Volume 13, Issue 11, November 2021

AARCH MATTERS

Your Preservation News for the Adirondack Region

"Gratitude can transform common days into thanksgivings, turn routine jobs into joy, and change ordinary opportunities into blessings." - William Arthur Ward

Expressing gratitude isn't just for November; it's something we do throughout the year for our extended AARCH family.

As November begins and the holiday season is upon us, this is a great time to reflect and be thankful for all that we have. It is a time which usually includes gathering with friends and family. Last year this was not possible for many of us, but we hope you will have an opportunity this year to celebrate together. This year we remain grateful to live in such a beautiful and diverse place with its vibrant history, architecture, communities, and the people and stories that make our region unique.

We hope that you have had an opportunity to read AARCH's 2021 **Year In Review** which was mailed last week and is accessible at our website as well. The 2021 **Annual Appeal** is also underway as we head into the holiday season as well!

As we continue to support preservation efforts across the region, we are thankful to so many people, organizations, and partners who all make AARCH such a successful and effective organization. Your kindness and generosity make our important work possible.

We wish you a safe, peaceful and joyous season!

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AARCH Office taken by Erin Tobin on her first day at AARCH.

AARCH Group at St. William's on Long Point, Raquette Lake

WELCOME ERIN TOBIN

Hello Friends! I am thrilled to join Adirondack Architectural

Heritage as its next executive director. Since my appointment was announced in August, I have received an incredibly warm welcome from the AARCH community. I have enjoyed getting to know the staff, leadership, and the organization's many friends and supporters over email, by phone, and at several of AARCH's legendary programs. I look forward to getting to know more of you and the many conversations to come.

I am honored to be entrusted with the opportunity to lead and steward AARCH as it builds upon the incredibly strong foundation created by Steven, the staff, and the board. The region's built environment works hand-in-hand with its natural one to make the Adirondacks such a unique and beloved place. I look forward to learning more from the AARCH community, *you*, about what you love about AARCH and how you think we might evolve to be even better. I also look forward to working to include more underrepresented voices, determining what stories we need to better amplify and represent, and how preservation can work within our Adirondack communities to create a better future that is accessible to all.

Erin Tobin at the Camp Santanoni Artist's Studio. Courtesy of Carol Rothenberg

You can read more from Erin in our Year In Review.

SUPPORT

Over 30 years ago, a small group of concerned individuals came together to save Camp Santanoni and began AARCH's broad and effective work across the region. Today, over 1,500 people are AARCH members, with the same focus, determination, and passion in saving and preserving historic places. Everything we do — advocacy, education, and preservation — is supported primarily by your donations to the **Annual Appeal** and through membership contributions. Thank you for your continued support!

- **Join AARCH or renew your membership**
- **Donate to the Annual Appeal**
- **Order books and other merchandise**

You can do this easily online at**www.aarch.org**. Or call the office, Monday-Friday from 8am-4pm at 518-834-9328. Email us at **info@aarch.org**. You can also mail a donation to Adirondack Architectural Heritage, 1745 Main Street, Keeseville, NY 12944

NEWS

Join our friends and colleagues at**The Landmark Society of Western New York, Inc.** and numerous other state and national historic preservation organizations for the annual, and always-fantastic, New York State Preservation Conference happening **NOVEMBER 16-18!**

This multi-day, virtual gathering is perfect for anyone involved in preservation and community revitalization, and offers superb opportunities to learn, network, and find inspiration and camaraderie with others undertaking ambitious and exciting historic preservation projects.

Several amazing speakers, including grassroots advocates, experts in the field, and emerging professionals from across the country, will engage in rich dialogue and discussion about relevance, the future of preservation, inclusive preservation practice, shifting preservation standards, and more.

For more information on speakers, the conference, access, and registration, visit

landmarksociety.org/conference. **REGISTRATION IS OPEN THROUGH NOVEMBER 18, 2021- there is still time to join this informative event!**

LEARN

Is there a Kit House in your Neighborhood?

According to *Houses by Mail,* over 100,000 kit houses were built in the United States between 1908 and 1940. Many people have lived in kit houses for years without realizing their humble abodes' have historical and architectural significance.

Between 1900 and 1917, America's middle-class society was expanding and buying more homes. To meet growing demand, companies started developing the residential building industry. Mail-ordered kit houses became popular in the 1910s, allowing new homeowners to be a part of the design and building process. Between 1906 and 1940, thousands of North American homes in the United States and Canada were built according to plans sold by mail-order companies such as Sears and Montgomery Ward.

Aladdin Homes of Bay City, Michigan, premiered the idea of kit houses in 1906. Aladdin was the largest provider of kit houses until 1908, when Sears, Roebuck, and Co., building upon its earlier forays into building materials and house plans, entered the market for complete kit houses. In the years that followed, Wardway Homes (Montgomery Ward), Harris Homes of Chicago, the Ready Built House Company, and Robinson's also got in on the kit home market.

These houses came in various styles, designs, and prices, although kit houses were generally cheaper than traditional building options.

In cities, suburbs, and rural communities throughout our region, you can find pre-fabricated or kit houses. Do you have a kit house in your neighborhood? Check out the resources below to see how many you can spot near you!

The Farm Manager's Cottage at Great Camp Santanoni - a Harris Home kit house.

READ MORE ABOUT KIT HOUSES

How to Identify Kit Homes - University of Maryland

The House that Came in the Mail - 99% Invisible

The Mail Order American Dream: An Introductory Guide to Identifying Kit House

PRESERVE

We had the biggest year ever at Camp Santanoni! The staff interpreted the site to thousands of visitors and did some great conservation work, we completed the biggest

restoration projects done there to date, a new diorama was installed, and volunteers continued their good work at the farm.

But the biggest news of the year is that we've completed the largest restoration project ever to be undertaken at Santanoni. Thanks to a $370,000 grant to AARCH from the National Park Service's *Save America's Treasures* program and matching funds from New York State ($250,000) and the Town of Newcomb ($120,000), we hired Titan Roofing, Inc. to install new shingles on the lodge's 18,000 square foot roof and to complete log repair and replacement, stone masonry repairs, and foundation work.

You can read more about our work at Camp Santanoni in our ***Year In Review***.

ADIRONDACK ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE

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

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This publication was made possible, in part, through the generous support of the New York State Council on the Arts, Architecture + Design Program

HNY

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.

A world of AARCH exists online. Join us there.

Visit our Website