

The Historic Saratoga-Washington on the Hudson Partnership



/Surrender of General Burgoyne/, by John Trumbull, 1821

Source: Architect of the Capital

Site Development and Cultural Landscape Treatment Plan

Planning for Battles of Saratoga: Sword Surrender Site

Town of Saratoga, Saratoga County, New York
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Visionary project champions are key to the success of our communities and in securing unique ways to interpret our country's rich history. We would like to acknowledge Senator Roy J. McDonald, Assemblyman Steven C. Englebright and the Open Space Institute for their passionate efforts in securing this property for use by future generations as a site to commemorate the Sword Surrender Ceremony Site for the Battles of Saratoga. The location where the Army of the United States under the command of the American General Gates accepted the British Gen. John Burgoyne surrendered of his sword (and a complete British army) following two battles and siege in 1777. The historic event paved the way to American independence.

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The Historic Saratoga-Washington on the Hudson Partnership is comprised of, “municipalities and non-profit organizations along the Upper Hudson River have independently initiated local projects that foster the areas' rich natural and cultural heritage, as well as provide for sustainable economic growth. The Historic Saratoga-Washington on the Hudson Partnership was established through an act of legislation in 2006 initiated by Assemblymembers Roy McDonald and Steven Englebright and supported by Senator Joe Bruno to comprehensively support the local efforts through an innovative and voluntary framework of public and private groups, including local and state government. Municipalities may opt into the partnership at any time through a local resolution.”

“The Partnership's mission is to preserve, enhance and develop the historic, agricultural, scenic, natural and recreational resources and the significant waterways within the Partnership region. Through the tradition of municipal home rule, the Partnership will foster collaborative projects with pertinent non-profit and governmental entities with an emphasis on both agricultural and open space protection, economic and tourism development, and the protection and interpretation of our natural and cultural heritage”.¹

In particular, we would also like to thank the following members of the Project Subcommittee and the Interpretive Committee for their efforts and time:

Project Subcommittee

- > Tom Wood, Supervisor, Town of Saratoga
- > Nelson Ronsvalle, Grants Coordinator, Town of Half Moon Representative
- > Joe Finan, Superintendent, Saratoga National Historical Park
- > Chris Martin, Integrated Resource Manager, Saratoga National Historic Park
- > Devin Lander, Grant Manager

Interpretive Committee

- > Tim Holmes, President, Friends of Saratoga Battlefield
- > Gina Johnson, Saratoga National Historic Park
- > Eric Schnitzer, Saratoga National Historic Park
- > Chris Martin, Integrated Resource Manager, Saratoga National Historic Park
- > Sean Kelleher, Town of Saratoga Historian, Village of Victory Historian
- > Linda Palmieri, Town of Stillwater Historian

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ⁱ <http://www.upperhudsonpartnership.org/>, September 13, 2011.

INTRODUCTION

PURPOSE AND NEED

The purpose of the *Saratoga Sword Surrender Site Site Development and Cultural Landscape Treatment Plan* is to assist the Historic Saratoga-Washington on the Hudson Partnership and their partners in preserving and identifying interpretative opportunities of the Saratoga Sword Surrender Site. Although the site was previously identified yet rejected in the *Saratoga National Historical Park General Management Plan* (2004) due to a lack of requisite integrity, this evaluation was reassessed and reversed in the draft *Cultural Landscape Inventory for Sword Surrender Site and Setting* (2008).¹ Moreover, the Sword Surrender Site's subsequent acquisition by the Open Space Institute in 2006 has enabled the Partnership and the site's steward, the National Park Service, to propose its transformation into a viable site of commemoration that is consistent with this alliance's larger objectives for protection, planning, and interpretation of the Saratoga National Historical Park.

Accordingly, the site development and cultural landscape treatment plan augments the findings of the 2008 draft *Cultural Landscape Inventory for Sword Surrender Site and Setting* by creating an action plan that will enhance the visitor experience of the site's significance through public access and parking, controlled landscaping, and a memorialization plan, while also providing the basis for connections to the larger historical narrative and experience of the established Saratoga National Historical Park units. Given the fact that the authors of the 2008 draft cultural landscape inventory urged the Partnership to "work collaboratively and creatively with private land owners and state agencies to preserve and protect natural and historic resources," this plan acknowledges the constraints inherent in the properties separating the Saratoga Sword Surrender Site from other units of the park, while offering recommendations for these areas—to the extent that they are possible—consistent with the park's 2004 general management plan.²

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

The subject property is internationally significant for its association with the event that is generally recognized as the "turning point of the American Revolutionary War" in which British Lieutenant-General John Burgoyne surrendered his sword to American Major General Horatio Gates on October 17, 1777, thus marking the end of the Battles of Saratoga. Following an invasion by the British army in which it planned to march south from Canada to Albany with the intent of destroying any American troops coming in its path, the British were confronted in Saratoga, resulting in their retreat to the present-day villages of Victory and Schuylerville to mount defenses. However, the onslaught of American soldiers outnumbering the British soldiers by 3 to 1, compounded by a lack of food and other essentials with no viable outlet for escape, compelled British Lieutenant-General Burgoyne to sue for peace and submit to the terms of surrender dictated by American Major General Gates. As the defeated British soldiers, women, and children trudged into captivity, Gates, Burgoyne, and their officers convened and dined on a plateau where they watched the defeated throngs as they passed between the lines of the victorious Continental and militia troops. Burgoyne then offered up his sword to Gates, who in turn accepted it and then returned it to him in humble gratitude.

The American victory at Saratoga is recognized as the turning point of the American Revolution because it resulted in France recognizing United States independence and the ensuing 1778 Franco-American alliance, which not only affirmed the American cause for independence to the world, but also provided the Continental forces and militia with funding, munitions, and direct military aid which were instrumental in their triumph. In addition, subsequent British battles with Spain, Mysore (now part of current day India), and The Netherlands during this period, caused the British to refocus their military efforts in order to protect their global empire, thereby also contributing to an American victory in 1783.

In addition to the significant associations of the Saratoga sword surrender event with this particular location, the subject property is also significant for its archeological potential to reveal information about the American Revolutionary War pertaining to this signal event and to both British and American forces traversing its landscape before, during, and following battle.

Beyond its primary significance as the site of a key surrender during the American Revolution, the subject property is also significant for its association with Revolutionary War commemoration between 1877 and 1938. Between 1877 and 1910, a cast-iron marker memorializing the surrender was erected on the subject property as part of a series of installations to commemorate sites of American patriotism. This cast-iron marker continues to be located in its original location at the foot of the site of Gen. Burgoyne's ceremonial surrender.

Regarding the larger setting of the Sword Surrender Site, the old Champlain Canal (1823-c.1917) is significant for its "association with the agricultural, commercial, and industrial growth of New York State; the design and construction of its infrastructure; and for its archeological potential to reveal significant information regarding the canal transportation period."³ On September 1, 1976, the Champlain Canal Historic District was listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

In addition, the setting surrounding the subject property may be significant for its potential to reveal archeological information regarding Native American occupation during the Middle and Late Archaic periods (8000 B.P.-1609), owing to artifacts previously found in the area dating to this period. The setting may also be significant for its potential to yield archeological information associated with the French and Indian Wars (1689-1763), as supported by the known existence of three forts that were erected in the area consisting of Fort Vroman (Vrooman) (1689), Fort Saratoga (1702), and Fort Clinton (1746).

DESCRIPTION OF THE STUDY AREA

The Sword Surrender Site consists of a 19-acre tract that is located in the Town of Saratoga, Saratoga County, New York. It is bounded on the east by U.S. Route 4, on the north by Schuyler Street, and on the south and west by single-family dwellings. In addition, a privately owned property known as the Allen House (c.1890) is located between a portion of the subject property and U.S. Route 4.

The subject property is characterized by a suburban landscape in the northern portion, consisting of grassland, ornamental plantings, and four mature maple trees along Schuyler Street (approx. 6 acres), and successional woodlands in the southern portion (approx. 13 acres). The southern portion also features a ravine and a spring that connects to the former Champlain Canal via a culvert running under U.S. Route 4. A road trace, formerly connected to U.S. Route 4, runs somewhat parallel to the road before terminating at the site of two former barns (now foundation ruins), located in the southern portion of the property. Another driveway, constructed during the twentieth century, bisects the property and connects

to Schuyler Street, while also terminating at the site of the barn ruins. A cast-iron marker, constructed between 1877 and 1910, denotes the location of General Burgoyne's surrender and is located at the southwest corner of U.S. Route 4 and Schuyler Street.

The setting of the Sword Surrender Site is bounded by Fish Creek and the Village of Victory to the west, Evans Street to the north, the Hudson River and inland areas to the east, and multiple single-family dwellings and a spring to the south. It is topographically delineated by the Upland Area that encompasses the subject property (19 acres) and Village Extension to the west of the subject property (approx. 54 acres), and wetlands known as the Floodplain Area, located to the east of the subject property between U.S. Route 4 and the Hudson River (approx. 97 acres).⁴ The Upland Area is largely characterized by residential buildings constructed before 1940, along with scattered abandoned fields, forest, and transitional shrubland on an elevation of approximately 35 feet above the Floodplain area. The Floodplain Area is characterized by approx. 25 acres of wetlands, approx. 45 acres of cropland, and approx. 27 acres of forested area surrounding the former Champlain Canal.

METHODOLOGY AND SCOPE OF WORK

The objective of this plan is to identify site development opportunities and propose treatment recommendations for both the site and its setting that will memorialize the Saratoga Sword Surrender through: 1) the preservation of its cultural landscape's character-defining features; and 2) enhance the visitor experience of the site's significance through interpretation and access.

The 2008 draft *Cultural Landscape Inventory for Sword Surrender Site and Setting* identified rehabilitation as the preferred treatment approach for the Saratoga Sword Surrender Site from among the preservation treatments recognized by the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties*. Of the four treatments (preservation, rehabilitation, restoration and reconstruction), rehabilitation is recognized as the most accommodating to change. The *Saratoga Sword Surrender Site Site Development and Cultural Landscape Treatment Plan* does not recommend taking action to restore conditions at the subject property to reflect the period of the Battle of Saratoga since they cannot be definitively known. Instead, the plan uses the directives of the rehabilitation treatment approach, where emphasis is placed on the preservation of surviving historic characteristics, features, and materials, while accommodating new uses through the addition of compatible new features and materials; in this case, site access, parking, controlled landscaping, and memorialization.

The methodology of the *Saratoga Sword Surrender Site Site Development and Cultural Landscape Treatment Plan* entailed a review and analysis of previous studies pertaining to the subject property and national standards and guidelines focusing on historic properties, cultural landscapes, interpretation, access, and sustainability. Previous studies include: *Cultural Landscape Report: Saratoga Battlefield, Saratoga National Historical Park* (2002), *Saratoga National Historical Park General Management Plan* (2004), *Saratoga National Historical Park Alternative Transportation Study Phase II: Final Report* (2005), and (draft) *Cultural Landscape Inventory for Sword Surrender Site and Setting* (2008). Standards and guidelines include: *The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties*

with *Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes* (1997), *Preservation Brief No. 36: Protecting Cultural Landscapes: Planning, Treatment and Management of Historic Landscapes* (1994), *Wayside Exhibits: A Guide to Developing Outdoor Interpretive Exhibits* (2009), *Information Design: Tools and Techniques for Park-Produced Publications* (1998), *Programmatic Accessibility Guidelines for National Park Service Interpretive Media* (2009), National Park Service's *Management Policies* (2006) and *NPS-28: Cultural Resource Management Guideline* (1998), *Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Accessibility Guidelines for Buildings and Facilities* (amended 2002), and *Guiding Principles of Sustainable Design* (1993).

In addition, methodology for the study included a survey, multiple site visits, and stakeholder meetings. Organized site visits occurred on March 18, 2011 and May 26, 2011. Site visits were also conducted by Saratoga Associates on a regular basis throughout the project to observe seasonal changes from the proposed Sword Surrender Memorial location. Stakeholder meetings were held on March 18, 2011; May 26, 2011; June 10, 2011; and June 27, 2011. The Public presentation for the project occurred on June 27, 2011. Additional informal meetings occurred throughout the project with sub-committee and interpretive committee members. Project updates were provided by Saratoga Associates at regularly scheduled monthly meetings for the Historic Saratoga-Washington the Hudson Partnership, which were open to the public.

The scope of work for the *Saratoga Sword Surrender Site Site Development and Cultural Landscape Treatment Plan* was developed from recommendations contained in the 2008 draft cultural landscape inventory that were subsequently crystallized and expanded upon in the "Request for Proposals for Site Development and Cultural Landscape Treatment Plan," dated October 25, 2010. The 2008 inventory made a series of recommendations for the subject property and its larger setting, most of which pertain to the scope of work addressed in this plan, which include:

- > Conduct archeological studies in order to obtain information on the French and Indian (1689-1763) and Revolutionary (1775-1783) Wars, as well as Native American occupation and use dating to the Middle and Late Archaic periods (not included in scope);
- > Remove deteriorated buildings, structures, and debris within the traditional Sword Surrender Site (OSI Parcel) (included in scope);
- > Reestablish interpretive and historic views critical to understanding the military use of the site, notably views to the north and east of the traditional Sword Surrender site (OSI Parcel). Screen non-historic views, including views to the south and west of the traditional Sword Surrender site (OSI Parcel) (included in scope);
- > Within the Upland Area of the Sword Surrender Site and Setting landscape, remove successional and ornamental vegetation (included in scope);

- > In the Floodplain Area, maintain the open character of the floodplains through the removal of successional vegetation (included in scope);
- > Provide a small universally accessible parking area off Schuyler Street;
- > Establish a signage system that identifies the history and significance of the study area, as well as Upper Hudson River Valley Region (included in scope);
- > Link the study area to the New York State Scenic Byway *Lakes to Locks Passage* and the proposed Tri-Site Trail (included in scope).⁵

Following the completion of the draft cultural landscape inventory, the Natural Heritage Trust, acting on behalf of the Historic Saratoga-Washington on the Hudson Partnership, expanded upon the inventory's recommendations and specified the following in its "Request for Proposals for Site Development and Cultural Landscape Treatment Plan," dated October 25, 2010:

1. Specific recommendations based on the results of the stakeholders meeting regarding type and scope of interpretation needed for the site, including number of panels based on the National Park Service's Harpers Ferry Center wayside design, graphic design, and media accessibility standards found online at <http://www.nps.gov/hfc/> as well as American's with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guideline (ADAAG) standards
2. Identify and map historic resources associated with the battle. These will include, but not be limited to, cultural landscape features, historic structures, significant terrain features, archeological sites and viewsheds. If possible, use Geographic Information System (GIS) to map the project area and resources
3. Specific recommendations for the scope and type of memorial monument for the site, including location, and scale design
4. Specific recommendations, including blue-prints, maps, graphics, and plans for a trail system onsite utilizing ADAAG standards taking into consideration visitor flow and needs
5. A screening plan that will shield non-traditional historic views and utilize *The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes*, the *National Park Service Management Policies* and the *Cultural Resource Management Guideline*
6. Specific recommendations and findings regarding site and trail grade, drainage, etc.

7. Specific recommendations, including blue prints, location, graphics and plans for the creation of a parking area utilizing all pertinent NPS and ADAAG standards and taking into consideration visitor flow and needs
8. Specific recommendations, including blue prints, location, graphics and plans for site amenities such as benches, tables, etc.
9. A site maintenance plan that will include specific recommendations and findings regarding the maintenance, upkeep, and protection of the site
10. Specific recommendations regarding the site's conductivity with surrounding trail networks and sites, both existing and proposed, including the Champlain Canal Trail, the Fish Creek Trail, the Schuyler House, Fort Hardy Park, the Saratoga Monument, and Saratoga Battlefield.
11. Specific recommendations regarding the removal of successional and ornamental vegetation and the replacement of said vegetation with historic landscaping
12. Specific recommendations regarding pedestrian crossing of U.S. Route 4 from the Champlain Canalway Trail to the Sword Surrender Site
13. Specific recommendations for location, scope and scale of interpretive and historic view openings
14. Recommendations of potential funding sources that could be used towards implementation of the approved Plan.⁶

The Historic Saratoga-Washington on the Hudson Partnership selected two committees to coordinate the preparation of the *Site Development and Cultural Landscape Treatment Plan*. These committees included an oversight committee and an interpretive design committee.

The Oversight Committee consisted of the following individuals:

- > Tom Wood, Supervisor, Town of Saratoga
- > Nelson Ronsvalle, Grants Coordinator, Town of Half Moon Representative
- > Joe Finan, Superintendant, Saratoga National Historic Park
- > Chris Martin, Integrated Resource Manager, Saratoga National Historic Park
- > Devin Lander, Grant Manager

The Interpretive Design Committee included the following individuals:

- > Tim Holmes, President, Friends of Saratoga Battlefield
- > Gina Johnson, Saratoga National Historic Park
- > Eric Schnitzer, Saratoga National Historic Park
- > Chris Martin, Integrated Resource Manager, Saratoga National Historic Park
- > Sean Kelleher, Town of Saratoga Historian, Village of Victory Historian
- > Linda Palmieri, Town of Stillwater Historian

During the process of developing the interpretive elements for the memorialization of the Sword Surrender Site, the Interpretive Design Committee determined that a mission statement should be developed to guide the elements that are selected for interpretation at the Sword Surrender Site. The primary purpose of this action is to focus the interpretation of the Sword Surrender Ceremony. The committee also acknowledged that there are many other sites within the project setting that more appropriately address other historic sites and events—both related and unrelated to the Saratoga Battles. The Interpretive Design Committee's significance statement for the site's interpretation is included in Section 3.1.

Accordingly, this Plan is organized into four main chapters:

- > An examination of the goals and principles of the rehabilitation treatment approach and how they relate to the cultural landscape's rehabilitation;
- > An analysis of the existing conditions and recommendations that address each aspect of the cultural landscape;
- > Descriptions of key landscape rehabilitation projects; and
- > Master Plan recommendations for the cultural landscape's setting.

Narrative text, photographs, and graphics (maps and plans) form the basis for documentation of existing landscape conditions in this study. Plan documentation is based on Saratoga Associates' topographic survey that was completed for this report on April 4, 2011 and plans contained in the draft *Cultural Landscape Inventory for Sword Surrender Site and Setting* (2008). All proposals contained in this plan for controlled landscaping, memorialization, and public access and parking adhere to the federal guidelines for rehabilitation, as do the recommendations for its setting.

¹ National Park Service, *Saratoga National Historical Park General Management Plan*. (Washington, D.C.: National Park Service, Secretary of the Interior, 2004) Appendix B: 81; Michael Bricknell, Michael Commisso, and H. Eliot Foulds, *Cultural Landscape Inventory for Sword Surrender Site and Setting, Town of Saratoga, Saratoga County, New York*. (Boston: Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation, National Park Service, 2008) 90-99.

² Bricknell, 14.

³ Bricknell, 89.

⁴ The Village Extension gets its name because of its proximity to the Village of Victory.

⁵ Bricknell, 13-14.

⁶ Natural Heritage Trust, "Request for Proposals for Site Development and Cultural Landscape Treatment Plan: Planning for Battles of Saratoga: Sword Surrender Site (ABPP Grant #GA-2255-10-013)." 25 October 2010. n.p.

CHAPTER 1: LANDSCAPE REHABILITATION GOALS AND PRINCIPLES

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This chapter is intended to evaluate site-specific issues within the context of the Secretary of the Interior's standards for rehabilitation as a means of understanding how the specific proposals of the project will conform. The goal in rehabilitating the Saratoga Sword Surrender Site is to preserve its character-defining features while transforming it into a viable site of commemoration that is consistent with the alliance's larger objectives for protection, planning, and interpretation of the Saratoga National Historical Park.

Several aspects of the subject property's landscape contribute to its significance as the historic site of the sword surrender. These include an elevated topography, enabling a panorama of the Hudson River that was memorialized in subsequent illustrations depicting the event, a simple landscape comprised of grassland and four mature maple trees, an old road trace formerly connecting to U.S. Route 4, and a cast-iron marker, placed original between 1877 and 1910, identifying the site of the surrender. In addition, the site also has the potential for historic archeology, which while not currently visible as an above-ground feature, is nevertheless a key aspect of its significance.

1.1 GOALS OF LANDSCAPE REHABILITATION

The following goals have been identified for the rehabilitation of the Saratoga Sword Surrender Site:

RESOURCE PROTECTION

- > Identify and map historic resources associated with the battle;
- > Recommend location, scope, and scale of historic view openings;
- > Replace successional and ornamental vegetation with historically appropriate landscaping;
- > Introduce a screening plan that will shield non-traditional historic views in conformance with federal guidelines;
- > Devise appropriate grade and drainage recommendations; and
- > Create a maintenance plan addressing site maintenance, upkeep, and protection.

MEMORIALIZATION

- > Recommend a type and scope of interpretive elements to be used on the site in conformance with National Park Service's standards for design;
- > Propose a scope, type, location, scale, and design of a memorial monument; and
- > Recommend location, scope, and scale of interpretive view openings.

PUBLIC ACCESSIBILITY AND AMENITIES

- > Ensure that all recommendations for interpretive elements are in conformance with National Park Service's media accessibility standards and ADA accessibility guidelines;

- > Propose an onsite trail system that considers visitor flow and needs while incorporating ADA guidelines for accessibility;
- > Recommend a parking area that considers visitor flow and needs while incorporating National Park Service standards and ADA accessibility guidelines;
- > Propose site amenities such as benches, tables, etc.
- > Recommend potential connections between the site and surrounding trail networks and sites, including the Champlain Canal Trail, the Fish Creek Trail, the Schuyler House, Fort Hardy Park, the Saratoga Monument, and Saratoga Battlefield; and
- > Propose a pedestrian crossing for U.S. Route 4 that connects the site to the Champlain Canalway Trail.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT AND INVOLVEMENT

- > Conduct stakeholder meetings to solicit input about the type and scope of interpretation needed for the site.

1.2 PRINCIPLES OF LANDSCAPE REHABILITATION

The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes define rehabilitation as "the act or process of making possible a compatible use for a property through repairs, alterations, and additions while preserving those portions or features that convey its historical, cultural, or architectural values."¹ Accordingly, the *Standards* specify the following:

1. *A property will be used as it was historically or be given a new use that requires minimal change to its distinctive materials, features, spaces, and spatial relationships.*²

At the Saratoga Sword Surrender Site: the application of this standard entails a new use that honors the historic event through the retention of the site's character-defining features, while also enhancing the visitor experience of its significance through a commemorative program. Since the "Battles of Saratoga" and Sword Surrender in 1777, the site was used for farming (specifically, as access onto the farm) before its abandonment in the late twentieth century. Thus, the new use should preserve any intact character-defining features of its Revolutionary War-era significance, while removing any accretions related to its farm use that are not historically appropriate. In addition, the commemorative program should seek to augment the experience of the historic site with as little impact to its character-defining features as possible.

2. *The historic character of a property will be retained and preserved. The removal of distinctive materials or alteration of features, spaces and spatial relationships that characterize a property will be avoided.*

At the Saratoga Sword Surrender Site: the application of this standard entails retention and preservation of the site's character as informed by its character-defining features, spaces, and spatial relationships. The rehabilitation should seek to retain its historic site plan and open landscape consisting of grassland and scattered mature trees, while also enhancing the panorama afforded by its unique location above the Hudson River and screening historically inappropriate landscapes. Other historically inappropriate features should be removed to enhance the site's significance. Any proposal for interpretative elements (panels and monument) should respect the character of the landscape through an appropriate scale and design.

3. *Each property will be recognized as a physical record of its time, place, and use. Changes that create a false sense of historical development, such as adding conjectural features or elements from other historic properties, will not be undertaken.*

At the Saratoga Sword Surrender Site: the application of this standard entails presenting the distinct sense of place afforded by the site's surviving features, while refraining from any alteration and/or interpretation that misrepresents the authenticity of place. Any landscaping measures introduced onto the site should remain true to the period of significance without any false representation to the public about accuracy.

4. *Changes to a property that have acquired historic significance in their own right shall be retained and preserved.*

At the Saratoga Sword Surrender Site: the application of this standard entails the retention of the cast-iron marker in situ denoting the location of the sword surrender since this object has been identified as having acquired its own significance within the context of the Revolutionary War commemorative period of 1877-1938. In addition, while the four maples located on the site do not date to the site's period of significance of 1777, they do represent an organic aspect of the region's landscape as it evolved over time and therefore should be retained and preserved. By contrast, the successional growth, barn foundation ruins, ravine, and spring located in the southern portion are not character-defining features that inform the significance of the site.

5. *Distinctive materials, features, finishes, and construction techniques or examples of craftsmanship that characterize a property will be preserved.*

At the Saratoga Sword Surrender Site: the application of this standard references the second standard above, which entails the preservation of site's character-defining features. These include the preservation of its grassland, maple trees, old road trace, and cast-iron marker.

6. *Deteriorated historic features will be repaired rather than replaced. Where the severity of deterioration requires replacement of a distinctive feature, the new feature will match the old in design, color, texture, and, where possible, materials. Replacement of missing features will be substantiated by documentary and physical evidence.*

At the Saratoga Sword Surrender Site: the application of this standard entails the repair—if found to be warranted for the rehabilitation—of the cast-iron marker and old road trace in kind.

7. *Chemical or physical treatments, if appropriate, will be undertaken, using the gentlest means possible. Treatments that cause damage to historic materials will not be used.*

At the Saratoga Sword Surrender Site: the application of this standard entails the use of a conservator for the restoration of the cast-iron marker and an arborist for maple tree pruning, if warranted.

8. *Archeological resources will be protected and preserved in place. If such resources must be disturbed, mitigation measures will be undertaken.*

At the Saratoga Sword Surrender Site: the application of this standard entails a review by a Register of Professional Archeologists in anticipation of any ground-disturbing activities related to the rehabilitation, along with additional intensive-level archeological investigations and/or mitigations arising from the survey. As a federally funded project, all work must comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (as amended 2006).

9. *New additions, exterior alteration, or related new construction will not destroy historic materials, features, and spatial relationships that characterize the property. The new work will be differentiated from the old and will be compatible with the historic materials, features, size, scale and proportion, and massing to protect the integrity of the property and its environment.*

At the Saratoga Sword Surrender Site: the application of this standard requires that any alterations or additions to the site's landscape do not compromise its character-defining features. Regarding the subject property, this means that character-defining views will be preserved and enhanced through controlled removal of successional growth, while unsympathetic views will be screened with historically compatible new growth. In addition, the site plan should integrate new access onto the site by either reintroducing the old road trace connecting to U.S. Route 4 (or something compatible and non-destructive to this trace) and any provisions for parking should be situated onsite as far away as possible from the actual known location of the sword surrender. Any grading that is done on the site should not be so substantial as to compromise the site's elevation. Finally, any proposals for interpretive elements (panels and monument) and site furnishings and fixtures (benches, tables, etc.) should be appropriately scaled and designed so as not to compromise the character-defining features of the historic site, while also reflecting their time.

10. *New additional and adjacent or related new construction will be undertaken in such a manner that, if removed in the future, the essential form and integrity of the historic property and its environment would be unimpaired.*

At the Saratoga Sword Surrender Site: the application of this standard requires that the introduction of any new structures, site furnishings, fixtures, and/or objects to the site be reversible so that their future

removal would not compromise the site's character-defining features. As noted, these character-defining features include the grassland, maple trees, old road trace, and cast-iron marker.

¹ Charles Birnbaum and Christine Capella Peters, editors, *The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes*. (Washington, D.C.: National Park Service, 1997).

² *Standards* 1-10, Ibid.

CHAPTER 2: EXISTING CONDITIONS AND LANDSCAPE TREATMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

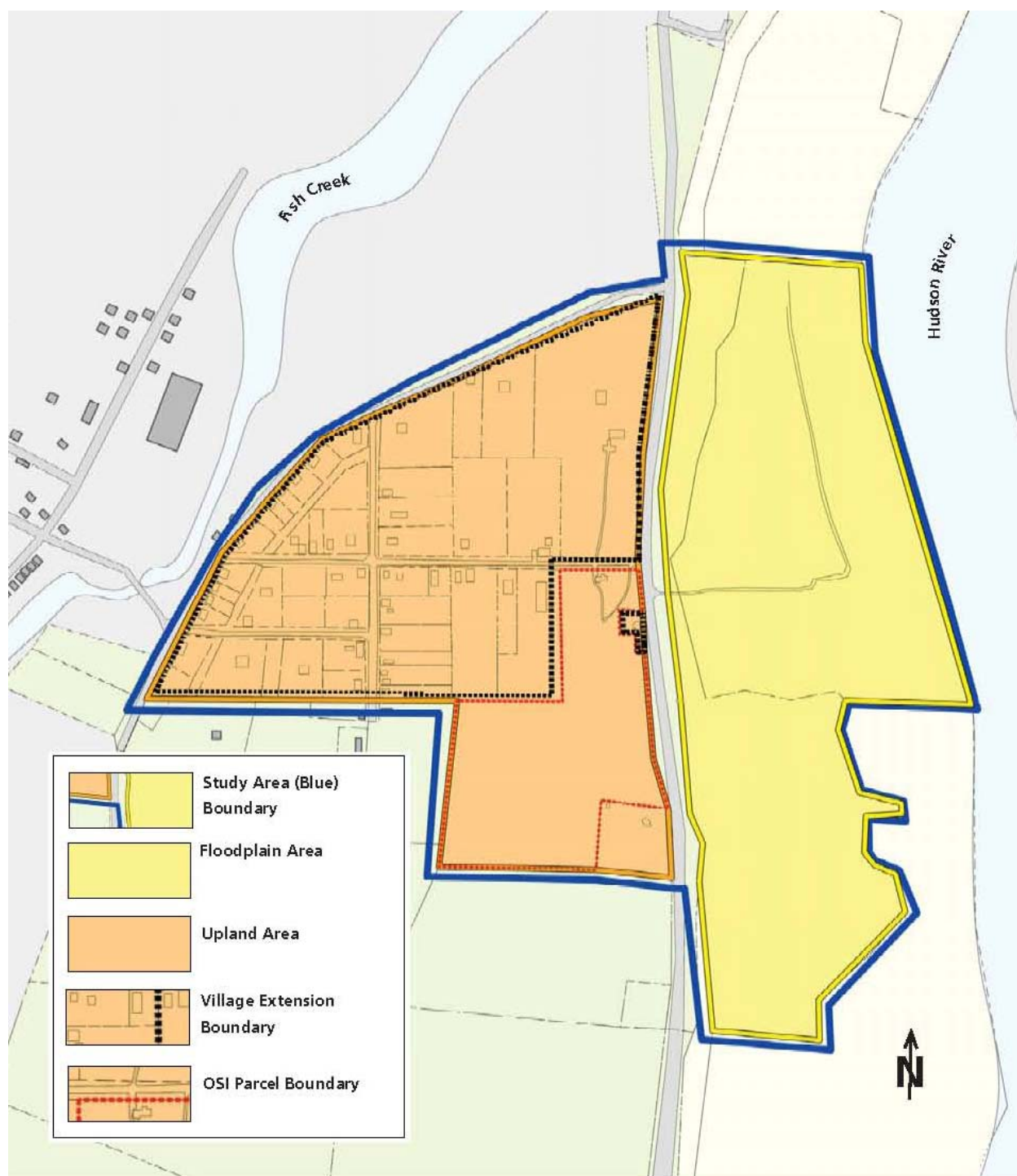
2.0 INTRODUCTION

This chapter is intended to offer informed landscape treatment recommendations that preserve the subject property's historic character and guide rehabilitation efforts in adherence with *The Secretary of the Interior's Standards*. The "Request for Proposals for Site Development and Cultural Landscape Treatment Plan" that was informed by the findings and recommendations contained in the draft *Cultural Landscape Inventory for Sword Surrender Site and Setting* forms the basis for the proposals contained in this chapter and are referenced accordingly.

The following analysis and their respective recommendations are organized according to six key characteristics of the landscape. These characteristics embody this cultural landscape's components and provide the most appropriate means of articulating both its condition and the relevant preservation issues. Characteristics addressed include spatial relationships and views, topography, land use, objects, circulation, and vegetation. Site furnishings and fixtures are not a characteristic of the Sword Surrender Site's cultural landscape and are therefore not included in this analysis. When applicable, the directive(s) from the "Request for Proposals for Site Development and Cultural Landscape Treatment Plan" follows the description of existing conditions, followed by the specific landscape characteristic treatment recommendations.

In addition, each sub-section of the existing conditions and recommendations is divided into two parts: the first sub-section addresses the overall project area or the setting, while the second sub-section specifically addresses the Sword Surrender Site currently owned by the Open Space Institute. This format follows the draft *Cultural Landscape Inventory for Sword Surrender Site and Setting* format. For the purposes of simplicity, each sub-section and ensuing discussion will be referenced as "Setting" and "Sword Surrender Site."

The following map illustrates the Setting.



Source: Olmstead Center for Landscape Preservation. *Cultural Landscape Inventory for Sword Surrender Site and Setting*. National Park Service, Boston Massachusetts, 2008.

The map below illustrates the Sword Surrender Site.

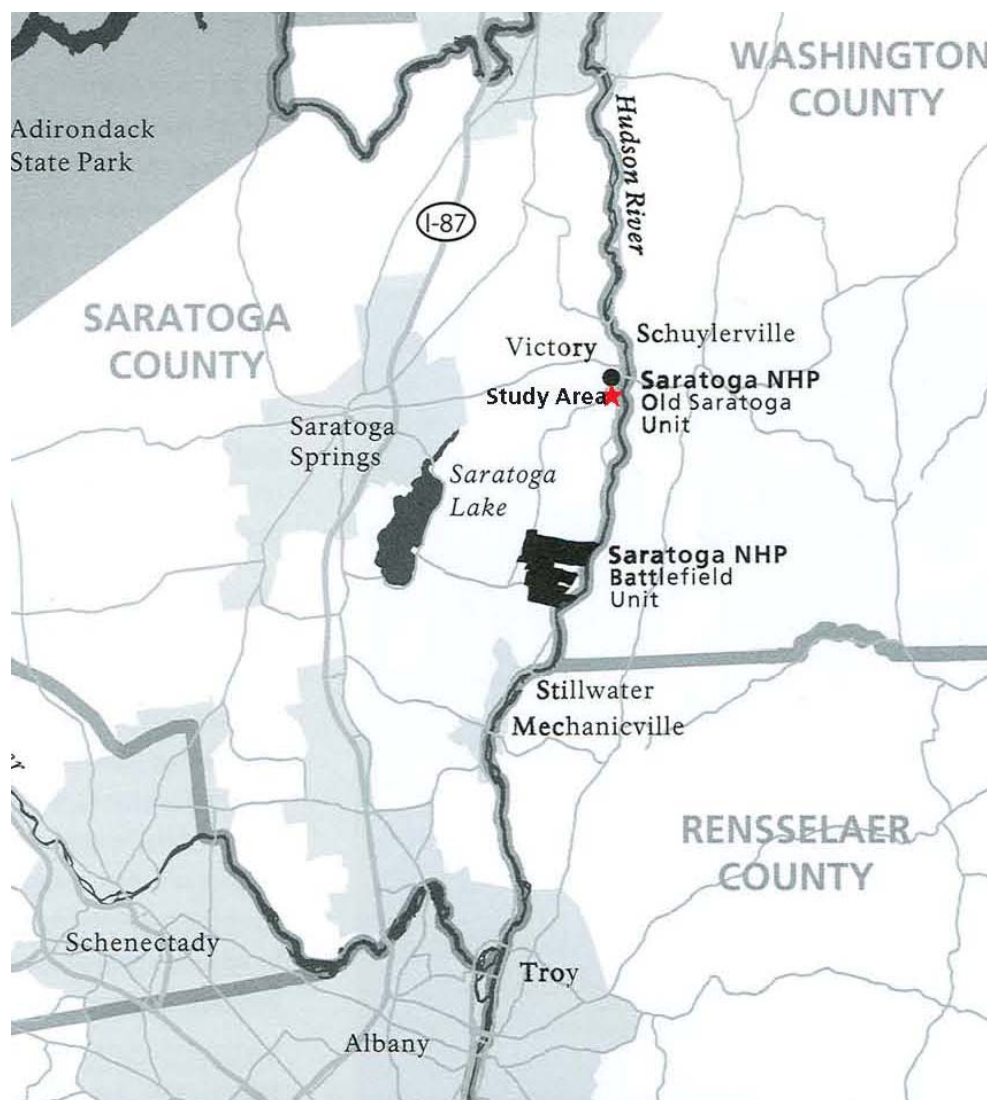


2.1 SPATIAL RELATIONSHIPS AND VIEWS

Regional Context

The Sword Surrender Site is located within the Hudson River Valley, which lies west of the Green Mountains of Vermont and the southern portion of the Adirondack Mountains. The general landscape character of the Hudson River Valley in this location is characterized as a gentle sweeping valley with a wide and placid river. The valley is approximately two to ten miles wide from the adjacent ridgelines and provides dramatic views of the river and Green Mountains to the east.

Regional Location Map



Source: Olmstead Center for Landscape Preservation. *Cultural Landscape Inventory for Sword Surrender Site and Setting*. National Park Service, Boston Massachusetts, 2008.

The land uses in close proximity to the Sword Surrender Site are rural in nature and primarily include agricultural and fallow or wooded wetlands, and large-lot properties containing single-family dwellings. The Hamlet of Smithville is located directly adjacent to the Sword Surrender Site but is not significantly developed to visually impact the site and setting, primarily due to its topographic position beyond the ridgeline. The Village of Schuylerville is located approximately one mile to the north of the Sword Surrender Site. These rural village-scale centers transition quickly into a rural condition that includes working and fallow fields, pioneering scrub and woodland areas, and scattered large-lot properties containing single-family dwellings.

Sword Surrender Site and Setting Aerial Photograph



Sword Surrender Site and Setting Project Area Map



Source: Olmstead Center for Landscape Preservation. *Cultural Landscape Inventory for Sword Surrender Site and Setting*. National Park Service, Boston Massachusetts, 2008.

Setting

The overall setting for the Sword Surrender Site is located on the west side of the Hudson River and includes a floodplain area and the rising hillsides of the Hudson River Valley to the west. It is also comprised of rolling upland areas including the Hamlet of Smithville. Half of the site is comprised of Hudson River floodplain and the other half, bisected by U.S. Route 4, is gently raising upland area. A wide and relatively flat floodplain area comprises the eastern portion of the project area which consists of agricultural fields to the north, wooded wetlands to the south, bordered by remnants of the Champlain Canal and Towpath and U.S. Route 4. The upland area west of U.S. Route 4 contains the Sword Surrender Site and the Hamlet of Smithville.

The spatial relationship among these landscape elements within the Sword Surrender Site is a key component to rehabilitation of the site and setting. It is well known that locations that offered uninterrupted views were important aspects of military strategies and that this site was selected because of its position on the ridgeline, making it possible for officers to view the ceremonial surrender in many directions.

Since it is likely that this site was selected for the surrender ceremony because of its distinct vantage point to the Hudson River, protection of the Sword Surrender Site viewshed and the surrounding area within close visual proximity is a critical action for any future interpretation of the events that occurred on October 17, 1777.

Sword Surrender Site and Setting Photographs

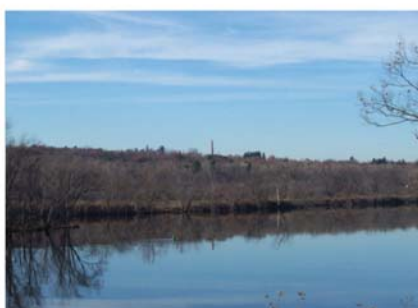
Site: View looking south



Site: View looking west



Site: View looking east



View from Hudson River looking west toward the setting.

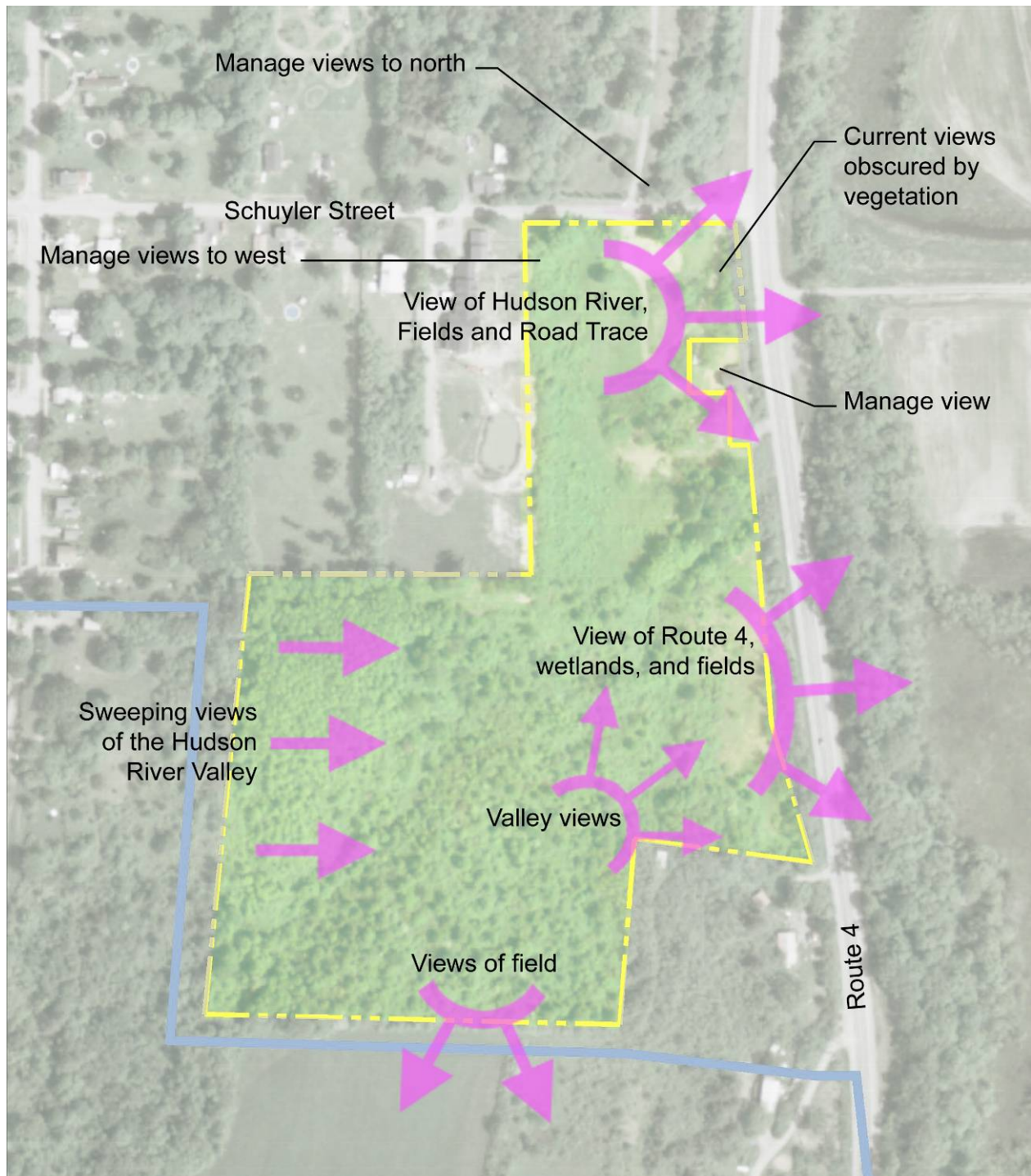
As detailed in the *Cultural Landscape Inventory for Sword Surrender Site and Setting*, the Setting has changed significantly throughout several periods in history. The continued growth of the Village of Schuylerville and the Hamlet of Smithville have been the most notable markers of change that remain today. However, upon assessing the Period Plans presented in the *Cultural Landscape Inventory for Sword Surrender Site and Setting*, it is worth noting that much of the surrounding landscape appears to have reverted to conditions somewhat similar to those present in 1777. More specifically, the floodplain area east of U.S. Route 4 has been protected from development in large part due to previous land acquisitions and easements coordinated by Saratoga National Park. Broad views from the site and surrounding river valley are prevalent in winter months. By contrast, during the late spring and summer months the existing vegetation precludes most off-site views.

Sword Surrender Site

The Sword Surrender Site has diverse spatial landscape relationships and views. Generally the site is located one mile south of the Village of Schuylerville and Fish Creek, west of the Hudson River, and east of the Village of Victory. The area widely known as the ceremony site is located at a mid-point in an upland landscape and is roughly positioned halfway between the floodplain elevation and the top of the ridge to the west of the Hudson River. It is located at the southwest quadrant of the intersection between U.S. Route 4 and Schuyler Street. The site is slightly sloping to level, and provides the opportunity for prominent views to the northeast consisting of approximately 19 acres. This viewshed offers views of agricultural fields and glimpses of the Hudson River, especially during the dormant growing season. The southwestern portion of the Sword Surrender Site is fairly steep and provides significant views of the Hudson River Valley and the Green Mountains to the east.

The balance of the Sword Surrender Site consists of varied topography and views of the Hudson River Valley to the east. The sloping upland areas and large ravine in the central portion of the site offer interesting views east and north at varying elevations.

The following diagram offers a general depiction of key vantage points throughout the Sword Surrender Site.

Sword Surrender Site Views Diagram

Views directly from the ceremony site are mostly impacted by adjacent land uses and residential structures particularly to the west and north, and minimal implications to the south.

The following photographs illustrate many of the key views from the Sword Surrender Site.

Site: View looking northeast



Site: View looking west



Site: View looking southwest



Site: view looking north

SPATIAL RELATIONSHIPS AND VIEWS - TREATMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Site Development and Cultural Landscape Treatment Plan Directive:

2. Identify and map historic resources associated with the battle. These will include, but not be limited to, cultural landscape features, historic structures, significant terrain features, archeological sites and view sheds. If possible, use Geographic Information System (GIS) to map the project area and resources
13. Specific recommendations for location, scope and scale of interpretive and historic view openings.

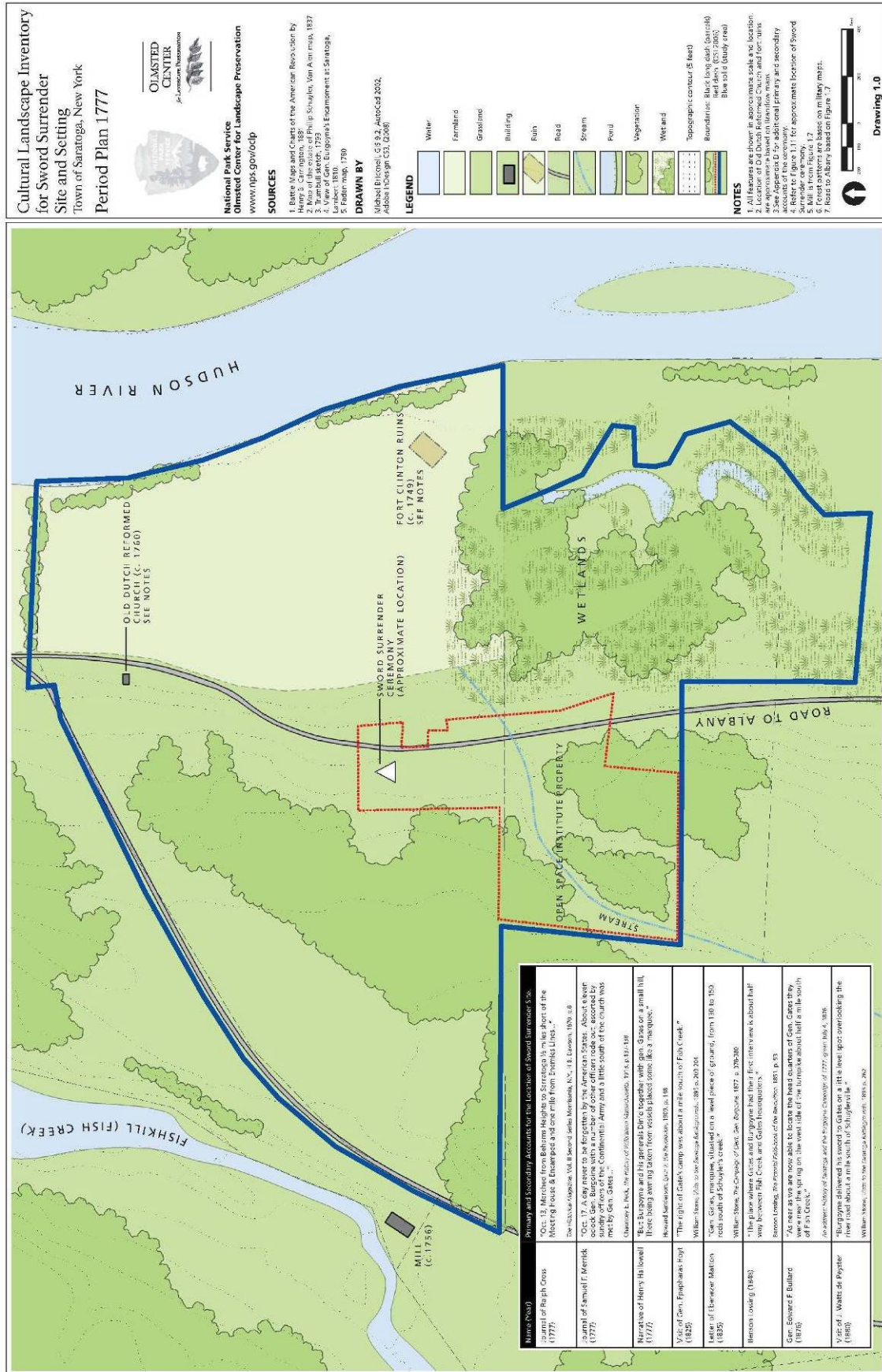
Setting

The spatial relationships between the landforms, existing landscape, and Hudson River are central to the historic character of the Sword Surrender Site. The woodlands, agricultural lands, and upland areas that typify the site should be preserved. Any rehabilitation of the area should not change the fundamental landscape relationships and key viewsheds that primarily focus on the views east from the sword surrender ceremony site.

Sword Surrender Site

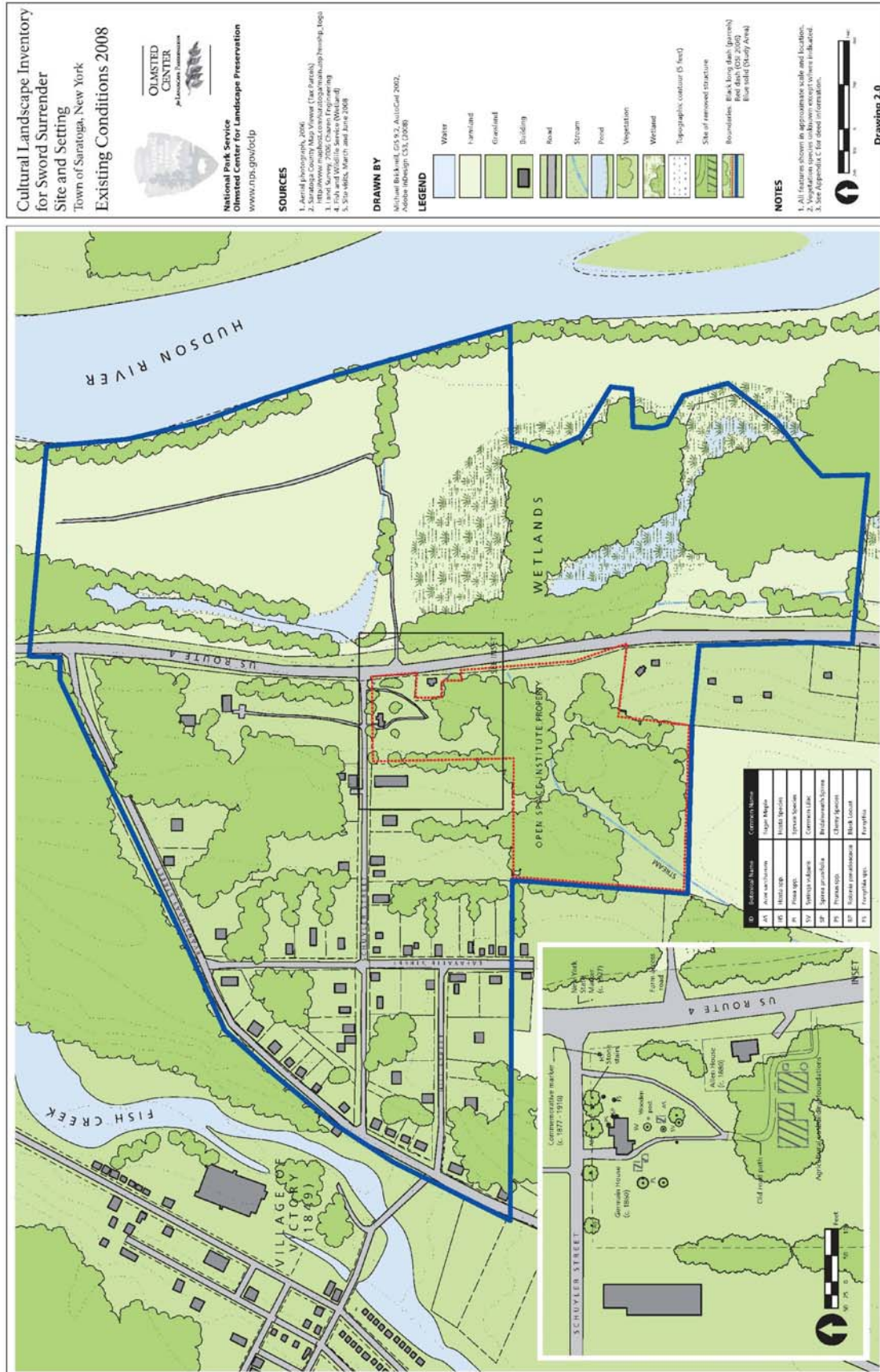
Views from the ceremony site should be promoted and protected in every rehabilitation decision and should not be impeded. It is recommended to avoid placing large or tall plant material, site furnishings, or any other visual imposition between the ceremony site, floodplain, and Hudson River. Existing scrub woodlands and trees should be removed from this viewshed. Additionally, large trees growing in the abandoned Champlain Canal and Towpath should be selectively thinned or removed to promote a more sweeping view of the river valley and in keeping with 1777 Period Plan prepared for the *Cultural Landscape Inventory for Sword Surrender Site and Setting*. This is consistent with *The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes* and its prescription for rehabilitating spatial relationships and views, which recommends "Removing non significant features which detract from or have altered the spatial organization and land patterns."¹ If existing vegetation is removed along the abandoned Champlain Canal and Towpath to promote views from the Sword Surrender Site, it should be undertaken with great care and precision to fully frame views from the site. The complete or aggressive removal of vegetation is not necessary given its organic precedent.

The 1777 Period Plan image below represents likely existing conditions during that time period and was prepared for the *Cultural Landscape Inventory for Sword Surrender Site and Setting*. Please note the landscape vegetation condition at the intersection of U.S. Route 4 and Schuyler Street looking east.



Source: Olmstead Center for Landscape Preservation. Cultural Landscape Inventory for Sword Surrender Site and Setting. National Park Service, Boston Massachusetts, 2008.

The 2008 Period Plan image below represents existing conditions during recent years and was prepared for the *Cultural Landscape Inventory for Sword Surrender Site and Setting*. Please note the landscape condition at the intersection of U.S. Route 4 and Schuyler Street looking east. Recommendations include removing vegetation along the U.S. Route 4 corridor and abandoned Champlain Canal and Towpath to clear a cone of vision from the Sword Surrender Site to the floodplain area located along the Hudson River. This might include thinning or removal of existing vegetation within 100 feet of the intersection both sides of the road. Further study and treatment plans will be required to undertake this component of rehabilitation on the east side of U.S. Route 4 along the historic Champlain Canal and Towpath.



Source: Olmstead Center for Landscape Preservation. *Cultural Landscape Inventory for Sword Surrender Site and Setting*. National Park Service, Boston Massachusetts, 2008.

