

LOCATION

The Saratoga Monument is located in the village of Victory Mills, which adjoins the village of Schuylerville.

It is approximately seven miles north of the Saratoga National Historical Park Battlefield Visitor Center in Stillwater.

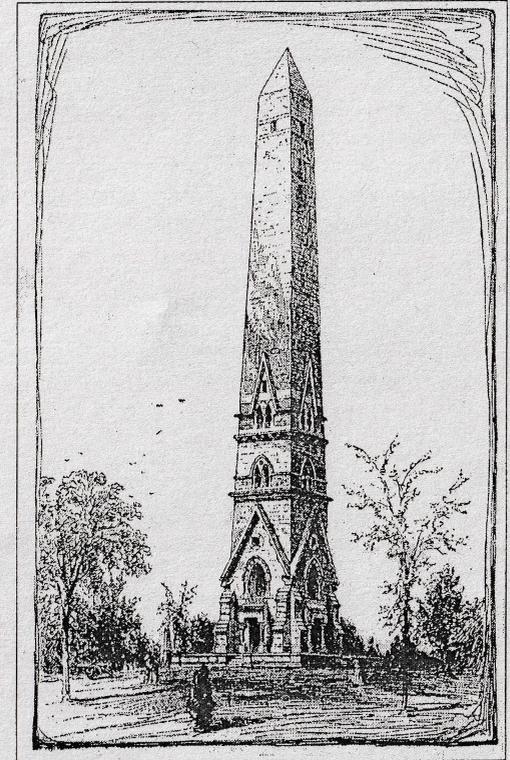
DIRECTIONS TO THE BATTLEFIELD

- ◆ As you exit the Monument parking lot, turn right and go to US Rt. 4
- ◆ Turn right (south) on Rt. 4 and drive about 7 1/2 miles.
 - ⇒ Brown and white signs for "Saratoga National Historical Park" will be visible after about 6 miles.
- ◆ Entrance for Saratoga National Historical Park will be on your right.
- ◆ Drive about 2 miles on the entrance road. This brings you to a "STOP" sign and 4-way intersection.
- ◆ **Parking:** straight across the intersection.
- ◆ **Handicap access parking:** turn left at the "STOP" sign onto Roosevelt Road (gate and standard blue wheelchair access sign to your left at the intersection).

ADMINISTRATION

The Saratoga Monument is owned and administered by the National Park Service. It is one of the three units making up Saratoga National Historical Park.

The Saratoga Monument



"...we are proud of the American fore-fathers. And we want the world to know it; hence these noble monuments."

*John Henry Brandow, 1901
historian*



Saratoga National Historical Park

648 Rt. 32

Stillwater, NY 12170

518-664-9821 ext. 224

www.nps.gov/sara

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Saratoga National Historical Park

National Park Service

Department of the Interior

The Saratoga Monument is a rock-faced granite obelisk situated on a high bluff above the Hudson River in the Town of Victory. It stands 154 feet 6 inches tall and rests on a granite plinth that is 38 feet square. The shaft of the monument tapers from 20 feet square at the base to 10 feet square at the top. Stylistically, it exhibits both Gothic and Egyptian elements.

The Saratoga Monument commemorates the surrender of the British forces under the command of Lieutenant General John Burgoyne to General Horatio Gates of the American forces on October 17, 1777. The surrender followed the two battles of Saratoga in the present town of Stillwater and the retreat of the British to what is now the Schuylerville area. The battles and subsequent surrender are considered a turning point in the American Revolution.

Within the monument are six lower levels (including the ground floor) and a viewing platform in the upper level at the top of the shaft. A stairway of cast and wrought-iron, manufactured by William B. Wemples' Sons of Fultonville, New York, interconnects the lower levels of the monument. From the fifth platform to the uppermost platform is a modern steel stair.

The floors of the first five levels (excluding the ground floor) are finished with ornamental ceramic tile, produced by the British firm of Maw & Co., among others. The walls of the first two levels are covered with bronze bas-relief plaques depicting narrative scenes associated with the Revolutionary War. There are total of sixteen plaques, designed by the architect Jared Markham, sculpted by Jonathan Hartley and J.E. Kelly, and cast by Maurice J. Power of the National Fine Art Foundry, New York City. Additional interior decorative features include polished granite dados, brass moldings, and terracotta tile cornices.

