

PH0503142

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	AUG 29 1977
DATE ENTERED	MAY 22 1978

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Track Bus No. 19, Hetch Hetchy Railroad; Rail Ambulance

AND/OR COMMON

Rail-car No. 19

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Not applicable

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

El Portal

VICINITY OF

Fifteenth

STATE

California

CODE

06

COUNTY

Mariposa

CODE

043

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 AGENCY

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)

National Park Service - Western Regional Office

STREET & NUMBER

450 Golden Gate Avenue - Box 36063

CITY, TOWN

San Francisco

VICINITY OF

STATE

California

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Administration Building (Park Headquarters)

STREET & NUMBER

Government Center - Yosemite Village

CITY, TOWN

(Not applicable) Yosemite National Park

STATE

California

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

None

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MOVED
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		DATE <u>c. 1960</u>

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Track Bus No. 19 is a gas-powered vehicle designed and built for the Hetch Hetchy Railroad in 1919 by A. Meisler and Sons of Sacramento, California. It consists of a 3/4 ton standard White truck chassis converted for use on railroad track, with a 12-passenger body. The undercarriage, built by the San Francisco Municipal Railway, features a pony truck, a rear wheel braking system, and a self-contained turntable. The body of No. 19 has three doors on each side, leather side curtains, and was fitted out for use as an ambulance. It was painted red and black with gold lettering. No. 19 was the fastest of all the gas-powered vehicles in service on the Hetch Hetchy Railroad. It could travel 50 miles per hour, at 16 miles per gallon of gasoline.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input 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 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" 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 1919 BUILDER/ARCHITECT A. Meister and Sons, and
San Francisco Municipal Railway

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Track Bus No. 19 is of local historical significance in the category of transportation. It is one of the few survivors of the gasoline-powered rigs which ran on the Hetch Hetchy Railroad. Its design was completely unique and peculiar to the Hetch Hetchy Railroad.

The Hetch Hetchy Railroad was noteworthy for the number and diversity of gasoline engined vehicles which ran on its rails. The railroad required frequent special runs for transferring crews, emergency delivery of equipment, and ambulance service. The gas-powered vehicles were very economical, flexible, and speedy. No. 19 was a multi-purpose car; it carried passengers and also functioned as the ambulance for the project. Track Bus No. 19 was sold in 1949 to railroad enthusiast and historian Al Rose, who stored the car in a museum in Modesto until the National Park Service provided a place for it at the transportation museum at El Portal.

The Hetch Hetchy Railroad, for which this car was built and on which it operated, was a regionally significant railroad built in the Sierra Nevada Mountains and owned and operated by the city of San Francisco. It extended 68 miles from Hetch Hetchy Junction on the Sierra Railroad through Groveland to the site of construction of O'Shaughnessy Dam in the Hetch Hetchy Valley in Yosemite National Park. The railroad was built for the purpose of hauling construction materials used in the building of the dam and other portions of the Hetch Hetchy Project, an engineering project of regional historical significance to impound water in the Sierra Nevada and transport it across the Central Valley of California and the Coast Range to the city of San Francisco as needed and to produce hydroelectric power in the transportation of the water. Construction of the dam itself proceeded from 1915 to 1923, and it was dedicated on July 7, 1923; subsequently between 1934 and 1938 it was raised 85½ feet by new construction and rededicated in October 1938. The railroad which hauled the material for both jobs was begun in 1914 and scrapped in 1950.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Ted Wurm, Hetch Hetchy and its Dam Railroad. (Berkeley: Howell-North Books, 1973); see index under "HHRR track buses", and especially see pages 65, 151, 153, 155, 157, 196, 242, 243, 246, 271, 273.
 Hank Johnston, Short Line to Paradise. (Yosemite: Flying Spur Press, 1962).

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Not relevant - object
 UTM REFERENCES

*less than 1 acre
 260000*

A	1 1	2 5 4 87 5	4 1 7 3 20 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The above UTM reference identifies the present location of this object; as an object, this track bus is not site connected, and its significance is not dependent upon location; it may be moved without affecting its significance or National Register listing, although if moved, a correction of location in the form of a new UTM reference must be filed with the National Register.

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

Merrill Ann Wilson, Historical Architect

ORGANIZATION

National Park Service - Denver Service Center

DATE

May 1976

STREET & NUMBER

655 Parfet Street, P.O. Box 25287

TELEPHONE

303 234-5545

CITY OR TOWN

Denver (Lakewood)

STATE

Colorado

80225

12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES

NO

NONE

JUN 23 1977

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Hester Moses

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

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

[Signature]

TITLE Deputy Assistant Secretary

DATE AUG 19 1977

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

ATTEST:

[Signature]
 DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

5-22-78

DATE

5-12-78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER