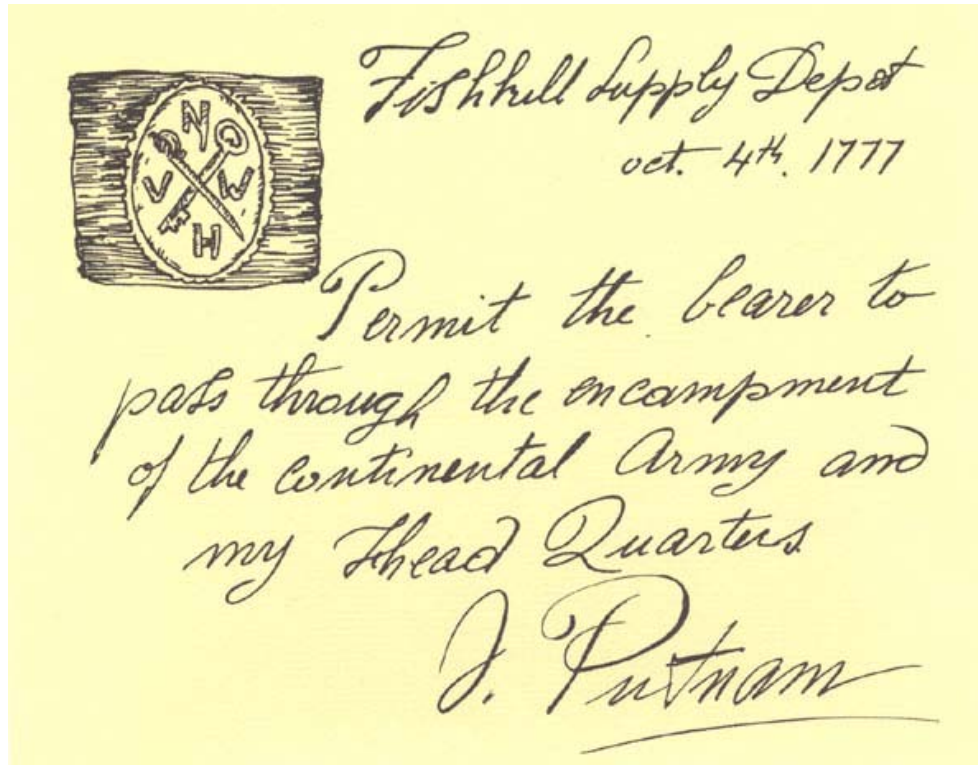


THE FISHKILL SUPPLY DEPOT AND ENCAMPMENT, 1776-1783: A PUSH TO PRESERVE



The opportunity has arrived for rigorous historic preservation and a well-supported plan to share this patriotic legacy with future generations.

The Continental Army Burial Complex of The Fishkill Supply Depot and Encampment



For 234 years, American soldiers have fought and died to defend American freedom. We all honor today's service men and women and veterans.



But what about our nation's first soldiers – the volunteers who gave their lives to found our nation? They deserve no less honor.

Yet here in the home of the brave, a large number of the fallen lie unacknowledged, in anonymous, unmarked, scarcely-known graves. Their valor and ultimate sacrifice is an example to us all. They deserve full military honors. We truly owe our nation to them. This is the story of the Fishkill Supply Depot, whose lands should be protected as sacred space...



The Continental Army Burial Complex of The Fishkill Supply Depot and Encampment

The Fishkill Supply Depot and Encampment was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1973. Yet only in 2009 was it formally confirmed by archeological study that **hundreds of America's first veterans**, casualties of the War of Independence, **are buried here in unmarked graves**. At present there is **no known burial site of Revolutionary War soldiers that is larger**. It is among the American Revolution's **most important military logistics sites**. But without a plan to preserve its land, its extraordinary stories are slowly disappearing.

A push to preserve: now is the time to act

Preserving what remains of the Depot could in time lead to the creation of a historic park and allow the infusion of **heritage tourism** in southern Dutchess County, New York. Historian Richard Goring says, "The state wants to connect the dots of these historic [Revolutionary War] sites, and the Depot is unique because all of the other dots would not exist without it."

The priority: to secure and consolidate all of the **undeveloped property** contained within the 70-acre National Register site (off I-84 and Route 9 in the town of Fishkill, New York that is **currently available for sale**.

The Fishkill Supply Depot and Encampment

“Here at Fishkill was the major supply depot for Washington’s Army during the Revolutionary War...”

It was the site of an extensive military center. Large forces of men rendezvoused, camped and suffered through northern winters at this then desolate outpost.

No quick merciful death greeted those brave men, no drums and fifes urged them into battle. Yet they suffered and persevered, enduring more than most could endure today.

We hear much about the rigors of winters spent at valley forge or Morristown, yet the winters and the suffering at Fishkill were just as severe if not more so. Fishkill was not occupied merely for a winter or two, **but for nearly the entire period of the revolution from late 1776 through 1783”**

- Richard Goring

General Israel Putnam's official pass to enter the boundaries of the Fishkill Supply Depot

The Fishkill Supply Depot was critical to the success of the Continental Army during the American Revolution. Central to the founding of the United States, documents show that its importance to General George Washington cannot be overestimated.



