

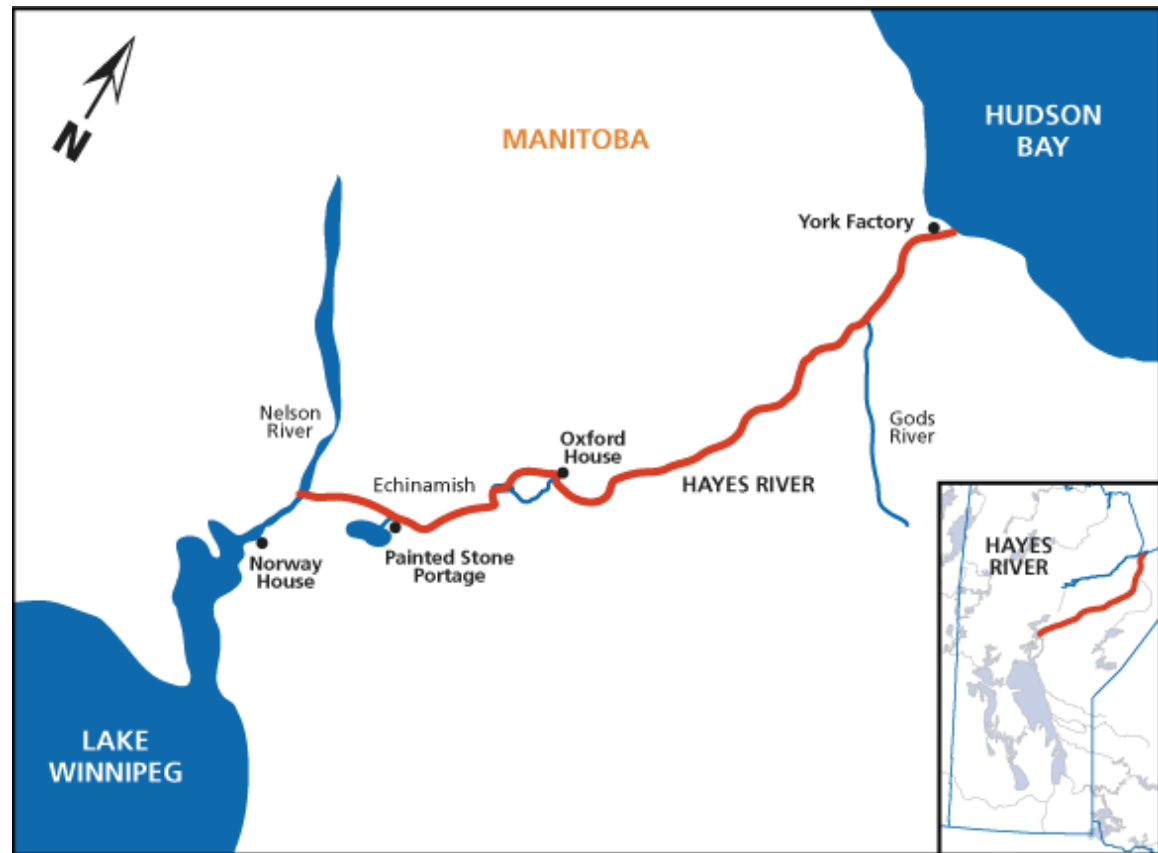
“a monstrous blot
on a swampy spot”



**THE HUDSON'S BAY
COMPANY'S 275-YEAR
LOVE AFFAIR WITH YORK
FACTORY**

The Hayes River

Although the Nelson River flows directly from Lake Winnipeg to Hudson Bay, the neighbouring Hayes is actually the better choice for canoeing and boating.



The Muskego (Swampy) Cree

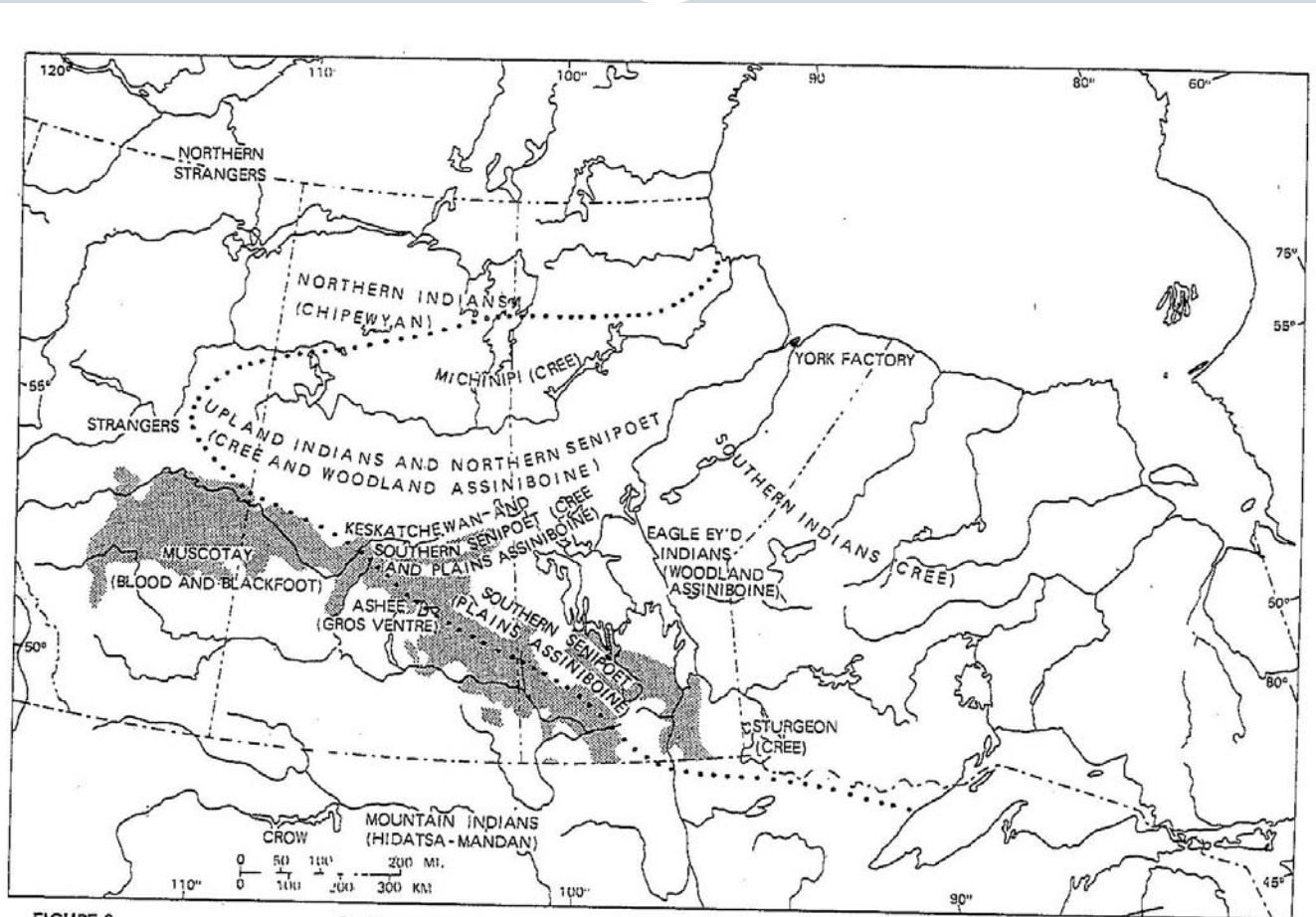


FIGURE 8

DISTRIBUTION OF INDIANS TRADING AT YORK FACTORY, 1714 -1717

..... Principal Habitation Areas of Cree And Assiniboine ■ Parkland Belt

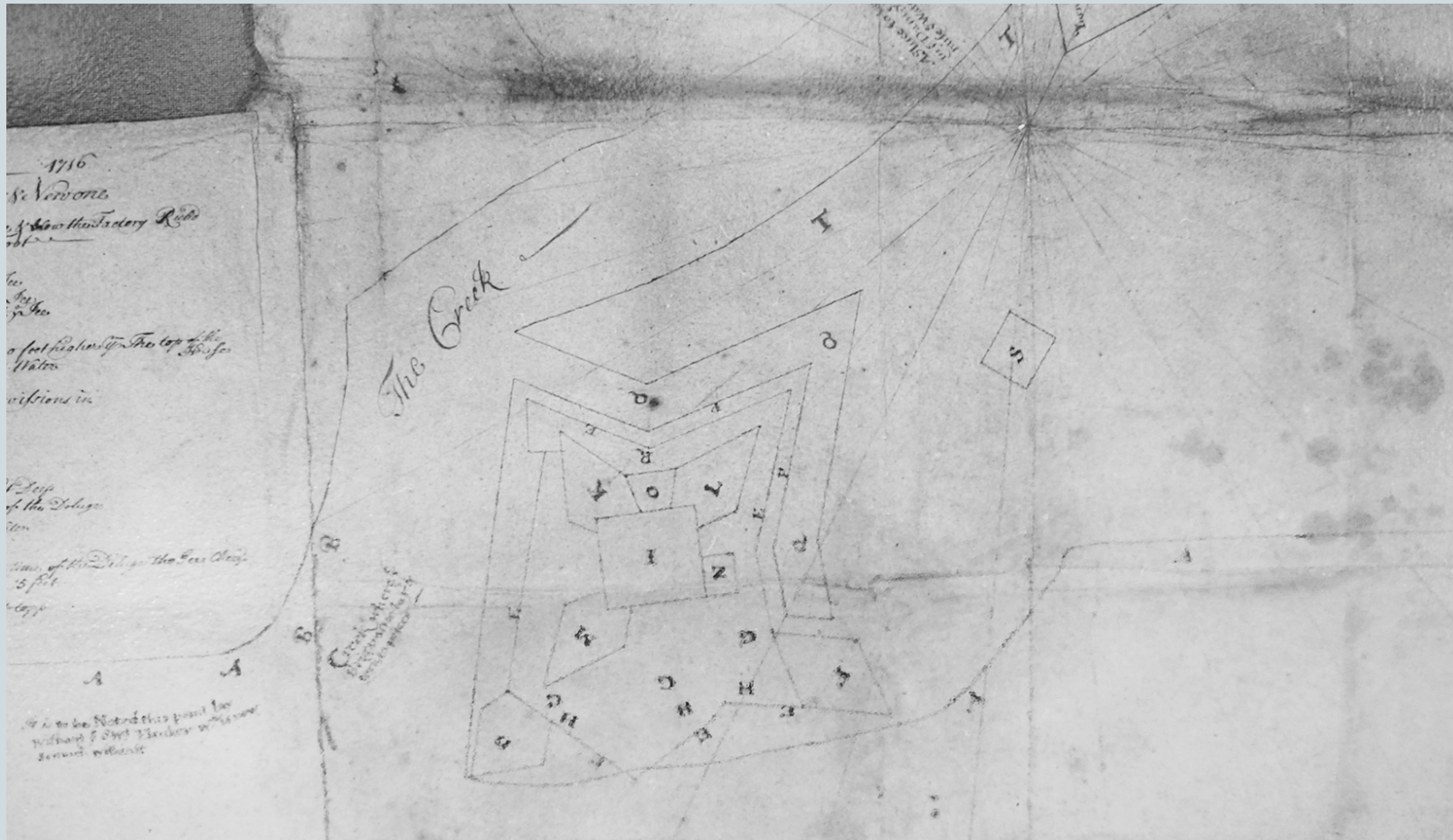
Source: PAC HBC B 239/e/1-5

The Battle of the Bay, 1697

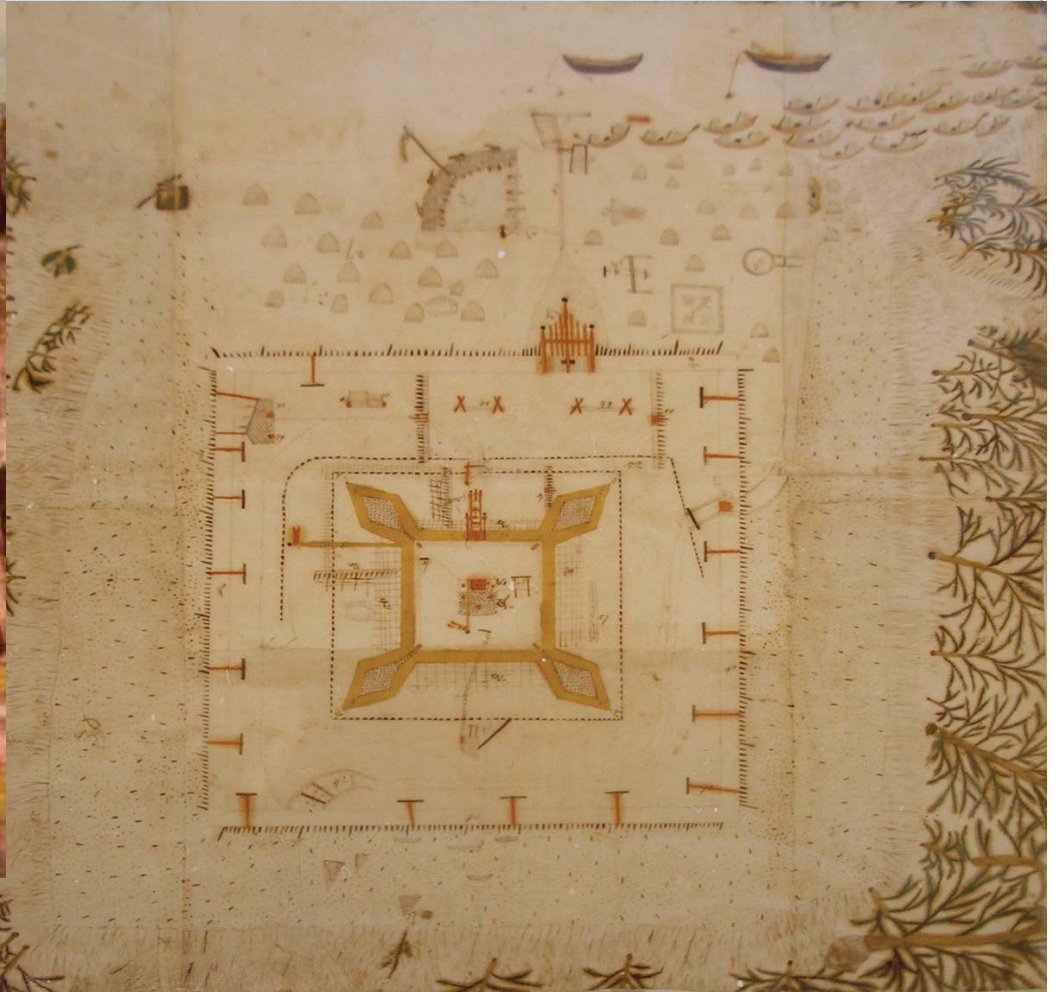
The French warship, *Pelican*, was outnumbered and outgunned, but won the day through superior skill and bravery. This artist's rendition captures the moment when the *Pelican* caught HMS *Hampshire* in the powder magazine — with fatal results.



