

**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 Johnson

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Fort Johnson

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
State Route 5

CITY OR TOWN:
Fort Johnson Village

STATE: **New York** CODE: COUNTY: **Montgomery** CODE: **057**

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"/> Both	<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) _____ _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: **Mrs. Richard Evans, President, The Montgomery County Historical Society, 6066 South Williams, Johnstown, New York**

STREET AND NUMBER: _____

CITY OR TOWN: **Fort Johnson** STATE: **New York** CODE: **12070**

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 (7 sheets and 12 photos)

DATE OF SURVEY: **1937, 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: _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:

COUNTY:

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

122

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

 Excellent
 Good
 Fair
 Deteriorated
 Ruins
 Unexposed

(Check One)

 Altered
 Unaltered

(Check One)

 Moved
 Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Built by Sir William Johnson in 1748-49, Fort Johnson is a large two-story mansion in the Early Georgian style with a hipped roof with three staggered dormers. There is a tall chimney at either end, set in the end walls near the front corners, and two more tall chimneys located in the rear (north) wall and situated near the rear corners. The house is 60 feet wide and 32 feet deep. The thick walls are of fieldstone; first-story windows have solid panelled exterior shutters and all windows are protected by interior folding shutters. The south, river, or front elevation is five-bays wide and its center door is sheltered by an excellent 18th century Roman Doric portico.

Built on the center hall plan, the central stair hall runs through the house to the rear entrance and divides the four rooms on the first floor into pairs. To the right (east) of the hall is a large dining room and in the rear, a narrow serving room. To the left of the hall is a large parlor, with a narrow office behind. The two large front rooms have fully panelled walls. The panelling and all the mantels but one are original. Glass and hardware are also largely original. The kitchen is located in the basement, under the eastern portion of the mansion.

Upstairs there are a center hall and four bedrooms. The southwest (front) bedroom has fully panelled walls; the fireplace wall in the southeast (front) chamber is fully panelled and its other walls ^{have} a dado around them.

The little-altered mansion is furnished with period furniture and also contains exhibits relating to the Indians of the region. The house passed through many owners but was purchased and presented in the 1920's to the Montgomery County Historical Society by John Watts DePeyster. Fort Johnson is open to visitors.

During the French and Indian War the mansion was surrounded by a log stockade, hence receiving its name as "Fort Johnson."

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

126

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian | 16th Century | 18th Century | 20th Century
 15th Century | 17th Century | 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

1749-1783

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Built in 1748-49, this was the fortified home of Sir William Johnson during the French and Indian War. While residing here he won his baronacy and was appointed Superintendent of Indian Affairs of all the British colonies in North America and here he held numerous councils with the Indians. After moving to his new house, "Johnson Hall" in 1762, Fort Johnson was the home, from 1762 to 1774, of Sir William's son, Sir John Johnston, -Loyalist, soldier, and noted partisan leader during the War for Independence. A fine early Georgian mansion, Fort Johnson is an original and very slightly altered structure.

History

Sir John Johnson was born in 1742 in the Mohawk Valley at Warrensbush, near present-day Amsterdam, New York. His father was Sir William Johnson and his mother Catherine Weisenberg, a German indentured servant who Sir William purchased and took as the first of his three consorts or "wives". Sir John's early education was better than that of an average frontiersman and in 1759 he was apparently attending an academy in Philadelphia. By 1760 he was a captain of a company of New York militia, and he served in the campaign of 1763 for the suppression of Pontiac's Conspiracy. He attended numerous Indian conferences in the company of his father and was commissioned colonel of a regiment of horse in the New York militia. In the fall of 1765 he accompanied Lord Adam Gordon on a visit to England for the purpose of broadening his education, and there, on November 22 was knighted. In 1773 he was married to Mary Watts, of a prominent New York family. Following the death of his father on July 11, 1774, he succeeded to the title of baronet and fell heir to the greater part of his father's vast estates, establishing his residence at "Johnson Hall." In November he succeeded also to his father's post as major general of the militia.

Sir John Johnson sympathized with the Crown in the controversy with the colonies and in 1775 he was in correspondence with Governor Tryon of New York in regard to the possibility of organizing the settlers and Indians of the Mohawk region. In August 1775 General Philip Schuyler was able to induce the Iroquois Six Nations to remain neutral

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

New York, A Guide to the Empire State (American Guide Series) (New York, 1956), 457-458.
 Thomas T. Waterman, The Dwellings of Colonial America (Chapel Hill, 1950), 210.
Dictionary of American Biography, Vol. X, 103-104 (Sir John Johnson).
 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, New York, 1967), 83-83a.
 Christopher Ward, The War of the Revolution (2 vols., New York, 1952), II, 629-652.

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	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	0 ' "	0 ' "		42° 57 ' 26 "	74 ° 14 ' 29"	
NE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SW	0 ' "	0 ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **1 acre**

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 **4/19/72**

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 _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

ST	New York
COUNTY	Montgomery
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

Fort Johnson

(Continuation Sheet)

(Number all entries)

1

8. Significance (Continued)

in the struggle between England and America. Sir John, however, remained at his fortified mansion, "Johnson Hall," where he was guarded by 150 armed Highlanders and a strong party of Mohawks, thus posing a strong threat to the American cause in the Mohawk Valley. In January 1776, Johnson and his followers were disarmed by Schuyler and a modus vivendi was agreed upon to maintain peace in the valley, but when the following May he learned that General Schuyler was sending a detachment to arrest him, Johnson hastily fled with a band of about 700 followers and after great hardships crossed the Adirondacks Mountains and reached Montreal 19 days later.

Commissioned a lieutenant colonel, he was authorized to raise a Loyalist regiment which came to be known as the "Royal Greens." Leading 133 men in his new regiment, Johnson accompanied General Barry St. Leger on his expedition against Fort Stanwix (or Schuyler) in August 1777. Johnson led two companies of his regiment in the battle of Oriskany, August 6, 1777. Returning to Canada when the siege of the fort failed, he devoted himself to the relief of the Loyalists who were arriving in large numbers following the capture of Burgoyne's army. His New York estates were confiscated by Tryon County in 1777.

In the autumn of 1779 Johnson was at Niagara and Oswego, aiding friendly Indians and harassing those who were hostile to the British. In 1780 he led two great raids on the Mohawk Valley in retaliation for the Sullivan expedition of 1779. On May 21, 1780, leading 400 Loyalists and 200 Indians and moving via Lake Champlain and Sacandaga River, Johnson struck at the Johnstown settlements, burning Caughnawaga and Johnstown, destroying houses, barns, cattle, sheep, horses, and carrying off 40 prisoners to Canada. In the fall of 1780 he led regulars, Tories and a large party of Indians under Joseph Brant and Cornplanter, about 1,500 men in all, against the Schoharie Valley settlements. On October 16-17 he struck the three Schoharie forts, destroying buildings, crops, and animals in their vicinity. Caughnawaga was burned again on the 18th and Stone Arabia on the 19th. On the 18th he destroyed a force of 130 American led by Colonel John Brown. In the battle 40 of the attacking Americans were killed and the remainder forced to flee. On the 19th General Robert Van Rensselaer, with 1,500 militia, fought an indecisive battle with Johnson at Klock's Field, on the north side of the Mohawk River. Johnson retreated to Canada following this engagement.

On October 30, 1780, Governor George Clinton inform Washington: "The losses we have sustained by these different incursions of the enemy

124

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

ST	New York
COUNTY	Montgomery
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

Fort Johnson

(Continuation Sheet)

(Number all entries)

2

8. Significance (Continued)

will be most severely felt; they have destroyed, on a moderate computation, 200 dwellings and 150,000 bushels of wheat, with a proportion of other grain and forage." This damage about equalled the destruction inflicted on Iroquios lands by 4,000 Continental troops under General John Sullivan in 1779.

In the autumn of 1781, Johnson left for England, and when he returned he bore with him a commission, dated March 14, 1782, as "Superintendent General and Inspector General of the Six Nations and those in the Province of Quebec." This was renewed in 1791. He also became a colonel in the British army. He had been attainted and his property confiscated by an act of the New York Assembly in 1779, and as compensation for his losses the British government granted him a large sum of money and a large tract of land in Canada, where he resided for the remainder of his life. For many years following the War for Independence he exercised an important influence in Indian affairs and was active in relief measures on behalf of the Loyalists. He died in Montreal on January 4, 1830.

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

(Continuation Sheet)

New York	
COUNTY Montgomery	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number of entries)

1

9. Major Bibliographical References (Continued)

John J. Voorman, Forts and Firesides of the Mohawk Country, New York
(Johnstown, New York, 1951), 99-100.

Benson J. Lossing, The Pictorial Field-Book of the Revolution (2 vols.,
Philadelphia and London, 1860), I, 232.