



BAYVILLE HISTORICAL MUSEUM

34 School Street, Bayville - The museum is housed, in part, in the only remaining building complex that was part of the Harrison Williams 88-acre estate called “*Oak Point*.” It features several rooms of exhibits depicting Bayville’s history, including a large room for changing exhibitions. For further information, call (516) 628-1720 or Village Hall at (516) 628-1439.

BETHPAGE FRIENDS MEETING

Quaker Meeting House Road, Farmingdale - The original Bethpage Friends Meeting House, built in 1741, was the first house of worship constructed in the Bethpage Purchase area (*the large parcel of land encompassing Bethpage and Farmingdale that was purchased by noted Quaker Thomas Powell in 1695*). The present structure is the third meeting house, fire destroying the earlier two. Built in 1890, it stands on Quaker Meeting House Road, almost encircled by Farmingdale's oldest cemetery. For further information, email jayantsingh61@yahoo.com.

COE HALL

Planting Fields Road, Oyster Bay - Situated on the scenic grounds of the Planting Fields Arboretum State Historic Park, this 65-room Tudor revival mansion was once occupied by the W.R. Coe family. Coe Hall was restored to reflect the North Shore's famous "*Gold Coast*" era in the 1920s. For further information, call (516) 922-9210.

DELANCEY FLOYD-JONES FREE LIBRARY

Merrick Road, Massapequa - Founded in 1896, the Delancey Floyd-Jones Free Library is one of the oldest libraries in the Town of Oyster Bay. The library collection remains in the original structure and is open to the public for research on Wednesdays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

EARLE-WIGHTMAN HOUSE

20 Summit Street, Oyster Bay - A circa 1720 building restored and maintained by the Town of Oyster Bay, it is the home of the Oyster Bay Historical Society and houses a collection of Town memorabilia. For further information, call (516) 922-5032.

FORT NECK MARKER

Fairfax and Gloucester Roads, Massapequa - In an area called Fort Neck by colonists, is the site of one of the few Indian Forts known on Long Island. There on stands a marker, which also commemorates the 1658-59 sale of the nearby meadowlands by Native Americans to the townsmen of Oyster Bay. Although some dispute that it happened here, and other accounts vary considerably, legend has it that a 1653 battle took place when Captain John Underhill was sent by the Dutch to overtake the Algonkian Indians. The marker also tells of Major Thomas Jones and his wife Freelove, the first non-Indian settlers in Massapequa, ca. 1697. Their brick house, located further north, stood on land traded from the Algonkians. For further information, call the Historical Society of the Massapequas at (516) 799-2023.

GARVIES POINT MUSEUM

McLaughlin Avenue and Garvies Point Road, Glen Cove (Entrance off Barry Drive) - Sixty-two-acre preserve includes 11 marked trails and features geologic specimens native to Long Island. Museum depicts early Native American culture and geologic history of Long Island through dioramas, charts and models. For further information call (516) 571-8010.

HICKSVILLE GREGORY MUSEUM

Heitz Place Courthouse, Hicksville - Largest rock and mineral collection on Long Island, along with more than 5,000 butterfly and moth specimens is housed in the historic Hicksville Courthouse, ca. 1895. Courses offered in earth and natural sciences and Long Island history, as well as lectures, workshops and field trips. For further information, call (516) 822-7505.

JERICHO FRIENDS MEETING

Old Jericho Turnpike, Jericho - Erected in 1788 on one acre and twenty rods of land purchased from Benjamin and William Wright, the Jericho Friends Meeting House was designed by noted Friends preacher Elias Hicks. In 1818, a porch to protect the two south doors was added. For further information, call Valerie E. Smith, clerk of the meeting, at (516) 647-5408.

MATINECOCK QUAKER MEETING

267 Duck Pond Road, Locust Valley - The group was organized in 1671, making it the oldest meeting of Quakers, also known as the Religious Society of Friends, in the United States. The building was constructed around 1725. It was rebuilt following a fire in 1986. For further information, call Friends Academy School (located across the street from the meeting house) at (516) 669-6023.

OLD BETHPAGE VILLAGE RESTORATION

Round Swamp Road, Old Bethpage - An authentic 19th century village nestled in a hidden valley of 209 sprawling acres. Historic buildings were moved here from various parts of Long Island. Arts and crafts demonstrated by “*villagers*” in traditional period garb using authentic 19th century implements. Part of the Nassau County Museum System Interpretation Program. For further information, call (516) 572-8409.

OLD GRACE CHURCH

Merrick Road, Massapequa - Founded in 1844, Old Grace Church is the oldest church in Massapequa. It is situated on part of what was once the estate of Massapequa's founding family, the Joneses. Both Major Jones and his wife, Freelove, are buried in the cemetery to the rear of the church. Major Jones' headstone dated 1713, which is still intact, is the oldest historical object in Massapequa. Many other graves of the Jones family are here also. The yard and the headstones are well preserved and their inscriptions trace the early social history of Massapequa. For further information, call the Historical Society of the Massapequas at (516) 799-2023.



