1. NAME

COMMON: Sioux Trail
AND/OR HISTORIC: Bad Pass Trail

2. LOCATION

Bighorn Canyon NRA
STREET AND NUMBER: parallel to unimproved road to Barry's Landing on northern end, longitude 108° 14' 40", southern end latitude 44° 55' 40", Carbon County, Montana
CITY OR TOWN: Red Lodge
STREET AND NUMBER: 10th and C Streets, NW
CITY OR TOWN: Washington

3. CLASSIFICATION

<table>
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<tr>
<th>CATEGORY (Check One)</th>
<th>OWNERSHIP</th>
<th>STATUS</th>
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<td>Restricted</td>
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<td>Private</td>
<td>Unoccupied</td>
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<td>Both</td>
<td>In Process</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Agricultural
- Commercial
- Educational
- Entertainment
- Government
- Industrial
- Military
- Religious
- Museum
- Scientific
- Park
- Private Residence
- Other (Specify)
- Transportation
- Comments

4. AGENCY

National Park Service
REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: Rocky Mountain Region
CITY OR TOWN: Denver
STREET AND NUMBER: 655 Farbet St., N.W., Box 25287
CITY OR TOWN: Washington
STREET AND NUMBER: 10th and C Streets, NW
CITY OR TOWN: Red Lodge

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Carbon County Courthouse
STATE: Montana
CITY OR TOWN: Red Lodge

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: "History Basic Data, Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area"
DATE OF SURVEY: 1969
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Office of Park Historic Preservation
STREET AND NUMBER: 10th and C Streets, NW
CITY OR TOWN: Washington
STATE: DC
CODE: 0010
FOR NPS USE ONLY
It is thought that the placement of a rock upon a rock cairn by a passing Indian was also a token of "wishing well" to those who followed. According to tradition, it is also believed that the passing Indian occasionally tossed a small artifact such as a bead or some other small personal item on these rock cairns as a means of pleasing the "great spirit" and of communicating with him.

Segments of the Bad Pass Trail were obliterated years ago when the existing road was constructed to provide access to ranches in the area. However, portions of the trail are also clearly visible as it parallels in places the present roadbed. The rock cairns stand out in stark relief and it has been estimated that perhaps as many as 300 still exist. Numerous examples of these formations may be found between the Devil's Canyon Overlook and Barry's Landing. However, there are, as well, notable instances where the Bad Pass Trail has disappeared.

These portions of the Bad Pass Trail that do survive are largely in their original state. Several rock cairns have been archeologically investigated and reconstructed stone by stone as they were. The level of treatment proposed for preservation of this trace is to maintain it in its present state and to prevent any further deterioration. The proposed level of treatment also envisions interpretive exhibits to the extent practicable at key points along the Bad Pass Trail as a further means of informing the visiting public of its significance and discouraging vandalism.

The approximate location of the Bad Pass Trail is shown within a defined rectangular sensitive area on the three accompanying U.S.G.S. Quadrangle Maps. If later determinations resulting from study of the trail indicate minor modifications of the trail route are needed, this will be accomplished by amendment of the present forms.
8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian
- 16th Century
- 18th Century
- 17th Century
- 19th Century
- 20th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Aboriginal
- Prehistoric
- Historic
- Agriculture
- Architecture
- Art
- Commerce
- Communications
- Conservation
- Education
- Engineering
- Industry
- Invention
- Landscape Architecture
- Literature
- Military
- Music
- Philosophy
- Science
- Sculpture
- Social/Humanitarian
- Theater
- Transportation
- Urban Planning
- Other (Specify)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

On the basis of archeological investigations during the summers of 1973 and 1974, it has been determined that aboriginal peoples occupied these Northwest Plains from at least as early as 7000 B.C. The Bad Pass Trail may date from these earliest times or be a somewhat later representative example of foot trails followed by an early Indian population, pioneers, trappers and early explorers. The records do establish that the Bad Pass Trail was much travelled by many peoples from pre-Columbian times up to the middle 1830's.

For the Indians who lived in the Bighorn Basin it was their access to the Grapevine area where the bison herds were more plentiful than in the area from which they came. Thus, for the Indians the Bad Pass Trail was an important factor in sustaining their everyday way of life.

During the years that the fur trade was at its apogee, as cited on pages 59, 85, and 86 of the Bearss study, the Indian trail leading across Bad Pass was frequented by the mountain men. On three occasions, following the rendezvous of 1824, 1825, and 1833, the beaver packs were sent to St. Louis by way of Bad Pass and the Bighorn, Yellowstone and Missouri Rivers. Major Henry pioneered the route in 1824; in 1825 General Ashley packed pelts valued in the amount of $50,000 over the pass; and in 1833 three companies, travelling together, negotiated this route. Bad Pass was also used by the trappers in their movements to and from the Bighorn Basin to the land of the Crow and Blackfoot.
9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES


10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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<td>108° 15' 23&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>NE</td>
<td>45° 07' 25&quot;</td>
<td>108° 13' 31&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>SE</td>
<td>44° 58' 49&quot;</td>
<td>108° 16' 06&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>SW</td>
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<td>108° 17' 56&quot;</td>
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APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 5,372.29

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

<table>
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<tr>
<th>STATE</th>
<th>CODE</th>
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<td>Wyoming</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>Big Horn</td>
<td>1033</td>
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</table>

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: George C. Mackenzie, Historian

BUSINESS ADDRESS: Rocky Mountain Region, National Park Service

655 Farlef Street, P.O. Box 25287

CITY OR TOWN: Denver

STATE: Colorado

PHONE: 303-234-4943

DATE: August 1, 1974

12. CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

State Liaison Officer recommendation: [ ] Yes [ ] No [ ] None

State Liaison Officer Signature: [Signature]

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

Local [ ]

SEP 5 1975

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 10/29/75

ATTEST:

Deputy Assistant Secretary

Date: 10/21/75
7. DESCRIPTION, continued:

Much of the Bad Pass Trail has been obliterated. That portion of it as drawn within the defined elongated rectangle was based upon identification of rock cairns along the route it followed and as such it represents an identifiable segment of an original trail of much greater length. It has been drawn in accordance with the recommendations of Dr. Lawrence Loendorf who has completed extensive archeological investigations within Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area. A verbal boundary description of the land area encompassed in the nomination would state: All the acreage within the delineated yellow rectangle on the three accompanying U.S.G.S. quadrangle maps.
1. NAME
   COMMON: Sioux Trail
   AND/OR HISTORIC: Bad Pass Trail

2. LOCATION
   (same as for photo 2)
   STREET AND NUMBER:
   CITY OR TOWN:
   STATE: Montana
   CODE 30
   COUNTY
   CODE

3. PHOTO REFERENCE
   PHOTO CREDIT: Richard Lake, S. District Manager
   DATE OF PHOTO:
   NEGATIVE FILED AT: Bighorn Canyon NRA

4. IDENTIFICATION
   DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.
   The Bad Pass Trail looking south from existing road in the Booz Canyon area one mile north of Yellow Hill

RECEIVED
NOV 18 1974
NATIONAL
REGISTER
## National Register of Historic Places

### Property Photograph Form

**Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. NAME</th>
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<tr>
<td>COMMON: Sioux Trail</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>2. LOCATION</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bighorn Canyon NRA - parallel to unimproved road to Barry's Landing. On northern end latitude 45°17'25&quot; longitude 108°14'46&quot; and on southern end latitude 44°58'48&quot; longitude 108°17'19&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHOTO CREDIT: Richard Lake, S. District Manager</td>
</tr>
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<td>DATE OF PHOTO: 8/74</td>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rock cairns created by passing Indians on the Bad Pass Trail in Booz Canyon Area one mile north of Yellow Hill.</td>
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</table>

**State:** Montana  
**County:** Carbon  
**Entry Number:** 1975  
**Date:** OCT 29 1975

**Photo Credit:** Richard Lake, S. District Manager

**Date of Photo:** 8/74

**Negative Filed At:** Bighorn Canyon NRA

**Received:** NOV 13 1974

**NATIONAL REGISTER**