York Fort Regained, 1714



Asleep By the Frozen Sea?



A Viable Business Model

By tapping into existing Aboriginal trade patterns, and creating new entrepreneurial opportunities for Aboriginal traders, the HBC was able to collect furs from a significant geographical area without ever leaving the shores of the Bay.

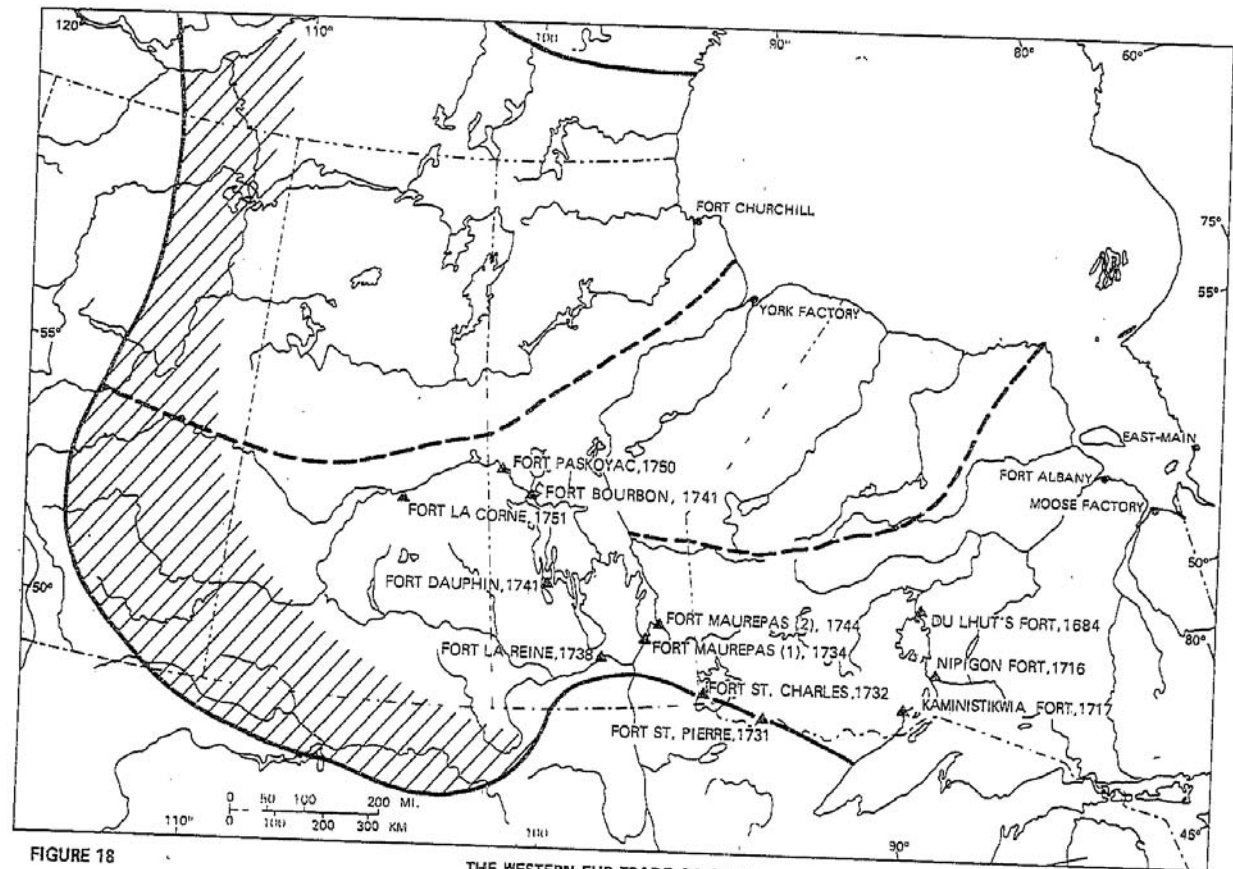


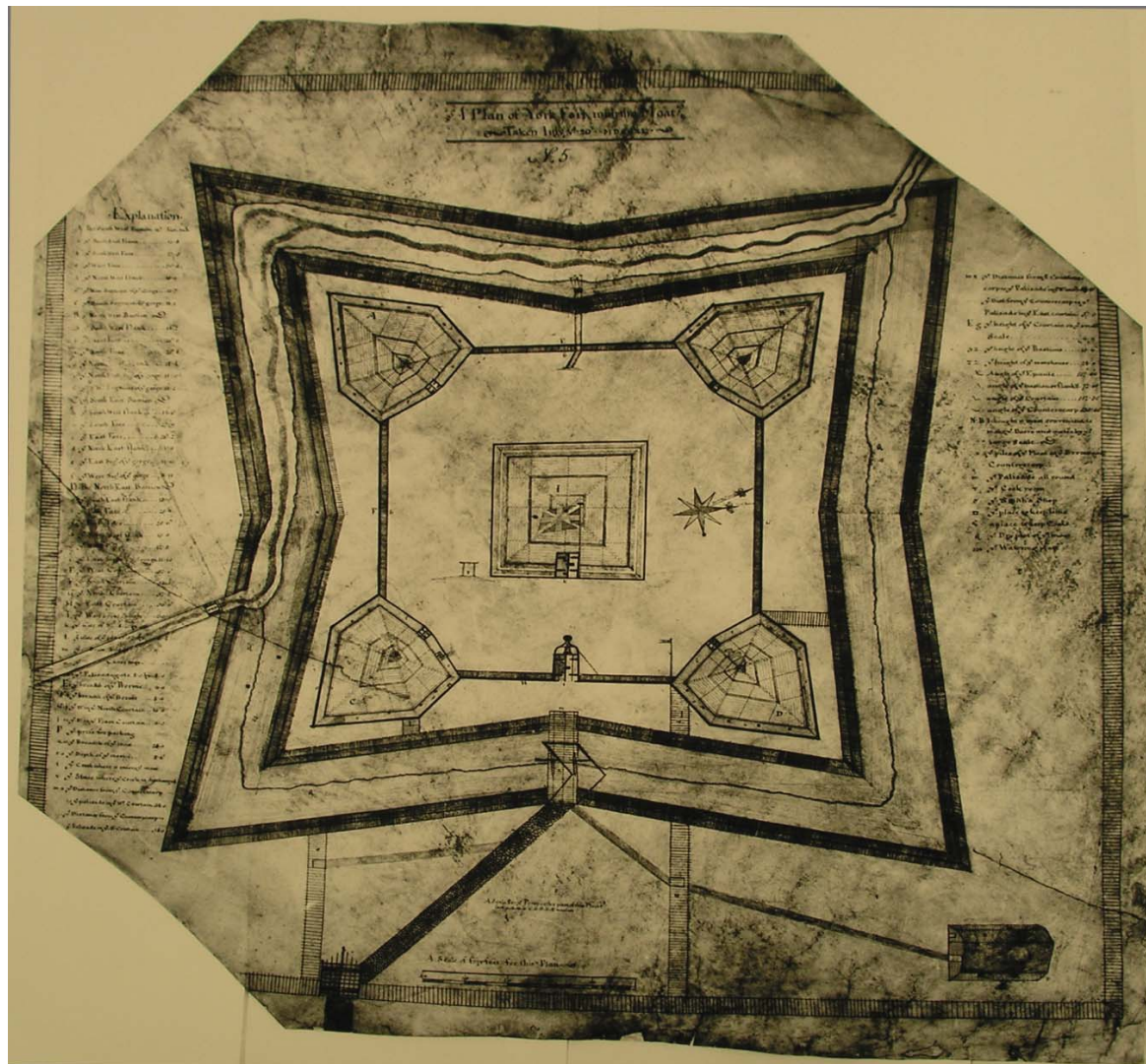
FIGURE 18

THE WESTERN FUR TRADE, CA. 1750

- ▲ Key French Posts and Dates Established
- //// Indirect Trade Area
- - - Approximate Hinterland Boundaries Between Hudson's Bay Company Posts
- Approximate Limits of Hudson's Bay Company Fur Trade including Indirect Trade Area

Retaining Their Position

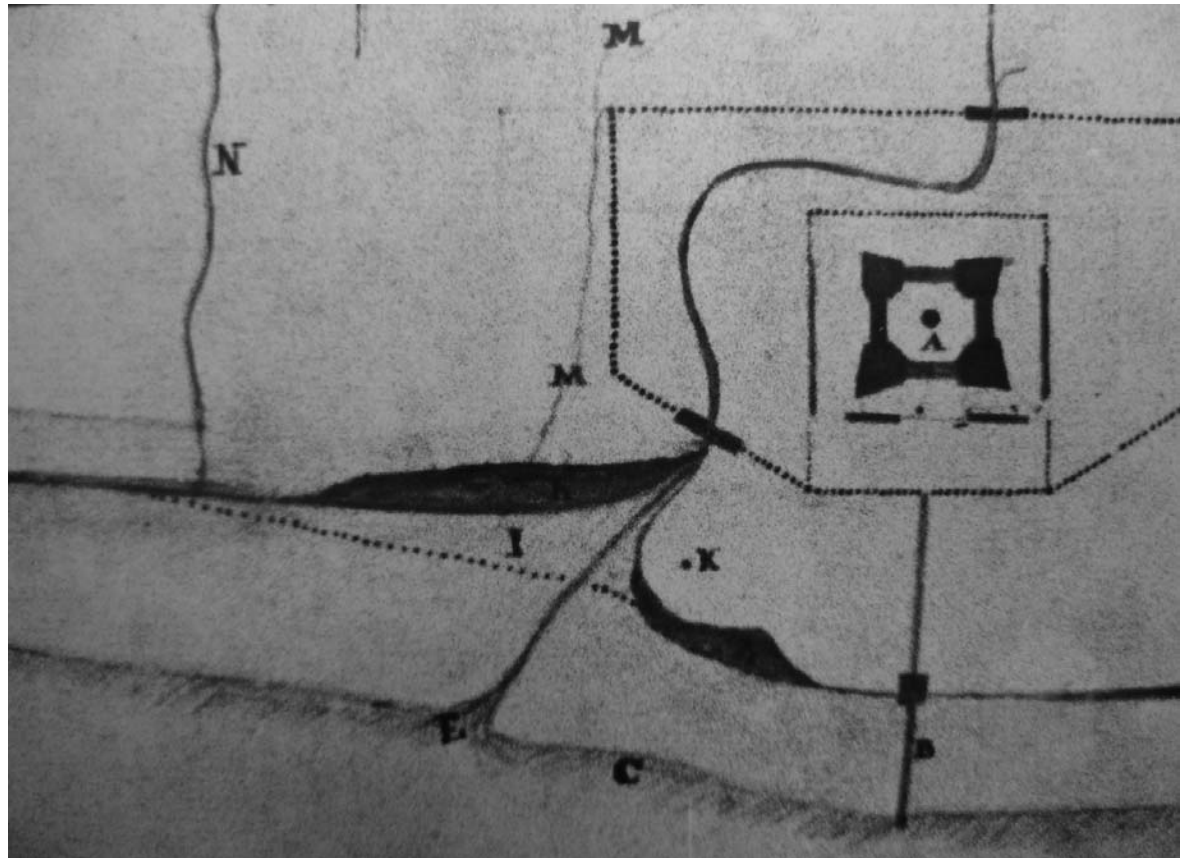
The mid-18th century saw the men of York Fort put more effort into controlling surface drainage and riverbank erosion, including the construction of a retaining wall in the 1750s.





Just a Little to the Left...

Despite the best efforts of York's managers and men, including a new retaining wall in the mid-1780s, sometimes Mother Nature can't be stopped. Another catastrophic flood in 1788 forced the relocation of York upriver and a new fort was built.





“The Painted Boards”

These late 18th-century paintings were rediscovered nearly 200 years later. The boards on which they were painted had been reused as shelving!





“Bogs worse than the bogs of Allan”

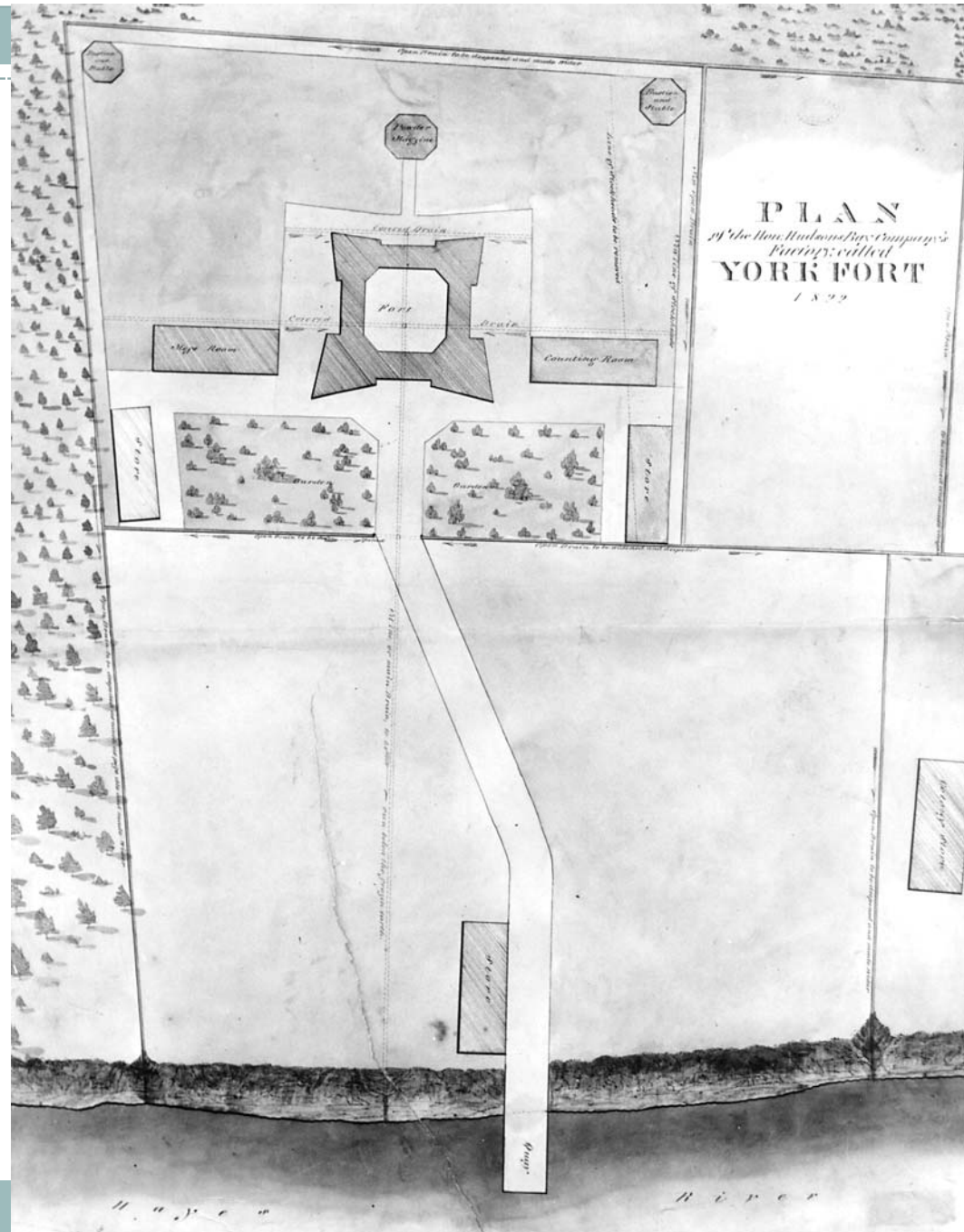
A few years ago, Parks Canada staff found a hitherto unknown collector drain in the courtyard of the Depot building.

Much of the drain remains intact, despite being (in parts) more than 200 years old.



