

# Cazenovia Schoolhouse Driving Tour

In Cazenovia evidence shows a schoolhouse stood in the village by 1798, just 6 years after John Lincklaen first surveyed the land. In 1805 the town established the Cazenovia School District and in 1812 New York State passed legislation establishing common school districts for grades 1-8. Cazenovia was divided into 15 districts, expanding to 22 by 1875. Each school was placed so that no student walked more than two miles each way. In the 1920s, as populations shifted and transportation improved, rural districts began consolidating into the Cazenovia Central School District.

**Take this approximately 30-40 minute driving tour to see six of these existing Cazenovia Schoolhouses!**  
*Please be respectful, as these properties are now privately owned!*

- 1. District #5 McNab School** stands at the corner of North Lake and West Lake Roads. Pictured when it was in use and as it stands today. Look at the historic photo here.



- 2. District #4 Peth School** is on the north corner of Peth and East Lake Roads.

- 3. District #3 North Cazenovia School**, built in the 1870s, is at the intersection of Ridge and Stanley Roads. Despite being remodeled as a private home, the long narrow windows facing the road are an unmistakable trait of a former one room schoolhouse.

- 4. District #22 Annas District**, built in 1843, stands on Ridge Road just south of Chard Road. Today a private home, the original schoolhouse is visible amid several additions.

- 5. Cazenovia Union School** was located on Sullivan Street where apartments now stand. Pictured here is the Second Union School built in 1853 which housed grades 1-8. Students continuing past 8th grade could attend Cazenovia Seminary (now Cazenovia College) until 1931 when the high school opened in its current location.



**The Great Cazenovia Fugitive Slave Convention** was held on this site August 21 to 22, 1850 and was attended by the foremost abolitionists of the time, including Frederick Douglass, Gerrit Smith, and Lucretia Mott, as well as several thousand spectators. **An interpretive sign at the site highlights this historic event.**

- 6. District #9 Ballina District** is on Ballina Road at the end of Number 9 Road, and is the only known brick schoolhouse in Cazenovia; and the only one with an historic marker. The original was built in 1845 but today looks much as it did following an 1875 remodel. No indoor plumbing in the 1800s meant that children and teachers needed to use an outdoor privy or “necessary”. The #9 privy still stands to the right of the house.



- 7. District #7 Rippleton District** Across Route 13 from Rippleton Cross Road is the original site of the Rippleton schoolhouse which was moved to Lorenzo State Historic Site in 1997.

