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AARCH MATTERS

Your Preservation News for the Adirondack Region.

"Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap but by the seeds that you plant ." – *Robert Louis Stevenson*

As the cooler weather and changing leaves carry us to the end of summer and the beginning of autumn, we at AARCH are ready to embrace a new season and new possibilities. With our new video equipment, we are excited by the expanded opportunities and stories we will be able to explore and share. By the end of the month, demolition of the Red Mill building will be in full swing and the realization of the waterfront park in Keeseville will come to light. At Camp Santanoni, we are preparing to undertake a major restoration work to the main lodge in 2021. Summer may be ending but we continue our important work to explore our region's rich, treasured heritage and find new ways to share our programs and activities with our members.

There are a few more tours on the schedule, and we continue to be impressed with our member's willingness and adaptability to our pandemic safety protocols. We thank all of you for your continued love and support.

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- **Saving Goodnow Mountain Fire Tower**
- **Rededication of the Thomas MacDonough Monument**
- **Books!**

ADVENTURE

Going Virtual

Last month we shared the good news that AARCH was fortunate to receive a generous emergency relief grant as part of the Humanities New York CARES program. The grant allowed us to purchase audio/visual recording equipment, editing software, and access to a video-hosting platform to create, share, and dialog about some of the stories brought to life through this year's educational programs. This technology also allows us to create more content beyond our usual slate of outings and enable us to expand our audiences online, including to those unable to participate in

Top: Educational Programs Director Nolan Cool filming

person.

Recently, our programs have sought to explore and highlight underrepresented communities, places, and stories across our region, including the experiences of Native Americans, African Americans, and the often overlooked prominence of women in our region's broader history. These stories are steeped in complex questions involving identity, equity, and sustainability. In 2020, our physical programs were prepared to interrogate, share, and dialog about these important topics with our audience. We believe that these stories are worth sharing and that the ability to create virtual offerings helps us to continue to deliver on our quality educational programming, and reach a wider audience online. Look for a few new virtual experiences, videos, and other accessible content alongside our already rich slate of in person programs.

with our new video equipment.

PRESERVE

Saving Goodnow Mountain Fire Tower

After standing for 98 years, this 60-foot high metal structure needs repairs. The tower was erected in the heart of the Adirondack High Peaks in 1922 to enable the state to monitor for fires that could devastate the North Country's forests and villages. Since then, the tower has served scientists conducting research in a variety of areas. The tower is also heavily used by educators, who leverage its spectacular location to help students gain broader and deeper perspectives of the natural world.

For decades, the Goodnow MountainFire Tower has been open for unparalleled 360-degree viewing. More than 5,000 people annually sign into the Goodnow Mountain register. A destination for many hikers, the tower is owned and used by the College of Environmental Science and Forestry, and other university faculty, student clubs from various colleges and universities, K-12 school groups, and visitors exploring montane ecology, forest management and history and other topics.

To donate to the project or learn more readhere.

Images courtesy ESF: Goodnow Mountain Fire Tower

LEARN

The Thomas MacDonough Memorial Monument

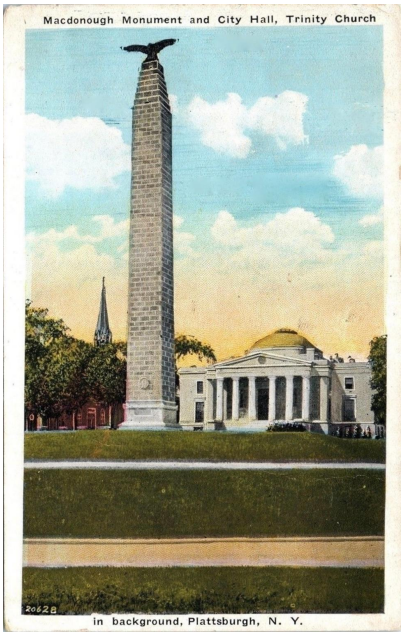
In 2014, on the occasion of the 200th Anniversary of the Battle of Plattsburgh our Executive Director, Steven Engelhart was asked to be a speaker at the rededication of the MacDonough Monument.

This year, the annual Battle of Plattsburgh celebration, usually a big multi-day event, went virtual and produced this video about the monument.

Below is a briefhistory of the monument, which was finished and dedicated in 1926 (prepared by Steven Engelhart):

In 1913 the Plattsburgh Centenary Commission was created for two purposes. The first was to plan and carry out a Battle of Plattsburgh centennial celebration the following year and this it did with great success using about $50,000 appropriated by New York State and the federal

Image: .Thomas MacDonough Memorial Monument



government. The second purpose was to plan and erect a suitable monument to commemorate the American victory at Plattsburgh.

The first step in this process was to choose a suitable site and, very quickly, the Commissions saw the potential of erecting a monument here, where the visitor could take in Plattsburgh Bay, the site of MacDonough's victory, and where, right on this site itself, some of the "sharpest fighting that occurred between land forces" had taken place.

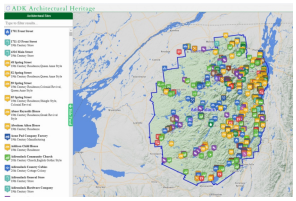
Offering this site as a blank canvas, the Commission then invited twenty architectural firms to submit proposals and, after reviewing them, unanimously selected the plans presented by John Russell Pope from New York City that included a towering obelisk. To learn more about Pope watch here.

There were two city blocks here at the time, on what was then called North River Street, so to build the monument here, the Commission had to condemn and acquire eleven parcels of land, and this they did by about 1916 at a cost of $62,400. They also demolished the buildings and did initial site preparations the same year.

Unfortunately, World War I interrupted the progress of this project

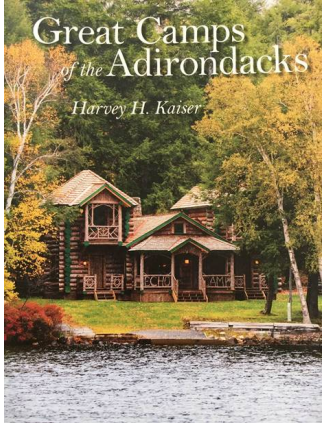
To hear the rest of the story please watch thevideo. We think you will find the video informative and extremely well done. Enjoy!

SUPPORT



As the colder weather sets in what could be better than sitting down to enjoy a good book! Or take your book on the road to explore the places in *A Guide to Architecture in the Adirondacks.* Follow the book with the help of the Adirondack Atlas here.
Whether your interest is in Great Camps, Adirondack churches, or exploring the length and breadth of the region, there's a book for you.CLICK HERE.

New in the past year was a new edition of*Great Camps of the Adirondack* by Harvey Kaiser. This revised addition includes new photos and deeper exploration of the rich history of these camps. The marvelous forward by AARCH Executive Director Steven Engelhart makes this book a must



have to add to your library.

This book is available on Amazon. You can continue generating donations for **Adirondack Architectural Heritage** by shopping at smile.amazon.com/ch/22-3117009.

ADIRONDACK ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE

Preserving the architecture and communities of the Adirondack region through education, advocacy, and action

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The mission of Humanities New York is to strengthen civil society and the bonds of community, using the humanities to foster engaged inquiry and dialogue around social and cultural concerns.

We would like to sincerely thank Humanities New York for awarding AARCH a generous Emergency Relief Grant as part of the HNY CARES program. With this vital funding, we are able to expand our virtual programming and create a more robust, accessible digital presence for our organization.

A world of AARCH exists online. Join us there.

Visit our Website