

# LANDMARKS OF THE REVOLUTION IN NEW YORK STATE

*A Guide to the Historic Sites Open to the Public*

By David C. Thurbeimer

FOURTH EDITION

KINGSLAND

Springfield

Belvidere

New York State American Revolution Bicentennial Commission







# LANDMARKS

## Of The American Revolution In New York State

by David C. Thurheimer



New York State  
American Revolution  
Bicentennial Commission

Fourth Edition  
Albany/1976

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AMERICAN REVOLUTION  
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## INTRODUCTION

This is a deliberately incomplete book. It has not been designed to offer satisfaction in reading, but to point the reader toward a series of discoveries he may make on his own. Each paragraph, picture and map has been chosen only for its value as a visitor's introduction to these landmarks of the Revolution in New York State. In the experience of the visitor's imagination something can occur which is more valuable than any words or pictures could supply.

Everyone will find that some of the 40 historic sites in the main listing will have wider appeal and deeper meaning than others. All of these sites, however, are authentically related to events or individuals of statewide significance in the Revolutionary period, and all are open to the public on a regular schedule. Several ask fees or donations of visitors, but none are operated for profit and none charge as much as a ticket to a neighborhood movie.

Hopefully, the reader-visitor this book is addressed to will also discover an appetite for further reading about the Revolution. The list of good books on the subject is long and grows larger as the bicentennial approaches. Where our State's Bicentennial Commission can make useful contributions to the list, it will attempt to do so in the years ahead. But for now our prescription is contained in the following pages, to be "taken as directed."

John H. G. Pell  
*Chairman*



## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The author wishes to acknowledge the assistance of the following: Charles Freedman, who drew all of the maps especially for this booklet; the staff of the Office of State History and the New York State American Revolution Bicentennial Commission for offering suggestions, gathering materials and doing so many things to make this publication possible. A special vote of thanks goes to the staff members at the sites and to the many local historians who helped with research.

Photographs are reproduced courtesy of the following: New York State Department of Commerce (pp. 5, 17, 21, 34, 39, 40, 42, 45, 47); Palisades Interstate Parks Commission, photographs by John Korbach (pp. 15, 19, 20); Richard S. Allen (pp. 1, 8, 11, 22, 24, 25); Fort Klock Historic Restoration (p. 45); Old Fort Niagara, photo by Frank O. Seed (p. 55); Office of Parks and Recreation, photo by Nick Drahos (p. 51); Saratoga National Historical Park (p. 32); Sleepy Hollow Restorations, Inc. (p. 13); Fort Ticonderoga (p. 36); and Fort Stanwix National Monument (p. 49). Those on pp. 27, 29, are by the author.

### **The cover . . .**

*The cover illustration is a section of "A Chorographical Map of the Province of New-York in North America," by Claude Joseph Sauthier Esq., published in London January 1, 1779. This section, running from inside the front cover to inside the rear cover, shows the Mohawk Valley and the water route from Albany to Fort Ontario at Oswego. Many of the historic sites listed in this publication can be located on the map. The Sauthier map was made available through the courtesy of the New York State Library.*

# LANDMARKS

Of The American Revolution  
In New York State

## **RAYNHAM HALL:**

*Raynham Hall is located at 20 West Main St. in the heart of the Village of Oyster Bay, Long Island. It is just around the corner from the Oyster Bay Town Hall.*

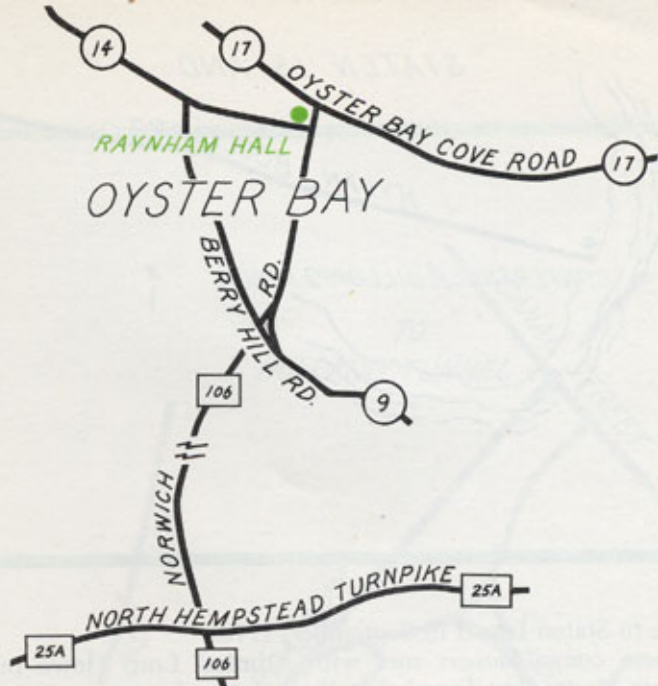
Raynham Hall played an important role in the War for American Independence. It was the home of Samuel Townsend, whose son, Robert, was "Culper, Jr.," General Washington's chief intelligence agent in New York City. Samuel himself was a member of the New York Provincial Congress which ratified the Declaration of Independence.

In the winter of 1778, Lieutenant Colonel John Graves Simcoe of the Queens Rangers chose the Townsend House as his winter

*Raynham Hall*







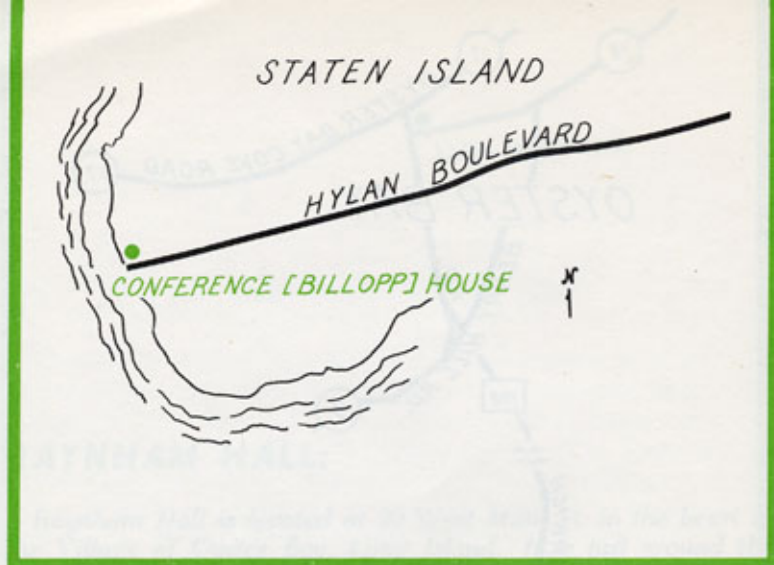
headquarters. A friend of Simcoe's who visited him there was Major John André, aide-de-camp to General Sir Henry Clinton and Deputy Adjutant General of the British Army in North America. Tradition has it that Sally Townsend, one of Samuel's daughters, overheard Simcoe and André discussing the plot to betray West Point. She passed the information on to her brother, Robert ("Culper, Jr."), which resulted in the capture of André, the flight of Benedict Arnold, and the saving of West Point.

Raynham Hall is maintained by the Town of Oyster Bay and the Friends of Raynham Hall, Inc. It is open daily, except Tuesday, 10 a.m. to 12 noon and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. The Hall is closed Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years Day.

## CONFERENCE (BILLOPP) HOUSE:

*The Conference House is located at 7455 Hylan Blvd. in Tottenville at the western tip of Staten Island.*

Early in the Revolution this house was the scene of an unsuccessful peace conference. The Continental Congress, thinking that the British Commander-in-Chief might negotiate a peace, sent Benjamin Franklin, John Adams and Edward Rut-



ledge to Staten Island in September, 1776.

These commissioners met with Admiral Lord Howe in the Billopp House, but found that he had to refer any negotiations to London. Howe did inform the Americans that any discussion would depend upon withdrawal of the Declaration of Independence. The three commissioners felt that there was no basis for further talks and returned to Philadelphia.

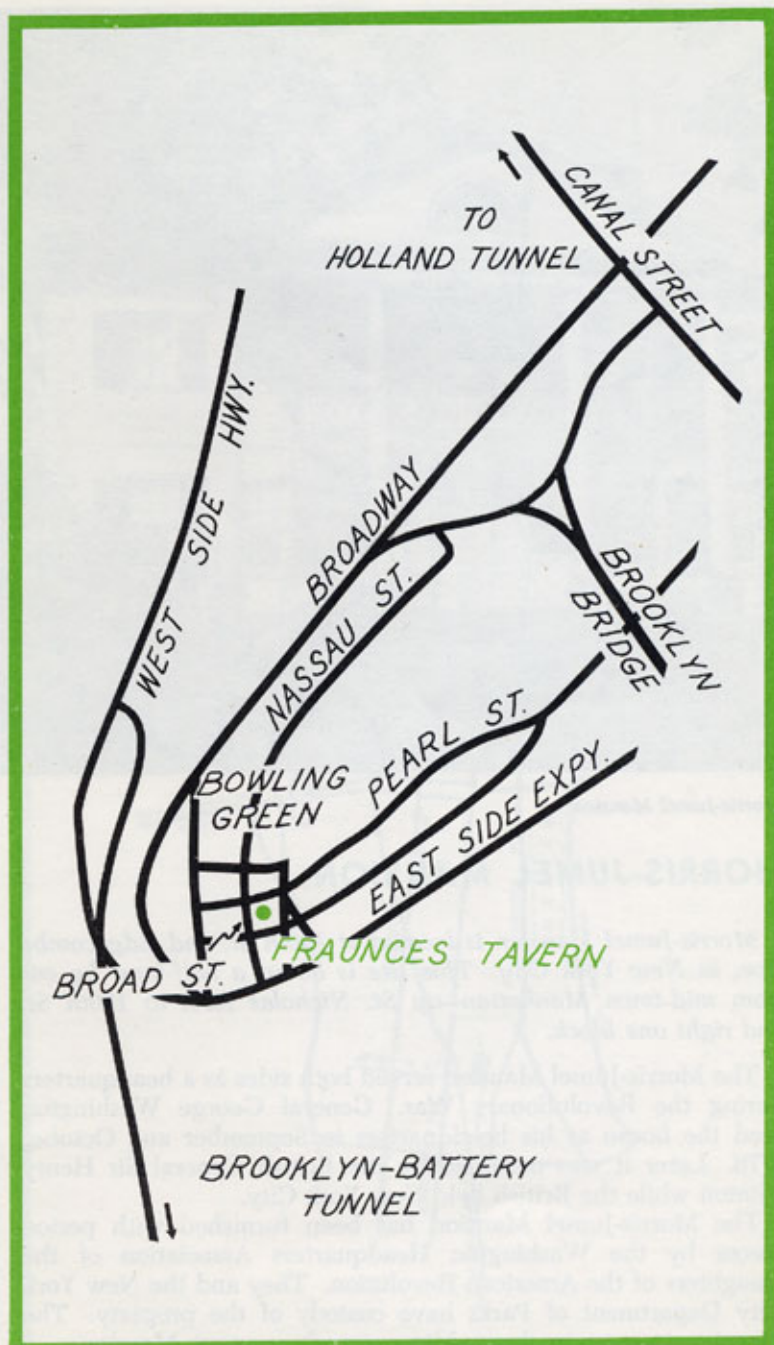
The Conference House is administered by the Conference House Association. It has been restored and is furnished in the Revolutionary War period. The house is open to the public Tuesday through Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

## **FRAUNCES TAVERN:**

*Fraunces Tavern is located at 54 Pearl St., New York City. This is on the corner of Pearl and Broad Streets at the southern end of Manhattan Island.*

At the end of the Revolution Fraunces Tavern was the site of the memorable scene in which General George Washington bade farewell to the Officers of the Continental Army on December 4, 1783.

The tavern originally on this site dates from 1719. It has been rebuilt by the Sons of the Revolution and serves as their headquarters. The third floor museum displays material relating to the Revolution and mementoes and artifacts associated with George Washington. Fraunces Tavern Museum is open weekdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.







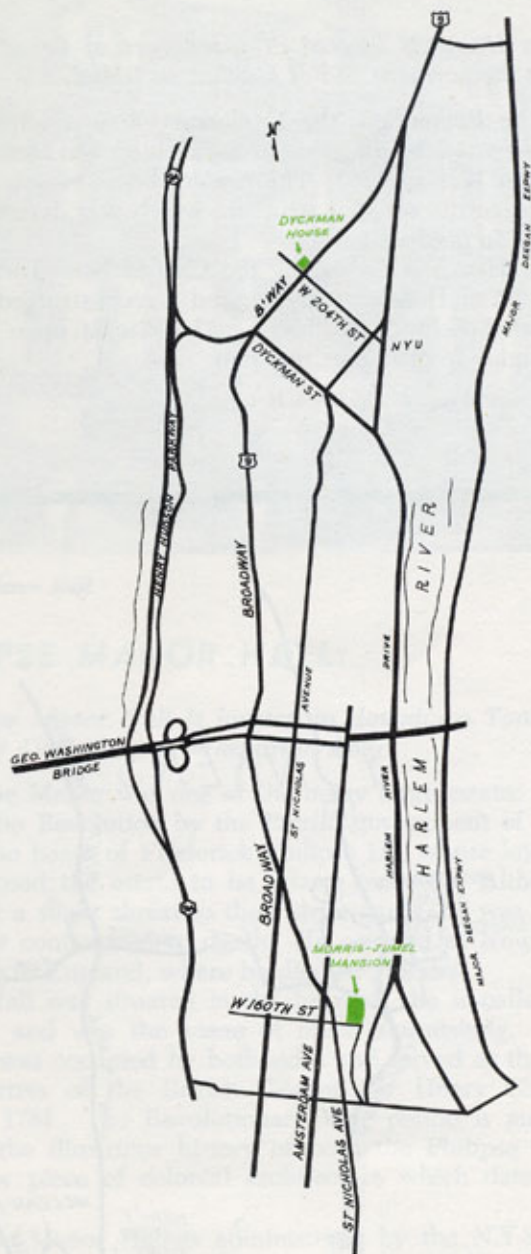
*Morris-Jumel Mansion*

## **MORRIS-JUMEL MANSION:**

*Morris-Jumel Mansion is located at 160th St. and Edgecombe Ave. in New York City. This site is about a half-hour by car from mid-town Manhattan—up St. Nicholas Ave. to 160th St. and right one block.*

The Morris-Jumel Mansion served both sides as a headquarters during the Revolutionary War. General George Washington used the house as his headquarters in September and October 1776. Later it was occupied by the British General Sir Henry Clinton while the British held New York City.

