

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received **AUG - 8 1988**  
date entered

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

**1. Name**

historic Cascade Boy Scout Camp or Boy Scout Lodge

and/or common Cascade Lodge

**2. Location**

street & number Adjacent to Lime Creek Rd. (San Juan Nat'l Forest) n/a not for publication

city, town Durango  vicinity of Approx. halfway between Durango & Silverton, CO

state Colorado code CO county San Juan code CO 111

**3. Classification**

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

**4. Owner of Property**

name Coke Wilson (building) San Juan National Forest (land)

street & number Tenth Floor 1177 West Loop South

city, town Houston n/a vicinity of state Texas 77027

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Offices of San Juan National Forest

street & number 701 Camino del Rio

city, town Durango state Colorado 81301

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Colorado Inventory of Historic Sites has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date Ongoing  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Colorado Historical Society

city, town Denver state Colorado

## 7. Description

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

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

Situated near the old Lime Creek Road between Cascade and Mill Creeks in the San Juan National Forest, the solitary Cascade Lodge sits in a grassy meadow surrounded by a forest of spruce, aspen, and wildflowers set against the dramatic backdrop of the West Needle Mountains. The two-story log structure is built in the shape of a large symmetrical cross with each wing measuring about twenty-five feet by twenty-five feet; the lodge is also about twenty-five feet high. In order to provide a snug fit and tight seal the logs were milled on two sides. The building is capped by a steeply pitched gable roof typical of mountain cabins. Originally the roof was composed of wood shingles, but these were overlain with composition shingles in 1952. Since that time reddish-brown propanel roofing has replaced the shingles on the northwest section of the lodge. The foundation originally consisted of pyramid shaped concrete pillars of varying heights to provide a level base for the logs on an otherwise gently sloping meadow. In 1951, a native stone and mortar foundation was built to skirt the perimeter of the lodge and "face" the concrete pillars.

Each side of each wing has two bays with side by side four-paned windows in each, except the ends of the east, west and north wings, which have doorways. At some point in the last thirty years top-hinged, rectangular awnings of wood were added to protect the windows. A covered porch with a double door entrance extends from the front of the lodge (east wing); the porch structure and railings were built of peeled poles and limbs, and the stairway and floor of the porch are built of planks. The west and north ends of the building contain single doorways. Originally two metal chimneys protruded from the roof to vent the kitchen stoves and the fireplace in the east wing. At some point the kitchen stovepipe, which extended from the south facing roof of the west wing, was removed and replaced with a stovepipe which now extends from the east facing roof of the south wing. Although the gable ends originally had siding only, a set of side by side windows was later built into each gable end, presumably when the interior balconies were built (the west gable end has only a single window). The gable ends were re-sided in 1952 with knotty pine.

The interior originally was largely open with high ceilings; kitchen facilities were in the west wing, fireplace in the east wing, and sleeping quarters in the north and south wings. Between 1950 and 1953, the interior was remodeled, and balconies were built full width and length of each wing, kitchen and bathroom facilities (now in the west wing--originally the lodge had outdoor privys) were upgraded to meet state codes, a twenty inch high stone wall was built around the fireplace, stairways were built to the balconies and partitions built in the north wing. A peeled post and beam structure supports the balconies, peeled poles and limbs constitute the stairway railings and knotty pine paneling covers the partitions and balcony ends. Apparently the fireplace has always had a sheet metal hood suspended above it to draw the smoke outside through an attached stovepipe.

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Cascade Lodge

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Most of the flooring is simple pine planking, although linoleum has been put in the kitchen and bathroom. Furnishings such as a free-standing "pot-bellied" stove in the center area, various sets of antlers, and a suspended wagon wheel with electric lights mounted on it add to the western-mountain flavor of the lodge.

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below					
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> n/a community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> n/a 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)		
<b>Specific dates</b>	1928	<b>Builder/Architect</b>	Bob Yeager and Frank Lechner (builders)			

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Cascade Lodge, built in 1928, meets Criterion C for its architectural significance as a 20th century Rustic style building with a cross plan which is unique in San Juan County. The lodge also meets Criterion A for its social significance as a summer camp constructed through community efforts and which served a wide range of local and non-local youths in the region. Constructed under a special use permit in the San Juan National Forest, the lodge is also a significant representative of early 20th century land use policies established by the Forest Service which are no longer in effect.

Cascade Lodge has recreational significance since it was originally built as a summer camp for boy scouts, church groups, 4-H Club members, and other youths primarily from Durango and the San Juan Basin. In the relatively prosperous years before the Great Depression, the First Baptist Church in Durango (which sponsored two of the three boy scout troops in town--the local American Legion post sponsored the other) had organized summer camps for boy scouts near Hesperus, Colorado and at Jarvis Meadows near Cascade Creek. In 1927 or 1928 the local boy scout committee saw the need for and conceived the idea of building a cabin where summer camp activities could be headquartered. Aside from Reverend J. H. McQuery, who was pastor of the First Baptist Church and the guiding light behind the summer camp/lodge project, the local scout committee included Chairman J. P. Channel, co-owner of Durango's Dodge dealership; Paul C. Garbanati, general manager of the Rialto Theater; C. Alva Brown, local sheep rancher; O. B. Shoemaker, a local physician, inventor and rancher; and Ray Diehl, manager of the Piggly Wiggly grocery store.

Hoping to establish a camp that would be "the finest thing that has ever come to the (San Juan) basin" the committee selected a site thirty-one miles north of Durango between Cascade and Mill Creeks on a bench about fifty yards from the highway. All agreed that a more scenic site could not be found. Another advantage was the abundant opportunities for fishing and hiking trips.

Since the site was located on land administered by the San Juan National Forest, the scout committee applied for and obtained a special use permit, and established a separate advisory and finance committee to seek funding for the project.\* Some of Durango's most prominent leaders served on this committee--A. M. "Neil" Camp, President of the First National Bank and son of its founder; Charles Stilwell, Sr. of the Burns National Bank; Art Weinig, a vice president of the First National Bank; and Dr. C. S. Dudley, a local dentist. Both Dudley and Weinig later served on the camp management committee.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name Engineer Mountain

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UTM References

A 

1	3	2	5	3	0	6	0	4	1	7	1	2	0	0
Zone			Easting					Northing						

B 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

C 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

D 

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 Cascade Lodge building alone is nominated for National Register status, with none of the surrounding permitted area being included.

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

state N/A code county code

state N/A code county code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Robert McDaniel, Director Animas Museum

organization La Plata County Historical Society date 8/30/87

street & number Box 3384 telephone (303) 247-5893 (home)  
(303) 259-2402 (work)

city or town Durango state Colorado 81302

# 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 Barbara Sudler

title State Historic Preservation Officer date 6-6-88

### For NPS use only

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

[Signature]  
Keeper of the National Register

date 9/8/88

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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Originally the plan appears to have been to build a main lodge for communal activities, with sleeping cabins "located just back of the main lodge along a hillside covered with aspen trees,"<sup>2</sup> although the additional cabins were never built. Construction began in the spring of 1928, and optimism ran high. Two longtime residents of the Cascade area, Bob Yeager and Frank Lechner, supervised the construction. Spruce logs were cut from nearby Coal Bank Hill and skidded by horses down the old Durango-Silverton wagon road (current U. S. Highway 550 approximates this old route over Coal Bank Hill). The basic structure took the shape of a symmetrical cross built of interlocking logs. It is not known if the lodge was built in the shape of a cross for religious reasons, although Rev. McQuery's heavy involvement with the project certainly suggests this. The lodge's design is certainly unique in southwestern Colorado, if not the entire state and region. The porch structure and railings were attractively built with peeled poles and limbs, which added to the rustic flavor of the lodge. The interior was largely open with high ceilings and crude bunks or cots built in the north and south wings; kitchen facilities were in the west wing.

Unfortunately money ran short and the construction schedule lagged behind, but the first camps were finally scheduled in August. Apparently the lodge was not completed that summer because the Herald of July 18, 1929 stated that "A large crew of workmen is rushing to completion the main lodge at Camp Cascade." Water was piped in from a spring located up the hill to the west, and the addition of electricity and a large outdoor privy added measurably to the convenience of the lodge. Mention was also made of tennis, racquet and volleyball courts, although these must have been crude at best. A large, open fireplace was built in the east wing sometime before July, 1930.

Although a contest was held to give the lodge a name, it was always referred to as the Boy Scout Lodge or Cascade Boy Scout Camp. Aside from boy scout groups (which came from as far away as Jackson, Michigan) church groups, 4-H clubs, and individuals from Durango and other nearby communities attended camps there during the next few years. Typically, separate week-long sessions were conducted for boys and girls in the age groups of 8-12 and 12-16. Cost per week was five dollars per child, which included meals, sleeping quarters, and use of camp equipment. Individuals had to furnish blankets and transportation to and from camp. Boys and girls from throughout the basin were encouraged to attend, and the committee promised to provide "competent supervision at all times while in camp."

Camp activities included hiking-climbing trips to Spud Mountain and Engineer Mountain, hiking-fishing trips to Spud Lake, circle hikes down Cascade Creek and back up Purgatory Creek, games such as softball and volleyball, and arts and crafts workshops. Campfire talks were held in

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the evenings either outdoors or indoors. Harold Wilson recalled that Rev. McQuery was a gifted naturalist, and that he took ample opportunity to impart this knowledge to the youngsters while on hikes.

The boy scout committee, acting as permittee for the lodge and as booking agent, continued to schedule the usual variety of groups during the summer of 1931; the committee claimed to have made more improvements, and the fee per week rose to \$5.50. Prior to the 1931 season Rev. McQuery moved away from Durango. He had been one of the most important promoters of the summer camp and lodge, and, according to Harold Wilson, possessed something of a "magnetic" personality. His abilities as a natural leader and organizer would be missed, but another man with many of the same qualities took his place. William Turner, athletics coach at Durango's Central School, summer swimming coach at the high school and a bachelor, became camp supervisor as early as the summer of 1930. For the next few years he became the mainstay of the summer camp program, although his age apparently slowed him somewhat in this endeavor.

During the few years that summer camps were held at the Boy Scout Lodge hundreds of youngsters from Durango and the San Juan Basin attended one or more of the week-long sessions. A surprising number of longtime area residents have expressed fond memories of hiking and fishing trips and cool summer evenings spent sitting around the campfire. The community and church leaders who worked hard to insure the success of the Boy Scout Camp undoubtedly felt they were making an important contribution to the positive development of the area's youth. This character development paid dividends because alumni of the Boy Scout Lodge comprise a solid core of Durango's senior leaders today.

As the Depression tightened its grip on the local economy, the scout committee was "unable during the last few years to raise sufficient funds to complete the building or keep it in repair. They finally sold or gave the buildings to the local American Legion Post. The legion in turn attempted to sell the improvements to a Mr. Cass, who attempted to interest other Boy Scout troops from New Mexico." Unable to sell his proposition to the New Mexico scouts, Cass agreed to "remove the improvements from the forest."<sup>3</sup>

Mr. Cass, however, failed to make final payment to the Legion, so the Legion sold the lodge to the owner of the Pinkerton Springs resort located about halfway between the lodge and Durango. This owner and the subsequent owner of the resort both planned to salvage the logs in order to build additional resort cabins at Pinkerton. Before this plan could be carried out, however, the lodge was sold to Miss Rebecca Apple in 1936. She had been a Y. W. C. A. leader for twelve years, and planned to operate the lodge as a private summer camp for girls and young women.

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Cascade Lodge

Miss Apple owned the lodge for the next thirty years, but was able to operate it as a summer camp only on a limited basis in that period. In 1943 the Forest Service found the building to be substandard, and decided that by 1950 the lodge should be demolished and a new one built if Miss Apple wanted to maintain a resort at that location. Miss Apple, however, proposed a list of improvements in 1950 that would not only bring the lodge up to Forest Service standards, but go beyond that in order to satisfy the standards of the American Camping Association. Miss Apple had wanted to improve the lodge from the beginning, but a series of unfortunate circumstances and eventually a lack of money kept her from doing so. Sometime before 1950, however, an associate named Dorothy Tricker became involved with the lodge, and was willing to invest money in the renovation project.

Many of the necessary improvements were related to fire safety and sanitation, but a number of structural and cosmetic improvements were also made both outside and inside. The outside improvements enhanced the appearance of the lodge a great deal without altering the basic facade. The most obvious change was to skirt the perimeter of the building with an aesthetically pleasing native stone and mortar foundation. Additional outside improvements included staining the logs brown, chinking the crevices between logs with mortar, repairing the roof, framing in the doors and windows, and applying knotty pine siding to the gable ends.

Interior alterations included extending the balconies (which were supported by peeled posts and beams) in the east and west wings to the full length of the wings, enclosing the balcony openings and partitions (which are located on the main floor of the north wing) with knotty pine paneling, adding stairways to the balconies, constructing a twenty inch high stone wall around the fire pit in the east wing, "casing in" the windows on the interior, and putting new flooring in the kitchen and bathroom. The partitions and enclosed balconies substantially reduce the amount of open space within the lodge, but the knotty pine paneling, post and beam work, and the peeled pole railings on the stairways and balconies contribute, in some measure, to the overall rusticity of the lodge.

In response to the improvements made between 1950 and 1953 Forest Supervisor Gordon J. Gray wrote to Miss Apple that "It was very gratifying to us to learn of your accomplishments."<sup>4</sup> Gray promptly reversed the decision to dismantle the lodge, and complied with Miss Apple's request to convey a one-half interest in the lodge to Miss Tricker. A new special use permit was issued to both ladies. During the summer of 1954 one hundred and forty Campfire Girls and members of the Baptist Youth Group (plus leaders) attended four week-long sessions at the lodge and the same groups planned to use the lodge in 1955; the summer camp at Cascade Lodge seemed to be back on track.

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Unfortunately, Miss Apple became seriously ill in 1956, and she and Miss Tricker reluctantly put the lodge up for sale. The lodge, however, was not sold until 1967; it has remained in private hands since that time. The twenty year permit issued to the new owner in 1967 stipulates that the lodge is to be dismantled at the end of the permit period in 1987.

Cascade Lodge appears much the same today as it did in 1928, and continues to convey the feeling of the summer camp that it once was. With the structural improvements made in the 1950s, and with an ongoing maintenance program, the lodge could remain structurally sound for quite some time. Currently, a non-profit organization called Master Plan Ministries is seeking a transfer of permit from the Forest Service and plans to once again operate the lodge as a seasonal camp.

**Architectural Significance:**

The Cascade Lodge has architectural significance as a unique log building in San Juan County both in size and plan. The building characterizes the 19th and 20th century Rustic Log building traditions of the Colorado mountains. The Rustic Log theme has been carried into building details such as the structure and railings of the front porch built from peeled poles and limbs. The rustic character is carried out in the interior with exposed log beams and rafters. When balconies and stairs were built, a peeled post and beam structural system supported the balconies and the stair rails were of peeled poles and limbs. The central, open, non-traditional fireplace evokes feelings of a mountain camping experience with an out-of-doors campfire.

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

1. Apple, Rebecca. File of letters, brochures, permit information, etc. Cascade Lodge Special Use Permit--San Juan National Forest. File located at SJNF office, 701 Camino Del Rio, Durango, CO.
2. Durango Weekly Herald. Issues: 3/24/28, 7/26/28, 8/9/28, 8/1/29, 7/18/29, 7/10/30, 1/1/31, 6/4/31, 7/9/31.
3. Oral Interviews:
  1. Darmour, Myron T. 6/4/87.
  2. Demel, Mrs. Clyde. 6/8/87.
  3. Lechner, Dorothy. 6/4/87.
  4. Mason, Walter. 6/2/87.
  5. Wilson, T. Harold. 6/4/87.
  6. Yeager, Dick. 6/2/87 & 8/27/87.
  7. Yeager, Gerald. 6/9/87.
4. Wilson, T. Harold. "Cascade Boy Scout Camp." Unpublished manuscript, 3/16/87. Copies located at Animas Museum, Box 3384, 31st St. & West 2nd Ave., Durango, CO 81302.

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FOOTNOTES

1. Durango Herald, 3/24/28.
2. Ibid.
3. Letter from Andrew Hutton, Supervisor, San Juan National Forest, to Regional Forester in Denver, 10/14/36. Rebecca Apple File.
4. Letter from Gordon J. Gray, Supervisor, San Juan National Forest, to Rebecca Apple, 10/9/53. Rebecca Apple File.

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\* The Term Occupancy Permits Act of March 4, 1915, (Summer Home Act of 1915) made it possible to obtain long term leases for "special uses" in the National Forests and permitted the construction of summer homes, hotels, stores and other structures related to summer recreation. The buildings were not to exceed \$1,000 and were to comply with the National Forest regulations. In more recent years there has been a change made in the land use policies in the National Forests. Now, as long term leases expire, the buildings and structures are removed and the sites are returned to their natural states.

Henry S. Graves, Forester, The Use Book, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1915), pp. 136-137.

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Cascade Lodge

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Verbal boundary description and justification

## Boundary Description

The Cascade Lodge building alone is nominated with none of the surrounding permitted area being included. The boundary would follow the outside perimeter of the building. The boundary is shown on the accompanying map in hatch marks.

## Boundary Justification

The nomination includes only the privately owned building because the San Juan National Forest preferred not to have any of the National Forest land surrounding the building nominated or included in the National Register.