

# **Village of Ossining Historic Preservation Commission**

## **Essay/Video Contest**

### ***Contest Details***

For generations, African Americans have played an important role in the history of the Village of Ossining, but too often that history, and the places significant to it, have been overlooked. Numerous sites, structures, and neighborhoods in the Village of Ossining embody the history of Black contributions to the community and resilience in the face of oppression.

**In an essay or video, describe a site, structure, or neighborhood in the Village of Ossining that represents important aspects of Black history in the Village. Your essay or video should:**

**(1) Describe the architecture, design, or layout of the site, structure, or neighborhood;**

**(2) Explain the significance of the site, structure, or neighborhood to local Black history; and**

**(3) Describe the ways in which making a video or writing about the site, structure, or neighborhood has changed your perception of it.**

The following is a partial list of sites and structures important to Black history in the Village of Ossining:

- 30 State Street – Former home and clinic of Dr. George W. Hill
- 1-3 Secor Road – Henry Gourdine Park
- 13 Hunter Street – Former location of Leona’s Beauty Salon
- 27 Hunter Street – Former site of park for “colored” children
- 2 Water Street – Former location of Depot Square Hotel & Restaurant
- 8 Secor Road – Former site of Rigney Hotel
- 1 Church Street – First Baptist Church of Ossining
- 304 Spring Street – Star of Bethlehem Baptist Church
- 15 Brandreth Street – Full Gospel Tabernacle Church
- 164 Spring Street – Holy Spirit Church
- 50 N. Malcolm Street – Former site of St. Matthews Church
- 20 Water Street – Andre F. Baker Funeral Home
- 2 S. Malcolm Street – Former home of Sonny Sharrock
- 169 Main Street - Former site of People’s Center for Peace and Justice

More information about the above sites and structures, and others, can be found at the exhibit “Ossining Black History & Culture: RESILIENCE. DEDICATION. EXCELLENCE.” at Bethany Arts Community, from February 4, 2022, to March 12, 2022.

For more information about the exhibit, visit <https://bethanyarts.org/black-history-month-2022/>.

### ***Prizes***

1<sup>st</sup> Place: \$500

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: \$250

3<sup>rd</sup> Place: \$100

### ***Deadline***

Essays or videos must be mailed or emailed to Jaime Kane, Sr. Administrative Asst., Village of Ossining Planning Department (101 Rt. 9A, Ossining, NY 10562, [jkane@villageofossining.org](mailto:jkane@villageofossining.org)) no later than **March 12, 2022**.

### ***Rules***

- Entrants must be currently enrolled in the 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, or 12<sup>th</sup> grade at Ossining High School.
- Entrants must prepare a cover sheet including their name, grade, mailing address and/or email address.
- Entrants must include a bibliography citing a minimum of two (2) sources.
- Essays must be no fewer than 500 words and no more than 1000 words.
- Videos must be no less than 3 minutes and no more than 5 minutes.
- Videos must not use copyrighted material without permission of the copyright holder, and must not use footage of third parties without the third parties' permission.
- Essays and videos may be produced by teams of two or more students. However, each student is limited to one entry.
- Essays and videos may be in English or Spanish.
- Essays and videos will be judged based on depth of historic and architectural research, organization and style, and adherence to contest guidelines. See Rubric below.
- Essays and videos must be the original work of the student(s).
- HPC may reproduce, distribute, or exhibit winning essays or videos on its website, at conferences, or in publications.
- By participating in the contest, entrants agree to be bound by and to accept the terms and conditions of these Rules.

### ***Rubric***

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Research-- History	Demonstrates significant research	Demonstrates a moderate amount of research	Demonstrates little research	Demonstrates no research
Research-- Architecture, Design, Layout	Demonstrates significant research	Demonstrates a moderate amount of research	Demonstrates little research	Demonstrates no research
Organization & Style	Extremely clear, well-organized presentation of the material	Clear, well-organized presentation of the material	Sometimes unclear and poorly organized presentation of the material	Frequently unclear and poorly organized presentation of the material
Enthusiasm	Demonstrates a high degree of personal interest	Demonstrates a moderate amount of personal interest	Demonstrates little personal interest	Demonstrates no personal interest
Adherence to contest guidelines	Adheres to requirements for bibliography, cover letter, and word count/time limits in all respects	Adheres to requirements for bibliography, cover letter, and word count/time limits in most respects	Adheres to requirements for bibliography, cover letter, and word count/time limits in some respects	Adheres to requirements for bibliography, cover letter, and word count/time limits in few respects

### ***Village of Ossining Historic Preservation Commission***

The Village of Ossining Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) works to preserve the Village's historic legacy embodied in its architecturally significant sites and structures. The HPC makes recommendations for designating historic landmarks and districts, hears applications concerning proposed changes to landmarked buildings, and develops public education programs to increase awareness of the value of historic preservation.

Learn more about the HPC at <https://www.villageofossining.org/historic-preservation-commission>.

Contest sponsored by

