A Plainman's Guide to Masts & Towers

Part 5 Installation

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The final step is to decide where to site the aerial mast or tower you want, and prepare the foundations for it. However, very often, the process of choosing a suitable site and then laying the necessary foundations can present as many problems as selecting the mast or tower. So it is advisable not to rush this final stage, but spend a little time in planning your operation beforehand to save time and energy later on.

Hiding the thing

If you are fortunate enough to have a fairly large garden screened by trees the choice of a suitable site becomes a little easier. However, in the average suburban garden things may not be so easy, space could be at a premium and the choice of a suitable site limited. In general, masts or towers of the telescopic, tiltover type with an extended height of 30 to 60 feet would be practicable, and probably acceptable, in most urban locations where space is restricted. Masts and towers with a retracted height of about 21 feet or less can be ideal for such locations, because their low retracted height will enable the aerial to be effectively hidden by the ridge of the house, and so reduce any 'skylining' which could be a problem where appearance is a major factor (see **Fig. 1.**) In addition, a low retracted height enables the whole structure to be tilted over in a relativly small area. Where there are objections from the neighbours or the local authority against lattice towers then an unobtrusive tubular section telescopic mast could be more acceptable. Where a mast or tower can be wall-mounted against the side or end of a house, its structure can be masked to some extent. It will tend to 'blend' in with the house. However, the aerial would be close to the house and may suffer slight detuning, particularly in the lowered position. The amount of any detuning is not predictable but it should not be sufficient to cause any major problem.

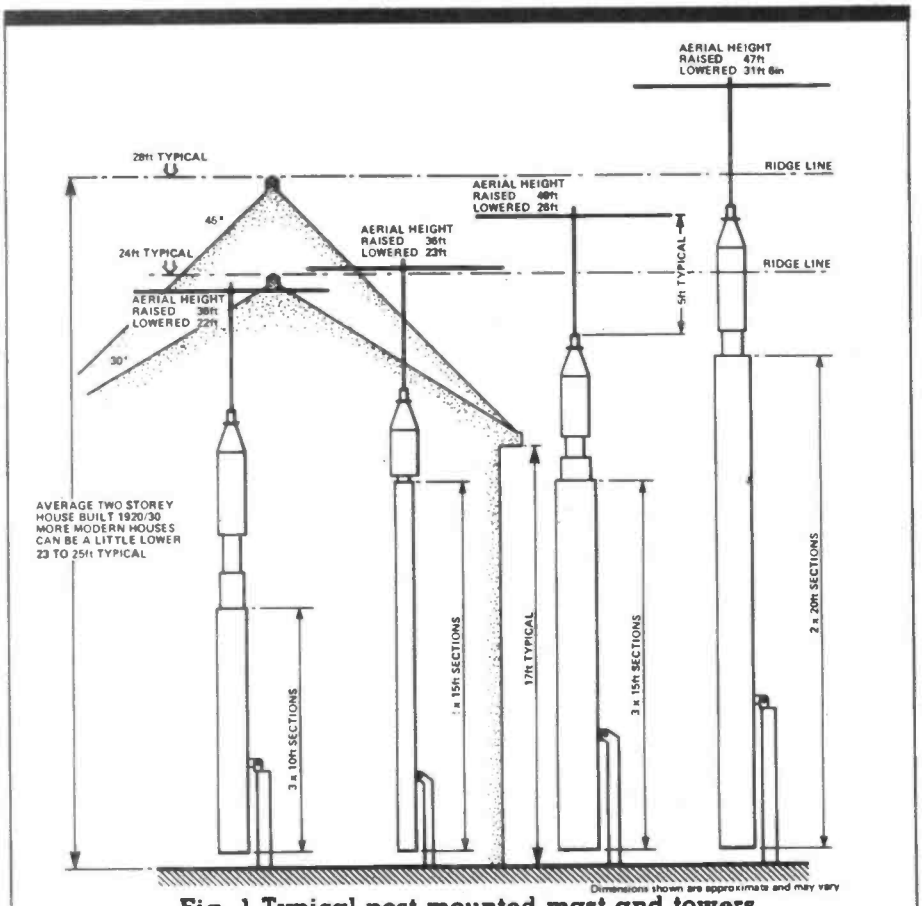

Fig. 1 Typical post mounted mast and towers showing 'skylining'

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