The exterior features four niches housing life-size bronze statues of Revolutionary War heroes from the Battle of Saratoga. In the east niche, overlooking the town of Schuylerville, is a statue of General Philip Schuyler by the sculptor Alexander Doyle. The north niche is occupied by a statue of General Horatio Gates by sculptor George E. Bissell. In the west niche is a statue of Colonel Morgan by sculptor William R. O'Donovan. The south niche remains empty; symbolizing the place reserved for the American general and traitor, Benedict Arnold.

The Saratoga Monument was conceived as early as 1859 when a group of local, patriotic residents organized and incorporated the Saratoga Monument Association. However, the Civil War interrupted the work of the Association, and the movement to build the monument was suspended. It was not until 1872 that enthusiasm for

America's Centennial Celebration reignited interest in the monument.

In 1873, the Association By-Laws were printed and its charter amended to appoint new trustees. Jared C. Markham, of Jersey City, New Jersey, was selected by the building committee as the architect of the monument. A design was submitted by the architect and accepted by the Association in 1873. Intending to commemorate the centennial of Burgoyne's surrender with the start of work on the monument in October of 1877, attempts to raise both money and public support began in earnest. It proved to be a long and difficult process.

Several dates are of particular importance in the history of the monument including: October 17, 1877 - corner stone laid; November 3, 1882 - cap stone (pinnacle) put in place; August, 1887 - decorative program, including the bronze statues, completed; August 29, 1895 - financial realities forced the Saratoga Monument Association to transfer ownership of the site to the State of New York; October 1897 - initial landscaping of the site completed; and October 17, 1912 - official dedication of the monument held.

The monument was constructed by the Booth Brothers Company of New York City, and was supervised by the architect and the Building Committee of the Association. Expenses included \$95,000 paid by the federal government, \$10,000 paid by New York State, and \$2,300 paid from private subscriptions. An outstanding debt of \$4,500 remained in 1895 when the property was transferred to the state.

Since construction, the monument has been plagued with water infiltration problems and has been subject to a number of extensive repair efforts. The first was a comprehensive re-pointing project in 1912. A second effort was undertaken in 1955 when the interior walls and metal stairway were repaired. In 1964, massive rehabilitation of the masonry, windows, stairs, electrical and lightning protection systems was undertaken by the state. Despite repairs, deterioration continued; safety issues forced closure of the monument in October 1970.

On May 12, 1980 the Saratoga Monument was officially acquired by the Department of the Interior from the State of New York. It became one of the sites administered by Saratoga National Historical Park, a National Park Service site. At that time an intensive investigation report was undertaken by an engineering firm. Moisture was again identified as the primary cause of distress. Several maintenance projects were carried out and the monument opened to the public in the summer of 1981. The following year (1982), extensive

repairs to masonry, flashing and lightning protection system were made. A safety inspection in 1986 recommended the closing of the monument. It closed in 1987 and has not reopened.

Planning for the present work began in 1989. This first phase studied stabilization and restoration of the structure. Work included the preparation of a historic structure report by National Park Service staff and a building conservation report for long term preservation by the architectural and engineering firm of Mesick, Cohen, and Waite. Work for the first phase of the restoration project, including the historic structure report and conservation report, is completed. The cost of the conservation report was \$155,000.

Probes and investigations of the building material were carried out for all aspects of the structure from the condition of its foundation footings to the deterioration of the lead coated copper cap. Conservation studies were made of the brass, bronze and granite architectural and sculptural elements. The temperature and humidity levels were measured over the course of a year. Rainwater run-off patterns on the exterior surfaces were mapped and compared with moisture patterns for the interior. Structural probes were carried out to determine the nature of internal construction features. A hydraulic aerial lift was utilized to survey the shaft stone by stone and data were collected on every aspect of the exterior condition.

Findings of the conservation report led to a set of prioritized recommendations for the restoration of the monument. Generally, it was concluded that the monument is structurally sound with significant deterioration of the interior. The infiltration of water is the most immediate cause of the building's deterioration; water is degrading the masonry materials and corroding metallic building components such as the stairs.

The second phase of stabilization and began in 1993 and consisted of preparing detailed plans and specifications for all restoration work as recommended in the historic structure report and the conservation report. Mesick, Cohen, and Waite also carried out the second phase work.

In 1999, with funds provided by Congress, the third phase of the project began. This next-to-last step involves repair and restorative construction of the obelisk and platform. The work, which is budgeted at \$ 2.5 million, will take some two years to complete. The last phase, restoration of the monument grounds, walk and roadways, will commence as soon as funds are available. In the meantime, beginning in 2001, the restored monument will be open to visitors seasonally.