

Times Union Sept. 7, 1966

ALBANY FORT ORANGE



# State Explains N. Orange Denial

The Heldeberg Workshop won't get a permit from the State to dig up old Fort Orange for four reasons, the head of the State Museum and Science Service said Tuesday.

The reasons, according to Dr. William N. Fenton, are:

1. The original fort, first structure on the site of what is now Albany, probably wasn't where the workshop thinks it was, but was on the riverbank near Madison Avenue.

2. It was partly washed away in a flood about 1656.

3. It was built of logs with earth fill, and probably none of it still remains.

4. There are no archeological techniques known which could find any vestiges of such a structure after flood and "repeated turning of the earth during three centuries of building and urban renewal."

For these reasons, Dr. Fenton said in a letter to Mayor Corning, he and Dr. L.L. Tucker, state historian, "are in complete agreement that a permit should not be issued for archeological explorations

on State lands for this purpose."

Mrs. Robert Pauley, chairman of the Workshop, had proposed to Mayor Corning that the Workshop's teaching archeologist, Paul Huey, lead students and other teachers in a search for the old fort. The Mayor referred the proposal to the State for consideration.

The Workshop has operated a "learning enrichment" program for the past six summers in Voorheesville and Bethlehem, mostly for elementary school-age children.

In denying the Workshop's

petition, Dr. Fenton noted the "educational advantages that have accrued to the children in their work," and wished them success.

But he said that if he and Dr. William A. Ritchie, state archeologist, thought "there

was any possibility of recovering Fort Orange, we would summon the best professional competence that we can command to the task."

Permits for such excavation are rarely granted, and then only to "other museums and universities."