FORM 10-300 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
(July 1969) NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(TYPE ALL ENTRIES - COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS)

1. NAME
COMMON:
Captain Jack's Stronghold
AND/OR HISTORIC:
Captain Jack's Stronghold

2. LOCATION
STREET AND NUMBER:
Tule Lake
CITY OR TOWN:
Lava Beds National Monument
STATE CODE:
California
COUNTY CODE:
Siskiyou

3. CLASSIFICATION
CATEGORY (CHECK ONE)
☐ District
☐ Site
☐ Structure
☐ Object

OWNERSHIP
☐ Public
☐ Private
☐ Both

PUBLIC ACQUISITION:
☐ In Process
☐ Being Considered

STATUS
☐ Occupied
☐ Unoccupied
☐ Preservation work in progress

ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC:
☐ Yes:
☐ Restricted
☐ Unrestricted
☐ No

PRESENT USE (CHECK ONE OR MORE AS APPROPRIATE)
☐ Agricultural
☐ Commercial
☐ Educational
☐ Entertainment
☐ Government
☐ Industrial
☐ Military
☐ Museums
☐ Other
☐ Park
☐ Private Residence
☐ Religious
☐ Scientific
☐ Transportation
☐ Other (Specify)

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:

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS
TITLE OF SURVEY:
None
DATE OF SURVEY:
☐ Federal
☐ State
☐ County
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
STREET AND NUMBER:
CITY OR TOWN:
STATE:
Captain Jack's Stronghold is a formation of incredibly twisted and contorted lava flow on the south shore of former Tule Lake. Here, in 1872-73, the Modoc Indians established a stronghold wherein they held out against the U. S. Army for over five months. The Indians made use of the rock formations, the cracks in the frozen lava, and the natural caves, all of which lent themselves admirably to defensive purposes. In addition the Modocs threw up breastworks and small fortifications of loose rocks.

The Army made two major attacks on the Stronghold, the troops erecting their own hasty fortifications of loose rock on each occasion. After the troops finally occupied the Stronghold, they erected still more "forts" in case of a Modoc counterattack.

The area has not yet been adequately mapped, but approximately 130 fortifications have been marked. Undoubtedly many more exist, both to the east and west of the center of the Modoc defense -- the directions from which the army troops attacked. Other features identifiable today include the cave in which Captain Jack's family is said to have lived, the Modoc "War Dance" Circle, the Modoc Council Ground, the Modoc cattle corral, and their horse corral. A modern road has been built between the Stronghold and the former lake bed.

Boundary:

The boundary lines are believed to be large enough to include all the known and possible fortifications in the area. The historic area is primarily south and east of the road. Several house sites (pre-Modoc War) lie north of the road, between it and the former lake bed. Archeologists have excavated these. The east boundary is 2,500 feet from the center of Modoc defense, the west is 3,500 feet, the north is 1,500 feet at maximum, and the south is 2,500 feet from the center.
### S. SIGNIFICANCE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>☐ Pre-Columbian</td>
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<td>☐ 16th Century</td>
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<td>☐ 18th Century</td>
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<td>☐ 20th Century</td>
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<td>☐ 15th Century</td>
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| SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) | 1872-73 |

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<tr>
<th>AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>☐ Aboriginal</td>
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<td>☒ Prehistoric</td>
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<td>☐ Transportation</td>
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<td>☐ Urban Planning</td>
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<td>☐ Other (Specify)</td>
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### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

At Captain Jack's Stronghold approximately 70 Modoc men held out for 5-1/2 months against a much larger body of U. S. soldiers and Oregon and California volunteers. The first attack on the Stronghold, on January 17, 1873, was made by 300 troops; the second attack on April 15-17, 1873, was made by 650. In the first instance the Modocs successfully repulsed the attack; in the second assault, they withdrew successfully from the Stronghold after inflicting severe casualties on the troops.

The Stronghold symbolized the Modoc War in that here the men of the tribe succeeded in standing off far superior numbers of their attackers. Here they made their last major stand as a tribe. The war crushed the spirit and the body of the Modoc, but at the Stronghold, for a moment of glory, a people successfully defended themselves and their history. The site is of national significance.
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CORNER</th>
<th>LATITUDE</th>
<th>LONGITUDE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NW</td>
<td>41° 49' 39&quot;</td>
<td>121° 29' 36&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NE</td>
<td>41° 49' 39&quot;</td>
<td>121° 29' 36&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SE</td>
<td>41° 48' 58&quot;</td>
<td>121° 29' 36&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SW</td>
<td>41° 48' 58&quot;</td>
<td>121° 29' 36&quot;</td>
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LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES

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<th>LATITUDE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>41° 50' 39&quot;</td>
<td>121° 29' 36&quot;</td>
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APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 460 acres

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

STATE: 
CODE: 
COUNTY: 
CODE: 

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Erwin N. Thompson, Hist., and Jennifer Hunt Watts

ORGANIZATION: Denver Service Center, NPS

STREET AND NUMBER: 7200 W. Alameda Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Denver

STATE: Colorado

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: John G. Butler
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 D. Turley
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

DATE: 9/20/73

ATTEST:

Date: 9/19/73

Keeper of the National Register