

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.

### 1. Name of Property

historic name North Kaibab Trail  
other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. Location

street & number Grand Canyon National Park  not for publication  
city, town Grand Canyon Village  vicinity  
state Arizona code AZ county Coconino code AZ005 zip code 86023

### 3. Classification

<b>Ownership of Property</b> <input type="checkbox"/> private <input type="checkbox"/> public-local <input type="checkbox"/> public-State <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<b>Category of Property</b> <input type="checkbox"/> building(s) <input type="checkbox"/> district <input type="checkbox"/> site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> structure <input type="checkbox"/> object	<b>Number of Resources within Property</b> <table border="0"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Contributing</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Noncontributing</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>26</u></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>13</u></td> <td style="text-align: right;">buildings</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>1</u></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>1</u></td> <td style="text-align: right;">sites</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>3</u></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>1</u></td> <td style="text-align: right;">structures</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">objects</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>30</u></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>15</u></td> <td style="text-align: right;">Total</td> </tr> </table>	Contributing	Noncontributing		<u>26</u>	<u>13</u>	buildings	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	sites	<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>	structures			objects	<u>30</u>	<u>15</u>	Total
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		objects																		
<u>30</u>	<u>15</u>	Total																		

Name of related multiple property listing:  
Grand Canyon, Arizona Historic Trails & Roads

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

### 4. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

### 5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register.  
 See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register.  See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

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

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

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Recreation and Culture - Outdoor  
recreation  
Transportation - Pedestrian related

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Recreation and Culture - Outdoor  
recreation  
Transportation - Pedestrian related

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification  
(enter categories from instructions)

Other: stone and earth trail

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Earth  
walls stone/ sandstone  
roof N/A  
other stone rubble

**Describe present and historic physical appearance.**

No detailed descriptions have been found of the early trail through upper Bright Angel Canyon built by Francois Matthes and his USGS survey crew in 1902 (discussed in the Significance section of this nomination). Considering that the party was in a hurry to reach the south rim and spent little time building the trail, a contemporary remark labeling it as "crude" may have been generous. The extent of David Rust's improvements between 1903 and 1907 are also unknown, but were probably minimal. Sporadic usage after those years ensured an extant trail of sorts, but its condition likely remained similar to that of the North Bass Trail--another path to the north rim maintained principally through usage. A trail still exists through upper Bright Angel Canyon which emerges at the rim approximately one mile west of Greenland Spring, however, this trail's relationship with Matthes' and Rust's original path is unknown.

Construction of the nominated trail began in late 1920 with improvements to the lower two miles of trail through Granite Gorge (the "Box") above Phantom Ranch. This work eliminated over forty of the 94 crossings of Bright Angel Creek noted by Matthes. The Park Service completed the remaining 1.25 miles of the gorge segment and continued perhaps as far as Ribbon Falls by 1926. The trail from Ribbon Falls through Roaring Springs Canyon to the rim was finished during the cooler months of 1926 through 1928. The Park Service made additional trail improvements through Granite Gorge, reducing the number of Bright Angel Creek crossings to six (with one more at the mouth of Manzanita Creek).

During the principal period of construction, 1925-1928, Park Service crews built to NPS trail standards established during construction of the South Kaibab Trail. They widened the path to a standard four-five feet, reduced grades with few exceptions to less than twenty percent (grades range from twelve to 24 percent), and in other ways improved the trail's safety. The work was relatively simple from Granite Gorge to the mouth of Manzanita Creek, but grew progressively more hazardous and difficult from the base of the Redwall and up Roaring Springs Canyon. The trail from this point was "literally hewn from solid rock in half-tunnel sections," using

See continuation sheet

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high explosives, portable drills, and jackhammers. The ascent from the Redwall through the Supai formation was facilitated by a twenty foot tunnel, at which point a rest stop was established with water piped from Roaring Springs.

Most of the equipment required for trail construction was packed in by mules until after 1927 when the Union Pacific installed a cable conveyor system from the rim to Roaring Springs. The railroad installed the conveyor in that year to facilitate the installation of a water pipeline from Roaring Springs to their new hotel near Bright Angel Point.

Few if any major alterations have been made to the nominated trail since its completion in 1928, but the trail's route along Bright Angel Creek and through the precipitous Roaring Springs Canyon had demanded continuous maintenance through the years. Until 1933, the Park Service stationed full-time and seasonal maintainers to work the trail. The full time employee was responsible for the segment from the mouth of Bright Angel Creek through the box canyon (as well as the lower portion of the South Kaibab); the seasonals worked from that point to the north rim. After 1933 and throughout the 1930s, crews of the Civilian Conservation Corps performed the strenuous work of side trail ditching, rock slide clearing, erosional repairs, water bar installation and repair, and maintenance of a stable trail tread. They also performed emergency snow removal from upper portions of the trail.

Extreme rainfall and spring thaws producing flash floods and landslides have continued to threaten the North Kaibab Trail through the years and required the Park Service to keep after trail reconstruction and maintenance. Aside from scheduled annual closures of mid-October through late May for the upper portion of the trail, floods and slides have regularly disrupted travel. The most severe disruption occurred in December, 1966, when fifteen inches of rain reportedly fell in six hours, producing a flash flood along Bright Angel Creek that obliterated the trail through the lower gorge. The Phantom Ranch sewer line and bunkhouse as well as all bridges and the nearly completed water pipeline from Roaring Springs were flushed into the Colorado River. Reconstruction, including the replacement of wooden bridges with aluminum structures sunk into deep concrete foundations, required that the lower trail remain closed until the summer of 1971. The rains also severely damaged upper portions of the trail, which did not reopen until 1969. Additional disruptions have occurred periodically from similar causes, including closures in 1971, 1975, 1978, and 1992.

