

PH 0098981

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM
FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

| |
|---------------------------|
| STATE: California |
| COUNTY: San Bernardino |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY |
| ENTRY DATE MAY 12 1975 |

1. NAME

COMMON:
Washington Monument

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
T. 1S., R. 1W., Sec. 1, San Bernardino Base and Meridian

CITY OR TOWN:
Big Bear City vicinity

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:

STATE: California CODE: 06 COUNTY: San Bernardino CODE: 071

3. CLASSIFICATION

| CATEGORY (Check One) | OWNERSHIP | STATUS | ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Object | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both | <input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress | Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |

4. AGENCY

U.S. Forest Service, San Bernardino National Forest

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)

STREET AND NUMBER:
144 N. Mountain View Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:
San Bernardino

STATE:
California

CODE:
06

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
U.S. Forest Service, San Bernardino National Forest

STREET AND NUMBER:
144 N. Mountain View Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:
San Bernardino

STATE:
California

CODE:
06

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
General Land Office Plats and Field Notes

DATE OF SURVEY: 1876 Federal State County Local

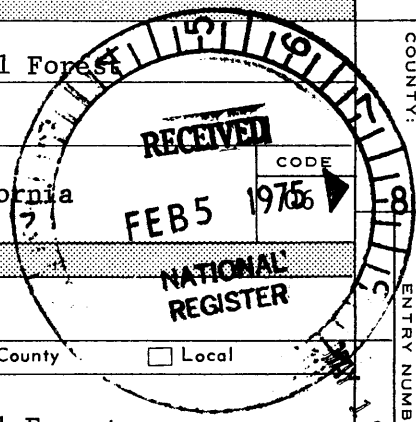
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
U.S. Forest Service, San Bernardino National Forest

STREET AND NUMBER:
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STATE:
California

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06



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: COUNTY: ENTRY NUMBER: DATE:

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7. DESCRIPTION

| | | | | | | |
|-----------|------------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| CONDITION | (Check One) | | | | | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good | <input type="checkbox"/> Fair | <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated | <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins | <input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed |
| | (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

The appearance of the monument has changed little in the 122 years since it was constructed by Deputy Surveyor Col. Henry Washington in November of 1852. It consists of a pile of rocks approximately 4' high and about 30' in circumference at ground level. The rocks are piled between the standing remnants of three small pine trees located about eight feet apart from each other and forming nearly an equilateral triangle.

In the middle of the pile of rocks is the hewn post installed by Washington. The post was buried about two feet in the ground and when originally installed extended 23 feet 9 inches above ground level. From ground level it was hewn to an 8 x 10 inch post for a length of 13 feet, with the remainder tapering off to a 4 inch diameter top. Approximately eight feet of the post remains standing above ground. In a resurvey of the site in 1966 a section of the original post was found. It was about four feet in length and matched almost exactly with the end of the standing post. This piece is now on exhibit at the San Bernardino County Museum.^{1/}

Of the four bearing trees described in Washington's notes, three are still existing. Two are in excellent condition, one is in poor condition. The latter tree a limber pine located northwest of the monument, is still alive but is in a deteriorated condition. It will very likely be the first to succumb to the elements. The other two bearing trees, located southeast and southwest of the monument are in excellent condition. The fourth bearing tree northeast of the monument was not positively identified. At the approximate location described by Washington, a rotted stump and log appear to be the remains of the bearing tree. About 10' south of the stump is the San Bernardino Peak Trail, the construction of which may have affected this tree or the original bearing tree.

Washington's description of the four bearing trees was as follows:

- Pine N. 5° E. 164 lks. T.1N., R.1E., S31-32" Diam. B.T.
- Pine S. 63° 30' E. 59 lks. T.1S., R.1E., S6-20" Diam. B.T.
- Pine N. 23° 00' W. 90 lks. T.1N., R.1W., S36-32" Diam. B.T.
- Pine S. 70° 00' W. 206 lks. T.1S., R.1W., S1-23" Diam. B.T.

