THEME: War for Independence

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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"Traveller's Rest" was built by Horatio Gates in two stages starting with the eastern portion of the existing house in 1773 and ending with the addition of the western section a few years later. Both the original portion and the addition are constructed of local limestone laid in ashlar style. The eastern section, about 34 feet wide and 30 feet deep, is a one-and-a-half story structure over a full basement, with a gable roof once covered with wood shingles, is now covered with a metal roof. There is a, end chimney at the east end and a second chimney located in the center of the north (rear) wall. The basement and first floor each contained three rooms and the attic space was probably then one large room which was lighted by gable windows. The large basement room at the front of the house was paved with stone and served as the kitchen and possibly a dining room. The two smaller rooms to the rear were probably used for the storage of food. A stair that no longer exists, once located in the southwest corner, lead to the first floor.

The entrance door, located in the westernmost bay of the four-bay wide south facade of the 1773 house, opens into a small stair hall. Set against the east (right wall), this stair provides access to both the basement and attic. Two small rooms across the back of the house interconnect with each other and each has a corner fireplace. These rooms were probably bedrooms originally. To the right of the hall and extending across the front of the residence is the main parlor, which is the most noteworthy room in the house. Its fireplace, located at the eastern end of the room, is panelled from floor to ceiling and like the hall, this room has a wood cornice.

General Gates' addition to the western end of the 1773 house is also a one-and-one-half story structure with a full basement. This stone addition, about 16 feet wide and 30 feet deep, has a end chimney on its west side and originally contained one large room in the basement and also on the first floor. The basement room has a very large fireplace, a brick floor, and the ceiling is plastered over. The chimney and chimney breast of the fireplace in the room above is panelled from floor to ceiling. This room was subdivided in the 19th century by means of partitions to form the present dining room, kitchen, and pantry.

On the second floor partitions were introduced, probably by Gates, to form a center hall and small storage room and two end bedrooms. The room in the western addition has a fireplace. The dormers lighting these rooms were probably added in the early 19th century. Most of the original wrought iron door hinges have survived and there are wide board floors throughout the first and second stories.

The Gates House has never been restored; the structure is in fair condition and the owners plan to restore it. Except for the addition of dormers and the insertion of partitions in the western addition, the farmhouse is largely original and little-altered. Used as a private residence, Traveller's Rest is not open to visitors.



ERIOD (Check One or More as			
Pre-Columbian	☐ 16th Century	XX 18th Century	20th Century
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PECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable	e and Known)	1773-1790	
REAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Che	ck One or More as Appropri	ate)	
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"Traveller's Rest" was the home, from 1773 to 1790, of Major General Horatio Gates of the Continental Army, the "victor" at Saratoga and the vanquished at Camden,—an able administrator, apt political intriguer, and combat leader of uneven skill. Except for the addition of dormers to the roof and insertion of partition; walls, Traveller's Rest is an original and little-altered structure.

HISTORY

Horatio Gates was born on July 27, 1727, probably at Malden, England, and entered the army at an early age, as he was a lieutenant with the troops under General Edward Cornwallis in Nova Scotia in 1749-50. In 1754 he married the daughter of an army officer and the same year he was commissioned captain in the independent company of foot doing duty in New York. In 1755 his company joined General Braddock's expedition against Fort Duquesne (Pittsburgh, Pa.). Gates was present and badly wounded in the action of July 9, which destroyed Braddock's army. On April 28, 1758, Gates was serving at Fort Herkimer in the Mohawk Valley of New York when Captain (the future General) Nicholas Herkimer defended that fort against an attack by the French and Indians. During the next two years Gates was on duty at Oneidia and Fort Hunter, also in the Mohawk Valley, then at Pittsburgh, Fort Ticonderoga, and finally Philadelphia. He served as brigade major, or military secretary, to General John Stanwix and then to General Robert Monckton. Late in 1761, Gates sailed with Monckton in the very successful expedition against the Frenchheld island of Martinique. Although he took little part in the fighting, Gates served with such distinction that Monckton commended him to the attention of King George III as a "deserving officer." Selected for the honor of carrying the news of victory back to England, Gates was rewarded by being commissioned a major in 1762.

When the war ended, he returned to England only to find that further advancement in the army was practically impossible. He became embittered and turned to drinking and gambling for a time. On May 8, 1765 he was retired from active service and placed on half-pay. At



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Gen. Gates House Traveller's Rest

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Significance (Continued)

about the same time he underwent a religious conversion and began leading a guiet life at Bristol and then, after 1769, at Devonshire. Gates maintained a interest in America and by 1770 he was known in England as a "red hot republican." In August 1772 Gates and his family saided from England for America; in 1773 he purchased a 659 acre farm plantation in Berkeley County, Virginia (now Jefferson County, West Virginia), which he called "Traveller's Rest," (Deed recorded March 15, 1773) and here he built a house.