Fishkill Supply Depot
Oct. 4th. 1777

*Permit the bearer to
pass through the encampment
of the Continental Army and
my Head Quarters*

J. Putnam

The Fishkill Supply Depot and Encampment

- The Town of Fishkill has adopted the **values** expressed in the Dutchess County Greenway Connections Report. These values include **preserving scenic, natural, historic, cultural and recreational resources** while encouraging compatible **economic development**.
- As part of our **nation's historical narrative**, the preservation value is paramount to developing a finer understanding of the activities of Washington's troops.
- To be frank: over the past forty years, the overall site has been considerably damaged and fragmented by commercial development. Yet the opportunity remains for respectful preservation and subsequent interpretation of remaining open space. It begins with the **acquisition of available properties**.

Early 20th century view of Fishkill Encampment grounds, decades prior to the impacts of commercial development on the site.



Now is the Time to Act

Undeveloped acres belonging to the Fishkill Supply Depot complex are currently up for sale.

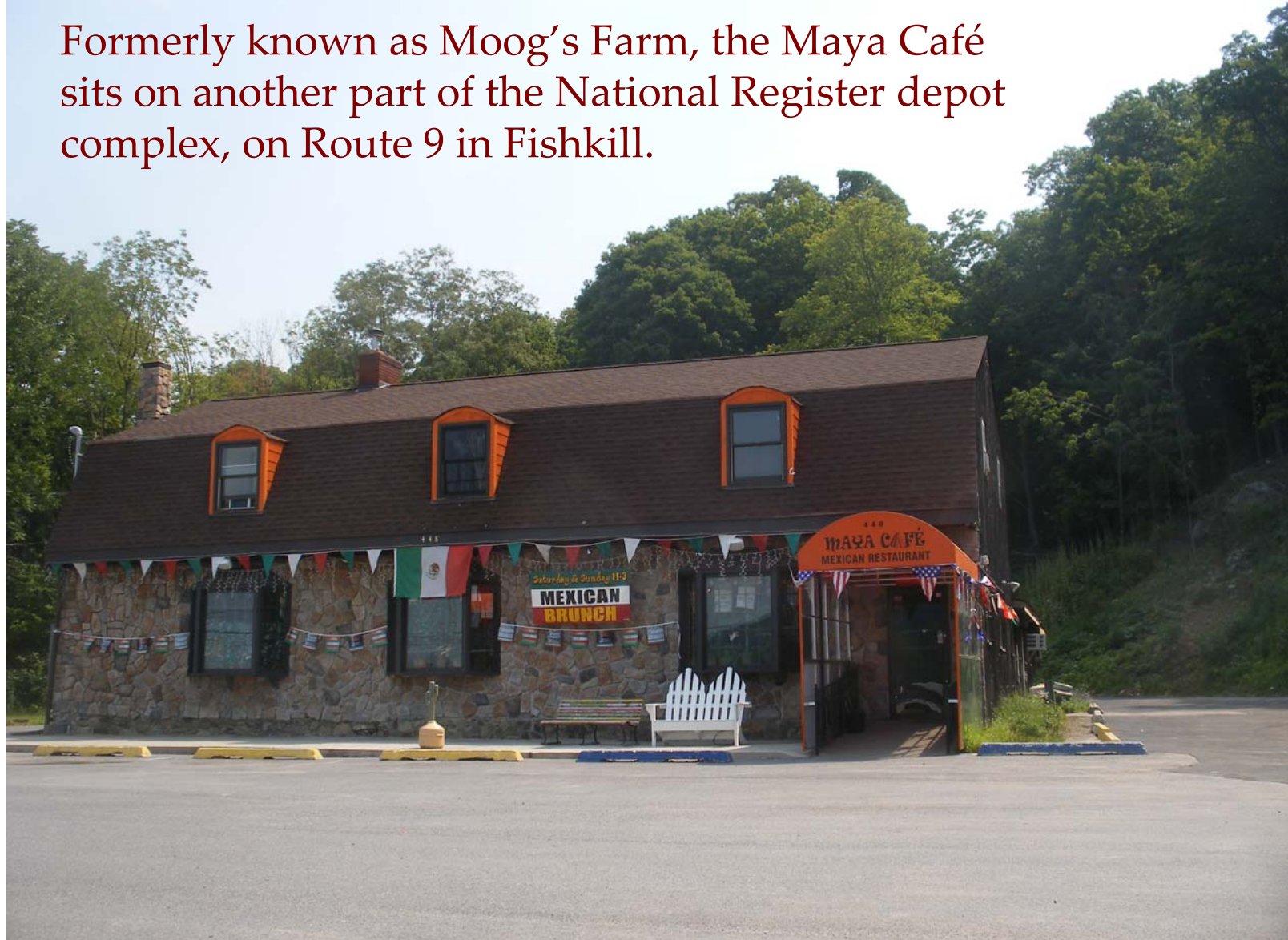


Precise and comprehensive military archaeology will enable insights into soldiers' lives that are unavailable at battlefield sites. The FSD represents a **little understood category of military history.**

