REGION RMR PARK/AREA NAME ZION N.P. PARK NUMBER 1590

STRUCTURE NAME Angels Landing Trail STRUCTURE NUMBER RT 8

LOCATION OF STRUCTURE Angels Landing Trail PARK LOCATION CODE PG

NATIONAL REGISTER DATE: / / MANAGEMENT CATEGORY: (A) (B) (C) (D)

NPS LEGAL INTEREST FEE MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT: No Mgnt. Agreement

Check all of the following categories for which NPS has treatment responsibility:

Stabilization ☑ Cyclic Maintenance ☐ Routine Maintenance ☐ Approved Ultimate Treatment ☑

(ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION USE ONLY)

APPROVED ULTIMATE TREATMENT OR RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN, CULTURAL COMPONENT DESIGNATION:

Preservation (PP) Restoration (RR) Reconstruction (CC)
Adaptive Preservation (AP) Adaptive Restoration (AR) Adaptive Reconstruction (AC)
Neglect (NG) Remove (RM) No Approved Treatment (NO)

Approval Document ________________________________ Document Date: / /

Estimated Treatment Costs ________________________________ Level of

Stabilization: $_______ Date: / /
Approved Treatment: $_______ Date: / /

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE: N.P.S. built hiking trail of architectural and historic significance.

Date of Construction: 03/18/1934

Architect/Designer: T.C. Vint/W. Ruesch

History of Structure: Angels Landing Trail was constructed in 1926 following the completion of the West Rim Trail which provided access to the trail head at Scout Lookout. Work on the trail was supervised by Walter Ruesch, acting Supt. Zion N.P. The construction of this trail which ascends the spine of a steep-sided sandstone cliff was unique and daring, as the work chiseling the initial footholds was hazardous. Angels Landing is one of the most dramatic trails ever built by the Park Service.

Evaluation of Structure: Historic Theme Contributing ☑ Non-Contributing ☐

National Register Criteria: A_ B_ C_XD_ (Include integrity statement)

Built with native materials, associated with "N.P.S.-Rustic" architectural style and constructed by Service personnel, Angels Landing Trail possesses structural integrity. All man-made improvements on trail constructed by means of hand tools.


Report prepared by: James Jurale Date: 09/14/1984
The Angels Landing Trail takes off to the south of Scout Lookout (elevation 5,477') and runs along the edge of a steep-sided sandstone ridge. The trail climbs over 300 feet in its 1/2 mile course and is neither graded nor paved. The National Park Service does not recommend this trail for unattended youngsters, those with heart or breathing problems, or those who fear heights. It is a dangerous hike at night or in inclement weather.

An erosion control stabilization program was completed on the trail by CCC personnel in March 1934. The work was supervised by Park building foreman, Walter Ruesch, and approved by Harry Langley, resident Landscape Architect Zion National Park. Presently, the Zion National Park Maintenance Division is responsible for maintaining chiseled footholds on the trail as well as chains and railings which have been attached to the cliff.
CLASSIFIED STRUCTURE FIELD INVENTORY REPORT

REGION  RMR  PARK/AREA NAME  ZION N.P.  PARK NUMBER  1590

STRUCTURE NAME  West Rim Trail  STRUCTURE NUMBER  RT 7

LOCATION OF STRUCTURE  West Rim Trail  PARK LOCATION CODE  PG

NATIONAL REGISTER  DATE:  /  /  MANAGEMENT CATEGORY:  (A)  (B)  (C)  (D)

NPS LEGAL INTEREST  FEE  MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT:  No Mgmt. Agreement

Check all of the following categories for which NPS has treatment responsibility:
- Stabilization
- Cyclic Maintenance
- Routine Maintenance
- Approved Ultimate Treatment

(ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION USE ONLY)

APPROVED ULTIMATE TREATMENT OR RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN, CULTURAL COMPONENT DESIGNATION:
- Preservation  (PP)
- Restoration  (RR)
- Adaptive Preservation  (AP)
- Adaptive Restoration  (AR)
- Neglect  (NG)
- Remove  (RM)
- No Approved Treatment  (NO)

Approval Document  ( )  Document Date:  /  /

Estimated Treatment Costs  Level of
- Stabilization:  $  Date:  /  /  Estimate:  (A)  (B)  (C)
- Approved Treatment:  $  Date:  /  /  Estimator:  (Region)  (DSC)  (A&E)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE: N.P.S. built horseback trail and hiking footpath of architectural and historical significance.

Date of Construction:  19/25/26  Date of Alterations:  1935/56/60/69/84

Architect/Designer:  T.C. Vint/ W. Ruesch  Historical Theme(s):  Transportation

History of Structure: Work on the West Rim Trail began in 1925. The trail was officially dedicated on July 11, 1926 at a ceremony held at the time of the visit of Crown Prince Gustavus and Princess Louise of Sweden. Estimated building costs for the 2 years, $125,000. Construction work on Refrigerator Canyon portion of trail resumed in 1935 under the supervision of Park building foreman, Walter Ruesch, and Park Engineer, A. E. Cowell, on temporary assignment from the Branch of Engineering, San Francisco, California.

Evaluation of Structure: Historic Theme Contributing  X  Non-Contributing  _

National Register Criteria:  A_ B_ C_ D_ (Include integrity statement)

Built of native stone and associated with the N.P.S. architectural style, the West Rim Trail possesses architectural integrity. Rock used in the masonry switchback walls was quarried locally and shaped as little as possible to provide rough appearance/stable const


If structure has been removed, how?  ____________________ Date:  /  /

Report prepared by:  James Jurale  Date:  09/04/84
**West Rim Trail**

**LOCATION:** Section 31 (plus unmapped)  
**State:** Utah

**Township:** 40 S, 41 S  
**County:** Washington

**Range:** 10 W

**USE:**  
**Current Interior Use (NPS 28 Code):** N/A

**Original Use:** horseback/hiking trail

**Intermediate Uses:** horseback/hiking trail

**PERIOD OF CONSTRUCTION (NPS 28 CODE):** HI

**OWNERSHIP:**  
**Present Owner:** NPS

**Original Owner:** NPS

**Intermediate Owner(s):** NPS

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**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION**

Starting from the parking area across the highway from the Grotto Picnic Area, the trail crosses the Virgin River by means of an arched metal foot bridge installed in 1984. The trail, which leads to the top of the West Rim of Zion Canyon, is 5.5 miles long. Construction work began in 1925 and the trail was dedicated on July 11, 1926. Work on the Refrigerator Canyon portion of the trail was resumed in 1935 under the supervision of Park building foreman, Walter Ruesch, and A.E. Cowell, Park engineer. Walter's Wiggles, 17 complete switchbacks were carved into some of the Park's most difficult terrain and buttressed with grouted sandstone blocks, locally quarried. Rock used in the Wiggles and in other "dry" retaining walls was shaped as little as possible to, "provide a stable construction with as rough an appearance as could be obtained." The trail had been re-marked in 1933 and 1934 by PWA and CCC personnel.

After crossing the Virgin River, the trail runs along a talus slope for about 1/2 mile by means of numerous dry-laid random rubble sandstone walls. The next 1/4 mile traverses a sheer cliff and rises more than one thousand feet. The trail is half tunneled into the side of the cliff. Then, the trail runs through a narrow notch in the drainage known as Refrigerator Canyon. From here, Walter's Wiggles, a series of switchbacks up a 60 degree chimney brings us to Scout's Lookout.

For the remaining 3 miles of its course, the trail winds along the rim and across numerous side canyons. Then it drops into a deep canyon and begins the ascent of the sheer rim of Horse Pasture Plateau. The West Rim Trail was reconstructed in 1956, 1960 and 1969 to repair masonry, replace bridges and install guard rails at a combined cost of over $100,000. Re-paving and additional improvements were carried out in 1984.

Landscape architects responsible for trail design include H.B. Stephenson who represented the Branch of Plans and Design on the work done on the Refrigerator Canyon, 1935. He was succeeded by Landscape Architect George Norgard.

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**SIGNIFICANT ARCHITECTURAL FEATURES (INCLUDING INTERIOR AND SETTING) FOR PARK PLANNING PURPOSES:**

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