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A REPORT ON THE HISTORY, CONSTRUCTION  
AND SOCIAL USE OF THE GENERAL PHILIP SCHUYLER SUMMER  
HOUSE AT SCHUYLERVILLE (OLD SARATOGA), N. Y.

by

Charles W. Snell  
Park Historian  
April 16, 1951

(History)

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the General Philip Schuyler House at Schuylerville (Old Saratoga), N. Y.

1777 - 1837

by

Charles W. Snell  
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Introduction:

The following report is submitted in compliance with Associate Regional Director Elbert Cox's memorandum of July 5, 1950, requesting a research report on the history, construction and social use of the General Philip Schuyler House at Schuylerville (Old Saratoga), N. Y. This report has been based on all contemporary and secondary sources available in the collections of Saratoga National Historical Park.

I. Contemporary Material Relating to the General Philip Schuyler House

A. Destruction of General Philip Schuyler's First House at Saratoga

On October 10, 1777, as the American army began the encirclement of the British army at Saratoga (Schuylerville), N. Y., the British army burned General Philip Schuyler's house and most of his outbuildings located on his estate at that town. In a speech before Parliament on May 26, 1778, General John Burgoyne having been charged with destroying property unnecessarily, gave the following account of the incident:

"I am ignorant of any such circumstance; I do not recollect more than one accident by fire. I positively assert there was no fire by order or countenance of myself, or any other officer except at Saratoga. That district is the property of Major General Schuyler of the American troops; there were large barracks built by him, which took fire the day after the army arrived upon the ground in their retreat, and I believe I need not state any further proof of that matter being merely accident, than that the barracks were then made use of as my hospital, and were full of sick and wounded soldiers. General Schuyler had likewise a very good dwelling house, exceeding large storehouses, great saw mills and other out buildings, to the value altogether of perhaps ten thousand pounds; a few

days before the negotiations with General Gates, the enemy had formed a plan to attack me; and a large column of troops were approaching to pass the small river, preparatory to a general action, and were entirely covered from the fire of my artillery by these buildings. Sir, I know that I gave the order to set them on fire, and in a very short time that whole property I have described, was consumed. But to shew that the person most deeply concerned in that calamity, did not put the construction upon it which it has pleased the honourable gentleman to do, I must inform the house that one of the first persons I saw, after the convention was signed, was General Schuyler. I expressed to him my regret at the event which had happened, and the reasons which had occasioned it. He desired me to think no more of it; said that the occasion justified it, according to the principles and rules of war, and he should have done the same upon the same occasion, or words to that effect."(1)

This statement is confirmed by the Journal of a young British Lieutenant, William Digby who served in Burgoyne's army at Saratoga. Under the entry of October 10, 1777, Digby wrote: "We burned Schuyler's house to prevent a lodgement being formed behind it, and almost all our remaining baggage, rather than it should fall into their hands."(2)

B. Preparations to Construct General Schuyler's Second House at Saratoga

Colonel Richard Varick, a former aide of Schuyler and then with the American army at Saratoga, wrote the following description of conditions at Saratoga to General Schuyler on October 12, 1777:

✓ "No Part of your Buildings have escaped their Malice except the Necessary & your upper Saw Mill which is in the Same Situation we left it-- Hardly a Vestage of the Fences is left except a few Rails of the Garden."(3)

On the same day General Schuyler, then at Albany, wrote to Colonel Varick asking him to aid him in securing what was left of his property at Saratoga.

The General then continued:

"I sent up Tom and another servant to pick up the ironwork of the Buildings which the enemy have burnt. If you can possibly procure some hands to assist I wish you to do so. Iron and nails are at present so very scarce and I wish that what can be saved should be carried to the Mill House at the Upper Mill which Major M? informs me is entirely standing. If I am not too indisposed I propose riding up to Morrow or next day....

"I intend immediately to have my mills rebuilt and some house Erected."(4)

Colonel Varick reported to General Schuyler on October 14, 1777, that "As there was a Cessation (of arms) I was not allowed to set your Servants at Work Yet from political Motives." (6)

General Philip Schuyler left Albany for Saratoga on October 14 and was present in civilian dress at the surrender of Burgoyne's army on October 17, 1777. (7) Following the surrender Schuyler then turned to the task of rebuilding his home at Saratoga.

C. Contemporary Letters relating to the Construction of the House at Saratoga

1. Colonel Morgan Lewis (Quartermaster General in Gates' Army) To Schuyler, dated Albany, October 20th 1777:

"I this Morning received your's of Yesterday's Date and shall endeavour to send you the things wrote for. Mill Saw files I have none of nor can I procure any. shall send in Room thereof flat Files which I believe will answer the Purpose.

"The Albany Carpenters refuse going to Saratoga upon any Conditions, beg you will advise me how many Mr. Flylton has under him, and how many more will be necessary...." (8)

2. Col. Varick to Schuyler, dated Albany, October 21, 1777:

"Your Favor of the 20th with the Model of a Bolt were delivered me this Morning.

"I Agreeable to Your Request I have procured all the Iron Work for your Mill Except the Eye Bolts and 7 of the Bolts for which You sent Model & Keys for all. These will be done this Day & shall be dispatched to You in the Morning.

"Colo. Lewis informs me that two Blacksmiths were sent to You Yesterday, and which I suppose will be sufficient for your purpose.....

"Genl. Burgoyne & Riedesel with their Retinues are still here, they give Mrs. Schuyler no small trouble. The formers Dispatches are not yet compleated, I believe he shall leave to Morrow if the Weather be favorable.

"On Saturday he mentioned to Mrs. Schuyler with Tears in his Eyes his situation; - that he had received so much Civility from you, & again repeated by Mrs. Schuyler, whose property he had destroyed, but pleads that it was tho't necessary to save his Army. He behaves with Great Politeness & seems to be more free in Conversation on the Subject of his Campaign which he says has been ~~XXXXX~~ a very Bloody one as Even he knows considering the numbers of his Army. He acknowledged our Superiority in the woods & says he would have given all his Indians Provincials & Volunteers for 50 British Troops. He values them at less than  $\frac{1}{2}$  Farthing per Cart Load.

"Enclose you a Letter from Mr. Hancock. It was opened by Gates, whether accidentally or not I know not - Major Rensselaer delivered it to me open. I think he read it from Van Schaick Gates' Conduct is at least Exceptionable in this that he did not enclose it to You with an Apology, but what can we expect considering past Conduct.

"Mrs. Schuyler is very Anxious to know where you quarter, she wishes you to take Mr. Riff(?)'s House & is resolved to pay You a Visit as soon as her Company leaves her, & Matters are arranged here....

"P.S. Genl. Gates told Mrs. Schuyler he had put some Things in your Way, he had left You a Company of Carpenters. - We doubt it."(9)

3. J. Lansing, Jun. to Schuyler, dated Albany, October 22, 1777:

"I send by Gongt the Iron work mentioned in your Letter to Colo. Varick, three Iron Potts & the Box with Scythes--The Stones I cannot find, nor can any Body here give any information respecting them.

"Colonel Lewis informs me that he has sent up to Blacksmiths. The Trowels are not yet compleated.

"To Morrow is fixed for General Burgoyne's Departure...."(10)

4. General Schuyler to J. Lansing, Jun, dated Saratoga, October 23, 1777:

"The Carpenters under Capt. Thayre being ordered to Join Colo. Baldwin, you will please to proceed to Schenectady and procure as large a number there as you possibly can, also as many Masons as you can get. I am so much in want of Masons that you must allow them extraordinary wages rather than not procure them."(11)

It thus appears that Schuyler was employing Continental Soldiers from Captain Thayre's Company, Colonel Jeduthan Baldwin's detachment of engineers and artificers, to construct his house at Saratoga. The main portion of Gates' army, however, left Saratoga within three or four days following the surrender and Captain Thayre' company also arrived at Albany on October 24.<sup>(12)</sup> Apparently Varick, in his letter of October 21, had correctly estimated the value of Gates' offer of assistance.

5. J. Lansing, Jun. to Schuyler, dated Albany October 25, 1777:

"I am honored with your Favor of the 23d which was delivered me yesterday eving.

"I could not get any Masons of the Town to go up to Saratoga except Nicholas Jarolleman who is reputed a good Workman - He has engaged to take with him his Apprentice, who he informs me is as good a Mason as himself.



"I have agreed to pay him Sixteen Shillings per Day and his Apprentice twelve. Enormous Wages but absolutely necessary to induce them to work.

"Mr. Glen of Schenectady to whom I have applied for Assistance has promised to send two on Monday, nor can I prevail upon Jarrolleman to go up before.....

"General Burgoine proposes to set off to Morrow....."(13)

6. Varick to Schuyler, dated Sat. October 25, 1777:

"Yesterday I was honored with Your Favor of Thursday (Oct. 23) am happy to hear the Iron Work is come safe to Hand.

"The Clevises & pins were to have been sent off Yesterday, but the Servants neglected calling for them at the Blacksmiths Shop they will be sent on this Day.

"Genl. Burgoyne & his Suite are still here Nor is it certain that they will go to Morrow. We are disappointed from Day to Day.

"Mrs. Schuyler has a Great Deal of Trouble with them, and her Servants....."(14)

7. Lansing to Schuyler, dated Albany, October 27th, 1777:

"As Colonel Varick informs me that you will be in want of more Masons then you mention in your Letter to me and as I find it impracticable to procure any here I shall instantly set off for Schenectady and endeavor to send you four or five in addition to those already agreed with. The Rain which we have had all Day has hitherto detained the two that were to go from here: but they will go off on the Morrow.

"General Burgoine & Train have at last decamped - They sett off early this Morning....."(15)

8. Lansing to Schuyler, Letter dated Albany, October 29, 1777:

"I send you by the Bearer two British Soldier who are Masons by Trade and prisoners - These I procured by the Intervention of General Philips (Phillips), who by giving them permission to enter your Employ has removed their Scruples respecting the Safety of that Measure. The others I could not prevail to go voluntarily.

"The Saw Mill Keys, which Mrs. Schuyler informs me were not come to Hand on Saturday, were put in the Cart which Dick drove, and I doubt are found before now, however to prevent your being at a loss I have directed Mr. Mynderse to have a Couple more made, and shall send them as soon as finished. The Trowels I cannot get made until to Morrow as a Number of Horses which require Shoeing and which are directed to preceed all other work are now at the Shops.

"Last Night I gave orders to your Guard to hold themselves in Readiness to go off to Day. I was met this Morning by Colonel Van Schaick who informs me that he had been advised of those orders, and acquainted me that General Gates had directed that none of the Troops should be suffered to leave the Town, and that he had in express Terms

prohibited the Guard from Marching - Upon receiving this Information I immediately applied to General Gates and requested him to countermand his order - in Answer, he observed that the Men composing the Guard were destitute of Cloathing; that their pay had not been settled for some Time past and that Colonel Van Schaick was very anxious that they should rejoin the Regiment; that for those Reasons he would be necessitated to order the Guard to join Colo. Van Schaick's Regiment and send up a Captain and fifty Men to Saratoga to relieve such as were there - I endeavored to obviate the Difficulties he stated; but to no purpose - His Determination is fixed. In consequence, I suppose he will order some of the Easterns for the purpose.

"The Rifle-men and Light Infantry being encamped on the Hill back of the House render the Tenure on which the potatoes are held exceeding precarious - Mrs. Schuyler has detained the Servants for the purpose of securing them.

"The Servants will be sent up to Morrow. Your fencing on the Hill is mostly appropriated by the Troops and applied to sheltering them, and all that can be obtained from the officers is a promise that they will not suffer the Materials to be burned or destroyed...."

"General Burgoyne Suite and Visitors have entirely discomposed the Aconomy of the Family and have given no small degree of Trouble to Mrs. Schuyler. They intend to stay till Wednesday

"A Blacksmith accompanies the Masons - I send you the Keys by the Bearer - Two of the Guards go with the Masons for Fear they should repent of their Bargain." (16)

9. Varick to Schuyler, dated Albany October 30, 1777:

"Your very polite favor of the 25th Inst. was delivered me on Monday. - since which the weather has been so boisterous that no opportunity had offered to write to You.-

"In consequence of your Letter Mr. Lansing set out for Schenectady immediately, there he found Colo. Yates who had already procured two & Mr. Lansing procured two More, I hope they will be with You this Day, if not already there.-The two in Town seem very loath to move, however I shall importune them.

"Jeaherm(?) says he gave the Iron Work in Charge to Colo Rensselaer & knows Nothing of the Iron for the Scythes. - Some are making & Mr. Lansing will take them up. As also some writing Paper. I will send You more by Mrs. Schuyler who will pay You a Visit in two or three Days. She is exceedingly anxious to be with You.-

"Genl. Arnold is growing better very fast, he requests his Compliments to You he is in Expectation of accompanying You to Congress - He is not satisfied with Genl. Gates' Convention, he believes we might have caught them on more advantageous Terms than we have.-

"During Burgoyne's stay here, he gave Arnold great credit for his Bravery & Military abilities, especially in the action of the 19th whenever he spoke of him & once in the presence of Gates. Politicks were very freely talked of & they were pretty free on the subjects; Burgoyne & Kingston were very polite, also Lord Petersham - his aid.- Burgoyne thinks lightly of Skene.

"The Weather has been so unfavorable as to prevent my waiting on Major Ackland I shall do It in the Morning & comply with your Request.-  
"I am sorry that the Rain has impeded Your Building. I hope the Cold will not set in soon to injure Your Work.....  
"Great Parts of Gates' Army is still here, they have destroyed almost all the Fences in the Vicinity of the Town among others You have a great share of Loss. Mrs. Schuylers Poultry & Gardens have suffered in Defiance of Every Order or threat.  
"The Water is exceedingly high here & the Roads almost impassable when we shall get rid of the Soldiers God only knows....."(17)

10. Varick to Schuyler: dated Albany November 1, 1777:

"Since I had the pleasure of writing to you by Mr. Lansing Nothing new has occurred. The Weather has been so beautiful that Mrs. Schuyler apprehended You would set out this Morning to meet her. She therefore sends the Bearer to inform You that she will not set out till Monday when if the weather is good she will do herself the pleasure to wait on You & will no Doubt be happy of meeting you half way or rather at Still Water. I shall accompany her up & return immediately.

"Genl. Arnold is growing better daily. As also Major Ackland. The General censures Gates' detaining the Troops, he says they ought of joined Genl. Washington by this Day.

"Gates is billeting 1500 in and about this place. It creates great uneasiness....."(18)

11. Schuyler to Congress, dated Saratoga, November 4, 1777:

Schuyler wrote in part, "On the 2nd instant two British Officers on their way to Canada took shelter in a violent storm of rain in my little hut, the only remains of all my buildings in this quarter."  
Towards the close, he stated, "In less than twenty days, I shall nearly complete a comfortable house for the reception of my family."(19)

12. Varick to Schuyler, dated Albany, November 5, 1777:

"Agreeable to Your Request I send You the Frames by Peter Mellon which is the quickest Conveyance I know of.-

"The Chimney stands & Bars are now making as soon as these are done they shall be sent on with the Stove pipe, which Mr. Shepherd is to pick out this Morning.-

"You say the Bar 2 to be 5 feet long but mention nothing of the Length of the other two....

"Mr. Rensselaer says he thinks he has Hinges sufficient, these shall be sent in the Waggon with the Other Articles.

"Neither Seal Wax or Wafers are to be had in Town - I enclose You what I have. -

"I have wrote to Mr. Glen & Recd. an answer last Night. It shall be complied with. Inclose You a Letter from him....my best Respects to Mrs. Schuyler."(20)

13. Morgan Lewis to Schuyler, dated Albany November 6, 1777:

"I wrote the Day before Yesterday acknowledging the Receipt of Yours and acquainting you that I had forwarded the Nails you wrote for, likewise a Grind Stone, and a Box of Glass for Mrs. Schuyler. Whatever Material are necessary to carry on the Buildings at Saratoga, I should be obliged to you to write me for.

"Colo. Hamilton Genl Washingtons aid.....have arrived here on public Business, in consequence of which a Brigade is ordered to join Genl. Washington, which is I believe less than they expected...."(21)  
My Best Respects to Mrs. Schuyler."

14. General Schuyler to John Jay, dated Saratoga, November 6, 1777:

"As I shall shortly be altogether out of public life, I am earnestly engaged in building me a house at this place, that I may be as far out of the noise and hustle of the great world as possible.... 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....."

What further buildings are necessary may be cheaply and speedily erected, as the frame of the whole house can be sawed, boards and every other material procured at the cheapest rates. The new house, which I began on the 1st instant, and which will be under cover, and have 2 rooms finished by the 15th instant, unless the weather should prove remarkably wet; but observe that it is only a frame house, 60 feet long. 21 broad, and 2 stories high, filled in with brick."(22)

15. Lansing to Schuyler, dated Albany, November 7, 1777:

"I was Yesterday afternoon honored with your Favor of the 5th Instant, and immediately went to Town to endeavor to procure the Masons out of the Brigade stationed here; but could neither find General Gates or Colonel Greaton (who commands Nixon's Brigade) at their quarters. I shall this Morning wait on Gates for an order for four Masons and send them up instantly, if they can be got. Those from Schenectady Mr. Glen informs were to set off on Wednesday, but lest you should have received information from that Quarter since the Date of Mr. Glen's Letter (which, I think, was of the 3rd) I shall venture to send up those I can procure.

"The Bearer has in Charge six Hay Forks, a piece of smoaked Beff, two Tongues, and Mr. Cadmen's Diamond which he begs you to return as soon as the glass is set.

"Mary is much at a loss as to the Disposition of the Milch Cows, which are daily milked by some Rascal before the Men she sends for that purpose get to them. She requested me to beg Mrs. Schuyler's Directions on the Subject - Mary thinks it best to put them in your pasture before the House. I shall send over a couple of the Guards to watch the cows all Day and try to detect the thieves.

"The Bars for the Chimneys are not yet completed.

"Patterson's Brigade is ordered to join the Southern Army in Pennsylvania.....My best Respects wait on Mrs. Schuyler. The family are all well."(23)



16. Lansing to Schuyler, Albany November 8, 1777:

"Upon application to General Gates for permission to take some Masons out of the Troops stationed here, he informed me that he could not suffer any to be drafted out of them but that if I would go to Schenectady he would give me an Order to Colonel Van Schaick to deliver me all the Masons of his Regiment - The Order being furnished I set off for Schenectady and found that four had already been sent off - I procured three more who will leave Schenectady this Morning."(24)

17. Varick to Schuyler, Albany November 8, 1777:

"Nothing new has occurred since Mine of the 5th. Except that Glovers & Pattersons Brigade are under Orders to march for the South Ward immediately. So that the Barracks begun at Cayman's will remain as a Monument of Gates' Folly.-

"General Arnold is growing better very fast. He is in Good spirits, the he had a slight Touch of the Gout....

"They Chimney Irons are not yet finished. I shall hurry them as fast as possible. Miss Peggy & the young Gentlemen are very Well. They join in Love to you and Mrs. Schuyler....."(25)

18. General Horatio Gates to Schuyler, dated Albany, November 9, 1777:

"As the Hoists, Major Stevens bespoke at Your Saw Mill, for the Ordnance Store, to be erected here, are exceedingly Wanted; I desire You will Order so many of the Batteau Men, Now at Saratoga, as are necessary to raft them down the River to Albany to be immediately employed in that Work.

"As there is great danger of Wood being wanted for the use of this garrison, and the General Hospital, I must request you will spare all the Batteaux men you possible can from above, as we have Scows in plenty, A great deal of Wood cut, and only want Hands that are proper to transport it to the City. If more men are wanted at Saratoga, I will send you a company or two from Van Schaick's Regiment - provided they can be Quarter'd until the Barracks are built."(26)

19. Varick to Schuyler, dated Albany, Sunday Noon, November 9, 1777:

".....The Stove Pipe & Chimney Bars will be sent to Morrow or next day if the latter be ready.-

"As Charles has little to do with his Cart I shall send him to Saratoga, especially as his every Look & Action evinces him to be too lazy to remain here. Miss. Peggy and the Family are very well. With Every Respectfull & Good wishes to Mrs. Schuyler & Yourself."(27)

20. General Schuyler to Vartick, dated Saratoga, November 10, 1777:

"Mrs. Schuyler begs if an opportunity offers that you will send her a pair of Andirons that were formerly here. A white wash brush or two that have been used and two Brooms.  
"The House was raised on Saturday (November 8) two rooms and a cellar kitchen will be finished by Saturday next (November 15) but I believe an account of the Dampness we shall not move in until the Seventeenth." (28)

21. Vartick to Schuyler, dated Albany, November 12, 1777, 8 O'clock 8 A.M.

"Yesterday Afternoon I was favored with Your Favor of the 10th Instant...  
"I am sorry to inform You that both Mr. Rensselaer & Mr. Shepard have deceived about the Chimney Irons. They are not done yet, occasioned by the Variety of public Work which has employed Shepard's Hands - He promises to complete them to Day.  
"The Andirons shall be sent agreeable to Mrs. Schuyler's Request. May has but one white wash Brush which she is averse to parting with, as she has it now in Use - I shall endeavor to procure two in Town as also the Brooms.  
"I am happy to hear Your Building is in such Forwardness, but at the same time apprehend Your being delayed for want of the Irons. - Your Letters to Merts. Jay & Dygert shall be forwarded by the first safe conveyance. None has yet offered.  
"Genl. Arnold, tho much weakened is growing better slowly, he begs his Compliments to you and Mrs. Schuyler - Lincoln is mending very fast." (29)

22. Lansing to Schuyler, dated Albany, November 12, 1777:

"The Bearer has in Charge a Stove with about twelve feet pipe, a pair of Andirons, Two white wash Brushes and a couple of Brooms forty pair of Door Hinges, eight pair of Window Do. and four Chimney Bars....." (30)

23. Vartick to Schuyler, Dated Albany, Thursday, November 13, 1777 - 2 O'clock P.M.

"Incl. Your Directions by Mr. Lansing to send up a Stove. I have accordingly fixed the Pipe you sent for before & it will be sent up by the morning.  
"The Chimney Bars will not be Done till Evening. The want of Coals has been assigned among other causes of Delay.....The Stands will be sent afterwards, Shepard says they are not immediately wanted, however, he is to do them without delay. -  
"Mr. Lansing promises to send the Brushes & Brooms as well as Andirons to Morrow.....My respects to Mrs. Schuyler." (31)

24. Varick to Schuyler, dated Albany, November 16, 1777, 1 O'clock A.M.

"Your Favor of the 14th 12 O'clock was delivered me Yesterday Afternoon on my Return from Schenectady.

"As no one of our Family can inform me where the Baggage Waggon is, I have Directed Charles to take the Stoves in his Ox Team which Mr. Lansing has ordered up.-

✓ "The Leather for the Servants & the Cloth for Mittens also go up in a Cask, a small Ball of Thread is delivered in Charge to Matthew; as there is not a sufficient Quantity of Thread; I shall send two pounds of Flax as soon as It is pitched which with the Flax & thread sent, will do.-

"Mr. Shepherd has not done the Saratoga Kettle Nor will Mary part with any of hers upon any Terms. She says she dare not do it.- Shepherd has promised to do It to Morrow provided he can get tools. I shall press him to do it & when done, I shall send it in your Baggage Waggon.

"I send both large Stoves, on a Supposition that You prefer them to the Small one, as I had no Directions which to send before. I sent you that which had not been in use here lately.-

"Mr. Glen informed me on Friday that he could get, the Shingle Cutters, to move Yet.-

"With most Respectfull Compliments to Mrs. Schuyler."

"Mr. Lansing tell me Potts has your Waggon." (32)

25. Lansing to Schuyler, dated Albany, November 22, 1777:

"Your Favor of the 15th was delivered me on Thursday.

✓ "As there was no Ratteen in the Indian ~~note~~, I have instead of it, taken Coating, which may perhaps answer the purpose for which the Ratteen was designed. Con will deliver you ten Yards of green Coating and the Annual Register of 1774. The Magazine I cannot find....."

"Mr. Cadmus goes off on Monday or Tuesday with him I shall send the Iron Pots, which Mrs. Schuyler requested of Miss. Peggy....

"The Flour which was to be sent from Saratoga is much wanted for the Hogs, what was sent down in the waggon being expended." (33)

26. Varick to Schuyler, dated Albany, November 26, 1777 10 O'clock P.M.:

✓ "Agreeable to Your Request I have ordered the Horses to be shod & send them by your Servant - By him You will also receive the Trowels.

"I have had the Iron Work sorted & picked out by Mr. Graham & shall send for it to Morrow. - The Stove will then also be put up.

"The last Flag is come up from New York Yesterday, but Nothing is come from Mr. Ludlove for You, Somethings, sent for by Lady Acland are arrived but am sorry to find the Porter & Oysters left behind.

"Genl. Gates informs me You have a Letter from Congress, We are anxious to know the Contents, if proper to be communicated, which we expect to hear by Mrs. Schuyler.....

"Genl. Arnold has been very ill while I was at Saratoga but is now Much better - his Spirits seem to be increased this Eveng...."(34)

27. Schuyler to a Friend, dated Saratoga, November 28, 1777:

"On the first instant (November 1st) I began a house, on the 19th I had two rooms and Cellar Kitchen finished and on the 30th Instant I shall discharge my carpenters."(35)

28. Varick to Schuyler, dated Albany, December 1, 1777:

"....Lt. Cole Wilkinson has been honored with the Rank of Brigadier for carrying Dispatches to Congress of Burgoyne's Surrender. I suppose he will be Adjut Genl. of the American Army.....