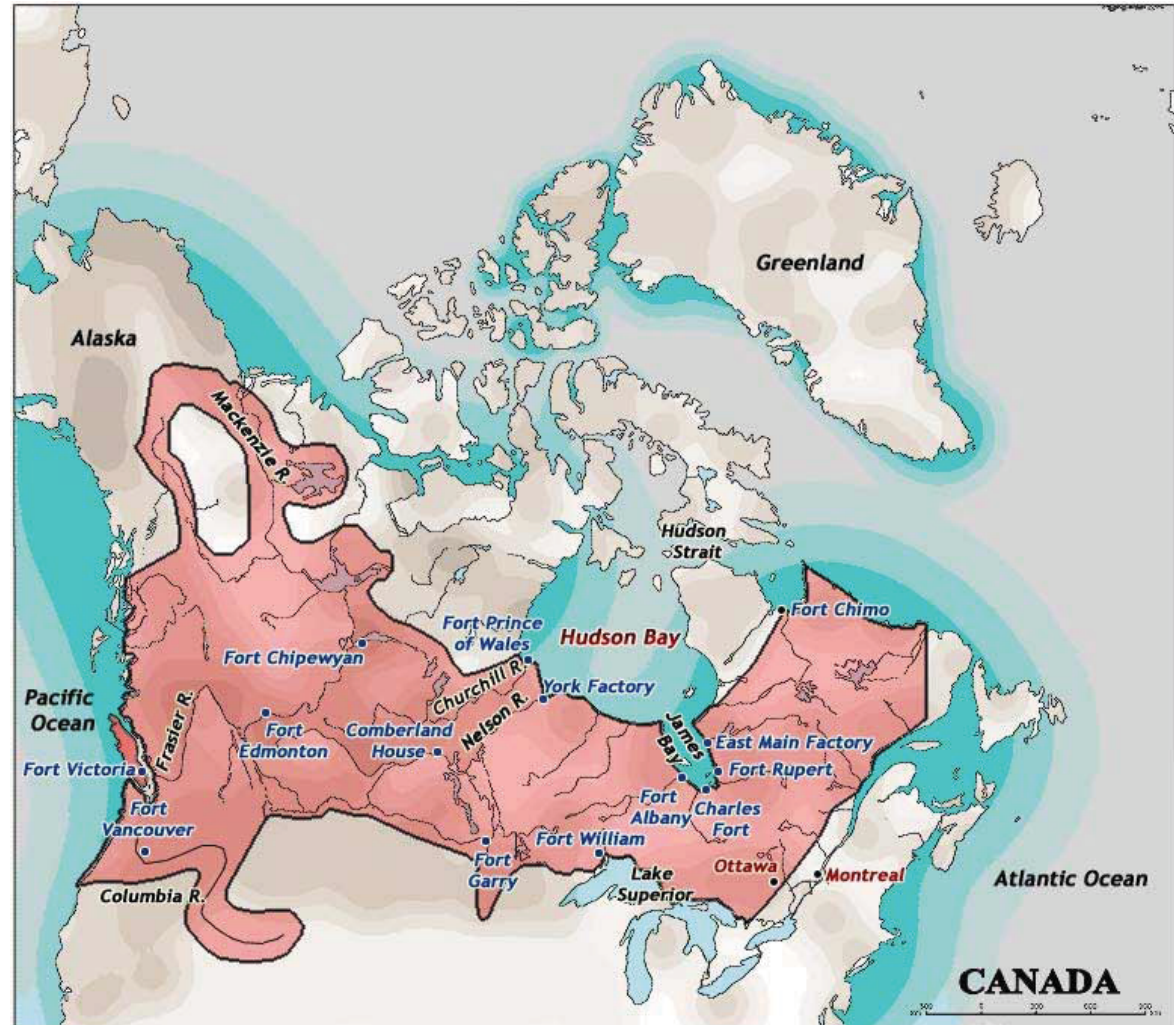
York Factory, 1822

The physical appearance of HBC forts changed considerably in the 19th century. Note how, by 1822, York is starting to spread out a little (still keeping its distance from the river, though). Now it is surrounded by fences and drainage ditches rather than by high fortified walls.



The Empire of the Bay

By the middle of the 19th century, the HBC dominated the fur trade across most of northern North America. More than half of this territory was administered in whole or in part from York Factory.



“The most respectable place in the territory”



