

35-CU-215, Curry County, Oregon
Native American Archaeological Sites of the Oregon Coast

NPS 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-CU-215, High Point Shell Midden

2. Location

street & number Samuel Boardman State Park not for publication
city or town Carpenterville vicinity
state Oregon code OR county Curry code 015 zip code 97444

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 _____ Date _____

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

	Signature of Keeper	Date of Action
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): _____		

5. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> site	<u>1</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>1</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: None
 Name of related multiple property listing: Native American Archaeological Sites of the Oregon Coast

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions: Cat: Domestic Sub: Camp
 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: This well preserved *shell midden* is perched high above the sea in Boardman State Park in Curry County.

Situated in a strategic location that offers a panoramic view of the ocean and adjacent coastlines, the site can be reached by following the coastal trail from the Thomas Creek Bridge. Within a few hundred meters the trail exits the forest and provides a beautiful view of the point below. The site, surrounded by high and sheer seacliffs, is characterized by conspicuous shell midden deposits including where dense shell midden up to 40 cm deep exposed in the eroding seacliff. According to surface indicators, the shell midden covers an area about 40 x 40 meters wide, but it seems highly likely that related activities that are less conspicuous archaeologically took place around the periphery of the midden.

The shells of rocky coast shellfish taxa dominate the midden, especially mussel (*Mytilus californianus*) and barnacle (*Balanus sp.*) with lesser amounts of horse clam (*Tresus nuttalli*), dogwinkle (*Thais sp.*), gooseneck barnacle (*Pollicipes polymerus*) and other taxa. Other midden constituents observed include burned rock, charcoal, and small amounts of stone (basalt) tool-making debris. No bones or finished tools were observed in the available exposures, but they are undoubtedly present in the deposit. Radiocarbon dating of two single shell fragments from stratified midden deposits exposed in the seacliff produced uncorrected ¹⁴C dates of 820 ± 50 and 1130 ± 60 RYBP. After calibration, these two dates suggest that discrete site occupations took place ca. AD 1070 and AD 1385 the site, although more dating might expand this chronology. Based on the available data, 35-CU-215 appears to contain at least two occupational components, probably serving as an outer coast campsite.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- 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 represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- 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
Ethnic Heritage: Native American

Period of Significance: Late Holocene Precontact

Significant Dates: 820 +/- 50 RYBP (Beta-126393), AD 1310 (1385) 1430 cal BP
1130 +/- 60 RYBP (Beta-126394), AD 1020 (1070) 1190 cal BP

Significant Person: N/A

Cultural Affiliation: Tututni, Athabaskan, Southern Northwest Coast

Architect/Builder: N/A

Narrative Statement of Significance: 35-CU-215 is a well-preserved *shell midden* occupied during the Late Holocene Precontact Period, between about AD 1000 and AD 1400. The intermediate sized site encompasses an area about 80 meters long by 40 meters wide and reaches a depth of at least 40 cm. Situated in a strategic and dramatic setting on a high point overlooking the Pacific Ocean and the adjacent coast, the site contains a variety of constituents including artifacts, faunal remains, and floral remains. As a result of its integrity, preservation, and the range of constituents it contains, 35-CU-215 has the potential to produce scientific data that could contribute to an examination of a variety of research problems related to site formation processes, landscape evolution, and changes in settlement, subsistence, technology, and society among the Native American cultures of the Oregon Coast. The site clearly has the potential to provide valuable information to address a number questions posed by Moss and Erlandson (1996:27-29) under Research Topics #1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6. Finally, as a tangible link to their history and cultural heritage, 35-CU-215 is also highly significant to modern descendants of Oregon Coast Native American tribes.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Erlandson, J.
 1999 Oregon Coast Archaeology Survey: Archaeological Site Record for 35-CU-215. Department of Anthropology, University of Oregon.
 Moss, M. L. and J. M. Erlandson
 1996 Native American Archaeological Sites of the Oregon Coast: A Multiple Property National Register Nomination. Ms. on file, Oregon State Historic Preservation Office, Parks and Recreation Department, Salem.

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, Eugene, Oregon

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1.0 acre

USGS Quadrangle: Carpenterville, Oregon (1986), 1:24,000

Boundary Justification: Site boundaries were defined solely on reconnaissance data, but sea cliff exposures and the tailings of burrowing rodents provided fairly good visibility. Although shell midden deposits were only visible in an area 40 x 40 meters wide, other activities associated with site occupation undoubtedly took place near the end and the base of the point. Consequently, the nominated area includes buffer zones 20 meters wide on the east and 40 meters wide on the west to accommodate peripheral activity areas less visible than the conspicuous shell midden area.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	<u>Jon Erlandson</u>	
organization	<u>Department of Anthropology, University of Oregon</u>	
date	<u>August 9, 1999</u>	
street & number	<u>308 Condon Hall, University of Oregon</u>	telephone <u>(541) 346-5098</u>
city or town	<u>Eugene, OR 97403-1218</u>	

12. Property Owner

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

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section Photographs Page 1 35-CU-215, Curry County, Oregon

Photograph 1 of 2

3. Photographer: Jon Erlandson.
4. 11-October, 1999.
5. University of Oregon State Museum of Anthropology.
6. Overview of general site area, with shell midden located in saddle on point; looking northwest.
7. 35-CU-215, Roll 1, Frame 1.

Photograph 1 of 2

3. Photographer: Jon Erlandson.
4. 11-October, 1999.
5. University of Oregon State Museum of Anthropology.
6. Closeup view of eroding shell midden exposure along southcentral margin of site; looking west at 14C sampling location.
7. 35-CU-215, Roll 1, Frame 4.

**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.**