

The Old Fort



**1816:
Frontier Fort
to Statehood**

Greetings and Welcome to Old Fort Wayne!

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We're so glad you have joined us to take a step back in history and experience a microcosm of Indiana when it became a state on December 11, 1816. Northern Indiana was unsurveyed at that time and most maps designated the area as simply "Indian Territory". This was a wild, untamed land until the 1820s and the first non-indigenous people who settled here had to have determination and grit. They came west looking for opportunity, and many found it in such endeavors as trading with the Natives, supplying goods, and farming.

Fort Wayne was a frontier military outpost and as you wander around the grounds you will encounter soldiers living as they would have in 1816: cooking meals, mending clothes, and performing training drills.

It's our purpose here to demonstrate how these people lived, so please ask the living-historians questions—we all love to talk about what we're doing and what we're using! Walk around the camps and tour the Fort, but please ask before handling any of our items or entering our tents and wigwams as these are our homes for this weekend.

We hope that you enjoy your time with us and visit again soon!

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Historic Fort Wayne, Inc.

Founded in 2004, Historic Fort Wayne is a Non-Profit Organization that manages the Old Fort. Our goal is to educate the public about the history of Fort Wayne and its significance to the Northwest Territory, the State of Indiana, and the United States during the 17th and 18th centuries through hands on, interactive programming. We are a 100% volunteer organization. All programming is funded



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1816 Trivia

- The current fort is a reproduction of the one built in 1816, designed by Major John Whistler. The original plans were sent to the War Department in Washington and forgotten, until found in 1916 by BJ Griswold, a local historian.
- Whistler also designed and commanded Fort Dearborn (Chicago).
- Maj. Whistler's military career started as a private during the American Revolution, for the British! After the war and his return to his native Ireland, he and his wife Anna emigrated back to America where he earned a commission in the U.S. army.
- Major Whistler's son George Washington Whistler helped design and build the Transiberian railroad. His Grandson John Whistler was the famous painter known for the painting "Whistler's Mother", so the painting's subject would have been Whistler's daughter-in-law.
- In July of 1816, Major Whistler and Indian agent Benjamin Stickney got in a feud that was so severe that they would only communicate in writing. They would actually send formal letters across the parade ground as they both lived in the Fort at the time.
- The entire Fort was made from white oak which is the same wood used to build the USS Constitution, "Old Ironsides".
- 1816 was one of the least populated times in the history of this area. There were only 60 or so soldiers, some French traders, natives, a few women. Most of the out buildings had been destroyed in 1812 during the Siege of Fort Wayne, and the Fort was surrounded by empty fields. By contrast, in the 1790's there were several thousand people in the area.
- On April 19, 1819 the garrison departed marking the end of the fort as a military garrison. The current commandant Major Josiah Vose led 96 soldiers (including the surgeon) out of the fort with a 6 pound and 12 pound cannon in tow.

Burkhart

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Around the World in 1816

What else was happening while Indiana was becoming a state?

- Exact Date unknown René Laennec invents the stethoscope.
- Jan. 12 France decrees Bonaparte family excluded from the country.
- Feb. 20 Rossini's opera buffa *The Barber of Seville* premières in Rome.
- Feb. 29 1816 was a Leap Year.
- Ap. 21 Charlotte Brontë, English novelist and poet was born.
- June 6 This is the "year of no summer" in New England; 10 inches of snow fall in Massachusetts in June, an effect of the eruption of Mount Tambora in Indonesia. Other effects of the eruption included massive crop failure and widespread hunger and even death from starvation.
- July 9 Argentina declares independence from Spain.
- July Lord Byron, Mary Wollstonecraft Godwin, Percy Shelley, and John Polidori gathered at the Villa Diodati by Lake Geneva in a rainy Switzerland, and tell each other tales. This gives rise to two classics - Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* and Polidori's *The Vampyre*.
- Oct. 7 First double decked steamboat, The Washington, arrives in New Orleans.
- Nov. 8 Gouverneur Morris, American statesman and author of the preamble to the US Constitution, dies.

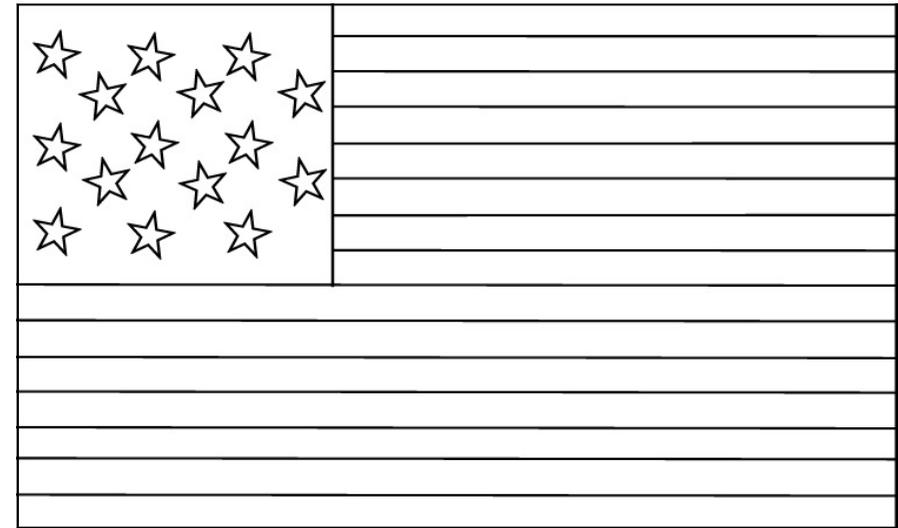


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To Color



In 1816, the US flag still had 15 stars and 15 stripes. Yes, 15 stripes! It wasn't updated until 1818 when it changed to 13 stripes and 20 stars, recognizing the newest states: Tennessee, Ohio, Louisiana, Indiana, and Mississippi.




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2016 SCHEDULE

Public hours as listed below. If you're interested in participating as a reenactor or vendor, please contact events@oldfortwayne.org for registration forms.

July 9-10: Camp Allen Muster: 1861 - 1865

Sat. 10am - 6pm, Sun. 10am - 4pm

July 30-31: Colonial America on the Frontier

Sat. 10am - 6pm, Sun. 10am - 4pm

August 27-28: Post Miamies: 1754-1763

Sat. 10am - 6pm, Sun. 10am - 4pm

September 11: Be A Tourist in Your Own Hometown

Sun. noon - 5pm

October 15: Fright Night Lantern Tours

Sat. 6pm - 10pm, \$3.00, under 12 free

November 26: Christmas Open House

Sat. 11am - 5pm



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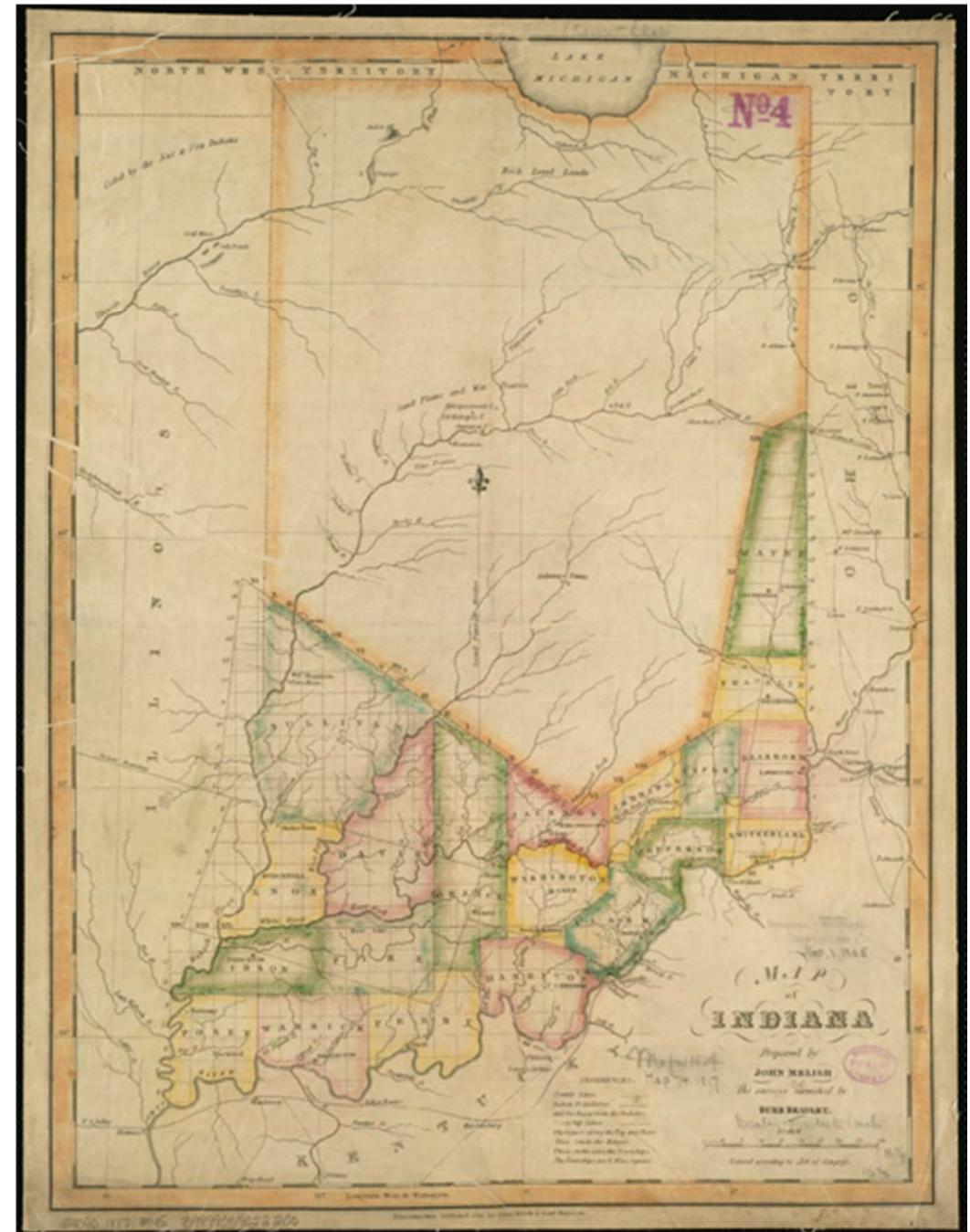


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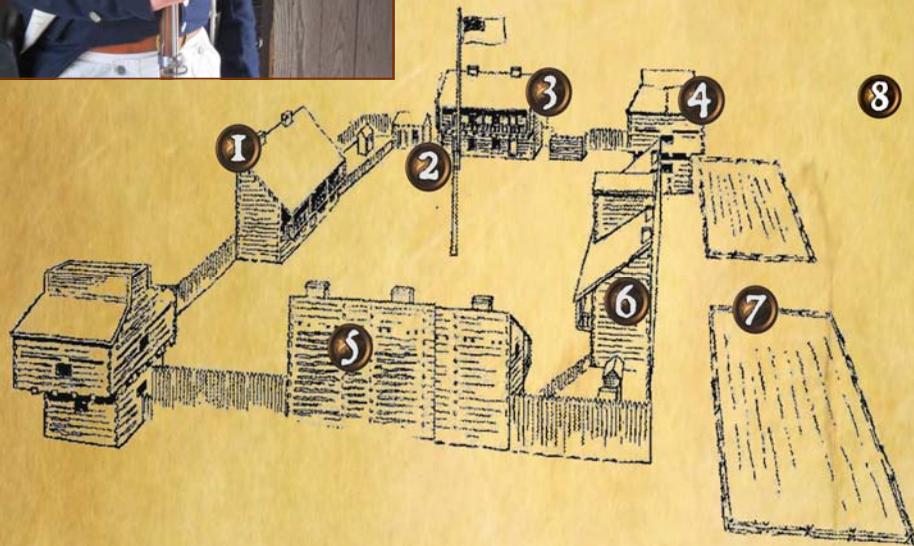
Map of Indiana from 1817, drawn by John Melish from surveys furnished by Burr Bradley. Some details are incorrect (like the location of Lake Michigan), but it shows the early counties of Indiana at the time of statehood.



