

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

NATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Kuchamaa (Tecate Peak)
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number _____ not for publication
city, town Tecate vicinity
state California code LA county San Diego code 073 zip code 92080

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u> buildings
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____ sites
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	<u>1</u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	_____	<u>1</u> objects
		<u>1</u>	<u>4</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: _____
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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 meets 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. See continuation sheet.
Stade R. Craig 5/22/92
Signature of certifying official Date
John J. Savage, Preservation Officer, Bureau of Land Management
State or Federal agency and bureau 8/18/92

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.
Signature of commenting or other official _____ Date _____
SHPO, California

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:
 entered in the National Register. Autonietta Glee 10/6/92
 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): _____
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)
ReligionCurrent Functions (enter categories from instructions)
Ceremonial Site or Shrine/Public Use

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

NA

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation

walls NA

roof

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Tecate Peak (Kuchamaa), located 25 air miles east of the Pacific Ocean, rises to an elevation of 3,885 feet above mean sea level. Located in southern California adjacent to the International Border, the mountain lies largely in the United States between the communities of Dulzura and Potrero. Tecate, Mexico sprawls for several miles along the southeastern base of the peak.

As part of the Southern California Batholith, Tecate Peak is a rugged granitic boulder strewn mountain. The peak is actually an isolated, gigantic outcrop which has differentially weathered. The overgrowth of vegetation creates an illusion that the mountain is covered by thousands of granitic outcrops. The entire region is characterized by precipitous mountains interspersed by broad valleys. The view from the peak is breathtaking. Evans-Wentz puts it aptly: "(the) summit affords an unimpeded view of unique grandeur in every direction, limited only by the immense circle of the world's horizon" (1981:10).

Kuchamaa is the Kumeyaay term for Tecate Peak. This mountain was first identified as sacred in an ethnographic study describing the Kumeyaay Indians of southern California and northern Baja California, Mexico (Cuero 1970). The bulk of data, however, comes from Native American interviews (Woods 1980, Talley 1981, Robertson 1982). The studies by Woods and Talley were initiated in support of environmental documentation to evaluate potential project impacts. The late Mrs. Rosalie Robertson, a recognized Kumeyaay leader, was specially interviewed to augment existing information.

The mountain describes a series of topographic ellipses oriented northeast to southwest. The western flank consists of several dissected subpeaks. Tecate Peak's north edge drops sharply to Highway 94 to an elevation of less than 1,000 feet above mean sea level. The eastern aspect culminates at an upland bench. Finally, the southern segment consists of a spine which continues into Mexico.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Period of Significance

Significant Dates

Religion

Ethnographic to 1942

Cultural Affiliation

Kumeyaay/Juaneno

Significant Person

NA

Architect/Builder

NA

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

As a sacred mountain to the Kumeyaay Indians, Kuchamaa meets National Register criteria "A", since this mountain has a "quality of significance in American culture which possesses integrity of feeling and association," and which is "associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our (Native American) history." Which is to say that, Kuchamaa is a religious property deriving much of its significance from its historical importance. Even though the mountain has been some what compromised by non-contributing features, it continues to retain its integrity of feeling and association.

Kuchamaa is of paramount religious importance to the Kumeyaay people of today as it was to those of the past. Use of the mountain has attracted Native Americans from both southern California and northern Baja California (Voigt 1990). For these people, the peak is a special place, marking the location for acquisition of knowledge and power by shamans. Oral tradition tells of important shamans who used Kuchamaa as a center to instruct their initiates (Robertson 1982).

Imbued with power by one of the Kumeyaay creator-gods, the mountain was and remains the site for important rites and rituals, including vision quests and purification ceremonies. Contemporary Native Americans most frequently use Kuchamaa during periods of full moon and equinoxes. At these times Native Americans pray for renewal of Earth Mother and peace (Voigt 1990).

See continuation sheet



OVERVIEW OF KUCHAMAA, Looking WEST-Southwest. NOTE STEEP, HEAVY ROCK EXPOSURES
NOMINATION is for that portion ABOVE 3,000'

CA, SAN DIEGO



THE ROAD LEADING TO THE PEAK AND THE COMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES AT THE SUMMIT. BOTH ARE NON-CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES OF KUCHAMA.