

SUGGESTED INTERNATIONAL PARK AT POINT ROBERTS, WASHINGTON

INTRODUCTION

Much of the information for the following report was obtained from Mr. Kenneth Decker, an economist from Berkeley, California, who made a trip to Point Roberts during September 1964 in connection with an economic base study of that area. The study is being financed two thirds by the Housing and Home Finance Agency under an urban planning assistance grant and one third by the State and local governments. The approximate completion date for the study is April 1965.

Brief trips had previously been made to the area by National Park Service Planner Mark Pike in April 1962 and Assistant Regional Director George Collins in May 1955.

FINDINGS

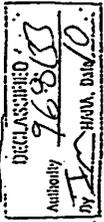
It appears that at the present time Point Roberts is economically dependent on adjacent Vancouver, British Columbia and that it is becoming a suburban development of that expanding metropolitan area.

Although there are some historic values present, these are not deemed to be of national significance. In addition much of the story which might be told here can be better told at the nearby proposed San Juan Island National Historical Park.

Recreation values exist and expansion of existing public parks may be advisable but potential users are almost all Canadian due to the physical location of the peninsula. Similar nearby areas, some perhaps with greater potential, are more easily accessible to United States citizens.

RECOMMENDATION

That, on the basis of present information, Point Roberts not be further considered as an addition to the National Park System.



BACKGROUND

The following is a resume of previous action taken on park and recreation matters at Point Roberts:

February 20, 1961 - The Legislature of the State of Washington passed House Joint Memorial No. 40 to President Kennedy and to both Houses of Congress, urging establishment of a National Monument at Point Roberts.

March 31, 1961 - Senator Magnuson requested comments from the Department of the Interior on Joint Memorial No. 40.

April 27, 1961 - Assistant Secretary Kenneth Holum advised Senator Magnuson, by letter, that the Department could not lend its support to Joint Memorial No. 40.

March 10, 1962 - An application (Serial Washington 04399) was filed under the Recreation and Public Purposes Act for 8.17 acres of land along the west coast of Point Roberts. The application was the result of a cooperative endeavor by the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission and Whatcom County.

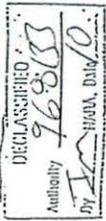
April 23, 1962 - Mark Pike, Park Planner with the Portland, Oregon Office of the National Park Service, investigated the area covered by the March 10, 1962 application.

June 28, 1962 - Memorandum from Mr. Burroughs, Chief, Columbia River Recreation Survey Branch, recommended favorable action on the State's application of March 10.

November 21, 1962 - Application No. 03077 filed several years previous under the Recreation and Public Purposes Act for land in the vicinity of Point Roberts Lighthouse was approved for patent. The land was patented to Point Roberts Township.

March 10, 1964 - Application No. 04399 was approved. This land was also patented to Point Roberts Township.

May 6, 1964 - Secretary of the Interior Udall wrote to Mr. G. Edward Meade of the British Columbia Federation of Fish and Game Clubs concerning the suggested International Park at Point Roberts and commenting that the National Park Service will be asked for their comments on the suggested park.



April 19, 1964 - Mr. Barry Mather, Member of Parliament of the Canadian House of Commons from New Westminster, British Columbia, wrote to Director of Vancouver Parks Board on April 19 suggesting that a John F. Kennedy International Park be established at Point Roberts.

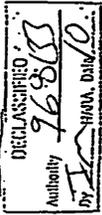
April 27, 1964 - Vancouver Board of Parks and Public Recreation passed resolution thanking Mr. Mather for his letter and informed him that the letter appeared to receive favorable consideration and would be referred to the Lower Mainland Parks Advisory Association.

April 10, 1964 - Mr. G. Edward Meade of British Columbia Federation of Fish and Game Clubs wrote to Secretary Udall suggesting International Park at Point Roberts.

May 6, 1964 - Secretary Udall's reply thanked Mr. Meade for suggestion and advised that the National Park Service would be asked for their comments on the suggested park proposal.

August 31, 1964 - Mr. Gerald E. Shannon of the Canadian Embassy discussed this subject with Sharon E. Erdkamp, Economic Canadian Desk Officer.

September 1964 - Economic base study of area made by Mr. Kenneth Decker, economist from Berkeley, California financed by Housing and Home Finance Agency under an urban planning assistance grant and State and local governments.



DESCRIPTION

Point Roberts is a small peninsula consisting of approximately 6.5 square miles extending into the Strait of Georgia from the Canadian Mainland. (See attached map.)

Distances by road from nearby cities are as follows:

Vancouver, British Columbia	-	22 miles
Blaine, Washington (nearest U. S. border)	-	25 miles
Seattle, Washington	-	150 miles

Climate

The climate is typical of the coastal regions in the Pacific Northwest. Annual rainfall is approximately 40 inches and temperature ranges approximately from winter lows of 20^o fahrenheit to summer highs of 90^o.

Physical Features

The land forms on the point are not unusual. Elevations range from sea level to 200 feet. Bluffs rise near the coast on the southeast corner and to a lesser degree on the northwest corner. Open upland pasture is interspersed with second growth forest consisting of Douglas fir, hemlock, spruce, and cedar associated with alder, maple and low brush.

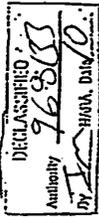
Beaches border much of the peninsula. However, the coastal waters adjacent to the western and southern portions are subject to dangerous currents. The waters of Boundary Bay, east of Point Roberts, are generally calm.

Accessibility

This small portion of the United States is accessible from the mainland of Washington only by boat or by road through Canada from the border town of Blaine.

Population

The 1960 Census lists 232 inhabitants at Point Roberts. However, it is estimated that there are also approximately 500 vacation homes on the point, owned or rented mostly by Canadians from Vancouver. This growing metropolitan area with its center approximately 22 miles from Point Roberts, has an estimated population of 1,700,000.



HISTORICAL VALUES

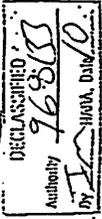
Other than its location at the extreme western end of the land boundary between the United States and Canada, Point Roberts has had only slight associations with the major events and personages of United States history. In fact, its isolated physical situation resulted in its being largely cut off from the mainstreams of national, regional, and state history.

The locality is best known to history as the site of two granite markers, one on the beach beside the Straits of Georgia and the other about 300 feet eastwardly on a height of ground marking the western terminus of the international land boundary. The Treaty of Washington, signed June 15, 1846, determined that the boundary between the United States and Canada should be extended along the 49th parallel westward from the Rocky Mountains "to the middle of the channel which separates the continent from Vancouver's Island, and thence southerly from the middle of the said channel, and of Juan De Fuca Straits, to the Pacific Ocean."

Surveys to mark the land portion of this boundary were conducted during the late 1850's; and in 1861 the two stones above-mentioned were erected on Point Roberts. As can be seen from the quoted clause of the Treaty, these markers do not designate the western end of the international boundary but only the end of the land portion of that boundary. Also, no events leading to the boundary settlement of 1846 occurred on Point Roberts, nor did any geographical qualities of the point influence the establishment of the line.

In 1853 several men conducted salmon fishing operations at Point Roberts, thus making the locality the scene of some of the earliest commercial fisheries in Washington during the American period. Point Roberts, on the approaches to the Fraser River, long continued to be a favorite location for permanent seines or "traps." The high point in this fishery appears to have been during the first two decades of the 20th Century. Much of the processing of the catch was done at a cannery at nearby Blaine.

During the fishing period, isolated Point Roberts earned an evil reputation as the habitat of smugglers and fish pirates. The illegal levies upon legitimate fishermen largely came to an end in 1910 when the United States erected the Point Roberts Lighthouse, the northernmost light along the coast of the contiguous 48 States. During prohibition days, rumrunners operated from Point Roberts, reviving the smuggling tradition.



EXISTING USE

Being in such close proximity to Vancouver, British Columbia, the major existing use at Point Roberts is residential, including both seasonal and permanent. Other uses include boat launching for sport salmon fishing and limited grazing on upland pasture areas.

A commercial fishing fleet, originally based at Point Roberts, has moved to Blaine.

There are two existing county parks, one near the northwest corner of the peninsula containing approximately 8 acres and one in the vicinity of Point Roberts Lighthouse containing approximately 22 acres. They are developed for day use activities including picnicking, swimming and fishing.

Continuation as a suburban residential area is the most apparent potential use of the Point Roberts Peninsula. Again, much of this use would be by Canadians.

A proposal by the Corps of Engineers to make a small craft harbor just north of Point Roberts Lighthouse would increase potential boating use, mainly by commercial fishermen but also for a limited number of pleasure craft.

