

**HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY
BUILDING AND STRUCTURES**

HST-6 REV 6/83

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION
59 SOUTH PROSPECT STREET, HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106
(203) 566-3005

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY			
Town No.:		Site No.:	
UTM 118	676240	4588500	
QUAD:	Mount Carmel CT		
DISTRICT		IF NR. SPECIFY	
<input type="checkbox"/> S	<input type="checkbox"/> HR.	<input type="checkbox"/> Actual	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Potential

IDENTIFICATION

1. BUILDING NAME (Common)	(Historic)	
Sleeping Giant Tower	Sleeping Giant Tower	
2. TOWN, CITY	VILLAGE	COUNTY
Hamden	Mount Carmel	New Haven 009
3. STREET AND NUMBER (and/or location)		
200 Mount Carmel Ave. inside park at summit		
4. OWNER(S)		
Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private		
5. USE (Present)		
Recreational (Historic) Recreational		
6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC:		
EXTERIOR VISIBLE FROM PUBLIC ROAD	INTERIOR ACCESSIBLE	IF YES, EXPLAIN
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	open structure

DESCRIPTION

7. STYLE OF BUILDING	DATE OF CONSTRUCTION			
Rustic/Romanesque	1936-37			
8. MATERIAL(S) (Indicate use or location when appropriate)				
<input type="checkbox"/> Clapboard	<input type="checkbox"/> Asbestos Siding	<input type="checkbox"/> Brick	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Wood Shingle	<input type="checkbox"/> Asphalt Siding	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fieldstone		
<input type="checkbox"/> Board & Batten	<input type="checkbox"/> Stucco	<input type="checkbox"/> Cobblestone		
<input type="checkbox"/> Aluminum Siding	<input type="checkbox"/> Concrete Type: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Cut stone Type: _____		
9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM				
<input type="checkbox"/> Wood frame	<input type="checkbox"/> Post and beam	<input type="checkbox"/> balloon		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Load bearing masonry		<input type="checkbox"/> Structural iron or steel		
<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____				
10. ROOF (Type)				
<input type="checkbox"/> Gable	<input type="checkbox"/> Flat	<input type="checkbox"/> Mansard	<input type="checkbox"/> Monitor	<input type="checkbox"/> sawtooth
<input type="checkbox"/> Gambrel	<input type="checkbox"/> Shed	<input type="checkbox"/> Hip	<input type="checkbox"/> Round	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) concrete deck
(Material)				
<input type="checkbox"/> Wood Shingle	<input type="checkbox"/> Roll Asphalt	<input type="checkbox"/> Tin	<input type="checkbox"/> Slate	
<input type="checkbox"/> Asphalt shingle	<input type="checkbox"/> Built up	<input type="checkbox"/> Tile	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) Concrete	
11. NUMBER OF STORIES	APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS			
4	50' x 50'			
12. CONDITION (Structural)				
<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	
(Exterior)				
<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	
13. INTEGRITY (Location)				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> On original site	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	WHEN?	(Alterations)	IF YES, EXPLAIN
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
14. RELATED OR NEARBY BUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES				
<input type="checkbox"/> Barn	<input type="checkbox"/> Shed	<input type="checkbox"/> Garage	<input type="checkbox"/> Other landscape features or buildings (Specify)	
None				
<input type="checkbox"/> Carriage house	<input type="checkbox"/> Shop	<input type="checkbox"/> Garden		
15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT				
<input type="checkbox"/> Open land	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wood-land	<input type="checkbox"/> Residential	<input type="checkbox"/> Scattered buildings visible from site	
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Rural	<input type="checkbox"/> High building density	
16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS				

Located atop protected, wooded peak in Sleeping Giant State Park. Access by foot trail.

(OVER)

17. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING OR SITE (interior and/or exterior)

DESCRIPTION (Continued)

The tower atop the peak of the ridge known as the left thigh in Sleeping Giant State Park is an ambitious open four-tier Romanesque structure of dressed rubble fieldstone set on a stone terrace. Square tower with arched openings has a cantilevered parapet set with hexagonal corner towers. A one-story flat-roofed ell houses the comfort facility with vault toilets. Interior floors are reinforced concrete, as is the observation deck/roof. Access up the tower is via ramps original to the building rather than steps. The handsomely proportioned structure is well-preserved, although the wooden shed roof that sheltered the stone terrace is gone. Some structural cracks and mortar failure need attention.

18. ARCHITECT: Unknown

BUILDER: Works Progress Administration

19. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE

SIGNIFICANCE

Sleeping Giant State Park is the product of years of effort by many individuals and agencies concerned with the preservation of the prominent trap rock ridge in the Mount Carmel section of Hamden. The area takes its name from the fact that the undulating ridge is shaped like a huge body in the prone position. The various peaks are referred to as the head, thigh, etc. It has been a popular recreational area since the mid-nineteenth century, affording an excellent view of the surrounding countryside. In 1924 Professor James Toumey of the Yale School of Forestry revived his pre-World War I plan to secure the Giant for a public park and started the Sleeping Giant Park Association. The new organization had to move quickly to realize its goal because trap rock quarrying was starting to eat away at the Giant. In 1925 the association turned over the 197 acres it had acquired through donation and purchase to the State of Connecticut Park and Forest Commission. (see continuation sheet)

SOURCES

Sachse, Nancy. The Sleeping Giant Story. The Sleeping Giant Park Association, 1982.

DEP. Bureau of State Parks & Recreation. Historical File: Sleeping Giant

PHOTO	PHOTOGRAPHER	DATE	Place Photograph Here
	Mary E. McCahon	5/85	
VIEW	NEGATIVE ON FILE		
Exterior	CHC DEP 85: 11/7-14		
COMPILED BY	NAME	DATE	
	Mary E. McCahon	6/85	
	ORGANIZATION	Connecticut Historical Commission	
	ADDRESS	59 S. Prospect Street Hartford, CT 06106	

20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS

N/A

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE
- None known
 Highways
 Vandalism
 Developers
 Other _____
 Renewal
 Private
 Deterioration
 Zoning
 Explanaton _____

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CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION
59 South Prospect Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06106
HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY FORM
For Buildings and Structures

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY			
TOWN NO.:	SITE NO.:		
UTM: 18	/	/	/
QUAD:			
DISTRICT:	S	NR:	ACTUAL POTENTIAL

CONTINUATION SHEET

Item number: 19 Date: _____

Sleeping Giant Tower

The association continued to work diligently to secure the rest of the ridge, but the quarrying continued and at times it looked as if the organization would not be successful. Finally, through legal action, the association was able to prevent quarrying, and in 1933 it bought out the quarry company's lease thus ensuring the preservation and public use of the mountain. The association is still active.

The state and the association worked with the Depression-era federal relief programs to develop the park. In 1933 the 10'-wide road up the mountain was started by the Works Progress Administration (WPA) and was completed in 1937. When the stone cabin at the top of the mountain accidentally burned in 1935, plans were immediately developed for an impressive stone tower/pavilion to be built by the WPA. The handsome Romanesque tower, the most ambitious of the three major mountaintop observation towers in the state system, was completed in 1937 by workmen under the supervision of Harry Webb. In addition to the 30' high observation deck, the structure has rooms, some with fireplaces, and comfort facilities, making it a multi-function building rather than solely a lookout. It stands basically unaltered and is the second largest state park structure built by federal relief labor. It is unlikely that such a monumental structure would have been possible without the federal assistance, and like Rocky Neck, Sleeping Giant State Park is a tribute to the federal, state, and private sector cooperation it took to create a public park in a congested area.

Verbal Boundary Description and Justification

The tower is located in a 1,447-acre state park. The nominated acreage includes the structure situated in the center of a circle with a radius of 400' which provides a representation of its historic wooded setting atop one of the ridges in the park.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

Item number 19 Date: August 21, 1986

Addendum: Connecticut State Park and Forest Depression-Era Federal Work Relief Programs Structures Thematic Resource

Hamden: Sleeping Giant Tower

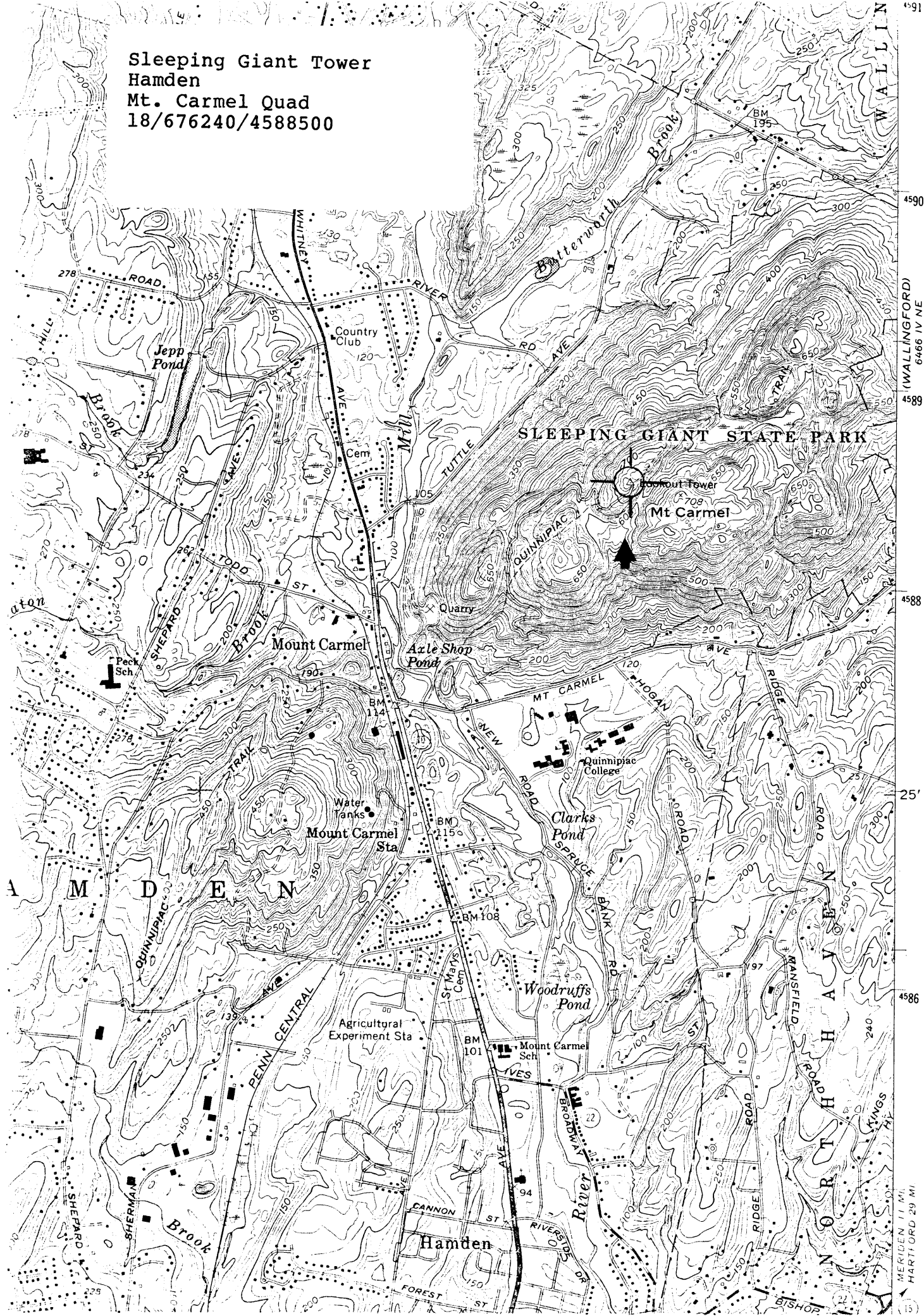
Acreage: 6.5 acres

Correction: Verbal Boundary Description and Justification

The tower is located in a 1,447-acre state park. The nominated acreage includes the structure situated in the center of a circle with a radius of 300' which provides a representation of its historic wooded setting atop one of the ridges in the park.

This correction has been made because it was determined that the reduction of acreage would adequately represent the historic setting of the subject property.

Sleeping Giant Tower
Hamden
Mt. Carmel Quad
18/676240/4588500



491
4590
(WALLINGFORD) 6466 IV NE
4589
4588
25'
4586
MERIDEN 11 MI.
HARTFORD 29 MI