



**FORT PITT
BLOCK HOUSE**

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Curator Pens History of Block House

Point State Park, Pittsburgh, PA – October 31, 2013 – Beginning with its construction in 1764, the story of the Fort Pitt Block House is one that spans nearly three centuries of Pittsburgh history. Now for the first time, a comprehensive retelling of the history of the Block House has been published by [The History Press, Inc.](http://TheHistoryPress.com), of South Carolina. Released as part of the upcoming 250th anniversary of the Block House, *The Fort Pitt Block House*, was written by site curator Emily M. Weaver and is available for purchase at the Block House, at local booksellers and online at historypress.net.

The Block House was originally constructed as a defensive redoubt for Fort Pitt, a key British fortification during the French and Indian War. After the conflicts on the Pennsylvania frontier ended, the brick-laid building served as a trading post for wares and munitions, and in the nineteenth century, it played host to families and even a candy shop. In 1894 the Block House was gifted to the [Pittsburgh Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution](http://PittsburghChapteroftheDaughtersoftheAmericanRevolution.org). Though the building was threatened by demolition for the expansion of the Pennsylvania Railroad, the DAR fought to preserve the historic structure. Thanks to their efforts, the Block House remains in its original location in the heart of modern-day [Point State Park](http://PointStatePark.com) with much of its bricks, stone and woodwork still intact from 1764.

“The story of the Block House is not just a military history, it’s about the growth of a city and the collective power of a determined group of women who went against the standards of their times to stand up and fight for what they believed in – the preservation of the Block House,” said Weaver. “The most fascinating part of writing this book was being able to read original documents – like the deed giving the Block House property and Point District land to Major Isaac Craig and his business partner Colonel Stephen Bayard in 1784 and the original letter from Franklin Nicola, offering \$25,000 to the Daughters of the American Revolution for the removal of the Block House to Schenley Park (which they obviously did not accept).”

As curator of the Block House since 2011, Weaver has provided tours to tens of thousands of visitors. She is often amazed by the confusion and misunderstandings that continue to exist about the building and its history. “I am glad we now have this resource to help set the record straight,” Weaver said, “about what the Block House is, its importance to the city of Pittsburgh and early American history, and how it has managed to remain standing for the past 250 years.”

The Fort Pitt Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution, owners and operators of the Block House, will celebrate the publishing of *The Fort Pitt Block House* on the grounds of the Block House on Saturday, November 2 from 11am to 1pm. Weaver will do a special reading from the book at 11:30 am and be on hand throughout the day to sign books. More information is available on the Block House website – www.fortpittblockhouse.com.

Media review copies of *The Fort Pitt Block House* available upon request. To schedule an interview with the author, please contact Maureen Hill at 412-780-4708 or mmahoneycfre@gmail.com.

Owned and Operated by The Fort Pitt Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution of Allegheny County, Pennsylvania

