

563259

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.



1. Name of Property

Historic name: Mt. Battie Tower
Other names/site number: Memorial Tower
Name of related multiple property listing: N/A
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

Street & number: at the summit loop of Mt. Battie Road Camden Hills State Park
City or town: Camden State: Maine County: Knox
Not For Publication: N/A Vicinity: N/A

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:
 national statewide local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

A B C D

<u>Kurt F. Mohney, SHPO</u>	<u>11/8/2018</u>
Signature of certifying official/Title:	Date
MAINE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION	
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official:	Date
Title	State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

Mt. Battie Tower

Name of Property


Knox County, Maine

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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:)



Signature of the Keeper



Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing

Noncontributing

buildings

sites

1_____

structures

objects

1_____

0_____

Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0_____

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

RECREATION AND CULTURE: monument/marker

LANDSCAPE: street furniture/object

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

RECREATION AND CULTURE: monument/marker

LANDSCAPE: street furniture/object

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

OTHER: Rustic

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Foundation: stone, Walls: stone/granite, Roof: concrete

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

Mt. Battie Tower is a cylindrical, rustic style, stone tower atop 800' tall Mt. Battie in Camden Hills State Park, Knox County, Maine. Mt. Battie is at the south end of the park overlooking downtown Camden, Camden Harbor and Penobscot Bay. The tower is reached by walking trail or automobile road. The area surrounding the tower is a mix of exposed rock and lawn with parking around the loop road to the north. The tower rises above the surrounding trees for views of the forested hills and the islands of Penobscot Bay. Parker Morse Hooper designed the 24' tall and 19' diameter tower in the Rustic Style. The tower has six arches around its exterior with the southern three open and the northern three blind. The vertical granite stone walls laid in a random ashlar pattern rise in the same plane until the top row of crenellation which projects slightly to the exterior. Four circular steps radiate out around the tower creating a base and providing access to the three open arches. A concrete stair spirals up the north interior wall to reach the concrete viewing deck. A concrete bench is beneath the rise of the stair along the north wall. The tower is in good condition and retains a high level of all seven aspects of integrity.

Mt. Battie Tower

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Narrative Description

Setting

Camden Hills State Park is an approximately 5,700 acre park north of downtown Camden, Knox County, Maine. The park includes Mt. Battie to the south and Mt. Megunticook to the north with access to Penobscot Bay to the east. The forested park is laced with walking trails. To the northeast of Mt. Battie is the main entrance to the camping area and an automobile road to the top of the mountain. At the southern side of the mountain below the tower is densely built up downtown Camden and its harbor. Mt. Battie itself is forest covered and is surrounded by other forested hills to the north and west. There are views of the Atlantic Ocean to the south and of Penobscot Bay and associated islands to the east. The presence of an 800' mountain so near the ocean is an unusual occurrence along the east coast of the U.S.

The summit of Mt. Battie around the tower is exposed rock and gravel for an approximate 50' radius around the tower. Extending outward the terrain shifts to grass and shrub covered ground before shifting to mature trees to the north and west. To the north of the tower the auto road ends in a loop with wide shoulders for parking. The tower can also be reached by a hiking trail up the south face of the mountain. The area around the switchbacks of the trail are exposed rock and low growing shrubs and grass. This low growth allows views from the trail and provides a clear view to the south even from ground level at the base of the tower.

Tower

The tower is constructed of solid, 2' thick, load bearing stone walls. The foundation is not visible but circling the tower from grade level to the ground floor are four rings of granite steps in increasingly smaller concentric rings which terminate at the side walls of the round plan building. The steps provide access to the interior at the three open south facing arches. Three blind arches to the north are filled with slightly inset matching granite. Each arch is 6' wide and 10' tall. The voussoirs, columns and other surfaces of the side walls are in the same plane with the exception of the projecting top row which slightly overhangs the outside of the side wall as crenellation. A bronze plaque is placed on the exterior wall above the center arch. The plaque reads, "In grateful recognition of the service rendered by the men and women of Camden in the World War 1916-1918 The Mount Battie Association has erected this tower for an enduring memorial 1921."

The interior wall finishes of the tower are the same exposed granite masonry as the exterior walls. From the east side of the concrete floor a twenty-six step, concrete stair winds up the outside wall to the west. A metal balustrade winds along the stringer to the concrete floor/ceiling above. Under the stair along the north wall is a simple concrete bench. Through the opening on the ceiling the viewing deck provides a 360° view. The floor opening of the viewing deck is enclosed with the same metal balustrade, and the 3' tall wall of the crenelated stone parapet encircles the floor.

The only known repairs to the tower are the 2016 repointing, stair repair, and replacement of the metal balustrade. The tower retains a high level of integrity for all seven aspects of integrity.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions.)

ENTERTAINMENT / RECREATION

Period of Significance

1921 - 1968

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person (Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Hooper, Parker Morse, architect (1877-1966)

Tolman, Andrew M., contractor

Wood, Charles A., and Gershom Walden, masons

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph

(Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.) (Refer to photographs)

Mt. Battie Tower overlooks downtown Camden, Knox County, Maine and the Atlantic Ocean to the south. The Rustic Style granite tower is an open shelter and viewing platform in Camden Hills State Park. While the tower was dedicated as a memorial to World War I service men and women, it was also designed as a viewing platform atop Mt. Battie replacing a former wood viewing tower. The tower is eligible for listing in the National Register under Criterion A for Recreation/Entertainment. Travel to the top of Mt. Battie to enjoy the view occurred before there was a permanent building on the site; however, this tower replaced a prior building, the Summit House. After almost 100 years of use, the Mt. Battie tower has become strongly associated with the view from Mt. Battie's summit. Although originally constructed as a memorial tower, the structure meets Criteria Consideration F: Commemorative Properties. The tower has a non-commemorative function as a viewing tower and is significant for its long standing traditional and symbolic association with the celebrated view from Mt. Battie.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Camden like many towns on the Maine coast began to transition to a tourist economy during the mid nineteenth-century as the profitability of early agricultural, industrial and fishing activities declined. Camden with its unique combination of mountain and ocean geography was noted early on for its picturesque qualities. The Camden Hills are a group of several hills or mountains, one of which bears a Native American name Mt. Megunticook which translates as "big mountain harbor."¹ Megunticook is taller than Mt. Battie but north of it and further removed from the harbor and town which are at the foot of the southeast face of Mt. Battie. The hill or mountain as it is called rises to 800' above sea level and provides beautiful views while being easily accessed from town.

In T. R. Simonton's *Tourist's Guide of Picturesque Camden* published in 1886, there is a section on Mt. Battie discussing the two paths to the summit and "the grand views to be enjoyed by the tourist."² Although the summit was a destination at that time, there was no shelter mentioned until 1897. In that year, Columbus Buswell built a carriage road to the summit and constructed the Summit House which incorporated a viewing tower. The hotel and viewing tower were open to the public and obviously intended to capitalize on tourism related to the view. As suggested by the 1886 quote above, summer residents had discovered Camden with many building summer homes. A group of prominent summer and local residents came together to preserve Mt. Battie which overlooked their properties.

¹ Phillip R. Rutherford. *The Dictionary of Maine Place-Names*. Freeport, ME: Bond Wheelwright Company, 1970, p. 107.

² T.R. Simonton, *Tourist's Guide of Picturesque Camden on the Coast of Maine*. Camden, ME: Camden Herald Print, 1886, p 11.

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The Mt. Battie Association was incorporated in 1899, “for the purpose of acquiring Mt. Battie, the central feature of Camden’s scenery, saving it from any desecration, and preserving it in its natural beauty for the enjoyment of all.”³ The group acquired sixty acres around the summit and purchased Buswell’s road and hotel. The group updated the Summit House and renamed it the Club House. The carriage road and grounds were open to the public as was the Club House which operated as both hotel and restaurant. The Association operated the Club House until it became unprofitable. With the privately owned carriage road to the summit difficult to maintain and the increasingly unprofitable wooden hotel subject to vandalism, it was demolished in 1920.

During the following year, the Association had the current tower built as a memorial to the local men and women who served in World War I. The plans were drawn by architect and summer resident Parker Morse Hooper. Parker Morse Hooper, a New York City architect from 1908 to 1925, was born in Fall River, Massachusetts. His father William Foster Hooper was born in Fall River, but his mother Isabelle Henry Morse was born in Bath, ME. The elder Hoopers maintained a summer home in Camden which Parker later inherited. He designed several summer homes in Camden in addition to the Mt. Battie tower and collaborated on the design of the public library.

The tower was inspired by an old stone tower in Touro Park, Newport, Rhode Island.⁴ That tower is believed to be the base of a windmill, but as it stands now is very similar in design and materials to the Mt. Battie tower. See Figure 2. The Rustic Style design of the Mt. Battie tower could have been influenced by then contemporary designs of National Park buildings in the western parks. However, the similarities between the two towers suggests that the Mt. Battie Tower owes its appearance and design to the inspiration of the Touro Park Tower rather than exploration of the NPS Rustic Style. At any rate, the durable stone viewing tower blends with the natural setting of the Association’s sixty acres accommodating their goal to preserve the natural beauty while at the same time make it available to all. The tower also provides at least minimal shelter in its durable, vandalism-resistant, stone and concrete construction. At the same time, the tower quickly became the structure associated with Mt. Battie and its summit view.

The Camden Herald noted the dedication of the tower in the July 14, 1921 issue stating, “From the look-out of the tower one has one of the most magnificent views in the world.”⁵ The view from Mt. Battie’s summit has remained largely unchanged, and the long association of the current tower with that view is firmly linked. The tower and view are mentioned together in tourist brochures from its construction to the present day. The tower figures prominently on maps included in tourist brochures of the 1940s and 50s. See Figure 3. Post cards of Camden often feature the tower itself or include the tower in a broad view out from or toward the mountain. The current town seal also includes a representation of the tower atop Mt. Battie with the bay in the foreground. The repeated visual representations of the tower have established a close connection between the view from the summit and the identity of the tower. While it may seem that the repeated imagery created the link between the tower and view, the

³ J.R. Prescott, *Glimpses of Camden on the Maine Coast*. Newtonville, MA: J.R. Prescott, publisher, 1904. P. 54.

⁴ *Camden Herald* (Camden, ME), “Mt. Battie Memorial Tower,” July 14, 1921.

⁵ *Ibid.*

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relationship of tower and view was an immediate iconic representation of tourism and recreation in Camden that the images only perpetuate.

The connection between the tower and the natural view developed at a time when access to the summit was less accessible. The carriage road that existed at the time the tower was built was in poor repair and quickly deteriorated making it useable only to four-wheel drive vehicles during fair weather. It eventually reverted to a hiking trail as it remains today although not following exactly the same course. A shorter, straighter trail closer to downtown was and is also available directly up the south face to the summit. In general, the tower was accessible only on foot from 1921 to 1964 when the current automobile road was created. Touting the tower and associated view in the tourist literature of the 1940s and 50s illustrates its importance even without easy access. While the creation of the 1964 road, points to the significance of the tower as an important tourist destination.

The Mt. Battie summit and tower appear to be within park boundaries on the Camden Hills Recreational Demonstration Project Master Plan dated 1936. However, the plan states it is a record of all development opportunities. In later State Park maps the boundary excludes the tower and summit. Based on the Knox County Registry of Deeds, the Mt. Battie Association property was not deeded to the State until a quit claim deed was filed on September 27, 1984. Since the Association property was open to the public, it appears the tower and associated lands were used as park lands though not officially deeded to the State until later. Based on Corporation records, the Mt. Battie Association fell dormant for many years sometime after 1924 and was resumed in 1984 to transfer the property to the State of Maine before dissolving in 1985.

Such hikes or drives to a scenic vista were and still are a common excursion in Camden and the surrounding area. The associated hills like Mt. Megunticook also had popular hiking trails and views from the summit or other outlooks like Maiden Cliff at its west face. Further away in the neighboring town of Rockport, Beech Hill provides a similar hiking experience. The National Register listed Beechnut Hut Historic District (NR # 03000617) provides a summit view from Beech Hill with a unique building. These and other local hikes to scenic outlooks were and continue to be common pastimes for locals and tourists around the Camden Hills.

Developmental history/additional historic context information (If appropriate.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Camden Herald (Camden, ME), "Mt. Battie Memorial Tower," July 14, 1921.

Mt. Battie Tower

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Conkling, Philip. *Where the Mountains Meet the Sea: A History of the Camden Area 1900-2000*. Camden, ME: Edward J. Walsh History Center, 2009.

