



Historic Preservation Awards for Otsego and Schoharie Counties

2015 PRESERVATION ADVOCATE AWARD

Schoharie Colonial Heritage Association

The Schoharie Colonial Heritage Association, celebrating 55 years of operations this year, has been instrumental in preserving two particular sites in the Village of Schoharie that are critical to the Village's historic development since settlement in the first half of the 18th century.

The Association first acquired the 1743 Palatine House — the oldest existing building and one of the few frame buildings to be spared in the 1780 British raid during the Revolutionary War — in 1974, and worked meticulously to restore it as a living history museum, open free of charge to the public. Subsequently, the Association acquired and restored the abandoned station



house, freight shed, engine house, weigh station and old mill building on Depot Lane, which they restored and transformed into The Schoharie Valley Railroads Museum. Both the Palatine House and the Railroads Museum complex are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Hurricane Irene had a devastating impact on the Village of Schoharie, and the Railroads Museum suffered significantly with 7 feet of water inundating the buildings. The Association began the restoration process all over again, and in spite of the costs, has managed to continue operations and keep the buildings open to the public free of charge.



“SCHA has been instrumental in the preservation of both of the buildings and their environs. ...The Village of Schoharie supports the recognition of these efforts, done entirely through volunteer support.”

— Lawrence J. Caza, Deputy Mayor