UNITED STATES DEPARTMEN~~●~~F THE INTERI(
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Bennington Battlefield
AND/OR COMMON

Bennington Battlefield State Park

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

State Route 67
___NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Walloomsac   ___ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

29

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
New York	36	Rennsselaer	83

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
___DISTRICT	X ___PUBLIC	X ___OCCUPIED	X ___AGRICULTURE	___MUSEUM
___BUILDING(S)	X ___PRIVATE	___UNOCCUPIED	___COMMERCIAL	X ___PARK
___STRUCTURE	X ___BOTH	___WORK IN PROGRESS	___EDUCATIONAL	X ___PRIVATE RESIDENCE
X SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	___ENTERTAINMENT	___RELIGIOUS
___OBJECT	___IN PROCESS	X ___YES: RESTRICTED	___GOVERNMENT	___SCIENTIFIC
	___BEING CONSIDERED	___YES: UNRESTRICTED	___INDUSTRIAL	___TRANSPORTATION
		X ___NO	___MILITARY	___OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

New York State and Multiple Private Owners

STREET & NUMBER

Capital District Parks Commission

CITY, TOWN

Albany   ___ VICINITY OF

STATE

New York

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS,ETC.   Rensselaer County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Troy

STATE

New York

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

None

DATE

___FEDERAL ___STATE ___COUNTY ___LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN   STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Battle of Bennington was waged primarily on the north but also on the south bank of the Walloomsac River at the site of one of the bridges which carried the old road to Bennington over the river. The battleground terrain can be roughly described as a flat, oblong floodplain which is enclosed, on the north by a steep row of hills and on the south by a slightly less steep ridge. The British force was positioned before the arrival of the Americans in several widely separated locations. The major detachment occupied a round hilltop directly north of the bridge, while a second body of men fortified the north end of the bridge. A third position was established on the west bank of the small stream which runs into the Walloomsac just east of the main position, and a fourth position was occupied on the northern slope of the ridge to the south of the river. At the time of the battle the terrain was heavily wooded, except for the floodplain, which was under cultivation. The American attack consisted of surrounding the various emplacements and infiltrating as close to the enemy as possible before launching a suprising assault. These tactics produced a complete rout of the British force and sent the survivors fleeing west down the road, away from Bennington. Thus the second British party, which was still proceeding east to Bennington met the pursuing Americans on the Bennington Road, to the west of the first battlefield. The second engagement was fought back and forth on the north bank of the river within a stretch approximately one mile long before the British were again put to rout.

The present condition of the first Bennington engagement is basically unchanged, in that the countryside is still either farm or woodland. However, although the settlement is still relatively sparse, the concentration of buildings, all post-historic, on the present road to Bennington, State Route 67, and on the floodplain, is considerably greater. The farmed land has expanded as well, mainly up the sides of the hills and ridges. The road has been rerouted; the present road remaining constantly on the north bank of the river, while the old road crossed it frequently. The probable site of the disputed bridge is still marked by a modern bridge which carries a secondary road along the probable route of the old road.

The other major intrusion in this vicinity is the railroad bed which also roughly follows the route of the old road. The steep hills on the northern bank of the river are perhaps to the best preserved, the major intrusion being the State park facilities on the top of the hill where the main British position was located. These structures include s picnic shelter, rest stations, parking space, as well as a macadam road which winds from Route 67 up the hkll all the way to the top. The top knoll has several monuments and a bronze relief map of the battle. The view of the countryside from this height shows remarkably few evidences of modern intrusion.

The site of the second engagement is less well preserved as the road has been enlarged, and the roadsides have become well-developed with houses, stores, and industrial plants. Only the northern portion of this elongated battleground can be considered to have retained a sufficient amount of integrity. San Coick Mill, a key landmark of the battle is no longer extant. Its probable site is located on a developed portion of North Hoosick.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW		
__PREHISTORIC	__ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	__COMMUNITY PLANNING	__LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	__RELIGION
__1400-1499	__ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	__CONSERVATION	__LAW	__SCIENCE
__1500-1599	__AGRICULTURE	__ECONOMICS	__LITERATURE	__SCULPTURE
__1600-1699	__ARCHITECTURE	__EDUCATION	X__MILITARY	__SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
X__1700-1799	__ART	__ENGINEERING	__MUSIC	__THEATER
__1800-1899	__COMMERCE	__EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	__PHILOSOPHY	__TRANSPORTATION
__1900-	__COMMUNICATIONS	__INDUSTRY	__POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	__OTHER (SPECIFY)
		__INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES   August 16, 1777   BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The American militia's victory at the Battle of Bennington, August 16, 1777, was a significant contribution to the defeat of Burgoyne's British Army at Saratoga, two months later. The Battle of Bennington cost the British about ten per cent of their entire strength and denied them supplies sorely needed for the offensive down the Hudson River. The British defeat greatly discouraged Burgoyne's uneasy Indian allies and encouraged militia enlistment in the Armerican Army.

General John Burgoyne, camped near Fort Edward, New York, desperately needed supplies and horses for his descent upon Albany. Consequently, a force of some 800 men, mostly Germanmercenaries, was order to seize supplies stored at Bennington, Vermont. Appraised of the enemy raid, General John Stark aroused the countryside and on August 16 the farmers swarmed out to deal the Germans a crushing blow, before they crossed the New York line into Vermont. The day's end found the foraging expedition virtually annihilated and Burgoyne's army in a more dangerous position than before. The shortage of supplies and loss of troops would have a telling effect in the campaign around Saratoga.

The 208-acre Bennington Battlefield Park includes the center of heaviest fighting on the high ground overlooking the little village of Walloomsac and affords a wide view of the battle terrain. The Park is administered by the New York State Education Department, Albany, N.Y.

History:

The Battle of Bennington, fought on August 16, 1777, was an advantageous victory for the colonial army. General John Burgoyne of the British armed forces camped near Fort Edward, New York, desperately needed supplies and horses for his descent upon Albany. Consequently, a force of some eight hundred men, mostly German mercenaries, was ordered to seize supplies stored at Bennington, Vermont. General Burgoyne's decision was based on a number of false assumptions. He was misled by assurances of local Tory support and strength and had no respect for the colonial army, unlike two of his fellow officers who had actually fought against them.

The foraging unit, led by Lieutenant-Colonel Friedrich Baum of the Brunswick dragoons, set out from camp for Bennington on August 11th, inspired by Burgoyne's optimism. The heavily loaded German troops, slow moving under optimum conditions plodded on towards Bennington. Appraised of the enemy raid, General John Stark of the New Hampshire militia aroused the countryside. On August 14th, Baum sighted Stark's

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Edward J. Lowell, The Hessian and Other German Auxiliaries of Great Britain in the Revolutionary War (New York, 1884). Howard P. Moore, The Life of General John Stark (New York, 1949). Hoffman Nickerson, The Turning Point of the Revolution (Boston, 1928). Charles E. Shedd, "Bennington Battlefield," National Survey of Historic Sites and Building form 10-317, 8/1/60.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY ___1250___ acres___

UTM REFERENCES

A |1,8| |6,3,9,4,6,0| |4,7,5,5,5,0,0|
ZONE EASTING   NORTHING

B |1,8| |6,3,8,6,0| |4,7,5,4,3,0|
ZONE EASTING   NORTHING

C |1,8| |6,3,8,0,0,0| |4,7,5,3,2,9,0|

D |1,8| |6,3,6,3,0,0| |4,7,5,3,9,1,0|

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See Continuation sheet

E 18 637780.4756040
F 18 638340.4756040

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE
Richard Greenwood, Historian, Landmark Review Task Force

ORGANIZATION
Historic Sites Survey

DATE
11/24/75

STREET & NUMBER
1100 L Street, NW

TELEPHONE
523-5464

CITY OR TOWN
Washington

STATE
DC

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL ___   STATE ___

Landmark
Designated: NATIONAL JAN 20 196_
date
Boundary Certified:

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE   DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 11/24/78

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST: DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

(NATIONAL HISTORIC
LANDMARKS)

Form No. 10-300a
(Rev. 10-74)

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CONTINUATION SHEET History   ITEM NUMBER 8   PAGE 1

forces at San Coick Mill and pursued them to within four miles of Bennington. Baum took up position on a small hill overlooking the Walloomsac River and dispersed his troops to hold the bridge which carried the road across the river to Bennington. Baum was outnumbered two to one but expected reinforcements led by Breymann to arrive. He was still contemptuous of the American troops, thinking that they would retreat before him. Rain staved off the battle, demoralizing and discomforting the troops on both sides. Had it continued, the American forces would not have been so fortunate, for while it hindered the arrival of the German refinforcements, it di not halt them. Although the odds were in the colonial's favor, the rain prevented them from taking advantage of the situation. By noon of the 16th, the weather cleared and Stark set his plans in motion. The battle itself was won by a fortuitous blend of British errors and Colonial sagacity in capitalizing on them. In the first engagement, before either side had received its reinforcements, Baum obstinately retained his troops in their dispersed and unstrategic position, making communication impossible. The colonial plan, devised by Stark and Seth Warner who had arrived in advance of his troops, took advantage of this error. They intended to surround Baum, enveloping both flanks. Men infiltrated the German ranks, posing as Tory sympathizers and duped Baum by counting on his naive belief of non-existant Tory support. Attacked on all sides, Baum's clusters of troops were swiftly routed and Baum himself mortally wounded. The first engagement was a distinct American victory.

The colonial troops had suffered few loses but were greatly dispersed, looting, guarding prisoners and pursuing the retreating survivors. At this point, Breymann's reinforce-ments, ingorant of Baum's disaster, were reported to be approaching the scene. Timely help from colonial reinforcements, Seth Warner's Green Mountain Rangers, threw back the relief column saving Stark's victory of the first engagement from reversal. The mock Tory ploy, so successful with Baum proved useful again with Breymann. The day's end found the British foraging force virtually annihilated and Burgoyne's army in a more dangerous position than before. The shortage of supplies and loss of troops (approxi-mately 10% of the entire army) would have a telling effect in the Saratoga Campaign which shortly followed. The British defeat greatly discouraged Burgoyne's uneasy Indian allies and was a great psychological victory for the colonial army as well, encouraging militia enlistment in the Armerican army.

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CONTINUATION SHEET   Verbal Boundary
Description   ITEM NUMBER   10   PAGE 1

Beginning at Point X on the UsGS map, Hoosick FallsQuadrant, which
is the intersection of the 700' contour linewith the southern curb
of the secondary road, proceed north along sáid curb 3400', more or
less, to a point; thence due east approximately 1000' to the east
bank of the stream; thence south along said stream to its intersec-
tion with the 600' contour line; thence east along said line 4300',
more or less, to a point; thence southeast 3000', more or less, to the
600' contour line; thence southwest along said line 4000', more or
less, to its intersection withthe east curb of the secondary road;
thencesouthwest along said curb 4000', more or less, to a point; thence
northwest 4000', more or less,to the 700' contour line; thence south-
west and northeast along said contour line to the point of origin.

Theses boundaries enclose salient physical features and the major
troop positions of the Battle of Bennington. None of the enclosed
structures contribute to the national significance of the landmark.