



Howard Kirschenbaum

Calvin Coolidge slept here: For 10 weeks in 1926, White Pine Camp was his summer White House.

## Historic Adirondack Camp Is Now a Museum

After years of deterioration, the Adirondack "great camp" that served as President Calvin Coolidge's summer White House in 1926 is being restored and has been opened to the public.

White Pine Camp was built in 1907 and 1908 for the New York businessman Archibald White. Situated on a ridge overlooking Osgood Pond, near Paul Smiths and Saranac Lake, the 35-acre estate contains 20 buildings, including an owner's cabin, a dining hall, four sleeping cabins, two boathouses, a tennis house, indoor bowling alleys and a Japanese teahouse.

A collaboration among the architects William Massarene and Addison Mizner and the master camp builder Ben Muncil, the estate is a complex assortment of asymmetrical frame buildings with soar-

ing roof lines, unusual angles, extensive use of glass in corner windows, skylights and wavy-edged "brainstorm," or "Adirondack siding."

White Pine Camp's most famous visitor was President Coolidge, who conducted the nation's business from it during a 10-week summer vacation. The camp was later bought by the Kirkwood newspaper family of Kansas City and then by Adele Levy and Edith Sterns, the daughters of Julius Rosenwald, the Sears-Roebuck president. They donated the camp to Paul Smiths College, which used it for housing and other purposes for the next 35 years. The current owner is Howard Kirschenbaum, president of the nonprofit organization Adirondack Architectural Heritage, who formed a partnership to operate the camp as a museum.

The restoration is termed a "work in progress," with continuing renovations and changing exhibits that will examine the site's history and architecture, as well as the development of Adirondack great camps. On two and a half miles of paths and trails, visitors can wander through pine forests, wetlands and woodland gardens.

White Pine Camp is at the end of White Pine Road in Paul Smiths, N. Y., a half-mile east of the intersection of Routes 86 and 30. It is open daily through Oct. 15 from 10 A.M. to 5 P.M. In the off season (from Oct. 16 to May 24), it is open only for guided tours, which are given daily at 1:30 P.M., or by appointment. Admission is \$8, \$7 for seniors, \$4 for children 5 to 15, free for those under 5. Information: (518) 327-3030. KATHRYN SHATTUCK