

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC Stony Point Battlefield

AND/OR COMMON

Stony Point Battlefield Reservation

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER the intersection of U.S. 9W and 202

CITY, TOWN

Stony Point

VICINITY OF

---NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

26th

STATE

New York

CODE

36

COUNTY

Rockland

CODE

87

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY --Continued

NAME State of New York, Palisades Interstate Park Commission

STREET & NUMBER

Bear Mountain State Park

CITY, TOWN

Bear Mountain

VICINITY OF

STATE

New York

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, Registry of Deeds, ETC. Rockland County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

New City

STATE

New York

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE None

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Stony Point is a roughly triangular promontory roughly 150' high which juts into the Hudson River across the river and just below Peekskill, New York. This steep and rocky hill was at the time of the battle, surrounded by water on all sides but the west, where a swampy area all but severed the Point from dry land. The swamp to the west has been drained largely, with only a shallow ravine and a small pond, stream, and marshy area to the southwest indicating the former condition. The British positions on the Point consisted of an abatis which stretched across the promontory just east of where the railroad track is now laid, three redoubts to the west of this, another abatis to the east of which were six additional redoubts arranged circularly around the partially completed main fort, an irregular starshaped earthwork. Following the battle, these works were destroyed.

The condition of Stony Point today is relatively unchanged from that of two hundred years ago. A state park occupies the fortified portion of the Point, and the general outlines of the redoubts and the fort can be partially traced by the contours in the ground. A lighthouse maintained by the Coast Guard, occupies the eastern tip of the Point, and an historical museum is located between the sites of the first and second abatis. Pathways have been laid throughout the park, and various stone seats and a small pavilion have been erected as well. There is a latrine and a caretaker's house located within the park as well. There are markers indicating the sites of the redoubts and the points of the American assault. Aside from the summit of Stony Point, the sides of the hill are thickly overgrown with trees and underbrush. The view from the Point surveys the several industrial developments along the banks of the Hudson.

To the west of the park, the Penn Central right-of-way runs the width of the Point and to the west of it, are four private houses, all of which postdate the battle. A dirt road leading off the main road to the park appears to follow the route of the historic causeway. The rest of the western portion of the Point is heavily wooded. It is likely that this area had been cleared by the British at the time of the battle. The location of the present bridge over the swamp closely approximates that of the "mud bridge" at the time of the battle.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES July 16, 1779

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Battle of Stony Point, July 16, 1779, was the last military action of any consequence in the northern theater of war during the American Revolution. Although the battle has been dismissed by some historians as having significance only as a morale builder for the patriots and as demonstration of the developing skill of the American Army, it did have more important consequences. A recent study has noted that "The assault paralyzed Clinton (the British Commander). When his reinforcements failed to show up, he dared not, after his loss in men in Connecticut and at the Point (Stony Point), make an offensive move" ¹ By the action at Stony Point, Gen. George Washington asserted his grip on the Hudson and especially on West Point, "the key to the Continent."

Stony Point Battlefield is preserved partially in a 45-acre State reservation. There are extensive earthwork remains, and historical markers trace the course of the American assault up the steep slopes into the fort. A small museum administered by the Palisades Interstate Park Commission contains relics of the battle and tells the story of the action. This property, owned by the State of New York, is located just east of State Route 9W, at Stony Point, New York. The rest of the battlefield is in private ownership.

HISTORY

The Battle of Stony Point came after a long period of stalemate in the north following the Battle of Mowmouth in June, 1778. At the beginning of June, 1779, the British had taken without opposition the unfinished American fort at Stony Point, a few miles below West Point. Verplanck's Point on the east side of the river opposite Stony Point was captured at the same time. Stony Point was a steep promontory jutting a half mile into the Hudson and rising 150 feet above the water which all but surrounded it. Having secured this strong position, Clinton pushed the fortifications to completion and manned them with a garrison of some 600 men. Gen. George Washington was greatly concerned over the loss of the two American strong points on either side of the river, between which a key ferry had been

¹ George Scheer and Hugh Rankin, Rebels and Redcoats (Cleveland, 1957) p. 364.

(Continued)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Henry P. Johnston, The Storming of Stony Point (New York, 1900).
 George F. Scheer and Hugh Rankin, Rebels and Redcoats (Cleveland, 1957).
 Charles Shedd, "Stony Point Battlefield," National Survey of Historic Sites
 and Buildings form 10-317, 7/15/60.
 Christopher Ward, The War of the Revolution 2 vols. (New York, 1952) vol. 2.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 137 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 8	5 8 7 0 0 0	4 5 6 6 4 1 0	B	1 8	5 8 7 0 0 0	4 5 6 5 4 7 0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	1 8	5 8 5 0 0 0	4 5 6 5 4 7 0	D	1 8	5 8 5 0 0 0	4 5 6 6 4 2 0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

(See Continuation Sheet)

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, National Park Service

DATE

12/12/75

STREET & NUMBER

1100 L Street NW.

TELEPHONE

202-523-5464

CITY OR TOWN

Washington

STATE

D.C. 20240

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE

Designated: JAN 20 1968

Boundary Certified: [Signature]

DATE: Jan 21 1979

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

4/24/79

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

(NATIONAL HISTORIC

LANDMARKS)

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Stony Point Battlefield

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 4

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OWNER OF PROPERTY: The United States Coast Guard,
Department of Transportation,
Washington, D.C., and Multiple
Private owners, Stony Point, New York

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busily conveying supplies between New England and the Middle Atlantic colonies. After a careful reconnaissance of the fort, he ordered General "Mad Anthony" Wayne to regain Stony Point with the newly-formed Light Infantry.

On July 15th, Wayne set out from his camp at Fort Montgomery through the Highlands towards Stony Point. He had under his command 1,350 troops. Just before midnight, Wayne launched his silent assault on the Point. The corps was divided into two columns, one of which under Wayne, stormed the promontory on the rugged slope on the south and the other which under Colonel Richard Butler, scaled the equally difficult slope on the north. These two columns withheld their charge until a body of men under Major Murfrees made a diversionary attack upon the main causeway on the eastern side of the Point. While the diversionary force maintained a distracting fire, the two main columns launched their assault with their muskets unloaded and their bayonets fixed. Within twenty minutes the fort had been secured and its garrison made prisoner. The British lost sixty-three men, while fifteen Americans were killed and eighty-four were wounded, including Wayne, who received a scalp wound.

Following the capture of the stronghold, Washington concluded that the post could not be held and so ordered the fortifications dismantled and removed. The British reoccupied Stony Point on the 19th and rebuilt fortifications, but due to a lack of troops, abandoned it in late September of the same year.

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The Stony Point landmark consists of the body of land which was located east of the stream and swamp at the time of the battle. Beginning at the junction of the northern bank of the small stream directly south of the state park, and the western bank of the Hudson, proceed generally east and northwest along the bank of the Hudson for 5400', thence west in a straight line to the 20' contour, thence west and south along said contour to its southernmost point, (for approximately 1600') thence proceed south in a straight line to the northern curb of the unimproved dirt road thence south along said curb to its intersection with the northern curb of the road to the state park, thence south in a straight line to the 10' contour, thence east along said contour to its intersection with the Penn Central right-of-way, thence southeast in a straight line to the north bank of the stream directly south of the state park, and east along said bank to the point of origin. These boundaries enclose the scene of the battle, including the British fortifications and the slopes west of the first abatis over which the American assault was launched. The four private homes, the Penn Central railroad, the state park facilities and the lighthouse and light do not contribute to the national significance of the landmark.