

FORT TICONDEROGA AMERICA'S FORT™

Fort Ticonderoga Carillon Battlefield Walking Trail Guide

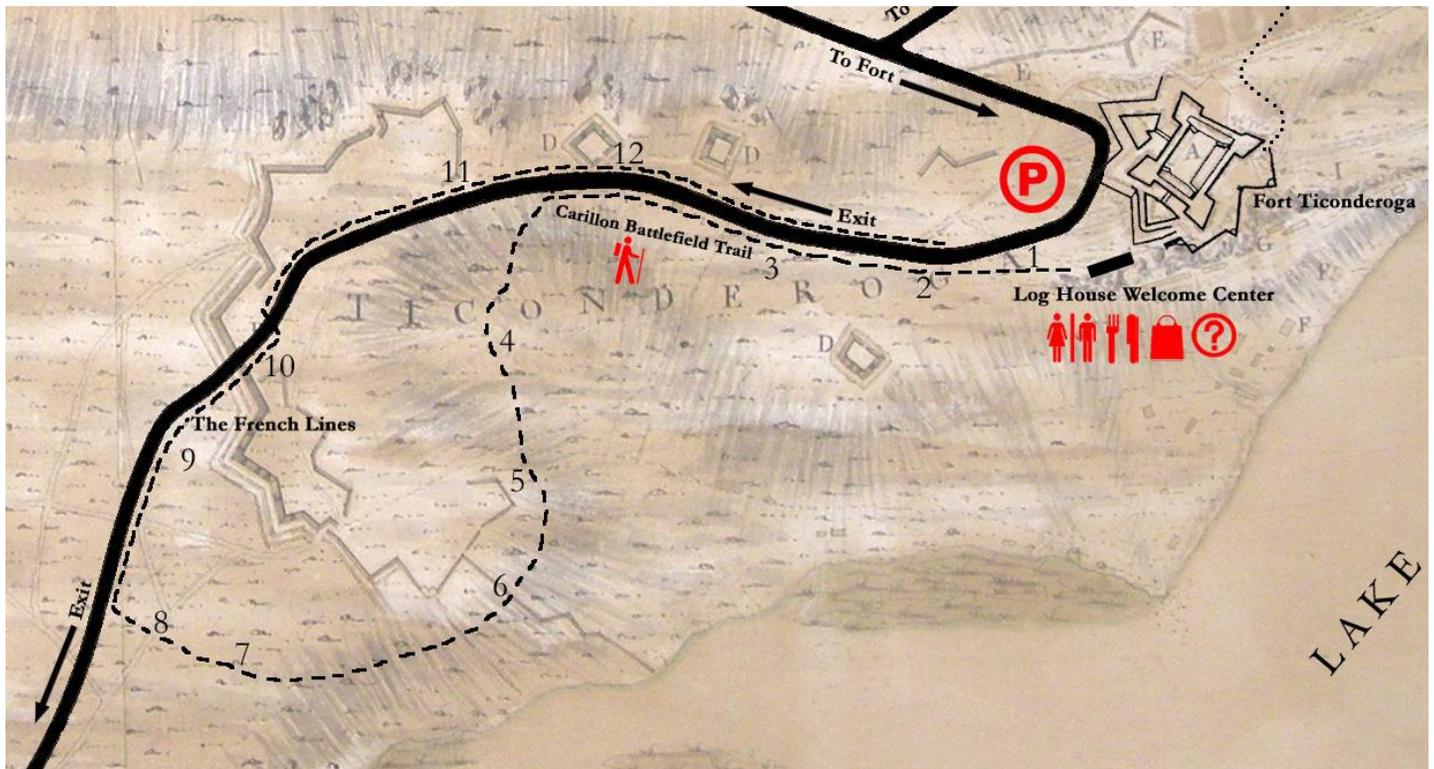


Copyright Fort Ticonderoga. Photo Credit Carl Heilman II

Length: Approximately 1¾ mile

Welcome to Fort Ticonderoga's Walking Trail

Blue markers mounted on trees approximately five feet off the ground identify the trail. A second blue marker identifies points of interest along the trail with a white number. The number corresponds to a brief description in this guide.