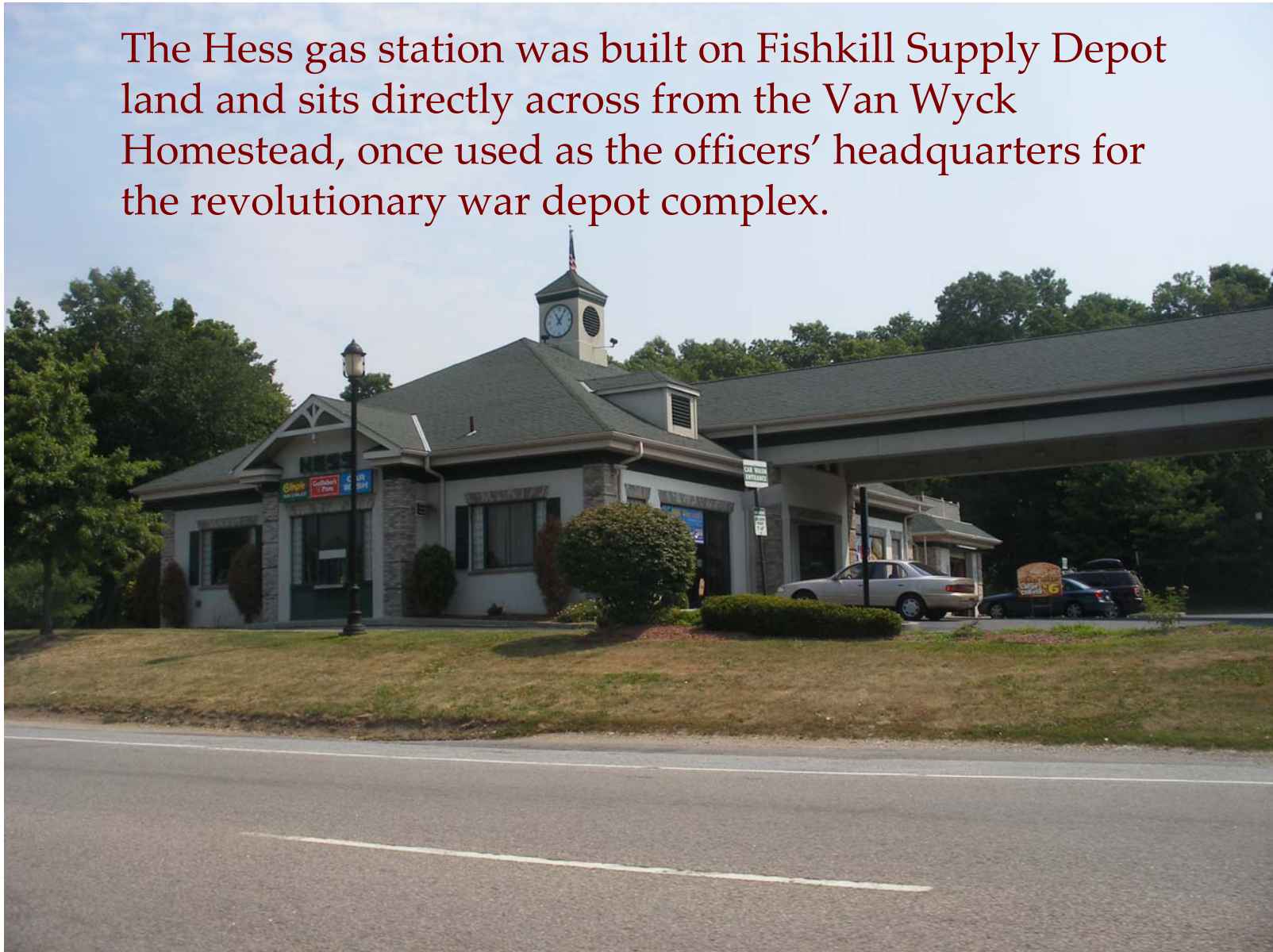


Here, a view of the old Dutchess Mall, built in 1974, on a large piece of the site of the Fishkill Supply Depot, the same year the historic site entered the National Register.

