Form 10-900

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received SEP 24 1986
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See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Great Camps of the Adirondacks Thematic Resources

and or common

2. Location

street & number Multiple ___ not for publication

city, town ___ vicinity of

state New York code 035 county Essex, 31, Franklin, 33, Hamilton 41

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___ district	X public	X occupied	___ agriculture	___ museum
___ building(s)	X private	___ unoccupied	___ commercial	___ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	X educational	X private residence
___ site	**Public Acquisition**	**Accessible**	___ entertainment	___ religious
___ object	___ in process	X yes: restricted	___ government	___ scientific
x theme	X being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ transportation
		___ no	___ military	X other: recreation

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple (See individual forms)

street & number

city, town ___ vicinity of state

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. See individual forms

street & number

city, town state

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title NYS Inventory of Historic Resources has this property been determined eligible? ___ yes X no

date 1979-80 ___ federal X state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records Historic Preservation Field Services Bureau
NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

city, town Albany state New York

7. Description

See individual forms

Condition		Check one	Check one
___ excellent	___ deteriorated	___ unaltered	___ original site
___ good	___ ruins	___ altered	___ moved date _____
___ fair	___ unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Great Camps of the Adirondacks Thematic Resources consist of ten properties located in three counties which represent a singular architectural phenomenon characteristic of the Adirondack region of New York State during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Generally built in remote locations by wealthy urban owners seeking the privacy of a seasonal wilderness retreat, these "grand" or "great" camps were self-sufficient complexes of residential, recreational and support structures designed to blend with their woodland settings in terms of massing, design, materials, workmanship and siting. Clustered, rather than generally distributed throughout the six-million-acre Adirondack Park, the Great Camps reflect certain social and architectural fashions favored by many of America's wealthiest families. While there is a degree of sub-regional variation among the camps within the Adirondacks, the general distinguishing characteristics of the Great Camps, for purposes of the nomination, are discussed in greater detail below.

The historic resources which constitute the Great Camps thematic group were identified by means of a survey/inventory conducted in 1978-1980. The survey area was defined as the Adirondack Park, a three-million-acre tract of public and private land established by the State of New York in 1885 and delineated by a specific legal boundary, the so-called "Blue Line As part of the survey project the Preservation League of New York State, with technical and grant assistance from the State Historic Preservation Office, prepared a preliminary research report which established a definition of a "Great Camp" for survey purposes, set forth criteria for evaluating camp properties, discussed the historical and architectural evolution of the Adirondack Great Camp, and established a preliminary survey list of known or suspected camp locations requiring further investigation. Through analysis of existing information and contact with owners, the Preservation League identified 35 camp properties which appeared to possess sufficient integrity to warrant recording. Consultants hired by the Preservation League conducted an inventory during 1979 and 1980, recording the camps on standard New York State building/structure inventory forms. The resulting data were evaluated against the National Register criteria in 1983, and a second list was compiled consisting of ten camps which appeared to warrant nomination to the National Register.

The camps included in this nomination represent the range of historic resources identified as the result of the survey/inventory. All are significant as outstanding or representative examples of their type, period, and method of construction. An additional priority consideration governing nomination of this group was immediate concern for the future preservation of those camps currently owned by the State of New York. The remaining Great Camps were selected for their integrity, historic/architectural significance, and accessibility for research through the cooperation of their owners. Although other examples of significant, intact Great Camps are known to exist in the Adirondack region, the inaccessibility of these properties precludes their nomination at the present time. Nevertheless, because they represent the range of extant resources, the nominated camps consititute a valid set from which the remaining camps can be evaluated at a later date. It is anticipated that additional properties meeting the definition and selection criteria may be added to this nomination in the

future. Camps less than fifty years old will be nominated if they are of exceptional significance. Intact representative camp complexes more than fifty years old will be nominated with the cooperation of their owners. The present nomination is comprehensive for all extant examples of Great Camps owned by public and not-for-profit organizations.

The term "Adirondack Great Camp" and the definition applied throughout this thematic nomination are drawn from Mary Ellen Domblewski's "The Adirondack Great Camp of the Last Quarter of the Nineteenth Century: A Wilderness Architecture" (Master's thesis, Cornell University, 1974) and from Domblewski's research report, "The Great Camps of the Adirondacks," prepared for the Preservation League of New York State in 1978 as the basis for the survey/inventory. The resources identified as Adirondack Great Camps may be defined as grand private residential retreats built within the boundaries of the Adirondack Park by wealthy urban owners between 1875-1930. Further, the Great Camps were seasonal complexes of residential/recreational architecture consciously designed to blend with their rugged woodland settings. All examples incorporate the following general characteristics:

1. A compound plan, consisting of multiple structures, each designed for a specialized, specific function (e. g. main lodged or dining room, guest lodge, dining hall, social/recreation hall, kitchen, laundry, boat house, guides' house, blacksmith shop, carpentry shop, etc.);

2. Imaginative use of native building materials in construction and/or decoration to create a picturesque, rustic effect - stone, logs, bark and natural tree forms obtained on or near the building site were incorporated in fanciful combinations to convey the harmonious relationship of the camp structures to the mountainous, wooded natural environment of the Adirondack region.

3. Siting on secluded, wooded lakeshore locations, with natural rock outcroppings, exposed root systems and tall coniferous trees incorporated into a picturesque setting.

4. A high degree of self-sufficiency, as evidenced by service buildings designed to provide food production and storage, maintenance, and housing for camp staff.

Besides these fundamental distinguishing qualities, many of the Great Camps are characterized by covered rustic walks connecting major component structures of the complex, by centralized plumbing and electrical systems, and by agricultural complexes used to support daily life in camp. The scale of camp buildings is generally harmonious with the setting of the complex. The early camps on Raquette Lake and Upper St. Regis Lake are complexes of small-scale buildings nestled unobtrusively among the trees.

In contrast, the more opulent, contrived camps of the period 1890-1939 tend to be dominated by larger scale lodges dramatically sited in picturesque lakeside clearings.

The architecture of the Great Camps is generally characterized as "Adirondack Rustic," demonstrating a conscious design response to the natural setting. The use of native building materials, the interplay of separate, specialized structures within an irregular wooded landscape, and carefully crafted features contrived to convey a primitive, rustic appearance are the dominating characteristics of each property identified as a Great Camp. Conceived and constructed as a private residential complex or a club for a private association, the Great Camp exhibits an abundance of rustic interior and exterior decorative features imaginatively crafted from native materials. Whole, split or peeled logs, bark, natural root, branch and burl forms and abundant granite fieldstone were used to create porch supports, window and door moldings, eave brackets, porch and stair railings, lattice panels, wainscotting and oriel bays. Massive cut-stone fireplaces and chimneys and hand-forged iron hardware are typical elements which distinguish the architecture of the Adirondack Great Camp. Use of readily available native materials was also a practical consideration to expedite construction of the camp in a location where transportation of conventional building materials was impossible.

Early camps such as Pine Knot and Echo evolved in their form over a number of years, with structures added as additional needs arose. In contrast, later camps such as Uncas, Sagamore and Santanoni were planned and built as complete units, with a full complement of outbuildings and supporting structures. The early camps generally consisted of small-scale buildings which incorporated structural log framing and walls. As rustic architecture evolved from necessity to picturesque fashion in the Adirondack region, however, camp construction methods generally became both more sophisticated and more conventional, with bark or split log veneer sheathing applied to mask a structure of ordinary dimensioned lumber and board sheathing. By the 1890s, the picturesque, rustic appearance of the Great Camp was clearly contrived and stylized, as is evident in camps such as Uncas, Sagamore, Prospect Point and Topridge.

With their extensive lands and their isolated locations, the Great Camps were conceived and developed as self-sufficient entities capable of providing complete support for life in camp through extensive service complexes. Many of the larger camps, including Uncas, Sagamore and Santanoni, were built with large farm and food-raising complexes. Generally located at a distance from the central camp compound, the farm buildings usually tended to be typical vernacular structures of their period. The Sagamore caretaking complex and the farm structures at Camp Uncas are intact, representative examples of the typical support complex. The Santanoni farm buildings, designed by the noted architectural firm of Delano and Aldrich, exemplify the model estate farm,

with a stone milkhouse and shingled dairy barn, reflecting a higher degree of design than was typical of most Great Camp support complexes.

Many of the nominated camps contain collections of unique historic furnishings, including rustic vernacular furniture documented as the work of camp guides and staff. Freestanding and built-in beds, dressers, tables, serving pieces, desks, stools, chairs, sofas, fireplace equipment and lighting fixtures are among the notable rustic furnishings which reflect the character of camp life.

The nominated Great Camps represent important stages in the development of a distinctive regional architecture. From the primitive simplicity of William West Durant's Camp Pine Knot, the form proceeded through the highly defined designs of such camps as Uncas, Sagamore and Santanoni. Although primitive in their "rustic" appearance, the Great Camps are highly sophisticated compositions whose romanticized appearance is clearly contrived, particularly in the later examples. Although further research is necessary in the area of specific architects and their involvement, the present nomination represents the work of such prominent architects and firms as Grosvenor Atterbury, McKim, Mead and White, Robert H. Robertson, Delano and Aldrich, William Coulter and Theodore Blake (Carrère and Hastings).

The nominated Great Camps of the Adirondacks Thematic Resources consist of ten individual properties containing a total of 202 contributing features. The properties included in this nomination reflect the range and evolution of a unique regional architecture as it developed during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The nomination includes what is considered the prototype, Camp Pine Knot (1877 with subsequent additions), as well as a late example, the highly stylized Camp Topbridge (1923, with later alterations). One camp, Sagamore Lodge, was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1976. Based on research resulting from the survey/inventory and a change in ownership, the present nomination includes documentation expanding the Sagamore Lodge listing to include its adjacent, historically associated caretaking complex of eleven support structures.

The earliest camp, Camp Pine Knot (Component 1) on Raquette Lake in the central Adirondacks, was begun in 1877 and subsequently expanded by speculative regional developer William West Durant. The form, materials and siting considerations which characterized Pine Knot were replicated in virtually all Great Camps established over the ensuing decades. Durant himself was directly involved in establishing two extant additional camps in the Raquette Lake vicinity, Camp Uncas (1893 Component 5) and Sagamore Lodge (1897, Component 6) (National Register listed), both of which demonstrate sophisticated expansion Durant's original design concept. A fourth camp of those clustered on or near Raquette Lake, Echo Camp (1883, Component 2), closely resembles Pine Knot in its scale and use of structural log techniques. Echo's close proximity to Pine Knot and its early date indicate the influence of Durant's first camp as the regional prototype.

