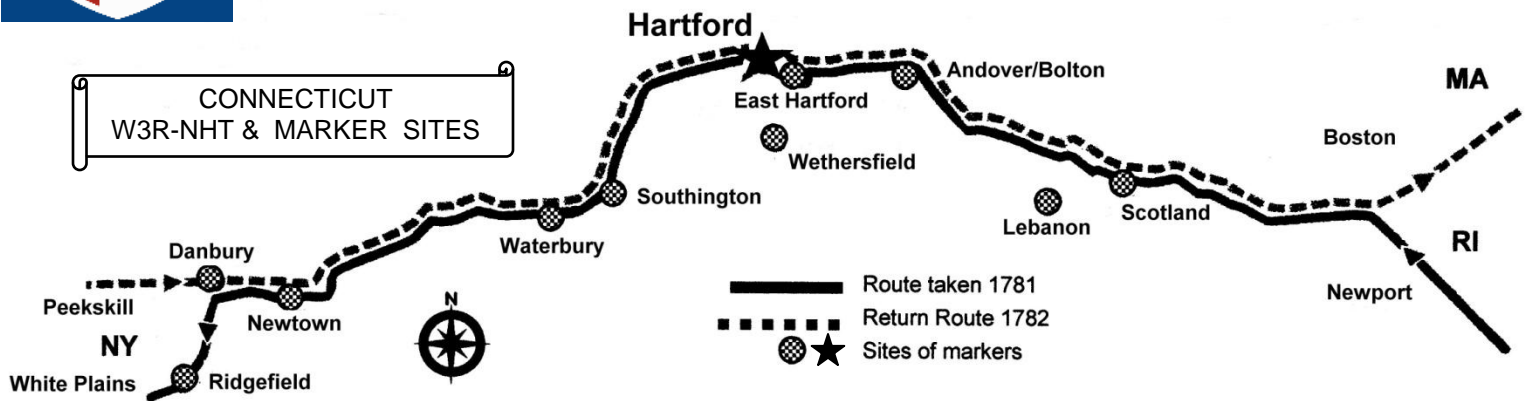




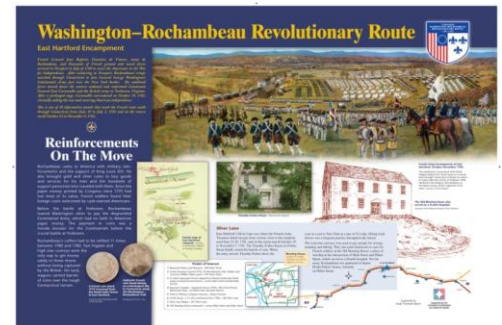
# CONNECTICUT MARKERS on the WASHINGTON-ROCHAMBEAU REVOLUTIONARY ROUTE NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL



In the summer of 1780 in answer to requests for help from America, Lieutenant General Comte de Rochambeau and 5,800 French troops were sent from France to Newport, Rhode Island. In 1781 this army crossed Connecticut to meet General Washington's army near White Plains, New York. The two armies marched together to Yorktown, Virginia. They won the pivotal battle of Yorktown and the Revolution. In 1782 the French army returned to Connecticut on its way to Boston, Massachusetts and the Caribbean.

In 2009 Congress declared the 600 mile route from Newport and Boston to Yorktown the Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route National Historic Trail, W3R-NHT.

In 2005 - 2006 Connecticut installed 12 markers along its 125 miles of this route. These commemorate the visits of Washington and Rochambeau here, French army campsites (Connecticut camps numbered 3-11 in 1781 and 40-49 in 1782), and other events. The 2'x3' East Hartford marker, shown right, is typical. The basic design is by David Wolfram. Local histories, stories, and images make each town marker unique. Across the top of East Hartford's marker is David Wagner's painting of General Rochambeau surveying all his troops here in November 1782.



Follow the map and visit the marker sites listed above and discover a wonderful look back into Connecticut history.

The following brief marker information is primarily from the markers themselves; town historic information has been taken from the 2005 CT Commission on Culture and Tourism brochure "Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route in Connecticut".

**THE SCOTLAND MARKER "Summer Spectacle"** – In mid June 1781 about 4800 French troops, artillery, and supply wagons marched by the farmlands and through the towns of eastern Connecticut – Sterling, Plainfield, Canterbury, Scotland, and Windham – on the way to New York. Their miles long line was an unforgettable sight. **The marker for eastern Connecticut** is at the **Huntington Homestead**, 36 Huntington Road (Route 14).

The **Homestead** is the birthplace of Samuel Huntington, a signer of the Declaration of Independence and a statesman during the Revolutionary War. Visit [www.huntingtonhomestead.org](http://www.huntingtonhomestead.org).

**THE LEBANON MARKER "The Cavalry Comes to Connecticut"** – Rochambeau's cavalry, the colorful hussars of

Lauzun's Legion, spent eight months in 1780-1781 camped west of Lebanon's Green – the longest French encampment in Connecticut. **The marker** is at the **Governor Trumbull House**, 169 West Town Street. For information call 860-642-7558.

Lebanon is named the "Heartbeat of the Revolution". Many significant, original buildings connected to Connecticut's contributions to the patriot cause are still located around the mile-long Green: The **Governor Jonathan Trumbull House Museum**, the **Revolutionary War Office**, and others. The **Lebanon Historical Society Museum and Visitors Center**, 856 Trumbull Highway (State Route 87) has information for all sites, research facilities, local history exhibits; for information call 860-642-6579; visit: [www.historyoflebanon.org](http://www.historyoflebanon.org).

**THE ANDOVER MARKER “Welcoming Our Allies”** – **Daniel White’s Tavern** at the sign of the Black Horse, 130 Hutchinson Road (private) hosted Rochambeau more than any other home in Connecticut and also hosted French soldiers during Camp 5. The road retains much of its 18<sup>th</sup>-century character. **The marker** is at **The Museum of Andover History** at the intersection of State Routes 6 & 316. Visit: [www.andoverconnecticut.homestead.com](http://www.andoverconnecticut.homestead.com).

**THE BOLTON MARKER “Welcoming Our Allies”** – **Oliver White’s Tavern**, 2 Brandy Street (private), hosted French officers during Camps 5 and 46. The camps were on what is town owned **Rose Farm**, Bolton Center Road. **The marker** is on the **Bolton Green** opposite **Town Hall**, Bolton Center Road. Visit: [www.boltoncthistory.org](http://www.boltoncthistory.org).

**THE EAST HARTFORD MARKER “Reinforcements on the Move”** – Stories on this marker tell of coins brought from overseas, carried in wagons with the army, and spent locally on goods, services, and nursing sick troops. Stored kegs of silver to pay the French soldiers were kept at the **Timothy Forbes House**, 135 Forbes Street (private). A plaque marks the location of the **East Hartford Meeting House**, which served as a hospital for the French army, on the small green at Pitkin and Main Streets. The **Silver Lane Plaque** at Elizabeth Shea Park, 201 Silver Lane, commemorates the army’s encampments here, Camps 6 and 45. **The marker** is in front of the **Raymond Library**, 840 Main Street. Visit: [www.hseh.org](http://www.hseh.org).

**THE HARTFORD MARKER “The First Meeting”** – In September 1780 Washington first met Rochambeau on the site of the **Old State House**, 800 Main Street, after the French commander crossed the Connecticut River by ferry. They then walked to Jeremiah Wadsworth’s home (located where the Athenaeum is) for the first of two conferences in Connecticut on joint military strategy. **The marker** is located at the **Old State House**. For information call 860-522-6766. Visit: [www.ctosh.org](http://www.ctosh.org).

Nearby are the **Wadsworth Athenaeum**, 600 Main Street, **Museum of Connecticut History**, 231 Capitol Avenue, **Antiquarian & Landmarks Society**, 255 Main Street, **Ancient Burying Ground**, corner of Main & Gold Streets. The **Connecticut Historical Society** is at 1 Elizabeth Street; for information call 860-236-5621; visit: [www.chs.org](http://www.chs.org).

**THE WETHERSFIELD MARKER “The Wethersfield Conference”** – In May 1781, Washington and Rochambeau held their second strategy meeting at the **Webb House**, 211 Main Street. De Grasse’s fleet was critical. **The First Church of Christ**, 250 Main Street, hosted Washington at a service. **The marker** is at the **Village Tavern**, 222 Main Street.

Many buildings are included in Wethersfield’s historic district, the oldest and largest in central Connecticut. **The Wethersfield Historical Society and Museum** is located at 150 Main Street. For information call 860-529-7656. Visit: [www.wethhist.org/contact.htm](http://www.wethhist.org/contact.htm).

**THE SOUTHLINGTON MARKER “Support from Southington”** – Southington’s first town meetings in 1779

gave financial support to its men fighting for independence. The French army was welcome. Rochambeau’s army camped at “**French Hill**” in 1781, Camp 8, and in 1782, Camp 43. **A monument with a bronze relief portrait of Rochambeau**, 1038 Marion Avenue, commemorates Camp 8. The former **Asa Barnes Tavern**, 1089 Marion Avenue (private), hosted French officers during the march with entertainments. **The marker** is in **Plantsville Village** near South Main Street.

**The Southington Historical Center** is located at 239 Main Street. For information call 860-621-4811. Visit: [www.mu-seumsusa.org/museums/info/1159563](http://www.mu-seumsusa.org/museums/info/1159563).

**THE WATERBURY MARKER “A Hard Road”** – In 1781 two French soldiers died here and are remembered with a six foot stone monument in **East Farms Cemetery**, 3155 East Main Street. About the road south Baron Closen, Rochambeau’s aide-de-camp, wrote “The stony roads and endless mountains intersecting this area made it very disagreeable for travelers”. **The marker** is on the Green at the **Mattatuck Museum**, 144 West Main Street. For information call 203-753-0381. Visit [www.mattatuckmuseum.org](http://www.mattatuckmuseum.org).

**THE NEWTOWN MARKER “A Critical Link”** – The remarkably constructed Carleton Bridge across the Housatonic made it convenient to move supplies to and from Danbury, a critical Continental Army supply depot. **Newtown’s marker** is opposite **Hawley Elementary School**, 29 Church Hill Road.

Nearby a plaque for Camp 10 of Rochambeau’s army erroneously states that the Marquis de Lafayette commanded these troops. The **Caleb Baldwin Tavern**, 32 Main Street (private), hosted numerous French soldiers during Newtown encampments, Camps 10 and 41. The historic **Matthew Curtiss House**, 44 Main Street, is the home of the **Newtown Historical Society**. For information call 203-426-5937. Visit: [www.newtownhistory.org](http://www.newtownhistory.org).

**THE RIDGEFIELD MARKER “Linking with the Continental Army”** – Rochambeau’s troops camped in **Ridgebury Parish** in Ridgefield at Camp 11 in July 1781, their last camp in Connecticut before joining the Continental Army in New York. The French general celebrated his 56<sup>th</sup> birthday here. **The marker** is located at the **intersection of Ridgebury Road and Old Stagecoach Road**.

The **Keeler Tavern Museum**, 132 Main Street, was a meeting place for patriots and was fired upon by British troops in 1777. **The Ridgefield Historical Society** is in the historic **Scott House**, 4 Sunset Lane. For information call 203-438-5821. Visit: [www.ridgefieldhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.ridgefieldhistoricalsociety.org).

**THE DANBURY MARKER “The Provision State”** – Danbury was one of the most important supply hubs in the Revolutionary War, giving rise to Connecticut’s nickname “The Provision State”. The town was burned by British soldiers in April 1777. On the return trip from Yorktown, Rochambeau’s army camped in several locations in Danbury in October 1782, Camp 40. **The marker** is at the **Danbury Museum and Historical Society**, 43 Main Street. For information call 203-743-5200. Visit: [www.danburymuseum.org](http://www.danburymuseum.org).