



***Protecting Our Past, Preserving Our Future***

## **Annual Report 2024**

January 2025

[www.cazheritage.org](http://www.cazheritage.org)

### ***From the Board***

*Looking back on 2024, we are pleasantly amazed (blown away!) by the amount of learning, community energy, and growing advocacy that occurred in just 12 months. Highlights of the year include:*

- ❖ *The launch of Legonovia, a program for children to re-create Cazenovia's historic architecture using Lego blocks. These young, future Cazenovia Heritage members showed skill and creativity in replicating both recognizable and hidden architectural gems of Cazenovia.*
- ❖ *Educational programs that welcomed 465 attendees. Add to this number 175 people who downloaded the map to take the Driving Tour of Historic Barns.*
- ❖ *Continued response by commercial building owners in the Historic Business District to paint and repair their structures, plus commitments of others to undertake work in 2025.*
- ❖ *The Town's submission of a grant application prepared by Cazenovia Heritage to restore and protect the Gothic Cottage. While the application was not granted, we applaud the Town's commitment to seek funding for Cazenovia's most iconic building.*
- ❖ *Completed the requirements to offer a homeowner preservation grant program which will launch in 2025.*
- ❖ *Expanded our grassroots preservation family: Added 65 new members and donors – Welcome! And sign-ups for the email announcements has now reached 370 recipients.*

*As a donor, member, or participant, please take pride and credit for what you have made possible and are making possible for the future. We look forward to working with you in 2025 to protect and retain our historic architecture and community character.*

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

## Our Mission and How It Is Being Accomplished

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. Three pillars underpin this mission: Education, Advocacy, and beginning in 2025, 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.

Programs held in 2024:

- Windows of Cazenovia Through the Years
- A New Old House (Pat Carmeli's Use of Salvaged Historic Materials and Tour of House)
- Walking Tour of Lower Fenner Street Neighborhoods
- Lego@novia
- Belmont Powder Factory
- Historic Boathouses & Henry Burden, a special program for key donors, hosted by Patti & Sparky Christakos
- Architecture of Historic Barns, Driving Tour, and a visit to the Meadowood Farms Threshing Barn
- Equestrian Comforts
- The Architecture of Charles Umbrecht

### ➤ **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 2024, these efforts were directed to a range of issues.

*Renew Albany Street!:* Cazenovia Heritage continued to approach building owners and to identify and undertake needed repairs and

preservation work in the Historic Business District. Three more landlords undertook improvements, and three other owners have committed to restoration work in 2025. Additionally, Cazenovia Heritage and the public provided input to replace a proposed design for a development at 99-101 Albany with a design that better fit the scale and character of the neighborhood. That second design was ultimately approved and is now under construction.

*Town Demolitions:* Cazenovia Heritage proposed to the Town that prior to demolition, property owners be required take photographs of the elevations of the buildings. These photos are subsequently forwarded to the Archives at the Cazenovia Library. While not stemming the tide of demolitions of historic homes in the Town, this will ensure an architectural record exists.

*Gothic Cottage Preservation:* In 2023, a team of Cazenovia Heritage members and two Town Board Councilors devoted 600 hours to a grant application detailing the preservation and restoration work required and estimated budget, regardless of whether the Town offices stay or relocate. The current Town Board requested our support to submit the application in 2024. In December, the Town was advised that the request unfortunately was not granted.

*Wool Factory Nomination:* One of the outcomes of the Reconnaissance Survey of the Creekside West neighborhoods in 2023 was interest in the old wool factory, now MacDowell Insurance, next to Buyea's Hardware. Cazenovia Heritage, with the support of the Buyea family, undertook research to nominate it for a State historical marker. An architectural assessment was undertaken which dated the building from the 1808-1815 era, earlier than the traditionally accepted 1834. This building is likely the only known surviving industrial building of the settlement period. A determination on the marker will be announced in 2025.

*Historic Water Troughs:* Part of the *Equestrian Comforts* program was a segment on the historic water troughs in Cazenovia, three of which are located on land under the Town's jurisdiction. During research for the program, the deteriorating condition of the troughs was noticed. Requirements and potential costs to restore were identified. Cazenovia Heritage and the Town of Cazenovia have agreed to fund the bulk of the costs in 2025.

*Town Comprehensive Plan:* At public hearings on the Town’s update to the Comprehensive Plan of 2008, Cazenovia Heritage recommended additions and revisions relating to the protection and preservation of Cazenovia’s historic resources. We are pleased that several were incorporated in the latest draft. A key recommendation adopted is that a member of the Town Board be responsible for preservation initiatives in the Town, in the same manner that it treats issues of the lake, recreation, renewable energy, and roads.

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

➤ **Financial Support**

Thanks to our donors, Cazenovia Heritage is in a position to begin a grant program for homeowners to undertake preservation and restoration projects. A framework and supporting technology for the program was developed in 2024 to launch in 2025. Named in honor of Carl Stearns, the program recognizes Carl’s considerable contributions to both the preservation field and to Cazenovia. 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.

**Financial Performance - 2024**

Cash Carry-Forward from 2023:	\$38,107
2024 Donations & Memberships:	\$29,367
Other Income:	\$ 509
<b>2024 Total Income:</b>	<b>\$67,983</b>
<b>2024 Total Expense:</b>	<b>\$12,191</b>
<b>Net Cash Carry-Forward:</b>	<b>\$55,792</b>

**Report of Annual Meeting**

The 2024 Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors was held January 17, 2025.

Officers elected:

- Anne Ferguson, President
- Ted Bartlett, Vice President
- Carl Stearns, Treasurer
- Mark Smith, Acting Secretary

Directors elected to continue terms:

- Michael MacHugh
- Jeanne Smith

The budget for 2025 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 first year of 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.*