



The Advocate

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Cazenovia Heritage
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Welcome Spring!

This issue is packed with news on some upcoming unique programs and updates on advocacy issues.

On April 19th, we are pleased to sponsor a live video-conference with three representatives from the State Historic Preservation office (SHPO) who will speak on the popular tax credit programs available for rehabilitation projects, as well as the National Register application process. The following night, we join the Cazenovia community in recognition of Earth Week, with a presentation on how preservation and rehabilitation of historic buildings can help fight climate change.

May is *National Preservation Month*, and it's hard to believe that it's been only one year since our first public program launched last May. This year's programs for *Preservation Month* will be the first stage of a clean-up of an abandoned rural cemetery, and a walking tour of New Woodstock neighborhoods.

On the Advocacy front, we bring you updates in the on-going push for the preservation of the Gothic Cottage, as well as a new advocacy effort: Addressing the deteriorating condition of our Albany Street buildings.



Welcome New Charter Memberships!

With deep appreciation from Cazenovia Heritage, 1st Quarter 2022 saw six new Charter Memberships:

Susan and Leigh Baldwin	AnnaMarie and William Neuland
Pat Carmelli	David Ridings
Larry and Mary Leatherman	Glenda and Larry Wetzel

Time is running out! Charter Memberships are being accepted through May 2022 only. Join now!

Gothic Cottage Update

Over the past several months, we continued to make the case to the Town Board of the irreversible alterations and interior demolition that would result from the proposed Plan C, if adopted. We continue to believe that the Board should make a decision on the better on-site plan and then evaluate that plan against the offsite plan. Despite these arguments, the Town has announced it will collectively discuss *only* the Town's Plan C and possible changes, and an offsite location at a public meeting on **April 26th**. The Compromise Plan will not be considered *at this time*. We are disappointed with this approach, and we encourage you to make every effort to attend to understand the proposals. Details of the meeting will be provided as the date approaches.



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Pay Too Much in Taxes This Year? Thinking of Some Repairs to Your Historic House or Building?

Did you know? The owner of a property in the Village's National Register Historic District or a property individually listed on the National Register may be eligible for Federal and State Tax Credits for the rehabilitation of historic structures. For residential properties, this is a 20% NYS tax credit up to \$50,000 per year. For income producing/commercial properties, there is a Federal tax credit of 20% **PLUS** a 20%-30% State tax credit. This is not just for major projects – **projects can begin as low as \$5,000**. This is the first year in which Cazenovia is eligible for this program.

Cazenovia Heritage has invited representatives from the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) to speak to Cazenovia property owners. They will conduct a live video-conference call on **Tuesday, April 19th, at 7:00 PM** to review the program and answer your questions. The **link to the Webex is on the home page of our website and will be sent to those on our email list**. This tax credit program has proved immensely popular. Please join the call, learn more about the program and whether your project and property can take advantage of this.

So Why Put My House or Building on the National Register?

What does it mean to have your property listed on the National Register? Simply put, it's one of the highest honors from our country. The State and National Register of Historic Places is the nation's official list of buildings, structures, sites, and objects that it deems *significant* in the history, architecture, engineering, archeology, and/or culture of New York State and the nation. As such, applications go through a rigorous evaluation – what you would both want and expect for this highest honor.

Fun Stuff

In addition to the National Register Historic District in the Village, Cazenovia has 29 individually listed National Register properties. How many can you name?

Is there any protection from demolition or destruction? No. Is there grant money available? Not for private residences. Then why do it? There is always the so-called "prestige" factor, but on a community basis, having properties listed on the National Register is a reflection of a community's commitment to historic preservation. A

listing does raise more eyebrows when a property is threatened by a state or federal project, requiring review by SHPO. And, the property is eligible to apply for the tax credit program mentioned above.

The property need not be a mansion to be listed; in fact, smaller homes that contribute to the historical or architectural character of the community are encouraged to apply. **Find out more:** At the same above SHPO video-conference, **April 19th at 7:00 PM**, a representative of SHPO will provide an overview of the application process and answer any questions you may have.

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Historic Buildings Are Green Buildings

In recognition of Earth Week, Cazenovia Heritage is hosting a keynote presentation by Andrew Roblee, who will speak, in layman’s terms, on how historic buildings are inherently “greener” than many “energy efficient” solutions being offered in the marketplace. Additionally, the re-use of salvaged materials can help to reduce carbon levels as part of addressing climate change.

Mr. Roblee is Owner of Roblee Historic Preservation and a founding partner of the Circulatory Reuse Zero Waste Deconstruction (CROWD) Group, which seeks to reduce the amount of construction and demolition waste in our nation’s landfills through preservation or reuse of building materials. Mr. Roblee also is President of the Preservation Association of Central New York.

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May is *National Preservation Month* – Celebrate with these 2 Events!

Cemetery Survival 101

Wanted: *Folks who aren’t afraid of getting dirty.*

On **Saturday, May 14th**, Cazenovia Heritage and CPF will join forces to begin a clean-up of the historic abandoned cemetery off Grassy Lane Road. Beginning at **9:30 AM**, there will be an introduction on the 32 folks buried in this small, hidden sanctuary among the woods. This will be followed by some “Do’s and Don’ts” for participants before heading off with our weed diggers and clippers. The event will conclude around noon.



This effort is not to undertake a pristine restoration; rather, it is simply to restore some of the cemetery’s former dignity and prevent further deterioration. We’ll remove excess vegetation over the flattened tombstones in anticipation of raising some of the tombstones in the fall.

Additional details will be posted on the website and communicated beginning in May.

New Woodstock Walking Tour, Saturday May 21, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM **Rain or Shine**

A second event for *National Preservation Month* is a walking tour of New Woodstock neighborhoods, conducted by Ted Bartlett and Roger Cook. Venture off that Route 13/Route 80 roadway to see some of the hidden architecture and historic barns in the charming hamlet within our Town.

Participants should gather in front of the Baptist Church on Main street a few minutes before 10:00.



Renew Albany Street!

Next time you walk or drive down Albany Street, take a closer look at the buildings that line the street. As you may recall, the deteriorating condition of our “Main Street” buildings was the #2 priority in last fall’s survey of community preservation priorities. Representatives of Cazenovia Heritage met with the Village Board last month to solicit its leadership of this initiative. At the same time, we offered Cazenovia Heritage’s willingness to meet with building owners to identify concerns and propose potential solutions.

The Village Board shared the concern and subsequently a letter from Kurt Wheeler, Mayor, was sent to all building owners underscoring the impact that the conditions of our historic buildings have on tourism, the local economy, and jobs. It also encouraged the building owners to participate in the SHPO video-conference on April 19th. An attachment from Cazenovia Heritage outlined our willingness to assist in assessing conditions, identifying approaches, and determining steps to forestall future problems. Both documents will be posted on our website.

While this effort will take time, we hope that *Preservation Month* in May will see the beginning of landlords taking positive steps forward. In the meantime, we also asked the Village Board to look into the role of the Historic Preservation Commission and the Code Enforcement Officer in enforcing compliance to preservation standards. We will report back on developments in the next newsletter.



Not a member of Cazenovia Heritage yet? Join your many neighbors in protecting the architecture of this place we love and call home. It’s not too late to become a Charter Member, and Individual and Family Memberships also are available. See our website to join now: <https://cazheritage.org/support.html>