



*E.O. Secor and Son grocery store on lower Main Street.*

## VISIT DOWNTOWN OSSINING HISTORIC DISTRICT

The Downtown Ossining Historic District and its core buildings, known as the Crescent, illustrate the peak of Victorian era commercial architecture. While dynamic and changing over the years, it maintains much of its historic character and charm with a walkable scale commonly seen in downtowns that evolved during the pre-automobile era. The vibrant downtown is still enjoyed by residents and visitors to Ossining today. Historic downtown Ossining is bisected by the Croton Aqueduct, a National Historic Landmark that modernized the New York City water supply in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

The Museum in the Streets<sup>®</sup> installation was created and organized by the Ossining Historic Preservation Commission. For further information, please visit [www.villageofossining.org](http://www.villageofossining.org).

Enjoy a stroll through the Ossining Downtown Historic District!

THE MUSEUM IN THE STREETS<sup>®</sup> is designed as a bilingual history and cultural walking tour. Spanish was chosen as the second language in recognition of the substantial population of Hispanics and Latinos who live in and visit our area.

PROJECT GENEROUSLY SUPPORTED BY:



**Parks, Recreation  
and Historic  
Preservation**

*The Village of Ossining's Museum in the Streets<sup>®</sup> has been made possible by the Village of Ossining and in part by a grant from the National Park Service administered through the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. The Village of Ossining Historic Preservation Commission would like to thank the Village of Ossining Board of Trustees, the Ossining Historical Society Museum, the Village Planning Department, the Village Department of Public Works, Corporate Council Lori Lee Dickson, and members of the Village staff and participating property owners whose support and contribution have made this project possible.*

THE MUSEUM IN THE STREETS<sup>®</sup> is a trademark owned and protected.  
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# THE MUSEUM IN THE STREETS<sup>®</sup> OSSINING, NEW YORK



## A HERITAGE WALKING TOUR OF OSSINING

# WELCOME TO HISTORIC OSSINING

The Village of Ossining can trace its beginnings to 1685, when the Sint Sinck Indians sold their land along the east side of the Hudson River to Frederick Philipse, who established a large manor. After the Revolution, the lands were confiscated from his grandson, a British loyalist, and sold to patriotic tenant farmers who had worked the land for years.

The community prospered as a port, with most of its settlement on the riverfront. On April 2, 1813, Sing Sing became the first incorporated village in Westchester County. In 1825, the Village was chosen as the site of the Mount Pleasant State Prison, due to its proximity to New York City (prisoners were sent “up the river”) and large quantity of white limestone. This stone became known as Sing Sing Marble, and was used for buildings, walls and other products. In 1851, the State gave the prison the same name as the village: Sing Sing.



1868 Map of Sing Sing.

David Rumsey Map Collection,  
[www.davidrumsey.com](http://www.davidrumsey.com)



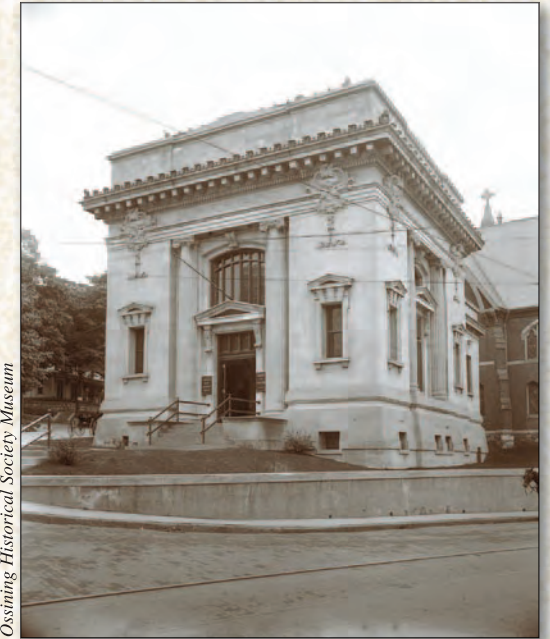
Ossining Historical Society Museum

Brandreth Pill Factory.

Sing Sing sat at the confluence of progress. In the 1830s, Benjamin Brandreth established his world-famous Brandreth Pill Works in Sing Sing, making it one of the first industries on the Hudson River. In 1842, the Croton Aqueduct was completed; this engineering marvel carried water from the Croton Dam to New York City and ran through the center of the Village. The unique Double Arch bridge crossing the Sing Sing Kill remains a notable landmark.

By the mid-nineteenth century, the Village’s central business district had moved from the waterfront to Main Street and Highland Avenue. A series of fires in the 1870s destroyed large areas along Main Street; brick commercial buildings replaced those lost. The Village had a flourishing manufacturing base and a bustling economy, but the arrival of the electric chair to the prison in 1892 brought unwanted attention. In 1901, the Village changed its name to Ossining, to separate itself from the penitentiary. In 1907, the village boundaries were expanded to include the hamlet of Sparta. Many of the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century buildings in the central business district were designed by well-

known architects of that era. Today, some of them comprise the Village’s major landmarks—three bank buildings, four churches, Village and Town Hall, the academy library, and the high school.



Ossining Historical Society Museum

Ossining Bank for Savings.

The 1960s brought great change to Ossining. Under the banner of urban renewal, a large portion of its downtown business center was declared “blighted” and targeted for demolition. The buildings on the south side of Main Street and northern portion of Spring Street came down in the 1970s in order to make way for new and more modern ones, few of which were actually built. Vestiges of Ossining’s historic village center remain along the north side of Main Street and the intersection of Main Street and Croton Avenue, where our historic buildings stand as a testament to the Village’s vibrant past.



**1** THE OLD CROTON  
AQUEDUCT  
PROMENADE  
EL PASEO DEL VIEJO  
AQUEDUCTO CROTON



**2** THE CRESCENT  
LA MEDIA LUNA



**3** THE OSSINING BANK  
FOR SAVINGS  
EL BANCO DE AHORROS  
DE OSSINING



**4** THE FIRST BAPTIST  
CHURCH  
LA PRIMERA IGLESIA  
BAUTISTA



**5** THE CYNTHARD  
BUILDING  
EL EDIFICIO  
CYNTHARD



**6** THE FIRST  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH  
LA PRIMERA  
IGLESIA  
PRESBITERIANA



**7** HIGHLAND COTTAGE  
(SQUIRE HOUSE – MUD HOUSE)  
CABAÑA HIGHLAND  
(CASA SQUIRE – CASA DE BARRO)



**8** THE UNITED  
METHODIST  
CHURCH  
LA IGLESIA  
METODISTA  
UNIDA



**9** CARESWELL



**10** OSSINING HIGH SCHOOL  
EL COLEGIO OSSINING



**11** ELLIS PLACE AND THE  
LITTLE SHOP TEA ROOM  
ELLIS PLACE Y EL SALÓN  
DE TÉ LA TIENDITA



**12** TRINITY EPISCOPAL  
CHURCH  
IGLESIA EPISCOPAL  
TRINITY



**13** GEORGE ROHR'S SALOON  
AND BOARDING HOUSE  
TABERNA Y PENSIÓN DE  
GEORGE ROHR



**14** THE VILLAGE OF OSSINING  
MUNICIPAL BUILDING  
EDIFICIO MUNICIPAL DE  
LA VILLA DE OSSINING



**15** THE CARNEGIE LIBRARY  
LA BIBLIOTECA  
CARNEGIE



**16** THE FIRST NATIONAL  
BANK AND TRUST CO.  
EL PRIMER BANCO Y  
COMPAÑIA FIDUCIARIA  
NACIONAL



**17** VILLAGE OF OSSINING  
COMMUNITY CENTER –  
WESKORA HOTEL  
CENTRO COMUNITARIO DE  
LA VILLA DE OSSINING –  
HOTEL WESKORA

THE MUSEUM IN THE STREETS® ★ OSSINING, NEW YORK



**18** THE DOUBLE ARCH  
EL DOBLE ARCO



**19** THE OSSINING  
NATIONAL BANK  
EL BANCO NACIONAL  
DE OSSINING



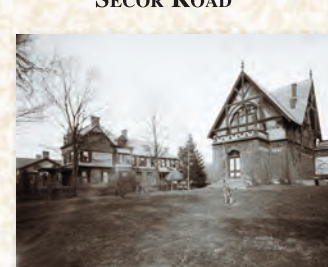
**20** LOWER MAIN STREET  
OSSINING  
OSSINING DE LA CALLE  
LOWER MAIN



**21** BELLA VISTA AND THE  
SECOR ROAD STONE  
WALL  
BELLA VISTA Y LA  
PARED DE PIEDRA DE  
SECOR ROAD



**22** THE CALVARY BAPTIST  
CHURCH AND ANNEX  
LA IGLESIA BAUTISTA  
CALVARY Y ANEXO



**23** THE MOUNT PLEASANT  
ACADEMY LIBRARY  
LA BIBLIOTECA DE LA  
ACADEMIA MOUNT  
PLEASANT



**24** THE JAMES ROBINSON  
HOUSE  
LA CASA  
JAMES ROBINSON



**25** THE SMITH-ROBINSON  
HOUSE  
LA CASA  
SMITH-ROBINSON