

THE HISTORY OF THE CURE PORCH



Tuberculosis patients on a cure porch.
[HSL Collection, TCR #226]

This project draws on the American cultural tradition of a front porch—a place to visit with neighbors and enjoy the outdoors.

In the early 1900s, Saranac Lake welcomed thousands of tuberculosis patients from around the world to come for the “fresh air cure.” These patients spent most of their time on specially built cure porches that allowed them to experience the restorative effects of fresh air and to socialize with other residents despite the contagious nature of tuberculosis. Today, hundreds of the cure cottages of Saranac Lake are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Cure Porch on Wheels is a symbol of Saranac Lake’s special history and architecture.

THE HISTORY OF THE CURE PORCH

Become a Friend of the Porch and help share Saranac Lake history!

- **Porch Sponsor** \$40: We’ll send you a Porch bumper sticker so you can help us raise awareness!
- **Lead Sponsor** \$100: You can create one prompt-of-the-week for the Story Phone!
- **Business Sponsor** \$130: Your business name and logo will be featured on our website and on one Porch event. You also get a 20% discount on Porch use.
- **Key Sponsor** \$140: We’ll send you a ‘Porch Key’ so you can spend an afternoon on the Porch behind the museum. Pick a date, bring a book, and relax!
- **Porch Patron** \$500: You will receive a print of a painting of the Porch by artist Julie Riker. Display it at home or work and start a conversation about this project!

OUR THANKS

The Cure Porch on Wheels is made possible through the generosity of many individuals, businesses, and foundations. Please visit our website for a complete list of the Cure Porch on Wheels supporters.



HISTORIC SARANAC LAKE

518-891-4606

89 Church Street

Saranac Lake NY 12983

www.historicsaranaclake.org

www.cureporchonwheels.org

cpow@historicsaranaclake.org



HISTORY AND ARTS
ON THE MOVE

A PROJECT BY
HISTORIC SARANAC LAKE

OUR MISSION is to preserve and present area history and architecture to build a stronger community.

The Saranac Laboratory Museum is open year-round,
Tuesday - Saturday, 10:00-5:00.

WHAT IS THE CURE PORCH ON WHEELS?

A MOBILE EXHIBIT SPACE

The Cure Porch on Wheels is a symbol of Saranac Lake's unique architecture and heritage. Historic Saranac Lake brings the Porch to the hamlets, neighborhoods, and special places of the North Country for programs that raise awareness of local architecture and history. The Porch allows us to move beyond the walls of our organizations to connect with the public in new places.



Children from Kids R Us daycare visit Cure Porch on Wheels behind the Saranac Laboratory at 89 Church St.

AN ORAL HISTORY BOOTH

The Cure Porch on Wheels also serves as a venue to record the stories of community members as part of Historic Saranac Lake's Oral History Project. The Porch is home to the Story Phone, an antique wall phone that records and plays two minute stories. Press the red button on the side of the phone and share your story or answer to the prompt of the week. Press the green button and listen a selection of pre-recorded stories.

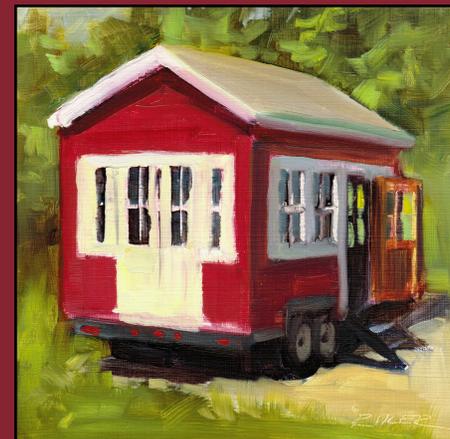
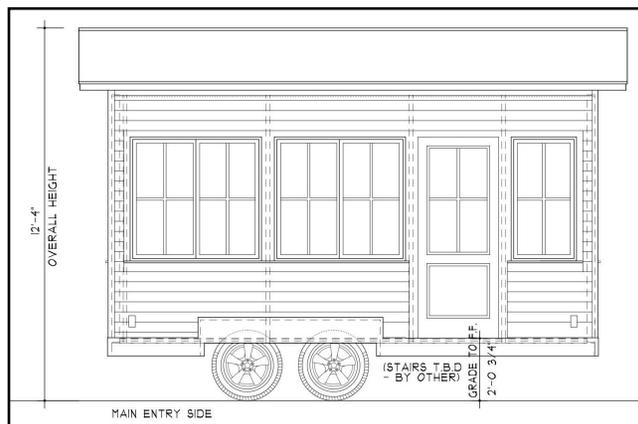
A HOW-TO GUIDE TO BUILDING YOUR MOBILE SPACE

A National Endowment for the Arts grant supported the design of the Cure Porch on Wheels in 2016. We worked with an engineer and designer to carefully plan the Porch to include elements that make it durable, easy to move, and usable year-round.

Special features include:

- a heavy duty trailer designed especially for tiny houses
- a steel frame for strength
- a wheelchair lift
- electric lights and electrical outlets
- solar power
- a propane heater

We want to help other arts and culture organizations build their own mobile spaces! The project is a replicable prototype of a mobile space. The design plans are available online along with a how-to guide that includes many lessons learned! See the guide at: www.cureporchonwheels.org/how-to-guide.html



A plein air painting of the Porch, by artist Julie Riker.

USE THE PORCH

The Cure Porch on Wheels is available for use by other organizations and individuals for public and private events for a reasonable rental fee.

The possible uses are many! The Porch can serve as a warming hut at outdoor winter activities, a studio for plein air painters, a phone charging station for an event in a remote location, or a stage backdrop for outdoor concerts.

Visit our Reserve page at www.cureporchonwheels.org/reserve.html to see the Porch specifications and to contact us about renting the Porch!



The Cure Porch on Wheels is made possible by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature.