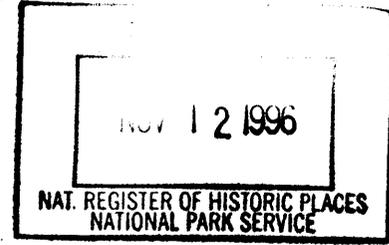


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "X" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any 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 PEACE ARCH
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number Peace Arch State Park P.O. Box 87 not for publication
city or town Blaine vicinity
state Washington code WA county Whatcom code 073 zip code 98230

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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.)

David Hansen 0.31.96
Signature of certifying official Date
David Hansen, Acting State Historic Preservation Officer
State or 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 commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this 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] 12/13/96

[Signature] Signature of Keeper Date of Action

USSDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form

Property Name PEACE ARCH

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5. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	No. of Resources within Property	
		contributing	noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)		<input type="checkbox"/> buildings
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> object	<u>1</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Total
		<u>1</u>	

Name of related multiple property listing:
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

No. of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register:

6. Functions or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Recreation and Culture/ monument

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Recreation and Culture/monument

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

No style
Classical Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation
walls

roof
other

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

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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.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a 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.)

ARCHITECTURE

SOCIAL HISTORY

Period of Significance

1921-1946

Significant Dates

1921

Cultural Affiliation

Significant Person

Architect/Builder

Harvey Wiley Corbett

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

Property Name PEACE ARCH

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9. Major Bibliographical References

(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
- Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of property approx. 1

UTM References

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1	<u>1/0</u>	<u>5/1/8/0/8/0</u>	<u>5/4/2/7/2/4/0</u>	3	<u>/</u>	<u>/</u>	<u>/</u>
2	<u>/</u>	<u>/</u>	<u>/</u>	4	<u>/</u>	<u>/</u>	<u>/</u>

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Delineated by all of Parcel P-2, City of Blaine.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

Boundaries are based upon the parcel historically associated with the Arch.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Steve Wang
 organization Washington State Parks date September 1, 1996
 street & number _____ telephone _____
 city or town Olympia state WA zip code _____

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 State of Washington (Washington State Parks)
 street & number _____ telephone _____
 city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

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The Peace Arch, located on the U.S./Canadian border in Blaine, Washington, was built in 1921 to commemorate one hundred years of peaceful relations between Canada and the United States.

This nomination includes only the Arch and immediate grounds. The grounds are bordered on the south by the modern customs building and on the east and west by the lanes of Interstate 5. The Arch is situated on the north edge of the grounds, directly on the U.S./Canadian border. Much of the grounds are grass, with a few shrub and tree plantings surrounding the Arch. A planting bed of shrubs, perennials, and annuals are at the south end of the grounds. The plantings and grassy expanse are mirrored north of the border, in Canada.

Not a true "arch," the classical style structure is actually a flat arch supported by simplified Doric pilasters at each corner, capped by a triangular pediment. Flanking each side of the Arch are smaller bays that extend perpendicularly and are capped by identical triangular pediments. Measuring sixty-seven feet in height, the base covers an area of approximately fifty-six feet by twenty-nine feet. The walkway through the Arch is nineteen feet wide. The white Arch is built of concrete and steel. It is believed to have been designed by H. W. Corbett, a noted American architect.

Within the Arch itself are two iron gates, opened wide and fastened against the walls. Over one appears the inscription "1814 -- Open One Hundred Years -- 1914" and over the other, this hope is expressed: "May These Gates Never Be Closed."

On the entablature above the portal on the Canadian side, are the words, "Brethren Dwelling Together in Unity." On the other side, facing the United States, are the words, "Children of a Common Mother." Flags of both countries fly atop the Arch.

Surrounding it, in both British Columbia and Washington, is an international park operated and maintained by the respective governments. The U.S. portion of the Arch is within Peace Arch State Park and the Canadian portion is within Peace Arch Provincial Park. Both parks are designed and maintained as open public space with professional gardeners caring for the grounds. Visitors from either side of the international border can walk freely across a grassy expanse, or through the open Arch, from one park to the other -- from one nation to the other. Interstate 5 passes on either side of the Arch. It is visible to all travelers on the interstate, as they pass across the border.

