

## Historic House Tour Committee Report

June 8, 2026

**Publicity:** Historic Open House feature article appeared in the Summer Edition of the BrantLaker and BrantLaker Calendar of Events published in May. Thanks to Janet, Mary Ann, Diane, and Kathy, flyers are posted at the Town Hall, the Post Office, the Town landfill, the Hub, Lazy Moose, Chester Town Hall and Senior Center, Adirondack General Store, Adirondack Post Office and North Warren Chamber of Commerce. The North Warren Chamber agreed to post flyer on their website and flashing screen. Notifications have been sent by Janet to the other North Warren County historical societies and the Lake George Chamber for on-line posting. Flyer is posted on HHS Facebook and Instagram pages and HHS website.

A request will be made to the Brant Lake Association to distribute a reminder email of the Open House to their email distribution list one week prior to the event.

**Insurance coverage:** Kathy Hill reached out to Krista at Town Hall to inquire about the need for Town of Horicon insurance coverage for the event. Kathy provided Krista with an Open House flyer and all pertinent details and offered to make herself available in Krista's office for a phone call with Mark Carpenter at the Town's Insurance Agency. Further follow-up is pending.

**Appreciation gift:** Sylvia and I met with Sue at Riverside Gallery in Warrensburg on Saturday, June 6 and decided upon a historic photo of the Peblow Hotel for matting and framing for presentation to the Babsons in appreciation for hosting the Open House. The artwork, that came in considerably under budget, will be ready for pickup on or before June 19 and will be presented to the Babsons at the start of the Open House. Sylvia will provide Bill with invoice for payment.

**Caro Smith House handouts:** Dan Babson provided a two-page brief history of Caro's Place and a three-page self-guided tour. (Attached)

Dan will frame "before" pictures in each room. In the kitchen, the Babsons will have on display a photo album documenting the home's transformation.

Dan has provided the HHS with copies of extensive research on the Smith Family and Peblow Hotel for our records.

**Volunteers:** To date the following individuals have offered to volunteer on the day of the event: Sylvia Smith, Janet Early, Diane Loika, Barbara LaFond, John Caruso, Jim Ventura, Mary Jo Hebert, Bill Hebert. Barbara Blum is available until 1:00 pm.

Volunteers are needed for the following posts:

Front porch greeter: Sylvia Smith

Front porch: Provide a brief history of “Caro’s Place” and overview of the tour – Mary Jo Hebert

First floor dining room/living room:

Upstairs front bedrooms and bath:

Upstairs back bedrooms and bath:

Downstairs hallway and first floor bedroom and bath:

Kitchen:

Patio:

Parking: Bill Hebert

Carriage House:

All volunteers will be provided with a bulleted timeline of the house’s history and an index card detailing the features of the room or rooms they are overseeing. Please bring your own extensive knowledge of the history of Horicon to your presentation and any stories of personal interest.

(Barb LaFond remembers visiting the Caro Smith home as a five-year-old. Her grandfather, Andrew Jones, and father, Leon “Tim” Jones, were carpenters and masons who did work for Caro. On Saturday mornings, Barb recalls being given a small bag of penny candy to keep her busy in the truck while they met with Caro.)

**Managing the flow of traffic (proposed):** In the event of a bottleneck of heavy traffic, tours will be conducted in groups of seven. As each group advances through the house, the next group will be admitted, allowing separate groups to tour the first floor, second floor, and back hallway areas simultaneously while insuring a pleasant and uncrowded experience. HHS volunteers will be stationed in all three areas pointing out features, answering questions and directing traffic. If we have the benefit of only a few people trickling in at a time everyone can just go at their own pace.

**Action items:** Dan has requested we make copies of the brief history and self-guided tour handouts for distribution.

We will also need on hand Horicon Historical Society brochures, upcoming special event flyers, and donation jar or basket for HHS donations.

Volunteers will be asked to report to the Caro Smith House at 10:30 for a brief orientation to the home.

To be decided: Signage? Balloons? Refreshments on patio?