

Zion National Park Historic Trail System,
Canyon Overlook Trail
Zion National Park
Springdale vicinity
Washington County
Utah

HAER No. UT-40-B

HAER

UTAH,

27-SPDA.V,

1B-

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Engineering Record
Rocky Mountain Regional Office
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
P.O. Box 25287
Denver, Colorado 80225

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

Zion National Park Historic Trails System, Canyon Overlook Trail

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Location: Zion National Park
Springdale vicinity, Washington County, Utah

Date of Construction: 1933; Alterations - 1968

Architect/Designer: Harry Langley

Present Owner: National Park Service
U. S. Department of the Interior

Present Use: Scenic trail/hiking footpath

Significance: Built with native materials, associated with "National Park Service-Rustic" architectural style and constructed by Civilian Conservation Corps personnel, the Canyon Overlook Trail possesses structural integrity. All stonework and pipe railings are scrutinized by a field headquarters representative.

Researcher: James Jurale
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The Canyon Overlook Trail is 0.5 miles long and begins across the highway from the parking area at the east end of the Zion-Mount Carmel Tunnel. Starting quite steeply, by means of chiseled sandstone steps, the trail is constructed on a moderate grade after the initial 200 feet and follows the rock ledges above Pines Creek Canyon to a point directly above the Great Arch of Zion. This is one of Zion National Park's most popular self-guiding nature walks. The environment along this trail is entirely different from that of the canyon floor, and the hiker has the opportunity to view a great variety of spectacular sandstone formations, animals and plant life.

The foot trail was completed by Civilian Conservation Corps personnel of Camp N.P.2 in November 1933, with the exception of guard rails which needed to be approved by the landscape architect. Construction work was supervised by N.P.2 Camp Superintendent F. R. Rozelle and approved by Zion National Park Superintendent P. P. Patraw. Originally called the Great Arch Trail, it was, and continues to be, one of the most popular footpaths in the park.

Man-made improvements along the trail include rock hewn steps and observation platform, dry-laid sandstone brick retaining walls, steel strut and wood plank footbridge, and metal pipe rails with brackets. The adjacent parking area was built in 1968 to "provide necessary parking space for visitor use for enjoyment of the geological features, ecological study, photo stops and improved roadway safety." It cost \$15,676 to construct.

Bibliography

U. S. Department of the Interior. "C.C.C.---Narrative Reports, Miscellaneous, 1934."

U. S. Department of the Interior. "Completion Report for Zion National Park Pullout Parking Areas, 1968, #5104."