

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Oregon
COUNTY: Sherman
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
The Mack Canyon Archeological Site

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
At end of BLM access road adjacent to Deschutes River 25 miles N of Maupin

CITY OR TOWN:
Near Grass Valley

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
Second--Representative Al Ullman

STATE:
Oregon

CODE
XX 41

COUNTY:
Sherman

CODE
XXX

055

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)



4. AGENCY

Bureau of Land Management

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)
Oregon State Office

STREET AND NUMBER:
729 N. E. Oregon Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Portland

STATE:
Oregon

CODE
XX 41

STATE: OREGON
COUNTY: SHERMAN

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Land is federally owned - see official master title plats. Bureau of Land Management

STREET AND NUMBER:
729 N.E. OREGON ST.

CITY OR TOWN:
PORTLAND

STATE:
OREGON

CODE
41

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Statewide Inventory of Historic Sites and Buildings

DATE OF SURVEY: 1970
 Federal
 State
 County
 Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Oregon State Highway Division, Parks and Recreation Branch

STREET AND NUMBER:
State Highway Building

CITY OR TOWN:
Salem

STATE:
Oregon

CODE
41

FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY NUMBER
DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

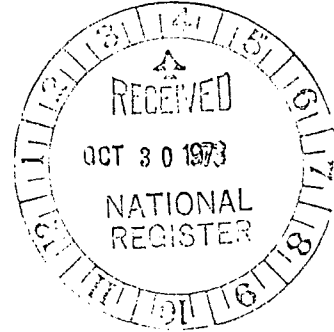
7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Mack Canyon site is comprised of a series of pit houses dating back more than 6,000 years. The site was occupied by people closely associated with the Columbia River cultures. Archeological excavations have been carried out at the site, however, none of the houses were completely excavated, so it is not possible to indicate how the houses were made or used.

Today, the houses are merely shallow, round depressions in the ground which are overgrown with sagebrush and grass. Attempts at visually reconstructing the site are difficult. The site has been enclosed with a protective fence and an informational sign installed to briefly relate the history of the area.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

B. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This site is quite extensive in size measuring 160 meters by 40 meters. It was undisturbed until 1965 when the University of Oregon conducted archeological excavations in the site. The test pits, along with the other excavations, showed that at least four and possibly five geological strata occur in the site and that occupation of the site began after 5000 B.C. Exactly how soon after 5000 B.C. is still to be determined.

Tentative conclusions arrived at by the excavations are that the Mack Canyon site was a winter village for different Columbia River tribes.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Oregon	
COUNTY Sherman	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

RESTRICTED INFORMATION
AT REQUEST OF OWNER
NOT FOR PUBLICATION

(Number all entries)

7. Description

The Mack Canyon Site (35SH23) is on the right side of the Deschutes River, in Sherman County, Oregon. The site is characterized by a number of circular depressions which vary in size from 1.3 to 14 meters in diameter. The round depressions are on a terrace, approximately 1500 meters long, 75 meters wide, and from 7 to 12 meters above the water level of the river. An abandoned railroad bed runs along one edge of the site. The occupational area may extend under the fill for the railroad bed.

Immediately above the site, a weathered talus slope extends nearly to the canyon rim, 1800 to 2400 feet above. The adjacent parts of the Deschutes River Canyon have nearly vertical walls.

Sagebrush, interspersed by an occasional juniper, is the most prominent vegetation in the area. Willows grow along the river. Grass and weeds occur sparsely throughout the area.

Aboriginally, the area was occupied by the Molalla until about A.D. 1750. From A.D. 1840-50, the site was within the tribal boundaries of the Tenino. Both of these tribes are Sahaptin speakers whose main subsistence base was fishing. Prehistorically, the site was occupied by Plateau and Riverine hunter-gatherers.

The site was excavated by the University of Oregon during the summers of 1965 to 1968 for the Bureau of Land Management.

8. Significance

The site was occupied from after 5000 B.C. until the early A.D. 1800's. The early date estimate comes from the finding of volcanic ash, perhaps related to the eruption of Mt. Mazama about 7,000 years ago, at the bottom of the earliest cultural strata. The late occupation date has been evidenced by the presence of white manufactured goods in the site.

Mountain sheep and river mussels were the primary resource used by the Mack Canyon Site's occupants. To a lesser extent, coyotes were also eaten. The lack of fish and rabbit remains at the site, normally abundant in the Sahaptin area sites, suggests that the site was occupied at a time of year, such as winter, when fish and rabbit were not readily available.

The extensiveness of the site, and its relatively great time depth make the Mack Canyon Site (35SH23) important scientifically, and eligible for nomination to the National Register.

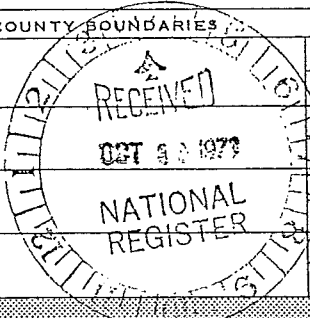
9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Cole, David L. 1967. Archeological Research of Site 35S1123, The Mack Canyon Site, report of the Museum of Natural History, U. of Oregon to the Dept. of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, Eugene.

Cole, David L. 1968. 1967 and 1968 Archeological Excavations of the Mack Canyon Site. Museum of Natural History, U. of Oregon for the Dept. of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, Portland, Oregon,

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW						
NE						
SE						
SW						
APPROXIMATE ACREAGE			NOMINATED FROM			
			120			
LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES						
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE			
Oregon	41	Wasco	065			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE			
Oregon	41	Sherman	055			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE			



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Brian Cunninghame	DATE: 6/7/73
BUSINESS ADDRESS: P. O. Box 550	
STREET AND NUMBER: 185 East 4th	PHONE: 447-4115
CITY OR TOWN: Prineville	STATE: Oregon
	CODE: XX 41

12. CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

State Liaison Officer recommendation:

Yes
 No
 None

Raymond Salomon
 State Liaison Officer Signature

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Liaison Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The recommended level of significance is National State Local

George L. Furst SEP 10 1973
 Federal Representative Signature Date

Associate Director
 Title

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

 Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE Oregon	
COUNTY Sherman	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON:		Mack Canyon Site	
AND/OR HISTORIC:			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
Along Deschutes River			
CITY OR TOWN:			
The Grass Valley Vicinity			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Oregon	41	Sherman	055
3. MAP REFERENCE			
SOURCE:			
U.S.G.S. 15 Minute Series (Topographic), Erskine, Oregon			
SCALE: 1:62500			
DATE: 1962			
4. REQUIREMENTS			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE Oregon	
COUNTY Sherman	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
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1. NAME			
COMMON:		Mack Canyon Site	
AND/OR HISTORIC:			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
Along Deschutes River			
CITY OR TOWN:			
Grass Valley Vicinity			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Oregon	41	Sherman	055
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT:			
University of Oregon Museum of Natural History			
DATE OF PHOTO:			
1968			
NEGATIVE FILED AT:			
Parks and Recreation Section, 319B, State Highway Building, Salem, OR 97310			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.			
View of the Mack Canyon archeological site.			

**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.**