1. NAME
   COMMON:
   Old Natchez Trace (No. 170-30)
   AND/OR HISTORIC:
   Path to Choctaw Nation, Chickasaw Trace, Natchez Trace

2. LOCATION
   STREET AND NUMBER:
   P.O. Box 438 - Natchez Trace Parkway, milepost #104.6
   CITY OR TOWN: Ridgeland
   CODE: 28
   COUNTY: Madison

3. CLASSIFICATION
   CATEGORY (Check One)
   District  Building  Structure
   Site  Structure
   Object
   OWNERSHIP
   X Public  Private  Both
   Public Acquisition:
   In Process  Being Considered
   STATUS
   X Occupied  Unoccupied
   Preservation work in progress
   ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
   Yes:  Restricted
   Unrestricted
   X No
   PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)
   X Agricultural  Government  Park
   Commercial  Industrial  Private Residence
   Educational  Military  Religious
   Entertainment  Museum  Scientific
   Transportation  Other (Specify)
   Comments

4. AGENCY
   U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Natchez Trace Parkway
   REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: Southeast
   STREET AND NUMBER: 3401 Whipple Avenue
   CITY OR TOWN: Atlanta
   STATE: Georgia
   CODE: 13

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION
   COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
   Chancery Clerk's Office
   STREET AND NUMBER:
   CITY OR TOWN: Canton
   STATE: Mississippi
   CODE: 28

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
There are two locations of the Old Trace at this site. One is very badly grown up with pine trees and undergrowth and it has high banks. The other portion is very wide. The trail is smooth and is used by visitors. This section is near the parking lot and this is an interpretive stop on the parkway. Just north of the cleared trail it is grown up with underbrush. Turner Brashers operated an inn near here beginning in 1806 and this is also interpreted as part of the Old Trace story.

Recommended treatment: Preservation
Preliminary cost estimate for above: $500.00
Photograph enclosed
Near this section of the Old Trace and some 300 yards south on the Old Trace was the stand or inn that Turner Brashears opened in late 1806 for travelers. Brashears, of Bladensburg, Maryland, was a trader to the Choctaw before 1792 and during the Spanish rule. Because of his knowledge of the Choctaw Nation and language, he was consulted by Spanish and American authorities. The exact site is presently unknown and is not on the parkway. Like so many, Brashears took advantage of the Trace traffic, and his story is also a part of the Old Trace.

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.

(Continued)
9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES


10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY

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<th>CORNER</th>
<th>LATITUDE</th>
<th>LONGITUDE</th>
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LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES

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<th>LATITUDE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>32° 25' 30&quot;</td>
<td>90° 05' 18&quot;</td>
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APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

.41 acre, Class VI

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

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<th>STATE:</th>
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11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
William E. Cox, Assistant Chief Park Interpreter

BUSINESS ADDRESS:
Natchez Trace Parkway
R. R. 1, NT-143
Tupelo, Mississippi 38801

DATE: 09/09/74

PHONE: (601) 842-1572

12. CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

State Liaison Officer recommendation:

☐ Yes
☐ No
☒ None

State Liaison Officer 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

Federal Representative Signature: 2/3/76

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

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
Date: 11/01/76

ATTEST:
Keeper of The National Register
Date: 11/01/76
Item 8. Significance

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 Spanish 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

Item 10 Geographical Data

UTM Reference Old Natchez Trace (170-30) 15/773770/3591000
State: Mississippi
County: Madison

Common: Old Natchez Trace (No. 170-30)
And/or Historic: Path to Choctaw Nation

Locatiom:
P. O. Box 438 - Natchez Trace Parkway, milepost #1080
City or Town: Ridgeland
State: Mississippi 39157

Photo Reference:
Photo Credit: William E. Cox
Date of Photo: August 28, 1974
Negative Filed At: Natchez Trace Parkway, Tupelo, MS 38801
Negative No. 11442

Identification:
Describe View, Direction, Etc.
Facing northeast. Trail is used by visitors for a short hiking trail and the parking lot is to left of photographer. This is on east side of parkway. Brashears Stand was 300 yards south of this site off Government property.