



## Call for Researcher

**Project Working Title:** *AAPI in Rockville: Chinese Immigrants and Chinese Americans*

**Focus:** Chinese Demographic Study, Business Development, Institutions, and Settlement Patterns

**Project Start:** October 2025

**Project Due Date:** January 2026

**Compensation:** Up to \$10,000

Submit Resume, Cover Letter, and two references to [info@peerlessrockville.org](mailto:info@peerlessrockville.org)

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### Project Description

Peerless Rockville is seeking a qualified researcher to conduct a detailed study of the Chinese community in Rockville, Maryland, including both immigrants from mainland China and Taiwan and Chinese Americans, with a particular focus on demographic trends, business development, cultural institutions, and settlement patterns. This study is the first phase of a larger initiative focused on documenting the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) experience in Rockville.

This project will involve historic newspaper research, property record research, and compiling and analyzing U.S. Census data, American Community Survey results, and other demographic sources to understand the growth and evolution of the Chinese community in Rockville from the late 19<sup>th</sup> century to the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Special attention will be paid to the significant changes following the 1965 Immigration and Nationality Act (Hart-Celler Act), which reopened immigration pathways from Asia.

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### Research Focus Areas

- **Demographics:** Breakdown of available data by ethnicity/nationality, age, and gender, per decade.
- **Business & Commercial Patterns:** Identification and analysis of Chinese-owned businesses and their geographic and historical development—especially along Rockville Pike and North Washington Street.

- **Institutions:** Documentation of cultural organizations, churches, schools, and other institutions founded or supported by the Chinese community.
  - **Property Ownership & Settlement Patterns:** Use of property records, directories, and secondary sources to map and analyze residential trends and community development.
  - **Community Leadership:** Identification of influential individuals and their contributions to civic life.
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## Deliverables

- Comprehensive final report, including:
    - Literature review of AAPI history and context statements in Montgomery County and surrounding environs and identification of themes relevant to Rockville
    - Narrative analysis with integrated demographic data
    - A synopsis of Chinese immigration to/migration within the United States and how local patterns intersect with broader themes and events
    - Maps and visualizations of settlement and commercial activity (where appropriate)
    - Methodology and research design section
  - Annotated bibliography of sources
  - Compilation and interpretation of property records
  - Public-facing output explaining project and its findings in the form of blog articles, newsletter pieces, and social media posts.
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## Qualifications & Requirements

- Undergraduate Degree in History, Anthropology, Asian American Studies, Historic Preservation, or related fields. Some Graduate coursework preferred.
- Proven experience in historical research
- Familiarity with AAPI history, terminology, and context in the United States

- Ability to conduct property, newspaper, and archival research
  - Strong oral and written communication skills
  - Independent, detail-oriented, and self-motivated
  - Willingness to collaborate with Peerless Rockville staff and community members as needed
  - Community outreach experience preferred
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## **Background**

*A note on AAPI: The National Park Service's Finding a Path Forward: Asian American Pacific Islander National Historic Landmarks Theme Study describes Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI) as people from the vast geographic region bounded by China to the north and Indonesia to the south, Afghanistan to the west, and Japan and the Philippines to the east (NPS, Odo 2019, 3). The groups most represented in Rockville currently and historically includes Chinese, Asian Indian, Korean, Filipino, Vietnamese, and Japanese.*

As of the 2020 Census, nearly 25% of Rockville's population identifies as AAPI—significantly higher than the 14% countywide. Despite this large and growing community, there is no comprehensive historical narrative detailing their experience in Rockville. This project seeks to address that gap.

This effort builds on regional AAPI studies and aims to produce localized research focused specifically on Rockville's Chinese and Taiwanese populations. Findings will inform future exhibits, public programs, and publications.