

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

3330-1
PH0098281

STATE:	Alaska
COUNTY:	SEVENTH 1st Judicial District
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	APR 14 1975

1. NAME	
COMMON: Chilkoot Trail (Mile 0 to Canadian Border)	
AND/OR HISTORIC:	

2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: Mile 0 to Canadian border			
CITY OR TOWN: Chilkoot Pass Area		CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:	
STATE Alaska	CODE 02	COUNTY: SEVENTH 1st Judicial District	CODE 02

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

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY			
OWNER'S NAME: State of Alaska, Division of Parks			
STREET AND NUMBER: 323 E. 4th Avenue			
CITY OR TOWN: Anchorage		STATE: Alaska	CODE 02

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION			
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: State of Alaska, Division of Lands			
STREET AND NUMBER: 323 E. 4th Avenue			
CITY OR TOWN: Anchorage		STATE: Alaska	CODE 02

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS			
TITLE OF SURVEY: Alaska Heritage Resource Survey			
DATE OF SURVEY: ☐ Federal ☒ State ☐ County ☐ Local			
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Alaska Division of Parks			
STREET AND NUMBER: 323 E. 4th Avenue			
CITY OR TOWN: Anchorage		STATE: Alaska	CODE 02

Senators: Ted Stevens/Mike Gravel
Congressman: Don Young

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:

COUNTY:

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	☐ Excellent	☐ Good	☐ Fair	☐ Deteriorated	☒ Ruins	☐ Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	☒ Altered	☐ Unaltered	☐ Moved	☒ Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The beginning of the Chilkoot Trail is at the steel bridge across the Taiya River at about Mile 8½, Dyea Road. A wood sign there gives distances to some of the points of interest along the trail.

From the trail sign at Mile 0, one follows the east bank of the river, entering the woods some 100 yards away. Here one begins an immediate ascent. Within the first quarter mile, the trail reaches the 100-foot contour, then proceeds along it for the next quarter mile with such minor ascents and descents as are necessary to conform to the general topography. For the first half-mile, the trail follows along the east bank of the Taiya River, but high above it among rocks, trees, and natural growth.

Up and to the east, the altitude increases to 2,000 feet within the next three-quarters of a mile. Two miles to the east the A-B mountain rises to 5,000 feet. For the second half-mile the trail descends to near sea level and proceeds over relatively smooth terrain for the next three or four miles. At Mile 3 there is an old sawmill site.

At Mile 8.15 are the remains of Canyon City, a town that lasted only until the end of the trail's high use and consisted of about 20 wooden buildings, tents, and half-tents. Included were restaurants, saloons, stores, repair shops, a steam-driven electric power plant, and other facilities. Many artifacts such as wagon and sled parts, utensils, etc., are to be found in this area.

Just beyond Mile 13 are the ruins of Sheep Camp. Described by contemporary (ca 1898) writers as a collection of log buildings along a narrow and crooked street 16 feet wide on which there were 15 hotels and many bars, restaurants, and shops, Sheep Camp today is the site of a trail shelter. Many cabin foundations and artifacts can be found in this area.

At Mile 15.2 are the remains of a tramway office, restaurant, and small store.

At Mile 16 are the ruins of a tramway building and several other structures. In December of 1897, Archie Burns installed a crude tram for hoisting baggage up the pass and in 1898 a more sophisticated tram system was installed by the Chilkoot Railroad and Transport Company. The tram system extended about nine miles.

Artifacts at Mile 16 and beyond include horseshoes, muleshoes, spiked creepers, harness remnants, old cable, galvanized telegraph wire, utensils, kerosene lamps, axes, shovels, tram parts, and decaying clothing. Just beyond Mile 16 the trail reaches the Canadian border.

NOTE: The material in Items 7 and 8 has been extracted from reference cited.

Legal Description: A corridor 300 feet in width (150 ^{ft} _{ft}) beginning at the south end of the steel bridge across the Taiya River in Section 22, T27S, R59E, CRM, centering on the Chilkoot Trail which follows along the east side

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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(Continuation Sheet)

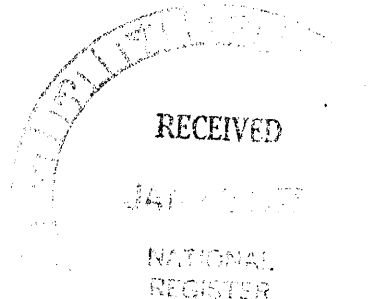
STATE Alaska	
COUNTY 1st Judicial District	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
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	APR 14 1978

(Number all entries)

of the Taiya River to its headwaters at Chilkoot Pass in Section 17, T25S, R60E, CRM, as per the attached map.

