CAZENOVIA HERITAGE

The Advocate

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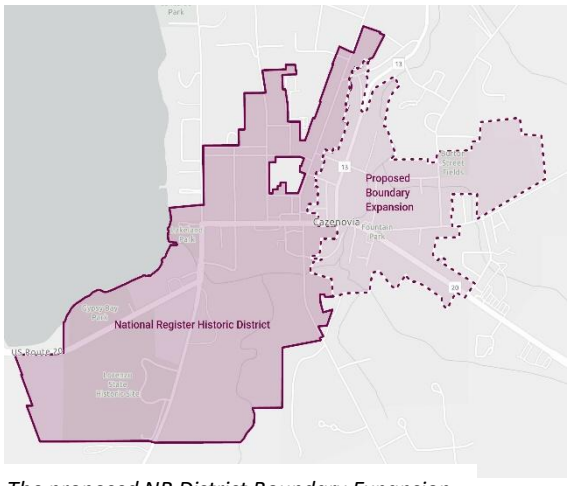
"Cazenovia East" Seeks National Register Listing

After learning that the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) had found that the eastern end of Cazenovia was eligible for listing on the *National Register of Historic Places*, Cazenovia Heritage has begun the application process to bring this recognition to fruition. This honorary distinction – if approved by SHPO -- would recognize potentially 200+ properties as *Significant* for their collective massing of extant architectural Styles and for the area's contribution to the socio-economic development of Cazenovia from 1800 into the 1900s.



The proposed NR District Boundary Expansion

This designation is not to be confused with the Village Historic District, the latter being a legal and regulatory district subject to oversight by the Historic Preservation Commission. A listing on the National Register places no restrictions on the property owner; conversely, it also provides no protection from severe alterations or demolition. This designation would simply expand the boundary of the 1986 National Register District to include these neighborhoods.

For the past two months, research and documentation have been undertaken by Cazenovia Heritage and consultants from EDR, including photographs of the neighborhood houses. Key tasks are to determine what is called the "Period of Significance" and the specific boundary of the proposed expansion. The goal is to submit a final application to SHPO this fall for its year-end review.

This is a major undertaking that, if successful, would directly support the community's commitment to preserving our rich architectural resources. Income tax credits for restoration/preservation work on the properties also may be available to property owners. We believe this honor is long overdue and are working hard to ensure the application passes what will likely be a rigorous review.

A link to "Frequently Asked Questions" and map can be found on the home page of our website.

Excerpts From the Past

"January 4 Saturday It is very stormy this morning with a prospect of more sleighing. Have been up to JW Abel's and got a hog to keep a few days. I have been splitting wood today. Father and mother have been to Mr. Cunningham's this afternoon.

"Tuesday January 7 Pleasant today. Have been to the village today with a load of wood. Could not sell it so I traded it with G. Hawley for some shorts and slippers for Father.

"Thursday February 27 Quite stormy today. Called on Miss Hayes at Uncle Ira's today. Uncle Ira, Libbi, and Miss Hayes were here in the Evening. Spelling school at the schoolhouse this evening. I did not go."

So note the penciled entries of "J. M. Elmore" in a diary brought to Cazenovia Heritage and since donated to the Cazenovia Public Library Archives. This remarkably intact diary measures 7 x 3 ½ inches and is bound in a leather case. It covers two years, 1868 and 1869, along with ledgers of sales of firewood and other goods.

This is a significant contemporaneous record of Cazenovia that will provide valuable historical insight to future generations. His consistent daily entries provide a rich description of farm life in the post-Civil War years. Pages are filled with local names, daily chores, errands, and special meetings.

And who was J. M. Elmore? The 1870 Federal Census finds a James Madison Elmore, age 24, living with his parents, Madison and Climena Elmore. The 1875 map of Cazenovia notes an M. Elmore in the southern part of the Town, to whom a future researcher may be able to link definitively to the diary. In the meantime, we are thrilled to provide it a new home in the Library's Archives and look forward to it being scanned for ease in transcription.

Advocacy Updates

Demolition of Historic Properties: The project team – comprised of members of the Town Board, Planning Board, and public – completed its development of a draft law to address requirements when property owners wish to demolish National Register listed properties. Among its provisions, it calls for a formal process and review by the Planning Board with consideration of alternatives and public comment. A second, accompanying law would allow an owner of property not on the National Register to apply for Local Landmark designation, bringing the property to the demolition review process. Both drafts have been submitted to the Town Board which will take them up for discussion at its July work session. (continued next page)

(Advocacy Updates, continued)

Gothic Cottage Restoration: The contract between the Town and New York State was signed in June. The next phase involves getting specifications for each of the 100+ restoration elements contained in the grant application.

2026 Stearns Grants Awarded!

In the second year of this program, 15 applications were received, and awards were granted to 9. These range from restoration of historic windows, doors, and porches to exterior painting. With work underway this summer, recipient grants will be awarded on completion. Photos of completed projects will be included in the next newsletter.

Wool Factory Receives NYS Historic Marker

The Cazenovia community came together on June 28th to dedicate a NYS Historic Marker for the 1808 Wool Factory. The designation was made possible by a grant from the Pomeroy Foundation and extensive research by Cazenovia Heritage. The Wool Factory, first operated by Elisha Starr, is among the oldest standing industrial buildings in Cazenovia. After remarks and the unveiling, folks undertook a walking tour of Sims and Burr Street, unlocking the mystery behind the three brick houses on Burr Street.

CPF Honors Cazenovia Heritage

Cazenovia Heritage was honored to accept the **Community Award** from Cazenovia Preservation Foundation at its Annual meeting May 5th. This award is shared with all of you who have taken up renewed commitment to protecting Cazenovia's historic resources. From a start-up organization in 2021, we have grown to over 400 caring and energized members, donors, and supporters in just five years!

250 Years of Gratitude

Among Cazenovia's early settlers were those who had answered the call for recruits in the young Continental Army. They served in regiments from Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, and Rhode Island before emigrating to Cazenovia after the war. In 1909, the local Owahgena chapter of the DAR identified and cleaned tombstones of the veterans; several stones were in rural family cemeteries and suffered from neglect even then; they may be lost to us today. The DAR subsequently created the plaque standing today in Memorial Park. Many others were recognized by William Tuttle in his 1984 Pioneer Settlers of Madison County. The list below combines the two sources. Many of the names are recognizable still, with some found among today's residents, 250 years later. To all, we owe a debt of thanks.

Abell, Jabez
Allen, John
Andrews, William M.
Anthony, Gideon*
Atwell, Joseph
Backus, Ebenezer
Beckwith, Roswell Sr.
Burton, John
Chaphe, Joseph
Chandler, Matthew
Cleveland, Roswell
Cole, Joseph Y.
Cook, Jesse
Cook, Serad
Curtiss, Jotham W.
Davenport, Eliphalet
Fiske, Daniel
Forman, Jonathan
Hayes, Zenas*
Holmes, Roswell
Hubbard, Jonathan
Leary, John
Lewis, Benjamin
Lewis, William
Lucas, William
Lyman, Caleb
Marshall, Simeon
Parker, David
Parker, Edward
Parmelee, Charles
Perkins, Abiezer
Pettit, Jonathan
Pollard, Jonathan*
Potter, Benjamin
Roberts, Oliver
Savage, John
Stone, Benjamin
Webb, Christopher
Webber, Rinaldo
Whipple. Jeremiah
White, Joseph
William, Elisha*
Williams, James*
Williams, Joseph

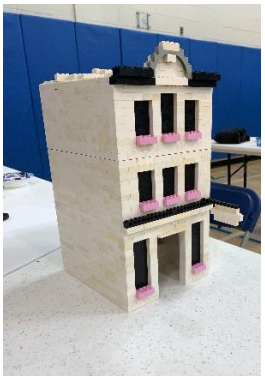
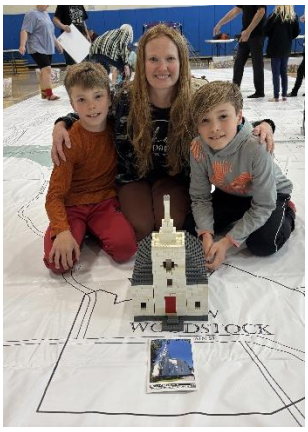
* Listed by DAR, not on Tuttle list. Credit to Lorenzo State Historic Site for compiling the Tuttle list

Bits 'n Pieces

- *From our Inbox:* A recent, extensively researched paper on the Cazenovia Paper Mill was sent to us by a historian in Kingston, Ontario. We have provided it to the Cazenovia Library Archives, and it can also be found on our website under Educational Resources: https://www.cazheritage.org/prescommunity.html

- The National Trust for Historic Preservation non-profit has listed the *Women's Rights National Historical Park* at Seneca Falls, on its "11 Most Endangered Historic Places." Consisting of multiple buildings, the site suffers from over $10MM in deferred maintenance, decreased funding, and reduced staff.

- *South Cemetery Trees*: Early in 2026, the Town recognized that the historic maple trees lining South Cemetery were in decline and posed potential hazard. Particularly noticeable when proceeding north on Number 9 Road, a traveler sees a majestic crown at the crest of the hill. Removal is underway and laudably, the Town has committed to replace the trees. Before all are removed, you may wish to say goodbye to these long-standing sentinels. To this day, many of the Town Roads remain lined with old sugar maples, planted to bolster local maple syrup production in competition with imported cane sugar.

Lego©novia! Utterly Amazing!

In a local launch of National Preservation Month, children and parents came together in May to re-create some of Cazenovia's historic architecture in Lego blocks. This third celebration of *Lego©novia* once again exceeded expectations in ingenuity, while providing a challenging and fun-filled afternoon for all ages. Some of the day's memories and remarkable replicas are shown below. Many thanks to the leading sponsors for making this possible: **Americu, CAVAC, Cazenovia Jewelry, Community Bank, Edward Jones Financial, First Presbyterian Church of Cazenovia, and Leigh Baldwin & Co.**