

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

JUN 3 1983

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic HEUBLEIN TOWER

and/or common HEUBLEIN TOWER

2. Location

street & number Talcott Mountain State Park N/A not for publication

city, town Simsbury N/A vicinity of First Congressional District

state Connecticut code 09 county Hartford code 003

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name State of Connecticut, Dept. of Environmental Protection, Parks & Recreation Unit

street & number State Office Building

city, town Hartford N/A vicinity of state Connecticut

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Simsbury Town Hall

street & number 760 Hopmeadow Street

city, town Simsbury state Connecticut

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title State Register of Historic Places has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1983 federal state county local

depository for survey records Connecticut Historical Commission

city, town Hartford state Connecticut

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

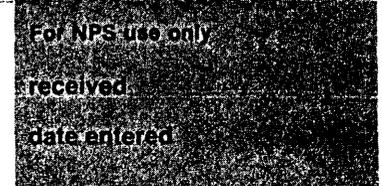
Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Heublein Tower stands atop the highest point (875 feet) of Talcott Mountain, in Simsbury, Connecticut, commanding a 360 degree view of the central portion of the state. The tower is the principal structure of a complex of family camp buildings constructed as a country retreat by Gilbert F. Heublein, a founder of Heublein, Inc., the food-beverage importing company based in Farmington, Connecticut. The structure is a stucco-faced, 165-foot, solid square shaft of steel beam and concrete construction which rises from a massive, asymmetrical fieldstone base (Photograph 1). The six-storied tower features a projecting-bay, multi-fenestrated observation room near its top, and has a jerkin-headed, cross-gabled roof. Surrounded by woods to the north, west and south, and set directly on the edge of a high cliff, the tower may be approached either by foot path from the north or by a narrow, state-owned road from the south. Various outbuildings, constructed in a rustic, early 20th-century camp mode of rough timber and fieldstone, stand in the woods to the south of the tower. The immediate tower surroundings retain their original landscaping, and feature curvilinear stone walls, stone walks, and steps. The physical perimeter of the tower site is delineated by a winding, outer stone wall at the cliff edge and to the north.

The area proposed for nomination is a roughly rectangular plot oriented north and south, taking in the tower's immediate surroundings, or an area naturally defined by the cliff edge to the west and the topographic contours of the ridge line to the east (see site plan and boundary description). The nominated area includes the tower's outbuildings, these being the garage, the roasting pit, the pavilion, and the pump house (Photographs 10,11,12). While the property as owned by Heublein totalled approximately 350 contiguous acres along the ridge, with the tower being at the midpoint of the plot, it is now part of Talcott Mountain State Park, which covers more than 500 acres in Simsbury and Avon.

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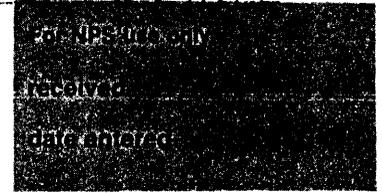
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third, fourth, and fifth stories at the middle of the shaft wall (Photograph 2). The shaft was newly-faced with stucco during renovations of the 1960s, carried out by the Park and Recreational Unit of the Department of Environmental Protection. The sixth story, which projects beyond the planes of the shaft, consists of a bracketed, bronze-faced, overhanging story, with five, grouped, arched windows on each of its sides. The detailing of the bay is large in scale and block-like in its design. The exposed rafter ends and the keystones and panel design of the molded, bronze facing at the lintel level are simple in design and use stile and rail forms marked at their junctions by flat, circular, peg forms (Photograph 2). The sixth-story bay has an asphalt shingled, hipped roof, originally covered with Spanish tile. The wall above the sixth story is blank, and diminishes in size as it rises to the cross-gable roof.

The south side of the tower is the most monumental, as it exposes the elevations of the three, main blocks comprising the entire tower structure (Photographs 4 & 5). Besides the tower base and shaft, the south side consists of two, hip-roofed blocks of two and three stories. These served as the Heublein family's living and servants' quarters. These two sections are built into the slope of the site, which descends steeply eastward, so that together they form a stepped ell from the tower. As in the west side, the base of the entire south side is basalt stone. The west end of the ground story is formed by one of the two, obliquely-angled wings. This section contains an arched doorway set into the southeast wall. At the meeting of the tower base and the ell, the main, south wall steps back approximately two feet (Photograph 4). Another arched doorway, surmounted by an open-pediment, porch roof, and a large, segmentally-arch window are set into the wall of the first ell section. The second story of this block, which is set off by a projecting molding, is stucco, and features three, monumental, arched windows (Photograph 4).



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Flat, patera forms decorate the spandrels. The cornice contains a block course and a projecting molding. The second section of the ell, which is three stories high, is built entirely of basalt (Photograph 5). The southeast corner is battered, or built out in a buttress-like form. This section contains an arched, ground-level service entrance, and segmental-arch windows. Built on the top of the buttress is a glassed-in, third floor porch. The eaves of the hip roof have exposed rafter-ends. A tall, stone chimney stack rises from the east end of the structure.

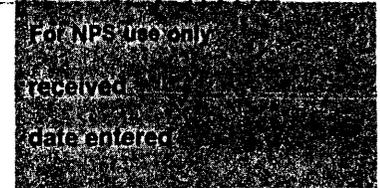
The three-story east side has five bays containing plain, segmental-arch window openings. This side faces the continuing wooded descent of the site eastward. The length of this block forms a second ell section which is oriented on a north-south axis (Photograph 6). This block, built primarily as a service wing, is visually reminiscent of New England mill architecture, having uniformly-spaced, simple, segmental-arch openings. A chimney ascends the north end wall.

The north side of the first ell also contains evenly-spaced bays of segmentally-arched window openings. An exception is in the large, segmental-arch dining room window, which is identical to that directly opposite on the south side (Photographs 4 & 7). In the stucco-faced, second story above this opening is a tripartite, bronze-faced oriel with a dropped-pendant base and a hip roof. The oriel contains three, multi-paned, arched windows. The bronze is molded in a panel design below the windows, and in pilaster, keystone, and patera forms in the piers and spandrels. The back side of the north, oblique wing is visible in the right portion of Photograph 7. A chimney is built into the northeast wall of this wing, which was originally used as a living room.

Gilbert Heublein contracted Hartford builders T. P. Fox & Son to carry out Smith &

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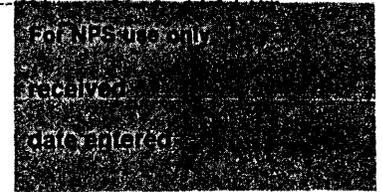
Bassette's tower plans. According to architect Roy D. Bassette, the specifications called for a tower which would "never blow over, having been designed to resist wind pressures of 100 mph."¹ The high wind conditions of the 875-foot ridge had blown down previous towers on the site, hence unusual precautions were taken in the engineering of the Heublein Tower. The shaft structure consists of a steel frame of 12-inch girders, which is anchored ten feet into the solid bedrock of the ridge. The four corner columns are reinforced concrete, and a system of cross-girders fastened into these braces the four walls of the shaft (Photograph 8). Steel cross-beams also reinforce each of the tower floors. The walls themselves are concrete, faced with stucco. While the original frame structure remains in place, and in good condition, some minor adjustment in the girder system and the addition of a few reinforcing joint plates were made during the 1968 renovations of the State's Park and Recreational Unit. The consultants were Buck & Buck Engineers.

The structure of the last ell is load-bearing masonry, with brick used for the interior walls. The buttress-like angling of the ell's east, exterior wall (Photograph 5) may have been designed to counteract any force of the structure on this downhill section.

The general outline of the entire structure is a square block (containing the tower) with two, square, obliquely-angled wings projecting from the west corners, and an L-shaped block leading off the east side of the square (Fig. 1). The building is entered either from the west or south sides. The square, west end contains a vestibule, two living rooms, and, on the upper tower floors, guest bedrooms and a stair. The east, ell section contains more living areas and kitchen and servants' quarters. Except for sections of the interior, most of the inside of the building was extensively altered in

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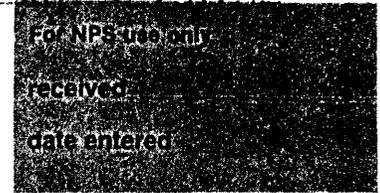
1968 and 1969. A double, steel structure, fire stair on the shaft's east side was installed to replace an original narrow stair and a small passenger elevator. The guest chambers remain as spaces.

The ground floor of the tower area consists of a vestibule with doors leading into the two living rooms. A third door in the east wall leads to the new stairway. Once paneled with oak, only the plain, tile floor remains of the vestibule's original fabric. The angled rooms remain fairly intact, but have lost their paneling also. Both are simple rooms, with tile floors, stucco walls, ceilings, and windows set deeply into the thick, stone walls. While the tower's south chimney was removed, depriving the south room of a fireplace which was set back-to-back with one in the south wall of the vestibule, the fireplace in the north wall of the north room remains. This is a large, rustic fieldstone structure. The west wall of the same room features a tripartite, bay window with small-paned upper lights, and square-paneled sheathing below.

The four guest rooms, situated one above the other, were simple, unadorned spaces with wood floors and painted, plaster walls. Each room had a fireplace on the south side. (These rooms have been renovated.) The other, partly-intact interior in the tower is the sixth-floor observation room. While the original wood floor and stucco ceiling were covered with linoleum and a dropped, plaster board ceiling, respectively, all the original, arched windows and paneled wainscoting below them are preserved. Modern, steel bars have been installed horizontally across the windows at waist height for safety reasons. The State's Parks and Recreational Unit is in the process of replacing some of the windows with historically accurate reproductions. At the top of the tower is a powerful spotlight and radio transmitting equipment used by the state.

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The ell section was originally entered through either of two doors, one located directly opposite the tower's west door, the other through the south entrance. Both lead into an L-shape hall, with a high, barrel-vaulted brick ceiling. The dining room, set at 90 degrees from the hall, comprises the full width of the ell's west section. Well intact, this room best represents the lavish interior fabric of the ell's original interior. The floor is oak, laid in a parquet pattern. All four walls are sheathed with oak, sectioned with shallow-recessed panels (Photograph 9). A denticulated, wood molding forms a cornice around the top of the walls. Dark wood cross-beams, set approximately two feet apart, extend across the white plaster ceiling. Large, segmental-arch, casement windows are set directly opposite each other in the north and south walls. The focal point of the room is the Italianate fireplace (Photograph 9). Allegedly imported,² the white, limestone surround is richly-carved in a Neo-Renaissance mode.

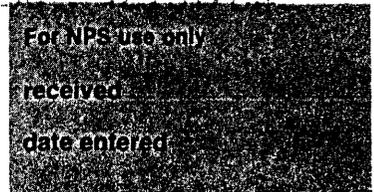
Side pilasters, with large, acanthus-leaf consoles, support a full, classical entablature, intricately carved with a floriated frieze and capped by an egg-and-dart molding. The fireplace is faced with ceramic tiles.

The remainder of the interior was not open for view at the request of the occupants. Marked by three monumental, arched windows at the second-story level, the space above the dining room would appear to have been used for formal entertaining. The second section of the ell contained eight servants' rooms and a wine cellar on the lowest level (with separate entrances on the east side), probably Heublein family bedrooms on the second and part of the third level, and a kitchen at the southeast corner of the third level (Photographs 5 & 6).

Situated across the driveway turnaround, in the woods to the south of the tower, are a barbeque pit, a pavilion, a pump house, and the remains of a large garden (Figure 1).

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On the east side of the driveway is a garage. All the existing outbuildings remain from the period of Heublein's ownership of the property.

The barbeque pit, which stands at the edge of the woods across the turnaround, is a 25-foot long, stone trough, four feet wide on the inside, and three feet deep. It is described as once having a power-driven, revolving spit which could turn an entire pig carcass over the coals.³ The entire pit is sheltered by a hip roof supported by rough, cedar posts and diagonal braces. The structure is open, except towards the south end, where walls enclose a small kitchen area. A very large, old, commercial stove remains in the kitchen. There is a small, open cupola at the north end of the roof which once probably received the top of the stovepipe. Further south, the pavilion (Photograph 10) is set at the edge of the cliff, overlooking the Farmington Valley. This is also an open, cedar, post-and-beam structure with exposed rafter ends and a hip roof. The pavilion is built on a massive, fieldstone foundation which contains a large water tank. This cavity would hold water piped in from a nearby, spring-fed pond, and held the water supply for use in the tower living quarters. Sited closely behind the pavilion is a square, fieldstone pumphouse, also designed with a hip roof and exposed rafters (Photograph 11). The door is at the south side, set in a segmental-arch opening in the stone.

Between the barbeque pit and the pavilion, set in a cleared declivity in the woods, are the remains of a once-formal, flower garden. Now used as a picnic area, the site is a flat, grassy space surrounded by natural ledges and clusters of laurel. The garden area, which is a long and broad area, would have served to visually unite the entire landscape and outbuildings south of the tower.

The garage, which is now used by the state as a transmitting station in conjunction

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with the tower, is a one-and-one-half story, fieldstone and shingle structure (Photograph 12). Rectangular in shape, the building has three, double-opening, wood-paneled and glass pane doors set into the long, west side. The south and north ends are two-bay and contain segmental-arch window openings in the stone. A stone chimney ascends the exterior of the south wall. The garage has a gable roof and is shingled.

Footnotes

1. The Lure of the Litchfield Hills
2. The Hartford Times, March 27, 1944
3. Ibid.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Criteria B & C

Specific dates 1915 **Builder/Architect** Smith & Bassette (Hartford)

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Heublein Tower is significant historically as the country retreat of Gilbert F. Heublein (1850-1937), co-founder of G. F. Heublein and Bro., later re-named Heublein, Inc., the international food and beverage importing firm (Criterion B). A celebrated, German-born hôtelier and restaurateur in Hartford, and innovator in the American gourmet food and liquor industry, Heublein built the Tower in 1915 as a summer retreat for his family and the entertainment of weekend guests. The Heublein Tower is also significant architecturally. It is unique in Connecticut in its design, which suggests Middle and Eastern European influences in its shaft and roof forms.* The site's value as a cultural resource is enhanced by its collection of contemporaneous, architecturally-related outbuildings, and the spectacular and unspoiled physical setting.

In 1856, six-year-old Gilbert Heublein and his brother Louis emigrated to Connecticut with their father, Andrew Heublein, from Suhl, Bavaria. After a first year in Beacon Falls, where Andrew worked as a painter and skilled weaver, and two years in New Haven, the family moved to Hartford. In 1859 Andrew opened a small hotel, restaurant and cafe on the corner of Wells and Mulberry Street, facing Bushnell Park. Mulberry Street, at the time, was famous for its fine German restaurants, and "Heublein's" would become well-known for its continental atmosphere and cuisine and its imported beers, wines, and liquors. For many years, "Heub's" became a Hartford tradition in its own right, catering not only to the German community, but also to the city's professionals and prominent citizens. By the 1870s, Gilbert and Louis, now in their early twenties, had taken over the business from their father. Calling themselves G. F. Heublein & Bro., the brothers expanded the enterprise,

* (Criterion C)

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property approx. 4.5

Quadrangle name Avon

Quadrangle scale 1:24 000

UTM References

A

1	8	6	8	2	8	0	0	4	6	3	2	6	4	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

B

1	8	6	8	3	0	4	5	4	6	3	2	6	4	5
Zone	Easting				Northing									

C

1	8	6	8	3	0	4	5	4	6	3	2	0	4	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

D

1	8	6	8	2	8	0	5	4	6	3	2	0	4	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

E

Zone	Easting				Northing									

F

Zone	Easting				Northing									

G

Zone	Easting				Northing									

H

Zone	Easting				Northing									

Verbal boundary description and justification

The nominated plot is a roughly rectangular area bounded on the north by a line 250 ft. north of the north tower wall, extending from the cliff edge eastward 750 ft., thence turning due south 2,000 ft., thence turning west approx. 800 ft. to the cliff edge then

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries N/A

state	code	county	code

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Alison Gilchrist, edited by John Herzan, National Register Coordinator

organization Connecticut Historical Commission date 10/82

street & number Box 838 telephone 562-6312

city or town Woodbury state Connecticut

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature 

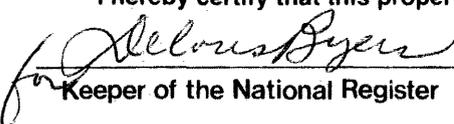
title Director, Connecticut Historical Commission date May 19, 1983

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Entered in the
National Register

date 6/30/83

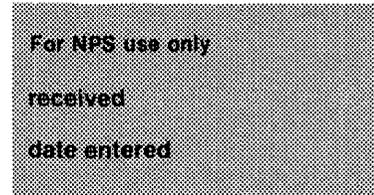
for 
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration

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By 1937, G. F. Heublein & Bro.'s liquor sales, lead by the "club cocktail", had climbed higher than ever before, forcing yet another move into a 9-acre plant on New Park Avenue. Two years later, the company acquired the manufacturing and sales rights to Smirnoff Vodka, a move which marked the introduction of vodka as a popular drink in the U.S.² Sales were initially slow, but took off suddenly after World War II with the marketing of various mixed vodka drinks given exotic names, such as "The Moscow Mule", the "Screwdriver", the "Bloody Mary", and the "Bull Shot". The American popularity of vodka was based on its light, refreshing quality and its appeal as an alternative to the more alcoholic-tasting whiskey. The company's acquisition of Smirnoff Vodka, which lead to Heublein's domination of American vodka sales, was the first of many successive acquisitions which included Grey Poupon Mustard, Arrow Liqueurs Company, International Vintage Wines, Kentucky Fried Chicken Corporation, and other food and beverage companies. Today Smirnoff Vodka and Kentucky Fried Chicken head the company's sales, and are marketed in more than 50 countries, ranking Heublein, Inc., among the world's leading food and beverage companies.³

Gilbert Heublein commissioned the building of the Tower when he was 64 years old. For his remaining 23 years, he used the place during his leisure time for private retreat. Because Heublein was known for being a master host and connoisseur of food and drink, he probably used the Tower as a place for frequent entertaining. It is generally thought that guests stayed for whole weekends because of the long drive to and from Hartford or train trip from New York. Gilbert Heublein's residence does reflect a sense of Heublein as an individual prominent in Connecticut's business history, and in the clearly promotional aspect to its architecture, is emblematic of Heublein's ambition in the American business scene.

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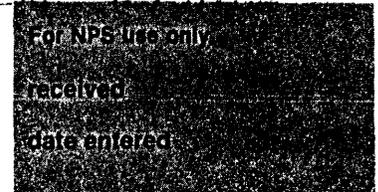
The Heublein Tower is significant because as a complex it conveys both a general sense of the lifestyle of the American **upper** class during the late nineteenth through the early 20th-century period, and, at the same time, a sense of a historically prominent individual.

Viewed in the context of the late 19th-century, the unusual aspects of the tower complex are, to some degrees, characteristic. The odd combination of building types, a tower and a residence, reflects some of the inventive spirit and humor of the Victorians as reflected more commonly in their adventurous re-uses of historical building styles and their imaginative designs for sawn architectural detail. The Heublein Tower retains 19th-century elements of the picturesque in its inventive combination of forms and also in its dramatic setting, on the edge of a precipice, overlooking much of southern New England. The 19th-century romantic view of the sublimity of nature (early heralded by the Germans) is clearly reflected in the siting of the Heublein Tower, and the tower as a building type is also a historical reference to the 19th-century romanticizing of medieval castle and church architecture.

In keeping with this late Victorian attitude is the conscious juxtaposition of the rustic and the elegant at the Heublein site. The contrast between the rusticity and remoteness of the setting and the highly sophisticated elegance and formality of the tower's original interior, reflects the Victorian delight in enjoying nature while remaining somewhat removed by a shield of civility. Judging from the ornate dining room interior, with its imported Italianate fireplace, paneled walls, and parquet floors, Heublein could entertain in a grand style in the cooler months while hosting outdoor picnic roasts among the rusticity of the outbuildings on warm summer evenings. Heublein equipped the place to handle larger parties, as evidenced in such items as the large roasting pit and stove, and

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in the staff of eight servants. According to the author Lillian Langseth-Thrilstensen, who was a frequent guest at the tower, Heublein himself took great personal delight in preparing meals for his guests over the large outdoor fireplace.⁴

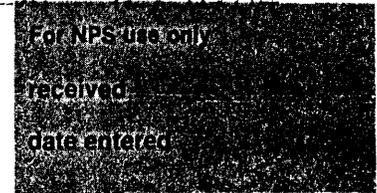
Situated atop a high Connecticut ridge, a structure itself representing an imported architecture, the Heublein Tower stands as a vivid and tangible symbol of Gilbert and Louis Heublein's success in introducing European and other foreign food products to the restaurants and kitchens of the United States. The Bavarian-derived design, itself imported, stands as a monument to the contribution of two immigrants to the business and cultural life of the United States during the early 20th-century.

Footnotes

1. According to an anonymous written source, "History of the House of Heublein", The discovery of the pre-mixed cocktail came about as the result of a rained-out party to have been put on by the Governor's Foot Guards. A gallon of Heublein martinis and a gallon of manhattans had been ordered for the outing. When the day of the event dawned gray, the party was re-scheduled for the following Saturday and the drinks put on ice. Once again the party was rained out. The prepared drinks were ordered to be poured out, but a thirsty helper, slipping a swallow just to see, found the drinks to be pleasant-tasting. Experimental sips were taken all around, proclaimed delicious (and "even better than before"), and soon afterward Heublein & Bro. was marketing the "club cocktail".
2. Heublein Inc., "Heublein at 100", p. 8
3. Ibid., p. 20
4. Lillian Langseth-Thrilstensen, Voyage Gastronomique, pp. 84-85

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Anonymous, "History of the House of Heublein", August 1961, courtesy of Mrs. Pat Heublein, Farmington, Connecticut.

Heublein Inc., "Heublein at 100", Anniversary booklet courtesy of the Department of Public Affairs, Heublein Inc., Farmington, Connecticut.

Newspaper Articles:

The Hartford Times, August 11, 1937; March 27, 1944; "Sunday Magazine" Section, September 22, 1968.

Plans:

State of Connecticut, Department of Environmental Protection, Department of Administrative Services, "Heublein Tower Renovation", Hartford: Buck & Buck Engineers, 1969-1973.

Interviews:

Officer Chester Hayes, Director, Park Security, Penwood Park, July 31, 1981.

Marilyn Aarestadt, Manager, Talcott Mountain State Park, August 13 and September 8, 1981.

Officer Lee Elliott, Resident policeman at Tower, September 4, 1981.

Mr. John G. Martin, Grandson of Gilbert Heublein, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Heublein Inc., August 27, 1982.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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following the cliff edge north to the starting point.

The area proposed for nomination is a roughly rectangular plot oriented north and south, taking in the tower's immediate surroundings, or an area naturally defined by the cliff edge to the west and the topographic contours of the ridge line to the east (see site plan). The nominated area includes the tower's outbuildings, these being the garage, the roasting pit, the pavilion, and the pump house. While the property as owned by Gilbert Heublein totalled approximately 350 contiguous acres along the ridge, with the tower being at the midpoint of the plot, it is now part of Talcott Mountain State Park, which covers more than 500 acres in Simsbury and Avon. As the significance of the property is based on the site's social and architectural history, only the original acreage associated with the built complex is included in the nomination.

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FIGURE 1

SITE PLAN



—————
boundary
of nominated
property

