**Common:** Captain Jack's Stronghold

**AND/OR Historic:** Captain Jack's Stronghold

**2. Location**
- **Street and Number:** Lava Beds National Monument
- **City or Town:** Tule Lake
- **State Code:** California — —

**3. Classification**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Ownership</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Accessible to the Public</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>District</td>
<td>Public</td>
<td>Occupied</td>
<td>Yes: Unrestricted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Structure</td>
<td>Private</td>
<td>Unoccupied</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Site</td>
<td>Both</td>
<td>Preservation work in progress</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Object</td>
<td>Public Acquisition:</td>
<td>In Process</td>
<td>Yes: Unrestricted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Being Considered</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Present Use (Check One or More as Appropriate)
- Agricultural
- Commercial
- Educational
- Industrial
- Religious
- 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:**
- **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.
**5. SIGNIFICANCE**

**PERIOD** (Check One or More as Appropriate)
- [ ] Pre-Columbian
- [ ] 16th Century
- [ ] 17th Century
- [ ] 18th Century
- [x] 19th Century
- [ ] 20th Century

**SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)**
- 1872-73

**AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE** (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Aboriginal
- Prehistoric
- Historic
- Agriculture
- Architecture
- Art
- Commerce
- Communications
- Conservation
- Education
- Engineering
- Industry
- Invention
- Landscape
- Literature
- Military
- Music
- Political
- Philosophy
- Science
- Sculpture
- Social/Humanitarian
- Theater
- Transportation
- Urban Planning
- Other (Specify)

**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>
</tr>
</thead>
<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>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 460 acres

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

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: John G. Rusty

TITLE: Director, Pacific Northwest Region

DATE: May 10, 1973

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

Robert M. Utley

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

DATE: 9/20/73

ATTERT: Jennifer Hunt Watts

DATE: 9/19/73
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM
(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE
California
COUNTY
Siskiyou

FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY NUMBER
SEP 29 1973

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

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: 1961
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Lava Beds National Monument

4. IDENTIFICATION
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.
Aerial view of Capt. Jack's Stronghold looking toward Southwest.
LAVA BEDS NATIONAL MONUMENT
TULELAKE, CALIFORNIA

Title: West line of defense by cattle corral, Capt. Jack's Stronghold

Please Return to the Superintendent
Credit Line — National Park Service