New York State Historic Site and State Historic Park System

1. Old Fort Niagara
2. Darwin Martin House
3. Ganondagan
4. Sonnenberg Gardens & Mansion
5. Fort Ontario
6. Sackets Harbor Battlefield
7. Steuben Memorial
8. Oriskany Battlefield
9. Old Erie Canal
10. Lorenzo
11. Hyde Hall
12. Herkimer Home
13. Johnson Hall
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15. Crown Point
16. Grant Cottage
17. Schoharie Crossing
18. Bennington Battlefield
19. Schuyler Mansion
20. Crailo
21. Olana
22. John Burroughs Memorial
23. Clermont
24. Senate House
25. Staatsburgh
26. Clinton House
27. Walkway Over the Hudson
28. Washington’s Headquarters
29. Knox Headquarters
30. New Windsor Cantonment & National Purple Heart Hall of Honor
31. Fort Montgomery
32. John Jay Homestead
33. Stony Point Battlefield
34. Old Croton Aqueduct
35. Philipse Manor Hall
36. Planting Fields Arboretum
37. Caumsett
38. Walt Whitman Birthplace

Undeveloped State Historic Sites
(Not shown on map)
• Guy Park, Amsterdam
• Parrott Hall, Geneva
• Rexford Aqueduct, Niskayuna
VII. Individual Site Profiles: New York State Historic Sites and State Historic Parks

**BENNINGTON BATTLEFIELD**, NY 67, Walloomsac, Rensselaer Co.

This hilltop historic site has spectacular views and a pleasant picnic area and is successfully operated as a memorial park with passive interpretation.

**Significance**: Site of a Revolutionary War battle fought in August 1777. British troops were defeated here on their way to capture American storehouses in nearby Bennington, Vermont. This American victory played an important role in forcing a British surrender on October 17, 1777, in Saratoga. Acquired 1913.

**Management**: OPRHP

**Staffing**: Maintained by Grafton Lakes State Park staff

**Friends**: None

**Notable**: The National Park Service ranks the site as one of the most significant Revolutionary War battlefields in the country.

**Attendance**: 15,000–20,000

**Recommendations**
- Create interpretive links with other Revolutionary War state historic sites as well as Saratoga National Historical Park and Bennington Battle Monument, which have close historical connections to the battlefield.
- Reconnect with local community for help with on-site programs and events.

**CAUMSETT**, 25 Lloyd Harbor Road, Lloyd Neck, Suffolk Co.

This great estate boasts expansive grounds, an extensive Long Island Sound waterfront, and a distinguished collection of buildings. It is used and effectively managed as a historic park preserve, but its vacant historic buildings are in need of repair and compatible reuse.

**Significance**: The grand, early 20th-century estate of Marshall Field III, founder of the *Chicago Tribune* and grandson of the department store tycoon. The buildings and grounds were created by some of the most prominent designers of the period. Acquired 1961.

**Management**: OPRHP

**Staffing**: 6 filled/2 vacant, 4 T&S (in 2009)

**Friends**: Caumsett Foundation: active; hosts events and supports preservation projects

**Notable**: The 18th-century Henry Lloyd Manor House functioned as the estate’s gatehouse and is now operated by the Lloyd Harbor Historical Society.

**Attendance**: 395,000–400,000
### CLERMONT, Co. Rte. 6 (off NY 9G) Germantown, Columbia Co.

*This early Hudson River estate is successfully operated as a historic site and features a well-appointed mansion, important collections, beautiful grounds and gardens, scenic views, and various outbuildings. While the Friends group is supportive, its activities need to be evaluated and prioritized.*

**Significance:** This nationally significant 18th-century estate was home to seven generations of the distinguished Livingston family. Chancellor Robert R. Livingston helped to negotiate the Louisiana Purchase and collaborated with Robert Fulton on inventing the world’s first practical steam-powered boat, which docked at Clermont on its maiden voyage. Acquired 1962.

**Management:** OPRHP  
**Staffing:** 3 filled/3 vacant, 16 T&S (in 2009)  
**Friends:** Friends of Clermont: active; supports programs, events, and preservation activities  
**Notable:** The site retains a significant collection of Livingston family art, furnishings, books, and archives.  
**Attendance:** 95,000–100,000

**Recommendations**  
- Work with Friends group to develop shared priorities.  
- Find compatible uses for vacant buildings.  
- Create interpretive links with other colonial-era state historic sites, such as Philipse Manor Hall.

### CRAILO, 9½ Riverside Avenue, Rensselaer, Rensselaer Co.

*This well-managed historic site has been reinvented as the museum of colonial Dutch heritage in the Hudson Valley. It features new interactive exhibits that tell the story of these early European settlers, their impact on local customs and culture, and how they lived together with the region’s Native American people.*

**Significance:** The 18th-century home of Hendrick van Rensselaer; named after the family farm Crayloo or Cralo (Crows Wood) in the Netherlands. The house was altered during the 19th and 20th centuries. The site has an important collection of 17th- and 18th-century archaeological artifacts. Acquired 1924.

**Management:** OPRHP  
**Staffing:** 2 full-time staff shared with Schuyler Mansion/1 vacant, 2–4 T&S (in 2009)  
**Friends:** Friends of Fort Crailo: small; reactivated in 2006  
**Notable:** The site’s small park on the Hudson River is a local, open-space asset.  
**Attendance:** 5,000–10,000

**Recommendation**  
- Market site as part of Partners for Albany Stories, a new, multiple-site interpretive initiative that is under development.
CROWN POINT, 21 Grandview Drive, Crown Point, Essex Co.

Crown Point has spectacular scenery, impressive ruins, and a visitor center with an engaging film and exhibits (installed in 2009). While the historic site is well maintained and managed, the property has strong growth potential in many areas, including programming, marketing, community outreach, and enhanced recreational use.

Significance: This nationally significant military outpost played an important role during the struggle between France and England to control North America during the 17th and 18th centuries. The property preserves the foundation remains of an 18th-century French fort and the adjacent ruins of a massive fort built more than 20 years later by the British. Acquired 1910.

Management: OPRHP

Staffing: 4 filled/2 vacant, 2–4 T&S (in 2009)

Friends: Friends of Crown Point: small; reactivated in 2010

Notable: The site preserves a remarkably unaltered 18th-century landscape.

Attendance: 20,000–25,000

Recommendations
- Forge partnership with Fort Ticonderoga, which has close historical connections to the site, to build cooperative marketing, promotion, and programming initiatives.
- Partner with adjacent DEC campground to increase visitation and expand recreational use.
- Use site as venue for large-scale events, such as concerts.

DARWIN MARTIN HOUSE, 125 Jewett Parkway, Buffalo, Erie Co.

