

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

DEC 24 1990

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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.

1. Name of Property

historic name Red River Trail (Woods Trail): Crow Wing Section
other names/site number Crow Wing Trail; Pembina Trail

2. Location

street & number off Co. Hwy. 27 not for publication N/A
city, town Crow Wing State Park, Ft. Ripley Twp Baxter vicinity
state Minnesota code MN county Crow Wing code 035 zip code N/A

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> site		buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure		sites
	<input type="checkbox"/> object		structures
			objects
		<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: Minnesota Red River Trails
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this 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 meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official Ian R. Stewart Date 12/16/90
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

State or Federal agency and bureau Minnesota Historical Society

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official _____ Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register. Patrick Anders 2/6/91
 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:)

for Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Transportation/road-related

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Transportation/pedestrian-related

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

other: trail

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation _____

walls _____

roof _____

other earth _____

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

A well-preserved, 1 1/2-mile fragment of the Woods Trail runs through Crow Wing State Park along the east bank of the Mississippi River. The fragment begins in Section 23, T44N, R32W, at a cut leading from the water's edge to the top of the river bank. The cut appears to be the remnant of the old Mississippi River crossing. From the bank cut, a 10-foot wide, grassy, mown pathway runs southward along the bank, passing through a lightly wooded flood plain. The pathway is maintained by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for use as a hiking trail. The path conforms to the historic route of the Woods Trail, and short stretches of wagon or cart ruts are visible in a few areas. The ruts appear as shallow, parallel depressions, set approximately 60" apart.

After approximately 1/2 mile, the trail fragment enters the site of old Crow Wing Village, which is located near the north line of Section 26, T44N, R32W [1]. The trail passes through the site and continues south along the river bank. Below the village, the land gradually rises and becomes heavily wooded. The trail fragment also changes appearance as it leaves Crow Wing, becoming a 10-foot wide, sandy track with side-cut excavations. Approximately one mile below the village site, the trail ends at an open, recreational area maintained by the DNR.

It is difficult to determine how extensively the trail fragment has been altered over time. The Red River Trails tended to vary in appearance and location from year to year. The 1856 federal land survey of the area, however, does show the trail running through Section 26 and into Crow Wing Village on approximately the same alignment that it follows today. The trail is not shown running north of the village, through Section 23, but the river crossing is marked, and there must have been some connection between the two points.

In 1857, the federal government began to construct a military road from Fort Ripley, on the Mississippi, northward through Crow Wing Village. The army engineers reported that the Woods Trail currently in use was very wet and "extremely crooked" [2]. Consequently, they chose to abandon the trail in most areas, and constructed the military road on a new alignment. As the road entered Crow Wing, however, it apparently rejoined the Woods Trail, which it followed to the river crossing [3]. The section of trail still visible to the south of the village site may be a remnant of the improved road, although it is narrower than the 18-foot-minimum width specified in most federal road contracts of the period [4]. See continuation sheet

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Woods Trail: Crow Wing Section

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NOTES

1. John Grossman, National Register Nomination Form for Crow Wing State Park, Minnesota, unpublished, 1970; copy on file at the Minnesota SHPO.
2. James Hervey Simpson, "Annual Report of Operations on the General Government Roads in the Territory of Minnesota," 20 September 1855. Contained in Senate Executive Document 1, Part 2, 34 Congress, 1 Session (Serial 811), P.476 (Hereafter referred to Simpson Report, 1855).
3. George H. Belden, "Map of Survey and Location of Road from Fort Ripley via Crow-Wing River to the Main Road Leading to the Red River of the North," 1857. Copy held in the Secretary of State Records, Maps, Minnesota Historical Society Archives.
4. For a discussion of federal road construction in Minnesota, see Simpson Report, 1855.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Period of Significance
1844-1871

Significant Dates
1844

Transportation

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Significant Person
N/A

Architect/Builder
N/A

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

This site is a well-preserved fragment of the Woods Trail, and is significant in the context of the Red River Trails in Minnesota from 1835 to 1871. The trail fragment meets the following registration criteria: it closely conforms to the original route of the Woods Trail; it possesses good environmental and physical integrity; covering 1 1/2 miles, the fragment is of sufficient length to evoke a sense of historic function; and it is associated with the site of old Crow Wing Village, which played a significant role in the development and use of the Red River Trails.

The first trail up the Mississippi to Crow Wing was probably opened sometime after 1823, when Allan Morrison established a trading post for the American Fur Company at the mouth of the Crow Wing River [1]. However, the route did not become part of the Red River Trail system until 1844, when a band of Red River traders travelled from St. Paul to Crow Wing, and then pioneered the "Woods Trail" across country to Pembina. The route through Crow Wing was used on a limited basis thereafter, and the village became a transfer point, where Canadian goods carried south from Pembina were exchanged for American merchandise carted north from St. Paul [2]. The village was also located at the site of a major river crossing, the eastern approach to which is still visible in Section 23, T44N R32W. By 1846, a ferry had also been established further upstream [3].

Traffic over the Woods Trail increased with the steady growth of the Red River trade in the 1850s. Travel over the trail was also encouraged by the Ojibway Indian treaty of 1847 which opened the area around Crow Wing to settlement. In 1857, the federal government constructed a new road from Fort Ripley northward through Crow Wing. Most sections of the old trail were abandoned at that time, although the fragment running into Crow Wing Village appears to have been included in the new road. After the first railroad reached the Red River in 1871, long-distance trade over the Red River Trails came to an end. In 1874, the Northern Pacific Railroad bypassed the Village of Crow Wing and located its depot at Brainerd, a few miles upriver. Within a few years, Crow Wing was deserted, and the section of trail running into the village abandoned [4].

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

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 # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

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 1.8 acres

UTM References

A

1	5
---	---

3	9	6	7	4	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

5	1	2	6	1	2	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Zone Easting Northing

B

1	5
---	---

3	9	6	7	2	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

5	1	2	5	6	6	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Zone Easting Northing

C

1	5
---	---

3	9	7	0	0	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

5	1	2	5	3	8	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

D

1	5
---	---

3	9	6	9	7	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

5	1	2	5	0	1	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Demian Hess, historical consultant
organization Jeffrey A. Hess, Historical Consultants date July 1989
street & number 710 Grain Exchange Building telephone 612-338-1987
city or town Minneapolis state Minnesota zip code 55415

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Continuation Sheet**

Woods Trail: Crow Wing Section

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NOTES

1. Bernard Coleman, Verona La Bud, John Humphrey, Old Crow Wing (c.1967), P.5; Copy in possession of the Crow Wing Historical Society, Brainerd, MN.
2. Rhoda Gilman, Carolyn Gilman, Deborah Stultz, The Red River Trails (St. Paul, Minnesota Historical Society, 1979), P. 66-67.
3. U.S. land survey plat of T44N R32W, in the office of the Secretary of State, St. Paul.
4. John Grossman, National Register Nomination Form for Crow Wing State Park, unpublished, 1970; copy on file at the Minnesota SHPO.

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Woods Trail: Crow Wing Section

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BIBLIOGRAPHY: Woods Trail: Crow Wing Section

Belden, George H. "Map of Survey and Location of Road from Ft. Ripley via Crow-Wing River to the Main Road Leading to the Red River of the North," 1857. Copy held in the Secretary of State Records, Maps, Minnesota Historical Society Archives.

Coleman, Bernard, Verona LaBud, John Humphrey. Old Crow Wing. c.1967. Copy in possession of the Crow Wing County Historical Society, Brainerd.

Gilman, Rhoda R., Carolyn Gilman, Deborah Stultz. The Red River Trails. St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Society, 1979.

Grossman, John. National Register Nomination Form for Crow Wing State Park, Minnesota, unpublished, 1970; copy on file at the Minnesota SHPO.

Simpson, James Hervey. "Annual Report of Operations on the General Government Roads in the Territory of Minnesota, " 20 September 1855. Contained in Senate Executive Document 1, Part 2, 34 Congress, 1 Session (Serial 811), Pp. 468-500.

Stansbury, Howard to John J. Abert, 15 October 1858, in Senate Executive Document 1, Part 3, 35 Congress, 2 Session (Serial 976), Pp. 1193-1200.

Thom, George to John J. Abert, 5 September 1857, in Senate Executive Document 11, 35 Congress, 1 Session (Serial 920), Pp. 348-355.

U.S. land survey plat for T44N R32W, in the Office of the Secretary of State, St. Paul.

Vizenor, Gerald Robert, ed. Escorts to White Earth, 1868 to 1968. The Four Winds, n.d.; copy in possession of the Minnesota Historical Society, Reference Library.

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Woods Trail: Crow Wing Section

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UTM REFERENCES CON'T: Woods Trail: Crow Wing Section

E) 15:396780:5124600

F) 15:396520:5124500

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: Woods Trail: Crow Wing Section

The property consists of a ten-foot wide strip of land centered on the line delineated on the accompanying map (USGS, 7.5 Minute Series, Baxter Quadrangle). The line connects the following UTM reference points: A 15 396740 5126120, B 15 396720 5125660, C 15 397000 5125380, D 15 396970 5125010, E 15 396780 5124600, F 15 396520 5124500.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION: Woods Trail: Crow Wing Section

The property boundaries encompass the visible, travelled section of trail as located through field survey by Demian Hess, 7 November 1988.