

**TOWN OF STONY POINT
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN:
HISTORIC AND CULTURAL RESOURCES**

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environmental • land use • planning

Introduction

A community's character is shaped by how it looks, feels, and remembers its past. In Stony Point, this character emerges from both the immediately visible elements, scenic views, natural landscapes, historic landmarks, and the more subtle features such as roadway patterns and the rhythm of development across the Town. Stony Point's predominantly rural setting reinforces this identity, strengthened by the fact that large portions of the Town are preserved as parkland within the Palisades Interstate Park system, including sections of Bear Mountain State Park, Harriman State Park, and the entirety of Iona Island State Park.

The Town's sense of place is also defined by specific locations that distinguish it from surrounding communities. These unique and memorable areas, were identified and described in the *1995 Town of Stony Point Master Plan* as "Places of Distinction." These places contribute to the Town's visual identity and merit thoughtful stewardship. Many of these places are historic in nature, reflecting centuries of human activity, from Indigenous settlement and early agriculture to Revolutionary War engagements and the evolution of regional parks. Together, these assets position Stony Point as a community with substantial heritage-tourism potential and a strong foundation for cultural preservation.

Archaeological resources are also an important component of Stony Point's historic fabric. More than two dozen investigations have been conducted across the Town, documenting areas of historical sensitivity. These studies, many associated with park improvements, utility projects, and redevelopment sites, provide valuable information for mapping archaeologically sensitive areas and guiding future land-use decisions.

Historic and cultural resource data and information were compiled from the New York State Cultural Resource Information System (CRIS), the 1995 Stony Point Master Plan, the 2013 Plan Amendment, and the Rockland County Comprehensive Plan. CRIS was used to identify National Register and State Register listings, eligible properties, and documented archaeological surveys. Local historic resources, including the Places of Distinction list, were drawn from the Town's prior planning documents. These sources collectively provide a comprehensive understanding of the Town's historic assets.

Historic Resources and Designations: National and State Register Resources

Stony Point contains several properties listed on or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places and the New York State Register of Historic Places.¹ **Table 1** below highlights the sites listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

¹ Rockland County Comprehensive Plan (2011), Historic and Cultural Resources, p. 169-170.

Table 1: National Register of Historic Places in Stony Point

National Register of Historic Places
Bear Mountain Bridge and Toll House
Bear Mountain Inn
Bear Mountain State Park Historic District
Fireboat John D. McKean
J. Garner West House
Palisades Interstate Parkway
Pyngyp School
Stony Point Battlefield
Stony Point Lighthouse
William H. Rose House

Source: Cultural Resource Information System, New York State Historic Preservation Office, 2026.

Table 2 shows the sites listed on the State Register of Historic Places.

Table 2: State Register of Historic Places in Stony Point

State Register of Historic Places
Bear Mountain Inn
Palisades Interstate Park
Palisades Interstate Parkway
Stony Point Battlefield
William H. Rose House

Source: Cultural Resource Information System, New York State Historic Preservation Office, 2026.

These resources represent some of the most significant historic assets in Rockland County.

Historic Resources and Places of Distinction

The Town also contains numerous locally important historic structures, landscapes, and archaeological sites, shown in **Table 3** below. The 1995 Master Plan emphasized the importance of these resources as daily reminders of the Town's heritage and recommended their recognition and preservation.² Please note that places listed as a Historic Resource in the 1995 Plan and not as a Place of Distinction are bolded in **red**.

² Stony Point Master Plan (1995), Development Plan, p. IV-21 – IV-22.

Table 3: Historic Resources and Places of Distinction in Stony Point

Historic Resources and Places of Distinction List	
Baisley Home (including wall)	Memorial Spring
Bontecou House	Mothball Fleet
Boulderberg Manor	Neilly Cemetery
C. Allison House	Neilly Mansion
Casscles Cemetery	Old Lime Kiln
Cemetery (5 Identified)	Old Stony Point Fire House
Church of the Immaculate Conception	Old Stony Point Post Office
Coast Guard Building	Palisades Interstate Park
Decantaur Conley House (including wall)	Penny Bridge & Brick Barges
Decker House	Peterson Barn
Dr. Govan House	Pyngyp School
First United Methodist Church & Cemetery	Pymm's Store and Gas Station
Florus Falls	Rose Memorial Library
Fresh Air House	Russian Opera House
G. Allison House	Sherwood Bridge
Gate Hill Road	St. John the Divine Church
Gilmor-Sloane House	Stony Point Battlefield
Goetchius Corner & Ice House	Stony Point Elementary School
Higgins Funeral Home	Stony Point Lighthouse
Hoyt Cemetery	Stony Point Presbyterian Church
Hurd's Store (Original Town Hall)	Stony Point Town Hall
James A. Farley Bridge	Trinity United Methodist Church
Jones Point School	Tomkins Cove Public Library
Kings Ferry	Tomkins Memorial Church
Lent Cemetery	Town Cemetery (3 Identified)
Lynch's Restaurant	Waldron Cemetery
Malloy's Building	Washburn House
Marks Building	

Source: Stony Point Master Plan, 1995.

Stony Point Battlefield and Lighthouse

The Stony Point Battlefield, an 87-acre State Historic Site and National Historic Landmark, is one of the Town's most prominent cultural resources. It commemorates the 1779 Battle of Stony Point, a Revolutionary War engagement led by Brigadier General "Mad" Anthony Wayne. The site offers guided and self-guided tours, reenactments, interpretive programming, and scenic views of the Hudson River Valley.³

³ Rockland County Comprehensive Plan (2011), Historic & Cultural Resources, p. 178.

