

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 of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16).

Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries. Use letter quality printers in 12 pitch. Use only 25% or greater cotton content bond paper.

### 1. Name of Property

**historic name** Hermit Trail  
**other names/site number** Santa Maria Trail

### 2. Location

**street & number** Grand Canyon National Park  
**city, town** Grand Canyon X **vicinity**  
**state** Arizona **code** AZ **county** Coconino **code** 005 **zip code** 86023

### 3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	No. of Resources within Property	
		contributing	noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)		
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>3</u>	<u>1</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>1</u>	<u>3</u> sites
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>1</u>	<u>3</u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>—</u>	<u>4</u> objects
		<u>5</u>	<u>11</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

Historic Roads and Trails of Grand Canyon, Arizona

No. of contributing resources previously  
listed in the National Register N/A

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**4. State/Federal Agency Certification**

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As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.

See continuation sheet.

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Signature of certifying official

Date

---

State or Federal agency or bureau

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

See continuation sheet.

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Signature of commenting or other official

Date

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State or Federal agency or bureau

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**5. National Park Service Certification**

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I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register

See continuation sheet

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determined eligible for the National Register.  See continuation sheet

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determined not eligible for the National Register.

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removed from the National Register

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other, (explain:)

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Signature of the Keeper

Date

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**6. Functions or Use**

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Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

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RECREATION AND CULTURE/outdoor recreation

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TRANSPORTATION/pedestrian-related

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RECREATION AND CULTURE/outdoor recreation

---

TRANSPORTATION/pedestrian-related

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## 7. Description

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### Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

OTHER/Early 20th century wilderness trail

### Materials

(enter categories from instructions)

foundations	<u>EARTH</u>
walls	<u>N/A</u>
roof	<u>N/A</u>
other	<u>paving and retaining walls: STONE/Sandstone</u>

Describe present and historic physical appearance:

Hermit Trail is a 7.5- mile-long trail starting at the rim of Hermit Creek Canyon at a point eight miles west of Grand Canyon Village and descending 3,600 feet to the Tonto Platform, where it terminates at the site of a former tourist facility, Hermit Camp. The facility was removed by the Santa Fe Railway and National Park Service in 1936. The trail traverses the Kaibab, Coconino, and Supai formations along the eastern wall of Hermit Basin and Hermit Creek Canyon in a northerly direction down to the Redwall formation, where it then drops nearly five hundred feet through the limestone cliffs to the Tonto Platform. The trail then heads in a southerly direction (overlying today's Tonto Trail) for about one mile, terminating beneath Pima Point at the site of Hermit Camp. The identifying components of Hermit Trail and its associated buildings, sites, and structures are integrated into the natural features of the area. Sections of the trail are paved with riprap and retained by walls built of stone from the Kaibab, Toroweap, and Coconino formations. Portions of the trail and related properties have been altered through use, erosion, and deliberate removal. Despite these changes, Hermit Trail and certain related properties retain their historical integrity.

Hermit Trail was surveyed in 1909 and built in 1911 and 1912 by the Santa Fe Land Improvement Company, a subsidiary of the Santa Fe Railway. The trail, tourist camp, rest areas, stables, and cottages at the trailhead, and probably a former cabin at Waldron Trail junction, were constructed by the Santa Fe Railway and operated by Fred Harvey to provide inner-Canyon recreation. Hermit Trail was designed to provide safe, comfortable, tourist travel to a relatively elaborate tourist camp complete with tent-cabins, electricity, telephone, and tram service. It was constructed at great expense and with meticulous attention to quality. Extra amenities--rest stops, retaining walls, extra tread width, and reduced grades--were included to provide visitors with the greatest degree of comfort and safety available at Grand Canyon and at comparable wilderness settings nationwide. Hermit Trail became a model after which NPS trail construction was patterned. Today, only the trail and one rest area are intact.

Hermit Trail is currently defined by the National Park Service as a Threshold type C, level III trail, which designates it as a wilderness trail and specifies maintenance for intermediate user traffic. Level III trails receive care designed to protect the integrity of historic features. In the case of Hermit Trail, this includes attention to outside retaining walls, sandstone riprap, and original drainage structures which give the trail its unique character. The trail is mapped on the U.S.G.S. Bright Angel Quadrangle, Arizona-Coconino Co., 15 Minute Series. In general, it is bounded to the south and east by the Canyon rim, to the west by Hermit Creek, and to the north by the inner gorge of the Colorado River. The trailhead is located at Hermit Point, about one-tenth of a mile west of Hermit's Rest, a National Historic Landmark built in 1914 and the westernmost developed area of Grand Canyon's South Rim. The trail makes a steep descent in switchbacks from the Canyon rim into Hermit Basin (often called Waldron Basin) along its east side through the Kaibab, Toroweap, and Coconino formations. The trail levels out for a short distance at the bottom of Hermit Basin, passing through the first hundred feet of the Supai formation. A cabin once stood at the junction of the Hermit and Waldron Trails, and historic debris still litters the slight drainage immediately to the southwest. Above this site at the base of the Coconino lie the remains of the Big Jim rest area. In another five hundred yards the trail drops abruptly at the head of Hermit Gorge for several hundred feet, making its way to Santa Maria Spring and Rest House. From Santa Maria the trail descends gradually through the Supai along the east wall of Hermit Creek Canyon until it reaches the top of the Redwall formation, where it drops approximately four hundred feet in an abrupt series of tight switchbacks(called Cathedral Stairs), then descends the west side of Cope Butte to the Tonto Platform. At the base of Cope Butte the trail commingles with today's Tonto Trail westward on a fairly level course for approximately one mile,

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**Hermit Trail, Coconino County, Arizona**

terminating at the site of Hermit Camp.

X See continuation sheet

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The upper 8,400 feet of the trail, from the trailhead to approximately one-half mile above Santa Maria Spring, contains the majority of the meticulous structural work that characterizes the trail (see photos 1, 2 and 3.) A retaining wall borders much of this portion of the trail. Built largely from native stone slabs cut into blocks, this wall ranges in height from approximately six inches to over thirteen feet, with sections varying in length from approximately four to 180 feet. This upper trail segment includes "The White Zig-Zags," more than 1,000 feet of switchbacks through the Coconino formation. In general this portion of Hermit Trail is in good condition. It contains continuous sections of original, hand-laid, sandstone-riprap paving, ranging in length from four to 440 feet and retains its original four-foot width. These sections of riprap are of excellent craftsmanship. The cobblestones are generally of similar dimension, cut to fit and subsequently placed in neat, measured patterns, resulting in a tightly woven cobblestone pavement. Occasional manufactured drainage paths of a uniform width were built through some of these sections of riprap, preventing tread damage from heavy runoff (see photo 5). The riprap is held in place through various mechanisms, including cedar logs, large iron eyebolt pins, natural sandstone checks, and, in more modern repair work, lengths of rebar.

Near the intersection of the Coconino and Supai formations, adjacent to the junction of the Waldron Trail (which heads south from Hermit Trail to the rim), there was once a cabin thought to have been occupied by a trail maintainer and his family. The cabin no longer exists and the site is not included as a resource in this nomination for lack of historic integrity and documentation. Approximately 400 feet northeast of the cabin site is the site of Big Jim rest area. This area lies about 100 feet below Big Jim Spring (also known as Sweetheart Spring), from which water was channeled to the rest area and the cabin. All that remains of the rest area is a low rock wall bordering a six foot section of metal watering trough and a 3' x 3' concrete box used for the water development system. Iron telephone poles (remnants of the phone line which followed much of the upper half of the trail to Hermit Creek Camp), buckets containing broken insulators and rolls of telephone wire, as well as piles of old iron water pipe presumably used to supply both the rest area and the cabin, were abandoned here. The Big Jim rest area site, the site of the trail maintainer's cabin near the Waldron Trail junction, and the remnants of the telephone line still visible at various locations along the trail all lack sufficient documentation and no longer retain historic integrity. For that reason they are considered noncontributing resources in this nomination.

