

Squam Lakes Watershed National Register of Historic Places SUMMER 2011, NEWSLETTER

THANKS TO YOUR SUPPORT, THE NATIONAL REGISTER PROJECT IS LAUNCHED

A Groundbreaking Initiative

The Squam Lakes National Register Initiative is truly a groundbreaking initiative: the only watershed-wide nomination in New England, the largest geographical area, and one of the most complex involving five separate towns. Nominations in process include more than 50 historic structures in combination with 450 acres of fields and forest.



The professional research and documentation required to establish significance for a National Register listing is both comprehensive and expensive. The umbrella nomination for the watershed, along with project development expenses, will cost nearly \$40,000. Individual property nominations range from \$1,500 to \$10,000 depending on the scope and age of the property.

The July 10th auction at Burleigh Brae was a big success and we raised more than \$35,000. This funding, along with your support, have allowed us to launch the Squam National Register Initiative: five comprehensive nominations, and the umbrella, are in the works, and we anticipate receiving good news about our applications in early summer, 2012.

In addition to funding the cost of the Squam watershed umbrella nomination, we have raised money to make the individual nominations more affordable for future participants. We continue to solicit donations for this purpose. The more individual listings that we



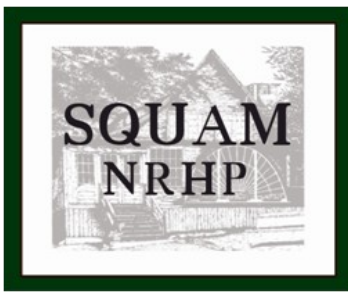
have around the lakes, the more protection our area will receive and the more influence we will have on future development. This summer we are exploring other historic properties on Mooney Point, Pinehurst, Rt. 25B, Shepard Hill, and along Rt. 3.

National Register listing of the Squam watershed will raise awareness about the importance of our iconic Squam places, thus protecting our cultural heritage. It will also discourage future development that is not in keeping with the character of the lakes.

See the enclosed Project Summary for further details.



We are in the process of setting up a website for the project which will be linked to the Squam Lakes Conservation Society at <http://www.squamlakes.com>. Hopefully, it will be up and running by the end of September!



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DONATIONS are tax deductible through our fiscal agent, the Squam Lakes Conservation Society. Please make checks payable to SLCS-NRHP and send them to SLCS at Box 696, Holderness, NH 03245.

Thank you!

Committee Members

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Supporting Organizations

Squam Lakes Association
Squam Lakes Conservation Society
Lakes Region Conservation Trust
Squam Lakes Natural Science Center
NH Preservation Alliance
Historical Societies
Moultonboro Heritage Commission

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OUR SQUAM HERITAGE

When visiting Squam for the first time, one is immediately struck by the natural beauty of the shoreline, and by the views of the Squam Range, the Rattlesnakes and Red Hill surrounding the lakes in their pristine state. Along with the visual experience comes an added sense of peace and spirituality; perhaps the only sound is the eerie call of a loon. Although change to some degree is inevitable, it is important to capture Squam's unique character and values by looking at its past, and therefore making every effort to ensure its future.

200 years ago settlers came to farm the rocky soil. Many of their farmhouses still stand, and most of the stone walls they built while clearing the fields now run through new-growth forest, reminding us to respect the hard life and challenges that they faced.

100 years ago vacationing families arrived from points further south, bought some of the old farms and also built modest summer camps along the shore, all hidden from sight. They embraced a minimalist life style, enjoying the natural surroundings. There were no zoning laws. These families created the ethic that we still respect and follow today. Generations later, these same families still share a common love of community amongst themselves and others.

In recent years Squam has become much more accessible and has become home to more year-round inhabitants thanks to the internet and highways. The pressure is intense to build and develop, to tear down the old and replace with the new. People come because they appreciate Squam's values and respect all of its residents, fauna, flora, and human. Most people embrace the modest life style; they do not build overwhelming houses but remain in partnership with the beauty of the natural environment

Who has not been captivated by the sight of a tiny loon chick, the silhouette of a great blue heron, a moose, or a mother bear with cubs? Who has not woken to the stillness of the early morning, and been awed by its serenity? We appreciate the stewardship of our many conservation organizations to protect the habitat and water quality that support the diverse species living within the Squam watershed. To date more than 23% of the watershed has been conserved in perpetuity. May that stewardship continue!

We would like to register this extraordinary place called Squam on the National Register of Historic Places, using the camps and homesteads as examples of what we cherish and respect.