



Annual Report 2025

January 2026

www.cazheritage.org

From the Board

This coming May 2026 will mark the 5th Anniversary of the public launch of Cazenovia Heritage. During this short time, Cazenovia Heritage has grown, reaching more people and broader audiences; and expanded its offerings, advocacy initiatives, and level of public support.

Two examples of this growth:

- *At the end of 2021, there were **150** people on the email distribution list; at the end of 2025? **395** have signed up.*
- *Active Donor/Member Households at the end of 2021: **94**. At the end of 2025? **158**, a 68% increase over four years.*

Beyond the numbers, if we view the last five years through the lens of Community Impact, the presence of this grass-roots organization clearly has been felt. Positive community impact is a key performance indicator of desired outcomes, whether measuring a specific action or the cumulative effect of strategies and programs over time. This impact can be seen and felt and measured.

In this report, we highlight evidence of this community impact in the three pillars of our mission – Education, Advocacy, and Financial Support.

When it comes to protecting our community's cultural resources and historic character, our work is never finished. Your support -- whether that support is financial, physical, or vocal encouragement -- allows this work to continue. You can take pride in your role of making our progress happen.

*With much appreciation,
The Board of Directors, Cazenovia Heritage, Inc.*

OUR MISSION

Cazenovia Heritage supports the protection, preservation, rehabilitation, restoration, and adaptive re-use of Cazenovia's historic architectural and cultural resources – its buildings, places and objects. We provide education and thought leadership to raise awareness of the importance of and threats to the area's historic resources. We work collaboratively with private citizens, other non-profit organizations, and local governments to provide guidance and expertise and to promote a high standard of design, planning, and execution. We promote the active stewardship of the resources that define Cazenovia's character.

This mission is executed through education, advocacy, and financial support. The community impact of these three pillars is noted below.

➤ COMMUNITY IMPACT: Providing a Sense of Place

Educational Programs

In the last five years, 2,022 participants have attended our in-person educational programs and walking tours. Hundreds more have taken part in our driving tours. These programs and immersive experiences connect people to Cazenovia's architectural resources and history, reinforcing a sense of place for young and old, often one step at a time or one block at a time.

During 2025, 248 participants attended the following programs:

- *The Lakeland Estate and Its Legacy, Lakeland Park*
- A Walking Tour of Mill Street and Chenango Street
- Lego[®]novia Event for Children and Parents
- Walking Tour of Willow-Carpenter-Forman Streets
- *Martin Knapp and His Home, "Old Trees"*

- *Famous Cazenovians and Their Houses – Part I* and Driving Tour
- *Famous Cazenovians and Their Houses – Part II*

Awareness and knowledge of Cazenovia's architecture, history, and people also engender community pride and respect for the historical legacy we all have inherited. Toward this end, all educational programs continue to be free and open to the public. These programs are supported by Annual Memberships in Cazenovia Heritage.

➤ COMMUNITY IMPACT: Upholding Community Character

Advocacy

To support its mission, Cazenovia Heritage advocates on behalf of historic resources to develop workable solutions that best protect their architectural and historic integrity and long-term viability. In 2025, these efforts were directed to a range of issues.

- **Town of Cazenovia Comprehensive Plan:** Cazenovia Heritage worked with the Town in the Town's update to its Comprehensive Plan to include official designation of a Councilor to be responsible for preservation-related issues, and for the development of a means to protect significant buildings from demolition.
- **Byrne Dairy:** Identified inconsistencies with the Village Comprehensive Plan and SEQR impacts; proposed alternatives to the siting and design.
- **Restoration of Cazenovia's Historic Water Troughs:** Engaged the Town to co-fund the restoration of the three historic water troughs on Town land and oversaw the restoration work.
- **Cazenovia College buildings:** Supported the inclusion of the campus buildings in the National Register Village Historic

District. Continue to advocate for upholding community character of nearby neighborhoods and against the demolition of Sigety Hall for a parking lot.

- **Renew Albany Street:** Continued to work with building owners to maintain and repair the historic buildings of the business district.
- **Wool Factory NYS Recognition:** Awarded NYS Historic Marker for the Elisha Starr Wool Factory, ca. 1808, one of Cazenovia’s oldest industrial buildings, adjacent to today’s Buyea’s. (Marker will be installed in 2026)
- **Gothic Cottage:** At the request of the Town, submitted a successful application for NYS funds to restore and stabilize the Gothic Cottage. The Town will receive and match \$489,310 for a total restoration project of \$978,620.
- **Listing of the Roswell Beckwith Sr. House on the National Register of Historic Places:** Cazenovia Heritage coordinated the successful application of the Ladd property to expand the number of National Register properties in the Town to 29.
- **Demolition of Significant Historic Properties:** Cazenovia Heritage is participating on a Town project team to develop a means of protecting National Register properties and other significant local landmarks from demolition, due to the increasing frequency of demolitions.

➤ **COMMUNITY IMPACT: Strengthening Neighborhoods**

Financial Support

After creating the framework, process, and guidelines in 2024, Cazenovia Heritage launched the first Carl D. Stearns Preservation & Restoration Grant for homeowners in February 2025. Named in honor of founding Board Director Carl Stearns, the program recognizes Carl’s considerable contributions to both the preservation field and to Cazenovia. Two grants totaling \$2500

were awarded in 2025: One for the replacement of period-inappropriate windows, and another supporting window restoration and exterior painting. Thanks to the generosity of supporters, program funding will be increased in 2026.

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE – 2025

Operating expenses were maintained within the overall budget, though unexpected cost increases affected specific line items.

Cash Carry-Forward from 2024:	\$55,792
2025 Donations & Memberships:	\$26,840
Other Income:	\$ 2,428
2025 Total Income:	\$85,060
2025 Total Expense:	\$23,676
Net Cash Carry-Forward:	\$61,384

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.

REPORT OF ANNUAL MEETING

The 2025 Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors was held January 21, 2026.

Officers elected:

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

Directors elected to continue terms:

- Rachel Bush Patricoski
- Jeanne Smith
- Mark Smith

The budget for 2026 was presented and approved. The Board wishes to thank the numerous volunteers for their help over the past year. Particular recognition goes to Barbara Maziuk, Membership Relations, in her support and liaison to members and donors.



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.

