

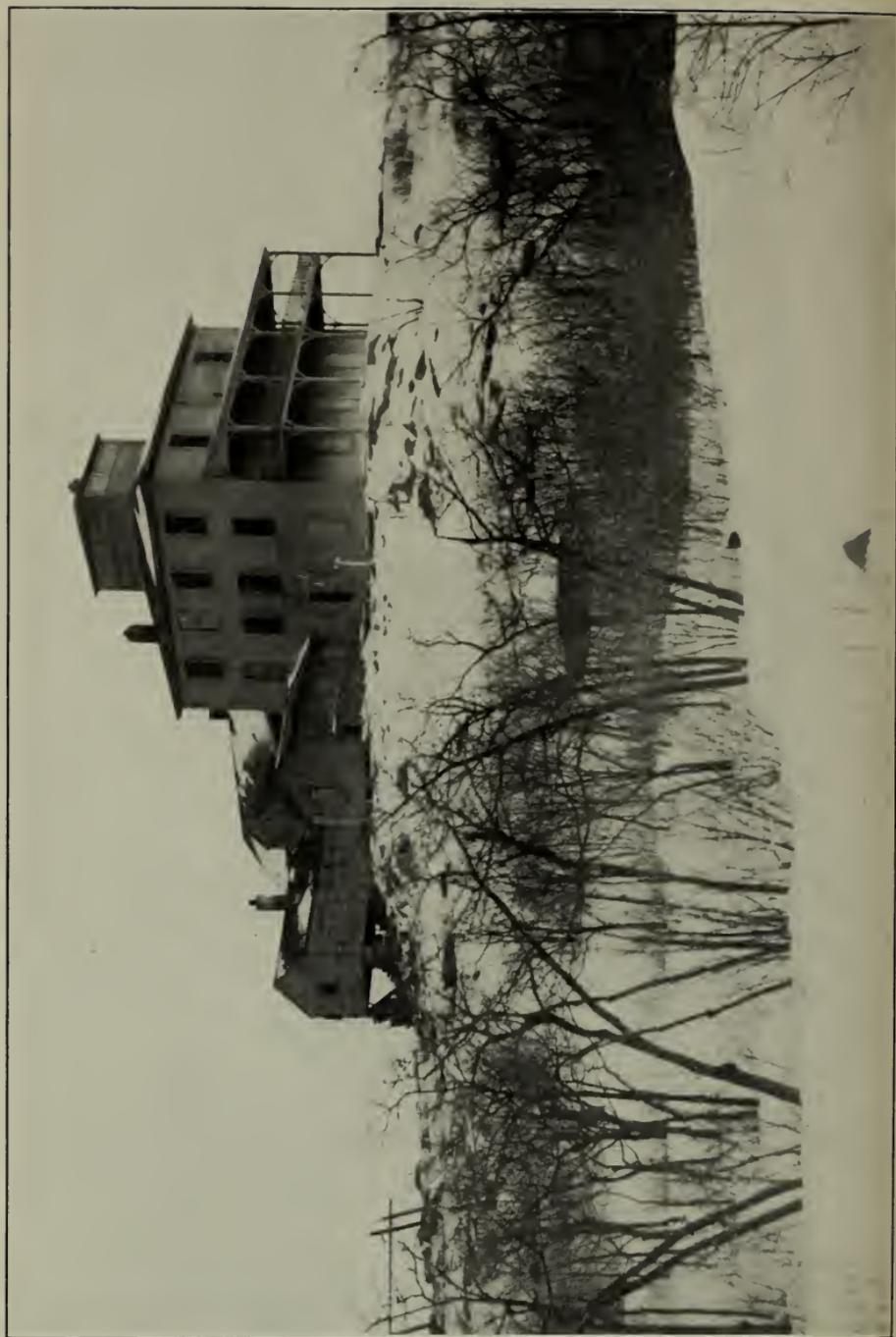
EIGHTH ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
WACHUSETT MOUNTAIN
STATE RESERVATION COMMISSION.

JANUARY, 1908.



BOSTON:
WRIGHT & POTTER PRINTING CO., STATE PRINTERS,
18 POST OFFICE SQUARE.
1908.





THE OLD SUMMIT HOUSE, BEFORE RECONSTRUCTION.

EIGHTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Mass. WACHUSETT MOUNTAIN

STATE RESERVATION COMMISSION.

JANUARY, 1908.



BOSTON:
WRIGHT & POTTER PRINTING CO., STATE PRINTERS,
18 POST OFFICE SQUARE.

1908.

R

12/11/13
Substituted for
missing copy.

APPROVED BY
THE STATE BOARD OF PUBLICATION.

711 M 3
W 112
1907
A

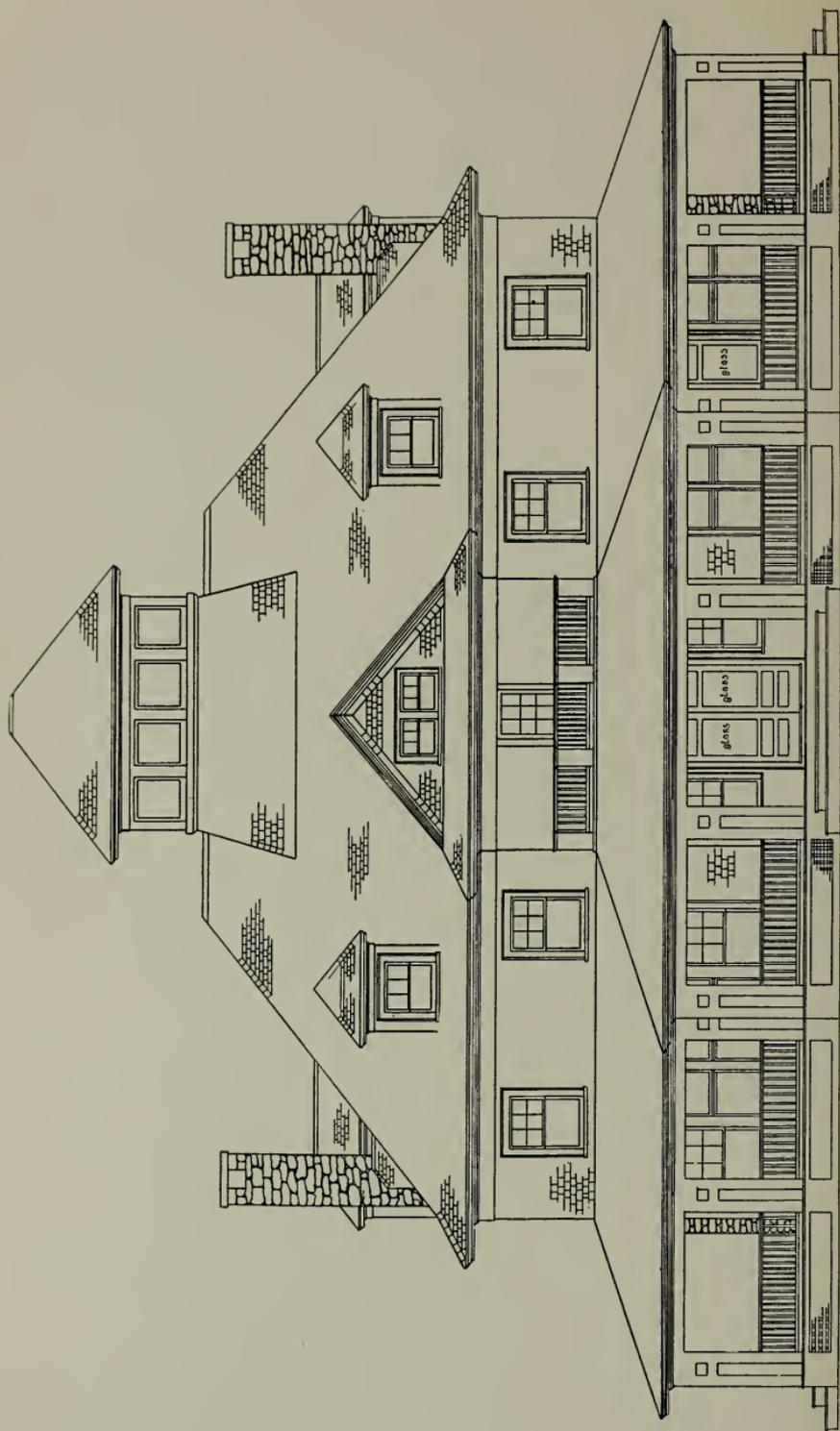
OFFICERS.

Commissioners.

HAROLD PARKER. THEO. L. HARLOW.
JOHN T. BURNETT.

Superintendent.

EVERETT W. NEEDHAM,
Address, Princeton, Mass.