The Stony Point Lighthouse located within the State Historic Site, is the oldest lighthouse on the Hudson River, and also listed on the State and National Registers of Historic Places and contributes to the Town's historic waterfront identity.⁴

Palisades Interstate Park System and Regional Open Space

The Palisades Interstate Park Commission (PIPC) manages approximately 11,500 acres of within Bear Mountain and Harriman State Park.⁵ These parks contain numerous historic structures, landscapes, and archaeological resources. The presence of these areas reinforces Stony Point's historic and natural character and provides opportunities for heritage tourism, environmental education, and recreation. The Appalachian Trail, which traverses the Harriman and Bear Mountain State Parks along with trailside overnight facilities are officially recognized as eligible for the National Register.

Cultural Institutions and Local Organizations

Stony Point benefits from a range of cultural and educational institutions that support historic preservation and interpretation, including:⁶

- Stony Point Historical Society
- Stony Point Battlefield Museum
- Historical Society of the Palisades Interstate Park Region
- Ernest M. Bobb Boy Scout Museum at Camp Bullowa

These private organizations contribute to public awareness of local history and help maintain the Town's cultural identity.

Historic Recognition Programs

The 1995 Master Plan recommended establishing a voluntary program to recognize historic properties through plaques and public acknowledgement.⁷ The Town later created the Properties of Distinction program, which provides plaques to buildings over 100 years old. This program is currently led by a volunteer committee and has not yet been formalized through local legislation or a designated preservation authority.⁸

⁴ Rockland County Comprehensive Plan (2011), Parks & Open Space, p. 148.

⁵ Stony Point Master Plan (1995), Parks and Recreation, p. II-62.

⁶ Rockland County Comprehensive Plan (2011), Historic & Cultural Resources, p. 175, 177, 178.

⁷ Stony Point Master Plan (1995), Historic Resources, p. IV-21.

⁸ Rockland County Comprehensive Plan (2011), Historic & Cultural Resources, p. 174.

Scenic and Cultural Landscapes

Stony Point has several scenic resources recognized at the Local, County and State levels, including:

- Bear Mountain State Park
- Hudson Highlands Scenic Area of Statewide Significance
- Iona Island Marsh
- Jones Point
- Main Street
- Scenic Roadways such as Route 9W, Route 202, and the Palisades Interstate Parkway

The 2013 Plan Amendment recommended establishing a View Preservation Overlay District to protect important vistas and regulate development on ridgelines and steep slopes.⁹ A Viewshed Protection Overlay was adopted in 2013, requiring that structures and sites be designed to minimize visibility.

Trails and Heritage Routes

Stony Point is part of several regional and national heritage trail systems, including the Hudson River Lighthouse Trail, the 1776-1779 Trail linking Stony Point Battlefield to Fort Montgomery, the Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route, and local interpretive trails at the Battlefield.¹⁰ These trails reinforce the Town's role in Revolutionary War history and provide opportunities for heritage tourism and outdoor recreation.

Archaeological Resources

Archaeological resources in Stony Point have been extensively studied through numerous Phase IA, IB, and higher-level investigations conducted over the past several decades. The New York State Cultural Resource Information System (CRIS) identifies more than two dozen surveys within the Town, including studies associated with Letchworth Village, Bear Mountain State Park, Harriman State Park, local culvert and drainage projects, water supply improvements, telecommunications installations, and regional utility projects. These investigations collectively document areas of historical period sensitivity, confirm the presence of several known archaeological sites, and provide a strong foundation for mapping archaeologically sensitive areas as part of this Comprehensive Plan.

Letchworth Village and Patriot Hills

The former Letchworth Village campus, containing historic stone buildings, institutional landscapes, and the Patriot Hills Golf Course, is one of the Town's most significant

⁹ Stony Point Amendment to the 1995 Master Plan (2013), p. 17.

¹⁰ Rockland County Comprehensive Plan (2011), Historic & Cultural Resources, p. 185.

redevelopment opportunities. The 2013 Plan Amendment and the EPA Building Blocks Program identified the site as a potential mixed-use community due to its size, architectural character, and strategic location near major transportation routes.¹¹ Key challenges include the high costs of adaptive reuse, the potential environmental hazards of lead paint and asbestos, the need for a clear redevelopment vision, and the lack of formal zoning tailored to the site. The 2013 Plan Amendment recommended creating an overlay zoning district and preparing a Generic Environmental Impact Statement (GEIS) to streamline future redevelopment.¹²

Tourism and Heritage Based Economic Development

Tourism has long been recognized as an economic development opportunity for Stony Point. The 1995 Master Plan encouraged tourism centered on the Town's historic assets, particularly the Battlefield and waterfront.¹³ The 2013 Plan Amendment expanded on this by identifying Revolutionary War reenactments, waterfront marinas, local theater performances, and proximity to regional attractions, including West Point, Bear Mountain, Woodbury Commons, and Nyack. These assets position Stony Point to capture visitor spending from people already traveling through the Hudson Valley.¹⁴

¹¹ Stony Point Amendment to the 1995 Master Plan (2013), p. 12.

¹² Stony Point Amendment to the 1995 Master Plan (2013), p. 22.

¹³ Stony Point Master Plan: Executive Summary (1995), p. ES-5.

¹⁴ Stony Point Amendment to the 1995 Master Plan (2013), p. 20-21.