

56-1857

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 Prentice Boy Scout Cabin
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 1600 Block of Washington Street N/A not for publication
city or town Prentice N/A vicinity
state Wisconsin code WI county Price code 099 zip code 54556

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.)

John A. [Signature] _____ Date 9/26/17
Signature of certifying official/Title
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

Prentice Boy Scout Cabin

Price

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:)

Elson H. Beall

11.24.17

[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)	
		contributing	noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	1	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	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)
SOCIAL/clubhouse

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)
SOCIAL/clubhouse

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Late 19th and Early 20th Century American Movements

Other/ Rustic

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete

walls log

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

1959 - 1967

Significant Dates

1959

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.)

Prentice Boy Scout Cabin
Name of Property

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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 2.2 acres

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

1 15 711488.51 5047440.15
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 Lacey
organization
street & number W5055 US HWY 10
city or town Neillsville

state WI

date 5-21-2015
telephone 715-743-4799
zip code 54456

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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 Prentice	date	5-21-2016
organization		telephone	715-428-2124
street & number	403 Center Street	zip code	54556
city or town	Prentice	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

Prentice Boy Scout Cabin
Prentice, Price County, Wisconsin

Introduction

The Prentice Boy Scout Cabin, constructed in 1959 in the Rustic Style, is located in the village of Prentice's Boy Scout Park in the 1600 block of Washington Street. The cabin is sited on a hillside overlooking the Jump River, between the river and Washington Street. A neighborhood of mid-twentieth century homes surrounds the park.

The Prentice Boy Scout Cabin is a fine example of a small log cabin, which many communities across the country were constructing as a meeting location for their local Boy Scout troop. A community would come together, 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 boys how to exercise good judgment and helping them develop 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 one-story, front-gable cabin is 19' x 24' and rests on a concrete foundation. Dimension lumber was used to frame the cabin. Round pine logs or poles were then placed in an upright position, side-by-side, to cover the exterior walls of the cabin. Pine plantations are found throughout Central Wisconsin. Tightly planted pine plantations grow very straight pine trees which need to be thinned from time to time. The thinning process offered a great source of building material for this cabin, wood that otherwise might have been discarded.² The two gabled ends of the cabin are clad with upright four-inch wide boards that are notched at the lower edge. These boards project slightly, overlapping the lower pine logs. The wide eaves of the cabin are open and have exposed rafter ends.

The primary façade faces south and the single door of the building is located west of center. The door is of wood with decorative moldings, painted white. To the east of the door is a small side-by-side sliding window with two lights.

The east side of the building has a large fixed window of wood, centered on the wall. The window is divided into twenty lights. The four largest rectangular lights are stacked one above one another in the center of the window. Eight smaller lights are at each side of the center rectangular lights.

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

² *Roundwood timber framing: the greener way to build*, http://www.theecologist.org/green_green-living/home/747067/roundwood_timber_framing_the_greener_way_to_build.html

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The rear, or north, wall of the cabin has no openings. Centered on the wall, a chimney of red brick rises above the roof line and pierces the roof of the gable end. The brick has been applied in a running bond pattern.

The west side of the cabin has a single, wood, double-hung window. The top portion of the window is divided into four lights and the lower portion has one single light.

A secondary, small stone chimney is visible on the west-facing roof. This chimney vents an interior propane stove. The roof of the cabin is clad with asphalt shingles and the entire building is painted barn red.

Interior

The interior of the cabin consists of a single, large room. The floor is of concrete. The walls are clad with upright four-inch wide boards. The ceiling has been lowered, possibly to be insulated, and has several, single-bulb, electric fixtures. Both the walls and ceiling are painted white. A brick fireplace and overmantel is centered on the north wall of the cabin. The brick has been applied in a running bond pattern. A soldier row of upright bricks defines the top of the firebox.

Alterations

The building appears to be in completely original condition and has had no alterations or additions made to it.

Integrity

The building has high exterior and interior integrity, retaining its original plan, materials and construction. The building has not been altered.

Non-contributing resources

The Prentice Boy Scouts have a small, 14' x 20' shed which is located to the north and west of the cabin. The shed was moved to the park from another location to provide additional storage for scouting equipment. The shed has a metal, hipped roof, metal siding and a metal overhead garage door providing access on the north wall.

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Prentice Boy Scout Cabin
Prentice, Price County, Wisconsin

Introduction

The Prentice Boy Scout Cabin is nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A, in the area of Social History for the role it played in Prentice 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 mission 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 ethic-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, as evidenced by the subject cabin, constructed in 1959. The community cabin project introduced the young men of Prentice to the real life experiences of fund raising and teamwork. Working alongside their community leaders and their fathers, 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

Many communities felt obligated 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 Prentice 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 derail 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 Prentice 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 loyalty, courage, and kindness. The construction of a small cabin, with the aid of the community,

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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Prentice Boy Scout Cabin
Prentice, Price County, Wisconsin

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 1959 to 1967. This period of time begins with the year of construction and ends with the year 1967 (50 year closing date). The Prentice Boy Scout Cabin has been in continuous use by the Boy Scouts since its completion.

History of Price County

Price County was formed on March 3, 1879 with land detached from Chippewa and Lincoln counties. The 1879 finalization occurred after the 1877 and 1878 bills to do so were defeated in the State Legislature. The population of the county at this time was approximately 300 people.⁴ The county was named in the honor of William T. Price who served in the Wisconsin State Senate (1857, 1870, 1878 – 1881). Price was the President of the Wisconsin Senate during 1879 Price County formation session.⁵ William T. Price ran an early logging operation in Sections 9 and Section 17 (of what would become Price County) in the fall of 1874. Price operated two logging camps, one in each section. There he harvested 100,000,000 feet of pine logs to fulfill a contractual agreement.⁶ William T. Price was elected to the United States House of Representatives where he served from March 4, 1883 until his death on December 6, 1886.

The topographical nature of Price County is of slightly rolling terrain which in many areas is strewn with granite boulders. Numerous lakes dot the rolling landscape. Several rivers thread their way through the county flowing in various directions. The main lumbering streams included the Elk River, the north and south forks of the Flambeau River and the Jump River, which was the most prominently utilized river of the three. When the lumber entrepreneurs reached the Price County region, they soon realized the vast wealth of available timber. The area was heavily timbered with pine forests and small tracts of maple and basswood. By 1891, Price County would have 4,000 to 5,000 men employed in the forests during the logging season.

The Wisconsin Central Railroad was incorporated by a special act of the Wisconsin Legislature on February 4, 1871 and was given 2,387,000 acres of land for the right away. The railroad was instructed to build a rail line from Menasha to Ashland, in part to open the vast forest of northern

⁴ A. T. Andreas, *History of Northern Wisconsin*, (Western Historical Company, Chicago, 1881), page 766

⁵ George Forrester, *Historical and Biographical Album of the Chippewa Valley, Wisconsin including a general historical sketch of the Chippewa Valley*, (A. Warren, Chicago, 1891), pages 352 -365

⁶ Price County Genealogical Society Newsletter, January – April 2012, pages 1-4

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Prentice Boy Scout Cabin
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Wisconsin for logging. The rail line first built west to Stevens Point, Wisconsin then north through Colby, Wisconsin. It continued through Prentice, Wisconsin arriving in Worchester, just north of Prentice, on January 6, 1874.⁷

The Minneapolis, Sault Ste. Marie Railroad (Soo Line) was organized to build a rail line from Minneapolis to Sault Ste. Marie for the purpose of transporting grain and timber products to the ships of the Great Lakes. This opened the Eastern markets to Midwestern goods, independent of eastern railroads. Construction of the rail line was completed in December of 1887. Prentice became a hub of rail travel with the intersection of both rail lines.⁸ The railroads provided assistance to the various Price County logging operations, both in the early years of the harvest and in later years when railroad spurs were built deep into the woods to reach the remaining pine timber.⁹