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York Factory, 1853



By the banks of the Hayes, 1880



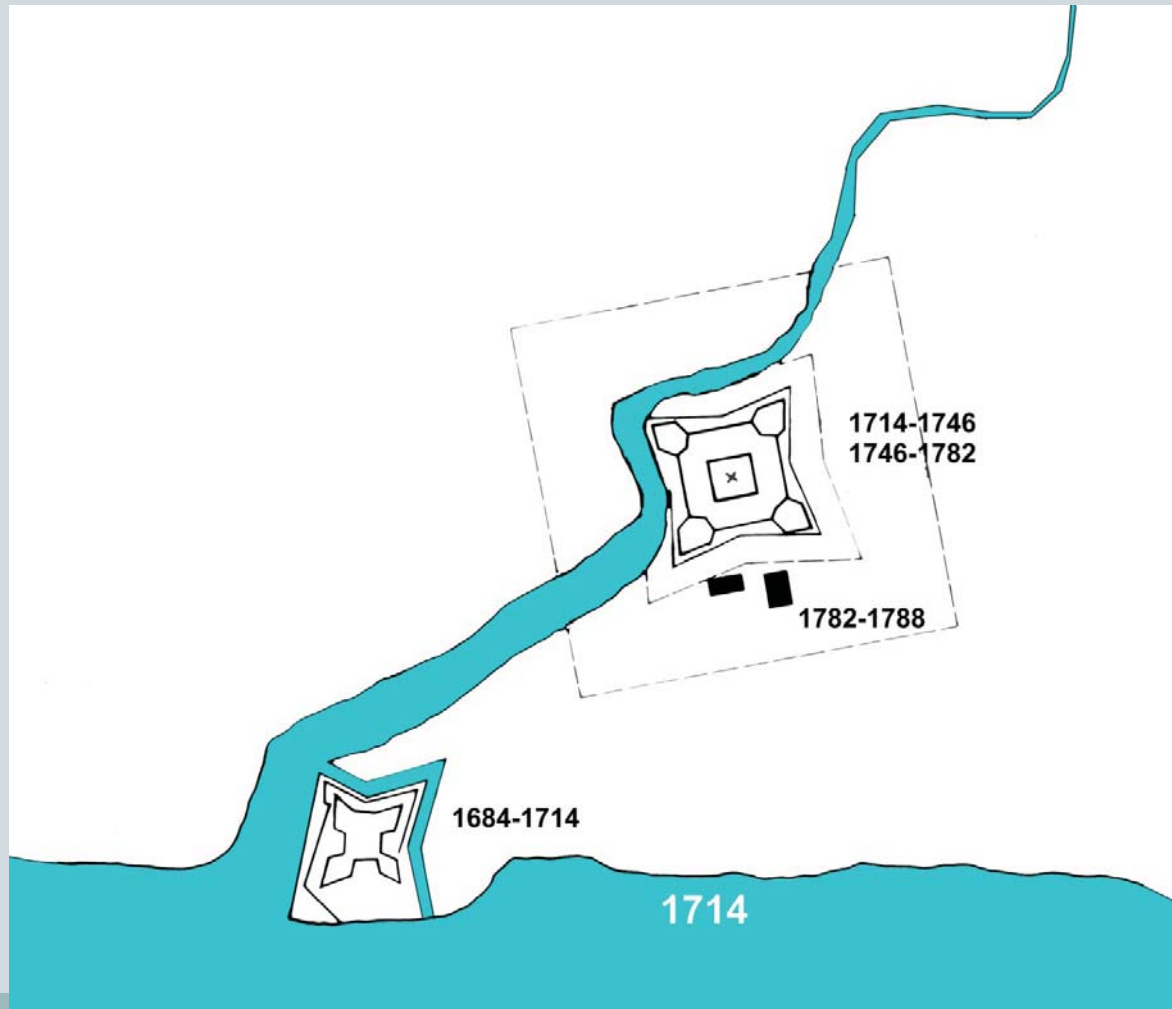
York Factory from the air, 1923

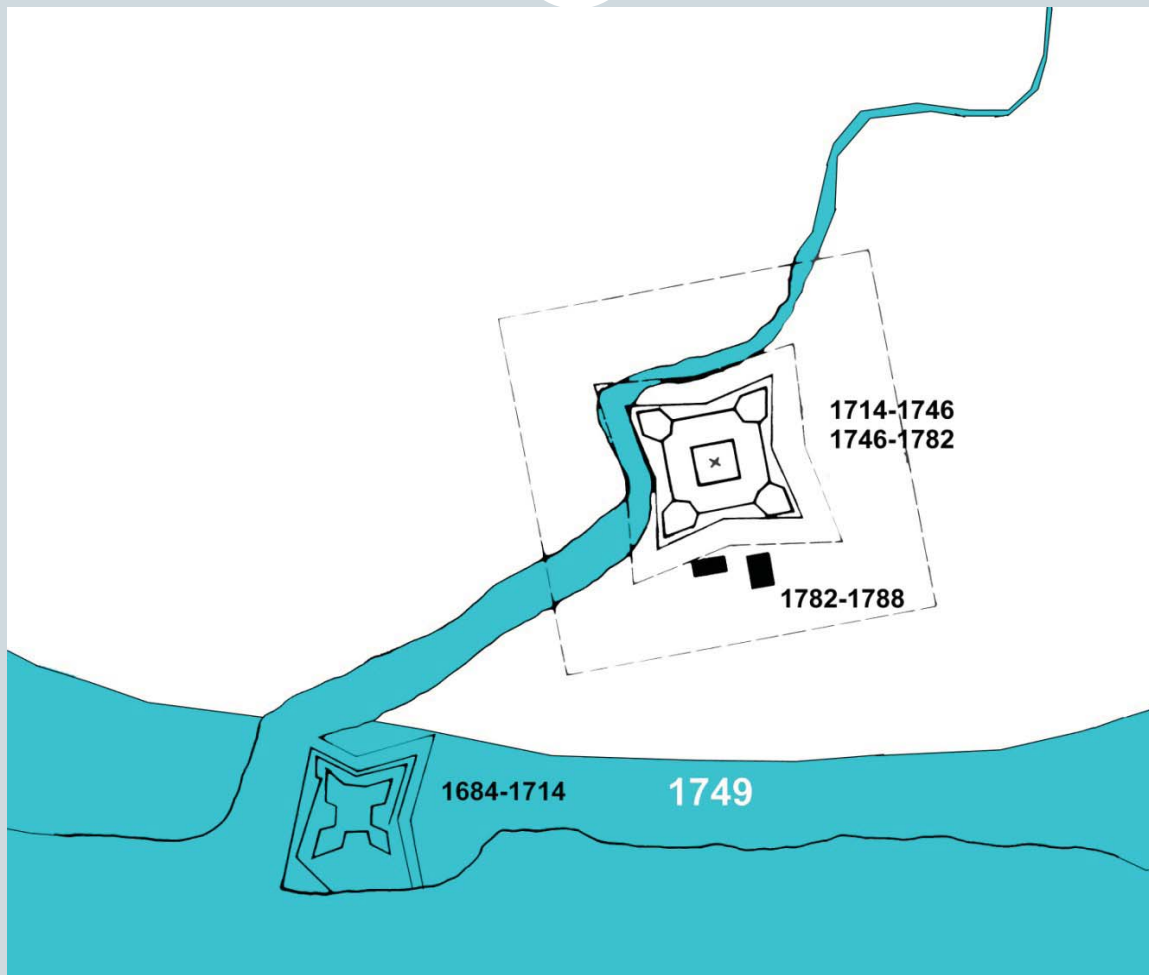


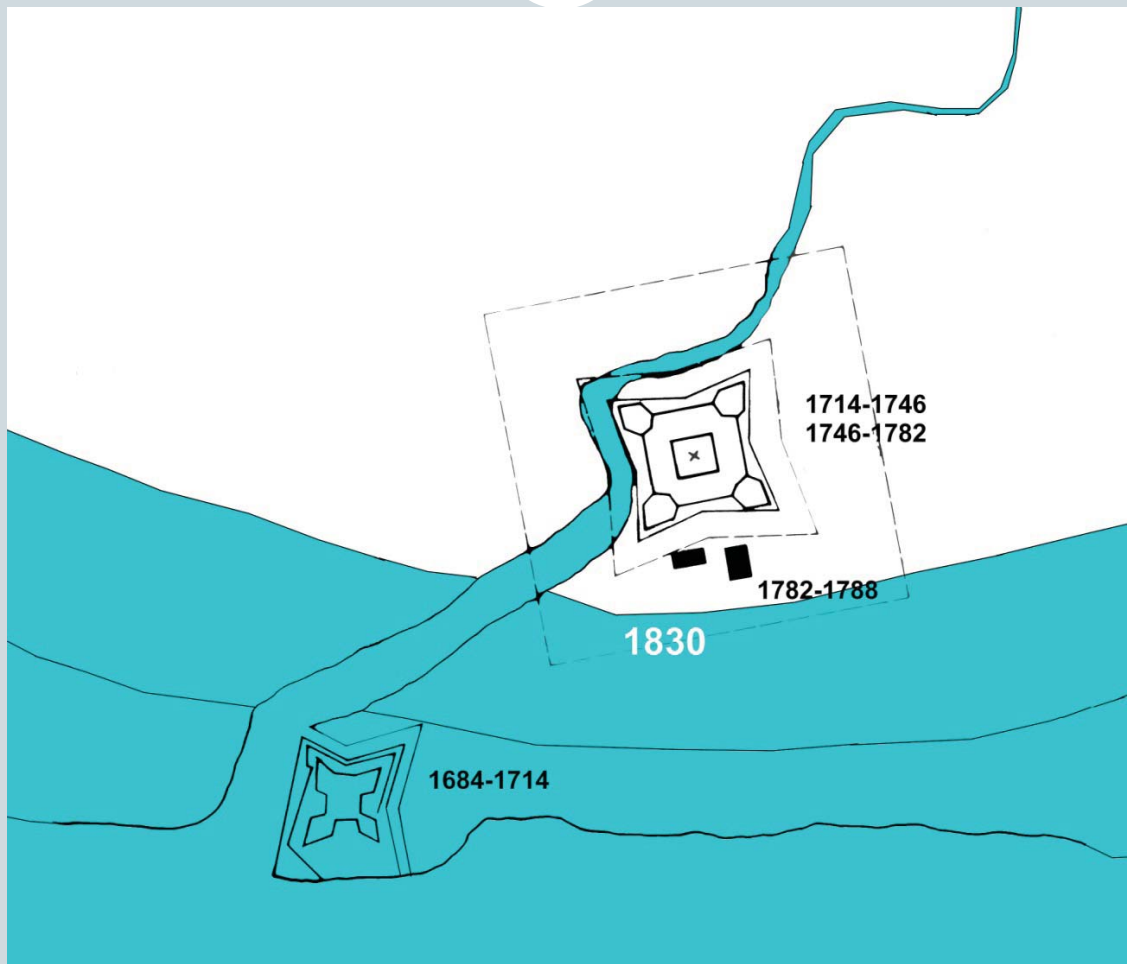
Three York Factories...

