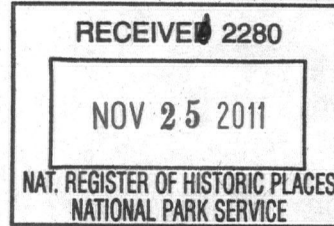


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



1006

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 an 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 Knollwood  
other name/site number \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & number South end of Inlet Road at the Oswegatchie River  not for publication  
city or town Star Lake (Town of Fine) N/A vicinity  
state New York code NY county St. Lawrence code 089 zip code 13690

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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.)

Kevin A. Pappant DSHP 11/18/11  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation  
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 certifying official/Title Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the 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:)

Edson H. Beall 1.4.12  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Knollwood  
Name of Property

St. Lawrence County, New York  
County and State

### 5. Classification

**Ownership of Property**  
(check as many boxes as apply)

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

**Category of Property**  
(check only one box)

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

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2	2	buildings
2	0	sites
1	1	structures
0	0	objects
5	3	Total

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

**Number of contributing resources previously listed  
in the National Register**

N/A

0

### 6. Function or Use

**Historic Function**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/summer camp  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Function**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/summer Camp  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### 7. Description

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Other: Adirondack Rustic  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete  
walls wood  
roof asphalt  
other metal

### Narrative Description

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

Knollwood  
St. Lawrence County, New York

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 1

**DESCRIPTION**

Located along the Oswegatchie River, Knollwood is a medium-sized, Adirondack rustic style camp constructed between 1918 and 1923. The camp is situated on the Oswegatchie River in the Town of Fine, Saint Lawrence County, New York. The Oswegatchie River flows into the Saint Lawrence River at the City of Ogdensburg, New York. It is composed of the East, West, and Middle branches with all three branches originating in the Five Ponds Wilderness. The Middle and East Branches of the Oswegatchie River flow between the Village of Gouverneur and Cranberry Lake, where a portion flows along the nominated property. This portion of the Oswegatchie is located in the northwest region of the Adirondack Park, a six million acre wilderness preserve in northern New York State. The county is the largest geographically in New York State, comprised of 2,822 square miles. Main economic industries in the county include tourism, lumber, and mining.<sup>1</sup>

Knollwood is a two-story cross-gabled, 2,350 square-foot Adirondack rustic camp building with elements of Stick and Bungalow styles. The camp includes three additional outbuildings and a contributing 103-foot arched span suspension bridge, designed and constructed 1918-1923 by Dr. Frederic R. Calkins. The bridge superstructure was repaired in 1998 using red pine and again in 2002 using red cedar. Also, there is a twenty-five-foot water tower that was constructed in 2001 after the period of significance, and is therefore non-contributing. Knollwood is situated at the end of a three-mile, single lane dirt road south of New York State Highway 3, at the end of Inlet Road, seven miles southeast of Star Lake.

Knollwood is situated on a 2.1 acre knoll on the east side of the Oswegatchie River and fronts north onto the river and Inlet Road, approximately 150 feet southeast of the suspension bridge. The bridge is accessed from Inlet Road via a set of four cement risers and a cement ramp. Once over the bridge from Inlet Road, there are two ways to access the camp. First, there is a cement walkway from the east side of the bridge to the main camp that splits and extends to the west and east. The portion of the walkway that extends east continues to a generator/workshop, located twenty-five feet east of the main camp building. The portion that extends northwest leads to the west wing of the main camp. Second, there is an approximately 1,150 foot portion of the Old Albany Road that runs from the east side of the Inlet bridge on a curve between the generator/workshop and open-faced storage shed east of the main camp, extending south to the New York State Forest Preserve boundary. The Old Albany Road was originally built in 1811 and was used by the militia moving from Albany to Sackets Harbor, New York prior to the Battle of Sackets Harbor in the War of 1812. It lies within the boundaries of the nominated property, but is considered non-contributing since it is unrelated to the theme documented in this nomination and predates the period of significance.<sup>2</sup>

The grounds on the property contain trees and shrubs typical of the Adirondacks, including pine and spruce. There are two additional parcels surrounding the property: 7.9 acres and 16.90 acres for a total of 26.9 acres. Both of these parcels are undeveloped and remain intact in their natural state and are included as contributing to the nominated property. The 16.9 acre parcel includes that portion of the Oswegatchie River which flows through it. The boundary was drawn to include the original acreage associated with this camp.

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.co.st-lawrence.ny.us/Recreation/>

<sup>2</sup> Reynolds, Jeanne, and Decosse, Bessie, eds. *Two Towns, Two Centuries: 1776-1976* (Gouverneur, NY: Mrs. Press, 1976), 33.

Knollwood  
St. Lawrence County, New York

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Twenty-five feet east of the main camp and fronting west is a combination generator/workshop (15' x 30') designed and built by Calkins in the same Adirondack rustic style as the main camp. Seventy-five feet east of the workshop/generator is a non-historic open-faced wood storage shed. It was rebuilt in 1986 following Calkin's original design and original footprint. Thirty-five feet north of the wood storage shed is a non-historic outhouse that was also rebuilt in 1990 using all salvageable material from the original. The exterior of all camp structures are painted brown, and the ends of logs, rafters, windows, and sills are painted white. Other than the previously mentioned work, the camp remains as it was since its construction in 1918 and is in excellent condition.

**Main Camp Exterior**

The main camp consists of the original two-story cross-gabled main block with a one-story west wing that ends in a screened-in porch. The east side also has a single story screened-in porch. The main exterior walls are a combination of horizontal and vertical whole spruce logs with cement chinking. The roof is moderately pitched with wide overhangs, exposed rafters, decorative trusses in the gable ends, and clad in asphalt shingles. The foundation is concrete with a partial basement under the kitchen and first floor bedroom (east) and a crawl space under the west wing. Window openings feature wood sills. Fenestration is regular and repetitive with original multi-light awning and casement windows on both levels. All windows have interior, wood-framed screens and are fitted with tan linen window shades.

The one-story west wing is three bays with a moderately pitched roof with wide overhangs and exposed rafters and vertical logs in the gable end. Entrance into the west wing is through a wood-framed screen door, which enters into a 247-square-foot screened-in sleeping porch. All three sides of the sleeping porch are screened with large metal mesh wire. The porch extends from a 308-square-foot living room. The door to the living room is in the center wall and is flanked by two multi-light windows. Another smaller but similar window is located in the vertical log gable above the door. The floor is canvas covered wood and painted gray.

The south elevation is six bays wide and with a moderately pitched overhanging roof. The gable features exposed rafters, vertical logs in the gable, and a centered, stone chimney with a copper extended hood. The windows on the first floor are paired casement window and single casement windows and one awning window. The three second floor windows are also a combination of paired and single casement windows.

The east elevation is two bays wide with an extending one-story 124-square-foot screened-in porch. The roof is moderately pitched with a wide overhang and exposed rafters. The porch has a wood-paneled screen door and beyond it is another door that leads into the 150-square-foot kitchen. The roof is moderately pitched with a wide overhang, exposed rafters, and a decorative truss in the gable end. A stone chimney with a copper extended hood is located on the south and extends through the roof. It is partially exposed on the exterior of the east elevation. The window on the first floor is a single-paned awning window with nine lights and the second floor gable has a paired casement window.

