



FORT OSAGE

National Historic Landmark

1808-1827

JACKSON COUNTY PARKS + REC

Fort Osage Map Key

CURRENT FORT STRUCTURE

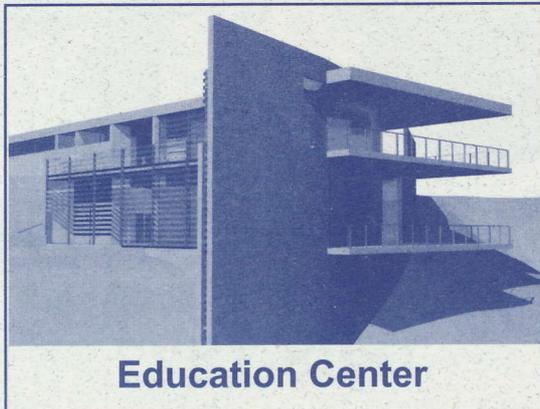
- A. Blockhouse 4
- B. Soldier's Huts
- C. Blacksmith Shop
- D. Blockhouse 3
- E. Blockhouse 2
- F. Officer's Quarters (Residence)
- G. Blockhouse 1
- H. Flag Post
- I. Punishment Post
- J. Interpreter's Cabin (Restrooms)
- K. Factory
- L. Blockhouse 5
- M. Garden



