

Before the days of the white man, Spuyten Duyvil Hill was a region frequented by the Nipitichsen Indians, probably the tribe which attacked Hudson when he was on the river in 1609. Traces of the aborigines have come to light from time to time, particularly when the cellar of the Mischebeim (Ward) residence was being excavated. Two other American forts stood on this hill in 1776: (20) **Fort No. 2** or Ft. Swartwout, was located near the present tennis courts near Arlington Ave. north of 227th St. (21) **Fort No. 3** was farther east near the junction of 227th St. with Netherland Ave. Return via the winding Kappock St. to 230th St. and Broadway.

FORDHAM

Go east on 230th St. across the railroad bridge and turn north into Heath Ave. which follows very nearly the course of the Eastern Post Road. In the 18th century, the traveler after crossing Kings Bridge followed very nearly this route across the Bronx River and then on through Eastchester and New Rochelle, if he were bound for Boston. If Albany were his destination, he would continue northward by the Albany Post Road (see p. 121) through Yonkers. In a southeasterly direction over "Breakneck Hill" went Kingsbridge Road (as it does today) in the direction of West Farms and Westchester. It appears that the original Fordham settlement was at the foot of "Breakneck Hill" near the bank of the Harlem, because it is recorded (1669) prior to the construction of Kings Bridge that the governor of the province required the lessee of the ferry at that place ("the Wading Place") to "bear one third parte of ye charge of making ye bridge [or causeway] over ye meadow ground to ye Towne of Fordham." It is observed that the land here is still sunken. The Tetard farm lay west of the Eastern Post Road and Gen. Richard Montgomery's Kingsbridge farm was to the east. Observe (22) **Gen. Montgomery's**

Cottage, of Dutch architecture, standing north of Heath Ave. at No. 3489 Ft. Independence St. Dominic Tetard, who owned the other farm, was chaplain to Gen. Montgomery and French interpreter to Gen. Schuyler. Continue up the hill into Sedgwick Ave. and go north a few rods with the Jerome Park Reservoir on the right to a gateway marked by tablets to show the location of old (23) **Fort Independence**, another of those American defenses previously spoken of. Sedgwick Ave. runs right through the old fort, a part of whose ramparts furnished the foundations for the house built by the late William O. Gibbs, on the opposite side of the avenue. Excavations in 1914 revealed about 500 cannon balls, also shells and bar shot, probably abandoned on evacuation, October, 1776. Return on Sedgwick Ave., turn left into Claffin Terr. (Reservoir Ave.) and see, on the right, flagstaff and tablet marking the site of (24) ***Fort No. 4**. This fort commanded the Farmer's Bridge (see p. 115). Excavations in 1916 revealed the remains of brick fireplaces and many military relics, including regimental buttons. From this point a good view may be had of the reservoir which occupies the site of the former Jerome Park race track. Still another defence not marked, known as the King's Redoubt, was located between Fort No. 4 and Kingsbridge Road.

Proceed south into Kingsbridge Road bearing sharply to the right and observe the (25) **Fordham Manor Dutch Reformed Church**, successor to an earlier church of 1706. A little farther on turn to the left through a gateway into the grounds of the U. S. Veterans' Hospital, formerly a Roman Catholic Orphan Asylum. It would appear from the Revolutionary maps that Forts Nos. 5 and 6, erected to command the Harlem River below, were located within these grounds. Pass through the hospital grounds into Sedgwick Ave. and note at the left the (26) **Webb Institute of Naval Architecture**, with the figurehead from an

