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Newsletter

ADIRONDACK ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE

North Country School & Camp Treetops: Douglas Haskell's Adirondack Legacy

North Country School, in the winter of 1942, through the lens of Ezra Stoller, architectural photographer and friend of Douglas Haskell. © Ezra Stoller/Esto.

Situated south of Lake Placid between the foot of Pitchoff Mountain and Round Lake, the campus jointly occupied by the North Country School and Camp Treetops is an extraordinary landscape. It does not appear that way upon first glance, however. The buildings are scattered and suffused by trees, shrubs, fields, and rocks in ways that suggest development over time with little thought given to the place as a totality. Yet closer inspection indicates randomness never entered the equation. The placement of buildings reflects careful attention not just to views, but to prevailing winds and to the sun's path year round. Likewise the manipulation of plant material fosters rich, unfolding sequences of broad vistas and small, intimate outdoor spaces that are likewise attuned to the climate as well as to the eye. All this work was indeed spanned several decades—not according to a grand design, but rather to a consistent, well-reasoned approach to design. And the results were indeed intended to look as if the process had been an unconscious one—as if it had all just happened. From the 1930s until the 1970s, this landscape was foremost the work of Douglas Haskell, who with his wife owned the property.

Long before he died in 1979, Haskell was hailed as one of the most important architectural journalists of the twentieth century. No one had worked in that sphere longer; few could match the

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From the President

Dear Members and Friends,

The unexpected perils of historic building ownership are apparent to all of us this past year with the massive destruction of so many communities and historic resources all along the Gulf Coast as a result of Hurricane Katrina. We are often grateful that we live in an area relatively free of such natural catastrophes but even in the Adirondacks unexpected and tragic events do indeed happen. The loss, in 2004, of the main barn at Camp Santanoni and the recent loss of the main building at the historic Lake Placid Lodge, both due to fires, remind us that even the most guarded and protected historic structures are but wood, brick, and stone and are very vulnerable.

Out of the ruins, however, new life does emerge. At Santanoni, while the fate of the barn remains in limbo, much progress was made on the restoration of the boathouse at the Main Camp, one of the most deteriorated buildings on the site. AARCH has also been able to celebrate that so many of region's fire towers have now been restored and, in 2005, we saw the rededication of the towers on Poke-O-Moonshine and Bald Mountain, both projects done under our auspices. We were among the many voices that helped to successfully advocate for the retention of the tower on St. Regis Mountain and are continuing to build a case for the preservation of the tower on Hurricane Mountain and Mt. Adams as well.

I am excited about several things in the year ahead. This spring, we will publish *Adirondack Churches: A History of Design and Building* by Sally Svenson. Sally is an excellent researcher and writer and this profusely illustrated book will help tell the fascinating story of how houses of worship in this region came to be designed and erected. Building on this theme, AARCH's biennial conference this year will be *Celebrating and Saving Historic Houses of Worship.* I also hope that our newly created endowment will continue to grow and that we will make progress finding a more permanent home for AARCH, a place where we can thrive and meet the ever changing needs and challenges of our mission. We will also offer another interesting series of tours, workshops, lectures, and special events and reach hundreds of other people through our technical assistance, partnerships, and work in public schools.

Most of all, I am delighted by the continued support we get from our membership and friends around the region. After all, it is the people that truly energize AARCH. As Frank Lloyd Wright once stated in an interview: "All fine architectural values are human values, else not valuable."

David Hislop

AARCH Welcomes New Member to its Board of Directors and Creates Advisory Council

At our June 25, 2005, Annual Meeting in Essex, **Joedda McClain** was elected to AARCH's Board of Directors. Joedda and her husband, Jay Latterman, restored and now operate The Woods Inn in Inlet. Prior to this, Joedda was an active preservationist, for more than twenty years, in Pittsburgh.

AARCH also created an Advisory Council, made up of people who will help AARCH in a variety of ways on a more informal basis. Some of these are former board members, while others are people we have gotten to know and rely on through our various projects and activities. Former board members include: Ted Caldwell (Bolton Landing), Mary Hotaling (Historic Saranac Lake), Sandra Hutchinson (Glens Falls), Paul Malo (Fulton), and Carl Stearns (Syracuse). They are joined by Janet Kennedy, Executive Director of Lakes to Locks Passage; Nick Muller, former director of the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation; and Lauren Murphy, an active preservationist in the Essex area.

We also want to thank Janet Null, Ted Comstock, and Sandra Hutchinson, who left the AARCH board in 2005, for their many years of service. All of them made contributions that have made AARCH a better, more effective organization.