The Morris-Jumel Mansion has been furnished with period pieces by the Washington Headquarters Association of the Daughters of the American Revolution. They and the New York City Department of Parks have custody of the property. The Mansion is open to the public every day except Monday.



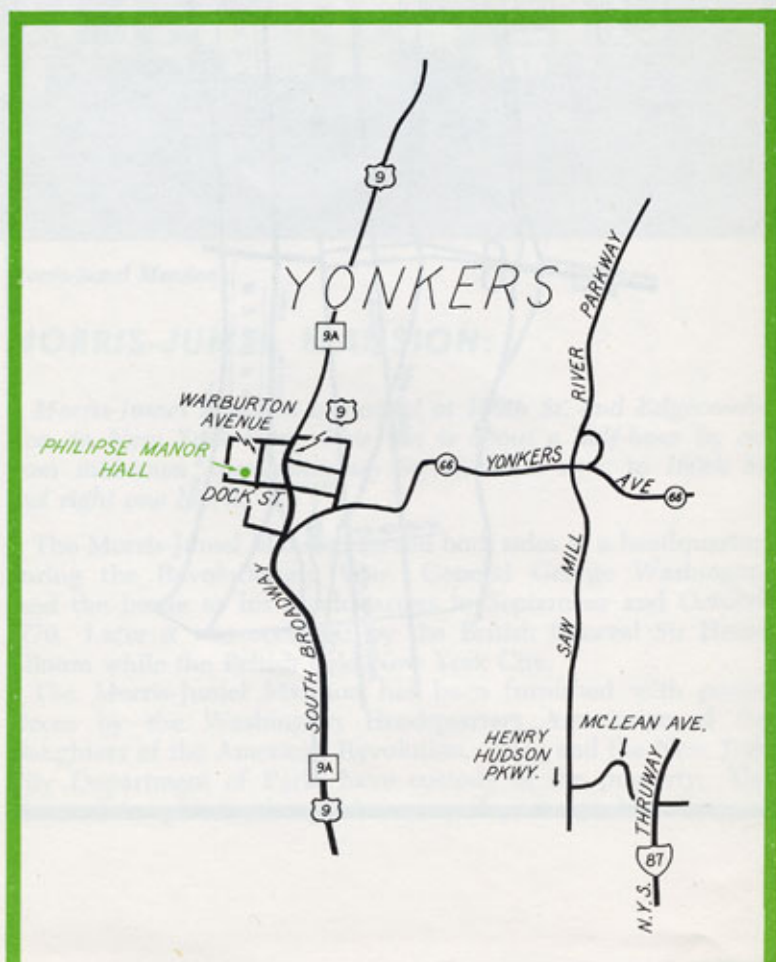
## DYCKMAN HOUSE:

*Dyckman House is located at the corner of Broadway and 204th St. at the northern end of Manhattan Island.*

During the Revolution, the Dyckman Farm which occupied this site was used by the British as a camp for Hessian mercenaries from 1776 to 1783. The present house was built about 1783 to replace the original structure which was destroyed during the Hessian occupation.

Dyckman House is owned by the City of New York. There is a collection of Hessian artifacts, and a reconstructed Hessian hut is located behind the house. The site is open Tuesday through Sunday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

*The map on page 6 locates Dyckman House.*







*Philipse Manor Hall*

## **PHILIPSE MANOR HALL:**

*Philipse Manor Hall is located in downtown Yonkers at the corner of Dock St. and Warburton Ave.*

Philipse Manor was one of the many large estates confiscated during the Revolution by the Patriot government of New York. It was the home of Frederick Philipse III, whose loyalty to the King caused the estate to be seized and sold. Although blind and only a slight threat to the Patriot cause, he was imprisoned and later condemned to death. He escaped to New York City and later to England, where he died in 1786.

The Hall was situated in the heart of the so-called "Neutral Ground" and was the scene of much skirmishing. At various times it was occupied by both sides and served as the sometime headquarters of the British General Sir Henry Clinton from 1778 to 1781. The Revolutionary War period is an important part of the illustrious history of both the Philipse family and this show piece of colonial architecture which dates from the 1680's.

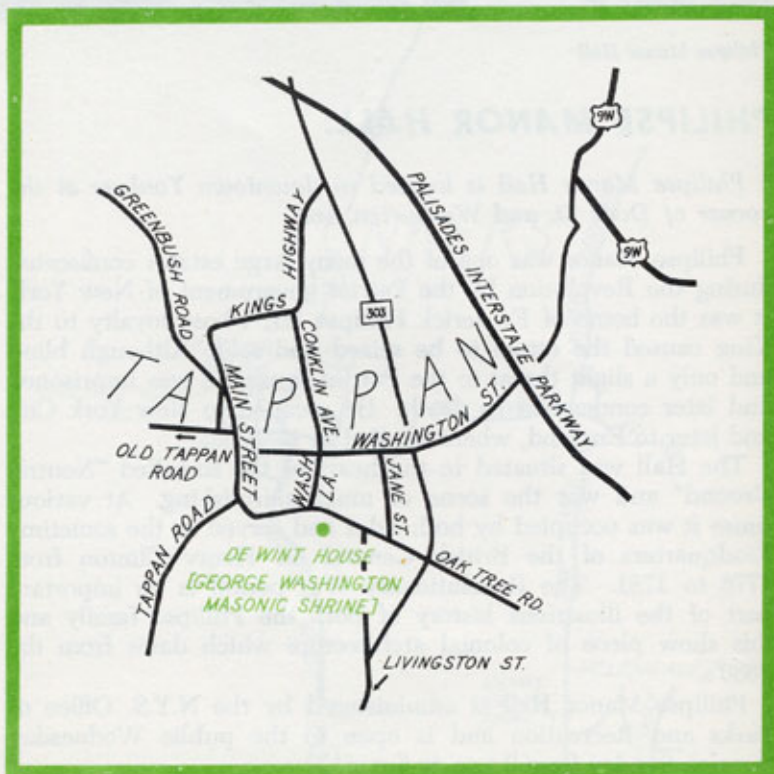
Philipse Manor Hall is administered by the N.Y.S. Office of Parks and Recreation and is open to the public Wednesday through Sunday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

## DE WINT HOUSE NATIONAL SHRINE:

*The De Wint House is located at Livingston Ave. and Oak Tree Road in the Village of Tappan.*

During the Revolutionary War the De Wint House was occupied several times by General George Washington. He was here at the time of the trial and execution of Major John Andre, Benedict Arnold's co-conspirator in the plot against West Point. It was also in this house that General Washington signed Andre's death warrant.

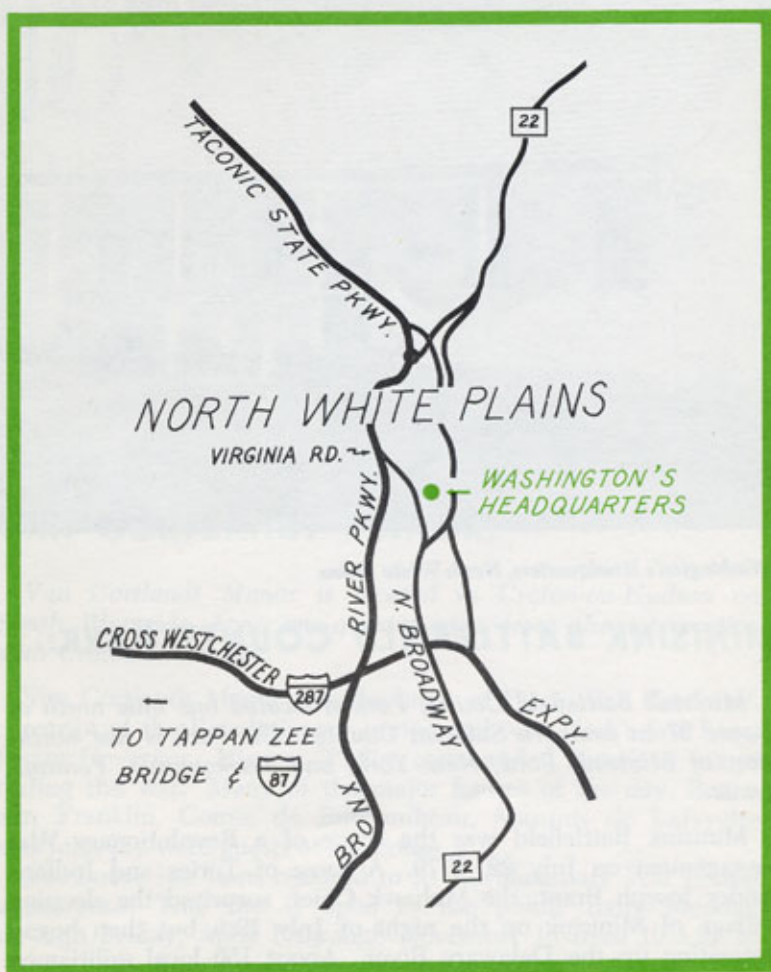
The De Wint House has been designated as a Registered National Historic Landmark. It is owned and maintained as an historic site by the Masons of New York State and is open to the public daily, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.



## WASHINGTON'S HEADQUARTERS:

*Washington's Headquarters is located on Virginia Road, between N.Y. Route 22 and the Bronx River Parkway, immediately east of Exit 26 in North White Plains.*

At various times during the American Revolution General George Washington used this small frame house as his headquarters. The first occasion was during the Battle of White Plains in October, 1776. He was also there for two months in mid-1778 and again, briefly, in the summer of 1781.





Washington's Headquarters is operated by the Westchester County Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation. It is open to the public from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, and from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays.



*Washington's Headquarters, North White Plains*

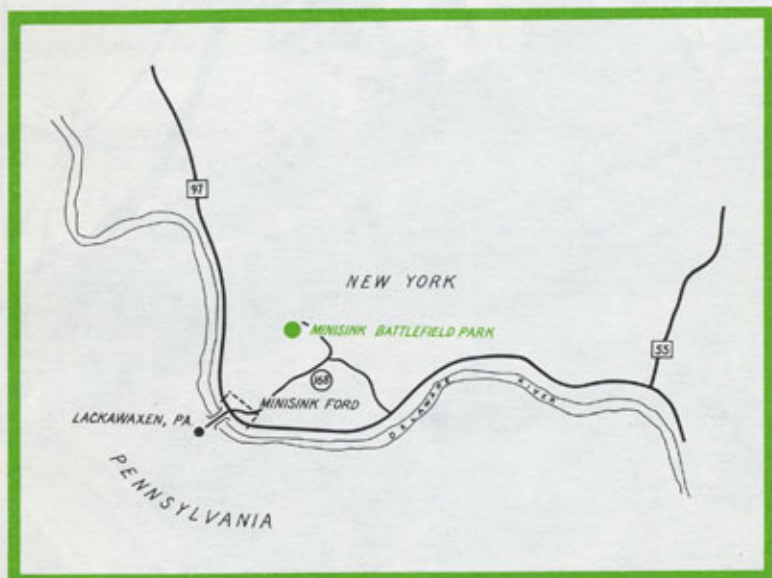
## **MINISINK BATTLEFIELD COUNTY PARK:**

*Minisink Battlefield County Park is located one mile north of Route 97 in southern Sullivan County. The Park is just northeast of Minisink Ford, New York, and Lackawaxen, Pennsylvania.*

Minisink Battlefield was the scene of a Revolutionary War engagement on July 22, 1779. A force of Tories and Indians under Joseph Brant, the Mohawk Chief, surprised the sleeping village of Minisink on the night of July 19th but then began retreating up the Delaware River. About 150 local militiamen

led by Lieutenant Colonel Benjamin Tusten set off after the raiders, but were ambushed by Brant near a ford on the Delaware. At least 45 of the Americans were killed and the rest routed, after which Brant continued his escape unhampered.

Minisink Battlefield is now a park administered by Sullivan County. The park is open daily from Memorial Day Weekend to Columbus Day and features historical markers and a picnic area.



## VAN CORTLANDT MANOR:

*Van Cortlandt Manor is located in Croton-on-Hudson on South Riverside Ave., one-quarter mile from the intersection with Croton Point Ave.*

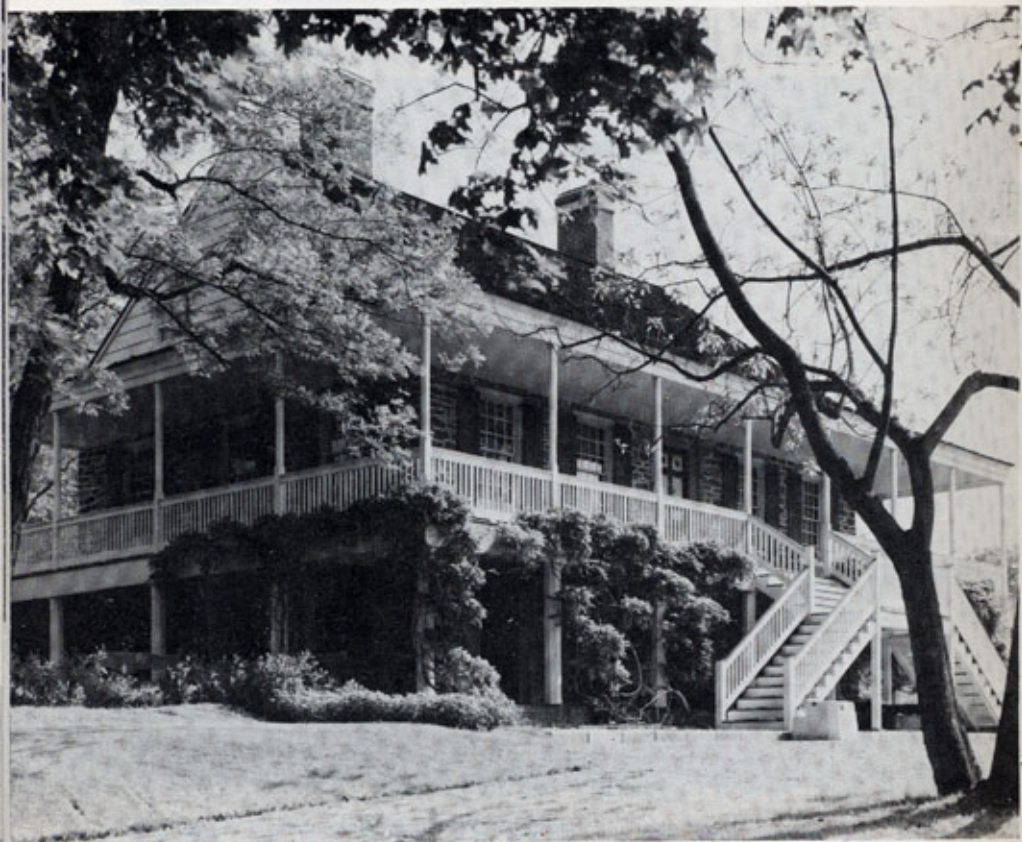
Van Cortlandt Manor was the home of Pierre Van Cortlandt, a patriot of the Revolutionary period and New York's first Lieutenant Governor. His son, Philip, commanded American troops during the war. Many of the major figures of the day, Benjamin Franklin, Comte de Rochambeau, Marquis de Lafayette and John Jay were guests at the house.

The house has been restored to its Revolutionary War period appearance. This site is open to the public daily Monday through Friday, April 1 through November 15 from 10 a.m. to



5 p.m.; November 16 through March 31 from noon to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday the hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Van Cortlandt Manor is a property of Sleepy Hollow Restorations, Inc.

*A map locating Van Cortlandt Manor is on page 14.*



*Van Cortlandt Manor*

## **STONY POINT BATTLEFIELD RESERVATION:**

*Stony Point Battlefield Reservation is located on U.S. Routes 9-W and 202 just north of the Village of Stony Point and about 2 miles south of Bear Mountain State Park.*

One of the most daring exploits of the American Revolution took place here in July, 1779. At that time the British held the fortifications here, and thus controlled Kings Ferry on the Hudson, a vital link in the American east-west line of communica-

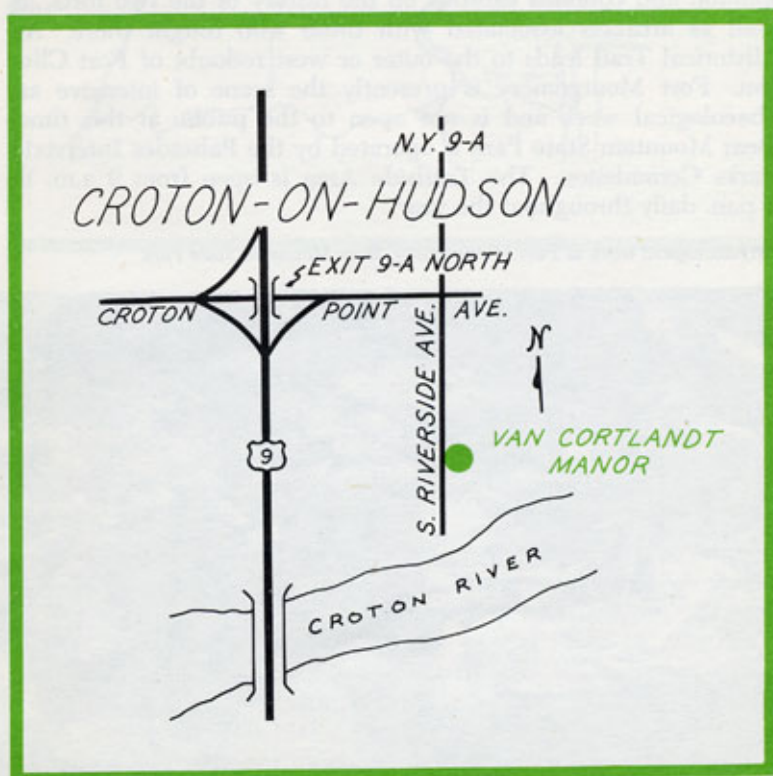


tion and the key to the Hudson Highlands.

General Washington ordered General Anthony Wayne to take Stony Point, and shortly after midnight on July 16, 1779 the American forces attacked the British defenders. Wayne's security precautions made the attack a complete surprise. He had ordered his men to unload their weapons and rely on bayonets, so that an inadvertant shot would not warn the British. Even though Wayne received a head wound, he continued to direct his men in the hand-to-hand fighting. For this brilliant victory Wayne was given a gold medal and the thanks of Congress. The daring attack also earned for him the nickname "Mad Anthony."

Stony Point Battlefield Reservation is administered by the Palisades Interstate Parks Commission and is open daily from May 1 to October 31. Features include original earthworks, museum, hiking trails and picnic area.

*A map locating Stony Point is on page 16.*



## BEAR MOUNTAIN STATE PARK:

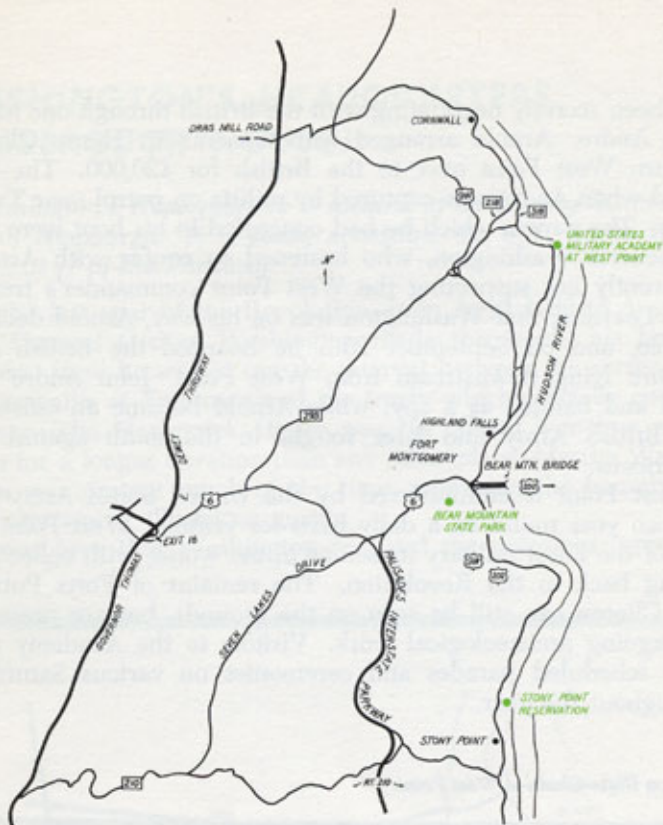
*Bear Mountain State Park is on the west bank of the Hudson River, 45 miles north of New York City. It is easily reached by numerous highways, including U.S. 9-W, U.S. 202, N.Y. 17 and the Palisades Interstate Parkway.*

During the Revolution Forts Clinton and Montgomery were located in the area now included in Bear Mountain State Park. In October 1777 the British General Sir Henry Clinton led an expedition against American positions in the Hudson Highlands. Forts Clinton and Montgomery were major strong points in the American defense of the Hudson River. General Clinton planned to create a diversion in the lower Hudson Valley and thus take some pressure off General John Burgoyne who was bogged down at Saratoga. On October 6, 1777 Clinton's forces took these forts, and on the 7th they broke the Americans' defensive boom across the river.

The Bear Mountain Historical Museum is on the site of Fort Clinton and contains exhibits on the history of the two forts, as well as artifacts associated with those who fought there. An Historical Trail leads to the outer or west redoubt of Fort Clinton. Fort Montgomery is presently the scene of intensive archaeological work and is not open to the public at this time. Bear Mountain State Park is operated by the Palisades Interstate Parks Commission. The Trailside Area is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily throughout the year.

*Archaeological work at Fort Montgomery, Bear Mountain State Park*





## **WEST POINT, THE UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY:**

*The United States Military Academy is just off U.S. Route 9-W between Newburgh and Bear Mountain State Park. It is about 50 miles north of New York City and easily accessible via the Thruway or Palisades Interstate Parkway.*

West Point was the focal point of one of the best known stories of the American Revolution, and an event which made the name of Benedict Arnold synonymous with "traitor." George Washington referred to West Point as the "Key to America," and in 1778 fortifications were constructed there which effectively sealed off the Hudson Valley from the British.

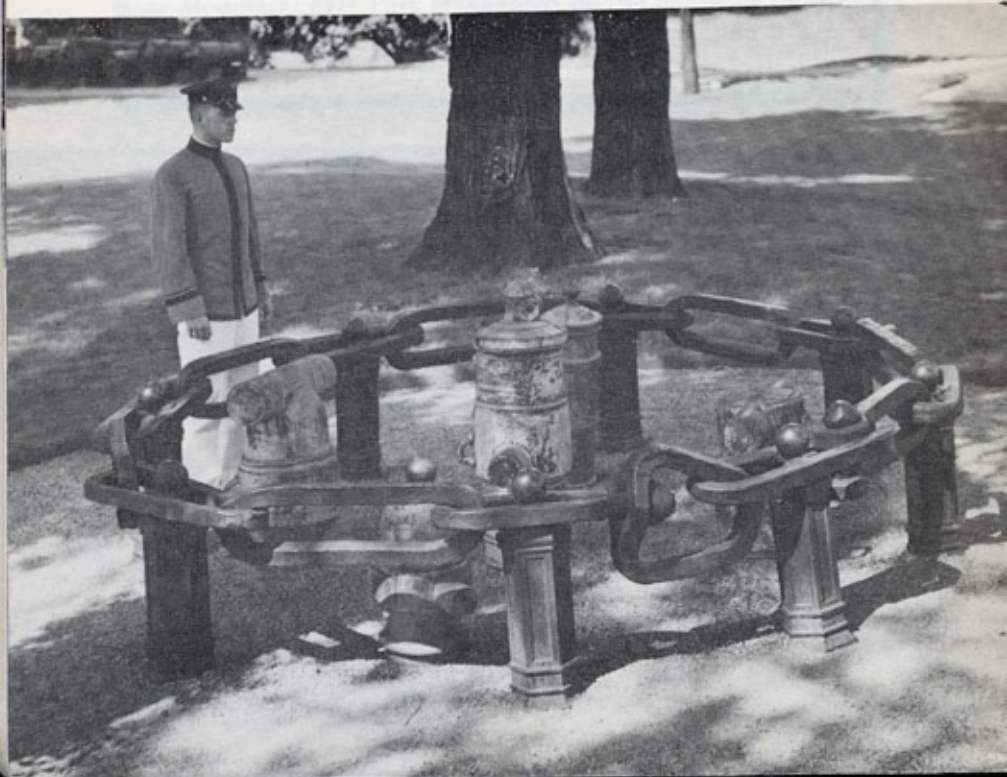
On August 3, 1780 Major General Benedict Arnold was given command of these fortifications. However, for over a year he



had been secretly negotiating with the British through one Major John Andre. Arnold arranged with General Sir Henry Clinton to turn West Point over to the British for £20,000. The plot failed when Andre was captured by militia on patrol near Tarrytown. The papers which he had concealed in his boot were sent to General Washington, who hastened to confer with Arnold, apparently not suspecting the West Point commander's treachery. Learning that Washington was on his way, Arnold decided to flee, and on September 25th he boarded the British ship *Vulture* lying downstream from West Point. John Andre was tried and hanged as a spy, while Arnold became an officer in the British Army and later fought in the south against the Americans.

West Point is administered by the United States Army and is open year round on a daily basis for visitors. West Point has one of the finest military museums in the world, with collections dating back to the Revolution. The remains of Forts Putnam and Clinton can still be seen on the grounds, but are presently undergoing archaeological work. Visitors to the Academy may view scheduled parades and ceremonies on various Saturdays throughout the year.

*Hudson River Chain at West Point*

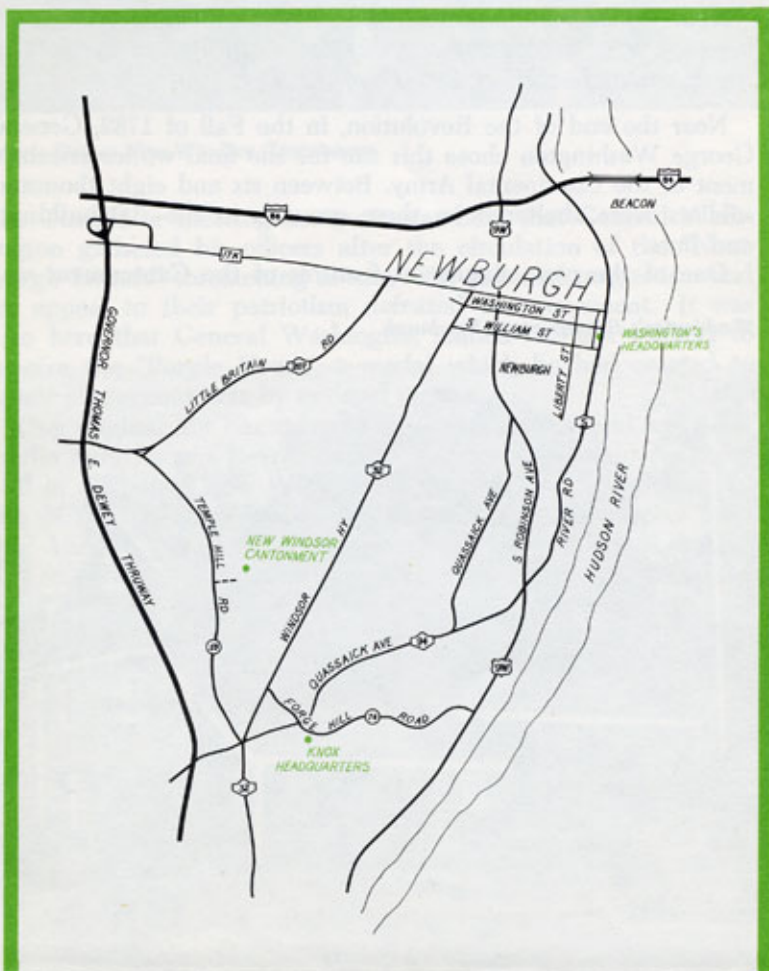


## WASHINGTON'S HEADQUARTERS (HASBROUCK HOUSE):

*Washington's Headquarters is located at 84 Liberty St. in the City of Newburgh. It is easily accessible via N.Y. Route 17-K from Exit 17 of the Thruway.*

In the last year of the Revolution, from April 1782 to August 1783, General George Washington made this house his headquarters. Here he waited out the interval between the surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown and the treaty which officially ended the war. The Hasbrouck House was his official war-time residence for a longer duration than any other place. Martha Washington was present much of the time, managing the household and entertaining illustrious guests.

It was here that Washington received the notorious "crown"





letter which promised the support of his officers if he would become king of a new American monarchy. He vehemently rejected the offer. Here also Washington prepared his negative reply to those officers who proposed to establish him as a military dictator.

One of the significant things about this site is that its acquisition by New York State in 1850 was the first act of historic site preservation by any state or federal agency. Washington's Headquarters is administered by the N.Y.S. Office of Parks and Recreation. It is open throughout the year, Wednesday through Sunday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The site is closed Monday and Tuesday, except when Washington's Birthday or the Fourth of July fall on one of these days.

## NEW WINDSOR CANTONMENT:

*New Windsor Cantonment is located on Temple Hill Road, between N.Y. Routes 207 and 32, just south of Newburgh. The site is situated south of Exit 17 of the Thruway.*

Near the end of the Revolution, in the Fall of 1782, General George Washington chose this site for the final winter encampment of the Continental Army. Between six and eight thousand soldiers were sheltered on these grounds in the 700 buildings and huts.

One of the most significant features of the Cantonment was

*Washington's Headquarters, Newburgh*







*Music Day at New Windsor Cantonment*

the Temple or meeting house. It was here that General Washington gathered his officers after the circulation of the "Newburgh Letters" threatening mutiny. His personal magnetism and an appeal to their patriotism defeated the movement. It was also here that General Washington named the first soldiers to receive the "Purple Heart," a medal which he had created to honor courageous acts by enlisted men.

One original hut has survived the years and several moves. It is the only known Revolutionary War wooden camp structure still in existence. New Windsor Cantonment is administered by the N.Y.S. Office of Parks and Recreation and is open from mid-April to October 31, Wednesday through Sunday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. This site features programs and demonstrations on a daily basis as well as special events. An events calendar may be obtained by writing to the New Windsor Cantonment, Box 207, Vails Gate, New York, 12584.

*A map locating New Windsor Cantonment is on page 18.*



*Knox Headquarters*

## **KNOX HEADQUARTERS:**

*Knox Headquarters is located at the junction of Forge Hill Road and N.Y. Route 94 near Vails Gate, just southwest of Newburgh.*

During the Revolution this house was used as a headquarters by Major General Henry Knox at various times between June 1779 and September 1782. General Knox was George Washington's chief of artillery during the war and is best known for the great feat of transporting the cannon captured at Fort Ticonderoga through winter snows to Dorchester Heights, where their presence alone forced the British to evacuate Boston. He commanded the artillery at the siege of Yorktown and was also commander of West Point from 1782 until 1784. He later served as Secretary of War from 1785 to 1794.

Other famous American military leaders who used the house for headquarters were generals Nathanael Greene, Frederick von Steuben, and Horatio Gates. Knox Headquarters is administered by the N.Y.S. Office of Parks and Recreation and is open to the public 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday.





*Van Wyck Homestead Museum*

## **VAN WYCK HOMESTEAD MUSEUM:**

*The Van Wyck Homestead is located at the junction of U.S. Route 9 and Interstate Route 84 just south of the village of Fishkill.*

The Van Wyck Homestead is all that remains of the massive Revolutionary War supply depot at Fishkill. In November 1776 General George Washington ordered the construction of barracks for 2,000 men at the Village of Fishkill. This site later became the major supply depot for the entire Northern Department of the Continental Army. The Van Wyck house was part of the encampment and many famous Revolutionary figures dined there, including George Washington, Marquis de Lafayette, Baron von Steuben and Israel Putnam. Military courts martial were held here, the most famous being that of Enoch Crosby, counterspy for the American forces. This was a mock trial, and Crosby was allowed to escape under secret orders from General Washington. Tradition has it that Crosby was the model for James Fenimore Cooper's hero of *The Spy*.

The Van Wyck Homestead contains many artifacts from the Revolutionary war supply depot, as well as materials relating to the Van Wyck family and the early history of the area. The museum is open Wednesday, 1 to 5 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Sunday, 1 to 5 p.m.

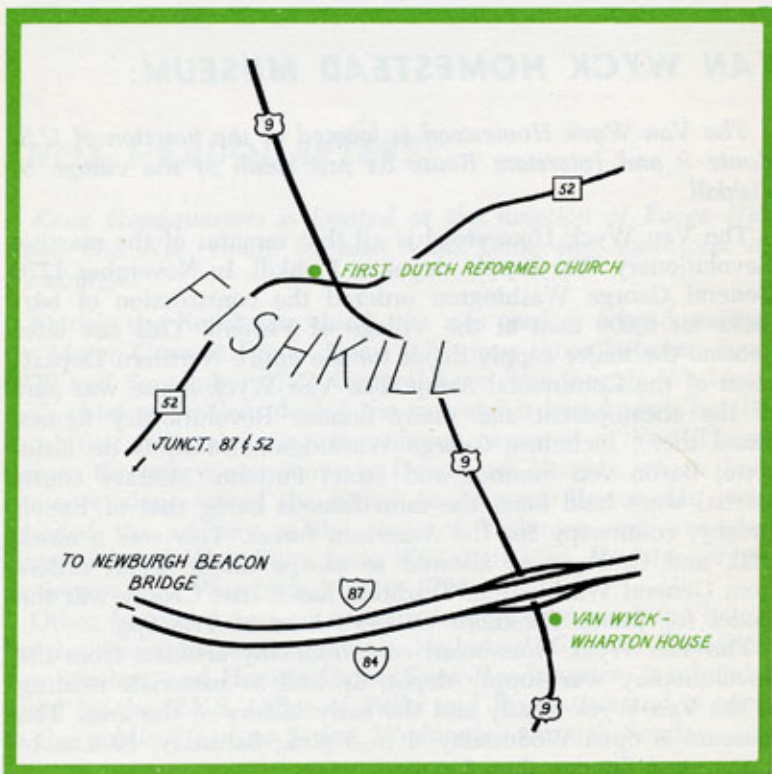


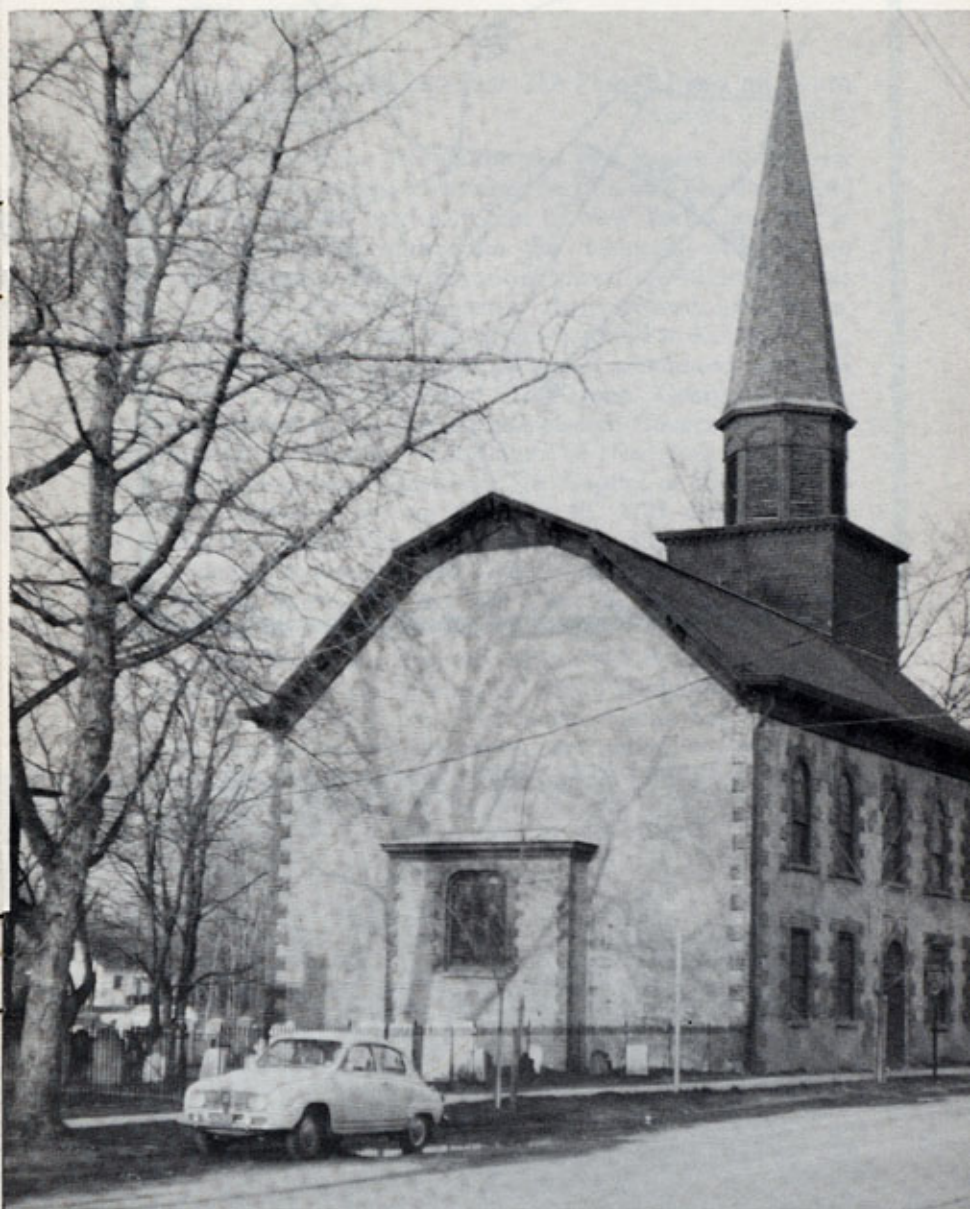
## FIRST DUTCH REFORMED CHURCH OF FISHKILL:

*The First Dutch Reformed Church is located in the center of the Village of Fishkill on N.Y. Route 52, just west of the intersection with U.S. Route 9.*

Early in the Revolution, from September 1776 to February 1777, this church served as the seat of government, when the New York Provincial Convention met there. In January 1777 the church served as a prison for Enoch Crosby, the American counterspy who was subjected to a mock trial and imprisonment to preserve his cover identity. On secret orders from General Washington, Crosby was allowed to escape and continue his intelligence work.

Although the First Reformed Dutch Church has no formal hours, it is generally open to public visitation on a daily basis.





*First Dutch Reformed Church of Fishkill*



Senate House





## SENATE HOUSE:

*The Senate House is located at 312 Fair St., just off North Front St., in Kingston.*

During the American Revolution the first Senate of the new State of New York met in a building on this site. The Provincial Congress of 1776 had originally met in New York City, but as the British threatened Manhattan the delegates withdrew to White Plains. Again British advances forced a withdrawal, this time to Fishkill. However, quarters there proved inadequate, and, in February 1777, the delegates adjourned to Kingston.

On April 22, 1777 the bells of Kingston announced adoption of the State's first Constitution. That June, George Clinton, Brigadier General of the Militia, was elected Governor. Then in September the first Senate of the State of New York met in the house of Abraham van Gaasbeek. The Capitol at Kingston was short-lived, however, for on October 16, 1777 British troops under Major General Vaughan burned the village. Fortunately the new State Government had already escaped to Hurley. The van Gaasbeek house, destroyed in the raid, was rebuilt soon after and again used as a private residence.

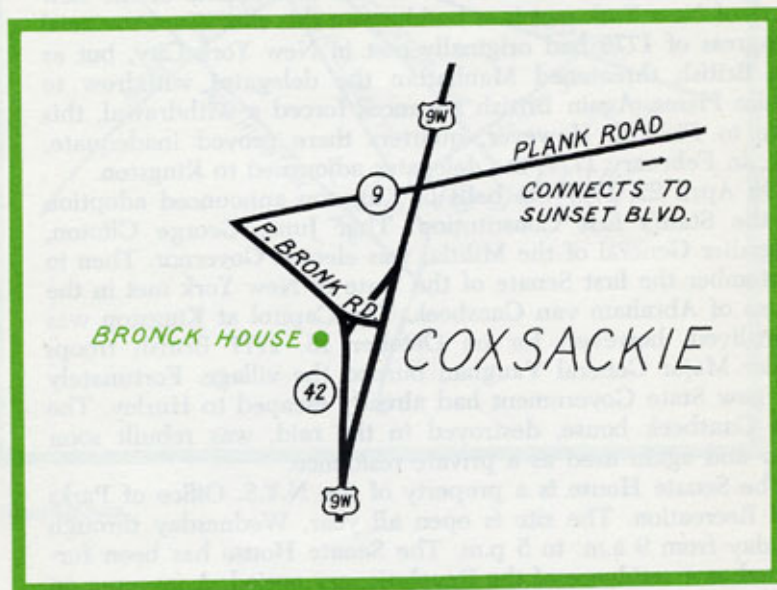
The Senate House is a property of the N.Y.S. Office of Parks and Recreation. The site is open all year, Wednesday through Sunday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Senate House has been furnished as a residence of the Revolutionary period. A museum on the grounds contains a collection of art and local history items.

## BRONCK HOUSE:

*The Bronck House is located on U.S. Route 9-W just east of the Village of Coxsackie, 2 miles south of the N.Y. Route 81 intersection.*

Early in the Revolution, on May 17, 1775, the Bronck House was, according to tradition, the site of the signing of the Coxsackie Declaration. This document expressed the determination of over 200 local people to oppose the "oppressive Acts of the British Parliament." The home of the Bronck family, who for many years had been leaders in southern Albany County (now Greene County), was the meeting place for the pre-Revolutionary Coxsackie Committee of Correspondence and Safety.

Today the Bronck House includes the museum and library of the Greene County Historical Society. The site is open during the summer season, Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on Sunday from 2 to 6 p.m.



*Bronck House*





## HISTORIC CHERRY HILL:

*Historic Cherry Hill is located on South Pearl St. at the corner of McCarty Ave. in the City of Albany.*

Colonel Philip Van Rensselaer was Commissary of Military Stores in New York during the Revolution. Cherry Hill was his home in Albany, and from there he conducted much of his business. Cherry Hill was built by Van Rensselaer in 1768, and the home was continuously occupied by the Van Rensselaer family for almost two centuries. Today the house contains a large collection of furnishings, silver and art associated with the family.

Historic Cherry Hill is maintained as a non-profit corporation and is open to the public Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and on Sunday from 1 to 4 p.m. The site is closed Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years Day.

## SCHUYLER MANSION:

*Schuyler Mansion is located at 27 Clinton St., at the corner of Catherine St., in Albany.*

Schuyler Mansion was the home and headquarters of a very important Revolutionary War figure, Philip Schuyler. At the beginning of the Revolution Schuyler was named a delegate to the Continental Congress, which commissioned him a major general to command the Northern Department. Throughout the period of the war the mansion saw many important visitors and events. Among those who enjoyed the hospitality of the Schuylers were George Washington (who was Godfather to the last Schuyler child), Benjamin Franklin, Benedict Arnold, Baron von Steuben, and the Comte de Rochambeau. After the Battle of Saratoga, the defeated General Burgoyne was a prisoner-guest at the mansion, even though he had ordered the burning of Schuyler's country home at Saratoga. In December 1780 the drawing room of the mansion was the scene of the wedding of Elizabeth Schuyler to Alexander Hamilton.

Schuyler Mansion is a property of the N.Y.S. Office of Parks and Recreation. It is open to the public Wednesday through Sunday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

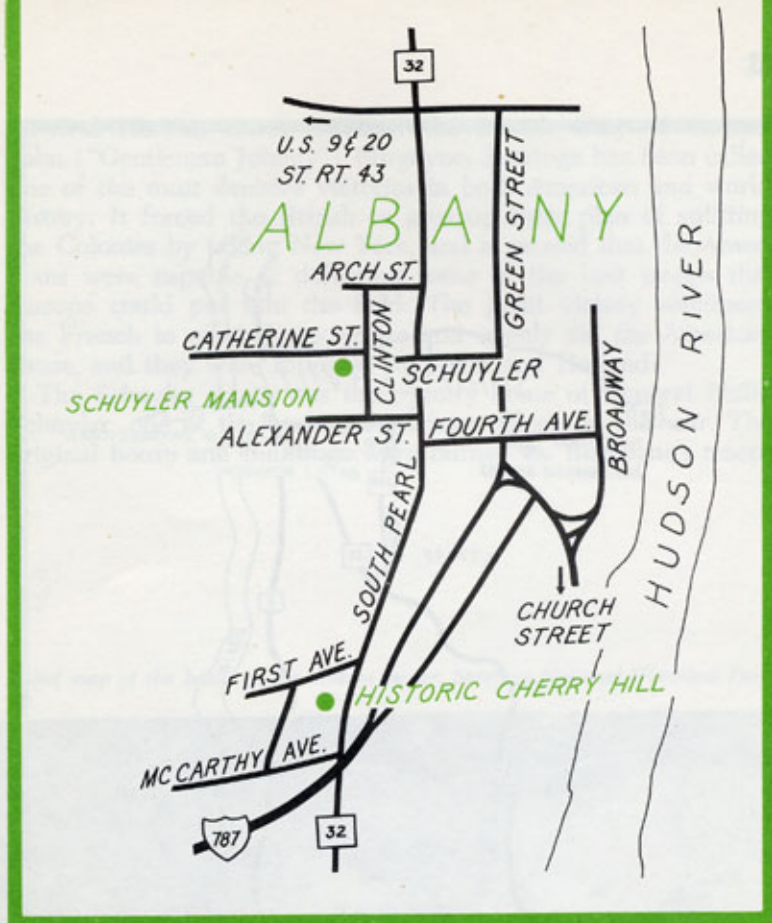




*Historic Cherry Hill*

*Schuyler Mansion*

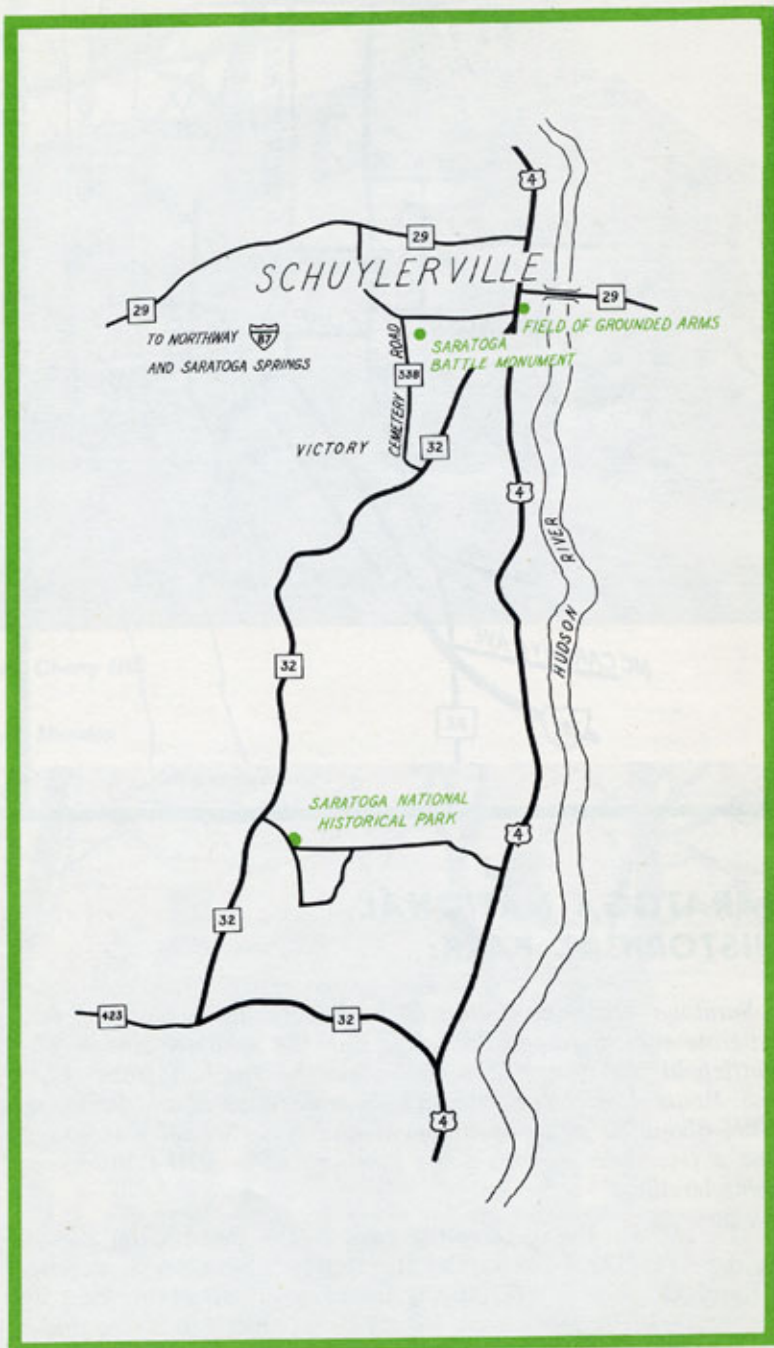




## SARATOGA NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK:

Saratoga National Historical Park actually consists of two separate sites, Saratoga Battlefield and the Schuyler House. The Battlefield and the visitor center can be reached from either U.S. Route 4 or N.Y. Route 32 between Stillwater and Schuylerville, about 30 miles north of Albany. The Schuyler House is just a few miles north on the southern edge of the Village of Schuylerville.

This site was the scene of the great battles that became known as the "Turning Point of the Revolution." Between September 19 and October 7, 1777 the series of engagements making up the Battle of Saratoga were fought here. American forces under





General Horatio Gates defeated the British army of General John ("Gentleman Johnny") Burgoyne. Saratoga has been called one of the most decisive victories in both American and world history. It forced the British to give up their plan of splitting the Colonies by taking New York, and it proved that the Americans were capable of defeating some of the best troops that Europe could put into the field. The great victory convinced the French to officially recognize and openly aid the American cause, and they were followed by Spain and Holland.

The Schuyler estate was the country home of General Philip Schuyler, one of the leading American officers in the war. The original house and buildings were burned by Burgoyne's troops

*Relief map of the battle in the visitors center, Saratoga National Historical Park*



as they marched north from the defeat. The present house was built in 1777 soon after the battle.

Saratoga National Historical Park is administered by the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. The Battlefield features a nine-mile tour road with nine interpretive stops. The visitor center has a museum and an audio-visual presentation on the battle. During the summer months personnel in period costume offer 18th-century craft demonstrations. The Schuyler House has been restored and is being furnished. It also provides tours and living history demonstrations. Saratoga National Historical Park is open daily, weather permitting, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., with extended hours during the summer. The Schuyler House is open daily from Memorial Day through Labor Day.

*A map locating the Park is on page 31.*

## **SARATOGA BATTLE MONUMENT AND FIELD OF GROUNDED ARMS:**

*Saratoga Battle Monument is located on N.Y. Route 338 just southwest of the Village of Schuylerville.*

This towering stone monument commemorates the Battle of Saratoga and honors those Americans who fought there. (See also under Saratoga National Historical Park.) On the exterior of the monument are niches containing statues of leading American military figures who fought in New York: Generals Philip Schuyler and Horatio Gates and Colonel Daniel Morgan. A fourth niche is empty to symbolize Benedict Arnold's eventual betrayal of the American cause.

The Saratoga Battle Monument is administered by the N.Y.S. Office of Parks and Recreation, and is open from Memorial Day to Labor Day, Wednesday through Sunday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

*The Field of Grounded Arms is located on N.Y. Route 29 just south of the intersection with U.S. Route 4 in the village of Schuylerville.*

Here the British General John Burgoyne surrendered to General Horatio Gates on October 17, 1777, after his disastrous defeat in the Battle of Saratoga. Although most of the land is privately owned, historical markers are located along the road.

*A map locating the sites is on page 31.*

*Opposite page: Saratoga Battle Monument*







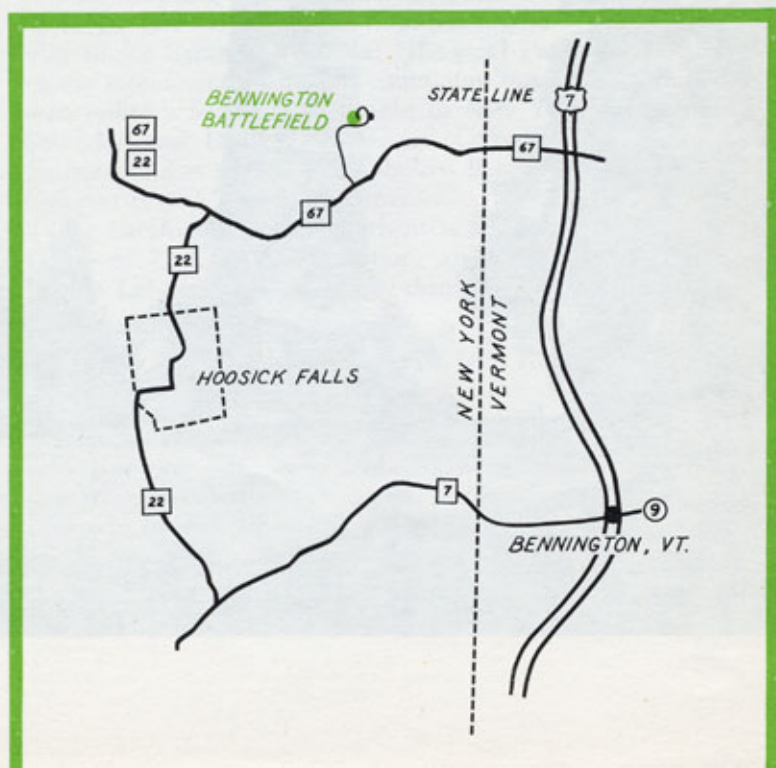
## BENNINGTON BATTLEFIELD:

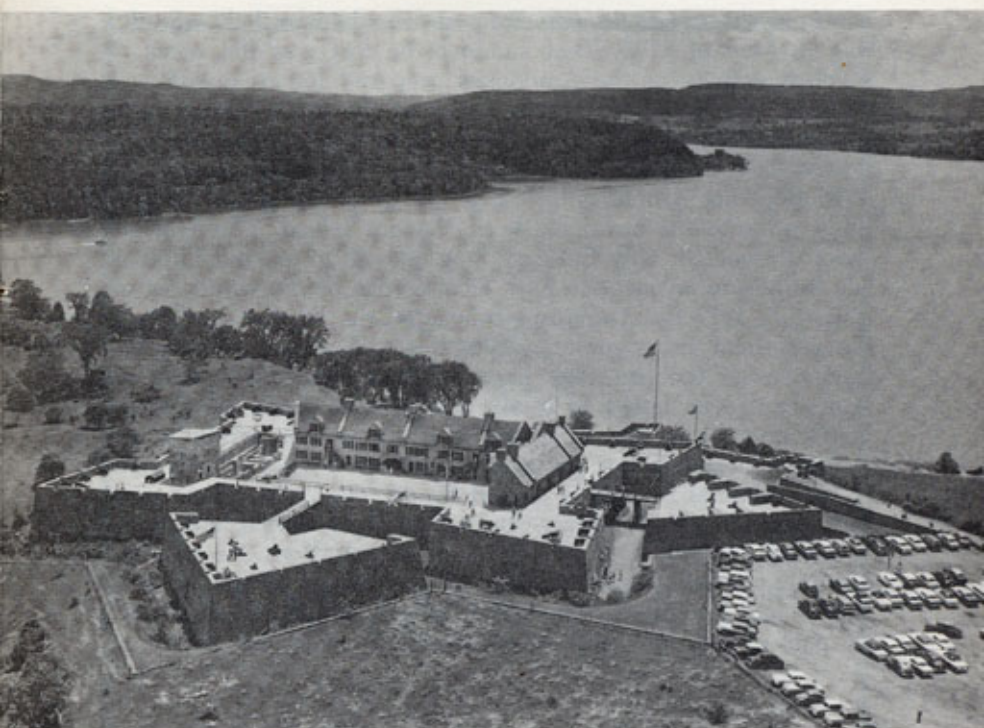
*Bennington Battlefield is located just east of Walloomsac on N.Y. Route 67, about 4 miles northeast of Hoosick Falls.*

The British grand plan for winning the Revolution in 1777 was based on General John Burgoyne's invasion of New York by way of Lake Champlain and the Hudson Valley. Because his force of British regulars, German mercenaries, Tories and Indians needed supplies, he sent the Germans, under Lieutenant Colonel Friederich Baum, to seize American supplies at Bennington. However, the Americans under General John Stark routed Baum's column, while Colonel Seth Warner drove off a British relief force.

Some of Burgoyne's Indian allies may well have helped to bring about Baum's defeat, for it was they who murdered Jane McCrea near Fort Edward. Even though the girl was probably more Tory than Patriot, her murder infuriated the people of the area and consequently many men rushed to join the American forces at Bennington and Saratoga.

Bennington Battlefield is administered by the N.Y.S. Office of Parks and Recreation and is open daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., from Memorial Day weekend to Labor Day.





*Fort Ticonderoga*

## **FORT TICONDEROGA:**

*Fort Ticonderoga is located on N.Y. Route 73 just east of the Village of Ticonderoga. It is 20 miles east of Exit 28 of Interstate Route 87.*

The first aggressive action of the American Revolution came at Fort Ticonderoga on May 10, 1775. Early on that morning Ethan Allen, Benedict Arnold and 83 "Green Mountain Boys" surprised the sleeping British garrison and took the "Key to a Continent" without firing a shot.

Lake Champlain was the most important link in the great water route connecting New York with Canada, and Fort Ticonderoga controlled the portage between Champlain and Lake George. The French began building the fort in 1755 during the Seven Years (French and Indian) War. In 1759 the British



captured this great stone fortress and held it until that fateful day in May of 1775. That summer the fort was the scene of feverish activity as the Americans prepared for an invasion of Canada. The following winter many of the fort's cannon were dragged overland by Colonel Henry Knox to Dorchester Heights where their presence forced the British to evacuate Boston. In 1776 Benedict Arnold outfitted his fleet at Skenesboro (Whitehall) prior to the naval battle at Valcour Island. This engagement delayed Sir Guy Carleton long enough to make it impossible for him to lay siege to Fort Ticonderoga before winter set in.

In July 1777 the Americans evacuated the Fort in the face of General John Burgoyne's invading force. The last military engagement at the fort took place in September 1777 when an American force failed to retake the position from the British. In October, with the surrender of Burgoyne at Saratoga, the British abandoned the fort and it was never again garrisoned.

This restored fortress is owned by a non-profit organization and includes a fine military museum of the Colonial and Revolutionary periods. During July and August Fort Ticonderoga features guided tours and firing demonstrations with uniformed guides and gun crews. The Fort is open daily, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. (7 p.m. in July and August) from May 5 to October 24.

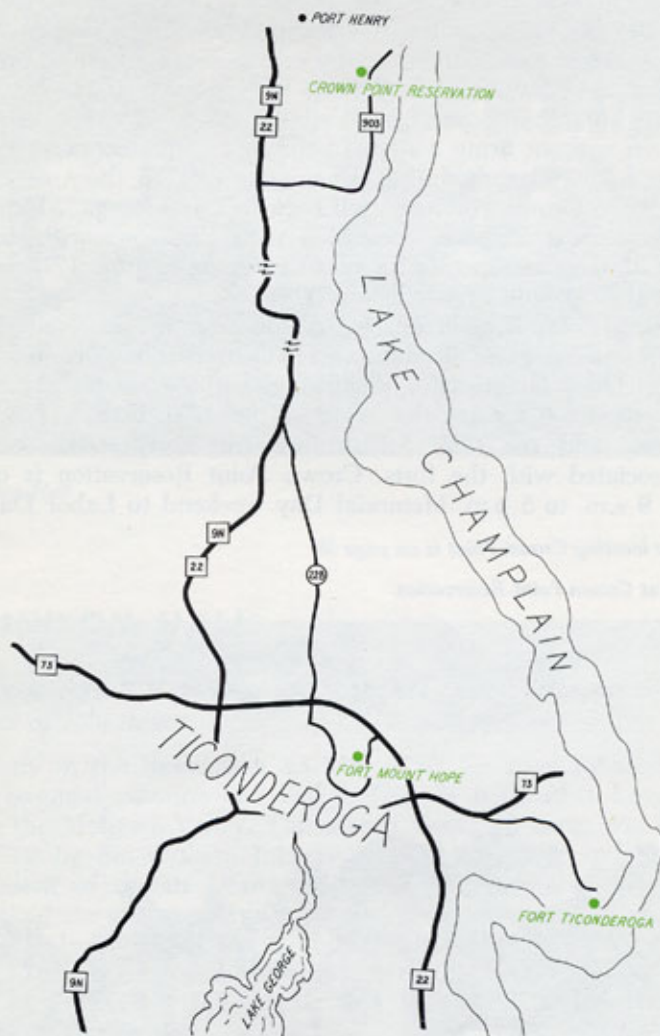
## **MOUNT HOPE:**

*Mount Hope is located on Burgoyne Road just north of the Village of Ticonderoga.*

During the Revolution the blockhouse on Mount Hope changed hands several times. Its height commanded the portage between Lakes Champlain and George, and it was a strategic outpost of Fort Ticonderoga. The Americans took the position and fortified it after Ethan Allen's capture of Fort Ti in May 1775. In July 1777 Burgoyne's forces took these fortifications as a preliminary to taking the stone fortress, but the following September the outpost was recaptured by the Americans.

Mount Hope is operated by the Fort Mount Hope Society. The site is open from 8 a.m. until dark, daily, from May 27 through Columbus Day. The site features a collection of cannon and several reconstructed buildings.





## CROWN POINT RESERVATION:

*Crown Point Reservation is located east of N.Y. Routes 9-N and 22 at the Lake Champlain Bridge, 9 miles north of the Village of Crown Point.*

At the beginning of the Revolution Fort Crown Point was a fire-blackened ruin, garrisoned by only a small guard of British soldiers. On May 12, 1775 Colonel Seth Warner and a force of "Green Mountain Boys" from Vermont captured the ruins and garrison without firing a shot. In the face of Sir Guy Carleton's advance from Canada during the summer of 1776, the Americans abandoned Crown Point and fell back to Ticonderoga. Although the Americans regained possession with Carleton's withdrawal that fall, they were again forced to evacuate in June 1777 when General Burgoyne invaded New York.

Crown Point Reservation is administered by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. The reservation includes facilities for picnicking, bathing, tent and trailer camping. Features are the ruins of the 1731 French Fort St. Frederic and the 1759 British fort. An interpretation center is associated with the forts. Crown Point Reservation is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Memorial Day weekend to Labor Day.

*A map locating Crown Point is on page 38.*

*Ruins at Crown Point Reservation*





*Johnson Hall*

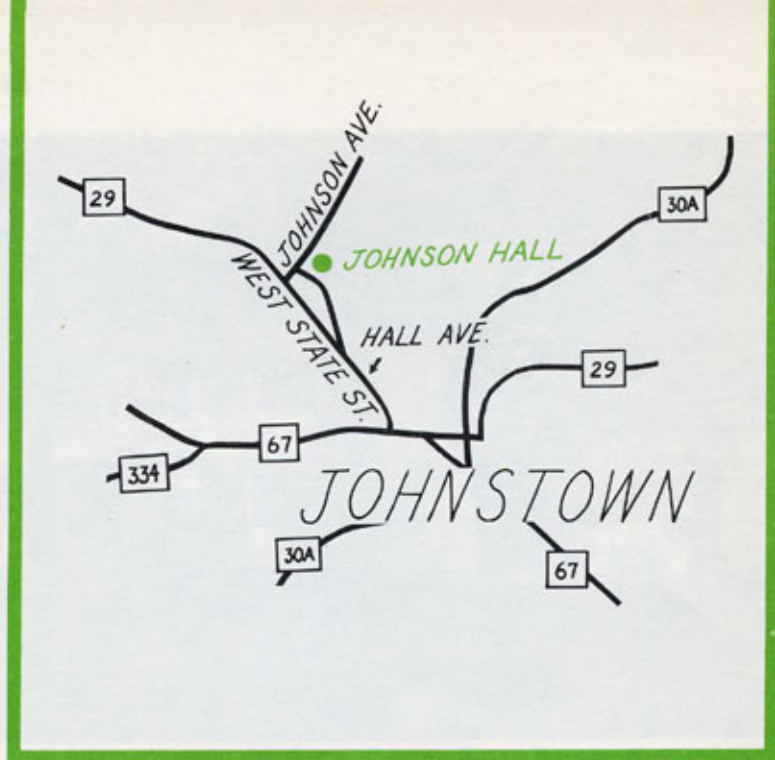
## JOHNSON HALL:

*Johnson Hall is located on Hall Ave. just northwest of the center of Johnstown.*

Early in the Revolution, in May 1776, Sir John Johnson left this baronial mansion and fled to Canada with other Loyalists from the Mohawk Valley. This stately Georgian home was built in 1763 by Sir William Johnson, Sir John's father and Superintendent of Indian Affairs in the northern colonies. Sir John inherited the estate and the title of Baronet on his father's death in 1774. In 1779 the Revolutionary authorities of the State of New York confiscated the estate. On October 25, 1781 the last battle of the Revolution, the Battle of Johnstown, was fought near this site.

Johnson Hall is a property of the N.Y.S. Office of Parks and Recreation and is open to the public Wednesday through Sunday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Features include original furnishings and dioramas.



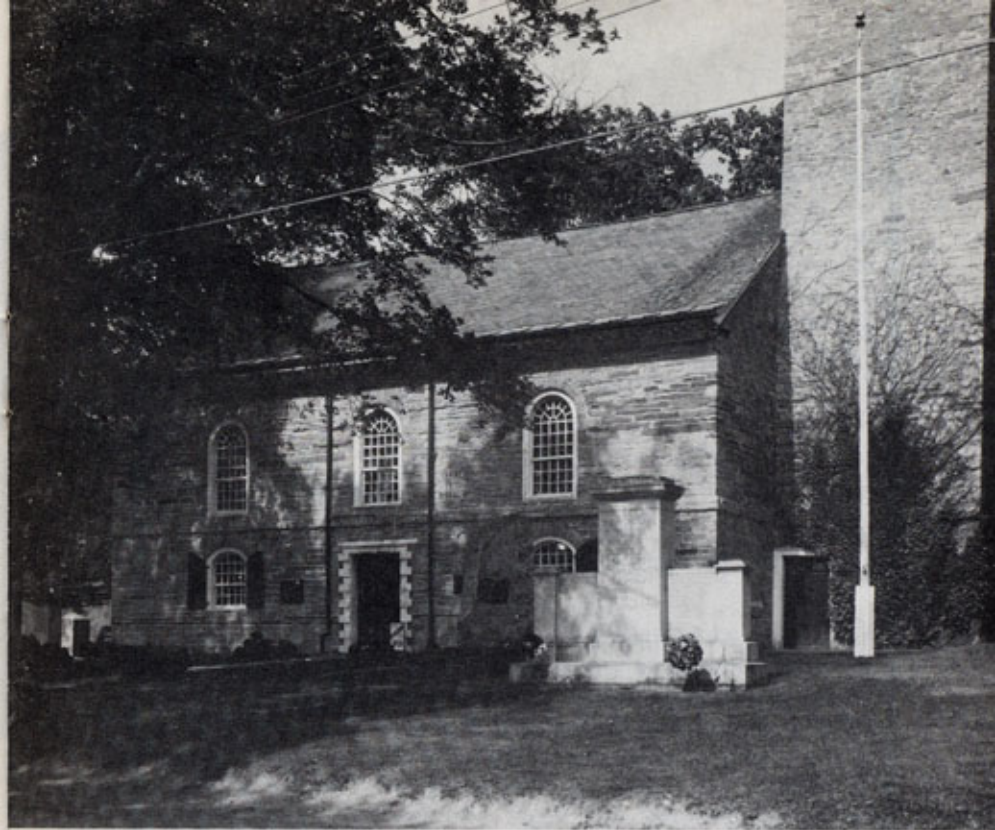


## OLD STONE FORT MUSEUM:

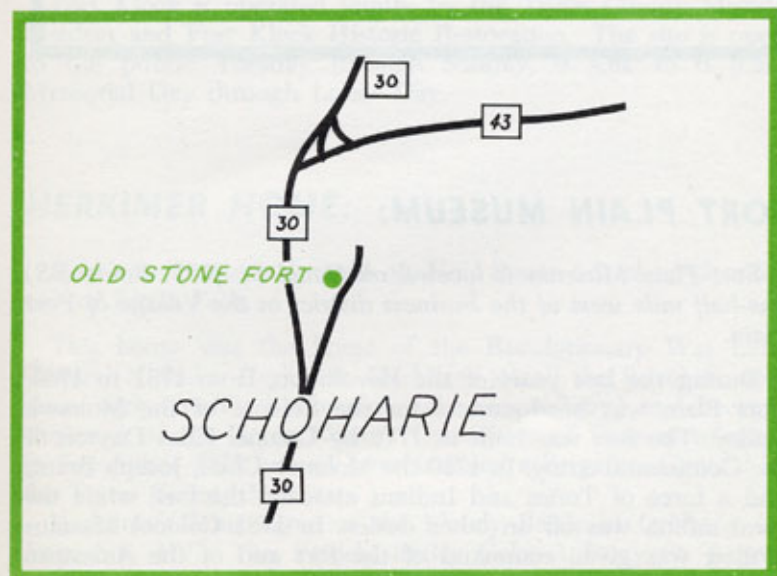
*Old Stone Fort Museum is located just off N.Y. Route 30 on the northern edge of the Village of Schoharie.*

During the Revolution this church, built in 1772, was fortified as a place of refuge for the inhabitants of the Schoharie Valley against the raids of Tories and Indians. In 1778 the church was enclosed by a log stockade and two block houses were built. The site became known as the Lower Fort. The major attack on the Lower Fort came on October 17, 1780 when Sir John Johnson led a force of 800 Tories and Indians against it. Today the church still bears scars from that afternoon. In 1785, after the threat of battle was past, the stockade was removed and the building again became a place of worship.

Old Stone Fort is owned and operated by the Schoharie County Historical Society and features exhibits on the Revolution and the history of the Schoharie Valley. It is open to the public daily, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. from May 1 to October 31 (closed Mondays before Memorial Day and after Labor Day).



*Old Stone Fort Museum*







forces in the Mohawk Valley. He led the troops in the skirmish at West Canada Creek in which Walter Butler, the Tory Ranger leader, was killed.

Fort Plain Museum is open to the public from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., daily, July 1 through August 31. The museum features exhibits on the history of the Middle Mohawk Valley, with a special emphasis on the Revolution. There is a walking tour of the site of the Revolutionary War fortifications. Fort Plain Museum is operated by a private non-profit organization.

## **FORT KLOCK:**

*Fort Klock is located on U.S. Route 5, one-half mile east of St. Johnsville.*

During the Revolution this house was fortified by John Klock, who was a member of the Tryon County Committee of Safety. The two-foot-thick stone walls provided excellent protection against marauding Tories and Indians. On October 19, 1780 the indecisive Battle of Klock's Field was fought nearby. Here a British force under Sir John Johnson, which had raided the Schoharie Valley, turned and faced the pursuing Americans. The American General Robert Van Rensselaer failed to follow the British retreat after the battle and the raiders escaped.

Fort Klock is operated jointly by the Tryon County Muzzle Loaders and Fort Klock Historic Restoration. The site is open to the public Tuesday through Sunday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Memorial Day through Labor Day.

## **HERKIMER HOME:**

*Herkimer Home is located on N.Y. Route 5-S about 2 miles east of Little Falls.*

This house was the home of the Revolutionary War hero General Nicholas Herkimer. Herkimer joined the Revolutionary cause early (unlike his brother, who was a Tory) and became chairman of the Tryon County Committee of Correspondence. In September 1776 he was commissioned a Brigadier General in the Tryon County Militia.

Herkimer's fame came at the bloody Battle of Oriskany on August 6, 1777. The British, under Colonel Barry St. Leger,



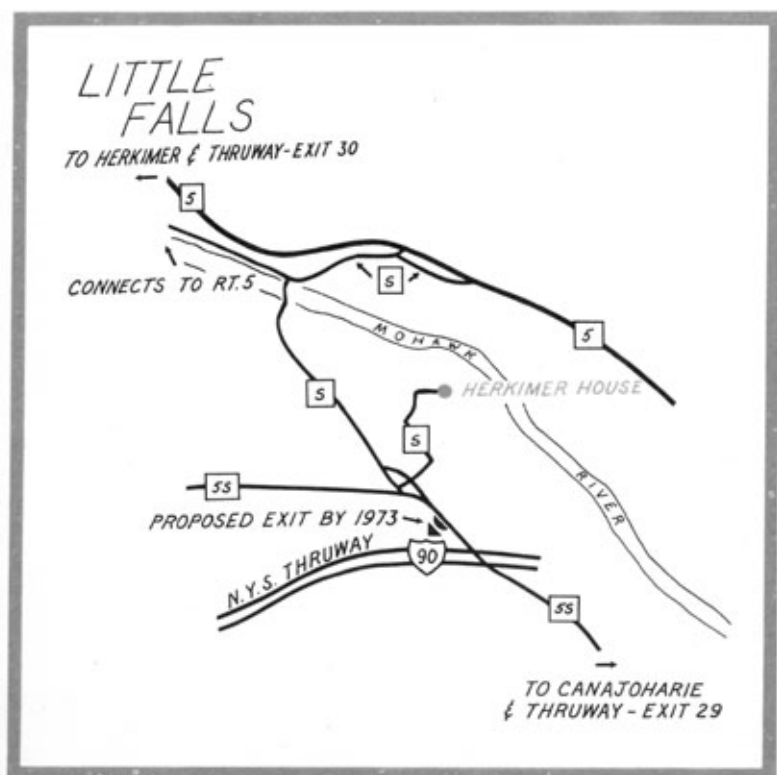
*Fort Klock*

*Herkimer Home*



had laid siege to Fort Stanwix at the western end of the Mohawk Valley. General Herkimer marched the militia west to aid the fort's defenders. However, in a ravine at Oriskany the column was ambushed by Tories and Indians. Although he received a serious leg wound early in the engagement, Herkimer continued to direct and inspire his troops. After the battle, Herkimer was carried to his home where he died eleven days later.

Herkimer Home is administered by the N.Y.S. Office of Parks and Recreation. Near the house a granite monument marks the grave of Nicholas Herkimer. The site is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday and on Sunday from 1 to 5 p.m.





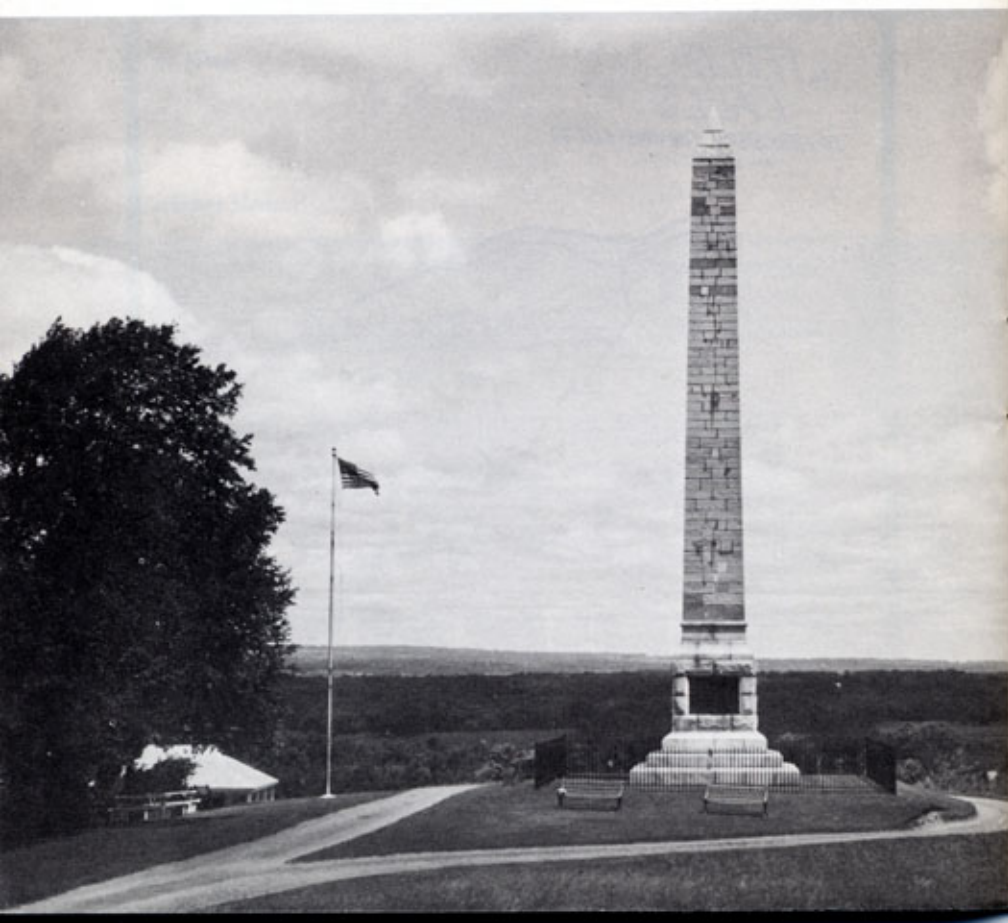
## ORISKANY BATTLEFIELD:

*Oriskany Battlefield is located on N.Y. Route 69 just northwest of the Village of Oriskany. It may be reached from Thruway Exit 32 via N.Y. Route 233.*

One of the bloodiest battles of the American Revolution was fought in and around a ravine near Oriskany on the afternoon of August 6, 1777. More than one-third of the men on each side were killed or wounded.

The British leader Colonel Barry St. Leger had laid siege to Fort Stanwix at the head of the Mohawk River (see Fort Stanwix). General Nicholas Herkimer led the Tryon County Militia westward to raise the siege. However, about six miles short of its goal the column was set upon from ambush by British regulars, Loyalists and Indians under the command of

*Oriskany Battlefield*



John Butler, himself a Mohawk Valley man. Early in the fight General Herkimer's horse was shot from under him and he was seriously wounded in the leg. He refused to be evacuated, and, sitting on a log, he continued to direct his men. The American resistance was so stubborn and fierce that the Indians abandoned the fight, forcing the regulars and Tories to withdraw also. The Militia withdrew to their Mohawk Valley homes, and Herkimer died eleven days later. The defenders of Fort Stanwix managed to hold out, even raiding the enemy camp, until another relief column arrived.

Oriskany Battlefield is administered by the N.Y.S. Office of Parks and Recreation. It is open to the public daily, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. from mid-April to October 31.

## **FORT STANWIX NATIONAL MONUMENT:**

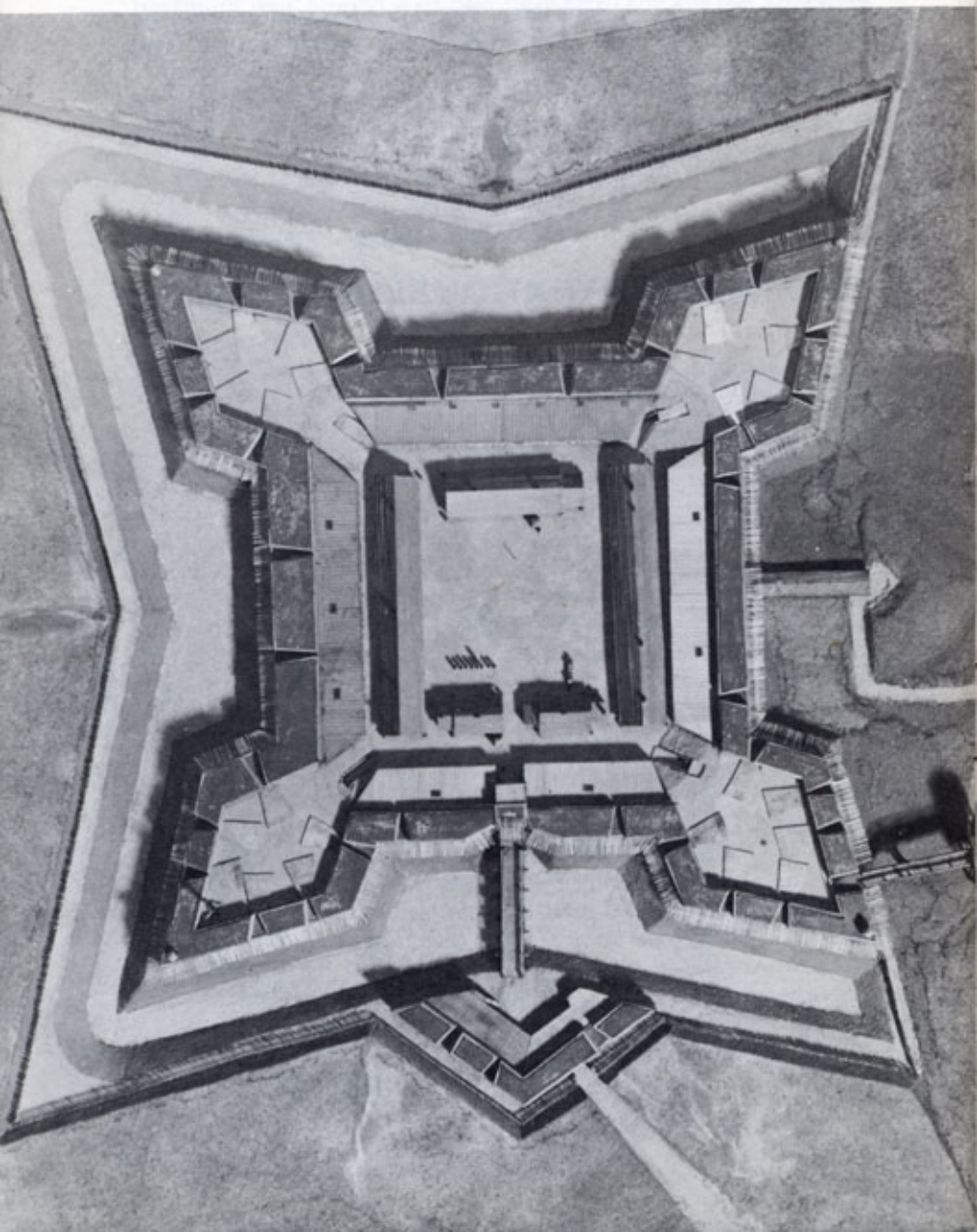
*Fort Stanwix National Monument is located in downtown Rome with a mailing address of 112 E. Park St.; at the intersection of Routes 26, 46, 49, 69 and 365. Parking is on James St., two blocks from this intersection.*

Throughout the Revolution Fort Stanwix guarded the portage between the head of the Mohawk River and Wood Creek, which was part of the water route to Lake Ontario at Oswego. The British built the fort in 1758, but over the years it fell into disrepair. In June 1776 American troops rebuilt and garrisoned the post. On August 3, 1777 Colonel Barry St. Leger, with a force of British regulars, Tories, and Indians, laid siege to the fort. This position under the command of Colonel Peter Gansevoort was much stronger than St. Leger had expected and the Americans refused to surrender. An American relief column under General Nicholas Herkimer was ambushed at Oriskany by Tories and Indians, which St. Leger had detached for that purpose (see Oriskany Battlefield and Herkimer Home). British losses at Oriskany and an American attack on their camp combined to make the Tories and Indians lose their enthusiasm for the campaign. Finally, news of another American relief force convinced St. Leger to abandon the siege and withdraw to Oswego. According to local tradition, the first Stars and Stripes to be flown in battle was made by the officers at Fort Stanwix and flew over its walls during the siege.

Fort Stanwix is administered by the National Park Service. The fort has recently been reconstructed, and visitors can see

a film on the siege of Fort Stanwix, talk to Continental soldiers, and view 18th century artifacts dug up at Fort Stanwix during archaeological excavations at the site. The fort is open daily from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. except December 25 and January 1.

*Bird's eye view of a model of Fort Stanwix*







## **BARON VON STEUBEN MEMORIAL:**

*The Baron von Steuben Memorial is located on Starr Hill Road about 3 miles west of the Village of Remsen, and about 20 miles north of Utica via N.Y. Route 12.*

Frederick William von Steuben was known as "Drillmaster of the Revolution." In reward for his service in training the Continental Army, New York State granted him 16,000 acres of land in the wilderness north of the Mohawk Valley. It was here that Steuben built the log cabin that served as his summer residence. When he died on November 28, 1794, he was buried nearby.

The Baron von Steuben Memorial is a property of the N.Y.S. Office of Parks and Recreation. The Memorial consists of a replica of Steuben's log cabin and the "Sacred Grove" which contains his grave. This site is open to the public from mid-May to October 31, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

word as they have a great many manly instincts of nature, so I observed them very civil and respectful both in their behaviour and entertainment; I cannot say that ever I met any company of them, which I frequently did in my walks out of the Town, but they would bow both Head and Knee, saying here comes the *Sacka-makers Kakin-do-wet*, i. e. the Governours Minister, whom I always saluted again with all due ceremony. They are faith-guides in the woods in times of Peace, and as dangerous enemies in times of War. Their way of fighting is upon Swamps, i. e. Bogs and Quagmires, in sculking Ambushes, beyond Trees and in Thickets, and never in a body. When they intend War they paint their faces black, but red is the sun-shine of Peace. There are several Nations which may be more properly called Tribes of Indians.

*Rockoway* upon the South of *Jamaica* upon *Long-Island*, the 1.

*Sea-qua-ta-eg*, to the South of *Huntingdon*, the 2.

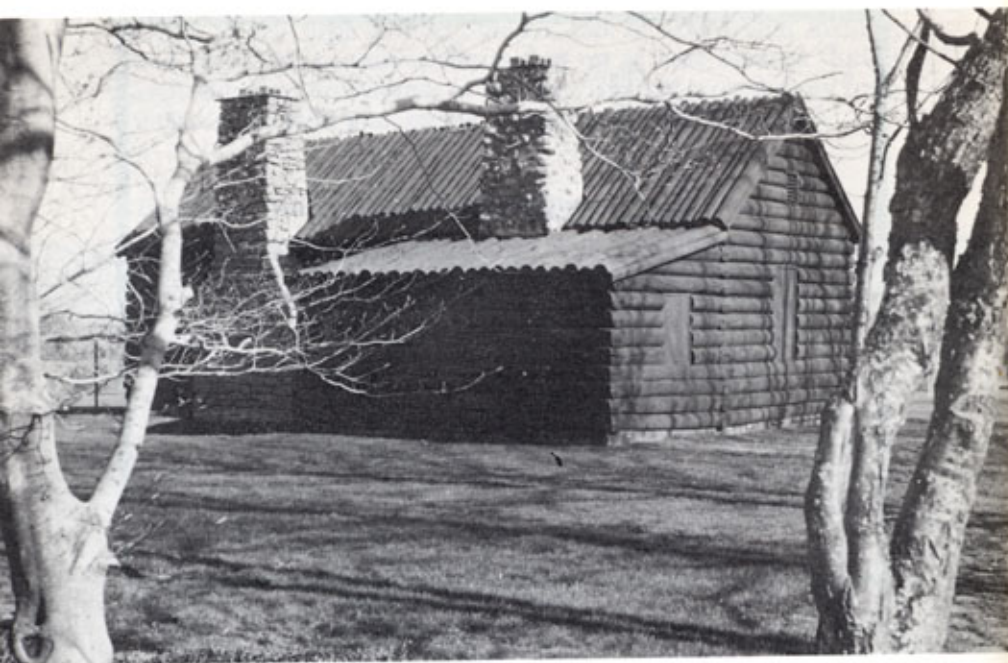
*Unckah-chau-ge*, *Brooke-haven*, the 3.

*Se-tauck*, *Seatauchet* North, the 4.

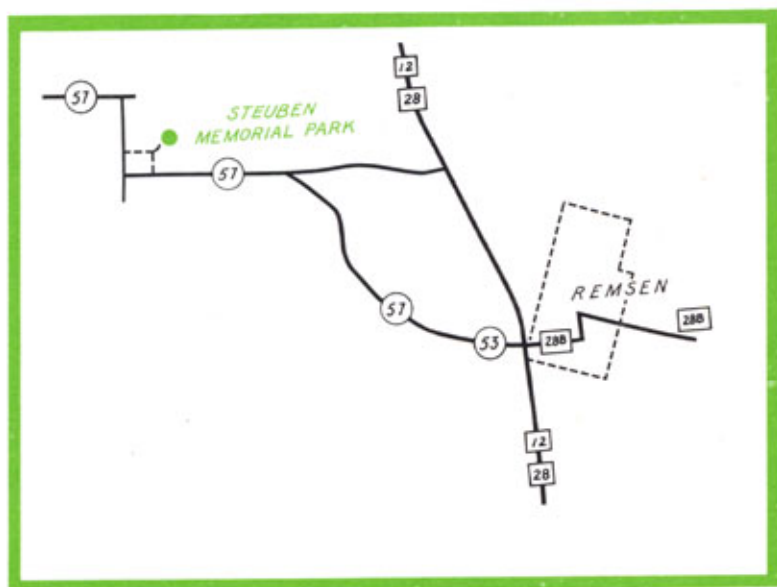
*Ocqua-baug*, South-hold to the North, the 5.

*Shin-na-cock*, *Southampton*, the greatest Tribe, the 6.

*Mun-tauck*, to the Eastward of *East-Hampton*, the 7.



*Steuben Cabin*



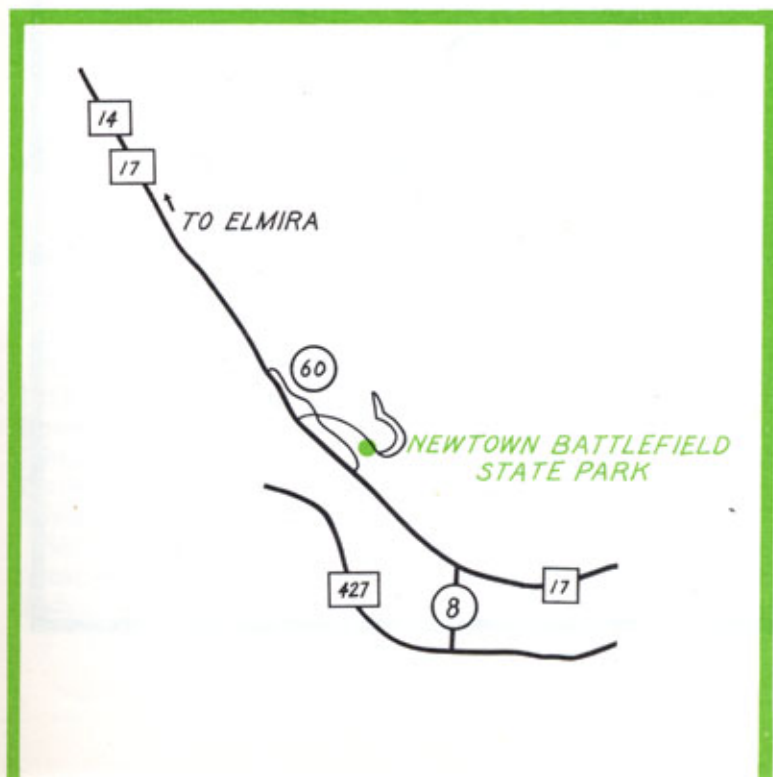


## NEWTOWN BATTLEFIELD:

*Newtown Battlefield is located on N.Y. Route 17 about 5 miles southeast of Elmira.*

Newtown Battlefield is the site of a Revolutionary War engagement which took place on August 29, 1779. Here American forces under Major General John Sullivan and Brigadier General James Clinton defeated a large force of Tories and Indians commanded by Colonel John Butler and Joseph Brant, the Mohawk Chief. The Battle of Newtown was the only major Tory effort to halt the Clinton-Sullivan Expedition, which continued on to destroy Indian villages on New York's western frontier. (See also under Groveland Ambuscade.)

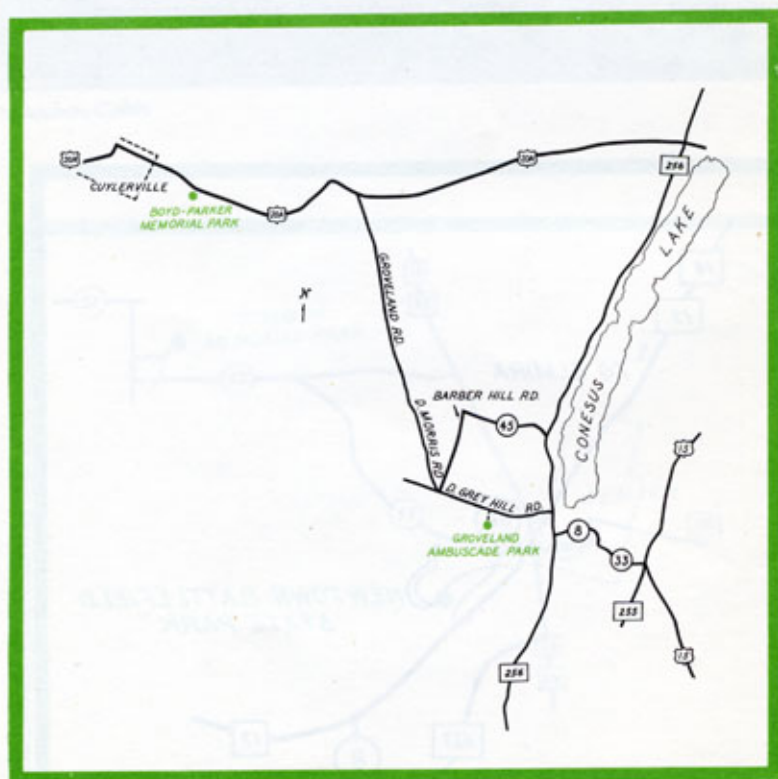
Newtown Battlefield Reservation is a State Park on the summit of Sullivan Hill near the site of the actual battle. A granite monument within the park commemorates the battle. The park is open from May to October 15, daily, from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. Features include picnic grounds and camp sites. The administering authority is the Finger Lakes State Parks Commission.



## GROVELAND AMBUSCADE PARK:

*Groveland Ambuscade Park is located on David Grey Hill Road, off N.Y. Route 256, north of the Village of Groveland.*

This site commemorates the Revolutionary War expedition of Major General John Sullivan and Brigadier General James Clinton to destroy the power of the Iroquois to wage war on the British side. By 1779 the war in New York had become primarily border warfare in which Tories and Indians raided poorly protected frontier settlements. General George Washington ordered Sullivan and Clinton to advance into the Iroquois country of western New York and destroy their homes and crops. On September 13, 1779 an American scouting party led by Lieutenant Thomas Boyd and Sergeant Michael Parker was ambushed on this site by Tories and Indians. Boyd and Parker



were captured and carried off to an Indian village. (See also under Boyd-Parker Memorial Park).

Groveland Ambuscade Park is owned by the Town of Groveland. It is open to the public, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., on a daily basis from May through October and features picnic facilities.

## **BOYD-PARKER MEMORIAL PARK:**

*Boyd-Parker Memorial Park is located on U.S. Route 20-A just east of the Village of Cuylerville, southwest of Geneseo.*

At the time of the Revolution this was the site of an Indian village known as Little Beard's Town. To this village the prisoners, Lieutenant Thomas Boyd and Sergeant Michael Parker, were taken after their scouting party was ambushed near Cone-sus Lake on September 13, 1779 (See also under Groveland Ambuscade Park). Tradition has it that the two men were cruelly tortured by the Indians but refused even to death to give information about General John Sullivan's army or his plans. The traditional "Torture Tree" still stands in the park.

Boyd-Parker Memorial Park is owned by the Town of Leices-ter. The park is open daily, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., year round and features picnic facilities.

## **OLD FORT NIAGARA:**

*Old Fort Niagara is located just north of Youngstown, 14 miles north of the City of Niagara Falls. It is easily reached from Buffalo and Niagara Falls via Interstate Route 190 and the Robert Moses Parkway.*

Throughout the Revolution Fort Niagara was a British strong-hold and base of guerilla warfare against the poorly protected frontiers of New York and Pennsylvania. From here Sir John Johnson and the Butlers led their Tory forces, with Joseph Brant and his Indians, east against German Flats, Cherry Valley, Schoharie and other vulnerable patriot settlements.

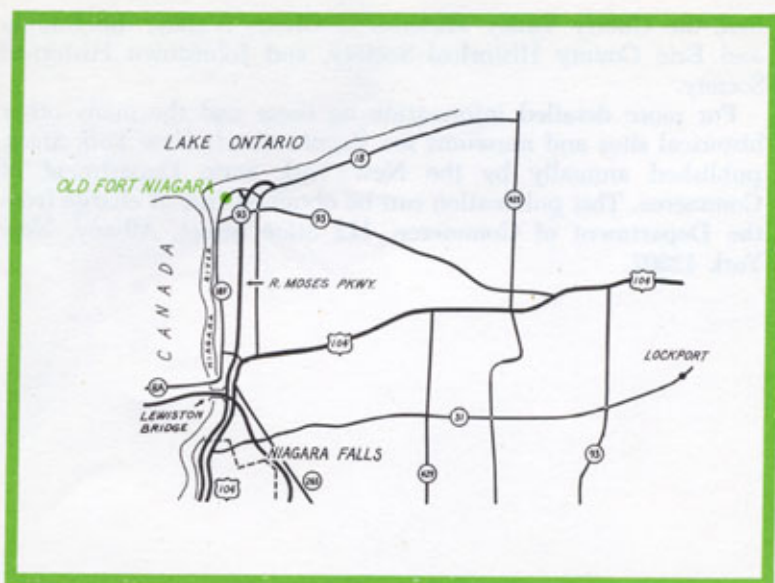
Since its construction was begun in 1726, the flags of France, Great Britain and the United States have flown over its walls. Today the Fort is maintained and operated by the Old Fort



Niagara Association, Inc. It is open to the public every day, 9 a.m. to dusk, except on Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years Day. During the summer season the Fort features costumed personnel and military pageantry.

*Gate of the Five Nations, Old Fort Niagara*





### Additional Places of Interest

*Fort Ontario, Oswego.* Open mid-April through October 31, 9 to 5.

*Guy Park, Amsterdam.* Open Wednesday through Sunday from 9 to 5.

*Madame Brett Homestead, Beacon.* Open from April 15 through November 15, Monday through Saturday from 1 to 4.


*Manor of St. George, Mastic Beach.* Open May through October, Wednesday through Sunday from 10 to 12 and 1 to 5.

*Mt. Defiance, Ticonderoga.* Toll road to summit open daily, May through November.

In addition, many museums throughout the state have exhibits relating to the American Revolution. Among these are the Museum of the City of New York and New-York Historical Society in New York City, the Skenesborough Museum in White-

hall, the Cherry Valley Museum in Cherry Valley, the Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society, and Johnstown Historical Society.

For more detailed information on these and the many other historical sites and museums see *Vacationlands New York State*, published annually by the New York State Department of Commerce. This publication can be obtained free of charge from the Department of Commerce, 112 State Street, Albany, New York 12207.





A historical map of the Onondaga River system, showing the river flowing from the south towards Lake Ontario. The map includes labels for "LAKES" at the top, "Onondaga R." along the main river, "Three Rivers" where the river splits, "Onondaga Falls", "Pictura Hole", "Rapid", "Salt Lake", and "Onondaga" at the bottom. It also shows "Fort Herkimer" and "Camarague" on the right side. The map is oriented with Lake Ontario at the top.