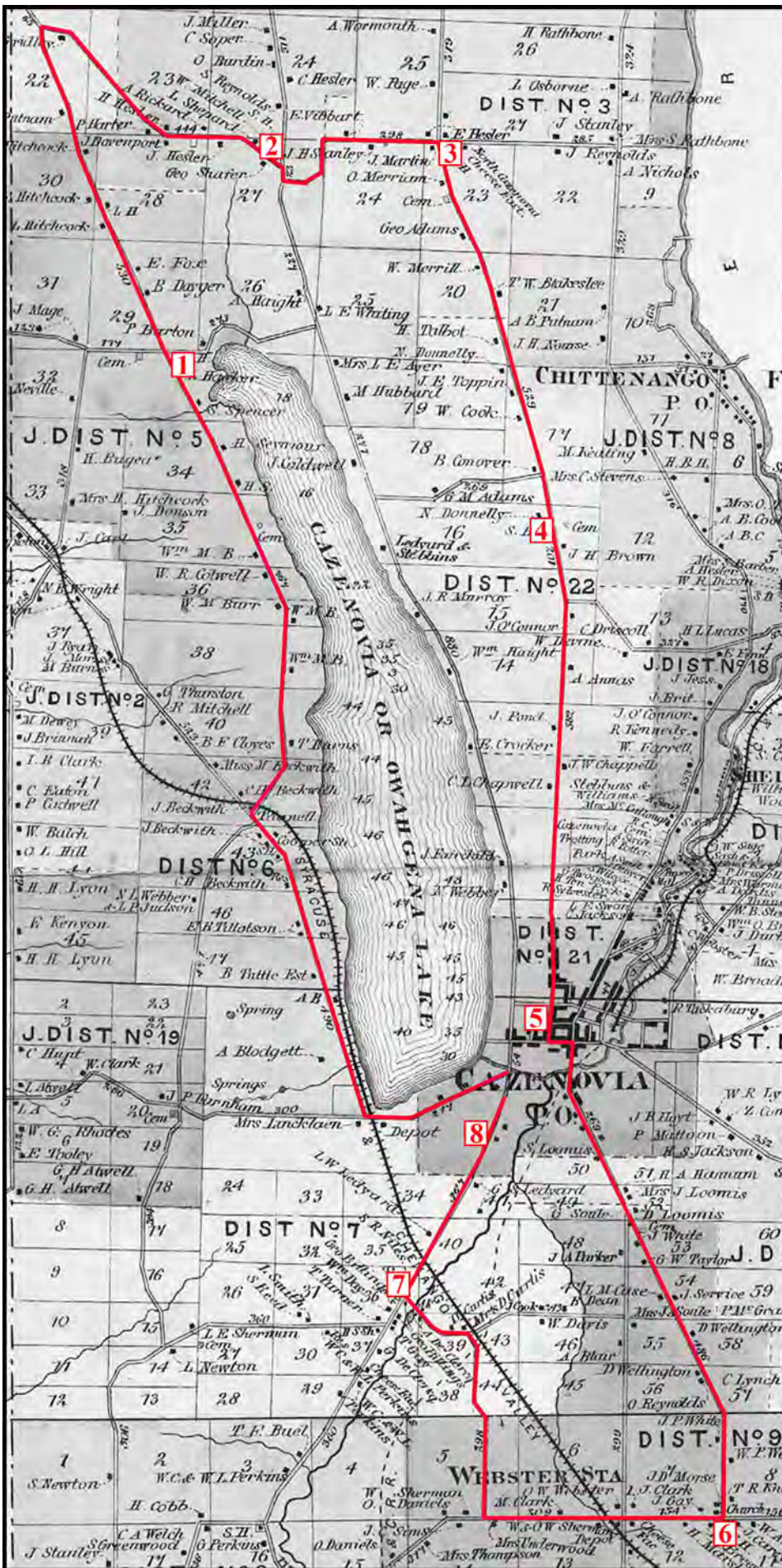
- 8. The Rippleton Schoolhouse (1814-1931)** The Rippleton schoolhouse served old District #7 for 117 years. In 1997 the building was moved to Lorenzo State Historic Site and meticulously restored to the time of its last remodel in 1887 when the stained glass windows were added to the front. Today, interpretive programs depict schoolhouse life in the late 1800s for school groups and during special events.



## Schoolhouse Driving Tour Directions

**To Begin:** Take Route 92 to West Lake Road

1. Corner West Lake & North Lake Roads
  - Continue on West Lake Road
  - Right onto Peth Road
2. Corner of Peth & East Lake Roads
  - Right on East Lake Rd.
  - Quick left onto Stanley Road
3. Corner of Stanley & Ridge Roads
  - Right onto Ridge Road
4. Just past Chard Road on right
  - Continue on Ridge Road
  - In village Ridge becomes Sullivan Street
5. On Sullivan St. between Nickerson & Seminary Streets (on right across from Caz College)
  - Continue to Albany St.
  - Left on Albany St.
  - Right on Mill Street at the light
  - Mill becomes Chenango St.
  - Stay left at fork to continue on Number 9 Road
6. Where Number 9 Road ends at Ballina Road
  - Right on Ballina
  - Right on East Road
  - Left onto Rippleton Cross Road
7. Where Rippleton Cross ends at Route 13 (Rippleton Road)
  - Right onto Rippleton Road (Route 13)
8. Left into Lorenzo State Historic Site – parking for Rippleton Schoolhouse on left



**Lorenzo State Historic Site**  
**17 Rippleton Road**  
**Cazenovia, NY 13035**



New York State  
 Parks, Recreation and  
 Historic Preservation

**315-655-3200**  
**parks.ny.gov**  
**friendsoflorenzo.org**