



Heritage Trail

(Follow the RED, WHITE & BLUE marks)



SCALE IN FEET

The Purpose of Heritage Trail

Westchester played an important role in the first seven years of our nation's struggle for independence, and the British and American armies fought in White Plains and vicinity from October 28th to November 5th, 1776.

Unfortunately many landmarks have been obliterated over the years, dimming the memory of this vitally historic era. In March of 1958 the Battle of White Plains Monument Committee was organized for the purpose of locating and marking as many of these sites as possible.

Restoration of Landmarks

In 1962 the Committee cleaned away the brush and debris on Merritt Hill, which is used as the battleground during the October reenactment of the Battle of White Plains.

In 1963 the Committee purchased the old Jacob Purdy house which was military headquarters at one time during the Revolution.

Merritt Hill and Mount Misery were also cleared and marked.

With the cooperation of the County of Westchester Dept. of Parks, Recreation and Con-

servation; the City of White Plains, the Towns of Harrison and North Castle, the Battle of White Plains Monument Committee decided to outline Heritage Trail, marking as many of the historic sites as could be located. The trail starts in White Plains and continues through Harrison and North Castle.

It should be borne in mind by those following this trail that many of these sites have been razed, built over, and presently bear no resemblance to those early and proud days.

HERITAGE TRAIL

1. The cannon on the lawn of the private home on Whitney Street and Wayne Avenue, (Chatterton Hill) is modern but it marks the site where Alexander Hamilton's guns fired against the British when they attacked on October 28, 1776 in the first assault of the Battle of White Plains.
2. The Jacob Purdy House located at Spring St. and Rockledge Ave. was built in 1721. The farm originally consisted of 132 acres which included Purdy Hill (Church St. Hill). General Washington used the house as headquarters for a few days before the Battle of White Plains and again for almost two months during the summer of 1778.
3. The First Presbyterian Church on North Broadway in White Plains, constructed of wood, was built about 1727, and stood on the same site on which now stands the present stone church, built in 1854. The first church was destroyed by fire in 1776 when the village was burned by some Continental soldiers in disobedience to Washington's orders.

Many old tombstones remain in the churchyard, including those of Elijah Miller (whose widow occupied the Miller House used by Washington as Headquarters) and their two sons, all of whom died during the Revolutionary War.
4. British mortar on North Broadway marks the spot where Washington's defenses crossed Broadway from Purdy Hill, to continue across the hills to the east.
5. The Anthony Miller homestead, built about 1724, now located at 379 Church Street, was moved to its present location a few years ago. Originally it occupied the Reichhold Chemicals, Inc. site on North Broadway. Anthony Miller operated a fulling mill on the Bronx River. (Follow yellow marker for offtrail site.)
6. The White Plains Rural Cemetery Office on North Broadway was originally a Methodist church. It was built in 1795 and used as a church for 93 years.
7. A monument at the corner of Virginia Road and North Broadway marks the site of the giant White Oak which marked the boundary line of North Castle and White Plains. The Indian deed which sold White Plains to a group of Rye residents is dated November 22, 1683. The original tree was long known as the Treaty Oak.
8. The Miller House on Virginia Road served as headquarters for George Washington during the battle of White Plains. The table used by the General while in the house is on view here. Headquarters is open to the public free from February 22nd to December 15th of each year and it is operated by Westchester County Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation.
9. The trenches on Miller Hill near General Heath Ave. have been restored by the Battle of White Plains Monument Committee in cooperation with the County of Westchester. Here the last shots in the campaign at White Plains were fired by Americans under Colonel John Glover, against the British.
10. The earthworks on Mount Misery, near Nethermont Ave., though part of Washington's defenses at White Plains, saw no action. However, because of the bitter cold endured by the troops stationed in these trenches, the hill received its name which is retained to the present day.
11. Old Hill Avenue was originally an Indian trail, later used by settlers. It is presently a footpath which leads to Hall Avenue, a distance of about 1/3 mile.
12. The Gilbert Hatfield house, on Hall Avenue, being the only house on the hill during the Revolution, is believed to have been the headquarters of General William Heath, in command at Hatfield Hill.
13. The cemetery on Buckhout Road, dates back to Revolutionary times. Buried here are many former slaves, freed by the Quakers of Purchase, who settled them on land near the cemetery during the 18th century. Many Civil War veterans are buried here. Foundations of the church are still visible.
14. The footpath continued from Buckhout Road to Merritt Hill and Lake Street, a distance of about one mile. Along this trail through Silver Lake Park are the foundations of old houses, an old root cellar, and the remains of a mill dam (all overgrown with trees and shrubs at this time). This area was also a camp site occupied by Washington's Continentals during the White Plains Campaign.
15. Merritt Hill, on Lake Street, scene of one of the skirmishes during the White Plains campaign. Restored by the Battle of White Plains Monument Committee in 1962, it is now used to re-enact the battle of White Plains each October.
16. Washington stored some of his supplies in the old Horton grist mill on Lake Street during the campaign at White Plains.
17. The original Village of White Plains was located on Broadway. Houses surrounded the Green, the remnant of which is now Tibbetts Park. The Purchase of White Plains from the Indians took place here at Armory Place and Westchester Avenue on November 22, 1683.
18. The first Court House in White Plains stood where the armory now stands. It was here that the Provincial Congress of the Colony of New York met and unanimously adopted the Declaration of Independence on July 9th, 1776. The Declaration was read in public for the first time in New York on July 11th by Judge John Thomas of Purchase. At this moment the Colony of New York became a State and this spot is marked by a monument honoring White Plains as the birthplace of the State of New York. The Court House and most of the village were burned in 1776.

The "30 Miles to New York" milestone on the grounds of the armory is the only stone left in the City of White Plains.

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