A separate and distinct second trend in camp development occurred in the vicinity of Upper St. Regis Lake from the 1880's into the twentieth century. Here, guided hunting and fishing expeditions from the famous Paul Smith's Hotel brought wealthy urban vacationers in contact with the wilderness beauty of the St. Regis area. During the 1880's, permanent rustic camps were built by these visitors, who acquired tracts along the lake shore. The small-scale structures characteristic of Great Camps in this area were built in conscious emulation of the earlier tent camps which they superseded. Begun in 1882, Camp Wild Air (Component 3) is a representative example of St. Regis area Great Camps whose polygonal, log-veneered buildings demonstrate a more imaginative use of form and setting then do the Durant-inspired camps of Raquette Lake.

Three of the nominated Great Camps are clustered on Upper Saranac Lake, a third area of concentration. These include camps Moss Ledge (1897, Component 7), Eagle Island (1902, Component 8), and Prospect Point (1903, Component 9), typical, intact examples for their area. All designed by noted Saranac Lake architect William Coulter, the leading regional proponent of the rustic style, these camps synthesize elements typical of earlier camps in both the Raquette and St. Regis areas, including large piazzas, polygonal pavilions, rustic lattice patterns, simulated log construction, and dominant siting. Prospect Point is also distinctive for its unusual chalets, inspired by European hunting lodges and imitated in several other camp designs elsewhere in the Adirondacks.

Camp Santanoni (Component 4), on Newcomb Lake is the only nominated camp located in Essex County, an area where few Great Camps were established. Built in 1888 according to the design of noted architect Robert H. Robertson, Santanoni's five solid-log living units are covered by a massive copper roof which overhangs the structure's broad connecting piazzas. The sophistication of this early design, coupled with a supporting complex designed by Delano and Aldrich, make Santanoni one of the most architecturally distinguished Great Camps of the Adirondack region.

The last property included in the thematic nomination is Camp Topridge (Component 10), originally built in 1923 and subsequently altered and expanded. Topridge is considered one of the most opulent of the Great Camps and is one of the last properties of its type established in the Adirondack region. Dominated by its imposing main lodge, the camp on Upper St. Regis Lake may be considered a dramatic, stylized interpretation of rustic regional architecture. Privately owned until 1974, Camp Topridge represents the final phase of Adirondack Great Camp evolution during the era between the world wars and demonstrates the survival of contrived rustic design well into the twentieth century.

The period of significance for the nomination (1887-1939) was chosen to encompass all known camps that meet the definition of the property type and appear to meet the National Register criteria. (Some of these additional camps will be nominated when documentation supporting their eligibility is complete.) In addition to the known presence of additional resources within this period, the closing date of 1939 is supported historically by the social and economic changes engendered by World War II, which curtailed the interest and ability of the wealthy to establish camps in the Adirondacks. Further, this date coincides with changing architectural styles as the mainstream taste turned firmly from the exuberance of the late Victorian period to the streamlined forms of the emerging modern period; thus, the rambling, picturesque, highly decorated form of the Great Camp became passé.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
___ prehistoric	___ archeology-prehistoric	___ community planning	___ landscape architecture	___ religion
___ 1400–1499	___ archeology-historic	___ conservation	___ law	___ science
___ 1500–1599	___ agriculture	___ economics	___ literature	___ sculpture
___ 1600–1699	X architecture	___ education	___ military	___ social/ humanitarian
___ 1700–1799	___ art	___ engineering	___ music	
X 1800–1899	___ commerce	___ exploration/settlement	___ philosophy	___ theater
X 1900–1939	___ communications	___ industry	___ politics/government	___ transportation
		___ invention		___ other (specify)

Specific dates 1887-1939 **Builder/Architect** Various

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Great Camps of the Adirondacks Thematic Resources collectively represent a significant social and architectural phenomenon which evolved in the rugged Adirondack Mountain region of New York State during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Built between 1877-1939 for the families of wealthy urban financiers and entrepreneurs, the Adirondack Great Camps reflect the values and life style of a group of influential families as they were manifested in the rustic mountain environment of the Adirondack region. Consisting of multiple, specialized structures clustered in picturesque natural settings, the Great Camps are architecturally significant for their distinctive rustic construction and decorative details. Generally built of logs or sheathed with stretched bark and split log veneer, the camp compounds consist of up to fifty buildings which variously combine elements of the Rustic, Picturesque, Eastlake and Chalet styles to form a distinctive type. Beginning with the prototype for the genre, Camp Pine Knot (1887, Component 1), the nominated properties range from modest early complexes such as Echo Camp (1883, Component 2), and Camp Wild Air (1882, Component 3), to large fanciful compositions including Camps Santanoni (1888-1890, Component 4), Uncas (1893-1895, Component 5), Sagamore Lodge (1895-1901, Component 6), Moss Ledge (1898, Component 7), Eagle Island (1902, Component 8), Prospect Point (1903-1905, Component 9), and Topridge (1923, Component 10). The Great Camps demonstrate the range of construction methods and decorative motifs popular throughout their period of significance. As works associated with prominent developers and architects, including William West Durant, the firm of McKim, Mead and White, Robert H. Robertson, Grosvenor Atterbury, William Coulter and Theodore Blake, the nominated properties from a catalogue of sophisticated architectural design camouflaged beneath a contrived rustic appearance. (Other Great Camps associated with other noted developers and architects will likely be nominated in the future). The ten Great Camps included in this nomination retain substantial integrity of scale, design, materials, workmanship, feeling and association, and they are an important reminder of the social and architectural history of the Adirondack region.

The Great Camps included in this nomination embody the distinctive characteristics of the rustic style of architecture common in the region, a style which reflects the builders' sensitivity to the surrounding natural environment. This style did not originate with the Adirondacks; rather, it was derived from the picturesque eclectic taste of the mid-nineteen century, whose proponents included American architects Alexander Jackson Davi Calvert Vaux, Richard Upjohn, Andrew Jackson Downing, and Frederick Law Olmsted. The rusticism they espoused in opposition to the stiff academic classicism of previous building and landscape design first gained American expression in the form of log gazebos, rustic garden shelters, fences and bridges. It was in the Adirondacks, however, that rustic forms were first carried over to the design and construction of residences and ancillary

camp structures. The prototype was Camp Pine Knot in the central Adirondacks, constructed by developer William West Durant beginning in 1877. This resort style of architecture came to be known as the "Adirondack Rustic" style and was popularized by architectural pattern books such as William S. Wicks's Log Cabins and Cottages: How to Build and Furnish Them (first ed. 1889); Frank E. Brimmer's Camps, Log Cabins, Lodges and Clubhouses (1925); and Augustus D. Shepard's Camps in the Woods (1931). The designs of Adirondack camps received recognition through their publication in nationally distributed journals and popular magazines such as American Architect and Building News, Harper's Weekly, Forest and Stream, Life, House and Garden, The Craftsman and Architectural Record. Beginning in 1916, the National Park Service adopted the style as appropriate architecture for lodges and camps constructed for public accommodation in the nation's vast public forest preserves.

Social Context

The social context in which the Great Camps gained popularity is linked to the development of the Adirondacks as a fashionable and popular resort region. During the second half of the nineteenth century, the Adirondacks became a seasonal resort vacationland unsurpassed for its near-wilderness qualties in the northeastern United States. It was a day's journey from the nation's largest center of economic and political power, New York City. First frequented by sportsmen on hunting and fishing expeditions from wilderness outposts such as Paul Smith's Hotel on Upper St. Regis Lake and others, the region soon attracted not only the wealthy sportsman but thousands of individuals and families each summer season, "vacation" having found a place in every successful businessman's vocabulary.

In spite of the proliferation of public hotels and inns in the region, the supply of rooms and services (guides, boat-builders, and others) for seasonal visitors and sportsmen could not meet the growing demand. Some of those who found the Adirondacks attractive sought a greater privacy and exclusivity than the region's public accommodations could provide. The existence of an untouched wilderness the size of Massachusetts contained within the populous Northeast as late as 189[illegible] was a considerable attraction for those seeking to purge the excesses of urban life. The ideal for those who could afford it was to have a seasonal woodland retreat built where nature could be confronted and admired privately. Camp life became a civilized social activity, contrived, in the same manner as camp architecture, to admire nature and its serenity. Emily Post included a chapter on camp etiquette by the 1920's, by which time the camp life had engendered a particular social code and context.

A distinction developed between those who could afford vast private preserves and enjoy "roughing it in the wilds" with a full staff of servants and those who sought only to escape city life for a picturesque setting and healthy air. The latter primarily patronized resort hotels, which offered a social atmosphere appropriate for a short but pleasant sojourn. The typical Adirondack hotel had evolved from large frame models popular at Saratoga

Springs and other watering holes. The type was epitomized by a high colonnaded verandah or piazza spanning the facade of a narrow, three-storied, towered, mansard-roofed pile. Socializing, the life-blood of the hotels, took place on the wide verandas and in the grand reception rooms. Privacy, however, was to be had only in small cubicle bedrooms. The rustic camp, on the other hand, isolated on a private lake or large land preserve perhaps accessible only by boat, provided an attractive alternative for the wealthy, privacy-seeking nature lover. Each camp owner typically employed his own staff of hunting guides, maids, cooks, nannies and carpenters. Each camp, set on a private preserve of anywhere from thirty to thirty thousand acres, could become self-sufficient by means of its own farm complex and support staff, thus ensuring that the owner's valued privacy would not be jeopardized for lack of the amenities of civilization. The Great Camps were generally designed with flush toilets, combination gas-electric lighting, central heating, and hot running water. In many cases, generations of the region's year-round inhabitants in the nearby villages were employed at the camps. In this way the Great Camps served not only as small communities in themselves, but also as considerable employment centers for the region's localized and isolated labor force.

Architectural Background

The architectural significance of the Adirondack Great Camps lies in their synthesis of design features and decorative elements never before combined in a similar manner. The camps included in this nomination exemplify the manner in which several prevailing nineteenth-century architectural tastes were drawn together to create a picturesque building mode deemed appropriate and unique to the wilderness environment of northern New York. Great Camps use native building materials, careful site-planning and a decentralized format of compound-type building plan in a composition of separate buildings constructed for sleeping, eating, storage, maintenance, and recreational activities. Rustic exterior ornamentation, using bark-clad poles, tree roots and branches in applications previously restricted to rustic garden pavilions, bridges and landscape ornaments, gives the camp complex a visual cohesion.

It is important to note that the architectural styles interpreted in the design of Great Camp structures existed before the prototype, Camp Pine Knot, was constructed beginning in 1877. A recurrent theme among the camps is the Alpine of Swiss chalet building type. The chalet form itself had been introduced to American builders by Andrew Jackson Downing in The Architecture of Country Houses by 1850. It had become an accepted residential building form in America by the 1870's - a form best suited for irregular terrain and woodland settings. The chalet emerged in contemporary designs in resorts such as Newport, Rhode Island. By the mid-nineteenth century, the chalet had become a popular summer cottage building type. In architectural pattern books by Downing and Gervanese Wheeler, exterior surface texture and exposed structural support systems became integral to the organic and picturesque qualities of the building. The siting of the chalet on a promontory, ridge or downward slope also became an integral element in the design of the building. These features appear in the Adirondack Great Camp

where single of multiple chalets are used for lodges and sleeping cabins. Interest in the chalet type continued through the second half of the nineteenth century. A supplement illustrating the Swiss chalet was published by the American Builder in 1873; a book of architectural plates entitled The Picturesque Architecture of Switzerland was publishedin 1875 by James Osgood and Company, and the chalet form gained American popularity from its representation at the Centennial Exposition of 1876. The lodges of Camp Pine Knot, Sagamore Lodge, Moss Ledge, Eagle Island and Prospect Point are significant examples of the chalet form adapted to the rustic Adirondack setting.

Another important characteristic of Great Camp design is log construction, or the appearance of log construction, to create a rustic effect. The honesty, utility and natural beauty inherent in log houses is explained by Downing's architectural protegé, Calvert Vaux in his pattern book, Villas and Cottages (1857). Vaux describes a "rustic outbuilding to be constructed with a rough frame covered with (stretched) bark and a shingled roof." This garden structure, with its applied rustic decoration, is reminiscent of popular landscape gazebos and pavilions executed for country estates using bark-clad posts, branches, tree roots and whole logs for structural support, decorative furniture, brackets and gable screens. Log construction techniques or the use of split-log veneer over conventional framing is significant as a universal characteristics of all Great Camps included in this nomination.

The three basic principles popularized by Downing and his protegés as applied in the rustic Adirondack camp are utility, structural expression and conformity to natural surroundings. Expressing these values, the camp building form emerged as a vernacular building type which expressed the Stick style, a style popular elsewhere in contemporary wood-framed resort architecture. In the Adirondack camp, the Stick style is represented in the bark-clad buildings and the decorative embellishments of chalets, whose structural components are expressed in such features as exposed log balcony, porch and roof support systems. While contemporary Stick style summer cottages and chalets at Newport, Elberon, Bar Harbor, Saratoga Springs and other resorts were of conventional frame construction, Adirondack camps interpreted the same form using log materials to express the structural system of their buildings, even though light framing members were accessible to camp builders. In the Adirondack camp, the Stick style is represented in the bark-clad buildings and the decorative embellishments of chalets; thus, the Great Camp is architecturally significant as a regional adaptation of prevailing stylistic taste and a conscious attempt to blend structure and setting.

Charles Eastlake's publication, Hints on Household Taste (first American edition, 1872), proved another source of profound influence upon the aesthetic design of the Adirondack Great Camp. Eastlake was influential in the development of the late nineteenth century Aesthetic Movement as well as in the later Arts and Crafts Movement in the decorative arts and architecture. Many of the artistic associations of this period found their way into the ecletic decoration of camp interiors: rustic and Mission style oak furniture, mounted trophies of fish and native game, Japanese fans and screens, and

American Indian artifacts are used to give lodges and sleeping cabins a distinctive rustic interior character. The cluttered, eclectic character of the Victorian parlor was often faithfully reproduced in the rustic furnishings of the Adirondack Great Camp lodge.

Prototype

Travelling in Europe in the 1870's, William West Durant apparently was attracted to the Alpine chalet building form. On his return to the Adirondacks, his intent to develop Camp Pine Knot as a building style prototype coincided with his interest in developing and exploiting the central Adirondack region, with its abundant natural resources and its resort potential. Capitalizing on an indigenous log cabin building style referred to as the Adirondack ramshackle, Durant in 1877 began Camp Pine Knot, the prototype for all subsequent Adirondack Great Camps. Durant enlarged on the stylistic theme of a cluster of small-scale, somewhat primitive log cabins erected for temporary use by local guides. The typical Adirondack ramshackle had saddle-notched log corner joints and a stretched bark roof sometimes held in place by large boulders. A group of ramshackle-type cabins had been erected on Long Point north of the Pine Knot site for Durant's father, Union Pacific developer Dr. Thomas C. Durant, by 1876.

Following the death of his father, William West Durant gained control of 500,000 acres in the central Adirondacks, through which he proposed to extend his Adirondack Railway Company from Saratoga Springs to Ogdensburg. Durant sought both to liquidate his father's estate and to attract financial backing for his venture by promoting development of his Adirondack holdings as wilderness retreats for politically powerful and wealthy clients, including Collis P. Huntington, J. Pierpont Morgan and Alfred Gwynne Vanderbilt. The Adirondacks had already been discovered by sportsmen and vacationers. As an alternative to the formal social life in contemporary oceanside resorts and spas, hunting and fishing camps throughout the mountain regions of the Northeast had gained in popularity. The term "camp" as applied throughout the Adirondack region, denoted a rustic wilderness retreat as opposed to a resort cottage. Camp life was manly, robust, rugged and romatic. Durant promoted among his friends and business associates a sporting vacation life style that took full advantage of the intrinsic values of wilderness within easy access. Soon after construction began on the complex, an invitation to visit Camp Pine Knot became a much coveted item.

Durant's own quiet promotion of the Great Camp merged with that of the region's guide-book writers and illustrators. Authors Joel Tyler Headley, William H. Murray, and photographers Albert Beirstadt and Seneca Ray Stoddard soon popularized both the natural beauty of the region and the architecture of the private Adirondack recreational residences inspired by Durant. Widely distributed publications such as the region's guidebooks, as well as articles on individual camps, their owners and architecture which appeared in popular magazines, drew greater public attention to the Adirondacks and set the stage for the proliferation of the Great Camps by the late 1880's.

Representative examples

Represented in this nomination are three concentrations of significant Great Camps within the Adirondack region. These three groups are: four camps located in the vicinity of Raquette Lake closely associated with developer-builder William West Durant; two built in the vicinity of Upper St. Regis Lake associated with Paul Smith's Hotel and the development of the surrounding area as a wealthy enclave; and those built in the vicinity of Upper Saranac Lake to the designs of Saranac Lake architect William L. Coulter. One camp, Santanoni, is not located in any of the three clusters but is of exceptional historical and architectural significance, enhanced by its isolated location.

The ten camp complexes included in this nomination are a representative sample of known Great Camps in the Adirondack region. Each camp selected for nomination is significant for its integrity as a distinctive or representative example and for what it reveals about the evolution of camp design. The individual Great Camps included in each sub-regional cluster are notable because of their distinctive local associations, as well as for their embodiment of the four general characteristics of an Adirondack Great Camp discussed in Section 7 of this nomination. The ten nominated camps include 203 contributing buildings, structures and objects.

Raquette Lake Area

The earliest Great Camps in the Adirondacks were established on Raquette Lake. Camp development in the Raquette Lake vicinity was strongly influenced by the activities of William West Durant. Three extant camps, Pine Knot, Uncas and Sagamore Lodge, were developed under Durant's personal supervision. A fourth property, Echo Camp reflects the influence of neighboring Pine Knot in scale, composition and decoration.

A cluster of over 25 small, carefully crafted and decorated rustic log and back-veneered buildings, constructed beginning in 1877, Camp Pine Knot (Component 1), became a much-publicized showplace in the wilderness surrounding Raquette Lake. With its special, modest-scale structural log buildings nestled in a natural wooded setting on Long Point, Pine Knot became the model for later Great Camp design and construction. Despite the loss of several early structures to fire in 1983, Pine Knot remains the most significant of the early camps. Of the 23 contributing historic buildings and structures of the camp complex, of primary significance is the "Swiss Chalet." This two-story, whole-log and wood-framed building, enlarged in 1882, is characterized by a two-tiered porch on three sides, sheltered by the wide eaves of a gable roof. Features of the building include rustic cedar bark-clad railings and roof supports, multi-paned windows and stretched bark exterior siding. The Alpine chalet thus introduced to the Adirondacks became a much-imitated feature of the rustic style. The camp perfectly suited William West Durant's speculative ambitions in developing central Adirondack real estate. It immediately gained the attention of the region's promoters and publicists. Camp Pine Knot developed architecturally over the ensuing twenty years with new additions and buildings each

season. The camp was sold to Central Pacific Railroad developer Collis P. Huntington in 1895 to refinance Durant building projects at nearby Camp Uncas. Pine Knot's association with this prominent owner further contributes to its historic significance.

Durant's Camp Pine Knot, as well as The Cedars and Camp Fairview (neither camp is extant), built for Durant relations nearby on Raquette Lake, provided the inspiration for Echo Camp (Component 2). Built in 1883 on property adjoining Camp Pine Knot on Long Point, Echo Camp was constructed for Phineas Lounsbury, who was elected Governor of Connecticut in 1887. Echo Camp is noted for its tripartite towered lodge. This unusual log building form in the camp style is one of only two known extant examples in the region. Both Cedars and Fairview exhibited similar lodge designs. The small-scale log buildings at Echo closely resemble those of Pine Knot in construction detail and materials. The camp also features an accretive plan whereby new buildings were added as needed in consecutive building seasons. As a near contemporary of Camp Pine Knot, Echo Camp is significant for its early date and as an early manifestation of those features which became characteristic of Great Camp design.

Camp Uncas (1893-1895, Component 5), is significant as the most sophisticated of Durant's work in plan and construction. The comprehensive plan of Uncas included all supporting service systems: farm/caretaking complex, water, sewerage, fire protection, gas and electric utilities. Uncas was the first of Durant's campus to be systematically planned prior to its construction. The Uncas Manor House is noted for its deftly crafted internal log structural support system which compartmentalizes living and sleeping spaces. This refined departure from previous Durant projects indicates the collaboration of professional architects, including Grosvenor Atterbury and R. Newton Brezee of Saratoga Springs, both of whom had contact with Durant in the 1890's.

Dominated by a huge Alpine chalet of log construction and a compound of large, bark-sheathed support buildings, Sagamore (1897-1899, Component 6), is the largest Adirondack camp Durant developed. The camp was sold to Alfred Gwynne Vanderbilt in 1901. The principal buildings of Sagamore were listed in the National Register in 1976. The boundary of that nomination is being expanded to include the service buildings of the camp's "care-taking complex," integral historic elements of the camp which contribute to its significance. These service buildings, which include a blacksmith shop, guides' house, hen house, ice house, staff house, carpenter's shop, tool shed, barn, root cellar, and carriage shed, together constitute a significant representative example of the support complexes essential to life at the Great Camps.

Another notable early example of a Great Camp contemporary with Durant's camps on Raquette Lake is Camp Santanoni (1888-1890, Component 4). Located near Newcomb, on a vast private preserve which originally contained 12,500 acres, Santanoni was designed by prominant New York City architect Robert H. Robertson for Albany banker Robert C. Pruyn. Santanoni is significant as

the earliest known camp to be comprehensively designed by a professional architect. Santanoni's unusual large, articulated lodge of four solid-log, single story sleeping cabins flanking a large one and a half-story living hall, coupled with its isolated location, make this camp something of an aberration, though one which is highly significant for its early date and highly sophisticated design. The sleeping cabins and central living hall as Santanoni are covered by a single massive copper roof with wide overhanging eaves enclosing great rustic piazzas and a porte-cochère. Built only ten years after Camp Pine Knot was conceived, Camp Santanoni was appraised by contemporary critics as the largest and finest camp in the Adirondacks at the time of its construction. This notoriety may have encouraged Durant to undertake Camp Uncas and Sagamore Lodge with professional help on large land preserves containing private lakes south of Raquette Lake during the next decade.

Upper St. Regis Lake Area

The camps of the Upper St. Regis Lake region developed, in part, from the practice of establishing day camps or tent camps for guests at Paul Smith's Hotel, located at the southern end of the lake. These temporary structures were set up on scenic islands and peninsulas of the lake and were easily accessible by guide boat from the lakeside hotel for daytime recreational activities and privacy. Their popularity led advocates to erect more permanent camps on favorite sites, in some cases leasing the land from the hotel owner. Camp Wild Air, (Component 3) was first established with permanent buildings in 1892 and substantially enlarged beginning in 1890. Wild Air is significant as an early representative example of this Upper St. Regis area development in camp building and is the earliest permanent camp on the lake. By 1908, New York Tribune publisher Whitelaw Reid had commissioned William Rutherford Mead of the renowned architectural firm of McKim, Mead and White to design principal buildings for the camp. Mead was retained again in 1917 to rebuild the camp lodge and the owner's sleeping cabin after a disastrous fire destroyed portions of the complex the previous year. The small-scale, single story polygonal log pavilions (three in all) sited on the lake shore are significant reminders of their day-camp antecedents. Two of these pavilions, constructed in the 1890's, and the third, constructed in 1908, are attributed to McKim, Mead and White, demonstrating through their imaginative design and placement the hand of professional designers appreciative of the beauty of the natural surroundings. Wild Air is architecturally significant as the only known example of the work of the McKim, Mead and White firm in the St. Regis area. It has been owned and maintained by the Reid family since its initial construction and retains many original decorative features.

A second St. Regis camp included in this nomination is Camp Topridge, (Component 10). This Great Camp is representative of the last phase of Great Camp design in the twentieth century. Designed by architect Theodore Blake of the firm Carrère and Hastings, Topridge is a monumental arrangement of nearly fifty detached buildings and structures in a semi-formal plan on a hogback ridge overlooking Upper St. Regis Lake. The present Camp Topridge was begun in 1923, at which time an earlier camp on the site was substantially

altered to accommodate a new owner, social matriarch and General Foods owner Marjorie Merriweather Post. The camp's significance is derived from elaborate, distinctive and unusual architectural embellishments of rustic work in a grand boathouse and the vast enclosure of space that is the lodge. Topridge is historically significant as one of the latest Great Camps designed. Privately owned and occupied until 1974, Camp Topridge exemplifies the final stage of social and architectural evolution characteristic of the Adirondack Great Camps during the years preceding World War II.

Upper Saranac Region

The third concentration of camps represented in this nomination is that situated in the Upper Saranac Lake area. The three nominated camps were designed by William L. Coulter of the Saranac Lake firm of Coulter and Westhoff. This architectural firm designed numerous significant camps in the vicinity during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. William L. Coulter, the principal architect of the firm, was directly influenced by the camp style popularized by William West Durant on Raquette Lake and in fact, was responsible for the recreation hall at Camp Sagamore designed in 1901 for Alfred G. Vanderbilt. The huge log-veneered chalet at Sagamore provided inspiration for subsequent Coulter projects as did the log and bark-veneered chalet at Camp Pine Knot. Use of the chalet form, whole log-veneering, polygonal pavilions and elaborate rustic work in screens and covered walkways, all in semi-formal site plans, are the distinguishing features of Coulter's work in the genre. Coulter's designs for Adolph Lewisohn (Prospect Point Camp, 1903-1905, Component 9), Levi P. Morton (Eagle Island Camp, 1902, Component 8), and Isabelle Ballantine (Moss Ledge, 1898, Component 7), are significant examples of the Adirondack Rustic style in its maturity at the turn-of-the-century. These camps are also a significant, representative sample of a proficient and prolific local architect's work in the genre. Arriving in the Adirondacks in the mid-1890's, Coulter soon established an architectural practice, and his firm specialized in camp design. Other projects he is known for include the D. Henry Smith camp, John N. Robbins Loon Lake Camp, Victor Herbert's camp on Lake Placid and the great chalets of Knollwood Club on Lower Saranac Lake.