Santa Maria Spring is located two miles down trail from the rim. It is a reliable, perennial water source. Immediately north of the spring trough is the Santa Maria Rest House, a rectangular building approximately 8' x 12' in plan and 8'-high, with three walls constructed of stone. The fourth side faces the trail and is open. The rest house has a wood-framed gable roof with wood shingles. At some point following its construction in 1913, but before 1922, the original roof with crossing wood rafters was replaced with a more conventional roof. This particular change has not been officially documented but is evident from period photographs (see accompanying photos 6, 7 and 8.) Inscriptions on the existing beams date portions of the roof to 1922. However, the rest house was re-roofed in the summer of 1989 when about 85 percent of the rafters and all the shingles were replaced. At that time a steel pipe support was installed on the open side of the building to prevent the weight of the vine planted there by Fred Harvey from damaging the structure. The open side of the building has two wooden posts on deteriorating concrete piers supporting a beam that carries the rafters. The roof ridge is somewhat swaybacked as there are no crossies resisting the outward thrust of the rafters. Inside there is a single wooden bench and a mushroom-shaped stone table; neither object is documented and they are therefore considered noncontributing resources. Adjacent to the rest house is a metal water trough supported on a stone base and a metal sign identifying the spring, both in a deteriorated condition. Below the rest house There is a dilapidated hitching rail and a graded area for resting mules; closer to the rim of

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the canyon there is a small concrete barbeque grill. Due to a lack of historic integrity, these dilapidated resources are considered noncontributing.

To the south about one hundred yards from the rest house are two stone privies. The original three stone walls abutting a large boulder are in good condition and, recently, a new wooden floor, roof, door, and privy seat have been installed. The shed roof is protected by a layer of tar paper with stones on top as ballast. Each privy is approximately 4' x 5' in plan and 7' in height. The Santa Maria Spring rest house and the two stone privies are considered contributing buildings in this nomination.

Approximately 5.5 miles from the rim there is an approximate one-half mile trail segment called Cathedral Stairs descending the entire Redwall formation. Though the trail follows a natural chimney through the red-stained, fossil-laden limestone, moderate blasting was required to construct the very tight switchbacks that carry the trail to the top of the Muav formation. This section of the trail is additionally characterized by some rock wall construction and a small amount of stone riprap.

At the trail terminus, 7.5 miles from the trailhead, is the contributing site of Hermit Camp, a tourist camp built by the Santa Fe Railway and operated by the Fred Harvey Company. Hermit Trail and Hermit Camp were abandoned in 1930 at the onset of the Great Depression and following the opening of the more centrally located Phantom Ranch. All that remains of the camp today are concrete building foundations and sidewalks, terraced areas, a tramway foundation, an underground cold-cellar and the stock corral. Of these properties, only the cold-cellar and the stock corral are intact (see photos 9 and 10).

An aerial tramway was constructed from Pima Point down to the southwest corner of Hermit Camp in 1925-26. The tramway and telephone line were dismantled shortly after the camp was razed in 1936. The remains of the camp terminus for this tramway, though disjointed, are easily discernable. They include massive concrete foundations, steel bogey wheels and lengths of inch-and-a-half steel cable (see photo 8). The site of the tram head house on the rim has been nearly obliterated and is not included in this nomination.

According to Pete Howard, trail maintenance supervisor at Grand Canyon National Park, very little maintenance was performed on Hermit Trail after the 1930s until 1988. Throughout the 1970s and 1980s, revegetation, elimination of short cuts, and some repair to flood damage was performed along the trail and at the former location of Hermit Camp, but these repairs were not documented. Maintenance in the late 1980s and early 1990s consisted primarily of repairs to correct damage caused by excessive erosion. This damage included washouts, severe gulying, landslides, fallen trees, trenching, and the subsequent undermining of walls. According to the Hermit Trail Survey documented by the National Park Service on May 19, 1988, approximately 3,950 feet of trail required some degree of rehabilitation at that time, although the most severe erosion problems involved rerouting a 100-foot section of trail, reconstructing 183 feet of retaining walls, and reconstructing approximately 104 feet of riprap paving. The majority of the riprap reconstruction involved replacing and checking unraveled portions of the riprap, restoring the original cobblestones wherever possible and securing them with cedar logs and/or lengths of steel rebar. Wall repair and rebuilding involved similar techniques, replacing dislodged materials with the original material wherever possible. Similar work has been performed throughout the 1990s and early 2000s, and in general, all maintenance has been effected in order to preserve or restore the integrity of the original structure. Two sections, from

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the trailhead to approximately 1,400 feet down trail, and a quarter-mile stretch from just above the Waldron Trail junction to just past the Dripping Springs Trail junction, required and received extensive repair for severe trenching and gullyng, which considerably altered the condition of the trail. Fortunately, neither of these areas contained extensive stonework essential to historic integrity, nor did their alteration affect the location of the original trail route to a significant degree.

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CONTRIBUTING ELEMENTS OF HERMIT TRAIL

STRUCTURES: Hermit Trail

BUILDINGS: Santa Maria Rest House  
(2) Privies at Santa Maria Spring

SITES: Hermit Camp (including Concrete Foundations, Sidewalks, Terraced areas, Underground Cold Cellar, Stock Corral, Aerial Tramway Foundation, Steel Bogey Wheels, and Steel Cable)

NONCONTRIBUTING ELEMENTS OF HERMIT TRAIL

BUILDINGS: NPS Ranger Cabin foundation at Hermit Camp (built in late 1970s; building removed in 1997)

STRUCTURES: Water Trough at Santa Maria Spring  
Hitching Post at Santa Maria Spring  
Telephone Line Remnants along Hermit Trail

SITES: Big Jim Rest Area (including Water Trough, 3' x 3' Concrete Box, Stone Wall, Iron Telephone Poles, Bucket of insulators, Rolls of Telephone Wire, Old Iron Water Pipe)  
Pima Point Tramway Head house Site  
Trail Maintainer's Cabin at Waldron Trail Junction (removed after the 1970s)

OBJECTS: Wooden Bench at Santa Maria Spring  
Stone Table at Santa Maria Spring  
Metal Sign at Santa Maria Spring  
Barbeque Grill at Santa Maria Spring



**8. Statement of Significance**

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

nationally  statewide  locally

Applicable National Register Criteria  A  B  C  D

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

Areas of Significance  
 (enter categories from instructions)

- Commerce
- Politics and Government
- Engineering
- Transportation
- Entertainment and Recreation
- Conservation
- Social History

Period of Significance

Significant Dates

<u>1911-1912</u>	<u>1911-1912</u>
<u>1912-1930</u>	<u>1930</u>
<u>Cultural Affiliation</u>	

Significant Person(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Architect/Builder  
Santa Fe Land Improvement Company  
L.J. Smith Construction Company

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

Hermit Trail and its related properties meet National Register Criterion A because they illustrate the transition from our nation's era of unregulated private free development of the western lands to one of public resource management and conservation. Following transfer of management from the U.S. Forest Service to the National Park Service in 1919, control of the Grand Canyon region slowly shifted from private to public hands, resulting in increased protection and preservation of the natural resources of the area. With the relinquishment of large tracts of land formerly administered by the forest service to the park service after 1916, including the Grand Canyon and Hermit Trail in 1919, forest service policy encouraging maximum resource utilization was replaced by policies that encouraged resource preservation, particularly with regard to aesthetics. The elimination of Hermit Camp, the Pima Point tramway and the phone line located along the trail, as well as the abandonment of the trail itself by park service directive, are characteristic of this transition in Grand Canyon history.

Hermit Trail, Hermit Camp, and related properties were built in 1911 and 1912 by a subsidiary of the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway Company, the Santa Fe Land Improvement Company. Construction of the trail and camp illustrated remarkable daring and enthusiasm, essential ingredients in the American economic tradition of free enterprise. Hermit Trail and Camp were extremely successful throughout their 18-year operation, drawing thousands of tourists to the Canyon. With the creation of Grand Canyon National Park in 1919, however, and the subsequent administrative transition from the forest service to the park service, a slow but unmistakable change began to occur with regard to the use of Hermit Trail. Motives of profit were gradually eclipsed by a growing national interest in the protection and preservation of the Grand Canyon in its natural state. By 1928, with the completion of the South Kaibab Trail, inner-Canyon tourist activity shifted east to Grand Canyon Village and Phantom Ranch. The South Kaibab Trail, built by the National Park Service to centralize the burgeoning tourist population as well as circumvent the central corridor control of Ralph Cameron, offered the quickest access to both the Colorado River and Phantom Ranch. Phantom Ranch, located on Bright Angel Creek near the Colorado River, more than rivaled Hermit Camp in backcountry luxury. In an effort to maximize NPS control, tourist access to the inner Canyon was centralized and, at the order of the park service, Hermit Camp was abandoned in 1930. The Santa Fe Railway's bold and costly yet profitable venture was discontinued without recompense by the Park Service. Private interest had succumbed to the public will, heralding a significant shift in American economic and social tradition. This transition was not unique to the

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Grand Canyon; it was symptomatic of a growing American phenomenon, evolving since the mid-1800s, regarding conservation rather than exploitation of the American West's natural resources.

Hermit Trail and related properties also meet Criterion C in that Hermit Trail is both regionally and nationally a model for trail engineering. The trail, camp, and rest areas were constructed from 1911-1912 by the Santa Fe Land Improvement Company using the contracted services of the L.J. Smith Construction Company. Unlike any other trail within the Grand Canyon constructed to that time, the Hermit was designed specifically for tourist use. Characterized by reduced grades and a uniform four-foot width, numerous rest stops and meticulously hand-laid natural sandstone retaining walls, but especially noted for its lengthy sections of hand-laid, sandstone riprap tread, Hermit Trail exemplifies the attempt to ease, for eastern dudes, the Canyon's inhospitable geographical and climatological conditions. In addition to the trail itself, the Santa Fe built Hermit Camp at the trail's terminus. Seven and one-half trail miles and nearly three-quarters of a vertical mile below the rim, the camp offered elaborate tourist accommodations unmatched anywhere else in the Canyon in 1912. Both the camp and trail became world renowned.

### **Commerce, Politics and Government**

In 1909 the Santa Fe Railway obtained a permit from the U.S. Forest Service to construct a trail and camp in Hermit Canyon. Hermit Trail and Camp, constructed in 1911-12, enabled the Santa Fe and their concession partner, the Fred Harvey Company, to avoid the economic stranglehold over inner-Canyon access held by Ralph Cameron through his ownership of the Bright Angel Trail. At that time the Bright Angel Trail was the only route--and a toll route at that--providing access to the inner Canyon for tourists arriving at the Canyon via the Grand Canyon Railway. In keeping with their operational policies favoring maximized natural resource use, and recognizing their limited budget, the forest service sought to coordinate private investment to ensure utilization of the Canyon for the greatest public good. Forest administrators fostered a partnership with the Santa Fe and Fred Harvey, the two largest private business entities at the Canyon, because the railway had the capital to fulfill forest service objectives. Denied federal favoritism, smaller private operators including Ralph Cameron, Pete Berry, and Bill Bass sustained serious economic reversals. While others succumbed to this economic pressure, Cameron fought against the railway-forest service coalition for nearly two decades, using both legal and illegal measures to ensure his continued presence. In the end he would lose, but the battles proved Homeric and remarkably illustrative of the dynamics of big business in league with the federal government to accomplish political goals.

