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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 4, 2025

Fenimore Art Museum Transfers Hancock House and the Horace A. Moses Endowment to The Lower Adirondack Regional Center for History

Cooperstown, NY:

Fenimore Art Museum is pleased to share that on July 11, 2025, the ownership of the Hancock House in Ticonderoga, New York was transferred to The Lower Adirondack Regional Center for History (LARCH), formerly known as the Ticonderoga Historical Society (THS).

In 1924 an agreement was made between Ticonderoga-born industrialist Horace A. Moses and the New York State Historical Association (NYSHA) in which Moses would give NYSHA the necessary funding to erect a building in Ticonderoga, NY, that would be used as the Association's headquarters and would set up an endowment to maintain the building. The official dedication of the Hancock House was held in 1926 and from 1926-1939, NYSHA (currently known as Fenimore Art Museum) operated out of the Hancock House in Ticonderoga, NY. In 1939, with the blessing of Horace A. Moses, NYSHA moved their headquarters to Cooperstown, New York, with the understanding that the endowment gifted would remain with the Hancock House.

In 1975, NYSHA and the Ticonderoga Historical Society (THS) entered a lease agreement whereby THS would operate Hancock House with NYSHA providing funds from the Moses endowment as well as lending objects. The transfer, in accordance with all laws for collections items, will formalize the LARCH stewardship of the property and artifacts for which they have cared for decades.

"We will be forever grateful to the community of Ticonderoga and to Horace A. Moses for their part in the origin story of the New York State Historical Association" commented Paul D'Ambrosio, President & CEO of Fenimore Art Museum (formerly NYSHA). "Ticonderoga Historical Society, and now LARCH, have been dutiful stewards, and we know that the building and objects will remain in good hands with them at the helm; we are happy to gift them this important part of Ticonderoga's history."

Past President Virginia LaPointe (1975) and current President William G. Dolback (2025) stated: "On behalf of those past and current trustees and those members of *The Lower Adirondack Regional Center for History* (successor of THS that was founded in 1897) have

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dedicated their energy and devotion for the past fifty years to the stewardship of the Hancock House, its collections and endowment are deeply honored to receive this ownership transfer."

Presidents LaPointe and Dolback further expressed: "This act represents a significant milestone for not only our organization and the Ticonderoga community but for our greater regional service area. We are grateful to the officers and their Board of the Fenimore Art Museum for their trust as we continue advancing Horace A. Moses' original vision of preserving and promoting our unique regional historical past.

As we look to the future, be assured that we will continue to keep our focus on the historic, scientific and social aspects of the Adirondack Mountains and the Lake Champlain and Lake George regions as we showcase the contributions of our region to the history of New York State and the United States while preserving and promoting our unique cultural history."

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About Fenimore Art Museum Fenimore Art Museum, located on the shores of Otsego Lake—James Fenimore Cooper's "Glimmerglass"—in historic Cooperstown, New York, presents changing exhibitions each season. Past shows have featured artists such as Keith Haring, Ansel Adams, Banksy, M.C. Escher, and many others. The museum features a wide-ranging collection of American art including folk art; important American 18th- and 19th-century landscape, genre, and portrait paintings from artists including Albert Bierstadt, Mary Cassatt, William Merritt Chase, Frederic Edwin Church, Childe Hassam, Martin Johnson Heade, Robert Henri, George Inness, Eastman Johnson, Joshua Johnson, Thomas Moran, Georgia O'Keeffe, Maurice Prendergast, John Singer Sargent, Max Weber, and James McNeill Whistler; more than 125,000 historic photographs representing the technical developments made in photography and providing extensive visual documentation of the region's unique history; and the renowned Eugene and Clare Thaw Collection of American Indian Art comprised of nearly 900 art objects representative of a broad geographic range of North American Indian cultures, from the Northwest Coast, Eastern Woodlands, Plains, Southwest, Great Lakes, and Prairie regions. Visit FenimoreArt.org.