Also a 10-acre tract encompassing the Canyon City Shelter Cabin described as follows: The south 330 feet or more of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ east of the Taiya River in Section 14 and the north 330 feet or more of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ east of the Taiya River in Section 23, all in T26S, R59E, CRM.

Also a 10-acre tract encompassing the Sheep Camp Shelter Cabin described as follows: The south 330 feet or more of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ east of the Taiya River and the north 330 feet or more of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ east of the Taiya River in Section 31, T25S, R60E, CRM.



8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| ☐ Pre-Columbian | ☐ 16th Century | ☐ 18th Century | ☐ 20th Century |
| ☐ 15th Century | ☐ 17th Century | ☒ 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| ☐ Aboriginal | ☐ Education | ☐ Political | ☐ Urban Planning |
| ☐ Prehistoric | ☐ Engineering | ☐ Religion/Phi- | ☐ Other (Specify) |
| ☐ Historic | ☐ Industry | losophy | |
| ☐ Agriculture | ☐ Invention | ☐ Science | |
| ☐ Architecture | ☐ Landscape | ☐ Sculpture | |
| ☐ Art | ☐ Architecture | ☐ Social/Human- | |
| ☐ Commerce | ☐ Literature | itarian | |
| ☐ Communications | ☐ Military | ☐ Theater | |
| ☐ Conservation | ☐ Music | ☒ Transportation | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Chilkoot Trail is the most widely known of the various routes used to reach the gold fields of the Klondike Rush that began in 1897. For centuries before 1898 a trail along the river called by the Chilkoots the Daya or Taiya, and through a pass known to them as the Vlekuk served as a trade route to the Atlin River and interior regions. For many years the Chilkoot branch of the Tlingit Indians exercised strict control and a trade monopoly over the inland and coastal products carried over what has become known as the Chilkoot Trail.

As trade in American and European products developed during the last half of the nineteenth century, the Chilkoots relaxed their control to the extent of permitting travel over the trail by non-trading groups such as prospectors searching along the Yukon River and explorers such as Army Lieutenant Schwatka who on June 11, 1883, led a party of Tlingits through the pass.

Later, when news of finding gold in quantity on Rabbit Creek in the Klondike reached the outside world and precipitated the initial stampede over the Chilkoot Trail, the monopoly was quickly dissolved by the invading hordes. The first wave struck John J. Healy's trading post at the mouth of the Taiya on June 26, 1897, and by the end of the summer a new town, Dyea, had sprung up.

The Chilkoot trail became an all-season conduit for thousands surging toward the gold fields of the Yukon. Five thousand are recorded as having arrived in February 1899.

The overflow began diverting through White Pass some six miles southeast of Chilkoot Pass and, upon completion of the White Pass and Yukon Railroad, to Lake Bennett in July 1899. The bulk of travel then was through White Pass and the Chilkoot's importance as a route to the Klondike began to wane. By then, however, it had become deeply imprinted into the minds and memories of the stamperers and has remained as a symbol of the Klondike Rush.

Finally, nothing but ruins and artifacts remained of Canyon City, Pleasant Camp, Sheep Camp, Happy Camp, Lindeman City, and most of the other stops along the route.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

State of Alaska
1968 The Chilkoot Trail: a Guide to the Goldrush Trail of '98

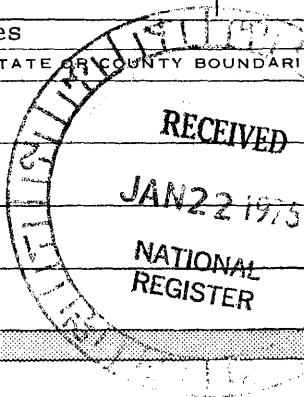
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	59 ° 41 ' 49. "	135 ° 21 ' 52. "				
NE	59 ° 41 ' 49. "	135 ° 14 ' 10. "				
SE	59 ° 30 ' 44. "	135 ° 14 ' 10. "				
SW	59 ° 30 ' 44. "	135 ° 26 ' 36. "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 638 acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



NO 6 M
B

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: C.M. Brown, Research Assistant	
ORGANIZATION Alaska Division of Parks	DATE March 15, 1973
STREET AND NUMBER: 323 E. 4th Avenue	
CITY OR TOWN: Anchorage	STATE Alaska CODE 02

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

Owner notified
As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☒ State ☐ Local ☐

William A. Sacheck
Name William A. Sacheck

Title State Historic Preservation Officer

Date January 15, 1975

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

AR. Ruess
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 4/19/75

ATTEST:

W. J. Murtha
Keeper of the National Register
APR 8 1975

Date