The dashed line on this map represents the path of the Carillon Battlefield walking trail. It is approximately 1¾ mile long and covers a wide variety of terrain from paved roads to rocky slopes. Appropriate footwear is recommended.

Please observe the following guidelines for your safety and the preservation of Fort Ticonderoga's historic site and natural resources:

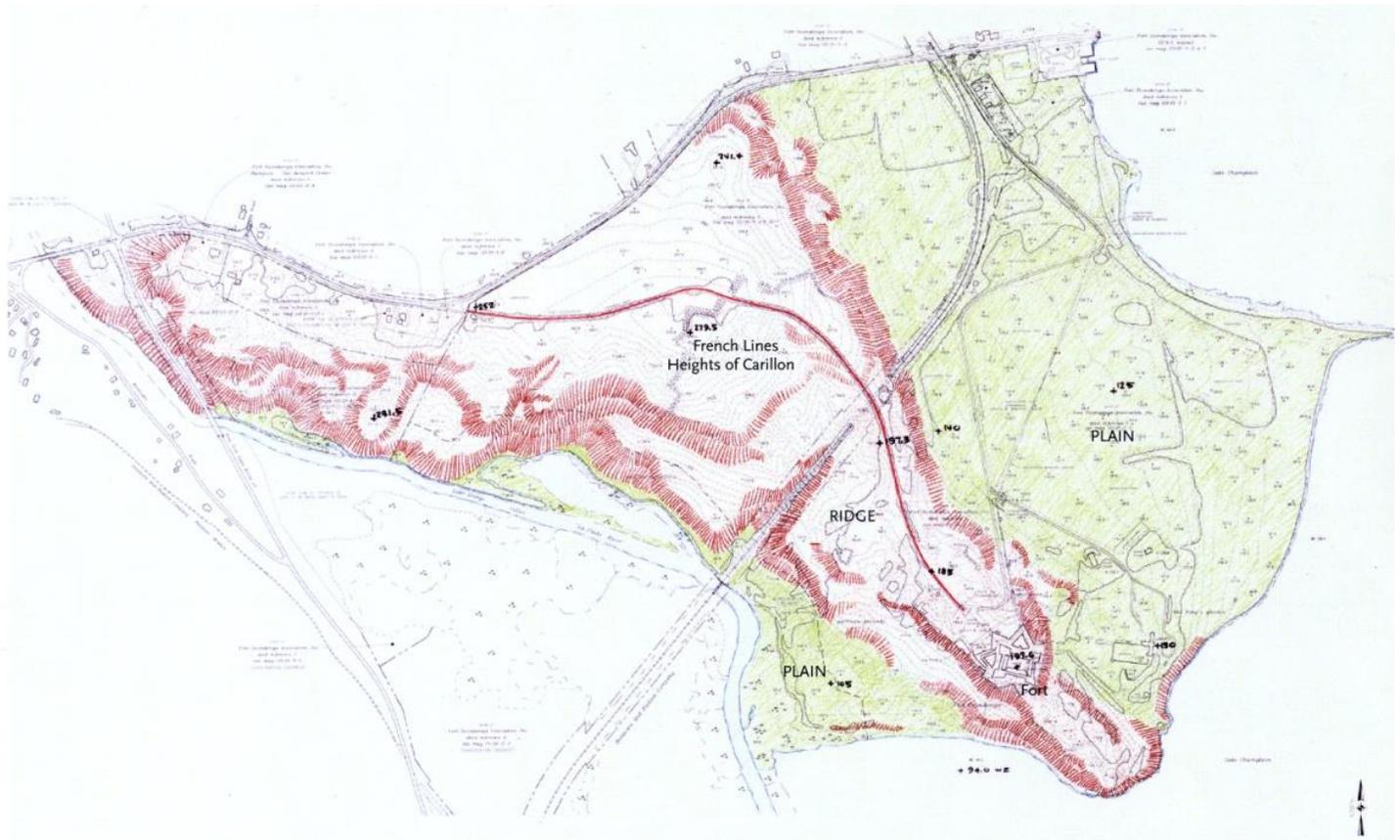
- Stay on the marked trail.
- Do not climb on the earthworks.
- Do not disturb wildlife or harm or remove plants or any natural or man-made objects.
- Trail may close due to weather or ground conditions.
- Do not litter. Carry out any materials that you bring onto the trail.

