AARCH MATTERS

WINTER NEWSLETTER 2019 VOLUME 28 NUMBER 1

A *Public* Architect:
The Architecture of Alvin Walter Inman

Alvin Inman stands in front of his Plattsburgh home alongside his wife, Vera (center), and Ida Eldredge. Courtesy of David Merkel.

Alvin Inman is one of the most important regional architects that you've never heard of, despite the very public presence of his work across the northeastern Adirondacks. Although his name is not well-known today, his work was celebrated in his time. In a Plattsburgh Daily Republican *piece about John Russell Pope, the designer of Plattsburgh's City Hall and McDonough Monument , a guest commentator lauded Inman's work by saying he was "a Plattsburgh designer whose creative faculties and rare productive talents have been too little recognized or praised." We agree.*

Not only are his buildings impressive and architecturally beautiful, but many of them are ***public*** *edifices, the kinds of buildings that reflect the highest educational, spiritual, and civic aspirations of the community. These projects include libraries, grange halls, a fire station, dozens of public schools, churches, private residences, and additions to commercial buildings. Many of his buildings remain a testament to the work of this truly public architect, who combined richly detailed designs with modern functionality.*

Alvin Walter Inman was born on February 26, 1895 to Ida and Curtis E. Inman, a Plattsburgh banker, city supervisor, and treasurer or director to several local organizations and businesses. Alvin graduated from Plattsburgh High School and then attended the University of Pennsylvania's School of Fine Arts. His time at college was interrupted while he served for eight months in France during World War I as a member of the American Expeditionary Force in the United States Air Corps. He graduated in 1920 with a Bachelor's degree in architecture and joined the New York City architectural firm of Crow, Lewis, and Wick, a firm that specialized in the design of hospitals.

Alvin Inman's 1938 Period Revival style home in Plattsburgh

Inman's work at the firm sent him back to Plattsburgh several times to oversee projects there. His first major North Country commission while working for Crow, Lewis, and Wick, was a design for a nurses' residence for the Champlain Valley Hospital in 1924. This project was likely made possible by Inman's Plattsburgh connections, including that his father served as a Champlain Valley Hospital director. A *Plattsburgh Sentinel* article from 1924 reported that the firm's pedigree in hospital design meant that "plans and specifications will be of the best" for the $100,000 project. Inman's plans called for a three-story, fireproof Colonial Revival style building consisting of laboratories, a library, basement, auditorium, and kitchen, as well as thirty-seven private "sleeping rooms" throughout the second and third stories. The exterior was completed in September 1926 and opened on New Year's Day 1927.

After working with the firm for several more years, Inman opened his own architectural practice in Plattsburgh in 1928. Over the next several decades, and despite the Great Depression, Inman was a prolific architect, undertaking dozens of projects across Clinton, Franklin, Essex, and St. Lawrence Counties, as far northward as Rouses Point, as far west as Potsdam, and as far south as Schroon Lake.

As a trained architect, Inman was well versed in popular contemporary architectural trends and styles. The Colonial Revival style, which he used in the majority of his buildings, was a very popular

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"There may have been a time when preservation was about saving an old building here and there, but those days are gone. Preservation is in the business of saving communities and the values they embody."

Richard Moe, Esq. (President of the National Trust for Historic Preservation 1993-2009 and Chief of Staff to former Vice President Walter Mondale)

Dear Friends:

As I near the completion of my fifth and final year as President of the Board of Directors of Adirondack Architectural Heritage, I continue to marvel at the extraordinary work done by this small, but vital organization. With a staff of four and a modest budget, AARCH's impact on preservation of the built environment and the communities of the Adirondack Park is extraordinary.

I have encountered and been influenced by so many of AARCH's members and supporters who are truly committed to preservation of the region's architecture, history, and communities. On a regular basis I have come to understand why "AARCH MATTERS!" AARCH's work is about so much more than "saving an old building."

But, we have much to do to make sure this work continues in the years ahead. Central to ensuring our financial and organization health is to increase our membership and the support we get from the business community and foundations that serve the region.

My hope for all who may read this newsletter is that you will truly come to appreciate and support the work done by AARCH in fulfilling its mission to preserve "...the architecture and communities of the Adirondacks through education, action, and advocacy."

Please consider giving a gift of AARCH membership to a friend or younger family member who may have enjoyed one of our tours or lectures. If you are a business owner, I would encourage you to join at one of the very reasonable corporate/organization membership levels or perhaps sponsor one of our outstanding programs or events. Our Annual Appeal is a crucial source of funding and gifts of any amount are appreciated. Finally, many are not aware that AARCH maintains an endowment under the auspices of the Adirondack Foundation with the purpose of insuring the future financial stability of AARCH. Gifts of cash, stocks, or securities to the endowment demonstrate your commitment to AARCH's mission. We need to grow this fund significantly in the upcoming years.

I have truly enjoyed my years as AARCH Board President and am optimistic about the future of this organization.

I extend my sincere appreciation to our wonderful staff, Board and Advisory Council members, and to our membership, sponsors, and supporters for your great work.

Kind Regards,

Edward P. Finnerty
Board President

NEW YORK STATE OF OPPORTUNITY. Council on the Arts

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

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

Inman's design for the City of Plattsburgh Fire Department (left) is a fine example of a Colonial Revival style fire station. The former Ausable Forks Central School (right) is now the Town of Jay Offices and Community Center

architectural style throughout his career. Although most of his designs for schools, libraries, civic buildings, and some residences are of this style, in his work on other private homes he used more eclectic period styles, which drew inspiration from medieval English and French cottages. The Plattsburgh residence that he designed in 1938 for his wife Vera and himself is the best example of his experimentation with eclectic architectural styles. His other period revival homes include a vaguely Norman medieval style stone house overlooking Lake Champlain in Valcour, finished in 1937, and the 1931 Tudor Revival style house he designed for Abraham and Helen Wolfe in Plattsburgh. Inman also designed a grand lakeside Colonial Revival style mansion in 1927 for Harrie T. Leonard, son of Rouses Point millionaire Theodore N. Leonard.

What makes a design Colonial Revival?

During the first half of the twentieth century building styles were dominated by a renewed interest in the architectural designs of the early colonies, particularly Georgian and Federal. Elements such as decorative pediments, projected entryways, and Palladian windows were reintroduced. *Learn more about this style on page 4*

Amid the economic collapse caused by the Depression, Inman entered the 1930s with several completed projects under his belt. Unlike many in his field, he was able to survive and thrive as an architect by adapting to the rapidly changing times by undertaking work funded by New Deal-era programs. These programs supported the design and construction of new civic structures, school buildings, and other public works projects across the country. Much of this federally-funded work in the North Country was designed by Inman. The vast majority of Inman's work during this period was school construction and, at the time of Inman's death, it was noted that he had worked on more than 50 different school projects in his lifetime.

Perhaps the earliest and best example of Inman's public school work is the former Ausable Forks Central School (now the Town of Jay Offices and Community Center) in Ausable Forks. In 1929 he submitted plans for a new addition to the Ausable Forks Central Rural School that was meant to serve as a centralized complex for students from nearby Jay, Black Brook, Keene, Wilmington, Franklin, and Chesterfield. The 1929 stock market crash, however, likely stoked fears of increased taxpayer spending, prompting voters to reject Inman's initial design. Inman revised his plans, scaling down the size of the school without compromising its aesthetic appeal. With these changes, taxpayers approved this $300,000 project in 1930.
With regard to the new building, the press enthusiastically reported that Inman's design "will undoubtedly be one of the finest and most complete schools in the North Country and an ornament to the community in which it is located." His plans called for a fireproof, Colonial Revival style brick building with Indiana limestone trim (quoins, sills, and lintels), which was 160 feet wide by 90 feet deep, and topped by a wooden cupola. The building was designed to serve 600 students and it included a combined auditorium and gymnasium, library, laboratory rooms, large sunlit classrooms, modern restrooms and administrative office spaces. Reporters also noted, "Nothing essential to a complete and modern school of the best type has been left out of the building." After the construction of a new Middle-High School in Clintonville in 1972, the structure was acquired by the Town of Jay for use as their offices and a community center.

Some of Inman's other federally-funded projects included grade schools in Jay and Clintonville, middle and high school buildings in Keeseville, Keene Valley, Dannemora, Saranac, Altona, Peru, and Ellenburg. Inman's school design work continued into the 1940s, when he designed the Bailey Avenue and Monty Street elementary schools in Plattsburgh and the parochial Our Lady of Victory School, also in Plattsburgh. He also designed the Champlain Central School and additions to the Willsboro High School, Keeseville High School, and Schroon Lake Central School.

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ADVENTURE

Summer 2019 Tour Schedule

Portrait of Isaac Johnson

Nolan is hard at work, creating, planning, and scheduling an impressive summer tour program that is sure to surprise and delight! This year AARCH wants to highlight the often untold stories of the region, shining a spotlight on indigenous peoples and black history. Look for an eye-opening program centered around Isaac Johnson, a former slave and skilled stone mason who designed and built numerous buildings in the North Country. Other new programs include a tour of the architecture of Alvin Inman (see cover story), a journey to several Lake Champlain lighthouses, and a tour of some marvelous stone houses.

We will also offer an excellent variety of tried-and-true favorite tours including trips to the Bartlett Carry Club, Raquette Lake, Bolton Landing, and the return of our special MYSTERY TOUR. We have much more to offer—2019 will be a very exciting season. Our full offerings will be released in our summer newsletter, set to be mailed mid-April (and available for download at AARCH.org).

PRESERVE

Nominate a Project for 2019 Awards

Nominations are now being accepted for the 2019 AARCH Preservation Awards. AARCH has been recognizing exemplary preservation projects throughout the Adirondacks for over twenty years. 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.

