

McMichael's Blockhouse

The location of this fort is reasonably certain. The site is confirmed by Mr. William Vogel who is a McMichael heir and a Senior Citizen. His grandmother, Florence (McMichael) Sturgeon pointed out the spot to him on many occasions and discussed the existence of the blockhouse. More recently his niece, Mrs. Carol DePaul, also a McMichael heir, has done some studies which confirm the fact.

This blockhouse was located in Robinson Township, Allegheny County, near the northeasterly edge of present Settler's Cabin County Park. It is on the southwesterly corner of the intersection of Ridge Road and McMichael Road.

To get to this site proceed on I-79 to the Carnegie Interchange. Turn off there and go west on Noblestown Road 1.9 miles to McMichael Road. Turn right (north) on McMichael Road for 2.5 miles to its intersection with Ridge Road. The blockhouse stood on the top of the slight hill to your left (west).

As a point of interest there stands an old log cabin on McMichael Road .8 miles north of Noblestown Road on the left (west) side of the road.

John McMichael and his wife, Nancy, came from Maryland around 1774, and he is identified as a farmer and surveyor. He claimed 800 acres of land. From June 14, 1782, to September 15, 1782, he served as a Private in the Washington County Militia under Captain Joseph Cessna.

A pension application by John Kincaid shows that on April 1, 1779, he was drafted for a six months tour of duty, and he "marched to McMichael's Fort where the company was under the command of Col. Cox." Apparently a militia company was stationed there at that time.

Another pension application, that for Henry Shaffer, shows that in 1779 he served a total of seven months militia duty in Captain Zadock Wright's company "at McMichael Station."

Little more is known about this fort and nothing about events that may have occurred there.