



Protecting Our Past, Preserving Our Future

Annual Report 2023

January 2024

www.cazheritage.org

From the Board

Cazenovia Heritage dedicated the year 2023 to Caz230, a celebration of 230 years of architecture in Cazenovia—a celebration that was shared with pride by so many of you. In addition to the monthly Caz230 educational programs, the second full year of operation of Cazenovia Heritage also saw advocacy efforts gaining traction. Highlights of the year include:

- *Proclamations received from the State of New York recognizing Cazenovia’s founding in 1793*
- *Fifteen educational programs that engaged community interest in Cazenovia’s architecture, its settlement, and early industries: 599 participants, plus 180 persons who downloaded maps for self-guided tours*
- *Repairs and painting at additional historic commercial buildings on Albany Street*
- *A Reconnaissance Survey of a heretofore undocumented historic neighborhood, made possible by a grant from Cornell University and donors to Cazenovia Heritage*
- *A comprehensive and detailed analysis of requirements and estimated costs to restore and preserve the Gothic Cottage; this was completed by Cazenovia Heritage at the request of the Town Board*
- *Annual donations and memberships of \$25,000*

From your participation, support, and words of encouragement, you can be proud of what you have made possible and what you have allowed to take root for future progress. We look forward to working with you in 2024 to protect and retain our historic architecture and community character.

In appreciation,

*Board of Directors
Cazenovia Heritage, Inc.*

Our Mission and How It Is Being Accomplished

The mission of Cazenovia Heritage is to support the protection, preservation, restoration, rehabilitation, and/or adaptive re-use of historic, architectural, and archeological resources within the greater Cazenovia area. Three foundational pillars support the execution of this mission: Education, Advocacy, and Financial Support.

➤ **Educational Programs**

We believe that awareness and knowledge of Cazenovia’s architecture, history, and people engender community pride and a respect for the historical legacy we all have inherited. Toward this end, all educational programs are free and open to the public. These programs are supported by Annual Memberships in Cazenovia Heritage.

In recognition of the 230th Anniversary of Cazenovia’s founding, programs in 2023 explored 230 years of architecture in Cazenovia and its rich inventory of architectural styles:

- Early Settlement of Cazenovia and Center-Chimney Houses
- Architectural Styles – Part I
- Architectural Styles–Part II
- Church Architecture – Walking Tour
- Albany Street Business District – Walking Tour
- The Architecture of the Lincklaen House - Exhibit
- Founder’s Day Celebration & Architecture of Owahgena Club
- Cemetery Architecture: Tombstone Raising
- 230 Years of Architecture: Self-Guided Tour
- Gustav Stickley House Tour
- Architecture of Schoolhouses
- Self-Guided Tour of Schoolhouses
- “Ask the Experts” Pop-Up Event
- Porches and Porticos in Cazenovia
- History and Architecture of a Cazenovia Neighborhood (Cornell Reconnaissance Survey) and Occupations Study
- The Arts & Crafts Movement in Central New York

➤ **Advocacy**

To support its mission, Cazenovia Heritage advocates on behalf of historic resources to develop workable solutions that best protect their integrity and long-term viability. In 2023, these efforts were directed to a range of issues.

Renew Albany Street! : An effort to encourage commercial property owners to undertake needed maintenance and repairs on the buildings in the Historic Business District. Following joint letters from the Mayor and Cazenovia Heritage in 2022, a follow-up letter was sent to owners that had taken no action, identifying specific items to be addressed in their building maintenance plans. To date, seven landlords have undertaken improvements. Letters also were sent to owners of apartment houses requiring repairs and maintenance for follow-up in 2024.

Town Demolitions: Cazenovia Heritage endorsed a proposal requiring photographs of the exterior elevations of houses and buildings to be demolished, prior to a demolition permit being issued. The proposed addition to the permit process is on the Town Board agenda for 2024.

