



Fort Meigs

Topic Guide for Chronicling America (<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov>)

Introduction

Overlooking the Maumee River and located in what is now Perrysburg, Ohio, Fort Meigs was built in 1813 during the War of 1812 under orders of General William Henry Harrison. The fort was besieged twice by British forces, once in April 1813 and again in July 1813. Both skirmishes ended in American victories. Shortly after the second siege, the fort was torn down and rebuilt on a smaller scale to serve as a supply depot. It was abandoned in 1815 and burned to the ground soon after. In the 20th century, the site was recognized as a state and national historic landmark. A reconstruction of Fort Meigs was built in the 1970s and rebuilt in the 2000s. The building is the largest reconstructed wooden-walled fort in the nation and serves as a memorial and museum honoring those who participated in the War of 1812.

Important Dates

- February 2, 1813: Under orders of General William Henry Harrison, construction on Fort Meigs begins in order to fortify the region against British forces during the War of 1812.
- May 1-9, 1813: First Siege of Fort Meigs ends in an American victory.
- July 20-27, 1813: British forces begin the Second Siege of Fort Meigs which ends in their surrender.
- May 5, 1815: Fort Meigs is formally abandoned.
- 1840: William Henry Harrison holds a rally during his run for the presidency at the site of Fort Meigs.
- 1848: The southern portion of the site, containing visible earthworks, is sold.
- 1907: The State of Ohio acquires the Fort Meigs site as an historic monument and park.
- 1908: The Fort Meigs Commission erects the 82 feet tall Fort Meigs Monument.
- August 4, 1969: Fort Meigs is designated as a National Historic Landmark.

Suggested Search Strategies

- Try combining "Fort Meigs" with the following terms as an "all" word search, in proximity or as phrases: Fort Meigs, monument, park, Harrison, memorial, War of 1812, centennial, siege, battle, British.
- Limit your search by date to find information about specific events.

Sample Articles from Chronicling America

- "[Harrison—and the Signs](#)" *Illinois Free Trader* (Ottawa, IL), July 10, 1840, Image 3, col. 1-3.
- "[Veterans of 1812-13](#)" *Perrysburg Journal* (Perrysburg, OH), July 1, 1870, Image 2, col. 1-5.
- "[Fort Meigs as a National Park](#)" *Perrysburg Journal* (Perrysburg, OH), October 12, 1895, Image 1, col. 6.
- "[Battling Around Toledo](#)" *National Tribune* (Washington, DC), August 20, 1908, Image 1, col. 1-3.
- "[Monument Unveiled at Fort Meigs](#)" *Perrysburg Journal* (Perrysburg, OH), September 4, 1908, Image 1, col. 5-6.
- "[Will Ask Appropriation](#)" *Perrysburg Journal* (Perrysburg, OH), January 31, 1913, Image 1, col. 4.
- "[One Hundred Years Ago](#)" *Perrysburg Journal* (Perrysburg, OH), August 8, 1913, Image 1, col. 5-6.
- "[Inspect Fort Meigs](#)" *Perrysburg Journal* (Perrysburg, OH), March 25, 1915, Image 1, col. 4.