AARCH MATTERS

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The Church of the Transfiguration (1885), Blue Mountain Lake

The Irresistibility of Historic Preservation

Our Vermont friends behind "Preservation in Pink" define historic preservation as "an eternally optimistic, inspiring field intent on improving present and future quality of life through the appreciation of our built and cultural heritage." Although we are still a long way from being a nation or a region of true historic preservationists, we are increasingly becoming more preservation-minded as the intersections between preservation and common sense, community health, good stewardship, and sustainability becomes better understood.

So what makes historic preservation so attractive, even irresistible?

It's About Beauty. People are drawn to historic buildings and communities because most are aesthetically pleasing places to live, work, and visit. This attraction grows from a deep human need to be around beauty, as is also reflected in our love for great art, music, and wild places.

Historic places are attractive because they often represent high achievements in design and craftsmanship. Whether it's the work of a great architect like William Coulter on Upper Saranac Lake, or the imagination of a talented builder like Earl Woodward in Lake Luzerne, or the much simpler vernacular structures seen on farms or in mill towns, historic buildings are well-designed, handsomely detailed, and constructed in beautiful ways rarely seen in contemporary architecture.

Our love of buildings, however, extends beyond simple aesthetics. Let us consider other motivations for loving and preserving old structures.

Buildings Connect Us to History. There are a myriad of ways that people learn about history - through conversation, literature, and by looking at photographs and art. All of these require some kind of choice and effort, but historic buildings are the everyday connection we have to our past. They are all around us; they are the places where we grew up, the places where we worshiped, the places we've played, worked, and studied. If we learn to view buildings as embodiments of past lives, stories, and history, we find that they have much to teach us.

In Saranac Lake, one sees the history and importance of the tuberculosis curing industry through its sanitaria, cure cottages, civic buildings, the Trudeau Laboratory, and its thriving downtown. In Moriah, the evidence of its long and rich history of iron mining is everywhere in its mill buildings, tailings piles, company-built housing, and in the once prosperous look of Port Henry. Raquette Lake's history as a quintessential summer lake community is told through places like The Antlers and the Raquette Lake Supply Company, as well as through the work of Great Camp designer William West Durant in Camp Pine Knot and St. William's on Long Point. Through our observations of the built environment, we find that the history of each community is written in its buildings.

Historic sites are also the best places to learn history because of this direct connection to the past. Making this connection is especially important for teaching young people. At the Penfield Homestead Museum in Ironville, you can shear sheep and spin wool; on the grounds of the forts at Crown Point, watch 18th century soldiers drill and muster; at the Trudeau Laboratory, learn of Dr. Trudeau's work to cure tuberculosis; and, at the 1812 Homestead near Willsboro, children can experience first-

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

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Dear Friends,

I hope this letter finds you well. As I write this in the last few days of February, I am still basking in the memory of the wonderful day of cross country skiing that I shared with my wife and literally hundreds of others as we made our annual trek into Santanoni over the Presidents' weekend. What a spectacular day we had with great conditions and unseasonably warm temperatures.

As I shuffled along, I couldn't help but revel in appreciation of AARCH's essential role in the more than $2 million dollars in restoration work that has occurred at this historic property. We can all take pride in the fact that most building exteriors have been restored and major structural issues have been addressed. On the horizon, a feasibility study is to be commissioned for the proposed reconstruction of a replica of the dairy barn that was destroyed by fire in 2004. A historic landscape report will also guide landscape restoration at the farm. The interpretive opportunities created by these developments are significant.

The work already completed at Santanoni and the continuing work there are prime examples of the persistence and determination exhibited by AARCH in carrying out its core mission of promoting better public understanding, appreciation, and stewardship of the Adirondacks' architectural heritage. Our collaboration and partnership with the Town of Newcomb, DEC, OPRHP and many dedicated volunteers over the past ***27 years*** has produced exceptional outcomes at this crucial historic site. I would commend to you the great piece on Michael Frenette's work at Camp Santanoni that appeared in the January/February 2017 issue of the *Adirondack Explorer.* I should also remind our membership that you may supplement your regular AARCH membership by including an additional gift earmarked for the "Friends of Camp Santanoni."

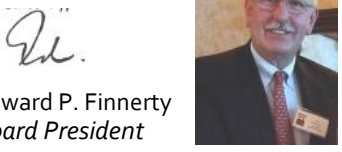
AARCH's unwavering commitment to the stewardship of our unique Adirondack communities will soon be even more evident with several other exciting projects:

- In the coming months, AARCH will be releasing the much anticipated *A Guide to Architecture in the Adirondacks* by noted architectural historian Dr. Richard Longstreth. This impressive publication will be the culmination of ***more than 5 years*** of planning, researching, visiting, photographing, and documenting notable historic structures in more than 100 towns and hamlets throughout the Adirondacks (the product of Richard's more than 10,000 miles of travel throughout the region). This will be the first book to comprehensively document the architecture of the Adirondacks and will be an essential edition to the personal libraries of all who love this region.
- Plans for the adaptive reuse of AARCH's Stone Mill in Keeseville are proceeding with renewed vigor. This property, part of the former Ausable Horse Nail Company complex, was acquired by AARCH in 2008. This project will use state grants, private foundation support, and federal tax credits for the rehabilitation and reuse of this historic property.
- AARCH is also collaborating with the Town of Ausable and a private foundation to revitalize and develop the land adjacent to the Stone Mill as a new public waterfront park along the Ausable River. The park will dramatically transform a dreary industrial site into an attractive open space, available to the community for public events, relaxation, or play. The recent award of a State Environmental Protection Fund grant and a Smart Growth Implementation grant will help make this project a reality ***after years of planning and work.***

I am so proud of what one of our staff members characterizes as the "stick-to-it-iveness" of this wonderful organization. The great work of AARCH is the direct result of vision, persistence, and an investment of time and incredible talent.

Thank you for your continued support. I urge you to renew your membership, recruit new members and friends, and generously support our fundraising efforts and events.

Now, more than ever, **AARCH MATTERS!**



Edward P. Finnerty
Board President

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A World of AARCH exists online. *Join us there.*

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A former highway garage is now the home of the Tumblehome Boatshop

hand a day at school in a 19th century schoolhouse, then make candles, work in the garden, and feed farm animals.

Historic Places Foster Identity & Pride. Historic structures are very often the "beating heart" of a community, those buildings that give a community its identity and "sense of place." Historic preservation is often misunderstood as hindering progress, rather than helping contribute to the vitality of our cities and towns. In a culture that places great importance on maintaining healthy job growth and a thriving economy, it is imperative to realize that preserving our buildings also benefits us by growing and sustaining the health and soul of our individual communities.

Think of almost any Adirondack community and you'll quickly identify one or several such historic structures that give the area its "soul." In Long Lake, it's the Adirondack Hotel; in Old Forge it's the iconic hardware store; and in Big Moose it's the community chapel. Jay, Keeseville, Wanakena, and Hadley all have historic bridges that are central to their identity. Who can think of Newcomb without also thinking of Camp Santanoni? What is Inlet without The Woods Inn or Northville without the Willard Brothers building?

It's What Makes Community. Historic places are where community life happens, in churches, grange halls, parks, the library, at the drug store, and on the sidewalks in-between. The successful preservation of community buildings provides places for people to come together to learn, inspire, celebrate, and enjoy life.

Over the last ten years, a grassroots group has restored the Whallonsburg Grange Hall and made it into a lively community center that offers music, dance, lectures, movies, theater, classes, a commercial kitchen, and a place for meetings and special events. The former Baptist Church in Wells, now The Revival, is a place for many of the same activities. The Indian Lake Theater is the center for all kinds of community life. All of these buildings have brought people together in new and marvelous ways.

It's Economic Opportunity. Historic preservation projects often mean economic opportunity by providing better housing, or creating a home for a business, or developing a new attraction.

Existing buildings are often affordable real estate and their rehabilitation is often less costly as compared with new construction. A huge early 20th century barn at Nettle Meadow Farm in Thurman now serves the farm operation and is a beautiful events space. The Davidson family of entrepreneurs in Keeseville transformed a series of two story row blocks into vibrant commercial and residential spaces. Boat builder Reuben Smith created a new shop and showroom for Tumblehome Boats in a former highway garage near Warrensburg.

It sometimes helps that both the state and federal governments have provided incentives for the restoration of civic, commercial, and residential buildings through tax credits and grants. These incentives can make projects more affordable and often make the difference between saving and losing a building. The restoration of the Hotel Saranac in Saranac Lake, the creation of senior housing at the Lee House in Port Henry, and the Old Brewery apartments in Keeseville were all made possible by the use of tax credits.

It's Smart Growth. People don't often make the connection between sustainable development and historic preservation, but the Smart Growth movement stands out as one notable exception. Widely supported across the political spectrum, this movement has a clear statement of principles: to create a range of housing opportunities and choices; to create walkable neighborhoods; to foster distinctive, attractive places with a "sense of place;" to preserve open space and natural

Kingsland Block, Keeseville

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ADVENTURE

Summer Tour Schedule

Mary is hot on the trail of several new and exciting outings for the 2017 summer tour season, including two overnight trips. One explores women's history in Seneca Falls and the other explores the architecture and charms of several bucolic communities in rural Quebec. We will also highlight the work of several prolific and talented local architects in the region. As always, your perennial favorites will be back, too. The tour schedule will be mailed in mid-April.