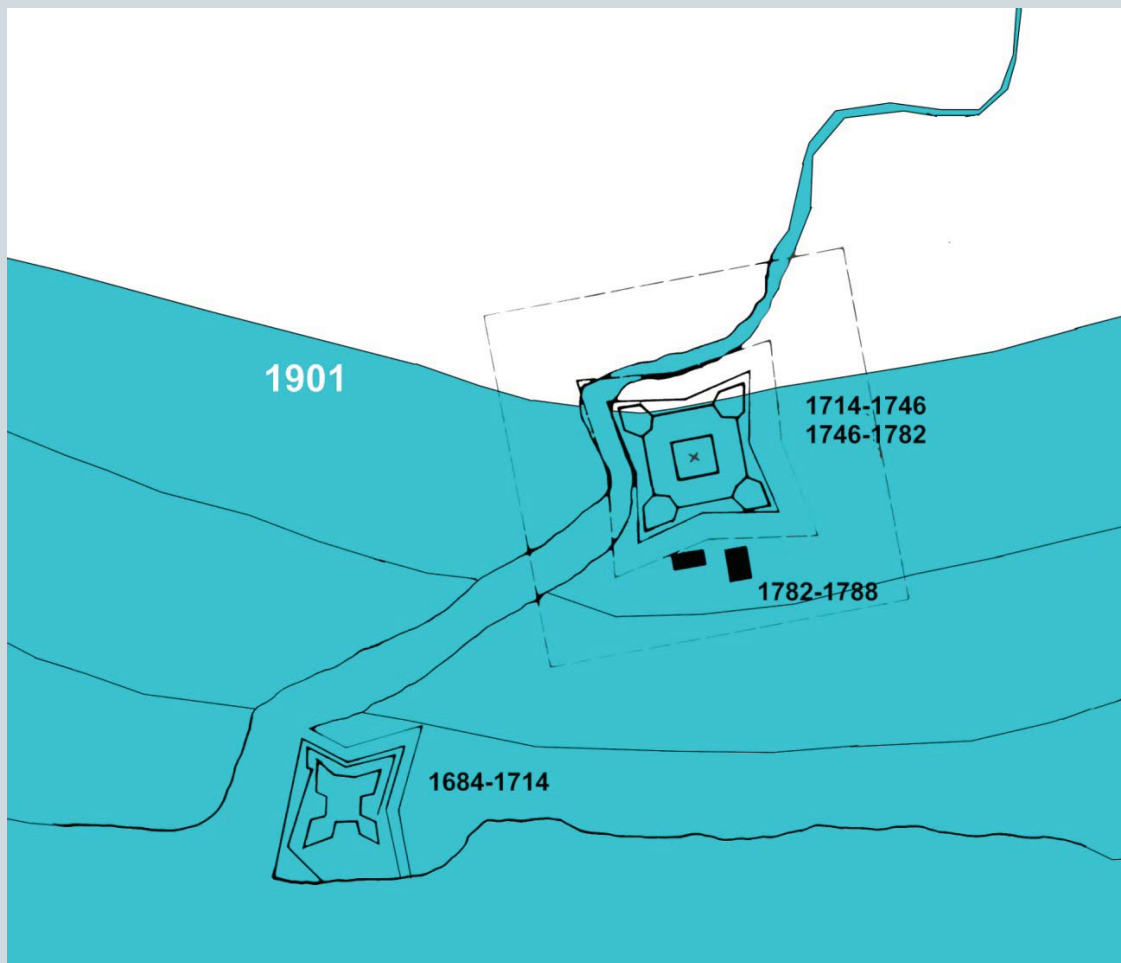


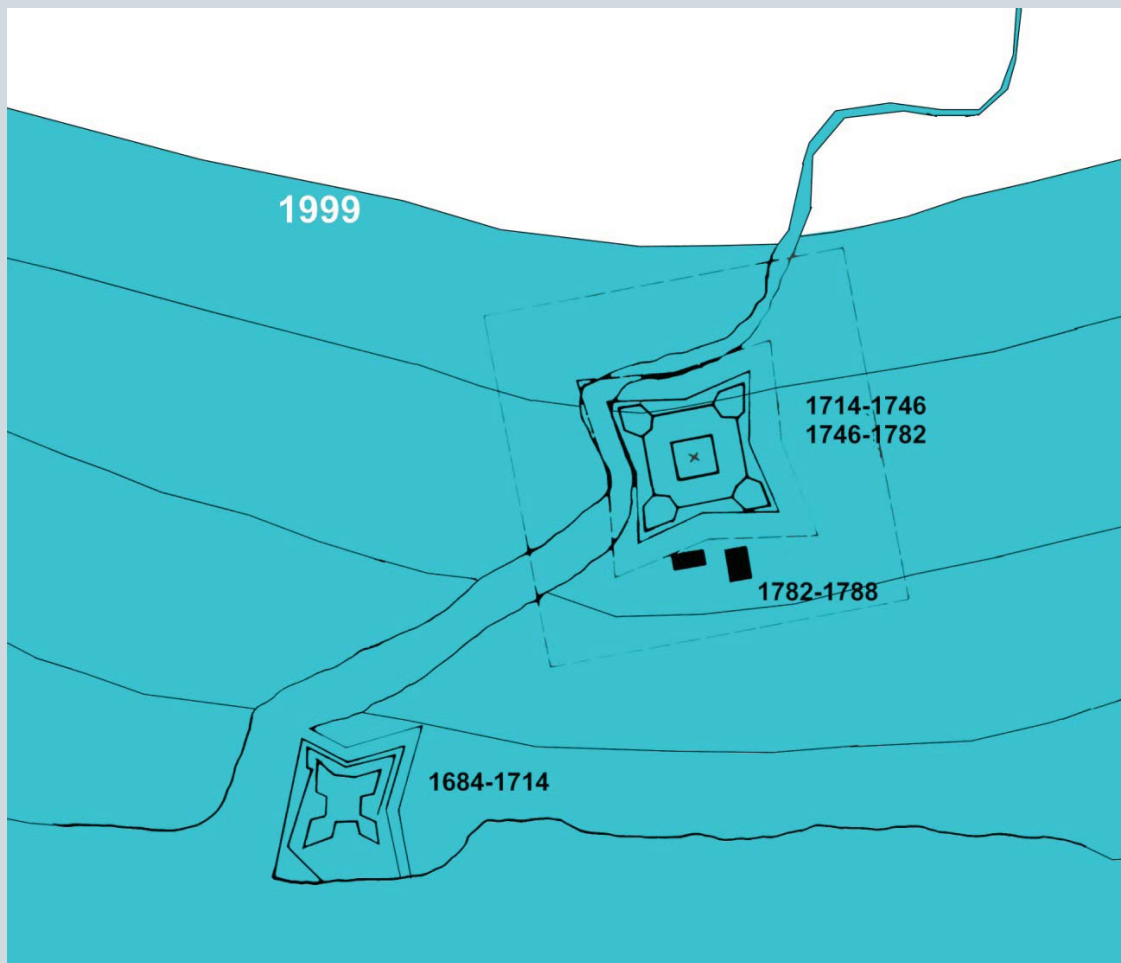
...but only one left











Kihci-wâskâhikan, "the great house"





Many Thanks



Scott Stephen, PhD

Historian, Parks Canada

Scott.stephen@pc.gc.ca

[http://www.pc.gc.ca/eng/lhn-nhs/
mb/yorkfactory/index.aspx](http://www.pc.gc.ca/eng/lhn-nhs/mb/yorkfactory/index.aspx)

<http://www.yorkfactoryfirstnation.ca>

