

PH0290165

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: California
COUNTY: Shasta and Lassen
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE OCT 8 1975

1. NAME

COMMON:
Nobles' Emigrant Trail HS-1

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Nobles' Trail (Fort Kearney, South Pass and Honey Lake Wagon Road)

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
1 of 2 highways in Lassen Nat. Park

CITY OR TOWN:
Lassen Volcanic National Park

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
Second

STATE:
California

CODE
06

COUNTY:
Shasta and Lassen

CODE
089/035

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____ <input type="checkbox"/> No

4. AGENCY

National Park Service

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)
Western Region

CITY OR TOWN:
San Francisco

STREET AND NUMBER:
450 Golden Gate Avenue

STATE:
California

CODE
06

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Lassen Volcanic National Park

STATE:
California

CODE
06

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: The National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings
"Overland Migrations West of the Mississippi"

DATE OF SURVEY: 1959 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
OAHF, WASO

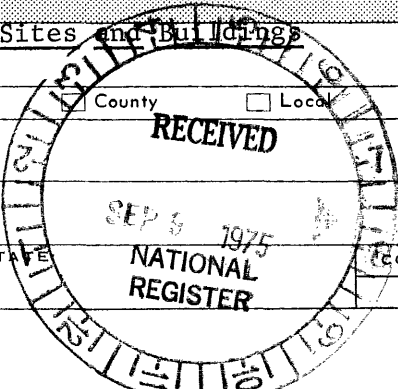
STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE:

COUNTY:

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Nobles' Emigrant Trail (known officially as the Fort Kearney, South Pass and Honey Lake Wagon Road) crosses the northern part of Lassen Volcanic National Park for a distance of about twenty-four miles. The trail is generally evident as a narrow, overgrown path through trees and brush. It enters the northeastern corner of the park crossing the northernmost boundary east of Prospect Peak and due north of the western arm of Butte Lake. A mile and a half south of where it enters the park, the trail turns southwest, skirting the northwest edge of the Fantastic Lava Beds and the northwest flank of the Cinder Cone, swinging in an arc around the southern flank of Prospect Peak for about four miles, then heading almost due west across Badger Flat to the south of Badger Mountain. Almost due south of Badger Peak, a late season branch of the trail diverges to the northwest, used by travelers during autumn months, while the main trail turns again to a south then southwest direction, climbing the valley of Hat Creek between Raker Peak to the west and the foothills below Hat Mountain to the southeast. At the meadow called Emigrant Pass, about a mile and a half of the trail was inundated and destroyed by a destructive flood of hot mud and rock triggered by an eruption of Lassen Peak on Friday, May 21, 1915. This region is known today as the "Devastated Area." At that point, the trail swung again northwest, and beyond the Devastated Area follows the Lassen Park Road for about four miles along Lost Creek through Anklin Meadows, between Raker Peak to the east and Chaos Crags to the southwest. Leaving Lost Creek the trail, turning southwest, passes between Chaos Crags to the south and Table Mountain to the northwest, crossing Sunflower Flat to Nobles Pass, on the edge of Chaos Jumbles. The trail passes through Summer-town north of Manzanita Lake and exits from Lassen Volcanic National Park along the valley of Manzanita Creek. There are no historic structures associated with the trail. Part of the trail is suitable for hiking, although such use is not promoted by the park.

Level of Treatment recommended: Preservation: 100 feet on each side of the trail.

Class VI Lands - 582 acres

Cost - None

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE Second Order of Significance

The Oregon and California Trails carried the bulk of the westward emigration from the 1840's until after completion of the first transcontinental railroad in the United States in 1869. In Nevada, the California Trail followed the Humboldt River westward, turning south near present-day Winnemucca to follow the edge of the Carson Sink to the Truckee River, then crossing the Sierra Nevada at Donner Pass. As time passed, however, many variations of this route were explored and alternative passes discovered. Connecting Oregon with the trail, the Applegate Brothers pioneered a route across the northeastern corner of California and northwestern Nevada in 1846. Peter Lassen in 1848 used part of this route, but then pioneered his own cut-off from the Applegate Trail into California, heading southwest from Goose Lake and to the east of Lassen Peak, then turning westward to the eventual location of his ranch on the Sacramento River near Chico, California.

On a later trip eastward into the Honey Lake region, Lassen took with him an emigrant named William Nobles. Nobles, born in New York state in 1816, the son of a preacher, was a machinist and skilled artisan. In 1841 he had moved to Minnesota where he built houses and mills. In St. Paul he eventually opened a blacksmith and wagon shop, allegedly building the first wagon made in Minnesota Territory. It was in 1851, after he had moved to California, that he entered the Honey Lake Valley with a party headed by Peter Lassen searching for a legendary "Gold Lake." Finding no such lake, the party disbanded, and Nobles continued eastward, until eventually he struck the Applegate Trail in Nevada not far from its junction with the California Trail. He realized that he had accidentally blazed a short-cut route which eliminated about half of the distance one had to travel following the Applegate-Lassen trails. Essentially, Nobles' new and easy route formed the base (southern arm) of an equalateral triangle, while the Applegate Trail formed the northeast arm and the Lassen cut-off formed the northwest arm; thus the Noble route constituted about half of the distance that following the other two arms entailed. Nobles' route eliminated a detour far to the north.

Nobles not only realized the importance of his new route, but decided to promote it. Returning to the Sacramento Valley by his route, he approached Shasta businessmen with the offer to show the new route for a fee of \$2,000. The money was quickly subscribed, and Nobles returned via his trail to the Humboldt River to divert as much California-bound traffic as possible over the new cut-off to Shasta. Several Shasta men who accompanied Nobles on this 1852 trip to the Humboldt returned to Shasta and verified the benefits of the new route.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Robert Amesbury, Nobles' Emigrant Trail, Susanville, California, Lassen Litho, 1967

Douglas Hillman Strong, These Happy Grounds. A History of the Lassen Region, Red Bluff: Loomis Museum Association, 1973.

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	40° 35' 02"	121° 34' 35"		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	40° 35' 02"	121° 17' 37"				
SE	40° 30' 27"	121° 17' 37"				
SW	40° 30' 27"	121° 34' 35"				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 582 Class VI

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
California		Shasta	
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
		Lassen	
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Gordon S. Chappell, Historian		DATE: Nov. 1974
BUSINESS ADDRESS: National Park Service, Western Regional Office		
STREET AND NUMBER: 450 Golden Gate Avenue		PHONE: 415 556-4165
CITY OR TOWN: San Francisco	STATE: California	CODE: 06

12. CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

State Liaison Officer recommendation:

- Yes
- No
- None

Hewitt Meades
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

Gordon S. Chappell SEP 5 1975
Federal Representative Signature Date
Deputy Assistant Secretary
Title

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

Joseph J. Reynolds
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 10/3/75

ATTEST:
W. Hunt
Keeper of The National Register

Date OCT 2 1976

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	California	
COUNTY	Shasta and Lassen	
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		OCT 3 1975

(Number all entries)

8. Significance

Thoroughly aroused as a trail-blazer, Nobles returned east, stopping in Illinois to marry, then proceeding on to Minnesota, where he promoted the trail. In February 1854 the Minnesota legislature sent him to promote the trail before Congress, which he did. Congress appropriated \$300,000 for improvement of the road, and F.W. Lander was promoted superintendent of an expedition to map what was now officially called the "Fort Kearney, South Pass and Honey Lake Wagon Road." Lander completed a favorable report on the route in February 1861, just as the beginning of the Civil War diverted the nation's energy from westward expansion. Nobles subsequently served in the Minnesota Territorial Legislature and briefly in the Union Army, and died in St. Paul in 1876. His road was used continually until after completion of the Central Pacific Railroad in 1869, after which its use declined. Parts of it are paralleled or followed by 20th Century paved highways today.

Summary of Significance

Nobles' Emigrant Trail was therefore of regional historical significance as a 19th Century transportation route which served as an avenue of commerce and communication. Its promotion was primarily commercial in character, intended to enhance the economy of Shasta and the northern Central Valley of California. Parts of the route have evolved into 20th Century paved highways. It played a significant role in American history as route by which many emigrants traveled to California. While not of national significance equivalent to the Oregon Trail and the California Trail, as a variant branch of the latter it clearly qualifies as of regional historical significance.

This nomination form covers only that part of the trail for which the National Park Service is responsible within the borders of Lassen National Park. Other segments of the trail in California and Nevada on private, state and federal land may similarly qualify for nomination to the National Register.

