

THE RICHARD TAFT TRAIL

The Richard Taft Trail runs to the summit of Cannon Mountain, elev. 4077 ft. The trail is a mile and three-quarters long, and drops 1800 vertical feet in that distance. It varies in width according to the steepness of the slope, and broadens to 60 feet on the steeper sections, which average from 30 to 35 degrees.

The trail was laid out during the summer of 1932 through the interest of Miss Katherine Peckett. It was originally surveyed by Duke Dimitri of Leuchtenberg, then an instructor at Peckett's Ski School. The trail lies partly on State land, and partly on land owned by the heirs of Richard Taft, who erected the Profile House in 1852 and was long prominent in the development of the White Mountain region. Construction of the trail and improvement have been made possible by the co-operation of the New Hampshire State Forestry Department, the C. C. C. and the Richard Taft heirs, who granted permission for the use of the land. Funds for construction were originally raised by Miss Peckett and the people of Franconia.

Though the trail has been cut through to the top of Cannon Mountain, extensions and improvements are planned both at the top and bottom, in order to maintain the trail as one of the foremost down mountain ski courses in the United States.

PREVIOUS WINNERS

U. S. Eastern Amateur Downhill Championship

1932—Hollis H. Phillips, Appalachian Mountain Club. The race was held on the Gunstock Trail, near Laconia, N. H., and was sponsored by the Winnepesaukee Ski Club of Laconia. The winner's time was 4 min. 1 1-5 sec.

1933—Henry S. Woods, Dartmouth Outing Club. The race also carried the first National Downhill Championship of the National Ski Association. It was held on the Mt. Moosilauke carriage road course, under the auspices of the Dartmouth Outing Club. The winner's time was 8 min. 4-5 sec. This time stands as the official record for the course.

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