The outbreak of the War for Independence presented Gates with a second chance for an active military career as well as a revolt against the English caste system, which had cut off his army career. On June 17, 1775, Gates accepted a commission as brigadier general to become the first adjutant-general of the Continental Army. By July he was in camp at Cambridge, organizing the miscellaneous units which made up the besieging army. Here Gates, a capable administrator and indefatigable worker, was at his best. By writing the first army regulations and maintaining military records, Gates brought some semblance of order to the chaotic situation and his professional experience enabled him to set up procedures for recruiting new soldiers and training them. In 1775 no other high ranking American officer, with the possible exception of Charles Lee, had seen more years of active military service or knew as much about the business of warfare. On May 16, 1776 Gates was promoted to major general in the Continental Army.

On June 16, 1776, having received news of the American defeat at Three Rivers in Canada, Congress directed Gates to take command of the Continental Army in Canada. Gates, however, thought that his orders directed him to take charge of the Northern Department, then under the command of Major General Philip Schuyler, as well as the Canadian army. Schuyler refused to turn his command over to Gates and pointed out that in fact there were no longer any American troops in Canada, the army having retreated south to Crown Point on Lake Champlain. On July 8 Congress settled this dispute in favor of Schuyler; while the troops we were south of Canada Gates had to accept the inferior position, which he now did with good grace, assuming command of the 5,000 man army at Fort Ticonderoga. On July 7, 1776 a council of war was held at Crown Point with Schuyler, Gates, John Sullivan, Benedict Arnold, and the Prussian general Baron de Woedtke present. They unanimously agreed that Crown Point was not tenable, that they should retire to Ticonderoga, sending off all the sick (nearly 2,000 men) to Fort George on Lake George, and that "a naval armament of gondolas, row gallerys, armed batteaus &c" should be constructed to maintain American naval control over Lake Champlain. Gates assumed command of the army at Ticonderoga, began rebuilding his army, and fortifying Ticonderoga and Mount Independence. By October he had increased his command to 13,000 men, including militia,

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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Gen. Gates House Traveller's Rest

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Significance (Continued)

and with these he successfully blocked the advance of the 9,000-man army led by General Guy Carlton down Lake Champlain. In all his operations, as in the advice he had given Washington during the siege of Boston, Gates displayed extreme caution both in tactics and strategy. Brigadier General Benedict Arnold's aggressive moves against the British fleet on Lake Champlain, which resulted in the Battle of Valcour Bay, October 11, 1776, were done in defiance of Gates' orders.

Gates remained at Ticonderoga until December 1776, when Schuyler ordered him to march south with about 600 men to reinforce Washington. In expectation of his coming Washington had allotted to Gates the command of the right wing of his force which was soon to attack Trenton, Pleading illness, Gates wrote that he was going to Philadelphia to recover his health, but actually went directly to Baltimore, where the Continental Congress was in session after its flight from Philadelphia, and here Gates busied himself with intrigues in an effort to secure the command of the Northern Department. Gates thus missed the battles of Trenton and Princeton. Greatly admired by the New England party, who also detested the New Yorker Schuyler, Gates induced Congress to make him commander of the Northern Department on March 25, 1777. This displacement of Schuyler led to so much ill-feeling, however, that on May 15 the Board of War finally agreed to restore Schuyler to the command and gave Gates his choice of either serving under Schuyler or of resuming the office of adjutant-general. On June 4, Gates turned the command over to Schuyler. Riding rapidly to Philadelphia, Gates on June 18 made his way to the floor of Congress on the plea that he had important information to give. He then proceeded to defend himself and to assail all his critics, delegates included, with a vehemance that brought members to their feet in angry demands that he withdraw. He shouted back furiously until at last his friends prevailed on him to leave the hall. On July 8 Congress ordered Gates to go to headquarters and follow the directions of Washington. Refusing to serve again as adjutant-general Washington then assigned Gates to the command of a division.

