

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For HCRS use only

received MAY 20 1980
date entered NOV 10 1980

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

1. Name

historic Wasatch Mountain Club Lodge

and/or common

2. Location

street & number head of Big Cottonwood Canyon—Brighton 25 m se SLC not for publication

city, town _____ vicinity of _____ congressional district 02

state Utah code 049 county Salt Lake code 035

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public land on lease	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private lodge	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: center for outdoor activities

4. Owner of Property

name Lodge: Wasatch Mountain Club Land: U.S. Forest Service

street & number 3155 Highland Drive 125 South Main

city, town SLC, UT 84106 _____ vicinity of _____ SLC, UT 84111 state

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. City and County Bldg; U.S. Forest Service Leasing Division

street & number 440 South State; 125 South State

city, town SLC, UT 84111 _____ SLC, UT 84111 state

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title none has this property been determined eligible? _____ yes _____ no

date _____ federal _____ state _____ county _____ local

depository for survey records

city, town _____ state

7. Description

Condition
 excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one
 unaltered
 altered

Check one
 original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Wasatch Mountain Club Lodge is a 50 year old rustic, two-story, rectangular building of log construction. Log walls enclose the first story from which steeply pitched roof rafters enclose the second story beneath a hipped roof. Three dormers protrude from the roof, two in front and one in the rear. A rough cut stone porch runs along the north (front) of the lodge. A two story rough stone fireplace chimney extends up the east end of the building.

The lodge very nearly maintains its original appearance from the time of its construction in 1929-1930.

The first story consisted of one large, rectangular room with a large stone fireplace at one end. The walls were constructed of logs, oiled and chinked and exposed on both sides. These walls were supported on stone pier foundations. The first floor was built of dimensioned lumber joists and exposed plank flooring. Three sides of the first story were fitted with large windows glazed with small, individual glass panes. A line of log pole columns was placed lengthwise down the center of the room. These columns, twelve inches in diameter, were erected to support a line of log pole beams. These beams, in turn, supported a series of eight inch diameter log pole joists supporting the second floor. The pole joists were spaced at two foot centers for the entire length of the building. The entire log support system was left exposed to the first floor below as the ceiling.

The second story was divided into two long, rectangular dormitory rooms separated by a common, wood stud wall. Access to the second floor rooms was provided by a staircase on each side of the first floor fireplace. The flooring consisted of wood plank laid on top of the log pole joists previously described. The outer wall of each of the rooms was composed of the roof rafters, sloping at approximately forty-five degrees with the horizontal. The roof rafters were supported by the log walls at the lower outside end and framed into a ridge nailer plate at the top end over the center partition wall. Wood plank formed the roof sheathing to which was nailed the galvanized metal roofing. Two dormer windows were built into the front of the hipped roof and one in the back hipped roof.

The present appearance of the lodge corresponds to the original with the exception of the following alterations:

1. 1933 - addition of a kitchen. The kitchen is a small, rectangular room added to the rear of the first floor. It is enclosed by log walls, thus maintaining the log construction of the rest of the lodge. The kitchen is reached through a doorway cut through the original log wall. It has an additional entrance from the outside.

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For HCRS use only

received MAY 20 1980

date entered

NOV 1 1980

Continuation sheet

Item number

7

Page 2

The flooring is concrete on grade. The kitchen is equipped with gas and wood ranges, refrigerators, sink and cupboard.

2. Mid 1940's - excavation of a partial basement. Stairs descend from the main entrance hallway down to the basement which was excavated to house a coal furnace and provide storage for coal and wood.
3. Mid 1950's - addition of a restroom annex. This small addition is at the front west end of the lodge. It consists of a storage area, a men's and a woman's restroom. It is one story. The exterior finish is complimentary to the rustic appearance of the lodge.
4. A propane heater has been installed in the ceiling of the first floor room. The walls in the upstairs dormitories (with the exception of the center partition wall) have been finished in wood paneling.

None of the alterations listed have changed the distinguishing features of the structure. It retains the original, rough hewn character of western log construction.

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 checked="" 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 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) center for outdoor activities
Specific dates	orig. 1929-30	Builder/Architect	unknown	

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Wasatch Mountain Club Lodge is an excellent example of rustic western log architecture. It stands at the head of Big Cottonwood Canyon, 25 miles southeast of Salt Lake City, Utah. Situated near the trailhead to Lake Mary, it has overlooked Brighton Bowl, lying below, for fifty years. The original structure was begun in 1929 and completed in 1930. It remains intact with the exception of two minor additions. It is one of the few surviving structures from the period 1900-1940, when the canyons of the Wasatch Range were first developed for recreation. It is distinctive in that it has served as the mountain headquarters for one of the earliest private groups in the region dedicated to the appreciation and conservation of nature.

A brief history of the early years of the Wasatch Mountain Club reveals the essential reasons for the construction of the lodge. At the start of the century few people went into the mountains for recreational purposes. A few hiked by themselves and met by chance. Eventually a nucleus of such men and women formed to hike together for companionship. Their interest spread to the winter season as snow touring was added to their activities.

Realizing the potential for growth of public interest in the outdoors, the group officially incorporated as a non-profit organization on May 13, 1920 under the name of The Wasatch Mountain Club, Inc. There were thirteen charter members. Growth came rapidly and before long there were several hundred members. Special committees were established to manage club programs, arrange transportation and handle publicity.

For eight years, 1920 to 1928, the Club expanded into a number of enterprises. Frequently public officials such as the mayors of Ogden and Salt Lake joined them on particular events. C. Clarence Neslen, then mayor of Salt Lake, was listed as a member. The Club was active in civic projects, built a toboggan slide east of Salt Lake City near Dry Canyon, and was instrumental in obtaining government protection for Timpanogos Cave in American Fork Canyon. It also publicized the present Southern Utah Parks areas and thus was of assistance in obtaining National Park status.

Toward the end of the 1920's it became evident that the Club needed a cabin or lodge to serve as its mountain headquarters. With the cooperation of the U.S. Forest Service, the present site was selected for the lease of land on which to build. Its location near Salt Lake City would allow convenient access to members and yet provide enjoyment of the natural beauty and ruggedness of the Wasatch Mountains.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Past copies of The Rambler (Official Club publication) dating from 1923

Historical research papery by Lawrence Vanderplas dated November 15, 1974.

Newspaper articles: Salt Lake Tribune, 2-14-1935; Deseret News, 11-1978

10. Geographical Data **ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED** **UTM NOT VERIFIED**

Acreage of nominated property 1/16

Quadrangle name Brighton, Utah

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	2	4	5	0	6	2	0	4	4	9	3	8	6	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 Located in Salt Lake County at head of Big Cottonwood Canyon (Brighton) 25 miles southeast of Salt Lake City, Utah, in the Wasatch Mountain Range. Situation on 1/16 of an acre leased from the U.S. Forest Service on a dead end road above the Brighton Basin South of the Majestic and Mary ski lifts. S.W. 1/16 Section 35, T2, S.R. 3 E, Salt Lake Meridian as shown on plat taken from Brighton Layout Plan.

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

state code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Clare Davis

organization Wasatch Mountain Club, Inc.

date Feb 5, 1980

street & number 3645 Golden Hills Avenue

telephone 942-6065

city or town Salt Lake City

state Utah 84121

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Melvin T. Smith

title Melvin T. Smith, State Historic Preservation Officer

date 5/5/80

For HCRS use only

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

Paul M. Dwyer
Keeper of the National Register

date 11/10/80

Attest: Paul Foster Reed
Chief of Registration

date 11/7/80

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For HCRS use only

received MAY 20 1980

date entered NOV 10 1980

Continuation sheet

Item number

8

Page

2

The solid lodge which stands today is the result of the enthusiasm and work of those early members who approached the project in the summer of 1929 when the foundation was undertaken. The following summer trees in the area were felled and hauled to the building site by teams of horses. Under the supervision of several skilled craftsmen the logs were peeled, cut to length, trimmed and hoisted into place for the walls and interior structure. The rough stone work was accomplished for the construction of the imposing fireplace and its two story chimney. By the fall of 1930, with the exception of finishing touches, the main part of the structure was completed and ready for use.

Through the years the lodge has served as the focal point for summer and winter hikes and snow tours to Catharine Pass; the lakes Mary, Martha and Catharine; Twin Lakes; Clayton Peak and other trails in the area. With the clarity of a crystal ball, the chairman of the lodge committee in 1929 foresaw that "unquestionably, Brighton is and will continue to be a preferable local retreat of its kind . . . and it is not improbable that Brighton will develop into a real locale for winter sports". Subsequent events have upheld his forecast.

In June, 1970, Governor Rampton declared "Wasatch Mountain Club Week" to honor the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Club. This was an honor not only for the recreational aspects of the Club but to recognize its contribution to conservation efforts and the encouragement of appreciation of our natural resources. The Lodge played its part as a background to these commendable activities.

Access to the lodge has not been restricted to Club members. Its use is available to the public and has provided facilities for church groups, scout troops, family reunions, community organizations, university groups, etc. It has even served as a surrogate wedding chapel and the setting for amateur chamber music festivals. It can accommodate 150 people comfortable for daytime activities and house 50 people overnight. The lodge is operated on a non-profit basis with charges levied only to cover operating and maintenance expenses.

The lodge is unique, also, in that it is the survivor of companion rustic edifices which were constructed in the early days of Brighton. The original M.I.A. Lodge, the Davis Lodge, the Alpine Rose Lodge have vanished -- the victims of fire. The Brighton Hotel was boarded shut, suffered vandalism and eventually was demolished.

Although less than \$5,000 was required for materials and labor at the time of its construction, it has been estimated that the lodge could not be duplicated for \$150,000. It probably would not be possible to duplicate the log and stone work at any price. Its value as a setting for club activities of the 600+ members and for public functions could not be adequately equated. As a superb example of early rustic construction it merits inclusion on the State and National Registers of Historic and Cultural Sites.