PRESERVE

Poke-O-Moonshine Centennial

2017 marks the centennial (1917-2017) of the Poke-O-Moonshine fire tower and the 20th Anniversary (1997-2017) of *The Friends of Poke-O-Moonshine*, which has worked to restore the fire tower and trails on the mountain, and to educate the hiking public about the human and natural history of the mountain and the Adirondack region. Celebrations and a juried art show are planned for the weekend of July 28-30. Visit our website for a schedule of events and details on how you can help and participate.

LEARN

Lectures & Workshops

Have you always wanted to know the style of the bank down the road? Have you wanted to learn more about the history Adirondack Great Camps? Or, perhaps engineering marvels like the Ausable River bridges are more your thing. We've got you covered! Join AARCH staff at locations across the park for our popular lecture series. The next event will be on March 22 at the Lake Placid-North Elba Historical Society in Lake Placid where Steven will present: "Camp Santanoni: Past, Present, and Future." Free and open to the public, 7pm. Visit **aarch.org/adventure/lectures** for our growing list of presentations and for information on how you can schedule one for your library, club, or civic organization.

John Nuzum, Jr.
(1940-2016)

Photo courtesy Chase Alumni Association

We are sad to report the death of John Nuzum on June 21, 2016. John was an active and engaged AARCH board member for several years and a generous and involved AARCH member since 1994. He had a great love for the Adirondacks and its people and communities and loved exploring the region from his camp "Big Shanty" in North River. Whether it was an outing or a board meeting, John always brought his quiet intelligence, deep curiosity, and playful sense of humor with him.

We appreciate that John's family designated AARCH as a charity for memorial gifts in his name and we are thankful for the dozens of people from all parts of his life who gave to AARCH in his memory. He will be dearly missed.

Big Shanty Memories
Stefanie Noble

Stunning view of Thirteenth Lake from Big Shanty

I visited **Big Shanty** for the first time thanks to John Nuzum's generosity in hosting AARCH for one of our quarterly board meetings. I had arrived a bit early and John graciously gave me a tour and explained the history of the camp, as the home of Frank Hooper, a leader in the garnet mining industry of the area. As is common around the region, the stonework around the fireplace was studded with garnet, tying the camp inextricably to its surroundings and history.

We were able to conduct our meeting in the warmth and coziness of Big Shanty (with a lovely lunch at the Garnet Hill Lodge) and I left thinking what a nice place it would be to escape to for a vacation. Little did I know that a year later, I'd be able to do just that, after my mother won a stay at Big Shanty as part of AARCH's annual raffle! My mom, myself, my daughter, my sister and a number of aunts and uncles spent a fantastic weekend at the camp in October of this past year.

The weather warmed up enough that weekend for us to enjoy fires outside, walks through the autumn leaves and kayaking down at the lake, while retaining enough chill at night to properly appreciate the massive, crackling fireplace indoors. The Nuzum family, as well as the other owners, have maintained the property in a way that allows the history to shine through while also making the space feel as though you're returning to your own home: familiar and comfortable.

We are so thankful for this home away from home experience. I know my family will keep that weekend as a treasured memory.

The love for Big Shanty as expressed on a fungus medium

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beauty; to strengthen and direct development toward existing communities; and to take advantage of compact built design. Therefore, if a community does nothing except protect and reuse its historic buildings, it will have advanced every Smart Growth principle. Historic preservation ***is*** Smart Growth.

It Preserves Open Space. Historic preservation contributes to the conservation of open space by encouraging the reuse of existing buildings and the construction of new buildings on vacant lots that are in keeping with the building style already found there. The more construction activity that occurs within an existing settlement, the less development pressure there is to subdivide farm fields or forests.

It's Sustainable. A great deal of attention has been given to the energy-saving benefits of new construction versus existing buildings, with much fanfare especially over LEED certified buildings. But, this misses several important points. The energy used to make the materials for existing buildings – the masonry, glass, metal and wood products, and plaster - has *already* been spent. These elements make up the "embodied energy" contained in a building. A significant amount of new energy has to be expended to produce all the building materials used in new construction and, according to the Empty Homes Agency, it can take many decades to recoup these initial energy and carbon expenditures in future incremental energy savings.

This 19th Century home in Essex is heated by geothermal energy

Existing buildings can also be made to be very energy efficient by investing energy dollars into attic insulation, securing the building envelope, improving mechanical systems, and installing storm windows. The energy payback for these improvements is relatively quick.

Compared to new construction, rehabilitating existing buildings also means more dollars go directly to local tradespeople, stimulating the local economy. This is just another benefit to reusing and improving existing buildings. If reusing historic buildings means energy efficiency through thoughtful conservation measures, utilizing the value of long ago spent embodied energy, and employing local materials and talent, then the greenest building just may be the one that already exists. They are also the biggest, most complex things that you'll ever get to recycle.

There is overwhelming evidence that the most successful communities in America, those with thriving economies, healthy schools and social institutions, are communities that have embraced their own history and preserved their historic buildings in downtowns and residential neighborhoods. These places have embraced historic preservation as a critical element to community health along with other crucial concerns, such as job creation, economic growth, and protection of natural resources. Historic Preservation is a big part of what makes a community a good place to live, work, visit, and play.

Irresistible, right?

We'd love to continue this conversation on Facebook. Visit www.facebook.com/adkaarch with your comments and questions. Don't have Facebook? Direct your comments to Steven Engelhart at steven@aarch.org. We look forward to hearing from you.

PRESERVE

Nominate a Project for 2017 Awards

Nominations are now being accepted for the 2017 AARCH Preservation Awards. AARCH has been recognizing exemplary preservation projects throughout the Adirondacks for over 20 years. The awards honor businesses, organizations, and individuals who have made the Adirondacks, through their preservation and stewardship work, better places to live, work, and visit.

Projects of any size are eligible for consideration. We also seek to recognize individuals who have demonstrated significant preservation achievements in their lifetime. For more information on the awards and to submit a nomination, contact Program Director Mary Cirbus, mary@aarch.org.

Deadline: July 1, 2017

A full list of past award winners and projects is available on our website. www.aarch.org/preserve/aarch-awards/

Lady Tree Lodge, Upper Saranac Lake
2016 Awardee

2016 ANNUAL GIVING

*Approximately 1200 households, organizations, municipalities, businesses, and foundations show their enthusiasm for AARCH's mission through their contributions that sustain our good work. Membership, annual appeal gifts, and foundations grants are the most important source of our revenue. Thanks to all who contributed generously to AARCH. Names in **bold** contribute monthly to AARCH as sustaining members. Contact Virginia for more information about the benefits of sustaining membership at virginia@aarch.org or 518-834-9328*

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Susan Darrin

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Nils & Muriel Luderowski
Lorraine & Wester Miga

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Mark Gallogly & Lise Strickler
Nina Gershon & Bernard Fried
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AARCH

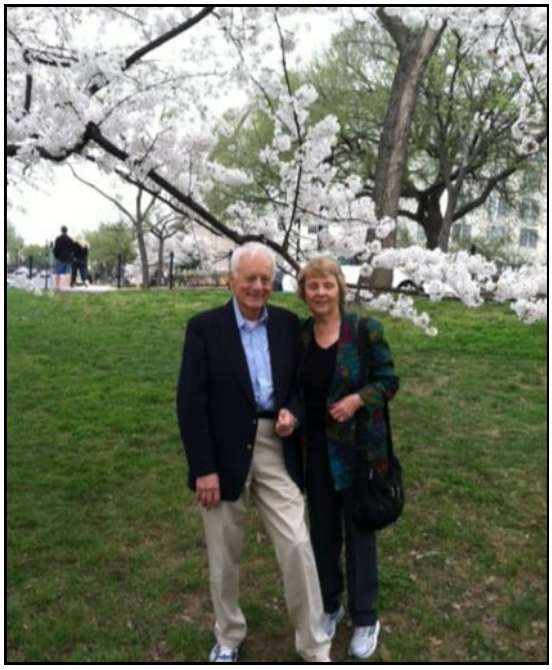
Join our Board of Directors

Our Board of Directors plays an integral part in our successes. Members of our board come from all walks of life -- we have full-time preservation professionals, a retired sales rep for a Fortune 500 company, a local real estate agent, an attorney, an educator, and just about every career and interest in between.

Currently, we're seeking new candidates with a preference for people from the western region of the Park, with a willingness to fundraise, or who have experience in the financing and legal aspects of real estate development. Please let us know as soon as possible if you have interest or suggestions, as our goal is to have a slate of candidates for our April Board of Directors meeting. Contact Steven Engelhart at steven@aarch.org.

BEYOND GIVING

A Conversation with Art & Nancy Saltford



The Saltfords in Washington DC

Board member Martha Spear spoke recently with Art and Nancy Saltford of Washington, DC to find out about their love for AARCH and architecture in the Adirondacks.

The Saltfords have been AARCH members since 2000. They are proud to say that their interest in the mission of AARCH extends beyond the summer months. Art's grandfather arrived in the Adirondacks in the late 1800s, when his family built a camp on Piseco Lake in southern Hamilton County. During most of the year, his family lived in Poughkeepsie, but Art always had a fondness for his summers in the Adirondacks. Art and Nancy built their own camp on family land when they married, and they have been coming here every year since.

The Saltfords have great love for many places in the Adirondacks. In addition to their camp on Piseco Lake, they have enjoyed AARCH tours to places as diverse as Camp Sagamore, Camp Uncas, Wanakena, Tahawus, and the North Pole in Wilmington. They mourn the loss of the barn at Santanoni and The Wawbeek, both places they greatly treasured.

"We have a deep desire to keep the Adirondacks viable, to learn about and preserve its history, and learn about the lives of people who have inhabited and loved this area," said Art. "Architectural structures are part of a community with a history of people, and we wonder who were the people who lived here and why did they build in these specific locations? It's fascinating."

The Saltfords' favorite events are the annual awards ceremonies for people who have saved or transformed structures in the Adirondacks. These projects remind us of the positive impact of preservation in communities. Architectural structures can become the heart of community, bringing to mind the Indian Lake Theater that was saved is now a community hub.

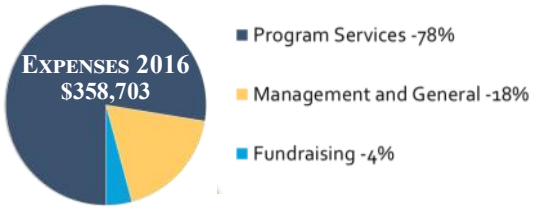
We asked the Saltfords why they chose to include AARCH in their estate plans: "History is so important to understanding ourselves," said Nancy. "Our intention is to help provide for AARCH's future growth. A substantial endowment is needed to continue to support adequate staff and other resources to maintain a strong organization."

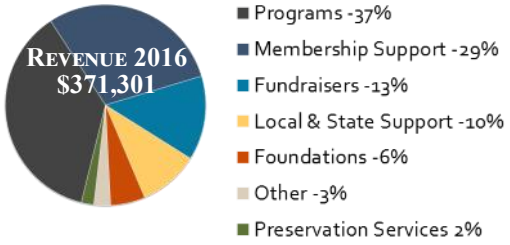
AARCH thanks Art and Nancy for their long and deep support and enthusiasm.

FINANCIAL REPORT

AARCH finished 2016 in a healthy fiscal position, able to transfer $12,598 into our operating reserves. Membership revenue was up 2% from the previous year and program revenue was again strong, primarily because of our second successful Cuba tour.

We continue to keep expenses in line. Program services that fulfill our mission (including technical assistance, advocacy and education), continue to be our greatest expense.





PLANNED GIVING

What Will Your Legacy Be?

Thank you for thinking about the future of historic preservation in the Adirondacks through your planned giving.

Whether you've included AARCH in your will or have regularly contributed to our endowment, you are sending a clear message that Adirondack architecture — and your legacy — matter.

We know that these aren't easy conversations to have and we'd like to be accessible for any questions you may have. If you wish to talk to us about how you might remember AARCH in your estate plans, please contact Executive Director, Steven Engelhart at steven@aarch.org.

BUSINESS MEMBERS AND SPONSORS

AARCH is grateful for the support of many businesses in the region and beyond. We especially value our business partners' commitment to sponsoring our golf tournament, annual benefit, raffle, and other special events. Please help us thank them for contributing to the preservation of historic places in the Adirondacks by supporting them.

SPECIAL THANKS TO THESE MAJOR SPONSORS AND BUSINESS MEMBERS:

AARCH is grateful to these businesses and organizations for their support throughout the year:

Adirondack Classic Designs
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The Chronicle
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Edinburg Historical Society
Essex Community Heritage Organization
Feinberg Library
Fledging Crow Farm
Friends of Eagle Island
Glens Falls Saratoga ADK
Hague Historical Society
Harvest Homes
Heartspace Yoga
Heritage Properties of the Adirondacks
High Peaks Golf Course
Historic Saranac Lake
Housing Assistance Program of Essex County
International Paper
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Shoreline Cruises
T.C. Murphy Lumber Co.
Timberlock Resort
Town of Schuyler Falls Historian
Upstate Agency
The Waldheim

AARCH business membership and event sponsorship is a great way to show your company's support for the special places in the Adirondacks and an opportunity to reach new audiences. Contact Virginia Siskavich for current sponsorship opportunities and to learn about the benefits of aligning your business with AARCH through membership. 518-834-9328 or virginia@aarch.org.

Please feel free to send us information about preservation projects and issues in your community. We do our best to keep track of what's happening in the region but need your eyes and ears, too, to help us do so.

ALBANY: UMP UPDATES
Several Forest Preserve Unit Management Plans of great interest to AARCH went before the public in 2016.

Inner Gooley Club. The management plan for the Essex Chain tract calls for the preservation and public use of the historic Outer Gooley Club building but requires the removal of the arguably more historic Inner Gooley Club complex on Third Lake in 2018 when the current lease expires. AARCH will continue to advocate for the preservation of these buildings and their use as a "hut to hut" destination within a network of regional trails and will nominate the property to the National Register in 2017 as a way of strengthening its standing and stature.

Inner Gooley Club

Railroad Corridor. The state gave final approval to a DEC plan to remove 34 miles of railroad track between Tupper Lake and Lake Placid in order to create a multi-purpose trail on the rail bed. This, despite its active use by the Adirondack Scenic Railroad, the popularity of the Adirondack Rail Explorers "railbiking" operation, thousands of people speaking up against the proposal, an alternate plan that would create a "rails with trails" solution, and state regulations that should have better protected this National Register property. In response to this approval, the Adirondack Railroad Preservation Society (Adirondack Scenic Railroad) went to court to challenge the state's decision on the grounds that it didn't adequately weigh the adverse economic impact of the proposal or consider the "rails with trails" alternative. A ruling is expected early 2017.

Valcour Island. The state released a draft UMP for the Lake Champlain Islands, which includes Valcour Island, late in 2016. The plan reinforces a long-standing relationship between NYSDEC and the Clinton County Historical Association regarding the stewardship and public use of the Bluff Point Lighthouse but calls for letting a National Register eligible property, the Seton House, to fall into ruin. The Seton House is a handsome stone structure built in 1929 and is in fairly good condition. The property also has a stone pump house and concrete dock. AARCH and others have argued that the building should be preserved and could be used by DEC and the public for seasonal staff and as an interpretive center.

ALBANY: GRANT AWARDS
The state announced its annual Consolidated Funding Application (CFA) grant awards in December and the awards included support for several important preservation and community revitalization projects in the region.

The ***Friends of Eagle Island*** were awarded $498,825 towards the restoration of the William L. Coulter designed buildings on Eagle Island on Upper Saranac Lake. This National Historic Landmark was originally built in 1903 for Vice-President Levi P. Morton and was used as a Girl Scout camp between 1938 and 2008. The *Friends* acquired the camp in 2015 with a mission to provide "an environmentally responsible Adirondack island camping experience for diverse youth, with an emphasis on girls and young women, while preserving Eagle Island's natural and historic character."

Eagle Island

More very good news for the *Friends of Eagle Island* is that the Town of Santa Clara approved a change to their zoning law that would allow the *Friends* to use the island for youth camping and outdoor education, much as the Girl Scouts had done there for seventy years. In addition to the grant funding, the *Friends* have also raised hundreds of thousands of dollars in private funding for planning and restoration costs and they hope to open the camp again in the summer of 2018. AARCH is pleased to be working with the *Friends* in a variety of ways to help them succeed.

The Pavilion at Fort Ticonderoga

The **Fort Ticonderoga Association** was awarded $500,000 for the restoration of The Pavilion, the 1827 Greek Revival style mansion built for William Ferris Pell and considered to be one of the earliest summer homes in America. The restored structure will be repurposed for a variety of uses including meeting space, dining, catering, and limited destination lodging.

AARCH was awarded a $281,000 grant for the creation of a new public riverside park in Keeseville which will be adjacent to its Stone Mill property. The park project is a partnership with the Town of Ausable, which will assume ownership and maintenance of the park when it is completed. The project serves several public purposes. It will remove an obsolete and deteriorating building from the waterfront, create a new recreational space in the village, and enhance the redevelopment of the Stone Mill.

Also recently announced were grant awards through the Restore New York program, which specifically funds redevelopment projects of vacant and underutilized buildings for new community and commercial purposes. The **Town of Ausable** received $500,000 for the restoration and rehabilitation of the former Keeseville High School (1936) as a Civic Center for the community. The War Canoe Spirits Company in **Crown Point** received $500,000 for the adaptive reuse of the former Agway complex into a distillery. Both of these projects have had help from AARCH along the way.