1 Commanding Officer's House: This building served as the home and headquarters of Major Whistler. On the ground floor was the headquarters where the daily orders were written and court-martials were held.

2 Flagpole: The flag flown above Fort Wayne bears fifteen stars and fifteen stripes, one for each state when it was adopted in 1794. During events, period specific flags are flown, signifying occupation of the Fort.

3 Hospital: This building served a variety of purposes. The soldiers' kitchen was on the lower floor. The Hospital, on the second floor, consisted of only one room. The ward could accommodate six men. This building also housed a barracks which was home to eight men.



4 South Blockhouse: The soldiers who were positioned here could cover the south and east walls of the fort. Today, the art of weaving is demonstrated here.

5 Officers' Quarters: This building sheltered the fort's officers. Like the other main buildings, the Officers' Quarters forms part of the defensive wall. The solid log outside wall of the building is composed of 8 inch thick timbers which could stop any musket ball.

6 Main Gate/Enlisted Quarters/Quarter Master The main gate to the fort is in the middle of the enlisted soldiers' barracks. Soldiers slept two to a bed. Those with families typically lived on the second floor. In the eastern half, we have recreated the Quarter Master's office, where soldiers would draw their supplies.

7 Post Gardens: Many kinds of vegetables and herbs were raised in the garden plots. Corn had long been grown in the area, but other fruits and vegetables, from asparagus to watermelons, were brought to Fort Wayne by the soldiers and traders.

8 The Village: The complex of buildings outside the fort walls serviced the garrison and the local Indians. Included here were a blacksmith shop, a woodwright, bakery, and the homes and shops of several Indian traders. During events, guided tours of the Fort are available, starting at the Mercantile.

We Rely on You!

The events at the Old Fort are staffed entirely by volunteers, and Historic Fort Wayne (a 501(c)3 organization) is maintained exclusively by your donations. Want to help? Your time and donations help us continue to bring history alive!

- \$1400 pays the Fort's insurance for 6 months or pays for a musical group for a weekend
- \$750 buys advertising for a major two day event or buys a musket for the Garrison
- \$500 outfits a young volunteer or pays the Fort's phone/internet for a year.
- \$300 feeds the Garrison for a weekend or pays a year's postage.
- \$250 buys a weekend's worth of firewood or 5 gallons of chinking material
- \$150 buys enough mineral spirits and linseed oil to seal a floor or a staircase
- \$100 buys enough black powder for a two day event or 5 gallons of paint
- \$75 pays an average month's water and sewer bill
- \$35 pays a month's security or 6 months' worth of toilet paper
- \$15 buys one (1) cannon shot or crayons for the Fort's store
- \$10 feeds a horse for the weekend or buys a weekend's worth of coffee for the Garrison

In addition, with the help of its friends and supporters, Historic Fort Wayne, Inc. has established a Permanent Endowment Fund. This fund will never be depleted, only the earnings on these funds will be utilized and then only for the maintenance of the facility and for educational programming. The Old Fort's Endowment Fund is managed by the Community Foundation of Greater Fort Wayne.

Donations to Historic Fort Wayne, Inc. can be sent to:
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Scavenger Hunt

These are some of the people, activities and events you might see this weekend. How many can you spot?

