

## FACILITIES

- ◆ The house is open mid-June to Labor Day, Wednesday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- ◆ House access is by guided tour only; tours are free.
- ◆ Tours are limited to groups of 10-12 visitors per group. Tours start about every half-hour.
- ◆ There is a paved parking area in front of the Schuyler House.
- ◆ Restroom facilities are available at the southern end of the parking area.
- ◆ As this historic house is restored and maintained in near original condition, it is not presently wheelchair accessible; a photo display of the upper floor is available.

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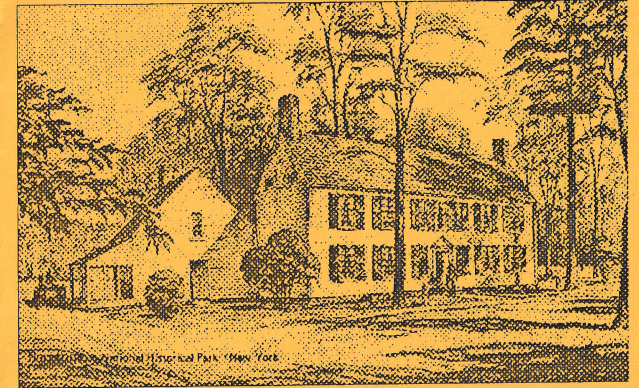
## DIRECTIONS TO THE BATTLEFIELD:

- ◆ As you exit the Schuyler House parking area, turn left onto U.S. Route 4 (south).
- ◆ Drive approximately 6 miles on Rt. 4. The entrance road for the Saratoga Battlefield will be on your right (there will be brown road signs for "Saratoga National Historical Park" before the turn).
- ◆ Drive about 2 miles on the entrance road. This brings you to a "STOP" sign and four-way intersection.
- ◆ **Parking:** straight across the intersection.
- ◆ **Handicap accessible parking:** turn left at the "STOP" sign onto "Roosevelt Road" (you will see a gate and a blue and white wheelchair access sign to your left when you are at the stop).

## ADMINISTRATION

General Schuyler's house and 25 acres of surrounding estate are now owned and administered by the National Park Service. The estate is one of three units making up Saratoga National Historical Park.

# Schuyler House



*The country estate of  
Revolutionary War American  
General Philip Schuyler*

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"My hobby horse has long been a country life; I dismounted once with reluctance, and now saddle him again... and hope to canter him on to the end of the journey of life."

*Philip Schuyler*



Saratoga National Historical Park  
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Saratoga National Historical Park  
National Park Service      Department of the Interior

## THE SCHUYLER HOUSE

When Philip Schuyler took up residence in the fine country house that he hurriedly rebuilt in November 1777 to replace an earlier one burned by the British, he wrote, "My hobby horse has long been a country life; I dismounted once with reluctance, and now saddle him again with a very considerable share of satisfaction, and hope to canter him on to the end of the journey of life." Restored by the National Park Service, Philip Schuyler's "new house" of 1777 (the third on this tract) is a gentle reminder of the "founding family" of Schuylerville, and of the distinguished bearer of its name during the Revolutionary War.

## THE GENERAL

Fourth generation heir of one of the prominent Dutch families of the New York colony, Philip Schuyler (1733-1804) was one of the leading political figures in the province before the outbreak of the American Revolution. He had also served with honor in the French and Indian War (1754-1763). A conservative, he nonetheless heartily approved the acts of the First Continental Congress meeting in Philadelphia in 1774, and was a delegate to the climactic Second Continental Congress. On June 15, 1775 that body appointed him one of the four major-generals to serve under George Washington.



Placed in command of the Northern Department "in order to sweeten and keep up the spirit of" the New York province with which it was geographically the same, Schuyler organized the ill-fated invasion of Canada of 1775-76. Still in command at the time of the Burgoyne invasion of 1777, he was blamed for the retreat of American forces at Fort Ticonderoga in the face of overpowering odds there. Schuyler retained his departmental command until relieved in August 1777 —just one month before the Battle of Freeman's Farm (First Battle of Saratoga). His removal, and replacement by General Horatio Gates, came in response to Congressional alarm

over the loss of Fort Ticonderoga.

Back in the Continental Congress again in 1779-80, Schuyler rendered notable service with respect to the new nation's money and financial problems. He also served as chairman of the special Congressional Committee at George Washington's headquarters at Morristown, New Jersey. An elected member of the New York Senate from 1780 on, he supported the movement leading to the adoption of the Federal Constitution. Then, having helped secure ratification of that document in New York State, he went on to represent the state as one of its first two United States senators.

## THE ESTATE

General Schuyler had inherited the Saratoga estate from his uncle Philip who had been killed in 1745 in the French-Indian raid that destroyed the first house on this site. The estate had originally been acquired as part of the great "Saratoga patent" of 1684 acquired by his great-uncle (Col. Peter Schuyler) and four others. During the 1760s the Philip Schuyler turned the estate into a busy center of farming, milling and merchandising, using the labor of tenant farmers and artisans (notably Scotch immigrants) recruited on liberal terms. Here, he pioneered in the cultivation of flax. From here his river fleet carried the products of the estate as far away as the West Indies. His saw mills would provide boards and planks for his winter mansion in Albany, and for "The Grange", the fine house his distinguished son-in-law Alexander Hamilton built in the New York suburb of "Harlem" around the turn of the century.

## THE HOUSE

The house that stands just south of the Fishkill Creek today is not the "handsome country house" from which Philip Schuyler had overseen the development of his "plantation" during the years prior to the Revolution. Almost an insult added to



injury, the retreating British had burned the country house of the American general three days following the final battle, out of fear that the oncoming Americans would use it as cover. Undaunted, Schuyler had immediately set about to build another. Using some soldiers trained as masons and carpenters, and some similarly experienced British prisoners, the main part of it was done before December.

A two-story farm structure with unfired brick nogging and smaller than its predecessor, the new house would be used largely as a fair-weather home by Schuyler. At a later date an office was added at the end of the downstairs hallway. A partially attached kitchen was added within a few years of the house's completion.

The Parlor would become the focal point for many notable social activities, for the General enjoyed entertaining and taking distinguished visitors to tour the estate and the neighboring battlefields. Famous visitors included: George Washington, godfather of Schuyler's youngest child; Schuyler's son-in-law Alexander Hamilton (with the General's vivacious daughter Elizabeth); and the French nobleman, the Marquis de Chastellux.

## SURRENDER ASSOCIATIONS

Almost ironically, in terms of Schuyler's earlier disengagement from the "Saratoga" campaign, the grounds of his estate figured importantly in the surrender. After Burgoyne's weary troops took position on the heights across the Fishkill following the second battle, preliminary negotiations for the ultimate "Articles of Convention" took place on the Schuyler grounds to the south. Then, on October 17, the British troops layed down their arms on the part of the estate that extended north of the Fishkill, near the site of the French and Indian War Fort Hardy. The same troops then marched across the Schuyler grounds to a spot some 500 yards south where General Burgoyne handed his sword to General Gates. For General Schuyler, the campaign had unexpectedly come home.

