

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Washington	
COUNTY: Whatcom	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	JUN 7 1974

1. NAME

COMMON: Cliff Walk
Devil's Corner or Devil's Elbow (#0470-1651)

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Along the Skagit River, North of Nehalem on Ross Lake

CITY OR TOWN: Newhalem, vic.
Ross Lake National Recreation Area

STATE: Washington CODE: 53 COUNTY: Whatcom CODE: 073

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

STREET AND NUMBER:
Interior Building

CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE: District of Columbia CODE: 001

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
North Cascades National Park

STREET AND NUMBER:
311 State Street

CITY OR TOWN: Sedro Woolley STATE: Washington CODE: 53

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

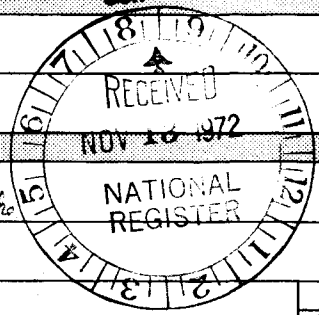
TITLE OF SURVEY:
None

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: COUNTY: ENTRY NUMBER: DATE:

JUN 7 1974

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)				
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins
	(Check One)			(Check One)	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

On a cliff side along a narrow gorge through which the Skagit River flows, is a remarkable system of half-tunnels cut into the rock, and suspension bridges that cross deep side canyons. This was the original trail up the Skagit carved and built by miners in the mid 1890's.

Today, a modern highway passes this difficult section by running through a tunnel in the mountain that the Devil's Elbow trail edged its way around.

Today the wooden bridges have deteriorated and are unsafe for pedestrians. The Devil's Corner cannot be seen from the overlooks on the North Cascade Highway and at present few visitors are aware of its existence.

The total length of these bridges and tunnels is about 500 feet.

Boundary:

On the cliff side immediately south of the State Highway 20 tunnel between Newhalem and Gorge Dam. The devil's Corner structure is slightly below the present road level and best viewed from a point immediately east of the tunnel or from the south bank of the Skagit River. The boundary begins approximately 20 feet from the east end of the tunnel and runs about 700 feet west along the cliff side. Horizontal dimensions 100' x 700' vertical dimensions approximately 25'.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

3. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

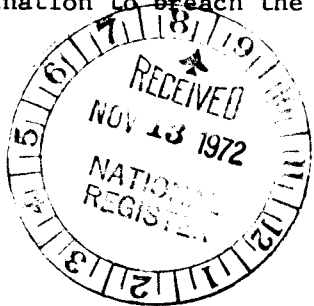
<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Beginning with the fur traders in 1814, men have consistently attempted to develop a route over the North Cascades from the Interior plateau. Only now is that goal being realized with the completion of the North Cascades Highway.

The Devil's Corner was a particularly difficult section of the trail (later, road) up the Skagit River Valley. Although gold miners passed through this area as early as 1879, not until the mid 1890's was a satisfactory trail developed here--by blasting half-tunnels into the cliff's side and building short suspension bridges over the lateral gorges.

This unique and remarkable development, representing a landmark in man's efforts to develop communication in this rugged country, is still intact--although too dangerous for walking today. It is a significant monument to man's ingenuity and determination to breach the mountain barrier.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

E. N. Thompson, "North Cascades National Park Basic Data Study"
 Paul Curtis Pitzer, "A History of the Upper Skagit Valley, 1880-1924"
 M. A. Thesis, University of Washington, 1966.

