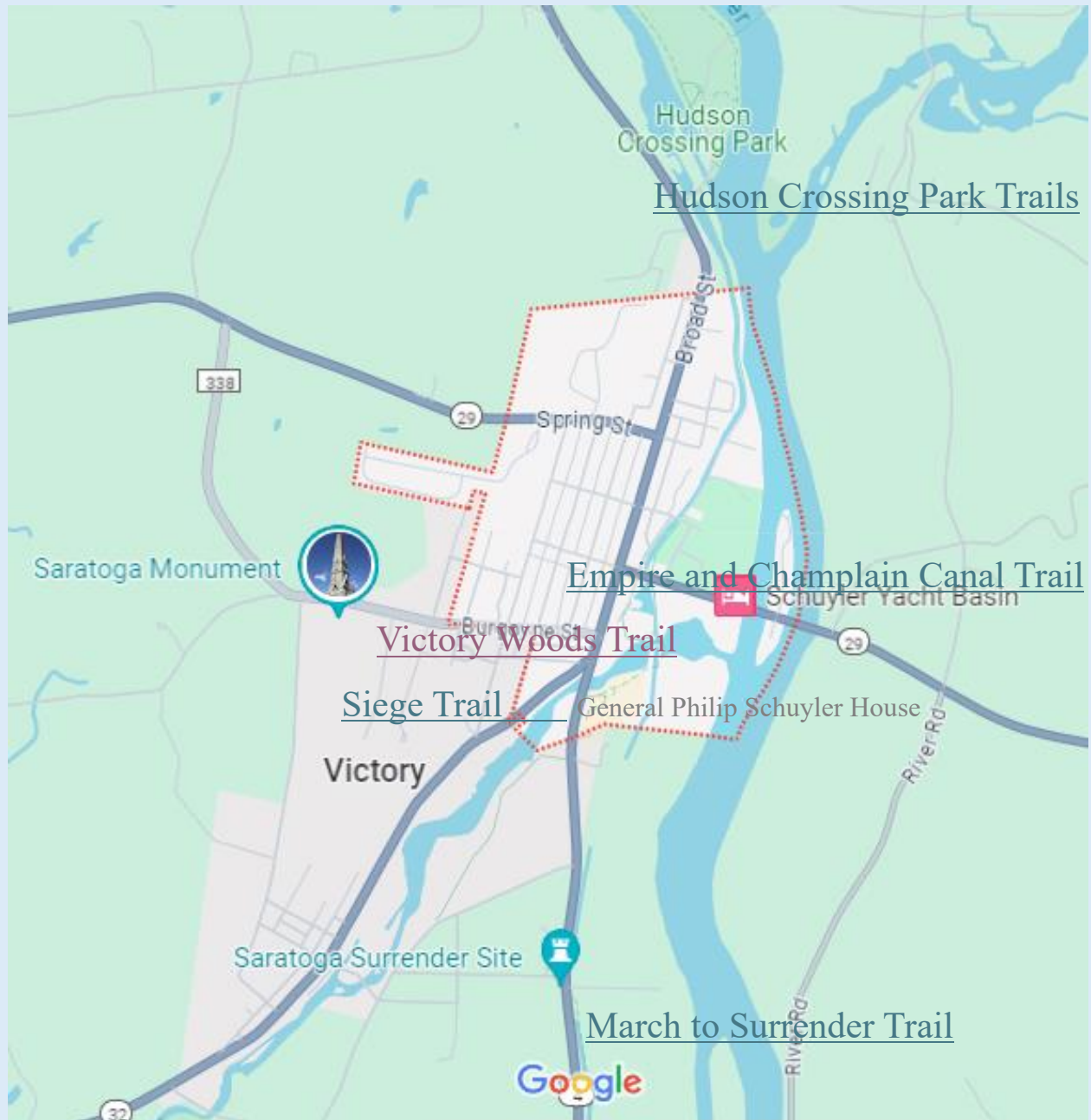


A Walk Through History



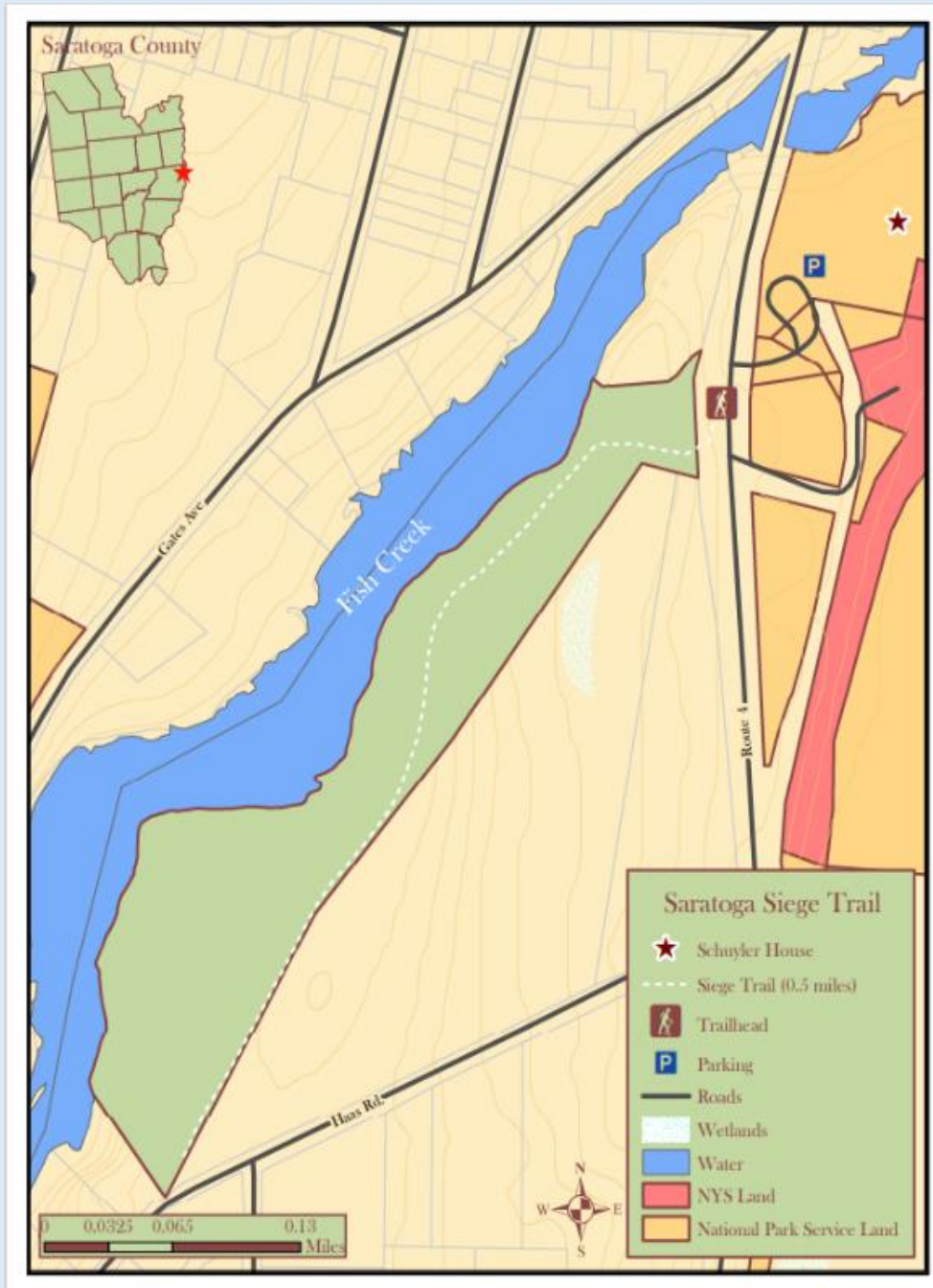
The March to Surrender Trail The Southern Trail head is located just off route 4, on Garnsey Lane, about 5.5 miles north of the Saratoga National Historical Park Entrance. The gravel trail continues north for .8 miles to the Saratoga Surrender Site just south of Schuylerville. This outdoor memorial marks the site of the formal British Surrender after the Battles of Saratoga. British General John Burgoyne presented his sword to the American commander, Horatio Gates, on this hill overlooking the road and the Hudson River.



In 1777, the British planned to crush American resistance in the Revolutionary War by marching an army. Commanded by General John Burgoyne, south from Canada to Albany, NY, sweeping all opposition in their path. They almost succeeded but were stopped in the Battles of Saratoga just 7 miles south of today's Schuylerville. Defeated in battle on October 7, the British began a retreat northward to, hopefully, safety. This portion of the Empire Trail and Champlain Canalway represents the path taken by the retreating British, a path along which they left their mark in 1777 by burning buildings in vengeance of their battlefield defeat. In the end, Burgoyne's Army

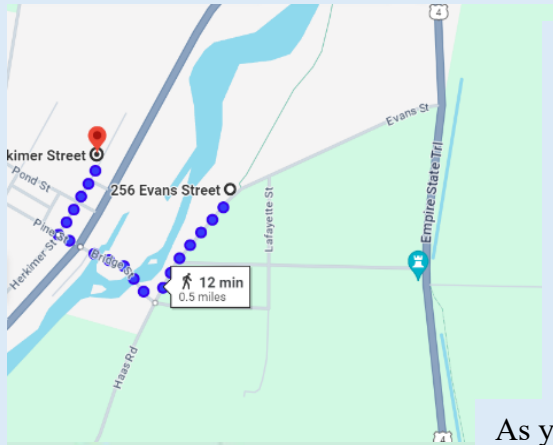
The Saratoga Siege Trail

Continuing north for 6 miles you will find the General Phillip Schuyler House on the east side of the road. Directly across the street, west of the road, is the entrance to The Saratoga Siege Trail.

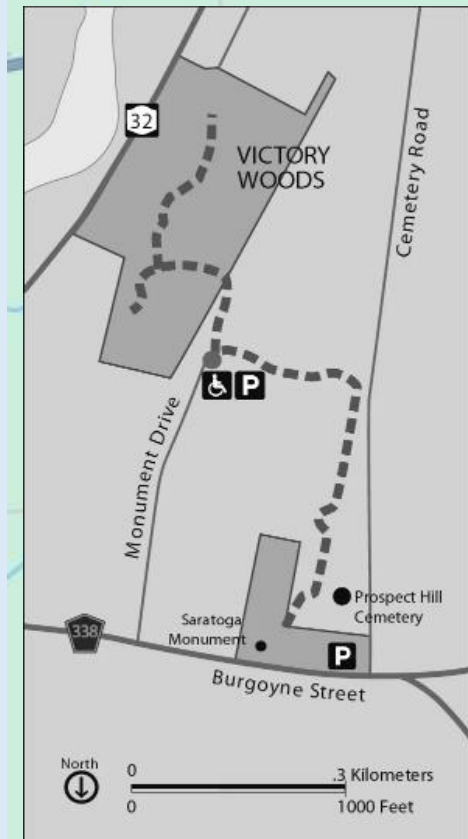


The Saratoga Siege Trail is a flat half mile walking trail which follows along the south side of Fish Creek. As the trail winds through the woods overlooking the creek, one experiences the perspective of American soldiers looking into Burgoyne's camp on the north side. After three days exchanging fire, and with his army increasingly outnumbered, encircled, and running out of supplies, Burgoyne and his officers began serious negotiations with Gates and the Americans. The Convention of Saratoga, the official surrender document, was signed on October 16, followed by the physical surrender ceremonies of men and materiel on the 17th.

Victory Woods Trail



From the Siege Trail, An 11-minute walk, just under a half mile on paved roads, away, is Victory Woods and the other side of the story. Leaving the siege trail, turn right on Evans Street, after just under .2 miles turn right on Bridge Street. After .18 miles turn right on Herkimer Street. Continue .1 miles to Herkimer Street which leads into the southern entrance of Victory Woods Trail.



As you proceed through the trail and onto the boardwalk, you are passing through a portion of the British camp. In 1777, you would have been surrounded by the sights and sounds of a beaten and dejected army awaiting its fate. At the northern entrance of Victory Woods, you can follow a path to the west which will lead you through a portion of St. Mary's Cemetery to the Saratoga Monument, 19th century New Yorkers' proud commemoration of the events that had taken place in their back yards.

The American victory at Saratoga was not an ordinary one. The victory added to the arguments being considered in the French Court during 1777 and ultimately helped convince King Louis XVI to recognize the United States. French support went from secret arms shipments to naval support and an entire French army being sent directly to the new nation to fight alongside the Continental Army. Although the war continued and Independence was not secured until 1783, Saratoga is high on the list of events which secured the independence that had been declared in 1776.



Empire and Champlain Canal Trail

The Empire Trail and the Champlain Canal Trailways merge at the Champlain Canal Region Gateway Visitor's Center on Ferry Street in Schuylerville. This portion of the trail runs parallel to Fort Hardy Park which offers trail users a riverside gazebo and boardwalk, and a shaded picnic area with several tables and grills. The park bathhouse, with men's and women's restrooms, is open 6 am - 7 pm/seven days a week from April to early November. The trail follows The Olde Champlain Canal for approximately half a mile to Lock 5 and into Hudson Crossing Park.



Hudson Crossing Park Trails



Hudson Crossing Park is home to over two miles of nature trails, including a Sensory Trail along the Hudson River as well as trails overlooking historic Champlain Canal Lock 5. A perfect place for all ages to walk, run, or bike, the trails are open from dawn until dusk every day of the year. (Leashed) canine companions are always welcome as well!



In the late 1800's any who wanted to cross the Hudson River near Schuylerville were charged a toll and likely crossed down river near the current Route 29 Bridge or upriver near the current Route 24 Northumberland Bridge. Local residents fought for the right to construct a free bridge using private funds.

Today, standing in the center of the bridge and looking to the north, visitors can see the cuts in the river bank where British General John Burgoyne's troops crossed the Hudson on a bridge constructed of boats tied together.