

PH0352144

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	MAY 3 1976
DATE ENTERED	NOV 7 1976

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC Point Lobos Archeological Sites *ML*
AND/OR COMMON
Sites SFr-5, 21 and 24

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER *066 Pt. Lobos Avenue*
Vicinity of Pt. Lobos, San Francisco Peninsula
CITY, TOWN
San Francisco VICINITY OF
STATE California CODE 06 COUNTY San Francisco CODE 075

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER <i>Not for publication</i>

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Cliff House Properties, Inc. Parcel 01-110
State of California parcel 01-115 (Golden Gate National Recreation Area)
STREET & NUMBER *John J. Spring Recreation + Public Dept.*
CITY, TOWN *City + County of San Francisco* STATE
Melaren Lodge, Golden Gate Park VICINITY OF *San Francisco, CA 94117*

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. *Recorders Office*
STREET & NUMBER
CITY, TOWN *San Francisco City Hall* STATE *California*

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE *Archaeological Survey, Adan Treganza Museum, San Francisco State University*
DATE *Various* FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS *Adan Treganza Anthropology Museum, Dept. of Anthropology, S.F. State Univ.*
CITY, TOWN *San Francisco* STATE *California*

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The three Point Lobos archaeological sites are located along the maritime cliffs of the [redacted] of San Francisco urban environment, where some native plants such as Toyon or Christmas berry, Chamise, Buckthorn, Manzanita and flowering plants compete with the introduced iceplant and Monterey Cypress. The cliffs themselves are thinly bedded sandstones of the local Franciscan formation, beach deposits of Pleistocene times, and serpentine rocks. Short sandy beaches and rocky shores, sea stacks and rocks, and rocky coves give the shoreline variety. One large sea stack is the famous "Seal Rocks" rookery which prompted the early Spanish to call the area "Lobos" or wolves, erroneously describing the seal colonies.

Each site may be described separately for convenience, but they do constitute a cluster of similar appearing sites, in close proximity, which may have been once a larger deposit of cultural materials. The sites are about 50 to 100 feet above sea level. Site SFr-21 was originally described in 1901 by P.M. Jones, who described it as "a very large shell heap (that) was almost completely removed in preparing the site for the present Sutro Bath...no implements nor utensils were found at the time of excavating for the foundations of the Baths...there is no indication of a permanent campsite nearby, though traces of temporary camps are to be found on the side of the north of the Baths". Jones' observations are some of the earliest comments on San Francisco prehistory and refer to sites now numbered SFr-5 and 24. Site SFr-5 was first noted by Nels C. Nelson in 1908 during his pioneering survey of Bay area shell midden locations, the first professional inventory in the region. From Nelson's group of about 425 sites, 18 were found within the peninsula, but only one was located on the [redacted]. Both SFr-5 and SFr-21 have been visited recently by archaeologists, but it was not until 1967 that Site SFr-24 was located and described.

Although no diagnostic artifacts or dated materials have derived from these sites, it is possible that they are Late Horizon, Ellis Landing Aspect in chronological placement (post 500 AD), or represent campsites of the historic Costanoans peoples of San Mateo, San Francisco, and other nearby counties.

Site Descriptions:

SFr-5

This site has at least three exposures which reveal varying thicknesses of shell-laden lenses. Locality B is the largest exposure and shows that undulating lenses of shell fragments, charcoal flecked sandy deposit, and organic stained materials are overlain and underlain by sterile, consolidated dune which appears to be cross-bedded, probably from wind action. The photographs of this Locality show the midden as being between two planes of cross-bedded dune, the specific depositional history of which is unknown. This locality is an exposed face about 25 feet long, ten feet high with midden deposits and sterile sands revealed as dipping horizons of varying thicknesses. Sluffing of the bank has occurred and there has been some digging by visitors. Locality A is a small exposure under a manzanita which shows some discontinuous shell lenses about 4 feet below the present surface, but erosion and [redacted] have altered the Locality. At a lower contour than the others, Locality C is a compacted and dense layer of shell midden topped by a pad of introduced rock rubble. Except for Locality A, it is unknown what horizontal extent of these sites exist. Locality A seems to continue to the east by about 40 feet where shell fragments occur on the present surface, near an edge of a cypress grove.