Under a cooperative agreement with SUNY (current property owner) and OPRHP (future property owner), the nonprofit Martin House Restoration Corporation is restoring this distinctive Frank Lloyd Wright-designed residential complex, which will become a state historic site. The corporation has raised millions of dollars for this multi-year project, which has strong community support and incorporates the highest restoration standards. It is one of the most successful historic site preservation projects in the country.

Significance: One of Frank Lloyd Wright’s most celebrated Prairie style homes. Constructed in the early 1900s for the locally prominent Martin family, the house features Wright’s signature low, horizontal design and free-flowing plan. The complex, which includes several buildings and landscape features, is being meticulously restored to its original appearance. The site will be returned to the state when the restoration project is completed; it’s projected to be finished in 2012.

Management: Martin House Restoration Corporation

Staffing: 11.5 full-time employees (in 2009)

Friends: NA

Notable: This high-profile project has generated widespread support and is a key element in the community’s efforts to promote the city as a premier tourist designation.

Attendance: 15,000–20,000 (access to the property has been somewhat restricted during restoration project)

Recommendation
• Prepare the site’s operating agreement, which is needed when the restoration project is completed.

**FORT MONTGOMERY, 690 US 9W, Fort Montgomery, Orange Co.**

*Although acquired in 1910, this expansive archaeological site remained undeveloped until 2006. The historic site now features a small visitor center with an engaging film and exhibits; the remains of the site’s fortifications; viewing platforms and trails with interpretive signage; scenic views and vistas; and a foot bridge over the Popolopen Creek that connects the site to the Trailside Museum at Bear Mountain State Park.*

**Significance:** Site of a Revolutionary War fort built by the Americans and destroyed by the British. In October 1777, 700 American soldiers made a heroic stand against more than 2,000 British and Loyalist troops attacking Fort Montgomery and nearby Fort Clinton. Despite a brave American defense, both forts were lost to the British. The site retains a significant collection of archaeological artifacts that provide important information about the people and events that took place here.

**Management:** OPRHP

**Staffing:** 1 filled, 6 T&S (in 2009)

**Friends:** Fort Montgomery Battlefield Site Association: active; supports programs and events

**Notable:** The property links to the Appalachian Trail, drawing hikers to the site.

**Attendance:** 20,000–25,000

**Recommendation**

- Manage and interpret as part of the Palisades region’s cluster of Revolutionary War state historic sites; see Appendix D for more information.

**FORT ONTARIO, 1 East 4th Street, Oswego, Oswego Co.**

*This nationally significant historic site is in desperate need of renewal and reinvention due to a lack of resources and deferred maintenance and repair. On the positive side, the impressive fort and its spectacular setting create a powerful physical presence that attracts and fascinates visitors. The redevelopment of this site provides an excellent opportunity to make the best use of the property and its resources.*

**Significance:** Site of an important 18th-century British garrison that featured prominently in the French and Indian War, Revolutionary War, and War of 1812. The present fort dates to 1839-1872 and is the fourth and final rebuilding of the fortification as an American military installation. The property served as training grounds for the U.S. military during both World Wars. Acquired 1949.

**Management:** OPRHP

**Staffing:** 2 filled/2 vacant, 7 T&S (in 2009)

**Friends:** Friends of Fort Ontario: small; provides modest support for programs and events

**Notable:** The site served as the only refugee camp in the country for European survivors of the Holocaust between 1944 and 1946.

**Attendance:** 120,000–125,000

**Recommendations**

- Provide passive interpretation while the site’s critical preservation and interpretive needs are being addressed (Short Term).
GANONDAGAN, NY 444, Victor, Ontario Co.

This vibrant, well-managed site continues to grow creatively. It is the only state historic site dedicated to a Native American history theme and remains an important cultural place among the Seneca people. The expansive property features a small visitor center, reconstructed long house, and interpretive trails. A new arts and education center is being planned for the site that will contain exhibition, meeting, and education spaces.

**Significance:** Site of a 17th-century Seneca town and its massive granary. The Seneca people refer to Ganondagan as the “Town of Peace” and believe that the Mother of Nations is buried here. In 1667 the French destroyed the community during a campaign aimed at eliminating the Seneca Nation. The site features a collection of European and Native American artifacts and serves as an active center for nurturing Native American culture and traditions. Acquired 1972.

**Management:** OPRHP

**Staffing:** 4 filled/1 vacant, 4 T&S (in 2009)

**Friends:** Friends of Ganondagan: active; supports programs and events, and is helping to raise funds for the new arts and education center

**Notable:** The Rochester Institute of Technology has signed an agreement with OPRHP to establish an indigenous art and science facility here.

**Attendance:** 40,000–45,000

**Recommendation**
- Create interpretive links with other colonial-era state historic sites.

GRANT COTTAGE, Mt. McGregor Road, Wilton, Saratoga Co.

This historic site, which is operated by an affiliate, has strong, unrealized potential. With its close connection to a well-known figure in American history, this small yet evocative site has the potential of attracting a national audience, especially during the upcoming 150th anniversary of the Civil War. With some strategic assistance, this could be one of New York’s most recognized state historic sites.

**Significance:** The mountaintop retreat where Ulysses S. Grant came to write his memoirs and where he died on July 23, 1885. It remains as it was when Grant and his family stayed there. Acquired 1957.

**Management:** Friends of Ulysses S. Grant Cottage

**Staffing:** Part-time staff

**Friends:** NA

**Notable:** The site is located on the grounds of the Mt. McGregor correctional facility.

**Attendance:** 1,000–5,000

**Recommendations**
- Work with the affiliate to reinvigorate the site’s operation, preservation, interpretation, and marketing.
- Create interpretive link with John Brown Farm.
- Consider having OPRHP manage the site in conjunction with John Brown Farm (Long Term).
**HERKIMER HOME**, 200 NY 169, Little Falls, Herkimer Co.

This site has strong potential for reinvention. The main house has been altered by past restorations and does not accurately convey the Herkimer family occupancy. However, the property’s visitor center could become the gateway to colonial-era and Revolutionary War state historic sites in the Mohawk Valley and its bucolic grounds could be interpreted passively. In addition, other buildings on the property lend themselves to public and private uses.

**Significance**: The 18th-century home of Brigadier General Nicholas Herkimer, a prosperous farmer and businessman who became a hero during the Battle of Oriskany in 1777. He was seriously wounded during the battle and later died at home. Acquired 1913.

**Management**: OPRHP

**Staffing**: 1 filled/2 vacant, 8 T&S (in 2009)

**Friends**: Friends of Herkimer Home: small; provides modest support and volunteers

**Notable**: The Erie Canal bikeway passes through the property and a small dock provides travelers on the Mohawk River access to the site.

**Attendance**: 25,000–30,000

**Recommendations**
- Manage the grounds as a memorial park with passive interpretation.
- Convert the visitor center into the gateway to the colonial-era and Revolutionary War state historic sites in the Mohawk Valley, including Johnson Hall and Oriskany Battlefield; See Appendix E for more information.
- In the long term and through an RFP process, find compatible uses for the main house, such as a bed and breakfast, as well as for the caretaker’s cottage or consider renting the cottage separately.

**HYDE HALL**, Mill Road, Springfield, Otsego Co.

The historic site is operated by New York’s first state historic site Friends/affiliate group, which continues to oversee the mansion’s restoration and has created a visitor center in the former carriage barn. The organization is in the midst of a strategic-planning process that promises to chart a course for the property’s future. The affiliate owns a significant collection of family furnishings as well as original estate and family documents, which are on loan to Cornell University.

**Significance**: The early 19th-century estate created by George Hyde Clarke, great grandson of George Hyde Clarke, who was lieutenant governor of the province of New York during the 18th century. When the property was purchased by the state for park development in the 1960s, the mansion and some outbuildings were rescued from demolition by the Friends of Hyde Hall, now Hyde Hall, Inc. Acquired 1963.

**Management**: Hyde Hall, Inc.

**Staffing**: 1 full- and 3 part-time employees, 5 part-time seasonal staff

**Notable**: The site offers a summer history and recreation program for children in collaboration with adjacent Glimmerglass State Park.

**Attendance**: 1,000–5,000

Specific recommendations are being developed through the site’s strategic-planning process.
JOHN BROWN FARM, 115 John Brown Road, Lake Placid, Essex Co.

Located in the heart of the Adirondacks and associated with a well-known figure in American history, this scenic and historic property has strong potential to become one of New York’s most inspiring state historic sites. The site also has the potential of becoming a popular, year-round recreational resource.

Significance: This property preserves the farm and gravesite of perhaps the nation’s most famous 19th-century abolitionist. Brown became a martyr to the cause after his assault on the arsenal at Harper’s Ferry in 1859. This is one of the most important sites in the system associated with the anti-slavery movement. Acquired 1895.

Management: OPRHP
Staffing: 1 filled, 2–4 T&S (in 2009)
Friends: None; the John Brown Lives and John Brown Coming Home nonprofit organizations provide some modest program support
Notable: The remains of Brown and some of his followers who died at Harper’s Ferry are buried here.

Attendance: 55,000–60,000

Recommendations
- Expand and enhance interpretation; in the short term, add audio component to the house tour, rejuvenate the barn/visitor center, install a promotional sign in downtown Lake Placid, and create an interpretive link with Grant Cottage.
- Make community connections and create Friends group (Long Term).

JOHN BURROUGHS MEMORIAL, Burroughs Memorial Road, Roxbury, Delaware Co.

This unassuming historic site is set within a beautiful, unspoiled rural landscape, which provides the perfect setting for contemplating and appreciating nature. The hillside property, which features a small picnic grove with interpretive signage and a trail leading to the grave site, is not staffed and requires minimal maintenance.

Significance: This is where the famous naturalist writer and influential conservationist was buried on April 3, 1921, at the base of a large rock where he often sat as a child. The site was part of his family’s farm, and the rural landscape helped to shape his early appreciation of nature. The property was donated to the state in 1947.

Management: OPRHP
Staffing: Maintained by Mine Kill State Park staff
Friends: None; adjacent Woodchuck Lodge is an informal Friends group that helps to promote the site
Notable: During his lifetime, Burroughs was one of the country’s most widely read authors.

Attendance: 1,000–5,000

Recommendation
- Protect view shed (Long Term).
JOHN JAY HOMESTEAD, 400 NY 22, Katonah, Westchester Co.

This well-managed property is nationally significant as the country retreat of one of the America’s principal Founding Fathers as well as the home of several generations of the Jay family. The historic site includes a furnished house, farm complex, outbuildings, picturesque grounds and gardens, and a largely intact rural landscape. The site’s dynamic Friends group, which has paid staff, supports a wide variety of programs and projects, including the current rehabilitation of the site’s carriage barn as a visitor center.

Significance: The 19th-century farm and retirement home of John Jay, one of the country’s Founding Fathers, President of the Continental Congress, first Chief Justice of the United States, and second Governor of New York. Jay retired here in 1801. Following his death in 1829, the farm was inherited by his son William, who helped to advance the anti-slavery movement in America. The property remained in the family until it was transferred to Westchester County and then to the state in 1958.

Management: OPRHP

Staffing: 3 filled/2 vacant, 5 T&S (in 2009), and 1 full-time employee paid by Friends; this site is cooperatively managed with Philipse Manor Hall (as of January 2011)

Friends: Friends of John Jay Homestead: very active; has paid staff, and supports projects and programs

Notable: Site preserves and interprets large and significant Jay family collections.

Attendance: 30,000–35,000

Recommendations
- Improve visitor amenities, such as creating a cafe in a vacant building.
- Through RFP process, seek compatible uses for vacant buildings.
- Market the site to the local community as well as tour operators.

JOHNSON HALL, 139 Hall Avenue, Johnstown, Fulton Co.

This internationally significant historic site is the perfect place to interpret the complex relationships between European colonists and Native Americans. Expanding the site’s interpretive programs could be accomplished with a modest outlay of effort.

Significance: The 1763 estate of Sir William Johnson, French and Indian War hero and one of the most powerful men in North America. As Superintendent for Indian Affairs, he was the British government’s liaison with the Iroquois confederacy of Six Nations. The estate was a center for trade and diplomacy, including the site of major Indian councils. During a council meeting in 1774, Johnson collapsed and died, leaving his son and others to take up his responsibilities on the eve of the Revolutionary War. Acquired 1906.

Management: OPRHP

Staffing: 1 filled/2 vacant, 2–4 T&S (in 2009); currently, the property has a part-time acting site manager

Friends: Friends of Johnson Hall: small yet supportive; group was reenergized when the site was threatened with closure in 2010

Notable: Site preserves 18th-century Johnson estate structures as well as 20th-century memorial park features.

Attendance: 50,000–55,000

Recommendation
- Create interpretive links with other colonial-era and Revolutionary War state historic sites in the Mohawk Valley, including Herkimer Home, Oriskany Battlefield, and Guy Park; see Appendix E for information.
KNOX’S HEADQUARTERS, Forge Hill Road, Vails Gate, Orange Co.

This historic site, which features a distinguished stone house and landscaped grounds, is operated as a satellite of nearby New Windsor Cantonment. This property has the potential of making an important contribution to interpreting the Revolutionary War in the Hudson Valley.

Significance: The site contains the 18th-century house built by John Ellison, who operated a mill on the property. During the Revolutionary War, the house was used as military headquarters by several of the Continental Army’s top generals, including Henry Knox, Horatio Gates, and Nathaniel Greene. The Yorktown campaign that helped to end the war was planned here. Acquired 1922.

Management: OPRHP

Staffing: Staff support from New Windsor Cantonment

Friends: Friends of the State Historic Sites of the Hudson Highlands: provides modest support

Notable: The house is located on a surviving section of the 18th-century King’s Highway.

Attendance: 20,000–25,000

Recommendation

• Manage and interpret the site as part of the Palisades region’s cluster of Revolutionary War historic sites; see Appendix D for more information.

LORENZO, 17 Rippleton Road, Cazenovia, Madison Co.

This elegant lakefront estate is successfully operated as a historic site and features a beautifully furnished mansion, several outbuildings, picturesque grounds and gardens, and important family collections, including furniture, decorative objects, household items, the library and archives, and a carriage collection. While the site offers visitors enjoyable and educational visitor experiences, its carriage barn/visitor center contains an out-of-date orientation exhibit that needs to be replaced.

Significance: The early 19th-century estate of John Lincklaen, Holland Land Company agent and founder of the village of Cazenovia. The main house was a significant architectural statement for its time, grander in size and sophistication than many of its contemporaries. Lorenzo remains remarkably intact to Lincklaen’s era and preserves important family collections, including significant local and New York City furniture. The property remained in the family for five generations until it was conveyed to the state in 1968.

Management: OPRHP

Staffing: 5 filled/1 vacant, 9 T&S (in 2009)

Friends: Friends of Lorenzo: very active; supports programs, events, and preservation projects

Notable: The early 19th-century Rippleton Schoolhouse was moved to the site, restored (with help from the Friends), and is used for education programs.

Attendance: 30,000–35,000

Recommendation
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• Upgrade carriage barn/visitor center (Long Term).

NEW WINDSOR CANTONMENT – NATIONAL PURPLE HEART HALL OF HONOR
374 Temple Hill Road, Vails Gate, Orange Co.

This well-managed property preserves a nationally significant Revolutionary War encampment. The historic site’s greatest strength is its living-history program, which is supported by a successful, on-site reproduction clothing workshop. The site is also home to the National Purple Heart Hall of Honor, which pays tribute to all those wounded or lost in combat while serving in the United States Military. Melding the missions of these two entities is critical to the future success of this site.

Significance: The site of the Continental Army’s final camp at the end of the Revolutionary War, and site of General Washington’s March 15, 1783, speech defusing the Newburgh Conspiracy (calming his unpaid, mutinous officers) and his April 19, 1783, speech announcing the cease fire. The site is also home to the National Purple Heart Hall of Honor, a memorial to the more 1.7 million Purple Heart recipients and the only facility in the country that is collecting recipient records and personal histories. Acquired 1917.

Management: OPRHP

Staffing: 8 filled/1 vacant, 7 T&S (in 2009)

Friends: Cantonment: Friends of the State Historic Sites of the Hudson Highlands: provides modest support; the Hall of Honor has a board that helps to support its programs and projects

Notable: The site is the headquarters of the Brigade of the American Revolution, a living history organization dedicated to recreating the life and times of the common soldier.

Attendance: Cantonment: 20,000–25,000; Hall of Honor: 10,000–15,000

Recommendations
• Integrate the Hall of Honor with the historic site to create a unified identity and encourage teamwork.
• Manage and interpret the site as part of the Palisades region’s cluster of Revolutionary War historic sites.

OLANA, 5720 NY 9G, Hudson, Columbia Co.

One of the system’s premier historic properties, this internationally significant historic site draws more than 100,000 visitors each year. It also has one of the system’s most active Friends groups, which provides substantial support for staffing, restoration projects, and programs; however, the site and Friends group need to improve collaboration and develop shared priorities.

Significance: This site preserves one of the nation’s most important artist’s residences. The hilltop estate was created by Hudson River School painter Frederic Edwin Church (1826–1900), who oversaw every aspect of its design. The highly intact property features his art-filled, exquisitely furnished, Persian-style mansion; picturesque farm complex; and spectacular landscape with its iconic Hudson River views. Acquired 1966.

Management: OPRHP

Staffing: 4 filled/5 vacant, 17 T&S (in 2009); 3 full-time employees paid by the Friends (in 2009)

Friends: The Olana Partnership: very active; provides significant support to all aspects of the site’s operations

Notable: Olana is a treasure trove of some of Church’s most famous paintings as well as an extraordinary array of furniture, decorative objects, and art that he collected from around the world expressly for this house.

Attendance: 135,000–140,000

Recommendations
• Address site-management/leadership needs and work with Friends group to develop shared priorities.
• Use the site as a gateway to promote the site system, especially Hudson Valley sites.

**OLD CROTON AQUEDUCT, 15 Walnut Street, Dobbs Ferry, Westchester Co.**

*This linear historic park is managed as a recreational trail and serves as an important greenway in Westchester County, connecting communities, neighborhoods, and varied landscapes. The park features several above-ground historic elements of the Old Croton Aqueduct along its path. With a modest outlay of effort, the interpretation of the aqueduct could be expanded from Dobbs Ferry to key locations in the park, which serves hundreds of thousands of people each year. While the Friends group is supportive, collaboration with the region needs to be improved.*

**Significance:** The park preserves a 26-mile-long open space that runs along the top of the Old Croton Aqueduct, a 19th-century engineering marvel that carried much-needed fresh water from the Croton River in Westchester County to reservoirs in Manhattan, where local water resources had become polluted and inadequate for the growing population. Acquired 1968.

**Management:** OPRHP

**Staffing:** 2 filled/2 vacant, 2 T&S (in 2009)

**Friends:** The Friends of the Old Croton Aqueduct: active; supports programs and projects, including the repair of the caretaker’s house

**Notable:** The historic aqueduct caretaker’s house in Dobbs Ferry will serve as the park’s interpretive center.

**Attendance:** 795,000–800,000

**Recommendations**
- Provide passive interpretation at key trail-access points.
- Work with Friends group to develop shared priorities.
- Prepare master plan to help guide park development and use.

**OLD ERIE CANAL, DeWitt to Rome, Onondaga, Madison, and Oneida Counties**

*This recreational trail runs along a section of the historic Erie Canal, linking a variety of communities and landscapes along its waterway. It serves thousands of local residents and visitors, who use it to hike, jog, kayak, canoe, fish, horseback ride, cross-country ski, and/or snowmobile. This popular historic park would be the perfect location to promote the site system.*

**Significance:** This park preserves a 36-mile-long section of the enlarged Erie Canal; its trail generally follows the canal’s towpath, where teams of horses and mules once towed canal boats. There are many historic canal features in the park, including five stone aqueducts, which carried the canal over large streams, and numerous culverts, large underground drains that allow water from streams to flow under the canal. Acquired 1966.

**Management:** OPRHP

**Staffing:** 2 filled (perhaps reassigned)/2 vacant; maintenance provided by Green Lakes State Park staff

**Friends:** None

**Notable:** The Chittenango Landing Canal Boat Museum is located in the park; under a cooperative agreement with OPRHP, the nonprofit museum interprets the historic boatyard complex.

**Attendance:** 95,000–100,000

**Recommendations**
- Use site as a gateway to promote the state historic site system, especially the central New York sites.
- Provide passive interpretation at key trail-access points, and create interpretive link with Schoharie Crossing.
- Improve communication with state canal corporation and Erie Canal bikeway promoters.

### OLD FORT NIAGARA, Robert Moses State Parkway, Youngstown, Niagara Co.

This internationally significant historic site has been successfully managed for many years by the Old Fort Niagara Association. With its impressive fort complex and dramatic waterfront setting, the property is one of the most popular tourist attractions in the Niagara region. The site is interpreted as a working military headquarters and offers a variety of programs and special events. One of the property’s vacant buildings has been effectively recycled as an attractive visitor center.

| Significance | The fort has been associated with major military conflicts throughout its history. Built by the French in 1724, it was later expanded by Great Britain and the United States. Strategically located at the mouth of the Niagara River, the fort controlled access to the Great Lakes and the western frontier. The site also played a key role in shaping the destinies of the Iroquois people and the nation of Canada. Acquired 1948. |
| Management | Old Fort Niagara Association |
| Staffing | 11 full-time employees (in 2009) |
| Friends | NA |
| Notable | This property preserves and interprets the oldest continuously occupied military site in North America. |
| Attendance | 65,000–70,000 |

**Recommendations**

- Use this site and Niagara Falls State Park as gateways to promote the state historic site system, especially the western New York sites.

### ORISKANY BATTLEFIELD, NY 69, Oriskany, Oneida Co.

This historic site is currently operated under a short-term cooperative agreement by the National Park Service. The intent of this partnership is to combine the preservation and interpretation of this site with historically linked Fort Stanwix National Monument. However, because the battlefield is also closely linked to other colonial-era and Revolutionary War state historic sites in the Mohawk Valley, such as Herkimer Home and Johnson Hall, it could be more effectively managed as a memorial park with passive interpretation linked to other OPRHP-managed sites.

| Significance | Site of brutal Revolutionary War encounter where Tryon County militiamen (led by Brigadier General Nicholas Herkimer) and their Oneida allies were ambushed by an attack force of Loyalist, Mohawk, and Seneca warriors on August 6, 1777. This battle, which pitted the European and Native American communities of the Mohawk Valley against each other, helped to shape the course of the American victory at Saratoga. Acquired 1927. |
| Management | National Park Service, Fort Stanwix National Monument |
| Staffing | 2 filled (shared with Steuben Memorial) |
| Friends | None |
| Notable | The site’s imposing monument was built in the 1880s to commemorate those who sacrificed their lives during this brutal battle. |
| Attendance | 5,000–10,000 |

**Recommendations**

- When the National Park Service agreement ends, manage site as a memorial park with passive interpretation.
• Create interpretive links with other colonial-era and Revolutionary War state historic sites in the Mohawk Valley, including Herkimer Home, Johnson Hall, and Guy Park; see Appendix E for more information.

**PARROTT HALL**, North Street, Geneva, Ontario Co.

*This grand, Italianate-style house is located on the campus of the New York State Agricultural Experiment Station, which is operated by Cornell University, and is historically linked to the formation and development of this facility. This building is in critical need of repair and compatible reuse, ideally serving a station-related function as well as interpreting its history. If that’s not possible, the property should be incorporated into the site system.*

**Significance:** Built in the mid-1800s, the farmstead was purchased in 1882 by the newly established Agricultural Experiment Station; the house was used by the station up until 1968, when it was threatened with demolition. The building was rescued by the local historical society, and jurisdictional ownership was transferred to OPRHP in 1975 for the purpose of developing the house as a state historic site. Through the years, efforts have been made to preserve the house, but it remains unoccupied and in need of substantial repair.

**Management:** OPRHP

**Staffing:** None

**Friends:** None

**Notable:** The house is named for Percival J. Parrott, who was head of the station’s entomology department (1903–1938) and subsequently served as director (1938–1942).

**Attendance:** NA

**Recommendation**
- Transfer this property to the New York State Agricultural Experiment Station.
- If a transfer is not possible, make the house a state historic site that interprets New York’s agricultural heritage and the state’s history of farming innovation.

**PHILIPSE MANOR HALL**, 29 Warburton Avenue, Yonkers, Westchester Co.

*This highly visible and easily accessible historic site in downtown Yonkers is viewed as a historic and cultural asset by the local community. Despite reduced staffing, the property continues to offer tours and educational programs as well as provide the community with a public gallery space, a large meeting room, and much-needed urban green space for picnics and outdoor activities.*

**Significance:** This rare surviving, 18th-century Georgian-style mansion became the principal family seat of the vast Philipse manor, which was established by royal charter in 1693. Up until the 1770s, Frederick Philipse III and his family enjoyed a lavish lifestyle here. However, the Revolutionary War forced these staunch Loyalists to flee New York for England. The house also served as the Yonkers village hall and its first city hall. Paintings from the site’s Cochran art collection, which includes many portraits of U.S. presidents, are frequently used in exhibits. Acquired 1908.

**Management:** OPRHP

**Staffing:** 2 filled/4 vacant, 4 T&S (in 2009); the site is cooperatively managed with John Jay Homestead (as of January 2011)

**Friends:** Friends of Philipse Manor Hall: the group needs to be reenergized; it provides some program support

**Notable:** Yonkers Public School 25, the “museum school,” uses the site’s community gallery as a classroom.

**Attendance:** 20,000–25,000

**Recommendations**
- Reinvigorate the Friends group; improve its function, membership, and support.
- Improve and expand the use of the site’s gallery space to enhance community connections.

### PLANTING FIELDS ARBORETUM, Planting Fields Rd., Oyster Bay, Nassau Co.

*This successfully managed historic park features a lush landscape with specimen trees and plantings, extensive greenhouse complexes, beautifully designed estate buildings, and a lavish, fully furnished mansion (Coe Hall), which is operated by the Planting Fields Foundation, a nonprofit affiliate. The estate’s former hay barn is now the park’s visitor center and events space and also houses the extensive Long Island state parks archive; this project involved a significant investment in the repair of this large building as well as the creation of the state-of-the-art OPRHP archive facility.*

**Significance:** This distinguished early 20th-century estate was the country home of wealthy industrialist William Coe and his wife Mai Rogers Coe, a Standard Oil heiress. The property was conceived by some of the country’s leading designers of the period, and it remains one of the best-preserved historic estates on Long Island. Acquired 1971.

**Management:** OPRHP and Planting Fields Foundation, which operates Coe Hall and some other buildings as well as provides some park-operations support

**Staffing:** 11 filled/14 vacant, 15 T&S (in 2009), and 8 T&S employed by the foundation (in 2009); Coe Hall: 8 full-time and 3 part-time staff employed by foundation (in 2009)

**Friends:** NA

**Notable:** The property’s historic Camellia Greenhouse is one of the arboretum’s horticultural jewels.

**Attendance:** 180,000–185,000

**Recommendation**

- Reexamine the purpose, management, and use of the Long Island OPRHP archives in the Hay Barn.

### REXFORD AQUEDUCT, Balltown Road & Williams Street, Niskayuna, Schenectady Co.

*Although this property is classified as a state historic site, its integrity has been severely compromised due to the significant loss of a substantial portion of the historic aqueduct.*

**Significance:** Completed in 1823 and enlarged in the 1840s, the aqueduct was built to carry the Erie Canal over the Mohawk River. The structure was repaired during the 19th and early 20th centuries, and it remained in use until the Barge Canal was opened in this area in 1916; subsequently a large portion of the aqueduct was dismantled. Acquired 1965.

**Management/Maintenance:** OPRHP

**Staffing:** NA

**Friends:** None

**Notable:** Originally, the 748-foot-long aqueduct was carried across the river on 16 piers.

**Attendance:** NA
**Recommendation**
- Declassify the property as a state historic site.

**SACKETS HARBOR BATTLEFIELD, 504 West Main Street, Sackets Harbor, Jefferson Co.**

_This well-managed historic site is closely linked with the village of Sackets Harbor, both physically and historically. When it was being developed as a center for military and naval activities during the War of 1812, the village expanded and grew with it. Today, the scenic site is an extension of the village, providing a large open space along the lakefront at the northern end of the community. The site’s historic houses, outbuildings, memorial grove, and trails support various interpretive activities._

**Significance:** The site became the center of American military and naval activity for the northern frontier during the War of 1812. The Battle of Sackets Harbor, which was a pivotal encounter during the conflict, was fought here on May 1813. Although the fortifications were destroyed after the war, during the 1840s new quarters were built on the grounds for the naval commandant and lieutenant; the navy maintained this facility until 1955. A park commemorating the battle was established here in the 1860s, and a monument commemorating the war’s centennial was built on the grounds in 1913. Acquired 1933.

**Management:** OPRHP  
**Staffing:** 3 filled/1 vacant, 9 T&S (in 2009)  
**Friends:** Battlefield Alliance: active; supports programs and events  
**Notable:** The National Park Service ranks the site as one of the top-10 War of 1812 battlefields in the country.

**Attendance:** 95,000–100,000

**Recommendation**
- Create a pilot interpretive program that relates to and engages the nearby Fort Drum community.

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**SCHOHARIE CROSSING, 129 Schoharie Street (off NY 5S), Fort Hunter, Montgomery Co.**

_The site was severely damaged during Hurricane Irene and some archaeological remains were uncovered during the flooding. When the property is secure, it could be operated as a park with passive interpretation and linked to the adjacent Erie Canal and Mohawk Hudson bikeways. Some of the canal features, including the Schoharie Creek aqueduct, are in critical need of repair. An on-site technical preservation training program could focus on stabilizing these features. There is also the opportunity to create connections between the site and the local community._

**Significance:** The site preserves the remains of a long section of the Erie Canal that was first opened to traffic in 1822; this engineering marvel created an all-water route to the interior of the continent and became New York’s “highway” of commerce and prosperity. The historic site retains several significant canal structures, including the remains of locks from both the original and enlarged canal, and the imposing ruins of the impressive Schoharie Creek aqueduct, which carried the canal over the Schoharie Creek. Acquired 1966.

**Management:** OPRHP  
**Staffing:** 3 filled/1 vacant, 2–4 T&S (in 2009)  
**Friends:** Friends of Schoharie Crossing: small; provides some support  
**Notable:** The site preserves the rare-surviving, physical remains of three phases of historic canal construction.

**Attendance:** 60,000–65,000

**Recommendations**
- Stabilize damaged buildings and roadways, etc., and preserve and interpret exposed archaeological resources.
- Manage site as park with passive interpretation; link site to adjacent bike trail.
- Find compatible uses for vacant or underutilized buildings.
- Develop on-site preservation training center to focus on canal features (Long Term).

**SCHUYLER MANSION**, 32 Catherine St., Albany, Albany Co.

![Image](image1)

*This well-managed historic site preserves the distinguished 18th-century mansion of the prominent Schuyler family and is one of several sites in the community that are linked to the area’s early settlement and growth. The property features the main house, open lawns, a small parking lot, and several ancillary buildings, all of which have the potential of offering the local community a variety of venues for cultural and recreational activities.*

**Significance:** This fashionable Georgian-style mansion was built in the 1760s for the wealthy, well-connected, and influential Schuyler family. Philip Schuyler was a Major General during the Revolutionary War. The house was the hub of local society, and the family hosted key political and military figures. Acquired 1911.

**Management:** OPRHP

**Staffing:** 2 full-time staff shared with Crailo, 1 filled/1 vacant, 3–5 T&S (in 2009)

**Friends:** Friends of Schuyler Mansion: recently reorganized; provides modest support

**Notable:** The house, which was originally part of a large estate, sits on a landscaped lot in Albany’s South End and provides a well-maintained green space in an otherwise densely developed residential neighborhood.

**Attendance:** 5,000–10,000

**Recommendations**

- Market the site as part of Partners for Albany Stories, a new, multiple-site interpretive initiative that is under development.
- Make better use of the adjacent 19th-century buildings on Catherine Street; a portion of one of these is currently rented.

**SENATE HOUSE**, 296 Fair Street, Kingston, Ulster Co.

![Image](image2)

*This historic site preserves the 18th-century house that was the meeting place of the newly formed state senate in 1777. With its distinguished buildings and landscaped grounds, the property contributes to the quality and character of Kingston’s historic built environment. This site has the potential of becoming a more vibrant resource within the site system and the local community.*

**Significance:** Kingston and this house are significant at the state and national levels for their key roles during the Revolutionary War and the birth of New York State. The building is locally significant as a rare-surviving vernacular stone house in a city that was burned by the British in 1777. The site is also home to an important art collection, which includes paintings by regionally significant artist John Vanderlyn and his family as well as other 19th-century artists. Acquired 1887.

**Management:** OPRHP

**Staffing:** 4 filled/1 vacant, 5 T&S (in 2009)

**Friends:** Friends of Senate House: small, provides modest support

**Notable:** This property is within easy walking distance of the community’s commercial center.

**Attendance:** 15,000–20,000

**Recommendations**
- Reimagine the site’s interpretation and link it to the Palisades region’s cluster of Revolutionary War state historic sites; see Appendix D for more information.
- Expand the interpretation and programming of the site’s regionally significant art collection
- Rent the Masten House

SONNENBERG GARDENS AND MANSION, 151 Charlotte St., Canandaigua, Ontario Co.

This historic park is successfully managed by an affiliate and preserves one of the finest designed landscapes in western New York. The property features an impressive Queen Anne-style mansion and a series of well-preserved ornamental gardens, including elaborate Italian, Japanese, and rock gardens. Located in the picturesque city of Canandaigua, the park is a popular tourist attraction in this region and has the potential to be marketed to a wider audience.

