

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any 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 certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

### 1. Name of Property

historic name Bright Angel Trail and Colorado River Trail Corridor Historic District

other names/site number Bright Angel Toll Road; Cameron Trail; Colorado River Trail

### 2. Location

street & number Grand Canyon National Park  not for publication

city or town Grand Canyon Village  vicinity

state Arizona code AZ county Coconino code 005 zip code 86023

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this \_\_\_ nomination X 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

X national \_\_\_ statewide \_\_\_ local

Signature of certifying official \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government \_\_\_\_\_

In my opinion, the property \_\_\_ meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government \_\_\_\_\_

### 4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

\_\_\_ entered in the National Register \_\_\_ determined eligible for the National Register

\_\_\_ determined not eligible for the National Register \_\_\_ removed from the National Register

\_\_\_ other (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the Keeper \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Action \_\_\_\_\_

Bright Angel Trail and Colorado River Trail  
Corridor Historic District  
Name of Property \_\_\_\_\_

Coconino County, Arizona  
County and 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 include previously listed resources in the count.)

| Contributing | Noncontributing |              |
|--------------|-----------------|--------------|
| 6            | 4               | buildings    |
|              |                 | district     |
| 1            | 1               | site         |
| 8            | 4               | structure    |
|              |                 | object       |
| 15           | 9               | <b>Total</b> |

**Name of related multiple property listing**  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

1

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION AND CULTURE/ outdoor

recreation/ hiking trail

RECREATION AND CULTURE/ outdoor

recreation/ campground

TRANSPORTATION/ pedestrian related

LANDSCAPE/ park

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION AND CULTURE/ outdoor

recreation/ hiking trail

RECREATION AND CULTURE/ outdoor

recreation/ campground

TRANSPORTATION/ pedestrian related

LANDSCAPE/ park

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Other: NPS Rustic

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation: Earth

walls: STONE/ sandstone/limestone/granite

roof: WOOD; ASPHALT; ASBESTOS

other: STONE site features

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**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

**Summary Paragraph**

The Bright Angel Trail and Colorado River Trail Corridor Historic District encompasses one of two fully maintained hiking routes into the central corridor of the Grand Canyon from its South Rim. The trail itself, which spans a distance of approximately 9.6 miles and traverses nearly 4,800 feet of elevation change, begins at the Bright Angel trailhead, located just west of the Bright Angel Lodge on Village Loop Road and follows the course of Garden Creek to the Colorado River. At the river, the trail converges with the Colorado River Trail and extends 1.8 miles to its terminus at Phantom Ranch. From its inception, the Bright Angel Trail has functioned as a transportation corridor for prehistoric and historic Native American occupants of the Canyon. The trail has subsequently been improved by rim residents, miners, and the National Park Service. The district is comprised of approximately 100.2 acres and encompasses the trail itself as well as one property, the Trans-Canyon Telephone Line, which has been previously listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Contributing resources consist of buildings and structures developed along the trail during its period of significance (1890-1942), as well Indian Garden (treated as a contributing site). Non-contributing resources consist of buildings and structures that have been constructed after the period of significance or have undergone modern renovations and no longer retain sufficient integrity to contribute to the district. Small-scale elements of the landscape such as vegetation, circulation, viewsheds, cultural traditions (as evidenced by continued use of mules as pack animals on the trail), and infrastructure are also important features of the trail corridor and are treated for purposes of this nomination as a single contributing site.

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**Narrative Description**

See continuation sheets.

Bright Angel Trail and Colorado River Trail  
Corridor Historic District  
Name of Property \_\_\_\_\_

Coconino County, Arizona  
County and 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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Politics/Government \_\_\_\_\_  
Entertainment/Recreation \_\_\_\_\_  
Transportation \_\_\_\_\_  
Architecture \_\_\_\_\_  
Engineering \_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1890-1942 \_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

1928: NPS acquisition of Bright Angel Trail \_\_\_\_\_  
1933: CCC begin work at Grand Canyon \_\_\_\_\_  
1942: CCC is abolished, CCC-era improvements complete \_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above)

Ralph Henry Cameron \_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A \_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Bright Angel Trail and Colorado River Trail  
Corridor Historic District

Name of Property

Coconino County, Arizona

County and State

**Period of Significance (justification)**

The period of significance for the Bright Angel Trail and Colorado River Trail Corridor Historic District has been selected to frame the development of the historic vernacular landscape. The period of significance extends from 1890, when Ralph Cameron and other speculators developed the trail as a toll road for both mining and tourist enterprises, through 1942, when the Civilian Conservation Corps was disbanded and CCC modifications to the trail ceased. While the trail continues to serve in modern times as one of the principal transportation routes into the central corridor of the Grand Canyon, modifications to the Bright Angel Trail and Colorado River Trail Corridor Historic District continue to reflect the vernacular characteristics of CCC and NPS architecture prominent in the park during the 1920s and 1930s.

**Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)**

N/A

**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria)

The Bright Angel Trail and Colorado River Trail Corridor Historic District, located within the Grand Canyon National Park, Coconino County, Arizona, is significant under National Register Criterion A in the areas of Politics and Government, Entertainment and Recreation, and Transportation, and under National Register Criterion C in the areas of Architecture and Engineering. Since its inception, the Bright Angel Trail corridor has functioned as a transportation corridor for Native Americans, miners and prospectors, and tourists. The general alignment of the trail and the landscape it traverses has changed very little since the end date of the period of significance, and upgrades and renovations to the trail itself and other contributing resources within the district reflect vernacular characteristics of the rustic style of architecture common in America's National Parks between 1928 and 1942. Additionally, small-scale landscape elements, such as native stone steps, retaining walls, edging, and drainage features integrate well with the natural environment and maintain the integrity of the inner canyon views.

As one of two cross-canyon trail routes into the Grand Canyon, a designated World Heritage Site, the Bright Angel Trail and Colorado River Trail Corridor Historic District is recommended significant at the "national" level.

**Narrative Statement of Significance** (provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance)

See continuation sheets.

**Developmental history/additional historic context information** (if appropriate)

See continuation sheets.

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography** (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form)

See continuation sheets.

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been Requested)  
 previously listed in the National Register (Trans-Canyon Telephone Line)  
 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 (NPS)  
 Local government  
 University (Department of History, Arizona State University)  
 Other  
Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): \_\_\_\_\_

Bright Angel Trail and Colorado River Trail  
Corridor Historic District  
Name of Property

Coconino County, Arizona

County and State

## 10. Geographical Data

**Acreage of Property** 189.1  
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage)  
Trail Acreage= 140.1 acres  
Indian Garden Acreage= 44.5 acres  
Rest Houses Acreage= 4.5 acres  
Previously listed Acreage= 43.6 acres

### UTM References

(additional references on continuation sheet)

|   |      |         |          |   |      |         |          |
|---|------|---------|----------|---|------|---------|----------|
| 1 | 12   | 396909  | 3990643  | 3 | 12   | 397265  | 3990917  |
|   | Zone | Easting | Northing |   | Zone | Easting | Northing |
| 2 | 12   | 396730  | 3990920  | 4 | 12   | 397628  | 3991076  |
|   | Zone | Easting | Northing |   | Zone | Easting | Northing |

### Verbal Boundary Description (describe the boundaries of the property)

The boundary of the Bright Angel Trail district is shown as a dotted line on the accompanying map entitled, "Bright Angel Trail Site Plan, 2010."

The Bright Angel Trail and Colorado River Trail Corridor Historic District boundary includes the entire 9.6 mile trail from the South Rim of the Grand Canyon to the Colorado River where it converges with the River Trail and extends to Phantom Ranch. The width of the district is approximately 204 ft which includes 4 ft for the average trail width and a 100-ft boundary on both sides. Indian Garden is considered a contributing site within the district and includes several contributing buildings. Indian Garden is approximately 700 ft by 2800 ft, which includes the contributing properties identified in the description section of this nomination. Trailside shelters are given a circular buffer zone with a radius of 150 ft from the structures.

### Boundary Justification (explain why the boundaries were selected)

The boundaries of the Bright Angel Trail and Colorado River Trail Corridor Historic District were selected to encompass the entire length of the trail, from the trailhead reconstructed by the CCC to the trail's terminus at its junction with the Colorado River Trail at the mouth of Pipe Creek. The River Trail borders the south side of the Colorado River and crosses the river at the Silver Bridge just southwest of Phantom Ranch. (Note: Although the River Trail is a separate trail listed on the National Register (listed in the Cross-Canyon Corridor DOE), it is included in this National Register nomination because of its contextual and physical relationship to Bright Angel Trail). The 204 ft corridor width of the trail was selected to encompass the contemporary alignment of the trail, as well as adjacent vegetation and small-scale trail features associated with its construction. The boundaries of the district contain 150 ft. radial nodes to encompass trailside rest houses and associated improvements. Attempts were not made to document segments of prior trail alignments as part of the district; however, the descriptive narrative makes note of areas on the trail from which these segments are visible.

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kathryn Leonard (LSD), Greta Rayle (LSD), Meaghan Heisinger (ASU)  
organization Logan Simpson Design, Inc.; Department of History,  
Arizona State University, Tempe, Arizona Date \_\_\_\_\_  
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Bright Angel Trail and Colorado River Trail  
Corridor Historic District  
Name of Property \_\_\_\_\_

Coconino County, Arizona  
County and State \_\_\_\_\_

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**Additional Documentation**

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Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location. See below.  
  
A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**  
See below.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

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**Photographs:**

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

**Name of Property:**

**City or Vicinity:**

**County:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Photographer:**

**Date Photographed:**

**Description of Photograph(s) and number:**

1 of \_\_\_\_\_

**Property Owner:**

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO)

name Grand Canyon National Park, National Park Service

street & number P. O. Box 129 telephone (602) 638-7815

city or town Grand Canyon state AZ zip code 86023

**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.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

**Name of Property:** Bright Angel Trail and Colorado River  
Trail Corridor Historic District

**County and State:** Coconino, AZ

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**Methodology**

This draft National Register nomination for the Bright Angel Trail and Colorado River Trail Corridor Historic District is the synthetic product of the Arizona State University Department of History and Logan Simpson Design's (LSD) archival and physical documentation of the Bright Angel Trail and Colorado River Trail Corridors in conjunction with completion of the Cultural Landscape Inventory (CLI) for the Trail Corridor. The resulting CLI complements the earlier cultural Landscape Report (CLR) for Indian Garden, prepared by John Milner Associates, Inc. (JMA) in June 2005. As LSD was not tasked with physical recordation of Indian Garden, this draft nomination provides only cursory descriptions of its contributing buildings and structures. While JMA's evaluation of Indian Garden recommends the property as ineligible for individual listing in the National Register of Historic Places, this nomination treats Indian Garden as a contributing site to the district. It is recommended that further reconnaissance work be performed to provide updated assessments for the buildings, structures and site features at Indian Gardens; as such, this nomination may be amended to provide more detailed accounting of these features.

