

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. 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 certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a).**

1. Name of Property

Historic name Sacandaga Park Historic District ***DRAFT***

Other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number _____ not for publication

city of town Northampton vicinity

State NY code _____ county Fulton code _____ zip code _____

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 at the following level(s) of significance:
___ national ___ statewide ___ local

Signature of certifying official Date

Title State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official Date

Title State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

| | | |
|---|-------------------------|----------------|
| I, hereby, certify that this property is: | Signature of the Keeper | Date of Action |
| ___ entered in the National Register | _____ | _____ |
| ___ determined eligible for the National Register | _____ | _____ |
| ___ determined not eligible for the National Register | _____ | _____ |
| ___ removed from the National Register | _____ | _____ |
| ___ other (explain:) | _____ | _____ |

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 in the count.)

| | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | private |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | public - Local |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | public - State |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | public - Federal |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | private |

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | building(s) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | district |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | site |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | structure |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | building(s) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | object |

| Contributing | Noncontributing | |
|--------------|-----------------|--------------|
| 70 | 85 | buildings |
| 1 | | sites |
| | | structures |
| | | Objects |
| 1 | | NRL |
| 72 | 85 | 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

Sacandaga Park Historic District

1-Sacandaga Station

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Picnic Grounds

Railroad Station

Methodist Church Camp

Amusement Park

Rustic Theater

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Residential (both seasonal and year-round)

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Carpenter Gothic

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation: Piers

walls: Wood

roof: Asphalt over wood/ sheathing

other:

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Summary Paragraph

Sacandaga Park is located in the town of Northampton New York in the Adirondack Park. It is bordered by the Great Sacandaga Lake to the east and the scenic byway Route 30 to the west. Sacandaga Park is a small residential community of Gothic Revival Cottages born from the marketing of a small railroad company to first capture church goers to the Methodist Church camp followed by luring tourist to the "Coney Island of the North"

Narrative Description

The cottages of Sacandaga Park are its most significant asset. These scaled back wood framed seasonal camps are similar to the ones of Round Lake. They are embellished with sawn decorative trusses, spindles, and brackets. The cottages are set close together with no garages. For the most part there aren't any paved driveways or sidewalks. The roads are narrow like the walking trails they progressed from. The railroad tracks are gone but the right-of-way has been preserved and the entrance into the park still exists.

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)

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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture - Gothic Revival

Cottages (main type)

Also Folk Victorian, and Colonial

Revival cottages in a planned community

Cultural (Religion) - Methodist

Church Camp (no remaining evidence to link Methodist Church

Cultural (Entertainment) - Amusement

Park, and Rustic Theater (no remaining evidence) Last remaining features are the Golf Course and Dance Hall

Transportation - The railroad and the station

Period of Significance

1875 - 1929

Significant Dates

1875 F, J, & G railroad service from Gloversville to Sacandaga Park

1888 Adirondack Inn Built

1898 Devastating Fire burns 110 cottages - expansion starts

1901 Sport Island attractions

1901 High Rock Lodge and Pines hotel built

1929 The creation of the reservoir

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above)

n/a

Cultural Affiliation

Methodist Church camp (1875 - 1898)

Architect/Builder

Period of Significance (justification)

The draw to Sacandaga Park began because of the building of the Railroad (1875). When the reservoir was created (1929) the draw was significantly diminished. The reservoir creation destroyed the midway, jobs from the tourism, and the tracks that brought the tourists and employees. In 1929 many of the building were set on fire in preparation of the reservoir. Outside the period of significance remains a mixed community of seasonal and full time residents that enjoy the quaint cottage community, the recreation of the lake, and golf course.

Criteria Consideratons (explanation, if necessary)

~None apply~

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria)

Sacandaga Park is significant to the **state** because its history involves the development of transportation, religion, and architecture. Its ending was severe and was felt by all that lived, worked and visited Sacandaga Park. The creation of the reservoir was the end. Today it is mainly a residential community.

Narrative Statement of Significance (provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance)

Architecture - The Carpenter Gothic Cottages are smaller than a permanent home. Most of the buildings are at a ¾ scale, with "wood sawn" brackets, turned porch columns, and decorative trusses (or cross braces) in the gables. They are all wood framed and all originally on piers. All have porches. The Gothic Revival style was born from Andrew Downing who thought that this type of detailed home meant that you were a good person of good morals and that being connected with nature was healthy.

Planning - The careful planning and organization of the Carpenter Gothic cottages is unique. The center of the Park's cottage are/were arranged in a circle much like Oaks Bluff, MA. Some feel this is the first planned community in the Adirondack Park. Seven years before the railroad began service here the Round Lake Methodist Camp was already established in Saratoga County. Sacandaga Park was also the home of the Adirondack Inn, the first resort in Fulton County

Religion - The religious circuit traveled through Sac.Park. The open-air Rustic theater was used for church goers of various religions. The Methodists abandoned the camp for Round Lake after the German's visitors became too rowdy.

Entertainment - Famous artists and entertainers including Houdini, W.C. Fields and J.P. Sousa performed in the Rustic Theatre and the Adirondack Inn.

Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

When the Fonda-Johnstown & Gloversville Railroad opened 27 miles of track in 1875, it connected the world with Northville, the first "gateway to the Adirondacks." This area was selected for a natural area away from town to create a picnic grove. The railroad purchased 17 acres from John Mc Cuen's farm for the new picnic area. Soon after, people began asking to rent or purchase land in the picnic grove for their own private use. A lease was allowed on small parcels, and social groups started camping in the area. Most of these groups were Methodist Church members from Gloversville and Johnstown.

The first railroad station was named the Northville Station, built in 1884 near the present-day intersection of Route 30 and Bridge Street. It was a simple Greek Revival two-story wood-frame building, later embellished with Victorian details. A second station was built to the south called the Sacandaga Station near the present-day intersection of McKinley and Adirondack Terrace. It was across the tracks of the to-be-built Adirondack Inn (1888). In 1920 the second Sacandaga Station was built as a single-story, shingle-style, wood-frame building. It was built just 400 feet north of the first Sacandaga Station. The railroad station is one of the last reminders of a stop on a track that lead to this tourist attraction. It was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2003.

This was a new era of traveling for pleasure. With the ease of railroad travel, people began to stay the night and wooden platforms were available on which to erect a tent. Camping was now part of the Sacandaga Park experience. The park's popularity grew, and people built cottages on their parcels. The seasonal cottages were embellished with porches, fretwork, gingerbread, spindles, brackets, and gable boards. Later, because of the park's popularity, the Methodists moved out of Sacandaga Park to the Round Lake camps in Saratoga County and elsewhere.

The railroad company developed a camp and recreation area in 1884, which was to become "Sacandaga Park, gem of the Adirondacks" -- a destination of more than 700 acres of hotels, cottages, amusements, a swimming and boating area, a golf course (one of the oldest in the nation), and an open-air theater with Broadway entertainment.

As part of its promotion of Sacandaga Park and the Park's increasing popularity, the FJ&G railroad built the Adirondack Inn in 1888. The Victorian-style inn was four stories tall and had more than 100 rooms. A large sitting porch was constructed with an excellent view of the park. The railroad began to advertise the park as an amusement park with rides, a midway, and a water slide into the river. It also advertised the park as a healthful place to take in fresh air.

Only nine cottages were spared when fire destroyed 111 cottages on May 8, 1898. The fire was devastating, but no one was hurt. After the park began to grow again, and the railroad added a nine-hole golf course, paths, gardens, a sports venue called Sport Island, a miniature railroad ride, the Rustic Theater, and more. Some believe that Sacandaga Park is the Adirondacks' first planned community.

The railroad formed the Sacandaga Amusement Co., responsible for the addition to the park of a roller coaster, bowling alley, donkey rides, shooting gallery, and toboggan rides. Other popular attractions were an acrobat performing stunts off a balloon and parachuting to the ground and a bear named Fred who lived in a pen behind the dance hall. The railroad hired a landscape architect whose last name was Chapman to beautify the grounds with wooded paths, miniature lakes, rustic bridges, arbors, and gardens throughout.

A large island in the center of the Sacandaga River, called Sport Island, was the site of the grandstand and the sporting events. It included a baseball diamond, which became home to the New York State Baseball League. There was also wrestling, boxing, and reenactments/encampments of Native American events. Sacandaga Park had 90,000 visitors in the summer of 1912.

To the west of Sacandaga Park, high on the hill, near the giant boulder that gave the resort its name, was the High Rock Lodge. The High Rock was built in 1901 on 300 acres of the old Houseman Farm, west of the tracks. Other hotels inside the park were the Pines

Hotel (near the midway), Long Cabin Inn, and the Old Orchard Inn (near the golf course). J. Ledlie Hees, the president of the FJ&G Railroad, built a summer mansion called Heeswijk just west of the golf course. President Warren Harding stayed overnight at Heeswijk in 1920.

In 1904 the automobile arrived in Northville, and by 1908 Ford had provided the affordable Model T so that families could travel as they pleased. They no longer had to depend on train schedules and could go beyond where the tracks ended.

In 1925 the Hudson River-Black River Regulating District established the proposed water level for the reservoir and the properties they would take by eminent domain. This included the Merry-go-round, Bowling alley, Skating rink, Billiard's room, Bath house, Toboggan house, Laundry & Bakery, other midway booths not to mention the Pines Hotel, Sweet Cottage, and other utility buildings and cottages). These were set ablaze in preparation of the reservoir.

Several sections of the railroad track were below the proposed waterline as well. Before the river rose the railroad workers worked feverously to remove the tracks but they didn't have enough time to pull up the entire track, so the remaining track was flooded. All that survived in Sacandaga Park was the Adirondack Inn, the dance hall, High Rock Lodge, the Rustic Theater, the Old Orchard Inn, the Golf course, the Sacandaga Station, the Heeswijk, a child's playhouse at the Heeswijk, and a few decorative stone walls as well as several original cottages.

The railroad sued the regulating district for creating the reservoir and for its loss of income. The F, J & G received \$1,727,696 on June 27, 1929, but they still suffered a great loss. The Railroad reorganized and continued to operate a shortened train route (into Broadalbin with a bus run from there into Sacandaga Park) into the 1950's when it was abandoned.

The cottages on Osborn Road burned down in 1939, followed by High Rock Lodge (1951); the Rustic Theater (1955); Heeswijk (1964); and on Sept. 8, 1975, the Adirondack Inn. The Old Orchard Inn was demolished in 1965. The remainder of the property was sold in 1952 to William Delia's Adirondack Properties, which then parceled out the assets to various private and commercial interests. There was a short-lived revival of the theater in the 1960s as the Sacandaga Summer Theatre. The Sacandaga Summer Theater is now gone.

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: _____
-

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property 130 acres
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage)

UTM References

Sacandaga Park Historic District
Name of Property

Fulton Co, NY
County and State

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

SEE MAP

1 _____
Zone Easting Northing

3 _____
Zone Easting Northing

2 _____
Zone Easting Northing

4 _____
Zone Easting Northing

Verbal Boundary Description (describe the boundaries of the property)

Boundary Justification (explain why the boundaries were selected)

The boundary includes the 1925 mapped boundary of the main residential area and the golf course to the south. See 1925 Valuation mapping attached. Since the (former) High Rock Lodge was built last and away from the rest of the park it's parcel was not included

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Andrea Becker
organization _____ date _____
street & number 1946 West Glenville Road telephone 518-265-0531
city or town Amsterdam State NY zip code 12010
e-mail ipreserve@aol.com

Additional Documentation

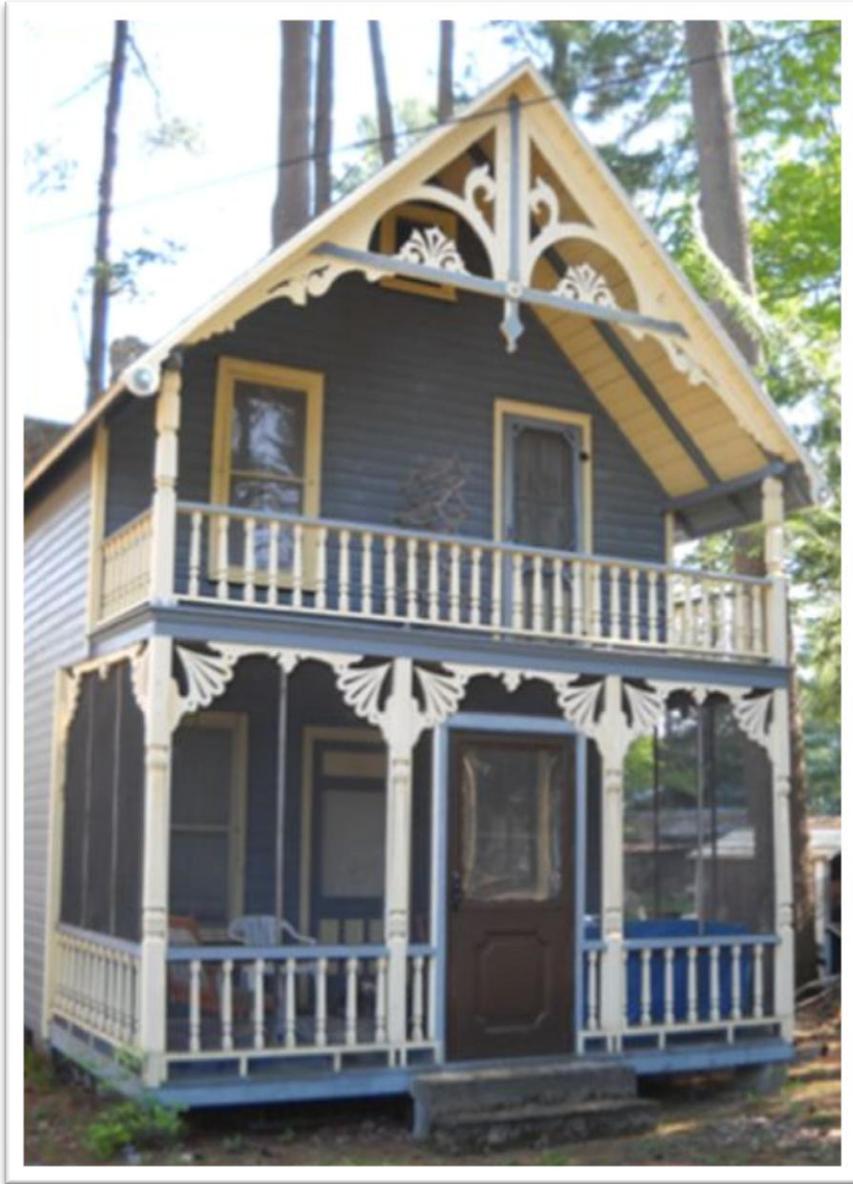
Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location. **SEE ATTACHED**
A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** News Articles, Website, Photographs (both historic and present) **SEE ATTACHED**

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive black and white photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Not inclusive of ALL properties (sample of only)



Name of Property:114 McKinley

City or Vicinity:Sacandaga Park

County: Fulton

State:NY



Name of Property:124 McKinley

City or Vicinity:Sacandaga Park

County:Fulton

State:NY



Name of Property:127 McKinley

City or Vicinity:Sacandaga Park

County:Fulton

State:NY



Name of Property:131 McKinley

City or Vicinity:Sacandaga Park

County:Fulton

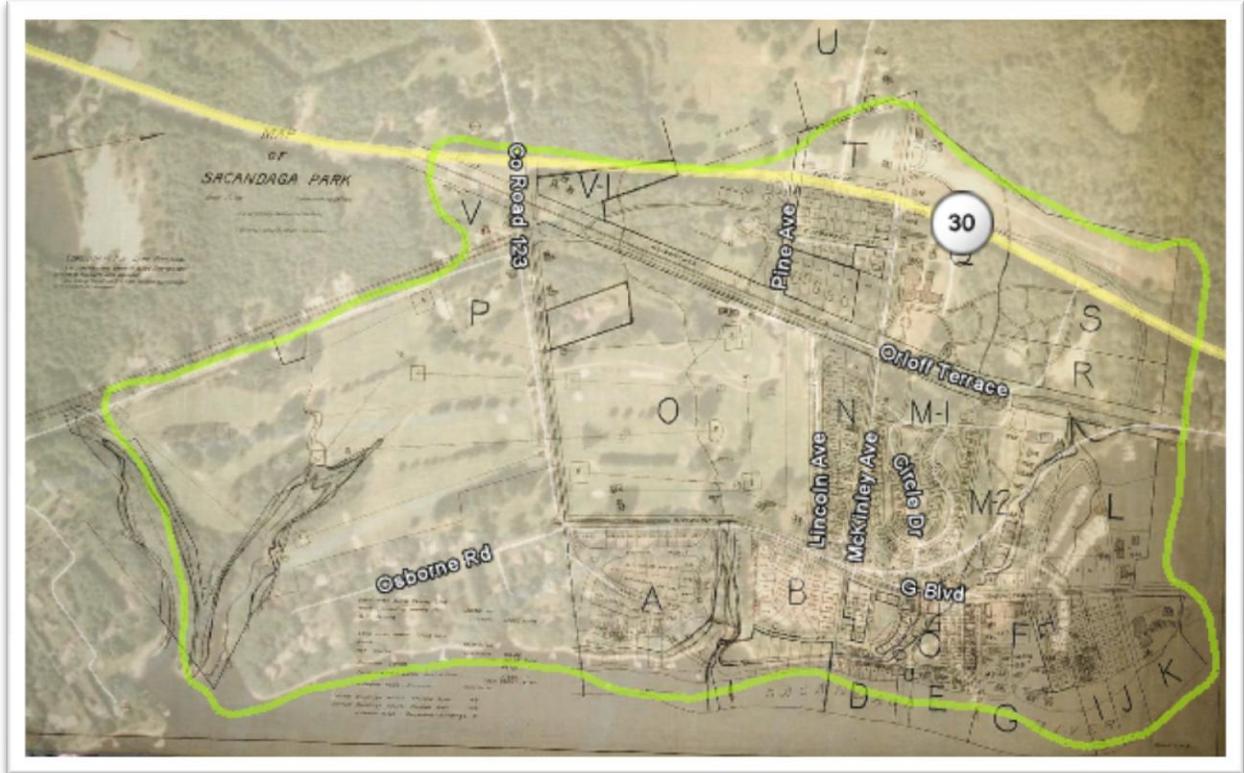
State:NY



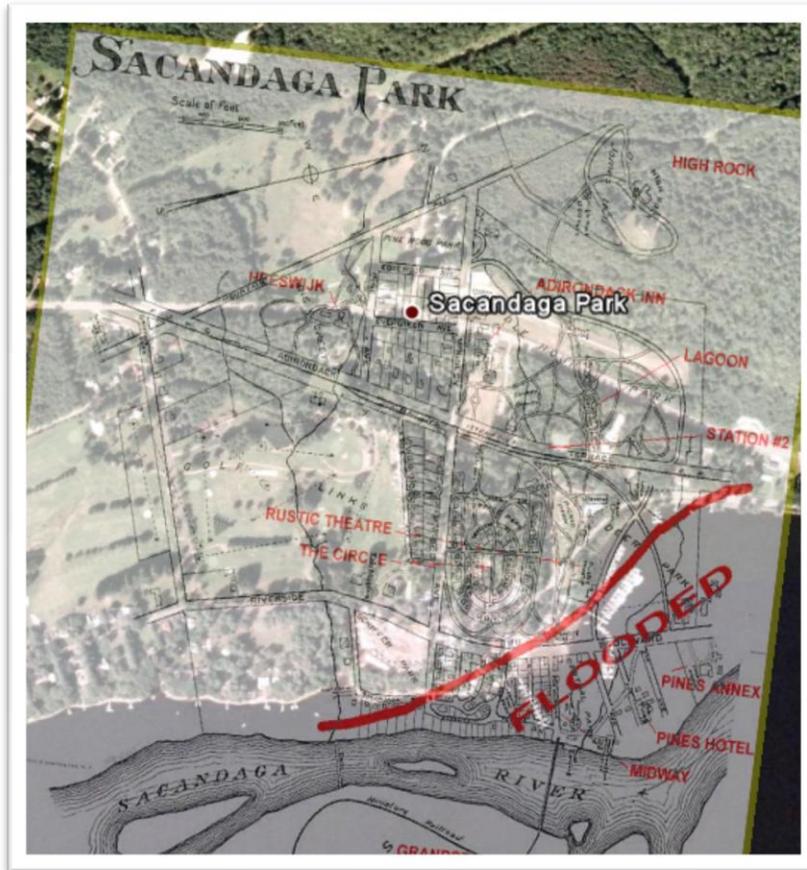
Aerial view → N



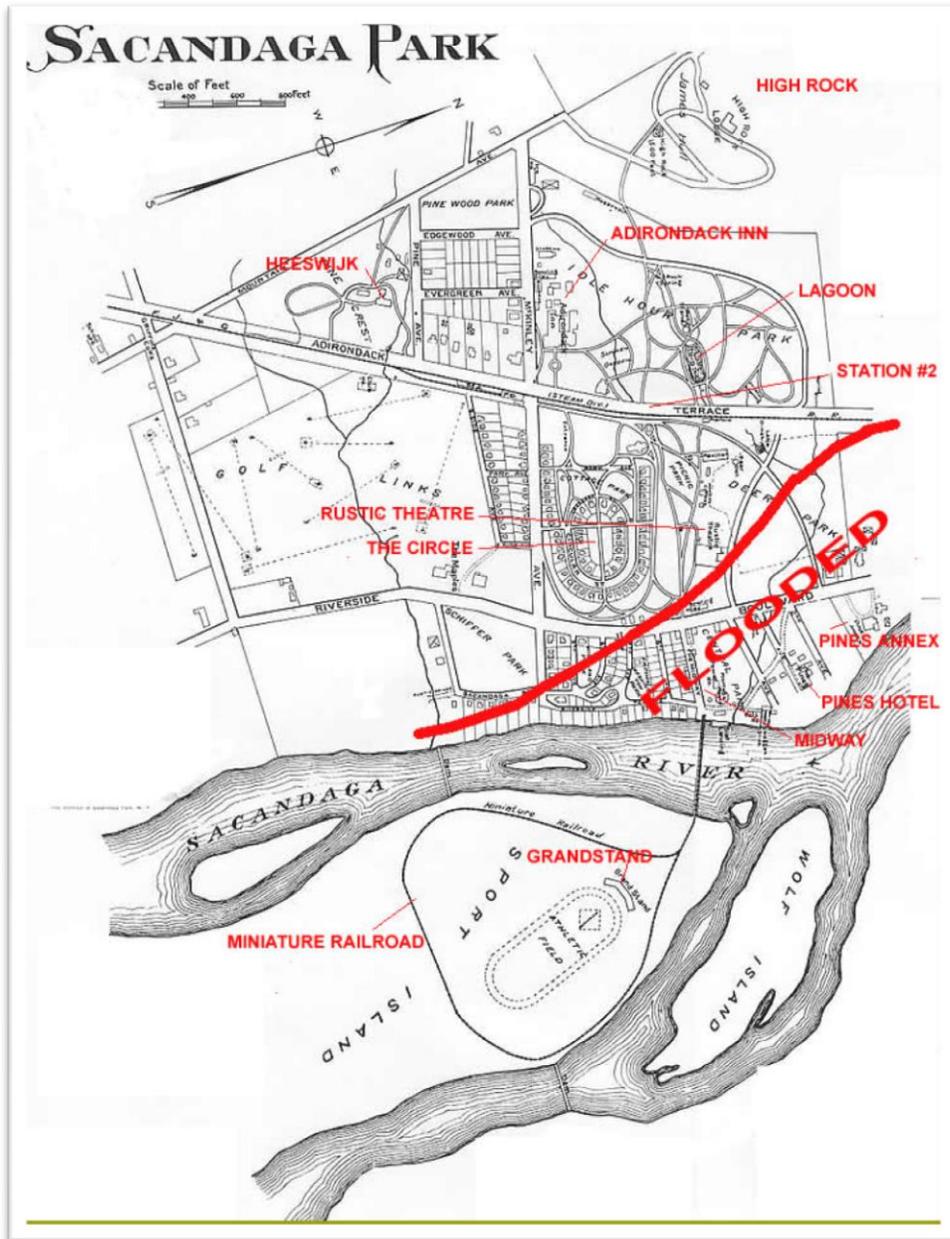
Boundary of the original Sacandaga Park without considering the Sport Island Grandstand (underwater), and the High Rock Lodge (privately owned and came later)

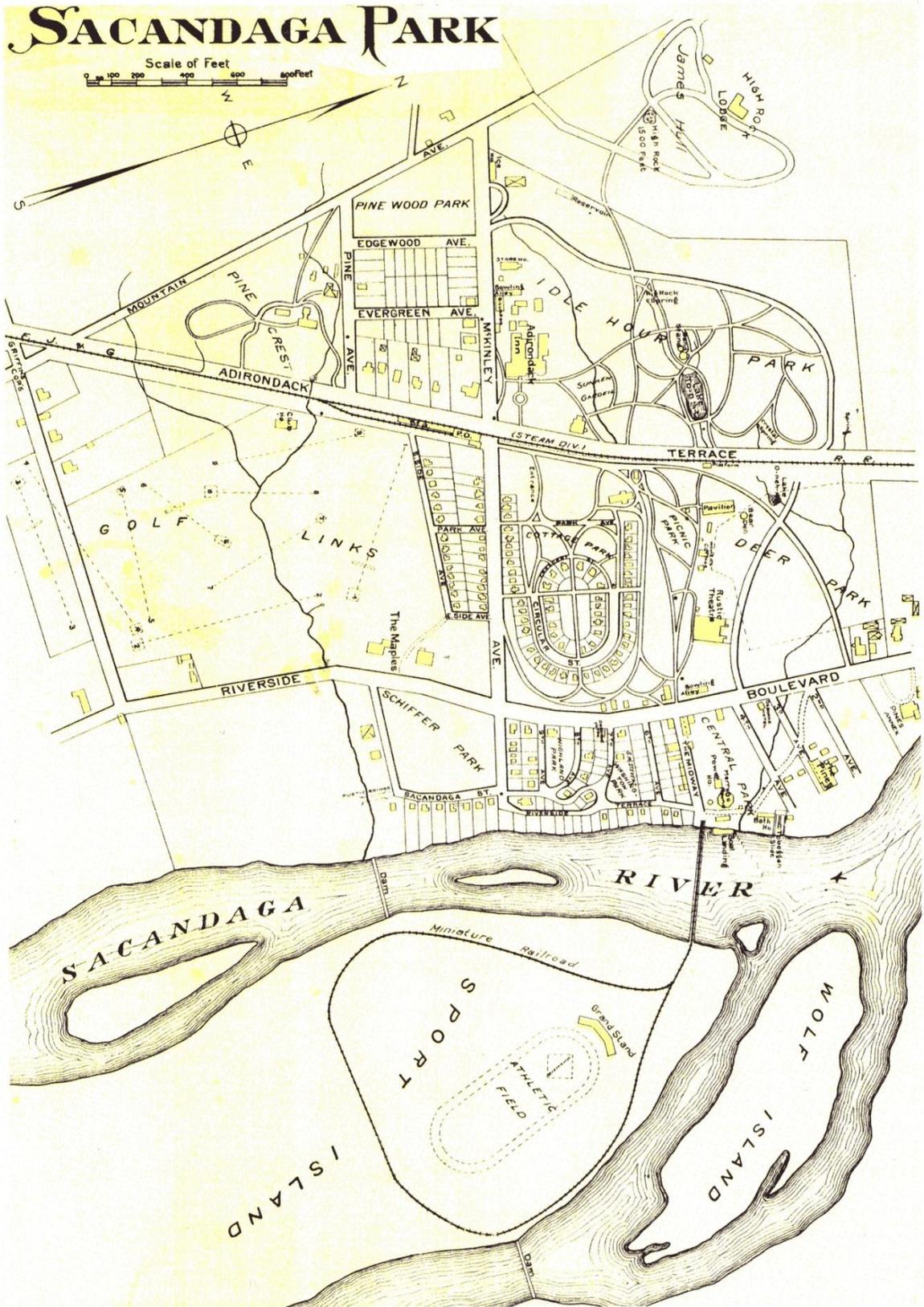


1925 Valuation Map overlay

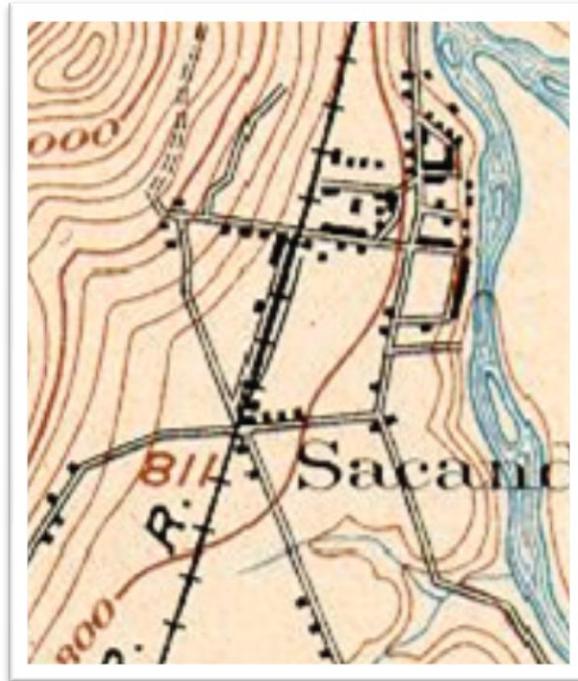


Aerial Map with 1920 overlay →N





Map of Sacandaga Park after 1904 → N



1902 USGS Map of Town of Northampton



Significant Architectural style: Carpenter gothic; 102 Riverside

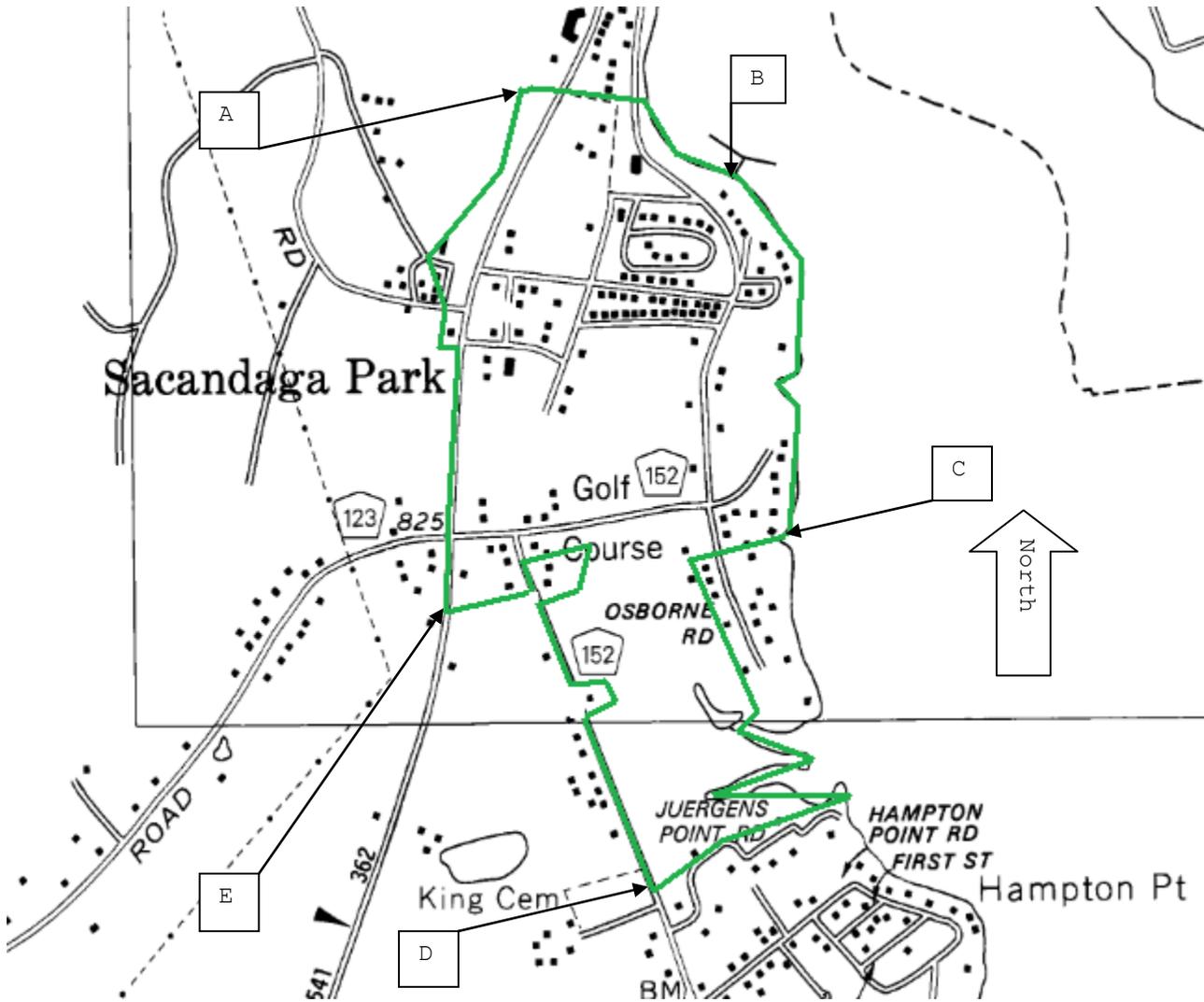
NRE

| | | | |
|--------------|-------------|--|----------------------|
| 31.12-2-1 | 115 | | Circle |
| 31.2-2-23.2* | 199 | | Cohwy 152 |
| 31.4-4-7 | 266 | | Cohwy 152 |
| 31.4-4-12 | 310 | | Cohwy 152 |
| 31.16-4-23 | 106 | | Lincoln |
| 31.16-4-24 | 108 | | Lincoln |
| 31.16-4-36 | 130 | | Lincoln |
| 31.16-4-16 | 109 | | McKinley |
| 31.16-4-14 | 113 | | McKinley |
| 31.16-3-23 | 114 | | McKinley |
| 31.16-4-2* | 115 | | McKinley |
| 31.16-4-8 | 121 | | McKinley |
| 31.16-3-26 | 122 | | McKinley |
| 31.16-3-27 | 124 | | McKinley |
| 31.16-4-5* | 127 | | McKinley |
| 31.16-3-30 | 128 | | McKinley |
| 31.16-4-4* | 129 | | McKinley |
| 31.16-4-3 | 131 | | McKinley |
| 31.16-3-32 | 134 | | McKinley |
| 32.13-2-13.1 | 121 | | McKinley Ave- Ext |
| 32.13-2-8.2* | 106 | | Riverside |
| 32.3-1-2 | 104 | | Roosevelt Terr |
| 32.13-4-7 | 118- 120 | | Roosevelt Terr |
| 31.4-4-11 | 105 | | Sids Way |

Contributing (Not NRE)

| | | |
|--------------|-----|------------------|
| 31.16-2-17 | 125 | Adirondack Terr |
| 31.16-3-2 | 0 | Circle |
| 31.12-2-2 | 117 | Circle |
| 31.16-3-2 | 119 | Circle |
| 31.12-2-4 | 121 | Circle |
| 31.12-2-7 | 125 | Circle |
| 31.12-2-12 | 127 | Circle |
| 31.16-3-4 | 148 | Circle |
| 31.16-3-3 | 150 | Circle |
| 31.4-4-14 | 0 | Cohwy 152 |
| 31.4-7-6.11 | 0 | Cohwy 152 |
| 31.16-5-2 | 239 | Cohwy 152 |
| 31.4-6-5 | 326 | Cohwy 152 |
| 31.16-4-20 | 102 | Lincoln |
| 31.16-4-21 | 104 | Lincoln |
| 31.16-4-25 | 110 | Lincoln |
| 31.16-4-27 | 114 | Lincoln |
| 31.16-4-28 | 116 | Lincoln |
| 31.16-4-34 | 126 | Lincoln |
| 31.16-4-35 | 128 | Lincoln |
| 31.16-4-19 | 101 | McKinley |
| 31.16-4-18 | 103 | McKinley |
| 32.13-2-18 | 105 | McKinley |
| 31.16-4-17 | 107 | McKinley |
| 31.16-4-15 | 111 | McKinley |
| 31.16-3-29 | 126 | McKinley |
| 31.16-2-13 | 149 | McKinley |
| 31.16-2-12 | 151 | McKinley |
| 31.16-2-11 | 153 | McKinley |
| 32.13-2-17.1 | 107 | McKinley Ave-Ext |
| 32.13-2-17.2 | 109 | McKinley Ave-Ext |
| 32.13-2-6 | 118 | McKinley Ave-Ext |
| 32.13-2-15 | 119 | McKinley Ave-Ext |
| 32.13-2-5 | 120 | McKinley Ave-Ext |
| 32.3-1-1 | 105 | Osborne |
| 32.3-1-5 | 107 | Osborne |
| 31.4-4-3.5 | 126 | Pine |
| 31.16-2-18 | 117 | Pine Ave |
| 32.13-2-11* | 102 | Riverside |

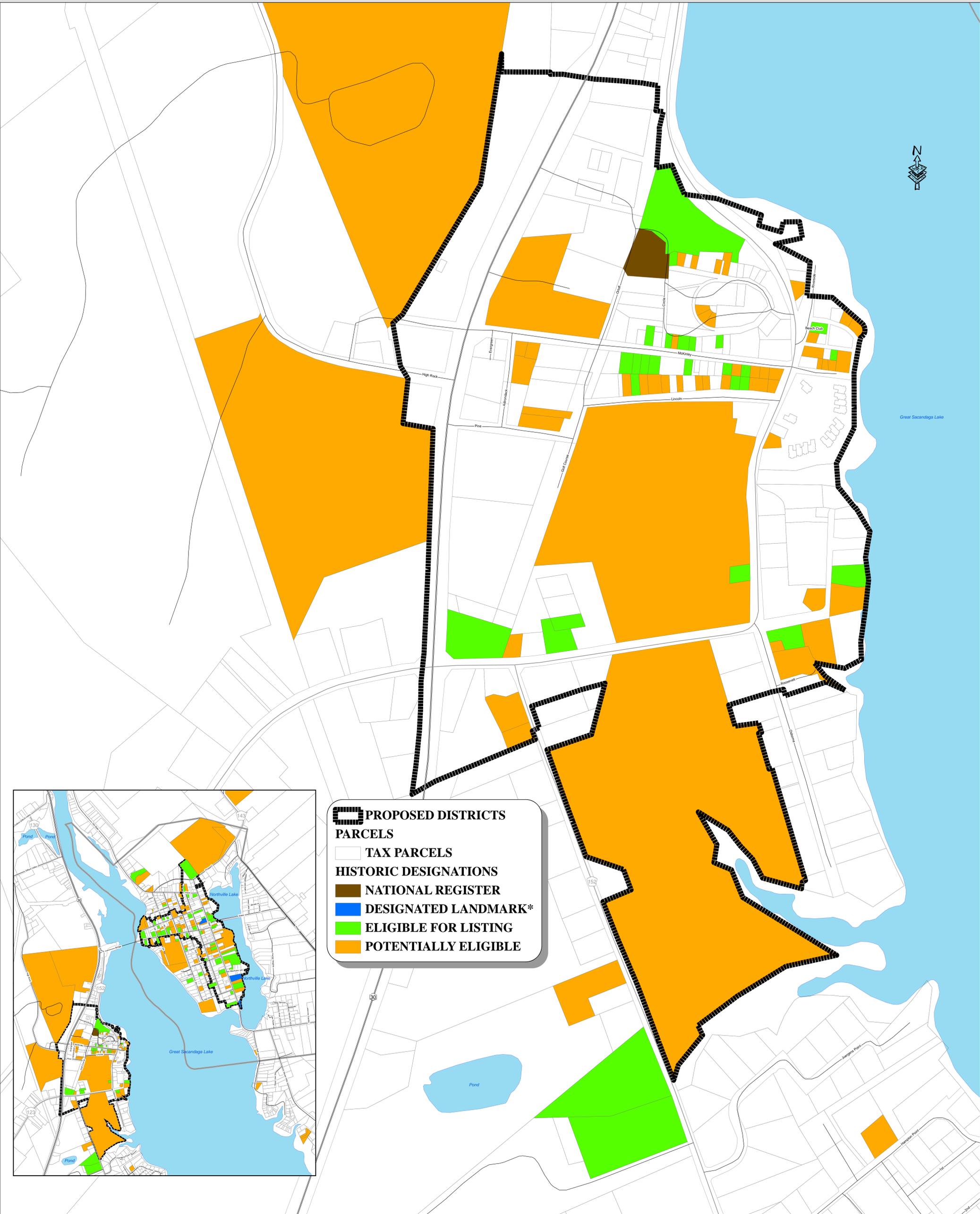
| | | | |
|-------------|-----|--|----------------|
| 32.13-2-10 | 104 | | Riverside |
| 32.13-1-3 | 111 | | Riverside |
| 32.3-1-3.15 | 110 | | Roosevelt Terr |
| 32.13-4-8 | 116 | | Roosevelt Terr |



Recommended Historic District Boundary

| | | |
|---|-----------------|---------------|
| A | 18T565891.24m E | 4785521.22m N |
| B | 18T566423.08m E | 4785284.85m N |
| C | 18T566433.89m E | 4784635.09m N |
| D | 18T566206.80m E | 4784078.99m N |
| E | 18T565855.23m E | 4784502.04m N |

SEE Sac Park HD Map.pdf



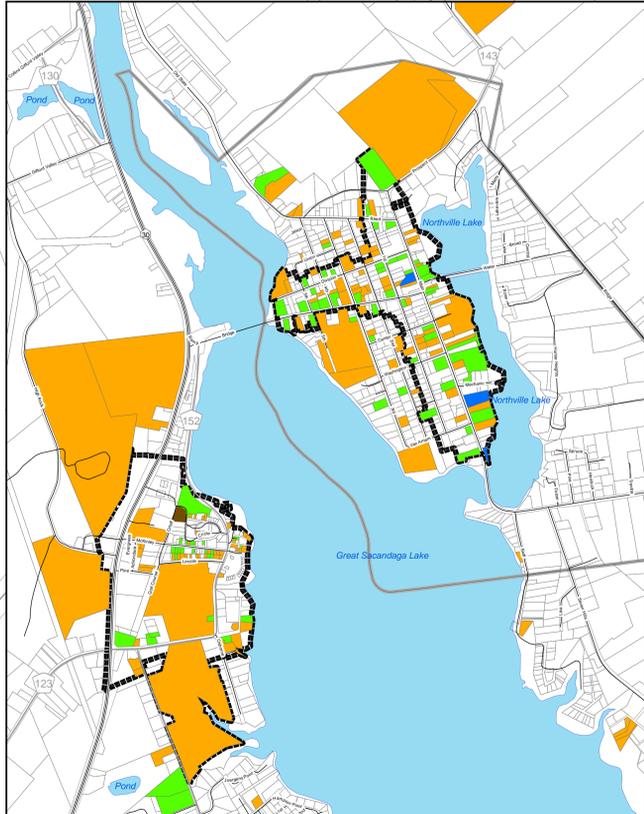
PROPOSED DISTRICTS

PARCELS

TAX PARCELS

HISTORIC DESIGNATIONS

- NATIONAL REGISTER
- DESIGNATED LANDMARK*
- ELIGIBLE FOR LISTING
- POTENTIALLY ELIGIBLE



**TOWN OF NORTHAMPTON & VILLAGE OF NORTHVILLE
ELIGIBLE PROPERTIES FOR HISTORIC DESIGNATION
11/17/2009**

Sacandaga Park

An Early Resort In The Adirondacks

Sacandaga Park began quietly in 1876. Located on the Sacandaga River near Northville, it was in the southern part of the present day Adirondack Park.

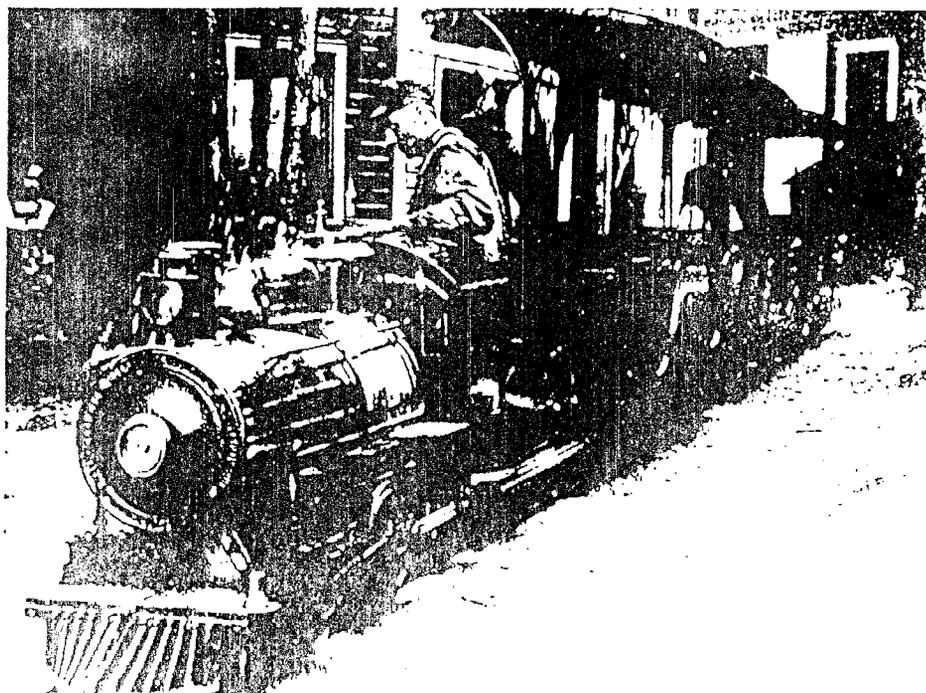
After constructing a roadbed from Gloversville to Northville, the Fonda, Johnstown, and Gloversville Railroad (FJ&G) purchased seventeen acres from the John McCuen farm for a picnic area. It was common practice at this time for short distance railroads to increase their business by developing tourist attractions at the end of little used lines.

Recognizing the serene beauty and quiet of the picnic area, the congregations of the nearby Methodist churches chose this site for their annual camp meeting ground. They pitched their white tents under the tall pines and constructed a circular seating area for 2,000 made of crude wooden benches. Before long, the tents around the circle came down and were replaced by small, flimsy, frame cottages built on land leased from the railroad for 99 years. Also sharing these facilities were the Women's Temperance Union and the Salvation Army.

All remained peaceful until the FJ&G rented the picnic area to a boisterous German Society who brought along a baggage car full of beer kegs. When the deacons of the Methodist church found they could not exercise any control over the railroad's choice of visitors, they sold their cottages and moved to Round Lake.

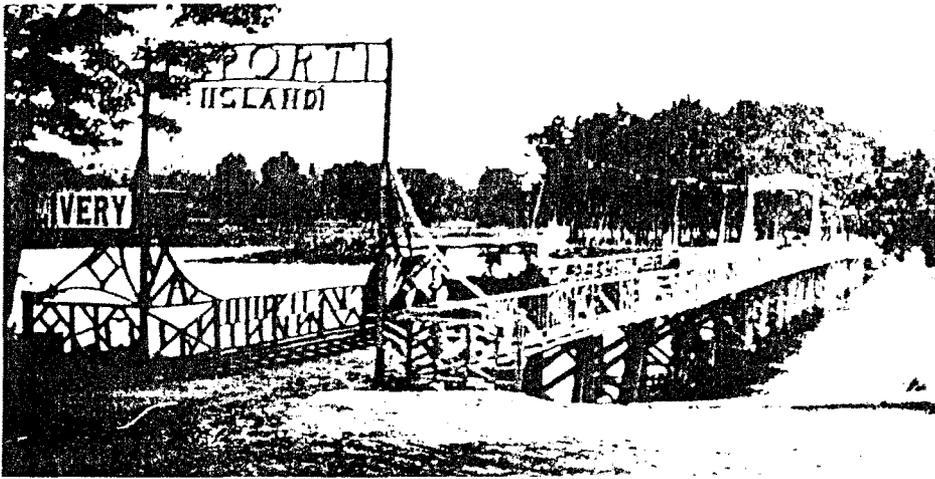
The FJ&G continued to purchase land until it had accumulated 750 acres. More cottages were built around the circle left by the Methodists and other streets were opened to construction.

In 1888, the railroad built a four-story hotel, the Adirondack Inn, at the immense cost of \$20,000. It was one of the largest hotels in the southern Adirondacks. By tastefully laying out rustic roadways, gardens, and ponds, the landscape artists were able to create a beautiful park in the *grand* style around the Inn. An 18 foot octagonal bandstand was built on an island in the middle of a nearby pond. There was a mile of shoreline along the Sacandaga River for bathing and boating. Miles of walkways and paths wound through gardens and groves of pine



The miniature railroad carried vacationers over the bridge to Sport Island at Sacandaga Park.

The bridge to Sport Island was disassembled each year to prevent ice and high water damage by the Sacandaga River.



trees. The Inn had the only elevator in the area, a grand ballroom, and broad, encircling porches. Orchestras such as the E. W. Prouty's of Boston and Magnolia Beach entertained the guests. The dining room was rated excellent, serving ten course dinners featuring good American cooking.

The southern part of the Adirondacks had been settled by people of German ancestry and Sacandaga Park resembled the magnificent Spas of Baden-Baden and Weisbaden in the *Old Country*. Guests came from as far away as New York City, a six hour ride by train.

In 1898, the face of the park changed when a fire consumed 111 of the 120 cottages on the circle. When the rubble was cleared the following day, rebuilding began and the Sacandaga Amusement Co. was formed by the FJ&G. A new feature was added to the park drawing even larger crowds than before. A huge midway was built from the main road to the river. There were two merry-go-rounds, a roller coaster, a shooting gallery, photograph studios, donkey rides, kinescope theatre, games of chance and skill, refreshment stands, souvenir booths, bear dens, a roller skating rink, and a dance pavilion. One of the unusual attractions was a railway car which gave people the experience of traveling on a train through the use of a movie and special effects. What had begun as a picnic ground for hire, was developing into one of the grandest amusement parks in the eastern U.S.

Sport Island

In 1901, the Park expanded to an offshore island. Sport Island was joined to the rest of the Park by a bridge, which was taken apart each

fall and stored on high land to prevent damage from ice and high water in the spring. A miniature steam engine with passenger cars ran across the bridge, taking guests to the grandstand where they were able to watch teams of the International League or the Northville Semi-Professional Team play baseball.

National Guard units from as far away as Troy used part of the island as a training ground. Each year they presented a pageant recreating an Indian ambush of white settlers with the army coming to the rescue.

For the next two decades, Sacandaga Park was the place to go during the summer. Every boarding house, hotel, and cottage was filled for the months the park was in operation. Towns would be empty when their population would board the excur-

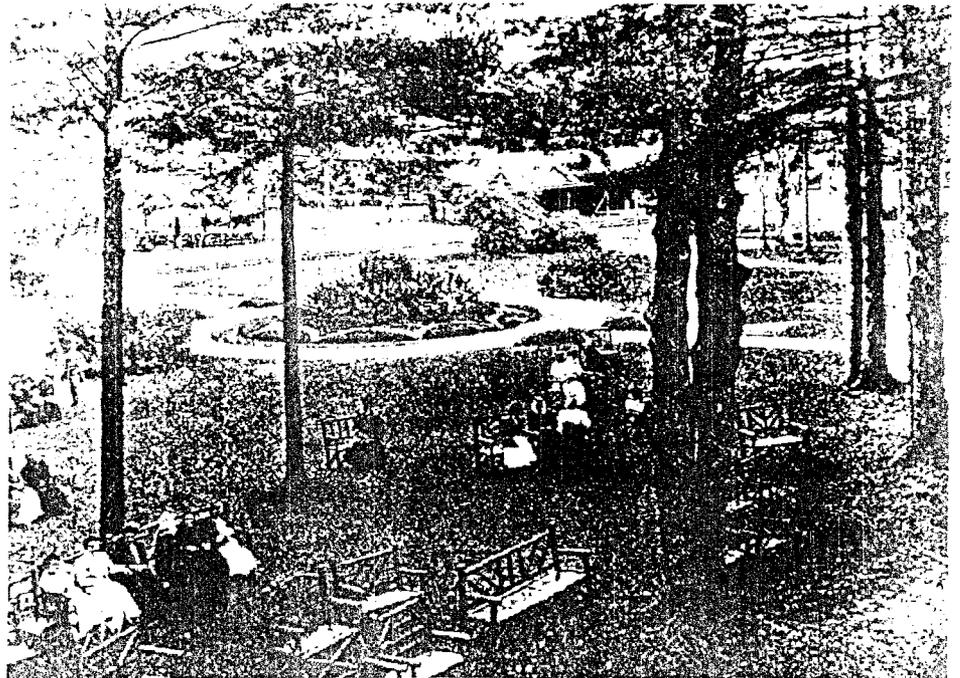
sion trains for the Sunday School Picnic or the annual outing of local industries. On special holidays there would be as many as 5,000 at the park for the day. As many as 100,000 people passed through the gates during a season in the early 1900s. The normal summer population was only 2,000.

For the Fourth of July, the FJ&G put on a special fireworks display costing in excess of \$5,000! Another special event was the hot air balloon ascension. While the balloon ascended, an acrobat performed stunts on a bar swinging below the balloon. When he was finished, the performer would parachute back to the ground and the balloon would float off, settling nearby.

There were band concerts and baseball games on all occasions. Some of the famous bands playing in the park were John Phillip Sousa's, Goldman's, and Dorrings' from Troy.

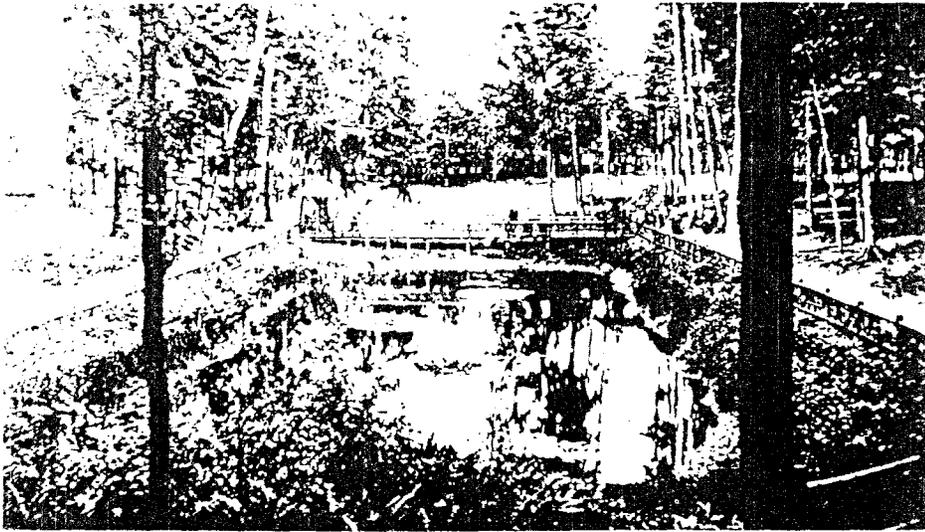
A rustic open air theatre was built on a nearby hillside. The stage was at the bottom of the slope with natural scenery as the backdrop. Keith Proctor of United Booking in New York City brought top quality vaudeville acts weekly to the *Rustic*. Performers such as Eddie Cantor, Al Jolson, W.C. Fields, Houdini, and J.W. Minstrels appeared on the stage.

In the early 1900s, there were 150 cottages, several boarding houses, and four large hotels. Rents for the cottages were between \$15 and \$30 a month and hotels were charging \$10 to \$20 a week for the American Plan.



Rustic fences lined walks and ponds on the grounds of the Sacandaga Park. Sacandaga Park had an old world flavor in an Adirondack setting.

At the turn of the century, the Sacandaga Amusement park attracted vacationers from all over the state.



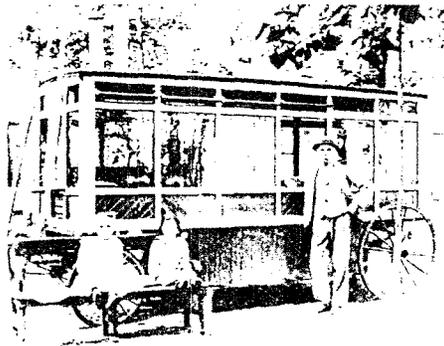
High Rock Lodge was built in 1901 on the top of the hill overlooking the park and the river. It was a self-contained resort with stables, tennis courts, beautiful gardens, and paths. There was a flight of stone steps descending to the park bordered with huge flower planters.

