AARCH MATTERS

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A 30 YEAR TAPESTRY OF PLACES, PEOPLE, AND STORIES

by Steven Engelhart

In my final year as AARCH's executive director, I'll have several occasions to reflect on AARCH's 30th anniversary and to share some of my favorite places, people, projects, and stories that have made AARCH such a fine organization and my 27 years as executive director so rich and rewarding. Any attempt to *completely* capture the fullness and richness of this experience is futile but, in highlighting a handful of these, I hope it will say a lot about the character and nature of the region, of AARCH, and our excellent work.

A Curious Heart

While I am proud of so many things that we've done over the last 30 years, I am proudest of the exemplary public education programs we offered every year for nearly 30 years. These tours, workshops, lectures, print, online communications, and publications have all helped create a historic preservation ethic in the region that is broad and deep, on top of which so many successes have been and will continue to be built. At the heart of this is our "organizational curiosity" – a characteristic that drives us to find, explore, interpret, and care for such a wide variety of places all over the region.

We love the random calls we get drawing our attention to places and issues unknown to us. It was such a call from **Janet Holmes** that first brought us to the extraordinary rustic architecture of Big Moose Lake and a call from **Stewart Calkins** that brought us to the remarkable pedestrian suspension bridge to his camp, Knollwood, near Wanakena. And it was a call from **Jonathan Green**, a retired opera singer, who first drew our attention to the story of Fulton Fryar and the "The

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

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Dear Members and Friends of AARCH,

I hope this finds you all well. It is amazing that, just one year ago, all seemed fairly normal as we anticipated another busy season of AARCH programs and activities. Now, with 2020 behind us, we are thankful that we were still able to accomplish so much in what was a very difficult year. We were able to offer some in-person programs, produced new video pieces, strengthened our social media activity, put five properties on the National Register, offered technical assistance, had a great summer at Santanoni, and made progress with our park project in Keeseville and with planning the biggest restoration project to date at Camp Santanoni. Many thanks to our staff who continually demonstrated their resilience and creativity throughout the year. As we emerge from the COVID fog, you can expect an even fuller and more active year in 2021.

We are also thankful that we ended this challenging year in the black. This is thanks to strong giving from our members and friends, great support from the New York State Council on the Arts and Humanities NY, some private foundation support, a few unexpected legacy gifts, and federal support through the Payment Protection Program.

As hard as it will be to lose Steven Engelhart as our executive director this year, we look forward to honoring and celebrating his 30 years with AARCH in several ways. We are planning a major celebratory event on Saturday, August 14 at the Valcour Inn & Boathouse and we hope you will join the many people who have worked with Steven over several decades to celebrate his time at AARCH. Later in the spring, we will also launch a fundraising drive to create the Engelhart Education Fund, a fund dedicated to advancing and sustaining our educational programming across the region.

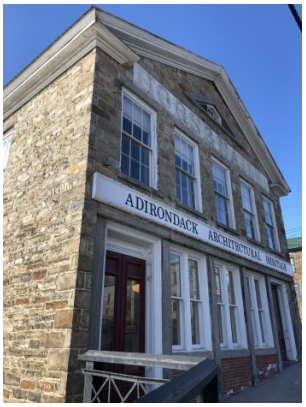
But we have also been busy planning for this leadership change and our HR/Search committee, with the assistance of an outside consultant, has lead us deftly through designing a search process and generating a position profile. A link to the position announcement and profile can be found at: www.aarch.org/about/office/careers. As part of our nation-wide search, we have posted this announcement far and wide but we also know that sometimes positions similar to this one are filled through word of mouth by people who are associated with an organization and who just happen to "know someone" who might be just right. So we encourage you to share this announcement with anyone you think might be a good fit. The expected start date for the new executive director is September 1. Steven will continue to be available to AARCH, to help with the transition, through the end of the year.

Thank you for your support, interest, and enthusiasm, without which AARCH would not be the effective and successful organization that it is. We look forward to seeing you, working with you, and celebrating with you in the very active year ahead.

Kind Regards,

Dean

Dean Melville
Board President



NEW YORK STATE OF OPPORTUNITY. Council on the Arts

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Fulton Fryar's emotional return to The Closet in 2016 gave us all an opportunity to reflect on racism in the region. Photo courtesy Mountain Lake PBS.

Closet," Fulton's segregated housing at the Seagle Music Colony in Schroon Lake, when he was a student there in 1957 and 1958.

Jonathan was concerned about this humble dwelling's fate and we immediately recognized its importance because it embodied a very significant, if uncomfortable story, one that asked us to look at our attitudes and record on race. Our collective efforts led to getting **The Closet** put on display and interpreted at the Adirondack Experience and in finding Fulton Fryar so that he could tell his story, in print and on film, all these many years later.

