AARCH MATTERS

YEAR IN REVIEW 2017

Answering the Call: This Is What We Live For

As an organization with a broad mission to serve the preservation needs of the Adirondack region, it seems that many have different understandings and perceptions of the work that we do. Most know AARCH for our summer tours and extraordinary educational experiences which explore the rich diversity of architecture in the Adirondacks and the stories embodied within these special places. Others know us for our tenacity in our advocacy efforts, raising public awareness for the preservation and public use of places like Camp Santanoni and fire towers throughout the Adirondacks.

There's another, much less understood area of our work that we're very proud of which makes AARCH such an effective organization: our ability to quickly and thoughtfully respond to preservation issues and opportunities as they arise. Although we are tremendously proud of our educational programming and advocacy work, these out-of-the-blue calls and emails are really what we live for, even when they arrive in the busiest and most chaotic time of AARCH's year.

Steven Engelhart

"THE CLOSET"
Seagle Music Colony, Schroon Lake

In early August, Jonathan Green, a retired opera singer, called AARCH and left a message expressing his concern about the fate of a small but fascinating structure at the Seagle Music Colony, the Adirondack institution where vocal technique and stagecraft has been taught to talented young singers in Schroon Lake since 1915. When Steven Engelhart spoke to Jonathan the next day, he learned more about the building's intriguing history, namely that "The Closet" had been built to provide separate housing for the first African-American student at Seagle. He also learned that the interior walls of this small cabin were covered with inspirational words and designs all hand-painted by this student in an effort to enliven his stark quarters. Steven also learned that this building, which was in very poor condition, a safety hazard, and slated for demolition. It was in danger of being lost forever.

A message of inclusion on the door of Fulton Fryar's "The Closet"

We instantly understood the significance of this simple building for the story that it tells. With a sense of urgency, we started working with Jonathan, the Seagle staff, and others to ensure its preservation. None of us wanted to see the building demolished. But we only understood the building in the broadest of strokes—we knew practically nothing about the building or its inhabitant. When was it built? Who was the student that lived in this modest structure? What was his experience as an African American student at the Seagle Music Colony? We had no clue.

Over the next month, many details emerged about the building's history and we made progress in creating a consensus regarding the importance of its preservation. We convinced them to delay its planned demolition as we explored options for the building's future. At our request the curatorial staff of the Adirondack Experience visited the site and quickly saw the opportunity to tell a story of an African-American in the Adirondacks. Best of all, we tracked down Fulton Fryar, former aspiring opera singer, talented painter, first African American student at the Seagle Music Colony, and the only inhabitant of "The Closet."

We learned that Fulton, at age 17, was a promising operatic vocalist who had been personally recruited by John Seagle, the son of the Colony's founder, and subsequently spent two summers at The Colony in 1957 and 1958. He continued to sing, performed in many of the theatrical productions and also worked to create sets, a talent that emerged from his

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Answering the Call

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Painted designs in 'The Closet'

previous experience as a sign painter. His steady hand and creativity as a sign painter also inspired and enabled him to enliven his space and decorate his accommodations with poetry, scripture, and colorful ornamentation, all hand-painted by Fulton himself.

Despite sleeping in separate quarters Fulton was involved in all other areas of study and performance. He welcomed the opportunity to study at Seagle to advance his career and recalls his time there as the happiest two summers of his life.

Unfortunately, Fulton's voice changed soon after his time at Seagle and his dream of becoming an African-American Mario Lanza faded. He embarked on a different path: he went on to serve in the Air Force and worked for Catholic Charities, New York State, and Letchworth Village. At Letchworth, he used the piano skills he learned at Seagle to teach music and voice to children.

According to Jonathan Green, "Fulton Fryar's hope to become a professional singer did not come to pass. However, the humanity, dignity, and creativity he so positively expressed in the walls of his Adirondack 'Closet' makes that small building a repository and time capsule of American and Adirondack race relations 60 years ago and must not be lost."

Regarding AARCH's role in helping raise public awareness of this story and find a new home for the building at the Adirondack Experience, Green says, "I can't emphasize enough how much of the success of getting the museum to take 'The Closet' was the result of Steven's experience, skills, connections and passion. He's a real pro who patiently dealt with my concerns and the pressure of…the looming deadline of demolition. What a find he is!"

In late October, the Adirondack Experience staff picked up and moved 'The Closet' to the grounds of the museum, with the intention to make it part of the permanent exhibition there. Fulton was very happily surprised by the whole effort to preserve his cabin and remarked, "I never thought anyone would remember me or The Closet." We are thrilled that he, and this important piece of the story of the Adirondacks, will be preserved as an educational vehicle for many generations to come.

Fulton and Barbara Fryar at 'The Closet'

DR. FERGUSON OFFICE
Culvert Street, Glens Falls

AARCH received a phone call in early October from Eric Unkauf, an industrial redeveloper and Glens Falls resident, regarding another building in imminent danger with an even shorter deadline to take action.

Eric alerted us to the plight of the building, known as the Dr. Ferguson Office. This little building, located at 5 Culvert Street in Glens Falls, is a tiny (measuring only 20' x 20') Second Empire style building that was constructed c. 1870 to house the medical practice of Dr. James Ferguson, a prominent Glens Falls physician. Ferguson's office closed around 1900, and the building was converted to a residence soon after. The building was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in the 1970s, cited as "the only structure of its type and period remaining in Glens Falls."

