

PH0674699

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

MAY 10 1979

MAY 11 1981

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC Boulder Cabin

AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge

CITY, TOWN

— NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE Cache

VICINITY OF

6

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Oklahoma

40

Comanche

031

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" 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:

AGENCY

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS. (If applicable)

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Bob Karges, Manager)

STREET & NUMBER

Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Cache

VICINITY OF

Oklahoma 73527

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, Comanche County Court House
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Lawton

Oklahoma 73501

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge Survey

DATE

May 1978

— FEDERAL STATE — COUNTY — LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

State Historic Preservation Office

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Oklahoma City

Oklahoma 73105

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<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

Boulder Cabin is a single story building consisting of one room, roughly 16' x 24', with a wood burning fireplace. Several windows admit light to the interior with two doors providing access to the 8' wide screened porch. The walls of the porch cover two sides of the cabin with the insect screening running from the ceiling to the tops of the half wall on the perimeter.

Floors are concrete slabs and are unfinished. The roof structure is wood with the roof itself being wood deck covered with composition shingles. Other than periodic painting of wood members and reshingling the cabin appears the same as when it was constructed.

The exterior is of cobblestones laid in mortar. This type of stone was common to the site and it was natural that it be used as a building material for most structures built in this area.

The cabin is located on a parcel of land that becomes an island whenever there is heavy rainfall. West Cache Creek flows past the cabin and many weeks of the year is dried up since its waters are impounded by Lost Lake upstream. Many times, after several inches of rain, the creek will leave its banks. When that occurs, a second channel fills to the north of the cabin, which leaves the Boulder Cabin on its own island.

Large trees surround the cabin on three sides while on the southwest side there is a clearing where another cobblestone building stands that is used as a kitchen. The sides open up for ventilation and serving food where it is estimated that thousands of meals have been prepared and distributed.

The well near the cabin has a long handled pump that brings water to the surface. Un-countable individuals have been refreshed at this spot by the cool, clear water always available with just a little labor.

Buffalo and Longhorn Cattle still roam through the area adjacent to the cabin.

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 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) Recreation
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

1912

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

A. D. Lawrence / None

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Before Europeans reached the territory which is now Oklahoma, the Wichita people inhabited the area containing the Wichita Mountains. In the last quarter of the nineteenth century the Kiowa and Comanche tribes were moved to a reservation in this same area. As it became evident that the frontier was closing, white settlers increased their demands for the opening of Indian lands. This portion of the Wichita Mountains was not broken up for settlement, however, as the leases of the grazing land to Texas cattlemen prevented this.

At the turn of the century the efforts of the Oklahoma City Commercial Club, with its many influential civic leaders, persuaded the Oklahoma congressional delegation to support the conservation endeavors for the Wichita Mountains. The area was proclaimed the Wichita Forest Reserve in 1901, and a National Game Preserve in 1905.

Camp Boulder was established by the late A.D. Lawrence and his family at the foot of Eagle Mountain in 1911. Frank Rush, Sr., Superintendent of the Wichita National Forest and Game Preserve, granted a permit to the Lawrence's to build a structure. "We built the cabin about 1912." Arthur Lawrence recalls, "Dad hired a mason, and my brother and I hauled the cobblestones in a wheelbarrow."

There was no road to the cabin at that time so Mr. Lawrence promised the boys, Arthur and his brother, the late Robert S., that he would buy a car if they would build a road. They picked their way down "a line of least resistance," establishing a road over which the pavement now runs to Camp Boulder.

After Mr. Lawrence died in 1922, the family traded their permit to two other Lawton men, Ray Babbit and Sam I. McElhoes. The new owners kept the permit and enjoyed the cabin for several years, ultimately agreeing to relinquish it to the government with the stipulation that the cabin and camp could be used by the Boy Scouts. The agreement was made, and the Boulder Cabin and Camp Boulder are known to generations of Scouts, Boy and Girl, as well as a myriad of other groups and organizations.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Paul McClung, "Uncle Tom Mined Happiness in Wichita Mountains," Lawton Constitution, Sunday Constitution Feature, January 14, 1974.

Paul McClung, Interview, January 4, 1979

Philip Becker, Interview, Midland, Texas, January 14, 1979

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY c. 1 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A | 1 | 4 | 5 | 2 | 9 | 7 | 5 | 5 | 3 | 8 | 3 | 9 | 8 | 2 | 0
 ZONE, EASTING NORTHING

B | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Boulder cabin is 1.6 miles due south of the Boulder Turnoff on Scenic Highway 49. It is situated on flat terrain just north of the West Cache Creek creek bed. The site is wooded to the east and open to the west with no fencing or stone walls in the vicinity.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
Oklahoma	40	Comanche	031
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Bill E. Peavler, AIA, Senior Preservation Architect

ORGANIZATION

Oklahoma Historical Society

DATE

January 10, 1979

STREET & NUMBER

Historical Building

TELEPHONE

(405) 521-2491 Ext. 67

CITY OR TOWN

Oklahoma City

STATE

Oklahoma 73105

12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES

NO

NONE

B. Glenn Jordan
 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Historic Preservation Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The evaluated level of significance is National State Local .

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

William Williams

DATE

3/19/81

TITLE

Historic Preservation Officer

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Philip B. Becker for Acting Keeper of NR

DATE

5/11/1981

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
 DATE

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Boulder Cabin

Boulder Cabin is representative of the vernacular architecture of the Wichita Mountains area around the turn of the century. Constructed wholly of native materials, the cabin represents a unique blending of man's ingenuity and nature's resources so often found in a frontier environment.

After the death of Mr. Lawrence in 1922, the cabin passed into the hands of two Lawton men, Ray Babbit and Sam J. McElhoes. These individuals retained ownership for several years and then agreed to relinquish the cabin to the government with the stipulation that the cabin and camp might be used by the Boy Scouts. Since that agreement, Scouts, both boy and girl, have enjoyed the facilities as well as a myriad of other groups. Thus Boulder Camp is not only architecturally significant but is also important as a recreational facility as well.

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8/7/80

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Statement of Significance, cont: Boulder Cabin

In considering the physical attributes of this building, it is the best preserved of its type. Its common plan is made unusual by the screened porches on the east and south sides of the structure. Other examples of this type of cabin are found several miles away in Medicine Park but they are either greatly altered or in ruins.

Historic attributes include: Serving as "administrative shelter" for leaders of summer camps for groups of Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Campfire Girls and church youth. The surrounding areas served as "wilderness classrooms" for all the above groups working for advancement in such skills as Cooking, Hiking, Camping and Swimming, or just enjoying the outdoors and wildlife. Literally thousands of persons, over the decades since the early thirties remember this building with its adjacent stream and natural "classroom".

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Major Bibliographical References

9

1

Howard Meredith, Bill Peavler, Melvena Thurman and Richard Drass,
Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge: An Historic Conservation Survey
(Oklahoma City: Oklahoma Historical Society, 1978)

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8-1-83

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Verbal Boundary Description, cont:

The Boulder Cabin is located 300' north of the West Cache Creek stream. The property boundary begins on an east-west line 25' north of the northwest corner of the cabin. Proceed from that point 50' east to the northeast corner of the property boundary. From that point go 75' south to the southeast boundary corner. Proceed 75' west to the southwest boundary corner. From that point go 75' north to the northwest corner of the boundary and from that point proceed 25' east to the point of beginning.