

PH0507351

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

FOR NPS USE ONLY		DATA SHEET	
RECEIVED	NOV 18 1977	AUG 15 1977	
DATE ENTERED			1978

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

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Groenfeldt Site

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks

NOT FOR PUBLICATION  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

CITY, TOWN

Three Rivers

VICINITY OF

STATE

California

CODE

06

COUNTY

Tulare

CODE

107

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input 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 type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input 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:

**4 AGENCY**

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (if applicable)

Western Regional Office, National Park Service

STREET & NUMBER

450 Golden Gate Avenue, Box 36063

CITY, TOWN

San Francisco

VICINITY OF

STATE

California 94102

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE.

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Three Rivers

STATE

California

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE An Archeological Survey of Proposed Development Areas in Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks Purves, S.

DATE

1975

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

Western Archeological Center, National Park Service, P.O. Box 49008,

CITY, TOWN

Tucson

STATE

Arizona

## 7 DESCRIPTION

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

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Groenfeldt site is located within Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks in the western mountainous terrain of the Sierra Nevada, where erosion by streams and glaciers has created a rugged and steep terrain. Level land is limited to a few locations that are small in size. Locally, the area drops off steeply from the Generals Highway to a relatively level, broad, and gently sloping bowl-shaped bench which faces south. Below this bench, steep slopes to the south and east drop off to the Marble Fork of the Kaweah River one mile away. To the west, the area is chiefly composed of granodiorite. Outcrops of granitic rock average less than 10 percent of the bench and are situated on top of small ridges and knolls. Soils belong to the Shaver soils series (coarse sandy loam, 9 to 25 percent slopes), about 45 to 72 inches or more in effective depth. The bench is at an altitude of 6600 feet and the major vegetation type is coniferous without sequoia. Mature white fir dominates the vegetation cover with red fir, Jeffrey pine, sugar pine, and incense cedar as associates. An understory of shrubs and young conifers is scattered in the area, especially in the clearings. The understory shrubs are mainly mountain whitethorn, wedgeleaf, and greenleaf manzanita. A substantial amount of forest litter and slash has accumulated. The low-lying area within the bowl-shaped terrain of the bench has a dense ground cover of ferns; grasses and forbs are minor. The slope between the highway and the bench has a similar forest cover, with manzanita and whitethorn scattered along clearings and granitic outcrops. The bench supports both a mixed-conifer and a brush wildlife habitat. A herd of mule deer summers in the area, and at least two bears forage or live on the bench. These habitats also usually support a variety of rodents such as chipmunks and squirrels, several varieties of birds including predators, as well as mammals, such as coyote or gray fox (USDOI, 1976). Both the geology and the vegetation of the Sierra Nevada remain virtually unchanged in the period used by man.

The archeological site (no state survey number) is

shelter 8 x 2- $\frac{1}{2}$  meters at its greatest extent and about 1- $\frac{1}{2}$  meters high at its greatest height. A person working within the shelter with the present ground level would have to sit on the ground. At ground level and partially exposed is a granitic bedrock mortar with at least 12 mortar cups. A granitic pestle has been left in place within one of the two exposed cups. Mortar cups vary from 5-20 centimeters depth with an average of 15 centimeters. At the surface cup diameters ranged from 10-20 centimeters with an average of 15 centimeters. It is possible more bedrock mortar cups exist beneath the duff. At least two large granite basins, probably formed as a result of natural weathering, are located in rock outcrops near the shelter. No further artifacts were detected nor was midden detected. However, duff, slash, and log falls so completely cover the area that extensive clearing upon the knoll would be necessary to determine further aspects of the site.

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The site lies at the [REDACTED], it is felt that the site will not be adversely affected.

At present, both the bench and the archeological site are in pristine condition. The only evidence of modern man's visitation consists of stakes and flags marking the boundaries of the site [REDACTED]

Archeological information for Sequoia-Kings Canyon National Parks is minimal. Less than 1 percent of the total land area within the park has been surveyed. A. B. Elsasser conducted a two-week reconnaissance survey along several trails in 1959. W. S. Evans, Jr. recorded several sites for the University of California archeological survey in 1952. In 1957, D. W. Lathrop recorded a series of sites [REDACTED]. In 1960, J. T. Davis surveyed [REDACTED]. Also, in 1960, Jay von Werlhor conducted excavations at [REDACTED] and surveyed a number of aboriginal trails in the [REDACTED]. In the following year, he supervised test excavations at [REDACTED]. Project specific surveys have recently been conducted [REDACTED] areas by L. K. Napton, Susan Purves, Kathleen Moffitt, and Yvonne Stewart.

The chronological sequence for the park is thought to be generally the same as that for California's central valley: Early Horizon 2500 B.C. - 1500 B.C.; Middle Horizon 1500 B.C. - A.D. 300; Late Horizon A.D. 300 - late 1800's. Known sites within the park generally are dated after A.D. 1100 within the Late Horizon (Elsasser 1972). However, there are hints in the form of arrow and spear points found in the lowest levels of the excavated sites that suggest both Early and Middle Horizon occupation. The extent of these occupations is unknown.