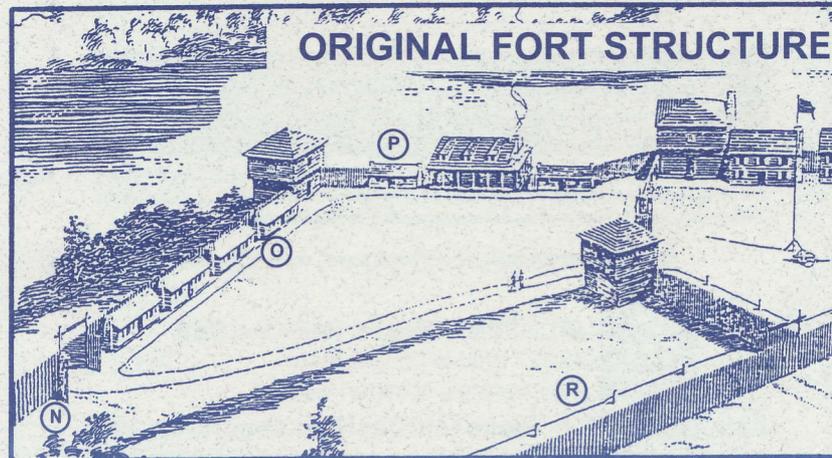
ORIGINAL FORT STRUCTURE

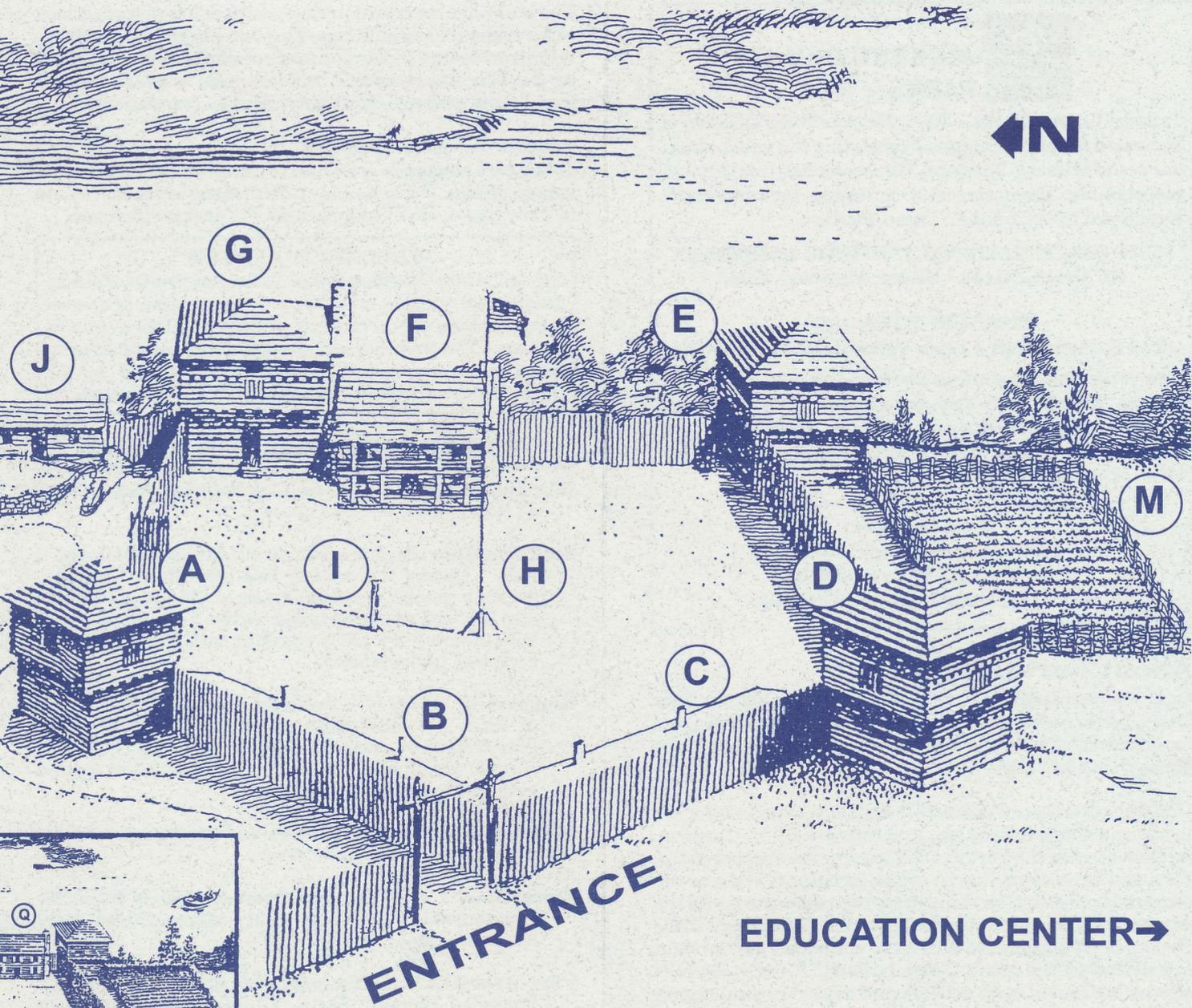
(Features N. through R. have not been reconstructed.)

- N. Well
- O. Cabins
- P. Assistant Factor's House
- Q. Hospital/Mess Hall
- R. Cabins



Education Center





EDUCATION CENTER →

FORT OSAGE

Illustrations based on a drawing of
Fort Osage by George Fuller Green
for Jackson County, Missouri.



JACKSON COUNTY PARKS + REC

Jackson County Parks + Rec's Historic Sites Division is dedicated to entertaining and educating the public about our proud Missouri heritage. We accomplish this through maintaining, promoting and operating two nationally recognized historic sites. These sites are:

FORT OSAGE NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK
107 Osage Street • Sibley, Missouri 64088

MISSOURI TOWN 1855
8010 E. Park Road • Lee's Summit, Missouri 64064

New programs are continually being created to provide visitors with a fresh and exciting selection of special festivals, reenactments and heritage workshops. For more information on what we have to offer, call 816-229-8980, or write us at:

Jackson County Parks + Rec
Historic Sites
22807 Woods Chapel Road
Blue Springs, Missouri 64015
MakeYourDayHere.com/fortosage

About Fort Osage...

Once the guardian of an unexplored frontier, historic Fort Osage recreates an era when rugged men sought furs and found adventure among the Native Americans along the Missouri River Valley.

Under the direction of William Clark, joint commander of the Lewis and Clark expedition, and Captain Eli B. Clemson, soldiers erected the Fort in 1808 to serve several purposes. First and foremost, it functioned as an outpost in the newly acquired Louisiana Purchase, housing soldiers to guard the new territory, and protected the United States Factory Trade House. Fort Osage also aided the American government in befriending the area's Osage Indians. Finally, the Fort offered Missouri's early settlers and explorers a sanctuary from which to venture westward.

Under the direction of George Sibley, trade flourished at the Fort, and relations with the Native Americans grew stronger. However, by 1822 private traders who resented the government's trade competition, lobbied Congress to end the Factory System. Because the lobbying proved successful and settlers pushed the frontier further west, both traders and soldiers abandoned the Fort by 1827.

The buildings described in this brochure are reproductions of the original Fort buildings. They have been painstakingly rebuilt according to detailed plans of similar forts preserved by the War Department. Builders used original features found in an archaeological excavation as foundations.

Dressed in early 19th century attire, our staff and volunteers engage in activities to complement their period surroundings. From holiday celebrations to reenactments to daily tasks, Fort Osage brings the past to life again.

EDUCATION CENTER

Opened in 2007, the Fort Osage Education Center provides unique interpretive exhibits and educational programming, meeting the curriculum standards of Missouri and Kansas. The building was designed and constructed to exacting environmental standards established by the United States Green Building Council's LEED program.

FORT OSAGE BUILDING GUIDE

Blockhouses (A, D, E, G and L): Sentries were on duty 24 hours a day in Blockhouse 1.

Soldier's Huts (B): These quarters could house 81 enlisted men. During the winter, two men shared a bunk. As time passed, a soldier's salary (\$5.00 per month) and the lack of young ladies at the Fort, discouraged enlistments. By 1812, the Fort had 59 soldiers and each had his own bunk.

Blacksmith Shop (C): According to the Osage Treaty of 1808, the blacksmith shop was provided by the government to make and repair items for the Osage Nation. Originally, the Blacksmith's Shop was located outside the military compound.

Officers' Quarters (F): Officers had apartments of their own in the officers' quarters.

Blockhouse 1 (G): This blockhouse served as the Army Headquarters/Building where daily duties were administered.

Flag Mast (H): At its flag mast, Fort Osage flew the "Star Spangled Banner" flag - the only official flag with fifteen stars and fifteen stripes. The soldiers raised the flag every morning at roll call and lowered it just before sundown.

Punishment Post (I): Discipline, most of it in the form of flogging (abolished spring of 1812) was administered at the "punishment post," near the center of the Parade.

Interpreter's Cabin (J): The interpreter's cabin housed

the man who translated the French, English and Osage languages spoken at the Fort. This building served as the Fort's first Trade House until 1810. (Restrooms occupy this building.)

Factory (K): The Factory, a three-and-one-half story trade house, was one of the few operated by the U.S. government without financial loss. In keeping with the old legal term, George Sibley served as the Fort's "Factor," tracking the dollar value of each exchange.

Garden (M): To supplement their diets, the soldiers were allowed a garden. They planted it just outside the Fort walls.

Interest Points: N-R have not been reconstructed, but were part of the original Fort.

N. Soldiers dug the 80-foot deep well just inside the Fort walls. Mr. Sibley spent \$8.00 on whiskey to "revive the spirits of the men who dug the well" by hand, of course.

O. Pierre Chouteau and Joseph Robidoux were two of the traders who leased buildings at the Fort. The Chouteau family was the first to bring the fur trade to St. Louis and what is now downtown Kansas City. Robidoux established a trading post on the river that later became the city of St. Joseph, Missouri.

P. The Assistant Factor's house functioned primarily as a tool shed and stable when not housing the Assistant Factor, who was an aide to Mr. Sibley.

Q. The hospital and mess hall were located in the same building. The location of this building is not precisely known. The surgeon's mate, the Fort's fourth officer, lived in an apartment in the building.

R. A row of 35 cabins formed the western wall of the Fort and housed families of the Fort's soldiers, as well as Mr. Sibley's civilian employees and artificers.

TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF OUR GUESTS AND THE INTEGRITY OF THIS HISTORIC SITE, PRIVATE PETS ARE NOT PERMITTED.

Persons with disabilities requiring reasonable accommodation may call the A.D.A. Coordinator at 816-229-8980 or the Missouri Relay Number at 1-800-735-2966. Seven-day advance notice is required.



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