National Park Service
Cultural Landscapes Inventory

2007

Revised: 7/2026



Victory Woods

Saratoga National Historical Park

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Introduction

The Cultural Landscape Inventory (CLI)

The Cultural Landscape Inventory (CLI) is a comprehensive inventory of all cultural landscapes in the National Park System. Landscapes that are listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places, or are otherwise managed as cultural resources and in which the National Park Service has, or plans to acquire, legal interest are included in the inventory. The CLI identifies and documents each landscape's location, size, physical development, landscape characteristics, character-defining features, and condition. Cultural landscapes have approved CLIs when concurrence with the findings is obtained from the park superintendent and all required data fields are entered into the Cultural Resources Information System (CRIS-CL) database. In addition, for landscapes not currently listed on the National Register and/or without adequate documentation, concurrence is required from the State Historic Preservation Officer, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, or the Keeper of the National Register.

Scope of the CLI

The information contained within the CLI is compiled from primary and secondary sources and through on-site surveys of the landscape. The level of investigation is dependent upon scoping the need for information. The baseline information collected provides a comprehensive look at the historical development and significance of the landscape. Documentation and analysis of the existing landscape identifies character-defining characteristics and features and allows for an evaluation of the landscape's integrity and an assessment of the landscape's condition. The CLI also includes historic maps, drawings, and images; photographs of existing conditions; and a site plan that indicates major features. The CLI documents the existing condition of park landscape resources and identifies impacts, threats, and measures to stabilize condition. This information can be used to develop strategies for improved stewardship. Unlike a Cultural Landscape Report (CLR), the CLI does not provide management recommendations or treatment guidelines for the cultural landscape, but it may identify stabilization measures.

The Cultural Resources Information System (CRIS)

CRIS is the National Park Service's database of cultural resources on its lands, consisting of archeological sites, historic structures, ethnographic resources, and cultural landscapes. Cultural Resources Inventory System (CRIS) replaces three legacy inventory systems: ASMIS (archeology), CLI (cultural landscapes), and LCS (historic structures); and it reinstates the former ERI (ethnographic resources). This Cultural Landscape Inventory document reflects the information in a corresponding CRIS Cultural Landscape record.

Statutory and Regulatory Foundation

The legislative, regulatory, and policy directives for conducting and maintaining the CLI within CRIS are:

- National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966 (16 USC 470h-2(a)(1)) Sec. 110
- Executive Order 13287: Preserve America, 2003. Sec. 3 (a and c)
- Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Federal Agency Historic Preservation Programs
- Pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act, 1998. Std. 2
- Cultural Resource Management Guideline, 1997, Release No. 5, page 22; issued pursuant to Director's Order #28 (DO-28)

The NHPA requires the identification, evaluation, and nomination of historic properties to the National Register of Historic Places and the maintenance and expansion of an inventory of cultural resources. DO-28 requires a cyclic assessment of the current condition of cultural landscapes based on an assessment interval, with a default of six years.

Use

Beyond fulfilling legal and policy requirements, park staff can use the Cultural Landscape Inventory in the following ways:

- To learn about park cultural landscapes (all staff)
- To inform management decisions (park managers)
- To inform project planning and development (park managers, facility managers, project managers, compliance specialists)
- To monitor the condition of the cultural landscape and take measures to protect its significance and integrity (cultural resource managers, facility managers)
- To recognize the stabilization and treatment needs of landscape features and plan work within cultural landscapes to address the needs (facility managers, cultural resource managers)
- To understand the cultural value of natural systems in a cultural landscape (natural resource managers)
- To create programming and educational materials based on site history (interpretation and education specialists)
- To recognize impacts within cultural landscapes and enforce protection measures (visitor and resources protection staff)

General Information

Property Level and CLI Numbers

Inventory Unit Name: Victory Woods

Resource Level: Cultural Landscape

CRIS-CL Resource ID: 650097

Inventory Status: Complete

Park Information

Park Name: Saratoga National Historical Park

Alpha Code: SARA

Park Organization Code: 1910

Region: Northeast

Restricted: Yes

Landscape Description:

Victory Woods is one of five cultural landscapes that comprise Saratoga National Historical Park in Stillwater, New York. The park preserves the sites of two decisive American Revolutionary War battles between British and American forces in the autumn of 1777. It is widely documented that the American victory at Saratoga changed the momentum of the war, after which crucial support from the French was secured. Commemorative efforts by private citizens commenced shortly after the battles, culminating in the battlefield's designation as a state-managed property in 1927, and later as a National Historical Park in 1938.

Victory Woods was the final encampment site for the British Army under Lt. General Burgoyne prior to their October 17, 1777, surrender to American forces. Located in Victory, New York, the 22.78-acre, polygonal-shaped property is the last remaining remnant of the larger encampment that encompassed the Heights of Saratoga in 1777. The site overlooks Fish Creek, a tributary of the Hudson River and includes military earthworks, a park road/trail, twentieth century ruins of waterworks, and wetlands and a pond set under a forest canopy with pockets of dense understory vegetation. The site is bounded by NYS Route 32 to the east and private residential properties to the north, south, and west.

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY

Located within the Saratoga National Historical Park Historic District, Victory Woods possesses national-level significance under National Register of Historic Places Criterion A in the area of Military as the site of a British encampment during the 1777 Battles of Saratoga, which together comprise a definitive turning point in the Revolutionary War and are generally acknowledged by historians to be among the most decisive battles in military history. Victory Woods possesses national-level significance under Criterion D in the area of Archeology (Historic-Non Aboriginal) for its realized and potential ability to contribute substantive information about the Battles of Saratoga, and state- and local-level significance in the area of Archeology (Prehistoric) for its known and potential ability to yield information about the pre-contact period occupation of this area.

The periods of significance for Victory Woods are 8000-5000 BCE and 1777 CE. The first period encompasses artifacts discovered at the property that date to the Middle Archaic period, as well as a possible roasting platform construction. The second period focuses on military events and archeological resources associated with the Battles of Saratoga.

ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION SUMMARY AND CONDITION

The historic integrity of Victory Woods is evaluated by comparing landscape characteristics and features present during the period of significance, 1777, with the existing conditions as assessed in 2022-2026. Many landscape characteristics and features from the period of significance remain today. The site's natural features, spatial organization, and topography are generally unchanged. The site's steep hillside and planar upland remain predominantly wooded and pocked with pond and wetland depressions. Features from the British encampment that remain include a cannon battery, a related subterranean gunpowder magazine, an angled earthwork, a linear earthwork, a road/trail, and strategic eastern views (to NYS Route 32, Fish Creek, and the site of the American forces beyond).

Since 1777, some landscape characteristics and features at Victory Woods have changed. Areas of dense understory vegetation are present under the tree canopy. Wood structures associated with the defenses have been lost to time, and most of the earthwork structures have become obscured by understory vegetation. Twentieth-century structures – a water tower, pump house, and reservoir – have been removed, but concrete foundation remnants can still be found. The partial foundation of an icehouse also remains. Above ground relationships between the Victory Woods site and other areas of the encampment have been lost to development on those adjacent lands. A boardwalk, gate, park interpretive and regulatory signs, and boundary markers to not negatively impact the historic scene.

Condition:
The condition of the Victory Woods landscape is evaluated as "good." The property shows no clear evidence of major negative disturbance and deterioration by natural and/or human forces. The property's cultural and natural values are as well preserved as can be expected under the given environmental conditions. No immediate corrective action is required to maintain its current condition.

Landscape Hierarchy Description:

Saratoga NHP is composed of five landscapes in the Cultural Resources Inventory System (CRIS-CL): Saratoga Battlefield, Saratoga Monument, Saratoga Surrender Site, Schuyler Estate, and Victory Woods.

Landscape Type:

Historic Site

Other Names:

Other Name:	Victory Woods, Old Saratoga Unit	**Other Name Type:**	Historic
Other Name:	Garber Tract	**Other Name Type:**	Historic

Site Plan



Site map, July 2026.

Concurrence Information

Superintendent Acknowledgment:

Park Superintendent Acknowledgment: Yes

Park Superintendent Acknowledgment Date: 08/31/2007

Completion Status Explanatory Narrative:

The original CLI for Victory Woods was approved by the Superintendent on August 31, 2007. The CLI was based on the 2007 “Cultural Landscape Report and Archeological Sensitivity Assessment for Victory Woods” by Christopher Stevens, Linda White, William Griswold, and Margie Coffin Brown. A condition reassessment for the site was approved by the Superintendent on July 16, 2013.

This CLI Update was edited by Jeff Killion, Historical Landscape Architect at the Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation. Field work for this update was completed in 2022 by Olmsted Center staff, SUNY-ESF staff and students, and Designing the Parks (DTP) internship participants. Pia Cano and Liz Gunther, DTP associates, prepared a draft for this update. The park contact is Ranna Wells, who can be reached by email (joanna_wells@nps.gov).

SUMMARY OF CLI REVISIONS, 2026

Updates that have made to the Victory Woods CLI since the 2007 and 2013 versions include revisions to the National Register section to reflect the park’s National Register documentation that was completed in 2012, including changing the archeological periods of significances to 8000-5000 BCE and 1777, per the National Register. Additional changes include updating the Chronology and Physical History sections to document changes in the landscape since 2007; updating the site plans; updating the Analysis and Evaluation chapter with expansion of the inventoried features; updated photographs; and a new assessment of the overall landscape condition. Upon approval by the Park Superintendent, this update will supersede all previous versions of the Victory Woods CLI.

Concurrence Graphic Information:

Circulation
Footpaths
Views and Vistas
Views to surrounding homes
Views southeast to Victory Mills Complex
Vegetation
Dense underbrush
Building and Structures
Concrete foundation of water tower
Concrete icehouse foundation
Concrete water weirs
Small-scale Features
Barbed wire fence
Boundary markers
Fraser sign
Iron pump
Park signs
Park gates
Survey monuments

Undetermined Features
(Not enough information to make determination)

Topography/Earthworks
Hut or oven site
Pit at bottom of slope trail
Terraces-neighboring land to the west
Pond depression
Mounds-three south of water tower site
Archeological Sites
Other fortifications
Pit at bottom of "Woods Trail"

Aug 31 07 02:03p Saratoga Ranger Station (518)664-9142 p.1

CULTURAL LANDSCAPE INVENTORY
CONCURRENCE FORM

Victory Woods
Saratoga National Historical Park

Saratoga National Historical Park concurs with the findings of the Cultural Landscape Inventory (CLI) for Victory Woods including the following specific components:

MANAGEMENT CATEGORY: Must Be Preserved and Maintained

CONDITION ASSESSMENT: Good

Good: indicates the inventory unit shows no clear evidence of major negative disturbance and deterioration by natural and/or human forces. The inventory unit's cultural and natural values are as well preserved as can be expected under the given environmental conditions. No immediate corrective action is required to maintain its current condition.

Fair: indicates the inventory unit shows clear evidence of minor disturbances and deterioration by natural and/or human forces, and some degree of corrective action is needed within 3-5 years to prevent further harm to its cultural and/or natural values. If left to continue without the appropriate corrective action, the cumulative effect of the deterioration of many of the character defining elements, will cause the inventory unit to degrade to a poor condition.

Poor: indicates the inventory unit shows clear evidence of major disturbance and rapid deterioration by natural and/or human forces. Immediate corrective action is required to protect and preserve the remaining historical and natural values.

The Cultural Landscape Inventory for Victory Woods is hereby approved and accepted.

Frank Dean 8/31/2007

Superintendent, Saratoga National Historical Park Date

Park concurrence form, August 31, 2007.

08/01/2013 14:30 15186649830 SARATOGA NHP PAGE 02/02

Cultural Landscapes Inventory
Condition Reassessment
2013

Saratoga National Historical Park
Schuyler Estate
Victory Woods

Saratoga National Historical Park concurs with the condition reassessments for the Schuyler Estate and Victory Woods, including:

CONDITION ASSESSMENT: Good – Schuyler Estate
Good – Victory Woods

Good: indicates the inventory unit shows no clear evidence of major negative disturbance and deterioration by natural and/or human forces. The inventory unit's cultural and natural values are as well preserved as can be expected under the given environmental conditions. No immediate corrective action is required to maintain its current condition.

Fair: indicates the inventory unit shows clear evidence of minor disturbances and deterioration by natural and/or human forces, and some degree of corrective action is needed within 3-5 years to prevent further harm to its cultural and/or natural values. If left to continue without the appropriate corrective action, the cumulative effect of the deterioration of many of the landscape characteristics will cause the inventory unit to degrade to a poor condition.

Poor: indicates the inventory unit shows clear evidence of major disturbance and rapid deterioration by natural and/or human forces. Immediate corrective action is required to protect and preserve the remaining historical and natural values.

The condition reassessments for the Schuyler Estate and Victory Woods at Saratoga National Historical Park are hereby approved and accepted.

Superintendent, Saratoga National Historical Park — Date 7/16/13

Condition reassessment form, July 16, 2013.

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Northeast Region
United States Custom House
200 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106

IN REPLY REFER TO:

H30 (NER-RS&S OCLP)

AUG 21 2007

07PR04871

Christine Capella-Peters
Historic Sites Restoration Coordinator
NY State Historic Preservation Office
NYSOPRHP--Central Region
6105 E. Seneca Turnpike
Jamesville NY 13078

Dear Ms. Capella-Peters:

Enclosed you will find a copy of the Cultural Landscapes Inventory (CLI) for Victory Woods, located within Saratoga National Historical Park (NHP). We seek your concurrence on the contributing status of those resources and features identified in this CLI previously unevaluated for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The report has been prepared by a team of historical landscape architects with the National Park Service (NPS) Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation. The CLI program and the enclosed report continue the NPS efforts to update our cultural resource inventories.

Through the CLI program, the NPS is currently in the midst of a nationwide effort to inventory its cultural landscapes. The CLI is conducted in accordance with Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (as amended). It is an inventory of baseline information for all historically significant cultural landscapes within the national park system, and it examines multiple landscape features that contribute to the significance of historic properties. The CLI process includes gathering information from existing secondary sources and conducting on-site reconnaissance of the existing landscape. The information collected provides a comprehensive look at the historical development and significance of the landscape, placing it in context of the property's overall significance. For landscapes found potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, the evaluation describes their character-defining features and assesses the landscape's overall historical integrity. It also raises questions about the landscape that need further study.

It is important to note that the CLI reports are not intended as comprehensive inventory reports for any one property, although for some properties they provide fuller documentation than for others. For example, the reports do not include a full architectural description of structures, but document structures as elements of the overall landscape, and similarly documents other characteristics such as vegetation, spatial organization, and views and vistas. The CLI is one

SHPO concurrence letter, September 26, 2007 (5 pages).

component of the NPS inventory effort that also includes cultural resource inventories for historic structures, archeological sites, ethnographic resources, and museum objects. For example, the NPS List of Classified Structures inventory includes structural features of cultural landscapes, but the CLI takes a more encompassing approach to the properties, inventorying all above-ground features in each park in which the NPS has a legal or mandated interest.

Saratoga NHP was authorized on June 1, 1938 and administratively listed in the National Register of Historic Places as a district on October 15, 1966. The 22.78-acre Victory Woods site was added to the park in 1974. A nomination form for the entire park was submitted to the Keeper of the National Register and returned for revision in 1985, but was not resubmitted. The National Register Information System (NRIS) database notes that Saratoga NHP is significant in the areas of military, politics/government, and archeology for its association with the American Revolution. The List of Classified Structures (LCS) database identifies thirty-one extant buildings and structures within the Saratoga NHP, but none are located within the Victory Woods site.

Included as part of Saratoga NHP, Victory Woods is significant under Criterion A or its association with the American Revolution because of the decisive role the area played in the battles, siege, and surrender of Saratoga in 1777. Victory Woods also derives archeological significance under Criterion D for its potential to reveal significant information regarding the Revolutionary War period, as well as Native American occupation and use dating back to the Middle and Late Archaic periods (6000 B.C.-1609). The periods of significance are 6000 B.C. to 1609, and 1777.

The CLI fully evaluates the cultural landscape, particularly the associated landscape characteristics and features, and finds that the overall Victory Woods landscape retains integrity to the areas of military significance and archeology.

We call your particular attention to the Landscape Description, National Register Information, Statement of Significance, and Analysis and Evaluation Summary in the enclosed CLI.

Based on the CLI, we seek your concurrence on the following:

- Victory Woods is significant under Criteria A and D.
- The areas of significance are military and archeology.
- The periods of significance for Victory Woods are 6000 B.C. to 1609, and 1777.
- The cultural landscape retains integrity to the periods of significance.
- The property retains landscape features that contribute to the sites' historic character (see attached lists).

If you concur with the findings stated above and our categorization of Victory Woods landscape resources and features at Saratoga NHP, as contributing, non-contributing, and undetermined, enumerated on the enclosed list, we ask that you please sign on the space provided and return this letter to Jeff Killion, CLI Coordinator (Address: Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation, 15 State Street, 6th Floor, Boston, MA 02109) **within thirty days**.

Thank you for your attention to these reports. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mr. Killion at 617-223-5053.

Sincerely,

John A. Latschar
Acting Regional Director
Northeast Region

Enclosures

cc:
Superintendent, Saratoga National Historical Park (without enclosure)
Carol Ash, SHPO (without enclosure)

I concur with above-stated categorizations of the Victory Woods landscape resources and features at Saratoga National Historical Park, as contributing, non-contributing, and undetermined.

Richard A Pierpont DSHPO
New York State Historic Preservation Officer

9/26/07
Date

NPS Cultural Landscapes Inventory – Victory Woods
Saratoga National Historical Park
List of Contributing and Non-Contributing Landscape Features
August 2007

Contributing Resources and Features

The following landscape characteristics and associated features contribute to the property's historic character, though not all are considered countable resources according to the National Register of Historic Places.

Topography/Earthworks
- Cannon emplacement (ASMIS Name: Cannon Battery; ASMIS ID: SARA_.003)
- Gunpowder magazine (ASMIS Name: Magazine; ASMIS ID: SARA_.002)
- Angled earthwork south of seasonal pond (ASMIS Name: Entrenchments; ASMIS ID: SARA_.001)
- Steep slope toward Fish Creek
- Northern and southern ravines
- Gently sloping plane of encampment area
- Linear earthwork

Land Use
- Pre-contact use
- Encampment remnants

Circulation
- Herkimer Street/Park Road

Views and Vistas
- Views to NYS Route 32, Fish Creek, and beyond to American encampment site
- Views across fields to Cemetery Avenue

Vegetation
- Thinned canopy trees

Archeological Sites
- Relics
- Roasting Platform (ASMIS NAME: Entrenchments; ASMIS ID: SARA_.001)
- Projectile Points (ASMIS NAME: Lithic Scatter; ASMIS ID: SARA_.005)
- Large Anvil Stones and lithic debitage (Lithic Processing Station) (ASMIS NAME: Lithic Workshop; ASMIS ID: SARA_.004)

Non-Contributing Resources and Features

Topography/Earthwork
- Central gully
- Water tower site mound (ASMIS NAME: Water Works; ASMIS ID: SARA_.005)

Land Use
- Waterworks remnants
- Recreation

Cultural Landscapes Inventory
CLI Updates Certification Form
2026

Saratoga National Historical Park
Saratoga Battlefield
Saratoga Monument
Schuyler Estate
Victory Woods

Saratoga National Historical Park certifies the CLI updates for Saratoga Battlefield, Saratoga Monument, Schuyler Estate, and Victory Woods, including:

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:
Good – Saratoga Battlefield
Fair – Saratoga Monument
Fair – Schuyler Estate
Good – Victory Woods

Good: indicates the inventory unit shows no clear evidence of major negative disturbance and deterioration by natural and/or human forces. The inventory unit's cultural and natural values are as well preserved as can be expected under the given environmental conditions. No immediate corrective action is required to maintain its current condition.

Fair: indicates the inventory unit shows clear evidence of minor disturbances and deterioration by natural and/or human forces, and some degree of corrective action is needed within 3-5 years to prevent further harm to its cultural and/or natural values. If left to continue without the appropriate corrective action, the cumulative effect of the deterioration of many of the character defining elements, will cause the inventory unit to degrade to a poor condition.

Poor: indicates the inventory unit shows clear evidence of major disturbance and rapid deterioration by natural and/or human forces. Immediate corrective action is required to protect and preserve the remaining historical and natural values.

The CLI updates for sites listed above at Saratoga National Historical Park are hereby approved and accepted.

LESLIE MORLOCK Digitally signed by LESLIE MORLOCK Date: 2026.07.31 10:48:11 -04'00'

Superintendent, Saratoga National Historical Park Date

Park concurrence form, July 31, 2026.

Seq. No.	File Name	Caption

Revision:

Revised By	Type of Revision	Revision Date	Revision Explanatory Narrative
Jeff Killion	Change in Condition	07/16/2013	Condition reassessment completed as scheduled.
Jeff Killion	CLI Update	07/31/2026	Three levels of effort have been developed for CLI Updates: A, B, and C. Level C is limited to a condition reassessment of the landscape; Level B includes C and is a targeted update of select data fields; Level A includes B and C and is a comprehensive update of all data fields. The update to the Victory Woods CLI has been done at a Level A effort.

Geographic Information

State and County:

State/Territory	County
New York	Saratoga County

Area (Acres): 22.78

Land Tract Number(s)

01-122 (22.7 acres)

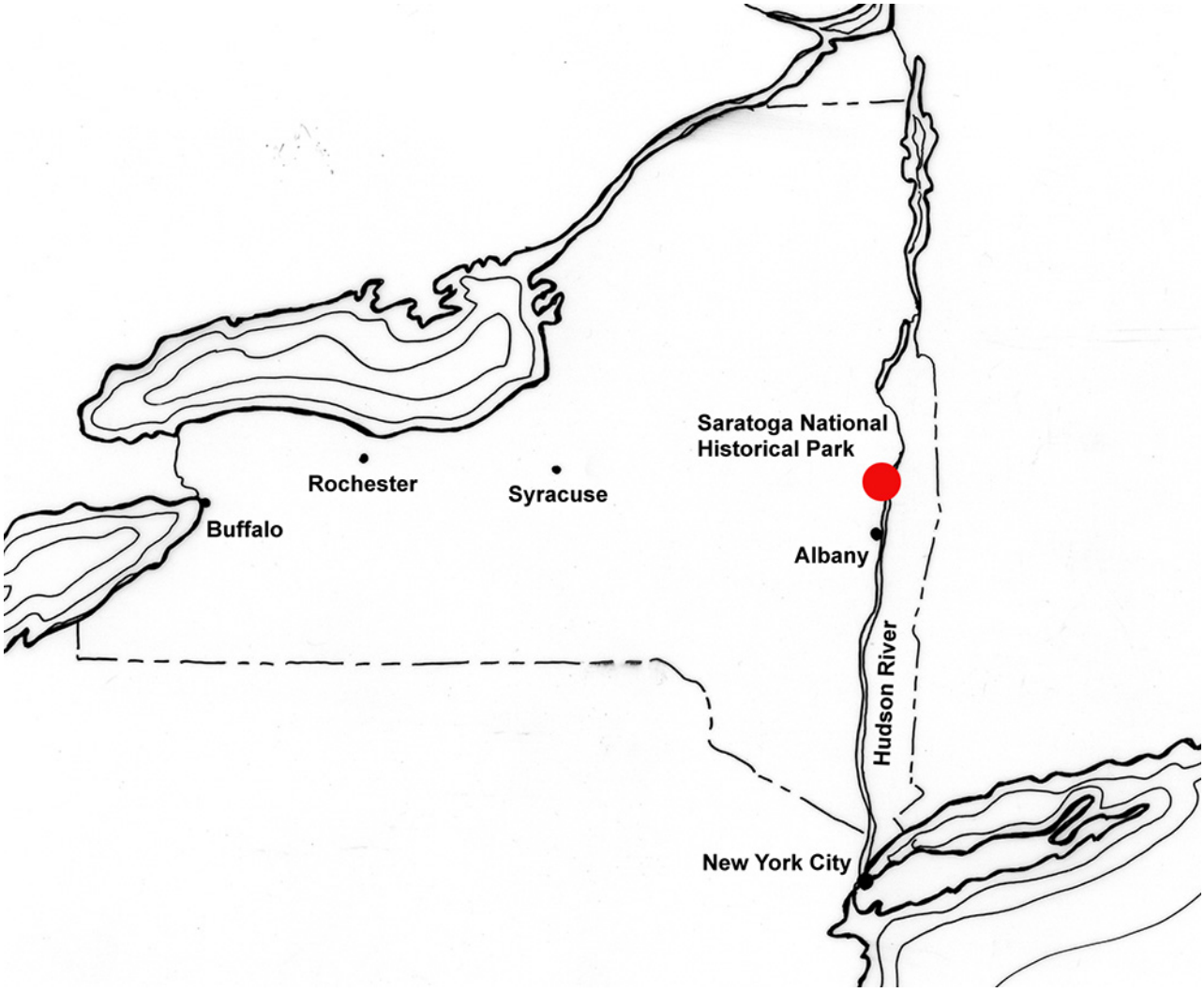
Boundary Description:

Victory Woods is located in the Village of Victory within the Town of Saratoga in Saratoga County of New York State. The 22.7-acre, polygonal -shaped Victory Woods site overlooks Fish Creek to the east, a tributary of the Hudson River. The site is bounded by NYS Route 32 to the east and private residential properties to the north, south, east, and west. Jay and Herkimer Streets terminate at the southern property line where Herkimer Street continues as a dirt and gravel park road that climbs to the center of the site. Monument Drive ends near the northwest corner of the site and Schuyler Heights Drive ends at the site's northern boundary. Dense forest vegetation covers most of the Victory Woods landscape. Steep slopes characterize the eastern half while the western half is more planar with some gradual slopes, mounds, and depressions, including a wetland area.

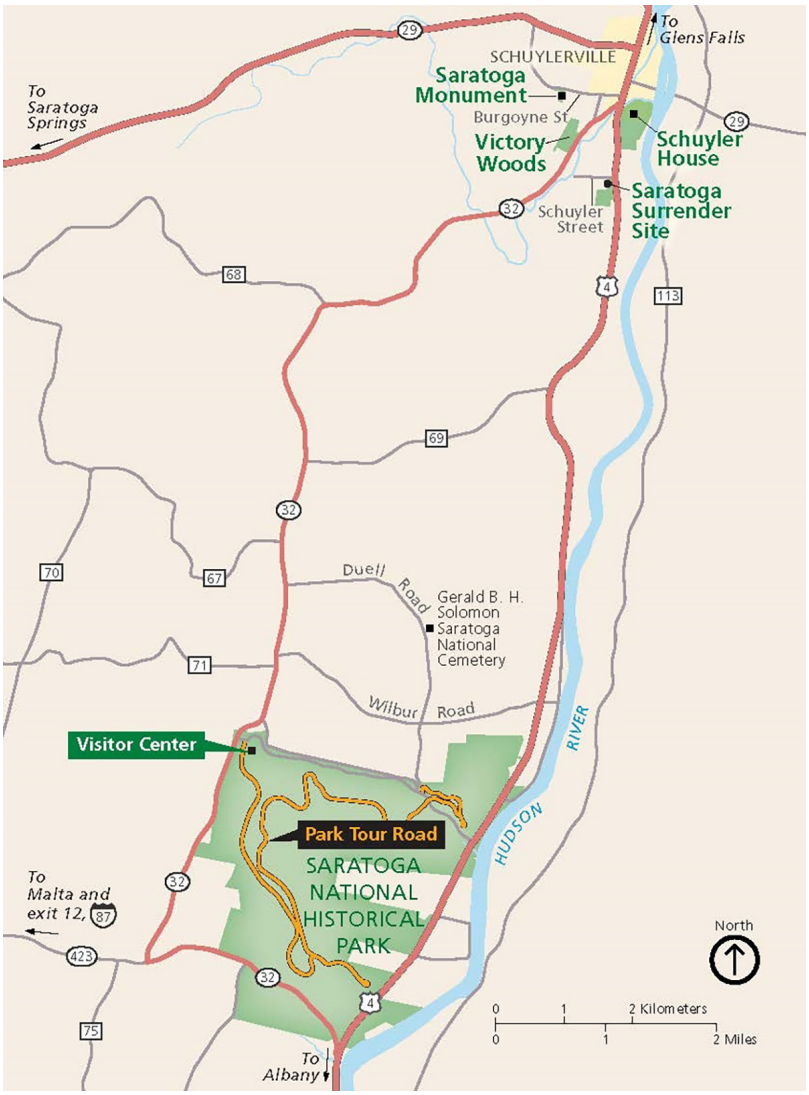
Boundary Coordinates

Source	Type of Point	Latitude	Longitude	Narrative
Aerial Photograph	Polygon	43.090511	-73.592312	
Aerial Photograph	Polygon	43.091085	-73.594059	
Aerial Photograph	Polygon	43.090754	-73.594059	
Aerial Photograph	Polygon	43.090767	-73.594446	
Aerial Photograph	Polygon	43.094762	-73.59154	
Aerial Photograph	Polygon	43.094653	-73.589989	
Aerial Photograph	Polygon	43.093142	-73.590657	
Aerial Photograph	Polygon	43.092912	-73.589802	
Aerial Photograph	Polygon	43.092571	-73.590254	
Aerial Photograph	Polygon	43.090492	-73.591807	
Aerial Photograph	Polygon	43.090052	-73.592249	

Location Map:



Location of Saratoga National Historical Park--hereafter NHP. (Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation--hereafter OCLP, 2002)



Map of the five sites that comprise Saratoga NHP. (Harpers Ferry Center)

Regional Landscape Contexts:

Type of Context: Cultural

Description:

This context concerns the general human overlay on the physical form of the landscape. Saratoga NHP commemorates a vital phase of the Revolutionary War, as the American victory at Saratoga is generally considered a turning point in the war. As part of the historical park, the 22.7-acre cultural landscape of Victory Woods represents a portion (approximately one fifth) of the original British encampment that covered some 100 acres and likely includes portions of the American Loyalist and 9th Regiment campsites. Containing significant Revolutionary War field fortification and encampment remnants, the landscape has remained largely undisturbed. Besides military significance, Victory Woods contains Native Americans resources that potentially could yield additional information about occupation during the Middle and Late Archaic Periods (8000-5000 BCE) and to the encampment of 1777.

Type of Context: Physiographic

Description:

This context concerns the large-scale physical forms and patterns of the landscape such as hill, plateau, ravine, drumlin, etc. The Victory Woods site is located within the Upper Hudson River Valley. The valley is located between the Adirondack Mountains of New York and the Green Mountains of Vermont and has a varied landscape of gorges, bluffs, floodplain, and ridges. The Heights of Saratoga in the Villages of Schuylerville and Victory have shaped history, and topography is a major topic in park interpretation. Victory Woods site is a small sample of the typical Hudson River bluff landscape. Its topography contributes to a diversity of landscape types: uplands (both wet and dry), ravines, and steep slopes extending down to the floodplain.

Type of Context: Political

Description:

This context concerns the overlay imposed on the landscape through general land use, zoning, legal restrictions,
transportation, utilities, population, and political jurisdiction (e.g., state, county, city, borough, or village). Saratoga County is part of the Capital District of New York. The county is growing rapidly in population, facilitated by Interstate 87 (the Northway). The population growth, along with a decline in agriculture, is fueling the conversion of once-productive farmland to residential use. For the most part, lands in the vicinity of the park remain privately owned and of rural/agricultural character.

Management Information

General Management Information

Management Category: Category A (High NPS Priority for Preservation and Maintenance)

Management Category Date: 08/31/2007

Management Category Narrative:

As approved on August 31, 2007, Victory Woods meets two criteria of the Category A (High NPS Priority for Preservation and Maintenance, formerly Must Be Preserved and Maintained) management category. The property is related to the park's legislated significance, described as: "lands, structures, and other property in the area at Saratoga, New York, whereon was fought the Battle of Saratoga during the War of the Revolution…shall be set apart as a public park for the benefit and inspiration of the people and shall be known as Saratoga National Historical Park." (GMP 2004: 75, citing 52 Stat. 608)

The property is also nationally significant as defined by the National Register of Historic Places Criteria A and D, as determined in the park's 2012 National Register documentation.

Management Agreements:

Type of Agreement: None

Management Agreement Expiration Date:

Management Agreement Narrative:

Legal Interests:

Type of Interest: Fee Simple

Legal Interest Narrative: Tract 01-122

Located in managed wilderness?: No

Adjacent Lands Information

Do Adjacent Lands Contribute? Yes

Adjacent Lands Narrative:

Adjacent lands are lands outside the cultural landscape boundary, including lands inside or outside the park. Encompassing approximately one fifth of its original size, the 22.78-acre Victory Woods site was once part of a larger wooded area that covered much of the Heights of Saratoga, while the fertile area along the Hudson River to the east had been cleared for agriculture. Of the approximately 100-acre British encampment, the Victory Woods site only encompasses the southeastern portion of the entire British encampment and likely includes portions of the American Loyalist and 9th Regiment campsites. Much of the American Loyalist site is likely located on adjacent private property directly to the south. While cannon batteries, gun powder magazines, earthworks, and other features existed throughout the Victory Woods site, most of these features that currently reside outside the existing 22.78 acres, have been lost to erosion or subsequent development. The adjacent lands may contain valuable archeological resources

National Register Information

National Register of Historic Places

Eligibility: Listed

Eligibility Date: 5/23/2012 12:00:00 AM

Significance Level: National

Contributing: Contributing

Classification: District

Documentation Narrative Description:

Victory Woods was added to the Saratoga National Historical Park in 1974. The park was administratively listed on the National Register of Historic Places on October 15, 1966 with the passage of the National Historic Preservation Act. Although no supporting documentation was prepared at that time, the park was identified as significant under Criterion A in the areas of Military and Politics/Government and Criteria Consideration F: Commemorative Properties. In the National Register database, the period of significance is listed as 1750-1799, with a significant date of 1777 for the Battles of Saratoga.

On September 26, 2007, the New York State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) concurred with National Park Service on the findings of the 2007 CLI for Victory Woods. The CLI stated significance in the areas of Military and Archeology for the periods 6000 BCE-1609, and 1777. Contributing features identified in the CLI included those related to topography (earthworks), land use, circulation, views and vistas, vegetation, and archeology. Non-contributing features identified in the CLI included those related to topography (earthworks), land use, circulation, views and vistas, vegetation, buildings and structures, and small-scale features. Several topographic and archeologic features were evaluation as “undetermined.”

On May 23, 2012, National Register documentation for the Saratoga National Historical Park Historic District was approved by the Keeper of the National Register. Significance was found under Criteria A in the areas of Conservation, Military, Politics/Government, and Transportation; Criterion B for Philip Schuyler; Criterion C in the areas of Architecture and Art; Criterion D for Archeology; and Criteria Consideration F: Commemorative Properties. Five periods of significance were identified for the district: 1777 for the Battles of Saratoga; 1775-1804 for the association of the Schuyler House with Philip Schuyler; 1821-1917 for the operation of the Champlain Canal; 1873-1936 for the commemoration of the battles, including the construction of the Saratoga Monument and monumentation of the battlefield; and 1923-1966 for the conservation of the battlefield by the state and federal governments. Significant dates were noted as 1777 for the battles of Saratoga, 1821 for construction of the Old Champlain Canal, 1887 for completion of the Saratoga Monument, and 1938 for the authorization of Saratoga National Historical Park. In the documentation, the entire Victory Woods British encampment and the Pre-Contact landscapes are identified as contributing sites. The Gunpowder Magazine, Cannon Battery, and Angled Earthwork are listed as contributing resources, while the boardwalk is identified as a non-contributing feature.

According to research conducted for this CLI and the categories of National Register documentation outlined in the “CLI Professional Procedures Guide,” the areas and periods of significance for Victory Woods are adequately documented in existing National Register documentation and through previous consultations with the New York SHPO. The existing documentation also adequately describes the battlefield’s numerous historic resources that contribute to its significance. Therefore, for purposes of the CLI, Victory Woods is considered “Listed-Documented.”

Pre-CLI Documentation Status: Listed - Documented

CLI SHPO/THPO Concurrence Date: 5/23/2012 12:00:00 AM

CLI Concurrence Narrative:

Statement of Significance for National Register of Historic Places:

Saratoga National Historical Park:
The Saratoga NHP Historic District possesses significance under National Register Criteria A, B, C, and D. The district has national significance under Criterion A in the area of Military History as the site of the Battles of Saratoga, which together comprise a definitive turning point in the American Revolutionary War and are generally acknowledged by historians to be among the most decisive battles in military history. The district is also nationally significant under Criterion A in the areas of Other: Commemoration and Conservation for its association with national trends in the commemoration and preservation of American

battlefields during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The district possesses significance at the state level under Criterion A in the area of Transportation for its association with the Champlain Canal, constructed in the early nineteenth century as part of New York's extensive system of artificial waterways and listed in the National Register in 1976. Under Criterion B, the Schuyler Estate possesses national significance for its association with Major General Philip Schuyler (1733-1804), a nationally prominent military and political figure whose public career spanned the crucial formative years of the United States. The Saratoga Monument possesses national significance under Criterion C in the areas of Architecture and Art as one of the nation's most significant nineteenth-century monumental architectural monuments. The Schuyler House, John Neilson House, and Saratoga Visitor Center are locally significant under Criterion C in the area of Architecture. Saratoga NHP is eligible for listing in the National Register under Criterion D at the national level as a property that has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history. Surveys and excavations conducted at the Battlefield, Schuyler Estate, and Victory Woods units have revealed archeological deposits with the demonstrated and potential ability to address substantive research issues within the identified areas of significance for the park as well as ancillary research issues important to regional pre- and post-contact period contexts. The Historic District meets Criteria Consideration F for commemorative properties that have been invested with their own historical significance and Consideration G for properties of exceptional importance that have achieved significance within the past 50 years.

The overall period of significance for the Saratoga NHP Historic District is 1777-1966. This time span includes the year 1777 during which the Battles of Saratoga were fought; the years 1777-1804 for the extant buildings on the Schuyler Estate and associations with General Philip Schuyler; the years 1821-1917 when the Champlain Canal was in operation; the years 1873-1936 for commemorative efforts that included construction of the Saratoga Monument and the placement of additional monuments on the battlefield; and the years 1923-1966 for significant historical events associated with the conservation of the battlefield by the state and federal governments. The Historic District is also significant for the period 8000 -400 BCE, for archeological sites of the Middle to Late Archaic and Middle to Late Woodland Periods.

Victory Woods:
Victory Woods, located within the Saratoga NHP Historic District, is significant at the national, state, and local levels under Criterion A in the area of Military and under Criterion D in the area of Archeology (Prehistoric and Historic-Non-Aboriginal). The periods of significance for Victory Woods are 8000-5000 BCE and 1777 CE. The first period encompasses artifacts discovered at the property that date to the Middle Archaic period, as well as a possible roasting platform construction. The second period focuses on military events and archeological resources associated with the Battles of Saratoga.

CRITERION A

Military (1777):
Victory Woods possesses national-level significance under Criterion A in the area of Military History as the site of the Battles of Saratoga in 1777. After the second battle of Saratoga on October 7, British General John Burgoyne chose to retreat rather than surrender, and began to move his army northward on the Road to Albany during the afternoon of October 8. American General Horatio Gates' position forces, which had earlier cut Burgoyne's rear supply lines, now had the opportunity to block his path of retreat. When learning this upon his arrival at Saratoga on October 9, Burgoyne moved his army to the heights on the west side of the village and spent that evening at Philip Schuyler's country manor. Meanwhile, his engineers began throwing up a hasty but well-placed system of field fortifications in the hills above. The high plateau, later referred to as the "Heights of Saratoga," overlooked the floodplains and confluence of Fish Creek and the Hudson River. Burgoyne passed the site on his way south and knew of its advantages as a defensive position. His men constructed an earthen redoubt along the brow of the hill, encompassing an area of approximately one hundred acres. Vestiges of the fortifications, including the angled earthwork, gunpowder magazine, and cannon battery can still be discerned on the landscape. (NR 2012, Sec.8: 41-42)

Burgoyne posted most of his British troops and remaining Loyalists on the southern part of the heights north of Fish Creek within the area covered by the Victory Woods and Saratoga Monument units of the Saratoga NHP. He also positioned troops to the northeast in the gap between the two wings of the army. The artillery park occupied a rise on the flats east and a little south of the main body. The position

provided Burgoyne with the high ground and had the advantage of commanding an opening that offered a clear field of fire and favorable terrain for the close-order tactics of regular troops. (NR 2012, Sec.8: 42)

Gates' advance forces reached the outskirts of Saratoga Village on the morning of October 10. After receiving word of the American approach, Burgoyne ordered Schuyler's house and all outbuildings burned to prevent their use as cover for American operations and moved to the heights. When the Americans reached Schuyler's estate, their cannons on the flats of the Fish Kill effectively destroyed Burgoyne's flotilla and the provisions they contained. The following day, thinking that Burgoyne would continue his retreat, Gates ordered an attack on what he thought would be the British rear guard. Instead, the American force faced one of the strongest points on the British entrenched line. A British deserter saved them from a potentially serious reverse by providing information about Burgoyne's entrenched position. Gates averted disaster by calling the troops back before they engaged. Burgoyne later described the lost opportunity to exploit an American mistake as "one of the most adverse strokes of fortune in the whole campaign." (NR 2012, Sec.8: 42, citing Luzader 2002: 60)

After the aborted attack, Gates determined not to test the strong British lines with a full frontal assault, preferring to complete the envelopment of the position and lay siege. Without resupply the British could not hold out for long. Gates completed his movements on October 12 with his army positioned on all sides of the encampment. That same day Burgoyne called a council of war to discuss options with his general staff. They faced a critical situation with the army dangerously low on rations and the men exposed without shelter to continuous American artillery bombardment. Burgoyne outlined five alternatives for his generals to consider, including staying in place and awaiting attack, conducting an attack of their own, retreating with the artillery and baggage, retreating at night without the artillery and baggage, or marching rapidly to Albany should the enemy leave its rear open in its shift to the left. He did not yet place surrender on the table. (NR 2012, Sec.8: 42)

Burgoyne's position changed on October 13, when he again called his staff together for the purpose of gaining consensus on his decision to seek honorable terms for capitulation. Before the meeting, he drafted the articles of a treaty, and he received unanimous support for its terms among the officers. The following day, Burgoyne sent a commission led by his adjutant general, Lieutenant-Colonel Robert Kingston, to Gates' headquarters under a flag of truce to begin the negotiations. During the discussion, Gates presented Kingston with his terms, which called for the unconditional surrender of the British army. Despite his desperate situation, Burgoyne was unwilling to surrender under such terms. To the surprise of the British, Gates soon largely accepted Burgoyne's terms on the condition that the surrender be accomplished by 2:00 on the afternoon of October 15. Burgoyne became suspicious over the imposed deadline, taking it to mean that Gates might be anxious about the impending arrival of Sir Henry Clinton's troops from the south and decided to prolong the negotiations to buy time. He instructed his commissioners to stall, and they conducted protracted negotiations throughout the following day. Finally, at about 11:00 that evening, the commissioners agreed to the terms of the articles of convention that would surrender Burgoyne's army. (NR 2012, Sec.8: 42-43)

During the evening of October 15, Burgoyne received his first knowledge of Clinton's whereabouts when a Loyalist brought word that the advance of the force making its way up the Hudson had reached Esopus, about 45 miles south of Albany, the week before. Burgoyne called yet another council of war and asked his generals' opinion about whether they thought it honorable to break the articles of convention and, if so, whether they thought the proximity of Clinton's forces improved their situation. A majority of the officers answered no to both questions. Burgoyne, however, continued to hold out hope and sought to delay the negotiations by claiming they were obtained under false pretense. In an effort to buy time to see what might come of Clinton's advance, he wrote Gates to request an inspection of his lines to see if a rumored detachment of part of his force to meet Clinton had weakened his position. Gates rejected the request and wrote back that he expected an immediate and decisive decision. With all options exhausted, the British commander signed what was then titled the "Convention of Saratoga" on October 16. (NR 2012, Sec.8: 43)

On October 17, Burgoyne and his general staff proceeded to Gates camp where the British commander surrendered his sword to the victorious general. The British army marched to the Field of Grounded Arms at the site of the former Fort Hardy on the north side of Fish Creek where it empties into the Hudson River and piled their weapons. That evening, the defeated British army began a long march to Cambridge, Massachusetts, to be held there until arrangements for exchange could be made. (NR 2012, Sec.8: 43)

CRITERION D

Archeology (Prehistoric):
Victory Woods possesses state- and local-level significance under Criteria D in the area of Archeology (Prehistory) for its known and potential ability to yield information about the pre-contact period occupation of this area. The property has long been recognized as a locus of pre-contact period settlement and use, in large part because of what were likely the “truly fabulous” shad and herring runs in the spring. The available archeological data has provided substantial evidence for the continuous use of the area for short-term seasonal campsites, lithic workshops, and possible food-processing stations, and has expanded the archeological database for the Middle and Late Archaic periods. The property is especially important for its ability to add new information about settlement and subsistence practices during the Middle Archaic, a period that is poorly understood in the Northeast in general, and New York State in particular. (NR 2012, Sec.8: 104, citing Funk 1976: 27)

Additional analysis of a feature tentatively identified as a roasting platform may provide confirmation of that identification, while microscopic analysis of its contents may provide clues as to diet and the seasonality of use of the parcel by pre-contact populations. More expansive excavations across the property also have the potential to yield a greater number of diagnostic projectile points and intact features. One or both data classes could help to clarify the temporal range of occupation for the terrace as well as how it was used over time. This information could then be marshaled to provide a better understanding of inter-site use dynamics as well as intra-site comparisons with other known pre-contact sites in this region. (NR 2012, Sec.8: 104)

Archeology (Historic-Non-Aboriginal):
Victory Woods is significant at the national level under Criteria D in the area of Archeology (Historic-Non-Aboriginal) for its realized and potential ability to contribute substantive information about the Battles of Saratoga. As the location of Burgoyne’s retreat, the parcel has yielded corroborative, albeit ephemeral, data about the location of the British military on the eve of their defeat. The fact that the encampment was occupied exclusively by British troops suggests that the surviving earthworks and cultural material profile of the site are solid, albeit limited, representations of British military life. This controlled, “retreat-oriented” landscape could provide an excellent point of comparison to the “assault-oriented” landscape of the park’s Battlefield Unit, as well as the contemporaneous American fortifications and encampments. The remote-sensing techniques used at
Victory Woods to locate the earthen fortifications proved successful and demonstrated that geophysical survey has the potential to identify large-scale landscape features. The results of the Victory Woods survey could be used as a model for locating similar fortification features at the Battlefield Unit. (NR 2012, Sec.8: 104)

National Register Significance Criteria:

Significance Criterion A - Associated with events significant to broad patterns of our history

Significance Criterion D - Has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important to prehistory or history

National Register Area of Significance:

Area of Significance Category: Archeology

Area of Significance Subcategory: Prehistoric

Narrative:

Area of Significance Category: Archeology

Area of Significance Subcategory: Historic-Non-Aboriginal

Narrative:

Area of Significance Category: Military

Area of Significance Subcategory:

Narrative:

National Register Criteria Consideration:

National Register Periods of Significance (with Historic Context Themes):

Time Period: BCE 8000 - CE 500

Historic Context Theme	Subtheme	Facet	Other Facet
Peopling Places	The Earliest Inhabitants:	Archaic Adaptations Of The Northeast (Including The Ohio Valley Region)	

Time Period: CE 1777 - CE 1777

Historic Context Theme	Subtheme	Facet	Other Facet
Shaping the Political Landscape	The American Revolution	War in the North	

NRIS Information:

NRIS Name:	Saratoga National Historical Park
NRIS ID:	66000569
Primary Certification Date:	05/23/2012
Other Certifications and Date:	MM/dd/yyyy

State Register Documentation:

Identification Number:	90PR03689
Name:	Saratoga National Historical Park,
Listed Date:	06/23/1980

National Historic Landmarks:

National Historic Landmark? No

Theme:

Contributing:

NHL ID:

NHL URL:

Date:

Statement of Significance for National Historic Landmark:

World Heritage Site:

World Heritage Site? No

Category:

WHS ID:

WHS URL:

Date:

Is Resource within a designated National Natural Landscape: No

Chronology and Physical History

Chronology:

Year	Event	Major Event Narrative
BCE 5000 - 1000	Farmed/Harvested	Native Americans hunt, fish, and harvest seeds and nuts in the region. Archeological investigations indicate the Victory Woods site was heavily occupied and utilized as early as the Middle and Late Archaic periods.
CE 1609	Explored	Samuel de Champlain and Henry Hudson explore area occupied by Mohicans.
CE 1609 - 1683	Established	Various groups pass through the area by way of the Saratoga and Kayaderosseras Trails.
CE 1683	Purchased/Sold	Land known as the “Saratoga Patent” is purchased from the Mohawks by Peter Philip Schuyler, Cornelius Van Dyke, Jan Janse Bleeker, and Johannes Wendel. Lot 5 includes Victory Woods parcel.
CE 1685	Purchased/Sold	Patent for land issued by Governor Thomas Dongan to David and Peter Schuyler, Cornelius Van Dyke, Jan Janse Bleeker, Dirck Wessels, Johannes Wendel and Robert Livingston.
CE 1708	Purchased/Sold	The Saratoga Patent is reissued to Col. Peter Schuyler, Johannes Schuyler, Jan Bleeker, Cornelius Van Dyck, Dirck Wessels and Robert Livingston obtains ownership of Lot 5.
CE 1767	Purchased/Sold	Lot 5 is subdivided after the death of Robert Livingston’s widow.
CE 1768	Purchased/Sold	Philip John Schuyler, grandson of Johannes Schuyler, purchases roughly four thousand acres of land situated north of Fish Creek, from the heirs of Robert Livingston. This includes the area which would become Victory Woods. He later builds a church, store, and mills and encourages tenant farmers to settle on his land.
CE 1777	Military Operation	The British army is forced to retreat after the Second Battle of Saratoga. British Lt. General Burgoyne occupies the “Heights of Saratoga,” which includes the Victory Woods parcel as a defensible landscape. British fortifications and earthen redoubts are built on the parcel. After positioning themselves there for days the British would surrender.
CE 1823	Developed	An increase in population and development occurs in Saratoga County as a result of the Champlain Canal and Whitehall Turnpike.
CE 1837	Purchased/Sold	Financial Panic of 1837 causes the Schuyler family to sell the land that encompasses the Victory Woods site to Jacob T.B. Van Vechten.
CE 1846	Purchased/Sold	Saratoga Victory Manufacturing Company is established along Fish Creek. They purchase a sizable amount of land, including the Victory Woods parcel.
CE 1853 - 1854	Land Transfer	Saratoga Victory Manufacturing Company donates ten acres of land for the development of a public cemetery and a parcel of land in the village for the Union Methodist Church. Victory Woods parcel is retained.

Year	Event	Major Event Narrative
CE 1865	Memorialized	The Prospect Hill Cemetery Association is organized and incorporated two years later. They establish a 20-acre cemetery adjacent to Victory Woods, on a portion of the former British fortified camp
CE 1882	Memorialized	Saratoga Monument is completed. Building the cemetery and the Saratoga Monument results in the loss of much of the historic fabric of the British encampment. Victory Woods contains some of the remaining portion of the encampment.
CE 1910	Purchased/Sold	Saratoga Victory Manufacturing Company is purchased by the American Manufacturing Company.
CE 1918 - 1931	Developed	American Manufacturing Company constructs water tank and brick pump house on the Victory Woods parcel.
CE 1931	Built	By 1931 an icehouse is built.
CE 1938	Purchased/Sold	The United Board and Carton Corporation takes over ownership of the Victory Woods site.
CE 1938	Established	Saratoga National Historical Park is authorized.
CE 1948	Established	Saratoga National Historical Park is established.
CE 1972	Purchased/Sold	The United Board and Carton Corporation sells mill and adjoining property, including the Victory Woods parcel, to Wheelabrator-Frye's Graphic Communication Group called the A. L. Garber Company.
CE 1974	Purchased/Sold	Wheelabrator-Frye Inc. donates Victory Woods parcel to the National Park Service.
CE 1974	Platted	Boundaries of Victory Woods parcel surveyed and twenty brass boundary markers are installed.
CE 1974 - 1987	Altered	Vandalism and "archeological" looting occurs on the Victory Woods parcel.
CE 1992	Removed	Water tank is removed from Victory Woods site.
CE 1993	Graded	Existing road through Victory Woods is regraded, which includes the removal of downed trees blocking the road.
CE 1994	Removed	Concrete vaults found within Victory Woods are removed.
CE 2005	Excavated	Archeological identification study is completed in Victory Woods.
CE 2006	Removed	Norway maple trees are removed from the Victory Woods site by the Northeast Region's Exotic Plant Management Team.
CE 2007	Established	Victory Woods is officially opened to the public.
CE 2013	Repaired	By 2013 the site's multi-tread trail and boardwalk are repaired. (PMIS 190586)

Physical History:

INTRODUCTION

The following section provides information on the physical development and evolution of the site, organized by time periods. The history of the Victory Woods is detailed in the 2007 “Cultural Landscape Report and Archeological Sensitivity Assessment for Victory Woods” by Christopher Stevens, Linda White, William Griswold, and Margie Coffin Brown. The following overview is extracted from the Cultural Landscape Report. Graphics associated with this section are located at the end of this report.

Note: The reader is encouraged to consult the 2022 report, “Ethnohistorical Report for Saratoga National Historical Park” by Karim M. Tiro, which provides the latest scholarship on the area’s indigenous peoples.

PREHISTORY, to 1609

The area of Saratoga, now Schuylerville, was important in prehistory for its geographic position along the Hudson River, midway between present day Canada and the Atlantic Ocean. Taking the Battenkill (a major tributary), also known as the Dianondehowa, provided easy access to the east, and traversing the Fish Creek provided access to the Mohawk Valley and points west. This geographically desirable location, rich in natural resources, provided the optimum location for settlement and cultural interchange. (CLR/ASA 2007: 14)

Archaic Period (8000-3000 BCE):
The Archaic Period is characterized by changes in the environment, subsistence strategies and life-ways for the Native Americans. The Middle Archaic Period (8000-6000 BCE) and Late Archaic Period (6000-3000 BCE) are characterized by larger base camps and small groups moving seasonally through the forest; hunting game, fishing, and harvesting seeds and nuts. Recent excavations at Victory Woods revealed two diagnostic project points for the Middle and Late Archaic periods as well as hundreds of debitage flakes associated with a lithic processing station, indicating that the area was heavily occupied and utilized in the last 7,500 years. Elsewhere, excavations done by Snow in 1977 and Starbuck and Bolian in 1980 have revealed diagnostic projectile points (points distinguishing or characteristic of a particular time) for the period. The later portion of this period shows trends for population expansion and a wider variety of subsistence activities including the use of shellfish and nuts, the construction of fish weirs, and the use of controlled burning. Mortuary ceremonialism and ritual play an increasingly important part in the treatment of the dead during the Archaic Period. (CLR/ASA 2007: 14-15)

An increase in variation and distribution of artifacts resulted in three traditions based upon projectile point styles. The Laurentian (Otter Creek, Brewerton, Vosburg), Narrow Point (narrow–stemmed, notched, triangular, often made of quartz, Normanskill) and Susquehanna (broad, thin bifaces, Snook Kill, Orient Fishtail) traditions have been associated with the later part of this period. Sizeable Laurentian components have been identified at a number of sites along Fish Creek by Funk, the Schuylerville Water Pollution Control Facility site by Brumbach, and near the shores or Saratoga Lake by Walsh. The sites along Fish Creek and areas around Saratoga Lake also contain numerous projectile points affiliated with the Narrow Point tradition. William Ritchie, in 1958, identified a new cultural complex, near the Snook Kill in Saratoga County. Small numbers of these points have been found at most of the sites along Fish Creek. The artifacts inferred that hunting was the primary activity, conducted with spears or javelins. Near the confluence of Fish Creek and the Hudson River, one of the sites contained Susquehanna tradition components including Susquehanna Broad and Orient Fishtail points, presumably associated with that site's apparent focus on spring anadromous fishing. (CLR/ASA 2007: 15)

Woodland Period (3000-400 BCE):
Whereas lithics (stone materials) are used to distinguish the various Archaic and Paleoindian Periods, the appearance of ceramics on archeological sites is a marker of the Woodland Period. The earliest ceramics known as the Vinette I begin to appear on sites in the Northeast around 3000 BCE. These early ceramics are derivatives of earlier soapstone bowls characteristic of the Late Archaic Period. The earliest ceramics in the area are thin and ovate, and often side-notched. These Early Woodland sites are most commonly found along the main tributaries of the Hudson River drainages, but rarely in upland areas or along smaller streams. Hunting, fishing, and gathering, without the cultivation of maize, or corn, were activities employed by small groups of mobile Native Americans. Three Middle Woodland Period sites have been found along Fish Creek and two of these near the Schuyler Estate. Artifacts from the Woodland Period have been found on top of Archaic Period materials, indicating that the same sites continued to be occupied for hundreds of years. (CLR/ASA 2007: 15)

Another hallmark of the Woodland Period is the domestication of certain crops. The most important crop in the Northeast in the Late Woodland period seems to be maize. Early cornfields have been documented along Fish Creek. Pit features have also been found at some of the Late Woodland sites in the region, indicating grain storage, though none at the Victory Woods site. (CLR/ASA 2007: 16)

CONTACT PERIOD, 1609-1683

The influence of the Native Americans had a profound effect on the development of Northeastern New York and in particular the Hudson River corridor. The influence of these peoples remains today in the form of trails, place names, agricultural practices and products, customs, resource awareness, and oral histories. An understanding of these peoples elucidates the significance of the dynamic "Old Saratoga." (CLR/ASA 2007: 18)

The name Saratoga was applied to the hunting grounds used by the native peoples that extended on both side of the Hudson River. There have been many interpretations of the wording but "place of herrings" seems most fitting due to the large amounts of those fish found in the river and its tributaries. The tribe of origin that used and or occupied this part of Saratoga County was the Algonquian-speaking Mohicans. During the early explorations of Samuel de Champlain and Henry Hudson in 1609, the area was initially recognized as Mohican territory (Figure 1). Their palisaded villages were established near rivers and creeks, usually on hilltops consisting of thirteen to sixteen bark covered longhouses. (CLR/ASA 2007: 18-19)

Subsequent traders made their way back to these territories and in 1613, the first treaty for a trading post with the Dutch was established. A year later Fort Nassau was built. With the construction of the fort, it did not take long for the fur trade to become profitable, but the implications on the culture and well-being of the Mohican society was tremendous. In 1624 Fort Orange at the site of Albany, became one of the first European settlements. A number of Dutch merchants and ship-owners were given an exclusive right to trade in America and assumed the name The United New Netherlands Company. In 1623 the rights were transferred to the West Indian Company and at the same time Fort Orange was built and the area it protected became a Dutch settlement. The Dutch and the Mohicans had a mutual respect for one another and few conflicts arose. In particular, the Van Rensselaers, a prominent early Dutch family, pursued policies of appeasement with the Indians and set the stage for future actions. (CLR/ASA 2007: 19)

The Dutch and the English had different concepts of land ownership. The English believed "all titles to colonial land resided in the King, and that natives living on the land had no rights to any part that was not actually under cultivation, and then only if they had a grant from the King of England." In contrast, the Dutch did acknowledge that the Native Americans were the rightful proprietors of the land. This policy affected the nature of their transactions, but it did not alter their desire to occupy the native's territory. The relationships among the Dutch, English, and Native Americans would later prove a challenge, particularly in association with trade routes, land transactions, and future wars. (CLR/ASA 2007: 20)

The Mohican territory extended from Lake Champlain to Dutchess County to Schoharie Creek to Vermont, including the Old Saratoga area. This territory served as somewhat of a buffer between the eastern tribes and that of the Mohawk-Iroquois. In a short period of time, the Mohicans became economically dependent upon the Dutch, lost much of their land, and lost many members to smallpox, influenza, measles, and yellow fever. As the trade industry flourished, hostilities between the Mohicans and Mohawks escalated to a period of war from 1625 to 1628, with the Mohawks having a successful outcome. This resulted in the loss of a vast amount of Mohican land vanquished to the Mohawks, which predominately was on the west side of the Hudson River, and most likely settlements along Fish Creek. The Mohawks now had hunting and fishing access to these formerly un-permitted lands. (CLR/ASA 2007: 20)

In the years following 1630, a series of wars to claim territory were fought between Native Americans and European settlers, with the Kayaderosseras Trail and Saratoga Trail serving as the two major transportation corridors. The Saratoga Trail began in the Champlain Valley, went through Whitehall and on to Fort Edward and then to Schuylerville, traversed Fish Creek to Saratoga Lake, then proceeded up the Kayaderosseras tributary to the Mourningkill, over a carry to Ballston Lake, over another carry into Eelplace (or Alplaus), and finally to the Mohawk River. The Kayaderosseras Trail began at Ticonderoga, through to Lake George, went over land, passing close to Glens Falls, and then proceeding through the towns of Moreau and Wilton then veering west through a "pass south of Mt. McGregor at Stile's Tavern, over near Lake Desolation, southwest through Galway." (CLR/ASA 2007: 22)

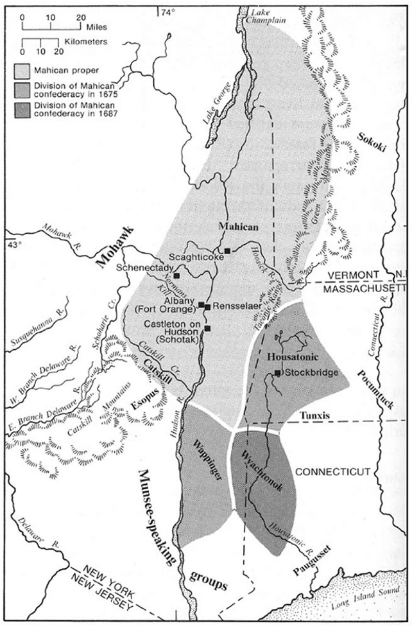


Figure 1. Map of Mahican confederacy land, which includes the Saratoga area. (Sturtevant 1978: 198)

COLONIAL PERIOD, 1683-1775

During this period, European colonists acquired and settled lands, resulting in the loss of Native American lands, and the continuation of conflicts and wars. The events that were to change the face of this part of northern New York State were brought about with the sale of former Mohican territory by the Mohawks. One of these sales involved land that encompasses much of eastern Saratoga County and parts of Washington County, north of Schaghticoke, and is known as the Saratoga Patent. The transaction for the title to the land known as the Saratoga Patent took place on July 26, 1683, between the Mohawks and the Dutch (colonists) in the presence of a few Mohicans hoping for a portion of the proceeds. It was purchased by a group of Dutch (colonists) from the Albany area, namely Peter Philip Schuyler, Cornelis van Dyke, Jan Janse Bleeker, and Johannes Wendel. It consisted of a tract of land 22 miles long and 12 miles wide, bisected by the Hudson River, totaling 170,000 acres and began in the south at the Anthony Kill, and extended north to a point opposite Fort Miller, at the mouth of the Battenkill. Governor Thomas Dongan granted a patent for this land on November 4, 1684, to Schuyler, Bleeker, Wendel, and Van Dyke, along with Robert Livingston, David Schuyler, and Dirk Wessels. (CLR/ASA 2007: 26)

The land was immediately divided into seven parts and the remainder continued to be held in joint ownership. The Victory Woods site was located within Lot 5 of the original subdivision (Figure 2). The Saratoga land was slowly and selectively cleared and farmed, with the patent holders offering freehold leases. This form of manorial tenure required the tenants to provide work service, fees, and produce to the landlord. The land in the floodplain of the Hudson River was developed first, since it had the most fertile soil and offered access to shipping. One of the original patentees, David Schuyler, sold his share to Peter Schuyler and Robert Livingston. After the death of Johannes Wendell, Col. Johannes Philip Schuyler bought his one-seventh share from Wendell's son Abraham in 1702. The Saratoga Patent was reissued on October 29, 1708, to Col. Peter Schuyler, Johannes Schuyler, Jan Bleeker, Cornelius Van Dyck, Dirck Wessels, and Robert Livingston (CLR/ASA 2007: 26).

Robert Livingston was the owner of Lot 5, which contained the Victory Woods parcel as well as the land where Schuylerville and Victory Mills were later built. Besides the Saratoga Patent, other grants for patents were issued during this time, encompassing half of Warren and Washington counties and the larger part of Saratoga County. (CLR/ASA 2007: 26-27)

From the time of Saratoga's inception, the settlement was affected by the competing French and British interests during the French and Indian Wars. Hostilities raged from 1689 to 1763 and comprised four distinct wars linked to broader European coalition wars (King William's War, Queen Anne's War, King George's War, and The French and Indian War). During King George's War of 1744 to 1748, the French and their Native American allies swept down the Lake Champlain corridor, attacking English and Dutch colonists. In 1745, a French detachment commanded by Beauvais attacked the settlement of Saratoga and destroyed the 1720 Schuyler House; Col. Philip Johannes Schuyler was killed defending his family's home. The French and their allies also burned the other village homes, sawmills, and Fort Saratoga and killed or captured the colonists. This attack was known as the Saratoga Massacre of 1745. (CLR/ASA 2007: 26-30)

During the wars, a series of forts were built to protect from French and Indian raids, including Fort Vroman [Vrooman] in the 1670s near the site of the Schuyler house and Fort Saratoga in 1709 on the east side of the Hudson River and south of the Batten Kill. Indicative of the ongoing land ownership disputes, the British built Fort Clinton in 1746 on the site of an earlier fort south of Fish Creek, but a year later destroyed the fort. Similarly, the British constructed Fort Hardy in 1757 on the north bank of Fish Creek by the Hudson River but decommissioned the fort in 1770 (Figure 3). (CLR/ASA 2007: 33)

By 1763, the French and Indian War had ended and Philip Johannes Schuler's nephew, Philip John Schuyler, began developing his Saratoga enterprises. No longer threatened by the war, Schuyler led the development of the Saratoga area. Settlement that was thwarted until this time began in earnest. Schuyler had inherited his uncle's land as well as one third of his grandfather Johannes' and his father John's land in the Saratoga Patent and began the construction of his Saratoga estate. Schuyler commenced work on his Saratoga house and rebuilt the mills, and constructed a new grist mill on the north side of Fish Creek, which later became the site of the Bullard mills (in present day Schuylerville). He also constructed the Dutch Reformed Church on his land close to the corner of present-day Evans Road and US Route 4, and in 1765 established a store that sold staples and agricultural supplies. In 1767 Schuyler erected a flax mill on his property and the following year purchased roughly four thousand acres of land situated north of Fish Creek from the heirs of Robert Livingston. This would include the area later to become the Village of Victory. At some point a mill was built in the area by Schuyler, known as his upper sawmill. It would seem probable that timber from Victory Woods was used in Schuyler's Mills and the site accessed via logging roads. Despite the area's rapid settlement, there is no documentation of any construction on the Victory Woods parcel. (CLR/ASA 2007: 32)

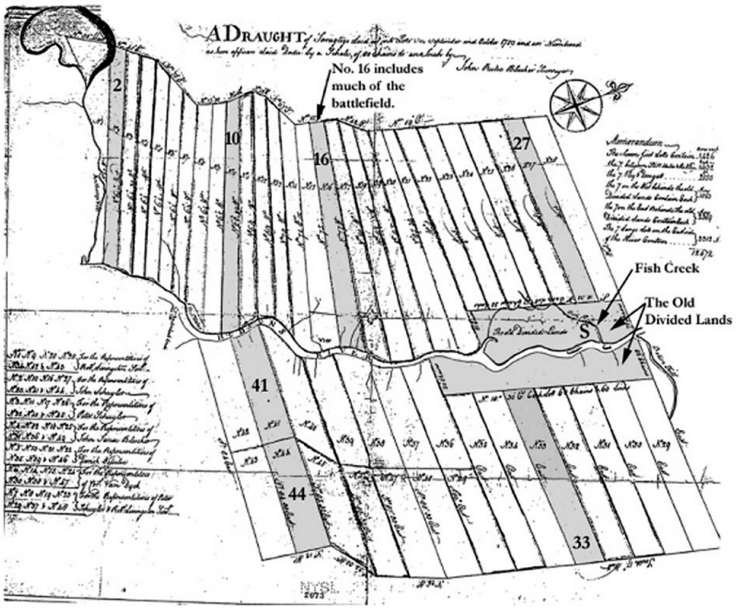


Figure 2. Plat map of Saratoga Patent by John R. Bleeker in 1750, with annotations by author. The Victory Woods site is within the Old Divided Lands near Fish Creek. The Old Divided Lands also include the fi rst Saratoga settlement site, Old Saratoga (Schuylerville), and the Schuyler Estate (S). Philip John Schuyler's Lots are shaded gray. (Albany County Clerks Office)

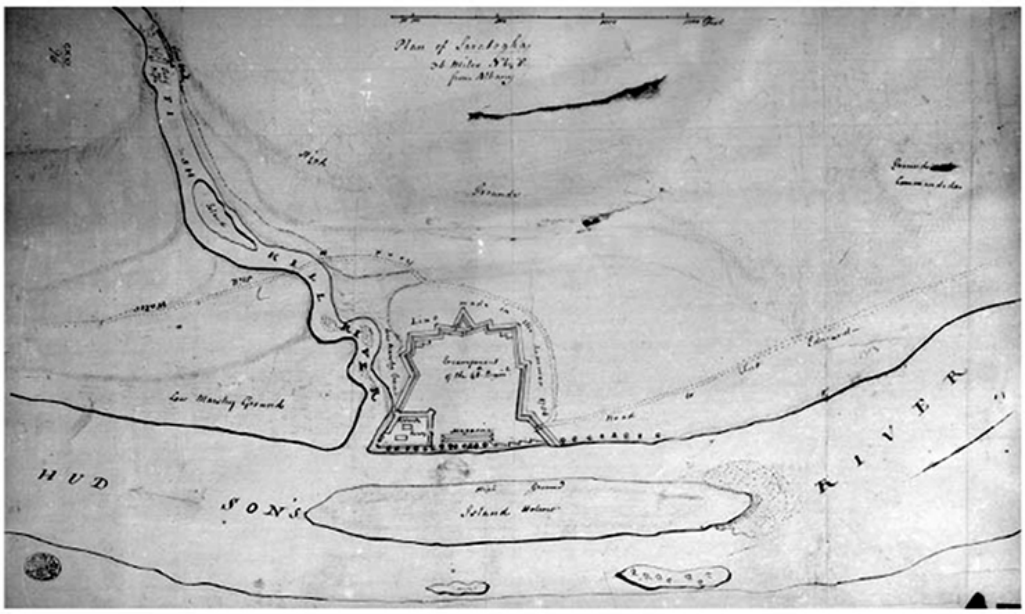


Figure 3. "Plan of Saratoga, 36 Miles N by E from Albany." Note the "High Grounds" of Saratoga Heights, including the Victory Woods site. (Manuscript map, c. 1757, unidentified artist, Saratoga NHP, 5549)

THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR AT SARATOGA, 1775-1783

While the citizens of Saratoga were swept up in the turmoil of the Revolutionary War from its beginning in 1775, the war did not physically come to Saratoga until 1777. For the Campaign of 1777, British Lt. General John Burgoyne believed that taking the Hudson River Valley would cut communications between the Northern and Southern colonies and secure a junction with the Canadian forces. Burgoyne and his troops of over 9,000 embarked from St. Johns, Canada, on June 17, 1777, expecting to be joined by the troops of Col. Barry St. Leger from Lake Ontario. The supporting troops never arrived. Burgoyne's plan was to march south and take control of the Hudson River and Albany. He expected General Sir William Howe to dispatch troops to come up the Hudson River, take control of the southern half of the Hudson, and join his forces in Albany. If successful, the British would control the major transportation corridor for the Northern colonies. (CLR/ASA 2007: 40)

Burgoyne's progress south was hindered by Major General Philip Schuyler's American troops, who delayed the British as best they could by obstructing their path. Schuyler's unobtrusive, unavoidable strategy of trading time for space began to pay off in early August. Burgoyne, having finally reached the Hudson, pursued a report that the area around Bennington contained valuable supplies, especially horses, and organized a raid. The composition of this detachment, consisting largely of dismounted German dragoons, was questionable in view of its purpose. In a stunning surprise, militiamen under Brigadier General John Stark of New Hampshire crushed the intruders on August 16 at what is called the Battle of Bennington. From that day forward Burgoyne's confidence began to deflate, and as the long days of northern summer ran out, he was filled with increased foreboding. (CLR/ASA 2007: 42)

Finally, on September 13, 1777, with a sufficient quantity of provisions, supplies, and artillery brought forward and with the cessation of the heavy rains, the Royal Army crossed over the Hudson on a bridge of boats. The bridge of boats was about five hundred yards north of the mouth of the Battenkill and therefore about a hundred yards north of the present Dix Bridge which connects the Village of Clark's Mills with the western bank of the river. Not all of the troops, however, crossed the Hudson River on that day. Some of the troops who crossed over were deployed on the Heights of Saratoga, the plains, some were put into Schuyler's barracks in the area of the present Schuylerville Elementary School, and others were assigned to protect Burgoyne's headquarters in the Schuyler House. (CLR/ASA 2007: 42)

On September 15, 1777, Burgoyne felt sufficiently ready to finally sever his communication with Canada. General Baron von Riedesel, with the left wing of the army, crossed the Hudson to Saratoga and the bridge of boats was dismantled. Burgoyne marched his army slowly five miles to Dovegat, now called Coveville. He followed the Albany highroad (part of which follows the same route as the current US Route 4) for some seven miles from Saratoga to the mouth of the Kroma Kill, at the outlet of the Great Ravine, not far from where the American Army was dug in at Bemis Heights. (CLR/ASA 2007: 42-43)

On September 19, 1777, Americans fired on the British guard, and the ensuing battle took place on the Freeman farm. The British would eventually win the battle, take the farm, but suffer with the loss of 600 soldiers. On October 7, 1777, Americans intercepted the British and Germans deployed on the Barber farm and attacked the Balcarres Redoubt and the Breymann Redoubt. The British withdrew to the Great Redoubt before retreating northward to their fortified camp at Saratoga (now Schuylerville) on October 8, 1777. (CLR/ASA 2007: 44-46)

This last stage of the campaign divides itself naturally into three phases: first, a retreat covering only seven miles in three days from October 8-10, and ending at the area now known as Schuylerville and the Village of Victory; second, a pause of two days while Burgoyne, although not yet entirely cut off from retreat, nevertheless remained halted; and third, five days from October13-17, during which he found himself surrounded, decided to retreat, and finally surrendered. (CLR/ASA 2007: 43)

Burgoyne's retreat began after dark on October 8 from the vicinity of the Great Redoubt and became a terrible ordeal, as a beaten army dragged its artillery and equipment over a narrow road that became increasingly muddy in a cold, drenching rain. General Fraser had died that morning and was

buried at sunset. Because of the wet conditions, progress was slow, and it took a full day for the troops to reach Fish Creek. (CLR/ASA 2007: 44)

During the retreat, Lt. Col. Nicholas Sutherland had been dispatched to reconnoiter the area to the north before the retreat began. He informed Burgoyne that an American force under General John Fellows now occupied the Heights of Saratoga. The heights refer to the area from around Fish Creek over to and past the present NYS Route 29, with Victory Woods representing a small portion of this area. Fellows arrived at the heights on October 8 at eleven o'clock and improved the fortifications on the heights prepared by Burgoyne earlier on his way south. However, as the retreating British army approached, Fellows crossed to the east side of the Hudson and moved onto the high grounds there, in what is now Greenwich and Easton. Early in the morning of October 8, General Gates, expecting Burgoyne would retreat, ordered General Bailey, with 900 New Hampshire troops, to also cross to the east side of the Hudson and hasten to the aid of General Fellows, opposite Saratoga, and Captain Furnival was ordered to follow with his battery. (CLR/ASA 2007: 44)

At Saratoga, Burgoyne made another fateful decision, one that gave Victory Woods and the surrounding area its importance in history. He might have continued his retreat, though it would have been extremely risky, and sought the safety of Ticonderoga and then Canada, but he was not yet ready to concede defeat. He remained hopeful that luck would turn in his favor. In particular, he was sustained by the hope that other British forces would come to his rescue. Burgoyne thus established himself in a fortified position north of Fish Creek, extending through much of the present village of Schuylerville (Figures 4 and 5). (CLR/ASA 2007: 44)

One of the pivotal events of the entire campaign occurred on October 11, when Gates, believing that Burgoyne had continued his retreat, began a rash assault on the main British position across Fish Creek. This poorly planned attack, which could have given Burgoyne the lucky break he hoped for, was called back before becoming an American disaster by a chance encounter with a deserter. A frustrated Burgoyne described it as "one of the most adverse strokes of fortune in the whole campaign." (CLR/ASA 2007: 45, citing Burgoyne 1780: 176)

With nearly 17,000 American troops surrounding the fortified camp, conditions in the British camp steadily worsened. Food and water became scarce, the stench of dead animals pervaded the area, and the entire encampment was exposed to constant fire from artillery and small arms by the American forces. Burgoyne maintained his headquarters somewhere in the main British camp, and it was here that he and his chief officers held several conferences to decide a course of action from their dwindling range of alternatives. Finally on October 17, 1777, it was from these positions that the British marched down to surrender, restoring the confidence of colonists, and ultimately leading the French to sign an alliance with the Americans. (CLR/ASA 2007: 45)

Victory Woods Landscape:
During the nine-year period of the Revolutionary War, the landscape containing the Victory Woods parcel was contested terrain. The high plateau, known as the Heights of Saratoga, was selected by Burgoyne as a defensible landscape, overlooking the floodplains and confluence of Fish Creek and the Hudson River. Burgoyne had passed this site on his way to seize Albany and to gain control of the Hudson River, and when in retreat a month later, he chose this area as a defensible site. Physical changes during this period included the hastily constructed British fortifications, most likely an earthen redoubt along the brow of the hill and around the top of the hill, encompassing an area of approximately one hundred acres. The extent of the earthworks would have been proportional to the number of men remaining in Burgoyne's troops. Having lost one quarter of his army, some 4,000 to 6,000 men remained at the encampment. The earthen parapet would have been, according to British manuals, built in a rectangular configuration with salient angles and topped with wooden logs, then lined with cannon. (CLR/ASA 2007: 64)

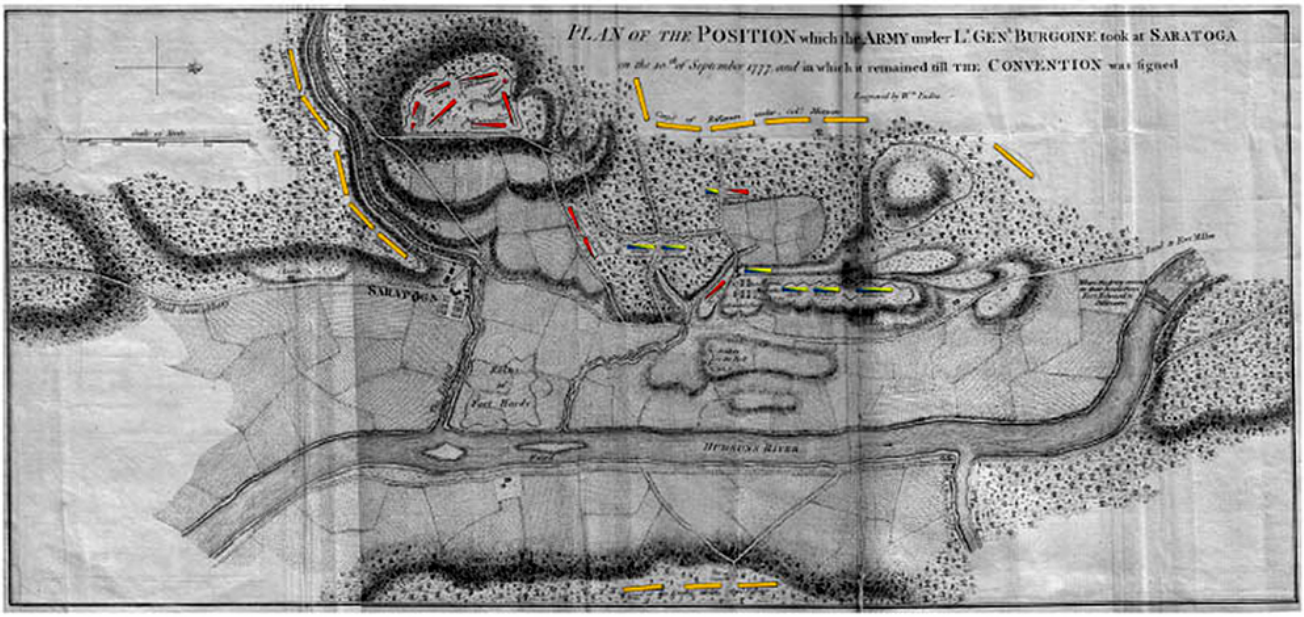


Figure 4. Map prepared by William Faden, engraver and publisher, 1780. Included in "A State of the Expedition from Canada." Victory Woods is at the top. British Forces are depicted in red, German in blue and yellow, and American in gold. (Saratoga NHP, 4228)

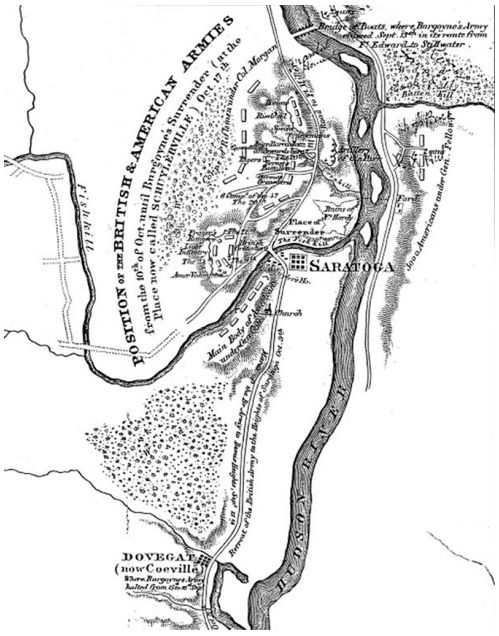


Figure 5. Walworth map showing the position of the British and American armies from October 10-17, 1777. Victory Woods is near the center. (Walworth, "Battles of Saratoga," 1891)

RURAL ECONOMY, 1783-1846

From the close of the Revolutionary War in 1783 through the first half of the nineteenth century, the reallocation of farmland, the success of the Champlain Canal and Whitehall Turnpike, and the influence of the Schuylers made the Saratoga area a flourishing community. In a tribute to the Schuyler family, the community was renamed Schuylerville in 1820. As control of the land passed from one generation of Schuylers to the next, tenants were granted deeds to farms averaging 100 to 200 acres, while the landscape along the river evolved into a transportation and shipping hub, with storehouses lining the canal on the river plains below the Victory Woods parcel. (CLR/ASA, 2007: 80)

In 1795, New York State historian William L. Stone referred to a few remaining stands of “trees of wonderful magnitude,” but also the “barren, bare” landscape, forecasting the eventual abandonment of the overworked landscape by many farmers in the next century. Stone described the British redoubts in Victory Woods as “so overgrown with brush wood, as scarcely to be accessible.” Additionally, the Duke De La Rochefoucault Liancourt described the British camp as being on a height a quarter mile from John Bradstreet Schuyler’s house and as part of its defense was surrounded entirely with a mound of earth. Liancourt related that the area remained as it was after the war except that the vegetation had grown up where it had been cut down by the armies and that the entrenchments still existed. Despite their abandonment, the British camp and many of the American earthworks remained evident in the landscape. Ownership of the Victory Woods land was retained by the Schuyler family until the financial panic of 1837 when it was sold to Jacob T.B. Van Vechten. It was later sold to Teunis Van Vechten. (CLR/ASA 2007: 79-81)

While development grew up around the canal, the Victory Woods parcel remained undeveloped, perhaps due in a sense of pride by local citizens. A semi-centennial celebration in 1827 “in a shady grove on the eastern slope of the heights” coalesced commemorative interests, which would continue and eventually lead to the construction of the Saratoga Monument, not far from Victory Woods, at the centennial in 1877. (CLR/ASA 2007: 81)

VICTORY MILLS, 1846-1974

After the financial panic of the late 1830s, manufacturing and commerce flourished in the Saratoga area. In 1846, the Saratoga Water Power Company, later known as Saratoga Victory Manufacturing Company, was established along Fish Creek. Victory was inserted into the name in deference to the surrender of the British troops near that site in 1777. The company, which produced cotton cloth, flourished and brought with it more employees and services resulting in the incorporation of the Village of Victory in 1849. By 1850 the village had company-built homes, hotels, stores, a post office, markets, and a four-room brick schoolhouse. In a short time the population of the little village grew to 638 residents according to the 1860 census. (CLR/ASA 2007: 83)

The Saratoga Victory Manufacturing Company had a sizable amount of land, which included the Victory Woods parcel. The parcel may have been used as a woodlot but there is no indication of agricultural use. The company grew and prospered and occasionally donated parcels of land for the benefit of the community. One of those donations, deeded to the Trustees of the Village of Victory, included a ten-acre parcel for use as a public cemetery in 1853. The company also donated land for the Union Methodist Church, the only church in the village, built near the mills in 1854. The 22.78-acre Victory Woods parcel was retained by the company and protected from development (Figure 6). (CLR/ASA 2007: 84)

Commemorative efforts coalesced during the nineteenth century, highlighted by the completion of the Saratoga Monument in 1882. Ironically, memorialization efforts, including the construction of the monument and the earlier Prospect Hill Cemetery, resulted in the loss of much of the historic fabric of the British encampment. Breastworks of five to seven feet in height, made of pine logs and earth, were leveled during cemetery and monument construction (Figure 7). (CLR/ASA 2007: 85,89)

Saratoga Victory Manufacturing Company was purchased by the American Manufacturing Company in 1910. The wooded heights above the factory that held the British entrenchments were of little use to the company and remained vacant throughout the years, except to be used by employees for recreational pursuits. An icehouse for storing ice through much of the year was built on mill property sometime before 1931. Prior to refrigeration, ice was cut from rivers and ponds in the winter, stored in ice houses, and then delivered to customers as needed. Currently located on the Victory Woods site, the foundation for this icehouse remains at the southeast corner of the parcel. In circa 1918, the company constructed a large water tank and brick pump house in Victory Woods. The tank was built on the high ground and connected to a ditch or penstock that ran down the hill toward Gates Avenue. (CLR/ASA 2007: 87-89)

The Village of Victory had reached its most prosperous era and by 1925 had a population of 1,065, but fortunes changed with the closure of the mill. The Victory Mills Branch of the American Manufacturing Company moved to the South where the labor was cheaper, and the raw materials were readily available. The year 1928 saw the end of the cotton plant, and because it was the primary employer, the communities of the Village of Victory and Schuylerville were hit hard financially. (CLR/ASA 2007: 88)

The mill sat idle for nine years until 1937 when the United Board and Carton Corporation purchased it to begin the manufacturing of folding cartons. On August 20, 1940, the International Brotherhood of Pulp, Sulfite, and Paper Mill Workers Union took ownership of the mill and its property. This company likely worked on some type of partnership with the village for the use and development of the old water works in the Victory Woods. The water system continued to be used by the village until the early 1970s when a new water tower was built on land adjacent to the Victory Woods property. (CLR/ASA 2007: 89)

Saratoga Battlefield was authorized by the United States Congress in 1938 to become part of the National Park System. It was not until 1948 that it was officially designated as the Saratoga National Historical Park. The park acquired a 26-acre parcel of the General Philip Schuyler Estate in 1950. It had been maintained as a residence, with little being changed from the time that Philip and Grace Schuyler had occupied the house. The Strover and subsequently the Lowber family owned the

property from 1837 until 1946. (CLR/ASA 2007: 89)

The United Board and Carton Corporation prospered for many years until its sale in 1972 to Wheelabrator-Frye Incorporated. The Victory plant became one of four folding carton plants to come under Wheelabrator-Frye's Graphic Communications Group called the A.L. Garber Company. With the installation of specialized equipment this company opened up new job opportunities in Victory Mills. (CLR/ASA 2007: 89)



Figure 6. An 1883 birdseye view of the Village of Victory. V=Victory Woods. (L.R. Burleigh, Troy, New York, 1889)

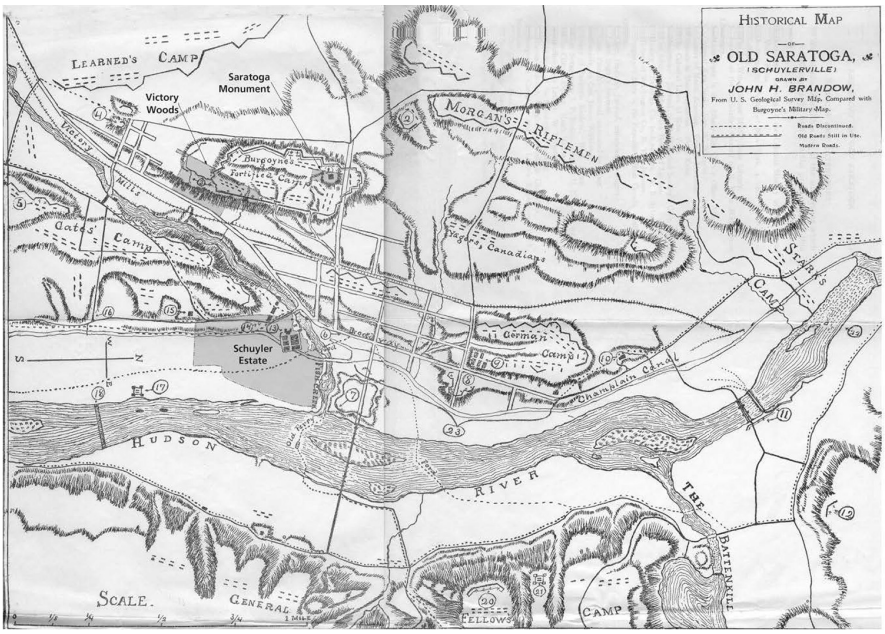


Figure 7. Overlay of the 1777 British encampment over 1906 existing conditions. Victory Woods is labeled at image upper left. (Brandow, 1901)

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, 1974-2026

In anticipation of the bicentennial of the Revolutionary War, the National Park Service accepted ownership of Victory Woods, formerly called the Garber Tract, via donation from the A.L. Garber Company on October 7, 1974. That same year, the Victory Woods unit was surveyed, and 20 brass capped boundary monuments were installed. Around the same time an access gate was installed at the terminus of Herkimer Drive. (CLR/ASA 2007: 107,110)

During the 1980s the Victory Woods site was open to the public. Initially there were no site amenities and few visitors. Interpretive Park Rangers led a few walks from the monument to the site and Law Enforcement Park Rangers patrolled on a regular basis. The boundaries were marked annually. (CLR/ASA 2007: 110)

By 1992 park management deemed the abandoned water tank a nuisance and it was removed (Figures 8 and 9). In 1993, the road which led to the site of the water tank was regraded and where needed stone was used for stabilization. In 1994 concrete vaults were removed with difficulty due to eight-inch reinforced concrete lids. After this work was completed, nothing more was done to the site or incorporated into the park's operations except for routine patrols to monitor looting and letter from parties. (CLR/ASA 2007: 111-112)

Preparation for the park's General Management Plan (GMP) in 2000 prompted discussions again about the treatment of the Victory Woods site. It was also at this time that the name "Garber Tract" was replaced with "Victory Woods." At the onset in the development of the GMP, the "significance of Victory Woods was unclear, and the future of the property was in question." After extensive analysis combined with public involvement, the park's preferred alternative in the GMP supported rehabilitation of the character-defining features at Victory Woods and interpreting the site to portray the siege of Burgoyne's troops. This would be done by linking the Victory Woods with the Saratoga Monument via the Prospect Hill Cemetery and key features would be identified and rehabilitated. (CLR/ASA 2007: 112, fn27)

The new GMP was completed and released to the public in January 2004. In June 2004, $295,000 in funding was received by Saratoga NHP for an archeological survey and an assessment of the property. The following year another $310,000 in funding was secured for the second phase of the Victory Woods project. This phase would include the construction of universal access trails and interpretive exhibits, along with restoration of historic vistas to Fish Creek. (CLR/ASA 2007: 113)

In the fall of 2005, the geophysical surveys in support of the archeological identification study began at Victory Woods. The work confirmed the existence of earthworks, including an angled fortification and nearby cannon battery. While no Revolutionary War artifacts were uncovered, numerous Native American artifacts, including a roasting platform, diagnostic projectile points, numerous chert flakes, and fire cracked rocks were found. (CLR/ASA 2007: 113)

In 2006 the Northeast Region's Exotic Plant Management Team removed non-native Norway maple (Acer platanoides) trees. By this time these trees were dominating the area, likely a result of seed dispersal from neighboring properties. In 2007 the park formally opened the site to the public. (CLR/ASA 2007: 114)

Landscape-Related Projects since 2007:
By 2013 the site's multi-tread trail and boardwalk had fallen out of ADA compliance due to poor conditions. In 2014 repairs included resurfacing old bituminous pavement, repairing the failing klingstone walking surface, and performing cyclic maintenance on newer sections of boardwalk. (PMIS 190586)

Proposed work at Victory Woods includes the project "Restore Cultural Landscapes." Restore the historic landscape and viewshed for visitors on 20 acres by utilizing park certified arborists and sawyers, and volunteers to sustainably remove or prune overgrown vegetation without damaging park landscapes and resources in compliance with environmental regulations. In addition, certified herbicide applicators will work side by side with the cutting crew to treat stumps, preventing regrowth of woody vegetation, thereby reducing the long-term costs associate with maintenance. Component G of this project focuses on the Saratoga Monument and Victory Woods properties in FY 2031.

(PMIS 323050G)



Figure 8. Water tower in Victory Woods, 1985. (SARA Archives)



Figure 9. Foundation of the water tower or adjacent pump house following demolition. (SARA Archives)

Uses

Functions and Uses:

Major Category	Category	Use/Function	Historic	Current	Primary
Defense	Military Facility (Post)	Military Facility (Post)	Yes	No	Yes
Landscape	Leisure-Passive (Park)	Leisure-Passive (Park)	No	Yes	Yes
Landscape	Natural Area	Forest	No	Yes	No
Transportation	Pedestrian-Related	Hiking Trail	No	Yes	No
Education	Interpretive Landscape	Interpretive Landscape	No	Yes	No
Transportation	Pedestrian-Related	Interpretive Trail	No	Yes	No
Vacant (Not In Use)	Ruin	Ruin	No	Yes	No
Landscape	Scenic Landscape	View	Yes	Yes	No

Public Access:

Public Access: Unrestricted

Public Access Narrative:

The grounds are open from sunrise to sunset. Walking between Victory Woods and Saratoga Monument takes about 10-15 minutes. The 0.5-mile trail through Victory Woods takes an additional 30+ minutes. A small accessible parking area at the end of Monument Drive, in Schuylerville, is located at the north trailhead.

Associated Ethnographic Group

Ethnographic Study Status: Yes-Unrestricted Information

Ethnographic Narrative:

The report “Ethnohistorical Report for Saratoga National Historical Park” by Karim M. Tiro, was published in 2022.

Analysis & Evaluation of Integrity

Analysis and Evaluation of Integrity Narrative Summary:

The historic integrity of Victory Woods is evaluated by comparing landscape characteristics and features present during the period of significance, 1777, with the existing conditions as assessed in 2022-2026. Many landscape characteristics and features from the period of significance remain today. The site's natural features, spatial organization, and topography are generally unchanged. The site's steep hillside and planar upland remain predominantly wooded and pocked with pond and wetland depressions. Features from the British encampment that remain include a cannon battery, a related subterranean gunpowder magazine, an angled earthwork, a linear earthwork, a road/trail, and strategic eastern views (to NYS Route 32, Fish Creek, and the site of the American forces beyond).

Since 1777, some landscape characteristics and features at Victory Woods have changed. Areas of dense understory vegetation are present under the tree canopy. Wood structures associated with the defenses have been lost to time, and most of the earthwork structures have become obscured by understory vegetation. Twentieth-century structures – a water tower, pump house, and reservoir – have been removed, but concrete foundation remnants can still be found. The partial foundation of an icehouse also remains. Above ground relationships between the Victory Woods site and other areas of the encampment have been lost to development on those adjacent lands. A boardwalk, gate, park interpretive and regulatory signs, and boundary markers to not negatively impact the historic scene.

INTEGRITY

The National Register of Historic Places defines integrity as the ability of a property to convey its significance through physical resources. The National Register program identifies seven aspects of integrity: location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. Retention of these qualities is necessary for a property to convey its significance; however, not all seven aspects must be present to retain integrity. The following evaluation is based on the 1777 period of significance for Victory Woods.

The cultural landscape at Victory Woods retains overall integrity in the areas of military and archeology. The military landscape retains integrity of location, setting, association, and feeling. The aspects of integrity that are diminished are design, materials, and workmanship. The archeological landscape retains integrity of location, setting, association, and feeling. The aspects of integrity that are diminished include design, materials, and workmanship.

Location:
Location is the place where the historic property was constructed or the place where the historic event occurred. The site's retains this aspect through the presence of extant earthworks and what is now the park road/trail. These features remain in their original locations.

Design:
Design is the combination of elements that create the form, plan, space, structure, and style of a property. Although some elements are missing, the design of the earthworks and associated support features is still evident, primarily through their position and orientation along the top of the bluff. However, dense understory vegetation, and the passage of time, has rendered their designs more difficult to observe. Twentieth century waterworks features have been removed, and while some of their foundation remnants remain they are generally hidden by vegetation.

Setting:
Setting is the physical environment of a historic property. Setting is intact as the site's natural features, topography, and forested conditions are much as they were in 1777. From the interior of the site, adjacent suburban and urban development is mostly obscured in the summer months.

Materials:
Materials are the physical elements that were combined or deposited during a particular period of time and in a particular pattern or configuration to form a historic property. The earthen fortifications remain, but they are

constantly impacted by erosion and the passage of time. Wood structures associated with the defense have long disappeared.

Workmanship:
Workmanship is the physical evidence of the crafts of a particular culture or people during any given period in history or prehistory. Like materials, workmanship can be observed in the overall design and form of the earthworks, but the loss of structural elements diminishes this aspect of integrity.

Feeling:
Feeling is the property's expression of the aesthetic or historic sense of a particular period of time. This aspect is generally intact because of the wooded setting and positioning of defenses along the brow of the bluff.

Association:
Association is the direct link between an important historic event or person and a historic property. The site's connection with the British encampment are intact due to extant earthworks. The surviving earthworks and cultural material profile of the site, albeit limited, are representations of British military life.

LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISTICS AND FEATURES

The next section presents an analysis of landscape characteristics and their associated features and corresponding Historic Structures Inventory (HSI) names and numbers (formerly List of Classified Structures), if applicable. It also includes an evaluation of whether the feature contributes to the property's National Register eligibility for the historic period (1777), contributes to the property's historic character, or if it is noncontributing, undetermined, or managed as a cultural resource. If a feature is non-contributing, it is evaluated as "compatible" (visually congruent with the historic character of the landscape) or "incompatible" (visually incongruent with the historic character of the landscape).

Landscape Characteristic: Natural Systems and Features

Historic Condition (to 1777):
Natural systems and features are the natural aspects that have influenced the development and physical form of the landscape, and can include geology, geomorphology, hydrology, ecology, climate, and native vegetation. Located in the Upper Hudson River Valley and situated between the Adirondack Mountains of New York and the Green Mountains of Vermont, the Victory Woods site borders Fish Creek, a tributary of the Hudson River. These geological and hydrological conditions formed a varied landscape of bluffs and uplands at the site, interspersed with springs and wetlands.

Springs and runoff drained into ravines at the northern and southern ends of the site that emptied into Fish Creek. The Hudson River was abundant with fish that spawned in its tributaries. Fish Creek was particularly rich with this resource that attracted Native American and then European settlement. The Hudson River was also a key part of a historic transportation corridor extending to the St. Lawrence Valley, providing a route for trade and invasion for centuries. Saratoga became a battlefield because of its strategic location on this waterway system. British Lt. General Burgoyne made use of the river during his campaign to take Albany.

Fish Creek provided a steady year-round flow of water, and the widening and narrowing topography of its banks was ideal for water-powered operations. The abundant hardwood forests of the area supplied area lumber mills, and timbering and agricultural operations had thinned the surrounding forests drastically. However, in the autumn of 1777, forest still covered much of the British encampment in the Heights of Saratoga.

Evaluation:
Many natural springs are located in the upland portion of Victory Woods and drain north and south to two large ravines located just outside of the NPS boundary. Springs feed a pond at the northwest corner of the property (Figure 10). The standing water level fluctuates seasonally based on precipitation, but this area is swampy even in August. Dense trees and pockets of understory vegetation cover most of the site (Figure 11).

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Figure 10. Wetland vegetation surrounds the spring-fed pond at Victory Woods. (OCLP 2022)



Figure 11. View looking east at forest vegetation covering steep eastern slope at Victory Woods, with NYS Route 32 in the background. (OCLP 2022)

Landscape Characteristic: Land Use

Historic Condition (to 1777):
Land uses are the principal activities in a landscape that form, shape, and organize the landscape as a result of human interaction. The lands surrounding the Hudson River and Fish Creek sustained Native American villages and hunting and fishing camps. Later, the floodplains of the Hudson River provided rich agricultural lands to European colonists. In 1777 the land that would be known as Victory Woods was owned by Philip Schuyler and was part of the original 1684 Saratoga Patent. Schuyler operated mills in Saratoga, and many of the surrounding forests had been timbered. However, areas on the Heights of Saratoga with steep topography, such as Victory Woods, were unfavorable for agricultural use and timbering. (CLR/ASA 2007: 185-186)

During his retreat from the Battles of Saratoga, Lt. General Burgoyne chose Saratoga Heights as an encampment site, where the high ground provided protection and the springs provided water. Defenses were located along the perimeter of the camp with an emphasis on the steep eastern edge. The British camp covered approximately one hundred acres. Heading counterclockwise around the camp, the British Grenadiers and the 21st Regiment were located at the northeast corner, Fraser's Rangers at the northwest corner, the Light Infantry and the 24th Regiment along the western edge, the American Loyalists at the southern end, and the 9th Regiment along the eastern edge on an angle heading northwest toward the center of the encampment. Eventually outnumbered by the American forces that surrounded them, the British were forced to surrender. (CLR/ASA 2007: 185-186)

The portion of the British encampment located in Victory Woods included part of the British 9th Regiment and American Loyalist camps as well as numerous fortifications and cannon batteries. The British likely cut trees and excavated holes for defensive purposes, but after the war the site slowly reverted to forest. The site was probably not actively farmed due to its steep and wet conditions. (CLR/ASA 2007: 185-186)

Evaluation:
The Victory Woods property came to be owned by Victory Mills and supported waterworks for both milling operations as well as for the Village of Victory. The site was donated to the National Park Service in 1974, after which the park gradually made improvements (discussed under other landscape characteristics in this section). Privately owned properties now surround Victory Woods. Properties to the south and east are urban and mill-related, properties to the north are suburban in character, and properties to the west are more rural and agricultural. Some private undeveloped open land lies to the north but is increasingly residential. Reliant Energy, now CenterPoint Energy, owns land across Fish Creek that is undeveloped and covered with thick forest. (CLR/ASA 2007: 185-186)

Landscape Characteristic: Spatial Organization

Historic Condition (to 1777):
Spatial organization is the three-dimensional organization of physical forms and visual associations in a landscape, including the articulation of ground, vertical, and overhead planes that define and create spaces. The Victory Woods site is located above the confluence of Fish Creek and the Hudson River, in close proximity to two Native American trails, the Saratoga and Kayaderosseras. By the American Revolution, Victory Woods was part of a larger wooded and timbered area that characterized parts of the Heights of Saratoga, while the fertile areas along the Hudson River to the east had mostly been cleared for agriculture.

Having previously camped on the heights prior to the battles of Saratoga, Burgoyne's troops again chose the area upon their retreat. The high ground provided observation points and protected the British from American forces. Many of the trees would have been cleared for views, construction, and firewood. The portion of the British encampment located in Victory Woods included part of the British 9th Regiment and American Volunteer (loyalist) camps as well as numerous fortifications and cannon batteries. A few roads served the encampment. One passed between the encampment's steep eastern slope and Fish Creek, and another branched from this road and ran along the top of the slope within the encampment. (CLR/ASA 2007: 177-178)

Evaluation:
The 22.78-acre, Victory Woods site sits on a bluff alongside Fish Creek, bounded by NYS Route 32 to the east and private residential properties to the north, south, east, and west. Dense forest vegetation covers most of the Victory Woods landscape. A steep slope dominates the eastern half while the western half, or upland, is more planar with some gradual slopes, mounds, and depressions. The northwest portion of the landscape contains a broad depression that fills seasonally with spring water and runoff. This pond is the most open part of the property, since the standing water inhibits tree growth. Herkimer Street terminates at the southern property line and continues as a dirt and gravel park road/trail that climbs to the center of the site. A few minor trails also cross the site. A boardwalk connects the visitor parking lot to extant military features near the pond. (CLR/ASA 2007: 177-178)

Landscape Characteristic: Topography

Historic Condition (to 1777):
Topography is the three-dimensional configuration of the landscape surface characterized by features (such as slope and articulation) and orientation (such as elevation and solar aspect). While there is no documentation that references the topography of Victory Woods prior to 1609, recent pre-contact artifacts found at the site, suggest similar conditions observed by Lt. General Burgoyne in 1777. Burgoyne's troops camped on the heights here before the battles of Saratoga, and upon his retreat, he chose this partially fortified place as an encampment site once more. The slopes surrounding the heights protected his encampment from the surrounding American forces, and the gently sloping uplands provided adequate terrain for the encampment and fortifications. Cannon batteries were located around the perimeter of the camp with an emphasis on the eastern edge along the steep slope. Other protective earthworks were built throughout the encampment. These features were typically in the form of raised earthen berms. (CLR/ASA 2007: 178-179)

In 1777, British artillery batteries were assigned two different sizes, depending upon the poundage (or caliber) of the artillery pieces. For larger cannon (12, 18, or 24-pounders), each artillery piece required a platform of at least 24 feet in length, and 10 feet in breadth. It was usual to excavate small cells or cavities close to the batteries, at a convenient distance, in which to keep the gunpowder. These battery magazines were covered with clay or something similar, to protect them from enemy fire. (CLR/ASA 2007: 178-179)

Evaluation:
The Heights of Saratoga have shaped history, and its topography is a major topic in park interpretation. Victory Woods is a sample of the typical Hudson River bluff landscape. Its topography contributes to a diversity of landscape types: uplands (both wet and dry), ravines, and steep slopes extending down to the floodplain. The upland portion of Victory Woods rises gently from the southern boundary to the seasonal pond at the northwest corner of the property and at an average elevation of about 265 feet above sea level. Two large ravines drain the upland to the floodplain and Fish Creek, and a gully drains the center of the property flowing due east down the slope to the creek. The steep bank that separates the upland from NYS Route 32 and the Fish Creek floodplain has approximately a 23 percent slope.

Extant military features of the 1777 British fortifications exist within the upland portion of Victory Woods. An angled earthwork is located south of the pond with a trench running behind (Figures 12 and 13). Other features are less obvious and are hidden by vegetation. A semicircular earthwork, likely a cannon emplacement, sits east of the pond at the brow of the steep slope (Figure 14). Just to the northwest is the remnant of a gunpowder magazine (Figure 15). It is an eight-foot-wide pit around two feet deep at its center. Lastly, a linear earthwork, likely associated with the encampment (or possibly the waterworks), is south of the water tower foundation at a path junction that heads down to a pit in the hillside (Figure 16). A circular depression, ten feet in diameter, stands outside of the park just south of the property line. It may possibly be a hut or oven site from the American Loyalists under Burgoyne's command. (CLR/ASA 2007: 178-179)

The water tank foundation is now mostly earth covered in vegetation, although a few remnant pipe segments and concrete pieces remain visible (Figure 17). A circular, rock-lined pit of unknown origin ten feet in diameter and three feet deep at its center sits midway down the steep slope near the center of the eastern property line. Other mounds and depressions are located in the upland south of the water tower mound, but their origins are unknown.

Landscape Features:

Feature Name	CLI Feature ID	Feature Contribution	CRIS-HS Resource ID	Associated CRIS-AR ID	FMSS Record Type	FMSS Record Number	FMSS Exact Match
Angled Earthwork (south of Seasonal Pond)	122969	Contributing	968642		Location	57844	No
Cannon Battery	122965	Contributing	968678		Location	57844	No
Gently Sloping Plane of Encampment Area	122981	Contributing					No
Gunpowder Magazine	122967	Contributing	968674		Location	57844	No
Linear Earthwork	123005	Contributing	1170038		Location	57844	No
Northern and Southern Ravines	122977	Contributing					No
Steep Slope toward Fish Creek	122975	Contributing					No
Central Gully	122979	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
Water Tower Site Mound	122989	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
Mounds - Three south of Water Tower Site	123003	Undetermined					No
Pit at bottom of Slope Trail	122973	Undetermined					No

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Figure 12. View looking northwest at a portion of the angled earthwork, with the wetland pond in the background. (OCLP 2022)



Figure 13. Angled earthwork, view looking north. (OCLP 2022)



Figure 14. View of the obscured cannon battery, from the boardwalk. (OCLP 2022)



Figure 15. View of the gunpowder magazine. In the background is the terminus of the boardwalk. (OCLP 2022)



Figure 16. View of the hidden linear earthwork, with the park road/trail at image right. (OCLP 2022)



Figure 17. Concrete remnants and pieces of pipe at the former sites of the water tower and pumphouse. (OCLP 2022)

Landscape Characteristic: Vegetation

Historic Condition (to 1777):
Vegetation includes deciduous and evergreen trees, shrubs, vines, groundcovers, and herbaceous plants and plant communities, whether indigenous or introduced in the landscape. There is no documentation that references the vegetation of Victory Woods prior to 1609. During the Revolutionary War, Victory Woods was part of a larger wooded area that covered much of the Heights of Saratoga, while the fertile area along the Hudson River to the east had previously been cleared for agriculture. The British troops were likely ordered to thin this deciduous, hardwood forest for line of sight, firewood, and building supplies and to increase open space. The larger trees were likely retained, since they were too difficult to remove and provided shelter from enemy view and protection from enemy ammunition. (CLR/ASA 2007: 180-181)

Evaluation:
Victory Woods is situated within the transition zone between the Appalachian oak region and the hemlock-white pine-northern hardwoods region of the Eastern deciduous forest. Deciduous trees comprise most of the mature forests of the region. Thirty-three species of woody plants and forty species of herbaceous plants have been observed at Victory Woods. None of these plant species are listed by the US Fish and Wildlife Service as being of special concern, rare, threatened, or endangered. Three nonnative, invasive plant species – barberry, multiflora rose, and Norway maple – inhabit the property.

A mixture of hardwood species dominates the upland and slopes (see Figure 11). Some of these trees are over 150 years old, indicative of an area that has not been cut for some time. Areas without these large trees have been disturbed in the more recent past by the construction of a water tower, natural springs developed as pumping stations, a large reservoir, piping for the Village of Victory water supply, and the archeology study conducted in 2005. A diverse community of woody shrubs and herbaceous plants grows beneath the tree canopy with some wetland plants clustered around the springs and seasonal pond (see Figure 10). In 2006, Norway maple trees were removed from the site by the Northeast Region's Exotic Plant Management Team. (CLR/ASA 2007: 188)

Landscape Features:

Feature Name	CLI Feature ID	Feature Contribution	CRIS-HS Resource ID	Associated CRIS-AR ID	FMSS Record Type	FMSS Record Number	FMSS Exact Match
Thinned Canopy Trees	123007	Contributing					No
Dense Underbrush	123009	Noncontributing – Compatible					No

Landscape Characteristic: Circulation

Historic Condition (to 1777):
Circulation refers to the spaces, features, and applied material finishes that constitute systems of movement in a landscape. During the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, the Kayaderosseras and Saratoga trails served as the two major transportation corridors through the Saratoga region. By 1777 other roads had emerged, some of which accessed the British encampment on the Heights of Saratoga. The Road from Albany southeast of Fish Creek (now US Route 4) served as Burgoyne's evacuation route from the Saratoga Battlefield, but American forces had destroyed the bridge across Fish Creek to hinder Burgoyne's forces. North of Fish Creek, this road continued through the town of Old Saratoga (now Schuylerville). Another major road paralleled Fish Creek to the northwest (now NYS Route 32), and a spur from this road led directly into the southeastern part of the encampment (now Herkimer Street). An additional road led from Old Saratoga up to the northern side of the encampment. (CLR/ASA 2007: 184)

Evaluation:
Victory Woods parallels NYS Route 32 which is locally named Gates Avenue. A sidewalk runs along the east side of this route from Victory Mills toward Schuylerville. The Victory Woods property is nestled within a developed area of the Village of Victory. The topography, hydrology, and land use of the site, though, have prevented development here, resulting in an "island" of dense forest vegetation.

The village's Jay and Herkimer Streets terminate at the southern property line. Herkimer Street then continues into the property as a dirt and gravel road/trail that climbs to the center of the site (Figure 18). It is the only vehicular road within the property. Monument Drive ends near the northwest corner of the site, where it terminates as a visitor parking area (Figure 19). Schuyler Heights Drive dead ends at the site's northern boundary. A boardwalk connects the parking area to earthworks located south and east of the pond (Figures 20 and 21, see also Figure 15). At around its midway point, the boardwalk connects to an earthen/gravel trail that intersects with the north end of the park road/trail. A spur path runs diagonally down the steep slope from the park road/trail, toward an earthwork pit and NYS Route 32. Other minor paths branch off from the park road/trail to some of the water works ruins. (CLR/ASA 2007: 184-185)

Landscape Features:

Feature Name	CLI Feature ID	Feature Contribution	CRIS-HS Resource ID	Associated CRIS-AR ID	FMSS Record Type	FMSS Record Number	FMSS Exact Match
Herkimer Street/Park Road	122955	Contributing	1170037		Location	57844	No
Footpaths	122957	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
Boardwalk	210853	Noncontributing – Compatible					No

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Figure 18. View looking north at the park road/trail that extends from Herkimer Street to site of former water tower. (OCLP 2022)



Figure 19. Terminus of Monument Drive and parking area, near the northwestern corner of the Victory Woods property. (OCLP 2022)



Figure 20. View looking south from the parking area at the start of the boardwalk. (OCLP 2022)



Figure 21. At this midpoint of the boardwalk it connects to an earthen/gravel trail that connects to the northern end of the park road/trail. (OCLP 2022)

Landscape Characteristic: Buildings and Structures

Historic Condition (to 1777):
Buildings are elements constructed primarily for sheltering any form of human activity in a landscape, while structures are elements constructed for functional purposes other than sheltering human activity. No documentation has been found that supports the existence of buildings or structures on the site prior to 1777. In addition, historic military maps depict no buildings or structures within Victory Woods prior to the British encampment. As part of creating the encampment, the British troops would have hastily constructed cannon batteries and numerous fortifications. Often these earthworks contained timber structures. None of these structures were intended to be permanent. (CLR/ASA 2007: 190)

Evaluation:
No buildings stand in Victory Woods on what was the southeast corner of the British encampment. Victory Woods does, however, contain remnants of some mid-twentieth-century waterworks-related structures. The water tank foundation is now mostly earth covered in vegetation but nearby are a few remnant pipe segments and concrete foundation pieces of the water tower or brick pumphouse (see Figure 17). An additional concrete foundation from a former reservoir is located within a small mound about 500 feet to the south of the water tower site. All of these foundations have been filled with sand and are now covered with vegetation. Three square concrete weirs and one round concrete weir are located about 600 feet southwest of water tower. Near the southeast corner of the site, an approximately twenty-five-foot square concrete foundation of an icehouse sits just east of the Herkimer Street gate (Figure 22). (CLR/ASA 2007: 190)

Landscape Features:

Feature Name	CLI Feature ID	Feature Contribution	CRIS-HS Resource ID	Associated CRIS-AR ID	FMSS Record Type	FMSS Record Number	FMSS Exact Match
Concrete Foundation of Water Tower and Pumphouse	123011	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
Concrete Icehouse Foundation	123013	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
Concrete Water Weirs	123015	Noncontributing – Compatible					No

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Figure 22. Concrete foundation remnants of the former icehouse, at the southeast corner of Victory Woods. (OCLP 2022)

Landscape Characteristic: Views and Vistas

Historic Condition (to 1777):
A view is the expansive and/or panoramic prospect of a broad range of vision that may be naturally occurring or deliberately contrived. A vista is a controlled prospect of a discrete, linear range of vision, which is deliberately contrived. By 1777, portions of the Heights of Saratoga had been clear-cut for milling or agricultural operations. During the war, the elevated location of the British encampment on the Heights of Saratoga would have allowed strategic views and vistas of the surrounding heights, the Town of Saratoga, Fish Creek, and the Hudson River. (CLR/ASA 2007: 185)

Although little is known of the views from the Victory Woods site prior to 1777, it is likely they would have been similar to those encountered by the British, which featured more limited views caused by dense forest cover. Period maps depict forests covering the steep slope and level upland portions of Victory Woods. The British troops would have likely been ordered to thin the forest for building or fire supplies and to increase views and usable space. The larger trees were likely left untouched, since they were too difficult to remove and provided some shelter from enemy view and protection from enemy fire. (CLR/ASA 2007: 185)

From the top of the steep slope, the British had eastward views to the road along Fish Creek, the creek itself, and to the American forces entrenched on the hills of the opposite side. From the southern and northern ends of Victory Woods, the British had views across the ravines to the surrounds to the south, and more of the encampment to the north. From the western side of Victory Woods, there were views across the western side of the encampment to the fortifications along today's Cemetery Avenue. (CLR/ASA 2007: 185)

Evaluation:
The dense vegetation of Victory Woods present today limits most views and vistas during the summer months. NYS Route 32 and Fish Creek are visible through the trees from much of the ridgeline along the steep slope during the late autumn, winter, and early spring when leaves are down (see Figure 11). In the summer most of these views are more obscure. The Victory Mills Complex is especially visible from the southeast portion of Victory Woods. The rising, forested land across Fish Creek from Victory Woods, where the main body of American forces commanded by General Gates was located, remains relatively undeveloped and covered with forest. (CLR/ASA 2007: 185-186)

The gently rolling topography and trees block long views within the upland portion of Victory Woods. The open area of the seasonal pond allows for some views across the northwest portion. Summer leaf cover and dense underbrush screen most views from the site's interior to the surrounding private homes to the north, west, and south, but these features become more noticeable along the boundary lines (Figures 23 and 24). In May 2025 the Victory Mill complex was destroyed in an arson fire. Some of the debris pile of the ruins are still visible from street level and may be visible from Victory Woods when leaves are off.

Landscape Features:

Feature Name	CLI Feature ID	Feature Contribution	CRIS-HS Resource ID	Associated CRIS-AR ID	FMSS Record Type	FMSS Record Number	FMSS Exact Match
Views across Fields to Cemetery Avenue	122985	Contributing					No
Views to Route 32, Fish Creek, Encampment	122959	Contributing					No
Views southeast to Victory Mills Complex	122963	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
Views to Surrounding Homes	122961	Noncontributing – Compatible					No

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Figure 23. View of private home along Monument Drive from northwest corner of Victory Woods. (OCLP 2022)



Figure 24. View from western boundary of Victory Woods across former agricultural field to Cemetery Avenue. (OCLP 2022)

Landscape Characteristic: Small Scale Features

Historic Condition (to 1777):
Small-scale features are elements that provide detail and diversity for both functional needs and aesthetic concerns in the landscape. No documentation has been found that supports the existence of small-scale features on the site prior to 1777. In addition, historic military maps depict no small-scale features within Victory Woods prior to the British encampment.

Evaluation:
A double-hung galvanized metal vehicular gate is located at the end of Herkimer Street (Figure 25). Steel and/or plastic interpretive signs and regulatory signs are positioned along trails, trailheads, and the boardwalk. There are no historical markers on the property, but a 1927 NYS cast iron sign that announces the position of Fraser's Corps during the encampment is located at the edge of the woods along NYS Route 32. Brass monuments marked Property of National Park Service delineate the property line. Orange metal stakes labeled US Boundary NPS are located along the property line at key public access points. In 2005 ten aluminum monuments marked National Park Service Survey Marker with their universal transverse mercator (UTM) position were installed within Victory Woods as georeference control points in preparation for the archeological survey of the property in May 2006. (CLR/ASA 2007: 186-187)

Landscape Features:

Feature Name	CLI Feature ID	Feature Contribution	CRIS-HS Resource ID	Associated CRIS-AR ID	FMSS Record Type	FMSS Record Number	FMSS Exact Match
Park Gate	123025	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
Park Signs	123023	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
Survey Monuments	123027	Noncontributing – Compatible					No

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Figure 25. Herkimer Street/Park Road gate, with a vertical interpretive sign in the background. (OCLP 2022)

Landscape Characteristic: Archeological Sites

Archeological sites are the locations of ruins, traces, or deposited artifacts in the landscape and are evidenced by the presence of either surface or subsurface features. Only sites identified in approved National Register documentation are identified in this report. Refer to the 2012 National Register documentation or contact park staff for more information.

Archeological research at Saratoga NHP has been extensive, comprising more than 30 projects ranging from baseline survey and mapping efforts to full-scale excavations. The work, conducted between 1940 and 2008, was undertaken both for planning and research purposes, and to meet compliance obligations under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). The goal of the majority of the projects, particularly those dating from the 1940s to the 1970s, was to identify, delineate, and manage resources dating to the park's primary area of significance, the Battles of Saratoga. By the 1980s, other research contexts began to take on increasing importance, including the development of the nineteenth-century agrarian landscape. (NR 2012, Sec.8: 93)

The Victory Woods property encompasses a portion of the location that Burgoyne chose for his retreat after the Second Battle of Saratoga. From October 9-17, 1777, Burgoyne and his troops, numbering 4,000-6,000 soldiers, barricaded themselves within an earthen redoubt likely erected along the brow of and around the top of the hill, encompassing an area of approximately 100 acres. The exact configuration of the earthworks at Victory Woods is unclear, but it is likely that they conformed to standard British military construction techniques for such structures. (NR 2012, Sec.8: 100)

Two contributing archeological sites have been identified within the Victory Woods property to date. One is a Revolutionary-era site and the other is a pre-contact period site. (NR 2012, Sec.8: 100)

Landscape Features:

Feature Name	CLI Feature ID	Feature Contribution	CRIS-HS Resource ID	Associated CRIS-AR ID	FMSS Record Type	FMSS Record Number	FMSS Exact Match
Burgoyne's Retreat Site	210854	Contributing		SARA0002.000			No
Victory Woods Pre-Contact Site	210855	Contributing					No

Condition

Assessment Interval (Years): 4

Next Assessment Due Date: 07/31/2030

Condition Assessment and Impacts

Condition Assessment: Good

Assessment Date: 07/31/2026

Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:

The condition of the Victory Woods landscape is evaluated as “good.” The property shows no clear evidence of major negative disturbance and deterioration by natural and/or human forces. The property’s cultural and natural values are as well preserved as can be expected under the given environmental conditions. No immediate corrective action is required to maintain its current condition.

Condition Assessment: Good

Assessment Date: 09/25/2023

Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:

Provisional. The condition reassessment for this CLI has been delayed due to the effects of Covid-19 travel restrictions and staffing shortages. In the meantime, the most recent condition assessment will remain in place until it is reassessed. Planning and scheduling for this update will occur in FYs 2023-2024.

Condition Assessment: Good

Assessment Date: 07/16/2013

Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:

In consulting with Chris Martin at the park and with concurrence from the Superintendent, the Victory Woods landscape is in good condition. The definition of “good” is as follows: “the inventory unit shows no clear evidence of major negative disturbance and deterioration by natural and/or human forces. The inventory unit’s cultural and natural values are as well preserved as can be expected under the given environmental conditions. No immediate corrective action is required to maintain its current condition.”

According to project statements in PMIS for Victory Woods, the multiphased rehabilitation project (108685 B-G) that was just underway at the time of the last assessment is now complete, providing universal access, cleared vistas, and wayside exhibits. A project is underway to powerwash and stain the boardwalk trail and repair failing bituminous and Klingstone trails (190586).

Condition Assessment: Good

Assessment Date: 08/31/2007

Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:

Victory Woods is considered to be in good condition. Although invasive plant species and erosion has caused minimal disturbances to the site, the cultural and natural values are as well preserved as can be expected under the given environmental conditions.

Impacts

Type of Impact: Adjacent Lands

Other Impact:

External or Internal: External

Impact Narrative: In May 2025 the Victory Mill complex was destroyed in an arson fire. Some of the debris pile of the ruins are still visible from street level, and may be visible from Victory Woods when leaves are off.

Date Identified: 07/31/2026

Resolved? No

Type of Impact: Erosion

Other Impact:

External or Internal: Internal

Impact Narrative: Runoff from heavy rains has flowed into gullies, scouring sections of the steep slope toward Fish Creek. Such actions may the potentially expose archeological features.

Date Identified: 09/12/2007

Resolved? No

Type of Impact: Impending Development

Other Impact:

External or Internal: External

Impact Narrative: While the topography and hydrology within the Victory Woods site has protected it from residential development, continual privately-owned residential development outside the boundaries threatens the historic setting and viewsheds.

Date Identified: 09/12/2007

Resolved? No

Type of Impact: Vandalism/Theft/Arson

Other Impact:

External or Internal: Internal

Impact Narrative: Vandalism and looting are occasion problems at the site

Date Identified: 07/31/2026

Resolved? No

Type of Impact: Vegetation/Invasive Plants

Other Impact:

External or Internal: Internal

Impact Narrative: While three non-native, invasive plant species, barberry, multiflora rose, and Norway maple, still inhabit the Victory Woods site, efforts are ongoing to eliminate and control these invasive plants.

Date Identified: 09/12/2007

Resolved? No

Treatment

Stabilization Measures

Treatment Documents

Document Type: General Management Plan

Document Date: 2004-01-01

Title:

IRMA Link:

Narrative:

The park's 2004 "General Management Plan" did not prescribe a specific treatment approach for the Victory Woods landscape. However, a Rehabilitation approach is referenced in descriptions of proposed management zones, which are intended to help determine suitable management approaches. The three areas are Historic Zone (includes Main Battle Action and Encampment Subzone, Supporting Battle Action Subzone, Schuyler Estate Subzone), Park Support Zone, and a Commemorative Landscape Overlay. The Victory Woods property was described as part of the Historic Zone, described below. (GMP 2004: 52-58)

--Historic Zone – Main Battle Action and Encampment Subzone.
Objectives: Landscape character at select locations is evocative of landscape conditions of October 1777; Views important to the interpretation of the battles are reestablished; The character-defining landscape features of Victory Woods are identified and rehabilitated; Interpretation emphasizes the Burgoyne Campaign within the broader context of the Revolutionary War with a secondary emphasis on commemorative aspects of the park (see Commemorative Overlay). Interpretation of the military events relies on visitor contact with rehabilitated landscape features and landscape exhibits, in addition to media.

Treatment Type: Rehabilitation

Treatment Completed: Yes

Bibliography and Supplemental Information

Bibliography:

Citation Author	Citation Title	Year of Publication	Citation Publisher	Citation Type	Citation Location	Citation Number
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