AARCH

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THE OLYMPIC ARCHITECTURE OF LAKE PLACID

On February 8 the 2018 Olympic Winter Games commenced in Pyeongchang, South Korea, a relatively remote area located approximately 50 miles south of the border with North Korea high up in the Taebek Mountains. Pyeongchang is a county in the Gangwon province, which is one of the least developed counties in all of South Korea. For many years this area was virtually unknown to the outside world; it was full of abandoned coal mines and reminders of hostile relations at the border such as barbed wire and minefields. The introduction of winter sports to the South Korean masses, however, changed the future of the region. Utilizing the natural mountainous landscape of Pyeongchang, winter sports became widely accessible, rather than just a hobby for the wealthy. This shift changed both the physical character of Pyeongchang and its identity from demilitarized zone to winter resort destination to host of the 2018 Winter Olympics.

Although separated by decades, time zones, and culture, the story of Pyeongchang’s transformation from sleepy town to global destination is not entirely dissimilar to the story of the transformation of Lake Placid, our region’s own Olympic destination, which hosted the Games twice—first in 1932 and again in 1980. During this noteworthy year for winter sports, we thought it would be fitting to reflect upon Lake Placid’s Olympic architecture, the sometimes underappreciated sporting venues that all played a crucial part in Lake Placid’s role as host village and, years later, continue to contribute to the special character of Lake Placid as a winter resort destination and as an Olympic training center.

Like Pyeongchang, Lake Placid was relatively unknown to the rest of the world and was somewhat of an unconventional choice to host the 1932 Winter Olympics. It was the third iteration of the winter games and the first on American soil and the road to Lake Placid was full of controversy and questions. The previous two games were held in Chamonix, France (1924) and St. Moritz, Switzerland (1928), two better known and far more well-established winter resort destinations. Given this trend, it was then a bit surprising that the third games were to take place in a remote mountain town in the Adirondacks without any sort of Olympic-quality infrastructure in place beyond having a perfect mountainous location with foundation of winter recreational activity and appreciation along with plenty of open space for cross country skiing. Although arguably not yet globally recognized, Lake Placid was at least nationally-known as a resort town. The presence of large hotels and good railroad access made travel to Lake Placid relatively easy, but it was the Lake Placid Club, a Lake Placid institution, that not only helped transform the village into a resort town but also recognized the opportunity to capitalize on the introduction of winter sports in the region.

Much like the way Pyeongchang’s location sparked its development as a winter recreation town, the location of Lake Placid nestled in the High Peaks of the Adirondacks provided a natural backdrop for skiing, skating, hockey, and other types of outdoor winter activities. Despite this pristine location, the region was relatively underutilized in terms of formal winter sports in the early 20th century. Melvil Dewey, founder of the Lake Placid Club (and inventor of the Dewey Decimal System) recognized the opportunity to capitalize on a new season of winter recreation. Although Dewey’s leadership of the Club is controversial (he notably excluded Jews and members of other minority groups from membership in the Club), his decision to open the Club in the winter set the backdrop for Lake Placid playing host to the Olympic Games in 1932. Dewey’s son, Godfrey Dewey, spearheaded the effort to secure the 1932 Games by strategically gaining support of Olympic officials, New York Governor Franklin D. Roosevelt, and other state legislators. This endeavor took strategic planning, incurred

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Dear Friends,

I hope this letter finds you well.

In my opinion, one of the most enjoyable and valuable benefits of AARCH membership is receiving the many highly informative communication pieces generated throughout the year by our staff under the creative direction of our Deputy Director, Virginia Siskavich.

Of particular interest to me was the most recent AARCH Matters publication that presented a “year in review” of 2017. Specifically, this edition highlighted two outstanding examples of the exemplary preservation work of AARCH that occur on a regular basis and which demonstrate the ability of the organization to nimbly and creatively respond to unexpected opportunities. The work done by Steven Engelhart and our staff to preserve “The Closet” at Seagle Music Colony in Schroon Lake and with the effort to save the “Dr. Ferguson Office” in Glens Falls are merely the latest examples of the organization successfully rising to the challenge of unexpected and critical preservation opportunities. I would urge you to go back and read the summary of these projects to appreciate what a crucial role AARCH plays in assisting communities with historic preservation.

Much of AARCH’s ongoing and well-respected educational programming and advocacy take place on a relatively predictable schedule. For more than a quarter century this core work has been the foundation of our success. But AARCH’s unique ability to recognize and respond quickly and collaboratively to unexpected preservation challenges requiring immediate action is quite remarkable and should make all members proud.

Going forward, I am confident that AARCH is well-positioned to deliver an even wider range of historic preservation services. I am very pleased that Mary Cirbus has recently assumed the new position of Preservation Services Director. Mary is already actively expanding AARCH’s technical assistance program, increasing advocacy efforts, writing National Register nominations and raising awareness of historic preservation throughout the Park and beyond. As Mary takes on these new responsibilities, we recently welcomed Valerie Pawlewicz as our new Educational Programs Director following a national search process. Valerie brings experience, creativity, and tremendous energy to this crucial position. Combined with the experience, dedication, and vision of Steven Engelhart and Virginia Siskavich, our staff truly carries out AARCH’s mission to preserve the architecture and communities of the Adirondacks on a daily basis.

Thank you for your continued support. I urge you to renew your membership and generously support our fundraising efforts and events. As a reminder, Richard Longstreth’s outstanding book, A Guide to Architecture in the Adirondacks, remains available and should be in every member’s library!

Now, as always, AARCH MATTERS!

Kind Regards,

Edward P. Finnerty
Board President
debt for the town, and led Dewey to make promises he almost could not keep in terms of providing necessary infrastructure. Lake Placid ultimately beat eight other sites—Yosemite Valley, Lake Tahoe, Bear Mountain, Duluth, Minneapolis, Denver, Oslo (Norway) and Montreal—and was selected by the Olympic Committee in 1929 thereby securing its position in Olympic history. The implications of hosting the Games in 1932 and again in 1980, namely the construction of new buildings and individual sporting venues, changed the physical landscape and identity of the village of Lake Placid forever.

As is the case with most modern host cities, the Olympic infrastructure required to host the Games had to be constructed in Lake Placid from the ground up. The scale of construction understandably caused controversy and uncertainty that Lake Placid would even be able to host the Games. The bobsled run, notably, was almost not even constructed for the 1932 Games due to a multi-year legal battle with the Association for the Protection of the Adirondacks because building on the original chosen location (on state land just outside the village) conflicted with the "Forever Wild" clause of the New York State Constitution. Ultimately, the Olympic Committee compromised by selecting a location on Mount Van Hoevenberg, further outside the village in North Elba. Olympic history hinged on this controversy: if this bobsled run had not been constructed, Lake Placid would have lost the Games entirely, and the village would have a much different story. A similar issue occurred prior to the 1980 Games when the design of the Intervale Ski Jump was embroiled in a battle with environmental groups, including the Sierra Club, over the argument that the construction and height of the towers would detract from the unspoiled vistas and natural beauty of the High Peaks. In addition to contributing to the stories of the Olympics, the stories of these structures contribute to the history of New Yorkers adapting the landscape within a constitutionally protected public park.

Beyond their value as sites of Olympic sports history, the individual sporting venues constructed for the 1932 and 1980 Games should also be appreciated because they represent the most advanced sport and building technology of their day. The 1932 Mount Van Hoevenberg Olympic Bobsled Run is listed on the National Register of Historic Places (the 1932 run only), and its significance is only partially due to its association with the Olympic Games. This one and one-half mile course was constructed in 1930 in advance of the Games as the first bobsled run of its kind and the only course of this length ever designed and built for Olympic competition. It was designed by one of the premier bobsled-course designers in the world, Stanislaus Zentzetsyk, and it exceeded European bobsled courses in terms of length, steepness, and drops in elevation. Constructed of earth and stone, the course maintained a sophisticated system consisting of 8,000 feet of pipe laid below the ground that provided fresh icy surfaces to the course by pumping 20,000 gallons of water per day to a storage tank which then iced the course through a spray system. This 1932 course is the only remaining historic bobsled run at the Mount Van Hoevenberg site.

Also constructed for the 1932 Games was the Lake Placid Olympic Center, designed by noted regional architect William Distin. Best known for designing camps, lodges, and churches, the arena was a significant departure from Distin's typical work. The arena was designed as a neoclassical building with a symmetrical ochre-colored brick façade that perhaps more resembles an institutional building rather than a sporting venue. At its time of construction, this arena was one of the first in the nation to have been constructed solely for athletic purposes and the first indoor Olympic arena. Distin utilized steel arches to create an expansive interior space that allowed an impressive spectator experience for ice skating, hockey, and curling. The arena rose on the hill above The Oval, a rink that served as the site of the 1932 Olympic Stadium that was engineered for a speed-skating venue via a sophisticated system of underground pipes. The Lake Placid High School (not constructed for the
**ADVENTURE**

**SEASON 2018 TOUR SCHEDULE**

Our Educational Programs Director Valerie Pawlewicz is hard at work putting together a summer tour program that is sure to be another very impressive and far-ranging offering of educational outings. Look for as many as 45 trips, consisting of new adventures as well as many highly popular outings from the past. Tried-and-true tours include “Cordwood Construction: Earthwood Building School and Private Residence,” in West Chazy (May 12); “Flat Rock and Environs,” on Willsboro Point (June 12); and “Saranac Lake: Pioneer Health Resort” co-sponsored by our friends at Historic Saranac Lake (June 15).

New tours abound this year. Be on the lookout for a quarry tour in Au Sable Forks (June 4), a curator-led tour of the Rockwell Kent exhibits at The Hyde Collection in Glens Falls (May 29), and a special tour of Fort Ticonderoga in the company of professor, author, historian, and preservationist Richard Longstreth (July 10). Much more in the works—stay tuned for the full schedule in the spring newsletter mailed and available on AARCH.org in mid-April.

**PRESERVE**

**NEW NATIONAL REGISTER NOMINATIONS**

Mary is at work on our backlog of National Register nominations, including an expansion of the existing Berkeley Square Historic District in Saranac Lake, and a new historic district in Malone. We’ll also be preparing the nomination for the St. Regis Presbyterian Church near Paul Smiths and a house in Port Kent.

Are you interested in learning more about the National Register? Please send an email to Mary: mary@aarch.org.

**LEARN**

**WHAT IS THE NATIONAL REGISTER?**

The National Register of Historic Places was established by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. It is the official list of historic properties that have been recognized as significant in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, or culture.

Properties listed on the National Register are significant because they are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to our history; associated with persons significant in our past; clearly illustrate an architectural style, period, or type of construction; yield important archaeological information; or some combination of the above.

In New York State, the National Register program is administered by The Division for Historic Preservation in the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP). This agency also administers the State Register of Historic Places.
1932 Games but utilized as space for athletes and media). The Oval, and Distin's Olympic Center made for an impressive trio of large scale sporting venues at the edge of the village.

By the time the 1980 Games arrived, the Winter Olympics had grown in popularity, events, athlete participation, and media attention. The infrastructure prepared for the 1932 Games was far from sufficient, and so Lake Placid had to start again from the ground up. Yet these Games left the town with two new notable, character-defining, architectural features: the Intervale Ski Jumps and the Herb Brooks Arena, a massive addition to the existing 1932 Olympic Arena.

The **Intervale Ski Jumps** accommodated this increased spectator attendance and media attention by reconfiguring the grounds to maximize spectator viewing. These towers, indelible marks on the views of the High Peaks from Lake Placid, rise above the hills and peacefully complement the surrounding mountains. The complex was designed by Karl Martitsch, former ski jumper and principal at the architectural firm of Stone & Webster, who utilized his knowledge of the sport to create a state-of-the-art facility. This site, consisting of a 90-meter jump and a 120-meter jump, were able to accommodate differing wind and weather conditions via an adjustable starting platform. The refrigeration system ensures even surfaces along the slopes at all times. Safety features were front and center, as the hill slope was altered to ensure that athletes would never be too high from the ground. Although this site embodies careful attention to detail, advanced sport technology, and beautiful design, it is often not celebrated as anything more than an Olympic sporting venue.

Although the most celebrated sporting venue is likely the 1980 **Herb Brooks Arena** due to the famous “Miracle on Ice,” the construction of this impressive spectator venue should be admired and celebrated for its own architectural merits. Constructed in 1978 by one of the premier sporting arena architectural firms in the world, Hellmuth, Obata & Kassabaum (HOK), the Herb Brooks Arena is a grand, modern arena constructed on a small scale; although larger than any of the other buildings in the village, it size and setback is far from imposing. It is interesting to consider that Lake Placid, in a sense, helped create this architectural genre by having the first indoor Olympic arena. HOK created a grand venue in the town that helped create this niche. This arena stands apart from the village of Lake Placid through its modern architecture, but does not detract from Main Street. The most notable character-defining feature of this facility is the series of trusses that run vertically down the south face of the building and span the interior of the main arena. The building's design spoke to the idea of modern architecture in the late 1970s and early 1980s through its exposed stairways, exposed trusses, and modern materials such as glass. It was also built to accommodate the needs of the athletes, so much so that a 1980 issue of Architectural Record called it "the largest and best equipped indoor skating facility anywhere."

These buildings were the “main” structures of the Olympic campus of Lake Placid, but only part of the architectural story. Athlete housing for the 1980 Games, for example was constructed outside Lake Placid and now serves as the Ray Brook correctional facility (a very controversial arrangement between the Olympic Committee and the State of New York).

Taken together, these sites tell an important part of the story of Lake Placid. Taken individually, each deserves attention of its own on architectural merit. These sites are even more worthy of appreciation because, unlike the venues in many host cities, they are continuously used and therefore not only do they contribute to Lake Placid’s past, but they contribute to Lake Placid’s present and future: its ongoing story. From little mountain resort to world class winter sports destination told through buildings.

AARCH is working with the Lake Placid Olympic Museum to offer the first-of-its-kind Winter Olympic architecture tour this year. Stay tuned for more information in the summer newsletter!
2017 ANNUAL GIVING

Approximately 1200 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 matching gift. Contact Virginia about the benefits of sustaining membership or with any errors or omissions to this list.

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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 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.

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BEYOND GIVING
A Conversation with Tom Riley and Kristee Iacobucci

Tom and Kristee have been active and engaged members since 2003, attending many tours, special events, and volunteering at Camp Santanoni and other sites. We asked them a few questions about why they are so active and engaged with AARCH:

How or why did you first get involved in AARCH?
We have long had interests in architecture, history, and historic preservation. We often plan our free time and vacations to include visits to or stays at architecturally significant properties because they add so much to our experience. People say ‘if these walls could talk,’ but they can and do. A structure can tell so much; how wealthy the owners were, how they wanted to be perceived, where they came from or traveled to, and what was happening in the area or the world at the time it was built. The AARCH tour of Saranac Lake was one of our favorite tours because so much of the town’s architecture was built or redesigned to accommodate tuberculosis patients. It’s an excellent example of how architecture can tell a story and symbolic of the boundless ingenuity of Adirondackers who adapt and maximize all of their resources to make a living.

We joined AARCH 15 years ago when we saw AARCH was offering a “members only” tour of Camp Uncas. Kristee called to sign up right away. We were on the wait list, but someone actually cancelled, allowing us to go. Upon touring Camp Uncas and meeting Howie Kirschenbaum, we were ‘hooked’ – on AARCH, its mission, its tours and its energy.

What motivates you to stay engaged with the Adirondacks and AARCH?
The more we learn about the Adirondacks through AARCH, the more we are motivated to spend time there and participate in the preservations of its structures and history. Despite AARCH’s limited finances and small staff, Steven and the team have had a lot of big successes. Seeing the continuous, tangible progress being made in saving important properties that we treasure, gives us confidence that AARCH is making a difference.

Favorite AARCH tour?
A single favorite? That’s too difficult. Some of our most memorable tours were North River led by Milda Burns, Indian Lake with Bill Zullo, and Tahawus with George Canon. We were also very fortunate to travel to Cuba with AARCH in 2016. That was truly an unforgettable, maybe once-in-a-lifetime experience. Guantanamera!!!

One thing that stands out to us on all the tours we take is the generosity of the people who open their homes and businesses and dedicate their time to hosting us. Their passion and pride infuse all of the AARCH tours with positive energy.

Is there a particular AARCH project that interests you?
AARCH’s oversight of great camp Santanoni is our favorite ongoing project. The first time we visited, the boathouse was in pieces on the ground. To walk into the boathouse now and to see all the rehabilitation and restoration at the camp and farm is amazing. For the past few years, I (Tom) have worked with a great team of volunteers to help maintain the farm landscape, showing up several times a year to mow and clear brush. By keeping the sight lines and visual connections between the buildings open, visitors to Santanoni will be better able to appreciate how a farm was carved out of the wilderness.

FINANCIAL REPORT

In 2017, AARCH maintained a healthy fiscal position, finishing out the year with $14,220 for our operating reserves. Membership revenue was up 18% from the previous year and “other” revenue was up due largely to the sales of A Guide to Architecture in the Adirondacks. We continue to keep our operating expenses in line. Program services that fulfill our mission—such as our educational outings and tours, as well as our technical assistance services and important advocacy work—continue to account for our greatest expense.

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\[
\text{Membership: $129,633 (42\%)} \\
\text{Programs: $66,095 (18\%)} \\
\text{Fundraising: $44,434 (15\%)} \\
\text{Local & State Grants: $35,500 (12\%)} \\
\text{Preservation Services: $7,954 (2\%)} \\
\text{Foundation Support: $19,920 (6\%)} \\
\text{Other: $20,999 (7\%)} \\
\text{Fundraising: $19,436 (7\%)} \\
\text{Administrative: $55,520 (19\%)} \\
\text{Programs & Services: $219,270 (74\%)} \\
\text{FINANCIAL REPORT}
\]

FINANCIAL REPORT

INCOME 2018 [%]

EXPENSES 2018 [%]

Tom & Kristee during an AARCH tour near Bartlett’s Carry
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.

**BUSINESS MEMBERS AND SPONSORS**

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.)
We do our best to keep track of what's happening in the region but need your eyes and ears for help. Please feel free to send us information about preservation projects and issues in your community. Send us an email at info@aarch.org.

Albany: Railroad Corridor Update

To the surprise of almost everyone, a state Supreme Court judge ruled in favor of the Adirondack Railroad Preservation Society and other railroad advocates in September 2017 and subsequently annulled and vacated the state’s 2016 unit management plan to create a recreational trail in the rail corridor between Tupper Lake and Lake Placid that would have resulted in the destruction of the existing historic railroad infrastructure. This decision presents the opportunity for the state to either go back to the drawing board to develop a “rails with trails” alternative or to abandon the rail trail idea altogether. The state is appealing this ruling. Prior to the formation of the 2016 UMP, the corridor was actively used by the Adirondack Scenic Railroad and the popular Adirondack Rail Explorers “rail-biking” operation.

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 Fort Ticonderoga Association was awarded a $2.4 million grant for the restoration of The Pavilion, a 1827 Greek Revival style mansion built for William Ferris Pell, considered one of the earliest summer homes in America. The restored structure will be repurposed to include meeting spaces, dining and catering facilities, as well as limited destination lodging.

The War Canoe Spirits Company in Crown Point received $705,000 for the proposed adaptive use of the former Agway complex into a distillery. In addition, the facility will include a tasting room and dining, retail, and event spaces. AARCH has offered technical assistance to the owners and we are thrilled to see this project moving forward.

The former Dew Drop Inn at 27 Broadway in Saranac Lake will be repurposed into a “food experience business” through a $638,000 grant. This new business venture will include a restaurant, events space, apartments, and a cooking school.

The historic 1917 neoclassical Masonic Temple in Watertown received $500,000 from Empire State Development (Restore NY) funding to restore and repurpose the building into a mixed-use space that will include a local theater and performing arts venue, a restaurant, and additional office spaces. This award is part of $10 million in new state funding for the city’s revitalization.

The Sackett’s Harbor Historical Society received a $85,500 grant to acquire the historic Christ Episcopal Church and reuse it as a cultural center for exhibits and events.

Albany: National Register

Several properties in the Adirondacks were listed on the State and/or National Registers of Historic Places in 2017.

Lady Tree Lodge (Franklin County). This 1896 rustic lodge is historically associated with the Saranac Inn on Upper Saranac Lake, a premier hotel of the early 20th century. It also served as the summer home of two prominent individuals: Texas newspaperman Colonel Alfred H. Belo (1839-1901) and New York Governor Charles Evans Hughes, who used it as his summer executive mansion in 1908 and 1909. The lodge’s lake facing façade has one of the most ornate log screens in the Adirondacks. The house is over 5,000 square feet and boasts 20-foot high ceilings, four fireplaces, a grand staircase with maple balustrade and treads, full house length stacked porches, traditionally broad roof overhangs, log and shingle siding and complex true divided light windows. The lodge has been lovingly restored by Chris Cohan and Rita Wong. In 2016, Chris and Rita received an AARCH Historic Preservation Award for their excellent work to rescue and restore this building.

Stillwater Fire Tower (Herkimer County). The Stillwater Fire Tower was constructed in 1919 at the site of the 1882 Primary Triangulation Station Number 77 of the New York State Adirondack Survey on Stillwater Mountain (2,264 feet) in the town of...
Webb. The 47-foot tall galvanized steel tower was manufactured by the Aermotor Company. Efforts began to restore the historic tower as early as 2009, and the formation of the Friends of Stillwater Fire Tower allowed concerned citizens to mobilize to carry out the restoration and serve as stewards. The restoration was completed in 2016 aided by a crew of over 100 volunteers, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, and the landowner, Lyme Timber.

Camp Taiga (Hamilton County). Located on the western shore of Long Lake, Camp Taiga consists of a small, 700 square-foot log cabin thought to date from the 1890s, as well as a mid-twentieth century bunkhouse, a storage shed, and a small well house. The one-story cabin has vertical logs on the first story and slanted logs in the gables. It is notable for its interior which dates to 1903-1909 and employs elements of the “Adirondack Style” found in much larger, contemporary “decorous” camps – a large stone fireplace, birch bark wallpaper, rough bark paneling, unpeeled log trim, Native American images and artifacts, and animal trophies. Despite its diminutive size and many changes of ownership, Camp Taiga’s past and current owners have recognized that it is unique in terms of its scale, design, materials, and workmanship, and it retains great feeling for the Adirondack rustic aesthetic of the early twentieth century.

Preservation Success

Saranac Lake. The newly restored Hotel Saranac reopened in January to great acclaim, and for good reason! This renovation is an exemplary historic preservation project that has set a high standard for similar projects in the region and beyond. This important community revitalization project will hugely impact the vibrancy and good economic health of the greater community. Designed by the architectural firm of Scopes and Feustmann, Hotel Saranac was the first fireproof hotel in the region when it opened in 1927. The hotel had 100 rooms all with private baths, and it’s second floor spaces were modeled on a Renaissance era Italian palazzo – all a sight to behold. Throughout most of the 20th century, this “metropolitan hotel in the woods” welcomed guests in all seasons with its affordable elegance and it endured through all kinds of ups and downs in the economy and changes in public preferences. It is the last of the 13 large hotels that once served this vicinity.

The Roedel Company purchased the property in 2013 with a grand and ambitious vision for its future—first-class accommodations, exciting food and beverage offerings, and warm and generous events spaces—all within the restored splendor of the original hotel. Although the Hotel Saranac has only been reopened for one month, we already see and feel its positive impacts on the community and the region. We are delighted that AARCH’s annual benefit will be held at the hotel on Tuesday, July 17 (3-6 p.m.), so please SAVE THE DATE!

Book News—New Regional Titles

In addition to the publication of Richard Longstreth’s A Guide to Architecture in the Adirondacks by AARCH in 2017, there are several other relatively new publications about regional architecture and history highlighted below:

*The Adirondack Architecture Guide: Southern-Central Region,* published by the State University of New York Press, written by Troy-based architect (and former AARCH board member) Janet Null. This guide includes contextual essays on fire towers, rustic design, historic bridges, and other subjects, historic building information and color photographs, and suggests routes through the region to best explore many Adirondack communities.

*Water & Light: Seneca Ray Stoddard’s Lake George,* published by the Chapman Historical Museum in Glens Falls, guides readers on a scenic tour of Lake George via Stoddard’s photographs of “The Queen of American Lakes.” There are nearly 150 reproductions of his photographs, paintings, sketches and maps in all, as well as essays and discussion on the value of his art.

Written by Charles Herr, *The Fulton Chain: Early Settlements, Roads, Steamboats, Railroads, and Hotels* is the first general history of the Fulton Chain region in almost 70 years. Most of the book’s contents originally appeared as articles by the author in the Weekly Adirondack of Old Forge. In this volume, they are edited, organized, and supplemented with new text and illustrations, all to create an informative and lively history of this region.
Fourth Lake: Early Camps and Hotels, by Bruce Bonfield, was published in cooperation with the Town of Webb Historical Society as an in-depth look at the history of camp and resort life on Fourth Lake and provides information on 51 camps and hotels around the lake. The book wonderfully highlights the rich social and architectural history of this part of the region.

**Self-Guided Walking Tours**

We take great pride in the series of educational outings we offer each year to every corner of the region, rich with unique stories and experiences. But you don’t have to wait for our summer outings to explore Adirondack communities on your own, through the following self-guided walking, biking, and driving tours. In the future, AARCH will try to corral these tours on our website with those that are out-of-print, like those for Blue Mountain Lake, Bolton, Silver Bay, North Creek, Chestertown, etc. Stay tuned!

**Champlain Valley.** In 2009, AARCH offered a series of eight, half-day tours called Architecture of the Champlain Valley as part of the Lake Champlain Quadricentennial celebration. We developed a self-guided walking tour brochure for each outing (Willsboro, Westport, Port Henry, Ironville, Keeseville, Essex, Ticonderoga, and Elizabethtown) which can be downloaded from our website at [www.aarch.org](http://www.aarch.org).

**Essex County.** The publication What Mary Brown Saw is a driving tour that follows the funeral cortege of abolitionist John Brown (executed in Virginia for treason in 1859) from Vergennes, Vermont—where his body arrived by steamboat—to the family farm in North Elba, now a state historic site. The booklet tells the story of John and Mary Brown and highlights the buildings, roads, and sites that existed along this route in 1859. The booklet is available from AARCH and the Essex County Historical Society.

**Essex.** Essex has one of the largest and most intact historic districts in the region and boasts “one of the most intact ensembles of pre-Civil War village architecture in America.” Essex: An architectural guide, was written and published by the Essex Community Heritage Organization (ECHO) in 1986. This 47-page brochure contains a map of the buildings on ECHO’s historic walking tour of Essex, as well as descriptions of 51 historic buildings and sites listed in the tour.

