National Park Service
Cultural Landscapes Inventory

2011

Revised: 7/2026



Saratoga Battlefield

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:	Saratoga Battlefield
Resource Level:	Cultural Landscape
CRIS-CL Resource ID:	650053
Inventory Status:	Complete

Park Information

Park Name:	Saratoga National Historical Park
Alpha Code:	SARA
Park Organization Code:	1910
Region:	Northeast
Restricted:	Yes

Landscape Description:

Saratoga Battlefield, the largest of five cultural landscapes that comprise Saratoga National Historical Park in Stillwater, New York, 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. The site has long been recognized as hallowed ground. 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.

The battlefield currently encompasses approximately 3,400 acres, with 2,886 acres under federal ownership, and features a patchwork of fields and forests set upon rolling landforms, representing the broad patterns of the agricultural landscape that were present in 1777. Built features are scarce on the battlefield, with the Neilson House as the only remaining building that dates to the time of the battles, although many historic road traces cross the landscape. The most dominant built feature is the tour road, a nine-mile, one-way loop dating to the 1960s that connects to points of interest throughout the battlefield, including the numerous commemorative monuments and memorials. Several tour stops along the road offer striking views of the Hudson River, while the visitor center offers expansive eastward views of the battlefield. There are also several remnants of the Old Champlain Canal.

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY

Located within the Saratoga National Historical Park Historic District, Saratoga Battlefield is significant under National Register of Historic Places Criterion A at the national level in the area of Military History as the site of the 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; at the national level in the areas of Commemoration and Conservation for its association with national trends in the commemoration and preservation of American battlefields during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries; and at the state level 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. Saratoga Battlefield is significant under Criterion C at the local level in the area of Architecture for the eighteenth century John Neilson House, a rare surviving example of the type of simple one-story vernacular farmhouses that were common during the period before the Revolutionary War. Lastly, Saratoga

Battlefield is significant under Criterion D at the national level in the area of Archeology 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 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 overall period of significance for Saratoga Battlefield is 1777-1966, which includes five specific periods: 1777 for the Battles of Saratoga; ca.1777-1962 for the construction of the John Neilson House and the Saratoga Battlefield Visitor Center; 1821-1917 for the operation of the Champlain Canal; 1883-1936 for the commemoration of the battles and monumentation of the battlefield; and 1923-1966 for the conservation of the battlefield by the state and federal governments. The archeological period of significance is 1760-ca.1820. The battlefield also meets Criteria Consideration F for the various commemorative monuments at the site.

ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION SUMMARY AND CONDITION

The historic integrity of Saratoga Battlefield is evaluated by comparing landscape characteristics and features present during the period of significance, 1777-1966, with the existing conditions as assessed in 2022-2026. The site's topography is largely unchanged since the time of the battles and provides visitors with expansive views and the opportunity to envision the strategy, outcome, and repercussions of the battles. The park has initiated projects to restore vegetative cover in a close approximation to 1777 agricultural patterns, with large amounts of mixed hardwood and coniferous forest and meadows with a composition of grasses and ferns. Mowed turf is maintained in interpretive zones and along the pedestrian trails. Some of the smaller lanes through the woods that served the movement troops and supplies during the battles and agricultural uses afterwards were incorporated into a new road system for the park in the early 1960s. The new park tour road was a nine-mile one-way loop that connected the interpretive tour stops is still in use today and serves as the primary route for visitors to experience the park. The park maintains several miles of walking and equestrian trails—many of which are historic road traces—and has designated a bicycle lane on the tour road. During the state battlefield park period, and into the National Park period, houses and barns on most battlefield properties were removed, with the exception of the Neilson House, to create a cleared landscape, vacant of human occupation. This character remains today with the only battlefield-era structure being the Neilson House. Commemorative efforts on the Saratoga Battlefield took the form of numerous memorials erected between 1883 and 1938. These monuments remain today, as does the 1962 post-modern style visitor center, which also represents planning efforts to conserve and interpret battlefield lands.

Since 1962, the most significant changes to Saratoga Battlefield have included an addition to the visitor center in 1972 and removal of the block house in 1975. In addition to the ongoing effort to restore battlefield field and forest patterns, vehicular and pedestrian circulation features have been updated at the visitor center and most of the tour stops to improve universal accessibility.

Condition:
The condition of Saratoga Battlefield 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:

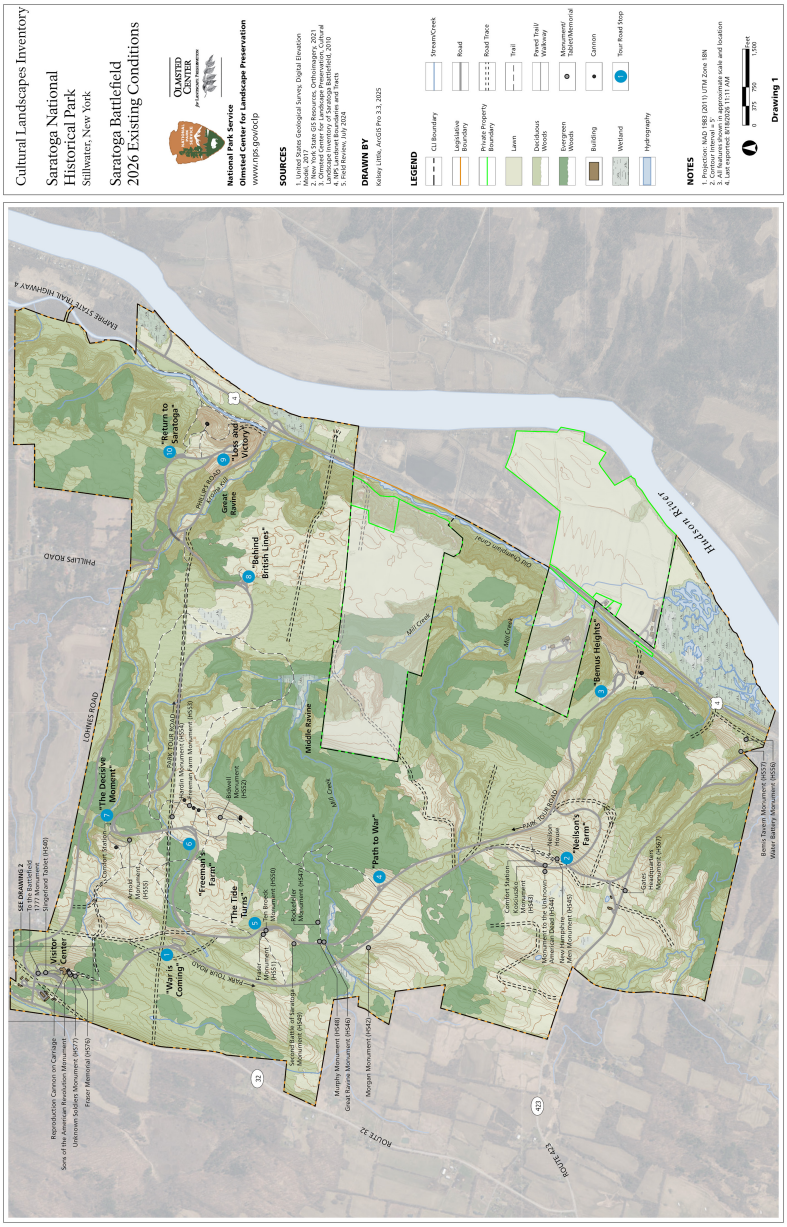
Historic Site

Other Names:

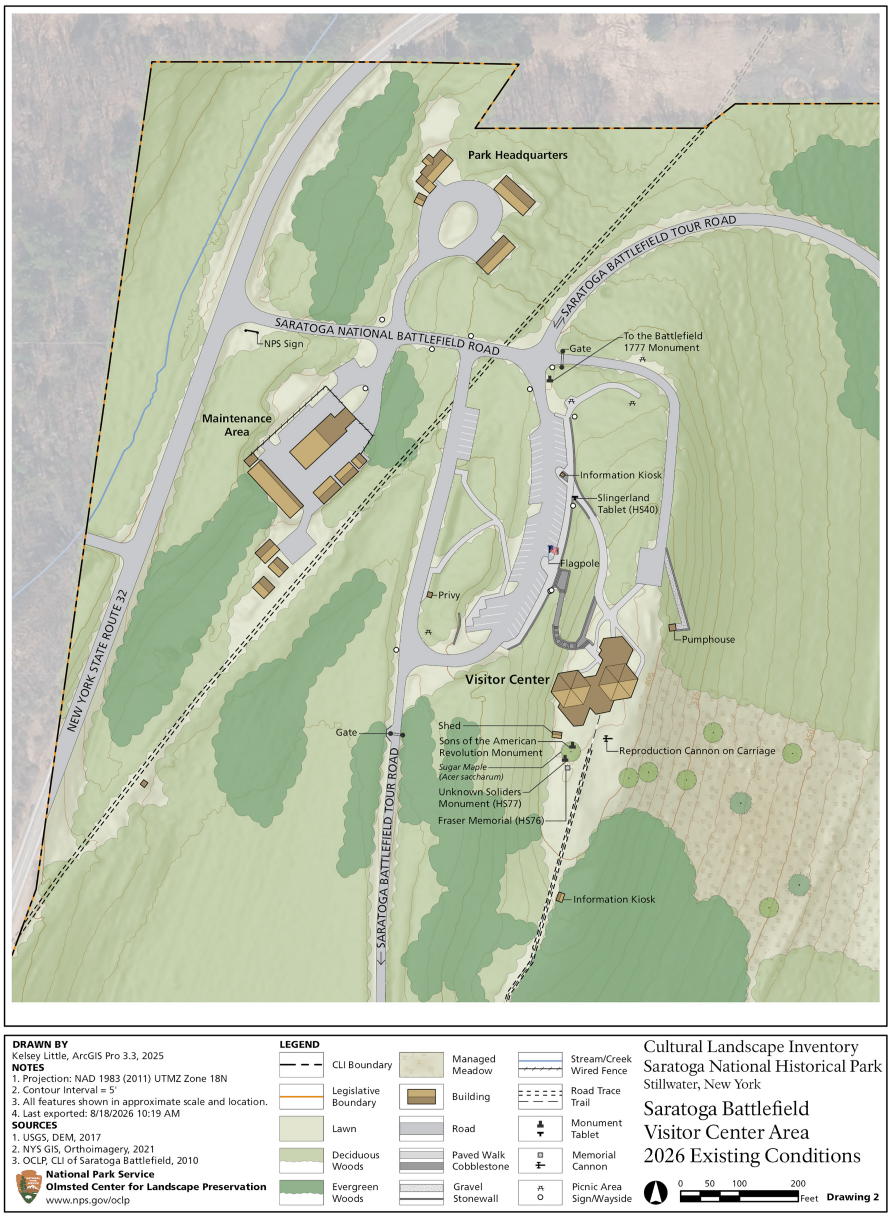
Other Name: Saratoga National Historical Park, Battlefield Unit

Other Name Type: Current

Site Plan



Site map, July 2026, 1 of 2.



Site map, July 2026, 2 of 2.

Concurrence Information

Superintendent Acknowledgment:

Park Superintendent Acknowledgment: Yes

Park Superintendent Acknowledgment Date: 08/30/2011

Completion Status Explanatory Narrative:

The original CLI for Saratoga Battlefield was approved by the Superintendent on August 30, 2011. The 2011 CLI was completed by Lisa (Oudemool) Nowak and Michael Commisso, Historical Landscape Architects at the Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation in Boston, Massachusetts. Information for the report was derived from the Cultural Landscape Report: Saratoga Battlefield, Saratoga National Historical Park, Volume 1: Site History, Existing Conditions, and Analysis (2002) by Lisa Oudemool, Christopher Stevens, H. Eliot Foulds, Eric Schnitzer, Linda White, and Chris Martin, as well as “Volume 2: Treatment” (draft 2011) by Michael Commisso and Lisa Nowak.

This CLI Update was edited by Jeff Killion, Historical Landscape Architect at the Olmsted Center. 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 Saratoga Battlefield CLI since the 2011 version include revisions to the National Register section to reflect the park’s National Register documentation that was completed in 2012; updating the Chronology and Physical History sections to document changes in the landscape since 2011; 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 Saratoga Battlefield CLI.

Concurrence Graphic Information:

09/22/11 THU 15:42 FAX 518 233 9049 FIELD SVCES. BUR. 001

New York State Office of Parks,
Recreation and Historic Preservation
Historic Preservation Field Services Bureau • Peebles Island, PO Box 189, Waterford, New York 12188-0189
518-237-8643
www.nysparks.com

Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor
Rose Harvey
Commissioner

21 September 2011

Elizabeth Igleheart
National Park Service
History Program
15 State Street
Boston, MA 02109

RE: Saratoga National Historical Park

Dear Ms. Igleheart:

The New York State Historic Preservation Office has reviewed the draft nomination for the Saratoga National Historical Park. We are pleased to support this nomination, which represents a comprehensive survey, research, writing, and evaluation effort. It is an outstanding document and we congratulate you.

We do have a few technical comments and suggestions, which our National Register coordinator, Kathleen LaFrank, will send under separate cover. However, we agree with the classification of contributing and non-contributing resources, periods and areas of significance, and all the major points of the nomination. Ms. LaFrank can be reached at 518.237.8643 x 3261 if you have any questions.

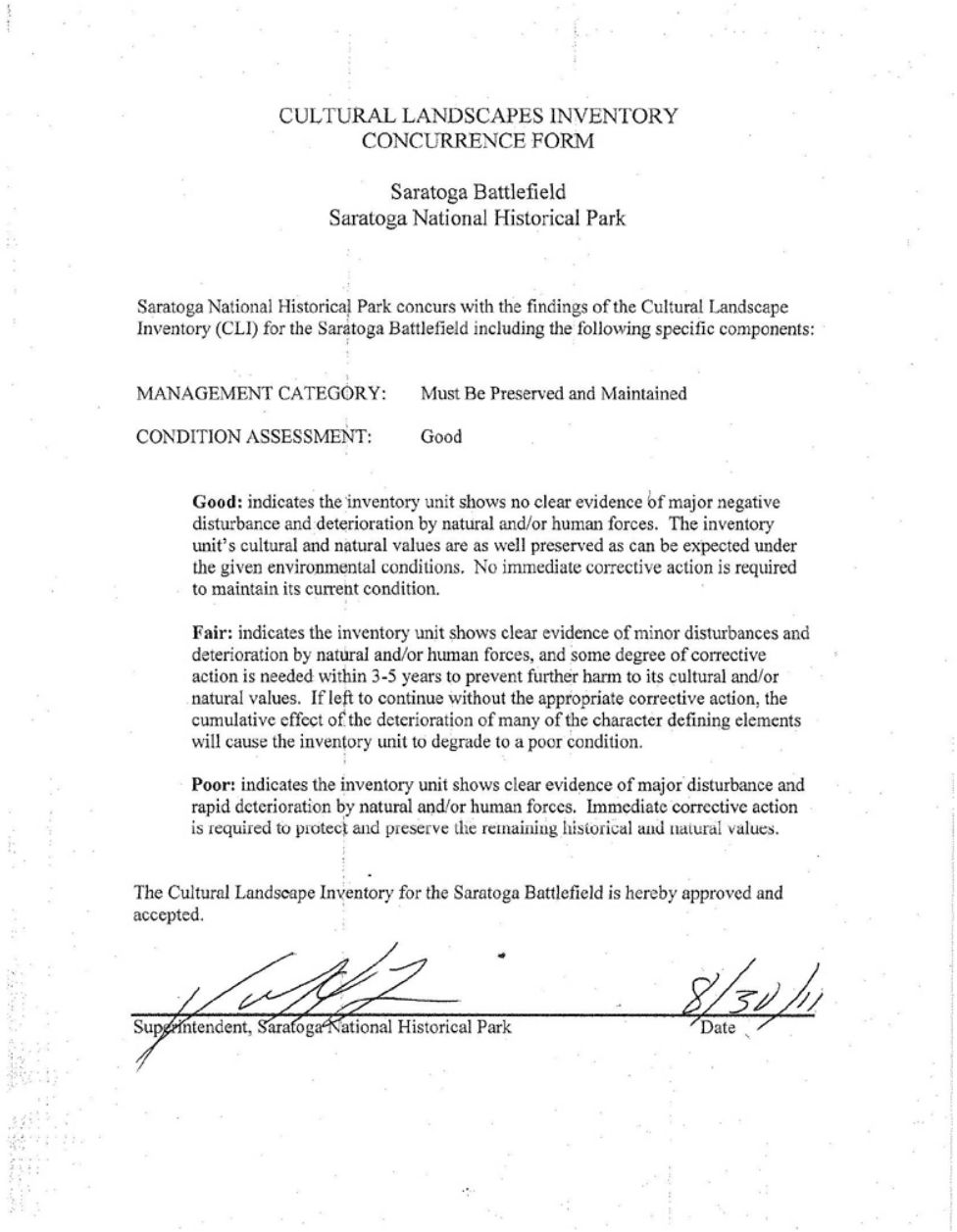
Sincerely:

Ruth L. Pierpont
Acting Deputy Commissioner for Historic Preservation
New York State Historic Preservation Office

An Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Agency

printed on recycled paper

SHPO concurrence letter, September 21, 2011 (1 page).



CULTURAL LANDSCAPES INVENTORY
CONCURRENCE FORM

Saratoga Battlefield
Saratoga National Historical Park

Saratoga National Historical Park concurs with the findings of the Cultural Landscape Inventory (CLI) for the Saratoga Battlefield 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 the Saratoga Battlefield is hereby approved and accepted.

Superintendent, Saratoga National Historical Park — Date 8/30/11

Park concurrence form, August 30, 2011.

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 National Register Status		Updated National Register documentation for Saratoga NHP was signed by the Keeper on May 23, 2012.
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 Saratoga Battlefield CLI has been done at a Level A effort.

Geographic Information

State and County:

State/Territory	County
New York	Saratoga County

Area (Acres): 2886

Land Tract Number(s)

01-103 (91.73), 01-104 (30), 01-105 (109.37), 01-106 (6), 01-107 (91.44), 01-108 (11.7), 01-109 (90.37), 01-110 (21.6), 01-111 (5.6), 01-112 (114.6), 01-113 (94.8), 01-114 (17.5), 01-115 (1427.85), 01-116 (0), 01-117 (0.91), 01-118 (60.08), 01-119 (0), 01-120 (222.14), 01-121 (6), 01-130 (13.7), 01-131 (158.58), 01-132 (147), 01-133 (1.18), 01-134 (0.68), 01-135 (13.31), 01-136 (122.53), 01-138 (0.26), 01-139 (0.75), 01-140 (96.78), 01-141 (32.25), 01-142 (3.2), 01-143 (0.75), 01-146 (8.2), 01-148 (0.42), 01-150 (7.42), 01-151 (1.52), 01-152 (6.49), 01-154 (0.16), 01-160 (169.24), 01-161 (0.23), 01-162 (0.13), 01-163 (0.14).

Boundary Description:

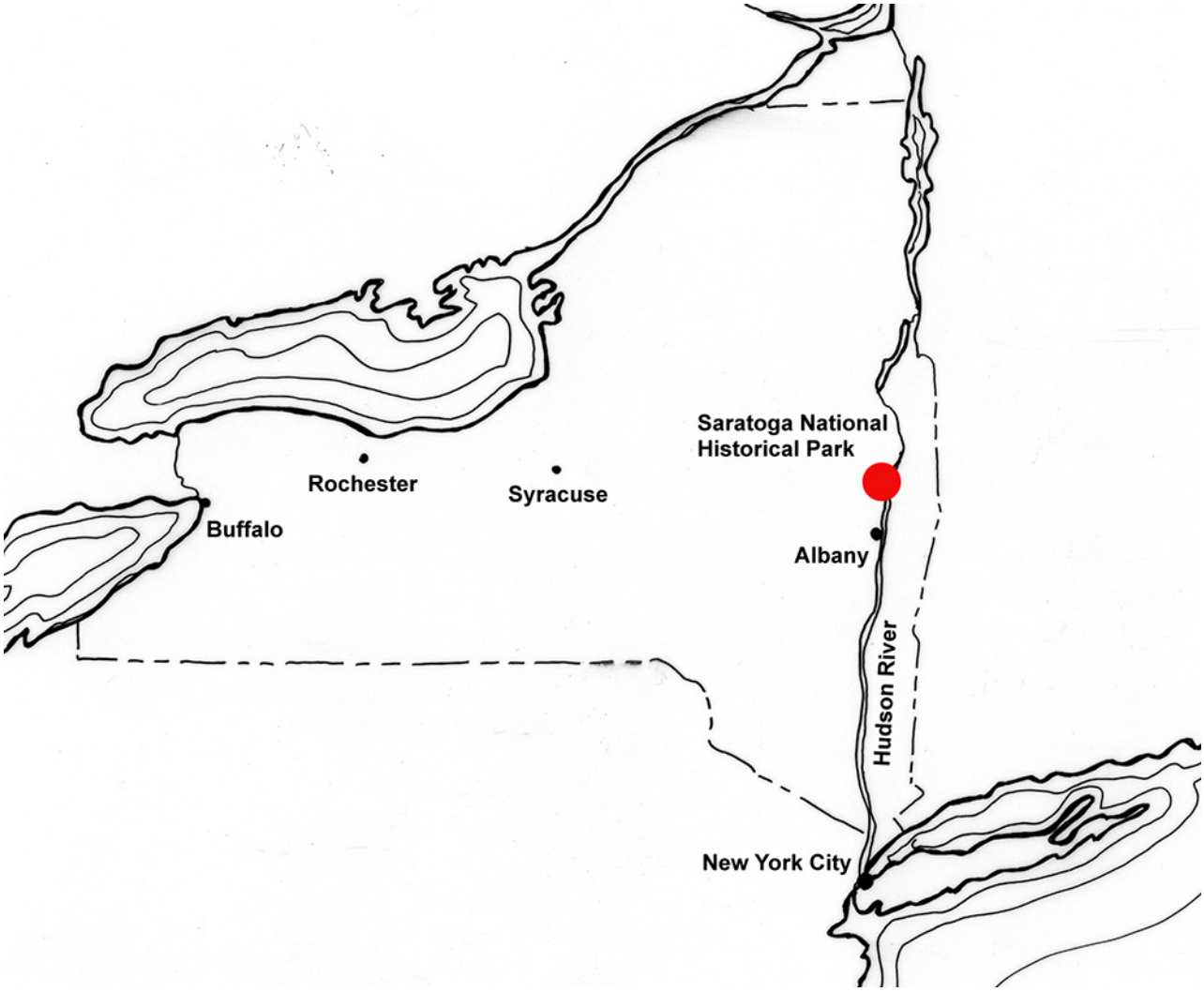
The legislative boundary of the Battlefield Unit forms an irregularly-shaped 3,394-acre parcel, bounded approximately on the north by Lohnes Road, on the east by U.S. Route 4 and the Hudson River, on the south by an east-west boundary line south of State Route 32, and on the west by State Route 32 and Durham Road. The National Park Service owns approximately 2,886 acres of this parcel. There are two areas totaling 507 acres that are within the Battlefields Unit's legislative boundary that are are not owned by the National Park Service (2010 NPS Statistical Abstract).

Boundary Coordinates

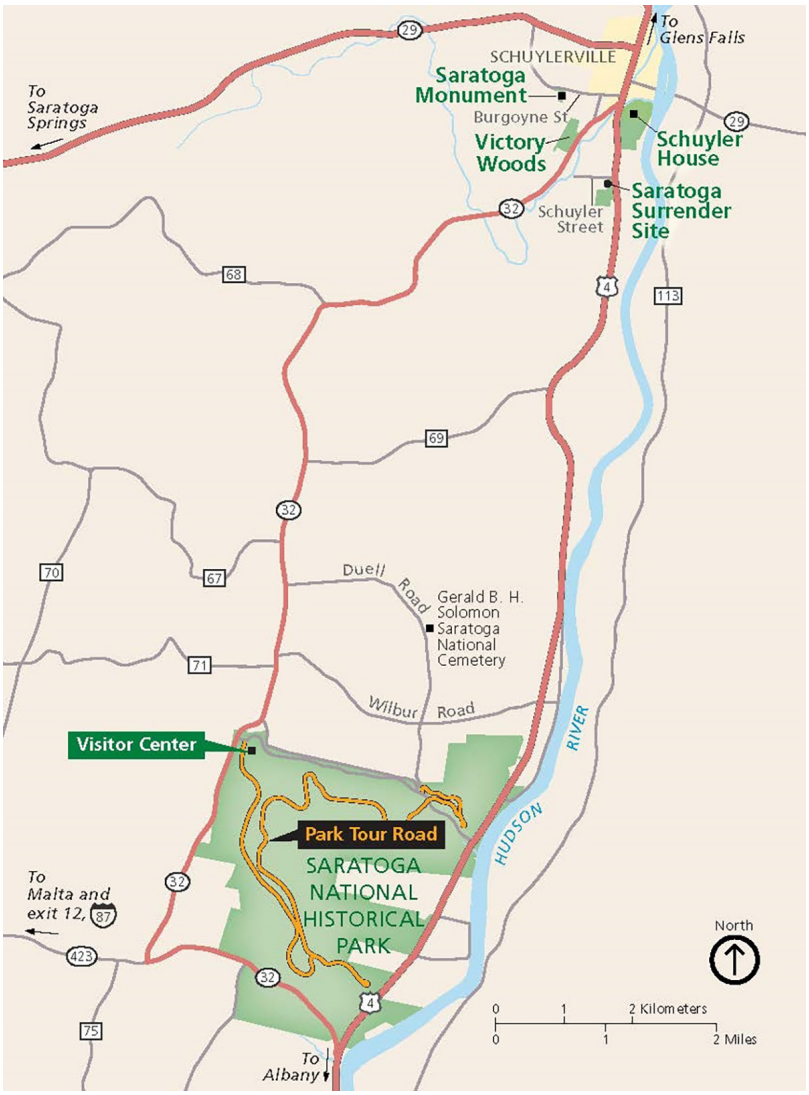
Source	Type of Point	Latitude	Longitude	Narrative
Aerial Photograph	Polygon	43.00530848	-73.6001555605	
Aerial Photograph	Polygon	42.993528132	-73.6095988275	
Aerial Photograph	Polygon	42.994108354	-73.6180992175	
Aerial Photograph	Polygon	42.996389354	-73.6175819244	
Aerial Photograph	Polygon	42.996833533	-73.6208106639	
Aerial Photograph	Polygon	42.994248058	-73.6214695892	
Aerial Photograph	Polygon	42.995835314	-73.6329288456	
Aerial Photograph	Polygon	42.991770492	-73.6341352347	
Aerial Photograph	Polygon	42.990765326	-73.6276439358	
Aerial Photograph	Polygon	42.982362952	-73.6313386372	
Aerial Photograph	Polygon	42.981124479	-73.6234308693	
Aerial Photograph	Polygon	42.977852204	-73.6268887487	
Aerial Photograph	Polygon	42.97657414	-73.6179646409	
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Aerial Photograph	Polygon	42.98491554	-73.6453136555	
Aerial Photograph	Polygon	42.986331785	-73.6539176168	
Aerial Photograph	Polygon	42.989566144	-73.6525222604	
Aerial Photograph	Polygon	42.989293554	-73.6507864003	
Aerial Photograph	Polygon	42.997603593	-73.6521871377	

Aerial Photograph	Polygon	42.9979773	-73.6563991732	
Aerial Photograph	Polygon	43.012903465	-73.652232957	
Aerial Photograph	Polygon	43.012733191	-73.6461993622	
Aerial Photograph	Polygon	43.006118	-73.619351434	

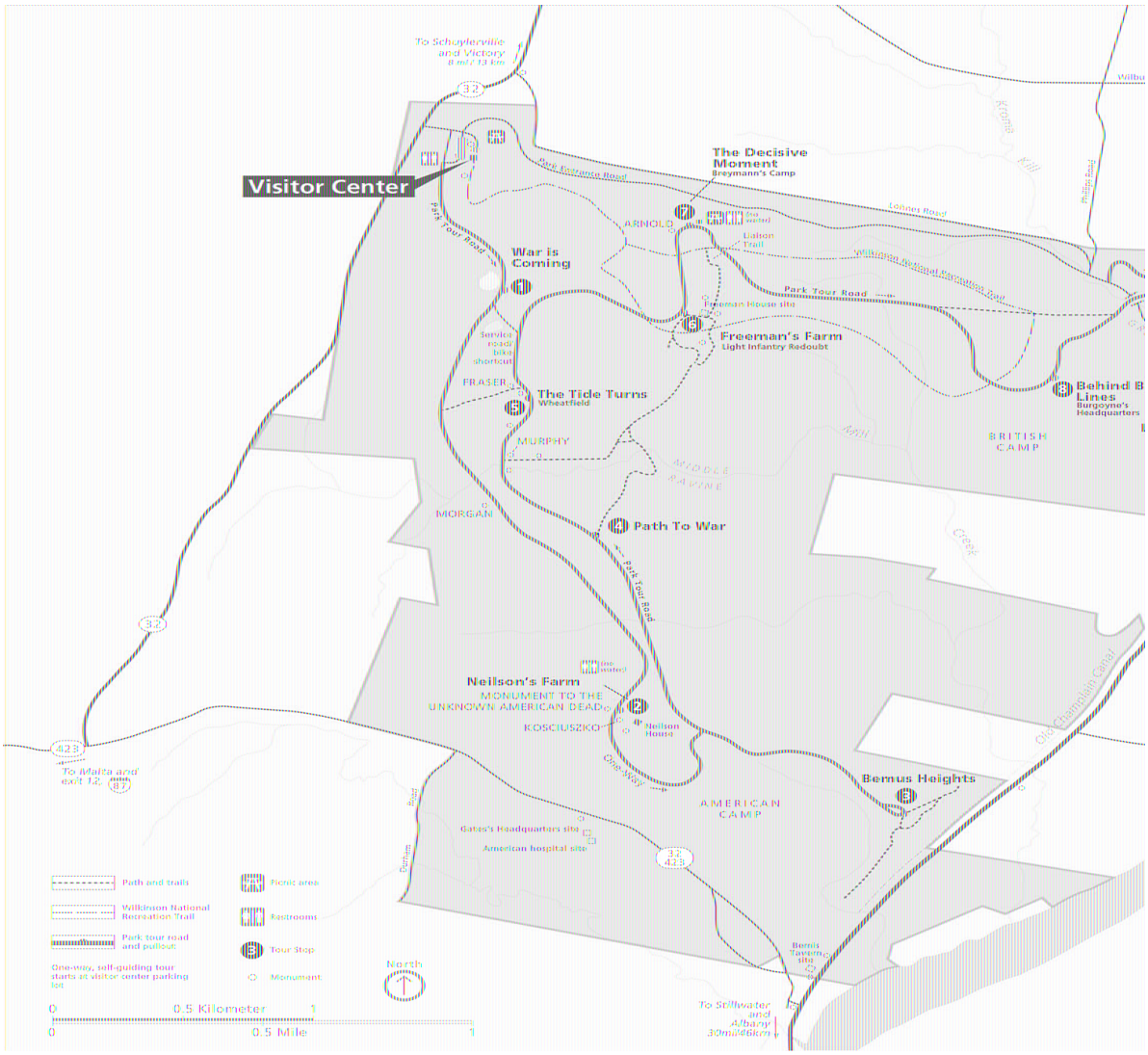
Location Map:



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 website)



Detail of the Battlefield Unit at Saratoga NHP. (Saratoga NHP website)

Regional Landscape Contexts:

Type of Context: Physiographic

Description:

This context concerns he large-scale physical forms and patterns of the landscape such as hill, plateau, ravine,
drumlin, etc. The Saratoga Battlefield is located on the west bank of the Hudson River. Steep escarpments rise above the floodplain to provide expansive views of the river and the hills of Washington County on the east side of the river. It is set in a rural landscape dominated by a mixture of northern hardwood forest and meadow grasses.

