

CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION

**DRAFT**

**Patsiata Historic District  
Lone Pine (vicinity), Inyo County**

**THIS NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES NOMINATION  
CONTAINS RESTRICTED INFORMATION**

Traditional property locations are considered confidential and public access to such information is restricted by law (Section 304 of the National Historic Preservation Act; Section 9(a) of the Archaeological Resources Protection Act; Executive Order 13007; Section 6254.10 of the California State Government Code). The following summary of the description and significance of the above-named resource is available for public access.

Encompassing approximately 186 square miles (119,313 acres), Patsiata Tübiji Nüümü-na Awaedu Ananisudüheina (Patsiata Historic District) is in southern Payahuunadü (Owens Valley), in Inyo County, California. The district includes Patsiata (Owens Lake) and the many shorelines formed as lake levels fluctuated over the past 14,000 years. Patsiata's early Holocene shoreline largely defines the district boundary. For the Nüümü and Newe (called the Paiute and Shoshone by anthropologists) with traditional roots in Payahuunadü, Patsiata has been the center of culture and way of life since time immemorial. Tribal histories attest to the antiquity of this importance.

Contributing resources include springs, and portions of streams, the river, and the route of the Forced March that fall within the district. The overarching landscape is counted as a single additional resource. The forty-eight noncontributing resources consist of non-Indigenous buildings, sites, and structures that overlay portions of Patsiata Historic District. The noncontributing resources cover less than one percent of the landscape, and do not adversely impact the property's capacity to convey its significance.

The documentation for the district is based on oral histories conducted with knowledgeable Tribal Elders and other cultural experts and published and unpublished archival resources. Important features of the district include places central to origin stories, springs, streams, and the river, as well as the lake itself. Patsiata Historic District has integrity of location, setting, association, and feeling. Despite many changes to the property since 1860, the district also retains integrity of design, materials, and workmanship. Most importantly, the district retains its integral relationship to traditional cultural practices and beliefs.

Patsiata Historic District is a traditional cultural property significant under Criteria A, B, C, and D. The district is eligible at the local level of significance under Criterion A for its association with the creation of the world and the lifeways and history of the Nüümü and Newe of Payahuunadü. The district is also a manifestation of Indigenous resilience and

resistance in the face of ethnic-based persecution and violence. Specifically, it is associated with three Indigenous families who originally occupied the lake region and who ensured the cultural continuity of the Nüümü and Newe there.

At the national level of significance, the district is a physical, place-based manifestation of the United States' genocidal policies toward the Indigenous inhabitants of the American West and the colonization of Indigenous homelands in what became the United States of America. Further, the district is associated with attempts to erase and diminish traditional culture through forced assimilation and the usurpation of Indigenous land-use patterns. Patsiata is eligible at the local level of significance under Criterion B for its association with seven individuals important in Nüümü and Newe history.

Patsiata is eligible at the local level of significance under Criterion C as a unique cultural landscape that includes many features related to creation and to the continued maintenance and restoration of balance in the world. The district is a sacred landscape that embodies the Nüümü and Newe's traditional way of life and long history and represents adaptations to severe climatic fluctuations in the past and to the even more devastating incursions of Euroamericans in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. In addition, the district manifests the application of traditional ecological knowledge. For the Nüümü and Newe, this importance permeates both individually distinctive features within the district and the landscape as a whole. Under Criterion D, Patsiata is eligible at the local level of significance as a focus for passing on culture and history to younger generations, and for sharing ecologically relevant traditional knowledge with agencies responsible for land stewardship. The period of significance is from Creation through the present.