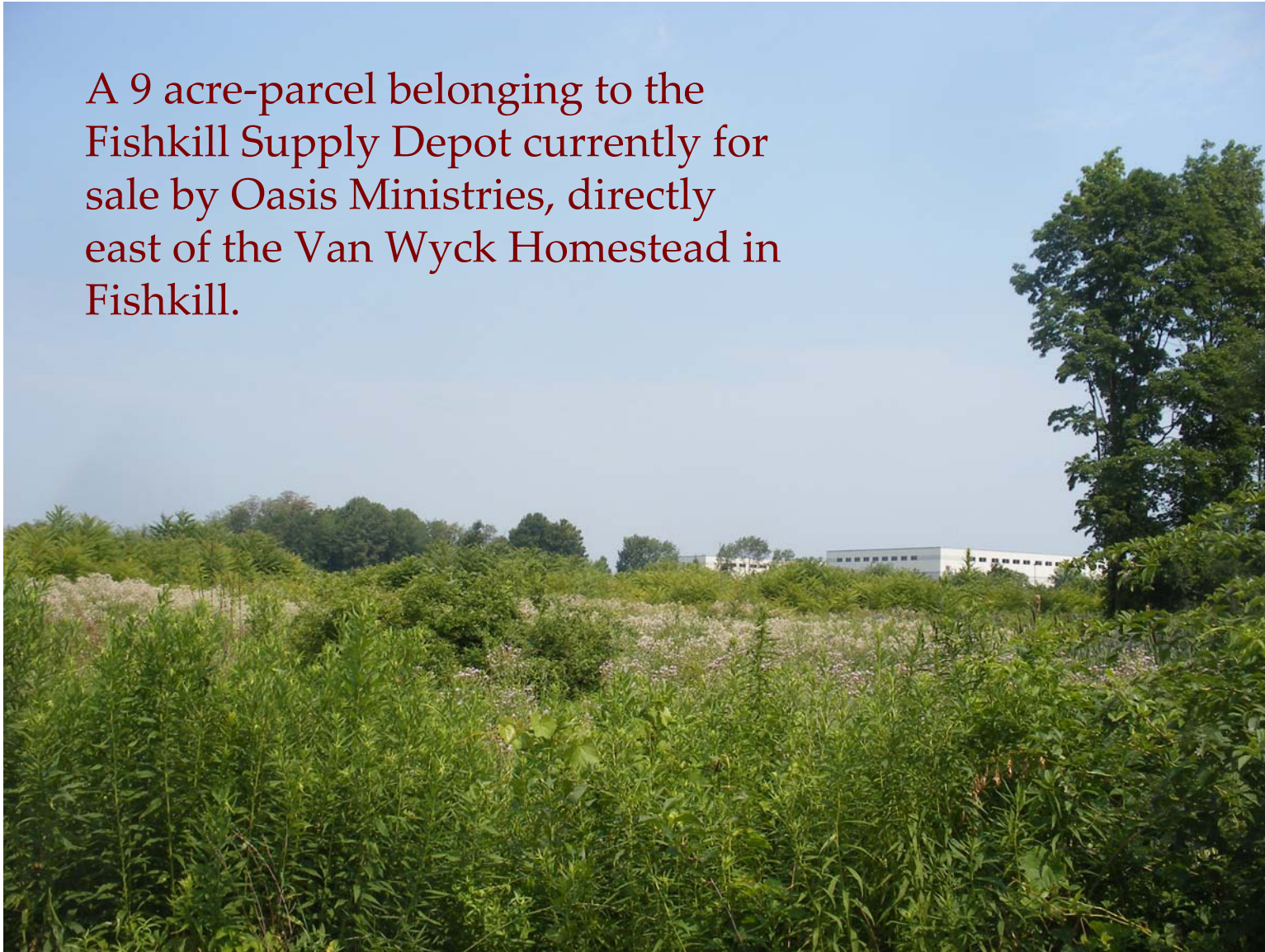
Formerly known as Moog's Farm, the Maya Café sits on another part of the National Register depot complex, on Route 9 in Fishkill.

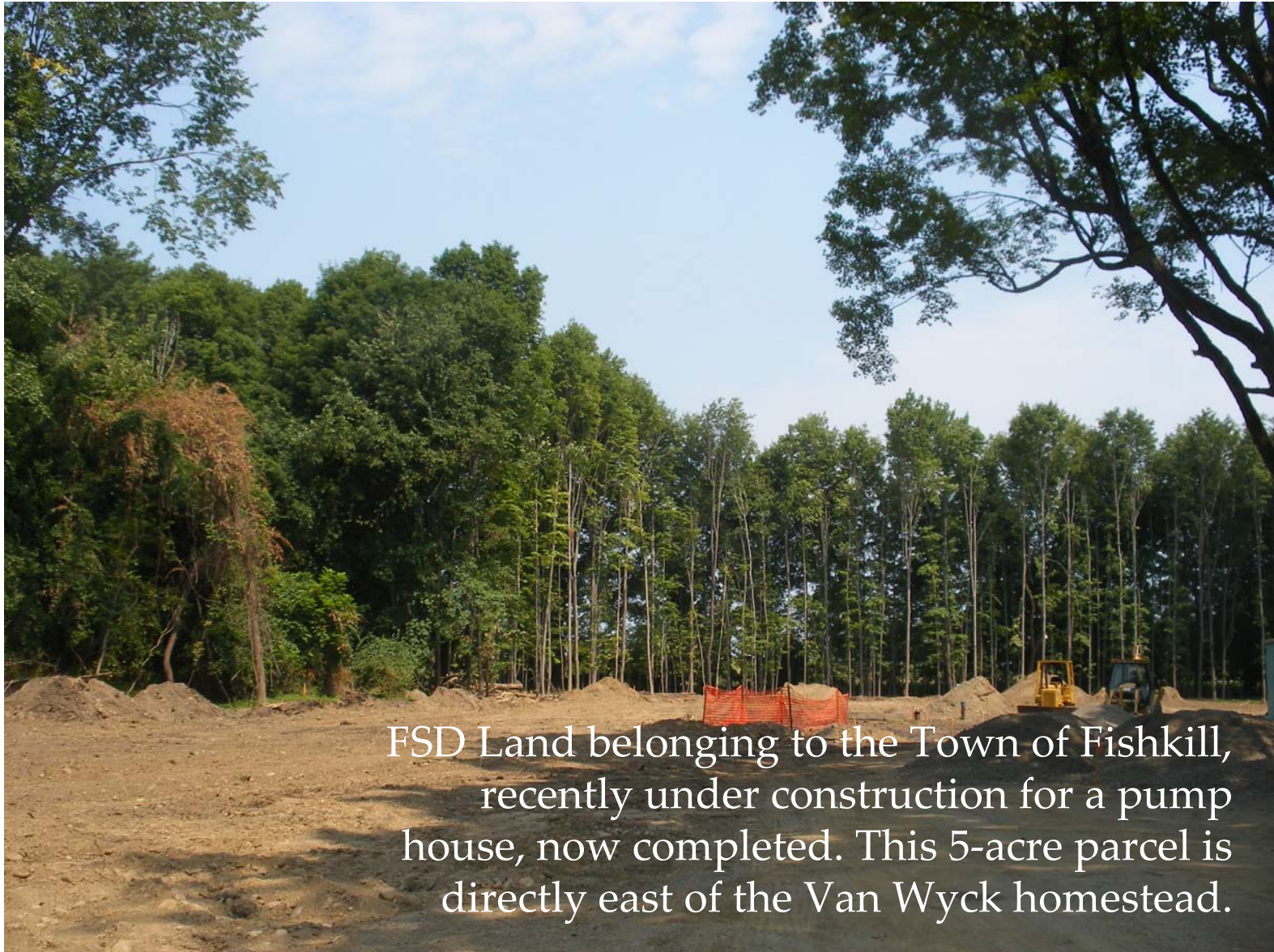


The Hess gas station was built on Fishkill Supply Depot land and sits directly across from the Van Wyck Homestead, once used as the officers' headquarters for the revolutionary war depot complex.



A 9 acre-parcel belonging to the Fishkill Supply Depot currently for sale by Oasis Ministries, directly east of the Van Wyck Homestead in Fishkill.





FSD Land belonging to the Town of Fishkill, recently under construction for a pump house, now completed. This 5-acre parcel is directly east of the Van Wyck homestead.

A view of new construction on the Dutchess Mall site belonging to the National Register Fishkill Supply Depot



Currently paved areas at the Dutchess Mall cannot be written off as archaeologically disturbed based on the current state of knowledge. The absence of archaeological resources beneath the blacktop should be demonstrated by systematic archaeological study.

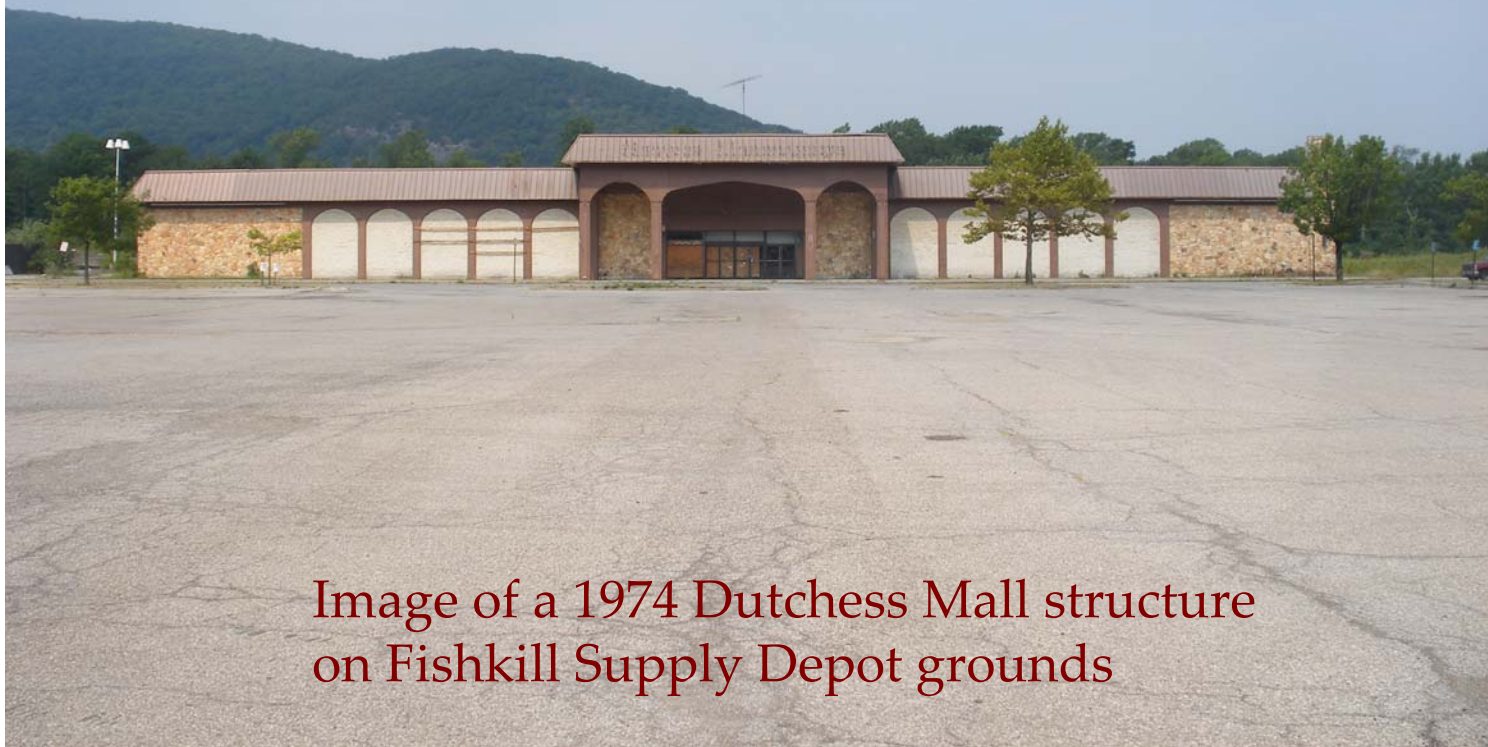


Image of a 1974 Dutchess Mall structure on Fishkill Supply Depot grounds

8 acres of National Register Fishkill Supply Depot land currently on the market. This property is located directly south and east of the Hess gas station on Route 9 and includes Raiche Run, a stream most likely used by the Continental Army.