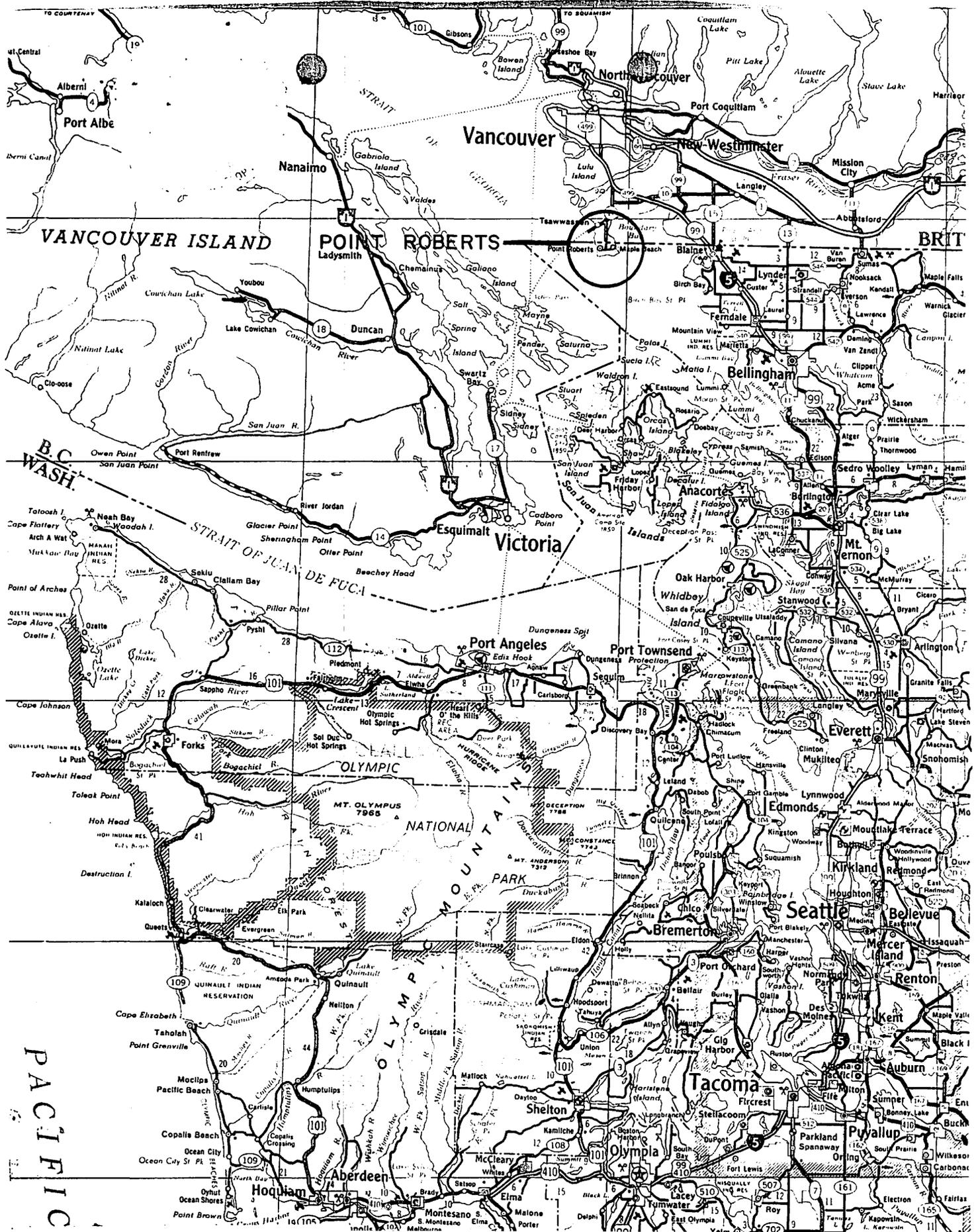
Potential for the expansion of other water-oriented recreation uses also exists. Again, it appears that nearly all users would be Canadian.

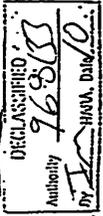
Boundary Bay, in Canada, lies immediately north and east of Point Roberts. Extensive development of this area has been proposed including filling a considerable portion of the bay and construction of an industrial and residential complex. A local group called "Save the Beaches" is attempting to block this development and have the remaining undeveloped beach dedicated to public use. Point Roberts beaches adjacent to Boundary Bay are nearly all developed.

SPECIAL PROBLEMS

In addition to the peculiar physical location and difficult access for United States citizens the economics of the area is apparently closely tied to nearby Vancouver. In addition little potable water is available on the peninsula. Many wells which have been drilled have hit salt water. Thus, most of the water use in the area is purchased from Canada.

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By J. HAVA, Dslv 10





UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WESTERN REGIONAL OFFICE
450 Golden Gate Avenue, Box 36063
San Francisco, California 94102

IN REPLY REFER TO:

December 8, 1964

Memorandum

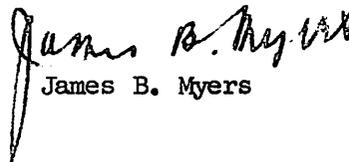
To: Director
Attention: Mr. Swem

From: Acting Regional Director

Subject: Suggested International Park at Point Roberts, Washington

This is in response to Assistant Director Swem's July 23 memorandum and Regional Chief of National Park System Studies Luntley's December 7 telephone request to Park Planner Mortimore. We are enclosing a report on the subject area prepared by Mr. Mortimore and Regional Historian Hussey.

It should be emphasized that personnel from this office have not visited Point Roberts in connection with the current proposal and no one presently on our staff has seen the area. The bulk of the information was obtained from recent discussions with Mr. Kenneth Decker, an economist from Berkeley, California, who recently visited Point Roberts.


James B. Myers

Enclosure

cc:
Portland w/c enclosure

Point Roberts Wash.

Jan 17, 1964

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By
IN
WFOV
DATE
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Mr Geo. B. Hartzog Jr.

Wash. D.C.

JAN 21 10 37 AM '64

~~Apples~~
~~R J~~

L62
L59 Dear sir

Point Roberts is a peninsula consisting of approximately 6000 acres. It is crossed by the international Boundary line and therefore cut off from the United States except by water or via Canada.

On the west side of this Point stands an historic monument, the only one of its kind, erected in 1861 on the western most end of the Boundary line between the United States & Canada.

The stone for this monument was cut in Scotland & transported around the Horn by sailing vessel. Then, with the help of Indians, hauled up the bank and erected in its present location where it has stood for over a hundred years among the weeds & bracken.

The land on which it stands consists of 7 acres, about half in natural woods. The bank is wooded above a nice gravel beach. This land has recently been sold as Government surplus to Point Roberts Township for Community Park purposes.

As a long time resident of Point Roberts I do not feel that it belongs to us alone, but to all the nation and is historic enough to be made

a National Monument or small Park,
where tourists can relax and enjoy the view,
take pictures of themselves, as many have done,
beside the old granite monument in the
Northwest corner of the United States.

The wooded area could be maintained
mostly in its natural state for the preservation
of almost extinct wild flowers + birds (the
Bald Eagle nests nearby)

Point Roberts Township would be very
thankful for any help you could give in
this matter. Please let me hear from you.

Very truly yours

Rima Thordarson

Local Parks Board chairman

Also member of National Parks Assn.

P.S. The permanent population of Point Roberts
at present is only about 150. But in
summer we have tourists by the hundreds.

Point Roberts Wash.

Jan. 20, 1964

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BY
NARA, DAW, 10

Mr Harold P. Fabian
Salt Lake City Utah
Dear sir

As a Member of the National Parks Assn, I read in the magazine that you are the Chairman of the Advisory Board for National Parks, Historic sites etc. I am enclosing a picture of a monument that I believe is worthy of consideration as a National or International Monument or small Park, here at Point Roberts.

On approximately seven acres, stands this granite marker at the western most end of the Boundary line between the United States and Canada. The stone was cut in Scotland and transported around the Horn by sailing vessel where it was hauled up the bank, with the help of Indians, and erected in its present location where it has stood, neglected, for over a hundred years.

Point Roberts is a small community about 6000 acres, permanent population 150. In summer visited by thousands of tourists.

Please look into this matter and let me hear from you.

Mr B. Thordarson
Parks Board, Pt. Roberts

POINT ROBERTS TOWNSHIP

WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

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By SA JMM, DMM/10

VISIT OUR
SAFE, WARM
BEACHES

262
158

POINT ROBERTS, WASHINGTON

January 20, 1964

George B. Hartzog Jr. Director

National Parks Service

Washington, D.C.

1/29
C. G. Hartzog
to Hartzog
H. H. Hartzog
H. H. Hartzog
R. H. Hartzog

Dear Sir:

The Point Roberts Township Supervisors and the people of Point Roberts would like to draw your attention to the Monument Property Park Sight---T. 41-N., R. 3 W., W.M. Sec.- 33 Lot-6 containing 8.17 acres of land.

This Monument was erected in the year of 1861, at the western end of the United States and the Canadian Boundry.

This Monument, one of several erected as boundry lines between two great nations, still stands in a beautiful wooded area overlooking the Straits of Georgia. It was here the boundry survey was completed.

We feel all the nation as well as us should know of this historical marker and would like your assistance in preserving and developing this small but very important Park sight. We feel it is a very neglected place.

Point Roberts is a small community of 9 sq. miles. We have a very unique problem here--due to the geographical location. But are very proud of this community, we therefore would like you to truly consider our plea and assist us with the Historical Monument Future Park sight. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Virginia L. Wampler
Virginia L. Wampler Clerk

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DATE 10/10

Appelman 1/31
R. Young 2/3/64

January 30, 1964

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LSS-OHA

Mrs. B. Thordarson
Route 1
Point Roberts, Washington 98281

Dear Mrs. Thordarson:

Director Hartag has asked me to reply to your letter of January 17, and we have also just received a letter from Mr. Harold Fabian, Chairman of the Advisory Board, sending copies of your letter to him and of his reply, about the International Boundary Monument number 1 at Point Roberts, Washington. The post cards you enclosed show that the marker is a substantial one and the card view of the State marker relating to it indicates that the State has appropriately marked the site at the nearest suitable highway location, about 1 mile distant from the boundary monument itself.

We understand from your letter that about 7 acres of land on which the monument stands was recently transferred from the Federal Government to Point Roberts Township for a community park. Can you inform us what Federal agency owned and administered this land before it was transferred to the township? And was title to the boundary monument transferred with the land? As a part of the transfer transaction, did the township obligate itself to maintain the monument or assume any other responsibilities concerning it? Answers to these questions might enable us to answer better your inquiry as to whether there is any assistance the Federal Government can give the township in developing and making known to the public this interesting site. The fact that the peninsula on which the boundary marker is erected is cut off by water from the rest of the United States, and can be reached by road only through Canada, complicates the public use of the area considerably.

This number 1 boundary monument, erected in 1861, as a part of marking the international boundary as agreed upon by the treaty with Great Britain in 1846 is an interesting site associated with settling the Oregon question and of establishing our century-old peaceful boundary with Canada. While the National Park Service

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APPROXIMATE DATE

does not have available funds to be used on sites such as that of the boundary monument at Point Roberts, we shall be glad to give this matter further thought after we receive from you information on the questions posed earlier in this letter.

^{five cent}
The ~~5~~ stamp you enclosed for return postage is herewith returned to you.

Sincerely yours,

SIGNED

Herbert E. Kahler
Chief, Division of History
and Archeology Studies

~~cc~~
Mr. Fabian
Chairman, Advisory Board
Regional Director, Western (2) w/c of inc.
Branch of History, w/c of inc.

REAppleman:jmw 1-30-64

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By: [Signature] 10/10

2/6/64
Appleman
Point Roberts

February 6, 1964

L62
158-OHA

Miss Virginia L. Wampler
Clerk, Point Roberts
Township
Point Roberts, Washington

Dear Miss Wampler:

We appreciate your writing to us about the United States-Canadian International Boundary Monument and Marker number 1 in Point Roberts Township, Whatcom County, Washington. We are undertaking to obtain additional information about this site and its former Federal ownership.

At the moment, we do not know what, if anything, the National Park Service can do that will be helpful to Point Roberts Township in preserving and developing this site. We have had correspondence with Mrs. E. Thordarson of Point Roberts, whom you probably know. After we have obtained additional data about this monument and considered the matter further we may be able to make some suggestions. In the meantime, we are pleased to know of your interest in this historic monument and site, and hope that eventually we can be useful to you and the township which now owns the site.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

Herbert E. Kahler
Chief, Division of History
and Archeology Studies

cc:
Branch of History, w/c of inc.

REAppleman:jmw 2-6-64

Point Roberts Wash.

Feb. 14, 1964

L58-OHA

Herbert E. Kahler
Washington D. C.

Dear Mr Kahler + Mr Hartzog

I am real pleased and grateful to both of you for taking time to answer my letters. So that you may get a better mental picture of Point Roberts, I am enclosing a few more post cards and a map.

I presume you have a copy of the questions you asked me, so here are the answers. The Federal agency that transferred the 8.10 acres (less road + bank, about 7 acres) was the Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management, Washington Land Office in Spokane Washington.

The North 60 feet of this land is reserved for the United States as per Presidential proclamation No. 1196 of May 3, 1912.

Point Roberts Township did not obligate itself to maintain the monument.

A brief summary of the agreement follows:
"The land applied for has been found to be valuable for public recreational use.

Point Roberts Township appears to be in the best position to develop -- the land. --

Accordingly the land is hereby offered to the applicant subject to the following conditions:

- 1 - "There shall be reserved to the United States all mineral rights. - -
- 2 Patent to contain reservation of right of way as per act of Aug. 30, 1890.
- 3 North 60 feet thereof shall be set aside for public reservation and not subject to use or occupation.
- 4 The patentee will be required to maintain the land open to use of the public and to make only a reasonable charge for use, whether by concession or otherwise. Such fees to be similar charges made by other Federal installations.
- 5 The patentee will be required to develop the area according to its plan. - - Such plan must be in operation within 10 years of the date of conveyance.
- 6 If the patentee, or its successor in interest does not comply with plan or revision thereof, approved by the Secretary of the Interior, or his delegate - - grant shall be terminated in whole or in part and land shall revert back to the United States.
- 7 To allow the Bureau of Land Management consistent with the recreational objectives of the area, all other values of the land and to recognize the right of the United States to retain the revenue from such management.

8. If patentee attempts to transfer title to the land to another for other than recreational purposes or discriminates use of same by any person because of creed, color or national origin, title to land shall revert back to the United States."

It is true we are cut off by water from the rest of our country but we are only twenty miles from Blaine ^{Wash.} where our children go to school by bus every day. We are also only a few short miles from the new trans Canada highway which terminates at Victoria via Ferries. Tourists from every state in the Union visit the Capital city of Victoria and many of them come here to see our unique peninsula. We have good bathing beaches and sport fishing here and the big city of Vancouver is only a half hour away.

Point Roberts Township officers have a good plan for developing the monument ^{Park} property and I am sure will in time do a good job. They do not plan to make a trailer park as that would spoil it, so it will not be income property except in a small way.

Washington State Parks Department has helped by donating a few picnic tables with a promise of more later. The Whatcom County road crews have done some

drainage improvements. Some of us are
growing trees to be planted at the Park.
All of us want to be proud of it as
part of our United States.

Now I would like to ask you
a question or two. If Point Roberts Township
makes a park of the 8.10 acres, who takes
care of the north 60 feet that the
historic old monument stands on?

When you make your next budget
for National Parks and monuments, could
you include our little Northwest Corner?

yours truly,

Runa Thordarson
Parks Board Pt. Roberts, W.A.

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96805
By: [Signature]
Date: 10/10

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SEP 4 10 20 AM '64

August 31, 1964

Proposed International Park at Point Roberts

[Handwritten initials]
noted
Houelle

Gerald E. Shannon, Canadian Embassy
Sharon E. Erdkamp, Economic Canadian Desk Officer

L/HR
Embassy Ottawa
Consulate General Vancouver
Interior - Park Service ✓
PNA

Mr. Shannon came to raise informally with the Department the proposal that an international park be made jointly by the US and Canada at Point Roberts, part of which is in British Columbia and part in Washington State. Canada's interest is in preserving the area as a vacation spot for people living in the Vancouver area. Already the Canadian portion is fairly built up and there was some local interest in a shore line park perhaps one half or one mile in width beginning at Besch Grove, British Columbia on the eastern side of the point and going on around to the Indian reservation in British Columbia on the west side of the point.

If the US were not interested in doing something jointly, the Canadian portion might be developed as a national park, but it seemed preferable to do something jointly. Mr. Shannon thought the residents of the US portion of the point would be interested since tourists would be attracted to the area.

I commented that there might be some problem about buying shore property from present owners and that I understood there was at least one fish cannery on the shore in the US side. Mr. Shannon said his information was that the cannery was pretty much defunct. At any rate, he was raising the matter informally to see if the US had any interest in the idea. If it did, then a meeting could be held to go over the specifics and see if the idea was feasible.

I said I would inform interested offices and get a reaction.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
General Files Copy

General Files Copy

SEP 10 1964

Howell 9/9
Begin
Feb 10

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By [Signature] 10

L62-CNP

FOR UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT USE ONLY

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Western Region
From: Acting Assistant Director, Cooperative Activities
Subject: Proposed John F. Kennedy International Park, Point Roberts, Washington

We are enclosing for your information a copy of Foreign Service Dispatch No. 108 dated August 6, 1958, from the Ottawa Embassy to the Department of State (DS), which transmits a memorandum dated July 24, 1958, on the subject of Point Roberts. This and the enclosed copy of a memorandum of August 31 have both been classified as "Limited Official Use" by that Department.

The DS memorandum is the most pertinent piece of correspondence referred to in the last paragraph of the copy of the Airgram previously forwarded to you dated May 6. As background to this, we might point out that the Department of State has for many years explored ways of solving the problems inherent in United States territory being located on a peninsula and separated from the mainland by Canadian lands. Cession of the 4.9 square miles of land to Canada is one of the possible solutions that has been considered by that Department.

Please submit your comments on the proposed international park at an early date.

C. Gordon Fredine

C. Gordon Fredine

Enclosures

cc: ~~CNP~~ w/c encl.

JWHowell:fjw 9/9/64

Luntley 12/14

Howell 12/15

Proven 12/15

Wiley 12/15

Julian 12/21

7 Admin 12/21

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Authority 76803
By [Signature] DATE 10/10

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L62

DEC 23 1964

Mr. Ivan E. White
Career Minister
Department of State
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. White:

This will confirm the National Park Service's position on the suggested international park, Point Roberts, Washington, as discussed by yourself and Messrs. Luntley and Howell on December 11.

Proposals to establish an international park at Point Roberts have been made by several individuals, as shown on the enclosed "Background" resume sheet. Our Portland Office, San Francisco Regional Office and this office have all reviewed these proposals. We find that there are some historic values present at Point Roberts, but they are not considered to be significant. In addition, the recreational values are not outstanding, as nearby areas with perhaps greater potential are more easily accessible to United States citizens on the mainland.

An international park would normally involve the United States establishing a national park adjacent to a companion national park on Canadian soil. Certain criteria must be considered in evaluating and determining the potential of such a proposed area, these mainly being significance, suitability and feasibility of the site involved. The element of national significance must be present to make the area a concern of the entire Nation and thus an appropriate matter for Federal responsibility. This element was found to be lacking at Point Roberts. Therefore, we recommend that Point Roberts not be further considered as a part of an international park to be administered jointly by the United States and Canada.

Glacier National Park presently forms part of a Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park that was established in 1932. Perry's Victory and International Peace Memorial in Ohio also commemorates a century of peace between the United States and Canada. In addition, the 88th Congress passed a bill to authorize a joint United States-Canadian Commission to establish a Roosevelt Campobello International Park.

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By IM/MAA, DML/0

For your use, we are attaching three other sheets which give additional information on Point Roberts. Also, you may be interested in knowing that Senators Jackson and Magnuson introduced S. 1441 in the past Congress which would establish a Pig War National Monument on San Juan Island in Puget Sound. The Department of the Interior recommended enactment of the bill with minor amendments. No action was taken by the Congress on this legislative proposal.

We have checked with the Bureau of Land Management on the status of public domain lands on Point Roberts. That Bureau informs us that all public lands on Point Roberts have been patented or no longer are subject to the public land laws.

Sincerely yours,

(SGD) THEODOR R. SWEM

Assistant Director

Enclosures

cc:
Regional Director, Western
Chief, Cooperative Activities, Portland
CI
CNP w/c inc.

JWHowell:RL:fjw 12/15/64

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Authority 96833
By [Signature] HMM, DMV

23 VANCOUVER SUN; Sat., Mar. 20, 1965

Joint Park Studied For Point Roberts

Laing Says U.S. Agrees Area Shouldn't Stay American

Canada and the U.S. are considering turning Point Roberts into an international park, Northern Affairs Minister Arthur Laing said Friday.

Laing said the idea was first discussed by Prime Minister Lester Pearson and President Lyndon Johnson when they met here for the Columbia River Treaty signing.

He said that later U.S. Interior Secretary Stuart Udall agreed in a conversation with him that the existence of Point Roberts as part of the U.S. is illogical and anachronistic.

TALKS STARTED

He said serious discussions on turning it into an international park were recently begun by representatives of both governments.

Laing said there are only a few families—mostly farmers—living in the area and they have to take their children 14 miles to school in Elsie.

"It seems to me we are wanting a marvellous opportunity of turning the area into something that will be of value to both countries," Laing said.

ONE ALREADY

He said the U.S. and Canada already operate one international park jointly — Campobello, N.B., where President Franklin Roosevelt had a summer home.

Laing also asked for the provincial government to join with his department to turn Gabriola into a national park.

He said that when developed the area could draw on the whole Pacific Northwest for users and would provide an income of \$4 million to \$5 million a year.

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BY JAC/DAW/10

L 6 Z

~~LES~~-CNP

MAY 18 1965

Jones 4/26
Swem 5/3
Benson 5/4
D. Lee 5/6
Price
Brown 5/10
Jones 5/10
Swem 5/12

Memorandum

To: Secretary of the Interior
Through: Assistant Secretary, Public Land Management

From: Associate Director

Subject: Point Roberts, Washington - Meeting with Mr. Jack Austin,
Special Assistant to the Canadian Minister of Northern
Affairs and National Resources

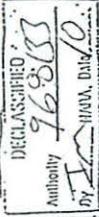
On April 22 Deputy Solicitor Ed Weinberg made arrangements for Mr. Jack Austin to discuss Canadian interests in Point Roberts, Washington, with Assistant Director Jackson Price, Chief of Lands Donald E. Lee and Park Planner Harold R. Jones.

Point Roberts is a peninsula of about 2,400 acres which extends across the Canadian border into the State of Washington. The only access by land is from Canada. Between 200 and 300 summer cottage sites are owned by Canadians as compared to about 25 owned by United States citizens, and this area is used primarily by residents of Vancouver, British Columbia, and surrounding area for recreation purposes.

The development of Point Roberts as an International Park or recreation area has the serious interest of the Canadian government and was discussed in the House of Commons on April 1. Mr. Arthur Laing, the Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources, previously discussed this subject with you, and Prime Minister Pearson briefly discussed it with the President. The Canadian government feels that the establishment of Campobello International Park provides precedence for a similar joint park development at Point Roberts.

When Mr. Austin was told that the National Park Service had made a reconnaissance study of Point Roberts and had not found park or recreation values of national significance to qualify it for inclusion in the National Park System, he said that they hoped the Canadian interest and the international aspects would increase the evaluation of significance placed on this area.

Mr. Austin was asked if this was primarily an international boundary matter. He said they had considered this and decided that a boundary adjustment would be very difficult to obtain and might open up questions along the entire border where similar situations might exist. The possibility of obtaining a 99-year lease to establish a provincial park had also been considered. However, they wanted to explore the creation of a joint commission to plan, develop and administer Point Roberts as an International Park as the best solution for the Point area and the adjacent Boundary Bay, a waterfowl



wintering area which is now threatened by industrial development.

Since this proposal appeared to involve matters out of our field, Mr. Price suggested that this might require negotiations between State Departments, similar to the arrangements for Campobello. Mr. Austin said that the State Department had been contacted, and he had discussed this matter before coming to Interior with Mr. Dick Kearny, Deputy Legal Advisor in the State Department.

In order for this proposal to be given careful study and consideration in the Department, Mr. Price suggested that the Minister of Northern Affairs write to the Secretary of the Interior and outline their proposal for Point Roberts. Mr. Austin said that this would be done and that the Minister also would like to arrange to meet with the Secretary about mid-summer to discuss Point Roberts and several other subjects of mutual interest—including the Alcan Highway and matters related to Alaska.

After an official proposal has been received from the Canadian government, we will be happy to investigate this matter more fully.

(Sgd) A. C. Stratton

Enclosure

cc: LM *RPS - Mr. Soulen*
SOL (Mr. Weinberg)
Regional Director, Western
S (Mr. Price)
SLW (Mr. Lee)
CNP (Mr. Benson)

HRJones:mad 5/10/65

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Authority 76813
BY [Signature] JMM, DAB/0

The Seattle Times

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 16, 1965.

NEWS
AMUSEMENTS

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Canada May Seek Park At Point Roberts

WASHINGTON, June 16.— (AP)—A National Park Service spokesman said yesterday Canada may make a formal proposal within the next two months for turning Point Roberts, Whatcom County, Wash., into an international park. The only land route to the point is through Canada.

The spokesman said Canada plans to make a preliminary study of the area early in July and then advise Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall of its findings.

The possibility of converting Point Roberts into an international park was ad-

vanced to Udall some months ago by Arthur Laing, Canada's minister of northern affairs and national resources. A Park Service spokesman said at that time that the area does not meet the criteria necessary for inclusion in the national system.

Point Roberts is the southernmost tip of a peninsula extending from Canada into Georgia Strait.

Jack Austin, a representative of Laing, was here April 21 to tell Park Service officials of Canada's interest in having Point Roberts made an international park.

Point Roberts is used mostly by residents of Vancouver, B. C. Most of the land is owned by Canadians.

Water Ski Meet in 1966

VEREENIGING, South Africa. — The World War Ski Association has decided to hold its 1966 European championships here. Fifteen countries are expected to take part in the competition.

The continental shelf — the drowned coastal plains of all the continents — equals 11 million square miles, roughly three times the size of the United States.

Director

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San Francisco 5, California

August 26, 1960

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Mr. John R. Vanderzicht
Director
Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission
522 South Franklin Street
Olympia, Washington

George L. Collins
Regional Chief
Washington Resources Planning Division

Dear John:

We understand that the question of establishing an international park at Point Roberts has come up again among some of the Canadians, and we are being asked for comments.

Neal Butterfield and I took occasion to visit Point Roberts one time several years ago when we were on the way to Vancouver to attend a Pacific Northwest Trade Association meeting. It seemed to us important historically to preserve the marker on the international line as the westernmost identification we have of that line. The conditions in that neighborhood seemed to us to be generally good as far as access to the marker was concerned. It was not displayed with any formality or otherwise set out as something special. Personally, I have had no burning desire to be a party to the founding of an international park at that location, on any grounds that have thus far become known to us. I think we talked to you about this matter at least once or perhaps several times.

The little villages of Maple Beach and Point Roberts seemed to afford some recreation, and the lay of the land as I recall it could provide for park-like development in the vicinity of the marker. When Neal and I were there, on a Sunday afternoon I recall, at least one car-load of visitors who had come down from the Canadian side to see the marker and look around the point. Incidentally, I recall that the most noticeable feature near the monument was a clothes line full of washing which seemed to attach nearby in connection with an old house. There is a fairly heavy tree growth which gave added attractiveness, or would have, if the area had been cleaned up.

If you would not mind giving them to us, we would like to have your comments at your earliest convenience regarding the question of an international park. We are going to be asked about the matter and we should have your thinking up to the moment.

Sincerely yours,

Washington Office
George L. Collins
Regional Chief
Recreation Resource Planning Division

George L. Collins
Regional Chief
Recreation Resource Planning Division

Copy to: ✓ Director
Supt., Olympic

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