The north elevation is seven bays wide with a moderately pitched roof, wide overhangs, and exposed rafters. The windows on the first floor are paired multi-light casements and there is one wood framed and screened door. The northeast and northwest elevations have one casement window each. The second floor windows are

Knollwood  
St. Lawrence County, New York

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also multi-light casements. The second floor also has a screened-in porch, accessed from the interior by a pair of French doors flanked on either side by a casement window.

**Main Camp Interior**

The interior of the main camp retains the original floor plan as well as original finishes and features, which includes wall board, wood beamed ceilings, floors, doors, fireplaces and mantels, trimwork and moldings, built-in wood cabinets, doorknobs, lighting fixtures, beams, staircases, and furniture. The main building also has seven 1923 Old Hickory chairs original to Knollwood that were repaired in 2004 by the Old Hickory Company factory in Indiana. In 2009, the original three hammocks in the west wing porch were recanvassed. The main building has also received upgrades to the heating, plumbing, and electrical systems over the years.

Entrance into the building is through either the east or west wings via the screened-in porches that connect to the main block. The west wing porch allows access to the 308-square-foot living room. All three sides of the sleeping porch are screened with large mesh wire screens that extend from the floor to the roof-line. The living room has two paired casement windows one fronting north, and one fronting south. The east wall of the living room has a stone fireplace and hearth. Furnishings in the living room include a birch log sofa and are all original to the camp. The floor is canvas-covered wood, and painted gray. The ceilings are wood with wood beams.

A 269-square-foot dining room is located in the main block east of the living room. Entrance into the dining room is from the living room through a French door to the left of the fireplace. The southwest corner of the dining room has a stone fireplace with stone hearth and mantle. It shares the same chimney with the fireplace in the living room. The north side of the dining room extends out from the wings. Windows along the north wall include a paired casement window flanked on either side by a single casement window. There is a casement window on both the northwest and northeast ends of the room. Along the east wall is a wooden hutch with glass paneled upper doors and lower wooden doors. The lower section of the upper hutch opens into the kitchen for serving.

An 84-square-foot hall and a 64-square-foot first floor bathroom are located in the main block, east of the living room. Entrance into the hall from the living room is via a French door south of the fireplace. Along the north side of the hall is a closet and directly opposite of the closet is a casement window. A wooden staircase is along the east side of the hall. Entrance to the bathroom is from the hall via a wood six-paneled door. There is a single casement window to the south. Opposite the living room door, and on the east side of the bathroom, is another six-paneled wood door that leads into a 122-square-foot bedroom. Located on the south wall of the bedroom is one paired casement window and in the east wall is a single-paned awning window. The floors in the hall and bedroom are canvas-covered wood. The floor in the bathroom is rubber tile.

The 150-square-foot kitchen is east of the dining room and is entered via a wood and glass door with nine lights. Immediately to the right is a paneled door that leads into the bedroom. Along the south side of the kitchen is one wooden trap door that leads to the partial basement below the kitchen and bedroom. Along the north side of the kitchen is a paired casement window. The kitchen features wood and glass paneled cabinets, hutch, two tin-lined flour bins, appliances, and wooden countertops with built-in wood drainage board, all

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original to the camp. There is a single-paned glass and wood door located on the east side of the kitchen that leads to a 124-square-foot screened-in porch. There is an incinerator located in the southwest corner of the porch and washtubs located in the northwest corner. A wooden screen door is along the east side of the porch, opposite the single-paned glass and wood door that leads to the kitchen. The floor in the kitchen is rubber tile. The floor on the porch is canvas-covered wood painted gray.

The second floor of the main block consists of two small bedrooms and a bathroom in the east end, a large central sleeping area and a 308 square-foot attic in the west end. The spaces are accessed via the first floor hall staircase. It ascends into the 328 square-foot center room that is utilized as additional sleeping space. To the west elevation is a small paneled door leading to the attic space. The attic has an awning window on the west that looks out onto the west wing screened-in porch. Both the attic space and the main room have exposed beams in the ceilings. North of the center room is an 83-square-foot screened-in porch that is accessed via French door and are flanked by single casement windows. The south wall has one paired casement window. Located to the east of the center is a hall that has a closet on the far end and a narrow casement window. A bedroom is on the right and a smaller bedroom and bath on the left. Each bedroom and the bathroom have one casement window each.

**Outbuildings/Structures**

**Generator/Workshop (contributing).** Twenty-five feet east of the main building and fronting west is a combination one-story end gabled generator/workshop (15' x 30') with a small screened-in porch and shed-roofed addition, designed and built by Calkins in the same Adirondack rustic style as the main camp. The exterior walls are a combination of horizontal and vertical whole spruce logs with cement chinking, and horizontal plank siding. The roof is moderately pitched with wide overhangs, exposed rafters, and clad in asphalt shingles. The foundation is concrete; window openings feature wood sills. Fenestration is regular and repetitive with original multi-light awning windows. The generator/workshop space in the west and the east has a small screened-in room and a vertical plank storage room with a shed roof and exposed rafters.

**Storage Shed (non-contributing).** East of the generator/workshop is an open-faced wood storage shed originally designed by Calkins but rebuilt in 1986. The shed roof is moderately pitched with exposed rafters.

**Outhouse (non-contributing).** North of the wood storage shed is a six-foot by seven-foot outhouse that was rebuilt in 1990 according to the original specifications using salvageable material from the original outhouse. The eaves on the shed roof slightly overhang; the four elevations are constructed using vertical planks.

**Water Tower (non-contributing).** The 25-foot high steel water tower is located about twenty feet south of the main camp. Built in 2001, the tank is of forest green color, and the steel tower legs are painted the same dark brown color as the exteriors of all Knollwood camp structures. To supply water to the new system, a deep well was dug about forty feet west of the main camp and a submersible pump was wired to the electric generating engine to pump water into the outside tank.

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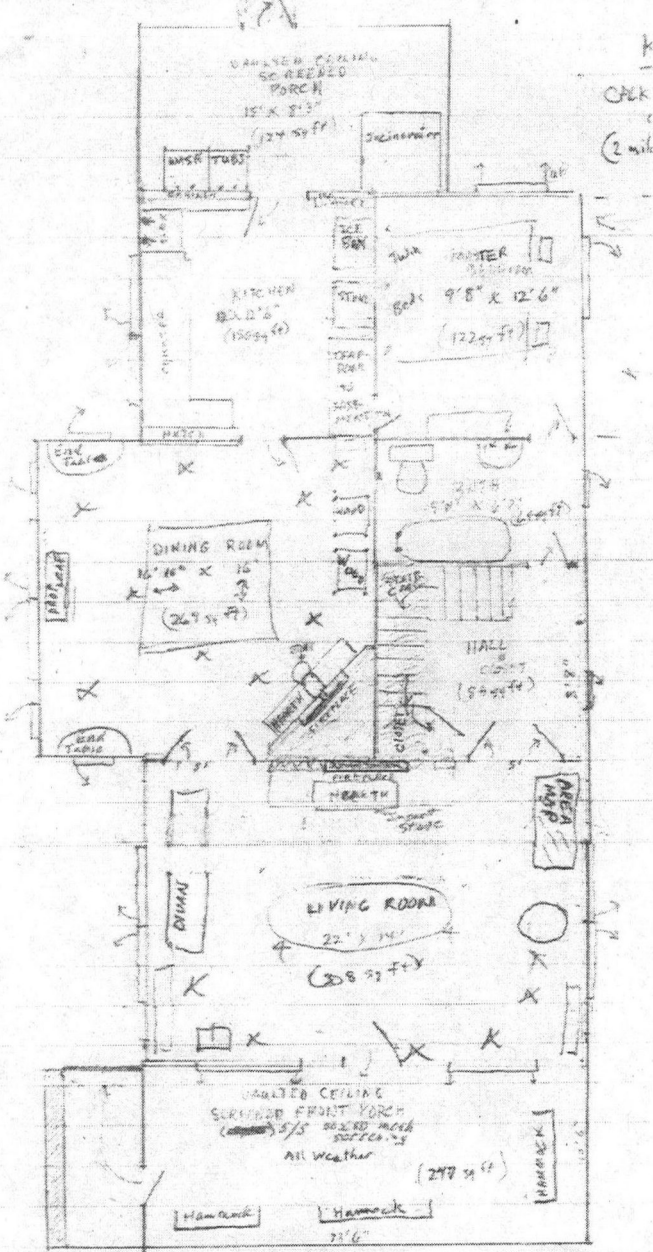
**Arch Suspension Bridge (contributing).** The 103-foot arch span suspension bridge was originally built in 1918-1923 and has been repaired twice, most recently in 2002 using red cedar. The bridge is supported by concrete abutments with towers on either end supported by the original one-inch steel wire cables. Four turnbuckles are on each cable length for adjusting the bridge level, flexibility or stiffness, sway, line of sight, and support. The turnbuckles are both inside and outside the main bridge support timbers at each end of the bridge. The bridge is accessed from the Inlet Road via a set of four cement risers and cement ramps located next to the risers. Located at the east end of the bridge are two benches that have bench seats made of one-inch pine boards, approximately seven-feet long. The bench frame and supports are of timbers, varying in vertical length due to the slope of the concrete base bridge foundation. The towers at both ends of the bridge are sixteen feet, fifteen inches high and are composed of two sixteen-foot vertical red cedar logs topped by a twelve-foot long horizontal red cedar log, fifteen inches in width. There is one eight-foot horizontal red cedar log on both tower ends that rests between the two main vertical logs. The eight-foot logs are flanked on either side by horizontal six-foot red cedar logs that are further supported by a nine-foot six-inch vertical log. There is a four-foot space between the two vertical logs, enhanced with decorative log work. The three horizontal logs together make a twenty-foot length. Decoration consists of logs that make an X and are prominent in the tower ends and along the sides of the bridge. The width of the bridge from the railings is forty-five-inches at the center and then flares out from the center to a width of eight-feet at the tower ends.

The bed of the bridge is composed of pine planks and supported underneath by deck beams. Wood masks the under-bridge steel, L-shaped arched girders from the end-to-end of the bridge butt into the concrete end-of-bridge foundations. The 103-foot long girders provide as much support for the bridge as do the suspension cables. The girders are loosely cross-connected by several steel rods, but principally rigidly connected by regularly spaced cross timbers from which the bridge flooring is attached with brass screws.

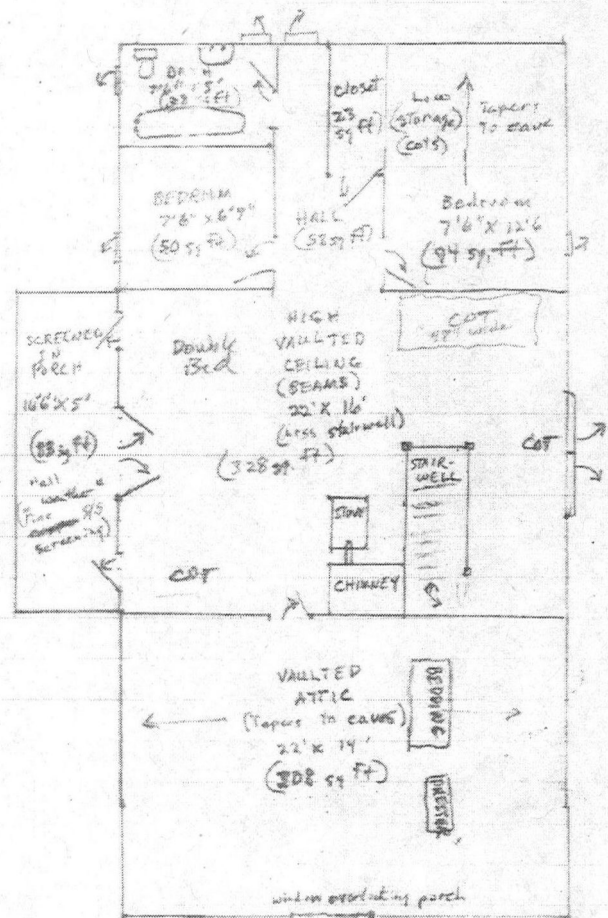
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Sketch of first floor plan



upper floor



Knollwood  
Name of Property

St. Lawrence County, New York  
County and State

**8. 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.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

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

**Areas of Significance**

(enter categories from instructions)

Architecture  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1918-1923  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

1918, 1923  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Persons**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)  
N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

Dr. Frederick R. Calkins  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography**

(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:  
Adirondack Architectural Heritage  
\_\_\_\_\_

Knollwood  
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**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

Knollwood (1918-1923) is significant under National Register Criterion C for its architectural significance as an intact, representative example of an early twentieth century Adirondack camp located in the northwest region of the Adirondack Mountains. Following the region's eclectic camp building tradition, Knollwood exhibits a mix of Adirondack Rustic and Arts and Crafts influences and is an important example of an Adirondack recreational retreat that evolved from the era of the "Great Camps" due to changes in architectural taste, relative wealth and recreational use of the Adirondack camps from 1910 to 1930. Like the earlier and larger "Great Camps," Knollwood features numerous elements associated with summer estate architecture in the region, including support buildings, an imaginative use of native building materials to create a picturesque rustic effect, and its siting on a secluded, wooded riverside. It also includes more contemporary features, such as a centralized plumbing and electrical system. Its landscaping, use of natural materials, and profusion of sleeping porches emphasize the importance of a life lived in harmony with nature, the prevailing theme in Adirondack camp architecture of the period.

The camp was constructed in 1918-1923 by Dr. Frederic R. Calkins and illustrates the changes that occurred in camp life and design throughout the late-nineteenth and early twentieth century history of the Town of Fine. Knollwood was designed on a much smaller scale than the Great Camps of the Adirondacks. As a forest retreat, it reflected the ideal of living in a secluded setting, with various structures constructed with local materials, encompassing the layout of the camp. The property remains virtually intact from its construction and retains an outstanding degree of integrity of setting, location, feeling, association, design materials and craftsmanship.

**HISTORICAL CONTEXT**

In the mid-nineteenth century, the Town of Fine was inhabited by farmers, with lumbering and maple sugaring as their off-season occupations. The Town of Fine was established in 1844 by combining the townships of Scriba, Bloomfield, Emilyville (the location of the nominated property), and the southern half of Sarahsburg.<sup>1</sup> Until 1902, the area was sparsely settled and only occasionally visited by hunters and campers before the Rich Lumber Company arrived in what is now the nearby hamlet of Wanakena.

Around the turn of the nineteenth century, the inlet on the Oswegatchie River that flowed into Cranberry Lake (two miles above the bustling logging village of Wanakena) was the launch site of scores of hunting and fishing parties, many guided for years by professional guides from Wanakena and Benson Mines. The Oswegatchie River was recognized as one of the top two speckled brook trout streams in the State of New York and in the top fifty in the United States. The area was sparsely settled and visited by occasional hunters and campers until 1902, when the Rich Lumber Company arrived in the vicinity of Wanakena.<sup>2</sup> The inlet area was heavily logged by the Rich Lumber Company and others, who based their area operations and mill in Wanakena. Due to deforestation, this heavy clear cutting of predominantly eastern white pine ended prior to World War I, resulting in subsequent volunteer re-growth dominated by hardwoods.

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<sup>1</sup> Jean Reynolds and Bessie DeCosse, eds., *Two Towns, Two Centuries: 1776-1976* (Gouverneur, NY: Mrs. Press, 1976), 5.

<sup>2</sup> Around the turn of the nineteenth century, the river near the camp was the launch site for scores of hunting and fishing parties, many guided for years by professional guides from nearby Wanakena and Benson Mines.

Knollwood  
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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

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It was during this same period that the popular literature of the time urged urban dwellers to seek the benefits of a life lived close to nature, advocating country life as a means of enhancing health, vitality, and moral character. Those who could afford to do so began to move out of the cities to suburbs and/or take vacations in the country. The books of author William H. H. Murray (1840-1904) popularized the Adirondack wilderness and drew many vacationers to the mountains of upstate New York. Improved transportation encouraged the summer migration of vacationers to the Adirondacks. Hotels and private residences proliferated.<sup>3</sup>

From the late nineteenth through the mid-twentieth centuries, the private Adirondack camp developed as a rustic retreat for those who could afford their own piece of the forest on which to build a suitable camp. The camp differed from country houses and formal resorts through use of rustic building materials and by grouping function-specific buildings (main building, outhouse, etc.) and structures in natural surroundings. Camp building manuals recommended that the builder carefully study the site to note the views and other important natural features. Furthermore, buildings and structures were to be an outgrowth of the natural beauty in order to harmonize with nature. Manuals stated that harvesting trees be limited to what was needed for construction or for the removal of dead and unsound trees that may pose a danger. The result was a proliferation of private Adirondack camps that varied in size, but shared the common characteristic of a planned site with separate buildings for certain functions that reflected the vernacular building traditions of the Adirondack region.

Knollwood was one of these camps that followed the principles set for Adirondack camp construction. Located on a knoll on the east side of the river, Knollwood consisted of a main camp building, a suspension bridge, workshop, wood storage building and an outhouse. It designed and built by Dr. Frederic R. Calkins (1872-1945) of Watertown, New York, following his purchase of the land along the Oswegatchie River in 1915. Calkins and his wife, Evangeline Cadwell Calkins, purchased three plots of land comprising approximately twenty-nine acres, most of which were on the east side of the Oswegatchie River. Calkins was an 1894 graduate of Bellevue Hospital Medical College in New York City. He worked as a county physician (1894-1896); county coroner (1901-1907); and in 1907 began practicing surgery. He was Dean of Northern New York Surgeons, a fellow of the American College of Surgeons; director of the New York State branch of the American Society for the Control of Cancer; and, an honorary member of the surgical staff of Mercy General Hospital in Tupper Lake.<sup>4</sup> Additionally, Calkins was a 33<sup>rd</sup> degree Mason and served on several Watertown, New York organizations, among which were the Children's Home and the Asbury Methodist Church, where he was a deacon. He also belonged to a group of local hunters, many of whom constituted his "Bear Hunters" club at the Knollwood camp.

Construction of Knollwood on the elevated knoll across the river began in 1915 and both the permanent bridge and expanded camp were completed in 1923. Calkins sold just over an acre of land immediately south of the Knollwood camp to his brother-in-law, Henry James Cadwell, in 1916. Cadwell built another camp in 1924 that contained a boathouse that served both families. A third small cottage was built on the northwest side of the

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<sup>3</sup> One of the earliest roads was the Old Albany Road was begun in 1811 with funds appropriated by the State of New York for the purpose of transporting supplies carried by the militia moving from Albany to Sackets Harbor, New York prior to the Battle of Sackets Harbor in the War of 1812. The road was also intended to promote settlement in the northern part of the state and was the earliest known road on record in the Town of Fine, entering the town from the south; Reynolds and DeCosse, ed., p. 33.

<sup>4</sup> "Dr. Calkins, of Watertown, Dead at 73," *Ogdensburg Journal*, 26 February 1945.

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St. Lawrence County, New York

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CONTINUATION SHEET**

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river for Dr. Calkins's mother-in-law, Matilda Cadwell. Today Knollwood remains in Calkins family ownership, currently owned by the grandson of the builder. It has remained in the family continually for eighty years.

**Knollwood's Architecture**

As an Adirondack Camp, the architectural significance of Knollwood lies in the tradition of regional Adirondack camp architecture for camps of all sizes. Knollwood's buildings are excellent examples of Adirondack design, containing the various elements of fashionable architecture adapted for an Adirondack Camp, but on a much smaller scale than the well-known "Great Camps." The terms "Adirondack" or "Great Camp" style calls to mind picturesque rustic buildings of log and stone work displaying styles ranging from late Victorian to Shingle, Bungalow, and Arts and Crafts. This rustic character carried over into all buildings, no matter how mundane the function in order to make the entire camp blend with the natural surroundings. Knollwood incorporated the rustic aesthetic. Calkins used natural materials in all construction and integrated the buildings within the landscape. Adirondack camps were generally remote and Knollwood followed suit by locating across the Oswegatchie, accessible only by a suspension bridge built for the camp.

As previously mentioned, Adirondack camps shared a rustic building aesthetic, described as "...influenced by indigenous building traditions in the Adirondack region as well as the well established popular taste for naturalistic forms previously used in English gardens and urban parks which were advocated by A. J. Downing and others. The blending of these two currents produced a uniquely American rustic aesthetic that had never before been applied with such intensity to buildings."<sup>5</sup> For some camp builders, the rustic aesthetic meant a log structure, such as the sprawling main lodge at Kamp Kill Kare (Hamilton County). Others, such as the main lodge at Sagamore, appear to be log structures, but were actually of frame construction with horizontal half log facing. Rustic elements that appeared in the interior features included craggy stone fireplaces, bear skin rugs, and numerous hunting trophies mounted on the walls. Smaller camps such as Knollwood showed a similar interpretive range. While built on a more modest scale, Knollwood featured whole log construction, craggy stone fireplaces, bear skin rugs, and furniture original to the camp, built in the rustic style.

Sleeping porches are more commonly found in smaller camps than in Great Camps. A large percentage of middle-income families who built camps in the Adirondacks at the turn of the century came for health reasons. Often some member of the family suffered from a respiratory disease such as tuberculosis or chronic bronchitis. Adirondack Mountain air was considered a cure, often last hope, for respiratory disease at that time. Sleeping porches allowed the sufferer to sleep in the outdoor air, yet still offered the comfort and protection of home. Many examples of Adirondack architecture, from the Saranac Lake cure cottages to private camps, featured sleeping porches. Sleeping porches were also considered beneficial to healthy people as well. As a physician, Dr. Calkins was certainly aware of the benefits of the sleeping porch and had added them to Knollwood.

One of the most distinctive features of Knollwood is the bridge allowing access to the camp. Being surrounded by water, Calkins needed to provide a practical solution and did so by designing and building a bridge that

<sup>5</sup> Wes Hayes, *Adirondack Camps National Historic Landmarks Theme Study*, National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form, 28 March 2000, 3.

Knollwood  
St. Lawrence County, New York

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 4

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matched the Adirondack aesthetic. The result was a 103-foot arch span suspension bridge of wood, steel and concrete. Family and guests were immediately greeted by a log gate or tower with log cross-bracing that added support as well as the characteristic Adirondack design feature. The bridge was located at the end of Inlet Road. Calkins included two benches built of logs and pine board. At the end of the bridge was another matching tower of logs with cross bracing. Along the base of the bridge (below the suspension cables) was a pattern of log cross-bracing, unifying the design of the bridge with the tower ends.

Knollwood stands as a notable example of the blend of stylish architecture and rustic aesthetic characteristic of the camps built by summer residents in the Adirondacks. The aesthetic is reflected in Knollwood's harmonious landscaping of the main camp, its creative use of natural materials and colors, with whole cedar logs painted brown and trimmed in white. Its distinctive features include enclosed sleeping porches, large stone fireplaces, interior woodwork, and decorative features, including the use of casement windows and glass doors with multiple lights grouped in threes, fours, and fives, all alluding to the Arts and Crafts design ideal that architecture should integrate life with nature. As a physician, Calkins recognized the health benefits of a forest retreat and took advantage of the opportunity to build his rustic retreat within a day's travel from his home in Watertown. The camp reflects its early twentieth century Adirondack character and still serves a summer retreat for the Calkins family.

Knollwood  
St. Lawrence County, New York

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 9 Page 1

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- \_\_\_\_\_ . <http://www.co.st-lawrence.ny.us/About/AboutPopulation>

Knollwood  
Name of Property

St. Lawrence County, New York  
County and State

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 26.9 acres

### UTM References

(Place additional boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

1 18  
Zone Easting Northing

2 18  
Zone Easting Northing

3 18  
Zone Easting Northing

4 18  
Zone Easting Northing

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 Ellen Ryan

organization Adirondack Architectural Heritage

date July 2011

street & number 1790 Main Street, Civic Center Suite 37

telephone (518) 834-9953

city or town Keesville

state NY zip code 12944

### 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 SHPO or FPO.)

name/title James Stewart Calkins

street & number 8414 North Pennsylvania St.

telephone available upon request

city or town Indianapolis

state IN zip code 46240

**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 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 Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

Knollwood  
St. Lawrence County, New York

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 10 Page 1

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**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

The nominated property comprises 2.1 acres on the east side of the Oswegatchie River and includes two additional undeveloped parcels surrounding the property: 7.9 acres, and 16.90 acres for a total of 26.90 acres. Its boundary coincides with the current legal lot lines owned by James Stewart Calkins. The boundary is illustrated on the attached map.

**BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION**

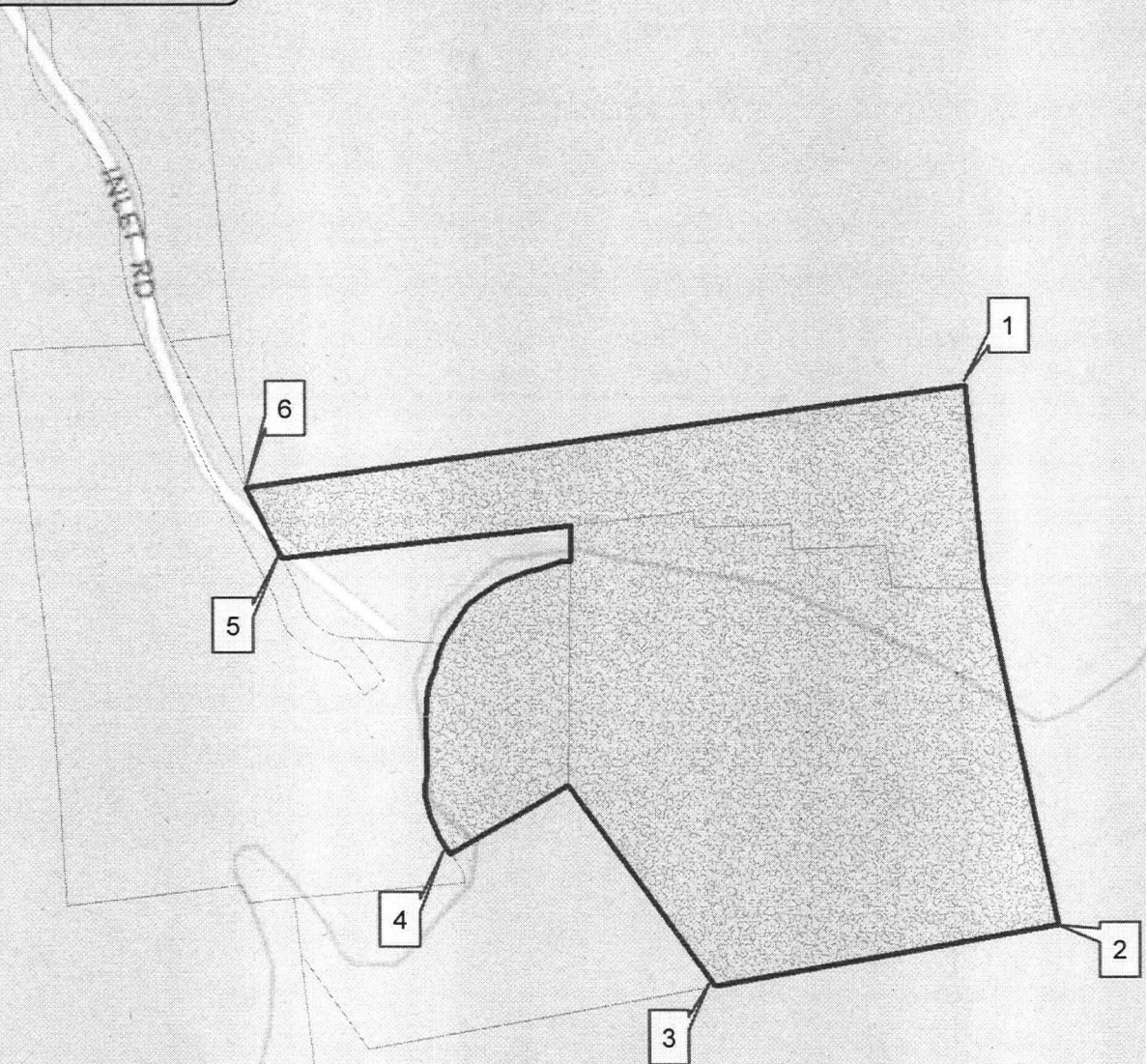
These parcels encompass most of the original 29 acres of land purchased by Frederic Calkins for the construction of his camp. Calkins sold just over an acre of land immediately south of the Knollwood camp to his brother-in-law, Henry James Cadwell in 1916, to build another camp, which was completed in 1924.

**UTM References:**

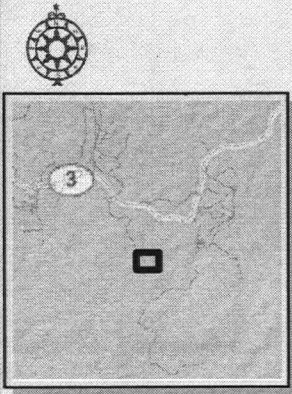
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- 4: 18/503275E/4885648N
- 5: 18/503275E/4885829N
- 6: 18/503153E/4885873N




Knollwood  
Star Lake, St. Lawrence County, NY



Control Point	Easting	Northing
1	503594	4885934
2	503655	4885605
3	503440	4885569
4	503275	4885648
5	503171	4885829
6	503153	4885873



 National Register Listing



Knollwood  
St. Lawrence County, New York

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number Page 1

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**PHOTOGRAPH LIST**

**Knollwood, south end of Inlet Road, Star Lake NY**

Digital photographs taken by Adirondack Architectural Heritage on 22 June 2011. Copy of CD-R with images on file in the offices of the Field Services Bureau of the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, Peebles Island State Park, Waterford, New York.

Photo # 1: East and north east elevations of main building/residence, view looking southwest.

Photo #2: Water tower with partial view of south elevation, view looking west.

Photo #3: Detail view of east side entrance/enclosed porch.

Photo #4: West elevation of main building showing enclosed two-story porch, view looking north east.

Photo #5: South elevation of main building with generator shed visible in the background.

Photo #6: Looking past north elevation of main building toward generator shed (southeast).

Photo #7: Generator shed, view looking northwest.

Photo #8: Suspension bridge viewed from path to main building, view looking northwest.

Photo #9: East end of bridge, view toward west end over Oswegatchie River.

Photo #10: West end of bridge looking east.

Photo #11: Suspension bridge viewed from Oswegatchie River, looking northeast.

Photo #12: West entrance to main building and view of north side of living room.

Photo #13: Interior view of west end porch showing sleeping hammocks.

Photo #14: View from dining room into living room (first floor).

Photo #15: Stone fireplace, east side of living room.

Photo #16: View looking east from south side of living room into hall.

Photo #17: Non-contributing woodshed located east of main building.

Photo #18: Detail view of upper east end of main building.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Knollwood

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: NEW YORK, St. Lawrence

DATE RECEIVED: 11/25/11      DATE OF PENDING LIST: 12/16/11  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 1/03/11      DATE OF 45TH DAY: 1/10/12  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 11001006

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N    DATA PROBLEM: N    LANDSCAPE: N    LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N    PDIL: N    PERIOD: N    PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: N    SAMPLE: N    SLR DRAFT: N    NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT     RETURN     REJECT    1.4.12 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

**Entered in  
The National Register  
of  
Historic Places**

RECOM./CRITERIA \_\_\_\_\_

REVIEWER \_\_\_\_\_ DISCIPLINE \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



Knollwood  
St. Lawrence County, NY  
Photo # 1



Knollwood  
St. Lawrence County, NY

Photo # 2





Knollwood  
St. Lawrence County, NY  
Photo # 3



Knoll wood

St. Lawrence County, NY

Photo #4



Knollwood

St. Lawrence County, NY

Photo # 5



Knollwood  
St. Lawrence County, NY  
Photo # 6





Knollwood  
St. Lawrence County, NY  
Photo # 1



Knollwood  
St. Lawrence County, NY  
Photo # 8



Knull wood  
St. Lawrence County, NY  
Photo # 9



KNOLLWOOD

POSTED  
NO TRUCKS OR TRAILERS  
ALLOWED

POSTED  
NO TRUCKS OR TRAILERS  
ALLOWED

Knollwood  
St. Lawrence County, NY  
Photo # 11





Knoxwood.  
St. Lawrence County, NY  
Photo # 11



Knollwood  
St. Lawrence County, NY  
Photo # 12



Knoll wood  
St. Lawrence County, NY

Photo # 13



Knollwood

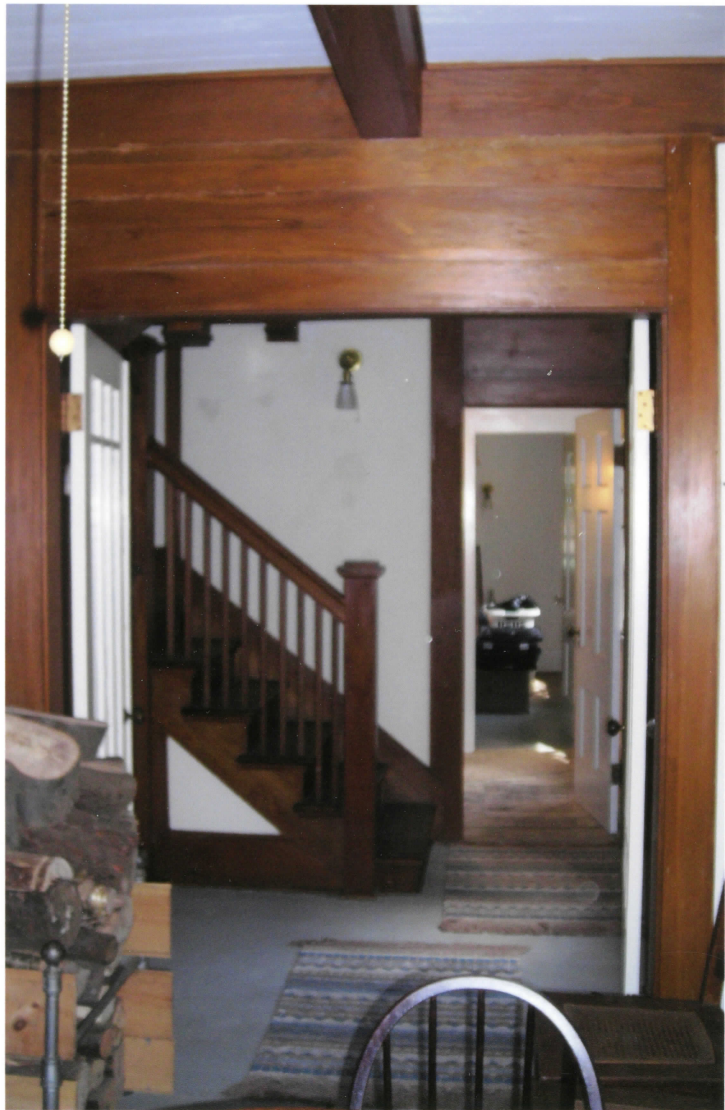
St. Lawrence County, NY

Photo # 14





Knoll Wood  
St. Lawrence County, NY  
Photo # 15



Knoll wood  
St. Lawrence County, NY  
Photo # 16

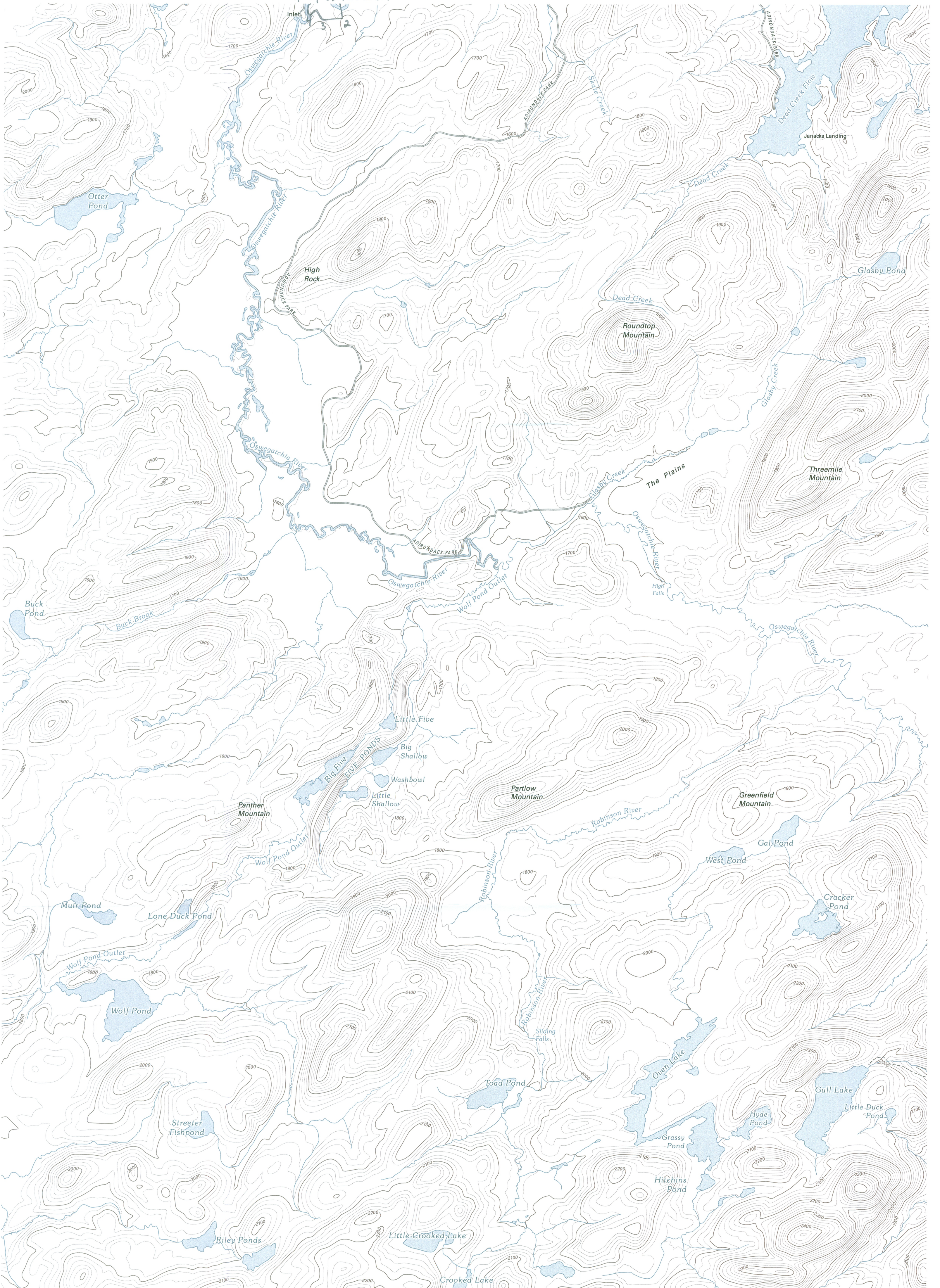


Knollwood  
St. Lawrence County, NY  
Photo # 17

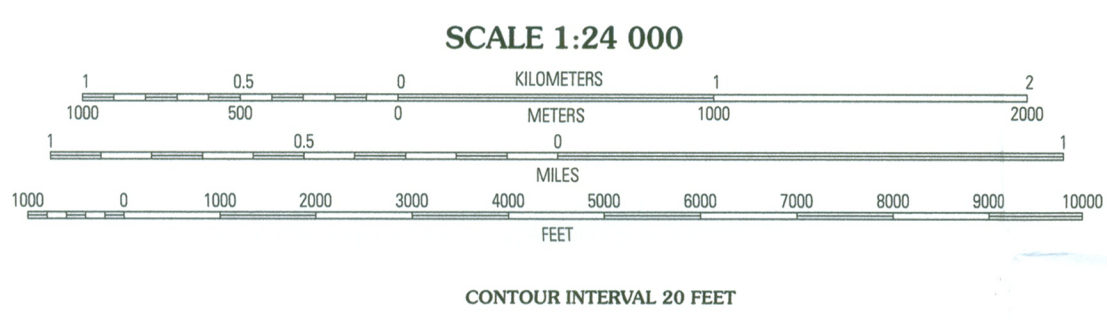
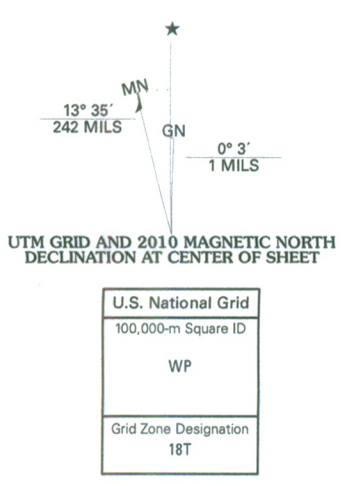


Knollwood  
St. Lawrence County, NY  
Photo # 18

Knowlton  
Township Five Ponds NY QUAD  
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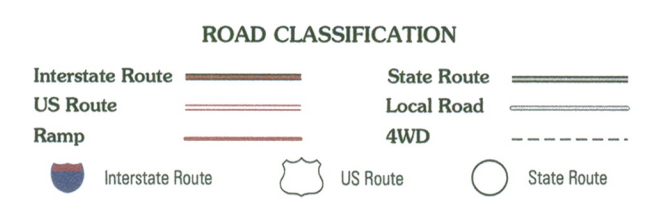
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North American Datum of 1983 (NAD83)  
World Geodetic System of 1984 (WGS84). Projection and  
1 000-meter grid: Universal Transverse Mercator, Zone 18T  
10 000-foot ticks: New York Coordinate System of 1983  
(east zone)



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

Oswegatchie	Newton Falls	Cranberry Lake
Oswegatchie SE	Five Ponds	Wolf Mountain
Stillwater	Beaver River	Nehasane Lake

ADJOINING 7.5' QUADRANGLES

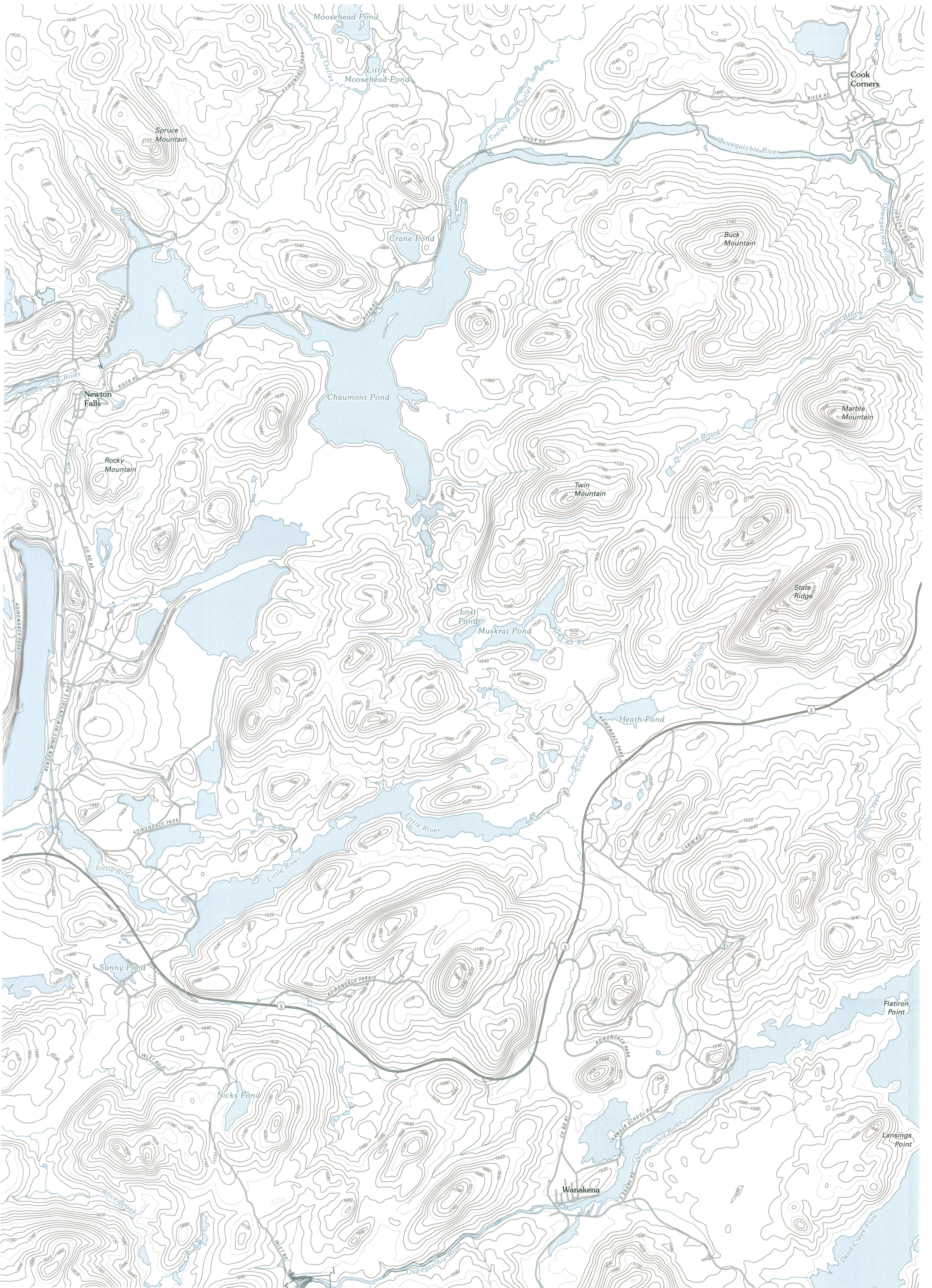


Imagery.....NAP, October 2008  
Roads.....US Census Bureau TIGER data  
with limited USGS updates, 2006  
Names.....GNIS, 2008  
Hydrography.....National Hydrography Dataset, 2008  
Contours.....National Elevation Dataset, 1999

This map was produced to conform with version 0.5.10 of the  
draft USGS Standards for 7.5-Minute Quadrangle Maps.  
A metadata file associated with this product is also draft version 0.5.10

**FIVE PONDS, NY**  
2010

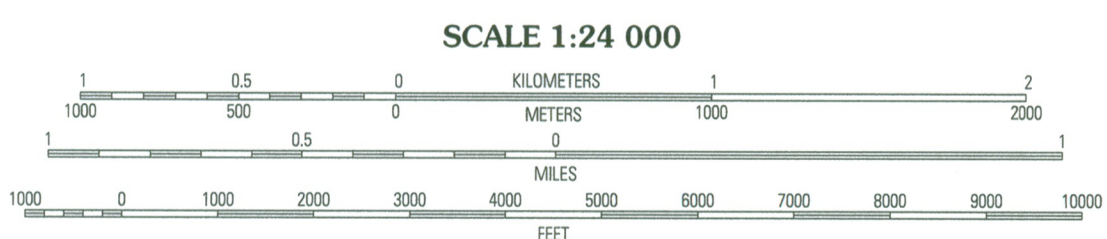
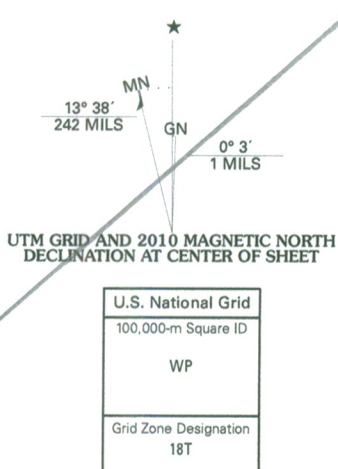




Produced by the United States Geological Survey  
North American Datum of 1983 (NAD83)  
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1 000-meter grid: Universal Transverse Mercator, Zone 18T  
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(east zone)

Imagery.....NAIP, October 2008  
.....US Census Bureau TIGER data  
with limited USGS updates, 2006  
Names.....GNIS, 2008  
Hydrography.....National Hydrography Dataset, 2008  
Contours.....National Elevation Dataset, 1999

**KNOLL ROAD**  
Town of Fine, St. Lawrence County NY  
Newton Falls, NY Quad  
UTM References:  
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5- 18/503191E/4985809N  
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**CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET**

This map was produced to conform with version 0.5.10 of the  
draft USGS Standards for 7.5-Minute Quadrangle Maps  
A metadata file associated with this product is also draft version 0.5.10

**ROAD CLASSIFICATION**

Interstate Route	State Route
US Route	Local Road
Ramp	4WD

Legend symbols for road types.

**QUADRANGLE LOCATION**

Degrass	Tooley Pond	Brother Ponds
Oswegatchie	Newton Falls	Cranberry Lake
Oswegatchie SE	Five Ponds	Wolf Mountain

**NEWTON FALLS, NY**  
2010

ADJOINING 7.5' QUADRANGLES

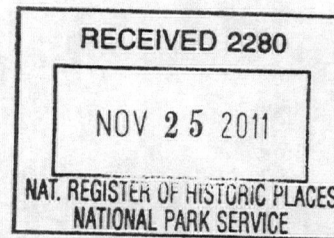


**New York State Office of Parks,  
Recreation and Historic Preservation**

Historic Preservation Field Services Bureau • Peebles Island, PO Box 189, Waterford, New York 12188-0189

518-237-8643

www.nysparks.com



**Andrew M. Cuomo**  
Governor

**Rose Harvey**  
Commissioner

18 November 2011

Alexis Abernathy  
National Park Service  
National Register of Historic Places  
1201 Eye St. NW  
8<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Washington, D.C. 20005

Re: National Register Nominations

Dear Ms. Abernathy:

I am pleased to enclose five new National Register nominations to be considered for listing by the Keeper of the National Register:

Pioneer Cemetery, Erie County  
Amos Wood House, Jefferson County  
Knollwood, St. Lawrence County  
Alexander Eustace House, Chemung County  
Avon Five Arch Bridge, Livingston County

Thank you for your assistance in processing these proposals. Please feel free to call me at 518.237.8643 x 3261 if you have any questions.

Sincerely:

Kathleen LaFrank  
National Register Coordinator  
New York State Historic Preservation Office