

# 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 determination for individual properties and districts. See instruction in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an 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 entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

## 1. Name of Property

historic name Lost Lake Trail

other names/site number Trail up North Fork of the Big Thompson; Sawmill Trail; 5LR.11900.1

## 2. Location

street & number Rocky Mountain National Park (ROMO) [N/A] not for publication

city or town Estes Park [X] vicinity

state Colorado code CO county Larimer code 069 zip code 80510

## 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this [X] 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant [ ] nationally [ ] statewide [X] locally. ( [ ] See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property [X] meets [ ] does not meet the National Register criteria. ( [ ] See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, Colorado Historical Society  
State or Federal agency and bureau

## 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

- 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  
[ ] See continuation sheet.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Lost Lake Trail  
Name of Property

Larimer County/ Colorado  
County/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 count previously listed resources.)

Contributing

Noncontributing

<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

### Name of related multiple property listing.

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

Rocky Mountain National Park  
Historic Park Landscapes In National and State Parks

### Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register.

0

## 6. Function or Use

### Historic Function

(Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION AND CULTURE/ outdoor  
recreation  
LANDSCAPE/ park  
TRANSPORTATION/ pedestrian-related

### Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION AND CULTURE/ outdoor  
recreation  
LANDSCAPE/ park  
TRANSPORTATION/ pedestrian-related

## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> AND EARLY 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY  
AMERICAN MOVEMENTS  
OTHER: Rustic

### Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation \_\_\_\_\_  
walls \_\_\_\_\_  
roof \_\_\_\_\_  
other EARTH  
WOOD  
STONE

### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Lost Lake Trail  
Name of Property

Larimer County/ Colorado  
County/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 of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

### Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

### Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

### 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  
# \_\_\_\_\_

### Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ENTERTAINMENT/ RECREATION  
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

### Periods of Significance

1911-1945

### Significant Dates

1934

### Significant Person(s)

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above).

N/A

### Cultural Affiliation

N/A

### Architect/Builder

National Park Service  
Dunn, Allison van V.

### Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency
- Federal Agency
- Local Government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Rocky Mountain National Park  
Colorado Historical Society

Lost Lake Trail  
Name of Property

Larimer County/ Colorado  
County/State

## 10. Geographical Data

**Acreeage of Property** 10.9 acres

### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

- |    |      |         |          |         |
|----|------|---------|----------|---------|
| 1. | 13   | 456305  | 4482882  | (NAD27) |
|    | Zone | Easting | Northing |         |
| 2. | 13   | 455132  | 4482924  |         |
|    | Zone | Easting | Northing |         |
| 3. | 13   | 452816  | 4483186  |         |
|    | Zone | Easting | Northing |         |
| 4. | 13   | 452184  | 4483734  |         |
|    | Zone | Easting | Northing |         |

The UTM points were derived by the Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation from heads-up digitization on Digital Raster Graphic (DRG) maps provided to OAHP by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management.

[x] See continuation sheet

### Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

### Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Sierra Standish, contract position (RMNP contact- Cheri Yost)  
organization Rocky Mountain National Park date 14 November 2006  
street & number 1000 Highway 36 telephone (970) 586-1394  
city or town Estes Park state Colorado zip code 80517

## Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

### Continuation Sheets

#### Maps

- A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

### Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

### Additional Items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

## Property Owner

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

name Rocky Mountain National Park, U.S. Department of the Interior  
street & number 1000 Highway 36 telephone (970) 586-1394  
city or town Estes Park state Colorado zip code 80517

**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. 470 *et seq.*)

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 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 Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet****United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

Lost Lake Trail Larimer County/ Colorado  
Rocky Mountain National Park MPS  
Historic Park Landscapes in National and State Parks MPS

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Section number 7 Page 1

**DESCRIPTION**

Location: The Lost Lake Trail is in the northeast corner of Rocky Mountain National Park. The entire trail, beginning at the North Fork/Dunraven Trailhead, stretches 9 miles from east to west along the drainage of the North Fork of the Big Thompson River. The first half of the trail passes through Roosevelt National Forest; the final 4.5 miles—stretching from .8 miles east of the junction with the North Boundary Trail to Lost Lake—lie within Rocky Mountain National Park. Only the 4.5-mile section within the park is being nominated to the National Register.

Setting: Most of the trail travels from east to west along the bottom of a valley; views are confined to grassy meadows and the streamside forest. Lost Lake is a relatively large, clear body of water at timberline; a collection of lakes hiding further west can encourage a visitor to explore further.

Built: 1911-12

Trail improvements: 1934

Materials: Earth, local rock, and log/wood

Destination: Lost Lake

Length of main trail in park: 4.5 miles

Trail Width: Ranging from 2 to 5 feet

Significant built features: North Fork Patrol Cabin (Building 0017, 5LR.3738, built in 1932, determined eligible for National Register listing on 15 May 1998; outside the trail boundary) dry laid rock walls, log and rock water bars and drains, stone steps, switchbacks and bogwalks

Significant natural features: North Fork of the Big Thompson, Lost Lake and Lost Falls.

Trail tour:

Compared to other trails in the park, the Lost Lake Trail utilizes few trail structures. The alignment roughly follows the north side of the North Fork of the Big Thompson River and, for most of its length, rises gradually to 10,700-foot Lost Lake.

The first five miles or so pass through the Comanche Peak Wilderness, managed by the U.S. Forest Service. The remaining 4.5 miles extend into Rocky Mountain National Park. This verbal tour focuses on the trail as it passes through the park.

About five miles from the trailhead near the town of Glen Haven—at about 8,900 feet—the trail passes a wood sign announcing “Entering Rocky Mountain National Park.” Eight tenths of a mile later, the pathway meets the North Boundary Trail, a route extending southward to the Cow Creek Trail. The North Fork Patrol Cabin stands several hundred yards south of this junction.

As the trail continues along the river, it alternately moves between lush, forested areas and open fields. Log-lined bogwalks help maintain the integrity of the tread in the wetter areas.

About 1.5 miles after the junction, the trail begins to climb the slope on the northern side of the river. This constitutes the steepest segment on the whole trip, rising about 500 feet in a half-mile, and effectively skirts Lost Falls. Rock walls and log checks become more prevalent in this area. After moving well out of earshot of the river, the trail meets the Stormy Peaks Trail, a long pathway that travels past the park’s northern boundary and toward Pingree Park.

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet****United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**Lost Lake Trail Larimer County/ Colorado  
Rocky Mountain National Park MPS  
Historic Park Landscapes in National and State Parks MPSSection number 7 Page 2

In its final two miles, the trail moves gradually back toward the river, and then follows a tributary creek up toward Lost Lake. As a relatively large, clear body of water, Lost Lake is an appealing destination in and of itself. However, a collection of lakes hiding just to the west can encourage a visitor to explore further.

**Trail construction and alterations:**

In 1910, a tourist map indicates no trail following the North Fork. However, in 1911 and 1912, two men by the names of Lee and Parker, of Johnstown, Colorado, built a dam on Lost Lake. This activity would have required a passable work trail or road all the way up to the lake. By 1915, the park superintendent reported that a "Trail follows the north fork of Big Thompson river to Lost Lake. Distance about 9 miles, from park boundary line." Although this confirms the presence of the trail, it is interesting that the superintendent reports that the park contains all 9 miles. The park boundaries never encompassed more than about 4.5 miles of the trail; perhaps the brand-new superintendent was still learning the lay of the land. In 1916, the park initiated its first minor work on the Lost Lake Trail, removing timber and conducting repairs.

Although the trail continued to see visitor use, the Lost Lake Trail never commanded the interest and resources like certain other trails in the park. But in 1932 the park erected the North Fork Patrol Cabin and in 1934 park engineer/ landscape architect Allison van V. Dunn directed 20 men to rebuild part of the Lost Lake Trail. The *Estes Park Trail* reported "most of the new work will be done above the falls below the lake with minor relocation and construction below the falls." Because this project focused on an identifiable part of the trail—and because Dunn's work has survived remarkably elsewhere in the park—we can presume that the rock walls we see today reflect some 1934 handiwork.

Later in the twentieth century, as bogwalks became more popular, the park built them in to parts of the Lost Lake Trail.

**Lost Lake Trail integrity:**

The Rocky Mountain National Park section of trail retains a high level of integrity from the original 1911-12 construction and the 1930s park improvements. The trail follows the same alignment and the impressive rock walls are likely the originals from 1934. Park trail crews have replaced ephemeral features such as log foot bridges, log bog walks, and log checks and rebuilt in-kind stone steps using materials gathered on site, following Naturalistic Design standards.

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet****United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

Lost Lake Trail Larimer County/ Colorado  
Rocky Mountain National Park MPS  
Historic Park Landscapes in National and State Parks MPS

Section number 8 Page 3

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**SIGNIFICANCE**

The Lost Lake Trail is eligible for listing in the National Register under Criteria A and C, meeting the registration requirements set forth in the *Rocky Mountain National Park Multiple Property Listing*. Under Criterion A, the trail is eligible in the area of *Entertainment/Recreation* for its association with the early resort industry and tourism in the Estes Park region. The period of significance begins in 1911 with the initial trail construction and ends in 1945, the year in which tourism in the park significantly changed due to increased automobile traffic after World War II. The trail is eligible under Criterion C in the area of *Landscape Architecture*; the trail design reflects National Park Service (NPS) Naturalistic Design of the 1920s through the 1940s.

The Lost Lake Trail demonstrates the national trends described in Linda Flint McClelland's *Historic Park Landscapes in National and State Parks Multiple Property Listing*. In this second context, the trail is eligible under Criterion A in the area of *Entertainment/Recreation* for its connection to the twentieth-century movement to develop national parks for public enjoyment. The trail is also eligible under Criterion C in the area of *Landscape Architecture* for a design reflecting NPS Naturalistic Design of the 1920s through the 1940s.

**Historical Background**

Lost Lake deserves its name. Located in the extreme northeast end of the park, the lake is tucked back into the Mummy Range, over 10 miles from the closest town. This region has received little mention in historic park literature. Perhaps its distance from most hotels seemed to discourage visitors from venturing all of the way up the drainage of the North Fork of the Big Thompson River.

If Lost Lake was too far away, the river valley itself possessed its own attractions. In 1890, George Simonds filed a homestead claim along the river in an area that is in the modern-day Roosevelt National Forest. George, with the help of his brother, built sawmills alongside the water. By 1909, the sawmills were abandoned by the sawyers and embraced by "Sprague's Resort," a lodge that may have been operated by Fred Sprague—the brother of the locally-famous Abner, a pioneer, storyteller and innkeeper—or by a Denver man who went by the name of Sprague. The debate tends to favor Fred. Either way, the resort utilized some of the old cabins built to house the sawmill activities.

A 1910 tourist map indicates no trail following the North Fork—not even a trace traveling just part of the way up the drainage, to Simonds' sawmills. However, a trail completely reaching Lost Lake must have developed within a couple of years. In 1911 and 1912, two men by the names of Lee and Parker of Johnstown, Colorado, would have cleared some form of passable work trail or road to reach the construction site of the dam they built on Lost Lake.

Lost Lake gained popularity with tourists in the 1910s. Guests at Sprague's Resort enjoyed guided horseback trips up to the lake. One adventuresome tourist described a trip he made through the high country of the Mummy Range, with a stop at Lost Lake:

This little lake, like many of its kin near timber line [sic], was surrounded by a border of lovely firs and spruces. Many little brooks fed from nearby snow banks run into this lake. We made our camp beside one of these little streams and after a good supper the sound of running water soon lulled us to sleep. Near the camp we had our first sight of the ptarmigan. They were so nearly the colors of the rocks that it was hard to say who were

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet****United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

Lost Lake Trail Larimer County/ Colorado  
Rocky Mountain National Park MPS  
Historic Park Landscapes in National and State Parks MPS

---

Section number 8 Page 4

the most greatly surprised, the men or the birds.... Lost lake makes an ideal camping ground, and our stay of two days was most thoroughly enjoyed.<sup>1</sup>

A horseback party of seven men and seven women related their adventures riding up the trail:

...This well-forested canyon is one of the most beautiful in the park, and one that is very seldom visited. Several bad dogs were encountered, making it difficult for the horses. Some grouse were seen, but no other animals of note. The trail at times would emerge from the dense forest into little Alpine meadows.<sup>2</sup>

Hotels, railroads, and other tourist industry businesses began to acknowledge and promote the charms of the Lost Lake area. The United States Railroad Administration proclaimed:

Five miles northeast from the village of Estes is the fascinating region surrounding Lester hotel. One of the best of the longer horseback trips from this point is to Hallett [Rowe] Glacier. Another is that to Lost and Husted Lakes at the foot of the Mummy Range, a spur extending northeast of the Continental Divide with numerous peaks rising over 13,000 feet.<sup>3</sup>

In 1915, the park's first superintendent affirmed the existence of the Lost Lake Trail. Over the next couple of decades, interest in the lake and the drainage grew. Horseback riders particularly favored the long trail up to the lake.

...The Easterdays left their cabin at Glen Haven early one morning last week taking saddle horses and a pack horse belonging to Don Adams, Glen Haven guide. They arrived at the lake about noon after nearly five hours of riding over fifteen miles of the beautiful trail which leads past beaver dams, falls, snow banks, and deserted cabins.

Immediately after lunch Mr. Easterday and Bob hurried to the lake to fish, for Lost Lake is well known to fishermen for its large Eastern Brook trout. Mrs. Easterday and Margaret spent the afternoon in climbing the mountains about the lake and sliding down snow banks.<sup>4</sup>

Perhaps in response to the added interest in the trail, the park built the North Fork Patrol Cabin in 1932. The cabin stands approximately halfway up the trail, close to the boundary between the park and Roosevelt National Forest, and next to the junction of the Lost Lake and North Boundary trails.

In 1934, the park tackled a project further west on the trail. The Lost Falls area is one of the only steep sections of the whole Lost Lake Trail. Park engineer/ landscape architect Allison van V. Dunn

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<sup>1</sup> *The Estes Park Trail Gazette*, August 10, 1912, 3.

<sup>2</sup> Roger Toll, *Mountaineering in the Rocky Mountain National Park*. Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1919, 60.

<sup>3</sup> "Rocky Mountain National Park, Colorado," United States Railroad Administration, National Park Series, 1919, 10.

<sup>4</sup> *Estes Park Trail Gazette*, July 24, 1931, 12: "Easterdays Make Overnight Trip to See Lost Lake."



**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet****United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**Lost Lake Trail Larimer County/ Colorado  
Rocky Mountain National Park MPS  
Historic Park Landscapes in National and State Parks MPSSection number 8 Page 5

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supervised a 20-man crew in the rebuilding of this piece. Today, the rock walls near Lost Falls stand out—they are the most extensive walls on the trail. It is very likely that these rock walls exhibit Dunn's 1934 skilled planning and execution.

Cheley's "Trail's End Camp" opened in 1941. The camp built cabins, barns, and other large structures within the national forest, less than a mile west of the Dunraven trailhead. Situated just next to the trail, the camp ensured that a steady stream of horseback riders would continue to use the Lost Lake Trail through the twentieth century.

In some parts of the park, sightseeing hikers dominate the trail. The Lost Lake Trail, however, has continued to retain a mixed base of users; horseback riders, fishermen, and sightseers all continue to tromp up to the lake. Along the way, they see evidence of past uses. Outside the national park, a visitor first passes the Cheley Camp, an operating institution. A few miles beyond, one sees a cluster of crumbling old cabins referred to as "Deserted Village"—the remnants of the Sawmill and Sprague's Resort. Soon after crossing the boundary into the park, the North Fork Patrol Cabin stands on the south side of the trail, just across the river. And upon reaching the Lost Falls area, the visitor will notice that the trail swings northward and utilizes rock walls to make a steep ascent. Finally, the traveler reaches timberline and the clear waters of Lost Lake.

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet****United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**Lost Lake Trail Larimer County/ Colorado  
Rocky Mountain National Park MPS  
Historic Park Landscapes in National and State Parks MPSSection number 9 Page 6**BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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McClelland, Linda Flint. "Historic Park Landscapes in National and State Parks," National Register of Historic Places multiple property documentation form, August 8, 1995.

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**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

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

Lost Lake Trail Larimer County/ Colorado  
Rocky Mountain National Park MPS  
Historic Park Landscapes in National and State Parks MPS

Section number 10 Page 7

**GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

The section of trail being nominated is located entirely within Rocky Mountain National Park. It begins approximately 4.5 miles west of the Dunraven Trailhead, at the boundary between the park and Roosevelt National Forest. The trail continues west for 4.5 miles in the park up the drainage of the North Fork of the Big Thompson River. The trail ends at Lost Lake. The boundary of this nomination extends a distance of 10 feet on either side from the centerline of the trail. The trail route is shown on the USGS topographic quadrangle maps which follow.

**BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION**

The boundary includes the resource and associated features such as (but not limited to) rock walls and bogwalks. Though landscape features are important to the experience of the visitor traversing the trail and may contribute to the overall integrity of the trail, they are not included in this nomination. As only the upper 4.5 miles of the trail historically fell under the design, construction and maintenance responsibility of Rocky Mountain National Park, and thus exhibit the influences of the Naturalistic Design philosophy and standards, only this portion of the trail is included in the nomination.

**UTM REFERENCES (cont.)**

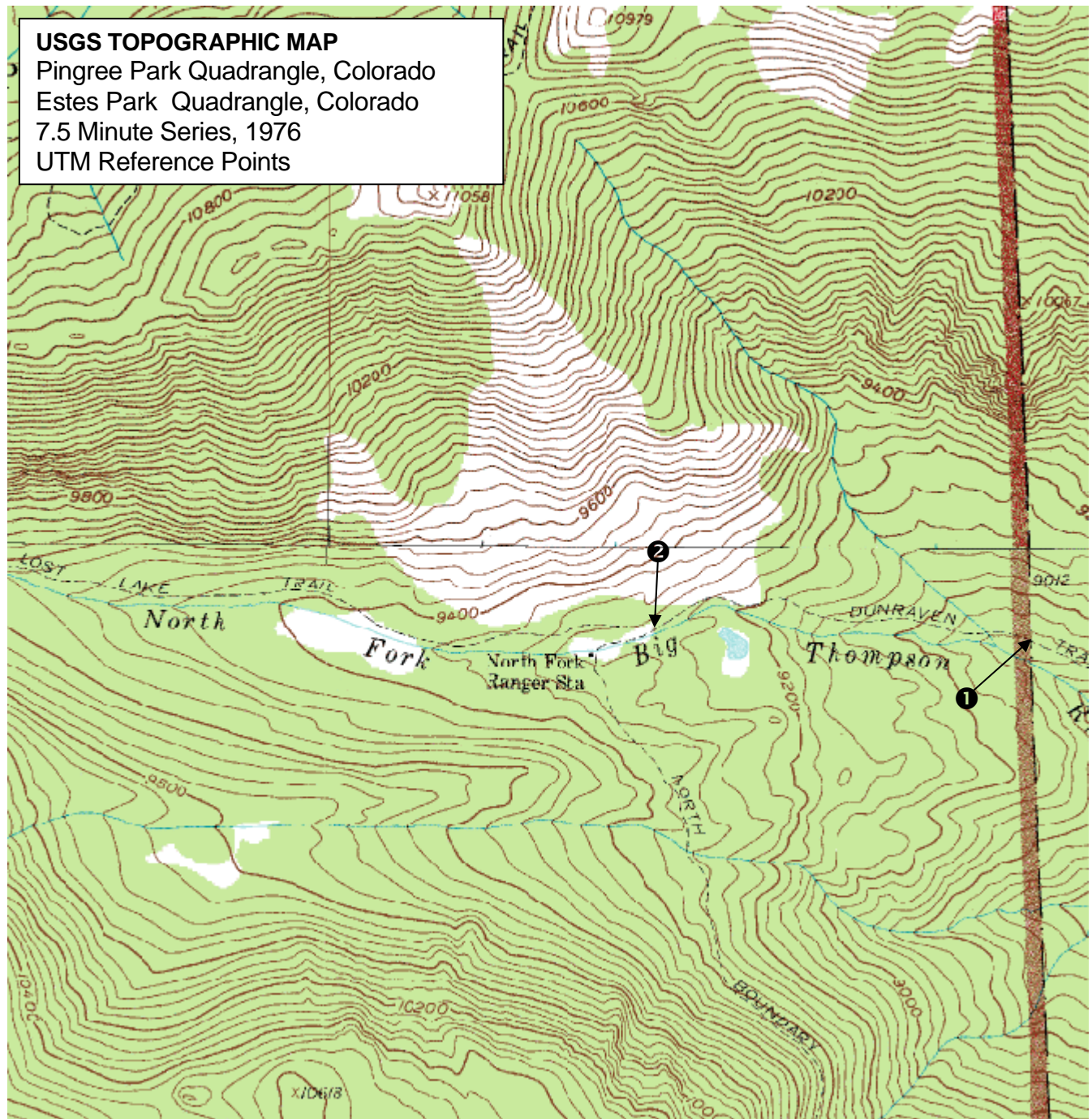
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6.	13	449131	4483973	

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

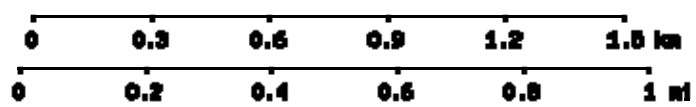
United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

Lost Lake Trail Larimer County/ Colorado  
Rocky Mountain National Park MPS  
Historic Park Landscapes in National and State Parks MPS

Section number 10 Page 8



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USGS Estes Park (CO) Quadrangle  
Projection is UTM Zone 13 NAD83 Datum



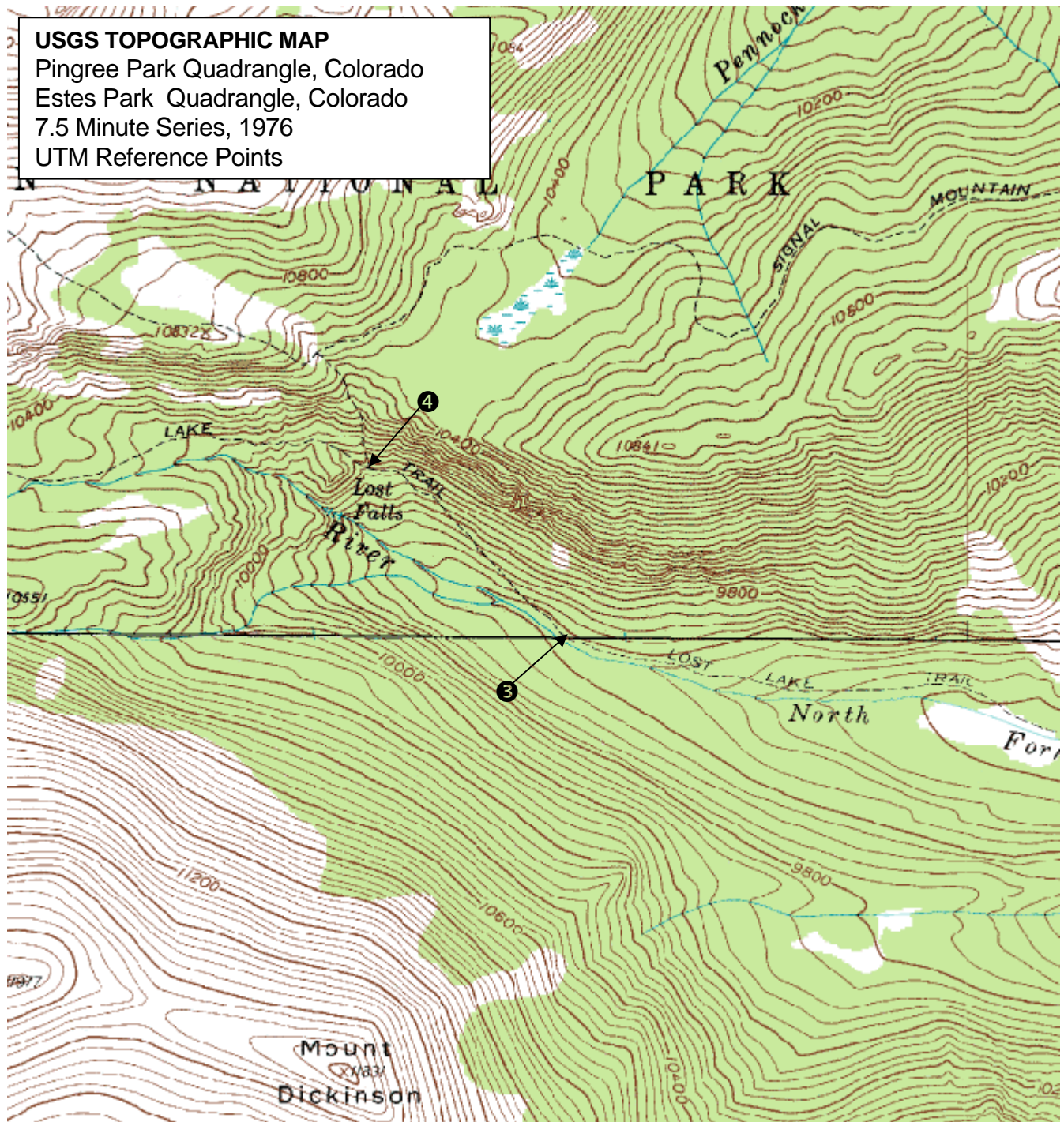
# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

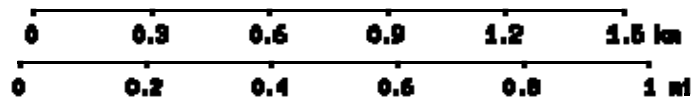
Lost Lake Trail Larimer County/ Colorado  
Rocky Mountain National Park MPS  
Historic Park Landscapes in National and State Parks MPS

Section number 10 Page 9

**USGS TOPOGRAPHIC MAP**  
Pingree Park Quadrangle, Colorado  
Estes Park Quadrangle, Colorado  
7.5 Minute Series, 1976  
UTM Reference Points



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USGS Pingree Park (CO) Quadrangle  
Projection is UTM Zone 13 NAD83 Datum

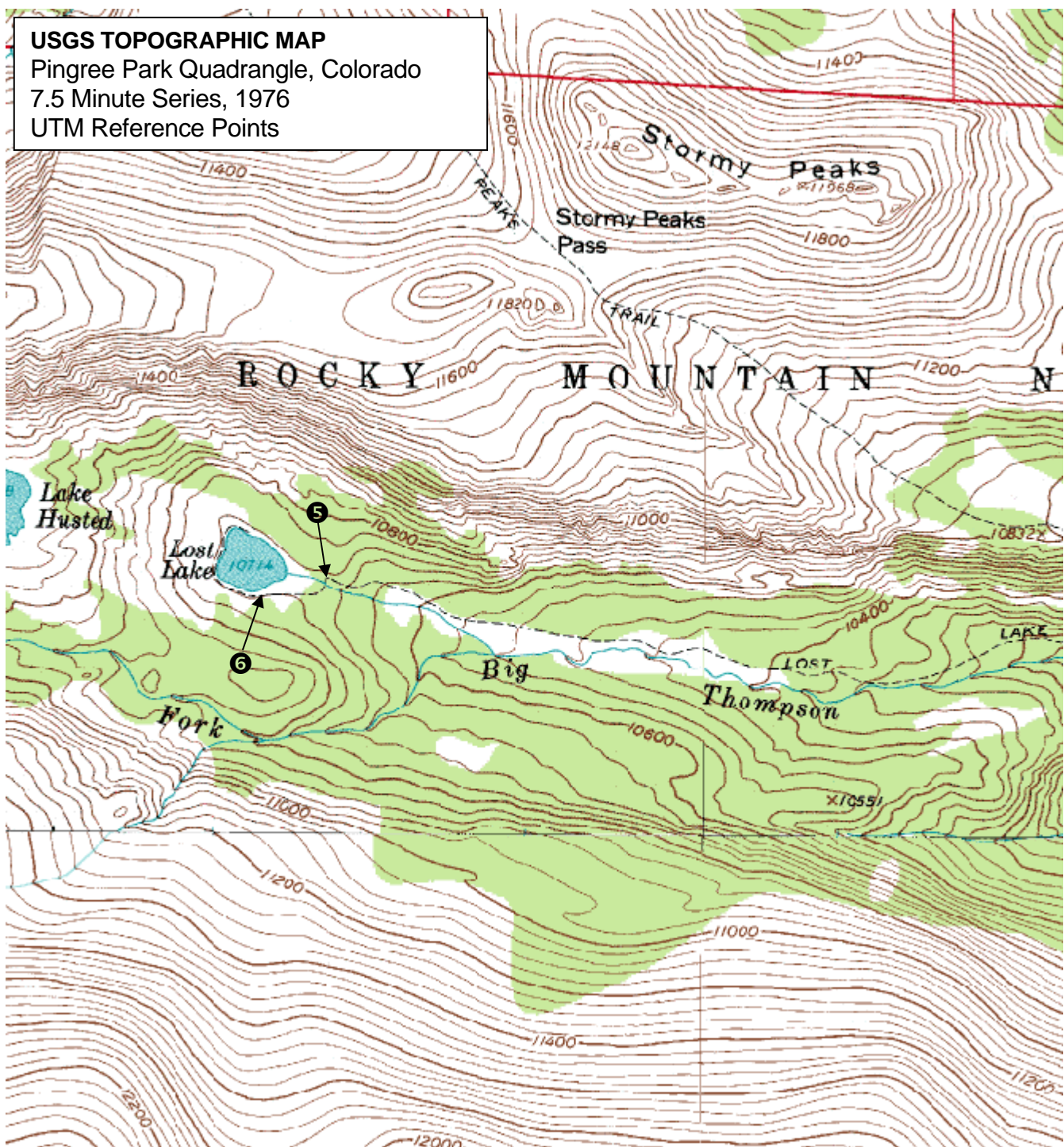


# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

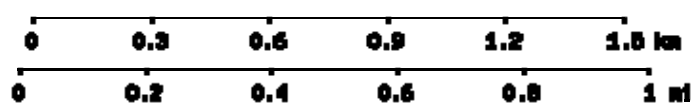
United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

Lost Lake Trail Larimer County/ Colorado  
Rocky Mountain National Park MPS  
Historic Park Landscapes in National and State Parks MPS

Section number 10 Page 10



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USGS Pingree Park (CO) Quadrangle  
Projection is UTM Zone 13 NAD83 Datum



**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

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

Lost Lake Trail Larimer County/ Colorado  
Rocky Mountain National Park MPS  
Historic Park Landscapes in National and State Parks MPS

Section number \_\_ Page 11

**PHOTOGRAPH LOG**

The following information pertains to photograph numbers 1-5:

Name of Property: Lost Lake Trail  
Location: Larimer County/ Colorado  
Photographer: Sierra Standish  
Date of Photographs: July 2005  
Negatives or Digital Files: Rocky Mountain National Park and TIF digital files  
at the National Register in Washington, DC

<u>Photo No.</u>	<u>Photographic Information</u>
1	North Fork Patrol Cabin. View to southwest.
2	Rock wall supporting trail. Note that rocks appear to be settled; there is a mature growth of lichen and moss, and the dirt from the trail has spread over the upper-most rocks.
3	Use of logs, rather than rocks, to support the trail.
4	Unusual break in trees, revealing drainage of the North Fork of the Big Thompson River. View to east.
5	Lost Lake.