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Newsletter

ADIRONDACK ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE

Bridges, Bridges, Bridges

A postcard view of the Lake Champlain Bridge in the early 1930s. The future of this regional landmark and nationally significant span is in jeopardy as the New York State Department of Transportation studies its replacement or rehabilitation options.

In 2006, AARCH celebrated the preservation and rehabilitation of two historic bridges—the 1885 Bow Bridge over the Sacandaga River in Hadley and the 1857 Covered Bridge over the Ausable River in Jay. These successes came after years of advocacy and planning by AARCH, other organizations, municipalities, state agencies, as well as hundreds of interested individuals.

In this issue of the *Newsletter* we look at the significance of these bridges and how they have been saved. We also look at why many of our historic bridges are in jeopardy and why AARCH's role as their primary advocate is so important.

Bridges Saved

On August 25, 2006, an enthusiastic crowd turned out for the official reopening of the Bow Bridge. Present were elected officials, representatives of the nonprofit organizations that had fought hard to save the beleaguered bridge, school children, and hundreds of local people who had come to celebrate

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From the President

Dear Members and Friends,

The New Year often heralds a time of change and nevermore so than this year. As Heraclitus proclaimed "It is in changing that things find purpose."

Change has come to the AARCH staff, as our Program Director Paula Dennis left at the end of 2006 to continue working in the historic preservation field as an independent consultant. Paula began with AARCH in 2000 and, during her six years, developed our annual tour program to be among the most widely recognized of our many activities and accomplishments. Many of you have watched her mature and then excel in this role and have shared many adventures with her, exploring everything from barns to lost settlements to rustic camps. Paula's tenacious efforts on behalf of the Bow Bridge in Hadley are well-known and, in conjunction with our Stewardship Committee, she also managed our annual awards program. Her technical assistance work also benefited dozens of people and projects throughout the region. We thank Paula for her years of fine work and wish her every success in this new phase of her career. Our new Program Director, Ellen Ryan, joins the staff in February.

AARCH Welcomes Howard Lowe to its Board of Directors

At our June 25, 2006, Annual Meeting at the Beth Joseph Synagogue in Tupper lake, **Howard Lowe** was elected to AARCH's Board of Directors. Howard currently manages the Technical Assistance Center at SUNY Plattsburgh and had a thirty-year career in public and commercial broadcasting. Among his proudest accomplishments is *If These Walls Could Speak*, a documentary that explored Omaha's history through its historic buildings.

We also wish to thank **Ellen Phelan**, who left the AARCH board in 2006, for her many years of service and for helping AARCH become a better, more effective organization.

We are saddened to report that long-time AARCH board member Al Combs passed away in January. He was an active and engaging part of the AARCH family and, in particular, helped shape and steer our annual awards program. See Jane Mackintosh's remembrance on the following page.

This was the first year that AARCH planned, sponsored, and ran a week-long architectural tour of the Adirondacks. The tour we put together for the Berkeley (California) Architectural Heritage Association in September received great reviews, was a very successful fundraiser, and gave us invaluable West Coast publicity. We'll likely offer similar outings every other year. Thanks especially to board member Jeffrey Sellon, who did so much to make this such a success.

One of the most exciting things in the year ahead is our anticipated purchase of the former Ausable Horse Nail Company complex along the Ausable River in Keeseville. These two historic stone buildings are destined to be transformed into the new Adirondack Architectural Heritage Center, at which we can offer lectures and programs, have larger office spaces, create an exhibition area, and possibly provide some rental spaces. All this is certainly NOT water over the dam yet, so AARCH members and supporters need keep their interest peaked and their ever-ready checkbooks open.

Thus, in 2007 we will offer an ambitious and far ranging program of tours, workshops, and lectures; move forward with creating a new home for AARCH; provide leadership on several important advocacy fronts; offer all kinds of useful technical assistance; work with our partners at Camp Santanoni; recognize exemplary work through our awards program; and simply be there for anyone looking to further our mission in their community. Be sure to attend our annual meeting at Floral Hall at the Essex County Fairgrounds in Westport on June 9, the awards luncheon at the Lake George Club on October 12, one of two benefit events this summer, or some of our other offerings.

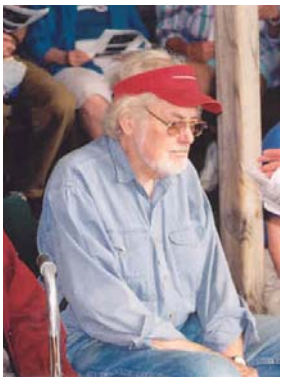
Change has its more folksy aspects, and as that ever-folksy Will Rogers declared "Even if you are on the right track, you will get run over if you just sit there." We here at AARCH have no intention of ever just sitting there!

David Hislop

President

Remembering Al Combs

On January 13, 2007, AARCH lost a loyal and passionate member when Al Combs died at his home in North Creek at age 79. A member, with his wife Linda, since 1996, Al joined the board of directors in 2003 and chaired the Stewardship Committee during the past three years. Known to be both thoughtful and humorous, Al was also one of the most colorful yet modest members of the board. When he passed away, many of us were surprised to learn of his wide-ranging and unusual accomplishments.



Born and raised in Portland, Oregon, Al was a mountaineer during most of his life. He was a veteran of numerous climbs of Mount Hood and Mount Rainier, as well as being an organizer and guide of hiking trips to New Zealand for the Sierra Club, and to visit and serve Sir Edmund Hillary's hospitals in Nepal. Twice during Nepal trips in the 1960s, Al trekked to the Mt. Everest base camp. After he and Linda married, they guided Sierra Club trips in the Canadian Rockies.

Al served in the Pacific theater during World War II, then was recalled to Navy duty in 1950 during the Korean War. He went on to be employed by Naval Intelligence for 23 years, after which, in the 1970s, he moved to the Rome, New York, area to work as Special Agent in charge of the Defense Investigative Service until retirement in 1981.

Al and Linda met while both lived in Rome: each had an apartment, but Al "wanted to buy a derelict house," says Linda, and fix it up. Their first of what was to become six renovation projects over the years was an old farm house in Barneveld, Oneida County. The place had several out-buildings including a barn plus the former Prospect railroad depot, and the depot's two-seater outhouse (for men and women), both of which had been moved across the road into their yard some years before. Of their other projects, two were camps with no electricity, including one on Indian Lake. Their last project, the 1930 Arts and Crafts house in North Creek where they lived, was completed in the late 1990s.

Al and Linda became antiques dealers after retirement, experts in antique tools, toy and model trains, and New York state pottery among other things. Al also had a lifelong interest in flying and had a commercial FAA license. He was a member of the American Alpine Club; the WyEast Climbers and Mazamas of Mt. Hood; a volunteer at the Adirondack Museum; and active in the North Creek planning board, library, and Rotary. He is survived by his wife, three children, seven step-children, and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

We will all miss Al. Donations in his memory can be made to High Peaks Hospice, 286 Glen Street, Glens Falls, NY 12801; or the Town of Johnsburg Library, North Creek, NY 12853; or to AARCH.

Jane Mackintosh
AARCH Vice President

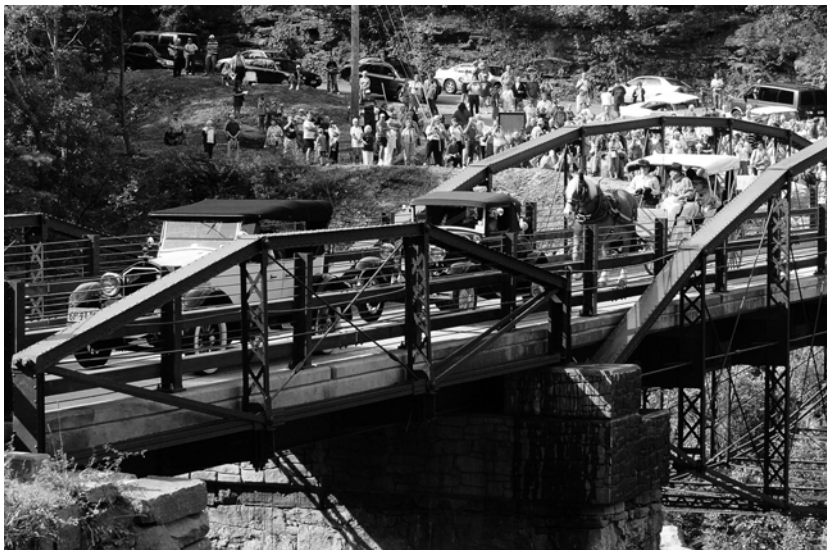
Welcoming Ellen Ryan

In February, Ellen Ryan joins the AARCH staff as our new program director. We chose Ellen after a nation-wide search that yielded lots of interest and many qualified candidates.

