The Irresistibility of Historic Preservation

Our Vermont friends behind “Preservation in Pink” define historic preservation as “an eternally optimistic, inspiring field intent on improving present and future quality of life through the appreciation of our built and cultural heritage.” Although we are still a long way from being a nation or a region of true historic preservationists, we are increasingly becoming more preservation-minded as the intersections between preservation and common sense, community health, good stewardship, and sustainability becomes better understood.

So what makes historic preservation so attractive, even irresistible?

It’s About Beauty. People are drawn to historic buildings and communities because most are aesthetically pleasing places to live, work, and visit. This attraction grows from a deep human need to be around beauty, as is also reflected in our love for great art, music, and wild places.

Historic places are attractive because they often represent high achievements in design and craftsmanship. Whether it’s the work of a great architect like William Coulter on Upper Saranac Lake, or the imagination of a talented builder like Earl Woodward in Lake Luzerne, or the much simpler vernacular structures seen on farms or in mill towns, historic buildings are well-designed, handsomely detailed, and constructed in beautiful ways rarely seen in contemporary architecture.

Our love of buildings, however, extends beyond simple aesthetics. Let us consider other motivations for loving and preserving old structures.

Buildings Connect Us to History. There are a myriad of ways that people learn about history - through conversation, literature, and by looking at photographs and art. All of these require some kind of choice and effort, but historic buildings are the everyday connection we have to our past. They are all around us; they are the places where we grew up, the places where we worshiped, the places we’ve played, worked, and studied. If we learn to view buildings as embodiments of past lives, stories, and history, we find that they have much to teach us.

In Saranac Lake, one sees the history and importance of the tuberculosis curing industry through its sanatoria, cure cottages, civic buildings, the Trudeau Laboratory, and its thriving downtown. In Moriah, the evidence of its long and rich history of iron mining is everywhere in its mill buildings, tailings piles, company-built housing, and in the once prosperous look of Port Henry. Raquette Lake’s history as a quintessential summer lake community is told through places like The Antlers and the Raquette Lake Supply Company, as well as through the work of Great Camp designer William West Durant in Camp Pine Knot and St. William’s on Long Point. Through our observations of the built environment, we find that the history of each community is written in its buildings.

Historic sites are also the best places to learn history because of this direct connection to the past. Making this connection is especially important for teaching young people. At the Penfield Homestead Museum in Ironville, you can shear sheep and spin wool; on the grounds of the forts at Crown Point, watch 18th century soldiers drill and muster; at the Trudeau Laboratory, learn of Dr. Trudeau’s work to cure tuberculosis; and, at the 1812 Homestead near Willsboro, children can experience first-
Dear Friends,

I hope this letter finds you well. As I write this in the last few days of February, I am still basking in the memory of the wonderful day of cross country skiing that I shared with my wife and literally hundreds of others as we made our annual trek into Santanoni over the Presidents’ weekend. What a spectacular day we had with great conditions and unseasonably warm temperatures.

As I shuffled along, I couldn’t help but revel in appreciation of AARCH’s essential role in the more than $2 million dollars in restoration work that has occurred at this historic property. We can all take pride in the fact that most building exteriors have been restored and major structural issues have been addressed. On the horizon, a feasibility study is to be commissioned for the proposed reconstruction of a replica of the dairy barn that was destroyed by fire in 2004. A historic landscape report will also guide landscape restoration at the farm. The interpretive opportunities created by these developments are significant.

The work already completed at Santanoni and the continuing work there are prime examples of the persistence and determination exhibited by AARCH in carrying out its core mission of promoting better public understanding, appreciation, and stewardship of the Adirondacks’ architectural heritage. Our collaboration and partnership with the Town of Newcomb, DEC, OPRHP and many dedicated volunteers over the past 27 years has produced exceptional outcomes at this crucial historic site. I would commend to you the great piece on Michael Frenette’s work at Camp Santanoni that appeared in the January/February 2017 issue of the Adirondack Explorer.

I should also remind our membership that you may supplement your regular AARCH membership by including an additional gift earmarked for the “Friends of Camp Santanoni.”

AARCH’s unwavering commitment to the stewardship of our unique Adirondack communities will soon be even more evident with several other exciting projects:

- In the coming months, AARCH will be releasing the much anticipated A Guide to Architecture in the Adirondacks by noted architectural historian Dr. Richard Longstreth. This impressive publication will be the culmination of more than 5 years of planning, researching, visiting, photographing, and documenting notable historic structures in more than 100 towns and hamlets throughout the Adirondacks (the product of Richard’s more than 10,000 miles of travel throughout the region). This will be the first book to comprehensively document the architecture of the Adirondacks and will be an essential edition to the personal libraries of all who love this region.

- Plans for the adaptive reuse of AARCH’s Stone Mill in Keeseville are proceeding with renewed vigor. This property, part of the former Ausable Horse Nail Company complex, was acquired by AARCH in 2008. This project will use state grants, private foundation support, and federal tax credits for the rehabilitation and reuse of this historic property.

- AARCH is also collaborating with the Town of Ausable and a private foundation to revitalize and develop the land adjacent to the Stone Mill as a new public waterfront park along the Ausable River. The park will dramatically transform a dreary industrial site into an attractive open space, available to the community for public events, relaxation, or play. The recent award of a State Environmental Protection Fund grant and a Smart Growth Implementation grant will help make this project a reality after years of planning and work.

I am so proud of what one of our staff members characterizes as the “stick-to-it-iveness” of this wonderful organization. The great work of AARCH is the direct result of vision, persistence, and an investment of time and incredible talent.

Thank you for your continued support. I urge you to renew your membership, recruit new members and friends, and generously support our fundraising efforts and events.

Now, more than ever, AARCH MATTERS!

Edward P. Finnerty
Board President

This publication was made possible, in part, through the generous support of the New York State Council on the Arts, Architecture + Design Program.
Historic Places Foster Identity & Pride. Historic structures are very often the “beating heart” of a community, those buildings that give a community its identity and “sense of place.” Historic preservation is often misunderstood as hindering progress, rather than helping contribute to the vitality of our cities and towns. In a culture that places great importance on maintaining healthy job growth and a thriving economy, it is imperative to realize that preserving our buildings also benefits us by growing and sustaining the health and soul of our individual communities.

Think of almost any Adirondack community and you’ll quickly identify one or several such historic structures that give the area its “soul.” In Long Lake, it’s the Adirondack Hotel; in Old Forge it’s the iconic hardware store; and in Big Moose it’s the community chapel. Jay, Keeseville, Wanakena, and Hadley all have historic bridges that are central to their identity. Who can think of Newcomb without also thinking of Camp Santanoni? What is Inlet without The Woods Inn or Northville without the Willard Brothers building?

It’s What Makes Community. Historic places are where community life happens, in churches, grange halls, parks, the library, at the drug store, and on the sidewalks in-between. The successful preservation of community buildings provides places for people to come together to learn, inspire, celebrate, and enjoy life.

Over the last ten years, a grassroots group has restored the Whallonsburg Grange Hall and made it into a lively community center that offers music, dance, lectures, movies, theater, classes, a commercial kitchen, and a place for meetings and special events. The former Baptist Church in Wells, now The Revival, is a place for many of the same activities. The Indian Lake Theater is the center for all kinds of community life. All of these buildings have brought people together in new and marvelous ways.

It’s Economic Opportunity. Historic preservation projects often mean economic opportunity by providing better housing, or creating a home for a business, or developing a new attraction.

Existing buildings are often affordable real estate and their rehabilitation is often less costly as compared with new construction. A huge early 20th century barn at Nettle Meadow Farm in Thurman now serves the farm operation and is a beautiful events space. The Davidson family of entrepreneurs in Keeseville transformed a series of two story row blocks into vibrant commercial and residential spaces. Boat builder Reuben Smith created a new shop and showroom for Tumblehome Boats in a former highway garage near Warrensburg.

It sometimes helps that both the state and federal governments have provided incentives for the restoration of civic, commercial, and residential buildings through tax credits and grants. These incentives can make projects more affordable and often make the difference between saving and losing a building. The restoration of the Hotel Saranac in Saranac Lake, the creation of senior housing at the Lee House in Port Henry, and the Old Brewery apartments in Keeseville were all made possible by the use of tax credits.

