

Fort Frederick Barracks Virtual Tour



1.

Guard Room



“The Guards are composed of a detachment of men who are to mount daily for the security of the garrison.” The Guard room is where the men comprising the guard would take their rest between shifts. The guard was typically made up of twice the number of men this room could hold (eight) because half would be on watch while the other half rested. Watches would be changed every two hours. Soldiers who were off duty had to remain fully dressed, ready to turn out quickly in case of any alarm. A Guard mount would include an officer of the guard, a sergeant of the guard, at least one corporal of the guard, a drummer, and about 14 privates.

1.

Guard Room



2.

Enlisted Men's Quarters



“The Barracks will receive & lodge very commodiously 200 Men beside Officers & on Occasion near twice that number.” A room of this size housed two squads of Maryland soldiers stationed at Fort Frederick. Each squad consisted of eight men who shared four bunks. The soldiers living in these spaces would cook, eat their meals, sleep, clean, groom themselves, and spend their off hours here. To our modern sense of space and comfort, this room seems sparse and cramped but to the men garrisoning the fort these were good accommodations. Each barracks building would house one company of Maryland Troops, made up of about 100 men each.

2.

Enlisted Men's Quarters



3.

Officers' Kitchen



The enlisted man's food consisted of issued rations that they cooked in their barracks rooms. However, an officer used his own money to purchase food and could buy whatever manner of eatables he preferred. Unlike enlisted men, officers did not cook for themselves, but would hire women to cook for them. The officers at Fort Frederick attempted to get the colony to pay for their cooks but the Maryland Assembly refused. Archeological records suggest there was a kitchen in the north end of the west barracks, that may have included a cellar and outdoor brick bake oven. We know that the fort had a baker and there was a bake oven on site: "In [the] Fort Account...To John Linginfelter, Baker, £ 7[.] 4 [schillings] for 48 Days Baking Bread at 3 s. p[er] Day".

3.

Officer's Kitchen



4.

Women's Quarters



It is believed that the washer women of the fort lived in one of the partitioned end rooms. There was no law allowing for laundresses in the service of Maryland, but the Maryland Assembly approved to pay them as they felt they provided a needed service. “...in the Victualling Account, there is a Charge of 9 pence p (per) Day Subsistence for 4 Women for each Company...” April 24, 1758 - Maryland Assembly proceedings. Unfortunately, these women's identities are lost to time. These women may have been the wives of soldiers. They were part of the garrison and were subject to strict military discipline. They received pay, a daily allotment of rations, and military blankets.

4.

Women's Quarters



5. Prison Camp Room 1778 to 1783



During the American Revolution, the Fort was pressed into service to house captured British prisoners of war. The fort had not aged well and required repairs. The three structures inside the fort were fixed up to hold prisoners. However, the buildings were not designed to house the large number of prisoners that were often held here. For example, in December 1780, there were 1100 prisoners here. Huts were built inside and outside the fort to house additional prisoners. The American guards resided in barracks constructed outside of the fort. This room was originally intended to house 16 soldiers. Roger Lamb, a British prisoner of war, described 40 to 50 prisoners sharing one small room like this, with only straw on the floor as their bedding. Provisions, including rice and salt pork, or bread were “offered with a scanty hand”. Colonel Moses Rawlings, the American in charge of the prisoners, repeatedly complained that the fort was “pretty full” and that he had no meat or provisions for the men. Disease, wounds, and squalor further increased the suffering. Corporal Fox describes British soldiers catching yellow fever while imprisoned and that “men died like rotten Sheep”.

5. Prison Camp Room 1778 to 1783



6.

Captain's Quarters



The senior officer of the fort would have had the most spacious and luxurious quarters in the Governor's House. The commander at Fort Frederick was typically Capt. Alexander Beall. Because he was an officer, his furnishings, clothing, accoutrements, etc. were paid for at his own expense. Therefore, the quality could vary at his discretion, although the quality and quantity of his possessions would be far superior to the companies' enlisted men. An officer could also have servants - who may have been soldiers, civilians, or slaves - attend to his needs. Officers also had more time for diversions such as reading, drinking, playing games, and enjoying music. According to Col. Bouquet in March 1758, captains in the Royal Americans were entitled to two rooms in a barrack.

6.

Captain's Quarters



7.

Junior Officers' Quarters (A)



As well as having one captain, each Maryland Company would consist of two lieutenants and an ensign. These gentlemen were still commissioned officers, and are thus of the same status as the Captain, but are below his rank. In the British military, the officer's path started early; commissions for ensigns, for example, could be bought as young as thirteen. However, in the colonies, the situation necessitated flexibility: "The Officers...are all employed in recruiting, to make them more alert I have promised the highest Commissions to those that engage most men by the 8th of next Month" (Sharpe to Calvert, May 30, 1757). Colonel Henry Bouquet of the Royal Americans stated subaltern or junior officers were entitled to one room each.

7.

Junior Officers Quarters (A)



8.

Grand Hall



The Grand Hall, which was in the Governors House, would have been the public space of Fort Frederick. It served as the adjutants' (military secretaries) office, waiting room, meeting room, and dining hall for the fort's officers. Trading with the Cherokee would have been conducted here as well. “..We retired having first desired the Commandant of the Fort to order Sentries to the Door to prevent the Intrusion of any White People..” May 25, 1757 – D. Wolstenholme to Gov. Sharpe. The previous quote refers to the Marylanders leaving the Cherokee delegation in peace in the hall at the conclusion of a treaty ceremony. We know that the hall was a large space that could hold over 60 people and that it would have been well-furnished.