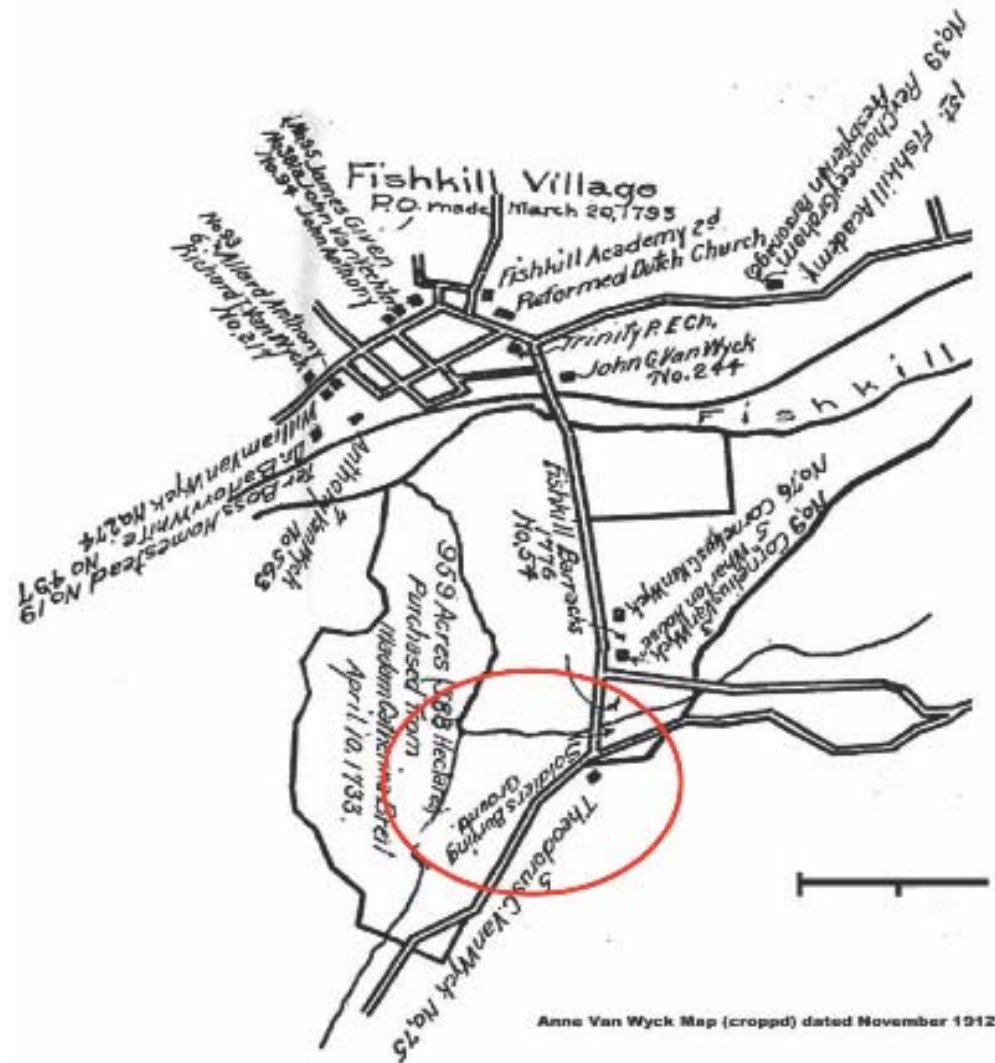


Before being moved to its present-day location on the site of the Van Wyck Homestead, this D.A.R. monument to the soldiers of the Fishkill Supply Depot was located in the vicinity of the Maya Café, formerly known as Moog's Farm, where, it is now confirmed, the soldiers' burial ground lies.



1912 map of Fishkill showing location of FSD Soldiers' Gravesite

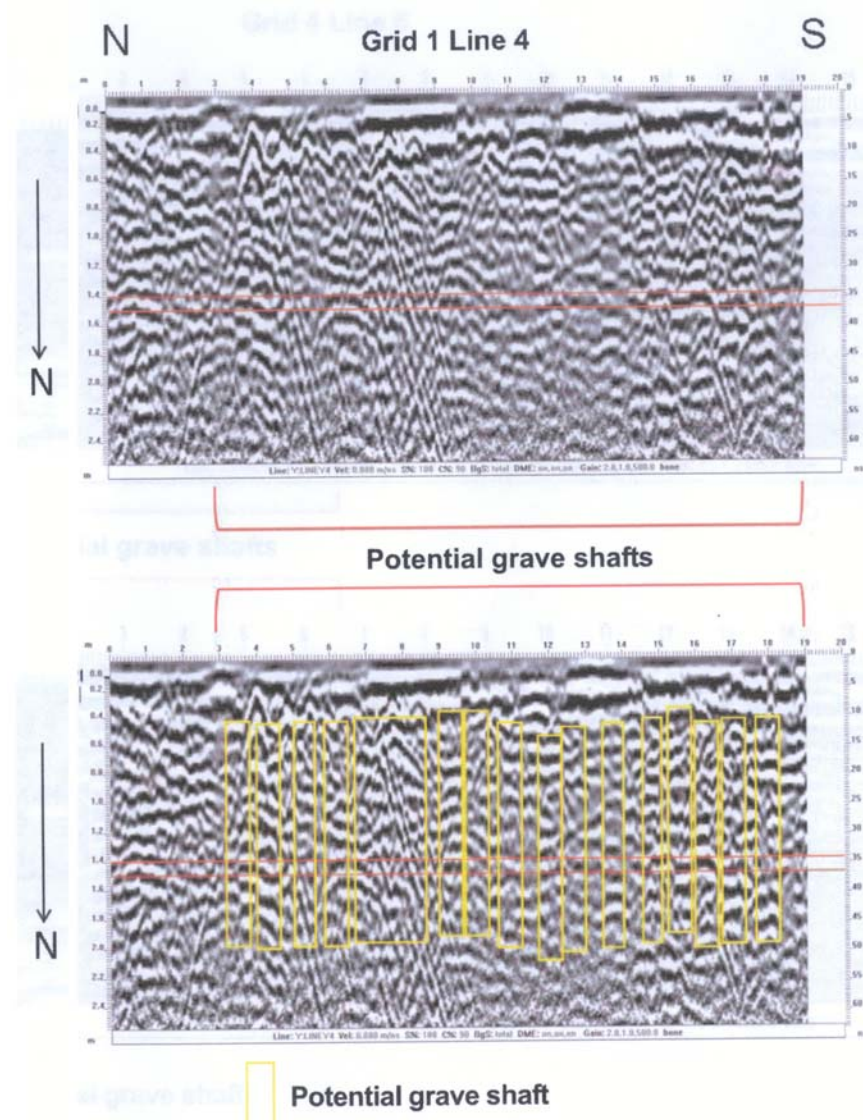
The soldiers' burial ground is indicated in the circled area of this 1912 map. The unmarked gravesite where hundreds if not thousands of Continental Army soldiers and officers lies within the boundaries of the Fishkill Supply Depot. The exact location has been officially confirmed, and recent research is uncovering a new understanding of this extraordinarily important hallowed ground.



2009 report features ground-penetrating radar images of soldiers' graves

“105... sections were examined for geophysical patterns... consistent with... the known grave shaft within the survey area.... An area was defined that contains hundreds of anomalies similar to the previously excavated grave shaft.”

Yellow boxes at right outline the “inflections” at the boundaries of grave shafts.

