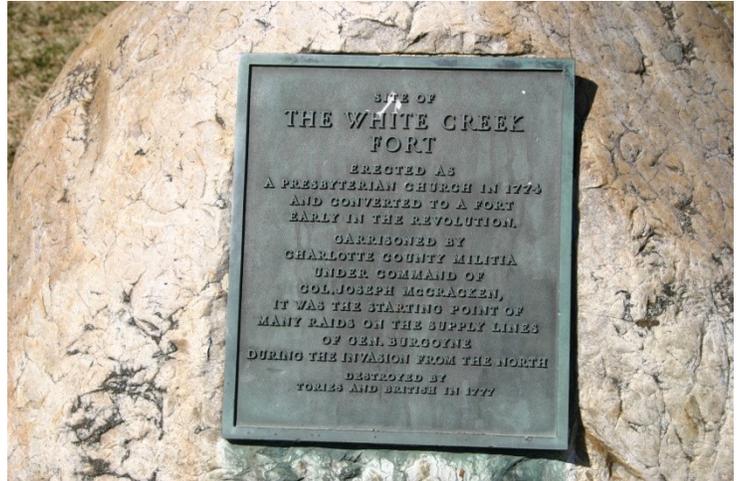


## Salem Block House Project

The first fort in Salem was the White Creek Fort erected as a Presbyterian church in 1774 and converted to a fort early in the revolution.

The site of this church and fort is marked by a plaque on a stone between the current Fort Salem Theater and Gariepy Funeral Home on East Broadway.

Garrisoned by Charlotte County Militia under command of Colonel Joseph McCracken, it was the starting point of many raids on the supply lines of General Burgoyne during the invasion from the north.

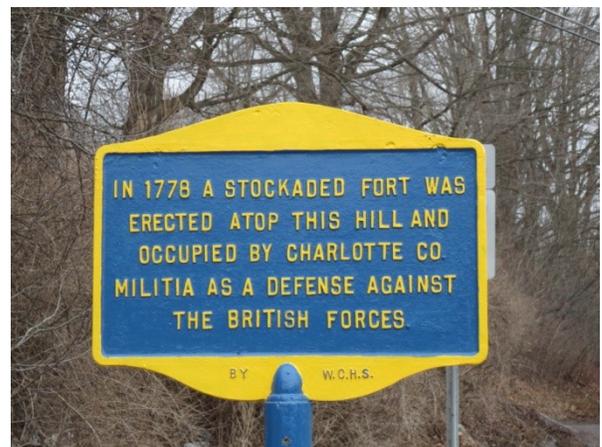


The fort was destroyed by Tories and British in 1777.

“Early in 1788, or possibly in late 1777, another little fort was built at New Perth. It was a log block-house about twenty feet square, well supplied with loop holes, and surrounded at a considerable distance by a stockade of erect logs... Fort Williams was garrisoned much of the time by some of the Charlotte County regiment...(but) in March there was a regiment of Connecticut militia staying there.”

(In the History of Washington County, New York, 1737-1878 on page 58)

Fort Williams was built on the hill behind Matthews Garage off Riley Hill Road. There is a historic marker for it on Route 22.



## **Proposal-**

Erect a block-house at the park next to the Revolutionary War Cemetery. The structure would help to highlight Salem's history.

The block-house was similar to the one currently in Stillwater.

The structure could be full sized or a scaled down version.

It could be used as a welcome/information Center for the Town of Salem.

Possibly add a rail fence similar to the one at Fort Hardy Park in Schuylerville.





## The Still Water Blockhouse

"Blockhouses not being generally known in England, I shall give a description of them. They are constructed of timbers placed one on the other, of a sufficient thickness to resist a musket shot, and large enough to contain from 100 to 120 men; there are two apartments in them, one above the other, the upper of which is a division for the officers. In both the lower and upper apartments are two pieces of cannon and four port-holes for the purpose of pointing these cannon on any side of the blockhouse on which it may be attacked; and in case an enemy should in the night endeavor to set fire to the house, there are loopholes through which the troops on the inside can level their pieces and fire upon the assailants. But that the reader may more fully comprehend the construction of these unusual fortifications, I have made a drawing and section of one of them."

The Still Water Blockhouse faithfully follows Thomas Anbury's detailed drawing of a typical blockhouse.  
*"Travels Through the Interior Parts of America"*

1765 - Colonel Peter Philip Schuyler in command of the advanced guard of General Nicholson's army halted and built a small stockade type fort which he named Fort Ingoldsby. There were 70 men stationed at Ft. Ingoldsby.

1756 - General Winslow, while on his northern expedition, halted in Still Water and built a new fort on the decaying remains of Fort Ingoldsby. He called it Fort Winslow.

Again, in September of 1777, General Philip Schuyler, in passing up the Hudson River, first made his stand at the old military training station of Still Water.

General Clates replaced Schuyler as the head of the Northern Department and moved north two miles to take his memorable stand at Bemis Heights.

This building was the original Visitors Center for the Saratoga National Historical Park.

It was built in 1927 for the 150th Anniversary of the Battles of Saratoga (Bemis Heights and Freeman Farm).