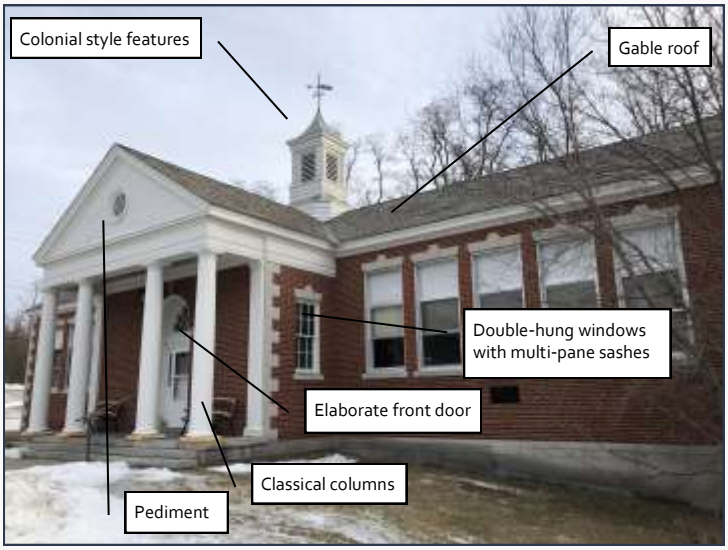
Projects of any size are eligible for consideration. We also seek to recognize individuals who have demonstrated significant preservation achievements in their lifetime. For more information on the awards and to submit a nomination, contact Preservation Services Director Mary Cirbus by email at mary@aarch.org.

Our 2018 AARCH Preservation Award winners. Photo by John Eldridge.

LEARN

Colonial Revival 1880-1955

The Centennial International Exhibition of 1876, held in Philadelphia, sparked a renewed interest for Americans in the colonial past that continued well into the twentieth century. Public interest in the past was heightened by the invention of the automobile, which further connected Americans to their past through domestic travel. American prosperity also meant that more houses were being built than ever before. The architecture of the colonial period, specifically Georgian and Federal, were reinterpreted in new ways. Elements such as decorative pediments, projected entryways, and Palladian windows were reintroduced. The twentieth century versions often highlighted different aspects than their predecessors or interpreted details in a new way.



Alvin Inman's Clintonville Grade School, a Colonial Revival school building

Though most early colonial houses were sided in clapboard, structural masonry was prevalent in the south; on revival houses brick veneer was the sheathing of choice by 1920. Look for colonial and classical details on these buildings, such as: an elaborate front door with a front porch, pilasters (a flat, decorative vertical support), and columns, windows with double-hung sashes. Houses may have a gambrel (barn-shaped), hipped (slopes down on four sides), or gable roof (slopes down on two sides), that may be steeply pitched.

Think you Can Spot a Colonial Revival Building? Look for...

- **Symmetrical facade**
- **Multi-paned, double-hung sash windows**, often arranged in pairs
- Accentuated, **classical front door** with sidelights, porticos (an entrance porch) or pilasters
- **Classical cornices** with dentils ("teeth-like" blocks) or modillions (ornate brackets)
- **Gable, hipped, or gambrel roofs**
- **Dormers** (windows that project outward from sloping roofs)

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First Baptist Church, Plattsburgh (left)

Undated sketch (above) of Macdonough Hall made prior to Inman's death. Courtesy of Benjamin F. Feinberg Library Special Collections at SUNY Plattsburgh.

Another early Inman project was for a new Baptist church in Plattsburgh. In 1931, Plattsburgh's Baptist Home Mission Society contracted Inman to work with one of their own architectural consultants to design a fireproof stone church to replace the Gothic Revival style First Baptist Church which was destroyed by a fire. Inman's additional challenge, given the Depression-era financial constraints, was to make the project as economical as possible. At a cost of $35,000, his plans consolidated the church and school facilities into one "L-shaped" building, with the larger wing serving as the sanctuary space and the smaller wing containing "thoroughly modern" classrooms for Sunday school.

The completed project is a fine example of Inman's Colonial Revival designs, complete with a dentiled cornice, a short stone and wood bell tower, a swan's neck pediment over the front door, and large, rounded arch windows lighting the sanctuary space. Cadyville sandstone, quarried just west of the city, served as the primary exterior building material, and colors the church in hues of grays, browns, and soft tans. Besides being a beautiful building, it also had a modern heating and ventilation system, deftly incorporated into its design. The church was completed in the fall of 1931 and dedicated in February 1932.

That same year, Inman was contracted to design a new men's ward at the Clinton County Home, a late 19th-century "poor farm" in Beekmantown, to replace the original ward which had been destroyed by a fire. The complex consisted of several Colonial Revival style buildings, a central administrative center flanked by two buildings arranged in a "cottage plan." Inman's work came at a time when there was a progressive effort to make these county homes more humane and supportive. One observer from the time noted that "Bedlam itself could produce no horrors greater than the average County Farm" and that "little children grew up in squalor amidst scenes of misery such as we of the present day cannot conceive without a shudder." Inman's work was part of a larger effort to provide safe and modern accommodations. His design for the new men's ward called for a fireproof building constructed of brick and stone with large well-lit spaces that could comfortably and humanely accommodate the ward population.

Other projects Inman completed during this time included two projects to enlarge (1931) and redesign the facade of (1938) Plattsburgh's First National Bank building. In 1932 he designed a new, wood-framed school house in Whallonsburg (Essex County), an unusual departure from Inman's typical use of masonry. He also designed a fire station for the City of Plattsburgh Fire Department, a Colonial Revival style structure with three fire engine bays, and quarters for the firefighters on the second floor. The building is still in use as one of the city's main fire stations.

Perhaps Inman is best known for his design of Macdonough Hall, a large Colonial Revival style dormitory building at the center of the SUNY Plattsburgh campus. Inman sketched and planned the structure just before his untimely death on February 1, 1950 at age 54, following a year-long battle with cancer. It was completed the following year.

