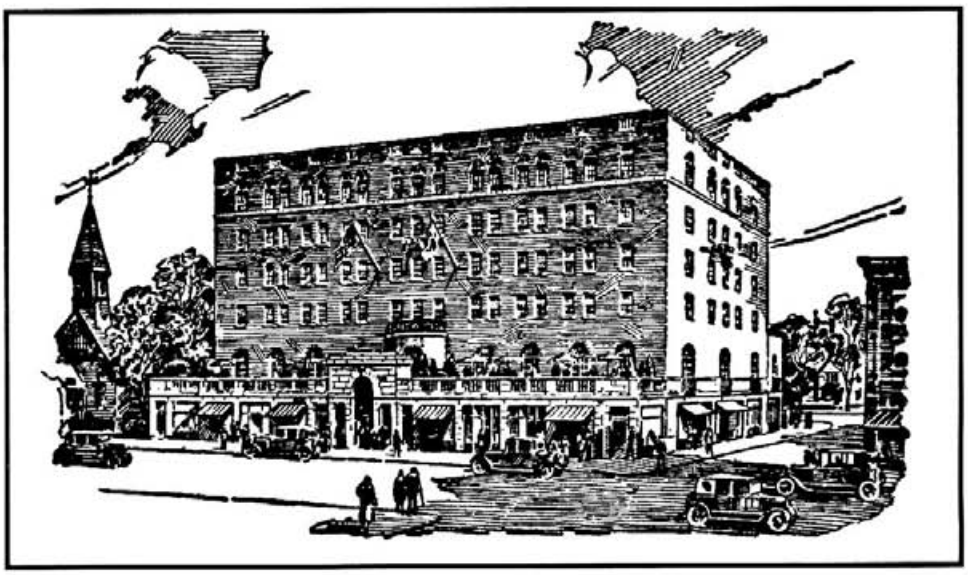
Volume 7, Number 1
June 1998

Newsletter

ADIRONDACK
ARCHITECTURAL
HERITAGE

Scopes and Feustmann, Saranac Lake Architects



Hotel Saranac, 1927

THE PRODUCTIVE AND LONG-LIVED PARTNERSHIP OF SCOPES AND FEUSTMANN, ARCHITECTS, created Saranac Lake as the "Little City in the Adirondacks," designing civic buildings and sanatoria as well as many cottages. Though Adirondack-based, their practice was oddly urban in nature, including prominent buildings that set the style of the village: the Harrietstown Town Hall, the Hotel Saranac, the Santanoni Apartments and Will Rogers Hospital. They also did some camp design, notably the Kildare Club, near Tupper Lake, and a bungalow for Harold Hochschild on Blue Mountain Lake. Scopes and Feustmann became internationally known authorities on facilities for the treatment of tuberculosis, designing many buildings at Trudeau Sanatorium, as well as institutional sanatoria in Liberty, NY, and in Vermont, Georgia, and Canada. The index to their file of drawings numbers 682 projects.

William Henry Scopes (1877-1964) came to Saranac Lake from Albany for tuberculosis treatment at Dr. E. L. Trudeau's Adirondack Cottage Sanitarium in June 1896. Scopes was among the patients who closely watched the construction of the Administration Building there that summer under the supervision of W. L. Coulter. He became interested in architecture and took a correspondence course in the subject.

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From the President

The advent of spring in the Adirondacks stimulates renewed discussion of one's "favorite time of year." There is always a large contingent in favor of spring, especially as it comes hard on the heels of the Adirondacks' fifth season, that no-man's-land between winter and spring called "mud season." With any luck the worst of mud season coincides with the one- or two-week school vacation optimistically called "spring break," when there is mass exodus from the north country for places far, warm and – relatively speaking – foreign. If one travels by car, the process of going/returning offers a preview of blooming daffodils and the daily intensifying pink and pale green haze filling the branches of winter's leafless trees.

While an April vacation accelerates the sensual experiences of spring's arrival, traveling the highways and byways through rural, suburban and urban places enroute freshens one's view -- upon returning home – of the richness of the Adirondacks' communities, historic resources and landscape. The combination of the dramatic High Peak skyline with the pastoral working landscape of the lower elevations and its historic hamlets, makes the Adirondacks a very special, but also very fragile and vulnerable place.

AARCH has chosen to provide leadership in protecting the Adirondacks' historic resources through its supportive membership, advocacy, educational activities and direct actions. It was the threat to the survival of Camp Santanoni which was the catalyst to AARCH's creation eight years ago. This year, AARCH is launching a new initiative, the formation of the Friends of Camp Santanoni. As you will hear about in detail later, a membership campaign has just begun whose purpose is to create this initiative within AARCH, which through fundraising and volunteer efforts, can become a permanent force in preserving and interpreting Camp Santanoni. This will enable AARCH to continue to expand its activities while insuring that Camp Santanoni receives the focused attention it deserves. I hope all of you will support the Friends when the opportunity arises.

BILL JOHNSTON

MEET OUR CAMP SANTANONI SUMMER STAFF

We are most fortunate to have three very talented and energetic people working at Camp Santanoni this summer.

Michael Frenette is an accomplished and well-known builder from Tupper Lake, who will be at Camp Santanoni as our "builder-in-residence" this summer. Michael brings with him several decades of experience and a great enthusiasm for Santanoni and the work at hand. In the last several years Michael has been especially interested in the preservation of log and wood structures and has taken a training course in that area in Norway. He will be restoring the deteriorated porches at the Main Lodge using traditional timber framing and log construction techniques. He will also be teaching a one-day workshop, *Fundamentals of Restoring Log Structures*, at Santanoni on July 25th. See the AARCH calendar of events for more information.

