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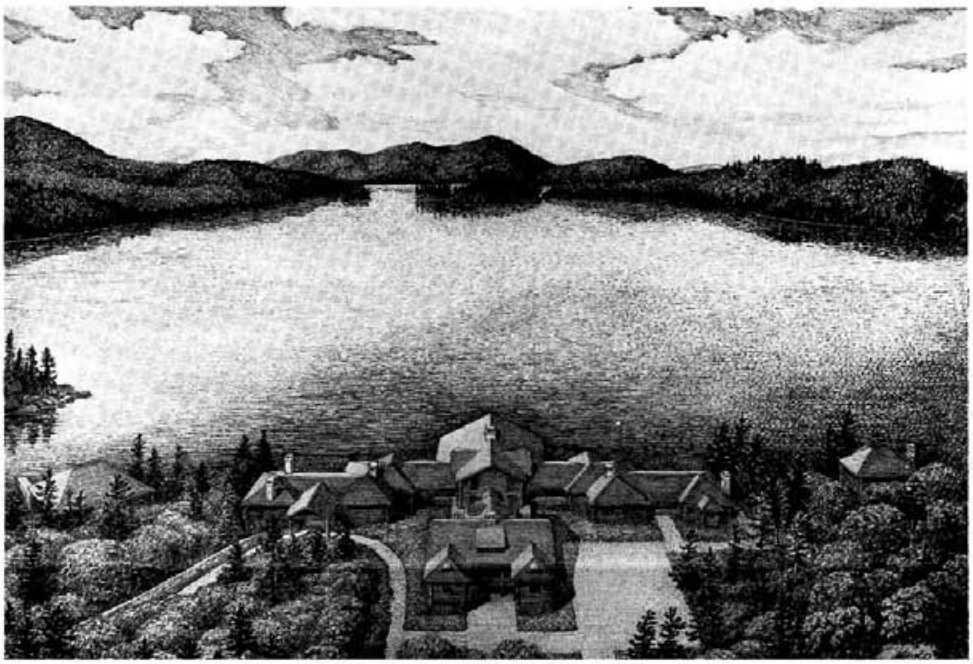
Newsletter

ADIRONDACK
ARCHITECTURAL
HERITAGE

New Scholarship On Adirondack Architecture



Artwork: © Paul Malo – 1998

Main Lodge at Camp Santanoni

ONCE A NEGLECTED AREA OF RESEARCH, studies of Adirondack architecture are appearing between hard — and soft — covers with increasing frequency. Many times they are the results of years of accumulated research and the authors' personal, intimate knowledge of the places discussed. The documentary sources are seldom clearly laid out, but have been tracked down through dogged persistence, creativity, and time. Three books focusing on the Lake Placid area and two articles on Adirondack camps — which include information on Camp Santanoni — have reached the market this year.

Lake Placid Club, 1895-1980: An Illustrated History, published this year by the Lake Placid Education Foundation, is historian David H. Ackerman's second recent book. The first was *Placid Lake: A Centennial History 1893-1993*, which he edited and which was published by The Shore Owners' Association of Lake Placid. Mr. Ackerman is well-known to AARCH members for leading tours on the lake, which he distinguishes from the village of the same name by reversing the words. His personal history is intimately involved with this community, as he grew up

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From the President

What's New at Camp Santanoni

This has been an incredible year for AARCH, and for Camp Santanoni, where many diverse activities are occurring. Following are highlights:

- We had two great summer interpreters. Kurt Leasure did an exemplary job of leading more than a thousand summer visitors through the camp and Jody Doherty greeted and guided visitors at the Gate Lodge. Jody also copied and organized DEC's huge Santanoni archives for us and helped to plan for a more elaborate and informative visitor center at the Gate Lodge in the near future.
- The reshingling of the 15,000 square foot Main Lodge roof was completed this fall. Now the building is more fully protected from water damage. Michael Frenette, an accomplished builder from Tupper Lake, did a beautiful job in stabilizing and restoring the Main Lodge porches during the late summer and early fall. Both projects were made possible by generous funding from the Town of Newcomb. In 1999, we expect to install new porch flooring in these areas and to continue with other porch work at the Main Lodge.
- In 1999, work will commence to stabilize and preserve some of the most deteriorated buildings at the farm complex, including the Herdsman's Cottage and a wing on the big barn. This work is made possible through a grant from the New York State Environmental Protection Fund.
- An historic structures report for the Gate Lodge was completed by our consultant, Wes Haynes. This important study not only explored the history of that part of the camp but made a series of recommendations for future preservation work there. This project was funded through the Preservation League of New York State/ New York State Council on the Arts Grant Program.
- Wes Haynes is also preparing a nomination to list Camp Santanoni and Camp Sagamore as National Historic Landmarks. This nomination, Camps of the Adirondacks, will eventually include other Great Camps as well. National Historic Landmark (NHL) listing is this country's highest historic sites designation and recognizes only places of true national significance. Other NHLs in the region include Fort Ticonderoga, the forts at Crown Point, John Brown's Farm and the Elkannah Watson House in Port Kent.
- George Lyons, a preservation consultant and great fan of Santanoni, did a thorough paint analysis of the Gate Lodge interior. This work will help us make correct decisions on interior finishes, when we eventually get to restoring some of the interior spaces.
- Howie Kirschenbaum, Paul Malo and Rob Engel have been hard at work completing a manuscript for *Santanoni: From Japanese Temple to Adirondack Great Camp*. This book will be published by AARCH in the coming year and will do much to further greater public understanding and appreciation for this special place. Members of AARCH and the Friends of Santanoni will be among the first to know when the book is available for sale.
- DEC expects to make its draft Unit Management Plan for the Santanoni Historic Area public sometime this winter. The development of the UMP was guided by the Santanoni Citizen's Advisory Committee, which included participants from many Adirondack regional organizations, state agencies, local governments and other interested individuals. AARCH will try to ensure that the final UMP reflects the best interests of Camp Santanoni and AARCH will play a role in helping to get the UMP adopted. Adoption of the UMP is critical to being able to move ahead with more substantial preservation and interpretive work at the camp.
- Perhaps most important, though, was the creation of the Friends of Camp Santanoni. This AARCH initiative was made possible through a 1997 Memorandum of Understanding with DEC. It will eventually provide the kind of solid, ongoing financial and volunteer support which Santanoni will need for all the work that lies ahead. This year, the Friends formed its advisory board, published a membership brochure and a new Brief Guide to Camp Santanoni, sold Camp Santanoni t-shirts and sponsored a bike/canoe race into Santanoni. All AARCH members have automatically been made Friends of Camp Santanoni and will be asked to give an additional contribution toward our work there with their annual membership renewal. Through direct mailings and via this summer's visitation, we made lots of new friends, as well.

All of these accomplishments in addition to AARCH's usual summer activities – the Annual Meeting, Awards presentation and extensive program of tours, to name a few – would not have been possible without the outstanding organizational skills and technical knowledge of Steve Engelhart and his Administrative Assistant, Bonnie DeGolyer. The work of volunteers and donations of money and services also are essential ingredients of AARCH's accomplishments. "Thank you, all" who have helped to make this an incredible summer.

BILL JOHNSTON

New Scholarship on Adirondack Architecture . . . *continued from page 1.*

spending virtually every summer of his life on the lake, his family were members of the club, and he attended Northwood School for four years. *Lake Placid Club* compresses an 85-year history into 377 pages, with 350 archival photos, many full page — a nostalgic yearbook for those who have fond memories of the club in operation. The chronological outline records the formation, growth and inexorable decline of the club, almost, as the author suggests, like a business school case study of a family resort. The Lake Placid Institute is distributing the book from their office at 301 Main Street, Lake Placid, NY 12946, or call 523-1312. The Bookstore Plus and With Pipe and Book, shops in Lake Placid, also have copies for sale at a pricey $60.

Two recent articles include the very special influence of Japanese architecture on the design of Santanoni and other Adirondack camps, unearthed by the diligent, original research of Paul Malo. This information will no doubt appear in his forthcoming book *Santanoni: From Japanese Temple to Adirondack Great Camp*, co-authored with Robert Engel and Howard Kirschenbaum. Readers anxious for a preview will want to dip into "Nippon in the North Country: Japanese inspiration in form and philosophy," in the Special Collectors Issue 1998-99 of *Adirondack Life*, "At Home in the Adirondacks," which appeared this fall. This six-page article includes contemporary and historic photos of Japanese-influenced features at several camps, as well as the author's drawing of a bird's eye view of Santanoni, made especially to illustrate a most important point regarding the genesis of the camp's plan. Back issues can be ordered from *Adirondack Life* for $5.95.

A more technical treatment, a survey of the genre for the trade, can be found in "Inventing the Adirondack Log Villa: From Woodsman's Cabin to Rustic Lodge," in the *APT Bulletin, The Journal of Preservation Technology*, Vol. XXIX, No. 2. The author discusses the structural constraints of log building; Camp Pine Knot, the first of the Great Camps; the tower camps built nearby; the *pièce-sur-pièce* construction method of Quebec used in some Raquette and Forked Lake area camps; and then delves into the construction of Camps Santanoni and Uncas, each at some length. The article is seven pages long, plus notes. APT's price is $30 plus $5 handling. Checks should be made payable to APT, and sent to P.O. Box 3511, Williamsburg, Va. 23187. Fax toll-free, 888-723-4242.

The most lavishly produced and photographed, hands-down, is *Adirondack Style* by Ann Stillman O'Leary, a decorator with a shop in Lake Placid and some mighty impressive clients. The color photographs by Gary R. Hall of (mostly) new buildings in rustic style are terrific. They are supplemented by a number of smaller black and white historic photos, many of which are familiar from other publications. O'Leary's discussion of the elements of rustic building is placed in context by an extensive introduction, a 14-page illustrated essay by Elizabeth Folwell. There are several useful appendices, including a list of Great Camps provided by Howie Kirschenbaum, information on publicly accessible Great Camps, a bibliography, and two pages of sources to help readers express their own Adirondack style. Too much attention is paid to the Bissel Camp and the Stewart Camp to consider this a general survey, but for views into the most lavish of private homes in the Lake Placid area, for decorating ideas, and for your coffee table, Adirondack Style is unsurpassed. The cost is $37.50.

More modestly produced at $16 is Sandra Weber's history of a small but important area in the heart of the High Peaks. *The Finest Square Mile: Mount Jo and Heart Lake* falls into clearly delineated historical periods, much of which trace the life of eccentric Henry Van Hoevenberg. Sandra Weber tracks down the origin of "Jo," the love for whom he named the mountain. New information also comes to light on his employment with the Lake Placid Club, where he was one of the storied first ten to share the winter of 1904, popularizing winter sports in the United States and establishing them as a cornerstone of Lake Placid's economy. "Mr. Van stayed," writes Weber, "at the little building that resided directly over the gasoline fire pump . . . The place came to be called 'Vanguard,'" (one of the cottages proposed for demolition by Placid Gold.) Lovers of Adirondak Loj (in Melvil Dewey's simplified spelling) and the Lake Placid Club will all want this thorough history, nicely illustrated by appropriate black and white photographs and drawings throughout the text.

MARY B. HOTALING

State of the Arts

NYSCA

This publication is made possible with public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts, a State agency.

PLEASE NOTE: The cover story "Scopes and Feustmann, Saranac Lake Architects," in the June 1998 AARCH Newsletter was written by Mary B. Hotaling, who forgot to sign it. The content represents years of her accumulated research.

Third Annual Honors Conferred at Camp Sagamore Meeting

Photo: Barbara Parnass

Stewardship Awards at AARCH Annual Meeting, Sagamore Institute June 20, 1998. (l. to r.): Developer Darren Tracy, Wanda Martin and Ida Winter of the Big Moose Community Chapel, and Joseph Pierson of SUNY Cortland's Camp Pine Knot

1. SAINT GABRIEL THE ARCHANGEL CATHOLIC CHURCH

Nestled in the pine woods near the hamlet of Paul Smiths is Saint Gabriel the Archangel Catholic Church. St. Gabriel's was built in 1896, on land donated to the church by innkeeper and entrepreneur Paul Smith, to serve the local families of the Catholic faith, most of whom worked at Paul Smith's Hotel or his other enterprises. The church is a simple wood frame building, elegantly detailed with flared eaves, clapboard and scalloped shingle siding, lovely stained-glass windows with swags and fan ornament and a belvedere and steeple. Equally -- if not more -- striking, is the church's interior, which is finished throughout with clear-finished, beaded tongue and groove paneling and matching trim and ornament. One writer has observed that "whoever matched and finished these walls loved the patterns that wood grains make . . . the natural material has been smoothed and civilized in a way that actually releases its beauty." In 1994, an anonymous donor provided the funds for a complete restoration, inside and out. Perhaps most remarkable, the stained glass windows were restored by parishioner volunteers, working under the guidance of a local craftsperson. In 1996, St. Gabriel's celebrated its centennial in the restored church.

2. DARREN TRACY

The restoration of Hubbard Hall by Darren Tracy is an incredible success story, one that has set a very important example. Hubbard Hall is located on Elizabethtown's Court Street, in close proximity to the historic county office buildings, churches, the Adirondack Center Museum and Deer's Head Inn. Originally built as a home c. 1840 by Congressman Orlando Kellogg, the building was extensively remodeled c. 1895 in the fashionable Queen Anne style by his son, Judge Rowland Case Kellogg. In 1921, the building housed the Elizabethtown Community House, Inc., and, between 1926 and 1967, it operated as the Elizabethtown Community Hospital under the ownership of Mr. & Mrs. W. H. Hubbard. Over the next several decades it was used as a branch campus for North Country Community College and as Essex County offices. In 1994, due to its deteriorated condition, Hubbard Hall was condemned, vacated by its tenants, scheduled to be demolished and placed on AARCH's "Endangered Properties" list. At the urging of a newly created organization, Rediscover Elizabethtown, AARCH and many others, the County eventually gave the property to the Town of Elizabethtown. The Town, in turn, found a willing and energetic buyer in Darren Tracy of West Branch, Inc., in Mechanicville to purchase and restore the property. By listing the property on the National Register of Historic Places and by taking advantage of the federal Investment Tax Credit, Darren completely restored Hubbard Hall, which now is used for much needed office and retail space. The restoration was done with great sensitivity, inside and out, and Hubbard Hall now stands poised for its third century.

3. NORTH CREEK RAILROAD DEPOT PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION

The railroad depot in North Creek was built in 1874 at the terminus of Dr. Thomas Durant's sixty-mile-long Adirondack Railroad from Saratoga Springs. This station served as the jumping-off point for travelers going into the interior of the Adirondacks and it served the tanneries, sawmills and other enterprises in the vicinity of North Creek. Beginning in the 1930s, its "snow trains" brought hundreds of visitors each winter weekend from the cities to area ski centers. Passenger service stopped in 1956 and freight service halted in 1989. Although thousands of people and countless tons of freight passed through this humble depot, its history will always be inexorably linked with Theodore

Roosevelt. On September 13th, 1901, Vice President Roosevelt was camping at Lake Colden when he received the news from Buffalo that President McKinley had taken a turn for the worse and was likely to die as a result of his assassin's bullet. In the middle of the night, Roosevelt went on a dramatic, three-legged, lantern-lit wagon ride from the Tahawus Clubhouse to the North Creek depot to meet a special train for Buffalo. At the North Creek depot, he received the news of McKinley's death. In 1990 a concerned and energetic group of local citizens founded the North Creek Railroad Depot Preservation Association with the dream of saving the station from ruin and creating a local history museum. They obtained the depot in 1993 and have raised thousands of dollars through grants, individual contributions, merchandise sales and other events. The exterior of the depot has been restored, the platforms are being rebuilt, interior work and a museum is planned and, not coincidentally, an excursion train will run out of North Creek beginning this fall. None of this would have been possible without the sustained and effective efforts of the NCRDPA. This work has also paralleled other interest, efforts and activities in the local government, businesses and the historical society to promote the history and architecture of North Creek as an important component in the community's future, which now looks much, much brighter.

4. THE TOWN OF MORIAH

The Town of Moriah's long association with iron mining and manufacturing lasted almost 200 years, from the 1770s when Sir Philip Skene made early use of the region's ore to 1971 when Republic Steel finally closed its extensive mining and sintering operations in the town. This important industry left the town with a fascinating history and a wealth of interesting architecture. More than almost any other local government in the region, the Town of Moriah has seen the value in identifying, promoting and preserving it historic resources as a means to revitalize its economy and to define its identity. In 1989, it sponsored a town-wide historic resources inventory, which led to a number of National Register nominations and helped to reinvigorate interest in local history and architecture. Among those buildings which immediately benefited from NR listing was the Witherbee Memorial Hall, which received a grant from the State's Environmental Quality Bond Act for exterior restoration. With this growing interest in local history, the Town then turned its attention to establishing a local museum in the carriage barn which adjoins its offices, the former Witherbee, Sherman & Co. offices in Port Henry. This was done in cooperation with the Moriah Port Henry Economic Development Zone, the Village of Port Henry and the Essex County Planning Office. With a $242,400 grant from the federal ISTEA program, the building has been restored and opened this fall as the centerpiece of the Railroad & Mining Heritage Park, which also includes the Port Henry depot and a locomotive and ore cars on display. Through a $75,000 grant from the Environmental Protection Fund, the Town is also in the process of restoring the roof and making other improvements to its own office building. These successes prove how important architecture and historic preservation can be to a community's past and future.

5. BIG MOOSE COMMUNITY CHAPEL

The community of Big Moose is blessed by a remarkable number of fine, well-crafted rustic buildings, including the Martin family's The Waldheim, and Covewood Lodge and Twitchell Lake Inn, both built by the skilled and prolific local builder, Earl Covey. But it is the Big Moose Chapel, completed in 1931, that was considered by Earl, and many others, to be his crowning achievement. A religious man, he saw it as fitting that his best work was a place of worship. The granite for its walls was quarried on nearby Dart Mountain, the wall and ceiling paneling is cherry and birch, the rafters are peeled logs, a fireplace sits at the rear of the sanctuary and the pews are duplicates of those in Riverside Chapel in New York City. In such a naturally inspirational setting, it was deemed appropriate that the windows be of clear, rather than stained, glass. Many other of the building's appointments were done by creative parishioners, including Walter Colpitts, who crafted the wrought iron lamps, candelabra, bulletin board and fireplace furnishings and Reverend Wightman, who made the lectern and pulpit. This chapel has been lovingly and respectfully maintained for more than 65 years by many devoted parishioners and supporters. This award exemplifies the kind of good,

1999 AARCH AWARDS

AARCH is now actively seeking nominations for our 1999 awards. The deadline is February 15. Call Steven Engelhart at 518 834-9328 or mail to AARCH at Civic Center, Suite 312, 1790 Main Street, Keeseville, NY 12944. These awards are supported, in part, by Finch-Pruyn & Company of Glens Falls and by the New York State Council on the Arts, Architecture, Planning and Design Program, a State Agency.

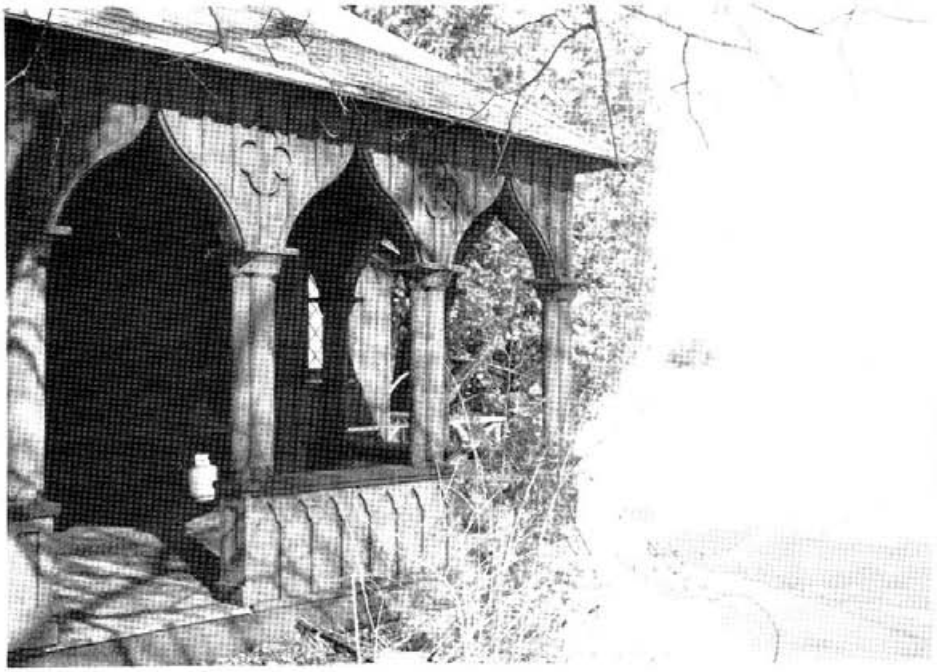


Photo: Steven Engelhart

Three Brother Island, Bolton Landing

year-in and year-out stewardship it takes to care for historic properties over time.

6. THE SWIRE FAMILY

The remarkable set of buildings on Three Brother Islands in Lake George near Bolton Landing were built beginning in 1907 by Spencer and Katrina Trask as a modest and private summer retreat. The Trasks are perhaps best known for Yaddo, their estate in Saratoga Springs, but they also helped make possible the creation of Wiawaka Holiday House on southern Lake George in 1903. Between these three small and rocky islands, Mrs. Trask envisioned "bridge buildings," in the fashion of the Ponte Vecchio in Venice, along with a belltower and a series of cottages and studios and service quarters on the North Island, all done in the Gothic Revival style. She named these islands and their imaginative complex of buildings "Triuna Island." The Trask's tenure at Triuna Island was, however, short-lived. Spencer died in 1909 and a fire destroyed the service buildings on the North Island in 1912. Although the buildings were rebuilt, the ailing Katrina never returned to the island again. It was used sporadically as an artist's retreat, then was sold and was eventually purchased in 1950 by seven brothers and two sisters in the Swire family. Since then, the Swire family has done an exemplary job of maintaining and restoring the buildings and landscapes of the islands, which are truly among the gems of Lake George.

7. THE PENFIELD FOUNDATION AND THE PENFIELD HOMESTEAD MUSEUM

The hamlet of Ironville, in the Essex County Town of Crown Point, is one of this region's real treasures and one of its best kept secrets. Settled beginning in the 1820s by Allen Penfield, Charles Hammond and others, Ironville was a typical small Adirondack iron-producing center, with a dammed creek for power, bloomery forges, trip hammers and blast furnaces. These produced pig iron for export and simple iron products. Penfield's innovative use of an electromagnet in the ironworks is the first known use of electricity in industry. In the 1870s, the iron business was consolidated into the Crown Point Iron Company, its physical plant was expanded, and a narrow gauge railroad was built to Lake Champlain. After the regional iron industry largely collapsed at the turn-of-the-century, this once bustling hamlet slowly began to revert to nature. In 1962, the Penfield Foundation was established to preserve the buildings and grounds of the Penfield Homestead and to perpetuate Ironville's history and heritage. During the ensuing 38 years, the Foundation has done an incredible job of preserving Ironville's buildings and landscapes and interpreting its history through exhibits, demonstrations and activities. The Foundation's properties now total more than 550 acres and include the Homestead, parsonage, Penfield farm and barns, mill pond, iron works, Second Methodist Church and Grange Hall.