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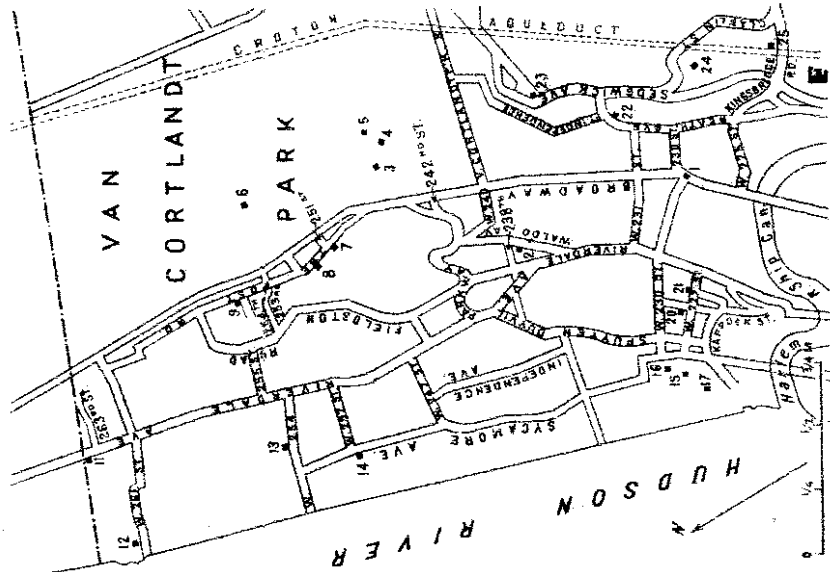
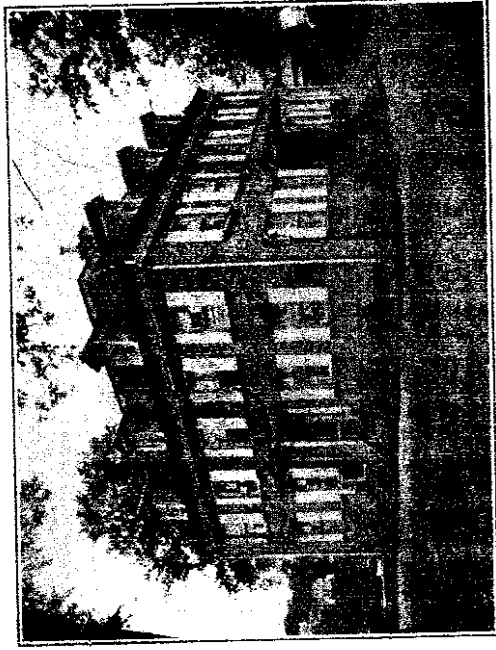


PLATE 16. VAN CORTLANDT PARK AND VICINITY

- 1--Tahhat, King's Bridge.
- 2--"Upper Cortlandt's."
- 3--Van Cortlandt Mansion.
- 4--Mill site.
- 5--Berrian burying ground.
- 6--Van Cortlandt burial vault.
- 7--Van Cortlandt's miller's house.
- 8--Hadley House.
- 9--Samier House.
- 11--Home Clara Morris.
- 12--Fort Hill.
- 13--Elmhurst.
- 14--Appleton Mansion.
- 15--Hudson Monument.
- 16--Ward Residence.
- 17--Berrian Homestead.
- 20--Site Fort No. 2.
- 21--Site Fort No. 3.
- 22--Montgomery cottage (location is farther north at 3489 ft.).
- 23--Site Fort Independence.
- 24--Fort No. 4.
- 25--Fordham Manor Dutch Reformed Church.

This was known as (2) "Upper Cortlandt's" or "Van Cortlandt's on the Hill" and was built in 1822 by Augustus Van Cortlandt and later came into the possession of Waldo Hetchus. It once commanded a magnificent view of the valley of Tippet's Brook to the east and of



VAN CORTLANDT MANSION, VAN CORTLANDT PARK

Van Cortlandt Park to the northwest; time has wrought many changes, however, in the immediate foreground.

VAN CORTLANDT PARK

Continue down Waldo Ave. and then to the right past the new home of Manhattan College, and across Broadway into Van Cortlandt Park. Immediately on entering the park the noble (3) *Van Cortlandt Mansion attracts the eye. It was built in 1748 (see inscription on the wall).