Type of Context: Cultural

Description:

This context concerns the general human overlay on the physical form of the landscape. Prior to the battles of Saratoga, the area was home to an agricultural community dominated by small family farms. In the autumn of 1777, British and American forces clashed on the site in two battles that culminated in a decisive American victory. After the battles, the agricultural economy flourished again until the early 1900s when the properties that comprised the battlefield were gradually purchased and designated as a state battlefield park. Establishment of a national park to commemorate the Saratoga battles was authorized by Congress in 1938 and established in 1948. Saratoga Monument was transferred by the state to the National Park Service in 1980.

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 Battlefield is located thirty miles north of Albany in Stillwater, New York, in Saratoga County. It is part of Saratoga National Historical Park, which is comprised of four other units located in the Villages of Schuylerville and Victory approximately twelve miles to the north: Victory Woods, Schuyler Estate, Saratoga Monument, and Saratoga Surrender Site.

Management Information

General Management Information

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

Management Category Date: 08/30/2011

Management Category Narrative:

As approved on August 30, 2011, the Saratoga Battlefield meets Category A (High NPS Priority for Preservation and Maintenance, formerly Must Be Preserved and Maintained) management category because its preservation was specifically legislated as the site of the decisive 1777 battles of Saratoga. An act of Congress on June 1, 1938, set aside Battlefield lands “as a public park for the benefit and inspiration of the people” (52 Stat. 608)

Management Agreements:

Type of Agreement: None

Management Agreement Expiration Date:

Management Agreement Narrative:

Legal Interests:

Type of Interest: Fee Simple

Legal Interest Narrative: Tracts 01-103, 01-104, 01-105, 01-106, 01-107, 01-108, 01-109, 01-110, 01-111, 01-112, 01-113, 01-114, 01-115, 01-117, 01-118, 01-120, 01-121, 01-130, 01-132, 01-135, 01-136, 01-138, 01-139, 01-140, 01-141, 01-142, 01-146, 01-148, 01-150, 01-151, 01-152, 01-160, 01-161, 01-162, 01-163

Type of Interest: Less Than Fee Simple

Legal Interest Narrative: Tracts 01-116, 01-119, 01-131, 01-133, 01-134, 01-143, 01-154

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. Adjacent lands contribute to the rural setting of the Saratoga Battlefield and help portray the historic character of 1777. The Hudson River along the east side of the property is a key natural feature and a historic transportation corridor that also had great strategic value during the Battles of Saratoga. Nearby low density residential and agricultural properties are also within the park's viewshed. The potential for detrimental development in the park's wide-reaching viewshed is an on-going concern that requires cooperation between the park, neighboring property owners, and local governments. Efforts by the park to preserve the cultural landscape beyond the battlefield have initially begun with the development of the Saratoga Battlefields Landscape Conservation Fund, Feasibility and Concept Study (2009) and the Battles of Saratoga Preservation and Viewshed Protection Plan (2007). These reports identified the most important areas for protection and provided tools for the preservation of these lands, which included easements and fee acquisition strategies.

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:

Saratoga National Historical 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 1, 1976, the Old Champlain Canal, portions of which pass through the battlefield, was listed in the National Register under Criterion A for state-level significance in the areas of areas of Agriculture, Commerce, Industry, and Transportation, and under Criterion C in the area of Engineering. The period of significance was identified as 1800-1899, with a specific date of 1823 when the canal was completed. The canal was described as "a major impetus to development north of Albany…[it] transformed the small hamlets along its route into thriving centers of trade and industry."

On October 15, 1996, the New York State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) concurred with National Park Service's evaluations of the park's historic resources as part of the List of Classified Structures (now Historic Structures Inventory-HSI) program update. Five contributing structures were identified as contributing resources, and two, the John Neilson House and Old Champlain Canal prism, are located in the Battlefield Unit.

On August 30, 2011, the CLI was approved by the Park Superintendent, contingent on approval of the draft National Register documentation for the Saratoga National Historical Park Historic District. The draft was approved by the New York SHPO on September 21, 2011. The Keeper of the National Register approved the documentation on May 23, 2012. National, state, and local-level significance was found under Criterion 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; and Criterion D for Archeology. The documentation also identified Criteria Consideration F: Commemorative Properties as applicable to the district. 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 battlefield landscape, and specific military-related locations, are identified as a contributing sites, which include escarpments, ravines, rolling terrain, and views to and from the battlefield. Buildings, roads, trails, and commemorative elements within the battlefield site are listed as contributing resources. Non-contributing features are also identified.

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 Saratoga Battlefield are adequately documented in existing National Register documentation. The existing documentation also adequately describes the battlefield's numerous historic resources that contribute to its significance. Therefore, for purposes of the CLI, Saratoga Battlefield 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, the John Neilson House, and the 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 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.

Saratoga Battlefield:
Saratoga Battlefield, located within the Saratoga NHP Historic District, is significant at the national, state, and local levels under Criterion A in the areas of Miliary History, Commemoration, Conservation, and Transportation; under Criterion C in the area of Architecture, and under Criterion D in the area of Archeology (Prehistoric and Historic-Non-Aboriginal). The overall period of significance for Saratoga Battlefield is 1777-1966, which includes five specific periods: 1777 for the Battles of Saratoga; ca.1777-1962 for the construction of the John Neilson House and the Saratoga Battlefield Visitor Center; 1821-1917 for the operation of the Champlain Canal; 1883-1936 for the commemoration of the battles and monumentation of the battlefield; and 1923-1966 for the conservation of the battlefield by the state and federal governments. The archeological period of significance is 1760-ca.1820. The battlefield also meets Criteria Consideration F for the various commemorative monuments at the site.

CRITERION A

Military History (1777):
The Saratoga Battlefield possesses national-level significance under Criterion A in the area of Military History as the site of the Battles of Saratoga in 1777. The Battles of Saratoga were a pivotal turning point in the American struggle to gain its independence from Great Britain during the Revolutionary War. They represented the culmination of British General John Burgoyne’s nearly successful Northern Campaign, which was devised to cut direct communication between New England, considered the hotbed of revolutionary sentiment, and the states to the south. The American victory at Saratoga proved that the Continental Army had developed into a formidable fighting force capable of defeating a British Army in

general battle. It revived the flagging hopes of the supporters of the Revolution and provided the convincing proof France needed to decide early the following year to enter the war on the side of the United States. French military and provisioning assistance helped to tip the balance in favor of the Americans, leading to their final victory at Yorktown, Virginia, in 1781 and the establishment of the United States as a free and independent nation. (NR 2012, Sec.8: 31)

After a string of military successes in 1776, the British adopted a strategy to divide the Colonies along a physical boundary cutting off the supply line of General Washington. The plan called for three British armies to meet at Albany. General William Howe marched north from New York City, General John Burgoyne marched south from Montreal, and Colonel Barry St. Leger moved east through the Mohawk Valley. British troops under Burgoyne met with initial success that included the capture of Fort Ticonderoga and a victory over American forces at the Battle of Hubbardton in Vermont. However, progress slowed considerably due to problems caused by supplying and moving the cumbersome army through untamed terrain. After reaching the Hudson River in August, Burgoyne was forced to stay at Fort Edward for more than a month to collect supplies. It was during this time that the British were dealt a series of defeats, including the loss of nearly 1,000 troops at the Battle of Bennington and news that the western prong of the invasion under Lieutenant Colonel Barry St. Leger had stalled at Fort Stanwix. Burgoyne was also informed that General William Howe had taken the main body of his army to capture Philadelphia, leaving Sir Henry Clinton with only a small force in New York City and unable to provide the promised support up the Hudson from that direction. Despite these disasters, Burgoyne continued on toward Albany. (NR draft 2010, Sec.8: 1)

The British delays and defeats allowed American forces under General Horatio Gates to reorganize and establish a strong defensive position south of Saratoga on Bemis Heights and the River Road to Albany. Constructed under the direction of engineer Thaddeus Kosciuszko, the defensive works included the emplacement of batteries and fortifications on the river bluffs and floodplain below that dictated the tactics of both armies and the course of the ensuing battles. Tied to the river to float his supplies, Burgoyne was forced to decide whether to force his way through the strong position or attempt a flanking movement. On September 19, 1777, Burgoyne sent a portion of his army inland to probe the American left flank. His columns collided with forces advanced from left wing of the Gates' army near the abandoned farm of Loyalist John Freeman. Following a long afternoon of heavy fighting, the Americans eventually withdrew back to their lines where they remained in place to block Burgoyne's path to Albany. (NR draft 2010, Sec.8: 2)

In the aftermath of the First Battle of Saratoga, Burgoyne remained hopeful that Clinton would provide assistance from the south and elected to fortify his position. During this time, the Americans continued to strengthen their defenses in a line that extended from Neilson's Farm to the river. On October 7, British and American forces were again engaged in a second battle near Barber's wheat field. The British, however, were routed and driven back to their fortifications. At dusk, one position held by German troops, was overwhelmed by attacking Americans, forcing Burgoyne to withdraw to his inner works near the river. The following day he decided to withdraw northward toward Saratoga where he established a fortified encampment on the high ground above the river. Gates followed with his army and surrounded the British. With no other option Burgoyne capitulated on October 17, 1777, surrendering his entire army to Gates. (NR draft 2010, Sec.8: 2)

Commemoration (1883-1936) and Conservation (1923-1966):
The Saratoga Battlefield possesses national-level significance under Criterion A for conservation of the battlefield (and meets Criteria Consideration F for monumentation of the battlefield. While the construction of the Saratoga Monument started in 1877, the first steps to commemorate the Saratoga battlefield began in the early 1880s and was led by Ellen Hardin Walworth, a notable author, preservationist, and women's rights advocate. Walworth counted among her many achievements the distinction of being one of the three founders of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Her work to commemorate the battlefield began with extensive research of battle events and surveys of the battleground, which at the time was still privately held farmland. Through the Saratoga Monument Association (SMA), Walworth successfully secured the donation of small-scale markers that were inscribed with interpretative text and placed on the battlefield in the beginning in 1883. (NR draft 2010, Sec.8: 4)

In the 1890s, the War Department established the first four national military parks in the country, and

petitions were made in the early 1900s to give other battlefields a similar designation. Interest in this effort intensified during the period of increased nationalism and prosperity that followed World War I. At Saratoga, as the sesquicentennial of the Battles of Saratoga approached, a number of groups banded together in support of acquiring and preserving the last visible traces of the battles. Led by Rochester businessman Charles Ogden, the Saratoga Battlefield Association, Inc. (SBA) was formed and later acquired four key parcels of battlefield land totaling 656 acres in 1923. (NR draft 2010, Sec.8: 4)

By the mid-1920s, the Saratoga Battlefield preservation efforts were championed by local politician George Slingerland. He was instrumental in gaining state battlefield park status in time for the sesquicentennial of the battles in 1927. During the subsequent period of management by the State of New York (1927–1937), Slingerland worked tirelessly to improve the battlefield, constructing a number of conjectural buildings and memorials at the Neilson farm, which served as the primary interpretive area during the period, and guiding land-use management. The last memorial constructed during this period was the Kosciuszko Monument in 1936. The ultimate objective, however, was to acquire as much of the battlefield land as possible and he was successful in gaining appropriations from the state to add nearly 800 additional acres. Slingerland's unexpected death in 1932 created a void in leadership that forestalled significant improvement of the battlefield during the remainder of the state management period. (NR draft 2010, Sec.8: 4)

After ten years as a state reservation, the Saratoga Battlefield was made part of the national park system in 1938 when Saratoga National Historical Park was authorized by the United States Congress, five years after other military parks were transferred from the War Department to the Department of the Interior. The park was formally established in 1948. Under National Park Service ownership, the focus of the park shifted from commemorative activities to an increased emphasis on education and interpretation. Studies conducted by park historians established the park's interpretive context, and planning efforts focused on the restoration of the battlefield landscape to more accurately reflect its 1777 appearance. The park's first master plan was developed in 1941 and called for changes to improve the visitor understanding of the battlefield through the construction of a new administration/museum building, the site of which was personally selected by President Franklin D. Roosevelt during a visit to the park in 1940, and a battlefield tour road. The implementation of the plan, however, was hampered by lack of funding due to World War II and the underfunding of the national park system during the first half of the 1950s. The funding for the improvements was ultimately secured under the National Park Service's Mission 66 Program, a nationwide effort to upgrade facilities at national parks. The investment at the park resulted in the construction of the current Modern-style visitor center in 1962 and Saratoga battlefield tour toad, begun in 1958 and completed in 1966. These improvements marked the culmination of more than two decades of planning and remain the primary facilities through which visitors experience the battlefield to the present day. (NR draft 2010, Sec.8: 5)

Transportation (1821-1917):
The Saratoga Battlefield possesses state-level significance under Criterion A in the area of Transportation for its association with the Champlain Canal. The canal was constructed in the early nineteenth century as part of New York's extensive system of artificial waterways. It provided an efficient means for transporting raw materials, goods, and people from Canada, Vermont, northern New York, and western Massachusetts to markets in New York City. The entire length of the Saratoga Falls to Stillwater Falls segment, which includes the section through the eastern portion of the battlefield, was completed in 1821.

Competition from railroads steadily eroded support for major improvements to a canal system incapable of handling the larger barges that could increase its capacity to profitable levels. Instead, the State of New York decided to create a new barge canal system that would take advantage of motorized boats and maximize use of natural waterways. Construction of the Barge Canal, as it was known, began in 1905 and lasted until 1917. When the Barge Canal opened, the bypassed sections of the older canal routes, including the segments of the Champlain Canal that are located within Saratoga Battlefield, were abandoned and left to decay. Currently, the section in the battlefield consists of visible remains of the canal prism and stone bridge abutments. (NR draft 2010, Sec.8: 4-5,75)

CRITERION C

Architecture (ca.1777-1962):

The Saratoga Battlefield possesses local-level significance under Criterion C in the area of Architecture for the John Neilson House and the park's visitor center. The John Neilson House is a simple vernacular Colonial-period, saltbox-type farmhouse that is a rare surviving example of the type of dwellings that were present on Saratoga Battlefield during at the time of the battles. It was constructed as a small, two-room house with a side gable, saltbox roof and a random fieldstone foundation. The house was enlarged and moved during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, but later restored to its 1777 appearance and relocated to its original location in the late 1950s. (NR draft 2010, Sec.8: 6-7)

The Saratoga Visitor Center, completed in 1962, is a representative example of post-World War II Modern architecture as adopted by the National Park Service for the approximately 100 visitor centers constructed under the Mission 66 program. The prominent site of the building on Fraser's Hill was selected by President Franklin D. Roosevelt during a visit to the park in 1940 because it provided sweeping views of the battlefield landscape. The building features hexagonal units and covered terraces, which were inspired by the architecture of the Fort Snelling in Minnesota; the use of both locally available natural construction materials and modern elements such as large glass-and-steel curtain walls; and low-horizontal profile. The combination of those elements produced a building that sits lightly on the landscape, blending with its environment and unobtrusive to the historic battlefield it serves. (NR draft 2010, Sec.8: 6-7)

CRITERION D

Archeology, Historic-Non-Aboriginal (1760-ca.1820):
The Saratoga Battlefield possesses national-level significance 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 scene of nearly every major structural, tactical, and landscape element of the 1777 Saratoga military engagement, the area that now comprises the Battlefield Unit was subject to the earliest archeological survey efforts at the park.

The preservation of the various archeological resources identified to date can be attributed to the post-Revolutionary War-period landscape history of the battlefield, and specifically the level of late-eighteenth- through early twentieth-century agricultural and commercial development of the parcel. A total of nine contributing archeological sites have been identified within the Battlefield Unit to date. Six of the sites are directly related to American and British military features, two sites are associated with the Neilson and Tayler Farms, and one site concerns remnants of the Old Champlain Canal. (NR 2012, Sec.8: 93-96)

CRITERIA CONSIDERATION F

The Saratoga Battlefield meets Criteria Consideration F for commemorative properties that have been invested with their own historical significance. The efforts to commemorate the people and events that figured in the outcome of the critical Battles of Saratoga through the erection of the Saratoga Monument and the smaller monuments placed throughout the battlefield in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries were undertaken within the context of a national movement to mark and preserve Revolutionary War battlefields. The monumentation of the battlefield created the impetus for subsequent efforts to preserve the battlefield and establish and program for its interpretation to the public. (NR 2012: Sec.8: 30)

National Register Significance Criteria:

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

Significance Criterion C - Embodies distinctive construction, work of master, or high artistic values

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

National Register Criteria Consideration:

Consideration F - A commemorative property

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

Time Period: CE 1777 - CE 1777

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

Time Period: CE 1777 - CE 1962

Historic Context Theme	Subtheme	Facet	Other Facet
Expressing Cultural Values	Architecture	NPS Mission 66	
Expressing Cultural Values	Architecture	Vernacular Architecture	

Time Period: CE 1821 - CE 1917

Historic Context Theme	Subtheme	Facet	Other Facet
Developing the American Economy	Shipping and Transportation by Water	Canals	

Time Period: CE 1883 - CE 1936

Historic Context Theme	Subtheme	Facet	Other Facet
Transforming the Environment	Historic Preservation	Regional Efforts: Mid-Atlantic States, 1860-1900: Memorials To The Revolution;	

Time Period: CE 1923 - CE 1966

Historic Context Theme	Subtheme	Facet	Other Facet
Transforming the Environment	Historic Preservation	The Federal Government Enters The Movement	

Time Period: CE 1760 - CE 1820

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

National Register Area of Significance:

Area of Significance Category: Architecture

Area of Significance Subcategory:

Narrative:

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: Conservation

Area of Significance Subcategory:

Narrative:

Area of Significance Category: Military

Area of Significance Subcategory:

Narrative:

Area of Significance Category: Other

Area of Significance Subcategory:

Narrative: Commemorative

Area of Significance Category: Transportation

Area of Significance Subcategory:

Narrative:

NRIS Information:

NRIS Name:	Saratoga National Historical Park
NRIS ID:	66000569
Primary Certification Date:	05/23/2012
NRIS Name:	Old Champlain Canal
NRIS ID:	76001274
Primary Certification Date:	09/02/1976

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
CE 1624	Moved	The Mohawks defeat the Mahicans. The Mahicans retreat east and north.
CE 1628	Moved	All Mahican villages are expelled from the west side of the Hudson river. Mahicans most likely continue to hunt on the western side, but return to east side, to avoid arousing Mohawk animosity.
CE 1650	Farmed/Harvested	Writings of Dutch immigrant Adriaen van der Donck: “The Indians have a yearly custom (which some of our Christians have also adopted) of burning the woods, plains and meadows in the fall of the year when the leaves have fallen...This practice is named by us and the Indians, `bush-burning`, which is done for several reasons. First, to render hunting easier...Secondly, to thin out and clear the woods of all dead substances and grass...Thirdly, to circumscribe the field and enclose the game within the lines of the fire.”
CE 1683	Land Transfer	Prominent Albany citizens purchase from the Mohawks the land that would become the Saratoga Patent.
CE 1689 - 1697	Military Operation	King Williams War.
CE 1689	Built	Ft. Vrooman, a blockhouse constructed just south of Fish Creek on the Hudson River just below present day Schuylerville. The first in a series of forts at this location which protected the northern frontier of New York from incursions from New France.
CE 1690	Military Operation	In August of 1690, General Winthrop leads an expedition (approx. 700 men) from Albany through Saratoga in order to invade New France via Hudson-Champlain valleys. Expedition fails and turns back at modern Ft. Ann but not before Capt. John Schuyler [grandfather of Philip], led a contingent on a raid of La Prairie.
CE 1691	Military Operation	Major Peter Schuyler, following his brother’s path from the year before, lead 260 colonists and 80 Mohawks on a raid of La Prairie.
CE 1702 - 1713	Military Operation	Queen Anne’s War.
CE 1709	Military Operation	Francis Nicholson Expedition, a force of approximately 1,500 regulars and provincial militia and 600 Iroquois assemble in Albany for an invasion of New France. The vanguard of 300 men under command of Peter Schuyler heads north out of Albany. The vanguard constructed the logistical infrastructure (including three major encampments) to support the main body of the expedition which followed. Expedition objective was an attack upon Montreal via the Hudson-Champlain Valleys.
CE 1709	Built	Ft. Ingoldsby, a stockade for the protection of provisions is constructed by Peter Schuyler at Stillwater.

Year	Event	Major Event Narrative
CE 1709	Built	Upon arrival at Saratoga (present-day Schuylerville), Peter Schuyler constructs Ft. Saratoga on the east bank of the Hudson opposite the mouth of Fish Creek. Schuyler with vanguard continues to construct roads and additional fortifications up to present-day Ft. Anne. Main body of the expedition follows only to founder and turn back after arrival at present-day Ft. Anne.
CE 1711	Military Operation	Nicholson commands a second land-based expedition to New France retracing his steps of 1709. A naval component to the invasion founders at sea, the news of which reaches Nicholson after his arrival at present day Ft. Anne. This news results in the cancellation of his land-based effort.
CE 1731 - 1759	Built	French construct Ft. St. Frederic on Lake Champlain. From here French forces exert influence and maintain an active military presence on the frontier between New France and New York/New England for 28 years. During times of war raids launched from this fort are directed towards objectives as far as Boston and Albany. In King Georges War (1744-48) French forces devastate the Saratoga region in a number of raids and effectively push the frontier boundary south to the gates of Albany.
CE 1745	Military Operation	French forces under command of M. Marin attack and destroy the fort and settlement at Saratoga (present day Schuylerville). Killed in the raid is John Schuyler, uncle to Philip.
CE 1746 - 1747	Military Operation	Another eight French raids are directed at Saratoga over a 15 month period. By November 1747 British resolve to man the fortifications at Saratoga has weakened to the point where they dismantle the fort and retreat to Albany.
CE 1749	Farmed/Harvested	Swedish traveler Peter Kalm observes the local landscape on June 24-25, 1749. He describes the remaining farms, the fort at Saratoga and its surroundings, and the local inhabitants. He also notes the surrounding woodlands have been mostly cut and that there are several burned saw-mills.
CE 1750	Planned	Survey of Saratoga patent is made by John R. Bleecker. The future Saratoga National Historical Park (NHP) lies within lot(s) #13-17.
CE 1755 - 1763	Military Operation	French & Indian War.
CE 1755	Military Operation	Sir William Johnson leads an expedition from Albany north to seize Ft. St. Frederic. Arrives at southern end of Lake George where there is an engagement with French forces and his subsequent construction of Ft. William Henry.
CE 1756	Military Operation	Major General John Winslow leads an expedition from Albany north to seize Ft. St. Frederic. A report of French victories in other portions of the frontier causes this expedition to advance no further than Ft. William Henry.
CE 1758	Military Operation	General Abercromby leads an expedition north out of Albany to Ft. Carillon and his defeat at the hands of French General Montcalm.

Year	Event	Major Event Narrative
CE 1759	Military Operation	General Jeffery Amherst leads an expedition out of Albany north to Forts Carillon and St. Frederic.
CE 1775 - 1783	Military Operation	Revolutionary War.
CE 1775	Military Operation	British and Colonial forces clash at Lexington and Concord.
CE 1775 - 1776	Military Operation	General Richard Montgomery leads an American expedition north out of Albany to invade British Canada.
CE 1777	Military Operation	Lt. General John Burgoyne leads a British invasion force out of Canada south into New York with Albany as the objective. Battles of Saratoga take place on the site.
CE 1777	Destroyed	John Neilson, owner of the farm where the American encampment was centered, claims war damages to his property, consisting of 2 tons of growing grass, 40 bushels of potatoes, 15 pounds of mowing grass, and 5,664 feet of fence that were burned.
CE 1781	Military Operation	The British surrender at Yorktown, Virginia, ending the Revolutionary War.
CE 1794	Farmed/Harvested	Traveler William Strickland describes the infrequent old growth forest stands of the time: “In a few places original woods of small extent remain producing trees of wonderful magnitude, and standing so thick on the ground that though there is no underwood and they have no branches for many feet in height, they admit not of view in any direction above a few hundred yards...sound is equally destroyed, the report of a gun cannot be heard farther.”
CE 1812 - 1814	Military Operation	War of 1812.
CE 1812	Military Operation	One of the three prongs of the American invasion of Canada was sent northward along the Champlain Valley. It retired without seriously engaging the enemy.
CE 1813	Military Operation	Another American attempt to capture Montreal via the Champlain Valley failed.
CE 1814	Military Operation	British forces prepare to invade New York via the Champlain and Hudson Valleys with a 10,000 man army. An American naval victory on Lake Champlain stems the assault.
CE 1823	Built	The Champlain canal opens at Schuylerville.
CE 1824	Farmed/Harvested	The New York State Gazetteer lists Stillwater having 498 farmers who own 2,091 cattle, 555 horses, and 4,225 sheep.
CE 1850	Farmed/Harvested	Census data shows that the major crops on the battlefield farms are wheat, rye, corn, oats, and potatoes. Most farmers are working between 100 and 200 acres. Thirteen of eighteen farms listed have woodlots, a total of 135 acres. Farms with the lowest number of livestock have the lowest yields, as manure is an essential fertilizer
CE 1856	Established	Local citizens meet at the old Schuyler mansion to discuss the steps necessary to erect a monument in recognition of the surrender of General Burgoyne to General Gates, and the Saratoga Monument Association is formed.

Year	Event	Major Event Narrative
CE 1883 - 1892	Memorialized	Advocate Ellen Walworth, a member of the Saratoga Monument Association, researches the battles, solicits funds from private citizens, and places monuments on the battlefield.
CE 1917	Abandoned	The Champlain Canal route moves into the Hudson River and the old canal is abandoned.
CE 1917	Mined	A farm on the battlefield is purchased by the Pettinos Brothers and used for sand mining.
CE 1917	Established	The Saratoga Battlefield Association is formed with George Slingerland, Mayor or Mechanicville, named as president.
CE 1926	Built	A blockhouse replica is built at the Neilson Farm using stones from nearby stone walls.
CE 1927	Established	The State of New York designates the battlefield properties that had been purchased by the Saratoga Battlefield Association, as the Saratoga Battlefield. George Slingerland is named superintendent.
CE 1927	Memorialized	Thousands gather on the battlefield to mark the sesquicentennial of the battles of Saratoga.
CE 1929	Memorialized	Painted cast iron interpretive markers are placed throughout the battlefield by New York State.
CE 1929	Land Transfer	By this time, the battlefield contains 1,429 acres.
CE 1931	Memorialized	Monument to the Unknown American Dead, funded by the New York State Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) and the Memorial Pavilion, built by New York State, are dedicated.
CE 1936	Built	The last memorial constructed on the battlefield during park management by the state is the Kosciuszko Monument in 1936.
CE 1938	Established	Congress authorizes the establishment of Saratoga National Historical Park.
CE 1940	Planned	President Franklin D. Roosevelt and First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt visit the battlefield. FDR indicates a preference for locating the visitor center on Frasers Hill to capture the best views of the landscape.
CE 1940 - 1951	Planned	Numerous studies are completed to plan for the development of park facilities, including a historic base map, archeological studies, and master plans.
CE 1948	Established	Saratoga National Historical Park is officially established.
CE 1960	Rehabilitated	The Neilson House restoration effort is completed.
CE 1962	Built	The park's visitor center is constructed.
CE 1966	Built	The park tour road is completed. Several modifications to the landscape occur to accommodate the new roadbed including the removal of the Memorial pavilion and the shifting of the Kosciuszko monument.
CE 1972	Altered	The National Park Service builds an addition on the visitor center.
CE 1975	Moved	The Blockhouse is moved off the property.

Year	Event	Major Event Narrative
CE 2000	Altered	The tour road is widened to accommodate increased vehicular and bicycle traffic.
CE 2014	Removed	Park removes old water and waste system infrastructure at Block House site. (PEPC 52086, PMIS 193976)
CE 2016	Altered	Herbicides applied to control exotic plants in historic fields in the battlefield unit, including knapweed, oriental bittersweet, Japanese knotweed, and Russian olive. (PEPC 64218)
CE 2016 - 2019	Altered	From 2016-2019, vegetation is cleared to restore historically accurate forest and field configurations and improve interpretive vistas. (PMIS 221456)
CE 2016	Repaired	Culvert erosion repaired at Tour Stop 3. (PMIS 191435)
CE 2017	Altered	Goat browsing introduced on battlefield hillsides to reduce invasives and provide future safe access to complete the removal effort. (PEPC 70179)
CE 2018	Destroyed	Storm and wind event forces removal of 225 trees on tour road, tour stops, and the Wilkinson Trail. (PMIS 252213)
CE 2019	Rehabilitated	Rehabilitation of wayside exhibits and at the tour stops improves accessibility to them and their associated outdoor furnishings and paths. (PMIS 153021 and PMIS 227123)
CE 2020	Altered	Park performs deferred cyclic boundary maintenance and clearing along the existing Battlefield Unit boundary as well as recently acquired parcels. (PMIS 238802)
CE 2020	Rehabilitated	The historic visitor center stone stairs and associated stone walls and drainage are rehabilitated. (PMIS 246042)
CE 2021	Repaired	Culvert replacement and repairs to adjacent trail surface are completed on the Wilkinson Trail. (PEPC 104751)
CE 2021	Demolished	The park removes obsolete lights behind stone wall at the visitor center parking lot that have been replaced by solar lights. (PEPC 101533)
CE 2021	Planted	Plantings of red oak and white pine aim to recreate the 1777 field and forest pattern and views in a 2-acre parcel at Tour Stop 6 (Freeman’s farm). (PEPC 103170)
CE 2022	Built	Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor installs waysides at the Old Champlain Canal towpath on the hillside below Tour Stop 10 and on the towpath behind the Schuyler House. (PEPC 97816)
CE 2022	Altered	Replacement of battlefield tour road signs is accomplished in conjunction with rehabilitation of tour road waysides and redesign of paths for accessibility. Around a dozen tour road signs and two directional signs are replaced. (PEPC 107553)
CE 2022	Demolished	The North Redan pathway at Tour Stop 3 is removed. (Bemus Heights). (PEPC 110230)
CE 2022	Repaired	The Murphy Monument foundation is repaired. (PMIS 250801)
CE 2023	Rehabilitated	South Gate Road and parking lot are repaved and one of the two entrances is removed. (PMIS 246871)
CE 2024	Rehabilitated	Waysides are rehabilitated. (PMIS 257238)

Year	Event	Major Event Narrative
CE 2026	Restored	DAR Grove is restored.

Physical History:

INTRODUCTION

The history of the Saratoga Battlefield is extracted from the “Cultural Landscape Report for Saratoga Battlefield, Saratoga National Historical Park, Volume 1: Site History, Existing Conditions, and Analysis” (2002) and the “National Register of Historic Places Nomination for Saratoga National Historical Park” (2012). The following overview provides information on the physical development and evolution of the site, organized by time periods.

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.

PRE-CONTACT TO 1777

American Indian Habitation:
Prior to European settlement, New York State was inhabited largely by American Indian tribes of Iroquois and Algonquian ancestry (Figure 1). Most of present-day New York State was included in the tribal lands of the Seneca, Cayuga, Onondaga, Oneida, and Mohawk tribes, within the Iroquois sphere. These groups formed a loose alliance known as the Five Nations during the 1500s that achieved peace between the member nations. This association ended raids and feuds, resulting in enormous strength and unity for the Iroquois Nation, and secured their authority over much of the region. Meanwhile, Algonquian people controlled much of southern Canada, New England, and the coastal Mid-Atlantic States. They were independent groups allied for trading in peace and assistance in war, sharing loose linguistic ties and cultural traditions. The area known as Saratoga occupied the tribal boundary between the Iroquois and Algonquians. These people shared a common way of life and social organization but had barriers in language and intertribal politics that set them apart. (CLR 2002: 17)

The present spelling of “Saratoga” is derived from an American Indian word of disputed meaning, appearing in various forms on historical maps and in written accounts. While varying greatly in meaning, each shares the common theme of water, displaying the emphasis American Indians placed on the water resources of the region. The Algonquin tribe called Mahicans inhabited lands along much of the eastern corridor of New York State. Their lands extended from Lake Champlain to southern Dutchess County, eastern Vermont and to the Schoharie River in the west. The Mahicans traditionally built walled villages of approximately 200 people on riverbeds or hilltops. They practiced slash and burn agriculture and consequently moved their villages every ten years when the local firewood and cropland became depleted. They also relied heavily on the Hudson River, for fishing, transportation, and a water supply. Although the Mahicans undeniably lived in the area around Saratoga, they most likely never held settlements on the future American Revolutionary War battlefield. However, it has been speculated that they hunted in the area of the current battlefield park and may have altered the vegetation to expedite the practice. (CLR 2002: 17-18)

The Mohawk were a neighboring Iroquois tribe much at odds with the relatively peaceful Mahicans. The Mohawk tribe controlled the eastern-most portion of Iroquois territory in the Mohawk Valley and Adirondack Mountains. Mohawk family life was organized in larger villages of 500-1000 people who lived in multi-family longhouses. Settlements moved approximately twice a generation to seek new farmlands and hunting grounds. Mohawks were hunters, trappers, fishermen, and farmers like the neighboring Mahicans, but were known to be a more aggressive society. (CLR 2002: 18)

Henry Hudson, during his exploratory journey of the Hudson River for the Dutch East India Company in 1609, made contact with both the Mahicans and Mohawks. The establishment of a permanent Dutch trading post in 1614 soon followed this early contact on Castle Island, adjacent to a Mahican village. The location of this trading post gave the Mahicans a monopoly over the fur trade. This arrangement angered their Mohawk neighbors who resented paying tribute to the Mahicans and sparked hostility between the tribes, provoking a war between the Iroquois and Algonquians. The weaker Mahicans sought assistance from other Algonquin tribes including Hurons from the north, who were anxious to be involved with the lucrative fur trade. In spite of the Huron’s aid, the Mohawks defeated the Mahicans in 1624, capturing their lands west of the Hudson River. The Mahicans retreated to the east side of the river and rebuilt their settlements in the wake of their defeat. Yet, they continued to travel to the western side of the Hudson to hunt but returned to their own territory to avoid arousing Mohawk animosity. The victorious Mohawks did not establish settlements on their new land, though they did impose authority over the territory. (CLR 2002: 18)

The popular view of American Indians living in harmony with the natural environment, while largely true, is also romanticized. Local tribes recognized the opportunity created by trading with Europeans and they manipulated their environment to maximize yields. However, the brush burning practice that increased their hunting bounty ceased after the Mohawks victory, when the land around the future battlefield stopped being intensively used by the Mahicans. From this time until European settlement roughly one hundred years later, the vegetation reverted its natural state. Europeans who traveled

through the area during this time noticed the varied and abundant hardwood trees, including oaks, walnuts, and chestnuts. (CLR 2002: 18)

European Settlement:
Europeans, who had already established substantial settlements in New York City, within the Hudson Valley, and Albany, continued to expand their territory in the late 1600s. European influence extended north of Albany in 1683 when several wealthy individuals purchased nearly 170,000 acres of Mohawk land. Known as the Saratoga Patent, the land stretched twenty-two miles long and twelve miles wide and was divided among the eight patentees. It was not until 1750 however, that the land was further subdivided into smaller lots that were sub-leased to small farmers. The subdivision created long narrow parcels roughly oriented east-west, or perpendicular, to the Hudson River (Figure 2). These narrow parcels were then subdivided once again by the individual patentees. Leases were often granted for periods of time determined by lifetimes of the farmer and his family. Often, three lifetimes were specified in a lease, spanning the life of the farmer, his wife, and one of his children. (CLR 2002: 19)

Although the Saratoga Patent was created in the late 1600s, the land was not heavily settled until the middle of the next century. Conditions were hostile for prospective settlers because of the almost constant conflict between the French, British, and American Indian groups in the early 1700s. An early fort was built on the west side of the Hudson, south of the Fish Creek in 1709, but even the comfort of its presence did not entice many settlers to brave the wild landscape. (CLR 2002: 19-20)

Settlement was further deterred because of an order from the British government in 1727 prohibiting settlers from burning woodland as the Mahicans once had. The Crown, concerned for its empire, wanted to protect the supply of timber that was desperately needed for the building of British ships. Without fire as an expedient tool to clear the vast forests, discouraged settlers made little attempt to farm in the region. Early settlers of the region thus struggled for control, further complicated by Indian raids that were common on the sparsely settled frontier, often resulting in loss of property and life. One of the numerous French and Indian wars, King George's War (1744-1745) had widespread repercussions on the region. An Indian raid in 1745 destroyed the village of Saratoga. Houses, barns, and storerooms were burned, and many settlers were taken prisoner or killed. (CLR 2002: 20)

After the British gained control of North America in 1763, the lands north of Albany became attractive for settlement. The relative peace caused by the end of the French and Indian War, coupled with a reversal of the former policy banning the burning of woodlots, created a more inviting environment for the colonists. Swedish botanist Peter Kalm described the Saratoga landscape as well as the agricultural developments during this time of fledgling European occupation, during his journey north from Albany. He noted that the river ran very rapidly at first but then slowed and became deeper just before Saratoga. From this calmer portion of the river, Kalm found the shores very steep, though not high. In the areas where the banks were not as steep, farmers began to settle on the flat, fertile floodplain. Not many, however, ventured far beyond the hills to settle the wilderness beyond the river banks. He observed that the area was heavily wooded with sparse clearings where meadow grass, flax, and white and yellow wheat grew in fine black soil. The scattered farms of the Hudson River floodplain used worm fences to enclose fields and livestock. Kalm was impressed with the abundance of vegetation around him that included elm, linden, basswood, alder, dogwood, chestnut, elderberry, pine, and willow trees. The trees were often draped with wild grapevines along the banks of the river. (CLR 2002: 20)

One of the area’s principal landlords and early patentees, Philip Schuyler, capitalized on the region’s plentiful timber. He established a community in the 1760s at present day Schuylerville, or Saratoga, as it was known at the time, as an early center for milling and manufacturing. Schuyler dreamed of creating a community with a diverse work force of artisans and laborers to work in his mills, and advertised his village and provided jobs and housing for all those who wanted to become participating members of his community. He operated two sawmills on the Fish Creek that processed pine and oak timber. These mills were capable of processing thirty-three acres of timber each year. While being a profitable industry, logging also had another beneficial side effect. New farmers were attracted to the land cleared by Schuyler’s loggers, which stimulated local population growth. As the population of Saratoga and the surrounding countryside grew, Schuyler’s mills reportedly processed

logs for both Schuyler's personal business and for his tenant farmers who were slowly clearing their leased lands. (CLR 2002: 21)

By the 1770s Schuyler's operations had grown to include three sawmills, a gristmill, flax mill, and fishery that harvested herring, shad, and sturgeon. While Old Saratoga was a haven for laborers, it was also a company town. Schuyler owned all of the land, the company store, and industries, and created barracks for workers to rent. This company system did not extend well beyond his own lifetime, but his ideals about the viability of the community led the town through almost two hundred years of prosperity. (CLR 2002: 22)

Other people came to settle the Saratoga region in the mid to late 1700s, including religious groups that traveled together to establish new communities and congregations. A group of Rhode Island Baptists who had served as soldiers in the region during the French and Indian War were impressed with the abundant land, timber, and potential waterpower. After the conflict, they brought their families to the area, traveling along the Hoosic Trail, a former Native American and military road through Vermont and Massachusetts. The first Baptist community was officially recorded in Stillwater 1768. Since the lowlands along the river were occupied, these new farmers tended to settle on the elevated lands along the road from Bemis Heights to Saratoga Lake. Groups of Congregationalists from Connecticut and Quakers from the Hudson River Valley, especially Dutchess County, joined them. As seen in a map of "Land Owners and Patentees in 1777," the lands that comprise the future Saratoga Battlefield were part of a thriving rural settlement of modest-sized farmsteads by 1777 (Figure 3). Families carrying names such as Bemis, Neilson, Barber, Chatfield, and Freeman would forever be associated with the battlefield events that unfolded there in the fall.

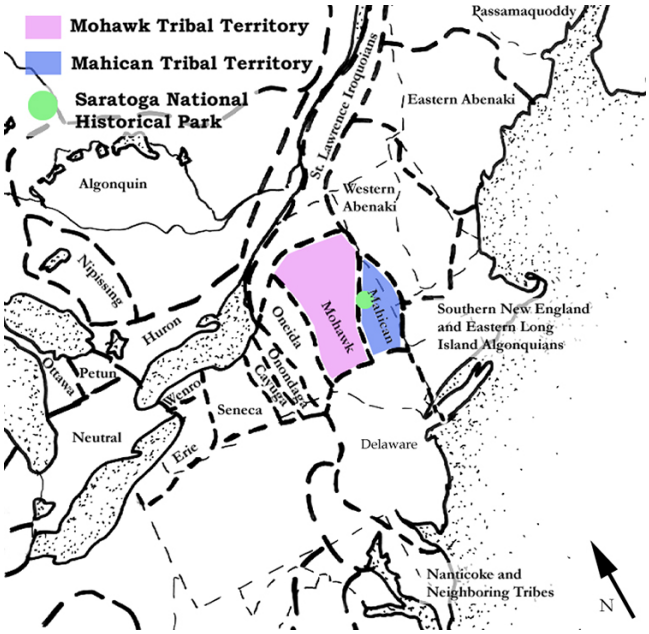


Figure 1. Diagram of tribal territories in the northeast. (Re-drawn from Handbook of North American Indians, Washington DC: Smithsonian Institution, 1978)

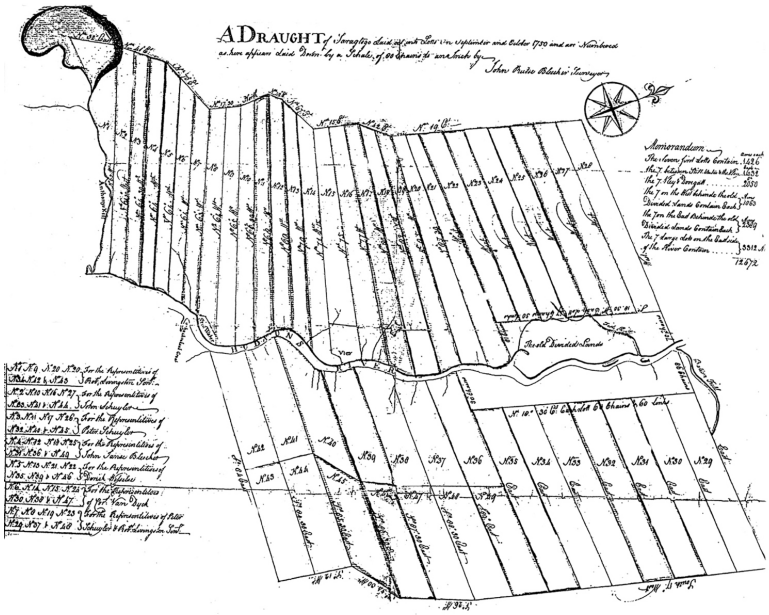


Figure 2. Drawing of the re-subdivision of the portion of the Saratoga Patent where the future battlefield park resides, 1767. (Saratoga NHP Archives)

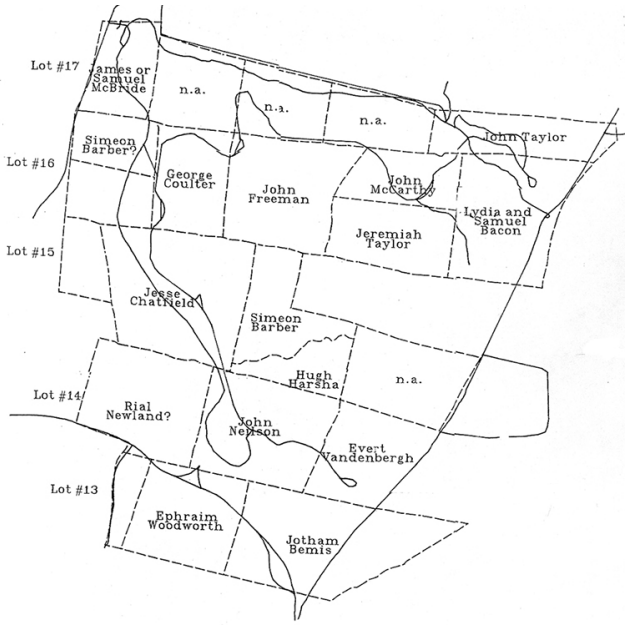


Figure 3. Lessees of 1777, showing tenants and landowners of the battlefield at the time of the battles. ("Draft Cultural Landscape Report for Saratoga National Historical Park," 1995, Saratoga NHP Archives)

THE BATTLES OF SARATOGA, 1777

The prospects for American independence were grim as the military campaign season of 1777 approached. A string of recent defeats exposed the weaknesses of the inexperienced and undermanned Continental Army in the face of the well-trained British forces, and made distant the memories of American victories in 1775 at Lexington and Concord, Fort Ticonderoga, and Bunker Hill. In the Northern Department, under the command of Major General Philip Schuyler, an ill-conceived operation against Canada aimed at driving the British out and drawing French Canadians to the cause resulted in defeat at Quebec City in December 1775. As the tattered remnants of the American forces led by Benedict Arnold attempted to lay siege to the city, some 4,000 troops under the command of British General John Burgoyne reinforced Sir Guy Carleton, governor and commanding general of the British forces in Canada. Carleton mounted a counteroffensive in June 1776 that drove the Americans out of Canada and into the southern end of the Champlain Valley. He then began preparations for a naval assault on the American strongholds at Crown Point and Fort Ticonderoga. Once the forts were captured, he intended to cross over to the Hudson River, capture Albany, and establish communications with General William Howe's army in New York City. On July 7, during a council of war attended by generals Benedict Arnold, Horatio Gates, and John Sullivan, Schuyler made the decision to assemble a flotilla at Skenesborough (now Whitehall), New York, to meet the threat and placed Arnold in command. On October 11, Arnold's makeshift navy met the advancing British off Valcour Island, just south of Plattsburgh, New York. While the battle, which constituted the first naval engagement of the war, resulted in the loss of all the American ships and forced Arnold's retreat overland to Fort Ticonderoga, it served to stall Carleton's advance. Within a week, an early snowfall induced Carleton to abandon the operation and return to Canada for the winter. For Burgoyne, who had accompanied Carleton, the expedition produced disappointment in the abilities of Carleton but reinforced his opinion of the strategic value in gaining control of the upper Hudson. He left for London in December to attend to his duties as a Member of Parliament and to lobby for a renewal of the campaign to be launched under his command the following year. (NR 2012, Sec.8: 31)

While Schuyler's Northern Department was struggling to turn back Carleton's advance, the main body of the Continental Army under George Washington was unable to prevent Howe from taking New York City. After landing at Staten Island on July 3, 1776, with more than 20,000 troops transported by a powerful flotilla commanded by his brother, Richard, Lord Howe, William Howe

defeated Washington in a series of battles that forced the Americans to retreat west into Pennsylvania. Washington's subsequent victories at Trenton (December 26, 1776) and Princeton (January 3, 1777) did much to revive the hopes of the American cause, but the British clearly held the initiative in all theaters of the war when the opposing forces went into winter quarters. (NR 2012, Sec.8: 31-32)

Planning for the Hudson River Campaign:
The British high command spent the winter months of 1777 developing plans for upcoming operations that it hoped would result in final defeat of the rebellion. Having driven the American forces out of Canada and holding strong positions in the major American seaports of New York City and Newport, Rhode Island, the British had options to launch attacks almost anywhere along the eastern seaboard. Two dominant strategies emerged: one designed to draw Washington's army into general battle by threatening the capital city of Philadelphia and the other to renew the operation to seize control of the Hudson River corridor. Burgoyne became the main proponent of the latter strategy. His experience with Carleton the previous year reaffirmed what he had believed from the earliest stages of the war. (NR 2012, Sec.8: 32)

Burgoyne was a well-connected member of England's social elite who, in addition to serving 30 years in the military, was a Member of Parliament and a playwright of some renown. Upon his return to England at the end of 1776, he had much to say about Carleton's uninspiring leadership and failure to vigorously prosecute the campaign for control of the Hudson River. He presented his ideas about the strategic value and how a successful operation might be conducted in an essay entitled "Thoughts for Conducting the War from the Side of Canada," which he presented to American Colonial Secretary Lord George Germaine in February 1777. His proposal called for a two-pronged offensive from Canada supported by a corresponding move up the Hudson River by Howe's army in New York City. He proposed to lead the main column of troops advancing from Canada with the initial objective of securing Lake Champlain by taking Crown Point and Fort Ticonderoga. A smaller force would move down from Canada to the Mohawk River Valley to divert the enemy's attention from the main advance and recruit troops from that area's loyalist-leaning populace. Burgoyne laid out several alternatives for proceeding after the capture of Fort Ticonderoga, including moving on to the Hudson River to make a junction with Howe at Albany or coordinating with troops in Newport to gain control of the Connecticut River Valley. His broad outlines lacked specifics about the ultimate goals of the campaign, which he left for his superiors to define during the development of the overall plans for 1777. Germaine supported Burgoyne's proposal and presented it to King George III and his war ministers for their consideration. (NR 2012, Sec.8: 32, citing Luzader 2002: 12-13)

Howe concurrently devised and proposed his own plans for the upcoming year. On November 30, 1776, he sent two letters to London. The first contained a report on the successful operations in New York, while the second outlined a multi-pronged offensive that included among its various movements the use of Rhode Island as a base for launching an attack on Boston and the dispatch of a force from New York City to Albany to support an anticipated renewal of Carleton's campaign from Canada. Shortly thereafter, however, Howe became convinced that his army should focus on the destruction of Washington's army, which he believed might be lured into general battle by threatening the capital city of Philadelphia. On December 20, before his earlier plans reached London, he sent another letter outlining his plans to delay the Rhode Island operation in favor of an overland assault through New Jersey to Philadelphia. However, Washington's victories at Trenton (December 25–26, 1776) and Princeton (January 3, 1777) soon altered the situation and caused Howe to change his plans again. After the Continental Army established winter quarter at Morristown, Washington was in position to harass Howe's flank and supply lines if the British chose to move overland toward Philadelphia. Howe subsequently concluded that the best way to proceed was to sail the bulk of his army to Chesapeake Bay and attack the city from the south. His second in command, Sir Henry Clinton, would be left to hold New York with a small force and vague orders that authorized him to support any operation from Canada if he were able to do so. Based on the slow progress of the previous year, Howe thought that Carleton would not near Albany until late fall, at which time he hoped to have accomplished his objectives and be able to supply troops from his army. (NR 2012, Sec.8: 32-33, citing Luzader 2002: 14-17)

When the King and his ministers devised the final orders for Burgoyne, they were aware of Howe's

intentions to take Philadelphia but did not yet know about the proposed amphibious operation. They ordered Burgoyne to make control of the upper Hudson River Valley his primary objective. Lieutenant-Colonel Barry St. Leger was placed in command of the force tasked with creating the diversion Burgoyne had proposed in the Mohawk Valley. When both forces met at Albany and established communications with the command in New York City, Burgoyne was to place himself under Howe's command and support operations in the south. The orders suggested that some form of support from forces on the lower Hudson would be forthcoming, but Howe was already at sea by the time orders reached New York. Clinton had neither the men nor clear orders that would allow him to cooperate with Burgoyne. Burgoyne's ignorance of Howe's plans and his persisting hope of support from the south weighed heavily in his decision-making throughout his campaign and had serious consequences on its prospects for success. (NR 2012, Sec.8: 33, as quoted in Luzader 2002: 18)

Burgoyne Moves South, May 6 through September 18, 1777:
Burgoyne arrived in Quebec on May 6, 1777, and found that Carleton had done much to assemble troops and material at St. Johns on the Richelieu River. Over the course of the following month, the men completed the final preparations. On June 13, the offensive sailed out toward its first destination of Crown Point, New York, near the southern end of Lake Champlain. The right wing of the army under the command of Major General William Phillips consisted of about 3,725 British regulars and 250 Loyalist scouts. About 3,000 German auxiliaries from Braunschweig and Hessen Hanau and 400 American Indian warriors from various Iroquois and Algonquin tribes comprised the left wing, led by Major General Friedrich Adolph, Baron von Riedesel. The army reserve consisted of about 250 unmounted Braunschweig dragoons under Lieutenant-Colonel Frederich Baum. Up to 1,000 non-combatants and camp followers, including about 250 women, attended the force. The artillery train consisted of about 138 pieces. The bulk of the army was to travel by water for much of the trip. Commodore Skeffington Lutwidge assembled dozens of canoes, hundreds of bateaux, nine Royal Navy vessels, and 28 gunboats under his command. Overland portions of the campaign required the use of hundreds of carts and draft animals to transport the enormous amount of provisions, baggage, ammunition, equipment, and other supplies necessary to support the army. Burgoyne intended to travel by water as far as practicable since it was the easiest means for transporting the army and its baggage. (NR 2012, Sec.8: 33; citing Luzader 2002: 19,75-76; Wood 1990: 137)

After securing an undefended Crown Point, burned by Arnold during his retreat after the Battle of Valcour Island, Burgoyne moved south toward Fort Ticonderoga where he expected to encounter his first serious opposition. The French initially constructed the fortress, known as the "Gibraltar of America," in 1755–1758 to control the strategically important location at the connection between Lake George and Lake Champlain. Benedict Arnold and Ethan Allen took the site in one of the few early American successes on May 10, 1775. The sprawling fortress and its outer defensive works required a force of 10,000 to properly man them, but a skeleton force of about 2,500 under the command of Major General Arthur St. Clair confronted Burgoyne. On July 5, Burgoyne ordered artillery to the commanding summit of Mt. Defiance, left unguarded due to St. Clair's limited forces. Under cover of darkness, St. Clair marched the bulk of the forces overland toward Castle Town (now Castleton), Vermont. Colonel Pierce Long was given about 600 men and was charged with evacuating the wounded and sick by boat, along with as much artillery and stores as could be accommodated. Long's objective was Skenesborough, where St. Clair hoped to join him later. (NR 2012, Sec.8: 33; citing Luzader 2002: 20-22; Wood 1990: 138)

Burgoyne dispatched the army's right-wing Advanced Corps under Brigadier-General Simon Fraser and a brigade from von Riedesel's division to pursue St. Clair's force, which reached Hubbardton, Vermont, on July 6. St. Clair left a small detachment of men under Colonel Seth Warner to cover the army's march and to collect the rear guard, consisting of the 11th Massachusetts Regiment under Colonel Ebenezer Francis and stragglers who had become disengaged from their units. Instead of obeying St. Clair's order to move immediately to Castle Town after the forces were joined, Warner and Francis decided to camp for the night at Hubbardton. On the morning of July 7, Fraser surprised them. After the initial shock, the Americans rallied and made a spirited fight, but the two-hour battle ended when a flanking maneuver by von Riedesel's men forced Warner to order a general retreat. More than half of the approximately 600 American troops engaged were killed, wounded, or captured. British losses came to 35 killed and 148 wounded. (NR 2012, Sec.8: 33-34; citing Luzader 2002: 24-

25; Wood 1990: 139-140)

While the Battle of Hubbardton was being waged, Burgoyne's advance guard caught up with Colonel Long at Skenesborough. After a brief skirmish, the Americans retreated south to Fort Anne. Burgoyne detached Lieutenant-Colonel John Hill with a force of about 190 men from the 9th Regiment of Foot to pursue Long, but a nearly impassable road caused delays. He took up a position about one mile from the Americans on the evening of July 7. Soon after reaching Fort Anne, about 400 New York militia troops, which Schuyler sent forward under the command of Henry Van Rensselaer, reinforced Long. Long decided to attack after gaining intelligence about the relatively small size of Hill's force and nearly succeeded in surrounding the British. Before the attack could be pressed home, however, an Indian war whoop deceived the Americans into believing that reinforcements had arrived. British Captain John Money, who had been sent with a detachment of Indian forces to assist Hill, actually delivered the war cry. When the Indians lagged behind, Money moved forward without them and issued the war whoop as an encouragement to Hill's beleaguered troops that reinforcements were arriving. The Americans heard the cries as well, and the ruse convinced Long to withdraw. He then ordered his troops to move toward Fort Edward. With the loss of Skenesborough and Fort Anne, St. Clair had little choice but to move south to Fort Edward. When he reached the fort on July 12, Schuyler met St. Clair and assumed personal command of the joined American forces. (NR 2012, Sec.8: 34; citing Luzader 2002: 25-26; Wood 1990: 140)

At Skenesborough, Burgoyne decided on the route he would take to reach the Hudson River. He could either make a retrograde movement to Fort Ticonderoga and continue the operation on water by way of Lake George or march overland to Fort Edward using Wood Creek and an adjacent road. He chose the latter because it eliminated two difficult portages and allowed him to stay in contact with the American main force, which intelligence reports told him was falling back toward Albany. He also considered the effect that the seeming retreat to Fort Ticonderoga would have on the minds of his soldiers and in bolstering the confidence of the Americans, who up to that point had presented little opposition to his advance. The decision meant, however, that Burgoyne had to cut loose a significant number of his boats to transport baggage and supplies over the lake route because the narrow Wood Creek would not allow passage. In the process, his supply line was overextended and he was forced to depend to a greater degree on foraging in the surrounding countryside to feed his army. (NR 2012, Sec.8: 34; citing Luzader 2002: 26)

When advised of the British movement on the overland route, Schuyler ordered his engineers to obstruct Burgoyne's advance in hopes of gaining time to assemble reinforcements for his army. Colonel Thaddeus Kosciuszko, a French-trained engineer who later played a critical role in laying out the defensive works at Saratoga, directed hundreds of troops to destroy bridges, fell trees, obstruct Wood Creek, and divert its waters to flood the road. Schuyler also ordered local farmers to drive away their cattle to prevent their confiscation by Burgoyne's foraging parties and force them to go farther afield to gather supplies. Schuyler's tactics had the desired effect, as it took Burgoyne 21 days to cover the 23 miles from Skenesborough to Fort Edward and provided Schuyler with valuable time to gather his forces. (NR 2012, Sec.8: 34; citing Wood 1990: 141-142)

By the time Burgoyne finally reached Fort Edward on August 1, his serious supply problems required him to halt the advance down the Hudson River to address shortages. Two days later Burgoyne received a letter from Howe regarding his operation against Philadelphia. With little hope of support or resupply from the south, Burgoyne decided to act on a report from von Riedesel that the Connecticut River Valley held a rich supply of agricultural foodstuffs and livestock, including horses that would allow him to mount his dragoons. Burgoyne detached a force of about 800 mostly German troops under Lieutenant-Colonel Friedrich Baum to cross the Green Mountains to the valley to gather supplies and potentially recruit additional troops. The expedition set out on August 9, and along the way a detachment of British sharpshooters, Loyalists, and American Indians augmented the group, bringing Baum's total strength to about 1,250. Two days later, Burgoyne received intelligence about a lightly guarded supply depot for the Continental Army at Bennington, Vermont. He immediately ordered the detachment to march toward that objective because it was much closer to his army (NR 2012, Sec.8: 34; citing Ketchum 1997: 282-283; Luzader 2002: 27-28; Wood 1990: 145)

A force of about 1,500 New Hampshire militia commanded by Brigadier General John Stark met Baum at a crossing of the Walloomsac River 4 miles northwest of Bennington on August 14. After finding that he was outnumbered, Baum requested reinforcements from Burgoyne and set about constructing defensive works on both sides of the river at the crossing. Burgoyne dispatched Breymann with 660 troops, but heavy rains the following day delayed the advance. Stark launched a full-scale attack on Baum's position on August 16, succeeding in enveloping the force in a three-pronged attack on his center and rear right and left flanks. After a heavy fight and the mortal wounding of Baum, the battle wound down by about 4:00 p.m. with the remnants of Baum's forces fleeing back toward Fort Edward. Breymann's relief force met them and pressed on to be met by Stark, who had been reinforced at about the same time by Seth Warner's command. Again, the Americans prevailed and forced a full retreat. The Battle of Bennington, as it became known, was a resounding victory for the Americans. British losses amounted to some 200 killed and wounded and 700 captured, while Stark's and Warner's casualties were estimated at about 50. The battle also prevented the resupply of Burgoyne's army and, together with the events unfolding almost simultaneously in the Mohawk River Valley, proved a crucial turning point in the fortunes of Burgoyne's campaign. (NR 2012, Sec.8: 34-35; citing Ketchum 1997: 297-305, 309-328; Luzader 2002: 30-32; Wood 1990: 146-149)

