


## Signal Hill National Historic Site

Aardvark Archaeology Ltd produced an interpretation program of the archaeological resources on Signal Hill National Historic Site in St. John's (Figure 8). This pilot project collated all of the known archaeological resources investigated at the site since the mid-1960s. Archaeologists Edward Jelks and Robert Ferguson each conducted major archaeological projects on Signal Hill in the 1960s and 1980s. Karlis Karklins in 1969 and Bill Gilbert in the 1990s conducted small-scale investigations at the site. Primarily, these projects focused on the many military-related structures and defensive positions built between 1795 and 1945 (Figures 9 to 11). These include barracks, hospitals, gun and mortar batteries, magazines, canteens and storehouses from the British era (1795-1870) and even American gun batteries and machine gun nests from the Second World War. American soldiers occupied Signal Hill between 1941 and 1945 and gun positions were built there to protect St. John's.

This archaeological interpretative piece will be used in the production of "History at Your Feet", a tour program designed to provide participants with a more personal and in-depth experience than what is currently offered at the site. Using a variety of resources including excavation photographs, historic documents, artist's conceptions and actual artifacts, the participants will experience how archaeological investigations are conducted and how these resources are combined to interpret the military and social history of the site

(Figures 8 & 9). It is anticipated that this program will be in place for the 2006 visitation season. 

## References

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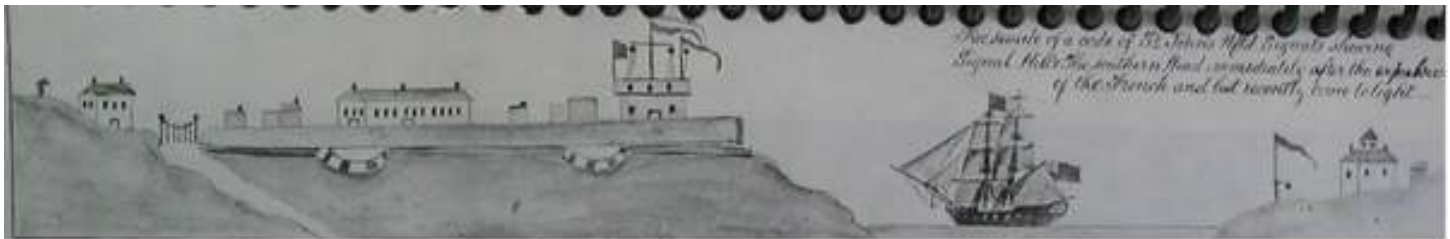


Figure 8 Defences on top of Signal Hill in 1800 (from Candow 1979) (Mills)



Figure 9 Workers excavating at Ladies Lookout in 1966 (From Jelks 1973) (Mills)



Figure 10 Archaeologist Edward Jelks standing by the excavated ruins of the 1835 canteen at Ladies Lookout in 1966. (From Jelks 1973) (Mills)



Figure 11 Foundations exposed at the Queen's Battery in 1966 (From Jelks 1973) (Mills)