Fittingly, Inman's funeral was held in the First Baptist Church, the Colonial Revival style building he designed in 1931. Following his death, three of his employees, Paul W. Benedict, Edmond J. Ryan, and Jack M. Sayer, reorganized as Benedict, Ryan, and Sayer, successors to Inman's original firm. They continued to design and work on school buildings and county-funded projects across the North Country. The firm again reorganized in February 1955 as Benedict and Ryan after the departure of Jack Sayer, and fully dissolved in July 1960.

In a relatively short career of only about 25 years in the North Country, Alvin Inman produced a remarkable body of well-designed, beautifully executed work, mostly for public purposes. As a result, so many of our communities are richer and more substantive places because of his attentive, tasteful, and lasting work.

AARCH's research on the work of Alvin Inman is ongoing and largely led by Nolan Cool. Please feel free to reach out to Nolan if you have any information to add to the story. If you reference this material, please make sure to cite Adirondack Architectural Heritage.

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*Approximately 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 Virginia about the benefits of sustaining membership or with any errors or omissions to this list.*

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Bill Zullo

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($5000+)
Jeffrey Sellon & Marilyn Burns

($1000-$4999)
Jan Anderson
Susan Darrin
Ed & Alane Hodges
Jane & Bob Holder
Richard Longstreth
Katie Stojsavljevic

($500-$999)
Harold & Jan Bedoukian
Drs. Richard & Martha Frost
Mark Gallogly & Lise Strickler
Nina Gershon & Bernard Fried
Charles & Margaret Higgerson
Amy Brelia & Bruce Meighan
Andy & Kathy Prescott
Anne Van Ingen
Janice Woodbury

($250-$499)
Parker & Judy Blatchford
Anthony Brankman
John & Jean Brennan
Duncan H. Cameron
Pidge Curtiss
Edward Finnerty
Rich & Marty Frost
Bill & Susan Harral
Michael & Kathryn Hoffman
Kristee Iacobucci & Tom Riley
Charles Kilbourne
Donald Klugo
Thomas LaBombard
Wester & Lorraine Miga
Willem & Margreet Monster
Sanford Morehouse
Steven & Melissa Shepstone
Virginia Siskavich & Dan Bosley
In Memory of Linda Siskavich
Dennis & Susan Sullivan
Tania G. Werbizky & Brad Edmondson
Richard & Jean Williams

($100- $249)
Carol G. Alexander
Sandy & Sally Berk
Angela Brown
Langdon & Susan Brown
Susan Prescott Buck
In Honor of the William H. Prescott Family
Sally & Ted Carrier
Vel Chesser & Emil Kutsera
Richard Daly
JoAnne Daly
Margaret J. Datz
Suzanne Doin
Joan Doran
John & Tillie Freeman
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Frederick & Gloria Gleave
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Jean Killian
Andrew Knox, Architect
Ruth Kuhfahl
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Richard Lamb
Meredith Leonard
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Susan Mandler
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Stephen Maselli
Thomas Mason
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Zoe Nousiainen
Candace O'Connor
Heritage Properties of the Adks.
Kay Papin
Ann Parks
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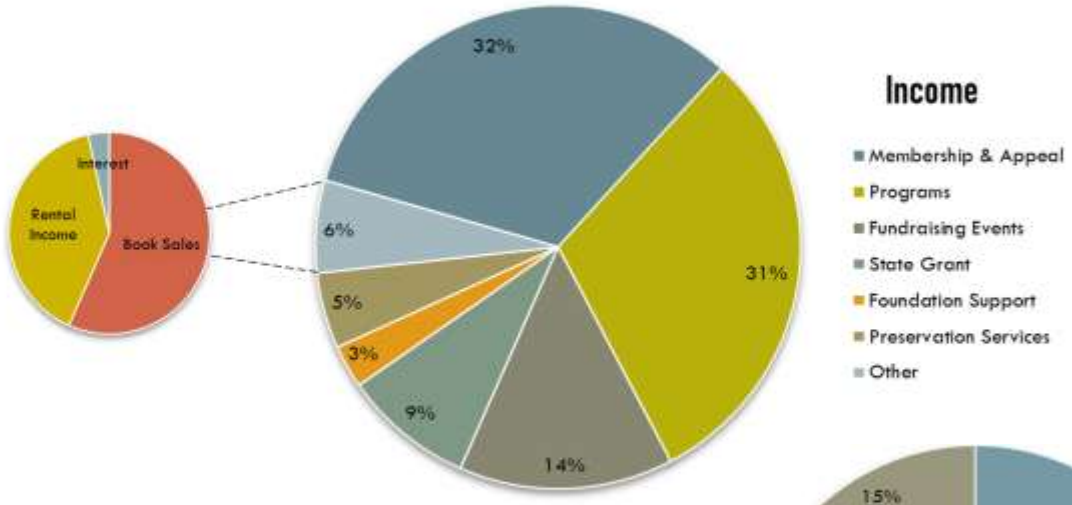
FINANCIAL REPORT



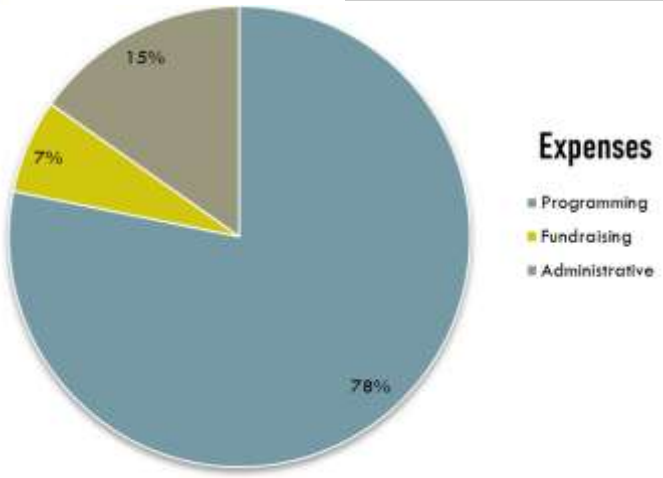
AARCH finished 2018 in a healthy fiscal position due mainly to the success of our international adventure to Armenia and strong membership support.

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.

Balance Sheet

Total Income: $402,564
Membership/Appeal: $131,013
Programs: $122,423
Fundraising Events: $57,488
State Grant: $35,000
Foundations: $11,550
Preservation Services: $20,356
Other: $24,734

Total Expenses: $380,616
Programming: $297,485
Fundraising: $25,146
Administrative: $57,985



AARCH ENDOWMENT AT THE ADIRONDACK FOUNDATION

Since 2004, AARCH has maintained an endowment fund through the Adirondack Foundation. The purpose of this fund is to provide for the long-term financial stability of this organization. When you send an additional donation for our AARCH Fund at the Adirondack Foundation with your annual membership contribution, it sends a clear message that you care about the legacy of historic preservation in the Adirondack region. We thank you for your support.

ADIRONDACK FOUNDATION

BEYOND GIVING

A Conversation with Richard Strean

Rich first came to the Adirondacks as a child in 1970. He attended summer camp, worked summers in the Park, bought a seasonal home about fifteen years ago, and moved to the North Country full time about three years ago.

Rich out paddling on Lincoln Pond

What motivates you to stay engaged with the Adirondacks and AARCH?
Much of the economic history of the Adirondacks involves resource-based industries such as logging and mining, which directly or indirectly furnished so many of the structures we visit on AARCH tours, yet the future of the region demands an adjustment to an era in which such activities are uneconomical. I love to learn about the history of the region, but I want to see it flourish as we feel our way to a new economy involving activities such as microbrewing, organic farming, and tourism. **AARCH is uniquely situated to protect our history while highlighting and encouraging the emerging activities** that will define the North Country in the twenty-first century.

Tell us about a favorite AARCH program or tour.
Although I have a long-standing interest in history, architecture per se is often not the most compelling part of my favorite AARCH programs. For instance, I went on the Small Farms Rising tour the first time it was offered, about three years ago, shortly after the agricultural "Big Bang" on Mace Chasm Road in Keeseville that gave us **Ausable Brewing Company, North Country Creamery, Mace Chasm Farm, and Fledging Crow Vegetables.** I have been back to all those businesses many times; I check with Steven and Ashlee of NCC for advice on local politics and count Dan and Dylan of ABC among my friends. It's great to see young entrepreneurs enriching our communities the way they do.

Do you have a fantasy Adirondack tour?
As a preservation organization, AARCH, by its nature, has to be backward-looking to a great degree. That said, I admire Steven, Virginia, Mary, and Nolan for being the least stodgy preservationists I can imagine. **They love the big, famous, historic buildings of the region, but they always seek to broaden their gaze**. It's easy to see the impact of rich, white, Christian men on the Adirondack landscape, and indeed there is much to celebrate there. The history of African Americans, Jews, women, immigrants, and others is often harder to unearth or protect as they did not often have the resources or property rights to build Great Camps, for instance. Many of the forward-thinking businesses and organizations in the Park recognize that, as the population of the US becomes more diverse, we will not remain economically viable if we do not attract a growing proportion of non-traditional visitors. Thus **I am heartened to know that AARCH is working on several possible new tours that unearth this hidden history,** which provides interest and value while helping us see our way to the future, as well.

Is there an AARCH project that stands out to you? Why?
Helping preserve the cabin that Fulton Fryer used at the Seagle Music Colony shows AARCH at its best: nimble, knowledgeable, effective. A call to AARCH alerted the organization to the threatened destruction of the small building that housed an African American musician at the music school in the 1950s. Uncovering the history of the building and its occupant, **AARCH drew attention to the situation and found a way to preserve this unusual piece of the history** of both opportunity and segregation in the Adirondacks. I know of no other organization that could have pulled off this triumph of education, organizing, preservation, and fund-raising.

How has AARCH helped you see your community differently?
I came to the Adirondacks for the weather and the outdoor opportunities. I love the clean air and water, the mountains and lakes. I enjoy hiking, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, and kayaking. When I lived in New York City, I bought a place up here to enjoy those benefits. I did not think twice about good food or interesting culture because I felt I had whatever I needed when I was downstate. AARCH has shown me the history of the region that I had never stopped to perceive or understand. **It has highlighted and supported the activities of people all over the region working quietly to preserve and develop the history and culture around us.** The cultural resurgence of the Adirondacks that AARCH has nurtured and spotlighted has deepened and broadened my appreciation for the region.

Are you interested in being featured in our next "Beyond Giving" segment? Reach out to Virginia — Virginia@aarch.org

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 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

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

Adirondack Dental Health Assoc.
Adirondack Experience
Adirondack History Museum
Adirondack Life Magazine
Andrew Chary Architect, PLLC
Anthony Paskevich & Associates
Aunt Polly's Material Girls
Ausable Chasm
Bay Meadows Golf Club
Bay Optical
Berkshire Hathaway/Adirondack Realty
Big Slide Brewery
The Birch Store
Bistro LeRoux
Black Rooster Maple
Boquet Valley Blooms
Café Adirondack
Caffe Rustica
Caldwell Country Store
CAP-21
Champlain National Bank
The Chronicle
Craig Wood Golf Course
Craigardan
Cronin's Golf Resort
Crowne Plaza Resort & Golf
Edinburg Historical Society
Feinberg Library
Forrence Orchards
Fort Ticonderoga
Friends of Eagle Island
Friends of Stillwater Fire Tower
Garden Time Nursery
Glens Falls Country Club
Glens Falls Saratoga Chapter ADK
Hague Historical Society
Harvest Homes
Heartspace Yoga
High Peaks Golf Course
Hiland Golf Course
Housing Assistance Program of Essex County
Jim Girard Landscape Maintenance
Just Water
Kingsbury National Golf
Lake George Mirror
Lake George Steamboat Co.
Lake Placid Pub & Brewery
Lake Placid/North Elba Historical Society
Linear Art Studio
Lavenlair Farm
Loremans' Promotional Products
Malone Golf Club
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Mark Kurtz Photography
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Kevin O'Keefe, DMD
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Rock Bottom Golf
Ruthie's Run
Sagamore Institute
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
Top of the World Golf Resort
Tupper Lake Golf Club
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 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.)

NEWS AND NOTES

We do our best to keep track of preservation happenings in and around the Adirondack region but we always welcome news from additional eyes and ears. Please feel free to send us information about new and ongoing preservation projects and issues in your community. Send us an email at info@aarch.org.

Albany: Grant Awards

The state announced its Regional Economic Development Council (REDC) grant awards in December. Several municipalities and organizations in the North Country received funding for important new and ongoing preservation and community revitalization projects in the Adirondacks. The village of Saranac Lake was especially well-rewarded for its exceptionally well-planned community redevelopment work– a great testament to the vibrancy of this small community.

Governor Cuomo presents the Village of Saranac Lake with a $10 million Downtown Revitalization Grant. Photo by Jacob Linton, Adirondack Daily Enterprise

The Village of Saranac Lake received a $10 million Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) grant. Saranac Lake was one of only ten communities across the state to receive funding to develop a downtown strategic investment plan and implement a series of revitalization projects. In Saranac Lake, this funding will be used to develop market rate housing, and to rehabilitate existing housing to attract new residents, professionals, and families. Governor Andrew Cuomo presented the award to village officials in July at an official ceremony at Hotel Saranac.

Announcement Image from Historic Saranac Lake

Historic Saranac Lake received a $500,000 Historic Preservation grant to acquire and restore the former residence of Dr. E. L. Trudeau in Saranac Lake. This building, located next to the existing HSL headquarters at the Saranac Laboratory Museum, will be repurposed as a museum, allowing the organization to expand its educational programming and outreach. In addition to the preservation of this architectural and historic gem of a building, the presence of a new museum within its walls will also help drive the economic revitalization of the village and the surrounding area through cultural tourism.

Congratulations are also in order to another Saranac Lake nonprofit organization, the **Pendragon Theater**, which received a $500,000 Empire State Development grant to acquire and adaptively reuse an empty building in downtown Saranac Lake as a state-of-the-art theater facility. This new theater will improve the quality of their theatrical offerings, increase the theater's visibility in a more prominent location, will help drive cultural tourism in the village, and further contribute to larger village goals of economic revitalization.

The **Town of AuSable** received a $300,000 New York State Community Development Block Grant to rehabilitate the former Keeseville High School and adaptively repurpose the building as a community and senior center. The Town acquired the building in 2015 when the Village of Keeseville was dissolved. This building is part of the Keeseville Historic District and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The funding will help with the restoration of the building, which includes repairing water damage, installing new infrastructure, and a full exterior restoration.

Keeseville Civic Center.

The **Town of Minerva** and the **Town of Willsboro** received a $128,174 grant from the Department of State Planning and Development Office for a Local Waterfront Revitalization Program. The funds will be used to study existing conditions, guide appropriate development along the waterfront, and recommend revitalization projects that will attract and support tourism as well as improve public waterfront access.

Washington: Grant Awards

Adirondack Architectural Heritage received a $370,000 "Save America's Treasures" grant in November from the National Park Service to

Aerial photograph of Camp Santanoni by Jed Thone

Continued on next page

continue important rehabilitation and conservation work at Camp Santanoni. This grant program provides preservation assistance to nationally significant historic properties, specifically National Historic Landmarks. This award will be used to complete critical projects at the Main Lodge, including stabilizing the foundation, replacing deteriorated logs, repairing masonry, and installing a new, 15,000-square-foot wood shingle roof. This project will be done in partnership with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, with additional funding support from the Town of Newcomb.

Conceptual image courtesy of Hotel Saranac.