### **Engineering**

When the Hermit Trail was surveyed in 1909, there were other trails within Hermit Canyon. Louis Boucher had already built a trail to Dripping Springs from the west rim of the canyon, and the Waldron Trail followed the path of an earlier American Indian path into the Waldron Basin. Margaret Verkamp in her 1940 Master's thesis describes the latter trail as an improvement to Boucher's trail. Debra Sutphen in her research study of 1990 refers to a statement made by a Canyon resident indicating that the Hermit used the top mile and three-quarters of one of Boucher's rim to basin trails. A U.S. Forest

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Service planning document written by W.R. Mattoon in 1909, however, indicates that the Hermit did not follow an earlier trail per se (more likely, the route). As noted earlier, Hermit Trail was geared specifically toward providing tourists safe, comfortable, and enjoyable access to the inner Canyon and Hermit Camp. The trail was durable to withstand the extensive mule traffic associated with tourist expeditions. The trail has been called a model of modern trail building. Financed by the Santa Fe Land Improvement Company, with actual construction performed by the L.J. Smith Construction Company, Hermit Trail and the camp at its terminus cost nearly \$100,000, an enormous amount of money at that time. Grades were reduced by numerous switchbacks cut into the face of the Coconino sandstone and Redwall limestone; actual steps were blasted out of the bedrock and retaining walls of varying height were built to provide a reassuring barrier between the mounted traveler and an often dangerous drop into the Canyon. Most unique to the trail were the hand-cut, manually-placed, riprap paving, the rest houses, and the cabins at Hermit Camp.

### **Transportation, Entertainment and Recreation**

Hermit Trail was intended to facilitate as well as promote Grand Canyon tourism. Cobblestone paving on the upper part of the trail ensured a relatively safe descent to Hermit Basin. Rest areas like that at Santa Maria Spring offered restroom facilities, water, and a shady place to rest, lending a modicum of civilization that was both reassuring and encouraging for the typical anxious "dude." Interesting fossil reptile tracks were discovered on the sandstone bedrock along upper portions of the trail; sectioned off, they were offered as an *in situ* scientific exhibit (see photo 4). Continuing to overlay civilization over wilderness, the Santa Fe built Hermit Camp near the end of the trail at Hermit Creek. From 1912 until completion of Phantom Ranch in 1922, this facility was the most elaborate of its kind. Hermit Camp supplied comfortable, airy, and well furnished sleeping cabins, showers, concrete sidewalks, a central dining room, and telephone, and a supply tramway ensured fresh fruit, meat, vegetables, and ice. Hermit Trail, together with Hermit Camp and related facilities, achieved the Santa Fe's goal to attract, entertain, and accommodate tourists at Grand Canyon National Park.

### **Conservation, Social History**

The success of Hermit Trail and Camp proved short-lived. On February 26, 1919, President Woodrow Wilson signed into law a bill establishing Grand Canyon National Park. Administration of Grand Canyon was removed from the jurisdiction of the forest service and added to that of the three-year-old National Park Service. After 1919 the trail and camp continued to attract growing numbers of tourists to the western portion of the developed south rim, despite the transfer of administration. The Santa Fe continued to fund improvements and the Fred Harvey Company continued to manage and maintain the trail and facilities. Operations, however, were subject to increased scrutiny and regulation by the conservation-oriented National Park Service.

Not long after their arrival, NPS administrators realized management advantages to establishing an inner-Canyon central corridor, close to the Grand Canyon Railway's depot in the center of Grand Canyon Village and straight across the Canyon from Bright Angel Point where north rim developments would focus in the not too distant future. The Santa Fe built Phantom Ranch at the center of this corridor in 1922. Since Ralph Cameron and Coconino County seemed determined to maintain control over inner-Canyon travel, the park service decided to circumvent the Bright Angel Trail--as the forest

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service, Santa Fe, and Fred Harvey had done with the Hermit Trail to the west--by building the South Kaibab Trail in 1924-25. The Kaibab Bridge across the Colorado River was completed in 1928, the North Kaibab Trail reconstructed in the years 1922-28, and modern facilities completed at Bright Angel Point in 1928. The park also acquired the Bright Angel Trail in 1928, providing greater travel flexibility south of the river. By that year, Grand Canyon's central corridor, complete with automotive access roads, modern rim side facilities, state-of-the-art inner-Canyon trails, and a first class inner-Canyon resort, had obviated the former need for the Hermit Trail and Camp.

On August 15, 1930, Park Superintendent Miner Tillotson, in response to Department of Interior directives and with the agreement of Santa Fe officials, closed Hermit Camp. Shortly thereafter, all government property and equipment was removed. The abandoned facility deteriorated over the years, and in the fall of 1936, the park service instructed the railway to dismantle what they could of the camp and tramway and clean up the area. The remainder of the camp was razed on November 10, 1936. The tramway head house on Pima Point was destroyed soon afterward. Hermit Trail was also abandoned. Badly eroded, and damaged by feral burros, the trail was deemed unsafe by the early 1940s and was barricaded one-and-one-half miles from the rim.

This chapter in the story of Hermit Trail reflects an important era of American social history, illustrating regional and national shifts away from private exploitation of natural resources toward a new tradition of public resource management. With the closure of Hermit Camp, nearly all commercial enterprise now resided in Grand Canyon Village and the central trail corridor where a consortium of government and big business--the National Park Service, Santa Fe Railway, and Fred Harvey Company--supplanted early pioneers like Louis Boucher and Ralph Cameron.

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

See continuation sheet

preliminary determination of individual listing ( 36 CFR 67) has been requested

previously listed in the National Register

previously determined eligible by the National Register

designated a National Historic Landmark

recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary location of additional data:

State Historic Preservation Office

Other State agency

Federal agency

Local government

University

Other

Specify Repository:

Grand Canyon National Park Library and Study Collection, Grand Canyon, Arizona

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of property Approximately 12 acres

UTM References

A	<u>1/2</u>	<u>3/9/0/8/8/0</u>	<u>3/9/9/1/1/4/0</u>	B	<u>1/2</u>	<u>3/9/0/0/8/0</u>	<u>3/9/9/0/5/4/0</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing

C	<u>1/2</u>	<u>3/9/0/0/1/0</u>	<u>3/9/9/1/1/2/0</u>	D	<u>1/2</u>	<u>3/9/1/8/2/0</u>	<u>3/9/9/3/4/4/0</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing

See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The boundary of Hermit Trail is indicated on the U.S.G.S. Bright Angel Quadrangle, Arizona-Coconino Co., 15 Minute Series by a bold line starting at the trailhead at the rim of Hermit Basin (reference point A), continuing to the Waldron Trail junction (reference point B), then to Santa Maria Spring (reference point C), and ending at the center of Hermit

See continuation sheet

**Boundary Justification**

The boundary includes the entire 7.5 mile meandering trail and contributing sites and buildings. The trail averages a four-foot width, beginning at the trailhead on the rim near Hermits Rest, including the buildings at Santa Maria Spring, and terminating at the approximate 6-acre site of Hermit Camp on the Tonto Platform.

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Michael F. Anderson, GCNP Trails Historian; Amanda Zeman, Historical Architect; Debra Sutphen, Research Associate; Michael Scott, Architectural Technician

date October 25, 2019

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**SECTION 10 - VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

Creek (reference point D). The boundaries of Hermit Camp are as follows:

North NW-SE 250 feet from Y  
West SE-NW 175 feet from Y  
South NE-SW 250 feet from Y  
East NW-SE 250 feet from Y

The UTM reference for Santa Maria Spring is as follows:

12	390003	3991140	12	390030	3991113
Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing

**ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION**

- A) U.S.G.S. Bright Angel Quadrangle, Arizona-Coconino Co., 15 Minute Series
- B) Sketch Map of Hermit Trail

**PHOTOGRAPHS**

Photographs 1 through 9 were included in the original nomination prepared by Debra Sutphen in 1990. The conditions of the trail and related properties have not significantly changed since that date.



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**SECTION 11 - FORM PREPARED BY**

This nomination was originally prepared by Debra Sutphen and Mike Anderson in May 1990. At the time, Sutphen and Anderson were Research Associates at the Center for Colorado Plateau Studies, Northern Arizona University. The related multiple property listing of Historic Roads and Trails of Grand Canyon Arizona, was prepared by Anderson, in collaboration with Sutphen. The Hermit nomination was revised by Michael Scott, Architectural Technician at the NPS Western Regional Office in San Francisco, in February 2001. It was revised to the present form by Anderson and Zeman in August 2002, with further minor edits completed by Anderson in December 2006.