Continued on next page

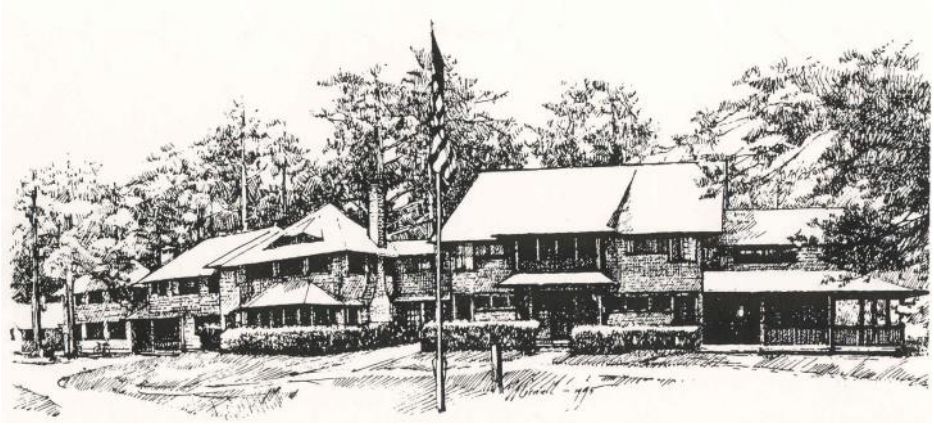
Staff News

Please join us in welcoming **Mary Cirbus** to the AARCH family. As our program director, Mary has been hard at work since January, familiarizing herself with past outings, and preparing for another ambitious and exciting summer season of educational events.

Mary hails from Staten Island and has most recently worked for the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission and previously worked for the Massachusetts Historical Commission. She has a BA in Art History and English from the College of Holy Cross and an MA in Preservation Studies from Boston University. She has familial ties with the Adirondack region through her grandmother, who was born in Witherbee. Contact Mary at 518.834.9328 or at mary@aarch.org

We are also delighted to announce that **Virginia Siskavich** was recently promoted to be AARCH's first Deputy Director. This reflects her increasingly huge role and importance in the organization, which includes an array of vital administrative functions, much of our communications work, and supporting so many of our programs and initiatives. All of this she does with incredible professionalism, grace, and good humor.

Virginia first came to AARCH to put our resource center in order but over the last five years has quickly stepped up to assume many other responsibilities and has proved herself to be invaluable. She has an MA in Library and Information Sciences and a BS in English and Psychology from SUNY Plattsburgh. Virginia is a native of Lyon Mountain and lives in Plattsburgh.



The Uplands, Keene Valley

ALBANY: NATIONAL REGISTER
Several properties in the Adirondacks were listed on the State and/or National Registers of Historic Places in 2016.

Dollar Island Camp, Inlet (Hamilton County). Among the oldest buildings in the town, this rustic Adirondack camp was by built in 1885 on a Fourth Lake island by a local guide and hotel keeper as a vacation home for a dentist from New Haven, Connecticut.

Henry's Garage, Port Henry (Essex County). Originally constructed in 1911 to meet the needs of a horse and automobile livery business, it was then adapted to serve as an early automobile showroom, service garage and car storage facility. It is now the home of the Port Henry Fire Department.

Civilian Conservation Corps Camp S-90, Speculator (Hamilton County). The site includes the most intact collection of Civilian Conservation Corp (CCC) camp buildings in the state, where enrollees in this Great Depression work relief program built and improved facilities at seven state campgrounds, reforested state land, eradicated host plants associated with blister rust, fought forest fires, and searched for missing persons between 1934 to 1941.

Eli and Diadama Beecher House & Barn, Edinburg (Saratoga County). The house was built circa 1830 for Eli Beecher, a founding member of the community who served as supervisor on five separate occasions and as New York Assemblyman. The house also functioned for a time as both a store and as the Beecher Hollow Post Office.

The Uplands, Keene Valley (Essex County). The Uplands is an impressively scaled and highly intact example of seasonal Adirondack camp architecture. The earliest portions of this sprawling camp were erected c. 1910 for Joseph T. Alling of Rochester, a businessman and philanthropist. In 1922 the house and property were purchased by attorney Samuel Thorne of Rye. The Thorne' enlarged the original Alling house by constructing a new south block and an attached laundry wing, along with a detached ice house and automobile garage.

Essex County Municipal Complex, Elizabethtown (Essex County). The oldest building in this complex is a brick Greek Revival style courthouse originally built in 1824. It was in this building that John Brown's body lay overnight, under guard, on its way to burial at Brown's farm in North Elba in December 1859. The municipal complex was expanded throughout the 19th and 20th centuries to serve a variety of county purposes and most of the subsequent construction was done in a classical revival style respectful of the original courthouse.

IN DANGER
The fate of the historic property below is unknown and may be in real danger of demolition. We bring attention to this matter to reinforce that historic properties are worth investing in.

Westport. The future of the Cornell Cooperative Education Building at the Essex County Fairgrounds in Westport is in jeopardy. Originally built in 1923 as the Junior Achievement Building with funding from philanthropist Horace Moses, this National Register-listed building is owned by Essex County and is currently home to many agriculture-related organizations, including Cooperative Extension , the Essex County Soil

Cornell Cooperative Extension building at the Essex County Fairgrounds

and Water Conservation Service, and the offices for the Essex County Fair. It is extensively used for meetings associated with the Extension's work as well as by other organizations throughout the Champlain Valley. Despite its listing on the National Register and some excellent preservation planning work, the county seems poised to build a new $1.2 million building and abandon this handsome and historic structure. The building does have a few problems, mostly due to the lack of maintenance over several decades, but there is an opportunity here to match county funds with state funding to create an exemplary institutional building.

LOSSES

Every year we lose a few historic buildings and the past year was no exception. Sometimes these losses are from fire or other natural disasters, but more often they come from neglect, development pressure, or a lack of imagination.

In August, several of the buildings at the **1812 Homestead** in Willsboro were lost to fires set by an arsonist. This wonderful collection of historic buildings had attracted thousands of young people every year to learn hands-on about early 19th century life. Plans are underway to rebuild the homestead.

In Fort Edward, the very beautiful 1880 Gothic Revival style **United Methodist Church** was demolished in December. The church had been vacant for more than five years and was owned by Irving Tissue Company. This was the fourth building that the company had demolished near its Fort Edward facility. A new village law now requires a justification for such a demolition but Irving's permit predated the new law and

United Methodist Church, Fort Edward. Photo courtesy Post Star

was not subject to it. Said Village Trustee Darlene DeVoe: "Honestly, my heart is broken. No one listened when we tried and now it's too late."

The **Lake Placid Toboggan Chute** is also history. Originally this structure was a ski jump on the grounds of the Lake Placid Club and in 1965 it was moved to the shores of Mirror Lake where thousands of people, over nearly fifty years, enjoyed thrilling toboggan rides out onto the lake. The old chute was deemed unsafe, was demolished, and a new chute was constructed in 2016.

REBORN

We also have good news to report on two endangered historic structures not lost.

Willsboro. For many years, the Ross Mill (Phoenix Mill), a former grist mill on the Boquet River, was on AARCH's endangered properties list. Originally built in 1845 by William Ross, this handsome stone building was rapidly deteriorating due to a collapsed roof and floor system. In 2006, Will and Linda Heintz bought the building and have subsequently completed some major work to repair the masonry, install a new roof, and undertake other structural repairs, securing the building envelope and setting the stage for more comprehensive restoration to follow.

Wanakena. In January 2014, the National Register-listed 1902 pedestrian footbridge spanning 117' across the Oswegatchie River was irreparably damaged by an ice jam. This bridge was such an important crossing and so closely linked to the history and identity of the hamlet that the community immediately got to work raising money to rebuild. With some state funding and lots of local support, the bridge was rebuilt and reopened at the end of 2016.

Town of Fine Supervisor Susan Westbrook stands on the nearly completed Wanakena footbridge

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PRESERVING THE ARCHITECTURE AND COMMUNITIES OF THE ADIRONDACKS THROUGH EDUCATION, ACTION AND ADVOCACY

SAVE THE DATE & EMAIL MATTERS

SAVE THE DATE

Annual Raffle, Drawing May 31
Happening now! Ten great prizes!

Friday, June 16
Chamber Benefit Concert at Greystone Mansion, Essex

Saturday, June 24
Annual Meeting at the North Country School, Lake Placid

Saturday, July 8
Annual Benefit at Tumblehome Boatshop, Warrensburg

Monday, August 28
Golf Tournament at the Whiteface Club & Resort, Lake Placid

Monday, September 18
Preservation Awards Luncheon at Nettle Meadow Farm, Thurman

DID YOU KNOW that a our monthly email newsletter, *AARCH e-Matters* is a great way to stay connected with all things preservation related in the Adirondack region and beyond? We will keep you informed about urgent preservation issues, career and volunteer opportunities with AARCH and Camp Santanoni, and we'll let you know about openings on our highly sought after summer programs and events. If you're not receiving *AARCH e-Matters*, you're missing out!

To join, visit www.aarch.org. Contact us for more information.