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NPS Form 10-900 (Rev. 8/86) NPS/CHS Word Processor Format (Approved 03/88)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

OMB No. 1024-0018



NATIONAL REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable". For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries. Use letter quality printers in 12 pitch. Use only 25% or greater cotton content bond paper.

1. Name of Property			
historic name: Lariat 1		ive	
other names/site number:	Lookout Mountain Road		
	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		
2. Location			
street & number: Lookou	ıt Mountain Road	(NA) not	for publication
city, town: Golden		(XX) vicir	
	code:CO county:Jeffer		zip code: 80401
3. Classification			
Ownership of Property	Category of Property	No. of Resource	ces within Property
() private	() building(s)	contributing	noncontributing
(X) public-local	(X) district	1	0 buildings
() public-State	() site		<u> </u>
() public-Federal	() structure		14 structures
	() object	2	<u> </u>
		_10	<u>15</u> Total
Name of related multiple	property listing:	No. of contrib	outing resources
•		previously lis	sted in the
Denver Mountain Park Sy	rstem	National Regis	ster <u>0</u>

 State/Federal Agency Certificat 	ion	
As the designated authority under the Na 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that determination of eligibility meets the of properties in the National Register of F and professional requirements set forth property (x) meets () does not meet the () See continuation sheet.	this (x) nomination () request for documentation standards for registering the procedulation of the procedulation of the control of the cont	ing ural
11 Andrew Circles	9-76.90	
TRANSPORT SURVEY	9-26.90	
Signature of certifying official	Date	
State Historic Preservation Officer, Co	olorado Historical Society	
State or Federal agency and bureau	Figure 11 Stories 1 Stories 1	
bout of fourth agono, and baroan		
In my opinion, the property () meets () does not meet the National Registe	er
criteria. () See continuation sheet.		
Signature of Commenting or Other Officia	al Date	
bigilature of commenting of other officer	II Dace	
State or Federal Agency and Bureau		
	The second secon	
5. National Park Service Certifica	tion	—
5. Nacional Park Bervice Cercifica		
I, hereby, certify that this property is:	Entered in the	
	National Register	
(\cancel{X}) entered in the National Register.	\mathcal{L}_{l}	,
() See continuation sheet	Selower 11/13	1/20
()	V	
() determined eligible for the National Register. () See continuation sheet		
Register: () See Continuation sheet		
() determined not eligible for the		
National Register.		
•		
() removed from the National Register.		
() other, (explain:)		
	/=	
7	Signature of the Keeper Date of	
<i>0</i>	Action	1

-	egories from instructions)			
Transporta	tion / Road Related			
Materials				
(enter categories from instructions)				
foundations	N/A			
walls	Stone			
roof	N/A			
other				
:	foundations walls			

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Lariat Trail is the scenic mountain drive which designates the northern entry to the Denver Mountain Park System. At the foot of the drive, just outside the City of Golden, there are two large stone pylons designating the Denver Mountain Park entry and preparing one for the scenic incline which is about to begin. The drive switches back and forth up the steep side of Lookout Mountain and provides incredible distant views.

The Lariat Trail meets the scenic mountain drive registration requirements listed in Section F of the Multiple Property submission form. The Lariat Trail has integrity of location, feeling, and association and has a number of original manmade elements which still exist. The drive is in its original location and exposes viewers to the same natural and visual features which were historically present and therefore expresses the same feeling while driving. Lariat Trail is the same design in terms of road alignments, radii, widths, and slopes and exhibits the historic careful grading and site preservation, and provides the same access to the Denver Mountain Parks as it did originally. The manmade elements which still exist include pull-offs, retaining walls and stone guardrails. Even the Spring House foundation and walls remain.

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Section	number	_7	Page _	2						
					Lariat	Trail	Scenic	Mountain	Drive	

The Lariat Trail was the first drive and one of the most difficult constructed in the Mountain Park System. The drive was officially opened in 1913 with early designs by Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr. The actual survey and final layout was prepared by S.R. DeBoer, Denver's noted landscape architect during this time. The original design of the drive was 20 feet in width with no grade more than 6% and no curve sharper than a 50 foot radius. This design was a phenomenal feat since much of the mountainside consists of steep cliffs and 2 to 1 slopes. Practically all of the road, from the entry to the summit of Lookout Mountain, was blasted out of solid rock.

The 35 foot high entry pylons were constructed by 1917. These pylons consist of rough hewn native stone and each has a central pedestrian archway. The east pylon bears the inscription "Entrance to the Denver Mountain Parks." Both pylons are still standing and are in excellent condition still retaining their original design. These entry features still provide a strong sense of entry and a feeling that one is now entering a unique mountain experience.

After passing through the pylons, one immediately begins to climb through the shrubs and grasses of the foothills. There are a few residential homes on the east side of the road, near the beginning, but these fade out of view quickly as one moves upward. Moving higher one can see the remains of original intermittent stone guardrails designed with spaces between to allow for vistas and drainage. Eye-bolts for cable protection also remain viable.

The first major pull-off is Sensation Point. Here there are excellent views of the City of Golden, portions of Denver, and the plains to the north and east. The edge is stabilized by the original concrete wall which appears to grow out of the rock cliff beneath. For pedestrian protection, two inch pipe guardrails were originally imbedded in the wall. The wall and sections of the guardrailings are still intact. Passing Sensation Point, one begins to twist through intermittent pines along the Lower Hairpin Turns. A little further along is Windy Saddle and the trailhead to the Beaver Brook Trail. The trail was constructed in 1919 to link Windy Saddle to the Chief Hosa Lodge in Genesse Park. The Windy Saddle pull-off provides excellent views of Clear Creek Canyon to the north and expansive views of the lands north of the City of Golden.

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				Lariat	Trail	Scenic	Mountain	Drive	

Due to the extensive snow-melt and north facing slopes, evergreens become abundant in the upper portions of the drive. Lariat Trail crosses the northern boundary into Lookout Mountain Park just before the upper Hairpin Turns. Here the Upper Hairpin Turns lead to the Spring House. The Spring House was built by 1916 and was critically important due to the automobile's need for water. This Spring House was a popular rest area with extensive shade provided by dense pine and spruce vegetation. Originally the Spring House had two sections consisting of an enclosed rest area and a structure over the natural spring. The structures were rustic construction built of native stone, with twisted branches for cornice decoration and a sloping thatched roof. Today, the thatched roof is gone and the building walls are weathered, defaced and crumbling. The natural spring is now usually dry. The entire area is densely overgrown with vegetation and rarely noticed by today's users. After the Spring House the road goes north leaving Lookout Mountain Park just before Windy Point.

Around the next curve is Windy Point, so named for the summer winds which blow off the Table Mountain Mesa to the east across this north facing point. Behind the present steel guardrails, the remains of the old concrete guard posts are visible. The hairpin curve at Wildcat Point brings the road around in a southerly direction and enters Lookout Mountain Park western boundary and remains in the park. Around the next turn one sees the massive rock outcroppings of Wildcat Point and finds themselves 2,000 feet above Golden. This is perhaps the most impressive view along the drive. The total expanse of the plains opens up. From this point, Indians used to look across the plains and watch the coming of The two entry pylons appear below as mere specs the wagon trains and settlers. in the landscape. The massive rock outcrops create a beautiful overlook. They have been defaced by graffiti, but can be cleaned. At this point is a noncontributing memorial to "Cement Bill", the man who constructed much of the Lariat Trail. The memorial is still intact yet graffiti defaces much of the surface. Portions of this section of the Lariat Trail have the original, beautifully designed, battered stone retaining walls constructed to create the gently sloping road. The nominated portion of Lariat Trail ends at the entrance to the Buffalo Bill Museum and Grave parking lot.

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The road is still completely intact. The hairpin turns, 6% grades, and narrow width still remain. One still has the same feelings and views as the mountain is climbed or descended. Cliffs still encroach on the road edge, sharp turns still wind one back and forth across the face of the mountain, and excellent expansive views are still provided. Thirteen noncontributing steel guardrails have been provided in several places for safety, graffiti exists in localized areas, the Spring House no longer serves its intended purpose but the integrity of the overall Lariat Trail still exists in full force. This drive still has the magnificent views with all the original overlooks still intact. The drive still provides the thrilling experience of climbing or descending the face of a Front Range Mountain in order to begin the mountain park experience. The quality and unique sense of place of this Scenic Mountain Drive still remain.

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Section number7 Page5					
	Lariat	Trail	Scenic	Mountain	Drive
CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES (10)					
Objects (2)					
2 Entry columns (pylons)					
Structures (7)					
<pre>3 Stone guardrails 2 Stone retaining walls 1 Concrete embankment 1 Road - The Lariat Trail road</pre>					
Building (1)					
1 Spring House					
NONCONTRIBUTING RESOURCES - 15					
Strucutures (14)				-	
13 Steel guardrails 1 Wood retaining wall					
Object (1)					
1 Cement Bill Memorial					

While portions of the Lariat Trail are within Lookout Mountain Park (also associated with the Denver Mountain Parks Multiple Property listing), the features associated with the road have been counted as part of the Lariat Trail nomination and not part of the park.

significance of this prop nationally () statewid (X) A () B (X) C () D	-		
(X) A () B (X) C () D	de (A) locally		
() A () B () C () D			
() A () B () C () B	() E () F () G		
Period of Significance	Significant Dates		
<u> 1913 - 1940 </u>	1913		
1913 -	1913		
1913 -	1913		
1913 - 1940	1913		
Cultural Affiliation			
N/A			
Architect/Builder			
_Olmsted, Frederick Law,	Jr.		
Olmsted, Brothers S.R.			
	Period of Significance		

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Lariat Trail is significant under Criteria A for Community Planning and Development and for Recreation/Entertainment and C for Engineering and Landscape Architecture. This scenic drive, completed in 1913, was the gateway to the Denver Mountain Parks. Lariat Trail was an expansion of the parkway idea which was a pleasant drive through scenic surroundings. With the Lariat Trail design the parkway experience took on new dimensions as the road was engineered up the side of an incredibly steep mountain. This drive demonstrated to the rest of the nation that scenic drives are not merely pleasant meanderings along lowland stream corridors, but thrilling drives which expose one to vast open views and scenery which would otherwise be difficult for the masses to experience. The Lariat Trail is an excellent example of one of the earliest mountain parkways where careful engineering was necessary to preserve the natural surroundings.

The Lariat Trail was originally planned by Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr. and surveyed and designed in detail by S.R. DeBoer and, as such, is a work of master designers and eligible for the National Register under criterion C for Landscape Architecture and Engineering. The construction of the drive was a major technological accomplishment for its time and embodied the principal elements of

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Lariat Trail Scenic Mountain Drive
Olmsted's idea of visual corridors placed in natural park-like surroundings. To
accomplish the construction 100 men worked from the top and bottom of the site
blasting through dense rock. Safety was considered from the beginning with
attractive stone walls and guardrails or cables provided early. Visual
corridors were a major consideration in the design of the scenic drive. There
are six overlooks along the drive, each providing a unique view across the
Colorado plains, mountains and canyons. Perhaps the greatest accomplishment of
the road was the construction of a gently sloping drive up the face of a steeply
sloping mountain using hairpin turns and switch-backs.

The historical record is not completely clear on who engineered the road up Lookout Mountain, now known as Lariat Trail. On April 27, 1912 The Golden Globe reported that Williams (Cement Bill), was appointed by the Jefferson County Commissioners to superintend the work on the "new Mountain Boulevard" which would connect with the Floyd Hill Road at the top of Mount Vernon Canyon. Williams did begin work on the road in May 1912 but had to cease due to a lack of funds. Meanwhile, Denver proceeded with plans for a mountain park system and by May 1913 the cost for the road was jointly funded by the Denver Park Commission, the state of Colorado, and Jefferson county. "Cement Bill" was hired as the contractor. Lariat Trail was completed in August 1913 when the first automobile drove the route with little publicity. When "Cement Bill" died in 1963 a concrete monument was erected near the summit of Lariat Trail to commemorate his role in the construction of this Scenic Mountain Drive.

Within this scenic drive the same design goals were accomplished as other parkways throughout the nation. As a part of the Denver Mountain Parks System, Lariat Trail is eligible under criterion A for its association with the history of Landscape Architecture, Entertainment and Recreation and Community Planning and Development. The drive was a pleasant and comfortable access which linked a series of parks. The only difference was the tremendous design feat involved to accomplish the same goals as other parkways. This sensitively designed scenic drive provided an example to the rest of the nation for parkway construction under unusual topographic and scenic conditions and set the stage for many later park scenic drives such as the scenic drive through Rocky Mountain National Park and up to Pikes Peak.

Lariat Trail Scenic Mountain Drive is nominated as part of the Denver Mountain Parks Multiple Property submission and meets the registration requirements for the property type of Scenic Mountain Drives as established in the Denver Mountain Parks Multiple Property submission form.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Street & Number: 1702 Mariposa Avenue
City or Town: Boulder

	(x) See continuation sheet						
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 #	Primary location of additional data: () State Historic Preservation Office () Other State agency () Federal agency () Local government () University () Other Specify Repository:						
10. Geographical Data							
Acreage of property: 17.6 acres appro	oximately						
UTM References A 1 3 4 8 0 8 1 0 4 3 9 8 6 1 0 Zone Easting Northing C 1 3 4 7 9 6 9 0 4 3 9 9 8 2 0	B 1 3 4 7 9 9 8 0 4 3 9 9 2 0 0 Northing D 1 3 4 7 9 1 1 0 4 3 9 9 7 8 5						
Zone Easting Northing	Zone Easting Northing						
	(x) See continuation sheet						
stone columns signifying the entry to t	alled Lookout Mountain Road begins at the the Denver Mountain Park System. The side not right-of-way along the length of the (x) See continuation sheet						
of-way of the road from the lower entry	Il boundaries encompass the entire right- y pylons to the Buffalo Bill Grave parking tve experience. Going further from this at Mountain Park and are no longer () See continuation shee						
11. Form Prepared By							
Name/Title: Ann Moss, Landscape Arch							
Organization: Shapins/Moss, Inc.	Date: <u>October 3, 1988</u>						

Telephone: (303)449-8450

State: CO Zip Code: 80302

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 9 Page 4 Lariat Trail Scenic Mountain Drive
Denver, City and County of: Parks and Recreation Department, Denver Mountain Parks Photographic Collection.
Denver, City and County of: Parks and Recreation Department, Denver Mountain Parks Map Collection.
Denver, City and County of: Parks and Recreation Department, Denver Mountain Parks, Civilian Conservation Corp Photo Collection.
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Cities of 50,000 and Over: A Study Report for the National Park Service,

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					Lariat T	rail Scer	nic Mountain	Drive	

UTM REFERENCES

E. 13 479250 4399640

F. 13 479500 4399350

G. 13 478780 4398120

H. 13 479200 4397690

I. 13 479610 4398000

J. 13 479550 4398160

K. 13 479140 4397890

L. 13 479615 4398980

M. 13 479615 4399470

N. 13 479990 4398795

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Section numb	er <u>10</u>	Page 3				
			Lariat Trail	Scenic M	ountain 1	Orive

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION, continued

The west end boundary is the entrance into the parking lot for the Buffalo Bill Grave and Museum. (See USGS map and Lariat Trail and Lookout Mountain Park maps.)

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Section number pho-	<u>tos</u> Page	_1					
			Lariat 7	Trail	Scenic	Mountain	Drive

The following information will be the same for all photographs within this Lariat Trail Scenic Drive District:

- 1. Lariat Trail Scenic Mountain Drive District
- 2. Jefferson County, Colorado. Nearest city, Golden Colorado
- 3. Photographer: Ann Moss
- 4. Date: September 1988
- 5. Location of original negative: City and County of Denver

Photo # Description

- 1. Lariat Trail Entrance Columns, looking north
- 2. Original stone wall at road curve, looking north
- View of City of Golden from road pull off, looking east
- 4. Original stone wall behind newer safety railing, looking northwest
- 5. Road slope and adjacent vegetation, looking north
- 6. Road alignment and engineering necessary for construction, looking east
- 7. Road cut and character near Sensation Point, looking west
- 8. Sensation Point original engineering with concrete construction into large mountain boulders, looking south.
- 9. View of Clear Creek from Sensation Point, looking north
- 10. Lariat Trail at lower hairpin turns, looking south
- 11. View of Clear Creek and Clear Creek Canyon, looking west
- 12. View of Golden, Denver, and eastern plains. View of entry columns far below, looking east.
- 13. View of Clear Creek Canyon and western mountains, looking northwest
- 14. Windy Saddle, Beaver Brook Trail entry, looking west
- 15. Upper hairpin turns, looking north
- 16. Vegetation and road character near top, looking east
- 17. View north of Lariat Trail
- 18. View from Wildcat Point of City of Golden, looking east
- 19. Battered stone wall at Wildcat Point for road support, looking east



