Hiroshima Pocket Peace Guide

Memorial Monuments

Part 2: Monuments 24 to 47

✻ This guide provides overviews of the monuments in the Peace Memorial Park and its surroundings.

✻ For the locations of the monuments, see the Peace Memorial Park Area map.

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24. Monument in Memory of Dr. Marcel Junod

Erected September 8, 1979 by the Construction Committee for a Monument to Dr. Junod

Dr. Junod was a Swiss doctor who had come to this country as Chief Representative to Japan of the International Red Cross Committee, in order to conduct investigations on the conditions of allied prisoners of war. On finding out the terrible destruction caused by the atomic bomb, he immediately demanded aid from the General Headquarters of the Allied Forces, undertook investigations of the injuries, procured medicines, and personally engaged in treatment. This monument was erected as a tribute to the achievements of this doctor who exerted his utmost efforts for the relief of the atomic bomb victims.

25. Monument in Memory of Mr. Norman Cousins

Erected August 2, 2003 by the Construction Committee for a Monument to Mr. Norman Cousins

This was erected as a tribute to Mr. Cousins' achievements, which included running a moral adoption project for children orphaned by the A-bomb and other incidents of the war, expending huge efforts to have female A-bomb survivors receive keloid treatment in the U.S., and calling ceaselessly for the world to abolish nuclear weapons. He was awarded the title of Special Honorary Citizen of Hiroshima in 1964.

26. Barbara Reynolds Monument

Erected June 12, 2011 by the World Friendship Center

This monument was constructed to honor the achievements of Ms. Barbara Reynolds, who contributed greatly to the globalization of Hiroshima by continuing to appeal for the elimination of nuclear weapons in countries worldwide, and by striving to spread the Spirit of Hiroshima to the many visitors. She was awarded the title of Special Honorary Citizen by the City of Hiroshima in 1975.

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27. Peace Tower

Erected October 30, 1974 by the Hiroshima Prefectural Committee for the Erection of a Tower to Commemorate Hiroshima's Declaration of Itself as a World Federalist City

This was erected by the above Committee and the City of Hiroshima to commemorate Hiroshima's declaring itself a World Federalist City 20 years earlier. The tower is designed so as to embody the symbol mark of the World Federation, and its five surfaces represent the five continents.

28. Statue of Mother and Child in the Storm

Erected August 5, 1960 by the Hiroshima Municipal Federation of Women's Associations

This statue is of a mother who holds an infant in her right arm and protects another infant with her left arm, striving to endure hardship and survive. The Japan Council Against A-and H-bombs presented the mold for the statue to the City of Hiroshima to mark the fifth World Conference Against A-and H-bombs, and the Hiroshima Municipal Federation of Women's Associations collected contributions to have this bronze casting made.

29. Fountain of Prayer

Erected November 1964 by the Hiroshima Bank

This was erected to comfort the souls of the A-bomb victims who died crying "water, please, water". Considered the most spectacular fountain in western Japan at that time, it has numerous fountainheads set in an oval pond extending 27 meters east and west, and 19 meters north and south. At night it is lit with colored lighting.

30. Monument of "Zensonpo"

Erected August 6, 1965 by the All Japan Casualty Insurance Labor Union ("Zensonpo")

This was erected as a solace to the souls of the insurance company employees who perished in the bombing. It was funded through donations collected by members of the above labor union, and the public was invited to propose the form of the monument and the wording of its inscription. The wording chosen was by an A-bomb survivor who was an insurance company employee. Upon the construction of the East Building of the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum, the monument was moved from the south side of that building to its present location north-east of it.

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31. Monument Dedicated to Sankichi Toge

Erected August 6, 1963 by the Hiroshima Culture Council and the Construction Committee for a Monument to Sankichi Toge

Then 28 years old, Sankichi Toge was exposed to the bombing at his home in Midori-machi, 3 km from the hypocenter. In the post-war period he gradually emerged as aleader of the peace movement through his activities in youth and cultural movements, and he produced numerous works advocating peace. The monument's obverse is inscribed with a poem by Sankichi Toge, and its reverse with an English translation of the poem.