Significance: This fashionable country seat was developed during the late 19th and early 20th centuries by prominent banker Frederick Ferris Thompson and his wife Mary Clark Thompson. Mrs. Thompson grew up in Canandaigua and was the daughter of New York State Governor Myron H. Clark. While the property boasts an array of distinguished buildings, the landscaped grounds are the property’s most striking feature. Under Mrs. Thompson’s direction, the gardens were designed by some of the most prominent landscape architects of the period. Acquired 2004.

Management: Sonnenberg Gardens and Mansion

Staffing: 7 full-time employees and 1 half-time employee (in 2009)

Friends: NA

Notable: In 1915, Mary Clark Thompson donated more than 100 acres to create Clark Reservation State Park.

Attendance: 30,000–35,000

Recommendation
- Assist affiliate in improving the quality of the property’s public programs.

STAATSBURGH, Old Post Road, Staatsburg, Dutchess Co.

This riverfront estate features the magnificent Beaux Arts-style mansion of financier Ogden Mills and his prominent wife Ruth Livingston Mills. This historic site recalls this area’s period of grand country-house development at the turn of the 20th century. The house’s lavish interiors remain remarkably intact. Due to its large size and elaborate design and decoration, the mansion has substantial restoration needs, and the site’s collections require ongoing conservation.

Significance: This distinguished mansion was the centerpiece of a 1,600-acre estate that included landscaped grounds, gardens, greenhouses, a farm complex, and numerous outbuildings. Between 1895 and 1897, an earlier house on the site was substantially enlarged and embellished. The 79-room mansion includes beautifully designed and furnished rooms. Acquired 1938.

Management: OPRHP

Staffing: 5 filled/ 5 vacant, 5 T&S (in 2009)

Friends: Friends of Mills Mansion: active; supports programs, events, and preservation projects

Notable: The mansion retains one of the most comprehensive suites of historic domestic (servants’) spaces open to the public in the Hudson Valley.

Attendance: 15,000–20,000
Recommendations
- Improve visitor amenities (bathrooms, refreshments, etc.) and attract tour groups.
- Develop on-site preservation training center to focus on the restoration of the estate wall (Long Term).

STEUBEN MEMORIAL, Starr Hill Road, Remsen, Oneida Co.

Although this historic site and Oriskany Battlefield are currently operated under a short-term cooperative agreement with the National Park Service, OPRHP could effectively manage this small rural property as a memorial park with passive interpretation.

Significance: This site preserves a portion of the late 18th-century country retreat of Baron von Steuben, who played a central role in strengthening American troops during the Revolutionary War. The bucolic site features his grave, which is marked by an impressive monument, and a conjectural reconstruction of his simple log cabin. Acquired 1930.

Management: National Park Service, Fort Stanwix National Monument
Staffing: Staff shared with Oriskany Battlefield
Friends: None; however, the Remsen Historic Society is an informal “friend”
Notable: This site is located within Steuben’s original 16,000-acre land grant awarded by New York State in recognition of his Revolutionary War contributions.
Attendance: Less than 1,000

Recommendation
- When the National Park Service agreement ends, manage the site as memorial park with passive interpretation.

STONY POINT BATTLEFIELD, 44 Battlefield Road, Stony Point, Rockland Co.

This well-maintained historic site preserves a commemorative landscape with spectacular views of the Hudson River and a variety of period features, including a monumental entrance arch, low stone walls, picturesque pavilions, winding pathways, and a small museum building with an orientation exhibit. The site is also home to the oldest Hudson River lighthouse (1826). The property contains several houses, including the light-keeper’s residence.

Significance: This property is primarily significant as the site of a brief but spectacular Revolutionary War battle. On the night of July 15-16, 1779, elite American light infantry led by Brigadier General Anthony Wayne captured the British fortifications at Stony Point. Acquired 1897.

Management: OPRHP
Staffing: 1 filled/3 vacant, 11 T&S (in 2009)
Friends: Friends of Stony Point Battlefield and Lighthouse: provides modest support
Notable: The property’s riverfront was the western terminus of the 18th-century King’s Ferry.
Attendance: 25,000–30,000

Recommendations
- Manage and interpret the site as part of the Palisades region’s cluster of Revolutionary War state historic sites; see Appendix D for more information.
- Find tenants for the site’s vacant houses.

### WALKWAY OVER THE HUDSON, Poughkeepsie, Dutchess Co. to Highland, Ulster Co.

*This hugely successful historic park breaks the state historic site/state park mold; the late 19th-century Poughkeepsie Railroad Bridge has been rescued, repaired, and innovatively recycled as a linear walk and bike way that connects the city of Poughkeepsie with the town of Highland and offers breathtaking views of the Hudson River.*

**Significance:** When it opened in 1888-89, the bridge was considered an engineering marvel and was one of the longest bridges in the world. The entire structure spans over 6,750 feet (more than 1 mile) and soars 200 feet above the river. When it was completed, the bridge created a key transportation link to railway corridors across the region and contributed to the area’s prosperity during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Opened 2009; OPRHP owns the bridge deck and the New York State Bridge Authority owns the bridge structure.

**Management:** OPRHP

**Staffing:** 1 filled/1 vacant, 9 T&S

**Friends:** Walkway Over the Hudson: active; provides substantial support

**Notable:** A trail loop connects the walkway to the adjacent Mid-Hudson Bridge, and a new Ulster County trail connects to the west end of the park.

**Attendance:** 495,000–500,000

**Recommendation**
- Use the historic park as a gateway to promote the site system, especially Hudson Valley sites.

### WALT WHITMAN BIRTHPLACE, 246 Old Walt Whitman Road, Huntington, Suffolk Co

*This well-maintained historic site is operated by an affiliate and preserves the farmhouse where Walt Whitman was born. The property’s landscaped grounds create a green oasis in one of the town’s most highly developed commercial areas. The property also has a modern visitor center with a large exhibit area, meeting room, offices, and a shop. The site has a particularly successful poetry education program for schools. However, the affiliate has had some difficulty raising the funds necessary to operate the site, which could become a critical issue in the future.*

**Significance:** This is where one of America’s great poets was born and spent the first few years of his life. The Whitman family and other relatives settled in this area (called West Hills) during the 19th century and some of the Whitman family houses remain nearby. While the site is linked with a famous, nationally recognized literary figure, the property is not associated with his life as a writer. Acquired 1957.

**Management:** Walt Whitman Birthplace Association

**Staffing:** 24 part-time staff (in 2009)

**Friends:** NA
Notable: The site has a successful on- and off-site poetry education program for area schools, and its popular Poets-in-Residence initiative offers readings, workshops, and classes to the community.

Attendance: 5,000–10,000

Recommendation
- Monitor the viability of the affiliate and develop sustainable options for site management.

WASHINGTON’S HEADQUARTERS, Liberty & Washington Sts., Newburgh, Orange Co.

Significance: The site’s 18th-century stone house served as General Washington’s headquarters from April 1782 to August 1783, from the period following the Yorktown campaign to the official cease fire. Together with New Windsor Cantonment and Knox’s Headquarters, the site figures prominently in the story of the dramatic series of events leading up to the end of the war. A small yet significant portion of the site’s collection includes important Revolutionary War artifacts and letters.

Management: OPRHP

Staffing: 5 filled/1 vacant, 5 T&S (in 2009)

Friends: Friends of the State Historic Sites of the Hudson Highlands: provides modest support

Notable: When the state acquired the property in 1850, it was the first publicly owned historic site in the country.

Attendance: 20,000–25,000

Recommendation
- Manage and interpret the site as part of the Palisades region’s cluster of Revolutionary War state historic sites, and create an interpretive gateway to the cluster here; see Appendix D for more information.
Appendix C: Statewide Themes

When viewed as an interconnected network, the site system has the enormous potential to convey the broad sweep of New York’s history while offering visitors an array of opportunities to understand better and more fully appreciate the extraordinary people, places, and events that helped to shape the Empire State. The assessment process reinforced the team’s awareness that many of the sites are closely associated with common themes in New York State history. There was also a consensus among the team members that if these themes were fully developed, they could be used to create new interpretive and promotional approaches for the entire system as well as offer the sites the ability to collaborate in telling larger, relevant stories that have a statewide and national perspective. Potential themes and site connections include:

Colonial Contact of Cultures
The arrival of French, Dutch, and English colonists on land already inhabited by Native Americans began a complex and compelling story of acculturation and conflict that continued up to the Revolutionary War and beyond. This story can be told at several sites from several different points of view, such as the Seneca at Ganondagan; the French and English at Crown Point; the Dutch at Crailo; and the English at Philipse Manor Hall, Clermont, Schuyler Mansion, Johnson Hall, and Guy Park.

The Revolutionary War
From beginning to end, New York State was a central theater during the American Revolution. About one quarter of the Revolutionary War’s battles were fought in present-day New York State, twice as many as in any other state. At least half of our sites are connected to this nation-making event and the subsequent formation of the state, including:
- In the Hudson River Valley: Fort Montgomery, Knox’s Headquarters, New Windsor Cantonment, Senate House, Stony Point Battlefield, Washington’s Headquarters, Schuyler Mansion, Clermont, Clinton House, John Jay Homestead, and Philipse Manor Hall.
- In the Mohawk River Valley: Herkimer Home, Oriskany Battlefield, Johnson Hall, and Guy Park.
- Across the State: Fort Ontario, Steuben Memorial, Fort Niagara, Bennington Battlefield, and Crown Point.

Expansion and the Empire State
Following the Revolutionary War, the citizens of the new nation began to rapidly migrate west. Another war with England, the War of 1812, led to the settling of the new nation’s boundaries. One of that war’s greatest battles occurred at Sackets Harbor, which was the center for American naval and military operations on Lake Ontario during the conflict. Land agents, like Cazenovia’s John Lincklaen, who built Lorenzo, surveyed and sold this newly acquired land, where farmers then turned forests into fields and pastures. Schoharie Crossing and Old Erie Canal tell the story of the Erie Canal, the engineering marvel built to move people, raw materials, and products back and forth between New York City and the great northwestern frontier, helping to make New York the Empire State. The (Old) Croton Aqueduct, another engineering masterpiece, was built between 1837 and 1842 to provide much-needed fresh water to Manhattan, where local water resources had become polluted and were inadequate for the city’s rapidly expanding population. In the late 19th century, the Poughkeepsie Railroad Bridge, now Walkway Over the Hudson State Historic Park, was built to span the Hudson River, linking key transportation corridors across the Northeast and contributing to the state’s prosperity.

Agriculture
Farming has always been important in New York State. In 1870, the value of all New York State agricultural products was $253 million, exceeding that of every other state. Most of our sites have an agricultural connection and some are particularly noteworthy. Ganondagan tells the story of the Seneca people’s intimate relationship with the land and its crops. Clermont interprets tenant farming in the Hudson Valley, while Hyde Hall was a thriving agricultural estate in central New York during the 19th century. John Jay Homestead represents a prosperous gentleman’s farm, and Parrot Hall is the home of New York’s renowned Agricultural Experiment
Station, where many of the fruit and vegetable hybrids that we buy today were first developed. John Brown Farm in the Adirondacks evokes the hardscrabble life of would-be farmer John Brown, who became one of the nation’s most famous abolitionists. And, the model farm created at Caumsett, the elegant, early 20th-century estate of Marshall Field III, boasted the latest agricultural innovations.

**Slavery and Abolition**
Slavery and abolition is a story that the sites are only beginning to fully explore and interpret. Frederick Philipse was intimately involved in the early Dutch slave trade, and Philipse Manor Hall, Schuyler Mansion, and Johnson Hall were all supported by enslaved Africans. Meanwhile, other properties are associated with the effort to end slavery. At John Jay Homestead, John Jay and his son William represent early opponents of slavery, while John Brown Farm is the final resting place of one of abolition’s most famous figures. General (and later President) Ulysses S. Grant, who helped end slavery as the hero of the Civil War, wrote his memoirs as a dying man at Grant Cottage. The Walt Whitman Birthplace is where one of America’s great poets was born and spent the first few years of his life; Whitman later experienced firsthand as a war hospital volunteer the horrors of the Civil War, which had a profound impact on his life and work.

**Conservation and Preservation**
New York has always been at the forefront of the movement to conserve our natural resources and preserve our historic properties. Washington’s Headquarters in Newburgh became the country’s first publicly owned historic site in 1850, and New York established its first state park at Niagara Falls in 1885. Frederic Church, one of America’s greatest landscape painters, who built his exotic, self-designed home, Olana, with magnificent views of the Hudson Valley, supported efforts, during the 1870s, to protect Niagara Falls from industrialization. John Burroughs was one of the nation’s foremost writers and voices for environmental conservation; his grave site still looks out on the same Catskill Mountain views that inspired him as a child. Stony Point Battlefield, with its stone entrance arch and picturesque gazebos, and Bennington Battlefield, with its dramatic landscape and scenic vistas, are great examples of the early 20th-century battlefield memorial park designs.

**Class, Wealth, and Power**
Between 1830 and the first half of the 20th century, New York was not only the nation’s most populous state but its wealthiest and most powerful. Clermont, Lorenzo, Hyde Hall, and Staatsburgh provide rare opportunities to explore the differences between class and wealth in America as well as experience lavishly designed and furnished mansions. Caumsett, Planting Fields Arboretum, Sonnenberg Mansion and Gardens, and the Darwin Martin House are surviving examples of distinguished estates and landscapes created by some of the nation’s leading designers of the period and created at the height of the state’s wealth.