

**DATA SHEET**

PH0679127

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	MAR 12 1979
DATE ENTERED	APR 19 1979

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

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Soda Springs Cabin, (John Lembert Homestead)

APR 2 1978

AND/OR COMMON

Soda Springs Enclosure

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

Not applicable (At Tuolumne Meadows)

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Not applicable see Vinings

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

(Yosemite National Park)

VICINITY OF

El Portal

Fourteenth

STATE

California

CODE

06

COUNTY

Tuolumne

CODE

109

**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 type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" 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	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: None

**4 AGENCY**

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)

National Park Service - Western Regional Office

STREET & NUMBER

450 Golden Gate Avenue - Box 36063

CITY, TOWN

San Francisco

STATE

California

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Park Headquarters (Administration Building)

STREET & NUMBER

P.O. Box 577

CITY, TOWN

Yosemite National Park

STATE

California

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

List of Classified Structures

DATE

1975

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

National Park Service - Western Regional Office

CITY, TOWN

San Francisco

STATE

California

## 7 DESCRIPTION

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

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### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Soda Springs Cabin was built around 1889 by John Lember, directly over a small bubbling spring. The cabin was not likely used for regular habitation because of its small size, nine feet by eleven feet, the fact that it had no windows, and the spring bubbling over the dirt floor, which would have made living conditions difficult. It was probably a spring house, built to prevent the grazing stock from fouling the springs.

In its present condition, the four walls are no more than eight logs high--about seven feet--and the roof is non-existent. The logs are peeled and weathered, and interlocked securely at the corners with a "V"-notched joint. The chinking no longer exists. The door frame is in the middle of the north side of the building.

## 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input 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 c. 1885-1889

BUILDER/ARCHITECT John Baptiste Lembert

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Soda Springs cabin is all that remains of the pioneer homestead of John Baptiste Lembert, the first white man to settle in the Tuolumne Meadows region of Yosemite. As such, it possesses an associative local historical significance in the category of exploration and settlement, and local significance in the category of science through Lembert's contributions to the field of entomology made while he lived in the meadows.

Lembert had lived in Tuolumne Meadows for about three summers before filing claim to 160 acres on August 15, 1885. During that time he lived a rather solitary existence in this remote area, visited occasionally by sheepherders or a wandering prospector. His first efforts towards taking legal possession were directed toward fencing the land and building a small log cabin. Here he lived, tending a small flock of goats, from spring thaw until the first autumn storms, when he moved to his winter quarters near Cascade Creek in Yosemite Valley. He built the enclosure over the largest of the soda springs on the property about 1889. In 1890, Lembert served as a guide to Dr. Harrison Dyar, lepidopterist of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine. After this visit, Lembert began collecting and sending specimens, many of historic value, to both the Bureau and the Smithsonian Institution. He also began collecting for the University of California. Dyar reported that Lembert had obviously received an excellent education in Latin and the classics during his youth in New York, and Lembert "knew what he was looking for." Dyar later named a species of moth Hepialis lemberti in honor of his guide. In 1890, Yosemite National Park was established, encompassing Lembert's homestead; but on June 23, 1895, he nevertheless obtained title by U.S. Patent to the quarter section of land. More and more people were traversing the meadow, the Great Sierra Wagon Road passing directly in front of his property, yet Lembert remained the only "permanent" summer resident of the area. By the time of his death he had gained fame as a guide to the Tuolumne region and as an all-round naturalist. He was murdered in his cabin at Cascade Creek during the winter of 1896-1897 apparently for a small sum of money. Significantly his obituary appeared in the Entomological News.

The Soda Springs cabin remains today as the last structure associated with one of Yosemite's noted pioneers, first settler of Tuolumne Meadows, and an amateur naturalist who left his mark on the field of entomology.

