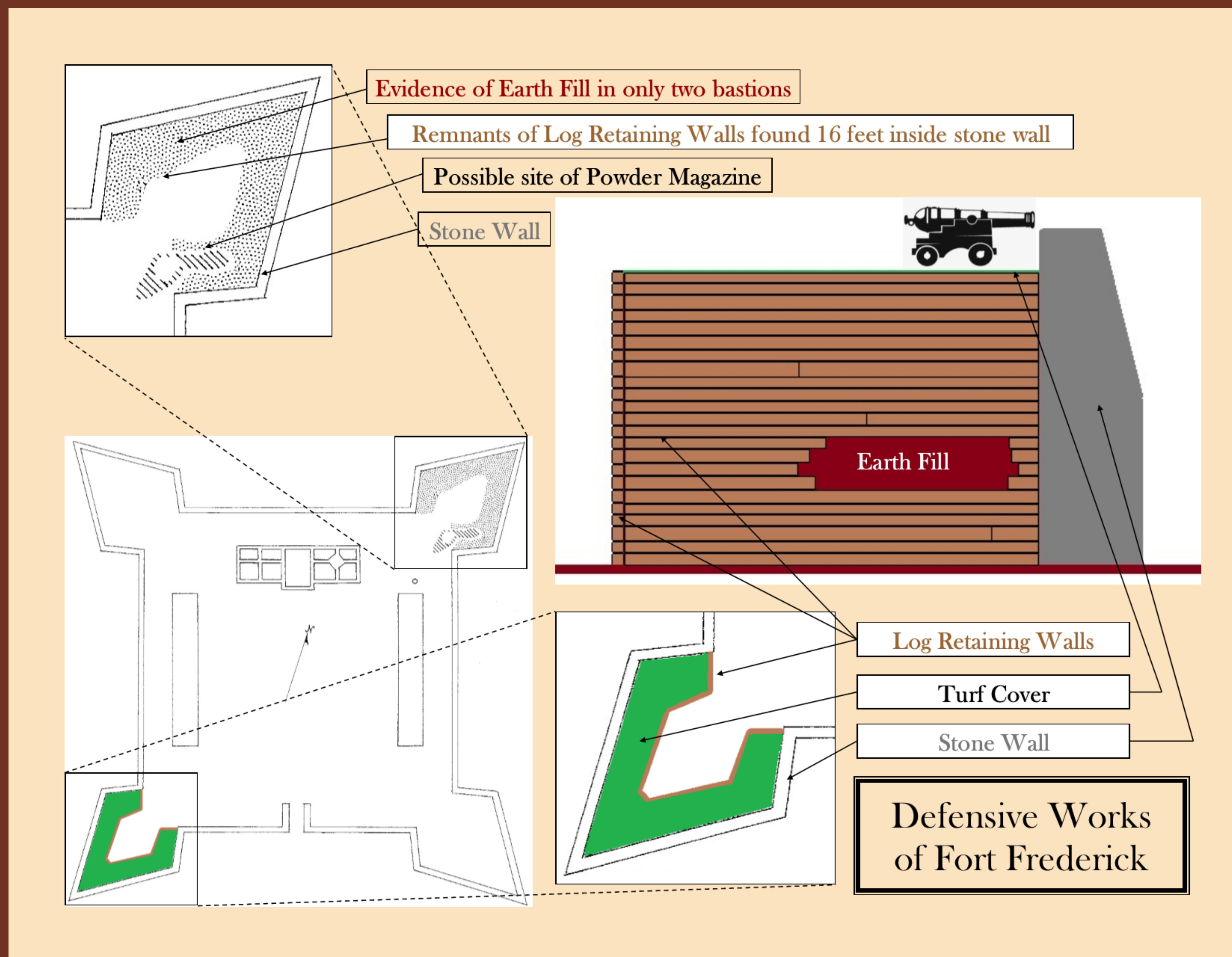


“for the Defence of this Province”



“We face the Bastions & Curtains with Stone & shall mount on each of the Bastions a Six pounder.”
 Governor Horatio Sharpe, July 1756



When Governor Sharpe built Fort Frederick of stone he had to defend that choice. He explained the situation to Lord Baltimore in August 1756. *“As I apprehended that the French would e’er long teach their Indian Allies to approach & set fire to our Stoccado or Wooden Forts I thought proper to build Fort Frederick of Stone, which Step I believe even our Assembly will now approve of tho I hear some of them sometime since intimated to their Constituents that a Stoccado would have been sufficient & that to build a Fort with Stone would put the Country to a great & unnecessary Expence, but whatever their Sentiments may be with respect to that matter I am convinced that I have done for the best & that my Conduct therein will be approved of by any Soldier & by every impartial person”.*

The fort wall is not one but rather two walls with earthen fill between. The stone wall is approximately 18 feet high and encloses two acres of land.

The defense of the fort consisted of elevated firing platforms in at least two, if not all four, bastions. A bastion is the arrowhead projections on each corner of the fort. The platforms were created by building an horizontal log wall about 16 feet inside the stone wall. Then earth was placed in-between the stone and log walls. The log and fill was brought to a height soldiers and cannon could fire over; as shown in the image on the left. This system could have been done all around the forts interior but the evidence is lacking.

The bastion style of fort has great advantages as by placing men on the and create a 360° field of fire. It also keeps the enemy farther away from the long straight “curtain walls”. Each bastion at Fort Frederick is 60 yards from one another, the average accurate range of the standard British flintlock musket.

Fort Frederick more eastern location is not the only reason it was never directly attacked. It is also its design and stone construction.