Griffin, Pamela J. *Recommendations for the Rehabilitation of Selected Trails at Camden Hills State Park*. Unpublished report: prepared for State of Maine, Department of Conservation, Bureau of Parks and Lands, Summer 2002.

Maine Historic Preservation Commission. Camden ephemera collection.

Munson, Gorham. "Penobscot Sentinel: Mt. Battie." In *Camden – Rockport Bicentennial 1769 – 1969*. Camden, ME: Camden Herald Publishing Co., 1969.

Prescott, J.R. *Glimpses of Camden on the Maine Coast*. Newtonville, MA: J.R. Prescott, publisher, 1904.

Prescott, J.R. *Glimpses of Camden on the Maine Coast*. Newtonville, MA: J.R. Prescott, publisher, 1916.

Rutherford, Phillip R. *The Dictionary of Maine Place-Names*. Freeport, ME: Bond Wheelwright Company, 1970.

Simonton, T.R. *Tourist's Guide of Picturesque Camden on the Coast of Maine*. Camden, ME: Camden Herald Print, 1886.

Webber, John W. 1948. *The High Mountains of Penobscot: Notes on the Camden Hills*. [Place of publication not identified]: Appalachia.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: _____

Mt. Battie Tower
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Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): 073-0240

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property less than one acre

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84:
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- | | |
|--------------|------------|
| 1. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 2. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 3. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 4. Latitude: | Longitude: |

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

- | | | |
|-------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. Zone: 19 | Easting: 494475 | Northing: 4896620 |
| 2. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The boundary includes the structure and the immediate surrounding land to a distance of 50' from the center point of the structure. See Figure 1.

Mt. Battie Tower

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Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The Mt. Battie Association originally owned 60 acres around the tower. The remainder of this land was undeveloped. The current boundary only includes the structure and its immediate surrounding. The larger natural area of the mountain and views are important to the structure but these natural features and the extent of the view are not included based on National Register guidance.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Michael Goebel-Bain / Architectural Historian
organization: Maine Historic Preservation Commission
street & number: 55 Capitol Street, 65 State House Station
city or town: Augusta state: Maine zip code: 04333-0065
e-mail: michael.w.goebel-bain@maine.gov
telephone: 207 287-5435
date: October 5, 2018

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Mt. Battie Tower

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Photo Log

Name of Property: Mt. Battie Tower

City or Vicinity: Camden

County: Knox State: Maine

Photographer: Michael Goebel-Bain

Date Photographed: October 10, 2018

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

- 1 of 4 ME_KNOX COUNTY_MT BATTIE TOWER.001.tif Exterior view, facing west.
- 2 of 4 ME_KNOX COUNTY_MT BATTIE TOWER.002.tif Exterior view, facing east.
- 3 of 4 ME_KNOX COUNTY_MT BATTIE TOWER.003.tif View from exterior through arch to stairway and bench, facing northwest.
- 4 of 4 ME_KNOX COUNTY_MT BATTIE TOWER.004.tif View from viewing platform, facing south.

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Mt. Battie Tower

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Mt. Battie Tower
Camden, Knox County, Maine
5 October 2018

UTMS NAD 83 19 / 494475 / 4896620



Mt. Battie Tower
Name of Property

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Figure 1 Mt. Battie Tower with boundary indicated

Mt. Battie Tower
Name of Property

Knox County, Maine
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Figure 2 Touro Tower, Newport, R.I.