If the region is best known for its Great Camps, then **Lustron houses** have got to be their polar opposite. Great Camps are large, hand-made buildings of natural materials, on large tracts of land usually on a lakeside setting, and were created for some of America's wealthiest families. Lustron homes were mass-produced, low-cost, all-metal structures, placed mostly on small lots, and were developed to meet America's huge post World War II housing needs. Manufactured in Columbus, Ohio between 1948 and 1950, 2,498 of these were erected in 36 states. Despite having many good attributes, they never really caught on, largely because of their enameled steel aesthetic. This reminds us that we are creatures who crave beauty in our surroundings, both at home and in the larger world, and that our love for historic architecture is, in part, rooted in this. But, at AARCH, we've always sought to look beyond the beautiful and explore how architecture also embodies history, meaning, and identity. These Lustron homes – one in Saranac Lake and four in Plattsburgh – speak to this.

These are part of our larger efforts to shine a light on what is perhaps harder to appreciate, mid-20th century architecture, including our Cold War-era missile silos, the work of early and mid-century architects Alvin Inman and Bill Prescott, and motels and other "roadside" architecture, as best exemplified in Lake George and Lake Placid.

Here's another example. It would be easy and understandable if you passed by **Henry's Garage**, now the Port Henry Volunteer Fire Department, without really noticing it. It is a four story rusticated concrete block building, set back off the street, and not well-taken care of. But it has a fascinating history. It was built in 1916, a time when most people were still using horse-drawn conveyances but automobile use was also on the rise. So Ella and C.W. Henry's son, Earl, an engineering student at RPI, designed a building that would be both a horse livery and an automobile showroom and service center and his creative use of ramps and an elevator made this all possible. Had the building been designed five years earlier, it likely it would have been just a horse livery and, had it been designed five years later, it likely would have been only an automobile showroom and garage. It is a perfect product of its moment in time.

Like with so many places, there are more stories embedded if you dig even deeper. In the 1960s, a garage mechanic named Marc Stoddard, before he left to fight in the Vietnam War, left a can of beer in the rafters of Henry's Garage, with a promise to enjoy it when he returned. He was killed in the war and, as the community grieved, the beer can was forgotten. Fifty years later, the rediscovery of the beer can brought Marc's memory and story back to life and all of this was beautifully captured in Bill Killon and Tom Henry's documentary "When I Come Home," a most poignant reminder of the power of places and objects to hold stories and community memory.

The 1845 Dannemora prison was the state's third prison. Each of these was tied to an industrial activity to support the prison at Sing Sing, marble was quarried; at Auburn, clothing was manufactured; and at Dannemora, prisoners worked in an iron mine.

Growing up as I did in the North Country, there were many occasions when my family would drive past the looming walls of **Dannemora prison,** and I would try to imagine what life was like for inmates and the people who worked there. That curiosity was finally satisfied when, in 1995, on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of the prison's construction, we got permission to bring the first AARCH group there and, over the next 20 years, we brought more than 500 people into the prison through these regular outings. We saw cellblocks, the

North Yard, the Church of St. Dismas, and the prison's workshops but a highlight of every tour was an honest conversation with our corrections officer guide about what it was like to work there and then we would sit down with a group of inmates, who would share a bit of their life stories, their regrets, and their hopes for the future. At the end of one of these outings, a participant said to me "We hardly talked about architecture at all." This was an important observation. Architecture *is* fascinating in its own right, but it is also a great vehicle for exploring issues and telling stories, sometimes even uncomfortable stories, about incarceration or segregation or the violence and losses of war.

Our foundational curiosity plays out in almost everything else that AARCH does, too. Our lecture series, beginning with "There's More to Adirondack Architecture than Great Camps," encourages people to broaden their thinking about what is worthy of our attention and stewardship. Richard Longstreth's *A Guide to Architecture in the Adirondacks*, helps people explore both well-known and little-known places in every Adirondack community. This same curiosity makes our program offerings so rich and diverse – 820 outings to 220 distinctly different places and nearly 500 lectures over 30 years.

There is no way of knowing just where this curiosity will lead AARCH in the future, but I know that our organizational curiosity runs deep and that there are hundreds of places, people, and stories still to discover and shine a light on.

Fighting and Stepping Up

Most people who know AARCH would not describe us as fighters in the word's typical sense, with fists up and lips bloodied by combat. We've never laid down in front of bulldozers and never taken anyone to court, as preservationists occasionally do, but we do battle all the time, through education, persuasion, persistence, and the willingness to do what needs to be done after the fight is over.

AARCH's baptism in advocacy began in our very first year, when we took up the cause of saving Camp Santanoni, the state-owned "Great Camp" that the state had neglected since it was acquired in 1972. By now, a lot has been written about our significant role there - to save the camp, staff it for 15,000 visitors each year, and undertake more than $2.5 million in restoration work on its 18 buildings – so most of this needs not repeating.

This was an undertaking with some real heroes. Howie Kirschenbaum, AARCH's founder and first board president, navigated us through the complex process of finding a legal mechanism for saving Santanoni, he co-authored *Santanoni: from Japanese Temple to Life at and Adirondack Great Camp*, and has led volunteer work days there for decades. George Canon, the Town of Newcomb supervisor for 25 years, was a tireless and influential champion for Santanoni and provided significant funding from the Town for staffing and conservation work. And Michael Frenette did heroic work at Santanoni for 19 summers, to rebuild the roofs and porches at the Main Lodge, completely reconstruct the boathouse, and complete work on seven other buildings there.

Michael Frenette's exemplary work at Camp Santanoni over 19 summers helped restore the camp's deteriorated buildings and set a very high standard for our work there. Photo courtesy of Nancie Battaglia.

But sometimes, we get so caught up in the "work" that we forget the deeper reasons why we do such things, only to be awoken and reminded periodically. In the aftermath of 9/11, architect Dede Nash brought a small group of her traumatized New York City colleagues to Santanoni for the day. After they arrived on the horse-drawn wagon, they disappeared into the Santanoni landscapes, some sat by the lake, other sought refuge on the camp's welcoming porches, some swam at the small beach, and others borrowed canoes from the boathouse and paddled around the lake. By the end of day, Dede reflected, "As we rode the wagon back it occurred to me that there was probably no better place for a post-traumatic retreat than Camp Santanoni. The ride out was silent, each person lost in their own thoughts with their faces turned toward the afternoon sun. Revived and comforted, the group was helped more by their time there than almost anything else that could have been done for them. It is times like this that the National Park Service motto, 'this place matters,' becomes especially meaningful."

AARCH's efforts on behalf of regional **fire observation towers** took a similar trajectory from advocate to working partner. By the

early 1990s most fire towers had been removed from wilderness areas in the Park, a whole list of others were slated for removal, and NYSDEC saw little value in their preservation and public use. But with the threat of further losses looming, the people who had come to love these mountaintop structures over many decades began to speak up, organize, and take action and AARCH was there. We were part of the Blue Mountain Fire Tower Committee that restored and reopened that fire tower, and we sponsored a thematic National Register nomination that placed ten of them on the National Register. We have also nurtured six fire tower "friends" organizations under our nonprofit auspices.

We now take for granted the stewardship and public enjoyment of these mountaintop structures but, without AARCH's early and persistent work, the extent to which we enjoy these towers would certainly be diminished. This work also helped us to change public attitudes about the place of historic structures in the Forest Preserve and, in the end, to see them as complementary and *not* in conflict.

The rehabilitation and 2006 reopening of the Bow Bridge, a symbol for the Town of Hadley, was an occasion for great celebration.

Saving the **Bow Bridge** in Hadley was another classic preservation battle, which pitted elected officials and a department of public works against hundreds of local people who wanted this important community landmark saved, restored, and revived for public use. AARCH brought several important things to this fight, including forming a broad coalition of preservation advocates and articulating a vision for the rehabilitated bridge that also made it a connector for the town's trail system and a viewing platform for watching thousands of rafters come down the Sacandaga River. We also never demonized the public officials who, understandably, wanted to remove what was a major public safety hazard from the town and this gave them the ability, once convinced, to gracefully come over to our side. But the magical ingredient in our eventual success may have come from a most unexpected place. Tom Ryan, a retired engineer and accomplished artist, started to paint the Bow Bridge and encouraged other artists and local students to do the same. This led to hundreds of student drawings and messages of support being sent to Town Supervisor, Tom Mason. In the end, it tipped the scales and he changed his position to endorse giving advocates the time to study and find funding for the bridge's rehabilitation. This is a great lesson in never underestimating the irresistible power of children to stir hearts and change minds.

From there, the rest of it flowed more easily. We got a grant from the Preservation League of New York State to study the bridge's rehabilitation, which became the basis for our successful $1.2 million application to fund the work. The bridge was reopened to great fanfare in 2006.

AARCH played a major leadership role in saving the **Old Stone Barracks i**n Plattsburgh and its seven acre property from inappropriate development by rallying the public against the proposed project, getting temporary control of the property, and ultimately finding a new owner to develop it properly. It is now home to the Valcour Brewing Company and includes the brewery, restaurant, gathering spaces, and an inn. We were part of a group that convinced the Town of Westport to restore its **Town Hall** and found the funding to do so. We helped David Patrick undertake the restoration of a rare "summer house," a kind of open gazebo, that once belonged to Champlain pioneer Pliney Moore. We helped inspire people in Old Forge to save **Hemmer Cottage**, were part of the effort to save and interpret the **McIntyre Furnace** in Tahawus, to restore the **footbridge in Wanakena,** and to rebuild the **Jay Covered Bridge**. The common ingredient in so many of these is a shared vision and lots of community energy.

Much of the good work to restore and bring the Beth Joseph synagogue back to life was the work of five visionary and hard-working women. AARCH has had the great pleasure of working with these dedicated people for decades. Photo courtesy Traditional Arts in Upstate New York (TAUNY).

But we also lose a lot of the battles we fight, especially when it comes to state-owned historic properties. The **Gooley Club**, a National Register-listed hunting and fishing club, was demolished, despite its potential as a "hut-to-hut" destination within the Essex Chain Lakes region. The **Lake Champlain Bridge** was replaced after years of neglect made its thoughtful rehabilitation impossible. And the Tupper Lake to Lake Placid portion of the **Adirondack Railroad** has been removed despite what we thought was a practical alternative for a "rails with trails" solution.

Lake Champlain Bridge (1929-2012)

But we don't dwell on these losses, we accept that "you win some and you lose some," we try to be respectful of the people and organizations that see these issues differently , and we remain optimistic about changing more minds and hearts in the future.

What will the issues and opportunities be for AARCH in the future? As more churches close, will we be challenged to find more solutions for their adaptive reuse? Will the move to online banking cause local banks to close and have to be repurposed? And what about buildings built in the 1970s and 1980s, which are now hitting the 50 year old mark and can now be considered historic? What from that era will we find worthy of our attention? There is no way to know answers to these questions but I do know that AARCH's fundamental organizational characteristics of curiosity, persistence, creativity, connection, and imagination will be there to greet them.

I'm now going to circle back to **Big Moose Lake**, where I started, as a way of closing with some final thoughts. Once we "discovered" Big Moose Lake, we forged a long relationship with this place and its people. We've done tours there for 25 years. We've given stewardship awards to Covewood Lodge, The Waldheim, the Big Moose Community Chapel, and the owners of Camp Veery. I've given talks at the chapel and to the lakeshore owners association. We've featured the work of Earl Covey and other builders in our publications. And we've had the great pleasure of getting to know people like Major and Diane Bowes, several generations of the Martin family, the good people who take care of the chapel, and camp owners like the Lozners, the Holmes family, and the Barlows – all truly amazing people.

The annual Balsam Bee gathering at the Big Moose Community Chapel.

In getting to know this community, it always struck me how unpolarized it was. Seasonal residents seemed to like, respect, and have relationships with the year-round residents because, in part, it was they who made their lovely lake life possible. And year-round residents felt the same way, recognizing that without the seasonal residents there wouldn't be a local economy. When I asked why this was so, several people said it was because of the chapel, a welcoming, judgement-free place where people could gather to celebrate life's milestones and be a community. So, at Big Moose Lake, I see a deep love of place, an affection for one another, a shared community vision, and a willingness to work together no matter one's background or politics. Am I romanticizing this a little? Perhaps. But, at the heart of this, is my deepest wish for all us today and in the future.

Thank you to all of you who have made AARCH such an outstanding organization and who have made my time at AARCH so rich and beautiful.

Steven

The creation of cultural heritage is a complex process but I am absolutely convinced that its intangible, spiritual content is inseparable from its physical existence: thus it is that ideas become environments.

Eusebio Leal, Historian of the City of Havana

*Over 1000 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. An asterisk denotes a new membership. Contact Jessica about the benefits of sustaining membership or with any errors or omissions to this list.*

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Susan Darrin
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In Memory of my great grandfather whose house is listed as the John Agnew House on Church Lane In AuSable Forks.
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James & Judy Goar
Miriam Goulding
Lynn Harrison
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2020 FINANCIAL REPORT

There was perhaps no greater concern at AARCH this past year than the impact that the pandemic might have on our 2020 revenue streams and on our overall financial health. But thanks to strong giving from our members and friends, great support from the New York State Council on the Arts and Humanities NY, private foundation support, a few unexpected legacy gifts, federal support through the Payment Protection Program, and some internal cost-cutting, we ended the year in the black. The following is brief 2020 (Operating) Financial Report.

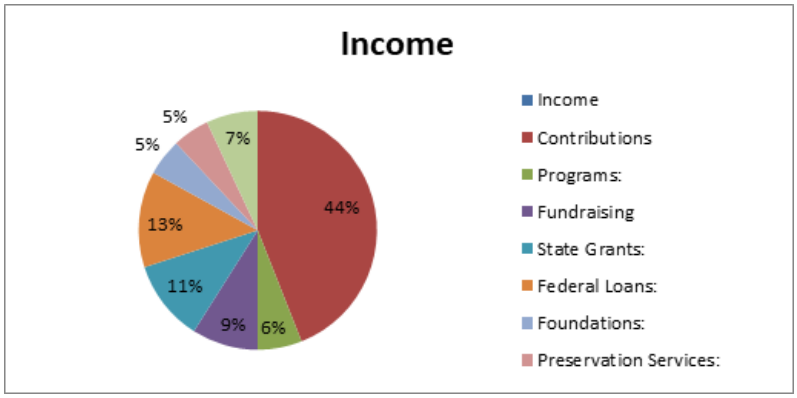
Revenue

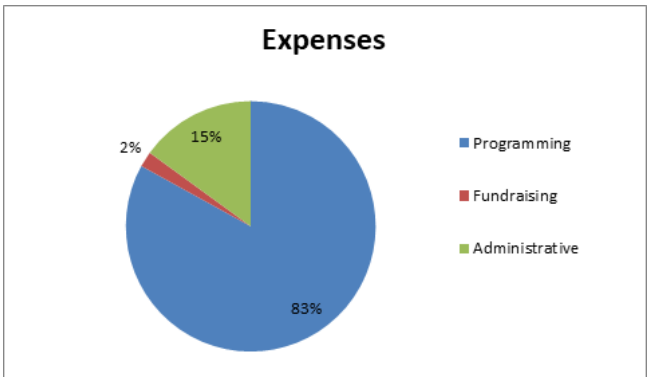
Membership/Contributions	$173,223
Programs	22,103
Preservation Services	19,200
Fundraising	30,945
Foundation	18,550
State Support	39,560
Federal Support (PPP Loan)	45,700[1]
All Other	11,338
	$360,619

Expenses

Salaries/Benefits	235,949
Fundraising	6,994
All Other	91,806
	$334,749

Note: [1]PPP loan is assumed to be forgivable.





LEAVING A LEGACY TO AARCH

Another great way to support the work of Adirondack Architectural Heritage is by naming AARCH as a beneficiary in your estate plan. Your attorney can help you design an estate plan that provides for your family and supports the nonprofit organizations, like AARCH, whose work has enriched your life and the life of your community and wider world. Requests can be designated for general purposes or directed to certain aspects of AARCH's mission, such as our work at Camp Santanoni or our educational programs.

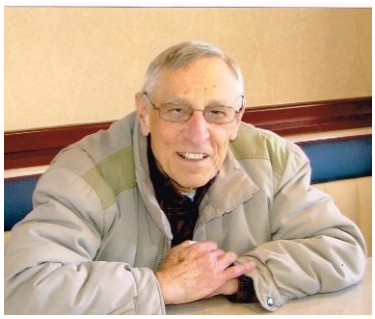
There are dozens of ways to include AARCH in your estate planning, including by:

- Designating a specific dollar amount to AARCH
- Designating a percentage of your estate to AARCH
- Designating specific items in your estate to AARCH, such as stocks, bonds, other securities, an IRA, or real estate
- Including AARCH in your charitable remainder or charitable lead trust

We invite you to consider including AARCH in your estate planning. Please contact Steven Engelhart at (518) 834-9328 or steven@aarch.org to discuss this further or to let us know that you've already made the decision to name AARCH as a beneficiary of your estate.

AARCH has recently been the beneficiary of two wonderful estate gifts.

Wanda and John Callihan moved full-time to their beloved Puddin' Hollow Farm in Minerva in 1990. Before that, they lived in several places during the time that John was a First Lieutenant in the United State Air Force, before settling in Briarcliff Manor, New York. John worked for General Electric and International Paper before eventually starting his own Manhattan ad and public relations agency. John was an avid marathoner and crossed the finish line in ten New York Marathons after age 50. Wanda was active in many Briarcliff Manor nonprofits and, in the Adirondacks, she was active with the Adirondack Mountain Garden Club, the Lake George Garden Club, Dollars for Scholars, the Red Cross, and the Glens Falls Hospital. They were extremely generous to many regional nonprofits while they were alive, often through the John and Wanda Callihan Charitable Trust. In 2004, Wanda was named Minerva Citizen of the Year and Grand Marshal of the Hometown Parade. Growing out of their enjoyment of restoring the historic buildings at their Minerva farm, they joined AARCH in 2000 and were active members and tour-goers for the next fifteen years. We remember them as smart, engaged, curious, and deeply committed to this place they loved so much. Their bequest to AARCH was the largest in our 30 year history.



Harold A. Walter was born, brought up, and educated in Dolgeville, New York. After receiving his Bachelor's degree in Education from Syracuse University in 1952, he was employed for over 40 years as a teacher at the D. H. Robbins Elementary School in St. Johnsville, New York. He was known as a beloved teacher, good neighbor, and for his kindness, sense of humor, and generosity, always quietly giving back to his community in a variety of ways. He was happiest outdoors and spent countless hours, over his entire lifetime, in the Adirondacks, which he loved dearly. He was an avid hiker, bicyclist, and kayaker but especially loved cross-country skiing and was said to always be dreaming of winter. It was in these explorations, as a hiker and cross-country skier, that he discovered and came to love Camp Santanoni and appreciate our work there. His bequest to AARCH, in support of our work at Santanoni, is the largest such private gift ever received in support of this Great Camp.

OUR BUSINESS SUPPORTERS

AARCH is grateful for the support of many businesses in the region and beyond. We especially value our business partners' commitment to sponsoring our annual benefit event, raffle, and other special events. Please help us thank them by supporting them with your business.

SPECIAL THANKS TO THESE MAJOR SPONSORS

AARCH also wishes to thank these businesses and organizations for their support of our work:

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Adirondack History Museum
Adirondack Life Magazine
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Anthony Paskevich & Associates
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Jim Girard Landscape
Just Water
Kingsbury National Golf
Lake George Mirror
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Lake Placid/North Elba Historical Society
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The Sagamore Resort
Saranac Inn Golf Club
Schutze Family Dentistry
SD Atelier Architecture
Seagle Music Colony
The Sembrich
Simply Gourmet
St. Andrew's Ace Hardware
Sticks and Stones
Terry Robards Wine & Spirits
T.F. Finnigan
Ticonderoga Country Club
Timberlock Resort
Tupper Lake Golf Club
Valcour Inn and Boathouse
The Waldheim, Inc.
Westport Country Club
Whiteface Inn & Golf Club
Wiawaka Center for Women
The Woods Inn

AARCH business membership and event sponsorship is a great way to show your company's support for AARCH's good work and is an opportunity to reach new audiences. Contact Jessica Parker for current sponsorship opportunities and to learn about the benefits of aligning your business with AARCH through membership (518-834-9328 or jessica@aarch.org.)

2021 Programs

Last summer, in spite of the pandemic, we were able to hold 15 in-person, day-long outings and special events with great success. By enforcing mask-wearing and social distancing measures and by exploring places in smaller groups, we were able to safely and responsibly still have some memorable and appropriately sociable experiences in a truly difficult year.

This summer, we are working hard to bring members and friends another series of exciting educational programs in a safe and responsible way. Although this season will again be smaller than usual, we think you'll be delighted by what we have to offer. Look for the full schedule of events in our April newsletter.

Socially-distanced AARCH tour-goers hear from Ursula Jones and Henry Morlock about restoration efforts on their historic officer's quarters on the Plattsburgh Oval for this past summer's Brews at the Barracks tour.

For a sneak peek at our 2021 schedule, look for outings that will challenge us, inspire us, and ask the hard questions about how the Adirondack region's unique buildings, infrastructure, places, and communities reflect who we are and where we came from. These will include outings focusing on what the architecture of renewable energy offers future building infrastructure, on how the North Country has been the terrain for waves of through migration, including the Underground Railroad, Chinese migrant imprisonment, all the way to the present. Plus we'll offer our popular tours and re-imagine many others.

11-Day Guided Adventure to Guatemala — February/March 2022

We hope that by early 2022, enough of the world will be vaccinated, that COVID numbers will be way down, and that people will feel safe enough to travel again. This trip to Guatemala was postponed from 2021 to 2022 and we hope you're ready to join us on this exciting international trip with your friends at AARCH.

Guatemala is one of the most diverse and beautiful countries in Central America with its extraordinary landscapes and a civilization-spanning culture that reaches back centuries. On this outing, we will explore the best that Guatemala has to offer adventurous travelers, including the rich architecture and cultural life of the Spanish Colonial capital of Antigua, the Mayan ruins of Tikal, Iximché, and Uaxactun, and the native villages around stunning Lake Atitlan. We will be led by author, guide, and preservationist Elizabeth Bell and her professional staff and you'll be in the good company of fellow AARCH members, friends, and staff. For more information and a full itinerary, please visit our website.

TO REGISTER: Express your interest via phone or email, or by mailing a request to AARCH, 1745 Main St., Keeseville, NY 12944. If you have not previously traveled with AARCH to Cuba or Armenia, please include a paragraph or two explaining why you are interested in this trip and about any previous international travel experience you have.

PRICING: The tentative cost for this eleven-day adventure is $3,850 per person (based on double occupancy; please add an additional $999 for single occupancy). Airfare is NOT included. Each traveler is responsible for his or her individual travel to and from Guatemala City. A one-time, tax-deductible $500 per person deposit is required in advance.

News and Notes

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 to help us do so.

GRANT AWARDS

John Brown Lives, a Westport-based volunteer organization, received $11,650 toward programming at the John Brown's Farm State Historic Site. The organization hosts the annual John Brown Day, held each year on the first Saturday of May, which celebrates his legacy and honors those who carry the his torch today through their own progressive works. John Brown Lives is the official "friends" group of the John Brown Farm State Historic Site, which is dedicated to the preservation, interpretation and promotion of this valuable resource, which is open to the public all year round. The grant funding comes from the Park and Trail Partnership Program, which is funded through the state's $300 million Environmental Protection Fund. The program supports organizations involved with stewardship of state parks, historic sites and public lands.

The Town of Long Lake , was awarded $5,700 from the William G. Pomeroy Foundation for five historic markers to commemorate four locations in Raquette Lake: the Raquette Lake Rail Bed, Raquette Lake Hotel, Raquette Lake Train Station, and the Raquette Lake General Store and Supply. A marker in Long Lake will commemorate W.W. Durant's steamboat "Buttercup," which was deliberately sunk in 1885 and recovered in 1959.

The historic signs commemorate a bygone era of train and steamboat travel when both Raquette Lake and Long Lake were destinations for travelers heading to the restorative lakes, woods, and mountains for summer vacations in the grand style afforded to the wealthy. A dedication celebration is tentatively planned for the summer of 2021.

Photos of Raquette Lake Hotel in 1925 (Raquette Lake Historian's office).

The Preservation League of New York State, the Preservation Trust of Vermont, Maine Preservation, and the New Hampshire Preservation Alliance comprise the **Northern Border Regional Commission** (NBRC). This four state coalition, through the Northeast Heritage Economy Program (NHEP), awarded $1 million in grants in 2020, including: award .

The Whallonsburg Grange Hall received $35,000 for the rehabilitation and adaptive reuse of the former Whitcomb's Garage for arts and artisan spaces—a ceramics studio, wood and metal shops, and a retail store and cafe. The Whallonsburg Grange Hall is a performing arts and community center in the town of Essex.

The Adirondack Experience (ADKX) received $68,000 for restoration of the Log Hotel, a structure originally built in 1876, as well as two adjoined cottages on the museum's campus.

Historic Saranac Lake received $75,000 for the rehabilitation of the former Edward L Trudeau home and medical office at 118 Main Street in Saranac Lake. The funding will enable Historic Saranac Lake to expand it's museum capacity into this building, which is adjacent to HSL's museum and offices at Trudeau's Saranac Laboratory.

Historic Saranac Lake was also awarded an Inspire! Grant for Small Museums through the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). The $48,300 award will support HSL's work to catalog and rehouse a portion of its image collections. The project tackles a major next step identified in the museum's recently completed Collections Preservation Plan, also funded by a grant from IMLS.

ALBANY: NATIONAL REGISTER

Several properties in the Adirondacks were listed on the State and/or National Registers of Historic Places in 2020. National Register listing provides recognition for historic properties, elevates their status, provides some protections under special circumstances, and gives owners access to grant and tax credit program opportunities.

Malone Downtown Historic District, Franklin County . The large district reflects the growth of this St. Lawrence Valley community from the 1840s through the 1950s and includes more than 60 commercial, religious and governmental structures. The

district also reflects the village's later development as a regional transportation hub in the later-19th and early-20th centuries.

St. Regis Presbyterian Church, Franklin County. This rural church was designed by Adirondack architect William L. Coulter in 1899. The church freely blends Tudor Revival with the rustic Adirondack-inspired Craftsman features for which Coulter was well known. The church was actively used until 2009 and it is now privately owned

Hague Baptist Church, Warren County. This 1912 stone church and the adjacent 1920 parsonage sits within the hamlet of Hague. The church is interesting for its Gothic Revival embellishment overlaid on a typical late nineteenth-century Protestant church. The church was one of AARCH 2020 Preservation Award winners for the congregation's restoration of the church's steeple. Funding for this project was made possible through local fundraising and a Sacred Sites Fund Grant.

The North-Sprague House, Essex County. Like many early 19th century farms in the Champlain Valley, this farm began as a small farm enterprise, raising diverse farm products for the needs of the family, with occasional surpluses to sell for cash or barter. Over several centuries of use, as the nature of the farm changed and families there grew, the house was enlarged and modified, farm buildings were added or removed, as needed, but by the late 20th century there was still a simple farmhouse, large timber frame barn, and several other outbuildings, all amid beautiful farm fields and rural landscapes. The property is currently owned and operated by Dillon Klepetar as Echo Farm, a farm-based catering company.

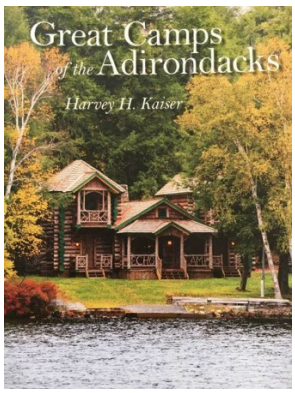
Keene Valley Country Club, Essex County. Located in the hamlet of Keene Valley, the heart of the High Peaks region, the Keene Valley Country Club sits on the original site of what was historically known as Keene Flats, on the East Branch of the Ausable River. Built in 1902, the Keene Valley Country Club or K.V.C.C. has been a summertime gathering place for social activities, relaxation, and sports for area residents and their guests. The club complex includes a series of simple wood-framed buildings, including a clubhouse, tennis courts, and a swimming pool. The siting of the club takes advantage of the river's scenic beauty and provides views of the river and woodlands from many vantage points. The buildings and site are well preserved and retain much of the original fabric and layout, as little has been added or changed since 1902.

