



36 • The Fire Observation Towers of New York State

Berry Hill

Steve McDivough
Coney Chaletage
Tour Establishment 204
Water International Derrick, section 203
Height: 897'
Seemant Elevation: 1042 ft.
Public Access: Yes, drive in.

Photograph by Steve Johnson

The Berry Hill fire tower is typical of many western New York towers in that you can drive up to it. This has to do with the fact that, unlike the Adirondack and Catskill regions, the terrain is hilly and lacks mountains. As a result, most of these western towers also have names that end in Hill which reflects their location.

When I first drove up to this tower it was pretty late and the sun was about to set. The derrick, which encircle the tower, was made of metal and I walked around the site and observed the tower and view levels of which have been marked. The grounds are well and well-maintained by NYSDEC who has also provided a picnic bench where you can sit or a rest or a snack.

The open landscape of western New York seems to have a relaxing effect on the forest as there are no steep cliffs or rocky terrain supporting wind swept trees. The fact that you can drive up to it makes this one more of a relaxing experience. During your tour of the Hill in the Adirondack, I found three western towers unique.

This tower was originally created by joining between old farm buildings. At the present, building came down. Then around 1968 NYSDEC purchased a larger section of land around the tower and culled and improved the site to what is seen today. In the future, there is the possibility that they may operate this site as an interpretative center which is something we all would welcome.

Directions from Hornsbeck trail west on Rt.214, turn on Rt.211, turn on Rt.210 you will drive about 4 miles to Tower Road which is on your left. Take Tower Road. After 1/2 of a mile, you will come to the tower on the right side of the road. You can drive up to the tower and park on a crushed stone surface.

Map 187-1423-0000

Tower No.	Name	Height (ft)	Elevation (ft)	Access	Notes
1	Adirondack	900	1000	Yes	State owned
2	Adirondack	850	950	Yes	State owned
3	Adirondack	800	900	Yes	State owned
4	Adirondack	750	850	Yes	State owned
5	Adirondack	700	800	Yes	State owned
6	Adirondack	650	750	Yes	State owned
7	Adirondack	600	700	Yes	State owned
8	Adirondack	550	650	Yes	State owned
9	Adirondack	500	600	Yes	State owned
10	Adirondack	450	550	Yes	State owned
11	Adirondack	400	500	Yes	State owned
12	Adirondack	350	450	Yes	State owned

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