

1244

PROPERTY NAME

Haystack Mountain Tower, Norfolk, CT

Page 1

Department of the Interior

National Register of Historic Places Form

1. NAME OF PROPERTY

Historic Name: Haystack Mountain Tower

Other Name/Site Number: NA

RECEIVED
OCT 20 1993
NATIONAL REGISTER

2. LOCATION

Street & Number: 43 North Street Not for publication: NA

City/Town: Norfolk Vicinity: NA

State: CT County: Litchfield Code: 005 Zip Code: 06058

3. CLASSIFICATION

Ownership of Property

Private:

Public-local:

Public-State: x

Public-Federal:

Category of Property

Building(s):

District:

Site:

Structure: x

Object:

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing

 1

 1

Noncontributing

 buildings

 sites

 structures

 objects

 0 Total

Number of Contributing Resources Previously Listed in the National Register: 0

Name of related multiple property listing: NA

4. STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria.

[Signature] 10/14/93
Signature of Certifying Official Date
John W. Shannahan, Director, Connecticut Historical Commission

State or Federal Agency and Bureau

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

Signature of Commenting or Other Official Date

State or Federal Agency and Bureau

5. 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] 12/2/93
Signature of Keeper Date of Action

6. FUNCTION OR USE

Historic: RECREATION AND CULTURE Sub: monument

Current: RECREATION AND CULTURE Sub: monument

7. DESCRIPTION

Architectural Classification: LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS/Jacobean Revival

Materials: Foundation: STONE Walls: STONE Roof: STONE/slate Other Description: METAL/steel CONCRETE

Describe Present and Historic Physical Appearance.

Haystack Mountain Tower is a stone lookout tower 22 feet in diameter and 50 feet high sited atop Haystack Mountain, half a mile north of the center of Norfolk. Erected through the generosity of Ellen Battell Stoeckel in 1929 (the date is incised to the right of the door), it is now the centerpiece of the 288-acre Haystack Mountain State Park.

A paved roadway built by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s, called Stoeckel Drive, runs from State Road 272 (North Street) through the grounds and up the mountain to a parking area. From there the climb is by foot, about half a mile, to an elevation 1680 feet above sea level, where the tower stands on the rounded peak of the mountain, facing south. (Photograph 1) The principal building material is a rough form of dark grey granite quarried on the site and laid up in random rubble with deeply recessed mortar joints. Secondary building materials are concrete for steps and floors and steel to support the observation platform under the low conical slate roof. (Figure 1)

The base of the tower is 24 feet in diameter, tapering to 22 feet at the water table. The water table is built of flat stones 12 inches in length laid at an angle of 45 degrees. Stepped stone piers flank the six stone risers that lead to the 3' x 7' doorway, which no longer has its original red oak door hung on wrought-iron butts and hinges. Over the doorway is a bronze plaque reading ROBBINS BATTELL/DEO/PATRIA/FAMILIAE/MUNICIPO TUO/SEMPER ESTO FIDELLIS (To thy God, to thy country, to thy family, to thy town be thou ever faithful). The lettering is flanked by federal and state seals. (Photograph 2) A second plaque, dedicated to Mrs. Stoeckel's husband, Carl Stoeckel, was attached to a wall inside the door, but is now missing. (Photograph 3) It read, "Requiem Anternam dona els Domine et lux perpetua luceat els" (Eternal rest give unto him, O Lord, and may perpetual light shine upon him).

From the first floor, which is 4 feet, 6 inches above grade, helical concrete steps three feet, three inches wide hug the wall on the way to a middle landing and an upper

landing. (Photographs 4 and 5) Windows along the steps are one foot wide by three feet tall. The wall, 30 inches thick at the bottom tapering to 18 inches at the top, is perpendicular to the ground on the inside with a 12-inch batter on the outside. An iron stair which originally led up from the second landing to the observation platform has now been replaced by a wooden run. The second landing and observation tower sills are marked by exterior stone string courses.

The observation platform is 500 feet above the highway and 1716 feet above sea level. Its eight openings five feet wide by three feet high are 3 feet, 6 inches above the floor, with benches in front of them. The view is fine, extending for tens of miles in all directions on a clear day. (Photograph 6) The roof structure is supported by radial hip rafters. (Photograph 7) The 2' x 8' roof boards are covered with slate. The observation platform level once was well lighted; some of the electrical fittings remain. A spun copper globe ten inches in diameter was the original finial.

The park land is V-shaped, split by a privately owned pie-shaped section to the northwest.

8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: Nationally:___ Statewide: x Locally: x

Applicable National Register Criteria: A___ B x C x D___

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): A___ B___ C___ D___ E___ F___ G___

Areas of Significance:	Period(s) of Significance	Significant Dates
<u>ARCHITECTURE</u>	<u>NA</u>	<u>1929</u>
<u>SOCIAL HISTORY</u>	<u>NA</u>	<u>1895-1939</u>
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Significant Person(s): Ellen Battell Stoeckel

Cultural Affiliation: NA

Architect/Builder: Rossiter & Muller

State Significance of Property, and Justify Criteria, Criteria Considerations, and Areas and Periods of Significance Noted Above.

Haystack Mountain Tower is significant architecturally because it is a good example of a monumental Tudor Revival-style structure, showing medieval influence, designed by a well-known architect of the period, Erick K. Rossiter, who had a summer home nearby. The tower was integrated into the State of Connecticut parks and forest recreational program. It is also significant because of its association with Ellen Battell Stoeckel, scion of the Battell family, who for decades provided leadership and philanthropic support for a variety of Norfolk activities.

Architecture

The monumental and austere character of Haystack Mountain Tower evokes medieval precedent, perhaps of the type associated with Norman or Tudor times. The design of the building is consistent in its massiveness and in dedication to its lookout purpose. The architectural effect is achieved through materials, massing, and simple lines, rather than through ornament of any kind.

The architect, Erick Kensett Rossiter (1854-October 15, 1941) was born in France of American parents but educated in the United States. His schooling included study at the Gunnery School, Washington, Connecticut, 1866-1869. Rossiter subsequently built his summer home, The Rocks, at Washington.

After training in architecture at Cornell, Rossiter worked as a draftsman in several New York City offices before practicing for an unknown length of time with Frank Ayres Wright (1855-1949) and then as senior partner of Rossiter & Muller. Nothing is known of Muller. Among his and the firm's works were Hepburn Hall, University of Vermont, 1916; Church of Saint Michael, Litchfield, Connecticut, 1919; Saint John's Church, Washington, Connecticut, 1917; libraries at Vassar College and Colton, New York, and elsewhere; the Gunn Memorial Library, Washington, Connecticut; schools in Scarsdale, New York, and elsewhere; and homes for Austin Cheney, William Hamilton Gibson, Richard Storrs Barnes, John Darnley Hinchcliffe, Dr. A. D. Woodruff, and Randolph Bolles, among others. Rossiter designed the Norfolk Music Shed for Mrs. Stoeckel, 1902-1910, and in Hartford drew plans for the Johnson/Stedman House, 1335 Asylum Avenue, 1913.

Drawings and specifications, brief but complete, for Haystack Mountain Tower, prepared by Rossiter & Muller, are in the archives of the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection.

Construction of the Haystack Mountain Tower followed the Mount Tom Tower in Morris, which it generally resembles, by eight years. Albert M. Turner, Secretary of the Connecticut Park and Forest Commission, drew plans for the Mount Tom Tower that were not followed in detail. He planned an elliptical stairway and a conical roof to protect the observation platform that were not built. In the Haystack Tower these features were executed. Since Turner served in his post to 1941 and his agency built the Haystack Tower, it is likely that his 1921 design played a role in the planning for Haystack.

Ellen Battell Stoeckel

Ellen Battell Stoeckel (1851-1939) was the scion of the Battell family. Joseph Battell (1774-1841) came to Norfolk as a child in 1781. He grew up to become a highly successful merchant and land speculator. His marriage to the daughter of the Reverend Ammi Ruhama Robbins produced nine children, one of whom was Robbins Battell (1819-1895). He was donor of the Congregational Church, 1888, in Norfolk and the Battell Chapel, 1874, at Yale University.

In 1895, several months after Robbins Battell's death, Ellen Battell, his only child, married Carl Stoeckel (1858-1925), son of the head of the Music Department at Yale. For 30 years with her husband, and then for another 14 years by herself, Ellen Battell Stoeckel lived in the big white house in the center of town, which had been built by her grandfather, patronized the arts by building the Norfolk music shed and by collecting paintings, donated Haystack Tower, and engaged in numberless other civic and philanthropic activities, often in an unpretentious and very human manner. "It seems that the lives of many Norfolk residents...were touched or affected in some way by the Stoeckels. They invariably speak of the Stoeckels' attractiveness, their generosity, and their reserve without snobbishness." (Waldecker, pp, 45-46.)

Mrs. Stoeckel made the donation of the Haystack Tower and the state park acreage in which it stands in memory of her father, Robbins Battell. She provided the funds to the State Park Commission, which built the tower. It replaced a wooden tower that Robbins Battell had erected on the site in 1886. The 1886 structure bore a tablet with the same lettering as found in the plaque over the front door of the stone tower. Robbins Battell constructed a carriage drive up to the tower, and invited the public to use it in a time when individual initiatives for the public benefit were uncommon. In 1917 Mrs. Stoeckel gave the wooden tower (no longer standing by 1924) to the state along with one acre of

land and a 20-foot right-of-way from the highway. This gift was augmented by the 1929 program.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"Guide to Connecticut State Parks and Forests." May 1, 1924.

Hartford Courant, February 9, 1928, February 10, 1928, October 23, 1941.

Haystack Mountain, folder GR974.6. Norfolk Public Library.

Haystack Monument files, including Alfred M. Turner material. At State Parks Division, Department of Environmental Protection, State Office Building, Hartford, CT.

Litchfield County Times, April 28, 1929.

Mary E. McCahon. Historical and Architectural Resource Survey, Statewide Historic Resource Inventory. Hartford: Connecticut Historical Commission, 1985.

Ransom, David F. "Biographical Dictionary of Hartford Architects," The Connecticut Historical Society Bulletin 54(Winter/Spring 1989):88.

____ National Register of Historic Places Registration Form for Norfolk Historic District. Washington, DC: National Park Service, 1978.

Rossiter, E. K. Obituary, New Milford Times, October 23, 1941.

Rossiter & Muller. Drawings and specifications for Haystack Monument, 1929. At State Parks Division, Department of Environmental Protection, State Office Building, Hartford, CT.

Torrington Register, August 28, 1976.

Waldecker, Alice V., ed. Norfolk, Connecticut, 1900-1975. Norfolk: The Norfolk Bicentennial Commission, 1976.

(Waterbury) Sunday Republican Magazine, August 25, 1968.

Withey, Henry F., and Elsie Rathburn Withey. Biographical Dictionary of American Architects (Deceased). Los Angeles: Hennessey & Ingalls, Inc., 1970, reprint of 1956:528-529.

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.

PROPERTY NAME

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Department of the Interior

National Register of Historic Places Form

Recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey: # _____
 Recorded by Historic American Engineering Record: # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency - State Parks Division, Department of Environmental Protection, State Office Building, Hartford, CT.
- Federal Agency
- Local Government
- University
- Other: Specify Repository: _____

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Acreage of Property: 1+

UTM References: Zone Northing Easting Zone Northing Easting

A	<u>18</u>	<u>4651630</u>	<u>648350</u>	B	_____	_____
C	_____	_____	_____	D	_____	_____
E	_____	_____	_____	F	_____	_____

Verbal Boundary Description:

The nominated property is described at Norfolk Land Records, volume 29, pages 631-632, August 21, 1917. It includes the one-acre parcel and 20-foot right-of-way from the highway, which constituted the original Stoeckel gift to the state, and the roadway.

Boundary Justification:

The boundary is drawn to encompass the land which was the original (1917) Stoeckel gift to the state of a tower on Haystack Mountain.

11. FORM PREPARED BY

Name/Title: David F. Ransom, Consultant; reviewed by John F.A. Herzan, National Register Coordinator

Org.: Connecticut Historical Commission

Date: June 1993

Street/#: 59 South Prospect Street

City/Town: Hartford

State: CT

ZIP: 06106

Telephone: 203 521-2518

PHOTOGRAPHS

Photographs were taken by David F. Ransom in May 1993. Negatives are on file with the Connecticut Historical Commission.

Photograph 1
View north

Photograph 2
Battell plaque

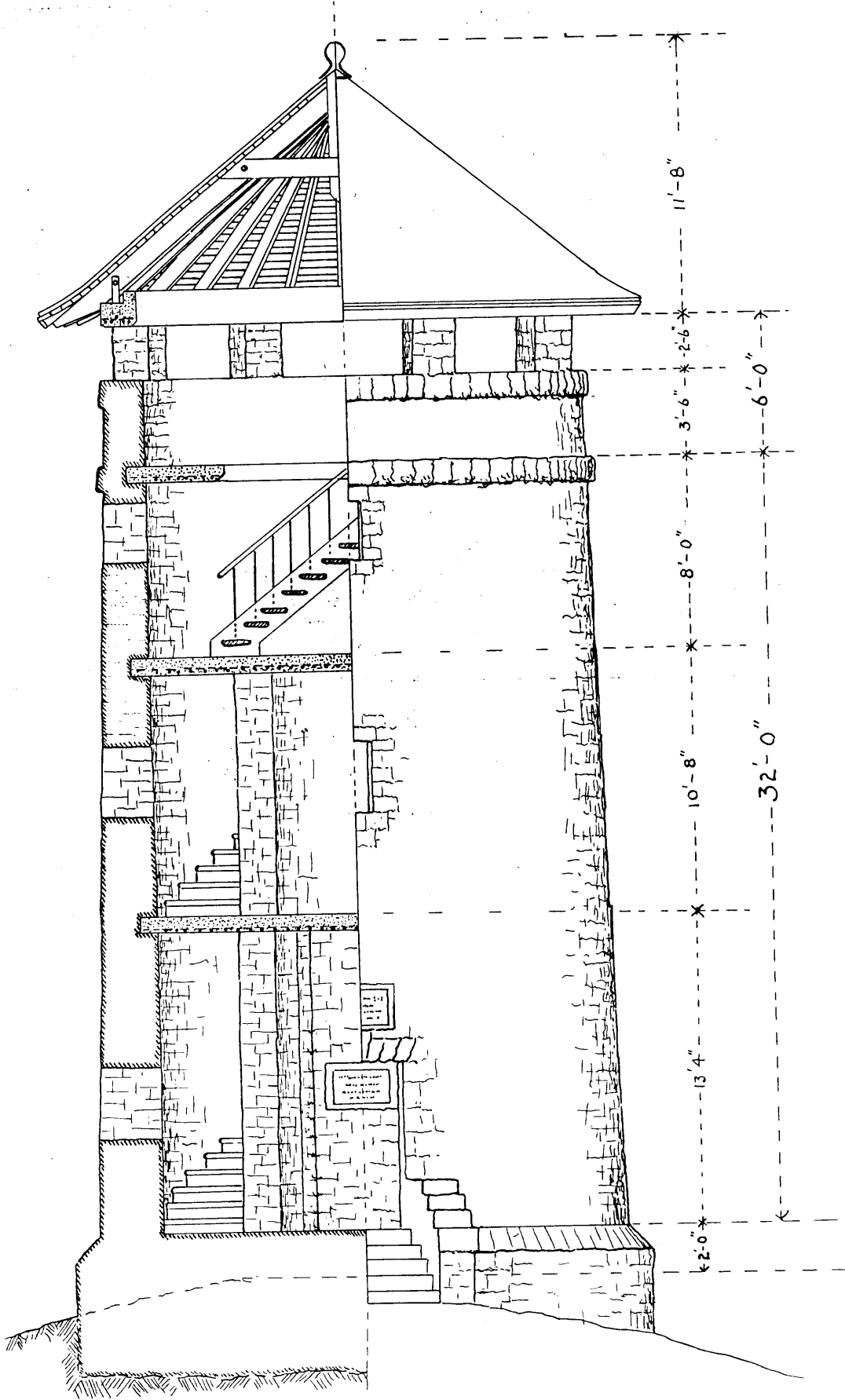
Photograph 3
Place for Stoeckel plaque

Photograph 4
Perimeter stairway

Photograph 5
Midway landing

Photograph 6
Observation platform
View south

Photograph 7
Roof structure



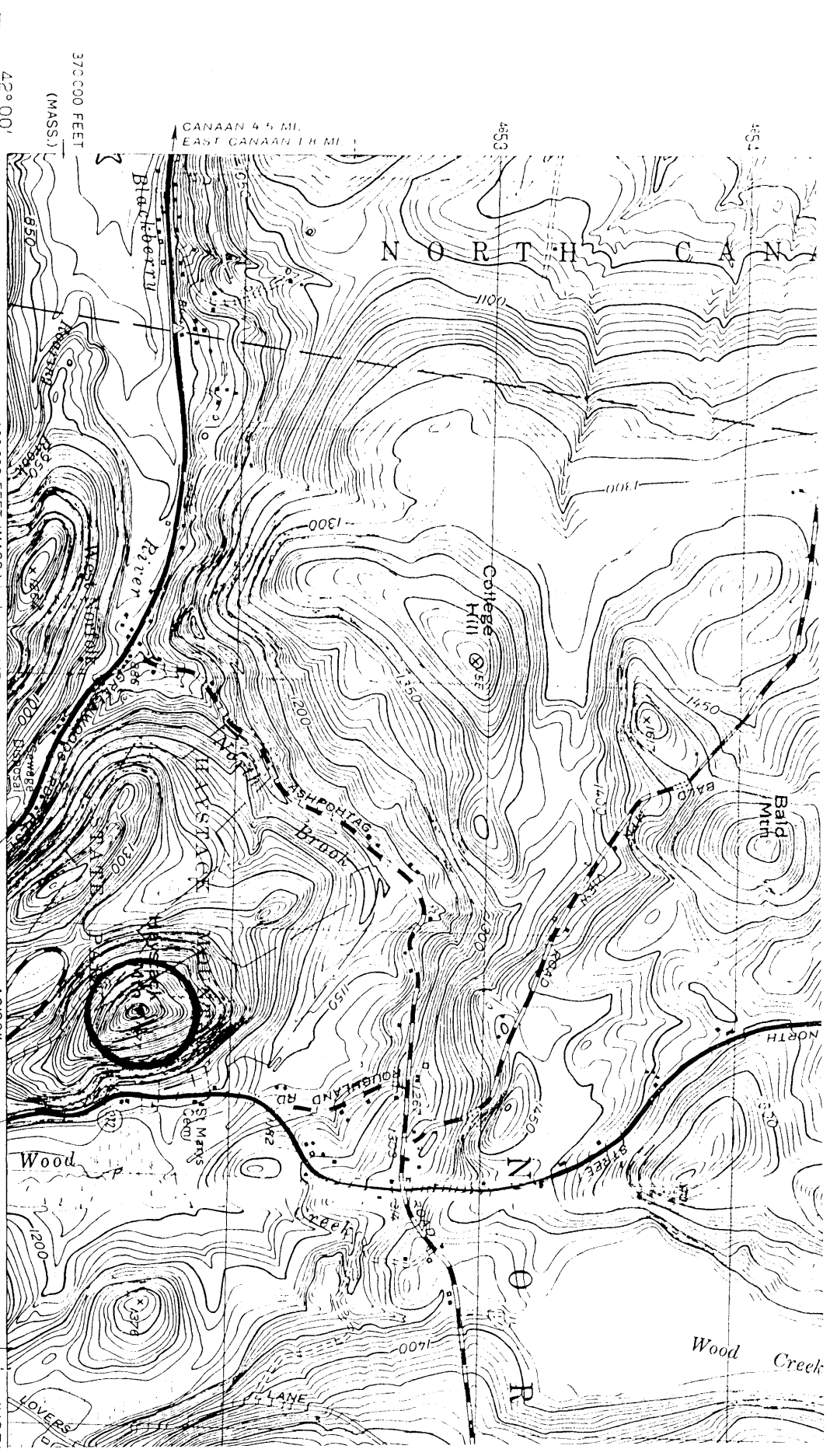
HALF SECTION HALF ELEVATION
 HAYSTACK TOWER

Scale $\frac{1}{4}'' = 1'$

Apr. 1929

← 10' →

Figure 1



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS, USCGS, Massachusetts Land and Harbor Commission, Massachusetts Geodetic Survey, and Connecticut Geodetic Survey.

Topography in Connecticut by planimeter surveys 1944
 Topography in Massachusetts from aerial photographs by photogrammetric methods. Aerial photographs taken 1942
 Field check 1946. Revised 1958

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
 10,000-foot grids based on Massachusetts coordinate system, mainland zone, and Connecticut coordinate system
 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator, Zone 18

Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines visible on aerial photographs. This information is uncorrected

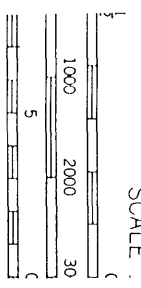
UTM GRID AND 1969 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

13° 23' 15"

UTM Reference:

18 4651630 648350

Haystack Mountain Tower
 Norfolk
 Litchfield County, CT



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP COMPILING WITH U.S. DENVER, COLORADO 80225, A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS