

35-TI-75, Tillamook County, Oregon  
Native American Archaeological Sites of the Oregon Coast

VPS Form 10-900 (Rev. 10-90)

OMB No. 1024

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name \_\_\_\_\_

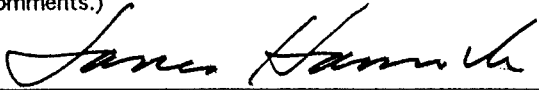
other names/site number 35-TI-75, Spruce Tree site

2. Location

street & number Nehalem Bay State Park not for publication   
city or town Manzanita vicinity   
state Oregon code OR county Tillamook code 011 zip code 97130

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination \_\_\_ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant \_\_\_ nationally  statewide \_\_\_ locally. (\_\_\_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)



Signature of certifying official /Deputy SHPO

Date

January 16, 2001

Oregon State Historic Preservation Office

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property \_\_\_ meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria. (\_\_\_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:  
\_\_\_ entered in the National Register  
\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.  
\_\_\_ determined eligible for the  
National Register  
\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.  
\_\_\_ determined not eligible for the  
National Register  
\_\_\_ removed from the National Register  
\_\_\_ other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

LISTED 3/6/01  
NR# 01000127

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Signature of certifying official \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

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State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

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___ determined eligible for the National Register ___ See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
___ determined not eligible for the National Register	_____	_____
___ removed from the National Register		
___ other (explain): _____		

5. Classification

Ownership of Property, Category of Property, Number of Resources within Property

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0
Name of related multiple property listing: Native American Archaeological Sites of the Oregon Coast

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions: Cat: Domestic Sub: Campsite
Current Functions: Cat: Recreation and Culture Sub: Outdoor recreation

7. Description

Architectural Classification: N/A
Materials: foundation N/A
roof N/A
walls N/A
other N/A

Narrative Description: 35-TI-75 is a lithic site and camp located within Nehalem Bay State Park, Tillamook County, Oregon.

The site is partially visible as an intertidal lithic scatter amongst several submerged tree stumps. Intact 'dry' cultural material is found on a 5-7 m wide terrace immediately above the intertidal zone and at the base of a recently vegetated, slumping dune. A very large Spruce tree is found at the edge of this terrace. Immediately to the west/southwest of the site/terrace is a Sitka Spruce (Picea sitchensis) swamp with small ponds of freshwater and extensive areas of skunk cabbage (Lysichitum americanum). The east margin of the terrace is being eroded and a lag deposit of lithic material is present on the mudflat/saltmarsh surface. The cultural deposit within the terrace is relatively thick (approximately 45-50cm) and is found at 15-50cm below the surface. Underlying the archaeological deposits within the terrace is a silty loam, brown/black peaty soil. The lagged cultural material is found from 0-15cm below the surface of the current mudflat/saltmarsh within blue-gray sand.

Woodward (1986:223; Woodward et al. 1990:62-3) apparently excavated a portion of this site during the 1980s, recovering a pestle from the face of the dune, and burned rock and charcoal from the intertidal portion of the site. Woodward (1986:223) also collected a "a sherd of brown, unglazed stoneware jar" from an unspecified location at the site. A single radiocarbon date was obtained by Woodward (1986:223; Woodward et al. 1990:62) of 260 +/- 40 radiocarbon years from "charcoal associated with cultural material." The terrace portion of the site was further tested in 1999 by Losey (1999 unpublished field notes) but this material has not yet been analyzed. However, several glass beads and what appear to be small fragments (2-3mm) of porcelain were found during this project, in addition to objects of Native American manufacture such as chipped stone flaking debris and burned rock. Many small fragments of bone were also found. The site likely represents a Late Holocene Precontact/Postcontact period campsite near the margin of Nehalem Bay where fishing, hunting, food processing, tool manufacturing, and other activities occurred. The presence of glass beads and porcelain in the site may link the site occupants to the famous Nehalem Beeswax shipwreck (Woodward 1986), probably a Manila galleon wrecked on the Oregon Coast during the 1600s. The submerged stumps in the intertidal zone within the site may be the result of subsidence associated with a large earthquake.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the
B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
X D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