RAYNHAM HALL MUSEUM

20 West Main Street, Oyster Bay - Home of Samuel Townsend family used as British headquarters during the American Revolution. Main house built ca. 1740; Victorian wing added 1851. Period furnishings, special exhibits. For further information, call (516) 922-6808.

SAGAMORE HILL

Cove Neck Road, Oyster Bay - Victorian Mansion completed in 1885 and recently refurbished, it served as Theodore Roosevelt's summer White House during his presidency. Old Orchard Museum, former residence of Theodore, Jr. and his family, contains Roosevelt memorabilia, including original film clips shown in a special narrated program. Call (516) 922-4788. Facility is closed Mondays and Tuesdays.

SEA CLIFF VILLAGE MUSEUM

95 10th Avenue, Sea Cliff - Housed in a former Methodist parsonage, the museum focuses on the history of Sea Cliff. It contains an extensive photo collection, a costume exhibit, artifacts, documents and gift shop and sponsors special programs and exhibits. Call (516) 801-3401.

THEODORE ROOSEVELT SANCTUARY & AUDUBON CENTER

Cove Road, Oyster Bay - Owned by the National Audubon Society, the sanctuary contains 12 acres of unspoiled land and a self-guiding nature trail. Museum houses Long Island flora and fauna exhibits. Adjacent to Young's Cemetery, final resting place of Theodore Roosevelt. Call (516) 922-3200.

YOUNGS MEMORIAL CEMETERY

Cove Road, Oyster Bay - Located adjacent to Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary (*a 12-acre, self-guiding nature trail*), this cemetery contains the grave of President Theodore Roosevelt. Youngs Memorial Cemetery has been a burial ground since the 17th century. T.R.'s hilltop grave (*reached by 26 steps, signifying that he was the 26th President*) is visited by thousands of people annually. Visit www.TRgravesite.org.

A Message From
Town Supervisor
JOSEPH SALADINO



Dear Friends,
Welcome to historic Oyster Bay! Our beautiful Town has a distinctive heritage, and I hope you take the time to visit some of the beautiful historic sites it has to offer. Some famous sites include President Theodore Roosevelt's home Sagamore Hill and American Revolution-era home Raynham Hall, among many others. I encourage all residents to visit these beautiful locations, rich in history and heritage, in our beautiful Town.

Best Regards,

JOSEPH SALADINO
Town Supervisor

Town Supervisor
JOSEPH SALADINO



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Town Supervisor
JOSEPH SALADINO

A GUIDE TO HISTORICAL PLACES IN THE TOWN OF OYSTER BAY



The Public Information Office
(516) 624-6380

www.OysterBayTown.com

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE TOWN OF OYSTER BAY

The Town of Oyster Bay enjoys a rich and well-documented history. The first known European to sail past Long Island's south shore was Giovanni da Verrazzano in 1524. David deVries was the first to record the name of Oyster Bay for the beautiful harbor on the Town's north shore in 1639.

Long Island was first claimed by the Dutch as part of their province of New Netherland. In 1639, they purchased from the Native Americans a tract which, on the east, included the present Town land. In 1648, Robert Williams of Hempstead bought from the Native Americans a large parcel of land, which is represented today by Hicksville and adjacent parts of Jericho, Plainview, Syosset and Woodbury.

Five years later, in 1653, the Native American Chief Mohannes sold the land in the northern portion of Oyster Bay, extending from Long Island Sound to a point near Hicksville, to New Englanders Samuel Mayo, Peter Wright and William Leverich. Several other colonists joined in this First Purchase and settled on the land.

In founding the Town, the New Englanders were seeking new opportunities on Long Island just east of the boundary established between the English and Dutch. In 1667, three years after the English won New Netherland, the Town of Oyster Bay, inclusive of land to the "Soth Sea" (Great South Bay), was granted a patent by the English Governor, Sir Edmund Andros.

After the defeat of the American Army at the Battle of Long Island in August 1776, Oyster Bay fell under British occupation. The Revolutionary War found Long Island strongly Loyalist. British troops used Raynham Hall as their headquarters; the hall being the home of patriot Samuel Townsend and currently a museum. Despite the fact that he was arrested early in the war for his support of the patriots, his son, Robert, remained active as an undercover agent for General Washington using the code name, "Culper, Jr." With the aid of his sister, Sally, he reportedly secured information that led to the exposure of Benedict Arnold's plot to defect to the British and turn over West Point to their control.

After the Revolution, Oyster Bay continued primarily as an agricultural area through the nineteenth century. It didn't come into national prominence again until the presidency of Theodore Roosevelt, an Oyster Bay resident whose home, Sagamore Hill, served as the "summer White House" from 1902 to 1908. This huge Victorian mansion, with its original furnishings, was dedicated as a national shrine during the administration of President Eisenhower. It has since been completely restored and is open to the public.

With the advent of World Wars I and II, the Town's primarily agricultural economy began changing to one of industry and business, especially in the area of aeronautics. Farmlands gave way to business complexes, factories and new housing. Today, Oyster Bay enjoys a well-balanced blend of commercial, residential and recreational development, leading to the Town's slogan that "Oyster Bay is a great place to live, work and play."

