



Photos courtesy of the FRIENDS OF NASEN SKI JUMP

The Friends of Nansen Ski Jump send off Sarah Hendrickson on Feb. 6 to the 2018 Winter Olympics. Hendrickson's connection to New Hampshire is that her parents grew up in Plymouth. Her story is intertwined with the story of American women's ski jumping - and its ongoing struggles to become an Olympic event despite the fact that men have competed in Olympic ski jumping since 1924 - the first Winter Games.

# 'Sleeping Giant'

## Can the first female Olympic ski jumper help bring jumping back to N.H.?

*"Being part of that historic moment with those 29 other women from across the world was kind of like breathing a sigh of relief that we finally got our foot in the door." - Sarah Hendrickson, Olympic ski jumper*

The "Sleeping Giant" awakes!

New Hampshire's most dramatic winter Olympic icon - the Nansen Ski Jump, site of the 1938 Olympic Trials, nicknamed "The Sleeping Giant" - is coming alive, awakened from a 40-year sleep through collaborative efforts in historic preservation, simultaneously bringing women's ski jumping into the limelight. Timing could not better - as the 2018 Winter Games inspired the project.

Built in 1936 by the city of Berlin and the National Youth Administration, and named for a Norwegian explorer who skied across Greenland, the Nansen Ski Jump - at 171 feet high with a 312-foot outrun - was the tallest free-standing ski jump in the world. At its completion in time for the 1938 Olympic trials held in Berlin, it attracted 25,000 spectators



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with events announced on 87 radio stations. The Nansen Ski Jump regained its prominence by hosting four national championships before 1973. It was closed in 1988.

Four years ago, the Friends of the Nansen Ski Jump and the city of Berlin collaborated with the New Hampshire Bureau of Historic Sites - a division of the New Hampshire Division of Parks and Recreation - to begin plans to partially restore and facilitate the opening of the Nansen Ski Jump as a spectator-only State Park, with the state's investment of \$150,000.

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Sarah Hendrickson jumps off the Nansen Ski Jump on March 7, 2017. Three days ago, at PyeongChang, the two-time Olympian finished 19th, with a final jump of 86 meters.

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