- \_\_\_ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- \_\_\_ B removed from its original location.
- \_\_\_ C a birthplace or a grave.
- \_\_\_ D a cemetery.
- \_\_\_ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- \_\_\_ F a commemorative property.
- \_\_\_ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance: Archaeology: Prehistoric and Protohistoric  
Ethnic Heritage: Native American

Period of Significance: Late Holocene Precontact and Postcontact

Significant Dates: 260 ± 40 RYBP (AD 1490-1670)

Significant Person: N/A

Cultural Affiliation: Nehalem Tillamook

Architect/Builder: N/A

Narrative Statement of Significance: The Spruce Tree site appears to contain the remnants of a campsite occupied during the transition between the Late Holocene Precontact/Postcontact period in the Nehalem Bay area. Along the edge of the bay, portions of the site have been eroded into a *lithic site* lag deposit, where erosion-resistant stone artifacts dominate the assemblage. While the site has been subject to erosion, a substantial portion of it remains intact. The relatively thick cultural deposit at the site, along with the lag deposit in the intertidal zone, have the potential to address several major research questions. The association of glass beads and porcelain with Native American archaeological material that may date prior to AD 1700 is highly significant in that it has yielded (and will continue to yield) information regarding the impacts of poorly documented contacts between Europeans and Native Americans on the Oregon Coast (Regional Topics #1 and #5, General Topic #4). The presence of relatively abundant Asian ceramics also links 35-TI-75 to the famous "Nehalem Beeswax Ship" and to ethnographic and historical accounts of an early European shipwreck and the reported intermarriage of survivors with the Nehalem Tillamook. The presence of submerged stumps within the site suggests that the area has been subject to subsidence of over 1 meter, possibly from a large earthquake. Consequently, the Spruce Tree site has excellent potential to continue to yield information on the impact of seismic events on the people and landscapes of the Oregon Coast, as well as the role of seismic events as site formation processes (Woodward et al. 1990; Losey 1999). Analysis of faunal remains from the site can provide significant information about subsistence practices during the Late Holocene (Regional Topic #3). Finally, as a tangible link to their history, archaeological site 35-TI-75 is highly significant to descendants of the Nehalem Tillamook and other Oregon Coast tribes.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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Losey, Robert J.  
1999 Archaeology of the Cascadia Subduction Zone: Cultural Responses to Coseismic Subsidence, Tsunamis, and Earthquakes on the Southern Northwest Coast. Doctoral Dissertation Grant proposal funded by the National Science Foundation.

Minor, Rick  
1986 An Evaluation of Archaeological Sites on State Park Lands along the Oregon Coast. Heritage Research Associates Report No. 44, Eugene.

Moss, M. L. and J. M. Erlandson  
1995 An Evaluation, Survey, and Dating Program for Archaeological Sites on State Lands of the Northern Oregon Coast. University of Oregon. Ms. on file, Oregon State Historic Preservation Office, Parks and Recreation Department, Salem.

1996 Native American Archaeological Sites of the Oregon Coast. Ms. on file, Oregon State Historic Preservation Office, Parks and Recreation Department, Salem.

Woodward, John  
1986 Prehistoric Shipwrecks on the Oregon Coast? Archaeological Evidence. Contributions to the Archaeology of Oregon 1983-1986, edited by K. M. Ames, pp. 219-264. Association of Oregon Archaeologists Occasional Papers No. 3.

Woodward, John, James White, and Ronald Cummings  
1990 Paleoseismicity and the Archaeological Record: Areas of Investigation on the northern Oregon Coast. Oregon Geology 52(3):57-65.

previous documentation on file (NPS)  
 preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.  
 previously listed in the National Register  
 previously determined eligible by the National Register  
 designated a National Historic Landmark  
 recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_  
 recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Location of Additional Data  
 State Historic Preservation Office  
 Other State agency  
 Federal agency  
 Local government  
 University  
 Other  
 Name of repository: University of Oregon, State Museum of Anthropology

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 10. Geographical Data  
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Acreage of Property 0.6 acre                      USGS Quadrangle: Nehalem, Oregon (1985), 1:24,000

JTM References:	Zone	Easting	Northing	Description of Point

Boundary Justification: Site boundaries were defined through extensive surface survey and limited testing during Losey's (1998 unpublished field notes) work at the site. Boundary delineation relies on a combination of surface and subsurface distributions of artifacts and ecofacts, the nature of natural landforms, and buffer zones to compensate for poor visibility around the site margins.

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 11. Form Prepared By  
 =====

name/title                      Robert Losey and Jon Erlandson  
 organization                    Department of Anthropology, University of Oregon  
 date                                August 9, 1999  
 street & number                308 Condon Hall, 1218 University of Oregon                      telephone (541) 346-6076  
 city or town                      Eugene, OR 97403-1218

=====  
 Property Owner  
 =====

name                                State of Oregon  
 department                      Parks and Recreation Department  
 street/number                   1115 Commercial Street NE                      telephone (503) 378-5001 ext. 226  
 city & state                      Salem, OR 97310-1001

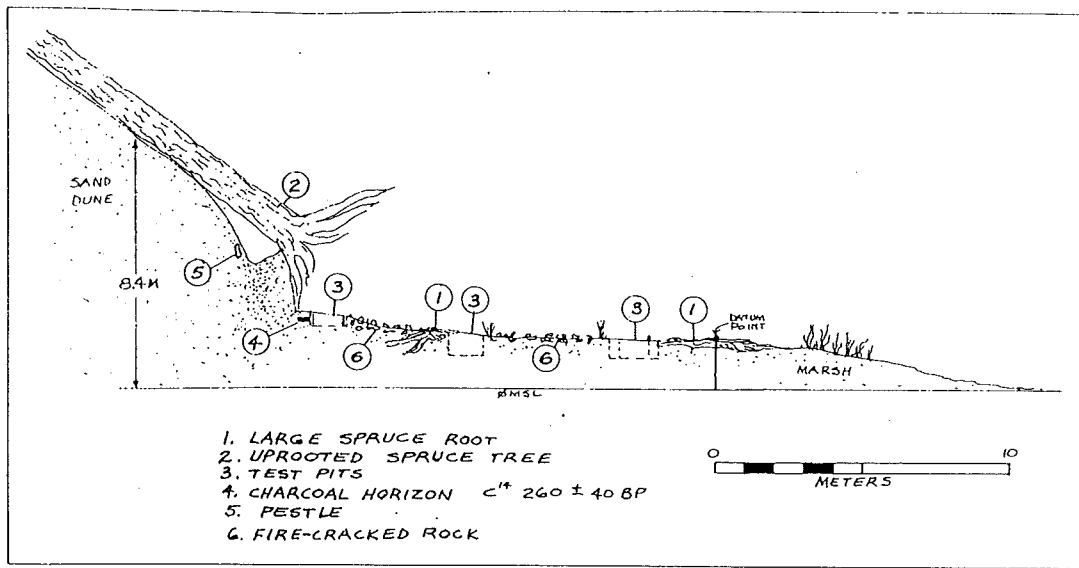


Figure 8. Spruce Tree site, Nehalem Bay.

**35-TI-75, Native American Archaeological Sites of the Oregon Coast**

Schematic Site Cross-section Map from:

Woodward et al. (1990:63) Paleoseismicity and the Archaeological Record: Areas of Investigation on the Northern Oregon Coast  
*Oregon Geology* 52(3):57-65.

**Portions of this file have been redacted to  
meet Oregon State law (ORS 192.501(11)).**

**More information may be available upon request.  
Contact the Oregon State Archaeologist for details.**