Documentation of the Exterior Changes Made to the 1894 Dr. Edward Livingston Trudeau Building
118 Main Street Saranac Lake NY

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North elevation on Main Street

The North elevation retains much of its original character. Windows and doors are in their historic locations. The original wood siding has been covered with vinyl siding. The painted wood window trim is unchanged although the original windows have been replaced. The roof cornice is mostly unchanged and is articulated with Italianate brackets above a simple frieze and architrave, all of which are painted wood. The original semi-circular entry portico with balustrade has been replaced by a gable-roofed entry porch that is closed on the sides. The main entry door is not original. The ornate oval leaded glass sidelights described in the 1992 NRHP nomination are missing and the decorative cornice above the door has been damaged by the new gable roof. The entry walk to the front door has been configured as a sloping ramp for accessibility by people with disabilities.
East elevation on Church Street

The East elevation has had significant changes from the early construction. The main building roof has a hip roof, originally with cedar shingles. The southern element (left part on historic photo) has a low-slope roof and may have been an early addition (note the difference in window sizes); this roof was later changed to match the slope of the hip roof. A recent one-story element has been added on the south side. A window in the original building has been replaced by an entry. The bay window (or oriel) in the original building, which was cantilevered above the water table, appears to have been modified by extending the interior floor into the space. Through-wall air conditioning units have been added in several locations.
West elevation - Early Changes

The West elevation has seen the most significant changes from the original building and many of these changes have obscured or replaced historic fabric. In the earliest photo (lower left), there is a strong relationship between the north and west elevations. The entry portico on the northeast is visually balanced by the three-bay open porch on the southwest corner. The second floor window placements are symmetrical on each elevation and the west has an oval window at its center.

The first documented changes on this elevation can be seen in the lower right (undated but pre-1915) photo of Dr. Trudeau and his wife in their carriage. The southern-most bay of the original open porch has been enclosed and an addition with a bay window has been made on the south west corner. The porch and addition have a balustrade that was not original, but visually unifies these two elements.
West elevation - Later Changes

The historic photo at right, dated 1931, documents several changes to the west elevation. A glass-enclosed cure porch, with angled walls, has been added at the second level, supported by a corner column and partially extending over the original first floor open porch and bay window. The roof balustrade over this first floor porch and earlier addition have been replaced with a sloped standing seam metal roof, which can also be seen on the main roof, replacing the original cedar shingles.

The two lower current day photos demonstrate that many subsequent changes were made, including enclosing the remaining portion of the open porch and extending this added interior space (note the concrete block foundation), extending a cantilevered portion of the second floor cure porch, adding a new exterior entrance that replaces a window in the 1931 photo, and a further one-story addition on the south end of the west elevation. The metal roof has been replaced with asphalt shingles.
South elevation

The original south elevation of the building is obscured by two one-story additions. The addition on the south west (left in the upper right photo), was the first, as can be seen from the stone foundation. The floor level in this addition is lower than that of the main building. A subsequent addition to this element is the open stair and enclosed porch/vestibule.

The addition on the south east (right), is the last major change to the exterior. This portion uses mid-late 20th-century building materials and construction techniques.

Electrical service to the building is fed from a power pole behind the adjacent Trudeau laboratory building, overhead to the main service entrance between these two one-story elements.