

Fact Sheet

Peace Arch Land Port of Entry

Peace Arch built in 1921, renovated in 1979 and 2010 (Gross square footage 51,782)



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GSA constructed the new state-of-the-art Peace Arch Land Port of Entry (LPOE), in Blaine, Washington, in 2010. The original 1920's-era brick building underwent a major rebuild in 1979 and then again from 2007 to 2010. The new facility was formally dedicated in March 2011. The modernization enhanced border security, and provided a more welcoming experience for visitors to both Canada and the United States. The reconstructed LPOE also features innovative technologies that will ensure taxpayers benefit from increased energy savings.

The Peace Arch LPOE serves as the the major U.S. to Canada border crossing where U.S. Interstate 5 (I-5) through Seattle (located approximately 110 miles south) and meets Canada's Highway 99 at Surrey, British Columbia (B.C.), continuing on to the major greater metro area of Vancouver, B.C. (located approximately 30 miles northwest).

The name Peace Arch comes from its location next to the symbolic 'Peace Arch' and the 40 acre Peace Arch Park, dedicated in 1921 to commemorate the lasting peace between the U.S. and Canada. Washington state owns the southern half of the park, with the northern half owned and managed by the B.C. Ministry. Just north of the park lies Canada's Douglas LPOE.

Semiahmoo Bay and the Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) Railroad's tracks border the U.S. border station property from the west, the International Peace Arch Park to the north, the Park's Washington State portion and a residential neighborhood to the east, with the I-5 freeway interchange and D Street off-ramp to the City of Blaine to the south.

GSA employed 439 workers to build the new Peace Arch LPOE and incorporated a number of innovative, energy-efficient and environmentally sustainable features into the project. Most prominent is the installation of a nearly 22,000-square-foot 'green roof' on the canopy over the new secondary inspection area, which will moderate temperatures below and

reduce water runoff. The project is also the first land port of entry to incorporate an advanced exterior lighting design to reduce energy usage and light pollution into the atmosphere, and the campus incentivizes hybrid and electric vehicles by including six new charging stations, and provides them with priority parking spaces. The project has achieved a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) gold certification from the U.S. Green Building Council, the first LPOE to achieve this distinction in the U.S. Additionally, the new land port showcases additional inspection booths to bolster security, . The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 partially funded the recent \$107 million project.

GSA worked closely with a number of other government agencies to develop the new port. In addition to Customs and Border Protection, these agencies included the Federal Highway Administration, the Washington State Department of Transportation, the city of Blaine, and Canada Border Services Agency.

The architectural firm of Bohlin, Cywinski, and Jackson designed the facility, and J.E. Dunn Construction of Kirkland, Washington, provided construction management for the project. The project design received a GSA Design Excellence Honor Award for successfully balancing its architecture with the surrounding landscape environment including Peace Arch State Park.

Sustainable Building Features:

- LEED Gold certification from the U.S. Green Building Council
- Green Roof (nearly 22,000 s.f.) over secondary inspection will moderate building temperatures and reduce water runoff
- Advanced exterior lighting design to reduce energy usage and light pollution into the atmosphere
- Incentivizes hybrid and electric vehicles with six new charging stations, with priority parking spaces