NPS Form 10-900 (January 1992)

United States Department of Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

OMB No 10024-0	018
RECEIVED 2280	
FEB 8 1996	
NAT REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES NATIONAL PARK SERVICE	

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions 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 Delavan's Vitrified Brick Street	
other names/site number Walworth Avenue (State Hi	ghway 11)
2. Location	
street & number 100-300 blocks East Walworth Avenue	$\underline{N/A}$ not for publication
city or town <u>Delavan</u>	<u>N/A</u> vicinity
state <u>Wisconsin</u> code <u>WI</u> county <u>Walworth</u> code	zip code <u>53115</u>

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 X 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.) Signature al/Title Date

State Historic Preservation Officer-WI State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State of Federal agency and bureau

Delavan's Vitrified Brick Street	Delavan, Walworth County, WI
Name of Property	County and State
4. National Park Service Certification	horr.
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	Enterne In The National Register
National Register. See continuation sheet.	
removed from the National	
Register.	
other, (explain:)	
(

5. Classification

Ownership of Category of		Number of Resources within Property	
Property (check Property (Check		(Do not include list	ed resources within as many
boxes as only one box) th	ie count)	apply)	-
		Contributing	Noncontributing
private	building(s)	-	0
-	listrict		buildings
·	te		sites
	tructure		structures
	bject		objects
	-j	1	0Total
Name of related multiple prope	ertv		
listing (Enter "N/A" if property		Number of contribu	ting resources
not part of a multiple prop			the National Register
not part of a maniple prop	yerey moring.)	proviously listed in	
N/A			N/A
			<u>N/ A</u>
6. Function or Use			
Historic Functions		Current Functions	
(Enter categories from instructions)		(Enter categories from instructions)	
Transportation/road-relate	h	Transportation/ r	
Transportation/Toad-Telate	<u>/u</u>		oad-related
7. Description			
Architectural Classification		Materials	
(Enter categories from instructions)		Enter categories from ins	structions)
No Style			foundation
<u>No Style</u>			
			wans
	<u>_</u>		
			roof
		Brick or	ther
Narrative Description			
(Describe the historic and current cond	dition of the property on one	e or more continuation sheets.)	

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	Delavan, Walworth County, WI

Delavan's vitrified brick street runs through the community's central business district. It includes the 100, 200 and 300 blocks of Walworth Avenue, State Highway 11. The roadway has been in continuous use since its installation in 1913 by skilled Italian immigrant laborers. The roadway was installed at an approximate cost of \$1.79 per square yard.

The brick street runs East to West. The street is bounded on the east by Fourth street and on the west by Main Street. Commercial business and retail properties are located on the south side of the street from Main street to Fourth Street. A 0.46 acre city park, known as Tower Park borders the north side of the street from Main Street to Second Street.

The brick street is 1,185 feet in length. The width of the roadway varies. The street is 67 feet wide at the Fourth Street crosswalk; 69.5 feet wide at the Third Street crosswalk; 60.3 feet wide at the Second Street crosswalk; and 60.9 feet wide at the Main Street crosswalk. The total acreage of the street is 1.80 acres.

The bricks used to construct the street were manufactured by the Streator Brick Company located in Streator, Illinois. They are a combination of shale, clay, sand, and flux. The bricks are red in color. Each brick is eight (8) inches in length, four (4) inches wide, and three-and-a-half (3 1/2) inches in depth.

The bricks were installed over a five (5) inch concrete foundation covered with two (2) inches of sand. The bricks were laid in a running bond pattern along the block frontage and a herringbone pattern at the intersections. In addition, concrete combination curb and gutter was constructed at the curbline of the street and retaining curb and bridges were installed at the crosswalks of each intersection.

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Delavan's Vitrified Brick Street Delavan, Walworth County, WI

On May 2, 1913 the City of Delavan awarded the brick street construction contract to the Birdsall-Griffith Construction Company of Racine, Wisconsin for \$19,198.18. The contract included \$15,952.48 for paving; \$931.20 for curb; \$1,914.00 for combination curb and gutter; \$198.00 for retaining curb; and \$202.50 for bridges. The City received a total of eight (8) bids for the construction project. The Birdsdall-Griffith Construction Company was the low bid by \$233.93.

