

PHD 36173x

DATA SHEET

Form 10-306
(Oct. 1972)UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM
FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Alabama
COUNTY:	Lauderdale
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	NOV 7 1976

1. NAME

COMMON:

Old Natchez Trace (No. 310-2A)

AND/OR HISTORIC: Road from Natchez to Nashville, Path to Chickasaw Nation,
Path to Choctaw Nation, Natchez Trace

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

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

CITY OR TOWN:

Florence, Ala.
Cherokee (District HQs Natchez Trace)

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:

5

STATE:

Alabama 35616

CODE

01

COUNTY:

Lauderdale

CODE

077

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

4. AGENCY

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

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)

Southeast

STREET AND NUMBER:

3401 Whipple Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:

Atlanta

STATE:

Georgia 30344

CODE

13

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:

County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

Florence

STATE:

Alabama 35630

CODE

01

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY:

☐ Federal☐ State

County

RECEIVED

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

MAR 25 1976

NATIONAL
REGISTER

CODE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Alabama

COUNTY: Lauderdale

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

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

(Check One)

☒ Altered☐ Unaltered

(Check One)

☐ Moved☒ Original Site

DESCRIBE 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

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 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 ~~Spanish~~ ^{English} 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			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	° ' "	° ' "		87° 55' 30"	87° 50' 39"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		UTM Ref		
SE	° ' "	° ' "		16/422910/3864870		
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

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

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: William E. Cox, Assistant Chief Park Interpreter		DATE: 10/1/74
BUSINESS ADDRESS: Natchez Trace Parkway		
STREET AND NUMBER: Rural Route 1, NT-143		PHONE: (601) 842-1572
CITY OR TOWN: Tupelo	STATE Mississippi 38801	CODE 28

12. CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

State Liaison Officer recommendation:

☒ Yes
☐ No
☐ None

Mike B. Howard Jr.
 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

Gemma G. Grubbs 3/23/76
 Federal Representative Signature
 for the Deputy Assistant Secretary

Title _____

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Scot A. R...
 Acting
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date *11/7/76*

ATTEST:

Wm. H. ...
 Keeper of The National Register

Date *11/4/76*

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



DATE..... PHOTO N NATR 11479..

PHOTOGRAPHER.....

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

SUBJECT... Old Natchez Trace.....

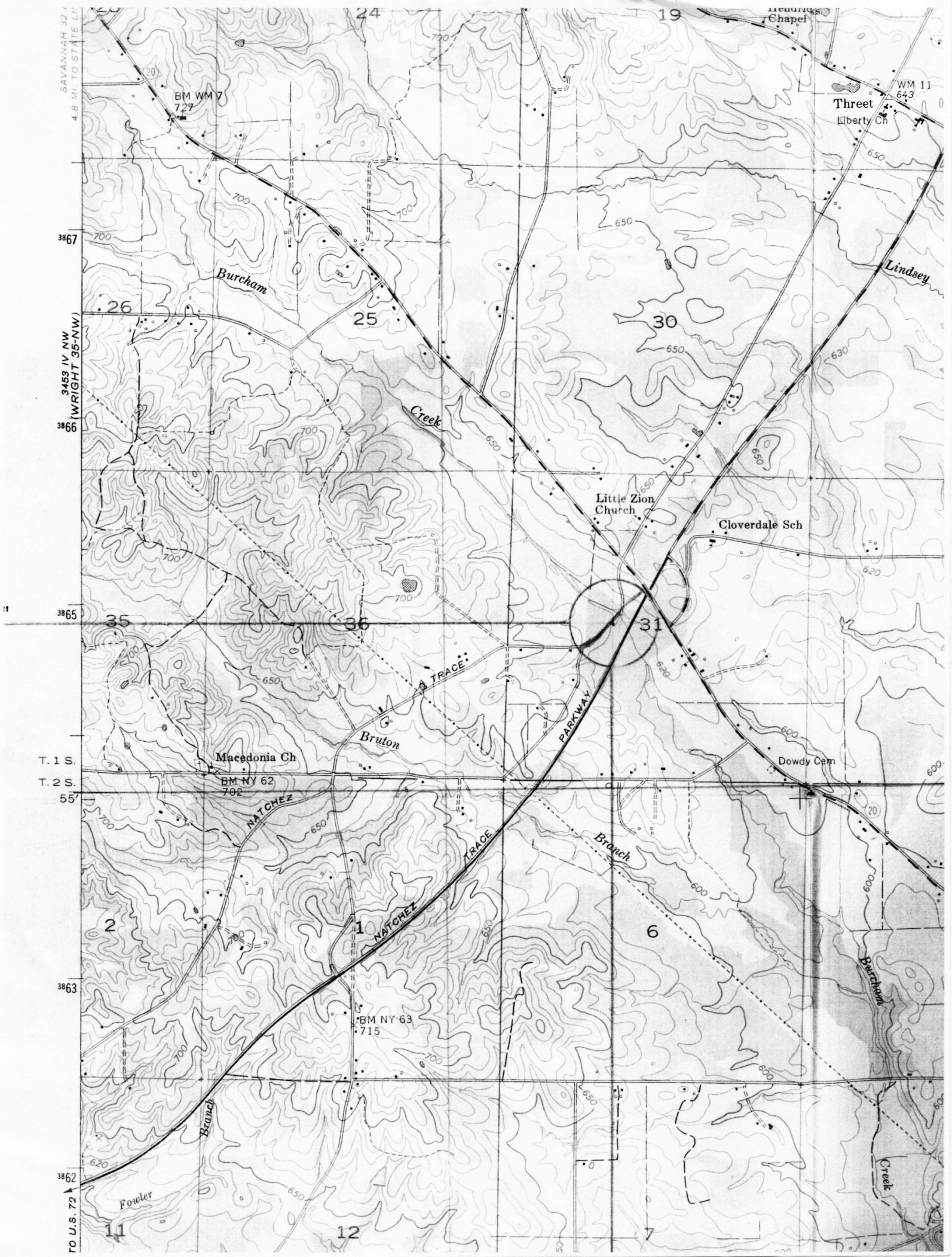
NPS Number 11/7/76 310-2A

Title: Old Natchez Trace

Lawrence Co., Alabama

Loc. facing NE, paved rd to left in
the Old Trace for 250' before
becoming dirt trace for 400' to Hwy 20
at plug & is obliterated

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



SAVANNAH 32
4.8 MI TO STATE LI

3453 IV NW
WRIGHT 35-NW

3865

T. 1 S.
T. 2 S.
55'

3863

3862

TO U.S. 72

BM WM 7
727

WM 11
643

Threet
Liberty Ch

Burcham

Lindsey

Creek

Little Zion
Church

Cloverdale Sch

35

36

31

TRACE

Bruton

Macedonia Ch

BM NY 62
702

Dowdy Cam

NATCHEZ

NATCHEZ

Branch

BM NY 63
715

Fowler

Burcham

Creek

11

12

7