Secretary of the Interior James Watt designated the North Kaibab Trail--along with the Bright Angel, South Kaibab, and

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Colorado River trails--as a part of the National Trails System in 1981 in recognition of its significance to central corridor transport and tourism. The National Park Service designated these same trails as the major transportation arteries of the Canyon's Corridor Use Area in 1988. Thus, the North Kaibab has been classified a Type A, Level I corridor trail, and continues to receive the Park Service's highest levels of maintenance.

A more detailed description of today's trail matches the route described above, but may represent minor variations caused by trail reconstruction following floods and slides. Beginning at the northern terminus of the Kaibab Bridge, the trail immediately veers downriver for the mouth of Bright Angel Creek, remaining along the low cliffs above river flood levels. It passes just to the north of the Bright Angel Indian Ruins, then continues up Granite Gorge on the east side of the creek to Phantom Ranch. A side trail to Bright Angel Campground crosses the creek to the west side just north of the Rock House, and continues for approximately a quarter mile through the campground before again crossing to the east side of the creek to rejoin the main trail just south of Phantom Ranch.

The side trail, in one form or another, existed on the west side of the creek from today's campground to the river at least as early as 1933. Prior to formal NPS trail construction in the 1920s, travellers no doubt approached the creek's mouth in any number of spots, and several informal paths likely existed. McAleenan's account of his 1917 trip implies a path west of the creek, and a trail of sorts proceeding downriver from the creek mouth. CCC crews established Camp NP-3-A at the site of today's campground, and no doubt walked along the west side of the creek from that point to reach their downriver tramway which crossed to Sections 3 and 4 of the Colorado River Trail. This side trail has since been entrenched as a major trail segment for those travelling directly along the Bright Angel Trail to the 1960s silver pipeline bridge and on to Bright Angel Campground.

The North Kaibab proceeds up the east side of the creek through the center of Phantom Ranch, then crosses the creek six times through the remaining few miles of Granite Gorge. As previously mentioned, periodic floods--especially the flood of 1966--have obliterated the trail through this section more than once. The trail through this section today reveals extensive cemented stone walls, drainage structures, and sturdy metal bridges. At one point where the creek rounds a bend, a twelve-to-fifteen-foot high, cemented-rock retaining wall protects the trail from flood for approximately 100 feet.

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As the gorge opens up several miles above Phantom Ranch, the trail climbs above creek level to the east and continues on the east side to the mouth of Manzanita Creek. A side trail leading across the creek to Ribbon Falls is passed and several hills traversed before the trail passes through Cottonwood Camp. The camp consists of a ranger cabin, piped water, and picnic tables. The trail from the gorge to Cottonwood camp is occasionally lined with stones. Once through the camp, the trail continues on the east side of the creek, then crosses for the last time just below the powerhouse complex (Aiken's).

The trail rises steeply in a series of switchbacks as it enters Roaring Springs Canyon, climbing well above that canyon's creek on the west side and the Roaring Springs powerhouse far below. It passes through the Redwall where the trail was blasted from solid rock. The tunnel and rest area are passed in this general area, but retaining walls originally constructed along this segment are no longer evident. Above the Redwall, the trail crosses the Roaring Springs drainage twice in sweeping switchbacks. Stacked stone retaining walls and elaborate water bars are found throughout this segment. Above the Coconino formation the trail continues in steep switchbacks through the pine and oak forest to the trailhead along the highway.

### Contributing properties at Phantom Ranch and the Bright Angel delta

Although David Rust set up a primitive tourist camp at the site of Phantom Ranch in 1903 (Figures 1-2), all properties contributing to the history of the North Kaibab Trail date to developments initiated by the Fred Harvey Company in 1922. The following property descriptions, general history of development, photographs, and site sketch are taken from Teri Cleeland's 1986 thesis. The authors of this nomination wish to give full credit (and thanks) to Teri for this information.

In early 1922, the Santa Fe and Fred Harvey announced construction of a new hotel on Bright Angel Creek called "Roosevelt Chalet." The development, designed by Fred Harvey Architect Mary Elizabeth Jane Colter and built by the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railway at a cost of \$20,000, consisted of

a large combined dining room and restroom, three large cabins with wide sleeping porches for the accommodation of visitors and a caretaker's cabin.... The cabins have all the comforts of home--shower baths, running water and telephones.

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The cabins, described as "stone Swiss Chatelets" were more in the Craftsman Bungalow tradition. Each large room contained two beds, a fireplace, and by 1927 had generator-powered electricity. Colter renamed the place Phantom Ranch (formerly known as Rust's Camp and later Roosevelt's Camp) after a nearby canyon.

When it first opened, Phantom Ranch looked very different than it does today. It was far smaller, with only five lodge buildings (#s 883, 888, 889, 891, 892; all property numbers given are keyed to Figure 13), a water reservoir (#898), and a barn (no longer extant). The tall cottonwood trees which today provide shade and give the ranch a lush appearance had just been planted then, and the landscape was desert-like. Designed to be nearly self-sufficient, the ranch soon had an orchard of peach, plum, and apricot trees, a chicken shed and yard, and a blacksmith shop. All are gone now--the orchard neglected and the chicken shed and blacksmith shop buried in a landslide. The National Park Service planted a new orchard of seedlings near the old orchard in the 1980s.

With Fred Harvey mule trips becoming more popular by the middle 1920s, the company soon expanded its facilities. Additions in 1925 included four tents, each accommodating four people, located where the hiker dorms (#s 899, 900, 901, 902) are today; a wooden bathhouse with dressing rooms, built behind the tents (#895, now employee housing); two toilets on the bank of Bright Angel Creek (now gone); a combined coal and washhouse (#894, today's hiker restrooms); and a hayshed (now gone). In 1926, the company added a Delco Light Plant (#868) providing electricity to the site. Originally an open sided structure with rock piers to protect machinery, it has since been enclosed and served as quarters for mule guides in the 1980s. In 1927, the company erected a large recreation building (#878) and three adjacent stone and wood frame two-bed guest cabins (#s 885, 886, 887). In 1928, they built five more of the small two-bed cabins along the same basic plan (#s 880, 881, 882, 884, 889), the stone and pole corral used today to welcome mule riders, and doubled the size of the dining room with a southern addition (Figure 4).

Today's ranch guests dine in the 1928 dining room addition. The original dining room is today's kitchen, and the original kitchen is now the employee dining room. The building had two entrances: one for guests and the other for employees. The employee entrance remains the same, but the foyer once screened is now enclosed. Guests entered on the east side of the building, where the registration window is today. The west side of the dining hall was a focus for guest activities, who relaxed there beside the creek (Figure 5).

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With an increasing number of ranch guests, the Park Service became concerned that sewage facilities (mostly pit toilets) were inadequate. In response, the Santa Fe installed a six-inch sewage pipe supported by rock piers running from Phantom Ranch to the Colorado River west of Bright Angel Creek. Through 1946, raw sewage was dumped into the river, but in that year septic tanks were installed to handle the problem. The stone piers, seen today along the west canyon wall, also carried water pipelines leading from huge holding tanks located in the cliffs to government buildings at the creek's delta.

In 1930, the last major concession buildings were erected at Phantom Ranch: the large, stone-sided toilet/bathhouse for men and women (#879) and the mule guides' living quarters (#875). A long rock wall ran from the guides' quarters along the North Kaibab Trail down to the mule barn. Wranglers allowed the mules to run free within this large enclosure. With the completion of these buildings in 1930, Phantom Ranch appeared much as it does today.

The Civilian Conservation Corps built a swimming pool north of the recreation building in 1934 (Figures 6-8). Located in a floodplain filled with huge boulders, CCC crews excavated the pool by hand. The waters of Bright Angel Creek cascading over a small waterfall fed the pool, and it served as a Phantom Ranch centerpiece for many years. With increasingly heavy use through the 1960s, the pool became a maintenance and health problem. In 1972, the Park Service permitted the Fred Harvey Company to fill it in. Many items were reportedly thrown in, including hand-carved doors from the recreation hall, a piano, oil burning stoves once used to heat the cabins, grills, and items from the old blacksmith shop.

Other changes to Phantom Ranch have been relatively minor. The shower house (#879) was originally built with board-and-batten side and end walls. In 1947, the Santa Fe spent some \$6,000 to "restore" the building, and it is likely that the walls were filled in with rocks at that time. The original board-and-batten barn burned in 1964 and was soon replaced by the present stone structure. The Santa Fe converted showers to toilets in most of the guest cabins in 1946 (#s 880, 881, 882, 884, 888, 889, 890, 891). The alterations changed the 1928 cabins' appearance little, but the 1922 cabins required more extensive remodeling. The remaining three 1927 guest cabins (#s 885, 886, 887) received similar additions ca. 1974. Evaporative coolers were also installed in all the cabins by 1946.

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In 1974, a laundry room was added to the west side of the dining hall. The Fred Harvey Company removed that addition and constructed a new laundry building west of the dining hall in March, 1986. In 1977, the original 1925 tent frame units were removed and replaced by prefabricated structures of the same proportions (#s 899, 900, 901, 902). These new "hiker dorms" have five bunkbeds each, a bathroom with shower, electricity, heating, and cooling (Figure 9). The adjacent washhouse (#895) was remodeled to serve as employee quarters. In the same year, a major renovation of the old recreation building into an employee bunkhouse involved enclosing the north and south porches for bedrooms and moving the baths to the building's center from the east end. The old Delco Light Plant, made obsolete in 1966 by a power line along the transcanyon waterline from Indian Gardens, was enclosed to serve as the mule guides' quarters, and a bathroom was added on the west side of the building in the 1980s.

While private enterprise flourished half a mile up Bright Angel Creek, the federal government began constructing buildings at the creek's delta. The United States Geological Survey in 1922 installed river gauging equipment, including a fifty-foot high recorder tower and 410-foot cable sixty feet above the river. These are still seen just upriver of the Kaibab Bridge, along with the small hydrographer's residence nearby. In 1926, the Park Service erected their first permanent structure at the creek delta, a single room residence called the Rock House (#154; Figure 10).

Once the CCC established their winter Camp NP-3-A at the site of today's Bright Angel Campground in 1933, several more structures were built in the delta area. They built the Packer's Cabin (#91, now the River Ranger Station) in 1934, on the same plan as the Rock House. Small shed-roofed bathroom additions were soon built onto each of these buildings. Both buildings have been enlarged with additional rooms, probably in the early 1960s. The Youth Conservation Corps added new restrooms to both buildings in 1977.

In 1934, the USGS built a second gauge well slightly upstream and across the river from the recorder tower. The CCC constructed a short trail from the Kaibab Bridge along the north side of the river to a cable used for transporting the hydrographer across to the new well. They erected a stone and wood frame silt laboratory (#870) south of their employee's residence in 1935. The lab burned in 1946 and the USGS replaced the superstructure in 1947. In that year they also built a small storeroom (#871) nearby. In 1948, the renovated lab was converted into a residence and the old residence became the lab. The lab/residence (#870) again burned in 1966 and this time was destroyed. The USGS moved to a new lab and residence (#440, now



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the Phantom Ranger Station) up Bright Angel Creek and donated the old residence (#869) and storeroom (#871) to the Park Service. The residence is now home to the Sewage Treatment Plant operator. The storeroom served as a restroom for awhile then was converted back to a storeroom in the 1980s. In 1977, satellite relay of river levels began and the USGS soon vacated their last remaining structure (#440) and donated it to the Park Service.

The CCC built the Park Service mule corral near the Colorado River in 1935 (Figure 11). The wooden roof and supports burned in 1937, but were soon replaced. In 1936, CCC crews built two bridges over Bright Angel Creek. Both had massive stone piers from which bridge support cables were strung. The upper bridge, which crossed from Phantom Ranch to the CCC camp, was washed away by flood years ago, but the original stone piers of the lower bridge leading to the Rock House still stand. These represent the last structures completed during the historic period under considerations.

In late 1960 and early 1961, the Park Service renovated the Bright Angel Campground by adding new grills and picnic tables, rehabilitating the original CCC-built comfort station, and building a three-bay hikers shelter (#288) called the Adirondack Shelter. The pipeline carrying water from Roaring Springs to the south rim was installed in 1965-1970, and the pipe was built into the original rock piers of the Rock House bridge across Bright Angel Creek. The silver suspension bridge built across the river at the site of the CCC's tramway was also completed during these years.

In 1981, a new sewage treatment plant (#491) was built on the delta. Two new restrooms, one at the campground (#489) and the other opposite the River Ranger Station (#490), as well as a new campground bridge to carry the sewer pipe, were built in the same year. Bright Angel Campground was again renovated in 1982, and a small amphitheater of benches supported by rock piers was added to the Phantom Ranch complex in 1984.

The following is a table of contributing properties prepared by Teri Cleeland in 1986. These properties are all located within the boundaries of the Phantom Ranch historic subdistrict defined in Section 10 of this nomination:

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North Kaibab Trail

National Park Service Properties

- 1). Mule Barn (#222)
- 2). Ranger Station (#91)
- 3). The Rock House (#154)
- 4). Residence (#869)
- 5). Bunkhouse (#875)
- 6). Rock House Bridge
- 7). Rock piers (near NPS barn)

Fred Harvey Company Properties

- 1-11). Guest Cabins (#s 880-882, 884-891)
- 12). Wrangler's Cabin (#869)
- 13). Welcome Corral
- 14). Employee Bunkhouse (#878)
- 15). Shower House (#879)
- 16). Manager Cabin (#883)
- 17). Dining Hall (#892)
- 18). Restrooms (#894)
- 19). Employee Cabin (#895)
- 20). Reservoir (#898)

The following is a table of noncontributing properties prepared by Teri Cleeland in 1986. These properties are all located within the boundaries of the Phantom Ranch historic subdistrict defined in Section 10 of this nomination:

- 1-4). Hiker Dorms (#899-902)
- 5). Phantom Ranger Station (#440)
- 6). Fred Harvey Corral (#872)
- 7). Bright Angel Campground
- 8). Campground Restroom (#489)
- 9). Adirondack Shelter (#288)
- 10). Delta Restroom (#490)
- 11). Sewage Treatment Plant (#491)
- 12). Storeroom (#871)
- 13). Storage Shed #1
- 14). Storage Shed #2
- 15). Silver pipeline bridge

Contributing Property: The Kaibab Bridge

The establishment of Phantom Ranch in 1922 immediately made obsolete the swinging suspension bridge completed by the National Park Service the year before at a cost of \$17,000. With the

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completion of the South Kaibab Trail in 1925, and continuing additions to tourist facilities at Phantom Ranch and the north rim. The Park Service realized that it would have to replace the bridge with something sturdier, and made plans to do so in 1927.

In late February, 1928, the Park Service appropriated \$48,000 to build a new Kaibab Bridge to connect the South Kaibab Trail to the nearly completed North Kaibab Trail. The project fell to Grand Canyon's chief Engineer, Frank Kittredge, while W.P. Webber, design engineer in the NPS San Francisco Office, prepared the plans and engineer J.H. Lawrence supervised construction. Work began on March 9, 1928.

The primary problem with any construction project within Grand Canyon involved the transport of supplies from rim to river. Miner Tillotson, Grand Canyon National Park Superintendent, supplied the necessary pack trains to carry approximately 122 tons of structural materials (steel, cables, etc), concrete, sand, supplies, and equipment to the base of the South Kaibab Trail. This new trail cut four miles from the distance required to supply the 1921 bridge, but transport still had to be accomplished on the backs of men and mules. Jack Way supervised the Park Service pack trains consisting of three packers and forty-two mules, which eventually carried all but twenty-six tons of structural steel to the work site (Fred Harvey's trains carried the remainder). Way ensured that the project proceeded without accident or interruption, and that "There was never a mule with a sore back, and at the time the job was finished the mules were in better condition than at the start."

Although the NPS pack trains carried nearly all materials to the work site, they were not able to carry the 550-foot main bridge cables down the twisting South Kaibab Trail. This feat was accomplished by 42 men, mostly Havasupai Indians, who were spaced at intervals to place approximately fifty pounds of cable on each man's shoulders. These men snaked their way down the trail eight times to deliver the eight cables to the construction site. Each round trip required two days.

The original construction crew consisted of a bridge foreman, nine skilled laborers, and a cook, but was later augmented with another eleven skilled and unskilled laborers. These men also had to rework the bridge approaches. The north approach created a kind of trail spiral which began at the old north abutment, curved upstream to the east, and then spiralled back to the south where it connected with the new abutment. The south approach required excavation of a 105-foot tunnel, ten feet high and six feet wide,

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drilled and blasted through the metamorphosed rock. Special care was taken to design the tunnel with sufficient room for tourists to dismount in safety. When construction was completed on August 3, 1928, the swinging bridge was dismantled and packed out of the Canyon.

The bridge has not been altered since its completion in 1928. It is 440 feet long, five feet wide, and according to construction supervisor Lawrence, will "support all the live load that can be placed on it." It is supported by eight one-and-one-half-inch diameter wire cables, 548 feet long, and 500 feet between suspension points. A structural steel stiffening truss also serves as guard rails. Additional stiffening members are two one-and-one-half-inch diameter wind cables. The total cost of the finished bridge including trail approaches was \$39,500. At the time of its completion (until the following year), no other bridge crossed the Colorado River for 385 miles to the south and 370 miles to the north.



Figure 1. Rust cable car over the Colorado River, ca. 1907 (Cleeland)



Figure 2. David Rust's Camp near today's Phantom Ranch, ca. 1907 (Cleeland)



Figure 3. First Colorado River Suspension Bridge, ca. 1922 (Cleeland)



Figure 4. Phantom Ranch Dining Hall Addition in foreground, 1928 guest Cabin in far background. Facing north, ca. 1961 (Cleeland)

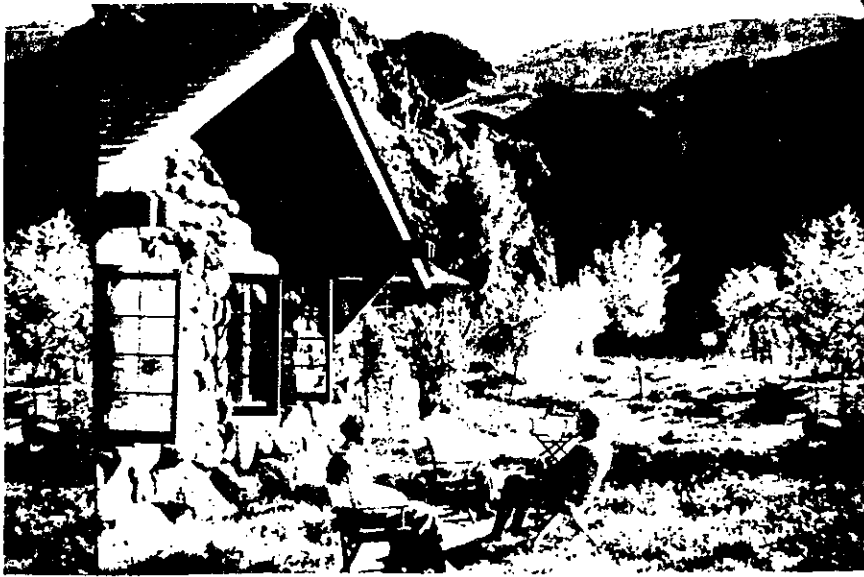


Figure 5. West side of the Phantom Ranch dining hall, Facing south ca. 1923 (Cleeland)



Figure 6. CCC Excavation of the Phantom Ranch swimming pool, facing south, 1934. Recreation Hall is in the background. (Cleeland)



Figure 7. Phantom Ranch swimming pool, completed in 1936. Facing north.  
(Cleeland)



Figure 8. Phantom Ranch cabins behind the swimming pool, ca. 1961.  
1928 cabins on the left; 1922 cabin on the right. (Cleeland)





Figure 9. Phantom Ranch hiker dorms, facing north, 1985. (Cleeland)



Figure 10. The Rock House, 1936. The CCC crew is surveying the location for the Rock House Bridge. (Cleeland)

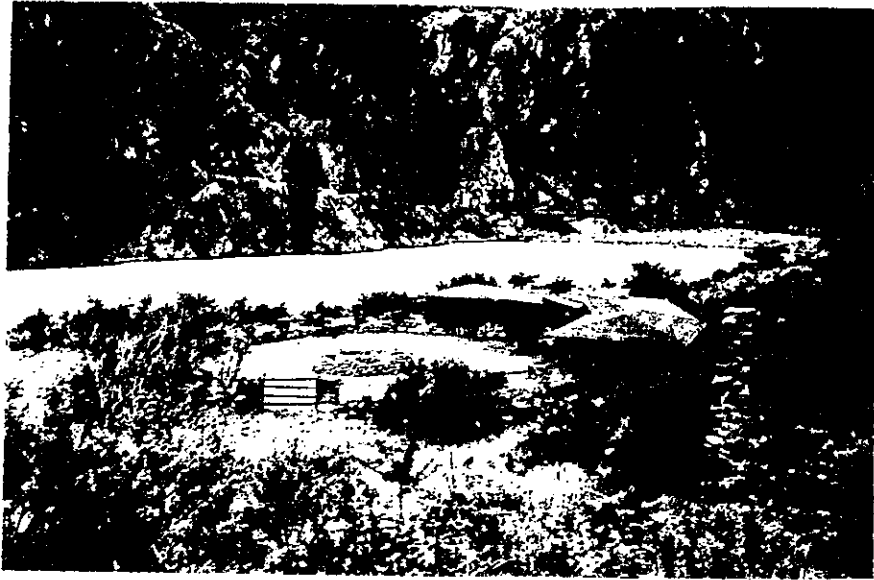


Figure 11. Phantom Ranch mule barn, 1986. Rock pier for the sewer line is in the right foreground. (Cleeland)



Figure 12. Packing supplies to Phantom Ranch along the South Kaibab Trail, ca. 1922. (Cleeland)

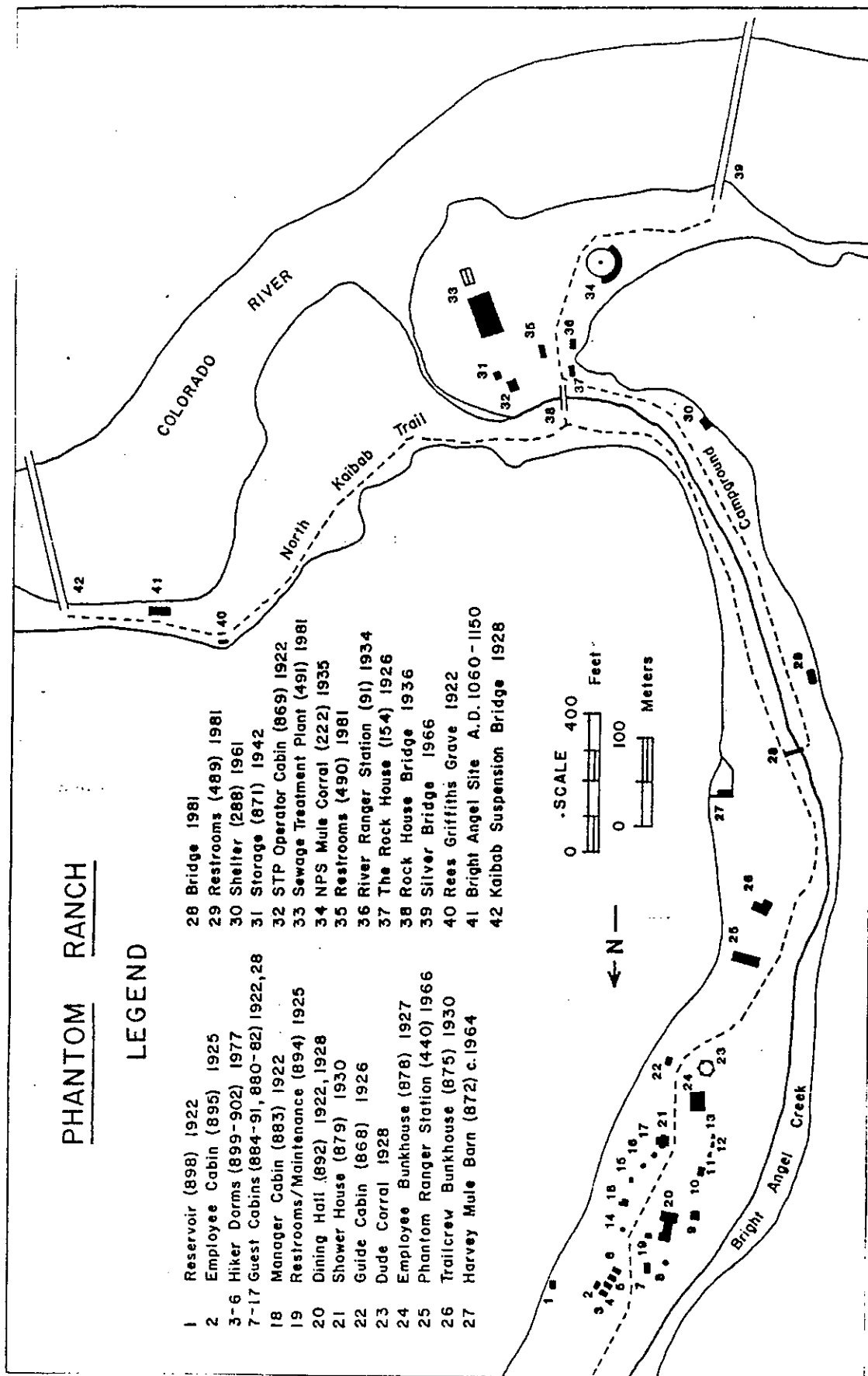


Figure 13. Phantom Ranch Historic Subdistrict today, with NPS building numbers and construction dates. (Cleeland)

**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)

Entertainment/ Recreation

Transportation

Exploration/ settlement

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance

1902-1941

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates

1902

1920-1921

1925-1928

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person

Architect/Builder

Francois Matthes, 1902

National Park Service, 1920-1921, 1925-1928

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

The trail is significant under Criterion A for its association with the National Park Service's concerted efforts to accommodate the explosive nature of tourism in the 1920s and 1930s. The North Kaibab Trail figured prominently in plans to develop the emerging central corridor of trail travel, especially following the completion of the South Kaibab Trail in 1925 and the coincident development of tourist facilities at Phantom Ranch. The Park Service noted in the early 1920s that the intentional funneling of tourists to Phantom Ranch would naturally lead to increasing travel up Bright Angel Creek, and that the old trail leading north which had received little attention in past years could not safely sustain the traffic. They envisioned a transcanyon trail built to NPS trail standards picking up from the South Kaibab terminus and ending with a new route along Roaring Springs Canyon to emerging tourist developments at Bright Angel Point. Completion of this project in 1928 had the desired effect of facilitating safe tourist travel between the rims.

The trail constructed in 1920-1921 and 1925-1928 also attains significance in association with transcanyon subregional travel. Since 1902, the earliest version of the north trail had served along with the Bright Angel Trail as a transcanyon corridor. Decidedly crude and in spots clearly unsafe, the early trail required upgrading to accommodate the 1920s tourist anxious for adventure but less inclined to risk life and limb. The route was equally unsafe for those traveling between the Arizona Strip and county seats at Flagstaff and Kingman. In combination with increasing Park Service development at Bright Angel Point, a safer route capable of handling a larger traffic volume and leading more directly to the center of north rim activity would certainly facilitate non-tourist travel as well. Traffic immediately transferred to the new route as portions of the trail were completed, and all central corridor transcanyon travel since 1928 has used the North Kaibab Trail.

See continuation sheet

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The early version of the North Kaibab Trail is significant for its association with the exploration efforts of the United States Geological Service and Francois Matthes as they surveyed sections of Grand Canyon's north rim in the early 1900s. As has been noted elsewhere, Matthes and his 1902 party pioneered this route specifically to facilitate their travel and to transport supplies between the rims. Prior to this year, only a few hunting guides like Uncle Jimmy Owens and north rim cattlemen were familiar with the Kaibab Forest between House Rock Valley to the east and the Kanab Plateau to the west. The early north trail opened up this region to survey and exploration and led eventually to developments at and near Bright Angel Point.

Historic Contexts: Entertainment/ Recreation/ Transportation/  
Exploration/ Settlement, 1902-1941.

In the spring of 1902 geologist/cartographer Francois E. Matthes of the United States Geological Survey began the topographical mapping of Grand Canyon. He and his party began their work on the Canyon's south rim, easily reached by the recently completed Grand Canyon Railway. Later in the year, the party asked around for a direct route across the Canyon to the north rim and found to their dismay that the only trail lay some 25 miles to the west along William Bass's early transcanyon corridor. As Matthes later recounted, the six-day trek upon Bass's none too developed trails along with the river crossing in a rickety wooden punt was a frustrating experience not to be repeated if at all possible.

As the winter of 1902 approached, Matthes and his crew considered the seventy-mile supply line between their position near upper Bright Angel Canyon and Kanab, Utah; the long walk back to Bass's north side trail; and the Grand Canyon Railway, their desired destination only thirteen air miles across the intervening chasm. The Bright Angel Fault presented a tempting travel alternative, and despite others' assessments that it could not support saddle nor pack stock, the survey party prepared to make the descent as best they could. According to Matthes, on the very day they began to descend they encountered "two haggard men and a weary burro" emerging from the head of Bright Angel Canyon. Sid Ferrall and Jim Murray had fought their way up and, Matthes reasoned, they could fight their way down. By November 7, 1902, the party completed a rough trail to the bottom of the canyon and continued along the comparatively level Bright Angel Creek to the river. They crossed in a prospector's wooden boat, replaced the next year by a metal rowboat, and completed their journey to the south rim along the Bright Angel Trail.

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This wretched upper trail combined with the incessant crossings of lower Bright Angel Creek served the travelling public for the next two decades. As mentioned elsewhere, Davis Rust and the Grand Canyon Transportation Company improved the north trail and established a camp at today's Phantom Ranch between 1903 and 1907. These improvements were likely marginal and did nothing to overcome the innumerable creek crossings within the lower canyon. No one else is known to have made improvements to the trail in the ensuing years, though many--including cross canyon travelers, tourists, prospectors, and hunters--used the trail and Rust's cable car to travel between the rims. Joseph McAleenan, who crossed the Canyon along the corridor in 1917, described the treacherous nature of the Bright Angel Trail, then termed it a "boulevard" in comparison to the north side trail. McAleenan also recounted how "remains of the old [cable] cage rested on a ledge, where it had been left stranded, broken and useless, by the high flood of last Spring," and that their crossing was effected in a 14-foot canvas boat with Emery Kolb at the oars. McAleenan's account confirms the poor condition of the old trail and the perilous nature of river crossings at this point into the 1920s.

In 1921, the Park Service replaced Rust's deteriorating cable system with a wooden, free-swinging suspension bridge, but the Fred Harvey Company's completion of facilities at Phantom Ranch in 1922 and rapidly increasing tourist numbers after that year quickly made this still unnerving method of crossing obsolete. Harvey's facilities and completion of the South Kaibab Trail in 1925 further exacerbated the traffic jam at the river crossing, and pointed to needed construction along the north trail to facilitate tourist trips at least as far as Ribbon Falls, six miles north of Phantom Ranch.

Since its arrival at Grand Canyon in late 1919, the Park Service had been well aware of needed improvements to the north trail along Bright Angel Creek. In late 1920 and early 1921 it reconstructed the first 2.5 miles through Granite Gorge above the creek's mouth, eliminating more than forty of the more than 94 creek crossings, and expected funding to complete reconstruction through the gorge's narrows. The latter work was completed as far as Ribbon Falls in 1925-1926. Further construction to Bright Angel Point was undertaken in the cooler months of 1926 through 1928, and finished May 21, 1928. The formal dedication of the 20.59-mile trail (South and North Kaibab trails combined) on September 15, 1928, inaugurated a new era of convenient, safe travel across Grand Canyon's central corridor.

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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Anderson, Michael F. and Debra Sutphen. "Bass and South Kaibab Trails Historical Research Study, Grand Canyon." National Park Service/ NAU Center for Colorado Plateau Studies cooperative agreement, April 1991.

Anderson, Michael F. "Bright Angel and Colorado River Trails History." Research paper, February 1992, author's possession.

Annerino, John. Hiking the Grand Canyon. San Francisco: Sierra Club Books, 1986.

Annual Supervisor's Report, 1925, 1926. Ref. File: Trails, GCNP Library.

Annual Supervisor's Report, 1928. Ref. File: Kaibab Trail, GCNP Library.

See continuation sheet

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

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

**Specify repository:**

Grand Canyon National Park Library  
Grand Canyon Village, Arizona

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreeage of property 129.3 acres (trail = 78.3 acres; Phantom Ranch & river delta = 51 acres)

**UTM References**

A 

1	2
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4	0	1	9	5	0
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3	9	9	5	6	5	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Zone Easting Northing

C 

1	2
---	---

4	0	1	6	0	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

3	9	9	5	8	1	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

B 

1	2
---	---

4	0	1	6	5	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

3	9	9	5	5	0	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Zone Easting Northing

D 

1	2
---	---

4	0	1	6	5	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

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

See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The boundary of the North Kaibab Trail is shown as the darkened line and polygon on the accompanying 1962 USGS map entitled "Bright Angel Quadrangle, Arizona--Coconino Co. 15 Minute Series (Topographic)." The nominated property is a meandering trail 14.5 miles long, beginning at the south end of the Kaibab Bridge and ending at the north rim at the parking area 1/2 mile west of the ranger station, along the north rim access road.

See continuation sheet

**Boundary Justification**

The boundary includes the entire 14.5 mile trail from the south end of the Kaibab Bridge to the north rim parking area, including the bridge. Five feet is allowed for average trail width and a twenty foot buffer zone on each side of the trail is added. Phantom Ranch is considered an historic subdistrict, containing a number of contributing structures and sites.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Mike Anderson and Debra Sutphen/ research associates

organization NAU Center for Colorado Plateau Studies date June 30, 1992

street & number NAU Box 5613 telephone (602) 523-2562

city or town Flagstaff state Arizona zip code 86011

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Major Bibliographical References (continued):

(Flagstaff) Arizona Daily Sun. 23 May 1975, 23 April 1981.

(Phoenix) Arizona Republic, 2 December 1969, 7 June 1970, 22 July 1971.

Carrel, C.M. "Report on Trail Maintenance in Grand Canyon National Park" (13 January 1930). GCNP Library.

Cleeland, Teri. "The Cross Canyon Corridor Historic District in Grand Canyon National Park: A Model for Historic Preservation." Masters Thesis, Northern Arizona University, 1986.

(Flagstaff) Coconino Sun. "Over the New Kaibab Trail." 8 March 1929.

"Distances: Kaibab Trail." Reference File: Trails, Misc. GCNP Library.

Grand Canyon Natural History Association, Natural History Bulletin #2, November 1935. Reprinted from Grand Canyon Nature Notes, v.2 (1927).

Granger, Byrd Howell. Arizona Place Names. Tucson: Falconer Publications, 1983.

"The Kaibab Trail is Open Again." Sunset Magazine (June 1971). Reference File: Kaibab Trail, GCNP Library.

National Park Service News Release. 2 March 1978. Reference File: Trails, Misc. GCNP Library.

National Geographic. V.4 (July 1978).

Patrick, Shirley Y. Office memorandum, 26 September 1957. Reference File: Trails. GCNP Library.

Roosevelt, Theodore. The Strenuous Life: Essays and Addresses. New York: Review of Reviews, 1904)

"Spectacular Kaibab Trail Opened Across Grand Canyon This Week." Newspaper article, unknown origin, 5 May 1928. GCNP Library.

Tillotson, Miner R and Frank J. Taylor. Grand Canyon Country. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press, 1935.

Williams News. 29 May 1975.



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North Kaibab Trail

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Geographical Data (continued):

UTM References:

E	12	403275	3998200
F	12	405250	4001350
G	12	406675	4003275
H	12	407200	4004200
I	12	407380	4004875
J	12	407300	4005700
K	12	405875	4007775
L	12	405100	4008440
M	12	404900	4008150
N	12	406250	4006000
O	12	407050	4005000
P	12	406250	4003200
Q	12	403410	3999450
R	12	402600	3997800
S	12	402200	3997475
T	12	401450	3996200
U	12	401300	3995800
V	12	401450	3995320
W	12	402000	3995350
X	12	402020	3995400

Verbal Boundary Description:

Contributing properties along the trail, excluding those properties within the Phantom Ranch subdistrict, includes the rest stop site near the tunnel in the upper segment of the trail.

The Phantom Ranch subdistrict is bounded by the Colorado River on the south; the silver pipeline bridge and canyon walls of Bright Angel Creek on the west; the Kaibab Bridge and canyon walls of Bright Angel Creek on the east; and a line drawn across the canyon 200 feet up creek of the reservoir (#898 on Figure 13) on the north. This area comprises approximately fifty-one acres of relatively flat land surface and considers the cliffs and bridges as part of the subdistrict. Contributing and noncontributing properties within this subdistrict are identified in the description section of this nomination.