

1524

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 How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Camp Billings
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 1452 Route 244 not for publication n/a
city or town Thetford vicinity n/a
state Vermont code VT county Orange code 017 zip code 05045-9620

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Suzanne C. Gamble, National Register Specialist, 11-29-05
Signature of certifying official _____ Date _____

Vermont State Historic Preservation Office
State or Federal agency and bureau _____

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official _____ Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

4. National Park Service Certification

- I, hereby certify that this property is:
- entered in the National Register
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the
 National Register
 See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the
 National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain): _____

[Signature]
Signature of the Keeper _____ Date of Action 1-11-06
Edson H. Beall

Camp Billings
Name of Property

Thetford, Orange County, Vermont
Town, County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
18	13	buildings
		sites
1		structures
		objects
19	13	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)
Organized Summer Camping in Vermont

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register
0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Category: RECREATION AND CULTURE
EDUCATION

Subcategory: Outdoor Recreation
Education-Related

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Category: RECREATION AND CULTURE
EDUCATION

Subcategory: Outdoor Recreation
Education-Related

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

Bungalow
Queen Anne
Other: Adirondack Rustic

foundation
walls
roof
other
Wood
Concrete
Wood
Weatherboard
Asphalt
Metal
Stone
Log

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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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 a grave.
- d a cemetery.
- e a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- f a commemorative property.
- g less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture
Education
Recreation
Health/Medicine

Period of Significance

1907-1954

Significant Dates

1921

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
 - Other State agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other
- Name of repository:
University of Vermont Special Collections
Camp Billings Alumni Room

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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 10.84 Acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone Easting Northing	Zone Easting Northing
1 <u>18 722142 4863153</u>	3 <u>18 722400 4863262</u>
2 <u>18 722330 4863085</u>	4 <u>18 722210 4863324</u>
	5 <u>18 722215 4863223</u>

 See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Brian Knight, Historic Preservation Consultant
 organization N/A date August, 2005
 street & number 75 Timber Brook telephone (802) 362-5645
 city or town Dorset state VT zip code 05251

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

- A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white** photographs of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Camp Billings
 street & number 1452 Route 244 telephone (802) 333-4317
 city or town Thetford state Vermont zip code 05045-9620

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. 470 et seq.). **Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the 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 Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

SUMMARY PARAGRAPH

Camp Billings, a summer camp for boys and girls ages seven to sixteen, is located on the northern end of Lake Fairlee on the border between the Vermont towns of West Fairlee and Thetford. Led by Archibald "Dad" Hurd for close to fifty years, Camp Billings embodied the nationwide Y.M.C.A. camp movement that focused on child development. Consisting of thirty-two buildings constructed in a traditional rustic style, Camp Billings serves as an outstanding example of a children's camp in Vermont and the nation. These buildings were an integral part of the children's experience as they served as locales for education, physical improvement and community building. Its architecture comprises a cohesive complex of buildings most of which were constructed between c. 1904 and 1954. The well preserved structures represent a period when the Vermont children's camping movement was at its developmental peak. Camp Billings has a rich variety of camp architecture represented by early residential cabins built in the Queen Anne and Bungalow styles of architecture. Many of the subsequent buildings, primarily camper cabins, were built with simple materials with six to eight bunks, reflecting the communal spirit of the camp as well as the simple back to nature experience of the camp. Camp Billings retains integrity of location, setting, design, workmanship, materials, feeling and association.

INTRODUCTION

Camp Billings is an excellent example of a summer outdoor camp. The camp buildings reflect architectural styles that were popular during the early years of summer camp development in the early to mid 20th century. There are a few buildings that pre-date the creation of the camp that have been altered over the years to accommodate the needs of the camp. The buildings represent camp style buildings that were prevalent in Vermont camps and private homes during the early parts of the 20th century.

The Camp Billings complex is comprised of a cohesive complex of architectural buildings that date from 1904 through the present day. Camp Billings' structures and buildings are architecturally significant as typical early twentieth century wood frame recreational buildings. Today, there are nineteen buildings, structures, and tent platforms

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that contribute to the camp's rural setting and give the camp historic and architectural significance. There are also thirteen non-contributing buildings as well as several playing fields, waterfront docks, tent platforms, archery ranges and tennis courts.

Camp Billings' structures resemble Bungalow camps or simple shanties. They are all wood construction and leave a sense of "returning to nature," a common experience amongst summer camps. "Along with the idea of the simple life were the notions of camping out and 'roughing out' ... these activities had romantic connotations that found physical expression in the camps themselves in the form of exposed framing, large stone fireplaces, and rustic posts and rails on porches. All these physical elements represented a particular idea and evoked atmosphere that conjured up pre-conceived images when contained all of the pleasantries and few of the hardships of 'roughing it.'ⁱ "It has been shown how the typical camp contains certain elements that conjure up images of a past way of life. Yet all the elements characteristic of the camp such as exposed rafters and interior framing, cobblestone chimneys, tree branch railings, sleeping porches, in fact have no real historical precedent despite the fact that they are allegedly harkening back to an earlier, simpler way of life. The summer camp as it was originally conceived is a product of its time. It took the combination of new found leisure, easy transportation, and a burgeoning urban society to produce the meaning and the accompanying forms that ultimately created the summer camp."ⁱⁱ

SETTING

Camp Billings is situated on ten acres of scenic frontage on Lake Fairlee. It sits amongst stands of White Pine and White Birch. There are thirty-two buildings and structures at Camp Billings. The buildings, sites and structures consist of camper cabins, showers/washrooms, dining lodge and kitchen, infirmary, recreation lodge, staff housing, guest housing, administrative offices, arts and crafts shop, and canoeing/backpacking trips building. The camp also includes several tent platforms, a campfire area, outdoor chapel, waterfront docks and assorted athletic fields. There are four hardtop tennis courts, an archery range, soccer fields, baseball fields as well as courts for basketball and street hockey. The property is dominated by a four sided clock tower built in 1921. The Camp Billings property is divided by Route 244. The majority of Camp Billings is located on southeast side of Route 244 while the Rainshadow Athletic Fields, which consist of the

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soccer, baseball, softball and game fields and the Harley Outdoor Education and Backpacking Center, are located on the northwest side of Route 244.

Camp Billings' waterfront facilities are located in a protected cove and consist of a 90 foot "H" cedar wood floating dock with a one meter diving board and deep water swimming lanes, a swim float with a diving tower and a one meter diving board, and another float with a three meter diving tower and board. Amenities include rowboats, sailboats, canoes, kayaks, sailboards, and water-ski boats.

BUILDINGS, SITES AND STRUCTURES

All the buildings at Camp Billings are made of wood. All but one is painted brown. The buildings are sawed wood shanties that are supported on wood posts with diagonal bracing. All of the buildings have asphalt shingle roofing except the metal roof garage and shower buildings.

1. CABIN # 14 –CROWLEY CORNER –STAFF HOUSING, C. 1954, contributing

Cabin #14 is a one story, square, Bungalow style, hipped roof cabin. The building was originally an outbuilding associated with the adjacent "Sunnyside Cottage." The cabin accommodates one camp counselor and is located on a point projecting out onto Lake Fairlee. The cabin is supported by wood posts with diagonal bracing and has horizontal drop siding, extended roof eaves with exposed rafter tails. The open interior has a sink, wood flooring and exposed wood framing. There is a single wooden door with a screen door located on the right side of the front, south facing façade. The building has simply sliding casement windows on the east and west facades. The cabin is named after long time Camp Billings instructor, Charles Crowley.

2. SUNNYSIDE – STAFF HOUSING, C. 1910, contributing

Built in 1910 as a private cottage, Sunnyside is a two story, vernacular Queen Anne style, two bay (front) by three bay (side), gable front cabin. The cabin is supported by stones and has horizontal clapboard siding. The side hall entrance door is located on the west facing façade and has a small hood roof covering the wood entrance stairs. There is one

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story hip roof ell on the south facing façade. There are one story shed roof additions on the west and north facing facades. The new addition on the north façade, which was completed in the 1970s, features a brick chimney flanked by two single pane windows. The east and south façades feature a hip roofed wrap around porch with brackets and drop pendants on the supporting columns. There are 2/2 double hung windows on the second story gable ends. The interior consists of a first floor living space and kitchen and bedrooms on the second floor. This building was previously owned by the Sanborn family who used the home as a summer cottage before the formation of Camp Billings. One of the directors, Uncle Ralph, lived at Sunnyside for many years and it is presently used for the camp's kitchen staff.

3. CABIN #10 - SENIOR BOYS CABIN, C. 2003, non-contributing

The original Cabin #10 was demolished at the end of 2002. The new cabins were built to resemble the original cabins in May of 2003. The new cabins are slightly larger than the originals. The cabins are one story, eaves front rectangular, Bungalow style, three bay (front) by two bay (side), wood frame buildings with a standard footprint of 18' x 20'. The floor joists are made 2" X 12", the floor decking is made of 4' x 8' x 5/8" and the framing studs are standard 2' x 4'. Each cabin has paneled wood door in the center of the west facing façade which are flanked by a pair of small six pane sliding windows tucked under the eaves. There is pair of these windows on the remaining three facades. The senior boys cabins have gable roofs with louvered vents. The only difference between the cabins is the types of roofs. Cabin # 10 has a gable roof with a small gable over the side entrance. Cabin #11 has a gable on hip roof with a small gable over the side entrance. Cabin #12 has a gable roof with a small gable over the side entrance. The open interiors have wood floors and exposed framing. The original cabins were built between 1936 and 1938. These cabins are non-contributing due to their age.

4. CABIN #11 - SENIOR BOYS CABIN, C. 2003, non-contributing

The original Cabin #11 was demolished at the end of 2002. The new cabins were built to resemble the original cabins in May of 2003. The new cabins are slightly larger than the originals. The cabins are one story, eaves front, rectangular, Bungalow style, three bay (front) by two bay (side), wood frame buildings with a standard footprint of 18' x 20'. The floor joists are made 2" X 12", the floor decking is made of 4' x 8' x 5/8" and the framing studs are standard 2' x 4'. Each cabin has paneled wood door in the center of the west facing façade which are flanked by a pair of small six pane sliding windows tucked

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under the eaves. There is pair of these windows on the remaining three facades. The senior boys cabins have gable roofs with louvered vents. The only difference between the cabins is the types of roofs. Cabin # 10 has a gable roof with a small gable over the side entrance. Cabin #11 has a gable on hip roof with a small gable over the side entrance. Cabin #12 has a gable roof with a small gable over the side entrance. The open interiors have wood floors and exposed framing. The original cabins were built between 1936 and 1938. These cabins are non-contributing due to their age.

5. CABIN #12 - SENIOR BOYS CABIN, C. 2003, non-contributing

The original Cabin #12 was demolished at the end of 2002. The new cabins were built to resemble the original cabins in May of 2003. The new cabins are slightly larger than the originals. The cabins are one story, eaves front, rectangular, Bungalow style, three bay (front) by two bay (side), wood frame buildings with a standard footprint of 18' x 20'. The floor joists are made 2" X 12", the floor decking is made of 4' x 8' x 5/8" and the framing studs are standard 2' x 4'. Each cabin has paneled wood door in the center of the west facing façade which are flanked by a pair of small six pane sliding windows tucked under the eaves. There is pair of these windows on the remaining three facades. The senior boys cabins have gable roofs with louvered vents. The only difference between the cabins is the types of roofs. Cabin # 10 has a gable roof with a small gable over the side entrance. Cabin #11 has a gable on hip roof with a small gable over the side entrance. Cabin #12 has a gable roof with a small gable over the side entrance. The open interiors have wood floors and exposed framing. The original cabins were built between 1936 and 1938. These cabins are non-contributing due to their age.

6. THE ANNEX - SENIOR BOYS CABIN, C. 1995, non-contributing

The Annex is a one story, gable roof, Bungalow style, rectangular, three (front) bay by four (side) bay cabin. There is single central door on the gable, east facing end. The door is flanked by sliding 6 pane windows. The north and south facades each have a pair of two 6 pane sliding windows. The building is supported by cement posts and has an asphalt roof with projecting eaves. The open interior has wood flooring and has novelty siding and exposed wood framing. This cabin replaced an older cabin that was known as the "Cabin in the Swamp", for it sat low to the ground.

7. ARTS AND CRAFTS BUILDING, c. 1954, contributing

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The Arts and Crafts Building is a one story, gable roof, Bungalow style, rectangular, three (front) bay by two (side) bay cabin. The cabin is supported by wood posts with diagonal bracing and has horizontal drop siding, extended roof eaves with exposed rafter tails. The central double door entrance is located on the east facing eaves side. There is small pediment located on the roof above the door. The door is flanked by a pair of twelve pane windows. These windows exist on the other three facades. The open interior has wood flooring and exposed wood framing. The building was dedicated to Harry E. and Thurza M. Chadbourne in 1954.

8. CUPALA COTTAGE/GUEST HOUSE, C. 1910, contributing

This is a two story, square, two bay by two bay, hipped roof building. The building is supported by wood posts with diagonal bracing and has shingle siding with plain corner boards. The single panel wood door is located on the northern side flanked by original single 2/2 window on each side. There are original 2/2 double hung windows on the first floor and two pane casement eyebrow windows on the second floor on the south and west facing facades. There is a porch with a shed roof and brick chimney on the east facing façade. There are original 2/2 double hung windows on each side of the chimney. There are three rooms on the first floor and the second story is an open space. There are panel doors on the interior. This building was previously owned by the Emerson and Ball families. The house is occupied by the C.I.T. Director. This building is known as Cupola Cottage as it had a cupola on the roof which came down during the Hurricane of 1938.

9. CABIN #15 - SENIOR BOYS CABIN, c. 1906, contributing

Cabin #15 is a one story, gable roof, Bungalow style, rectangular, two (front) bay by three (side) bay cabin. It has drop clapboard siding and asphalt roof shingles. The building is resting on supports and there is horizontal lattice work underneath. The wood entrance door is located in the second bay of the west facing façade. There is a small hipped roof porch with stairs over the entrance. There is also a double hung 6/6 windows on the east facing facade. The shed roof porch on the east facing side has been recently repaired. There is a center door with two flanking double hung 6/6 window on the porch side. The open interior has wood flooring and exposed wood framing. Cabin #15 is also known as "On the Rocks" or "Bluff Cottage". The cabin was used a fishing cabin before the creation of the camp.

10. WE-OWN-IT, c. 1904, contributing

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This is a 1 ½ story gable roof vernacular Queen Anne building with a one story shed addition on the west facing façade. There is one story wrap around porch with hipped roof and exposed rafter tails on the north and east facades. There is a large door on in the center of the east façade. There is another addition on the northern end of the addition. The building is wood clapboard with staggered butt shingles located in the gable ends. There is an interior chimney located on the west side of the building. The interior has living spaces as well as a kitchen and a shower. The east façade has a central door with two flanking 2/2 double hung windows that face toward the lake. There is a single 2/2 double hung window and wood door on the north façade. There are 2/2 double hung windows on the remaining two facades. It was originally owned by the Jenkins family. This building was given to Camp Billings by the Slack family as a life estate. It is not part of camp's programming but it is the oldest building on the property.

11. ALDRICH INFIRMARY, C. 1926, CONTRIBUTING

The infirmary is a one story, Bungalow style, rectangular building with clapboard siding with a single story rectangular ell extending from the north facing facade. The building is supported by wooden posts with diagonal bracing with simple horizontal lattice work. Both the main block and ell have asphalt shingle gable roofs and have horizontal drop siding. There is small one story shed roof addition further connecting the main body with the ell. There is a single pane horizontal window on the east side of the addition. There are two pairs of 16 pane sliding casement windows on the east and west sides of the ell. There is a single 16 pane sliding casement window on the north façade of the ell. There is a single 16 pane sliding casement window on the east façade. There are two wooden single doors on the south façade and a window with two sliding 8 pane casements. The front doors and window on the south façade are located under a small covered porch. There are several rooms within the infirmary serving as a doctor's office, patient's room and kitchen. The building was constructed for \$1,000. In the late 1940s, the infirmary received substantial funding from Mrs. James Hartness, the wife of the former Governor of Vermont. An addition was added to the north side in the 1979. The Aldrich family contributed significantly to the new addition.

12. GARAGE, C. 1992, non-contributing

This a two story wood structure with a metal seam gable roof. There are three vehicle bays on the west facing façade. This building replaced a c. 1933 single story saltbox roof garage. The original garage had a single door with three auto bays. The auto bays

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featured swinging doors with 8/8 fixed window paned vertical paneling on each door. There are sleeping quarters on the second floor. It is non-contributing due to age.

13. SHOWER BUILDING, C. 1992, non-contributing

The building is a one story, rectangular, side gable building with a metal seam roof. The building has horizontal novelty siding with a single door on the right bay. There are two horizontal fixed pane windows located under the eaves on the east and west façade. There are gable vents on the north and south ends. It is non-contributing due to age.

14. CABIN 6a – JUNIOR GIRLS CABIN, c. 1989, non-contributing

This is a one story, rectangular, three bay (front) by two bay (side), side gable building. It has vertical siding and an asphalt roof. There are two eight pane horizontal sliding windows on the sides and a single eight pane window and gable vents on the gable ends. The cabin is supported by wooden posts. The open interior has wood flooring and exposed wood framing. Cabin 6a is non-contributing due to age.

15. CABIN #5, JUNIOR GIRLS CABIN, C. 1946, contributing

Cabin #5 is a one story, Bungalow style, rectangular, four bay (front) by three bay (side), side gable building. The cabin is supported by wood posts with diagonal bracing and has horizontal drop siding, extended roof eaves with exposed rafter tails. There is a jerkin head roof and gable vent on each side of the cabin. There are set of stairs and a landing with small hood roof at the entrance. There is pair of six pane sliding casement windows on each side of the front door. There are single six pane sliding casement windows on the gable ends. The open interior has wood flooring and exposed wood framing. Cabin #5 is also known as Gay Brothers Lodge, named after Leon and Olin Gay of Cavendish, Vermont.

16. CABIN #6, JUNIOR GIRLS CABIN, C. 1946, contributing

Cabin #6 is a one story, Bungalow style, rectangular, three bay (front) by four bay (side), front gable building. The cabin is supported by wood posts with diagonal bracing and has horizontal drop siding, extended roof eaves with exposed rafter tails. There are 6 pane narrow fixed windows on each side of the wood front door. There is a bracketed gable doorhood. There is a jerkin head roof and a gable vent on each side of the cabin. There are two pairs of six pane sliding casement windows on each eaves side and double six pane sliding window on the other gable end. The open interior has wood flooring and

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exposed wood framing. Cabin #6 is known as Mary Fletcher Lodge, named for Mary Fletcher of Cavendish, New Hampshire.

17. CABIN #7, JUNIOR BOYS CABIN, C. 1948, contributing

Cabin #7 is a one story, Bungalow style, rectangular, four bay (front) by three bay (side), side gable building. The cabin is supported by wood posts with diagonal bracing and has horizontal drop siding, extended roof eaves with exposed rafter tails. There is a jerkin head roof and gable vent on each side of the cabin. There are set of stairs and a landing with small gable hood at the entrance. There are two eight pane sliding casement windows on each side of the front wooden door. There are two pairs of eight pane sliding casement windows on each side remaining side. The open interior has wood flooring and exposed wood framing. The cabin is also known as Dr. Clark Lodge.

18. CABIN #8, JUNIOR BOYS CABIN, C. 1948, contributing

Cabin #8 is one story, Bungalow style, rectangular, three bay (front) by four bay (side), front gable building. The cabin is supported by wood posts with diagonal bracing and has horizontal drop siding, extended roof eaves with exposed rafter tails. There is a narrow, 6 pane fixed window on each side of the wood paneled front door. There is a jerkin head roof and a gable vent on each side of the cabin. There are two pairs of six pane sliding casement windows on each eaves side and double six pane sliding window on the other gable end. The open interior has wood flooring and exposed wood framing. Cabin #8 is also known as Dr. Cobb Lodge.

19. CABIN #9, JUNIOR BOYS CABIN, C. 1948, contributing

Cabin #9 is a one story, Bungalow style, rectangular, three bay (front) by four bay (side), front gable building. The cabin is supported by wood posts with diagonal bracing and has horizontal drop siding, extended roof eaves with exposed rafter tails. There are 6 pane narrow fixed windows on each side of the wood front vertical paneled door. There is a jerkin head roof and a gable vent on each side of the cabin. There are two pairs of six pane sliding casement windows on each eaves side and double six pane sliding window on the other gable end. The open interior has wood flooring and exposed wood framing.

20. CABIN #9a, JUNIOR BOYS CABIN, C. 1989, non-contributing

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This is a single story, gable front, rectangular, two bay (front) by three bay (side) building. It is supported by wooden posts and vertical siding. It has modern six pane sliding windows on the remaining three sides. It is non-contributing due to age.

21. BOY'S TOILET, C. 1995, non-contributing

This one story, 12' x 24', rectangular building replaced a washroom that was at the same site. There is a single door on the south façade flanked by two four pane casement windows. There are three four pane windows on the east and west façade. The new building was constructed at ground level to make the facilities handicap accessible. There is a tin sink with a gable roof to the rear of the bathrooms. It is non-contributing due to age.

22. CABIN #1 – SENIOR GIRLS CABIN, C. 1941, contributing

Cabin #1 is a one story, Bungalow style, rectangular, three bay (front) by two bay (side), side gable building. The cabin is supported by wood posts with diagonal bracing and has horizontal drop siding, extended roof eaves with exposed rafter tails. There is a jerkin head roof and gable vent on each side of the cabin. There are two paired eight pane sliding casement windows on each side of the front wooden door. There are narrow 8 pane fixed windows on the west side. There are 8 pane sliding windows on the north, south and east side. There is wood decking outside. The open interior has wood flooring and exposed wood framing. The cabin is also known as Dr. Everard Stubbs Lodge. Stubbs was Vice President of Fellows Gear Shaper Company in Springfield, Vermont. He was a longtime member of the Y.M.C.A. Board of Director who gave a significant amount of money in 1937 towards the construction of the new senior cabins.

23. CABIN #2 – SENIOR GIRLS CABIN, C. 1941, contributing

Cabin #2 is a one story, Bungalow style, rectangular, three bay (front) by two bay (side), front gable building. The cabin is supported by wood posts with diagonal bracing and has horizontal drop siding, extended roof eaves with exposed rafter tails. There are eight pane narrow fixed windows on each side of the wood front door. There is a jerkin head roof and a gable vent on each side of the cabin. There are paired eight pane sliding casement windows on the side facades. There are horizontal 3 pane windows on the west side. The open interior has wood flooring and exposed wood framing. The cabin is also known as Condict Family Lodge.

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24. CABIN #3 – SENIOR GIRLS CABIN, C. 1942, contributing

Cabin #3 is a one story, Bungalow style, rectangular, three bay (front) by two bay (side), front gable building. The cabin is supported by wood posts with diagonal bracing and has horizontal drop siding, extended roof eaves with exposed rafter tails. There are eight pane narrow fixed windows on each side of the wood front door. There is a gable vent on each side of the cabin. There are two paired eight pane sliding casement windows on the side facades. The open interior has wood flooring and exposed wood framing.

25. GIRLS WASHROOM, C. 1946, contributing

The Girls Washroom is a one story, Bungalow style, rectangular, three bay (front) by two bay (side), front gable building. The cabin is supported by wood posts with diagonal bracing and has horizontal drop siding, extended roof eaves with exposed rafter tails. There are two wooden doors on the front gable. The center door provides access to the washroom. The door on the right of the entrance door accesses a storage room. There are two pairs of horizontal fixed pane windows located under the eaves on the east and west facades. There several bathroom stalls and sinks in the interior

26. SENIOR GIRLS CABIN – SENATOR FLANDERS LODGE, c. 1974, non-contributing

This is a one story, rectangular, three bay (front) by four bay (side), front gable building. The cabin is supported by wood posts with diagonal bracing and has horizontal drop siding, extended roof eaves with exposed rafter tails. There is front porch with a gable roof. There are two pane vertical sliding windows that flank the front door. There is a set of double doors on the front façade that open for storing waterfront docks. The interior reveals that the building was built with beams from another building on the site, most likely an outbuilding associated with “Cupola Cottage” or “Sunnyside.” The open interior has wood flooring and exposed wood framing. The building was named after Senator Ralph E. Flanders who served on the Y.M.C.A. Board of Directors from the 1930s through the 1950s. Flanders was also the President of the Jones and Lamson Company of Springfield, Vermont. This building is non-contributing due to age.

27. PINEWOLD – STAFF BUILDING, C. 1907, contributing

This is a two story, vernacular Queen Anne style, square, front gable building. It has clapboard siding and a full one story wrap around porch with brackets and drop pendants. There are a full gable dormers resting on top of the porch on the north and south sides of

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the building. Pinewold was originally owned by C.A. and F.L. Washburn of Corinth who donated their land and building to the YMCA in 1919. They bought the land from Clinton Adams, a local real estate agent, in April of 1907. The land was part of a much larger William Chubb parcel. There are double doors opening to the east and a stone and brick fireplace on the first floor. There are new 1/1 double hung windows. There is kitchen and living space on the first floor and five bedrooms on the second floor. The ceiling is open on the second floor. Pinewold now serves as the waterfront director's cottage.

28. CAMP OFFICE, C. 1972, non-contributing

This is a two story, rectangular, four bay (front) by two bay (side), side gable building. The side front door on the north faced is accessed by a bridge ramp. There is a sliding single pane casement window next to the entrance on the north façade. There is a single pane sliding casement window on the east and west facades. On the south façade, there is small deck with a center door flanked by single pane sliding windows. The second floor houses administrative offices and post office. The office building was built on top of a pre-existing structure c. 1951 known as the "Shore Shop." The lower floor features a small open bay for waterfront equipment storage and single bedroom. There are fixed eight pane windows on the south and east façade of the first floor bedroom. The office building was built and opened as the Dad and Mother Hurd Memorial Building "in memory of Archibald C. Hurd, Founder and Camp Director 1906-1958, and Cornelia Hurd, Assistant Director 1906-1946." Relatives and friends of Clarence B. Benson provided the furnishings and the interior for the new office building in Clarence's memory, a Camp Billings Board member for twelve years and President for two years. The first floor of the building now serves as the staff sleeping quarters, storage facility and a power room. The lower living space is also known as "Seaside Chateau." This building is non-contributing due to alteration.

29. MAIN LODGE, DINING ROOM, C. 1906, contributing

The main lodge consists of a two story, square, main block, gable roof building and one story addition off of the east side. The main block has flush horizontal siding and 6/6 double hung windows on the first and second floor. There is a one story full porch on the west and south facing sides. The porch has brackets with drop pendants. There is a large gable roofed entrance on the north side of the addition. The building housed the camp director's office, library, kitchen, dining room and bedrooms upstairs. An addition was added in 1916 to allow for dining room that sat over 200 campers and counselors. In

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1996, an addition was added off of the 1916 section to increase dining area and additional kitchen space. The addition was built increasing the floor space by 46% for a total area of approximately 2,636 square feet. The addition was a 16 foot extension was built off the dining room, which continues across the front of the building toward the two-story historic building. There was a new fireplace located on the north façade just left of the doors which replaced an older fireplace. The sills and floor joists across the front of the dining hall were replaced and repaired. The original windows which were in sets of three 8 paned windows were saved and added to the north and west sides of the addition. The main lodge is centrally located, serving a separation between the boys and girls' camping areas. The main lodge was originally summer cottage that was converted to meet the camp's needs. The building was named in honor of camp director Ralph Lawrence for his 38 years of service to Camp Billings. There are three bedrooms upstairs for staff housing.

30. DARTT RECREATION HALL, STAFF LOUNGE AND ALUMNI ROOM, C. 1931, non-contributing

This a two story, square, four bay by four bay, side gable building with one story gable addition off the south façade. Both the main block and ell have vertical siding and metal seam roofs. There is a single entrance with a gable door head on the north façade of the main block and seamed roof porches on the east, south and west facades. There is an additional entrance on the right side of the north façade. There are 1/1 double hung windows on the first and second floor of the main block. Early in the summer of 1931, Miss Mary A. Dartt of Springfield, Vermont led the efforts for the construction of a new recreation room and assembly hall. This vertical sided, two story side gable building was mostly part of Butternut Cottage, which was originally built by the Avery family. The camp removed the chimney on the front façade and replaced the space with a single entrance. The single story addition to the south of the cottage created a large meeting space used for musical and dances and rainy day activities. Today, the building contains an Alumni Center which houses alumni memorabilia and serves as a camp museum. In 1980, Dartt Hall was enlarged. During the summer of 1996, Dartt Hall was severely damaged by a storm. The following year, it was rehabilitated with the designs of architect Carl Couture. Improvements included a new floor, lighting, a location for memorabilia and a enclosed porch that ran the entire length of the hall, still providing views of the lake. The new Dartt Hall resembles the historic building in shape and form, but the windows have changed. The historic windows were multi-paned fixed windows while the

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building now features modern 1/1 double hung windows. This building is non-contributing due to alteration.

31. CLOCK TOWER, C. 1921, contributing

The Bungalow style clock tower is approximately forty feet high with shingle siding and a flared base. There is a door on the first floor on the south façade and there are two four pane fixed windows on each façade. The small fixed pane windows are located approximately fifteen and twenty-five feet upon on each of the clock tower facades. At about thirty feet, there is a secondary wood shingle flare resting on a wooden platform which projects slightly over the tower's base. There is a large clock face located in each of these secondary flares. Above the clock faces, there is a platform that supports a hipped roof supported by wood shingle arches. The roof serves as a protection of the four clock faces. There is a twenty foot flag pole rising from the roof of the tower. The clock consists of two timekeeping clock movements. One clock movement drives all the gears and hands of multiple dials. The second movement checks the first clock's regulation. The first movement has a short seven inch pendulum which is driven by 300 pound weight. The second movement has a metered pendulum and is driven by a 50 pound weight. The second movement lifts a lever every thirty seconds to stop the first clock if it is gaining time. The first movement has enough power to restart itself. The movements are made of fine cut brass gears with steel pinions and heavy steel plates with brass bushings. The clock tower was designed and donated to Camp Billings by Dr. Fred A. Barrell. Mr. Thayer, an architect from Wallingford, Vermont, prepared the drawings for the tower.

32. HARLEY OUTDOOR EDUCATION AND BACKPACKING C. 1992, non - contributing

This is a single story building with a three story section on the west façade to allow for tent drying. There is single entrance on the east façade accessed by wooden stairs. There is a single 6/6 double hung window on the left of the front entrance and two 2/2 double hung windows on the right of the front entrance. The rear roof line rises higher than the front line creating a small façade that contains four open windows to allow for tent ventilation. The building also serves as a storage room for backpacking equipment and tents, a food preparation area, a mapping room and rooms and facilities for two counselors. The building is located south of the soccer field and it has its own well, electrical source and plumbing. This building is non-contributing due to age.

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OTHER SITES

RISING MOON CAMPFIRE AREA & OUTDOOR CHAPEL, non -contributing

These are two outdoor gathering areas consisting of wood benches and rocks for seating.

TENT PLATFORMS, c. 1970-2004, non -contributing

There are four tent platforms located throughout the girls and boys cabin areas. Tents were common amongst the earliest camps before permanent shacks, shanties or bungalows were built. They are clustered together near the wood cabins. They are elevated wood lumber platforms which allow for a dry tenting area. There is railing on three sides of the tent platforms. The tent platforms vary in age and have been moved, repaired, or replaced several times over the years. The original tents were staked directly into the ground. By the 1940s, iron posts were used for stabilization. Today, there are wood railings incorporated into the platform design to provide tie downs. The tent platforms are non-contributing due to age.

ATHLETIC COURTS, PLAYING FIELDS, AND PRACTICE RANGES c. 1970-2004, non-contributing

There are numerous playing fields, volleyball courts, tennis courts, archery and rifle ranges throughout the camp. These are non-contributing due to age.

WATERFRONT DOCKS AND PLATFORMS, c. 1970-2004, non-contributing

There are numerous swimming platforms, diving boards and watercraft docks along the Lake Fairlee shoreline. These are non-contributing due to age.

ⁱ Clifford, Susannah. Retreat to Vermont: An Architectural and Social History of a Vermont Summer Community. Masters Thesis. Historic Preservation. Columbia University, May 1987. Page 102.

ⁱⁱ Clifford, Susannah. Retreat to Vermont: An Architectural and Social History of a Vermont Summer Community. Masters Thesis. Historic Preservation. Columbia University, May 1987. Page 104.

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SUMMARY PARAGRAPH

Camp Billings is located on the northern end of Lake Fairlee on the border between the Vermont towns of West Fairlee and Thetford. The majority of the property and the buildings, 10.84 acres, are located in Thetford. A small parcel, consisting of one cabin and wetlands, is located in West Fairlee. Camp Billings started as a Y.M.C.A. Camp but it is now owned by a private non profit organization. A non-profit Service of Windsor District Board of Directors sponsors the camp and the organization is incorporated with the state of Vermont. Camp Billings is being nominated for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under the Multiple Documentation Form, *Organized Summer Camping in Vermont*, as it meets the registration requirements for the property type, Children's Summer Camps. Camp Billings is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its significance as an excellent example of a children's camp in Vermont. Camp Billings' history reflects the movement to promote environmental education, outdoor recreation as well as individual and team skills for a child's development and education. The period of significance of Camp Billings spans the years from 1907 to 1954. From its simple beginnings as Y.M.C.A. camp in 1906 through its 100 years of continuous contribution to summer camping in Vermont, Camp Billings has served as an excellent children's education facility. Camp Billings is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C for its outstanding collection of complex and intact camp architecture. Today, there are 32 buildings and structures as well several waterfront docks and athletic fields that contribute to a significant landscape of a rustic camp environment. Many of the sleeping lodges were designed and built by the campers and staff. This district of self designed buildings and structures reflect the spirit of the camp tradition of working in a group environment and using resources immediately available. Although there are new buildings in the camp, their construction continues the rustic charm established by the earliest buildings. Five of the buildings, the main lodge, "Pinewold", "Sunnyside", "We-Own-It" and "Cupola Cottage", are significant as they represent early examples of summer cottages that were built around the turn of the century.

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In 1906, the Windsor District Young Men's Christian Association (Y.M.C.A.) established Camp Billings and its first season was the summer of 1907. The organization's plan was to help in the development of children in the surrounding area. Dr. Gardner Cobb of Stratford, Vermont and Julia Billings, wife of the great Vermont naturalist, farmer, conservator and millionaire Frederick Billings were two of the driving forces behind the creation of the camp. Fredrick Billings was a student of the naturalist George Perkins Marsh who foresaw the clash between man's development and nature. Through the children's exposure to nature and learning to co-exist with the environment, Camp Billings was a living example of Billings and Marsh's ideals.

Camp Billings' land was originally leased with the assistance of donors such as Julia Billings and the original founders of the Y.M.C.A. In 1916, the daughter of Frederick and Julia Billings, Elizabeth Billings, purchased the land and donated it to the camp. Camp Billings has evolved over the years under the tutelage of several Camp Directors: Archibald "Dad" Hurd, who ran the camp from 1907 to 1957; John Freitas who served as an interim director in 1958; Ralph Lawrence, who ran the camp from 1958 to 1994; John and Ann Freitas directors from 1996 to 2000 and the present directorship of Robert Green.

INTRODUCTION

Following Camp Aloha, established on Lake Fairlee in 1905, Camp Billings is the second longest continuously run camp in Vermont. The Windsor County Y.M.C.A. created the camp in 1906 with the help of members of the region including Julia Billings, the widow of Frederick Billings, the noted philanthropist from neighboring Woodstock. For many years, Camp Billings operated two separate seasons, one for girls and one for boys, eventually becoming co-ed. For its first ten years, Camp Billings leased the camp property from local landowners. In 1916, Elizabeth Billings, the daughter of Frederick Billings, purchased the land and donated it to the camp.

Thirteen other camps opened the same year as Camp Billings: Androscoggin Camp in Wayne, Maine; Camp Kennebec in North Belgrade, Maine; Sydney Lanier Camp in Eliot, Maine; Megunticook Camps in Camden, Maine; Camp O-At-Ka in Sebago, Maine; Camp Piscataquis in Allagash River, Maine; Camp Winona in Denmark, Maine; Camp Kill Kare in St. Albans, Vermont; Camp Massapeack in Gardner Lake, Connecticut;

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Camp Pok-O-Moonshine in Willsboro, New York; Schroon Lake Camp in Schroon Lake, New York; and Camp Waubuno in Algonquin Park, Ontario.

Camp Billings' initial programming included hiking, baseball, athletic meets, water sports, carnival, circus and vaudeville shows, pageants, volleyball and basketball. The staff provided education in rowing, swimming, crafts, cooking, first aid, natural history, agriculture, forestry, and lifesaving. Today, Camp Billings has had campers from forty-five states and twenty three countries. There are several other camps and children's centers in the region including Aloha for Girls, Aloha Hive for Girls, Camp Lanakila, Coyote Hill Mountain Bike Camp, Hulbert Outdoor Center, Summer Horizon Day Camp and Voyageurs Youth Wilderness Trips.

Camp Billings is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places for its architectural merit and its historical significance in contributing to children's camping. Camp Billings period of significance is from 1907 to 1954, the period that the camp operated as a summer camp. The Camp is still in operation today. It is the second oldest continuously running camp in Vermont, next to Camp Abnaki in Isle La Motte. Camp Billings is the earliest boy's camp that remains on its original site.

Children's camps came into existence around the turn of the 20th Century. During this time, America was experiencing the "gilded age." It was a period of significant industrial and financial growth in America. America was becoming an international leader through its advances in technology, the use of natural resources and improvement of industrial processes. During this time, movements in nature conservation, trust-busting, and labor protection rose to the surface to combat the booming industrialism. Children's camping was the result of the meeting of these two movements.

In pre-industrial America, there was little free or idle time for children. Antebellum America was primarily an agricultural society where schooling was scheduled during the winter, when farming was slow. When the children were working on the farms, they were in close contact with nature as they were familiar with plant life and farm animals. Outdoor education was implicit on the farm. With America's industrialization and the development of a worker class, there came a need to provide education. As the nation reformed its school systems, the summer vacation emerged. "So into the neglected period of the summer months has come the summer camp with its opportunities to restore

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something of the essential elements of what made our grandfathers and grandmothers what they are. The innovation like so many other radical departures is a turning back in part, a re-adaptation to the present time of more primitive and fundamental things, getting back to the roots of things.”ⁱ

This new breed of working American had an excess of money and time. They were looking for new ways to spend their free time during the summers. The development of the railroad and then the automobile provided the initial transport to remote idyllic locations in New England, Michigan and Wisconsin. By the turn of the century, there was awareness of the nature’s beauty and a desire to preserve that beauty. While the parents enjoyed fishing, swimming, and playing golf, the younger generations were sent away to summer schools, extended journeys in Europe or organized camps.

The Vermont government took an active part in attracting tourism through the development of “Old Home Week” which was a propaganda campaign designed to bring Vermont’s natives back to their state. The program was designed to boost morale within the state and also have “ex-patriots” return home and spend their money within Vermont’s borders. They marketed old farmhouses (which were being abandoned at an alarming rate) as vacation homes. Over time, Vermont focused more and more on promoting its natural wonders and recreational opportunities. Be it fishing, hiking, or camping, Vermont was becoming a haven for outdoor activities. The summer camp was a perfect opportunity to provide these opportunities to children of all ages.

The American Camping Association describes organized camping as a “sustained experience that provides a creative, recreational and educational opportunity in group living in the out-of-doors. It utilizes trained leadership and the resources of natural surroundings to contribute to each camper’s mental, physical, social and spiritual growth.”ⁱⁱ The experiences as these camps were one of camaraderie, skills development, and natural world education. “The pioneer heritage, the excitement over nature, the freer lifestyles, and the long school vacations all played a part; so did the church and private philanthropy, as men and women of good conscience and good will struggled to understand and cope with burgeoning social problems.”ⁱⁱⁱ

Summer camps were extension of the progressive movement occurring throughout the United States. As improvements were made in youth education and child labor, the

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summer camp was viewed as a logical extension that satisfied a child's desire and need for nature education and recreation. The camp experience was unhampered and devoid of urban constraints. Camp was to be an adventure, contrasting the monotony of city life. "The great development of the summer camp within a generation has been in response to a real need. The bareness of the school curriculum and the long summer months left void by the school system necessitated and still calls for the summer camp. Men and women of initiative and vision have developed its possibilities and its practices."^{iv}

As individuals and organizations set out to improve the schools, they also looked at organized summer camps as youthful benefit. These organized camps, set in a natural environment, provided the children with tremendous self confidence, self reliance, personal growth, independence, and lifetime memories and friendships. Most importantly, the camps provided an escape for the children from the industrialization, smog, and crime of the urban centers. The camps provided a healthy alternative for children of the rapidly growing world.

The children were often shipped off from railway stations, with their parents wishing them well on their summer adventures. In later years, the children would gather at designated areas and board camp run busses. For local Vermont children, their parents dropped their children right off at the camp.

Camp Billings is important as it is representative of the camp and youth movement that developed in America in the early 20th Century. As America, especially the northeast, became more urbanized there was need to teach the youth about the nature and the outdoors. There was also a growing movement of religious and children's organizations that saw a need for children to receive a summer educational experience. America had experienced major child labor reforms, and organizations such as local churches, Boy Scouts Clubs, Girl Scouts Clubs and the Y.M.C.A. were looking for meaningful opportunities for the America's youth. Between 1890 and 1910, the number of Vermont summer camps grew from 2 to 150.^v The first children's camp in New England was Camp Chocurua (1881), a boy's located on New Hampshire's Squam Lake. Vermont was the fourth state to establish a summer camp. The first Vermont camp, Camp St. Ann's, a boy's camp, was established on Isle La Motte in 1892. Two years later, Camp Champlain started at Mallet's Bay north of Burlington. Camp Iroquois was also established on Mallets Bay in 1899. Camp Abnaki started in North Hero in 1901 and then Kamp Kill

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Kare in St. Albans Bay in 1906. Up to this point, most of Vermont's camps were located on Lake Champlain. Soon after the turn of the century, there was a concentration of summer camps in the Lake Morey/Lake Fairlee region in the Connecticut River Valley such as Camp Aloha (1905), Camp Billings (1906), Camp Farwell (1906), Camp Hanoum, now called Camp Farnsworth (1909), Camp Hokomoko (1910), Camp Quinibeck (1911), Aloha Hive (1915) and Camp Lanakila (1922). By 1920, over 150 camps were operating along the shores of Lake Champlain, Lake Fairlee, Lake Dunmore, Lake Morey and many other locales.

FAIRLEE, THETFORD, POST MILLS AND ELY HISTORY

Camp Billings is located on the town line of the Vermont village of Post Mills, located in the Town of Thetford and the town of West Fairlee. Both are part of Orange County, Vermont. Orange County first came into existence when the Vermont legislature divided the existing pre-Revolutionary War Cumberland County into three smaller counties – Windsor, Windham and Orange on February 22, 1781.

The majority of Camp Billings is located in the town of Thetford. Thetford's earliest settlers came from Hebron, Connecticut. Out of the sixty-two original proprietors, fifty-one were from Hebron. New Hampshire governor Benning Wentworth granted the land on August 12, 1761 but the first permanent settler of Thetford was John Chamberlin who settled near East Thetford in 1764. The Phelps family was the most prominent family amongst the early Thetford settlers, with fourteen Phelps family members being part of the original charter. One of the Phelps, Samuel, married Lydia Morey, sister of Samuel Morey, inventor of the steamboat.

There are two different thoughts on how Thetford derived its name. Originally it was thought that the town was named after a former capital of East Anglia. It was later believed that Benning Wentworth named the town after Augustus Henry Fitzroy, 3rd Duke of Grafton, 4th Earl of Arlington, and 4th Viscount of Thetford. He was a distant cousin of the king who later became England's Prime Minister and was the Viscount of Thetford in the late 18th and early 19th Century. Thetford is bordered by Strafford to the west, Fairlee and West Fairlee to the north, Norwich to the south, and the Connecticut River to the east. Thetford has six different villages: Thetford Hill (1797), Post Mills

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(1822), Union Village (1841), North Thetford (1848), East Thetford (1850) and Thetford Center (1858). Thetford is home to Thetford Academy, the oldest secondary school in Vermont and Thetford Hill Congregational Church, which is the oldest continuous Congregational church in Vermont.

Thetford has four distinct geographical areas. The fertile lands of the Connecticut River form the town's eastern border. There are also the over 1,700 foot Bald Top Mountain, the Ompompanoosuc River valley, and the 1300-1400 foothills bordering with the town of Strafford to the south. The northern border of Thetford is the 463 acre Lake Fairlee, which is also shared by Fairlee and West Fairlee

Post Mills is the Thetford village located closest to Camp Billings. It was settled in 1779 by Eldad Post who established a sawmill and gristmill along the upper falls of the Ompompanoosuc River that flowed into Lake Fairlee. Like the majority of settlers in the area, Post came to the area from Hebron, Connecticut. Many settlers followed Post and established mills along the river. In the early 19th Century, Joseph Hinckley started a linseed oil company at Post Mills. In 1869, Commodore T.H. Chubb settled in Thetford and built the Commodore House in Post Mills. Commodore Chubb's son, Thomas H. Chubb, purchased the site of a former linseed oil factory at Post Mills. Thomas H. Chubb converted it into a rake and pitchfork handle company. In 1872, Thomas H. Chubb started making bamboo split fishing rods at the site, an operation that continued until 1931. In its capacity as a linseed manufacture, rake handle and fishing poles, the Chubb factory was one of Post Mills' biggest employers.

Y.M.C.A. CAMPING HISTORY

The Young Men's Christian Association (Y.M.C.A.) was founded in London, England, on June 6, 1844, in response to poor health conditions developing in a newly industrialized England. The Y.M.C.A. came to the Boston area in December of 1851. The early programs were evangelical in their approach and focused on providing alternatives for young men who were overworked and tempted by sinful indulgences. The Y.M.C.A. tried to address the needs of an emerging class of middle class men who were faced with the effects of urbanization and industrialization. Soon the Y.M.C.A. branched out beyond the men and started addressing the needs of the entire family. One of the earliest initiatives was to provide alternatives for children during the summer months,

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such as camps. Y.M.C.A. camps first came to Vermont in the 1860s, when Sumner Dudley took a group of boys to Lake Champlain for a camping trip. Dudley was a young businessman who manufactured surgical instruments with his father and brother in East Orange, New Jersey. Dudley was a volunteer for both the New York and New Jersey Y.M.C.A. organizations and “following Dudley’s motto ‘the other fellow first’, all boys were welcome regardless of race or ethnic background. With low tuition of \$15 for a two-week session, many boys attended, generally from surrounding towns. Activities centered on water and land sports, nature talks, Bible study and daily devotions.”^{vi} In 1884, Dudley took young honor Y.M.C.A. members camping in upstate New York.

In 1886, Dudley took 23 Y.M.C.A. children to Twin Islands on Lake Wawayanda in New Jersey. In 1891, Dudley took 83 campers to Westport, New York under the supervision of the New York and New Jersey Y.M.C.A.S. Soon thereafter, a close friend offered Dudley the Lake Champlain land, and he soon had a permanent home for his boys. Dudley referred to his lakeside spot as Camp Baldhead. When Dudley died in 1897 at the age of 43, he left the camp and its equipment to the New York State Y.M.C.A., which continued on with Dudley’s enthusiasm and renamed the facility Camp Dudley.

