



The Advocate

Winter 2026
Volume VI Issue 1

Cazenovia Heritage
P.O. Box 103
Cazenovia NY 13035

In This Issue

Gothic Cottage Award	1
Restoration Workshop	1
Stearns Grants 2026	2
Advocacy Updates	2-3
Road Names, Part III	3-4
Program Recordings	4
Thank Our Volunteers!	4
No Words	5

NYS Awards \$489,310 for Restoration of Gothic Cottage!

Last summer, at the request of the Town, Cazenovia Heritage worked with the Town to submit a grant application to the Regional Economic Development Council for Central New York for the restoration and stabilization of the Gothic Cottage. Just before Christmas, Governor Hochul announced the winners, and the Gothic Cottage project is among this year’s awardees! The total project is estimated at **\$978,620** with NYS and the Town of Cazenovia each providing 50%, or \$489,310.

The project seeks to stabilize and restore the distinctive exteriors and interiors of the Gothic Cottage, which has been in continual use for 175 years. Included are restoration of woodwork, windows, floors, and other historic features on the first and second floors, as well as exterior restoration of the foundation, siding repairs, new roof, and exterior painting. In particular, it calls for a holistic approach to address the root causes of interior and exterior water damage. The Town will manage the project beginning in 2026. We look forward to the implementation!

Old House Restoration & Repair Workshop to be held Jan. 24th

A great way to kick-off the new year and to help you plan your projects for 2026! On Saturday, Jan. 24th at 2:00 PM, bring your questions, ideas, concerns, and quandaries for answers by a noted expert. Our guest speaker is **Steve Jordan** who has been in the old-house repair and restoration business for forty years. Steve is the author of the recently published *The Historic House Handbook* and the award-winning *Rehab Rochester: A Sensible Guide for Old-House Maintenance, Repair, and Rehabilitation*. In particular, he is an authority on the repair and restoration of historic windows, as described on his website, “A Pain in the Glass.” Steve is a graduate of Cornell University’s Historic Preservation Planning Program and was a contributing editor for “Old-House Journal” magazine for 17 years. This program promises expert advice from a hands-on expert – Don’t Miss It! – and educational for all -- even if you have completed all your projects! Feel free to bring photos to clarify your project concerns.



Speaking of old houses . . . A great website that’s always fun to browse is “Circa.”

<https://circaoldhouses.com/> is a marketplace for showcasing historic homes for sale across the country. Feel free to daydream and indulge yourself!

Applications for Stearns Grants Begin February 1st

In this second year of the Stearns grant program, Cazenovia Heritage has increased total program dollars to \$5000.00. Individual grants of \$500 - \$2500 will be awarded for homeowner restoration projects. The Guidelines and Application can be found on the website on the Financial Resources tab, <https://www.cazheritage.org/financial.html>. Applications open February 1, are due by March 15, and awards will be announced April 30. Your gifts have made this program possible, and we will continue to grow it responsibly but consistently in the years ahead. And if you're thinking of applying, that's another reason to attend the January 24th program!



Doug Milne and Randy Ellis receive their 2025 grant from Carl Stearns



Advocacy Updates

Gothic Cottage: Success! See Page 1!

Water Troughs: Another success! Work was completed on all three troughs just prior to the first frost. Progress and photos were reviewed at the October 25th public program.



Demolition of Significant Historic Properties: In response to a September request by the Town Planning Board, endorsed by Cazenovia Heritage, the Town Board of Councilors in December authorized the creation of a team to recommend a process that significant historic properties would undergo when applying for demolition. Cazenovia Heritage will actively participate on the team. This is the most pro-active step by the Town Board to protect historic resources in the Town in its history and upholds its commitment stated in the new Comprehensive Plan. We are delighted to see this underway!

Reisman-Jephson-Athletic Complex: The decision on whether to include the Athletic Complex in the Historic District was passed back to the Village Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) in December to allow for public hearings, to be scheduled this winter. Cazenovia Heritage supports inclusion in the Historic District to ensure enhanced oversight of this 14-acre site. The Reisman-Sigety Halls transaction with the County and the Jephson buildings with the Town closed on December 19. Cazenovia Heritage remains concerned about (continued next page)

the destruction of Sigety Hall for a parking lot in the midst of the historic campus, as well as impacts to the Reisman site and community character. Allowed uses in zoning of the campus are to be discussed at upcoming Village Board meetings, to which all residents are encouraged to attend.

Hoffman Falls Wind Project: This project, consisting of up to twenty-four 700-foot turbines over four towns, is currently completing review of its environmental studies, analyses, leasing, and other requirements, with construction to begin in 2026. The developer has allocated limited funds for projects in support of historic resources in affected communities to offset the visual impacts. The turbines will be visible from a few locations in Cazenovia Village and Town, qualifying Cazenovia to apply. Cazenovia Heritage has submitted three proposals for consideration: Interpretive signage of Cazenovia's early industries along the Chittenango Creek; an archeological study using ground-penetrating radar and/or magnetometry to identify the Lakeland Estate foundations and potential areas for controlled excavation work; and, demarcation entrance signs of the National Register Village Historic District. Announcement of awards is likely a year away.



Know Your Caz: Origins of Streets & Roads, Part III

In the home stretch! Used below CR = Cazenovia Republican. NWS = New Woodstock. Note how many of the Town roads are names for farming families who lived on the roads, whereas most streets in the Village are descriptive names of businesses ("Mill"); early founders ("Forman"); or themes ("Liberty") reflecting the country's young history. The final instalment, Part IV, will appear in the Spring issue. Additional info/corrections welcome.

Gorge (Rte 13N): Road appears on 1859 and 1875 maps. 1857 article on scenic Cazenovia geography, refers to "the gorge road." CR article 1918: Board of Supervisors authorized road improvements on road from Caz to Chittenango, otherwise known as the Gorge Road.

Hedge Lane: Likely named by developer Sergei Grimm who began building 8 homes here in 1962.

Huntington Drive: Named by developer Bob DeForest in early 1980s.

Lane Road: Earliest CR press mention is 1931 when "the lane road at Ballina" was referenced and implying it had been in existence for some time.

Lee Rd: Possibly named for Roscoe Lee family of Nelson which owned a farm. Earliest mention 1912 CR; later became Mosely Road by 1947 (see below)

Lincklaen Road: Extending from Lincklaen Street, road name appears on 1804 road ledgers.

Lucas: For the Lucas family, who began farming here in the early 1800s.

Main St: NWS. Originally called Albany Street, appearing on 1859 and 1875 maps. Possibly changed in early 1900s with expansion of mail delivery, to eliminate confusion with the Village's Albany Street.

Mark Lane: Named by developer around 1970.

Marlyn Park Drive: Named derived from the public Marlyn Park located here in the 1930s on the Listman property, having "tourist cabins," picnic tables and "illuminated night swimming." CR May 1932

McKinley: NWS. Appearing on 1859 without name, and on 1875 map as DeRuyter St. (DeRuyter was an early 19th century Dutch admiral.) It may have been renamed after the assassination of President McKinley in 1901; however, this was not able to be confirmed, and any other information is welcomed.

Meadow Hill: Named by Doris Knight (1919 - 1980) for her estate off Route 20 in the Meadow Hill area, sold after her death for development of four homes. Her father, Edward Kleinschmidt, was the inventor of the stock market "ticker," teletype, and coin vending machines, among other inventions.

Roads, continued

Michigan: Earliest use found in 1901. Could find no rationale for choice of name. Any ideas? Dean Farm was an early farm here.

Mill Street: NWS. Named on 1859 map for a planing mill on this street producing finished lumber and wood products.

Mosely: For George Mosely, b. 1879, moved here in 1910, died 1959. He and son Fred lived on Hardscrabble Rd for many years. By 1938, George became Superintendent of H. S. Handy Farm, later called "Windridge Farm" (and later owned by Don Conover in 1960s - 1970s). In 1947, George and son bought a farm from Timothy Thomas on this road.

Mount Pleasant: Named by developer Bob DeForest in 1970s.

North Lake: The road appears on the 1859 map, though unnamed, and likely existed from early 1800s. CR reported news on the North Lake School in 1922.

Number Nine: Settlement named after the School District and schoolhouse. The settlement stretched north to South Cemetery, east to Abel Corners, west to about the intersection of East Rd and Balina; and southerly one-half mile. It once had a church, post office, and general store, along with the railroad depot at Ballina.

Overlook Terrace: Unknown; likely by developer. Appears in 1978 CR press.

Owahgena: No info found as to when/who designated this area.

Owera Point: George Allen built and named his house and farm Owera in 1913. Property was formerly called Lakeview at the head of the lake where there was a hotel by that name. 1969 Town Board designated name as part of developments along North Lake Road.

Oxbow: Named by Bob DeForest, developer, around 1960s.



Something for these Winter Days

The recording of ***Famous Cazenovians and Their Houses, Part I*** is now available for viewing. Simply go to the website, www.cazheritage.org and click the link under "**News & Updates.**" Watch for **Part II** in the upcoming month. Prior program recordings are archived under the **Educational Resources** tab. Explore at your own pace: *Martin H. Knapp: His Stories and Home, "Old Trees"; Lakeland Park and Estate; and Umbrecht Houses.*



Let's Hear It for Our Volunteers!

Recognition must go out to Barbara Maziuk who manages all your memberships and donations; to Tina Concha for the program recordings; to Alice Young and Rachel Hunt for Research support; and to Bob Ridler and Dale Bowers for Driving Tour signage and painting of Historical Markers with Roger Cook. Each of them made our programs possible in 2025. If you see them, thank them!



And finally, Words for When There are No Words



Photos courtesy of Reuters, Library of Congress, Getty photos, NYTimes, Public Broadcasting Service

There is likely no better example than the above that demonstrates that a property listed on the *National Register of Historic Places* is no guarantee of protection from demolition. The Town of Cazenovia has 29 such listed properties, with the same lack of protection.