Ellen has earned a master of science degree in history, with a concentration in historic preservation from Southeast Missouri State University. The title of her thesis is *Redefining America: Artists, Society and the Post Office Murals and Sculpture of Southeast Missouri, 1939–1942.* During her time in graduate school, she wrote National Register nominations, was a graduate assistant at the Kent Library Special Collections and Archives, assisted with two exhibits, was a docent at the Cape River Heritage Museum in Cape Girardeau, Missouri, and did volunteer community service work. Ellen's summer internship was at the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission where she co-wrote *Guided by Design: A Manual for Creating Guidelines.* This guide was developed to promote better façade designs for downtown revitalization projects.

Prior to her graduate work, she received a bachelor's degree in fine arts from the University of New Mexico and then worked for eight years, in the security department, at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. She is a native of Queensbury and has had a long affection for the Adirondack region.

Bridges, Bridges, Bridges *continued*



The reopening of the Bow Bridge
Nathan Pallace photo courtesy the Post-Star

the rescue of Hadley's landmark structure and the return of an historic transportation link in the village. With all the fanfare, it is easy to lose sight of how difficult it was to accomplish this. The bridge had been closed for 23 years and Saratoga County had made the decision to demolish it. As often happens, the imminent loss of this local, National Register, landmark created a groundswell of support for its preservation, from school children, bridge historians and experts, organizations like AARCH, and many others. AARCH played an instrumental role in leading the advocacy fight, in finding funds through the Preservation League of New York State to study its rehabilitation, and in writing the $1.2 million grant for the county that paid for its rehabilitation. In the end, it was public support and enthusiasm that drove the project and a willingness by local and state governments to be open to its preservation.

The Jay Covered Bridge (1857) is among the region's best known historic bridges, but active use, including heavy truck traffic, and deterioration caused its closure and removal in 1997. The fate of the bridge caused a sometimes polarizing, debate between different local interests. Eventually a solution was reached whereby a new bridge was built, downstream from the Covered Bridge site, to carry vehicular traffic and the Covered Bridge was restored and placed back in its original location. It is the centerpiece of a public park and is open for pedestrian use only. Both project were completed in 2006. Like with the Bow Bridge, it was only after an inordinate amount of time and effort that the historic bridge was restored. It begs the question why is it so difficult to preserve such significant landmarks.

There are other success stories, as well. In 2001, the Edinburg Historical Society restored the 1879 Copeland Covered Bridge as the centerpiece of a small park. The *Save Our Bridge Committee* in Clifton successfully championed the rehabilitation of a small metal truss bridge to carry pedestrian traffic. The Wanakena footbridge, a much beloved (National Register) structure, was nearly taken out by an ice jam in 2000 but was quickly repaired by Town of Clifton and returned to daily use.

Bridges in Danger

We wish all the news were this good. Unfortunately, we are losing historic bridges, here and elsewhere, at an alarming rate. Best estimates are that, country-wide, over half of the historic bridges have been destroyed during the last twenty years.

Along the Ausable River, three National Register listed bridges are closed to traffic, with no plans to rehabilitate and reopen them. They are: the Upper Bridge in Keeseville, an 1878 Pratt through truss span, the oldest of this type in New York State; the Old State Road Bridge (circa. 1890) in Ausable Chasm; and the Walton Bridge (circa. 1890) in Keene, a rare lenticular truss span. There is also a controversy over the planned replacement of the Otis Lane Bridge (1914) in Elizabethtown.

Of great concern to AARCH and other preservationists in both New York and Vermont, is the fate of the Lake Champlain Bridge, completed in 1929 between Crown Point and Chimney Point, Vermont. Designed by the Boston firm of Fay, Spofford and Thorndike, it is a 2,900 foot continuous truss span and may be the earliest example of this type of design in the United States. Beyond its unique place in American bridge engineering, it is also an important regional landmark and has appeared in numerous promotional pieces about the region. In 2006, the New York State Department of Transportation announced that it would study both the rehabilitation and replacement of this bridge. AARCH has joined with other advocates, in both states, to encourage its preservation. Rehabilitation appears to have several distinct advantages. Of all the alternatives being considered, it is the least expensive; involves the least amount of environmental review; would be the quickest to accomplish; and would involve the least amount of traffic disruption. AARCH and its partners will continue to make a case for this alternative. We've also sponsored its nomination to the National Register and its designation as a National Historic Landmark. We also convinced the Preservation League to New York State to place it on their annual *Seven to Save* list.