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SITE DESCRIPTIONS

SFr-21

This dense and dark shell midden is exposed at two major spots, both close to each other and both under concrete building elements. This is a thick deposit, at least 2 to 3 feet, and contains fire-cracked rock. The location of the midden is close to the top of the present sand terrace, but [REDACTED]. Exposures are at least 4 feet long and 3 feet thick.

SFr-24

This is a small exposure of gray midden containing possible ashy lenses and fire-cracked rocks. It is about 150 by 150 feet in horizontal extent and about two feet thick. It has been impacted and probably compacted by [REDACTED] which has topped the deposit with a pad of reddish rock rubble.

All three sites and their exposed middens shows fragments of Mytilus californicus a mussle, probably clams, and other bivalves. From SFr-5 animal bones are said to have been collected but no further data on such remains exists. No artifacts or human remains have been observed at these site locations.

The structural ruins of Sutro Baths and the area immediately around them has been eroded and weathered; there appear to be no cultural deposits relating to the history and use of the structures intact.

Ownership:

Sites SFr-5 and 24 are presently located on parcel 01-115, a portion of Seal Rocks State Park, which is included in California State Senate Bill 834 which transfers certain state lands to the National Park Service. Locality A of SFr-5 is located on parcel 01-113, National Park Service administration.

Site SFr-21 is on parcel 01-110, presently owned by Cliff House Properties and subject to a condemnation suit on the part of the National Park Service.

Boundaries:

From the intersection of [REDACTED]

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES _____ BUILDER/ARCHITECT _____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

These three archaeological sites are very likely the last remaining visible evidence of the occupancy of the San Francisco region by pre-European contact Native Californians. All of the sites seen by Nels Nelson earlier in this century have been destroyed, leaving only the Point Lobos cluster to represent the Native American contribution to the broad pattern of San Francisco peninsula regional history. These sites are examples of the historical theme, The Earliest Americans, Western United States Archaic cultures.

Although these sites have been heavily impacted by natural erosion and intensive human activity, they are sufficiently intact to have high research potential to yield data important to the understanding of human use of coastal resources, of cultural relationships between native occupants of the San Francisco peninsula to other geographical regions, and of the chronological duration of human presence in the area. The location of the sites may have been purposeful since at least three types of coastal resources are nearby: a large seal rookery, plants of dietary and possible medicinal value, and shellfish beds of species particularly inhabiting rocky and sandy coastlines. Seasonal use of these resources may have been structured by the generation of toxic qualities in California mussel (*Mytilus californicus*), and some clams during the May to October period, rendering these shellfish inedible. Manzanita seeds, berries, and other plants still existing in the area, as well as increased populations in the rookeries may have been available for collecting and taking between May and September, when the shellfish are dangerous. The sites have high potential for yielding data of such seasonal scheduling.

Only two midden excavations have been accomplished within the San Francisco urban area: Nelson dug a midden site slightly north of present-day Candlestick Park in 1908, and L. Loud dug a midden site now beneath the Palace of Fine Arts in 1912. Neither project has been formally reported but there does exist some data to which the Point Lobos sites may be compared locally. These generated and future data may be compared with projects in Marin County to the north, San Mateo County to the south, and eastern Bay area counties, thus providing a regional framework for potential data from Point Lobos sites. Without preservation of the Point Lobos sites, the San Francisco peninsula as critically located between these areas would not contain key data.

Accidental discoveries of deeply buried human bone remains within the city have been dated at about 4900 years before present and at about 740 AD, but these partial burials were without artifactual or extensive environmental evidence. That humans were in the peninsula area at the time is shown by the radiocarbon dates, but the Point Lobos sites may, as the only extant midden sites, yield data on a more continuous occupation of the region.

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

In addition to these archaeological values, these sites may also yield data important to other sciences - zoology for example. The potential data in the site cluster could address the longevity of the seal rookery at Seal Rocks and there may be paleoclimatological or paleobotanical data also.

A potential significant value to these sites may be recognized by Native Californians and Native Americans now living in the city area, regardless of cultural origins, who may attach non-scientific values to these important locations.

The sites also have a value as surviving examples of the type of cultural resource recognized as important by a pioneering archaeologist, Nels C. Nelson, who is considered to be the first American Archaeologist to use arbitrary levels of excavation to study changes through time.