The City of Glens Falls seized the property from its former owner in 2013 due to unpaid back taxes. Unfortunately, with no inhabitants, the building was left to deteriorate further into a severe state of disrepair. A hole in the roof allowed for the infiltration of rain and snow, allowing the interior floors to collapse. Holes in the exterior walls further left the building unprotected from the elements. Citing structural instability, the City condemned the building and announced to the public that the administration would begin accepting bids for its demolition within days of this public announcement. Recognizing the building's special architectural value and the tight timeline to take action, Eric called on us for help in saving the building from bulldozers—with one week to spare.

5 Culvert Street, Glens Falls

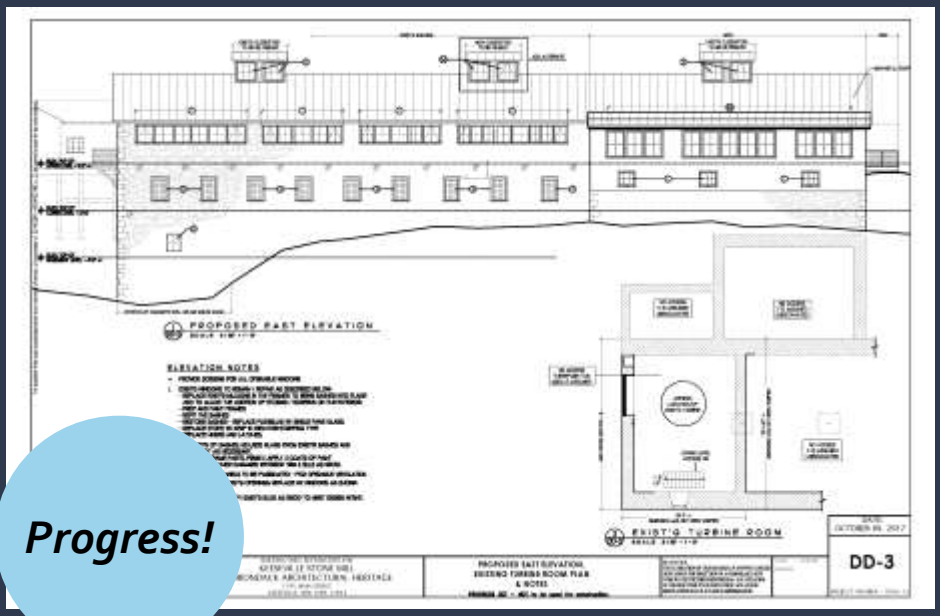
To their credit, the City of Glens Falls was willing to deed the property over to a new owner for $1, with the stipulation that the new owners present an acceptable plan for the building to the city. This procedure would insure that the building not continue to sit vacant and deteriorate further into a state of disrepair.

Prior to our involvement, Eric began a successful social media campaign on

Stone Mill Project Moves Ahead!

We spent much of 2017 moving ahead with our plans to restore and adaptively reuse our 1849 Stone Mill in Keeseville. Our architects, SD Atelier Architecture, completed the next phase of planning work. We've brought additional funding to the project by bringing an investment tax credit partner on board. We've also cleared some permitting hurdles and shown the building to several potential tenants.

After years of working on this, we are very excited that all the pieces have nearly fallen into place so that we can commence and complete this $1.2 million project in 2018.



Progress!

Answering the Call

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Although severely deteriorated, the intact architectural features of the building are strikingly beautiful.

Facebook with the intention to raise public awareness about the building's imminent demolition, and hopefully locate a new owner, as soon as the City announced their plans to the public.

Unsurprisingly, many members of the Glens Falls community were very fond of this little building and rallied behind the its preservation. Written and vocal support came from all over the region and even from across the country, with many pledging to donate money and resources to the building's stabilization if a new owner was not immediately located.

We contacted Mark Frost of *The Chronicle* and invited him to join us on a site visit. Upon meeting Eric and examining the property, we agreed with initial reports that the exterior walls were sound. Given that the walls remained stable, we felt that the house was salvageable. After seeing the property in person we knew that we had to lend out voice to this advocacy effort, but we knew that the house would require significant professional expertise in order to preserve it. Although beautiful and worthy of preservation efforts, the road ahead to preserve this building is no small matter.

We visited 5 Culvert Street on a Thursday, five days before bids were to be opened for the building's demolition. On Tuesday (the same day as bid opening), Eric and a group of concerned citizens attended the Common Council meeting to advocate for the building's preservation. Mary Cirbus wrote to Mayor Jack Diamond and the members of the Common Council, we shared this story on our social media channels and in a special e-newsletter, and urged the City to delay demolition until this grassroots advocacy group could find another owner for the property.

Noting the public support behind saving the building, and the significant growth of this small grassroots effort in such a short time, the Glens Falls Common Council decided to delay demolition for one month, granting us the time needed to mobilize, plan, and spread the word.

Thankfully, the intense advocacy efforts of this grassroots organization resulted in a very happy ending for this property: our AARCH newsletter reached Darren Tracy, a former AARCH board member, licensed professional engineer and Principal at West Branch Engineering & Consulting PLLC, owner of construction firm West Branch, Inc., and lover of challenging properties. Together with his wife, Lisa, the Tracys have rehabbed a number of historic properties in and around the Adirondack region.

They took interest in the property as another rehab project and presented their plan for the building to the Common Council in late October. Much to our delight the City of Glens Falls approved their proposal and sold the property to the Tracys for $1. We're absolutely thrilled with the outcome and we know that 5 Culvert Street is now in the best hands we could possibly imagine.

These two opportunities presented themselves during our very chaotic summer and beginning of fall, yet we knew that we had to get involved. Needless to say, it's been a very inspiring few months for us, and we are very proud of our agility in helping with historic preservation projects, even when they come unexpectedly during the busiest times of the year. Whether it's helping to inspire or organize, you can always count on us to be there for you and your community. **This is what we live for.**

National Register

AARCH prepares National Register nominations for hire and provides technical assistance to others writing nominations. Listing on the National Register of Historic Places elevates the stature of historic properties and gives owners opportunities to become eligible for grants and tax credit programs as incentives for preservation projects.

We have several National Register nominations in the works which we will prepare during the winter months, notably creating two new historic districts in Saranac Lake and Malone. We've also been tapped to nominate a house in Port Kent and to prepare a nomination for the St. Regis Presbyterian Church near Paul Smiths.

We have also volunteered our time and expertise to prepare nominations pro bono for the Inner Gooley Club in Minerva and a bridge over the Saranac River in Saranac because these sites are related to ongoing advocacy efforts for their preservation.

We've also shared our expertise with others preparing nominations for Henry's Garage in Port Henry, the Stillwater Mountain Fire Tower near Old Forge, a small rustic camp (Camp Taiga) on Long Lake, the Copeland Carriage Shop in Edinburg, Lady Tree Lodge on Upper Saranac Lake, the Heintzelman Library in Brant Lake, and the former International Paper Company headquarters building in Corinth.

Wanakena Footbridge Rededication

In 2014, an ice jam destroyed the National Register-listed suspension footbridge in Wanakena (constructed 1902). So important was this bridge to the identity and cohesiveness of this tiny community that the Town of Fine, the Wanakena Historical Association, and many others immediately set to work to raise the private and public funds to rebuild, despite the cost and complexity of the project. They were able to procure $271,000 in state, county, and foundation grants and raised a remarkable sum of $185,000 through practically every means possible – bake sales, bottle drives, raffles, bingo, souvenirs, and lemonade stands. This project to rebuild the bridge, which was rededicated on July 4th, is a real testament to what a small community can do when it puts its collective energy behind something meaningful. AARCH partnered with the Adirondack North Country Association and Traditional Arts in Upstate New York to raise private funds through www.adirondackgives.org.

Wanakena Footbridge reopening. Photo courtesy of Stephen Moyer

Westport Town Hall

AARCH has been part of a small working group helping the Town of Westport to restore and rehabilitate their historic Westport Town Hall. The work of this group, under the leadership of AARCH former board member Bill Johnston, has included listing the building on the National Register of Historic Places, obtaining a $500,000 state grant for the building's rehabilitation, working with architects Vermont Integrated Architecture to develop plans for the building, and seeing the project through to its completion in the fall of this year. The community can take great pride in this building once again and utilize it for many years to come.

Corinth School

We've continued to work with a group of people advocating for the preservation and rehabilitation of a 1903 schoolhouse in Corinth, owned by the school board. Although the school board was ready to demolish the building, they now seem much more receptive to its preservation, especially as this grassroots group gathers strength, gets better organized, and presents a clearer vision for the future: a plan that allows for the preservation of the building that still meets the needs of the school at that site.

Hemmer Cottage

In 2001, AARCH was instrumental in supporting the efforts of the Town of

Part of a proposed National Register historic district expansion in Saranac Lake

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Webb Historical Association (TOWHA) and other community members to acquire, relocate, restore, and adaptively reuse the historic Hemmer Cottage (1930) in Old Forge. This rustic cottage was slated to be demolished in order to accommodate a proposed school addition. Instead the house was saved by the TOWHA and moved to a lakeside setting where it was used for many years as a visitor's center and, as needed, for non-profit use. In 2016, the TOWHA reached the conclusion that the organization could no longer afford to own and maintain the building, and subsequently made the difficult decision to sell the property to a private owner. While the highest and best use may have been for the building to continue to have a public purpose, we must recognize that change is a fact of life, both for people and buildings. We hope the new owners will love, appreciate, and be good stewards of the building.

This map shows conceptually how recreational trails and an active railroad can coexist
Photo credit: Nancy Bernstein

Remsen-Lake Placid Railroad Corridor

To the surprise of almost everyone, a State Supreme Court judge ruled on September 27th in favor of the Adirondack Railroad Preservation Society and other railroad advocates and subsequently annulled and vacated the state's 2016 unit management plan that proposed pulling up the railroad infrastructure between Tupper Lake and Lake Placid in order to create a recreational trail in this active rail corridor. This ruling is a huge victory for railroad advocates and presents a new opportunity to go back to the drawing board to develop a "rails with trails" alternative or to simply walk away from the rail trail idea altogether. AARCH has been deeply involved in this issue for years and has been a member of the Trails with Rails Action Committee (TRAC) that believes recreational trails and an active railroad can peacefully coexist.

AARCH is committed to helping with preservation issues throughout the Adirondack region.

Do you know of a building, site, or property that needs our help?
Please let us know by contacting us by email at info@aarch.org, or give us a call at 518.834.9328.

Fun, new programs at Santanoni

We had another great year at Camp Santanoni. Our summer staff - Lia Schifitto, Maria Rachel, and Katie Gibson – did an excellent job of leading tours, doing window restoration, and doing a few special projects. They designed and offered periodic "Tea and Tour" gatherings at the Gate Lodge, created a special event for children at the Farm that involved making ice cream, offered yoga on the Main Lodge porch, and Lia conducted a visitor survey.

Carpenter Scott Hlavaty continued to work on the interior structural stabilization of the **Farm Manager's Cottage** and it is now back in great shape; the first floor is reframed and has a subfloor, the interior walls are back in place and the roof is weather-tight—an amazing job completed under very difficult circumstances. The cottage is the last of the buildings at Santanoni to be buttoned up in this way. Volunteer Chuck Higgerson did some additional carpentry and stabilization work at both the Farm Manager's Cottage and the Main Lodge and Howie Kirschenbaum led three volunteer work days.

We also continued to advance two important planning initiatives. We will soon commission a **Barn Feasibility Study,** necessary to move ahead with planning the restoration of the barn that was destroyed by fire in 2004. In 2018 we also expect to hire a consultant to undertake an **Historic Landscape Report,** which would provide the basis for additional landscape restoration at the Santanoni farm.

Poke-O-Moonshine Fire Tower Centennial Celebration

In July, the *Friends of Poke-O-Moonshine* celebrated two huge milestones: the 20th anniversary of the founding of the *Friends of Poke-O-Moonshine* and the 100th anniversary of the Poke-O-Moonshine fire tower. Hundreds of people gathered over the course of the anniversary weekend to celebrate the restoration of the fire tower and all the remarkable trail work that has been completed to date. The weekend was packed full of special events to commemorate these notable anniversaries, including a silent art auction that was held at the AARCH Clayton Family Gallery and continued throughout the weekend at the nearby Ausable Brewing Company.

The fire tower was built in 1917 and was decommissioned by New York State in 1988. Since 1997, the *Friends* has worked to fully restore the fire tower as a historical and environmental interpretive site. A Summit Steward interprets the local and natural history of the mountain to over 7500 hikers annually.

AARCH was instrumental in founding the *Friends* group and in taking up the cause of the preservation of the fire tower. *Friends of Poke-O-Moonshine* operates under AARCH's nonprofit auspices.

Poke-O-Moonshine Fire Tower Photo Credit: Nancie Battaglia Photography

AARCH Board Changes

In 2017, we welcomed four individuals to the AARCH Board of Directors:

Robert Bick comes to us from the western part of the Adirondacks. He is the assessor for the Town of Clay, and has a background in design and construction. He is also a freelance author-photographer.

Richard Frost, a retired physician from Plattsburgh, previously served on the AARCH board for six years. He did an outstanding job chairing our Stewardship Committee during his previous tenure.

Dean Melville is a retired physician who lives year-round in Upper Jay. He is an active, hands-on practitioner of preservation working on his own property's historic farmhouse, barn, silo, and stone walls.

Peter Sefton lives in Alexandria, Virginia and owns property near Northville, where a family farm is also located. He holds a Master's Degree in Architectural History, with a Certificate in Historic Preservation, from the University of Virginia. Peter is a retired federal employee and has been a generous contributor of his time to preservation causes in and around the Washington, DC area.

This year we also said goodbye to four board members who are leaving their positions after serving two three-year terms. Both **David Hislop** of Essex and **Bill Johnston** of Westport are founding AARCH Board Members and past presidents of the Board, and have contributed decades of work and leadership at AARCH during a time when the organization made great leaps in terms of programming, advocacy, and growth. **Wester Miga** of Newcomb was critical to AARCH in our continued work at Camp Santanoni and in developing new relationships with businesses around the region. **Joyce McLean** of Lake Placid was a great advocate for AARCH and made her home, Joyland, available for our use on many occasions. We thank them all for their many years of service and look forward to their continued involvement on our Advisory Council.

AARCH Staff Changes

After a whirlwind summer of tours, Mary Cirbus will soon transition from Program Director to a newly created position here at AARCH, that of **Preservation Services Director**. This new position will help expand AARCH's preservation advocacy efforts and allow us to provide additional technical assistance throughout the region.

In her new role, Mary will be providing **technical assistance** to individuals, businesses, nonprofit organizations, and municipalities to further historic preservation projects and programs. Her duties will also include fee-for-services work for private clients, such as municipalities, nonprofit organizations, and private individuals, including preparing and writing nominations to the National Register of Historic Places, conducting cultural resources surveys, writing conditions assessments, writing rehabilitation standards, researching house histories, and consulting on preservation projects for architects and engineers.

By having a designated Preservation Services Director on staff, AARCH will be able to do more of the work that "we live for" in terms of organizing and leading various **advocacy efforts** to protect and preserve threatened historic properties in the region and **raise awareness of additional endangered properties** through our website and various social media outlets. We also aim to expand AARCH's preservation easement program and further utilize it as a tool for preserving significant properties throughout the region.

Although we participate in advocacy efforts and related work throughout the year, Mary's new position will allow us to **devote more attention** to this area during the busy summer months, which are usually quite demanding on our small staff due to our busy tour season.

Mary's background makes her a great fit for the new position. She holds a Master's degree in Historic Preservation from Boston University. Prior to her position at AARCH, she worked for the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission and the Massachusetts Historical Commission where most of her duties included working with architects, contractors, businesses, nonprofit organizations, individuals, and members of the general public to ensure work on historic properties was completed in accordance with preservation standards.

Richard Longstreth's "A Guide to Architecture in the Adirondacks"

In June, our long-awaited and highly-anticipated *A Guide to Architecture in the Adirondacks* by Richard Longstreth finally hit bookstores. A partnership between *Adirondack Life* magazine and AARCH, the guide is an essential piece of the Adirondack canon and, since its release, has received high praise as a traveling companion and as a work of scholarly significance.

In preparing this material, Longstreth consulted a vast array of books, articles, newspaper clippings, reports, maps, photographs, prints, and architectural plans. He also conducted extensive fieldwork and visited numerous historical societies and museums, consulted with town historians, and spoke with dozens of property owners across the Adirondack Park. Longstreth's work ethic and mastery of the subject matter is evident through his intense research, photograph records, scholarly but easily accessible prose, and determination. This comprehensive guide to the built environment in the Adirondack Park was a monumental undertaking, and we are so pleased to have been a catalyst for this important work.