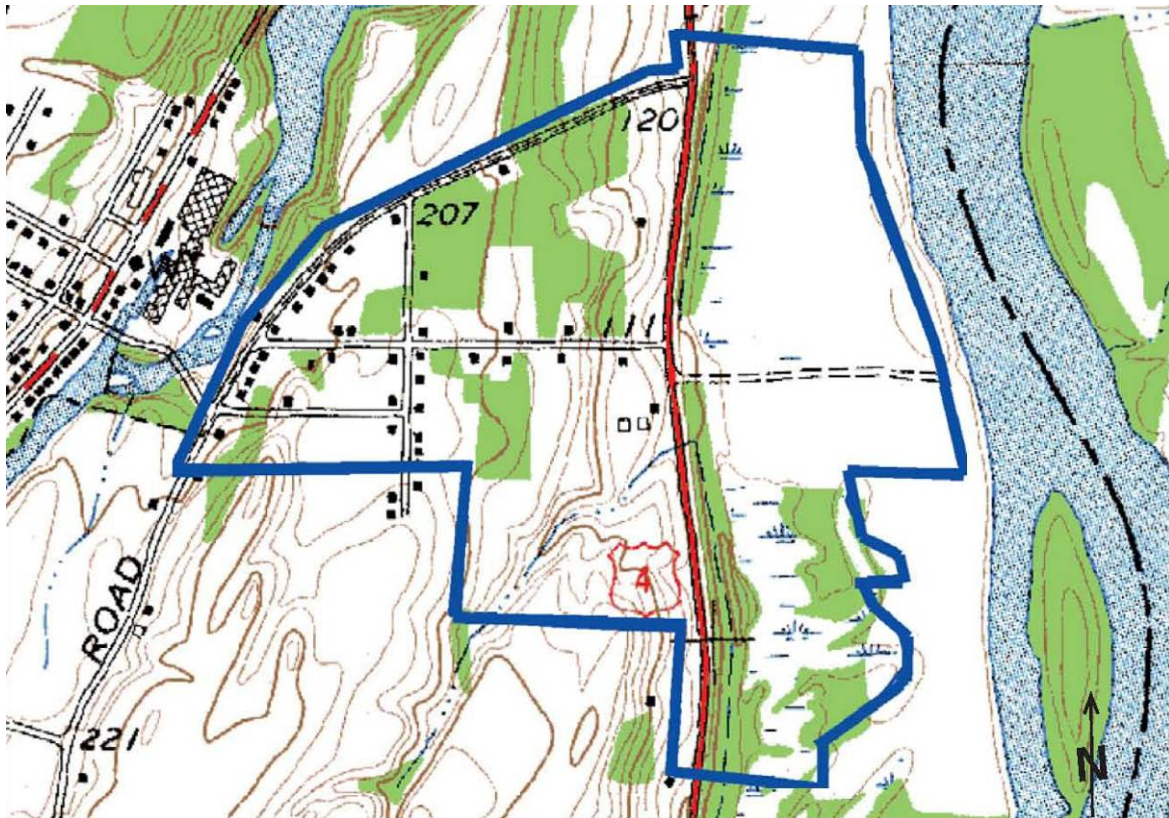
2.2 TOPOGRAPHY

Setting

The topography surrounding the Sword Surrender Site and Setting is consistent with the upper Hudson River Valley, north of Albany to Glens Falls. It is a wide river basin with gentle to sometimes steep upland slopes that commonly characterizes the topography in this geographic vicinity. The United State Geological Survey Map below depicts the terrain and geologic features of the Sword Surrender Site Setting. In general, the ridgelines that flank the Hudson River in this location are approximately 2 to 3 miles wide and rise approximately 20 to 100 feet in elevation.

The setting for the Sword Surrender Site is comprised of three major landforms and is bisected at a mid-point in elevation by U.S. Route 4. East of this road, the land is characterized by a nearly flat floodplain area. West of U.S. Route 4 the land rises moderately to a ridgeline in near equal distance from the road to the river. Fish Creek and associated ravines lie to the north of the Sword Surrender Site. These are typical topographic condition in the area. The upper Hudson River plateau is segmented by tributary streams and ravines which create slight mounding, knolls or bluffs throughout the region which were used as key vantage points throughout the Revolutionary War.

Topographic Map



Source: Olmstead Center for Landscape Preservation. *Cultural Landscape Inventory for Sword Surrender Site and Setting*. National Park Service, Boston Massachusetts, 2008.

The photographs below offer a view of the topographic conditions associated with the Sword Surrender Site and Setting.

Topographic Conditions Images

**Site: view looking northeast
from site**



Site: View looking north

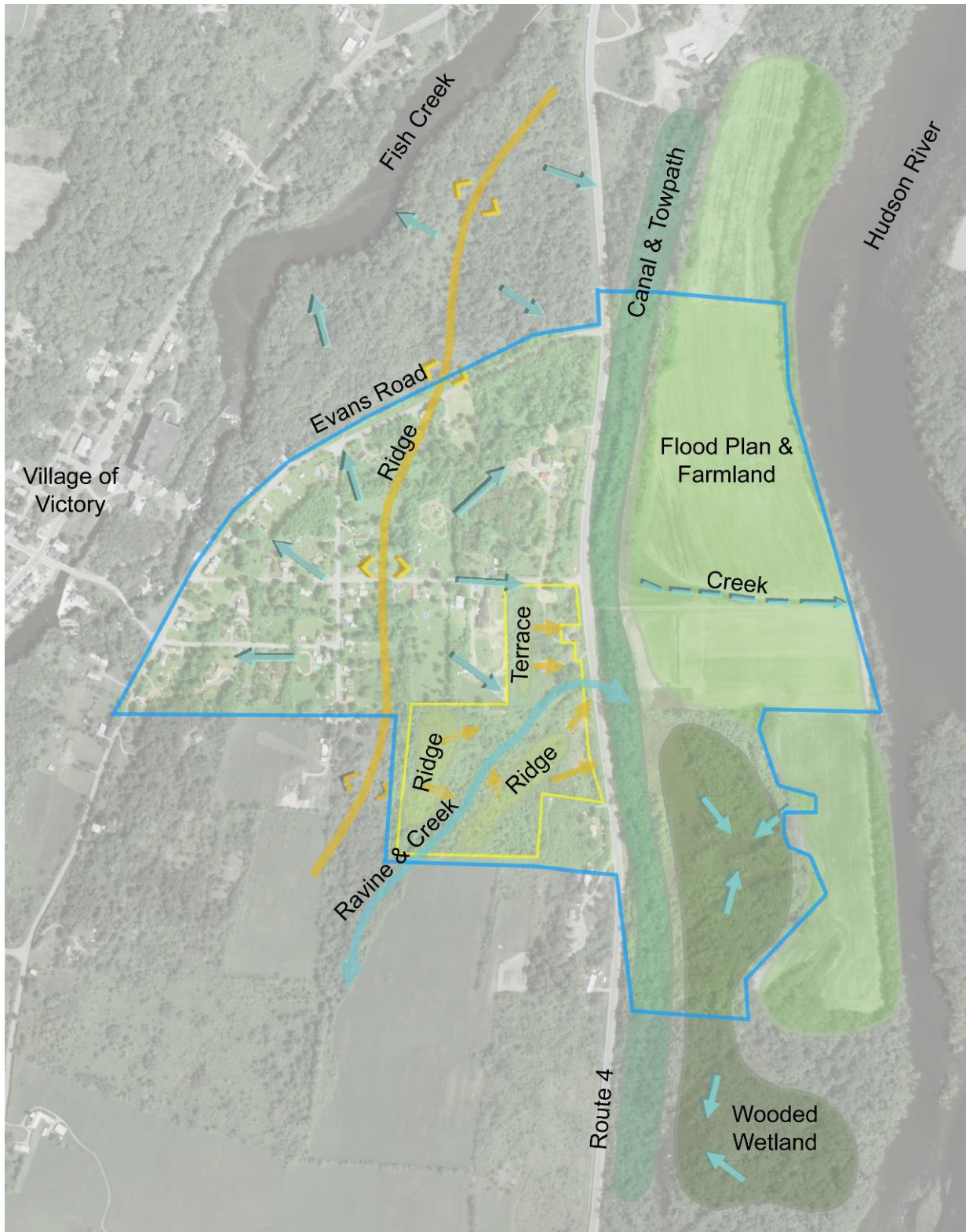


**View of floodplain looking east on
Route 4**



**View of adjacent residence from
Route 4 looking northwest**

The following diagram illustrates the general topographic conditions of the Sword Surrender Site and Setting.



Sword Surrender Site

The topographic conditions of the Sword Surrender Site vary dramatically and include terraced plateaus or benches within the overall landscape. The northern portion of the property is characterized by a steep embankment along U.S. Route 4, which rises to a level area and then rises again along the western property line. This level area is identified by a historical marker as the location of the Sword Surrender Site. The southern portion of the Sword Surrender Site is also characterized by a steep embankment along U.S. Route 4 which rises to a plateau that is bisected by a sizeable ravine and creek which is aligned northeasterly through this portion of the property. The southwestern portion of the Sword Surrender Site is fairly steep and provides significant views of the Hudson River Valley and the Green Mountains to the east.

The following diagram illustrates the general topographic conditions of the Sword Surrender Site.

Topographic Conditions



As part of this Cultural Landscape Treatment Plan a topographic survey was prepared for the 19-acre Sword Surrender Site and is provided below. Additionally, a full size print is provided within the appendices.

Sword Surrender Site Survey



Upon close review of the existing topography, slopes, and grades found at the Sword Surrender parcel, it is evident that the entire site will not be suitable for walking trails that follow Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guideline (ADAAG) standards. However, the area identified as the actual ceremony site is relatively level and is therefore conducive to the location of a memorial enabling universal access.

TOPOGRAPHY - TREATMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Site Development and Cultural Landscape Treatment Plan Directive:

2. Identify and map historic resources associated with Sword Surrender. These will include, but not be limited to, cultural landscape features, historic structures, significant terrain features, archeological sites and view sheds. If possible, use Geographic Information System (GIS) to map the project area and resources

6. Specific recommendations and findings regarding site and trail grade, drainage, etc.

As an important feature of the cultural landscape, the existing topographic conditions at the Sword Surrender Site should be retained. Any new construction at this historic site should respect existing topography and avoid drastically contrived or imposed changes in grade. This is especially relevant with respect to the introduction of new site and trail grade, and drainage systems (addressed in Chapter 3) and consistent with the Secretary of the Interior's rehabilitation standards for topography which recommends, "Designing new topographic features when required by the new use so that they are as unobtrusive as possible and assure the preservation of the historic landscape. For example, designing and installing drainage systems to protect historic topographic features."²

2.3 LAND USE

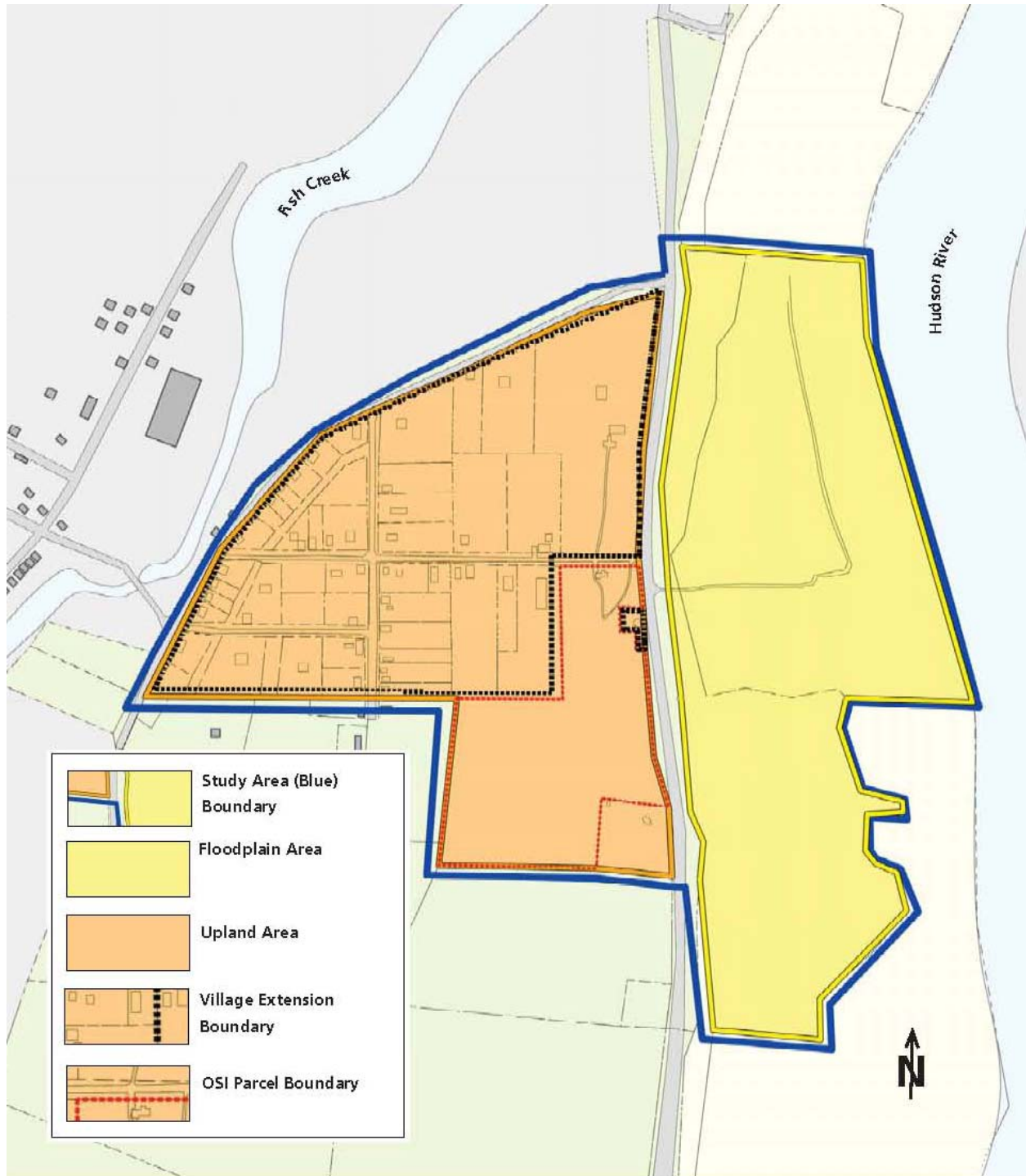
The typical land uses within close proximity to the Sword Surrender Site and Setting would be considered rural, low intensity hamlet, agricultural and natural woodlands. Land uses and intensity of uses has increased and declined since 1777. Although many large structures are located in the neighboring Hamlet of Smithville and Village of Schuylerville, the intensity of use has diminished since their introduction to the landscape. As a result, the area is characterized as a relatively low-density setting.

Setting

The land uses as depicted in the diagram below offer a view of the character of the landscape within the Sword Surrender Site and Setting. The eastern half of the site is currently used for agricultural purposes. The northeastern and southeastern quadrant consists of wooded wetlands. The Setting is bisected by the abandoned Champlain Canal and Towpath and U.S. Route 4. The western half of the site is comprised of the Hamlet of Smithville and the Sword Surrender Site. The Hamlet of Smithville can be characterized as a moderately dense hamlet center that was once a more thriving community. The Sword Surrender Site is

a vacant parcel of land that consists of meadows, scrub woodlands, and pioneering woodland areas. A small residential dwelling is located in the northeast corner of the Sword Surrender Site.

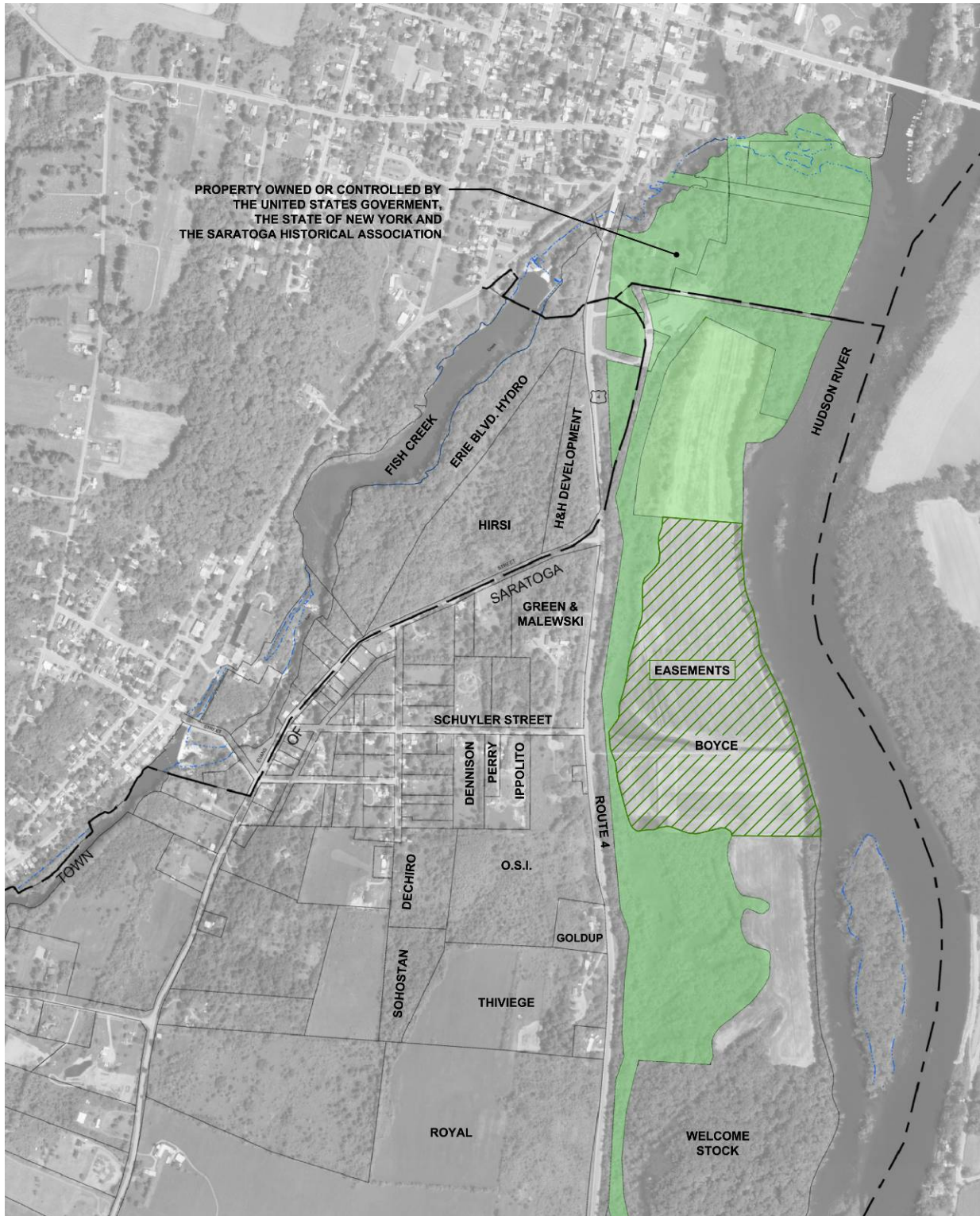
Existing Land Uses



Source: Olmstead Center for Landscape Preservation. *Cultural Landscape Inventory for Sword Surrender Site and Setting*. National Park Service, Boston Massachusetts, 2008.

The land ownership within the Sword Surrender Site is diverse. However, large tracts east of U.S Route 4 are still intact within the primary viewshed of the ceremony site and are currently used for agriculture or are wooded wetlands. Additionally, there are sizeable tracts of land owned by the U.S. Government, New York State, and Saratoga Historical Association. This ownership protects these lands from future development including an easement on the floodplain that is located east of the ceremony site at the intersection of U.S. Route 4 and Schuyler Street. The parcel owned by Boyce, as indicated in the figure below, is protected from development through a Purchase of Development Rights (PDR). The Open Space Institute holds stewardship over this easement.

Land Ownership Map



The land ownership map shown above also illustrates the current land development patterns and proximity of the Hamlet of Smithville and the Village of Schuylerville. In addition to depicting the land areas currently controlled for the purposes of preservation and public use, the map also conveys the proximity of more dense land uses adjacent to, or within the viewshed of, the Sword Surrender Site.

Although there are sizeable land holdings devoted to the preservation and interpretation of the Battles of Saratoga, there still remains a great deal of distance both physically and visually between these properties. The most notable of these is the Saratoga Monument, Victory Woods, and the Schuyler House which are each roughly one half mile to over a mile apart. The land uses located between these key interpretive sights is substantial and therefore vulnerable to potential development and land uses that could create an adverse visual impact.

Specifically within the Setting, there are three primary land use areas that include the floodplain farmland and woodland east of U.S. Route 4, the Hamlet of Smithville located to the west, and the Sword Surrender Site which comprises the south-central portion of the setting.

The floodplain area east of U.S. Route 4 is also comprised of a wooded wetland and does not currently contain any structures used for agricultural purposes. The images below represent the character of this land use.

Sword Surrender Setting – Floodplain Images



Views of floodplain looking east (L) and southeast from Route 4

The Hamlet of Smithville is primarily characterized by 2- and 3-story single-family dwellings situated within a moderate density. The images below depict the character of the Hamlet of Smithville.

Hamlet of Smithville Images



Town of Saratoga Zoning

According to the Town of Saratoga, NY Zoning Map (last revised August 2007), the northern section of the project site is located in the Village Extension (VE) District with the southern portion in the Rural (R) District. Pursuant to Article IX of the Town of Saratoga Zoning Law. The R District allows Public/Private Recreation uses under a Special Use Permit. The District has been established to preserve and enhance the agricultural assets of the Town of Saratoga and to limit the loss of irreplaceable viable agricultural lands to suburban growth and development. The VE District does not permit recreational uses and has been established to accommodate moderate- to high-density mixed residential land uses in areas of the Town adjacent to the existing villages.

With respect to the portion of the project site within the R District, the Preferred Alternative would be considered harmonious with the intent of the District and would be compatible with the requirements for obtaining a Special Use Permit pursuant to Article VIII of the Zoning Law. In order for the site design concept to be implemented on the entire site, the property within the VE District may need to be rezoned to R District. Such a rezoning request appears to be reasonable due to the fact that the project site is under the sole ownership of the Open Space Institute. In addition, there are currently no easements encumbering the property. The project would also be consistent with the surrounding open space and agricultural land uses prevalent along Route 4 to the south.

Environmental Features

The project site includes an unnamed Class D stream and is in close proximity to a NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) jurisdictional wetland. While there is some wetland vegetation along the stream, it is not part of the large wetland complex located east of Rt. 4 according to NYSDEC. Prior to implementing the project, NYSDEC and the Army Corps of Engineers should be contacted to rule out the need for any state and/or federal permits associated with crossing the stream and impacts to wetlands. Coordination with the State Historic Preservation Office may also be required due to the historical sensitivity of the project site and surrounding lands.

Sword Surrender Site

The Sword Surrender Site is a vacant and fallow parcel of land that is comprised of sloping and level areas, and is bisected by a ravine that is located in the central portion of the property. The images below represent the character of this land use.

Sword Surrender Site Images



Site: Views looking northeast



Site: Eastern central looking north

A two-story single-family dwelling is located adjacent to the northeastern portion of the Sword Surrender Site. The images below represent the character of this land use.

Single Family Dwelling Adjacent to the Sword Surrender Site Images



View of adjacent residence along



View of adjacent resident Route 4 looking southeast from site

The land uses directly adjacent to the property lines include single-family dwellings to the north, south, and west. The images below represent the character of this land use.

Land Uses North of the Sword Surrender Site



Site: view looking northeast

Land Uses South of the Sword Surrender Site



View south of site looking northwest

Land Uses West of the Sword Surrender Site



Site: View looking west

LAND USE - TREATMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Site Development and Cultural Landscape Treatment Plan Directive:

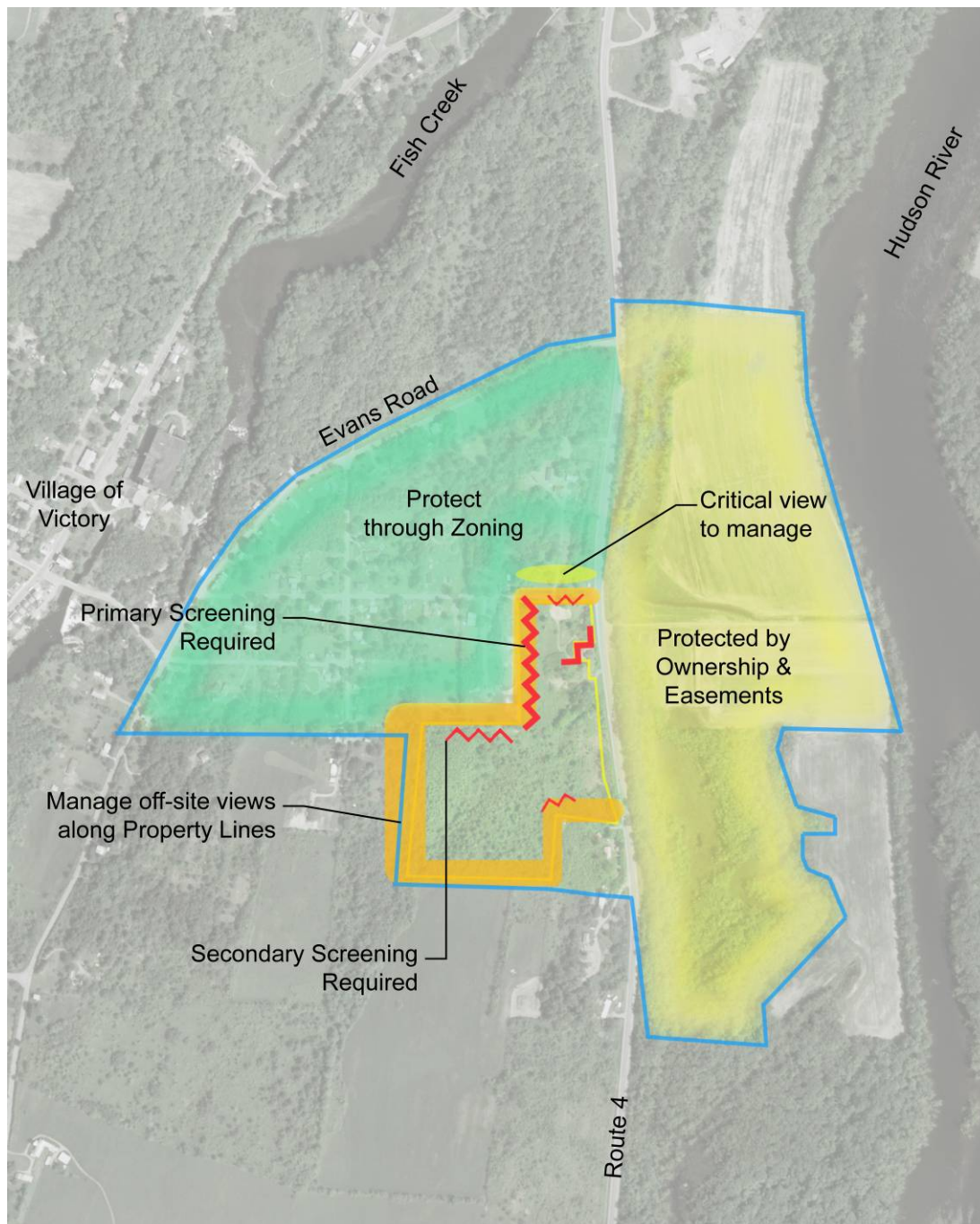
There is no directive for land use. However, the following recommendations in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior's standards address the treatment of land use.

The rehabilitation program proposed for the Sword Surrender Site will introduce several new uses within the northern portion of the site. The remainder of the site will likely remain in its existing condition and allowed to transition into established woodland. The intent for these projected modifications will be compatible with existing local land uses and overall mission of the National Park Service.

Schematically, visitor amenities including a memorial, interpretive elements, and future interpretive trails will provide for public open space use. The proximity of the site to the Schuyler House and future plans for a pedestrian connection will likely draw increased use to the area. The development of this site should be simple in design, utilize native plant materials, blend into the existing landforms, and should not be overly developed. A significant increase in the use of the land to the point that it does not appropriately convey the interpretation of the sword surrender ceremony should be avoided. This is consistent with the Secretary of the Interior's rehabilitation standards for land use which recommend, "Designing new features when required by the new compatible use to assure the preservation of the historic spatial organization and land patterns."³

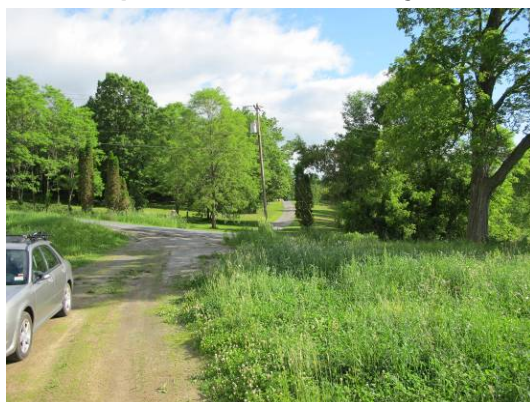
The land areas adjacent to the Sword Surrender Site are more vulnerable to development and could potentially undermine the existing landscape uses and views. Although the floodplain area is currently protected from development, the land uses surrounding the site on the north, west, and southern borders are key aspects of the project. Further efforts to control existing land uses and the threat of inappropriate land uses should be introduced. For example, the single-family dwellings that exist to the north and west could be redeveloped in a manner that adversely impacts the view shed from the Sword Surrender Site. Perhaps these properties could be purchased or managed through development rights or easements to safeguard against potentially adverse off-site viewshed impacts.