North Country School and Camp Treetops *continued*

The main building's cylindrical tower (left), added in the 1946 expansion, houses the library reading room. The entrance drive (right) winds past vegetable gardens set within a naturalized landscape. Photographs by Richard Longstreth.

extent of his knowledge of architecture and urbanism, and fewer still could rival the degree to which he framed how these spheres were chronicled and critiqued to the profession and to the public as well. Two years after graduating from Oberlin College in 1923, Haskell began writing on architecture. In 1929 he began contributing to *Architectural Record*, then the leading journal of its kind and with which he remained associated for two decades. Soon Haskell also began to write the first regular columns on architecture for *The Nation*, a series that lasted nearly fifteen years. As senior editor of *Architectural Forum* from 1949 to 1964, he transformed it into the most insightful and wide-ranging periodical in the field—then and arguably since. Throughout these years, Haskell continued to write and to champion causes he considered important, including the preservation of Grand Central Station and of Frank Lloyd Wright's Robie House in Chicago.

Few people were also so well connected to leaders in the field. Haskell became a friend of Wright's when he prepared an article on the architect's work in 1928—a time when Wright was generally considered a has-been. Haskell was also close to architect Clarence Stein and planner Henry Wright, pioneering leaders in the call for reform in community design. Accolades bestowed upon him by colleagues suggest admiration was as pervasive as it was intense. The dean of a leading architecture school remarked that Haskell "has done as much to increase the stature of the profession and to elevate the professional image of architecture in American society as any person now living." Celebrated Washington architect Chloethiel Woodard Smith was no less effusive about "his brilliant and thought-provoking analyses," adding that, "we in the profession have benefited immensely from his profound understanding and tireless efforts…toward the realization of great architecture."

But while Haskell was a leader in the realm of architecture, like most critics he had neither professional training nor experience. He could write about, but he could not "do" buildings. This was an impediment in his opinion. The process of conceiving a design, of developing it to the stage where it could be constructed, and of overseeing its realization in concrete form were all important to understanding architecture. As he was becoming established as a journalist, Haskell probably did not have the money and certainly did not have the time to pursue a professional degree. But his remote, private world in the Adirondacks soon afforded him the opportunity to test his skills. To aid his venture, Haskell turned to an architect friend in New York, Henry Churchill. But the realized work leaves no doubt that it embodies Haskell's ideas and indeed his yearning to experiment in ways he believed could become models. Like so many private camps and other seasonal buildings in the region, Haskell's campus evolved as a singular and very personal statement while embodying concepts of broader value.

Haskell's introduction to the Adirondacks was serendipitous. To augment income from early writing employment, which was limited to the academic year, he joined the staff at Camp Treetops in 1925. Founded several years earlier by a Columbia University philosophy professor and his wife, Treetops was a

North Country School and Camp Treetops *continued*

According to an article by Walter Clark, the trellage shades the first-story while adding esthetic effect to Glass House, designed by architect Harwell Hamilton Harris. © Ezra Stoller/Esto.

pioneering children's camp that advocated the progressive ideas of educator John Dewey. Instead of the regimented, paramilitary structure that characterized many such institutions, Treetops had a more relaxed routine that centered on individual strengths and interests. Intellectual and artistic pursuits balanced physical ones. As a result, the staff was comprised mostly of mature adults who brought specific skills to the job. The camp was co-educational, accepted children of all religious beliefs, and later became racially integrated as well—unusual attributes for such an organization in the interwar decades. Haskell liked the job and the following year returned with his wife, Helen, whom he had known in college and who was a teacher at a progressive school in Connecticut. In 1929, the Haskells became the camp's directors and purchased the property four years later.

With their acquisition, the Haskells began to expand the scope of Treetops's agenda. The key figures in this program were Helen's sister Leonora and her new husband Walter Clark, both of whom were strongly committed to progressive education. Among other innovations, they introduced manual labor as part of regimen, using an existing farm on the premises to inculcate responsibility and self-reliance in children at an early age. Soon the Clarks began to contemplate starting a boarding school for children of pre-high-school age. Haskell offered them a portion of the 160-acre Treetops tract. Using the land more intensely would help defray costs and new facilities would enable the camp to expand. Designing those facilities would allow Haskell to "do" architecture, eliminating professional fees and achieving maximum richness of environment at minimal cost.

Perhaps as an economic measure, but certainly as a pedagogical one, the Clarks wanted a single building, where life and learning were integrated, where they and their staff lived under the same roof as their charges, the youngest of whom were six. Completed in the late fall of 1938, Haskell's wood-frame building was low-key in effect, somewhat domestic in character, but less assuming than many houses of its size. The scheme, Haskell wrote, was designed to "impart some of the rugged feeling of the woods," yet "[a]ll the elements have been reduced to their simplest terms." Part home, part work place, part base for a rugged outdoor life that was integral to the curriculum, the building's elements were "not…studied for their 'effect' but for their effectiveness in performing their functions well." Simplicity in effect was matched by intimacy and warmth—the latter literally augmented by enormous, shallow fireplaces designed to maximize heat dispersal. Fun entered the equation as well, with slides adjacent to staircases and an exterior "tower" for climbing.

The Clarks' reputation as educators and the demand for safe haven during World War II led to a rapid rise in enrollments. Haskell designed Little House (for staff and pupils) in 1942. Two years later a residence for the Clarks, Glass House, which again was shared with students, was built from designs by Harwell Hamilton Harris. Haskell seems to have regarded Harris as the premier modernist able to achieve a balance between avant-garde European tendencies and American ones as epitomized by the work of Frank Lloyd Wright. With the return of peace Haskell designed an addition to the main building, which more than tripled its space. In contrast to the earlier units, this was more expressionistic and

Architectural Record's Building Types Study No. 83
Progress in House Planning, November 1943

FLEXIBILITY UNDER THE ROOF by Douglas Haskell

Once wooden (or metal) arches are accepted for household use, there is opened a veritable new continent of structural exploration. By far the cheapest and simplest wooden arch is of course the round one made familiar in cantonments by the war. Such structure has been brought to high finish in strip steel by the Navy Bureau of Yards and Docks, and is being adapted to wood by the Pierce Foundation. Traditionally speaking, the barrel-roofed house is one of the oldest forms which this country can boast; during thousands of years the Indians bent saplings into arches to form the framework of their shelter. Technically speaking, if the ground arch is carried to full circle, it becomes a component of one of the most up-to-date of modern forms, the airplane fuselage. It has its drawbacks. Against its cheapness stands the fact that it produces inferior space next to the wall. Also, it involves a problem of public acceptance. American traditionalism is very single-tracked. If experience abroad has rendered our soldiers receptive to a multiplicity of forms such as the barrel-vaulted roofs of North Africa and Southern Italy, then all will be well for arched construction at home. But if the effect of foreign experience has been merely to deepen the yearning for the old Kentucky home, construction will have to reckon with milder departures.

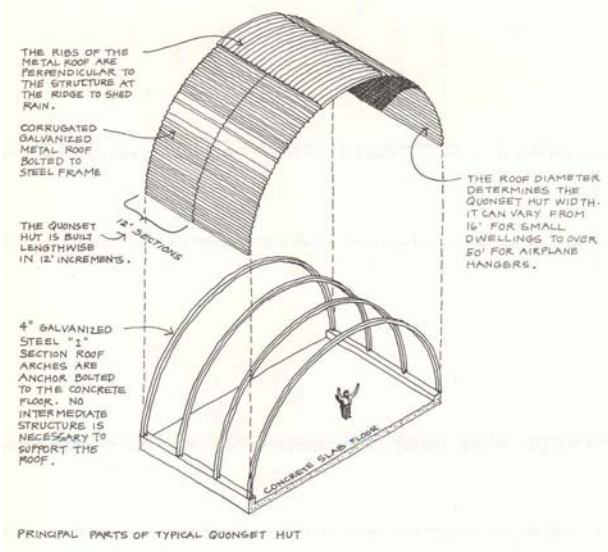

Illustration from *American Shelter* by Lester Walker.

seemingly willful in appearance, its mass terminating in a mock turret, its exterior walls sheathed in brainstorm siding and exposed cinder block with unstruck mortar oozing from its horizontal joints, and its main stair a fanciful, freeform piece of sculpture.

Yet as with its predecessor, this building's components are rigorously practical. The south elevation is given scale by iron grating that serves as an easily maneuvered fire escape and also as a screen for the summer sun. One side of the stairhall is comprised of what appears to be a giant, abstract bas-relief that functions as a climbing wall. The enclosed catwalk connecting the addition to the original building is lined with alcoves for the individual storage of outdoor gear that give scale and rhythm to an otherwise narrow, long passage. Haskell's ingenuity in maximizing the effect gained by utilitarian needs is neatly summarized in a modest dining-room extension to the main building at Treetops. Here a sloping roof allows the space beneath to capture prevailing lake breezes that are funneled out relatively high windows on the opposite side of the room. Below this bank of openings lies a high ledge for temporary placement of kitchenware. On the outside, this latter feature enables a copious recess for housing camping gear.

Haskell also took advantage of his work at school and camp as a means to test new construction techniques he believed had promise for widespread application. His 1942 Little House (and addition to the main building) Haskell experimented with continuous stud construction (with no cuts for windows) to speed construction and reduce costs. For the combination gym and performance room in the addition, Haskell used a surplus Quonset hut, whose curved profile and clearspan space, combining walls and roof in a continuous arch, Haskell believed should have widespread peacetime application. Several cabins at Treetops utilize novel, light-weight wood framing techniques of his own devising.

Later additions to the campus have been consonant with the spirit of economy, practicality, ingenuity, and tempered whimsy established by Haskell. Four dormitories added in 1967–68 from designs by Harris, echo the character of director's house (Glass House). Members of an advanced mathematics class designed and built a new sugarhouse for the making of maple syrup in 1974, that shares a bit of the expressionistic élan with the main building additions. A potting shed designed in the 1980s by ceramicist Paul Nowicki pays homage to Haskell as does the camp director's house of the same decade by Allan Clark, Walter and Leonora's son.

As a loose-knit ensemble developed over nearly five decades, these buildings are greatly enhanced by their setting. From the start, Haskell saw the importance of manipulating the landscape to further the institution's objectives. Prior to beginning work on the school he introduced 10,000 pine, cedar, and spruce trees to form a

North Country School *continued*

© Ezra Stoller/Esto.

wooded demarcation between it and the camp. Far from uniform, this plantation entails a series of differentiated clearings that would be used in summer months for the newly formed junior camp (which also utilized the school's building) and later for additions to the school itself. An extension of these woods forms a cocoon-like shelter for the director's house, interrupted only by the main drive, thus also becoming a verdant portal to the school's core area. The initial portions of that drive are punctuated by trees that shield it from parallel Route 73 and frame portions of the adjacent farm complex as well as transition points between farm and fields. Indeed, there are few prospects from which a careful ordering of natural elements is not apparent. No evidence suggests that Haskell ever developed a plan for the campus or worked with a landscape architect. Instead, decisions appear to have been made on an incremental basis, responding to circumstance, but with a consistent approach that led to a cohesive, if markedly understated, whole.

In its many facets, this enclave offers eloquent testament to the Walter Clarks' aim of providing "a situation where children can be happy, creative, and natural, but where techniques are systematically taught, and where children are given a fairly well-organized introduction to important areas of human knowledge." It is a place that nurtures living and working with "a mixed group of people, professional and non-professional, colored and white, gentile and Jewish, church-going and non-church-going, more talented and less talented—in all cases with a feeling of oneness, of unity, of striving for a world of freedom and liberty and opportunity and happiness." Clark's words of 1952 are no less resonant in the institution's programs today. In a distinctive and distinguished way the worldly-wise Haskell recognized how conducive his second home—in the Adirondacks—was to developing special forms of expression.

Richard Longstreth is director of the Graduate Program in Historic Preservation at George Washington University and an AARCH board member.

About Adirondack Architectural Heritage

Adirondack Architectural Heritage is the non-profit, historic preservation organization for the Adirondack Park with an educational mission to promote better public understanding, appreciation, and stewardship of the region's architecture and communities. We fulfill this mission by sponsoring tours and workshops, giving public slide presentations, offering technical assistance, and supporting local governments, organizations, and individuals in their preservation efforts. AARCH is a membership organization with 1000 members. Members receive a biannual newsletter, discounts on AARCH sponsored events and publications, and are invited to attend our annual meeting.

Become a Member!

Yes, I want to help preserve the Adirondack Park's historical and architectural legacy. Enclosed is my tax-deductible membership contribution.

___ *$30 Individual*
___ *$40 Family*
___ *$50 Supporting or Business*
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___ *$250 Patron*
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Please make checks payable to "Adirondack Architectural Heritage" and mail to: AARCH, Civic Center, Suite 37, 1790 Main Street, Keeseville, NY 12944

Books of Interest

The following recently published books explore some interesting aspects of the region's history and architecture. Most are available through local booksellers or the web sites listed below.

The Adirondack Cabin by Robin Obomsawin, with (photographs by Nancie Battaglia). Gibbs Smith, Publisher. www.gibbs-smith.com

This book celebrates and explores the architecture of small Adirondack cabins with particular attention to the designs and details that make them attractive and comfortable places in which to live and play.

Adirondack Fire Towers: Their History and Lore, the Northern Districts by Martin Podskoch. Purple Mountain Press. www.purplemountainpress.com

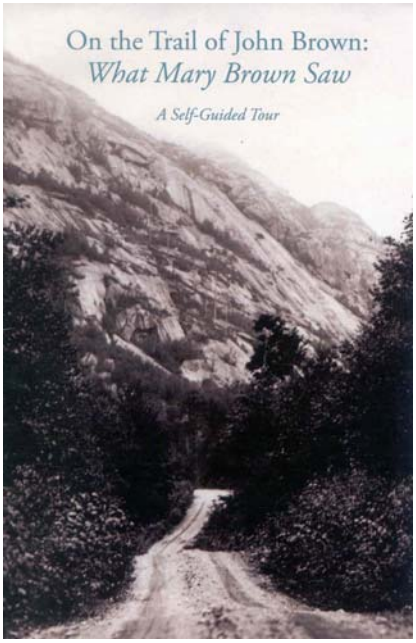
Marty Podskoch's third book on fire towers completes his ambitious project to record and document the work and stories of the observers and rangers associated with the fire towers in the Adirondack and Catskill Parks. A most engaging narrative about life in these high places.

Fort Montgomery: Through the Years by James P. Millard. America's Historic Lakes. www.historiclakes.org

This volume is a pictorial history of the great stone fort, built between 1844 and 1870, that guarded the international boundary with Canada in Rouses Point, New York, on Lake Champlain. A fascinating story of a remarkable place.

Gardens: Adirondack Style by Janet Loughrey. Down East Books. www.downeastbooks.com
Photographer Janet Loughrey tours of some of the finest and most imaginative gardens in the region. These come in all shapes, colors, and sizes—formal early 20th century gardens, compact and intimate gardens at lakeside rustic camps, and terraced gardens at mountainside homes.

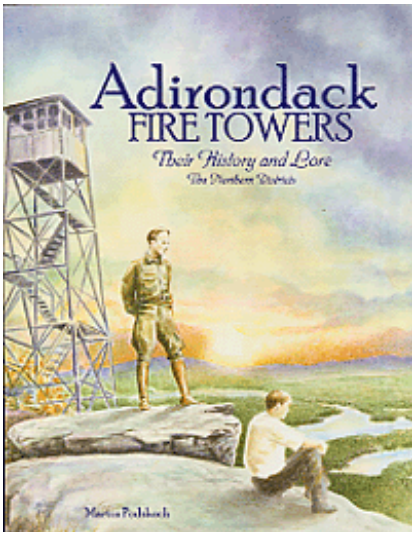
The Lost Radeau: North America's Oldest Intact Warship. Pepe Productions and Bateau Below, Inc. www.thelostradeau.com



This is a 57-minute long DVD documentary about the *Land Tortoise*, a unique French and Indian War shipwreck in Lake George. The seven-sided radeau was a colonial floating gun battery and, as the only surviving example of its class, is considered to be one of the nation's most historic shipwrecks.

On The Trail of John Brown: What Mary Brown Saw. Essex County Historical Society and Adirondack Architectural Heritage. www.adkhistorycenter.org

This self-guided tour follows the route taken by the funeral cortege of abolitionist John Brown between Vergennes, Vermont, and Lake Placid. The guide describes what Mary Brown would have seen along the route in 1859 and what of this remains today.



The Privately Owned Adirondacks by Barbara McMartin. Lake View Press.

Barbara McMartin, who died in 2005, traces the history of the region's larger private landowners, including hunting clubs, paper companies, and private preserves and examines the way in which they have influenced private land use in the Adirondack Park.

Tenth Annual Awards Celebration at The Woods Inn

On September 23, 2005, preservation enthusiasts from around the Adirondack Park gathered at the newly restored, historic Woods Inn in Inlet to honor and celebrate the 2005 Adirondack Architectural Heritage Awards. Seven awardees, including a county government, community groups, and individuals shared their stories of challenge and success, passion and purpose with a lively and engaged group of advocates and supporters. Selected by the AARCH Stewardship Committee, chaired by Al Combs, the awardees were:

Essex County
For a sensitive restoration of Floral Hall at the Essex County Fairgrounds in Westport

The Essex County Fairgrounds was constructed on its present site in 1881 after relocating four times since 1848. Floral Hall, completed in 1885, served as the centerpiece and pavilion for exhibition of local crafts and homegrown produce.

With the fair still active today, Essex County undertook extensive planning and restoration to preserve and enhance the surviving fairgrounds complex. The county dedicated funds and obtained grant support through several historic preservation programs including Preserve New York, the New York State Historic Barn Restoration Program, and the Adirondack North Country Community Enhancement Program. Additional funding came through legislative member support and the governor's office. The complex is now listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Bruce and Darcey Hale
For long-term stewardship of the Quarry Master's Cottage at Scragwood in Willsboro

AARCH's 2005 Awards recipients (bottom to top): Reverend Broyles and Trustees of the Northampton United Methodist Church at Fish House, Lyon Mountain Friends, Darcey and Bruce Hale, Dan Connell, the Robbins Family, "The Hemmer Team," and Paul and Rainy Littman.

Beginning in the 1830s, Solomon and Rhonda Clark owned and operated the Ligonier Quarry complex on Willsboro Point on the shore of Lake Champlain. The product, bluestone, depended on a good market economy facilitated by the Champlain Canal with contracts including the Brooklyn Bridge, New York State Capitol, and Champlain Canal. A large operation in its heyday, the complex not only included quarry related structures but self-supporting service buildings, and farms to sustain the resident community of workers.

The building now known as Scragwood served as the quarry master's office and residence. A combination of original board-and-batten and cedar clapboard siding as well as subtle Gothic Revival and Victorian details adorn this vernacular building. Bruce and Darcey Hale are now the keepers of the Clark legacy, diligent preservers of the building's appearance and the history contained within.

Friends of Lyon Mountain, Inc.
For a sensitive restoration of Lyon Mountain Mining and Railroad Museum in Lyon Mountain

Built in 1903 during prosperous mining times at Lyon Mountain, the former railroad station lay in disrepair after nearly 100 years. Concerned citizens recently rallied to secure the building's future.

The Friends of Lyon Mountain was formed to develop the former station into a museum of railroad and mining history. Within two years the group had received a grant from New York State, applied for National Register listing, secured a large donation of private funds, and incorporated as a nonprofit. Argus Architecture & Preservation and architect Tim McCarthy provided technical support with local craftsman Rich Douglas restoring the interior to its early 1900s appearance. Grant support from NYSCA and the state's Environmental Protection Fund will go toward the museum's further development.

Trustees of the Northampton United Methodist Church at Fish House
For long-term stewardship of the Northampton United Methodist Church at Fish House

The colonial community of Fish House, named for Sir William Johnson's 18th-century fishing retreat, was substantially flooded during the damming of the Sacandaga River valley in 1930. The church, built in the early 1860s, is one of few architectural survivors from this period.

The church with its surviving classic Greek Revival form and details is as built. An unwavering commitment to preserve its architectural integrity has been documented by generations of trustees. Major restorations in 1999 and maintenance to date have involved much discussion and creative decisions. The original tall, clear-glass divided light window panels, so often replaced, were retained with added storm panels. To please the lovers of stained glass, new memorial panels were suspended on the interior of the church, just in front of the historic windows. The church was recently deemed eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

The Robbins Family
For Main Street revitalization through sensitive restorations of The Chester Inn and Main Street Ice Cream Parlor in Chestertown

Over nearly twenty years, two generations of the Robbins Family have greatly influenced the historic preservation trend in Chestertown by progressively reusing existing Main Street buildings. These restored sites are part of a small National Register Historic District. The Chester Inn was built in 1837 in the Greek Revival style for Charles Fowler, a prosperous Albany merchant and banker. In the 1880s, Harry Downs purchased the Fowler estate and the adjacent Chester House operating them as the Adirondack Hotel. The Main Street Ice Cream Parlor was originally built in 1913, for Chester, Horicon, Hague, and Johnsburg students. When a new school opened in 1935, the old school lay idle. For a time it was used as a glove factory, later an antiques shop, and in 1960 the town hall.

The inn, lovingly restored by Bruce and Suzanne Robbins, is prominently located in downtown Chestertown. Helena and Bruce Robbins Jr., restored the school in 2005, relocating their Main Street Ice Cream Parlor to it from a previously restored Italianate storefront.

Our 2006 AARCH Awards Luncheon will be held at the Ausable Club in St. Huberts on Friday, October 6, 2006. Call AARCH early to make your reservations!

AARCH Awards (top to bottom): Main Street Ice Cream Parlor, Northampton United Methodist Church at Fish House, and Camp Veery boathouse.

Paul and Rainy Littman
For a sensitive restoration of Camp Veery on Big Moose Lake

Camp Veery was built in 1901 for Theodore Page and later owned by Minnie Maddern Fiske, renowned Broadway stage actress. The camp was designed by George Davidson and is attributed to builder Henry Covey. The Coveys—father and son Earl—known for their use of palisade construction and full-log designs at Big Moose hotels and camps such as those at Crag Point, The Waldheim, Covewood, and at the Big Moose Chapel, left behind a legacy of French inspired vernacular architectural technique.

Since purchasing the camp in 1999, the Littmans have restored and stabilized the camp's buildings. Their efforts include restored foundations, replacement of obsolete logs and siding, and extensive rebuilding of the boathouse cribbing.

Town of Webb Historical Association Historic Preservation Committee
For the rescue and sensitive restoration of Hemmer Cottage in Old Forge

In 1919, Bernard Hemmer moved to the Old Forge area, worked as a sign painter, and built a series of medieval revival style rental cottages each with a different European inspiration. In 1931 he built what is known today as Hemmer Cottage

In 2001, the cottage was threatened with demolition and it became clear that dedicated individuals were needed to secure a rescue. The Hemmer Cottage Preservation Team was born and it soon determined that moving the building was necessary. Linda and Sarah Cohen donated a parcel of land near the waterfront, Senator Ray Meier provided $25,000 in legislative support, and local sponsors pledged in-kind contributions. Following the building's relocation, the Town of Webb Historical Association agreed to serve as the nonprofit administrator and corporate sponsors and individuals collectively contributed. The "team" has now evolved into the Town of Webb Historical Association Historic Preservation Committee with Hemmer Cottage as their first project.

Help us spread the word about the good work going on in our region by nominating a project from your community. For more information on our awards program and to obtain a nomination form, contact AARCH or visit our website at www.aarch.org.

News & Notes

ALBANY: In 2005, the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation announced the funding of 576 open space, recreation, and historic preservation projects through the Environmental Protection Fund. Projects in the Adirondack region included:

- $80,000 to the Friends of Lyon Mountain for further work on the Lyon Mountain railroad depot, home of the Lyon Mountain Mining and Railroad Museum.
- $50,000 to the Town of Essex for conservation work on the Old Stone Church, which is used as a community center.

AUSABLE RIVER: AARCH remains concerned about the future of several historic Ausable River bridges, including the Old State Road Bridge (circa 1890) in Ausable Chasm, the Upper Bridge (1878) in Keeseville, and the Walton Bridge (circa 1890) in Keene. Essex County recently obligated funds to study the rehabilitation of the Upper Bridge and AARCH has offered to work with Clinton and Essex counties to study and find funding for the rehabilitation of these three National Register listed bridges.

ELIZABETHTOWN: In 2005, the Essex County Historical Society completed major improvements to its facility—the Adirondack History Center Museum. These include an elevator, handicap accessible bathrooms, and other conservation work on the former school building. Funding for the $500,000 project came from the Governor's Office for Small Cities, New York Scenic Byways Program, the NYSCA Capital Program, a private foundation, and a grant through Sen. Elizabeth Little's office.

For Sale: St. Gabriel the Archangel Catholic Church in Paul Smiths.

HADLEY: Work on the long beleaguered Bow Bridge, a rare 1885 lenticular truss, began in 2005, thanks to a $1.2 million Transportation Enhancement grant (TEA-21) to Saratoga County. Ryan-Biggs Associates, P.C. and D.A. Collins Construction Co., Inc. anticipate completion of the rehabilitation in the fall of 2006. AARCH was instrumental in advocating for the bridge's preservation and in acquiring the funds to study and rehabilitate it.

JAY: Honoring the creative genius of Arto Monaco—toymaker, artist, and theme park designer—is the purpose of the newly created Arto Monaco Historical Society. His theme parks include the Land of Makebelieve in Upper Jay and Storytown (now part of the Great Escape Splashwater Kingdom) near Lake George. For more information, visit www.artomonaco.org.

NEWCOMB: The year 2005 was a busy one at Camp Santanoni. Michael Frenette and crew nearly completed the restoration of the boathouse, one of the camp's most deteriorated buildings. Plans were also developed by Argus Architecture & Preservation for major conservation work, to be completed in 2006, on the Gate Lodge and West Cottage. Funding for these projects came from the NYS Environmental Protection Fund, a federal Save America's Treasures grant, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, the Town of Newcomb, and the Friends of Camp Santanoni.

LAKE PLACID: On December 15, 2005 a fire destroyed the main building, a circa 1882 structure, at the Lake Placid Lodge. The Garrett Group, which owns and manages the resort, has announced its intention to rebuild.

OLD FORGE: Since 2000, six cabins at the Adirondack League Club have been destroyed by arson. In 2005, two camps (Swanson Dam and Otter Brook Camps) were burned. The ALC has offered a $100,000 reward for information about the fires.

PAUL SMITHS: The Diocese of Ogdensburg recently announced its intention to sell St. Gabriel the Archangel Church. Dedicated in 1896, it was built primarily to serve the Catholic employees at Paul Smiths Hotel. In 1998, AARCH gave an award to the congregation for its meticulous restoration of the building. A shrinking congregation has now forced the church to close and the diocese to sell it. For more information, call Father Thomas Kornmeyer at (518) 891-4616.

The Wells House in Pottersville has been restored by Paul and Shirley Bubar.

Reid Nurses' Home, one of two buildings recently demolished at the former Trudeau Sanitarium, now home to the American Management Association in Saranac Lake.

POTTERSVILLE: After years of neglect and deterioration, the Wells House (circa 1845 hotel), has reopened its doors. It now has ten guest rooms, a restaurant, and coffee shop. The restoration project was completed by owners Paul and Shirley Bubar who are nominating the building to the National Register of Historic Places. Visit www.wellshouseny.com for more information.

SARANAC LAKE: We were saddened to learn this winter that two National Register listed buildings at the former Trudeau Sanitarium have been demolished by the American Management Association (AMA). These include: the Reid Nurses' Home (1930), a handsome three-story, Colonial Revival style structure and the elegant Mellon Memorial Library (1903-04). The good news from this front is that AMA is in the process of restoring Baker Memorial Chapel (1896), a rustic stone building designed by architect William L. Coulter.

TAHAWUS: The Open Space Institute's current plan for its 10,000 acre Tahawus Tract has lots of good news in it for historic structures. The plan, currently being reviewed by the Adirondack Park Agency, calls for 6,813 acres to be transferred to the Forest Preserve and about 3000 acres to remain as working timberland. To be preserved, in OSI or other private ownership, is the fire tower and observer's cabin on Mt. Adams; the Masten House; a rustic cabin on Upper Preston Pond; and a 210 acre historic area that includes the McIntyre Furnace, McNaughton Cottage, and other buildings associated with the hamlet of Adirondac and the Tahawus Club.

New Properties on the National Register of Historic Places

In 2005, several properties in the Adirondack region were listed on the State and/or National Register of Historic Places. These include:

- Ausable Club, St. Huberts (Essex County)
- Essex County Fairgrounds, Westport (Essex County)
- First Union Presbyterian Church of Mountainview (Franklin County)
- Mt. Adams Fire Tower (Essex County)
- St. Regis Mountain Fire Tower (Franklin County)

For more information about listing a property on the National Register, see www.cr.nps.gov/nr

We welcome items about architecture, historic preservation, local history, and related subjects for *News & Notes*. Please let us know what's going on in your area.

This publication and much of AARCH's good work is made possible, in part, with funds from the New York State Council on the Arts, a State agency. We are also thankful for a generous contribution from Exhibit Planning and Management International, Inc., of Albany in support of this publication.

AARCH's Annual Raffle and Silent Auction are Huge Successes

We extend our appreciation to all who participated.

On October 15, the winning tickets were drawn for our ninth annual raffle. The winners were:

Ben Breckenridge
Two days at The Point

Romayne Hartshorn
A week at Camp Uncas

Andrew and Jennifer Glass
A two-night stay at The Hedges on Blue Mountain Lake

The raffle made more than $8,000 and drew additional attention to our important work. Many thanks to Howie Kirschenbaum at Camp Uncas and Pat Benton at The Hedges for donating prizes.

We also held a very successful silent auction at our benefit event at Wenonah Lodge on August 27. Thanks to the following individuals and businesses who donated items for this event:

William Evans
Jay Higgins III
David Hislop
David and Randi LaBar • Morningside Camps
Marion Jeffers • The Birch Store
Howie Kirschenbaum • White Pine Camp
Jeffrey Sellon
Milton and Mary Sigel
Silver Bay Association
Linda and Randolph Stanley • Wellscroft Lodge

SAVE THESE DATES

AARCH Special Events in 2006

- Annual Meeting, Saturday, June 17
  Beth Joseph Synagogue, Tupper Lake

- AARCH Awards Luncheon, Friday, October 6
  Ausable Club, St. Hubert's

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