

SG-892



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. **Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

1. Name of Property

historic name Dollar Island Camp
other names/site number _____
related multiple property listing N/A

2. Location

street & number 1 Dollar Island (in Fourth Lake) N/A not for publication
city or town Inlet N/A vicinity
state NY code 36 county Hamilton code 041 zip code 13360

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,
I hereby certify that this X 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, the property X meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

___ national ___ statewide X local

Michael Lynch Deputy SPO 2/17/17
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official Date

Title State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

X entered in the National Register ___ determined eligible for the National Register
___ determined not eligible for the National Register ___ removed from the National Register
___ other (explain:)

[Signature] 4/17/17
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

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5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- private
- public - Local
- public - State
- public - Federal

Category of Property
(Check only **one** box.)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2	0	buildings
0	0	sites
2	0	structures
0	0	objects
4	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: Camp

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: Camp

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

OTHER: Adirondack Log Cabin

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: WOOD

walls: WOOD

roof: METAL

other:

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Narrative Description

Summary Paragraph

Dollar Island Camp (Inlet, New York) was built around 1885 by Fourth Lake guide Fred Hess for Dr. Edward S. Gaylord, a New Haven dentist and early summer resident of the Fulton Chain of Lakes. Unlike most other Adirondack communities, the hamlet of Inlet was not permanently settled until the 1890s, after the resolution of longstanding issues of title and the arrival of William Seward Webb's Adirondack and St. Lawrence Railroad at Old Forge in 1893. The log camp takes up the east side of a ¼-acre island, little larger than the 33' x 60' building. It faces west and consists of two parts connected by a wrap-around porch – the main section (with six bedrooms) and a small kitchen with attached shed on the east. An even smaller bathroom (off the north side of the porch) is a much later addition. Early twentieth century photos of the camp show a flag pole on the southwest, used to request mail service or the “pickle boat” (Fourth Lake's floating store); this pole no longer survives but a deck built in the 1970s is in the same location. The main dock is secured to the bank behind the kitchen on the southeast corner of the island; both wind and water depth make this the primary access to the house. A very small shingled pump house on the south part of the dock survives from at least the early 20th century.

Narrative Description

Site

Dollar Island sits in Fourth Lake in the Town of Inlet, Hamilton County, New York, a bit more than a half mile from the hamlet of Inlet and a third of a mile east of the Herkimer County line. The island is about 1/4 acre in size; its near neighbor, Cedar Island, is a collection of islets and boulder erratics totaling a bit over 3 acres. The two islands are near the center of the eastern (Hamilton County) part of Fourth Lake and were among the first properties in the Town of Inlet developed in the late nineteenth century for tourism – perhaps because the constant west wind reduced blackflies.

Dollar Island is vegetated with mature spruce, pine, poplar, and a few birches, with blueberries and rhododendrons in the understory. It sits no more than 6 feet above the water level, with shelving rocks extending into the lake on the west and north sides. As a result, the main dock is located adjacent to deeper water on the east side at the rear of the camp, and a shallow deck with seating area was added on the southwest in the 1970s. The 33' x 60' footprint of the camp occupies most of the east end of the island.

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Figure 1: “Dollar Island, Fourth Lake, Adirondacks” [Postcard #1179], (NY: Moore & Gibson Co., [early 1900s]).

Exterior

Dollar Island Camp is a single building consisting of two main parts connected by a wrap-around, one-story porch: the two-story, front-gabled, six-bedroom main section and a small 1 ½ story, side-gabled kitchen with attached shed on the east. An even smaller bathroom (off the north side of the porch) is a mid to late twentieth-century addition. The construction of the two parts is slightly different. The main section is entirely constructed of horizontal split logs; the kitchen is constructed of horizontal split logs below and shingle on the gable end above the porch; the shed is made of vertical logs applied to planks. The porch roof sits on log posts with simple but varied rustic designs in the bottom rails and roof supports.

The 21' x 24' main section faces west. The logs range from ten to fourteen inches in diameter; gaps are stuffed with oakum. Exterior log corners are squared without an overlap. Inside the camp, the faces of the logs on the exterior walls have been hewn, and their surfaces show ax (or adze) marks. The building was originally roofed with cedar shakes and is now covered with a standing seam roof (the underside of the shakes can be seen in the attic). The camp sits on short cedar posts, resting on concrete blocks or bedrock. Wood windows are six-over-six double-hung sash. Solidly-constructed wood shutters protect all windows when the cabin is closed; similarly, solid wood plank doors cover inner French or screen doors.

The 14' x 14' kitchen shows up in early twentieth century images of Dollar Island Camp and was probably built at the same time or shortly after the main section. Its log construction is similar – rounded on the outside and squared on the inside – but the gable end above the porch is shingled and the vertical twig decoration applied to the end of the porch roof is unique. An 8' x 11' shed is attached to the east end of the kitchen. It is built of vertical logs attached to planks, with a decorative pattern in the gable end. Further, it sits on grade, lacks windows, and is not integrated into the kitchen wall. However, it too shows up in early twentieth-century images of the camp.

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The porch integrates both elements of the camp. It is slightly wider on the east side of the main section, and a solid wall (with window and door) has been built on the north to provide a sheltered area for dining and access to the late twentieth-century, 6' x 6,' attached bathroom. The posts and railings have been peeled. However, originally they were natural – one post near the kitchen retains its bark and a photo of the first owner [Figure 13] shows bark on all the logs. The rafters are unpeeled poles, butted up against the log walls. The original cedar shingles are visible under the roof. Most of the underside of the porch is open, except in the area of the kitchen where it is high enough to be used for boat storage and is now covered with lattice.¹



Figure 2: Façade (west elevation) of Dollar Island Camp, 2016.



Figure 3: Detail of log corner, main section, 2016.

Façade (West Elevation): The main section of Dollar Island camp faces west, sheltered by the undeveloped half of the island. The gable end has three bays on the first floor – a central door flanked by six-over-six, wood, double-hung windows – and two bays on the second – two six-over-six, wood, double-hung windows placed between the bays below. The center two posts on the porch flank the door. The porch railings and roof supports incorporate vertical, crossed, and square designs.

North Elevation: The north elevation of the main section has two bays on the first and second floors, with six-over-six wood double-hung windows stacked above one another. The headers of the first-floor windows are placed at the height of the outer edge of the porch; the headers of the second-floor windows are placed at the roof line. Between the main section and the kitchen, the porch is enclosed with a west-facing door and solid wall with picture window. A photo of builder Fred Hess [Figure 11] shows that this is an early feature; however, at that time, the window was similar to those on the rest of the camp. The current picture window is an anomaly, perhaps replacing an original window and adding window seats on the interior during construction of the bathroom.

The 6' x 6' bathroom projects from the north elevation of the porch wall and kitchen. It holds one window and

¹ Originally, the style of decoration on the end of the kitchen porch – vertical twigs with a ragged edge – was also applied here.

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an exterior compartment on the east for the solar-panel-powered water heater.

There is one window with diamond panes on the north elevation of the kitchen; this window may have replaced a six-over-six wood window when kitchen counters were added around 1970. The adjoining shed is inset 1½ feet with an unbroken vertical log wall applied over boards. Propane tanks, hooked up to the kitchen and bathroom hot water systems, are stored in the corner between the bathroom and shed. An old board (with two wingnuts) projects from the back of the shed, perhaps to hold a sign for the camp.



Figure 4: North elevation, showing enclosed end of porch and connection between main section and kitchen, 2016.



Figure 5: East elevation, showing main section and kitchen with attached shed (at right) and dock, 2016

East Elevation: From the east elevation, all the structural elements of Dollar Island Camp are visible. The shed extends within six feet of the shore. Above its vertical log wall, the gable end is decorated with a pattern of diagonally set logs. The structure lacks windows and is accessed by a door on its south side. The kitchen is next, bumped out 1½ feet on both sides of the shed. Its logs extend into the gable end on the east with a small, 6-pane, fixed window in the peak. (By contrast, the west gable is shingled. It has a similar window – both may be the halves of a single six-over-six window.) The porch wraps around the kitchen and main section and links the two sections of the camp by way of the dining alcove. The east end of the kitchen porch is decorated with vertical twigs; at one time, a similar pattern of twigs was applied to the underside of the porch. Triangular stairs in the corner of the porch (built around 2014) give access from the ground. The gable end of the main section has one bay on the first floor (a central door), a single window above the door on the second floor, and a mid-twentieth-century single-pane window in the attic peak.

South Elevation: The south elevation of the main section much like the north elevation. The one exception is a missing window into the upstairs bedroom in the southwest corner of the building.

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Main Section, First Floor: The floor plan of Dollar Island Camp maximizes bedroom space in the main section and preserves a functional separation between living and work spaces. The enclosed section of the porch acts as an intermediate zone for socializing and eating.

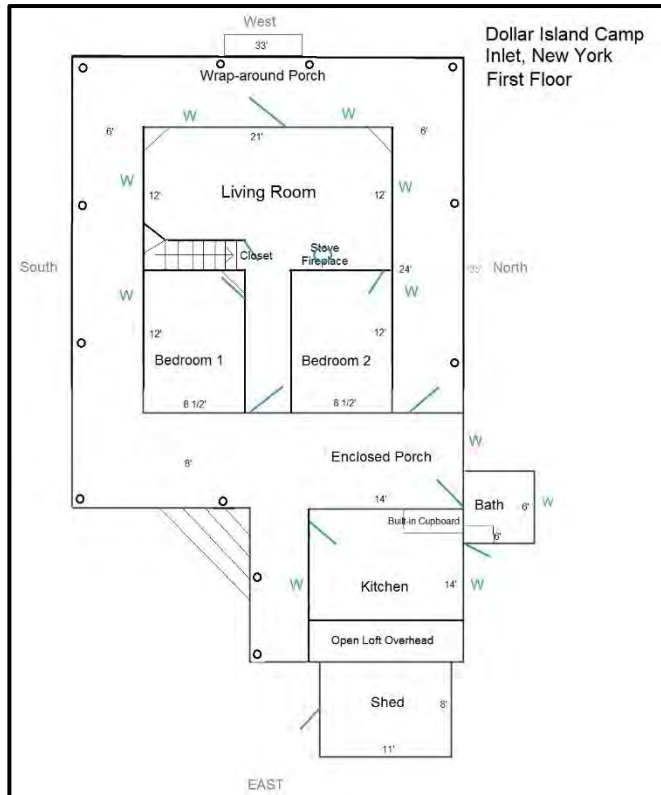


Figure 6: Dollar Island Camp, first floor.

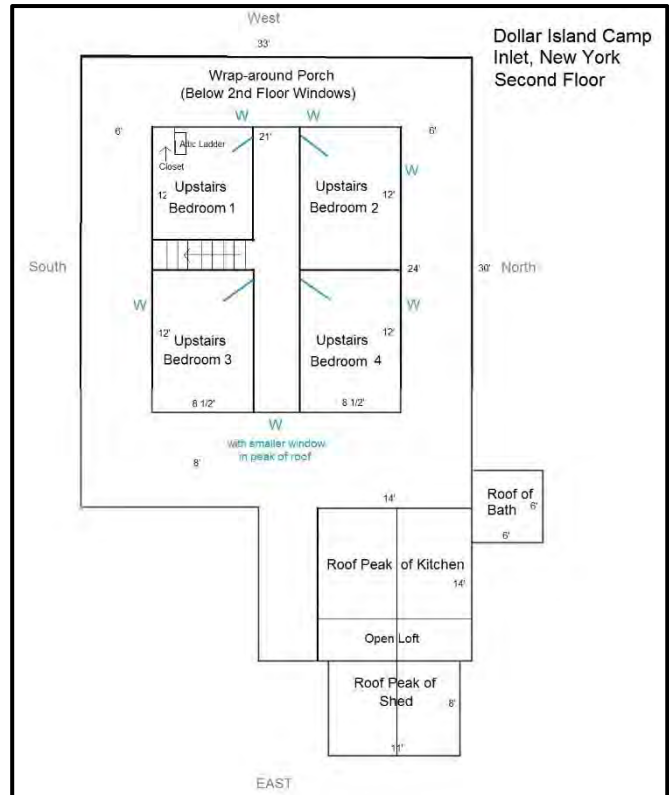


Figure 7: Dollar Island Camp, second floor.

The living room takes up the front (west) half of the building, with a glass door and windows on three sides that visually extend the space onto the wrap-around porch. A stove was located on the inside north wall; it is in storage but its location can be identified by a mantel infilled with applied brick and a shelf holding decorated shelf fungus (an Adirondack craft).² An early twentieth-century Pathé Victrola sits on a shelf near the north window, below a kerosene lamp (with smoke bell) that may date from the late nineteenth century. The room is paneled in narrow vertical beadboard in two different widths; the wider beadboard appears to be original. The front corners of the room include built-in triangular cupboards; the canvas mailbag for the island hangs on one cupboard, while prints and photos of previous owners hang on the other. The room is lit with propane lights augmented by solar-powered LED lighting.

A central corridor runs from the living room to the east door, with a bedroom on either side; the southeast bedroom (Bedroom 1) is entered from the hall while the northeast bedroom (Bedroom 2) is entered from the living room. Each room is paneled with beadboard and has one window on the side elevation.

² One of the fungi dates to 1926, after Dr. Gaylord's death, and references owner Edith Smith.

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An enclosed staircase (with storage under the steps) adjoining the inside wall of Bedroom 1 rises to the second floor. Its steps have been broadened and the threshold brought into the living room to make it safer.

Main Section, Second Floor: The second floor of Dollar Island Camp holds four bedrooms, entered from a central corridor that runs west to east, from the façade to the rear of the building. All of the bedrooms are small; three have one window for ventilation, and one has two. A hatch in the ceiling of Upstairs Bedroom 1 provides access to the attic; this room also includes a small partition/open closet. Decorative Victorian hinges can be seen on all interior doors.

Two construction features are visible in the upstairs bedrooms. First, the rooms lack paneling on their outside walls; as a result, the rough-hewn surface of the exterior logs can be seen. Second, some of the roof paneling has pencil marks with the name “Hess” – an apparent reference to Fred Hess, who built the camp around 1885.

Main Section, Attic: The roof hatch in Upstairs Bedroom 1 provides access to the attic. The underside of the roof can be seen with the original cedar shingles, along with a modern stovepipe. The space is lit by an added late-twentieth century window in the east gable.

Bathroom: The late twentieth-century bathroom is accessed off the enclosed north end (dining alcove) of the wrap-around porch and holds a sink, shower, and toilet.

Kitchen: The 1 ½ story, one-room kitchen originally had an upper loft; this was partially removed in the second half of the twentieth century, presumably for light from the windows in the west and east gables. The east end of the loft remains, with the west floor supports lifted to tie in the roof. Most of the beadboard paneling in the room appears to date from the 1960s or 1970s when built-in kitchen cabinets were added; a short, recycled window with diamond panes may have replaced the original six-over-six wood window on the north wall at that time. An earlier cupboard is built into the northeast corner of the kitchen. Judging from its hardware and the width of the interior beadboard, this fixture may be original to the construction of the kitchen.

The room also contains a pair of propane lights (recently augmented by LED lighting). The refrigerator and stove also run on propane.

Shed Addition: The 8’ x 11’ shed is attached to the east wall of the kitchen but sits significantly below the kitchen on grade and is accessed through a door on its south wall. The vertical logs of the exterior are attached to boards; the interior has been fitted with shelves and is used as a workshop for general maintenance of the camp. It contains batteries and controls for the photovoltaic panels located on the kitchen roof, as well as the water pump and a pressurized water tank.

Dock and Deck: People generally approach Dollar Island Camp from the dock at the southeast corner of the island behind the camp’s east elevation; this dock is permanently affixed and provides deeper anchorage than the late twentieth-century deck on the southwest corner of the island.

Pump House: A very small building sits on a portion of the dock at the rear of the island and holds an old Briggs and Stratton engine. Initially, water was pumped to exterior storage tanks atop the porch between the main section and kitchen and fed by gravity to the kitchen and bathroom. Since 2002, this system has been replaced with a solar-panel-powered pump. The storage tanks have been removed from the roof of the porch and a pressurized tank located in the shed.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

SOCIAL HISTORY

ARCHITECTURE

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Period of Significance

Circa 1885 – 1960

Architect/Builder

Fred Hess (builder)

Significant Dates

N/A

Period of Significance (justification): Period of construction by Fred Hess for Dr. Edward S. Gaylord (1885) to the end of the ownership (1960) of Edith Smith, beneficiary of Dr. Gaylord’s will and second owner.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary): N/A

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph

Dollar Island Camp on Fourth Lake (Town of Inlet, Hamilton County) is locally significant under **Criterion A: Social History** and **Criterion C: Architecture**. This section of Township 8, John Brown’s Tract, was not developed until after the Civil War, when a few wealthy men began to build “camps” on the Herkimer County part of the lake. By the mid-1880s, quite a few people had discovered the Fulton Chain, and more “summer people” had begun to develop properties for hunting and fishing – even though they often lacked title. As a result, Dollar Island does not appear in the legal record until 1894, despite newspaper evidence that the camp was built in 1885. It is believed to be among the oldest buildings in the Town of Inlet, predating William Seward Webb’s railroad to Old Forge and the permanent settlement of the Hamilton County hamlet by almost a decade. Guide and hotel keeper Fred Hess constructed Dollar Island Camp for Dr. Edward S. Gaylord, dentist from New Haven, Connecticut; Dr. Gaylord willed it to his nurse and companion Edith I. Smith at his death in 1926. It is constructed of 10-14” split logs stuffed with oakum. The historic camp consists of a main section (with a living room and six bedrooms), kitchen (with loft), and attached shed – all connected by a wrap-around porch with decorative log posts and railings. Compared to the Camp Pine Knot – begun around 1877 on nearby Racquette Lake and the first of the Adirondack “Great Camps” – Dollar Island Camp is a small “transitional” camp but has many features of the “decorous camp” style. The period of significance runs from the construction of Dollar Island Camp (1885) to its sale by owner Edith Smith in 1960.

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CRITERION A: SOCIAL HISTORY

Historic Context

Hamilton County is the smallest county by population in New York State. Since it was established as a provisional county in 1816, its growth has been hampered by climate, lack of transportation, and ownership of large tracts of lands by nonresidents and entrepreneurs. Farmers settled the south part of the county at Wells and Lake Pleasant before the turn of the nineteenth century, but the elevation of the land always limited agriculture. At 1000 feet, buckwheat could not be grown commercially; at 1500 feet, corn; at 2000 feet, oats; and at 2500 feet, potatoes.³ When farming failed, residents tried lumbering and mining. But those required transportation – roads, railroads, or canals. As early as 1837 various schemes were advanced for railroad and canal construction through the center of the Adirondacks, but none succeeded in reaching Fourth Lake until the Peg Leg Line in 1889 and William Seward Webb's Adirondack and St. Lawrence Railroad in 1892. Nonetheless, large tracts of land throughout Hamilton and Herkimer Counties were held for speculation for much of the nineteenth century in anticipation of better transportation.

Concentration of land ownership in northern New York State had started before the American Revolution. Joseph Totten and Stephen Crossfield attempted to buy over a million acres in the central Adirondacks in 1771, but the American Revolution disrupted that sale and scattered most of their Loyalist backers. They reapplied to the New York State Land Commissioners in 1785 and acquired the Totten and Crossfield Purchase, which took in most of Hamilton County (including the Hamlet of Inlet, but not Dollar Island). In 1792, Alexander Macomb, William Constable, and Daniel McCormick purchased over four million acres of land to the west and north of the Totten and Crossfield Purchase. Macomb quickly went bankrupt, and "Macomb's Purchase" was broken up among speculators. In less than two years, the parcel containing most of Fourth Lake (including Dollar Island) passed from Macomb to William Constable, from Constable to Samuel Ward, and from Ward to James Greenleaf, who took out two mortgages on the property with John Livingston and John Francis. Two years later, Greenleaf was in debtor's prison and, in 1798, John Brown, father-in-law of John Francis, paid off the Livingston mortgage and acquired the 200,000 acres previously owned by Greenleaf for himself.⁴

John Brown's Tract consisted of land in Lewis, Herkimer, and Hamilton Counties and took in most of the First to Fourth Lakes of the Fulton Chain. It was surveyed in 1799 by John Hammon, and Brown named the resulting eight townships Industry, Enterprise, Perseverance, Unanimity, Frugality, Sobriety, Economy, and Regularity. Dollar Island and most of Fourth Lake are in Township 8 (Regularity).⁵

Brown built a 17-mile wagon road from Boonville into Herkimer County for access to the tract, but died in 1803 before development could begin. His son, James Brown, inherited Township 8 and, in 1811, his son-in-law, Charles Frederick Herreshoff, arrived to settle permanently. Herreshoff mined local iron ore, constructed a dam and forge at the foot of Fourth Lake (now, the site of Old Forge), and tried farming. But, the ore was poor quality; his forge failed to make a profit; and, at 1800 feet elevation, the farm failed. A second road was cut along the north side of the Fulton Chain, to join the Sacandaga State Road from Lake Pleasant; it received little

³ Ted Aber and Stella King, *The History of Hamilton County* (Lake Pleasant, NY: Great Wilderness Books, 1965), 68. Aber and King are citing State Surveyor Verplanck Colvin's observations from the 1880s on the effects of elevation on climate.

⁴ This John Brown was from Providence, Rhode Island; he is not the famous abolitionist from Lake Placid.

⁵ Marian S. Henry. "The Brown Tract" (Boston: New England Historic Genealogical Society: 2003.) [Available online from www.americanancestors.org]

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use and soon reverted to brush. Herreshoff committed suicide in December 1819.⁶ One of his few legacies was to raise the surface of Fourth Lake two feet, which later proved vital to navigation.⁷



Settlements in other parts of Hamilton County were slightly more successful – or saw speculators with more resources. In particular, the southern part of the county grew after the Erie Canal opened in 1825. Its potential attracted Andrew K. Morehouse and, in 1832, he acquired clear title to almost 8,000 acres in the southwest corner of the county. In 1834, he moved from New York City to the Adirondacks and established a sawmill and store. He tried to attract settlers to his lands and lobbied the state legislature for roads. In April, 1835, the state created the Town of Morehouse as Hamilton County’s fourth town. This town extended north to Fourth Lake, but Morehouse’s efforts remained concentrated on the south end of the county – only as far north as his proposed village of Piseco. As a result, the area that became the Town of Inlet in 1902 remained undeveloped for more than fifty years.⁸

For much of the nineteenth century, Fourth Lake could only be accessed from the west on Herreshoff’s old road from Oneida County, followed by a guideboat trip over water. Not surprisingly, most of the people who developed an interest in the area came from Lewis, Herkimer, and Oneida Counties. Those who settled faced the difficulty of

Figure 8. “Map of Township No. 8, John Brown’s Tract.” (New York State Archives, Dept. of Environmental Conservation, Verplanck Colvin maps of the Adirondack wilderness, B1405-96, SARA No. 179.) **Note:** Outline of Hamilton County section of Fourth Lake with the arrow pointing to Dollar Island.

⁶ *Ibid.*

⁷ Aber and King, 558-9.

⁸ Aber and King, 42-46.

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communicating with the Town of Morehouse and Hamilton County governments to the south. This isolation meant that local land transactions were often registered in both Hamilton and Herkimer Counties until the beginning of the twentieth century, and few people voted.

Herreshoff's widow owned Township 8 until her death in 1846, when it passed to her son, John Brown Herreshoff. Four years later, he sold it to Lyman Lyon of Lewis County. Lyon was involved in railroad speculation and, for the next forty-three years, the land passed to a succession of unsuccessful railroad companies – the Sackett's Harbor & Saratoga Railroad Company (1852-1857), Lake Ontario & Hudson River Railroad Company (1857-1860), Adirondack Estate and Railroad Company (1860-1863), and Adirondack Railroad Company (1863-1889).⁹ All these projects were based on the premise that a northern route could be engineered through the central Adirondacks following the Fulton Chain (flowing west into the Black River), Raquette River (flowing north into the St. Lawrence), and/or tributaries of the Hudson. On May 29, 1889, "all the wild lands of the [Adirondack Railroad] Company" (including all of Township 8, excepting 410 acres) were conveyed to Robert W. Cromley.¹⁰ On May 11, 1891, Ravand Hawley as president of the Adirondack Timber and Mineral Company (apparently a successor to Cromley) sold a large parcel, including most of the shore – and all of the islands – of Fourth Lake in Township 8 to Dr. William Seward Webb.¹¹

Webb's purchase became critical to regularizing the legal situation for those interested in settling Fourth Lake and to providing better access. Despite the difficulty of travel to the Fulton Chain, some of shoreline was already occupied by the 1890s, in some case by substantial camps. The *History of Hamilton County* notes that a number of "summer people" and full-time residents had begun to arrive after the Civil War.

... By the 1870s, two camps had been built on Fourth Lake. One was owned by a Port Leyden tanner on the site of Cold Spring Camp. Charles Pratt, petroleum pioneer and co-founder of Standard Oil Company, and the benefactor of Pratt Institute, owned the other, on the later site of Holl's Inn. About the same time, Lewis H. Lawrence, Utica lumber and rail tycoon, built a camp on the North Shore on what is still known as Lawrence's Point. ... The story is told that when, about 1886, his ill and aging father wanted a last look at Fourth Lake, Lawrence, Jr., had him carried over Brown's Tract in a sedan chair.

In the 1870's, too, Mort Alger, a Syracuse mop-wringer manufacturer, built a camp on the lake's largest island. ...¹²

Less affluent residents included Sam Dunakin, who ran a boarding house near Minnow Brook in 1871, and Jack Sheppard. Together, Dunakin and Sheppard helped build the Pratt Camp, and Sheppard and Ed Arnold later ran an inn. Another local, who had been born on a marginal farm in Lewis County and moved to Fourth Lake in the 1870s, was Frederick Hess.

⁹ Henry; Aber and King, 64-65; Delaware and Hudson Company, *Corporate History of the Delaware and Hudson Company and Subsidiary Companies: Merged and Affiliated Companies*, Vol 3, ([No publisher]: 1907), 61, 275, 293.

¹⁰ Delaware and Hudson, 293.

¹¹ Deed of Sale from Ravand K. Hawley to William Seward Webb, May 11, 1891 (recorded June 4, 1891), Herkimer County, New York, Deed Book 143, 387-390.

¹² Aber and King, 559-560. Settlements in Herkimer County are mentioned in this quote; Alger Island is in the western end of Fourth Lake outside Hamilton County.

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All these people lacked legal title to the properties they were developing, but the rich constructed them for their own seasonal enjoyment and the poor to rent rooms (and guide) visitors. The Great Northern Wilderness had become a popular tourism destination in 1869, after the Rev. William H. H. Murray published *Adventures in the Wilderness, or Camp-Life in the Adirondacks*. “Adirondack” Murray vividly described the pleasures of traveling on the lakes and streams of the area, living off the land (with the help of guides), and sleeping in open shelters. His book quickly became a best seller with its promises of clean air – “absolutely free from the least taint of impurity” – and good health.¹³ “Delicate ladies and fragile school-girls” put on weight; consumptives were cured:

*The wilderness received him almost a corpse. It returned him to his home and the world as happy and healthy a man as ever bivouacked under its pines.*¹⁴

No one – healthy nor sick, man nor woman – had to work hard if they desired. Guides would take you everywhere, carry your luggage over the portages, and cook you fresh game and fish. One of the Adirondack routes Murray recommended was the Fulton Chain – although the “entrance is not easy for ladies, nor is the region into which it brings you at all noted for the beauty of its scenery.”¹⁵ However, the hunting and fishing were good.

Tourism along the Fulton Chain increased through the 1870s and 1880s. Reports by other travel writers like “Nessmuk” (George Washington Sears) reveal a constant traffic of sportsmen and women making the difficult trip from Boonville to recreate on the lakes of the Fulton Chain and to stay at an increasing number of boarding houses and hotels near Old Forge catering to their (often quite civilized) needs. Few of the visitors realized that the wilderness they sought was partly maintained by lack of legal title. That is why Dr. Webb’s purchase of the Township 8 land in Herkimer and Hamilton Counties in 1891 is important to the story of Dollar Island Camp – he was one of the four people (land speculator, guide, and two owners) who helped create and preserve the camp as it exists today.

¹³ William H. H. Murray, *Adventures in the Wilderness, or Camp-Life in the Adirondacks* (Boston: Fields, Osgood, & Co., 1869), 51. [Available online from archive.com]

¹⁴ Murray, 11-14.

¹⁵ Murray, 41.

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Dr. William Seward Webb (Land Speculator and Railroad Entrepreneur)



Figure 9. Dr. William Seward Webb.
(Commons.wikipedia.org)

Dr. Webb is often given credit for opening up the western Adirondacks and Fulton Chain through his transportation projects in the 1890s and early twentieth century, but his complementary strategy of land development is less well known. Trained as a physician in Paris, Vienna, and Columbia University, he married the daughter of William H. Vanderbilt in 1881 and soon became involved in finance. His father-in-law helped Webb become president of the Wagner Palace Car Company in 1885 (a few years after the death of founder Webster Wagner in a rail accident), and Webb continued in that post until the company merged with the Pullman Company in 1899.

Clearly, he was a quick study as an entrepreneur. By 1891, when he acquired the Hawley/Cromley land, he had already decided to build a railroad through Thendara (2 miles from Old Forge) and north to Tupper Lake to connect New York City with Malone and Canadian routes. The New York Central Railroad initially encouraged his work. Webb stitched together a web of narrow gauge railroads and track rights, acquiring private land when he was blocked from crossing parts of the New York Forest Preserve, and organizing subsidiary companies to construct different parts of the line. African American workers were brought from Tennessee to speed the work. Within eighteen months, 191 miles of track had been laid.¹⁶ On June 26, 1892, the

New York Times announced the opening of first third of Webb's railroad; the entire line (initially known as the Adirondack and St. Lawrence Railroad) opened in late August.

Now For the Adirondacks.

Dr. Webb's Railroad Open for Business.

... drawing-room and sleeping cars of improved pattern, furnished with every convenience and luxury, will, beginning July 1, leave this city by the New York Central and Hudson River Railroad and run over this route to Old Forge, the station at the head of navigation of the Fulton Chain.

At this point connection is made with "Jack" Sheppard's steamer for the head of Fourth Lake, passing through First, Second, Third, and Fourth Lakes of the Fulton Chain. This will furnish an interesting and comparatively easy route to Racquet, Fork, Blue Mountain, and Long Lakes, which may all be reached from the head of Fourth Lake by water communication with a few short carries or portages. ... The morning train with through drawing-room cars will probably leave New York at 7:30, the evening train at 9:15.¹⁷

¹⁶ Ken Kinlock, "Webb's Wilderness Railroad Opened up the Adirondack Wilderness," [n.d.]. [Available online from www.kinglyheirs.com]

¹⁷ "Now For the Adirondacks," *New York Times* (June 26, 1892).

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Webb's luxurious line replaced a short-lived railroad – the "Peg Leg Line" – that ran for three years from 1889-1892 on wooden rails from Moose River Settlement to Minnehaha (Jones Camp); passengers then transferred to a small steamer that sailed to Forge House.¹⁸

Webb partially ensured passengers for the Adirondack and St. Lawrence Railroad by the strategy of selling his shorefront land on the Second to Fourth Lakes of the Fulton Chain. Soon after he acquired the property, he arranged for David C. Wood to survey the tract. People who had already built on his land were offered their parcels and Webb broke up the remainder into small lots for sale to new "summer people." (In Figure 10, the blank part of the southeast shore of Wood's map was part of the 18th century Totten and Crossfield Purchase; it became the hamlet of Inlet and was undeveloped until the early 1890s when it was broken up into lots, initially to create an exclusive preserve called the Fulton Chain Club.)

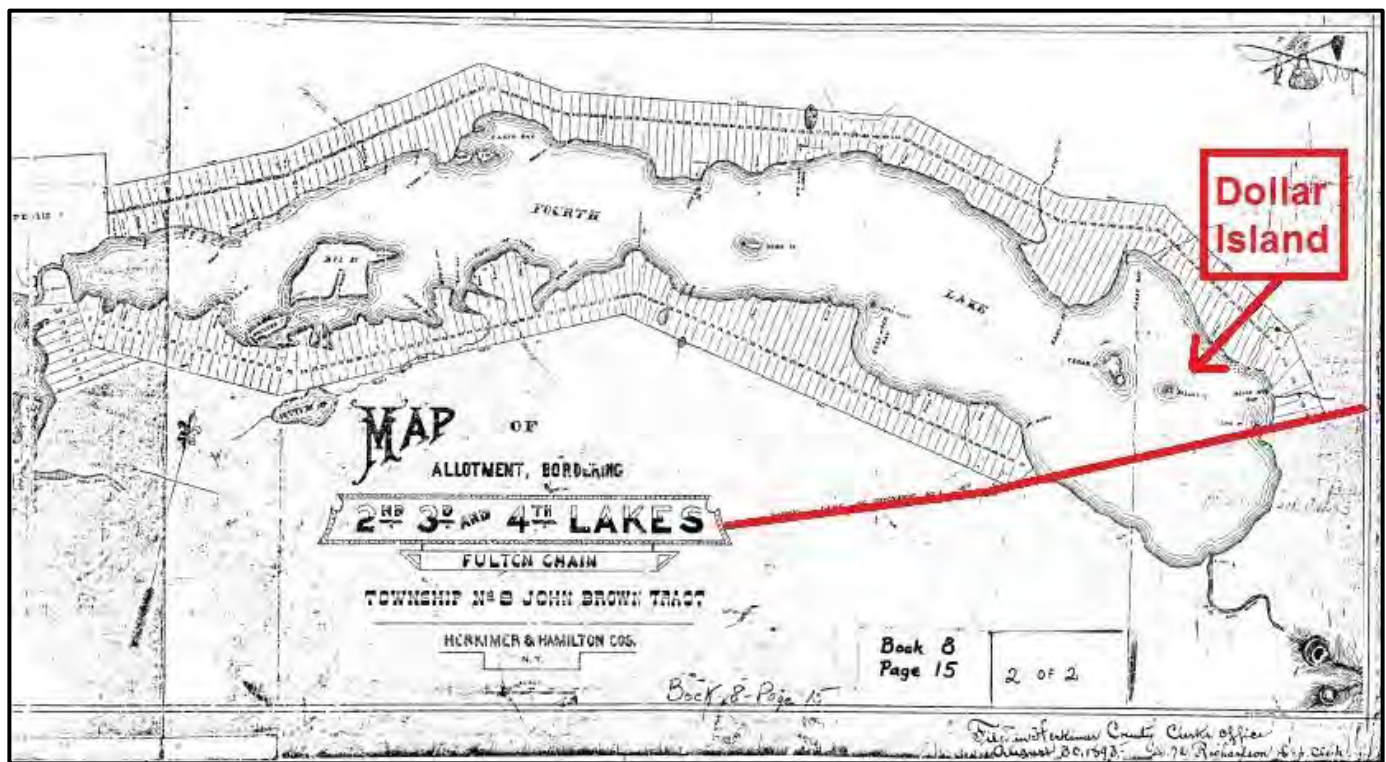


Figure 10. David Woods (surveyor), *Map of Allotment Bordering 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Lakes, Fulton Chain*, (1893). (Herkimer County Map Book 8, Page 15, Part 1 & 2). (Herkimer County Record's Office).

The sale of Webb's surveyed and deeded parcels begins the legal record for Dollar Island, even though references to the island appear in newspaper reports and business records as early as 1885.

¹⁸ Once his rail line was leased to the New York Central in May 1893, William Seward Webb turned to other projects. He built Nehasane Lodge in 1893 on Lake Lila, the center of a private 200,000 acre game preserve for himself and his family. His obituary notes that he also became president of the Fulton Chain Railroad Company (built later to access Eagle Point and Raquette Lake), Fulton Navigation Company, and Raquette Lake Transportation Company. See "Dr. W. Seward Webb Dead in Vermont," *New York Times* (October 30, 1926).

Dollar Island Camp

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Fred Hess (Builder)

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Figure 11. Fred Hess at Dollar Island Camp, between 1885-1890. Note the unfinished porch railings. (Inlet Historical Society).

Credit for the construction of Dollar Island Camp is given to Fred (Frederick) Hess, who subsequently became the first permanent resident of the hamlet of Inlet.¹⁹ Hess was born around 1848 in Martinsburg, Lewis County, where his young parents farmed a small property. They seem to have been unsuccessful, as the 1860 census showed the family (now numbered six) on a rented farm in the town of Turin. In 1870, they again owned a farm in Greig, Lewis County, where they lived with four sons (Frederick, the oldest) and two young daughters.²⁰

Hess worked with his father until 1872, when he moved to Old Forge to become a paid guide at the Forge House. In a few years he married Alice Clistria Lawrence, and the couple had a daughter in 1875.

This marriage connected Fred Hess to Abner Wood Lawrence, owner of the Moose River Inn from 1859 to 1875. Inlet historian Charles Herr describes Lawrence as “one of the first generation of guides to the Adirondacks for travelers to the Fulton Chain from Port Leyden and Boonville. Lawrence’s is mentioned in several Adirondack histories as the only stopover on the Brown’s Tract Road before arriving at Arnolds at today’s Thendara [two miles west of Old Forge].”²¹ Hess also became connected by his marriage to guideboat builder H. Dwight Grant and to guide Jonathan Meeker, who launched the first steamboat on the Fulton Chain in 1883.

Hess’s first few years of guiding may have been seasonal. The 1875 *New York Census* shows him living with Alice on their own small farm in Turin in what must have been a tiny frame house worth only \$100. Alice died of consumption in August 1876, and Fred left his infant daughter with his parents in Greig before returning to live full-time in the Fulton Chain. He may have met Ella Higby Blakeman on one of his trips back to Lewis County to see his daughter or known her before her marriage to George Blakeman. In any case, by 1880 her first marriage had ended, and she married and joined Fred on Fourth Lake. Her talents complemented Fred’s as guide and builder; she became well-known as a cook, inn-keeper, and hunter in her own right. By 1881, Fred had built a camp on Cedar Island, just west of Dollar Island. He and Ella owned the “Cedar Island House” (though not the land) until September 1890.

Nessmuk spent a night there on July 28, 1881. After a difficult paddle up the inlet from Fifth Lake, he was forced back into Fourth Lake:

¹⁹ Unless specifically cited, all of the following information on Frederick Hess is from various magazine and internet articles written by Charles Herr, first president of the Inlet Historical Society and long-term summer resident.

²⁰ Robert and Mary Hess also lost the Grieg farm in 1878, when it was sold in a sheriff’s sale. They moved to Michigan in 1883.

²¹ Charles Herr, “Fred Hess and the Three Hess Camps.” [Manuscript dated April 7, 2011].

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... where I paddled around until midnight, finally landing on an island where Fred Hess has a good house and camp. Here he lives with his family; but happening to be absent just then, could not welcome me, so I made myself welcome to his open camp [lean-to], found a lamp and a good bed, lighted the one and took possession of the other, managing to put in a few hours of solid sleep before sunrise.²²

The Fulton Chain had become a remarkably busy place by the 1880s. Nessmuk's letters for *Forest and Stream* describe a constant traffic of guides, "sports," summer people, and consumptives looking for a wilderness cure, but his description of travelling to the Fulton Chain in 1883 shows that access before the railroads was still difficult:

... "paradise, reached through purgatory," was attained. Paradise meaning Brown's Tract, and purgatory, the twenty-five and one-half miles of wretched road between Boonville and the Forge House. That is how the admirers of Brown's Tract put it.²³

Fred Hess upgraded Cedar Island so that it became a well-known hotel, accommodating more than 21 guests at a time.²⁴ In 1885, he built Dollar Island Camp for Dr. Edward Gaylord of New Haven. Hess also continued guiding throughout the decade and, in February 1887, he and Jim Higby killed the last-known wolf in the Adirondacks. Two years later, Ella's role in killing a 250-lb. buck in the water off Cedar Island was deemed so extraordinary – "A Big Deer Shot by a Woman" – that it made newspapers as far as Patterson, New Jersey.²⁵

In fall 1890, after a season when his Cedar Island Camp advertised "Bath Rooms" and a bowling alley, Hess sold his interest in the hotel and became superintendent for the association planning to build the Fulton Lake Club at the present-day site of the hamlet of Inlet.²⁶ He bought land for a new camp (the second "Hess Camp") on the east shore of Fourth Lake and built a water-powered sawmill on the inlet to Fifth Lake. The sawmill cut timber for his camp and was intended to facilitate the development of the rest of the Fulton Lake Club property. In this way, Hess became the first permanent resident of the hamlet of Inlet, even though he had resided in the area for nearly twenty years.

He developed various properties in the area over the next fifteen years, but his initial purchases from the Fulton Lake Club appear to have been too expensive and the club's plans did not work out. James Galvin continued to sell lots, acting for the association that owned the land, even though some of the purchasers would compete with Hess's hotels. Hess finished his 3-story building in June 1893, but a fire appears to have severely damaged (or destroyed) the new building only three years later. He sold the Fifth Lake sawmill in 1895 and got involved in the purchase of a steamer to bring passengers directly to Inlet in early 1896, but the "W. S. Webb" was blocked from docking in Old Forge by the competing Crosby Transportation Company. After each reverse, Fred and Ella Hess tried something new. In 1898, he began to build the third "Hess Camp" and bought a new tract of land from the association for a sugar bush to feed his guests.

In 1900, he went hunting in Maine, returning with a trophy moose head; in late 1902, he and Ella moved to Maine temporarily – and permanently in 1904. (By then, the Town of Inlet had broken off from the Town of

²² George Washington Sears, *The Adirondack Letters of George Washington Sears, whose Pen Name was "Nessmuk,"* (Blue Mountain Lake, NY: Adirondack Museum, 1962), 100-101.

²³ Sears, 140.

²⁴ "Up in the Wilderness," *Rome Daily Sentinel* (August 19, 1886).

²⁵ "A Big Deer Shot by a Woman," *Patterson Daily Guardian* (September 9, 1889).

²⁶ "Cedar Island" [Trade Card], (Adirondack Museum, 13997).

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Morehouse and become the last-formed town in Hamilton County.)²⁷ Ella died in Maine in 1919, and Fred died there five years later.

Dr. Edward F. Gaylord (First Owner)

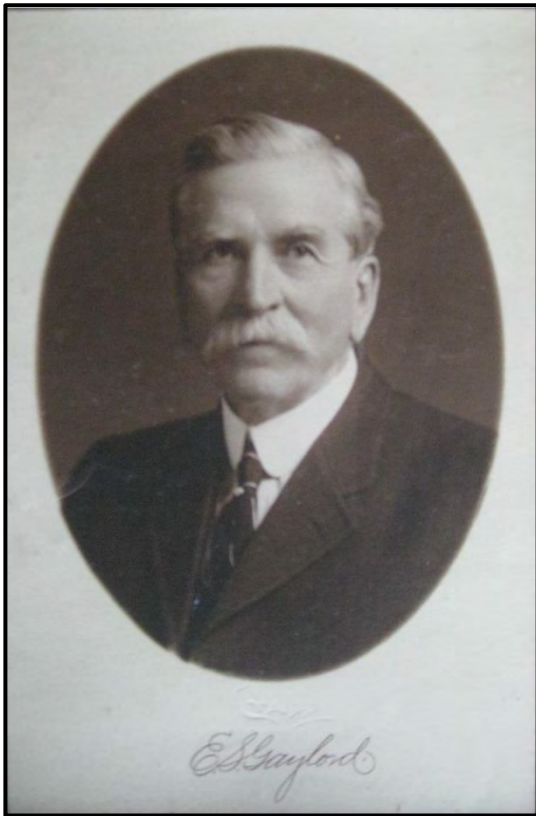


Figure 12. Dr. Edward F. Gaylord. (Photo from Dollar Island Camp).

Whatever his other successes or failures, Fred Hess seems to have been an extremely competent builder. He developed Cedar Island into a medium-sized hotel, was chosen by the associates of the Fulton Lake Club as their superintendent, and subsequently built two hotels in Inlet before moving to Maine.

Craig Gilborn, former director of the Adirondack Museum, credits guides like Fred Hess for much of the building that took place in the Adirondacks:

The Adirondack guide was a pivotal figure as a camp builder, first of "squatter" or field camps of about 1830 to 1890, but also of the permanent camps that followed, starting in the 1880s. Permanent camps would not have been feasible without guides and caretakers to keep an eye on them, make repairs, open and close them, and keep interlopers away.²⁸

In the fall of 1884, the *Turin Gazette* reported that Hess had "taken the contract to build a log camp on Dollar Island Fourth lake, for Dr. Gaylord of New Haven, Ct. It will be a model camp."²⁹ The 1885 date of Dollar Island Camp is confirmed by the invoice for a guideboat for Dr. Gaylord from Boonville boatbuilder H. Dwight Grant.³⁰

The new building clearly shared the same benefits of location as Hess's own Cedar Island House:

... it has the finest view and is the most desirable location of any in the Fulton Chain. It is the freest from flies and mosquitoes. The winds make it more difficult for such insects to maintain a foothold here and it is farther removed from the dense woods, where those pests always congregate. The cool breezes sweep over the island and we hardly know what heat is, even in the hottest days.³¹

It is less clear if Hess built Dollar Island Camp for Dr. Edward F. Gaylord alone, or for Dr. Gaylord and his brother H.J. Gaylord of Binghamton. Both Gaylords were young men of above average means. According to the 1880 census, older brother Harvey J. Gaylord (1832-1909) was a real estate agent in Binghamton, while Edward (1840-1926) had apprenticed as a dentist in New Haven in 1861 and been in private practice for almost

²⁷ It remained small; in 1905, the community had a population of only 168 people in 37 houses or hotels.

²⁸ Craig Gilborn, *Adirondack Camps: Homes Away From Home, 1850-1950*. (Syracuse, NY: Syracuse University Press, 2000), 34.

²⁹ "Adirondack Notes," *Turin Gazette* (December 18, 1884), 3.

³⁰ Kenneth Durant and Helen Durant, *The Adirondack Guide-boat* (Blue Mountain Lake, NY: Adirondack Museum, 1980). Grant had married the aunt (Mary Jane Meeker) of Fred Hess's first wife.

³¹ "Up in the Wilderness." This description of Cedar Lake House perfectly fits the Dollar Island Camp.

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twenty years. Both were born in Connecticut, but their family may have spent some time in New York State; Edward's obituary notes that he attended the "Fort Edward School in New York." Perhaps as a result of Harvey's real estate connections or Edward's knowledge of the "North Country," the two brothers must have visited Fourth Lake and may have stayed at Fred Hess's Cedar Island Camp, where they became aware of Dollar Island.

In 1885, the camp is represented as a joint purchase in a short article in the *Owego Evening Blade* that extols the attractions of its fishing:

*"That's worth coming all the way from Binghamton for!" Mr. H. J. Gaylord was looking upon thirty-two speckled trout weighing about fifteen pounds when he burst out with the above remark. He and his brother from New Haven, own a delightful camp upon Dollar Island, in the Fourth Lake of the Fulton chain in the North woods. They have been spending some days together in rest and recreation, and thirty-two speckled trout were the result of one day's fishing by H. J. Gaylord.*³²

However, this article is the only reference to Harvey Gaylord's financial involvement. In 1882, he became a partner in Parlor City Furniture Company (manufacturing and selling "cabinet furniture") and, in 1887, he was one of the founders of Security Mutual Life Insurance Company, both in Binghamton.³³ His insurance company investment and other real estate work made him prosperous and are noted in later newspaper articles. Around this time he was also involved in founding Broad Avenue Presbyterian Church. Whether he had ever co-owned Dollar Island Camp or not, he had certainly sold any interest to his brother by September 25, 1894, when a deed was issued by William Seward Webb to Edward S. Gaylord of the City of New Haven, and State of Connecticut for the island and "the right and privilege to take and use the waters of any spring or stream upon Lot number One hundred and thirty-seven (137), on the northerly shore of said Fourth Lake ... by means of vessels. (This right was not exclusive, and the current access to Dollar Island from the north shore is in a different place.)"³⁴

Right after this deed are two more dated September 25, 1894 – the first conveying Dollar Island to Dr. Paul Skiff, a homeopathic physician in New Haven, and the second conveying Dollar Island from Dr. Skiff back to Dr. Gaylord's wife. All three deeds were not registered in Hamilton County until October 19 and November 3, 1900.³⁵ Whatever the reason for these transactions, Dr. Gaylord took back Dollar Island after his wife's death in 1911 and held it for the rest of his life. He rose to become vice-president of the National Dental Association in 1900 and president in 1910 and continued to practice dentistry until he died at age 86 in 1926.³⁶

He was highly respected by his profession, which eulogized his contributions:

³² "Local Brevities," *Owego Evening Blade* (September 8, 1885).

³³ "At the Secretary of State's Office," *Albany Morning Express* (December 12, 1882); "Twentieth Annual Statement," *Binghamton Press* (February 16, 1907), 5. Both enterprises outlived him, but the furniture company is not mentioned again.