Joanna Doherty has a B.A. from Bryn Mawr College and is currently in the graduate historic preservation program at the University of Pennsylvania. She has also worked as a museum assistant at Carpenters' Hall in Philadelphia, as an office manger for an architectural firm and she helped to found and develop a community-based heritage organization, dedicated to producing public history programs, in Seattle. Jody will be our interpreter at the Gate Lodge and will undertake several special projects important to the future of Santanoni as well.

Kurt Leasure is also in the graduate program in historic preservation at the University of Pennsylvania and has a B.A. from St. Lawrence University. His work includes documenting a prehistoric earthen ruin at the Casa Grande Ruins National Monument in Arizona, several years as a restoration carpenter and as part of an Historic American Building Survey team. Kurt will be our interpreter at the Main Lodge and will help Michael, as time allows, with the ongoing restoration there.

Volunteer for the Santanoni Work Weekends August 22 & October 3! Call Steven Engelhart 518 834-9328.

Scopes and Feustmann, Specialists in Sanatoria & Civic Buildings . . . *continued*

He practiced on his own for several years, working on houses and altering cottages at the sanatorium while still a student and a patient. In 1903, he designed the St. Armand Town Hall in Bloomingdale.

Maurice Mayer Feustmann (1870-1943) also came to Saranac Lake in the late 1890s "when his health became undermined," remaining for two years before going on to the southwest to continue his cure. Feustmann was a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania and completed his architectural studies at the Royal Polytechnic Institute in Munich, Germany. He also attended the Ecole de Beaux-Arts in Paris and traveled and studied in other parts of Europe. He returned to Philadelphia around 1893 or 1895, where he worked for several architects in the city, including Cope and Stewardson, who were known for their campus designs and buildings in the Collegiate Gothic style at Bryn Mawr College, the University of Pennsylvania, Princeton University and Washington University in St. Louis.

In 1903 Scopes invited Feustmann to return to Saranac Lake to become his partner. The offer was accepted and the new firm of Scopes and Feustmann immediately entered the architectural competition to design Mary Prescott's Reception Hospital. Lyman A. Ford, an architect with the firm of Carrere and Hastings, chose their plans as the best of the four anonymously submitted.

The Colonial Revival Reception Hospital, at 5 Franklin Avenue, was the auspicious beginning of their career as specialists in the design of sanatoria. Scopes would later indirectly attribute their special understanding of this field to their own personal experiences as patients. Here, a successful "attempt was made to secure all the advantages of cottage housing with porches adjacent to rooms, without depriving these rooms of direct light and sunshine." They carried out the cottage idea by separating the porches, arguing that "classification of the patients can be worked out better ... as well as better control than where porches are continuous across all the patients' rooms." They later (1935) admitted that this design had been influenced by the work previously undertaken at Trudeau Sanatorium, and suggested that the plan of Reception Hospital had served as a model for other such institutions they designed: Mary Lewis Reception Hospital at Loomis, NY; Vermont State Sanatorium; Laurentian Sanatorium at St. Agathe, Quebec; William Wirt Winchester Memorial Hospital in New Haven, CT; Lake Edward Sanatorium; and the County of St. Louis Sanatorium at Duluth, MN.

Scopes was already been working in the Colonial Revival style when Feustmann returned, and Maurice Feustmann most probably introduced the academic Italian Renaissance and Beaux-Arts influences from his European education. The names "Scopes and Feustmann" became inseparable, and it has become almost impossible now to distinguish their individual contributions. Saranac Lake architect Arthur Wareham shared an office with Scopes for a time; he remembers the partners as opposites. Feustmann, he said, was "more of an artistic designer," who did small private jobs and loved residential work. Scopes, who handled the business side, was "exacting, classic, very accurate and very careful."

Sanatoria were not all they designed. Among the few camps in their output, the most important was probably the Kildare Club, a private family camp despite its name, completed in 1906. In *Great Camps of the Adirondacks,* Harvey Kaiser describes the two-story main lodge – with family bedrooms in the same building as living, dining and recreation spaces – as "represent-[ing] the shift in Great Camp planning at the turn of the century," from multiple buildings to larger structures containing multiple functions.

Their work also includes the 1907 Haase Block (now the Adirondack Bank) at 60 Main Street, a striking Italian Renaissance Revival commercial building, with galleries for patients renting rooms on the second and third floors to take the air.

Not content only to design for others, both partners speculated in property locally. Rachel Bliven wrote that "in 1907 Will Scopes and Maurice Feustmann purchased a large block bounded by Park Avenue, Catherine and Baker Streets and Park Lane in Julia Miller's subdivision, and began to develop it themselves. By 1910 they had designed and built [houses at] 84, 86, 90 and 96 Park Avenue, as well as Feustmann's own home at 28 Catherine Street. All incorporated cure porches and other curing features into the original design. . . . Feustmann owned 90 Park Avenue as a rental property through at least 1916." They also designed a number of other houses in the neighborhood, including the 1909 residence at 22 Catherine Street. Both joined the American Institute of Architects that year, maintaining their memberships throughout their lives. That same year they drew plans for McGibbon Stable at the sanatorium, and their association with D. Lorne McGibbon, a Canadian, probably led to their commission to design the Laurentian Sanatorium in Ste. Agathe, Quebec.