**Thank you for visiting Fort Ticonderoga.
Enjoy your hike!**

Historic Landscape Background

The historic significance of the approximately 500-acres of the Garrison grounds is intimately tied to its geography. This peninsula extends into Lake Champlain exactly where the La Chute River enters from Lake George. An elevated plateau, with rocky ridges to either side runs up the center of this peninsula, from a rocky cliff overlooking Lake Champlain, onto the Heights of Carillon to the northwest. The broad eastern plain to the east is about 100 feet above sea level, with the Heights of Carillon early 100 feet above that.

As you cross the tunnel built in 1874 by Delaware & Hudson railroad beneath the Garrison Grounds, you enter an oak & hickory forest that encompasses the French Lines. The French Lines occupy the Heights of Carillon, about one-third mile northwest of the fort. When the French Army began constructing the fort in 1755, they left the forest in this area standing knowing that it would eventually be needed to build outer fortifications to repel a British attack. In July 1758, the British attack came and over the course of two days in early July, the French Army leveled the forest, constructing a half-mile long log wall, or breastwork, to defend the fort. The log breastwork is long gone, but earthen walls built by Americans in 1776 retraced its path and stand to this very day. While nature has reclaimed the historic battlefield, today's forest cover gives visitors a pleasant walk near sites of epic importance in Ticonderoga's history.



Fort Ticonderoga's existing landforms.

Key to the points of interest markers:

1. **Glacial Scars on Bedrock.** About 18,000 years ago the Champlain Valley was covered by glaciers over a mile and a half thick. As the glaciers slowly flowed over the landscape, rocks and boulders were dragged along their base and across the bedrock like sandpaper leaving deep scratches on the bedrock. Though somewhat eroded, glacial scratches are visible in the large area of exposed limestone bedrock in the picnic area.

2. **Historic Military Encampment Field.** 18th-century maps and drawings show this flat elevated ground used by many armies to set up long rows of tents. The Marquis de Montcalm's French Army encamped here in summers from 1756 and 1759. General Amherst's triumphant

British & American Army pitched their tents here after they captured Fort Ticonderoga from the French in July 1759. New Jersey soldiers built houses of tree branches to supplement their tents here as they dug-in awaiting a British attack in 1776.



Camp detail from Thomas Davies' View of the Lines at Lake George, 1759.

- 3. 19th-Century Structures.** After the American Revolution, the fort was never used as a military post again. By the 1850s, there were several houses and farm structures dotting its landscape. The depressions visible in the ground in this area are the cellar holes of a group of farm structures that are known to have existed in this area in the 1870s.

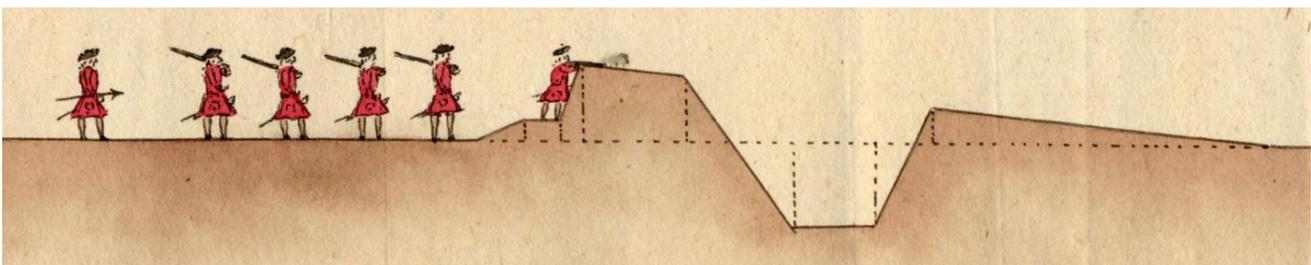


Photograph by S.R. Stoddard, ca. 1870

- 4. Possible Revolutionary War Soldier Hut Site.** In 1776 Pennsylvania soldiers prepared to defend the Heights of

Carillon. On September 14, they received orders to replace their tents with, “lodging as the nature of the campaign may admit.” Using boards from a sawmill on the La Chute River, hewn beams, they built simple houses or huts. Fireplaces were made from soil, sticks, and sod dug from the hut site. This depression may be the site of one such hut.

