

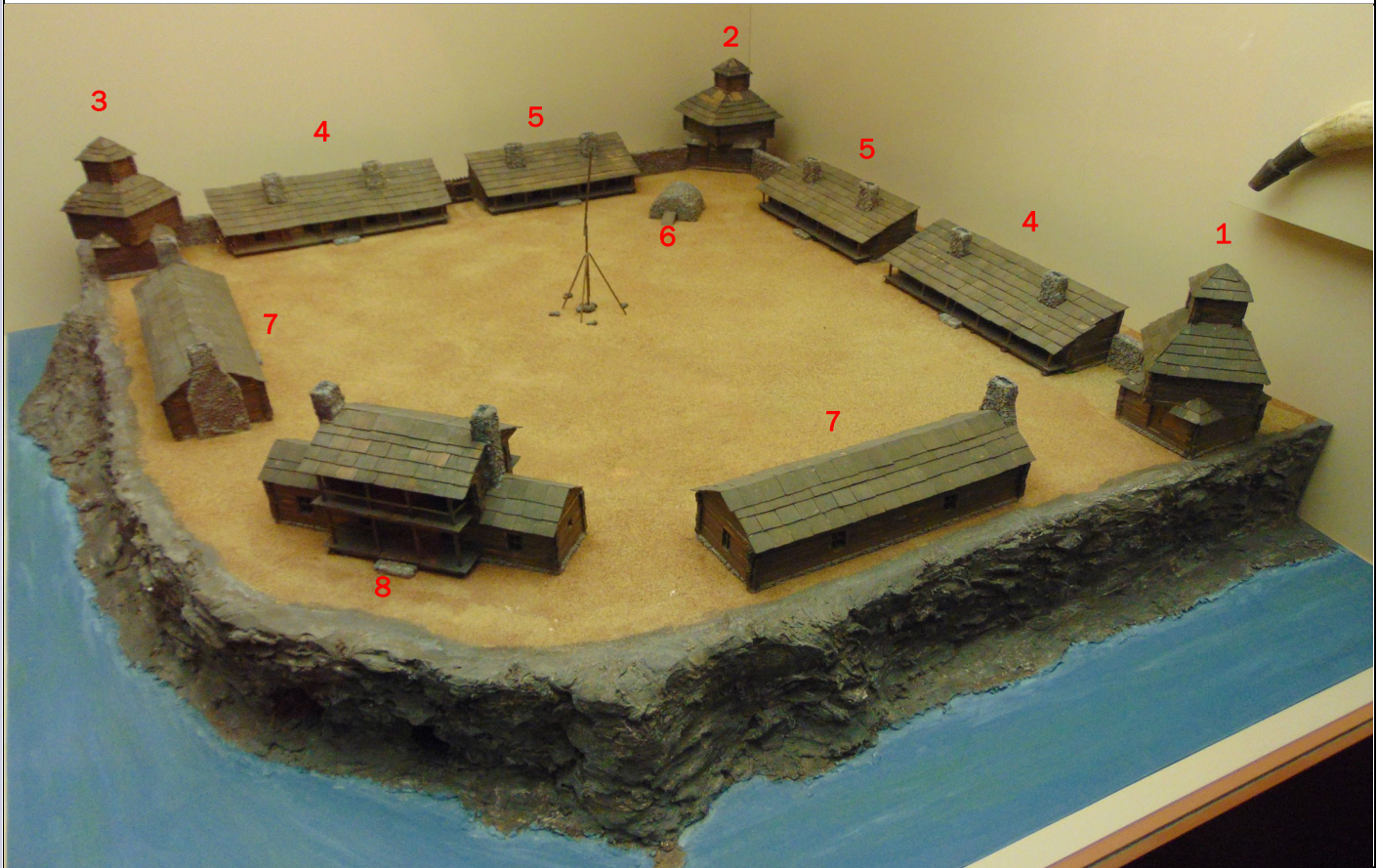


The ASC History Newsletter

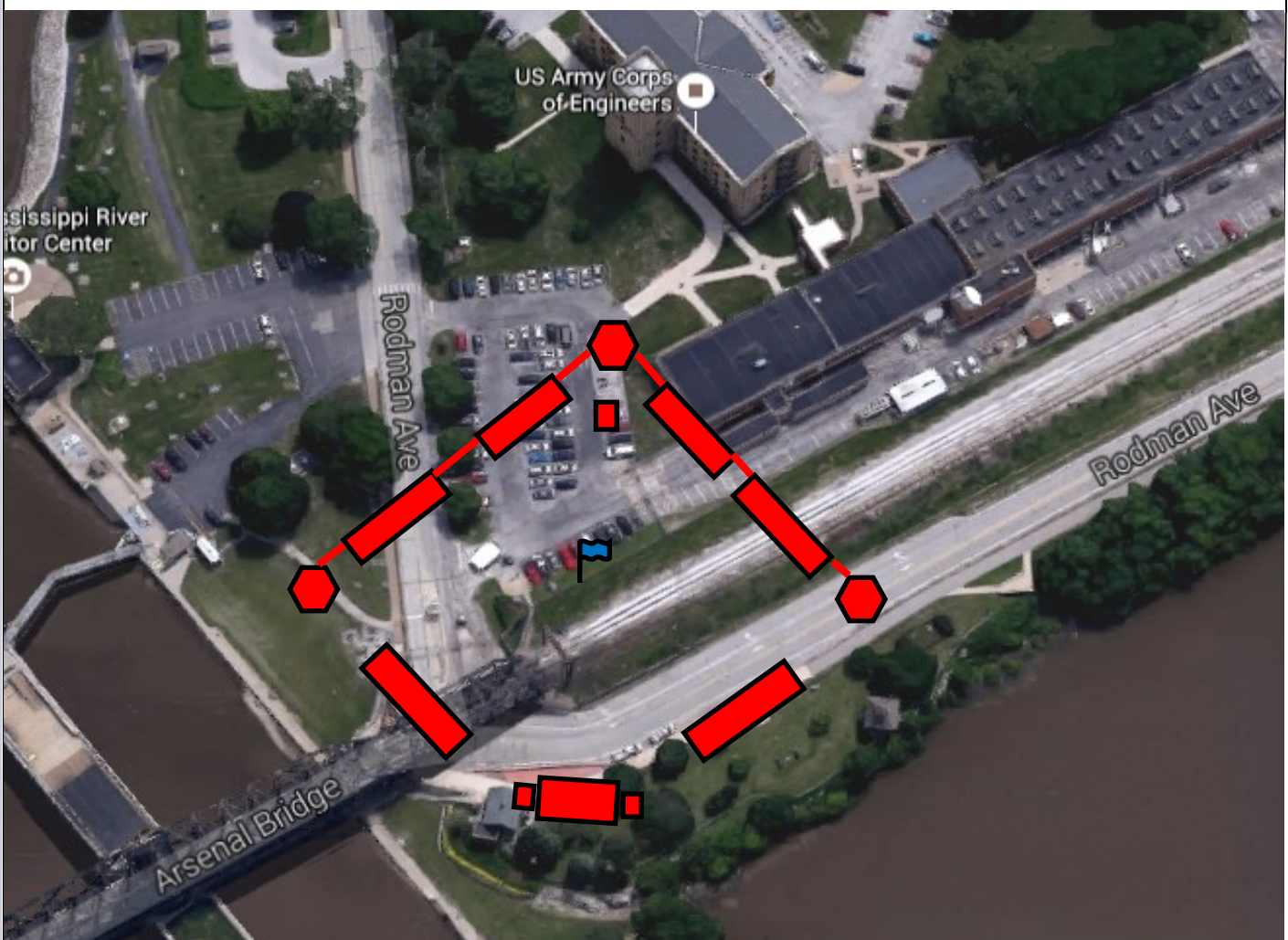
Fort Armstrong's 200th Anniversary: 1816-2016

This
MONTH in
military
history ...

- 1607: Jamestown Colony founded
- 1689: King William's War began
- 1756: French and Indian War began
- 1775: Fort Ticonderoga captured by Americans
- 1812: The Ordnance Dept. was established by act of Congress
- 1848: Mexico ratified the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo
- 1863: General Grant surrounded Vicksburg
- 1915: Lusitania sunk
- 1917: General Pershing appointed commander of the American Expeditionary Force
- 1943: The Memphis Belle completed 25 missions over Europe
- 1954: French defeated at Dien Bien Phu
- 1960: U-2 spy plane shot down over the Soviet Union
- 1988: Soviet Troops began withdrawal from Afghanistan
- 2011: Osama bin Laden killed by Seal Team Six in Pakistan



(1) Blockhouse 1, (2) Blockhouse 2, (3) Blockhouse 3, (4) Barracks, (5) Storerooms/Hospital/Guardhouse, (6) Magazine, (7) Officer Quarters, (8) Commanding Officer's Quarters and Administrative Office. (A model can be seen in the RIA Museum)



On 10 May 1816, a detachment of troops from the U.S. 8th Infantry landed on Arsenal Island and immediately began building. Upon completion the fort at Rock Island was named Fort Armstrong after John Armstrong, who had served in the Revolutionary War. Part of a larger chain of forts to protect the frontier, and built on top the 25' to 30' high bluffs on the northwest portion of the island, the fort was strategically placed to control both channels of the Mississippi River. In 1817, the army assigned Major Stephen H. Long, a topographical engineer, the task of charting the river. On 2 August 1817, Major Long wrote in his journal probably the best description of Fort Armstrong. After providing a technical overview of the fort, he wrote: "the whole combines a degree of taste and elegance worthy of imitation at all other military posts in this part of the country". The replica Blockhouse 1 was erected in 1916 and sits about 40 feet off the original site.