³⁴ Deed of Sale from William Seward Webb and Eliza Osgood Webb to Edward S. Gaylord, July 5, 1894 (recorded November 3, 1900), Hamilton County, New York, Deed Book 36, 384-387.

³⁵ Deed of Sale from Edward S. Gaylord to Paul C. Skiff, September 25, 1894 (recorded October 19, 1900), Hamilton County, New York, Deed Book 36, 387-389; Deed of Sale from Paul C. Skiff to Harriet B. Gaylord, September 25, 1894 (recorded October 19, 1900), Hamilton County, New York, Deed Book 36, 390-392. According to the *New York Times* ("The New-Haven Opera House Burned," July 6, 1893), Dr. Skiff had recently suffered a major loss when the New Haven Opera House (which he owned) burned; it was only partially covered by insurance.

³⁶ "Dr. Gaylord A Vice President," *New Haven Register* (July 27, 1900), 1; "Obituary: Dr. Edward S. Gaylord," *The Dental Cosmos*, 68:3 (March 1926), 310-311.

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Entering the profession before the days of legislative control of its requirements for practice, Dr. Gaylord became an outstanding figure in the development of the vocation into a profession. He was from the beginning of his career actively engaged in establishing dentistry upon a dignified plan as a branch of the great healing art. ... His constancy and his loyalty to his profession brought him into close relationship with the leaders of dentistry, and his nobility of character and charming personality enabled him to exert an influence for good in the councils of his state and national bodies through a long period of years.³⁷

A neighbor, Dr. William Lyon Phelps of Yale University, also contributed a personal perspective to Dr. Gaylord's obituary:

... the doctor was a man as well as a dentist. In his brief summer vacations he went into the woods, and when he could get a fortnight of leisure in the autumn, he went shooting with boon companions. He loved sport, he loved men and he loved dogs. Indeed, I think his absorption in his profession, combined with his love of congenial company in primitive camp life, was unusual, for he was always a good fellow.³⁸



Figure 13. Dr. Gaylord at Dollar Island Camp, early 20th century. (Inlet Historical Society).

In 1886, the *New Haven Register* noted that Dr. Gaylord was headed to the Adirondacks to fish with the president of the New Haven Kennel Club (with whom he apparently shared his love for sport and dogs) as well as a lawyer and a baker.³⁹ In 1889, during the period when “wheelmen” were pushing local governments to improve roads, he was arrested for violating city ordinances by “bicycling on the sidewalk.”⁴⁰

Dr. Gaylord had married Harriet Babcock Taylor in 1874 – “a woman of unbounded enthusiasm and ... quick to take an active interest in whatever promised to be of concern or value to the community.”⁴¹ She shows up in newspaper articles covering New Haven's social scene, but was also the recipient of the third 1894 deed and accompanied Dr. Gaylord on his annual trips to Dollar Island Camp until her death in 1911. A later newspaper story suggests the attraction of the island may have held for them both:

As we look over the lake from our porch we see two islands a short distance out, one is known as Dollar island because so round and small, and is the summer home of a wealthy gentleman, who certainly is not troubled by his wife hanging over the back fence gossiping [sic] with her neighbors, for how could she?⁴²

³⁷ “Obituary,” 310.

³⁸ “Obituary,” 311.

³⁹ “Going Fishing,” *New Haven Register* (May 12, 1886), 4.

⁴⁰ “Expensive Bicycling,” *New Haven Register* (May 13, 1889), 1.

⁴¹ “Mrs. Edward S. Gaylord,” *New Haven Register* (circa 1911). (From Scrapbook at New Haven Historical Society).

⁴² “In the Adirondacks,” *Interlaken Review* (August 30, 1918).

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Edith I. Smith (Second Owner)

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Figure 14. Edith Smith at Dollar Island Camp, circa 1940s. Note the floating dock below. (Inlet Historical Society).

the numerous orchestras that played at the hotels around Fourth Lake during the summer. The orchestras' music would blend in a swirl of sweet sounds that were enjoyed by the Dollar Island listeners.⁴³

Edith Smith contributed other stories about visits with summer people on the shore of Fourth Lake. Frank Anderson was a piano manufacturer from New Jersey, who bought his property from Dr. Webb at the same time as Dr. Gaylord. The Andersons would throw parties and masquerades at Eagle Bay for their neighbors, lighting the woods with Japanese lanterns. Enrico Caruso came for a visit – probably in the early 1920s. His voice was so strong that everyone around the lake had a free concert.⁴⁴

At Dr. Gaylord's death, Edith Smith inherited \$10,000, Dollar Island, and the entire contents of the camp. She continued to spend her summers in Inlet, sometimes inviting one or more friends to stay with her. Clara O'Brien reported that local residents knew and supported Edith Smith:

⁴³ Clara V. O'Brien, *God's Country: Eagle Bay Area/Fourth Lake in the Heart of the Adirondacks* (Sylvan Beach, NY: North Country Books: 1982), 150. Although O'Brien mentions a Brunswick phonograph, the only phonograph that remains in the camp is a Pathé Victrola from the same period.

⁴⁴ O'Brien, 151.

By the time of the above newspaper article, it was not Harriet B. Gaylord who was vacationing at Dollar Island Camp with Dr. Gaylord – it was Edith I. Smith, a nurse half his age. Edith Smith appears in the 1920 Federal Census, living with Dr. Gaylord at his home/office in New Haven as his housekeeper. She was born in England and immigrated to the United States in 1904 before she was twenty. She does not show up in the New Haven census records for 1910 (when Harriet Gaylord was still alive), but she lived and worked in the city from at least 1915 until her death in 1966; city directories list her profession as nurse.

Edith Smith was first employed by Dr. Gaylord in 1915 when he was in his 70s. She accompanied him on his trips, and some newspapers misidentified her as “Mrs. Gaylord.” However, she also participated in a variety of social events in New Haven, where other papers noted she was a single woman.

Clara O'Brien talked with her about her time on the island with Dr. Gaylord and the entertainments they enjoyed:

They had a rather large dock and when they had company, the doctor would get out his Brunswick [sic] phonograph and records and set it up outside. The guests would dance on the dock to the phonograph music. Another entertainment was for chairs to be brought on the dock, where all would sit and listen to

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... [Besides 34 years of ownership] she of course had spent summers there as Dr. Gaylord's nurse and housekeeper from 1915, making a total of 45 years on the island. Edith Smith loved Dollar Island and braved the hazards of living alone there without electricity. The people of Eagle Bay and Inlet were aware of Miss Smith's situation and knew when she was on the island alone. Whenever she needed something, she would hang a tablecloth or sheet on a pole in her small yard to attract attention of local boaters, who always responded to her call for help.⁴⁵

For her part, she maintained Dollar Island Camp as it had been built and bequeathed to her.

CRITERION C: ARCHITECTURE⁴⁶

Dollar Island is a classic Adirondack camp, built at a time when the area was developing a unique style to appeal to visitors and summer people. In less than twenty years – from 1870 to 1890 – the type of “wilderness experience” people craved had changed from a group of young men paddling with a guide through the Fulton Chain, hunting their own venison, eating steaks cooked over an open fire, and sleeping under a bark shanty to families of men, women, and children staying at a hotel, fishing from the dock, picnicking, and bowling. Dollar Island was built in 1885 during this transition and meets Craig Gilborn's criteria for a “transitional camp.”⁴⁷ It combines the simplicity of early guide hotels with the intentional rusticity developed by William West Durant between 1877 and 1900 at the first Adirondack Great Camp, Camp Pine Knot (NR Listed, 1986; NHL, 2004).

Some of this simplicity was inevitable. Gilborn notes the problem of building structures for summer people in an area without reliable infrastructure:

Transitional camps were a nineteenth-century phenomenon for the most part, combining the needs of city people who purchased a small tract on the water in September and wanted a building or two on it by early summer. They were accommodated, of course, by workmen willing to begin construction in early winter, take a furlough when the snow and cold got too deep, and resume work in spring, perhaps after mud season or the break-up of ice on the lake, so material could be floated on boats to the site. There were dozens of variations to the problem of how camps got built, aggravated by short building seasons and long winters....⁴⁸



Figure 15. “Hess” on ceiling boards, second floor, Dollar Island Camp, 2016.

Dollar Island Camp was probably built with wood brought from shore; the island is too small to hold enough tall, straight trees for the logs, and the milled wood is marked with Hess's name – presumably by a nearby sawmill. However, the way this wood was prepared also reflects the expectations of Dr. Gaylord, a city person from New Haven. The logs are substantial and evenly trimmed, with notching around windows and doors to increase the light.

⁴⁵ O'Brien, 149.

⁴⁶ Note: Most of this information is taken from Chapters 7 and 8 of Craig Gilborn's *Adirondack Camps*.

⁴⁷ Gilborn, 119.

⁴⁸ Gilborn, 120.

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Another feature of earlier Adirondack construction – brought into transitional and later Adirondack styles – is the spatial division of living functions, first established in guide camps where separate tents or shanties accommodated socializing, sleeping, eating, cooking, and food storage. On Dollar Island, the first floor of the main section is used for socializing; the second floor for sleeping; the enclosed porch between the main section and kitchen for eating; the kitchen itself for cooking; and the shed for storage. The main section holds six bedrooms, all small with no space wasted on a large bedroom for the owner. However, the number of bedrooms suggests that the camp was intended to house large parties (or a large family).