St. Leger's force, consisting of about 280 British and German soldiers, 800 Iroquois Indians, and 470 Loyalists, began its campaign down the Mohawk River Valley from Oswego on Lake Ontario on July 26. Meeting no opposition, St. Leger's column reached Fort Stanwix at Rome, New York, on August 2. It immediately began preparations to lay siege to the fort and its garrison of about 650 New York and Massachusetts troops under the overall command of Colonel Peter Gansevoort. Schuyler had alerted the Tryon County militia under Brigadier General Nicholas Herkimer to expect such a move, and Herkimer was able to assemble quickly a force of about 800 militia and 60 Oneida warriors to come to Gansevoort's aid. St. Leger sent a detachment of about 700 men, mostly Loyalists and Iroquois, under Loyalist Sir John Johnson to meet Herkimer. Johnson ambushed Herkimer's force at Oriskany on August 6. The Battle of Oriskany was a bloody affair that pitted neighbors fighting on both sides against one another. The Tryon County militia was defeated with about 500 killed, wounded, or captured. Herkimer was mortally wounded. While the battle took place, however, the Fort Stanwix garrison raided part of St. Leger's camp, capturing or destroying many of their supplies and thereby weakening St. Leger's prospects. On August 12, Schuyler sent forces from the main army to lift the siege at Fort Stanwix. The following day, Schuyler sent Benedict Arnold, who had recently been sent by Congress to take command of the relief force. At German Flats, approximately 30 miles south of the Oriskany Battlefield, Arnold's men captured a number of Loyalists and convinced one to spread rumors among St. Leger's troops that he was advancing in large numbers. The ruse worked on the Iroquois, who deserted the expedition. At that point St. Leger decided to abandon his operation and retreat to Canada, foiling another major element of Burgoyne's plans. (NR 2012, Sec.8: 35; citing Luzader 2002: 32-34; Sawyer 2007a and 2007b)

The successes against Baum and St. Leger came too late to save Schuyler from Congress's decision to remove him from command of the Northern Department. Congress had become increasingly dissatisfied with Schuyler's performance since the poorly executed operation against Canada, which Schuyler was supposed to lead until he was forced to withdraw due to poor health. Schuyler's personality and aristocratic Dutch patrician background, combined with a long-standing divide between New York and New England troops, factored into his inability to get along with many of the New Englanders under his command and caused problems in recruiting and commanding troops from those states. On August 10, while in the process of moving the army from Stillwater south to Van Schaick's and Haver (now Peebles) islands at the confluence of the Hudson and Mohawk rivers, Schuyler received a letter from John Hancock, president of Congress, notifying him that he was to be relieved and directing him to report to Washington's headquarters, along with St. Clair, presumably to face court martial over the loss of Fort Ticonderoga. He remained with the army until August 19, when his long-time rival and former second-in-command Major General Horatio Gates appeared in camp with orders to relieve him. (NR 2012, Sec.8: 35; citing Ketchum 1997: 335-337; Luzader 2002: 35-36)

Upon assuming command, Gates immediately began the process of improving army morale and building up the force to meet Burgoyne. Washington detached Colonel Daniel Morgan's newly

formed provisional Rifle Corps composed of about 500 specially selected marksmen from Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Maryland and ordered 750 men from Israel Putnam's army in the New York highlands to the Northern Department. Arnold, after leaving a garrison of 700 at Fort Stanwix, arrived with an additional 1,200 men. (NR 2012, Sec.8: 35; citing Wood 1990: 150)

Preparation of the American Defenses on the Saratoga Battlefield, September 12–18, 1777:
The delay in the British advance provided critical time for the Americans to re-organize and establish a strong defensive position south of Saratoga. By early September, Gates had some 7,500 troops under his command on the west side of the Hudson and another 2,000 to threaten Burgoyne's left flank under Major General Benjamin Lincoln in Vermont. Gates returned north to Stillwater, where he scouted for favorable terrain to establish a fortified defensive position to block Burgoyne's advance. He found such a place 3 miles north at Bemis Heights and began deploying his army there on September 12. (NR 2012, Sec.8: 35-36; citing Wood 1990: 150)

The American forces that controlled Bemis Heights held the key ground on the Saratoga Battlefield that was a significant factor in determining the prosecution and outcome of the ensuing battles. The heavily wooded bluff named after Jotham Bemis (or Bemus), a farmer who also kept a tavern below the heights on the Road to Albany, perched above a steep escarpment rising from a narrow defile of cleared flat land between its base and the river. Immediately to the north, a wider area of swampy ground occupied the area within an eastern bend of the river. The Road to Albany, the route that Burgoyne had to travel to maintain contact with the river, ran through the lowlands, fully visible to observation and fire from the heights above it. The combination of the alluvial flats to the immediate north, known as the "Vly" (Dutch for swamp or marsh), and the natural defile created by the near-intersection of the bluffs, road, and river, severely limited an enemy army's maneuverability and tactical options. (NR 2012, Sec.8: 36)

Gates placed Colonel Kosciuszko in charge of erecting field fortifications to strengthen the American position. Kosciuszko constructed a series of mutually supporting redoubts on the bluff and placed artillery there. More guns were placed in the lowlands between the road and the river where the Americans dug a trench and built breastworks that provided a protected open field of fire on the Road to Albany. If Burgoyne attempted to pass through the gauntlet at the base of the heights, American artillery on the road and the bluff above it could subject the British army to withering enfilade. (NR 2012, Sec.8: 36; citing Ketchum 1997: 347-348)

Burgoyne's other alternative was to ascend the heights and either bring the Americans to battle or circumvent their position. The area north of the American position consisted of heavy woods interspersed with small farm fields, ravines, and streams, while traditional British military tactics favored open ground where they could mass strength in formation and maneuver freely. Gates and Kosciuszko recognized, however, that Bemis Heights was vulnerable to attack from higher ground about three quarters of a mile to the west on the farm belonging to John Neilson. Accordingly, Kosciuszko constructed fortifications and placed artillery along the summit of the hill and along the crest of the ravine draining down toward American Creek. His men cut thousands of trees to build fortifications and create clear fields of observation and fire that would make the position immune to surprise attack. In addition, Kosciuszko destroyed bridges over streams and felled trees across the roads leading to the American position to make enemy movements, particularly artillery, more difficult. These batteries and fortifications dictated the tactics of both armies and the course of the ensuing battles. (NR 2012, Sec.8: 36; citing Ketchum 1997: 354)

Gates organized the army into two wings, the left consisting of Morgan's Corps and the brigades of Brigadier Generals Enoch Poor and Ebenezer Learned and the right with brigades of Brigadier Generals John Patterson, John Nixon, and John Glover under his own command. The bulk of the army defended the heights around John Neilson's Farm. Its position resembled an inverted "V," with the western leg beginning south of a road leading west from the Road to Albany to Saratoga Lake and the eastern leg extending southeast along a deeply cut ravine toward Bemis Heights. The apex of the V was just north of the John Neilson House (the park's only surviving building that was present at the time of the battles). John Neilson built the house about two years earlier when he moved to the area from his native New Jersey. He enlisted in the Continental Army, and his house was vacant when the opposing armies took up their positions. Located on a hill overlooking much of the

American lines to the east and west, the house was an obvious choice as quarters for the left wing's general staff. Both Enoch Poor and Benedict Arnold are said to have occupied it during the course of the battles. Smaller bodies of men supported the Bemis Heights redoubts, the entrenchments along the Road to Albany, and an outpost west of the Neilson Farm. A skirmishing detachment headed north on the Road to Albany to provide advance warning should Burgoyne choose that route. Gates established his headquarters in Ephraim Woodworth's house on the south side of the road to Saratoga Lake where he could readily communicate with both wings. (NR 2012, Sec.8: 36; citing Luzader 2002: 70; Wood 1990: 150)

The First Battle of Saratoga (Freeman's Farm), September 19, 1777:
On September 18, Burgoyne finalized his plans to attack the Americans. He knew of the commanding position that Gates held at Bemis Heights. Tied to the river to float his supplies, Burgoyne had to decide whether to force his way through the strong position or attempt a flanking movement. He decided against a direct assault along the Road to Albany and chose instead to explore the possibilities in the uplands and coordinate an attack on the American army's left wing. Burgoyne devised a three-pronged attack using the available roads leading south and west from Swords' farm toward the American position. He gave Fraser the responsibility for executing the flanking movement by taking about 2,400 men, including his Advanced Corps and most of the Loyalist and American Indian troops, 3 miles on a road leading westward and then south toward the Great Ravine. Breymann's Reserve corps (about 530 troops) followed as a reserve force. Burgoyne chose to move with the center column comprised of about 1,700 troops from the British right wing under Brigadier General James Hamilton. This column moved west behind Fraser for a short distance before turning south on a road leading down to the Great Ravine. From there it planned to cross the ravine and take up a position north of John Freeman's Farm. Von Riedesel led the left column consisting of about 1,600 mostly German troops on the Road to Albany, bringing the main artillery and guarding supplies and the boats on the river. Upon reaching their designated positions, a prearranged signal of guns would mark the commencement of simultaneous movements against the American camp. With the order of battle set, the operation began in the morning of September 19 (Figure 4). (NR 2012, Sec.8: 37; citing Luzader 2002: 41-42)

After receiving information from his advance pickets that Burgoyne was on the move, Gates initially thought to await attack from behind his strong entrenchments. Arnold, however, felt that his left flank was vulnerable to the type of move Burgoyne was attempting and requested that he be allowed to send a reconnaissance force to determine Burgoyne's intentions. If, as he feared, they were found to be advancing on his left, Arnold believed it better to check them north of the army's position where the heavy woods and uneven topography would allow his light infantry to operate more effectively than the British. After gaining Gates' assent, Arnold ordered Morgan's Corps, which consisted of Morgan's rifle battalion and Major Henry Dearborn's light infantry battalion, to move out on the road leading north from Neilson's Farm toward Freeman's Farm. Morgan positioned his men around Freeman's house and barn located on a hill near the western edge of the farm's clearing. (NR 2012, Sec.8: 37; citing Luzader 2002: 42)

At about noon, the advance pickets of Hamilton's center column emerged from the woods at the northern end of the Freeman Farm clearing. Morgan's men met them with fire that struck down all of the officers present and most of the troops. Those who survived retreated in disorder into the woods, where Hamilton's main force opened fire believing them to be Americans. As Morgan's men pursued, advance units of Fraser's corps attacked on their flanks, forcing the Americans to scatter into the woods at the southern end of the farm. Arnold sent three New Hampshire regiments from Poor's Brigade to reinforce Morgan at his position. Hamilton assembled his four regiments at the clearing's northern end. (NR 2012, Sec.8: 37; citing Luzader 2002: 42)

Hamilton's 62nd Regiment moved out across the field to resume the fight at about 3:00 p.m. The Americans attacked on the regiment's front and left flank. Coming on despite the heavy fire, the British attempted a bayonet charge, but the Americans repulsed it and captured two cannons pushed forward in support of the British attack. As Poor's men pursued the retreating British, the British rallied and again advanced on the hill, recapturing the cannon and forcing the Americans to pull back. During the battle, Arnold sent forward additional regiments from Poor's Brigade to support Learned's Brigade, which advanced to the left of Poor's and skirmished with Fraser's column positioned on the

McBride and Marshall farms (west and north of Freeman's Farm). Hamilton's 9th Regiment moved to the right to establish contact with Fraser's left, thwarting any potential for Learned to exploit the gap between the two columns, and posted at two cabins (later known as the Canadian Cabins) flanking the road at the eastern end of McBride's farm clearing. In the meantime, Hamilton's 20th Regiment entered the woods on the left of the 62nd in an attempt to turn Morgan's right flank. (NR 2012, Sec.8: 37; citing Luzader 2002: 43-45)

The fighting at Freeman's Farm raged back and forth for about three hours as the forces attacked and counter attacked across the open field. In the meantime, von Riedesel's left column on the Road to Albany made little progress, spending much of the day establishing defensive positions to guard the army supplies under his care and constructing new bridges along the Road to Albany to replace those destroyed by the Americans. With the sounds of battle heard to the west, von Riedesel dispatched two companies of the Regiment and von Rhetz to a wooded bluff on the south side of the Great Ravine to cover a road that ran west toward Freeman's Farm and to be in position to join the battle if necessary. (NR 2012, Sec.8: 37-38; citing Luzader 2002: 45)

When Burgoyne recognized that Hamilton's outnumbered forces were on the verge of breaking, he sent orders to von Riedesel to send reinforcements to fall on the enemy's right flank. At about 5:00 p.m., von Riedesel led a force consisting of his own regiment, the two detached von Rhetz companies, and two 6-pound artillery pieces under Captain Georg Päusch out onto the wooded road leading toward Freeman's Farm. Upon reaching the side branch of the ravine bordering the eastern side of the farm, he sent his troops into the ravine on the American's right flank. Päusch's artillery entered the ravine as well, over an intact bridge, and dragged their guns across the flat clearing along the road to the hills on the other side of the field where the Americans were pushing the British line back. With great difficulty, they brought the guns up onto one of the hills. The 21st Regiment joined von Riedesel in his attempt to force through the ravine on the southern side of the farm. With the arrival of the reinforcements, the British rallied and pushed forward on the American right as night fell, forcing them back for the final time. The engagement ended with nightfall and the American withdrawal from the field. (NR 2012, Sec.8: 38; citing Luzader 2002: 45)

With the American withdrawal, the British could rightfully claim a tactical victory in the First Battle of Saratoga. The victory, however, did nothing to improve Burgoyne's chances of reaching Albany and came at a significant cost to his dwindling army, which suffered about 600 men killed, wounded, or captured. Gates, who lost about half that number, remained firmly in position to block his path to Albany. (NR 2012, Sec.8: 38; citing Luzader 2002: 45)

Defensive Interval between the Battles, September 20 through October 6, 1777:
While men on both sides expected the fight to resume the morning of September 20, Burgoyne decided to forestall action to rest his troops. The break also allowed his medical staff to attend to the wounded at his overtaxed field hospital and some regiments to reorganize. Early the following day he received a letter from Clinton in New York City stating that if Burgoyne thought it would be of help, he was willing to make a push up the lower Hudson. Clinton wrote the letter shortly after learning on September 11 of the defeat at Bennington and the slow progress of Burgoyne's march. He wanted to relieve the pressure on Burgoyne if possible by launching an attack up river to take Fort Montgomery and other American forts in the area that would draw off troops from Gates' army. With Washington off in Pennsylvania in pursuit of Howe, and expecting his own reinforcement any day, Clinton believed he could spare 2,000 troops to begin the movement "in about 10 days." While hardly a concrete promise of support, the news buoyed Burgoyne, who immediately sent word requesting that Clinton begin his operation as soon as possible. Despite being dangerously low on supplies, Burgoyne determined to dig in and await Clinton's advance. (NR 2012, Sec.8: 38; citing Luzader 2002: 45,50)

Later the same day, after hearing a cannonade of celebration from the Americans, Burgoyne learned Fort Ticonderoga had fallen to the enemy, and the news reinforced his decision to stay. A force of about 500 men under Colonel John Brown of Major General Benjamin Lincoln's command surprised the British manning the works on September 18 and succeeded in freeing more than 100 American prisoners and capturing more than 250 British and Canadian troops. They also took a large amount of Army stores, including arms and provisions. The action proved to Burgoyne that he had little

choice but to go forward and that he had to do it soon, as the Americans demonstrated that they were in position to cut both his supply line and his avenue of retreat. (NR 2012, Sec.8: 38; citing Ketchum 1992: 376-378)

Burgoyne spent the following two weeks strengthening his lines, which stretched in a convex arcing line from the river west to McBride's Farm in the northern portion of the Saratoga Battlefield. Natural landscape features separated the army's five distinct units. An encampment of Loyalist and Indian troops—along with the baggage, bateaux and scows, park of artillery, general hospital, and supplies—occupied the low plain along the river north of the Great Ravine. Von Riedesel's German troops manned a chain of small posts on the south side of the ravine and also in the lowlands. The bulk of von Riedesel's left wing of the army and Hamilton's right wing of the army established fortified lines on the plateau above the river on the farm lots leased by John McCarthy and Jeremiah Taylor. The Great Ravine bordered the position on the north, the wood bluff overlooking the river bordered it on the east, the Middle Ravine on the south, and a deep branch of the Middle Ravine separating the McCarthy and Freeman farms on the west. Fraser's Advanced Corps occupied Freeman's Farm, while Breymann's Reserve Corps occupied the eastern portion of McBride's farm to the north and west. (NR 2012, Sec.8: 38)

The British threw up a series of field fortifications along the lines to provide protection in case of attack. The massive construction effort employed more than a thousand men and required the felling of thousands of trees and a significant amount of earth moving. Artillery emplacements on the three hills that rose above the plain to the west guarded the lowland positions. The Great Redoubt located on the southernmost hill just north of the Great Ravine was the most imposing of these. A V-shaped line of abattis protected Hamilton's and von Riedesel's wings on the plateau. Fraser's Advanced Corps constructed the strongest position of the entire line around the Freeman Farm buildings, named the Balcarres Redoubt for Major Alexander Lindsay, 6th Earl of Balcarres, who commanded the Light Infantry Battalion. The oblong fortification with log and earthen walls that ranged from 4 to 14 feet in height stretched some 500 yards on a roughly north/south axis. Eight pieces of artillery supported it. The soldiers constructed a smaller redoubt to the northwest composed of a single line of breastworks about 200 yards long and 7 to 8 feet high. It provided cover for Breymann's Corps and guarded the British extreme right and the road to Quaker Springs. Log and earthen walls fortified the Canadian Cabins, located in the gap between the Balcarres and Breymann redoubts, along the road leading down to the Great Ravine. In addition to these major structures, the men constructed a number of smaller open-back fortifications throughout the line. Burgoyne also constructed a bridge of bateaux across the river to a tête-de-pont (a bridgehead fortification that could be used to protect a bridge from attack or cover a crossing force during retreat) to facilitate foraging and reconnaissance missions and to provide a route for communicating with Clinton. (NR 2012, Sec.8: 39)

Gates also made efforts during the lull in fighting to further strengthen his American defensive positions on Bemis Heights and continued to receive reinforcements. A growing rift with Arnold became his most significant problem during the interval. Gates had been on good terms with Arnold until recently, when he became increasingly doubtful of his loyalty, suspecting that Arnold was among a group of officers in camp who were openly loyal to his predecessor, Major General Philip Schuyler. The group spread rumors about Gates' attempts to defame Schuyler, whom he detested, in favor of his assuming command of the Northern Department. For his part, Arnold felt that Gates did not properly support his attack at Freeman's Farm. When Gates reassigned Morgan's Corps to his own command, Arnold became increasingly dissatisfied with his treatment. The rift became serious after Gates failed to mention Arnold in his official report on the First Battle of Saratoga. Arnold, extremely ambitious and jealous of his reputation, took the slight personally and angrily confronted Gates. After being granted a pass to Philadelphia, Arnold refused to leave camp and continued to agitate against Gates among his clique of Schuyler partisans. (NR 2012, Sec.8: 39; citing Luzader 2002: 48; Wood 1990: 162-163)

By the end of September, Burgoyne's fatigued army was low on provisions. Gates was keenly aware of Burgoyne's situation and determined to do all he could to exacerbate it. On an almost nightly basis, Gates sent skirmishers forward to probe Burgoyne's river defenses and threaten his supply base there. Skirmishing designed to harass and discourage the effort met all discovered foraging expeditions. These actions further fatigued and demoralized the British army, and an increasing rate

of desertion became a serious concern for Burgoyne. On October 3, he announced that rations needed to be cut by one-third but tempered the news by informing the army that help in the form of Clinton's army was on its way. (NR 2012, Sec.8: 39; citing Ketchum 1997: 382-383)

However, Burgoyne did not have any formal intelligence regarding Clinton's progress. Clinton actually delayed his operation more than a week beyond his proposed start, not getting under way until October 3. He initially headed toward a series of American forts on the lower Hudson under the command of Major General Israel Putnam. Putnam had recently sent a good portion of his army to reinforce Washington and was left with a skeleton force of about 1,500 Continental Army troops and a number of unreliable militia units. Clinton's force consisted of about 3,000 British Regulars transported on navy vessels. On October 5, Clinton landed at Verplanck's Point and scattered a force of Americans there. Putnam reacted by moving inland about 4 miles and ordering reinforcements from Forts Montgomery and Clinton to join him there for an expected attack. Clinton left a force of about 1,000 men at Verplanck's to deceive Putnam of his intentions and succeeded in easily taking the undermanned forts. As Putnam retreated northward, Clinton cut the log boom the Americans had erected in the river and easily took Fort Constitution across from West Point on October 7. The next day he sent word to Burgoyne of the encouraging news that nothing now stood in his way to Albany. By that time, however, the British army had already fought and lost the Second Battle of Saratoga. (NR 2012, Sec.8: 39; citing Luzader 2002: 51)

On October 4, the day after he cut his men's rations, Burgoyne decided that he could wait no longer for word from Clinton. He called a council of war attended by generals Phillips, Fraser, and von Riedesel and informed them of his plans to attack the Americans. He proposed to leave 800 men to guard the supplies near the river and use the rest of his army to attack Gates' left and rear. The boldness of his plan shocked his subordinates, who advised against it. They argued that a flanking movement would take too much time to execute and be discovered too easily, leaving the force guarding the supplies vulnerable to attack. If the Americans succeeded, the army would lose both its sustenance and escape route. The conference adjourned without reaching a decision. (NR 2012, Sec.8: 39-40; citing Luzader 2002: 51-52)

The next day, von Riedesel urged Burgoyne to withdraw north of Saratoga to the mouth of the Batten Kill, where he could reestablish his supply line with Canada and await Clinton's advance. If Clinton did not arrive, the army could retreat the way it had come. Burgoyne rejected the proposal, believing the retreat would bring disgrace on the army, and determined to make a last attempt to force his way through the Americans. He revised his plan to make a more conservative attack on Gates through a reconnaissance-in-force that would test Gates' left and forage for supplies along the way. If the reconnaissance found conditions favorable, he would commit the army to a general attack the following day. If the American positions were determined to be too strong, he would acquiesce to von Riedesel's plan to retreat to Batten Kill on the 11th. (NR 2012, Sec.8: 40; citing Luzader 2002: 51-52)

The Second Battle of Saratoga (Bemis Heights), October 7, 1777:
Burgoyne assembled about 1,700 elite troops from various units of the army to conduct the reconnaissance-in-force, leaving the rest (about 5,400 men) behind to man the defenses. Burgoyne decided to accompany the expedition personally and arranged the troops into three columns under command of his most able officers. Fraser led the right column, which consisted of Balcarres' Light Infantry Battalion, the 24th Regiment, and his nephew Captain Alexander Fraser's British Rangers supplemented with a collection of Canadian, Indian, and Loyalist troops and would serve as an advance scout unit. The center column under von Riedesel contained men picked from all the Braunschweig and Hanau units; a detachment of jägers, chasseurs, and grenadiers from Breymann's Corps; and some British troops under Phillips' command. The left column was manned by Major John Dyke Acland's British Grenadier Battalion. Ten pieces of artillery under the overall command of Major Griffith Williams supported the force. (NR 2012, Sec.8: 40; citing Luzader 2002: 51-53; Wood 1990: 165-166)

The operation got underway sometime in the late morning of October 7 with the main force marching south on the Quaker Springs Road, through the abandoned Marshall farm, and out into the open wheat fields of the farms leased by brothers Simeon and Joshua Barber (Figure 5). It quickly drove a small picket of American troops stationed at Simeon Barber's house from the field. At this point, the

march halted while foragers cut wheat. Some men attempted to reconnoiter the American lines from the roof of Simeon Barber's house, but tall intervening trees obscured the views. The columns were deployed into a line that stretched about 1,000 yards north from the main branch of Mill Creek. Fraser positioned the British light infantry in Joshua Barber's clearing at the base of the wooded hill with the 24th Regiment on its left along a road that led into the woods between the fields. Von Riedesel's men took up a position in Simeon Barber's clearing with Acland's grenadiers on its left. (NR 2012, Sec.8: 40; citing Luzader 2002: 53)

Warned that the British were again on the move by the pickets who fled their post on the Barber farm, Gates sent his aide Lieutenant-Colonel James Wilkinson to determine the nature of the force. Wilkinson reported that the British were spread out with their flanks resting on wooded areas that would offer concealment for an attack. With this information, Gates ordered Morgan to prepare to move forward. After consulting further with Wilkinson, Morgan determined that the most vulnerable point was the British right positioned at the base of the wooded hill on Joshua Barber's farm. He proposed to make a circuit to the left, taking the hill from the west and thereby gaining commanding ground from which his riflemen could enfilade the British ranks. Gates approved the plan and allotted time for the movement in his plans to assail the British left wing simultaneously. He gave that mission to Poor's Brigade, which could take advantage of the concealment offered by the forest cover on Acland's left flank. Poor planned to take his men from the Neilson Farm north along the Quaker Springs Road that led directly to Simeon Barber's farm. Learned followed Poor with the assignment to attack the center to occupy von Riedesel and prevent him from supporting the columns on the flanks. (NR 2012, Sec.8: 40)

Poor's Brigade reached Jesse Chatfield's farm across Mill Creek from Acland's lines at about 3:00 p.m. After learning that his probe had been discovered, Burgoyne decided to abandon plans for further advance on the American left but, believing that he held the high ground and could hold the Americans off, determined to at least allow his foragers to complete their work. He ordered Williams to direct artillery fire on the Americans as a deterrent to their advance. The cannonade had no effect, however, and at about 3:30, Poor's men emerged from the woods and swept up an open hill undaunted by a round of small arms and grape fire that mostly sailed over their heads. Continuing on until they reached close range, the Americans unleashed a heavy volley that felled many of the grenadiers, including Acland who was shot through both legs and captured. The British retreated in confusion, followed by the Americans who captured Williams' guns. (NR 2012, Sec.8: 40-41; citing Ketchum 1997: 395-397)

Morgan commenced his attack on Fraser on the right side of Burgoyne's lines about the same time that Poor engaged the left. He brought his rifle corps to the hill commanding the British light infantry's position and opened fire. As Simon Fraser attempted to meet the threat by consolidating his flank, Dearborn came up and delivered a devastating close-range volley followed by a bayonet charge that shattered the formation. The British light infantry fell back toward the woods bordering the Barber farm and formed a new line across the Quaker Springs Road. With the columns on the right and left dissolving, Learned's Brigade, supported by Brigadier General Abraham Ten Broeck's brigade of New York militia and a regiment from Brigadier General Jonathan Warner's Massachusetts militia, attacked von Riedesel in the middle. Von Riedesel successfully met the initial attack, forcing the Americans back. While the Americans reformed, Arnold, without orders to do so, appeared on the field to assist in rallying the men and led a fresh assault that forced the Germans to give way. Fraser determined to defend his positions to provide time for von Riedesel and what was left of Acland's men to organize an orderly retreat but was mortally wounded. The British forces made a general retreat to the Balcarres Redoubt. (NR 2012, Sec.8: 41; citing Luzader 2002: 54-55; Wood 1990: 166-167)

By about 5:00 p.m., the remnants of Burgoyne's probing force took up positions within the fortified British camp. The probe cost Burgoyne about 400 casualties and the loss of eight cannons, but his defensive position was strong and the battle was not yet decided. The ensuing fight centered on the main stronghold at the Balcarres Redoubt, attacked first by Poor's men who advanced through the Marshall and Freeman farms in pursuit of the retreating British. A withering volley met them as they came into the open ground in front of the redoubt and in the face of a superior and entrenched force. Poor decided to pull back to wooded cover. Meanwhile, Gates sent additional troops to join the

action, bringing the total number of the force moving against Burgoyne to about 7,000 men. Following up on their attacks, Morgan and Learned moved on to assault Breymann's Redoubt on the British camp's extreme right. Learned easily swept past the Canadian Cabins defending the gap between the Breymann and Balcarres redoubts and invested the now-vulnerable southern left of the German position. Morgan hit the Breymann Redoubt from the south and west. During the attack, Arnold, who participated with Poor in his initial assault on the Balcarres Redoubt, rejoined Learned in the attack on the German rear and was wounded in the leg during the fighting. Breymann was killed during the action, which soon turned into a full rout that left the Americans in possession of the German camp and redoubt and fully exposed the British right flank. At that point, the onset of darkness ended the day's fighting. With the superior American force on his flank, Burgoyne ordered a withdrawal during the night to the heights of the Great Redoubt. (NR 2012, Sec.8: 41)

Burgoyne's Retreat and Surrender, October 8 to October 17, 1777:
Burgoyne repositioned his weary and badly torn army the following day near the strongly fortified Great Redoubt. While the Americans advanced into the former British camp and kept up a steady barrage of artillery fire, the British command held a solemn evening burial service for Fraser, who died from his wounds earlier in the day. Burgoyne's options were now limited to either retreat or surrender. He chose to retreat, still retaining the faint hope that Clinton might yet provide relief from the south. The British began to move northward on the Road to Albany during the afternoon of October 8. Burgoyne had to leave some 400 wounded at the hospital behind the lines with a letter requesting that Gates provide for their protection. A cold, drenching rain delayed the march as the beaten army struggled to haul its artillery and baggage over the narrow road and along the river by boat. The progress was so slow that the rear guard under Balcarres did not complete its removal until the following day. (NR 2012, Sec.8: 41, citing Luzader 2002: 56-57)

On October 9 Burgoyne entrenched his troops a few miles north of the battlefield, in the village of Saratoga (present day Schuylerville) and . until, short of supplies, he surrendered on October 13

Having achieved his initial goal of preventing Burgoyne from reaching Albany, Gates began making plans to capture the entire invading force. He had already done much to position forces in Burgoyne's rear to cut his supply lines and now had the opportunity to use those troops to block his path of retreat. When Burgoyne arrived at Saratoga on October 9 he indeed found his way north and east blocked. He moved his army to the heights on the west side of the village and spent that evening at Philip Schuyler's country manor, while 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 (vestiges of the fortifications can still be discerned on the landscape of the Victory Woods). 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.

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, Colonel Ebenezer Stevens, commander of the artillery, placed his cannons on the flats of the Fish Kill and effectively destroyed Burgoyne's flotilla and the provisions they contained. Gates completed his movements on October 12 with his army to the south, Morgan on the west, Stark on the north, and Fellows to the east. That same day, facing a critical situation with his army dangerously low on rations and the men exposed without shelter to continuous American artillery bombardment, Burgoyne called a council of war to discuss options with his general staff, but at this time a surrender was not among them. However, the next day Burgoyne again called his staff together for the purpose of gaining consensus on his decision to seek honorable terms for capitulation. On October 14, 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, and began to stall negotiations in hopes that Clinton's forces would arrive from the south. On the evening of October 15 the commissioners agreed to the terms of the

articles of convention that would surrender Burgoyne's army. Around the same time, Burgoyne received news that Clinton had advance to about 45 miles south of Albany. Burgoyne again attempted to prolong negotiations, but Gates demanded an immediate and decisive decision. With all options exhausted, the British commander signed what was then titled the "Convention of Saratoga ' on October 16. 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: 41-43; citing Luzader 2002: 58-60,63-66)

Burgoyne's defeat at Saratoga ended British plans to conquer the Americans, although subsequent operations conducted by General Haldimand from Canada continued to be a concern throughout the war. While Howe succeeded in his mission to take Philadelphia, the British abandoned the strategy of bringing the rebellion to an early end through concerted land operations that had shown so much promise at the beginning of the 1777 campaign season. In 1778, British aims shifted to naval operations and more limited targets. Later, the primary theater of war shifted to the southern states. The American's success in defeating a major arm of the world's most powerful army brought international recognition to their cause for liberty. France entered the war that winter on the American side. In 1779, Spain entered the war, and the following year the Netherlands allied against the British. The credit, money, supplies, ships, and men that the new allies provided tipped the balance to the American side and ultimately led to final victory at Yorktown in 1781. (NR 2012, Sec.8: 43; citing Luzader 2002: 67-69)

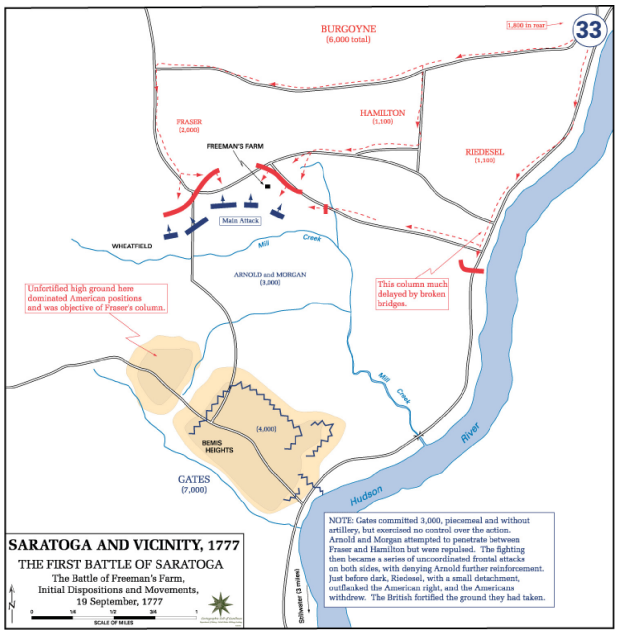


Figure 4. Initial dispositions and movements at the Battle of Freeman's Farm, September 19, 1777. (History Department, United States Military Academy, from Wikipedia: Battles_of_Saratoga)

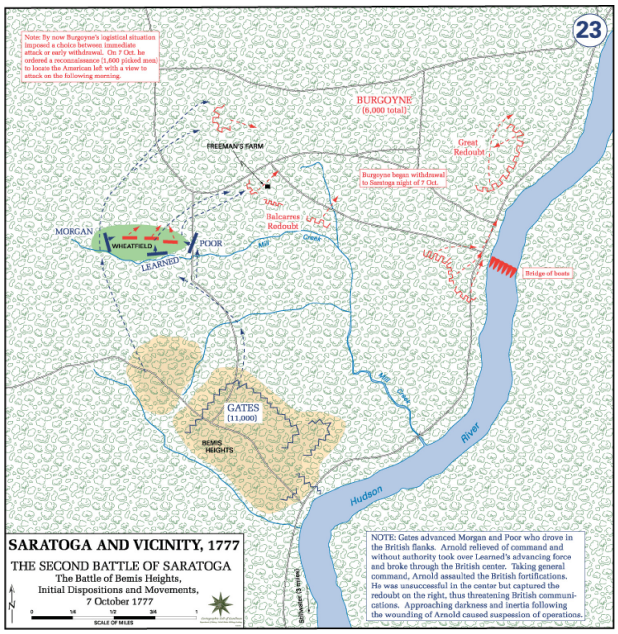


Figure 5. Troop dispositions and initial movements at the Battle of Bemis Heights, October 7, 1777. (History Department, United States Military Academy, from from Wikipedia: Battles_of_Saratoga)

THE RURAL ECONOMY PERIOD, 1778-1876

Immediately after the battles, local citizens returned home to survey the devastation that their lands and labors had sustained. Shallow graves allowed wolves to feed on the dead, trees were girdled, cut or scarred, and crops were destroyed. John Neilson, whose property was occupied by the American army during the battles, also sustained great losses. Included in his claim of war damages made in 1777, he listed two tons of growing grasses, forty bushels of potatoes, and 354 rods (roughly one mile) of fencing that were destroyed by the armies. Some families that left the area never returned. A number of local citizens sided with the crown, like the John Freeman family, and fled to Canada after the unsuccessful British offensive. (CLR 2002: 69-70)

Along with the destruction of their land and resources, the continuing conflict affected residents in other ways. Trade and travel were influenced by the ongoing war and many residents felt inadequately protected from enemy troops. The region surrounding the battlefield eventually evolved into a tamed agricultural landscape but in the late 1700s vestiges of the former wilderness remained. The clearing of vegetation and subsequent increase of acres devoted to agricultural production changed the character of the land dramatically. Visitation to the former battlefield began to increase in the early 1800s, and those early visitors noticed the conflict between the realities of the working landscape and tourist's eager to view battle remains. (CLR 2002: 69-70)

Area communities developed and thrived with the presence of industry, services, and transportation systems. The Champlain Canal, Lossing's "second river," stimulated the growth of Wilbur's Basin, a country hamlet on the Hudson River floodplain that expanded due to its proximity to efficient transportation. The Bemis Tavern and later Bemis Hotel created a convenient stopping spot for travelers and center for local activities at Bemis Heights. These and other developments in transportation, agricultural technology, and industry fed a rapid transformation of the landscape and culture of the region and propelled Saratoga's citizens into a new century. (CLR 2002: 69-70)

Early Battlefield Visitors:
With the conclusion of the Revolutionary War, the battlefield became a popular destination for history-minded pilgrims, naturalists, and elected officials. Each made note of different aspects of the landscape, from agricultural practices, native flora and fauna, to remnants of battle activities. Many accounts of such visits survive and provide insight to the landscape appearance, cultural practices, and public perception of the battlefield throughout the nineteenth century. (CLR 2002: 70)

While visiting Philip Schuyler in 1783, General George Washington made a trip to the battlefield, six years before he would become president. On his tour of northern New York State, he claimed one of his primary goals was to see the battlefield. This auspicious visit was the first by several national leaders, including John Quincy Adams who also made a visit to Saratoga in 1843, paying his respects to the hallowed ground. (CLR 2002: 71)

Many early visitors were guided by Ezra Buel, a veteran of the battles and farmer of the area, who was considered by many to be a local battlefield expert. During the battles of 1777, Buel served as a guide and scout to General Gates because of his familiarity with the local landscape. After the battles, Buel became a lieutenant in the Continental army and served for the remainder of the conflict. He returned home after the war and resumed farming in Stillwater. (CLR 2002: 71)

Buel took Jared Sparks, a scholar and visitor, to numerous historical sites on the battlefield including Freeman's farm, Fraser's grave, and Gate's camp in 1830. Sparks admired the beautiful views of the local landscape and noted the changes in vegetation patterns since the time of the battles. Near Gate's camp the two observed the old roads that the British troops used during the second battle. Sparks noted that while the road was visible, most sections were virtually impassable. His comments show how the landscape had undergone substantial changes as early as 1830. (CLR 2002: 71-72)

William L. Stone's book, "Visits to the Saratoga Battlefield, 1780-1880," compiled accounts from various battlefield visitors and creates a picture of the landscape throughout the nineteenth century. A common theme in the book was the desire of visitors to find physical reminders of the battles in the landscape. To the dismay of many enthusiasts, agricultural practices of the 1800s and early 1900s destroyed many remains of the battles. Earthen fortifications, foundations, and graves were ploughed under year after year, slowly eroding the visible traces of the battles. For decades after the

battles, farmers found gun-barrels, bayonets, bullets, and human bones. (CLR 2002: 73)

Foundations of an Agricultural Economy:
Prior to the battles, most residents of the battlefield area, like most upstate New Yorkers, were farmers. After the battles, people returned to their homes and continued their lives. The practice of land clearance and agricultural expansion resumed and became a foundation of the local economy. This post-battle period became a time of increased productivity and rapid growth. One reason for the growth in agriculture was Albany's three-fold population increase between 1790 and 1810. This local population explosion gave farmers a ready market at which they could charge high prices for their goods, making farming in Saratoga County a profitable endeavor at the turn of the century. (CLR 2002: 73)

Throughout the state, the pace of land clearance increased dramatically. According to the New York State Agricultural History, one million acres of land were cleared after the Revolution, including almost all of the state's virgin forests. John Henry Brandow, in his History of Old Saratoga, claimed that most of the available land in the region was occupied by 1790. However, few local farmers owned their property outright, as most were leasing from the large land owners. Tenant farmers began to clear their land, reaping the financial reward by increasing their acreage and selling the removed timber. Between fifty and sixty percent of the land in Stillwater was cleared during the 1820s. This figure continued to grow in following years. The time between 1830 and 1870 proved to be a period of continued deforestation, leading to ninety percent of all land being cleared by that time. Deer and other wildlife had become scarce during these years, reinforcing claims that forest land and animal habitat of the region were greatly decreased. (CLR 2002: 73-74)

By the mid-1800s, the once heavily forested landscape of the Saratoga area was substantially cleared of vegetation. Marginal lands like ravines and creek beds retained their vegetation only because they were not suitable for farming. Hedge rows, fences, and stone walls were a more common sight than the majestic virgin timber of previous centuries. Crops replaced forests, and the elements of agricultural production organized a humanized landscape. (CLR 2002: 74)

Most farms of the time were small family operations, practicing mixed agriculture that produced both crops for sale and food for the family table. Census data from 1850 to 1880 shows that local farmers were working farms of between one hundred and two-hundred acres, a substantial increase from the rustic subsistence farms of Colonial times. Information compiled from agricultural censuses of the mid-1800s shows the common grain crops grown in the area were oats, Indian corn, rye, and wheat. Other typical components of these upstate New York farms were kitchen gardens, which grew produce for family sustenance, and apple, pear, and cherry orchards. Many farm products were used for the domestic production of alcohol such as hops, barley, apples, grapes, and peaches. (CLR 2002: 74)

Charles Neilson's farm was typical of those found locally in the mid-1800s. According to the 1860 Agricultural Census, he owned 96 improved acres. His major field crop was oats. Neilson produced five hundred bushels in 1860 but he also grew 125 bushels of corn and four hundred bushels of potatoes that year. His livestock included three horses, thirteen cows, and ten swine. The Neilson property is further illustrated by an 1859 graphic appearing in Lossing's book (Figure 6). The original house was still there but was substantially expanded by multiple additions that tripled the size of the original one room structure. Lossing's drawing depicted chickens, sheep, and swine grazing in the space outside of the picket fence enclosing the domestic yard and a horseman driving sheep along the public highway. Behind the house, two recently built barns were shown. Lossing claimed the original barn that served as an important fortification during the conflict no longer existed. A rail fence, presumably to enclose his fields, extended away from the barn into the distance, aligned parallel to the public road. (CLR 2002: 75)

The methods by which farmers manipulated their land changed spatial patterns, surface topography, and boundary delineation. As necessary components of a working farm, fences, stone walls, and drainage systems left their mark on the land. Abundant timber led to the popularity of the "worm" fence in the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries (Figure 7). This fence style, readily created by stacking timbers perpendicular to one another, was easily moveable. Clearing trees for agricultural

fields created the raw materials for the construction of these fences, yet as timber became less plentiful, other means of enclosing fields and property lines became more economical. Farmers often used stones from their fields in place of increasingly scarce wood. Early stone walls may have been constructed in a variety of methods and with a range of craftsmanship. They might have been as simple as an arrangement of stones one course wide, or they may have been composed of several courses and quite tall. Their construction would vary considerably based on the skill of the builder and the type of stones available. Many of these nineteenth century walls remained in the park through the 1930s, continuing to delineate the local fields and boundaries. (CLR 2002: 76)

Corridors and Crossroads:
Transportation routes and evolving technology were instrumental in establishing the early communities of the battlefield. Crossroads, infrequently scattered throughout the rural landscape in the early 1800s, often evolved into centers for commerce and trade for local residents. Beginning with roads, and later canals and railroads, transportation systems dictated the location, speed, and method by which these communities prospered and declined. (CLR 2002: 76)

The Whitehall Turnpike and Champlain Canal:
As a solution to the poor quality of roads that plagued the country at the end of the eighteenth century, the turnpike movement slowly gained momentum. This toll-road system began in England in the 1660s and was popular until the 1770s. In America, the northern states were the first to experiment with private road systems, chartering the first turnpikes in the 1790s. However, New York was the last of the states to establish its own turnpikes. Even though turnpikes were chartered in New York by 1800, the system did not advance until the passage of the general turnpike law of 1807. (CLR 2002: 77)

Turnpikes revolutionized transportation in early nineteenth century America. Being private ventures, their organizers had the ability to seek investors from an unlimited geographic area and were not dependent on local municipal governments. Charging fares for usage allowed for better repairs and general maintenance than municipal roads. Private investors could create a road, with permission from the state, wherever they saw a demand, fueling trade between different cities and states. The Whitehall Turnpike, connecting Waterford with Whitehall, on the southern shore of Lake Champlain, was constructed later than some of the major roads linking Albany and New York City, but is shown to have existed before 1830, (CLR 2002: 77)

Another nineteenth century transportation system that influenced local, state, and national development were canals. Philip Schuyler displayed his entrepreneurial spirit and expertise once again through his advocacy for a state-wide canal system, including one connecting southern New York with Lake Champlain and the St. Lawrence River. He was the earliest and most fervent supporter of New York's proposed north-south waterway, earning him the name "Father of the Champlain Canal." The Revolution stalled his plans, yet, while in some ways hindering development, the war also demonstrated the need for a canal. The troubles associated with supplying armies stationed in the north country and Canada articulated the need for a strategic navigable route north of Albany to Lake Champlain. (CLR 2002: 77-78)

The death of Philip Schuyler in 1804, combined with the disappointment of previous planning efforts, stalled the evolution of the canal system for almost twenty years. After the War of 1812, discussion of canal related developments resumed. Because of the allure of improved commerce with the north and for reasons of national security, it again became apparent that a navigable route north of Albany was necessary. Subsequently, the state authorized work to resume on both the northern and western canals in 1817. Construction progressed rapidly, with distinct sections completed in 1819 and 1821. The final segment of the Champlain Canal was finished in 1823 and joined with the Erie Canal a full two years before the more ambitious Erie Canal project was finished. (CLR 2002: 78)

The completed Champlain Canal was an instant success, and soon became so popular that demand outgrew the capacity of the system. The size of barges increased dramatically, necessitating deeper and wider canal beds. However, despite both its popularity and the need to increase its size, a unified effort to enlarge the Champlain canal never occurred. The depths of certain sections were increased to six feet but no evidence exists to prove that the entire canal was improved in the

mid-1800s. (CLR 2002: 78)

Bemis Heights and Wilbur's Basin:
The community of Bemis Heights, while already established before the construction of the Whitehall Turnpike, flourished in the early 1800s with the presence of the new roadway. The former location of the American Army headquarters during the battles of 1777 became a small crossroads community at the junction of Quaker Springs Road and the River Road. Jotham Bemis (or Bemus), the community's namesake, was a farmer, Justice of the Peace, and proprietor of the Bemis Tavern. By 1777, the tavern serviced traffic between Albany and Fort Edward along the Road to Albany. (CLR 2002: 78)

Bemis Heights benefited from the activity generated by the crossroads of the Whitehall Turnpike and Quaker Springs Road during the turnpike's short life. While the turnpike system in New York was not a profitable venture over the long-term, the Bemis Heights community became firmly established during the turnpike period of the early 1800s. (CLR 2002: 78-79)

Despite the decline of the turnpike, traffic passing through Bemis Heights increased substantially after 1823 with the completion of the Champlain Canal. This popular shipping route stimulated growth, leading to the establishment of a school and church in the mid-1800s that further contributed to the vitality of the Bemis Heights community. (CLR 2002: 79)

Another community of the battlefield that flourished due to canal activity was Wilbur's Basin. Waterpower generated from the adjacent Kroma Kill established the area as a milling center decades prior to the canal. Just as Colonel Kosciuszko once used the steep ravine and escarpment tactically during the battles, early millers took advantage of the topography and waterpower for economic gain. When the canal opened in 1823, the Kroma Kill's millpond became a likely area for canal related development (Figure 8). The basin of water near the mouth of the creek created a space large enough for barges to dock or change direction. Subsequently, a rural hamlet was established to service canal activity. It was in these early days when the area became known as Wilbur's Basin. For local residents, the canal proved to be an advantageous resource for the transportation of crops and for mill activity. Mill owners along the Kroma Kill now had a more convenient way to transport their raw and finished materials. (CLR 2002: 79)

Vestiges and Veneration:
After many years of human manipulation, the battlefield hardly resembled the 1777 landscape (Figure 9). Features such as topography, creeks, the Hudson River, and several local roads retained integrity to the time of the battles but most of the area's forest had been cleared. This deforestation significantly altered the landscape, exposing the rolling hills, deep ravines, and numerous farmsteads. Typical trees of the era, notably hedgerows and orchards, were planted for their agricultural value and did not contribute to a significant percentage of forest cover. This open landscape created a largely blank slate on which to build the next generation of battlefield land use. The frustrations of civic minded citizens and battlefield visitors were answered in the late 1800s when memorialization of the Revolutionary War came into favor, thus beginning Saratoga Battlefield's memorial era. (CLR 2002: 82)

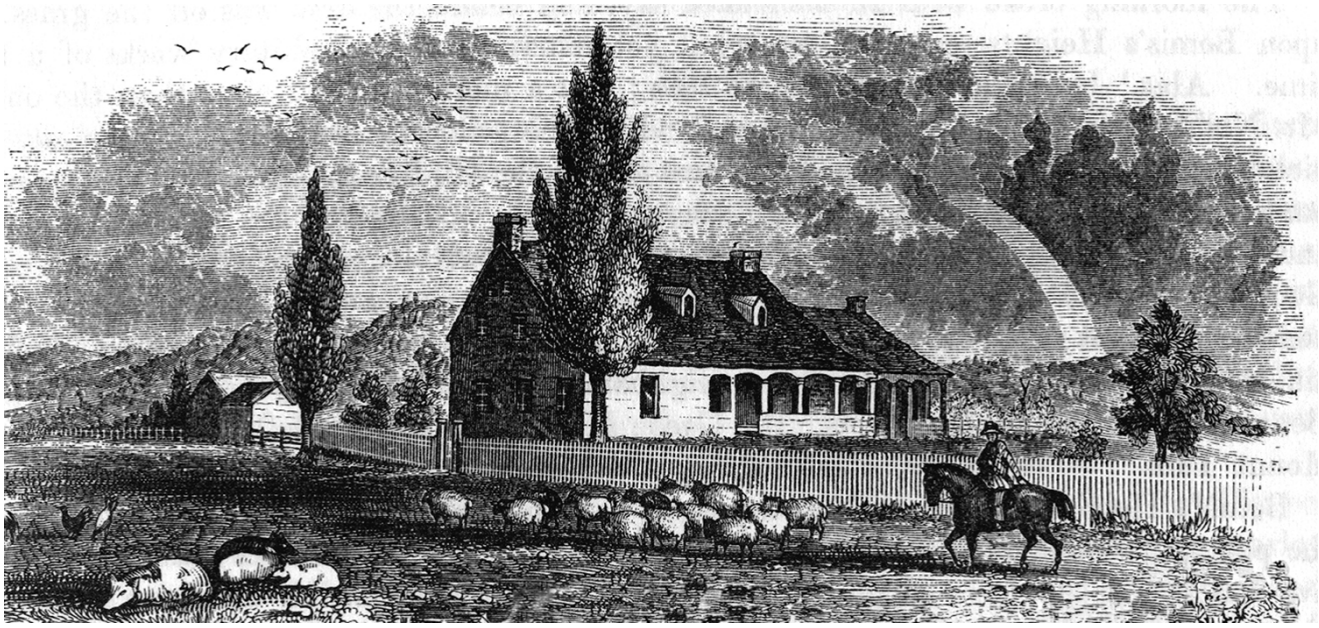


Figure 6. Benson Lossing's engraving of the Neilson farm, 1859. By this time, the farmhouse had been enlarged. (Pictorial Field Book of the Revolution, Volume I, New York: Harper and Brothers, 1859)

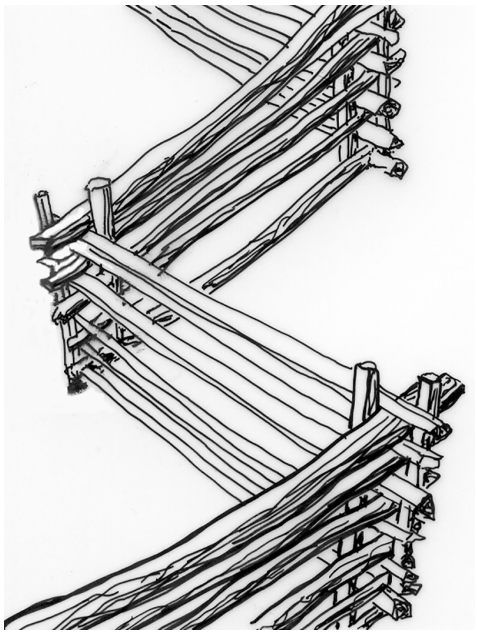


Figure 7. Diagram of a worm fence, as may have been used on the battlefield farms. (CLR 2002)

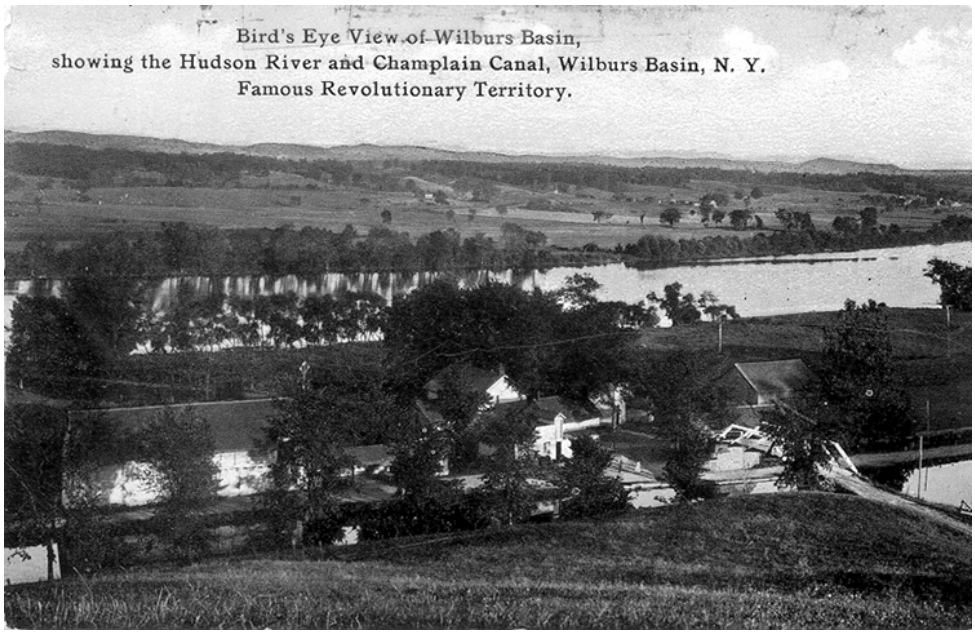


Figure 8. Post card view of Wilbur's Basin, on the southeast side of the battlefield, early 1919. This was a small hamlet based around the Champlain Canal. This view illustrates the agrarian character of the local landscape. (Saratoga NHP Archives)

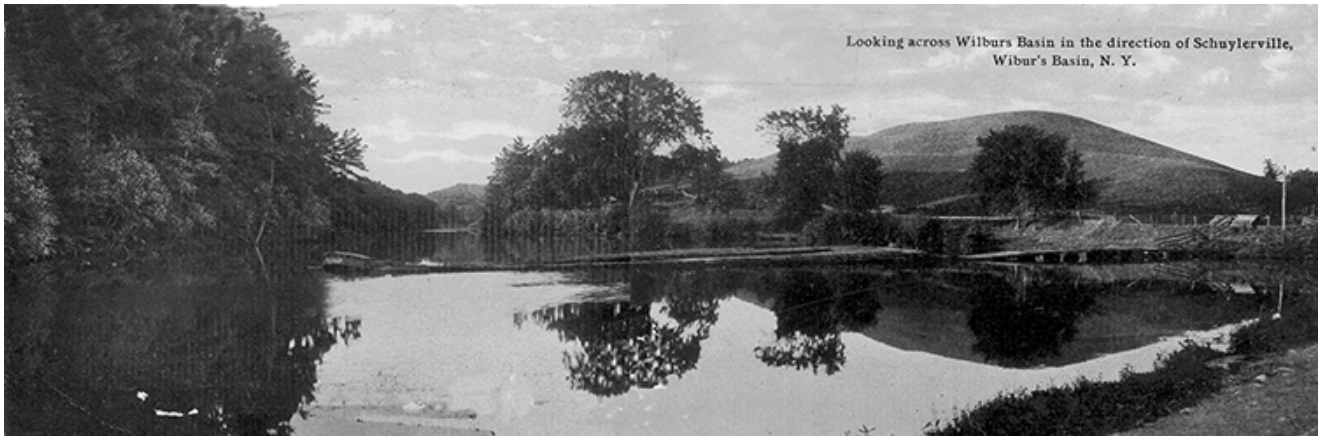


Figure 9. Post card view of Wilbur's Basin, looking north across the Champlain Canal. Notice the landscape cleared for agriculture. (Saratoga NHP Archives)

MEMORIAL PERIOD, 1877-1926

Initiatives of the Saratoga Monument Association:
The first directed effort toward the commemoration of the Battles of Saratoga began during a meeting and banquet held at the former country home of General Philip Schuyler on October 17, 1856, to

celebrate the anniversary of Burgoyne's surrender. The group of local patriotic gentlemen who attended the meeting included George Strover, then owner of the Schuyler House; Philip Schuyler II, the grandson of the General; and John A. Corey, the President of Saratoga Springs Village. Actuated by the sentiment that the "battles of Bemis Heights and Saratoga (Stillwater), and the surrender of Lieutenant-General John Burgoyne, on the 17th of October, 1777, formed a niche in the Temple of Liberty, which patriotism will one day fill with an appropriate monument," the group resolved to take steps to form an organization dedicated to that purpose. Three years later, the New York State Legislature granted a perpetual charter to the Saratoga Monument Association (SMA) for the "purpose of taking and holding sufficient real and personal property to erect on such spot in the town of Saratoga, and as near the place where Burgoyne surrendered the British army as a majority of the trustees deem practicable, a Monument commemorative of the battle which ended in Burgoyne's surrender . . ." (NR 2012, Sec.8: 48; as quoted in Stone 1879: 5)

The SMA was composed of political and business leaders of considerable national, state, and local influence. Among those who served as trustees and officers of the organization were New York governors (Hamilton Fish and Horatio Seymour), U.S. Congressmen (James Madison Marvin, John Starin, and Samuel S. Cox), state legislators (Henry Holmes, Asa C. Tefft, Delcour S. Potter, Edward Wemple, Webster Wagner, and Edward W. Canning), and local mayors (John A. Corey and William Wilcox). There were also successful local businessman (George Strover, Edward C. Delavan, Leroy Mowry), prominent historians of the Revolutionary War (John Romeyn Brodhead, Benson J. Lossing, William Leete Stone), military men (General John Watts de Peyster and Colonel David F. Ritchie), newspaper editors (Ritchie and P.C. Ford), and people with connections to the battles through their ancestor's participation (Peter Gansevoort and Philip Schuyler II). The SMA also had the rare, if not unprecedented, distinction of having a woman trustee, Ellen Hardin Walworth, who became one of its most active members after her appointment in 1880. The membership provided an array of political, financial, and social connections that were critical to the tasks of raising funds, awareness, and support for the monument (NR 2012, Sec.8: 48; citing Stone 1879: 5-7)

The SMA's first goal was the selection of an appropriate location for the monument. Some members believed it should be located at the actual site of Burgoyne's surrender. Others preferred the Saratoga Heights in the British Encampment area where the monument would be highly visible and afford sweeping views of the battlefield, the Hudson River, the Green Mountains to the east, and the Catskill Mountains to the south. Proponents of the latter won, and a site along Burgoyne Street above the town of Schuylerville was selected. (NR 2012, Sec.8: 48)

The monument parcel was originally part of a large tract of land owned by the Saratoga Victory Manufacturing Company, cotton manufacturers. In 1860, Peter Bannon purchased a 10-acre plot at a cost of $1,000. A lack of funds hampered efforts to acquire the site, however, and before the SMA could act on its purchase, the Civil War broke out and forced the organization to suspend its efforts. In 1864, SMA trustee George Strover took it upon himself to purchase the Bannon property in expectation that the price of $775 would be reimbursed by the SMA. The uncertainty of the SMA's future during the years following the Civil War caused Strover to sell the land. He divided the parcel into two 4- and 6-acre lots. In 1873, Thomas Mulvehill and Mary Toohey purchased the 6-acre lot that included the property where the monument would later be constructed. Mulvehill sold his half-interest in the parcel to Mary's husband, Thomas Toohey, during the same year. (NR 2012, Sec.8: 48)

Centennial Celebration:
The SMA resumed its efforts in 1872 with the added goal of completing the Saratoga Monument during the centennial celebration of the nation's birth. The following year, it received an amended charter from the New York Legislature. The SMA took this opportunity to increase organizational efficiency by expanding the number of officers and assigning its members to committees with specific responsibilities. Horatio Seymour, a former Governor of New York and 1868 Democratic Party nominee for President of the United States, served as president. Other offices included two vice-presidents, a secretary, corresponding secretary, and treasurer. The initial standing committees consisted of the executive, building, design, location, and advisory committees. The make-up of the 26-person Board of Trustees, which included members from Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Michigan, and South Carolina, indicated that the SMA was broadening its scope to garner national support for

the monument. (NR 2012, Sec.8: 48-49; citing Stone 1879: 3-4)

The reformed SMA hired Jared C. Markham to serve as the architect for the monument. Markham's initial plans, prepared without compensation, called for the erection of a massive 230-foot-tall obelisk, 80-feet square at the bottom and 10 feet at the top, with a viewing platform at its summit to provide sweeping views of the Hudson River Valley. The design incorporated decorative Gothic-style ornament and niches for statues of Schuyler, Gates, and Morgan. A fourth niche would be left blank of statuary and bear only the name of Arnold to acknowledge his heroism at Saratoga and the glory he lost through his subsequent treason. The installation in the interior rooms of a series of bronze bas relief panels depicting allegorical and historical scenes of Burgoyne's campaign, battle events, and America's struggle for independence would supplement the educational value of the monument. With the plans in hand, the SMA began its initial effort to gain funding assistance from the federal government. In October, the design committee, headed by author and New York antiquarian William Leete Stone, sent a memorial to Congress requesting a $200,000 appropriation to cover two-thirds of the estimated $300,000 necessary to "make the structure worthy of the pride of the nation." Congress had already considered and decided against a number of other such petitions by monument associations, and it remained cool to the idea of funding what it still considered to be local commemorative projects. Sensing that the timing was not right, the local congressman entrusted with the SMA's memorial decided to pocket it and wait for a more propitious opportunity to introduce legislation. (NR 2012, Sec.8: 49; as quoted in Stone 1879: 9)

The SMA had more success at the state level, where its politically connected board of trustees was influential in gaining the promise of aid. In 1874, the New York State Legislature voted an appropriation of $50,000, providing that the SMA could raise twice that sum from other sources within two years. With no prospects for aid from the federal government, the SMA issued a broad appeal to prospective donors and attempted to secure pledges of $5,000 each from the other 12 original states. Only Rhode Island, which placed conditions on its donation, responded favorably to the SMA's petition. Private donations were also hard to come by during the period as the nation was in the midst of recovering from the economic depression following the Panic of 1873. As a result, the two-year time limit on the state's appropriation lapsed on the anniversary of the act in April 1876. Unwilling to allow the centennial of the battles to pass without at least starting the monument, the SMA petitioned the legislature for enough funds to allow it to hold a cornerstone-laying ceremony. The legislature passed the act, but Governor Lucius Robinson vetoed it in early 1877. (NR 2012, Sec.8: 49; citing Stone 1879: 7-8)

Sometime between 1874 and 1877, as the difficulties of securing funding for the project became apparent, the SMA decided to scale back its plans for the structure. Markham revised the design to lessen its scale but preserved the decorative and sculptural elements of the original. He decreased the height from 230 feet to about 150 feet and cut the base dimensions in half from 80 to 40 feet square. (NR 2012, Sec.8: 49; citing Lossing 1874: 89; Stone 1879: 16)

As the fall centennial anniversary of the Battles of Saratoga approached in 1877, the SMA secured about $5,000 in gifts and donations to provide for the laying of the cornerstone. Booth Brothers, a granite supply and construction firm based in New York City, greatly assisted the effort by donating the cornerstone and later became the contractor for the monument. On October 17, 1877, during what Stone called "the most splendid civic, Masonic, and military pageant ever witnessed in northern New York," J.J. Couch, Grand Master of New York's Masonic Lodge, dedicated the cornerstone. An estimated 30,000 people attended the event, punctuated by a number of speeches, musical interludes, and a grand banquet accompanied by a military spectacle representing the surrender of Burgoyne's Army. A variety of artifacts were placed in the cornerstone, including copies of the speeches delivered at the event, histories of the battles and the SMA, local newspapers published on the date of the celebration, a bible, an American flag, a British silver half-dollar coin bearing the likeness of King George III and the date 1777, and a statement on the design intent of the monument prepared by the architect. (NR 2012, Sec.8: 49-50; as quoted in Stone 1879: 13; Stone 1878: 20,31-32)

During the centennial, George D. Scott, President of the Monument Association, spoke to the importance of recognizing the battlefield and was among the first to call it "sacred ground." He

claimed it needed “one vast imperishable monument, sacred to the memory of those heroes and patriots who fought and conquered here one hundred years ago.” These remarks, promoted by the battlefield’s first commemorative citizens group, marked the true beginning of public awareness and activism toward the preservation of Saratoga Battlefield. (CLR 2002: 98)

Formation of Saratoga Monument Association Committee on Tablets:
Beginning in 1880 and running concurrent with its work to construct the Saratoga Monument, the SMA embarked on the first effort to mark places on the Saratoga Battlefield with small-scale commemorative monuments. The Committee on Tablets, established at the August 17, 1880, meeting, headed the effort. The idea was the brainchild of Ellen Hardin Walworth, who was named an SMA trustee at the meeting and at the “urgent request of Gov. Seymour, made a statement in relation to marking the points of interest on the battle-field of Bemis Heights, and asked that something of this kind should be done.” The SMA passed a resolution to establish the committee for the purpose of procuring “memorial stones or other marks to designate the points of interest on the Saratoga battle-grounds at Bemis Heights, Freeman’s Farm, Wilbur’s Basin and other places connected with the Burgoyne campaign.” Thereafter, the work of the Committee on Tablets, which in addition to Walworth counted among its members George W. Neilson, James M. Marvin, Nathaniel B. Sylvester, D.F. Ritchie, William L. Stone and George Ensign, became a significant offshoot of the SMA’s primary effort to complete the Saratoga Monument. (NR 2012, Sec.8: 54; as quoted in Walworth 1891: 55-56)

As with the Saratoga Monument, funding for the battlefield tablets was a chief concern. The members of the SMA likely would not have supported the initiative if it was going to compete with the fundraising efforts for the Saratoga Monument. At the meeting following the introduction of the idea, Seymour stated that he was “greatly pleased with the plan of marking the different places of the battle-field with memorial tablets” and that he thought that individuals would be found who “would esteem it a privilege to mark separate spots.” The plan, Seymour continued, “would give additional interest to the numerous drives around Saratoga—thus enhancing the already numerous attractions of the place.” In a subsequent letter read at the Committee’s first meeting held in Walworth’s home on October 9, 1880, Seymour elaborated further, stating that “Many now drive with indifference past spots which they would look upon with great interest if they knew their value. I think you can bring about your plan, if, in the place of trying to raise a sum to pay for the cost of marking stone in a general way, you ask different persons to give a tablet of some kind for a particular spot. In most cases $50 or $100 will be enough. Some may be desirous of spending more.” He, for example, would “put up something to mark the place where a line of defenses were thrown up in front of the tavern at the village of Bemis Heights.” The committee resolved to adopt that method for fundraising and planned to meet on the battlefield two weeks later. (NR 2012, Sec.8: 54-55; as quoted in Walworth 1891: 58,62-63)

Inclement weather caused the cancellation of the planned battlefield meeting, and the committee could not meet during the remainder of the year. Instead, Ellen Walworth conducted several tours of the grounds on her own and in the company of others, including Joseph W. Drexel, Captain A.de. R. McNair of the United States Navy, and George Ensign. Armed with military maps, she attempted to identify the places where the most significant events of the battles occurred and succeeded in securing the consent of several property owners to allow the monuments to be placed on their lands. By late June 1881, the Committee on Tablets developed a list of 17 sites that it considered most important and therefore worthy of marking. Jared C. Markham, the architect of the Saratoga Monument, provided several alternative designs for the monuments. One consisted of a small, tapered block, about 20 inches square at its base and topped with a pyramidal cap. Another was a rectangular marker with an arched top. The stones were to be “principally of granite, corresponding in size to the amount subscribed by the individual donors.” Subscribers, however, were able to commission their own designs and materials if they so desired. (NR 2012, Sec.8: 55; quoting Walworth 1891: 63,68)

By August 1882, the Committee on Tablets reported that the number of places of “especial interest” had grown to twenty and that the exact spots where the monuments were to be erected had been identified. The subsequent placement of the tablets proceeded between 1883 and 1893 (Figure 10). After the SMA disbanded, the construction of monuments on the battlefield continued but more

sporadically and without the interpretative intent of the previous monument campaign. For the most part, between 1904 and 1936, historical and fraternal organizations or family members descended from the participants erected memorials to groups and individuals who fought the battles. With a few exceptions, efforts were independent of the concurrent movement to preserve the battlefield through public acquisition of the land by the State of New York. (NR 2012, Sec.8: 57)

Appealing for State and National Recognition:
Following the trajectory of many historic properties that were eventually incorporated into the National Park System, the preservation of the Saratoga Battlefield began as a local effort and was spurred by threats to its integrity. Throughout the second half of the nineteenth century, various individuals advocated for the battlefield's preservation, but no organized effort emerged. In the interim between that point and the time of the battles, evidence of the once extensive systems of military earthworks erected within the British and American lines slowly disappeared. The upland portion of the battlefield reverted to its pre-war use as agricultural land, and the expansion of the farms led to deforestation that dramatically altered the battlefield landscape. (NR 2012, Sec.8: 62)

Preservation of the Saratoga Battlefield took more than legislative initiative. As many preservation efforts begin with a threat to the resource's existence, much of the initiative to preserve the Saratoga Battlefield came about due to rapid changes in the local economy and subsequently, the local landscape. Traffic on the Champlain Canal declined significantly due to competition from railroads. A new canal system capable of handling larger vessels was constructed in the early twentieth century and resulted in the abandonment of the old Champlain Canal. By that time, the mills of Wilbur's Basin had been abandoned along with the section of the old canal that ran through the battlefield. A trolley line was constructed along the Road to Albany through the battlefield in the early twentieth century facilitating transportation from Saratoga to Albany and increasing the likelihood that the area would be further developed as a residential suburb of the capital city. Destructive sand mining along the bluffs of the battlefield commenced in 1917. The sand was valuable in creating molds used in the metal casting process and was found beneath the top soil to a depth of 3-6 feet. While the disturbance to the topography was not as damaging as traditional mining, surface drainage was altered and significant archeological remains were almost certainly disturbed. (NR 2012, Sec.8: 63)

Concern about potential development that might further degrade the integrity of the battlefield fueled the first concerted preservation efforts in the 1910s. The leaders of this movement were the Saratoga Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), the Rochester Chapter of the Empire State Society of the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR), and the New York State Historical Association (NYSHA). The latter organization formed in 1899 at a time when the conservation movement in New York was gaining significant momentum. During the 1890s and early 1900s, the state legislature appropriated significant sums to establish a state park system consisting primarily of natural areas. In the early 1910s, the system expanded to include lands associated with historical events, such as the Crown Point Reservation, Bennington Battlefield Park, and Lake George Battleground Park. Initially placed under the control of the New York State Department of Conservation, the care of the historical parks was subsequently transferred to the NYSHA. In 1914, State Senator George H. Whitney of Mechanicville introduced a bill to appropriate $25,000 for the purchase of land to establish a state park at Saratoga Battlefield. The park was to be placed under the joint custody of the NYSHA and the Saratoga Chapter of the DAR, but owing to a worsening financial climate the bill died in committee. Despite attempts to revive it in subsequent years, no further action was taken until after World War I. ((NR 2012, Sec.8: 63; citing NYSHA 1915: 27 and 1916: 26)

Coinciding with the revival of the national battlefield preservation movement and the approaching sesquicentennial anniversary of the Battles of Saratoga, the quest to preserve the battlefield gained new life in the early 1920s. Shortly after World War I, the Rochester Chapter of the SAR lobbied for the creation of a national military park, but Congress, which was deluged with similar requests for other battlefields, refused to act. Having failed to secure legislative support at the state and national level, the Rochester Chapter chose a different tack. At the organization's quarterly meeting in May 1923, Compatriot Charles Ogden, a former publicity director of the New York State Department of Public Works, reported that the SAR National Congress had approved a resolution to preserve the battlefield and appointed a committee to take steps toward forming an organization to carry out that

work. With this backing from the National Society, the Rochester Chapter, together with members of local Rotary clubs and other interested persons, succeeded in getting the New York State Legislature to charter the Saratoga Battlefield Association, Inc. (SBA), vested with the power of purchasing and holding land for the purpose of preserving the battlefield in public trust. In September 1923, a permanent committee of the SBA was established to plan for the sesquicentennial celebration of the Battles of Saratoga. The first of 10 resolutions adopted by the committee stated that lands of historical importance within the battlefield would be acquired "and converted into a national park." Ogden, who served variously as the Secretary and President of the organization, began negotiations to purchase the Wright (former Freeman) and Sarle farms, which together comprised about 400 acres of battlefield land, and ultimately secured the titles at a total cost of $19,500. The SBA subsequently acquired an additional 255 acres through the purchase of the Neilson and Gannon farms, bringing the total area of protected battlefield land to 655 acres. (NR 2012, Sec.8: 63; as quoted in Arter 2010: 1; Lentz and Williams 1991: 50; Phillips 1997: 2; Sprague 1930: 46)

The movement to establish the battlefield as a state park gained widespread support from patriotic organizations, historical societies, and the business community in the Hudson and Mohawk valleys following the SBA's initial purchase of land. Among the leaders of the movement were Ogden; George O. Slingerland, the mayor of nearby Mechanicville and president of the Mechanicville Rotary Club; Adolph Ochs, editor of the New York Times who used his newspaper to publicize the effort; State Historian Alexander Flick; and Burton D. Esmond, an Assemblyman from Saratoga County and first chairman of the SBA's permanent committee. Esmond introduced two unsuccessful bills in the New York State Legislative sessions of 1925 to make appropriations to acquire land and restore the battlefield. That year, on the anniversary of the First Battle of Saratoga, a large group of more than 500 assembled on the battlefield to hear speeches from prominent political and business leaders in support of a new and broader movement to acquire land and restore battlefields associated with Burgoyne's campaign, including Saratoga, Oriskany, Fort Stanwix, and Bennington. The event provided an opportunity to inspect the condition of the battlefield, described by Och's New York Times as being the "weed-grown and deserted acres where one of the fifteen decisive battles of history was fought." At a Rotary luncheon that followed, Ogden urged the membership to marshal support behind the preservation effort, stating that "The idea of the restoration of the Saratoga battlefield is so apparently a necessary thing, is such a good thing, that there is no sentiment against it…and it is therefore the business of you Rotarians to establish a sentiment for it." (NR 2012, Sec.8: 63-64; as quoted in Sprague 1930: 46; NYT, 20 September 1925)

The pressure exerted by battlefield supporters had the desired effect. Esmond introduced a new bill to appropriate $285,000 for battlefield preservation in the first legislative session of 1926. Although the amount was ultimately reduced to $140,000, the Legislature passed the bill, and Governor Al Smith signed it on January 25, 1926. The bill provided $65,000 for the purchase of land at the Saratoga and Oriskany battlefields and $75,000 for restoration activities at the Saratoga, Oriskany, Fort Stanwix, and Bennington battlefields. The law also established a State Advisory Board on Battlefields and Historic Sites to oversee the restoration and development of the battlefields for public enjoyment. Mechanicville Mayor George Slingerland was appointed to the board. By 1925 Slingerland was a leading advocate for the preservation of the Saratoga Battlefield. He was inspired to take up the cause after hearing a speech given by Reverend Delos E. Sprague before the Mechanicville Rotary Club. He subsequently devoted the rest of his life to the effort, serving first as President of the Advisory Board on Battlefields and Historic Sites and then as superintendent of the battlefield during the initial years of the state management period. (NR 2012, Sec.8: 64; as quoted in NYT, 14 August 1926; Phillips 1997: 2)

Slingerland's first objective was to prepare the battlefield for its formal dedication to be held on the sesquicentennial on October 8, 1927. At that time, the battlefield landscape included numerous agricultural structures, largely treeless, and dominated by row-crops, pasture, and fence lines (Figure 11). In anticipation of a large crowd, temporary staging, bleachers, communication stations, and a parking area to accommodate automobiles were constructed. The state also undertook a large-scale renovation of the Neilson farm, which became the focal point of the visitor experience during the state management period. It removed nineteenth-century farm buildings that post-dated the battles and relocated the original Neilson farmhouse. It also added three new conjectural buildings, although no documentation existed to suggest that any such buildings were present at the time of the battles.

These consisted of a stone powder magazine (not extant); a dwelling designated as the “Period House” and referred to by the state as “Arnold’s Headquarters” (not extant); and a two-story blockhouse known as “Fort Neilson” that served as the battlefield visitor center and museum (Figure 12). The blockhouse remained on the battlefield until 1975, when the NPS donated it to the Town of Stillwater and, after being relocated several times, was placed at its current location on Route 4/32, outside the park’s boundaries. Slingerland also began work on what would later be referred to as the Saratoga Battlefield Memorial Landscape. That area was located on the western side of Route 32, across from the blockhouse that was purportedly the site of burials of American troops killed during the battles. Slingerland began the memorial landscape by creating a symbolic American Cemetery. After the State of New York acquired title to the land on September 8, 1926, he had a 300-foot-square area cleared and enclosed with a white cedar hedge. (NR 2012, Sec.8: 64; as quoted in NYT, 14 July 1926)

The October 7 sesquicentennial celebration was a resounding success. The day-long festivities attracted as many as 160,000 visitors from all over the Northeast to participate in the numerous activities and events. Highlights included battlefield tours, the dedication of the New Hampshire Monument, numerous speeches, and a historical pageant boasting 6,000 participants (Figure 13). The day also marked the official acceptance of the battlefield by the State of New York, which incorporated it into the system of properties managed by the Conservation Department’s Division of Lands and Forests. (NR 2012, Sec.8: 64)



Figure 10. The Morgan Monument was one of the early monuments placed on the battlefield by the Saratoga Monument Association in 1887. (Saratoga NHP Archives)

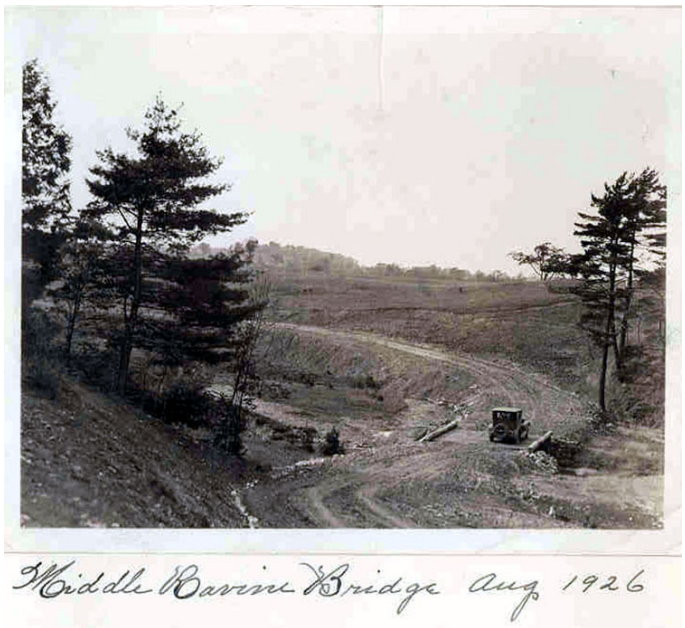


Figure 11. View of the middle ravine in 1926. The landscape was cleared of trees for agricultural purposes. Notice the rough, unpaved road and rudimentary bridge. (Saratoga NHP Archives)



Figure 12. Blockhouse replica, constructed at the Neilson farm during state ownership,1960. (Saratoga NHP Archives)



Figure 13. Spectators at the site of the pageant during the sesquicentennial, October 8, 1927. (Saratoga NHP Archives)

STATE MANAGEMENT PERIOD, 1927-1937

For Slingerland, the well-attended event indicated that the preservation of the battlefield had broad public support and reaffirmed his conviction to mold the battlefield according to his personal vision. His chief activities over the next few years centered on improving the visitor experience through the creation of new commemorative and interpretive elements and expanding the boundaries of the

battlefield through further land acquisition (Figure 14). Slingerland's plans for the memorial landscape continued to evolve. In 1927, he worked with New York State Associate Architect Stanton P. Lee to develop plans for a Classical Revival-style "Memorial Pavilion" (not extant) to mark the entryway to the American Cemetery and provide a place for contemplation and outdoor events. The structure, completed in 1928, was later inscribed with the inspirational phrase "They died in War that we may live in Peace" (Figure 15). In 1931, the DAR's Monument to the Unknown American Dead with its associated pathways and benches was added to the memorial area. The following year, Slingerland had a "Memorial Grove" planted as part of a nationwide program of tree planting to commemorate the bicentennial of Washington's birth. The grove (not extant) consisted of 27 American elm trees planted in a circular pattern next to the Monument to the Unknown American Dead. Slingerland planted one elm in the center, dedicated to George Washington, and two concentric rings of trees around it. The first ring of 13 trees represented the original colonies, and the outside ring denoted the next 13 states that entered the union after the Revolutionary War. (NR 2012, Sec.8: 64-65)

Early Attempts to Acquire Land:
In January 1927, Robert Fisher of the Conservation Department conducted a study to determine future land acquisition priorities. The resulting report determined that lands where fighting or encampments occurred should be acquired first but also stressed the importance of surrounding areas where views and landscape features were important to preserving the setting. Based on the recommendations contained in the report, Slingerland personally set about securing options from property owners and fixing prices for future purchase (see Figure 14). In 1928, Burton Esmond and Senator Thomas C. Brown of Schenectady introduced a bill calling for an appropriation of $192,000 for the purchase of an additional 2,084 acres of land for the Saratoga Battlefield. The bill sparked rancorous debate between proponents of the legislation and the Republican-controlled State Legislature and was ultimately slashed by $100,000. The following year, the Conservation Department opened negotiations for the acquisition of six farms totaling about 564 acres of land using $90,000. The transactions completed in 1930 brought the total acreage of state-owned battlefield land to 1,429.69 acres. This constituted the last land acquisition during the state management period. (NR 2012, Sec.8: 65; citing NYT 19 February 1928 and 16 August 1928; Sprague 1930: 47; Blasdel et.al. 1963: 3)

Interpretation and Visitor Services:
Interpretation of the battlefield under the state management period continued to include efforts by private citizens who were interested in promoting the battlefield as a destination for tourists at Saratoga Springs. In 1930, the Reverend Delos E. Sprague, a Baptist minister from nearby Ballston Spa who had long been an advocate for the battlefield's preservation, wrote a guide book to the battlefield. The guide offered visitors many benefits including a battle history, a map of the battlefield, and a description of two battlefield tours. He outlined 24 tour stops on the map and described them in his narrative of "Tour Route One." Sprague gave a brief description of all the sites and discussed their role in the sequence of the battles. Graphically, Sprague included photos of the battlefield, portraits of important figures, and paintings of battlefield and related scenes. "Tour Route Two" included part of the battlefield and continued north to the Philip Schuyler House in Schuylerville and the Saratoga Monument in Victory. In addition to Sprague's guide, the New York State Education Department placed a series of 34 painted cast iron historical markers throughout the battlefield that provided information about battle events. As no officially trained guides existed to interpret the landscape or story of the battles, Sprague's guide and the interpretive signage helped visitors to navigate and understand the history and importance of the battlefield. (NR 2012, Sec.8: 65; citing Sprague 1930: 7)

Landscape Maintenance and Land Use Decisions:
Land use of the Saratoga battlefield changed drastically during the state management period. During initial years of battlefield development, proponents saw a conflict between traditional local land uses and newer park oriented activities. Although acquisition of land was piecemeal, it nonetheless allowed the park to slowly exercise more control over land use decisions and work toward wider realization of their policy goals. (CLR 2002: 121-122)

One such management policy that affected the landscape was the planting of grass in former farm

fields. Sod was planted throughout the four farms owned by the state and adjacent farmers were encouraged to do the same. Although many farmers continued to raise crops for the duration of their private ownership, some did comply with the wishes of the state. This systematic transformation of the battlefield landscape stimulated an early management challenge. As a result of this policy, large amounts of lawn needed maintaining. Consequently, Slingerland and the Conservation Commissioner had Mr. Gannon, the park caretaker, graze a flock of three to four hundred sheep throughout the battlefield. Another way they discussed managing the grass was through burning, yet this proposal was never applied for fear that the fires would burn out of control. (CLR 2002: 122)

The policy of sodding the fields and maintaining them as mowed lawn created an open, groomed appearance (Figure 16). This transformation from agricultural uses to recreational and memorial uses changed the very essence of the battlefield landscape. It began to take on the bucolic appearance of a park in the English tradition of landscape design, with its rolling topography, open lawns, scattered wooded lots, and views of surrounding countryside. However, the park's funding resources were often stretched thin by the vast acreage that needed clearing. Much of the park's acreage slowly reverted to woody growth because the state did not have the resources to mow it. Even the hay fields suffered from neglect because they were not re-seeded or rotated regularly. (CLR 2002: 122)

Despite his enthusiasm for the rolling lawns and reconstructed conjectural elements, Slingerland had a less than favorable attitude toward features in the park that were not strictly from the Revolutionary period. Unless a building could be useful to the park, serving as a museum or storage facility, or in a fund raising capacity, it was slated for removal. As farms were acquired and money became available, old barns, stone walls, houses, and hedgerows throughout the park were obliterated. The removal of these post-Revolutionary features contributed to the increasingly pastoral character of the landscape. (CLR 2002: 122)

The Push for Federal Ownership:
From the start, Slingerland's ultimate goal was the federal acquisition of the battlefield and its establishment as a national military park. The prospects for federal designation of the battlefield as a national military park appeared brighter after the national study of battlefields conducted by the Army War College recommended Saratoga as one of only two undesignated Class I battlefields worthy of incorporating into the national military park system. Based on the findings of the study, Secretary of War Dwight Davis reported to President Calvin Coolidge in 1928 that it would cost approximately $4,400 to make a survey of the lands of the battlefield for the purposes of commemorating it as a Class I battlefield. He also stated that if Congress determined that it "should be so commemorated, the proper method would be by the establishment of a national military park." (NR 2012, Sec.8: 65; quoted in Phillips 1997: 4)

New York Governor Franklin D. Roosevelt took a personal interest in the preservation of the battlefield and supported federal acquisition. During his first term, Roosevelt publicly proclaimed his desire to see the battlefield become a "national shrine" during a speech given there as part of the anniversary celebration on October 17, 1929. Slingerland and Roosevelt differed, however, on how best to proceed in seeking the transfer. Slingerland believed that the government would not accept the battlefield until the state had completed the land acquisition process and feared that the additional property would never be purchased if the federal government took control too soon. Roosevelt was for immediate transfer and believed that the government, in time, would acquire the additional land. (NR 2012, Sec.8: 65; as quoted in NYT, 18 October 1929)

Roosevelt's visit to the battlefield occurred only 12 days before the stock market crash on October 29, 1929, and the ensuing Great Depression seriously hampered further battlefield planning efforts. Slingerland, who had devoted himself to the management of the battlefield and had gone so far as to donate his own money to the cause, found himself deeply in debt as the Depression wore on. His superintendent salary was cut, and on several occasions he received no paychecks at all. Despite having to supplement his income by other means, he continued to perform his duties. Progress stalled on expanding the battlefield lands in hopes of making it more attractive for federal takeover. Esmond and Brown sponsored a bill in 1930 for an appropriation of $225,000 to complete the Saratoga and Oriskany battlefields, but the preservation of historic sites had fallen well down the list

of the state's priorities in its attempt to cope with the economic disaster and the bill did not pass. (NR 2012, Sec.8: 66; citing NYT, 19 March 1930)

Efforts to have Saratoga Battlefield declared a national military park gained new momentum in 1930 when several members of the New York Congressional delegation took up the cause. In January, Representative Samuel Dickstein introduced a bill that called for the establishment of a committee to study and devise a process by which the battlefield might be taken over by the government as a "national shrine." The following month, Representative James S. Parker and Senators Robert Wagner and Royal S. Copeland sponsored legislation to act on the War Department's recommendation for an appropriation of $4,400 to conduct a survey of the battlefield for the ultimate purpose of creating a national military park. The House and Senate passed this second bill, and President Herbert Hoover signed it into law on June 4, 1930. The War Department's Army War College was assigned to conduct the study. Dickstein introduced a third bill in June that called for the outright purchase of the battlefield by the government, but it failed in committee. (NR 2012, Sec.8: 65; as quoted in NYT 9 January 1930 and 4 June 1930; Blasdel et.al. 1963: 4-5)

On October 8, 1932, Slingerland died suddenly of a heart attack. His death created a void in leadership that, combined with the lack of will for further appropriations at the state level, left the battlefield to languish without further significant improvement during the remainder of the state management period. In honor of his major contributions to the initial acquisition and preservation of the battlefield, his fellow Rotarians placed the Slingerland Tablet on the wall of the blockhouse in 1938. The NPS moved it in 1962 to its current location on the stone retaining wall near the Saratoga Visitor Center. (NR 2012, Sec.8: 66; citing NYT, 4 June 1930)

Following Slingerland's death, the Conservation Department's Division of Lands and Forests continued to manage the battlefield and fully supported its immediate federal acquisition, making it known that the state was ready at any time to deliver its holdings to the government free of charge. The government did not act, however, until 1938. In the interim, the state continued to maintain the battlefield, but no new major facilities were constructed. The placement of the privately funded Kosciuszko Monument within the Fort Neilson complex in 1936 constituted the only significant addition to the battlefield resources during the latter years of the state management period. (NR 2012, Sec.8: 66; citing NYT, 18 November 1932)

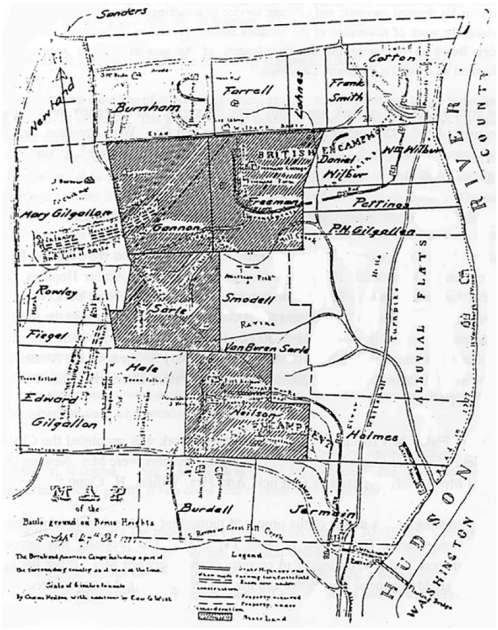


Figure 14. New York State's land parcel map, created to show early land acquisition priorities. When the state acquired the battlefield in 1927 the park included the shaded properties. (Saratoga NHP Archives)

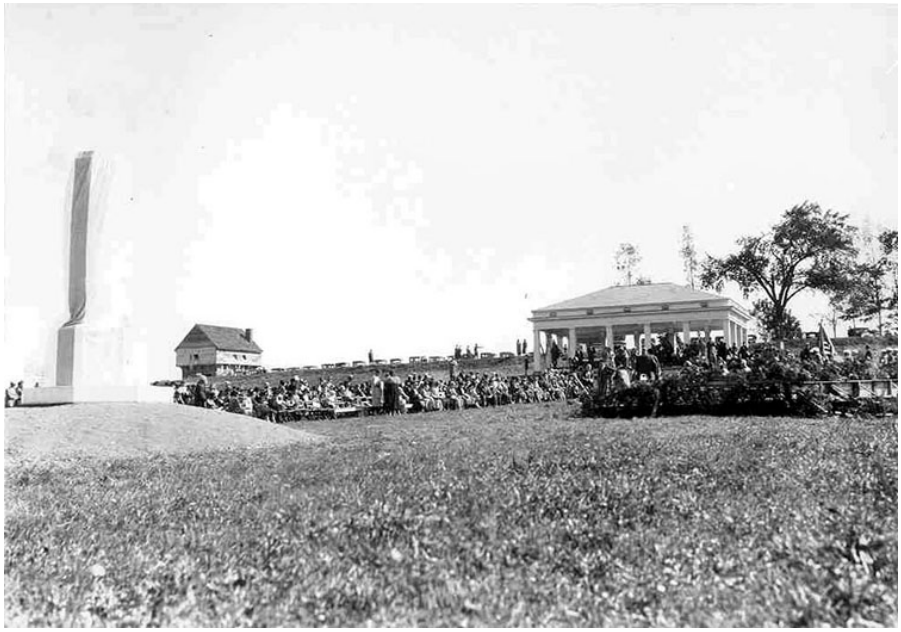


Figure 15. The Saratoga Battlefield Memorial, constructed in October 1931. The blockhouse and pavilion are visible in the background. (Saratoga NHP Archives)



Figure 16. Monument at the middle ravine, showing typical farm fencing and an open landscape, circa 1920. (Saratoga NHP Archives)

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, 1938-2026

Origins of National Park Service Involvement:
In 1933 President Franklin Roosevelt signed Executive Order 6166, which consolidated national battlefields and other national historic sites and monuments under the National Park Service. The reorganization created a single system of federal park lands that included historic as well as natural places. The addition of the military parks and monuments, which were primarily located in the eastern part of the country, made the system national in scope and clearly established the National Park Service as the chief federal agency responsible for historic preservation. The addition of the Capital Parks in Washington, D.C., provided the National Park Service high visibility to members of Congress and encouraged inclusion of a broad base of properties that were significant in areas other than military history. For the properties included in the transfer, it ensured that a higher level of attention would be paid to their preservation and interpretation as nationally significant historic properties. (NR 2012, Sec.8: 66-67; citing Mackintosh 1991: 28-29)

Despite the mandate from President to establish Saratoga Battlefield as a national park and a willingness by the State of New York to deed the battlefield to the federal government, the transfer did not take place right away. During the mid-1930s the battlefield continued to be under state management and suffered from a lack of directed preservation efforts. The legislative movement to create the park resumed when New York Representative E. Harold Cluett introduced a bill in the House toward that end in February 1937. The bill passed the House, and the following year similar legislation sponsored by Senator Royal Copeland passed in the Senate. On June 1, 1938, President Roosevelt signed Public Law 576 entitled “An Act to provide for the creation of Saratoga National Historical Park in the State of New York, and for other purposes.” The Act was intended to begin the planning and land acquisition processes that would eventually lead to the formal dedication of the battlefield as a national park, which would occur “when title to all the 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 have been vested in the United States…” Those lands were to include the property owned by the State of New York and other key parcels identified by the Secretary of the Interior within six months of the passage of the Act. The Act authorized the Secretary to accept land donations, purchase parcels that he deemed reasonably priced, or acquire property through condemnation proceedings. The State of New York continued to be responsible for planning and development of the park, however, with the NPS acting in an advisory capacity, until February 7,

1941. On that date, the federal government accepted the formal transfer of the state's lands. (NR 2012, Sec.8: 68; as quoted in NYT 18 February 1937, 21 April 1938, and 15 May 1938; U.S. Secretary of State 1938: 608-609; Phillips 1997: 5,7)

The battlefield in 1938 represented the culmination of rural vernacular features and the state park management efforts. Most of the interpretation occurred at the Neilson Farm, or "Headquarters Area," where conjectural and memorial elements were the attraction for visitors (Figure 17). The area's early vernacular roads guided visitors on their tour of the battlefield (Figure 18). Most visitors entered the park at the southern boundary from Route 423, stopped at the headquarters area, and then used the State Highway to visit memorials and other park attractions. Several of these roads traveled along the same path as battle era roads. This early road system adequately served the relatively low number of visitors to the park. With further development of Saratoga's interpretive resources in later years, however, the network of existing roads no longer supported the park's interpretive goals or increased traffic. Consequently, the National Park Service recognized the need for the development of a park tour road. (CLR 2002: 141-143)

The Saratoga National Historical Park "Project," as it was called before it was fully established as a national historical park, was positioned to reap the benefits of federal relief program funding and the professional expertise offered by the NPS through its master planning process. The NPS developed the master planning process in the 1920s to guide the general development of its wilderness parks in the West. The magnitude of the problems stemming from the need to balance the development of visitor facilities with the protection of the natural landscape required a systematic approach to planning that rivaled the complexity of municipal planning and necessitated contributions from a number of disciplines. Since these developments were primarily concerned with the treatment of park landscapes, NPS landscape architects took the leading role in the planning, coordinating the design process among professionals in engineering, architecture, botany, forestry, geology, and other areas. (NR 2012, Sec.8: 68; citing McClellend 1993: n.p.)

The Civilian Conservation Corps and 1940s Master Planning:
The New Deal relief and funding programs provided an influx of money and personnel that presented great opportunities for carrying out programs of preservation, restoration, planning, and interpretation of historical areas. The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), created by the Emergency Conservation Work (ECW) Act of 1933, played a particularly important role in the early work carried on at most parks. The NPS employed the CCC, largely comprised of unskilled laborers, to perform clearing, grading, and other activities at many of the historical parks where planning was underway. Most of the funding for CCC construction projects came through the Public Works Administration (PWA). (NR 2012, Sec.8: 68; citing Unrau and Williss 1983: n.p.)

At Saratoga, the NPS employed the CCC to make improvements to the park's infrastructure and interpretive services. It constructed a camp to house CCC workers in the spring of 1939 in nearby Stillwater, and the men and their supervisors immediately began clearing some areas and reforesting others. They also conducted maintenance activities and grading operations. For the first time, the NPS conducted scholarly research in a comprehensive and methodical manner to link park developments with verified historical events. The CCC assisted some of these efforts, including the digging of five miles of trenches for archeological study and the removal of agricultural buildings and structures determined through research to post-date the battles. (NR 2012, Sec.8: 68)

Following the passage of the 1938 Act that authorized the park, the NPS primarily focused on identifying and acquiring additional lands that comprised the battlefield. The NPS prepared a report in August 1938 that prioritized the acquisition of an additional 2,450 acres for future inclusion within the park's legal boundaries. The properties recommended for acquisition included the Newland farm, which contained the key high ground of Fraser's Hill; the Cotton Estate, which contained the site of the Tayler House, portions of the Great Redoubt, and portions of earthworks near the rear of the British encampment; and the Charles Holmes property, which contained portions of the American fortifications. The limited staff available to manage the existing property, however, made the addition of new land problematic, and the NPS decided to proceed slowly on the acquisitions. It ultimately took decades to complete all the purchases that make up the battlefield today. (NR 2012, Sec.8: 68-69; citing NYT, 20 May 1939)

The master planning process got underway in 1939 when Roy Appleman, Regional Supervisor of Historic Sites, prepared a report that laid out the general principles for development. Appleman summed up his approach by stating, "The basic principle to keep always in mind…in planning the development of an historical area, is to do only that which will aid in presenting a simple clear picture of events…and in evaluating their significance." In an effort to create an authentic experience of how the battlefield looked in 1777, he recommended removing the historically inaccurate buildings constructed under Slingerland's tenure, including the Period House, Powder Magazine, and Blockhouse. On the other hand, Appleman did not support the restoration of the 1777 landscape through reforestation, believing that the existing open lands offered the visitor a better opportunity to view the battlefield. Appleman also developed a concept for a new tour road that would extend throughout the battlefield. The road, he wrote, "should be 'direct and simple' with no 'spur roads'" but instead a "pull-out" at each monument or marker and a parking area at each "observation point." (NR 2012, Sec.8: 69; as quoted in Appleman 1939: 4,8)

The preparation of the historical base map that would provide an accurate picture of the landscape at the time of the battles and guide future development also began in 1939. Junior Historical Technician Francis F. Wilshin and archeologist Robert Ehrich undertook this work. Wilshin conducted exhaustive research to identify maps, first-hand battle accounts, and other sources that could help identify the areas where significant battle events occurred and provide insight into the 1777 appearance of the landscape. Ehrich, with the aid of CCC workmen, conducted extensive archeological investigations over a two-year period that resulted in the identifications of segments of the British and American lines. They continually updated the base map as new findings came in. When completed in 1941, the map showed the buildings, structures, roads, farm fields, and forests that existed at the time of the battles and noted with symbols the positions of the American and British encampment, along with the lines of fortifications. (NR 2012, Sec.8: 69)

Park planners later used Wilshin's information about troop movement, encampment locations, farmsteads, and historic roads to draft an interpretive tour plan and a roads and trails plan. These efforts culminated in the creation of the General Development Plan for Saratoga in 1941. The master plan identified Fraser's Hill as the location for a future administration/museum building. The Blockhouse that had served as the visitor center up to that point was inadequate to serve the purpose going forward, and its location did not fit into the proposed plans for a new tour road. The NPS had initially considered several options for the site of the new building, including Fraser's Hill. On October 7, 1940, President Roosevelt announced a surprise visit to the battlefield. With little time to prepare, the NPS and CCC crews hastily cleared an area on Fraser's Hill and constructed a gravel road to it for the President's car. When he viewed the panorama available from the site, Roosevelt settled the question by proclaiming "This is the place" for the new building. (NR 2012, Sec.8: 69)

After establishing the site for the administration building, park personnel began to develop plans for the tour road. The tour route that emerged was anchored at the administration/museum building site on Fraser's Hill and included eleven stops: Morgan Hill, Fort Neilson, American Powder Magazine, Bemis Tavern Overlook, American River Redoubt, Middle Ravine Overlook, Balcarres Redoubt, Burgoyne's Headquarters, the Great Redoubt, Breymann's Redoubt, and Fraser's Hill. Connecting the tour stops with the park tour road became the next challenge. During this time, park planners favored creating four distinct loops of varying lengths to attract the largest amount of visitors. The roads and trails plan illustrated how the individual tour loops created discrete tour units that presented visitors with options to spend as little or as much time as one wanted on the battlefield. In so doing, the planners incorporated prevailing NPS thought that considered it necessary to offer tourists options for tours of varying lengths, since most visitors had limited time to spend. If given no alternative for shorter tours, the park felt that some visitors would make no tour at all. (NR 2012, Sec.8: 69)

Planning Efforts During World War II:
With the United States' declaration of war on Japan and Germany in December 1941, national priorities shifted to the war effort. The NPS budget was cut drastically. As was the case at all other parks within the system, funding for development at Saratoga envisioned by the master plan faded away as the relief programs ended. At that time, few, if any, of the master plans for the historical

parks had been fully implemented, and projects underway were abandoned in whatever state they existed at the time. Even with limited resources, however, park personnel at Saratoga continued their planning efforts, modifying the tour road plans several times during the war. (NR 2012, Sec.8: 69)

Post-War Period:
Public Law 734 signed by President Harry S. Truman on June 22, 1948, finally accomplished the formal establishment of Saratoga NHP. The legislation set a limit of 5,500 acres on the maximum allowable size for the park and also authorized the Secretary of the Interior to accept "all or any portion" of the Philip Schuyler Estate property for inclusion in the park. The NPS acquired the Schuyler House and about 25 acres of the surrounding estate lands through donation on March 30, 1950. The Old Saratoga Historical Association of Schuylerville, New York, Inc., subsequently managed the property for interpretive purposes under the terms of a cooperative agreement. (NR 2012, Sec.8: 70; quoted in Phillips 1997: 7)

NPS funding continued to remain low during the decade following the end of World War II. With limited resources, Saratoga NHP planners focused on planning and efforts to recreate the battlefield landscape. The question of reforestation of the battlefield was a major topic. By the conclusion of the World War II, large sections of the park were overgrown and covered with new-growth forest. Planners renewed the debate about how much of the park should be returned to the heavily forested condition of 1777 and how much should be left open to allow visitors to observe the entire layout of the battlefield and the locations of the different battles and events. In 1949, park historian Charles Snell prepared a report on the ground cover at the park in which he recommended locations that historical research indicated should be reforested. Believing that the open fields created a false impression for visitors, and wanting to present a more authentic view of the battlefield, Snell revised the historical base map to include large areas of forest that would provide a clearer understanding of how the battlefield looked in 1777. The NPS prepared a revised master plan including Snell's historical base map in 1951. It mostly repeated the plan set forth in 1941, including the proposed new administration/museum building and construction of the tour road. Financial conditions, however, still would not permit their construction. Money became available to implement these planning concepts only after the initiation of the NPS's Mission 66 Program in the mid-1950s (NR 2012, Sec.8: 70)

The Mission 66 Program:
The initiation of the NPS's Mission 66 program in 1956 provided the funding mechanism for the implementation of the plans that had long been in the works for Saratoga NHP. Mission 66 represented the largest investment ever begun for the national park system. The NPS designed it as a 10-year program to restore park infrastructure and services that had deteriorated during the previous 15 years. During the prosperous 1950s, visitation to national parks grew significantly as more Americans could afford and had the time to take vacations. Most traveled by automobile, which offered the freedom to go where and when a person chose and brought remote parks within the reach of family vacations. The increased visitor traffic put considerable strain on the outdated and undersized facilities at most parks. To get Mission 66 passed through Congress, NPS officials presented a concise and well thought-out program that articulated the clear goal of providing modern amenities to ameliorate these conditions by the 50th anniversary of the NPS in 1966. The billion-dollar program touched almost every park in the system and dramatically improved facilities at most. Construction efforts included new roads, trails, campgrounds, amphitheaters, visitor centers, administration buildings, and employee housing. Major projects that had languished due to lack of funding, such as the St. Louis Gateway Arch and the 469-mile Blue Ridge Parkway, were completed and 78 new parks were added to the system during the period. (NR 2012, Sec.8: 70; citing French 2010: np).

The system-wide construction of visitor centers was one of the most visible and important efforts undertaken during Mission 66. The NPS erected more than 100 such buildings between 1956 and 1966. The term "visitor center" emerged to identify a new type of NPS building designed to provide the primary introduction point for park visitors. Exhibiting modern architectural designs, the buildings provided a variety of amenities, including interpretative exhibits, museum space, theaters, public restrooms, and administrative offices for park staff and replaced those building usually referred to as administration and museum buildings. Mission 66 provided the funding for the visitor center at

Saratoga NHP, but its site had long been established. The concepts for the placement of visitor centers developed during Mission 66 were largely the same as those that guided the selection of the location of the building referred to as the administration/museum building in the original Saratoga NHP master plan of 1941. The planning for the site at that time had included several options that met the criteria for proximity to the proposed tour road as well as affording expansive views of the battlefield. President Franklin Roosevelt determined the ultimate selection of the Fraser's Hill site during his visit to the park in 1940. (NR 2012, Sec.8: 70-71)

The NPS prepared the design for the Saratoga NHP Visitor Center in 1960 and completed the building in 1962. Its Modern style, which incorporated locally available building materials and a low unobtrusive profile, are hallmarks of Mission 66-era visitor center design. The building provided a modern welcoming station and orientation point that offered visitors extensive views over much of the battlefield and an opportunity to learn about its history. The museum space in the visitor center was a major element of the park's interpretive program. Mission 66 also funded the other major component of the interpretive program, the construction of the Saratoga Battlefield Tour Road that established the circulation system by which visitors experience the battlefield landscape to the present day. The 1941 master plan introduced the original layout of the tour road. However, the concept for the road continually evolved as new information about the battlefield came to light and planners revised their thoughts on how best to present the battlefield in the most logical and convenient manner to visitors. Road construction began in 1958 and was completed in stages. By the time it was finished nine years later, the tour road bore little resemblance to the one first proposed in the 1940s. The planners abandoned the idea of providing tours of differing lengths in favor of a single one-way loop with several spurs that connected 10 interpretive tour stops. While the single-loop concept produced convenience for visitors, it made it impossible to present the events of the two battles, portions of which were fought on the same ground, in chronological order. A casual visitor with no previous knowledge of the battles would have to spend a considerable amount of time to gain a reasonably complete understanding of the sequence of events. As part of the development of the tour road, the NPS relocated State Highway 32, which ran through the park, outside of the park boundary and constructed the long primary entrance drive off U.S. Highway 4. The NPS also removed the buildings constructed around Fort Neilson during the state management period and restored the Neilson House, repositioning it to its original location. It also moved some of the commemorative monuments placed by the Saratoga Monument Association and private groups (Figures 19, 20). (NR 2012, Sec.8: 71)

Master Plan of 1969:
Saratoga's original master plan "wish list" was realized with the funding and initiative of the Mission 66 era. However, by 1969, the park needed to articulate their goals for the future in the form of an updated master plan. After completion of the tour road and visitor center, the 1969 plan focused less on major infrastructure improvements and more on improving and supplementing existing resources and programming in preparation for the bicentennial. The park identified the need to increase the quality of interpretation and educational programs, increase accommodation for automobile traffic, and to further their work in depicting a more literal interpretation of 1777 conditions in its 1969 planning effort. (CLR 2002: 158)

As the country's bicentennial approached, an interpretive prospectus addressing bicentennial goals was created in 1970. It sought to "provide a more stirring and meaningful 'park experience' for visitors." Specifically, the report called for expanded living history, construction of historical replica buildings, and restoration of 1777 vegetation patterns to prepare for the bicentennial. This planning manifested into several tangible and programmatic improvements, including the placement of post lines representing fortifications, construction of the Freeman cabin, and periodic living history demonstrations (Figure 21). Other interpretive elements such as the tour road wayside exhibits and a film entitled "Checkmate on the Hudson" were developed for the bicentennial. (CLR 2002: 159)

Contemporary Stewardship:
Over the past several decades, the park has not significantly altered its landscape management practices. The landscape character remains largely the same as it has since the introduction of significant features such as the park tour road in the mid-1960s and interpretive elements erected for the bicentennial. Several properties were added to the park's legislative boundary in the 1980s to

closely meet the vision of George Slingerland. (CLR 2002: 161)

Recreational use of the park has increased during recent decades. Numerous visitors now use the park for purposes unrelated to its history, including cross country skiing, horseback riding, hiking, picnicking, bicycling, and wildlife watching. All of these activities are encouraged if they occur in appropriate areas of the park and do not detract from the primary cultural and natural resources. The Wilkinson trail, a self-guided four-mile walking trail that travels through the British sector of the park, was dedicated in 1987. The park has expanded their walking trail system to tie into the Champlain Canal tow path and American sector of the park. While most recreational activities are deemed acceptable uses, park management has in recent years identified the potential conflict between various recreational users and park visitors enjoying interpretive activities. Park staff has limited time and resources to manage conflicts in use and wear-and-tear on trails and picnic areas caused by over-use. Managing recreation continues to be a pressing issue for the park (CLR 2002:161).

By 1993, the need for a summary document to synthesize the multi-faceted landscape information related to the battlefields at Saratoga was widely accepted. This need coincided with a new appreciation of what has become known as “cultural landscapes” within the National Park Service. As part of the new initiative directed at cultural landscapes, a project to complete a cultural landscape report (CLR) for Saratoga was begun and produced in draft by 1995. Completion of Volume One of the CLR, Site History, Existing Conditions, and Analysis, was completed in 2002, while work on Volume Two, Treatment, was completed in 2014. (CLR 2002:162)

In 1999, the process was begun to revisit and revise the park’s working planning documents. Thirty years went by without a change in this primary planning document, making the amendment of the “1969 Master Plan” a priority. The 1969 Master Plan, which hoped to serve the park no more than twenty years, was as much as a decade out of date and no longer addressed contemporary issues facing the park. Current National Park Service terminology for park-specific comprehensive planning document is the “General Management Plan,” which serves as the final product of the planning effort. A General Management Plan for Saratoga was completed in 2004 and will guide the management of the park for the next twenty years. (CLR 2002: 162-163)

Vegetation management is one of the key activities that determines the condition and character of the landscape. The park maintains agricultural leases with local farmers to mow several fields for hay. This assists the park with the cyclical responsibility of retaining the historic field patterns by suppressing the growth of woody vegetation. Likewise, some areas of the park are maintained using controlled burning. The park tour road still serves as the interpretive conduit, connecting the ten tour stops and providing visitors—either on bicycle or in vehicles, opportunities to experience the natural and cultural landscapes of the park. The tour road was widened to accommodate bicycles but follows its original route.

Landscape-Related Projects Since 2011:
The park has completed numerous projects associated with vegetation management, accessibility, and infrastructure repair/rehabilitation.

Completed Projects.
Vegetation Management.
--2016: Herbicide application to control exotic plants in historic fields in the battlefield unit, including knapweed, oriental bittersweet, Japanese knotweed, and Russian olive. (PEPC 64218)
--2016-2019: Clear vegetation to restore historically accurate forest and field configurations and improve interpretive vistas. (PMIS 221456)
--2017: Initiate goat browse on battlefield hillsides to reduce invasives and provide future safe access to complete the removal effort. (PEPC 70179)
--2018: Storm and wind event caused removal of 225 trees on tour road, tour stops, and the Wilkinson Trail. (PMIS 252213)
--2020: Perform deferred cyclic boundary maintenance and clearing along the existing Battlefield Unit boundary as well as recently acquired parcels. (PMIS 238802)
--2021: Recreate the 1777 field and forest pattern and views in a 2-acre parcel at Tour Stop 6 (Freeman’s farm) through plantings of red oak and white pine. (PEPC 103170)

Accessibility.
--2019: Rehabilitation of wayside exhibits and at the tour stops and improve accessibility to them and their associated outdoor furnishings and paths. (PMIS 153021 and PMIS 227123)
--2020: Rehabilitate historic visitor center stone stairs and associated stone walls and drainage. (PMIS 246042)
--2022: Replacement of battlefield tour road signs, in conjunction with rehab of tour road waysides and redesign of paths for accessibility, replace the dozen tour road signs and two directional signs. (PEPC 107553)
--2022: Demolish North Redan pathway at Tour Stop 3 (Bemus Heights). (PEPC 110230)
--2022: ERCA Waysides at SARA: Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor will install waysides at the Old Champlain Canal towpath on the hillside below Tour Stop 10 and on the towpath behind the Schuyler House. (PEPC 97816)
--2024: Rehabilitate Waysides (PMIS 257238)

Infrastructure Repair/Rehabilitation.
--2014: Removal of old water and waste system infrastructure at Block House site. (PEPC 52086, PMIS 193976)
--2016: Repair culvert erosion at Tour Stop 3. (PMIS 191435)
--2021: Replace culvert and repair adjacent trail surface on the Wilkinson Trail. (PEPC 104751)
--2021: Remove obsolete lights behind stone wall at the visitor center parking lot that have been replaced by solar lights. (PEPC 101533)
--2022: Repair Murphy Monument Foundation. (PMIS 250801)
--2023: Repave the South Gate Road and parking lot (one of the two entrances will be removed). (PMIS 246871)
--2024: Rehabilitate Waysides (PMIS 257238)

The following projects are underway at Saratoga Battlefield:
--Replace 23 timber cannon platforms at 7 tour road stops (funded 2023, PEPC 108197, PMIS 315396)
--Clear around 24 acres trees and shrubs to return the battlefield to the historically accurate forest and field configuration. (funded 2023, PMIS 232853)
--Based on a comprehensive study of the 14-mile park trail system in the Battlefield Unit, repair and rehabilitate existing trails. (funded 2022, PEPC 103689, PMIS 254711)
--Recreate the 1777 field and forest pattern and views at Tour Stops 1, 2, 4, 7, 9 , and 10. (funded 2019-2023, PMIS 238664)
--Initiate treatment (assessment, pruning, and removal) of approximately 500 trees throughout the park's roads and grounds. (funded 2021-2023, unfunded 2024-2026, PMIS 252403)
--DAR Grove Restoration Project. (partner funded, no PMIS. To be completed spring 2026)

The following projects are proposed but have not yet been funded:
--"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. The park will also restore wooded tree lines that would have existed at the time of the battles. (unfunded, PMIS 323050)

--"Prepare a Rehabilitation Plan for the DAR Monument Cultural Landscape." (unfunded, PMIS 257039)

--"Replace South Gate and Fencing." Replace one 12 foot swing gate and 250 feet of wooden fencing on the southern end of the park. (unfunded, PMIS 315043)

--"Repair Wet Sections of Horse Trail." Repair approximately 500 feet of the Horse Trail with a series of raised causeways to harden the ground and keep the trail dry. (unfunded, PMIS 227097)

--“Intermediate Repairs for Trails and Comprehensive Assessment.” This project will include a comprehensive trail assessment to identify trail deficiencies, wayfinding signage plan, and develop long term trail improvements. The project also includes intermediated trail stabilization and repairs for portions of the trail sections that washed out or overly saturated resulting from excessive rain. Work includes replacing and installing water bars and stone aprons, trail stabilization with course base, culvert replacement, and bench replacements. (unfunded, PMIS 335710, PMIS 227097)

--“Construct Vault Toilets in the Battlefield.” Currently the park has two porta-lav units in the battlefield for visitor and staff use. The park will replace the two units with ADA compliant vault toilets. (unfunded, PMIS 246041)

--“Improve Canal Towpath Trail.” The Champlain Canal Towpath runs 60 miles from Lake Champlain to the Mohawk River. The old canal towpath is being revitalized along its entire length, as an initiative from the governor, to be a walking and biking path. As scoped in a 2021 PSA, the park will restore and improve the 9,360 linear feet section of trail that goes through the park to align with the standards of the adjacent public and privately held sections. The trail sections will be repaired with large stones and gravel to repair years of erosion and damage to the trail base and subgrade. Culverts will be repaired where necessary and added where cuts have been made in the towpath to allow for drainage. A compacted crushed stone surface will be added to make the trail tread solid and even. This will make the trail safe and usable for pedestrians and cyclists. (unfunded, PMIS 246287)



Figure 17. The pavilion was built to serve as a viewing platform for the Saratoga Battlefield Memorial, circa 1935. (Saratoga NHP Archives)



Figure 18. Post card rendering of the battlefield landscape as seen from the blockhouse. Views of the rolling topography, Hudson River, and cleared landscape around the Neilson farm are visible, circa 1935. (Saratoga NHP Archives)

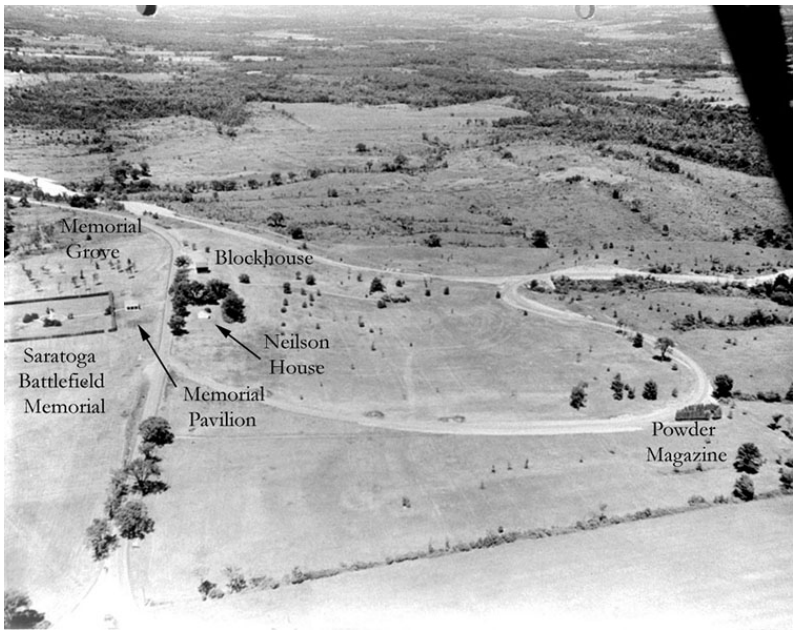


Figure 19. Oblique aerial view of the Neilson Farm area, circa 1965. The tour road is partially completed but segments of the historic road system are still in use. (Saratoga NHP Archives)

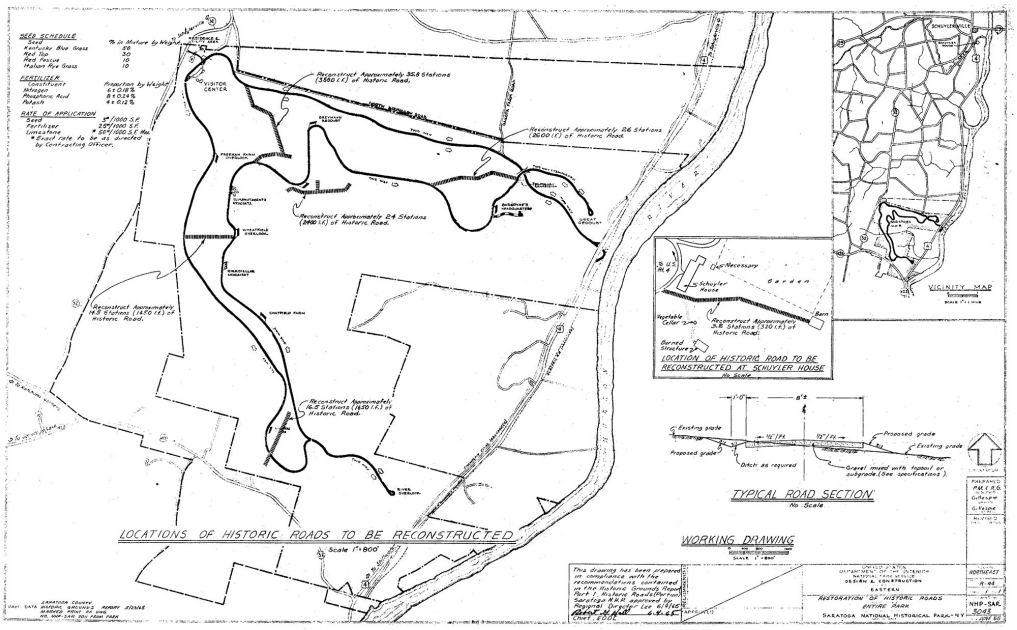


Figure 20. The tour road is pictured as a dark line on this plan. The dashed line segments represent the road traces. The graphic shows the tour road in its entirety after over 30 years of design development. (Saratoga NHP Archives)



Figure 21. Re-enactment of the battles of Saratoga during bicentennial celebrations of 1777. (Saratoga NHP Archives)

Uses

Functions and Uses:

Major Category	Category	Use/Function	Historic	Current	Primary
Defense	Battle Site	Battle Site	Yes	No	Yes
Landscape	Leisure-Passive (Park)	Leisure-Passive (Park)	Yes	Yes	Yes
Agriculture/Subsistence	Agricultural Field	Agricultural Field	Yes	Yes	No
Defense	Fortification	Battery (Defense)	Yes	No	No
Transportation	Water-Related	Canal	Yes	No	No
Transportation	Pedestrian-Related	Hiking Trail	Yes	Yes	No
Education	Interpretive Landscape	Interpretive Landscape	Yes	Yes	No
Recreation/Culture	Monument (Marker, Plaque)	Monument (Marker, Plaque)	Yes	Yes	No
Transportation	Road-Related	NPS Class III Special Purpose Road	Yes	Yes	No
Domestic (Residential)	Single Family Dwelling	Single Family House	Yes	No	No
Landscape	Scenic Landscape	View	Yes	Yes	No
Government	Government Office	Visitor Contact (Visitor Center)	Yes	Yes	No

Public Access:

Public Access: Unrestricted

Public Access Narrative:

The Saratoga Battlefield grounds are open daily, sunrise to sunset. Saratoga Battlefield has several miles of hiking trails, including its only marked trail, the 4 1/4 mile Wilkinson Trail (a loop trail) - other trails are established, but not marked. Hiking trails are for pedestrian use only with no bikes allowed. Pedestrians may also walk or bike the Driving Tour Road using the marked Multi-Use Lane. The tour road is open to vehicles April 1 through November 30, weather permitting. The road is open during the winter for walking, biking, cross-country skiing, or snow-shoeing depending upon conditions. The visitor center is open Saturday and Sunday 9am to 4pm. It is closed in January and February, and Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's days. (SARA website; Review comments, Garrett Cloer, 27 February 2026)

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 Saratoga Battlefield is evaluated by comparing landscape characteristics and features present during the period of significance, 1777-1966, with the existing conditions as assessed in 2022-2026. Many landscape characteristics and features from the period of significance remain today. The site's topography is largely unchanged since the time of the battles and provides visitors with expansive views and the opportunity to envision the strategy, outcome, and repercussions of the battles. The park has initiated projects to restore vegetative cover in a close approximation to 1777 agricultural patterns, with large amounts of mixed hardwood and coniferous forest and meadows with a composition of grasses and ferns. Mowed turf is maintained in interpretive zones and along the pedestrian trails. Some of the smaller lanes through the woods that served the movement troops and supplies during the battles and agricultural uses afterwards were incorporated into a new road system for the park in the early 1960s. The new park tour road was a nine-mile one-way loop that connected the interpretive tour stops is still in use today and serves as the primary route for visitors to experience the park. The park maintains several miles of walking and equestrian trails—many of which are historic road traces—and has designated a bicycle lane on the tour road. During the state battlefield park period, and into the National Park period, houses and barns on most battlefield properties were removed, with the exception of the Neilson House, to create a cleared landscape, vacant of human occupation. This character remains today with the only battlefield-era structure being the Neilson House. Commemorative efforts on the Saratoga Battlefield took the form of numerous memorials erected between 1883 and 1938. These monuments remain today, as does the 1962 post-modern style visitor center, which also represents planning efforts to conserve and interpret battlefield lands.

Since 1962, the most significant changes to Saratoga Battlefield have included an addition to the visitor center in 1972 and removal of the block house in 1975. In addition to the ongoing effort to restore battlefield field and forest patterns, vehicular and pedestrian circulation features have been updated at the visitor center and most of the tour stops to improve universal accessibility.

INTEGRITY

Integrity is the ability of a property to convey its historic identity or the extent to which a property evokes its appearance during a particular historic period, usually the period of significance. While evaluation of integrity is often a subjective judgment, particularly for a landscape, it must be grounded in an understanding of a property's physical features and how they relate to its significance. The National Register program identifies seven aspects of integrity including location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. Retention of these qualities is essential for a property to convey its significance, though all seven qualities of integrity need not be present to convey a sense of past time and place. According to the National Register Bulletin #40, Guidelines for Identifying, Evaluating, and Registering America's Historic Battlefields, the most important aspects of integrity for battlefields are location, setting, feeling, and association.

Location:
Location is the place where the historic property was constructed or the place where the historic event occurred. The Saratoga Battlefield is the actual location where the decisive fighting of 1777 occurred, and the landscape continues to provide the visitor with a clear picture of how the battles were waged. The site remains in a quiet undeveloped setting. The intact topography, historic eighteenth-century road traces, and field and forest patterns communicate how and why the landscape served as an advantage and/or obstacle during the battles.

Design:
Design is the combination of elements that create the form, plan, space, structure, and style of a property. The topography, historic road traces, and field and forest configuration contribute to the design integrity of the battlefield since they communicate how and why the landscape influenced military decisions and movements during the battles. Many of the human designed elements associated with the battles, including fortification lines, outbuildings, and earthworks no longer remain, but the broad patterns of the landscape and key relationships between natural features are intact and convey the historic condition. The design integrity of the commemorative features is intact but diminished due to deterioration and loss of key design components and because many features have been moved. Several battlefield markers that date to the late nineteenth century

were moved after the park tour road was completed in 1966. The Monument to the Unknown American Dead obelisk was once the centerpiece of a larger design that included a pavilion, a grove of trees, granite benches, paved walkways, and ornamental plantings. Today, only the obelisk, benches, walkways, and recently installed plantings remain. Despite these alterations, the overall good condition of the stone battlefield markers themselves conveys design intent, resulting in the retention of integrity of design. Likewise, the John Neilson House and park visitor center retain integrity of design. The Neilson House was expanded after the battles but National Park Service restoration projects have returned it to its 1777 design. The park visitor center also received an addition in 1975 but its defining elements, such as its large windows, natural building materials, large stone viewing terrace, and hexagonal-shaped massing remain.

Setting:
Setting is the physical environment of a historic property. Despite substantial changes to the vegetation patterns of the battlefield, the setting retains a high level of integrity to 1777 since the topography remains intact and its visual relationship to the Hudson River exists unimpeded. The rural context outside the park boundary contributes to the historic setting by continuing the presentation of an agricultural landscape. The setting has changed slightly since the commemorative period through the addition of more forest cover, but recent projects have restored historic vegetation patterns. The topography, views, and low density of development thus remain from the period to convey integrity of setting for the commemorative period. The setting of the park's architectural features remains intact. The John Neilson House is located on a rise with views of the rolling terrain and field and forest vegetation that resemble conditions of the agricultural landscape present in 1777. Modern introductions have been added to the landscape to improve accessibility, but the broad patterns remain to convey integrity of setting. The setting of the Visitor Center retains a high degree of integrity and closely resembles conditions in 1962, with the open westward views from the top of Fraser's Hill, the surrounding forests, and pastoral setting.

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. Few historic materials remain from the time of the battles. The John Neilson House retains original fabric, but earthworks, vegetation, and structures from the period are no longer extant, precluding the battlefield from retaining integrity of materials for 1777. Although some loss of historic materials has occurred, many of the original commemorative features remain, including stone monuments, markers, and granite benches. The presence of the original features in good condition therefore conveys integrity of materials. Both historic structures at the battlefield retain integrity of materials. The John Neilson House retains some historic materials that date to the construction of the house in 1775. Despite routine maintenance, a 1975 addition, and building updates, the visitor center contains much of its original materials, dating to 1962.

Workmanship:
Workmanship is the physical evidence of the crafts of a particular culture or people during any given period in history or prehistory. Little workmanship dating to 1777 is evident on the battlefield due to the near absence of historic built features, with the notable exception of the Neilson House. The battlefield, therefore, does not retain integrity of workmanship. Conversely, the good condition of the many stone commemorative features helps conveys integrity of workmanship through visible evidence of their historic craftsmanship. The park's historic buildings also retain integrity of workmanship. Although much of the historic fabric of the John Neilson House has been replaced in-kind, replacement pieces reflect the style and craftsmanship of the originals. The visitor center contains a large quantity of historic material and evidence of the methods employed during the construction process is highly visible.

Feeling:
Feeling is the property's expression of the aesthetic or historic sense of a particular period of time. The feeling of the current site as a Revolutionary War battleground is diminished by the loss of historic vegetation, structures, and military features. However, the park's ongoing restoration of spatial patterns and the battlefields' quiet undeveloped setting with the important topographical features intact allows visitors to understand the physical layout of the battles. Further, the historic views to and from the important strategic locations, such as Bemis Heights and the Great Redoubt, allow visitors to visualize the spatial relationship that existed between the American and British armies. As such, the battlefield retains integrity of feeling for 1777. Although some commemorative monuments have been moved or had their design altered over time, the intended opportunity for contemplation in a quiet, rural setting remains and therefore, the site retains integrity of feeling for the

commemorative period. In the area of architecture, the John Neilson House retains integrity of feeling as an eighteenth-century farmhouse. The visitor center retains integrity of feeling as it continues to reflect Mission 66-era post-World War II modern architectural characteristics such as the hexagonal units, covered terraces, natural construction materials, and modern elements such as large glass-and steel curtain walls.

Association:
The battlefield is the actual location where the decisive fighting of 1777 occurred, and the landscape maintains a high level of integrity for its association with the two battles. The commemorative features on the battlefield still communicate the important commemorative efforts that occurred in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries to memorialize important events in history and have integrity of association. The John Neilson House retains integrity of association as an eighteenth-century farmhouse, and the visitor center retains integrity of association to the Mission 66-era post-World War II modern architecture that was adopted by the National Park Service.

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 (1777-1966), 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: Topography

Historic Condition (to 1966):
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). The topography of the Saratoga Battlefield and its relationship to the Hudson River is a primary landscape characteristic that influenced the strategy and outcome of the historic battles. The conflict between British and American forces occurred at this place by design, rather than by accident. The Hudson River valley served as British General John Burgoyne's avenue of approach to move his troops from Canada to Albany. He hoped to use this colonial thoroughfare to divide and subdue the rebellious colonies. American General Horatio Gates's American advisors possessed superior knowledge of the terrain that the British hoped to pass through. The American forces were able to use the natural escarpment as key terrain, a superb defensive position that they would have to be forced from if the British were to reach their objective. Locations such as Bemis Heights and the British Defenses, played key roles in the battles because of the opportunity gained from occupying high ground. The rolling terrain at the Barber and Neilson farms among others played a role in the battles by defining where the adversaries' placed fortifications and planned avenues of attack.

Evaluation:
The park is still characterized by the steep escarpments and rolling fields that resemble conditions in 1777. Tour Stops 1, 3, 9, and 10 along the tour road highlight the park's more dramatic topographic features, and their subsequent expansive viewsheds, while the remainder of the park visible from the tour road illustrates the agricultural landscape utilized by the strategic planners of the battles (Figure 22). Significant topographic and hydrological characteristics and relationships survive intact at the Saratoga Battlefield.

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Figure 22. Tour stop 9, overlooking the Hudson River. The British fortified this site in order to control the river, floodplain, and road at the base of the embankment. (OCLP 2022)

Landscape Characteristic: Vegetation

Historic Conditions (to 1966):
Vegetation includes deciduous and evergreen trees, shrubs, vines, groundcovers, and herbaceous plants and plant communities, whether indigenous or introduced in the landscape. Vegetation and topography together define the spatial characteristics of the Saratoga Battlefield. Farmers settled the land decades prior to the autumn of 1777 and hollowed out clearings in the forest to support agriculture. Many of these clearings were littered with tree stumps. However, at the time of the park's creation in 1938, nearly all forest vegetation had been removed. During the first years as a national park, the open quality of the landscape was appreciated as an aid to visitor understanding battle events, because the topography could be seen and understood at a glance. Due to austerity measures put in place during World War II, the formerly open fields grew into young forests. Rather than remove the new growth, since 1950 the park has planned and worked to reestablish the pattern of field and forest thought to be present during the time of the battle.

Evaluation:
Except for the species composition of the forest and the size of the individual specimens, the park has come close to achieving the objective of restoring the historic field and forest patterns. There are differences between existing vegetation and maps of what is known of the vegetation at the time of the second battle, but these differences do not adversely impact a visitor's understanding of the general character of the landscape in 1777. The park is currently home to a diverse collection of vegetation including a mixture of deciduous and coniferous trees, shrubs, grasses, and forbs (Figures 23, 24).

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
Field and Forest Pattern	152923	Contributing					No
Composition of Field and Forest	152925	Noncontributing – Compatible					No

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Figure 23. The park contains many vegetative types. As seen from the Neilson farm, meadow grasses and forested stands predominate in the landscape. (OCLP 2022)



Figure 24. Adjacent to tour stop 8, a field is dominated by ferns and grasses. (OCLP 2022)

Landscape Characteristic: Circulation

Historic Condition (to 1966):
Circulation refers to the spaces, features, and applied material finishes that constitute systems of movement in a landscape. Local roads played a significant role in the strategy and outcome of the battles of Saratoga, serving as military avenues of approach and retreat through the agrarian landscape. National Park Service planning during the 1940s and 1950s incorporated some of them into the planning of the modern tour road. Constructed between 1958 and 1966, the park tour road connected the visitor center on Fraser's Hill to ten interpretive stops throughout the battlefield. The nine-mile, one-way loop road was built as part of the National Park Service's massive Mission-66 program to update and standardize visitor amenities in the parks. At the visitor center, a steep stone stairway and a paved ramp provided access to the building from a paved parking lot at the base of the hill. At the Monument to the Unknown American Dead, two sets of low stairs lead to a circular paved walkway surrounding the monument.

Evaluation:
Many traces of historic roads and routes remain, but some are so overgrown with vegetation that they have required considerable study and analysis to locate. Nevertheless, where they can be positively identified, historic road traces serve as fixed and known points that are useful in identifying the location of historic events and military positions (Figure 25). Portions of historic road traces have been incorporated into the Wilkinson Trail and other pedestrian trails. The character of the tour road today is largely unchanged from its construction date, outside of a widening project completed in 2000 (Figures 26, 27). The visitor center stairway, ramp, and parking lot are extant (Figure 28). A short, paved road leads to a second accessible parking lot at the top of the hill adjacent to the north end of the building. Pedestrian circulation has been updated at the Monument to the Unknown American Dead with accessible ramps.

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
Eighteenth Century Road Traces	152927	Contributing	968602		Location	57849	No
Saratoga Battlefield Tour Road	152929	Contributing	968594		Location	102944	No
Visitor Center Entrance Path	152931	Contributing	1170044		Location	57874	No
Visitor Center Parking Lot	152933	Contributing	1170045		Location	57913	Yes
Walkway, Monument of the Unknown American Dead	152935	Contributing	1170046		Location	61404	No

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Figure 25. Historic road trace, one of several the park retains. The traces are visible to varying degrees depending on the level of maintenance dedicated to them. (OCLP 2022)



Figure 26. From the US Route 4 entrance, the park entrance road directs visitors to the visitor center and park tour road. (OCLP 2020)



Figure 27. The park tour road is one-way for most of its length and includes a dedicated bicycle lane. (OCLP 2022)



Figure 28. A stone staircase and asphalt path direct visitors from the parking lot to the visitor center. (OCLP 2022)

Landscape Characteristic: Buildings and Structures

Historic Condition (to 1966):

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. The only surviving building from the time of the historic battles is the John Neilson House, located on a rise in the southern portion of the battlefield. It was constructed as a small, two-room house with a side gable, saltbox roof and a random fieldstone foundation. The house was enlarged by a two-story addition, which was demolished before the State of New York acquired the property in the mid-1920s. By that time the building had been moved a short distance from its original location and reoriented. The NPS relocated the Neilson House to its original location and orientation after an archaeological investigation conducted in the 1950s. The NPS subsequently conducted an extensive restoration of the house to bring it back to its 1777 appearance.

Remnants of the Champlain Canal survive within the Saratoga Battlefield. No lock structures were ever constructed within the park boundary but many canal features including resources associated with Wilbur's Basin, once an important canal way station and rest area, were located along the escarpment in the southeastern area.

The Saratoga Battlefield Visitor Center was built in 1962 as part of the Mission 66 program. Its location on Fraser's Hill was selected by Franklin D. Roosevelt during a visit to the park in 1940 for the site's sweeping views of the battlefield landscape. The design and construction of the visitor center was delayed, however, until funding was secured through the Mission 66 program in the late 1950s. The character-defining features of the building are its hexagonal units and covered terraces, the use of both locally available natural construction materials and modern elements such as large glass-and-steel curtain walls; and low-horizontal profile.

The park's administrative area was developed in the early 1960s as part of the Mission 66-funded investment in the park. It is accessed via a loop drive that extends north of the secondary entrance road. The Ranger Station and Park Administrative Office were located around the loop. They were constructed in 1962 and were simple Ranch-style buildings with low-pitched, side-gable roofs and concrete foundations.

Evaluation:
The John Neilson House remains as the sole surviving eighteenth-century structure on the battlefield (Figure 29). The one-and-one-half-story building is rectangular in plan with a full-width porch and a rear lean-to. It sits on a poured concrete foundation with rubble stone facing. The building has a steeply pitched side-gable roof with a large overhang supported by five simple wood columns. The area underneath the overhang forms a small porch. The structural system is wood frame with nogged brick. The park maintains the building and it is in good condition.

Other buildings documented by 1777 British surveys have long since been removed. Nineteenth and early twentieth century farm buildings were removed by the National Park Service, as were the conjectural reconstructions installed during the New York State management period. Although few resources associated with the canal remain, the canal cross-section, including the tow path, is easily identified in some segments. Some remains of the Wilbur's Basin development can be seen when entering the park through its eastern entrance. The park visitor center is largely unchanged from its historic condition, outside of a small addition that dates to 1972 (Figure 30).

Several small buildings and structures were added to the landscape after the historic period to improve park administration, visitor services, and interpretation. The administrative area developed in the early 1960s expanded with construction of a third building, a Collection Storage Facility, around the loop. The older Ranger Station and Park Administrative Office underwent significant alterations that has compromised their integrity. The maintenance area to the south of the secondary entrance road was developed in the mid-1980s and contains sheds, garages, and offices that provide for maintenance operations and equipment and material storage. Buildings include the Maintenance Shop Building, Garage/Maintenance Building, Sand Shed, Equipment/Tool Storage Building, Pole Barn Building, Carpenters Shop, and the Lumber Storage Building. The Maintenance Shop Building and the Garage/Maintenance Building are both one story in height and topped by flat roofs with metal overhangs, and both have multiple large vehicle door openings. The Equipment/Tool Storage Building and the Pole Barn Building are both three open bays wide with

slightly pitched asphalt-shingle roofs. The Equipment/Tool Storage Building is a low one story in height and is constructed of wood. The Pole Barn Building is a tall, one-story corrugated metal building. The Sand Shed is wood construction, one bay wide, with an asphalt-shingle shed roof. The Carpenters Shop and Lumber Storage Building are located south of the main cluster of maintenance facilities. Both are one story, wood frame buildings, with metal roofs and corrugated metal siding.

The House at 1032 State Highway 32 is the only residential property that remains within the legislated boundaries of Saratoga NHP. It is located along the north side of State Highway 32, north of the Gates Headquarters site, and consists of a two-story house constructed in 1979. It has a front-gable roof, a one-story wing, a covered front porch, and an attached two-car garage.

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
John Neilson House	152937	Contributing	001289		Location	65354	Yes
Old Champlain Canal: Canal Prism	152939	Contributing	023056		Location	57889	Yes
Old Champlain Canal: Stone Bridge Abutments	152941	Contributing	040759		Location	57890	Yes
Saratoga NHP Visitor Center	152943	Contributing	968585		Location	57874	Yes
Breymann Redoubt Tour Stop Restroom	152945	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
Collection Storage Facility	152947	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
Carpenters Shop	152949	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
Lumber Storage Building	152959	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
Equipment/Tool Storage Building	152961	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
Garage/Maintenance Building	152963	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
Maintenance Shop Building	152965	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
Neilson Farm Tour Stop Restroom	152967	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
Park Administrative Office	152969	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
Pole Barn Building	152971	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
Ranger Station	152973	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
Sand Shed	152975	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
House, 1032 State Highway 32	152977	Noncontributing – Compatible					No

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Figure 29. The Neilson House is the only surviving eighteenth-century structure on the battlefield. (OCLP 2020)



Figure 30. Completed in 1962, the visitor center, is located on the high ground of Fraser's Hill in the northwest area of the park, and offers expansive views to the east. (OCLP 2022)

Landscape Characteristic: Views and Vistas

Historic Condition (to 1966):
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. The strategic views from the top of the river valley escarpment, where numerous American and British fortifications were erected, were critically important to the historic battles. The American fortifications at Bemis Heights provided views northward, up the River Road and the Hudson River, providing the best vantage point from which to see the southward advancing British Army. It was these views, along with the high ground, that formed an impenetrable boundary to the opposing side and gave the Americans a strategic advantage on the southern end of the battlefield. The British defenses on the escarpment north of Bemis Heights provided an unimpeded view of the floodplain, the British hospital, and any possible advancing American troops from the south.

Evaluation:
Since the historic period, the views and viewsheds to and from the elevated areas within the battlefield have remained relatively unchanged. The highest points are located at Fraser Hill, the Freeman Farm Overlook, the American River fortifications, and the Great Redoubt. The Neilson Farm and Bemis Heights locations offer a panoramic view of the battlefield and the surrounding area. Despite recent modernization, the area has retained its rural character, and the unobstructed views allow visitors to understand the areas of key terrain on the battlefield and how these landscape features contributed to the location and outcome of the battles. These views are essential to understanding the events of 1777 and the physical space of the battlefield (Figure 31).

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
Eastward Views to the Hudson River and Washington County Rural Landscape	153179	Contributing					No
Westward Views to High Ground Outside the Park Boundary	153181	Contributing					No

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Figure 31. Expansive eastward views of the Hudson River, the floodplain, and the hills of Washington County as seen from the embankment at tour stop 3. (OCLP 2022)

Landscape Characteristic: Small Scale Features

Historic Condition (to 1966):
Small-scale features are elements that provide detail and diversity for both functional needs and aesthetic concerns in the landscape. Prior to the battles, farmers created small scale features to meet their domestic and agricultural needs, like wells, fences, stone walls, and animal pens. Many small scale features were destroyed or adapted into other uses by the armies during the battles. Farmers recorded their losses after the battles, documenting the destruction of outbuildings, fences, and crops. Many features were rebuilt during the long agricultural period that spanned after the battles through the early 1900s.

Beginning in the 1870s, citizen groups began placing monuments on the battlefield to commemorate the battles of Saratoga. The collection of battlefield monumentation at the battlefield bears an important relationship with the larger Saratoga Monument in Schuylerville, which represented the combined efforts of the Saratoga Monument Association. The placement of the small markers within the battlefield differentiated that landscape from the surrounding countryside, creating an image and identity for this place in the popular imagination. These efforts began the process leading to the battlefield coming into public ownership and management. The battlefield monuments were placed conveniently along the shoulders of pre-existing roadways. When this network was abandoned after the introduction of the new park tour road in the 1960s, some of the roadside monuments were moved to serve the new road system.

Evaluation:
Almost no above ground small scale features from the time of the battles remain. The historic stone battlefield monuments are still located throughout the park to commemorate notable people and events associated with the battles (Figures 32, 33). Small scale features that post-date the period of significance include wayside exhibits at the tour stops, directional signage, and the “match stick” fortification lines introduced by the National Park Service (Figures 34, 35). The match sticks are white posts with blue or red tops placed in lines throughout the landscape to represent the pattern of fortifications constructed during the battles (Figure 36). Twenty-nine reproduction cannon on wood carriages are located at the tour stops (Figure 37).

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
Arnold Monument	152979	Contributing	022312		Location	61401	Yes
Iron Fence, Arnold Monument	152989	Contributing	1170047		Location	61401	Yes
Bemis Tavern Monument	152983	Contributing	022314		Location	61402	Yes
Bidwell Monument	152993	Contributing	022309		Location	61403	Yes
DAR Directional Marker, Leggett Place Marker	152995	Contributing	975751		Location	238752	No
Fraser Monument	152997	Contributing	022308		Location	61408	Yes
Freeman Farm Monument	152999	Contributing	022310		Location	61530	Yes
Gates Headquarters Monument	153001	Contributing	040015		Location	61534	Yes
Great Ravine Monument	153003	Contributing	022290		Location	61539	Yes
Hardin Monument	153005	Contributing	022311		Location	61542	Yes
Kosciuszko Monument	153087	Contributing	022301		Location	61544	Yes

Monument to the Unknown American Dead	153279	Contributing	022302		Location	61404	Yes
Granite Benches (3), Monument of the Unknown American Dead	153281	Contributing	040755		Location	61405	Yes
Morgan Monument	153093	Contributing	022300		Location	61547	Yes
Murphy Monument	153095	Contributing	022305		Location	61550	Yes
New Hampshire Men Monument	153097	Contributing	022303		Location	61557	Yes
Rockefeller Monument	153101	Contributing	022304		Location	61562	Yes
Second Battle of Saratoga Monument	153287	Contributing	022306		Location	61565	Yes
Slingerland Tablet	153107	Contributing	022298		Location	61567	Yes
Ten Broeck Monument	153109	Contributing	022307		Location	61571	Yes
Water Battery Monument	153111	Contributing	022313		Location	61573	Yes
Fraser Memorial	153113	Noncontributing – Compatible	040762		Location	61406	Yes
Sons of the American Revolution Monument	153289	Noncontributing – Compatible	022299		Location	61570	Yes
Unknown Soldiers Monument	153117	Noncontributing – Compatible	040763		Location	61572	Yes
Battlefield Tour Road Waysides	153119	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
Park Signage	153121	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
"Matchstick" Fortification Lines	153129	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
Cannon	153131	Undetermined					No

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Figure 32. The Saratoga Battlefield Memorial honors the unknown American soldiers who died during the Revolutionary War. (OCLP 2020)



Figure 33. Monument honoring Brigadier General Thaddeus Kosciuszko. (OCLP 2022)



Figure 34. Wayside exhibits throughout the park span decades of stylistic variations. (OCLP 2022)



Figure 35. Non-historic directional and interpretive signage is located throughout the park. (OCLP 2022)



Figure 36. Four-foot tall, white-painted posts with blue and red tops spaced 30 feet apart represent fortification lines at the battlefield. These date to the bicentennial. (OCLP 2022)



Figure 37. Replica cannon on wooden gun carriages are located in several key interpretive areas of the battlefield, including the visitor center lawn, as pictured here. (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 the park's 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)

A total of nine contributing archeological sites have been identified within the Battlefield Unit to date. Eight site concern the Revolutionary War period and as well as time leading up to 1777, and the other concerns the Old Champlain Canal. (NR 2012, Sec.8: 93-97)

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
American Fortification, River Overlook Site	153291	Contributing		SARA00012			No
American Headquarters and Field Hospital Site	153293	Contributing		SARA00004			No
American Lines Site	153029	Contributing		SARA00011			No
Balcarres Redoubt Site	153031	Contributing		SARA00016			No
Breymann Redoubt Site	153033	Contributing		SARA00015			No
British Fortifications Site	153035	Contributing		SARA00014			No
Neilson Farm Site	153039	Contributing		SARA00008			No
Old Champlain Canal Site	153295	Contributing		SARA00006			No
Taylor Farm Site	153043	Contributing		SARA00021			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 Saratoga Battlefield 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.

The current condition results in the ability to imagine the events of the battles of 1777. Past, current, and future projects aim to maintain the landscape in a combination of field and forest that is representative of conditions at the time of the battles. The viewshed is largely rural in character and speaks to the agricultural history of the property. Few historic built features remain on the landscape creating a false sense of historic vacancy, but those that do exist are in good condition. Most visitor amenities are maintained in good condition including the visitor center, roads, parking lots, and some of the mowed walking paths. Projects are also underway or planned to address features showing signs of wear and age, such as asphalt sidewalk surfaces at the tour stops, and a number of interpretive wayside signs. Sections of the park walking trails have also been repaired to mitigate erosion due to overuse.

Condition Assessment: Good

Assessment Date: 09/21/2021

Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:

Provisional. The condition reassessment for this CLI has been delayed due to Covid-19 travel restrictions and staffing shortages. In the meantime, the most recent condition assessment will remain in place until it is reassessed as part of a comprehensive update of the entire CLI. Planning and scheduling this update will occur in FY 2022.

Condition Assessment: Good

Assessment Date: 08/30/2011

Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:

The current condition of the battlefield is good, resulting in the ability to imagine the events of the battles of 1777. The park maintains the landscape in a combination of field and forest that is representative of conditions at the time of the battles. The viewshed is largely rural in character and speaks to the agricultural history of the property. Few historic built features remain on the landscape creating a false sense of historic vacancy, but those that do are in good condition, with the exception of the Saratoga Battlefield Memorial landscape. This component of Tour Stop 2 contains overgrown vegetation and a fractured sense of its historic spatial organization. Most visitor amenities are maintained in good condition including the visitor center, roads, parking lots, and some of the mowed walking paths. Other features are showing signs of wear and age, such as asphalt sidewalk surfaces at the tour stops, and a number of interpretive wayside signs. Sections of the park walking trails have also become eroded due to overuse.

Impacts

Type of Impact: Impending Development

Other Impact:

External or Internal: External

Impact Narrative: Potential development on non-park lands in the battlefield viewshed threatens the agricultural historical context.

Date Identified: 09/21/2011

Resolved? No

Type of Impact: Soil Compaction

Other Impact:

External or Internal: Internal

Impact Narrative: Overuse and inappropriate surface materials caused soil compaction on park walking trails.

Date Identified: 09/21/2011

Resolved? Yes

Type of Impact: Vegetation/Invasive Plants

Other Impact:

External or Internal: Internal

Impact Narrative: Work is ongoing to eradicate invasive vegetation.

Date Identified: 07/31/2026

Resolved? No

Treatment

Stabilization Measures

Treatment Documents

Document Type:	Cultural Landscape Report Part 2
Document Date:	2011-01-01
Title:	Cultural Landscape Report for Saratoga Battlefield, Volume II
IRMA Link:	
Narrative:	

The park's 2004 "General Management Plan" did not prescribe a specific treatment approach for the Saratoga Battlefield 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 Saratoga Battlefield property was described as part of the Historic Zone, Park Support Zone, and Commemorative Landscape Overlay, 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.

Historic Zone – Supporting Battle Action Subzone.
Objectives: The setting is predominantly open space; Interpretation is minimal; visitors encounter less interpretive media and fewer educational programs and activities than provided for in other zones.

Commemorative Landscape Overlay.
Objectives: Monuments and historic markers and their settings are monitored to assess and ensure good condition; The Saratoga Monument grounds are rehabilitated to reflect the original formal design.

Park Support Zone.
Objectives: Visitor service and park support facilities are maintained in good condition; The ability of park staff to maintain the Old Saratoga Unit is improved; Orientation to the entire park is provided at the outset of the visitor experience regardless of whether Old Saratoga or Battlefield unit is the point of entry; The park's entry and exit are safe and are appropriate for a national park.

The 2011 "Cultural Landscape Report for Saratoga Battlefield, Volume II" recommends a Rehabilitation treatment approach because of the landscape's high level of integrity, the available historic documentation, and current management direction. Rehabilitation is one of four treatments standards identified by "The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties" (the other three being Preservation, Restoration, and Reconstruction). The intent of this treatment, as defined by the Secretary of the Interior is to "…[make] possible a compatible use of a property through repair, alterations, and additions while preserving those portions or features which convey its historical, cultural, or architectural values." (CLR 2011: 37-38, citing Secretary of the Interior's Standards, 1995)

Rehabilitation is the most appropriate treatment for the battlefield landscape because of the need to provide for contemporary park functions, visitor services, and environmental sustainability. This treatment focuses on preserving significant landscape characteristics and features, replacing in-kind key features that have been lost, and allowing for change to accommodate the needs of park visitors. Specific to the battlefield, Rehabilitation provides the basis for adding interpretative waysides and signage, as well as landscape exhibitry, such as ghost structures or battlefield markers. Rehabilitation also provides flexibility to address contemporary site issues including screening modern development and altering circulation to provide accessibility in a manner that is compatible with the historic character of the landscape. Within Rehabilitation as the primary treatment, much of the feature-level treatment will involve Preservation and Restoration in order to retain and enhance the historic character of the landscape. (CLR 2011: 39)

To guide the Rehabilitation of the landscape, the overall treatment philosophy for the Saratoga Battlefield is to enhance its historic character so that it more closely evokes the landscape conditions at the time of the second battle in October 1777. At this time, the rural agricultural landscape, a mosaic of wooded and open lands scattered with settlements and a network of roads and fences, was covered with military features that included felled trees and hastily constructed earthworks. (CLR 2011: 39-40)

Treatment Type: Rehabilitation

Treatment Completed: No

Bibliography and Supplemental Information

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Citation Author	Citation Title	Year of Publication	Citation Publisher	Citation Type	Citation Location	Citation Number
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Supplemental Information:

Supplemental Information Title: Saratoga National Historical Park

Supplemental Information Narrative:

https://www.nps.gov/sara/index.htm

Supplemental Information:

Supplemental Information Title: Battles of Saratoga

Supplemental Information Narrative:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battles_of_Saratoga