On May 23, 1913 Walworth Avenue was closed to traffic between Main Street and Fourth Street. A workforce of 30 men graded the street, poured the five (5) inch concrete base and installed two (2) inches of sand on top of the concrete. On July 12, 1913 a skilled crew of Italian immigrant laborers began laying the bricks. The installation of the bricks was completed on August 17, 1913. The installation of curb, gutter, and bridges was completed on September 11, 1913.

Construction supervision was provided by City Engineer C. P. Hurtgen with assistance from City Inspector T. P. Robb and Mayor Daniel LaBar.

Since its installation in 1913, the brick street has not undergone any major alteration or renovation. In 1974 the Delavan Beautification Association planted 28 Olmsted Maple trees (Acer Platanoides "Olmsted") in four (4) by four (4) foot apertures in the concrete sidewalk located to the front of the adjacent commercial business and retail properties. In 1993 The Delavan-Delavan Lake Chamber of Commerce installed 24 park benches along both sides of the street.

Today the vitrified brick street continues to provide a vital transportation link to the community's central business district. The roadway, however, is in a deteriorated condition and in need of substantial rehabilitation. The City of Delavan has retained the engineering consulting firm of Crispell-Synder, Elkhorn, Wisconsin to complete an engineering study and design engineering

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for the Walworth Avenue Brick Street Renovation Project. Recognition of this important historical resource via the placement of the brick street on the National Register of Historic Places will greatly assist in effecting the rehabilitation of the roadway.

Delavan's Vitrified Brick Street	Delavan, Walworth County, WI	
Name of Property	County and State	
8. Statement of Significance		
Applicable National Register Criteria	Areas of Significance	
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the	(Enter categories from	
criteria qualifying the property for the	instructions)	
National Register listing.)	·	
	Engineering	
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.	Period of Significance	
X C Property embodies the distinctive	1913	
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	Significant Dates	
entity whose components lack individual distinction.	1913	
_ D Property has yielded, or is likely to		
yield, information important in	Significant Person	
prehistory or history.	(Complete if Criterion B is	
	marked above)	
Criteria Considerations		
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)	<u>N/A</u>	
A owned by a religious institution or		
used for religious purposes.	Cultural Affiliation	
B removed from its original location.	N/A	
C a birthplace or grave.		
D a cemetery.		
	Architect/Builder	
E a reconstructed building, object, or	Birdsall-Griffith Co./builder	
structure.		

F a commemorative property. G less than 50 years of age 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 Bibliographic References

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Bibliography

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

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	Delavan, Walworth County, WI

Delavan's vitrified brick street qualifies for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places under criterion C for its engineering significance. The street is important as an example of the evolution of paving techniques from the oiled, dirt streets of the 19th century to the development of the now ubiquitous bituminous asphalt and reinforced concrete pavements. Delavan's brick street has contributed significantly to local transportation and commerce and continues to provide a distinct character to the community's central business district. It is one of the last and best remaining examples of original brick paved roadway in the State of Wisconsin.

TRANSPORTATION IN DELAVAN

In 1835 a team of surveyors led by John Brink was contracted by the Federal Government to survey the range and town lines in what is today Walworth County. In January of 1836 another surveying team comprised of Sylvester Sibley, John Newman, Samuel Hubble and Christopher Bate established township limits and section lines.¹

In May of 1836 a trail was blazed along the nominated site by John Inman and William Homes while traveling southwest from Milwaukee to Wisconsin City, a proposed settlement on the Rock River near the present location of Janesville. In 1837 a stage coach route from Southport [Kenosha] to Beloit was established which passed through Delavan, widening the nomination site.²

¹ C.W. Butterfield, <u>History of Walworth County, Wisconsin</u>, Chicago: Chicago Western Historical Printing Company, 1882.

² Ibid.

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Delavan was established on July 19, 1836 by Colonel Samuel Faulkner Phoenix (1798-1840) as a temperance colony. Delavan was named by Colonel Phoenix in honor of Edward Cornelius Delavan (1793-1871), first chairman of the New York State Temperance Society. Colonel Phoenix also named the nomination site (Walworth Avenue) in honor of Chancellor Reuben Walworth, former President of the New York State Temperance Society.³

During the ensuing decade, numerous commercial business and retail structures were erected adjacent to the nomination site which served as Delavan's main transportation thoroughfare. In 1849 the 53 3/4 mile Racine and Rock River Plank Road adjoined the nomination site and remained in use until 1856 when the Racine and Mississippi Railroad Company extended its railroad line to Delavan.⁴

The nomination site was devoid of paving during the 19th century. Unpaved streets not only made movement difficult, but were hard to maintain and keep clean. Muddy, miserable streets were a permanent part of life in Delavan from 1837 to 1913. During dry periods the streets were full of ruts and depressions created by the wheels of horse drawn conveyances. The warm and dry weather created a fine, silty dust which blew and covered everything nearby. Shopkeepers would beg the street sprinklers to quell the ever-present dirt and grit as dust sifted into stores and covered merchandise. The compacted dirt streets were oiled once a year to reduce the presence of dust and improve storm water runoff.⁵

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Cathy Ambler, "Mastering Mud on Main Street: Paving Technology in the Late Nineteenth-Century," <u>PAST</u>, vol. 17, 1994, p. 39.

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	Delavan, Walworth County, WI

In 1908 the city of Delavan considered paving the central business district area but decided instead to install brick cross-walks at the main intersections. At a special meeting held on December 5, 1911, the Delavan City Council voted to pave Walworth Avenue from Main Street to Eighth Street. City Engineer P.J. Hurtgen addressed the City Council and recommended the use of bituminous macadam paving materials.⁶ Property owners along the paving route protested loudly and objected to the project when it was learned that they would be required to pay for a majority of the project of the project cost. The matter was postponed by the City Council following a fiery public hearing held on March 10, 1912.⁷

Mayor Ambrose Hare appointed an Advisory Committee to assist the City Council with obtaining information about various paving materials and their costs. The Committee visited several Wisconsin cities including Milwaukee, Oconomowoc, Kilbourne [Wisconsin Dells], Tomah, and Burlington, as well as Harvard, Illinois and Lebanon, Indiana. After considering several different types of paving materials, including wood block, concrete and asphalt, the Committee recommended the use of brick as a paving surface because it had proven highly satisfactory in the communities visited and was as economical to install as other materials.⁸

⁶ "Delavan Streets to be Paved, Council Decided at Special Meeting...," <u>Delavan Enterprise</u>, December 14, 1911.

⁷ "Postpone Paving Project," <u>Delavan Enterprise</u>, March 14, 1912.

⁸ Report to the Mayor and Common Council, December 11, 1912 located at the City of Delavan City Hall.

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· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	Delavan, Walworth County, WI

In October of 1912 newly elected Mayor Daniel E. LaBar was successful in his attempt to establish a \$7,750.00 paving fund by assessing all real and personal property located in the City of Delavan.⁹ The City Council then voted to pave the Walworth Avenue central business district between Main Street and Fourth Street. Eight contracting companies submitted bids for the project. On May 2, 1913 the Common Council met to review the bids and awarded a contract to the Birdsall-Griffith Company of Racine, Wisconsin. The company agreed to grade the three block roadway, pour a concrete foundation, install a sand cushion, and lay the brick for a cost of \$15,952.28. The installation of curb, gutter and other finish work added \$3, 245.70 to the project cost.¹⁰

On May 23, 1913 Walworth Avenue was closed to traffic between Main Street and Fourth Street. A workforce of 30 men graded the street, poured the concrete base and laid the sand cushion.¹¹ On July 12,1913 a skilled crew of Italian immigrant laborers began installing the bricks between Third Street and Fourth Street. The first block was completed in six days.¹² The second block,

¹² "To Lay Brick Monday," <u>Delavan Enterprise</u>, July 3, 1913.

⁹ "Council Provides for Paving Fund From Money to be Raised," <u>Delavan</u> <u>Enterprise</u>, October 3, 1912.

¹⁰ "Paving Contract Let Friday of Last Week," <u>Delavan Enterprise</u>, May 8, 1913.

¹¹ "Paving Work Starts Tomorrow," <u>Delavan Enterprise</u>, May 22, 1913.

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Delavan's Vitrified Brick Street Delavan, Walworth County, WI

located between Second Street and Third Street, was completed on July 24, 1913.¹³ After a short delay caused by the late arrival of additional bricks from Streator, Illinois the final block, located between Main Street and Second Street was completed on August 17, 1913. The curb and gutter work was finished on October 11, 1913.¹⁴ The newly completed brick paved street reopened to traffic shortly thereafter. For the past 82 years, despite heavy traffic by horse drawn conveyances, automobiles and trucks, the original brick paving has survived.

The Delavan vitrified brick street is an embodiment of civic improvement typical of the "booster" era of the 1910s and 1920s, when communities sought to compete with neighboring committees through construction of visible "improvements" to the social, cultural and physical appearance of their communities. As such, this brick street was symbolic of the technology of industrial materials over the agrarian landscape of the nineteenth century. From an engineering perspective, the street is a significant example of the development of durable and long-lived paving materials. Brick paving enjoyed a roughly fifty-year heyday from the late 1870s into the late 1920s. "Vitrified" brick was dense, durable, and heavily fired clay brick that was imperious to water and tough enough to stand up to the heavily load and abrasion of vehicular traffic. Generally, brick streets were constructed by installing vitrified pavers over a base composed of concrete (such as in this street), rolled gravel or sand.¹⁵

¹³ <u>Delavan Enteprise</u>, July 24, 1913.

¹⁴ "Petition for Paving, <u>Delavan Enterprise</u>, October 9 1913.

¹⁵ William D.Walters and Royce Baier, "Brick Streets in Illinois: A Brief History and Guide to Their Preservation and Maintenance"published as Illionis Preservation Series Number 12, Springfield, IL.: Illinois Historic Preservation Agency, nd., p. 6 and p. 9.

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	Delavan, Walworth County, WI

Previous paving materials such as wood blocks, cobblestone, and oiled gravel proved short-lived, expensive, and difficult to maintain. The development of brick paving and its gradual perfection through industrial manufacture and sound road engineering by the turn of the century transformed the physical character of countless communities, replacing the alternately dusty and muddy ruts of heavily travelled roads with dry, durable and easily cleaned surfaces. The high initial cost of replacement of brick streets has led to the removal of brick streets or their overlayment with asphalt in communities throughout the state. Delavan's brick street is a rare surviving example of a once quite common method of roadway engineering and as such is significant to understanding the development of transportation infrastructures in a broader historical sense.

Today the City of Delavan continues to preserve and maintain the brick street for both its historical significance and practicality. The nominated site is presently in fair condition and is not threatened by any pending or planned development or construction projects in the area or adjacent to the site. However, to assure that the site will be preserved for the foreseeable future, a general rehabilitation project is being planned for 1996. Recognition of this important historic resource via placement on the National Register of Historic Places will greatly assist in effecting the rehabilitation of the roadway.

Delavan's Vitrified Brick Street	Delavan, Walworth County, WI
Name of Property	County and State
 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 # 	Primary location of additional data: X State Historic Preservation Office Other State Agency Federal Agency Local government University Other Name of repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property	1.80 acres

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 <u>1/6 3/6 /4 /8 /3 /0 4/7 /2 /1 /1 /6 /0</u>	3 <u>/</u>	<u>/////</u>	<u>/////</u>
Zone Easting Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
2 <u>1/6</u> <u>3/6/5/2/2/0</u> <u>4/7/2/1/1/6/0</u> Zone Easting Northing	4 <u>/</u> Zone	<u>/////</u> Easting continuation sh	<u>/////</u> Northing

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 <u>W. Gordon Yadon, edited by</u>	Jim Draeger		
organization Delavan Historic Preservation Society date 3/16/95			
street & number <u>P.O. Box 1</u>	telephone (4	14) 728-3025	
city or town <u>Delavan</u>	• •	zip code <u>53115</u>	

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)

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BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Ambler, Cathy. "Paving technology in the Late 19th Century." <u>PAST</u>, Pioneer America Society Transactions, Vol. 17, 1994.

Baker, Ira O. <u>A Treatise on Roads and Pavements</u>. New York: John Wiley and Sons, 1914.

Butterfield, C. W. <u>History of Walworth County, Wisconsin</u>. Chicago: Chicago Western Historical Printing Company, 1882.

Delavan Enterprise newspaper. Articles appearing in the following issues: June 22, 1911, May 8, 1913, May 22, 1913, July 13, 1913, July 24, 1913, July 31, 1913, March 29, 1990.

Herman, Roger E. "Restoring a Brick Street is a Major Undertaking," <u>Public Works</u>, January 1981.

Report to the Mayor and Common Council, December 11, 1912, located at the City of Delavan, City Hall.

Walters, William D. And Baier, Royce. "Brick Streets in Illinois: A Brief History and Guide to Their Preservation," published as Illinois Preservation Series Number 12. Springfield, IL: Illinois Historic Preservation Agency, nd.

Wheeler, Herbert A. Vitrified Paving Brick Indianapolis, IN: T. A. Randall Company, 1895.

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	Delavan, Walworth County, WI

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundary of the brick street is defined by the edge of brick paving and consists of a rectangle that is 1,185 feet in length and varies in width from 60.3 to 67 feet wide. The boundary begins at the northeast corner of Main Street and Walworth Avenue and extends eastward along the north curb of Walworth Avenue to the northwest corner of Fourth Street and Walworth Avenue; it then proceeds south to the southwest corner of Walworth Avenue and Fourth Street; then west to the southeast corner of Main Street and Walworth Avenue; then north to the point of beginning. At the north and south intersections of Second and Third streets the boundary jogs north ward and southward approximately 10 to 20 feet to the edge of brick paving. See attached map.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary has been chosen to encompass the entire extent of brick paving that has not been paved over with modern asphalt materials. It is the entire extent of brick pavement that retains historic integrity.

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Section <u>Photos</u> Page 1

Delavan's Vitrified Brick Street Delavan, Walworth County, WI

PHOTO DOCUMENTATION

Delavan's Vitrified Brick Street Delavan, Walworth County, Wisconsin Photos 1, 4, 5 and 6 taken by Lyle A. Smith on November 15, 1994. Photos 2 and 3 taken by W. Gordon Yadon on February 8, 1995. Negatives on file at the State Historical Society of Wisconsin.

Photo 1 of 6	Walworth Avenue, west to east from Second Street
Photo 2 of 6	Walworth Avenue, east to west from Fourth Street
Photo 3 of 6	Walworth Avenue, south to north at Third Street
Photo 4 of 6	Walworth Avenue, south to north at Second Street
Photo 5 of 6	Walworth Avenue, north to south at Main Street
Photo 6 of 6	Walworth Avenue, southeast to northeast at Third Street

Delavan's Vitrified	Brick Street
Name of Property	

Delavan, Walworth County, WI County and State

Property Owner

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

name City of Delavan, c/o Timothy J. Freitag, city administrator

street & number 123 South 2nd Street	- · ·		(414) 728-5585
city or town <u>Delavan</u>	state <u>WI</u>	zip code <u>4</u>	53115

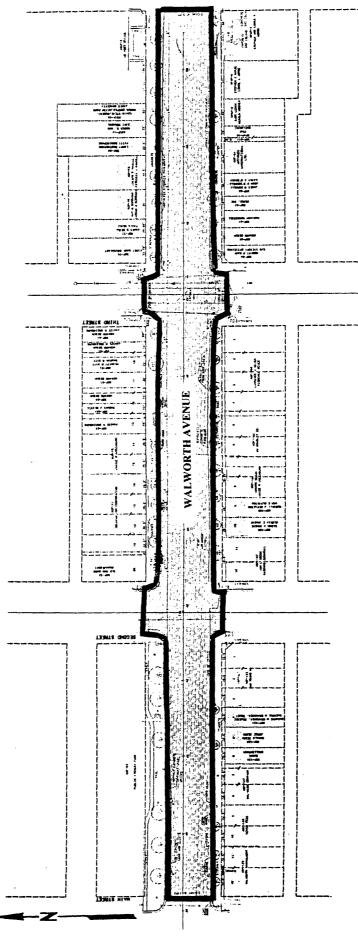
Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain 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.





BOUNDARY



1