#### Resource management

The significant values requiring preservation here include the cabin and any potential the site of vanished structures nearby may have to provide data through historical archeology.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Colby, William, "Jean Baptiste Lumbert: A Personal Memory." Yosemite Nature Notes, Vol. 29, No. 9 (Sept. 1949), pp. 113-117.  
 Ferretti, John V., "Surveying the Tioga Road", Yosemite Nature Notes, Vol. 29, No. 9. (September 194 )  
 Lumbert, John Baptiste, Manuscript Biographical File, Yosemite Park Research Library Mariposa County Hall of Records, Great Register (1880-1900)  
 (continued)

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY           .9          

UTM REFERENCES

A	<u>11</u>	<u>29, 19, 41</u>	<u>4, 19, 48, 0, 0</u>	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundary is a square, 200 feet on each side, with the Soda Springs Cabin centered.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Leslie Starr Hart, Cultural Resources Specialist

ORGANIZATION

National Park Service - Denver Service Center

DATE

September 1975

STREET & NUMBER

655 Parfet Street, Box 25287

TELEPHONE

(303) 234-4509

CITY OR TOWN

Denver

STATE

Colorado

**12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION**

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

12-4-78

YES

NO

NONE

Kurt Miller  
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

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

Asst. Dir. Cultural Resources

DATE

3/2/79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Charles Adams for

DATE

4-19-79

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

4-19-79



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES    ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Soda Springs Cabin

AND/OR COMMON

Soda Springs Cabin

**2 LOCATION**

CITY, TOWN

Tuolumne Meadows, Yosemite Nat'l Park

VICINITY OF

COUNTY

Tuolumne

STATE

CA

**3 PHOTO REFERENCE**

PHOTO CREDIT

Dean Shenk, National Park Service

DATE OF PHOTO

9/75

NEGATIVE FILED AT

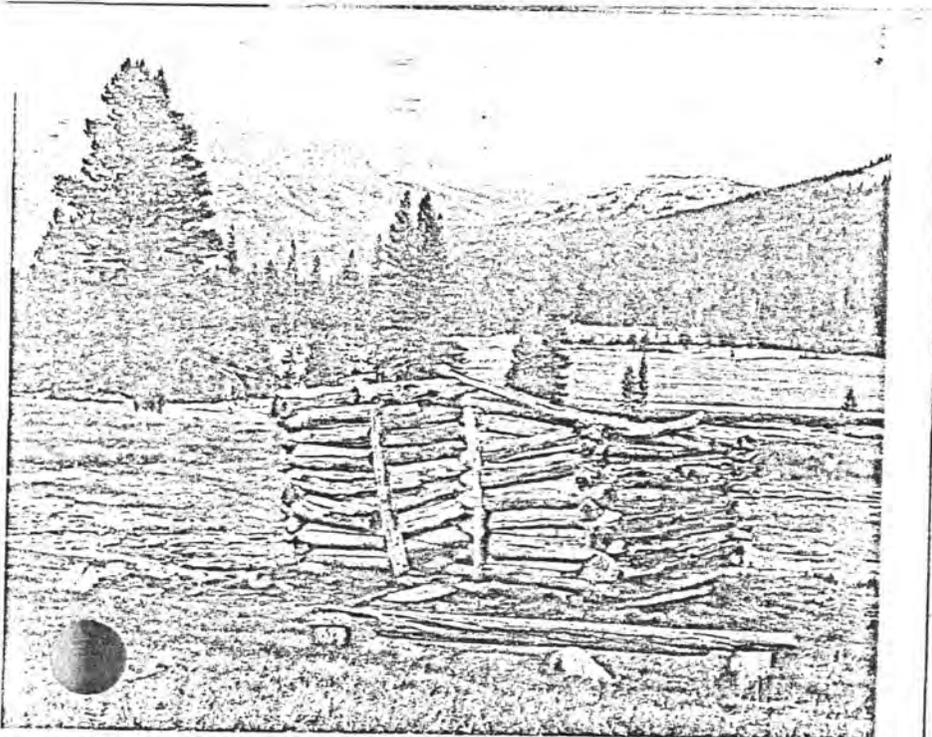
Western Regional Office, NPS, 450 Golden Gate Ave, Box 36063, San Francisco, CA

**4 IDENTIFICATION**

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

PHOTO NO.

Soda Springs Cabin, North & west sides



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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH MAP

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Soda Springs Cabin

AND/OR COMMON

Soda Springs Cabin

**2 LOCATION**

CITY, TOWN

— VICINITY OF

COUNTY

STATE

Tuolumne Meadows, Yosemite Nat'l Park

Tuolumne

CA

**3 MAP REFERENCE**

SOURCE U.S.G.S

SCALE 1:62500

DATE 1956

**4 REQUIREMENTS**

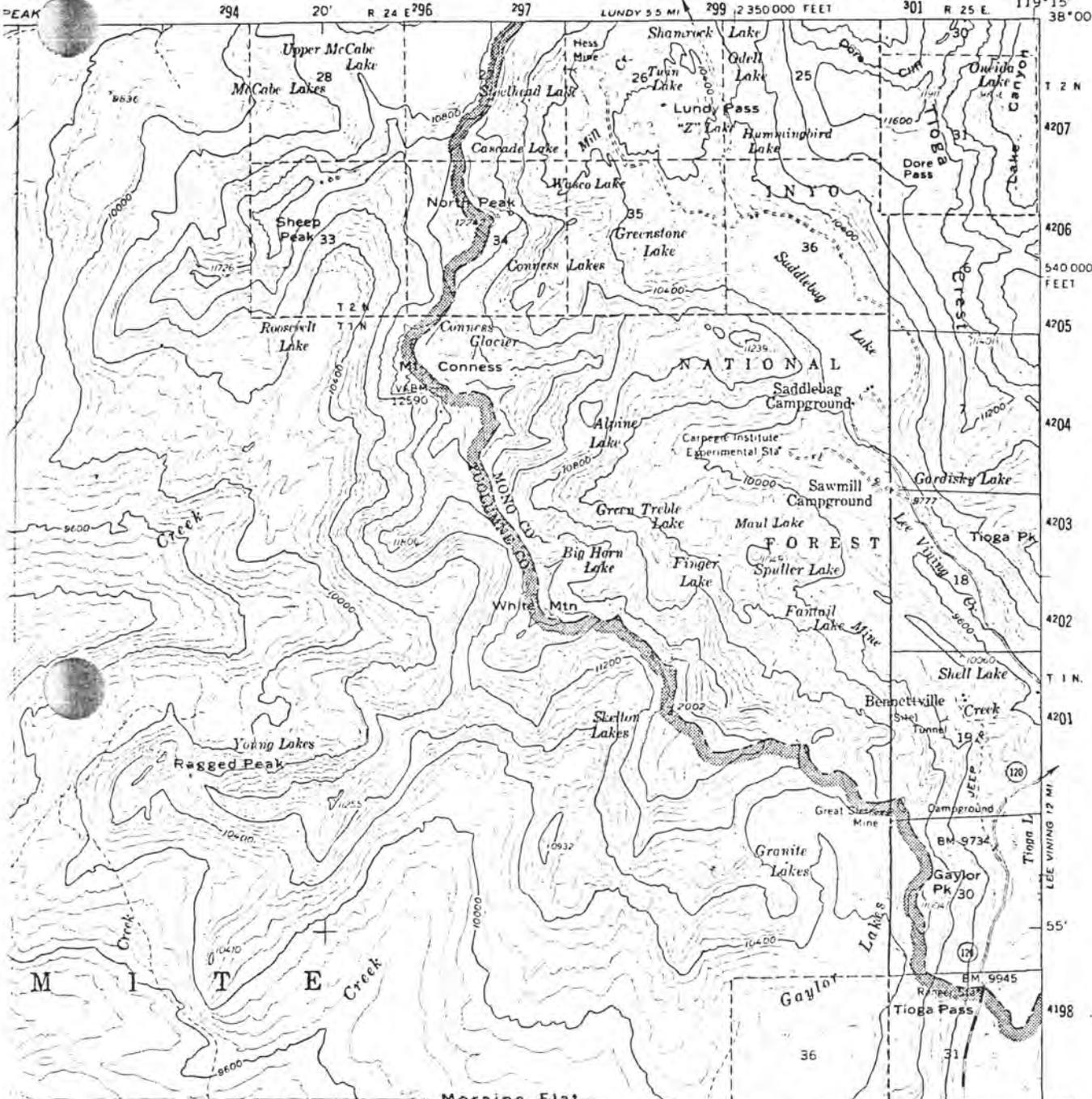
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. PROPERTY BOUNDARIES
2. NORTH ARROW
3. UTM REFERENCES

IFORNIA  
RESOURCES

TUOLUMNE MEADOWS QUADRANGLE  
CALIFORNIA  
15 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

21 60 N  
18000 E



SODA SPRINGS ENCLOSURE  
Yosemite National Park:UTM references:

A 11/291941/4194800

