UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
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
Bennington Battlefield
AND/ OR COMMON
Bennington Battlefield State Park

2 LOCATION
STREET & NUMBER
State Route 67
CITY, TOWN
Walloomsac
STATE
New York

3 CLASSIFICATION
CATEGORY
— DISTRICT
— BUILDING(S)
— STRUCTURE
X SITE
— OBJECT

OWNERSHIP
X PUBLIC
X PRIVATE
X BOTH

STATUS
X OCCUPIED
UNOCCUPIED
WORK IN PROGRESS
ACCESSIBLE
YES: RESTRICTED
YES: UNRESTRICTED
NO

PRESENT USE
X AGRICULTURE
COMMERCIAL
PRIVATE RESIDENCE
EDUCATIONAL
PRIVATE RESIDENCE
ENTERTAINMENT
GOVERNMENT
INDUSTRIAL
TRANSPORTATION
MILITARY
PRIVATE RESIDENCE
OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY
NAME
New York State and Multiple Private Owners
STREET & NUMBER
Capital District Parks Commission
CITY, TOWN
Albany
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

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
CITY, TOWN
STATE
### DESCRIPTION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CONDITION</th>
<th>CHECK ONE</th>
<th>CHECK ONE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>EXCELLENT</strong></td>
<td><strong>UNALTERED</strong></td>
<td><strong>MOVED</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>GOOD</strong></td>
<td><strong>ALTERED</strong></td>
<td><strong>DATE</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>FAIR</strong></td>
<td><strong>RUINS</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>DETERIORATED</strong></td>
<td><strong>UNEXPOSED</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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 surprising 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 a picnic shelter, rest stations, parking space, as well as a macadam road which winds from Route 67 up the hill 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.
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 American 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 German mercenaries, was ordered 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.
MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES


GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1250 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A 1.8 16 7 3 4 47 5 3.0 0
ZONE EASTING NORTHING
C 1.8 16 3 6 2 47 5 329 0

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See continuation sheet

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

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

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

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY

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

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE
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 reinforcements, it did 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 naïve belief of non-existent 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 reinforcements, ignorant 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 (approximately 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 American army.
Beginning at Point X on the Usgs map, Hoosick Falls Quadrant, which is the intersection of the 700' contour line with the southern curb of the secondary road, proceed north along said 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 intersection 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 with the east curb of the secondary road; thence southwest along said curb 4000', more or less, to a point; thence northwest 4000', more or less, to the 700' contour line; thence southwest and northeast along said contour line to the point of origin.

These 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.