

Penland Line

PENLAND SCHOOL OF CRAFTS • POST OFFICE BOX 37 • PENLAND • NORTH CAROLINA • 28765-0037 • SPRING 2000



Headless of the weather, Appalachian Building Services began assembly the day the steel components were delivered.

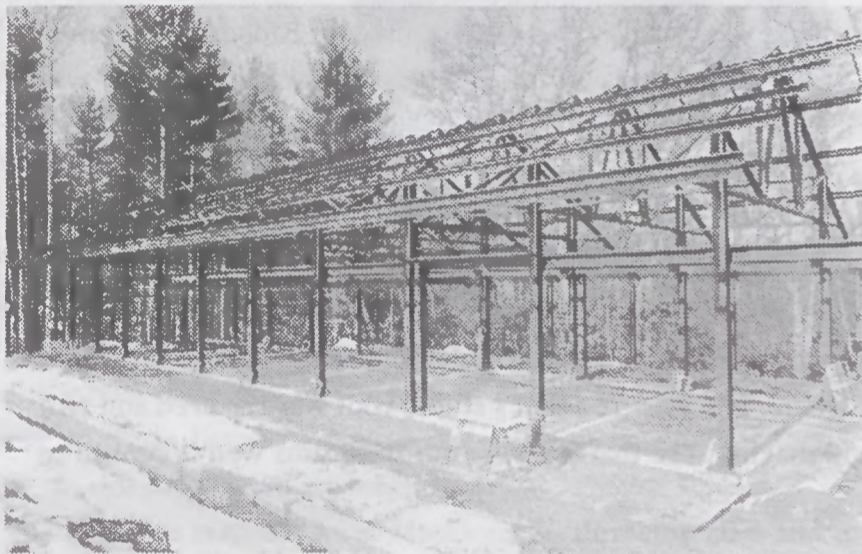
New Iron, Part III: Construction

Out of forty-two buildings at Penland only a handful have been built since 1970, so new construction tends to be a big event here. Watching the very smooth construction of the new iron studio has been especially gratifying. It began with clearing, grading, and then a complex layout of foundation, retaining walls, grade beams, and hundreds of carefully placed anchor bolts. There was a bit of a delay waiting for the fabricators to finish the steel components, and then another brief delay when one of the steel delivery trucks slipped off of Penland School Road in the snow.

Since the first post went up in mid-January the project has moved quickly. The structure was assembled with bolts and welds, the metal roof panels were lifted into place with a crane, and an amazing spider web of electric,

water, and gas lines was laid out prior to pouring the slab. The interior walls are going in and there is now a good sense of the space. It's going to be a great place to work, learn, and teach.

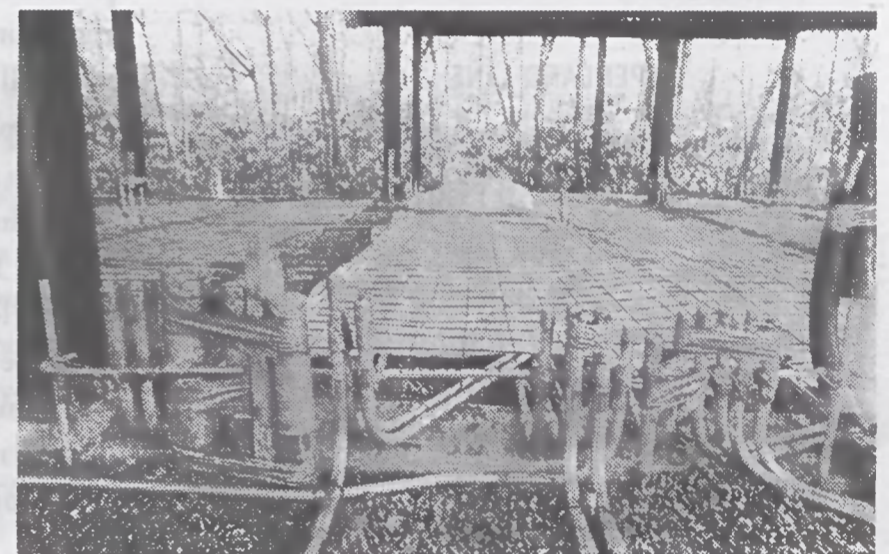
We have raised \$450,000 of the \$625,000 needed for construction and equipment, including a \$150,000 challenge grant from the Meyer Family Foundation, \$150,000 from a portion of the special appropriation Penland received from the 1998 NC General Assembly, and a \$25,000 grant from the James G. Hanes Memorial Foundation. A number of donors have made generous contributions and forty-four artists directed the proceeds from their 1999 benefit auction contributions to the new building. If you would like to help us complete our goal, please contact the development office.



The building's skeleton went together like a giant Erector set with huge bolts and spot welds. The long horizontal beams will support the motorized crane.



Even a large steel building gets put together by hand. Contractor Paul Convery is fastening roof panels with a powder-activated nail gun.



These are just a few of the utility lines that had to be placed under the concrete slab floor.



One hundred and three yards of concrete; let's see that will take about fifteen mixer trucks, a concrete pump, a big crew, and a very long day.



Resident Artist Hoss Haley is building much of the equipment for the studio. Here he's sandblasting the used industrial crane which was donated to the project by Don and Karen Walker.



The foreground of this picture shows the forging area; behind it is the fabrication space flanked by classroom, office, bathrooms, and storage.

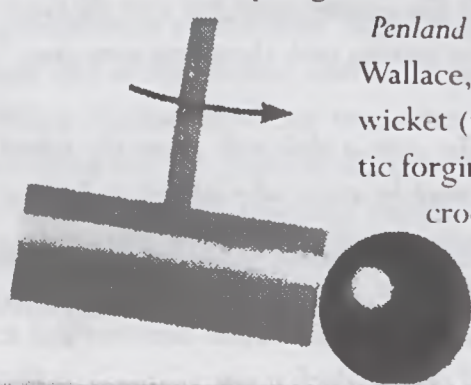
A Game, A Party, An Auction

Croquet as a public sport suffered a setback in the 1890s when the Boston clergy spoke out against the drinking, gambling, and licentious behavior associated with it on the Common. —U.S. Croquet Association

On Sunday, April 30 from 1-5 PM, Penland's new iron studio will be celebrated with a party and a re-creation of the iron croquet game that literally got the ball rolling in 1979. As reported in the summer 1998

Penland Line, a group of intrepid iron pioneers, led by Bill Brown, Jr. and Jim Wallace, invited anyone who could pick up a hammer to make an iron croquet wicket (the simplest item they could think of). At the end of a weekend of frantic forging, they rounded up some cast iron balls and sledge hammers and held a croquet tournament that would have made the Boston clergy faint of heart.

All of this was, of course, a calculated attempt to demonstrate that there would be an interest in iron classes at Penland.



We hope that our restaging of this historic event will capture some of the original spirit, but this time the forged iron wickets (which will make handsome garden sculptures) are being supplied by over fifty of the finest iron and metal workers we could round up.

Blues music and North Carolina barbeque will complete the festive atmosphere of the day. After the dedication of the new studio (which won't be quite complete yet), the tournament and a simultaneous silent auction of the wickets will commence on the lawn between the Pines and the Dye Shed. Fierce competition will doubtless mark the play as well as the bidding for these one-of-a-kind wicket sculptures.

Tickets are \$25 and must be purchased or reserved by April 24. Please call 828.765.2359, ext. 34 for reservations or additional details. Complete list of wicket makers available on the Penland web site: www.penland.org

It is always compulsory at clubs to wear flat-soled shoes to avoid damage to the court surface. All other clothing is left to the choice of the individual, but whites are normally worn at tournaments and club matches. Clothing should not restrict or impede the swing of the mallet. Rain does not stop play. —W. E. Lamb