The Jump River Lumber Company was formed on September 4, 1882 with capital of \$60,000. The officers in the company were C. L. Gallett president, O. D. Van Dusen - Vice-President, Miles Alverson - Secretary, L. Breese - Treasurer, F. H. Lewis Manager and Alexander Prentice - Assistant Manager. Each of these men owned one-sixth of the company stock.¹⁰ One early morning in 1882, Alexander Prentice and O. D. Van Dusen¹¹ took a train from Dorchester to where the rail line crossed the Jump River. The train stopped to let them depart and the engineer was instructed to pick them up on his return trip. During that day they explored the area selecting a site for a dam and sawmill. After returning to Dorchester, Prentice, Gallett, and Lewis returned with a freight car loaded with lumber, tools, provisions, and carpenters and set about building a cook shanty before clearing a site for the mill.¹²

An eight-foot-high dam was built across the Jump River. The Jump River Lumber Company constructed a 70' x 100' steam operated saw mill which contained two band saws manufactured by the Edward Allis Co. Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Two additional buildings were built on the east side of the

⁷ A Timeline of the Wisconsin Central Railway a Major Predecessor of the Soo Line Railroad, <http://kohlin.com/soo/wc-hist-htm>

⁸ *Soo Line Railroad Company: an Inventory of Its Company Records at the Minnesota Historical Society*, <http://www/2.mnhs.org/library/findaids/00343.xmi> pages 1-2

⁹ George Forrester, *Historical and Biographical Album of the Chippewa Valley, Wisconsin including a general historical sketch of the Chippewa Valley*, (A. Warren, Chicago, 1891), pages 352 - 365

¹⁰ Article by a newspaper reporter from 1883, from the collection of historic photos and documents of Dale Heikkinen, Prentice, Wisconsin

¹¹ S. F. Sackett, *A Glimpse at the Early History of the State of Wisconsin Relating to Price County*, 1905, Booklet found at Phillips Library, article from 1884 by early resident Mrs. Rublee A. Cole.

¹² Price County WIGenWeb Project, *Prentice*, from the *History of Prentice*, <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~wiprice/prentice.html>

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Prentice Boy Scout Cabin
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mill.¹³ The company built a large company store in the fall of 1882 along with a fifty-room hotel known as the Jump River House. Several homes were built to house employees and their families.¹⁴ Al, Otto, Art, Charley and John Ringling were in the beginning stages of their entertainment business. Since they were friends of the men who owned the Jump River Lumber Company, they brought their Ringling Classic Comic Concert Company for a performance in the lobby of the new Jump River Hotel.¹⁵

A shingle mill and a 50' x 120' planing mill were added to the Jump River Lumber Company operation in 1884. The height of the dam was increased to twenty feet creating a mill pond that had the capacity of holding 12,000,000 feet of logs.¹⁶ The expansion of the Jump River Lumber Company's operations in Prentice facilitated the production of 100,000 feet of lumber per day under the employment of 450 men.

A post office was established in 1883 with Alexander Prentice as the postmaster. When the village was surveyed, platted and recorded on May 24, 1884, the last name of the postmaster was selected to be the name of the village.¹⁷ The Jump River Lumber Company placed a caveat on all lot sales prohibiting the establishment of any businesses within the village for six years, expiring in 1890.¹⁸

A frame school house was built for the children of the loggers. As the years passed, churches were built, and a newspaper was established. When the Jump River Lumber Company business ban expired in 1890, small businesses began to establish themselves in Prentice. A. P. Morner erected a large building and opened a general store. A large public hall for community activities was built in 1891 by Joseph Rabdew. In 1891, the Prentice Tanning Company built a large plant complex on over thirty acres of land. The company produced 200,000 sides of sole leather annually. The Prentice Tanning Company constructed twenty double-tenements to house their employees, adding to the growth of the village. An addition to the village was surveyed and platted in September of 1891 by Jump River

¹³ Selma Haag, *Prentice Centennial Album 1878 – 1978*, (Village of Prentice, 1978), page 17, quoting a c1900 article by a Chicago Lumber Journal.

¹⁴ George Forrester, *Historical and Biographical Album of the Chippewa Valley, Wisconsin including a general historical sketch of the Chippewa Valley*, (A. Warren, Chicago, 1891), pages 352-365

¹⁵ Selma Haag, *Prentice Centennial Album 1878 – 1978*, (Village of Prentice, 1978), pages 11-66

¹⁶ Selma Haag, *Prentice Centennial Album 1878 - 1978*, (Village of Prentice, 1978), page 17, quoting a c1900 article by a Chicago Lumber Journal.

¹⁷ George Forrester, *Historical and Biographical Album of the Chippewa Valley, Wisconsin including a general historical sketch of the Chippewa Valley*, (A. Warren, Chicago, 1891), pages 352-365

¹⁸ Selma Haag, *Prentice Centennial Album 1878 – 1978*, (Village of Prentice, 1978), pages 11-66

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Lumber Company's superintendent C. R. Gallett. The year-round population of the village in 1891 was 750 people.¹⁹

Within twenty-five years most of the pine had been harvested. Smaller logging interests turned to the remaining hardwood and hemlock transforming them into finished lumber. The cut-over lands were purchased by new settlers and farms began to appear. Due to the shortened growing season, dairy farming emerged as the best use for the land. As with other regions in Northern Wisconsin at the close of the lumbering era, the lakes and rivers in the Prentice area became a destination for fishermen, hunters and tourists in the early- and mid-1900s. This led to a surge to tourist related businesses such as gas stations, bait shops, restaurants, and hotels.

Leo Heikkinen opened Heikkinen Machine Shop in 1945. A new innovation was just on the horizon which would bring employment to Prentice. In his machine shop, Leo performed repairs and welding of heavy equipment, repaired chain saws, and manufactured mechanical jammers. The Heikkinen Machine Shop grew to become a multi-million dollar corporation producing Leo's invention of the hydraulic loader (jammer). This hydraulic loader is built as a separate vehicle but is also mounted on the rear of all logging trucks hauling full sized logs. The hydraulic loader enables easy loading and unloading of logging trucks but it has also found its way into the construction, marine, and sugar cane industries.

Prentice Hydraulics incorporated in 1959 and expanded its facilities several times from 1945 to 1966. In 1966, Prentice Hydraulics employed 340 people as the largest employer in Prentice and had annual sales of nine million dollars.²⁰ The Caterpillar Forestry Division currently produces the hydraulic loader.

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.²¹ 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

¹⁹ George Forrester, *Historical and Biographical Album of the Chippewa Valley, Wisconsin including a general historical sketch of the Chippewa Valley*, (A. Warren, Chicago, 1891), pages 352-365

²⁰ *Prentice Progress and Leo Heikkinen Day August 31, 1996*, Booklet sponsored by various Prentice businesses, pages 1-8

²¹ *Why the Boy Scouts Work*, Heather MacDonald, City Journal, http://www.city-journal.org/html/10_1_why_the_boy.html, pages 1-9

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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.”²² 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, IL. 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 was 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.²³ 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 actual president of the organization.²⁴

On June 21, 1910, 34 national representatives from various boys groups met and their organizations merged into the Boys Scouts of America.²⁵ By the fall of that year the Boy Scouts of America had over 2,500 applications for leaders from 44 states.²⁶

Ernest Thompson Seton authored the first Boy Scout handbook called *A Handbook of Woodcraft, Scouting and Life-craft*²⁷ 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.²⁸ The handbook was the core of scouting and it’s over-whelming theme was selflessness and thoughtfulness toward others. “We send out our “Official

²² *Boy Scouts of America Official Handbook for Boys*, (Doubleday, Page & Co., Garden City, New York, 1911), page v, vi of Preface

²³ *History of the Boy Scouts of America*,

<http://www.scoutlander.com/publicsite/unitcustom.aspx?UID=14833&CUSTOMID=47994>, pages 1-11

²⁴ *Founders*, Boy Scouts of America official site, <http://www.scouting.org/About/FactSheets/Founders.aspx>, pages 1-3

²⁵ *Founders*, Boy Scouts of American official site, <http://www.scouting.org/About/FactSheets/Founders.aspx>, pages 1-3

²⁶ *History of the Boy Scouts of America*,

<http://www.scoutlander.com/publicsite/unitcustom/asp?UID=14833&CUSTOMID=47994>, pages 1-11

²⁷ *History of Scouting: Founders*, <http://historyofscouting.com/founders.htm>, pages 1-2

²⁸ *Boy Scouts of America Official Handbook for Boys*, (Doubleday, Page & Co. Publishing, Garden City, N.Y., 1911) preface vi

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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.”²⁹

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.”³⁰

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.³¹

Parents seized on 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 the 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

²⁹ *Boys Scouts of America Official Handbook for Boys*, (Doubleday, Page & Co., Garden City, New York, 1911), page vi Preface

³⁰ *Why the Boy Scouts Work*, Heather MacDonald, City Journal, http://www.city-journal.org/html/10_1_why_the_boy.html, pages 1-9

³¹ *Boys Scouts of America Handbook for Boys*, (Doubleday, Page & Co., Garden City, New York, 1911), pages 3-10

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virtues using the methods which are now in common use by boy scouts.”³²In 1918, Rotary International became the first service club to begin sponsoring Boy Scout troops.³³

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 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.³⁴ 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

³² *Boy Scouts of America Official Handbook for Boys*, (Double Day Page & Co., Garden City, NY, 1911), pages VIII, IX

³³ *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

³⁴ *Boy Scouts of America Official Handbook for Boys*, (Doubleday, Page & Co., Garden City, New York, 1911), pages 10-43

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down a tree, how to notch the logs for assembly and how to chink between the logs.³⁵ 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.³⁶ It is hard to say whether these two instructive printings enticed the Prentice 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 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.³⁷

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.

³⁵ *Boy Scouts of America Official Handbook for Boys*, (Double Day, Page & Co., Garden City, N. Y., 1911), pages 59-63

³⁶ *Shelters, Shacks and Shanties*, by Daniel C. Beard, 1914, http://www.shelterpub.com/shelter/sss_book.html

³⁷ *Scout - the Boy Scout Handbook A Guide to Adventure, A Guide for Life*, (Boy Scouts of America, Irving Texas, 2011), pages 2-23,27, 28, 51, 61, 444,445

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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 its 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. 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.

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History of the Prentice Boy Scout Cabin

The year 1952 saw the worst outbreak of polio in United States history. The peak age for the onset of the disease had shifted to children from five to nine years of age. Schools closed, drinking fountains were abandoned, and Jonas Salk set about finding a vaccine. By the end of 1952, Salk began the rigorous testing of his new vaccine. After the vaccine successfully completed clinical trials in 1957, mass immunizations of both adults and children occurred across the country. These immunizations were promoted by the March of Dimes.³⁸

Once the polio terror that swept the country subsided, the late 1950s and early 1960s saw the peak of membership in the Boy Scouts of America. The baby-boomer generation had reached school age and many parents enrolled their sons into scouting.³⁹

In February of 1957, the Veterans of Foreign Wars surrendered their sponsorship of the Prentice Boy Scouts to the Brotherhood of the First Lutheran Church of Prentice. Participation in the troop had dwindled, due in part to the polio scare. The Brotherhood of the First Lutheran Church did not want to jeopardize losing the Prentice Boy Scout charter due to troop inactivity. The call went out to the community to once again support scouting in Prentice.⁴⁰

In June of 1959, construction began on a Boy Scout Cabin in a small, city-owned park adjacent to the Jump River. Scoutmaster Bill Ostling, committee chairman Lloyd Ruka, and cabin committee members Jim Guzinski, Art Fandrey, Reverend Donald Berg, and Arne Larson, oversaw the cabin project. Carroll Danielson was placed in charge of building the 19' x 24' cabin with the assistance of the local scouts.⁴¹

In July of 1959, the Prentice Lions Club sponsored an auction to raise money for the scout cabin. The newspaper reported that Prentice Boy Scout Troop 383 would be going door to door collecting donated items to be placed up for auction. Two auctioneers from Phillips donated their services for the Boy Scout auction.⁴² The auction was held in the Prentice Village Park where Prentice Boy Scouts helped

³⁸ *Fear of Polio in the 1950's*, by Beth Sokol, 1997, www.plosin.com/beatbegins/projects/sokol.html

³⁹ *History of the Boy Scouts of America*,
<http://www.scoutlander.com/publicsite/unitcustom.aspx?UID=14833&CUSTOMID=47994>

⁴⁰ *Prentice News*, February 28, 1957 "Boy Scouts Being Reactivated"

⁴¹ *Prentice News*, June 4, 1959, "Boy Scout Cabin Being Built"

⁴² *Prentice News*, July 2, 1959, "Auction is Being Planned for Boy Scout Cabin Fund"

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by holding up each item as it was auctioned and sold.⁴³ The auction was a huge success raising \$840 to be used to finish the cabin.⁴⁴

After the auction, work continued on the cabin. Jim Bures from Phillips, Wisconsin, built the brick fireplace and chimney. By January of 1960, the regular meetings of the Prentice Boy Scouts were being held in their new cabin.⁴⁵ What money was left over from the cabin construction project was placed in an account to fund the Prentice Boy Scout project.

Currently the Village of Prentice maintains ownership of the cabin property which is located in Boy Scout Park. The Village has assumed responsibility for the cost of the electricity for the cabin, while the Prentice Boy Scout Troop 583 is responsible for the upkeep of the cabin and storage building. Scout Master Larry Foltz oversees a continuing fund of donations and monies that are raised by the scouts. These monies are used to fund the scouting program and to maintain the cabin.⁴⁶

The Prentice Boy Scout Cabin is still regularly used for scouting activities. This includes meetings in the cabin and outdoor activities of fishing, swimming, and canoeing in the Jump River. In addition to the cabin, the Prentice Boys Scouts have been given 40 acres of land three miles east of Prentice which they use for camping.⁴⁷ Prentice Boy Scout Troop 583 is part of the Samoset Council headquartered in Weston, Wisconsin.

Conclusion: Criterion A - History

How enduring was the scouting experience? Did it really persist 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.⁴⁸ 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.

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

⁴³ *Prentice News*, July 9, 1959, "Prentice Auction Set for Saturday"

⁴⁴ *Prentice News*, July 16, 1959, "Scout Auction Has Good Response"

⁴⁵ *Prentice News*, February 11, 1960, "Scouts are Using Cabin on River"

⁴⁶ Interview with Larry Foltz Scout master and member of the Samoset Council Board

⁴⁷ Interview with Dale Heikkinen

⁴⁸ *Benefits*, Boy Scouts of America, www.scouting.org/parent/benefits.aspx

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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 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 Prentice 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. Parents enrolled their sons in scouting with the hope that the program would instill lasting character. Many communities felt obligated or almost duty-bound to provide the means for a Boy Scout meeting place.

The building of the Prentice Boy Scout Cabin was a true community effort: both churches and service clubs worked together to ensure the success of the Prentice scouting program; residents donated money and items for the scout auction; the Village of Prentice provided the park-like setting; and community members, fathers, and the local scouts worked together to build this cabin. Numerous former Prentice Boy Scouts went on to fill diverse social roles in their community as business leaders, teachers, tradesmen, parents and public servants.

Summary

The Prentice 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 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, member organizations for children. This cabin, having been built in 1959, is particularly instructive in demonstrating that cabin building as a scouting project was not limited to the early decades of the Boy Scout movement, but continued as a popular activity across many decades and into the modern era. The Prentice 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

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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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Verbal Boundary Description:

1-35-1EPRT OF SE-NE 6-35-2E PRT OF W1/2 NW1/4 PCL DESC IN 13D-65 (OUTLOT 1
CSM#538 VOL 2 PG 389)

Boundary Justification:

The boundaries enclose all the land that has historically been associated with the Prentice Boy Scout Cabin.

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Prentice Boy Scout Cabin
Prentice, Price County, Wisconsin

Name of Property:	Prentice Boy Scout Cabin
City or Vicinity:	Prentice
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
South-facing facade.
Camera facing northwest

Photo 2
East facing façade (with window) and north facing façade (with chimney).
Camera facing southwest

Photo 3
Interior of cabin.
Camera facing northeast.

Photo 4
Cabin fireplace.
Camera facing north.

Photo 5
Non-contributing storage shed.
Camera facing east.

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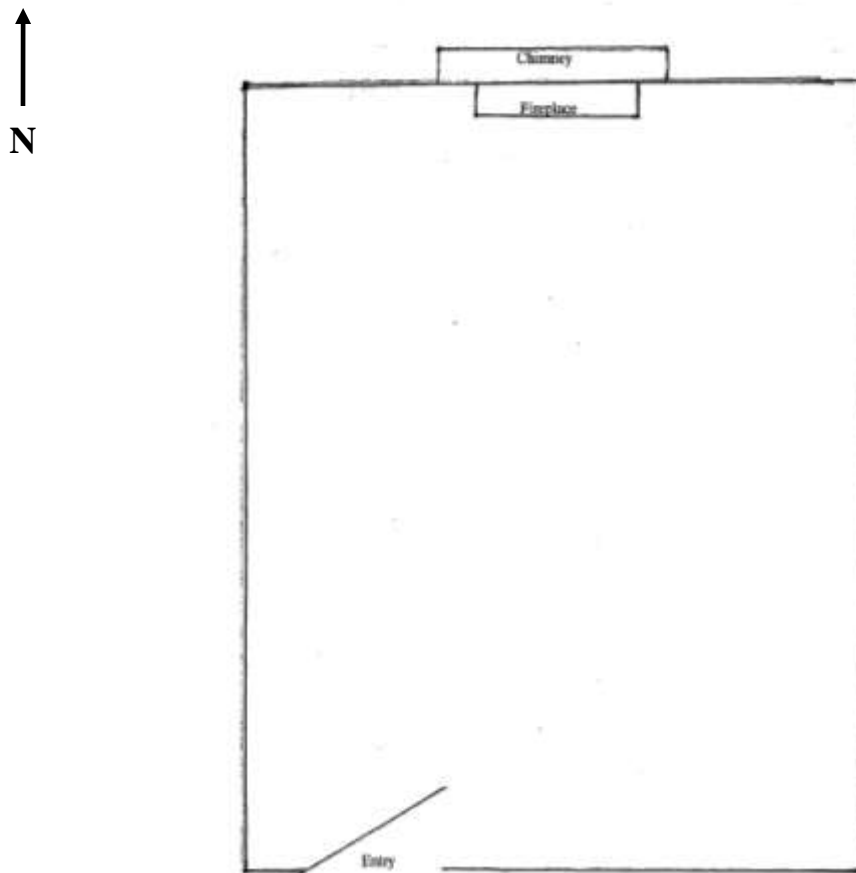
List of Figures:

Figure 1: Sketch plan drawing, not to scale

Figure 2: Map of Boy Scout regions in Wisconsin

Figure 3: Historic Photograph, c1960

Figure 1: Sketch plan drawing, not to scale



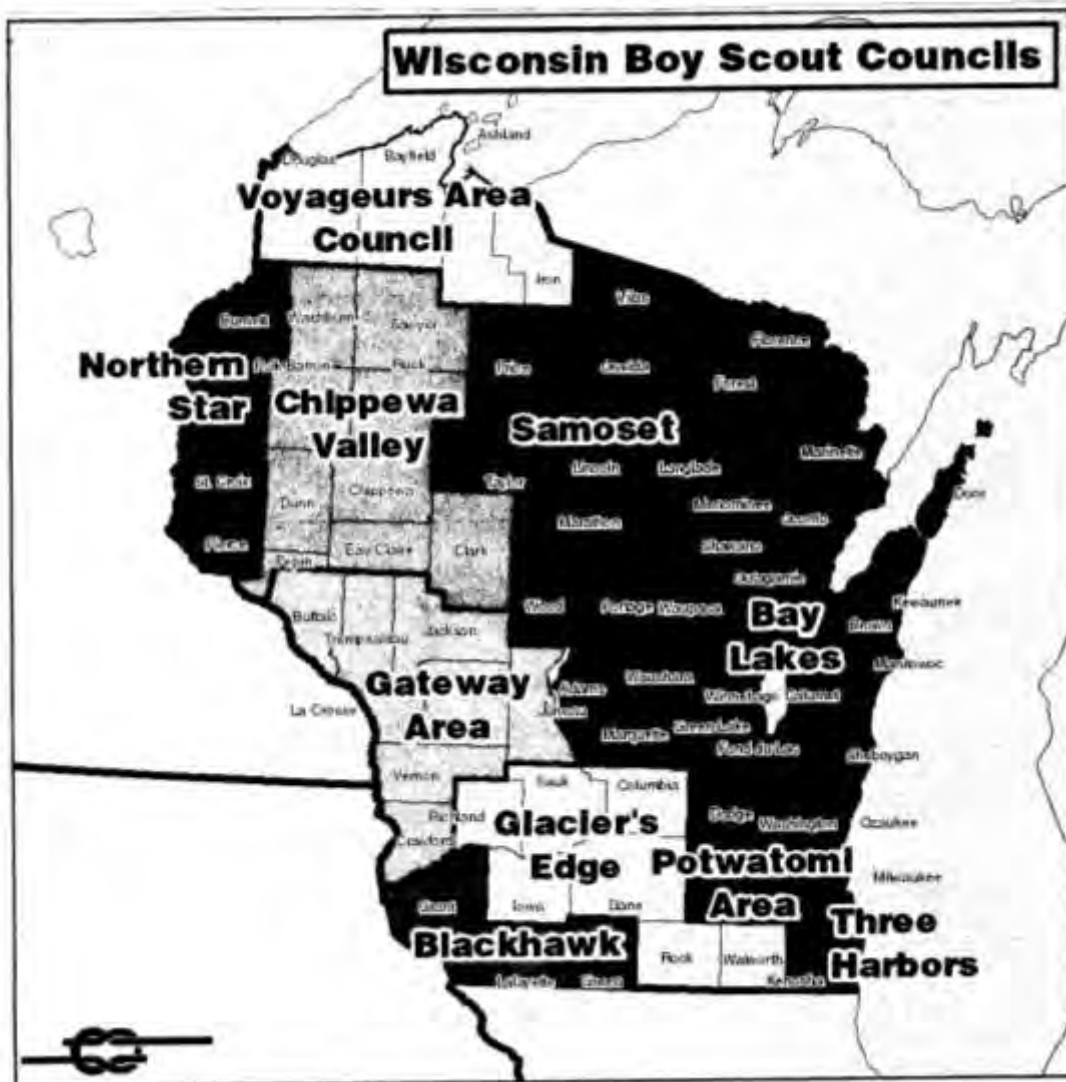
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Figure 2: Map of Boy Scout regions in Wisconsin



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Figure 3: Historic Photograph, c1960









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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: 10/10/2017 Date of Pending List: 11/14/2017 Date of 16th Day: 11/29/2017 Date of 45th Day: 11/24/2017 Date of Weekly List: 11/24/2017

Reference number:

Nominator:

Reason For Review:

Accept Return Reject 11/24/2017 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 Fifth day of October 2017, for the nomination of the Prentice 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
- 2 Map(s)
- 3 Sketch map(s)/figures(s)/exhibit(s)
- 1 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: