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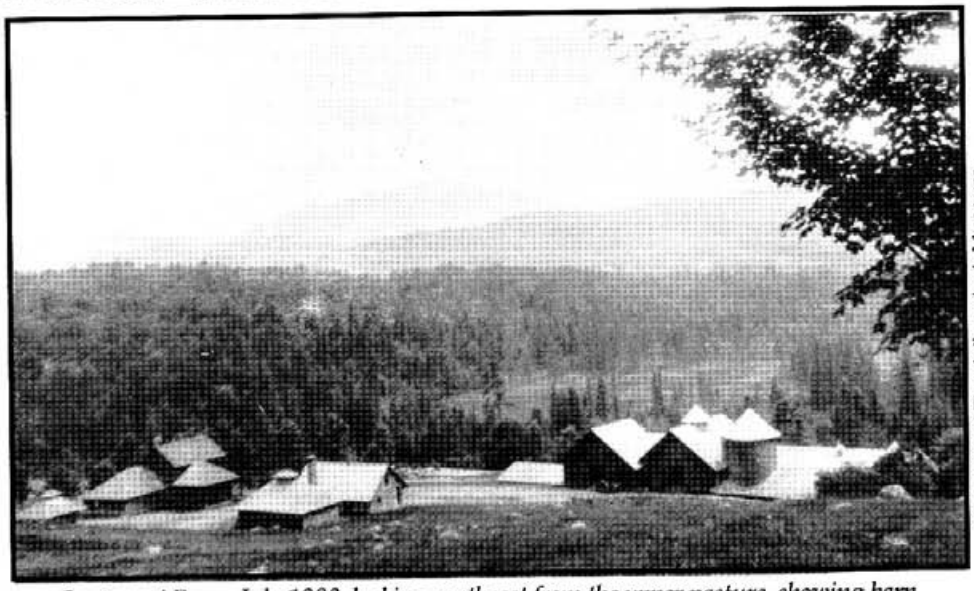
November 1996

Newsletter

ADIRONDACK
ARCHITECTURAL
HERITAGE

HSR Complete for Santanoni Farm



Courtesy of The Adirondack Museum

Santanoni Farm, July 1908, looking southeast from the upper pasture, showing barn, creamery, gardener's cottage and shed behind.

AN HISTORIC STRUCTURES REPORT (HSR) on the six standing buildings of Santanoni's farm complex has recently been completed for AARCH by consultant Wesley Haynes. The report recommends a program of stabilization, repair and restoration for this important architectural resource based on a thorough examination of its physical history and present condition. AARCH expects that all or part of the HSR will become part of the NYS DEC's Unit Management Plan for the preserve. The *Santanoni Farm Complex HSR*, which was funded by the Preservation League of New York State/New York State Council on the Arts, is 250 pages in length and illustrated with nearly 200 photographs, drawings and maps. This article summarizes its main points.

The farm on the Santanoni Preserve was established and operated by Robert C. Pruyn between 1895 and 1931 in a climate well-known to be inhospitable to agriculture. The farm provided the Pruyn family and their staff with a safe and diversified array of meat, dairy products and vegetables for the table in camp. During its first decade, the farm also grew to generate food and wool for the family's consumption in Albany, and by the teens it sold surplus produce to merchants and keepers of guest houses in Newcomb. As fully developed, the farm came

continued on page 3

From the President

On June 27, Steve Engelhart and I, along with Mark Brebach and Kirsten Merriman, AARCH's interns, met at Camp Santanoni to plan and begin the summer season there. As I unlocked the door to the Gate Lodge, I felt as if this was a historic moment. For the first time in history, the Santanoni Gate Lodge would be open to the public. As we began cleaning up the long-abandoned building and setting up a front office for greeting and orienting public visitors, it was clear that AARCH's original strategy, to on our own station a summer interpreter on the Main Lodge porch, had evolved into a trusting partnership among AARCH, the Town of Newcomb and the Department of Environmental Conservation, working together for the preservation of Camp Santanoni.

I visited Santanoni again on September 29, leading a tour for the National Trust for Historic Preservation, using *truck-drawn wagons* (since the bridge is being replaced this fall and horses can't be used) to carry 30 mostly senior visitors down the 4.7 mile road to the Main Camp. I had not been in all summer and was delighted to see that the roof on the vast main lodge complex is 50% complete! Between the paid carpenters and a very productive volunteer work weekend we organized this summer, enough progress was made that, when you stand at the east side of the building, you see this vast area of new roofing spanning the many sections of the building. It was breathtaking.

In both instances, I could not help but reflect on how far we had come since 1990, when AARCH initiated the campaign to preserve Camp Santanoni. At times the progress seems excruciatingly slow, but it adds up year after year, with impressive cumulative results. And the fact is: without AARCH continuing to urge the process forward, the progress at Santanoni could still be reversed and we could easily be losing more ground each year than we gain. AARCH's presence to continue motivating the process, to offer leadership, and frequently to roll up our sleeves and do it ourselves has been and remains the key to the success at Santanoni.

Reflecting on this one aspect of our program leads me to consider how far AARCH has come in other respects over the past six years. AARCH has a highly involved membership of 800 individuals and families and continues to grow toward our initial target of 1000 members. Our summer and fall tour program has expanded every year, with almost every tour filled to capacity. Our newsletter and frequent slide presentations continue to educate members and the public about historic preservation issues, successes, problems and possibilities. Acknowledged as the historic preservation organization for the Adirondack Park, we are often invited to participate on various citizens advisory committees and task forces, where our experience and advocacy advance the cause of historic preservation in the region. Our new Architectural Heritage Award program advances public consciousness about historic preservation in a positive way. We have a respected, full-time, professional executive director. And, more and more, we are called upon to offer technical assistance throughout the park, as when Steve went to the southwestern Adirondacks this fall to help a small group of citizens in the Town of Bleecker begin their planning to preserve and interpret possibly the most important tannery site remaining in the Adirondacks. I could offer many other examples.

In short, AARCH has come of age. *This is the kind of organization we wanted to become.* We have achieved our initial goals for ourselves. Still our work is just beginning. Although there has been impressive progress in recent years in a growing appreciation for historic preservation in the Adirondack Park (thanks in part to AARCH's positive influence), most of the important work of historic preservation in the Adirondacks still lies ahead. And AARCH is positioned to lead that effort.

But how? What should our goals and objectives and priorities be for the next six years? Should we simply keep on doing what we've been doing? Should we do even more of the same -more tours or more frequent newsletters, for example? Should we expand in new directions? Are there bold, new initiatives we should be considering? Should we move the office? Should we cut back on some aspect of our program in order to increase others? Where do we go from here?

These are some of the questions the board began discussing at its most recent meeting. And we will continue this discussion over the coming year, as we develop a strategic plan for the years ahead. As part of this process, we would love to have input from our members. So many of you have been involved in our programs - attending tours, opening your homes and historic properties for tours and meetings, volunteering at Santanoni, inviting us to speak to your group or community, sending us feedback and suggestions. This high level of member participation (and an extraordinarily high membership renewal rate!) is a major reason for AARCH's success. AARCH is its members.

So, please, let us hear from you in person, by phone, or by mail, ("snail mail" to the Keeseville office or e-mail to me at Kirschy@aol.com). Tell us where you think AARCH should be heading, what you would like to see more of, or less of, what realistic short range ideas or grandiose long range possibilities you see for AARCH and for historic preservation in the Adirondacks. We'll keep you posted as the planning evolves.

Thanks for a great six years. We've only just begun.

HOWIE KIRSCHENBAUM

Santanoni Farm ... continued from page one

to include some 20 buildings surrounded by 200 acres of pastures and planted fields.

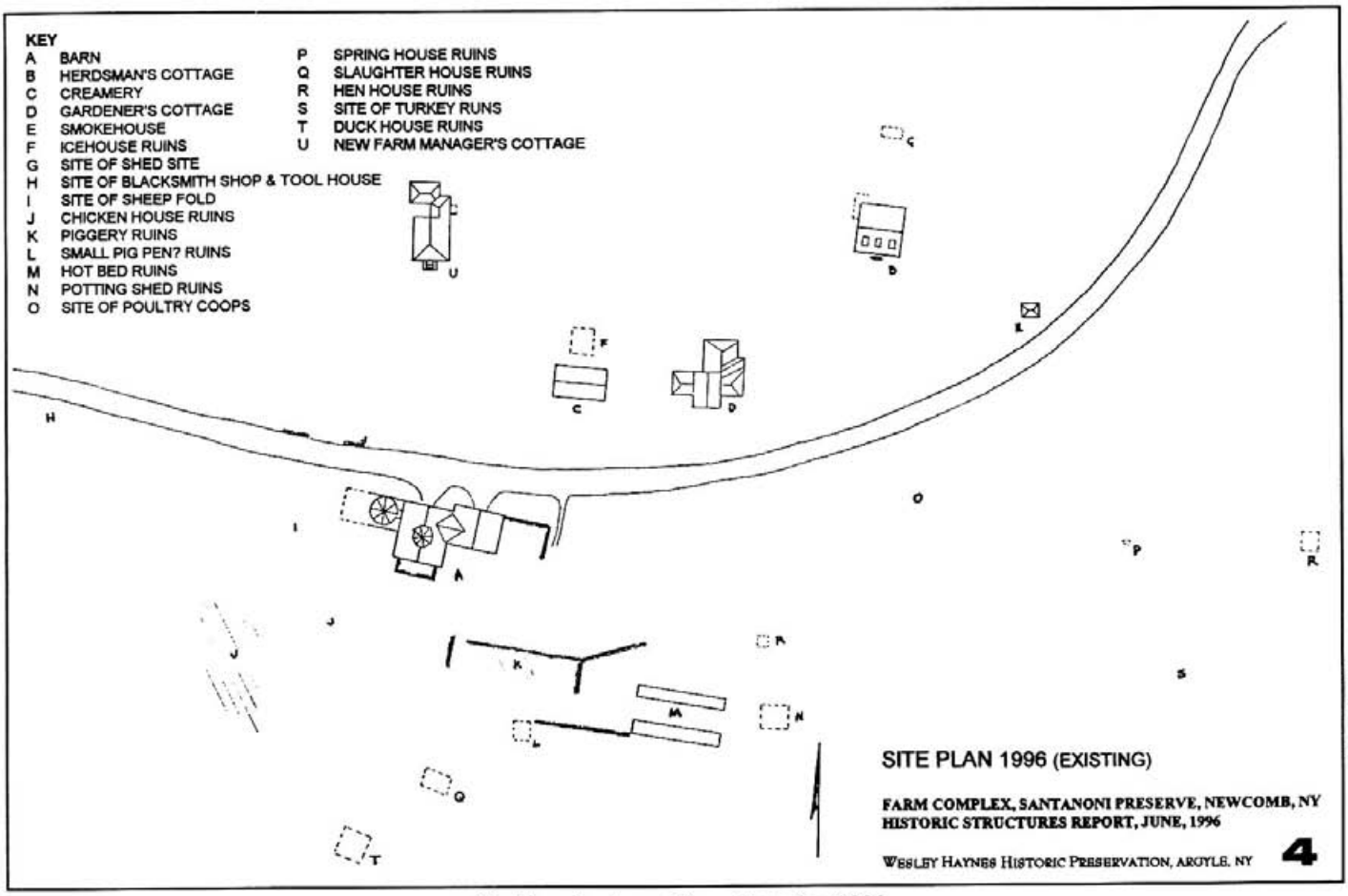
Pruyn (1847-1934), a prominent Albany banker, acquired the 12,900 acre Santanoni Preserve in the town of Newcomb, Essex County, New York, between 1892 and 1908. Pruyn envisioned his preserve, embraced and insulated by a "wall of mountains," to be used for summer recreation, a "picturesque and thoroughly comfortable place with as strong a contrast as possible to a city." Between 1893 and 1920, Pruyn added some 40 buildings, clustered in four functional groups, to the preserve's landscape. It was the farm complex, located approximately one mile in from the gate lodge and centered on lot 12 of Township 27, that distinguished Santanoni, in Pruyn's opinion, from other preserves. "There is independence, delight and peace in the isolation," he wrote in 1925, "but everybody needs good food for health and it cannot be imported by tins ... The principal difficulty of living in the Adirondacks is in the food supply. Santanoni is the only preserve that is completely supplied with everything but beef and fruit."

Even if Pruyn overstated its singularity, Santanoni's farm was nonetheless an unusually complete agricultural complex. Surrounded by pastures, hayfields, an orchard and a garden, the "model farm buildings" housed year-round staff, livestock ("excellent, and some of it exceptional") and agricultural activities associated with raising and processing "lamb, pork, veal, venison, squab, chickens, turkeys, ducks, tame and mallards." The farm also smoked hams and bacon, produced maple syrup, grew "vegetables of all kinds," as well as "berries, but very little other fruit," and produced dairy products "under the most perfect conditions."

Nowhere else was Pruyn's description of his development of the preserve as "a patient contest with nature" more evident than the farm. Pruyn located it on the site of an existing nineteenth century farmstead, which would have included established cleared land of unknown extent for pasture.

The "healthfulness" of the food supply, especially dairy products, was a mainstream concern at the turn of the century. There were well-founded fears about disease, particularly stemming from outbreaks of bovine tuberculosis, which spread through herds housed in tight, unventilated and unsanitary barns where milk was processed. Distrust of the local milk supply, whether warranted or not, strongly factored in Pruyn's decision to start the farm.

The farm developed in three phases. During the first phase (ca. 1895 to 1901)



Wesley Haynes

Site Plan, Santanoni Farm Complex, 1996

Santanoni Farm ... *continued*

Pruyn added a new barn to house a small herd of Brown Swiss cows to produce dairy products for use in camp, and appears to have extended the size of the cleared pasture. The farmhands lived in an existing heavy timber-framed house.

The second phase (1902 to 1908) was the most intensive period of architectural development, when Pruyn transformed the small agricultural operation into a more ambitious "model farm." One of the major activities of a model farm was rearing thoroughbred animals to improve the quality of American stock. Pruyn raised Brown Swiss cattle and Black Face Highland sheep, uncommon breeds in the United States thought to be particularly well-suited to mountainous climates. The remaining livestock included Guernsey cattle (a breed known for milk with a high butterfat content), Southdown and Shropshire sheep, and Black Berkshire pigs. Like other model farms, Santanoni's site plan, structures and equipment demonstrated new practices and technologies intended to improve hygiene and/or increase yields and efficiency. Santanoni's farm buildings included a state-of-the-art creamery (1904) where dairy products were safely handled and processed, a vertical stave silo (1902) that was among the first generation in the northeast, and experimental hot beds (by 1908) used to shelter seedlings to extend the short growing season.

Model farming, which rarely turned a profit, also served as a form of recreation for most who engaged in the activity. Pruyn clearly intended the farm to be a pleasant and attractive place, carefully detailed in its architecture with certain livestock selected for aesthetic qualities, such as the penciled Wyandotte chickens, iridescent French Carneau pigeons, and "quackless Brazillian" (Muscovie) ducks. The farm was a frequent destination for picnics with the Pruyn family and guests. Pruyn also approached the pastime of smoking hams with a competitive spirit, aiming to produce a product to rival the famed hams of Virginia.

Pruyn's seriousness of purpose is perhaps best demonstrated by his selection of Edward Burnett (1849-1925), a leading American agriculturalist, to plan the model farm in 1902. Between 1889 and 1892, Burnett developed and managed a prototypical and widely emulated model farm at Biltmore outside Asheville, North Carolina, for George Washington Vanderbilt. Burnett subsequently established the farm operation at Florham Farms in Madison, New Jersey, for Vanderbilt's brother-in-law, Hamilton McKay Twombley, during which time (1892-1895) he appears to have set up a small model farm for the family's Adirondack camp in Franklin County. Burnett established a practice as an agricultural architect based in New York around 1900, and planned model farms for existing and new estates in a four-state region. Santanoni's farm complex is the only documented Burnett farm in public ownership.

Most of Santanoni's standing buildings and visible ruins date from the Burnett period. The original 1895 barn was more than doubled in size by the addition in 1902 of a large cow barn to its immediate west. The expanded shingle-clad structure took the uncommon form of a twin barn. The silo, also constructed in 1902 with the then relatively new vertical stave technology, was attached to its west. The greatly enlarged barn complex embodied many of Burnett's ideas concerning the physical separation of functions within a barn and planning, ventilating, daylighting and finishing stable areas. The stone creamery (1904), physically removed from the barn to a site across the road for reasons of sanitation, contained a climate-controlled milk room, wash room and furnace room. Marking the east end of the complex along the road is a small stone smokehouse (c. 1904), used for curing bacon and ham. A new shingle-clad cottage with a rustic cedar pole veranda and trim was built for the farm manager (1904, later called the gardener's cottage) to the east of the creamery. The earlier farmhouse, now called the herdsman's cottage, was probably renovated as a more fashionable shingle-style bungalow at this time. Surrounding the buildings was cleared land, kept open by the sheep and divided into a garden, orchard, hayfields and pasture by woven wire and peeled pole fences and stone walls. The cleared land was estimated to be 75 acres in size by 1915 and was located primarily north of the road, extending from the farm group to the gate lodge complex.

Apart from minor improvements made in the interim, Pruyn did not substantially invest in the farm's infrastructure again until after World War I. Phase three occurred when Pruyn, then in his seventies, turned to prefabricated components to streamline the farm's operation. The staff had grown to include a farm manager, herdsman and head gardener and needed additional housing. In 1919 Pruyn had a small kit bungalow from Sears constructed for the farm manager on land previously cleared for pasture due west of the creamery. The cow stable was also renovated with standardized tubular steel stanchions, manger dividers and automatic drinking bowls manufactured by the Louden Machinery Company. Between 1915 and 1931, Pruyn also appears to have increased the amount of cleared land to 190 acres, with an additional 10 acres tillable.

Pruyn's "patient contest with nature" ended abruptly in 1931 when an advancing illness forced him to withdraw from the pleasurable responsibility of overseeing Santanoni. The farm staff was dismissed and the livestock was sold. Finances were also a factor. Records surviving from the period 1907 to 1914 indicate that Camp Santanoni as a whole was expensive to run, averaging $22,000 a year. The farm operations regularly accounted for nearly half of the preserve's total

annual cost, and revenues from the sale of farm products to the staff and local retailers consistently fell short of the cost of raising produce.

From 1931 to the present, the farm has generally been considered to be a burden and been neglected. Except for the 1919 farm manager's cottage, which was occupied from 1931 to the 1970s by the preserve's caretaker, the remaining buildings stood empty or underutilized. In an appraisal of the property made after Pruyn's death in 1934, the farm was described as "impractical for farming purposes from a practical standpoint." Since then, many of the outbuildings and barn additions have been allowed to seriously deteriorate or have been intentionally demolished. Attitudes toward the farm complex, however, have recently begun to change. The remaining buildings are now considered to be assets that are of central importance in understanding Santanoni as a place. Led by the Town of Newcomb and AARCH, long-needed repairs to the buildings are being addressed, beginning with replacement of the shingle roofs of the cow and horse barns in 1995.

The buildings of the farm complex are presently in fair to poor condition. Preservation of the barn, creamery, smokehouse, herdsman's cottage and gardener's cottage, which strongly contribute to the farm's history and sense of place, is recommended as a first priority. Preservation of the new farm manager's cottage, which contributes to an understanding of the site's development, is also desirable once the other structures are stabilized. Extant ruins and sites of vanished buildings should be preserved and interpreted as archaeological resources.

WESLEY HAYNES

Wesley Haynes is an architectural preservation consultant based in Argyle, NY. He previously co-authored the stabilization plan for Santanoni's main camp, and will prepare the upcoming HSR on the gate lodge. His other work on Adirondack subjects includes an architectural history of the Adirondack League Club in Old Forge, and a documentation study on the remains of the McIntyre Iron Works/Tahawus Club in Newcomb.

News & Notes

Edinburg: The First Presbyterian Church of Batchellerville, now open only in July and August, has been named by the Presbyterian Historical Society to its own Register of National Historic Sites. This church register lists sites associated with important Presbyterian church institutions, personalities, events and developments. The Batchellerville church is the first building in the Town of Edinburg to be listed on any historic register. Built in 1867, the white frame church was moved to its present site in 1931, when the village of Batchellerville was inundated by the rising waters of the Sacandaga Reservoir, now Great Sacandaga Lake. For more information on the Presbyterian register, call Julie Doyle at 704 669-7061, or write her at Department of History (Montreat), P.O. Box 849, Montreat, NC 28757.

Lake Placid: Wal-Mart is still considering applying for a permit to build a store smaller than the 80,000-square-foot one which was turned down in January. All information needed to make a decision on Wal-Mart's lawsuit against the Planning Board is in the hands of Judge James Dawson of Essex County Supreme Court.

Raquette Lake: St. William's on Long Point, Inc., welcomes groups to stay overnight for retreats or relaxing together. Five weekends (and many weekdays) are still available for the summer of 1997. The cost of $40-$50 per person, per night, includes lodging, three meals and one round-trip boat ride from town. Call Sue Norris at 315-354-4265, as early as possible.

Saranac Lake: As part of the centennial of its Winter Carnival, begun for the entertainment of tuberculosis patients taking the fresh air cure, Saranac Lake will again create its unique Ice Palace in February 1997. Volunteers build the palace by hand, using traditional ice-cutting equipment and techniques.

PATRICK T. TALLON

Patrick Tallon, one of the most accomplished and well-known restoration contractors working in the Lake Champlain region, died at age 46 on September 8, 1996. Steven Engelhart, who knew Pat for more than 20 years, said, "More than almost anyone else I've ever known, Pat possessed an intense curiosity, was a perfectionist, truly loved old buildings and took great satisfaction in bringing them back to life. These qualities made him an excellent builder and a joy to work with." He was equally at home working with stone, brick, log and timber-framed buildings, and his restoration projects included: the Kent-Delord House and barn in Plattsburgh, the Elkannah Watson House in Port Kent, the Samuel Adsit Cabin on Willsboro Point, the Octagonal Schoolhouse in Boquet and, in Essex, the Beldon Noble Memorial Library, Wright's Inn and the Masonic Lodge.

Ten Earn First Annual AARCH Awards

At AARCH's Annual Meeting in June, ten first-year Adirondack Architectural Heritage Awards were presented. Winners are:

1. **Chris & Diane Leifheit**, who have done an outstanding job in restoring the Hunt Building in Gabriels (Town of Brighton, Franklin County). The Leifheits restored the exterior of the building and created three office spaces and two apartments, inspiring others to undertake similar restorations in Gabriels.

2. **PRIDE of Ticonderoga, Inc.**, is a not-for-profit company established in 1984. Nearly all of PRIDE's many undertakings have involved preserving historic buildings and neighborhoods. PRIDE was also instrumental in establishing the Ticonderoga Heritage Museum and in the restoration of the 1874 Frazier Bridge.

3. **Levi White**. In his 81 years, Levi White has worked in many Adirondack industries. Years ago he began researching the history of the iron industry in Clintonville, and later he located and, sometimes, uncovered the archeological remains of this era. His work has led to an on-going professional archeological dig by staff and students at SUNY Plattsburgh.

4. **John & Miriam Klipper**. Built circa 1850 for the owner of the Essex Inn, the **Noble Clemons House** is a stately example of a mid-nineteenth century Italian *palazzo*. When the Klippers bought the house in 1988, it had been vacant for more than 30 years. Though it still retained most of its architectural integrity, it was without a bathroom and electricity. The Klippers have done a sensitive and exemplary restoration job, which respected and retained the original features of the building while making it fit for modern life.

5. **The Girl Scout Council of Greater Essex County, New Jersey**. In 1903, a magnificent rustic camp, designed by the Saranac Lake architect William L. Coulter, was built on **Eagle Island** on Upper Saranac Lake. The camp was donated in 1936 to the Girl Scout Council, which uses it as a summer camp for girls, adults and families. The Council has done an exemplary job over the past 60 years using and caring for these remarkable buildings.

6. **Historic Saranac Lake**. Since 1978, Historic Saranac Lake has played a leadership role in making historic preservation a part of Saranac Lake's renewal. Their efforts have included publications, surveys and National Register nominations (170 properties), establishment of a Parts Warehouse, and effective advocacy for the preservation of historic buildings, including the Union Depot, Bartok cabin and Dr. E. L. Trudeau's Saranac Laboratory.

7. **The Waldheim and the Martin Family**. In 1904 E. J. Martin founded The Waldheim ("Home in the Woods") as a quiet, rustic vacation spot on Big Moose Lake. Martin built the buildings with wood from the property, using a distinctive vertical, half log construction method found in few other places. Subsequent generations of the Martin family have lovingly cared for this special place and preserved its wonderful structures, setting and ambiance.

8. **Robert Eddy**. Bob Eddy has devoted his long life to community service in the areas of history and community improvement. In 1988 Bob compiled a self-guided, driving tour of Queensbury's historic places entitled "**Queensbury's Heritage Trail**." In 1991, his book *Queensbury's Heritage* was published. These two publications document more than two hundred historic and picturesque buildings in the town, adding immeasurably to the public's appreciation of these important places.

9. **The Friends of Beth Joseph Synagogue**. Beth Joseph Synagogue (1905) was the center of the Jewish community in Tupper Lake until it fell into disuse in the early 1950s. The Friends of Beth Joseph Synagogue organized in 1988 to rescue and restore this National Register-listed landmark. With many private donations and a small grant from the New York Landmark Conservancy's Sacred Sites Fund, the Friends undertook about $125,000 in restoration work. Beth Joseph now houses a gallery on its lower level, displays photographs and artifacts of the congregation's founders, and is used in summer for lectures as well as for regular services.

10. **William Johnston**. In his more than 20 years as director of the Essex County Planning Office, Bill Johnston has promoted and encouraged historic preservation activity throughout the county. His work has consistently included making the best use of a community's historic resources. He has initiated historic surveys in Ticonderoga, Westport, Wadhams and Moriah, and helped to create or find funding for many local organizations. Bill has also obtained funding for the Railroad and Mining Museum in Port Henry, the railroad depot in Westport, the Crown Point Library, the Mineville Community Hall and for churches in Wadhams, Willsboro and Moriah.

AARCH is now actively seeking nominations for our 1997 awards. The deadline is February 1. Call Steven Engelhart at 518 834-9328 or write 1759 Main Street, Keeseville, NY 12944. These awards are funded, in part, by Finch-Pruyn & Company of Glens Falls and by the New York State Council on the Arts, Architecture, Planning and Design Program.

NATIONAL REGISTER UPDATE

The "Resources" section of our Spring 1994 *Newsletter* named all properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places within the Adirondack Blue Line up to that time. The following entries update that list:

ESSEX COUNTY

MORIAH

Christ Church (1872, Victorian Gothic style)

Moriah Town Office Building, formerly the Witherbee, Sherman & Company Office Building (1875, Second Empire style)

Port Henry Fire Department Building (1883, oldest extant firehouse in the town)

Delaware & Hudson Railroad Depot (1888, Richardsonian Romanesque style)

Mt. Moriah Presbyterian Church (1888, Richardsonian Romanesque style)

Sherman Free Library (1888, Richardsonian Romanesque style)

Central Powerhouse (1902)

SARANAC LAKE VICINITY

Trudeau Sanatorium Historic District: Part of the Saranac Lake Multiple Property Submission. Significant in the areas of health/medicine and architecture as the first successful sanatorium for the scientific treatment of pulmonary tuberculosis in the United States and as a distinctive example of a sanatorium built according to the "cottage plan," characterized by the separation of patients into small groups. Founded in 1884, the complex includes more than thirty features constructed between 1889 and 1939.

FRANKLIN COUNTY

MERRILLSVILLE

Merrillsville Cure Cottage, for tuberculosis patients c. 1900.

FULTON COUNTY

MAYFIELD

Oliver Rice House

LEWIS COUNTY

DIANA VICINITY

Alpina Archeological District and Lewisburg Archeological District, both 19th century rural industrial districts.

ONEIDA COUNTY

BRIDGEWATER

Brick Store Building

MARCY VICINITY

1730 Neck Canal, constructed along the Mohawk River

WESTERNVILLE

1911 Western Town Hall

ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY

FINE

Fine Town Hall

WARREN COUNTY

LAKE GEORGE VICINITY

Radeau Land Tortoise, 1758, a floating artillery battery built by the British during the French and Indian Wars, submerged

WASHINGTON COUNTY

TOWN OF GREENWICH

Village of Greenwich Historic District. A highly intact district of 19th and early 20th century properties.

Saturday, January 18, 1997
A SKI TOUR OF CAMP SANTANONI

Explore, on cross-country skis, one of the most magnificent Great Camps in the Adirondacks with John Friauf, AARCH Board member and a licensed NYS guide, and Steven Engelhart, Executive Director of AARCH. Camp Santanoni is surrounded by thousands of acres in the Santanoni Preserve and this tour will include stops at the Gate Lodge Complex, Farm Complex and Main Camp on Newcomb Lake. At the Main Camp, we'll also see some of the camp's interiors and get warm around a fire at the Artist's Studio. The round-trip ski is about 9.8 miles on a gently sloping road. Ski conditions are usually excellent. Meet at 10 AM at the parking lot of the Santanoni Preserve, off Route 28N in the hamlet of Newcomb. We'll return about 4 PM. Suggested optional donation is $10 ($5 for AARCH members). Advance registration required by calling 834-9328.

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 ___ $100 Sponsor
___ $30 Family ___ $250 Benefactor
___ $50 Supporting
_____ $ _____ Other

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

Paint Colors in Adirondack Architecture

Choices of exterior colors for Adirondack buildings have historically been governed by availability of paints, preferences for style, and the owners' desire for either visibility or privacy.

One source of paint was provided by the mountains themselves. "In the fall of 1893 D. M. Haley . . . discovered a deposit of 'mineral paint' near 'Crain' Mountain." According to *River, Rails and Ski Trails*, a history of the Town of Johnsburg, this deposit "is composed largely of aluminum combined with iron oxides. The iron, being fully oxidized by the natural elements before it is mined, cannot undergo further change, while the aluminum is entirely non-corrosive which makes the paint practically indestructible when exposed to the weather on buildings. It is of the same composition and from the same vein known as 'Johnsburg Brown' (or 'Johnsburg Red')." A commercial operation there lasted only from 1894 to January 22, 1896, when the mine buildings burned, but the ruins "can still be seen in the valley between Crane and Huckleberry Mountains."

Other readily available sources were the industries whose owners built the Great Camps. W. W. Durant, for example, used dark red paint from his railroad at Camp Pine Knot.

The color of a building, as well as the style and the materials in which it is built, is an expression of culture — of time and place. The changing palettes of fashion in clothing, household furnishings and appliances are familiar examples. Colors used on buildings are longer-term choices, seemingly less subject to fashion. Yet each architectural style has certain colors associated with it at the time it is introduced. Attempts are often made to bring older buildings up to date by repainting them in the colors of a more modern style.

When the earliest settlers from New England built their first permanent houses in the Adirondacks, they painted them white — if they were able to paint them at all — to set them apart: here lies civilization. The paint they used was white lead. Later, the building culture of the Adirondacks was influenced by French-Canadian loggers. Though the strong colors they used may seem gaudy at first glance, in the midst of a long, monochromatic winter they provide very welcome visual relief. This regional influence is sometimes misunderstood, as when a consultant found the creamy yellow trim on the Saranac Lake Post Office "not in keeping with the character of the building." With the advent of a new postmaster from out of the area, the trim has been painted white, and its regional character diminished.

The builders of white Greek Revival buildings and brightly-colored French-Canadian ones both deliberately drew attention. They were engaged in creating community, and had in common a desire to be seen. But a third element of Adirondack builders were distinguished by their desire for total privacy. The captains of industry who built Adirondack Great Camps wanted **not** to be seen. Rustic finishes which came directly from nature, and blended indistinguishably with it, suited their desire to retreat from the public arena.

By observing regional traditions such as color choices, we can better fit in when we build — or paint — today.

MARY B. HOTALING

Adirondack Architectural Heritage

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