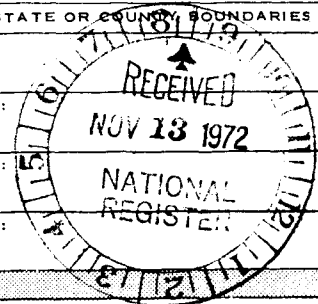
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	0' 0" 0"	0' 0" 0"		48°	43'	2"
NE	0' 0" 0"	0' 0" 0"			13'	08"
SE	0' 0" 0"	0' 0" 0"		41'	57"	
SW	0' 0" 0"	0' 0" 0"			13'	22"

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 2

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
 E. N. Thompson, Historian and Laurin C. Huffman II

ORGANIZATION: Pacific Northwest Region, National Park Service

DATE: 1972

STREET AND NUMBER:
 4th & Pike Building

CITY OR TOWN: Seattle

STATE: Washington

CODE: 53

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: J. G. Pitzer

Title: Director, Pacific Northwest Region

Date: August 31, 1972

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

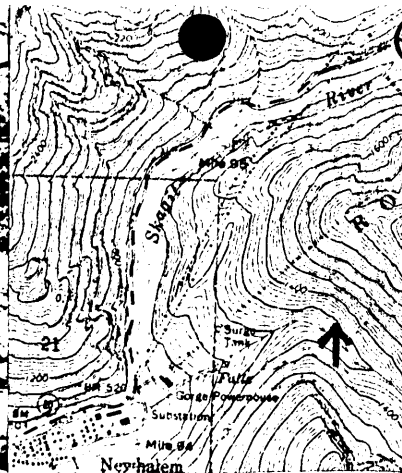
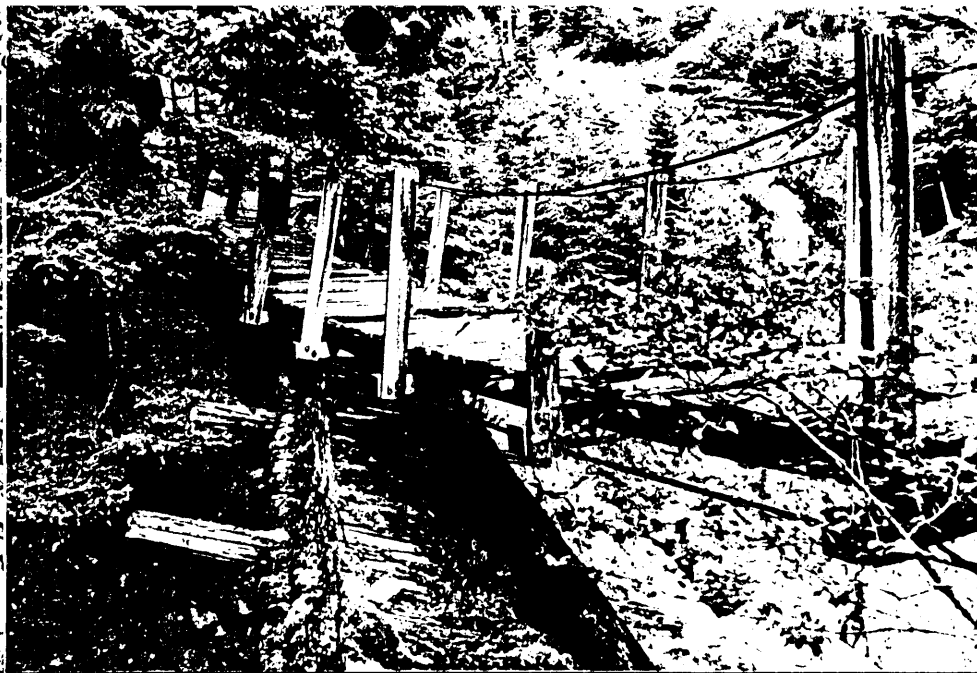
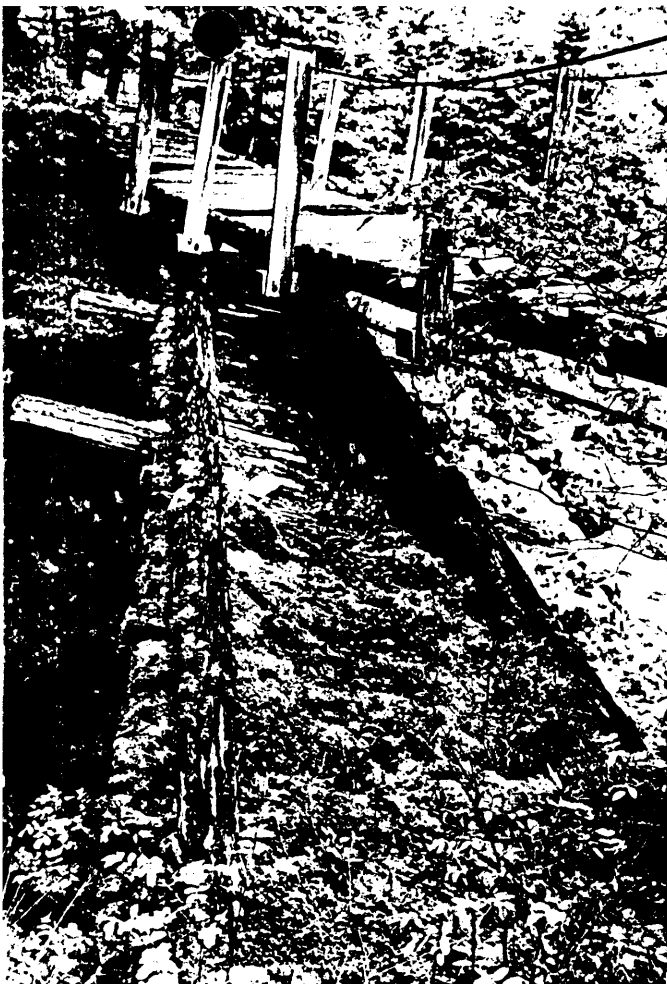
Ernest Allen Connelly
 Associate Director, Professional Services

Date: _____

ATTEST:

Charles R. Pomeroy
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: 6-4-77

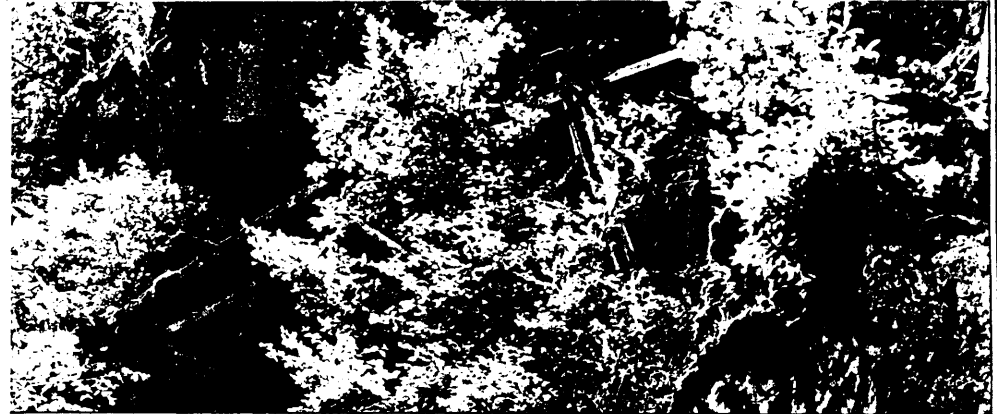


FROM W

FROM E



1917



FROM W

NEGATIVE NO. GL3-12-20; GL4-1A-7A; HABS/HAER QUALITY YES NO GL4-10A

REFERENCES

- Alger, Shirley. *Cascade Stories*, n.d.
- Higgins, Gary W. "Classified Structure Field Inventory Report", 1 March 1976.
- Newby, Bill. Personal interview, 18 August 1984.
- Pitzer, Paul Curtis. "A History of the Upper Skagit Valley, 1880-1924", M.A. Thesis, University of Washington, 1966.
- Thompson, Erwin. *History Basic Data*, 1970.
- Thompson, Erwin. *National Register Nomination for Devil's Corner*, 1969-1970.
- U.S. Forest Service. "The Hatchet", 1 July 1916 (RG 95, 76A-2058/68116).
- Harris, Jim. Personal interview, May 1984.

INVENTORIED BY Gretchen Luxenberg

AFFILIATION NPS

DATE Summer 1984

1. SITE I.D. NO

HAER INVENTORY

Historic American Engineering Record
Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240

2. INDUSTRIAL CLASSIFICATION

Bridges, Trestles, and Aqueducts

3. PRIORITY

1

4. DANGER OF DEMOLITION?
(SPECIFY THREAT) YES NO UNKNOWN

Suspension: timber

7 6 1 0

5. DATE

circa
1895

6. GOVT SOURCE OF THREAT

OWNER ADMIN

Tunnel

7. OWNER/ADMIN

National Park Service

8. NAME(S) OF STRUCTURE

Devil's Corner

9. OWNER'S ADDRESS

Pacific Northwest Region
523 Fourth and Pike Building
Seattle, Washington 98101

10. STATE

WA

COUNTY NAME

CITY/VICINITY

CONG. DIST.

02

STATE

COUNTY NAME

CITY/VICINITY

CONG. DIST.

COUNTY

073

Whatcom

Newhalem

COUNTY

11. SITE ADDRESS (STREET & NO)

Crossing: Skagit River

12. EXISTING SURVEYS

 NR NHL HABS HAER-I HAER NPS CL6
1974 CONF STATE COUNTY LOCAL OTHER

13. SPECIAL FEATURES (DESCRIBE BELOW)

 INTERIOR INTACT EXTERIOR INTACT ENVIRONS INTACT

14. UTM ZONE

EASTING

NORTHING

SIGN

SCALE

 1:24 1:62.5

QUAD NAME

Diablo Dam, Washington

UTM ZONE

EASTING

NORTHING

SIGN

SCALE

 1:24 1:62.5

QUAD NAME

15. CONDITION

70 EXCELLENT71 GOOD72 FAIR73 DETERIORATED74 RUINS75 UNEXPOSED76 ALTERED82 DESTROYED85 DEMOLISHED

16. INVENTORIED BY

Lisa Soderberg

AFFILIATION

HAER/Washington State Bridge Inventory

DATE

October 1980

17. DESCRIPTION AND BACKGROUND HISTORY, INCLUDING CONSTRUCTION DATE(S), HISTORICAL DATE(S), PHYSICAL DIMENSIONS, MATERIALS, EXTANT EQUIPMENT, AND IMPORTANT BUILDERS, ENGINEERS, ETC.

A series of half tunnels and deteriorated timber suspension bridges crossing deep lateral gorges are a few of the last discernible signs of a trail built by miners across the North Cascades through the Skagit River Valley, providing access to their claims. Beginning in 1814 with the fur traders, men have consistently attempted to develop a route over the North Cascades through the interior plateau. As early as 1879, gold miners passed through this steep walled Skagit River Canyon. However, it was not until the 1890's that an adequate trail was constructed of which this system of tunnels and suspension bridges stretching along 500 feet of a treacherous portion of the trail was a vital link.

The timber bridges are the oldest extant suspension bridges within the State. This system of bridges and tunnels remains as a testimony to man's ingenuity and to the dogged persistence of the early miner's in breaching the formidable mountain barrier.

(CONT OVER)

18. ORIGINAL USE

foot traffic

PRESENT USE

abandoned

ADAPTIVE USE

19. REFERENCES—HISTORICAL REFERENCES, PERSONAL CONTACTS, AND/OR OTHER

E.N. Thompson and Laurin C. Huffman, II, National Register nomination, 1972.

(CONT OVER)

20. URBAN AREA 50,000 POP. OR MORE?

 YES NO

21. NPS REGION

N W

22. PUBLIC ACCESSIBILITY

 YES, LIMITED YES, UNLIMITED
 NO UNKNOWN

23. EDITOR

INDEXER

24. LOCATED IN AN HISTORIC DISTRICT?

 YES NO

NAME

DISTRICT I.D. NO

