

35-LA-10, Lane County, Oregon
Native American Archaeological Sites of the Oregon Coast

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

OMB No. 1024-0018

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-LA-10, Bob Creek site

2. Location

street & number Neptune State Park not for publication
city or town Seaside Beach vicinity
state Oregon code OR county Lane code 039 zip code 97498

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.)

James Hamrick

July 20, 1997

Signature of certifying official Deputy SHPO
Oregon State Historic Preservation Office

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

I, hereby certify that this property is:

Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

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): _____

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5. Classification
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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	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> 1	

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

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6. Function or Use
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Historic Functions: Cat: Domestic Sub: Camp site

Current Functions: Cat: Recreation and Culture Sub: Outdoor recreation

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7. Description
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Architectural Classification: N/A

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

Narrative Description: 35-LA-10 is a large *shell midden* and *burial site* located along an extensive stretch of rocky coast and pocket sand beaches located south of Cape Perpetua in Neptune State Park, Lane County, along the central Oregon Coast. This area provides access to a variety of environments, including exposed and semiprotected outer coast intertidal habitats, various nearshore communities, dense coniferous forest, and occasional stream and riparian environments. This is one of several shell middens in Neptune State Park that contain a priceless record of central Oregon Coast landscape and cultural developments over the millennia. 35-LA-10 was first recorded by Lloyd Collins (1953) who estimated that the shell midden covered an area about 150 m x 55 m wide and reached depths of roughly a meter. As part of his survey of Oregon Coast State Parks, Richard Ross (1976) visited the site, describing it as a 50 to 150 cm deep shell midden located on either side of the mouth of Bob Creek and extending southwards towards Bray Point. Brian Harrison (1978) excavated portions of a human burial found eroding from the seacliff in the southern site area, the remains of a 30-35 year old male. Harrison also recovered a small collection of artifacts and the remains of mussels, barnacles, fish, birds, rodents, and sea lion. The lack of European or Euroamerican trade goods suggested that this burial dated to the late prehistoric era (Harrison 1978). Several years later, Rick Minor (1986:60) examined 35-LA-10 and stated that:

Shell is exposed and ranges between 20-30 m wide, with a depth of 1.5-2.0 m. As noted by Ross, the midden continues southward toward Bray Point, but becomes shallower with increasing distance to the south, averaging 50-100 cm. On the north side shell is exposed for 40 m along the bank and is at least 2 m deep. The inland extent of the midden is difficult to estimate because of dense ground cover, but 10 m appears to be a reasonable estimate. . . . The considerable size and depth of the midden suggest that this site was a long-term settlement.

In 1993, Jon Erlandson and Madonna Moss evaluated 35-LA-10, defining three site loci designated A, B, and C from north to south. They also found much of the site area obscured by thick vegetation, but erosional exposures along the seacliff and stream banks allowed the evaluation of site contents, age, and structure. Area A is where shell midden was exposed for about 70 m north-south and about 50 m east-west. In the southwest part of Area A, a 30-40 cm thick shell midden of densely packed mussel and barnacle shells was found eroding out. Analysis of mussel (*Mytilus californianus*) shells from the base of this shell midden produced an uncorrected ¹⁴C date of 810 ± 70 RYBP (Beta-64622), equal to about AD 1400 after calibration (Erlandson and Moss 1993:83). Area B is on a low terrace about 2 m above the beach. Much of the northern part of this shell midden has been covered Shell midden in Area B was traced in sea cliff exposures for a distance of 140 m. In beach access trails, very dense shell midden deposits that appear to be 1.5 to 2.0 m deep are exposed. From an eroded rill cutting through one of these trails, fragments of a butter clam (*Saxidomus* sp.) valve were collected from about 1 m below the midden surface. This clam shell was dated to 610 ± 50 RYBP (Beta-63841), or about AD 1510. Area C, which appears to be where Harrison (1978) excavated the burial, is a lower density shell midden deposit that extends for about another 130 m southward along the beach. In seacliff profiles, the midden in Area C is up to 1 m deep. A small rivulet running through Area C cascades over the seacliff in a small waterfall near the center of this area, but shell midden extends for at least another 60 m to the south around a small point. Erlandson and Moss (1993) collected a sample of mussel shells from a depth of 40-45 cm below the surface towards the north end of Area C. This sample produced an uncorrected radiocarbon date of 1030 ± 50 RYBP (Beta-63840), or about AD 1230. When all three contiguous areas at 35-LA-10 are combined, this large and complex site covers an area at least 350 m north-south by about 100 m east-west. The three radiocarbon dates available from the site all suggest that it was occupied during the Late Holocene Precontact period. These dates come from near the base of the deposits, however, suggesting that portions of the site may well have been occupied into the Postcontact period, as well.

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8. Statement of Significance
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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 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: 35-LA-10A: 810 ± 70 RYBP (AD 1400)
35-LA-10B: 610 ± 50 RYBP (AD 1510)
35-LA-10C: 1030 ± 50 RYBP (AD 1230)

Significant Person: N/A

Cultural Affiliation: Alsea

Architect/Builder: N/A

Narrative Statement of Significance: 35-LA-10 is a large *shell midden* and *burial site*. Occupation of this complex site covered three spatially discrete loci, spanned several centuries of the Late Holocene Precontact period, and may well have extended into the Postcontact period. Covering an area up to 350 m north-south by 100 m east-west, dense shell midden deposits at the site reach depths of at least a meter and perhaps significantly more. Minor (1986:53) characterized the research potential of 35-LA-10 as high and recommended fieldwork to determine the age, contents, and structure of the site. Despite impacts from seacliff erosion and park construction, the site remnants are extensive and retain their fundamental spatial integrity (Erlandson and Moss 1993). With stratified and well preserved shell midden deposits, this highly significant site has the potential to yield valuable data on a variety of aspects of past Alsea environments, subsistence, settlement and demography, site structure, and technology. Furthermore, 35-LA-10 is one of several sites in Neptune State Park that together contain an exceptional record of the cultural transitions between the Precontact and Postcontact periods. These characteristics suggest that 35-LA-10 can contribute valuable scientific data relevant to a variety of important questions under Research Topics 1, 3, 4, 5, and 6. Finally, as a burial site with a tangible link to their past, 35-LA-10 is unusually significant to descendants of the Alsea and other Oregon Coast tribes.

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9. Major Bibliographical References
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Collins, Lloyd R. (1953) *Archaeological Survey of the Oregon Coast from June 1951 - December 1952, Final Report*. Department of Anthropology, University of Oregon. Eugene.

Erlandson, Jon M. and Madonna L. Moss (1993) *An Evaluation, Survey, and Dating Program for Archaeological Sites on State Lands of the Central Oregon Coast*. Department of Anthropology, University of Oregon. Eugene.

Harrison, Brian F. (1978) *Report of a Burial Excavation at Bob Creek (35LA10), Lane County, Oregon*. Ms. on file, Oregon State Historic Preservation Office, Salem.

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

Ross, Richard (1976) *Archaeological Survey of State Park Lands along the Oregon Coast*. Department of Anthropology, Oregon State University. Corvallis.

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
Oregon State University, Department of Anthropology

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10. Geographical Data
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Acreeage of Property 4.8 acres

USGS Quadrangle: Heceta Head, Oreg. (1984), 1:24,000

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Description of Point

Boundary Justification: Site boundaries, defined during multiple episodes of surface reconnaissance (Collins 1953; Ross 1976; Minor 1986; Erlandson and Moss 1993), are based on the distribution of archaeological materials typical of Oregon Coast shell midden sites (shellfish remains, animal bone, burned rock, artifacts of stone or other materials, and/or dark culturally enriched soils). To some degree, the site boundaries are also defined by natural geographic features such as the seacliff to the west and a steep slope to the north.

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11. Form Prepared By
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name/title	<u>Jon M. Erlandson and Madonna L. Moss, Assistant Professors</u>	date <u>August 31, 1996</u>
organization	<u>University of Oregon</u>	telephone <u>(541) 346-6076</u>
street & number	<u>Department of Anthropology</u>	
city or town	<u>Eugene, OR 97403-1218</u>	

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Property Owner
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name	<u>State of Oregon</u>	
department	<u>Oregon State Parks and Recreation Department</u>	telephone <u>(503) 378-5001 ext. 226</u>
street & number	<u>1115 Commercial Street NE</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-LA-10, Lane County, Oregon
Native American Archaeological Sites of the Oregon Coast

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Photograph 1 of 2

3. Photographer: Madonna L. Moss
4. July 20, 1996
5. University of Oregon State Museum of Anthropology
6. View of trampled Area B shell midden adjacent to parking lot; facing northeast
7. Photograph 1 of 2; Black and White Roll 13, Frame 23A

Photograph 2 of 2

3. Photographer: Madonna L. Moss
4. July 20, 1996
5. University of Oregon State Museum of Anthropology
6. Overview of Areas B and C taken from Area A; looking across Bob's Creek with foot paths across Area B shell midden and Area C shell midden exposed in distant seacliff; looking southeast
7. Photograph 2 of 2; Black and White Roll 14, Frame 2

Scoring on Scale of 1 to 5

- 5 - Excellent
- 4 - Very good
- 3 - Good
- 2 - Fair
- 1 - Poor
- 0 - Nonexistent

RATING 45

PRE-HISTORIC ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE

35 LA-10
BOB CREEK SITE

COUNTY LANE

TOWN/VICINITY SEAROSE BEACH

EVALUATOR ATHERTON

DATE FEB 13, 1997

Final Rating

- 50 - 45 Of prime significance
- 44 - 40 Significant
- 39 - 35 Noteworthy
- 34 - 30 Also considered

NATIONAL REGISTER SELECTION RATING SHEET

Checklist on Methodology

- | | <u>Yes</u> | <u>No</u> |
|---|------------|-------------|
| 1. Does the testing strategy provide adequate information on integrity and content of site? | <u>✓</u> | <u> </u> |
| 2. Have site boundaries, horizontal & vertical, been adequately determined? | <u>✓</u> | <u> </u> |
| 3. Has site function been determined? | <u>✓</u> | <u> </u> |
| 4. Have the temporal boundaries of the site been established? | <u>✓</u> | <u> </u> |
| 5. Has context been provided by relating this site to previous archaeology? | <u>✓</u> | <u> </u> |

<u>Factors</u>	<u>Relative Importance</u>		<u>Score</u>	=	<u>Weighted Rating</u>
1. <u>Integrity of site</u> - Site is essentially undisturbed, unencroached.	5.0	X	<u>4</u>	=	<u>20</u>
2. <u>Interpretive potential</u> - Site has yielded, or has potential of yielding important information related to an established body of knowledge about prehistory and/or prehistoric environments.	5.0	X	<u>5</u>	=	<u>25</u>

TOTAL 45

Scoring on Scale of 1 to 5

RATING 46.25

- 5 - Excellent
- 4 - Very good
- 3 - Good
- 2 - Fair
- 1 - Poor
- 0 - Nonexistent

PRE-HISTORIC ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE 35 LA 10

COUNTY LANE

TOWN/VICINITY NEPTUNE ST. PK
SEAROSE BEACH

EVALUATOR Scott E. Stuenkel

DATE _____

Final Rating
 50 - 45 Of prime significance
 44 - 40 Significant
 39 - 35 Noteworthy
 34 - 30 Also considered

NATIONAL REGISTER SELECTION RATING SHEET

Checklist on Methodology

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
1. Does the testing strategy provide adequate information on integrity and content of site?	_____	_____
2. Have site boundaries, horizontal & vertical, been adequately determined?	_____	_____
3. Has site function been determined?	_____	_____
4. Have the temporal boundaries of the site been established?	_____	_____
5. Has context been provided by relating this site to previous archaeology?	_____	_____

<u>Factors</u>	<u>Relative Importance</u>		<u>Score</u>	<u>Weighted Rating</u>
1. <u>Integrity of site</u> - Site is essentially undisturbed, unencroached.	5.0	X	<u>4.25</u> =	<u>21.25</u>
2. <u>Interpretive potential</u> - Site has yielded, or has potential of yielding important information related to an established body of knowledge about prehistory and/or prehistoric environments.	5.0	X	<u>5</u> =	<u>25</u>

TOTAL 46.25

**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.**