8. SUNY COLLEGE AT CORTLAND

William West Durant's first major Adirondack camp complex was Camp Pine Knot, constructed beginning in 1879 on the shores of Raquette Lake. With more than a dozen buildings, it was here that Durant first began to fully develop an Adirondack rustic aesthetic, the Swiss chalet form and the basic layout of buildings organized around function and privacy which we associate with regional Great Camps. The historian Alfred Donaldson wrote that Pine Knot "was the first of the artistic and luxurious camps. It was a unique blend of beauty and comfort. It was a showpiece in the woods. Before it was built there was nothing like it; since then, despite infinite variations, there has been nothing essentially different from it." To help allay his growing financial woes, Durant sold Pine Knot in 1895 to Collis P. Huntington, builder of the Central Pacific and Southern Pacific Railroads. After Huntington died at Pine Knot in 1900, the camp remained empty, but cared for, for almost 50 years. In 1949 it was given to the State University of New York at Cortland which has since operated it as the Collis P. Huntington Memorial Camp and used it exceeding well to train generations of students, children and adults in outdoor education.

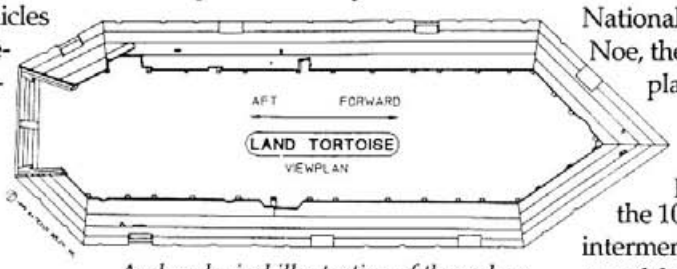
News & Notes

Albany: Federal Judge Lawrence Kahn has ruled that disabled people can operate motorized vehicles on roads used by state Department of Environmental Conservation vehicles within the Adirondack Forest Preserve. This ruling, which presumably includes the carriage road into Camp Santanoni, is being appealed.

Bolton Landing: Senator Ronald Stafford (R-Plattsburgh) made headlines in November when he called for a clean-up of the Adirondacks in order to attract tourists. He was quoted as saying, "When people drive into an area and an old school is boarded up, the Grange hall is falling down and two factories are closed, people aren't going to want to drive there." The junk cars have got to be hauled away and the dilapidated buildings repaired or removed, he said. While the general idea is commendable, AARCH encourages clean-up activities to focus on repair and not the removal of contributing historic structures.

Crown Point: The new manager of the State Historic Site, William Farrar, is planning three major events a year at the British and French forts, such as the 18th century reenactment which took place in August. Watch for notice of a winter activity.

Keeseville: The Vine Street home of architect, craftsman and master builder Seneca Perry is receiving major restoration work, thanks to a package of financing and supervision from the Village of Keeseville and the Friends of the North Country. Dramatic improvements include removal of a deteriorated addition and changes made in the 1980s to convert the 150-year-old house to multiple units. The house is being reset on an entirely new foundation and will receive new wiring, plumbing and heating systems. Total cost is $50,325. Seneca Perry's son, Isaac, later made a name for himself as the last architect of the State Capitol in Albany.



Archaeological illustration of the radeau Land Tortoise.
Credit: Bateaux Below, Inc., and Kerry Norton

Lake George: The radeau Land Tortoise, submerged northeast of Tea Island, has been named a National Historic Landmark. A type of raft built as a floating artillery platform, the radeau is apparently the only surviving example of a class of military vessels unique to Lake George and Lake Champlain in the 18th century. The Land Tortoise is also one of only six NHLs in the country which are shipwrecks.

Lake Placid: On August 6 the John Brown Farm State Historic Site, the 244-acre farm originally purchased by the abolitionist in 1849, was listed as a National Historic Landmark. Terry Noe, the new Historic Site Assistant, is planning a ceremony around the end of May to dedicate the National Park Service plaque and to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the re-interment at the farm of the bodies of ten of the raiders who accompanied John Brown at Harper's Ferry. The site will continue to be owned and operated by the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation.

Lyon Mountain: Michele Supley and other local residents have urged the Town of Dannemora to buy the former Delaware & Hudson railroad depot, currently Greg's Tavern, and use it as a museum to the community's long association with iron mining. The building, which handled the transport of both miners and ore, is reportedly

Published:

When AARCH first began this Newsletter, other publications seldom wrote about Adirondack buildings. Now there are many references, and a number of whole articles, particularly about so-called "Great Camps." Below are those we've noted this half-year:

In *Common Bond*, June 1998, a profile on the Friends of Beth Joseph Synagogue in Tupper Lake. *Common Bond* is a newsletter published by the New York Landmarks Conservancy which focuses on issues affecting historic religious buildings. For information, call (800) 880-6952.

In *Mountain Sports & Living*, September 1998, four pages of color photographs of Last Chance Ranch in North Elba, south of Lake Placid. Privately owned, it's a low, rambling, log structure designed by Saranac Lake architect William G. Distin.

Adirondack Prints and Printmakers: The Call of the Wild, edited by Caroline Mastin Welsh. It is delightful to find some new, early views of "John Brown's Homestead, 1875," "Saranac House, on the Lake, 1876" (the hotel better known as "Martin's" on Lower Saranac Lake), and "Paul Smith's, St. Regis Lake, 1876" -- all chromolithographs by Robert Wilkie. The originals are found in the Boston Public Library's Print Department.

quite intact to the time it was built in 1903, when the D & H upgraded the line from Plattsburgh to Saranac Lake.

New York City: The Preservation League of New York State will hold its annual conference here on March 5 and 6. Call the League at 518-462-5658.

Paul Smiths: Three nineteenth-century hotel cottages, almost all the remaining buildings of the legendary 1859 Paul Smith's Hotel (now the campus of Paul Smith's College), were approved for listing on the State and National Registers of Historic Places in September. Baker, Glover and Harriman Cottages on the shore of Lower St. Regis Lake were rented by the season to hotel guests who desired more privacy and luxury. In the summer of 1926, Glover Cottage served as the Executive Office for President Calvin Coolidge, staying at nearby White Pine Camp, while the hotel hosted most of his entourage.

Plattsburgh: Beginning Saturday, November 20, a series of "consensus forums" are being held to make longe-range plans for the Battle of Plattsburgh Interpretive Center and Plattsburgh Bay Military Cemetery Project. Discussions may involve fund-raising, restoration of the Old Stone barracks, designation of a veterans cemetery, repairs to the Crab Island Monument, exhibition of the Confiance anchor, boatbuilding projects, the future of Clyde Lewis Air Park, future re-enactment events and plans for a replica of the USS Saratoga. One recent letter to the editor of the Plattsburgh Press Republican complained bitterly of changes planned for the "200-year-old army barracks, a registered United States historical site." AARCH has led tours of the Air Force Base. Meetings are open to the public, but participants are asked to RSVP to the office of Assemblyman Chris Ortloff at 562-1986.

Saranac Lake: This fall Governor George Pataki announced a grant of $5 million to the Adirondack Railroad Preservation Society for right-of-way repairs, especially to establish a tourist line between Saranac Lake and Lake Placid. Stations in both communities are expected to be utilised as part of the new service.

Saranac Lake: In response to news that the East Coast Development Company (ECDC) is actively searching for suitable sites for a 100,000 square foot Wal-Mart here after abandoning their attempt to build in Lake Placid, a new organization called Sound Adirondack Growth Alliance has formed. SAGA may be reached at PO Box 773, Saranac Lake, NY 12983.

Saratoga Springs: The first "Spirit of Preservation Exposition" will be held March 26-28, 1999, at the Saratoga Springs City Center, as a benefit for the Saratoga Springs Preservation Foundation. The show will feature exhibits of specialty products, artisans and resources for building preservation, as well as seminars and workshops. For information, call Deane Pfeil at 518 581-8280.

Ticonderoga: Adoption of a proposed law banning relic hunting at Fort Ticonderoga and on Town land has been tabled after a public hearing in October, in which the law was characterized as unnecessarily strict. The hearing will be continued at 7 PM Thursday, March 4.

Photo: PRIDE of Ticonderoga

Ticonderoga: This simple, wood-frame, Gothic Revival-style Congregational Church never appeared on AARCH's "Endangered" list, though it obviously should have. The 1873-74 structure is being torn down this fall.

Waverly: The Franklin County camp and music studio built by country singer Shania Twain and her husband R. J. "Mutt" Lange is now for sale. They tore down the 105-year-old, recently-restored Dexter Lake camp to build on its site.

Willsboro: The Town Board is seeking grant funds to restore the old firehouse. Possible uses include a new home for the information center and access point for the riverwalk, connecting to the trailhead to Noblewood, the Town's future beach and nature area, scheduled to open next year.

Wilmington: Santa's Workshop, one of the very first theme parks in the United States – and celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of its opening in June, 1949 – is being offered for sale. It was built by Julian Reiss, who enlisted the technical expertise of Arto Monaco of Upper Jay.

Fire Towers: AARCH has received $4,765 from the Preservation League of New York State/New York State Council on the Arts Grant Program to nominate the fire towers in the Adirondack and Catskill Parks to the National Register of Historic Places. Consultant Wes Haynes of Argyle, NY, will prepare the nomination. Fire towers which have been or are being restored include those on Poke-O-Moonshine, Hadley Mountain, Blue Mountain, Mt. Arab and in several places in the Catskills.

Second Annual AARCH Raffle a Big Success!

