

Contact: Glenn Kreisberg, overlookmountaincenter@gmail.com, 845-417-8384

For Immediate Release:

September 04, 2025

Overlook Mountain Center Further Protects Land with Prehistoric ‘Rock Piles’ on Overlook Mountain

Deed Restrictions Protect 37 Acre Archeological Site In Perpetuity

Woodstock, NY — After gaining possession of a 37 acre historically significant archeological site earlier this year, local nonprofit Overlook Mountain Center has filed a Declaration of Restrictive Covenants to further limit what can and cannot be done on the property which is situated on the southern slope of Overlook Mountain and contains a myriad of ancient petroforms and stone mounds, one of which was dated to 1550 CE, making it among the oldest documented manmade structures in Ulster County.

On August 11, 2025, Ulster County Clerk’s office recorded the deed restrictions which are intended to “preserve the Property as an educational tool for the general public's benefit and to offer access to the Property for guided tours which focus on geology, topography, archeology, Native American culture, ecosystems studies, and the beauty of nature.” Some of the deed restrictions include: no hunting, camping, vehicle usage, clearing, building of structures, utilities, roadways, quarrying, trespassing, fire-making, or subdividing the property, among many others.

OMC was represented by pro-bono legal counsel through the nonprofit New York Lawyers for Public Interest (nylpi.org).

OMC is also working with the New York State Office of Parks Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) to have the site listed in the state’s Cultural Resource Inventory System (CRIS) database. An announcement is forthcoming.

“This furthers our goal to protect this special parcel in perpetuity,” said OMC chairperson and co-founder Glenn Kreisberg. “Now, many generations will be able to enjoy and study it in the future.”

Research Solves Mystery

In 2020, OMC received a grant for Dr. James K. Feathers, then Research Associate Director, Department of Anthropology, University of Washington, to conduct research using optical stimulated luminescence (OSL) to date two mounds on Overlook Mountain in Woodstock, NY. Results revealed suggested construction dates of 1550 and 1640 CE (+/- 50 years) based on sediment analysis, likely making them among the oldest documented man-made structures in Ulster County, NY. These results are based on samples collected in the fall of 2020. Dr. Feathers’ study was published in *Quaternary Geochronology* 73 (2022).

Prior to the OSL dating, everything about the mounds - they were made by the Works Progress Administration in the 1930s or by hippies in the 1960s - was conjecture. In fact, prior to the OSL research, one local archeologist, Joseph Diamond, the head of the Native American studies program at SUNY New Paltz, dismissed the mounds entirely, considering them nothing more than the work of Irish quarrymen expressing their Celtic heritage. The OSL research proves otherwise.

Since its founding in 2013, the Overlook Mountain Center (OMC) has had three main goals for a 37 acre property on Overlook Mountain: to research the ‘mysterious’ stone piles and rock walls found on the site; to educate the public about its findings and share with them this remarkable property; and to protect the property for posterity so it can be studied and enjoyed by the population in the future.

Overlook Mountain Center, a 501(c)3 nonprofit formed in 2013, promotes awareness and understanding of the relationship between Overlook Mountain and the human populations that have encountered it throughout time. OMC creates programs and conducts research to educate,

experience and celebrate all aspects of Overlook Mountain and its ecosystems. More info: www.overlookmountain.org.

###