

Today's Mission

The mission of the Fort Loudoun Historical Society, established in 1975, is to preserve, manage, maintain and interpret the history of Fort Loudoun. Its focus is to provide a wide spectrum of visitors the chance to visit a recreated frontier fort of the French and Indian War. We want you to experience a vivid image of life in and around a fort during the 18th Century.

We are a non-profit organization with an all-volunteer staff, entirely self-supporting through grants, donations, and crop land rent, and with the help of an army of talented, dedicated and incredibly enthusiastic volunteers. In the spring of 2018, we began a revitalization of the massive undertaking of living up to our mission. The circa 1780 James Patton log house on the property has been entirely remodeled, and now serves as a museum, gift shop, and office. The failing stockade built in the 1990s has been replaced, and we built a guard house in the fort interior. A whole host of other projects and improvements are underway or in the works to make our site into one of Pennsylvania's premier historic sites.

Check out our website, or find us on Facebook, where you'll find a listing of special events occurring throughout the year. At this time we do not have set visiting hours, but feel free to stop by and see the progress. You just might find a volunteer there who will give you a tour.

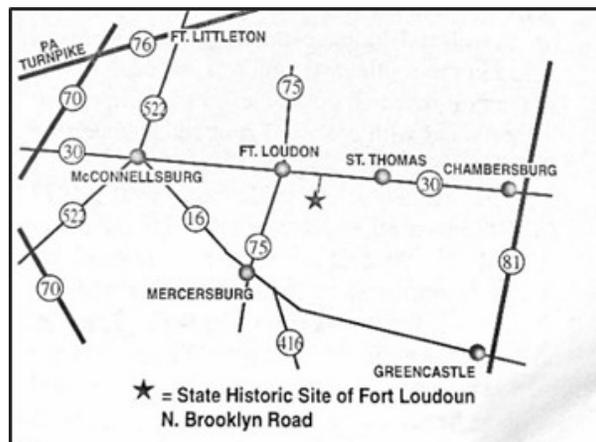
Finally, if you love history, and strong community fellowship, we're always looking for volunteers.

Come on out, we'd love to have you...



Location

Fort Loudoun Historic Site
1720 North Brooklyn Road
Fort Loudon, PA 17224



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Welcome to
Fort Loudoun Historic Site
1756 ~ 1765



"Built by Pennsylvanians in 1756,

Attacked by Pennsylvanians in 1765"

A Pennsylvania Historic Site
administered by
The Fort Loudon Historical Society,
a 501c3 Non-profit Organization.

Location

Fort Loudoun Historic Site is located a short distance off U.S. Route 30 in Franklin County Pennsylvania, near the village of Fort Loudon, 14 miles west of Chambersburg.



Situated along the picturesque west branch of Conococheague Creek at the base of Parnell's Knob, this 208-acre site is rural and pristine, yet conveniently accessible from the major thoroughfare of US Route 30. Its flora is undoubtedly different than it was in the 1750s, however, its geographic profile remains largely unchanged from colonial times, and few modern intrusions disturb its atmosphere, making it the ideal setting for the reconstruction of a colonial-era frontier fortification and to conduct activities and events commemorating its existence.

History

Fort Loudoun had been occupied by Native Americans for thousands of years before the first European settlers arrived in the Conococheague region. Artifacts dating from the Early Archaic Period, circa 8000 B.C., through the Late Woodland Period, circa 1450 A.D., have been found, and are representative of the transition from the hunting-gathering culture of the earliest peoples to the more sedentary agricultural lifestyle of its later inhabitants.



State Archaeologists uncover pre-contact Native American dwelling, Ca.1982

In the 1730s, European settlers began crossing the Susquehanna River to establish farms and settlements in the Cumberland Valley. At that time there were no permanent Native American villages in the Fort Loudoun area, however, it was used as a hunting ground by Iroquois, Delaware, and Shawnee tribes. In 1736 the Pennsylvania authorities purchased a parcel of land, which included all of present-day Franklin County, from the Iroquois.

In 1744, Matthew Patton, an emigrant from Northern Ireland, purchased the plot of land that would become the Fort Loudoun site. In the months and years following he established a frontier farm, including two log cabins and a barn.

11 years later, about November 1st 1755, in one of the first major Indian attacks in Pennsylvania, Patton and his family were forced to flee the region. His barn and one of his cabins was burned by these Indians, who earlier that year, as the French and Indian War began to unfold, had allied themselves with the French.

In November 1756, Pennsylvania authorized Colonel John Armstrong, commander of a battalion of Pennsylvanians, to construct a stockade fort in the Conococheague region. Armstrong selected the site of Matthew Patton's farm to build the fort, which was named after the Earl of Loudoun, John Campbell, who commanded all British forces in North America at that time.

Initially, the fort served local settlers as a refuge from attacks, but it would later play an important role as a fortified supply depot during the Forbes Expedition of 1758. It also served as a meeting point and staging area for Cherokee Indians being wooed by the British to aid in fighting the French and their allies.



In 1763-64, during Colonel Henry Bouquet's expeditions against Pontiac's Rebellion and the Indians of Ohio, the fort served again as a supply station and communication link with forts further to the west. For 18 days, in August 1764, British troops trained at Fort Loudoun, learning tactics of forest warfare.

In 1765, Mercersburg resident (then named Black's Town after founder James Black), James Smith and his "Black Boys," began an uprising against traders and merchants trying to reestablish trade with the Indians. These traders were carrying weapons, ammunition, and liquor to the Indians, which



was very disagreeable to the area settlers who had endured years of Indian attacks during the F&I War and Pontiac's Rebellion. British soldiers garrisoning Fort Loudoun (42nd Reg. of Foot) were tasked with protecting the traders and quelling the uprising, which led to several confrontations, and became known as the "Black Boys Rebellion." From March to November, prisoners were taken, the fort's Commander was kidnapped, while Smith operated an extralegal inspection campaign. Smith and his Black Boys would prevail, and forced the withdrawal of British troops and abandonment of Fort Loudoun on November 17th 1765. In 1766, Matthew Patton re-purchased his land through a Sheriff's sale.