This nomination draws heavily from JMA's 2005 Indian Garden CLR, as well as the subsequent draft National Register nomination for the Bright Angel Trail prepared by NPS trails historian, Mike Anderson and Debra Sutphen in 1991 and revised in 2002. Anderson and Sutphen's nomination was prepared in conjunction with a Multiple Property listing entitled, "Roads and Trails of Grand Canyon, Arizona," which was subjected to a formal determination of eligibility by the keeper and the SHPO but not subsequently listed in the Register. The current draft National Register nomination revises Anderson's original nomination to provide a cultural landscape approach to description and evaluation of the Bright Angel Trail and Colorado River Trail Corridors. It also expands the earlier boundary established by Anderson to include a 1.8-mile-long section of the Colorado River Trail that converges with the Bright Angel Trail at the Colorado River and continues to Phantom Ranch. Phantom Ranch is excluded from the current draft nomination as it is included in a separate National Register nomination for the North Kaibab Trail.

**Physical setting**

The Bright Angel Trail and Colorado River Trail Corridor Historic District is located within the boundaries of the Grand Canyon National Park located on the Colorado Plateau of northern Arizona. The Bright Angel Trail originates on the South Rim of the Canyon, immediately west of the Bright Angel Lodge and generally follows the course of Garden Creek and Pipe Creek. The Bright Angel Trail terminates at its junction with the Colorado River Trail at the mouth of Pipe Creek. The Colorado River Trail borders the south side of the Colorado River and crosses the river at the Silver Bridge just southwest of Phantom Ranch.

The primary biotic communities present within the Bright Angel Trail and Colorado River Trail Corridor Historic District are the Juniper-Pinyon Woodland and the Sonoran Desertscrub biomes. The Juniper-Pinyon biome occurs on plateaus and mesas within an elevation range of 5,500-7,500 ft, which characterizes the Canyon from the South Rim to approximately the Three-Mile Rest House. While the dominant tree species are pinyon pine and juniper, this section of the corridor also includes mountain mahogany, barberry, saltbrush, rabbitbrush, prickly pear, grasses, and penstemon.

Near Three-Mile Rest House, the biotic communities begin to merge and transition from Juniper-Pinyon Woodland to Sonoran Desertscrub. The majority of vegetation within the trail corridor is indicative of the Arizona Upland subdivision of the Sonoran Desertscrub biome that includes mesquite, catclaw, creosote, bursage, prickly pear, and ocotillo. The Arizona Upland desert occurs on rock outcroppings or rocky, coarse soils of the desert mountains, buttes, and bajadas found between 500 and 4,000 feet in elevation. In both biomes, natural plant densities increase near Garden and Pipe creeks, as well as within some of the dry washes. Introduced plant materials include Bermuda grass, cottonwood, redbud, and fig trees.

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Name of Property: Bright Angel Trail and Colorado River  
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Physical History and Evolution of the Bright Angel Trail and Colorado River Trail Corridor Historic District<sup>1</sup>

The general route of the Bright Angel Trail had been traversed by prehistoric and historic Native American groups for thousands of years before the first Euro-Americans visited the Grand Canyon (Efland et al. 1981). The area adjacent to the trail contains evidence of prehistoric use in the form of archaeological sites, such as petroglyphs and pictographs. Mallery's Grotto, located below the South Rim near the trailhead of the Bright Angel Trail and west of the Kolb Brothers Lookout studio, contains pictographs dating to the late Archaic (Christensen and Dickey 2006). A second set of pictographs exists two miles down the trail and is visible from the plateau at Indian Garden. Early Euro-American explorers of the area also noted decaying ladders constructed of Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) beneath the Redwall formation and at the second tunnel (Wilson 1992). While this evidence does not give definitive evidence of the precise route used by prehistoric inhabitants of the canyon, it does establish that the current trail alignment roughly follows one of the well established prehistoric transportation corridors within the canyon. Archaeological investigations at Indian Garden have documented 43 archaeological sites that indicate prehistoric seasonal habitation of the area encompassing the trail corridor (Collette et al. 2009; Fairley et al. 1991, 2003; Whitney 1982).

Although the canyon was first recorded by Spanish Friar Alvar Nuñez in 1540, the Grand Canyon was not intensively explored by Euro-Americans until the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century (Verkamp 1940:1; Whiting 1909:325). In 1869, Major John Wesley Powell and a team of nine explorers embarked on a trip down the Colorado River to map the area, determine if the river was navigable, and to gain a greater understanding of this largely unexplored portion of the Southwest (Whitney 1982:45; Whiting 1909:324). Powell's successful excursion brought great attention to the Canyon, and by the 1880s, numerous prospectors had migrated to the area in search of valuable minerals in many places within the Canyon, including the Indian Garden area and along the Bright Angel Trail, then known as the "Old Havasupai Trail" (Anderson 2002:4). The trail was first documented by prospectors William Ashurst and John Marshall, who laid claim to the portion of the trail that followed the Bright Angel Fault from the South Rim to Indian Garden in 1890. That same year, five speculators—Pete Berry, Niles Cameron, Robert A. Ferguson, Curtis H. McClure, and Millard G. Love—made camp on the South Rim above the fault and began formal construction on the trail with the intention of improving accessibility to speculative mining ventures in the Canyon (Anderson 2002:4). Improvements to the route cost nearly \$500 and included the removal of brush and vegetation. The trail alignment that existed at that time was widened, stabilized, and rerouted to accommodate pack animals for transporting mining and camping supplies and equipment into the Canyon.

Construction of the trail was completed within two months. At the time of its completion, the trail extended from the South Rim to Indian Garden on the Tonto Plateau. This initial alignment of the Bright Angel Trail began east of Mallery's Grotto and west of the location that would eventually house Kolb Studio within the Kaibab formation and descended in steep switchbacks through the break immediately east of what is referred to today as the "first tunnel" (Anderson 1998:90). The exact location of the original trailhead is difficult to determine since the trail had been extensively modified even before the turn of the century, and the old trailhead was obliterated by the CCC in the 1930s (Anderson 2002:3). However, traces of the trail and two rusted supporting bolts through the Kaibab break confirm the location of the trail's initial descent. A photograph taken in 1932 after the Park Service's reconstruction further corroborates the approximate location of the earlier alignment of the trail through both this break and the Coconino break below, descending steeply (up to 40 percent grade) in sharp switchbacks to a point just east of today's "second tunnel" (Fig. 1)

<sup>1</sup> This narrative draws heavily upon the narrative provided in the 1998 draft National Register nomination for the Bright Angel Trail, originally prepared by Mike Anderson and Debra Sutphen at the NAU Center for Colorado Plateau Studies. Anderson and Sutphen acknowledge that their work draws heavily from Cleeland's 1986 thesis on the Bright Angel Trail.

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Fig. 1: Upper Bright Angel Trail After Reconstruction, 1932. Photo courtesy, Grand Canyon Archives, reproduced in Anderson, 2002.

From this point, the trail crossed to the west of the fault drainage, then back east immediately above the Redwall limestone. The trail subsequently descends at a sharp grade along "Jacob's Ladder," a series of benched "steps" designed to mitigate the steep grade. Jacob's Ladder was constructed by benching out a narrow trail from the sheer cliffs, installing retaining walls on the outer side, and inserting wooden ties to serve as tread (Anderson 1992). Once below the Redwall formation, the trail followed the "Boulder Bed," an indication that the trail, as it was used at the turn of the century, more closely corresponded to the drainage feeding Indian Gardens than it does today.

Realizing the importance of the route to the accessibility of mining prospects, Pete Berry and Ralph Cameron purchased Amhurst's original claim and recorded the trail as the "Bright Angel Trail" with Yavapai County in 1890 (Anderson 1992:32; Anderson 1998:86). The following year, Berry filed a second claim that extended the trail's route to the mouth of Pipe Creek at the Colorado River; however, there is no indication that trail work completed in that year extended beyond Indian Garden. The men also recognized the route's potential for tourism during this time, and in February 1891, the trail was re-recorded with Yavapai County as the "Bright Angel Toll Road." Travelers and tourists were charged a \$1.00 use fee for a guided tour of the trail (Anderson et al. 2002:4).

As visitation to the South Rim of the canyon increased, so too did the amount of tourists looking for a direct route into the Canyon. To accommodate visitors to the Canyon, Cameron began the construction of a lodge at the trailhead in 1896 (Hughes 1967:10). Two years later, Cameron and Berry made improvements to the trailhead and first several hundred feet of trail, which included numerous route changes to reduce the trail's gradient and the removal of rubble along the trail for easier passage. They also took the initiative in 1898 to expand the trail further north from Indian Garden to the Colorado River; however, it is likely that the construction of this new segment was undertaken not to enhance tourists' experience, but to gain further access to mining claims north of the river (Anderson 1998:73; Anderson 2002:4).

The trail segment from Indian Garden to the Colorado River was completed during the winter of 1898-1899 by Curtis McClure, John R. Holford, D. W. Barter, and Niles Cameron (Anderson 1998:73; Anderson 2002:4). It joined the terminus of the earlier trail segment and approximately followed today's Tonto Trail proceeding east along the Tonto Plateau to a point just west of where the Tonto Trail dips down into the former Salt Creek drainage. It then headed north to descend gradually into the drainage along its western slope, crossed the drainage to its eastern slope, and continued along this eastern slope to cross what is today's trail near the top of the Vishnu Schist formation. Since the CCC did not obliterate this trail segment in their 1930s work, this early portion of the trail is extant in this portion of the canyon and fairly easy to

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follow except where it crosses the creek. Phone poles of the Trans-Canyon telephone line roughly follow this trail segment through Salt Creek.

The early trail continued a short distance along the east side of the knoll east of Salt Creek and south of the modern trail alignment, then turned generally east to descend a talus slope in what was infamously known as the "Devil's Corkscrew," a series of tight, steep switchbacks which ended at Pipe Creek immediately south of the prominent mining adit (which can still be viewed along today's trail) (Anderson 1992:37-38; Anderson 2002:5). Photographs taken from period show that tourists had to dismount and walk their saddle animals down this harrowing set of switchbacks. This trail segment parallels the Trans-Canyon telephone line as far as the top of the corkscrew, and can be followed with some difficulty along Pipe Creek. From this point, the trail simply meanders along the creek to its mouth at the Colorado River.

The Cameron Trail, as it was commonly referred to in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, quickly became the most popular trail into the canyon (Anderson 1998). With the arrival of the railroad to the South Rim in 1901 (Hughes 1967), the trail's popularity as a tourist route into the canyon greatly increased, and most significant attempts at mining the Canyon were abandoned in lieu of this new enterprise. The original franchise to operate the trail expired in 1901, and Pete Berry was granted a five-year extension from the recently formed Coconino County (Anderson 2002). However, once Cameron discovered that the Santa Fe Railroad planned to extend their lines to the South Rim, he secured total rights to the trail (Anderson 1998; 1992). He bought out Pete Berry's share and that of the other partners and immediately invested in extensive reconstruction of the trail. In 1903, he completed Cameron's Hotel and Camps at the Bright Angel trailhead and Cameron's Indian Garden Camp at Indian Garden, which offered a tent camp complete with meals and a telephone connection to the South Rim. The tent camp consisted of at least seven tents constructed on an earthen platform that was excavated from a ridge east of Garden Creek. The tents were constructed of frame and canvas and had one door and two windows (Anderson 2002).

Between 1906 and 1916, numerous construction projects were initiated along the trail and within Indian Garden. Early resident of the Grand Canyon, Art Metzger, recalled that sometime between 1906 and 1908, Cameron constructed two tunnels on the upper portion of the Bright Angel Trail, which were completed by 1913 (Anderson 2002). The upper tunnel was constructed to allow tourists' access to Mallery's Grotto, a prominent pictograph panel. The lower tunnel, which was located further down the trail, was excavated during a realignment of the trail conducted at an unknown date. Both tunnels are visible today and the current alignment of the trail passes through them.

Renovations to Indian Garden during this time included the construction of numerous structures including a tool shed, a roof cellar, a laundry tent, a pit toilet, a kitchen, a rain gauge, a barn, and an incinerator. Cameron also planted cottonwood trees, cultivated a garden and orchard, dammed Garden Creek for irrigation purposes, and constructed a mule hitching post and pond which may also have served as a watering hole or as a catchment basin used to irrigate a neighboring alfalfa field (Anderson 1998). Despite these upgrades, tourists continued to complain about the condition of the trail. By the 1920s, the camp and creek at Indian Garden were severely polluted. In September 1927, when the NPS gained control of Indian Garden (Hughes 1967), they immediately removed the litter and tent platforms and installed chemical toilets.

Further modifications to the Bright Angel Trail and Indian Garden awaited the outcome of the intense legal and political battles over Ralph Cameron's control of the property, which resulted in deeding of the trail to the federal government on May 22, 1928 (Anderson 2002:23). Between November 1929 and June 1939, the NPS completed total reconstruction of the trail in three sections, completing the last segment along Pipe Creek on June 14, 1939. During the same years, support structures along the trail, including the trail shelters at 1.5-mile, 3-mile, Indian Garden, and the mouth of Pipe Creek were constructed by the CCC.

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During the summer of 1929, Park Superintendent M. R. Tillotson and Park Engineer C. M. Carrel received funding of \$20,000 to begin reconstruction of the Bright Angel Trail to specifications consistent with the recently completed South Kaibab Trail (Anderson 1992, 2002). Work began on November 11, 1929, 1,800 feet north of Indian Garden at a point where the earlier trail started up the Tonto Plateau and just before Garden Creek entered Tapeats Narrows. A mess hall and camp were established at the project's starting point, and a trail crew of less than ten men and one foreman worked through July 13, 1930 to route the new trail segment along the east and south banks of Garden Creek through Tapeats Narrows. Their work continued across the creek to the top of the Vishnu Schist, thence across the old trail down the former Salt Creek to a slope above Pipe Creek and down in a series of switchbacks, forming a new "Devil's Corkscrew" to Pipe Creek, approximately 50 yards southeast of a mining adit.

The new trail segment averaged 4 feet in width and contained grades of less than 10 percent to the top of the schist. From the top of the schist to the top of the new corkscrew, blasting was required through the granite, and grades ranged from 6 to 14 percent. The corkscrew through the talus slope was built with a uniform gradient of 16 percent. Low, outside, dry rubble masonry walls were constructed along the entire length of the new trail segment except for a 600 foot section through Lower Indian Garden. Construction costs for the new 1.82 mile trail segment totaled \$18,939.04. With the exception of the 1,800 foot segment located below Indian Garden, the new trail segment bypassed the Nile Cameron et al. trail constructed in 1898 and 1899.

Between October 1930 and May 1931, Tillotson and Carrel completed most of the reconstruction of the trail segment from Indian Garden to the South Rim. \$30,000 dollars was appropriated during this period to set two crews to work on opposite ends of the trail (Anderson 1992, 2002). Carrel considered using portions of the existing trail, but rejected the idea due to excessive grades, numerous switchbacks, and non-sustainable aspects of design. The completed trail segment contained an average grade of less than 13 percent with a maximum of 17 percent. It was built to the standard width of four feet and required extensive reconstruction of Jacob's Ladder and the upper tunnel as well as a total rerouting along the slopes of the Bright Angel Fault. Rock retaining walls and water erosion breaks were installed, with the expectation that they would be improved at a later time. Upper portions of the new segment were completed after May 1931 by a crew of 20 to 25 men, mostly Havasupai laborers.

Between 1932 and 1939, the NPS machined and hand-oiled portions of the trail tread on several occasions to abate dust, but did not undertake major trail improvements (Anderson 2002). In 1933, CCC Company 819 arrived at the South Rim of the Grand Canyon to assist with trail maintenance and construction, but did not work on the reconstruction of the Bright Angel Trail. Instead, they completed several ancillary projects along the trail, including obliteration of the top 1.5 miles of the abandoned Bright Angel Trail alignment and the construction of the trail shelters at 3-mile (1935), 1.5-mile (1936), the Pipe Creek-Colorado River junction (1936), and Indian Garden (1937). These four buildings, identified respectively as Mile-and-a-Half House, Three Mile House, River Rest House, and the Indian Garden Rest House, are considered contributing elements to this nomination.

The CCC also relocated the trailhead for the Bright Angel Trail, which involved the reconstruction of the upper portions of the trail (Audretsch 2008). Workers also laid 2.5 miles of 6-inch water pipe from the South Rim to Indian Garden in an effort to improve the water supply on the Rim. Continual improvements to both the trail and Indian Garden were undertaken during the CCC years at Grand Canyon National Park (Anderson 2002:23).

On February 1, 1938, the Park Service went to work reconstructing the third and final segment of the Bright Angel Trail from the base of the new Devil's Corkscrew to the junction of the recently completed Colorado River Trail at the mouth of Pipe Creek (Anderson 2002). To avoid the creek bed where Cameron's trail was constantly washed out and obstructed by floods, a Park Service trail crew of approximately nine men constructed a standard trail, four feet wide with an outer stone curb and natural tread surface the entire length of Pipe Creek. Seventy-five percent of this segment was carved into the granite cliffs above flood level. Six hundred eighty feet of two-inch diameter pipe were laid along the trail from upper Pipe

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Creek to supply drinking water to two fountains along the way. A corral and comfort station were moved and reconstructed near the river as well. The entire project cost less than \$20,000 and was completed on June 14, 1939.

During the early years of NPS control, many of Cameron's buildings at Indian Garden- including the stone house, tent camp, and Kolb Brothers studio were razed (Anderson 1998). In 1931, the Santa Fe Railroad began construction of a water system at Indian Garden to supply water to the South Rim. To facilitate construction of the water line, a cable tramway was installed and a 5-ton tractor was transported to the site. The tram was removed from the site in 1932. That same year, the railroad constructed two pump houses—the South Pump House and the Rehandling Pump House—in the vicinity of Garden Creek. The South pump house was constructed of native stone and served to collect water that it pumped to the South Rim (Anderson 2002:22).

When the CCC arrived at the Grand Canyon in the early 1930s, the National Park Service accomplished further clean-up work and constructed several new structures at Indian Garden. Crews completed a stone and wood caretaker's cabin, now used as a contact station, in October 1932. They also removed Cameron's 1906 stone building, using the building's stones to construct the caretaker's cabin, and removed three of Cameron's frame buildings. In 1937, CCC workers constructed the Indian Garden trailside shelter and a mule barn and corral. The barn, constructed within the floodplain of Indian Garden Creek, was removed and replaced with a new structure in 1971. During the 1930s, Indian Garden served as a camp for laborers working on the trail and other activities occurring in the area. In 1935, workers stayed at Indian Garden during the construction of the Trans-Canyon telephone line, which was completed the same year (Anderson 1998:74).

Steady visitation to Indian Garden and the Bright Angel Trail continued under NPS management. In 1937, Park Superintendent Minor R. Tillotson noted that annual travel along the trail increased from 12,725 to 20,607 hikers between 1933 and 1936 (Anderson 2002). By 1942, the CCC was disbanded and work within the park ceased, marking the end of the period of significance. (Hughes 1967).

The NPS constructed a number of new structures at Indian Garden between 1960 and 1980, including a bunkhouse (since demolished,) a comfort station that currently serves as a storage facility, a new pump house, and a complex of park service buildings directly south of Indian Garden and west of Garden Creek. The old Ranger Station received extensive remodeling, including the addition of two rooms on the west side which required the removal of the corner stone piers (Anderson 2002).

In 1998, NPS commissioned a Cultural Landscape Report (CLR) for Indian Garden. The report findings (Anderson 1998:4) indicated that Indian Garden had undergone considerable alteration in the years postdating its period of significance; as such, it was recommended as ineligible for individual listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The CLR does, however, indicate that "portions of the landscape should be preserved and protected as part of the park's management plan." Despite its loss of integrity, Indian Garden is still believed to contribute to the overall significance of the Bright Angel Trail and Colorado River Trail Corridor Historic District, and has been treated in this nomination as a contributing site. As physical documentation of Indian Garden has not occurred in over 12 years, it is recommended that further documentation of the site occur in an amendment or revision to this nomination.

**Bright Angel Trail and Colorado River Trail Corridor Historic District  
Contributing Resources**

**Buildings**

As detailed in the Narrative Statement of Significance (Section 8), the period of significance for the Bright Angel Trail and Colorado River Trail Corridor Historic District spans from 1890, the year in which Ralph Cameron developed the trail to

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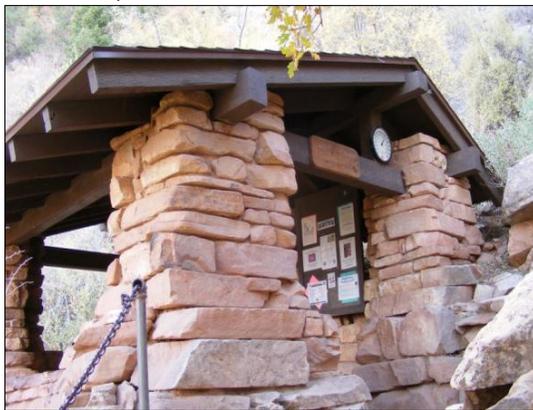
facilitate access to mining enterprises in the canyon through 1942, when the Civilian Conservation Corps disbanded and CCC modifications to the trail ceased. 1928 is conceived as a pivotal year in the trail's history, as this is the year when the National Park Service acquired the trail as part of its administration of Grand Canyon National Park (Anderson 2002; Hughes 1967).

A number of buildings constructed by the Park Service between 1928 and 1942 remain and are considered contributing elements to the historic district. These buildings include four trailside shelters (or rest houses) located along the Bright Angel Trail alignment, and two buildings located within Indian Garden. The rest houses contribute greatly to the integrity and appreciation of the CCC context of the Bright Angel Trail. Architecturally, they are successful from an aesthetic as well as from a functional standpoint. While generally similar in their rustic design and use of local materials, they each have individual character; this character is not only the result of their siting on the trail, which influences aspects of their design, but also their construction materials, which differ based on the particular formation from which local rock was obtained.

Bright Angel Trail Rest Houses:

1. Mile-and-a-Half Rest House (Building #141)

Constructed by the CCC in 1936, Mile-and-a-Half Rest House is a gable-roofed, native stone building built at the base of a large Supai Formation approximately 12'-15' above the Bright Angel Trail at its 1.5-mile point (Photograph 1). The south wall of the building is cut into the natural rock outcropping of the butte and the wooden-beam frame roof is supported by four, large stacked native stone piers that reflect the butte's overall form. The rest house is accessed by 6"-12" high native stone steps that are set into the same outcropping the rest house rests upon. An emergency phone and water spigot are located in the vicinity of the rest house. In 2001, the structure was rehabilitated due to damages sustained by falling rocks. Rehabilitation at this time included the replacement of shingles, re-pointing of the mortar work, and restoration of a portion of the roof and southeastern stone pillar.



Photograph 1. Mile-and-a Half Rest House, looking northeast, 2009. Source: Logan Simpson Design (LSD).

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2. Three-Mile Rest House (Building #142)

The Three-Mile Rest House is a wooden-beamed gable-roofed, native stone building built in 1935 by the CCC (Photograph 2). It is similar in style and construction to the Mile-and-a-Half Rest House. This rest house is located near the end of a ridgeline approximately 20' above the Bright Angel Trail at its 3-mile point, and has 360-degree views due to its exposed site location. It provides a good lookout point for both up-trail and down-trail viewing and is accessed by 6"-12" high native stone steps that are set into the slope of the ridge it sets upon. An emergency phone and water spigot are located in the vicinity of the rest house. Nearby is an abandoned cable anchor foundation. At some point modern facilities were added to the rest house; however, the dates of these additions are unknown. The rest house is in good condition.



Photograph 2. Three-Mile Rest House, looking north, 2009. Source: Logan Simpson Design (LSD).

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3. Indian Garden Rest House (Building #143) (Recorded by Anderson 1998/ not rerecorded by LSD)

The Indian Garden Rest House is a wooden-beamed gable-roofed, native stone building built in 1937 by the CCC (Photograph 3). It is similar in style and construction to the other CCC rest houses. It is located approximately 6'-8' below the Bright Angel Trail and is accessed by 6"-12" high native stone steps that are set into the slope the trail is constructed upon. There are no facilities at the Indian Garden Rest House itself. When recorded by Anderson in 1998, the building had been declared off limits to the public because of its poor, unstable condition. The roof has since been replaced, and the building is now habitable. Although the LSD project team did not formally record the building as part of their 2009 efforts, it is judged to have sufficient integrity to be a contributor to the district.



*Photograph 3. Indian Garden Rest House, looking northwest, 2009. Source: Logan Simpson Design (LSD).*

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**4. River Rest House (Building #179)**

Built by the CCC in 1936, the River Rest House is located adjacent to the trail near the mouth of Pipe Creek as it flows into the Colorado River (Photograph 4). The River Rest House site is the most developed of all of the rest house sites. The rest house consists of a wooden-beamed gable-roofed native stone building built similar to and in the same manner as the other rest houses. It is located approximately 5'-6' above Pipe Creek and the Bright Angel Trail and is accessed by a secondary trail that crosses Pipe Creek. After crossing the creek, 6"-12" high native stone steps lead to a small stone patio created by native stone retaining walls in front of and to the south of the rest house. The west side of the rest house is built against a small escarpment located at the base of the inner canyon wall. The wooden-beam frame roof of the rest house is supported by large, stacked native stone piers. A stone barbeque grill that has been disabled by the Park Service is built into one of the outside corners of the rest house. There is also a hitching post comprised of a U-shaped iron pipe cemented into the ground and a stone water fountain located to the south of the building. The rest house was originally constructed by the CCC in 1936. In 1956, the roof of the structure was replaced due to fire. In 2001, renovations were made to the structure when an inspection revealed that the rest house was in need of repair. Renovations at this time included re-pointing of the mortar work, stone replacement, replacement of the roof decking, addition of new shingles, and repainting (Doryland 2001:2). The interior of the building was also cleaned to remove sand and trash that had built up on the floor and obscured two drains. All rehabilitation work was performed in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office (Doryland 2001:2). Additional modern improvements in the vicinity of the building include the construction of a waterless restroom facility during the early 2000s. The restroom facility is located approximately 100 feet northeast of the rest house and does not affect its setting or integrity.



*Photograph 4. River Rest House at Pipe Creek near the Colorado River, looking northwest, 2009. Source: Logan Simpson Design (LSD).*

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Buildings associated with Indian Garden (descriptions from Anderson 1998, not formally evaluated by LSD's 2009 efforts):

5. Ranger Station (Building #93)

The Ranger Station was constructed in 1932 by the NPS. The small, gable-roofed structure originally consisted of a kitchen and bedroom with a closet and bathroom. In the 1960s, a two-wing addition was constructed to the rear of the west façade, giving the building a T-shaped appearance. Constructed in the NPS rustic style, the front façade of the building has two massive stone corner piers and exposed frame construction. The stone used to construct the building was salvaged from a demolished stone structure that was begun by Cameron in 1906, but never completed. The building currently serves as a search and rescue cache and contact station.

6. Rock Residence (Building #18)

The Rock Residence, known variously as the Rock House, the Caretaker's Residence, the Pump tender's Residence, and the NPS quarters, was built in 1942 by the AT & SF Railway. The building originally functioned as a residence for the water systems caretaker and replaced the original pump tender's house, a frame building constructed in 1932 and destroyed by fire in 1942. The replacement building was constructed to be as fireproof as possible. It is a one-story, two-room building constructed of native stone with a cement-asbestos roof. The building measures approximately 15 ft by 22 ft and was built according to drawing number CECL-89-20938. The building was donated by the Railway to the NPS in 1953 and is currently used as a meeting facility.

**Contributing Structures**

Contributing structures associated with the Bright Angel Trail and Colorado River Trail Corridor Historic District include the Bright Angel Trail alignment, the Trans-Canyon Telephone Line (listed in the National Register of Historic Places), and five water-related structures located within Indian Garden. Structures within Indian Garden were identified by Anderson in the Indian Garden CLR (1998) and were not formally evaluated as part of the current effort. Descriptions of the contributing structures in the Bright Angel Trail and Colorado River Trail Corridor Historic District are provided below.

1. Bright Angel Trail

As the main north-south trail within the Canyon Trail System, the Bright Angel Trail is a limited access trail that serves as a single collector spine for the east-west trails spanning the south side of the Canyon (Photographs 5-11). The Bright Angel Trail provides connectivity between the major destination points that offer a dependable water source (i.e. the South Rim, North Rim, Phantom Ranch, Indian Garden, and Cottonwood). The two main trails that connect to the South Bright Angel Trail are the east-west Tonto Trail and the north-south Plateau Point Trail. These trail connections occur approximately 1,400 ft north of the mule barn at Indian Garden. Additionally, there is an eastern arm of the Tonto Trail that connects with the Bright Angel Trail as one leaves the Indian Garden area, before the Tapeats narrows.

The actual alignment of the trail has shifted over time due to flooding, rock slides, and intentional NPS efforts to lessen the grade for ease of travel and to accommodate additional trail features and improvements. Despite these adaptations, however, the overall course of the trail has been only minimally altered in the years following the period of significance.

The tread of the Bright Angel Trail is generally constructed of dirt, sand, or loose gravel depending on the geological strata it traverses. Erosion control devices consist of wooden juniper logs that are staked in place or stone steps placed perpendicular to the route of travel to hold soil in place or to direct surface flows across the tread to the outslope areas. On sloped areas where the trail receives heavy wear, cobblestone pavement has been installed to protect the trail's tread.

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Additionally, some of the adjoining legs of switchbacks have been infilled with dry-stacked native stone to prevent user cross-cutting which leads to erosion. At various locations adjacent to the trail, loose rock material from slope failures or rock-face spalling has been stockpiled in the form of large cairns for use during future trail repairs.

The width of the trail varies from 4 feet to 10 feet depending on the adjacent constraints. Significant among the Bright Angel Trail's character defining features are the level vertices of the switchbacks and wider protrusions of the trail's tread that allow users to stop and rest and to enjoy the many views of the Canyon, while allowing the trail traffic and mule trains to pass by safely. The presence of two tunnels excavated into the canyon, identified as "first" and "second" tunnel, are also considered to be character defining features of the trail.