The Santanoni Apartments, "an Exclusive & Distinctive Apartment Hotel for the Health Seeker," was a personal investment for Will Scopes c. 1913-14. Located at 36 Church Street, it was a six-story fireproof apartment house with suites and rooms accommodating 66 people comfortably, an elevator and a posh dining room on the first floor. Despite the claim of "fireproof," it was severely damaged by fire in 1973.

Art Wareham remembers that Scopes had a very early (1914) NYS architectural license, earned then by taking an oral exam. That same year Scopes married Helen M. Dean of Quebec, "a resident of Saranac Lake since 1911," probably as a patient. In 1916 the firm built the Pontiac Theatre in Saranac Lake, which burned in the 1980s. Maurice Feustmann married Grace Brickner of New York City in 1922, and built their home on Catherine Street in 1923.

Scopes and Feustmann, Specialists in Sanatoria & Civic Buildings . . . *continued*

Photo: Mary B. Hotaling

Prescott House, the former Reception Hospital

Swiss-born Paul F. Jacquet (1889-1951), while a student looking for summer work, heard that there was a lot of building going on in Saranac Lake and came to take advantage of it. An associate with Scopes and Feustmann, Jacquet worked on the big projects built at the height of their success. These three, along with sometime associate George Schrader, are among the nine professional architects known to have both lived and worked within the Blue Line before 1942 (see the first *AARCH Newsletter*, Spring 1992, page 6).

In 1927 Scopes and Feustmann designed the Hotel Saranac at 101 Main Street, advertised as "modern, fireproof, 100 rooms, 100 baths, no Invalids, European plan," with an arcade through the first floor which was later enclosed. The large second-floor lobby is said to have been designed to discourage entry by the casual passerby, who may have carried tuberculosis. It reflects the decorative elements of the Grand Salon of the Davanzati Palace in Florence, Italy, though the original is about one-third the size and about twice as high as the hotel lobby.

Phil Gallos has written that "about the same time the new Town Hall was being built, Scopes was selling bonds for his (then) latest project -- the Hotel Saranac. Hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of these bonds were bought by every business person in the community as well as many other individuals. "Merchant Irving Altman said that Scopes feared that the project would be, "a noose around my neck till the day I die." In the late 1920s, "there was really no market for the 100 rooms at the Saranac . . . The hotel embarrassed and nearly ruined its promoter." Now operated by Paul Smith's College, it is the only hotel still standing in the village, and its value to the community is considerable indeed.

The 1928 Colonial Revival style Harrietstown Town Hall at 30 Main Street was built at the height of the village's prosperity, and represents, to Gallos, Scopes and Feustmann's "crowning achievement in Saranac Lake." Of red brick trimmed in Indiana limestone, the Town Hall has a flat roof, a symmetrical facade and a domed, cylindrical tower which doubles the height of the building, dominating its roofline and the street, as well. The two-story front section contains offices; at the rear is a large, ground-level auditorium. The many fine details include twin staircases of imported marbles with ornamental wrought iron railings and marble terrazzo floors. Scopes tore his hair over the months that Jacquet, his employee, spent detailing the tower, nearly a year as Arthur Wareham remembered it.

The National Vaudeville Artists Sanatorium on Lake Flower Avenue, later called Will Rogers Hospital, opened September 1929. Rising three full stories above the raised basement, on the crown of a steep esker, the handsome Tudor Revival-style hospital built of reinforced concrete still dominates its surroundings. "Here there is a slight increase in story heights," they wrote, "but a continued application of the segregation idea."

Scopes and Feustmann designed nine extant buildings at Trudeau Sanatorium, about a third of the buildings remaining; many others have been torn down. This work graphically illustrates the demise of the cottage plan between Ludington Infirmary (1926) and Reid Nurses Home (1930). The progress of the architects' eclecticism from 1908 through 1930, closely related to national trends of the times in architecture, is also exemplified, from the Shingle style, 1908-09; through Flemish Revival, 1924 and 1925; Dutch Colonial Revival, 1926; Neo-Classical Revival, 1926, 1929 and 1930; and Tudor Revival style, 1930.

In 1935 a thoughtful and thorough article on the "Evolution of Sanatorium Construction" appeared in the *Journal of the Outdoor Life*, looking back on the gradual changes made in housing for tuberculosis patients since 1884, an evolution in which Scopes and Feustmann had been instrumental. Though both partners were named as authors, Art Wareham felt that Scopes actually wrote the article.

In 1929 Paul Jacquet left Saranac Lake and went to work for the State of New York, designing sanatoria, mental hospitals and prisons. In private practice from 1936-39, he joined the U.S. Public Buildings Administration assigned to the State Department in 1939, designing U.S. government buildings abroad until his retirement in 1950.

Scopes and Feustmann did no work locally after 1930, when new construction nearly ceased entirely. Maurice Feustmann succumbed to heart disease in 1943, age 70, his tuberculosis cure considered successful because he died of something else. William Scopes was honored in 1956 for "long and distinguished service" to his community by the Central New York Chapter of the A.I.A., where he was the member of longest standing -- 55 years. He died in 1964 at 87, and is buried in Pine Ridge Cemetery, Saranac Lake.

