



Squam Lakes Watershed National Register of Historic Places Initiative

Anyone lucky enough to visit or live near the Squam Lakes recognizes that this place is quite unique. And it is this way because of limited and thoughtful development for generations, and because a significant portion of the land (23%) has been diligently and permanently protected. Land conservation efforts to protect the viewshed and its natural resources have been broadly supported by residents and summer visitors. Now it's time to consider Squam's other treasure: its cultural resources.

The Squam National Register Initiative is a natural complement to ongoing land conservation efforts as it seeks to identify, protect and preserve the historic and cultural resources which are also an integral part of the Squam landscape. Just as a forest defines the natural landscape, farmsteads, fields, stonewalls, and rustic camps define its human landscape. Preserving these cultural resources also helps to conserve the watershed, minimize development, and ensure that the traditions of Squam are passed along for future generations.



The Squam Lakes Watershed National Register of Historic Places Initiative is as unique as the region. It is the first such project in New Hampshire and perhaps the nation. Its purpose is to recognize, value, and link the conservation of cultural assets with their natural resources within a defined ecological region. The umbrella nomination will be submitted along with a few initial examples of our historic farms, camps, barns, and lakeside cottages in late 2011. We hope to receive National Register designation in 2012. The benefits will be significant:

- Raise awareness of the cultural and historic significance of our area and structures, and foster a sense of pride in and responsibility for maintaining the low-impact character of the region.
- Raise awareness of the important link between the conservation of our natural resources and cultural resources.
- Encourage preservation of historic places and give a gift to future generations by documenting and articulating the special values of a property.
- Raise a large red flag early in the planning process of large-scale projects, which will help protect against threats such as Northern Pass, communication towers and unwanted highway projects.
- Encourage further land protection through conservation easements.
- Provide a data base to guide growth and development and create a quiet archive of our historical resources.

- Provide a proven marketing tool for businesses, especially inns and restaurants.
- Simplify the National Register nomination process for future participants.



What National Register listing will NOT do:

- Require public access to any property.
- Publicize specific addresses or locations, unless requested.
- Put restrictions on landowners in terms of building renovation or design review.

We are looking for broad participation from a wide range of property owners. While participation is entirely voluntary, more properties on the National Register of Historic Places leads to stronger protection and the articulation of what makes Squam so unique and special. The cost of an individual property nomination depends on several factors including the number of structures that must be documented, the age of the structures, and whether or not it is part of a cluster of related properties.

We encourage everyone who appreciates the uniqueness of the Squam watershed to get involved. How can you help? Find out if your property qualifies for the National Register. Consider a preservation or easement for more permanent protection of your historic structure. Support this ground-breaking and important initiative financially. Donations for the Squam Lakes National Register of Historic Places Initiative are tax deductible through our fiscal agent, the Squam Lakes Conservation Society. Every dollar invested will be dedicated to the recognition and protection of historic places in the Squam watershed.

Your involvement and donation is an investment in the future of the Squam watershed.

For further information about the initiative, please contact any of the committee members listed below, or Betsy Whitmore, chair, at 968-7548, erwhitmore@gmail.com.

Squam NRHP Committee: Chris Williams, Roger Larochelle, John Waldhausen, Don Berry, Margie Emmons, Bryant Tolles, Derek Brereton, Susan Davies, David Ruell, Linda Foerderer, Connie Ross, Chris Kuhn, Lisa V. Bennett, and Sandra and Carl Lehner. Advisors: Carol and John Thompson, Carolyn Tolles, Peter and Prudy Van Winkle, Lisa Wardlaw; Betsy Whitmore, chair.

Supporting Organizations: Squam Lakes Association, Squam Lakes Conservation Society, Lakes Region Conservation Trust, Squam Lakes Natural Science Center, New Hampshire Preservation Alliance, Sandwich Historical Society, Holderness Historical Society, Ashland Historical Society, Moultonborough Heritage Commission

Project Consultant: Elizabeth Durfee Hengen, Preservation Consultant, Concord