

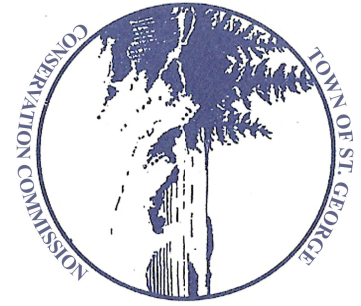
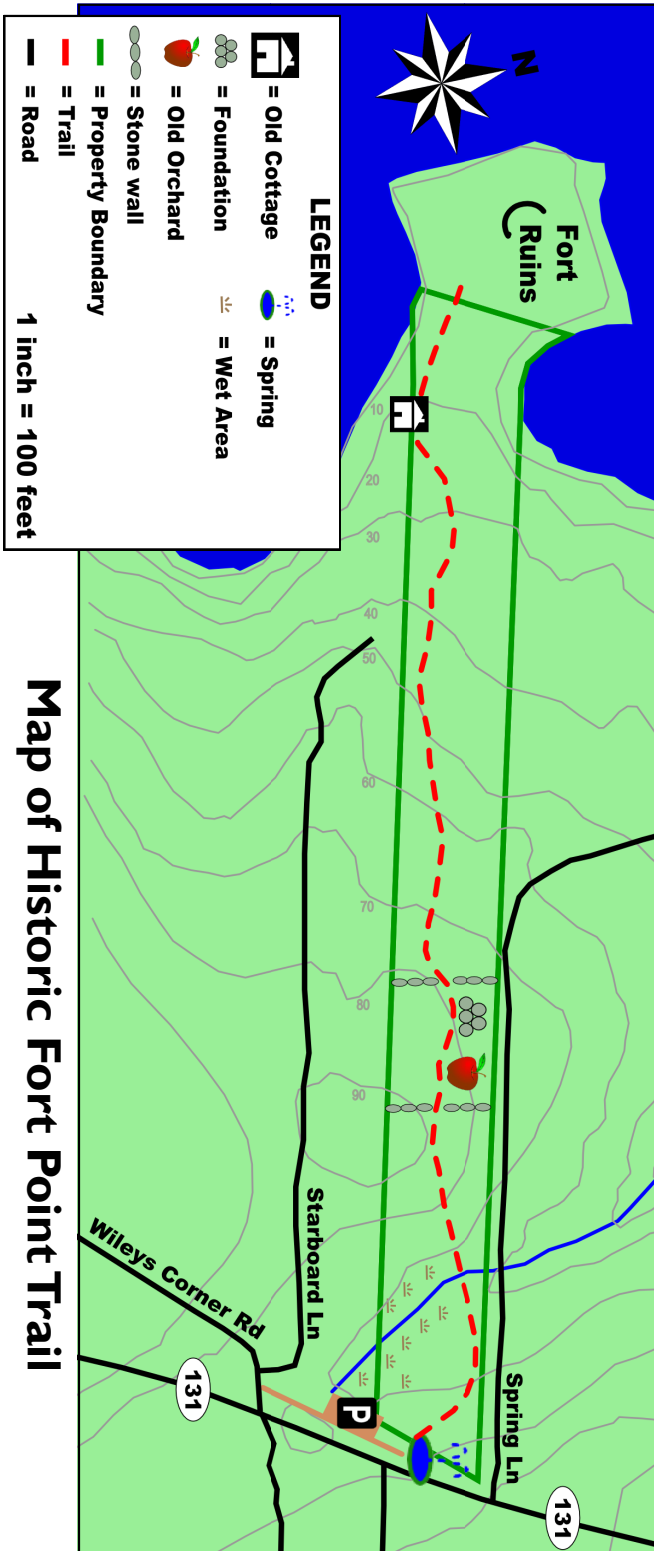
The St. George Conservation Commission is a municipal entity of the Town of St. George, responsible for conducting research and advising the Town on natural resource issues, educating the public on proper management of natural resources, and implementing environmental programs on behalf of the Town.

The Historic Fort Point Trail is a collaboration between the St. George Conservation Commission and the St. George Historical Society, maintained by volunteer efforts.

To get involved with Conservation Commission projects, or for comments/suggestions about Town trails, please contact 372-6363 or visit the Town Office.



Picnic table near to the fort ruins—a perfect location for a scenic meal.



Fort Point Trail

The Story of Fort Point

At the end of the trail, past an old cabin, lies the Historic Fort Point ruins and a picnic area overlooking the St. George river.

The fort was built in 1809 as part of a regional effort by the Jefferson Administration to protect American shipping lanes from attacks by the French and British during the Napoleonic Wars. It was also used to prevent locals from trading with the British or French during the time of Jefferson's Embargo.

The fort consisted of a crescent-shaped rampart, a barracks where soldiers were stationed, a blockhouse, and a powder house. The rampart was constructed from sod to absorb cannonball impacts. The building structures have since decayed, but the foundation holes from the blockhouse and barracks remain.

Joseph Robinson, from whom the property had been purchased, retained the right to run a ferry service to the western shore of what is now Cushing from the fort wharf. This wharf was carried out to sea with the ice in the 1880s.

Also in the late 1800s, treasure hunters dug deep pits near the fort, looking for buried pirate treasure.

In the 1920s, Governor Baxter bought the fort property from the US Government, and it was made into a state park, but the property remained without land access. In 2006, the Town of St. George purchased the land between the

point and the spring in order to procure public access to this historic landmark and its scenic views of the St. George River.

British Invasion of the St. George

On June 22nd, 1814, a British warship anchored off Fort Point sent several barges of men up river to make depredations, forcing two local captains into service as pilots.

Ephraim Wiley was the sole occupant of Fort Point, as the rest of the garrison had been sent north to the Canadian border.

The British fired a shot through the door, grazing Wiley with musket shot, and tried to blow up the blockhouse, but did not find enough gunpowder to do so. They spiked the cannon, and continued up river, setting fire to two ships on the Cushing side before returning to their warship.

Trail Description & History

Parking for the Fort Point Trail is located near to the spring above Wileys Corner.

The trail begins to the left of the trailhead kiosk, winding its way through an open field of goldenrod, steplebush, and sensitive ferns bordered by an alder thicket.

Entering a wooded ravine to cross a small stream over well-placed rocks, a mixed evergreen/deciduous canopy dominates. In the



Trout Lily

spring, trout lilies bloom in abundance here, whilst other northern woodland flowers such as bunchberry, Canada mayflower, and starflower can also be found.



Bunchberry

Crossing a stone wall, old apple trees descended from the abandoned Robinson orchard can be seen, and the remains of a foundation and are also evidenced by piles of rocks amongst the bushes. This foundation once supported a frame house which was built by Joseph Robinson at the end of the Revolution, and surviving until it was torn down in the 1870s. The house was part of a larger farm which supported wood harvesting and cattle, but has since been abandoned and left to re-vegetate, as were many farms on the peninsula.

Descending gently from this point, mature maple, ash, cherry, and white birch dominate the canopy



Blackberries

from here where the trail opens into field once more, with blackberry bushes and ferns growing underneath. The fort remnants are to the left and in the center of the small peninsula, where an earthen mound is visible.

PLEASE ENJOY YOUR STAY RESPECTFULLY AND LEAVE NO TRACE