

Since the Victory Mill closed, there are no local industrial employment opportunities. Commercial employment opportunities are limited to a few service shops and home industries. Most of the workers travel to other communities for work, and the mean travel time of 28.6 minutes shows that the work location on average is quite a distance away. The workforce appears to be distributed among the various types of industries, and no major employer is suggested.

LAND USE



"Main Street" - Looking south
on Gates Ave at Pine St.

The Village has developed naturally over time based on transportation routes and economic activity. The first structures in the Village were the Schuyler Saw Mills located west of Fish Creek, where an abundance of flowing water powered the mills. Housing for the mill workers comprised the Village community that grew around the mills. The present configuration of the Village reflects this early settlement pattern. Most of the Village is comprised of residential buildings and wooded vacant lots. Since the Village does not have a zoning ordinance, commercial development has occurred adjacent to residential uses. Commercial uses are located mainly along Route 32, but have also been established on some of the other Village streets. (See Current Land Use Map).

The Saratoga Battle Monument occupies a prominent place in the north west portion of the Village. The National Parks Service, which owns and maintains the site, also owns approximately 20 acres of wooded vacant land in the middle of the Village. To the north of this wooded area, there is additional vacant land where new single-family housing is planned. Phase I of Hill Manor is nearing completion, while Phase II and Phase III are planned for areas south of Phase I. There is a privately owned, large vacant wooded property to the east of Fish Creek.

Route 32, the main road through the Village, has never developed into a traditional small town "Main Street," since shopping opportunities were readily available in nearby Schuylerville. Little commercial development exists in the Village, which is scattered along Route 32 and Herkimer Street. Commercial uses include an antique shop, two woodworking business, an indoor flea market as well as a

Development Potential



Village owned property at
Bridge St. & Evans St.

NATURAL RESOURCES



Fish Creek - On Bridge
Street looking South

few empty shops on Route 32. There is a funeral home on Gates Avenue Extension.

The intersection of Pine and Route 32 has the potential for development into the downtown core. Presently, the Post Office, the Village Park and several empty commercial buildings which occupy three corners of the intersection, serve as a nucleus around which a "Village Center" could develop. A general store, a grocery shop and a pharmacy are some of the traditional types of retail stores required by local residents for daily needs.

Other types of large-scale commercial or recreational development are possible in the Village. The historic nature of the entire region suggests development that would complement the tourism industry. The first opportunity lies in the wooded area presently owned by the National Parks Service. Bike or pedestrian trails connecting the Battle Monument and the nearby historic General Schuyler house are one possibility. A park offering picnic grounds and other recreational amenities to residents and visitors is another. The privately owned wooded areas to the east of Fish Creek are also another key area that has great potential for tourism/recreational uses, since it is adjacent to Route 4 and across from the General Schuyler house. Motels, restaurants, specialty shops and other commercial uses that relate to tourism would have a strategic location there.

One small parcel of Village owned-land off Bridge Street lies adjacent to Fish Creek. As the Village has only a small Village Park, this vacant parcel would be an ideal location for an additional Village park with a view to the creek.

Fish Creek, fed from water from Saratoga Lake, flows east into the Hudson River at Schuylerville. The creek is the most significant natural resource in the Village. Its swift flow once provided the power for the cotton, flour, linen and saw mills. Although it is not navigable, due to its shallow depth and rapid current, it is an attractive natural resource that could provide a passive recreational amenity.

For the most part, the Village of Victory does not lie in the flood plain. Fish Creek forms a floodway and there is a small area of land at the southern end of the Village (off

Inventory & Analysis



Fish Creek - On Bridge Street
looking North

Mennen Road) that lies in the 100 year flood plain (FEMA Floodway Map, Village of Victory, NY, Community Panel No. 360733 0001, June 1, 1984.

Since the Village has been developed as a residential settlement throughout the centuries, most of the land can be classified as urban land. However, there are small areas of forested property as discussed in the land use section. In a developed area, pockets of greenspace become significant to provide active and passive recreational opportunities for residents and visitors. The twenty-acre forested area currently owned by the National Park Service and the privately owned forested area east of Fish Creek provide the last undeveloped areas in the Village. These areas should be earmarked for potential parkland.

Slopes range from 4% to 15% and above. The area along Route 32 shows the greatest gradient, with the land rising steeply to the west. The soil throughout the Village is classified as Till 2. Tills are the direct deposits of the glacier which covered this areas until about 10,000 years ago and consist of a heterogeneous mixture of materials ranging in size from clay to boulders. Till 2 is categorized by little soil cover and exposed bedrock which is unsatisfactory for septic tanks.

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Police

The Village provides a range of service to the community with supplemental and joint services arranged with the Town of Saratoga and adjacent communities.

Police protection is provided by the Town of Saratoga and New York State. Emergency 911 calls are answered by either the Town Sheriff or a New York State Trooper. The response time to calls has been slow, generally from one half to one hour.

Fire Protection & Emergency Response

The Village provides excellent fire and emergency response service through the Victory Mills Fire Department, organized as the David Nivens Fire company in 1896, and re-organized in the late 1940's as the David Nevins Fire Department.

Inventory & Analysis



Victory Mills Fire Station

The Victory Mills Fire Department is included in the county mutual aid agreement, whereby neighboring fire departments assist if additional emergency forces are required. The fire department from the hamlet of Quaker Spring and the Village of Schuylerville are readily available for such emergencies. The Victory Mills Fire Department reciprocates in adjacent parts of the Town of Saratoga.

The fire department, currently staffed by 35 volunteers, is capable of handling almost any emergency including fire, medical emergencies and water and confined space rescue. The equipment includes three fire and rescue trucks which are maintained in excellent condition.

1. The primary fire truck is a 2000 Sterling truck with 1000 gallon water tank, capable of pumping 1000 gallons per minute. The truck was acquired in 2002.
2. The secondary fire truck is 500 gal tank Maxim Engine with a 1250 pump.
3. The rescue truck, used as a first response for 911 calls, is equipped with equipment for medical emergencies and rescue procedures involving water or confined spaces such as wells or pits.

Although the equipment is in excellent condition, the firehouse is in need of major renovations or replacement. The building has major structural deterioration including cracked floors and a leaking roof. Additionally, the building has become too small for modern trucks, and was expanded at the rear wall to accommodate the newly acquired truck.

Conditions in the Village are conducive to fire emergency response: the entire Village has hydrants and homes are accessible to the fire department. The only building structure that is a potential problem is the vacant mill, which are not secured properly and subject to entry and/or vandalism.

Special Needs Services

There are no social services located in the Village. All services for special needs groups, such as senior citizens, single mothers, and persons with disabilities are located in the surrounding towns, cities, or villages.

Inventory & Analysis

Parks & Recreation



Victory Park

Victory Park, the only Village park, is strategically located at the potential center of the Village at the intersection of Pine Street and Gates Avenue. Set on a hill with a backdrop of picturesque residences, the park presents a good image from the main street – Gates Avenue. However, since it is on a hillside, it is not a good location for play equipment or athletic facilities, such as a basketball court. The Village needs another park where sports events and family oriented activities could take place.

The Village owns a small, level, vacant property off Bridge Street adjacent to Fish Creek. This property could be developed for active recreation and also for waterside passive activities such as picnicking, strolling, and enjoying the water view.

The Fire Department provides the community with various social programs such as Sunday night bingo, which are held in the adjacent Town Hall.

Schools

The Schuylerville Central School District provides educational services to most of the Town of Saratoga. In 2001 there were approximately 1,700 children in the school district. An increase in the Town school aged population has necessitated the addition of classroom space and athletic fields. According to the 2000 Census, there were 152 children from the Village of Victory, enrolled in school. Of these, nine were enrolled in nursery school and 15 were enrolled in college or graduate school.

Cemeteries



Victory Cemetery

The Village owns and maintains Victory Cemetery, one of the two cemeteries located in the Village. Victory Cemetery a small rectangular property, lies to the west of Cemetery Road on the western edge of the Village. The other cemetery, Prospect Hill Cemetery, lying to the south of the Battle Monument, is privately owned and maintained.

TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

Roads and Sidewalks

The villages of Victory and Schuylerville developed around the intersection of two main highways: the old Montreal-Albany Military Road (now US Route 4) and a stage route running east to Boston from Saratoga Springs (now NYS Rt. 29). As the settlement around this intersection grew, the Victory Mill formed the nucleus for a residential community based on mill workers homes, while the commercial district developed in the area that was to become Schuylerville.

The northern boundary between the two Villages is Burgoyne Road (County Rt. 338) while the main route through the Village is Gates Avenue (NYS Rt. 32). Except for US Route 4, the remaining roads are local roads, maintained by the Department of Public Works. The Village has approximately three miles of local roads which it maintains and plows. Currently, the roads are in good repair, except for Monument Drive which needs to be repaved.

The Department of Public Works has two full time employees, one of which is the supervisor. When road paving is required, the Village hires a paving machine. The Town of Saratoga helps with repairs on an as needed basis. The Village DPW is also responsible for trimming trees and mowing along the roads, as well as taking care of the Victory Mills Cemetery and Victory Park.

Sidewalks in the Village are the responsibility of the individual property owners, although the Village occasionally makes repairs if sidewalks exists, where no building is present. The majority of sidewalks are not in good repair.

Water and Sewer

The Village is part of the Victory – Schuylerville Joint Board of Water Management (BOWM). Water comes from a 200,000 gallon spring fed source tank in the Town of Easton across the Hudson River from Schuylerville. Water is treated with chlorine for disinfection purposes. Treated water is stored in a 600,000 gallon storage tank located in the Village of Victory which serves both Villages. The BOWM is planning the construction of a new 560,000 gallon per day reverse osmosis facility in Fort Hardy Park to provide needed filtration treatment of the source water. The filtration facility is scheduled to be completed in 2003. All

residences in the Village are served by this system, except for two homes that have wells. The Village installs water mains and contracts out large infrastructure projects.

The Village has separate storm sewer and sanitary sewer systems. The storm sewers, which serve most of the Village, carry runoff into Fish Creek. In general, the storm sewers work well, except for a draining problem on Schuyler Heights Drive, where the runoff comes down a hill and floods a ditch, causing damage to driveways.

A new sanitary sewer system, installed in the Village in 1996 is a combination gravity and pump sewer line. The pump station in the Village pumps the sewage to Schuylerville, where it is treated, with the resulting sludge taken to Johnstown. The system uses a 43 Grinder pump – Environment 1. All homes in the Village are on the sewer line.

Waste Disposal & Other Village Services

The Village provides weekly garbage pickup and recyclables pickup once a month. The Village also picks up large metallic trash once a year at no charge during spring months and offers a general rubbish pick-up once a year. The rubbish and weekly garbage is taken to a transfer station in the nearby Town of Wilton. Recyclables are taken to Saratoga Springs.

The Village performs diversified services requiring the use of a variety of equipment including the following items which the Village owns:

- Large DT 466 International Dump Truck
- F350 Ford 8 Ton Dump Truck
- 2 riding lawnmowers
- Miscellaneous small equipment

The above equipment is in good condition. When needed the Village has the use of a 555 E backhoe owned by the Schuylerville Joint Board of Water Management (BOWM).

The Village contracts out jobs that are too extensive for DRW staff to handle. These include installing large storm

Utilities

drains, cutting down large trees, installing sidewalks, big water projects, such as installing a water main.

Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation supplies natural gas to certain sections of the Village. These are areas along Gates Avenue Extension, Burgoyne Street and Hill Manor. Since there is no natural gas service in the rest of the Village, residence use a choice of propane, fuel oil or kerosene for heating or cooking needs. These fuels are supplied by a variety of different companies.

Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation also supplies electric power to the Village, and installed new electric street lights throughout the Village in 1977-1978.

In addition to traditional telephone service, the Village has cell phone reception. Cable television service is supplied by Time-Warner.

PUBLIC OPINION

Visualizing a future for the Village of Victory is an intensive and integral component of the Comprehensive Plan. It requires the input of the Village's elected and appointed leaders, business owners, and residents, as well as the knowledge contained within Village resources to provide an arena for the development of coordinated goals and objectives. It is common knowledge that the foundation of a good Comprehensive Plan is the incorporation of public input early and often throughout the development of the document. To facilitate this, the Village of Victory has both created a broad based Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee and developed a Comprehensive Community Outreach Program aimed at incorporating varying levels of public participation throughout the planning process.

Recognizing the importance of public involvement, the Village of Victory sought methods of community outreach beyond simply inviting public to the Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee meetings. Opportunities for community outreach were afforded to the residents, including a mailed community survey and a community S.W.O.T. Analysis workshop where Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats were identified.