Volume 4, Number 1
May 1995

Newsletter

ADIRONDACK
ARCHITECTURAL
HERITAGE

ISTEA, Anyone?

Steven Engelhart

Carriage house in Port Henry, future home of the Moriah Railroad and Mining Heritage Center.

WITH a name like "Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act," it's no wonder that this federal government program is called "ISTEA" (pronounced "iced tea"). ISTEA is the largest source of "bricks-and-mortar" funds for historic preservation projects presently available, under a category called "enhancement." Among a number of different types of projects funded recently in the Adirondacks, two impressive proposals have historic preservation as a central component: the Moriah Railroad and Mining Heritage Park in Port Henry, and the Union Depot in Saranac Lake.

In the first round of funding the Town of Moriah, as both applicant and sponsor, received $243,400 of a total project cost of $304,250, to create a center to interpret the town's mining and railway history. The Visitor Information and Interpretive Center will be located in the carriage house adjacent to the Moriah Town Hall in Port Henry, formerly the offices of Witherbee, Sherman & Company. Built in 1875, both buildings have recently been listed on the NY State Register of Historic Places and will soon be on the National Register. The carriage house was used as a laboratory and shop by the mining company, and later converted into a fire department and ice house. The VIC will be complemented by nearby outdoor interpretive exhibits. One of the best developed of the first round projects,

continued on page 2

From the President

Exciting Progress at Camp Santanoni

I am happy to report that significant developments are now underway at Camp Santanoni.

RESTORATION. Having completed the new roof and repointing on the Artist's Studio and begun work on the Main Lodge roof last fall, AARCH and the Town of Newcomb will work together again this summer to complete the major portion of Santanoni's Main Lodge roof. To accomplish this we have hired a carpenter who will be working on that roof Tuesdays through Saturdays from July 5 to Labor Day weekend, and possibly beyond. Simultaneously, the Department of Environmental Conservation hopes to finish replacing the massive barn roof this year, a project which was substantially completed last fall.

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED to help in this important effort. You can volunteer to help any Tuesday through Saturday this summer. Just call Steve Engelhart (518 834-9328) and tell him what day or days you would like to come. The more notice we have, the more effectively we can plan — by spreading volunteers throughout the season. This is very satisfying work in a beautiful setting. Come for a day or camp out and stay for several days. If AARCH members come out for this effort, as they have in the past, we can complete most of the roof this summer — an enormous and historic accomplishment.

UNIT MANAGEMENT PLAN UNDERWAY. After years of delay, the unit management planning process for Santanoni has finally begun. Steve Engelhart and I are representing AARCH on the Citizens Advisory Committee formed by DEC for this purpose. Richard Cipperly, Charles Vandrei and their colleagues at DEC are working with real vision and commitment toward preserving Camp Santanoni. They hope to complete the UMP within a year, so that the historic area can be reclassified as such and so a clear plan will be in place for Santanoni's preservation, interpretation and public use. Finally AARCH and Newcomb will collaborate for the fifth year in sponsoring a summer intern/interpreter at Camp Santanoni. Hal Hutchinson, a historic preservation graduate student from the University of Vermont, will live in the Artist's Studio and be available six days per week to greet and educate the public about Santanoni's historical and architectural significance. Our years of persistent effort and leadership on Camp Santanoni are finally paying off with visible and tangible results. There has never been such reason to be optimistic about Santanoni's future.

HOWIE KIRSCHENBAUM

ISTEA

. . . continued from page one

Moriah has a signed contract in hand and has gone through the procurement process to hire a design professional, architect Janet Null of Troy.

Funding of $477,000 was approved in the second round toward a total project cost of $596,660 to renovate the Saranac Lake Union Depot for reuse as a transportation, recreation, and information center for residents and the traveling public. The Village of Saranac Lake is sponsoring the project, while the applicant is the Adirondack North Country Association, which will provide administrative and fiscal oversight. This initial success was achieved through the unprecedented cooperative effort of the Depot Working Committee, composed of ANCA, Saranac Lake Office of Community Development, the Adirondack Railway Preservation Society, the Saranac Lake Area Chamber of Commerce, and Historic Saranac Lake, which holds a use permit for the NR-listed building from the NYS Department of Transportation. Representatives from AARCHH and the Adirondack Economic Development Corporation also contributed their expertise.

HSL has put its financial future on the line by taking out a $31,000 line of credit toward the required match, with payments to be raised from grants and fund-raising activities already underway. ARPS continues active preparations to open a short excursion line between Saranac Lake and Lake Placid. Volunteers have established their local headquarters in the depot and are actively clearing brush from the tracks.

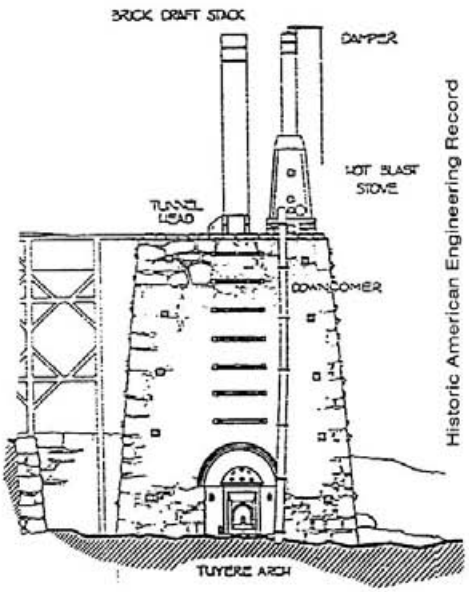
Regarding the Saranac Lake Union Depot, call ANCA Director Terry DeFranco at 518 891-6200. For information on the Moriah project, contact director Marcy Neville at 518 546-3606.

Update . . .
OUR MOST ENDANGERED HISTORIC PLACES

Since our first report on endangered historic places in the Adirondack Park a year ago, important new information has become available on state-owned fire towers. A new issue has also arisen regarding certain leased properties within the Forest Preserve. For more on these issues, see "**Fire Towers**" and "New Issue: '**Time Bombs.**'"

Many other buildings have been discussed as possibly endangered historic places by our committee and by the AARCH Board. **Camp Topridge**, Town of Brighton, has at last been purchased as a camp by private owners. Though they do not contemplate any community uses in the future, AARCH has contacted them with information and an offer of help. **Garondah Lodge** in Elizabethtown has also been sold, though the new owner's plans for the property are not known. The **Saranac Laboratory**, Saranac Lake, is under contract.

Camp Santanoni, Town of Newcomb, received some badly needed repairs in 1994. In its 1994 report on Historic Resource Management and Preservation, DEC announced that it had formally initiated the unit management planning process for Santanoni. This is very good news indeed. DEC is preparing to request of the APA that the area be reclassified to permit long term preservation and management of the camp complex. It also projected that work on the main lodge roof and repairs to the barn will take place this year. More volunteer participation is hoped for. On the negative side, our attempted intervention efforts on behalf of **Dexter Lake Camp** in the Town of Waverly failed to prevent its demolition by new owners. The **Wells Schoolhouse**, which we had not listed, was also torn down this spring by the Town of Wells.



Historic American Engineering Record

McIntyre Furnace in Newcomb

Some situations have not changed. **Hubbard Hall** in Elizabethtown is boarded up, apparently still scheduled for demolition. **Aiden Lair** in Newcomb and **Camp Minnowbrook** on Lake Placid are vacant and still for sale. Portions of **Wenonah Lodge** on Upper Saranac Lake, which has been subdivided, are for sale. The **McIntyre Furnace** in Newcomb is neglected by its absentee owner, while the owners of the **Steamboat Tuscarora**, on dry land in Blue Mountain Lake, are attempting to secure the vessel's future preservation.

Several properties have been added to our list this year. Both **Baker Chapel** on the American Management Association campus at Saranac Lake and **Harriman Cottage** at Paul Smith's College are vacant buildings without uses which need repairs; both are in the hands of institutional owners. The college is interested in expediting a nomination to the National Register of Historic Places in order to qualify the cottage for the Environmental Protection Fund.

The Willsboro Citizens Group, a new not-for-profit organization, is concerned about the stone **Ross Mill** which is very endangered by the bad condition of its roof. Also known as the Phoenix Mill, according to its old sign, it is "absolutely first rate," according to preservation architect Carl Stearns, who calls it his personal favorite among mill buildings.

Three bridges that we know of are endangered. The **Walton Bridge**, a c. 1890 lenticular truss bridge at Hull's Falls in Keene, Essex County, is closed; of 500 of these bridges built in the U.S., only about 40 are left. Federal money to remediate the **Parabolic Bow String Bridge** in Hadley was returned after a change in town administrations. Similarly, St. Lawrence County has closed **the old bridge across the Oswegatchie River**, used for fishing, and the Town of Clifton feels unable to take maintenance responsibility for it. However, a citizens committee which includes a structural engineer has recently formed to investigate the possibilities.

continued on page 4

CORRECTION

Regarding the story on the Jay Covered Bridge in the Fall 1994 Newsletter: The expert consulted by Bridge and Beyond was Jan Lewandoski of Vermont, not Gil Newbury as incorrectly reported. We regret the error.

ENDANGERED HISTORIC PLACES . . . *continued from previous page*

We have identified two properties, both in the hands of caring owners, which are endangered in that they have been for sale for several years: **Prescott House** in Saranac Lake, in active operation, and the vacant **American Legion Men's Infirmary**, on Tupper Lake. Other properties vacant and for sale include the **Lake Placid Club** and the **Ironville Grange Hall**.

Readers are encouraged to notify AARCH of any other endangered properties of which they are aware.

Mary B. Hotaling

Prescott House

Fire Towers

Of the 24 fire towers standing within the Adirondack Forest Preserve in 1993, eleven will be preserved, according to a cooperative agreement recently signed by the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation and the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. It concerns only those fire towers both located on state land, and judged by OPRHP to be a contributing element of the Forest Preserve (already a National Historic Landmark) or to be eligible for listing on the State and National Registers of Historic Places. Fire towers already in private ownership were not a part of the agreement, which calls for removing seven towers and transferring ownership of three. Those to be transferred will be protected by covenants ensuring "that the historical or architectural aspects of the fire towers will be preserved and maintained." DEC is charged with developing a preservation plan for the towers it will retain.

The following lists apply only to fire towers within the Adirondack Park owned by NYS and administered by DEC.

- DEC plans to remove seven of the fire towers judged to be historic. These are **Lyon Mountain** and **Palmer Hill** in Clinton County; **Adams** and **Hurricane Mountains** and **Pok-O-Moonshine** in Essex County; and **Azure Mountain** and **Loon Lake** in Franklin County.

- Three fire towers determined historic are to be transferred to private owners: **Stillwater Mountain** in Herkimer County; **Spruce Mountain** in Saratoga County; and **Swede Mountain** in Warren County.

- DEC will retain the following historic fire towers: **Vanderwacker Mountain** in Essex County; **St. Regis Mountain** in Franklin County; **Kane Mountain** in Fulton County; **Blue, Owls Head, Pillsbury, Snowy** and **Wakely Mountains** in Hamilton County; **Rondaxe** and **Woodhull Mountains** in Herkimer County; and **Arab Mountain** in St. Lawrence County.

- The following six fire towers were judged not to be historic, and their future disposition is unknown: **Belfrey Mountain** in Essex County; **Cathead** and **Tomany Mountains** in Hamilton County; **Hadley Mountain** in Saratoga County; **Gore Mountain** in Warren County; and **Black Mountain** in Washington County.

- No judgement was rendered as to the historic significance of two privately-owned fire towers: **Goodnow Mountain** in Essex County, which is open to hikers, and **Mount Morris** in Franklin County.

Whatever determinations have been made, interested citizens can still become involved in the future of fire towers important to their communities by forming a local action committee, as Blue Mountain and Hadley have done (see News & Notes). Call AARCH at 518 834-9328 for information.

AARCH Events

AARCH's tours, led by knowledgeable volunteer guides, are enjoyable learning experiences and raise funds to support our activities. Participants should wear comfortable walking shoes and dress for the variable weather conditions of the Adirondacks. Bring your own lunch and beverage unless otherwise noted. Attendance is limited on most tours. All tours require pre-registration and payment. To register, send full fee to AARCH, 1759 Main Street, Keeseville, NY 12944 or call 518 834-9328 for more information. Refunds will be given to those not able to attend a tour if we are notified in advance of the cancellation.

Saturday, July 1
BEHIND THE SCENES AT SAGAMORE
John Friauf, Jr., AARCH Board member and licensed NYS guide, will host a unique look at how one of the Adirondacks' best known Great Camps worked to maintain the illusion of ease for its owners and guests. Beginning at 10 AM and ending at 3 PM, the tour will include stops at the farm, sugarbush and powerhouse. Following the tour, participants are invited to attend the ribbon cutting ceremony and festivities for the newly restored barn complex. Fee is $15 ($10 AARCH members). Advance registration required.

Saturday, July 8
AARCH ANNUAL MEETING AND TOUR IN ESSEX
AARCH's 1995 Annual Meeting will be held at Greystone, a magnificent circa 1853 Greek Revival style home in the historic hamlet of Essex. Arrive in Essex at noon, bring your picnic lunch or eat at one of the many fine restaurants in the village. The meeting will begin at 1 PM and will be followed by a tour of Greystone and several walking tours of Essex, ending around 4 PM. Meeting and tour is a benefit of AARCH membership, guest fee is $15. Advance registration is required.

Saturday, July 15
HISTORIC NORTH CREEK RAILROAD STATION & MAIN STREET
This tour will include a close look at the historic North Creek railroad depot where Vice President Theodore Roosevelt was informed of President McKinley's death in 1901. The depot is now undergoing restoration. The tour will be led by members of the North Creek Railroad Depot Preservation Association and the Johnsburg Historical Society, both tour co-sponsors, and will also highlight other railroad buildings, a walk along the Hudson River and a tour of North Creek's historic homes and commercial buildings on Main Street. The 1 PM to 3:30 PM tour will begin at the railroad depot. Fee is $10 ($5 for AARCH members). Advance registration is required.

Friday, July 28
CLINTON PRISON AT DANNEMORA
In 1995 the Clinton Correctional Facility in Dannemora will celebrate its sesquicentennial as the third oldest prison in New York State. This unique opportunity will take us into this maximum security prison where we will visit a cell block, modeled on the "Auburn System," the Church of the Good Thief, the North Yard and the former Dannemora State Hospital. The history of the prison is fascinating and its architecture is most dramatic. The tour will begin at 9:30 AM and end at 3 PM. Suggested optional donation is $20 ($15 for AARCH members). Advance registration is required.

Saturday, July 29
WESTPORT: WHAT STYLE IS IT?
This unique workshop/tour will use the village of Westport as an open classroom for learning about architectural styles and the language of architecture. Beginning at 10 AM, the morning will be spent in the classroom setting of the Westport Library, where the group will learn about identifying architectural styles from Steven Engelhart, AARCH's Executive Director. Following lunch at a local restaurant, the group will walk around the historic district of Westport and look at several dozen historic buildings which exemplify a whole range of architectural styles from the Federal to the Craftsman styles. On the walking tour we will be joined by Reid Larson, Director of the Essex County Historical Society, the tour co-sponsor. Fee is $20 ($15 for AARCH members). Advance registration is required.

Sunday, July 30
THE HISTORIC 1812 HOMESTEAD IN WILLSBORO
This is a special family outing at a unique working 19th century homestead. Activities will include a lesson in the old schoolhouse, making shingles, candles, wooden toys, blacksmithing, spinning and dying. Lunch will be made the old fashioned way, in a brick oven and over

the open hearth. The day's activities will be led by Kris Bronander, the Homestead's curator. The day will begin at 9:30 AM and end about 3:30 PM. Fee is $20 ($15 for AARCH members) for adults, including lunch. Kids are free. Advance registration is required.

Saturday, August 5
PENFIELD HOMESTEAD MUSEUM
AARCH Board member Ron Ofner, President of the Penfield Homestead Museum, co-sponsor of the tour, will lead this 10 AM to 2 PM tour which explores one of the most important historic industrial sites in the Adirondacks. This was the site of the first industrial use of electricity and other innovations in the iron industry. This tour of the museum and hamlet of Ironville includes the Alan Penfield homestead, other historic buildings associated with the iron industry, and a walk to the original dam and mine site. An unusual behind-the-scenes tour of an important period and place in Adirondack history. Fee is $15 ($10 for AARCH members). Advance registration is required.

Sunday, August 6
HISTORIC MORIAH
This is a fascinating tour of an Adirondack town with a long and rich iron mining history and a remarkable architectural legacy that embodies that history. The tour will start with a close look at the company buildings, worker's housing, church, memorial hall, jail and cintering plant in the mining community of Witherbee. In Port Henry we'll take a walking tour which will include the grand French Second Empire style Town Hall, the railroad depot, Sherman Free Library, bank, churches, Lee House and other interesting architecture. Tour begins at 10 AM and ends at 4 PM. The tour is co-sponsored by the Moriah Historical Society and the Port Henry/Moriah Economic Development Zone. Fee is $20 ($15 for AARCH members). Advance registration is required.

Friday, August 11
HISTORIC RAQUETTE LAKE
AARCH Board President Howie Kirschenbaum will lead this all-day tour to some of Raquette Lake's most interesting places. Meet in front of the Raquette Lake Supply Company at 10 AM for a walking tour of "downtown" Raquette Lake, then take a short drive to The Antlers to see several buildings associated with one of Raquette Lake's major, early hotel complexes. From the Raquette Lake Girls Camp we will board a boat and spend the afternoon viewing the Great Camps and other historic buildings from the lake and debarking to visit a number of fine old camps and churches. Return around 4 PM. Fee is $35 ($25 for AARCH members). Advance registration is required.

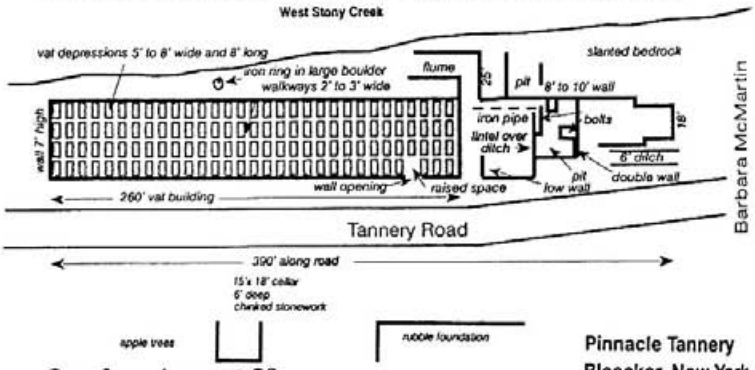
Saturday, August 12
TAHAWUS
Town of Newcomb Supervisor George Canon, will lead this tour of McIntyre furnace, village of Adirondack and other remains of the Adirondack Steel and Iron Company operations in Tahawus in the Town of Newcomb. This is a very important early American industrial site, one that has been documented by the Historic American Engineering Record. Meet at the Newcomb Town Hall at 10 AM and we'll go by bus to Tahawus. The tour will end about 1 PM. Fee is $15 ($10 for AARCH members).

Sunday, August 13
CAMP SANTANONI
Explore one of the most magnificent Great Camps in the Adirondacks with Rob Engel, former AARCH interpreter at Camp Santanoni. Surrounded by thousands of acres in the Santanoni Preserve, this tour will include stops at the Gate Lodge, Farm Complex and Main Camp on Newcomb Lake. Participants will see restoration work in progress and have access to some interiors. The round-trip walk is about 9.4 miles on a gently sloping dirt road. Meet at 10 AM at the parking lot of the Santanoni Preserve, off Route 28N in the hamlet of Newcomb, and return about 4 PM. Suggested optional donation is $10 ($5 for AARCH members). Advance registration is required. A limited number of seats are available in a horse-drawn wagon, for an additional $10 fee, by advance reservation.

Friday, August 18
BIG MOOSE & THE WORK OF EARL COVEY
This first time ever tour will focus on the work of Earl Covey, who built many fine rustic camps in the Big Moose area. The tour will be led by John Barrows, a Cazenovia contractor who has written about Earl Covey in *Fine Homebuilding* magazine. The tour will include visits to the Big Moose Chapel, Covewood Lodge, several camps on Crag Point and to The Waldheim. The tour begins at 10 AM and will end about 4 PM. Fee is $30 ($20 for AARCH members). Advance registration is required.

Saturday, August 19
TANNERIES & TANNERY TOWNS
The nineteenth century tanning industry spawned the settlement and development of many southern Adirondack communities. Led by Barbara McMartin,

the well known author of *Hides, Hemlocks and Adirondack History* and other books on the Adirondacks, this tour will focus on the importance of the tanning industry and explore the architectural and archeological legacy of that industry. Meet at 10 AM at the Caroga Museum, the tour co-sponsor, in Caroga Lake. The tour will include a slide show at the museum, a tour of Wheelerville and the tannery remains at Pinnacle (Benson), ending about 4 PM. Fee is $15 ($10 for AARCH members). Advance registration is required.



Sunday, August 20
THE RUSTIC CAMPS OF WILLIAM COULTER
AARCH's Mary Hotaling will again lead one of our most popular tours of three turn-of-the-century "Great Camps" on Upper Saranac Lake designed by the prominent architect William Coulter. These include Eagle Island (Vice-Pres. Levi Morton), Moss Ledge (Isabel Ballentine) and Prospect Point (Adolph Lewisohn). A rare opportunity. Fee is $35 ($25 for AARCH members) and includes a boat ride to Eagle Island. 10 AM to 4 PM. Advance registration is required.

Wednesday, August 30
THREE GREAT CAMPS OF OSGOOD POND
AARCH founder and Board President Howard Kirschenbaum will lead this tour of three impressive turn-of-the-century camps near Paul Smiths: White Pine Camp, former summer White House of Calvin Coolidge and now a museum; Northbrook Lodge, former private estate and now an inn; and a third, beautiful camp. 10:30 AM to 3:30 PM. Fee is $30 ($20 for AARCH members). Advance registration is required.

Saturday, September 23
CAMP SANTANONI
Led by AARCH Board member John Friauf, Jr. See August 13 for details. The horse drawn wagon rides may not be available for this tour. Call for details.

AARCH SLIDE PRESENTATIONS

If you've not had a chance to see our Executive Director Steven Engelhart give AARCH's excellent slide presentation "There's More to Adirondack Architecture Than Great Camps," you've plenty of opportunities this summer and fall at the venues listed below. The slides are drawn from our ever growing slide collection of interesting and striking Adirondack buildings and places. The programs marked with a * are done through Adirondack Discovery. Call AARCH at 518 834-9328 for more information.

DATE (TIME)	LOCATION
June 13 (1 PM)	Northville Methodist Church (Northville)
June 15 (7 PM)	Lewis County Historical Society Annual Meeting (Lyons Falls)
July 9 (3 PM)	AuSable Forks Free Library (AuSable Forks)
July 12 (8 PM)	Beth Joseph Synagogue* (Tupper Lake)
July 26 (8 PM)	Silver Bay Association* (Silver Bay)
August 4 (8 PM)	Inlet Municipal Center* (Inlet)
August 16 (8 PM)	Speculator School* (Speculator)
August 18 (TBA)	Adirondack Heritage Society (Paul Smith's College)
September 23 (8 PM)	Adirondack Mt. Club Fall Outing (AuSable Club, St. Huberts)
October 6 (TBA)	Association for the Protection of the Adirondacks Annual Meeting (Silver Bay)

Great Camps Open to the Public

In 1982 Harvey Kaiser's book, *Great Camps of the Adirondacks*, first brought the concept of these great estates to public attention, and made photographs widely available. In 1986, the Preservation League nominated ten properties to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) as "Great Camps of the Adirondacks Thematic Resources." This nomination included camps with these characteristics: 1) a compound plan, consisting of multiple structures, each designed for a specialized, specific function; 2) imaginative use of native building materials in construction and/or decoration to create a picturesque, rustic effect; 3) siting on secluded, wooded lakeshore locations; and 4) a high degree of self-sufficiency. The ten components of that nomination were: Camp Pine Knot (1877), Echo Camp (1883), Camp Uncas (1893), and Sagamore Lodge (1897), all on Raquette Lake; Camp Wild Air (1882) and Camp Topridge (1923) on Upper St. Regis Lake; Camp Santanoni (1892) on Newcomb Lake; and Moss Ledge (1897), Eagle Island (1902), and Prospect Point (1903) on Upper Saranac Lake. Kaiser's book created a demand for opportunities to visit Great Camps, a demand which shows no sign of being satisfied. Only two of the ten listed camps have ever been open to the public on a regular basis: Sagamore Lodge on Raquette Lake, and Camp Santanoni on state land in Newcomb. Eagle Island and Prospect Point on Upper Saranac Lake are both owned by not-for-profit organizations and used for recreational programs for their own young members. Since AARCH was formed in 1991, its tours to Camp Santanoni, and to Eagle Island, Prospect Point, and privately-owned Moss Ledge once or twice a summer have proved very popular. In addition to the ten listed Great Camps, there are many other properties which share some of their characteristic qualities, but which have not been nominated or declared eligible for the National Register. Two examples in commercial operation are The Wawbeek restaurant and resort, once the Moritz Walter camp, and The Point, formerly William Rockefeller's Camp Wonundra, both on Upper Saranac Lake.

With the above as background, it is a pleasure to announce that a new opportunity for the public to visit a Great Camp will be available beginning July 1. White Pine Camp in Paul Smiths, recently declared NR-eligible, will open as a museum, interpreting the idea of the Great Camps, and this particular camp as Calvin Coolidge's 1926 summer White House.

Now three Great Camps are open to public visits:

Camp Santanoni (1892), Newcomb, Essex County. Located in the state-owned Santanoni Preserve off Route 28N, the camp is reached via a 9.5 mile round-trip walk on a gently sloping dirt road. The sight of this magnificent, Japanese-influenced log villa with its hundreds of feet of porches is well worth the walk, and an AARCH interpreter will be available in July and August to open the building. Admission is free. Call Forest Ranger John Chambers at 518 251-3418 for information. AARCH is offering guided tours of Camp Santanoni on August 13 and September 23; see page 6 for details.

Sagamore Lodge (1897), Raquette Lake, Hamilton County. Public tours are offered daily from July 1 through Labor Day at 10 AM and 1:30 PM. From Labor Day to Columbus Day, tours are available on weekends only. Admission is $6 for adults and $3 for children, with a 10% discount offered to senior citizens. Sagamore Institute operates year-round as a private not-for-profit conference center. Call 315 354-5311 for a free 1995 program catalog. AARCH's special tour, Behind the Scenes at Sagamore, will be held on July 1 this year. See page 5 for details.

White Pine Camp (1907), Paul Smiths, Franklin County. Beginning July 1 until October 15, open daily from 10 AM to 5 PM. October 16, 1995, to May 24, 1996, 1:30 PM guided tour & by appointment. Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Years. Admission is $8 for adults, $4 for children 5-14. Call 518 327-3030 for information. On August 30 AARCH is offering a special tour of White Pine Camp along with two other nearby camps. See page 7 for details.

News & Notes

Albany: Governor George Pataki nominated Bernadette Castro as his new Commissioner of the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, and Ms. Castro was confirmed by the Senate in March 1995. She is expected to pursue her duties with energy and interest, and as she is very close to the governor, she will be listened to.

Albany: The Rural New York Grant Program has been renewed for 1995; applications for the second cycle must be postmarked by September 15. The program supports locally-based, rural historic preservation projects through the Preservation League of New York State. Grants of up to $5,000 are available to local governments, not-for-profit organizations and unincorporated groups working in the public interest. Contact: Tania Werbizky at 607 272-6510.

AuSable Forks: The Graves Mansion, built on a grand scale with funds embezzled from the J. & J. Rogers Company, is for sale. The 15,000 square foot house was designed by F. L. Perkins, architect, and built in 1878 by R. Prescott & Son. The owner, Rodney Fye, is making an unusual money-back offer to any purchaser. For information, call 518 647-5775.

Blue Mountain Lake: The Blue Mountain fire tower, on state land, was repaired and first reopened last year in a cooperative venture among the Town of Indian Lake, the Adirondack Museum, Cornell Cooperative Extension and DEC. It is expected to be open for hikers again this summer, staffed by a student intern. The Goodnow Mountain tower is also open. It has been restored and is owned and operated by the State University of New York, College of Environmental Science and Forestry, at its Adirondack Ecological Center in Newcomb, Essex County.

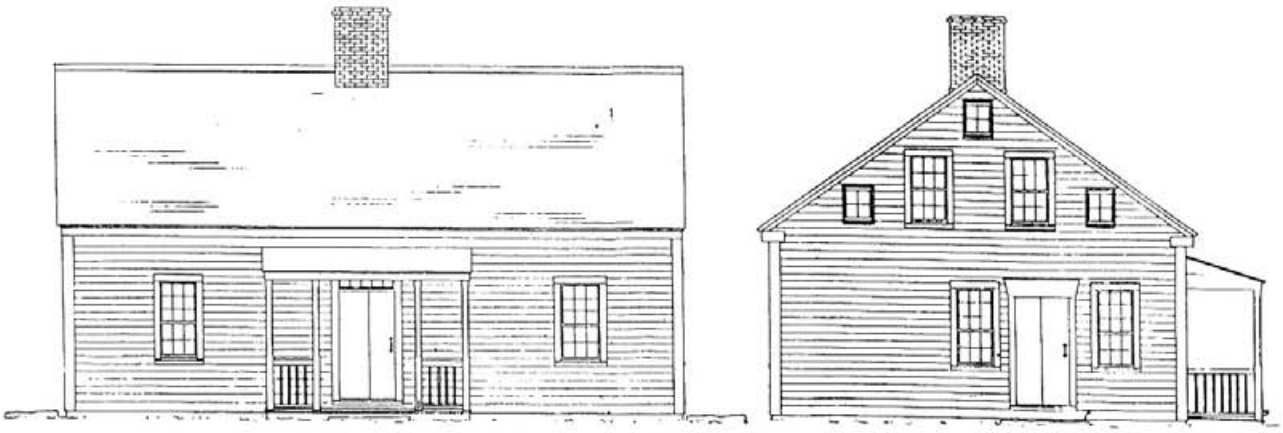
Brighton: The Brighton Architectural Heritage Committee will hold its 1995 History Day on August 20 at Asplin Farms. The public is invited to see displays of historic materials. Call 327-3433 for information.

Crown Point: The Lake Champlain Basin Program, which includes all of the drainage basin of Lake Champlain, has established a Cultural Heritage Office linking recreational and heritage tourism. Its goal is to support the economic vitality of historic resources in the basin. The program offers small grants for preservation projects. Director Ann Cousins can be reached at 518 597-4212.

Elizabethtown: Citing the historic aspects of the Essex County Courthouse, the Board of Supervisors voted against a proposal to renovate it for offices to solve the county's space problem. The body of the abolitionist John Brown lay in state in the courtroom on its way to burial in North Elba in 1859. AARCH applauds Robert Purdy of Keene, Dan Palmer of Minerva, George Canon of Newcomb, John Kelly of Schroon, and Joyce Morency of St. Armand for their votes.

Elizabethtown: The former Wesleyan Church in Ticonderoga is one of the surplus properties being offered in an auction on June 10 at the Essex County Government Center. Assessed at $48,500, the church has a slate roof and stands on half an acre on the southerly side of Algonkin Street. For information, call Haroff Auction & Realty at 518 532-9600.

Elizabethtown: A 200-year-old house is being dismantled and offered free to a new owner who will rebuild it on a new site. Built by New Englanders about 1794, the timberframe house is sheathed in wide, vertical tongue-in-groove planks. Dale Clark, professional restoration carpenter, can be reached through Essex Community Heritage Organization at 963-7088.



Timberframe house to be moved.

News & Notes *continued*

Essex: The former Essex County Poor Farm/County Home on 12 acres is offered for sale for $750,000. The National Register-listed complex of five brick buildings with slate roofs includes the original building from 1859, a total of 22,000 square feet in 75-80 rooms. Call United National - Charles Agency, 518 963-7401.

Hadley: Volunteers convened by Steve Gunther, DEC ranger, are making plans to renovate and staff the Hadley Mountain fire tower, based on another group's successful experience at Blue Mountain Lake last year. For information, call Jack Freeman Tuesdays through Fridays at the Adirondack Mountain Club, 668-4447.

Lake Placid: The draft environmental impact statement (EIS) prepared by Wal-Mart for the Town of North Elba Planning Board was returned for more information, including specific analysis of the impacts to Saranac Lake's Berkeley Square Historic District, including job and tax revenue loss. The EIS was subsequently declared complete, and hearings are set for June 7, 8 and 9.

Moriah/Port Henry: Five buildings in Port Henry, Town of Moriah, and one in the rural area of the town were recommended to the National Register in March: Port Henry Fire Department Building, now privately owned; Mount Moriah (formerly First) Presbyterian Church; Moriah Town Office Building, formerly the Witherbee, Sherman & Company Office Building; Sherman Free Library; Delaware & Hudson Railroad Depot; and the Central Powerhouse, now the Town of Moriah Water Department Building. For an opportunity to visit some of these buildings on August 6, see our summer tour schedule on pages 5-8.

Paul Smiths: Camp Topridge has been purchased by a couple from Dallas, Texas, for use as their own private summer residence. The sale was announced in November 1994. The 105-acre property sold for $975,000.

Ray Brook: A November storm blew down a pine tree from the state-owned Ray Brook campground onto the roof of the Tail O' The Pup roadside seasonal restaurant. According to the owner, it had been a tea house serving patients at nearby NYS Hospital for Incipient Tuberculosis, now a state prison. The restaurant is associated with the Evergreen Camps, "one of the oldest cabin colonies in the U.S.," according to Town Historian Mary MacKenzie. The roof has been repaired and the restaurant is again open for business.

Saranac Lake: An investment group is working to turn the former Will Rogers Hospital into a retirement complex. The Alpine Adirondack Limited Partnership, represented by Dan Englehardt, vice president of Health Care Development for the Sutton Companies, negotiated with Essex County to mothball and make vital repairs to the impressive Tudor-style building even before the purchase is concluded.

Saranac Lake: Trudeau Sanatorium has now been listed on both the State and National Registers of Historic Places. This makes Baker Chapel and the other historic buildings on the property eligible for grants from the NYS Environmental Protection Fund, if that program survives the budget process in Albany.

Saranac Lake: Dr. E. L. Trudeau's Saranac Laboratory is under contract for sale to a group of doctor-investors whose offices are next door in Trudeau's former home.

Thendara: Beginning May 27, the Adirondack Scenic Railroad is running five hour-long excursions every day except Thursday and Friday, at 10 AM, 11:30 AM, 1 PM, 2:30 PM and 4 PM. Full operation, every day except Friday, will take place from June 24 to October 22. From October 28 to November 26, service is on Saturday & Sunday only at 11:30 AM and 2:30 PM. New this year is a canoe trip down the Moose River, with return trip by train. For canoe reservations, call Dan & Beth Tickner at 315 369-6286. For railroad information, call 315 369-6290.

Upper Jay: The recently renovated caretaker's house at Wells Croft Lodge caught fire and was destroyed on March 2 due to a malfunctioning kerosene heater. About 100 yards from the main lodge and one of the few outbuildings still standing, it was housing guests at the time of the fire; they escaped without injury. Probably the largest and finest house in the town, the Tudor style lodge was built around the turn of the century as a summer house by Jean Wells Smith, a native of Jay, and her husband Wallace Craig Smith of Saginaw, Michigan. The Wells Croft property was purchased about a year ago and is occupied after having been vacant for many years.

Upper Saranac Lake: Land's End, a camp with 16 acres of land, is for sale. Recently renovated and redecorated, Land's End has been operating as a bed and breakfast. It was built for Donald and Wilhelmina DuPont Ross in 1930, and owned by the United Presbyterian Church from 1965 to 1993. In the manner traditional with Adirondack camps, the price of $1.3 million includes furnishings.

New Issue: "Time Bombs"

When the state purchased the Santanoni Preserve, it took over 20 years to resolve the dilemma of what to do with the significant buildings on the property. NYS's Historic Preservation Act requires that determination be made of the historical and architectural significance of any property the state plans to acquire. If OPRHP declares it eligible for the State Register of Historic Places, then Environmental Conservation Law Section 9-0109 all but prohibits state purchase.

While the problem of Santanoni is being successfully resolved, and AARCH has been working to prevent the same problem from recurring when the state makes new land purchases, there are certain other buildings within the Forest Preserve which seem not to have been evaluated for historic or architectural significance at the time the properties were acquired. Some of these buildings have been leased to others by DEC for a term of years, or the previous owner may have retained an interest. At the end of the term of these agreements, the buildings, some of which we believe to be eligible for the State and National Registers, are scheduled to be demolished. These situations usually only come to public attention at the time the leases are up, as happened with the last camp on Valcour Island in the fall of 1991. We call these "time bombs."

AARCH is aware of several buildings in this situation. The chapel and some cottages at the former Stony Wold Sanatorium (later called the White Fathers and later still Camp Lavigerie) on Lake Kushaqua in the Town of Franklin, Franklin County, have only about four years before their leases are up. Debar Park Lodge in the Town of Duane, Franklin County, has about 12 years. There may be more. The time to evaluate these buildings for their significance is long before the leases are up. We ask the help of AARCH members and friends to let us know of similar situations with other potentially historic buildings in the Forest Preserve.

Mary B. Hotaling

Former chapel at Stony Wold Sanatorium, Onchiota

Join AARCH

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

(Check one)

____ $20 Individual

____ $30 Family

____ $50 Supporting

____ $100 Sponsor

____ $250 Benefactor

____ $_____ Other

NAME:

_____

ADDRESS:

_____

CITY:

_____

STATE/ZIP:

_____

Contributions are tax-deductible. Please make checks payable to "Adirondack Architectural Heritage" and mail to: AARCH, 1759 Main Street, Keeseville, NY 12944.

Earl Covey, Master Builder of Big Moose

The following material was condensed from an article by John E. Barrows in FINE HOMEBUILDING *magazine.*

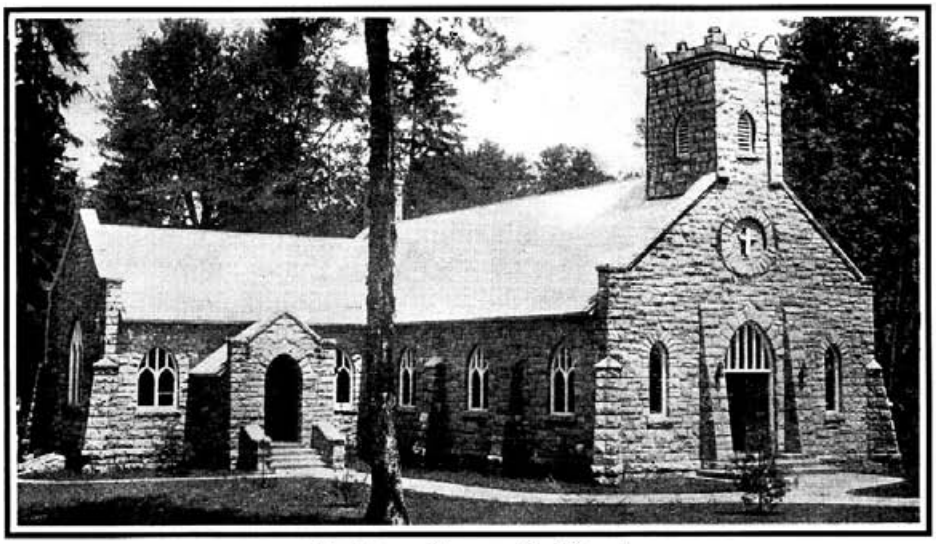
Earl Covey (1876-1952) was a master builder of rustic camps in the area around Big Moose Lake. As a boy, he helped his father build a lodge called **Camp Crag** on Big Moose Lake. Married at 19, Covey and his wife Addie spent two years in Washington, D.C., where he worked supplying railroad ties. The family returned to Camp Crag in 1897, and soon Covey built **Twitchell Lake Inn**, where he became a popular guide and hotelman. In 1918 his son William died of influenza while serving in France, and Covey built a stone bridge over the outlet at Twitchell Lake in William's memory. Earl's wife Addie died in September 1920, and he lost another son in an accident the next year. After a period of mourning, Covey married Frances Alden in 1923. He and his second wife built **Covewood Lodge**, and ran it for fifteen years until retiring to Florida in 1938. Covey also built numerous homes and camps for others in the Big Moose area.

Twitchell Lake Inn is constructed of logs sawn in half lengthwise and set vertically, palisade style, the side with bark still on it facing out. Short sections of wall also feature patterns of logs arranged diagonally. Most interior walls are finished in birch board-and-batten paneling. The exception is the dining room, which has beaded spruce boards in a herringbone pattern.

By the time Covey built Covewood Lodge, he had his own sawmill and produced dimension lumber. Covewood is balloon framed with full-sized 2" by 6" studs, and covered on the outside with slabs of log 3/4" to 1" thick with the bark on. The conventional framing system allowed him more freedom in creating the pattern of the siding.

Earl Covey was known for the rusticity of his log camps, but his special talent was masonry, especially stone fireplaces. The **Big Moose Community Chapel** is considered his crowning achievement in stonework.

Woodworkers and masons will particularly enjoy examining Covey's work on the AARCH tour on Friday August 18 (see pages 5-8). To read more about him, see John E. Barrows article, "Earl Covey, Adirondack Builder," in *Fine Homebuilding*, #90, 1987; and Frances Alden Covey's biography of her husband, *The Earl Covey Story*, NY: Exposition Press, 1964. The Adirondack Collection of the Saranac Lake Free Library has a reference copy.



Big Moose Community Chapel

Adirondack Architectural Heritage

1759 MAIN STREET
KEESEVILLE, NY 12944
518-834-9328

BOARD OF DIRECTORS*

George Canon
Town of Newcomb

Jacqueline Day
Adirondack Museum

John Friauf, Jr.
Inlet

James Glavin
Cranberry Lake

Robert Hammerslag
Essex Community Heritage Organization

David Hislop, Jr.
Rochester & Essex

William Johnston
Essex County Planning Office

Howard Kirschenbaum
Raquette Lake

Reid Larson
Adirondack Center Museum
Elizabethtown

Ronald Ofner
Penfield Homestead Museum

Jean Olson
Association of Adirondack Towns and Villages

Barbara Parnass
Historic Saranac Lake

Margaret Prime
Queensbury & Lake Placid

Carl Stearns
Architect

ADVISORY COUNCIL*

Paul Malo
Architectural Historian

Sue Rathbun
PRIDE of Ticonderoga

*affiliation for purposes of identification only

Steven Engelhart
Executive Director

Mary B. Hotaling
Newsletter Editor
22 Catherine St., Saranac Lake, NY 12983
518-891-2748