

MP3222



**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.

**1. Name of Property**

Historic name: Camp Marbury Historic District

Other names/site number: 243, 245 and 293 Mile Point Road

Name of related multiple property listing:

Organized Summer Camping in Vermont

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

**2. Location**

Street & number: 243, 245 and 293 Mile Point Road

City or town: Ferrisburgh State: VT County: Addison

Not For Publication  n/a

Vicinity:  n/a

**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

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A    B X C    D

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<i>Laura P. Reschmann / SHPO</i>	<i>10/23/18</i>
<b>Signature of certifying official/Title:</b>	<b>Date</b>
<i>Vermont Division for Historic Preservation</i>	
<b>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</b>	

In my opinion, the property <u>meets</u> does not meet the National Register criteria.	
<b>Signature of commenting official:</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>Title :</b> <b>State or Federal agency/bureau</b> <b>or Tribal Government</b>	

**4. National Park Service Certification**

I hereby certify that this property is:

- 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:)

*[Handwritten Signature]*  
Signature of the Keeper

*12-6-2018*  
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

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**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	
<u>9</u>	<u>4</u>	buildings
<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	sites
<u>1</u>	<u>          </u>	structures
<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	objects
<u>10</u>	<u>4</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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## 6. Function or Use

### Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

RECREATION AND CULTURE: Outdoor Recreation

### Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

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## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE 19<sup>th</sup> AND EARLY 20<sup>th</sup> CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS: Bungalow/Craftsman

OTHER: Rustic

**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: wood, stone, novelty siding, asphalt shingle.

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### **Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

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### **Summary Paragraph**

Camp Marbury comprises approximately 7.3 acres and is located on the eastern shore of Lake Champlain in the town of Ferrisburgh, Vermont.<sup>1</sup> The camp is surrounded by woodlands to the north and south, agricultural land to the east, and is bounded by the lake to the west. Directly south of Camp Marbury is the Basin Harbor Club, a summer resort founded in the 1890s, and the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum, an educational and research facility founded in 1986. To the north, the lakeshore is lightly developed with private camps scattered along Mile Point Road. All the buildings at Camp Marbury have views of the lake through the woods. Much of the landscape is open meadow and mowed lawns, with mature coniferous and deciduous trees providing shade near most of the buildings.

Camp Marbury operated as a private summer camp for girls ages 8-16 from 1921 until 1942. The camp was founded by two couples with backgrounds in the education of young women: Henry and Mary Sleeper of Smith College, Northampton, Massachusetts, and Henry and Helen Worthington of Sweet Briar College, Sweet Briar, Virginia. Henry and Mary Sleeper had previously worked at the Aloha Camp for girls in Fairlee, Vermont, and Helen Worthington at the Tahoma Camp for girls in Pike, New Hampshire.<sup>2</sup> Camp Marbury offered outdoor activities such as swimming, canoeing, tennis, field games, horseback riding, and basketball, as well as a range of indoor activities including jewelry making, camp crafts, and drama. Music was a particular focus of the camp, as Henry Sleeper was a professor of music at Smith College. The camp operated through the 1942 season and then ran as an adult camp for a year or two. The buildings were auctioned off for use as private summer homes in 1945. The former camp property contains a cohesive complex of buildings designed in the Adirondack Rustic and Bungalow styles, most of which were constructed during the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, from c. 1900 to c. 1942. The well-preserved structures represent a significant example of a private girls' summer camp built

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<sup>1</sup> Early newspaper accounts of the founding of the camp erroneously state that it is in the city of Vergennes.

<sup>2</sup> "Vergennes Will Have Girls' Summer Camp," *The Middlebury Register*, March 11, 1921, p. 2.

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and operated during the period when the children's camping movement in Vermont was at its peak. Camp Marbury retains integrity of setting, location, materials, design, workmanship, association, and feeling.

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### **Narrative Description**

The buildings and structures at Camp Marbury represent a variety of architectural styles that are common to early 20<sup>th</sup> century youth summer camps in Vermont. Most of the camp buildings exhibit Adirondack Rustic or Bungalow-style detailing in their casement windows, exposed rafter tails and stone chimneys. They were designed and built with a simple and utilitarian forms and materials and intended for summer use as evidenced by the lack of insulation and exposed wall framing on the interior. Most of the buildings remain in their original locations, and remain grouped together as they were when Camp Marbury was operational. The interiors retain defining historic materials such as woodwork, flooring, exposed ceilings, wall surfaces, stone fireplaces, and stair railings.

Along with the buildings, several landscape features associated with Camp Marbury remain intact. The buildings are set in a row along the tree-shaded edge of a steep bank along the shore of Lake Champlain and a common open space links the east elevations of the buildings together. There is a narrow, tree-shaded, north-south trail along the lakeshore that connected the shacks, tents, and other camp-related buildings. To the east of the camp structures is an open field with scattered stands of trees that formerly held that camp's basketball court and Junior and Senior tennis courts. There is a second open field, which had a baseball field, archery range, and a riding ring located on the eastern portion of the property. There is a dirt road circling the fields and reflecting historic road patterns. The road was used for horseback riding as well as pedestrian and vehicular access. The western portion of this dirt drive is tree-shaded and gated off, accessible by foot only. A hedgerow of deciduous trees and shrubs stands along the eastern edge of this drive. Throughout the property there are pathways lined with log handrails.



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Figure 1. General view of the camp landscape, with the Main Cottage (HD #1) in the center, undated photograph. Courtesy of the Vermont Historical Society.



Figure 2. General view of the camp landscape, showing the archery range in the foreground and tennis court in the background, undated photograph. Courtesy of the Vermont Historical Society.

The property contains 13 buildings and a tennis court arranged in a linear manner comprising three different tax parcels. The Main Cottage (HD #1) and Assembly Hall (HD



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#4), the two primary administrative and/or public buildings, are located at the northern portion of the camp. Additional service buildings such as the Boathouse (HD #14) and Jewelry House (HD #3) are also located nearby. Historically, the junior camper buildings and the infirmary were located on the southern portion of the property. A long, expansive lawn on the east side and a trail on the west side of the property connects the buildings. The tennis courts south of the Main Cottage and Assembly Hall divide the main parcel from the two southern parcels. The northern parcel retains much of its integrity as the historic buildings and road system are intact as well as the open spaces. There is one new building (HD #6) and one camp building that has been relocated and expanded (HD #5). South of the tennis courts are two new buildings (HD #11 and #13), two historic camper cabins (HD #9 and #10) and a washhouse (HD #12).

**1. Main Cottage, 293 Mile Point Road, c. 1900, contributing building**

This is a 2½ story, wood frame, tri-gable ell residential building. It has one-story, shed roof, screened-in porches on the south and east elevations. The western, lakeside elevation has a one story, shed roof addition. The building is clad with both narrow and wide novelty siding, corner boards, and 6/6 and 2/2 double hung sash and multi-pane casement windows. The asphalt shingle roof has decorative, scroll-sawn rafter tails at the wide overhanging eaves, and a stone exterior chimney rising along the north elevation. There is a shed roof dormer on the east and south elevations. The second floor of the building originally projected over the first floor on the east elevation, creating a sheltered porch with columns on the first floor. This space was enclosed and a new front porch added c. 1926.

The Sleepers purchased this building in 1921 and it was the first building associated with Camp Marbury. The previous owner of the property, L.F. Benton, used the cottage as a seasonal retreat. While its exact date of construction is not known, there are references to its existence in the local newspaper as early as 1890. As additional camp facilities were built, this building became the dining hall. When the camp was not in operation, this building was the primary residence for the Sleeper family. The building is sheltered by trees and stands near the edge of the bank overlooking the lakeshore. The camp's waterfront area, with boathouse, docks, canoes, and swimming areas, is located along the shore at the base of the bank. There is a wide grassy yard between the building and the narrow tree-lined road to the east.

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Figure 3. Main Cottage (HD #1), undated photograph  
Courtesy of the Vermont Historical Society.



Figure 4. Main Cottage (HD #1), undated photograph  
Courtesy of the Vermont Historical Society.

**2. Garage, 293 Mile Point Road, c. 1920, contributing building**

This is a one story, gable front, one bay garage. It faces south and trees shelter the building. The building rests on a concrete slab and has a modern overhead door offset to the right, wide novelty siding, and simple corner boards. There is a wide grassy yard between the building and the narrow tree-lined road to the east.

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### 3. Jewelry Shop, 293 Mile Point Road, c. 1927, contributing building

This is a one story, Adirondack Rustic style, gable roofed building. Designed by architect Paul Thayer of Wallingford, VT, this building served as Camp Marbury's jewelry shop. It has horizontal flush board siding with applied half-log timbers defining the sills, corner boards, and window frames. Round-log rafter tails project underneath the wide overhanging eaves. The asphalt shingle roof is asymmetrically pitched, and the northern slope of the roof features large skylights to provide consistent daylighting for the jewelry making activities that took place inside. There are pairs of nine-pane casement windows on the south and east elevations. The entry is located on the west, lakeside end of the building and contains a door with nine lights over three vertical panels. Two narrow, three-pane windows flank the door. The building is set in the trees along the edge of the bank above the lakeshore. There is a wide grassy yard between the building and the narrow tree-lined road to the east.



Figure 5. Jewelry Shop (HD #3), undated photograph  
Courtesy of the Vermont Historical Society.



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Figure 6. Jewelry Shop (HD #3), undated photograph.  
Courtesy of the Vermont Historical Society.

#### **4. Assembly Building, 293 Mile Point Road, c. 1925, contributing building**

This is a one story, rectangular, eaves-front, gable roofed, Adirondack Rustic style building. It was designed by Boston architect Dana Somes. The novelty sided building has corner boards and decorative exposed rafter tails on the wide overhanging eaves of the asphalt shingle roof. The structure has a distinctive stone exterior wall chimney offset to the left on the east elevation. To its right are two sets of double doors with nine panes of glass over two panels. A similar set of doors opens to the left of the chimney. The north elevation of the building has a pair of six-pane casement windows and a four-panel door. There are two pairs of 2/2 double hung windows in the gable. The south side of the building has a one story, hip roof, open porch with log posts and railing. The western, lakeside elevation has pairs of casement windows, each leaf with eight panes of glass, running along the length of the building. The rustic interior has unfinished stud walls and ceiling, and a hardwood floor. A natural finish beadboard wall separates the large, open, main room from a smaller one on the north end. An open staircase, with log railing, rises along the south side of the wall. The building rests on the edge of the bank with a steep drop to the lake below. A line of trees along the edge of the bank shelters the building. There is a wide grassy yard between the building and the narrow tree-

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lined road to the east. This building served as Camp Marbury's Senior Assembly Building.



Figure 7. Assembly Building (HD #4), undated photograph.  
Courtesy of the Vermont Historical Society.



Figure 8. Assembly Building Interior (HD #4), undated photograph.  
Courtesy of the Vermont Historical Society.



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**5. Craft Shop, 293 Mile Point Road, c. 1921, c. 1969, moved 2016, non-contributing building due to alterations.**

This is a one story, gable front building with a cross-gable ell on its south side. The original two-bay wide section of the building dates from c. 1921 and has novelty siding. The ell addition has vertical board siding and three-part windows. A shallow, shed roofed, single story, open porch spans the front elevation of the historic section. The porch has log posts and exposed rafter tails with curved ends. The historic portion of the building has a centered glass and panel front door with a small window above it in the gable. The north side has a bank of four pairs of multi-pane casement windows. The west facing side has two 2/2 double hung windows. The building is located amidst the former recreational fields. This building served as Camp Marbury's craft shop. The addition was put on c. 1969 and it was moved to its present location c. 2016.



Figure 9. Craft Shop (HD #5), undated photograph.  
Courtesy of the Vermont Historical Society.

**6. Cottage, 293 Mile Point Road, c. 2016, non-contributing building due to age**

This is a contemporary style, two-story building with a deck, horizontal white cedar siding and full glass walls facing to the west (lake) side. There is an entrance on the east elevation protected by a projecting roof. There is a string of square, single pane



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windows along the roof line. It is located on the former site of the Craft Shop (HD #5). The building is sheltered by trees and stands at the edge of the bank above the lakeshore. A grassy lawn to the east separates the building from a stand of trees and the road beyond.

**7. Shed, 293 Mile Point Road, c. 1929, contributing building**

This is a one story, one-by-two bay, gable-front shed. It faces north and has applied decorative woodwork. The building has a decorative painted, four-panel door in the front gable end and the side windows are covered with decorative painted shutters. There are also painted decorative scenes on the interior sides of the shutters. The novelty-sided building has corner boards and wide plain bargeboards at the gable ends with rounded corners. There is a projecting finial at the north gable peak in the shape of a bird's neck and head. There is undulating solid wood cresting along the ridge of the asphalt shingle roof. The building rests in the woods at the edge of the bank with a steep drop to the lake below.

**8. Tennis Courts, 293 Mile Point Road, c. 1921, contributing structure**

This tennis court is located on the same site as the senior tennis court. Although it has modern fencing and surface materials, the tennis court remains in its original location at the center of the camp. Tennis was an important activity at Camp Marbury, and another tennis court for junior campers was located immediately south of this one.

**9. Campers' Shack, 245 Mile Point Road, c. 1940, contributing building**

This is a one story, three-by-two bay, side gabled campers' shack with novelty siding, corner boards and exposed rafter tails at the wide overhanging eaves. It rests on stone piers and has an asphalt shingle roof. Centered on the east elevation is a vertical board door flanked by a screened window opening on each side. The windows have beadboard awning shutters, hinged at the top and bottom. Cords adjust the upper shutters. A modern deck extends to the west. Sheltered by a swath of trees, it rests at the top of a steep bank with the lakeshore below. The building is in an area of the camp where camp brochures from the 1930s indicated campers' platform tents were located. The building accommodated six campers and a counselor.

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Figure 10. Camper's Shack (HD #9). Undated photograph.  
Courtesy of the Vermont Historical Society.

**10. Chickadee Hollow/Junior Campers' Shack, 245 Mile Point Road, c. 1940, contributing building**

This is a one story, three-by-two bay building that rests on wood posts, has milled half-round wood siding, corner boards, wide overhanging eaves, exposed rafter tails and an asphalt shingle roof. Centered on the gable end, the front door is flanked by single windows. The windows have vertical board awning shutters, hinged at the top and adjusted by cords. The building is set in the trees on the edge of the steep bank overlooking the shore of Lake Champlain. It faces grassy lawns and a narrow dirt road. Historic photos indicate this structure was newly built in 1940 and was constructed in the junior camper area of Camp Marbury.

**11. Camp, 245 Mile Point Road, 1978, 2015, non-contributing building due to age and alteration**

This is a 1½ story, side gabled, five-by-two bay building with 2/1 double hung sash and multi-pane casement windows. The building has board and batten siding and an asphalt shingle roof. The building rests on piers with a narrow vertical board skirt. A gable roof screened porch projects eastward from the main block at the southernmost two bays and a gable roof portico protects a new entrance on the northern bay. A one story, hipped roof addition with board and batten siding extends from the northern elevation.

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A deck with a log railing extends from the southern half of the western elevation. There is a new two story gable roof addition extending from the northern portion of the west elevation.

**12. Wash House, 245 Mile Point Road, c. 1925, contributing building**

This is a one-story building with novelty siding and a shallow gable roof. Exposed rafters extend to the south creating a sheltered entry area supported by log posts and protected by log screening wall. Resting on above ground stone coursing, the building has small windows cut out under the eaves. On the northeast corner of the north elevation is a vertical board door with a diamond cutout. The building served as an outhouse and washroom.

**13. Camp, c. 1994, 245 Mile Point Road, non-contributing building due to age**

This is a 1½ story, side gabled, five-by-two bay building with 2/2 windows and wood shingle siding. The building has a concrete foundation and asphalt shingle roof with a skylight on the front (north) roof slope. An open shed roof entry porch with modern turned posts shelters the front entry at the fourth bay. There is a screened-in porch on the west elevation. The building is located near the area where the Junior Roost once stood.<sup>3</sup>

**14. Boathouse, c. 1921, contributing building**

This is a one-story building with novelty siding, simple cornerboards and a flat roof with a slight overhang. It is supported by large granite blocks at the edge of the water. There is an entrance on the south elevation. There is a balustrade made of wood timbers on the roof, and a hillside trail provides direct access to the rooftop deck.

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<sup>3</sup> The Junior Roost, built c. 1927 and designed by architect Paul Thayer, was originally constructed in the southern portion of Camp Marbury in an area that was developed for activities and accommodations for junior campers. The building was a playhouse and indoor activity center for younger campers. In the 1990s it was moved ¼ mile south to the grounds of the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum on nearby Basin Harbor Road in Ferrisburgh.

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Figure 11. Boathouse (HD #14). The west elevation of the Main House (HD #1) is visible in the upper left corner. Undated photograph. Courtesy of the Vermont Historical Society.

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## 8. Statement of Significance

### Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- 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.)

- 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.)

ARCHITECTURE

ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION

**Period of Significance**

c. 1900-1945

**Significant Dates**

1921

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

Thayer, Paul, architect

Somes, Dana, architect



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**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

Camp Marbury is being nominated for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under the Multiple Property Documentation Form *Organized Summer Camping in Vermont*, within the context of *Children's Summer Camps in Vermont, 1892 - 1953*. Camp Marbury is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A as an excellent example of a summer camp in Vermont that has made a significant contribution to the history of the children's camping movement. Camp Marbury is also eligible for the National Register under Criterion C for its architecture, built in the Adirondack Rustic style which was popular for youth camps throughout the state in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Camp Marbury retains its original lakeside setting in a rural location, and primary property subtypes such as a main house, assembly hall, cabins, washhouse, and boathouse. The Period of Significance begins in c. 1900, the date of construction of the earliest building on the property, and ends in 1945, the year the Sleepers auctioned off their camp equipment.

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**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

### **Entertainment/Recreation Significance**

Camp Marbury is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A as an excellent example of a summer camp in Vermont that has made a significant contribution to the history of the children's camping movement. Educators Henry Dike and Mary Peet Sleeper founded Camp Marbury in 1921 during the decade when the greatest number of children's camps opened in New England. The inspiration for the camp came directly from the Sleeper's experiences at Camp Aloha in Fairlee, Vermont, a private summer camp for girls established in 1905. Like their fellow Vermont camp administrators, the Sleepers felt that Camp Marbury would provide meaningful opportunities for girls during the summer that would complement traditional schooling. Using Lake Champlain and the Green Mountains as their classroom, the Sleepers provided a wide range of recreational activities, outdoor education and arts and crafts to female campers every summer. The summer camp's mission was to provide recreational and educational opportunities to the young girls, but it also addressed social concerns for the well being of children, and the emancipation of young women. Camp Marbury empowered the girls with confidence and knowledge, preparing them to be leaders in 20<sup>th</sup> century America.

### **Architectural Significance**

Camp Marbury is also eligible for the National Register under Criterion C for its architecture, built in the Adirondack Rustic style which was popular for youth camps

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throughout the state in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Camp Marbury retains its original lakeside setting in a rural location, and primary property subtypes such as a main house, assembly hall, cabins, washhouse, and boathouse. These buildings retain common architectural details such as small-scale massing, a gable or hip roof, porches, single wall construction, and wood, stone or concrete pier foundations. In addition to these elements, there are Bungalow stylistic features such as extended eaves, exposed rafter tails, and multi-light doors and windows. The buildings are further embellished by Adirondack Rustic log details such as porches and rafters, and stone fireplaces and chimneys. As such, the camp and its buildings meet the registration requirements as defined in the *Organized Summer Camping in Vermont* MPL. It is also notable that several of Camp Marbury's buildings were designed by known architects, which is unusual for such a small and simple camp facility.

### **Ferrisburgh History**

Ferrisburgh was chartered on June 24, 1762 but did not gain permanent settlers until after the American Revolution. By 1780, there were about 480 people living in town. Three years later, a large part of Ferrisburgh was parceled out to create Vergennes. These earliest settlers used the Little Otter Creek and Lewis River to connect their homesteads with Lake Champlain. Beyond Lake Champlain, there were "direct connections through to the Hudson River and New York City to the south via the Champlain Canal, and the St. Lawrence River and Montreal to the north, were of critical significance in the history of early settlement."<sup>4</sup> The Ferrisburgh soil was rich and required little tillage, while pine, cedar, oak and walnut were plentiful, often used for building. Many of the early settlers built log homes, replacing them with frame houses within a few years.<sup>5</sup> The town was officially organized between 1785 and 1786. By the end of the 18th century, Ferrisburgh was a thriving community with settlement along the lake and along the north south road between Vergennes and Burlington. At first, the town name was "Ferrissburgh" or "Ferrissborough," but the extra letters were dropped.<sup>6</sup>

In 1850 the Town of Ferrisburgh was a thriving agricultural community, and the town's population reached its 19th century high level of 2,075, thereafter declining over the next century. With its extensive frontage on Lake Champlain, Ferrisburgh became popular as a summer destination in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century with the establishment of the Basin Harbor Club resort in the 1890s. This was followed by the establishment of Camp Marbury in 1921, and the Ecole Champlain, a French summer camp for girls, in 1924. The next major period

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<sup>4</sup> Ferrisburgh Town Plan 2006-2011, Ferrisburgh, Vermont, 2011

<sup>5</sup> Cotton, Melissa, *Field Farm National Register Nomination*, National Park Service, Department of the Interior, 1995

<sup>6</sup> Ferrisburgh Town Plan 2006-2011, Ferrisburgh, Vermont, 2011

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of population increase began in the late-1960s and continues to this day, with a population of 2,650 in 2005.<sup>7</sup>

### **The Sleeper Family**

Henry Dike Sleeper was the son of William True Sleeper, a congregational minister. Born in Maine, he lived in Worcester, Massachusetts with his father and mother, Emily, and two siblings. He inherited his father's love of music, as William Sleeper wrote many hymns during his time as minister with the Summer Street Congregational Church in Worcester, Massachusetts. After his graduation from Harvard in 1889, Henry Sleeper played church music at the Hartford Theological Seminary in 1891. He was also the organist and choirmaster of the Fourth Congregational Church, Hartford, "where I have a chorus choir of fifty voices and a superb organ."<sup>8</sup> This was followed by several teaching appointments at colleges and universities: Beloit College, 1892-1894; Director of the School of Music at Georgetown College in Georgetown, Kentucky, 1894-1895; instructor of music at the University of Wisconsin's College of Letters and Science's School of Music, 1895-1898; and then a professor of music at Smith College in Northampton, Massachusetts, 1898-1924. During his time at the University of Wisconsin, Sleeper wrote and composed the official school song, "Varsity Toast." While at Smith College, Sleeper built the music program to a level where it was "a very important part both in the curriculum of the college and in its life."<sup>9</sup> During his career, he gave several addresses and lectures, including one titled 'From Motive to Masterpiece,' a study of the outlines of musical form with musical illustrations.<sup>10</sup>

Henry Sleeper's wife, Mary Peet Sleeper, was born in New Oregon, Iowa. She was active in the women's suffrage movement, serving as chairwoman of the Congressional Union Party, later called the National Woman's Party. In 1919, She edited a *Citizen's Guide* for the suffrage movement for the Boston Equal Suffrage Association for Good Government. She was also a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

The Sleeper's oldest daughter, Mary Olive Sleeper, was born February 28, 1896. She attended the Mary Burnham School, a college preparatory school for girls, from 1909-1913, and then graduated from Smith College in 1918. Her career was devoted to education, first as a teacher and later as member of the staff of Smith College and Bradford Junior College.<sup>11</sup> Their second daughter, Harriet Sleeper (known as "Miss Hat" around the camp), was born

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<sup>7</sup> Ibid.

<sup>8</sup> *Burlington Free Press*, January 19, 1920

<sup>9</sup> *Burlington Free Press*, January 19, 1920

<sup>10</sup> Wheeler, Edward W. *Harvard College Class of 1889 Secretary's Report*. Cambridge, Massachusetts, 1904.

<sup>11</sup> Sleeper Family/Camp Marbury Papers 1917-1975, Vermont Historical Society, Barre, Vermont

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in 1902 in Northampton, Massachusetts. She spent her off-seasons teaching, eventually becoming principal of the Hartridge School for Girls in Plainfield, New Jersey. Their son, William Denison Sleeper, born January 3, 1904. He graduated from Worcester Academy in 1921 and Harvard University in 1925. He received an MBA degree from Harvard Graduate School of Business Administration in 1927.

### **Camp Marbury**

Prior to opening Camp Marbury in 1921, Henry and Mary Sleeper worked as counselors at the Aloha Camps in Fairlee, Vermont. Harriet and Edward Gulick started the Aloha Camp for girls in 1905, and “the innovative camp ...pioneered a program of outdoor living, sport, craft and social engagement for girls that would become the training ground and model for camp owners and directors for years to come.”<sup>12</sup>

While working at Aloha, the Sleepers’ daughters, Mary Olive and Harriet, also attended the camp, “because the girls liked the kind of outdoor life their parents gave them. If it was good for their own daughters, why not for other people’s daughters.”<sup>13</sup> Deciding to establish their own camp, Henry and Mary Peet Sleeper started looking for property in 1920. At one point, they considered “the farm next to the Mannes place” as “there is a possible chance it might do for the camp as it has shoreline as well as fields. But we don’t want to run a farm, do we?”<sup>14</sup> The location of the Mannes place is unknown. In September of 1920, the Sleepers inspected potential camp properties in East Ryegate, Burlington, Vergennes, St. Johnsbury, and the White Mountains. In December of 1920, the Sleepers looked at a camp in Barnet, Vermont as “everything else is eliminated, and if this is not better than the Benton place at Basin Harbor, it will have to be the Benton place.”<sup>15</sup> The Sleepers eventually purchased the Leicester F. Benton property along Lake Champlain in 1921. At the time of the purchase, the Ferrisburgh property was described as being “situated on a bluff overlooking the lake which at this point is scarcely three miles in width.”<sup>16</sup> They bought the land with Professor Hugh Worthington and his wife Helen, both of Sweet Briar College. Like the Sleepers, Helen Worthington had previous experience working at the Aloha Camps with the Gulicks. Helen also worked at the Tahoma Camp in Pike, NH, which was operated by her sisters, Anna and Bella Cole.<sup>17</sup>

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<sup>12</sup> Perkins, Stephen, “Leading the Way.” *Vermont Magazine*, July/August 2016.

<sup>13</sup> *Burlington Free Press*, August 9, 1937

<sup>14</sup> Letter, Mary Peet Sleeper to William Denison Sleeper, October 29, 1920, Sleeper Family/Camp Marbury Papers 1917-1975, Vermont Historical Society, Barre, Vermont

<sup>15</sup> Letter, Mary Peet Sleeper to William Denison Sleeper, December 12, 1920, Sleeper Family/Camp Marbury Papers 1917-1975, Vermont Historical Society, Barre, Vermont

<sup>16</sup> “Vergennes Will Have Girls’ Summer Camp.”

<sup>17</sup> *Wellesley Alumnae Quarterly*, Vol. V, No. 3, April 1921.

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Leicester Benton had owned the property since 1890, living in a farmhouse with his wife Flora. After attending Bridgewater State Normal School in Massachusetts, Benton taught at Bristol Academy in Bristol, Vermont before starting his own steel turnings business in Vergennes. Prior to Benton's purchase of the property, much of this land belonged to Nelson Hayden. Hayden maintained a large Holstein-Friesian and American Shorthorn livestock.

The Sleepers named their new camp after Anne Marbury Hutchinson (1591-1643), the Massachusetts Bay Colony woman who challenged early Puritan authority and stood for women's rights. Hutchinson is considered one of the earliest American feminists and, with Mary Peet Sleeper's dedication to the suffrage movement, Hutchinson must have seemed like a good role model for girls. Mary Sleeper wrote to her son, William, in January 1921: "Want to know the name of the camp? Camp Marbury. Named for Anne Marbury Hutchinson. Nearest to a musical name I could find in the whole family tree."<sup>18</sup> A few days later, Mary Peet followed up by stating that Marbury was "better than" family names such as "Peet, William, Wheeler, Noyes, Howland, Toddington, Sanford and Pillsbury.... you wouldn't want it called Denison."<sup>19</sup> For the camp's 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary, Henry Sleeper wrote a play, performed by the campers, that describes Hutchinson as being "admired because of her ability and energy, her kindness to children, her interest in the welfare to women, her loyalty to truth as she saw it and fearlessness in the presence of danger."<sup>20</sup> The first Camp Marbury brochure stated the camp's mission:

The directors aim to give the girls the best of good times, to let them experience the novelty and delight of mountain climbing and camping out, under competent leadership to develop their skill and eagerness in games and sports, to teach them self-reliance in and on the water, and to surround them with influences that will encourage appreciation of music, poetry and nature. The days of the summer will pass all too quickly, but the end of the season should find the girls not only richer through warm friendships, former among carefully chosen companions, but with greater physical vigor, and a deepened sense of the finer things of life.<sup>21</sup>

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<sup>18</sup> Letter, Mary Peet Sleeper to William Denison Sleeper, January 24, 1921, Sleeper Family/Camp Marbury Papers 1917-1975, Vermont Historical Society, Barre, Vermont

<sup>19</sup> Letter, Mary Peet Sleeper to William Denison Sleeper, January 26, 1921, Sleeper Family/Camp Marbury Papers 1917-1975, Vermont Historical Society, Barre, Vermont

<sup>20</sup> Perkins, Stephen, "Leading the Way." *Vermont Magazine*, July/August 2016.

<sup>21</sup> Ibid.

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During the winter of 1921, the Sleepers designed their first brochure and placed advertisements in the *Smith Alumnae Quarterly* and *Wellesley Alumnae Quarterly*. By February, they “were getting daily requests for them, but as far as I know, no registration has come in yet,” Mary Sleeper wrote in 1921, “certainly I haven’t any. I shall feel better when we have at least one! But of course, it is too soon for anyone to have decided.”<sup>22</sup> On March 4, 1921, the *Rutland Herald* published a “nice article about Camp Marbury. Sounds just like a real camp.”<sup>23</sup> In a 1922 letter to a prospective camper, the Sleepers wrote:

We hope that you were interested in the booklet which we sent you, and that you are seriously considering sending your daughter to camp this summer. If a small camp, finely situated, well equipped, whose various activities are conducted by expert and experienced councilors, is the type, which appeals to you, we should be glad to tell you more about Camp Marbury.<sup>24</sup>

By April of 1921, the Sleepers were “having a busy time, seeing salesman, and today seeing Camp Marbury councilors.”<sup>25</sup> Mary Peet Sleeper added, “getting councilors for Camp Marbury proves to be time consuming. There are three still not settled – Physical Director, Craft and Nurse – all important.”<sup>26</sup> In preparation for the 1921 season, the Sleepers contracted with E.G. and A.W. Norton for swimming pool springboards, windmill socks, waterfront floats, toilet house flooring, house siding and tent platforms.<sup>27</sup> Shepherd and Morse provided siding and spruce studs for the wash house; spruce studs for the tent platforms; pine and spruce steps; lumber for the canoe docks; lumber for a new boathouse; front gate materials; shelving for the tents and interior spaces; lumber for cabins; barn board for beds and window seat boxes and green slatex roofing for the cabins.<sup>28</sup>

The Sleeper children assisted with the operation of the camp. Between 1921 and 1925, Harriet was assistant swimming coach. She then was the primary swimming coach between 1926 and 1928. Mary Olive Sleeper was the song leader between 1921 and 1933. William

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<sup>22</sup> Letter, Mary Peet Sleeper to William Denison Sleeper, February 28, 1921, Sleeper Family/Camp Marbury Papers 1917-1975, Vermont Historical Society, Barre, Vermont

<sup>23</sup> Letter, Mary Peet Sleeper to William Denison Sleeper, March 6, 1921, Sleeper Family/Camp Marbury Papers 1917-1975, Vermont Historical Society, Barre, Vermont

<sup>24</sup> Letter, March 28, 1922, Sleeper Family/Camp Marbury Papers 1917-1975, Vermont Historical Society, Barre, Vermont

<sup>25</sup> Letter, Mary Peet Sleeper to William Denison Sleeper, April 21, 1921, Sleeper Family/Camp Marbury Papers 1917-1975, Vermont Historical Society, Barre, Vermont

<sup>26</sup> Letter, Mary Peet Sleeper to William Denison Sleeper, April 24, 1921, Sleeper Family/Camp Marbury Papers 1917-1975, Vermont Historical Society, Barre, Vermont

<sup>27</sup> E.G. and A.W. Norton ran a lumber mill and dry goods shop in Vergennes.

<sup>28</sup> Shepard and Morse Lumber Company was based in Burlington.



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Denison Sleeper was in charge of accounting and dealing with registrations during the winter. As a general principle, Camp Marbury maintained a low enrollment because “with a limited number only can we become thoroughly acquainted with each girl, and give the individual attention that each may need.”<sup>29</sup>

In addition to the Sleeper and Worthington families, the staff for the inaugural 1921 season consisted of the following positions: swimming instructor, assistant swimming instructor, canoeing instructor, trip coordinator, woodcraft councilor, crafts counselor, jewelry counselor, piano teachers, song leader, nurse, odd jobs and an all-around position. In many cases, counselors filled multiple positions. The Sleepers offered a variety of activities, reflecting a nationwide summer camp trend:

Programmed activities—the serious work of play—are the cornerstones of the camp experience. Early on, camps provided little in the way of programming, but they added structured activities to keep in step with new scientific theories of childhood development. The untrained but eager volunteer camp leader went the way of the dodo bird, replaced by the trained child-development specialist.<sup>30</sup>

The campers came from upper middle-class families throughout New England and beyond. Those coming from out of state arrived in Vergennes via the train and were then transported to the camp by automobile. They were the children of doctors, church pastors, insurance agents and real estate agents. Due to Henry Sleeper’s background in the arts, Camp Marbury campers “had an opportunity to learn dramatics, dancing, sketching, modeling, jewelry making, weaving and music.”<sup>31</sup> The Camp Marbury approach reflected nationwide trends in operating girl’s camps:

The equipment and buildings used in early girl's camps were similar to those at boys' camps, but programs and philosophy were somewhat different ...Girls, like the boys had programs in swimming, boating, and hiking, but there was less emphasis placed on manual arts such as woodworking and boat building, and more on creative arts and self-expression. The arts were stressed in the program called Handcrafts - activities that included basket making, weaving on full size looms, jewelry making, and painting and drawing. Subjects were taken from

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<sup>29</sup> Camp Marbury brochure, Sleeper Family/Camp Marbury Papers 1917-1975, Vermont Historical Society, Barre, Vermont

<sup>30</sup> Goetcheus, Cari “Book Review: A Manufactured Wilderness: Summer Camps and the Shaping of American Youth, 1890-1960.” *CRM Journal* Summer 2007

<sup>31</sup> *Burlington Free Press*, August 9, 1937

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nature. The name Handcrafts was changed to Arts and Crafts by the 1920s in order to place less emphasis on "hand" work and more on the concept of "art". Dance and photography were also offered at some camps. Reading was encouraged and most camps had a library.<sup>32</sup>

Henry Sleeper, also known as Uncle Dike, wrote the official Camp Marbury song:

Camp Marbury, here's to you  
Place of our heart's delight:  
Here worry ends  
Here loving friends  
Cherish us day and night.  
Lake and hillside bring to us  
Visions of happy days.  
We sing to you; we bring to you,  
Tributes of love and praise.

Ann Hutchinson, here's to you,  
Heroine of the past!  
Firm friend of truth,  
Fond guide of youth!  
Long may your memory last.  
Camp Marbury honors you,  
Martyr of former days.  
Wing to you; we bring to you,  
Tributes of love and praise.

Amongst the buildings that were extant on opening day were the Main Cottage (HD #1), the Craft Shop (HD #5) and the Boathouse (HD #14). The Craft Shop was originally a practice studio but was transformed into a craft room complete with shelves for storing materials and large windows on two sides, with smaller ones on the other sides.<sup>33</sup> The camp used the Main Cottage, which "a well-built two-story cottage, containing the dining room and kitchen, and the living room with its large stone fireplace."<sup>34</sup> There were bedrooms, a

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<sup>32</sup> *Organized Summer Camping in Vermont*. Multiple Property Documentation Form, National Park Service, Department of the Interior

<sup>33</sup> Camp Marbury brochure, 1942, Sleeper Family/Camp Marbury Papers 1917-1975, Vermont Historical Society, Barre, Vermont

<sup>34</sup> Camp Marbury brochure, Sleeper Family/Camp Marbury Papers 1917-1975, Vermont Historical Society, Barre, Vermont

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bathroom and offices on the second floor. The Main Cottage was “the original building on the grounds, contain[ing] the kitchen and dining room. The building is entirely screened and the dining room windows overlook the lake. An alcove with a fireplace and bookcases is furnished as a small living room.”<sup>35</sup> Upon the opening of the camp, the *Middlebury Register* described the buildings:

The buildings on the grounds are well built two story cottages with large verandas, dining porches, living rooms with fireplaces, bedrooms and baths. The girls and councilors will live in tents with wooden floors, newly equipped. Ample facilities for swimming, canoeing, boating, tennis, basketball and other outdoor sports are available. A registered nurse and trained physical director will be in attendance. This is the first camp of its kind located in Vergennes.<sup>36</sup>

For the inaugural season, the Gulicks (of Camp Aloha) sent an encouraging note: “Our heartiest good wishes to you, Camp Marbury! Success and prosperity is assuredly yours, our youngest Aloha child. Long may we live to bless Aloha girls!”<sup>37</sup> The Sleepers had a small operation for their first season. They “were holding up things as far as engaging anybody here is concerned, but are going ahead with necessities”<sup>38</sup> The Sleepers held off on a tennis court due to cost but “in the end will be cheaper and better perhaps.”<sup>39</sup> The camp offered a safe and healthy environment including flush toilets which “careful attention is given to sanitation.”<sup>40</sup> In addition, the camp provided state approved and tested pure water and “ample supplies of simple, well cooked food, including an abundance of fresh vegetables from farms nearby.”<sup>41</sup>

The girls lived in tents “with substantial wooden platform, well above the ground and dry” while “a few are assigned to wooden shacks, built to give plenty of fresh air.”<sup>42</sup> Tents were a common sleeping accommodation in Vermont camps as they “were recommended for their low cost, the romantic appeal to campers, simplicity of living, and advantages of a

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<sup>35</sup> Camp Marbury brochure, 1942, Sleeper Family/Camp Marbury Papers 1917-1975, Vermont Historical Society, Barre, Vermont

<sup>36</sup> “Vergennes Will Have Girls’ Summer Camp.”

<sup>37</sup> Perkins, Stephen, “Leading the Way.” *Vermont Magazine*, July/August 2016.

<sup>38</sup> Letter, Mary Peet Sleeper to William Denison Sleeper, June 5, 1921, Sleeper Family/Camp Marbury Papers 1917-1975, Vermont Historical Society, Barre, Vermont

<sup>39</sup> Ibid.

<sup>40</sup> Camp Marbury brochure, Sleeper Family/Camp Marbury Papers 1917-1975, Vermont Historical Society, Barre, Vermont

<sup>41</sup> Ibid.

<sup>42</sup> Ibid.

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constant change of fresh air.”<sup>43</sup> The Sleepers bought their tent supplies from the following suppliers: Fuller Bag and Cotton Mills of Brooklyn, New York; Camp Supplies Inc. of Boston, Massachusetts; Martin-New York Tent and Duck Company of New York, New York; and Eureka Tent and Awning Company of Binghamton, New York. The decks were approximately 14 x 14, supported by cedar posts. The tents were located “where they have the morning sun, but are shaded during the hottest part of the day.”<sup>44</sup>

Following the inaugural season, the Worthingtons sold their portion of the camp and the Sleepers assumed full control of operations. The Worthingtons started their own camp in West Virginia. The Sleepers spent their winters in a variety of locales: St. Petersburg, Florida (1926); New York City; Rochester, New York (1930); Carmel, California; Yacht Club Inn, Dunedin, Florida (1940); and Winter Park, Florida (1943). During 1928, Henry and Mary spent most of the winter traveling through Europe.

Preparing for the 1922 season, the enrollment had surpassed the first season. According to Mary Olive Sleeper, “we have filled up the tent line of last season to overflowing, and are buying two new tents for the girls yet to come in.”<sup>45</sup> After the 1922 season, the Sleepers closed up camp by September 30 and returned to Northampton. Prior to their departure, they hired men to clean the drains. Mary Sleeper wrote, “I left the men doing the last things on them. They probably cost a pretty penny, too. Hardly dare count up. Bills not in. But I am hopeful they will work. We will let it go, now put no more money in except for refrigerator and new pump, and have 30 girls for two years ...and might have a few pennies from the camp to use ourselves.”<sup>46</sup> Despite this cost cutting attitude in September, Mary reported a month later that “there is \$8400 invested in the camp and the rough figures indicate that we paid from revenue, \$1000 of construction accounts.”<sup>47</sup>

As the 1923 season approached, the camp had twenty-four enrollments in May and with “two more girls and our income will be a little more than it was last year.”<sup>48</sup> The Sleepers

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<sup>43</sup> *Organized Summer Camping in Vermont*. Multiple Property Documentation Form, National Park Service, Department of the Interior

<sup>44</sup> Camp Marbury Brochure, 1942, Sleeper Family/Camp Marbury Papers 1917-1975, Vermont Historical Society, Barre, Vermont

<sup>45</sup> Letter, Mary Olive Sleeper to Charles, May 31, 1922, Sleeper Family/Camp Marbury Papers 1917-1975, Vermont Historical Society, Barre, Vermont

<sup>46</sup> Letter, Mary Peet Sleeper to William Denison Sleeper, September 30, 1922, Sleeper Family/Camp Marbury Papers 1917-1975, Vermont Historical Society, Barre, Vermont

<sup>47</sup> Letter, Mary Peet Sleeper to William Denison Sleeper, October 26, 1922, Sleeper Family/Camp Marbury Papers 1917-1975, Vermont Historical Society, Barre, Vermont

<sup>48</sup> Letter, Mary Peet Sleeper to William Denison Sleeper, 1923, Sleeper Family/Camp Marbury Papers 1917-1975, Vermont Historical Society, Barre, Vermont

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often allowed families to come to camp at a discounted price and in 1924, there were “no underprice girls except Barbara Brigham.”<sup>49</sup> Many of the families worked hard for Sleepers, trying to find prospective campers. Mary Peet Sleeper remarked, “It is funny, but usually it is the folks who pay full price who do the most promoting!”<sup>50</sup>

During the 1923 season, William Denison Sleeper traveled across the United States. While removed from the daily camp atmosphere, however, he did receive updates. On June 27, 1923, his sister Mary Olive wrote, “we have had a good time running the camp getting ice, water, milk, mail, food and everything else as well as cooking and washing dishes. No mother is here to do the running and the cook and the dishwasher to do that and the man to get ice and water so we just play solitaire.”<sup>51</sup> The 1923 season opened on July 1 with forty-five people on the grounds including staff and thirty campers. There were “splendid girls, and splendid councilors, this year...don’t find one ‘lemon’ so far, among them all. Even the nurse has turned out better than I hoped for.”<sup>52</sup> Mary Peet Sleeper wrote to William “it’s such a nice camp – the very nicest yet.”<sup>53</sup> The camp opening, however, did not go off without a hitch as when the parents arrived, a man from Vergennes who helped the Sleepers,

...came out to see the engine, was so drunk that he lay with his face in the dirt in front of the house, but your father found it out, and got me to steer the parents away from that quarter, Wasn’t it awful. The only parent who saw him was Mr. Bowker, so it wasn’t so bad, but I thought we were going to have trouble to get him off the place. I used my firmest and sternest tone, and he meekly said ‘all right’ and went, to my surprise and joy.<sup>54</sup>

A July 7, 1923 letter from Mary Peet Sleeper provides an overview of all the behind-the-scenes activities at the camp:

Blanche [motorboat] isn’t running yet, but Mr. Benton is going to fix it. The man Mead of Essex who put in the motor is no good, and your father wasn’t wise

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<sup>49</sup> Ibid.

<sup>50</sup> Ibid.

<sup>51</sup> Letter, Mary Sleeper to William Denison Sleeper, June 27, 1923, Sleeper Family/Camp Marbury Papers 1917-1975, Vermont Historical Society, Barre, Vermont

<sup>52</sup> Letter, Mary Peet Sleeper to William Denison Sleeper, July 2, 1923, Sleeper Family/Camp Marbury Papers 1917-1975, Vermont Historical Society, Barre, Vermont

<sup>53</sup> Letter, Mary Peet Sleeper to William Denison Sleeper, July 1, 1923, Sleeper Family/Camp Marbury Papers 1917-1975, Vermont Historical Society, Barre, Vermont

<sup>54</sup> Ibid.

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enough to hold off paying him until he was sure it was right. Now it would cost more to tow here to Essex than to have somebody else do the work. Too bad, but we are used to just this situation. Your father is pleasantly optimistic always, and you have to pay a penalty for it sometimes, of course. The engine is a good one, and it goes about as twice as fast as the old one, and much more quietly, but the man left a leaky gasket in, so that water gets into the engine. We are having a time with the water engine too, and I am going to get a new one just the first moment I can. Monday, I hope. Chute [waterfront slide] not in yet. Mr. Barber is hard to get. But we will get it in soon. And the girls have plenty to do, anyway. Too much, in fact. We are all thrilled over the trimmings for the row boat, but the boat leaks like a sieve so we haven't used it yet. Soaking in the lake. There ain't no grass on the tennis court, so the Hayden's cows are going dry. We are using 30 quarts of milk a day and it comes in Irving's limousine as before. Also, the garbage does. The girls are good at working, and do their work faithfully and well. The cook is as good as Jessie, and pleasant too. Feeds Wallace and Harriet and Harriet Menel as Jessie used to do. The odd job man is very little use for anything but is better today, now that I have put him to work on a regular schedule with everything done in regular order. Your father wants me to dismiss him and get somebody who can run the engine. This man doesn't seem to have intelligence enough, only brawn.<sup>55</sup>

The 1923 season saw the inaugural marionette performance. The campers spent much of the summer making puppets in the craft shop and practicing for a performance of Snow White. They built a small stage and painted a backdrop and the "girls are quite wild about the dolls now."<sup>56</sup> The success of this program would eventually lead to the construction of a permanent, no longer extant, puppet house at the north end of the camp.

As the 1923 season came to a close, Mary Peet Sleeper reported that:

Total gross income from tuitions is \$8025 as against \$6587 last season. I suppose running expenses will run up some, with a somewhat larger household, but I am hoping not too much. We hope the after camp will be successful and show some profit to add to the tuition revenue. We are handling merchandize and trips with

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<sup>55</sup> Letter, Mary Peet Sleeper to William Denison Sleeper, July 7, 1923, Sleeper Family/Camp Marbury Papers 1917-1975, Vermont Historical Society, Barre, Vermont

<sup>56</sup> Letter, Mary Peet Sleeper to William Denison Sleeper, August 21, 1923, Sleeper Family/Camp Marbury Papers 1917-1975, Vermont Historical Society, Barre, Vermont

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care, to be sure to cover these accounts, and also craft materials with more attention than before.<sup>57</sup>

Upon the close of the season, Camp Marbury hosted an adult camp from September 1 to 15, 1923. The camp equipment was made available for the adults and they were housed in the tents. The cost was \$25 a week and the enrollment was limited to twenty people. In late September, the camp was closed up for the winter. At this time, the Sleepers strolled around the property, looking at the trees:

Yesterday we studied the trees of the place – or he did –and we went around and looked at them all after supper. There are a good many different kinds, that we had hardly noticed, and some very beautiful ones. There are two lindens near the gate that I was never curious about, even. And there is a black cherry there, which I did know about. Lots of red and white oak, a good many small elms, more pines than I realized we had. Someway the white cedar seems to make more impression than all the others, but if there are really more of them than of the other trees it isn't a great many more. Wallace has been afraid we were going to lose the trees, but many are brown this fall, but I don't there is much danger.<sup>58</sup>

Henry and Mary Sleeper remained at Camp Marbury through October 1923, weathering the cold Lake Champlain nights. On October 21, they had “the oil stove going, and had a fire in the fireplace yesterday noon, and shall need one again today. We are painting the floor in the big room, to let it get a chance to harden before we submit it to the hard wear of summer.”<sup>59</sup> During this time, the two were:

Living in the living room, just now, as then kitchen floor is painted. We have been moving around from pillar to post, as the floors have been painted around them, respectively. We got breakfast over the fireplace this morning, and didn't mind so much, even though it smoked a great deal. Your father went up on the roof later, and found the soot had collected in the screen on top of the chimney, cutting off almost all chance of smoke getting out. So, our next fire will not smoke, I think. He also found that the chimney has two flues, both lined with tile lining, which makes

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<sup>57</sup> Ibid.

<sup>58</sup> Letter, Mary Peet Sleeper to William Denison Sleeper, September 25, 1923, Sleeper Family/Camp Marbury Papers 1917-1975, Vermont Historical Society, Barre, Vermont

<sup>59</sup> Letter, Mary Peet Sleeper to William Denison Sleeper, October 21, 1923, Sleeper Family/Camp Marbury Papers 1917-1975, Vermont Historical Society, Barre, Vermont

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them the best and safest possible kind of chimney. And we could have a stove up here in the office without any interfering with the fireplace fire.<sup>60</sup>

In preparation for the 1924 season, Henry Sleeper spent quite a bit of time landscaping. In May, he was:

Setting out various plants to beautify us. Lots of Bitter Sweet along the fence, dogwoods down at the end of the lot, where there is a thin place and seems too visible from the road, ferns in some wet places where they will grow, if anywhere, hollyhocks along the side of the barn, and this morning I am going to suggest that the gladiola be put under the kitchen window.<sup>61</sup>

The following description from 1924 provides an overview of a typical season. As the 1924 season approached, William Denison Sleeper took the 1:35 PM train out of Boston, stopped for lunch in Bellows Falls and arrived in Vergennes a little after 10:00 PM. Over the next few weeks, William assisted his parents in preparing the camp for the arrival of campers. This included moving items to the farmhouse, putting up the tents, rolling the tennis courts, filling tents with appropriate wash basins, shelving and beds. All of these materials spent the winter in the Craft House. The Camp opened on June 28, 1924. The campers arrived in large clusters, usually based on their departure points. On this day, the New York crew arrived first. The Sleepers arranged with the New York Central Railroad to “set aside a hole sleeping car” which included a drawing room and “as many sections as we need, and on the twenty-fifth of June it will be available to the public if we have not bought it all.”<sup>62</sup> The Sleepers had seventeen children coming from New York so they reserved the drawing room and eight sections. Several individual cars arrived throughout the day and Boston party came just before supper. Reflecting the fashion of the flapper fashion trends, William Sleeper noted in his diary “Kelly, the Vaughns and Barbara Knapp had boy’s haircuts.”<sup>63</sup> In total, there were thirty-eight girls for the 1924 season.

Once the whole camp was congregated, they played the “get acquainted game” where “everyone walks around with name on slip pinned to clothing. Then contest to see who can

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<sup>60</sup> Letter, Mary Peet Sleeper to William Denison Sleeper, October 29, 1923, Sleeper Family/Camp Marbury Papers 1917-1975, Vermont Historical Society, Barre, Vermont

<sup>61</sup> Letter, Mary Peet Sleeper to William Denison Sleeper, May 22, 1924, Sleeper Family/Camp Marbury Papers 1917-1975, Vermont Historical Society, Barre, Vermont

<sup>62</sup> Letter, Mary Peet Sleeper to William Denison Sleeper, May 22, 1924, Sleeper Family/Camp Marbury Papers 1917-1975, Vermont Historical Society, Barre, Vermont

<sup>63</sup> William Sleeper Diaries, Sleeper Family/Camp Marbury Papers 1917-1975, Vermont Historical Society, Barre, Vermont



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get the greatest number right.”<sup>64</sup> The campers ate every dinner in the Main Cottage at assigned tables, with table assignments changing every week.

During the season, the campers took multiple trips to regional places such as Ausable Chasm on the New York side of Lake Champlain, Camel’s Hump, Killington and Pico Peaks, Crown Point, Fort Ticonderoga and Mount Philo. They took frequent boat trips on their own power boat, Blanche, and often took larger trips on the steamboat *Ticonderoga*. There was a camp store, which William noted one day that there was “an awful rush of juniors trying to buy stud, especially barrettes.”<sup>65</sup> As a member of the staff, William often ventured into Vergennes to see movies and mail bills.

On July 4, 1924, the camp celebrated Independence Day with a canoe trip to Button Bay following supper, and then fireworks on the docks. William noted in his diary, “no rockets but candles; red fire, cones and mines.”<sup>66</sup> On July 22, there was a puppet play with marionettes which William felt was “cute but too long and not enough action.”<sup>67</sup> The majority of the camp time was spent engaging in a variety of games, activities and instruction, punctuated by field trips to nearby natural sites. The campers followed a daily schedule:

- 7:00 AM Reveille
- 7:10 Setting-up Exercises
- 7:45 Breakfast and Tent Clean up
- 9:15 Assembly with singing
- 10:00 Crafts, Tennis Lessons, Riding, Home Nursing, Nature Lore
- 12:30 PM Dinner
- 1:30 Rest Hour
- 2:30 swimming
- 4:00 Free time
- 5:30 Supper
- 6:30 Outdoor games, canoeing, boating, walks
- 7:30 Indoor entertainment, music, dancing
- 8:30 Crackers and milk
- 9:00 Taps

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<sup>64</sup> Ibid.

<sup>65</sup>William Sleeper Diaries, Sleeper Family/Camp Marbury Papers 1917-1975, Vermont Historical Society, Barre, Vermont

<sup>66</sup> Ibid.

<sup>67</sup> Ibid.

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During the last week of the 1924 camp, there was a whole series of events. On August 25, Henry Sleeper put on a performance of “The Doctor’s Office” and “Professional Honesty” both performed by the counselors. The play did not escape William’s sharp criticism – “the play as a whole – trite story and situations, obvious and amateurish construction. Lots of footnote monologues. A lot of farfetched jokes that didn’t get across.”<sup>68</sup> The following day, there was a craft and jewelry exhibition. On August 27, the councilors gathered after taps “to decide honors and make plans for next year.”<sup>69</sup> Some of the ideas that were brought before the committee was more room, cultivate volleyball, abolish basketball, and have camp at a lake near a mountain.<sup>70</sup> The following night, there was a banquet featuring speeches and awards. On August 28, the camp closed for the season. For the next three weeks, the Sleepers cleaned up the camp but kept on enjoying the Lake Champlain summer. Friends stopped by and they went on canoe trips, hikes and took the motorboat for trips. It was almost as if there was an adult camp after the children’s camp.

After the 1924 season, the Sleepers made significant improvements on the infrastructure. These investments put the Sleepers in “precarious cash position all through the late winter and early spring, and great difficulty in providing sufficient funds for yours and mine living expenses.”<sup>71</sup> In October of 1924, Mary Peet Sleeper used the cook’s room as an office “as the men are shingling the house, and the office is covered with the most awful dirt, from taking the old shingles off, the accumulations of thirty years, more or less.”<sup>72</sup> The Sleepers purchased the shingles in “strips of four” which were described as follows:

[They] were the cheapest, and we couldn’t see it would not be just as good for our purpose as the more expensive ones. It looks perfectly grand, now. It improves the house a lot, having these gray shingles instead of the moss grown wooden ones. I thought the moss was picturesque, but this looked as the roof was whole, and that is an advantage too.<sup>73</sup>

In 1925, the Sleepers hired Dana Somes, an architect from Boston, Massachusetts, to design a new Assembly Building (HD #4), containing an assembly hall with floor space adequate

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<sup>68</sup> Ibid.

<sup>69</sup> Ibid.

<sup>70</sup> Ibid.

<sup>71</sup> Letter, William Sleeper to Mary Peet Sleeper, May 19, 1926, Sleeper Family/Camp Marbury Papers 1917-1975, Vermont Historical Society, Barre, Vermont

<sup>72</sup> Letter, Mary Peet Sleeper to William Denison Sleeper, October 11, 1924, Sleeper Family/Camp Marbury Papers 1917-1975, Vermont Historical Society, Barre, Vermont

<sup>73</sup> Ibid.

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for dancing, a stage for music and plays, dressing rooms, the camp store and post office.<sup>74</sup> In 1919, Somes was in practice with Felix A. Burton, Charles Lewis Pitkin and Frederick W. Wead. Somes did primarily commercial and retail stores in the Boston area. According to the *Organized Summer Camping in Vermont* MPDF, the Assembly Building “is truly the heart of the children's summer camp. It is the indoor social center where children gather each day to plan activities, join together in camp songs, hear special announcements or addresses from the director or counselors, and participate in special events.”<sup>75</sup>

Shepard and Morse of Vergennes supplied the supplies for the new Assembly Building including spruce stairs, barn board, spruce lattice work, barn board shelving, fir studs, spruce rafters, spruce floor joists, spruce collar girts, spruce novelty siding, spruce roof boards, fir porch flooring, spruce dish cupboards and barn board corner boards. By May 1925, “things are going along well. They have the building staked out, and are now putting down the floor joists. The sills and cross sills go first, and then the floor joists. Then the bridging, and then the floor lining. It will be a wonderful sturdy floor, I think.”<sup>76</sup> In June 1925, William Sleeper wrote his mother “I am glad that the new building is going well, and hope there will be enough June applications to pay for it.”<sup>77</sup>

The 1927 Camp Marbury circular boasted that “the new playhouse, first used in 1925, has proved invaluable, adding much to the comfort and happiness of the campers.”<sup>78</sup> The 1942 brochure stated that the Assembly Hall had a floor “for dancing and a porch for dramatics. Plays and concerts may be given on the porch with an audience outside in good weather and inside on rainy nights.”<sup>79</sup>

The Sleepers also did significant work to the Main Couse, extending the façade and closing up the overhanging second floor:

Also, we have sill across the front of the house, where the uprights have rotted.  
The last six feet, what was formerly the porch on the main house, was just hanging

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<sup>74</sup> Camp Marbury brochure, Sleeper Family/Camp Marbury Papers 1917-1975, Vermont Historical Society, Barre, Vermont

<sup>75</sup> *Organized Summer Camping in Vermont*.

<sup>76</sup> Letter, Mary Peet Sleeper to William Denison Sleeper, May 28, 1925, Sleeper Family/Camp Marbury Papers 1917-1975, Vermont Historical Society, Barre, Vermont

<sup>77</sup> Letter, William Denison Sleeper to Mary Peet Sleeper, June 3, 1925, Sleeper Family/Camp Marbury Papers 1917-1975, Vermont Historical Society, Barre, Vermont

<sup>78</sup> Camp Marbury Circular, Draft, 1927, Sleeper Family/Camp Marbury Papers 1917-1975, Vermont Historical Society, Barre, Vermont

<sup>79</sup> Camp Marbury brochure, 1942, Sleeper Family/Camp Marbury Papers 1917-1975, Vermont Historical Society, Barre, Vermont

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in the air, nothing on the ground at all. All there ever was as 4 x 4 at each corner and one in the middle, and the ends have rotted off. The studs (uprights to which the boarding is nailed) just stopped, above ground! Usually they go down and rest on a sill. There is a 4 x 8 sill there now, or 4 x6, good and strong. And all supported on rocks at frequent intervals. We shall not feel as though the house should fall down if Jane Graves should come visit us! I wonder it hasn't fallen with all that canned fruit on the weakest part.<sup>80</sup>

At this time, the Sleepers hired contractor Ira Barber to build a washhouse. The camp also added a new camper's cabin, "holding six girls and a councilor instead of buying two more tents. I have estimates, and it will not cost anymore. We will put it down on the shore beyond the tennis court."<sup>81</sup>

The Sleepers utilized several local contractors and building suppliers during the first few years, when there was a lot of construction. They included lumber from Henry St. Peters and Son of Vergennes; hardware from J.A. Harrington and Company in Vergennes; plumbing supplies and services from J.W. and D.E. Ryan; wood from E.G. and A.W. Norton; doors and windows from Morgan Brothers of Vergennes; and lumber from Shepherd and Morse. The Sleepers hired L.F. Benton Jr., the son of the former owner of the Camp Marbury property, to oversee the sub-contractors and work crew. Benton often had a crew of ten laborers assisting with the various projects at the camp. In addition to construction duties, Benton also oversaw the installation and removal of waterfront docks and conducted motorboat repairs. During the winter of 1923, Benton sent the Sleepers a bill, which prompted the statement: "Bill from Mr. Benton this morning. First one. Large, but I suppose it is reasonable. Lots of things keep us poor."<sup>82</sup>

Following the 1925 season, the Sleepers remained at Camp Marbury for the rest of the summer and into the fall. In late September, it was

Very cold for this time of year, and we have put the living room into winter array, or your father has - with curtains shutting it off from the dining room. It looks rather cozy, but it cuts off the view of the lake, of course. We are living in the kitchen day times, and in the living room only evening, anyway. I haven't been able

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<sup>80</sup> Letter, Mary Peet Sleeper to William Denison Sleeper, May 28, 1925, Sleeper Family/Camp Marbury Papers 1917-1975, Vermont Historical Society, Barre, Vermont

<sup>81</sup> Letter, Mary Peet Sleeper to William Denison Sleeper, May 22, 1924, Sleeper Family/Camp Marbury Papers 1917-1975, Vermont Historical Society, Barre, Vermont

<sup>82</sup> Letter, Mary Peet Sleeper to William Denison Sleeper, December 8, 1923, Sleeper Family/Camp Marbury Papers 1917-1975, Vermont Historical Society, Barre, Vermont

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to do anything in the office. Too cold, and I don't risk getting more on top of what I still have.<sup>83</sup>

In 1926, the Sleepers bought the adjoining Hayden farm to the south from Irving and Jennie Hayden. The initial asking price was \$5500 for the farm and 110 acres of land. Seventy of the acres were under cultivation. There were thirty acres of pasture, according to Mary Peet Sleeper, that was:

Practically all connecting, and including the ravine as well as the level pasture opposite us, and that pine grove beyond us, toward the Meneely's point. That leaves ten acres, and there must be almost that in the apple orchard, planted three or four years ago. There is the house, called nine rooms, but I counted only eight, a barn out in the meadow, which is full of hay, but which could take care of all our horses easily, and store the feed, a garage and a tool shed. The house has the required number of woodsheds attached, as you will recall, or nearly enough.<sup>84</sup>

The Hayden family originally owned the Camp Marbury land before selling it to L.F. Benton in 1890. The purchase consisted of the farmhouse, land, hay barn, stable, icehouse, garage and henhouse. Mary Peet Sleeper inspected the property in May 1926 and the

Farmhouse looks better on second inspection, and I think we can take care of seven persons it easily, and there are also two rooms for maids besides, which I did not know about – up a stairway leading out of the kitchen. There is a never-failing spring back of the house, which would probably furnish water for toilets, but the bath water should be either the cistern water or from the lake.<sup>85</sup>

The land consisted of hay fields and apple orchards. The Sleepers saw an opportunity as “the price was so low” and they were “able to get funds almost entirely from others.”<sup>86</sup> Their original intention with the property was to provide housing for visiting families. At the time, the Sleeper's son, William, believed “I don't see why anyone with sane mind would want to be there, since it is so far from anywhere but camp, especially from the

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<sup>83</sup> Ibid.

<sup>84</sup> Letter, Mary Peet Sleeper to William Denison Sleeper, May 15, 1926, Sleeper Family/Camp Marbury Papers 1917-1975, Vermont Historical Society, Barre, Vermont

<sup>85</sup> Letter, Mary Peet Sleeper to William Denison Sleeper, May 17, 1926, Sleeper Family/Camp Marbury Papers 1917-1975, Vermont Historical Society, Barre, Vermont

<sup>86</sup> Letter, William Sleeper to Mary Peet Sleeper, May 19, 1926, Sleeper Family/Camp Marbury Papers 1917-1975, Vermont Historical Society, Barre, Vermont

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water, and there is nothing to do.”<sup>87</sup> William Sleeper wanted to the rent the farmhouse but he saw an inherent challenge in the potential clientele. If they rented it to someone “who would not have any interest in the camp, and hence not make it their front lawn;” as for parents of campers, they “would be just the type to spend all the time at the camp, and the type we would not want around the camp.”<sup>88</sup> In the end, the Sleepers rented rooms for ninety dollars a year and sold the hay and oats. The Sleepers made several arrangements with local farmers for use of the land:

Rob Allen and Eddie O'Donnell, neighbors of ours, will farm the meadow on shares, and Mr. Burnham thinks we should make \$500 on the farm. Mr. Tyron will rent the end of the pasture nearest him, Mr. Burnham will rent the so-called night pasture, which adjoins his land, so that uses all the land for this summer which we cannot use ourselves, except the orchard. That we better have sprayed and manage ourselves unless we can find somebody who is interested in that. It isn't so much work as other kinds of farming, except the harvesting and marketing, I think.<sup>89</sup>

The 1927 Camp Marbury circular described the Hayden Farm purchase as “the most notable improvement” as “it has given us, besides the cultivated acreage, space for more playgrounds, beautiful pine and cedar groves, and a large orchard. It has more than double our waterfront, providing additional wooded shoreline and a moderately shallow cove. We have built a permanent dock at the entrance and shall develop the cove for junior water sports.”<sup>90</sup>

During the fall of 1926, the Sleepers removed the old ice house and used the boarding for a new dock. The ice house made “a nice hole” and Mary Peet Sleeper “had qualms about having it pulled down, for it had been a good ice house, but now that I see the place I am glad it is done. It will make a good site for a tent or a shack. And it will take care of the nuisance also, for there seems to be some depth, into which a settling tank can be put. The saw dust has not been dug out, but I shall have that done.”<sup>91</sup> At this same time, the Sleepers

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<sup>87</sup> Ibid.

<sup>88</sup> Ibid.

<sup>89</sup> Letter, William Sleeper to Mary Peet Sleeper, May 18, 1926, Sleeper Family/Camp Marbury Papers 1917-1975, Vermont Historical Society, Barre, Vermont

<sup>90</sup> Camp Marbury Circular, Draft, 1927, Sleeper Family/Camp Marbury Papers 1917-1975, Vermont Historical Society, Barre, Vermont

<sup>91</sup> Letter, William Sleeper to Mary Peet Sleeper, October 14, 1926, Sleeper Family/Camp Marbury Papers 1917-1975, Vermont Historical Society, Barre, Vermont

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had the floors painted on the house – “it will be good to have that done in advance. This year’s paint did not last well at all, for it was put on just before camp opened.”<sup>92</sup>

The Sleepers visited two camps on Lake Dunmore, north of Brandon, Vermont in October of 1926: Camp Zelenko and Camp Keewaydin. Zelenko, “a Hebrew camp, was hideously ugly in every way, except for location, and Camp Keewaydin while large and with good buildings, did not seem as attractive as ours, in this stage ...they seemed to me all in a heap, rally. They say they have 1100 acres of land, which ought to be enough to let them spread out, so very likely they concentrate in order to run it economically.”<sup>93</sup>

In 1926, the Sleepers hired architect Paul Waters Thayer of Wallingford, Vermont to design a new Jewelry Shop (HD #3) and a junior activity building known as the Roost. Up to this point, they had been renting an adjacent cottage for the jewelry program.

Born in Millbury, Massachusetts, Thayer attended Oberlin College and then worked in the food industry in Glenolden, Pennsylvania. By 1910, he had become a builder. While living in Pennsylvania, he became involved with a large land development in Antrim, New Hampshire. In 1905, he purchased an old sawmill on Gregg Lake in Antrim Center, New Hampshire. Using wood from the sawmill, he built and sold 15-20 rustic cottages for seasonal use on the eastern shore of Gregg Lake. Starting in 1911, Thayer and his wife, Helen, also purchased seventy acres along Gregg Lake, which they subdivided into 149 lots. Close to 1/3 of the lots were sold with many them being combined to create larger parcels. This area became known as the summer community of White Birch Point.

In 1912, the town of Antrim proposed taxing Thayer’s sawmill, known as the old Hildreth sawmill, the local newspaper, *The Antrim Reporter*, wrote the following about Thayer in support of keeping his operation tax free:

In the early history of our town, the sturdy pioneers came here and subdued the land. They built their log cabin and laid the foundation for our go-ahead town of Antrim.

We have here to day a pioneer. He came here like those men of old—to subdue the forest, till the soil, and to make a home for himself and family; he was endowed with tact, push and energy; the man to whom we refer is Mr. Paul W. Thayer. He bought land bordering on Lake Gregg: and extending to the summit of Patten hill; he made clearings; he built a cabin; he built more cabins; a

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<sup>92</sup> Ibid.

<sup>93</sup> Letter, Mary Peet Sleeper to William Denison Sleeper, October 25, 1926, Sleeper Family/Camp Marbury Papers 1917-1975, Vermont Historical Society, Barre, Vermont

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restaurant; a stable and other buildings; he built a road; he adapted himself to the circumstances; he surveyed land for lots, sold them, on which cottages were built; he wanted his road legally laid out; the town laid it out with metes and bounds. He bought the Hildreth saw mill, which together with the dam was in a dilapidated condition, but push and energy put it in good running order, and it is now sawing out the lumber; all has been done because he tact, push and energy.

Mr. Thayer is a good sample of the kind of men we want to build up the town, open up its resources and keep us from living a chronic affection of deepening lethargy. A few more pioneers of like nature which Mr. Thayer possesses, to cooperate with the town, would in due time have a road circling the lake and many cottages would be built on the shore, without doubt.<sup>94</sup>

By 1917, Paul, Helen and their son moved to Wallingford, Vermont and he opened an architecture office in the Hawk's Block in Bennington. An advertisement from 1917 started that Thayer worked in "land development" and "artistic houses and buildings."<sup>95</sup> For the 1920 and 1920 census, his occupation was listed as architect, real estate, and building construction.

During the summer of 1918, Thayer opened the Woods Island Camp for Girls in St. Albans, Vermont. Thayer and his family often visited Great Back Bay on Lake Champlain, staying at Samson's Lake View House. Within view of the hotel was Woods Island, a 120-acre island owned by a Smith S. Ballard of Montpelier. Located a 3/4 mile from the shore, the island featured a farm and summer home. Ballard and Thayer joined together to create a girl's camp. During the winter of 1917, Thayer was the supervising architect, purchasing equipment and building cottages. A *Burlington Free Press* article stated that Thayer "has made a specialty of camp organizing and building for a number of years, planning and building a number of well known camps in New England."<sup>96</sup> Like Camp Marbury, Woods Island Camp featured a central bungalow, cabins and tents for the campers, science and arts classes and outdoor water sports.

In the early 1920s, Thayer designed two structures along the Long Trail for the Green Mountain Club. Built between 1920 and 1930, the Long Trail runs the entire length of the state and it is the oldest long-distance walking trail in the United States. In 1923, Thayer designed the Long Trail Lodge, located where the Long Trail crossed Sherburne Pass near Killington. Built in the rustic style, Thayer "incorporated existing rock walls and unstrapped log poles in the design."<sup>97</sup> Seven years later, Thayer designed the Fay Fuller

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<sup>94</sup> Antrim Reporter, February 7, 1912.

<sup>95</sup> *Bennington Banner*, March 9, 1917.

<sup>96</sup> *Burlington Free Press*, March 19, 1918.

<sup>97</sup> Appalachian National Scenic Trail, *Trail Protection Study: Environmental Impact Statement*, 1993.



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shelter, a stone building accommodating twelve beds in the Bennington section of the Long Trail.

Given his extensive experience designing and building rustic camp building, it is no surprise that the Sleepers hired Mr. Thayer to work at Camp Marbury. In October 1926, Mary Peet Sleeper wrote to her son "Mr. Thayer, the architect will come about November third or so, and I'd like to be here then."<sup>98</sup> Thayer's plans for the Jewelry Shop called for spruce throughout the cabin. The 1942 brochure boasted that the Jewelry Shop had "many windows, a skylight, and a cement floor."<sup>99</sup>

During the winter of 1926, the Sleepers contemplated extending the focus of the camp to junior campers as well. They had extra shoreline to accommodate additional cabins. Mary Peet Sleeper wrote that:

It is too late this year, but I should make a definite effort to get a junior camp in the land beyond the tennis court, including the new shore land. That would yield more income without adding in proportion to the expense, as we could use a riding master, swimming master, trip man, craft people, for both groups, with cheap helpers.<sup>100</sup>

William Sleeper objected to the idea as adding new buildings to the infrastructure "would be rather overdoing the policy of constantly increasing the fixed investment."<sup>101</sup> The junior camp would require additional investments and the Sleepers were not yet turning a profit, and they still had a winter living expenses to worry about. Despite these concerns, the Sleepers moved ahead and enhanced the facilities to accommodate junior campers. This included a Junior Cabin, a junior canoe dock and the Roost. The 1927 Camp Marbury Circular announced the plans for the Roost – "near the cove we plan to build a smaller playhouse in which will be centered the activities of the younger campers, the girls from eight to twelve years of age. Level playgrounds for their exclusive use will be provided in the ample space around it."<sup>102</sup> The Sleepers contracted with Morgan Brothers, which

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<sup>98</sup> Letter, Mary Peet Sleeper to William Denison Sleeper, October 25, 1926, Sleeper Family/Camp Marbury Papers 1917-1975, Vermont Historical Society, Barre, Vermont

<sup>99</sup> Camp Marbury Brochure, 1942, Sleeper Family/Camp Marbury Papers 1917-1975, Vermont Historical Society, Barre, Vermont

<sup>100</sup> Letter, Mary Peet Sleeper to William Denison Sleeper, May 15, 1926, Sleeper Family/Camp Marbury Papers 1917-1975, Vermont Historical Society, Barre, Vermont

<sup>101</sup> Letter, William Sleeper to Mary Peet Sleeper, May 19, 1926, Sleeper Family/Camp Marbury Papers 1917-1975, Vermont Historical Society, Barre, Vermont

<sup>102</sup> Camp Marbury Circular, Draft, 1927, Sleeper Family/Camp Marbury Papers 1917-1975, Vermont Historical Society, Barre, Vermont

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provided the following materials for the Jewelry Building: eight multi-pane sash; five cypress skylight sash; cypress door and fir/spruce work benches. For the Roost, the Sleepers needed thirteen 12-pane sash, two 24-pane sash, French doors, cypress sidelight sash, astragals, and fir doors.

The Sleepers remained in Ferrisburgh later than usual in 1926, staying in the camp through December 9. With the rest of the camp closed up, they lived in confined quarters:

There are four single beds here and one double ... There aren't very many dishes, and with the ugly rugs rolled up, it looks a little bare, but it is comfortable enough, and it is fine having so much room. Harriett has finally consented to take one of the bedrooms, Father is established in the dining room – we use the living room table to eat on –but we may use the dining room while you are here – I have the other bedroom. There is a maid's room with a cot in it, where Father keeps his clothes, and which he uses for a dressing room. There is a cot in the living room also. Father has a single bed in the dining room, to sleep on. We gave him this, for he can have a piano there, if he gets one – ad so his work uninterruptedly. I shall use my room to work in. It hasn't a table nor a desk, so far.<sup>103</sup>

The work on the Junior Roost finally commenced in May of 1927. Mary Peet Sleeper wrote that “Mr. Barber has been out today digging holes for the foundations of the new junior building.”<sup>104</sup> Sleeper also related some stories about labor difficulties:

Debuke refused to set the foundation piers for the junior building, since Mr. Barber was to build it, so we have shipped him entirely, He had been drinking when I talked to him, and I think we are well rid of him. And I think he would have run up the costs a good deal. So that is over. I hope that Mr. Thayer will be on his job and get things done, now that the weather has relented. It is fine now, and the ground is just about right, but it looks like rain.<sup>105</sup>

The building of the Roost proved to be a financial struggle:

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<sup>103</sup> Letter, Mary Peet Sleeper to William Denison Sleeper, December 9, 1926, Sleeper Family/Camp Marbury Papers 1917-1975, Vermont Historical Society, Barre, Vermont

<sup>104</sup> Ibid.

<sup>105</sup> Letter, Mary Peet Sleeper to William Denison Sleeper, May 30, 1927, Sleeper Family/Camp Marbury Papers 1917-1975, Vermont Historical Society, Barre, Vermont

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We aren't very rich in the camp bank account just now. And it is beginning to go out fairly fast. The lumber and other building materials will be bought from Shepherd Morse again and from Morgan Brothers and we can wait to pay those bills until we have money in hand. I hope that there will be money enough to pay for labor as we go along, but I do not feel sure there will be.<sup>106</sup>

In May of 1927, Paul Thayer visited Camp Marbury and "staked the places for the two buildings."<sup>107</sup> The construction of the Jewelry House and Roost were well beyond schedule as Barber did not intend to start construction until June. Mr. Thayer said "that he can put more men on the job if necessary, if it is not going fast enough."<sup>108</sup> Mary Peet Sleeper wrote to her son "I hope you will like the places we have decided upon. We have done the best we could considering everything. The jewelry house not far from Aunt Gertrude's little tent, but set at an angle in order to get the north light for the skylights in the building."<sup>109</sup>

Thayer also designed a small infirmary (no longer standing) completely equipped for housekeeping if the need arises.<sup>110</sup> The infirmary was located "at the far end of the camp, overlooking a cove."<sup>111</sup> The infirmary contained "two patients' rooms with two beds each, the nurse's rooms, a kitchenette, and a bath. Outside there is a pleasant place to rest in the shade and another that is used for sun baths."<sup>112</sup>

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<sup>106</sup> Letter, Mary Peet Sleeper to William Denison Sleeper, May 26, 1927, Sleeper Family/Camp Marbury Papers 1917-1975, Vermont Historical Society, Barre, Vermont

<sup>107</sup> Ibid.

<sup>108</sup> Ibid.

<sup>109</sup> Letter, Mary Peet Sleeper to William Denison Sleeper, May 26, 1927, Sleeper Family/Camp Marbury Papers 1917-1975, Vermont Historical Society, Barre, Vermont

<sup>110</sup> Burlington Free Press, August 9, 1937

<sup>111</sup> Camp Marbury brochure, 1942, Sleeper Family/Camp Marbury Papers 1917-1975, Vermont Historical Society, Barre, Vermont

<sup>112</sup> Ibid.

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Figure 12. Infirmary (left), which is no longer extant, and the Junior Roost (right), which is now located at the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum, undated photograph.  
Courtesy of the Vermont Historical Society.

Barber also worked on the bridge that crossed the ravine in the middle of campground. Barber “put twelve-foot stringers, across the gully, and then planked them over. It meant getting plank for six feet of bridge, which was better than being without the bridge for two weeks.”<sup>113</sup> The bridge had to be “mended thoroughly” as the “logs that hold the bank in which the supports rest gave rotted away, so that the bank is waving way the other side of the bridge. We have a ‘Danger’ sign up, and will have to take up the bridge, then put old railroad rails across and the planks on top of that. Then it will stay.”<sup>114</sup> An additional piece of work was the construction of new tennis courts.

Leading up to the 1928 season, the Sleepers contemplated selling some of their farmland, at \$50 an acre, because “our present financial situation needs relief so much.”<sup>115</sup> Despite these thoughts, the Sleepers had the farmhouse wired for electricity which the workers had “an awful time” since the building was “done so queerly, a little at a time, and no usual places

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<sup>113</sup> Letter, Mary Peet Sleeper to William Denison Sleeper, May 30, 1927, Sleeper Family/Camp Marbury Papers 1917-1975, Vermont Historical Society, Barre, Vermont

<sup>114</sup> Ibid.

<sup>115</sup> Letter, William Sleeper to Mary Peet Sleeper, May 20, 1928, Sleeper Family/Camp Marbury Papers 1917-1975, Vermont Historical Society, Barre, Vermont

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for letting wires down between walls.”<sup>116</sup> The Sleepers planned to use the farmhouse for themselves “which I mean to do as soon as the family is small enough for the farmhouse to hold it.”<sup>117</sup> A week following the commencement of the 1928 season, the Camp Marbury newsletter said “Parents who brought their children to camp on Saturday, over the slippery mud of Vermont clay roads, would hardly believe it could be the same place today, with the dust already beginning to fly.”<sup>118</sup> In the seven years since the opening season, the Camp Marbury staff increased from ten to twenty-three. These experienced counselors were considered “companions rather than teachers.”<sup>119</sup>

With all the construction between 1925 and 1927, there were financial challenges. Mary Peet Sleeper confided in her son:

I did not mean to trouble you with Camp Marbury affairs, but perhaps you should know this, as it may make some difference in the way you plan your own finances, to know that there is absolutely nothing to fall back on, Of course I haven't mentioned booklet, not postage, nor travel on camp business. I suppose it has all gone into the construction accounts, but it will be some time before anyone knows anything about it.<sup>120</sup>

During the summer of 1930, the camp held a pageant honoring its namesake, Anne Marbury Hutchinson. Written by Henry Sleeper, the five-scene play celebrated the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Massachusetts Bay Colony. The 1932 season had twenty-six full time and four-part time campers. The Sleepers also accommodated a guest camper and a child also visited for one week. There were twelve counselors, four directors and five domestic staff. In August 1936, the Proctor Players, consisting of four boys from Proctor Academy in Andover, New Hampshire put on a performance in the assembly hall. The final week of 1936 season including myriad events including concerts, plays, tennis tournament, horse shows and crafts/jewelry exhibits.

William Sleeper only worked for the camp during the first seven years. After graduating from Harvard, William Sleeper took classes at Columbia University and lived in Brooklyn

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<sup>116</sup> Letter, Mary Peet Sleeper to William Denison Sleeper, September 8, 1927, Sleeper Family/Camp Marbury Papers 1917-1975, Vermont Historical Society, Barre, Vermont

<sup>117</sup> Ibid.

<sup>118</sup> Letter, Camp Marbury to Parents, July 3, 1928, Sleeper Family/Camp Marbury Papers 1917-1975, Vermont Historical Society, Barre, Vermont

<sup>119</sup> *Burlington Free Press*, August 9, 1937

<sup>120</sup> Letter, Mary Peet Sleeper to William Denison Sleeper, September 14, 1927, Sleeper Family/Camp Marbury Papers 1917-1975, Vermont Historical Society, Barre, Vermont

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during the winter of 1928. He worked for the Care Horton Cato Company in Detroit and then for the Royal Baking Powder Company in New York City. During the 1928 season, he still worked on the accounts but remained in Brooklyn. He died suddenly on January 19, 1930 while his parents were in Europe.

The camp shared the road with rest of the cottages on Mile Point Road. In 1923, there was a hearing about the road in Ferrisburgh. At the time, Mary Peet Sleeper heard “wild rumors about what the Haydens think and will do – both will and wont, and nobody knows what they do intend.”<sup>121</sup> The Haydens were very resistant to allowing right of way across their pasture, eventually leading to a heated discussion. The immediate result was the Sleepers ceased getting their milk from the Haydens. The selectmen eventually convinced the Haydens to allow the right of way. In the 1930s, Camp Marbury funded a new road that connected the main road (“so called Barrows Road”), across the pasture and to the houses on Mile Point Road. The previous road that was “badly laid out, often almost impassable and requiring a new bridge, new culverts and complete graveling.”<sup>122</sup> In 1939, Sleeper wrote a letter to homeowners to address the repair of the road. The names on the point included Norton, Clark, Adams, Bohlen, Cooley, Meneely, Powers, Preston, Hinds, Booth and Stewart.

By the 1937 season, Henry and Mary were in semi-retirement with daughters Harriet and Mary running the day-to-day activities. While removed from the administrative duties, the elder Sleepers “still attend camp each summer and play a prominent role in its activities.”<sup>123</sup> During the 1939 season, the camp put on a performance of *The Pot Boiler* by Alice Geistenburg and *Pooh Goes Visiting* by A.A. Milne. That summer, Henry Dyke Sleeper put on an art show at the Bixby Memorial Library in Vergennes. While featuring some art from campers, the annul exhibit also included art from regional painters.