*Photograph 5. View of first tunnel and South Rim, facing southwest, 2009. Source: Logan Simpson Design (LSD).*

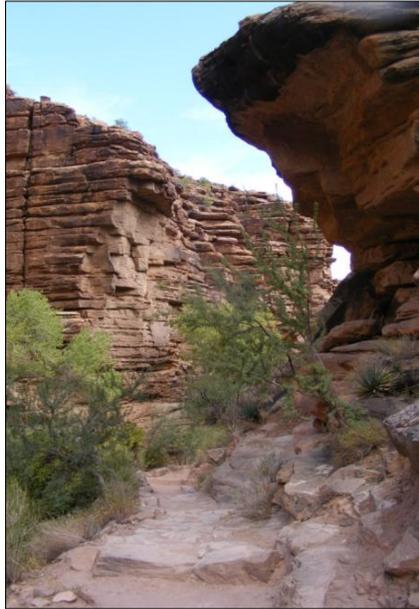
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*Photograph 6. The Bright Angel Trail corridor, entering the south end of "tapeats narrows" north of Indian Garden, facing north, 2009. Source: Logan Simpson Design (LSD).*

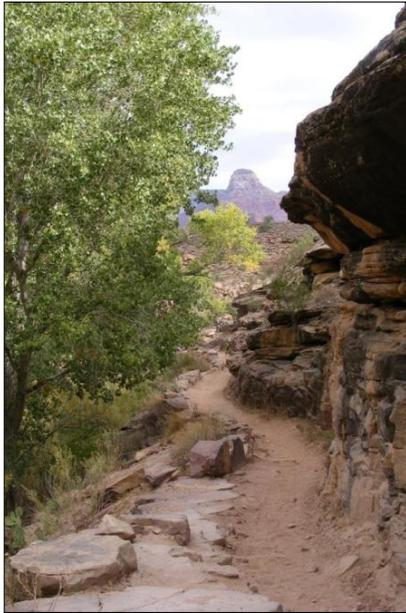
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*Photograph 7. View from the inner canyon, exiting north end of "tapeats narrows", facing northeast, 2009. Source: Logan Simpson Design (LSD).*

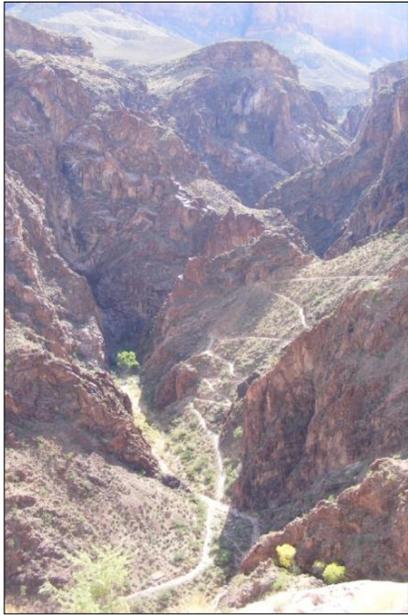
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Photograph 8. Switchbacks at the Devil's  
Corkscrew, northeast of Indian Garden, facing  
northeast, 2009. Source: Logan Simpson Design  
(LSD).

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*Photograph 9. View of Bright Angel Trail (Colorado River Trail section) looking up river, facing northeast, 2009. Source: Logan Simpson Design (LSD).*



*Photograph 10. Juniper log water bars along the Bright Angel Trail, facing north, 2009. Source: Logan Simpson Design (LSD).*

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*Photograph 11. Stacked native stone wall and trail edging adjacent to the Bright Angel Trail, looking southwest, 2009. Source: Logan Simpson Design (LSD).*

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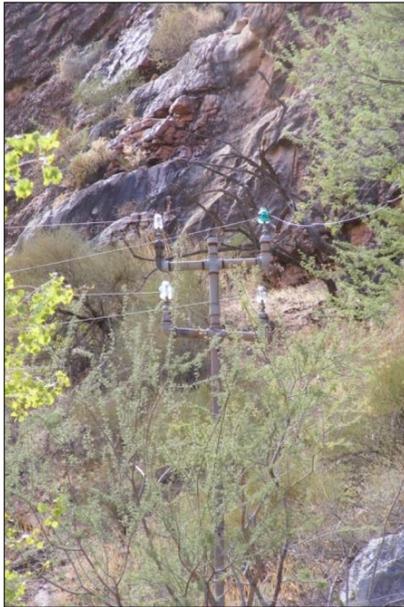
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2. Trans-Canyon Telephone Line (previously listed in the National Register)

The Trans-Canyon Telephone Line, individually listed in the National Register of Historic Places on May 13, 1986, is considered a contributing structure to the Bright Angel Trail and Colorado River Trail Corridor Historic District (Photograph 12). The line, originally constructed in 1935 (Anderson 1998; Tillotson and Sevey 1935), is approximately 18 miles long commencing at the Rim in the vicinity of the Bright Angel Lodge, roughly paralleling the Bright Angel Trail and intersecting the Trail at the Mile-and-a-half Rest House, the Three-Mile Rest House and at Indian Garden. The Bright Angel segment of the telephone line terminates at the River Rest House near the Colorado River, while the remainder of the line continues up the North Kaibab Trail to Roaring Springs (outside of the Bright Angel Trail and Colorado River Trail Corridor Historic District). There is also a segment of the phone line on the South Kaibab Trail (outside of the Bright Angel Trail and Colorado River Trail Corridor Historic District). The line is comprised of two-inch diameter galvanized steel pipes fitted together to create poles of variable height. Two sets of cross-arms (the second set installed in 1938-1939) support copper-weld line with glass and porcelain insulators.



*Photograph 12. Trans-Canyon Telephone Line constructed by the CCC, ca. 1935, looking west, 2009. Source: Logan Simpson Design (LSD).*

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3. Trans-Canyon Water System

The Trans-Canyon Water System was built to provide water from Roaring Springs on the north side of the Canyon to the South Rim and initially included a 6" water line pipe constructed in 1931-32 that was upgraded to an 8" steel pipe in 1985 (Anderson 1998). While the water line was designed to transport water from the north side of the Canyon to the South Rim, it has become a feature of the landscape due to its exposure as it transverses slopes and drainages along its alignment. The water line is exposed at several trail locations and creek crossings. The water line is supported on native stone and mortar piers at creek crossings and is attached beneath the Silver Bridge crossing the Colorado River. The rusticated water line and standpipes, and native stone piers blend in well with the Canyon's natural aesthetic and the NPS's rustic park architecture (Photograph 13).

In addition, vertical remnants of rusted iron I-beams located adjacent to the trail may be linked to the cable tramway that was built in 1931 to transport labor and materials to construct the trans-canyon water line (Photograph 14). Two I-beams are visible from the trail and are located on the eastern side of the trail. The vertical orientation of these beams suggests that they may have been associated with the supports for the tramway's cable. While the pipeline replacement has somewhat compromised, the retention of the dry-laid stone piers, rusted iron I-beams, and alignment of the system are contributing features that display integrity of location, workmanship and design. Contemporary materials and elements of the system that have been replaced are non-contributing.



*Photograph 13. Steel water line and stone support pier of the Trans-Canyon Water System, looking northeast, 2009. Source: Logan Simpson Design (LSD).*

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Photograph 14. Vertical remnant of a rusted iron I-beam that may be linked to the cable tramway used to construct the Trans-Canyon Water System, looking northeast, 2009. Source: Logan Simpson Design (LSD).

Structures associated with Indian Garden (from Anderson 1998, not evaluated as part of LSD's 2009 efforts):

4. Rehandling Pump House (Indian Garden Building #20 [IGB0020])

Built by the AT & SF Railroad in 1943, the rehandling pump house is constructed of concrete with a native stone veneer and a flat roof. It measures 8 feet by 12 feet and contained two pumps and motors. The old electrical equipment is still in place, although it has been outmoded and is no longer in use. The building is set below the Bright Angel Trail and is encircled almost completely by a stone wall, which measures approximately 4.5 feet wide. This building was badly damaged by flood waters several years ago. The front windows are completely shattered and the interior of the building is partially filled with mud.

5. Pump House (Indian Garden Building #31 [IGB0031])

The pump house was built in 1932 by the AT & SF Railroad to pump water to the South Rim. The building measures 31 feet 4 inches by 23 feet 8 inches and has a flat roof built up behind a parapet. It is two stories in height, though it contains only one room. It is concrete with a native stone veneer and has a central metal door with a transom. The door is flanked by metal framed windows. The building became known as the South Pump House after construction of a supplemental pump house, known as the North Pump House, in 1962. The building's function was superseded when modifications were made to the North Pump House in the mid-1980s and it is no longer used.

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6. Dam

Near the Rehandling Pump House is a submerged dam which contained water the Rehandling Pump House pumped to the main pump house. The dam is constructed of concrete and measures 23 feet long and 6 inches wide. Its relationship to the stone wall surrounding the pump house is unclear.

7. Reservoir (Building #32)

This round, native stone-veneered concrete reservoir was built in 1932 by the AT & SF Railway (Anderson 2002). It is 40 feet in diameter and has a 70,000 gallon capacity. A portion of the tank is under ground. The top of the tank is located behind a stone parapet. As with the wall, the stone work was applied to give it a Rustic character that blends in with the inner canyon's natural setting.

8. Rock Wall by South Pump House

There is a rock retaining wall which runs along the south side of the South Pump House and then curves around the corner. It is the height of the pump house window sill at the corner and allows access up to the reservoir. The wall is comprised of native stone and represents a conscious design effort; therefore, it too is considered a contributing structure.

**Sites**

The Bright Angel Trail and Colorado River Trail Corridor Historic District possesses one contributing site. The cluster of administrative and tourist facilities at Indian Garden, for purposes of this nomination, is treated as a single site.

1. Indian Garden

Indian Garden is located along the Bright Angel Trail nearly 4.5 miles from the South Rim (Photograph 15). The site has been continuously used as a stopping point for hikers, campers, and mule riders for over 100 years, although the presence of abundant archaeological remains in this area indicates a long history of use of the fertile landscape of water-bearing creeks, springs, and seeps by prehistoric and historic Native American groups prior to the site's development for use by miners and tourists.

Prior to Euro-American occupation, Indian Garden was likely a treeless spot that appeared very similar to the surrounding desertscrub biota. In order to meet the needs of travelers seeking respite from the hot, dusty trail, in the early 1890s, Ralph Cameron and his associates began a program of improvements to the campground at Indian Garden. Vegetable and fruit gardens were established, and cottonwood trees were planted for shade (Anderson 1998). By the 1920s, Indian Garden was organized into two informal zones, the northern zone possessing administrative buildings and gardens, and the southern zone possessing tent cabins and facilities for tourists (Hughes 1978). Marked changes to the property occurred after its acquisition by NPS, and a majority of Cameron's improvements were destroyed. Subsequent changes to the site in the years postdating the disbanding of the CCC, including the construction of new buildings, altered the spatial configuration of Indian Garden and introduced many non-compatible elements. However, the retention of the CCC-era buildings and associated structures and faint rows of Cameron-era cottonwood trees serve as visual reminders of Indian Garden's association with the history of development of the Bright Angel Trail Corridor.

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*Photograph 15. Indian Garden site located on the Tonto Plateau (middle of photo), looking north from the South Rim, 2009. Source: Logan Simpson Design (LSD).*

**Non-contributing Resources**

Buildings and structures completed after 1942 are considered non-contributing properties. These features are listed below.

**Sites:**

1. Cableway Site

**Buildings:**

1. Comfort Station (#309)
2. 1980s Building Complex (count not tabulated)
3. Adirondack Shelter (#288)
4. Waterless restroom facilities

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**Structures:**

1. Barn (#B470)
2. New Pump House (#484)
3. Silver Bridge (connection between Colorado River Trail and Phantom Ranch)
4. Contemporary materials and elements of the Trans-Canyon Waterline system

**Integrity**

The Bright Angel Trail and Colorado River Trail Corridor Historic District possesses sufficient integrity to qualify it for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The location and design of the trail alignment has changed over time, especially in the area of the trailhead, Jacob's Ladder, and the span of trail extending from Indian Garden to the River. These changes to the trail were, for the most part, all accomplished during the second half of the property's period of significance (post 1928) in conjunction with NPS efforts to employ standard specifications for trail grade and width.

No buildings or structures remain to convey the pre-NPS "Cameron Years" (1890-1927) of the trail. The absence of buildings is likely due to NPS' thorough program of improvement to the trail and associated facilities. The buildings that are present along the trail, for the most part, retain a high degree of integrity and reflect the design, materials, workmanship, feeling and association of Park Service vernacular constructions, a "style" often referred to as "Park Service Rustic" or more wryly, "Parkitecture." Small-scale trail features such as coursed dry-laid rock retaining walls, stone steps, support piers and check dams are difficult to date and many are likely to have been added after the property's period of significance. However, these rusticated features are compatible aspects of the historic district and contribute positively to the Trail's integrity of feeling and association, providing the visitor with constant visual reminders of the CCC's work on the trail.

JMA's CLR for Indian Garden (2005) reports the erosion of design, materials, and workmanship at Indian Garden. However, his analysis stresses the overall significance of the site in terms of its association with the Bright Angel Trail. For purposes of this nomination, Indian Garden is evaluated as a contributing site.

Lastly, the retention and improvement of the CCC-constructed rest house facilities has also contributed to the Corridor's retention of setting and feeling, as the same views that were intentionally designed through the strategic placement of these facilities are still experienced by hikers of the trail today. The continued practice of using mules for transport along the trail reflects retention of feeling and association with a cultural tradition that spans both the history of mining and tourism along the Trail.

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**Summary: Historic Context**

The period of significance for the Bright Angel Trail and Colorado River Trail Corridor Historic District extends from 1890 to 1942. The period of significance begins in 1890, when prospectors William Ashurst and John Marshall first claimed and documented the travel corridor along Bright Angel Fault for mining and tourism purposes (Anderson 1998; Verkamp 1940). Originally referred to as the Old Havasupai Trail, the corridor quickly became one of the most popular routes into the canyon as businessman and politician, Ralph Cameron purchased the trail's claim and re-recorded the route as a toll road for tourists (Anderson 1992, 1998). The route, known as the Bright Angel Toll Road or Cameron's Trail, continued to function as a toll road until 1928, when a series of legal disputes with the county, state, and federal governments and numerous concessioners forced Cameron to relinquish ownership of the Bright Angel Trail to Coconino County. On May 22, 1928, the Bright Angel Trail was transferred to the federal government as part of the Grand Canyon National Park (Hughes 1967). Once the NPS obtained control of the trail, numerous construction projects commenced, including trail reconstruction and restoration and extensive demolition and construction efforts at Indian Garden. In 1933, CCC workers joined the NPS in their efforts to improve the trail, adding numerous shelters and a trans-canyon telephone and water line by the close of the 1930s (Anderson 1998, 2002). The trail itself was also continuously improved by the CCC during this time, and by 1939, the final segment of the Bright Angel Trail was expanded to the mouth of Pipe Creek (Anderson 2002). In 1942, the CCC was disbanded and its contributions to the Grand Canyon region and the Bright Angel Trail ceased (Hughes 1967); however, the use of materials and workmanship exhibited in the current Bright Angel Trail and Colorado River Trail corridors continue to reflect NPS and CCC-era construction techniques and provide an overall aesthetic that integrates well with the historic fabric of the district.

**Criterion A**

**Politics/Government, Entertainment/Recreation, Transportation**

*Politics and Government*

The Bright Angel Trail and Colorado River Trail Corridor Historic District is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its role in the political debate involving public versus private control of lands at the Grand Canyon. Debates regarding ownership of the Bright Angel Trail began in 1901, shortly after the arrival of the Grand Canyon Railway on the South Rim. Prior to the arrival of the railway, there was little interest in the efforts of early mining and tourism entrepreneurs to monopolize Grand Canyon locations favorable to tourist development. However, once the AT & SF Railroad established a railroad station less than 0.5 miles from the Bright Angel trailhead, Ralph Cameron's control of the trail came into question and a private duel between Cameron and the railroad company ensued. The battle, which lasted 25 years, escalated to include county, state, and federal governments as well as other agencies before finally ending with federal acquisition of the trail in 1928. For this reason, the Bright Angel Trail and Colorado River Trail Corridor Historic District embodies the unique struggle between the federal government, corporate interests, and private enterprise as numerous groups ardently fought for control over the heavily traversed corridor in the central section of the Grand Canyon.

Anderson (2005) provides the most thorough treatment of the early struggles between private individuals, the Railroad and government to secure proprietary access to land both within and above the Canyon Rim. Territorial law, in place as early as 1887, permitted enterprising men willing to risk their own money to build roads and trails through lands not already used for public purposes, and to operate these transportation routes as toll roads for a period of up to 15 years. In 1891, after the expenditure of two months labor and \$500 cash, Pete Berry and his partners immediately filed on the Bright Angel Trail as a toll road, although contemporary accounts indicate that they did not charge locals for its use throughout the 1890s. Rather, they often entered into reciprocal agreements like that with Sanford Rowe in 1892, whereby Rowe was allowed to lead tourists down the trail and Cameron and others were allowed to use the water available at Rowe's well.

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Some two dozen men who worked on or used the trail in the 1890s subsequently testified in the 1902 and 1903 court case filed by the Santa Fe Railroad that the original trail partners were the acknowledged owners of the "Cameron Trail" throughout the 1890s. A few locals like Bucky O'Neill, John Hance, and Martin Buggeln provided court testimony that trail ownership during these early years was unclear. However, testimony does indicate that the partners maintained the trail to suit their needs and allowed others to use it at no cost, mainly because at that time usage did not justify the cost of a toll keeper.

In 1901, the original franchise to operate the Bright Angel Trail expired and Pete Berry immediately sought and was granted the allowable 5-year extension from Coconino County on January 31st of that year. When it became clear in early 1901 that the Santa Fe Railroad planned to complete the railroad line begun by Lombard, Goode, and Company, Ralph Cameron quickly began to secure his rights to the trail. Soon after Berry extended the franchise, Cameron bought out his interest and that of the other partners. Between March 1902 and February 1903, he spent nearly \$6,000 on trail reconstruction and maintenance, and by the middle of 1903, he had built Cameron's Hotel and Camps at the Bright Angel trailhead and Cameron's Indian Garden Camp 4.5 miles below the South Rim on the Tonto Plateau.

In order to further secure their interests in the trail, Cameron and his brother Niles filed numerous mining and water claims at strategic locations along the trail. In addition, Cameron secured William Ashurst's claims to Indian Garden and placed numerous claims along the trailhead including the Copper King in 1901 and the Cape Horn and Golden Eagle in 1902 (Anderson 1998:90). In June 1904, he filed the Magician mining claim and the Alder millsite at the base of the Devil's Corkscrew and the Wizard claim and Willow millsite near the mouth of Pipe Creek. The federal government later rejected Cameron's claims, however, as there was no evidence that Cameron ever shipped ore from these locations. Well versed in mining law, Cameron made modest improvements which helped tie the claim locations to the larger trail into the early 1920s. This practice of filing mining claims to acquire land for tourism purposes was not uncommon during this time, as many entrepreneurs used this method to gain legal rights to land.

As Cameron secured control over the Bright Angel Trail route and prepared for tourist operations, Buggeln and the Santa Fe Railroad were equally busy establishing tourist accommodations nearby. In June 1901, Buggeln bought out J. W. Thurber's interests in the Flagstaff to Grand Canyon stage line and the Bright Angel Hotel on the South Rim. In September 1901, the railroad surveyed its 20-acre station site and soon after, built a cabin and added adjacent tents. It became known as the Bright Angel Camp and Buggeln became the manager. Indeed, the Railroad's survey and establishment of a camp may have prompted Cameron to preemptively file his Cape Horn and Golden Eagle claims in the following year, which overlapped the station site and ignited the first of many legal battles between Cameron and the Railroad. The courts subsequently upheld the Railroad's 20-acre station, but allowed Cameron to retain the remainder of his two claims; thus, by the end of 1903, Cameron, the railroad, and Buggeln operated adjacent tourist businesses at the head of the Bright Angel Trail.

The conflict escalated in 1903 when Cameron initiated a toll of \$1.00 per animal to descend the trail. Buggeln had long charged \$3.00 a day per horse and \$5.00 a day per guide, sharing his earnings with the railroad and not paying anything for the use of the trail. Cameron discovered he had the legal right to charge a toll for use of the trail and wasted no time in erecting his own toll gate. In retaliation, the railroad filed an injunction against Cameron's enterprise, questioning the legality of their competitor's collection of tolls (Anderson 1998:90).

While the courts found that Pete Berry did not have the right to transfer his toll franchise to Cameron, it was determined that Berry did have the right to collect tolls and allow his friend Cameron to work the trail. When the lawsuit found in Berry and Cameron's favor, the partners came back at the Railroad with a lawsuit for damages incurred from the 7-month injunction (Anderson 1998:90). The Railroad subsequently tried to buy out Cameron, an offer he staunchly refused. Over the next several years, a number of lawsuits ensued between the two parties- mostly regarding the payment of taxes and land claims. In 1906, the Berry franchise expired and Coconino County prohibited Cameron to renew it in his name.

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Rights of use and collection of fee for the trail was instead awarded to Lannes L. Farrall, the manager of the Cameron Hotel and Camps, who happened to be one of Cameron's closest friends. Cameron continued to maintain his mining claims along the trail (Anderson 2002:17).

Recognizing the Cameron-Farrall partnership, the Santa Fe Railroad filed a number of lawsuits to gain control of the trail. They lobbied the Bureau of Forestry for permission to operate and control the trail, arguing that the trail should be removed from the County's jurisdiction. When the Bureau refused to issue a permit, the Railroad filed suit against the County, claiming it had no right to operate a toll road. In response to the Railroad's latest tactic, Cameron leveraged his influence with the Arizona legislature to pass the "Cameron Bill," which not only confirmed that Arizona counties maintained the right to franchise toll roads, but also returned the Bright Angel Toll Road franchise to Cameron's name. Throughout the ordeal, Cameron received continued support by residents of the County who were angered over the perceived governmental interference and big business' attempts to dictate law (Anderson 1998:91).

After 1910, the Santa Fe Railroad and Fred Harvey Company, who had been battling with Cameron over land claims on the rim and the particular siting of their hotel, eased their efforts to chase Cameron out of the Grand Canyon. The federal government subsequently focused on Cameron's fraudulent mining claims. In order to demonstrate his intention to develop his claims for production level mining, Cameron drafted plans to construct a hydroelectric plant above Pipe Creek to power his mills with the intention of extracting and processing platinum. However, the government, the Santa Fe Railroad, the Fred Harvey Company, and the general public were concerned with the impact of large scale mining operations within the canyon. Though the plans never materialized, Cameron's proposal motivated government officials to take action against him. Between 1913 and 1920, numerous lawsuits ensued until the United States Supreme Court ruled most of Cameron's claims invalid and declared Cameron and his associates trespassers on the Grand Canyon National Park, which was established in 1919 (Anderson 2002:19).

During the 1920s, the NPS replaced the Railroad as Cameron's primary antagonist. Winning a seat in the Senate in 1921, Cameron used his position in politics to secure his claim to his property. However, over time, most of Cameron's long time supporters withdrew their support, leaving Cameron as the remaining original mining/tourism entrepreneur to continue fighting for private rights to land along the South Rim. Coconino County was also beginning to recognize the advantages of NPS control of the trail to provide effective management of the increasing number of visitors. Cameron, though willing to fight to keep his claim on the trail, lacked a comprehensive plan for dealing with the ever-growing number of visitors to the Grand Canyon's South Rim and the Bright Angel Trail. His overnight tents on the Rim and at Indian Garden fell into disrepair and it became increasingly difficult to manage the trail and housing at the trailhead. Sanitation problems intensified both at the trailhead and at Indian Garden, a sign of Cameron's lack of management. Cameron's attitude toward the NPS and his insistence on maintaining control of the trail proved to be the only motivating factors keeping the trail out of NPS ownership (Anderson 2002:20).

The beginning of Cameron's loss of control over the Bright Angel Trail came with the loss of his reelection in 1926. Without his political position to leverage his fight for control, Cameron ceded ownership of the Bright Angel Trail to Coconino County and returned to the east coast. Coconino County began negotiations to transfer the trail to federal control in 1927, which included a proposition that the federal government open an approach road from the National Old Trails Highway (U. S. Route 66) to the South Rim. The U. S. Government agreed to the offer and the Bright Angel Trail was transferred to the federal government as part of the Grand Canyon National Park on May 22, 1928 (Anderson 2002:20).

*Entertainment and Recreation*

The Bright Angel Trail and Colorado River Trail Corridor Historic District is also eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places for its association with the development of Entertainment and Recreation at the Grand Canyon. As it does today, the Bright Angel Trail played a central role in the recreational experience of tourists to the Grand Canyon

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during the historic period. Until the construction of the South Kaibab Trail in the 1920s, nearly all traffic within the central corridor into the Canyon channeled through the Bright Angel Trail Corridor. As such, the trail represents one of the foremost properties for conveying the growth of tourism at the Grand Canyon in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century (Anderson 2002:12). In recent times, the continued importance of the Bright Angel Trail to Grand Canyon tourism was recognized by the Department of the Interior, which designated the trail a National Recreation Trail in 1981.

While the debate raged over public versus private control of the Bright Angel Trail, tourists were largely unaware of the storm raging behind their route to admire Grand Canyon's scenic splendors. A decade before the political debate emerged, Sanford Rowe, operating from a base camp five miles north of the trailhead known as Rowe's well, began to lead tourist trips from the South Rim to the Tonto Plateau. Rowe developed a full tourist enterprise in the 1890s and 1900s, including a livery in Williams, a stage line to the Canyon purchased from William Bass, and later, an automobile camp at Rowe's Well complete with a coffee shop, bar, and dance hall. Rowe was apparently the only individual that engaged in tourist trips down the trail before the turn of the century.

Although prospectors had pioneered routes from the Tonto Plateau to the Colorado River by the late 1880s, Sanford Rowe's tourists likely settled on a ride down to Plateau Point, which was then known as Angel Plateau, for a quick glimpse of the river before turning back to the South Rim. With the completion of the Bright Angel Trail to the river in 1899, visitors could easily descend in a day, enjoying Indian ruins along the west cliffs of the former upper Salt Creek, the infamous Devil's Corkscrew, and a leisurely stay at the mouth of Pipe Creek. The trail ended at this point, but the more adventuresome could cross the river in one of crude canvas or wood scows in use by the turn of the century and venture up Bright Angel Creek. After 1907, tourists might take the Bright Angel Trail as far as Salt Creek, then continue along the Tonto Plateau to the Tipoff and a descent along David Rust's trail (the precursor of the lower South Kaibab Trail) to cross the river on Rust's cable car.

By 1901, Martin Buggeln offered trips down the Bright Angel Trail. Thomas Smith and Frank Cornette worked as trail guides for Buggeln in 1902 and noted "many hundreds" of tourists in that year. Cameron also employed wranglers to lead trips down the trail by 1903. It is worth noting that although John Hance, Pete Berry, and William Bass started their guided tours down their own trails into the Canyon long before Cameron and Buggeln came on the scene, the railroad's arrival on the Rim instantly focused tourist operations at the Bright Angel Trail and its usage immediately surpassed that of all other trails combined.

By the middle of 1903, Ralph Cameron had completed Cameron's Hotel and Camps on the South Rim and Cameron's Indian Garden Camp on the Tonto Plateau. His hotel registers for 1903-1907 indicate that he initially captured a good market share of the tourist business from Buggeln and the Santa Fe Railroad. In 1904 through 1906, nearly 2,000 visitors registered annually at his hotels and tent camps, at rates varying from \$1.50 to \$3.00 per night. Aside from revenues derived from saddle stock, trail guides, tolls, and rooms, Cameron provided meals, rim rides (costing \$1.00 or more), riding skirts (50 cents), and other sundries for his paying guests and trail users. In 1904, Cameron could claim that business had never been better. During a 6-month period in 1907, he collected \$2,996 in tolls alone, and after payment for trail maintenance and county (10%) and territorial (2%) taxes, netted a toll road profit of \$2,107.80.

Cameron's business remained viable into the 1910s. However, after Fred Harvey's operations came to the Canyon in 1905, the amount earned provided little more than a modest living. After his election to Congress in 1908 and in later years when he engaged in other business enterprises, Cameron had to pay permanent employees to manage his operations at the Canyon. Employee salaries and seemingly interminable lawsuits eroded his profit, which in turn may have contributed to a decline in his trail maintenance program. In 1915, Cameron collected \$20,000 in tolls, yet tourists complained that the Bright Angel Trail was in poor condition (Anderson 1992:36).

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*Transportation*

The Bright Angel Trail and Colorado River Trail Corridor Historic District is further eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places for its association with the development of transportation between the north and south rims of the Grand Canyon. The Bright Angel Trail route was one of many travel corridors within Grand Canyon used by prehistoric and historic Native Americans to access inner canyon resources from the South Rim. Few trails, however, provide evidence of a continuum from Indian to Euro-American usage. Physical evidence of a Havasupai trail has been identified in the descriptive section of this nomination. Written records as well as Havasupai oral histories document use of the trail within traditional Havasupai seasonal migration. Curtis McClure, who first visited Indian Garden as one of the original trail builders in 1890 noted that "there were evidences in existence in Indian Garden, showing that some time previous, come cultivation of the ground had been carried on by someone [and] it apparently had been burned off two or three times..." (Anderson 1998; Verkamp 1940).

George Wharton James, an ardent Grand Canyon promoter with extensive personal knowledge of the Havasupai, noted that "a certain family of the Havasupais used to farm in a crude way on this spot," and that remnants of their irrigation ditches remained into the early 1890s. He added that the Havasupai as late as 1900 could give the names of prehistoric families that had rights to this inner canyon site (and other Canyon sites) (James 1917). Park superintendent Minor Tillotson identified this family as that of Big Jim, who remembered his family's occupation as far back as the 1860s and lived at gardens atop the South Rim well into the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Pete Berry and others who built the first Euro-American trail between 1890 and 1891 had similar transportation goals in mind. Until 1890, prospectors had used John Hance's early trail to access the Tonto Plateau. William Ashurst's discovery of promising ore deposits at Indian Garden in the late 1880s prompted the search for a more direct supply and ore shipment route to the South Rim, thus accounting for the trail's construction. Almost immediately, Sanford Rowe found the Bright Angel Trail a convenient way to bring his paying guests down to the Tonto Plateau. After 1899, the trail became the favored path for tourists traveling as far as the Colorado River (Anderson 1998, 2002).

It is at first difficult to imagine that a trail built for saddle stock and pedestrians could serve as a major transportation route well into the age of the automobile, but the Bright Angel Trail served this purpose until the late 1920s. In 1902, Francois Matthes constructed a rough trail from the North Rim through Bright Angel Creek to the Colorado River. Matthes' trail, when connected to the Bright Angel Trail, effectively established a transcanyon corridor. The transcanyon route immediately surpassed the Bass trails as the favored route because the Grand Canyon Railway spur, arriving at the Bright Angel trailhead the year before, allowed a comfortable ride south to the Atlantic & Pacific Railroad at Williams and to any destination from that town. "Uncle Dee" Woolley recognized the potential of the transcanyon route in 1903 when he and others formed the Grand Canyon Transportation Company and financed his son-in-law, David Rust, to improve the north trail and the river crossing. Ever since the 1890s, travelers along the corridor had hazarded crossings in fragile punts. However, in 1907 Rust installed a cable system in order to provide for more secure crossing of the River. The Park Service further secured the crossing with suspension bridges in 1921 and 1927.

From the 1890s through the late 1920s, residents of the Arizona Strip north of the Grand Canyon used the Bright Angel Trail corridor as the most direct route to county seats at Flagstaff and Kingman. As park development accelerated at the North Rim in the 1920s, the corridor became an important linkage between the North Rim and park headquarters at Grand Canyon Village. The importance of the Bright Angel Trail as the chief means of cross-canyon transport waned with the completion of the Navajo Bridge across Marble Canyon in 1928, but never completely disappeared as some local residents, and particularly park rangers, preferred the scenic 20-mile hike or mule ride to the more than 200-mile automobile trip between the two rims. Since the 1940s, air travel further reduced the need to use the corridor as a sub-regional travel route.

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Today, the Bright Angel Trail continues as an important link in the transcanyon pathway, not only for thousands of tourists who travel it recreationally each year, but also for Fred Harvey and NPS employees who provide support services to ailing hikers and who staff the facilities at Indian Garden and Phantom Ranch.

**Criterion B  
Association with a Significant Person**

The Bright Angel Trail and Colorado River Trail Corridor Historic District is also eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion B for its association with Ralph Henry Cameron, who developed the original trail in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. Cameron was born in Southport, Maine in 1863 and moved to the west in 1881. He arrived in Flagstaff, Arizona in 1883 with the Atlantic and Pacific Railroad and worked at a local sawmill, as a railroad clerk, as an agent for the Haywood Cattle Company, and as a manager of a general merchandise store which he later purchased. During his years in Flagstaff, he also ran 6,000 sheep on shares, on which he accumulated the capital to make his Grand Canyon investments. Cameron's reputation increased through the 1890s as he helped to form Coconino County in 1891. He was also appointed as the first sheriff in the county by the territorial governor (Anderson 2002:13).

Once in the Southwest, Cameron demonstrated a great interest in the Grand Canyon's South Rim, particularly for its potential mining profitability. Cameron, Pete Berry and Cameron's brother Niles filed a copper claim in 1890, which became one of the very few inner-canyon mines that ever produced ore for a profit. In order to assist in this endeavor, the group purchased the existing Havasupai Trail that lead into the canyon, which they later renamed the Bright Angel Trail (Hirst 2006). Cameron and his team worked to construct the trail to convert it from a pedestrian walking trail to a road that could support burros carrying mining equipment. Cameron's interests did not end with the Bright Angel Trail, and by the first few years of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, he controlled approximately 13,000 acres within the canyon and along the South Rim through mining and water claims. This hold on the South Rim created the most formidable legal obstacle to federal control of the Grand Canyon (Anderson 2002:13).

Cameron was popular with the people in the newly established Coconino County, and in 1904, he earned a position as Chairman of the County's Board of Supervisors. Cameron often used his political strength to aid in his battles to maintain control over the canyon's South Rim. In 1909, Cameron was elected as a territorial delegate to Congress, and in 1921, he was given a seat in the United States Senate, a position he held until 1927. This political weight enabled Cameron to maintain ownership of the Bright Angel Trail, Indian Garden, and other property within the Canyon, even as governmental agencies and private enterprises such as the U.S. Forest Service, the Santa Fe Railroad, and the Fred Harvey Company, formed alliances to gain control of the South Rim Corridor (Anderson 2002:13).

Cameron's position created a debate regarding private versus public access to land rights and served as a catalyst to similar discussions in other areas of the Grand Canyon and other lands in general. Cameron's claims questioned the power of the NPS and his efforts temporarily eliminated park service appropriations from the national budget, an action that rallied congressional leaders to the side of the NPS and increased its administrative strength. He was also able to influence voters in Coconino County to defeat a proposal that would sell the Bright Angel Trail to the federal government. This action influenced the construction of the South Kaibab Trail, which gave visitors to the South Rim an alternative to the Bright Angel Trail on federal lands. Cameron maintained strong beliefs that the government should not interfere with the individual rights to property, which carried him so far as to file claims on the proposed site of the Hoover Dam within the Black Canyon of the Colorado River (Anderson 2002:13).

Cameron lost his reelection in 1926, and thus his influence over the Grand Canyon diminished. Cameron and his family then moved to the east, though he maintained his belief that private developmental rights superseded those of the government. The Bright Angel Trail came under the jurisdiction of the NPS in 1928 (Anderson 2002:13).

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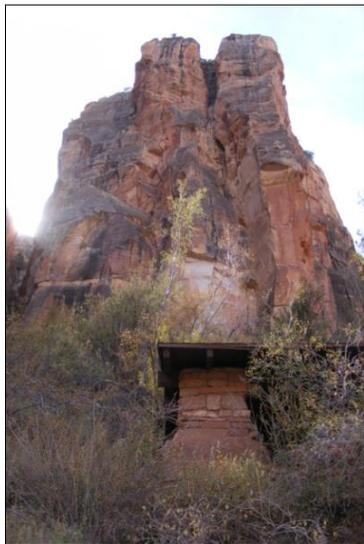
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**Criterion C  
Architecture, Engineering**

*Architecture*

The Bright Angel Trail and Colorado River Trail Corridor Historic District is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C in the area of architecture for its collection of buildings designed in the NPS Rustic architectural style. The primary intent of the Park Service Rustic Style, often whimsically referred to as "Parkitecture," was to subordinate or harmonize a structure to its environment (U.S. Department of the Interior 1994:14). This unique architectural style reflected an effort to fit human-made objects into a natural landscape with minimal intrusion or disruption in the visual experience.



*Photograph 16. Park Service Rustic Style dry laid masonry support at Mile-and-a-half House provides a reflection of the butte's natural form, 2009. Source: Logan Simpson Design (LSD).*

Many iconic buildings of Grand Canyon National Park, including the Fred Harvey Company and AT&SF's El Tovar Hotel, the Kolb Brother's Lookout Studio and Hermit's Rest, designed by famed architect Mary Colter, are all styled expressions of NPS' Rustic Style. To this end, much of the architecture designed and constructed by the NPS in the Bright Angel Trail and Colorado River Trail Corridor Historic District, including the Mile-and-a-half, Three-mile, Indian Garden, and River

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Rest Houses feature wood construction, front-gabled steeply-pitched overhanging roofs, and foundations, walls and piers built of locally-available stone- all hallmarks of the rustic style. CCC constructions and improvements to the trail, as well as modern rehabilitation of trail buildings and small scale features have preserved the character-defining aspects of the "Parkitecture" aesthetic.

*Engineering*

The Bright Angel Trail and Colorado River Trail Corridor Historic District is also eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C for its association with the President Franklin D. Roosevelt's "New Deal" Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) work program. Between 1933 and 1942, the CCC recruited thousands of young unemployed men and put them to work on a variety of conservation programs targeting erosion, flood control and fire suppression on public lands. The CCC is widely considered to be one of the more successful work relief programs of the New Deal Era; between its establishment in 1933 and its recommended abolishment in 1942, the CCC employed over 2 million men in 94 national parks and monuments (Paige 1985).

Soon after the program's mobilization in March of 1933, CCC Company 819 arrived to work in the Grand Canyon National Monument. Company 819 constructed dry-laid stone masonry walls along the south rim of the canyon, worked on landscaping projects in Grand Canyon Village and conducted a program of trail improvements on the Bright Angel Trail, which included the erection of dry-laid masonry retaining walls, check dams and other small scale improvements to the trail. In 1934, the CCC had set up encampment at today's Phantom Ranch and commenced construction of the Trans-Canyon Telephone line. By 1936, a total of six CCC companies were working on projects within the Canyon (Purvis, 1985).

The program of improvements to the Bright Angel Trail carried out by CCC workers varied from minor reroutes to full obliteration of Cameron's original trailhead and construction of a new trailhead. Anderson (2002) further reports that the CCC conducted an aggressive program of improvements at Indian Garden which resulted in the demolition of much of Cameron's improvements to the site. Lastly, probably one of the most durable contributions the CCC made to the Bright Angel Trail and Colorado River Trail Corridor is their construction of the Rest Houses at the 1.5-mile (1936) and 3-mile (1935) trail markers, Indian Garden (1937) and Pipe Creek (1936). The CCC played an important role in the development of park infrastructure during their tenure at the Grand Canyon (1933-1942), and their influence in the Bright Angel Trail and Colorado River Trail Corridor Historic District is still evident in the workmanship of the Rest Houses and small scale trail improvements (Anderson 2002:23).

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**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

Name of Property: Bright Angel Trail and Colorado River  
Trail Corridor Historic District

County and State: Coconino, AZ

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**United States Department of the Interior  
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Name of Property: Bright Angel Trail and Colorado River  
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**UTM Coordinates**

|    |      |         |          |    |      |         |          |
|----|------|---------|----------|----|------|---------|----------|
| 5  | 12   | 397421  | 3991474  | 16 | 12   | 399859  | 3994116  |
|    | Zone | Easting | Northing |    | Zone | Easting | Northing |
| 6  | 12   | 397841  | 3991619  | 17 | 12   | 400112  | 3993930  |
|    | Zone | Easting | Northing |    | Zone | Easting | Northing |
| 7  | 12   | 397841  | 3991868  | 18 | 12   | 400098  | 3995005  |
|    | Zone | Easting | Northing |    | Zone | Easting | Northing |
| 8  | 12   | 398107  | 3992022  | 19 | 12   | 399964  | 3995178  |
|    | Zone | Easting | Northing |    | Zone | Easting | Northing |
| 9  | 12   | 398492  | 3992838  | 20 | 12   | 400665  | 3995454  |
|    | Zone | Easting | Northing |    | Zone | Easting | Northing |
| 10 | 12   | 398358  | 3992894  | 21 | 12   | 400674  | 3995300  |
|    | Zone | Easting | Northing |    | Zone | Easting | Northing |
| 11 | 12   | 398788  | 3993493  | 22 | 12   | 401216  | 3995103  |
|    | Zone | Easting | Northing |    | Zone | Easting | Northing |
| 12 | 12   | 398918  | 3993439  | 23 | 12   | 401210  | 3994885  |
|    | Zone | Easting | Northing |    | Zone | Easting | Northing |
| 13 | 12   | 399487  | 3993930  | 24 | 12   | 401509  | 3995116  |
|    | Zone | Easting | Northing |    | Zone | Easting | Northing |
| 14 | 12   | 399448  | 3994074  | 25 | 12   | 401579  | 3995408  |
|    | Zone | Easting | Northing |    | Zone | Easting | Northing |
| 15 | 12   | 399660  | 3994420  |    |      |         |          |
|    | Zone | Easting | Northing |    |      |         |          |