Historically, the park was occupied or used by the Western Mono or Monachi and Tubatulabal groups. Both belong to the Shoshonean branch of Uto-Aztecan speakers. Both maintained extensive trade contacts with the Owens Valley Paiute, also from the same language group, using well established trails across the highest part of the mountains. It is thought that the Yokuts to the west originally occupied most of the park and were forced out by an influx of Monachi across the mountains about 500 years ago (Elsasser 1972).

Site homogeneity suggests widespread integrated techniques for using the food resources of the region. Historically, large villages in boreal zones were occupied in winter with smaller family groups moving through the higher altitudes

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to collect and hunt during summer. It is thought that the prehistoric settlement pattern was much the same. Site types, defined rather arbitrarily, include: campsites - small, sometimes midden, sometimes lithic chips or potsherds, usually near trails, frequently near water; workshops - lithic chipping stations; bedrock mortars - location and accompanying artifacts or features the same as campsites; granite basins - natural formations thought to have been used by the Indians; petroglyphs and pictographs; and villages - arbitrarily defined as containing midden 12 inches or deeper, not necessarily larger than some campsites, not known above 5000 feet (Elsasser 1960, 1962). Most authors suggest that all sites above 5000 feet are located along trails.

Historically, the black acorn, along with various hunted meats, was the staple food item of the Monachi. In addition, grasses, nuts, seeds, fruits and berries were collected. Both fishing and hunting were extensively practiced. The Monachi traded acorns, baskets, shell bead money, manzanita berries, salt, buckskins and arrow canes to the Owens Valley Paiute in exchange for pine nuts, rabbit skin blankets, moccasins, rock salt, basket water bottles, mountain sheep skins, and great quantities of obsidian (Elsasser 1960, 1962). The Groenfeldt site may contain data paralleling these ethnographic practices.

# 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 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

The Groenfeldt Site is significant because of its unique location demonstrating a little known aspect of the prehistoric settlement pattern, its pristine condition, and the possibility that both surficial remains (beneath the duff) and subsurficial remains can produce evidence of cultural chronology, aboriginal subsistence patterns and data for other scientific studies. Important comparisons may be made to

[REDACTED] The site may be assigned to National Park Service Theme 1a4 (The Earliest Americans - Archaic Indian Horizon) or 1b4 (Native Villages and Communities - Western United States).

The Groenfeldt Site consists of a rock shelter and bedrock mortar with 12 cups, which was probably used as a campsite or a special work camp to which the users repeatedly returned. Although most sites in the park were used after A.D. 1000, occupation could have occurred anytime between 2500 B.C. and 1850. Ethnographic studies indicate that sites of this nature frequently contain sub-surface deposits such as midden near the bedrock mortar and other work areas, floors of temporary shelters, food processing locations, and other special use areas. Included with deposits of this sort could be stone, bone, shell, pottery, and basketry tools and ornaments; plant materials and pollen remains for discovery of nutritional and subsistence patterns, and Carbon 14 samples for absolute dating. However, the surface is so deeply littered with forest debris that it is impossible to determine whether or not these features exist.

[REDACTED] In an approved National Park Service project. Any clearing or ground disturbance will have an adverse impact. In addition, the chemical change in the soil has a potential impact on subsurface deposits. Any of the above disturbances should be archeologically monitored and be preceded by carefully planned limited test excavation.

The Groenfeldt Site has not been visited apparently since the time of occupation until the archeological and engineering survey crews flagged the site. It is absolutely undisturbed, and as such, retains its original integrity completely. Contrary to current settlement pattern hypotheses, the site is not located near known trails. The nearest permanent water is about 1000 feet downslope from the site. Further, it is one of the few sites known

[REDACTED] While not entirely unique, it is one of only a few known sites which do not fit the standard settlement pattern.

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Determining site use without excavation is difficult. Although the altitude is relatively high, the vegetation does not include that of the boreal zone, leaving no acorns to collect and grind. While manzanita berries grow nearby in quantity, bedrock mortars were not used for processing them. Elsasser has suggested that acorns were carried to the few known sites similarly situated and were used for food while the occupants conducted some other activity, possibly hunting. In addition to manzanita, there are grasses, unidentified berry bushes, reeds, and a variety of other types of vegetation in a meadowlike section of the ridge. Riparian vegetation is available near the stream. Several mammal and rodent species are available.

The extent and depth of the bedrock mortars suggest either a period of long occupation or repeated seasonal return. Either option points to the probable existence of midden, artifacts, and/or floors of temporary shelters under the duff and slash. No site of this type has ever been excavated or tested within the park. Excavation could produce evidence showing the time the site was occupied, the kinds of foods eaten on site, various processing activities related to and explaining the use of the site, the reason for the use of bedrock mortars in an apparently unsuitable area, and, possibly, some aspects of social organization if work areas or temporary shelter floors are discovered.

The site was recently located during a 100 percent survey of the area for the

[REDACTED]

it is believed that the site will not be damaged. An archeologist monitor will be present [REDACTED]



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