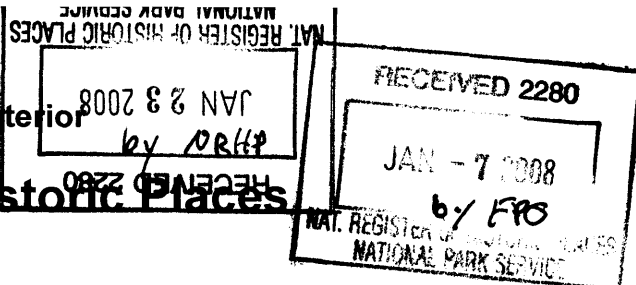


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



131

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determination for individual properties and districts. See instruction in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Ypsilon Lake Trail

other names/site number 5LR.11898

2. Location

street & number Rocky Mountain National Park (ROMO) [N/A] not for publication

city or town Estes Park [X] vicinity

state Colorado code CO county Larimer code 069 zip code 80510

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this [X] nomination [] request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property [] meets [] does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant [] nationally [] statewide [X] locally. ([] See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Joe Wallia Acting F.P.O. 1-22-08
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property [X] meets [] does not meet the National Register criteria. ([] See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Mark Wayne Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer 12/26/07
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, Colorado Historical Society
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register [] See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register [] See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register
- other, explain [] See continuation sheet.

Edson H. Beall Signature of the Keeper 3.5.08 Date of Action

Ypsilon Lake Trail
Name of Property

Larimer County/ Colorado
County/State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not count previously listed resources.)

Contributing

Noncontributing

0	0	buildings
0	0	sites
1	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing.

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Rocky Mountain National Park
Historic Park Landscapes In National and State Parks

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register.

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Function

(Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION AND CULTURE/ outdoor
recreation

LANDSCAPE/ park

TRANSPORTATION/ pedestrian-related

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION AND CULTURE/ outdoor
recreation

LANDSCAPE/ park

TRANSPORTATION/ pedestrian-related

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

NO STYLE

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation

walls

roof

other EARTH

WOOD

STONE

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey

- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ENTERTAINMENT/ RECREATION

Periods of Significance

1907-1945

Significant Dates

1912

Significant Person(s)

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above).

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Estes Park Protective and Improvement Association
National Park Service

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency
- Federal Agency
- Local Government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Rocky Mountain National Park
Colorado Historical Society

Ypsilon Lake Trail
Name of Property

Larimer County/ Colorado
County/State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 10.9 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

- | | | | | |
|----|------|---------|----------|---------|
| 1. | 13 | 446226 | 4474296 | (NAD27) |
| | Zone | Easting | Northing | |
| 2. | 13 | 445988 | 4473871 | |
| | Zone | Easting | Northing | |
| 3. | 13 | 444816 | 4475544 | |
| | Zone | Easting | Northing | |
| 4. | 13 | 443556 | 4476931 | |
| | Zone | Easting | Northing | |
| 5. | 13 | 443663 | 4476991 | |
| | Zone | Easting | Northing | |

The UTM points were derived by the Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation from heads-up digitization on Digital Raster Graphic (DRG) maps provided by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management.

[] See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Sierra Standish, contract position (RMNP contacts- Cheri Yost)
organization Rocky Mountain National Park date 14 November 2006
street & number 1000 Highway 36 telephone (970) 586-1394
city or town Estes Park state Colorado zip code 80517

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional Items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Rocky Mountain National Park, U.S. Department of the Interior
street & number 1000 Highway 36 telephone (970) 586-1394
city or town Estes Park state Colorado zip code 80517

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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United States Department of the Interior
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Ypsilon Lake Trail Larimer County/ Colorado
Rocky Mountain National Park MPS
Historic Park Landscapes in National and State Parks MPS

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DESCRIPTION

Location: The Ypsilon Lake Trail is on the east side of Rocky Mountain National Park. The trail begins 1.5 miles up the Lawn Lake Trail. At this 9200-foot junction, the Ypsilon Lake Trail branches to the west, crossing the Roaring River on a 50-foot log stringer bridge. For almost its entire length, the trail steadily climbs in a northwest direction up a large blunt ridge spreading out below Mount Chaquita and Ypsilon Mountain.

Setting: After departing from the Roaring River, the Ypsilon Lake Trail remains mostly in lodgepole pine forest. About one half-mile before reaching its destination, the trail passes Chipmunk Lake, a small rocky pond bounded with spruces. Ypsilon Lake itself hugs the lower flanks of mountains over 13,000 feet tall.

Built: 1907-1912

Materials: Earth, local rock, log/wood

Destination: Ypsilon Lake

Length of main trail: 4.5 miles

Trail Width: Ranging from 2 to 5 feet

Significant built features: rock borders, log checks, and 50-foot log stringer bridge with handrail

Significant natural features: Roaring River, Chipmunk Lake, Ypsilon Lake, and Ypsilon Mountain

Trail tour:

The Ypsilon Lake Trail is like a junior version of the Lawn Lake Trail. Both trails provide a scenic route bringing visitors to a high lake in the Mummy Range. However, the Ypsilon Lake Trail is quicker and dryer. The 4.5-mile-long trail branches away from the Roaring River and maintains an even ascent along a forested ridge.

This trail begins approximately one and a half mile up the Lawn Lake Trail. At this 9,200-foot-junction, the Lawn Lake Trail continues to follow the eastern side of the river while a 50-foot log stringer bridge brings the Ypsilon Lake Trail over to the western bank.

For almost its entire length, the Ypsilon Lake Trail climbs up a large blunt ridge spreading out below Mount Chiquita and Ypsilon Mountain. From the banks of the Roaring River, the trail wraps south for one half-mile in order to access the smooth southeastern face of the ridge. The remaining four miles move gradually upward and to the northwest, passing between continuous stands of trees.

Because it uses a naturally steady grade, the Ypsilon Lake Trail requires few trail structures. Stone steps, rock borders, and log checks occasionally help the trail maintain its even course.

About one half-mile before its destination, the trail passes Chipmunk Lake, a small rocky pond bounded with spruces. A backcountry campsite accompanies the lake.

The gradually-rising ridge comes to a sudden end at Ypsilon Lake. From here, further travel to the north or west involves a much steeper climb. Thick clusters of trees border the lake, but are visible no higher up. At 10,550 feet, Ypsilon Lake hugs the lower flanks of mountains over 13,000 feet tall. If one could peak up to the northwest, one would see Spectacle Lakes—larger than Ypsilon Lake—nestled

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below the summit of Ypsilon Mountain, or see Chiquita Lake just below Mount Chiquita. Mountaineer and future park superintendent Roger Toll described the spot in 1919:

The end of the trail is within 2 miles, in an air-line, of the top of Mount Chiquita and Ypsilon Mountain. The east side of these peaks is steep and in places precipitous, but one may pick out a route to the top.¹

Trail construction and alterations:

Because of its naturally smooth grade, the Ypsilon Lake Trail has a sturdy resistance to the degrading effects of weather and trail use. The trail, therefore, has required less construction and maintenance than other park trails.

Because of its vicinity to Lawn Lake and the Mummy Range—an early, popular recreation area—Ypsilon Lake likely received visitors before 1900. If the first tourists did not use the spine of the smooth ridge to access the lake, the Estes Park Protective and Improvement Association likely established this alignment. Between 1907 and 1912, the improvement association made the first known efforts to consciously build a trail to the lake, and the 1915 tourist map shows a trail that follows the same alignment that is used today.

When the first park superintendent reviewed his inherited network of trails in 1915, he reported the Ypsilon Lake Trail to be similar to how we see it today: “Branches from the Lawn Lake trail a ½ mile from Horseshoe Park and extends 4 miles to the Lake. In good condition.”² In 2005, the park trail crew redesigned 200 feet of trail near Upper Chipmunk Lake, correcting a steep section of old trail with grades over 25 percentage.

Ypsilon Trail integrity:

The trail maintains a high degree of integrity compared to its original design and construction due to its naturally smooth grade. Except for a 200 feet realignment near Chipmunk Lake, the trail follows its original alignment. Park trail crews have replaced ephemeral features such as wood bridges and log checks and rebuilt in-kind stone steps and rock borders using materials gathered on site.

¹ Roger Toll, *Mountaineering in the Rocky Mountain National Park*, Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1919, 59.

² Superintendent's Annual Report, 1915. The trail actually branches 1.5 miles from the trailhead. This is likely an error in measurement, like that shown in Photo H1, rather than an indication that the trail was realigned. It might also mean that the branch was a ½ mile by air from Horseshoe Park.

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SIGNIFICANCE

The Ypsilon Lake Trail is eligible for listing in the National Register under Criterion A, meeting the registration requirements set forth in the *Rocky Mountain National Park Multiple Property Listing*. Under Criterion A, the trail is eligible in the area of *Entertainment/Recreation* for its association with the early resort industry and tourism in the Estes Park region. The period of significance begins in 1907 with the construction of the trail and ends in the 1945, the year in which tourism in the park significantly changed due to increased automobile traffic after World War II.

The Ypsilon Lake Trail demonstrates the national trends described in Linda Flint McClelland's *Historic Park Landscapes in National and State Parks Multiple Property Listing*. In this second context, the trail is eligible under Criterion A in the area of *Entertainment/Recreation* for its connection to the twentieth-century movement to develop national parks for public enjoyment.

Historical Background

Ypsilon Lake gains a little prestige by sharing a name with its grand neighbor, the 13,514-foot Ypsilon Mountain. However, the peak's summit is not directly visible from the lake. The lake's appeal rests not in a grand view but in its clear, pleasant waters bounded on the northwest side by steep cliffs and on other sides by dense stands of trees. An alpine creek tumbles into the west end of the lake, and Ypsilon Creek streams out of the east end.

Mountaineer Frederick Chapin described the day in 1887 when his wife, Alice, named one of the prominent peaks in the Mummy Range:

That day I was in this pretty valley with my wife. We had spent the time lazily near a deserted cabin by the stream. I had been fishing a little. Later we were looking at the mountains, which from here are so beautiful in the west. One great peak with a steep wall facing the east, and a long reclining ridge leading toward the southwest, especially interested us. A large snow-field lay on the eastern face; two fluttering bands of ice extended skyward to the ridge of the mountain, forming a perfect Y. My wife said to me, "Its name shall be Ypsilon Peak." So it went forth, and the name was accepted by the dwellers in the valley and by the visitors at the ranches.³

Within a few of decades, the Horseshoe Inn and the Fall River Lodge had established themselves in Horseshoe Park, near the trailhead serving the Ypsilon and Lawn lake trails. Both hotels encouraged their guests to avail themselves of local attractions, providing horses and trail guides.

If the earliest tourists did not use the spine of the smooth ridge to access Ypsilon Lake, the Estes Park Protective and Improvement Association likely established this alignment. The Association labored between 1907 and 1912 to build a trail to the lake. Both the 1915 tourist map and the 1915 park superintendent's report confirm that the Association's trail follows the same general alignment of the modern trail.⁴ The Ypsilon Lake Trail's naturally smooth grade provides a sturdy resistance to the degrading effects of weather and trail use. The trail has required less construction and maintenance than other park trails.

³ Frederick Chapin, quoted in James Pickering, ed., *Frederick Chapin's Colorado: The Peaks About Estes Park and Other Writings*, Boulder, CO: University Press of Colorado, 1995, 95-96.

⁴ Superintendent's Annual Report, 1915, 9.

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Although the Ypsilon Lake Trail remained solidly on the map through the rest of the twentieth century, it remains overshadowed by its neighbor, the Lawn Lake Trail. The Lawn Lake Trail's chief advantage is that its destination can be a jumping off place for further adventure—Lawn Lake offers relatively easy access to the high country of the Mummy Range. On the other hand, Ypsilon Lake—for most people—marks the end of the trail; only skilled climbers can ascend the cliffs surrounding the lake.

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Ypsilon Lake Trail Larimer County/ Colorado

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Historic Park Landscapes in National and State Parks MPS

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GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

The trail is located entirely within Rocky Mountain National Park. The Ypsilon Lake Trail starts 1.5 miles up the Lawn Lake Trail, north of Horseshoe Park. The trail crosses the Roaring River, dips southward, and then moves northwest up a gradual ridge. The trail is 4.5 miles long. The boundary of this nomination extends a distance of 10 feet on either side from the centerline of the trail. The trail route is shown on the USGS topographic quadrangle maps which follow.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

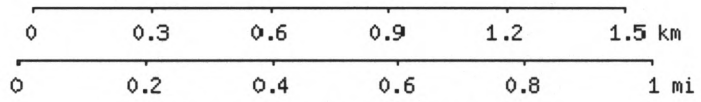
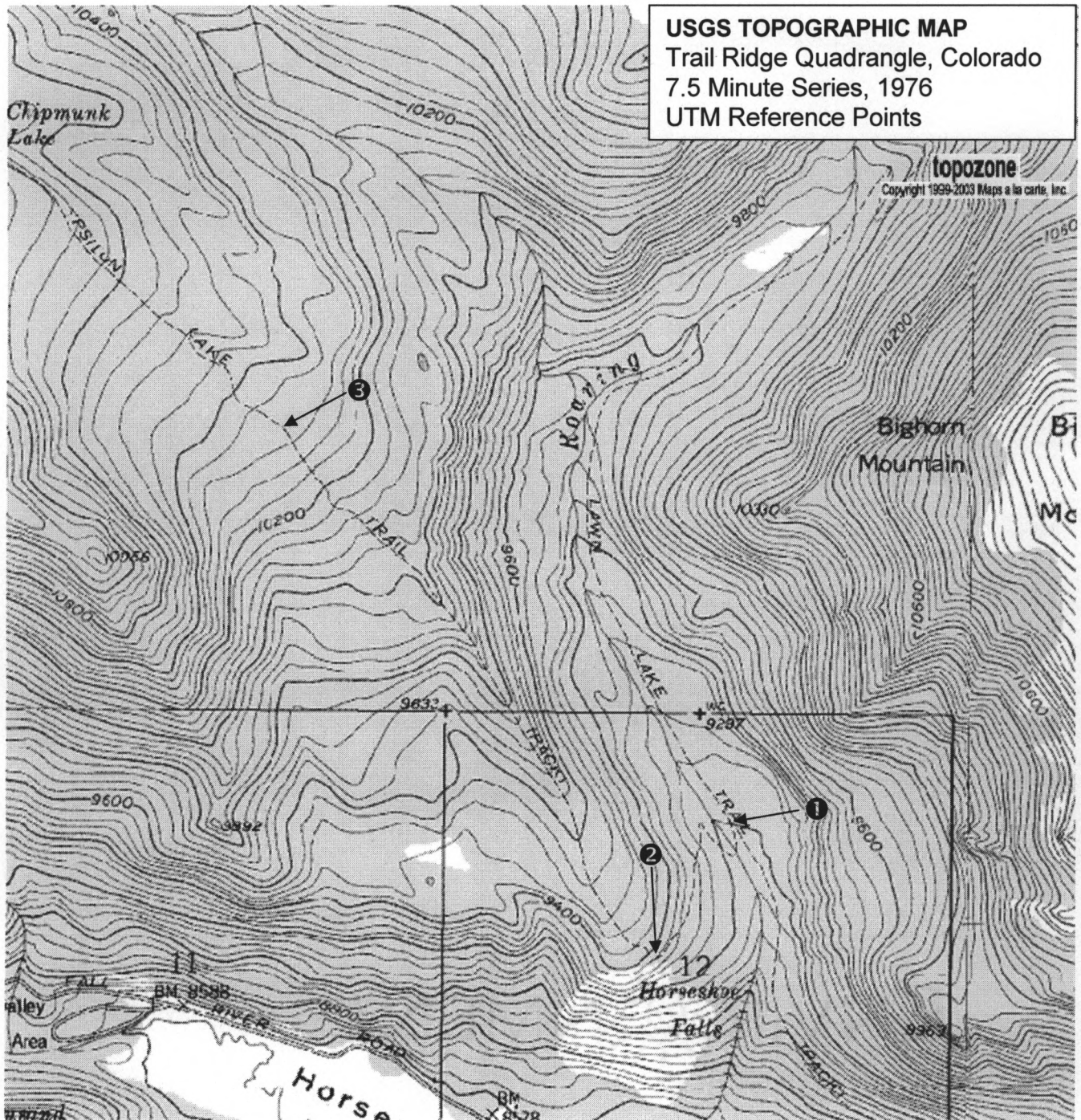
The boundary includes the resource and associated features such as (but not limited to) footbridges, signs and log checks. Although landscape features are important to the experience of the visitor traversing the trail and may contribute to the overall integrity of the trail, they are not included in this nomination.

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Ypsilon Lake Trail, Larimer County/ Colorado
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USGS Trail Ridge (CO) Quadrangle
Projection is UTM Zone 13 NAD83 Datum

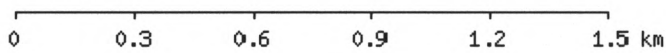
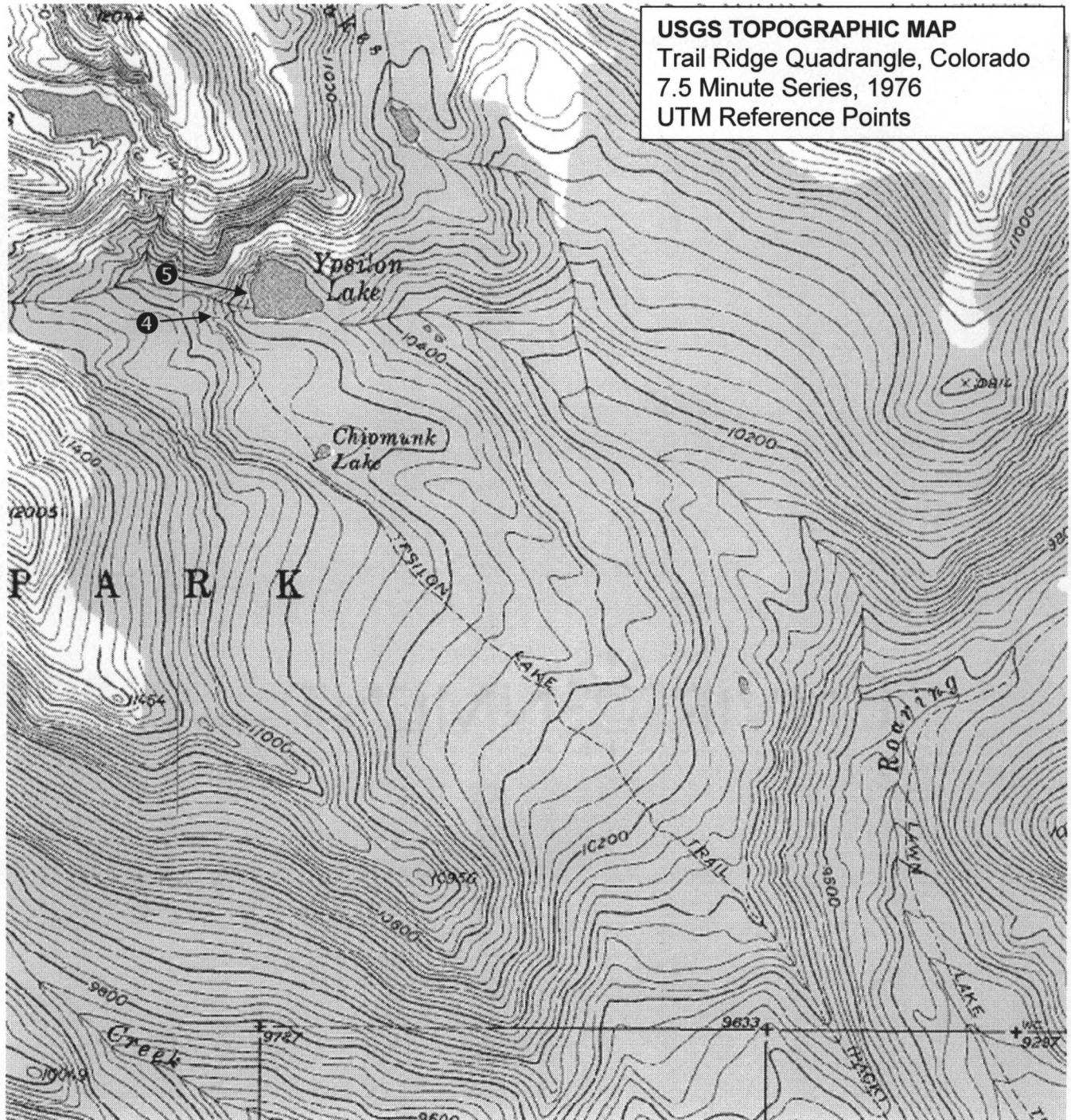


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USGS Trail Ridge (CO) Quadrangle
Projection is UTM Zone 13 NAD83 Datum



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PHOTOGRAPH LOG - CURRENT

The following information pertains to photograph numbers 1-5:

Name of Property: Ypsilon Lake Trail
 Location: Larimer County/ Colorado
 Photographer: Sierra Standish
 Date of Photographs: October 2003
 Negatives or digital files: Rocky Mountain National Park and digital TIF files
 at the National Register in Washington, DC.

<u>Photo No.</u>	<u>Photographic Information</u>
1	Footbridge across Roaring River. View to north.
2	Trail gradually ascending ridge toward Ypsilon Lake. View to southeast.
3	Chipmunk Lake
4	Ypsilon Lake. View to north.
5	Ypsilon Lake. View to northeast.

PHOTOGRAPH LOG – HISTORIC

These photographs may not be included in Internet posted documents and other publishing venues due to copyright restrictions.

<u>Photo No.</u>	<u>Photographic Information</u>
H1	Ypsilon Lake Trail trailhead. Photographer: unknown. Date: ca. 1915. Source: Edward Ramaley's Trail Diary, Rocky Mountain National Park Museum.

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Photo H1: Ypsilon Lake Trail trailhead (the junction of Lawn Lake and Ypsilon Trails) in circa 1915. Notice the sign saying "Ypsilon Lake 3 ½ Mi," even though the trip is 4 ½ miles. The discrepancy is likely due to inaccurate measuring techniques.
Source: Edward Ramaley's Trail Diary, Rocky Mountain National Park Museum.