Mid-Hudson Sites Extract:
Minisink Battlefield, West Point, Washington's Headquarters, New Windsor Cantonment, Knox's Headquarters, Van Wyck Homestead, Dutch Church at Fishkill, Senate House at Kingston

LANDMARKS
Of The American Revolution In New York State
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Washington's Headquarters is operated by the Westchester County Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation. It is open to the public from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, and from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays.

Minisink Battlefield County Park is located one mile north of Route 97 in southern Sullivan County. The Park is just north-east of Minisink Ford, New York, and Lackawaxen, Pennsylvania.

Minisink Battlefield was the scene of a Revolutionary War engagement on July 22, 1779. A force of Tories and Indians under Joseph Brant, the Mohawk Chief, surprised the sleeping village of Minisink on the night of July 19th but then began retreating up the Delaware River. About 150 local militiamen
led by Lieutenant Colonel Benjamin Tusten set off after the raiders, but were ambushed by Brant near a ford on the Delaware. At least 45 of the Americans were killed and the rest routed, after which Brant continued his escape unhampered. Minisink Battlefield is now a park administered by Sullivan County. The park is open daily from Memorial Day Weekend to Columbus Day and features historical markers and a picnic area.

**VAN CORTLANDT MANOR:**

Van Cortlandt Manor is located in Croton-on-Hudson on South Riverside Ave., one-quarter mile from the intersection with Croton Point Ave.

Van Cortlandt Manor was the home of Pierre Van Cortlandt, a patriot of the Revolutionary period and New York's first Lieutenant Governor. His son, Philip, commanded American troops during the war. Many of the major figures of the day, Benjamin Franklin, Comte de Rochambeau, Marquis de Lafayette and John Jay were guests at the house.

The house has been restored to its Revolutionary War period appearance. This site is open to the public daily Monday through Friday, April 1 through November 15 from 10 a.m. to
The United States Military Academy is just off U.S. Route 9-W between Newburgh and Bear Mountain State Park. It is about 50 miles north of New York City and easily accessible via the Thruway or Palisades Interstate Parkway.

West Point was the focal point of one of the best known stories of the American Revolution, and an event which made the name of Benedict Arnold synonomous with "traitor." George Washington referred to West Point as the "Key to America," and in 1778 fortifications were constructed there which effectively sealed off the Hudson Valley from the British.

On August 3, 1780 Major General Benedict Arnold was given command of these fortifications. However, for over a year he
had been secretly negotiating with the British through one Major John Andre. Arnold arranged with General Sir Henry Clinton to turn West Point over to the British for £20,000. The plot failed when Andre was captured by militia on patrol near Tarrytown. The papers which he had concealed in his boot were sent to General Washington, who hastened to confer with Arnold, apparently not suspecting the West Point commander's treachery. Learning that Washington was on his way, Arnold decided to flee, and on September 25th he boarded the British ship *Vulture* lying downstream from West Point. John Andre was tried and hanged as a spy, while Arnold became an officer in the British Army and later fought in the south against the Americans.

West Point is administered by the United States Army and is open year round on a daily basis for visitors. West Point has one of the finest military museums in the world, with collections dating back to the Revolution. The remains of Forts Putnam and Clinton can still be seen on the grounds, but are presently undergoing archaeological work. Visitors to the Academy may view scheduled parades and ceremonies on various Saturdays throughout the year.

*Hudson River Chain at West Point*
WASHINGTON’S HEADQUARTERS
(HASBROUCK HOUSE):

Washington's Headquarters is located at 84 Liberty St. in the City of Newburgh. It is easily accessible via N.Y. Route 17-K from Exit 17 of the Thruway.

In the last year of the Revolution, from April 1782 to August 1783, General George Washington made this house his headquarters. Here he waited out the interval between the surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown and the treaty which officially ended the war. The Hasbrouck House was his official war-time residence for a longer duration than any other place. Martha Washington was present much of the time, managing the household and entertaining illustrious guests.

It was here that Washington received the notorious "crown"
letter which promised the support of his officers if he would become king of a new American monarchy. He vehemently rejected the offer. Here also Washington prepared his negative reply to those officers who proposed to establish him as a military dictator.

One of the significant things about this site is that its acquisition by New York State in 1850 was the first act of historic site preservation by any state or federal agency. Washington's Headquarters is administered by the N.Y.S. Office of Parks and Recreation. It is open throughout the year, Wednesday through Sunday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The site is closed Monday and Tuesday, except when Washington's Birthday or the Fourth of July fall on one of these days.

NEW WINDSOR CANTONMENT:

New Windsor Cantonment is located on Temple Hill Road, between N.Y. Routes 207 and 32, just south of Newburgh. The site is situated south of Exit 17 of the Thruway.

Near the end of the Revolution, in the Fall of 1782, General George Washington chose this site for the final winter encampment of the Continental Army. Between six and eight thousand soldiers were sheltered on these grounds in the 700 buildings and huts.

One of the most significant features of the Cantonment was
the Temple or meeting house. It was here that General Washington gathered his officers after the circulation of the “Newburgh Letters” threatening mutiny. His personal magnetism and an appeal to their patriotism defeated the movement. It was also here that General Washington named the first soldiers to receive the “Purple Heart,” a medal which he had created to honor courageous acts by enlisted men.

One original hut has survived the years and several moves. It is the only known Revolutionary War wooden camp structure still in existence. New Windsor Cantonment is administered by the N.Y.S. Office of Parks and Recreation and is open from mid-April to October 31, Wednesday through Sunday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. This site features programs and demonstrations on a daily basis as well as special events. An events calendar may be obtained by writing to the New Windsor Cantonment, Box 207, Vails Gate, New York, 12584.

A map locating New Windsor Cantonment is on page 18.
KNOW HEADQUARTERS:

Knox Headquarters is located at the junction of Forge Hill Road and N.Y. Route 94 near Vails Gate, just southwest of Newburgh.

During the Revolution this house was used as a headquarters by Major General Henry Knox at various times between June 1779 and September 1782. General Knox was George Washington's chief of artillery during the war and is best known for the great feat of transporting the cannon captured at Fort Ticonderoga through winter snows to Dorchester Heights, where their presence alone forced the British to evacuate Boston. He commanded the artillery at the siege of Yorktown and was also commander of West Point from 1782 until 1784. He later served as Secretary of War from 1785 to 1794.

Other famous American military leaders who used the house for headquarters were generals Nathanael Greene, Frederick von Steuben, and Horatio Gates. Knox Headquarters is administered by the N.Y.S. Office of Parks and Recreation and is open to the public 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday.
The Van Wyck Homestead is located at the junction of U.S. Route 9 and Interstate Route 84 just south of the village of Fishkill.

The Van Wyck Homestead is all that remains of the massive Revolutionary War supply depot at Fishkill. In November 1776 General George Washington ordered the construction of barracks for 2,000 men at the Village of Fishkill. This site later became the major supply depot for the entire Northern Department of the Continental Army. The Van Wyck house was part of the encampment and many famous Revolutionary figures dined there, including George Washington, Marquis de Lafayette, Baron von Steuben and Israel Putnam. Military courts martial were held here, the most famous being that of Enoch Crosby, counterspy for the American forces. This was a mock trial, and Crosby was allowed to escape under secret orders from General Washington. Tradition has it that Crosby was the model for James Fenimore Cooper's hero of The Spy.

The Van Wyck Homestead contains many artifacts from the Revolutionary War supply depot, as well as materials relating to the Van Wyck family and the early history of the area. The museum is open Wednesday, 1 to 5 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Sunday, 1 to 5 p.m.
**FIRST DUTCH REFORMED CHURCH OF FISHKILL:**

The First Dutch Reformed Church is located in the center of the Village of Fishkill on N.Y. Route 52, just west of the intersection with U.S. Route 9.

Early in the Revolution, from September 1776 to February 1777, this church served as the seat of government, when the New York Provincial Convention met there. In January 1777 the church served as a prison for Enoch Crosby, the American counterspy who was subjected to a mock trial and imprisonment to preserve his cover identity. On secret orders from General Washington, Crosby was allowed to escape and continue his intelligence work.

Although the First Reformed Dutch Church has no formal hours, it is generally open to public visitation on a daily basis.
First Dutch Reformed Church of Fishkill
**SENATE HOUSE:**

The Senate House is located at 312 Fair St., just off North Front St., in Kingston.

During the American Revolution the first Senate of the new State of New York met in a building on this site. The Provincial Congress of 1776 had originally met in New York City, but as the British threatened Manhattan the delegates withdrew to White Plains. Again British advances forced a withdrawal, this time to Fishkill. However, quarters there proved inadequate, and, in February 1777, the delegates adjourned to Kingston.

On April 22, 1777 the bells of Kingston announced adoption of the State's first Constitution. That June, George Clinton, Brigadier General of the Militia, was elected Governor. Then in September the first Senate of the State of New York met in the house of Abraham van Gaasbeek. The Capitol at Kingston was short-lived, however, for on October 16, 1777 British troops under Major General Vaughan burned the village. Fortunately the new State Government had already escaped to Hurley. The van Gaasbeek house, destroyed in the raid, was rebuilt soon after and again used as a private residence.

The Senate House is a property of the N.Y.S. Office of Parks and Recreation. The site is open all year, Wednesday through Sunday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Senate House has been furnished as a residence of the Revolutionary period. A museum on the grounds contains a collection of art and local history items.

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**BRONCK HOUSE:**

The Bronck House is located on U.S. Route 9-W just east of the Village of Coxsackie, 2 miles south of the N.Y. Route 81 intersection.

Early in the Revolution, on May 17, 1775, the Bronck House was, according to tradition, the site of the signing of the Coxsackie Declaration. This document expressed the determination of over 200 local people to oppose the “oppressive Acts of the British Parliament.” The home of the Bronck family, who for many years had been leaders in southern Albany County (now Greene County), was the meeting place for the pre-Revolutionary Coxsackie Committee of Correspondence and Safety.