Form 10-300  UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries – complete applicable sections)

1. NAME
   COMMON: Hospital Rock
   AND/OR HISTORIC: Hospital Rock Army Camp Site

2. LOCATION
   STREET AND NUMBER: Lava Beds National Monument
   CITY OR TOWN: Siskiyou

3. CLASSIFICATION
   CATEGORY (Check One)
   - District
   - Site
   - Structure
   - Object
   - Building

   OWNERSHIP
   - Public
   - Private
   - Both

   ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
   - Yes:
     - Restricted
     - Unrestricted

   STATUS
   - Occupied
   - Unoccupied
   - Preservation work in progress

   PUBLIC ACQUISITION:
   - In Process
   - Being Considered

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY
   OWNER'S NAME: United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service
   STREET AND NUMBER: Interior Building
   CITY OR TOWN: Washington
   STATE: District of Columbia
   CODE 001

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION
   COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
   - Lava Beds National Monument
   STREET AND NUMBER: P. O. Box 867
   CITY OR TOWN: Tule Lake
   STATE: California
   CODE 96134

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS
   TITLE OF SURVEY: None
   DATE OF SURVEY: Federal
   DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
   STREET AND NUMBER:
   CITY OR TOWN: Tule Lake
   STATE: California
   CODE 96134
Hospital Rock, an isolated lava formation on the south shore of Tule Lake, and the surrounding relatively level land served twice as an encampment for U. S. troops attacking Captain Jack's Stronghold in the Modoc War, 1873.

To the west and south of Hospital Rock the ground is relatively flat (considering that the whole area is a lava flow) and grassy. A few hundred feet to the west is a low irregular ridge of lava that lies generally on a north-south axis. The troops on outpost duty erected on this formation a series of small loose-rock fortifications, each large enough for only two or three men. The soldiers probably also made use of two natural cracks in the lava that were ideally suited for defense -- very much like trenches. Several additional fortifications were located on humps of lava in the area around Hospital Rock. (see detailed map.) There are at least 16 fortifications still identifiable today. From the most southerly of these forts, one has a view of the Stronghold area, an important factor in the battles for the Stronghold.

Today a paved road runs east and west through the Hospital Rock area. There are rock forts on either side of this road, but most of them are to the south. Also to the south of this road a considerable amount of earth has been removed, inflicting considerable damage on the historic scene. A dirt road, running southeast from Bench Mark 4051 towards Fern Cave, cuts across the general area but lies outside most of the encampment area.

Boundary:

Commencing at Bench Mark 4114, a line due west for 1.9 miles and a line due north for 2.25 miles mark out a rectangle that encompasses Hospital Rock, the encampment area, the fortifications, the general site on which Lt. Sherwood was killed, and a portion of the route followed by the troops in their two advances on the Stronghold.
A major Indian war, the only one to be fought in California, took place in these rugged lava flows. In 1872, after several years of disputes with settlers, "Captain Jack" and his band of Modoc Indians took refuge in the lava beds immediately south of the lake. On January 17, 1873, the United States Army made a two-front attack on Captain Jack's Stronghold. The eastern force consisted of two troops of cavalry and 20 Indian scouts under the command of Capt. Reuben F. Bernard, 1st Cavalry. On January 16, this eastern force marched from Land's Ranch westward 16 miles toward the Stronghold. It passed Hospital Rock and, through error, approached the Stronghold more closely than Bernard had intended. The Modocs opened fire on the troops and Bernard ordered a one-half mile withdrawal to Hospital Rock. Here the troops camped for the night and on the morning of the 17th again marched for the Stronghold, two miles to the west. The attack was a failure. Joined by a portion of the western attack force, Bernard withdrew his men by way of Hospital Rock back to Land's Ranch. The enlarged force stopped briefly at Hospital Rock to rest and eat on its retreat.

In the following weeks, the army units moved ever closer to the Stronghold in preparation for another attack. On April 6, an enlarged (5 companies) force under Maj. Edwin C. Mason, 21st Infantry, camped at Hospital Rock. On April 11 the Modocs attacked the Peace Commission, and also attacked and killed 1st Lt. William L. Sherwood of the Hospital Rock camp. Sherwood and a fellow officer had walked a half mile beyond the fortifications westward to meet with Modocs carrying a truce flag. The soldiers on guard in the rock fortifications could observe the unexpected attack.

On April 12, the Modocs fired on Mason's pickets west of Hospital Rock, forcing some of them to withdraw. Then, during the night of April 14-15, Mason advanced his command from Hospital Rock for the second attack on the Stronghold -- an attack which resulted in the Army's occupying the position two days later.

The camp at Hospital Rock was broken up soon after the capture of the Stronghold. Its important role as the base of operations for the eastern force during the attacks on the Modocs came to an end, although the war would drag on for another six weeks.
**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**


**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

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**APPRAOXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:** 2,200 acres

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STATE</th>
<th>CODE</th>
<th>COUNTY</th>
<th>CODE</th>
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**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

**NAME AND TITLE:** Erwin N. Thompson, Hist., Jennifer Hunt Watts, and Laurin C. Huffman II

**ORGANIZATION:** Pacific Northwest Region, National Park Service

**STREET AND NUMBER:** Fourth and Pike Building

**CITY OR TOWN:** Seattle

**DATE:** March 27, 1972

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National [X] State [ ] Local [ ]

**Name:**

**Title:** Director, Pacific Northwest Region

**Date:** May 10, 1973

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

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

**Robert R. Utley**

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

**DATE:** 10/2/73

**ATTTEST:**

**DATE:** 9/28/73

**KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER**

**DATE:** [Redacted]
1. NAME
COMMON: Hospital Rock
AND/OR HISTORIC: Hospital Rock

2. LOCATION
STREET AND NUMBER: 
CITY OR TOWN: Lava Beds National Monument
STATE: California

3. PHOTO REFERENCE
PHOTO CREDIT: National Park Service
DATE OF PHOTO: 1968
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Lava Beds National Monument

4. IDENTIFICATION
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.
View of Hospital Rock looking ENE.