

DATA SHEET

Form 10-306
(Oct. 1972)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:

Mississippi

COUNTY:

Claiborne

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY DATE

NOV 7 1976

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

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:

4

STATE:

Mississippi 39150

CODE

28

COUNTY:

Claiborne

CODE

021

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY
(Check One)

- ☐ District ☐ Building
☒ Site ☐ Structure
☐ Object

OWNERSHIP

- ☒ Public
☐ Private
☐ Both

- Public Acquisition:
☐ In Process
☐ Being Considered

STATUS

- ☐ Occupied
☒ Unoccupied
☐ Preservation work
in progress

ACCESSIBLE
TO THE PUBLIC

- Yes:
☐ Restricted
☒ Unrestricted
☐ No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

4. AGENCY

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

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)

Southeast

CITY OR TOWN:

Atlanta

STREET AND NUMBER:

3401 Whipple Avenue

STATE:

Georgia 30344

CODE

13

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:

Chancery Clerk's Office

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

Port Gibson

STATE:

Mississippi 39150

CODE

28

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

Natchez Trace Parkway Survey United States Government Printing Office

DATE OF SURVEY:

1941

☒ Federal

☒ State

☐ County

☐ Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

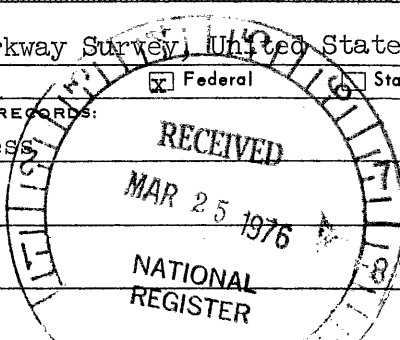
Washington

STATE:

District of Columbia

CODE

001



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:

Mississippi

COUNTY:

Claiborne

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

☐ Excellent ☐ Good ☒ Fair ☐ Deteriorated ☐ Ruins ☐ Unexposed

(Check One)

(Check One)

☒ Altered ☐ Unaltered

(Check One)

☐ Moved ☒ Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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/Philosophy | ☐ Other (Specify) _____ |
| ☐ Historic | ☐ Industry | ☐ Science | _____ |
| ☐ Agriculture | ☐ Invention | ☐ Sculpture | _____ |
| ☐ Architecture | ☐ Landscape Architecture | ☐ Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| ☐ Art | ☐ Literature | ☐ Theater | _____ |
| ☐ Commerce | ☒ Military | ☒ Transportation | _____ |
| ☒ Communications | ☐ Music | | |
| ☐ Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

When Europeans began to explore the Old Southwest, they found a net work 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 ~~Spanish~~ ^{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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Phelps, Dawson A. "The Trace in Alabama." Alabama Review, vol. VII. (January 1949). 22-41.

. "The Natchez Trace in Tennessee History." Tennessee Historical Quarterly, vol. XIII. (September 1954). 195-203.

. "The Natchez Trace: Indian Trail to Parkway." Tennessee Historical Quarterly, vol. XXI. (September 1962). 203-18

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	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	° ' "	° ' "		32° 00' 11"	90° 53' 46"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "		UTM	REF.	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		15/698780/	3542490	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: .89 acres Class VI

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

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		PHONE: (601) 842-1572
CITY OR TOWN: Tupelo	STATE Mississippi	CODE 28

12. CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

State Liaison Officer recommendation:

- ☐ Yes
☐ No
☒ None

Elmer R. Hilliard
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

Genni J. Grabelle
Federal Representative Signature

3/23/76
Date

for the Deputy Assistant Secretary
Title

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

[Signature]
Acting Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date *11/9/76*

ATTEST:

[Signature]
Keeper of The National Register

Date *11/4/76*

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

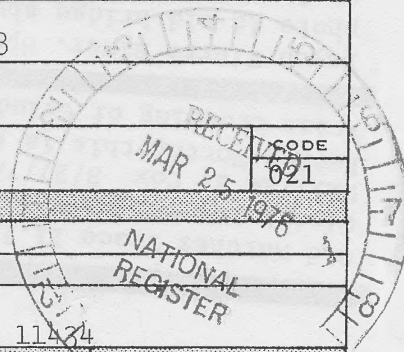
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE	
Mississippi	
COUNTY	
Claiborne	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
NOV 7	1976

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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:	CODE	COUNTY:
Mississippi 39150	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. 11434		
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.		





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(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE Mississippi	
COUNTY Claiborne	
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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: Claiborne	CODE 021
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. 11433			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
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.			