8.

Grand Hall



9.

Junior Officers' Quarters (B)



As well as having one captain, each Maryland Company would consist of two lieutenants and an ensign. These gentlemen were still commissioned officers, and are thus of the same status as the Captain, but are below his rank. In the British military, the officer's path started early; commissions for ensigns, for example, could be bought as young as thirteen. However, in the colonies, the situation necessitated flexibility: "The Officers...are all employed in recruiting, to make them more alert I have promised the highest Commissions to those that engage most men by the 8th of next Month" (Sharpe to Calvert, May 30, 1757). Colonel Henry Bouquet of the Royal Americans stated subaltern or junior officers were entitled to one room each.

9.

Junior Officers Quarters (B)



10.

Armory



The fort's armory which was used partly for bulk weapon storage and partly as a workshop. A secure location in the fort was established to house firearms, accoutrements, edged weapons, tools, and artillery implements. Because a functioning weapon meant the difference between life and death for a frontier soldier, there was a gunsmith at Fort Frederick, who was employed "for mending Soldiers arms...and for other small services done for and about the Fort". Repairing the musket locks would have required a high level of skill. Other services may have varied from sharpening blades to repairing the cannon implements.

10.

Armory



11.

King's Storehouse



James Kenney wrote, “...We had four wagons into ye fort up to ye King’s Store to unload...” The storehouse was situated in the west wing of the Governor’s House. The storeroom would have housed supplies for the troops such as food, blankets, cooking utensils, shoes, uniforms, canteens, etc. Barrels were the primary means to transport and store supplies in the 18th century, as any item could be placed in barrel. Since barrels are round with a bulging middle they make rolling large/heavy quantities of items easier. For example, a barrel could hold 196 pounds of flour.

11.

King's Storehouse



12. Storeroom and Cherokee Gifts



“Fort Frederick...the Place where M^r Atkin has ordered all Presents to be delivered that may be given to such of the Cherokees as shall at any Time come to assist their Brethren the Inhabitants of Maryland...” Gov. Sharpe speaking to “chief Indian Utossite”, 1758. Based on the previous quote, as well as information from 1757, trade items (gifts, rewards or presents) were being delivered to and stored at Fort Frederick. These items were used to encourage the Cherokee to ally themselves with the colony of Maryland and King George II. The following is a list of items at the fort: “...you may be assured that a large Present will be given to you immediately on your Return to Fort Frederick, where M^r Gist, M^r Atkins Deputy will attend on Purpose to see it delivered, there will be Kettles Match Coats, Shirts, Leggings, Ribbons, Wampum, Vermilion, Brochetts, Bed Lace, Looking Glasses, some Callico for your Women, and some silver Arm Bands for those that are the greatest Warriors...” Gov. Sharpe to Utossite April 4, 1758

12.

Storeroom and Cherokee Gifts



13.

Artificers Work Room



As early as August 1754 we know that the colony would “cloath...the companies of men to be raised in this province”. Governor Sharpe related that right after receiving funds to raise troops he “proceeded to form a company cloath & accoutre them...” In June 1755 Sharpe reported that Captain John Dagworthy’s company received “57 suits of Cloaths”. Maryland would provide its soldiers a new uniform each year from 1754-1757. When uniforms were purchased they came in general sizes and were tailored to the soldier once they arrived. Typically the tailor in the British military sense was a man who had been a tailor before service or just a soldier who was handy with a needle and thread. In order to do the work properly a “work room” was needed, and this space represents such a work room, where not only tailoring takes place but leather working. At times when uniforms were delivered a guard was placed on the clothing and the men altering them to keep them from stealing, or to keep them working as these men were excused from all other military duties.

13.

Artificers Work Room



14.

Surgeon's Quarters



“...Doctor [Henry] Heinzman...who having been Surgeon to the Maryland Troops...”; served as the Fort’s doctor. As the garrison’s hospital would have been outside the wall, so too may have been the surgeon’s quarters. His housing would have been separate from the hospital but close by in case he was needed in an emergency. The surgeon’s quarters were part home, part office, and part examining room/surgery. He typically would have kept the medicines and liquors in his lodgings under lock and key. He may have also kept medical books, and tools needed to perform his job, along with items for daily living.

14.

Surgeon's Quarters



15.

Hospital



“...those few who have taken ill...are confined to a House which is built at a considerable distance from the Fort...” May 29, 1758—Gov. Sharpe to General St. Clair. We know from the above quotation that the hospital was outside of the fort, as was typical of the time. Although there were a variety of reasons for a soldier to be in the hospital, the main reason would be illness. In 1757 there was an outbreak of an unknown illness that caused over 60 men to be in the hospital and in the spring of 1758, small pox ran through the fort. The hospital had a doctor and surgeon, Dr. Henry Heinzman, and there were “sundry nurses” paid by the colony for their services: “...a Charge of £1.2 [Shillings].6 [pence] p[er] Month for Nurses Wages, which tho' not provided for by Law, seems Necessary, as the Sick in the Hospital must greatly suffer without some such Person”.

15.

Hospital