**A Doodler’s Field Guide to Essex, New York Architecture** was created by George Davis and Katie Shepard as an interactive way of exploring the village’s architecture. The guide provides brief, accessible introductions to noteworthy buildings with imaginative doodling challenges—to informative and whimsical. Available from Amazon. You can also download The Essex Architecture Map, a simple 2-page map that locates and briefly describes 34 historic buildings in the village, at [www.essexonlakechamplain.com](http://www.essexonlakechamplain.com).

**Ironville.** The Penfield Homestead Museum occupies most of the hamlet of Ironville in Crown Point and is one of the finest but least well-known historic sites in the region, “the birthplace of the electrical age.” Explore this 19th century iron producing settlement by using the museum’s self-guided walking tour, available at the Homestead.

**Keeseville.** In 1890, photographer and regional promoter Seneca Ray Stoddard called Keeseville “a thoroughly wide awake little village” in reference to its booming iron and wood products listed on the National Register of Historic Places, including the Sherman Free Library, Port Henry Diner, and the Mount Moriah Presbyterian Church. Brochures are available at The Iron Center or at the Moriah Town Hall, Park Place, in Port Henry.

**Saranac Lake.** Historic Saranac Lake provides a number of self-guided tours, including a walking tour of Saranac Lake, paddling routes to explore the...
architecture and history of Upper Saranac Lake, Lower Saranac Lake, and Upper St. Regis Lakes, and brochures about Bela Bartok, John Black, and Martha Reben. All are available online at: www.historicsaranaclake.org/resources

SCHROON LAKE. The Schroon Lake-North Hudson Historical Society has developed two driving tours, including of Charley Hill Road and the South Schroon region. Copies are available from the Historical Society located at 1144 State Route 9 in Schroon Lake.

TICONDEROGA. PRIDE of Ticonderoga has promoted the preservation and appreciation of Ticonderoga’s rich cultural and natural heritage for the last 30 years. Two publications are available through PRIDE (www.prideofticonderoga.org) which help explore this heritage: The LaChute River Walk Interpretive Trail takes walkers along the historic LaChute River corridor, past a series of wayside exhibits to understand the village’s industrial history and the natural resources; Historic Ticonderoga: A Walking Tour of the Village Business District is a walking tour of the Ticonderoga business district highlighting many architectural styles.

VALCOUR ISLAND. Valcour Island is perhaps best known as the site of a confrontation in October 1776 between a small Colonial fleet under the command of Benedict Arnold and a much larger British flotilla that may have changed the course of the Revolutionary War. But in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, the island was also home to a lighthouse and a series of camps and small farms, all of which are highlighted in the Valcour Island Heritage Trail. This guide is available at online at www.clintoncountyhistorical.com.

WARRENSBURG. The Warrensburgh Historical Society created four walking and two driving tours which highlight the more than 400 National Register listed historic properties in the village and vicinity. Tours can be downloaded at www.warrensburghheritagetrail.org and are also available at the Town Hall and the Warrensburgh Historical Museum.

WESTPORT. Walking Tour of Westport, New York is a 32 page walking, driving, and biking guide to this Lake Champlain hamlet. It was published by the Westport Chamber of Commerce to commemorate the 250th anniversary of William Gilliland’s pioneer settlement in 1765 and the Bicentennial of the Town of Westport, founded in 1815. It is available online at www.westportny.

Save The Date!

- Annual Raffle, Drawing May 31. Happening now! Ten great prizes!
- Saturday, June 2 (1-3 p.m.) Annual Meeting at Camp Canaras, Upper Saranac Lake
- Friday, June Date TBD Benefit Concert at Greystone, Essex
- Tuesday, July 17 (3-6 p.m.) Special Event to Benefit AARCH at Hotel Saranac, Saranac Lake
- Monday, August 27 10th Annual Golf Tournament at the Lake Placid Club, Lake Placid
- Friday, November 2 (12-3 p.m.) Preservation Awards Luncheon at Valcour Brewing Company, Plattsburgh