**1. NAME**

**COMMON:**
Old Natchez Trace (No. 132-3T)

**AND/OR HISTORIC:**
Path to Choctaw Nation, Chickasaw Trace, Natchez Trace

**2. LOCATION**

**STREET AND NUMBER:**
P.O. Box 211 - Natchez Trace Parkway, milepost #45.8

**CITY OR TOWN:**
Port Gibson

**STATE:**
Mississippi

**COUNTY:**
Claiborne

**ENTRY DATE:**
NOV 7 1976

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CATEGORY (Check One)</th>
<th>OWNERSHIP</th>
<th>STATUS</th>
<th>ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>District Building</td>
<td>Public</td>
<td>Occupied</td>
<td>Restricted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Site Object</td>
<td>Private</td>
<td>In Process</td>
<td>Unrestricted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Structure</td>
<td>Both</td>
<td>Being Considered</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate):**

- Agricultural
- Commercial
- Educational
- Entertainment
- Government
- Industrial
- Military
- Museum
- Private Residence
- Religious
- Scientific
- Transportation

**4. AGENCY**

**U.S. Department of Interior, National Park Service, Natchez Trace Parkway**

**REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS:** (If applicable)

**3401 Whipple Avenue**

**CITY OR TOWN:**
Southeast

**STATE:**
Georgia

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

**COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:**
Chancery Clerk's Office

**STREET AND NUMBER:**

**CITY OR TOWN:**
Port Gibson

**STATE:**
Mississippi

**COUNTY:**
Claiborne

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

**TITLE OF SURVEY:**
Natchez Trace Parkway Survey, United States Government Printing Office

**DATE OF SURVEY:**
1941

**DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:**
Library of Congress

**STREET AND NUMBER:**

**CITY OR TOWN:**
Washington

**STATE:**
District of Columbia

**CODE:**
001
Preservation recommended

The Old Natchez Trace at this point heads north toward Big Bayou Pierre and what was historically known as Grindstone Ford. This is an interpretive site on the Natchez Trace and there are exhibits telling of the Trace and Grindstone Ford. There is also a parking lot here, and visitors walk a short trail to the Old Trace where they may walk to the river. Only a corridor of trees lines the Old Trace, with the area surrounding it being open. Historically, it no doubt was wooded, and Grindstone Ford was known as the "jumping off point into the wilderness" for northbound travelers. At the time of the Civil War there was a bridge at the crossing, but it has since been destroyed. The trail is maintained and is very smooth with some banks as high as 10 feet. Trees are now growing on the sides of the trail and there is some erosion. This trail was used up until the 1900's.

Longitude: 90° 53' 46"  Latitude: 32° 00' 11"

Acreage: .89

Recommended treatment: Preservation

Preliminary cost estimate for above: $600.00

Photographs enclosed
When Europeans began to explore the Old Southwest, they found a network of trails which showed a marked tendency to follow watershed divides, avoiding wherever possible stream crossings and swamps. Several of these trails, though individually unimportant, led southwesterly from Nashville, Tennessee, to Natchez, Mississippi.

One such trail was the Chickasaw Trace which ran from Nashville to about Tupelo, Mississippi, to the Chickasaw Nation. There it intersected another trail which connected to the Choctaw and Natchez Tribes and which appears on French maps of the 1730's. The southern part of the trail appears on British maps of the 1770's as the "Path to the Choctaw Nation." These trails often shifted with the weather and population as towns sprang up nearby.

Explorers and traders traveled over these trails and they let it be known that they connected Natchez and Nashville. In 1785 a small scow from Pittsburgh loaded with flour landed at Spanish Natchez. This was the beginning of the Natchez Trace as the Boatmen's Trail. From this humble beginning, western products began to flow down the Mississippi to Natchez and New Orleans. The effect on the western economy was enormous. This was the major outlet of trade for them.

In 1798 the Mississippi Territory was formed and traffic increased so much there was a demand to improve the road. By 1810 about 8-10,000 people were using the road. It was also important to have a good line of communication between the Federal Government and the capital of the Mississippi Territory.

In 1801 President Thomas Jefferson authorized improvement on the Natchez Trace and work began in that year and ended in 1807. Postal service also began on the Old Natchez Trace in 1800 and continued until the 1830's. Stands or inns, such as Mount Locust, sprang up along the Trace until 50 were located between Natchez and Nashville.

In 1812 the United States declared war on England. Gen. Andrew Jackson's Tennessee Militia was ordered down the Natchez Trace to protect New Orleans from a threatened British invasion. This invasion never materialized, and he and his men returned over the Trace to their homes. It was on this march that Jackson won the sobriquet "Old Hickory." The Natchez Trace Parkway was created in 1938 to memorialize the Old Natchez Trace.

Significance: 1st order
9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES


10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Corner</th>
<th>Latitude (Degrees Minutes Seconds)</th>
<th>Longitude (Degrees Minutes Seconds)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NW</td>
<td>32° 00' 11&quot;</td>
<td>90° 53' 11&quot;</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SW</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES

LATITUDE: 32° 00' 11"
LONGITUDE: 90° 53' 11"

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 89 acres Class VI

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

STATE: CODE
STATE: CODE
STATE: CODE
STATE: CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY
NAME AND TITLE: William E. Cox, Assistant Chief Park Interpreter
DATE: 09/09/74

BUSINESS ADDRESS:
Natchez Trace Parkway
STREET AND NUMBER: R. R. 1, NT-143
CITY OR TOWN: Tupelo
STATE: Mississippi
STATE CODE: 28

12. CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

State Liaison Officer recommendation:
- Yes
- No
- None

State Liaison Officer Signature: Elma R. Williams

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

Federal Representative Signature: [Signature]
[Title]
[Date]

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Acting Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 11/9/76

ATTEST:
[Signature]
Keeper of The National Register
[Title]
[Date]
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

1. NAME
COMMON: Old Natchez Trace (No. 132-3T)
AND/OR HISTORIC: Path to Choctaw Nation

2. LOCATION
STREET AND NUMBER:
P. O. Box 211 - Natchez Trace Parkway, milepost # 45.8
CITY OR TOWN:
Port Gibson
STATE:
Mississippi
CODE: 39150
COUNTY: 28 Claiborne

3. PHOTO REFERENCE
PHOTO CREDIT: William E. Cox
DATE OF PHOTO: August 27, 1974
NEGATIVE FILED AT:
Natchez Trace Parkway, Tupelo, MS 38801 Negative No. 1124

4. IDENTIFICATION
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.
Facing north, this is the Old Natchez Trace crossing of Grindstone Ford on Big Bayou Pierre River. Upper righthand of photo is old bridge abutment. Photographer is standing on east bank of river. Old Trace is behind him. This was known as the jumping off point into the wilderness for northbound travelers.
COMMON: Old Natchez Trace (No. 132-3T)

AND/OR HISTORIC: Path to Choctaw Nation

STREET AND NUMBER: P. O. Box 211 - Natchez Trace Parkway, milepost # 45.8

CITY OR TOWN: Port Gibson

STATE: Mississippi 39150

PHOTO CREDIT: William E. Cox

DATE OF PHOTO: August 27, 1974

NEGATIVE FILED AT: Natchez Trace Parkway, Tupelo, MS 38801 Negative No. 11433

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

Facing north looking toward Grindstone Ford on Big Bayou Pierre River. Trail is maintained, and to right of photo is nearby parking lot as this is one of the parkway's interpretive features.