FRONT ELEVATION, RECONSTRUCTED SUMMIT HOUSE. — From Architect's Drawing.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

REPORT OF THE WACHUSETT MOUNTAIN STATE RESERVATION COMMISSION.

The act of the Legislature of two years ago empowered the county of Worcester to pay \$12,000 for the construction of a new house on the top of Wachusett. As this reservation is the property of the State, it was not considered by the county commissioners of Worcester County an act of great liberality on the part of the General Court, as it would add to the assets of the Commonwealth out of the revenue of the county.

However, with the approval of the county commissioners, the Wachusett Mountain State Reservation Commission last year spent about \$3,500 of Worcester County's annual appropriation in building a new hotel on the site of the old one; and further portions of the county appropriations will have to be used each year until the completion of the building.

This Board has taken the position that, while it is incumbent upon the county to maintain the reservation it is not expected that it shall bear the expense of additions to the State property, such as the acquiring of additional acreage or the erection or restoration of buildings thereon.

During the past year the county appropriated \$8,000, of which amount approximately \$3,500, as stated above, has been expended in renovating and improving the building. It is estimated that not less than from \$5,000 to \$8,000 additional will be required to carry out the contemplated improvements. It has appeared to the commissioners that this expenditure of approximately \$10,000 is a proper one for the

State to bear, inasmuch as it is a distinct addition to the reservation, and is State property, bearing the same relationship to the reservation, in the opinion of this Board, as do the various tracts of land acquired from time to time, for which the State has made appropriations.

The residue of the county appropriation has been judiciously expended in building new roads, reforesting, and keeping the roads already established in good repair.

The reservation was policed during the season, and everything within our means has been done to make it an enjoyable recreation ground for the public.

For a more detailed account of this portion of the work, reference is made to the annexed report of the superintendent.

The following is a statement of the expenditures of the commission from Dec. 1, 1906, to Nov. 30, 1907:—

Appropriation,		\$5,000 00
Paid Hobard Raymond,	\$2,300 00	
Paid heirs of Caleb Woodward,	1,500 00	
Paid John P. Roper,	291 00	
Paid Elliot Peabody, legal services,	125 00	
	<hr/>	4,216 00
Unexpended balance,		<hr/> \$784 00

HAROLD PARKER,
T. L. HARLOW,
JOHN T. BURNETT,

Wachusett Mountain State Reservation Commission.

WORCESTER, MASS., January, 1908.



ELK ON THE RESERVATION.

APPENDIX A.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT.

To the Wachusett Mountain State Reservation Commission.

GENTLEMEN:— I have the honor to submit my first report, accompanied by photographs showing the old "Summit House" and the proposed changes. The photographs, while showing the lack of artistic design, fail to show the unsafe and dilapidated condition of the old buildings.

It having been decided to reconstruct the hotel from the county appropriation, work to begin in the fall, it was necessary to keep expenses down as much as possible through the summer months. This we have tried to do, only doing that which was absolutely necessary.

The usual spring work was attended to in the nursery, about 6,000 white pine seedlings having been transplanted, and the beds replanted to white pine. I have decided to attend strictly to white pine and spruce, as they seem the best adapted to our purpose. Different sections of unproductive pasture land were reforested with about 6,000 two-year-old white pine and spruce seedlings. These are looking well, and about 50 per cent. of those that were planted in the past are doing well.

The roads were found to be quite badly washed, owing to the severe spring rains. It is an expensive task to put these in shape each year, as the grades are unavoidably steep, causing a heavy wash. They were put in good condition, and were well patronized through the summer months. About 600 feet of road were built, and 1,000 feet stumped.

The hotel was leased through the summer, with the understanding that it should be vacated the third of September. On the fourth we started tearing down the old ell, taking

care to save all good lumber. The work of reconstruction was then begun, with a small force of men, under the supervision of Mr. J. C. F. Mirick, your architect. Since then work has been pushed as much as possible under the circumstances, it being hard to procure labor and materials, the location being a great drawback. We have been fortunate in building on the addition and new roof without any of the furnishings being damaged by the elements, and I am in hopes to have the hotel ready by the coming season.

I have begun the winter work of improvement thinning on a small scale. There is a good market for wood, and I have disposed of some that was thinned out last year.

Takings Nos. 9 and 10, mentioned in last year's report, have been added to the reservation, and also taking No. 11, which contained 29.1 acres, owned by John P. Roper.

Respectfully submitted,

EVERETT W. NEEDHAM,

Superintendent.