Old Natchez Trace (No. 310-2A)
AND/OR HISTORIC: Road From Natchez to Nashville, Path to Chickasaw Nation,
Path to Choctaw Nation, Natchez Trace

Fifteen miles northwest of Florence, Alabama, on State Route 20

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
5

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)
☐ Agricultural  ☐ Government  ☑ Park  ☐ Transportation  ☐ Comments
☐ Commercial  ☐ Industrial  ☐ Private Residence  ☐ Other (Specify)
☐ Educational  ☐ Military  ☐ Religious  ☐ Scientific
☐ Entertainment  ☐ Museum  ☐ Museum  ☐ Military  ☐ Religious

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

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)
Southeast
CITY OR TOWN: Atlanta
STATE: Georgia
STREET AND NUMBER: 3401 Whipple Avenue
CODE: 13

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
County Court House
STATE: Alabama
CITY OR TOWN: Florence
CODE: 01

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY:
☐ Federal  ☐ State

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
STATE: Alabama
CODE: 01
<table>
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<th>CONDITION</th>
<th>(Check One)</th>
<th>(Check One)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>□ Excellent</td>
<td>□ Good</td>
<td>□ Fair</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ Altered</td>
<td>□ Unaltered</td>
<td>□ Moved</td>
<td>□ Original Site</td>
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DESCRIPT THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

In many places along the course of the Old Natchez Trace, the Trace has been incorporated into other road systems. From the park boundary north-east it is now a paved county highway for about 850 feet before it leaves the county road for Alabama Highway 20 and the parkway where it is obliterated. Part of the 400 feet of the Old Trace which is not paved is grown up in weeds, the rest is now being mowed. This 400 foot section of the Old Trace is in fair condition. The site is 15 miles northwest of Florence, Alabama.

Recommend treatment: Preservation
Preliminary cost estimate for above: $75.00
Photograph enclosed

SEE INSTRUCTIONS
When European 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

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CORNER</th>
<th>LATITUDE</th>
<th>LONGITUDE</th>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<td>Degrees Minutes Seconds</td>
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<tr>
<td>SW</td>
<td>Degrees Minutes Seconds</td>
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LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES

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<td>Degrees Minutes Seconds</td>
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</table>

UTM Ref 16/422910/3864870

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: .86 acres, Class VI

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

STATE: CODE

STATE: CODE

STATE: CODE

STATE: CODE

STATE: CODE

STATE: CODE

NAME AND TITLE:

William E. Cox, Assistant Chief Park Interpreter

BUSINESS ADDRESS:

Natchez Trace Parkway

STREET AND NUMBER:

Rural Route 1, NT-143

CITY OR TOWN:

Tupelo

STATE: Mississippi

DATE: 10/1/74

PHONE: (601) 842-1572

12. CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

State Liaison Officer recommendation:

☑ Yes
☐ No
☐ None
State Liaison Officer Signature:

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

Acting Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Attest:

Keeper of The National Register

Title

DATE: 11/9/76

DATE: 11/4/76
PHOTOGRAPHER

IF REPRODUCED CREDIT NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
RETURN TO NATCHEZ TRACE PARKWAY, RR No. 1
RT-143, TUPELO, MISSISSIPPI 38801

SUBJECT... Old Natchez Trace

NPS Number 117776 310-24

Title: Old Natchez Trace
Laurel Fork, Co., Alabama

Loc. Facing NE, paved rd to left in the Old Trace for 350', before becoming dirt trace for 400' to Hwy 20 at place & is obliterated

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER