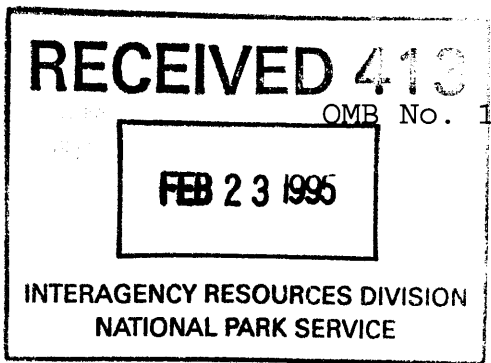


334

NPS Form 10-900  
(Rev. 10-90)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM**



OMB No. 1024-0018

=====

**1. Name of Property**

=====

**historic name** Historic Trail and Cave Entrance

**other names/site number** n/a

=====

**2. Location**

=====

**street & number** Jewel Cave National Monument, trail from old rangers station HS-1 to old cave entrance, Route 1, Box 60AA

**not for publication** \_\_\_\_\_

**city or town** Custer \_\_\_\_\_ **vicinity** X

**state** South Dakota **code** SD **county** Custer **code** 033 **zip code** 57730

=====

**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

=====

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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]   
Signature of Federal Preservation Officer  2/15/95   
Date

National Park Service   
Federal agency

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

[Signature]   
Signature of commenting official  1-26-95   
Date

South Dakota State Historic Preservation Office   
State agency and bureau



Historic Trail and Cave Entrance, Jewel Cave National Monument, Custer County, SD

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

Cat: RECREATION AND CULTURE Sub: outdoor recreation  
TRANSPORTATION trail

Current Functions

Cat: RECREATION AND CULTURE Sub: outdoor recreation  
TRANSPORTATION trail

7. Description

Architectural Classification: Rustic

Materials

foundation: N/A  
roof: N/A  
walls: N/A  
other: STONE; CONCRETE

Narrative Description

(See continuation sheet)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

- 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

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a 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.

Historic Trail and Cave Entrance, Jewel Cave National Monument, Custer County, SD

**Areas of Significance:** CONSERVATION; POLITICS/GOVERNMENT; LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

**Period of Significance:** 1937-1944

**Significant Dates:** 1937

**Significant Person:** N/A

**Cultural Affiliation:** N/A

**Architect/Builder:** Civilian Conservation Corps

**Narrative Statement of Significance**  
(See continuation sheet)

=====  
**9. Major Bibliographical References**

National Archives

Master Plans with Narratives. Architectural and Cartographic Branch,  
RG 79.

National Park Service

Original plans, specifications and correspondence maintained by the  
National Park Service Technical Information Center, Denver.

Simmons, R. Laurie and Thomas H.

1992 "Colorado National Monument Multiple Property Submission." Denver:  
National Park Service.

=====  
**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**

\_\_\_ State Historic Preservation Office

\_\_\_ Other State agency

X Federal agency

\_\_\_ Local government

\_\_\_ University

\_\_\_ Other

Name of repository: National Park Service, Rocky Mountain Region, Denver, CO.

Historic Trail and Cave Entrance, Jewel Cave National Monument, Custer County, SD

=====  
**10. Geographical Data**  
=====

**Acreage of Property** less than 1 acre

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

|   | Zone | Easting | Northing | Zone | Easting | Northing       |
|---|------|---------|----------|------|---------|----------------|
| 1 | 13   | 593300  | 4842700  | 3    | 13      | 593190 4842720 |
| 2 | 13   | 593270  | 4842660  | 4    | _____   | _____          |

**Township, Range, Section:** T4S R2E, Sec 2

**Verbal Boundary Description**

This parcel is primarily linear, measuring approximately three feet in width and 1,430 feet in length and includes a circular area (60' in diameter) at the stairway near UTM reference point #2 and a half-circle (60' in diameter) north of the trail at the cave entrance near UTM reference point #3. The trail begins southeast of the ranger's cabin, curves in a south southwesterly direction, over the crest of the ridge, through a rock outcropping and proceeds in a northwesterly direction to the historic cave entrance. The centerpoint of the circle lies on the centerline of the trail at the midpoint of the stairway; the centerpoint of the half-circle lies at the midpoint of the cave opening.

**Boundary Justification**

The boundary corresponds to UTM reference points 1, the starting point of the trail, located at the Ranger Station (HS-1); 2, the point where the trail goes through the rock outcrop; and 3, the location of the entrance of the cave. It includes the historic trail and the natural rock formations which the steps pass through and which form the cave entrance. The trail beyond the cave entrance (interior trail) has not yet been evaluated, and thus is not included in this nomination.

=====  
**11. Form Prepared By**  
=====

**name/title** Ken Karsmizki  
**organization** Western History Research **date** 6/1993; revised K. McKoy, 4/95  
**street & number** 409 West Harrison **telephone** 406-587-2478  
**city** Bozeman **state** MT **zip code** 59715

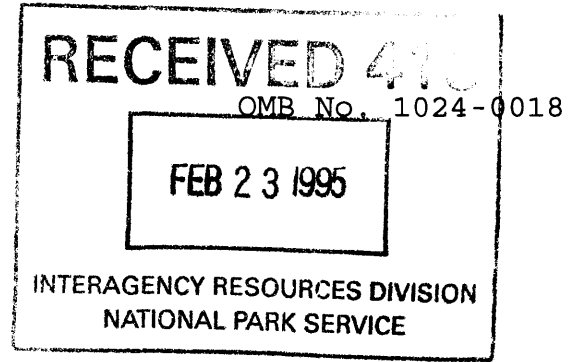
=====  
**Property Owner**  
=====

**name** Jewel Cave National Monument  
**street & number** Route 1, Box 60AA **telephone** 605-673-2288  
**city or town** Custer **state** SD **zip code** 57730

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 1



**Historic Trail and Cave Entrance, Jewel Cave National Monument, Custer County, SD**

**NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION**

**Summary:**

The Historic Trail at Jewel Cave is located off US Highway 16 west of Custer, South Dakota. It is approximately .75 miles west of the modern Jewel Cave National Monument visitor center. Three historic resources were inventoried as a part of this Multiple Property Submission. One nomination was prepared for the Ranger Station (HS-1), and a separate nomination was prepared for the historic Trail which leads from the Ranger Station to the historic Cave Entrance to Jewel Cave. The Ranger Station, Trail and Cave Entrance are all in good condition and although there have been some minor modifications they retain integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association from the historic period.

**Setting:**

The Ranger Station, Trail and Cave Entrance are located in the northwest portion of Jewel Cave National Monument. Jewel Cave National Monument consists of two square miles of park area characterized by the rugged hills and canyon country of the Black Hills. The setting of the historic cave entrance area is a ponderosa pine forest with moderate to thick ground vegetation and mature trees. The historic Ranger Station was built on the crest of a hill which runs downslope from the northwest to the southeast. The historic Trail runs from an area immediately southeast of the historic Ranger Station, arcs out from the station to the southwest facing ridge, descends through a rock outcropping, and follows the base of the cliff to the Cave Entrance. A gravel road provides access to this area from US 16, but a locked gate prohibits entrance to the area except for authorized use. The Ranger Station, Trail and Cave Entrance can be seen from US 16 at a point opposite these features and on the west side of Hell Canyon, although they are partially screened by the forest. The Ranger Station faces roughly east, the Cave Entrance opens west onto Hell Canyon, and the Trail runs between the two by first arcing south-southwest and then returning northwest down a stairway through a rock outcropping.

**Description:**

Built in 1937, the trail from the Ranger's Station to the historic entrance of Jewel Cave was part of the work completed by the Civilian Conservation Corp (CCC) in the monument during the late 1930s. The trail is approximately three feet wide, wider in some places and narrower on the stairway through the rock outcropping. It is roughly 1,000 feet long. The trail uses the natural grade as it leaves the Ranger's Station. As it crests over the ridge and begins to descend the hillside, single stone steps are used intermittently to allow for the drop in the grade. These stone steps are not an original feature of the historic trail

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National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Section number 7 Page 2**

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**Historic Trail and Cave Entrance, Jewel Cave National Monument, Custer County, SD**

**Description Continued**

but were added at a later time. At a point where the trail begins to make a steep descent the trail goes between two large rock outcroppings. Stone steps are used in this area and blend well with the surrounding rock. From the base of these stairs the trail hugs the base of a natural rock wall which curves around to the historic entrance to the cave. Along this part of the trail fill has been used to create a wide level trail grade. Fill has also been used to build a gathering area at the historic cave entrance. A rock retaining wall was located in the fill area but has since been removed.

At the end of the trail is the historic entrance to Jewel Cave. This historic entrance is the result of modifications which have occurred since roughly 1900 when the cave was claimed as a mineral entry identified as Jewel Tunnel Claim. It appears that another entrance was initially used by Frank Michaud and his partners in the claim. This original entry was enlarged and at some later time the claim owners "framed in another entryway near the original opening to make access easier." A photograph showing a framed entrance which looked very much like a mine adit opening was found in the U.S.G.S. Photographic Library in Denver. Since the cave was not open to the public and there were no appropriations for its management it is assumed that this entrance was virtually unchanged from the time it was constructed until the late 1920s. In the late 1920s local groups and political allies renewed interest in the cave. It was proposed at this time to "build a suitable entrance 'of log--as artistic as possible,'" which may have been done since these and similar improvements were used as a justification for charging an entrance fee. It is believed that the cave entrance would have been enlarged somewhat by blasting, chiseling, and picking at this point. An enlarged entrance would be consistent with other improvements aimed at making the tour more passable for visitors. At the time the National Park Service took over in 1934, a report was filed which said that a "rough board shelter [is] at the entrance." Although there was no specific mention of alterations to the cave entrance made during the CCC period some additional finishing touches were probably made as part of the improvements which included the trail development. The present historic entrance is a passage with a very rough rock face. An iron gate which can be locked is used to limit access to the cave. It is believed that the entrance is virtually unchanged since the CCC period improvements.

**Historical Information:**

In the Monthly Narrative Report for the May 20-June 20, 1937 period it was noted that a "[n]ew gravel trail has been constructed from the parking area to the headquarters area and to the cave entrance" (NA, RG79, Monthly Narrative Report, S. Serrano, May 20 to June 20, 1937). A similar report filed in June of 1938

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

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**Historic Trail and Cave Entrance, Jewel Cave National Monument, Custer County, SD**

**Description Continued**

mentioned the need for stairs "to overcome the change in elevation along the trail leading from the Custodian's Residence to the Cave entrance" (NA, RG79, Field Trip report June 4 to 23, 1938). It is believed that the stairs being considered at this time are those which are built between outcropping rocks. The next month a report mentioned that the fill used near the cave entrance came from the road work on the nearby highway. It also mentioned that "top soil, duff, and planting material" would be used "to bring this slope to a natural condition (NA RG79, Monthly Narrative Report, Lloyd Fletcher July 20 to August 20, 1938). It is believed that all the work on the trail was completed by the fall of 1938. The trail is believed to be virtually unchanged with the exception of the addition of an asphalt and later concrete surface. Stone steps have been retained on the lower portion. Stone steps were a later addition on the upper section. A rustic log bench, which is a more recent addition, is placed on the lower trail section for a resting area.

The Trail and Cave Entrance were constructed using the design principles of rustic architecture. Structures designed using National Park Service Rustic Architecture principals "besides being attractive to look upon, . . . appear to belong to and be a part of their settings" (Cammerer 1935). The precepts of the rustic style of architecture dominated park planning for nearly 30 years, 1918 to the late 1930s. The style and philosophy emphasized the connection between landscape and architecture by incorporating "natural" materials such as native stone, log, and timber in the design. Use of natural materials helped to assure that the structures were harmonious with the surrounding landscape and terrain. A fundamental idea was the subordination of the structure to the environment and landscaping played a key role in carrying out this principal. Careful placement of structures and planned landscaping became an integral part of the architectural design and structures were screened by natural and mad-made landscaping materials. Consideration for scale and perspective was also part of the park design. Structures were designed for each individual park that would conform to the wilderness character of the area. As a result there are stylistically adapted designs for specific environments with a focus on materials, scale, and placement appropriate for each location (Simmons and Simmons 1992).

**MODIFICATIONS**

**Exterior:** The original gravel trail surface has been replaced with asphalt, and later concrete. Stone steps at the upper end of the trail are a more recent addition. NPS informants indicate that rock retaining walls which "use to be in the fill area" have been removed. Rock retaining walls were not mentioned nor did such walls appear in pictures of the trail taken as part of the report on CCC



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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

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**Historic Trail and Cave Entrance, Jewel Cave National Monument, Custer County, SD**

**Description Continued**

trail work in 1938. This suggests these walls were a later addition which have since been removed.

**Interior:** The portion of the trail that extends into the cave has not been evaluated.

**INTEGRITY STATEMENT**

The integrity of the historic trail and cave entrance is good. The stone steps through the rock outcroppings have been maintained. Stone steps at the upper end of the trail are a more recent addition. The trail surface has been changed from gravel to concrete but it is not felt that this compromises the integrity to any great extent. Other than the use of concrete, and the addition of stone steps at the upper end of the trail, it is believed that this historic trail and cave entrance have retained their historic appearance. The trail and cave entrance contribute to the historic character of the original park headquarters site and are eligible for listing on the National Register.

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The historic trail and cave entrance at Jewel Cave National Monument is locally significant under National Register Criterion A for its association with the development of Jewel Cave National Monument in an effort to protect the cave as an important natural feature, to make this resource more accessible, and to interpret it to the visiting public. It is also significant under Criterion A for its association with the Civilian Conservation Corp. (CCC) and the Works Progress Administration. In addition, the historic trail and cave entrance are locally significant under Criterion C as a good example of the application of National Park Service Rustic Architecture design concepts applied to a landscape feature. The materials, design, and setting of this feature strongly reflect natural landscape elements planned into the design. The period of significance for the Historic Trail and Cave Entrance dates from 1937 (when the trail was completed and the entrance modified) to 1944. The end date, which coincides with the end of the historic period as defined by the National Register, is justified because these trail and entrance have provided visitor access to the cave since construction.

This nomination is part of the "Jewel Cave National Monument Multiple Property Submission." The resources included in this multiple property submission are the historic Ranger Station, the historic trail (which leads from the Ranger Station to Jewel Cave), and the historic cave entrance. The historic entrance is considered part of the trail development since the function of the trail was to provide an access route from the Ranger Station to the historic entrance. Of equal importance, the entrance was modified as a part of the trail development

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National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Section number 8 Page 5**

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**Historic Trail and Cave Entrance, Jewel Cave National Monument, Custer County, SD**

project. The relationship of all three features are shown on the accompanying site map. The Ranger Station and the Historic Trail and Cave Entrance are associated with the following historic contexts: "Tourism in the Black Hills, 1890-1944"; "Creation and Development of Jewel Cave National Monument, 1905-1944"; and "National Park Service Rustic Architecture and Public Works Construction, 1933-1942." These contexts are discussed in Item E of the multiple property submission.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Additional Documentation Page 6**

**Historic Trail and Cave Entrance, Jewel Cave National Monument, Custer County, SD**

**PHOTO LIST**

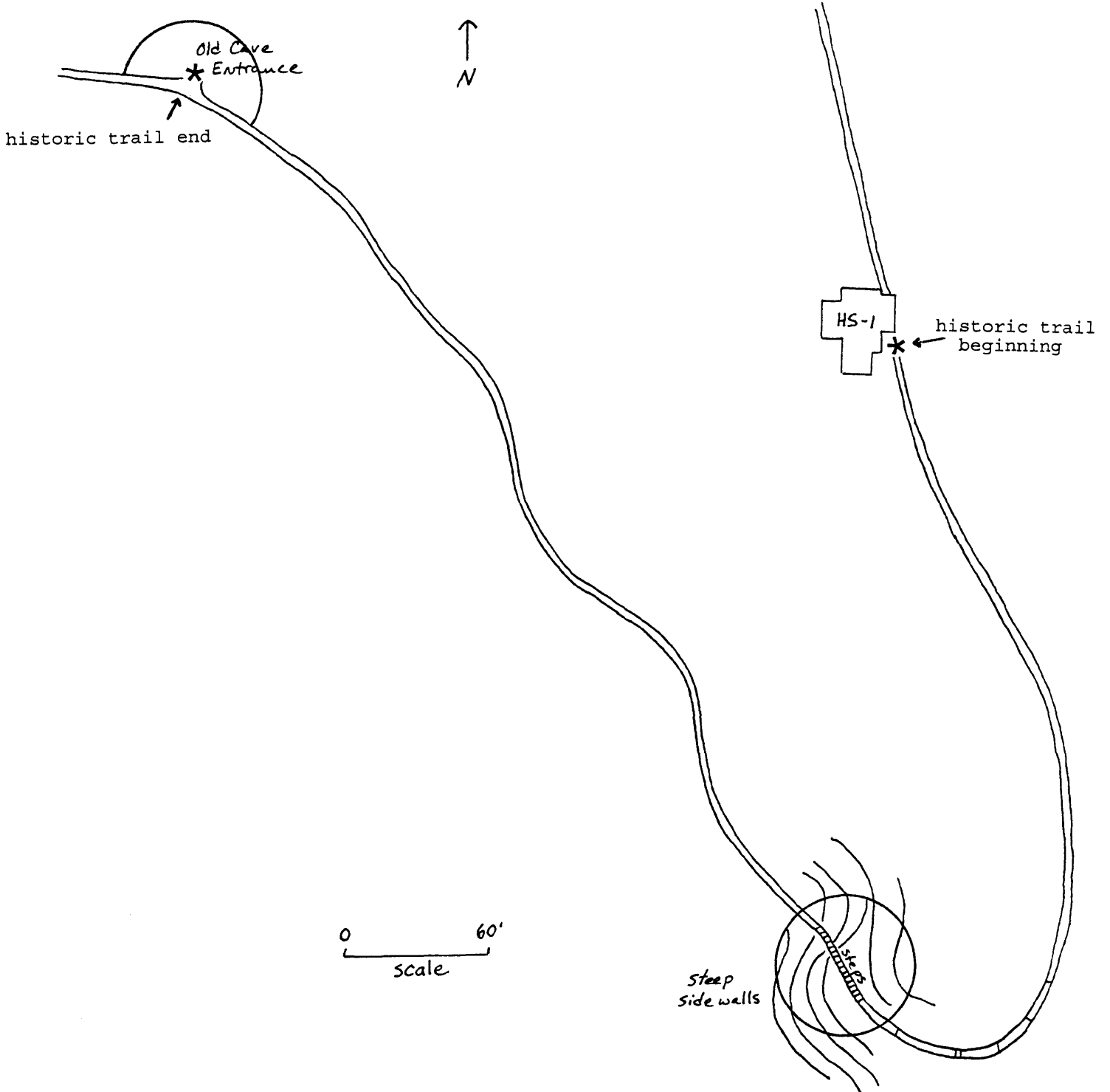
Property: Historic Cave and Trail Entrance  
Location: Custer County, South Dakota  
Photographer: Ken Karsmizki  
Date of Photographs: 10/1992 and 5/1993  
Location of Negatives: National Park Service, Rocky Mountain Region Office,  
Denver, CO

The above information applies to all photographs described below.

| <u>Photo #</u> | <u>Direction of View</u> | <u>Comments</u>                 | <u>Roll</u> | <u>Frame</u> |
|----------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------|--------------|
| 1              | SE                       | Historic Trail to Cave Entrance | 24          | 4            |
| 2              | SE                       | " "                             | 24          | 5            |
| 4              | NE                       | Historic Cave Entrance          | 24          | 7            |

Jewel Cave National Monument  
Historic Buildings and Structures Survey 1992

Property: Historic Trail and Cave Entrance, Jewel Cave National Monument, sketch map



Jewel Cave National Monument  
Historic Buildings and Structures Survey 1992

Property: Historic Trail at Jewel Cave National Monument, Jewel Cave, S. Dak. 1955 7.5 minute USGS Quad.

