

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For HCRS use only

received JUL 6 1982

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic HOTEL RANDALL

and/or common EASTERN SLOPE INN (preferred)

2. Location

street & number Main Street, (~~Routes 16 & 302~~) not for publication

city, town North Conway vicinity of congressional district First

state New Hampshire code 33 county Carroll code 003

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Eastern Slope Inn Associates

street & number PO Box #668, Main Street

city, town North Conway vicinity of state New Hampshire 03860

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Carroll County Registry of Deeds
Carroll County Courthouse

street & number PO Box #208

city, town Ossipee state New Hampshire 03864

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title NONE has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date <u>N/A</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Eastern Slope Inn is a three-story, hip-roofed building of wood frame construction and T-shaped plan. The main elevation extends 190 feet, while the rear wing is 125 feet long. At the time of its completion in 1926, the Inn was described as being "of Southern Colonial design", and was clearly inspired in a general sense by Mount Vernon.¹ The resemblance to its prototype was formerly more striking since, in the original plan, the first floor of the building's facade was sheltered by a piazza, the eastern half of which has since been enclosed.

The building has thirteen pairs of windows across its facade, most of them filled with 8/1 sashes. The facade is further articulated by three-story pilasters which define the end bays of the eastern and western extremities and by triangular pediments atop the second-floor pair of windows in each end bay. A tall portico, supported by four columns bearing Corinthian capitals based on those of the Tower of the Winds in Athens, embraces the three central bays of the facade. This portico has a modillioned cornice, a stuccoed tympanum with an elliptical window at its center, and generally more elaborate detailing than elsewhere on the building. The wall beneath the portico is stuccoed in contrast to the clapboarded covering of the remainder of the buildings and the portico columns are echoed by corresponding pilasters on the wall behind. The second-story windows beneath the portico are elaborated, the two outer pairs being surmounted by triangular pediments and the central window, treated as a three-part Venetian window, being capped by a segmental pediment. The doorway vestibule beneath the portico is decorated with applied pilasters and has a semi-elliptical fan above the door.

The roof of the building is covered with pale red asphalt shingles. The front slope of the roof is pierced by eight gable-roofed dormers, all of which have 6/6 sash embraced by applied pilasters and surmounted by archivolt with keystones. At the intersection of the main roof, the portico roof, and the roof of the wing is a square observation platform with a low balustrade; this affords sweeping views of the Presidential Range of mountains and of the Mount Washington Valley.

Now partitioned, the front lobby was large and stately, with handsome columns and a brick fireplace. The second and third floors provide eighty guest rooms. The southwest courtyard has a dining and dancing patio; when it was named "the Terrace Garden" in July, 1939, this courtyard was distinguished by its "subilluminated glass dance floor, the only outdoor one of its kind in America."² This dance floor remains in full use during the summer.

Operated as an inn until 1977, the building retains its original plan and features. In 1977 the property was purchased by Eastern Mountain Sports, Inc., a retail store, and the new owners altered the lobby, dining room, kitchen and meeting rooms to accommodate retail functions. The present owner, Eastern Slope Inn Associates, intends to restore the lobby, meeting rooms, dining room and guest rooms to their original state and return the building to its original use as a grand hotel.

Original Appearance: Except for the interior changes noted above, the major alteration to the Inn has been the enclosure of the eastern half of the first-floor piazza. Originally treated as an open pergola supported by paired columns, this porch has now been converted on the eastern side of the portico to an enclosed space lighted by paired sashes divided by mullions and transoms.

¹"The Reporter," July 1, 1926, p. 1.

--- ²"The Reporter, July 13, 1939, p. 4.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–1930	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) recreation
	<input type="checkbox"/> invention			

Specific dates 1926 **Builder/Architect** (designed by) H.E. Mason, of
Leominster, Massachusetts

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Eastern Slope Inn is a central element in North Conway Village, the Mount Washington Valley, and New Hampshire's North Country as a whole - for both its architectural and recreational significance. The building is characteristically Colonial Revival in its design and features. Its recreational importance is tied closely to the introduction of skiing as a popular North American winter sport and the establishment of North Conway as a center of recreation and tourism.

Architecture: A focal structure in North Conway Village, the Eastern Slope Inn is an example of the popular Colonial Revival style of architecture prevalent in the early 20th century. The use of this idiom for the design of a large building meant to serve the public is much in the character of the Colonial Revival. In addition, the structure incorporates design features which are typical of this style. The use of a hipped roof with balustraded observation platform, projecting monumental central portico, and classically-derived details such as triangular pediments, modillions, and semi-elliptical fanlight all reinforce the design's Colonial Revival character.

The Eastern Slope Inn is one of two Colonial Revival buildings in the Town of Conway of an institutional scale. Memorial Hospital is of a similar scale, but its location back from the road almost eclipses the visual impact of the style. There are more vernacular examples of the style located in town, but these are generally small residential buildings with minimal use of characteristic details. No other building in North Conway comes close to expressing the Colonial Revival idiom with the strength and dignity with which the Eastern Slope Inn does.

Other (recreation): Eastern Slope Inn was built in 1926 as the Hotel Randall from plans by H.E. Mason of Leominster, Massachusetts. Its owner was Henry Harrison Randall (born 1870), whose father had pioneered in the resort hotel business in North Conway beginning in 1864. Henry Randall became a partner in his father's business at the age of eighteen. Ten years later, at his father's death, Randall became sole proprietor of the hotel and worked to make it pre-eminent in the region as a focal point for mountain tourists.¹ The first hotel burned in 1908 and was replaced by another which likewise burned in 1924.² The present building was constructed as the most modern and spacious hotel in the area and, like its predecessors, was intended to gain the patronage of the summer visitors who then constituted the only type of clientele attracted to the White Mountains of New Hampshire.

The sport of skiing began to make its appearance in the White Mountains about 1930 as downhill or Alpine skiing began to take its place alongside the long-popular Scandinavian or cross-country skiing.³ Skiing on the Eastern Slopes of the White Mountains was at first confined to an area near Jackson, N.H., some seven miles north of North Conway. Here Carroll Reed, a young skier from Boston, urged the establishment of the Eastern Slope Ski Club for the promotion of downhill skiing. In 1936 this organization brought Benno Rybiska, an instructor from Hannes Schneider's ski school at St. Anton am Arlberg, Austria, to teach the techniques of Alpine skiing.⁴ Thereafter, the Eastern Slopes of New Hampshire's White

9. Major Bibliographical References

Gibson, H.D., Harvey Dow Gibson, 1882-1950, An Autobiography. North Conway, NH
The Reporter Press, Pub. 1950.

Nute, Helen E., Historic North Conway, North Conway, NH: The Reporter Press, Pub. 1961.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 1 $\frac{1}{2}$

Quadrangle name North Conway, NH-ME

Quadrangle scale 1:62500

UMT References

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Zone Easting Northing

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Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundaries of the nominated property are indicated in red on the attached sketch map.

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

state	code	county	code
N/A			

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Robert B. Kantack

organization Eastern Slope Inn Associates date 9/24/81

street & number PO Box #668 telephone (603) 356-6321

city or town North Conway state New Hampshire 03860

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature 

Commissioner, Dept. of Resources & Economic Development

title NH State Historic Preservation Officer

date June 28, 1982

For HCRS use only

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

William H. Brarum

date 8.10.82

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: Patrick W. Andrews

date 8/10/82

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

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New Hampshire



Continuation sheet #1-SIGNIFICANCE

Item number 8

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Mountains were assured a leading place in the ski industry of New England, especially when the Boston & Maine Railroad began to run its "snow trains" to the mountains in the winter of 1931.⁵

In 1937, Harvey D. Gibson (1882-1950), a native of North Conway, resolved to make his birthplace the center of the Eastern Slopes ski industry. Gibson had risen rapidly in the American financial world, and was then president of Manufacturers Trust Company of New York. He secretly purchased most of the west side of Mount Cranmore in North Conway with the intention of clearing ski trails, and then also bought the Hotel Randall. Immediately renaming the structure the Eastern Slope Inn, Gibson adapted it for winter use and continued to modernize it with new furnishings and equipment calculated to make it the focus of ski activity in the region.

Gibson's program called for the provision of additional incentives for skiers to come to North Conway rather than Jackson. He employed a local mechanic, George W. Morton, to devise a tramway to take skiers to the summit of Mount Cranmore. As it was finally built in 1938, this "Skimobile" consisted of individual cars which are driven over a raised wooden causeway by a moving continuous cable beneath the deck. In time, Gibson purchased the ski school at Jackson, making the Eastern Slope Inn its new headquarters and bringing Benno Rybiska to North Conway as the instructor. Gibson used diplomatic contacts to bring Rybiska's compatriot Hannes Schneider, then interned by the Nazis, to the United States. Schneider and his family were released, arrived in North Conway in 1939, and immediately took charge of the Eastern Slope ski school. Mount Cranmore soon fulfilled Gibson's plans by becoming the most heavily-used ski slope in the United States.⁶

Gibson also utilized the Eastern Slope Inn as the focus of summertime activities, including horse shows, tennis and golf tournaments, swim meets, and civic, cultural and social gatherings. This array of year-round activities eventually established North Conway as one of New England's major resort communities.

¹American Series of Popular Biographies, New Hampshire Edition (Boston: New England Historical Publishing Company, 1902), pp. 186-188.

²Ruth B. D. Horne, Conway Through the Years and Whither (Conway, N.H.: Conway Historical Society, 1963), p. 68; "The Reporter", October 16, 1961, pp. 1, 8.

³Harvey D. Gibson, Harvey D. Gibson, An Autobiography (North Conway, N.H.: privately printed, 1951), p. 299; E. John B. Allen, "The Development of New Hampshire Skiing: 1870s to 1940", Historical New Hampshire 36, pp. 25-34.

⁴Gibson, p. 300.

⁵Allen, p. 25.

⁶Gibson, pp. 299-311.

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National Park Service

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Continuation sheet

SKETCH MAP

Item number

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