Thanks to the pioneering movement of Dudley, the Y.M.C.A. camping movement blossomed to a world-wide phenomenon. By November of 1902, there were about 100 Y.M.C.A. camps in operation.^{vii} The Y.M.C.A. camps differed from the other early camps, which found their roots in European military tradition. The American camps were influenced by education, religion and environmental awareness. The one aspect of the military tradition that remained with the camps was the development of a child’s confidence and physical skills. The ultimate goal of the summer camps was to address the idleness of America’s youth. Educators, clergymen and businessmen wanted to create meaningful childhood experiences that were extensions of the regular educational experience. Camp Billings followed this model, first attracting children from the surrounding area and then campers from all around the country and world.

HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE OF CAMP BILLINGS

Camp Billings is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its historical significance as an excellent example of an early 20th century children’s

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camp. Camp Billings is reflective of Vermont's long tradition of outdoor camping and its development as an important resource for children's education. Today, Camp Billings continues to provide the same level of children's development that it did when it was formed in 1906.

In October of 1906, a group of men met at the old Windsor House in Windsor, Vermont to consider the creation of a Y.M.C.A. branch in Windsor County. The committee included John Brown of Windsor, H.C. Pease of Hartford, Harry L. Gale of White River Junction and James Pratt Kimball, Treasurer of the White River Paper Company. The early mission of this organization was "to provide a place, at low rates, for an outing full of wholesome fun, healthful recreation and interesting instruction to as many Windsor County youths as possible."^{viii}

Another committee member was George Aitken, born in Stirlingshire, Scotland. Aitken ran the Billings farm and was widely acclaimed for his agricultural innovation. Aitken had a thorough knowledge of agriculture, and was an authority on the breeding of Jersey cattle. "Mr. Aitken was an alert taskmaster, and always had the respect of those under him, and he was widely known for his successful efforts to better the agricultural conditions of Vermont. He was a member of the state board of agriculture for many years, and for three years served as its Secretary. He was president of the Vermont Agricultural Society in 1897; member of the Vermont Dairymen's Association, President from 1902-1904; member of the state agricultural commission; trustee of the University of Vermont; one of the trustees of the Sanatorium of Pittsford; and he represented Woodstock in the Legislature in 1904. He was vice president of the Vermont Forestry Association; an active member of the Woodstock Improvement Society; and had been interested in the Windsor County Y. M. C. A. from its organization. He was a member of the Congregational Church at Woodstock, past master of Woodstock Lodge No. 31, Free & Accepted Masons; member of Ottauquechee Chapter No. 21, Royal Arch Masons; Windsor Council No. 8, Royal & Select Masons; Vermont Commandery No. 4, Knights Templar; Mt. Sinai Temple, A. A. O. N. Mystic Shrine; and Woodstock Lodge, O. E. S."^{ix} Aitken also served as Secretary of the Vermont Board of Agriculture.

Other committee members included Arthur Wilder, who was a local artist and the manager of the popular Woodstock Inn from 1897 to 1935. Thomas Kidder, a prominent Woodstock doctor, contributed significantly to the community. Besides being one of

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Woodstock's first automobile owners, Kidder was Woodstock's Town Representative in 1906 and Windsor County Senator in 1908. He was a trustee for the University of Vermont and was chairman of the Vermont State Board of Health. He was president of the Woodstock Health Association, and the Woodstock Electric Company. Wilder, Kidder and the Billings family all served on the Woodstock Village Improvement Society.

William Fuller was the first Windsor County Y.M.C.A. Secretary and worked diligently from December of 1906 through March of 1907. During this time, Fuller visited several Vermont communities and secured local Y.M.C.A. representatives. He also organized Bible study classes in Bethel and White River Junction. Due to deteriorating health, Fuller was forced to resign from the position on March 18, 1907. Soon thereafter, in the spring of 1907, the Windsor County Y.M.C.A. Committee hired Mr. Archibald C. Hurd to act as Windsor County Y.M.C.A. Committee Secretary. Hurd, who known as "Dad" amongst his campers and staff, first worked for the Y.M.C.A. in Yonkers, New York in 1896. Prior to coming to Windsor County, Hurd worked for the Y.M.C.A. in Bridgeport, Connecticut, Philmont, New York, Claremont, New Hampshire and the Naval Shipyard in Brooklyn, New York. The move to Vermont was ideal for Archibald's wife, Cornelia, who was ill and required clean air. On June 27, 1907, F. Thomas Kidder wrote on behalf of the County Committee of the Young Men's Christian Associations of Windsor County, VT about Archibald Hurd:

"Mr. Hurd is a young man of strong personality who has had nine years of experience in Y.M.C.A. work, serving as secretary in Conn. and New York State, and for the last three years as Special Secretary in the Brooklyn Naval Y.M.C.A. He comes to us strongly endorsed by these Associations whom he has served, as an energetic worker, thoroughly consecrated, and who's frank and open manliness has been a power in winning the souls of men: particular mention was made of his fine work in the boys departments of these former posts."^x

By the beginning of June of 1907, Archibald Hurd picked up where Fuller had left off, establishing the Y.M.C.A.'s presence in several Windsor County communities and organizing Bible study groups and special rallies. One of Hurd's largest initiatives was the creation of a summer camp. A location was settled upon at a spot known as Redwood

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Point, located on Lake Fairlee. Writing in 1931, Hurd described the beginning of the camp:

"Back in August, 1907, a recent acquaintance of your Secretary, Dr. Gardner N. Cobb, then of White River Junction, (now of Worcester, MA), owning property in his old home village of South Strafford and a cottage on Fairlee Lake, invited me to ride up to the lake with him when he offered the Y.M.C.A. the use of his cottage and land for a camping out party, when we soon took advantage of the same, spending ten days on the site with a dozen or more young men. From that small beginning, and we only had two sleeping tents and small lawn tent for dining purposes, provided by Mr. Frederick P. Campbell of Wilder, and the use of a rented boat, there has developed what we now look to with pride, the well known institution Camp Billings."^{xi}

Dr. Gardner N. Cobb's lakeside cottage was one of many buildings that were sprouting up along the shoreline of Lake Fairlee at the turn of the century. It was located near Passumpsic Point or Redwood Point where the Middlebrook Creek runs into Lake Fairlee. Prior to the advent of the summer tourism in Vermont, the shores of most Vermont's lakes were dominated by sheep and cattle and not small getaways or camps. In 1858, there were no homes in the vicinity of the camp. In 1875, Henry Titus, a Civil War veteran, was the only one known resident who lived in the area and the area was once known as Titus Point.

To get the camp up and running, Hurd and the Y.M.C.A. leased the cottage from Dr. Cobb and borrowed several tents from Hurd's friend, Frederick Campbell. The Billings family of Woodstock also loaned the large tent used for the first dining quarters. During the summer of 1908, W.H. Jenkins, a resident of Post Mills, bought Cobb's "Cobb Cottage." It is unclear whether Jenkins still allowed Camp Billings to use the cottage like Dr. Gardner Cobb had done. Today, the building is owned by the Slack family, who are related to the Jenkins family, and it's known as "We-Own-It". The Slack family has given the cottage to the camp as part of a life estate. Members of the Slack family still use the building and Camp Billings does not use it in any of its programming. Another cottage that was lent to the Y.M.C.A. was "Bluff Cottage", belonging to Reverend C.N. Krook.

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In his approach to Camp Billings, Hurd used his vast experience in Y.M.C.A. children's programs. Hurd was amongst a large group of educators who started summer camps in New England. Together, these camp directors stressed the importance of childhood development and education. Edward Leeds and Harriet Farnsworth Gulick, who were raised in missionary families, started Camp Aloha on Lake Morey. Harriet Gulick focused on the development of girls stressing "good health, building character and seeking joy ... she placed value on activities that would develop social consciousness, responsibility, modesty in victory, graciousness in defeat, resourcefulness and reliability, contentment with simplicity and readiness to serve and endure."^{xii} Over the years, Hurd would be joined by other innovators such as Ken and Susan Webb, who adopted John Dewey's education principles at the Farm and Wilderness Camp in Plymouth, Vermont. Judge S. Gregg Clarke founded the Keewaydin Camp and focused on outdoor recreation.

BILLINGS FAMILY HISTORY

Mrs. Julia Billings of Woodstock was a driving force behind the start of a Y.M.C.A. facility in the area. In respect to the Billings' support, Hurd and the Y.M.C.A. called their new facility Camp Billings. Julia Billings was the wife of Frederick Billings. Born in Royalton, Vermont in 1823, Frederick Billings moved to Woodstock in 1835, attended New Hampshire's Kimball Union Academy right across the Connecticut River and then attended Burlington's University of Vermont. After his graduation, Frederick Billings returned to Woodstock to practice law.

While in Woodstock, Billings heard the news of the Western Gold Rush, and was attracted to the opportunity in California. With the prospect of wealth through gold, land speculation or legal practice, Billings migrated towards the great fortunes of the west. Upon his arrival in California, Billings established himself as California's first lawyer and later became California's Attorney General. Billings took advantage of the growing real estate market and became responsible for much of California's early development. He built the Montgomery Block in San Francisco which survived the many San Francisco earthquakes and fires. In 1849, Billings purchased 20 lots of land outside of California which later became the center of Sacramento, California's state capitol. Billings eventually became one of the richest men in California.

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Frederick Billings met Julia Parmly during a visit to New York City in March of 1862. Parmly was the daughter of Eleazar Parmly, a prominent New York dentist. Frederick and Julia were immediately drawn to each other and within a month, the two were married. After their wedding, the two returned to California but Frederick Billings was soon overcome by poor health and failing mining investments. When Julia became pregnant with their first child, the couple returned to the East Coast. In 1869, Frederick Billings bought the George Perkins Marsh Farm in Woodstock for \$27,500

While in Woodstock, Frederick Billings invested wisely in the northern transcontinental route, Northern Pacific. The idea for the railroad started when President Abraham Lincoln enabled the Northern Pacific's charter in 1864, making it the largest government railroad land grant to date. In 1869, Billings bought 1/12 of the Northern Pacific and became head of the company's land division. Billings advocated the beautiful scenery along the railroads and presented the ideas of natural wonders as tourist sites.

In 1881, Billings experienced an unpleasant departure from Northern Pacific after butting heads with fellow director Henry Villard. Billings resigned his presidency and stayed on as a Board of Director. This prompted Billings' full time return to Woodstock in 1882, after being in and out of Vermont for close to fifteen years. Upon his retirement, Billings had plenty of time to spend with his wife, Julia and their seven children: Parmly, Laura, Frederick Jr., Mary, Elizabeth, Ehrick and Richard. He pursued his passions of riding horses, playing games, singing songs and playing the piano. Billings also developed a passion for collecting art, with the works of noted landscape artists Albert Bierstadt, Thomas Cole, and Frederick Church gracing his walls.

In his retirement, Billings returned to his original passion – the literary work of naturalist George Perkins Marsh. Billings helped finance the University of Vermont's new library building which was to house Marsh's 12,000 volume library collection which he bought from his widow in 1882. Billings also continued Marsh's principles by expanding upon his own farm. Along with his farm manager, George Aitken, a Scottish farmer who Billings hired in 1884, he developed one of the finest agricultural operations in Vermont. Billings used new scientific methods to manage Jersey cows which he shared their bloodlines with the local farmers. Under Aitken's direction, "Billings Farm reached its zenith with nearly fifty men, half a dozen yoke of oxen as many teams of horses."^{xiii}

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Frederick Billings was particularly disturbed by the deforestation in Woodstock, especially Mount Tom, to its once beautiful timberland, Billings started planting new tree species that would thrive in the Vermont climate. Overall, Billings planted 10,000 trees in the Woodstock area. Through scientific study and proper land management, Billings showed that one could farm the land without destroying it.

In the fall of 1889, Frederick Billings suffered from a stroke, leaving him paralyzed and bedridden. He died within a year. Towards the end of his life, Billings remained involved with Northern Pacific and was also a Director with Woodstock National Bank, American Exchange National Bank, Farmer's Loan and Trust Company, Delaware and Hudson Canal Company, Manhattan Life Insurance, Manhattan Savings Institution and several railroads including the Vermont Valley, Connecticut River, the Sullivan County, Connecticut and Passumpsic, the Rutland Railroad and his first railroad interest, the Woodstock Railroad.^{xiv} He also gave generously to the Woodstock Congregational Church and the Old White Meeting House. The bulk of his estate, \$7 million, was left to Julia and their five surviving children. The *Vermont Standard* wrote a 3,000 word obituary, which highlighted Billings' philanthropy.

“Of his benefactions we not speak, at least to our Vermont readers. Everyone knows of them, that they are not more admirable for their magnitude and variety, than for the modest, beautiful and loving spirit with which they were bestowed. Rarely in our day has Christian stewardship been so admirably exemplified ... and so were laid to their final rest the mortal remains of one of Vermont's most distinguished and loyal sons, amid surroundings that his own generous and loving hands had made attractive and memorable. The sons and daughters of Woodstock who enjoy what he has freely provided, in itself the noblest of monuments, will keep his memory green for generations yet to come.”^{xv}

CAMP BILLINGS HISTORY CONTINUED

After Frederick Billings' death, Julia Billings, as well as other members of the Billings Family continued his philanthropy. Amongst a myriad of interests, the Billings family provided much of the encouragement for the establishment of a Y.M.C.A. camp in the Connecticut River Valley of Vermont. The Billings family had a long history of supporting educational efforts as the family gave substantial donations to the Mount

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Herman School in Massachusetts; Whitman College in Walla Wall, Washington; Pacific University in Forest Grove, Oregon; Dartmouth College in Hanover, New Hampshire; Phillips Andover Academy; Grinnell College, Amherst and the University of Vermont. The Billings family was also a strong supporter of the Woodstock community, contributing to the improvement of local churches, schoolhouses, cemeteries and the Woodstock Improvement Association.

Julia Parmly Billings was a strong supporter of several Y.M.C.A. organizations throughout her life. In 1906, she supported the International Committee of Y.M.C.A. and the Y.M.C.A. Extension Fund. She was involved with east coast Y.M.C.A. organizations in Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Vermont and New York. She supported the Y.M.C.A. in San Francisco, California, Tacoma, Washington and Johannesburg, South Africa. Mary Montague, Julia's daughter, was very active in the New York area Y.W.C.A. After the opening of Camp Billings, Julia continued to support the camp. In January of 1907, Julia wrote in her diary: "W.M. Parson asks \$5,000 more towards a Y.M.C.A. for Billings note. We would give \$2,500." Throughout the summer, Samuel Woolverton, the secretary of the Y.M.C.A. in Vermont kept Julia apprised of fundraising. In February of 1907, Julia made pledges of \$2,000 to both the San Francisco Y.M.C.A. and Camp Billings.

The Billings were not the only charitable family to assist in the formation of the Y.M.C.A. camp. In April of 1907, Clinton Adams sold Charles A. and F.L. Washburn a small parcel of land adjacent to the fledgling camp. In addition to providing real estate services, Adams served the town in various capacities and sold ice during the winter months. Adams also transported campers from Ely Station to and from the camp. Soon after their purchase, the Washburns built "Pinewold" and a nearby barn. "Pinewold" and the property was eventually given to the Y.M.C.A. in 1919. Not only did the cottage provide additional housing but it also gave the camp a large waterfront beach. Today, the building serves as the lodgings for the waterfront director.

One of Camp Billings' biggest benefactors was the Chubb family. After first settling in Post Mills in 1869, the Chubb family eventually migrated to the Boston/Framingham area of Massachusetts. The first family resident was ex-Confederate and harbormaster Commodore Thomas H. Chubb who arrived in Vermont from Galveston, Texas. He built the Commodore House in Post Mills. His son, Thomas, who served with him during the

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Civil War, manufactured rake and pitchfork handles and then ran a highly successful bamboo split fishing rod factory in Post Mills. This operation lasted from 1872 to 1931. Although the family eventually moved to Boston in 1893, the family continued to own land in the Lake Fairlee area and contributed to the community for several generations. "Mr. Chubb impressed himself upon the community. He was interested in everything pertaining to the growth and progress of the town and was always found ready and willing to help. He was a great lover of children and he was always glad and willing to give them a good time."^{xvi} In the years to come, subsequent members of the Chubb family supported the camp as counselors, neighbors and benefactors.

Camp Billings survived its first full season in 1907 and had enough support to continue operation. During the off season, Hurd was the first Vocational Guidance Counselor, and spent much of his time visiting neighboring schools, teaching them about possibilities for further education. Every summer, Hurd switched from vocational counselor to camp director. He traditionally met each camper and was very active in overseeing the swim program.

After its second season, the Windsor County Committee of Y.M.C.A. of Windsor County, Vermont, registered its articles of association with the State of Vermont in November of 1908. The articles stated its purpose was "aiding and promoting the physical, social, intellectual and moral welfare and up building of young men and boys."^{xvii} The original officers were F. Thomas Kidder of Woodstock, Wallace Batchelder of Bethel, Harry L. Gale of White River Junction, George Aitken of Woodstock, and Horace C. Pease of Hartford. In 1924, the by-laws were amended to change the organization's name to the Y.M.C.A. of Windsor County, Vermont.

In 1909, the *United Opinion* reported: "The third season of the Windsor County Y.M.C.A. opens at Redwood Point July 7 and closes July 24. The resort, called 'Camp Billings', is under the supervision of Christian men who have had some experience in this kind of work. Any boy or young men in Windsor County can attend this camp."^{xviii} From 1906 to 1915, Camp Billings was open to boys and young men with only Hurd and Kenneth T. Allan, the first counselor at Camp Billings, bringing small groups of children for the summer season. During the first ten years, Camp Billings had limited permanent buildings. Tents were used for sleeping and dining and the Y.M.C.A. employed a man, Sam Williams of Williamstown, Massachusetts, as the camp's cook. Williams was a

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cook for a Williams College fraternity and “sure did know how to make southern hoe-cake.”^{xxix} The July 7, 1909 edition of the *United Opinion* reported: “The managers of the Windsor County Y.M.C.A. are putting up some large tents to accommodate the young men who are expected at Redwood Point, or “Camp Billings,” as it to be called, Wednesday. A chef from Williams College has been engaged, and a large dining tent has been erected which will seat fifty persons. Mr. A.C. Hurd, the secretary of the association, is doing all he can do to make the camp pleasant for the boys and hopes the public will do what it can to assist him.”^{xxx}

The children had an unparalleled experience on this remote Vermont lake. Camping in tents on the isolated Redwood Point was a good way to expose the children to outdoor recreation, basic survival skills and environmental education. There were also aspects of the camp that were a continuation of the regular school year. Hurd gave numerous scientific presentations and there were often guest lecturers. A summer 1909 edition of the *United Opinion* reported one of the many Camp Billings’ education presentations: “It is expected that Dr. Charles H. Tyndall will be present and give some public lectures with demonstrations pertaining to radium and wireless telegraphy.”^{xxxi} Dr. Tyndall, “the eminent scientist and lecturer”^{xxxii} was a frequent visitor to Camp Billings. He came up from his home in Mount Vernon, New York with his family and gave lectures to the campers and the entire Lake Fairlee population.

In June of 1910, the Chubb family and Clinton Adams leased their cottages and grounds to Camp Billings for five weeks in July and August. The *United Opinion* reported that “the association expects to have over 100 boys during the five weeks.”^{xxxiii} The Chubb cottage allowed for dining hall to be moved from a tent to an indoor space and also provided for administrative offices and staff lodging. The leased permanent facility became the focal point of the camp. As reflected in an *United Opinion* article, the area changed from “Redwood Point” to “Adams Point”: “The Y.M.C.A. of Windsor County opened their ‘Camp Billings’ on the Adams point Monday, and they expect 100 or more members during the week.”^{xxxiv} Today, the Adam’s cottage remains the center of the camp serving as the dining hall and library.

Within three years of Camp Billings’ opening, camping was increasingly popular in the area. In 1910, Jeanette Lovejoy Sargent wrote: “The summer camp is a new thing , but its has won its way steadily and bids fair to become one of the many permanent

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opportunities open to the young people of our country to establish sound health, gain self reliance, and last but not least, learn to enjoy and appreciate God's out-of-doors. And to me there is no out-of-doors like Vermont."^{xxv} In 1911, Camp Quinibeck, a camp for girls, opened across the lake from Camp Billings. In 1914, Camp Billings gained a neighbor to the north, Camp Passumpsic for boys, located on Titus Point. Unlike Camp Billings, which grew from a collection of summer cottages, Camp Passumpsic was located on a former farmstead. In 1916, the all girls Camp Wyoda, which was adjacent to Camp Passumpsic, was also established on a one time farmstead.

After six years of operation, the permanent camp buildings included the leased Adams and Chubb cottages. The two story Chubb cottage, also know as Camp Isabell for a member of the Chubb family, had a porch looking southward over the lake. Two rows of officer style tents formed an alley directly off the front of Camp Isabell. The tents were staked into the ground and tent platforms had yet to been developed. For many years, Camp Billings used "The Woodstock Engine" as the camp's sole hot water heater. Activities included calisthenics, stilt races, hiking, swimming and there were two rowboats. The campers also participated outside of the camp Billings property by attending church in Post Mills or setting up a booth at the 1912 State Fair.

In the years leading up to the First World War, Camp Billings continued to progressively expand and grow. The 1913 *United Opinion* announced the camp's opening "with a good number of boys under the auspices of the Windsor County Y.M.C.A. Starting in 1915, directors lengthened the camping season and they added a period for girls and young women. By creating a girls session, Camp Billings reflected what was occurring throughout Vermont and across the nation in regards to the role of young women as future leaders. From 1915 to 1947, the sessions changed occasionally but for the most part were four weeks in July for the girls and four weeks in August for the boys.

The 1916 camping season was abbreviated. There was three weeks for girls and three weeks for boys. Despite the short season, many developments took place at Camp Billings. In order accommodate more campers for a longer period of time, Elizabeth Billings, the daughter of Frederick and Julia Billings, helped buy the land that the Windsor Country Y.M.C.A. Committee had been leasing for the previous seven years. On May 20, 1916, Elizabeth Billings wrote in her diary: "Have a call with Dr. Kidder, Mr. Hurd and Mr. Meech (?) in regard to buying Camp Billings site - 7 acres - \$3000.

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Tell them to go ahead.”^{xxvi} The land was given in memory of her parents, the late Mrs. Julia Billings and Mr. Frederick Billings of Woodstock, Vermont.

Elizabeth Billings’ donation was used towards the purchase of the previously leased Adams and Chubb properties for \$3,000. The property included “two cottages, outbuildings and land thereon, known as the Avery (Chubb) and Adams Cottages.”^{xxvii} The Chubb cottage was originally built c. 1902 and there was also a barn adjacent to the building. The land was bounded on the east side of highway leading from Lake House to Ely Station. The neighbors to the west were the Washburn cottage, “Pinewold”, built c. 1907. The other neighbors were the W.H. Jenkins’ c. 1904 cottage, a c. 1906 “Bluff Cottage”, the Emerson/Bali c. 1909 “Cupola Cottage”, and the Sanborn’s “Sunnyside” Cottage lots to the north. The F.L. Kibby Creamery was also a neighbor to the north. Another neighbor was the Reverend and Krook, whose wife was the Town Clerk for West Fairlee in 1908.

Following the Billings family donation of the land, Camp Billings added to the existing two story Chubb cottage lodge in the summer of 1916. The improved lodge contained a dining room, a social room, a modern kitchen, a dish and wash room, refrigeration, an office, a library, and four upstairs bed chambers. The lodge brought the entire value of the property to a total of \$5,500. In 1916, a brochure announced that “in order to make it possible for a larger number of boys and girls to attend, and for a longer period, the present site, which has been leased for many years, has been purchased, together with much additional land, and presented to the Windsor County Y.M.C.A. Committee in memory of the late Mrs. Julia Billings and Mr. Frederick Billings, by the Billings Family of Woodstock, who will assist the Committee in further equipping the camp.”^{xxviii} The Vermont Standard announced the 1916 season and the new camp improvements:

“Definite plans have been settled upon for the coming season at Camp Billings at Fairlee Lake, opening on Monday, July 10, for boys and continuing for three weeks, closing July 31; opening August 1 for girls and closing August 22. Any boy in Windsor County, 12 years or older, of good moral character will be admitted to the camp this year and girls between 13 and 19 years of age inclusive. The county Y.M.C.A. committee have conducted this camp for ten years on leased land but have recently purchased the site used for many years, along with additional property, which makes it one of the finest sites in New England, and

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with the additional equipment that is now being planned for, the boys and girls in Windsor County are going to have made available to them one the best camping locations anywhere in New England at a very low rate of expense.^{xxxix}

While America remained neutral as World War One ravaged Europe and Middle East, the children of the United States continued to enjoy their summers away. The 1916 Camp Billings season featured hikes to places of interest; baseball; athletic meets; water sports and carnivals; circus and vaudeville shows; pageants; volleyball and basketball. Instruction was given in rowing, swimming, scout craft, cooking, first aid, natural history, agriculture, forestry, life saving and household arts. There were also several lectures and presentations.^{xxx} For all of this, the parents had to pay 85 cents a day. At this time, Camp Billing's rules included no smoking, no firearms, or air-rifles, and no one allowed in water or a boat unaccompanied by an adult leader. As is true to this day, it was the Camp's policy that "every girl and boy ought to know how to swim and take care of themselves and others in the water in case of an accident." Campers were admonished that "violation of rules means returning home." Using his previous connections from New York City, Hurd procured large pontoons from his former employer, the naval shipyard in Brooklyn, New York. These pontoons were used for making a pontoon float which still exists today, providing support for the diving board and diving platform.

In 1916, Judge Arthur G. Whitham of South Royalton, Vermont established the Camp Billings scholarship fund. For many years, Whitham was an active member of the Windsor County Y.M.C.A. board of directors. In the same year, the Camp Billings Alumni Association was organized to encourage acquaintanceship among the alumni, to keep up the friendships formed while at Camp, and to hold an annual reunion. The first Camp Billings Reunion was held in Chester, Vermont in the spring of 1916.

The late June 1916 edition of the *Vermont Standard* announced the exciting programs that the new and improved Camp Billings had to offer:

“Preparations are being rushed as fast as the weather will permit in order that the boys' period at the County Y.M.C.A. Camp. Camp Billings may open on Monday, July 10. This camp will be known in the future as the Billings Memorial Camp, inasmuch as the Billings family has recently provided a permanent site and made possible several additions to the equipment. A large central lodge is now

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being erected 60 ft. by 26 ft. containing social room and fireplace, dining room, kitchen and washroom. Broad floors are being put in all tents, a giant "thank you mam" slide on swimming beach and many improvements made upon the buildings already on the property. The camp is now provided with five safe boats but no canoes ... Many special privileges have been arranged for this year, among them the agricultural demonstrations and experiments carried on the second week by County Agricultural Agent J.C. Otis and the visit to the camp the third week by Capt. Allan S. Williams the well known naturalist and explorer, who will greatly interest every camper. The principal reason for the existence of Camp Billings as is generally known is to provide a safe place where parents may send their boys and girls for a few weeks during the summer at a small cost. In the conduct of the camp a clear-cut and definite program has been worked out for no "go as you please" living is allowed, no 'rough housing' or teasing of other campers permitted. The committee will have it clearly understood that any boy of whatever family or church is welcome, between the ages 12 and 19 years, living in Windsor County and girls between the ages of 13 and 21 years. The girls' camping period runs from August 1st to 21st and older girls employed in offices, stores, etc. are especially invited to take advantage of the camp this year...^{xxxix}

With the investment in the property and the new teachers, Camp Billings became a much more attractive venue. In the spring of 1917, the Second Camp Billings Reunion was held in the basement of the Methodist Church in White River Junction with approximately 27 people in attendance.

During the 1916-1917 season, activities included canning for the girls. There was camp versus counselor baseball games as well as basketball competitions against Camp Big Pine. There was a riflery range with a 1 and ½ story gable roof building with a small one story addition on its east facade. In 1916 and 1917, Captain Allen S. Williams, noted naturalist and explorer, came to Camp Billings and spoke on reptiles and wild animals. The campers had an opportunity to handle a seven and a half foot black snake. For many years, Mr. Howard C. Tibbetts offered the campers steamboat rides, an annual event for many years.

Within a few years, the camp's infrastructure grew even more. Vermont during the 1920s witnessed a tremendous increase in summer camps. This statewide trend is reflected at

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Camp Billings by the improvements on the land. On September 2, 1919, C.A. and F.L. Washburn permanently conveyed their cottage, "Pinewold" and the surrounding land and beachfront to the Y.M.C.A. For many years, the Hurds lived on the second floor of "Pinewold." Cornelia had a car accident during this time and was never quite the same. She spent most of her time on second story porch on "Pinewold" that allowed her to oversea the camp activities.

In 1920, Camp Billings added a junior section for campers as young as ten years old. The larger senior section was for children ages 14-21. In 1920, the boys section of camp was filled, and several girls were turned away for the girls section. During the 1920s, the standard Camp Billings uniform for the girls was pleated serge bloomers, black stockings or knee socks for the juniors, worn with the middy and navy tie. One camper, Martha Sylvester Warren, recalled the uniforms: "But no one ever complained - there was a certain pride in wearing a uniform ... it let everyone know, I'm a Camp Billings Lassie."^{xxxii} The uniforms reflected the style of the time and would continue to do so through the camp's history. As society began to become less formal in their attire, the camps lessened the stringency on their dress code. The uniform was not only required for church services, but whenever campers visited other camps for tournaments and competitions.

By 1921, the Camp Billings building inventory included the Main Lodge, formerly known as "Camp Isabell"; "Pinewold" (also called Junior Lodge or Visitors' Lodge); "Cupola Cottage" (now called the Guest House) which contained the infirmary; "Butternut Cottage" (which later became part of Dartt Hall); several sleeping tents; and a new garage and a carpentry shop. Between "Pinewold" and the Main Lodge there were two adjacent buildings, close to the waterfront, which served as the mechanical/pump/ice house/engine room and storage facility. One of the camper's many daily duties was to carry buckets of water from the pump to the dinning room. The ice, which was cultivated during the winter, was also kept in this area. A big event for campers was a periodic visit to the ice house to make ice cream. The campers turned the crank of the maker which created a big ice cream float. When the process was completed, Hurd passed out spoons to the campers who then went to work on the excess ice cream.^{xxxiii}

These buildings were located between the waterfront and the clay tennis courts and were considered to be at the edge of the grove that separated the main lodge and "Pinewold."

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The ice house was a 1 ½ story barn that was relocated from another part of the property in 1916. In 1929, the building served as a waterfront building where visiting swimmers checked in and campers employed the Buddy System Board by taking tabs before swimming. After checking in, the campers would line up along the water ramp and enter the water one by one. The camp's pump was located right outside these buildings. A spring on the property provided plenty of fresh drinking water for the campers and staff.

In the early 1920s, the tents were no longer staked on the lawn in front of the Main Lodge. On the south side, there was a flagpole at the bottom of the central stairs that went down from the Main Lodge to the waterfront. Camp Billings boasted six acres of land, five hundred feet of waterfront. The waterfront featured the "Thank-you-ma'am" water slide which was in extant since at least 1916 and a waterfront favorite. In order to give added security to Camp's waterfront program, the "pal system" was introduced. Though now called the "buddy system," this technique is given much credit for Billings' perfect safety record in the water.^{xxxiv} The biggest addition in 1921 was the clock tower on the front lawn. Dr. Fred A Barrel of White River Junction, Vermont invented and donated the large four-dial clock with interior mechanisms. Mr. Thayer, an architect from Wallingford, Vermont, prepared the drawings for the tower. The clock tower soon became a landmark on the lake as it can be seen from almost any point. The same year, Colonel William S. Dewey of Quechee and Dewey's Mills provided lighting equipment for the buildings and grounds.

The 1920s saw a tremendous growth of summer camps. It was a period in history when more camps opened nationwide than any other period in United States History. By 1927, there were 63 camps located up and down the state. These camps accounted for 7,500 people and two million dollars. Two years later, there 77 camps, ranking Vermont third amongst New England states for amount of camps.^{xxxv} The Lake Morey and Lake Fairlee region provide a bulk of these Vermont camps. Reverend Gulick started Aloha Camp on the northern and western shores of the lake in 1905. Camp Passumpsic, Camp Neshobe, Camp Lochearn, Camp Ko-Ko-Sing, Camp Norway, Camp Wyoda, Camp Farnsworth, Camp Hanoum soon followed on Lake Fairlee. Every summer, an inter camp meet was held, with one camp serving as a host. In July of 1921, the inter-camp meet was held at Camp Hanoum. The meet was met the following year at Camp Lochearn. During these gatherings, over 1600 campers were present and the Post Mills Church sold ice cream, gums and candies to raise money to help pay for church repairs.

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Although Camp Billings had accumulated permanent structures, the young campers stayed in sleeping tents with permanent frames and floors. There were 14 by 21 tent platforms with bunks and cots. The permanent structures were used for camp administration and staff housing. "Pinewold" contained reading and social rooms, fireplace, lavatory, wide porches, five guest rooms and clothes room. For a brief period, there was a closed in porch for Cornelia Hurd on the second floor that looked out onto the lake. It was there as early as 1931 and removed by 1940. There were two staff lodges – "Cupola Cottage" and "Butternut Cottage," which housed the camp infirmary. There was also ice, tool, power and storage houses.

On April 18, 1925, the 9th Camp Billings Alumni Reunion was held at the Gates Memorial Library in White River Junction, Vermont. In the spring 1926, the Camp Alumni Association erected an infirmary on the property for \$1,250. The building featured a room for the camp nurse and a large room with cots for the sick. "The building is well-equipped for the care of any who may become ill while in attendance at Billings and contains comfortable living quarters for the nurse in charge."^{xxxvi} During this time, Camp Billings' activities included a visit to the famous Chubb Fish Rod factory at Post Mills; the teaching of Red Cross lifesaving methods; Tennis was the most popular sport; and the camp offered courses in religious education and the camp arranged vocational conferences for the older boys and girls.

During this era, a typical day began with a 6:50 A.M. Reveille and a 7:00 AM flag raising. After wash up, the campers went to a 7:30 A.M. breakfast, then cabin duties. There was a recreation period and then morning chapel. At 10:00 A.M. there was an instruction period followed by swimming. There was then a mid-day cabin inspection followed by dinner. After lunch, campers participated in camp duties and then there was a camp-wide "siesta." At 3:00 P.M., there was more recreation and swimming. At 5:30 there was colors and then supper with games immediately after. A common meal was a what the campers referred to as a "corn meal mush." It was very unpopular amongst the camp populace and was often served for breakfast, dinner and supper. Following the evening meal, there was then an evening campfire and lights out by 9:00 P.M. for the senior campers.

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By the 1930s, summer camps had cemented itself in Vermont culture. The summer camps and their sense of retreat reflected the rural identity of the state and the camps boosted the local economies. With this in mind, more and more effort was placed in improving the camps. As Camp Billings entered its third decade of existence, it continued to grow its programs. Much assistance came from former counselors and campers.

Early in the summer of 1931, Miss Mary A. Dartt of Springfield, Vermont, a former counselor, led the efforts for the construction of a new recreation room and assembly hall. The room had a seating capacity of 200 and was used for assemblies, plays, concerts, chapel and other camp activities. The new social rendezvous had a seating capacity for over 200 for assemblies, plays, concerts, chapel, and others camp exercises. There was a fireplace, mural paintings by Mr. Wilder, a piano, a phonograph, reading and writing tables, and various games. The building now permanently houses all the camp awards. The new building was named for Miss Dartt to recognize her determined fundraising efforts. Others who contributed significantly to this project were Horace Pease of Hartford, Frederick Campbell of Wilder, Joseph Loveland of Norwich, Harry Gale of White River Junction, Arthur Wilder of Woodstock, and George Barnes of Lyme, New Hampshire. There was also a new addition attached to the "Butternut Cottage," which was raised fifteen inches and put upon a solid cement foundation.

Mary Dartt's contribution was just one example of a long history at Alumni giving at Camp Billings. Former Camp Billings campers and counselors felt a special bond with the camp and this was often reflected in their continued support. On April 30, 1932, the 16th Camp Billings Reunion was held at the Hotel Coolidge in White River Junction, Vermont. The fifty-five attendees were treated to a roast turkey dinner and the happy diners sang old camp songs and listened to music for an enjoyable gathering. Their camp experience left a lasting impression on the alumni. Not only did the campers come out of Billings with new skills, but they also developed an affinity for the camp. They developed friendships with their fellow campers and saw the value of their camp experience. The alumni wanted to ensure those experiences for future children. The alumni annually gave to the camp for the scholarship fund and the infirmary supplies. There were separate reunions held for the boys and girls periods. During the summer, the meetings were most often held in Dartt Hall with Cornelia Hurd serving as secretary.

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On interesting aspect of Camp Billings, as well as camps nationwide, are legacy campers. Generations of families attended Camp Billings as each generation wants to pass the same experiences on to their children and grandchildren. On such example was Helen Wallstrom who came to Camp Billings for the first time in 1926. One of her fondest memories was attending church services on Sundays where Camp Billings campers were placed in charge of music. Wallstrom remembered fondly the canoes of well dressed campers arriving on the shores of Post Mills for the services. Wallstrom eventually sent her three children to the camp and seven grandchildren. Her daughter and son-in-law, Ann and John Freitas, served as camp directors for many years.^{xxxvii} One of her grandchildren was married on the Camp Billings property in a tent next to the clock tower.

Despite the recognized importance of camping to both child hood development and the Vermont economy, the Great Depression had an effect on Camp Billings. The stock market crash of 1929 did not turn the country into recession overnight and its effects took several years to materialize. In 1932, Camp Billings reduced its tuition fees, there were less campers and a shorter season due to the economy. Families had barely enough money to subsist let alone any form of disposable income to spend on their children for camp. At this time Camp Billings still used some tents, but a number of neighboring camps had converted to cabins. The Billings tent of this era was "a type of tent that is not only roomy, but strong and perfectly dry. These especially built tents, fitting over permanent frames and floors, provide a 'campy' atmosphere where the majority preferred in a short-term camp like Billings."^{xxxviii}

One of the permanent structures on the property was the mechanical building/storage buildings located along the waterfront. The buildings were located at the top of boat ramp used for launching boats, rafts and swimming platforms. One of the buildings had a gable roof and was used for the storage of waterfront equipment. The other had a shed roof and was used as power plant. It originally had a gable roof. These two buildings were eventually replaced with a building that located more close to the waterfront. This was replacement was added as early as 1951 and was called the "Shore Shop." It featured a small office with two open bays on each side. One bay was used for canoe storage and the other had hooks for swimmers' towels. There was a small wooden loading dock that led from the canoe storage to the water. In 1972, a second floor was added to the "Shore Shop" which became the camp office.

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With the nation still fighting to get out of the depression, Camp Billings reflected President Roosevelt's New Deal program by putting the campers to work. Led by Perry Merrill, the Civilian Conservation Corps was responsible for several camps in Vermont. Camp Billings adopted its own work program. Besides chores around the property and in the dining hall, the campers took to building new structures for the camp. In 1935, the camp began construction on Cabin #10. The following year, Cabins #11 and #12 were built. These were originally tent platforms along the waterfront that were added as early as 1929. In 1938, Tent #13 was located right along the waterfront in the vicinity of Cabins #10, #11 and #12. With these three new cabins, campers lived in both tents and cabins. The cabins were used for the older groups.

As the campers continued to improve its infrastructure, they also focused on improving the waterfront. In the late 1920s, the camp introduced sailing with a specially built skiff. "Not having canoes at Billings, the sailboat has a big appeal for many and helps to keep up interest in the swimming classes."^{xxxix} In the early 1930s, many campers built boats in the carpentry shop. The 1935 season saw the christening of a new kayak and several campers building scows and cat boats. By 1936, Camp Billings also added dories and kayaks to its fleet. "And for the first time in Camp's history, every camper went home a swimmer!"^{xl}

Corresponding with summer camps across the state and region, Camp Billings survived the depression and began once again to expand its programming. The 1937 season featured six new activities. They were nature study, crafts, religious education, newspaper and music. Nature studies included pressing flowers and plant life into books. The campers also put on plays, helped with the camp newspaper and put together a camp orchestra. As always, the annual Horribles Parade was the big event with the campers assembling costumes with what ever could be found on the property. The tradition dictated that no part of the costume could be imported from home. Donors in 1937 included Ms. Mary Dartt who gave \$100 towards the debt created for the construction of Dartt Hall. Evard Stubbs gave towards the construction of the new senior cabins. In 1937, Ernest Johnson, the Negro tenor from Boston, sang at Dartt Hall. At the 1937 Inter-camp meet, held at Camp Quinibeck, Dorothy Canfield Fisher was the guest of honor. During her speech, she said "When a story teller is asked to make a speech, he can only tell a story." She all read from two of her pieces *The Rainy Day, the Good Mother and the*

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Brown Suit. Fisher chose this piece for it “most of us try to make shortcuts to solve human problems.” She also read *West Wind, West Wind*.^{xli}

The biggest event during the 1939 season was recovering from the effects of the great September 1938 hurricane that ravaged all of New England. Situated on the north side of Lake Fairlee, Camp Billings lay directly in the path of the great hurricane. During the hurricane, much of the staff hid in Pinewold Cottage. ‘It was a long night as huge trees fell around and over the cottage and the lake water splashed over the wall and gushed in under the living room door. They were amazed that they lived to tell the story and were helped out by others the next morning.’^{xlii} The hurricane caused many trees to fall upon all the Camp Billings tent platforms, cabins, and buildings but one. A total of 400 trees were blown down and thirteen of the camp’s buildings were damaged. All the tent platforms and surfaces were destroyed. It was most likely that the Cupola Cottage lost its cupola during the hurricane. It was definitely still on top of the building during the 1937 season and was missing by 1946.

After the hurricane, the upper tennis courts were repaired with a new surface and retaining walls. A backstop was added to the baseball courts. The entire campus required electrical rewiring and 60 large trees were planted to fill in the bare spots. The existing cabins’ roofs were re-tarred and a new heating system was added to the infirmary. New porches were added to the Main Lodge, the Guest House received a new foundation and part of “Pinewold” was re-shingled. At the end of 1939 season, a plaque honoring Frederick P. Campbell, Horace C. Pease, Alfred W. Guyer, Joseph H. Loveland and Laura Billings Lee was installed over the fireplace in the dining room. In addition to repairing the damaged infrastructure, the camp also added three new intermediate cabins, a boy’s washroom, and a garage and woodshed by 1940.

In 1939, Marilyn Hubert was a Camp Billings camper. She wrote years that: “despite Camp Billings bunk and camp duties she stills keep a messy apartment.” She tells of how ‘Frenched sheets’ were in vogue back in her day and the upside down glass water trick was done, but no plastic glasses back then.’^{xliii} Frenched sheets were a pranks that campers performed on their counselors so they could not get into their beds when the snuck in from being late. Marilyn’s favorite activities at Camp Billings were playing and sing around the campfire, stargazing, hiking, and using the water pump. Virginia Lemme who was a camper from 1937 to 1940 remembered “once a week Camp activities she

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loved as a camper , like the nature hikes led by Miss Dick, the walks to the candy store and to Post Mills Church and the moonlight swim under the watchful eye of Chubb Condict, Dick Snow and Dad Hurd.” Lemme wrote: “My days at Camp Billings were the most influential of my life . If there are ever lessons learned , in how we live , and interact with others, it’s there.”^{xliv} The Post Mills Church was the closest church to Camp Billings and every Sunday, lines of uniformed campers made the treks to the small Vermont town. In addition, the campers left the grounds to visit a Betty Ann’s candy story located down the road. They also walked a greater distance to the Maple Tree Tea Room. In later years, the Kozy Nook restaurant served as a popular getaway for the campers.

As America became involved in the Second World War, Camp Billings continued to serve as an escape for campers. To some degree, camps also acted as a surrogate parent for mothers and fathers who were serving on the home front and overseas. The 1941 alumni newsletter wrote: "Surely we should like to see Camp Billings become a place during these troubled times where both old and future members of the Camp will go to better prepare themselves for the heavy responsibilities which they will be called upon to face in the near future."^{xlv} During the Second World War, Camp Billings also served as refuge for European families whose homeland was devastated by the fighting. This was the beginning of a long tradition of foreign children being amongst the ranks of the Camp Billings population.

Although the girls' season ran only from July 1 to July 31, 1941, they could stay from the first two weeks of the boy's season (August 1 to August 15, 1941) if they desired. This may have been the first period of co-ed camping at Billings. One of the 1942 season's biggest events was a visit to the abandoned copper mine town, Copperfields. Hurd led the trip into West Fairlee by taking the campers in trucks part of the way and then hiking up to the village. Campers examined the dam and took old copper pieces as souvenirs. By 1942, 4,169 campers had been through Camp Billings and it was estimated that 200 were serving the armed forces during the war. At the final assembly, Hurd spoke to the campers and “stressed the value of self reliance in these trying times and how the camp was being administered to emphasize the value of work well done.”^{xlvi} For the first time in its history, Camp Billings was forced to postpone its opening in 1943. Due to the war, Hurd found it very difficult to find appropriate help which was “scarce and precious as

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gold.^{”xlvi} Clifford “Bud” Moody recalled some of the fear that he felt at Camp Billings during the summer of 1943:

“It was the summer of 1943 with World War II in full swing, but worlds away with only the sound of distant drums coming over the airwaves ... But for me, being suddenly away at camp and away for the first time, I found myself in some small way, waging my own private war. Down at the camp beach, huddle against the wall of the supply shed, there I am, standing there, waiting for my swim trunks with a clammy beach towel draped over my shoulders. I can still feel the goose bumps popping out of my arms, Close by, a gaggle of green kids, similarly clad, milled around the old boat ramp where it ran off into the lake, and the cement all pock marked and coarse from the weather of time ... I remained there trying to conceal all signs of the shivers while rain came pouring off the eaves of the tool shed above to beat down and draw a steady line in the dirt at my feet, splashing my legs, as if to mock me. We were all standing around waiting for the swim instructor to come shouting dreaded orders, and I knew that I’d rather die then, on command, stick my head under water ... If I ever live to hundred I will never forget what happened then. This guy, this swimming instructor with big muscled arms goes striding over and jumps on this boulder at water’s edge ... and then for a moment, he looks over to flash us all a friendly confident grin ... without warning, this guy up and launches himself over the water in what can only be described as a death defying feat ... Presently, if it was not enough in itself, no sooner have we all, up on the shore, stopped blinking and blinking, then here comes a shriek from behind. Out of nowhere bolted this sun-suited pip squeak ... all the while bawling “Wait for me! wait for me – daddy!”. And us on the shore, once again with the blinks, watching this baby shrimp of a kid go flopping down into the water, and the water like ice, and the kids arms flailing, lungs bellowing still, all the while doing the best imitation of a dog paddle I’d ever seen.”^{”xlviii}

After witnessing the scene, Bud was the first to jump into the cold Lake Fairlee, with his fellow campers following closely behind. The site of instructor and his five year old son effortlessly braving the waters was just the confidence boost that the new campers required. It was moments like these that embodied the camping experience.

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In 1942, the camper's facilities included Cabins #1, #2, #10, #11, #12 and Tents #8, #4, #5, #6, #7 and #13. These cabins, built in the Bungalow style, reflected military barracks to a degree. Their construction was uniform and utilitarian allowing for easy construction. The interiors had single room with a series of bunk beds. A camper arriving at their barren cabin for the first time probably had the same feeling as a recruit entering their barracks for the first time. They were both spaces lined with bunks and absent of any frivolities. Cabins #1 and #2 are presently part of the Girl's Senior Cabins. Within a year, a third cabin was added next to Cabins #1 and #2 and this area was referred to intermediate row. Prior to their construction, the campers stayed in tents #1, #2 and #3 in this area. Today, tent platforms are still used in their original location. Cabins #10, #11, and #12 were know as Senior Row in the 1940s and were torn down in 2003 for new cabins. When these cabins were constructed the window trim, fascia board and corner boards were painted white. Most of the tents were located in the vicinity of the present day flagpole.

In 1943, Walter Sanborn and Maynard Sanborn of Barre, Vermont sold "Sunnyside Cottage" as well as adjoining parcel, located in West Fairlee, to Camp Billings for \$1,200 after settling the estate of their father, Lester Sanborn. "Sunnyside Cottage" and land had once belonged to the Emerson and Ball families, who also owned the Guest House or "Cupola Cottage." Before that, the land belonged to Thomas Chubb. "Sunnyside" also came with a small outbuilding which was eventually converted into a single staff person cabin, "Crowley's Corners".

Although Camp Billings served a refuge from the war, the horrors of battle did not bypass the camp. By July of 1944, Camp Billings had lost six of its alumni in the war. A total of 16 campers had been killed in the two World Wars. On November 28, 1944, Bridgette Higgins, who had left France during the Second World War, wrote: "We arrived safely in England, waiting to go to our home in France. We certainly miss Camp Billings . . . you will be glad to hear that I have not forgotten my back dive!" Camp Billings held memorial services twice a day in memory of former campers who had lost their lives during the Second World War. Dad Hurd gave the campers several talks on "the choice of an occupation." A new craft shop was erected at the close of the regular camping season.

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The Camp Billings staff and campers also provided aid during war, proving that the Second World War was a total war, leaving no community unaffected by it. During the conflict, Hurd served as district representative of the Y.M.C.A. War Prisoners' Aid Committee which filtered through neutral countries such as Switzerland and Sweden footballs, volley balls, books, garden tools, art supplies, and gramophones and records to Prisoners of War in the Pacific and European Theaters of War. One initiative spearheaded by the Y.M.C.A. was to bring together British R.A.F. pilots who had been blinded during their capture. They organized a German professor and the pilots were taught Braille. Camp Billings contributed to this effort by routing its Sunday donations to the fund.

Following World War Two, the nation entered a post war boom. Camp Billings repaired several buildings and added new cabins. In the spring 1946, the camp added several new sleeping lodges. Cabin #5, located nearest to the Clock Tower was named for the donors, Leon and Olin Gay who operated the Gay Brothers Woolen Company in Cavendish, Vermont. Cabin #6 was named for Mary A. Fletcher of Hanover, New Hampshire, a longtime friend of the local Y.M.C.A., and Camp Billings. Cabins #7 and #8 soon followed. With the addition of these four new cabins, there were a total of eleven camper's cabins. The total inventory of building in 1946 was 24 with 11 of them serving as sleeping quarters.

In 1946, Cornelia M. Hurd, who was known to the Camp family as Mother Hurd, died. A memorial tribute was delivered during a special service held at Camp Billings on Sunday afternoon, August 10, 1947. Edward W. Miller of Springfield, Vermont spoke:

“But we can ever be thankful that we have known and loved and been loved by Mrs. Hurd, affectionately known to hundreds of campers as Mother Hurd. For 40 years side by side with her indomitable husband she strove and toiled in educating, helping, lifting, and making life better and happier for a veritable host of young people. Some of these are not youthful now, but young and old we all love and revere her memory. Cornelia Hurd had many virtues, great natural ability, undying determination, but perhaps transcending all these was her flair, nay her genius, for friendship”^{xlix}

Immediately following the Second World War, Camp Billings saw a spike in growth. Despite the heavy human loss, the war was an economic stimulus for the nation. With the

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depression and war time rationing a thing of the past, American families again had the income and opportunity to send the children away for the summer. The 1947 camping season was considered to be the first regular co-ed period. The season consisted of a girls' session and then a full co-ed session. In 1948, the camp installed a shower bath and the campers finally had a warmer hygienic solution than the cold Lake Fairlee. Running water was also added to the infirmary.

By 1949, Camp Billings erected four new cabins bringing the total camper cabins to fifteen, numbered 1 through 15. Today, Cabins #1, #2, #3, #5, #6, #7, #8, #9, are still part of the original inventory. Cabins #4, #10, #11, #12, #13, #14 and #15 were replaced between 1972 and 2003. In 1949, the Y.M.C.A. recognized Dad Hurd for his fifty years of services to Camp Billings. The *Springfield Reporter* wrote in 1950 about the upcoming season: "Archibald C. Hurd, well-beloved director of the camp and district executive of the Y.M.C.A. ... the veteran of 50 years of work with the Y.M.C.A. is still going strong ... In these days of snowdrift, cold winds and winter discomfort it's nice to think that "Dad" Hurd is planning for Billings' 44th year and that this county has such a splendid summer place for its boys and girls."^l The same year the *American Vocational Journal* recognized Hurd for his "pioneering guidance" through his forty years of Y.M.C.A. work.^{li}

By the 1950s and 1960s, the girls' uniform went through some changes. For the girls, the Camp Billings uniform consisted of navy Bermuda shorts and white middie blouses with navy ties. The girls also had to wear bloomers and stockings. Martha Sylvester Warren recalled: "We always had the best uniforms and colors than any of the other camps situated around Lake Fairlee. Once in a while we even made fun of what the other camps made their campers wear. The Billings boys looked so handsome in their white paints and blue (or white) shirts. But, boy I am not sure how they kept their pants clean."^{lii} By the 1960s, the girl's dress code changed dramatically. The bloomers and stockings were removed from the girl's uniform. At this time, the girls and boys uniforms resembled each other quite a bit with both wearing blue shorts and white shirts.

In 1952, a camper wrote: "... I had a very good time at Camp Billings and learned a great deal. I miss all of the good food and not being able to go in swimming each day. I am glad I am a member of the Camp Billings Family and look forward to the Reunion ... We have started saving our money so that we can come next year." A counselor wrote:

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"I can truthfully say that no experience I've ever had here (at a different camp) can compare to Billings -- there is a definite 'something' about Billings that has it all over this camp. Perhaps it's a unity of spirit, that is the only thing I could call it ... Truthfully I can say that this my eighth season at Billings was my happiest . . . at the age of twenty-six it became clear that I needed the camp and experiences as much if not more than ever before." I am again and again grateful for my early Billings training . . . music . . . swimming . . . nature study... "iiii

Despite the nationwide economic boom and celebration of Camp Billings' 50th Anniversary, the 1956 season was a difficult for the camp. Throughout Vermont, the state was changing. While the rest of nation was rapidly growing, Vermont remained isolated. At the same time, Vermont's small farm economy was failing. With the new requirement for expensive milk storage tanks, Vermont small dairy farms were unable to maintain a pace with the expanding technology. As a result, many of Vermont's farms were forced to close. As the surrounding Vermont farms struggled so did Camp Billings. With its enrollment drawing from the surrounding communities, Camp Billings felt the brunt of economic downturn. The camp also experienced financial loss due to the death of many old-time Camp friends. After depending on core private funding for so many years, the camp soon found itself lacking a broad financial base to meet difficult economic times. In addition to financial hurdles affecting both the camp's enrollment and the physical plant, Hurd's health also failed. During the 1957 season, while serving his fifty-first season as director, Hurd was hospitalized because of tuberculosis. After having given virtually all of his adult life to the service of youth through the Y.M.C.A., through vocational guidance, and through his work at Camp Billings, he was finally unable to continue. For the rest of the 1957 summer, Mr. John A. Freitas of White River Junction filled in as Camp Director. Because help was needed to get Camp through its 51st season, Freitas solicited the aid of many former counselors who donated their time and efforts. Quite likely it was to the credit of these people and to Freitas' direction that helped Camp to survive the difficult times. Dr. Jane Rogers of West Hartford, CT, wrote of her memories of that summer:

" . . . arriving home from a USO tour to learn of Dad Hurd's illness, his removal to a hospital. Hurrying to Billings, as if to an ailing parent, to see what I could do, arriving first at Kozy Nook for fortification and being overwhelmed by deja vu to

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see sitting there many wonderful faces from my childhood summoned there by John Freitas to help get Billings through the summer...”^{lv}

In the spring of 1958, Hurd died after years of battling illness. He served Camp Billings since the camp’s inception in 1906, and even deferred his retirement in 1940 to continue his leadership for another eighteen years. He dedicated his life to the success of the camp and the ongoing development of children. Ralph Waldo Emerson wrote: “Every institution is but the lengthened shadow of a man” and this was certainly the case for Hurd and Camp Billings. For 52 years, Camp Billings was a reflection of Hurd’s unique spirit.^{lv}

In the second fifty years of Camp Billings’ history, the camp continued to evolve and grow. In 1969, the Alfred E. and Barbara R. Slack gave their c.1904 home to Camp Billings as a life estate. This lot used to belong to the Jenkins family. Camp Billings refers to this building as “We-Own-It” and it will become part of the camp in the future. In 1972, the camp built a second story above the Shore Shop to use as administrative offices. The plaque outside the office read: “Dad and Mother Hurd Memorial Building, 1972, in memory of Archibald C. Hurd, Founder and Camp Director 1906-1958, and Cornelia Hurd, Assistant Director 1906-1946.” Relatives and friends of Clarence B. Benson provided the furnishings and the interior for the new office building in Clarence’s memory, who was a board member for 12 years and served as its president for two years. In 1975, T. Chubb and Barbara P. Condict, a long time friend of the camp and former camper, of Woodstock deeded their property across the road from Camp Billings. In 1986, this area was turned into ball fields and a center for outgoing trips. The baseball field was called Earl Ward Rainshadow Field, and in 2003, the entire parcel was called the Condict Campus. In 1976, the athletic area consisting of a basketball court, two volleyball courts and a tennis court, was dedicated to John A. Freitas. The commemorative sign on the courts reads as follows: “This athletic area dedicated in honor of John A. Freitas . . . athlete . . . scholar . . . educator, whose love of children was demonstrated by 28 years of service to Camp Billings as counselor, Camp Director and business manager.”^{lvi}

In 1980, the 1931 infirmary was enlarged with a new addition on its north side. The addition was dedicated to Maurice C. Aldrich who served on the Camp Billings Board of Directors from 1938 until his death in 1977. On the commemorative picture hanging in

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the infirmary it is written . . . "In those difficult years immediately following the death in 1958 of Camp Billings' founder, Archibald C. Hurd, and in the last two decades of Billings' healthy growth and success, Maurice always demonstrated courage, ingenuity, and gentle humor. Indeed, it was Maurice's special qualities that helped to ensure Billings' continued growth and success."

Camp Billings continued to add new facilities. In 1988, campers worked with a carpenter to build Cabin #9A. The practice of campers building their own lodgings was a tradition prevalent throughout camps since their inception. Using practical building skills was yet another talent that was instilled upon a Camp Billings camper. In 1989, two teams of Counselors in Training began work on Cabin #6A. In 1991, the camp built the Patrick Harley Outdoor Recreation Center building. The new building stored all the trip equipment and served as the center for outdoor education. A year later, Camp Billings replaced the garage/maintenance building and shop, and added two bedroom units. The camp also enlarged the girls' shower building. During the 1990s, there were several improvements to the Camp Billings' infrastructure. In 1995, the camp built a new Annex cabin and a boy's restroom. The following year, the new dining room addition was built. That summer, a storm came across Lake Fairlee that caused incredible damage to the walls and roof of Dartt Hall. The campers and staff rode out the storm in the safety of the Main Lodge. In 1997, Dartt Hall was rebuilt with a new floor, lighting, a location for memorabilia and an enclosed porch that ran the entire length of the hall, still providing views of the lake.

At the end of 1995 season, Uncle Ralph retired after 38 years as the camp director. Ralph began his Billings career as a counselor in 1951. Ralph at different times served as a WSI swim instructor, head of backpacking, boating, crafts, editor of the camp newsletter and fishing leader. "What a terrific adventure during those years for all the camp family extending gigantic efforts culminating in bringing Billings back to its prominence in the camping community."^{lvii} "Billings owes much of its success over the years to Uncle Ralph's great dedication, caring and spiritual guidance."^{lviii} "Many of us have never known a Billings without Ralph seated at the head of the Staff Table. Generations of campers and counselors will tell you that he has been one of the most important people in their lives -- a friend and mentor who taught us about responsibility, self reliance and caring respect for others -- who, more than any other person now alive, has made Billings what it is and helped us all to grow. Typical of his modest strength, Ralph asked that

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nothing special be done to mark this transition; his association with Camp and its alumni will continue well into the future.”^{lix}

In 2002, the Camp Billings Board of Directors launched its “Campaign for Billings” to celebrate the camps 100th anniversary in 2006. “From the 12 boys that first joined along the shores of Lake Fairlee in tents in 1906 to the hundreds of campers, representing a myriad of states and countries, there is a common bond amongst all those campers who have enjoyed the waters of Lake Fairlee and the flora and fauna of the surrounding environment. These children came into camp a little apprehensive, shy and homesick but came out a child full of self confidence, excellent skills, and independence. The buildings, the staff, and the stories contribute significantly to the Camp Billings experience. The buildings remain at Camp Billings year after year, serving a new child every season. While the buildings, sites and structures tell the story, it is the children who pass through Camp Billings’ front gate year after year that tell the real story of what Camp Billings really is.”^{lx}

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE OF CAMP BILLINGS

Camp Billings is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C for its collection of intact historic buildings that assist in conveying the history of the camp and its contribution to the camp movement in Vermont. Camp Billings consists of a cohesive group of simple shanty or Bungalow style seasonal cabins.

There are a variety of building types at Camp Billings including a recreational hall, dining hall, camper cabins, tent platforms, administrative offices, activity buildings, and athletic resources such as docks, courts, and playing fields. There are also outdoor settings such as an outdoor chapel, and a campfire gathering area. Several buildings such as “Pinewold,” “Sunnyside,” “We-Own-It”, “Sunnyside,” and the Main Lodge represent early examples of summer cottages. The ease of the construction and rustic interiors reflect the simplicity of what were perhaps Vermont’s first second homes. These homes were owned by a variety of individuals who used Lake Fairlee as a summer retreat.

Thanks to an abundance of early photographs in the Camp Billings Alumni Room, there is evidence that the original buildings have experienced minimal change since their initial construction as a summer getaway. The most distinctive change to the original wood

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frame buildings was the loss of the cupola from “Cupola Cottage” during the 1938 hurricane. Camp Billings first permanent structure, the Main Lodge, has retained much of its integrity. It has had several additions over the years to accommodate the campers and the kitchen but the main, two story block and its surrounding deck is well intact. The majority of the renovations were accomplished during the first years of Camp Billings and reflect the camp’s need for larger and more improved facilities. The Main Lodge addition was accomplished in a manner that was sympathetic to the original historic structure and its surroundings. “Pinewold”, donated to Camp Billings in 1919, retains all of its original elements, with the exception of new single pane windows. Despite minor alterations such as small additions and new porches, original structures such as “Sunnyside”, “Cupola Cottage” and “We Own it” retain their historic integrity. These original wood structures, which predate the creation of Camp Billings, retain much of their distinctive elements such as wood shingle siding, porches with decorative brackets, and original windows.

In addition to purchasing adjacent summer cottages, Camp Billings built many structures to enhance its programming. The majority of the cabins are original to the camp and add to the rustic flair of the surroundings. These cabins have had no changes since their construction in the late 1940s and early 1950s. This increase in construction reflected a growth in Camp Billings’ attendance as well as a need to provide better amenities for the campers. The Clock Tower, the primary focus of the camp, has had no alterations since its construction in 1921. The clock retains all of its working mechanisms.

Historic documentation demonstrates that Camp Billings has lost several buildings over the last fifty years. These include the Shore Shop, the Rifle Range building, Dartt Hall, the maintenance shack and several cabins. There are a significant amount of buildings less than fifty years old that still contribute to camp programming such as the renovated Dartt Hall, Cabins #6a, #9a, #10, #11 and #12 and the boy’s washroom. Many of these buildings replaced older buildings in situ and resemble the architectural style of the replaced structure.

Camp Billings retains the landscape features that attracted the first visitors in 1907. Despite the Hurricane of 1938 and a damaging microburst in the 1990s, which tore out a significant collection of trees, the camp maintains both a rustic and environmental feel.

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Although varied in form, features and use, Camp Billings' structures have simple utilitarian features. All of the buildings are built of a single wall construction, dimension lumber frames with exposed framing, overhang eaves, shallow gable or hip roofs, wood, cement or stone pier foundations and simple windows. These core buildings were constructed in the typical Bungalow style. These buildings include Cabins #1, #2, #3, #4, #5, #6, #7, #8, #9, #15 and the Arts and Crafts Building.

As a whole, the buildings contribute to the sense of community that is important to the campers' experience. With cabins clustered together by age and sex, campers have opportunities to live, grow and learn amongst their peers. Camp Billings has several large central gathering areas such as the Main Lodge and Clock Tower which serve as a means to bring the entire camp together as one unit. The campers learn many individual skills such as waterskiing, swimming and tennis through the numerous day activities. The buildings serve as way to bring the camaraderie, community, teamwork and friendship that are just as crucial to a child's development as individual skills.

There are several areas that contribute to the tradition of Camp Billings. These include the Chapel and the Moonfire Gathering area. Both unsheltered locales feature informal seating such logs or rocks. They have remained unchanged over the years. Camp Billing's setting amongst cedar and pines trees and along the shore of Lake Fairlee is an essential part of the camping experience as they convey the camper's relation with nature. The buildings of Camp Billings conform to the surrounding landscape. The lakeside, trees and rock outcroppings dictate the camp's layout, which embodies the camp's symbiotic relationship with nature.

There are several buildings that contribute significantly to the growth of the camper. The Main Lodge is an important indoor meeting spot and dining hall. Buildings such as "Pinewold" and "Sunnyside" are important to waterfront activities. The Arts and Crafts building is important to camper's development while the infirmary has continually served as an important stop for maintaining camper's health. The Clock Tower is important gathering point for formal and informal activities.

Many athletic venues such as the basketball courts, baseball fields, and volleyball fields have changed over the years. Other sport related venues such as the archery range, tennis

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courts, riflery range and playing fields have remained unchanged in their location and have continuously served as an important part of a child's development.

The buildings of Camp Billings are well preserved and well maintained. The new buildings were built with respect to the historic structures, providing a cohesive feeling to the entire property. Camp Billings has taken great care in using similar building techniques and replicating building footprints when replacement was necessary. Since the earliest campers lived in tents on tent platforms, the assortment of structures from early residential cottages to modern camper cabins represent the evolution of the camp's facilities. The one constant found in all of the structures is the simplicity and uniformity in their construction.

Camp Billings' original residential structures are representative of the cottages that were sprouting along the seashores of lakes across Vermont and other rural areas. Vermont was actively opening its doors to tourism, promoting its nature and environment to outsiders. There was a growing middle class that was looking for leisure time and additional educational opportunities for their children. The development of train transportation and then the automobile made many remote parts of Vermont easily accessible for leisure activities. Camp Billings is significant as a children's camp representative of both Vermont and the entire nation. The camp represents a widespread movement by the camps and their counselor to improve the welfare of the nation's children.

ⁱ Sargent, *A Handbook of Summer Camps*, 1929. Page 28.

ⁱⁱ Eels, Eleanor. *History of Organized Camping: The First 100 Years*. American Camping Association, Martinsville, Indiana, 1986. Page 3.

ⁱⁱⁱ Eels, Eleanor. *History of Organized Camping: The First 100 Years*. American Camping Association, Martinsville, Indiana, 1986. Page 3.

^{iv} Sargent, *A Handbook of Summer Camps*, 1929. Page 11.

^v Waterman, Laura and Guy. Forest and Crag. *History of Hiking, Trail Blazing, and Adventures in Northeast Mountains*. Appalachian Club, Boston, 1989. Page 309.

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Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of Camp Billings is recorded on Tax Map 20, parcels 18 and 19 in the Town Clerk's Office, Town of Thetford, Vermont. A small parcel of land is recorded in Book 11, Page 102 in the Town Clerk's Office, Town of West Fairlee, Vermont.

Boundary Justification

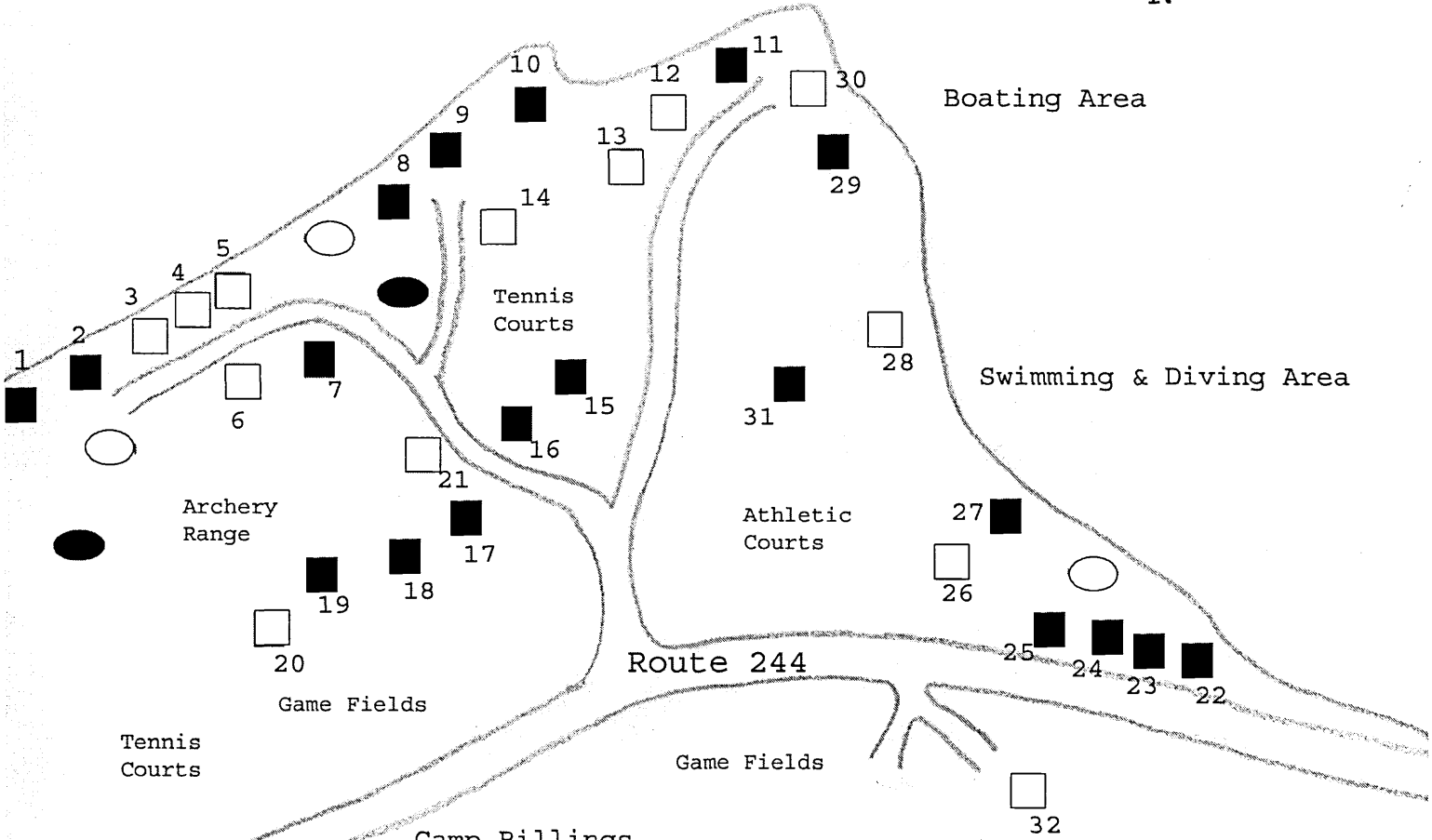
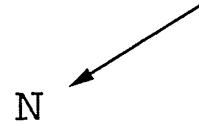
The boundary includes all the land historically associated with Camp Billings.

CAMP BILLINGS LIST OF BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES

1. CABIN # 14 –CROWLEY’S CORNER – STAFF HOUSING
2. SUNNYSIDE – STAFF HOUSING
3. CABIN #10 - SENIOR BOYS CABIN
4. CABIN #11 - SENIOR BOYS CABIN
5. CABIN #12 - SENIOR BOYS CABIN
6. THE ANNEX - SENIOR BOYS CABIN
7. ARTS AND CRAFTS BUILDING
8. CUPALO COTTAGE/GUEST HOUSE
9. CABIN #15 - SENIOR BOYS CABIN
10. WE-OWN-IT
11. ALDRICH INFIRMARY
12. GARAGE
13. SHOWER BUILDINGS
14. CABIN 6a – JUNIOR GIRLS CABIN
15. CABIN #5, JUNIOR GIRLS CABIN
16. CABIN #6, JUNIOR GIRLS CABIN
17. CABIN #7, JUNIOR BOYS CABIN
18. CABIN #8, JUNIOR BOYS CABIN
19. CABIN #9, JUNIOR BOYS CABIN
20. CABIN #9a, JUNIOR BOYS CABIN
21. BOY’S TOILET
22. CABIN #1 – SENIOR GIRLS CABIN
23. CABIN #2 – SENIOR GIRLS CABIN
24. CABIN #3 – SENIOR GIRLS CABIN
25. GIRLS WASHROOM
26. SENIOR GIRLS CABIN – SENATOR FLANDERS LODGE
27. PINEWOLD – STAFF BUILDING
28. CAMP OFFICE
29. MAIN LODGE, DINING ROOM, C. 1906, contributing
30. DARTT RECREATION HALL, STAFF LOUNGE AND ALUMNI ROOM
31. CLOCK TOWER
32. HARLEY OUTDOOR EDUCATION AND BACKPACKING

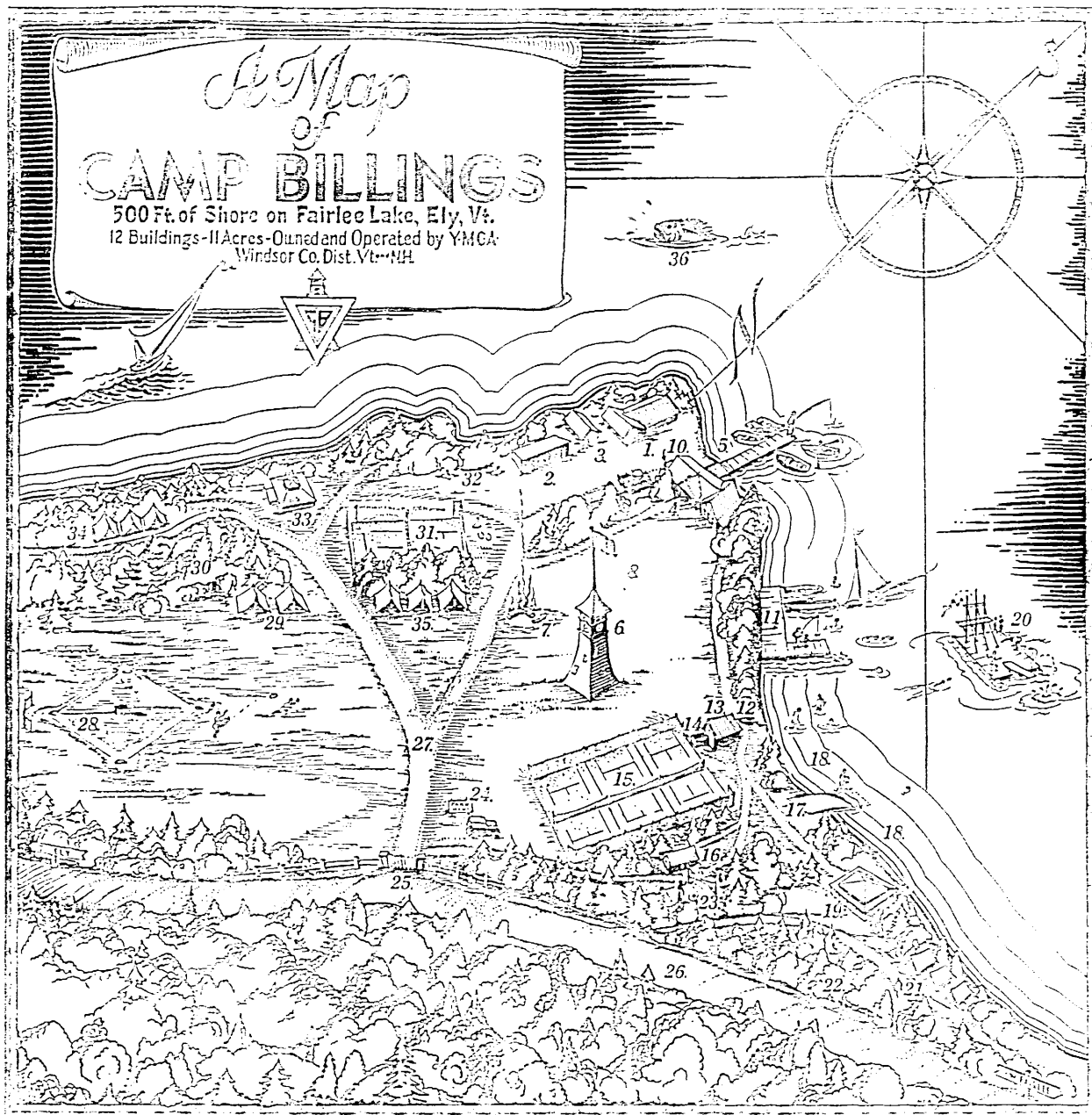
- Contributing Structure
- Non-Contributing Structure
- Tent Platform
- Outdoor Gathering Area

Lake Fairlee



Camp Billings
 Thetford, Orange County, Vermont

Approx. Scale: 1 inch = 250 feet



KEY TO THE NUMBERS SHOWN ON THE MAP

- | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|---|
| 1. Dart Recreation Building | 10. Heater House | 18. "Pinewald" Cottage | 27. Athletic Field—Jumping Pine |
| 2. Upper Garage and Tool House | 11. Motor and Sail Boat Tie-up | 20. Steel Fleet | 29. Junior Tents or Unit |
| 3. Alumni Infirmary | 12. Spring—Water Supply | 21. Intermediate Tents or Unit | 30. Grays—Pine and White Birch |
| 4. Main Lodge, Dining Room and Office | 13. Pump House | 22. Large Pine Grove | 31. Seniors' Clay Tennis Court |
| 5. Boat Landing—Main Deck | 14. Ice House | 23. Volley Ball Court | 32. Horse Shoe Bite |
| 6. Tower and Barrell Cleft | 15. Lower Clay Tennis Courts | 24. Automobile Parking Space | 33. "Cupala" or Guest Cottage |
| 7. Camp Fire Circle | 16. Lower Garage and Carpenter Shop | 25. Main Entrance Gate | 34. Senior Unit or Tents |
| 8. Campus and Playground | 17. Cement Beach Approach | 26. State Road to Ely, Post Mills, W. Fairlee, Chelsea | 35. Dressing Tents for Visitors |
| 9. Unloading Platforms | 18. Swimming Beach | 27. Automobile Driveway | 36. One of the "Wallpapers" that Got Away |

Camp Billings was established in 1907 and has enrolled 3139 young people during the 23 seasons it has been open. While the camp is widely known, the above map will be of interest to those who have never visited the property. Any girl in this locality 9-17 years of age is welcome during July and any boy of the same age during August.

Descriptive Illustrated Folder Mailed on Request—Address A. C. Hurd, Director Camp Billings, District Office, Y.M.C.A., White River Junction, Vermont.

CAMP BILLINGS
1935