Mt. Battie Tower
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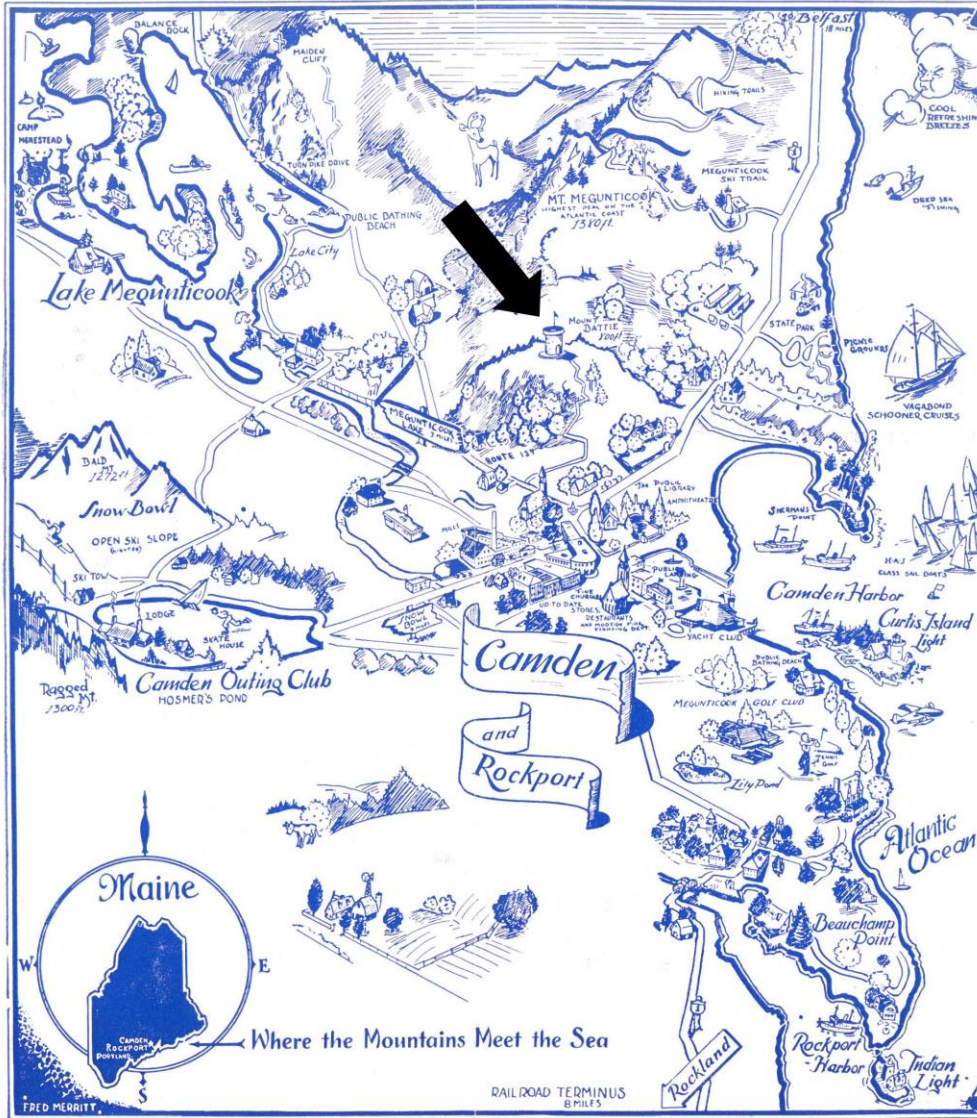


Figure 3 1951 Tourist Map with added black arrow indicating Mt. Battie Tower









UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action: Nomination

Property Name: Mt. Battie Tower

Multiple Name: _____

State & County: MAINE, Knox

Date Received: 11/14/2018 Date of Pending List: 1/28/2019 2:45:52 PM Date of 16th Day: 12/26/2018 Date of 45th Day: 12/31/2018 Date of Weekly List: _____

Reference number: SG100003259

Nominator: SHPO

Reason For Review:

X Accept Return Reject 12/31/2018 Date

Abstract/Summary
Comments: _____

Recommendation/
Criteria: _____

Reviewer Roger Reed  Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2278 Date _____

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.



MAINE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
55 CAPITOL STREET
65 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333

PAUL R. LEPAGE
GOVERNOR

KIRK F. MOHNEY
DIRECTOR

13 November 2018

Control Unit
National Register of Historic Places
Mail Stop 7228
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240

Control Unit:

Enclosed please find two National Register nominations for properties in the State of Maine.

Mt. Battie Tower, Knox County, Maine – submitted on disk. The enclosed disk contains the true and correct copy of the nomination for Mt. Battie Tower to the National Register of Historic Places. A second CD contains the digital images. A hard copy signature page is included.

Boarding House and Storehouse at Churchill Depot, Piscataquis County, Maine – submitted on disk. The enclosed disk contains the true and correct copy of the nomination for Boarding House and Storehouse at Churchill Depot to the National Register of Historic Places. A second CD contains the digital images. A hard copy signature page is included.

If you have any questions relating to these nominations, please do not hesitate to contact me at (207) 287-5435.

Sincerely,

Michael Goebel-Bain
Architectural Historian

Enc.