"This rapid mode of promotion for the singular Merit of having carried Dispatches to Congress is rather more demonstrative of Weakness in our public Councils than of Service to the public. Many Gentlemen of much more Approved Merit than Cole Wilkinson (illegible) are passed over in Silence. While himself & patron have the Honor.-

"The Inclosed Letter will inform You what Articles are sent by Anthony - I could not procure any more Shot, than what I send....

"All the Iron except 2 or 3 Articles is come home., those Articles lay under the Rigging. Mr. Winne has Charge of them.-

"Your Sleep being arrived this Day with Wood for the Barrack Master, for which she was impressed, I shall detain Charles to unload her & have the Wood rode to Your House.

"Mrs. Schuyler & Family are very Well.

"Genl. Arnold has been very ill since Yesterday, Full of pain & low spirited this Evening.-

"I shall set out for New Jersey on Wednesday or Thursday, & hope to pay a Visit to our Army before I return....."(36)

This completes the list of all known contemporary letters in 1777 relating to the construction of the House at Saratoga.

In 1778, General Schuyler informed Governor Clinton in a letter dated Albany, April 17, 1778 that:

"Mrs. Schuyler expects to lay in about the first week in May..... Some time ago I carried all my Family to Saratoga intending to have resided there altogether as soon as I should have resigned the Employments I held under Congress....I was determined in this Resolution in the Supposition that Troops would have been posted to the Northward for the protection of the Country but as not a single one is left I shall be under the Necessity of drawing my Family from these, especially as all the Country above me and even below are preparing to leave their Habitations and will certainly do it, if no troops are sent there by the first of next Month - I do not however mean to bring away my Servants as I shall erect a picket Fort round my House and let them, if possible, keep it."(37)



On June 6, 1778 Schuyler wrote Governor Clinton:

"On learning News of a considerable body of Indians and Tories gathering on the North Branch of Hudson River I have sent for my children from Saratoga....."(38)

The general withdrawal of the settlers from the Saratoga area soon forced the authorities to station troops in this area for their protection. On June 30, 1779 Schuyler wrote to James Duane from Saratoga. The letter contains no mention of the house but indicates that the General was again living there.(39)

General Schuyler was also living at Saratoga in December of 1780 when the French author, Francois Jean, Marquis de Chastellux, paid him a visit. Chastellux, guided by General Schuyler himself, left Albany and visited the Saratoga Battlegrounds and proceeded on to Saratoga. Chastellux wrote:

"After surveying Burgoyne's lines, I at length got down to the high road, passing through a field where he had established his hospital. We then travelled more easily, and I got to Saratoga at seven in the evening; and after a severe and thirty mile journey, we found good rooms, well warmed, an excellent supper, and had a gay and agreeable conversation; for General Schuyler, like many European husbands, is still more amiable when he is absent from his wife."

"In throwing your eyes upon the chart you will see that Saratoga is situated upon the bank of a small river, which comes from a lake of that name and falls into the Hudson. On the right bank of the Fish-Kill, the name of that little river, stood formerly a handsome country-house, belonging to General Schuyler; a large farm depending on it, two or three saw-mills, a meeting-house and three or four middling houses composed all the habitations of this celebrated place....."

In discussing Burgoyne's retreat, Chastellux stated:

"General Burgoyne had scarcely reached the other side of the creek (Fish-Kill) before he set fire to General Schuyler house, rather from malice than for the safety of his army, since this house, situated in a bottom, could afford no advantage to the Americans, and he left the farms (sic) standing, which is at present the only asylum for its owner.

"It is here that Mr. Schuyler lodged us in some temporary apartments he fitted up, until happier times allowed him to build another house."(40)

(Note - see William L. Stone's interpretation of this letter page 15 of this report)

D. Documentation Relating to Famous Visitors

a. John Stark

During the summer and autumn of 1781 General John Stark made his headquarters at "Schuyler country seat at Saratoga," utilizing General Philip Schuyler's Summer Manor House.(41)

b. Washington, Clinton and Hamilton

In June of 1782, Washington, accompanied by George Clinton, the first governor of New York State, while on his first inspection trip of northern New York, visited the scene of the Battles of Saratoga and lodged that night, June 29, at Schuyler's house at Saratoga.(42)

Washington visited General Schuyler for the second time at Saratoga on July 26, 1783, accompanied this time by Governor Clinton and Alexander Hamilton.(43)

c. General Lafayette

In 1824, Lafayette, the outstanding Frenchman who aided the colonies during the Revolution, while on his last visit to this country, stopped for a day at the Schuyler Home at Saratoga, then occupied by Philip Schuyler, II, General Philip Schuyler's grandson.(44)

II. Secondary Material Relating to the General Philip Schuyler House

A. Lossing (1872)

1872  
Benson J. Lossing, the author of a life of General Philip Schuyler, makes the following statement on Schuyler's estate at Saratoga:

"Schuyler spent the most of eight months of the year, when not engaged in public business, at his country-seat at Saratoga. His town and country houses are yet standing, the former fronting Schuyler Street, in Albany, and the latter (the one which he built on the ruins of the older mansion, in 1777) on the southern bank of Fish Creek, at Schuylerville." (45)

B. Stone (1895)

William Leete Stone, author and translator of numerous histories and German diaries relating to the Burgoyne Campaign, did not believe the Schuyler Summer House was built in 1777. In commenting on the Marquis de Chastellux's letter, quoted on page 14 of this report, Stone wrote: "This shows, most conclusively, that the tradition - still current - of General Schuyler's house having been rebuilt, by Gates' soldiers in ten days after its destruction by fire is entirely false."

To further support his position, Stone then quoted the first portion of Schuyler's letter to Congress, dated "Saratoga, November 4, 1777" (letter quoted on page 7 of this report) in which Schuyler reports he entertained two British officers in a "hut" on November 2, 1777. Stone comments:

"Of course, If Schuyler's house had been rebuilt, he would not have entertained the officers in a "hut." So much for tradition, which, unless, corroborated by facts, written down at the time, is a very poor guide to follow."

Stone made the following statement on the history of the "Schuyler Mansion":

"At the same time, one of the most prominent places of historical interest - so far pertains to the Revolutionary - is Schuylerville, and especially the Schuyler Mansion. As above hinted, the latter is situated about four hundred feet from the one burned by Burgoyne, the first foundation being on a line with the western bank of the Champlain Canal, the remainder of the substructure being removed by the canal excavation. The great Road to the ford passed eastward of it....

✓ The fording place was in that part of the Fish kill or creek opposite the ruins of the burned buildings of Raymond's steam saw mill, and a short distance east of the aqueduct. The property had been inherited by General Schuyler from his uncle, John Philip Schuyler, who had been shot on the morning of the 29th of November, 1745, while heroically defending his house from an attack of French and Indians. Shortly after the declaration of peace between England and France in 1763, Major Philip Schuyler (subsequently General), visited his landed possessions at Saratoga, in which he not only often entertained Benjamin Franklin and other distinguished Americans, but also hospitably received as his guests many of the titled nobility of England and France. Although the General had a large and comfortable residence in Albany, his country house on the banks of the Fish kill was more attractive to him and his family, and here nine months during the year he was generally to be found.

"Colonel Strover, the late owner of this mansion, and who died October 5, 1886, was born March 12, 1791, near Bryant's Bridge in the town of "Old Saratoga." (46)

C. Brandow (1919)

141 The historian who has given the most extensive treatment to the history of the Schuyler Summer Home at Schuylerville is John Henry Brandow. The following excerpts are taken from The Story of Old Saratoga, published in 1919:

1414  
p 223  
1900-  
p 282  
"After the surrender and departure of the British army General Schuyler remained behind to survey the ruins of his property, and make plans for resurrecting his home from the ashes. Local tradition, in perfect agreement with the Schuyler family tradition, says that house number three (yet standing), was built by the soldiers of Gates' army in seventeen days. Many have doubted the credibility of this story, but the writer in his researches has found that which renders it altogether probable."

To support his position Brandow then quotes the first and last portion of Schuyler's letter to Congress, dated "Saratoga, November 4, 1777 and Schuyler's letter to John Jay, dated Saratoga November 6, 1777 (See letters on page 7 and 8 of this report).

Brandow then continues:

1414  
p 224  
1900-  
p 284  
"It is fair to presume, therefore, that having quickly decided to rebuild he secured Gates' consent to use such mechanics as he could find in the army. He at once set his mill at Victory to work sawing



the lumber, (there is no hewed timber in the building), set men and teams at the cellar and drawing stone from the hills; sent to Albany for windows, hardware, trimmings, etc., and then when the material was ready put as many men on the job as could work without interference, and no doubt had the building habitable in the specified time. It was such a remarkable feat in house-building that the story of it would very naturally live in any neighborhood for a long while thereafter.....

1900 P. 285

1919 - 326

"Description of Mansion No. 3. Only the main structure, 22 by 60 feet, was built at that time; additions on the east side and also the present kitchen were put on later. The cellar extends under the whole of this part, and is deep, dry and airy. It is divided into three parts. The south end has in it a large fireplace, and for a while was used as the kitchen; the center one was the wine cellar, and the north end was used as a storeroom for provisions, but not vegetables. The vegetable cellar was separate from the house and was located about twenty-five feet from the southeast corner of the main house. The floor timbers are of oak 10 by 12 inches in size and four feet apart. On entering the house you first pass under the spacious veranda 10½ by 60 feet. One tradition says originally there was no veranda, only a Dutch porch over the front door, with side seats. But this is disputed. At all events there have been several changes here, for we have been told by those who can remember, that the first pillars were round, coated with stucco, and that they were not so high as the present ones by several feet. Mr. George Strover, after he came into possession, raised the roof of the veranda to let more light into the upper rooms, and substituted the present square pillars for the round ones. The main door is made of two thicknesses of plain boards laid at right angles to each other. It is furnished with the conventional brass knocker, but the hinges, and especially the lock are curiosities. The lock is iron 7 by 15 inches in size and 2 inches thick and furnished with a prodigious key.....

1900 - 286  
p285 - 286

(see picture)  
P. 287

1919 - 3

P. 288

"Entering you find yourself in a large reception hall 17 by 19 feet. The ceiling is 9 feet 3 inches high. The original stairway, with its landing and turn, was long ago replaced by the present enclosed staircase. The hall is flanked on the left and right by spacious rooms; on the left by a room 18 x 20 feet used by the Schuylers as the dining room.....; on the right by the parlor 20 by 22 feet. This room is still adorned by paper put on by Philip Schuyler, 2d, in preparation for the marriage of his daughter Ruth to Mr. T. W. Ogden, of New York in 1836. The paper on the room immediately above it was also renewed at the same time. All of these rooms are beautifully lighted by spacious windows which retain the original small panes of glass. The great fireplaces at either end of the house are also left undisturbed; in fact the present occupants have very considerably endeavored to keep the house in its original state, that is, so far as necessary repairs would admit. Back of the parlor is a long room formerly used as a guest chamber, and which was assigned to Lafayette during his visit here to the Schuylers in 1824." Opening out of the reception hall to the east is a smaller room which was used by General Schuyler and all his

285/287

142  
p. 287  
Now used  
dining room  
288  
287

successors as an office. Between this and the guest chamber just mentioned is a passage through a closet; a door once led from this to an addition or L which ran to the east and which contained two guest chambers on each floor. This was removed after the property changed hands. In the rear of the (dining room), you pass into a hallway which leads on the right to a back door, and on the left to the kitchen; across this hall from the (dining room) is the school room of the Schuylers.....This tier of three rooms with the rear hall and kitchen were added by General Schuyler, and are all one step lower than the floor of the main edifice. Passing through this rear hall to the north you come to the great kitchen, which is by no means the least interesting part of the house. It is 23 by 25 feet interior dimensions. The opening in the fire-place is 7 feet wide by 4 feet high. The old brick oven on the left has been removed. Just to the left, as you pass out doors, the milk-room was formerly situated, surrounded with lattice work and containing sunken places in the stone floor to keep the butter cool. 528/329 1919

"Above the kitchen are four rooms. In the second story of the main house are seven bedrooms, most of them very large, and all provided with ample closet room. On the third floor is found just one's ideal of a colonial attic....In the north end of this attic is a very pleasant and spacious bedroom with sloping sides. All the doors were originally fitted with large brass locks, but all save two were stolen soon after the departure of the Schuylers .....

A few feet to the north of the present wood-house\* (This is now gone, C.W.S.) formerly stood a much larger one. In the second story of this were the slaves' quarters. The present well is the same from which General Schuyler and all his distinguished guests slaked their thirst. There were also several penstocks on the premises which poured forth their waters in perennial streams."

289 Picture  
p. 290  
Grounds

"The spacious grounds in front were not so full of trees in the early part of the century as now. They were then arranged in clumps and considerable space was given to shrubs and lawn. At that time the lawn ran unobstructed from the rear of the house eastward to the banks of the canal. The lilac bushes at the bottom of the excavation southeast of the house are descendants of the large ones that once ornamented the garden of house No. 2, burned by Burgoyne. The children were provided with great swings hung in the trees, and permanent see saws nicely made and painted dark green. 288/290

"The rebuilding of his house by General Schuyler was no doubt a necessary preliminary to the rehabilitation of his business enterprises here, that he might have a place of shelter while restoring his mills, etc., which had been destroyed. His reasons for rebuilding were no doubt, first, because he had faith in the ultimate success of the cause for which the States were struggling, and was ready to prove his faith by his works; secondly, because there was a great demand in the country at that time for such merchandise as he could produce; and thirdly, that he might encourage by his example the fugitive farmers to return to their homes.