1998 TOUR PROGRAM SCHEDULE

AARCH's tours, led by knowledgeable 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 beverages, unless otherwise noted. Attendance is limited on all tours. All tours require preregistration and prepayment. To register, send full fee to AARCH, Civic Center, Suite 312, 1790 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, June 20
AARCH ANNUAL MEETING AT CAMP SAGAMORE
AARCH's 1998 Annual Meeting will be held at Camp Sagamore, one of the premier Adirondack Great Camps, near Raquette Lake. The meeting will begin at 1 PM and will feature an address by Darlene McCloud, President of the Preservation League of New York State, and the presentation of our 1998 Adirondack Architectural Heritage Awards. The meeting will end around 3 PM. The meeting is a benefit of AARCH membership, guest fee is $10. Advance registration is required. You are welcome to bring your own lunch and picnic on the grounds, arriving at noon. Attendees may also take a full guided tour of Sagamore at 10 AM for $6/person or register for the barbecue and barn dance for $10/person by calling (315) 354-4303, ext. 21. Those attending may also want to participate in some of the events at the No-Octane Regatta in Blue Mountain Lake, which is going on all weekend.

Saturday, June 27
CAMP SANTANONI
Explore one the most magnificent Great Camps in the Adirondacks with Rob Engel, a former AARCH interpreter at Camp Santanoni. This Great Camp was originally built for Robert C. Pruyn of Albany beginning in 1892 and included 12,900 acres of land, known as the Santanoni Preserve. This tour will include stops at the camp's Gate Lodge, the remains of its 200 acres gentleman's farm and Main Camp on Newcomb Lake. Participants will see restoration work in progress and be able to view some of the camp's interiors. The round-trip walk is 9.8 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. We'll return about 4 PM. Suggested optional donation is $10 ($5 for AARCH members). A limited number of seats are available on a horse-drawn wagon, for an additional $10 fee, by advance reservation.

Friday, July 10
CLINTON PRISON AT DANNEMORA
The Clinton Correctional Facility in Dannemora, originally built in 1845, is the third oldest prison in New York State and the state's largest. 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, a chapel built entirely by inmates, 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 11
LAKE LUZERNE & HADLEY: WHAT STYLE IS IT?
This unique workshop/tour will use the villages of Hadley and Lake Luzerne 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 Frances Kinnear Museum of Local History, where the group will learn about identifying architectural styles from Steven Engelhart, AARCH's Executive Director. Following lunch, the group will walk around these adjoining historic villages and look at several dozen historic buildings which exemplify a whole range of architectural styles from the 19th and 20th centuries. The walking tour will end around 4 PM. Fee is $25 and includes lunch ($20 for members of AARCH and the Historical Society of Hadley-Lake Luzerne). Advance registration is required.

Friday, July 17
THE HISTORIC PLATTSBURGH AIR FORCE BASE
Within the confines of the former Plattsburgh Air Force Base are buildings and structures that represent more than a hundred and eighty years of military history,

1998 TOUR PROGRAM SCHEDULE ... *continued*

from the flintlock era to the nuclear age. This tour will bring people to many different areas of the base, including to two War of 1812 fort sites, an early 19th century cemetery, the 1835 Old Stone Barracks and Powder Magazine, dozens of buildings connected to the time when this was an important army base. We will also visit several buildings, including the "Black Hanger," the alert facility and the Weapons Storage Area from the last half of the 20th century after this became a United States Air Force, Strategic Air Command facility. Tour begins at 10 AM and will end around 3:30 PM. Fee is an optional donation of $20 ($15 AARCH members). Advance registration is required.

Saturday, July 18
SARANAC LAKE: PIONEER HEALTH RESORT
Co-sponsored by Historic Saranac Lake, this walking and car-pool tour will be led by Mary Hotaling, Executive Director of HSL. It will include many of the buildings, historic districts and sites which made Saranac Lake America's "Pioneer Health Resort." The village's late 19th and early 20th century history is closely tied to a treatment for tuberculosis developed by Dr. E. L. Trudeau and the creation of the Trudeau Sanatorium. The tour will begin at 10:00 AM at the Trudeau Institute, where participants will visit the first cure cottage, "Little Red," and the Gutzon Borglum statue of Dr. Trudeau. From there we'll car pool and walk to see the former Trudeau Sanatorium, the Saranac Laboratory, Union Depot and other historic districts in the village, ending with a visit to the R. L. Stevenson Cottage. The tour will end around 3:00 PM. Fee is $20 ($15 for AARCH and HSL members). Advance registration is required.

Friday, July 24
RUSTIC ARCHITECTURE OF BIG MOOSE
This tour will look at a variety of distinctive rustic architecture in Big Moose, including the work of Henry Covey, Earl Covey and the Martin family. The tour will be led by John Barrows, a Cazenovia contractor who has written about the Coveys in *Fine Homebuilding* magazine. The tour will include visits to the Big Moose Chapel, Covewood Lodge, The Waldheim and several other camps. The tour begins at 10 AM and will end about 4 PM. Fee is $30 ($20 for AARCH members).

Saturday, July 25
FUNDAMENTALS OF RESTORING LOG STRUCTURES
Led by Michael Frenette, an accomplished builder and our builder-in-residence at Camp Santanoni this summer, this day long workshop will provide hands-on instruction at Camp Santanoni in a variety of important areas, including hand tool use, tool sharpening, basic timber framing and log work. Participants will help do actual restoration work on the porches at the Main Camp. This is a great opportunity to learn some new skills and help with some important restoration work. Some skills and experience required. Workshop begins at 9:00 AM by meeting in the parking area for the Santanoni Preserve, and will end around 5:00 PM. Fee is an optional donation of $30 ($25 for AARCH members). Lunch and transportation into Santanoni are included.

Friday, August 7
A CANOE TRIP TO HITCHINS PARK:
Augustus Low's Remote Forest Settlement
A. Augustus Low, who had become wealthy as a partner in his father's shipping and importing business, had a dream of creating a vast and profitable wilderness empire in the Adirondacks. By the late 1890's, he had acquired over 46,000 acres of land in the Bog River watershed, built a 15 mile railroad from Horseshoe to Hitchins Pond, erected sawmills and other small factories, dams, hydroelectric plants, boarding houses and a home for himself on Bog Lake. At its peak, his Horseshoe Forestry Company produced 20,000 gallons of maple syrup yearly, bottled "Virgin Forest Spring Water" for city markets, made a variety of wild berry preserves, grew potatoes and made wines and "Staff of Life" cereals. In 1908, after a devastating fire swept through this area and destroyed much of the standing timber which was essential to his operation, he liquidated his holdings and left the region. Since then, this wilderness enterprise has slowly disappeared into the natural landscape. Led by John Friauf, this tour will explore this beautiful area and visit the ruins of Low's remote empire. Trip will begin at 10 AM and finish about 4 PM. Route is about a 5 mile round trip, some canoeing experience is required and the trip is limited to ten canoes. Fee is $25 ($20 for AARCH members). Advance registration is required.

Saturday, August 8
HISTORIC TAHAWUS AND ADIRONDAC
Town of Newcomb Supervisor, George Canon, will lead this tour which looks at over a century of mining in the Town of Newcomb. We will see the McIntyre Furnace, the remains of the village of Adirondac, other remains of the Adirondack Iron and Steel Company operations and the 20th century mining operation at Tahawus. The McIntyre Furnace, in particular, 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 1:30 PM. Fee is $15 ($10 for AARCH members). Advance registration is required.

Friday, August 14
FOUR RUSTIC CAMPS OF WILLIAM COULTER
AARCH's Mary Hotaling will again lead one of our most popular tours of four turn-of-the-century "Great Camps" on Upper Saranac Lake, all designed by the prominent Saranac Lake architect William Coulter. These include Eagle Island (Vice-Pres. Levi Morton), Moss Ledge (Isabel Ballantine), the Wawbeek (Moritz Walter) and Prospect Point (Adolph Lewisohn). A rare opportunity to see some of the best rustic architecture in the region. 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 19
TWO GREAT CAMPS ON OSGOOD POND
Howard Kirschenbaum, AARCH founder and director of White Pine Camp, will lead this tour of two impressive turn-of-the-century camps near Paul Smiths: White Pine Camp, former summer White House of Calvin Coolidge and now a museum and Northbrook Lodge, former private estate and now an inn. This is an in-depth look of two of the finest camps in the area. 10:30 AM to 3:30 PM. Fee is $25 ($20 for AARCH members).

Friday, August 21
THE KING'S GARDENS & ENVIRONS AT FORT TICONDEROGA
Long before Fort Ticonderoga was built, the strategic and fertile peninsula on which it was built was used by Native Americans for agriculture and hunting and it was here, in 1609, that Samuel de Champlain and his party of Huron and Algonquin Indians battled the Iroquois. Since that time, this landscape was shaped for defense and cultivated to provide sustenance for French, British and American soldiers. In the 19th century, the site was purchased by William Ferris Pell, who then built the Pavilion, a Greek Revival summer home in front of the picturesque ruins of the fort. In 1908 the restoration of the fort began and the Pells built walled garden adjoining the Pavilion. The landscape architect of the gardens was Marian Cruger Coffin, who was one of the first women to hold a degree in landscape architecture in America. This tour will explore the extensive Pell family gardens, now under restoration, the Pavilion, and other military, Native American and early 18th and 19th century sites around the fort. This will be one of the first public tours of the gardens and will be led by Fort Ticonderoga staff. Tour will begin at 10 AM and end around 4 PM. Fee is $30 per person. Advance registration is required.

Photo: Fort Ticonderoga

The King's Gardens at Ticonderoga

Saturday, August 29
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 brief slide presentation by Jack Brennan, who worked in the iron mines of Moriah for 35 years. We will then take a close look at the iron company buildings, worker's housing, church, memorial hall, jail and #7 Mill in the mining communities of Witherbee and Mineville. 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 cosponsored by the Moriah Historical Society and the Port Henry/Moriah Economic Development Zone. Fee is $20 ($15 for AARCH and MHS members). Advance registration is required.

Monday, September 14
HISTORIC PLACID LAKE
Led by Mary Hotaling, this very special tour of Lake Placid will visit several of the lake's finest lakeside camps and explore the beautiful lakeshore aboard the Lady of the Lake. Fee is $30 ($25 for AARCH members). Advance registration is required and space will be limited to 30 people.

Saturday, September 19
CAMP SANTANONI
Led by AARCH Executive Director, Steven Engelhart. See June 27th for details.

Saturday, September 26
BOLTON LANDING & ENVIRONS
For the second time, AARCH has put together a most special tour in and around Bolton Landing on Lake

George. Led by Ted Caldwell, the tour will begin at 12 noon when we'll board the *de Champlain* to see the magnificent Lake George landscape, hear about Lake George's fascinating history and visit a very special Lake George island camp. Have your lunch on board. Then we'll disembark and go on to visit Mohican Point, the W.H. Bixby home, the Sembrich Opera Museum and museum of the Historical Society of the Town of Bolton. The tour will end around 4:30 PM. Fee is $35 ($30 for AARCH members). Advance registration is required.

Monday, October 12
CAMP PINE KNOT
For the first time, AARCH will offer a tour of Camp Pine Knot and environs on Raquette Lake. Pine Knot was built, beginning in late 1870's, under the supervision of William West Durant, who also later built Sagamore, Uncas and Kamp Kill Kare. Widely recognized as one of the pioneers of Adirondack rustic architecture and the types of camps we now call Great Camps, it was at Pine Knot that Durant first developed the features and details we now associate with this genre. In his History of the Adirondacks, the historian Alfred L. Donaldson wrote about Pine Knot that "before it was built there was nothing like it; since then, despite infinite variations, there has been nothing essentially different from it." Pine Knot is now owned by the State University of New York at Cortland and operated as the Collis P. Huntington Memorial Camp as part of their Outdoor Education Center. This tour will explore the camp, including several interiors, then participants will walk about .5 miles along the lake to visit St. William's on Long Point, the Catholic Church built by Durant in 1890. The tour will begin at 1 PM at the Raquette Lake town dock, where we'll be picked up by boat, and will finish around 4 PM. Fee is $30 ($25 for AARCH members). Advance registration is required.

Saturday, October 17
CARING FOR THE HOUSE OF WORSHIP (Keeseville)
This workshop is designed primarily for people who are responsible for taking care of church buildings but will also be of interest to anyone who cares for and maintains historic structures. Led by Wes Haynes, a well-known preservation consultant and co-author of *Inspecting and Maintaining Religious Properties,* it will explore a whole range of subjects and issues, including: inspecting and maintaining the building exterior, doing planning and developing priorities, reducing energy costs and funding for restoration projects. Most of the day will be spent in the classroom setting of the Anderson Falls Heritage Society museum in Keeseville, but we'll also spend several hours looking a half dozen church buildings, their problems and both exemplary and not so exemplary work as we walk around this historic village. The workshop begins at 10 AM and will finish around 4 PM. Fee is $20 ($15 for AARCH members). Advance registration is required. This workshop is made possible in part by a grant from the Lake Champlain Committee, Technical Assistance Program.

State of the Arts
NYSCA

AARCH Slide Presentations

AARCH Executive Director Steven Engelhart will again be giving a series of public slide presentations this summer, including the ever popular "There's More to Adirondack Architecture Than Great Camps" and "Camp Santanoni: Past, Present and Future." Members and friends are welcome and encouraged to come and hear Steven at these public events, listed below. Other events may be scheduled after this goes to press. For more information, or to confirm, call AARCH at (518) 834-9328.

"There's More to Adirondack Architecture . . ."

- Thursday, July 16th at 8 PM
  Diamond Point Public Library,
  Diamond Point
- Thursday, July 30th at 7:30 PM
  Lake Placid/North Elba Historical Society
  Lake Placid
- Wednesday, August 19th at 7:30 PM
  Raquette Lake Public Library
  Raquette Lake

"Camp Santanoni . . ."

- Tuesday, July 21st at 7 PM
  Crandall Public Library,
  Glens Falls
- Sun., October 20th at 10 AM for
  Teddy Roosevelt Days in Newcomb
  Newcomb Visitor's Interpretive Center

News & Notes

Albany: This spring NYS DOT has awarded the Adirondack Railroad Preservation Society the right to operate the Remsen-Lake Placid line in its entirety.

Brighton: This year the History Day Open House sponsored by the Brighton Architectural Heritage Committee will be held on Sunday, July 19, from 1-5 PM at Asplin Tree Farms. The theme is "Resorts, Past and Present, Large and Small." All are welcome to contribute information or loan displays on poster board. Call 327-3433 for information.

Town of Duane: The rustic lodge built in 1940 on the shore of De Bar Pond is scheduled to be razed by DEC in August of 2004 when the lease on the lodge expires. In 1979 New York State purchased over 1,200 acres including the lodge to add to the Forest Preserve, leaving the house as a temporary in-holding. The house, 17 rooms finished in varnished pine reached by a 1,500 foot driveway, is being well-maintained by a caretaker until that time. AARCH has designated those situations in which properties have been acquired for the Forest Preserve without evaluation of the potential historic significance of their structures as "Time-Bombs."

Jay: Nomination of the Jay Covered Bridge to the National Register of Historic Places was approved by the New York State Board for Historic Preservation on March 20. Steven Engelhart prepared the documentation as part of a thematic nomination for the Bridges of the AuSable River. Requested by U. S. Congressman John McHugh, partial funding to rehabilitate the bridge was also recently passed as part of the Federal budget.

Keene Valley: A fine Existing Conditions Assessment of the 1896 Keene Valley Library has been completed by Argus Architecture & Preservation of Troy, preparatory to updating the wiring and correcting movement in the roof structure.

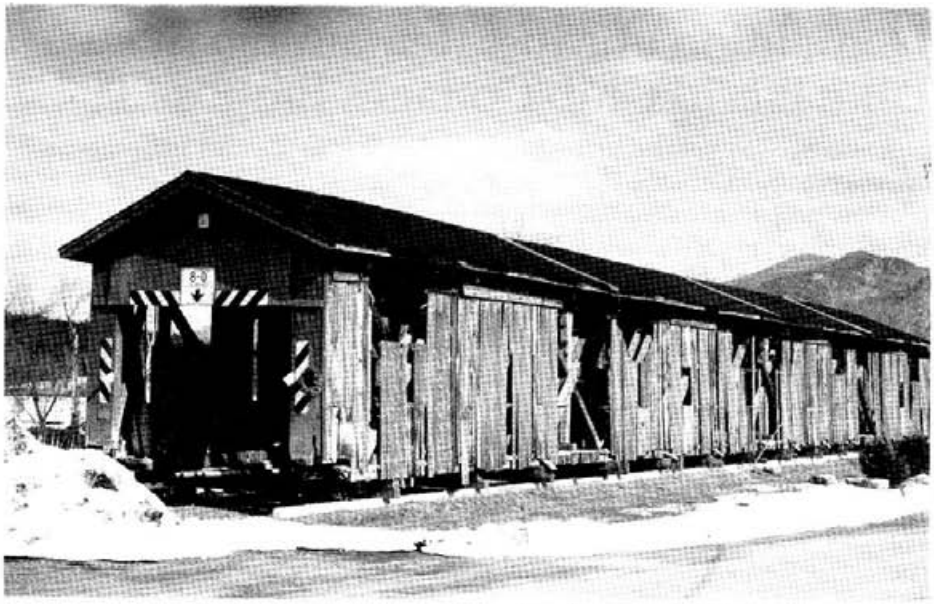

Photo: Steven Engelhart

Jay Covered Bridge awaiting restoration, March 1998

Lake Placid: A committee has been formed to petition for the return to the community of the six Louis Comfort Tiffany stained glass windows from the Chapel of the former Lake Placid Club. They were removed by a team of specialists from New York in the fall of 1992, prior to the purchase of the Club property by Placid Gold, the Lussi family corporation, and are said to be safely stored by the insurance company which has custody.

Lake Placid: On February 5 the New York State Appellate Court upheld the ruling of the North Elba Planning Board which denied Wal-Mart's proposal to build on Lake Placid's outskirts. Residents for Responsible Growth feels that "there is now virtually no chance that the plan for an 80,000-sq. ft. store will be resurrected." Wal-Mart continues to work on its application for a 58,000 square-foot store at the same location.

Saranac: Two former students and a current teacher are leading an effort to restore the one-room Burnt Hill Schoolhouse, vacant since the 1940s. If grant money becomes available, they will move it to town property on Route 3, next to Saranac Elementary School, for use in teaching history.

Saranac Lake: The restoration of the Union Depot with ISTEA funding is almost complete, and site work will be done by DOT in August. A Grand, Grand Opening is expected to be held in late summer. Drop by this summer to check it out!

Thendara: Trainmaster Chuck Rolley has announced that the Adirondack Scenic Railroad carried 57,858 riders during its 1997 season.

Readers are urged to send in items for News & Notes, especially from far-flung parts of the Adirondacks, to counter our tendency to be too Tri-Lakes-centered.

Demolition of Most Remaining Lake Placid Club Cottages Proposed

A year ago we reported that the owners of the former Lake Placid Club property proposed to demolish 15 of the 56 remaining Club cottages. In a letter to the state Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation dated January 5 this year, the owners have added another 26 cottages to that list. These are: Idlewild (1906), Pine Rock (1916), Juniper (1925-26), Cherry (Loj, 1911), Mountain Ash (1917), Wayside (1880-1901), Van Loj (pre-1905), Edgewater (late 1800s), Wanika (1909), Bay Grove (1890), Cedars (1906), Bywood Loj (1907), Green Loj (1916), Edgewood (1904), White Birches (1922), Rock Loj (1909), East Rock (1907), Lilacs Loj (pre-1909), Thorn Loj (1910), Forest Loj (pre-1907), Sunnyside (1901), Pine Cottage (1894), Ononda (1903), Outlook (1900), Shadyside (1916) and Fernwood (1901). These cottages, some built for club members, have been declared eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Under this proposal, only fifteen of 56 original cottages are expected to remain.

Since their Master Plan was written, Serge Lussi writes, "more complete inspections of all of the cottages have required us to change some of the action plans. More of [the cottages] will have to be demolished than was first anticipated." Some of these cottages are currently occupied, and demolition is not expected to take place soon. He also reports that Westgate, West Club and Laurel Cottages have been taken down.

Comparison with Janet Null's study of the Club properties shows that some of the cottages proposed for demolition are among the oldest on the grounds, including Wayside, "reportedly used during the historic first winter season at the Club," and Pine Cottage, where Melvil and Annie Dewey stayed in 1894 when they decided to locate their club in Lake Placid. White Birches, Dewey's home from 1922 to 1931, is also marked for demolition. The two most architecturally significant cottages on the new list are Eastrock, "an exceptional example of the basic principles of the Shingle style," and Wanika, near the site of Theanoguen. Null cites Wanika as "important for its state of preservation as well as its significant architectural character. Most rustic of all the surviving club cottages, Wanika is related to the Great Camp architecture of the Adirondacks. The front porch achieves both prominence and delicacy with a considerable economy of means."

No decision has been made by OPRHP. If you care about any of these cottage, please write Commissioner Bernadette Castro, NYS OPRHP, Empire State Plaza, Agency Building 1, Albany, NY 12238, and send a copy to AARCH.

SECOND UPDATE ON OUR MOST ENDANGERED HISTORIC PLACES

It is a pleasure to report success with the top three endangered historic properties on our original list, published in spring of 1994, but results for the rest of the list are mixed.

Restored and back in use by a foresighted developer, Darren Tracy, **Hubbard Hall** in Elizabethtown received an award from the Preservation League of New York State this spring.

The situation at **Camp Santanoni** is also encouraging; we no longer consider the camp endangered. Local committees have formed under AARCH's auspices to restore fire towers on **Poke-O-Moonshine** and **Mt. Arab**, following a trail blazed by advocacy groups for the towers on **Hadley, Blue and Goodnow Mountains**.

Aiden Lair in Newcomb has been acquired by Bob Morrison, who is fighting an uphill battle to restore the inn, where Teddy Roosevelt changed horses on his flight to the North Creek Railroad Station.

The new owners of **Camp Topridge**, the former Marjorie Merriweather Post Great Camp in the Town of Brighton, have made many changes, including demolition of some camp buildings and construction of new ones.

Garondah Lodge in Elizabethtown has been acquired by new owners, who are holding it for future development, though the market has not supported improvements there to date.

Dexter Lake Camp, Waverly, which had been recently restored, was demolished by its new owners in order to build a new camp and music studio.

The **McIntyre Blast Furnace**, Newcomb, still sits in solitary splendor, as it has for so many years,

Endangered Historic Places . . . continued

neglected by its absentee owner. The Town of Newcomb recently got permission to remove trees which are growing out of the structure.

The **Saranac Laboratory**, Saranac Lake, has been purchased by private owners who are actively planning its restoration using Federal tax credits.

All portions of **Wenonah Lodge** on Upper Saranac Lake, which was subdivided, have been sold.

Camp Minnowbrook on Lake Placid, vacant and for sale in 1994, also has a new and caring owner.

Other properties mentioned in 1994: One camp on **Whitney Park** was torn down in preparation for development which did not occur when the state completed a large purchase there this year.

White Pine Camp, as all who have seen it in recent years will testify, is in caring hands and has been removed from our list.

However, **Wellscroft Lodge** in the Town of Jay has fallen on hard times again, after a few years in which we were optimistic. Its most recent owners left town after the property suffered a fire in an outbuilding, leaving the buildings at the mercy of vandals.

The **Jay Covered Bridge** has been sitting disassembled in a park near its old Ausable River crossing since last summer. Senator McHugh recently announced that around $1,000,000 for its restoration has been allocated in the ISTEA budget just passed.

When we last updated this list in 1995, we added **Baker Chapel** on the American Management Association campus (formerly Trudeau Sanatorium) at Saranac Lake. No news is not good news for the chapel, which has been closed and continues to deteriorate.

Harriman Cottage at Paul Smith's College was also listed as endangered in 1995. The good news here is that this spring the college commissioned a nomination to the National Register of Historic Places for Harriman and the other two cottages remaining from hotel days. This nomination will enable them to apply for future historic preservation funding.

As we have reported, the **Lake Placid Club** was purchased by the Lussi family. They have recently requested permission from the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation and the Adirondack Park Agency to demolish as many as 35 of the remaining Club cottages. [See previous page.]

Several properties have been added to our list this year.

The vacant **Ticonderoga Civic Center** is much in need of a developer for this perfect site for a housing project.

One of the very first theme parks in this country, Arto Monaco's **"Land of Make Believe"** in Jay, has been repeatedly ravaged by flooding of its vulnerable site and continues to deteriorate. Its future is uncertain.

The Art Deco facade of the **Hollywood Theatre** in AuSable Forks is deteriorating, and the building is for sale.

Newberry's ten-cent store in Saranac Lake, which closed last year, presents a large vacant storefront on a crucial section of Main Street.

The **Walton Bridge**, a c. 1890 lenticular truss bridge at Hull's Falls in Keene, Essex County, remains closed. Of 500 of these bridges built in the U.S., only about 40 are left.

Readers are encouraged to notify AARCH of any other endangered properties we should be aware of.

About Adirondack Architectural Heritage

Adirondack Architectural Heritage is the regional, non-profit, historic preservation organization for the Adirondack Park. Our educational mission is to promote better public understanding, appreciation and stewardship of the built environment of the Adirondack Park. We fulfill this mission in a variety of ways, including by sponsoring tours and workshops, by giving public slide presentations, by offering technical assistance and by supporting local governments, organizations and individuals in their historic preservation activities. AARCH is a membership organization with over 800 members. AARCH members receive a biannual *Newsletter*, get discounts on AARCH-sponsored events and publications and may attend our annual meeting.

Join AARCH

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

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Contributions are tax-deductible. Please make checks payable to "Adirondack Architectural Heritage" and mail to: AARCH, Civic Center, Suite 312, 1790 Main Street, Keeseville, NY 12944.

Discover . . .
Morningside Camps and Cottages

Generations of children, both owners and guests, have grown up at Morningside, and then brought their own children here to enjoy the same timeless place. The wooded edge of Minerva Lake is the site of a colony of 15 "cozy log cabins and wood-frame chalet-style cottages" on 80 acres of private land near Northway exit 26 in southern Essex County. Morningside was named nearly 100 years ago because the house faces the morning sun. A Baptist minister, the grandfather of the present proprietor, bought this land from a lumber company. The town was already at work damming up brooks, building Minerva Lake. In a conversation just before he died, the minister left the parcel to a son, urging him to make something of it. Taught by a Canadian lumberjack during the Depression, the son built ten cabins of logs hand-hewn with an axe. Five board-and-batten cottages were added later.

This year Morningside is open from May 8 to October 18. Weekly rates for two range from $400-550 in spring and fall, to $500-680 in July and August. Payment is in cash or personal check; no dogs or credit cards are accepted. Write Frank and Sandy LaBar at PO Box 956, Minerva, NY 12851, or call 518 251-2694 to request their atmospheric brochure.

Photo: Mike Quattrociocchi

Typical accommodations at Morningside.

Adirondack Architectural Heritage

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