Gothic Cottage Preservation: At the request of the Town Board in late 2022, members of Cazenovia Heritage and two Town Board Council members undertook a detailed study to identify and document the restoration and preservation work required, regardless of the future use of the Gothic Cottage. Additionally, over 100 photographs identifying the specific needs were taken and labeled. An application for funding from the New York State History & Preservation Office (SHPO) was submitted in July. These three efforts represented over 600 hours of work. Unfortunately, the Town Board chose to withdraw the grant application in August.

Cazenovia College Future Use: Cazenovia Heritage participated in community discussions on alternative uses for the college campus that could be presented to developers. A feasibility analysis was prepared that called for conversion of the facilities into a mixed-use/shared use concept that would include the creation of a Center for Preservation Trades. A site plan for one concept was developed and presented at public sessions in October. Additionally, Cazenovia Heritage submitted

an inventory of all campus buildings to SHPO, which then identified those eligible for National Register listing.

School House #5, West Lake-North Lake Road: Cazenovia Heritage sought out potential restorers and/or purchasers of the 19th century schoolhouse, facing future demolition. Unfortunately, these efforts did not result in a solution. Documentary photographs were taken.

Reconnaissance Survey: A grant funded by donors and Cornell University allowed a graduate student to conduct a high-level study on the history and architecture of the neighborhoods on Center, Farnham, William, Lyman, and Corwin Streets. These neighborhoods have never been documented and are outside the Village Historic District. Cazenovia Heritage volunteers also undertook an accompanying Occupation Study of the neighborhood residents during 1850 -1880.

All of these Advocacy efforts seek to protect the historic character of Cazenovia that contributes to its unique sense of place.

➤ **Financial Support for Homeowner Grants**

Donations received have positioned Cazenovia Heritage to offer modest grants to homeowners in 2025 for preservation and restoration projects. The guidelines and structure of the program will be developed in 2024. Our sincere thanks for all donations of any amount that have helped to make this possible.

➤ **Other Operations**

We continued to maintain a high level of communications through monthly updates to our website; the quarterly newsletter, *The Advocate*; and on-going email notices regarding programs; and from coverage by local and county news publications and social media. The full-page ads for Caz230 programs and membership drive were effective in heightening awareness of Cazenovia Heritage.

Financial Performance - 2023

Annual memberships contributed just under \$3500 toward annual operating expenses. Donations reached roughly \$21,083.

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|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| Cash Carry-Forward 2022: | \$24,128 |
| 2023 Income: | \$24,573 |
| 2023 Total Income: | \$48,701 |
| | |
| 2023 Total Expense: | \$10,594 |
| Net Cash Carry-Forward: | \$38,107 |

Report of Annual Meeting

The 2023 Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors was held January 17, 2024.

Officers elected for renewal of terms:

- Anne Ferguson, President
- Ted Bartlett, Vice President
- Carl Stearns, Treasurer
- Michael MacHugh, Secretary

Directors elected to continue terms:

- Dale Bowers
- Robert Ridler

The budget for 2024 was presented and approved. The Board wishes to thank the numerous volunteers for their help over the past year, and in particular, recognizes Jenny Coughlin, Volunteer & Chair of Memberships & Donations committee, for her year-round support and liaison to members.



Cazenovia Heritage was launched after attempts during 2019 - 2020 to save the Jabez Abell farmhouse from further deterioration proved infeasible. Focus groups of Cazenovia residents were held in 2020 to explore the creation of an organization to prevent this from recurring and to protect the historic architecture of Cazenovia. Its goal would be to protect historic resources from needless alteration, demolition, or neglect in the future.

This idea was warmly received, and Cazenovia Heritage was born. Legally registered as a 501-C (3) not-for-profit organization in November 2020, it launched in May 2021 with its first public architectural walking tours.

While unable to stop the slow demise of Jabez Abell's farmhouse, Cazenovia Heritage is its legacy. We proudly display the farmhouse cupola as our logo, an ever-present reminder that recognizing what is lost can be a collective call to action.