

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	
DATE ENTERED	

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

East Lake Abert Archaeological District

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Valley Falls

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
2nd

VICINITY OF

STATE

Oregon

CODE

41

COUNTY

Lake

CODE

037

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

DISTRICT

BUILDING(S)

STRUCTURE

SITE

OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

PUBLIC

PRIVATE

BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

IN PROCESS

BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

OCCUPIED

UNOCCUPIED

WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

YES: RESTRICTED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

NO

PRESENT USE

AGRICULTURE

COMMERCIAL

EDUCATIONAL

ENTERTAINMENT

GOVERNMENT

INDUSTRIAL

MILITARY

MUSEUM

PARK

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

RELIGIOUS

SCIENTIFIC

TRANSPORTATION

OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Bureau of Land Management, Lakeview District, and Oregon State Department of Transportation

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Lakeview and Salem

VICINITY OF

STATE

Oregon

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Lake County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Lakeview

STATE

Oregon 97630

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Oregon Archeological Survey and National Register of Historic Places
(Includes Abert Lake Petroglyph Site)

DATE

1974-1976

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

University of Oregon Museum of Natural History

CITY, TOWN

Eugene

STATE

Oregon 97403

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 4 PAGE 1

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY (cont.)

East Lake Abert Archeological District

Mr. Murl Storms, State Director
Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 2965
Portland, OR 97208

Mr. Robert Burco, Director
Oregon State Department of Transportation
Transportation Building
Salem, OR 97310

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

During the four year period between 1932 and 1935, Dr. L. S. Cressman of the University of Oregon traveled throughout Oregon studying petroglyph localities. The information that he collected was the substance of his monograph Petroglyphs of Oregon, (University of Oregon Monographs, Studies in Anthropology, No. 1, 1937). Cressman's Site 30 "Abert Rim, Pictograph and Petroglyph" was described as a place that had "... a series of pictographs, petroglyphs, and combinations of the two." He added, "The area is marked by burials, old camp sites, many remains of mortars, and other signs of habitation." (p. 27) The petroglyph locality that he described now appears in the "National Register" as the "Abert Lake Petroglyph Site" (cf. 1976 edition p. 618).

In 1975, the University of Oregon Museum of Natural History (MNH) surveyed a proposed highway realignment project along the northern end of Lake Abert (cf. "Survey of the Hogback Summit-Pikes Ranch Section of the Lakeview-Burns Highway for Historical, Archaeological and Prehistorical Sites" by David L. Cole). Five sites were located on this survey of which one is a stone wall (35 LK 200) reported to have been built by a settler (Pike) in the 1880's, and four were archaeological sites. One house pit site (35 LK 199) was considered to have potential for nomination to the "National Register" (cf. p. 14) and recommendations were made to change the highway design to avoid it. The highway plan was changed, but part of the site was destroyed by the highway contractor and construction workers. Two sites that could not be avoided by construction (Sites LK 196 and 35 LK 197) were excavated in 1975, and Site 35 LK 198 was destroyed by construction before it could be excavated (final report in preparation).

In October 1976, MNH surveyed a second proposed highway realignment project along Lake Abert (cf. "Archaeological Survey of the Proposed Improvement of the Pikes Ranch-Valley Falls Section, North Unit, of the Lakeview-Burns Highway, Lake County, Oregon" by David L. Cole and Richard M. Pettigrew). Twenty-five sites, 35 LK 474 through 35 LK 498, were located, including the "Abert Lake Petroglyph Site" (assigned no. 35 LK 475), in an area eight miles long. One site, 35 LK 491, was a stone wall similar to 35 LK 200. Four sites, 35 LK 476, 477, 492, and 493 were the remnants of an old road (possibly military). Four sites, 35 LK 475, 480, 484, and 485 have petroglyphs. Sixteen sites are village sites, with housepits, scattered artifacts, cairns, rock circles, etc. The largest site, 35 LK 478, is about 300 meters long, with 35 house pits on four different lake terraces.

In March 1977, 24 sites were mapped and tested to gather data for evaluation. This data was used to determine which sites should be salvaged, and which sites could be avoided without diminishing road standards. For the time being, the Highway Department has opted not to proceed with the planned construction.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES _____ BUILDER/ARCHITECT _____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Lake Abert archaeological sites appear to be of regional significance. The location is within the Northern Great Basin which is a cultural area as well as a physiographic province. The Northern Great Basin became well known in the 1930's and 1940's as the result of cave excavations by L. S. Cressman of the University of Oregon. Cressman's work, with radio-carbon dating for corroboration, provided proof that the new world had been peopled long before a date of about 2000 years ago, which many anthropologists believed was the beginning of the settling of North America. Since Cressman's work a few other caves have been excavated, all of which fit the "early man" site category. To date there has been no study of the Northern Great Basin sites that were occupied during the last 4000 years. Testing in 1977 has shown that most of the Lake Abert sites are more recent than 4000 years.

In recent years approximately 600 new sites have been recorded in the Northern Great Basin as the result of archaeological surveys related to Federal land exchanges, geothermal leasing, construction, etc. Only in those sites adjacent to Lake Abert have house pits and stone works been a prominent feature.

Since the present archaeological record for the Northern Great Basin of Oregon lacks information on recent sites as well as on native house structures, and because the Lake Abert archaeological sites hold promise for providing this information, this area is seen as having considerable regional importance. In addition, the diversity of cultural activity that took place here, as evidenced by house pits, petroglyphs, cairns, stone circles, bedrock milling stones, etc. provides in one fairly confined area the opportunities to study a variety of cultural phenomena.

The regional importance of this area is further emphasized by the fact that in the neighboring cultural areas to the west (Klamath Basin) and to the north (Columbia Plateau) much of the archaeological research has been devoted to study of aboriginal house types, and most of the sites excavated contain cultural components more recent than 4000 years ago. Lack of comparable studies for the Northern Great Basin, which is both extensive and important in prehistory, means that, to date, it has not been possible to provide information on the interrelationship of all peoples who lived in the major cultural areas of the intermontane west during the latter part of aboriginal history.

Several sites are the remains of an old historic road, the significance of which has not been determined. Since they are within the archaeological district they could be preserved for future study. Sharp turns in the road could best be maneuvered with a two wheeled cart, thus suggesting that military caissons were used.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Cressman, L. S., Petroglyphs of Oregon (University of Oregon Monographs, Studies in Anthropology, No. 1, 1937).

Cole, David, "Survey of the Hogback Summit-Pikes Ranch Section of the Lakeview-Burns Highway for Historical, Archaeological and Prehistorical Sites" (University of Oregon Museum of Natural History, 1975). (continued)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY about 300 acres

UTM REFERENCES

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

David L. Cole, Curator of the Oregon State Museum of Anthropology

ORGANIZATION

Museum of Natural History

DATE

June 6, 1977

STREET & NUMBER

University of Oregon

TELEPHONE

(503) 686-3034

CITY OR TOWN

Eugene

STATE

Oregon

97403

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

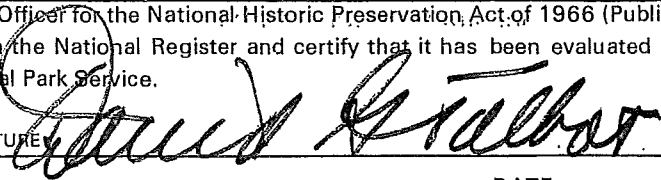
NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE



TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

September 20, 1977

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

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9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES (cont.)

Cole, David, and Pettigrew, Richard M., "Archaeological Survey of the Proposed Improvement of the Pikes Ranch-Valley Falls Section, North Unit, of the Lakeview-Burns Highway, Lake County, Oregon", (University of Oregon Museum of Natural History, 1976).

