

56-1784

NPS Form 10-900

Wisconsin Word Processing Format (Approved 1/92)



United States Department of Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions 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 Palmyra Boy Scout Cabin
other names/site number

2. Location

street & number	105 North First Street	N/A	not for publication
city or town	Palmyra	N/A	vicinity
state Wisconsin	code WI	county Jefferson	code 055
			zip code 53156

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this 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 locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Dawn J. Leuburn
Signature of certifying official/Title

9/22/2017
Date

State Historic Preservation Office - Wisconsin
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of commenting official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

Palmyra Boy Scout Cabin

Jefferson

Wisconsin

Name of Property

County and State

4. National Park Service Certification

- I hereby certify that the property is:
 - entered in the National Register.
 - See continuation sheet.
 - determined eligible for the National Register.
 - See continuation sheet.
 - determined not eligible for the National Register.
 - See continuation sheet.
 - removed from the National Register.
 - other, (explain:)

Edson W. Beall

11.6.17

[Signature]

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> contributing	<input type="checkbox"/> noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	1	buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> structure		sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> site		structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object		objects
		1	Total

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL/clubhouse

SOCIAL/clubhouse

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

Late 19th and Early 20th Century American Movements

foundation stone

walls log

Other/ Rustic

roof asphalt

other

Narrative Description

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

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for the 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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL HISTORY

Period of Significance

1937 – 1967

Significant Dates

1937

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

Palmyra Boy Scout Cabin
Name of Property

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Wisconsin

9. Major Bibliographic References

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

Previous Documentation on File (National Park Service):

- 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 #

Primary location of additional data:

X State Historic Preservation Office

- Other State Agency
- Federal Agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than an acre

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 16 370307.09 4748402.06
Zone Easting Northing

2 _____
Zone Easting Northing

3 _____
Zone Easting Northing

4 _____
Zone Easting Northing

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	Patricia A. Lacey	date	3-31-2016
organization		telephone	715-743-4799
street & number	W5055 US HWY 10	zip code	54456
city or town	Neillsville	state	WI

Palmyra Boy Scout Cabin

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Name of Property

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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/title	Village of Palmyra	date	3-31-2016
organization		telephone	262-495-8316
street & number	100 W. Taft Street	zip code	53156
city or town	Palmyra	state	WI

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.

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Section 7 Page 1

Palmyra Boy Scout Cabin
Palmyra, Jefferson County, Wisconsin

Introduction

The Palmyra Boy Scout Cabin, built in 1937 in the Rustic style, is located on a triangular shaped grass-covered lot, directly north of the Palmyra Village Hall. The site is bordered on the northeast by 1st Street, on the northwest by Jefferson Street and on the south by the parking lot of the Palmyra Village Hall. A sign located atop two large wood posts reads "All Scouts Park". The setting is well manicured and is dotted with trees and bushes. To the northeast and northwest of the cabin site are residential areas having late-nineteenth and early-twentieth century homes.

The Palmyra Boy Scout Cabin is a fine example of a small log cabin, which many communities across America were constructing as a meeting location for their local Boy Scout troop. A community would come together and donate money, materials, and in many cases the time and expertise to erect a building of this nature. They were influenced to do this by the Boy Scout Movement which offered to mold their sons into model citizens. The Boy Scout ethic included teaching to how exercise good judgment and developing good character. "No one can doubt that with such training added to his native gifts, the American boy will in the near future, as a man, be an efficient leader in the paths of civilization and peace."¹

Exterior

The 22' x 32', front gable cabin rests on a stone and rubble basement foundation which projects approximately 48" above ground level. The basement portion of the building at one time contained a large furnace. The rubble walls of the foundation continue upward and terminate under the base of the windows. From the bottom of the windows, full horizontal logs rise up the walls and continue into the gable ends.

The corners of the cabin have saddle-notch stacking, which is the most common corner system of log construction. The Saddle Notch, sometimes referred to as the "shrink-to-fit" system is designed to become tighter as the logs settle and shrink. It consists of a rounded void cut into the bottom of each log. This void fits snugly over the round log below creating the corner junction. Most times, the notch is made several inches to a foot from the end of the log creating the corner junction which we are the most familiar with.²

¹ *Boy Scouts of America Handbook for Boys*, (Doubleday, Page & Company, Garden City, New York, 1911), page vi Preface

² Roger Hard, *Build Your Own Low-Cost Log Home*, (Garden Way Publishing, Pownal, VT, 1977), page 62

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The entrance is located on the southwest (primary) façade. This wall has a single door centered under the gable. A mill stone from the 1842 Power's grist mill is used as the step into the building. Two double-hung windows are located on both the southeast (side) and northwest (side) facades. A large fieldstone chimney rises up the center of the gable-end wall of the northeast (rear) façade, piercing the roof. The roof is clad with asphalt shingles. The logs are weathered gray in color and there is off-white chinking between the logs. The window trim is painted brown in color and the door is painted white.

Interior

The interior of the cabin supports one large room. The logs and chinking are visible on the interior walls. The stone foundation has been covered with Styrofoam insulation which is painted turquoise. Narrow hardwood boards cover the floor. A large fieldstone fireplace with a large hearth opening appears at the north end of the cabin. The ceiling is clad with 4" wide plank boards. Two wagon-wheel chandeliers are suspended from the ceiling.

Alterations

The building as compared to the attached historic photos appears intact and in its original state. It appears that it has undergone only minor changes including having the door replaced and the interior foundation covered with insulation.

Integrity

The building retains high integrity and is predominantly unchanged from its date of construction.

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Palmyra Boy Scout Cabin
Palmyra, Jefferson County, Wisconsin

Introduction

The Palmyra Boy Scout Cabin is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A, in the area of Social History for the role it played in Palmyra and associated with the larger Boy Scout movement, particularly reflecting the trend of Boy Scout troops constructing small cabins for club use. The cabin is being nominated at the local level of significance.

The tradition of local Boy Scout troops building a small log cabin as a clubhouse is long-standing and extends across many decades. The Boy Scouts of America was founded in 1910 and its offering to guide and mentor boys and young men appealed to parents, and public officials. Parents and community leaders often worried about the future of young men between the ages of ten and eighteen, and wanted wholesome influences and an environment that emphasized public service. The Boy Scout organization offered both, and the cabin became the place where troop leaders emphasized civic-minded, and ethics-based lessons, and led the boys in fun activities. Building a Boy Scout cabin was often a community affair and was a project that never really fell out of favor. Many cabins were built in the 1910s and 1920s but cabins from later decades were also not unusual, such as the subject cabin, constructed in 1937. The community cabin project introduced the young men of Palmyra to the real life experiences of fund raising and teamwork. Working alongside their community leaders and their parents, it was also a hands-on lesson in the construction of a cabin that was characteristic in composition to that of the American pioneer cabin.³

Summary of Significance

Many communities felt compelled to provide their young men the opportunity to become a Boy Scout. In many instances, this was achieved by the community building a cabin for the sole purpose of providing a place for Boy Scout meetings and activities. The mission of the Palmyra Boy Scouts was to provide a social environment where a program of activities could give structure and direction for young men. It was the hope that this guidance would help to avert a situation where one bad decision could affect the rest of their lives.

The philosophy of the Boy Scouts was disseminated through the use of the *Boy Scouts of America the Official Handbook for Boys*, which promoted character and challenged the scouts to learn about their surroundings, nature and their country. Being a Palmyra Boy Scout gave many young men the sense of belonging as well as access to adult mentoring. Along the way, the scout would hopefully develop

³ Barbara Wyatt, *Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin Volume 2*, (Historic Preservation Division State Historical Society of Wisconsin, June 1986), page (4-2)

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Palmyra Boy Scout Cabin
Palmyra, Jefferson County, Wisconsin

loyalty, courage and kindness. The construction of a small cabin, with the aid of the community, parents, mentors and in cooperation with other boys in the troop, was a popular way to gain skills, and engage in a fun project that, when completed, must have been immensely rewarding to those boys who participated.

Period of Significance

The Period of Significance extends from 1937 to 1967. This period of time begins with the year of completion of construction and ends with the year 1967 (50 year closing date). The Palmyra Boy Scout Cabin has been in continuous use by the Boy Scouts since its completion.

History of Jefferson County and the Village of Palmyra

Jefferson County was created with lands removed from Milwaukee County on December 7, 1836. Two years after the formation of Jefferson County, the Town of Bark River was established in the southeast quadrant of Jefferson County. In 1846, the eastern one-half of the township was set off establishing the townships of Palmyra and Sullivan. The topography of Palmyra Township is generally flat, with gentle rolling hills overlooking the Scuppernong River which gently winds from east to west through the township. Much of the land immediately adjacent to the Village of Palmyra is marshland. North and west of the village, fertile prairie lands reside that are dotted with hardwood stands ideal for establishing a farm. To the south of the village the Kettle Moraine area is punctuated with glacially formed kettles, hills, and valleys.

During the 1840s, Yankee immigrants poured into Jefferson County and many settled within or near the Village of Palmyra. They established saw mills, grist mills, hotels, and general stores. Many also established wheat farms. By 1865, Jefferson County had 28,000 acres engaged in the growth of wheat producing 268,000 bushels valued at \$300,000. The wheat boom subsided after the wheat exhausted the soil of its nutrients. Wheat as a cash crop was replaced for a short period of the time by the cultivation of hops, an essential ingredient in the production of beer. Ultimately, the 1850's influx of German immigrants brought the knowledge of crop rotation and their practices greatly improved the health of the soil. Over this period of time the population of Jefferson County expanded from less than 1,000 in 1840 to 15,000 by 1850. By 1860 the population of Jefferson County doubled to over 30,000 residents. The majority of the population of Jefferson County lived and worked on family farms.

During the late 1800s the University of Wisconsin's College of Agriculture began to promote dairying in Wisconsin. The dairy farm concept transformed the family farm from having a few dairy cows for

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Palmyra Boy Scout Cabin
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their immediate family to maintaining much larger herds. The dairy farmer knew that their surplus milk could be sold to cheese and butter factories, which provided a steady income for their family.⁴

The Jefferson County dairy farmers coalesced into the Jefferson County Dairymen's Association on December 20, 1870 in Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin.⁵ Two years later, the Wisconsin Dairymen's Association became an outgrowth of this organization when a resolution was made at the Jefferson County Dairymen's Association meeting of January 26, 1872. The finalization of the formation of the Wisconsin Dairymen's Association occurred on February 15, 1872. The mission of this organization is now, and was then, to promote the use of milk in the production for cheese and butter.⁶ By the turn of the century, the farmers in the outskirts of the Village of Palmyra, as well as the rest of Jefferson County, were transitioning their farms from wheat production and diversified farming to dairying.⁷

The first settler to arrive to the Palmyra area was Cyrus Horton⁸ who in 1839 settled along the Scuppernong Creek northeast of Spring Lake. Abram Brink purchased forty acres of land in Section 22 along the Scuppernong River in what would become the Village of Palmyra.⁹ He began the foundation for a saw mill and a dam.¹⁰ While Brink was in the midst of construction, he was offered a substantial amount of money to sell his endeavor to David J. and Samuel R. Powers. The Powers completed the saw mill and dam and sawed their first log on December 25, 1842.

In the fall of 1843, John Fish surveyed the Village of Palmyra into lots and blocks. Cyrus Horton erected the first frame building in 1843. In addition, Levi Powers opened a store and William Mulks opened a tavern. In 1844, the Powers converted their saw mill to a flour mill to service the burgeoning wheat market.

A severe flood in 1850 tore out the dam and destroyed the Power's Mill.¹¹ The mill was rebuilt and functioned for several more years. In 1924, the mill was used to generate electric current for heat and light in the Druggists Home facility.¹² When the home closed, the mill was converted into an ice

⁴ *Southeast Quadrant of Jefferson County Wisconsin Architectural and Historic Intensive Survey Report*, (Legacy Architecture Inc., Sheboygan, WI., 2013-2014), pages 17-135

⁵ *History of Jefferson County Wisconsin*, (Western Historical Company, Chicago, 1879), page 369

⁶ Wisconsin Dairymen's Association est. 1872, <http://www.watertownhistory.org/Articles/WisconsinDairymensAssn.htm>, pages 1-2

⁷ *Intensive Survey Report Northeast Quadrant Jefferson County Wisconsin*, Carol Cartwright, 2010, pages 11-15

⁸ Ancestry.com, Spelling corrected from Norton to Horton per, March 3, 1843 United States General Land Office Records 1796-1907, Wisconsin Compiled Census 1820-1890, 1850 United States Census

⁹ Ancestry.com, U.S. General Land Office Records, 1796-1907 for Abram Brink, description of property/registration of sale

¹⁰ Map of Jefferson County, State of Wisconsin, H. Steger, 1862

¹¹ *History of Jefferson County Wisconsin*, (Western Historical Company, Chicago, 1879), pages 529-536

¹² *The Janesville Gazette*, June 20, 1924, "Dedicate Palmyra Druggists Home"

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storage facility. Another flood, or breach of the dam, occurred at a later date (which is documented by historic photographs) and the building was again destroyed. It was not rebuilt. The dam was repaired or rebuilt and remains in place to this day¹³

The Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad arrived in the fall of 1852 completing the passenger route from Waukesha, Wisconsin to Janesville, Wisconsin. The presence of the railroad brought with it many benefits for the village. Locally grown products could now be shipped to outside markets. The railroad also attracted additional manufacturing. In 1856, John Heath and Nathan Smith opened a reaper factory which manufactured the "Patent Falvey Riley Reaper." Zebina Willson, an agent for the railroad, built a 20,000 bushel grain elevator near the rail line which enhanced the farmer's ability to ship their grain to outside markets.

The village was incorporated on April 4, 1866. Due to an error that listed Sections 26 & 27 as the placement of the village when it should have been Section 22, the charter was dissolved in 1872 and reinstated on May 5, 1874.

In 1871, St. Paul business man Ira Bidwell heard about mineral springs that were located in Palmyra, Wisconsin. He purchased 65 acres of land which included Deep Rock Springs. In 1871, Bidwell and Dr. Wood built a luxurious 152 room hotel and spa that offered hydropathic treatments called "water cures." The hotel and spa were known as the Bidwell House.¹⁴ Palmyra bustled with activity as people came from all over the country, via the railroad, to partake in the so called "healing properties" of the spring water. The Bidwell House also hosted musical programs, plays, dances, and lectures. Across the road from the hotel, a boathouse on Spring Lake provided wooden rowboats for the guests. Guests could also play golf on a six-hole golf course. In 1883, the name of the hotel was changed to the Palmyra Springs Sanitarium and in 1887 it became the Spring Lake Hotel.

By 1909, the faith in water cures was waning and in 1913 the property was sold to the National Druggist Association where it remained as a retirement home for druggists until 1932. By the 1940's the building was abandoned and it was eventually demolished in 1957.¹⁵

As the twentieth century continued, dairy farming and milk products production were the main source of income in the Palmyra area. The area within the village supported small businesses. By mid-century, Jefferson County would become the fifth ranked county in Wisconsin in the production of chicken and egg products.

¹³ Interview with resident and former Palmyra Historical Society President Terry Tutton

¹⁴ *History of Jefferson County Wisconsin*, (Western Historical Company, Chicago, 1879), pages 529-536

¹⁵ Palmyra Historical Society newsletter Spring 2006, *A Brief History of the Sanitarium, the Deep Rock Spring and the Restoration of the Spring*, by Terry Tutton

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Palmyra Boy Scout Cabin
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History of the Boy Scout Movement

As the nineteenth century grew to a close, America's parents, state, and national officials worried about the future of young men from the age of ten to eighteen. Much of this concern was directed toward the multitude of young poor immigrant boys in large American cities who officials feared were destined for delinquency.¹⁶ The Boy Scout organization acknowledged these fears and offered a solution through membership in its club for boys: "We have constantly kept in mind the evils that confront the boys of our country and have struck at them by fostering better things. The Boy Scouts of America is a corporation formed by a group of men who are anxious that the boys of America should come under the influence of this movement and be built up in all that goes to make character and good citizenship."¹⁷ The purposeful mission of the Boys Scouts of America was to provide structure and direction for young men. This was accomplished by providing a mentoring environment and a venue for activities, all to prevent boys from drifting aimlessly through their youth and perhaps avert the one bad decision which could affect the rest of their lives.

William D. Boyce was a newspaper and magazine publisher from Chicago, Illinois. In 1909, while enroute to a safari in British East Africa, he was aided by a British Boy Scout in London, England. The scout refused Boyce's tip for his services explaining that he was a Boy Scout and was merely doing his daily good turn. Upon Boyce's return from his safari, he visited the London Scouting headquarters and obtained information on their organization. Armed with the 1909 handbook titled *Scouting for Boys: A Handbook for Instruction in Good Citizenship* written by Robert Baden-Powell, the founder of the British Boy Scouts, Boyce returned to the United States. Boyce incorporated the Boy Scouts of America on February 8, 1910 and applied for a congressional charter.¹⁸ The National Council was formed in the fall of 1910 with President William Howard Taft as Honorary President and former President Theodore Roosevelt as Honorary Vice President and Chief Scout Citizen. Colin H. Livingstone was the first president of the organization.¹⁹

¹⁶ *Why the Boy Scouts Work*, Heather MacDonald, City Journal, http://www.city-journal.org/html/10_1_why_the_boy.html, pages 1-9

¹⁷ *Boy Scouts of America Official Handbook for Boys*, (Doubleday, Page & Co., Garden City, New York, 1911), page v, vi of Preface

¹⁸ *History of the Boy Scouts of America*, <http://www.scoutlander.com/publicsite/unitcustom.aspx?UID=14833&CUSTOMID=47994>, pages 1-11

¹⁹ Boy Scouts of America official site, <http://www.scouting.org/About/FactSheets/Founders.aspx>, *Founders*, pages 1-3

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Palmyra Boy Scout Cabin
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On June 21, 1910, 34 national representatives from various boys groups met and their organizations merged into the Boys Scouts of America.²⁰ By the fall of that year the Boy Scouts of America had over 2,500 applications for leaders from 44 states.²¹

Ernest Thompson Seton authored the first Boy Scout handbook called *A Handbook of Woodcraft, Scouting and Life-craft*²² which was used until 1911 when the Boys Scouts published *Boy Scouts of America Official Handbook for Boys*. The 1911 handbook described the skills that could be learned and virtues that were expected of a Boy Scout.²³ The handbook was the core of scouting and its overarching theme was selflessness and thoughtfulness toward others. "We send out our 'Official Handbook,' therefore, with the earnest wish that many boys may find in it new methods for the proper use of their leisure time and fresh inspiration in their efforts to make their hours of recreation contribute to strong, noble manhood in the days to come."²⁴

Chief Scout Citizen, Theodore Roosevelt told the Boy Scouts in 1913 that "manliness in its most rigorous form can be and ought to be accompanied by unselfish consideration for the rights and interests of others."²⁵

The Boy Scouts of America tapped into the boredom of America's youth and proposed to satisfy their adventuresome curiosity. The Boy Scouts of America offered to teach a boy how to live, camp and survive in the woods, how to start a campfire and cook a meal, how to interpret the signs of the forest and the tracks of animals, how to recognize wild fruits, roots, and nuts which were good to eat and how to be strong enough to save a life. In turn, he would respect his flag and love his country, obey his parents and leaders, uphold the scout virtues of courtesy, loyalty, self-respect, honor, faithfulness, cheerfulness, thoughtfulness, and perform daily the movements founding principal. He would agree to do a good deed to somebody every day, quietly without boasting.²⁶

²⁰ Boy Scouts of American official site, <http://www.scouting.org/About/FactSheets/Founders.aspx>, *Founders*, pages 1-3

²¹ *History of the Boy Scouts of America*, <http://www.scoutlander.com/publicsite/unitcustom.aspx?UID=14833&CUSTOMID=47994>, pages 1-11

²² *History of Scouting: Founders*, <http://historyofscouting.com/founders.htm>, pages 1-2

²³ *Boy Scouts of America Official Handbook for Boys*, (Doubleday, Page & Co. Publishing, Garden City, N.Y., 1913) preface vi

²⁴ *Boy Scouts of America Official Handbook for Boys*, (Doubleday, Page & Co., Garden City, New York, 1911), page vi Preface

²⁵ *Why the Boy Scouts Work*, Heather MacDonald, City Journal, http://www.city-journal.org/html/10_1_why_the_boy.html, pages 1-9

²⁶ *Boy Scouts of America Handbook for Boys*, (Doubleday, Page & Co., Garden City, New York, 1911), pages 3-10

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Parents seized this opportunity to provide direction for their sons and began to enroll their sons into the Boy Scouts of America. Their hope was that this organization would build a solid foundation of character within their sons that would remain with them for a lifetime.

By 1912, Boy Scouts were found in every state. Locally, a patrol was formed with at least eight boys ten years of age or older. One of the eight would become the patrol leader and another would become the assistant patrol leader. A troop was formed by incorporating three or more patrols under a leadership of an adult scout master. These troops would meet in churches, schools, boys clubs, and YMCA's. In many cases, local scout troops built their own meeting places in city owned parks and on unused city property.

Through an act of the United States Congress approved on June 14, 1916, the Boy Scouts of America incorporated. Section 3 states that: "the purpose of this corporation shall be to promote, through organization and cooperation with other agencies, the ability of boys to do things for themselves and others, to train them in scoutcraft, and to teach them patriotism, courage, self-reliance and kindred virtues using the methods which are now in common use by boy scouts."²⁷ In 1918, Rotary International became the first service club to begin sponsoring Boy Scout troops.²⁸

There were three levels or classes of scouts described in the 1911 handbook. To become a Tenderfoot you had to know the scout law, sign, salute, and significance of the badge. A Tenderfoot was also required to know the history of the American flag and the customary forms of respect used in raising, lowering, storing, and destroying tattered flags. He also had to accomplish tying four different knots.

To become a Second-class Scout one had to be a Tenderfoot for at least one month. He needed to know first aid and how to treat fractures, shock, burns, sprains and wounds. He needed to understand elementary signaling of Morse code, semaphore, or the Myer alphabet. He had to walk a mile in twenty-five minutes, be able to use a knife or hatchet, build a fire in the open using not more than two matches, cook a quarter pound of meat and two potatoes without kitchen utensils, know the sixteen principal points on a compass, and open a savings account.

To become a First-class Scout he had to swim fifty yards, send and receive a message by Morse code, semaphore, or the Myer alphabet and complete a seven mile (fourteen mile round trip) journey by foot or row boat, providing a detailed account of the trip. He also had to have mastered advanced first aid training, cook a more elaborate meal over a campfire, be able to read a map, describe ten species of

²⁷ *Boy Scouts of America Official Handbook for Boys*, (Double Day Page & Co., Garden City, NY, 1911), pages VIII, IX

²⁸ *Timeline: a Brief History of the Boy Scouts of America*, www.desertnews.com/article/865572261/Timeline-a-brief-history-of-the-Boy-Scouts-of-America.html?pg=all

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trees or plants, demonstrate how to use an ax to cut down a tree, add more earned money to his savings account and provide satisfactory evidence that he practiced the scout oath and law in his daily life.

Once a boy had become a First-class scout he could begin to earn merit badges. The purpose of the merit badge was to stimulate the scout's interest in the world around him. Sixty merit badges were offered in 1911. Topics ranged from angling to astronomy, camping, life saving, forestry, music, photography, swimming and taxidermy. The top merit badge, #60 for Eagle Scout, was given to anyone completing the acquisition of twenty-one merit badges. Each merit badge had clearly defined requirements.²⁹ The chapters titled: Woodcraft; Campcraft; Tracks, Trailing and Signaling; Health and Endurance; Chivalry; First Aid and Life Saving; Games and Athletic Standards; and Patriotism and Citizenship within the *Boy Scouts of America Handbook for Boys* contained all of the information fundamental to mastering the skills essential in achieving the various merit badges.

Included within the chapter on Woodcraft is the subtitle "Building a Log Cabin." Instructions were provided which took you step-by-step from how to select a high dry site, how to select and cut down a tree, how to notch the logs for assembly and how to chink between the logs.³⁰ The Pioneer Merit Badge could be partially earned by building a structure that was suitable for three occupants. In addition, Daniel C. Beard, the founder of the Sons of Daniel Boone (which merged with the Boy Scouts in 1910), authored a book titled *Shelter, Shacks and Shanties*, in 1914. By following Beard's instructions, one could build a shelter with nothing but a hatchet.³¹ It is hard to say whether these two instructive printings enticed the Palmyra Boy Scouts to build their own cabin but that is exactly what they did.

The twenty-first century *Scout - the Boy Scout Handbook A Guide to Adventure, A Guidebook for Life*, still promotes the same ideals and challenges: "Are you ready to become an expert hiker and camper, explore the natural world and to meet challenges with good judgment and skill? Do you want to become a leader and do all you can for your family, your neighborhood and America? Would you like to develop lifelong friendships and a set of values that can guide you through the years to come? Do you want to understand your duties to your religious beliefs and your responsibilities in caring for the environment?" Join the Boy Scouts of America.

These basic core beliefs are coupled with the realities of the world today. The first chapter is titled "Child Abuse" and addresses physical, emotional and sexual abuse. The manual also includes directives on relationships in "Good Judgment in Choosing Friends". "What the Outdoor Code Means" provides direction in helping the scout improve the conditions of wildlife, water, air, forests, and the

²⁹ *Boy Scouts of America Official Handbook for Boys*, (Doubleday, Page & Co., Garden City, New York, 1911), pages 10-43

³⁰ *Boy Scouts of America Official Handbook for Boys*, (Double Day, Page & Co., Garden City, N. Y., 1911), pages 59-63

³¹ *Shelters, Shacks and Shanties*, by Daniel C. Beard, 1914, <http://www.shelterpub.com/shelter/sssb.html>

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Palmyra Boy Scout Cabin
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land itself. "Internet Tips" cautions the Boy Scout on how to be safe when using the internet. A Boy Scout can now earn merit badges in Cinematography, Computers, Disabilities Awareness, Fingerprinting, Nuclear Science, Oceanography, Robotics, Scuba Diving, and Space Exploration. More than 1 billion boys around the world have answered the call of Scouting over the last one hundred plus years.³²

The structure of the Boy Scouts within the State of Wisconsin has the state divided into ten Boy Scout Councils: Northern Star, Voyageurs, Chippewa Valley, Gateway, Glacier's Edge, Blackhawk, Samoset, Bay Lakes, Potawatomi, and Three Harbor (note map enclosed). Each Council supports a headquarters in a centrally located city. The Wisconsin Boy Scout Councils are then divided into smaller districts which are overseen by a district executive.

The Boy Scout Cabin

The construction of a Boy Scout cabin, as a troop project, was not an isolated phenomenon, nor was it the inspiration of a particular troop leader. The Boy Scout organization advocated that cabin building projects were a wholesome, useful endeavor which further benefitted each troop who chose to build one, given that the results of their labor was a tidy building having a large room for gathering, anchored by a large stone or brick hearth symbolizing both domestic comfort and the romanticism of America's pastoral origins. After all, this period overlapped with the National Park movement, and the rising popularity of Rustic style architecture; the prospect of building a small rustic cabin for one's own scouting troop likely fit in very well with bringing a small piece of that romantic spirit to large cities, small towns and everywhere in between. The boys used math, and geometry, learned how to use carpentry tools, and learned the complexities of constructing something of this scale. At the conclusion of construction, the boys also undoubtedly basked in the satisfaction of a successful cabin project. One could even earn a badge.

The Boy Scout organization provided quite a bit of guidance to any troop interested in building their own cabin. The Boy Scout handbook offered a sub-chapter, "How to Build a Cabin", and the scouting organization's magazine *Boys Life* recommended additional titles including two written by Boy Scout co-founder, D.C. Beard: "Shelters, Shacks, and Shanties" and "Forest Handybook". Reprints of these books are still available to buy today.

Boys Life also encouraged troops to construct cabins by offering incentives in the pages of the magazine, and wrote feature articles extolling the successes of troops who completed a cabin project.

³² *Scout - the Boy Scout Handbook A Guide to Adventure, A Guide for Life*, (Boy Scouts of America, Irving Texas, 2011), pages 2-23, 13, 14,27, 28, 51, 61, 444,445

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Palmyra Boy Scout Cabin
Palmyra, Jefferson County, Wisconsin

Having your troop and community featured in the Boy Scout magazine surely was a point of pride that only added to the excitement of cabin building. From the March 1914 issue of *Boys Life*:

Has Your Troop a Scout Cabin? Many scout troops have built them in the woods near town. They use them as a hike headquarters, and sometimes “camp” there. We’re going to publish pictures of a lot of these cabins soon. Send in yours, and tell how you built it. If we can use it, we’ll pay you 25 cents. If you will send us the names and addresses of all the boys in your troop we will send each of them a copy of the magazine containing the pictures.”

Boys Life proceeded to feature Boy Scout cabins from all across the country: Maryland, California, Texas, Florida, West Virginia, and in many other states. It is likely that Boy Scout cabins may be found in just about every state from coast to coast, as they are found in Wisconsin.

History of the Palmyra Boy Scout Cabin

In 1932, Reverend John Walker from the Palmyra Methodist Church procured a charter from the Boys Scouts of America to begin the organization of Palmyra Boy Scout Troop 14. The Palmyra Legion Post No. 304 agreed to sponsor the troop. Twelve young men from the area registered to become scouts. For the first two years of its existence, Troop 14 met in the Methodist Church belfry. In 1934 Fisk Carlin (b. 1893, d. 1985), Palmyra Postmaster, took over as scout master and the troop meetings were moved to the rear of the post office. Boy Scout meetings were also held in the law offices of Charlie Williams and Claude Stout and in the rear of the dentist’s office.

Fisk Carlin was a member of the Army Aviation Signal Corps during WWI. He studied agriculture at the University of Madison and then worked for awhile on the family farm. In 1931 he became the Postmaster of Palmyra.³³

In 1935, Fisk Carlin approached the Palmyra Village Board suggesting that the community build a cabin where the scouts would have a permanent place to meet.³⁴ The Village of Palmyra provided a small grass-covered site just to the north of the village hall. Construction began on the cabin, but due to the ongoing Great Depression, construction continued over several years as money and materials were scarce. The cabin was constructed by the fathers of the scouts as well as other local volunteers. The Palmyra Boy Scout Cabin was finally completed in 1937.

³³ Palmyra Historical Society Newsletter, Winter 1996, *Who Was Fisk Carlin?*, by Mary Tutton

³⁴ Palmyra Historical Society Newsletter, Summer 2001, *Boy Scouting in Palmyra*, by Terry Tutton

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Palmyra Boy Scout Cabin
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Many of the materials were accumulated from in-kind donations. The tamarack logs were cut from the Jolliffe farm near Pleasant Valley and from woods located on the Charlie Williams property. The basement was dug by hand and the gravel that was removed was sold. Some of the lumber came from a Milwaukee wrecking company and the windows came from an out-of-business lumber yard. The furnace, which was installed in the basement, came from an old area school house. Mr. Steinhoff, from Eagle, Wisconsin laid the fieldstone for the fireplace. The front south-facing entry step is one-half of the grinding wheels from the old Power's grist mill. The grist mill was located near the local dam.

Fisk Carlin remained the scoutmaster until 1941 when the position was taken over by Kelly Rosman. The number of young men enrolled in Troop 14 remained strong. As many as 30 scouts registered each year from 1932 until the late 1960s when enrollment began to diminish. The Palmyra Boy Scout Cabin has remained in continuous use and has seen resurgence in interest in the last few years under the direction of Scoutmaster Glenn Schrank.

In the fall of 2004, the Palmyra Historic Preservation Commission, Mayor Dave Turner, and Palmyra Historical Society President Terry Tutton decided to spruce up the cabin by removing non-original interior paneling which covered the logs. Three dumpsters of debris were removed from the cabin. The roof was re-shingled, new electric wiring was installed and the logs were re-chinked with the proper material. To pay for this undertaking, the Historic Preservation Commission sold Christmas ornaments for \$10 each. Each ornament had a picture of the Carlin House Museum.³⁵ The restoration project was completed in October of 2008.³⁶

The Palmyra Boy Scout Cabin has remained in continuous use over the last eighty-one years. It is part of the Potawatomi Area Council, headquartered in Waukesha, Wisconsin.

Conclusion: Criterion A - History

How enduring was the scouting experience? Did it really endure within the scout for a lifetime? A 2005 study of former Boy Scouts was compiled by the polling organization Harris Interactive. What they discovered was that 83 percent of men who were scouts felt that the values that they learned during their scouting years continued to be important to them throughout their lives.³⁷ Former Boy Scouts that were interviewed for this National Register project and who had not been a scout for thirty to fifty years could not wait to share their scouting experiences.

³⁵ Palmyra Historical Society Newsletter, *The Scout Cabin*, Winter 2004,

³⁶ *Daily Jefferson County Union*, "Palmyra Boy Scout Cabin Restoration in Final Phases", October 2, 2008

³⁷ Boy Scouts of America, "Benefits", www.scouting.org/parent/benefits.aspx

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Palmyra Boy Scout Cabin
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One sixty-eight year old former Boy Scout, who grew up in Berryland, a low income housing project in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, spoke to the significance of his years as a Boy Scout. He reminisced that scouting gave him an opportunity to experience things that his family would either never do or never could afford to do. Through his enrollment in the Boy Scouts he was able to go camping, learn how to paddle a canoe, learn how to swim, fish, cook and administer first aid. During the duration of his scouting years he earned twenty merit badges, something he still treasures today and something that he has kept safely packed away for all these years.

The Palmyra Boy Scout Scoutmasters, guided by the *Boy Scouts of America Official Handbook for Boys*, taught self-reliance and character building within the environment of this cabin. Here positive and constructive activities were held. Here the young men of Palmyra were taught that *Being Prepared* and being self-reliant would get them through life. "A Scout must prepare himself for anything – "to rescue a companion, to ford a stream, to gather firewood, to help strangers, to distinguish right from wrong, to serve his fellowmen, his country and his God."³⁸

The attractiveness of the Boy Scouts was that all of this character building was done with fun. This was not school; this was the outdoors, camping, using a knife, lighting matches, tracking animals, and much more. The Palmyra Boy Scouts had the opportunity to learn a broad spectrum of outdoor skills from how to start a fire, how to build a shelter, how to fish, how to canoe, and how to navigate using the stars at night. Socialization skills were attained while earning merit badges, sharing meals, and through the camaraderie of singing and storytelling around the campfire.

Community leaders believed it was essential for a young man to participate in scouting so that he would choose the path of productive citizenship and not the path of a juvenile delinquent. Parent's enrolled their sons in scouting with the hope that the program would instill lasting character.

The building of the Palmyra Boy Scout Cabin was a true community effort. Residents donated money and materials and the Village of Palmyra provided the park-like setting. Many of the fathers along with their sons worked together to build this cabin. Numerous former Palmyra Boy Scouts went on to fill diverse social roles in their community as business leaders, teachers, tradesmen, parents, and public servants.

Summary

The Palmyra Boy Scout Cabin is an excellent example of a small Boy Scout cabin, associated with the history of the larger Boy Scout movement, and particularly reflecting the trend of scouting troops

³⁸ Revised Handbook for Boys, First Edition, Boy Scouts of America, "What is a Boy Scout", http://www.inquiry.net/deals/what_is_scout.htm page 3

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Palmyra, Jefferson County, Wisconsin

constructing small cabins for club use. The long standing tradition of local scouting troops constructing Boy Scout cabins contributes to our understanding of the impact that the Boy Scouts organization had in the history of social organizations for children. The Palmyra cabin is still in use by the Boy Scouts, demonstrating the longevity and success of the Boy Scout movement.

Acknowledgements

The Fuldner Heritage Fund paid for the preparation of this nomination. This endowed fund, created through a generous donation by the Jeffris Family Foundation and administered by the Wisconsin Historical Society, supports the nomination of historically and architecturally significant rural and small town properties.

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Palmyra Boy Scout Cabin
Palmyra, Jefferson County, Wisconsin

Verbal Boundary Description:

Outlot 13 of J. B. Crocys Survey of out lots of the Village of Palmyra known as S. B. Higgins Blacksmith lot. Triangular piece of land between W. Main on the southeast side, 1st Street northeast side and Sullivan Road (now Jefferson Street) on the southwest side.

Boundary Justification:

The boundaries enclose all the land that has historically been associated with the Palmyra Boy Scout Cabin. The historic maps of Palmyra including the 1878 map titled *Fort Atkinson, Waterloo and Palmyra, Jefferson County*, show the above described triangle shaped lot resting in the center of the city. No development occurs on the lot until the early 1900's when a building is erected which contained the jail, the village hall, and the water works. The well for the Village of Palmyra has been located on this parcel of land (#17105162214012) for many years and still is in use today providing the community's water supply. The Palmyra Boy Scout Cabin was added to the above parcel in 1935.

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Palmyra Boy Scout Cabin
Palmyra, Jefferson County, Wisconsin

Name of Property:	Palmyra Boy Scout Cabin
City or Vicinity:	Palmyra
State:	Wisconsin
Name of Photographer	Patricia Lacey
Date of Photograph	December 2015
Location of Original Digital Files	Wisconsin Historical Society, Madison, WI
Number of Photographs	5

Photo 1
Southwest-facing facade, main entry.
Camera facing northeast

Photo 2
Northwest-facing facade
Camera facing southeast

Photo 3
Northeast-facing facade, chimney.
Camera facing southwest

Photo 4
Southeast-facing facade
Camera facing northwest

Photo 5
Interior view of cabin and fireplace
Camera facing northeast

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Figure 1: Sketch plan

Figure 2: Boy Scout Regions in Wisconsin

Figure 3: Photograph, cabin under construction

Figure 4: Photograph, Boy Scout Cabin, 1939

Figure 5: Photograph, interior of Boy Scout cabin, c. 1937

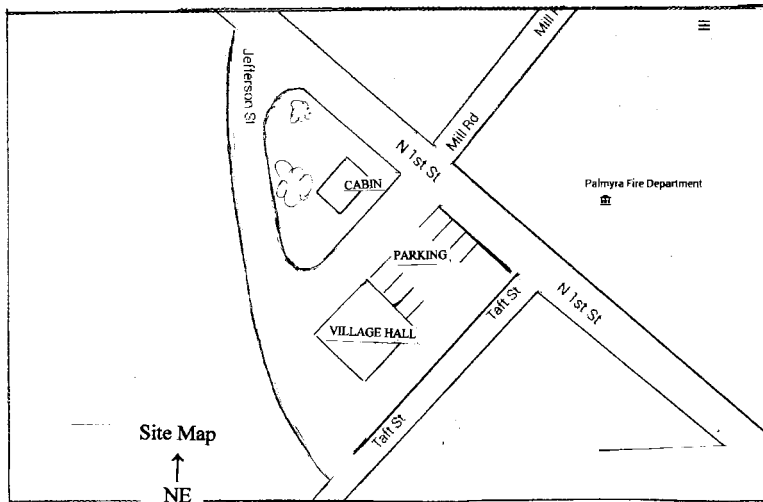
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Palmyra Boy Scout Cabin
Palmyra, Jefferson County, Wisconsin

Figure 1: sketch plan drawing (not to scale)



Palmyra Boy Scout Cabin
Palmyra, Jefferson County Wisconsin

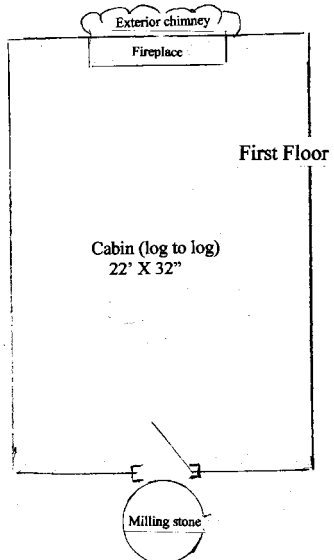


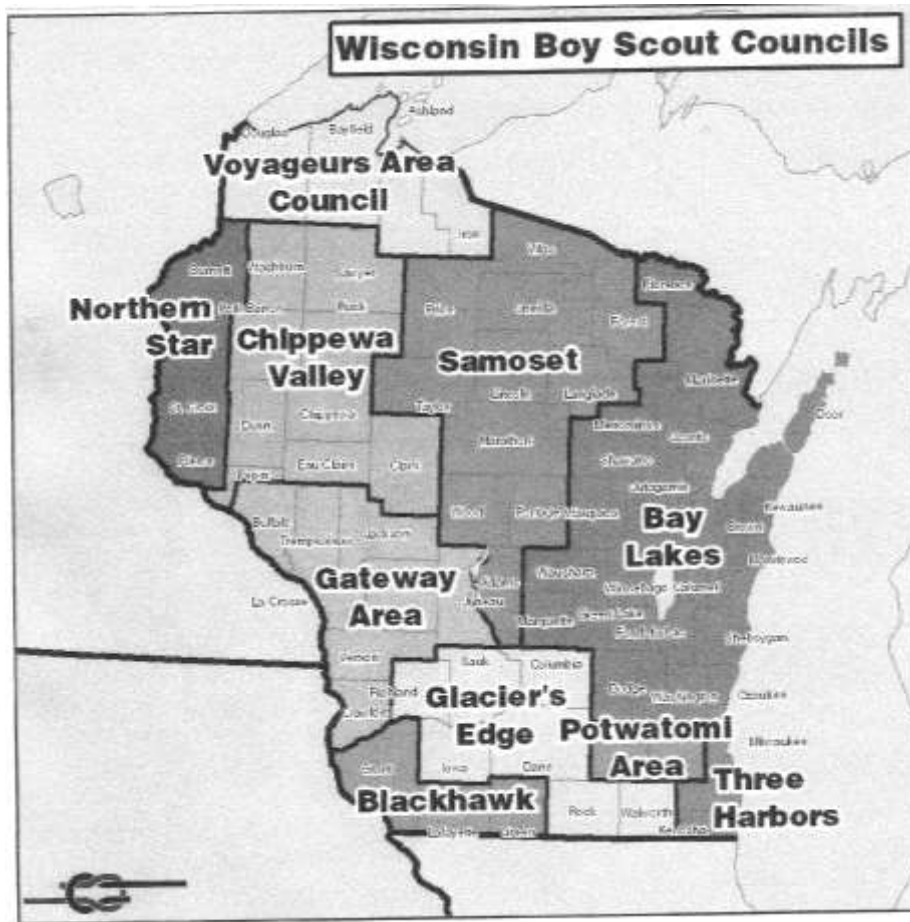
Figure 2: Boy Scout Regions in Wisconsin

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Palmyra, Jefferson County, Wisconsin



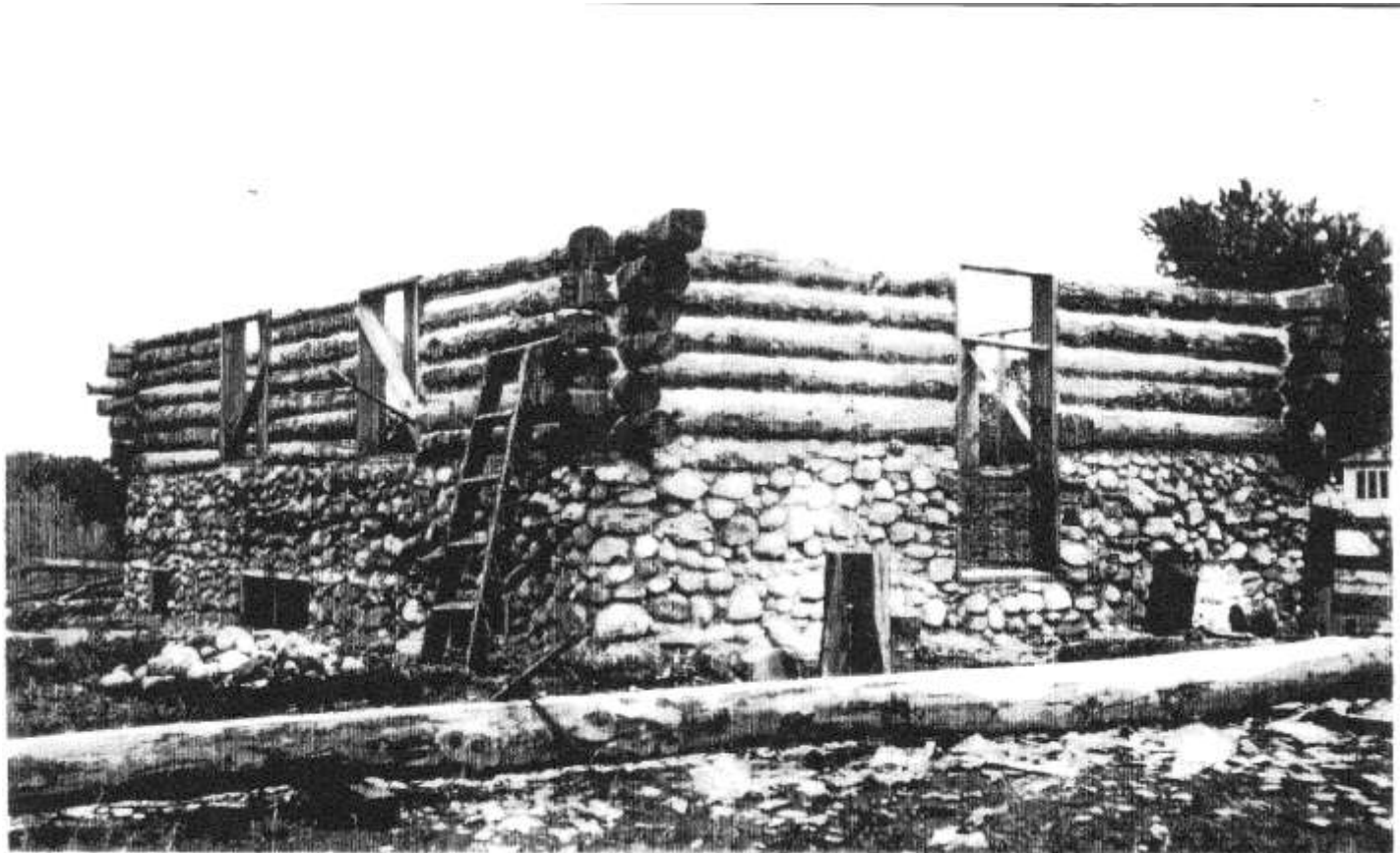
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Palmyra, Jefferson County, Wisconsin

Figure 3: Photograph: Cabin under construction



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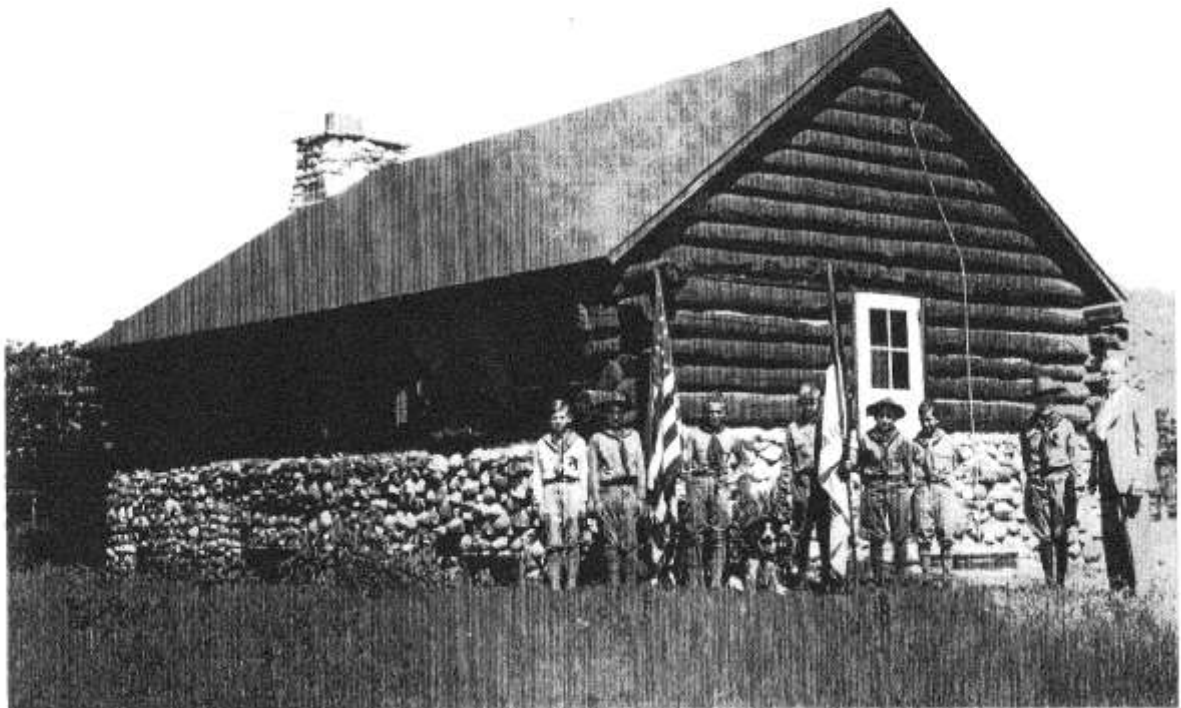
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Figure 4: Photograph: Boy Scout cabin, 1939

Palmyra Boy Scout Cabin
Palmyra, Jefferson County, Wisconsin
Boy Scout Cabin c1939
Scoutmaster Fisk Carlin on the right



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Palmyra Boy Scout Cabin
Palmyra, Jefferson County, Wisconsin

Figure 5: Photograph, Interior of Boy Scout Cabin, c1937



Palmyra Boy Scout Cabin
Palmyra, Jefferson County, Wisconsin
Boy Scout Cabin c1937
Scoutmaster Fisk Carlin third from the right





NO
PARKING
ANY
TIME
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CALORIES OF

COW







SCOUT MOTTO
BE PREPARED

SCOUT OATH
ON MY HONOR I WILL DO MY BEST
TO DO MY DUTY TO GOD AND MY
COUNTRY AND TO OBEY THE SCOUT LAW
TO HELP OTHER PEOPLE AT ALL TIMES
TO KEEP MYSELF PHYSICALLY STRONG
MENTALLY AWAKE AND MORALLY
STRAIGHT



OUTDOOR CODE
AS AN AMERICAN
I WILL DO MY
BEST TO BE
CLEAN IN MY
OUTDOOR
MANNERS. BE
CAREFULL WITH
FIRE BE
CONSIDERATE IN
THE OUTDOORS
AND BE
CONSERVATION
MINDED

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:

Property Name:

Multiple Name:

State & County:

Date Received: 9/22/2017 Date of Pending List: 10/26/2017 Date of 16th Day: 11/13/2017 Date of 45th Day: 11/6/2017 Date of Weekly List: 11/9/2017

Reference number:

Nominator:

Reason For Review:

Accept Return Reject 11/6/2017 Date

Abstract/Summary Comments:

Recommendation/ Criteria

Reviewer Edson Beall Discipline Historian

Telephone _____ Date _____

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.



WISCONSIN
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY



TO: Keeper
National Register of Historic Places

FROM: Peggy Veregin
National Register Coordinator

SUBJECT: National Register Nomination

The following materials are submitted on this Twentieth day of September 2017, for the nomination of the Maple Bluff Boy Scout Cabin to the National Register of Historic Places:

_____ 1 Original National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form
_____ 1 CD with NRHP Nomination form PDF
_____ Multiple Property Nomination form
_____ 5 Photograph(s)
_____ 1 CD with image files
_____ 1 Map(s)
_____ 5 Sketch map(s)/figures(s)/exhibit(s)
_____ Piece(s) of correspondence
_____ Other:

COMMENTS:

_____ Please ensure that this nomination is reviewed
_____ This property has been certified under 36 CFR 67
_____ The enclosed owner objection(s) do or do not constitute a majority of property
_____ owners
_____ Other:
