**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**
**NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**
**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**
**INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**
**FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES**

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

### 1 NAME

**HISTORIC**  
Track Bus No. 19, Hetch Hetchy Railroad; Rail Ambulance

**AND/OR COMMON**  
Rail-car No. 19

### 2 LOCATION

**STREET & NUMBER**  
Not applicable

**CITY, TOWN**  
El Portal

**STATE**  
California

**CODE**  
06

**COUNTY**  
Mariposa

**CODE**  
043

### 3 CLASSIFICATION

<table>
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<th>STATUS</th>
<th>PRESENT USE</th>
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<td>__OCCUPIED</td>
<td>__AGRICULTURE</td>
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<td>__PRIVATE</td>
<td>__UNOCCUPIED</td>
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<td>__STRUCTURE</td>
<td>__BOTH</td>
<td>__WORK IN PROGRESS</td>
<td>__PARK</td>
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<td>__SITE</td>
<td>__PUBLIC ACQUISITION</td>
<td>ACCESSIBLE</td>
<td>__EDUCATIONAL</td>
</tr>
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<td>__IN PROCESS</td>
<td>__YES: RESTRICTED</td>
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### 4 AGENCY

**REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS** (If applicable)  
National Park Service - Western Regional Office

**STREET & NUMBER**  
450 Golden Gate Avenue - Box 36063

**CITY, TOWN**  
San Francisco

**STATE**  
California

### 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

**COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.**  
Administration Building (Park Headquarters)

**STREET & NUMBER**  
Government Center - Yosemite Village

**CITY, TOWN**  
(Not applicable) Yosemite National Park

**STATE**  
California

### 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

**TITLE**  
None

**DATE**

**DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS**

**CITY, TOWN**

**STATE**
Track Bus No. 19 is a gas-powered vehicle designed and built for the Hetch Hetchy Railroad in 1919 by A. Meisler and Sons of Sacramento, California. It consists of a 3/4 ton standard White truck chassis converted for use on railroad track, with a 12-passenger body. The undercarriage, built by the San Francisco Municipal Railway, features a pony truck, a rear wheel braking system, and a self-contained turntable. The body of No. 19 has three doors on each side, leather side curtains, and was fitted out for use as an ambulance. It was painted red and black with gold lettering. No. 19 was the fastest of all the gas-powered vehicles in service on the Hetch Hetchy Railroad. It could travel 50 miles per hour, at 16 miles per gallon of gasoline.
Track Bus No. 19 is of local historical significance in the category of transportation. It is one of the few survivors of the gasolene-powered rigs which ran on the Hetch Hetchy Railroad. Its design was completely unique and peculiar to the Hetch Hetchy Railroad.

The Hetch Hetchy Railroad was noteworthy for the number and diversity of gasolene engined vehicles which ran on its rails. The railroad required frequent special runs for transferring crews, emergency delivery of equipment, and ambulance service. The gas-powered vehicles were very economical, flexible, and speedy. No. 19 was a multi-purpose car; it carried passengers and also functioned as the ambulance for the project. Track Bus No. 19 was sold in 1949 to railroad enthusiast and historian Al Rose, who stored the car in a museum in Modesto until the National Park Service provided a place for it at the transportation museum at El Portal.

The Hetch Hetchy Railroad, for which this car was built and on which it operated, was a regionally significant railroad built in the Sierra Nevada Mountains and owned and operated by the city of San Francisco. It extended 68 miles from Hetch Hetchy Junction on the Sierra Railroad through Groveland to the site of construction of O'Shaughnessy Dam in the Hetch Hetchy Valley in Yosemite National Park. The railroad was built for the purpose of hauling construction materials used in the building of the dam and other portions of the Hetch Hetchy Project, an engineering project of regional historical significance to impound water in the Sierra Nevada and transport it across the Central Valley of California and the Coast Range to the city of San Francisco as needed and to produce hydroelectric power in the transportation of the water. Construction of the dam itself proceeded from 1915 to 1923, and it was dedicated on July 7, 1923; subsequently between 1934 and 1938 it was raised 85½ feet by new construction and rededicated in October 1938. The railroad which hauled the material for both jobs was begun in 1914 and scrapped in 1950.
MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA
ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Not relevant - object
UTM REFERENCES

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION
The above UTM reference identifies the present location of this object; as an object, this track bus is not site connected, and its significance is not dependent upon location; it may be moved without affecting its significance or National Register listing, although if moved, a correction of location in the form of a new UTM reference must be filed with the National Register.

FORM PREPARED BY
NAME / TITLE
Merrill Ann Wilson, Historical Architect

ORGANIZATION
National Park Service - Denver Service Center

STREET & NUMBER
655 Parfet Street, P.O. Box 25287

CITY OR TOWN
Denver (Lakewood)

STATE
Colorado

CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION
YES X NO

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE
Deputy Assistant Secretary

DATE
AUG 1, 1977

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND PREHISTORIC AFFAIRS

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE
5-12-78
1 NAME
HISTORIC
Track Bus No. 19, Hetch Hetchy Railroad
AND/OR COMMON
Auto-Rail Car No. 19

2 LOCATION
CITY. TOWN        VICINITY OF        COUNTY        STATE
El Portal            Mariposa       CA

3 PHOTO REFERENCE
PHOTO CREDIT National Park Service
DATE OF PHOTO 5/5/37
NEGATIVE FILED AT Yosemite National Park

4 IDENTIFICATION
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET
Track Bus No. 19, Hetch Hetchy Railroad, looking to northwest
Track Bus #19
Hetch Hetchy R.R.
Mariposa County, CA

192
Track Bus #19
Hetch Hetchy R.R.
Mariposa County, CA
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