



Changing the World

At first, many thought the American Revolutionary War would be a quick win for the mighty British Empire, but by fall of 1777 it had dragged on for over two years. Great Britain had a two-part plan for victory. In one, the British succeeded by capturing Philadelphia. In the other, they aimed to reestablish British rule in upstate New York.

Gen. John Burgoyne launched an army from Canada to advance along New York's waterways and capture Albany. He had many advantages, but American resistance was strong. At Saratoga, two fierce battles led to the first-ever surrender of a British army, marked the war's turning point, and changed the world forever.

For Diverse Reasons

Connected to Saratoga's battles are upward of 30,000 people of many backgrounds, including Oneida warriors (left) and German followers (right). They served for many reasons important to their situations and cultures. In the eight-year conflict, allegiances could change with the tide of war.

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Despite the Odds

In mid-June, Burgoyne (right) heads southward from Canada along Lake Champlain; the background map shows key details of the 1777 Northern Campaign. His multinational force of 10,000 outnumbered the American defenders (Continental soldier, left), who retreat south, evacuating forts and losing battles all July. American Gen. Philip Schuyler (right) considers a withdrawal to Albany.

Burgoyne's advance slows due to a lack of draft animals, carriages, boats, and people to move supplies. In late July, British Col. Barry St. Leger sets out from the west to join Burgoyne at Albany but is bogged down while besieging strongly defended Fort Stanwix.

Burgoyne tries to seize supplies at Bennington in mid-August, but his detachments are thrashed by Gen. John Stark's New England militia. This delays his plans to capture Albany another month.

Meanwhile, Gen. Horatio Gates (above) has replaced Schuyler. Fresh with supplies and reinforcements, he marches north to meet Burgoyne head-on. Benedict Arnold is on his way to the fort with a large Continental force.

Continental Army, believes the heights near Stillwater are the best place to stop the British invasion. They overlook the river and its paralleling road, which the British must take to move on Albany.

Burgoyne crosses the river, approaches the heights, and prepares to attack.

Whose plan will work?

BURGUYNE Departs St. Johns, Canada, June 17

Fort Ticonderoga July 2-6

Mount Independence

FRASER

Hubbardton July 7

Skenesborough (Whitelall) July 7

Fort George Captured July 29

Fort Anne July 7-8

Kingsbury July 22

Fort Edward Captured July 30

Manchester

BAUM/BREYMANN

Saratoga (Schuylerville) Siege October 10-16; Surrender October 17

STARK

Stillwater September 19; October 7

Walloomsac August 16

BENNINGTON

GATES

The Sprouts (Cohoes / Waterford)

ALBANY

Fort Dayton

ARNOLD Departs Stillwater, August 12

Mohawk River

Hudson River

SARATOGA NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

Two Battles of Saratoga

September 19, 1777

Gen. John Burgoyne's army marches toward Bemus Heights near Stillwater. In the early afternoon at Freeman Farm, some of his troops encounter riflemen led by American Col. Daniel Morgan (map below). After a sharp firefight, both sides back off, then prepare for battle.

October 7, 1777

Burgoyne marches 1,700 troops out of camp to view American positions, then stops at a wheat field about a mile northwest of Bemus Heights to gather grain for his hungry army. Told of the movement, Gates dispatches Arnold to investigate. At about 3 pm, Gates sends troops to the field, and the British beat them back. Arnold returns to recommend an all-out assault, and Gates agrees.

The British advance across the farm at about 3 pm but are slowed by American troops commanded by Gen. Benedict Arnold. After fighting for over three hours in dense woods and farm fields, the British waver.

When Burgoyne calls German troops to the field late that evening, Gen. Horatio Gates denies Arnold's request for reinforcements, and the Americans withdraw.

The first battle of Saratoga is a British victory, but strong American resistance unnerves Burgoyne. The British have 590 casualties; the Americans, 320.

Burgoyne learns Gen. Sir Henry Clinton, British commander in New York City, plans to distract Gates with attacks in the lower Hudson River valley. Burgoyne digs in near the heights and waits. Over two weeks pass. His food supply shrinks while Gates' army grows. To save his faltering plan, Burgoyne decides to make his next move.

Arnold attacks at about 4 pm (map below). British Gen. Simon Fraser, entrusted to command a withdrawal, is mortally wounded. Within an hour, the British retreat to a redoubt (log fort) at Freeman Farm. Arnold pursues, but his attack on the redoubt fails. Then,

Decisively defeated, Burgoyne retreats northward on the night of October 8, progressing slowly through a torrential thunderstorm. Exhausted, freezing, and half-starved, his army arrives at the little village of Saratoga on October 9.

Gates pursues without difficulty and besieges Saratoga. The demoralized British are surrounded and outnumbered nearly three to one. Unable to maintain the situation, Burgoyne calls for peace.

Still battling along the lower Hudson (background map at right), Clinton and later Gen. John Vaughan have no expectation of reaching Albany. Vaughan reaches as far as Clermont before he withdraws. There will be no additional help for Burgoyne. The plan has failed.

October 17, 1777

Burgoyne ceremoniously surrenders his sword to Gates. The British Army lays down its arms and marches into captivity.

A much-needed victory for the Americans, Saratoga is the Revolutionary War's turning point. It reinvigorates the American cause and inspires challenges to Great Britain's dominance worldwide.

Saratoga's Legacy

The events at Saratoga ignited global warfare and changed the world forever. From Louisiana to Indonesia, from South Africa to the North Sea, hundreds of battles against Great Britain took place between 1778 and 1784 (map above).

At the time, few foresaw the influence Saratoga would have on global colonial power in an age of empires. Burgoyne's surrender revealed British weakness, and Great Britain's rivals pounced.

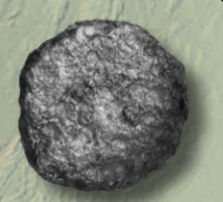
France, at last, publicly recognized an independent United States of America and allied with the new nation in 1778. This powerful Franco-American alliance triggered open war between Great Britain and France. Emboldened, Spain also declared war on Great Britain in 1779.

The Netherlands' commercial support of Great Britain's enemies led to war in 1780. That same year, the aggression of the British East India Company toward France prompted a coalition of Indian nations, led by the Sultanate of Mysore, to declare war on Great Britain.

Needing relief from five simultaneous wars, Great Britain made peace with the United States in 1783.

Artifacts of War

Objects left behind help us piece together and tell the stories of Saratoga. The ones below from the battles survive in the museum collection maintained at the park.



Explore the Sites of Saratoga

Hallowed Ground

Saratoga's grounds, now peaceful and scenic, were not always so. The world-changing American victory and the unprecedented British surrender came at a tremendous cost to both sides.

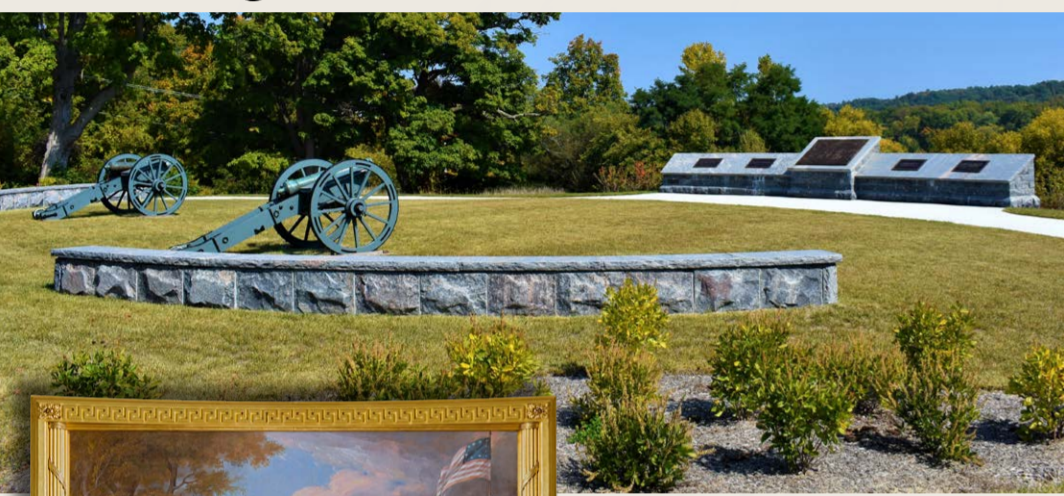
No grave markers exist to remember the fallen, but many stone monuments in the park commemorate individuals, groups, areas, and actions that helped shape the Battles of Saratoga.

The Benedict Arnold Monument (right), often called the "Boot Monument," commemorates Arnold's heroic deeds.

During your visit, please help to protect and respect this hallowed ground.



Saratoga Surrender Site



A first for a British Army, Burgoyne ceremoniously surrendered his sword here on October 17, 1777. Today, the site features a relief sculpture of John Trumbull's 1821 painting *Surrender of General Burgoyne* (left), which hangs in the US Capitol Rotunda as one of the four major events of the American Revolution. Grounds open sunrise to sunset daily; not maintained in winter.

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Victory Woods

Discover the echoes of history, including Native American, at Victory Woods. These 22 acres were the British Army's final encampment site before the surrender. Exhibits along the half-mile, accessible boardwalk (above) tell of Burgoyne's last stand and more.

Park at Saratoga Monument, then take the path through the cemetery to the Victory Woods trailhead. Limited parking is also off Burgoyne Street at the end of Monument Drive (downhill, east of Saratoga Monument). Open sunrise to sunset daily; not maintained in winter.

Saratoga Monument

Standing in the larger area of Burgoyne's final encampment site, a 155-foot obelisk (right) commemorates the American victory at Saratoga. Built by a citizens group as part of a national movement of memorialization, its cornerstone was laid on October 17, 1877—the centennial of Burgoyne's ceremonial surrender. A series of smaller monuments on the battlefield followed. Open seasonally.



Schuyler House



This expansive estate was the hub of Gen. Philip Schuyler's business operations (the main family home was in Albany). From 1702 to 1837, it was occupied by five generations of Schuylers, including Philip and his wife Catherine (right).

Prior to Burgoyne's 1777 surrender, the British burned the original house and most outbuildings. The present house (above) was built in November 1777. The estate was populated by tenant farmers, hired workers, enslaved laborers, and

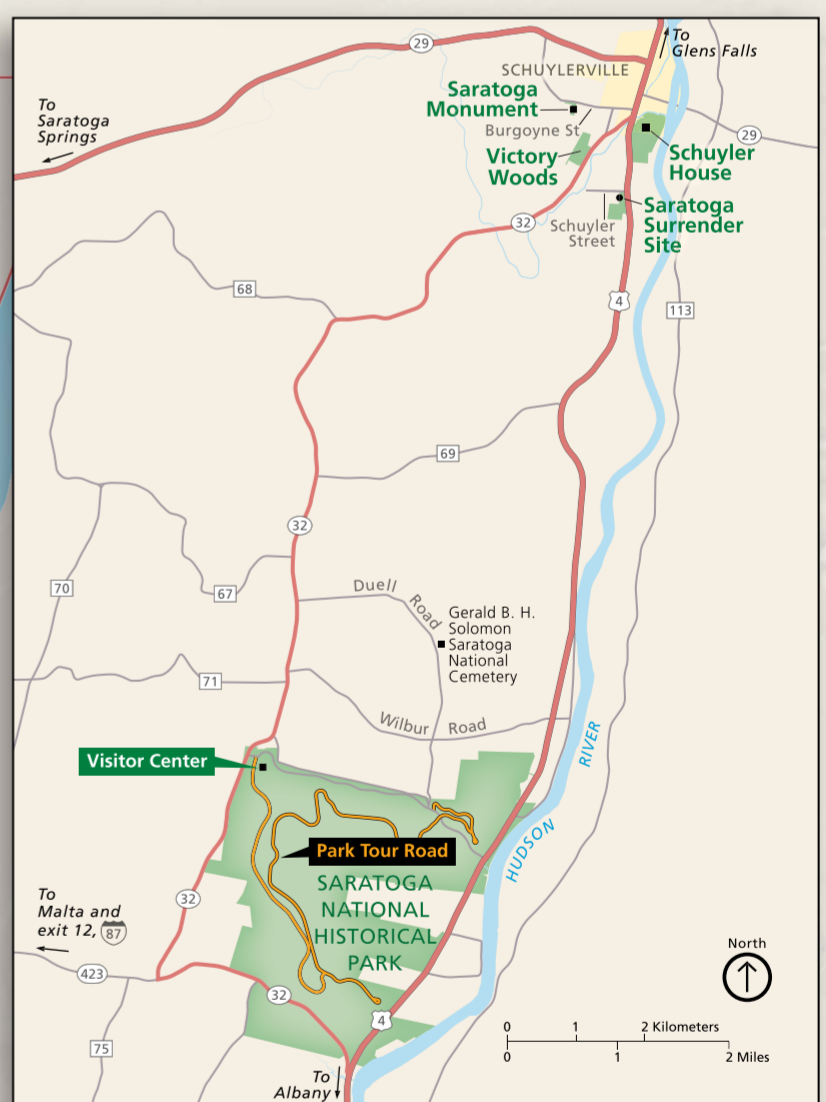
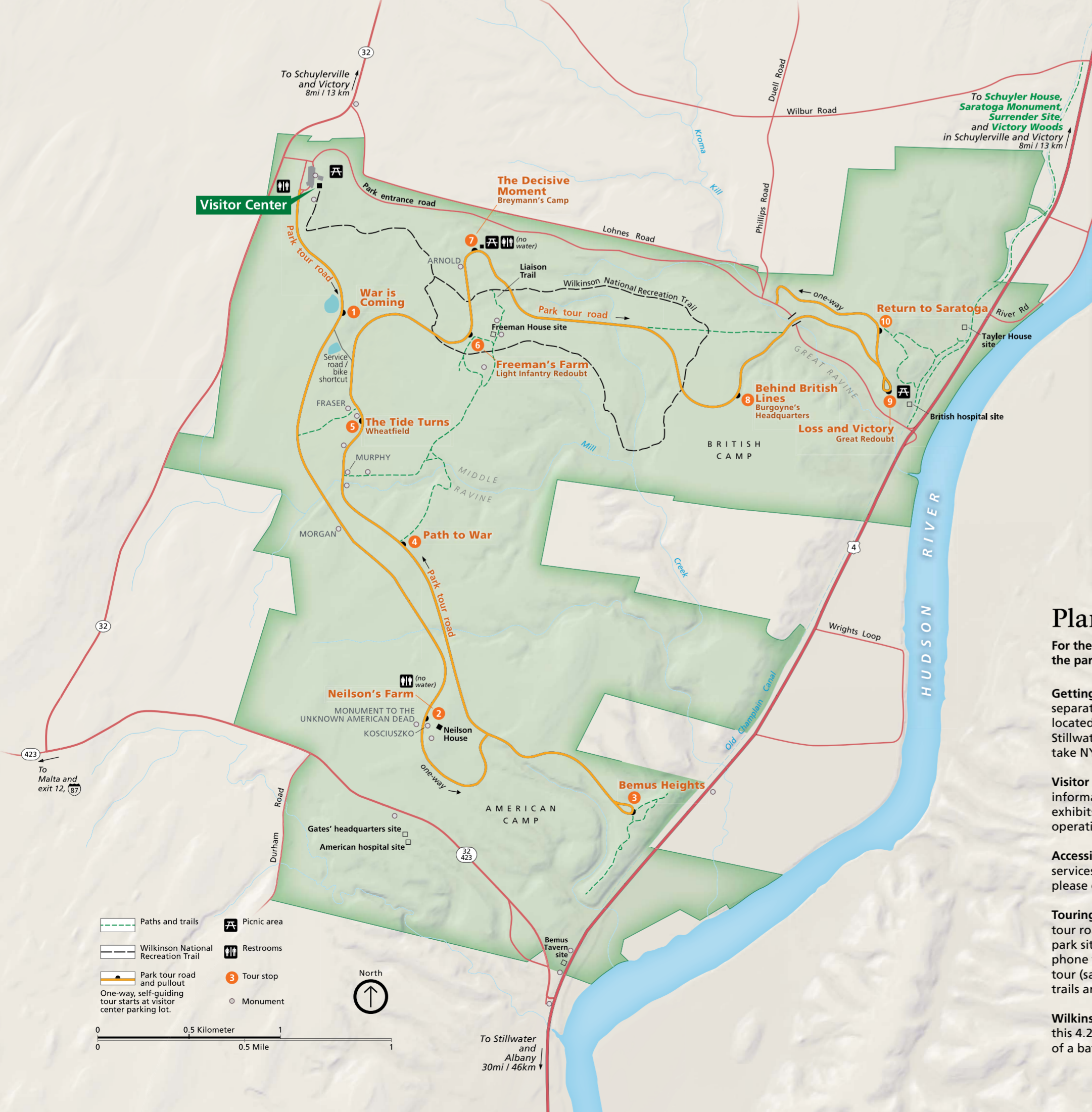
their families. Enslaved African Americans lived and worked here until Philip's 1804 death. Crops and products from the mills (chiefly lumber) were sold at markets in Albany and beyond.



The house is open seasonally.

Natural World

The park is designated an Important Birding Area by the National Audubon Society. It benefits from the work of scientists to document and preserve the natural environment.



Plan Your Visit

For the latest information, please visit the park website: www.nps.gov/sara.

Getting Here The park consists of five separate sites. Battlefield entrances are located off US 4 and NY 32, north of Stillwater. To reach the other park sites, take NY 4 north of the battlefield.

Visitor Center Stop here for restrooms, information, brochures, programs, exhibits, and a museum store. Hours of operation vary seasonally.

Accessibility We strive to make facilities, services, and programs accessible to all; please call or check the park website.

Touring the Park Ride along the 10-mile touring road (see maps) and explore other park sites and trails using the park cell phone tour (518-665-8185) or web-based tour (sara.tourssphere.com). Tour road and trails are not plowed during snow events.

Wilkinson National Recreation Trail Enjoy this 4.2-mile, marked hike through parts of a battlefield and natural habitats.

Safety Tick bites can spread disease. Stay in the center of cleared trails, away from vegetation. Cover skin and hair; use insect repellent on clothing. Check for ticks on body and clothes; remove ticks promptly.

Emergencies call 911

Regulations Trails are pedestrian-use only. Cycle on Tour Road only. Cyclists must wear helmets. Skateboards, in-line skates, and scooters are prohibited. Always keep pets leashed and under your control. Clean up after your pet.

More Information
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