1919  
p. 332  
1400  
p. 292

"In pursuance of this purpose the General moved his family up to Saratoga during the winter of 1777-'78, with the intention of residing here altogether (see Schuyler's letter to Governor Clinton, in Public Papers of George Clinton, Vol. III, p. 1777). But as the troops were entirely withdrawn from this section in the spring of 1778, thus leaving the upper Hudson defenseless against the ever frowning north, he, with many others, did not think it safe to remain, and so retired to Albany again. There he remained until the authorities awoke to the unwisdom of their action, which they speedily did, and reinstated the garrisons at Saratoga and other places farther to the north. After the Tories had kidnapped several prominent citizen and had taken them to Canada, the authorities thought it necessary to detail twenty-four men as a constant guard to General Schuyler, and despite the guard he came near being captured at his home in Albany..... After resigning his post in the army he was much at Saratoga looking after his business, but his time and abilities were by no mean wholly devoted to the promotion of his own private interests. His withdrawal from public life was not followed by loss of interest in the cause of liberty, for which he still labored in season and out of season....."

"The Two Visits of Washington. In May, 1782, there came the gratifying intelligence that King George was ready to talk peace with the Americans. This of course meant a cessation of hostilities, for which all concerned were quite ready, and duly grateful. The Continental army, at that time, was encamped from Newburg south at various points along the Hudson. There being no campaigning on hand, Gen. Washington decided to spend a little time on a trip to the north. He reached Albany on June 27th.....

332/333/1919  
"On the 29th, accompanied by Gov. Clinton, Gen. Schuyler, and many other distinguished gentlemen, he started for old Saratoga to inspect the theatre of the glorious campaign of 1777. Brig. General Gansevoort, with 40 volunteers, acted as escort. On the way up they made a careful survey of the battlefield where Burgoyne and his legions were vanquished, and then hastened north to the scene of the surrender. At that time Saratoga was garrisoned by New Hampshire troops under the command of General Stark. These were reviewed by Washington, after which he inspected the block houses that served as part of the defenses of that post. That night he lodged in the Schuyler mansion, and early the next morning started for Schenectady.....

"The year and more that elapsed before the arrival of the definitive treaty proved to be a long and tedious wait for the army. The bulk of the forces were still encamped in the vicinity of Newburg..... Washington found little to do at headquarters, and being incessantly teased with applications and demands which he had neither the means or power to satisfy, he resolved to seek a little respite by taking a more extended trip to the north and west. He would visit other scenes of the late military operations, but he especially desired to learn from personal observation more about the natural resources of the country.

"Accordingly on the 18th of July, 1783, he left headquarters in company with Governor Clinton, Alexander Hamilton and a few others.



Brief was his stay in Albany this time. With his suite he hastened to the north, passed through old Saratoga, Fort Edward and on the head of Lake George, where they embarked on light boats; traversed that beautiful sheet of water,....proceeded to Ticonderoga,....and thence to Crown Point. Returning they came back to old Saratoga."

Its Later Occupants - John Bradstreet Schuyler.

1417  
p. 336  
"When his oldest son, John Bradstreet Schuyler became of age - the General decided to establish him in business by placing him in full charge of the Saratoga estate, assuring him that it should be his to hold and possess after the death of his father. We here insert the letter from the General to his son in which he announces his purpose concerning the property.....

"Saratoga, December 3d, 1787.

"My Dear Child:

1400  
p. 295  
"I resign to your care, and to your sole emolument a place on which I have for a long series of years bestowed much care and attention, and I confess I should part from it with many a severe pang did I not resign it to my child.

"I feel none now because of that paternal consideration. It is natural, however, for a parent to be solicitous for the weal of a child who is now to be guided by, and in a great measure to rely on, his own judgement and prudence."

p. 337  
"Happiness ought to be the aim and end of the exertions of every rational creature, and spiritual happiness should take the lead, in fact temporal happiness without the former does not really exist except in name. The first can only be obtained by an improvement of those faculties of the mind which the beneficent Author of Creation has made all men susceptible of, by a conscious discharge of those sacred duties enjoined on us by God, or those whom he has authorized to promulgate His Holy Will. Let the rule of your conduct then be the precept contained in Holy Writ (to which I hope and entreat you will have frequent recourse). If you do, virtue, honor, good faith, and a punctual discharge of the social duties will be the certain result, and an internal satisfaction that no temporal calamities can ever deprive you of.

"Be indulgent, my child, to your inferiors, affable and courteous to your equals, respectful, not cringing, to your superiors, whether they are so by superior mental abilities, or those necessary distinctions which society has established.

"With regard to your temporal concerns it is indispensably necessary that you should afford them a close and continual attention. That you should not commit that to others which you can execute yourself. That you should not refer the necessary business of the hour or the day to the next. Delays are not only dangerous, they are fatal. Do not consider anything too insignificant to preserve; if you do so the habit will steal on you and you will consider many things of little importance and the account will close against you. Whereas proper economy will not



only make you easy, but enable you to bestow benefits on objects who may want your assistance - and of them you will find not a few. Example is infinitely more lasting than precept, let therefore <sup>337</sup> your servants never discover a disposition to negligence or waste; <sup>338</sup> if they do they will surely follow you in it and your affairs will not slide but Gallop into Ruin.

"In every community there are some wretches who watch the dispositions of young men, especially when they come to the possession of property; some of these may hang about you; they will flatter, they will cringe, and they will cajole you until they have acquired your confidence, and then they will ruin you. Beware of these, they are the curse of society, and have brought many, alas! too many to destruction." <sup>349</sup>

<sup>n. 297</sup> "Be specially careful that you do not put yourself under such obligations to any man as that he may deem himself entitled to request you to become his security for money. You are Good natured and Generous, keep a Watch upon yourself, and do not ruin yourself and family for another.

"Directly on my return to Albany I shall make you out a Deed of Gift for all the Blacks belonging to the farm except Jacob, Peter, Cuff and Bett, and for the Stock and Cattle, Horses, &c, &c., with a very few exceptions. For all the farming utensils, household furniture &c, &c.

"The crops of the last year I must of necessity appropriate to the discharge of Debts, and they must be brought down in Winter, except what may be necessary for the subsistence of your family and to satisfy those whom you may have occasion to employ. This I shall hereafter Detail.

"The logs now in the Creek will be sawed at our joint expense and you shall have half the boards which I hope will net you something of Value. We will consult on the best and cheapest terms to have this done.

"Althou' for reasons which prudence dictates, I shall now not give you a deed for any part of my estate, yet you ought to know what of this farm I intend for you, and which I shall immediately make you by Will; it is <sup>337/338</sup> all on the South Side of the Fishkill, and as far down as Col. Van Vechten's, and as far West as to Inclose Marshall's & Colvert's farms. Besides a just proportion of all my other Estates. But all the tenants now residing on the farm either on the South or North side of the Creek are to pay their rents to me and Preserve the right of settling people on the west side of the road and to the north of the Little Creek, which runs by Kiliaen Wipne's, the blacksmith. For altho' you will have the occupancy of <sup>337/338</sup> all the rest of the farm on both sides of the Creek, yet that on the North side of the Creek I intend for one of your Brothers.

"Should you die before me, which I most sincerely pray may not happen, your children, if God blesses you with any, will have this farm and such share of my other Estates as I intend for you; and should you die before me, and without children, your wife, who is also my child, will be provided for by me. In short, it is my intention to leave you without any excuse if you fail in proper exertions to improve the property intrusted to you; and it is with that view that I so fully detail my intentions, and Give you this written testimony of them, and that no unworthy conduct may induce me to change my intentions is my hope and my anxious wish, and I have the pleasure to assure you that I believe when once the heat of youth is a little abated, I shall enjoy the satisfaction of seeing you what I most ardently wish you to be, a Good man and an honor to your family.

"I must however not omit to inform you that the Income of all my estate except what you and your Brothers and Sisters may actually occupy at my decease will be enjoyed by your dear Mama; she merits this attention in a most eminent degree, and I shall even give her a power to change my Disposition of that part of my estate, the income of which she will enjoy, should unhappily the conduct of my Children be such as to render it necessary; but I trust they are and will be so deeply impressed with a Sense of the infinite obligations they are under to her as not to give her a moment's uneasiness.

"I must once more recommend to you as a matter of indispensable importance to Love, to honor, and faithfully and without guile to serve the Eternal, incomprehensible, beneficent and Gracious Being by whose will you exist, and so insure happiness in this life and in that to come, And now my dear child, I commit you and my Daughter and all your concerns to his Gracious and Good Guidance; and sincerely intreat Him to enable you to be a comfort to your parents and a protector to your Brothers and Sisters, an honor to your family, and a good citizen. Accept of my Blessing and be assured that I am your affectionate father

Ph. SCHUYLER.

TO JOHN B. SCHUYLER."

"The immediate occasion for making such a disposition of the Saratoga property at this time was the recent marriage of this son, John Bradstreet, which event took place in Albany, the 18th of September preceding. Parental interest evidently prompted him to thus start the young man in business that he might be the better able to support the dignity of his new position as head of a family.

"JOHN B. SCHUYLER TAKES POSSESSION. Accepting with alacrity his father's offer, he took immediate possession, with his young wife, only daughter of the Patroon Van Rensselaer - 'a most lovable woman who united in herself the good qualities of the most substantial families of the early Republic - the Van Rensselaers and the Livingstons." No portrait of her is extant but tradition pictures her as a brunette, with an oval face and dark hair and eyes. Her husband was a handsome young fellow, with blue eyes and flaxen curly hair. (\*Mss. in possession of Miss Fanny Schuyler, of Pelham-on-Sound.)

1900  
p. 300  
"Although brought up for the most part in the city of Albany, and accustomed to the usual life of a young man of leisure, John Bradstreet Schuyler entered on the life of a country gentleman with much enthusiasm. We may suppose that he came to Saratoga with the more readiness because youthful associations combined with the romance of the wars had greatly endeared the old place to him as it also had to the rest of the family. After his coming we are told that 'the intercourse with Albany was kept up regularly through the faithful family slaves' who passed back and forth like shuttles between the Saratoga and Albany homes. For example 'Jim' goes down from Saratoga with an order 'for a fashionable beaver hat for Betsy', as Mrs. J. B. Schuyler was called by her family; also twelve pair of shoes, intended no doubt for the household slaves; for every person of substance in those days owned slaves.

"Two sons were born to Mr. and Mrs. John Bradstreet Schuyler at Saratoga. The eldest, Philip, was named for his grandfather, the General; the second for his maternal grandfather, Stephen Van Rensselaer. Stephen died in fancy. Philip was a strong and vigorous child.

"The young proprietor evidently prosecuted the business, established by his father, with energy and success; for we find that he received large orders for the products of the Saratoga mills and farms, which were transported to market mainly in the old way, on rafts and flatboats.

"DEATH OF JOHN B. SCHUYLER. The career of this promising young man came to a sudden close in 1795, at the age of thirty-two. He had been spending some time up the Mohawk valley with his father, apparently assisting in the construction of a waterway from Schenectady to Lake Ontario. His father, the General, was president of the Inland Lock and Navigation Company, which had in charge the execution of this important work. The General had from the start been a most zealous promotor of the enterprise, which, ever since, has had so much to do with the commercial preeminence of New York. Locks had just been completed at Little Falls and Fort Herkimer to help the boats around the rapids in the Mohawk at those points, and on the 10th of August he was to meet the Indians in council at Oneida to secure the right of way for a canal between the Mohawk and Wood Creek, which empties into Oneida Lake.

"His son, John Bradstreet, evidently feeling unwell, started for his home at Saratoga, where he arrived on the 7th of August. His wife, with her little son, was away at the time; family tradition says in New York. The fever which had been developing was thought to have been aggravated by showing a gentleman over the battlefield under a broiling sun. This was in all probability the Duc de La Rochefoucauld-Liancourt. (See Stone's Burgoyne Campaign, p. 381.) The record of this sad event, found in the Schuyler family Bible reads as follows:

"August 7, 1795, John B. Schuyler arrived at his house in Saratoga from the westward. Taken sick on Wednesday, the 12th, of a Bilious Fever. Died the 19th August, 1795. Buried in the vault of Stephen Van Rensselaer, Esq., at Watervliet, 20 August, 1795.

"Local tradition has it that his body was taken down the river in a canoe, which is quite probable. The absence of Mrs. Schuyler, together with the extreme heat, no doubt accounts for the speedy removal of the remains to the family vault. 342/

P 343 "That was a sad home-coming to both the young wife and the father; for when they bade him good-by, neither had dreamed that it was for aye. His sudden death proved to be especially distressing to his father, who had built on him many high hopes. That he was a young man of unusual intelligence, stability of character and influence, is proved by the fact that he had already been elected as one of the trustees of Williams College, Massachusetts; that he had been chosen the first Supervisor of his town after the new County of Saratoga had been erected; and by the fact that he was sent to the New York Assembly in 1795.

"Philip Schuyler, 2d. Philip Schuyler, 2d, was seven years of age when his father, John Bradstreet, died. His grandfather, the General, was appointed his guardian, who first placed him in a school on Staten Island, under the charge of Dr. Moore, afterwards Bishop of Virginia, and later he was sent to Columbia College. During his collegiate course he lived in New York, and for part of the time in the family of his talented uncle, Alexander Hamilton;.....

"Philip Schuyler, 2d, selected for his wife Miss Grace Hunter, sister of Hon. John Hunter, of Hunter's Island, N. Y. They were married in New York, September 12th, 1811. She was a beautiful and lovable woman, and she willingly left the charms of city life for the quiet scenes and more romantic life in the old historic home at Saratoga.\* (\*Most of the above facts relating to J. Bradstreet, and Philip Schuyler, 2nd, were taken from the Schuyler MSS., in possession of Miss Fanny Schuyler, of Pelham-on-Sound.)

"Being an only child, Philip inherited so much of the Saratoga estate as fell to his father, which ran for three miles along the Hudson River. He also inherited from his father and grandfather a large measure of their public spirit, which manifested itself through an active interest in anything that tended to promote the public welfare, multiply common luxuries for the people, or increase the comforts of living. He was an enthusiastic promoter of inland navigation, or the canal projects, which so stirred the public mind of this State from 1807 to 1825, at which latter date both Champlain and Erie canals had been completed.

"It was through his influence that the great canal basin was built at Schuylerville and also the slip or back-set from the basin to the rear of the mills; and to guard against the evils of stagnant water he obtained a perpetual grant to tap the end of the slip and use the water for running a mill; the sawmill now operated by Mr. G. Edward Laing gets its power from this source. This is the only place where the State allows water to be drawn from the canals to furnish power for a private enterprise. This



franchise was secured not only for sanitary reasons, but as part pay for the right to pass through Mrs. Schuyler's estate.

"He early became interested in cotton manufacture, and erected here at Schuylerville the second cotton mill in the State of New York - the old Horion, which still stands, though somewhat enlarged, as a monument to his enterprise.

"In 1822 his fellow citizens sent him to represent them as Assemblyman in the New York Legislature.

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P. 306  
Philip Schuyler 2d  
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304/306  
"Philip Schuyler, 2d, and his charming wife maintained the ancient family reputation for hospitality. So long as a Schuyler lived here open house was kept for every one who could formulate a decent excuse for crossing their threshold. During the summer season the old house was usually thronged with guests from everywhere, among which were sure to be a goodly sprinkling of notables of every type.

"Visit of Lafayette. Perhaps during the whole stretch of the nineteenth century the Schuyler mansion was never more highly honored than by the visit of the Marquis de Lafayette, the friend of Washington, the one Frenchman who made the greatest sacrifices for American liberty. On his last visit here, in 1824, he was voted the nation's guest, and was everywhere lionized and feted as no foreigner since has been. Though it was quite out of his way, he could not resist turning aside to visit the Old Saratoga home of General Schuyler, whom he had greatly loved, and the scene of the humiliation of one proud army of France's ancient foe.

"Such details of this interesting visit as have been preserved we here give verbatim from a manuscript in possession of Miss Fanny Schuyler, of Pelham-on-Sound, N. Y., a daughter of Philip Schuyler, 2d.\* (\*The facts which this MSS. preserve were given to her by her eldest sister, Ruth, now, 1900, 88 years of age.)

"The general came in the coach-and-four which my father had sent to convey him from the town beyond. His son, who was with him, had a round face and wore gold spectacles. His secretary and another gentleman filled a second carriage. Lafayette received the villagers, who had assembled on the lawn in front of the house, with very courteous bows, and spoke some appreciate words.

P. 306  
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P. 317  
Mrs. P.S. II  
"Being greatly fatigued from his journey, Lafayette was shown into the guest chamber (on the southeast corner, first floor) where, having stretched himself on the bed, he slept for several hours. After a collation was served and before his departure, he stepped to the side-board, and while resting one arm on its polished surface, with the other poured a glass of Madeira, which he drank to the health of 'the four generations of Schuylers he had known' - the fourth generation was represented by his host's three little daughters (Ruth, Elizabeth and Grace). Just as he was about to depart, Lafayette lifted little Grace Schuyler up in his arms and kissed her. Afterwards, being asked how she liked General Lafayette, she said: "I don't like that man, his face pricked me...." (The above-mentioned mahogany brass-mounted

sideboard, together with the high-post French bedstead on which Lafayette slept, are now in possession of the family, at Pelham-on-Sound, in the house occupied by Miss Fanny Schuyler there, as are also many other interesting pieces of furniture once used by Gen. Philip Schuyler, including a mirror, which is known to have reflected the faces of most of the Revolutionary notables, among whom may be mentioned General Burgoyne and his suite; also General Schuyler's silver spurs, pocket sun-dial, gold pen and pencil case, double-cased gold-embossed watch, silver-mounted pistol - all used in his military campaigns. A high, mahogany hall clock, French white marble and gilt parlor clock, white silk vest, embroidered in gilt thread, etc., are also in possession of the family there.)

"Hospitality of the Schuylers. Quite early in the century Saratoga Springs became the most, indeed the one fashionable watering place in America. Thither the blooded aristocracy, the merchant princes, the leaders in fashion and politics, flocked from all parts of the States. One of the most popular drives in those days for those who had the entree of the mansion was from the Springs to Old Saratoga (Schuylerville).

307 308  
"Dinner parties were frequently given here by the Schuylers at the then fashionable hour of three or four o'clock; the guests returning to the Springs in the early evening. Among such, one might mention Martin Van Buren, President of the United States, who had become a warm personal friend of Philip Schuyler, 2d, accompanied by his popular son, "Prince John," as he was then called.

"Departure of the Schuylers. But changes came to the old homestead at last. Perhaps the worst financial panic in our nation's history was that of 1837. 208/1837 Commerce and manufactures were prostrate; hundreds of wealthy mercantile houses in every quarter of the country suddenly found themselves bankrupt, and the crash was consummated when the banks universally suspended specie payments. Philip Schuyler, 2d, like thousands of others, was caught in this financial whirlwind and swamped. To meet his obligations, the ancestral estate was sold.

"President Van Buren ere long, having need of a man of Schuyler's calibre in an important position, unsolicited, sent him as consul to the port of Liverpool, England. 1838

p 309  
"He was recalled (in the summer of 1842) by President Tyler for purely party reasons, and that after he had been orally assured by him that he would be retained at the post.

"After his return from England, Mr. Schuyler was at one time on the point of repurchasing his old home and returning to Schuylerville; but as their son John was in New York preparing for college, Mrs. Schuyler preferred to remain near him and so the project was abandoned. They finally built a new house on a fine site, including seventy acres of land, at Pelham-on-Sound, a favorite residence of New Yorkers, and within easy distance of the city.....

1400  
p. 310  
"The Strovers. When the place was thrown upon the market by the assignee of Mr. Schuyler, it was purchased by Col. George Stover. Thus for 135 years this property had been in the hands of the Schuylers.

"Col. George Stover was born near Bryant's bridge in the town of Saratoga, in 1791. His grandfather had been a soldier in the French and Indian war. His father, John Stover, became a noted scout in the Revolution; hence, with such antecedents, it was altogether natural that George Stover should be eager to serve his country in a similar way should the opportunity offer. The war of 1812 was his chance and he was among the first to enlist. It was in that war that he gained the title of Colonel through promotion.

"Col. Stover became one of the leading and most public spirited of Schuylerville's citizens, and enjoyed the highest esteem of his fellow townsmen, because of his kindly spirit and integrity of character. He was largely instrumental in founding the old Academy, and in the erection of the Episcopal church. And it was at his house, the old Schuyler Mansion, that the first meeting of patriotic gentlemen was called to consider what steps should be taken toward the erection of a suitable monument to commemorate the glorious events of the decisive campaign of the war for Independence. (The first meeting was held in the Schuyler house on October 16, 1855) and led to the organization, in 1859, of the Saratoga Monument Association."

1917 - P. 509-511 - Detail of release of Schuyler House

### III. Research, 1943 - 1949

In the interest of bringing together of all information on the Schuyler property for purposes of correlation and as a guide to possible future research, there is presented below an account of research efforts carried out since 1943.

- A. A Report on the History of the Phillip Schuyler Home at Old Saratoga (Schuylerville, N. Y.) by Superintendent Warren F. Hamilton. Our copy is undated but from the correspondence files it would appear that this report was submitted to the Director's Office in 1943.
- B. Abstracts of Deeds to Schuyler Property, General Schuyler's will and Maps.

The abstract for the General Philip Schuyler Property was made in 1943 by attorney Ralph M. Cooper of Albany, N. Y., and was carried back to 1837 when the property was still in the hands

of Philip Schuyler, 2d. The abstract indicates that Jacob T. B. Van Vechton acted as assignee from April 27, 1837, to January 15, 1839, at which time the Schuyler estate was purchased by Mr. George Strover on January 2, 1839. The Schuyler Summer Manor was thus apparently unoccupied for about two years.

In 1944 Superintendent Hamilton located the Will of General Philip Schuyler. In a memorandum to Coordinating Superintendent Ronalds, dated February 14, 1944, Mr. Hamilton wrote; "This is to state that the will was located in the Surrogate's Court in Albany County. It was recorded December 12, 1804, soon after he died (in Nov.). The complete will was copied.....The first bequest gives the grandson, Philip Schuyler the house and approximately 2000 acres adjoining. I am endeavoring to locate the map of the partition of Saratoga patent referred to in the will but have not been successful as yet. Later on in the will reference is made to an inventory but it is not among the records. Perhaps it might be in possession of some of the descendants as the original will is not on file either. Also a good many years ago a fire in Albany destroyed a great many of the records." In a memorandum to the Director, dated February 16, 1944, Dr. Ronalds suggested that the inventory might be found among the Schuyler Papers in the New York Public Library. The inventory, however, has not thus far been located. Mr. Hamilton also obtained at that time photostatic copies of the Harmon Van Alen map of the estate of Philip Schuyler, town and county of Saratoga, N. Y., 1837, which was discovered in the State library at Albany. The map of the Saratoga Partition was also located and a



photostat obtained from the County Clerk's Office at Albany, N. Y. This map shows General Philip Schuyler's Property along both sides of the Hudson River from the Batten Kill to Dovegat and divisions of lots in the Towns of Saratoga and Stillwater.

C. Early Floor Plan of the Schuyler Summer Manor House.

Dr. Ronalds also located an early floor plan of the Schuyler Summer Manor House. In a memorandum to Mr. Hamilton, dated February 11, 1944, Dr. Ronalds wrote:

"Enclosed is a rough copy of a plan of the house from the Schuyler Papers at the New York Historical Society. It is on paper not of the eighteenth century. The drawing in ink shows lines and entries originally made in black ink; the pencil lines and words indicate later additions. I would appreciate your comments on this plan as soon as possible. Apparently the inked lines are of the original house. Note that the sixty-foot piazza appears to be an addition at the time the back rooms were added."

Mr. Hamilton replied in a memorandum dated February 18, 1944, as follows:

"After reviewing the plan and comparing it with the layout of the present house and with some of the information given in Brandow's "Story of Old Saratoga," it is evident that the inked portion indicates the house as originally built. The tier of rooms in the rear as well as the kitchen were supposedly added later by General Schuyler. You will recall that they are one step lower than the front part of the house. The addition apparently didn't all go "according to plan" as the portion labeled Library, spare room and small spare room is really only one room and the one used by Lafayette in 1824. It does not extend any further to the rear than the office."

"The outside dimensions check with the original size of 60 feet along and 21 broad as mentioned in Schuyler's letter of November 6 to John Jay. The dimensions of the original rooms also are the same as shown on the plan....."

"Brandow is also of the opinion that the veranda was not built at first and I understand that Strover later raised the roof of it to permit more light into the rooms on the second floor." (See Dr. Ronalds to Regional Director, February 23, 1944).

A photostatic copy of this floor plan was obtained from the New York Historical Society in April of 1950 and pencil sketch of this plan was furnished the Regional Director on May 12, 1950.

D. Wood Shed of Schuyler Manor House

September 6, 1945: Memorandum to Superintendent Hamilton from  
Coordinating Superintendent Ronalds:

"Mrs. Grace Van Derwerker, Saratoga County Historian, mailed a postcard to the museum which shows the Schuyler Mansion with a smaller house attached to the north end of it. I had never before seen this picture, nor had I ever heard that this had been the case. Would you please find out about this and let me know when the smaller house was removed."

The writer discussed the subject of the missing building with Mr. William M. Snyder, Historian of Schuylerville on December 1, 1950. Mr. Snyder stated, to his knowledge, there had never been a building attached to the northern end of the kitchen. However, he could remember a small building, used as a wood shed that stood a few yards north of the kitchen. The wood shed was destroyed by fire some time after 1900. (See also Brandow on the Wood Shed, Page 18 of Report).

The existence of the woodshed is documented by three known photographs. Mr. Snyder has in his possession two stereoptican views of the Schuyler Manor House which shows the wood shed. The views are undated but as they include pictures of Colonel Stover and family, they must have been taken before Colonel Stover's death in 1886

The third photograph is to be found in Reynolds, Cuyler, Albany Chronicles - A History of the City arranged Chronologically from the

earliest settlement to the Present Time. Illustrated with many historical pictures of Rarity and reproduction of the Robert C. Pruyn Collection of the Mayors of Albany, owned by the Albany Institute and Historical and Art Society. Albany, 1906. The book has a 1906 photograph facing page 324 of the Schuyler Summer Manor House, which shows a portion of a small shed standing just north of the present kitchen, but not attached to the kitchen. (A copy of this book is available in the New York State Library, Albany, N. Y.)

#### E. Schuyler Furniture

In October of 1949, while on the way to the museum training course held in Washington, D. C., the writer contacted Mr. Montgomery Schuyler regarding the possible acquisition of Schuyler furniture. Mr. Schuyler replied in a letter dated November 9, 1949, as follows:

"As I think I told you over the telephone the other day, I do not just at present know of any furniture authentically Schuyler which could be obtained and placed in the House at Schuylerville. Some years ago I was asked to help in securing Schuyler furniture for the Schuyler Mansion at Albany, and at that time we cleared up everything we could for that purpose."

#### IV. The Recent Search for Material - 1950-51

With the final acquisition of the General Philip Schuyler Property the writer carried out a program of research for information relating to the structural characteristics and material used in the Schuyler Manor House located in reasonably available sources. The course of research and its results are listed below:

##### a. Mrs. Grace Van Derwerker Leddick, Saratoga County Historian

On April 18 the writer interviewed Mrs. Leddick for possible information on the Schuyler House and examined the historical material

that she had assembled at her office at Saratoga Springs, N. Y. No new information was discovered. The only remaining lead in this direction were several ledger books, taken from the Schuyler House, which are now in the possession of Mr. Henry Ritchie, Historian of Charlton, N. Y. On April 28, 1950, Mrs. Leddick informed us that these account books dated back to 1802, but contained only accounts of goods sold in the general store and had no information relating to the Schuyler House.

b. Mr. William M. Snyder, Historian of Schuylerville, N. Y.

On April 18 the writer also interviewed Mr. Snyder, town historian of Schuylerville. A large portion of Mr. Snyder's information on the Schuyler House was based on Brandow's Story of Old Saratoga, but he also made suggestions relating to the construction of the house and the furniture. Mr. Snyder believes that the kitchen and three rooms on the rear of the Schuyler House were added in 1779. In repairing the Lafayette room, the date 1779 was found marked in the plaster of the room. Mr. Snyder believes that it was the custom of workmen to mark the date of their work in such a manner in that period. The date was found by Mr. German Potter of Green Street, Schuylerville, N. Y. Mr. Snyder was also of the opinion that the Schuyler House was completely furnished with furniture of the Robert and James Adams style but had no documentary sources to suggest supporting his opinion. Mr. Snyder had no information and did not know where such could be found relating to the original roofing, paint colors, and exterior and interior finish of the original structure.



On October 10, 1950, in a second interview with Mr. Snyder, he showed the writer a large and detailed map of Schuylerville. While the map is undated, there is information on the map relating to the flow of water in 1835, thus giving an approximate date to the map. Mr. Snyder possesses the only known copy of this map and the town lawyers, county and town historians have all attempted to persuade Mr. Snyder to have the map photostated but thus far without success. The 1835 map is of interest as it shows the Schuyler Manor House, with outbuildings and gardens while the land was still in possession of Philip Schuyler, 2nd. The map indicates that lawn and trees on the front of the house were located much the same in 1835 as in 1950, and that there was a large garden to the rear or east of the house. Whether we can obtain a copy of this map remains to be seen.

During a third interview with the Snyders on December 1, 1950, Miss Mabel R. Snyder, sister of the town historian, produced, for the first time, a large number of Colonel George Strover and Marshall Papers. The existence or whereabouts of these items had previously been unknown. The writer was permitted to examine these documents. They consist chiefly of letters and receipts relating to the purchase and sale of land in Schuylerville and nothing was found that pertained to the Manor House itself.

c. John J. Vrooman, Supervisor of Historic Sites.

On April 19, 1950, the writer interviewed Mr. John J. Vrooman, Supervisor of Historic Sites for New York State, for possible information on the Schuyler Manor House. Mr. Vrooman directed the rehabilitation of the Schuyler Mansion at Albany, N. Y., and it was hoped that he might have uncovered information pertinent to the house at Schuylerville,

N. Y., in his research for the Albany structure. Mr. Vrooman stated that he had not found any such information relating to the Schuyler Manor House and did not know where such material could be found. He believed that the papers of Henry Glen, Quarter Master at Schenectady, N. Y., during the Revolutionary War, might contain further confirmation that Schuyler hired his workmen from Schenectady, but Mr. Vrooman was in doubt as to the present location of the Glen Papers: a few are in Schenectady Historical Society and some are in the New York Historical Society.

The opportunity was also taken to interview Dr. Hamilton, senior historian and assistant to Dr. Corey. Mr. Hamilton is now engaged in publishing further letters of Sir William Johnson for the State of New York and had just returned from a trip to various libraries in search of unpublished Johnson letters. As Historical Technician Francis Wilshin had examined the Schuyler Papers in the New York Public Library in 1941, before the National Park Service was interested in the Schuyler Manor House, it was hoped that there was a possibility that some information on the Schuyler Manor House might be found in that depository. Dr. Hamilton had just returned from examining these papers and stated that he believed they contained only letters written to General Philip Schuyler and none from the General himself.

d. Schuyler Papers, New York State Library

On April 19 the writer also examined the collection of General Philip Schuyler Papers in the New York State Library at Albany, N. Y. This collection consists of two large boxes of letters written by General Schuyler. The letters deal with three general subjects, the

Revolutionary War, land transactions and politics. No information relating to the Schuyler House was found in this collection.

On November 29 the writer also examined the Abraham Van Vechten Collection of the New York State Library. Abraham Van Vechten served as a family lawyer for both General Schuyler and Philip Schuyler, 2nd, and it was hoped that the collection might contain a copy of General Schuyler's inventory. The collection did contain numerous letters of Philip Schuyler, 2nd, to Van Vechten about various legal matters but neither the inventory or any other information relating to the house was found.

e. Albany Institute of History and Art

On November 29 the writer also examined the Thomas Van Loan Papers, the Vander Veer Collection and a collection of miscellaneous old documents, all of which are listed as containing Schuyler material. Numerous indentures and legal papers of General Schuyler, including a copy of his will, dated Sept. 2, 1766, were found but they contained no information pertinent to the house at Schuylerville.

f. New York State Map of the Champlain Canal, 1834.

In 1941 Historical Technician Francis F. Wilshin located and acquired copies of Map No. 2 of the Champlain Canal, 1834. Drawn from surveys by Edwin F. Johnson in 1819-1821. Original map in Journal Building, District Engineer's Office, Albany, N. Y. This map shows the Schuyler Summer Manor House, the estate, outbuildings and the location of the cotton mill while this property was still in the possession of Philip Schuyler, 2nd, the grandson of the General.

g. Schenectady Historical Society - Henry Glen Papers

Following Mr. Vrooman's suggestion, the writer examined, on December 5, 1950, the Henry Glen Papers in the collections of the Schenectady Historical Society. Although Glen served as Quarter Master at Schenectady during the Revolutionary War, the vast majority of this material dates back to 1790, and the military papers pertain to the War of 1812. Glen's Revolutionary letters are thus apparently in the possession of the New York Historical Society.

h. Schuyler Papers, New York Public Library and New York Historical Society

On January 25, 1951, the writer examined the Schuyler papers of the New York Public Library. These papers consist solely of letters to the General. The Library, however, also has the Schuyler Letter Books in which the General kept copies of all letters concerning public business, Nov. 1776 to July 1, 1778. All pertinent material was extracted from these sources and is contained in the first part of this report. On January 25 the writer also examined the Schuyler Papers of the New York Historical Society, but no new material was found.

i. Mr. Montgomery Schuyler

A letter of inquiry was written to Mr. Montgomery Schuyler of New York City regarding the Pelham on Sound Branch of the Schuylers, mentioned on page 348 of Brandow's Story of Old Saratoga, on November 21, 1950. Mr. Schuyler replied in a letter dated, December 29, 1950, as follows:

"Replying to your letter of November 21, and referring to my acknowledgement of December 4, I am sorry to say that I can give you very little help, much as I would like to be of use to you, regarding the records and contents of the Schuyler House at Schuylerville.



"There were very few descendents of the Pelham branch (if we may use that term) of the Schuyler family. A sister of John and Fanny Schuyler (both of whom died unmarried, as I understand, around 1900) married one Charles de Luze, and had children who are since scattered. I should think that possibly inquiry of the Surrogate of Westchester County at White Plains might give information as to the Wills of these people or their beneficiaries. This Pelham Branch is only very distantly related to me, although John and Fanny Schuyler were great friends of my parents.

"I am sorry that I do not personally know where the original will of General Schuyler is, but it should have been on record in Albany....."

V. Results of Inspections of the Schuyler Manor House - 1950

During the summer of 1950 numerous inspections of the Schuyler Summer House and carpentry work on the building revealed information on alterations in the house.

1. North and South chimneys of main portion of House, Kitchen wing chimney

A complete and detailed inspection of the chimneys was made by the Superintendent in company with a skilled mason. It was found after gaining access to the chimneys through the fireplaces and from the roof that both the main house chimneys are constructed principally of original hand-made, unfired brick. These chimneys contain from 2 to 3 withes serving the fireplaces.

It was found that the south chimney had been reduced in size some years ago and rebuilt above the attic floor with modern brick. The withe was omitted above the attic floor line when this chimney was reconstructed.

The north chimney on the main portion of the house has been reconstructed from about a foot below the attic ceiling to its top. The withe was also omitted in this reconstruction. The outside

dimensions of this chimney are 43 x 22", with inside dimensions at the top of 36 x 14". Thus it will be seen that both chimneys have been reconstructed, prior to Park acquisition, of a single course of brick laid on side. The dimensions of the north chimney apparently have not been altered from its original size.

The kitchen wing chimney serving the large fireplace and flues from the servants' quarters likewise largely exists in its original form and size and consists mainly of original brick and mortar. This chimney is 43 x 26" outside dimensions and 36 x 18" inside dimensions. (48)

## 2. Fireplace Mantels

Mr. A. J. Higgins, Regional Architect, inspected the building during his visit of June 10 to 12, 1950. After examining the four large fireplaces located on the first and second floors of the main portion of the house, Mr. Higgins was of the opinion that only one of the 4 fireplace mantels was an original one, that on the second floor in the northern chimney of the main portion of the house.

## 3. Blinds

Inspection and carpentry repair work has revealed that the second floor windows, now fitted with semi-modern venetian type blinds, had originally been fitted with the same type of H and L hinges still in use on the original solid blinds on the first floor windows.

Several of the first floor blinds were found to have small crescent openings in them. It was discovered by measurements that these blinds, together with their hinges attached, match the openings, hinge marks and old screw holes on the second floor windows. Mr. Higgins believed that this type were survivors of the original blinds

used on the second floor windows, and it would appear that the first floor windows were originally completely fitted out with the solid type blind.

4. Alignment of Original Staircase in Reception Hall

Evidence was discovered by the carpenter in the employ of the Park that confirms the data in the early floor plan of the Schuyler Manor House, New York Historical Society, which shows that the original open staircase in the reception hall ran east and west along the north wall of the hall rather than north-south along the east wall of the room as the enclosed staircase now does.

5. Room on the North side of Kitchen

A plastered wall was discovered under the present outside clapboard on the north side of the kitchen. This side of the kitchen is now covered by a good size porch but the plaster wall tends to suggest the existence of another room on the north side of the kitchen at some past time.

6. Kitchen Roof, porch

There has been some question as to whether the present kitchen on the north end of the Schuyler Manor House could have been added as early as 1779. Arguments against this early date have been based on the fact that while the southern slope of the kitchen roof is very steep, the northern pitch is quite gentle. The latter slope was commonly used in the 19th century, hence it has been held that the entire kitchen was probably added in the 19th century. After inspection, however, a loft was discovered under the gently sloping roof and over the kitchen porch on the north side. Beneath the gently sloping roof was found, concealed from view, a steeply pitched kitchen

roof whose slope equaled that on the southern side. It would thus seem that the kitchen could well have been added in the 18th century while the kitchen porch, loft and perhaps even the missing room were added in the 19th century.

7. South outside wall of kitchen

In the process of replacing rotted clapboard on the outside south wall of the present kitchen, a second layer of clapboard was discovered behind the outer set.

VI. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

The destruction of Philip Schuyler's first house and mills at Saratoga on October 10th by the British Army undoubtedly dealt a serious blow to General Schuyler's personal fortune. Schuyler's letter of October 12 to Richard Varick reveals that the General, even prior to the surrender of the British, had decided to rebuild his house and mills as soon as possible. General Schuyler had been subjected to very severe criticism for his conduct of the early portion of the Burgoyne campaign. This was climaxed by his removal and replacement by Horatio Gates as the commander of the Northern Department. Schuyler's letters to his friends show that he bitterly resented what he believed to be unjust treatment accorded him by the Continental Congress, although he did not permit such bitterness to prohibit him from rendering the Revolutionary Cause such aid as still lay in his power. General Schuyler had determined to withdraw completely from public life following what he believed would be the complete exoneration of his conduct of the campaign of 1777 through the means of a military court martial.

This feeling is clearly revealed in Schuyler's letter of November 6, 1777, to John Jay:



"As I shall shortly be altogether out of public life, I am earnestly engaged in building me a house at this place (Saratoga), that I may be as far out of the noise and hustle of the great world as possible....my hobby-horse has long been a country life; I dismounted once with reluctance, and saddle him again with a very considerable share of satisfaction, and hope to enter him on the end of the journey of life....." (See also Schuyler's letter to Clinton, April 17, 1778).

The General worked with great speed at his project of rebuilding a house at Saratoga undoubtedly to take advantage of great source of labor which was immediately available in the form of Continental Soldiers, the availability of most materials on the spot, the lateness of the season, and because the General expected any day to be called before Congress to vindicate his conduct of the military campaign of 1777 in the Northern Department.

Schuyler's plan to utilize the services of Continental soldiers in constructing his new house was apparently partially frustrated by General Gates' opposition. The company of Carpenters that Schuyler was employing prior to October 23, was recalled to Albany on that date. Schuyler's letter of October 23 to Lansing reveals that he was in desperate need of carpenters and masons and willing to pay any wages to hire more. The various attempts of Schuyler's secretary, Lansing, to hire soldiers for this purpose were blocked by objections raised by General Gates until November 7, when Gates finally consented to the hiring of soldiers from Van Schaick's regiment then stationed in Schenectady. It is also interesting to note that Schuyler obtained the services of two British prisoners of war on October 29 as masons, through the intervention of the British Major-General William Phillips, then a prisoner at Albany.

Schuyler's letters show that he was building a frame house at Saratoga that was 60 feet long and 21 feet broad, two stories high, and with the walls lined with brick. The actual work on the house was begun on November 1, 1777,

and the sawed out frame of the building was raised on November 8. By November 19 the General had finished two rooms and the cellar kitchen of the house and apparently moved into the finished portion of the building with Mrs. Schuyler who had joined the General on November 3. The work on the house progressed so well that Schuyler was able to inform a friend on November 28 that he was planning to discharge his carpenters on November 30, 1777. This would seem to indicate that the house was substantially completed by that time.

The various letters of Morgan Lewis, Lansing, and Varick to Schuyler in the period of October 20 to December 2, 1777, show that such items as the iron work, hardware and glass for the house, were largely manufactured and supplied from Albany, N. Y....These contemporary letters, however, unfortunately reveal little about the structural characteristics of the house, its exterior or interior colors or furnishings. Mrs. Schuyler's request for several white wash brushes suggests that perhaps the cellar kitchen was whitewashed and Varick's remarks in his letter of November 16 to Schuyler about the Shingle cutters, very strongly imply that the original roof of the Schuyler House was composed of wooden shakes of some type.

The date of the addition of the tier of rooms on the back (or east side) of the house and the present kitchen has not been determined by any contemporary letters. However, the fact that Schuyler informed Governor Clinton on April 17, 1778, that he was afraid that he would have to withdraw his family from Saratoga because of the dangerous and exposed condition of the frontier and actually did so by June 6, 1778, makes it seem unlikely that Schuyler would make extensive additions to his house at Saratoga at a time when it was in acute danger of being totally destroyed. A further factor was Schuyler's Court

Martial, which was held in October of 1778 and which the General attended in person. It thus seems unlikely that any construction took place at Saratoga in the fall of 1778 during Schuyler's attendance at his trial.

Mr. William M. Snyder's statement that the date 1779 was discovered under the plaster of the Lafayette Room may be the answer to when the rear portion of the house and kitchen were added to the house. There is definite evidence that General Schuyler was residing at Saratoga in June of 1779. Thus he could have made the additions at that time, but definitive proof, however, is lacking on this point.

On November 5, 1779, Schuyler arrived at Philadelphia as a member of the Continental Congress and attended sessions from November 16 to December 3, 1779,<sup>(49)</sup> which would have given time in the summer months to build at Saratoga. General Schuyler was also occupied in 1780 with the affairs of the Continental Congress. He attended sessions at Philadelphia from March 7 to April 24 and June 17 to June 26, 1780<sup>(50)</sup>. On April 4, 1780, Philip Schuyler and two other members of Congress, John Mathews and Nathaniel Peabody, were appointed as "Committee at head-quarters" - to examine into the state of the Continental Army, and to take such steps, in consultation with the Commander-in-Chief as might improve its prospects of winning the war. The Committee arrived at Morristown on April 18 and remained active until November 1, 1780, and during its life rendered valuable service as a liaison body between Congress, on the one hand, and headquarters on the other.<sup>(51)</sup> General Schuyler was active on this committee from April 4 - to September 3, 1780 and thus again must not have had much opportunity to build at Saratoga.<sup>(52)</sup>

From 1777 to 1787, the new house and lands at Saratoga remained in the hands of General Philip Schuyler, serving as his home in the spring, summer and fall of each year and as an important source of his personal fortune. In December of 1787 General Schuyler presented a large portion of his estate at Saratoga, including the house, slaves, household furnishings and farm equipment, to his eldest and newly married son, John Bradstreet Schuyler. John B. Schuyler and his family made the house at Saratoga their permanent home and continued the development of the property. The premature and unexpected death of John B. Schuyler in August of 1795 again placed the estate in the hands of General Philip Schuyler, who became the guardian for his young grandson, Philip Schuyler II (born at Saratoga in 1788). Thus from 1795 to November of 1804, the General again managed the property at Saratoga and was undoubtedly often at the house at Schuylerville.

With the death of General Schuyler in November of 1804, the house and estate at Saratoga were willed to Philip Schuyler II, as the General had promised his son, John B. Schuyler, in 1787. Philip Schuyler II, also made the house at Saratoga his permanent home and resided there until 1837. The panic of that year forced him to sell his house, mills, and land at Saratoga to meet his heavy financial obligations. The building then appears to have remained vacant for about two years, and it was finally purchased by Colonel George Strover of Schuylerville in January of 1839. Col. Strover owned the house until his death in 1886. The building then was passed on to his heirs until March 30, 1950, at which time, the house became a part of Saratoga National Historical Park.

Thus for sixty years, 1777 to 1837, the house at Saratoga remained in the possession of the Schuyler family. Here the Schuylers directed the



development of their farms, carried out their land transactions, constructed mills, and promoted their canal projects. The wealth thus gathered from their estate at Schuylerville enabled them to take a leading role in the public affairs of their community and their state until 1837.

I. Alterations in the General Philip Schuyler Summer House

As might be expected of any building that has been lived in for 169 years (1777 - May 1946), the General Philip Schuyler Summer House has undergone a series of alterations and repairs. Listed below are the traditional alterations and those found by the National Park Service in the summer of 1950:

1. Present kitchen and tier of back rooms, two story ell, <sup>Front veranada,</sup> possibly added in 1779.
2. Two story ell removed at a later date. The existence of this ell rests only on the information contained in Brandow's Story of Old Saratoga, at the present time.
3. Two and possibly three front porches, present roof of front porch raised and round pillars changed to square ones by Col. Strover.
4. Original open staircase along north wall of reception hall removed by Col. Strover and replaced with present enclosed staircase along east wall of reception hall.
5. Original brass locks removed from all doors but two in the period 1837 - 1839.
6. Alterations in the oven of the present kitchen, date of removal unknown.
7. At least three of the four fireplace mantels in the main portion of the house have been replaced by ones of a later date.

8. Repairs have been made to the north and south chimneys of the main portion of the house before Park acquisition. The south chimney has been reduced in size and rebuilt from the attic floor upward. The north chimney has been reconstructed from about one foot below the attic ceiling to its top. The dimensions of the rebuilt portions of this chimney, however, are apparently the same as the original.
9. Original roof of Gen. Philip Schuyler Summer house appears to have been wooden shingles or shakes. Present roof (1950) is made up of wooden and slate shingles and metal.
10. All original blinds (with small crescent openings and H and L hinges) of the second floor windows have been removed from their original settings and those still surviving, placed on first floor windows.  
Second floor windows now (1950) have semi-modern venetian type blinds. These changes were made prior to Park acquisition.
11. Some of the original solid type blinds with H and L hinges of the first floor windows have been destroyed prior to Park acquisition.
12. A second roof has been laid over the older roof of the present kitchen on the north side. It would appear that the newer roof, with its gentle slope, the loft and porch on the north side of the present kitchen were added in the 19th century.
13. A second layer of (probably original) clapboard has been discovered beneath the outer set of the outside south wall of the present kitchen.
14. There is a possibility that at some past date there existed another room on the north side of the present kitchen.

15. Brandow, Story of Old Saratoga, p. 326, writes: "The vegetable cellar was separate from the house and was located about twenty-five feet from the southeast corner of the main house." Located at approximately the point mentioned by Brandow, there is now a large grass covered mound. It is recommended that this site be left untouched when grading operations are carried out around the house for drainage purposes, for possible archeological exploration.

2. Use of the Rooms by the Schuylers:

All information on the Schuylers' use of the rooms of the Gen. Philip Schuyler Summer House is based on the Early Floor Plan of the house, Schuyler Family Papers, New York Historical Society, a tracing of which is attached to this report. Brandow's history of the house and use of the rooms agrees with this plan, and it is probable that he examined this plan in writing his book.

3. Other Information:

1. Information on Nature of original paint colors.....None.
2. Information on exterior and Interior finish of original structure.....None.
3. Information on Original Furnishings.....None, other than Mr. William M. Snyder's suggestion that the furnishings were late Georgian, Robert and James Adams.

## Historical Maps Relating to the General Philip Schuyler Property

- ✓ 1. Plan of the Position which the Army under Lt. Genl. Burgoine took at Saratoga on the 10th of September 1777 and in which it remained till the Convention was signed. Engraved by Wm. Faden, In Burgoyne, John, A State of the Expedition from Canada....., London, 1780, J. Almon. This map shows the first house of General Philip Schuyler at Saratoga, with its outbuildings, mills, and garden prior to the destruction of the House on October 10, 1777.
2. Map of the Saratoga Partition, original on file in County Clerk's Office, Albany, N. Y. This map shows General Philip Schuyler's Property along both sides of the Hudson River from the Batten Kill to Dovgat and division of lots in the Towns of Saratoga and Stillwater. 1885.
- ✓ 3. Map No. 2 of the Champlain Canal, 1834. Drawn from surveys by Edward F. Johnson in 1819-1821. Original map in Journal Building, District Engineer's Office, Albany, N. Y., This map shows the Schuyler Manor House, the outbuildings and location of the cotton mill while this property was still in the possession of Philip Schuyler, 2nd.
- ✓ 4. Map of Schuylerville, N. Y. Undated, but about 1835. This is a detailed map of property lines in Schuylerville and includes the location of the Schuyler Summer Manor, its outbuildings, garden, and mills at a time when the estate was still in the hands of Philip Schuyler 2nd. The only known copy of this map is in the possession of Mr. Snyder, Historian of Schuylerville, N. Y. The Park does not possess a copy of this map.
- ✓ 5. Map of the Estate of Philip Schuyler, Town & County of Saratoga, N. Y., which is caused to be surveyed and laid into Farms and Lots and numbered as above.....27th July 1837 by Harman Van Alen. This map shows the estate of Philip Schuyler, 2nd, the Summer Manor House, outbuildings and mills in 1837. Original map in New York State Library, Albany, N. Y.
6. Early Floor Plan of General Philip Schuyler Summer Manor House, Schuyler Family Papers, New York Historical Society. Plan is undated but is on 19th century paper. It is the only known early floor plan of the building, and includes measurements of rooms and information on the use of the rooms.
7. Barge Canal, State of New York (1917), Map of a Portion of the Champlain Canal Lands Belonging to the State, made pursuant to the Chapter 199, Laws of 1910, and Amendatory Laws (approved 1917). Sheets 45 & 46. This map contains information useful in determining modern property lines.



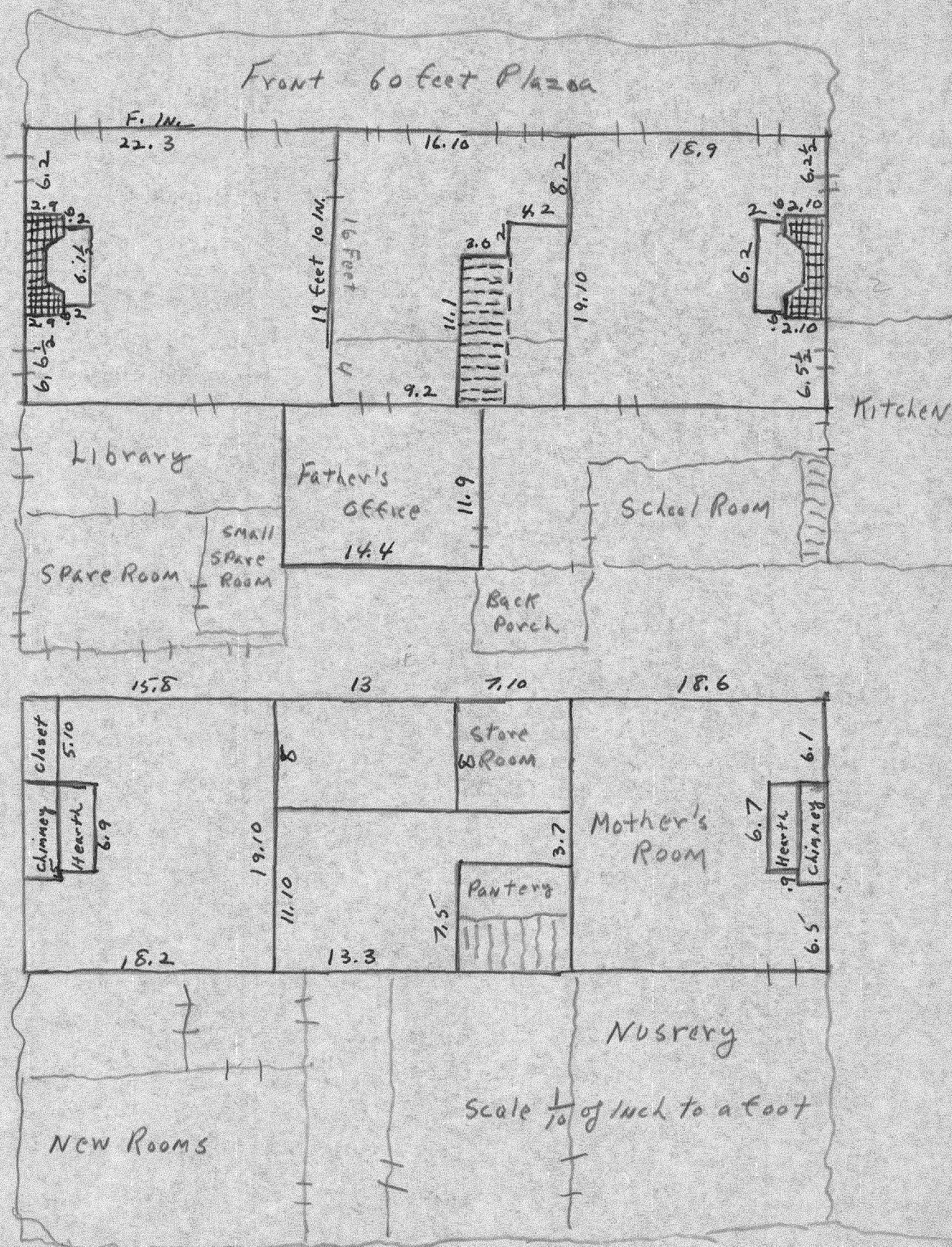
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2. Ibid., 301-2.
3. Francis Wilshin's Narrative Report for April, May and June 1940, Part II Appendix B, p. 146. Philip Schuyler Papers, N. Y. Public Library (617)
4. Mr. Lloyd W. Smith's Manuscript Collection. See Superintendent Ronalds' memorandum of March 20, 1950 to Superintendent, Saratoga NHP.
5. Philip Schuyler Papers, N. Y. State Library, Albany, N. Y. Box No. 2, Acc. No. 67. Copy of a letter from Schuyler Letter Books, Vol. 3, p. 781 in New York Public Library, N. Y.
6. Wilshin's Narrative Report for April, May and June 1940, Part II, Appendix B, p. 147. Philip Schuyler Papers, N. Y. Public Library, item 618.
7. Stone, William L., Trans., Letters and Journals relating to the War of the American Revolution and the Capture of the German Troops at Saratoga by Mrs. General Riedesel. Albany, N. Y., 1867. pp. 134-5.
8. General Philip Schuyler Papers, New York Public Library, N. Y. City, Letter No. 1138.
9. Ibid., Letter No. 2342.
10. Ibid., Letter No. 1065.
11. This letter is in the Collections of the Philip Schuyler Mansion, Albany, N. Y.
12. See Baldwin, Judthan, The Revolutionary Journal of Col. Jeduthan Baldwin, 1775-1776. Edited with a memoir by Thomas William Baldwin. Bangor, printed for the De Burrians, 1906. (Saratoga Microfilm Roll No. 8), p.125: "October 18, 1777. This day the main body of the American army marched to Albany 36 M. this forced march was ocationed by our hearing that the Enemy was coming up the River & had burnt Esopas.  
Oct. 19. at Albany, the Troops much fatigued.  
Oct. 23, Capt. Low came down.  
Oct. 24, at Albany, Capt. Thayre came down."
13. Schuyler Papers, N. Y. Public Library, Letter No. 1066.
14. Ibid., Letter No. 2343.
15. Ibid., Letter No. 1067.
16. Ibid., Letter No. 1068

17. Ibid., Letter No. 2344.
18. Ibid., Letter No. 2345.
19. New York Historical Collections for 1879, p. 191.
20. Schuyler Papers, N. Y. Public Library, letter No. 2346.
21. Ibid., Letter No. 1139.
22. The Correspondence and Public Papers of John Jay, 1763-1781, Edited by Henry P. Johnson, New York and London, 1890, Vol. I, p. 171.
23. Schuyler Papers, N. Y. Public Library, Letter No. 1069.
24. Ibid., Letter No. 1070.
25. Ibid., Letter No. 2347.
26. Ibid., Letter No. 735.
27. Ibid., Letter No. 2348.
28. Mr. Lloyd W. Smith's Manuscript Collection.
29. Schuyler Papers, N. Y. Public Library, Letter No. 2349.
30. Ibid., Letter No. 1072.
31. Ibid., Letter No. 2350.
32. Ibid., Letter No. 2351.
33. Ibid., Letter No. 1074.
34. Ibid., Letter No. 2352.
35. Mr. Lloyd W. Smith's Manuscript Collection.
36. Ibid., Letter No. 2354.
37. General Philip Schuyler Letter Books, Nov. 19, 1776 - July 1, 1778. N. Y. Public Library, page 410, letter No. 1436. Note: letters of April 18, 26, 27, May 1 and May 22, show that Schuyler was at Saratoga. Mrs. Schuyler had her baby in Albany in the second or third week of May.
38. Schuyler Letter Book, page 430, letter No. 1450.
39. Mr. Lloyd W. Smith's Manuscript Collection.

40. Stone, William L., ed, Visits to the Saratoga Battle-Grounds, 1780-1880, Albany, N. Y., 1895, pp. 71, 72, 73-76. See also Burnett, Edmund C., ed, Letters of Members of the Continental Congress, Washington, D. C., 1931. Vol. V p. 60. Letter of Philip Schuyler to the President of Congress, dated Philadelphia, March 6, 1780. Schuyler wrote: "In the letter which I had the honor to address your Excellency on the 15th ult: (of February) from Saratoga....."
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43. Ibid., Vol. 27, pp. 66 and 72.
44. Brandow, John Henry, The Story of Old Saratoga, The Burgoyne Campaign to which is added New York's Share in the Revolution, Albany, N. Y., 1919, p. 346.
45. Lossing, Benson J., The Life and Times of Philip Schuyler. New York, 1872-73., Vol. II, p. 480.
46. Stone, Visits to the Saratoga Battle-Grounds, note on pp. 75 - 77.
47. Brandow, The Story of Old Saratoga, pp. 323-351.
48. Memorandum of Superintendent, Saratoga NHP to Regional Director, dated May 5, 1950. Subject: Repairs to the General Philip Schuyler Property, pp. 2-3.
49. Burnett, Letters of Members of the Continental Congress, Vol. IV, pp. lix, 528.
50. Ibid., Vol. V, p. lx.
51. Ibid., Vol. V., p. 107 - also Morristown National Historical Park, A Military Capital of the American Revolution, National Park Service Series No. 7, 1950., p.24.
52. Burnett, Vol. V., p. 358.





Tracing of Floor Plan, Schuyler House at Schuylerville (Plan in New York Historical Society N.Y.)

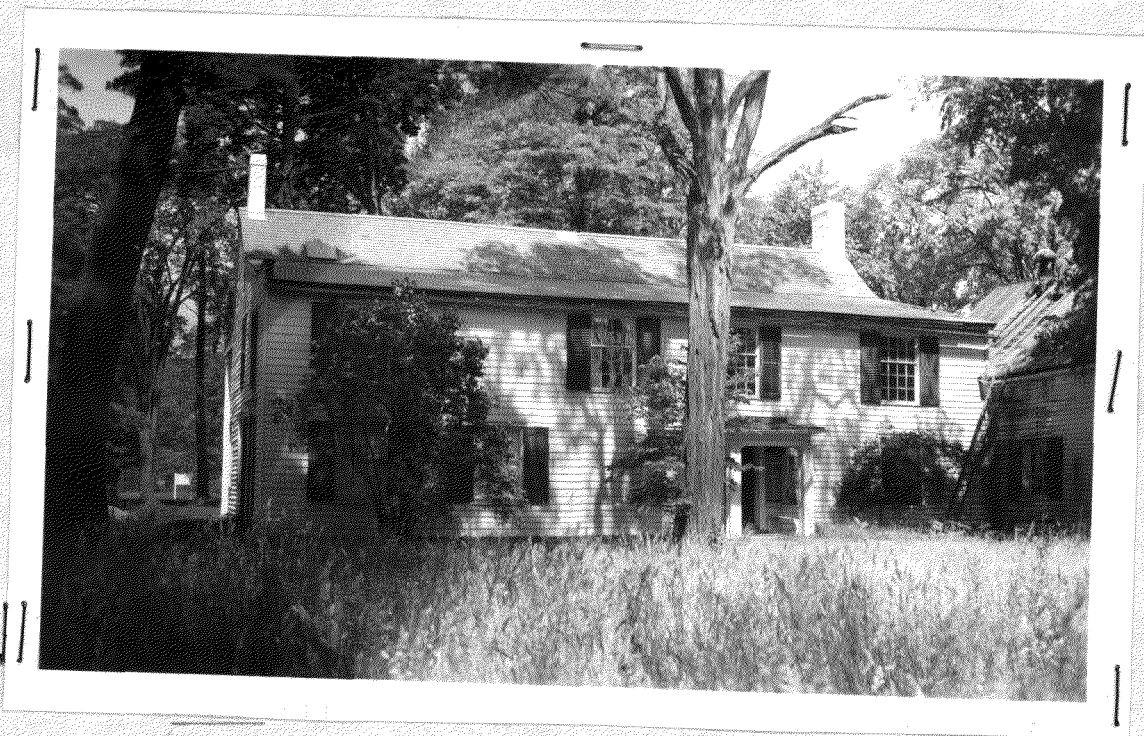




The West Side or Front of the Gen. Schuyler House

The solid type blinds on the first floor windows are believed to be the original blinds. The semi-venetian type blinds on the second floor windows are 19th century additions. The center chimney is also a 19th century addition and has been removed (in 1950).





The East Side or Rear of the Gen. Schuyler House

The photograph shows the tier of rooms which are believed to have been added to the rear of the original structure in 1779. The building on the right of the picture is a portion of the kitchen which was also added in 1779.



The North Side of the Gen. Schuyler House

The portion of the building on the left of the photograph is the kitchen which is believed to have been added in 1779. The loft, located over the kitchen porch, and the kitchen roof on the north side, with its gentler pitch, are believed to have been added in the 19th century. The portion of the structure on the right of the photograph shows the north end of the building erected in 1777. Note the semi-modern venetian-type blinds on the second floor window, also a 19th century addition. The solid-type blind on the first floor window is believed to be an original first floor blind. The roof of the front porch of the main structure was raised and the square pillars added in the 19th century.





The South side of the Gen. Schuyler House

The roof of the front porch, shown on the left in the photograph, was raised and the square pillars added in the 19th century. The section of the house, 21 feet broad, immediately to the right of the porch, is the original portion of the structure erected in 1777. The remaining section on the right, with the gentle pitched roof is believed to have been added to the building in 1779. Note the blinds with small crescent openings on the two first floor windows of the original (1777) portion of the house. It is believed that this type blind was originally used on the second floor windows.