Land Use Management Diagram



In particular, the single-family dwelling that is located in the northeast portion of the Sword Surrender Site is a primary concern due to its close proximity to the ceremony site and future memorial area. Currently the residents of this dwelling utilize driveways located on the Sword Surrender Site for access. A primary recommendation of this site is to discontinue the use of these driveways and require the landowner to seek access from U.S. Route 4. This will likely require a coordinated easement with The Open Space Institute and the landowner due to the steep slope in the location of the dwelling. Based on firsthand site observations, it is apparent that a previous driveway was located on the southeast side of the dwelling and could easily be re-introduced to address this access concern. The purpose of a coordinated easement relates to the steep slope and the current property configuration. It appears that the existing driveway trace that formerly provided access to the dwelling is now located on the Sword Surrender Site. Re-introducing the driveway at its former location with an easement along the south side of the dwelling is the most optimal resolution of this visual impact issue. The images below illustrate the existing and proposed driveway locations.

Photographs of existing driveways located on the Sword Surrender Site



Site: view looking north



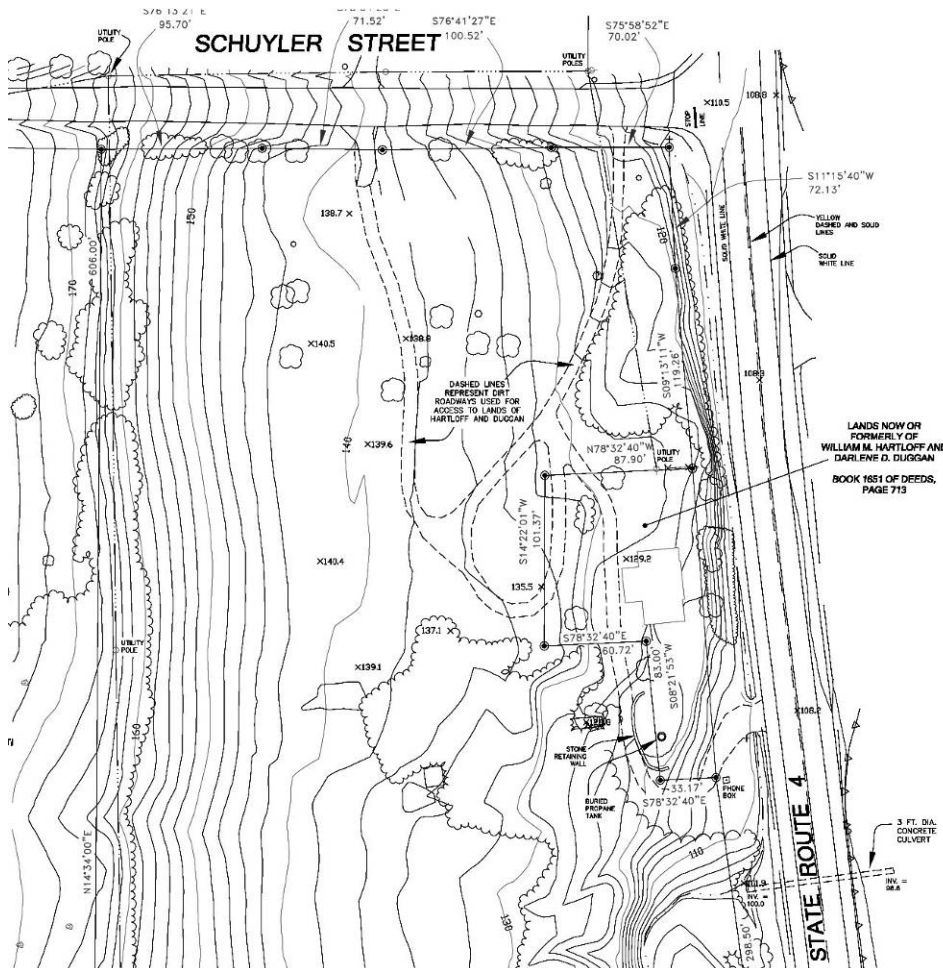
View from Rte 4 looking west

Site photograph of the drive trace south of the single-family residence



View from Route 4 looking northwest of adjacent residence

Site Survey depicting existing and proposed drive locations



Potential Drive Location and Easement Diagram



Of equal and significant concern are the properties that border the west side of U.S. Route 4 between the Sword Surrender Site and Fish Creek. Most of these properties are held in private ownership and currently subject to development. An effort should be organized, either by Saratoga National Historic Park or other non-profit preservation organizations, to protect this sensitive component of the project area,

particularly since development in this location could negatively impact the Sword Surrender Site, the Schuyler House Unit, or any future plans relating to the rehabilitation of the abandoned Champlain Canal and Towpath.

The properties along the east side of U.S. Route 4 are protected from development within the Sword Surrender Site and Setting.

Local municipalities could potentially capitalize on the distinct historic nature of the U.S. Route 4 corridor from Stillwater to Starks Knob and create an overlay district. This would in turn ensure regulatory oversight of future redevelopments of properties along this corridor as a means of preserving the context of the Sword Surrender Site.

Adopting the Site Development and Cultural Landscape Treatment Plan

It is recommended that The Historic Saratoga -Washington on the Hudson Partnership consider adopting the Plan as a policy guidance document. As a policy guidance document, compliance with the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) will be streamlined as the action to be reviewed entails the adoption of a plan and not the implementation of a project. It is recommended that the Partnership serve as Lead Agency for SEQRA and prepare Parts 1-3 of the Full Environmental Assessment Form (EAF). A Negative Declaration can then be issued signifying that the adoption of the Plan will not require the preparation of an environmental impact statement (EIS).

Implementation of the Preferred Alternative

SEQRA compliance is required prior to implementation of the project. This would occur during the process of finalizing design and construction drawings and includes local approvals and permits. The first step in this process is for the Town to rezone the parcel. A Negative Declaration would be anticipated and no EIS would be required to implement the Preferred Alternative. The project team suggestion is that the Town and the Historic Saratoga-Washington on the Hudson Partnership adopt the Plan as a formal visionary document to guide future development.

2.4 OBJECTS

Sword Surrender Site

One object located on the Sword Surrender Site is a cast-iron marker, manufactured and introduced between 1877 and 1910, that denotes the location of the sword surrender. This is an intact object that is significant for its associations with the commemorative period of the American Revolutionary War between 1877 and 1938.

The following image is a recent photograph taken of the historical marker.

Sword Surrender Site Historical Marker



Views of Historic Market located in the northeast corner of the site

OBJECTS - TREATMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Site Development and Cultural Landscape Treatment Plan Directive:

There is no directive for pre-existing objects on the Sword Surrender Site, only for new objects which will be addressed in Chapter 3. However, the following recommendations are in accordance with *The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes* and the National Park Service's *Management Policies* thereby addressing the treatment of this object.

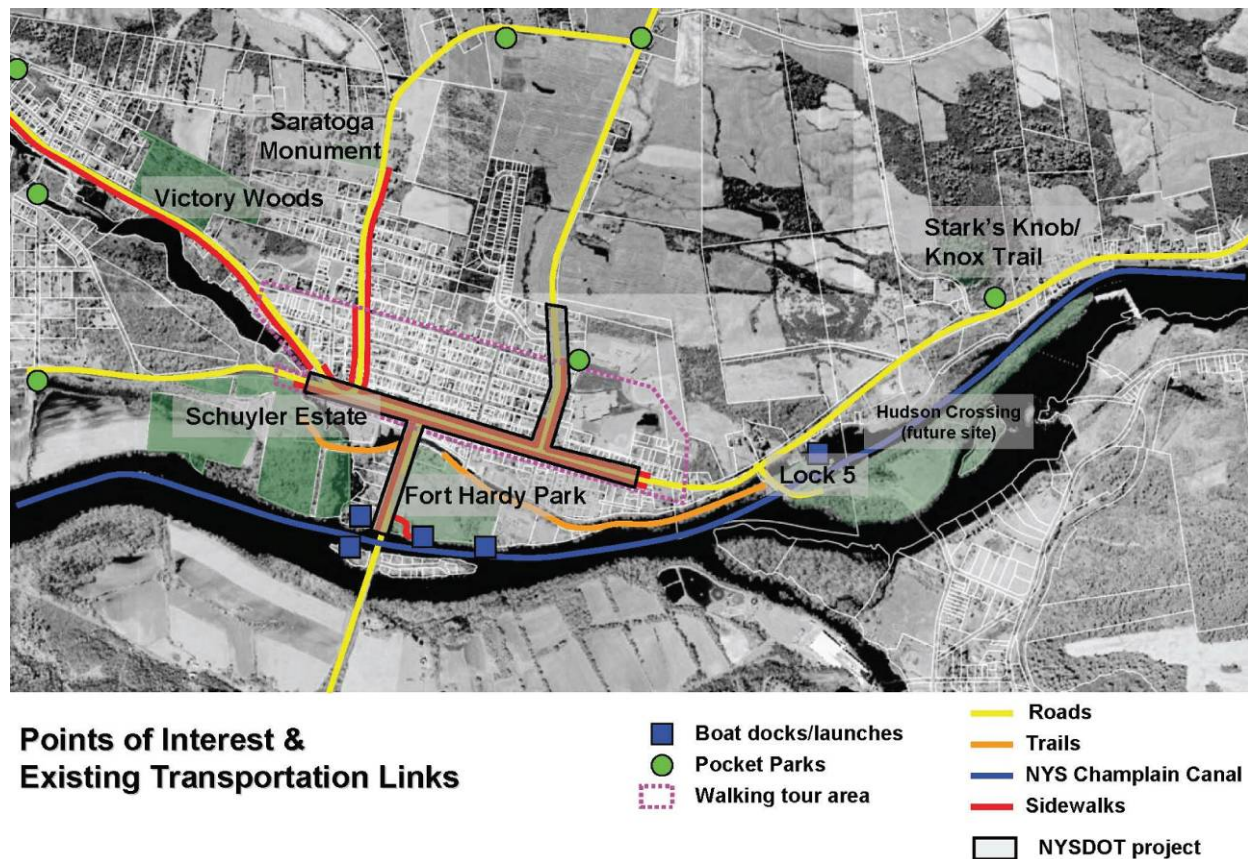
A preservation treatment in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior's standards is appropriate for the cast-iron marker since it is an intact character-defining feature of the sword surrender site. In addition, it should remain in situ since it contributes to the subject property's identity as a historic commemorative site. Retaining this cast-iron marker in situ is consistent with the Secretary of the Interior's rehabilitation standards for objects which recommends "[r]etaining the historic relationships between the landscape and its buildings, structures, furnishings and objects."⁴ In addition, this is consistent with the National Park Service's *Management Policies*, which states that preexisting commemorative works "will not be altered, relocated, obscured, or removed, even when they are deemed inaccurate or incompatible with prevailing present-day values."⁵ It bears noting that the marker is considered an accurate locator of the event and considered compatible with present-day values.

The marker serves to identify the site from U.S. Route 4 and will be coordinated with improvements planned for the site that provide pedestrian access from the parking area to a proposed crosswalk, thereby enabling future access to the Canal Towpath.

2.5 CIRCULATION AND VEHICULAR PARKING

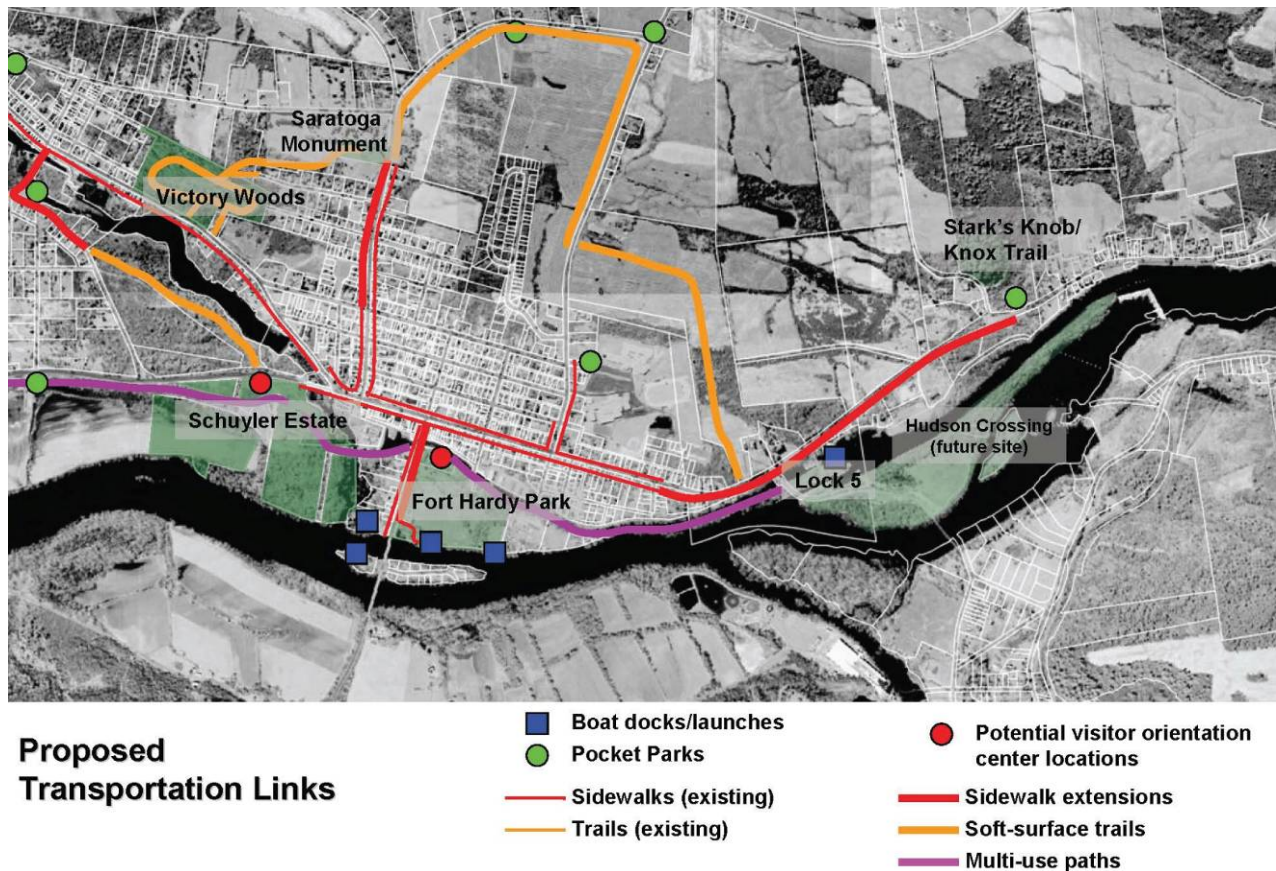
The Sword Surrender Site and Setting is located within a rural setting that can be characterized by few roads, streets, and public transportation amenities that are found in more urbanized areas. The Village of Schuylerville is within close proximity to the site and offers a more dense fabric of streets and sidewalks. Similarly, the Village of Victory and Hamlet of Smithville are more densely developed within this local area and setting.

The primary circulation patterns within the local region consist of U.S. Route 4 and New York State Route 32, which generally run north and south, and New York State Route 29, which runs east and west. The Sword Surrender Site can be accessed from U.S. Route 4 and Schuyler Street. Neither of these roadways currently provides improved pedestrian access. The map below illustrates points of interest and the current circulation patterns.



Source: National Park Service. *Saratoga National Historical Park Alternative Transportation Study Phase II, October 2005.*

The following map illustrates points of interest, and current and proposed transportation links.



Source: National Park Service. *Saratoga National Historical Park Alternative Transportation Study Phase II, October 2005.*

The area is rich with key cultural and historic sites that often connect with the existing road network. Existing and planned trail networks will promote pedestrian circulation. In addition to the maps provided above, the diagram below provides the location of many of the key points of interest related to the memorialization of the Battles of Saratoga. The trails highlighted in yellow exist today or are in successful stages of planning. The trails highlighted in green and blue are much less developed and represent future trails that will strengthen the pedestrian experience and access to local historic sites.

Project Area Circulation and Trails



Setting

The Sword Surrender Site Setting is characterized as a rural setting, particularly with respect to the south, and eastern portions. Circulation patterns are most developed within the Hamlet of Smithville, which provides a network of gridded streets and sidewalks in some areas. The densest areas of circulation patterns and pedestrian amenities are located just outside the project setting within the Village of Victory and the Village of Schuylerville.

U.S. Route 4 bisects the project setting and is considered a regional collector road. Two other primary roads provide local connections to the project setting and include Schuyler and Evans streets. Schuyler Street provides east/west access through the central portion of the project setting and Evans Street is the northern border of the project setting. Schuyler Street provides a direct connection west from U.S. Route 4 to Evans Street, and Bridge Street to New York State Route 32 in the Village of Victory. Very few sidewalk sections exist along Schuyler Street. Several smaller neighborhood streets exist within the western portion of the site within the Hamlet of Smithville. The image below depicts the local streets within the project setting.

Sword Surrender Site Setting Street Map



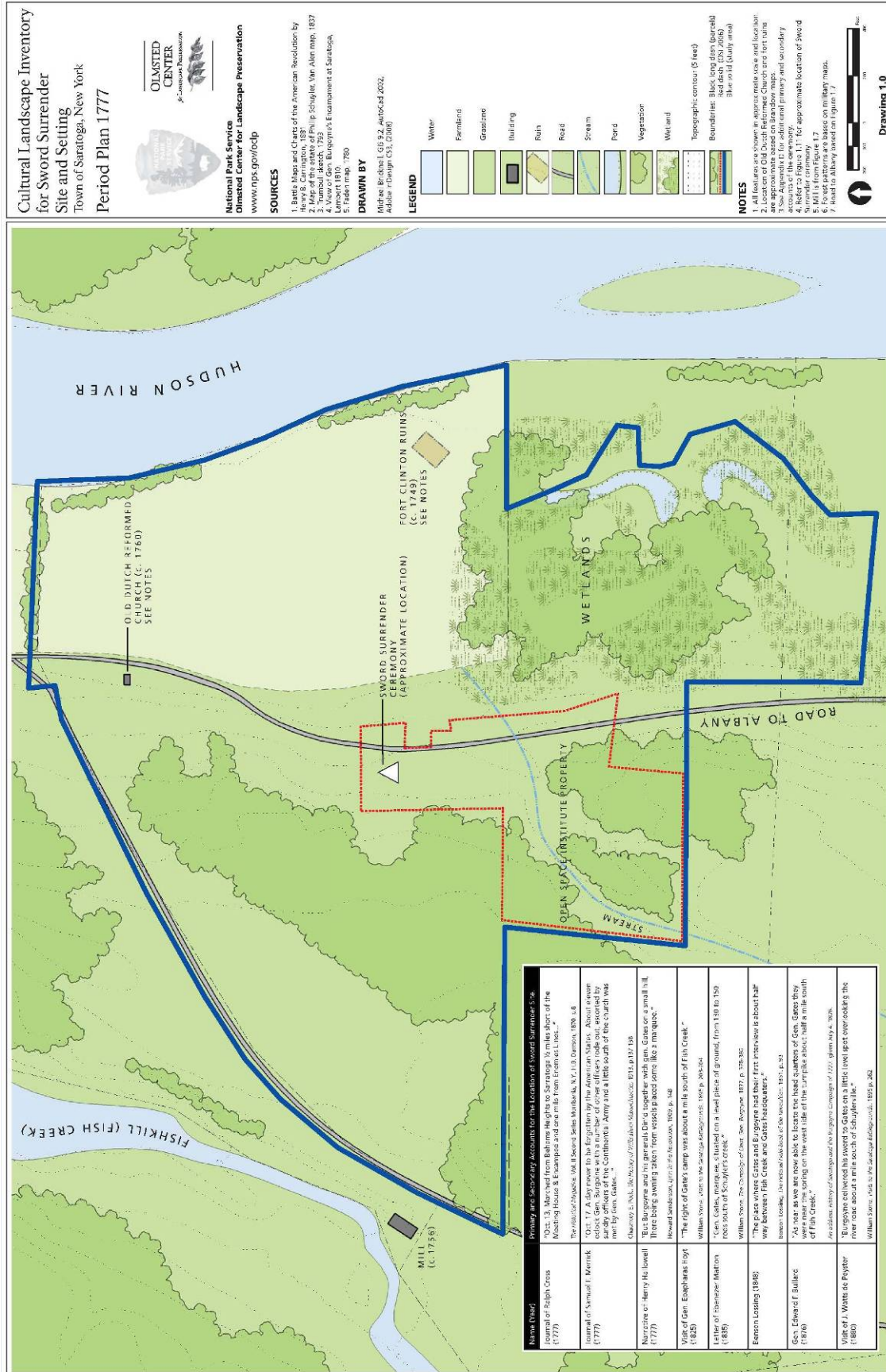
Source: Olmstead Center for Landscape Preservation. *Cultural Landscape Inventory for Sword Surrender Site and Setting*. National Park Service, Boston Massachusetts, 2008.

There are many cultural and historic sites and resources within the project setting. As shown in the image below, the setting was widely traversed and utilized for associated skirmishes and encampments during the Battle of Saratoga. It is also worth noting that many post-Revolutionary War cultural and historic sites are prolific in the area and are generally located just outside the project setting within the Villages of Victory and Schuylerville.

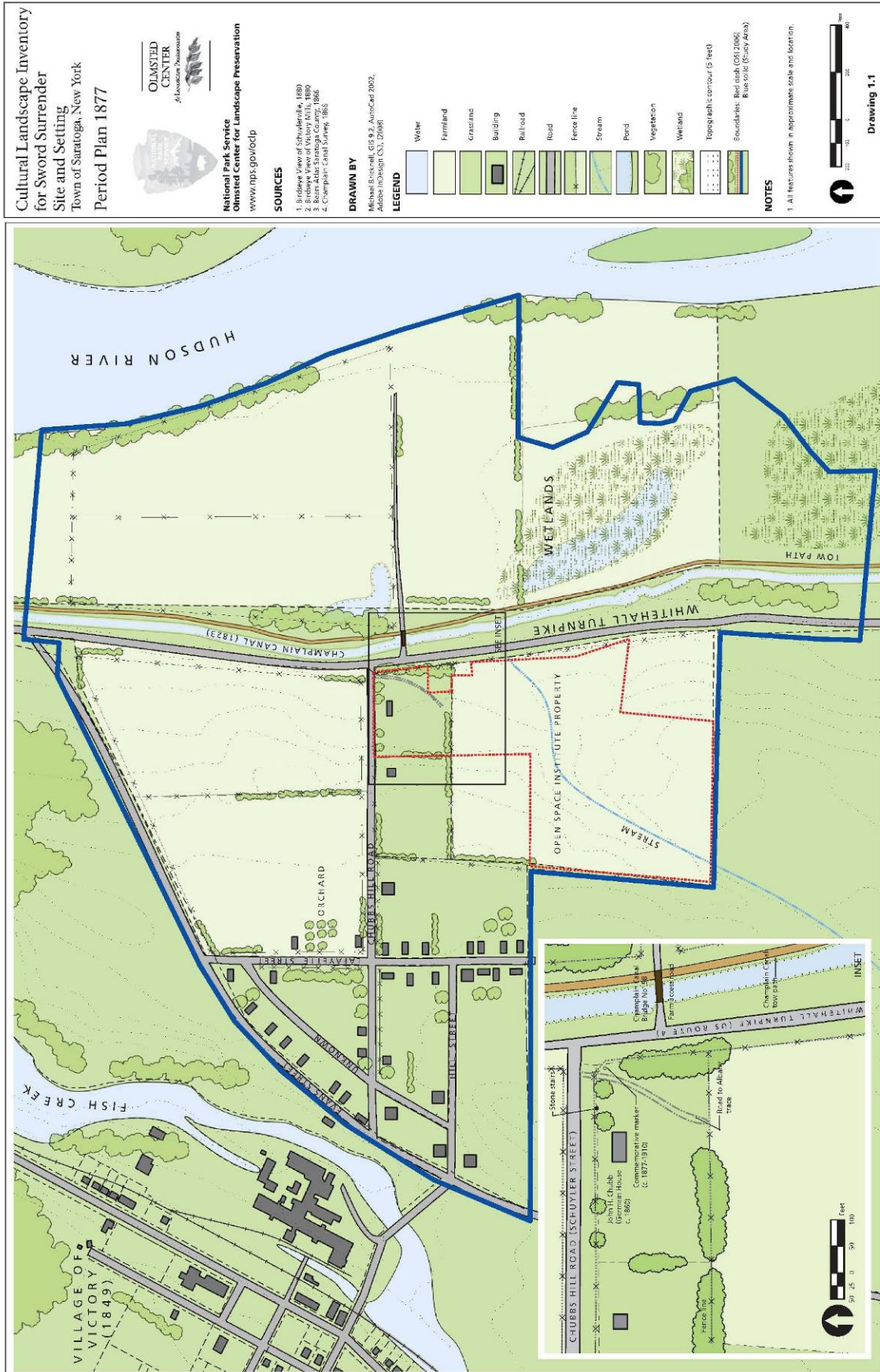
Area Cultural and Historic Sites



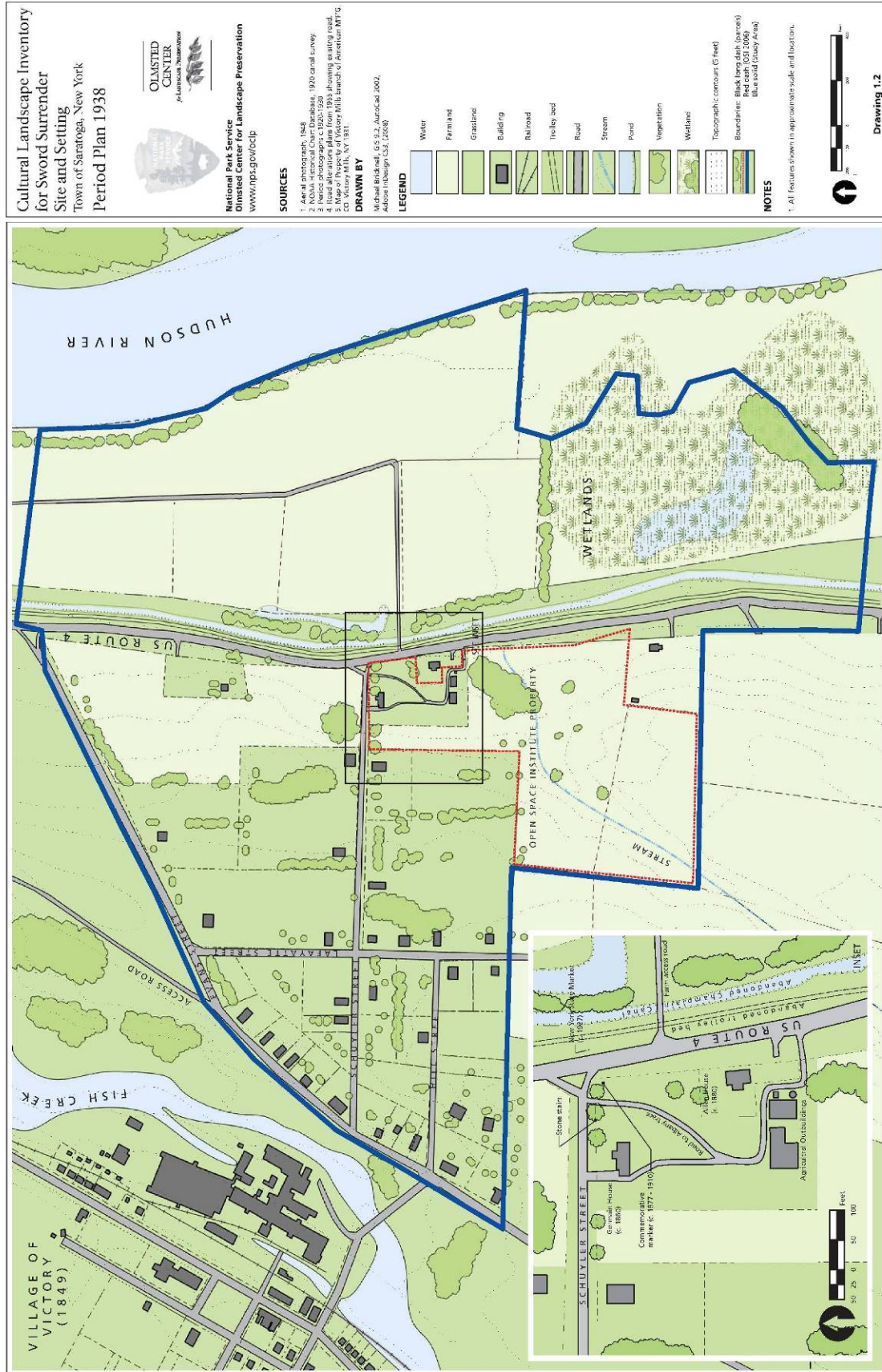
The series of period plans that follow were prepared for the *Cultural Landscape Inventory for Sword Surrender Site and Setting* and depict many of the cultural, historical, and circulation patterns present during key periods prior to the Revolutionary War up to the present day.



Period Plan 1777



Period Plan 1877



Period Plan 1938

Source: Olmstead Center for Landscape Preservation. *Cultural Landscape Inventory for Sword Surrender Site and Setting*. National Park Service. Boston Massachusetts, 2008.

Period Plan 2008

Like many early settlement patterns within the eastern United States, many of the circulation systems reflected existing topographic and environmental conditions that specifically followed waterways like the Hudson River. These circulation patterns expanded as land was claimed, subdivided, and further developed throughout history. As a result of this landscape framework, character and viewsheds that are present today were created by these early circulation patterns.

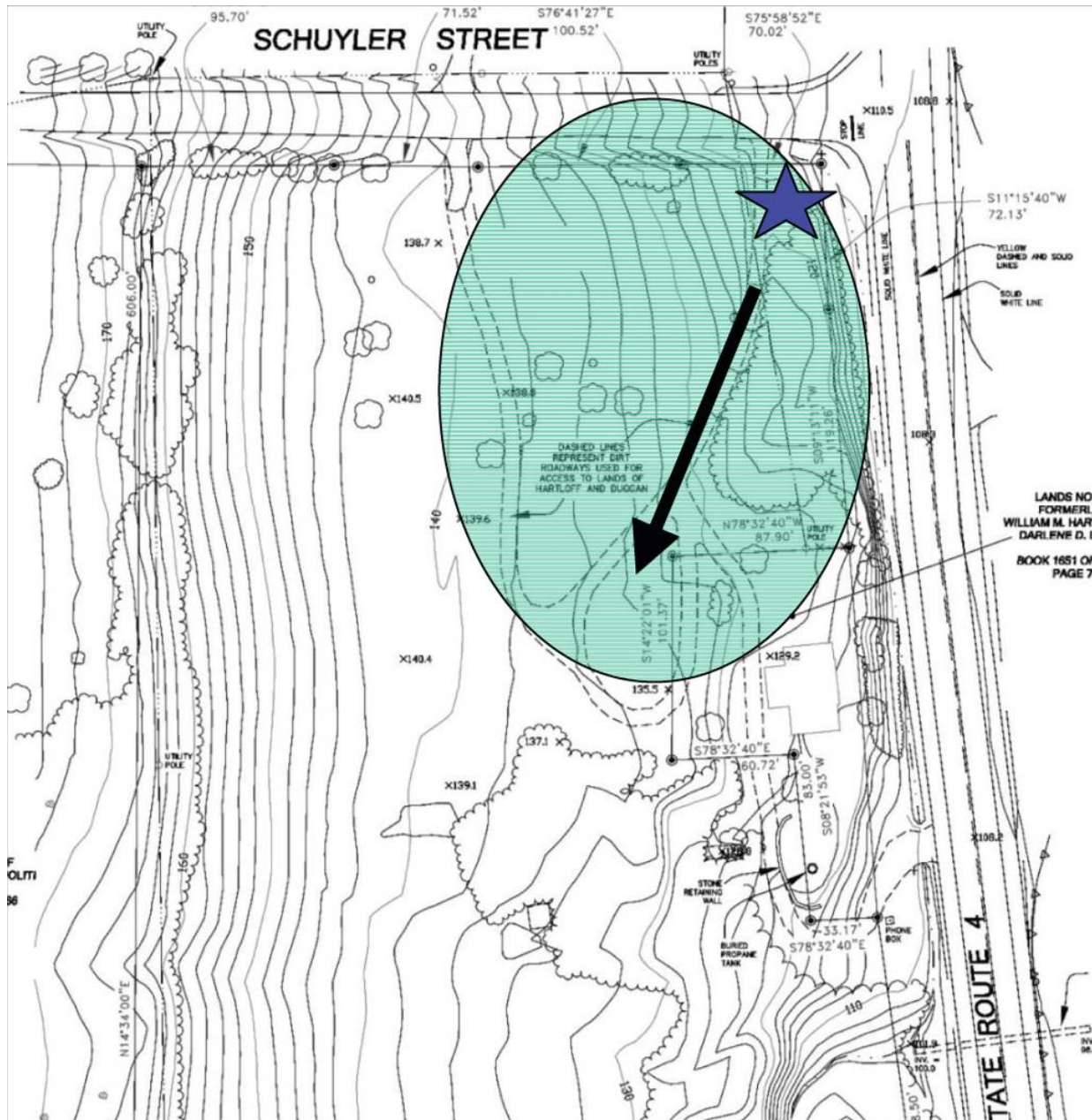
Many of the early road networks and trails that were present during 1777 remain today. The Hamlet of Smithville is one area where these circulation patterns expanded over time and ceased to expand much after 1938.

Sword Surrender Site

The Sword Surrender Site is currently vacant and does not provide improved access roads or parking. Two unimproved gravel driveways provide access to the site and the adjacent single-family dwelling located adjacent to the northeast portion of the site. These driveways provided access to a farmstead that was developed during the 1800s, which is no longer present; only the gravel driveways remain. The dwelling that is located adjacent to the northern portion of the property was the residence for the farm that subsequently occupied the Sword Surrender Site and remains in good condition.

One of the driveways noted above is considered to be the original road trace of the Road to Albany and was realigned sometime between 1777 and 1877 as indicated in the period plans prepared for the *Cultural Landscape Inventory for Sword Surrender Site and Setting*. Although there is not much known about the road trace, it is widely known as the former alignment of the Road to Albany. This element should be incorporated into any future development of the site for interpretive purposes as a means of memorializing its use during the sword surrender ceremony.

Sword Surrender Site Cultural and Historic Resources



CIRCULATION AND VEHICULAR PARKING - TREATMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Site Development and Cultural Landscape Treatment Plan Directive:

- Identify and map historic resources associated with the Battles of Saratoga. These will include, but not be limited to, cultural landscape features, historic structures, significant terrain features, archeological sites and view sheds. If possible, use Geographic Information System (GIS) to map the project area and resources

10. Specific recommendations regarding the site's connectivity with surrounding trail networks and sites, both existing and proposed, including the Champlain Canal Trail, the Fish Creek Trail, the Schuyler House, Fort Hardy Park, the Saratoga Monument, and Saratoga Battlefield.
12. Specific recommendations regarding pedestrian crossing of Route 4 from the Champlain Canalway Trail to the Sword Surrender Site

Setting

Based on the previous studies that analyzed existing circulation and transportation systems within relative proximity to project setting, it is apparent that a great deal of effort has been invested in understanding the surrounding setting of the Sword Surrender Site. However, based on review and observations of the relevant studies and the fact that this site was recently purchased by the Open Space Institute in 2008, it is apparent that few connections have been planned or currently provide direct circulation and access to the Sword Surrender Site. The local street network does provide access to the site, however no pedestrian amenities compliment the current roadways that border the site.

The diagram below illustrates how selective improvements to the existing pedestrian circulation system would provide improved and direct access to the Sword Surrender Site.

Project Area Circulation and Trails



As previously outlined, the trails highlighted in yellow either exist or are in the latter stages of planning, and will most likely be implemented in the near future. These two trails include Interpretive Trails at Victory Woods and the proposed Siege Field Trails located on the south side of Fish Creek.

Currently there is an immediate and long-term initiative that is being lead by the *New York State Canal Corporation*, *National Park Service*, *Lakes to Locks*, and countless communities along the Mohawk and Hudson Rivers to complete a statewide, multi-use trail that parallels these rivers and the Erie Canal. It currently provides direct access to historic sites, communities, neighborhoods, and other public open spaces. Those sections of the trail that are currently planned will further support and advance these connections and amenities. The north-south alignment of this trail is depicted on the image above in dark green and illustrates where this section of the trail will likely be located. Although in recent years a wayside interpretive area has been considered along U. S. Route 4, the probable development of the Sword Surrender Site might serve as a joint opportunity to connect these two culturally and historically significant sites. The yellow dots on the plan above illustrate where this wayside could be located and also depicts where other waysides could be located to improve orientation and directions to the Sword Surrender Site.

The Trail alignment that is illustrated on the east side of U.S. Route 4 (highlighted in a dark green dashed line) depicts the likely alignment of the Champlain Canal Towpath Trail. Segments of this trail within neighboring communities are either constructed or are in late stages of planning and design and will likely be implemented, as funding is available. Completing this trail would provide ready access from the Schuyler House, a popular National Historic Park site, to the Sword Surrender Site. If the Towpath multi-use trail is implemented, it will provide opportunities to further develop trails along the Hudson River from the Sword Surrender Site to the Schuyler House, Fish Creek, Fort Hardy Park, and the Village of Schuylerville. These potential trails are highlighted in the image above in light blue dashes.

In addition to the Hudson River trails, other woodland interpretive trails could provide further recreational and educational opportunities within the existing wooded wetland located in the southwest corner of the project setting. These potential trails are highlighted in light green dashes in the plan above.

Currently there are opportunities to connect the project setting and Sword Surrender Site with the existing road network extending east from the Village of Victory. A readily improvable connection currently exists by utilizing Bridge, Evans, and Schuyler streets. Although sidewalks do not exist beyond Bridge Street, future streetscape improvements east from NYS Route 32 to U.S. Route 4 could provide improved pedestrian access to the Sword Surrender Site. This area of improvement is highlighted on the image above in green. Additional way finding areas could be provided as shown on the map to orient pedestrians from the Village of Victory to new trails being implemented along Fish Creek in the southeastern corner of the intersection of Bridge Street and Fish Creek, eastward to the site.

Currently there are no marked pedestrian crosswalks in close proximity to the Sword Surrender Site. Additional trail connections or sidewalks would connect from the Village of Victory north to Victory Woods trails and subsequently to the Saratoga Monument.

Sword Surrender Site

The sole historic remnant related to the Sword Surrender Site's circulation is the Road to Albany road trace, which offers an understanding of its alignment but not materials due to the accretions of time and a lack of documentation regarding its historic physical characteristics. Barring a reconstruction of the road segment based on speculation, the alignment itself should be an integral part of the Sword Surrender Site interpretation for its authentic nature. This is consistent with the rehabilitation standards for structures, which advises against, "Creating a false historical appearance because the replaced feature is based on insufficient historical, pictorial and physical documentation."⁶

Vehicular access and parking should be provided to access the site and future interpretive features and should be constructed in a manner that is visually separated from the interpretive elements and memorial.

Pedestrian access can be provided to the site from other key points of interest, especially from the Schuyler House. As outlined above, there are a variety of opportunities to connect the Sword Surrender Site within the project setting, while also including improvements to Schuyler Street and the construction of the Champlain Canal Towpath Trail along U.S. Route 4.

Circulation can also be improved on the Sword Surrender Site by providing accessible walkways from a proposed parking area to the memorial and interpretive materials. Additionally, the balance of the site can be utilized for low-impact nature trails that expand the recreational, interpretive, and environmental attributes of the site.

2.6 VEGETATION

The regional vegetative patterns are generally consistent throughout the area and the setting and include a mixture of upland woodlands, successional sloping uplands (once agricultural land), existing agricultural fields, and wooded wetlands located along the Hudson River. In general, this region was more heavily used for agricultural purposes in the near past. Steep slopes and wetland areas have long been woodlands. With the reduction in agricultural practices, landscapes are now fallow and in the process of converting to woodlands. The aerial photograph provided below illustrates existing vegetation patterns within the local setting.

Community Scale Aerial Photograph

Setting

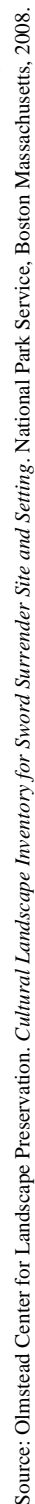
The vegetative patterns within the Setting typify the larger regional mixture of woodlands, successional meadows, and agricultural fields. The eastern portion of the setting is primarily characterized by agricultural practices within the floodplain area. A mature northern hardwood woodlands and wooded wetlands are located in the southwestern portion of this site setting. Woodlands exist within and adjacent to the abandoned Champlain Canal and Towpath. The Hamlet of Smithville is characterized as a mixture

of village-scale woodlots, scattered lawn trees and street trees. Significant woodlands border the project setting to the north and south. The aerial photograph below illustrates the existing vegetative patterns within the Sword Surrender Setting.

Sword Surrender Setting Aerial Photograph



The following Existing Conditions 2008 plan provides an illustrative view of the current vegetation conditions and character.



The diagram below provides additional information related to the character of the landscape and vegetation patterns.

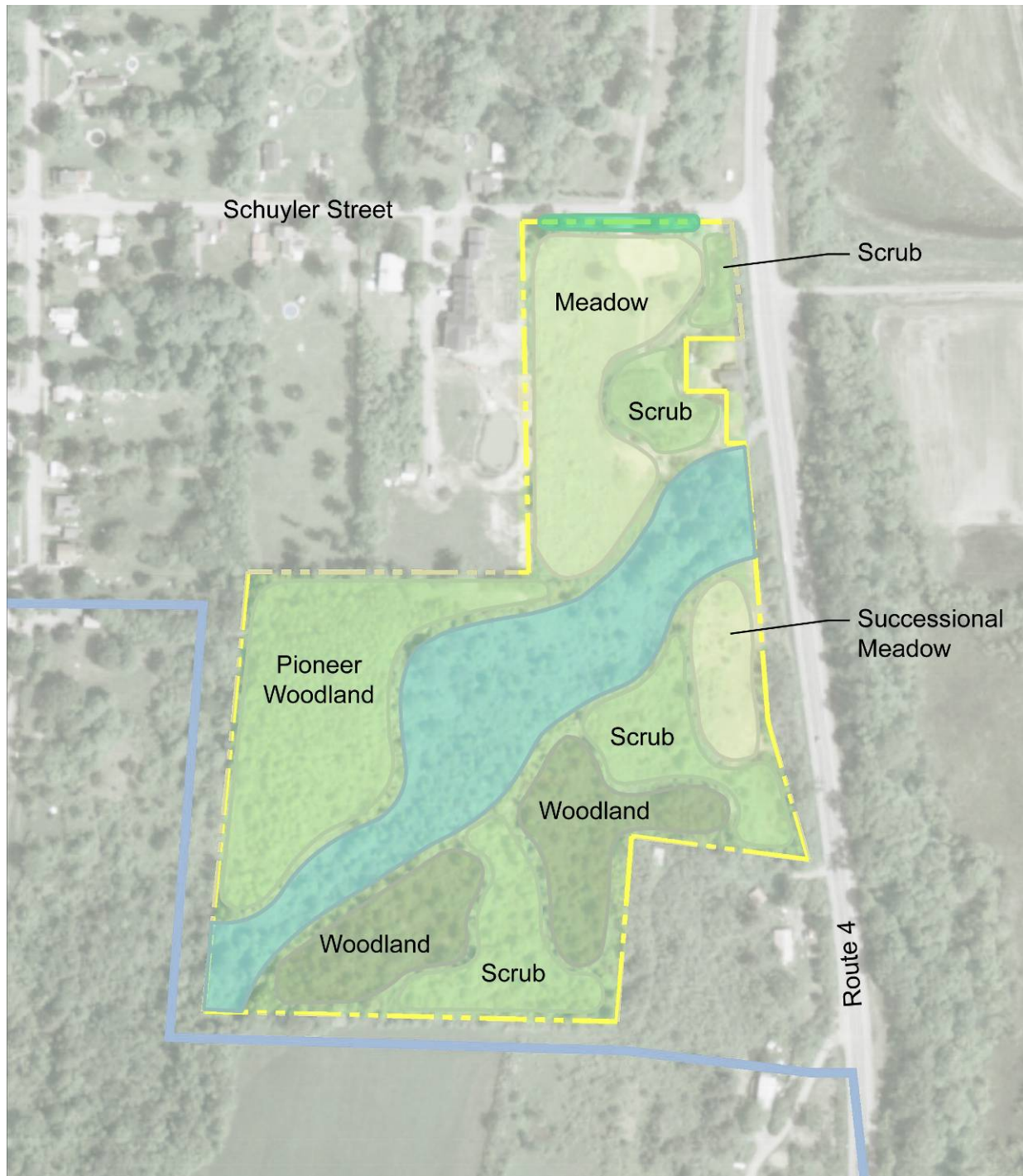
Sword Surrender Setting Vegetation Patterns



Sword Surrender Site

The Sword Surrender site vegetation patterns mimic the character of the surrounding landscape and consist of open meadows in the north, successional scrub woodlands in the center, and pioneering woodlands in the southeast portion of the site. The aerial photograph below provides an illustrative view of the current vegetation conditions patterns and character.

Additionally the diagram below provides a delineation of the distinct vegetation zones within the Sword Surrender Site

Sword Surrender Site Vegetation Patterns

As noted in the image directly above, there are several distinct vegetation patterns within the Sword Surrender Site. The north end of the site is generally characterized by an open meadow. Few large trees exist within this portion of the site and was most likely maintained for lawn area or pasture for the previous farm. Large maple trees line Schuyler Street. Smaller trees are growing along the top of the steep

bank on the east side of U.S. Route 4. Scattered trees and shrubs exist in the area of the former dwelling site. Young sumac and locust trees are growing in the location of the old barn buildings.

The meadow in the northwestern portion of the site is slowly succeeding into a shrub area. Multi-flora rose and honeysuckle are growing in the fence rows and steep areas of the site. The site will ultimately convert to woodlands if the current mowing practices are not continued.

The southern portion of the Sword Surrender Site is characterized as pioneering woodland. It is apparent that nearly half of this area was once used for agricultural practices and has since been abandoned allowing for the growth of a succesional woodland. The southwestern portion of the site consists of small trees roughly four to ten inches diameter. The southeastern portion of the site consists of a mixture of thick honeysuckle, young deciduous trees, and scattered native white pines. The creek and ravine that bisect this portion of the site are nearly impassible due to the thick growth of multi-flora rose, sumac, and honeysuckle.

The images below depict the character of the existing landscape and vegetation at the Sword Surrender Site.

Sword Surrender Site Vegetation Photographs

Site: View looking southwest



Site: View looking southeast



Site: View looking southwest



Site: view looking northeast from center of the site

VEGETATION - TREATMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Site Development and Cultural Landscape Treatment Plan Directive:

2. Identify and map historic resources associated with the Battles of Saratoga. These will include, but not be limited to, cultural landscape features, historic structures, significant terrain features, archeological sites and view sheds. If possible, use Geographic Information System (GIS) to map the project area and resources
5. A screening plan that will shield non-traditional historic views and utilize The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes, the National Park Service Management Policies and the Cultural Resource Management Guideline
11. Specific recommendations regarding the removal of successional and ornamental vegetation and the replacement of said vegetation with historic landscaping

Setting

The vegetation patterns within the Setting are a key component of interpreting and memorializing the sword surrender ceremony. As detailed in the *Cultural Landscape Inventory for Sword Surrender Site and Setting*, the character of this landscape setting is an integral component of its use for the ceremony and offers a significant context in indicating how important landscape features were in the Battles of Saratoga. Rehabilitating, preserving, and managing this vegetation within this viewshed is an important component of any future site and setting development planning efforts.

Recommendations for rehabilitating the vegetation patterns within the Setting include the following:

- > Open and frame views of the Hudson River and floodplain area by removing vegetation along the abandoned Champlain Canal and Towpath within a distinct distance from the Sword Surrender Site;
- > Control vegetation north of the Sword Surrender Site on the property located in the northwest quadrant of the intersection of U.S. Route 4 and Schuler Street;
- > Promote street tree plantings along Schuyler Street;
- > Preserve the riparian woodland along the Hudson River; and
- > Preserve the wooded wetland located in the southeast portion of the Sword Surrender Setting

Restoring the Setting to the conditions of 1777 is not viable since there is no historic documentation on which to base a restoration. The standards for rehabilitation of vegetation caution against, "Creating a false historical appearance because the replaced feature is based on insufficient historical, pictorial and physical documentation."⁷ Further, the National Park Service *Management Policies* advises against the "reconstruction of an obliterated cultural landscape unless sufficient data exist to enable its accurate reconstruction, based on the duplication of historic features substantiated by documentary or physical

evidence, rather than on conjectural designs or features from other landscapes."⁸ Thus, this recommendation is consistent with the federal guidelines. Selective thinning and removal of vegetation along the abandoned Champlain Canal and Towpath has the capacity to achieve a modest view and evoke the landscape characteristics present during the sword surrender ceremony. A more detailed analysis for the removal of vegetation along the former Champlain Canal is required due the historical significance of this cultural resource.

Sword Surrender Site

Rehabilitation efforts are likely to be focused on the northern portion of the property since this area has been identified as the appropriate location for a memorial and visitor amenities as indicated in the *Cultural Landscape Inventory for Sword Surrender Site and Setting*. The objective for managing the vegetation in this location is to open and frame views from the Sword Surrender Site to the Hudson River and floodplain.

Recommendations for rehabilitating the vegetation patterns within the Sword Surrender Site include the following:

- > Remove non-native invasive species;
- > Clear views of the Hudson River and floodplain by removing vegetation in the northeastern portion of the site particularly along U.S. Route 4;
- > Buffer views along the northern property line by either controlling this land use or planting low growing evergreens;
- > Protect the large maple trees along Schuyler Street;
- > Buffer views of the existing dwelling located along the northeastern border of the site by planting appropriate vegetation;
- > Buffer views of U.S. Route 4 particularly in the potential location of the memorial and visitor amenities with low growing plant material;
- > Buffer views to the west by providing appropriate plantings which should be coordinated with the current landowner;
- > Continue to manage the meadow by seasonal mowing;
- > Appropriately screen the potential parking area.;
- > Remove existing scrub vegetation around the marker along the embankment east of U.S. Route 4; and
- > Allow the succession of woodland on the south portion of the site to mature.

This is consistent with the National Park Service *NPS-28: Cultural Resource Management Guideline* which recommends that "[h]istoric exotic species are monitored and controlled to avoid spreading and disrupting desirable adjacent natural plant communities and associations. Historically inappropriate exotic species are not introduced."⁹

A large majority of the portion to the south of the meadow that extends from the Sword Surrender Site does not warrant controlled landscaping since it was not the focal point of the event, nor has it been identified as a character-defining feature of the cultural landscape. Instead, it is recommended that this area continue to evolve into a mature natural woodland area.

Modest landscape improvements should be included in the development of the Sword Surrender Site. Buffer plantings should be introduced to screen unsympathetic off-site views, such as the residence in close proximity to the ceremony site and other properties to the west and north of it. This is consistent with the standards for the rehabilitation of vegetation which recommends, "Designing a compatible new vegetation feature when required by the new use to assure the preservation of the historic character of the landscape. For example, designing and installing a hedge that is compatible with the historic character of the landscape to screen new construction."¹⁰ Further, the National Park Services' *NPS-28: Cultural Resource Management Guideline* notes that, "[A]s vegetation matures, the change in tree canopy, scale, and massing may affect the overall character of the landscape. It is important to consider how such changes affect the landscape as a whole and the degree to which they impact or obscure it."¹¹ Additional plantings should be implemented to strengthen the overall appearance of the planned improvements and to provide a low-maintenance landscape consisting primarily of native plant materials.

¹ Birnbaum, Charles, and Christine Capella Peters, editors, *The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes*. (Washington, D.C.: National Park Service, 1997) n.p.

² Ibid.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ National Park Service, *Management Policies*. (Washington, D.C.: National Park Service, Secretary of the Interior, 2006) 141.

⁶ Birnbaum, n.p.

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ National Park Service, *Management Policies*, 69.

⁹ National Park Service, *NPS-28: Cultural Resource Management Guideline*. Washington, D.C.: National Park Service, Secretary of the Interior, 1998) Chapter 7, D(2)(b).

¹⁰ Birnbaum, n.p.

¹¹ National Park Service, *NPS-28: Cultural Resource Management Guideline*, Chapter 7, B(2)(c).

CHAPTER 3: KEY LANDSCAPE REHABILITATION PROJECTS

3.0 INTRODUCTION

This chapter provides recommendations for key landscape rehabilitation projects for the Sword Surrender Site, entailing proposals for a memorial, structures, site furnishings, and other objects, and improvements to pedestrian and vehicular circulation and links. In addition, this chapter also establishes the framework for a site maintenance plan. Taken together, the key landscape rehabilitation projects enumerated in this chapter—and augmented by the cultural landscape treatment recommendations contained in Chapter 2—are anticipated to enhance the visitor experience and understanding of the Battles of Saratoga Sword Surrender Ceremony Site.

Similar to Chapter 2, the "Request for Proposals for Site Development and Cultural Landscape Treatment Plan" that was informed by the findings and recommendations contained in the draft *Cultural Landscape Inventory for Sword Surrender Site and Setting* forms the basis for the recommendations contained in this chapter and are referenced accordingly. Individual projects are organized either by their importance (memorial) or by their roles as a component of a cultural landscape (structures, site furnishings, objects, pedestrian/vehicular circulation and links). Each section offers the relevant directive(s) from the "Request for Proposals for Site Development and Cultural Landscape Treatment Plan" followed by specific key landscape rehabilitation project recommendations.

3.1 MEMORIALIZATION OF THE SARATOGA SWORD SURRENDER SITE

Site Development and Cultural Landscape Treatment Plan Directive:

3. Specific recommendations for the scope and type of memorial monument for the site, including location, and scale design

As noted in the Introduction, the Interpretive Design Committee determined that a significance statement should be created to inform the interpretation treatments at the Sword Surrender Site. Accordingly, committee on June 7, 2011, Interpretive committee member and Park Ranger/Historian Eric Schnitzer of the Saratoga National Historical Park drafted the following significance statement:

Significance Statement for Sword Surrender Site Interpretation

The interpretive elements envisioned for the Sword Surrender Site address the American Revolutionary War events which occurred on or near the historic site where British Lieutenant-General John Burgoyne surrendered his sword to American Major General Horatio Gates on 17 October 1777, an event generally recognized as the “turning point of the American Revolutionary War.” The interpretive elements focus on the following:

Background

In 1777, the British planned to crush American resistance in the Revolutionary War by marching an army south from Canada to Albany, NY, sweeping all opposition in their path. They almost succeeded, but were stopped in the Battles of Saratoga 25 miles north of Albany. Beaten in battle, the British retreated north to Saratoga (present-day villages of Victory and Schuylerville), halted, and built defenses. Besieged by the Army of the United States, having little food, living in horrific conditions, no hope of escape, and outnumbered nearly 3 to 1, the British sued for peace and agreed to terms of surrender.

Surrender

While defeated British forces soldiers, women, and children trudged into captivity on 17 October 1777, Gates, Burgoyne, and their staffs met and dined in comfort on a height overlooking the forlorn column as it passed between lines of victorious Continental and militia troops. In an act long illustrative of defeat, Burgoyne tendered his sword to Gates, who took it, and returned it in humble gratitude.

Meaning

The American victory at Saratoga was the primary catalyst for French recognition of United States independence and the 1778 Franco-American alliance, which provided necessary legitimacy, money, war materiel, and direct military aid. Spain, Mysore (now part of current day India), and The Netherlands also went to war with Britain, which was forced to refocus their military in order to protect their global empire. Both the Franco-American alliance and the world-wide war were essential for United States victory over the British in 1783.

Memory

Soon after America's independence, artistic representations of the United States victory in the Northern Campaign of 1777 favored depictions of the sword surrender event. From Gates's 1787 gold medal given as a gift from Congress, to John Trumbull's 1821 surrender painting in the United States Capitol Rotunda, to New York State's 2015 America the Beautiful quarter—the image of Burgoyne surrendering his sword to Gates continues to visually embody the meaning of America's victory at Saratoga and inspires the ideals of liberty throughout the world.

Although the interpretation of a historic site can encompass a variety of new elements that include memorials, interpretive panels, facsimiles of historic structures and objects, and/or paper and online narratives relating to its history and historical significance, the focus of this chapter is on a single memorial that is being proposed as the centerpiece of the Sword Surrender Site. The remaining elements informing the site's interpretation are discussed in the following section entitled "Structures, Site Furnishings, and Objects."

Workshops conducted with the Interpretive Design Committee indicated the preference for a memorial that incorporates the sword surrender scene from John Trumbull's iconic *Surrender of General Burgoyne* painting and the design attributes of the Saratoga Monument. In addition, it was suggested that a low, concave granite wall would provide the most appropriate tableau for Trumbull's scene, which would be executed in brass or a bas-relief. Incorporating design attributes of the Saratoga Monument has the

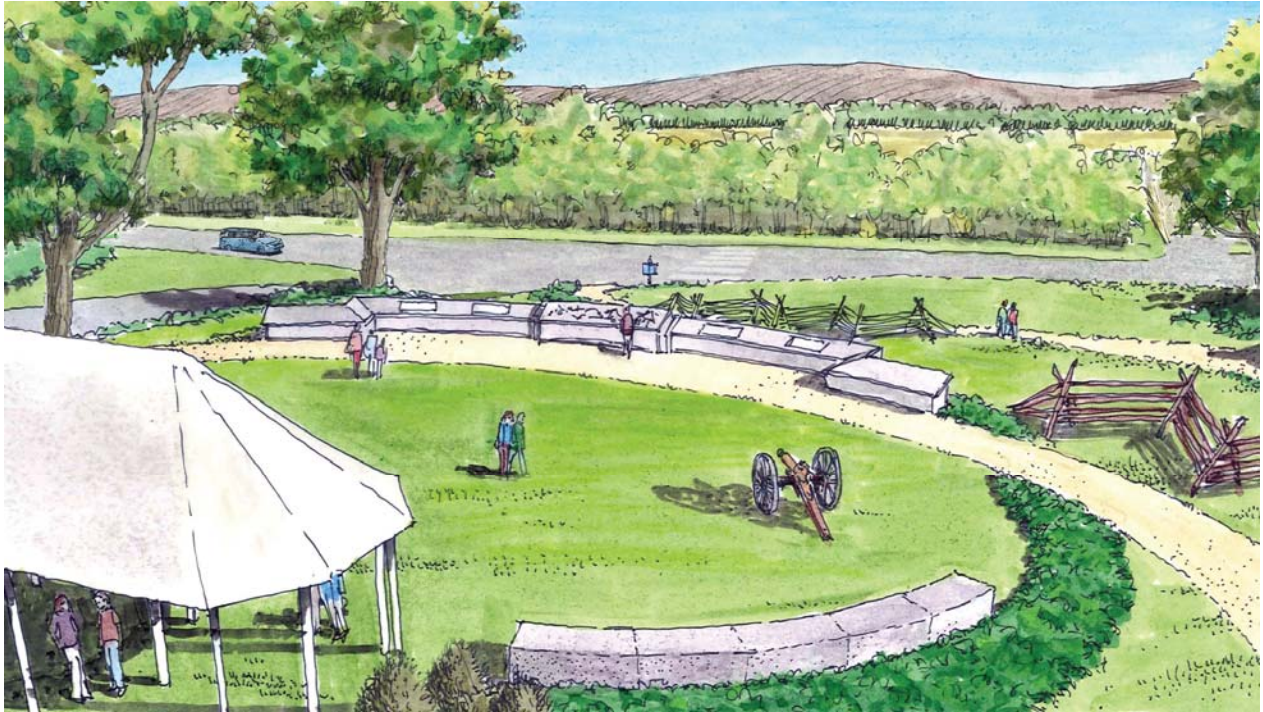
capacity to visually link the two memorials, while a concave wall design has the ability to focus visitors' attention on the commanding views of the Hudson River, a character-defining feature of the landscape's topography. Beyond the interpretive advantages posed by these design attributes, the wall's role as a standalone object allows for phased implementation of associated interpretive components discussed in the next section since their individual implementations are not dependent on one another.

The image below illustrates the location of the low granite, concave memorial wall.



Plan View

The following image illustrates an artist's view of the character and design of this memorial.



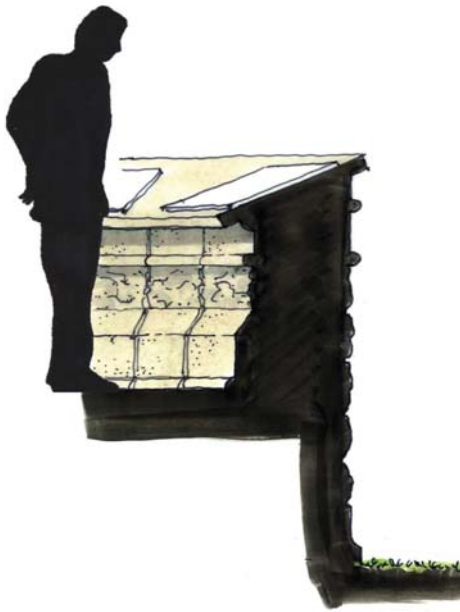
View looking east from the Sword Surrender Site

The Saratoga Monument is pictured below and is offered to provide general cues as to the level of detail that will be integrated into the low granite, concave memorial wall.



Saratoga Monument Photographs

The images below offer a schematic view of the design characteristics of the memorial wall.



View looking east from Sword Surrender Site

Surrender of General Burgoyne



/Surrender of General Burgoyne/, by John Trumbull, 1821

Source: Architects of the Capital

3.2 STRUCTURES, SITE FURNISHINGS, AND OBJECTS

Site Development and Cultural Landscape Treatment Plan Directive:

1. Specific recommendations based on the results of the stakeholders meeting regarding type and scope of interpretation needed for the site, including number of panels based on the National Park Service's Harpers Ferry Center wayside design, graphic design, and media accessibility standards found online at <http://www.nps.gov/hfc/> as well as American's with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guideline (ADAAG) standards

Beyond the proposal for a standalone memorial that incorporates Trumbull's *Surrender of General Burgoyne*, the Interpretive Design Committee and stakeholders indicated that the site should recreate material aspects of the scene depicted in the painting in order to give visitors a sense of the sword surrender's historic setting. Although Trumbull undoubtedly took liberties with the composition of the scene's elements, the elements themselves were most likely aspects of the actual event. As detailed in this and other historic illustrations depicting the area, the site was largely open with scattered trees and free of significant woodlands, thereby open to views of the Hudson River Valley. Structures, site furnishings, and objects should be limited to the extent that they support a simple yet powerful setting and message for the Sword Surrender Site's visitors. Each of the new elements proposed for the site design serve specific roles as a means of establishing a physical framework in which to direct the visitor experience of the Sword Surrender event. Proposed elements to incorporate into the core interpretive area of the site include a marquee-like shelter, reproduction period cannons, an open lawn, as well as the aforementioned Road to Albany road trace.

In addition, workshop participants indicated a preference for interpretive panels for the marquee structure, a kiosk with orientation panels, benches and other seating arrangements, period fencing, and a site identification sign.

Marquee

A marquee structure would serve several purposes. It would provide a readily identifiable feature within the landscape that could enable visitors to understand the original setting of the event, provide a shelter for individual and group gatherings, and protect the interpretive panels from the elements. During workshop sessions to design the site elements, the interpretive committee suggested that interpretive panels could potentially be located within the marquee structure in the future. Since this structure will most likely be designed utilizing tensile structure technologies, it may be stabilized by large central columns for support, which in turn could hold the interpretive panels. For purposes of low maintenance and endurance, it is recommended that this structure be constructed utilizing tensile structure technologies and materials.

The following image offers a schematic view of the location of the structure within the Sword Surrender Site.

The following images offer a schematic view of the character of this structure within the Sword Surrender Site. Note the associated setting which is enhanced by the placement of reproductions and the memorial wall. The objective of each of these design elements are integral to providing visual cues with which to interpret the ceremony and to create a setting that allows the visitor to feel as if they are centered within the scene of the ceremony.

Character Images of the Sword Surrender Site Memorial Structure



View looking west. Route 4 and Schuyler Street to the left and right respectively

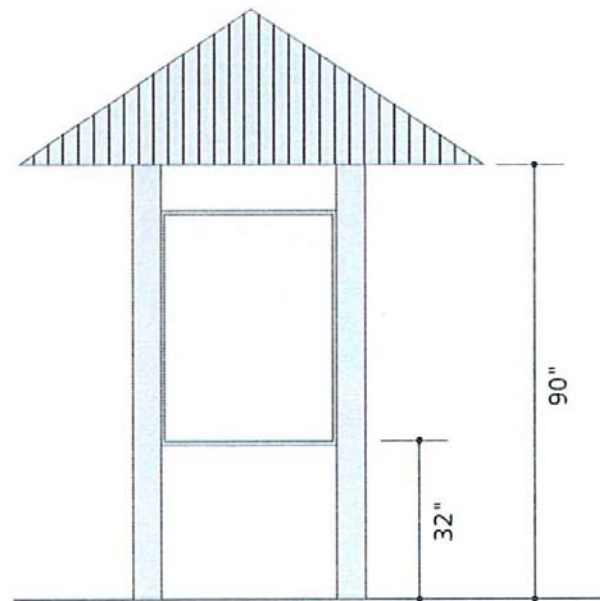
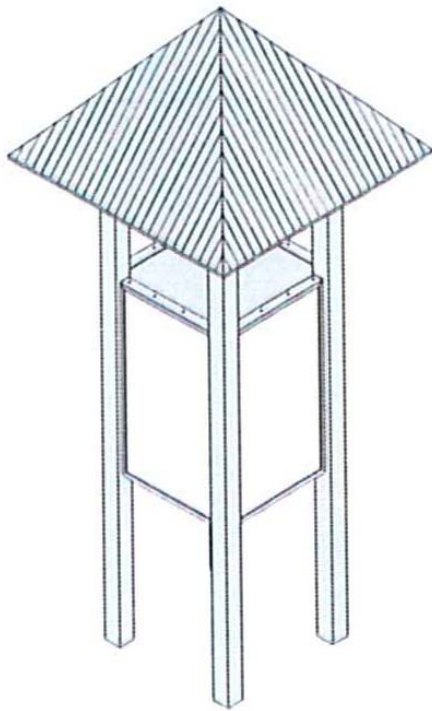


Sword Surrender site – view looking east

Kiosk

Apart from the proposal for interpretive elements noted above, it is also recommended that a kiosk with orientation panels be installed near the parking area. The kiosk would contain four mounted panels, including an orientation map, Saratoga National Historical Park map and information, related local historic and cultural sites, and Lakes to Locks information and mapping. The image below provides specific recommendations regarding the design of the kiosk which would adhere to the *National Park Service's Harpers Ferry Center wayside design, graphic design, and media accessibility standards* and *The National Park Service U.S. Department of the Interior NPS UniGuide Sign Standards VIS and Wayside Hardware Specification Manual*.

The following image depicts the design specifications for the orientation kiosk.



UPQU-36x48 with Roof
6x6 Post

Source: National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. *Visitor Information Sign System, VIS and Wayside Hardware Specification Manual*. Section IV: Upright Series. February 19, 2010. p. 45

The images below depict the location and design of the orientation kiosk



Plan View



Primary Memorial Area

Site Identification Sign

It is also recommended that a site identification sign be introduced for the access drive to the site. Further, this sign should be consistent with National Park Service signage within the vicinity of the project as a means of providing cohesion with other Saratoga Battlefield Park units. Although the property is owned by the Open Space Institute, it is important for it to be integrated into the larger plan for the purposes of education and tourism in the area. The image below illustrates the proposed location of the site signage at the access drive to the site.



Site Identification Signage Location.

Signage is a key component of any vehicular or pedestrian circulation system. In addition to the site signage recommended for the Sword Surrender Site entrance, signs are also recommended for along U.S. Route 4 to provide way-finding for this destination. The location and type of sign should be coordinated with the National Park Service, though it is likely to follow the model shown below. Additional signage for the site within the U.S. Route 4 right-of-way will need to be coordinated with the New York State Department of Transportation.

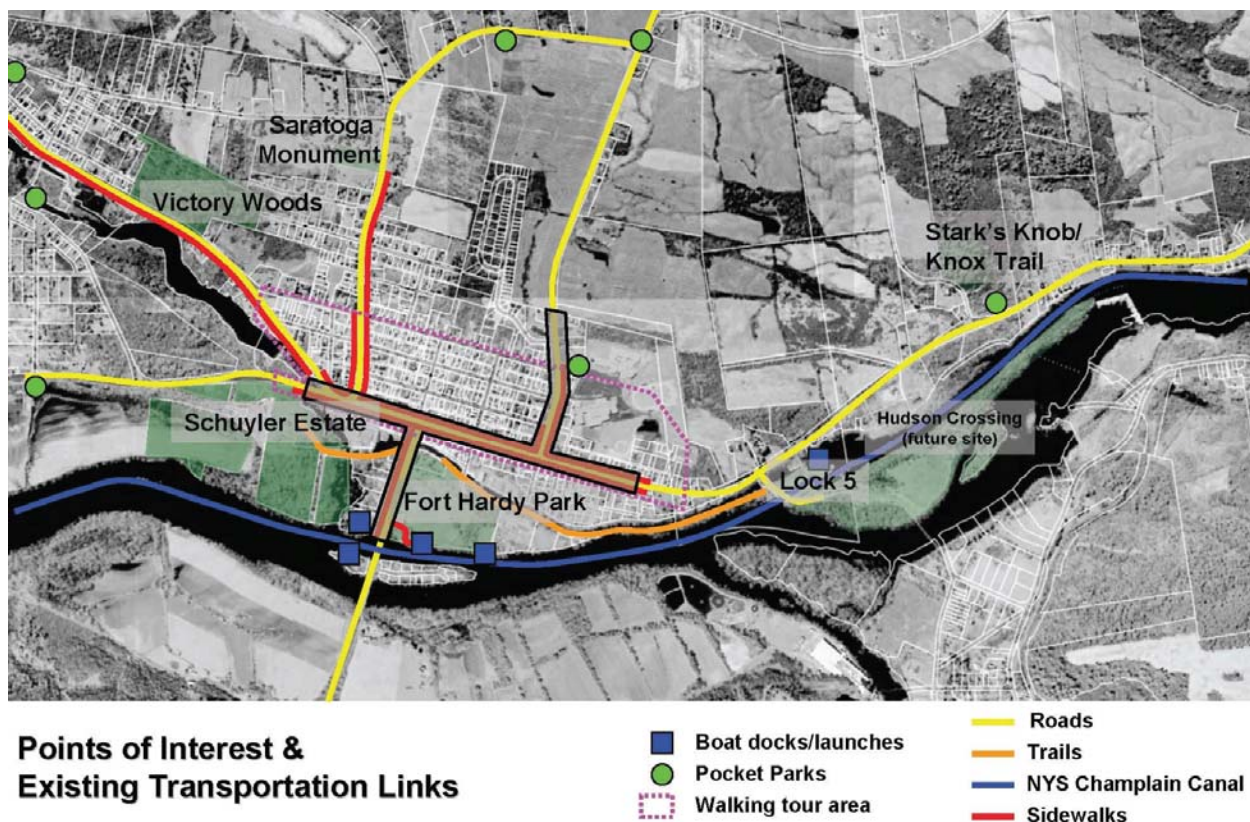
The image below depicts the style of signage to be utilized for this site that is also used at the Saratoga Monument. It is important to use similar signage for the Sword Surrender Site to provide unified orientation for pedestrians and vehicular traffic.



Saratoga Monument Signage

In addition to adjacent links to the project site, the diagram below illustrates nearby points of interest and existing transportation links within the local communities. The Sword Surrender Site is identified with a green circle located on the far left center of the diagram.

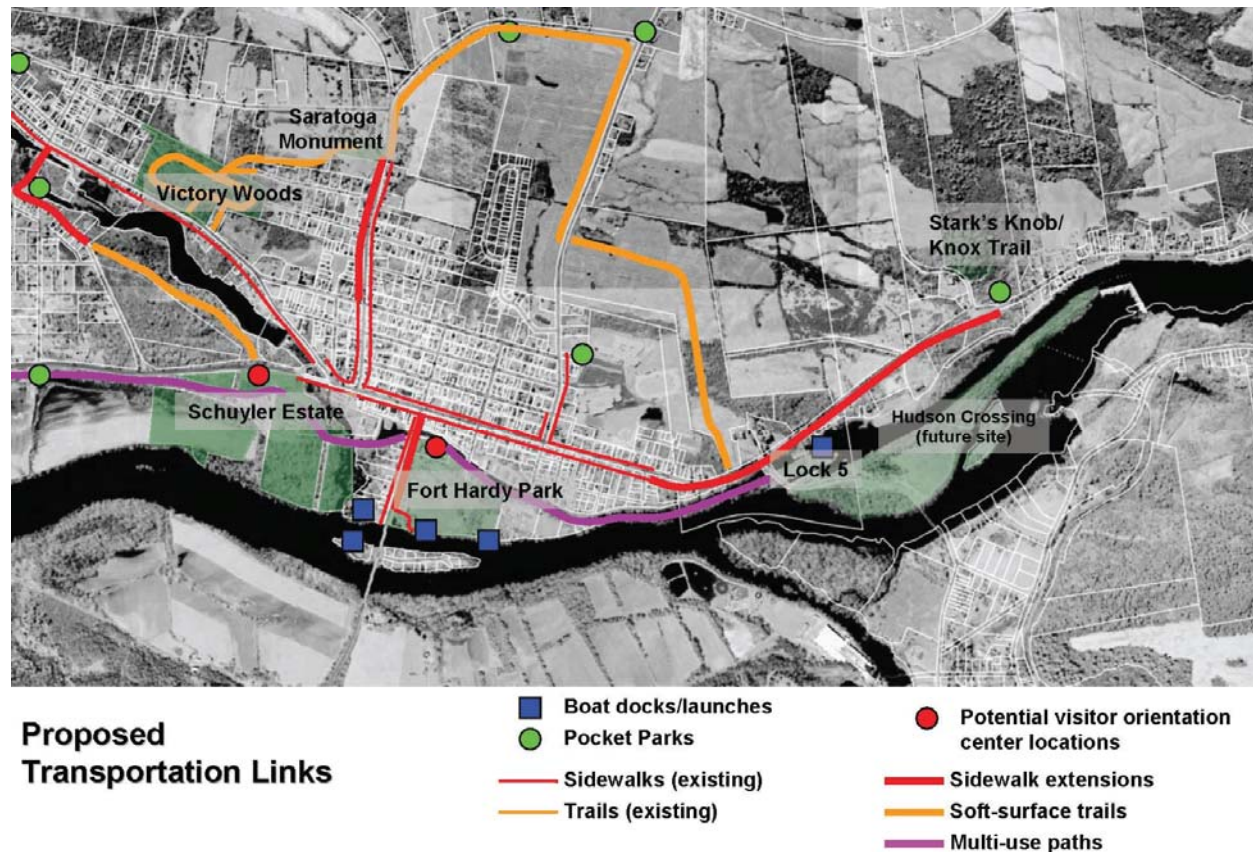
Points of Interest and Existing Transportation Links



Source: National Park Service. *Saratoga National Historical Park Alternative Transportation Study Phase II, October 2001*. NYSDOT project

The image below illustrates proposed transportation links within the local communities. The Sword Surrender Site is identified with a green circle located on the far left center of the diagram.

Proposed Transportation Links



Source: National Park Service. *Saratoga National Historical Park Alternative Transportation Study Phase II, October 2005.*

Interpretive Panels

Other interpretive panels may be implemented at the Sword Surrender Site as a more fully developed interpretive narrative evolves in subsequent phases of the project. Additional panels could potentially be located along the footpath between the parking area and the memorial wall, and along the northern footpath, positioned so that the viewer faces the Hudson River Valley. These panels should not be placed in a location that diminishes the view of the wall or the central portion of the site improvements and lawn area. Very few additional panels should be installed beyond what is being proposed for the orientation kiosk, the memorial wall or within the marquee structure, as they may diminish the overall impact of the site's theme, design, and interpretive message. If additional interpretive signage is implemented, it should follow the *National Park Service's Harpers Ferry Center wayside design, graphic design, and media accessibility standards* and *The National Park Service U.S. Department of the Interior NPS UniGuide Sign Standards VIS and Wayside Hardware Specification Manual*.

Period Cannons

In addition to the structures (marquee and kiosk) and site furnishings (interpretive/orientation panels), objects such as reproduction period cannons are recommended to further enhance the experience of the Sword Surrender Site. As depicted in Trumbull's painting, cannons were positioned on the flanks of the marquee structure and form a central position within the landscape where visitors can physically relate to each of the primary interpretive and memorial elements.

Period Fencing

Period fencing comprises another structure that offers an understanding of the historic event's setting. Based on the *Cultural Landscape Inventory for Sword Surrender Site and Setting*, wooden worm fencing was prevalent in the area during the period of significance, having also played a role in the Saratoga battles. Fencing has the capacity to guide visitor circulation patterns and to offer a contextual period landscape feature that is consistent with other area historic sites. These factors not only contribute to the overall site interpretation, but also provide a cohesive interpretive experience with other Saratoga park units.

The image below is a “view of General Burgoyne’s Encampment at Saratoga at the time of his Surrender to the Americans.” It is a view looking north across the Hudson River. It depicts worm fencing and the agricultural setting. The Schuyler House is shown in the background and the study area is to the left.



Source: The Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation. *Cultural Landscape Inventory for Sword Surrender Site and Setting*. National Park Service, Boston Massachusetts, 2008.

The images below depict how the worm fence could be utilized and positioned within the site improvements for the Sword Surrender Site.



Worm Fence

Benches/Other Seating Arrangements

Benches and other seating arrangements are proposed for the Sword Surrender Site. As a complement to the proposed low granite, concave memorial wall, granite seating walls are recommended for the central portion of the site. These granite walls could potentially accommodate large group settings and incorporate additional engravings. They also have the capacity to provide a visual and physical framework to position the visitor within the site's interpretive elements. The image below illustrates how this feature can be configured, making it integral to the site plan of the Sword Surrender Site.

Seating Walls



Plan Views



View looking east

Additional seating areas could be provided in other select areas of the site and these benches should be consistent with period benches found in other park units such as the Saratoga Monument. If introduced, they should be located on the west side of the footpath behind the marquee structure and be limited to no more than four benches. In an effort to simplify and direct focus on the memorial wall, no period benches should be located along the footpath leading from the parking area to the memorial wall or within the central lawn area. The image below illustrates the type of period benching found at the Saratoga Monument.

Saratoga Monument Benches



Saratoga Monument Style – Bench and Canon

3.3 PEDESTRIAN CIRCULATION AND LINKS

Site Development and Cultural Landscape Treatment Plan Directive:

4. Specific recommendations, including blue-prints, maps, graphics, and plans for a trail system onsite utilizing ADAAG standards taking into consideration visitor flow and needs
6. Specific recommendations and findings regarding site and trail grade, drainage, etc.
10. Specific recommendations regarding the site's connectivity with surrounding trail networks and sites, both existing and proposed, including the Champlain Canal Trail, the Fish Creek Trail, the Schuyler House, Fort Hardy Park, the Saratoga Monument, and the Saratoga Battlefield
12. Specific recommendations regarding pedestrian crossing of Route 4 from the Champlain Canalway Trail to the Sword Surrender Site

Footpaths

Currently there are no pedestrian circulation amenities or improved links to other area historic sites or recreational areas. In addition, U.S. Route 4 and Schuyler Street do not have sidewalks or trails associated with their right-of-ways. It is recommended that the Sword Surrender Site include sidewalks and footpaths connecting both a proposed parking area and U.S. Route 4 to the memorial wall and marquee

structure, and a sidewalk be introduced to connect the parking area to the existing meadow area. The sidewalk planned for the core interpretive area of the Sword Surrender Site has the potential to provide access from the parking area to the memorial wall and marquee structure and loop around these primary features back to the parking area. Future pedestrian access might also be proposed within the right-of-way for Schuyler Street.

The image below illustrates the proposed location and configuration of the footpaths proposed for the site.

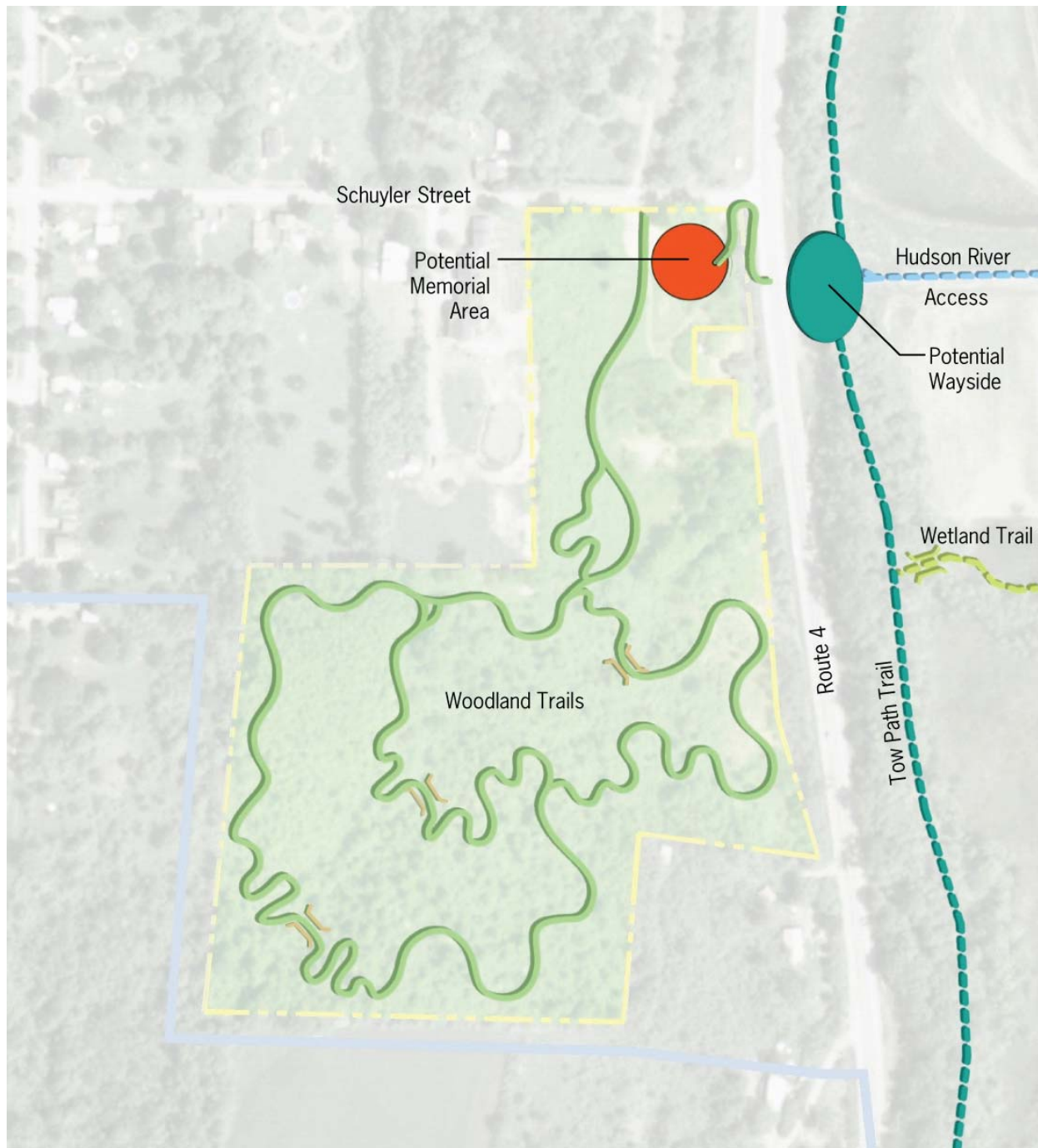


Sword Surrender Site Concept Plan

Nature Trails

It is also recommended that nature trails be planned for the northern and southern portions of the Sword Surrender Site. The northern trail will provide access through the existing and improved meadow area and be accessible from the proposed parking area. The trails proposed for the southern portion of the site can be characterized as nature trails where the visitor is lead through a series of landscape types and offered several viewpoints throughout the route. These landscape and topographic types include the open meadow, upland hillsides, wooded ravine and seasonal spring, and level plateaus that are located on the eastern portion of the site. The trails should be kept relatively simple with minimal signage, and should be designed and implemented in a way that strengthens the visitor's interpretive experience. Based on the steep slopes found at the site, particularly in the southern portion, it is highly likely that these trails would not be universally accessible, unlike the footpaths which are anticipated to be ADAAG accessible.

The image below illustrates the proposed location and configuration of the southern trails proposed through the existing woodlands.



Crosswalk

Access to other potential trails can be achieved by providing a crosswalk on the south side of Schuyler Street across U.S. Route 4. This pedestrian connection would be facilitated by a footpath that leads from the proposed parking area to the proposed crosswalk. Although there are currently no trails or sidewalks along Schuyler Street or U.S. Route 4, the Champlain Canalway Trail that is being planned for the east side of the route will connect it to points of interest such as the Schuyler House, Fish Creek Trails, and the Village of Schuylerville. The introduction of a trail that connects the Schuyler House to the Sword Surrender Site will encourage visitation both of these sites.

The image below demonstrates how the proposed pedestrian circulation would provide internal movement throughout the site, incorporating the Road to Albany road trace as an element in the proposed improvements and interpretive elements, and offer access to the proposed crosswalk for off-site links.

On-Site Pedestrian Links



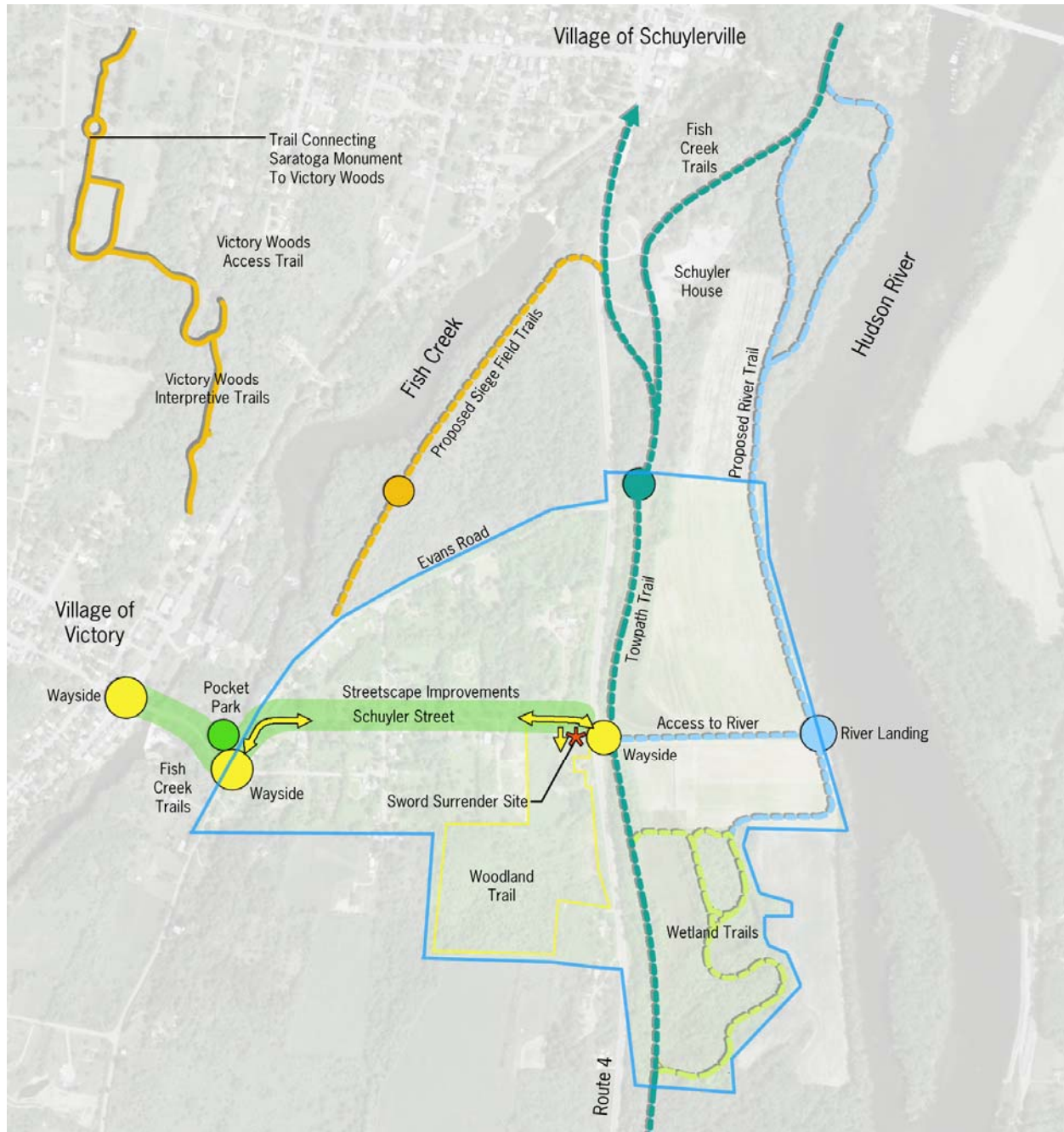
Sword Surrender Site Concept Plan

Other Pedestrian Connections

Any proposal for access to the west of the Sword Surrender Site may require a slightly longer-term initiative. Currently there are no pedestrian routes along Schuyler Street, though access could ultimately be achieved by establishing pedestrian connections through the Hamlet of Smithville to existing trails at

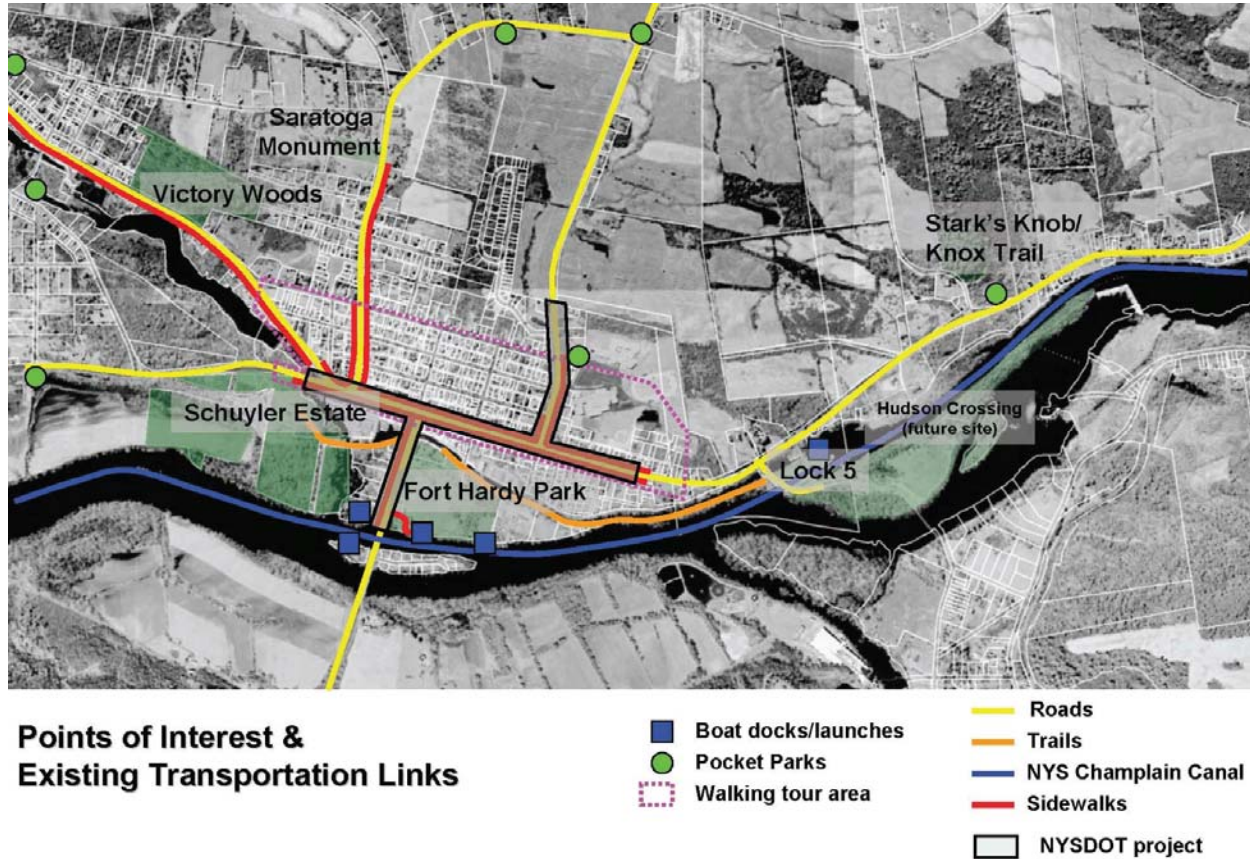
Fish Creek along Bridge Street, which provides a connection to the Village of Victory and Route 32. Pedestrian links along Schuyler Street to the Village of Victory would in turn facilitate connections to existing sidewalks and footpaths to Victory Woods and the Saratoga Monument.

The image below depicts the pedestrian improvements proposed for along Schuyler Street that are adjacent to the site, and through the Hamlet of Smithville leading to the Village of Victory.



In addition to adjacent links to the project site, the diagram below illustrates specific points of interest and existing transportation links within the local communities. The Sword Surrender Site is identified with a green circle located on the far left center of the diagram.

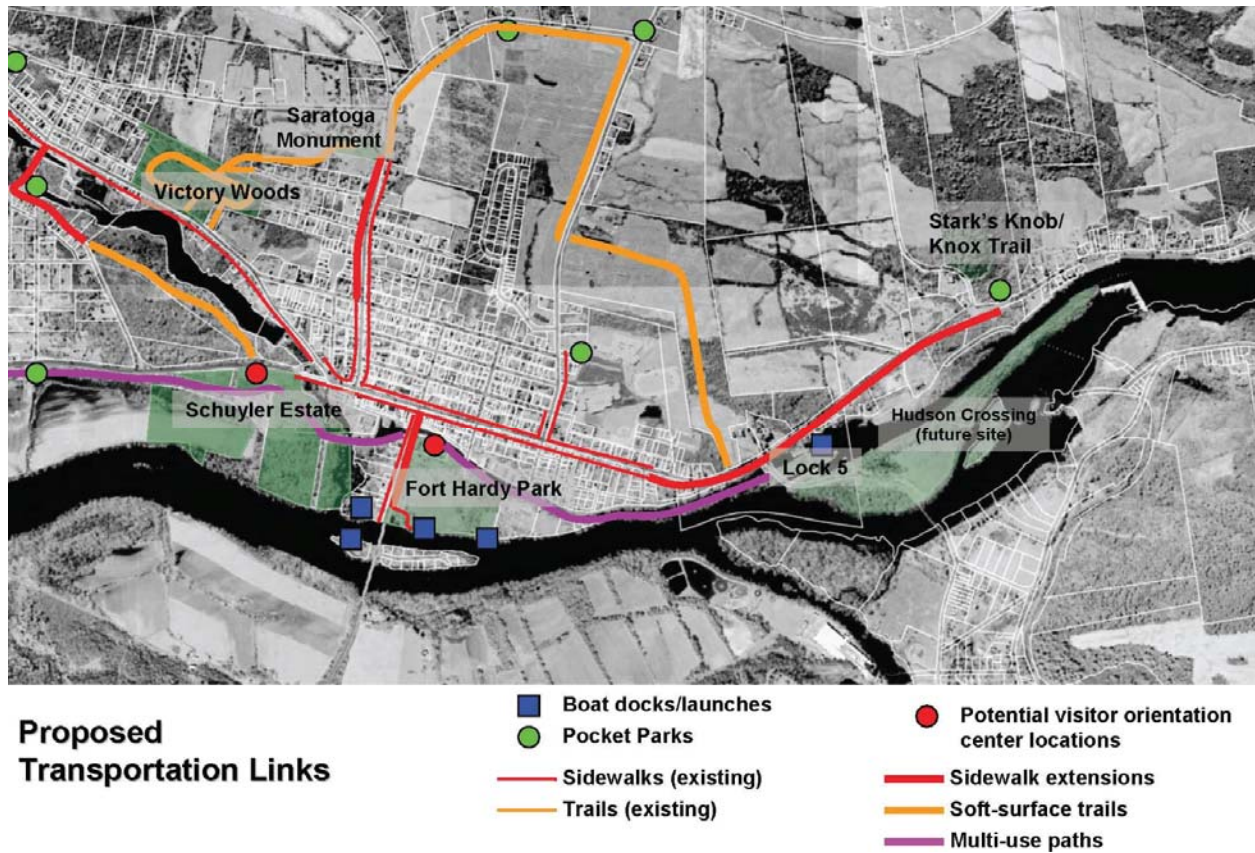
Points of Interest and Existing Transportation Links



Source: National Park Service. *Saratoga National Historical Park Alternative Transportation Study Phase II*, 2005.

The following image illustrates proposed transportation links within the local communities. The Sword Surrender Site is identified with a green circle located on the far left center of the diagram.

Proposed Transportation Links



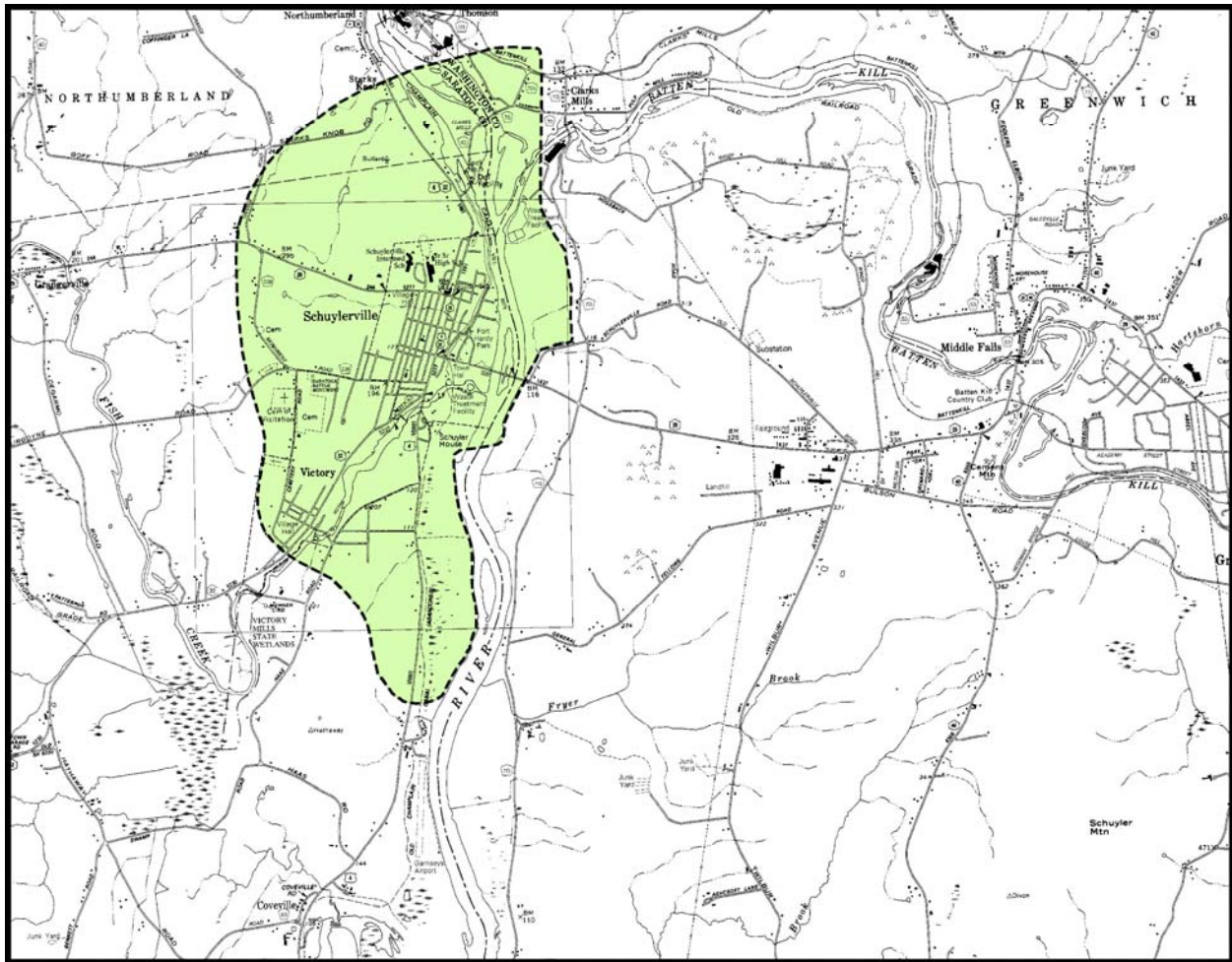
Source: National Park Service. *Saratoga National Historical Park Alternative Transportation Study Phase II, 2005.*

The Friends of Saratoga Battlefield also have plans for a siege field and Revolutionary War Trail Program that would provide a large-scale looped trail around the Village of Schuylerville. The image below illustrates the potential location of this proposed trail system.

The term Siegfiefield is useful to local historians to indicate the action which precipitated Burgoyne's surrender.

The following map shows the approximate area of what is described as "The Siegfiefield" of Saratoga, October 10-17, 1777. It indicates the effective perimeter of American positions surrounding the British army of General John Burgoyne in today's Villages of Schuylerville and Victory. Providing connections throughout this area with the aid of relevant interpretive elements could further enhance the area's efforts to memorialize the Battles of Saratoga.

The Siegfild of Saratoga



This concept was developed illustrated in 2002, the 225th anniversary of the Battles of Saratoga. It was used in various documents supporting public grants commemorating these events and has been used in various documents including the American Battlefield Protection Program work.

3.4 VEHICULAR CIRCULATION AND LINKS

Site Development and Cultural Landscape Treatment Plan Directive:

6. Specific recommendations and findings regarding site and trail grade, drainage, etc.
7. Specific recommendations, including blue prints, location, graphics and plans for the creation of a parking area utilizing all pertinent NPS and ADAAG standards and taking into consideration visitor flow and needs

The site is currently accessible from U.S. Route 4 and Schuyl Street. Major regional roadways provide access to the Village of Schuylerville via Route 29 and Route 32 through the Village of Victory.

Drive/Parking Area

It is recommended that the Sword Surrender Site be accessed by Schuyler Street near an unimproved gravel drive that is located in this section of the site since it offers the most level area along Schuyler Street. A short asphalt-paved drive in this location would have the potential to connect to a small asphalt parking area with spaces for seven vehicles. The image below illustrates the proposed location and configuration of the site access drive and parking area.

Conceptual Site Plan



As previously noted, universal access is being proposed from the parking area to the memorial wall and marquee structure via a sidewalk. Site Development Plans for details on sidewalk and footpath locations and materials.

Site Grading/Drainage

The proposed improvements for the site have been design to minimize the impact of ground disturbance through minimal excavation and by introducing fill above existing grade. An archeological investigation is recommended prior to any ground-disturbing construction activities.

Since impervious surfaces are being proposed for footpaths and an asphalt drive and parking area, onsite stormwater management areas will be required. These areas are currently located down slope and east of the memorial wall and are designed to be depression areas within the lawn to control the flow of

stormwater run-off. Review the Design Development drawings located within the appendices for details on storm water management. In addition, it is recommended that the drive and parking area utilize porous asphalt to reduce the effects of run-off.

3.5 VEGETATION

Site Development and Cultural Landscape Treatment Plan Directive:

2. Identify and map historic resources associated with the Battles of Saratoga. These will include, but not be limited to, cultural landscape features, historic structures, significant terrain features, archeological sites and view sheds. If possible, use Geographic Information System (GIS) to map the project area and resources
5. A screening plan that will shield non-traditional historic views and utilize The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes, the National Park Service Management Policies and the Cultural Resource Management Guideline
11. Specific recommendations regarding the removal of successional and ornamental vegetation and the replacement of said vegetation with historic landscaping

The northern portion of the project site currently consists of a large open meadow with scattered colonies of invasive plants. The meadow area shown in the diagram below will be preserved and maintained as further noted below. Only the northern most area of the site along Schuyler Street will be improved for the memorial and serve as the primary interpretation of the site.

Several low-maintenance landscape elements and native plantings are proposed at the Sword Surrender Site. These landscape features and planting areas are provided to strengthen the circulation patterns, frame views, and create a welcoming appearance for visitors. These improvements generally include the following:

- > Plantings that enhance the appearance of the site signage
- > Shade trees that line the drive to reference period roads
- > Low native plantings flanking the marquee structure
- > Low native plantings east of the memorial wall

The landscape improvements presented above are shown in the following concept plan.



Prior to any of the improvements made on the site, existing vegetation on the site must be removed and or managed. The primary purpose of removing existing vegetation is to rehabilitate and to provide framed views of the Hudson River and floodplain area, which will enhance interpretation of the site and the Sword Surrender Ceremony. Vegetation is proposed to be removed as follows:

- > Remove scattered scrub and invasive trees and vegetation within the Sword Surrender Ceremony Site and to a defined area within the existing meadow;
- > Remove existing vegetation adjacent to the existing homes to the southeast and the west to provide clearing appropriate for the plantings of the proposed buffer plantings and landscape screening of these incompatible off-site uses;
- > Remove scrub vegetation and trees immediately along U.S. Route 4 north of the adjacent farmhouse to open and frame views to the Hudson River; and,
- > Thin and remove existing trees and further manage the vegetation found along the abandoned Champlain Canal and Towpath within a relatively short distance from the intersection of Route 4 and Schuyler Street to open and frame views from the Sword Surrender Ceremony Site to the Hudson River and floodplain area. As previously stated, any actions associated with the Champlain Canal and Towpath will require further evaluation under a separate study due its National Registry listing.

See Appendix B: Site Development Plans for details regarding the vegetation clearing and removals plan.

3.6 COORDINATION OF LONG-TERM USE AND MANAGEMENT OF THE PROJECT AREA

Site Development and Cultural Landscape Treatment Plan Directive:

9. A site maintenance plan that will include specific recommendations and findings regarding the maintenance, upkeep, and protection of the site

A site maintenance plan for the Sword Surrender Site is integral to its rehabilitation and will make it conducive to future site improvements. By contrast, the absence of a clear and concise methodology outlining specifics to manage the current site conditions can potentially result in higher costs at a later point in time. It is also bears noting that the rehabilitation of the site is dependent on funds as they become available, thereby justifying the need for a site maintenance plan to anticipate future phases of the project. Finally, a site maintenance plan can also direct its short-term use and appearance as a contributing element of the interpretation of the Battles of Saratoga.

There are two methods to address the maintenance and upkeep of the site: An immediate and a long-term approach. An immediate approach is meant to address current maintenance issues affecting the site's interpretation and a long-term approach should be completed once the proposed treatment recommendations and rehabilitation projects enumerated in this report have been implemented. The site is currently owned by the Open Space Institute so ultimately the use and management practices affecting it must adhere to any guidelines established by the organization. In absence of OSI guidelines, the site maintenance plan should adhere to the *National Park Service Management Policies* since it will ultimately be bound to these policies upon inclusion in the Saratoga Battlefield National Historical Park system.

Immediate Site Maintenance Plan

For the immediate approach, there are several key projects involving vegetation that should be addressed. These include:

- > Continue maintenance mowing within the existing meadow areas on a bi-annual basis to prevent this area from succeeding into a scrub brush area and woodland;
- > Remove scrub brush along the eastern and western property lines in the northern portion of the site and mow bi-annually;
- > Remove scrub brush and successional trees along the eastern property, north of the adjacent residence and within the area previously occupied by the farm buildings and mow bi-annually; and
- > Maintain the existing meadow area currently found in the northern portion of the site through the removal of non-native species pioneering in the meadow area and maintain the fallow field area by mowing it twice a year to prevent successional growth. The extent of the recommended meadow area is illustrated in Appendix B: Site Development Plan. These plans delineate the extent of recommended plant removals and lawn and meadow areas associated with the proposed site improvements.

Long-Term Site Maintenance Plan

A long-term site maintenance plan will be required upon implementation of the cultural landscape treatment recommendations and the key landscape rehabilitation projects, focusing specifically on the Sword Surrender Site and not on its Setting. This site maintenance plan should be created after improvements have been finalized since the implemented site plan with its landscaping and design and materials of individual elements will inform the scope of their maintenance over the long term.

The project elements to be addressed in the future site maintenance plan as discussed in Chapters 2 and 3 include the following:

- > Viewshed openings
- > Historical marker
- > Memorial wall
- > Marquee structure
- > Cannons
- > Worm fence
- > Benches
- > Interpretive signage panels
- > Orientation panels and kiosk
- > Way-finding signage
- > Asphalt drive and parking area
- > Footpaths, trails, and sidewalks
- > Landscape plantings
- > Meadow management
- > Buffers and screening plantings
- > Woodland monitoring (southern portion of the site)

CHAPTER 4: SETTING RECOMMENDATIONS

4.0 INTRODUCTION

This chapter is intended to offer recommendations for the treatment of the setting of the Sword Surrender Site. As noted, the setting is comprised of the Upland Area that encompasses the Sword Surrender Site (approx. 19 acres), the Village Extension to the west of the subject property (approx. 54 acres), and the wetlands known as the Floodplain Area, located to the east of the subject property between U.S. Route 4 and the Hudson River (approx. 97 acres). For the purposes of this chapter (and of Chapter 2), Setting refers only to the areas described above, exclusive of the 19-acre Sword Surrender Site since recommendations for the latter are discussed at length in Chapters 2 and 3.

It should be noted that since the Open Space Institute and Historic Saratoga-Washington on the Hudson Partnership do not own the property comprising the Setting, these entities have no control over its future development. Accordingly, this chapter offers limited recommendations for the Setting in contrast to the multiple recommendations for the Sword Surrender Site that form the basis of this report.

Similar to Chapters 2 and 3, the "Request for Proposals for Site Development and Cultural Landscape Treatment Plan" that was informed by the findings and recommendations contained in the draft *Cultural Landscape Inventory for Sword Surrender Site and Setting* forms the basis for the recommendations contained in this chapter and are referenced accordingly. Three sections comprise this chapter: Memorialization of the Setting's Multilayered Significance, Pedestrian Circulation and Links, and Vegetation. Each section offers the relevant directive(s), where applicable, from the "Request for Proposals for Site Development and Cultural Landscape Treatment Plan" followed by project recommendations.

4.1 MEMORIALIZATION OF THE SETTING'S MULTILAYERED SIGNIFICANCE

Site Development and Cultural Landscape Treatment Plan Directive:

There is no directive pertaining to memorialization of the Setting's multilayered significance.

As noted, beyond the Sword Surrender Site's primary significance as the site of a key surrender during the American Revolution, it is also significant for its association with Revolutionary War commemoration between 1877 and 1938, as embodied in the cast-iron historical marker onsite along U.S. Route 4.

In addition, the Setting features one historically significant archeological site, one potentially significant pre-historic archeological site, and two potentially significant historic archeological sites. These include:

- > The alignment of the Champlain Canal (1823-c.1917), which is significant for its "association with the agricultural, commercial, and industrial growth of New York State; the design and construction of

ts infrastructure; and for its archeological potential to reveal significant information regarding the canal transportation period."¹

- > A potential archeological site related to the Native American occupation during the Middle and Late Archaic periods (8000 B.P.-1609), owing to artifacts previously found in the area dating to this period.
- > A potential archeological site related to the French and Indian Wars (1689-1763), as supported by the known existence of three forts that were erected in the area consisting of Fort Vrooman (Vrooman) (1689), Fort Saratoga (1702), and Fort Clinton (1746).
- > A potentially significant archeological site in the Sword Surrender setting is the Dutch Reformed Church site (1770s).

The Champlain Barge Canal (c. 1917 – present) offers educational and recreational opportunities through its future rehabilitation as a local and regional trail. It is recommended—and anticipated based on current plans underway—that the rehabilitated canal alignment will feature interpretive panels at key locations along its route as a means of chronicling its history and historical significance.

Pending archeological studies of Native American occupation and the French and Indian War forts, these, too, have the potential to be memorialized through interpretive panels on or near the sites of these occupations. In addition, podcasts have become a powerful educational tool, enabling visitors to dial in for historical information related to a specific site or series of sites without the onus of physical maintenance related to an interpretive kiosk or structure.

In addition to the previously identified significance, the following recommendations pertain to preserving the Setting's overall sense of place:

Floodplain fields beyond those used by Native Americans and French and Indian War personnel were developed during the early period of settlement by non-native residents and should be preserved through open space or conservation easements and or agricultural preservation initiatives. It is recommended to illustrate how the area was developed for agricultural and trade by new settlers like the Schuyler Family. These preservation methods should also be recognized as key strategies within the local zoning mandates.

The mosaic of fields and woodlands is also a composite snapshot of vegetation patterns that have informed the Setting's landscape since the Colonial Era. A long-term plan to preserve this landscape setting and land use should be addressed through conservation easements and or agricultural preservation initiatives which should be undertaken to protect this landscape panorama as it is an important reminder of the Battles of Saratoga and the Sword Surrender ceremony.

The roadways in the area such as U.S. Route 4, and NYS Route 32 were a significant component of the Battles of Saratoga and associated skirmishes and encampments. Future management of these corridors via zoning overlay districts will help preserve their alignments and character.

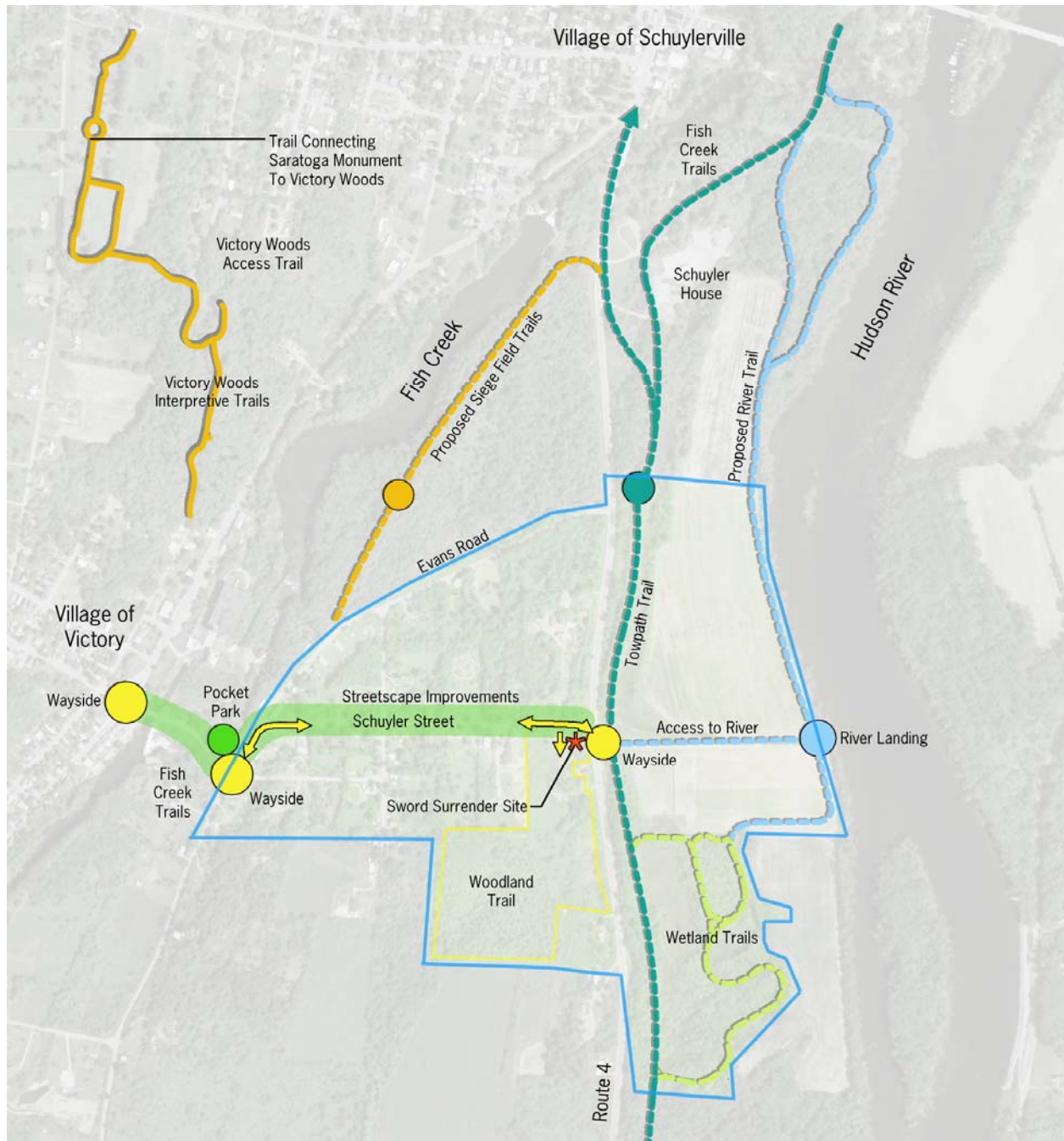
4.2 PEDESTRIAN CIRCULATION AND LINKS

Site Development and Cultural Landscape Treatment Plan Directive:

10. Specific recommendations regarding the site's connectivity with surrounding trail networks and sites, both existing and proposed, including the Champlain Canal Trail, the Fish Creek Trail, the Schuyler House, Fort Hardy Park, the Saratoga Monument, and Saratoga Battlefield
12. Specific recommendations regarding pedestrian crossing of U.S. Route 4 from the Champlain Canalway Trail to the Sword Surrender Site

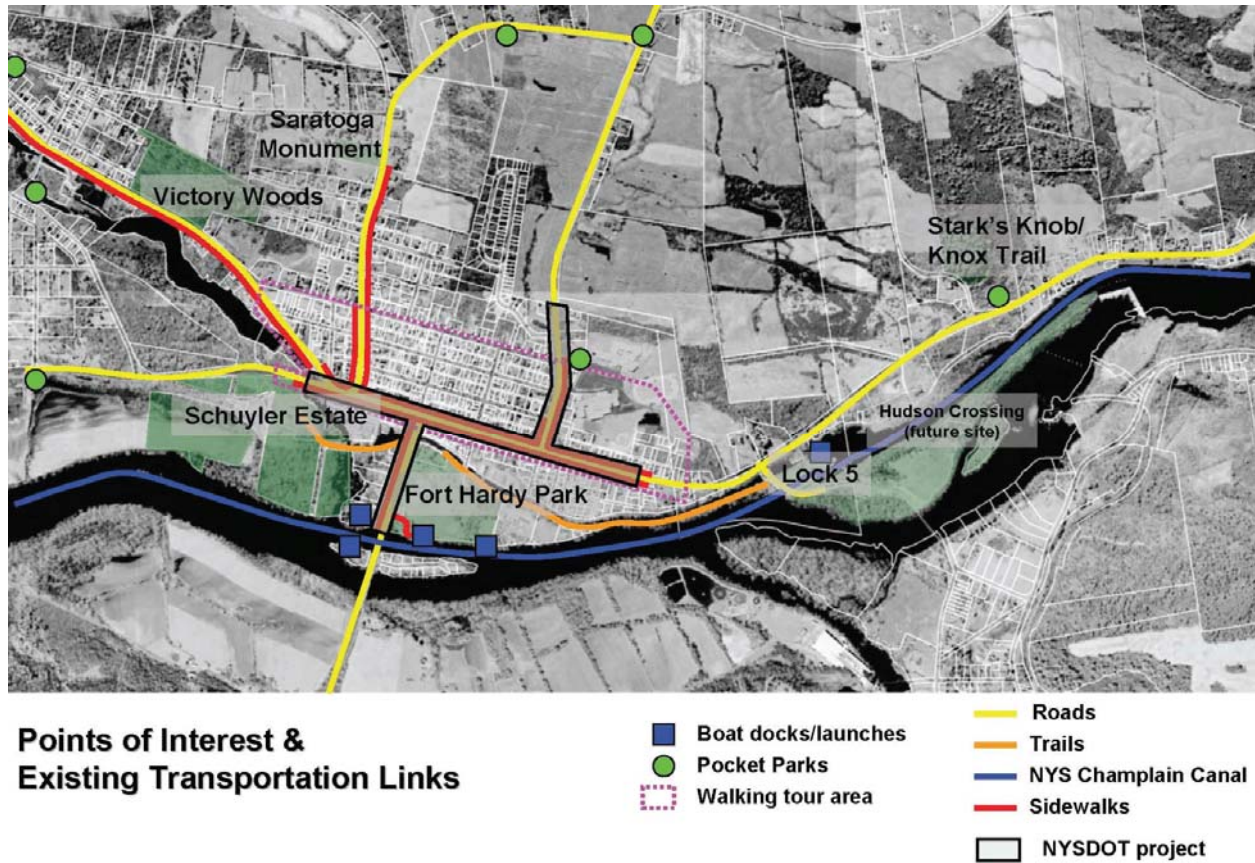
Any proposal for access to the west of the Sword Surrender Site may require a slightly longer-term initiative. Currently there are no pedestrian routes along Schuyler Street, though access could ultimately be achieved by establishing pedestrian connections through the Hamlet of Smithville to existing trails at Fish Creek along Bridge Street, which provides a connection to the Village of Victory and Route 32. Pedestrian links along Schuyler Street to the Village of Victory would in turn facilitate connections to existing sidewalks and footpaths to Victory Woods and Saratoga Monument.

The following image depicts the pedestrian improvements proposed for along Schuyler Street that are adjacent to the site, and through the Hamlet of Smithville leading to the Village of Victory.



In addition to adjacent links to the project site, the diagram below illustrates specific points of interest and existing transportation links within the local communities. The Sword Surrender Site is identified with a green circle located on the far left center of the diagram below illustrates current and proposed pedestrian and vehicular routes.

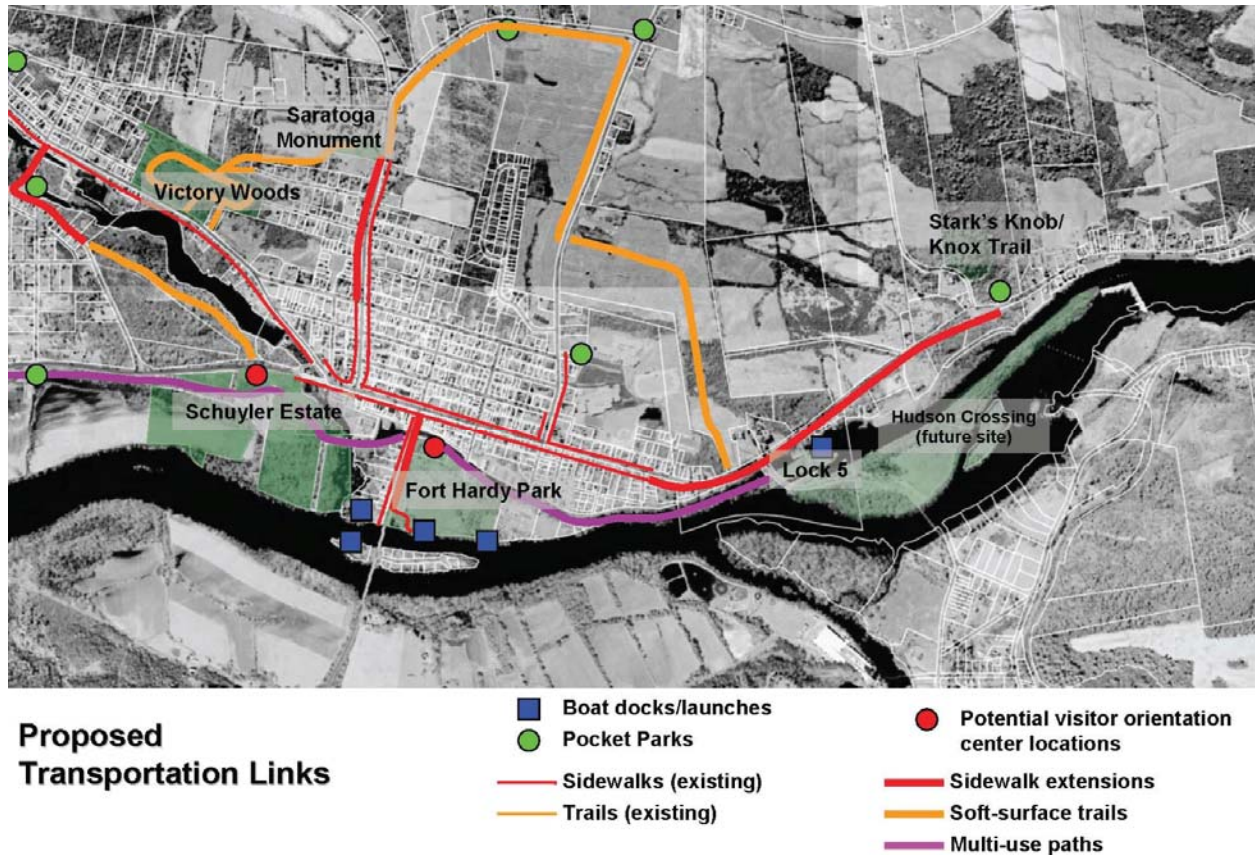
Points of Interest and Existing Transportation Links



Source: National Park Service. *Saratoga National Historical Park Alternative Transportation Study, Phase II*. October 2005.

The following image illustrates proposed transportation links within the local communities. The Sword Surrender Site is identified with a green circle located on the far left center of the diagram.

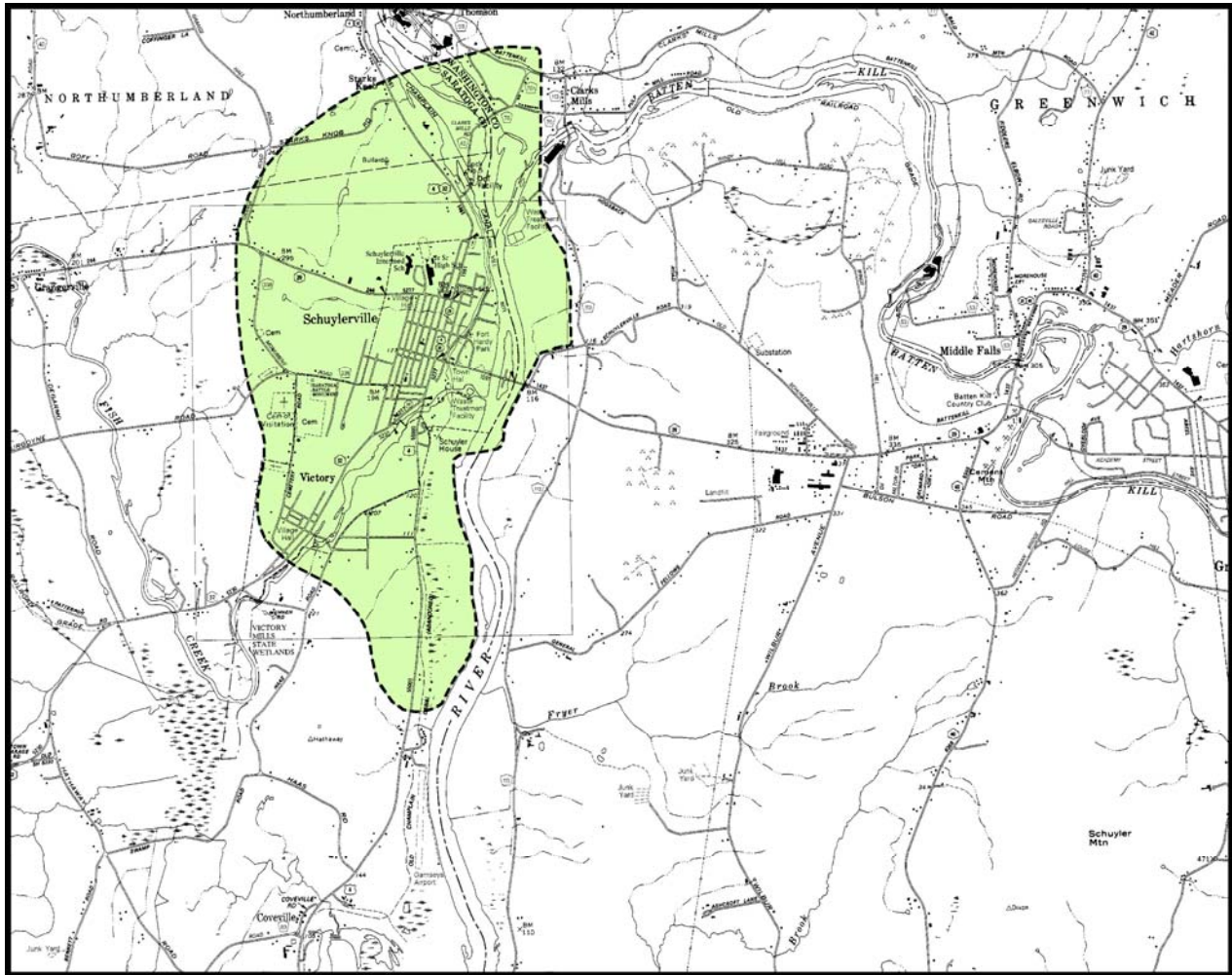
Proposed Transportation Links



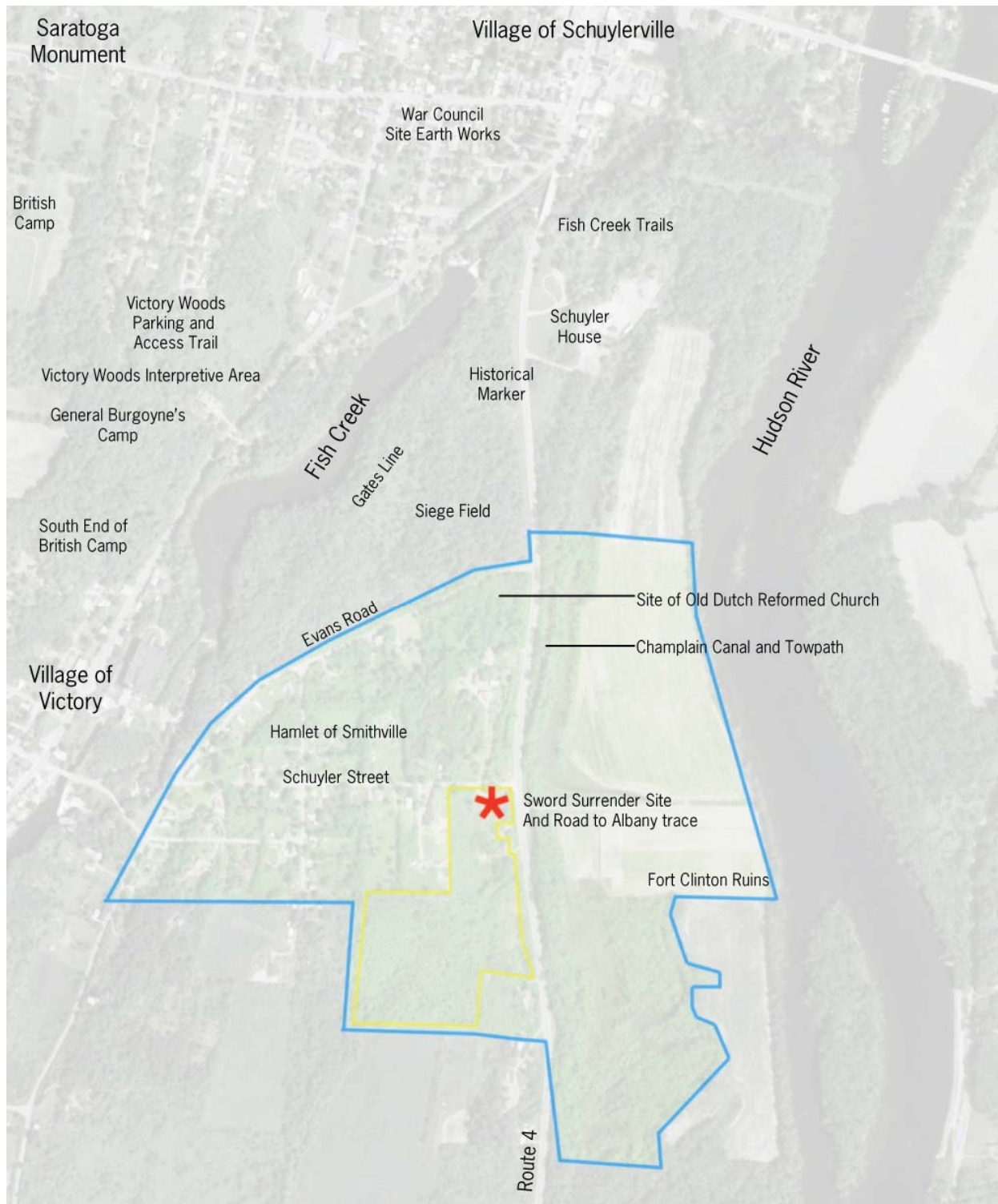
Source: National Park Service. *Saratoga National Historical Park Alternative Transportation Study, Phase II*. October 2005.

The Friends of Saratoga Battlefield (FOSB) have investigated opportunities for future interpretive opportunities within the project setting and have identified an area described as the siegefield where an engagement occurred precipitating General Burgoyne's surrender. The diagram below illustrates the area of the 'Siegefield of Saratoga' and indicates the effective perimeter of American positions surrounding the British Army of General Burgoyne.

The Siegefield of Saratoga

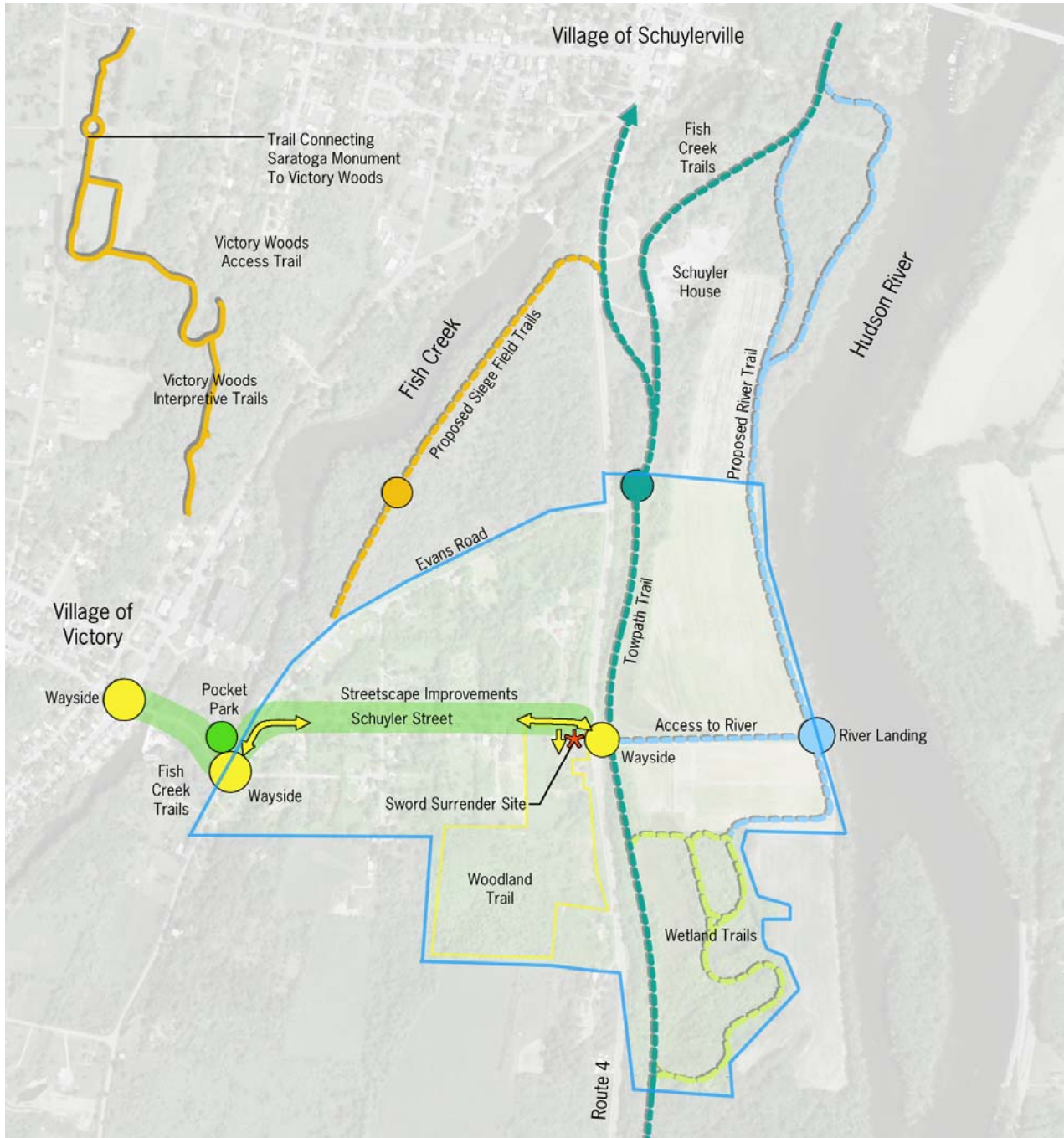


Area Historic and Cultural Sites



Additionally, existing trails and proposed trails are located within and outside of the project site and setting. The diagram below depicts these trails. In general, the only existing trails are located at the Saratoga Monument, Victory Woods, Fish Creek at the intersection of Bridge Street and Fish Creek, and the Schuyler House. The other trails illustrated on the diagram below are in various stages of planning.

Area Trails Map



4.3 VEGETATION

Site Development and Cultural Landscape Treatment Plan Directive:

11. Specific recommendations regarding the removal of successional and ornamental vegetation and the replacement of said vegetation with historic landscaping
13. Specific recommendations for location, scope and scale of interpretive and historic view openings

The Setting should be managed to promote the existing vegetation and land use patterns to protect the authenticity and character of the site as it relates to conditions found during 1777. Although the general vegetation patterns have evolved since 1777, careful review of the period plans presented in the *Cultural Landscape Inventory for Sword Surrender Site and Setting* reveal that the landscape east of U.S. Route 4 has a moderate level of integrity to convey the Post British Surrender at Saratoga and the Rural Economy period of significance of 1778-1877. Accordingly, this agricultural aesthetic and context should be managed and preserved. In contrast, the areas to the west of U.S. Route 4 have changed more dramatically, especially with respect to the development of the Hamlet of Smithville.

The design development drawings in Appendix B include a site clearing plan that serves as a basis for initial rehabilitation and site management guide. The recommendations for vegetation are as follows:

- > Viewshed management is recommended for the east side of U.S. Route 4 in and adjacent to the abandoned Champlain Canal and Towpath. Recommendations outlined in Chapter 3 suggest thinning or removal of vegetation within a limited viewshed of the Sword Surrender Site to promote views of the Hudson River. Any modifications in this location shall be in consultation with the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
- > The northern portion of the floodplain east of U.S. Route 4 should be maintained and utilized for agricultural purposes. The southern portion of the floodplain east of U.S. Route 4 should be maintained as a wooded wetland.
- > Efforts should be undertaken to preserve and protect privately held parcels within the Setting. The inappropriate development of three primary parcels within the Setting could exert an adverse effect on the Sword Surrender Site's viewshed. These parcels include the residential parcels located in the northeast portion of the site (within very close proximity to the proposed memorial), the parcel located in the northwest quadrant of the intersection of U.S. Route 4 and Schuyler Street, and the parcel located along the western property line fronting Schuyler Street. There are a variety of ways to work with these landowners to further protect the views from the Sword Surrender Site that include development and conservation easements, and purchase.

Pending project funding, it is recommended that the rehabilitation of the Sword Surrender Site be undertaken first, with the recommendations articulated in this chapter to follow.

¹ Bricknell, 89.