5. **1759 British Artillery Battery (1).** In July 1759, the British Army constructed three artillery batteries to mount cannon as it laid siege to Carillon. Just a few yards to the west is the remains of one such battery that held six 24-pounder and two 12-pounder cannon. The cannon placed in this battery, however, never fired a shot as on the evening of July 25, the French abandoned the fort to the British who renamed it Ticonderoga. In the aftermath of the siege, the batteries were ordered to be torn down, but this one, and the battery at stop 11, never was and remains a prominent feature on the landscape today.
6. **Part of 1758 French Lines Breastwork.** This low hump and ditch are part of the remains of the log wall built by the French Army to defend the fort against British attack in July 1758. This particular section of the breastwork defends the approach to the fort on the low ground near the La Chute River.



French soldiers fired at the British from behind a log and earth parapet. (French field fortification sketch, ca. 1740)

7. **Area where the British Army began the 1758 Attack.** In this area on the morning of July 8, 1758, the British Army composed of nearly 17,000 British and American troops formed columns and lines that stretched across the high ground as they began their attack on the French Lines. This was the largest army ever assembled in North America to that time.

8. **18th-Century Military Road.** This long, narrow depression extending roughly east-west is the remains of one of the military roads used by army troops entering and leaving Fort Ticonderoga. The present-day paved road closely follows this historic road's trace.

9. **Carillon Battlefield.** This area is the roughly at the center of the July 8, 1758 British attack on Ticonderoga. On July 8, 1758 nearly 2,000 British and American soldiers were killed and wounded in their attempt to push the French Army off their lines, making it the bloodiest battle on the Continent until the 1860s. In 1776, this section of the French Lines was built by the Americans into the, "Great Redoubt," which still stands to this day with holes for cannons still visible as dips in the earthen wall. (For your safety and the preservation of these fragile fortifications, please to not walk or climb on the earthworks.)

