

CORNERSTONE

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AGC
THE CONSTRUCTION
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AWARD WINNER

SARATOGA RACE COURSE: 1863 CLUB



TEAM MEMBERS

General Contractor: MLB Construction Services, LLC

Owner: New York State Racing Association

Project Architect: SOSH Architects and Frost Hurff Architects

Project Engineer: HM3 Engineering Consultants

Contributing Team Members: MLB Construction Superintendent, Mike Washburn

Over 150 years of historical magnificence in Saratoga Springs sits at the New York Racing Authorities' Saratoga Race Course. Racing began in Saratoga Springs in 1863 located on Union Avenue. The Saratoga Race Course is steeped in history and is known to be one of the oldest sporting venues in the country. MLB Construction Services, LLC was honored to be part of the significant transformation that took place at the track in 2018 as the General Contractor for the 1863 Club.



The 1863 Club was designed by SOSH Architects from New York City and local historic preservation architect, Frost Hurff Architects of Saratoga Springs. This project was designed and constructed to preserve the historic landscape of the Saratoga Race Course. The site was once the popular "At the Rail Tent" Pavilion at Saratoga Race Course. MLB worked through the grueling winter months to get the foundations in place and literally had a race to the finish to get the project completed before opening

day. The project schedule was fast-tracked, and for the first time in history and unknown at bid time, the track opened two weeks earlier than ever before.

All hands were on deck, 7 days a week, through weekends and holidays. Not only was this a huge project for Saratoga Springs, but one of MLB's toughest projects in its, at the time, 72-year history. The 1863 Club is one of the largest single investments to be made at the track since the Clubhouse in 1928. MLB Construction was awarded the contract to complete this proposed two-year project in just 9 months, all while preserving the historic character of the Saratoga Race Course.

The 52,488 square foot, three-story luxury facility overlooks the track with a pedestrian bridge over the paddock that connects to the existing Clubhouse. The below grade 10,800 sf area consists of a deluxe basement kitchen, refrigerated coolers and freezers, storage and offices. The 16,386 sf first floor is a buffet style banquet space called, The Rail, which can accommodate up to 500 guests. Additionally, guests can access trackside seating from the first floor.

The 12,667 sf second-floor club, named the Legends Hall, can hold up to 100 guests. Legends Hall gives guests a perfect view with floor to ceiling windows along with walkout balconies. The Founders' Room is also located on the second floor. This is an exclusive member only club for Saratoga's box holders who wish to enhance their day at the races. This floor also includes a pedestrian bridge spanning the centuries to the historic clubhouse and grandstand.

AWARD WINNER

SARATOGA RACE COURSE: 1863 CLUB

The 11,885 sf third-floor offers six luxury suites designed for groups of 17 to 50; all including private balconies overlooking the race track. Each suite also includes high-end finishes, installed by MLB Construction, and access to the common bar and lounge area.

Other notable features of the 1863 Club are the addition of countless flat screen TV's and tablets with internet access for online betting capabilities on each floor, the Diversakore structural system and trackside curtain wall system to view the beautiful race track. The copper roof installed on the 1863 Club also won the 2019 Project of the Year Award from ATAS International.

MLB put together a dedicated construction team consisting of 22 Union Contractors, and 20 NYS Contractors, most of who were based within 30 miles of Saratoga. MLB's relationship with NYRA, the design team, the Unions, and their subcontractors helped drive and fortify their commitment to exceed expectations. With the dedicated and skilled local workforce and craftsmen willing to work long hours, weekends and even holidays, MLB had the winning ticket that built the bridge connecting the 1863 Club to the historic grandstand to make this project nothing short of a success.

