

# **Listing of the Fire Towers Operated by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation**



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As determined from factory blue prints fire tower heights are measured only from the top of the concrete footings to the floor of a fire tower's cab. The height of the fire tower's cab is not calculated into the height of a fire tower. Each of the fire tower cabs are 9 feet high measured from the floor to the peak of the roof.

To follow is a complete listing of each and every forest fire detection station that was operated by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), Bureau of Forest Fire Control from 1909 up through the end of the 1990 fire season. 1990 was the final year that the NYS-DEC operated their fire towers.

Over the years the NYS-DEC went by a few other names beginning with the Forest, Fish and Game Commission; the Conservation Commission; the Conservation Department and finally the Department of Environmental Conservation. The Bureau of Forest Fire Control was officially renamed the Bureau of Forest Protection and Fire Management in the late 1970s and in 1996 the bureau became a full division within DEC.

As the NYS-DEC was the only state agency to operate forest fire detection towers on a full-time basis this list will deal strictly with those fire towers. However the state parks did own and operate several fire towers mainly between 1925 and 1933 with the exception of the Bear Mountain - Palisades State Park Commission which operated a small few on an emergency basis into the 1990s.

In 2007 the Ferncliff Forest in Rhinebeck, NY erected a 100 foot Aermotor model MC-39 fire tower. The MC-39 is identical to an International Derrick model 1933 fire tower. This fire tower was relocated from South Carolina and it was never used for forest fire detection in New York State. As a result of that fact this fire tower is not listed here. More information on this fire tower may be obtained by performing a web search for the "Ferncliff Forest fire tower".

No.	STATION	ELEV.	COUNTY	OPENED / TOWER	FIRE TOWER MODEL	STATUS as of MARCH 2011
<b>Region 1 Old Forestry District 15 (Long Island)</b>						
1	Bayshore	70	Suffolk	1948 / 1948	Aermotor LS-40 - 80 ft.	Removed
2	Camp Upton	78	Suffolk	1932 / 1932	Aermotor LS-40 - 60 ft.	Removed
3	Central Islip	131	Suffolk	1921 Only	Never had a steel fire tower	Abandoned and removed
4	Clock	?	Suffolk	1920 Only	Never had a steel fire tower	Abandoned and removed
5	Dix Hill	320	Suffolk	1922 / 1922	Aermotor LS-40 - 60 ft.	Removed
6	Flanders Hill	236	Suffolk	1918 / 1918	Aermotor LS-40 - 47 ft.	Removed
7	Kings Park	240	Suffolk	1948 / 1948	Aermotor LS-40 - 80 ft.	Removed
8	Oakdale	9	Suffolk	1921 Only	Never had a steel fire tower	Abandoned
9	Stony Hill	150	Suffolk	1930 / 1930	Aermotor LS-40 - 73 ft	Removed
10	Telescope Hill	334	Suffolk	1918 / 1918	Aermotor LS-40 - 60 ft	Removed
<b>Region 3 Old Forestry Districts 13 and 14</b>						
11	Balsam Lake Mtn (Oldest)	3,720	Ulster	1885 / 1920	Aermotor LS-40 - 47 ft.	Has been restored
12	Beacon Mtn	1,600	Dutchess	1922 / 1931	Aermotor LS-40 - 60 ft.	Under restoration
13	Belleayre Mtn	3,375	Ulster	1905 / 1930	Aermotor LS-40 - 73 ft	Removed
14	Chapin Hill	1,420	Sullivan	1924 / 1924	Aermotor LS-40 - 60 ft.	Removed
15	Clove Mtn	1,400	Dutchess	1933 / 1933	Aermotor LS-40 - 60 ft.	Private land - No public access
16	Cross River Mtn	800	Westchester	1926 / 1926	Aermotor LS-40 - 60 ft.	Removed
17	Gallis Hill	780	Ulster	1927 / 1927	Aermotor LS-40 - 60 ft.	Relocated to Overlook Mtn.
18	Graham Mtn	1,300	Orange	1948 / 1948	Aermotor LS-40 - 60 ft.	In place
19	High Point Mtn	2,200	Ulster	1912 / 1919	Aermotor LS-40 - 47 ft.	Removed
20	Jackie Jones Mtn	1,260	Rockland	1928 / 1928	Aermotor LS-40 - 60 ft.	In place
21	Mohonk Mtn	1,610	Ulster	1912 / 1928 Stone	No steel tower - stone structure	Private land - No public access
22	Nelson Mtn	540	Westchester	1950 / 1950	Aermotor LS-40 - 73 ft	Removed
23	Ninham Mtn	1,340	Putnam	1940 / 1940	Int. Derrick model 1937 - 82' 6"	Has been restored
24	Overlook Mtn	3,120	Ulster	1950 / 1950	Aermotor LS-40 - 60 ft.	Has been restored
25	Pocatello Mtn	1,020	Orange	1930 / 1930	Aermotor LS-40 - 60 ft.	Relocated to Graham Mtn.
26	Red Hill	2,980	Ulster	1920 / 1920	Aermotor LS-40 - 60 ft.	Has been restored
27	Roosa Gap	1,647	Sullivan	1948 / 1948	Aermotor LS-40 - 47 ft.	Radio Equip - No public access
28	Slide Mtn	4,180	Ulster	1912	Had a steel tower but not DEC's. See note.	Abandoned and removed
29	Sterling Mtn	1,320	Orange	1923 / 1923	Aermotor LS-40 - 60 ft.	Has been restored
30	Stissing Mtn	1,370	Dutchess	1934 / 1934	Int. Derrick model 1933 - 79' 6"	Has been restored
31	Tremper Mtn	2,720	Ulster	1917 / 1917	Aermotor LS-40 - 47 ft.	Has been restored
<b>Region 4 Old Forestry Districts 1 and 12</b>						
32	Alander Mtn.	2,240	Columbia	1928 / 1928	Aermotor LS-40 - 60 ft.	Relocated to Washburn Mtn.
33	Beebe Hill	1,726	Columbia	1965 / 1965	Aermotor LS-40 - 60 ft.	Under restoration
34	Bramley Mtn	2,817	Delaware	1950 / 1950	Aermotor LS-40 - 80 ft.	Removed
35	Dickinson Hill	1,760	Rensselaer	1924 / 1924	Aermotor LS-40 - 60 ft.	Under restoration
36	Hooker Hill	2,320	Otsego	1935 / 1935	Int. Derrick model 1933 - 79' 6"	Removed
37	Hunter Mtn	4,040	Greene	1909 / 1917	Aermotor LS-40 - 60 ft.	Has been restored
38	Leonard Hill	2,620	Schoharie	1948 / 1948	Aermotor LS-40 - 80 ft.	Awaits restoration
39	Number Seven Hill	2,010	Rensselaer	1923 / 1923	Aermotor LS-40 - 60 ft.	Removed
40	Petersburg Mtn	2,320	Schoharie	1940 / 1940	Int. Derrick model 1937 - 67' 6"	Removed
41	Rock Rift Mtn	2,402	Delaware	1934 / 1934	Int. Derrick model 1933 - 72' 9"	Private land - No public access
42	Twadell Point	2,296	Delaware	1910 / 1919	Aermotor LS-40 - 47 ft.	Private land - No public access
43	Utsayantha Mtn	3,214	Delaware	1934 / 1934	Int. Derrick model 1933 - 59' 3"	Has been restored
44	Washburn Mtn	1,542	Columbia	1932 / 1932	Aermotor LS-40 - 60 ft.	Relocated to Beebe Hill

No.	STATION	ELEV.	COUNTY	OPENED / TOWER	FIRE TOWER MODEL	STATUS as of MARCH 2011
<i>Region 5 Old Forestry Districts 9, 10 and 11</i>						
45	Adams Mtn	3,250	Essex	1912 / 1917	Aermotor LS-40 - 47 ft.	Under restoration
46	Ampersand Mtn	3,313	Franklin	1911 / 1921	Aermotor LS-40 - 22 ft.	Removed
47	Azure Mtn	2,500	Franklin	1914 / 1918	Aermotor LS-40 - 35 ft.	Has been restored
48	Belfry Mtn	1,863	Essex	1912 / 1917	Aermotor LS-40 - 47 ft.	Radio Equip - No public access
49	Black Mtn	2,640	Washington	1911 / 1918	Aermotor LS-40 - 35 ft.	Radio Equip - No public access
50	Blue Mtn	3,759	Hamilton	1911 / 1917	Aermotor LS-40 - 35 ft.	Has been restored
51	Boreas Mtn	3,776	Essex	1911 / 1919	Aermotor LS-40 - 47 ft.	Removed
52	Cathead Mtn	2,431	Hamilton	1910 / 1916	Aermotor LL-25 - 50 ft.	Private land - No public access
53	Colfax Mtn	2,267	Washington	1950 / 1950	Aermotor LS-40 - 80 ft.	Radio Equip - No public access
54	Cornell Hill	420	Saratoga	1924 / 1924	Aermotor LS-40 - 60 ft.	Moved to Wilton, NY
55	Crane Mtn	3,420	Warren	1911 / 1919	Aermotor LS-40 - 35 ft.	Removed
56	DeBar Mtn	3,300	Franklin	1912 / 1918	Aermotor LS-40 - 35 ft.	Removed
57	Dunn Brook Mtn	3,605	Hamilton	1911	Never had a steel fire tower	Abandoned and removed
58	Goodnow Mtn	2,690	Essex	1921 / 1921	Aermotor LS-40 - 60 ft.	Has been restored
59	Gore Mtn	3,562	Warren	1909 / 1918	Aermotor LS-40 - 60 ft.	Radio Equip - No public access
60	Hadley Mtn	2,680	Saratoga	1917 / 1917	Aermotor LL-25 - 40 ft.	Has been restored
61	Hamilton Mtn	3,238	Hamilton	1909 / 1916	Aermotor LL-25 - 50 ft.	Removed
62	Hurricane Mtn	3,678	Essex	1910 / 1919	Aermotor LS-40 - 35 ft.	Awaits restoration
63	Kane Mtn	2,200	Fulton	1925 / 1925	Aermotor LS-40 - 60 ft.	Has been restored
64	Kempshall Mtn	3,346	Hamilton	1911 / 1918	Aermotor LS-40 - 35 ft.	Removed
65	Loon Lake Mtn	3,320	Franklin	1912 / 1917	Aermotor LS-40 - 35 ft.	Awaits restoration
66	Lyon Mtn	3,820	Clinton	1910 / 1917	Aermotor LS-40 - 35 ft.	Has been restored
67	Makomis Mtn	1,663	Essex	1911 / 1916	Aermotor LL-25 - 40 ft.	Removed
68	Mt Morris	3,136	Franklin	1909 / 1919	Aermotor LS-40 - 22 ft.	Private land - No public access
69	Ohmer Mtn	2,565	Saratoga	1911	Never had a steel fire tower	Abandoned and removed
70	Owls Head Mtn	2,812	Hamilton	1911 / 1919	Aermotor LS-40 - 35 ft.	Has been restored
71	Palmer Hill	1,148	Clinton	1930 / 1930	Aermotor LS-40 - 60 ft.	Private land - No public access
72	Pharaoh Mtn	2,556	Essex	1910 / 1918	Aermotor LS-40 - 35 ft.	Removed
73	Pillsbury Mtn	3,597	Hamilton	1918 / 1924	Aermotor LS-40 - 60 ft.	Awaits restoration
74	Poke-O-Moonshine Mtn	2,165	Essex	1912 / 1917	Aermotor LS-40 - 35 ft.	Has been restored
75	Prospect Mtn	2,020	Warren	1910 / 1932	Aermotor LS-40 - 47 ft.	Removed
76	Snowy Mtn	3,897	Hamilton	1909 / 1917	Aermotor LS-40 - 47 ft.	Has been restored
77	Spruce Mtn	2,009	Saratoga	1928 / 1928	Aermotor LS-40 - 73 ft.	Awaits restoration
78	St Regis Mtn	2,874	Franklin	1910 / 1918	Aermotor LS-40 - 35 ft.	Awaits restoration
79	Swede Mtn	1,900	Warren	1912 / 1918	Aermotor LS-40 - 47 ft.	Private land - No public access
80	T-Lake Mtn	3,071	Hamilton	1916 / 1916	Aermotor LL-25 - 50 ft.	Removed
81	Tomany Mtn	2,579	Hamilton	1912 / 1916	Aermotor LL-25 - 50 ft.	Removed
82	Vanderwhacker Mtn	3,409	Essex	1911 / 1918	Aermotor LS-40 - 35 ft.	Under restoration
83	Wakely Mtn	3,766	Hamilton	1911 / 1916	Aermotor LL-25 - 70 ft.	Awaits restoration
84	West Mtn	2,913	Hamilton	1909 / 1920	Aermotor LS-40 - 47 ft.	Removed
85	Whiteface Mtn	4,865	Essex	1909 / 1919	Aermotor LS-40 - 22 ft.	Moved to Adirondack Museum



No.	STATION	ELEV.	COUNTY	OPENED / TOWER	FIRE TOWER MODEL	STATUS as of MARCH 2011
<b>Region 6 Old Forestry Districts 6, 7 and 8</b>						
86	Arab Mtn	2,519	St Lawrence	1911 / 1918	Aermotor LS-40 - 35 ft.	Has been restored
87	Bald Mtn (not in Old Forge)	1,640	Lewis	1911 / 1919	Aermotor LS-40 - 47 ft.	Removed
88	Beaver Lake Mtn	1,726	Herkimer	1910 / 1919	Aermotor LS-40 - 47 ft.	Removed
89	Castor Hill	1,560	Oswego	1927 / 1927	Aermotor LS-40 - 80 ft.	Removed
90	Cat Mtn	2,260	St Lawrence	1910 / 1917	Aermotor LS-40 - 47 ft.	Removed
91	Catamount Mtn	1,820	St Lawrence	1911 / 1917	Aermotor LS-40 - 35 ft.	Removed
92	Dairy Hill	1,812	Herkimer	1934 / 1934	Int. Derrick model 1933 - 79' 6"	Removed
93	Fort Noble Mtn	2,338	Herkimer	1910 / 1916	Aermotor LL-25 - 50 ft.	Removed
94	Gomer Hill	2,120	Lewis	1940 / 1940	Int. Derrick model 1937 - 67' 6"	Radio Equip - No public access
95	Moose River Mtn	2,205	Herkimer	1911 / 1918	Aermotor LS-40 - 60 ft.	Removed
96	Moosehead Mtn	2,060	St Lawrence	1910 / 1916	Aermotor LL-25 - 40 ft.	Removed
97	New Boston	1,643	Lewis	1950 / 1950	Aermotor LS-40 - 80 ft.	Moved to Thompson Park Zoo
98	Number Four	1,540	Lewis	1928 / 1928	Aermotor LX-25 - 75 ft.	Moved to Lowville DEC
99	Penn Mtn	1,813	Herkimer	1950 / 1950	Aermotor LS-40 - 80 ft.	Removed
100	Rondaxe (Bald) Mtn	2,349	Herkimer	1912 / 1917	Aermotor LS-40 - 35 ft.	Has been restored
101	Sand Hill	320	St Lawrence	1950 / 1950	Aermotor LS-40 - 80 ft.	Removed
102	Stillwater Mtn	2,267	Herkimer	1912 / 1919	Aermotor LS-40 - 47 ft.	Under restoration
103	Swancott Hill (tallest tower)	1,500	Lewis	1940 / 1940	Int. Derrick model 1933 - 99' 9"	Removed
104	Tooley Pond Mtn	1,782	St Lawrence	1913 / 1919	Aermotor LS-40 - 47 ft.	Moved to Cathedral Rock
105	Whites Hill	1,436	St Lawrence	1950 / 1950	Aermotor LS-40 - 80 ft.	Removed
106	Woodhull Mtn	2,365	Herkimer	1911 / 1916	Aermotor LL-25 - 50 ft.	Radio Equip - No public access
<b>Region 7 Old Forestry Districts 2 and 3</b>						
107	Berry Hill	1,960	Chenango	1934 / 1934	Int. Derrick model 1933 - 59' 3"	Under restoration
108	Brookfield	1,900	Madison	1948 / 1948	Int. Derrick model 1933 - 79' 6"	Removed
109	Chenango Lake	1,966	Chenango	1935 / 1935	Int. Derrick model 1933 - 79' 6"	Relocated to Brookfield
110	Georgetown Mtn	2,140	Madison	1940 / 1940	Int. Derrick model 1937 - 67' 6"	Removed
111	Ingraham Hill	1,860	Broome	1950 / 1950	Aermotor LS-40 - 80 ft.	Private land - No public access
112	Morgan Hill	2,020	Cortland	1941 / 1941	Int. Derrick model 1937 - 82' 6"	Removed
113	Padlock Hill	1,900	Tompkins	1940 / 1940	Int. Derrick model 1937 - 67' 6"	Moved to State Fairgrounds
114	Page Pond Hill	2,000	Broome	1935 / 1935	Int. Derrick model 1933 - 76' 9"	Private land - No public access
<b>Region 8 Old Forestry District 4</b>						
115	Erwin Mtn	1,710	Steuben	1940 / 1940	Int. Derrick model 1937 - 82' 6"	Removed
116	Prattsburg Mtn	2,163	Steuben	1950 / 1950	Aermotor LS-40 - 80 ft.	Removed
117	Sugar Hill	2,090	Schuyler	1941 / 1941	Int. Derrick model 1937 - 67' 6"	Maintained by the NYS-DEC
<b>Region 9 Old Forestry District 5 (In the district format Allegany County was in District 4)</b>						
118	Alma Hill	2,548	Allegany	1950 / 1950	Aermotor LS-40 - 80 ft.	Private land - No public access
119	Hartzfelt Hill	2,410	Cattaraugus	1924 / 1924	Aermotor LS-40 - 60 ft.	Removed
120	Jersey Hill	2,240	Allegany	1935 / 1935	Int. Derrick model 1933 - 76' 9"	Removed
121	McCarty Hill	2,323	Cattaraugus	1940 / 1940	Int. Derrick model 1937 - 82' 6"	Removed
122	Summit Hill	2,385	Cattaraugus	1926 / 1926	Aermotor LS-40 - 60 ft.	Has been restored

No.	STATION	ELEV.	COUNTY	OPENED / TOWER	FIRE TOWER MODEL	STATUS as of MARCH 2011
<i>Privately owned and operated Adirondack fire towers which worked in conjunction with the NYS-DEC fire towers</i>						
123	Buck Mtn	2,395	Hamilton	1933 / 1933	Aermotor LS-40 - 60ft.	Private land - No public access
124	Meenagha Mtn	2,067	Franklin	1927 / 1927	Aermotor LS-40 - 73ft.	Private land - No public access
125	Mt Electra	2,303	Herkimer	1920 / 1920	Aermotor LS-40 - 60ft.	Removed
126	Rock Mtn	1,407	Lewis	1922 / Never	Old windmill frame	Removed
127	Salmon Lake Mtn	2,523	Hamilton	1932 / 1932	Aermotor LX-24 - 35ft.	Private land - No public access

1. As determined from factory blue prints fire tower heights are measured only from the top of the concrete footings to the floor of a fire tower's cab. The height of the fire tower's cab is not calculated into the height of a fire tower. Each of the fire tower cabs are 9 feet high measured from the floor to the peak of the roof.
2. Blue shaded text indicates a forest fire detection station located inside the "Blue Line" of the Adirondack and Catskill parks.

#### Itemized inventory of the NYS-DEC steel fire towers as of March 2011

127 - Total NYS-DEC forest fire detection stations statewide.

(5) - Privately owned and operated Adirondack fire towers.

122 - Individual forest fire detection stations operated by the NYS-DEC on both public and private land.

(7) - Stations never upgraded to a steel fire tower.

115 - NYS-DEC forest fire detection stations equipped with a steel fire tower.

(5) - Steel fire towers relocated to another forest fire detection site between 1909 and 1990 when the fire towers were in operation.

110 - Individual steel fire towers owned by the NYS-DEC.

54 - Steel fire towers removed from their sites.

56 - Steel fire towers remaining in place at their original location.

80 - Aermotor model LS-40 fire towers. ( 4 fire towers that were relocated = 80 total )

10 - Aermotor model LL-25 fire towers.

1 - Aermotor model LX-25 fire tower.

10 - International Derrick model 1933 fire towers. ( 1 fire tower that was relocated = 10 total )

9 - International Derrick model 1937 fire towers.

35 - Fire towers either restored, under restoration or under agreement and awaiting restoration at their original location.

6 - Fire towers moved and re-erected at other sites after the fire tower was de-commissioned.



## **Common misconceptions about the fire towers:**

### **1. *“The state now uses satellites to detect forest fires.”***

Not true. The state has never utilized satellites for this purpose in fact the US Forest Service only uses satellites in rare occasions once a fire has been detected. Thermal imaging is the only reliable satellite source available to keep track of a known fire. The problem with thermal imaging is that it identifies a heat source, but it cannot determine what is causing the heat that is being detected. Plus the cost for satellite time is so enormous it would actually be cheaper for the state to operate a few fire towers instead.

### **2. *“During World War II most of the fire towers were closed because there was no one available to work in them”.***

Not true. This is not supported by the payroll record of the Bureau of Forest Fire Control. In fact several of the fire towers were operated by women and older men who were ineligible for the draft. During the war the fire towers were also responsible for tracking aircraft and reporting any aircraft sightings to Civil Defense authorities. The fire towers on Long Island routinely searched for Japanese and Nazi submarine and war boat activity along shipping lanes in the Atlantic Ocean and Long Island Sound. The Telescope Hill fire tower actually directed US Navy ships during the capture of a Nazi U-Boat lurking off the coast along shipping lanes approaching New York harbor.

### **3. *“The use of airplanes to detect forest fires began in the 1930s.”***

True, but only on a limited basis. In the 1930s a department bi-plane was utilized to supplement the lack of fire tower coverage in the lower Hudson valley and the Southern Tier region. Once these areas had adequate fire tower coverage the use of the state’s airplane for this purpose declined.

### **4. *“The use of airplanes made the fire towers obsolete.”***

Not true. The state operated their fire towers between 1909 and 1990 and the sole reason for their closing was budgetary. By order of Governor Mario Cuomo the five remaining fire towers were closed for good by Labor Day of 1990. The aerial fire detection system familiar throughout the 1970s and 1980s utilized privately owned aircraft under contract to fly 15 designated detection routes throughout the state when conditions deemed it necessary for detection flights. These routes only covered the areas that were affected by the fire tower closing of the mid 1970s. The funding for the aerial detection system was being diverted to other programs by 1994 and the system quietly faded away. Today several states, the US Forest Service and Canada continue to operate well over 200 fire towers each year.

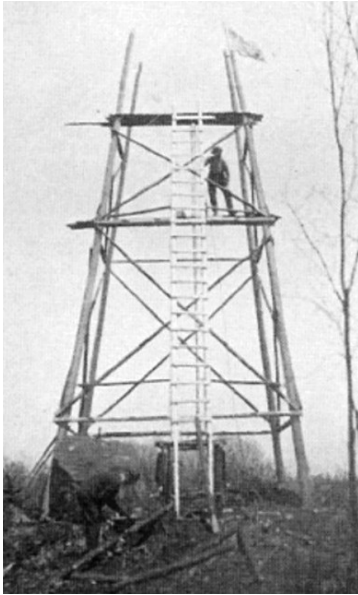
### **5. *“During the 1950 Adirondack ‘Blowdown’ several fire towers were toppled over”.***

Not true. There have only been three fire towers that fell over due to natural causes. In October of 1919 a hurricane passed over the eastern Adirondacks which caused the fire towers on Hadley and Gore Mountains to fall over. Then during the winter of 1927-’28 the Loon Lake Mountain fire tower fell over. Each of the fire towers were salvaged and in service in the spring of the following year.

### **6. *“All of the fire towers were built in the Adirondack and Catskill Mountains”.***

The majority of the fire towers were found in these areas, but fire towers were operated in nearly every corner of the state. At one time the state operated ten different forest fire detection observatories on Long Island. Fire towers were routinely in operation throughout the lower and mid Hudson valley, the Taconic Mountain range, the Tug Hill region, central New York, the Southern Tier, the Finger Lakes region and as far west as the Allegany State Park. In total the DEC operated forest fire detection observatories on 122 different sites.

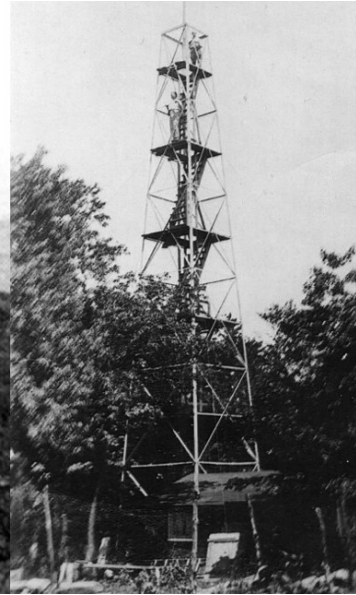
## **The Early Years 1909 – 1915: The Wooden Era:**



*Photo 1 - Ft Noble Mtn 1910*



*Photo 2 - Pharaoh Mtn 1910*

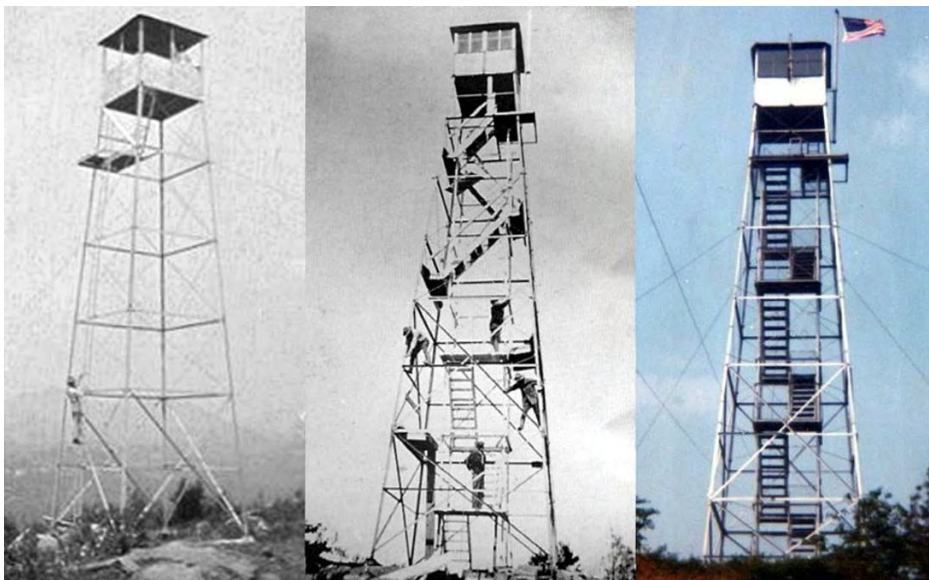


*Photo 3 - Belleayre Mtn 1913*

The statewide fire tower network began operating in 1909 with the creation of a handful of fire detection stations in the Adirondack and Catskill Parks. In almost every case crude towers were made using timbers found on the mountaintops (see photo 1). In three cases a tent first served as the observatory (see photo 2) and in four cases converted windmill frames (see photo 3) served as the first tower. Yet by 1914 state officials were seeking a permanent structure, with an enclosure on top, to protect the Forest Fire Observers from the harsh mountaintop climates. The standardized steel fire towers were introduced in 1916 with the installation of 10 Aermotor model LL-25 fire towers.

## **The Aermotor Model LL-25 Fire Towers:**

The Aermotor model LL-25 was the first standard steel fire tower installed in New York State. In 1916 ten of these fire towers were erected on peaks in the Adirondacks. The construction of the fire tower on Hadley Mtn began late in 1916, but was not complete until early 1917. The LL-15 was originally equipped with an external ladder in order to gain access into the tower (see photo 4) however it was soon realized that this was unsafe for both the forest fire observer and visiting public. In 1917 wooden stairways, with landings, were installed on all ten of these fire towers. These wooden stairs required a great deal of maintenance and many required replacing because of their exposure to the mountaintop climates.



*4 - Makomis Mtn. 1916*

*5 - Cathead Mtn. 1929*

*6 - Cathead Mtn. 1980*

Therefore in 1929 Aermotor offered a kit to be installed on these fire towers that would support a permanent stairway system on these fire towers. In photo 5 laborers are installing the new kit stairway system from the ground while the wooden stairway system is being removed from the Cathead Mtn fire tower. Photo 6 illustrates the stairway system on the Cathead Mtn fire tower as being an independent self supporting stairway system.



## **The Aermotor Model LS-40 Fire Towers:**



The LS-40 is this most numerous and most recognizable fire tower in the state. The LS-40 was found in every region of the state where fire towers were in use, introduced in 1917 containing a self supporting stairway system that was integrated into the super structure of the fire tower. The stair risers run back and forth up the fire tower between large landings, an important safety feature, making the LS-40 the preferred fire tower of the officials in the Bureau of Forest Fire Control. One may determine the height of a LS-40 fire tower through simple observation and by counting how many stair risers on the tower.

3 flights of stairs = 22 feet high

5 flights of stairs = 35 feet high

7 flights of stairs = 47 feet high

9 flights of stairs = 60 feet high

11 flights of stairs = 73 feet high

12 flights of stairs = 80 feet high

*Cat Mtn. 1963, a 47 ft Aermotor model LS-40*

***As determined from factory blue prints the height of any fire tower is always measured to the floor of its cab, not to the peak of the roof, and does not include the height of the concrete footings.***

## **The Aermotor Model LX-25 Fire Tower:**



There is only one model LX-25 fire tower in the state that was used by the NYS-DEC, the Number Four fire tower. This fire tower was erected in 1928 by Mr. Clarence Fisher of the Fisher Forestry and Realty Company to stand watch over his vast land holding in and around eastern Lewis County. Mr. Fisher turned over control and operation of the fire tower to the state around 1945. The LX-25 fire tower appears quite similar to a LS-40 fire tower with the exception of ladders being used between the landings instead of stair risers (see the attached photo). When the state took over the operation of the fire tower they replaced these ladders with the typical stair riser's familiar on the LS-40 fire towers. The height of a LX-25 is slightly higher than an LS-40 fire tower, typically a fire tower with 11 flights of stairs is 73 feet high, but on a LX-25 the fire tower is 2 feet higher. The Number Four fire tower has since been moved to DEC's Nature Demonstration Area at their Lowville, NY office where only the top 25 feet of this fire tower has been re-erected.

*An Aermotor Model LX-25 Fire Tower.*

## **The International Derrick Fire Towers:**

The International Derrick fire towers came to New York State from the U.S. Forest Service via the C.C.C. (Civilian Conservation Corps) between 1933 and 1941. They were erected in areas outside of the Adirondack and Catskill Parks to provide observation coverage over vast areas of C.C.C. reforestation projects.

There were two different models of the International Derrick fire towers, the model 1933 and model 1937. The model 1933 was developed through a cooperative effort between The Aermotor Company and the U.S. Forest Service in the late 1920s. Both models were made by each of the major fire tower manufacturers over time via the sealed bid process, although here in New York each of these fire towers were manufactured by The International Derrick Company. In other states people encounter the model 1933 fire tower, but know them as an Aermotor model MC-39. The model 1937 however was entirely a U.S. Forest Service design which saw dramatic changes and improvements to the cab of the fire tower.

The stairway configuration on the International Derricks rises up from the ground running from corner to corner inside the fire tower's superstructure between small triangular landings. This stairway design created safety concerns and had become unpopular with state officials. As a result of these concerns when the state purchased ten new fire towers between 1948 and 1950 the Aermotor model LS-40 fire tower was chosen.



### **The International Derrick Model 1933 Fire Tower:**

At a quick glance the model 1933 looks no different than an Aermotor model LS-40 fire tower, but on closer inspection the stairway configuration stands out as being unusual. The bottom stair risers are long and they tend to bounce and sway from side to side. Once inside the fire tower cab one will notice the metal window sashes which open outward from the bottom as they pivot on center pins on each side of the window. However unlike the Aermotor fire towers all eight window sashes will open.

*To the left is the International Derrick model 1933 fire tower on Utsayantha Mtn. from November of 2009.*



### **The International Derrick Model 1937 Fire Tower:**

There is no mistaking that the model 1937 fire tower is entirely different from the four other fire towers. Of course one will notice the familiar corner to corner stairway configuration, but the cab is quite different. The cab is slightly taller with a larger glass area and large rectangular window sashes that pivot out from the bottom in the middle of the glass area. The visors over the windows are a nice feature in helping to block out the glare of the afternoon Sun. As with the model 1933 fire tower the super structures appears to be of a heavier duty design over the Aermotor LL, LS and LX series of fire towers.

*To the left is the International Derrick model 1937 fire tower on Sugar Hill from June of 2009.*

## **Facts and Notes About Certain Fire Towers**

Alander Mtn	See entry for Beebe Hill.
Alma Hill	This fire tower was among the 10 purchased through the fire tower capital construction fund provided for by the NYS Legislature in 1950. This station never operated on a full-time basis, but rather as a secondary station operated on a need by need basis by fire wardens.
Arab Mtn.	The fire tower and Observer's cabin has been fully restored by the "Friends of Mt. Arab" and is open to the public. This facility is registered on the National Register of Historic Places.
Azure Mtn.	The fire tower has been fully restored by the "Azure Mountain Friends" and is open to the public. The tower is registered on the National Register of Historic Places.
Bald Mtn.	This station is not to be confused with the Bald Mtn. near Old Forge, N.Y. which had been identified by the state as Rondaxe Mtn. Ownership of the Bald Mtn. observatory was transferred to the land owner, the Diamond Match Co., around 1975 following it's de-commission. The landowner toppled the fire tower over at that time and it now rests on the ground where it fell. This station was established in 1911 while the Rondaxe fire tower on Bald Mtn., in Old Forge, was established in 1912. To avoid confusion the state could not operate two fire towers named Bald mountain so as a result the name Rondaxe was given to the Bald Mtn. in Old Forge. This decision however was never accepted by the Old Forge community.
Balsam Lake Mtn.	This station is the oldest documented forest fire observatory within New York State. In 1885 the land was owned by the Balsam Lake Club. As the risk of forest fires was a serious concern to large land owners the club erected a tower made from timbers found on the mountaintop and paid a man to staff the tower during dry periods. This tower was struck by lightning and burned down around 1901 and the club built a new wood tower on the mountain in 1905. Control of the Balsam Lake Mtn. facility was transferred to the state in 1909. The steel fire tower and cabin has been fully restored by the Friends of the Balsam Lake Fire Tower and is now open to the public. The facility is registered on the National Register of Historic Places.
Beacon Mtn.	This station appears in the 1922 and 1924 Annual Reports to the Legislature as South Beacon Mtn. which was first established with no tower of any kind. During this time when the forest fire observer spotted a fire he had to walk a quarter mile down the foot trail to a tree where the telephone line ended. The observer then climbed that tree where a telephone was attached to the wires to dial out. The station was upgraded to a steel fire tower in 1931. The fire tower is under restoration by the Friends of Mt Beacon and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.
Beaver Lake Mtn.	This is one of the oldest forest fire observatories within the state established in 1910 with a wood tower then upgraded to a steel tower in 1919. The station operated continuously until World War II. During the war the turn-over rate of observers at this station was unusually high due to the remote location. The state temporarily closed the tower in 1942, but with the nearby Number Four and Stillwater Mtn fire towers there was no need to re-open the station after the war. It stood idle until 1977 when a crew of Forest Rangers, led by District Forest Ranger Bob Bailey, dismantled the fire tower and the tower pieces were then flown out by helicopter.

Beebe Hill	<p>Beebe Hill is the third location that this one fire tower has stood upon. In 1928 the Taconic State Park Commission, of Copake Falls, NY, purchased a fire tower to protect park lands with a means to detect wildfires in their early stages. Ironically the best site for the fire tower to view the entire park was slightly over the state line in Massachusetts on Alander Mountain, locally pronounced “A-Lander”. The site, and surrounding forest, was owned by Frederick K. Miles of Mount Washington, Mass. Mr. Miles utilized the trees from his forest in the production of charcoal. The person who staffed the fire tower for the park was Mervin Whitbeck a resident of Mount Washington, Mass. and employee of Mr. Miles. During May and June of 1928 and 1929 the NYS Bureau of Forest Fire Control paid the salary of Mr. Whitbeck through the state park. Otherwise Mr. Whitbeck’s salary was the responsibility of the Taconic State Park. During a dry period in 1930 the fire tower was not manned for some unknown reason and subsequently a wildfire erupted and burned a large portion of Mr. Miles’ forest land. Upon extinguishing the fire Mr. Miles instructed the park to immediately remove the fire tower. By the end of the year the fire tower was dismantled and removed from the site, but the ground cabin was left behind. The park stored the fire tower, in pieces, on a private farm in High Valley. In 1932 the park secured an agreement to re-erect the fire tower on the privately owned lands of Washburn Mountain. The fire tower was re-erected by a C.C.C. crew in late 1932 when the administration of the facility was taken over by the NYS Bureau of Forest Fire Control. The fire tower remained in operation on Washburn Mtn. up through the end of the 1964 fire season. At that time a crew of Conservation Department laborers and Forest Ranger Stanley Engle, of Ghent, dismantled the fire tower and arranged to have the pieces transported to the Beebe Hill site via helicopter. Work began immediately in November of 1964 to re-erect the fire tower on Beebe Hill. Construction was not completed until April of 1965 when the Beebe Hill facility began operations. The Beebe Hill forest fire observatory operated up through the end of the 1987 fire season when it was decommissioned.</p>
Belleayre Mtn.	<p>This facility was established circa 1905 by a gentleman who owned a great deal of land on and near the mountain. Using an abandoned steel windmill frame he erected a 65 foot open platform tower on the mountaintop and the tower was staffed by members of the landowner’s fire fighting crew. The operation of the facility was turned over to the state in 1909. This wind mill open platform tower was replaced in 1930 with a 73 foot fire tower.</p>
Berry Hill	<p>This tower now supports two-way radio equipment for the forest rangers, state and local law enforcement and county EMS agencies and is closed to the public. The Berry Hill local chapter of the Forest Fire Lookout Association is currently working on the restoration of the observer’s cabin and will restore the fire tower once the two-way radio equipment can be removed. The station is registered on the National Historic Lookout Register.</p>
Black Mtn	<p>Today this tower in no way resembles a fire tower. The structure has been drastically altered by the State Police to support, and contain two-way radio equipment and the tower is closed to the public.</p>
Brookfield	<p>This tower was first erected on a hill quite near the Chenango Lake State Park in 1935 and was actively operated by Forest Fire Control until the tower was dismantled and re-erected at the Brookfield site in 1948. This station operated for 3 months out of the year in April, May and October, but during extremely high fire danger operation was extended into June and November.</p>



Buck Mtn.	This fire tower was one of the two that was erected, owned, and operated by Whitney Industries of Long Lake. The company employed a man who was a sled dog handler. They utilized his dog team to transport the fire tower pieces up to the mountaintop. The parcel where the tower stands has been sold to the International Paper Company and the site remains closed to the public.
Castor Hill	This fire tower was erected in 1927 on the lands of the 'Mad River Club' via an easement. Around 1963 the President of the club began questioning why a state fire tower stood on club land. Apparently the easement of 1927 was not that binding therefore a crew of Forest Rangers dismantled the tower and re-erected it on the opposite side of an adjacent road which is on state land. It could be that the land where the tower was moved to was not under state ownership in 1927, or most likely the tower would not have been built on club lands.
Chenango Lake	Also see entry for Brookfield. The Chenango Lake facility ceased operations in 1946 and the fire tower was dismantled and moved to the Brookfield site in 1948. While at Chenango Lake the fire tower operated for 3 months out of the year in April, May and October, but during extremely high fire danger operation was extended into June and November.
Cornell Hill	From 1924 through 1935 Round Lake native Noah LaCasse served as the Forest Fire Observer at this tower. In 1901 Mr. LaCasse was a guide in the party of Vice President Theodore Roosevelt at the time he was hiking to Mt. Marcy when President McKinley was assassinated in Buffalo, N.Y. Ownership of the fire tower was turned over to the land owner, the Luther Forest Corp. soon after it was de-commissioned following the 1970 fire season. The corporation donated the fire tower to the Town of Wilton in 2010. In August of 2010 the fire tower was dismantled and the pieces were reconditioned and in Dec. of 2010 the fire tower was re-erected at the old Boy Scout facility Camp Saratoga which is now a town park. The fire tower will be open for public access on weekends when volunteers are available to staff the facility.
Dickinson Hill	Under an agreement reached between the NYS State Police and the NYS-OPRHP the Friends of Grafton Lakes State Park began the restoration of the fire tower in 2010. The restoration shall be quite extensive as each of the diagonal "X" braces need to be replaced on the fire tower. The overall plan is for a 5 years restoration project. The fire tower is registered on the National Historic Lookout Register and is under nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.
Dix Hill	The Dix Hill facility ceased operations in 1947. The fire tower was dismantled in 1948 or 1949 and the pieces were shipped to the Bureau of Forest Fire Control shop at the Saranac Inn where the pieces were kept in storage as spare parts.
Dunn Brook Mtn.	This facility was established in 1911 with a wood tower. Due to the remote location of the facility and inactivity the site was abandoned in 1919 and the wood tower was removed. The Goodnow Mtn. station replaced the closing of Dunn Brook Mtn.
Erwin	This fire tower operated for 3 months out of the year in April, May and October, but during extremely high fire danger operation was extended into June and November
Gallis Hill	The fire tower was relocated to Overlook Mtn. in 1950.

Georgetown	In 1940 this station appears in the Annual Report to the Legislature in a picture labeled as Morrow Mtn. The tower was indeed erected on Morrow Mtn., but the name was changed to Georgetown as the fire tower was located in the Georgetown State Forest. This fire tower operated for 3 months out of the year in April, May and October, but during extremely high fire danger operation was extended into June and November.
Goodnow Mtn.	This site is on land owned by the State University of New York, College of Environmental Science and Forestry and is attached to the Huntington Forest in Newcomb. This land was originally logged by the Huntington's and an old two stall horse barn, and concrete slab of another building for the logging operations are found along the foot trail to the fire tower. The tower has been restored by SUNY-ESF and is open to the public. The station is registered on the National Register of Historic Places and the National Historic Lookout Register.
Gore Mtn.	The tower now supports two-way radio equipment and is closed to the public. In October of 1919 the fire tower blew over as the remains of a hurricane passed over the Adirondacks. The tower was re-erected in the spring of 1920.
Graham Mtn.	This tower was originally located at Pocatello Mtn. In 1948 the tower was dismantled and re-erected at the Graham Mtn. site. The Graham Mtn. station is registered on the National Historic Lookout Register.
Hadley Mtn.	This fire tower is a 40 foot Aermotor model LL-25, one of the first ten steel towers introduced in the state in 1916. The tower at this site was purchased to replace the wood tower on Ohmer Mtn., but an agreement with the landowner at Ohmer Mtn. could not be secured. Therefore the Hadley Mtn. site was chosen to replace the abandoned Ohmer station. Construction of the tower on Hadley began late in 1916, but the job was not completed until early in 1917. This tower also blew over in the same October 1919 hurricane that struck Gore Mtn. The tower was re-erected and back in operation early in 1920 and guy wires were installed on the tower at that time. The station has been restored by the Hadley Fire Tower Committee and is open to the public. The facility is registered on the National Register of Historic Places and the National Historic Lookout Register.
Hartzfelt Hill	Locally known as Birdsall Hill.
Hooker Hill	This fire tower operated for 3 months out of the year in April, May and October, but during extremely high fire danger operation was extended into June and November. The fire tower is now owned by author Marty Podskoch and it is on loan to civic leaders in the village of Speculator, NY.
Hunter Mtn.	This station is one of the first facilities operated by Forest Fire Control. Established in 1909 with a tower made of timbers found at the mountaintop the station was established at the 4,000 foot elevation of the mountain. 40 feet shy of the true summit and in 1917 the steel tower was erected next to the wood tower. The steel fire tower remained at the 4,000 foot elevation until 1948 when the tower was dismantled and relocated on the summit of the mountain at 4,040 feet. The tower has been fully restored by the DEC and volunteers and is open to the public. The facility is registered on the National Register of Historic Places and the National Historic Lookout register.

Ingraham Hill	This tower was sold in the early 1970s to a company that has removed the walls of the tower cab and mounted two-way radio antennas on the cab floor. The fire tower stands today, but only resembles a skeleton of what used to be a fire tower. The site is posted private land and closed to the public.
Jackie Jones Mtn.	Erected in 1928 by the Palisades Interstate Park Commission who operated the facility until 1931. From that time the facility was operated by Forest Fire Control until it closed in the 1970s.
Kane Mtn.	This facility has been adopted by the Canada Lake Protective Association who in cooperation with the NYS-DEC has restored the tower and maintains the site. The fire tower is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.
Kempshall and West	Utilizing the pieces from both of these fire towers a single fire tower has been re-erected at the Essex County Historical Society building in Elizabethtown, N.Y.
Kings Park	The Kings Park fire tower replaced the closing of the Dix Hill fire tower. Operations at Kings Park ceased in 1959 in conjunction with the 1959 pull out of the Bureau of Forest Fire Control from Long Island. The fire tower was removed under contract in the early 1960s.
Leonard Hill	This tower was originally erected at the Gilbert Lake State Park by the C.C.C. and operated by the Park to protect park lands, but in 1948 the tower was dismantled and re-erected at the Leonard Hill site. The Leonard Hill site is actually on Hubbard Hill, but by a typographic error the U.S.G.S. reversed the names on the two adjacent hills and Leonard became Hubbard and vice versa. A group has formed to restore this fire tower with FFLA-NY assistance, but work is delayed until the state's engineer completes an inspection of the structure.
Loon Lake Mtn.	During the winter of 1927-1928 this tower blew down. The tower was re-erected in the early spring and was back in operation for the 1928 fire season. In 2010 access to the summit will be open to the public via the old foot trail by way of a conservation easement. Efforts are on going to form a group who will restore the fire tower and cabin.
McCarty Hill	Locally known as Irish Hill. This fire tower operated for 3 months out of the year in April, May and October, but during extremely high fire danger operation was extended into June and November. Although at different times the fire tower did operated for the entire fire season.
Meenagha Mtn.	This fire tower is one of the privately built fire towers within the Adirondack Forest Preserve. The Adirondack – Florida School was operated on Rainbow Lake in the 1920s and 1930s. Two students of the school drowned while swimming in Rainbow Lake and the tower was erected, on school property, as a memorial for the two boys. Forest Fire Control made arrangements with the school to operate the tower as a secondary station in periods of dry and dangerous conditions. This land has since changed hands, but is still under private ownership and the fire tower remains closed to the public access.
Moose River Mtn.	This station was originally established with a tower made from mountaintop timbers in 1912 near the hamlet of Lyonsdale in Lewis County. When the steel tower was purchased for this facility Forest Fire Control picked a site with higher vantage point to erect the steel tower upon at the present day Moose River Mtn. in the Town of Webb, Herkimer County. Once the steel tower was erected the Lyonsdale site was abandoned and the old wood tower was removed.

Mt. Electra	This tower was privately built and operated by the Webb family's Nehasane Park at Lake Lila. It first appears in the 1920 Annual Report to the Legislature as "Rock Lake Mtn." Although Dr. Webb changed the name to "Electra" in honor of his wife. As shown in Forest Fire Control payroll records the estate was paid the salary for their Observer for the months of May, June and September from Federal Fire Control funds by the State until 1944. Mt. Electra is a remote site and was the only fire tower with such a commanding view along the Lake Placid Branch of the New York Central Railroad. Many of the local people still know it today as the "Partlow Tower" as access to the fire tower was via the old "Partlow Station" along the railroad. In the 1990s most of Nehasane Park was sold to the State of New York and incorporated into the Adirondack Forest Preserve. Mt. Electra eventually fell within the boundaries of the "Five Ponds Wilderness Area" and as such became a "Non-Conforming Structure" under the State Land Master Plan. Forest Rangers were dispatched to remove the tower. The tower was un-bolted from the footings and pulled over with the use of a "Come-A-Long". The fire tower currently rests on the spot where it fell to the ground.
Mt. Morris	In June of 1909 Mt. Morris was the first forest fire observatory to be placed into operation within the Adirondack Park. As the summit was void of trees there was no structure built to serve as the station until a log hut was constructed on the summit in 1910. Today the mountain and fire tower are privately owned and the tower now supports two-way commercial radio equipment. The steel fire tower on Mt. Morris is a 22 foot tall Aermotor model LS-40 one of only four to be erected in the state. Today the fire tower on Mt. Morris is the only one remaining 22 footer in place on a mountaintop.
New Boston	This tower was dismantled and stored at the DEC facility in Harrisville, N.Y. in 1982. The tower is now on loan to the Thompson Park Zoo of Watertown, N.Y. where a portion of the tower has been re-erected for display.
Ninham Mtn.	Locally known as Smalley Mtn. The tower has been restored by volunteers with the Town of Kent CAC and is opened to the public. The tower is registered on the National Historic Lookout Register. By typographical error the station name was changed from Mt. Nimham to Ninham. Nimham was in honor of the Colonial era Chief of the local Wappinger Indian Tribe.
Number Four:	Erected, owned and operated by the Fisher Forestry & Realty Co. in 1928, the facility was turned over to state operation in 1945. The fire tower is an Aermotor model LX-25 which was originally equipped with 12" wide ladders between the landings of the tower in place of the common stair risers. When the tower became state operated stair risers were installed between the landings, and the ladders were removed. The tower was dismantled and stored at the DEC office in Lowville, N.Y. In 1984-85 and the observer's cabin was relocated at the Nicks Lake State Campsite. The upper three sections of the fire tower have been re-erected at the DEC Demonstration area in Lowville for public access.
Oakdale	See entry for Clock.
Ohmer Mtn.	See entry for Hadley Mtn.
Overlook Mtn.	See entry for Gallis Hill. The Overlook tower has been restored by the Overlook Fire Tower Stewards and is open to the public. The facility is registered on the National Historic Lookout Register.



Padlock Hill	This fire tower operated for 3 months out of the year in April, May and October, but during extremely high fire danger operation was extended into June and November. Although at different times this fire tower did operate for the entire fire season. The tower was sold by sealed bid to the landowner where the site is located in 1977. In 1984 this gentleman donated the tower to the New York State Fair in Syracuse, N.Y. In 1985 Forest Rangers from Region 7 dismantled the tower and re-erected it at the D.E.C. facility at the State fairgrounds in Syracuse.
Page Pond Hill	This fire tower operated for 3 months out of the year in April, May and October, but during extremely high fire danger operation was extended into June and November. Although at different times this fire tower did operate for the entire fire season. Ownership of this facility was transferred to the land owner, the Indian Hills Girl Scout Council in 1992. The tower is closed to the public. In 2007 the FFLA-NY began restoration work on the cabin and fire tower.
Petersburg Mtn.	In 1953 a 6 year old boy, who was visiting the tower with his family, fell off the landing halfway up the tower to his death. Due to this incident the "Turkey Wire" that surrounds the landings and stairs of a fire tower today was ordered to be installed on all Forest Fire Control fire towers. In 1972 ownership of this tower was transferred to the County of Schoharie who removed the tower cab and extended the height of the tower by continuing the steel structuring. The tower remained this way supporting two-way law enforcement radio equipment until 1999. At that time the fire tower was removed and a new monopole was erected to support the two-way radio equipment. The tower was given to a man from Esperence, N.Y. who kept the pieces at his home. In 2003 Mr. Barry Knight of West Hurley, N.Y. secured ownership of the tower pieces and has erected the bottom two sections of the fire tower on an escarpment that he owns near West Hurley, N.Y.
Pharaoh Mtn.	In the 1980s Schroon Lake, N.Y. teenager Melanie Crear led a fight to prevent this tower from being dismantled and removed due to it being located on "Wilderness Area" land as a "Non-Conforming Structure". Her efforts led to an appointment with Gov. Mario Cuomo who assured her that the fire tower will remain on Pharaoh. The tower was vandalized in such a way that in high winds the tower blew over onto the ground. With the tower on the ground no hope was present that it would ever be re-erected. Soon after the tower was removed from the mountain by DEC helicopter. A criminal investigation was unable to lead to an arrest of any person responsible for this act.
Pillsbury Mtn	The station was first established in 1918 by the land owner of the time, the Champlain Realty Company. The facility was equipped with a wood tower, made from mountain top timbers, and a log cabin was built to house an observer. The station was operated by the company in conjunction with Forest Fire Control as a secondary station during periods of dry weather. In 1924 the company purchased the steel tower, and had it erected, before the station was turned over to Forest Fire Control. Today the tower houses and supports a solar powered two-way radio repeater, and the cab is closed to the public. Excellent views are still possible from the top landing of the fire tower. This is the only fire tower in which a person can see West Canada Lakes. The facility has been adopted by a local chapter of the FFLA-NY for restoration.
Pocatello Mtn.	See entry for Graham Mtn.

Poke-O-Moonshine	In 1918 Forest Fire Control tested the "Osborne Fire Finder" in this fire tower. With the fire finder immediately proving it's worth the bureau began making "Panoramic Circular Maps" with the plotting instrument on the fire finder for each of the state's fire towers. A simplified version of the "Osborne" was developed and installed at each fire tower beginning in 1919. This tower has been fully restored by the Friends of Poke-O-Moonshine and is open to the public. The tower is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and the National Historic Lookout Register.
Prattsburg	This fire tower operated for 3 months out of the year in April, May and October, but during extremely high fire danger operation was extended into June and November. Although at different times this fire tower did operate for the entire fire season.
Rock Mtn.	This fire tower was created from the frame of an abandoned windmill and was erected on the site in 1922 by the Fisher Forestry and Realty Company which was owned and operated by Clarence Fisher of Lyons Falls, NY. Very little is known about the Rock Mtn. fire tower except from an article in "The Journal and Republican" newspaper of Lowville, NY on May 11, 1922. It was stated that the facility would be operated by the company and would supplement and report fire sightings to the state operated fire towers on Beaver Lake Mtn and Stillwater Mtn. No other records appear beyond this 1922 newspaper article, but it is strongly believed that the Rock Mtn facility was abandoned in 1928 after the company erected and began operating their Aermotor fire tower at Number Four.
Rondaxe (Bald) Mtn.	Also see the entry for Bald Mtn. The fire tower has been restored by the Friends of Bald Mtn and is open to the public. This fire tower is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.
Sand Hill	This station had a very short life span. The fire tower was among the 10 fire towers purchased through the fire tower capital construction fund provided by the NYS Legislature in 1950. The fire tower was never operated on a full-time basis, but rather as a secondary facility operated by fire wardens on a need by need basis. The last entry for this fire tower appeared in the 1957 Annual Report to the Legislature. The station was officially closed in 1959 and was removed by Forest Rangers around 1961.
Slide Mtn.	Established in 1912 with a wood tower made of mountaintop timbers the station operated for only one year. In 1915 the facility was abandoned due to persistent poor visibility conditions. The wooden fire tower was removed. In 1934 an Aermotor model LS-40 fire tower was erected on Slide Mtn. but it was not built by Forest Fire Control nor was it operated as a forest fire detection station. It is not clear why the Conservation Department erected this tower nor have any official records surfaced detailing the length of time that this fire tower was in place.
Snowy Mtn.	This station was originally equipped with a 22 foot Aermotor fire tower, but over time the trees surrounding the grew taller obstructing the view from the fire tower. In 1933 the state purchased an extension kit from Aermotor to convert the tower to 47 feet in height. Naturally this would require a larger foot print for the higher tower. Once new concrete footings were poured the 22 foot fire tower was dismantled and then it was re-erected using the new extension kit.

Sterling Mtn.	This fire tower is now under the control of the Bear Mountain State Park Fire Control Bureau. The facility has been fully restored by the FFLA. Until the end of 2007 the facility operated as an active forest fire detection station by volunteers. Sterling Mtn. is registered on the National Historic Lookout Register.
Sugar Hill	Prior to 1951 the fire tower was operated part-time on a need by need basis by assignment from the District Forest Ranger by NYS Fire Wardens.
Summit Hill	Originally established in 1926 by the Allegany State Park control of the facility was turned over to Forest Fire Control in 1931. The ownership of the facility has reverted back to the Park and the Allegany State Park Historical Society has restored the tower. The tower is listed on the National Historic Lookout Register and is open to the public.
Swancott Hill	This was the tallest fire tower within New York State equipped with an International Derrick Model 1933 the tower measured 99' 9" to the floor of the cab. The fire tower was dismantled and removed from the site in the mid 1970s.
T – Lake Mtn.	This fire tower was closed after the 1970 season and was placed on the "Stand-by" roster. In 1976 the facility was placed on the "Surplus Property" list as it was deemed a "Non-Conforming" structure in the "West Canada Lakes Wilderness Area" under the State Land Master Plan. In 1977 U.S. Army engineers were allowed to test shaped explosive charges on the fire tower. As the fire tower was imploded it was simultaneously cut into smaller sections by the shaped charges. Within a week the fire tower sections were flown off the mountaintop by a heavy lift military helicopter. Residents of Piseco Lake made several unsuccessful attempts and pleas to DEC Commissioner Peter Berle to obtain the fire tower for use as an air traffic control tower for the Piseco Lake airport.
Telescope Hill	This facility was the first forest fire detection station to have been established outside of the two "Forest Preserves" in New York State. Established in 1918 it was immediately followed by the Flanders Hill fire tower. As was the case during World War Two all of New York's fire towers pulled double duty as forest fire detection stations and aircraft spotting stations. Although these two Long Island fire towers also served as spotting stations for Japanese and Nazi submarine and war boat activity along the approach to New York Harbor. The Telescope Hill tower actually had an additional cab placed immediately below the original cab on the tower. The upper cab housed "Civil Defense" personnel, and the lower cab housed the Forest Fire Observer. On three separate occasions Nazi U-Boats were spotted from this fire tower and one sighting actually led to the capture of a Nazi U-Boat by the U.S. Navy.
Tomany Mtn.	This station operated until the end of the 1970 fire season upon which the facility remained on the "Stand-By" list until it was declared "Surplus Property" in 1976. In a prepared statement, following the dismantling of the fire tower in August of 1986 DEC stated that the fire tower fell into a state of disrepair making it unsafe for public access and use. The author visited Tomany Mtn in the spring of 1986 and found the cabin and fire tower to be in remarkably good condition. This station was generally unknown to the public except by local residents. As a result the station did not suffer from wide spread vandalism that was known to have occurred at most of the closed fire towers. The fire tower was never removed from the mountain once it was dismantled the bent, mangled and twisted steel fire tower parts were left lying on the ground after being tossed from the mountaintop into the surrounding forest.

- Tooley Pond Mtn. This fire tower was dismantled and removed by the NYS Forest Ranger School at Wanakena in 1972. The tower has since been re-erected on their campus at Cathedral Rock.
- Washburn Mtn. See entry for Beebe Hill.
- West Mtn. See entry for Kempshall Mtn.
- Whites Hill Prior to 1970 the Whites Hill fire tower was operated on a part-time need by need basis by assignment from the District Forest Ranger by NYS Fire Wardens. The fire tower was decommissioned at the end of the 1970 fire season.



*Telescope Hill fire tower on Long Island during World War II*



*Nelson Mtn. fire tower – 1961*



*Hartzfelt Hill fire tower - 1967*



