

Fort Crailo, part door



This door opens into the imposing brick structure is known as Fort Crailo. During the 18th century it acted as a headquarters for the vast Rensselaer Estate. The earliest date of residence is in 1704 by Hendrick van Rensselaer, though it may have been built in 1642. Its reinforced structure is a legacy of a time when Indian raids were a threat, and at one point it had a palisade and gun ports. According to legend, at this site in 1758 British Army surgeon Richard Shuckburgh penned the lyrics of "Yankee Doodle" to mock the Colonial Troops he saw in the area. A small sign to the side states, "Caretakers residence in rear." This image was created to record the historic site activities of the New York State Conservation Department.

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E.J. McGuirk

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Rensselaer (is associated with)