

GATES HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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April 2021

Dear friends and supporters of the Gates Historical Society,

In 2020, despite the raging pandemic, we won four out of five grants we sought, raised enough money to replace our signature fence and had a roadside sign installed promoting our status as the only Gates site on the National Register of Historic Places. Thanks to Bill Gillette, our wonderful town liaison, the Doud Post flagpole was moved to the Hinchey Homestead and the house newly landscaped.

Our priority for 2021 is to repair our barn, one of a very few left in Gates. Known as the cabbage barn, it is the last barn remaining on the property and is constructed partly of old railroad box cars. We are fortunate enough to already have a very large donation towards restoration of the barn, which may be as much as a third of the cost for the work needed. Help us raise the balance of the funds we estimate we will need to save this unique structure.

The Gates Historical Society manages the Hinchey Homestead property in partnership with the Town of Gates. Fundraising is a shared responsibility and the Society is determined to hold up our end of needed fundraising for this notable local landmark. We want the Hinchey Homestead, built in the 1870's on the site of the first clapboard house in Gates from the 1810's, preserved for area residents to enjoy for generations to come.

If you have visited the Homestead, you know this incredible home bypassed the 20th century. Just stepping into the kitchen and seeing the antique sink with the large pump handle to raise the water from the basement vat to the attic cistern, is a step back in time.

We will be offering our monthly educational programs March to November after the majority of our 2020 programs were cancelled due to the pandemic. We also plan to offer tours, exhibits and other social events once again. Our December 2020 Holly Days at the Hinchey Homestead lit up the outside of the house and the new fence to the praise of our neighbors.

Whatever you can donate to our 'Gift from the Heart' annual fundraiser is greatly appreciated. A return envelope has been enclosed for your convenience. All donations will be recognized in our next newsletter. Please contact me with your questions.

Most gratefully,
Susan Swanton, President
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