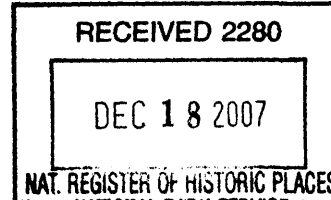


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



1471

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determination for individual properties and National Park Service 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 Sandbeach Lake Trail

other names/site number 5BL.10292

2. Location

street & number Rocky Mountain National Park (ROMO) [N/A] not for publication

city or town Meeker Park [X] vicinity

state Colorado code CO county Boulder code 013 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 [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 of certifying official/Title: Joe Wallis, National Park Service; Date: 12-17-07

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

Signature of certifying official/Title: Mark Wolfe, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer; Date: 11/8/07; Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, Colorado Historical Society

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- [X] 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.

Signature of the Keeper: [Signature], Date of Action: 1-29-08

Sandbeach Lake Trail  
Name of Property

Boulder 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.)

Sandbeach Lake Trail  
Name of Property

Boulder County/ Colorado  
County/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.)

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

1910-1945

### Significant Dates

1910

1915

### Significant Person(s)

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

### Cultural Affiliation

N/A

### Architect/Builder

SUPPLY RESERVOIR COMPANY

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

### Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

Colorado Historical Society  
Rocky Mountain National Park

Sandbeach Lake Trail  
Name of Property

Boulder County/ Colorado  
County/State

## 10. Geographical Data

**Acreage of Property** 10.4

### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1.	13	488888	4452231	(NAD27)
	Zone	Easting	Northing	
2.	13	449034	4452361	
	Zone	Easting	Northing	
3.	13	450672	4451747	
	Zone	Easting	Northing	
4.	13	451241	4451953	
	Zone	Easting	Northing	

The UTM points were derived from heads up digitization on Digital Raster Graphic (DRG) maps provided to OAHF by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management.

[X] 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 for RMNP (RMNP contact- Cheri Yost)  
organization Rocky Mountain National Park date 15 August 2006  
street & number 1000 U.S. 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 (Superintendent- Vaughn L. Baker)  
street & number 1000 U. S. Highway 36 telephone (970) 586-1206  
city or town Estes Park state Colorado zip code \_\_\_\_\_

**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.

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet****United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

Sandbeach Lake Trail  
Boulder County/ Colorado  
Rocky Mountain National Park MPS  
Historic Park Landscapes in National and State Parks MPS

Section number 7 Page 1

**DESCRIPTION**

Location: The trail is situated in the southeast region of Rocky Mountain National Park, in Wild Basin. The trail begins east of Copeland Lake, rises along the Copeland Moraine, and then moves steadily westward along the lower flanks of the south side of the Mount Meeker massif.

Setting: The trail is characterized by a gradual ascent through a mostly Subalpine ecosystem of firs, spruces, and aspen. Sandbeach Lake is fringed on its northern side with a truly sandy beach.

General route established: 1910

Trail built: Constructed as a road from Meeker Park by 1910. One mile extension to Copeland Lake recognized by 1915.

Materials: Earth, local rock, log/wood

Destination: Sandbeach Lake

Length of trail: 4.3 miles

Trail width: ranging from 2 to 4 feet

Elevation change: 1,800 feet

Significant built features: Dry laid rock walls, log footbridges, log and rock water bars and drains, stone steps, and bogwalks.

Significant natural features: Copeland Moraine, Campers Creek, Hunters Creek, Sandbeach Lake, and Mount Orton

Trail tour:

Wild Basin can be a maze—the system of interconnected pathways offers visitors multiple routes and destinations. However, the 4.3-mile Sandbeach Lake Trail stands apart, beginning and ending farther east than other trails.

Most people begin the hike at Copeland Lake. An older route begins on private dirt roads near Meeker Park, joining the rest of the trail 1.3 miles west of Copeland Lake. Since the 1910s, the Copeland Lake trailhead—next to Copeland Lake Lodge, just inside the park entrance to Wild Basin—has grown in popularity with tourists and secured its status as the main Sandbeach Lake trailhead. Today, the lodge no longer operates. However, the trail still begins by the park entrance, just east of Copeland Lake, tucked up against the southern flank of Copeland Moraine. (The USGS 7.5 minute topographic map of the Allens Park quadrangle shows the pre-1986 park boundary to the west of Copeland Lake.) This situates the trailhead slightly above the marshy, meandering North Saint Vrain Creek.

Starting at 8,487 feet and ending at 10,283-foot-high Sandbeach Lake, the trail climbs about 1,800 feet over its length, offering a moderately strenuous day hike or backpacking trail. The pathway passes through a few steep areas and some wetland. To help maintain a steady, sustainable pathway through this terrain, the trail utilizes log checks, stone steps, switchbacks, log footbridges, and bogwalks (elevated causeways).

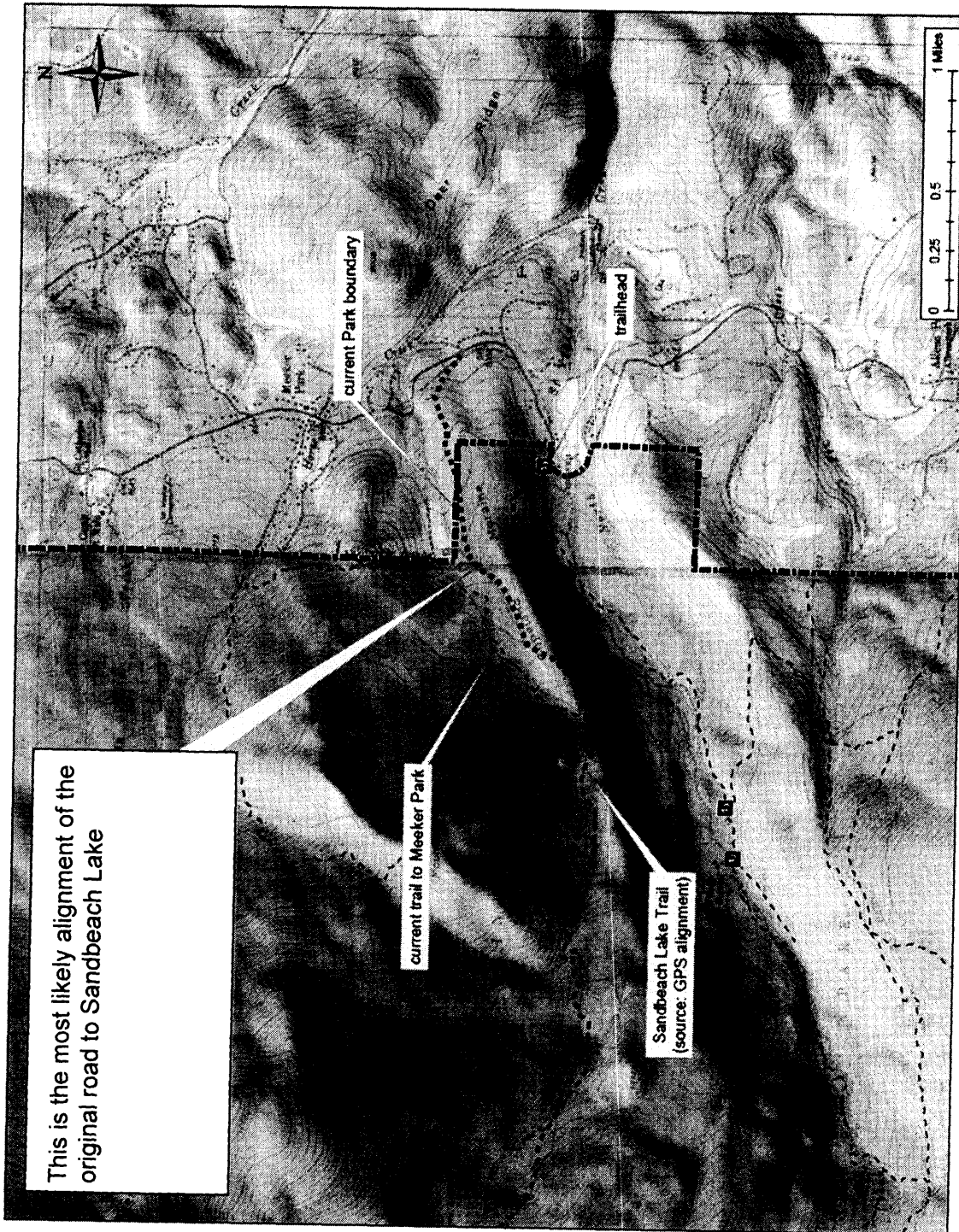
# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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

Section number 7 Page 2

## Rocky Mountain National Park Sandbeach Lake Trailhead and the 1986 expanded park boundary

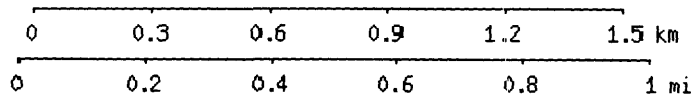
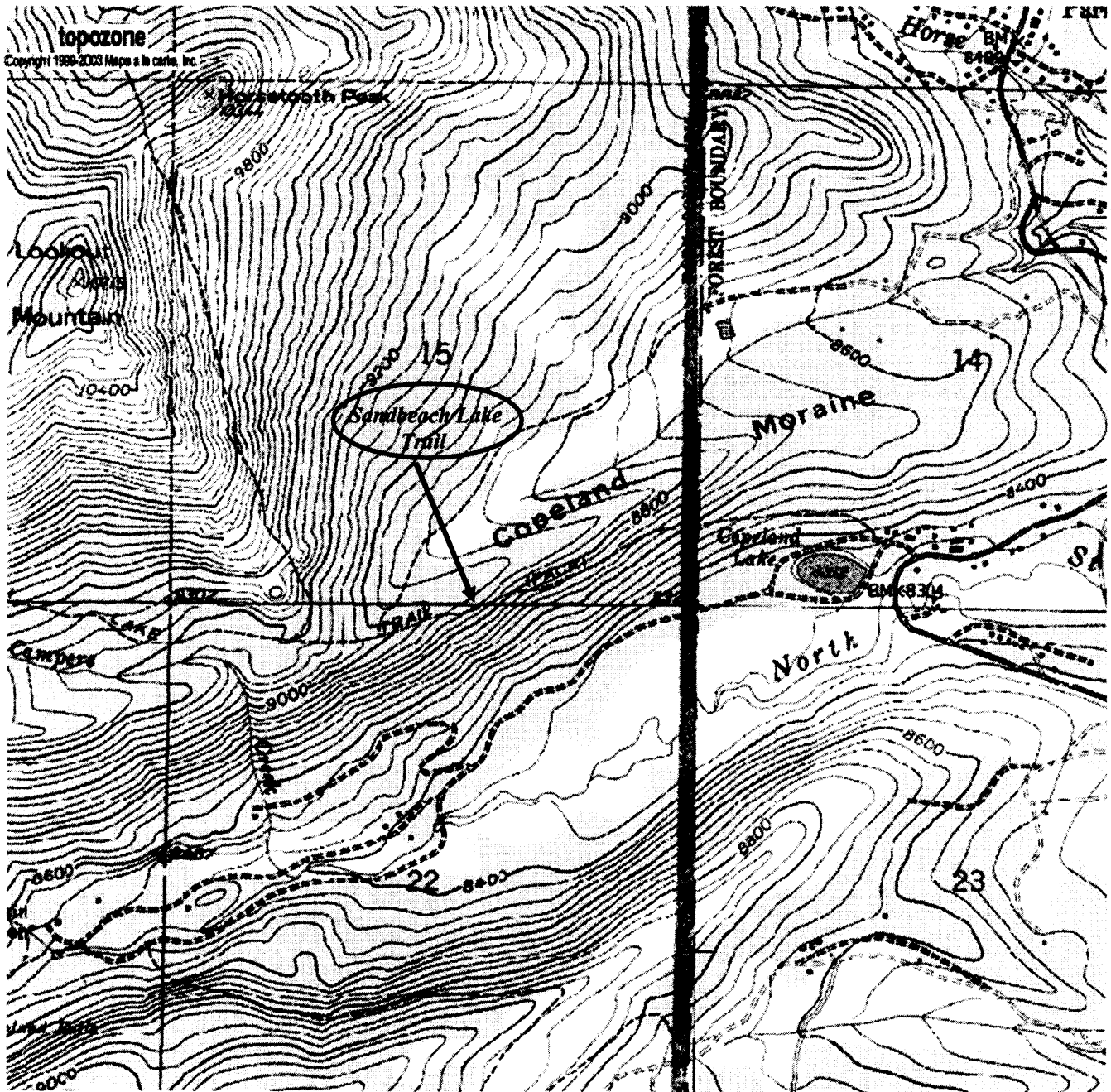


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Boulder County/ Colorado  
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USGS Allenspark (CO) Quadrangle  
Projection is UTM Zone 13 NAD83 Datum





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As the first order of business, the trail ascends out of the basin. For the first half-mile, the trail moves westward, using switchbacks to travel steeply upwards along grassy slopes and through Ponderosa pines and other evergreens, eventually gaining Copeland Moraine. The next mile bends to the southwest, skirting along the moraine and moving upwards at a shallower incline. Looking through the trees, the traveler catches glimpses of the serpentine North Saint Vrain Creek as it wanders along the flat valley bottom of eastern Wild Basin. Upon reaching the connector trail to Meeker Park—approximately 1.3 miles up from Copeland Lake—the trail has climbed 500 feet.

After this junction, the traveler continues moving westward to trek the final 3 miles and 1,300 feet in elevation. Although the trail continuously moves through thick timber, the path alternates between steep ascents and flat, creek-side stretches. The trail encounters first Campers Creek and then Hunters Creek, using narrow log footbridges to make the crossing. Log bogwalks support the tread through flat, swampy areas. Some bogwalks look old, decomposing into the ground that they retain. The trail passes several backcountry sites. Near the end, an especially long, final upward push, brings the traveler up a stone staircase-like piece of trail.

The lake forms a lop-sided hourglass shape, and possesses a sandy beach on its northern side. Backcountry sites are situated on the eastern and northern shores. To the west of the lake rise the forested slopes of Mt. Orton, 11,724 feet high. To the north, the rocky bulk of Mt. Meeker effectively walls off northern views. The southern outlook reveals open sky and, in the distance, the southern rim of Wild Basin. The total effect is one of being perched on a shelf, overlooking a secluded valley.

**Trail construction and alterations:**

In the early 1900s, the Supply Reservoir Company filed upon Sandbeach Lake, intending to make the natural lake into a reservoir. To this end, the company built a road that initiated on what is today the Peak to Peak Highway, near Meeker Park, just south of Horse Creek, and traveled west to Sandbeach Lake. This road's alignment marks the modern trail route.

Contemporary maps indicate that the road deteriorated over time. By 1917, it was designated one of the "poor automobile roads." Meanwhile, hikers and horseback riders discovered the route, effectively turning the old road into a tourist trail. In 1915, Rocky Mountain National Park's first superintendent listed the pathway among the new park's trail assets.

One piece of the modern Sandbeach Lake Trail travels outside the alignment of the reservoir road: the one-mile connector that links Copeland Lake with the rest of the trail. This important section logically served the demands of tourists, connecting the site of the historic Copeland Lake Lodge to the main Sandbeach Lake Trail. Most contemporary maps did not recognize its presence until the 1950s. However, the park superintendent considered Copeland Lake the official trailhead as early as 1915, and reported the whole trail to be in good condition. Future Superintendent Toll described the connector trail in 1919. This mixture of evidence suggests that visitor use first established the route as a "social trail." The casually-made character of the connector trail can be supported by its steep, relatively direct course. In 1989 and 1990, the park brought the trail closer to the standards of Naturalistic Design, re-routing the first quarter mile. The trailhead shifted from the north shore of Copeland Lake to a parking lot slightly to the north. This work brought this piece of the trail from a 20 percent grade to about a 12 percent grade.

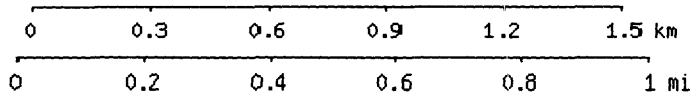
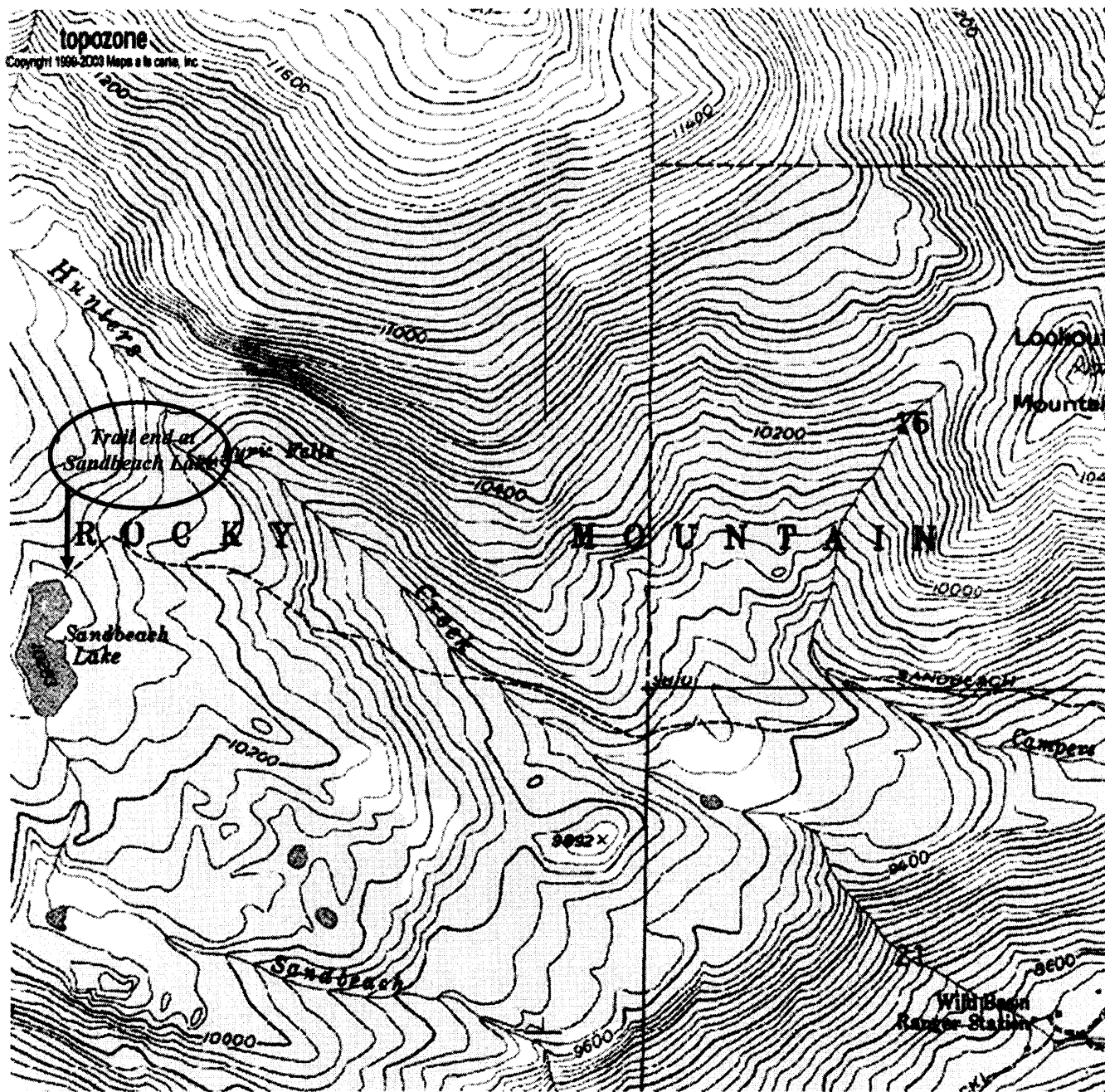


# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

United States Department of the Interior  
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Sandbeach Lake Trail  
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Rocky Mountain National Park MPS  
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USGS Allenspark (CO) Quadrangle  
Projection is UTM Zone 13 NAD83 Datum



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Little written evidence exists to suggest extensive park trail crew and/or Civilian Conservation Corps work on the Sandbeach Lake Trail. During the 1930s, trail plans for CCC work within Wild Basin acknowledge that the Sandbeach Trail was narrow and may need light work. However, the plans seem to propose no reconstruction.

**Sandbeach integrity:**

Like the other trails in Wild Basin, Sandbeach Lake trail was originally a wagon road to a reservoir. Over time, hikers overtook this route and turned it into a narrow trail. A social trail from Copeland Lake provided an early alternative route that quickly became the popular and later official trailhead, as it remains today. Though no evidence exists to suggest a period of improvements on this trail, it is possible the CCC put some resources toward its maintenance or improvement. Park trail crews have replaced ephemeral features such log steps and checks using trees gathered on site. The 1989-1990 realignment of the first quarter mile of trail near Copeland Lake was not significant enough to diminish the trail's overall integrity. Moreover, this improvement lessened the grade from 20 percent to about 12 percent, bringing this section closer to the standards of Naturalistic Design.

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**SIGNIFICANCE**

The Sandbeach Lake Trail is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A, meeting the registration requirements set forth in the *Rocky Mountain National Park Multiple Property Submission*. 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 starts in 1910 with the construction and use of the trail by early tourists and ends in 1945, the year in which tourism in the park significantly changed due to increased automobile traffic after World War II.

The Sandbeach Lake Trail demonstrates the national trends described in Linda Flint McClelland's *Historic Park Landscapes in National and State Parks Multiple Property Submission*. 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**

As early as the 1860s Longs Peak lured adventurers and tourists to its slopes. Surely, the climbers—scrambling along the Narrows, or up the Home Stretch on their way to the summit—glimpsed the deep glaciated valley to the south. Perhaps some even used this basin to access the peak. If they did, they likely passed by Sandbeach Lake. However, Sandbeach Lake, like most of its neighboring lakes in Wild Basin, would have to wait until the early twentieth century for most tourists to realize that it was a worthy destination in and of itself.

In 1912, Dean Babcock accurately—if somewhat sensationally—summed up the status of Wild Basin:

Southward and eastward from Long's Peak stretches a tract of mountain country which few sojourners in Estes Park have ever seen, and still fewer ever visited, but which offers almost infinite delight to the camper, which indeed from combined grandeur and charm is perhaps unsurpassed in the entire chain of the Rockies.<sup>1</sup>

As Babcock suggests, Wild Basin was one of the last areas in the Estes Park region to be embraced by tourists. For years, Wild Basin's attractions languished in the metaphorical shadow of Longs Peak. The mountain shoulders up between Wild Basin and Estes Park, providing an effective distraction to potential sightseers.

Perhaps because of its isolation, the first route to Sandbeach Lake served irrigators, not sightseers. Before 1910, the Supply Reservoir Company filed upon Sandbeach Lake, intending to make the natural lake into a reservoir. To this end, the company built a road that initiated on what is today the Peak to Peak Highway, near Meeker Park, just south of Horse Creek, and traveled west to the lake. The upper three miles of the road's alignment marks the majority of the modern trail route. Contemporary maps indicate that the road suffered from neglect, deteriorating—or, arguably, evolving—into a trail. By 1917, it was designated one of the "poor automobile roads" and had become adopted by recreational hikers and horseback riders.

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<sup>1</sup> Dean Babcock, "A Glimpse of the Wild Basin," *The Estes Park Trail*, August 31, 1912, 2.

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These early visitors considered Wild Basin to be rugged and raw. In 1912, the Sandbeach Lake area exhibited signs of a recent forest fire. Because of this, Babcock characterized "the rough morainal country" as "probably the least attractive" point of interest in the Wild Basin area. "However," he asserts,

its approach from the east is diversified and interesting; and from its west shore rise the abrupt sides of Mt. Orton. This mountain, which separates the Sandbeach lake basin from the next one to the south, is a rounded ridge, some three miles long, its crest slightly above timberline. Its ascent, easily accomplished by any one of the several obvious routes from the lakes, is one of the most interesting and satisfying in the entire region. The lower slopes, cut in picturesque little dells, are clad with a forest of enormous trees, one of which is the largest Englemann spruce the writer has ever found in the Estes Park district.<sup>2</sup>

Sandbeach Lake and the rest of Wild Basin earned attention from the Colorado Mountain Club, a group of adventurous sightseers that made their annual camping trip there in 1916 and 1919. Roger Toll recorded his experience with the club:

Left camp at 8:45 a.m. and walked to Copeland Lake Lodge, then started up the side of the Copeland Moraine back to the lodge, and soon struck a trail. Followed this trail to the upper end of the Copeland Moraine, where it ends on Meeker Ridge, and there met the disused road to Sandbeach Lake. Followed the road, which is now impassable for wagons, crossed the creek that comes down from the south slope of Mount Meeker, then Hunters Creek, and reached Sandbeach Lake at 1:20 p.m. The sand beaches, which give the name to the lake, are only visible when the reservoir is partially empty, as it was on this day. Walked around the reservoir and having some time to spare, started toward Mount Orton, reaching timberline at 2:30. Here I met the Mountain Club party, some 45 strong, returning from Mount Orton, and went with them back to Sandbeach Lake, where I met Francis E. Bouck by previous arrangement...[went on to climb Pagoda, Longs and Meeker].<sup>3</sup>

For Roger Toll, a robust mountaineer, Sandbeach Lake was only an interesting waypoint on a trip to Longs Peak and other peaks. However, Colorado Mountain Club members could be considered some of the hardest park visitors. It is likely that other visitors of the same period sought out Sandbeach Lake as a destination in and of itself.

Little written evidence exists to suggest extensive park trail crew and/or Civilian Conservation Corps work on the Sandbeach Lake Trail. During the 1930s, trail plans for CCC work within Wild Basin acknowledge that the Sandbeach Trail was narrow and may need light work. However, the plans seem to propose no new construction.

Whether or not the Sandbeach Lake Trail was subject to major projects in the 1920-1950 period, the trail remained relatively prominent on all maps. These were decades of moderately abundant

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> Toll, *Mountaineering in the Rocky Mountain National Park*, 1919, 73.

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resources, and it would have been inconsistent for the park to neglect the trail if it had needed serious attention. Perhaps because the Sandbeach Lake Trail's historic alignment was well planned—using a fairly gradual ascent—the trail already conformed to the standards of NPS Naturalistic Design, and therefore required relatively little re-routing over time.

Due to its proximity to Longs Peak, continuation of the Sandbeach Lake Trail has often been considered. On September 16, 1921, the *Estes Park Trail* reported on the efforts of Ranger Jack Moomaw:

On Tuesday August 30 a party of four from Copeland Lake Lodge led by Mr. Moomaw and Ranger Higgins left Copeland Lake Lodge on horseback and traveled over the Sandbeach trail to the new trail just blazed and cleared by Mr. Moomaw, who has been planning the trail for the past twenty years....

Despite Moomaw's hard work, no maintained trail past Sandbeach Lake exists today.

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Continuation Sheet****United States Department of the Interior  
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Sandbeach Lake Trail  
Boulder County/ Colorado  
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Section number 9 Page 10**BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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*Estes Park Trail*

August 31, 1912

September 16, 1921

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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

United States Department of the Interior  
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Sandbeach Lake Trail  
Boulder County/ Colorado  
Rocky Mountain National Park MPS  
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. Beginning at the Sandbeach Trailhead, the trail travels westward toward Sandbeach Lake. The trail is 4.3 miles long. The boundary of this nomination extends a distance of 10 feet from either side of the centerline of the trail.

### BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary includes the resource and associated features such as (but not limited to) footbridges, signs, rock walls, stone steps, switchbacks, and bogwalks. 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.

### UTM References (NAD 27) (cont.)

5.	13	452294	4451757
	Zone	Easting	Northing
6.	13	453907	4452124
	Zone	Easting	Northing
7.	13	454370	4452156
	Zone	Easting	Northing
8.	13	454448	4452086
	Zone	Easting	Northing



# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

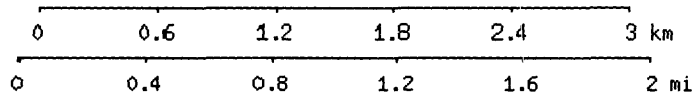
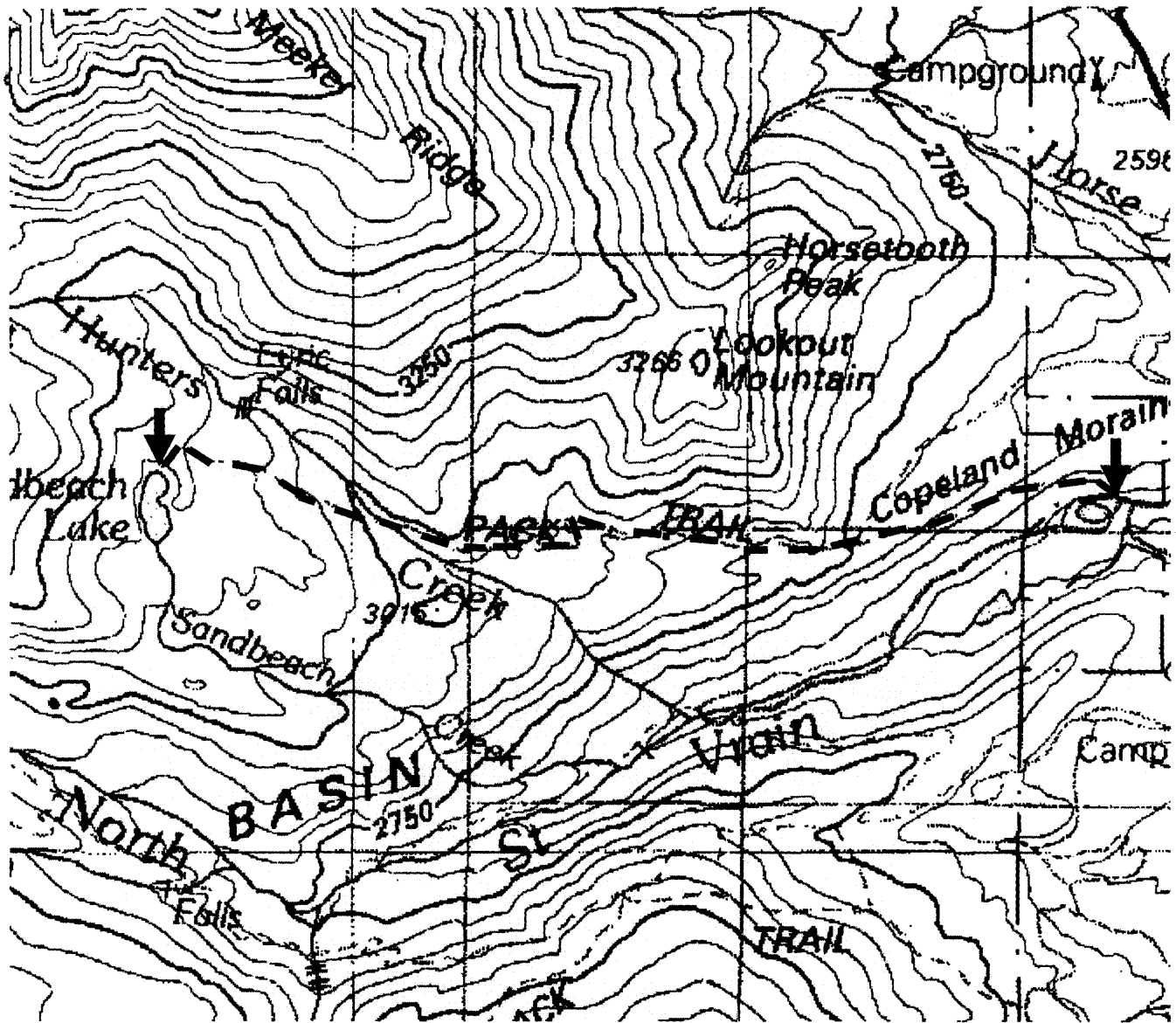
United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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Boulder County/ Colorado  
Rocky Mountain National Park MPS  
Historic Park Landscapes in National and State Parks MPS

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**USGS TOPOGRAPHIC MAP**  
Allens Park Quadrangle, Colorado  
7.5 Minute Series (Reduced)

Elevation: 8600 feet – 10283 feet



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



**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet****United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

Sandbeach Lake Trail  
Boulder County/ Colorado  
Rocky Mountain National Park MPS  
Historic Park Landscapes in National and State Parks MPS

Section number \_\_\_ Page 13**PHOTOGRAPH LOG**

The following information pertains to photograph numbers 1-3:

Name of Property: Sandbeach Lake Trail  
Location: Boulder County/ Colorado  
Photographer: Sierra Standish  
Date of Photographs: June 2005  
Negatives: CD with TIFF images on file with National Park Service, Washington DC

Photo No.                      Photographic Information

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- 1 Top of switchback on Copeland Moraine, view to east.
- 2 North Saint Vrain Creek winding along floor of Wild Basin, view to southeast.
- 3 Split log footbridge/stock ford combination over Hunters Creek.