

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

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

1. Name

historic Mount Washington Hotel

and/or common Mount Washington Hotel

2. Location

6 miles east off Route 302, 1.4 miles southeast of  
street & number intersection with Cherry Hill Road  not for publication

city, town Carroll  vicinity of Twin Mountain

state New Hampshire code county Coos code

3. Classification

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input checked="" 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
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input 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 Resort Leasing Co., Inc., Alvis J. Waite, President

street & number

city, town Bretton Woods  vicinity of state New Hampshire

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Coos County Registry of Deeds, Coos County Courthouse

street & number P.O. Box 286, 148 Main Street

city, town Lancaster state New Hampshire

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

date 1978  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Interagency Resources Division, National Park Service

city, town Washington state DC

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input 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

Mount Washington Hotel lies in a valley of the Ammonoosuc River 1600 feet above sea level. The mountains surrounding the 2,550-acre preserve are the Presidential, Dartmouth, and Willey-Rosebrook Ranges, dominated by Mount Washington, at 6288 feet the highest peak in the Northeast.

The hotel is a large wooden frame Y-shaped structure with two five-story octagonal towers. The building contains about 236 guest rooms, 206 with private bath. Spanish-Renaissance in style, the hotel was built in 1900-02 by Joseph Stickney, a coal and railroad millionaire, and was designed by the architect Charles Alling Gifford. W.G. Phillips was the contractor.

The foundation is of local granite with a steel skeleton above. There are four floors above the lobby and one below. A porch runs completely around the hotel, some 900 feet.

The hotel is a self-contained unit with its own plumbing, electrical, heating, telephone, laundry, and sewage treatment systems. Near the main building is a small print shop where menus are run off daily. The press within may be one of the last water-powered printing presses in America.

Set in hundreds of acres of landscaped grounds, a mile long winding drive terminates in a large porte-cochere on the west side of the hotel. Dominating the grand lobby space is a large field stone fireplace. There are several dining rooms on the lobby floor, the largest being the banquet hall over 85 feet square with an elaborate wooden ceiling. A vast kitchen services the guests, with all baking done in the hotel. A small orchestra plays in the main dining room, during dinner, throughout the season.

Other rooms on the lobby floor are writing and card rooms, parlors, and a ball room from which a magnificent view of Crawford Notch and the mountains can be seen. There are also a number of smaller meeting rooms which were used at the 1944 Bretton Woods Conference.

The upper floors contain guest rooms and suites, all off a wide central hall. The placement of rooms gives nearly every guest outside windows with mountain views. The lower levels contain a bar, restaurant, barber shop, indoor pool, and a children's play room.

This grand old Edwardian Hotel, so much like the spas of Austria and Switzerland, offering a bit of lost elegance, maintains a long summer operating season (May to October), and still welcomes visitors under its 35-foot lobby ceiling supported by ornate plaster columns.

## 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

**Specific dates** 1900-1902, 1944      **Builder/Architect** Charles Alling Gifford

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

When the Mount Washington Hotel opened in 1902, it was the largest spa in the White Mountains, 170 miles north of Boston. Its guests enjoyed a service ratio of two-to-one, a ticker-tape augmented by a telephone office, and recreational facilities on 10,000 acres. The hotel, in turn, enjoyed a daily per capita rate of \$20, four times the standard rate for the American plan (a room and three meals), plus the profitable prospect of a lengthy stay by its guests, most of them from New York, Boston, or Philadelphia. The hotel's coach-and-six met 50 trains a day, ferrying guests, trunks, and servants to the 352-room Spanish Renaissance structure. Isolation and scale made it a choice location for an international gathering, known as the Bretton Woods Conference, in July 1944, while World War II was still raging. Economists, lawyers, and politicians from many nations gathered to chart a blueprint for the world's monetary system.

During three weeks of meetings at Bretton Woods they produced an agreement that established the International Monetary Fund and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, better known as the World Bank, and set up a system of fixed exchange rates that lasted for almost 30 years before it was formally abandoned in March 1973.

Hobart Rowan, economics writer for the Washington Post, recalled:

This little village of 300 was ill-prepared in 1944 for the invasion by 730 delegates from many countries, including such world figures as the famous economist, John Maynard Keynes, who headed the British delegation, U.S. Treasury Secretary Henry Morgenthau, Jr., and Soviet, Chinese, and other dignitaries and their entourages. In fact, how Bretton Woods came to be selected for the conference site tended to be something of a mystery.

Edward M. Bernstein, now a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution, explained in an interview that, in addition to the the obvious need for a hotel with a large number of rooms, and one in a relatively cool spot because it was summertime, there was a more important reason:

Morgenthau, even as secretary of the Treasury, had had trouble getting into some of the fancy places . . . because he was Jewish. And he was determined that we wouldn't go to any place where there ever was, at that time, any kind of distinction between Jews and non-Jews . . . . We didn't make a big thing about it at the time.

According to the Littleton, New Hampshire, Courier of June 1, 1944, the hotel, which had not operated during the summer of 1943 and recently had been sold to a group of Boston investors for \$1.5 million got a complete face-lifting for the event, the largest meeting of its kind ever held in the White Mountains.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheets

# 10. Geographical Data

Acree of nominated property 3 acres

Quadrangle name Mt. Washington

Quadrangle scale 1:62500

### UTM References

A 

1	9	3	0	5	2	0	0	4	9	0	3	2	2	5
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

D 

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 boundary is that shown as the broken line surrounding the hotel on the map accompanying this form and titled, "The Mount Washington Hotel, Mountain Management Company, Inc., Bretton Woods, N.H., March 3, 1975"

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state code county code

state code county code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Carolyn Pitts, Historian

organization History Division, National Park Service date June 1985

street & number 1100 L St., N.W., Rm. 4209 telephone (202) 343-8172

city or town Washington state DC

# 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 date

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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Bernstein noted that, when the conference began, "The world economy, having gone through depression and four years of war, was in a mess." The gold standard had pretty much been the rule until World War I, but then was abandoned completely or partially. The depression had brought viciously high protectionist tariffs, a collapse of commodity prices, and a record shrinkage of world trade. Competitive exchange rate depreciation was the common practice.<sup>1</sup>

In 1984 the Hotel hosted a "Bretton Woods Revisited" celebration on the 40th Anniversary of the original conference.

This finest of all White Mountain hotels opened to the public on August 1, 1902. Numbered among its famous guests were Winston Churchill, Thomas Edison, Mary Pickford, and Presidents Woodrow Wilson and Warren G. Harding. Today it is a beautifully maintained hostelry operated for 80 years in much the same style for a clientele that returns year after year.

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<sup>1</sup> Hobart Rowan. "Bretton Woods Revisited." July 15, 1984. Washington Post.

Item 9. Bibliography

Brochure "The Life and Times of Bretton Woods," Bretton Woods, New Hampshire.

Dan Hoik, "The Gilded Age of White Mountain Hotels," August 1977, Yankee.

Sylvester, John E., Jr., "Proposal, National Historic Places" unpublished report, Mountain Management Company, Bretton Woods, New Hampshire.

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Continuation sheet

Item number 10

Page 1

A parcel of land in the Town of Carroll, County of Coos, State of New Hampshire, bounded and described as follows.

"Beginning at the southerly sideline of the Cog Railway Base Road (also known as the Mount Washington Turnpike) where it is intersected by the Incorporated Town of Carroll Town Line."

"Thence S 37° 00' 00" E, more or less, along the Bretton Woods Corporation/U.S. Forest Service boundary, for a distance of approximately 2,900 feet to a point;"

"Thence S 63° 00' 00" W, more or less, along the Bretton Woods/U.S. Forest Service boundary, for a distance of approximately 2,583 feet to a point;"

"Thence N. 50° 00' 00" W, more or less, along the easterly sideline of U. S. Route 302, for a distance of approximately 3,883 feet to a point;"

"Thence in northwesterly direction, on a curve to the left, along the easterly sideline of U. S. Route 302, the curve having a radius of approximately 3,200 feet, and running approximately 1,550 feet to a point;"

"Thence N 59° 00' 00" N, more or less, along the easterly sideline of U. S. Route 302, for a distance of approximately 500 feet to a point;"

"Thence in a north westerly direction on a curve to the right, along the easterly side line of U. S. Route 302, the curve having a radius of approximately 2,717 feet, and running approximately 1,800 feet to a point;"

"Thence N 24° 30' 00" W, more or less, along the easterly sideline of U. S. Route 302, for a distance of approximately 550 feet to a point;"

"Thence N 34° 00' 00" W, more or less, along the easterly sideline of U. S. Route 302, for a distance of approximately 400 feet to a point;"

"Thence N. 22° 00' 00" W, more or less, along the easterly sideline of U. S. Route 302, for a distance of approximately 733 feet to a point;"

"Thence in a northwesterly direction, on a curve to the left, along the easterly sideline of U. S. Route 302, the curve having a radius of approximately 733 feet to a point;"

"Thence in a northwesterly direction, on a curve to the left, along the easterly sideline of U. S. Route 302, the curve having a radius of approximately 1950 feet, and running approximately 900 feet to a point;"

"Thence N 77° 00' 00" E, more or less, for a distance of approximately 267 feet to a point;"

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"Thence in a southeasterly direction on a curve to the right, along the Maine Central Railroad tracks, the curve having a radius of approximately 1,117 feet and running approximately 400 feet to a point;"

"Thence in an easterly direction on a curve to the right, along the southerly sideline of the Cog Railway Base Road, the curve having a radius of approximately 383 feet and running approximately 275 feet to a point;"

"Thence in a southeasterly direction, on a curve to the right, along the southerly sideline of Cog Railway Base Road, the curve having a radius of approximately 1,083 feet and running for approximately 500 feet to a point;"

"Thence S 45° 30' 00" E, more or less, along the southerly sideline of Cog Railway Base Road, for a distance of approximately 800 feet to a point;"

"Thence in a southeasterly direction, on a curve to the left, along the southerly sideline of the Cog Railway Base Road, the curve having a radius of approximately 1,500 feet and running approximately 1,288 feet to a point;"

"Thence N 82° 30' 00" E, more or less, along the southerly sideline of the Cog Railway Base Road, for a distance of approximately 3,500 feet to the point of beginning."

The herein described parcel contains approximately 688 acres.

This acreage includes the Hotel and grounds, the Chapel and Golf course, as shown on the attached diagram, "Operating Properties and Land, Bretton Woods, N.H., January 1979." The boundary encompasses features 1, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, and 15 on that diagram. All these features relate to the historic functions of the hotel.

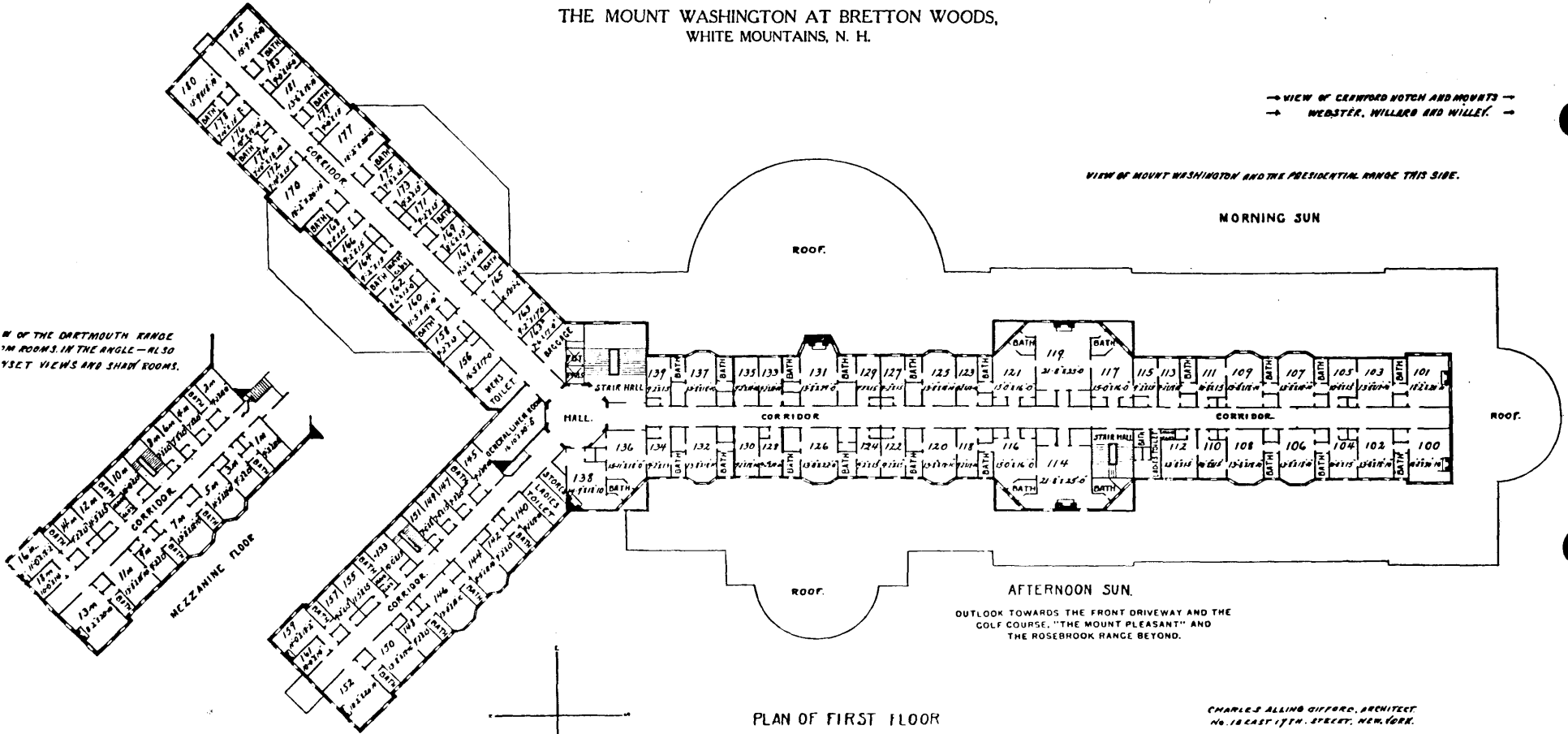
THE MOUNT WASHINGTON AT BRETTON WOODS,  
WHITE MOUNTAINS, N. H.

→ VIEW OF CLEARFORD NOTCH AND MOUNTS →  
→ WEBSTER, WILLARD AND WILLET. →

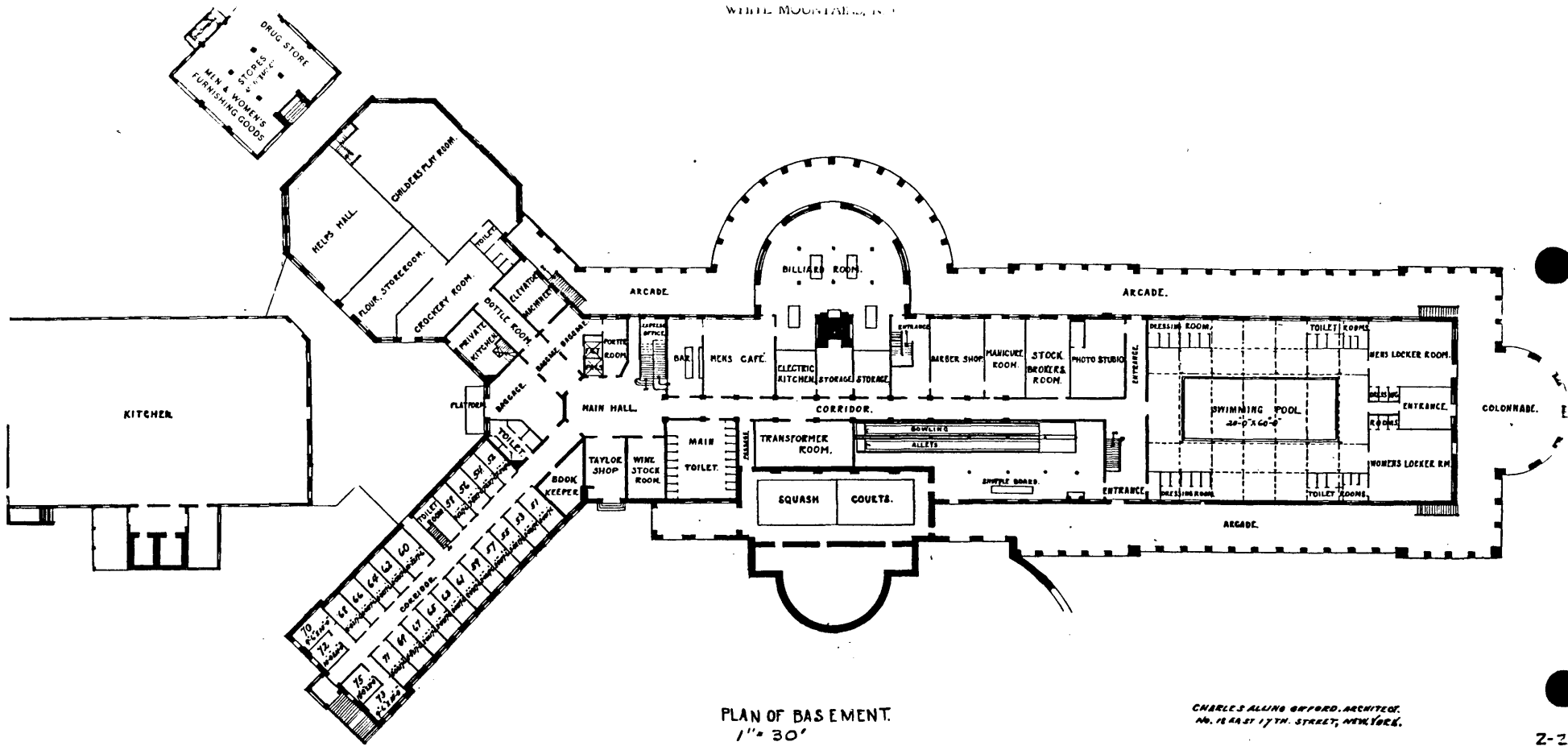
VIEW OF MOUNT WASHINGTON AND THE PRESIDENTIAL RANGE THIS SIDE.

MORNING SUN

# OF THE DARTMOUTH RANGE  
IN ROOMS IN THE ANGLE—ALSO  
VSET VIEWS AND SHAD ROOMS.

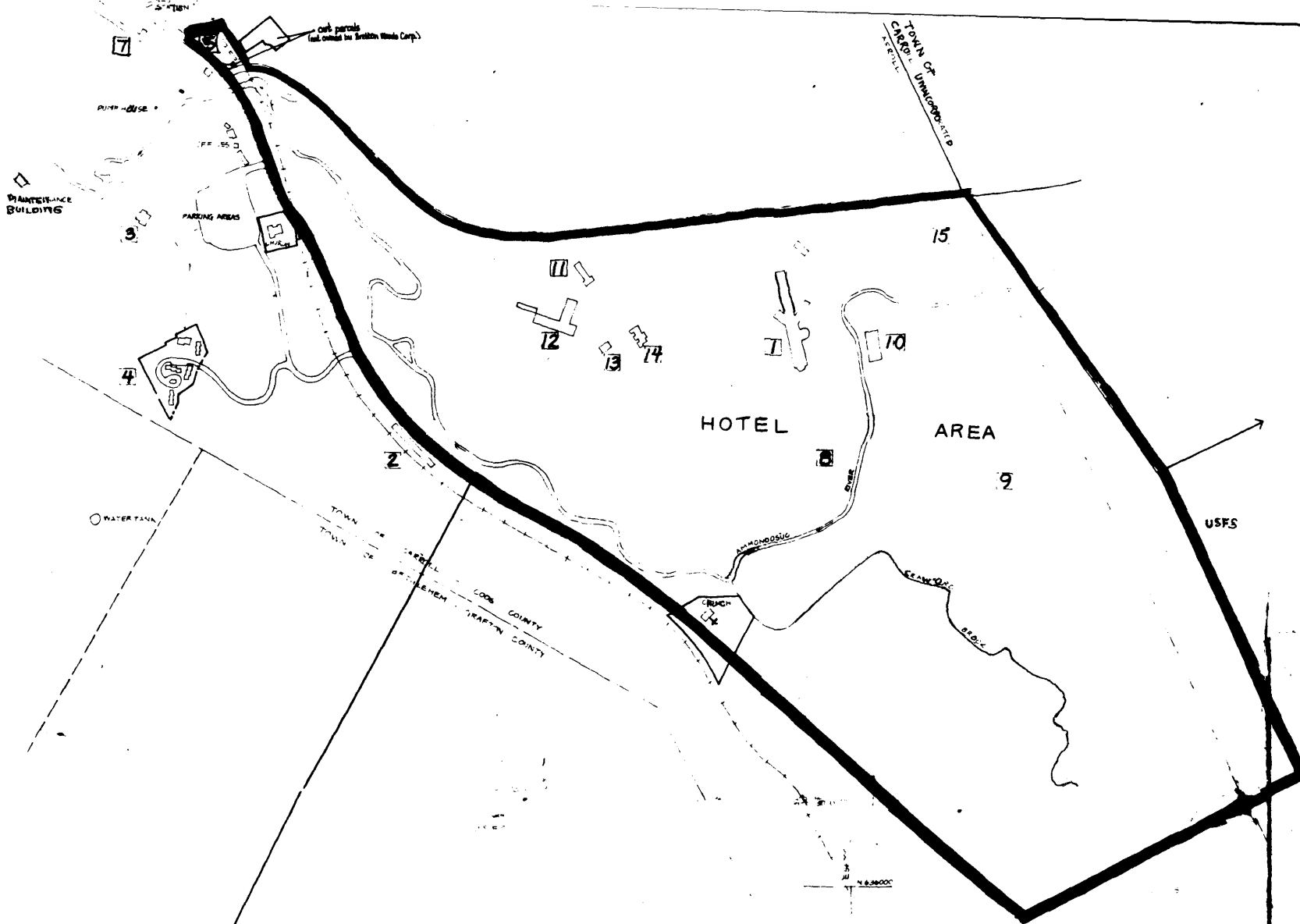






PLAN OF BASEMENT.  
1/4" = 30'

CHARLES ALLING OFFORD, ARCHITECT,  
NO. 18 EAST 17TH STREET, NEW YORK.



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OPERATING PROPERTIES & LAND  
 BRETTON WOODS N. H.  
 SCALE: 1" = 400' JAN. 1979