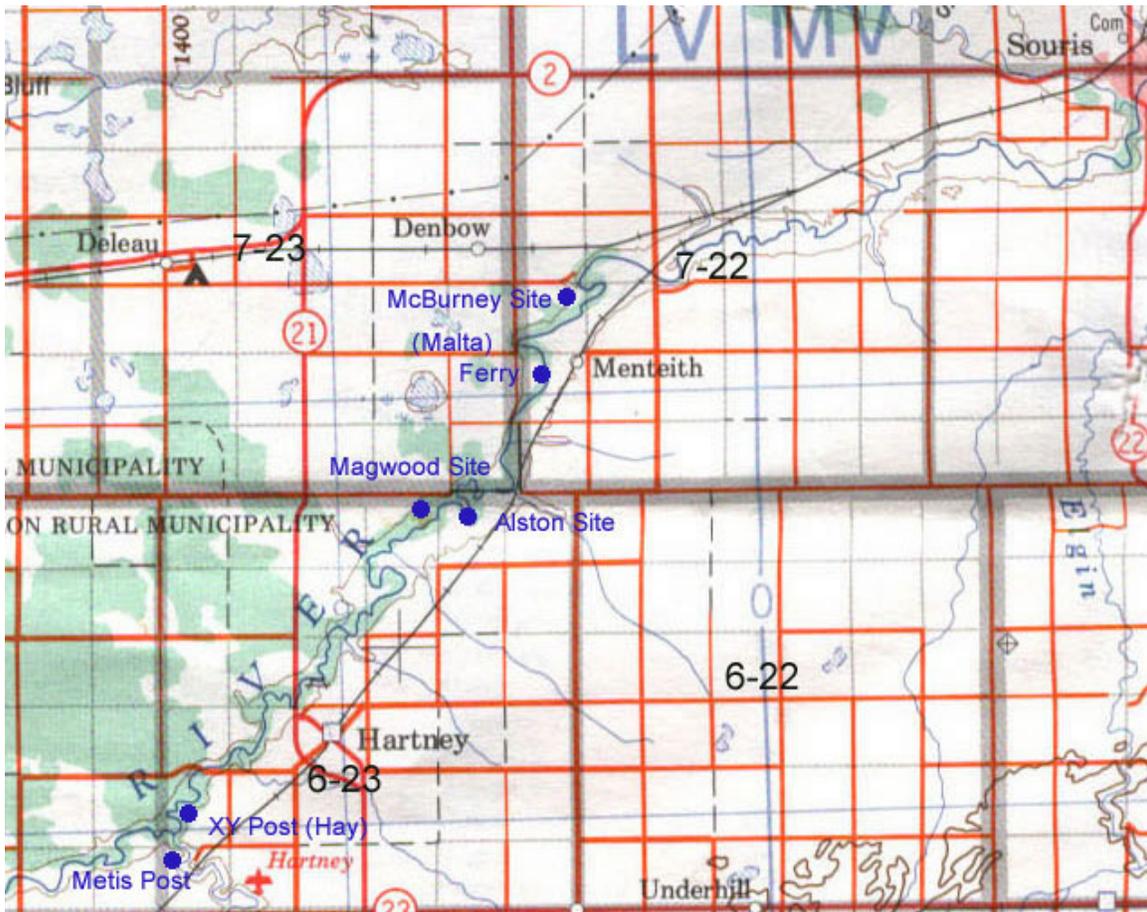


Fort Mr. Grant

Fort Mr. Grant was built by Cuthbert Grant after the Hudson's Bay Company closed Brandon House in 1824. It was located on the Souris River about two miles south of present day Hartney, Manitoba (Section 7, Township 6, Range 23).

In 1828 the HBC put Grant on salary and gave him the title, Warden of the Plains. Grant then spent the winter of 1828-29 at Fort Grant. Governor George Simpson then supplied Cuthbert Grant and Louis Guiboche with an outfit to trade from Turtle Mountain to Qu'Appelle and to compete with the illicit traders on the Souris.

In reporting this action to London three years later, Simpson wrote: "...as they have a number of Indian and half-breed relations and are intimately acquainted and connected with all the different tribes in that quarter and are not directly in the service of the Honourable Company they have it more in their power to harass our opponents than we could with a formidable establishment."



At one point, American traders threatened to destroy Fort Mr. Grant, claiming it was on American soil. The HBC sent George Taylor, a surveyor, to place the 49th parallel, and it was found that Grant's fort was a full 33 miles (53 kms) north of the border. This gave Grant the authority to seize persons and their property not authorized to trade outside the United States. In 1824 Grant also had trouble with some Assiniboine who threatened to destroy his fort. He was able to defuse the situation, so that trading could resume.

Cuthbert Grant died in 1854 after falling off a horse. The next year Fort Mr. Grant became a wintering post only, operating under the management of his descendants and other relatives. By this time business was greatly reduced, consisting of buffalo robes, wolf skins and a few muskrats. After 1861 there is no further mention of the fort in HBC records.



Compiled by Lawrence Barkwell
Coordinator of Metis Heritage and History Research
Louis Riel Institute