Vernacular design elements like these emerged from the nature of the materials available to Adirondack builders and from the styles of the first- and second-generation buildings constructed by local people as the area was settled. But, the urban owners' perspectives also played a part, and they were influenced by the Arts and Crafts Movement and the emerging ethos of the Great Camps, under development at the same time. In 1903, Harvey Ellis (one of four designers for Stickley) described the moral core of the “decorous camp”:

... any “decorous shelter” must combine two things – the ‘privacy and the many domestic comforts which our civilization has changed from luxuries to necessities,’ as well as the openness and freedom of the tent and accessibility to the outdoors. It must be immune from outdoor pests, like flies and mosquitos, and offer occupants opportunity to withdraw ‘absolutely from the outer world.’ The lodge or camp should not be expensive, and it should be built of material from and near the site; if this is done, the camp will be – as “it should be,” both “honest and sincere, frankly direct in its purpose and methods.”⁴⁹

Gilborn concludes:

... persons of sense and sensibility needed a measure of comfort if only to take stock of the beauties of nature around them. The answer was the decorous camp – neither hovel nor palace, but a safe and dry place whose proximity to nature would nourish its occupants.⁵⁰

Dollar Island Camp displays this combination of openness and freedom, with privacy and domestic comfort. The large living room and porch are for socializing and communing with nature, but the bedrooms are small and simple, intended for little more than sleep – just like a tent.

Everything is on a smaller scale at Dollar Island Camp than at a Great Camp, but it shares many features with the mature style. Gilborn lists the following elements that he attributes to professional architects working with Durant and other wealthy owners in the period 1885 to 1920. However, Fred Hess and Dr. Edward Gaylord had already incorporated many of them in Dollar Island Camp in 1885 working on their own:

- More daylight: Four six-over-six windows in Dollar Island Camp provide a great deal of light to the living room in the main section; these windows are also situated so that the porch does not obscure the view. Nonetheless, the small bedrooms generally only have one window; while that window is relatively large, lighting in the bedrooms is somewhat dim.
- More space: The main section is quite tall, providing 8' ceilings on both floors. The living room in the main section takes up half the first floor, and the central corridor promotes an easy flow through the

⁴⁹ Gilborn, 162.

⁵⁰ Gilborn, 163.

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building, spilling out to the porch.

- Public-privacy divisions and camp layout: Dollar Island Camp consists of two separate sections connected by a large, wrap-around porch. Gilborn notes that using porches to consolidate a multi-building plan is a hallmark of the permanent Great Camps. He cites the plan of Camp Santanoni – “clustering five independent buildings but connecting them by a continuous porch and roof.”⁵¹
- Living and dining areas: Dining rooms (or buildings) were built at the greatest of the Great Camps but, more often, Gilborn notes that dining was informal. The dining porch at Dollar Island Camp is also found in the Clubhouse at Eagle Nest, but is a relatively rare design feature.
- Veranda or porch: In the mid-to-late 19th century, porches were common in tourist accommodation in the Adirondacks but not in family residences or rough camps. Illustrations in Gilborn’s *Adirondack Camps* show the distinction between the rough-built log cabins of settlers (or squatters on state or railroad land) and purposely picturesque “camps” and hotels for tourists and summer people. As mentioned above, the broad, open porch/ veranda unified functionally divided buildings and was a key feature of the “decorous camp.”
- Indoor recreation: Gilborn notes the size of living rooms relative to the other spaces in a permanent camp. In part, this was intended to foster sociability, but it also gave people space for indoor, rainy-day recreation. Dollar Island Camp had its phonograph on a built-in shelf in the living room, and the mantel over the stove has a fine collection of decorated shelf fungi – but the camp would nonetheless seem pretty small after a few days of bad weather.
- Bedrooms: The six bedrooms at Dollar Island Camp can accommodate large parties but each room is small and – in all but one case – lit by a single window. Gilborn could be describing Dollar Island Camp when he notes that, “Guest rooms at most camps were plain and functional, as if to convey a message to occupants to be up and about.... Simplicity prevailed at camps with minimal space and few frills: a double bed or twin beds, a chest of drawers, mirror, and a night table and lamp, but not much else. Closets sometimes seem to have been an afterthought at camps, since some closets were created by partitioning a corner of the room.”⁵²
- Furniture: Factory-made furniture was acceptable at an Adirondack camp, but rustic furniture was used initially in many camps – perhaps built by the guides to go with the buildings. Simple chairs, tables, and benches might be made to fit the bedrooms, kitchen, or porch. Living and dining room furniture was made of steamed saplings or had applied twig designs. Dollar Island Camp has a few pieces of furniture that may date to the late nineteenth century when Dr. Gaylord first furnished the camp. His will bequeathed Edith Smith the “entire contents” of Dollar Island Camp.

A final feature that pervades Gilborn’s study of Adirondack camps is the way rustic wood decoration on buildings (as well as in furniture) expresses a particularly “American” ethos. Dollar Island Camp’s porch posts and railings, shed gable, and kitchen trim show how simple natural materials were treated in sophisticated ways in Adirondack buildings.⁵³

⁵¹ Gilborn, 169.

⁵² Gilborn, 182-183.

⁵³ Note that Dollar Island’s decoration may have been added sometime after construction. Figure 11 shows Fred Herr on Dollar Island with a rifle and a buck – but it also shows the porch of Dollar Island Camp without decorative railings.

Dollar Island Camp

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Figure 16. Porch posts and railings, 2016.



Figure 17: Shed gable end, with decorative pattern, 2016.



Figure 18:
Twig design,
end of kitchen
porch, 2016.

AFTER 1960

Edith I. Smith sold Dollar Island Camp to Frank Vogt on September 9, 1960. As a young man, Vogt helped save the building after sparks from a fire on Cedar Island landed on the Dollar Island Camp roof. He had been working for Captain George Dallard of Eagle Bay and, after rescuing boys from the camp and taking them to the shore, he went to check on Dollar Island. He climbed the roof and stopped the incipient fire. During his tenure, Vogt added a six-volt battery system for emergency lighting (along with propane for refrigeration and cooking), and may have added the bathroom.⁵⁴

Jean Vogt inherited the property from her husband after his death in 1981 and sold it to Dennis and Rosemary Smith on October 4, 1984. They brought in another couple as co-owners and sold it to themselves as the Dollar Island Company on May 24, 1986. The deck at the southwest corner of the island was added at this time. The Dollar Island Company sold the camp to the current owners on August 26, 2003. They have added solar-powered LED lighting and a pressurized water storage system. All of Dollar Island Camp's owners have recognized the charm and significance of the building and have sought to preserve it and the late-nineteenth century concept of wilderness tourism it embodies.

⁵⁴ O'Brien, 150.

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SUMMARY

Overall, Dollar Island Camp manifests the transitional style of Adirondack design that came into existence in the 1880s and early 1890s on the Fulton Chain. Once William Seward Webb's railroad made access to the wilderness easier, the type of people who vacationed in the Adirondacks changed. Higher standards of comfort were expected in accommodation; more sophistication was expected in design and finish. Fred Hess constructed the building using his knowledge of tourists acquired as a guide and hotel keeper on neighboring Cedar Island. Dollar Island Camp is not a Great Camp but it is the camp of a relatively wealthy dentist from New Haven, who enjoyed his fishing and dancing on the dock with his house guests and other summer people. At first, Dr. Gaylord lived at the camp with his wife Harriet; after her death in 1911, his housekeeper and nurse Edith Smith made it possible for him to continue coming to the camp until his death in 1926. She inherited the building and continued to spend her summers on Fourth Lake until she sold the camp in 1960. Both owners maintained the building as constructed in 1885, as did subsequent owners after 1960. Thus Dollar Island Camp reflects the social life of Fourth Lake after the Civil War, up to the late nineteenth-century development of the hamlet of Inlet as a tourism center. Further, the four people most associated with the camp – land developer Willard Seward Webb, builder Fred Hess, and owners Dr. Edward Gaylord and Edith I Smith – are emblematic of the strong and symbiotic relationship between entrepreneurs, local residents, and summer people in this part of Hamilton County from 1885 to 1960.

Dollar Island Camp
Name of Property

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Dollar Island Camp

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Censuses

US Federal Census: 1850, 1860, 1870, 1880, 1890, 1900, 1910, 1920, 1930, 1940, 1950.

New York State Census: 1875, 1905.

Dollar Island Camp
Name of Property

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Archives and Original Sources

Adirondack Museum, Blue Mountain Lake, NY.
Hamilton County Records Office. Lake Pleasant, NY.
Herkimer County Records Office, Herkimer, NY.
New Haven Historical Society, New Haven, CT.
Inlet Historical Society, Inlet, NY.

Photo Credits

“Cedar Island” [Trade Card]. Adirondack Museum, 13997.
“Dollar Island, Fourth Lake, Adirondacks” [Postcard #1179]. NY: Moore & Gibson Co., [early 1900s].
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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 # _____
 recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

State Historic Preservation Office
 Other State agency
 Federal agency
 Local government
 University
 Other
Name of repository: Inlet Historical Society

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

Dollar Island Camp
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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property .26
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

UTM References
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 18N 515637E 4845297N
Zone Easting Northing

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary coincides with the heavy line on the enclosed map.



Boundary Justification

The boundary encompasses the lot historically and currently associated with Dollar Island Camp.

Dollar Island Camp
Name of Property

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Dollar Island Camp
Inlet, Hamilton Co., NY

100 Dollar Island
Inlet, NY 13360



Eagle Bay, NY
Quadrangle

Dollar Island
Camp

Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 18N
Projection: Transverse Mercator
Datum: North American 1983
Units: Meter

1:24,000
1 in = 2,000 ft

0 650 1,300 2,600 Feet



Dollar Island Camp
Name of Property

Hamilton County, NY
County and State

Dollar Island Camp
Inlet, Hamilton Co., NY

100 Dollar Island
Inlet, NY 13360



Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 18N
Projection: Transverse Mercator
Datum: North American 1983
Units: Meter

1:12,000
1 in = 1,000 ft



Dollar Island Camp
Name of Property

Hamilton County, NY
County and State

Dollar Island Camp
Inlet, Hamilton Co., NY

100 Dollar Island
Inlet, NY 13360

$\Sigma = .26$ Acres



Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 18N
Projection: Transverse Mercator
Datum: North American 1983
Units: Meter

1:24,000
1 in = 2,000 ft
0 650 1,300 2,600 Feet



Dollar Island Camp
Name of Property

Hamilton County, NY
County and State

Dollar Island Camp
Inlet, Hamilton Co., NY

100 Dollar Island
Inlet, NY 13360



$\Sigma = .26$ Acres

515637E 4845297N

Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 18N
Projection: Transverse Mercator
Datum: North American 1983
Units: Meter

1:10,000
1 in = 833 ft



Dollar Island Camp
Name of Property

Hamilton County, NY
County and State

Dollar Island Camp
Inlet, Hamilton Co., NY

100 Dollar Island
Inlet, NY 13360

$\Sigma = .26$ Acres



Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 18N
Projection: Transverse Mercator
Datum: North American 1983
Units: Meter

1:2,000
1 in = 167 ft



Dollar Island Camp
Name of Property

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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Emilie W. Gould (Historic Preservation Program Analyst)
organization NYS Office of Parks, Recreation, & Historic Preservation date November 15, 2016
street & number PO Box 189 telephone 518-268-2201
city or town Waterford state NY zip code 12188
e-mail Emilie.Gould@parks.ny.gov

Dollar Island Camp
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Additional Documentation



Detail from 1989 Topographical Map showing Eagle Bay (Herkimer County) and Dollar Island and Inlet (both Hamilton County).



Detail from 2016 Google Map for Dollar Island.

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Figures:

- Figure 1. “Dollar Island, Fourth Lake, Adirondacks” [Postcard #1179], (NY: Moore & Gibson Co., [early 1900s]).
- Figure 2. Façade (west elevation) of Dollar Island Camp, 2016.
- Figure 3. Detail of log corner, main section, 2016.
- Figure 4. North elevation, showing enclosed end of porch and connection between main section and kitchen, 2016.
- Figure 5. East elevation, showing main section and kitchen with attached shed (at right) and dock, 2016.
- Figure 6. Dollar Island Camp, first floor.
- Figure 7. Dollar Island Camp, second floor.
- Figure 8. “Map of Township No. 8, John Brown’s Tract.” (New York State Archives, Dept. of Environmental Conservation, Verplanck Colvin maps of the Adirondack wilderness, B1405-96, SARA No. 179.)
- Figure 9. Dr. William Seward Webb. (Commons.wikipedia.org)
- Figure 10. David Woods (surveyor), *Map of Allotment Bordering 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Lakes, Fulton Chain*, (1893). (Herkimer County Map Book 8, Page 15, Part 1 & 2). (Courtesy Herkimer County Record’s Office).
- Figure 11. Fred Hess at Dollar Island Camp, circa 1890. Note the unfinished porch railings. (Inlet Historical Society).
- Figure 12. Dr. Edward F. Gaylord. (Photo from Dollar Island Camp).
- Figure 13. Dr. Gaylord at Dollar Island Camp, early 20th century. (Inlet Historical Society).
- Figure 14. Edith Smith at Dollar Island Camp, circa 1940s. Note the floating dock below. (Inlet Historical Society).
- Figure 15. “Hess” on ceiling boards, second floor, Dollar Island Camp, 2016.
- Figure 16. Porch posts and railings, 2016.
- Figure 17. Shed gable end, with decorative pattern, 2016.
- Figure 18. Twig design, end of kitchen porch, 2016.

Dollar Island Camp
Name of Property

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Photographs:

Name of Property: Dollar Island Camp

City or Vicinity: Inlet

County: Hamilton

State: New York

Photographer: Emilie W. Gould (except where noted)

Date Photographed: October 25, 2016

Description of Photograph(s) and number: 22 Photographs.

- 0001. Dollar Island Camp, Main Section, Façade (West Elevation).
 - 0002. Dollar Island Camp, North Elevation. Note enclosed section of porch on main section, bathroom (extreme left), and kitchen.
 - 0003. Kitchen Wing, East and South Elevations. Note trim under porch roof; similar trim was originally used under the porch itself.
 - 0004. Main Section, East Elevation. Note enclosed porch on right.
 - 0005. Main Section, South Elevation.
 - 0006. Kitchen, East Elevation, Gable End.
 - 0007. Main Section, Detail of Log Corner Construction.
 - 0008. Main Section, North Elevation, Detail of Porch Railings.
 - 0009. Porch Construction.
 - 0010. Shed, East Elevation, Detail of Gable End.
 - 0011. Kitchen, Detail of Porch Trim.
 - 0012. Main Section, North Elevation, Storm Shutter.
 - 0013. Main Section, Interior, Living Room.
 - 0014. Main Section, Interior, Stove Mantel. Note stove removed for storage.
 - 0015. Main Section, Interior, First Floor Hall, Looking East. (Photo by Marc Messing, August, 2016).
 - 0016. Main Section, Interior, First Floor, Bedroom 2. (Photo by Marc Messing, August, 2016).
 - 0017. Main Section, Interior, Second Floor, Upstairs Hall (looking East).
 - 0018. Main Section, Interior, Second Floor, Upstairs Bedroom 4. Note hewn inner surfaces of exterior logs.
 - 0019. Main Section, Interior, Second Floor, Upstairs Bedroom 1, Closet and Stairs to Attic.
 - 0020. Main Section, Attic.
 - 0021. Kitchen. (Photo by Marc Messing, August, 2016).
 - 0022. Kitchen Loft. Note raised roof ties.
-

Dollar Island Camp
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Photo Keys

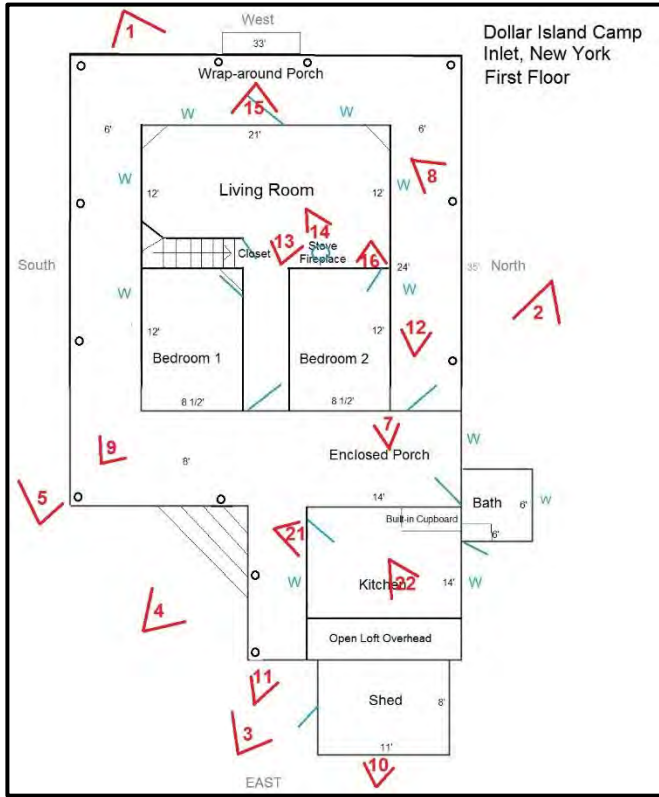


Photo Key 1: Dollar Island Camp, first floor.

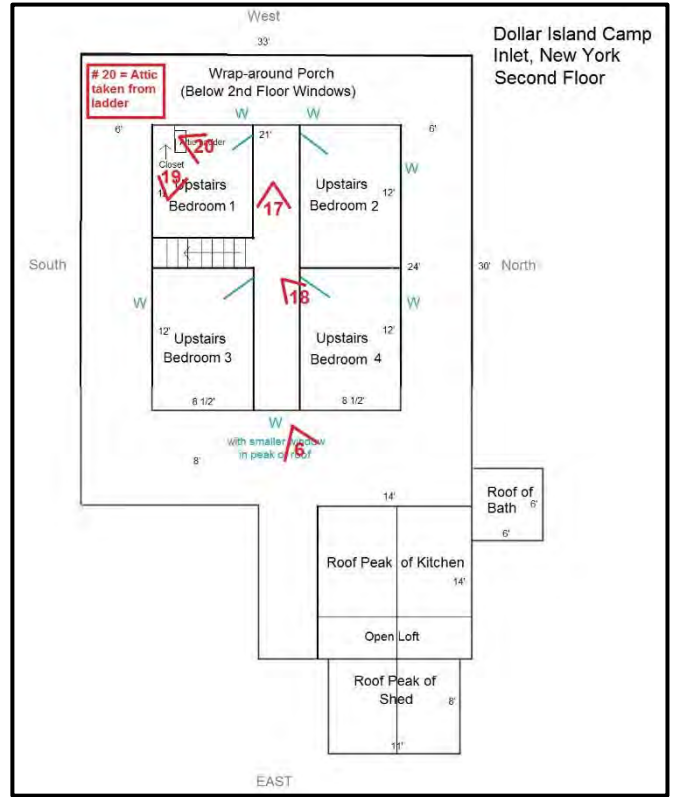


Photo Key 2: Dollar Island Camp, second floor.

Property Owner:

name _____
 street & number _____ telephone _____
 city or town _____ state NY zip code _____

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.













































UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:

Property Name:

Multiple Name:

State & County:

Date Received: Date of Pending List: Date of 16th Day: Date of 45th Day: Date of Weekly List:

Reference number:

Nominator:

Reason For Review:

Accept Return Reject Date

Abstract/Summary
Comments:

Recommendation/
Criteria

Reviewer Alexis Abernathy Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2236 Date _____

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.



**Parks, Recreation
and Historic Preservation**

ANDREW M. CUOMO
Governor

ROSE HARVEY
Commissioner



24 February 2017

Alexis Abernathy
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places
1201 Eye St. NW, 8th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20005

Re: National Register Nomination

Dear Ms. Abernathy:

I am pleased to submit the following four nominations, all on disc, to be considered for listing by the Keeper of the National Register:

Lincoln Park, Albany County
Bleecker Stadium and Swinburn Park, Albany County
Dollar Island Camp, Hamilton County
Nelson Methodist Episcopal Church, Madison County

Please feel free to call me at 518.268.2165 if you have any questions.

Sincerely:

Kathleen LaFrank
National Register Coordinator
New York State Historic Preservation Office