Built in 1898 on a dramatic site high above the lake shore, Moss Ledge retains numerous principal structures with rustic decorative details intact. Of significance is the chalet, a near copy of Durant's Camp Pine Knot chalet, executed in simulated whole log construction with a shingled upper story. A similar building is illustrated in Wick's Log Cabin and Cottages...(1924), attesting to the popularity of the chalet form. Moss Ledge is the earliest known extant camp attributed to architect Coulter.

Eagle Island Camp, constructed in 1902, was designed for former Vice President and New York State Governor Levi P. Morton as a very private island retreat in Upper Saranac Lake. Morton kept a separate camp, also designed by Coulter (but which has been substantially altered), for guests on the mainland shore. The semi-formal arrangement of lodges and polygonal dining hall connected by covered walkways and piazzas forms an imposing lake front, with a service yard enclosed by the group facing the interior of the island. These features became the architect's signature in subsequent commissions throughout the region.

Prospect Point Camp, built between 1903-1905, is located on a peninsula in Upper Saranac Lake in close proximity to Eagle Island and Moss Ledge. The camp consists of four imposing, interconnected chalet-styled lodges, each of the scale of Durant's Sagamore chalet, as well as a similar detached boathouse. These impressive buildings, each of similar but distinctive design, exhibit half-timbered gable end decoration with birch bark-clad panels framed in log work. The grand scale of the camp and its dramatic siting on a bluff overlooking the lake epitomize the large, opulent camps of the early twentieth century found elsewhere in the vicinity. Built and designed for New York City financier Adolph Lewisohn, Prospect Point Camp reflects the trend toward dramatic siting of camps built after the early woodland phase of Great Camp development. As a retreat for a wealthy and prominent member of New York's Jewish community, Lewisohn's Prospect Point Camp reflects the social status of its owner.

Built as private wilderness retreats for the families of influential and wealthy American urban politicians, entrepreneurs and financiers, the Great Camps together are a remarkable and sophisticated nineteenth-century response to the natural environment of the Adirondack region and reflect its development as a seasonal resort. The camps are architecturally significant for their distinctive rustic design and construction and are distinguished for the fine vernacular craftsmanship they represent. The ten Great Camp complexes in this nomination are representative of a unique and distinctive regional resort architecture and are worthy of preservation as historic resources important in the socio-cultural development of the Adirondacks during the period 1877-1939.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____ See individual forms

Quadrangle name _____ Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
A				B			
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

See individual forms.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state NA code county code

state NA code county code

11. Form Prepared By

Contact:

name/title Larry E. Gobrecht

organization NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation date July 1986

street & number Agency Bldg. 1 Empire State Plaza telephone 518-474-0479

city or town Albany state New York 12238

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is: See individual components.

___ national X state X local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Julia S. Stokes

title Deputy Commissioner for Historic Preservation date Sept. 11, 1986

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

See Continuation Sheet for Listing date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: date

Chief of Registration

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

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Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

dnr-11

Name Great Camps of the Adirondacks Thematic Resources
State Essex and other counties, New York

Substantive Review Keeper Patrick Andrus 4/3/87

Nomination/Type of Review			Date/Signature
1. Camp Pine Knot	Substantive Review	for Keeper	Patrick Andrus 11/7/86
		Attest	Beth L Savage 11-7-86
2. Echo Camp	Substantive Review	for Keeper	Patrick Andrus 11/7/86
		Attest	Beth L Savage 11-7-86
3. Camp Wild Air	Substantive Review	for Keeper	Patrick Andrus 11/7/86
		Attest	Beth L Savage 11-7-86
4. Camp Santanoni	Substantive Review	for Keeper	Patrick Andrus 4/3/87
		Attest	Beth L Savage 4-3-87
5. Camp Uncas	Substantive Review	for Keeper	Patrick Andrus 4/3/87
		Attest	Beth L Savage 4-3-87
6. Sagamore Lodge (Boundary Increase)	Substantive Review	for Keeper	Patrick Andrus 11/7/86
		Attest	Beth L Savage 11-7-86
7. Moss Ledge	Substantive Review	for Keeper	Patrick Andrus 11/7/86
		Attest	Beth L Savage 11-7-86
8. Eagle Island Camp	Substantive Review	for Keeper	Patrick Andrus 4/3/87
		Attest	Beth L Savage 4-3-87
9. Prospect Point Camp	Substantive Review	for Keeper	Patrick Andrus 11/7/86
		Attest	Beth L Savage 11-7-86
10. Camp Topridge	Substantive Review	for Keeper	Patrick Andrus 11/7/86
		Attest	Beth L Savage 11-7-86