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ш ш Form 10-300 (Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

STATE: **Oregon** COUNTY: Clatsop FOR NPS USE ONLY ENTRY DATE

	(Type all entries - complete applic	able	section	is)			444					
ī.	NAME				1		MAY	2 19	7 4			
	Astoria Column			<u>:</u>					A	4	6	· .
	AND/OR HISTORIC:						100	M	TELETYE		ار ۲ در	ر آمسر
2.	LOCATION								<u> </u>	197	1	
	STREET AND NUMBER:							NA	TIONA	,	1	=)
	Coxcomb Hill							RE	GISTE		K	9
	CITY OR TOWN: Astoria			First		ndell W	yatt	·////	1119			4
	Oregon		41	COUNTY:	C:	latsop			00			
3.	CLASSIFICATION											
	CATEGORY OW (Check One)	NERS	HIP			STATUS			ESSIBLE IE PUBL			
	District Building Public Pa	blic /	Acquisiti	on:		Occupied			Yes:			
	Site Structure Private		In Proc	ess		Unoccupied			Restricted			
	☐ Object ☐ Both		Being (Considered	X)	Preservation	work	∑ Unrestricted				
						in progre	ss	☐ No				
	PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)											
	Agricultural Government I	Park			☐ Tro	ınsportation		Com	ments			
	Commercial Industrial	e Resider							_ 1			
	☐ Educational ☐ Military ☐ 5	Religio	ous		Monut					_		
	Entertainment Museum	Scienti	ific	_			_			_		
4	OWNER OF PROPERTY											
	OWNER'S NAME: City of Astoria										STA	
	STREET AND NUMBER:										Ψ	
	P. O. Box 300									S S		
	CITY OR TOWN:			STATE:					ÇODF	Oregon	1	
	Astoria				01	egon 9	9710:	3	41	g		
5.	LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION											
	COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:										CO	
	Clatsop County Courtho	use								Cla	COUNTY	
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	Astoria			İ	Or	egon 9	7101	2	41	ļ _.	-1	\neg
7.	REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS					. 05011	,, 10.	<u> </u>	71			ı
****	TITLE OF SURVEY:										ш	ł
	Statewide Inventory of	Hi	storio	Sites a	and B	Building	rs.			2	EN TR	
	DATE OF SURVEY: 1970		ederal	X State		County	<u>,-</u>	Local		2	[~]	F S R
	DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:			<u> </u>						وج	BWON	NPS
	Parks and Recreation E	Brand	cħ		•						90	2
	STREET AND NUMBER:	411	-11							4	37.	USE
	Oregon State Highway D	ivi	sion						l			힞
	CITY OR TOWN:			STATE:				T	CODE			ONLY
	Salem				Orego	n 9731	0		41.		D .	
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7. DESCRIPTION											
	(Check One)										
CONDITION	☐ Excellent	Excellent X Good		Deteriorated		Ruins	Unexposed				
CONDITION		(Check Or	ne)			(Ch	eck One)				
	☐ Altei	ed	🗓 Unaltered			☐ Moved	Original Site				
DESCRIBE THE DE	SECENT AND OD	CINIAL CLE Some	DIIVELE 4		541165						

The Astoria Column is located on a promontory that commands a panoramic vista of the ocean, the Columbia River and surrounding terrain. It is 125 feet in height and its outside surface is decorated with pigmented mortar to illustrate the legends of the Northwest in the form of a spiral frieze seven feet wide and 525 feet long. Inside the column are 166 steps of a steel circular stairway which leads to the observation platform "carried" by a Doric "echinus" painted with an egg and dart motif. The monument's prototype is the colossal sculptured column erected by Roman emperors to commemorate military victories.

The entire column is constructed of concrete reinforced by vertical rods. Its base is 19' 6" square and 13' 6" in height. The barrel portion of the monument is 13' 6" in diameter at the bottom and tapers to 11'4" in diameter at the top. The barrel measures 94' 6" in height. The square observation platform with railing projects below a terminal section best described as a cupola. The small glass dome of the cupola is surmounted by a beacon to deflect night-flying aircraft.

Maintenance of the nomument and grounds is the responsibility of the City of Astoria. Cracks caused by water seepage were discovered several years ago in the upper portion of the barrel and filled with an epoxy compound. More fundamental repairs are necessary to protect the base. The mural shows blackening on the weather side, despite the application of preservatives. In 1936, no more than a decade after the monument was completed, the original artist was engaged to restore his paintings, which were even then considerably deteriorated by the force of southwest winds. The City is laying plans to undertake the needed repairs and restoration. The Chamber of Commerce operates an information shelter on the grounds from early June through Labor Day. The Chamber has estimated that some 70,000 persons have visited the site annually over the past few years.

Following are the motifs depicted in the frieze, from bottom to top.

- Before the white man, the forest primeval.
- Discovery of the Columbia River by Capt. Robert Gray in the ship Columbia, 1792.
- The Lewis and Clark Expedition arriving at the mouth of the Columbia in 1805.
- Lewis and Clark expedition boiling sea water to obtain salt.
- Members of the Lewis and Clark expedition building Fort Clatsop, winter headquarters 1805-1806, on the Lewis and Clark River near Astoria.
- John Jacob Astor's Pacific Fur Company ship, <u>Tonquin</u>, sailing from New York. 1810.
- Ship <u>Tonquin</u> arriving at mouth of Columbia River and building of Fort Astoria, 1811.
- Pacific Fur Company overland party arriving at Astoria in 1812.
- Ship Tonquin blown up at Vancouver Island, 1811.
- Fort Astoria restored to United States, 1818,
- Coming of the settlers and civilization.

GNIFICANCE			
PERIOD (Check One or More as	Appropriate)		
Pre-Columbian	☐ 16th Century	18th Century	20th Century
☐ 15th Century	☐ 17th Century	☐ 19th Century	
SPECIFIC DATE(S) (It Applica	ble and Known) 10	926	
AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Ch	eck One or More as Appropri	ate)	
Abor iginal	Education	Political	Urban Planning
Prehistoric	Engineering	Religion/Phi-	Other (Specify)
☐ Historic	Industry	losophy	
Agriculture	Invention	Science	
Architecture	Landscape	Sculpture	
Art	Architecture	Social/Human-	
Commerce	Literature	itarian	
Communications	☐ Military	Theater	
Conservation	Music	Transportation	

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Astoria is the site of the first settlement by white man in the Oregon Country. It is situated on the south bank of the Columbia, twelve miles from the river mouth. Founded in 1811 as a fur post by representatives of John Jacob Astor and the Pacific Fur Company, Astoria was designated by U. S. Customs an official port of entry in 1849, shortly after Oregon achieved status as a Territory. The first overland immigrants had arrived in 1844-1845, and from the middle of the 19th century Astoria's growth as a fishing port and packing center was steady.

The Astoria Column was erected in John Jacob Astor Park, on Coxcomb Hill, the highest point in the vicinity, in 1926. It was built by the Great Northern Railway Company, through the generosity of Vincent Astor of New York, to commemorate three epochal events in the history of the Oregon Country. It marked the location at the mouth of the Columbia of the discovery of the river by Robert Gray in 1792; the western terminus of the Lewis and Clark expedition in 1805; and the establishment of Fort Astoria by John Jacob Astor in 1811. It was one of a series of monuments located along the Great Northern Railway to commemorate outstanding events in the settling of the West. The expenditure of corporate funds on such enterprises was somewhat characteristic of the era. The column not only symbolizes the historic events, it is the highest expression in nomumental form in Oregon of the earnest, patriotic boosterism of the 1920s.

Towering above Astoria on a promontory that commands a panoramic vista of the ocean, the Columbia River bar, Young's Bay and the surrounding coastal terrain, the column is supposed to have been inspired by the column erected in Rome by Emperor Trajan in 114 A.D. It was designed in contemporary materials by Electus Litchfield, New York architect, and decorated in sgraffito in the traditional format, a spiral frieze, by Italian artist Attilio Pusterla,

Several years after the dedication of the monument, which took place on July 22, 1926, Ralph Budd, president of the Great Northern Railway wrote a personal summary of the conception and building of the column at the request of a member of the Portland Press Club. Following are two excerpts.

"I knew of the reverance in which Mr. Vincent Astor held his great-grandfather, and of the interest he had in the latter's commercial activities in the West. It was, therefore, natural and easy for me to arouse sympathetic cooperation of Vincent Astor in the project I had in mind."

"Ordinarily it was my idea merely to erect a very fine base for a large flag staff, which would carry a correspondingly large American flag.

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9.	MAJOR	BIBLIOG	RAPHIC	AL RI	FERENCE	5								ľ	
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			Salem						Oreg				41		
12.	STATE	LIAISON	OFFIC	ER CE	RTIFICAT	ION	#	N/	TIONAL	REGIST	ER VERIF	ICATIO	4		
	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 c-iteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is: National State Local						I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register. Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation Date								
	Title	State	Parks	Sup	erintend	ent	-	ATTEST	6			1	2		

Date March 18, 1974

☆ U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE : 1973-729-147/1442 3-1