



Fort la Reine

The original fort built by Sieur de la Verendrye was located two miles south of Poplar Point station in 1738. This Fort was thought to have been only a temporary structure.

The second fort was built in 1739 on the north side of the Assiniboine River at the southwest corner of Portage la Prairie on the Yellowquill Trail. The fort was used by la Verendrye and his sons as a base for trade and exploration of the west. Members of the Cree burned down the fort in 1752. A cairn has since been erected on the site.

The present day fort at the Museum is a replica, built in 1970 by the maintenance crews from Canadian Forces Base Portage. Approximately 500 logs were cut and peeled to build the 90ft x 70ft x 11ft stockade and 18ft bastions. The bastions would have been used as lookouts with slots for firing rifles through. However they are not open to the public due to structural damage as they are made out of untreated poplars.

The Trading Post

The trading post, formerly the Wenham log house, was built in the summer of 1926 in the Gainsborough area and was donated to the museum in 1969 for use as the trading post. The building is complete with stocked shelves, a scale for weighing furs, a fur press for making bundles of furs, and counter. A cash register from the Farncombe General store in Edwin, Manitoba is also on display, although it would not have been in the original trading post. These items help to create the atmosphere that must have existed at the trading post of the period.

Some items of interest here are the rug making machine in the southwest corner, a side saddle (see the picture on the opposite wall of a lady sitting side-saddle), a vice used for sewing harness, two baling presses used to press hides into bundles, and a scale for weighing the furs. On the counter is an old harp left in Portage by a WWI soldier, a cheese slicer, a coffee grinder, and a gas steam iron.

On the east wall are several old saws, and a drawing of la Verendrye, builder of the original fort. There are several different types of butter churns, some ovens for a gas stove, ice tongs on the south



wall, two ice cream makers, and a sausage press.