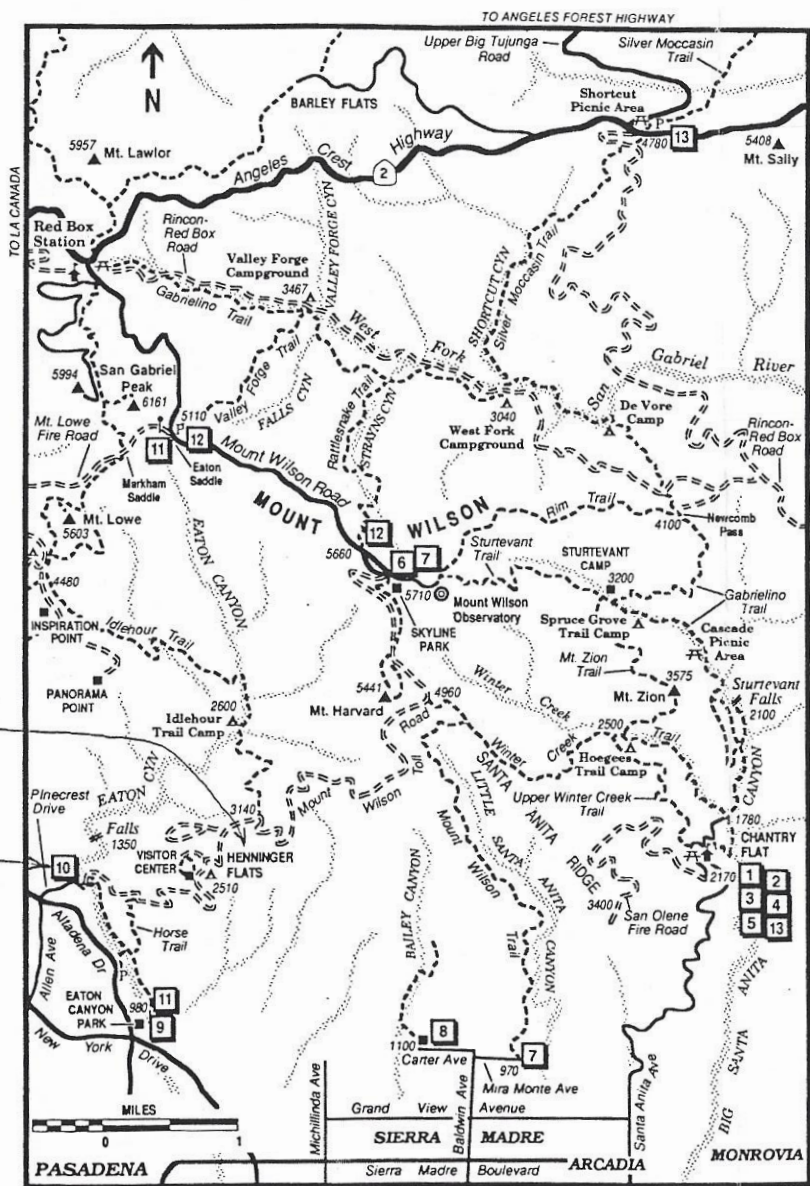


10-9-91  
 9:30 AM  
 HENRY



Area A-6: Mount Wilson/Front Range

## Area A-6, Trip 10 Henninger Flats

Hike #96

	<b>Distance</b>	5.4 miles round trip
	<b>Total Elevation Gain/Loss</b>	1400'/1400'
	<b>Hiking Time</b>	3 hours (round trip)
	<b>Optional Map</b>	USGS 7.5-min <i>Mount Wilson</i>
	<b>Best Times</b>	October through June
	<b>Agency</b>	HFFS
	<b>Difficulty</b>	★★★

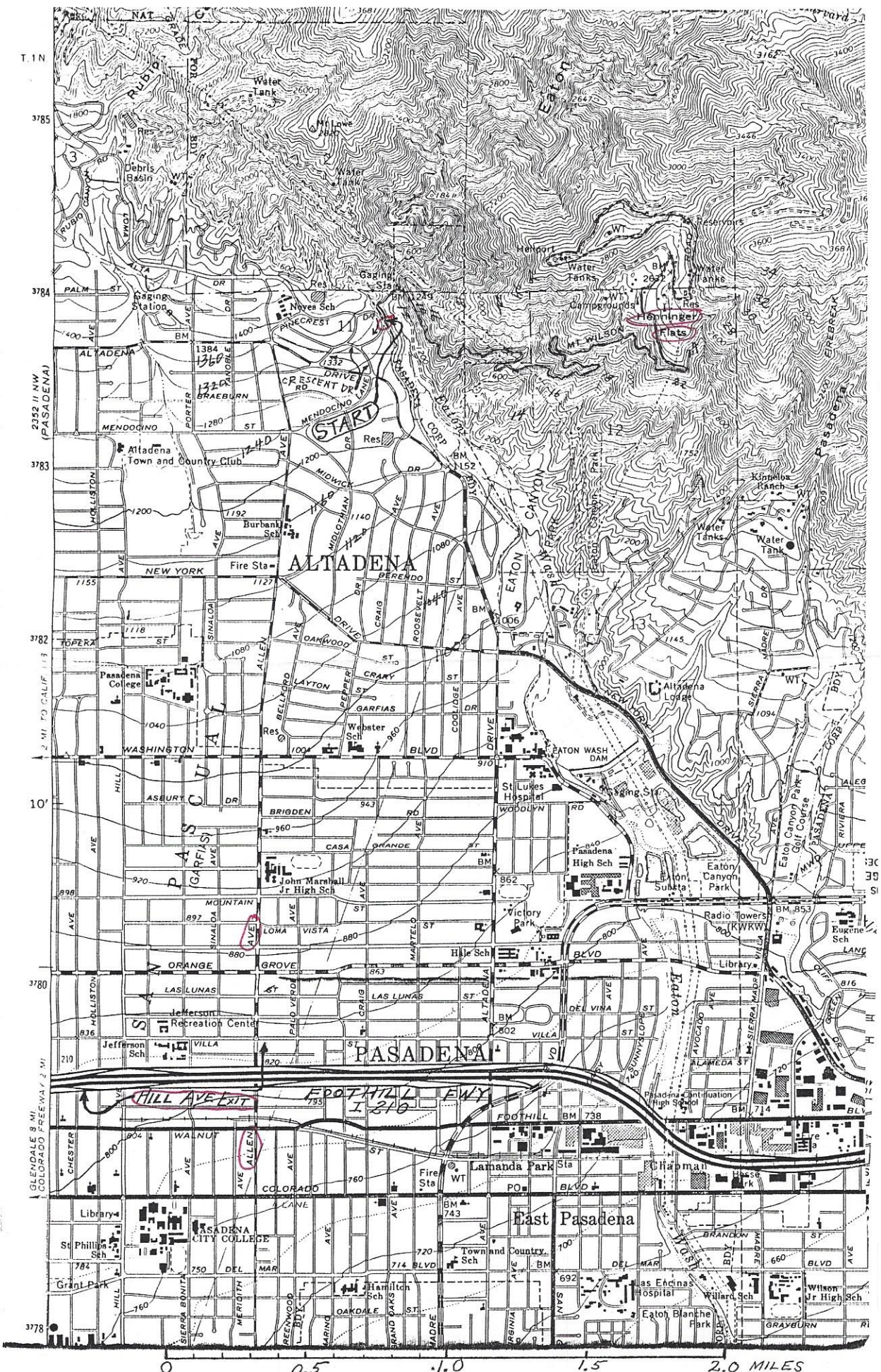
Park-like Henninger Flats is a pleasant surprise to come upon after the sunny, often sweaty climb up the lower end of Mt. Wilson Toll Road. The flats and slopes hereabouts have been the site of an experimental forest for more than 60 years now, with seedlings of pine, cypress, cedar, and other trees raised for reforestation projects. Run by the Los Angeles County Fire Department, the area encompasses four delightful camp and picnic areas, a visitor center, a pioneer museum, a short nature trail, and a seedling nursery. The visitor center features a large relief model of the Mt. Wilson/Front Range area, and outside there's a diminutive lookout structure that stood on Castro Peak in the Santa Monica Mountains during 1925-71. Henninger Flats' half-mile-high elevation perched directly over the edge of the city gives it a commanding view—by day and especially by night. Backpackers register with the ranger on duty. Campfire permits and wood are usually available.

The old toll road—now a fire road used by fire-department or forestry trucks, and plenty of self-propelled travelers of all sorts—starts at 2260 Pinecrest Drive (0.5 mile east of Allen Avenue and Altadena

Drive. Walk through a gate (open between sunrise and one hour after sunset) and down across a bridge over Eaton Canyon. Dogged determination, and hopefully the inspiration of fabulous views over the big city below, will get you up the moderately steep and steady grade ahead. This well-engineered road/former trail was built and improved (among other reasons) to haul telescope parts to the summit of Mt. Wilson, including those of the 100-inch Hooker Reflector—the world's largest telescope for 31 years.

You can easily use up a couple of extra hours at Henninger Flats poking around the museum and the visitor center and taking short side trips to check out the groves of trees. For the best view of the surroundings, I'd recommend climbing a little higher to Henninger Ridge: continue upward on Mt. Wilson Toll Road another 0.6 mile, and turn left on the dirt road that loops around to a heliport. This puts you on the shoulder of a ridge perched 400 feet above the groves of Henninger Flats, where the view of the city below stretches 180°. From the north side of the ridge, Mt. Wilson rears up starkly, 2½ miles away. After a winter storm, the spike-shaped antennas on its crest look exactly like upside-down icicles.

FINISH  
 START



T. 1 N  
3785  
3784  
3783  
3782  
3780  
3778

2352 II NW (PASADENA)  
2 MI. TO CALIF. 113  
10'  
GLENDALE 8 MI.  
COLORADO FREEWAY 2 MI.

0 0.5 1.0 1.5 2.0 MILES