Many historic bridges are still able to serve our present-day transportation needs, given appropriate repair, maintenance, and flexibility in interpreting applicable standards. Certainly no one can argue that outstanding and representative examples of our nation's historic bridges shouldn't be preserved. Allied with other concerned parties, AARCH hopes to be at the forefront of these efforts now and, likely, for years to come.

Types of Regional Bridges

The following are brief descriptions of the major types of historic bridges found in the Adirondack region. Those listed on the National Register of Historic Places are indicated by NR in parentheses. The largest concentration of bridges is the fifteen National Register listed bridges over the Ausable River, many of which are featured on our annual *Historic Bridges of the Ausable River* tour.

Stone Arch Bridges (1843–1888). The load on these bridges is carried through the masonry arch into the abutments and piers. The bridge works entirely in compression. This type is found among the oldest bridges in the world. Several are found in our region, including: the 110-foot Stone Arch Bridge (NR) in Keeseville built in 1843; the two-span Frasier Bridge (NR, left), in Ticonderoga built in 1876 and slated for restoration this year; and the stone bridge over Beecher Creek in Edinburg built in 1888.

Wood Truss Bridges (1857–1879). American wood truss bridges use a combination of horizontal, vertical, and diagonal components to create a rigid frame to carry the roadway. Some elements are in compression and some are in tension. More sophisticated wood truss bridges also used integrated arches and wrought iron tension rods. The Jay Covered Bridge is a Howe truss, built in 1857 by George Burt. The Copeland Covered Bridge (NR, left) is a Queen Post truss built in 1879 by Arad Copeland to connect two parts of his farm separated by Beecher Creek. It has recently been restored as the centerpiece of a lovely public park by the Edinburg Historical Society.

Metal Truss Bridges (1878–1941). Metal truss bridges work on the same engineering principles as wood truss bridges but, because of the properties of the material, can be longer, stronger, and lighter. The earliest metal truss bridges used cast and wrought iron members and extant examples are quite rare. The 1878 Upper Bridge in Keeseville (NR) is one of only about seventy-five of this type in the country. Also crossing the Ausable River, are eight other National Register listed metal truss bridges, including the circa. 1890 Old State Road Bridge in Ausable Chasm; two former Delaware & Hudson railroad bridges (1915) near Port Kent; the Walton Bridge, a rare circa. 1890 lenticular bridge (left) in Keene; three privately-owned steel truss bridges in Keene Valley (Beer, Slater, and Ranney bridges); and the 1941 Carpenter's Flats Bridge near Ausable Chasm. The 1885 Bow Bridge in Hadley is the only surviving semi-through lenticular truss bridge in the country. The Otis Lane Bridge in Elizabethtown was built in 1914. The longer and grander examples of this type include the Lake Champlain Bridge (1929) in Crown Point and the Batchellerville Bridge (1930) across part of Great Sacandaga Lake.

Suspension Bridges (1888–1923). All three of the historic suspension bridges in the region were built for pedestrian use. The Swing Bridge (NR) in Keeseville was built by the Berlin Bridge Company in 1888; the Wanakena Footbridge (NR) over the Oswegatchie River was built by the Rich Lumber Company in 1902 to connect portions of their operations; and the footbridge to Knollwood camp, also over the Oswegatchie River near Wanakena, was constructed in 1923 to provide access to a family compound.

Concrete Arch Bridges (1913–1934). Around 1900, engineers began using reinforced concrete for bridge construction. In the Adirondack region, most examples of this type wee faced with stone, as a way of making them fit better into their surroundings. These include the two-span Wilmington Bridge (NR) built in 1935, the bridge over Bog River Falls (left) near Tupper Lake, and the privately built 1913 Notman Bridge (NR) in Keene Valley.

Other Bridge Types. The Ausable Chasm Bridge (NR, left) is a 222-foot steel arch bridge built in 1934. It employed locally quarried sandstone and granite for its approach spans and abutments. The Durant Memorial Bridge (right) was built in 1891 by William West Durant in honor of his father, Thomas C. Durant, between Eagle and Blue Mountain Lakes. It is a steel beam bridge, with highly decorative rustic arches and railings, and stone abutments.

AARCH Holds Successful Raffle and Silent Auction

On October 16, 2006, the tickets were drawn for our tenth annual raffle and the winners were:

Bernice Douglas
A week for two at Camp Uncas
Nancy Johnson
A weekend for two at White Pine Camp
Seymour Siegal
A two-night stay at The Hedges on Blue Mountain Lake
Nancy Johnson
A weekend for two at Greystone in Essex
Ken Murray
A two-night stay for two at Wellscroft in Upper Jay
Richard Prime
A two-night stay for two at Morningside Camps in Minerva
Chris Covert
A two-night stay at a riverside cabin in North Creek
Karen Beckert
A weekend for two at Silver Bay on Lake George
Janet Null
An overnight for two at The Woods Inn in Inlet

The raffle brought in more than $8,300 and drew additional attention to our important work. Many thanks to Howie Kirschenbaum (Camp Uncas and White Pine Camp), Pat Benton (The Hedges), David Hislop (Greystone), Linda Stanley (Wellscroft), David and Randi LaBar (Morningside Camps), Darren and Lisa Tracy (North Creek cabin), the Silver Bay Association, and Joedda McClain (The Woods Inn) for donating prizes.

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We also held a very successful silent auction at our benefit event at Eagle Nest, Blue Mountain Lake, on August 2. We thank the following individuals and businesses who donated items for this event:

Marion Jeffers • The Birch Store
Meredith Johnston
Old Adirondack, Inc.
Fort Ticonderoga
Nancy and Norman Howard • The Wawbeek
Phebe Thorne
Donna Pohl • Raquette Lake Navigation Company
Camp Sagamore
Mark Wilcox • Summer Antiques
Darren Tracy
Marty Podskoch

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.

___ *$35 Individual*
___ *$50 Family*
___ *$50 Supporting or Business*
___ *$100 Sponsor*
___ *$250 Patron*
___ *$500 Benefactor*
___ *$1000 Angel*
___ *Other*

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NAME

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ADDRESS

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CITY

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STATE/ZIP CODE

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TELEPHONE *EMAIL*

Please make checks payable to "Adirondack Architectural Heritage" and mail to: AARCH, Civic Center, Suite 37, 1790 Main Street, Keeseville, NY 12944

From the Archives

From time to time, we feature reprinted articles and commentaries from late 19th– and early 20th– century journals, magazines, and other publications, items that might be of interest to our readers. This piece, from which we have chosen an excerpt, originally appeared in *The Independent*, June 6, 1912.

Vacation Homes in the Woods

By Robert H. Van Court

But why not have a permanent camp upon the wooded shore of some lake or close to the ocean or upon some mountain side? The necessary ground, perhaps in the heart of a forest, may be had almost for the asking, and the buildings may be acquired or added to gradually. Let us suppose that one season has been spent by a family in tents or the most primitive of shacks, and that so much pleasure has been the result that a permanent camp seems to be the logical outcome. It may be that close acquaintance with one particular spot has made it seem so delightful that it has been selected as the site for an established summer home. The ground may be either leased or purchased for possession gives new zest to the summer camp. The ground having been secured, the family will no doubt spend many delectable hours of long winter evenings in the somewhat critical study of camp architecture. All the available books on the subject will receive examination, together with many magazines showing pictures of camp life and the structures in which it is enjoyed.

Real-photo postcard by H.M. Beach, circa 1915. Courtesy Ted Comstock

A log house is always a delight, for, besides its picturesqueness, a certain glamor of romance is suggested by its very name. Most of the nation's pioneers and heroes were born in log cabins or lived in them, and in planning a home close to Nature, none seems quite so suitable as a cabin built of logs. The cost of a house of logs, built in the old fashioned way, would be excessive, however. Thus the choice narrows down to a house of boards or shingles, or one built of "sheathing," covered with "slabs," which are merely the outer edges of logs themselves sawed up into lumber. Both these varieties have their advocates. There is something particularly attractive about a house built in the woods made of rough lumber or of shingle stained any of the colors of Nature which make it fit into the surroundings amid which it is placed and such a building is especially successful when built with a stone chimney or when set upon a foundation of stone which will usually be found close at hand. The "slab" house, on the other hand, is a near approach, in appearance, to the log cabin, while its cost is very much less. It is really a house built of sheathing, to which the slabs are nailed, either horizontally or vertically. The slabs used may be narrow, and applied merely as "battens" over the joints between the wide boards which cover the house. If such a treatment be employed the wide, rough planks may be stained gray, green or dark red, and the effect of the slabs, with their rough bark, against any of these colors, is particularly good. Of course, a huge fireplace must be built in the living room of the camp, and if the chimney be of stone and built "outside" against the wall, the camp will possess a decorative feature of the first importance.

The house should be placed where the most inspiring view may be had and upon well drained ground, which, if possible, should slope off in several directions. One of the chief requisites of a successful camp is a broad veranda, which is as important during the warm days and evenings of summer, as the open fire about which the family and guests gather during cooler weather. Some inexpensive camps are provided with a veranda used as an out-of-door sleeping room, and screened with wire netting and awnings so hung upon a curtain pole that they may be drawn at will.

The foundation of the house will no doubt be very simple. Most camps are built upon strong wooden posts—preferably of cedar—or set upon large and heavy stones placed firmly on the ground. The building of a camp requires but a short time, for rarely is there either plastering or plumbing to be done, and all the labor required for the building of any but the most elaborate camp may be had in any locality, however remote. A month should be ample for erecting the buildings and preparing them for occupancy and for arranging the household appointments. A permanent camp will probably be furnished with such simple fittings as may be left in place from year to year, the supply being added to gradually. It would all the same be a great mistake to expect in the heart of the woods all the conveniences and comforts of city life. The most successful camps are those whose occupants bring to their life in the wilderness a good-humored determination to do without many things to which they are accustomed—and it is surprising how few things are, after all, vitally necessary.

Eleventh Annual Awards Celebration at the Ausable Club

On October 6, preservation enthusiasts from around the Adirondack Park gathered at the Ausable Club in St. Huberts to honor and celebrate the 2006 Adirondack Architectural Heritage Awards. Six awardees 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:

Doug Waterbury and Bob Reiss
For long-term stewardship of Santa's Workshop, North Pole, New York

Lake Placid businessman Julian Reiss and two colleagues founded Santa's Workshop in Wilmington in 1949. The theme park was designed by the Upper Jay artist, Arto Monaco, who chose a European inspired, whimsical approach for Reiss's concept buildings, which had steep roofs, log construction, and a bright color palette. The village was built primarily by Harold and Fred Fortune. Santa's Workshop flourished during 1950s and 1960s when many theme parks were built and as young families took to the road to see and experience these and other attractions of the region. Bob Reiss and his family sustained their father's dream through the years, citing the dedication of the community and staff for making it through the changing times. Through its successes and challenges the theme park survived when many closed. Bob reminded us "until recently we were fortunate to have Arto available to keep us on the right track." And with the commitment of new owner Doug Waterbury, the park looks forward to many more years of instilling joy in the hearts of children.

Santa's Workshop

Some of AARCH's 2006 Award recipients (left to right): Paul and Shirley Bubar, Gary Heurich

Chris Covert, Fred Schneider, and Web Parker
For the restoration of the former Starks Building, Saranac Lake

In 2004, these three Saranac Lake businessmen formed Renaissance Development Group, LLC, to purchase and restore what they saw as Saranac Lake's most important downtown building, the former Geo. L. Starks & Co. Building (1906). The building's façade had been boarded up and the size of its windows greatly reduced. They took advantage of funding from the Village of Saranac Lake's $200,000 New York Main Street Program grant, which provided funding incentives for twenty-two downtown buildings. Renovation of the Starks Building, part of the Berkeley Green National Register Historic District, began in March 2005. Fortunately much of the original facade remained beneath the boarded exterior. The project was completed in December 2005.

Todd Kemp, Brian Boyer, Tim Maloney, and Robert Mayket
For the restoration of Twin Pines Boathouse on Loon Lake

Twin Pines Boathouse designed in 1905 by Syracuse architect Henry Wilkinson was illustrated in Hermann Valentin von Holst's 1913 publication *Country and Suburban Homes of the Prairie School Period*. Prairie School architects favored harmony — for both the user and the landscape. Typical features included wide, low pitched roofs over sets of windows. Interior spaces included Arts and Crafts features as well as furnishings. When purchased by Todd Kemp and his partners in 2004, the main preservation challenge was the foundation. They discovered the cobble-stone chimney as well as the building rested on wood cribbing. The partners stabilized the building and reconstructed the crib system. Work was also done on the interior and the exterior was painted a subtle green with rust trim.

Former Starks Hardware Building

Bill Zullo
For the long-term stewardship of the 1870 Bed and Breakfast in Indian Lake

The Sherman Family from Glens Falls built the house in 1870 along with its associated farm buildings typical of a working dairy — main barn, chicken house and other outbuildings. Charles and Lola Philo purchased the property in 1900 and later sold it to William and Lillian Cross, Bill Zullo's grandparents, in 1920. Bill inherited the property in 1991. The farmhouse remains intact with a few modifications from the 1920s. When Bill inherited the property the house was in need of major maintenance including a new roof , foundation work, and porch repairs. Replication of the original porch posts was required, carefully followed the original ones. Now operated as a bed and breakfast, Bill maintains the tradition started by his grandmother in 1945 when she offered travelers rooms for rent.

Gary Heurich
For the restoration of the historic light at Split Rock Lighthouse in Essex

The original Split Rock Lighthouse was constructed in 1838 by Peter Comstock. In 1867, its tower was replaced with the existing 39-foot octagonal tower built of blue limestone quarried at nearby Ligonier Point in Willsboro. The light was eventually replaced by an acetylene powered beacon on an adjacent steel tower in 1928. At that time, the property was sold as government surplus. The Heurich family purchased the property circa. 1959 and, since then, have lovingly cared for the lighthouse and property. In 2001, the Coast Guard initiated a project to upgrade or replace the navigational lights on Lake Champlain. Gary Heurich joined others in an effort to relight the historic lighthouses by inviting local residents and concerned organizations to support this alternative and by circulating a petition to relight the historic tower at Split Rock. As a result, several Lake Champlain lighthouses, including those at Split Rock, Bluff Point, and Cumberland Head have been relighted.

AARCH Awards (top to bottom): Twin Pines boathouse, 1870 Bed and Breakfast, Split Rock Lighthouse, and the Wells House.

Paul and Shirley Bubar
For the restoration of The Wells House in Pottersville

The Wells House, built in 1845 by Joseph Hotchkiss and Joshua Collar, is at a prominent intersection in the heart of Pottersville. Once a major intersection on the Route 9 travel corridor to Montreal, stagecoach travelers would arrive from Riverside Station seeking respite enroute to vacation spots at Schroon Lake and beyond. Later automobiles followed this thoroughfare until 1967, when the Adirondack Northway was completed. Since then, the hotel gradually fell into disrepair and misuse. The Wells House reopened in 2004, thanks to Paul and Shirley Bubar, who carefully guided the restoration by consulting historic photographs and advice from preservationists and the state historic preservation office. Deemed eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, the Bubars took great care to retain the building's historic Italianate style details while retrofitting the infrastructure to meet current commercial building codes. The Bubars' goal of returning the old hotel to "a place of gracious lodging and excellent food with turn-of-the century appeal" has been fully realized.

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.

The 2007 AARCH Awards Luncheon will be held at the Lake George Club Friday, October 12.

Call AARCH early to make your reservations.

News & Notes

ALBANY: In 2006, several historic properties received grants for historic preservation through the state's Environmental Protection Fund. These include:

- Fort Ticonderoga Association, for the restoration of the Northeast Bastion ($209,000)
- Paul Smiths College, for the restoration of Harriman Cottage ($150,000)
- Wiawaka Holiday House, Lake George, for the restoration of Wakonda Lodge ($149,000)

AUSABLE CHASM: The Estes House will soon be one of a string of visitor centers in the Champlain Valley, thanks to a partnership between the Ausable Chasm Company, Town of Chesterfield, and North Country Underground Railroad Historical Association. Ausable Chasm is donating the historic stone building, the Town has obtained funding from state and federal sources, and the NCUGRHA will develop exhibits and staff the center, which will focus on the history of the Underground Railroad and abolitionism in the North Country.

OLD FORGE: The Hemmer Cottage Restoration Project of the Town of Webb Historical Association completed the exterior restoration of the 1931 cottage in August by replicating the cottage's original bark siding and wood sash windows.

PAUL SMITHS: Thanks, in part, to AARCH's advocacy and technical assistance, Paul Smiths College has decided *not* to demolish the National Register listed Harriman Cottage. Instead it will make it the new home of the Adirondack Watershed Institute. The $1.75 million restoration project has already received substantial support from the Spaulding-Paolozzi Foundation and New York State.

Volunteers take a break from stabilizing the Castle at the Land of Makebelieve in Upper Jay.

New Properties on the National Register of Historic Places

In 2006, several properties in the Adirondack region were listed on the State and/or National Register of Historic Places. These include:

- Wanakena Presbyterian Church, 1903 (St. Lawrence County)
- Hurricane Mt. Fire Tower, 1919 (Essex County)
- Pillsbury Mountain Fire Tower, 1924 (Hamilton County)
- Mt. Adams Fire Tower, 1917 (Essex County)
- Godfrey Shew House, 1784 (Fulton County)

PERU: The Heyworth Building built in 1836 as a starch factory, was later the home of A. Mason & Sons, well-known lumber merchants, and then part of an apartment complex until the severe flood of 1998 destroyed much of the site. The Town of Peru now plans to bring the building back to life and will use it for a variety of community purposes. With both its own funds and a $32,000 member item grant through State Senator Betty Little, they can now take the first step of restoring the building's eaves and installing a new cedar shingle roof.

ST. HUBERTS: In September, the Essex County Garden Club hosted the Garden Club of America Zone III meeting at the Ausable Club and awarded its Historic Preservation Certificate of Acknowledgement to AARCH for "its efforts on behalf of a wide range of Adirondack structures."

SARANAC LAKE: The National Trust for Historic Preservation has named Saranac Lake as one of this country's *Dozen Distinctive Destinations*, which is their annual list of unique and well-preserved American communities. The designation noted the village's commitment to preserving and celebrating its historic architecture and its long tradition of hospitality, rejuvenation, and public spirit.

SARANAC LAKE: In June, Wal-Mart announced that it was dropping its plans to open a 121,000-square-foot "Supercenter" in the village. The decision was a victory for those who seek to preserve the village's small town character and traditional Main

The Wanakena Presbyterian Church (1903) was recently placed on the National Register of Historic Places

Damage to the canopy of the Toll House at the Whiteface Veterans Memorial Highway was repaired in 2006.

Street businesses. Leading this effort was the Save Saranac Lake Coalition (www.savesaranaclake.org).

TAHAWUS: In 2006, thanks to a state grant to the Open Space Institute, major conservation and stabilization work took place at the McNaughton Cottage and McIntyre Furnace. These first steps have saved these important 19th- century historic structures and now make it possible for their more complete restoration. OSI's plans also call for the preservation of the fire tower and observer's cabin on Mt. Adams.

UPPER JAY: During the summer and fall, the Arto Monaco Historical Society organized several work days at which volunteers cleaned up and stabilized the Castle, which was the centerpiece of Monaco's Land of Makebelieve, a fantasy theme park that opened in 1954 and closed in 1979. Graduate students from the University of Vermont's Historic Preservation Program, under the supervision of architect Janet Null, also documented the Castle through photographs and drawings. The AMHS is exploring the possibility of restoring the Castle. For more information, see www.artomonaco.org.

WESTPORT: In August, the Westport Heritage House was dedicated and opened as one of a series of visitors centers in the Champlain Valley. It is located in the former Baptist Church (1877), which had been vacant for a number of years.

WILLSBORO: In August, the Willsboro Heritage Society completed the restoration and adaptive reuse of the former Champlain National Bank building as its new Heritage Center Museum. The work included plaster restoration, roofing, mechanical systems upgrades, and other interior improvements.

WILMINGTON: In 2002, an out-of-control tour bus slammed into the Toll House at the foot of the Whiteface Veterans Memorial Highway, doing extensive damage to the distinctive canopy over the road. The building was designed by Alexander Richter and was completed in 1933. The restoration involved acquiring custom made redwood beams from California and tracking down the manufacturer of the building's original ceramic roof shingles. The work was completed in May 2006.

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.

Camp Santanoni News

The year was a busy and productive one at Camp Santanoni, during which AARCH and its partners, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and the Town of Newcomb, undertook more conservation and restoration work than ever before.

Above: Laura Jenks installing shingles on boat-house roof. Below: Mercer Construction Company installing a western red cedar shingle roof on the Gate Lodge at Camp Santanoni

Michael Frenette and crew (Laura Jenks and Rachel Lamb) nearly completed the restoration of the boathouse, one of the camp's most deteriorated buildings. They reshingled the roof and installed a new wood floor. Summer interns, Julie Weisgerber and Kate Stojsavljevic, also restored the boathouse windows, which will be reinstalled in 2007, along with its doors.

Thanks in part to a matching $365,000 grant to AARCH from the federal *Save America's Treasures* program, major work was undertaken at the Gate Lodge and West Cottage. Mercer Construction Company of Albany nearly completed more that $400,000 of exterior conservation and restoration work, including new roofs, woodwork repairs, staining and painting, foundation repair, and site and drainage work. The project was developed by Argus Architecture & Preservation of Troy and was also funded with support from the DEC, the Town of Newcomb, and the *Friends of Camp Santanoni*.

Camp Santanoni is an official project of the Save America's Treasures program

SAVE THESE DATES

AARCH Special Events in 2007

Annual Meeting
Saturday, June 17
Floral Hall
Essex County Fairgrounds
Westport

AARCH Awards Luncheon
Friday, October 12
Lake George Club
Diamond Point

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