We kicked off our summer promotion of the book at our annual meeting at the North Country School near Lake Placid back in June. The excitement of introducing the book to our friends was palpable, as the book had been in our hands for (literally!) only for one day. Together with AARCH staff, Longstreth spent the rest of the summer visiting community events all over the region to promote the book – we visited libraries in Keene Valley and Northville, gave lectures at TAUNY and Historic Saranac Lake, and greeted fans in Lake Placid, Long Lake, and Essex. It's been a wonderful experience to see the enthusiasm in person from supporters of this project.

We officially closed the "Book Tour Bonanza" with an exhibit at AARCH's Clayton Family Gallery in late September, showcasing nearly 100 images from the guide. Dozens of visitors joined us for an opening reception and "meet the author" event. The show will continue through the winter, and we hope you'll stop by to experience these full-color images from the guide.

The Clayton Family Gallery is open Monday through Friday, 8:00 am—4:00 pm, and by appointment. Handicapped parking and access are located behind AARCH offices on Ausable Street.

A Guide to Architecture in the Adirondacks is available at aarch.org, AdirondackLife.com, and where books are locally sold.

This project was funded through support from a Local Heritage Grant from the Champlain Valley National Heritage Partnership, a Furthermore grant through the JM Kaplan Fund, and by the generous contributions of our members and supporters.

We are humbled. Thank you.

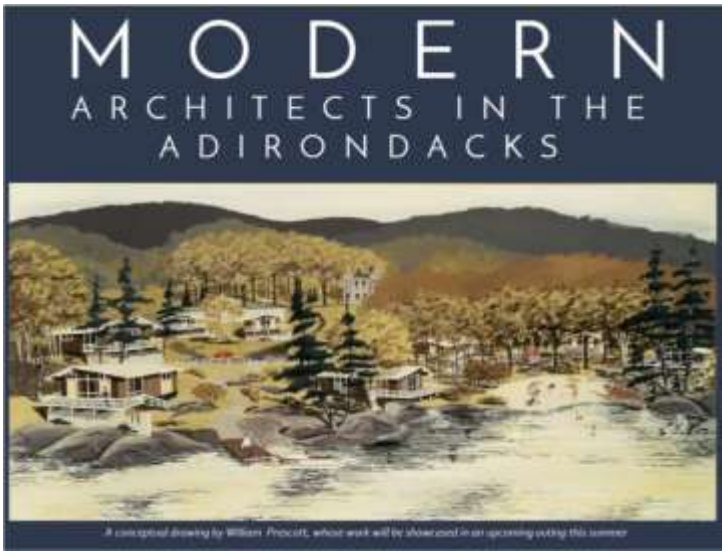
Bringing the "Guide" to the Digital World

If you're a regular reader of our monthly e-newsletter, you've been introduced to our fall semester intern, Samantha Johnson, who is working feverishly to help us make the 850 locations found within *A Guide to Architecture to the Adirondacks* more accessible in an exciting new digital format. In a partnership with a fledgling project called the **Adirondack Atlas**, co-founded by John Warren of the *Adirondack Almanac,* locations in Longstreth's guide will become of points on an online map of the Adirondacks. While you're visiting Keene Valley, for example, you'll be able to zoom in on your location and see exactly which entries from the guide are nearby. You'll also be able to select additional search criteria including nearby brewpubs, historic fire towers, or public campgrounds and completely customize your experience. This Adirondack Atlas is available in desktop and mobile versions.

The body of photographs taken by Richard Longstreth in preparation for *A Guide to Architecture in the Adirondacks* will be cataloged and hosted in SAHARA, a digital image archive developed by the Society of Architectural Historians (SAH) for those who teach, study, interpret, photograph, design, and preserve the built environment worldwide, and is typically a perk of membership to the SAH. The Longstreth collection, however, will be made available to members of Adirondack Architectural Heritage via a website and login that we will be able to provide in the near future.

We are also working to get an e-version of the book available soon for download to your favorite e-reader.

Modern Architects in the Adirondacks: AARCH's 2017 Summer Tour and Event Season



Our 2017 summer tour season wrapped up mid-October on the top of Mt. Philo State Park in Charlotte, VT. It was very fitting to end our summer travels with sweeping, panoramic views of the Adirondacks, able to see the mountains where we trekked near and far over a period of six months full of tours and special events. **Over 1,100 people attended 41 tours** all over the Adirondacks and beyond the Blue Line from Santa's Workshop to Seneca Falls; from Big Moose Lake to Bolton Landing; from Chateaugay to Corinth. From the end of May through mid-October we averaged 2-3 tours or events per week, with many weeks containing 3 or more outings. It's been a wonderful, packed summer full of new tours, variations of old favorites, and repeats of our most popular outings.

We tailored this summer's tour offerings to explore our theme of **Modern Architects in the Adirondacks.** We chose to highlight the works of two regional architects with two tours: **The Architecture of William Prescott** and **The Architecture of Jeremiah Oosterbaan.** The designs of these two architects provide numerous examples of mid-century modern residential, commercial, and institutional buildings throughout the Adirondacks, with particular clusters of work in Keeseville (Prescott) and Plattsburgh (Oosterbaan). We also had a rare opportunity to tour **The Point** with Lake Placid architect **Andrew Chary** and get a first-hand look at his work on the Boat House at the exclusive resort. We kept up the modern architects with tours of: **Roadside Architecture of Lake George, Santa's Workshop,** and our Annual Meeting was held at the **North Country School and Camp Treetops,** which contains a number of buildings designed by the well-known writer and architectural critic Douglas Haskell.

