past 10 years, a dedicated group of American and Canadian citizens have developed the awareness, initial support and conceptual plans needed to launch this fundraising Campaign which allows us to bring the Fort's unique story to life.

In 2009, the monument to the Fort's founder, Abbé François Picquet, appropriately became the first historic element established on the project site. Now is the time to erect the first permanent structure, the Fort Interpretive Center.

We now have the opportunity to "re-found" the Fort in ways that reflect and add to our own life and times. Please join the fight for history, by making your own monumental gift to the Campaign for Fort de la Présentation.

Together, we can reconstruct a memorable past... and build an even more remarkable future.

The Fort La Presentation Association is a nonprofit, educational, 501(c)3 organization, chartered by the University of the State of New York in 1986, and governed by an all-volunteer board of regional leaders. Donations to the Association are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.

Saluting patriotism...

"As a history buff myself, I thoroughly enjoyed the enthusiasm and was fascinated with detailed historical information shared by the participants I met. And the battle reenactment itself was an intense experience, safe yet somehow realistic, giving me a greater appreciation for those who fought then, and now."

– Mark Valley,
Actor and reenactor
from Ogdensburg, NY

Giving Opportunities Monumental Phase Contributions

(See previous page for giving levels)

Additional Ways to Give

- Become a Fort Association member
- Make a gift to underwrite annual operating needs
- Pledge an advance contribution to Phase 2 – reconstruction of the Fort
- Make an Endowment commitment, to sustain the Fort in the future – ideal for legacy gifts

To contact us, or make a contribution:

Fort La Présentation Association
P.O. Box 1749

Ogdensburg NY 13669-6749

315-394-1749

Fort1749@yahoo.com

For more details, see the Fort's website:

www.fort1749.org



Bringing history to life...

“There are few sites in North America that have as much meaning for the early colonial history of Canada and the United States as does Fort de la Présentation. No site holds more promise as a teaching place for those wishing to know how our nations came to be as they are.”

– **Victor Suthren**, Director General of the Canadian War Museum (1986-1998)



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Photos of Fort activities used in this brochure and other promotional materials were provided by Marty Burke, Bob Downey, Sandy Goss/Eagle Bay, Kyle Hartman, Timothy McCabe, Harry Needham, Chris Nicholson, Scott Wilson, Stone Circle Media, Michael Whittaker, and YS Yoong.

The Abbé Picquet Monument

Erected in 1899, the Abbé Picquet Monument was commissioned by the local chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution to honor the Fort's founder and the Fort's role in establishing the City of Ogdensburg.



After standing proudly at the original Fort de la Présentation site for 70 years (*right*), the monument was moved to a location in the heart of the community in 1969, as part of City centennial celebrations.

Forty years later, Fort leaders raised enough support to bring the Abbé Picquet Monument back to the Fort site (*below*). Rededicated during 2009 Founder's Day Weekend activities, the return of this historic monument marked the conclusion of planning and development work, the starting point for the construction of an Interpretive Center, and the launching of the Monumental Phase of the Campaign for Fort de la Présentation.