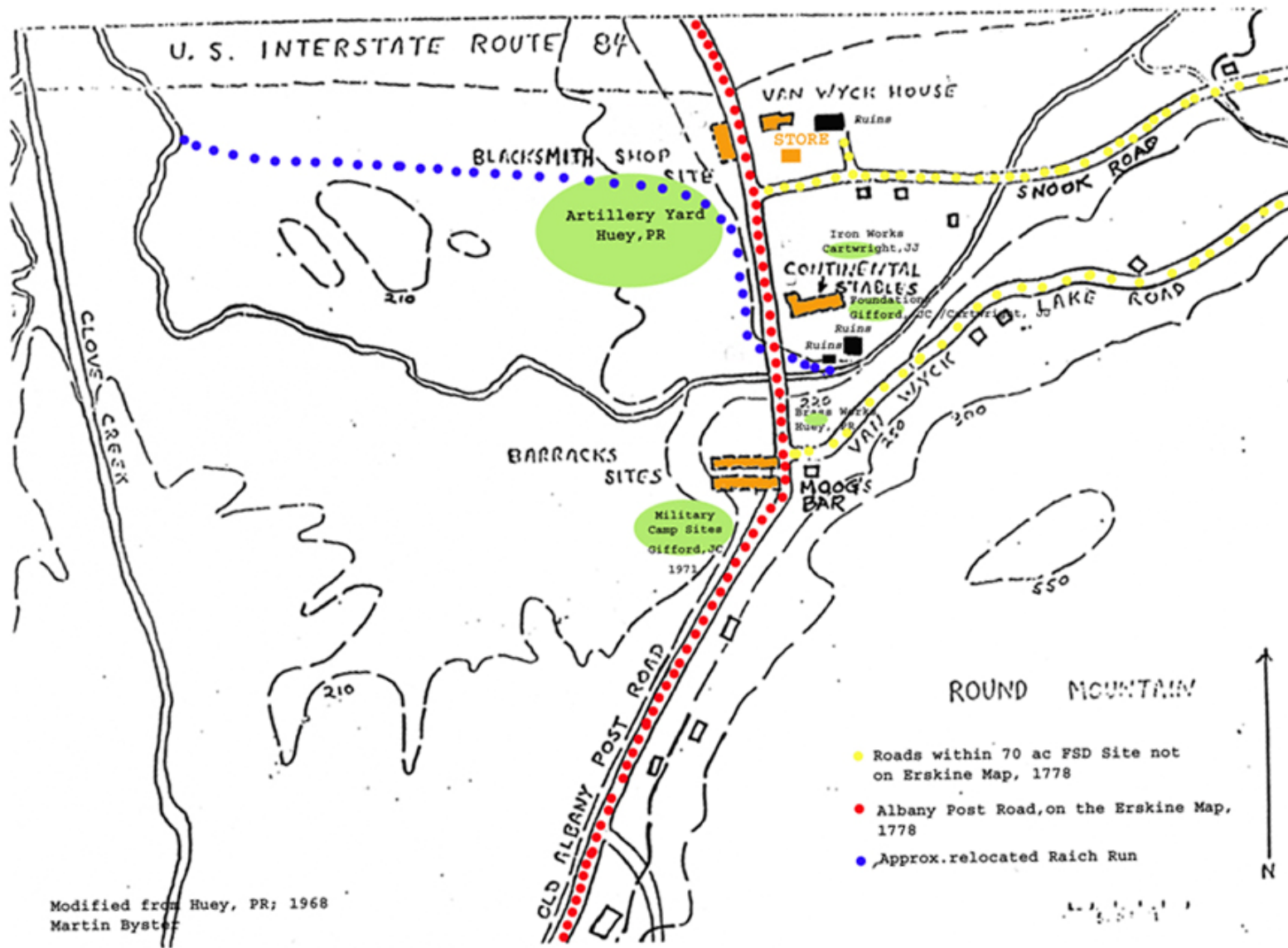




The Van Wyck Homestead, which is listed separately on the National Register, is located within the Fishkill Supply Depot complex and was requisitioned by the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War. It served as General Putnam's headquarters. General George Washington surveyed troops from the porch shown above.



The Depot complex covered over 70 acres. Had events played out differently in the subsequent centuries, the Depot would have already become a national historic site administered by the National Park Service in the tradition of Valley Forge and Morristown and its centrality in the revolution would be widely known. The early glory went to battlefields. Yet the story of military logistics is fascinating in its own right. And thousands of soldiers who fought the battles were stationed right here.



Fishkill Supply Depot map detailing features of the depot complex

Friends of the Fishkill Supply Depot, Inc.

was formed to advocate for the preservation, study, and proper interpretation of the Fishkill Supply Depot and Encampment. The preservation of essential properties at the core of the Depot site can happen in our time, and it is to this end that we are dedicated. We are an independent, New York state-registered not-for-profit organization (501c3 status pending as of Dec. 2009).

For further research materials on the National Register Fishkill Supply Depot and Encampment, please visit:

fishkillsupplydepot.org

Also find a vibrant community of supporters on Facebook!