

Fort Alexander (1793 - 1801, 1822 - 1860)

Fort Alexander was built by the Hudson's Bay Co. on the Winnipeg River to counter the North West Co.'s Fort Bas-de-la-Rivière that was nearby. It was originally located upriver at and known as Pointe au Foutre House (on the north bank). It was palisaded for defence in 1796 and relocated downstream in 1798 closer to the NWC post.

During the fur trade era, La Vérendrye built a trading post, named Fort Maurepas, on the north side of the Winnipeg River; this post was abandoned near the end of the French period. In the year 1792, a clerk for the North West Company, Toussaint Lesieur, built a post on the south side, which became an important provisioning post for the canoe brigades. Bags of pemmican, brought from the North West Company's posts on the upper Assiniboine, were stored here and taken as needed by the canoe brigades passing between Grand Portage (later, Fort William) and the far northwest. This post was usually referred to as Fort Bas de la Rivière, because of its location at the bottom of Winnipeg River, and it seems to have functioned as the capital of the NW Company's Lake Winnipeg district. The Hudson's Bay Company operated its own post here for a few years between 1795 and 1801. In 1807, the North West Company partner Alexander Mackay rebuilt the post on a nearby site. Beginning in 1808, the new post was known as Fort Alexander. After the Northwest and Hudson's Bay Companies merged in 1821, Fort Alexander was operated as a trading post for the Natives in the region.



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