

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received JUL 27 1987

date entered SEP 1 1987

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Camp Juliette Low

and or common same

2. Location

street & number GA 157

N/A not for publication

city, town Cloudland X - vicinity of

state Georgia code 013 county Chattooga code 055

3. Classification

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	N/A in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Recreational

4. Owner of Property

name Harry McNeel, Chairman

Board of Trustees

street & number Camp Juliette Low P.O. Box 3236

city, town Marietta N/A vicinity of state Georgia 30061

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Superior Court

street & number Chattooga County Courthouse

city, town Summerville state Georgia

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title None has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records

city, town state

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Camp Juliette Low is located two miles north of Cloudland, Georgia. The portion of the camp being nominated consists of the original ten acres established as the camp in 1922 along with the traditional historic swimming hole, a portion of the east fork of the Little River, and a portion of land to the top of the ridge on the western side of the river. The surrounding area has gently rolling hills and numerous rock outcroppings. The historic core of this former Girls' Scout Camp is heavily wooded and includes an historic lodge (Juliette Low Lodge) built in 1922 in the rustic style often used for lodges. The exterior of the lodge is simple weatherboard, with no ornamentation, and is stained a redwood color. There are double door entrances on three sides, and a single door on the northeast. The building rests on the original stone piers which have been infilled. The interior (see plan) is divided into two rooms: a vestibule and the much larger hall. The interior contains natural pine boards, with exposed framing, and no paint, stain, or varnish. The ceiling is open, exposing the roof trusses and decking. There are three chandeliers or lights made of old wagon or buggy wheels. They are believed to date from 1922. There is a large fieldstone fireplace at one end of the large hall. Adjacent to the lodge is a non-historic kitchen/dining hall building (1967) with craft rooms in the basement. A bell and bell tower and a rebuilt well house, with a cast iron pump, are adjacent to these buildings. Within the nominated area are two encampment sites, which include modern tent platforms in historic tent areas. There are no permanent living quarters for the campers or staff within the nominated area. There is also a non-historic wooden "Old Craft House", and two cooking/barbecue areas. The most impressive natural features within the historic core are the various rock outcroppings, especially those traditionally known as "Soft Rocks" just behind the Low Lodge and "Sunday School Rock", closer to the river, which is used for Sunday services and other meetings. Other important natural features are the remaining founder's trees-- those marked by Juliette Low herself to designate the original boundaries of the ten-acre tract. There is a non-historic swinging bridge (ca. 1940) leading across the river just above the historic swimming hole. There is no formal landscaping. In keeping with the rustic camp environment, the grounds have been allowed to remain largely natural and are heavily wooded. This historic core being nominated is surrounded by over 100 acres of more recently developed areas of Camp Juliette Low. The entire camp is located in a rural setting. Changes to the nominated property are minimal. The Low Lodge has had the west entrance stairs replaced in 1982, but following the original design, and a window was enlarged before 1946 to make a double entrance on one side. The aforementioned foundation infill using fieldstone and mortar was done prior to 1960 for cosmetic reasons, as it does not add any structural stability to the building.

# 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) Recreation History
<b>Specific dates</b>	1922 (1922–1938)	<b>Builder/Architect</b>	Unknown	X Women's History

## Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Camp Juliette Low is significant in the areas of architecture, landscape architecture, recreation, social/humanitarian history, and women's history.

The historic core of Camp Juliette Low is significant in architecture for the original 1922 frame assembly lodge with its characteristic rustic features including log framing, stained weatherboards, stone foundation piers, open raftered ceiling, no ornamentation, and wagon-wheel chandeliers. It is significant in landscape architecture for its distinctive natural features which were incorporated into the designated camp site, put to practical purposes as activity centers, and endowed with symbolic values representing the historic relationship between the Girl Scout movement and the out-of-doors. These natural features include the river with its swimming hole, the Sunday School Rocks, the Soft Rocks, and the three Founder's Trees. It is significant in recreation history as the site of one of the three oldest Girl Scout training schools and camps in the nation, having been created to be a National Girl Scout Training School and girls' camp, for adults and children, by the founder of the organization herself and for five years actually owned by her. The camp is significant in social/humanitarian history for the efforts of Juliette Gordon Low (1860–1927), who founded Girl Scouts in 1912, to secure the donation of this property to her and through her for the use of the growing Girl Scout organization to provide a place where scout leaders could be trained and taught the basics of outdoor living and cooperatively working together. Mrs. Low donated the property in 1926 to Camp Juliette Low, Inc. It is significant in women's history as a major step in the early 20th century to provide a place where women could enjoy camping safely in the out-of-doors and to learn the "ropes" of the scouting movement firsthand. The Girl Scout movement had as its ideals, which were also stressed in this camp, that women should prepare themselves not only for traditional homemaking roles, but also for possible work in business and other activities.

These areas of significance support the property's eligibility under National Register Criteria A, B, and C. The property meets Criteria A because it was established as a National Training School for the national Girl Scouts organization and remained as a training center for several decades. During the time that this camp was a National training center, the Girl Scouts movement grew to over 200,000 members. The camp meets Criteria B because it was originally owned and founded by Juliette Gordon Low (1860–1927) the Savannah-born founder (in 1912) of Girl Scouts. Mrs. Low personally selected the site, laid out the camp, allowed it to be named for herself--the only one in the nation to be so named--and owned it for the first five years of its existence. The property meets Criteria C because the main historic building, the Juliette Low Lodge, built in 1922, retains its original wooden building materials with its log framing, original fieldstone fireplace, open beamed ceiling, and wagon-wheel chandeliers, all part of the rustic effect of a meeting place for this very rural, camp site, and because of its distinctive, historic landscape features.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property Approximately 10 acres

Quadrangle name Dougherty Gap, GA

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

### UTM References

A 

1	6	6	3	9	4	2	0	3	8	2	2	1	2	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

B 

1	6	6	3	9	5	5	0	3	8	2	2	1	2	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

C 

1	6	6	3	9	5	5	0	3	8	2	2	0	0	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

D 

1	6	6	3	9	2	0	0	3	8	2	1	9	8	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

E 

Zone	Easting				Northing									

F 

Zone	Easting				Northing									

G 

Zone	Easting				Northing									

H 

Zone	Easting				Northing									

**Verbal boundary description and justification** The nominated property includes the original ten acres donated by Juliette Low in 1922 and the adjacent swimming hole and portion of the east fork of the Little River to the top of the ridge (at contour line 1500) on the west. This would designate the historic core of the camp along with the continuously used swimming area and scenic river that caused Mrs. Low to select property at this location. See attached "property/sketch map" with boundaries drawn to scale and marked by heavy black lines.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	N/A	code	county	code
state		code	county	code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kenneth H. Thomas, Jr., Historian  
Historic Preservation Section  
 organization Georgia Department of Natural Resources date July 1, 1987  
 street & number 205 Butler Street., Room 1462 telephone (404) 656-2840  
 city or town Atlanta state Georgia 30334

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Elizabeth A. Lyon  
 Elizabeth A. Lyon  
 title Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer date 7/21/87

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Amy Schlagel date Sept 1, 1987

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

Chief of Registration

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National Park Service

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Contributing/Noncontributing Properties:

Buildings:     1 contributing,\*   2 non-contributing\*\*  
Structures:    1 contributing,<sup>3</sup>   2 non-contributing<sup>4</sup>  
Sites:         4 contributing,<sup>5</sup>   0 non-contributing

\* (Juliette Low Lodge)

\*\* (Kitchen/dining hall, Old Craft House)

3 (Well House/well)

4 (Bell/bell tower, swinging bridge)

5 (Founder's Trees, Sunday School Rocks, Soft Rocks; Swimming hole)

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Historical Narrative

The history of Camp Juliette Low, the core of which is the subject of this nomination, begins with the founding of the Girl Scout movement itself. Mrs. Juliette Gordon Low (1860-1927) of Savannah founded Girl Scouts in 1912. She was married to an Englishman from 1886 until his death in 1905, and thus spent many years traveling back and forth between England and America. After her husband's death, she spent several years trying to regain a direction for her life. In 1911, while in England, Mrs. Low met Sir Robert Baden-Powell, founder of the Boy Scouts and Girl Guides, and she became interested in the new youth movement. In March, 1912, after returning to America, she originated the idea of the Girl Scout movement, first calling them American Girl Guides. In 1913, the name was changed to Girl Scouts. The goals of the organization included bringing girls of all backgrounds to out-of-doors, giving them the opportunity to learn about nature, and developing self-reliance and resourcefulness. She wanted the scouts to prepare themselves for their future roles in life, not only as traditional homemakers, but also as possible professional women in all areas of business, social, and civic life. The organization remains, with over three million current members, the world's largest voluntary organization for girls. Many honors were later bestowed on Mrs. Low, from a postage stamp to a Federal building. Camp Juliette Low remains also as a tribute to her original ideals for her Girl Scouts.

It was in 1921 that Juliette Low herself first saw the site that was to become the camp. She was on a special mission to discover an appropriate site at which to establish a Girl Scout leadership training center in the Southern wilderness. Upon discovering the site, she was particularly impressed with the river and the prospect of the swimming hole. The owners of the property agreed to donate to her personally the ten-acre site. Mrs. Low specifically "selected the natural rock swimming pool in Little River and picturesque hillside nearby." On a 1922 visit, Mrs. Low walked off the boundaries of the ten-acre tract and with the help of Tommy Key, a twelve year old, blazed the boundary trees with marks that are still visible. These same "Founder's Trees" were the site of ceremonies in later years marking the founding of the camp. Mrs. Low also selected the large out-cropping, now known as Soft Rocks, as the center of the camp. Adjoining Soft Rocks the main lodge was erected and named for her.

July 1, 1922 saw the opening of the first camp and the tradition has been carried on almost every summer since. Its first official name was "Girl Scout Training School at Cloudland Park Club, Georgia" and its major thrust was leadership training. The first course lasted two weeks, at a cost of \$6 per week. The leadership candidates had to be at least eighteen years old. Scouts who would attend, as pupils for the leaders in training, were subjected to a military-like schedule. Subjects were taught in a variety of fields including: scouting, map making, first aid, crafts, cooking, swimming, games, nature lore, signalling and folk dancing. The first summer saw two hundred and twenty enrolled from all over the southeast. The lodge is the only permanent building built that first summer which has survived to this day. The lodge initially served as the dining hall, office, kitchen, recreation hall, and storage. The campers were housed in floored tents, arranged by age groups, with each unit having a colorful or romantic name. This arrangement is carried on today.

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While over the years the camp has changed some of its programming, added new buildings and expanded its acreage far beyond the ten acres being nominated here, campers have maintained a similar routine and scheduling. Swimming lessons in the river at the swimming hole have depended on the river's level. Later a modern swimming pool was added off the historic acreage. Non-denominational religious services have been held since the earliest days in the area known as Sunday School Rocks overlooking the Little River.

Mrs. Low visited her namesake camp on three occasions after the founding visits. At these times the campers would honor her with songs rearranged to include her name in the lyrics. Mrs. Low would participate in camp activities while there, including cooking out and swimming, telling campfire stories, and even reading the palms of all the campers. In 1926, Mrs. Low transferred the title, or ownership of the camp, from her own name to that of Camp Juliette Low, Inc., a non-profit organization in whose name it still rests.

The camp operated continuously until 1934, when in the midst of the depression, it was forced to close. It reopened the following year (1935) with new improvements and an expanded program. By this time the camp was more accessible by both roads and rails. In 1937, National Headquarters suggested closing Camp Juliette Low, to conform to its policy not to own or operate camps, but to use existing camps for its Girl Scout training schools.

This decision was reached due to a changed emphasis in national staff jobs, a better definition of these jobs, the problems of trying to run a camp far from the national office in New York City, the pressures of a rapidly growing national organization, and the proliferation of other camps in the region, making this camp no longer the only Girl Scout camp in the area. At the annual convention that year in Savannah, camp alumnae and staff asked for the opportunity to reorganize the camp's holding committee, allowing the new committee to assume complete responsibility for running the camp. 1938 became the pivotal year. Fundraising took place that allowed them to purchase 150 acres surrounding the original ten acres to protect the site from encroachment. They also purchased officially the swimming hole, which they had used since the beginning. In 1940, the new swinging bridge across the Little River was dedicated. All this led up to the 1940 official reorganization of Camp Juliette Low, Inc. to include complete ownership and management of the property. Since this time there has been no official connection between the camp and Girl Scouts. The later history of the site can be found in "The Story of Camp Juliette Low (1922-1972)" by Florence F. Corley.

Camp Juliette Low was not the first Girl Scout camp established in Georgia, but was the first training camp established in the state. Mrs. Low began a day camp near Savannah on Tybee Island in July, 1912. The first National Training School for scout leaders was established in 1917 in Boston and was moved in 1919 to Plymouth, Massachusetts. Early in June, 1922, a camp site (Camp Andree) was donated to the Girl Scouts of America at Briarcliff Manor, New York. It was used as a training camp from 1922 to 1941. In 1922, another training camp was begun in Redwood State Park, California, known as Camp Chapparrel. Camp Juliette Low, although no longer officially connected to the Girl Scouts, has remained a popular and well-attended camp for girls since its founding.

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Carter, Thomas D., Jr. "Camp Juliette Low", Historic Property Information Form, July 7, 1985, and extensive supplemental information, on file at the Historic Preservation Section, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia. Important items include:

Corley, Florence F. The Story of Camp Juliette Low (1922-1972). No publication information, c. 1972.

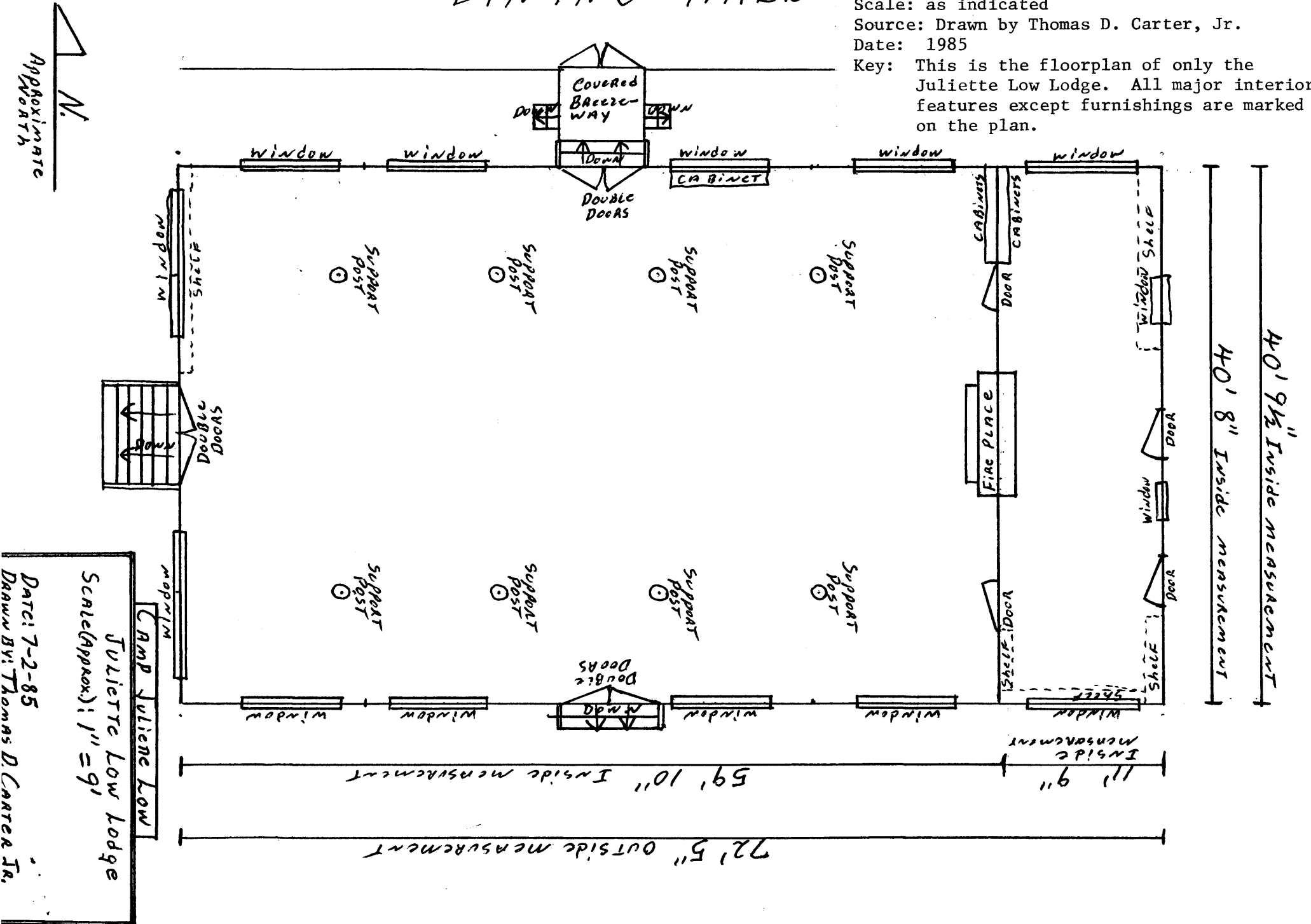
"Biographical Sketch: Juliette Gordon Low..." Published in January, 1984 by Media Services of the Girl Scouts of the United States of America.



CAMP JULIETTE LOW  
 Cloudland vicinity, Chattooga County, Georgia

# DINING HALL

Scale: as indicated  
 Source: Drawn by Thomas D. Carter, Jr.  
 Date: 1985  
 Key: This is the floorplan of only the Juliette Low Lodge. All major interior features except furnishings are marked on the plan.



DATE: 7-2-85  
 DRAWN BY: THOMAS D. CARTER, JR.  
 JULIETTE LOW LODGE  
 SCALE (APPROX): 1" = 9'