

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

**SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD**

**NRIS Reference Number: 95000625**

**Date Listed: 5/24/95**

Agate Pass Bridge  
**Property Name**

Kitsap  
**County**

WA  
**State**

Bridges of Washington State MPS  
**Multiple Name**

-----  
This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

*Paul R. [Signature]*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper

5/24/95  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Action

=====  
**Amended Items in Nomination:**

**U.T.M.:**

The correct UTM coordinates should read: 10 532640 5284220.

This information was confirmed by Lauren McCroskey of the Washington SHPO

**DISTRIBUTION:**

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

625

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

**RECEIVED**

APR 18 1995

FEB 21 1995

PRELIMINARY

INTERAGENCY RESOURCES DIVISION  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, National Register Bulletin 46A. Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

**1. Name of Property**

historic name Agate Pass Bridge

other names/site number WSDOT 305/10

**2. Location**

street & number State Route 305, spanning Agate Passage  not for publication

city or town Suquamish  vicinity

state Washington code WA county Kitsap code 035 zip code 98392

**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Mary M. Sampson 5/18/95  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

**4. National Park Service Certification**

I hereby certify that the property is:

entered in the National Register.  See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register  See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper

5/24/95  
Date of Action

Agate Pass Bridge  
Name of Property

Kitsap, Washington  
County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
_____	_____	buildings
_____	_____	sites
1	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
1	_____	Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)  
"Bridges of Washington State, 1941-1950"  
"Historic Bridges & Tunnels in Washington State"

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**  
0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Transportation/road-related/bridge  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Transportation/road-related/bridge  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Other: cantilever truss  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation \_\_\_\_\_  
walls \_\_\_\_\_  
roof \_\_\_\_\_  
other steel  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Agate Pass Bridge

Name of Property

Kitsap, Washington

County and State

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Engineering

Transportation

**Period of Significance**

1950-1952

**Significant Dates**

1950

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

n/a

**Cultural Affiliation**

n/a

**Architect/Builder**

Washington State Dept. of Transportation

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: Bridge Condition Unit, WSDOT, Olympia, WA; Archaeological & Historical Services, Eastern Washington University, Cheney

Agate Pass Bridge  
Name of Property

Kitsap, Washington  
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 | 1 | 0 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 6 | 4 | 0 | 5 | 2 | 8 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 0 |  
Zone Easting Northing  
2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

3 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |  
Zone Easting Northing  
4 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description** The property is a bridge, measuring 1,229 feet, spanning Agate Passage (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.) (part of Puget Sound) on State Route 305). The bridge connects Bainbridge Island with the Kitsap Peninsula.

**Boundary Justification** The boundary of the property is the bridge itself. (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Robert H. Krier, J. Byron Barber, Robin Bruce, Craig Holstine, AHS

organization AHS, Eastern Washington University date 26 November 1991

street & number MS-168 Monroe Hall telephone (509) 359-2284

city or town Cheney state WA zip code 99004

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name \_\_\_\_\_

street & number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_

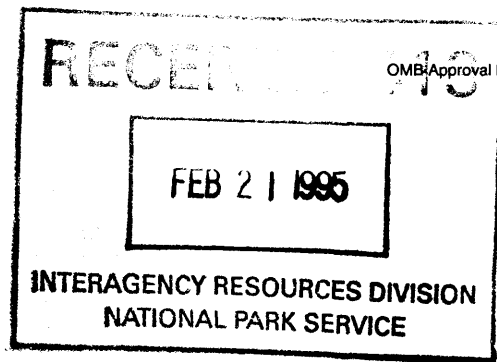
city or town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip code \_\_\_\_\_

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet



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### 7. Physical Description

Constructed over Agate Passage (an arm of Puget Sound) in 1950, the cantilever truss design of the Agate Pass Bridge is an excellent example of designs used for bridges of that type built in the state after 1950. It was one of the first bridges of its kind which featured new fabrication materials in its construction.

The total length of the bridge is 1,229 feet. The structure includes two concrete T-beam approach spans at each end, each approach being 104.5 feet in total length. The riveted structural steel portion of the bridge is 1,020 feet in length and consists of two anchor arm spans, each 240 feet long, and two cantilever spans, each 120 feet long, and a suspended span of 300 feet. The central span is 540 feet in length between main piers and, for navigation purposes, provides a vertical clearance of 75 feet above extreme high tide. The bridge has a roadway width of 26 feet between curbs and two sidewalks of three feet each.

The 540-foot main span is the second longest main span of all steel bridges built in Washington during the 1941–1950 decade. It is exceeded only by the Columbia River Bridge at Kettle Falls (WSDOT No. 395/545) built in 1941, with a main span of 600 feet. The Agate Pass Bridge is an outstanding example of a modern cantilever truss design, few of which were built in Washington after 1950. It is one of the first bridges of its kind in which an advanced-technology, steel called “low alloy” and designated ASTM A 242, was used. This type of steel was first developed in the early 1940s, but probably because of the World War II steel shortage, it was not incorporated into the design of bridges until the last years of the 1940s. It replaced the earlier silicon type of steel that was considerably brittle and had a lower allowable working stress.

United States Department of the Interior  
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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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### 8. Statement of Significance

The Agate Pass Bridge is eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C. Opened to traffic on 7 October 1950, the bridge spans Agate Passage (a part of Puget Sound) at the north end of Bainbridge Island. The bridge serves as the only highway connection between the island and the Kitsap Peninsula. Its construction facilitated movement of vehicular traffic from Bainbridge Island to the Washington mainland and eventually led to the abandonment of some cross-sound ferry service. The cantilever truss design of the Agate Pass Bridge embodies the characteristics of that bridge type, few of which were constructed in Washington State after 1950. The early horizontal top chord profile and overall arrangement of members achieves a smooth, direct appearance reflective of the role it plays in streamlining traffic flows between Bainbridge Island and the mainland. In addition, the bridge is significant for the material used in its construction: low alloy steel. Successful use of this new fabrication illustrates the importance of material development in the advancement of bridge design technology.

The Agate Pass Bridge was operated as a toll bridge by the Washington Toll Bridge Authority from 7 October 1950 to 30 September 1951. The removal of tolls was coincident with the purchase of the Puget Sound ferry operations and facilities by the State of Washington from the Puget Sound Navigation Company, King County, and King County Ferry District No. 1. The 1951 Legislature that authorized the purchase also provided that the bonded indebtedness of the bridge be retired from proceeds of the sale of the state's Motor Vehicle Fuel Tax Revenue Bonds. With the construction of the Agate Pass Bridge, the cross-sound ferry route between Seattle, Suquamish, and Indianola was abandoned. Ferry service between Seattle and Bainbridge Island via the Winslow Ferry became the primary crossing and continues in that capacity to the present.

The construction cost of the bridge was \$1,563,559, including interest and service charges on the bonds. (The interest rate of the bonds was 2.5%) Clarence B. Shain was the Director of Highways at the time that Agate Pass Bridge was built; the Bridge Engineer was George Stevens. The contractor was Manson Construction and Engineering Co., Seattle. The structural steel fabricator was American Bridge, a division of U.S. Steel Corporation, Gary, Indiana.

Construction of the Agate Pass Bridge not only reduced travel time but also resulted in elimination of ferry service to two small communities (Indianola and Suquamish). In addition to the role the bridge played in transportation development in coastal Washington, the bridge illustrates advances in new fabrications technology.

### 9. Major Bibliographic References

Washington State Department of Highways. *Biennial Reports*, 1948–1950, 1950–1952.

Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT). Agate Pass Bridge plans, dated 20 August 1948, on file in the Bridge Preservation Office, WSDOT, Olympia, Washington.

WSDOT. "Bridge Condition Card—Agate Pass Bridge," 27 April 1949, on file in the Bridge Preservation Office, WSDOT, Olympia, Washington.