

LOCATION

Schuyler House is located on US Route 4, just south of the Village of Schuylerville.

It is approximately 7 1/2 miles north of the battlefield unit of Saratoga National Historical Park. Schuyler House is open seasonally; please call the Visitor Center for details, at (518) 670-2985.

DIRECTIONS TO SARATOGA MONUMENT and VICTORY WOODS:

- As you exit the Schuyler House parking lot, turn right.
- Drive approximately ¼ mile (.4 km) and turn left on Burgoyne Road. The road goes uphill.
- Nearing the top of the hill, turn left on Cemetery Avenue; the Monument and its parking area will be visible on your left.
- Victory Woods trail will be accessible from behind Saratoga Monument.

DIRECTIONS TO BATTLEFIELD:

- As you exit the Schuyler House parking lot, turn left (US Route 4 south).

- You will drive for about 7 ½ miles.
 - Note:* First brown signs with white letters for “Saratoga National Historical Park” will be visible in about 6 miles (9.75 km) south on US Route 4. Battlefield entrance is past these.
- Entrance for the battlefield will be on the right.
- Drive approximately 2 miles on the entrance road. This brings you to a stop sign and 4-way intersection.
 - Parking for Visitor Center is straight across intersection.
 - Accessible parking: turn left at the stop sign onto Roosevelt Road (gate and standard blue wheelchair sign to your left at the intersection.)

ADMINISTRATION

Schuyler House is administered by the National Park Service, United States Department of the Interior. It is one of four sites that comprise Saratoga National Historical Park.

Furnishings provided by Old Saratoga Historical Association.

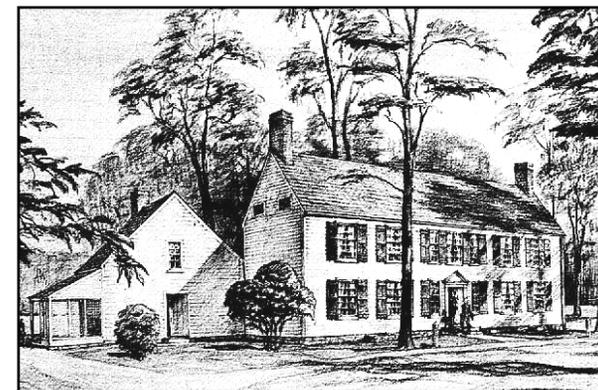
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Saratoga National Historical Park

National Park Service
 U.S. Department of the Interior



Schuyler House

The country estate of
 American Revolutionary
 War General Philip Schuyler

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

—Philip Schuyler, November 1777

Philip Schuyler (1733-1804) wrote those words about his love of country life when he took up residence in his “*commodious box*” as he called it. He built it hurriedly in the frosty autumn of November 1777 to replace its predecessor, which was burned by the British only a few weeks before.

Restored by the National Park Service, Philip Schuyler’s house is a tangible reminder of the founding family of the village of Saratoga —now known as Schuylerville, having been renamed for the Schuyler family in 1831.

THE MAN

As a member of the Continental Congress, an influential New Yorker, and an experienced officer, Schuyler was given the rank of major general on June 19, 1775 – making him third in command under George Washington and commander of the Northern Department of the Continental Army. In the summer of 1777 as British forces overwhelmingly swept down the Champlain and Hudson Valleys, Schuyler was blamed for the loss of Fort Ticonderoga to the British and the retreat of American forces. Despite his shrewd tactics to impede the British advance, Congress replaced Schuyler with General Horatio Gates on August 19, 1777, one month before the Battles of Saratoga. Notwithstanding this personal setback, he helped the army from his mansion in Albany by forwarding supplies and encouraging reinforcements northward.

Wearied by many personal attacks and sacrifices, plagued with recurring illness and having no active command since being relieved by Gates, Schuyler resigned from the army in 1779. However, he continued to provide vital support to the army by organizing and financing military campaigns, advising Washington, and continuing to serve in the Continental Congress.

After the Revolutionary War, Schuyler remained

active in business as well as state and national politics, but his real interests took an important turn: with visionary acumen he became one of the staunchest supporters for canal construction. While he died before his dreams of successful canals came to be, Philip Schuyler is known as the father of United States canals.

THE ESTATE

The estate was originally part of the 1684 Saratoga Patent of 168,000 acres granted to seven New Yorkers (Schuylers owned 24,000 acres). Through inheritance and purchase the “*farm at Saratoga*” eventually came to Philip’s grandfather, Johannes Schuyler. This bustling farm, left in the care of Johannes’s oldest son, was obliterated by a raiding party of Indians and French Canadians in 1745. Almost all of the community’s enslaved and free people (over 100) were captured; Johannes’s oldest son and heir to the Schuyler fortune was killed on the spot.

From a second house built in the 1760s, Philip turned the remnants of the ruined farm into a busy farming, milling, and merchandising center, worked by tenants, enslaved people, and artisans (notably Scottish immigrants). With his wheat, flax, and hemp crops, award-winning linen mill, sawmills, herring fishery (transporting fish to sell as far away as Jamaica and Antigua), and general store selling goods and services, Philip’s Saratoga community and personal wealth grew substantially. Just like in 1745 though, the house, mills, and most of the buildings were destroyed on October 10, 1777, but this time by retreating British forces following the Battles of Saratoga.

THE HOUSE

Following the surrender of British forces in Saratoga on October 17, 1777 and departure of tens of thousands of troops from the area, Philip immediately began to plan the rebuilding

of his Saratoga house and farm out of its charred remains. Since December’s winter was approaching fast, his new “*cheaply and speedily erected*” house was completed within the weeks of November. It was built upon the existing foundation of a burned outbuilding and used fresh-cut lumber from his only remaining structure, the upper sawmill. Paying high wages for local labor from all over Albany County, and even by using some captive British soldiers (who knew masonry), the plain, unrefined house was finished, but it was much smaller and simpler than the one to which Philip was accustomed. As time went on the house grew in size and comfort, with structural additions and finishing coats added to cover the naked interior and exterior.

THE CONTINUING TRADITION

Throughout Philip’s life and since, this house has been the destination of many visitors, some of whom were famous citizens. George Washington (godfather of daughter Catherine Schuyler), son-in-law Alexander Hamilton (who married daughter Elizabeth), and the Marquis de Lafayette visited this house. Now, following in their footsteps, tens of thousands of people from all over the world continue to learn about the general, the visionary, and the man who was Philip Schuyler.



General Philip Schuyler