It’s Smart Growth. People don’t often make the connection between sustainable development and historic preservation, but the Smart Growth movement stands out as one notable exception. Widely supported across the political spectrum, this movement has a clear statement of principles: to create a range of housing opportunities and choices; to create walkable neighborhoods; to foster distinctive, attractive places with a “sense of place;” to preserve open space and natural
IN REMEMBRANCE

**ADVENTURE**

Summer Tour Schedule

Mary is hot on the trail of several new and exciting outings for the 2017 summer tour season, including two overnight trips. One explores women’s history in Seneca Falls and the other explores the architecture and charms of several bucolic communities in rural Quebec. We will also highlight the work of several prolific and talented local architects in the region. As always, your perennial favorites will be back, too. The tour schedule will be mailed in mid-April.

**PRESERVE**

Poke-O-Moonshine Centennial

2017 marks the centennial (1917-2017) of the Poke-O-Moonshine fire tower and the 20th Anniversary (1997-2017) of *The Friends of Poke-O-Moonshine*, which has worked to restore the fire tower and trails on the mountain, and to educate the hiking public about the human and natural history of the mountain and the Adirondack region. Celebrations and a juried art show are planned for the weekend of July 28-30. Visit our website for a schedule of events and details on how you can help and participate.

**LEARN**

Lectures & Workshops

Have you always wanted to know the style of the bank down the road? Have you wanted to learn more about the history Adirondack Great Camps? Or, perhaps engineering marvels like the Ausable River bridges are more your thing. We've got you covered! Join AARCH staff at locations across the park for our popular lecture series. The next event will be on March 22 at the Lake Placid-North Elba Historical Society in Lake Placid where Steven will present: "Camp Santanoni: Past, Present, and Future." Free and open to the public, 7pm. Visit aarch.org/adventure/lectures for our growing list of presentations and for information on how you can schedule one for your library, club, or civic organization.

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**John Nuzum, Jr.**

*(1940-2016)*

We are sad to report the death of John Nuzum on June 21, 2016. John was an active and engaged AARCH board member for several years and a generous and involved AARCH member since 1994. He had a great love for the Adirondacks and its people and communities and loved exploring the region from his camp “Big Shanty” in North River. Whether it was an outing or a board meeting, John always brought his quiet intelligence, deep curiosity, and playful sense of humor with him.

We appreciate that John’s family designated AARCH as a charity for memorial gifts in his name and we are thankful for the dozens of people from all parts of his life who gave to AARCH in his memory. He will be dearly missed.

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**Big Shanty Memories**

Stefanie Noble

I visited Big Shanty for the first time thanks to John Nuzum’s generosity in hosting AARCH for one of our quarterly board meetings. I had arrived a bit early and John graciously gave me a tour and explained the history of the camp, as the home of Frank Hooper, a leader in the garnet mining industry. As is common around the region, the stonework around the fireplace was studded with garnet, tying the camp inextricably to its surroundings and history.

We were able to conduct our meeting in the warmth and coziness of Big Shanty (with a lovely lunch at the Garnet Hill Lodge) and I left thinking what a nice place it would be to escape to for a vacation. Little did I know that a year later, I’d be able to do just that, after my mother won a stay at Big Shanty as part of AARCH’s annual raffle! My mom, myself, my daughter, my sister and a number of aunts and uncles spent a fantastic weekend at the camp in October of this past year.

The weather warmed up enough that weekend for us to enjoy fires outside, walks through the autumn leaves and kayaking down at the lake, while retaining enough chill at night to properly appreciate the massive, crackling fireplace indoors. The Nuzum family, as well as the other owners, have maintained the property in a way that allows the history to shine through while also making the space feel as though you’re returning to your own home: familiar and comfortable.

We are so thankful for this home away from home experience. I know my family will keep that weekend as a treasured memory.

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**The love for Big Shanty as expressed on a fungus medium**
beauty; to strengthen and direct development toward existing communities; and to take advantage of compact built design. Therefore, if a community does nothing except protect and reuse its historic buildings, it will have advanced every Smart Growth principle. Historic preservation is Smart Growth.

**It Preserves Open Space.** Historic preservation contributes to the conservation of open space by encouraging the reuse of existing buildings and the construction of new buildings on vacant lots that are in keeping with the building style already found there. The more construction activity that occurs within an existing settlement, the less development pressure there is to subdivide farm fields or forests.

**It’s Sustainable.** A great deal of attention has been given to the energy-saving benefits of new construction versus existing buildings, with much fanfare especially over LEED certified buildings. But, this misses several important points. The energy used to make the materials for existing buildings – the masonry, glass, metal and wood products, and plaster - has already been spent. These elements make up the “embodied energy” contained in a building. A significant amount of new energy has to be expended to produce all the building materials used in new construction and, according to the Empty Homes Agency, it can take many decades to recoup these initial energy and carbon expenditures in future incremental energy savings.

Existing buildings can also be made to be very energy efficient by investing energy dollars into attic insulation, securing the building envelope, improving mechanical systems, and installing storm windows. The energy payback for these improvements is relatively quick.

Compared to new construction, rehabilitating existing buildings also means more dollars go directly to local tradespeople, stimulating the local economy. This is just another benefit to reusing and improving existing buildings. If reusing historic buildings means energy efficiency through thoughtful conservation measures, utilizing the value of long ago spent embodied energy, and employing local materials and talent, then the greenest building just may be the one that already exists. They are also the biggest, most complex things that you’ll ever get to recycle.

There is overwhelming evidence that the most successful communities in America, those with thriving economies, healthy schools and social institutions, are communities that have embraced their own history and preserved their historic buildings in downtowns and residential neighborhoods. These places have embraced historic preservation as a critical element to community health along with other crucial concerns, such as job creation, economic growth, and protection of natural resources. Historic Preservation is a big part of what makes a community a good place to live, work, visit, and play.

*Irresistible, right?*

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** Nominate a Project for 2017 Awards**

Nominations are now being accepted for the 2017 AARCH Preservation Awards. AARCH has been recognizing exemplary preservation projects throughout the Adirondacks for over 20 years. The awards honor businesses, organizations, and individuals who have made the Adirondacks, through their preservation and stewardship work, better places 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 Program Director Mary Cirbus, mary@aarch.org.

**Deadline:** July 1, 2017

A full list of past award winners and projects is available on our website. [www.aarch.org/preserve/aarch-awards/](http://www.aarch.org/preserve/aarch-awards/)

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This 19th Century home in Essex is heated by geothermal energy

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**Lady Tree Lodge, Upper Saranac Lake**

2016 Awardee
2016 ANNUAL GIVING

Approximately 2,200 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. Contact Virginia for more information about the benefits of sustaining membership at virginia@aarch.org or 518-834-9328

State Support
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Lake Placid/North Elba Historical Society
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Housing Assistance Program of Essex County
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Newcomb Historical Museum
Anthony Paskevich & Associates
The Sembrich
Paul Smith’s College of Arts & Sciences
Raquette Lake Navigation
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Timberlock Resort
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Stefanie Noble
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Patricia Zalesny
Charlene Zebley
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Wayne Zukin
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Barb Benk Witt
Hon. Robert Blais
William & Sally Bruce
Cheryl Cawley
Peg & Grant Cornwall
JoAnne Daly
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Alexandra & Peter Koppen
Melissa & Donald Lang
Daniel Lynch
W. Bradley Morehouse
Rhoda & Paul Morrisroe
David Patrick
Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Reale
Patricia Reed
Parker & Judy Blatchford
Tania Werbizky & Brad
Jeffrey Sellon
Willem & Margreet Monster
Bruce & Amy Brelia Meighan
Charles & Margaret Higgerson
Mark Gallogly & Lise Strickler
Pat Benton ($500
Lorraine & Wester Miga
Nils & Muriel Luderowski ($1000
Susan Darrin
Marilyn Burns & Jeffrey Sellon ($5000+)
Marcy Smirnoff
Jean M. Tisne

ANNUAL APPEAL
($5000+)
Marilyn Burns & Jeffrey Sellon
Susan Darrin
($1000-$4999)
Nils & Muriel Luderowski
Lorraine & Wester Miga
($500-$999)
Pat Benton
Mark Gallogly & Lise Strickler
Nina Gershon & Bernard Fried
Charles & Margaret Higgerson
Bruce & Amy Breia Meighan
Willem & Margreet Monster
Jeffrey Sellon
Tania Werbizky & Brad Emmondson ($250-$499)
Parker & Judy Blatchford

Join our Board of Directors
Our Board of Directors plays an integral part in our successes. Members of our board come from all walks of life -- we have full-time preservation professionals, a retired sales rep for a Fortune 500 company, a local real estate agent, an attorney, an educator, and just about every career and interest in between.

Currently, we're seeking new candidates with a preference for people from the western region of the Park, with a willingness to fundraise, or who have experience in the financing and legal aspects of real estate development. Please let us know as soon as possible if you have interest or suggestions, as our goal is to have a slate of candidates for our April Board of Directors meeting. Contact Steven Engelhart at steven@aarch.org.
A Conversation with Art & Nancy Saltford

Board member Martha Spear spoke recently with Art and Nancy Saltford of Washington, DC to find out about their love for AARCH and architecture in the Adirondacks.

The Saltfords have been AARCH members since 2000. They are proud to say that their interest in the mission of AARCH extends beyond the summer months. Art’s grandfather arrived in the Adirondacks in the late 1800s, when his family built a camp on Piseco Lake in southern Hamilton County. During most of the year, his family lived in Poughkeepsie, but Art always had a fondness for his summers in the Adirondacks. Art and Nancy built their own camp on family land when they married, and they have been coming here every year since.

The Saltfords have great love for many places in the Adirondacks. In addition to their camp on Piseco Lake, they have enjoyed AARCH tours to places as diverse as Camp Sagamore, Camp Uncas, Wanakena, Tahawus, and the North Pole in Wilmington. They mourn the loss of the barn at Santanoni and The Wawbeek, both places they greatly treasured.

“We have a deep desire to keep the Adirondacks viable, to learn about and preserve its history, and learn about the lives of people who have inhabited and loved this area,” said Art. “Architectural structures are part of a community with a history of people, and we wonder who were the people who lived here and why did they build in these specific locations? It’s fascinating.”

The Saltfords’ favorite events are the annual awards ceremonies for people who have saved or transformed structures in the Adirondacks. These projects remind us of the positive impact of preservation in communities. Architectural structures can become the heart of community, bringing to mind the Indian Lake Theater that was saved is now a community hub.

We asked the Saltfords why they chose to include AARCH in their estate plans: “History is so important to understanding ourselves,” said Nancy. “Our intention is to help provide for AARCH’s future growth. A substantial endowment is needed to continue to support adequate staff and other resources to maintain a strong organization.”

AARCH thanks Art and Nancy for their long and deep support and enthusiasm.

2016 ANNUAL GIVING

FINANCIAL REPORT

AARCH finished 2016 in a healthy fiscal position, able to transfer $12,698 into our operating reserves. Membership revenue was up 2% from the previous year and program revenue was again strong, primarily because of our second successful Cuba tour.

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.

EXPENSES 2016

Revenue 2016

371,301

PLANNED GIVING

What Will Your Legacy Be?

Thank you for thinking about the future of historic preservation in the Adirondacks through your planned giving.

Whether you’ve included AARCH in your will or have regularly contributed to our endowment, you are sending a clear message that Adirondack architecture — and your legacy — matter.

We know that these aren’t easy conversations to have and we’d like to be accessible for any questions you may have. If you wish to talk to us about how you might remember AARCH in your estate plans, please contact Executive Director, Steven Engelhart at steven@aarch.org.
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 AND BUSINESS MEMBERS:

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.
Valcour Island. The state released a draft UMP for Valcour Island, late in 2016. The plan reinforces a long-standing relationship between NYSDEC and the Clinton County Historical Association regarding the stewardship and public use of the Bluff Point Lighthouse but calls for letting a National Register eligible property, the Seton House, to fall into ruin. The Seton House is a handsome stone structure built in 1929 and is in fairly good condition. The property also has a stone pump house and concrete dock. AARCH and others have argued that the building should be preserved and could be used by DEC and the public for seasonal staff and as an interpretive center.

ALBANY: GRANT AWARDS
The state announced its annual Consolidated Funding Application (CFA) grant awards in December and the awards included support for several important preservation and community revitalization projects in the region.

The Friends of Eagle Island were awarded $498,825 towards the restoration of the William L. Coulter designed buildings on Eagle Island on Upper Saranac Lake. This National Historic Landmark was originally built in 1903 for Vice-President Levi P. Morton and was used as a Girl Scout camp between 1938 and 2008. The Friends acquired the camp in 2015 with a mission to provide "an environmentally responsible Adirondack island camping experience for diverse youth, with an emphasis on girls and young women, while preserving Eagle Island’s natural and historic character.”

The Fort Ticonderoga Association was awarded $500,000 for the restoration of The Pavilion, the 1827 Greek Revival style mansion built for William Ferris Pell and considered to be one of the earliest summer homes in America. The restored structure will be repurposed for a variety of uses including meeting space, dining, catering, and limited destination lodging.

AARCH was awarded a $283,000 grant for the creation of a new public riverside park in Keeseville which will be adjacent to its Stone Mill property. The park project is a partnership with the Town of Ausable, which will assume ownership and maintenance of the park when it is completed. The project serves several public purposes. It will remove an obsolete and deteriorating building from the waterfront, create a new recreational space in the village, and enhance the redevelopment of the Stone Mill.

Also recently announced were grant awards through the Restore New York program, which specifically funds redevelopment projects of vacant and underutilized buildings for new community and commercial purposes. The Town of Ausable received $500,000 for the restoration and rehabilitation of the former Keeseville High School (1930) as a Civic Center for the community. The War Canoe Spirits Company in Crown Point received $500,000 for the adaptive reuse of the former Agway complex into a distillery. Both of these projects have had help from AARCH along the way.

Continued on next page
Mary and lives in Plattsburgh. Virginia is a native of Lyon in English and Psychology from SUNY Library and Information Sciences and a BS herself to be invaluable. She has an MA in many other responsibilities and has proved five years has quickly stepped up to assume resource center in order but over the last Virginia first came to AARCH to put our professionalism, grace, and good humor. so many of our programs and initiatives. All our communications work, and supporting of vital administrative functions, much of the organization, which includes an array increasingly huge role and importance in the family ties with the Adirondack region through her grandmother, who was born in Witherbee. Contact Mary at 518.834.9328 or at mary@aarch.org

We are also delighted to announce that Virginia Siskavich was recently promoted to be AARCH’s first Deputy Director. This reflects her increasing role and importance in the organization, which includes an array of vital administrative functions, much of our communications work, and supporting so many of our programs and initiatives. All of this she does with incredible professionalism, grace, and good humor. Virginia first came to AARCH to put our resource center in order but over the last five years has quickly stepped up to assume many other responsibilities and has proved herself to be invaluable. She has an MA in Library and Information Sciences and a BS in English and Psychology from SUNY Plattsburgh. Virginia is a native of Lyon Mountain and lives in Plattsburgh.

ALBANY: NATIONAL REGISTER
Several properties in the Adirondacks were listed on the State and/or National Registers of Historic Places in 2016.

Dollar Island Camp, Inlet (Hamilton County). Among the oldest buildings in the town, this rustic Adirondack camp was built in 1885 on a Fourth Lake island by a local guide and hotel keeper as a vacation home for a dentist from New Haven, Connecticut.

Henry’s Garage, Port Henry (Essex County). Originally constructed in 1911 to meet the needs of a horse and automobile livery business, it was then adapted to serve as an early automobile showroom, service garage and car storage facility. It is now the home of the Port Henry Fire Department.

Civilian Conservation Corps Camp S-90, Speculator (Hamilton County). The site includes the most intact collection of Civilian Conservation Corp (CCC) camp buildings in the state, where enrollees in this Great Depression work relief program built and improved facilities at seven state campgrounds, reforested state land, eradicated host plants associated with blister rust, fought forest fires, and searched for missing persons between 1934 to 1941.

Eli and Diadama Beecher House & Barn, Edinburg (Saratoga County). The house was built circa 1830 for Eli Beecher, a founding member of the community who served as supervisor on five separate occasions and as New York Assemblyman. The house also functioned for a time as both a store and as a garage.

The fate of the historic property below is unknown and may be in real danger of demolition. We bring attention to this matter to reinforce that historic properties are worth investing in.

Westport. The future of the Cornell Cooperative Education Building at the Essex County Fairgrounds in Westport is in jeopardy. Originally built in 1923 as the Junior Achievement Building with funding from philanthropist Horace Moses, this National Register-listed building is owned by Essex County and is currently home to many agriculture-related organizations, including Cooperative Extension, the Essex County Soil
and Water Conservation Service, and the offices for the Essex County Fair. It is extensively used for meetings associated with the Extension’s work as well as by other organizations throughout the Champlain Valley. Despite its listing on the National Register and some excellent preservation planning work, the county seems poised to build a new $1.2 million building and abandon this handsome and historic structure. The building does have a few problems, mostly due to the lack of maintenance over several decades, but there is an opportunity here to match county funds with state funding to create an exemplary institutional building.

**LOSSES**

*Every year we lose a few historic buildings and the past year was no exception. Sometimes these losses are from fire or other natural disasters, but more often they come from neglect, development pressure, or a lack of imagination.*

In August, several of the buildings at the **1812 Homestead** in Willsboro were lost to fires set by an arsonist. This wonderful collection of historic buildings had attracted thousands of young people every year to learn hands-on about early 19th century life. Plans are underway to rebuild the homestead.

In Fort Edward, the very beautiful 1880 Gothic Revival style **United Methodist Church** was demolished in December. The church had been vacant for more than five years and was owned by Irving Tissue Company. This was the fourth building that the company had demolished near its Fort Edward facility. A new village law now requires a justification for such a demolition but Irving’s permit predated the new law and was not subject to it. Said Village Trustee Darlene DeVoe: “Honestly, my heart is broken. No one listened when we tried and now it’s too late.”

The **Lake Placid Toboggan Chute** is also history. Originally this structure was a ski jump on the grounds of the Lake Placid Club and in 1965 it was moved to the shores of Mirror Lake where thousands of people, over nearly fifty years, enjoyed thrilling toboggan rides out onto the lake. The old chute was deemed unsafe, was demolished, and a new chute was constructed in 2016.

**REBORN**

*We also have good news to report on two endangered historic structures.*

**Willsboro.** For many years, the Ross Mill (Phoenix Mill), a former grist mill on the Boquet River, was on AARCH’s endangered properties list. Originally built in 1845 by William Ross, this handsome stone building was rapidly deteriorating due to a collapsed roof and floor system. In 2006, Will and Linda Heintz bought the building and have subsequently completed some major work to repair the masonry, install a new roof, and undertake other structural repairs, securing the building envelope and setting the stage for more comprehensive restoration to follow.

**Wanakena.** In January 2014, the National Register-listed 1902 pedestrian footbridge spanning 117’ across the Oswegatchie River was irreparably damaged by an ice jam. This bridge was such an important crossing and so closely linked to the history and identity of the hamlet that the community immediately got to work raising money to rebuild. With some state funding and lots of local support, the bridge was rebuilt and reopened at the end of 2016.
SAVE THE DATE & EMAIL MATTERS

SAVE THE DATE

Annual Raffle, Drawing May 31
Happening now! Ten great prizes!

Friday, June 16
Chamber Benefit Concert at Greystone Mansion, Essex

Saturday, June 24
Annual Meeting at the North Country School, Lake Placid

Saturday, July 8
Annual Benefit at Tumblehome Boatshop, Warrensburg

Monday, August 28
Golf Tournament at the Whiteface Club & Resort, Lake Placid

Monday, September 18
Preservation Awards Luncheon at Nettle Meadow Farm, Thurman

DID YOU KNOW that our monthly email newsletter, AARCH e-Matters is a great way to stay connected with all things preservation related in the Adirondack region and beyond? We will keep you informed about urgent preservation issues, career and volunteer opportunities with AARCH and Camp Santanoni, and we’ll let you know about openings on our highly sought after summer programs and events. If you’re not receiving AARCH e-Matters, you’re missing out!

To join, visit www.aarch.org. Contact us for more information.