

CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION

CA-ORA-855

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

Archaeological and 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.

Archaeological site CA-ORA-855, a large village and cemetery occupied by the Acjachemen/Juaneño people from approximately 1400 to 1800, is located on a 28.9-acre privately owned parcel in Orange County, California.

A chief who lived in a heavily populated place called Seját, together with several families from Seját and his daughter Coronne, traveled south to find a good spot to establish a new village. They stopped at what is now CA-ORA-855 and established a settlement. The chief appointed his daughter as the leader of the village; he then returned to the north. Coronne had a condition that made her navel protrude, and she came to be called Putiidhem, which means protruding navel. The village was called Putiidhem in her honor.

The village of Putiidhem was the first village established in the San Juan Capistrano Valley by Native Americans of the Late Prehistoric Era, or approximately 600 years before present. It was still occupied at the time of Spanish exploration into Alta California, and the inhabitants were inducted into and helped to build the mission and local historic adobes.

Archaeologists have investigated the site intermittently for more than 30 years, primarily through the use of professionally directed community college field classes. Their findings support identification of the site as a major village during the Late Prehistoric, Protohistoric, and Early Historic periods. Ethnohistoric research suggests that the site is that of Putiidhem.

CA-ORA-855/Putiidhem represents a significant chronological period and cultural affiliation in the archaeology, history, and culture of southern California, and it has the characteristics that make it representative of properties associated with that context. The site is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of California's prehistory, the Spanish and Mexican eras, and present day local inhabitants of Orange County, particularly the Native Americans.

CA-ORA-855/Putiidhem is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places at the local level of significance under Criteria A, B, and D. Under Criterion A in the areas of History (prehistoric; historic: aboriginal), Ethnic Heritage (Native American), and Exploration/Settlement (Native American; Spanish), the property is associated with the historically rooted beliefs, customs, and practices of the Native Americans of the San Juan Capistrano Valley, with a period of significance 1400 to 1800. Under Criterion B with a period of significance circa 1400 the property is associated with Coronne, co-founder of Putiidhem and its first leader. Under Criterion D in the area of Archaeology (prehistoric; historic) the site has yielded, and is likely to yield, information important in prehistory and history, with a period of significance 1400 to 1800.