



## The Official W3R Route? A Disclaimer and Explanation

As of October 5, 2009, there is no "official" determination of either  
#1 which colonial roads the allied armies followed in 1781  
#2 what is the best route for modern-day heritage tourism

The most official route we have to date is a network of paths on the National Park Service map dated July 2006 and included in the legislation designating the W3R as a National Historic Trail. [See our Legislation page for a link to display that map.] Although the legislation refers to a trail (singular) no single path through that network is designated (either on the map or in the legislation) as the main trail, and the map does not give street names.

The routes and events described on the W3R-US Website are based on several sources -- see the "Library: Web and Print" area of the W3R-US Web site. Suggestions for corrections and additions to our trail descriptions are welcome if you provide suitable source citations.

Several states have placed way-finding markers to guide tourists. These state-marked routes may not be directly on the historic route, since in many places the road alignment has changed since 1781. The state-marked routes may not be the best tourism route, since the markers were often placed on the roads closest to what is believed to be the original route rather than on roads that give the best heritage tourism experience -- scenery similar to 1781, museums that provide displays to describe the history and discuss key factors in context of those times.

Any tour route will be a compromise between following the original route closely, getting a feel for what the countryside looked like at that time, safety, and the opportunity to visit related sites. In several states different units followed different paths, so there is no single historic route, and the decision about which route to recommend as best for tourism may depend on the lobbying skills of the merchants along competing paths.

The modern-day tour routes described on the W3R-US site are the best routes that the Web site manager could develop based on suggestions from W3R members and friends living near the routes. They were not specified by the government nor by private tourist agencies. The related sites and local accommodations noted here are not comprehensive but are listed for the convenience of viewers. If at some point we have commercial advertisements they will be identified as such.

Whichever route you choose to follow please consider the time, health, and security needs of your passengers. Bring water, a cell phone, and a modern road map of the area. Enjoy the experience and learn some history. Drive safely and enjoy the W3R-NHT!