On July 5-6, 1777 the Northern army evacuated Forts Ticonderoga and Mount Independence to avoid being encircled by a powerful British army under the command of General John Burgoyne. This unexpected retreat was blamed on General Schuyler. The result of a long debate in Congress was to recall Schuyler to headquarters on August 1 and on August 4 to order Gates to take command of the Northern Army. On the evening of August 19, Gates rode into the American camp on Van Schaick's Island and assumed command of the Northern Army. Fortunate to have been removed from command just prior to the fall of Ticonderoga, thus escaping blame for this disaster, Gates was even more fortunate to be given the command just at the point in the campaign when the stage had been set for a great

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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Gen. Gates House Traveller's Rest

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Significance (Continued)

American victory. In a brilliantly conducted defensive campaign Schuyler had made all the correct moves. A British force led by St. Leger was then in full retreat from the western Mohawk Valley; a large detachment of Burgoyne's army had suffered also heavy losses at Bennington on August 16; finally, the militia from New York and New England had been called out and was then moving in large numbers to join the Northern army of some 6,200 Continentals. On September 8, his army increased by militia arrivals to 9,000 men, Gates began his advance north up the Hudson. On the 13th he occupied a strategic position at Bemis Heights, which was heavily fortified under the direction of his engineer Thaddeus Kosciuszko. In the first battle of Saratoga, September 19, Major General Benedict Arnold talked the cautious Gates into attacking the advancing British army. Throwing the entire left wing, 4,000 men, plus one regiment from the right wing, Arnold fought the battle of the 19th. When he returned to camp to get additional regiments from the right wing, Gates refused to let Arnold have them. Burgoyne's badly bloodied army was thus saved from probable disaster and the British fortified their camp on the 20th.

In his official report to Congress on the 22nd, Gates took all credit for battle: he informed that body that the battle had been fought by ""detachments" of his army, rather than by an entire wing and this device enabled Gates to avoid mentioning Benedict Arnold's name in the letter. On the same day Colonel Daniel Morgan's riflemen and light infantry, the elite corps of the army, was also removed from Arnold's command in a public manner so as to insult Arnold. The furious Arnold stormed into Gates' headquarters and "high words and gross language ensued." Arnold finally asked permission to leave the army to return to Philadelphia, a request which Gates readily granted. However, the likelihood of a critical battle any day and a petition drawn up by Major General Benjamin Lincoln and signed by all the general officers, which requested Arnold to remain with the army at this dangerous time, encouraged Arnold to remain in camp.

On October 7, 1777, in the second battle of Saratoga, Arnold again led the left wing of the American army into action against the British and was supported by troops from the right wing, sent out by Lincoln. This time the British army was crushed and forced to retreat. On October 17, 1777 at Saratoga (now Schuylerville), Gates took the entire British army, some 5,800 men, prisoners in one of the greatest victories of the War for Independence. Gates, bathed in victory, now began to eclipise Washington, who had been defeated in battles at Brandywine and Germantown. On November 27, 1777 Congress appointed Gates president of the Board of War and this position kept him with Congress at York, Pa., during the winter of 1777-78. As president of the Board of War Gates was technically

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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Traveller's Rest

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Significance (Continued)

superior to Washington and he used his position to lord it over Washington. Gates was both petty and rude and the relations between the two generals became cool and distant.

On April 15, 1778 Gates was again appointed to the command of the Northern Department and made his headquarters at Fishkill, N.Y., on the Hudson. On October 27, 1778 he was sent to Boston to take command of the Eastern Department and remained there during the winter of 1778-79. In December 1779 he then rejoined Washington and the main army on the Hudson. In early 1780 he retired to his plantation, "Traveller's Rest," in Virginia. Gates was called out of semi-retirement on June 13, 1780 when Congress offered him the command of the Southern Army. The military situation in the south at that time was extremely critical: The British had just won their greatest victory of the war by capturing Charleston, S.C. together with Benjamin Lincoln's army of 5,466 men. Despite the sardonic remark supposedly made to him by his neighbor General Charles Lee—"Take care lest your Northern Laurels turn to Southern willow" - Gates accepted the assignment. On July 25 he assumed command of his "grand army"-1,520 Continentals and 8 cannons, at Hillsborough, N.C. Overruling the advice given him by his general officers, Gates began the advance on July 27 by the most direct route to Camden, S.C., even though the way ran through infertile, thinly-peopled, and an unfriendly portion of the country. On August 15 his army totaled about 4,100 men and six cannon—900 Continental and about 3,200 militia, but Gates for some reason thought he had 7,000 men. That night both Gates and Cornwallis, the British commander, decided to make - night attacks. About 2 a.m. on August 16, 1780 the two armies collided about 9 miles north of Camden. After an exchange of fire both forces formed lines of battle and waited for daylight to begin the action. Gates placed his Continentals on the right and his militia on the left. Cornwallis opened the action with a vigorious attack on the American left and at the first fire the militia threw away their arms and fled. Stationed 600 yards behind the line of battle, Gates was "swept away" by this "Torrent" of fleeing men and when he regained control of his horse that evening he found himself at Charlotte, N.C., 60 miles from the battlefield. Only about 700 men from his army of 4,100 rejoined Gates at Hillborough and 650 of his Continentals were killed or captured in the battle. Camden was one of the most crushing American defeats of the entire war and it ended all hope of establishing American power in Georgia and the Carolinas and also opened Virginia to invasion. On October 5, 1780 Congress voted that an inquiry be made into Gates' conduct and oredered Washington to appoint another commander of the Southern Department until that inquiry was held. General Nathanael Greene, selected by Washington, relieved Gates at Charlotte on December 2, 1780. Greene treated Gates with the utmost kindness and refused to hold the court of

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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Gen. Gates House Traveller's Rest

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Significance(Continued)

inquiry because his few general officers could not be spared for this purpose. Gates therefore withdrew to "Traveller's Rest" where he remained during 1781, writing constantly to Washington and to Congress requesting that inquiry into his conduct be held. On August 5, 1782 Congress generously responded by repealing its resolve of October 5, 1780, and by ordering Gates to take such command in the main army as Washington should direct. Gates, his self-respect restored, set out for headquarters and during the remainder of the war was with Washington at the New Windsor Cantonment near Newburgh, N.Y. Retiring from the Continental Army on November 3, 1783, Gates returned to his Virginia home.

His only son died in 1780 and his wife in 1784. Gates married Mary Vallance, a Maryland heiress with a fortune of nearly \$500,000, in 1786. In 1790 Gates emancipated his slaves, sold his Virginia plantation and moved to New York. There he took up residence at "Rose Hill Farm," an area that is now bounded by 23rd and 30th Streets and 2nd and 4th Avenues in New York City. A Jeffersonian Republican during his last years, Gates served one term in the New York legislature, 1800-1801. He died at "Rose Hill" on April 10, 1806.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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Boundaries of "Traveler's Rest" or General Horatio Gates House Site:

That certain tract of parcel of land, known as "Traveler's Rest," situate in the Middleway District, County of Jefferson and State of West Virginia, being more particularly bounded and described as follows:

Beginning at a railroad spike in the center of Public Road 1/1 said railroad spike being located at an angle point in said road (at or near the former location of a large walnut tree) at a point approximately 2,334 feet westerly from State Highway, Secondary Route 1, and on line of lands now or formerly of Thomas C. Trussell; thence following the center line of said public road, being by line of lands now or formerly of Thomas C. Trussell N 83° 47-1/2' W 80.5 feet to a railroad spike; thence continuing along the center line of said public road, being by line of lands now or formerly of Thomas C. Trussell and lands now or formerly of Dr. Logie, S 81° 46-1/2' W 1,200.1 feet to a railroad spike; thence continuing along the center line of said public road, being by line of lands now or formerly of Dr. Logie, S 78° 16-1/2' W 409.3 feet to a railroad spike, the southwest corner of lands herein described and common to lands now or formerly of Daniel and Edward Getzendanner; thence leaving said public road and following line of lands now or formerly of Daniel and Edward Getzendanner N 18° 13-1/2' E 3,566.8 feet to a fence corner, the northwest corner of lands herein described and in lands now or formerly of Daniel and Edward Getzendanner; thence through lands now or formerly of Daniel and Edward Getzendanner, being now partly by line of lands of the West Virginia University Experimental Farm, S 68° 48-1/2' E 3,211.3 feet to a fence corner, the northeast corner of lands herein described and common to other lands now or formerly of Daniel and Edward Getzendanner and lands now or formerly of T. O. Everhart; thence by line of lands now or formerly of T. O. Everhart S 31° 00' W 1,090.2 feet to a fence corner; thence continuing by line of lands now or formerly of T. O. Everhart S 54° 40-1/2' E 15.6 feet to a fence corner common to lands now or formerly of Thomas Turner; thence by line of lands now or formerly of Thomas Turner S 26° 28' W 1,925.5 feet to a railroad spike in the center of the aforementioned Public Road 1/1, being the southeast corner of the lands herein described and on line of lands now or formerly of Thomas C. Trussell; thence following the center line of said public road, being by line of lands now or formerly of Thomas C. Trussell, the following three courses and distances: N 56° 07-1/2' W 1,024.4 feet to a railroad spike; N 55° 20' W 135.6 feet to a railroad spike; and N 62° 24' W 81.5 feet to the place of beginning. Containing two hundred two and five tenths acres, more orless.

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9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES					30 3		
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George A. Billas, "Horatio Gates	s: Pro	fe	essional Soldier " i	n Geor	σο Δ	Rillas	
ed., George Washington	's Gen	e	rals (New York 1964	n 0001	108	DILLAS	
Samuel W. Patterson, Horatio Gar	tes. D)e:	fender of American I	.iherti	AC		
(New York, 1941).			31 .11022041.				
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10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA		_				1	
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89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inc		i	· •				
in the National Register and certify that it has							
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