By 1901, the Pines Hotel and its proprietor, Mr. Cornell, were making headlines in the local papers because of their excellent service and cuisine. Annually, all of the editors of the local newspapers from as far away as Utica and Albany were entertained by the railroad. It was at this hotel that they had dinner. The hotel was the only one built near the water and was the *only place to go*, according to the editors, for Sunday dinner. A typical menu boasted of Baked Kennebec Salmon with Hollandaise Sauce, Cincinnati Ham with Champagne Sauce, Braised Fillet of Beef with mushroom sauce, Fricasseed Chicken, Prime Ribs of Beef au jus, Roast Lamb with mint sauce and Roast Veal with dressing. A meal cost a whopping 50 cents!

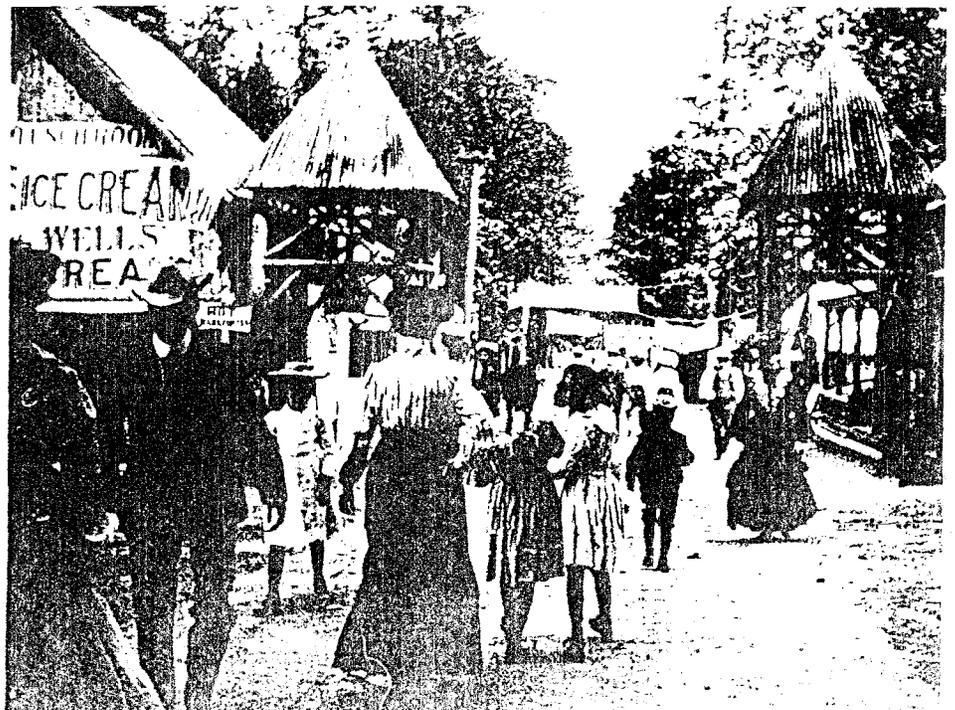
The most beautiful building at the park was Heeswijk, the summer home of J. Ledlie Hees, the president of the FJ&G. It was built at a cost of \$200,000 and had wooden panelling from the Netherlands and marble and stained glass windows from Italy. The house was immense and required twenty servants to provide for the owner's pleasures.

For his only daughter, a \$10,000 miniature Dollhouse was built nearby as an exact replica of the main house, including the panelling, marble and stained glass windows. It was large enough for the honeymoon of Miss Hees and her bridegroom.

The amusement part of the park closed in 1929 after the Hudson River



The park's first popcorn machine.



Regulating District Board had condemned 150 park acres for the formation of the Great Sacandaga Lake. The rising waters created by the Conklingville Dam covered the area by 1930 and the days of the great Park were over.

The hotels continued to operate for another decade, but the popularity of the area decreased and people began to travel farther away for their recreation and enjoyment.

After the decline of vaudeville, the theatre had been enclosed and top shows played straight from Broadway. Zazu Pitts, Pat Kelly, Celeste Holmes, Constance Bennett, Gloria Vanderbilt, Jack Warden, Angela Lansbury, Victor Jory, and Tallulah Bankhead were some of the stars appearing there. Fire destroyed the building in 1955, but it was rebuilt and opened the following year to run for only six years before closing due to poor attendance.

Little remains of the Sacandaga Park today. The golf course is still in operation and there are some remnants such as stone gateways and roads that lead to the water's edge. The rebuilt cottages of the circle still remain, as does also the Dollhouse. The railroad station is a stable and the dance pavilion is used for storage. The FJ&G sold the property in 1952 and there have been several owners since then.

The flooding waters of the Sacandaga Reservoir had erased the pleasure spot of an era; and changing vacation tastes decreed that the park not be rebuilt.

These are newspaper (Gloversville Daily Leader) references for
Sacandaga Park fire in 1898.

050998

5/9/1898
May 9, 1898

Sacandaga Park, Fulton county's popular summer resort, last night was the scene of the greatest conflagration which has visited this section since 1877, when a large portion of Main and Church Streets, Gloversville, was wiped out by fire. Discovered at 10:30 P. M. by Granville Baum, the fire started in No. 5 circle. Hundreds of citizens from Northville came to the scene and formed a bucket brigade to try and save some property, but to no avail.

The fire spread with almost incredible swiftness, and as cottage after cottage burst into flames, it soon became apparent that the only hope lay in razing the buildings in its path. Efforts were made to pull down some buildings, while others were blown up by dynamite, but the work of the fierce flames was not checked until every building in the Circle, Horseshoe, Park Avenue, Railroad Avenue, Centre Street and Montgomery Avenue with the exception of 9, had been totally destroyed.

When Gloversville was notified a special train was organized and steamed out of Gloversville station, with Fred Dunson at the throttle, at 12:27 A. M. The run was made in 24 minutes, including a three-minute stop at the junction, but when the Park was reached it was too late to give assistance.

No lives were lost as only seven cabins were occupied. In all 110 cottages were destroyed. (*Gloversville Daily Leader*)

050998

SACANDAGA PARK DEVASTATED BY FIRE. One Hundred and Ten Cottages Totally Destroyed Last Night. Losses Estimated At Nearly \$30,000. The Greatest Conflagration Fulton County Has Suffered In Many Years—Only Nine Cottages Remain On The East Side Of The Railroad—The Work Of Destruction Was Complete, Hardly Anything Being Saved—Heroic Work By The Northville Fire Department And Citizens Was Of No Avail—A Graphic Description Of The Scene.

Sacandaga Park, Fulton county's popular summer resort, last night was the scene of the greatest conflagration which has visited this section since '77, when a large portion of Main and Church streets, Gloversville, was wiped out by fire.

STARTED IN THE CIRCLE. Last night's conflagration was discovered about 10:30 o'clock in the cottage owned by Lee Anibal of Northville, situated at No. 5 Circle, by Granville Baum, who was awakened by the crackling of the flames.

NORTHVILLE TO THE RESCUE. — About the same time the blaze was noticed in Northville and an alarm was sounded and soon hundreds of the citizens were hurrying to the scene of destruction.

THE BUCKET BRIGADE AT WORK. There were no facilities for fighting the fire at hand, but every man joined in a hastily formed bucket brigade, and all worked with a will to save some of the threatened property, but without avail.

THE FLAMES UNCONTROLLABLE. The fire spread with almost incredible swiftness, and as cottage after cottage burst into flames, it soon became apparent that the only hope lay in razing the buildings in its path. Efforts were made to pull down some of the structures, while others were blown up by dynamite, but the work of the fierce flames was not checked until every building in the Circle, Horseshoe, Park Avenue, Railroad Avenue, Centre Street, Montgomery Avenue, with the exception of nine, had been totally destroyed.

GLOVERSVILLE NOTIFIED. When it was seen that there was no prospect of checking the rapidly spreading flames, Conductor Nelson Robinson of the F., J. & G. R. R., telephoned to General Manager McKeever, who immediately took steps toward

getting out a special train, and if possible sending some assistance to the stricken resort. It was just 12:27 o'clock this morning when the special steamed out of the Gloversville station, with Engineer Fred Dunson at the throttle. But one car was attached to the engine and in this was General Manager McKeever, Chief George L. Fort, a corps of Leader correspondents and a few others.

AN EXCITING MIDNIGHT RUN. The trip to the park was an exciting one, the run being made in 24 minutes, including a stop at Broadalbin Junction, when about three minutes of running time was lost, and the distance from Mayfield to Cranberry Creek was made at nearly the rate of a mile a minute. After passing Mayfield the reflection of the then dying flames could be plainly seen on the horizon marking the goal which all aboard the flying train were impatiently awaiting. The train also carried several extinguishers, hooks and other apparatus, but when the park was reached it was too late to be of any assistance.

A SCENE OF DEVASTATION. The scene which greeted those on the special was one of complete devastation. All that remained of the handsome row known as the Horseshoe, the cozy Circle and adjacent streets and avenues, were the nine cottages noted above. These were on the extreme north and south, while between lay a great mass of smoldering ruins, emitting a lurid glare which lighted up the surroundings sufficiently to show how complete the destruction had been. The tall brick chimney of Asa Bellis' cottage alone remained intact and stood out as a lone sentinel watching over the desolate ruins. The handsome trees which for so many years have protected the cottages from the summer's heat were stripped to their branches and presented the appearance of a gaunt army struggling to revive from an overwhelming defeat.

BUT LITTLE SAVED. The flames spread with such rapidity that it was impossible to save much of the contents of the various buildings, although the people of Northville worked nobly in their efforts to that end. Many of the cottages were forced open and all the furniture possible was taken out and carried to a point of safety, where, under the direction of General Manager McKeever, a strong guard was placed to watch over it until to-day, when steps were taken to restore it to the owners.

NO LIVES LOST. Fortunately the season had not yet opened and there had but a few people taken up their residence at the park for the summer. Those who were already there were rudely awakened to find themselves in imminent danger, and for the most part they were only able to save their clothing. The list of those occupying cottages last night follows:

Mrs. E. P. Maule and five children, Fred, Bert, Wendell, Clarence and Alice, of St. Louis, Mo., at No. 4 Park avenue.

Mrs. R. E. Shaw of Gloversville, at No. 3 Park Avenue.

Mr. and Mrs. Granville Baum of Rome, at No. 13 Circle.

W. H. Fairbanks of Gloversville, at "Stay-a-While," No. 26 Circle.

Mr. and Mrs. Horace Davis and grandson, Clarence Orr of Gloversville, at No. 7 Circle.

Miss Sarah Scribner of Northville, at No. 3 Horseshow.

Mr. and Mrs. George Wyman of Johnstown.

ORIGIN A MYSTERY. The Anibal cottage, where the fire started, had not been occupied this spring, and there was nothing of a combustible nature known to have been in the building. Everything which has so far developed leads to the belief that the fire was undoubtedly of incendiary origin.

EXTENT OF THE DISASTER. As stated above, but nine cottages on the east side of the railroad were saved. These were:

Cottage B, Horseshoe, owned by H. A. Caswell, Rome, N.Y.
Cottage C, Horseshoe, owned by Kate Corbett, Brooklyn.
No. 17 Horseshoe, owned by Mrs. John Ireland, Johnstown.
Cottage on Montgomery Avenue, owned by George Hall, Johnstown.
Cottage on Montgomery Avenue, owned by Joseph Dunlop, Gloversville.
Cottage on Montgomery Avenue, owned by George Mandrill, Gloversville.
Cottage on Montgomery Avenue, owned by Mrs. W. S. Farley, Fort Plain.
Cottage on Montgomery Avenue, owned by James Hull, Gloversville.
Cottage on South Side Avenue owned by John Martin, Gloversville.

THE LOSSES. An estimate of the losses, based upon an approximated value of \$250 to each cottage, places the total loss at \$27,750.

THE COTTAGES DESTROYED. One hundred and ten cottages were totally destroyed. A complete list, giving the location and owners, follows:

Horseshoe:

- A. Miss Lucy C. Stewart, G'ville.
- No. 1 Mrs. Abner Burr, Gloversville.
- No. 2 Mrs. Van Ness, Northville.
- No. 3 Mrs. S. Scribner, Northville.
- No. 4 L. L. Simpson, Glens Falls.
- No. 5 Mrs. J. R. M'Clumpha, Gloversville.
- No. 6 Geo. C. Wright, Amsterdam.
- No. 7 J. J. Garritee, Albany.
- No. 8 Samuel Jackson, Mayfield.
- No. 9 Geo. Copeland, Gloversville.
- No. 10 E. N. Montanye, Gloversville.
- No. 11 C. W. Phillips, Gloversville.
- No. 12 J. W. Becker, Gloversville.
- No. 13 Chas. F. Allen, Gloversville.
- No. 14 R. M. F. Juno, Schenectady.
- No. 15 Asa B. Bellis, Gloversville
- No. 16 Mrs. D. S. Quackenbush, Gloversville
- No. 18 Mrs. Daniel Ireland, J'town.

Montgomery Avenue:

- O.F. Heath, Northville.
- Z. B. Merchant, Gloversville.
- John Sponable, Gloversville.
- W. H. Alfrey, Johnstown.

South Side Avenue:

- No. 2. Mrs. M. Shippee, Johnstown.
- No. 3 C. F. Carncross, Johnstown.
- No. 4. C. S. Hildabrandt, G'ville.
- No. 5. Thos. Pursell, Gloversville.

- No. 6. L. E. Winne, Gloversville.
- No. 7. A. R. Vibbard, Johnstown.
- No. 8 Mrs. Henry Dixon, J'town.
- No. 9 Dr. Geo. Rowe, Gloversville.
- No. 10 Dr. F. W. Shaffer, G'ville.
- No. 13 W. Wack, Gloversville.
- No. 16 Mrs. J. O. Parsons, G'ville.
- No. 17 F. S. Fritcher, Fonda.

Centre Street:

- No. 18 Mrs. C. M. Warner, G'ville.
- No. 21 Mrs. E. L. Warner, G'ville.
- No. 23 Miss H. Hicks, Troy.

Park Avenue:

- No. 1 M. P. Ward, Gloversville.
- No. 2 David Smith, Johnstown.
- No. 3 Mrs. R. E. Shaw, G'ville.
- No. 4 Mrs. R. E. Shaw, G'ville.
- No. 5 Wesley Lines, Johnstown.
- No. 6 Chas. King, Gloversville.
- No. 7 John Hollett, Gloversville.
- No. 8 Geo. R. Wyman, J'town.
- No. 9 Mrs. J. E. Shutts, G'ville.
- No. 10 Mrs. R. E. Shaw, G'ville.
- No. 11 E. S. King, Gloversville.
- No. 12 Mrs. John Foster, Kingsboro.
- No. 13 C. M. C. Loyd, Gloversville.
- No. 14 Mrs. Cammack.
- No. 15 N. D. Griffin, Gloversville.
- No. 16 H. M. Bonta, Broadalbin.
- No. 17 Mrs. Abel Ford, G'ville.
- No. 18 E. H. Horton, Northville.
- No. 20 Mrs. H. Belding, G'ville.
- No. 21 Charles Clemans, G'ville.
- No. 22 Jos. Dunlop, G'ville.
- No. 23 J. R. Dixon, Gloversville.
- No. 24 D. G. Golder, Gloversville.
- No. 25 Sism & Smith, G'ville.
- No. 25 ½ Olin Sutliff, Gloversville.
- No. 26 T. S. Quimby, Gloversville.
- No. 27 W. J. Dodge, Gloversville.
- No. 28 Mrs. John Stewart, G'ville.
- No. 29 H. M. Bonta, Broadalbin.
- No. 30 Mrs. A. Bovee, Gloversville.
- No. 31 J. E. Kelly, Gloversville.
- No. 32 Mrs. Katherine Wood, Gloversville.
- No. 33 Mrs. Wm. J. Harris, G'ville.
- No. 34 C. W. Woodworth, G'ville.
- No. 35 E. H. Ridder, Amsterdam.
- No. 36 Mrs. Geo. Bryce, G'ville.
- No. 37 Mrs. Frank Phair, G'ville.
- No. 38 Geo. A. Harris, G'ville.

The Circle:

- No. 1 A. D. Comrie, Gloversville.
- No. 2 Dr. C. G. Colgrove, J'town.
- No. 3 Mrs. Anna Hale, Mayfield.
- No. 4 Belle Huntington, Rome.
- No. 5 Lee S. Anibal, Northville.
- No. 6 Henry Shipman, G'ville.
- No. 7 Hosea Davis, Gloversville.
- No. 8 Mary Mickel, Gloversville.
- No. 9 F. W. Dart, Gloversville.
- No. 10 Mrs. Fritcher, Fort Plain.
- No. 11 H. A. Phillips, G'ville.
- No. 12 Peter I Harvey, Amsterdam.
- No. 13 Granville Baum, Rome.
- No. 14 J. T. Phair, Gloversville.
- No. 15 M. J. Dutcher, Gloversville.
- No. 16 M. Doxtader, Fonda.
- No. 17 John Wiggans, Rome.
- No. 18 G. A. Howarth, G'ville.
- No. 19 Geo. H. Taylor, G'ville.
- No. 20 S. Morris, Gloversville.
- No. 21 J. W. Hines, Gloversville.
- No. 22 Dr. E. H. Eisenbrey, G'ville.
- No. 23 C. H. Becker, Gloversville.
- No. 24 Emma Smith, Gloversville.
- No. 25 Anna L. Palmer, Brooklyn.
- No. 26 W. Bock, Gloversville.
- No. 27 C. S. Schermerhorn, G'ville.
- No. 29 Mrs. Thos. Boyle, G'ville.
- No. 30 H. M. Bonta, Broadalbin.
- No. 31 Mrs. John Tooker, G'ville.
- No. 32 J. H. Fonda, Amsterdam.
- No. 33 Geo. Wicks, Gloversville.
- No. 34 Chas. Gardner, Gloversville.
- No. 35 G. S. Wheaton, Gloversville.
- No. 36 Miss Minerva Fairbanks, Gloversville.

About one-third of the cottages destroyed were insured.

INSURANCE.

The list of insurance on the destroyed property, as ascertained by The Leader is as follows:

In J. E. Wood's agency:

| | Cottage | Furniture |
|-------------------|---------|-----------|
| D. S. Quackenbush | \$225 | \$75 |
| George Brice | 150 | |
| Minerva Fairbanks | 200 | 100 |
| Almira J. Shutts | 115 | 35 |
| Stephen Morris | 150 | 50 |
| H. A. Phillips | 200 | |
| J.R. McClumpha | 100 | 50 |
| C. E. Garrity | 400 | 100 |

| | | |
|-----------------------|-----|-----|
| J. W. Hines | 175 | 25 |
| Thomas Pursell | 150 | |
| Henry Shipman | 300 | 100 |
| Mrs. Asa Bellis | 300 | 100 |
| Alice W. Burr | 250 | 50 |
| Catherine A. Merchant | 250 | 50 |
| Mrs. W. E. Mills | 300 | 100 |

Getman & Billingham:

| | | |
|--|-----|-----|
| F. W. Dart | 200 | 100 |
| C. W. Phillips | 200 | 100 |
| Mrs. John Stewart | 150 | 50 |
| John Hollett | 150 | 50 |
| C. F. Allen | 200 | 100 |
| Mrs. John Foster | 100 | 50 |
| C. S. Schermerhorn | 200 | 50 |
| Mrs. M. E. Van Ness | 150 | 50 |
| A. D. Comrie | 200 | 75 |
| Mary Shippee | 150 | 50 |
| Camp McKeever, owned by Estate of J. B. Wiggins, Rome | 800 | 200 |

Bell's Agency:

G. W. Rose, \$600 on cottage and furniture

Mills & Burton:

| | | |
|-------------------|-------|--|
| George A. Howarth | \$300 | |
| Hosea Davis | 350 | |
| J. E. Kelly | 150 | |
| George H. Taylor | 250 | |

Tarr's Agency:

| | | |
|-------------------|-------|-------|
| Emma J. Parsons | \$325 | \$ 75 |
| H. J. Hicks | 300 | 100 |
| A. P. Firtchard | 250 | 100 |
| Mrs. C. M. Warner | 650 | 150 |
| Jane C. Eisenbrey | 125 | 100 |
| G. W. Mandrill | 350 | 150 |
| Mrs. J. Dunlop | 300 | 100 |

A MAGNIFIDENT SPECTACLE. The destruction of so much valuable property could not occur without presenting a magnificent spectacle, as viewed by the residents of Northville and the surrounding country. When the fire was first discovered, from the distance it appeared as but a spark, but the fire rapidly grew to enormous proportions, and as hundreds of people, aroused by the blowing of steam whistles at Northville, came rushing to the scene, the flames burst into great sheets of fire, leaping high into the air and emitting great clouds of sparks, which, carried by a strong breeze were away hundreds of feet, circling around in grotesque shapes and finally dying away, to be followed by what seemed to be an unlimited stream of glowing embers. The scene was one never to be forgotten by those who witnessed it. It was truly one of grandeur, even to the point of sublimity, the glare from the fiery furnace being so

strong that the canopy of the heavens was lighted up for miles around, and causing much speculation on the part of those too far distant to learn the nature of the calamity.

THE TIME WAS SHORT: The rapidity with which the group of cottages was licked up by the tongues of flame was also remarkable. It indeed seemed almost impossible that so vast a devastation could be accomplished in so short a time, for when the flames had spent their anger, nothing but smoldering masses of ruins marked the spots where more than one hundred buildings had stood less than two hours before, and the destruction was complete. The great trees surrounding the cottages aided in spreading the flames, as they rapidly caught fire and the burning embers falling on other buildings as yet unharmed, they were speedily burning briskly and adding to the magnitude of the conflagration.

Among those who were not insured were W. J. Dodge, Mrs. Salisbury, Hiram Belding, Mrs. Montayne, Mrs. Charles E. Gardner.

SCENES AT THE PARK TODAY: The fire has vied with the war in public discussion today, and throngs of people from this city have visited the ruins. Nearly two hundred availed themselves of the opportunity afforded by the morning train to visit the park, where the grounds swarmed with women trying to separate their household goods. It was an intricate task, requiring hard work and an abundance of patience. The trees in the horseshoe circle were not damaged, but those in the big circle were badly scorched, and the scene presented there is one of great desolation. President Hees, Secretary Place, Supt. McKeever and Director Erastus Darling were on hand directing the work.

MANY APPLICATIONS FOR SITES: The railroad officials had many applications this morning for sites on which to build new cottages, and it is their intention to clear the park immediately. A big gang of men will be put to work under the supervision of Landscape Gardener Chapman. New avenues and streets will be laid out, new trees set out, water mains laid, sanitary plumbing put in and everything will be put in first class condition. The new Sacandaga Park will be a fine place and the officials will not lose a moments time in making it so.

PROMPT ACTION TO BE TAKEN: Landlord Ashe went up this morning to prepare for the opening of the Adirondack Hotel and no time will be lost in putting the park in first class shape. In a few weeks it will again be a place of beauty. (*Gloversville Daily Leader*)

051098 **THE NEW SACANDAGA PARK.** Plans For The Future Of The Place – Will Be Rebuilt In Much Finer Style – Clearing Away The Vestiges Of The Fire.

Like the Phoenix rising from its own ashes, so will the new Sacandaga Park soon assume a degree of splendor never before thought of. From the ashes of the conflagration which swept the cottages out of existence, will rise a new domain for summer visitors which will have attractions of a superior character and which will make life in the popular summer resort of vastly increased pleasure.

This morning the board of directors of the F., J. &G. railroad visited the park and it was decided to commence the task of clearing away the debris immediately. The work was commenced with Director Erastus Darling in charge, and he secured a force of lumbermen, woodchoppers and laborers who made things hum about the burned district by the manner in which they felled the damaged trees and cleared away the wreckage, and it will only be a matter of a very short time when the entire fire district will be cleared and all vestiges of the conflagration removed. The directors decided to

move the dancing pavilion from its present location to the new picnic grounds across the track, and the place where it was formerly situated, with the surrounding grove, will be used for cottage sites. It is the intention to build cottages in a circle about the grounds, with a park in the center. Cottages will also be built around the outer edge of the circle of the burned district and in the center another park will also be arranged. Lots will be laid out for cottages with dimensions of 40x60 feet, all arranged in regular order by a surveyor. A complete sewer and water system will be constructed throughout the cottage grounds, and it will be necessary for every cottage to be connected with the systems in order that the sanitary conditions of the park will be of the most improved nature. All applications for cottage sites should be made at the general office of the railroad company in this city and places will be allotted as soon as the grounds are surveyed and the lots laid out.

The railroad company will also transport free until July 1 from Gloversville and Johnstown all lumber and material to be used in building new cottages.

Although the cottage attractions at the park this season will not be very extended, the railroad officials are making every exertion to make the new picnic grounds very attractive, and under the direction of Landscape Artist Chapman and a force of assistants, the new grounds are rapidly assuming a beautiful appearance, and will be a most delightful place for excursionists to visit.

This morning the erection was commenced of a rustic bandstand situated immediately in the rear of the second miniature lake. The stand will be octagon shaped, 18 feet wide and will be covered by a rustic roof. Work on other improvements on the north side of the track is also being pushed rapidly. (*Gloversville Daily Leader*)

051398 THE NEW PARK. – Work Being Rapidly Pushed – Inducements to Cottage Owners. The work of clearing debris from Sacandaga Park has been rapidly pushed forward this week by a big gang of men and those who saw the place last Monday would hardly recognize it today.

Applications have already been received for about thirty cottage sites, and an engineer is now engaged in making a map of the grounds, which will be in ready in a few days.

Those desiring to secure lots on which to build cottages should apply at once, as preferences in location will be given to those who agree to build before July 1.

The officers of the railroad company announce that they will carry all building materials from along their line to the park free of charge. (*Gloversville Daily Leader*)

051498 New pine trees were set out today in the burned district at Sacandaga Park. (*Gloversville Daily Leader*)

051898 President Hees and a number of the directors of the F., J. & G. railroad visited Sacandaga Park today and viewed the improvements which are being made since the fire. The party took dinner at the Lyon House at Northville and returned to this city on the 2:05 train. (*Gloversville Daily Leader*)

051998 SACANDAGA PARK. – The Splendid Improvements Being made There Described In Detail.

The new Sacandaga Park will be a beautiful place. This is a fact that people who have visited the grounds during the past two or three days agree upon. It will be a

place of beauty because the railroad people have spared no labor or expense to make it so, and that they have produced the results in the short time that has elapsed since the recent fire is a cause for wonder and admiration. Those who saw it a week ago would hardly recognize it today. It has been already laid out and maps have been made so that those who desire to build can quickly and easily select a site, and a feature of the map and laying out of the grounds is the fact that under the new arrangement every one of the lots is a most desirable one. The former ground plans have been entirely eliminated and the grounds have been laid out in such a manner that the cottages will all be facing each other. There is a complete horseshoe circle, the open ends coming quite close to the railroad tracks. Inside of this horseshoe there is an inner circle, in which the cottages will be built facing the cottages in the horseshoe, while the inner circle and in the rear of the cottages a neat and handsome park will be laid out. The cottage sites will be 30x60 feet each, ten feet in front of them being reserved for a lawn, while a driveway or walk 15 feet wide will be made in front of the cottages. The distance between the cottages in the horseshoe and the inner circle will vary from 35 to 50 feet. Passing through the entire grounds at right angles will be two broad roadways, bordered on each side with large shade trees, and more than 200 pine trees have already been set out to take the place of those ruined by the fire. The map of the grounds is now at the offices of the F., J. & G. railroad in this city.

It has been decided to allot the sites at the railroad offices between 10 and 12 Saturday morning of this week and the leases will be made at this time only to those who will agree to build before the first of July. Thus it will be seen by this plan that by the time the regular season opens the park will be to a large extent rebuilt. There are, all told, 55 sites, and already there have been about 40 applications, so that the allotment on Saturday promises to be a very lively affair. It is intended that the new cottages shall be of a much higher order than some of those destroyed by the fire, as no cottage will be allowed that costs less than \$300 to build. The railroad company has prepared new leases, which the lessees will be compelled to sign, and the rent for the sites will be \$10 per year, which will include the cost of water, sewers removal of garbage, care of the grounds the year round. Etc. All in all it is quite evident that Sacandaga Park will be more desirable than ever as a summer home and before the summer is over it will be filled with people as of yore.

The work on the new picnic grounds is also progressing rapidly and will be completed in about two weeks. To those who have not visited the park this season this new arrangement of the picnic grounds will be a revelation. The lakes are being filled with water, the rustic work nicely placed, the bridges built and a new bandstand erected. It will be, when opened to the public, the finest pleasure ground in central New York and will no doubt attract many pleasure parties and picnics from the Mohawk Valley and other places. (*Gloversville Daily Leader*)

052198 A Park Reminiscence: Editor Dailey Leader. – The recent conflagration at Sacandaga Park reminds me that once before the same territory was completely burned over. That was in 1874. The first excursion by rail to that place was inaugurated by the Presbyterian Sunday School of Kingsboro, of which Daniel B. Judson was superintendent, and I remember well how we picnicked in the dense woods, spreading our tables on the spot now marked by the handsome new hotel. Then scorched trees and blackened stumps were all around us, but after all, it was one of the best and most enjoyable picnics that ever passed over the road. E. B. D. (*Gloversville Daily Leader*)

052198 THE PARK COTTAGE SITES. The Allotments Made At The Railroad Office This Morning. The allotment of cottage sites at Sacandaga Park occurred this morning at the general offices of the F., J. & G. railroad, and among those who secured lots were: J. J. Garrity of Albany; W. E. Mills, Gloversville; J. O. Schuyler, Fonda; R. M. F. Juno,

Schenectady; G. Baum, Rome; Mrs. Lucy A. Stewart, Troy; F. W. Dart, C. W. Phillips, Charles Allen, Sism & Smith, C. H. Becker, George Harris, Gloversville; W. H. Alfrey, John Sponable, A. Frederick, Johnstown; Mrs. Hicks, Troy. A large number of applications were received from parties who first desire to visit the park before finally accepting their lots. Those who have secured places expect to commence building operations immediately and will receive benefit of free transportation of lumber to the park until July 1. Those who have not made application for cottage sites and desire to can do so at the general offices in this city, where the map of the park can be examined. (*Gloversville Daily Leader*)

- 062198 Saved From The Flames; A Tall Pine at Sacandaga Park Converted into A Flag Pole – Stars and Stripes Will Be Raised. When the recent fire destroyed cottages and trees at Sacandaga Park, a splendid pine tree over 90 feet high was only slightly injured by the flames and the railroad officials decided to cut off the scorched branches and convert the tree into a flag staff. Since that time the pole has been prepared for service, and when it is ready a huge American flag, with dimensions of 10x18 feet, will float from the top, a distance of 90 feet from the ground. The pole is in the center of the new cottage district and has an imposing appearance. The flag was purchased of S. S. Thorp & Co. of New York and arrived today. (*Gloversville Daily Leader*)
- 042199 A large map of Sacandaga Park, with all the new territory plotted out, has been placed in the president's office at the F., J. & G. depot. The map was prepared by Engineer G. E. Yost of Johnstown. (*Gloversville Daily Leader*)
- 050399 The management of the F., J. & G. railroad has announced that until July 1, the company will transport free of charge to Sacandaga Park from Gloversville, Johnstown and Fonda, all building material to be used in the construction of cottages at the park. (*Gloversville Daily Leader*)

Bibliography for Sacandaga Park

Books

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- Bennis, John J., *Northampton, A Town Nearly Drowned." 2001-2002, Private publisher. pp. 63 – 98.*
Decker, Lewis G., *Fulton County: A Pictorial History* Norfolk, VA, Donning Company, 1989. pp. 236 – 245.
Hart, Larry, *The Sacandaga story : a Valley of Yesteryear* : Schenectady, NY : Riedinger & Riedinger, pp. 34 – 40.
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Shaw, Kenneth B. *Northampton, Then and Now; A Pictorial History*. Schenectady, NY : Benche Inc., 1975.
pp. 122 – 147.

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| | 051098 | | 051998 | 042199 |
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| | 051498 | | | |

Other Books not located

Bennis, John J. *History of the Town of Northampton*. 1989

Documents

FJ&G Property Lease Grantee List, Page 2 (**Need better reference from Willem**)

Deeds, Fulton County Archives

Tax Card 130 Lincoln Avenue

| | | |
|--|----------|----------|
| Heidemann, Scott and Swan, Mary Kay | Book 427 | Page 613 |
| Hammes, William and Anna | | |
| Hees, J. Ledlie, Trustee to Hammes, Wm and Anna 8/2/1938 | Book 238 | Page 64 |

Indenture Deed from J. Ledlie Hees, FJ& G RR Company Part of bankruptcy proceeding. Sold for \$595 N 40' E 98.4' N 40.1' w 102/3" as **shown on Map FJ&G Rr Co., Sacandaga Park by Judson Zimmer, 1937.**
Deed calls for minimum annual fee for maintenance, bathing beach, garbage of \$15.
Very long document recorded Sept 14, 1940.

Deed information

Map Index Card from Fulton County tax map office

Map Index Card for 130 Lincoln Avenue

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| Heidemann, Scott and Swan, Mary Kay | 427 | 613 |
| Hammes, William and Anna | | |
| Hees, J. Ledlie, Trustee to Hammes, Wm and Anna 8/2/1938 | 238 | 64 |

Deed to Hammes, Book 238, Page 64

Indenture Deed from J. Ledlie Hees, FJ& G RR Company Part of bankruptcy proceeding. Sold for \$595 N 40' E 98.4' N 40.1' w 102/3" as **shown on Map FJ&G Rr Co., Sacandaga Park by Judson Zimmer, 1937.**

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F. J. & G Railroad Condemned in 1926 for reservoir

FJ&G went in bankruptcy in 1928. Sold remaining cottages

Interesting Map and Deed References

Many properties sold to Ledlie Hees P. 325 in Grantor Book 1897 – 1910 p. 325

Survey of Lands of Ray Hubbell map Map 455, Vol 10 p 3 12/15/25

Wilber E. Flinn and Nellie flinn Map book Vol 14 p 14
Has Geo Wilber's land and School District 2

Osborns Bridge map Map book 14 p 14 Part of tract 657 (leroy's)

HRRD Map book 17A p 12

Sacandaga Park 2 maps Map book 30 p 53