At the end of the 1942 season, there was a closing recital featuring the Camp Marbury Trio consisting of a violin, violoncello and piano. They played pieces by Faure, Debussy, Bach, Brahms and Saint Saens. According to a Camp Marbury brochure, “a trio of trained musicians has been part of the staff for many years. These counselors are usually college graduates who are studying and teaching music.”<sup>124</sup>

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<sup>121</sup> Letter, Mary Peet Sleeper to William Denison Sleeper, September 29, 1925, Sleeper Family/Camp Marbury Papers 1917-1975, Vermont Historical Society, Barre, Vermont

<sup>122</sup> Sleeper Family/Camp Marbury Papers 1917-1975, Vermont Historical Society, Barre, Vermont

<sup>123</sup> Burlington Free Press, August 9, 1937

<sup>124</sup> Camp Marbury Brochure, 1942, Sleeper Family/Camp Marbury Papers 1917-1975, Vermont Historical Society, Barre, Vermont

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During the German blitz of England during the early stages of World War II, many British children travelled to North America to escape the dangers of war. In August of 1940, Ann McMinn of London arrived in Montreal and she made her way to Massachusetts and Smith College. She spent the summer of 1940 at Camp Marbury, being delivered to the camp by Mrs. Calvin Coolidge.<sup>125</sup>

As war raged in Europe and Asia, and America remained isolationist, the Sleepers invested in the camp by adding new camper shacks. These two cabins were the last two structures built on the grounds and with America's entry into the war, the spending habits of Americans went through a profound change. Within two months of the Japanese attack at Pearl Harbor in December 1941, the United States enacted the Emergency Price Control Act, which initiated nationwide rationing efforts, which impacted the Sleeper's ability to obtain supplies for the camp. Since the camp was not vital to the war effort, the Sleepers had limited fuel to operate their cars and motorboats. In addition, it was difficult to obtain enough food for the campers and the staff. According to the *Organized Summer Camping in Vermont* MPDF, during World War II:

The children's camping movement reflected the many social and economic trends of the era. Male staff older than 18 were hard to find, as most men were part of the war effort. Gasoline rationing made transportation difficult, and equipment was hard to obtain. Camps were required to have a government authorized "Certificate of War-Necessity" in order to continue operation. Successful lobbying by camp professionals, however, allowed camps to stay open, and provided the gasoline, food, sugar, and meat stamps needed to operate. Throughout the war, camps became surrogate parents with fathers on the front and mothers often working outside the home. Parents felt their children would be safe in the rural environment of camp away from cities and the threat of bombings. They sent ration stamps along with tuition payments, campers worked in victory gardens, and were read letters from alumni overseas.<sup>126</sup>

While many summer camps survived the war, Camp Marbury may not have obtained the proper credentials to obtain supplies. With the challenges of World War II and with Henry and Mary Sleeper being in their 70s, Camp Marbury ceased operations as a girl's camp in 1942 and opened as an adult camp for another two years. In 1943, the Sleepers explored selling the property to A.P. Beach, owner of the Basin Harbor Club. Beach wrote to Harriet Sleeper in January 1943 that "it had not occurred to me that you might not operate a

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<sup>125</sup> *Burlington Free Press*, August 6, 1940

<sup>126</sup> *Organized Summer Camping in Vermont*. Multiple Property Documentation Form, National Park Service, Department of the Interior

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camp.”<sup>127</sup> Beach was “interested definitely in any plans you may have for the future of the property. If you contemplate selling or leasing the farmhouse, or part of the farmland.”<sup>128</sup> In February of 1943, Beach expressed interest in the Hayden farm as “we may need to get back into farming on a large-scale basis, and I have considered the possibility of [restoring] the Hayden farm layout.”<sup>129</sup> In April 21, 1943, Beach made an offer of \$3500 for the Hayden lot, but then bought an adjoining lot, which lessened Beach’s need for the Hayden property. This fact greatly pleased Harriet Sleeper, as “the transaction seemed a bit difficult to decide from scattered points.”<sup>130</sup> That summer, Beach did rent a small parcel of pasture land for a short period of time. Later in the year, the Sleepers eventually sold the Hayden farmhouse to William and Josephine Meneely. The Meneelys lived in New York City and owned a summer cottage located at the tip of Mile Point. Joseph Meneely ran the Meneely Bell Foundry, with the foundry located in Watervliet and Troy, New York and offices in Manhattan.

In July 1945, the Sleepers held a public auction to sell off their camp equipment. They hired Ernest King, an auctioneer from East Barre, Vermont. The lots included twenty iron cots, chairs, dining room set, jewelry, polishing motor, office equipment, film splicer, piano, ditto machine, looms, gas engines and spinning wheel.<sup>131</sup> In July of that year, he wrote local businesses that they had furniture to sell “as we have sold the farmhouse on our place.”<sup>132</sup>

Henry Sleeper died on January 28, 1948, in Winter Park, Florida. Following her husband’s death, Mary Peet Sleeper continued to go to Ferrisburgh for the summer. In June of 1950, she was at the camp property with her eldest daughter, where “Mary is working like a dog – today cleaning the Craft House. I do less, but rather more than I have been doing. Today vacuuming.”<sup>133</sup> She died just two months later, on August 20, 1950.<sup>134</sup> The oldest daughter, Mary Olive Sleeper, died March 1, 1954. The second daughter, Harriet Sleeper, was the principal of the Hartridge School in Plainfield, New Jersey, between 1951 and her retirement in 1968. During the winters after her retirement she lived in Montpelier with

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<sup>127</sup> Letter, A.P Beach to Harriet Sleeper, January 21, 1943, Sleeper Family/Camp Marbury Papers 1917-1975, Vermont Historical Society, Barre, Vermont

<sup>128</sup> Ibid.

<sup>129</sup> Letter, A.P Beach to Harriet Sleeper, February 7, 1943, Sleeper Family/Camp Marbury Papers 1917-1975, Vermont Historical Society, Barre, Vermont

<sup>130</sup> Letter, A.P Beach to Harriet Sleeper, April 25, 1943, Sleeper Family/Camp Marbury Papers 1917-1975, Vermont Historical Society, Barre, Vermont

<sup>131</sup> Sleeper Family/Camp Marbury Papers 1917-1975, Vermont Historical Society, Barre, Vermont

<sup>132</sup> Letter, July 25, 1945, Sleeper Family/Camp Marbury Papers 1917-1975, Vermont Historical Society, Barre, Vermont

<sup>133</sup> Letter, Mary Peet Sleeper to Harriet Sleeper, June 27, 1950, Sleeper Family/Camp Marbury Papers 1917-1975, Vermont Historical Society, Barre, Vermont

<sup>134</sup> *Mrs. Mary Sleeper Dies in Vermont*. The Courier-News, Bridgewater, New Jersey. August 23, 1950.



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Lucille Kelly, a former Hartridge faculty member who volunteered at the Vermont Historical Society.<sup>135</sup> Upon her retirement from Hartridge, she was given a stipend in lieu of her sabbatical. Harriet Sleeper wrote the school thanking the institution for the money. She announced that the money “comes at a good time when I am planning improvements for Vermont living.”<sup>136</sup> Harriet Sleeper intended to use the money to:

Have 220 line wired into the living room so that I can put in some electric baseboard heaters. This won't keep the water from freezing in the winter but it will make rocking in my new chair more comfortable on fall and spring evenings. Also, I have reached the age when it is hard to push the mower uphill. It goes downhill very nicely. I am going to use some of the money for a ride on mower and enjoy the chore of cutting grass. Last summer one of the buildings was made larger with the idea of renting it as a housekeeping cottage. The new stove and refrigerator will be bought from this money that Hartridge has provided.<sup>137</sup>

Harriet maintained a summer home on former Camp Marbury property and died in Vergennes on October 3, 1975. In 1977, the Camp Marbury land was subdivided into three different parcels. The property was described as “pleasantly landscaped, having a mixture of large evergreens and a variety of shade trees, with private roads running to all cottages. The buildings are used for camping and storage purposes and are old and generally in run-down condition.”<sup>138</sup> The southern parcel was sold to John Smyser and then to present day owners John and Mary McGuire and included the Junior Roost, which was later relocated to the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum. A modern camp (HD #13) was built in its place. The middle parcel, containing the Camper's Shack (HD #9), the Junior Camper's Shack (HD #10), a Camp (HD #11), and the Wash House (HD #12) was sold to John Smyser, then Peter Combs and finally the present owner, Thomas Wisnowski. The third parcel, consisting of the Main Cottage (HD #1), the Garage (HD #2), the Jewelry Shop (HD #3), the Assembly Building (HD #4), the Craft Shop (HD #5), a modern Cottage (HD #6), a Shed (HD #7), the Tennis Courts (HD #8), and the Boathouse (HD #14) was sold to Lucille Kelly, Harriet Sleeper's roommate from Montpelier, in 1978. In 1993, the property transferred from the Kelly family to Donald Johnston, the present owner.

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<sup>135</sup> Sleeper Family/Camp Marbury Papers 1917-1975, Vermont Historical Society, Barre, Vermont

<sup>136</sup> Ibid.

<sup>137</sup> Letter, Harriet Sleeper to Aeger, March 31, 1969, Sleeper Family/Camp Marbury Papers 1917-1975, Vermont Historical Society, Barre, Vermont

<sup>138</sup> Town of Ferrisburgh Deeds, Ferrisburgh, Vermont

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

### **Bibliography** (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

*Burlington Free Press*, January 19, 1920

Cotton, Melissa, *Field Farm National Register Nomination*, National Park Service, Department of the Interior, 1995

Eels, Eleanor. *History of Organized Camping: The First 100 Years*. American Camping Association, Martinsville, Indiana, 1986

*Ferrisburgh Town Plan 2006-2011*, Ferrisburgh, Vermont, 2011

*Middlebury Register*, March 11, 1921

*Organized Summer Camping in Vermont*. Multiple Property Documentation Form, National Park Service, Department of the Interior

Perkins, Stephen, "Leading the Way." *Vermont Magazine*, July/August 2016.

Sargent, *A Handbook of Summer Camps*, 1929.

*Sleeper Family/Camp Marbury Papers 1917-1975*, Vermont Historical Society, Barre, Vermont

Wheeler, Edward W. *Harvard College Class of 1889 Secretary's Report*. Cambridge, Massachusetts, 1904. *Burlington Free Press*, August 9, 1937

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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

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- 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: \_\_\_\_\_

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** \_\_\_\_\_

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**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** 7.3

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates (decimal degrees)**

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- |                         |                       |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 44.20161 N | Longitude: 73.35689 W |
| 2. Latitude: 44.20105 N | Longitude: 73.35508 W |
| 3. Latitude: 44.19904 N | Longitude: 73.35703 W |
| 4. Latitude: 44.19941 N | Longitude: 73.35780 W |

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**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The boundary for the Camp Marbury National Register Historic District includes three parcels identified as Town of Ferrisburgh Tax Lots 21:20:16, 21:20:17, and 21:20:18.

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The three tax lots represent the 1977 subdivision that divided the original Camp Marbury property into three parcels. The combination of the three parcels represents the original Camp Marbury boundaries.

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**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title: Brian Knight  
organization: Brian Knight Research  
street & number: PO Box 1096  
city or town: Manchester state: VT zip code: 05254  
e-mail brianknight@fastmail.fm  
telephone: 201-919-3416  
date: April 15, 2018

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**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

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## Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

## Photo Log

Name of Property: Camp Marbury  
City or Vicinity: Ferrisburgh, Vermont  
County: Addison State: Vermont

### Photographs 1, 4-30

Photographer: Brian Knight  
Date Photographed: June 2017

### Photographs 2, 3, 31

Photographer: Devin Colman  
Date Photographed: May 2018

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

VT\_Addison County\_Camp Marbury\_001: Building #1 from the east

VT\_Addison County\_Camp Marbury\_002: Building #1 from the north

VT\_Addison County\_Camp Marbury\_003: Building #1 from the southwest

VT\_Addison County\_Camp Marbury\_004: Building #1 interior

VT\_Addison County\_Camp Marbury\_005: Building #1 interior

VT\_Addison County\_Camp Marbury\_006: Building #2 from the southeast

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VT\_Addison County\_Camp Marbury\_007: Building #3 from the southwest

VT\_Addison County\_Camp Marbury\_008: Building #3 interior

VT\_Addison County\_Camp Marbury\_009: Building #4 from the northeast

VT\_Addison County\_Camp Marbury\_010: Building #4 from the southeast

VT\_Addison County\_Camp Marbury\_011: Building #4 from the south

VT\_Addison County\_Camp Marbury\_012: Building #4 interior

VT\_Addison County\_Camp Marbury\_013: Building #4 interior

VT\_Addison County\_Camp Marbury\_014: Building #5 from the northeast

VT\_Addison County\_Camp Marbury\_015: Building #6 from the east

VT\_Addison County\_Camp Marbury\_016: Building #6 from the north

VT\_Addison County\_Camp Marbury\_017: Building #7 from the north

VT\_Addison County\_Camp Marbury\_018: Building #7 from the northeast

VT\_Addison County\_Camp Marbury\_019: Building #7 shutters

VT\_Addison County\_Camp Marbury\_020: Tennis Courts (#8) from north

VT\_Addison County\_Camp Marbury\_021: Building #9 from southeast

VT\_Addison County\_Camp Marbury\_022: Building #11 from east

VT\_Addison County\_Camp Marbury\_023: Building #10 from northeast

VT\_Addison County\_Camp Marbury\_024: Building #12 from southwest

VT\_Addison County\_Camp Marbury\_025: Building #13 from north

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VT\_Addison County\_Camp Marbury\_026: Building #14 from west

VT\_Addison County\_Camp Marbury\_027: Buildings #1 and #4 from southeast

VT\_Addison County\_Camp Marbury\_028: Lakeside trails and railings

VT\_Addison County\_Camp Marbury\_029: Recreational Fields

VT\_Addison County\_Camp Marbury\_030: #15 Stairs

VT\_Addison County\_Camp Marbury\_031: Rustic railings along pathways



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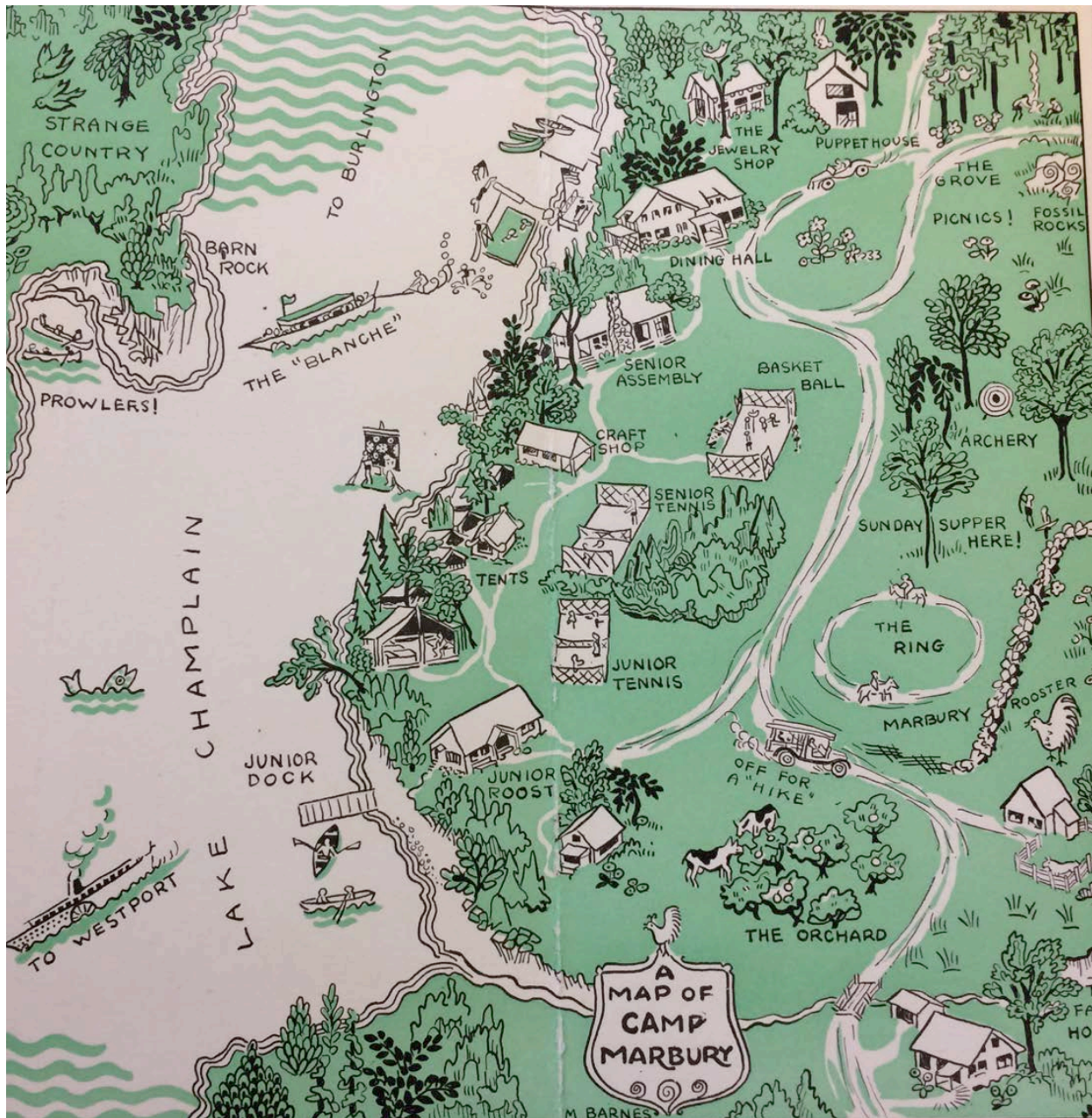


Figure 13. Map of Camp Marbury from camp brochure.  
Courtesy of the Vermont Historical Society

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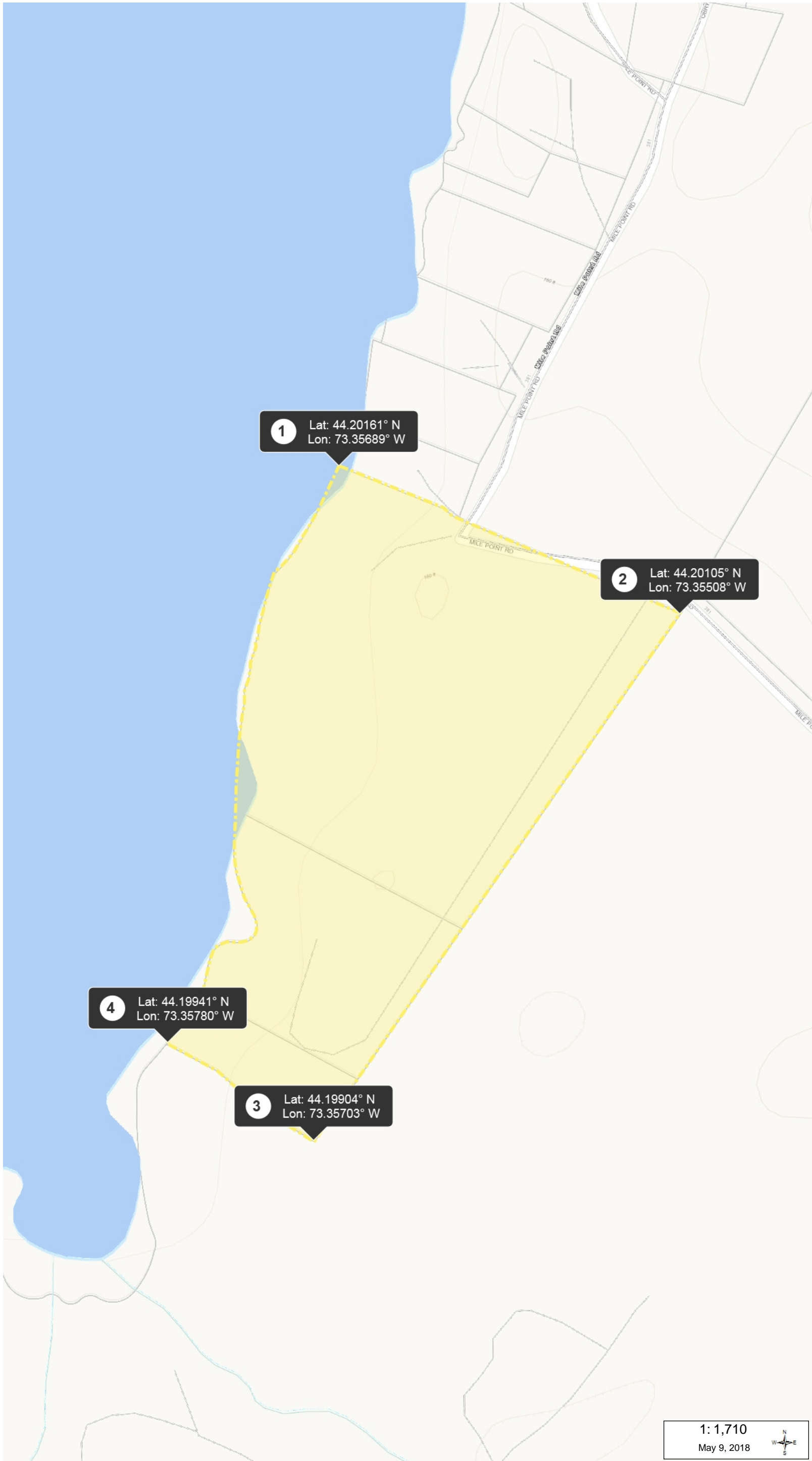
**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to 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 100 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.



**LEGEND**

- Airports
- Rail Lines
- Town Boundaries
- County Boundaries
- Buildings
- Village Boundaries
- Parcel lines**
  - Right-of-way boundary
  - Surface water boundary
  - Parcel boundary
  - Disputed parcel boundary
- Parcel polygons
- Inactive parcels
- Parcel easements
- Parcels (non-standardized)



**1** Lat: 44.20161° N  
Lon: 73.35689° W

**2** Lat: 44.20105° N  
Lon: 73.35508° W

**4** Lat: 44.19941° N  
Lon: 73.35780° W

**3** Lat: 44.19904° N  
Lon: 73.35703° W

1: 1,710  
May 9, 2018

**NOTES**

This map was created with the VT Interactive Map Viewer.





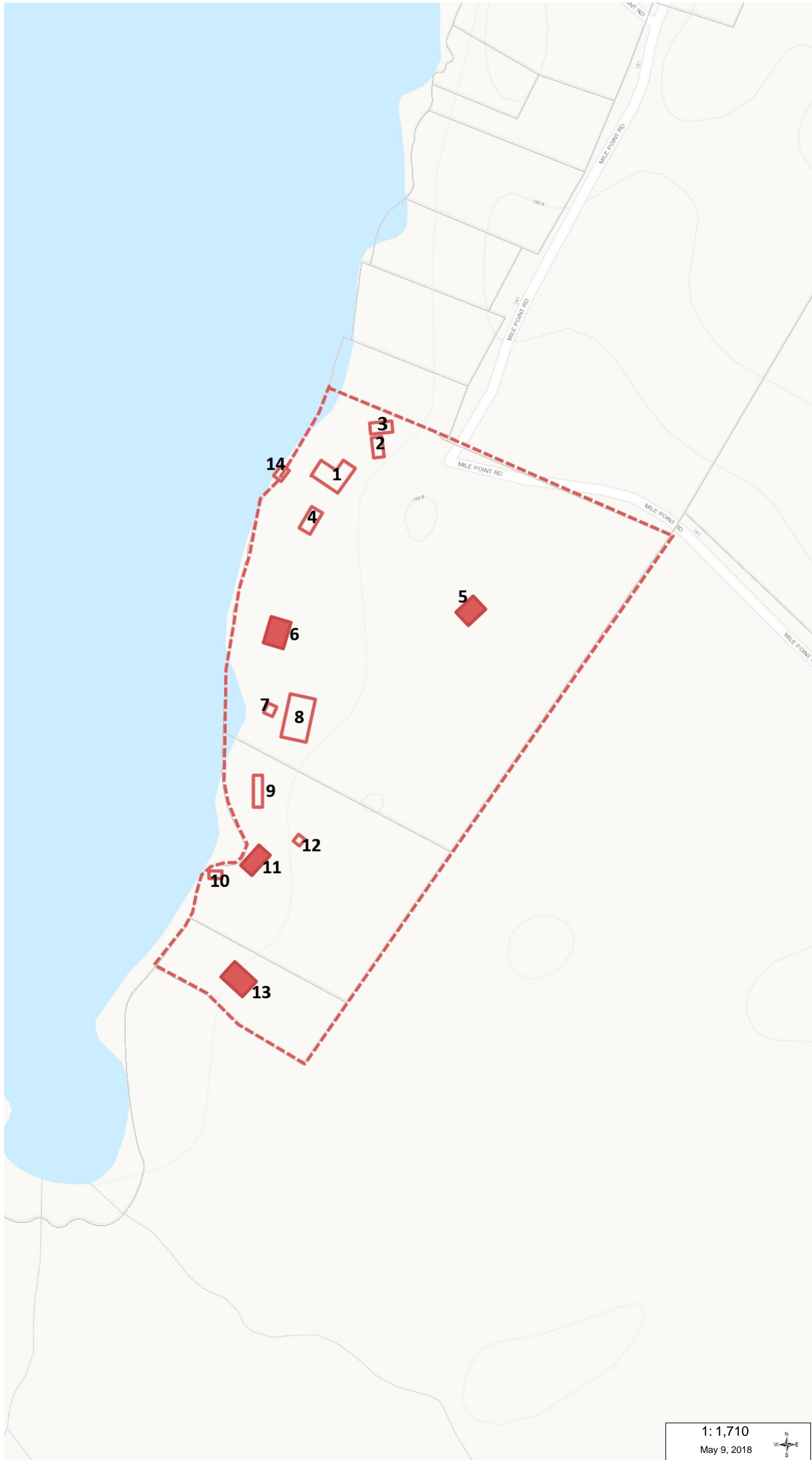


**LEGEND**

Parcel lines

- Right-of-way boundary
- Surface water boundary
- Parcel boundary
- Disputed parcel boundary

- Parcel polygons
- Inactive parcels
- Parcel easements
- Parcels (non-standardized)



1: 1,710

May 9, 2018



0.05 0 0.03 0.05 Miles

**NOTES**



















































































CHICABEE  
BOULEVARD





OUTHOUSE

































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: 10/30/2018      Date of Pending List: 11/16/2018      Date of 16th Day: 11/30/2018      Date of 45th Day: 12/14/2018      Date of Weekly List:

Reference number:

Nominator:

Reason For Review:

Accept       Return       Reject      12/6/2018 Date

Abstract/Summary Comments:

Recommendation/ Criteria

Reviewer Jim Gabbert      Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2275      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.



**State of Vermont**  
**Division for Historic Preservation**  
 Deane C. Davis Building, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor  
 One National Life Drive, Montpelier, VT 05620-0501  
<http://acd.vermont.gov/historic-preservation>

[phone] 802-828-3540

*Agency of Commerce and  
 Community Development*

October 19, 2018



Joy Beasley  
 National Park Service  
 National Register of Historic Places  
 1849 C Street, Mail Stop 7228  
 Washington, DC 20240

**Re: Nomination to the National Register of Historic Places for Property in Vermont**

Dear Ms. Beasley:

The enclosed disks contain a true and correct copy of the nomination for the Camp Marbury Historic District located in Ferrisburgh, VT, to the National Register of Historic Places.

Notification

The property owner(s), Chief Elected Official and Regional Planning Commission were notified of the proposed nomination on June 13, 2018.

- No objections to the nomination were submitted to the Division during the public comment period.
- An objection to the nomination was submitted to the Division during the public comment period. A copy of the objection is included on Disk 1.
- A letter of support for the nomination was submitted to the Division during the public comment period. A copy of the letter is included on Disk 1.

Certified Local Government

- The property being nominated is not located in a CLG community.
- The property being nominated is located in a CLG community, and a copy of the local commission's review is included on Disk 1.

Rehabilitation Investment Tax Credits

- This property is not utilizing the Rehabilitation Investment Tax Credits.
- This property being rehabilitated using the Rehabilitation Investment Tax Credits. A copy of the *Part I – Evaluation of Significance* form is included on Disk 1.

State Review Board

The Vermont Advisory Council on Historic Preservation reviewed the draft nomination materials at its meeting on July 26, 2018. The Council voted that the property meets the National Register Criteria for Evaluation under Criteria A and C, and recommends that the State Historic Preservation Officer approve the nomination.

If you have any questions concerning this nomination, please do not hesitate to contact me at (802) 828-3043 or [devin.colman@vermont.gov](mailto:devin.colman@vermont.gov).

Sincerely,  
VERMONT DIVISION FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'D A C', followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Devin A. Colman  
State Architectural Historian