

## Fort Perch Rock

<b>Commenced</b>	1825	<b>Armament</b>	
<b>Completed</b>	1829	<b>1829</b>	16 x 32 pdr smoothbores 2 x 18 pdr s/b
<b>Cost</b>	£ 26,965 0s 8d	<b>1861</b>	8 x 32 pdr s/b 2 x 7inch RBLs 8 x 68 pdr S/b
<b>Map Reference</b>	SJ302934	<b>c1875</b>	: 68 pdrs replaced by 64 pdr RML
<b>Position</b>	Junction of River Mersey & Liverpool Bay, off New Brighton	<b>1893</b>	: 2 x Maxim machine guns (only)
<b>Type</b>	Sea Fort, Coast Defence	<b>1897</b>	3 x 6-inch MkVI BLs
<b>Ditch</b>	none; below high water mark	<b>1909-10</b>	3 x Mk VII 6-inch BL guns, reduced to 1 in 1916
<b>Guns</b>	16 on terreplein, 2 on towers	<b>post 1919:</b>	2 x 6-inch BL
<b>Barrack Accom.</b>	100 men	<b>Caponiers</b>	None
<b>Present use</b>	Privately owned. Museum.	<b>Counterscarp galleries</b>	None
<b>History</b>	Built to defend entrance to River Mersey. Remodelled 1894	<b>Haxo casemates</b>	None
<b>Disposal</b>	Dismantled 1954 sold 1958 & 1997	<b>Moncrieff Pits</b>	None
<b>Condition</b>	Good : Grade II Listed		
<b>Access</b>	Open as a Museum		
<b>Sources</b>	Fort Perch Rock & the Defence of the Mersey' by Ken McCarron, Merseyside Portfolios 1991.		

### History and Description

Fort Perch Rock was built between 1825-9 as a result of the Corporation of Liverpool having petitioned the Duke of Wellington to consider better defence of the Mersey. Its designer was Second Captain John Sykes Kitson, R.E., whose initial plans were based on a scheme of 1814 drawn up by Colonel Pilkington, R.E. The work was to be heart-shaped, with Martello-like towers 40ft in height at the ends of the gorge which has walls ranging from 24 to 32 feet in height. However, as finally built the fort was an irregular four-sided work with open batteries, and casemated barrack accommodation in the gorge buildings, the lower levels of which were for storage. The magazine was partially-sunken in the centre of the parade. The intention of the trapezoidal shape was to concentrate fire-power and to minimise the effects of the waves. Except at low tide the fort is surrounded by sea water. The fort also served as a fortified lighthouse to replace the old Perch Rock Light. It was built with red sandstone from the Runcorn quarries. The Fort originally had a drawbridge, and a Tuscan portal which bore the coat of arms and the words 'Fort Perch Rock'.

The fort's armaments were improved throughout the century and searchlights installed in 1891, but by then the work had become little more than a tourist attraction. In 1894 there came major remodelling and alterations including the reduction in height of the towers and the building of a wall across the parade. The space between this and the sea walls was filled in with a glacis of sand coated with tar and three 6-inch emplacements were installed for Mk VI guns, now pointing out to sea. 1909 saw the arrival of Mk VII's, new shell-lifts and searchlights, and an electrical generator. The guns were removed in 1954 and the fort sold in 1958. After much damage and vandalism it found a new owner in 1976, since when much restoration has occurred, including the removal of the glacis to show the earlier structures.

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