DATA SHEET

10 West Williams Avenue 1975 city or town: State Fallon National State 6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS Title of survey: Nevada Historical Sites by Brooke P. Mordy & Donald McCaughey DATE of survey: 1968 Federal State Depository For survey records: One copy at BLM, Nevada State Office		NATIONAL REC	ATES DEPARTMENT OF TH IONAL PARK SERVICE GISTER OF HISTORIC RY - NOMINATION FO EDERAL PROPERTIES	PLACES	к 	TATE: Nevada OUNTY: Churchill FOR NPS US NTRY DATE		
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7. DESCRIPTION (Check One) Excellent Deteriorated Unexposed Good Fair Ruins CONDITION (Check One) (Check One) Altered Unaltered Moved 🖌 Original Site DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE Humboldt Cave lies 4,280 feet above sea level near the southern end of the West Humboldt Mountain Range in Churchill County, Nevada. The cave is today about 6 miles and 220 feet above the bed of a large brackish water sink known as the Humboldt Sink. The cave opening is approximately 8' tall and 6' wide. (see photo below). The cave itself is between 30 to 40 feet deep and averages 8' wide. Z S ᅍ C n TTON 精合

PERIOD (Check	One of More as Ap	opropriate)		
	re-Columbian	16th Century	18th Century	20th Century
ו 🗆 ו	5th Century	17th Century	19th Century	
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9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES				
Nevada Historical Sites by Bro Chu		Mordy and Donald L. County - page 9 and		
Biological and Cultural Eviden	ce		-	
From Prehistoric Human Coproli		Robert F. Heizer and	l Lewis K. Napson	
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Bureau of Land Management	14.2			Z
street and number: Highway 40 East			рноме: 702 623-3676	0 0 0
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12. CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION		NATIONAL REGIST	ER VERIFICATION	<u></u> 6
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nominate this property to the National Register,	certify-		/	5
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Federal Representative Signature Dat Deputy Assistant Secretary	8	Acting Keeper of The Nati	onal Register	
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Form 10-300a (July 1969)	UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE	Nevada		
	NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES	COUNTY Churchill	٦	
	INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM			
		FOR NPS USE ONLY		
	(Continuation Sheet)	ENTRY NUMBER DATE		
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7. Description

Formed by the vertical faulting of a breccia cliff during the Tertiary, Humboldt Cave was once flooded by Pleistocene Lake Lahontan. The lake laid a tufa seal over the inside of the cave, preserving the walls from weathering. A gravel talus slope extends from the front of the cave. Prior to excavation in 1936 by the University of California, Berkeley, the undisturbed cultural layers of the cave were covered by: three to six feet of bat guano.

The cave is surrounded by the high desert scrub typical of the Great Basin. Sagebrush and shadscale are the principle vegetation types in the area. Until recently, the brackish water of Humboldt Sink supported a certain amount of marshy vegetation and its associated wildlife. The presence of water in this part of Nevada has long made the Sink and its environs a camping place for Indian tribes.

The Humbold Cave property lies on private land in a region of public/private checkerboard land ownership. The U. S. Bureau of Land Management has recognized the superlative value of Humboldt Cave. In cognizance that the BLM land management policies directly and intimately affect the contiguous privately owned lands, this agency is nominating Humboldt Cave to the National Register to assure that Federal plans and programs contribute to the preservation and enhancement of non-Federally owned sites, structures, and objects of historical, architectural, or archeological significance.



Form	10-300a
(July	1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

Nevada

COUNTY

INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

Churchll			
FOR NPS USE ONLY			
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(Number all entries) 8. Significance

Humboldt Cave is being nominated to the National Register primarily because of the valuable archeological material recovered from it.

Humboldt Cave is one of a number of prehistorically occupied dry caves in the Humboldt Sink area. Archeological resources in the region are important not only because of their age (up to 11,000 years old), but also because of the perfectly preserved perishable artifacts to be found in the dry caves.

Humboldt Cave, which was first excavated in 1936 by University of California archaeologists, richly illustrates the late "Lovelock Culture" (0 -- A.D. 900). The people who occupied the cave were economically dependent on the gradually receding Humboldt Lake. Its marshy environment provided the inhabitants with fish, waterfowl, seeds, tules, and other water plants. Grass and bark-lined caches found in the cave deposits containing duck decoys, a bird-skin robe, waterfowl remains, and rush mats, show the importance of the lake environment. The surrounding desert ecosystem was also exploited, as can be seen from <u>Apocynum</u> fibre bags, deer or antelope skin pouches, fur robes, and animal bones discovered in the cave fill. Trade or cultural contact with both the Southwest and California west of the Sierras is apparent from certain artifact assemblages of Humboldt Cave.

The well preserved cultural remains of the prehistoric peoples who once occupied Humboldt Cave and the surrounding region serve to illustrate "the amazingly efficient human utilization of the meager and forbidding environment" of western Nevada (Heizer and Krieger; 1956,p.7). The cave deserves to be included on the National Historic Register because of the important scientific and cultural data retrieved from it.



Form 10-3 (July 1969		STATE
-	NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES	Nevada county
	INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM	Churchill
		FOR NPS USE ONLY
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]	 Heizer, R.F. Recent Cave Explorations in t Nevada. <u>Reports of the University of</u> <u>Survey</u>; no. 33, paper 42. University 1956. pp.50-51. 	California Archaeological
2	• Heizer, R.F. and A.D. Krieger The Archaeol Churchill County, Nevada. The University of California, Berkeley. pp	ity of California Pub- Ethnology, vol. 47, no. 1.
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