Albany: Preservation Awards

Hotel Saranac in Saranac Lake received two major preservation awards in 2018: a New York State Historic Preservation Award as well as an "Excellence in Preservation" Award from the Preservation League of New York State, for the magnificent restoration and rehabilitation of this historic 1927 hotel. This $35 million restoration is the largest historic tax credit investment project ever undertaken in the Adirondacks. The hotel, which reopened last year as part of the Curio Collection by Hilton, has already attracted national attention for its unique character and sophistication and was recently featured as one of "The 50 Best Places to Travel in 2019" by *Travel + Leisure Magazine*.

AARCH also recognized the Hotel Saranac project with a 2018 AARCH Preservation Award in early November.

Albany: National Register

Several properties in the Adirondacks and the North Country were listed on the State and/ or National Register of Historic Places in 2018.

Hotel Saranac. This iconic Adirondack hotel was conceived and designed by the notable Saranac Lake architectural firm of William H. Scopes and Maurice M. Feustmann and constructed by Saranac Lake building firm of Branch & Callanan. Its construction was due in part to the success of Dr. E. L. Trudeau's Adirondack Sanitarium and the booming cure industry in Saranac Lake, which hosted thousands of patients and their families who came to the area seeking a cure for tuberculosis. Hotel Saranac opened in 1927 as a modern, fireproof hotel with one hundred rooms with impressive amenities such as private baths for each guest room. The interior was inspired by the famous Davanzati Palace in Florence, Italy, and the hotel's public spaces were adorned with the highest quality materials and rich decoration: marble staircases, ornamental wrought iron railings, marble floors, expansive fireplaces, decorative plaster, ornately painted wood beams, and paneled wood and wall ceilings. Since its construction in the late 1920s, Hotel Saranac has been a distinctive and defining feature of Saranac Lake's streetscape.

Gooley Club. The Gooley Club was a hunting and fishing club, formed in 1948, which originally operated on 15,000 acres of land leased from Finch, Pruyn & Company in and around the Essex Chain Lakes in the Towns of Minerva, Newcomb, and Indian Lake. There were two club complexes: the Outer Gooley Club, which consists of one single clubhouse built c. 1930, and the Inner Gooley Club, which consisted of fourteen buildings, including several cabins, a main lodge, and storage lockers. The club was significant as a surviving mid-twentieth century, Adirondack hunting and fishing club. Unfortunately, the Gooley Club was demolished in 2018.

First Baptist Church. The First Baptist Church and Parsonage in Ogdensburg, which AARCH visited in September on our "Religious Stained Glass" tour, was listed on the State Register of Historic Places in December 2018. This nineteenth-century Gothic Revival church and parsonage contains a variety of stained glass windows produced by Ogdensburg resident Harry James Horwood between 1931 and 1944.

Preservation Success

2018 was a successful year for preservation efforts in the region. Westport was especially well-represented with progress made on the Cornell Cooperative Extension Building and the completion of the Westport Town Hall restoration.

Westport. Thanks to a $500,000 grant to Essex County, work has begun on the Cornell Cooperative Extension Building on the grounds of the Essex County Fairgrounds in Westport. The grant funds will be used to repair the building's foundation, abate asbestos, improve its electrical system, and do other rehabilitation work. This is the first phase of a larger $1.5 million project.

The Colonial Revival style building was built in 1924 as the Junior Achievement Building with funds provided, in part, by philanthropist and Ticonderoga native Horace Moses. The purpose of Junior Achievement was to encourage manual arts and crafts among the young people of the county. During the 20th century the building housed many agriculture and conservation organizations and it currently

Cornell Cooperative Extension Building, Essex County Fairgrounds, Westport.

provides a home for Cooperative Extension, the Essex County Soil and Water Conservation District, the Essex County Agricultural Society (which runs the Essex County Fair), and Adirondack Harvest. AARCH has long had an interest in the preservation and public use of this building and was responsible for getting it and the entire Essex County Fairgrounds on the National Register of Historic Places in 2012. We salute Essex County for taking the initiative to rehabilitate this important community building.

Westport. The Westport Town Hall, a former grange hall constructed in 1927, reopened this year after a full renovation and restoration, funded in part by a grant from the New York State Historic Preservation Fund. The project was led by a members of the Town Hall Rehabilitation Committee, the architectural work was provided by Vermont Integrated Architecture (VIA), and local contractor Schell McKinley did the $1 million project which included restoring the exterior, updating building systems, and rearranging the interior walls and partitions to accommodate the needs of the Town. AARCH served on the Rehabilitation Committee, and we are proud of have been a part of such a successful and inspired community effort to preserve this historic building. AARCH awarded the Town of Westport a 2018 Preservation Award for this exemplary work.

Preservation Losses

Several historic properties in the Adirondacks were unfortunately lost forever in 2018 due to fire, demolition, and natural disaster.

Port Henry. 4314 Main Street (c. 1880) was a handsome two-story, Italianate style mixed use brick commercial building that was occupied by several businesses over its lifetime. The building suffered a massive fire in early April 2018 that so significantly damaged the building that had to be demolished.

Historic postcard showing Lakeview Lodge. Postcard from the Adirondack Experience Collections Database.