**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.**

CULTURAL PROPERTY INVENTORY
AND
REQUEST FOR A DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY
OREGON DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

1. NAME OF PROPERTY

COMMON	EAST LAKE ABERT ARCHAEOLOGICAL DISTRICT
HISTORIC	None

2. LOCATION

STREET ADDRESS Eastern shore and rim of Lake Abert bordering Highway 395	
CITY	COUNTY Lake
STATE Oregon	

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (CHECK ONE) PRESENT USE (CHECK ONE OR MORE AS APPROPRIATE)			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT <input type="checkbox"/> SITE <input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING <input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<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 type="checkbox"/> PARK <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) <hr/> <hr/>

4. OWNERSHIP

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE <input type="checkbox"/> QUASI-PUBLIC	NAME AND ADDRESS OF OWNER Multiple ownership, public and private.
--	--

5. AGENCY

AGENCY NAME Oregon Department of Transportation	
REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS (IF APPLICABLE)	STREET ADDRESS 412 Transportation Building
CITY Salem	STATE Oregon 97310

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY Archaeological surveys, Oregon State Museum of Anthropology	
DATE OF SURVEY 1975, 1976, 1979a, 1979b, 1980	<input type="checkbox"/> FEDERAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> STATE <input type="checkbox"/> COUNTY <input type="checkbox"/> LOCAL

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION (CHECK ONE) <input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD <input type="checkbox"/> FAIR <input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RUINS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED	
CHECK ONE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	CHECK ONE <input type="checkbox"/> MOVED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL PHYSICAL APPEARANCE (IF KNOWN)	
<p>The "Abert Petroglyph Site," located on the eastern shore of Lake Abert in southeastern Oregon, was first recorded by L. S. Cressman during a 1932-33 study of Oregon petroglyphs and pictographs (Cressman 1937) and included in the National Register of Historic Places in 1976. Although Cressman (1937:27) noted that "the area is marked by burials, old camp sites, many remains of mortars, and other signs of habitation", no other sites were recorded until 1975 when archaeological surveys conducted for the Oregon Department of Transportation along U.S. Highway 395 resulted in the identification of five historic and 25 prehistoric sites along some 13 miles adjacent to the eastern shore of the lake (Cole 1975, Cole and Pettigrew 1976). In 1977 the "East Lake Abert Archaeological District" was included in the National Register of Historic Places.</p> <p>Survey of an additional 8.5 miles of U.S. 395 along the southeastern shore of Lake Abert in 1977 resulted in the identification of 15 additional sites (Pettigrew 1979b). Among these sites was the largest village site (the Poison Creek Site) recorded on the eastern shore of the lake. Poison Creek is the largest creek draining the Abert Rim escarpment, and access to the lava plain beyond Abert Rim is best achieved by the Poison Creek Trail, which was probably established in prehistoric times.</p> <p>At least 22 of the 45 recorded sites in the District appear to be aboriginal village sites with visible house features (housepit depressions or rock rings). Grinding stones (slab or boulder metates, and mortars), petroglyphs and pictographs, and lithic scatters are also common, and occur in isolation or in association with the village sites. Investigations conducted intermittently between 1975 and 1979 along the eastern shore of the lake have resulted in the identification of over 370 housepit depressions, 51 rock rings, and 92 petroglyphs and/or pictographs (many of these are large boulders with several panels). Five sites are historic and include rock fences associated with the earliest Euroamerican settlement of the area, and segments of a rock-lined wagon road thought to date from the late nineteenth century.</p>	
<p><u>Environmental and Cultural Background</u></p>	
<p>Lake Abert is a highly saline and alkaline remnant of pluvial Lake Chewaucan, with only small insects and two species of brine shrimp inhabiting its waters. The Chewaucan Basin is part of the basin and range topography characteristic of the Great Basin physiographic province.</p> <p>At the time of contact the lake was within the territory of the Northern Paiute. There is no suggestion in the rather sketchy literature available that any Northern Paiute bands headquartered at Lake Abert, although</p>	

winter encampments are recorded near Paisley, some 15 miles west where the Chewaucan River enters Upper Chewaucan Marsh, and among the chain of lakes in the Warner Valley to the east.