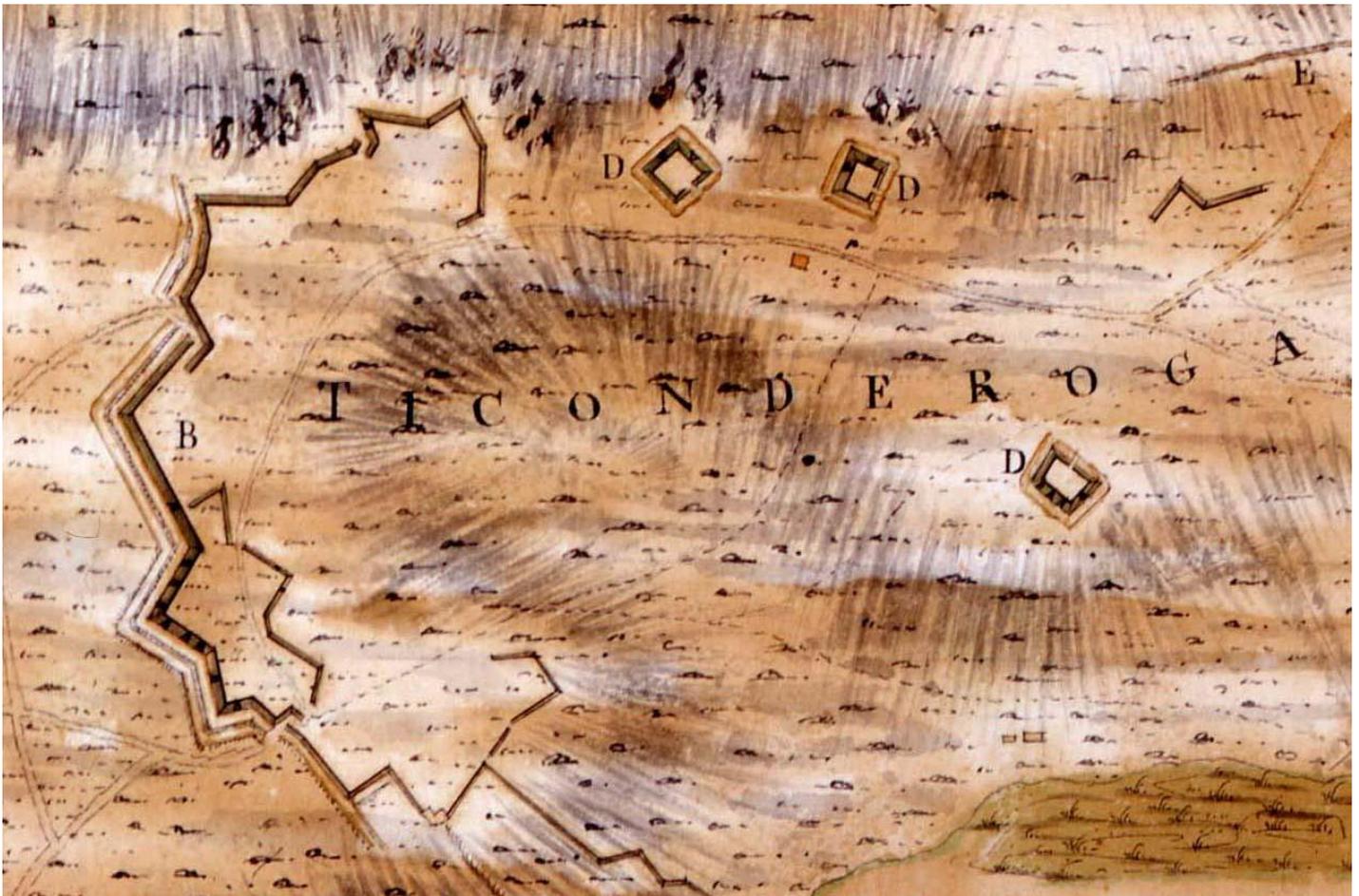


The Carillon Battlefield

10. **French Cross.** In celebration of its remarkable victory, the French Army at Carillon (Ticonderoga) erected a cross behind the breastworks on August 21, 1758 with the following inscription:
*“Christian! It was not Montcalm and his prudence,
Nor these felled trees, the heroes, their exploits,
Which dashed the hopes of the bewildered English;
It was the hand of thy God, conqueror on this cross.”*
11. **1759 British Artillery Battery (2).** In July 1759, the British Army constructed three artillery batteries to mount cannon as it laid siege to Carillon. Just a few yards to the north is the remains of one such battery that held six 24-pounder and two 12-pounder cannon. The cannon placed in this battery, however, never fired a shot as on

the evening of July 25, the French abandoned the fort to the British who renamed it Ticonderoga. In the aftermath of the siege, the batteries were ordered to be torn down, but this one, like the battery at stop 5, never was.

12. Revolutionary War American Redoubt. In 1777, Chief Engineer Jeduthan Baldwin ordered two new redoubts built to cover the rear of the French Lines. Massachusetts soldiers dug these redoubts in May 1777, preparing for another British attack against American-held Ticonderoga.



The redoubts you are viewing are represented by the feature marked "D" in the upper center of the map directly above the "N" in TICONDEROGA. Today, Fort Ticonderoga preserved the most extensive series of earthen fortifications from the Revolutionary Era in existence. (Plan of Ticonderoga and Mount Independence, 1777. Carl Winterschmidt Fort Ticonderoga Museum FT-147 / PEM 159).

Fort Ticonderoga is a non-profit educational organization, museum and cultural destination designated as a National Historic Landmark in 1961.

Mission: Ticonderoga preserves, educates, and provokes active discussion about the past and its importance to present and future generations. We foster an on-going dialogue surrounding citizens, soldiers, and nations through America's military heritage.

For more information visit www.fortticonderoga.org or call 518-585-2821.

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