Visible in the area to the north and west sides of the monument are a number of burn spots on the ground, each about two to four feet in diameter. Five of these spots were plotted. The ashes and rocks in each spot are white, indicating that extremely high temperatures prevailed in the fires. These fires occurred in 1949, when San Bernardino celebrated "Covered Wagon Days." In recreating Colonel Washington's bonfires, magnesium-fueled fires were lit on the site so as to be seen from San Bernardino 20 miles to the west. The magnesium apparently caused the high temperatures.^{2/}

The San Bernardino Peak Trail traverses the slope north of the monument and at the nearest point is 98 feet from the monument. With the exception of this trail and the ashes of the magnesium fires, the physical appearance of the site has changed very little over the years.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. 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) **1852**

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) Land Surveys |
| <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 Architecture | <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 type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The initial points for the San Bernardino baseline and Meridian the starting points for the sectional subdivision of all lands in Southern California, are located on the southwest slope of San Bernardino Peak, in the San Geronio Wilderness of the San Bernardino National Forest. The first initial point was established by Colonel Henry Washington in 1852 under contract to the U.S. Surveyor General's Office. One initial point is sufficient for surveying the public lands but, due to some unusual circumstances, two additional initial points were established in later years east of Washington's monument.

In 1892 Deputy Surveyor John C. Rice, surveying the San Bernardino Meridian from the north, intersected the San Bernardino Baseline at 13.45 chains (887.70 feet) east of Washington's Monument. He established the second initial point at this location. This was later determined to be 13.84 chains by Chapin.

In 1907 Deputy Surveyor George W. Pearson, in surveying the San Bernardino Meridian from the south, intersected the San Bernardino Baseline at 4.20 chains (277.20 feet) west of Rice's monument, or 610.50 feet east of Washington's Monument. He established the third initial point at the location. This was later determined to be 4.44 chains by Chapin.

In 1917 when Frank W. Chapin, a U.S. Cadastral Engineer, surveyed a part of Township One South, Range One West, he accepted both Rice's and Pearson's initial points and set brass capped monuments in theirs. He did not accept Washington's Monument.

While all three initial points are on the San Bernardino Baseline, the Rice monument is the initial point for the San Bernardino Meridian north, and the Pearson monument is the initial point for the San Bernardino Meridian south. Washington's monument has historical significance in that it was the first initial point constructed for the land surveys of Southern California.

See also, attached supporting statement of significance by L. Bruce Sumner.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1. Laurie, Bill B. Washington Monument Expedition 1966. San Bernardino County Museum Association. Vo. XIV, No. 3 and 4. Spring and Summer, 1967. Also Surveying and Mapping, Vol. XXVII, No. 2, pp. 301-313
2. Richards, Elizabeth W. Guideposts to History. Santa Fe Federal Savings and Loan Association, 1966.
3. Smith, J.K. "Right Point - Wrong Peak". Surveying and Mapping, Vol. XXVII, No. 4, pp. 680-681. American Congress on Surveying and Mapping, Washington, D.C.

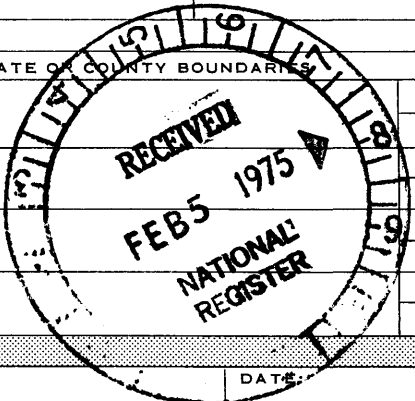
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

| 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 | Degrees Minutes Seconds | |
| NW | ° ' " | ° ' " | | 34 07 12 | 166 55 48 | |
| NE | ° ' " | ° ' " | | | | |
| SE | ° ' " | ° ' " | | | | |
| SW | ° ' " | ° ' " | | | | |

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **2 acres**

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: William T. Semago, District Recreation Officer | | DATE: Oct. 24, 1974 |
| BUSINESS ADDRESS: San Bernardino National Forest, San Geronio Ranger District | | |
| STREET AND NUMBER: Route 1, Box 264 | | PHONE: |
| CITY OR TOWN: Mentone | STATE: California | CODE: 06 |

12. CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

State Liaison Officer recommendation:

Yes
 No
 None

[Signature]
 State Liaison Officer Signature

JAN 2 1975

In compliance with Executive Order 11595, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Liaison Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The recommended level of significance is National State

Local

[Signature] **2/4/75**
 Federal Representative Signature Date

[Signature]
 Director of Recreation

Title

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

[Signature]
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date **5/12/75**

ATTEST:

[Signature]
 Keeper of The National Register

Date **5/19/75**

Acting

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

| | |
|------------------|-------------|
| STATE | |
| COUNTY | |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY | |
| ENTRY NUMBER | DATE |
| | MAY 12 1975 |

(Number all entries)

Supporting
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Washington Monument:

Henry Washington was reportedly a nephew of George. He is considered one of the best of the early surveyors in California.

The reason for the multiple points is that Washington (with equipment and methods available) did not consider it feasible to run north or south from the initial point. Instead, he went through a series of "stair-step" offsets, returning to the meridian position some distance north of the baseline. It appears that errors developed from this procedure. When Rice, in later years, projected the meridian south to close the gap, he intersected the baseline at a different location than Washington's point.

The Pearson Monument is a closing corner which is the normal result of closing on a standard parallel or baseline from the south. According to accounts published in "Surveying and Mapping," this fact seemed to confuse the party who investigated the scene in 1966. For some strange reason, they did not consult with the BIM in advance of their expedition.

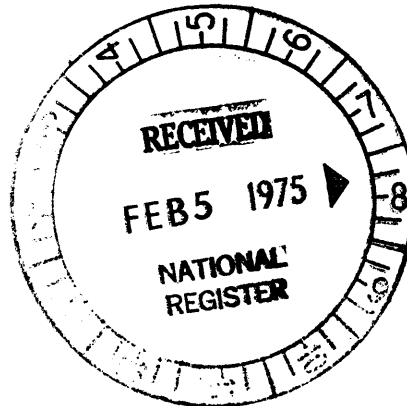
The report published by the Museum Society indicates that Washington's Monument is a few feet off of the baseline. This is not true; his monument is a point on the baseline. Therefore, it is and always has been a part of the U.S. Public Land Survey.