32. Monument to the Former Zaimoku-cho

Erected August 6, 1957 by the Survivors from the Former Zaimoku-cho

Located roughly 450 meters from the hypocenter, the Zaimoku-cho district was obliterated instantaneously by the A-bomb. "Zaimoku" means "lumber", and in the Edo Period many lumber merchants carried on business here. During World War II, the district was designated as a building clearance zone, and the bomb dropped just when demolition work was in progress. Former residents of the district who had evacuated to other areas and survived erected this monument out of fond remembrance for their former district, and in a spirit of prayer for the repose of the victims' souls.

33. Cenotaph for the A-bomb Victims (Memorial Monument for Hiroshima, City of Peace)

Erected August 6, 1952 by the City of Hiroshima

This was erected to express the desire to rebuild Hiroshima as a City of Peace following its devastation by the first atomic bomb in the world's history. A stone chest inside the monument contains a Registry of A-bomb Victims recording the names of all those, of any nationality, who have perished as a result of exposure to the bombing. The present cenotaph is a remodeling of the original arch-shaped reinforced concrete structure, which had deteriorated into a poor condition 32 years after construction. The remodeling began in July 1984 and was completed on March 26, 1985.

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34. Statue of a Prayer for Peace

Erected August 2, 1977 by the Hiroshima Committee for Construction of the Statue of the Prayer for Peace

School children all over the country contributed money for the construction of this statue, which also received assistance from the Hiroshima Chamber of Commerce and other organizations. The pedestal was built with the contributions, and the statue itself was donated by Katsuzo Entsuba. The statue is of a child in its mother's arms who blows a trumpet of peace, with a crescent moon laid in the foreground. The mother gazes at the Cenotaph for the A-bomb Victims.

35. Flame of Peace

Erected August 1, 1964 by the Flame of Peace Construction Committee

Designed by Kenzo Tange, this Flame has been burning ever since being lit on August 1, 1964. It is intended to keep the flame burning continuously until "the day when nuclear weapons shall have disappeared from the earth." The pedestal suggests the shape of a pair of hands with open palms. The flame was lit by "torches of religion" sent by shrines, temples and churches all over the nation, and by "torches of industry" brought by representatives of industrial areas across the country.

36. Monument of Prayer

Erected August 15, 1960 by the Executive Committee of the National Festival of Prayers for Peace to Comfort the Spirits of the Dead

This statue was built to comfort the souls of all those who died for their country in World War II and in various other times of trouble, and to serve as a prayer for peace. The figures on the pedestal – a young couple with their child cradled between them – are the work of the sculptor Yoshizumi Yokoe. In front of the pedestal, on the right, lies a stone tablet inscribed with a poem by the poet Atsuo Oki, a native of Hiroshima.

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37. Pond of Peace

Erected August 3, 1957 by the Japan Junior Chamber of Commerce and Industry

This was constructed to commemorate the Fifth Congress of the Japan Junior Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The pond is designed so as to surround the Cenotaph for the A-bomb Victims and make it appear to float on the water. When the Flame of Peace was erected on August 1, 1964, the width of the rear part of the pond was increased to 17 meters and its length was extended to 70 meters, giving it the form it has today.

38. Monument of the Former North Tenjin-machi Area

Erected February 1973 by the Residents of the Former North Tenjin-machi Area

Tenjin-machi was an elongated neighborhood that stretched from north to south and was divided into a north area and a south area. A vibrant neighborhood full of shopping streets and residents, it formed a part of the Nakajima District, which was the bustling core of the downtown entertainment and commercial quarter. As Tenjin-machi was a mere 500 meters from the hypocenter, all its houses were obliterated instantaneously, resulting in large numbers of victims.

39. Monument to the Employees of the Hiroshima Post Office

Erected August 1975 by People Who Had Connections with the Hiroshima Post Office

This is located at the east end of the Motoyasu-bashi Bridge, close to the spot where the Post Office building formerly stood. It was built with the wish to perpetually mark the former site of the Hiroshima Post Office, a place of such suffering caused by the A-bomb, and to comfort those who died there while on duty.

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40. Prayer Monument for Peace

Erected June 24, 1984 by the Hiroshima Nishi Lions Club and the Nagasaki Nishi Lions Club

This was erected to mark the establishment of sister club ties between the above two Lions Clubs of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. A similar Prayer Monument for Peace was also erected in Nagasaki.

41. Monument Dedicated to Construction Workers and Artisans

Erected August 5, 1988 by the National Federation of Construction Workers' Unions and the Hiroshima Prefectural Construction Workers' Union

This was erected to comfort the souls of the large numbers of construction workers and artisans who fell victim to the A-bomb, as well as those of their families, and also as a pledge that no human beings should ever again be made into victims of nuclear weapons. The same monument was also erected in Nagasaki in the same year.

42. Prayer Hall/a Monument for Peace

Erected November 12, 1987 by the Hiroshima Fuaba Lions Club

This monument is inscribed with a haiku composed by former Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone, capturing the profound emotions he had during his attendance at a Peace Memorial Ceremony. The monument's design was devised by volunteer citizens. It has paving stones laid in the form of the Chinese character for "person," on which are mounted stone slabs to matching type. The monument is intended to convey to future generations the pain of the people who were robbed of their lives by the A-bomb.

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43. Hiroshima Monument for the A-bomb Victims

Erected August 5, 1982 by the Construction Committee for the Hiroshima Monument for the A-bomb Victims

This monument is the fruit of a campaign by the Hiroshima High School Student Peace Seminar's Executive Committee to preserve the A-bombed tiles that were dug up from the bed of the Motoyasu-gawa River at a point close to the hypocenter. The pedestal is inlaid with a panel formed from an assemblage of the tiles.

44. Monument to the Employees of the Coal Control-related Company

Erected August 6, 1957 by coal-related businesses from across the nation

This stands in a children's park, at the spot where a coal control-related company was located when the bomb was dropped. It is a statue of Jizo, guardian deity of children, and is popularly known as the "A-bomb Jizo." The employees who survived the bombing appealed to coal-related businesses nationwide for donations, which funded the erection of the monument.

45. Monument for the Hiroshima Gas Corporation

Erected August 2, 1967 by the Hiroshima Gas Corporation

The company's head office used to be located where this monument now stands. The floors and ceilings were caved in by the bomb's tremendous blast, and the building collapsed, leaving only a part of its west side standing. The monument was erected to console the spirits of the victims, and with hopes for peace.

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46. Monument for the A-bomb Victims from the Hiroshima Agricultural Association

Erected August 6, 1971 by the JA Hiroshima Chuo Kai, JA Hiroshima Shinren, JA Hiroshima Keizairen, Hiroshima Doeisha Kyosairen and JA Hiroshima Koseiren

The spot where this monument stands is where the Hiroshima Branch of the Hiroshima Prefectural Agricultural Association was located at the time of the bombing. The entire staff perished. The monument was erected to comfort the spirits of those victims.

47. Merciful Consoling Kannon for Mobilized A-bomb Victim-Students

Erected July 31, 1966 by the bereaved families of students at 21 middle schools and girls' high schools in the city

This is a monument to the students of 21 middle schools and girls' high schools in Hiroshima City who died in the bombing. It is a two-meter high bronze statue of the Goddess Kannon, standing on a miniature artificial hill in which is set a copper plate engraved with some 4,000 names of the dead.

References:
Hiroshima Peace Reader, Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation
Description of Monuments (edited by the Atomic Bomb Witness Exchange Gathering)

Planning: Peace Policy Cross-Sectional Committee, the City of Hiroshima
Production: Peace Promotion Division, International Peace Promotion Department, Citizens Affairs Bureau, the City of Hiroshima
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Produced on November 16, 2011