

SARATOGA SURRENDER SITE

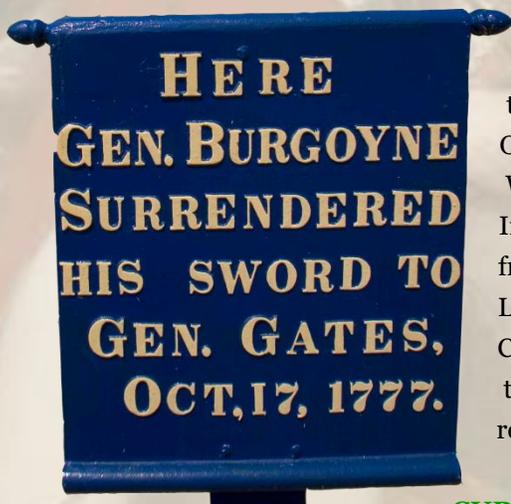
Route 4, Schuylerville, NY

“At Saratoga, the British campaign that was supposed to crush America’s rebellion ended instead in a surrender that changed the history of the world.” Author, historian Richard Ketchum, 1997

HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE: In October 1777, a 6,000-strong British Army, defeated by American forces in the ‘Battles of Saratoga’ finally capitulated when British General Burgoyne tendered his sword to American General Gates on this hill top knoll. This iconic moment is memorialized in John Trumbull’s 1821 masterpiece painting, *Surrender of General Burgoyne*, which hangs in the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C. The British surrender caused a domino of warfare throughout the world as France, Spain, India and The Netherlands took advantage of a weakened Britain. Thousands lost their lives for democracy to take hold in American and spread throughout the world.



BACKGROUND: The Sword Surrender Site is marked by a blue and gold historic marker that pre-dates the traditional New York Stat markers found around the region. It is located on current day Route 4, about one mile south of the Village of Schuylerville. In private hands since the Revolution, the land was purchased in 2006 by Open Space Institute, Inc. with funds appropriated by the NYS Assembly to preserve it as a historical site. The National Park Service’s Olmsted Center for Landscape Excellence, in cooperation with the Saratoga Washington on the Hudson Partnership, completed a Cultural Landscape Inventory assessment in 2010. The NY Natural Heritage Trust, with a grant from the American Battlefield Protection Program, funded a Cultural Landscape and Site Development Plan. In 2012, the National Society of Children of the American Revolution sponsored the Sword Surrender Site as their national project, raising \$30,000 for site development and \$38,000 was received from the Alfred Z. Solomon Charitable Trust for the bronze relief.



CURRENT: When completed the site will be donated to the NPS from the Open Space Institute. Site development plans are underway in collaboration with the (newly named) Hudson-Hoosic Partnership. On June 1, 2013, the site was inaugurated with an event showcasing the site development plan, with an unveiling of a 6’ by 4’ bronze bas relief of Trumbull’s iconic Surrender Scene painting, which will be the centerpiece of the site. Scores of partner organizations, local officials, National Park Service staff and NYS Deputy Commissioner for Historic Preservation Ruth Pierpont were there.

Schuylerville Central School was the site of a presentation of the 2015 America the Beautiful Quarter series for New York State and Saratoga NHP. As partner grants and funding become available, development of this iconic historic site will move forward.

LEARN MORE at the Friends of Saratoga Battlefield website: www.friendsofsaratogabattlefield.org/