22ND ANNUAL PRESERVATION AWARDS

An event to recognize exemplary historic preservation work throughout the Adirondack region

Adirondack Architectural Heritage

Preserving the Architecture and Communities of the Adirondacks through Education, Action, and Advocacy

NETTLE MEADOW FARM
(a 2016 AARCH Preservation Award Recipient)

THURMAN
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2017

The AARCH awards program recognizes exemplary historic preservation work throughout the Adirondack region each year. We honor examples of sensitive restoration, rehabilitation, adaptive reuse, and demonstrated long-term stewardship by a wide range of individuals and organizations.

PRESERVATION AWARDS

AARCH wishes to thank Nettle Meadow Farm for graciously hosting and supporting this event. AARCH also extends our thanks to the following people for their generous sponsorship:

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AARCH

Preserving the Architecture and Communities of the Adirondacks through Education, Action, and Advocacy

Valcour Brewing Company

The Old Stone Barracks
City of Plattsburgh, Clinton County

Plattsburgh's "Old Stone Barracks" is the last remaining structure of a proposed quadrangle of early US Army barracks constructed in 1838 on land deeded to the United States Government in 1814. The Old Stone Barracks was used during the site's various military operations as an Army Post and Air Force Base before the building became vacant in the late 1960s. Despite its vacancy, the Barracks were placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1971.

The United States Government closed down the Plattsburgh Air Force Base in 1995. Lack of attention to the site caused further deterioration to the Barracks, which—although boarded up—suffered from the effects of deferred maintenance and exposure to the elements. Fearing inappropriate development on the historic site, a group of concerned local citizens organized to form the "Friends of the Old Stone Barracks," who worked to cultivate awareness of the site and advocate for its appropriate development. Through their efforts, the Barracks were placed on the Preservation League of New York State's "Seven to Save" List of endangered properties.

Fortunately, Mary Theresa Pearl and her husband, the late Terry Schmaltz, both retired Colonels in the U. S. Army, expressed interest in the Old Stone Barracks to be the site of their microbrewery, and in working with the "Friends" group to obtain the proper building permits. With the conditional approval of the Valcour Brewing Company project by the Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation, Pearl and Schmaltz purchased the property in 2014.

Pearl and Schmaltz were committed to protecting the significant architectural and historic features of the Barracks while bringing the building up to current code and modernizing it to accommodate the needs of a microbrewery. Terry, trained as an engineer, meticulously integrated new electrical, plumbing, heating, and other building systems so as to cause as little impact to the historic building as possible. They installed a seven-barrel brew system in the lower level of the building with observation windows overlooking the brewery. Other notable architectural features include exposed beams and stone walls.

The renovated space includes a bar and restaurant space, guest rooms for overnight stays, and a large community room on the second floor available for rent for up to one hundred people.

Friends of Stillwater Fire Tower

Stillwater Fire Tower
Town of Webb, Herkimer County

The Stillwater Fire Tower sits on Stillwater Mountain at an elevation of 2,264 feet on the site of the 1882 Primary Triangulation Station Number 77 of the New York State Adirondack Survey. The galvanized steel tower is 47 feet tall and was constructed in 1919 from steel manufactured in Chicago, IL, by Aermotor.

The tower was decommissioned in 1988 and subsequently fell into a state of deterioration and disrepair. Efforts began in 2009 to restore the historic fire tower. Subsequently a group of concerned citizens, the Friends of the Stillwater Fire Tower, formed to carry out this restoration and act as stewards of the structure. The restoration was completed in July 2016 aided by a crew of over 100 volunteers, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, and the landowner, Lyme Timber.

The restoration of the tower included new windows to match the original design, removing the "trap door" of the cab and enlarging the opening, and adding a safety railing and self-closing gate. The wood stair treads and landings were replaced with new lumber, and all galvanized hardware was replaced. The steel structure was entirely repaired and repainted and safety fencing was repaired and replaced as needed. Structural work included replaced concrete footings at the base of the stairs and replacing new steel cables.

The interior of the cab was also repaired and restored to replicate its original configuration, features, and details. The panoramic map and the orientation of the tower both replicate accurate geographic directions, since a compass will not function within a steel structure. Not only is the tower oriented such that the four corners of the cab point to the four points of the compass, the panoramic map is also geographically oriented to like up with the silhouettes of the visible mountain peaks.

Trustees of the Masonic Hall and Home

Round Lake Camp
Town of Woodgate, Oneida County

Round Lake Camp occupies between 1500 and 1600 acres on Round Lake in Woodgate. The Trustees of the Masonic Home and Asylum Fund purchased the original 472-acre parcel in 1923, which was originally a dairy and potato farm. Over the next decade the Trustees purchased additional property and established the Masonic Home Youth Camp.

Throughout the 1930s and 1940s the Masonic Home Youth Camp hosted nearly 300 boys and girls (many of who were orphans) from the Masonic Home in Utica every summer. Population dwindled in the 1950s and 1960s until the camp was reinvigorated in 1976 under the leadership of M. W. Nathan Turk, after whom the camp is now named. The camp was expanded to accept children and grandchildren of Masons, among members of other groups.

The camp complex consists of several buildings, most of which were constructed by Masons during the mid-to-late 1920s. These structures, as well as the grounds and shoreline, have been sensitively cared for by the Camp over several decades. Their model of stewardship sets the example for excellence within the region.

Carolyn Sicher & Aaron Woolf
Karin DeMuro & Dr. Robert DeMuro

The Deer's Head Inn
Town of Elizabethtown, Essex County

The Deer's Head Inn, originally called The Mansion House, was constructed at this location from the remains of a hostelry from an adjacent property that originally opened in 1808 and was destroyed by a fire. The location of the original hostelry was rebuilt into a large inn called the Deer's Head Inn, which eventually acquired The Mansion House and renamed it The Annex.

Over the course of its history as The Annex, the building hosted several famous guests, including President Grover Cleveland, and Mary Brown, widow of John Brown, who stayed there while en route to return her husband's body to Lake Placid after his execution. It was also used as a hospital and a school during the War of 1812.

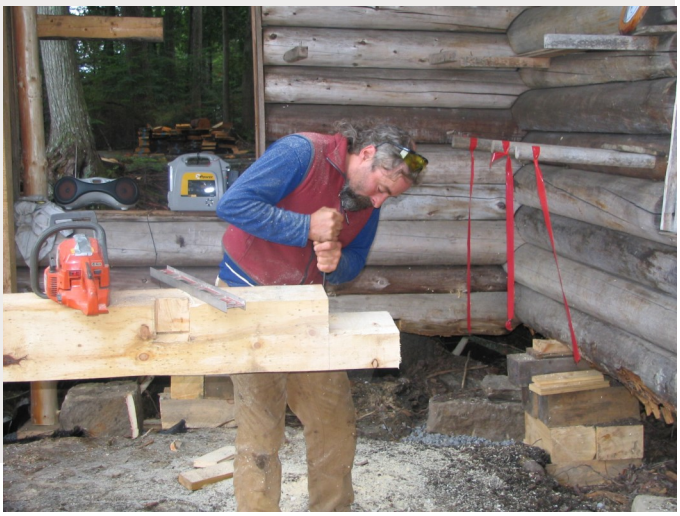
The Deer's Head Inn closed in 1968 and the main buildings were demolished. The Annex, however, remained standing and was renamed the Deer's Head Inn. The restaurant closed in January 2015 and sat vacant for several months. In 2016 the building found new life through new owners Carolyn Sicher & Aaron Woolf, and Karin & Dr. Robert DeMuro, who together aimed to revitalize this historic tavern on Court Street, and return it to its original use as an inn. The owners renovated the interior to add a café and market, moved the taproom, and added four guest rooms upstairs to accommodate overnight guests. Since its reopening, the Deer's Head Inn has revitalized this historic building and its place on Court Street as a popular community spot for locally-sourced food and libations.

Michael Frenette

Michael Frenette
Builder and Craftsman

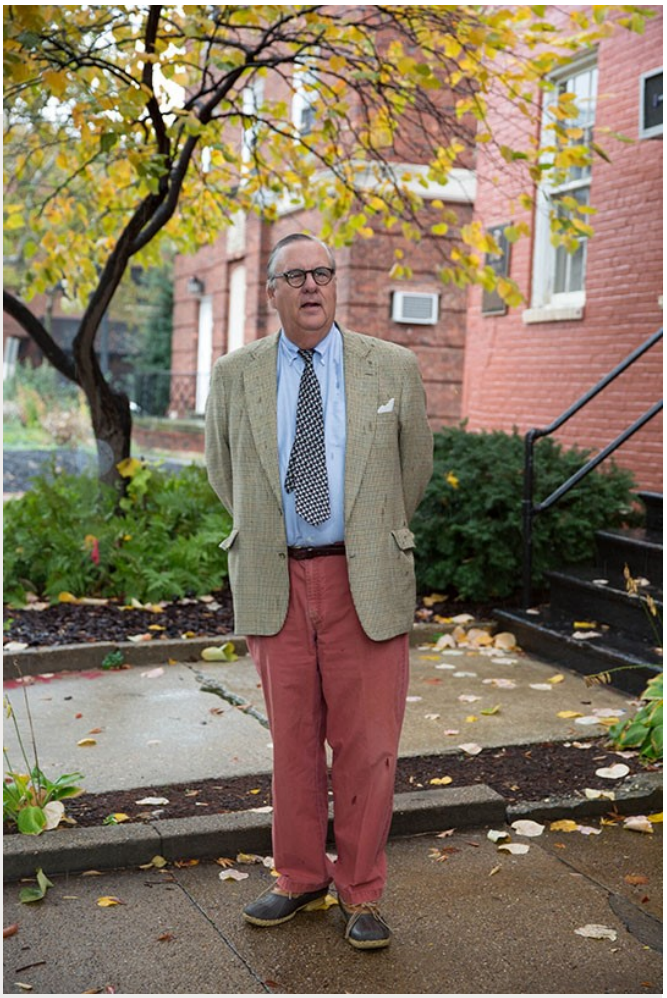
The way Tupper Lake native Michael Frenette tells it, he was just back from taking a UNESCO sponsored course in Norway on wood conservation technology and had hardly more than a few dollars in his pocket when AARCH executive director Steven Engelhart called to ask him if he would *volunteer* to do some work at Camp Santanoni. Despite needing to do some *paid* work, he was intrigued, and soon joined a small group of people to begin the restoration of the extensively deteriorated porches at the Main Lodge. This was the beginnings of Michael's long relationship with and commitment to Santanoni. Since 1998, he has spent the better part of every summer there and during this time he has restored porches, missing roof features, and steps, replaced logs, and done structural stabilization work on the Main Lodge; brought the boathouse back from the brink of complete loss; and restored or overseen the restoration of the Ash House, Pump House, Gazebo, Bath House, Artist's Studio, and Generator Building at the Main Camp and the Farm Manager's Cottage at the Farm.

Michael's talents come from a lifetime learning and doing things well. He builds exquisite log and timber frame cabins and is a furniture and cabinet maker, carver, and wooden boat restorer. Besides years of on the job learning, he went to the North Bennet Street School in Boston and has taken special historic preservation training in Norway and China. He has also taught in the St. Lawrence University Adirondack Semester program and at the Adirondack Museum and Adirondack Center for the Arts.



He's not only an extraordinary builder but he's been a patient teacher and supervisor for our summer staff and volunteers and has been an incredible spokesperson and ambassador for all our ongoing work there. He likes nothing better than to talk about Santanoni and the work going on there over a cup of tea and almost every visit with Michael includes an entertaining story, a good laugh, and a bit of wisdom.

Richard Longstreth



Richard Longstreth
Professor, Architectural Historian, and Author

The idea of creating and publishing a guide to Adirondack architecture goes back more than a decade and grew out of AARCH's deep interest and intense curiosity in the broad and varied architectural heritage of the region. This heritage includes everything from well-known and celebrated Great Camps and rustic architecture to industrial communities like Lyon Mountain and Corinth, to late 20th century places like a Cold War-era missile silo, theme parks, ski chalet developments, roadside architecture, and a "back-to-the-land" community, to the maximum security prison at Dannemora, children's lakeside camps, historic bridges, and the work of individual architects and builders. In everything we do, from our educational work to our advocacy, we have sought to shine a light on this diverse heritage and always imagined that an architectural guide to the region should do the same.

So we were incredibly pleased to have found, in Richard Longstreth, a true kindred spirit, with a similar passion and curiosity for the variety of architecture and communities that we have. More than six ago, Richard came to us with an extremely generous offer to take on the research and writing of a guide to Adirondack architecture and, since then he has spent every summer working on this project, where he has traveled more than 35,000 miles, photographed hundreds of buildings, structures, and landscapes, met dozens of historians and explored most of the region's museums and collections - all to create the first comprehensive guide to the region's architecture.

To his passion and natural curiosity, Richard brings his substantial experience as an architectural historian and author, an impressive background in the preservation field. Richard is Professor of American Studies and director of the Graduate Program in Historic Preservation at George Washington University and is the author of more than a dozen books on American architecture and historic preservation. He has also spent 40 years exploring the Adirondacks as a seasonal resident and has his own individual sense of what is worthy of our attention, admiration, and good stewardship.

We hope that *A Guide to Architecture in the Adirondacks* will be a means by which readers can explore the towns, villages, and rural roads of the region and see its astonishing variety of special places, large and small, familiar and little known, old and new. But Richard's work is not just about the thrill of discovering new places. It's also about greater appreciation and understanding and, central to AARCH's mission, a greater individual and collective sense of stewardship for our architecture and communities, ultimately comparable to the affection and protection we feel towards the region's natural resources.

Wiawaka Center for Women

Wakonda Lodge
Town of Lake George, Warren County

Wiawaka Center for Women is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is the oldest and longest continuously operating retreat for women in the United States. Historically known as the Wiawaka Holiday House, the retreat began hosting women factory workers throughout the early 1900s. Over time the focus on women factory workers changed to include working women of all backgrounds, including veterans, cancer survivors, caregivers, and domestic violence survivors. Mary Fuller founded the property in 1903, after purchasing a tract of land from friends Spencer and Katrina Trask of Tuxedo Park, Saratoga, and Lake George.

The Trasks had purchased an old estate called Crosbyside, which was home to the United States Hotel c.1850, as well as the site of the founding of the American Canoeing Association. They built Wakonda Lodge, originally called Amitola, on this property as an artists' retreat—here students from the New York Arts Club held their first retreat, and Georgia O'Keefe was a registered guest artist. The Trasks first leased the property to Mary Fuller. In 1903 they deeded it to her for $1 and a bouquet of wildflowers. The Trasks went on to found Yaddo—one of America's most respected artists' retreats—in Saratoga Springs.

True to its initial use as a lodge for overnight guests, Wakonda Lodge contains ten guestrooms, a common area, kitchen, and two bathrooms. It is a rustic style building featuring board-and-batten siding, gothic arches, tudor-style carved arches over the porch openings. Eventually the building fell into disrepair and was forced to close its doors as a guest house in 2003.

In 2006 efforts began to repair and restore Wakonda Lodge so that it could be reopened for use. The Wiawaka Board of Directors led a campaign to raise $300,000, which included grants from several sources, including The Wright Family Foundation; The Charles R. Wood Foundation; Senator Betty Little; and the New York State Environmental Protection Fund through the Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation. The fundraising efforts were enough to allow for a sensitive restoration of the entire building, repairing the wood exterior as needed and finishing the wood exterior to match the existing dark brown color; stabilizing the existing stone foundation and conducting additional structural repairs and stabilizing the building; providing handicapped access; modernizing the building's interior to accommodate the needs of the organization; and refurbishing the guest rooms.

Wakonda Lodge reopened for use in 2013. For more information, please visit Wiawaka Center for Women's website: **https://wiawaka.wordpress.com/**