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Today, the appearance of Peace Arch is essentially the same as it looked after its completion 75 years ago. The saltwater and tide flats of Boundary Bay fill the western horizon and the international boundary still runs directly under the structure. On the east side of Interstate 5, more recent purchases of land and park development has increased the size of Peace Arch State Park. Over the years, additional buildings have been constructed to serve the increasing numbers of visitors. These additional buildings and property evolved in response to the construction of the Arch, but are not part of the original Peace Arch construction. They all are either too recent or have lost their historic integrity through changes to be considered part of this nomination.

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Peace Arch, Blaine, Washington is a significant emblem of international harmony and the promotion of social unity across borders, as well as an important example of monumental commemorative art. The grand arch literally straddles two countries, bridging the primary border crossing between Canada and Washington state.

In 1914, a century of peace between Canada and United States brought efforts for a celebration along the entire length of the border. Ever since the Treaty of Ghent, in 1814, the three thousand miles of border had been at peace. However, President Wilson requested that the efforts toward celebrating the peace be abandoned because Great Britain had entered WWI and the U.S. was still neutral. After the war ended, interest in commemorating the peaceful border was still alive in Washington and British Columbia.

The Pacific Highway Association, led by Sam Hill, stepped forward as the primary organization to plan and implement a commemorative project. As the president of the Association, Hill, championed the idea of a massive concrete Arch. He was determined to see the project completed and much of the cost for the construction of the Arch came from his own wealth.

Sam Hill

Samuel Hill -- lawyer, financier, road builder, and humanitarian -- is a well known figure in the Northwest. He built what is now known as the Maryhill Museum of Fine Art south of Goldendale, Washington. He was also the founder of the Washington Good Roads Association and the vital force in the construction of the original Columbia River highway. Near Maryhill, he built a full scale replica of Stonehenge as a WWI memorial.

Hill: An Advocate of Peace

As a Quaker and humanitarian, Hill was an ardent advocate of peace. Since the signing of the Treaty of Ghent in 1814, and the Rush-Bagot Agreement in 1817, the border between the United States and Canada had been peaceful. Hill was struck by the existence of an international border that had been undefended and at peace for a century. To commemorate the one hundred years, Hill proposed that a fitting monument be built at this end of the border.

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Sam Hill was an ideal person to support this project. His interest in the use of concrete, his involvement with the Good Roads Association and the Pacific Highway Association, and his personal dedication to peace, came to a natural union in the Peace Arch. Hill purchased property in Canada and the United States to build the monument. He personally funded much of the cost of constructing the Arch.

Building the Arch

The structure is simple yet striking. It is believed to have been designed by noted American architect Harvey Wiley Corbett. Corbett began a private architectural practice in New York in 1903. By the 1920s he was promoting the values of skyscrapers and soon became an influential skyscraper designer and theorist. Some of his ideas for the future of American cities can be seen in two projects of the 1930s: Rockefeller Center, New York and the planning for the Chicago Worlds Fair. The Arch seems unusual, compared to Corbett's other work. But, perhaps, if we knew more about the possible relationship between Sam Hill and Corbett, we would understand why the Arch attained its final design. Corbett is believed to have designed the Arch at no cost.

The cement and steel needed in its construction was also donated by individuals. The Arch is composed of eight hundred yards of concrete and is tied together with fifty tons of tension steel. The foot walls are built upon seventy-six fourteen inch pilings driven in the earth twenty-five feet. The Arch is a bipedal structure with a height of sixty-seven feet and a base fifty-six feet by twenty-nine feet. One half of the structure rests in the United States, one half in Canada. Construction began in 1920 and was complete in 1921. It is like almost everything else Sam Hill built -- solid, massive and constructed of reinforced concrete.

Beaver and Mayflower

In addition to the inscriptions on the sides facing the two nations, there are two bronze tablets. On the outer wall of the American, or western, side is set a bronze tablet bearing an image of the Mayflower, the famous ship that brought Pilgrims to the shores of the fledgling country. On the opposite wall, on the Canadian side, is a bronze tablet showing a replica of the Beaver, the first steam-propelled vessel to navigate the Pacific Ocean. As a token of common heritage, a piece of

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the Mayflower and a piece of the Beaver were enclosed in caskets beneath the bronze tablets. Sam Hill personally journeyed to England to obtain the piece of the historic Mayflower.

During a recent renovation of the Arch, the wooden pieces were found to be deteriorating. They were removed and treated. Currently they are in storage, awaiting proper locations to display them. The bronze tablets still remain, reminding visitors of the history of these two countries.

Dedication: September 6, 1921

On the day Sam Hill unveiled his monument to peace, over ten thousand people were estimated to be in attendance. Government dignitaries from the U.S. and Canada, as well as royalty from overseas, shared in the event. In laying the cornerstone of the Arch, Sam Hill stated "War neither satisfies the victor nor the vanquished." The Honorable John Oliver, then Premier of British Columbia, stated "Abiding peace in the world would come with the elimination of greed and with the realization that the true basis of international harmony lies in living by the Golden Rule."

First Arch to Peace

At the time the Arch was built, and for decades following its construction, the Arch was known as the first and the only such monument to peace in the world. Today, there are a few other monuments and plaques to the peaceful nature of the U.S. Canadian border, but none are of the magnitude, nor do they have the interesting and colorful history, as that of the Peace Arch. Examples of other monuments to the peaceful American/Canadian border are as follows. The International Peace Garden is on the border between Boissevain, Manitoba and Dunseith, North Dakota. This park includes a formal garden, lakes, nature trails, camp grounds, and picnic areas. It was established in 1932. Other small peace markers include a bronze marker at Mile 1221 on the Alaska Highway, erected by Kiwanis International, and a small granite monument in Norton, Vermont.

The Park

Sam Hill purchased the original property in Washington and Canada for the construction of the Arch. In 1931 the property on the Washington side became a Washington State Park and the

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agency began purchasing additional property. In 1939, British Columbia added Peace Arch Provincial Park to their park system.

Help for the creation of the park came from many people. In 1930, to encourage the involvement of children from across the state, the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Noah D. Showalter, asked every child enrolled in school to give a dime, or even a penny, towards the purchase of land for a park surrounding the Arch. He wrote to the children, "Will you try to earn a dime yourself, and invest it with all the rest of us in this new international park? You may not be able to get immediate returns of this investment, but I am certain that large dividends will come to you as the years go by." Blaine public school was the first to send in its report "with full quota." Across the state, the children donated about \$1200. A similar request went out to the British Columbia school children and they donated about \$2000 towards park land on their side of the border.

The idea of landscaping around the Arch is as old as the Arch itself. Robert Moran and J. J. Bonnell of Seattle selected and donated native shrubs to beautify the grounds for the dedication ceremony in 1921. State Parks began landscaping the property in 1931. In 1936 the park was described in a state parks biennial report as "A highly developed landscaped area, all planted, grass, flowers and shrubs . . ." For many years the park was known as Sam Hill Memorial Park. In 1942, the park was officially named Peace Arch State Park.

Roadways

When the Arch was built the Pacific Highway was a mile away from the Arch. However, in 1932 the highway was diverted to pass on either side of the Arch. Today, the highway has grown to become Interstate 5. The north bound and south bound lanes of Interstate 5 still pass on either side of the Arch. A pedestrian crosswalk (the only grade-level pedestrian crossing on Interstate 5) allows visitors to cross the north bound lanes to visit both parks, including the Arch itself. Today, the traffic moves very slowly (or is stopped) because of the border crossing. Pedestrian crossing is simple and safe.

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The Gardens

Surrounding the Arch is a large grassy expanse. Beyond the grass to the north, northeast, east and southeast are formal gardens and more areas of grass. Within this twenty acre park are a variety of permanent shrubs and trees, as well as thousands of annuals. Although the park has been enlarged over the years, the basic design and layout of the gardens has remained the same. It is composed of areas of permanent plantings, areas of annuals, grass lawns and buildings for the visitors' comfort and use.

Through the years, British Columbia and Washington have coordinated their efforts at developing the gardens. A variety of formal and informal garden plans have been followed, leading to the unified look of this international park.

Buildings

In addition to the gardens and Arch, the park offers a kitchen building, picnic facilities, restrooms, and parking areas. There is also a manager's residence, park shop, and greenhouse. None of the buildings are as old as the Arch itself. A restroom was built in 1932, the kitchen and shop in 1942 and the house in 1951. The greenhouse was built prior to 1951. By 1956 an addition had been built onto the kitchen building.

Today

Since 1931, Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission has developed, maintained, and operated the park. Today, this twenty acre parks host over 384,000 visitors each year. Eleven million motor vehicles pass by the Arch on Interstate 5 each year.

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