

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

| | |
|------------------|------------|
| STATE: | New York |
| COUNTY: | Montgomery |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY | |
| ENTRY NUMBER | DATE |

1. NAME

COMMON: Fort Klock

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
On the south side of State Route 5, two miles east of St. Johnsville

CITY OR TOWN:
St. Johnsville

STATE: New York CODE: COUNTY: Montgomery CODE:

3. CLASSIFICATION

| CATEGORY (Check One) | OWNERSHIP | STATUS | ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC |
|---|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object | <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both | Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress |
| PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate) | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment | <input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum | <input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____ <input type="checkbox"/> _____ <input type="checkbox"/> _____ | | | |

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Fort Klock Committee

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: St. Johnsville STATE: New York CODE:

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Fonda STATE: New York CODE:

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Historic American Buildings Survey (17 photos)

DATE OF SURVEY: 1936, 1940 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Division of Prints and Photographs, Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE: D.C. CODE:

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7. DESCRIPTION

| | | | | | | |
|-----------|---|--|--------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| CONDITION | (Check One) | | | | | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good | <input type="checkbox"/> Fair | <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated | <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins | <input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed |
| | (Check One) | | | (Check One) | | |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered | <input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered | <input type="checkbox"/> Moved | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site | | |

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Fort Klock, built in 1750, is located on the side of a hill about 200 feet from the edge of the north bank of the Mohawk River. The one-story L-shaped stone structure stands over an elevated basement on the south or river front and has a gable roof with center chimney; the rear ell, also covered with a gable roof, has an end chimney. The fieldstone walls are two feet thick and are pierced on all sides with loop holes for muskets. The main house is about 38 feet or three-bays wide and 24 feet deep and the rear ell, located at the northwest corner, is about 22 feet square. The two flanking windows and center door in the river facade have segmental arches; windows in the other elevations have flat stone lintels and sills. A reconstructed wood porch or stoop leads up to the riverside center door and the brick portions of the two chimneys have also been rebuilt.

The main house contains two rooms with plaster walls, each with a fireplace on the first floor. The bedrooms are in the loft above and also in the attic over the kitchen in the rear ell. A cellar door in the east side wall opens into a stone walled chamber without windows and with a stone-paved floor. This cellar under the main house is partitioned into two nearly equal rooms by a heavy north-south stone wall. The corner of the west room contains a pool fed by a spring and second cellar door, located in the southwest corner, leads from the western room to the outside on the south or river facade. Huge floor timbers are visible overhead from the basement rooms.

The interior of the house had been somewhat altered over the years but the structure is largely original. Fort Klock was restored by the Fort Klock Restoration Committee in the 1960's. In good condition, the fortified house is open to visitors during the summer season.

There are no remains left of the log stockade that surrounded the stone house during the War for Independence. Fort Klock is located in a rural setting.

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SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1750, 1775-83

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | <u>Fur Trade</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Fort Klock, built in 1750, is a rare and excellent architectural example of a mid-18th century fur trading post and also of a fortified stone house that was used as a place of refuge by settlers of the Mohawk Valley during the War for Independence. In the field and forest adjacent to this house was also fought the Battle of Klock's Field, October 19, 1780, between Sir John Johnson's and Joseph Brant's and the pursuing American militia.

The little-altered house is open to visitors as a museum during the summer months.

History

Located on the north bank of the Mohawk River about 1-1/2 miles west of the mouth of Caroga Creek and Fox's Mills, Fort Klock was erected by Johannes Klock in 1750 as a fortified frontier residence and fur trading post. This stone house replaced his earlier dwelling on the same site. The massive stone walls, resting on a foundation of solid rock, enclosed in the cellar a living spring of water. Klock was engaged in the Mohawk Valley fur trade and his house was a center of this business.

In 1776, as the danger of Indian and Tory raids from Canada increased, Captain Jacob Klock surrounded his stone house with a log stockade to further insure the safety of his family and their neighbors would also flock to this stronghold when attack was threatened. Fort Klock is a very fine surviving type example of the 24 houses and sites that fortified to protect settlers of the Mohawk Valley during the War for Independence. Klock fought as a member of the Tyron County militia at the Battle of Oriskany, August 6, 1777.

Bands of Iroquois warriors and Tories destroyed houses, barns, and crops in the vicinity of Fort Klock and nearby Fort Plain (located 3-1/3 miles to the southeast) on April 18, 1779, August 2, 1780, and

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9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

New York, A Guide to the Empire State (American Guide Series) (New York, 1956), 462.
Russell D. Bailey and Associates, A Report on Historic Sites and Buildings in the Hudson River Valley (Prepared for the Hudson River Valley Commission, Utica, N.Y., 1967), 91-91a.
Christopher Ward, The War of the Revolution (2 vols., New York, 1952), II, 633-637, 646-650.
Thomas T. Waterman, The Dwellings of Colonial America (Chapel Hill, 1950), 211.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

| LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY | | | O R | LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES | | |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------|---|-----------|---------|
| CORNER | LATITUDE | LONGITUDE | | LATITUDE | LONGITUDE | |
| | Degrees Minutes Seconds | Degrees Minutes Seconds | | Degrees | Minutes | Seconds |
| NW | ° ' " | ° ' " | | ° | ' | " |
| NE | ° ' " | ° ' " | | 42 | 59 | 06 |
| SE | ° ' " | ° ' " | | 74 | 39 | 01 |
| SW | ° ' " | ° ' " | | | | |

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: _____

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

| | | | |
|--------|------|---------|------|
| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY: | CODE |
| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY: | CODE |
| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY: | CODE |

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Charles W. Snell, Survey Historian

ORGANIZATION **Division of History, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation, National Park Service** DATE **6/22/72**

STREET AND NUMBER: _____

CITY OR TOWN: **Washington** STATE **D.C.** CODE _____

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name _____

Title _____

Date _____

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

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8. Significance - continued

October 18-19, 1780. This third attack resulted in the Battle of Klock's Field, which was fought near the fortified stone house.

In September 1780, Sir John Johnson, leading three companies of his Loyalist "Greens," a company of British regulars, a company of Hessian jagers or riflemen, and 200 of Colonel John Butler's Rangers, and carrying two mortars and a swivel gun on the backs of pack horses, ascended the St. Lawrence River to Lakes Ontario and Oswego and then marched across country to Unadilla on the Susquehanna River. Here he was joined by Joseph Brant, feared Mohawk chief, and Corn Planter, a noted Seneca chief, with a large number of Iroquois warriors. Their combined force has been estimated at from 800 to 1,500 men. On October 17 Brant and Johnson struck the Middle and Lower Forts in the Schoharie Valley, burning houses, barns, and crops in the vicinity of these forts and along the route of their march. They continued north up the Schoharie Creek and reached Fort Hunter on the Mohawk River on October 18. Here they turned westward and marched along the river, burning as they proceeded. That evening they camped at Anthony's Nose on the north side of the river; the same evening from 700 to 900 American militia, led by General Robert Van Rensselaer reached the still-blazing settlement of Caughnawaga, about six miles past Johnson's camp, after having made a forced march of some 30 miles from Schenectady. On the morning of October 19, Johnson reached the vicinity of Fort Plain, 21 miles west of Fort Hunter. At Fort Keyser, about one mile south of the settlement of Stone Arabia, 130 American militiamen under Colonel John Brown, detached from Fort Paris, attacked the raiders. Brown and 40 of his men were killed and the remainder were forced to flee for their lives. Johnson then dispersed his men into small bands to range five or six miles on either side of the river to pillage the country. He proceeded to Stone Arabia and put it to the torch and from here marched westward 3-3/4 miles to Klock's Field, in the vicinity of Fort Klock, where he halted to rest and to reassemble his men.

Van Rensselaer had resumed the pursuit, marching along the south bank of the Mohawk, but he had difficulty in finding an unguarded ford. Finally he crossed the river at Fort Plain and about sunset on the 19th came up with Johnson's force at Klock's Field. Johnson drew his men up in line of battle behind a hastily contrived breastwork on a small plain partially guarded on his right (south) by a bend in the river. The British regulars, the "Greens," and the Rangers held the right and center, while Brant's warriors, supported by the Hessian riflemen, were concealed on the left in a growth of shrub oaks. Colonel Morgan Lewis led the American advance, Colonel Dubois commanded the right wing, and on the left was Colonel Cuyler of Albany. Supporting the right were 60 Oneida

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8. Significance - continued

warriors led by Colonel Louis Atyataronghta, their chief, and a band of American scouts under Captain Robert McKean.

The entire American line advanced impetuously and as they charged Brant raised the war-whoop. There was a brief but spirited encounter, when the British, Tories, and Indians gave way. Brant was wounded in the heel, but escaped and the raiders were also able to carry off their wounded. American troops are said to have wished to pursue the enemy, but as it was twilight, Van Rensselaer ordered a halt and had his men fall back a mile and a half to the east. Here, at the Stone Palatine Church at Fox's Mills, he had his men camp for the night in a strongly defensible position.

On the morning of October 20, Governor George Clinton of New York arrived at Van Rensselaer's camp with a force of militia, after having marched his men 50 miles in 24 hours. Van Rensselaer pursued the enemy as far west as Fort Herkimer at German Flatts (22 miles) but was unable to overtake them. Governor Clinton estimated that Johnson and Brant had burned "200 dwellings and 150,000 bushels of wheat, with a proportion of other grain and forage" on this sweep through the Mohawk Valley.

The Fort Klock Restoration Committee acquired 10 acres of land and restored Fort Klock in the 1960's. They have also restored an adjacent blacksmith shop, and a school house. The fortified house and other buildings are open to visitors during the summer season.

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9. Major bibliographical References - continued

John J. Vrooman, Forts and Firesides of the Mohawk County, New York
(Johnstown, N.Y., 1951), 159-162.

T. Wood Clark, The Bloody Mohawk (New York, 1940), 203.

Benson J. Lossing, The Pictorial Field-Book of the Revolution (2 vols.,
New York, 1860), I. 279-283.

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Boundaries for Fort Klock Historic Site:

Approximately 10 acres of land, including Fort Klock, beginning at the northeast corner on the southern edge of State Road 5 at latitude $42^{\circ} 59' 11''$ - longitude $74^{\circ} 39' 00''$, then going southeast along the southern edge of the State Road about 850 feet to the southeast corner at latitude $42^{\circ} 59' 02''$ - longitude $74^{\circ} 38' 52''$, hence proceeding southwest about 750 feet to a point on the southern edge of the New York Central Railroad tracks at latitude $42^{\circ} 59' 02''$ - longitude $74^{\circ} 39' 00''$, then continuing northwest about 850 feet along the southern edge of said tracks to a point at the southwest corner at latitude $42^{\circ} 59' 08''$ - longitude $74^{\circ} 39' 06''$, hence going northeast for about 700 feet to the point of beginning, the northeast corner.

Precise boundaries, as described above, are on record on a copy of U.S. Geological Survey Map: Fort Plain Quadrangle, New York, 1944, 7.5 Minute Series, on file with the Historic Sites Survey, Division of History, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation, National Park Service.