

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

GMB NO. 1024-0018, NPS FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets. Type all entries.

**1. Name of Property**

historic name Camp Intermission  
other names/site number The William Morris House

**2. Location**

street & number Northwest bay Road ☐ not for publication  
city, town Saranac Lake (town of Harrietstown) ☐ vicinity  
state New York code NY county Franklin code 033 zip code 12983

**3. Classification**

Ownership of property	Category	Number of resources within property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)		
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>7</u>	<u>      </u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u> objects
		<u>7</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listings: Village of Saranac Lake  
Multiple Documentation Form

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register n/a

**4. State/Federal Agency Certification**

I, the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, this property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Julia L. Stokely  
Signature of certifying official  
Deputy Commissioner for Historic Preservation  
State or Federal agency and bureau

8/25/92  
Date

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria.  
☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or federal agency and bureau

**5. National Park Service Certification**

I hereby, certify that this property is:

- ☐ entered in the National Register.  
☐ See continuation sheet.  
☐ determined eligible for the National Register. ☐ see continuation sheet.  
☐ determined not eligible for the National Register.

- ☐ removed from the National Register.  
☐ other, (explain:)

Signature of keeper

Date of Action

## 6. Function or Use

Historic Function  
(enter categories from instructions)  
Domestic/single dwelling

Current Functions  
(enter categories from instructions)  
State owned/vacant

## 7. Description

Architectural Classification  
(enter categories from instructions)

Craftsman

Materials(enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone & concrete  
walls Wood/clapboard, stone

roof Asphalt  
other \_\_\_\_\_

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Camp Intermission on Northwest Bay Road and the land historically associated with it are located less than a mile to the north of the the village of Saranac Lake, Franklin County, New York. The house and seven contributing outbuildings are situated on 110 acres of shorefront and forest land, at the end of a private road on the shore of Lake Colby.

The house is set into a steep hillside with a full basement story exposed. Outbuildings on the property included a wood shed, a machine shed housing a wood-cutter, a wellhouse with a natural spring, a root cellar, an ice house, a barn, and a caretaker's house.

Camp Intermission is a rectangular, two and one-half story, wood and stone residence with a rear kitchen wing. The residence faces south/southeast and is constructed on a fieldstone foundation. The first story of the house and an engaged front tower are also constructed of uncoursed fieldstone. The remainder of the house is of wood frame construction sheathed with clapboards. The building is covered by a multi-gabled, asphalt shingle clad roof. The roof features broad eaves, exposed rafter ends, and is pierced by two interior stone chimneys and a rear brick chimney. Built in 1928 to the designs of William Distin and A. G. Wilson, the house has elaborately patterned stone arches and sills. Fenestration throughout the house is irregular and asymmetrical, including a one-story bay window on the west facade, and arched, tripartite, and six-over-one windows. A two-story cure porch is attached at the front southeast corner.

[X] see continuation sheet

United States Department of the Interior

National Park Service

Camp Intermission

Northwest Bay Road

- NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES Saranac Lake, Franklin County, NY

CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7 Page 2

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The two-room deep, central hall plan house has Craftsman inspired interior details such as a wood board-and-batten paneled staircase with a built-in bench, hanging lanterns, beamed ceilings, and seven stone fireplaces. The unusual basement (called "the Den") is a single room, sixty-five feet long, reached by a circular stone and concrete staircase with wrought iron posts and a chain railing. The walls are composed of the same stone boulders as the exterior, with stone arches over the windows. A massive stone chimney dominates the room, with built-in shelves and a lighted waterfall in its base. Three supporting pillars and a corner fireplace are also fashioned of stone. Carved stone heads decorate the walls.

## 8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: ☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally

Applicable National Register Criteria ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D

Criteria Considerations ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Areas of significance

Health/Medicine

Period of Significance

ca.1928 - ca.1940

Significant Dates

ca.1928

Cultural Affiliation

n/a

William Distin and A. G. Wilson,  
Significant Person

n/a

Architect/Builder

n/a

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

Camp Intermission on Northwest Bay Road is architecturally significant as an intact, representative example of architect designed, Twentieth century resort architecture built with curing features for the use by a tubercular individual. Designed by local architects William Distin and A. G. Wilson and built in 1928 by the contracting firm of J. J. O'Connell & Sons, Camp Intermission was the residence of the theatrical manager and agent William Morris, who came to Saranac Lake for his health.

Morris spent his summers in Saranac Lake from about 1914, and after the completion of this house, visited year-'round, eventually settling there permanently.

The cure cottages of Saranac Lake were predominantly built between the years of 1870 and 1930 and represent almost every housing type popular in the late Nineteenth and early Twentieth centuries. They represent vernacular expressions of architectural styles that include Italianate, Queen Anne, Colonial Revival, Tudor Revival, and bungalow stylistic features. The majority of the cottages that remain were built between 1890 and 1930.

The most common cure cottages are vernacular expressions of the Queen Anne and Colonial Revival styles, with multiple gables, balloon frame construction, decorative wooden architectural detail, multiple windows of various sizes and shapes, and associated porches or verandas. Glass-enclosed porches, used for the curing of tuberculosis patients, are the most salient feature of the cure cottage. They can be found on local structures built long after porches had gone out of fashion elsewhere.

[X] see continuation sheet

United States Department of the Interior

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Camp Intermission

Northwest Bay Road

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Saranac Lake, Franklin County, NY

Section number 8 Page 2

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Cure cottages are structures that were commercial, residential or institutional in scale and expression. Many were built specifically to function as private commercial sanatoria, multiple unit dwellings, boarding houses, or private homes. Equally large numbers of cure cottages were adapted for that use from vernacular single family dwellings. All cure cottages display certain architectural features that were necessary for specific functions in the process of curing tuberculosis outdoors. Whether added at a later date or incorporated into the original building design, these features can include multi-storied cure porches, sliding glass panels, call bells and wider-than-usual doorways without sills.

Camp Intermission was sold to the State of New York in 1961, and is now used by the Department of Environmental Conservation as the Lake Colby Environmental Education Camp and Conference Center.

The buildings retain a high degree of architectural integrity from their period of significance. They have also maintained high degree of integrity of setting, location, materials, design, and association.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Ames, Forrest B. Health Survey, 1917  
Gallos, Philip L. Cure Cottages of Saranac Lake: Architecture and History of a Pioneer Health Resort, Saranac Lake, NY: Historic Saranac lake, 1985  
NB Society blue card

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested  
☐ previously listed in the National Register  
☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register  
☐ designated a National Historic Landmark  
☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

☐ See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

☒ State historic preservation office

☐ Other State agency

☐ Federal agency

☐ Local government

☐ University

☐ Other

Specify repository: \_\_\_\_\_

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 110 acres

UTM References

A 118 15861120 1491112000  
Zone Easting Northing  
C 118 1585980 149108000  
Zone Easting Northing  
E 118 1585540 1491112000  
Zone Easting Northing

B 118 15861120 149107000  
Zone Easting Northing  
D 118 1585540 149104600  
Zone Easting Northing

☐ See continuation sheet

## Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of Camp Intermission is shown as the heavy black outline on the accompanying map entitled "Camp Intermission, Saranac Lake, Franklin County, NY."

☐ See continuation sheet

## Boundary Justification

The boundary of the nominated property include the parcel historically associated with the property.

☐ See continuation sheet

## 11. Form Prepared By

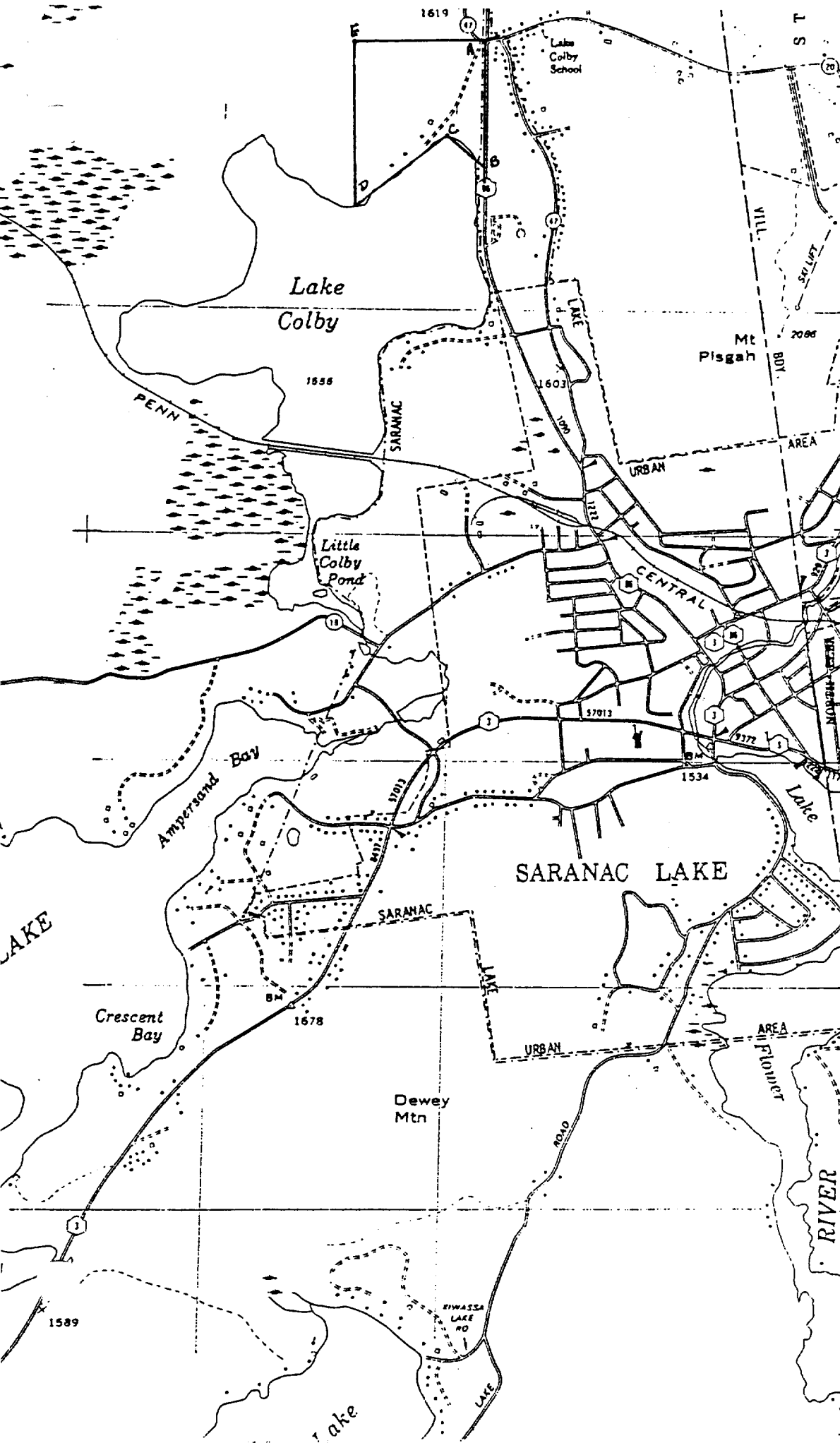
name/title Rachel Bliven, Preservation Consultant, Troy, New York

John A. Bonafide, Program Assistant

organization N.Y.S. Office of Parks, Rec. & Historic Preservation date September 1991

street & number E.S.P. Agency Building 1 telephone 518-474-0479

city or town Albany state New York zip code 12238



The Village of  
Saranac Lake  
M.P.D.F.

Saranac Lake, NY  
Zone 18  
Scale: 1:24,000

4910000m. N.

1 580 000

20'

CAMP INTERMISSION  
SARANAC LAKE, FRANKLIN CO., NY

A. 586120	4911200
B. 586120	4910700
C. 585580	4910800
D. 585540	4910460
E. 585540	4911200

MCKENZIE MOUNTAIN

1 570 000

4905000m. N.

# CAMP INTERMISSION, FRANKLIN COUNTY, NEW YORK

