

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

SG-1074

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any 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.



1. Name of Property

Historic name: Ozark Trails-Indian Meridian Obelisk

Other names/site number: _____

Name of related multiple property listing: _____

N/A

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

2. Location

Street & number: Intersection of Logan Avenue and E Washington Avenue

City or town: Langston State: Oklahoma County: Logan

Not For Publication: Vicinity:

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 at the following level(s) of significance:

national X statewide ___ local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A ___ B ___ C ___ D

Signature of certifying official/Title:		Date	
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government			

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.			
Signature of commenting official:		Date	
Title :		State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

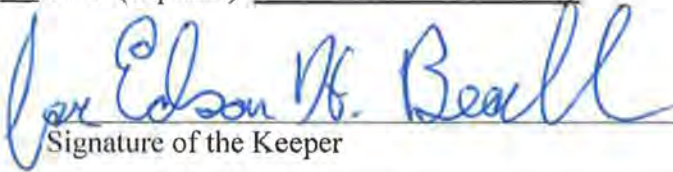
Ozark Trails-Indian Meridian Obelisk
Name of Property

Logan, Oklahoma
County and State

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:)


Signature of the Keeper

6-12-17
Date of Action

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

Ozark Trails-Indian Meridian Obelisk
Name of Property

Logan, Oklahoma
County and State

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Transportation: _____
Road Related

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Transportation: _____
Road Related

Ozark Trails-Indian Meridian Obelisk
Name of Property

Logan, Oklahoma
County and State

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

No Style

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Concrete

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The white concrete obelisk stands approximately twenty-one feet tall with a square base, square shaft and pyramidal top. An eight foot by eight foot brick edging was recently added to aid in the monument's preservation. It is located in the center of the intersection of Logan Avenue and East Washington Avenue. The marker retains its integrity of location, design, workmanship, and setting.

Narrative Description

The Ozark Trails Indian Meridian Obelisk is located in Logan County, Oklahoma, on the east side of the city of Langston, less than one mile south of Highway 33. It is one of only two Ozark Trails monuments remaining in Oklahoma; the other is located in the vicinity of Stroud, Oklahoma (NRIS #03001235). The Logan County monument was constructed in 1922.

The monument is a concrete, square obelisk measuring approximately twenty-one feet tall and has two distinctive parts, a cube square base and a square obelisk. The rectangular base measures forty-three inches square and thirty-nine inches tall. The corners of the base are beveled and the

Ozark Trails-Indian Meridian Obelisk
Name of Property

Logan, Oklahoma
County and State

base curves along its top to meet a square ridge. From there the base joins with the obelisk. The sides of the obelisk are thirty-three inches wide and rise until near the top when the obelisk sharply angles to create a pyramid.

Alterations:

In 2014, the Langston University Center for Community Engagement repainted the monument its original white color. At the same time, they constructed the brick edging measuring eight feet by eight feet around the base of the monument to help protect the monument from being struck by vehicles.

Ozark Trails-Indian Meridian Obelisk
Name of Property

Logan, Oklahoma
County and State

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.)

- 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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

Ozark Trails-Indian Meridian Obelisk
Name of Property

Logan, Oklahoma
County and State

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Transportation

Period of Significance

1922

Significant Dates

1922

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

N/A

Ozark Trails-Indian Meridian Obelisk
Name of Property

Logan, Oklahoma
County and State

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Ozark Trails-Indian Meridian Obelisk is significant at the local level under Criteria A in the area of Transportation. The monument served as a waypoint when traveling along the Ozark Trails. Its period of significance is 1922, the year it was constructed. It is being nominated at the state level of significance under Criteria A for its association with the Ozark Trails and early automobile highway promotion in Oklahoma.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Prior to the development of the U.S. highway system in 1925-1926, nearly one hundred private highway associations competed to build interstate and transcontinental highways across the United States. In a period when federal involvement with road construction was in its infancy, the private automobile trail association provided a valuable service promoting the development of transcontinental highways.¹ The roads were named after regional or historical themes and the organizations functioned similar to Chambers of Commerce, using dues from businesses and individuals along the routes to promote the highway. These groups encouraged local communities to improve and maintain roadways while also aiding travelers to find their way on the road system. Within a decade of statehood, pressure began to mount in Oklahoma for the development of roads that would provide more than just access to county seats and local markets. This access was especially important to farmers, who were some of the first automobile owners in Oklahoma.

The first successful named trail, the Lincoln Highway, began in 1913 and established a drivable route from Washington D.C. to San Francisco by 1919. The Ozark Trail followed the Lincoln Highway. While the Ozark Trail was not a transcontinental highway, it attempted to connect the hills of Arkansas to four adjacent states by a network of highways.

Oklahoma's pressure to develop roads was part of a national movement called the Good Roads Movement, which emphasized the importance of improving the dirt roads, which often became muddy and intractable in the summer. Good Roads advocates campaigned to get farmers out of the mud on these 'farm-to-market' roads. Also, bicyclists were among the strongest promoters of the Good Roads Movement and helped expand its scale from a local to a national political movement.

In 1900 William Hope Harvey purchased 320 acres of rural land along the White River near Rogers, Arkansas. Renaming the area Monte Ne meaning mountain waters, Harvey began

¹ Richard F. Weingroff. "Then Highways had Names." *SCA Journal*. Spring 1996: 3.

Ozark Trails-Indian Meridian Obelisk

Logan, Oklahoma

Name of Property

County and State

developing the site in 1901 as a resort. Constructed in the rustic manner of wood and stone, the resort featured a long lagoon and a stone amphitheater. To get guests to the resort, Harvey built a five-mile spur line from the town of Lowell to the Monte Ne depot, where guests traveled the last half-mile by boat.²

The abandonment of the spur line in 1910 forced Harvey to consider alternative access to the resort. In 1913 he conceived a series of improved highways that would draw traffic from the four neighboring states to his resort. He wrote in 1913 “My inclination runs toward doing something of a progressive nature that will promote the collective good, and I have now concentrated all that inclination on carrying out a system of roads known as the Ozark Trails.”³

Differing from other private highways of the time, the Ozark Trails initially developed as a regional network of improved roads connecting Monte Ne to St. Louis, Kansas City, Wichita, Oklahoma City and Tulsa. The Ozark Trail Association (OTA) did not plan to build actual roads but to promote and educate local communities on good roads and improved highway design. By the first OTA convention in 1913, the highway’s concept had expanded to a highway system connecting St. Louis in the east to Las Vegas, New Mexico, in the west.

After the 1913 convention, interest in the highway expanded as the emphasis of the road shifted west. This emphasis took shape at an adjourned session of the 1916 convention which took place in Oklahoma City. At the gathering, three potential routes through Oklahoma were proposed. Of particular interest as it relates to the marker in Langston was the route connecting Tulsa to Oklahoma City.

Internal issues brought about the demise of the OTA. Contributing to its demise were major changes in the funding of highway construction, shifting from historically a mixture of county and state monies to dominantly federal aid by the mid-1920s. With a shift in funding also came a push to organize national highways by a number system rather than name.

The development of the U.S. numbered highway system and its attendant standard highway shield spelled the extinction of the named trails. Many fought to have their name affixed to the corresponding U.S. highway, only to be thwarted by the U.S. Board of Public Roads (BPR) which purposefully broke the named trails into different numbered highways.⁴

Cyrus Stevens Avery, an Oklahoma Highway commissioner, became a member of the committee studying the national numbering system in 1924. In the Ozark Trails he saw a “rational logic of transcontinental highway through Oklahoma.”⁵ Before the U.S. highway numbering system, each of the named trails marked their roads with a unique route symbol, typically a combination of primary colors, painted on telephone poles, boulders, barns or anything that could hold paint. The Ozark Trails selected a green and white color scheme with a green “OT” placed between

² Nan M. Lawler. *The Ozark Trails Association*. M.A. Thesis, University of Arkansas, 1991: 9.

³ Quoted in Clara B. Kennan. ‘The Ozark Trails and Arkansas’ Pathfinder, Coin Harvey. *The Arkansas Historical Quarterly*, Volume VII Winter 1948, No. 4: 300.

⁴ Arthur Krim. “The Original Mother Road.” *SCA Journal*. Spring 1996: 25.

⁵ Arthur Krim. “The Original Mother Road.” *SCA Journal*. Spring 1996: 25.

Ozark Trails-Indian Meridian Obelisk

Logan, Oklahoma

Name of Property

County and State

green stripes. Later, they adopted more substantial markers. Harvey first proposed permanent markers for the trail at the OTA conference held in Miami, Oklahoma, in 1918. He proposed a group of concrete obelisks to be constructed at the junctions where the Ozark Trails branched.⁶

Placed at the center of intersections, the trail markers were short lived. Realizing their potential as traffic hazards, many of the markers that were installed were demolished. The obelisk in Langston was saved from demolition because of its remote location, away from a heavy stream of traffic.

There is no indication of how many Ozark Trails markers were constructed; only seven markers are extant today. Of the four in Texas, two are reported to have been moved from their original location and one was reconstructed at a shorter height. The ones in Tampico and Tulia are in their original location and retain their design but have lost their lights and paint scheme. The marker in Stroud, Lincoln County, is listed as a contributing resource to the Ozark Trails Section of Route 66 (NRIS #03001235) as is the Ozark Trails Marker at Lake Arthur (NRIS #04000702). Sitting in its original location, the Ozark Trails-Indian Meridian Obelisk in Langston, Logan County, maintains excellent integrity.

The OTA was active in Oklahoma. They pushed for good roads through the state. Prior to the Federal Aid Act of 1921, highway construction in Oklahoma was sporadic and financed through the state and local funds. Filling in the gaps were the east-west transcontinental highways. The named highways brought with them wealthy automobile tourists, influencing commerce and roadside development of every town along their routes.

As a remainder of the Ozark Trails Association's influence on early automobile highways in Oklahoma, the Ozark Trails-Indian Meridian Obelisk in Langston is significant under Criteria A for Transportation at the state level of significance.

⁶ Ibid, 24.

Ozark Trails-Indian Meridian Obelisk
Name of Property

Logan, Oklahoma
County and State

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Corbett, Bill. "Transportation." *The Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture*, www.okhistory.org (accessed December 15, 2016).

Everett, Dianna. "Avery, Cyrus Stevens," *The Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture*, www.okhistory.org (accessed December 15, 2016).

Everett, Dianna. "Indian Meridian (and Indian Base Line.)," *The Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture*, www.okhistory.org (accessed December 15, 2016).

Kennan, Clara B. "The Ozark Trails and Arkansas' Pathfinder, Coin Harvey." *The Arkansas Historical Quarterly*, Vol. VII winter 1948, No. 4: 299-316.

Lawler, Nan M. *the Ozark Trail Association*. M.A. thesis, University of Arkansas, 1991.

Krim, Arthur. "The Original Mother Road." *SCA Journal*. Spring 1996: 21-26.

Weingroff, Richard F. "When Highways had Names." *SCA Journal*. Spring 1996: 2-6.

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 # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
 - Other State agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other
- Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

Ozark Trails-Indian Meridian Obelisk
Name of Property

Logan, Oklahoma
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property less than 1 acre

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 35.942118 | Longitude: -97.247055 |
| 2. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 3. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 4. Latitude: | Longitude: |

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The monument stands in the center of the intersection of Logan Avenue and East Washington Avenue in the city of Langston, Logan County. The boundaries of the monument are the corners of the brick protective barrier.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The brick area around the base of the monument is included in the boundary of the property as the monument has historically been surrounded by a grassy area. The brick area outlines the grassy surround.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Jordan P. Brasher with edits by Lynda Ozan
organization: University of Tennessee
street & number: 303 Burchfiel Geography Building
city or town: Knoxville state: TN zip code: 37996
e-mail: jbrashe3@vols.utk.edu/lozan@okhistory.org
telephone: 405/522-4478
date: December 2016

Ozark Trails-Indian Meridian Obelisk
Name of Property

Logan, Oklahoma
County and State

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Ozark Trails-Indian Meridian Obelisk

City or Vicinity: Langston

County: Logan

State: Oklahoma

Photographer: Lynda Ozan

Date Photographed: 27 February 2017

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Ozark Trails-Indian Meridian Obelisk
Name of Property

Logan, Oklahoma
County and State

Number	Subject	Direction
0001	South Elevation	North
0002	West Elevation	East
0003	East Elevation	West

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.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Ozark Trails-Indian Meridian Obelisk
Intersection of Logan and Washington Avenue
Langston, Logan County, Oklahoma



Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AEX, Getmapping, Aerogrid, IGN, IGP, swisstopo, and the GIS User Community

0 0.025 0.05 0.1 Miles



LANGSTON

↑
Coyle

LANGSTON



Perkins

BRIDGE
OUT



LANGSTON

↑
GUTHRIE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:

Property Name:

Multiple Name:

State & County:

Date Received: Date of Pending List: Date of 16th Day: Date of 45th Day: Date of Weekly List:

Reference number:

Nominator:

Reason For Review:

Accept Return Reject Date

Abstract/Summary Comments:

Recommendation/ Criteria

Reviewer Discipline

Telephone Date

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.