

DATA SHEET

PH0099970

Form 10-306
(Oct. 1972)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

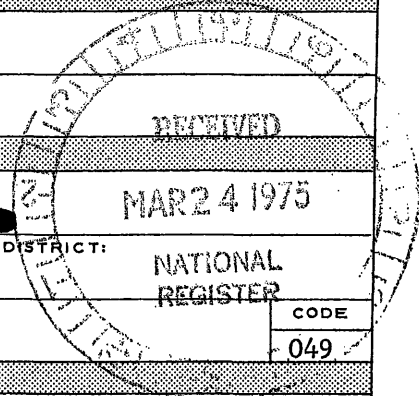
STATE: California
COUNTY: Modoc
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

1. NAME

COMMON: Fern Cave Archeological Site
AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: <div style="background-color: black; width: 100%; height: 15px;"></div>			
CITY OR TOWN: Lava Beds National Monument	CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:		
STATE: California	CODE: 06	COUNTY: Modoc	CODE: 049



3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____

4. AGENCY

National Park Service			
REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable) Pacific Northwest Region	STREET AND NUMBER: Fourth and Pike Building		
CITY OR TOWN: Seattle	STATE: Washington	CODE: 53	

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: National Park Service, Pacific Northwest Region			
STREET AND NUMBER: Fourth and Pike Building			
CITY OR TOWN: Seattle	STATE: Washington	CODE: 53	

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: An Archaeological Survey of Lava Beds National Monument, California			
DATE OF SURVEY: 1952	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> State	<input type="checkbox"/> County
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: National Park Service, Pacific Northwest Region			
STREET AND NUMBER: Fourth and Pike Building			
CITY OR TOWN: Seattle	STATE: Washington	CODE: 53	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:

COUNTY:

ENTRY NUMBER

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

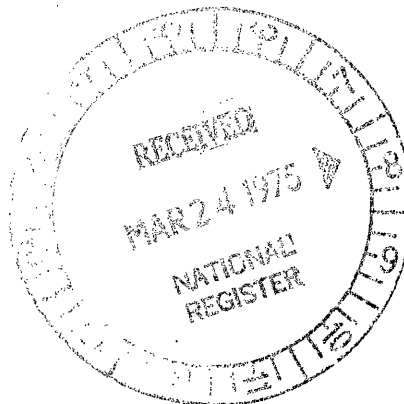
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Fern Cave is a lava tube, a portion of which roof has fallen in to provide entrance. It is irregular in shape and height, the latter due to deposition of roof fall on the cave floor. The cave runs in a north-south direction and is about 1,500 feet long. The maximum width, 54 feet, and height, 14 feet, is attained beneath the entrance. Debris from roof fall, wind-born dirt, and cultural material form a definite mound directly beneath the entrance. The humid air and condensation on the cave walls have combined to make the mound a natural greenhouse. It is covered with ferns and mosses.

The cave was used intermittently by the Modoc Indians and/or their prehistoric ancestors. Evidence of this occupation includes an interesting series of pictographs painted on the walls plus other cultural debris. At one time portable stone mortars and pestles were found but were removed by relic hunters. Mortar holes are still in evidence in some of the fallen roof slabs.

In January of 1936, J. Carlisle Crouch, the Monument's Chief Ranger, excavated a test trench into the mound beneath the entrance. He uncovered a cultural deposit some 31 inches deep, consisting of charcoal, ash, organic-stained soil, and an occasional artifact. No evidence regarding the age of the deposit was recorded.

The property being nominated is a square parcel of land, 1,500 feet on a side with the cave entrance at the center.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century
 15th Century 17th Century 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

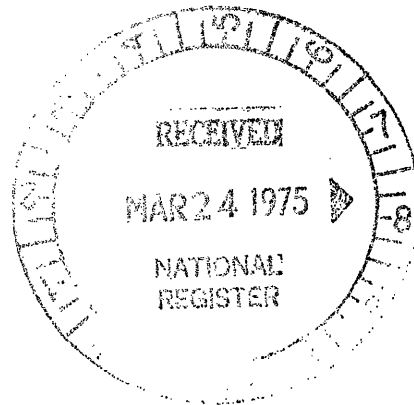
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|---|---|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Indians of the Klamath Basin depended heavily upon wildfowl and vegetable products of the shallow lakes and it is around their margins that their remains are clustered. Fern Cave is located [redacted] and thus preserves another facet of the Indians' lifeway. It may have served as a camp for parties of hunters or seed gatherers on their way to the timbered uplands to the south. At least some of the seeds were processed here, as evidenced by the bedrock mortars. The occurrence of charcoal and ash suggests it was occupied in winter.

Preservation of Fern Cave will insure survival of an interesting series of pictographs and the other remains, the investigation of which may contribute significantly to our knowledge of the Indians of the Klamath Basin.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"Preliminary Archeological Survey of Lava Beds National Monument" by J. Carlisle Crouch. Typescript on deposit at Monument headquarters and Pacific Northwest Regional Office.

"An Archaeological Survey of Lava Beds National Monument, California" by Robert J. Squier and Gordon L. Grosscup. Typescript at Monument headquarters and Pacific Northwest Regional Office.

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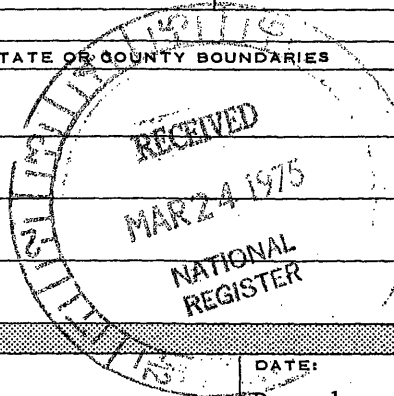
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
NW	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NE						
SE						
SW						

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 54

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
California	06	Modoc	049
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



NW
 SE
 SE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Charles F. Bohannon, Regional Archeologist

BUSINESS ADDRESS: National Park Service, Pacific Northwest Region

STREET AND NUMBER: 523 Fourth and Pike Building

CITY OR TOWN: Seattle

STATE: Washington

DATE: December, 1974

PHONE: 206-442-1006

CODE: 53

12. CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

State Liaison Officer recommendation:

Yes
 No
 None

[Signature]
 State Liaison Officer Signature

JAN 2 1975

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Liaison Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The recommended level of significance is National State Local

[Signature] MAR 19 1975
 Federal Representative Signature Date
 Deputy Assistant Secretary
 Title

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

[Signature]
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 5/29/75

ATTEST:

[Signature]
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: 5-21-75