North Country School

Our tour of **The Architecture of William Prescott** brought us on a caravan adventure full of examples of Prescott's unique residential architecture from Essex to Keeseville to Jay to Keene. We began at the **Crater Club** with two early Prescott-designed cottages, explored two more private homes in Willsboro and Keeseville. We also had the rare opportunity to visit the former **Paleface Ski Resort** base lodge, a charming A-frame building that was once the center of operations for this small private ski resort. We ended the day at **The Lookout**, a magnificent private home appropriately named for its stunning views of the mountains of Keene.

We ventured slightly outside the Blue Line to examine **The Architecture of Jeremiah Oosterbaan**, a prolific architect of the region who trained at the Illinois Institute of Technology under Ludwig Mies van der Rohe before establishing a practice in Plattsburgh in 1956. Our itinerary included stops at **St. Alexander's Catholic Church, Temple Beth Joseph, the Newman Center, the Plattsburgh Public Library, Clinton County Government Center,** and **the Press-Republican Building,** before ending the day at the **former Oosterbaan residence** at Chazy Landing, a fantastic mid-century home on Lake Champlain.

Some highlights of the season included our Annual Benefit, held at **Reuben Smith's Tumblehome Boatshop** in Warrensburg, where owners Cynde and Reuben Smith transformed a former garage into a modern and sophisticated boatshop that doubles as an event space; a tour of **Rustic Camps of William Coulter**, which included stops at **Eagle Island** and **Prospect Point**, the home of Saranac Village, a Young Life Camp; a tour of the old resort at **Loon Lake**; AARCH's first trip to Saratoga Springs with a behind-the-scenes tour of the **Saratoga Racetrack,** led by AARCH Board Member Samantha Bosshart, followed by an afternoon of races; and a **Mystery Tour** to Blue Mountain Lake, which included a boat tour of Blue Mountain Lake, a beautifully prepared lunch at a private camp, and afternoon refreshments generously provided by AARCH Board Member Pat Benton at **The Hedges**.

We commemorated the 100th Anniversary of Women's Suffrage in New York State with a multi-day trip to

Seneca Falls. Led by members of the Seneca Falls Historical Society, a group of AARCH members visited the **Women's Rights National Historical Park** and toured the **Wesleyan Chapel** and the **Elizabeth Cady Stanton House**, visited the **Seneca Falls Historical Society Museum**, went on a walking tour of the village, and ventured along the canals, all during the height of the **2018 Convention Days**, an annual celebration of the first Women's Rights Convention, held in Seneca Falls in 1848.

We traveled beyond the rugged mountain environments of the Adirondack Great Camps to explore the region's flat land and highlight the farming culture and historic farmsteads of the Champlain Valley with our **Two Hundred Years of Farming** program. We also explored the emerging farm-to-table movement in Essex with our **Small Farm Rising: Essex** tour, with stops at several local farms and a lunch at **The Hub on the Hill**.

Our summer urban explorations took us south of the Blue Line with trips to **Downtown Glens Falls** and **Historic Troy: Downtown and Washington Park**. Led by resident experts, our tours included access to many notable buildings and beautiful historic private residences.

We visited **Historic Bridges of the Ausable River** and explored cultural landscapes such as **The Lake Champlain Bridge Heritage Area,** the **Huntington Wildlife Forest,** and **Tahawus.** We also revisited our old favorites and most popular outings to **Big Moose, Wanakena, Bartlett Carry Club,** and **Raquette Lake's Long Point.**

AARCH in Seneca Falls

Mary's 2017 Tour Notes:

Miles traveled in Mary's car: *6,473*

Highest number of miles traveled on a single tour: *The Architecture of William Prescott (over 70 miles!)*

Mary's Favorite Tour(s) of 2017: *The Miners of Chazy; Mystery Tour 2017: Blue Mountain Lake; Seneca Falls; Lake Champlain Bridge Heritage Area; The Point with Andrew Chary*

Hidden Gem of a Tour: *The Miners of Chazy*

Furthest tour within the Blue Line: *The Rustic Architecture of Big Moose (125 miles from Keeseville!)*

Furthest tour outside the Blue Line: *Seneca Falls*

Biggest Group: *The Point with Andrew Chary (42 people!)*

Most embarrassing moment: *A tie between arriving approximately 2 hours late to Raquette Lake due to a flat tire, or dropping the projector during our "What Style Is It?" program in Warrensburg*

Worst weather: *The Architecture of William Prescott; Huntington Wildlife Forest*

Best weather: *Mt. Philo Walking Tour*

Hottest: *Roadside Architecture of Lake George*

Coldest: *Tahawus: The Upper Works and Into the Backwoods*

Best Food: *Mystery Tour 2017: Blue Mountain Lake; Small Farms Rising: Essex*

Thanks to all who joined us along the way!

A Note from Mary:

Thank you *to all our members and friends for a wonderful, memorable summer as Program Director. I deeply appreciate your many qualities, from your curiosity and enthusiasm to your flexibility in going with the flow, adjusting to a new itinerary, or listening to me during an impromptu architectural walking tour! Above all I appreciated your kindness and understanding throughout my first summer. I've gotten to know many of you and I'm grateful for our experiences together.*

I hope to see you all on a few tours next summer!

Got an idea for a tour?
Let us know!

We love feedback!
Your comments and feedback help us improve our programming.

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The AARCH Awards Program *recognizes exemplary historic preservation work throughout the region each year. We honor examples of sensitive restoration, adaptive reuse, community revitalization, and long-term stewardship. Our 2017 awardees represented the wide range of projects, places, and people who are helping to preserve and enhance the unique heritage and built environment of the Adirondacks. Please read on for highlights of their achievements.*

The Old Stone Barracks (Plattsburgh/Clinton County)
Valcour Brewing Company

Plattsburgh's "Old Stone Barracks" is the last remaining structure of a proposed quadrangle of early U.S. Army barracks constructed in 1838 on land deeded to the United States in 1814. The Barracks was used both as an Army Post and as part of an Air Force Base before the building became vacant in the late 1960s. The Barracks were placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1971.

The Plattsburgh Air Force Base closed in 1995. In response to an inappropriate development proposal, a group of concerned local citizens organized to form the *Friends of the Old Stone Barracks* to cultivate awareness of the site and advocate for its appropriate development. Through their efforts, the Barracks was placed on the Preservation League of New York State's "Seven to Save" List of endangered properties and a new owner was found to develop the property.

Mary Theresa Pearl and her husband, the late Terry Schmaltz, both retired Colonels in the U. S. Army, purchased the property in 2014 to house their microbrewery, the Valcour Brewing Company. They were committed to protecting the significant architectural and historic features of the Barracks, such as its exposed beams and stone walls, while also modernizing it to accommodate the microbrewery and other purposes.

The renovated space also includes a bar and restaurant, guest rooms for overnight stays, and a large room on the second floor available for special events.

Stillwater Fire Tower (Webb/Herkimer County)
Friends of Stillwater Fire Tower

The Stillwater Fire Tower, a 47 foot tall galvanized steel structure, sits on Stillwater Mountain at an elevation of 2,264 feet. It was manufactured in 1919 by the Aermotor Company.

The tower was decommissioned in 1988 and subsequently fell into a state of deterioration and disrepair. A group of concerned citizens, the *Friends of the Stillwater Fire Tower,* formed in 2009 to carry out restoration work and act as stewards of the structure. This restoration was completed in 2016 by a crew of over 100 volunteers, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation crew, and the landowner, Lyme Timber Co..

The restoration of the tower included new windows, repairs to the steel, and adding safety railings. Structural work included replaced concrete footings at the base of the stairs and installing new steel cables. The interior of the cab was also repaired and restored to replicate its original configuration, features, and details. A panoramic map and the orientation of the tower both replicate accurate geographic directions, since a compass will not function within a steel structure. Not only is the tower oriented such that the four corners of the cab point to the four points of the compass, the panoramic map is also geographically oriented to line up with the silhouettes of the visible mountain peaks.

Round Lake Camp (Woodgate/Oneida County)
Trustees of the Masonic Hall and Home

Round Lake Camp occupies about 1500 acres on Round Lake in Woodgate. The Trustees of the Masonic Home and Asylum Fund purchased the original 472-acre parcel in 1923, which was originally a dairy and potato farm. Over the next decade the Trustees purchased additional property and established the Masonic Home Youth Camp.

Throughout the 1930s and 1940s the Masonic Home Youth Camp hosted nearly 300 boys and girls (many of who were orphans) from the Masonic Home in Utica every summer. Camp population dwindled in the 1950s and 1960s until the camp was reinvigorated in 1976 under the leadership of M. W. Nathan Turk. The camp was expanded to accept children and grandchildren of Masons, as well as members of other groups.

The camp complex consists of several dozen buildings, most of which were constructed by Masons during the mid-to-late 1920s. These structures, as well as the grounds and shoreline, have been sensitively cared for by the camp over several decades. Their model of stewardship sets an example for excellence within the region.

The Deer's Head Inn (Elizabethtown/Essex County
Carolyn Sicher, Aaron Woolf, Karin DeMuro, and Dr. Robert DeMuro

The current Deer's Head Inn was built from the remains of a hostelry which was destroyed by a fire. It was called The Mansion House. A large inn, called the Deer's Head Inn, was constructed next door. As it grew, the Inn eventually acquired The Mansion House and renamed it The Annex.

Over the course of its history as The Annex, the building hosted several famous guests, including President Grover Cleveland and Mary Brown, widow of John Brown, who stayed there while en route to return her husband's body to Lake Placid after his execution. It was also used as a hospital and a school during the War of 1812.

The Deer's Head Inn closed in 1968 and the main buildings were demolished. The Annex, however, remained standing and was renamed The Deer's Head Inn. The restaurant closed in January 2015 and sat vacant for several months. In 2016 the building found new life through new owners Carolyn Sicher, Aaron Woolf, and Karin and Dr. Robert DeMuro, who together aimed to revitalize this historic tavern on Court Street, and return it to its original use as an inn. The owners renovated the interior to add a café and market, moved the taproom, and added four guest rooms upstairs to accommodate overnight guests. Since its reopening, the Deer's Head Inn has revitalized this historic building and its place on Court Street as a popular community spot for locally-sourced food and libations.

Michael Frenette
Builder and Craftsman

The way Tupper Lake native Michael Frenette tells it, he was just back from taking a UNESCO sponsored course in Norway on wood conservation technology and had hardly more than a few dollars in his pocket when AARCH executive director Steven Engelhart called to ask him if he would *volunteer* to do some work at Camp Santanoni. Despite needing to do some *paid* work, he was intrigued, and soon joined a small group of people to begin the restoration of the extensively deteriorated porches at the Main Lodge. This was the beginning of Michael's long relationship with and commitment to Santanoni. Since 1998, he has spent the better part of every summer there and during this time he has restored porches, missing roof features and steps, replaced logs, and completed structural stabilization work on the Main Lodge. He brought the boathouse back from the brink of complete loss and restored or oversaw the restoration of the Ash House, Pump House, Gazebo, Bath House, Artist's Studio, and Generator Building at the Main

Camp and the Farm Manager's Cottage at the Farm. Michael's talents come from a lifetime of learning and doing things well. He builds exquisite log and timber frame cabins and is a furniture and cabinet maker, carver, and wooden boat restorer. Besides years of on the job learning, he went to the North Bennet Street School in Boston and has taken special historic preservation training in Norway and China. He has also taught in the St. Lawrence University Adirondack Semester program and at the Adirondack Experience and Adirondack Center for the Arts.

He's not only an extraordinary builder but he's been a patient teacher and supervisor for our summer staff and volunteers and has been an incredible spokesperson and ambassador for all ongoing work there. He likes nothing better than to talk about Santanoni and its ongoing work over a cup of tea and almost every visit with Michael includes an entertaining story, a good laugh, and a bit of wisdom.

Richard Longstreth
Professor, Architectural Historian, and Author

The idea of creating and publishing a guide to Adirondack architecture goes back more than a decade and grew out of AARCH's deep interest and intense curiosity in the broad and varied architectural heritage of the region. In everything we do, from our educational work to our advocacy, we have sought to shine a light on this diverse heritage and always imagined that an architectural guide to the region should do the same.

We were incredibly pleased to have found, in Richard Longstreth, a true kindred spirit, with a similar passion and curiosity for the variety of architecture and communities that we have. For six years Richard spent every summer working on this project, where he traveled thousands of miles, photographed hundreds of buildings, structures, and landscapes, met dozens of historians and explored most of the region's museums and collections - all to create the first comprehensive guide to the region's architecture.
To his passion and natural curiosity, Richard brings his substantial experience as an architectural historian and author, an impressive background in the preservation field. Richard is Professor of American Studies and director of the Graduate Program in Historic Preservation at George Washington University and is the author of more than a dozen books on American architecture and historic preservation. He has also spent 40 years exploring the Adirondacks as a seasonal resident and has his own individual sense of what is worthy of our attention, admiration, and good stewardship.

Richard's work in *A Guide to Architecture in the Adirondacks* is not just about the thrill of discovering new places. It's also about greater appreciation and understanding and, central to ARCH's mission, a greater individual and collective sense of stewardship for our architecture and communities, ultimately comparable to the affection and protection we feel towards the region's natural resources.

Wakonda Lodge (Lake George/Warren County)
Wiawaka Center for Women

Wiawaka Center for Women is the oldest and longest continuously operating retreat for women in the United States. Historically known as the Wiawaka Holiday House, the retreat began hosting women factory workers throughout the early 1900s. Over time the focus on women factory workers changed to include working women of all backgrounds. Mary Fuller founded the organization in 1903, after purchasing a tract of land from friends Spencer and Katrina Trask of Tuxedo Park, Saratoga Springs, and Lake George.

The Trasks had purchased an old estate called Crosbyside, They then built Wakonda Lodge, originally called Amitola, on this property as an artists' retreat—Georgia O'Keeffe was a registered guest artist. The Trasks first leased the property to Mary Fuller but later deeded it to her in 1903 for $1 and a bouquet of wildflowers. The Trasks went on to found Yaddo—one of America's most respected artists' retreats—in Saratoga Springs.

True to its initial use as a lodge for overnight guests, Wakonda Lodge contains ten guestrooms, a common area, kitchen, and two bathrooms. It is a rustic style building featuring board-and-batten siding, gothic arches, Tudor-style carved arches over the porch openings. Eventually the building fell into disrepair and was forced to close its doors as a guest house in 2003.

In 2006 efforts began to repair and restore Wakonda Lodge so that it could be reopened for use. The Wiawaka Board of Directors led a campaign to raise $300,000, which included grants from several sources, including The Wright Family Foundation; the Charles R. Wood Foundation; Senator Betty Little; and the New York State Environmental Protection Fund. The fundraising efforts were enough to allow for a sensitive restoration of the entire building, repairing the wood exterior as needed and finishing the wood exterior to match the existing dark brown color; stabilizing the existing stone foundation and conducting additional structural repairs and stabilizing the building; providing handicapped access; modernizing the building's interior to accommodate the needs of the organization; and refurbishing the guest rooms.

Wakonda Lodge reopened for use in 2013.

The AARCH Annual Preservation Awards Luncheon

AARCH celebrated these seven awardees on Monday, September 18, 2017 at our annual Awards Luncheon, which was held at Nettle Meadow Farm in Thurman. Over 75 people joined us for an afternoon of good food, wonderful company, and beautiful stories about the people behind these notable preservation projects throughout the Adirondack Park. Guests were treated to a delicious menu of local farm ingredients and specialty goat cheese, all prepared by our hosts at Nettle Meadow Farm. It was an inspirational afternoon for all of us.

Nettle Meadow Farm hosted us in their historic barn, which was recently rehabbed and transformed into a part-time gathering and event space. We awarded this space with an AARCH Preservation Award in 2016.

Photo Credits: Nancie Battaglia Photography

Call for Nominations for the 2018 AARCH Preservation Awards!

Please contact us at mary@aarch.org or give us a call at 518.834.9328

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Preserving the Architecture and Communities of the Adirondacks through Education, Action and Advocacy

Over 25 years ago, a small group of concerned individuals came together to save Camp Santanoni and begin AARCH's broad and effective work across the region.

Today, over 2,000 people are AARCH members, with the same focus and determination of its founders.

Everything we do — advocacy, education, and preservation — is supported primarily by your donations to our Annual Appeal and through membership contributions. ***Thank you for your continued support.***

- **Join AARCH or renew your membership**
- **Donate to the Annual Appeal**
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You can do this easily online at **www.aarch.org**. Or call the office, Monday-Friday from 8am-4pm at 518-834-9328. Email us at info@aarch.org. You can also mail a donation to **Adirondack Architectural Heritage,** 1745 Main Street, Keeseville, NY 12944

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