



PORTS

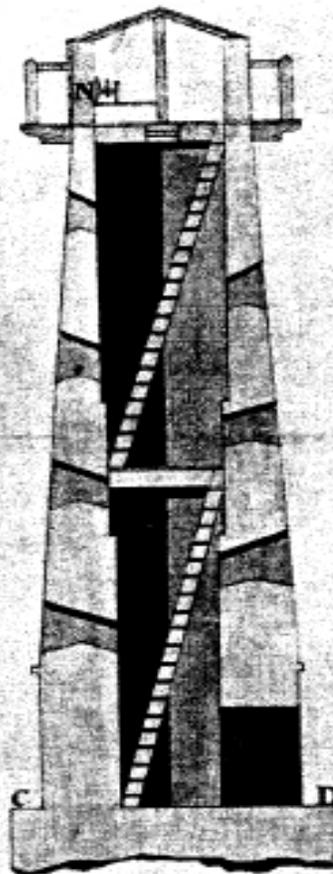


Lake Ontario Shippers & Travellers

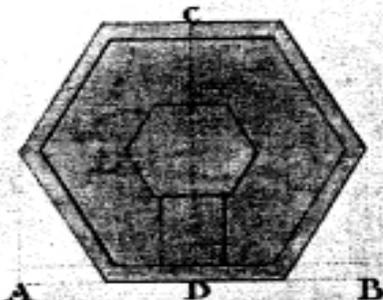
historic Ontario fleets, titles held in trust by PORTS O.N.T.A.R.I.O. Observatory USA

FIRST LIGHTHOUSE ON THE GREAT LAKES LAKE ONTARIO at NIAGARA RIVER

built on Lake Ontario in 1804, at the mouth of Niagara River where it enters Lake Ontario. Its location is on the lake's shoreline north of the then **Town of Newark**, west side of Niagara River. Its foundation slab is all that remains.



P L A N



*Plan, Elevation and Section
of a Lighthouse
proposed to be erected on *Niagara Point*
drawn to a scale of 6 feet to an Inch*

*Signed Gustavus Nichol
Capt. U.S. Army Eng.*

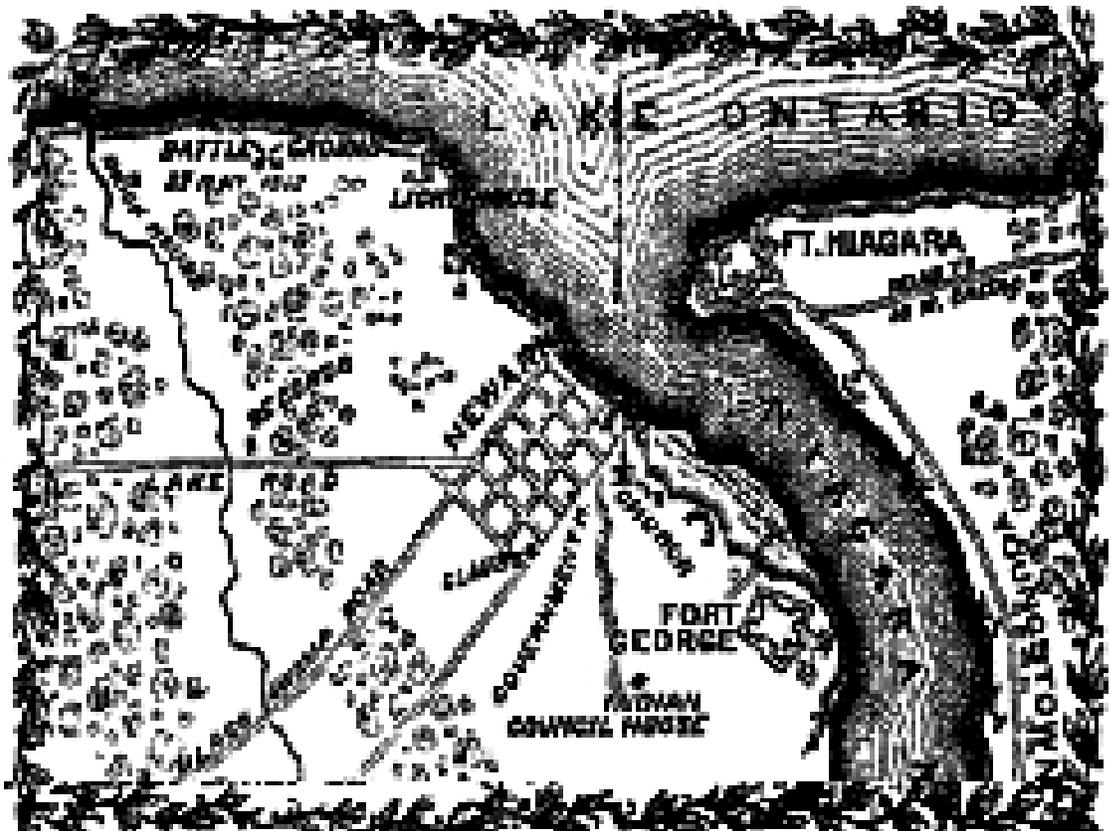
Mariners on the Lakes had few aids to navigate as the 18th-century moved into the 19th. The legislature of **Upper Canada**, the most populated area on the Great Lakes at that time, during its session of 1802-03 authorized the erection of three lighthouses on Lake Ontario. Arrangements were made to bring from England one of those reflecting lamps on a small Scale, which are now in general use at Home for similar purposes.

The new lamp arrived in Canada during the summer of 1803, and it and a supply of spermaceti oil for fuel were sent on to **Fort George**, the nearest government establishment to one of the proposed sites, that at **Mississauga Point**, at the mouth of the Niagara River.

Work went forward the following spring on a tower of stone, 45 feet high. **Colonel Isaac Brock**, commander at Fort George, was asked to lend help with the construction and to designate one soldier from the garrison to tend the light. The lightkeeper's dwelling, a log house, was built nearby. Dominic Henry, of the 4th Battalion, Royal Artillery, was appointed keeper. In June 1804 the light -- the first one on the Great Lakes -- began to function. It operated for the next ten years, all through the War of 1812, with Dominic Henry tending it.

(Words and Drawing, courtesy of Public Archives of Canada.)

Town of Newark, also known as Niagara, was settled in 1780 by Loyalists from the American Colonies. It was the most populated area on the lake in the **Upper Province of Canada**, late 1700s. Newark was a thriving center of commercial trade. It became the seat of provincial government and first capital of



Upper Canada (now Ontario) from 1792-1796. The provincial offices were moved to York (now Toronto) in 1796. **Fort George** was built there in the 1790s at the mouth of Niagara River where it flows into western Lake Ontario. The town and fort sit directly across the river from **Fort Niagara** in **Youngstown** on the United States side. American forces destroyed the town in 1813, during the War of 1812. Niagara Falls lie directly south of Newark/Niagara.

Today, Newark is a quant resort town known as **Niagara-on-the-Lake**, Ontario. Fort George remains there as a historic site, as does a partial remnant of the first lighthouse on Lake Ontario. Fort Niagara remains intact on the New York side, as well as another but later lighthouse, both at the mouth of Niagara River.

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