

Traveler's Rest/Lolo Trail
Lolo vicinity
Missoula County
Montana

HAER No. MT-42

HAER
MONT
32 - LOLO.V,
1-

PHOTOGRAPH

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

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

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

HAER
MONT,
32-LOLO.V,
1-

Traveler's Rest/Lolo Trail

HAER No. MT-42

Location: Sec. 2, T11N R20W
Lolo vicinity, Missoula County, Montana

UTM: 11.721260.5181230
Quad: Southwest Missoula

Dates of Construction: 1805-1806

Present Owner: Various private owners

Original Use: Trail/campsite

Present Use: Suburban residential

Significance: The Lewis and Clark Expedition camped at Traveler's Rest while enroute to the Pacific Ocean on September 9-11, 1805, and again during the return trip east on June 30 and July 1-3, 1806. Given the name "Traveler's Rest" by the captains, this strategically situated campsite was a focal point in their momentous exploration of the Bitterroot Range and the northern Rockies.

The Lolo Trail is historically significant not only for being traveled by Lewis and Clark, but also because it was used by the eastward-fleeing Nez Perce Indians and pursuing soldiers during the famous 1877 Nez Perce War.

Researchers: Craig Holstine and Glen Lindeman, AHS, Eastern Washington University.

Transmitted by: Jean P. Yearby, HAER, 1985

The eastern terminus of the historic Lolo Trail and Traveler's Rest, an important Lewis and Clark campsite, are located a short distance south of the town of Lolo, Montana. It was here that the thirty-three expedition members, numerous Indian guides and visitors, and a large band of horses camped on September 9-11, 1805 and from June 30 to July 3, 1806, during the westward trek and return trip east. No trace of the camp is visible today and the exact location of the site cannot be determined. Numerous homes have been built here in recent years, giving the locality a semi-suburban appearance.

The National Park Service has designated Traveler's Rest as the eastern terminus of the Lolo Trail, a historic route across the Bitterroot Range used by Indians long before Lewis and Clark arrived in 1805. Both Traveler's Rest and the Lolo Trail are National Historic Landmarks and are listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Furthermore, the Lolo Trail is designated as part of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail and also is included in the Nez Perce (Nee Mee Poo) National Historic Trail. Today, no remains of the Lolo Trail can be seen in the Traveler's Rest vicinity.

References: Reuben Gold Thwaites (ed.), Original Journals of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, 1805-1806, Vol. 8, Antiquarian Press, New York, 1959, map 30, part 2.

Milo M. Quaife (ed.), The Journals of Captain Meriwether Lewis and Sergeant John Ordway Kept on the Expedition of Western Exploration, 1803-1806, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Madison, 1916, pp. 283-284.