Several lines of evidence suggest that the Lake Abert villages were occupied by a group other than the Northern Paiute, however. Most manos recovered are typical Great Basin types, i.e., otherwise unmodified with at least one ground surface. One recovered specimen, however, is a handled variety and reminiscent of those manufactured by the Klamath, occupants of the Klamath Basin to the west of Lake Abert at the time of contact. A number of portable bucket-shaped mortar fragments have also been recovered. These are common among the Klamath, but Kelly (1932) reports that the Northern Paiute denies ever making them. The house features at Lake Abert are also more reminiscent of the Klamath-style large, semi-subterranean houses than of the small, unexcavated Paiute houses. Further, it is claimed by Northern Paiute oral tradition that the Klamath once occupied southeastern Oregon, including the Chewaucan Basin and Warner Valley. Linguistic evidence suggests that the Northern Paiute separated from their Numic-speaking relatives in the southern Great Basin only within the last 1000 years.

Archaeological Investigations

Thirty-one of the sites within the District have been tested by soil augers and/or test pits. The soil auger, with an approximately 20 cm diameter bucket, was used to identify site boundaries and to determine the depth of cultural deposits at the sites. Test excavations provided information on the character and integrity of cultural deposits, and the nature of the geologic strata. Fill from all auger holes and test pits was screened through $\frac{1}{4}$ " mesh.

The density of settlements along the eastern shore of Lake Abert suggests occupation at a time when the lake was more biotically productive. Support has been lent to this hypothesis by the recovery of freshwater clams and snails from a beach deposit directly associated with cultural debris at site 35LK534. Five distinct terraces can be recognized at 6, 12, 18, 35, and 45 meters above the present lake level. Although the investigations which have been undertaken to date have been concentrated on the 12 meter terrace (along which Highway 395 almost invariably runs), cultural debris was observed on at least the lower 4 terraces and collected from the lower three.

Test excavations indicate that occupations primarily were located directly on beach deposits. It is likely that, as the lake level receded, the elevation of primary occupation also decreased. The distribution of chronologically sensitive projectile points supports such a settlement pattern. By seriating sites on the basis of temporally diagnostic points recovered from each, a clear pattern of early sites at higher elevations and later sites at lower elevations emerges (Pettigrew 1979a, 1979b, 1980). The three radiocarbon dates recovered from sites in 1979 further supports this pattern. A date of 2940 ± 110 BP (ca. 990 B.C.) was recovered from a cultural deposit on the 18 meter terrace, a date of 1890 ± 160 BP (ca. AD 60) was recovered from the 12 meter terrace, and an occupation on the 6 meter terrace was dated to 730 ± 130 BP (ca. AD 1220).

A continuous occupation of the District from about 6000 BP to present is suggested based on the occurrence of chronologically sensitive projectile point styles, although the densest occupation apparently occurred between 3500 and 500 BP.

Intrusions and Disturbance

The construction of U.S. Highway 395 has disturbed, and in some cases may have completely destroyed, some sites along the 12 meter terrace along which it runs. In most cases, however, large areas of affected sites remain intact. Some vandalism has occurred, in the nature of potting some of the house features and the defacing of petroglyphs and pictographs.

The District has served primarily as rangeland for livestock and some disturbance may be attributed to grazing animals, particularly immediately adjacent to water sources. Other than the construction noted above and the limited potting at some of the sites, subsurface disturbance has been minimal.

Excavations reveal that colluvium provides a protective overburden for many cultural deposits. Rather than being a detriment to sites, slope wash has probably aided in their protection.

8. SIGNIFICANCE / HISTORY

PERIOD (CHECK ONE OR MORE AS APPROPRIATE)			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRE-COLUMBIA	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th CENTURY	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th CENTURY	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th CENTURY
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th CENTURY	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th CENTURY	<input type="checkbox"/> 19th CENTURY	
SPECIFIC DATES (IF APPLICABLE, IF KNOWN)		BUILDER / ARCHITECT	
AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (CHECK ONE OR MORE AS APPLICABLE)			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	
<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	
<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> _____	
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE/HISTORY			
<p>The East Lake Abert Archaeological District appears to have significance at a regional (multi-state) level. The District is located within the Northern Great Basin, both a cultural area and a physiographic province including southeastern Oregon, northeastern California, and northern Nevada.</p> <p>Three elements contribute to the District's significance (described more thoroughly below): 1) the nature of the cultural features which are unique within the Great Basin province; 2) the extensive, intact, cultural deposits which have contributed, and have potential for further contribution to an understanding of prehistoric cultures in the Northern Great Basin, culture change, inter-regional relationships, and paleo-environments; and 3) the historic significance of the District, representing both the exploratory phase of the western frontier, and the period of initial settlement of south-central Oregon.</p> <p>Major research concerns in this area to which studies at Lake Abert are relevant include the following:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Paleoenvironmental Studies</u></p> <p>Research in the Great Basin has traditionally focused on explaining cultural patterns in the context of climatic and environmental conditions. Although the climatic sequence proposed by Antevs (1948) is supported by a variety of paleoenvironmental data, some local variations and short-term fluctuation in this basic pattern have been recognized and are considered fundamental to a thorough understanding of local cultural ecology. Direct evidence of climatic change in the Lake Abert Basin was found during the archaeological investigations conducted between 1975-79 in the form of distinct beach deposits and terraces well above the present lake level. Excavations on the 12 meter terrace revealed cultural deposits in direct association with beach gravels, suggesting that at some time between about 2000 BC and AD 1000 the</p>			

lake stood 12 meters above its present level, a condition which would come about only through regular precipitation significantly greater than today. Freshwater clam and snail shells were also found in quantity in test pits and auger holes, suggesting that Lake Abert provided a suitable habitat for fish, and other aquatic organisms useful to man as food (Pettigrew 1979a, 1979b). A moister climate and larger lake with fresh water would likely have provided much different biotic parameters than currently prevail in the basin, a fact which is important for understanding the cultural ecology and culture changes which characterized the Basin in prehistory.

Prehistoric Cultural Chronology

A tentative chronology of habitation at Lake Abert has been estimated on the basis of temporally diagnostic projectile point styles. Based on this information, and a number of radiocarbon dates, continuous use of the District is suggested for at least the last 6000 years (from 4000 BC).

One of the aspects of greatest significance in the District is the potential of buried cultural deposits. In addition to providing a more refined chronology of Lake Abert sites, the extensive, intact cultural deposits have great potential for providing a more refined chronology of temporally diagnostic artifacts, which would provide a firmer basis for cross-dating sites and collections from sites throughout the Northern Great Basin and adjacent areas. Temporal ranges for chronologically sensitive artifacts are currently quite broadly defined. Finer patterns will remain obscure in the absence of adequately large collections from well-dated contexts. Such a basis is sorely needed, since no sites in the Great Basin of Oregon have produced carefully excavated collections with associated radiocarbon dates large enough for productive inter-site comparison.

Prehistoric Subsistence-Settlement Patterns

Cultural adaptation in the Great Basin is far from uniform, being closely dependent on the specific resources available in a given locale. Cultural adaptations also changed to accommodate climatic fluctuations. At the time of contact, Lake Abert may have been of considerably less economic importance than the more biotically productive Warner Lakes to the east and the Chewaucan Marsh to the west. This apparently has not always been the case. Although housepit features have been reported within the Great Basin physiographic province (in Surprise Valley to the south; O'Connell 1975), nowhere are they reported in such numbers or density as within the East Lake Abert Archaeological District. The District is significant for the uniqueness of this type of cultural manifestation within the Great Basin province, and for the potential it offers for research on cultural adaptation and change.

Aboriginal Culture-Historical Relationships and Trade

Much of the artifact inventory and the styles of domestic structures in the District are more comparable to cultural assemblages of historic-period occupants of the Columbia Plateau than typical Great Basin assemblages. Both

Weide (1968) and O'Connell (1975) have hypothesized occupation of portions of the Northern Great Basin by ancestors of the historic Klamath-Modoc. Preliminary research at Lake Abert substantiates this hypothesis (Pettigrew 1979a, 1979b), and further research would add much to an understanding of this problem in particular, and Basin-Plateau relationships in general.

Recent studies in southeastern Oregon have concentrated on trace element characterization of obsidian debitage from archaeological sites in an attempt to identify patterns of utilization and exchange in the northern Great Basin and adjacent areas. The stratified cultural deposits in the District provide an unparalleled opportunity to acquire samples of statistically meaningful sizes in controlled excavations to contribute greatly to these studies, and to identify temporal changes in exchange patterns.

Petroglyphs and pictographs are often very useful archaeological indicators of cultural relationships. The Lake Abert petroglyph site, located within the District, was part of Cressman's (1937) pioneering effort to map distributions of rock art styles and motifs in Oregon. The 92 petroglyph/pictograph panels recorded to date within the District represent the highest concentration of rock art reported in Oregon, and provide potential for studies of inter-regional relationships.

History

In somewhat the same spirit as the Lewis and Clark Expedition, and in part to counteract the pervasive influence of England's Hudson Bay Company, the U.S. Government financed the topographic and scientific explorations of John C. Fremont to the western frontier in 1843 and 1844. Fremont arrived in the Abert Basin on December 20, 1843, by following the Chewaucan River from the west. He named the lake for Col. J. J. Abert, Fremont's superior in the Topographic Bureau. Fremont's party skirted the eastern shore of the lake, following the approximate route of the present highway, U.S. 395, within the East Lake Abert Archaeological District (Fremont 1845).

After the publication of his diaries and reports, Fremont became popular in the East with a public hungry for knowledge of the exotic West. Fremont was the first to accurately perceive the geographical nature of the Great Basin, which he named. He established the nomenclature for many other geographical features in the west (Lake Abert is an example). He systematically collected, for the first time in this area, astronomical, barometrical, meteorological, topographic, and geological information which provided the basis for the first accurate maps of the western frontier. Although many of his collections didn't survive the vagaries of the return journey, his party also made the first botanical collections in the region (Fremont 1835).

Portions of an old wagon road and a number of stone fences, probably dating to about 1870 (Cole 1975) are also located within the District. These structures are significant as being representative of the period of initial Euroamerican settlement of the area. Settlement of the area was promoted by the Homestead Act of 1862. Although settlement proceeded very slowly through the 1860s in south-central Oregon, the 1870s was marked by a scramble for previously unoccupied lands in response to a booming livestock market.

9. BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCE

See attached sheet.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF PROPERTY

Approximately 2100 acres

ATTACH MAP (U.S.G.S. QUAD) AND/OR LOCATION DIAGRAM

See attachments

11. PHOTOGRAPHS

ATTACH

See attachments

12. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE Maxine Banks, Cultural Resources Specialist*		DATE June 1, 1982
AGENCY Oregon Department of Transportation		
STREET ADDRESS 412 Transportation Building		TELEPHONE 378-8511
CITY Salem	STATE Oregon	

RECORD OF COORDINATION-ODOT

*Information compiled by Richard M. Pettigrew and Thomas J. Connolly, archeologists with the Oregon State Museum of Anthropology, University of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon.

Bibliographical References

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**Portions of this file have been redacted to
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Contact the Oregon State Archaeologist for details.**