L. Bruce Sumner

Nov. 21, 1974

L. BRUCE SUMNER, L. S.
Member of the Board,
Land Surveyors Historical Society

Date



To Camp Angelus
Trail Head

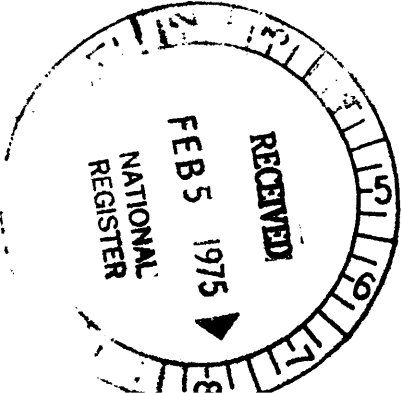
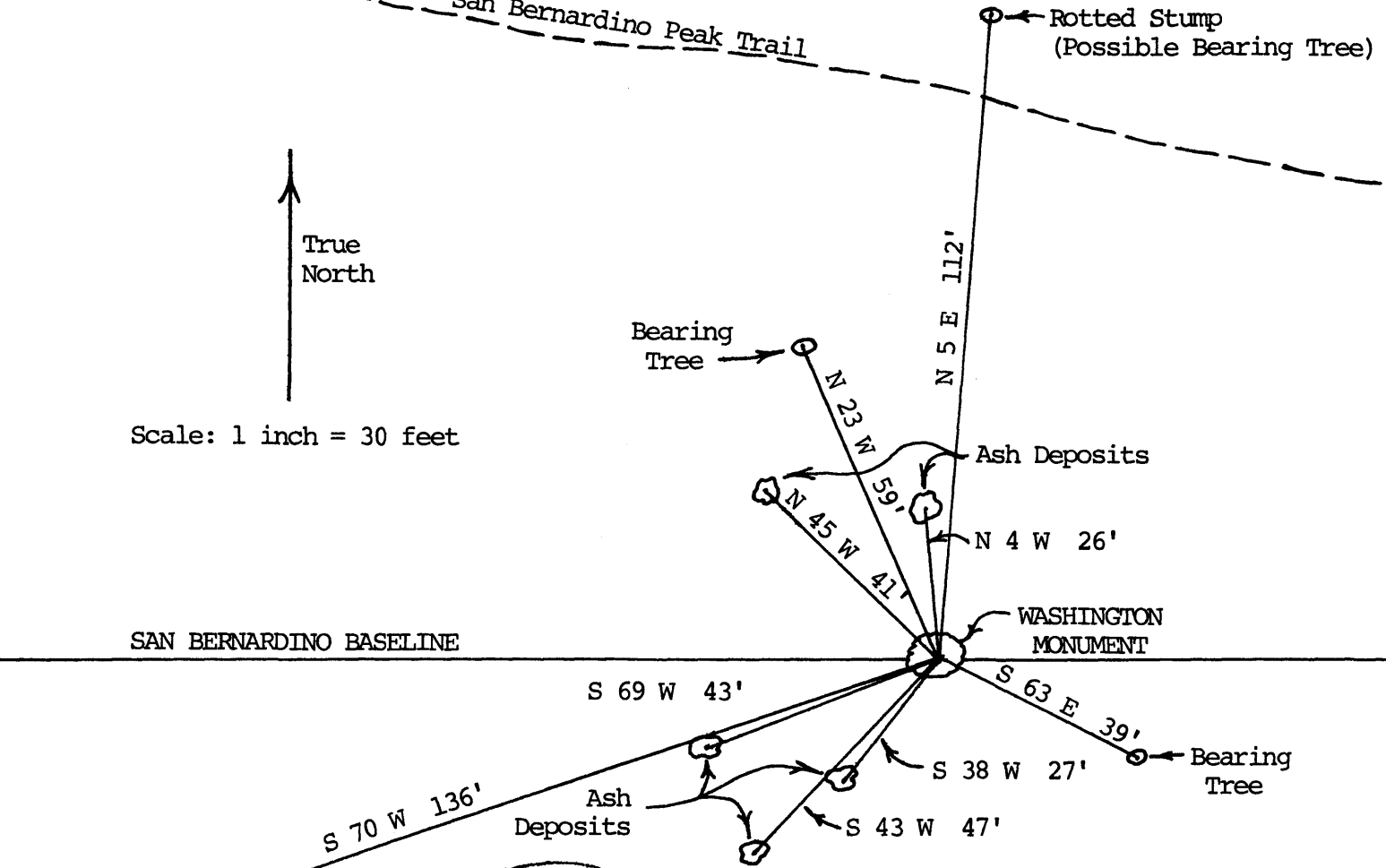
San Bernardino Peak Trail

Rotted Stump
(Possible Bearing Tree)

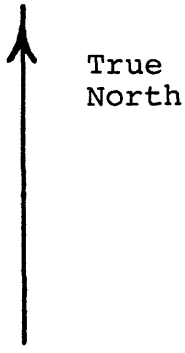
True
North

Scale: 1 inch = 30 feet

SAN BERNARDINO BASELINE



SITE MAP OF
WASHINGTON MONUMENT
SAN BERNARDINO NATIONAL FOREST



True North

SAN BERNARDINO MERIDIAN

Section 36
T1N R1W

Section 31
T1N R1E

SAN BERNARDINO BASELINE

620.40 Ft. (9.40 Ch.)

293.04 Ft.

(4.44 Ch.)

Monument Set By
Washington 1852

Monument Set By
Pearson 1907

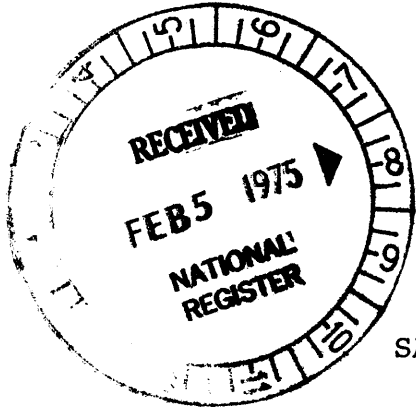
Monument Set By
Rice 1892

Section 1
T1S R1W

Section 6
T1S R1E

SAN BERNARDINO MERIDIAN

Scale: 1 inch = 200 feet



INITIAL POINT LOCATIONS

SAN BERNARDINO BASE AND MERIDIAN