

# MIRADOR OBSERVATORY, BAGUIO, BENGUET.

A NEW METEOROLOGICAL-GEODYNAMIC STATION OF  
THE WEATHER BUREAU.

## I. LOCATION OF THE STATION.

1. **Site.**—The property on which the new station has been established lies within the town site of Baguio, Benguet, close to the western boundary thereof, and comprises an isolated hill, "Mirador" (Mount Lookout), so called on account of the magnificent view which may be enjoyed from its summit. This hill terminates the famous Baguio plateau on the western side. Its top is a level, nearly elliptical, surface, the major axis of which lies NW-SE and measures 132 meters (433 feet), while the minor axis is only 52 meters (171 feet). The mean level of this miniature plateau is 1,511.75 meters (4,969.9 feet) above mean sea level.

Plate I gives an idea of Mount Mirador and the building on its summit as seen from the east. The upper view was taken from a point west of, and below the provincial building ("tribunal"), the lower, with a telephoto lens, near the Constabulary School.

As the mean elevation of the Baguio plateau is 1,444.8 meters (4,740 feet), Mirador rises more than 66 meters (216.5 feet) above the latter and is very conspicuous from every part of the valley. The road to San Fernando, Union, passes at a short distance to the north of Mirador, skirting the limestone hills at an average level of 1,453.9 meters (4,770 feet) above the sea. Toward west a valley, the bottom of whose upper end lies about 152.4 meters (500 feet) below the top of Mount Mirador, stretches from the foot of this hill as far as the coast. Hence the China Sea can be seen on clear days from the top of Mirador to a distance of 119 kilometers (74 miles); that is to say, 77 kilometers (58 miles) beyond the mouth of the Aringay River, which is the nearest point of the coast of Union Province. In this direction the view is limited only by the horizon on the China Sea; the Gulf of Lingayen, the Bolinao Peninsula, and the China Sea beyond are easily made out, as are also many miles of the coast lines of Pangasinan to the north and of Union to the south. The two views on Plate II, taken from different points of the summit of Mount Mirador with lenses of different focal lengths, show the view as it appears under favorable circumstances.

Toward SSW, at a distance of 7.24 kilometers (4.5 miles), stands out prominently Mount Santo Tomas with its three peaks, the highest of which reaches 2,232.6 meters (7,425 feet) above sea level. The relative positions of Mounts Santo Tomas and Mirador are seen on Plate III, the upper view of which is taken through the pine trees on the limestone hills to the NW of Mirador, while the lower is taken from a point approximately NNE thereof. In both pictures the highest peak of Santo Tomas is marked by a small cross.

2. **Building.**—In the center of the elliptical plateau forming the summit of Mount Mirador rises a substantial stone building, 56 meters (183.6 feet) long in the direction of the major axis of the plateau and 14 meters (35 feet) wide in its central part. The latter is in reality flanked by four towers, two at each end, but as each pair of these has a continuous roof, they appear as two cross-wings of 20 meters (65.6 feet) length and 6 meters (19.7 feet) width, giving to the whole structure the form of the letter "I." These towers have a height of 10.7 meters (35 feet) from the ground to the ridge of the roof, while the height of the main building, measured in the same way, is 9.1 meters (30 feet).

The construction was begun in November, 1907, and was sufficiently advanced in the beginning of January, 1909, to allow of the installation of some instruments. At present (September, 1909) the work is finished. A wagon road has been constructed from the San Fernando Road to the top