On October 13th, winning tickets were drawn for the second annual AARCH Raffle. The winners and their prizes were:

Lorraine Kirik, Delanson
A week at a lakeside cabin at Camp Uncas

John Lansing, Lake Placid
A spring weekend at White Pine Camp

Helen Schwarz-Lawton, Saratoga Springs
A weekend at Graystone Mansion in Essex

Jane Werner, Raquette Lake
A weekend at Silver Bay on Lake George

Carol Buchanan, Westport
A weekend at Morningside Camps & Cottages on Minerva Lake

Bob Finkle, Saratoga Springs
Family membership to the Adirondack Museum

Marie & Jack Penino, Edinburg
Dinner for two at Potter's Wilderness Resort in Blue Mountain Lake

Alison Gordinier, Troy
A season's pass for two to all AARCH events

Carl Engelhart, Plattsburgh
A day with an Adirondack guide

Bob Lutz, Williamsville
A half day of architectural/preservation services

The raffle was a big success for AARCH, by raising almost $7000 for the organization and drawing attention to our important work. Many thanks to all those who donated prizes, including: Frank & Sandy LaBar at Morningside Camps & Cottages; the Silver Bay Association; Bing & Laura Faxon at Potter's Wilderness Resort; White Pine Camp; the Adirondack Museum; John Friauf, Jr.; Carl Stearns; David Hislop, Jr.; and Howie Kirschenbaum. Thanks also to all those members who supported this effort by buying and selling tickets. This was such a big success again that we'll plan on doing it in 1999!

Sunday, January 31, 1999

SKI TOUR OF CAMP SANTANONI

Explore Great Camp Santanoni on cross-country skis with John Friauf, AARCH Board member and licensed NYS guide, and Steven Engelhart, AARCH Executive Director. 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. The round-trip ski is about 9.8 miles on a gently sloping road. Ski conditions are usually excellent, but the trip will not be held if there is not enough snow. 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 518 834-9328.

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.

(Check one)

___ $20 Individual ___ $100 Sponsor
___ $30 Family ___ $250 Benefactor
___ $50 Supporting
_____ $_____ Other

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

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STATE/ZIP _____

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 . . .

The Waldheim

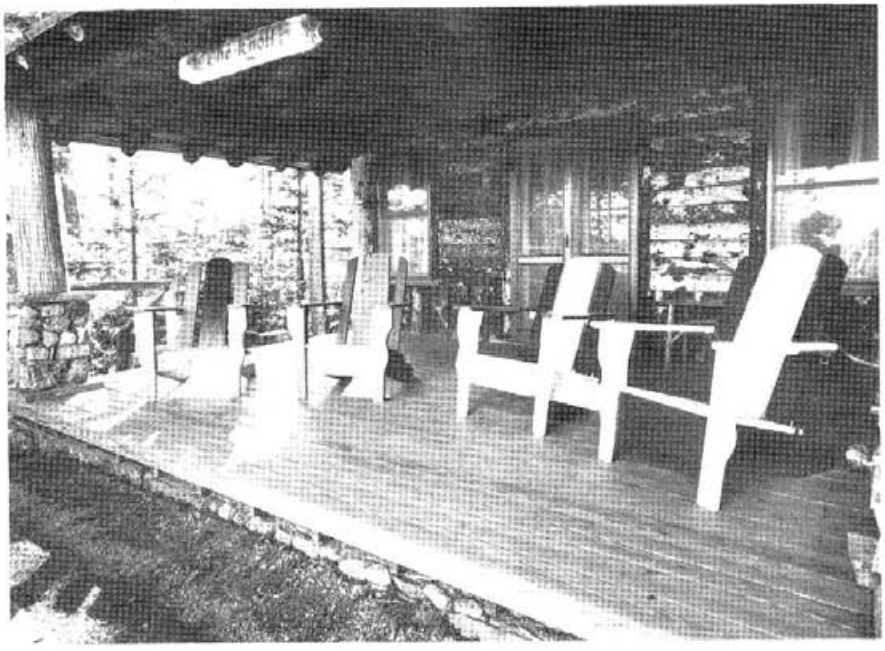
Established in 1904 on the north shore of Big Moose Lake, The Waldheim has been "Home in the Woods" to five generations of guests. The founder was E. J. Martin, who built it himself — in time-honored fashion — with wood from the property. (His sawmill is still operated.) There are fifteen cottages with one to six bedrooms each. Each has a living room with fireplace, one or more baths, and a porch overlooking Big Moose Lake. The Waldheim's own 300 acres are adjacent to state land.

Photo: © Nancie Battaglia – 1997. Used by permission

As one of the last "old time Adirondack resorts," guests are still hosted by members of the original builder's family. Like many traditional hostelries, including the old Paul Smith's Hotel, The Waldheim is only open seasonally, from late June to Columbus Day.

Some of the cottages are built in the vertical-log, stockade fashion, and wonderful photographs by Nancie Battaglia clearly show the time-honored texture of logs with the bark on. If you're not surfeited with rustic design, visit some examples of master build Earl Covey's work — such as the Big Moose Chapel — which can also be found in the vicinity.

For information and reservations, contact Nancy Martin Pratt at The Waldheim, Big Moose Lake, Eagle Bay, New York 13331. The phone is (315) 357-2353.



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Adirondack Architectural Heritage

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