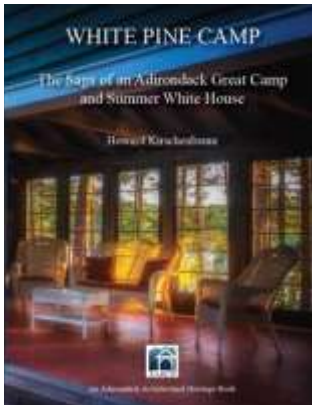
Big Moose Lake. In early December 2018 a massive fire destroyed the historic former Lakeview Hotel in the Town of Webb. This four-and-a-half story building had gracefully looked over Big Moose Lake since its construction at the turn of the twentieth century and was very much a fixture on the lake landscape. It was built in 1898 by Charles Williams with the help of E. J. Martin, a local builder and proprietor of The Waldheim.

Williams came to Big Moose to work for Dr. William Seward Webb as his head teamster and he eventually built this large hotel which could accommodate 50 guests. More recently the building was lovingly restored as a private camp and was in excellent condition. The loss of Lakeview Lodge is a great blow to this small, tightly-knit community.

Schroon Lake. An early January fire destroyed the historic Schroon Lake Community Church. The building, constructed in 1948, had recently been renovated.

Schuyler Falls. The Bromley Tavern, a remarkably intact, mid-nineteenth century brick inn and tavern, was demolished in late 2018. The building had been vacant and deteriorating for decades and, despite some last minute efforts to save by AARCH and others, it was simply too far gone to be saved.

Book News—New Regional Titles



White Pine Camp: The Saga of an Adirondack Great Camp and Summer White House. AARCH grew its publication program once again in July 2018 with the release of our newest book, written by AARCH founder and former president, and longtime preservationist Howie Kirschenbaum. The preservation of White Pine Camp, its management and use, is an inspiring preservation success story. Kirschenbaum discusses the design and building of this unique camp complex through a collaboration of architects William Massarene and Addison Mizner, with master builder Ben Muncil. Learn about the parade of prominent owners throughout the twentieth century, its use as the 1926 summer White House by Calvin Coolidge, its use by Paul Smiths College over 35 years, and the inspiring

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 that represent varied careers and interests.

We are **currently seeking new candidates** to join our Board of Directors, especially people from the western and southern regions of the Adirondack Park, with a willingness to fundraise, collaborate, lend a helping hand, and help AARCH thrive. Please let us know if you have interest in joining our board, or know someone who would. Our goal is to have a slate of candidates for our April Board of Directors meeting. Please contact Steven Engelhart by email at Steven@aarch.org, or call the office at (518) 834-9328.

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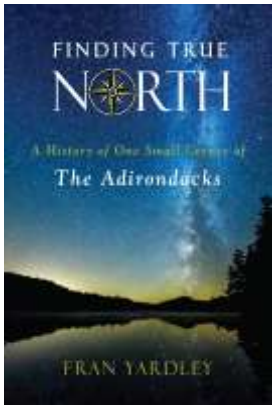
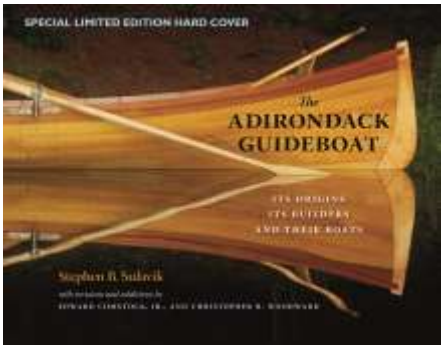
NEWS AND NOTES & SAVE THE DATES

historic preservation story which brought the camp from near ruin to year-round Adirondack destination. *Available from AARCH. Members receive a 20% discount off the $29.95 cover price.*

Finding True North: A History of One Small Corner of the Adirondacks. Professional story teller, actor, and author Fran Yardley has published a wonderful memoir chronicling her journey restoring the historic Barlett Carry Club with her late husband, Jay. This historic complex, located on a quarter-mile portage trail between Middle and Upper Saranac Lakes, served sportsmen and travelers for generations. Fran provides a detailed history of the club dating back to the 1800s and recounts the hardships, humor, and love that went into their restoration and reopening of the complex, with 37 buildings on 1,000 acres. *Published by State University of New York Press, 2018*



The Adirondack Guideboat: Its Origins, Its Builders, and Their Boats. Although Stephen Sulavik was a pulmonary surgeon, his passion was Adirondack guideboats. When Sulavik passed away, his friend and former Chairman of the Board of the Adirondack Museum, Robert Worth, pursued the publication of Sulavik's research, along with the help of former AARCH board member Edward "Ted" Comstock and guideboat expert Christopher Woodward. Sulavik's history traces the origins of the Adirondack guideboat to Martin's Hotel, a popular resort on Saranac Lake, who employed boat builder William McLenathen to service wealthy sportsmen and other clientele. The distinctive boat form and design built by McLenathen gradually spread to other areas of the Adirondacks. Sulavik's book contains historic photographs, painting reproductions, photographs, and years of thorough written research. *Published by Bauhan Publishing, LLC, 2018*



SAVE THESE DATES!

- **Annual Raffle, Drawing May 31**
- **Saturday, June 8**
  Annual Meeting, The Depot Theater, Westport
- **Friday, June Date TBD**
  Benefit Concert at Greystone, Essex
- **Saturday, August 3**
  Special Event , Werrenrath Camp, Chazy Lake
- **September 26—October 6**
  International adventure in Slovakia