

FUNGUS ART: “CHAPEL + INFIRMARY” OVERVIEW OF THE OBJECTS

Repository: Crandall Public Library.
Folklife Center
Glens Falls, NY.

Creator: Walter Jagarfski

Title: Fungus Art: “Chapel + Infirmary”

Dates: 1937

Quantity: 1 item 12 inches x 5 ¾ inches

Identification: Folk Art

HISTORICAL NOTE

Mount McGregor is a mountain in Saratoga County, New York in the towns of Milton, Moreau, and Corinth. It is one of the principal peaks of the Palmertown Range. The “Sanatorium on the Mountain” at Mount McGregor was opened in 1913 by the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company for the benefit of its employees suffering from tuberculosis. This sanitarium, fully staffed by doctors and a nursing staff, had a goal of restoring the health of all the company’s employees. A labyrinth of underground passages still exists that were used to transport the bodies of patients who died to the church and crematorium. The sanitarium closed in 1945. The site was subsequently used for several different facilities, including, from 1976 to 2013, a medium-security correctional facility. The mountain is also the location of Grant Cottage State Historic Site, the place where President Grant died in 1885.

INDEX TERMS

Topics: Fungus art
Art from nature

Places: Mt. McGregor, Saratoga County, New York

Important People: Jagarski, Walter

Form/Genre: 3 dimensional art piece

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Preferred Citation: Fungus Art: “Chapel + Infirmary”

Folklife Center
Crandall Public Library, Glens Falls, NY.

Accession Information: Acquired in Greenwich, Washington County, NY circa 2015, along with another piece of fungus art inscribed "Mt. McGregor, NY, E.D. Smith."

Processing Information: Described by Erica Gonyea, 2019

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE OBJECTS

Fungus art is made from a parasitic bracket mushroom (genus *Formes*) etched while fresh and then dried.

The scene on this piece shows a snow-covered chapel and infirmary, and is inscribed: Chapel + Infirmary by Walter Jagarfski Aug. 22, 1937.

Note: The buildings on the right, along with the shape of the chapel tower, are a match to images on postcards of the sanitarium on Mount McGregor, 1913 – 1945.

Related Collections:

2 other fungus art pieces:

Mt. McGregor

Bear in the Woods