



The Advocate

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Cazenovia Heritage
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Cloudy Days

Practically overnight, the closing of the College has become a cloud hanging over Cazenovia -- its people, businesses, governments, and non-for-profits, their activities and decision-making. After mourning the loss, what makes the present difficult is dealing with the uncertainty. As humans, we long for clarity and certainty. Our collective future, however, is uncertain.

But uncertainty, in and of itself, also provides hope and the possibility for creativity and a positive outcome. How we navigate this uncertainty will be critical to Cazenovia's

future. All of us can commit to play a part, in small and large ways, in defining that future, so that the sun does indeed break through the clouds.

The shock and sense of loss of a 199-year-old institution resonates deeply among those of us who care about Cazenovia's historic buildings and sites that contribute so much to our community character. Hopefully, more Cazenovians have been jolted to understand that the threat to our historic resources is ever present. We are proud that so many of you stand with us in caring for this place we call home.



Caz230 Is Under Way!

In recognition of Cazenovia's 230th birthday in 2023, Cazenovia Heritage is celebrating 230 years of its rich architectural history. Each monthly program will focus on a specific period or style or use of architecture found in Cazenovia. These programs are free and open to the public, **thanks to your memberships!** The entire year's schedule of programs can be found on page 5.

Highlighted Resource: Merrick-Loomis House

Those of you who attended the recent Caz230 Kick-off presentation last Saturday will recognize this wonderful example of an early settlement, center-chimney home. And here's the test: 8 post or 12 post?*



Photo Courtesy of Cazenovia Public Library Archives, Kenard Files

Located at 3971 Number Nine Road, the land was purchased by Charles Merrick in 1793 from the Holland Land Company. Before building a house, the land was first to be cleared and planted, which Merrick succeeded in doing by 1795. Around 1807, he sold the property to John Loomis. One source states Merrick built this house in 1795, while another states Loomis built this as a new home in 1807. Either way, it is a standing example of a historic home of this period. Note the 12/12 windows and early Federal architrave surrounding the front door.

John Loomis and his wife held onto the property until 1864 when it was deeded to his daughter Caroline Loomis, who married

George Taylor. The Taylor house was sold in 1910 to Hattie and P. A. Webster. On Hattie's death in 1972, the house was sold to Robert J. Reidl. He held it briefly before selling to Robert Koese and wife in 1973.

*Answer to above: 12 post (you knew that!)



Ones We're Watching:

We can all be pleased to see the positive outcome of the house at the corner of Farnham and William Streets. Maintaining and refurbishing older homes is key to retaining the identity and character of our neighborhoods. (Article continues on page 4)



From the Inbox

We thought you'd enjoy the following, received with a donation in this year's Annual Appeal, and which the author agreed to share. It hints at the broader relationship between the early Seminary and surrounding neighborhoods -- a coexistence that needs to be honored as the future of the College is determined.

"I am glad to have been able to make the donation.

I was thrilled when I learned about Cazenovia Heritage. I have seen what became of the too many towns, both wealthy and poor, that did not take historic preservation seriously. Having Cazenovia Heritage's voice heard is essential to a sustainable future here.

I must say, I feel quite vulnerable this year as the future of Cazenovia without Cazenovia College is decided, because I live in the epicenter, at XXX Lincklaen Street. The College owns three of the Greek Revival Houses across the street from me. Those three houses should have been treated with more respect by the College and, now, that may put those houses' future at greater risk.

'D.L Follett of Earll' is etched on a pane in my kitchen window, which is in an addition dating to 1850. I came to learn that that etching attests to how closely this neighborhood has been attached to the Seminary/College.

David Lyman Follett was born in Sherburne in 1836. He would have been approximately 14 years old in 1850. He took some of his education at Cazenovia Seminary. I believe that he was writing 'Earleville' and did not finish his handiwork. (Perhaps he was caught etching on a relatively new window pane, or just got bored?) I think that David Follett boarded in this house when he was a student at the Seminary. He later went on to become a lawyer and elected as a judge to the New York Supreme Court for this judicial district in 1874.

I love that there are names carved in doors and etched on window panes in this house. We must do all we can to allow future generations the same joy and sense of place."

Cannot be better said.

It's Not Too Late!

If the holiday frenzy caused you to overlook your donation to Cazenovia Heritage's year-end appeal, you can still do so! Send your check to P.O. Box 103, Cazenovia NY 13035. Or make a donation securely online at www.cazheritage.org

Advocacy Updates

Gothic Cottage Town Office:

The Town Board is exploring offsite locations that could accommodate a potential consolidation with the Village, as well as exploring the use of a re-purposed building should one become available from the College. In parallel, the Town is undertaking a current identification of required stabilization/preservation work at the Gothic Cottage that could and should occur regardless of its future use.

Renew Albany Street!

We continue to contact owners of the commercial properties on Albany Street with our expectations and specific recommendations for 2023 restoration and maintenance work.

Looking for Info on Your House? Have Info About Your House?

As a starting point in learning your house history, the Archives of the Cazenovia Public Library includes files on properties by address. Previous owners of your home may have donated photos, notes, or plans. It's worth asking if anything on your home can be found there.

Perhaps **more important**, you can help future generations by offering to the Library Archives any information on your house that you may have learned over the years. And if you're sure your kids just absolutely will want it, or you just can't part with it, it can be scanned and added to the Library's files for future Cazenovians. Think of the joy of discovery that will bring!

Ones We're Watching

(continued from page 2)

As reported in the *Cazenovia Republican*, the 20-year eyesore and blight of a portion of Albany Street may finally see its passing. The State of New York awarded \$2MM to the Village which will be sub-granted to Berkley Enterprises to re-develop the sites at 99 and 103 Albany Street. We applaud that this will finally be addressed. The conceptual design provided by the architect in October will have site plan review by the Village Planning Board and architectural review by the Village Historic Preservation Review Commission (HPC).

Cazenovia Heritage believes the scale, massing, height, and style of the proposed building needs re-vamping to keep in character with the neighboring historic streetscape. We understand that discussions with the architect will be scheduled with the HPC and Planning Board to develop an alternative concept. Please check the Village website for the latest on meeting dates and agendas: <http://villageofcazenovia.com/>



CAZ 230

- Jan 21** Early Settlement Architecture - Center Chimney Homes
- Feb 11** The Architecture of Cazenovia, Part I: Federal to Mid-Victorian
- Mar 25** The Architecture of Cazenovia, Part II: Late Victorian to Post-Modern
- Apr 22** The Architecture of Cazenovia Churches (Walking Tour)
- May 6** *Happy Birthday Cazenovia!* Founding Day Celebration and Special Guest plus Tour of *The Owahgena*
- May 21** The Architecture of Albany Street (Walking Tour)
- May** Art & Architecture: Gallery Exhibit at Cazenovia Library
- June 3** Architecture in a Cemetery: Tombstone Raising
- July 29** The Architecture of Cazenovia Homes: Self-Guided Tour
Cazenovia Day at the Gustav Stickley House
- Aug 5** Architecture in the Classroom – Children’s Event at Library
- Aug 12** The Architecture of Schoolhouses & Self-Guided Tour of Schoolhouses (Event with Lorenzo)
- Sept** The Architecture of Barns
- Oct 14** The Architecture of Porches & Porticos (Walking Tour)
- Nov** Social Development & Architecture of 19th Century Working-Class Neighborhoods
- Dec 9** Arts & Crafts Architecture in Central New York