Question

Answer

Find a man in an apron. Why is he wearing it? _____

Find someone who works with fire. What is their job? _____

List 3 items in the Quarter Master's office in the Fort: _____

Why does the roof of the Fort slope inward? _____

Listen for the Cannon firing. What is the "worm" used for? _____

Find a musician. What is one song they play from the 19th Century? _____

Find a regimental flag. Learn one thing about that regiment's history: _____

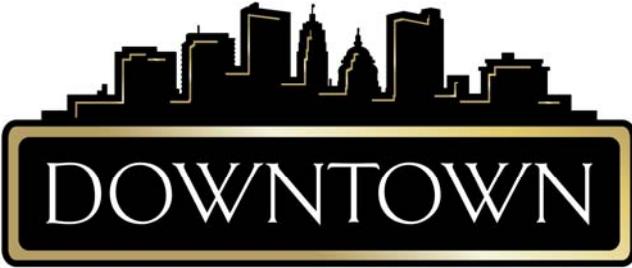
Find a piece of flint. What is it used for? _____

What's the difference between a regular soldier and militia? _____

Name three items a soldier wears or carries: _____

Ask three women what they would do at the Fort in 1816: _____

Find a square nail. How/why is it different than a modern nail? _____



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A Resolution for Admitting the State of Indiana into the Union

Whereas, in pursuance of an act of Congress, passed on the nineteenth day of April, one thousand eight hundred and sixteen, entitled "An act to enable the people of the Indiana Territory to form a constitution and State government, and for the admission of that State into the Union," the people of the said Territory did, on the twenty-ninth day of June, in the present year, by a convention called for that purpose, form for themselves a constitution and State government, which constitution and State government, so formed, is republican, and in conformity with the principles of the articles of compact between the original States and the people and States in the Territory Northwest of the River Ohio, passed the thirteenth day of July, one thousand seven hundred and eighty-seven:

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the State of Indiana shall be one, and is hereby declared to be one, of the United States of America, and admitted into the Union on an equal footing with the original States, in all respects whatever.

Approved, December 11, 1816

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The Forts of Fort Wayne

The first Fur Trading Post was established in what is now Fort Wayne in the mid 1600s. Later in 1697, Jean Baptiste Bissot built the first fortified trading post here to solidify the French claim on this region. In 1715 Fort St. Philippe, also known as Post Miami, was built and lasted until 1747 when Chief Nicholas found it undermanned and burned it to the ground. A second French Post Miami was built in 1750. It was turned over to the British at the end of the French and Indian War in 1760, only to be burned to the ground during Pontiac's Rebellion in 1763. The British re fortified the town but a new Fort wasn't built until 1794 when General "Mad" Anthony Wayne's forces built the first American fort. This was replaced by a better structure in 1798 and is the Fort that stood the Siege of 1812. Major John Whistler constructed the final active fort in 1816. The current reconstruction is a copy of this design. It was abandoned April 19, 1819.

The Reconstructed Fort

This project began in 1964 when Historic Fort Wayne Inc. was established and started planning a reconstruction of the Fort, using Major Whistler's 1814 drawings. After much fundraising, they purchased property in the late 1960s and sought a fort builder. Lok-N-Logs Inc., a log home company in Sherburne, New York, took on the unusual project, constructing the Fort first in New York, then transporting it to Indiana, where it was reassembled. It officially opened shortly before July 4, 1976, to celebrate the nation's Bicentennial, and remained open daily until the early 1990s. Historic Fort Wayne Inc. disbanded in 1989, and the current Historic Fort Wayne Inc. was formed in 2004 as a volunteer effort to preserve the Fort; though they share a