Tahawus Masonic Lodge, Essex County. Constructed in 1911, this building of fire-proof construction is one of only three buildings in this Au Sable Forks to survive a devastating 1925 downtown fire. The building is now run by a foundation as the Tahawus Cultural Center and has office space, a gallery, and is home to the Cloudsplitter Dance Studio.

AARCH continues to work on several National Register nominations and cultural resources surveys around the region. If you are interested in AARCH's help in getting a property on the National Register, please contact Christine at christine@aarch.org or (518) 834-9328.

BOOKS — NEW REGIONAL TITLES

Originally published in 1982, Harvey H. Kaiser's book *Great Camps of the Adirondacks* captured the attention of the public and raised concerns about the future of the Adirondack Park's historic Great Camps. While the first edition encouraged their preservation, the revised and enlarged second edition expands its content and brings readers up to date on the positive impacts of the book and preservation efforts at some of the Park's most notable Great Camps since the book's initial publication. The second edition includes a new foreword written by AARCH's own Steven Engelhart.



DEBAR POND LODGE

This fall, NYSDEC announced its intention, through a Draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement and Unit Management Plan, to demolish Debar Pond Lodge, a National Register-listed Great Camp in the Franklin County town of Duane. AARCH has been advocating for the preservation and public use of Debar Pond Lodge for more than 15 years but was unable to persuade DEC that there was a practical public use for the complex in state ownership.

Out of this impasse emerged a new alternative that would preserve Debar Pond Lodge for public purposes through a land exchange amendment of the New York State constitution.

How would this work? A constitutional amendment is a long process that requires that two consecutive sessions of the state legislature to approve such an amendment before it goes to state voters for final approval. Such land exchange amendments are fairly rare but have been used 16 times in the past to preserve the caretaker's complex at Great Camp Sagamore, expand a Keene cemetery, built the Northway, and improve the Raquette Lake water supply system.

The amendment proposed by Adirondack Architectural Heritage and the Debar Pond Institute, the nonprofit entity that would ultimately take possession of the lodge calls for exchanging about six acres of land around the lodge for at least 300 acres of new land to be added to the Forest Preserve. The exchange would also ensure that the boundaries of the parcel around the lodge are drawn in such a way to ensure equal public access to Debar Pond and its Forest Preserve surroundings for viewing, picnicking, swimming, canoeing, hiking, or cross-country skiing.

The lodge property would be conveyed to the Debar Pond Institute, which is dedicated to preserving Debar Pond Lodge for the education, enjoyment and inspiration of present and future generations and to operate diverse education and recreation programs there that are open to the public. For a description of the vision and process to achieve this, please find "The Debar Lodge Land Exchange Amendment Questions and Answers" document on our web site.

Yes – this is a long and tedious process, but this particular land exchange amendment is a win-win solution on many fronts. It would save a magnificent work of Adirondack architecture; allow the property to be used for public education and recreation; enlarge the Forest Preserve by 300 or more acres; maintain public access to Debar Pond and its surroundings; help disburse usage of the Forest Preserve away from the overused High Peaks region; provide jobs and economic benefits to the local community; and save the state hundreds of thousands of dollars in demolition and construction costs. The bottom line is that this is an important complex of historic buildings, there is a tremendous amount of public support for its preservation and public use, and an amendment to the constitution seems to now be the cleanest way to save the lodge.

Join our Board of Directors

Our **Board of Directors** plays an integral part in AARCH's success as an organization. Members of our board come from all walks of life—we have full-time preservation professionals, real estate agents, attorneys, educators, and others who represent varied careers, interests, and communities.

We are always **seeking new candidates** to join our Board of Directors, especially people from the western and southern regions of the Adirondack Park, who have an interest in our work and a willingness to roll up their sleeves to help AARCH fulfill its mission and continue to thrive. Please let us know if you have interest in joining our board, or know someone who would. Please contact Steven Engelhart by email at steven@aarch.org, or call the office at (518) 834-9328.

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

PRESERVE

Nominate a Project for a 2021 Preservation Awards

Nominations are now being accepted for the 2021 AARCH Preservation Awards, which recognize exemplary preservation projects throughout the Adirondacks. The awards honor businesses, organizations, and individuals who, through their preservation and stewardship work, have made the Adirondacks a better place to live, work, and visit.

For more information on the awards and to submit a nomination, contact Preservation Services Director Christine Bush by email at christine@aarch.org or by calling (518) 834-9328.

Save These Dates!

- **Annual Benefit Event**
  Saturday, August 14
  Our annual benefit event this year will be a special occasion to honor Steven Engelhart's 30 years at AARCH and will be held at the Valcour Inn and Boathouse, Peru (Clinton County).

- **Annual Meeting and Awards**
  Saturday, September 18
  Our annual meeting and awards luncheon ceremony will be held at the Hotel Saranac, Saranac Lake.

- **AARCH Goes to Guatemala**
  February—March 2022
  (see page 16 for more details).