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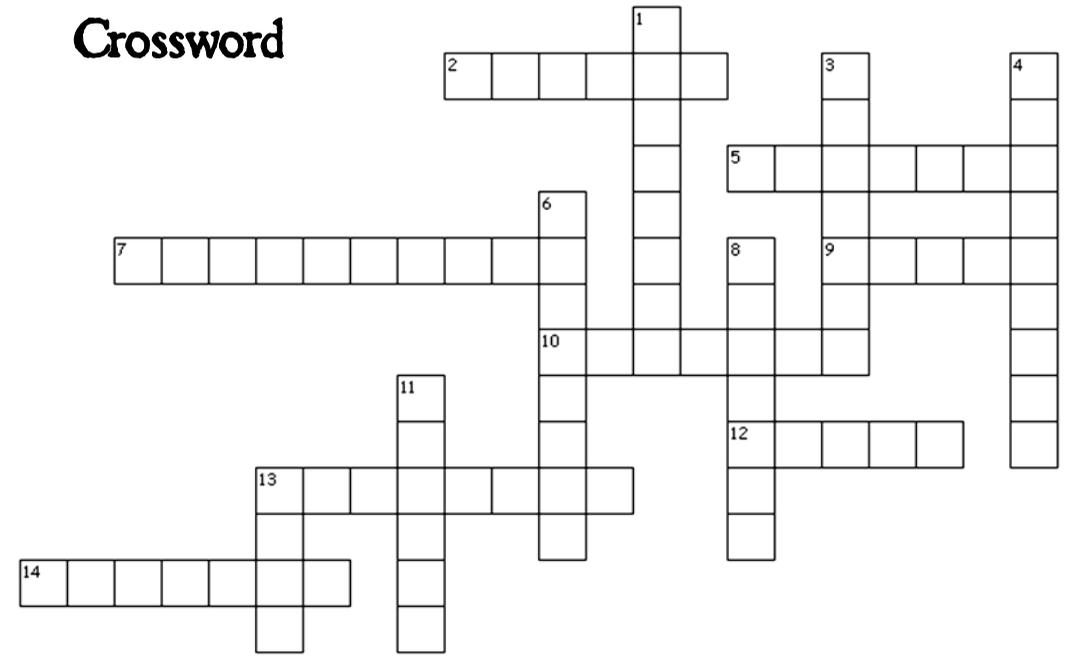

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Crossword answers
Across: 2: Summer, 5: Quarter,
7: Woodwright, 9: Miami, 10: Corydon,
12: Shako, 13: Whistler, 12: Rhubarb
Down 1: December, 3: Chapman, 4: Territo-
ry, 6: Stickney, 8: Madison, 11: Musket, 13:

Crossword



Across

2. 1816 was known as the "year with no"
5. Equipment was stored in the ... Master's office
7. He makes buildings and furniture
9. Native American tribe that lived this area
10. Indiana's first state capital
12. A soldier's hat
13. Designer of the Old Fort

Down

1. Month Indiana became a state
3. Johnny Appleseed's real last name
4. Before Indiana was a state, it was called the Indiana ...
6. Indian Agent at Fort Wayne
8. US President in 1816
11. Standard weapon for a soldier at the Fort

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From Whistler's Kitchen

Rhubarb Custard Pie

1 1/2 cups white sugar
1/4 cups all-purpose flour
3/4 teaspoon ground nutmeg
3 eggs, slightly beaten
4 cups 1-inch sliced raw rhubarb stems (1 pound)
Pastry for 9 inch, lattice-top pie
2 Tbsp butter or margarine

Preheat oven to 400F

Blend sugar, flour, and nutmeg. Beat into eggs. Add rhubarb. Line 9-inch pie plate with pastry. Fill. Dot with butter or margarine. Top with lattice crust.



Fort Wayne in 1816



Fort Wayne: 1816

Major Francis Smith Belton (1791 - 1861) was a U.S. Army officer who served in a number of campaigns, starting with the War of 1812. He had a fiery temperament and was twice convicted by court-martial. At least one case involved a dispute with a fellow officer. Both times he was reinstated to service.

In December 1816, while serving in NYC as a staff brevet major in the Dragoons, he was assigned as assistant inspector general to the post in Detroit. He arrived at Detroit on January 18, 1817 and spent the year based there but traveling to inspect the various Army posts reporting to Detroit. This picture is one of a series of five sketches he apparently made during this journey. The Fort Wayne view bears the date of 1816 and

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