



**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 Maple Bluff Boy Scout Cabin
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number	296 Woodland Circle	N/A	not for publication
city or town	Maple Bluff	N/A	vicinity
state Wisconsin	code WI	county Dane	code 025
			zip code 53704

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets _ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant _ nationally _ statewide x locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Karina Teubner
Signature of certifying official/Title

9/20/2017
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

Maple Bluff Boy Scout Cabin

Dane

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 H. 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)	
		contributing	noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)		
<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		1 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

1943 - 1967

Significant Dates

1943

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

N/A

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

Maple Bluff Boy Scout Cabin
Name of Property

Dane
County and State

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 1 acre

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

1 16T 307633.21 4775695.61
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	date	5-21-2016
organization		telephone	715-743-4799
street & number	W5055 US HWY 10	zip code	54456
city or town	Neillsville	state	WI

Maple Bluff Boy Scout Cabin

Dane

Wisconsin

Name of Property

County and State

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 Maple Bluff	date	5-21-2016
organization		telephone	608-244-3048
street & number	18 Oxford Place	zip code	53704
city or town	Maple Bluff	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

Maple Bluff Boy Scout Cabin
Maple Bluff, Dane County, Wisconsin

Introduction

The Maple Bluff Boy Scout Cabin, built in 1943 in the Rustic style, is located in Firemen's Park, a small park in Maple Bluff, and located directly north of the Maple Bluff Village Center. A covered picnic shelter with tables is directly west of the cabin. The nominated property includes the Boy Scout cabin and the picnic shelter, which is non-contributing. The larger park includes the Boy Scout Cabin, a Girl Scout Building, swings, sandboxes and a picnic shelter but the nominated boundary only includes the Boy Scout Cabin and the adjacent picnic shelter. The area around the cabin is grass covered with a few mature trees. A railroad track is located thirty yards from the rear of the cabin forming the east boundary of Firemen's Park as well as that of the Village of Maple Bluff. Mid- to late-twentieth century homes are found on both Kensington Street and Woodland Circle, the streets that are west and north of the park.

The Maple Bluff 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 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, 33' x 42'-6", front-gabled cabin rests on a concrete foundation. The cabin is constructed of medium sized logs which are laid horizontally. The gable ends are clad with vertical boards of varying widths. The eaves of the roof are open exposing the rafter ends.

The corners of the building utilize 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 often, as in the case of the Maple Bluff Boy Scout Cabin, the notch is made several inches to a foot from the end of the log creating the corner log junction which we are the most familiar with.

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

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Section 7 Page 2

Maple Bluff Boy Scout Cabin
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The main façade of the cabin faces south and has a centered door. Above the main door is a sign which reads "Troop 5" referring to the original Maple Bluff Boy Scout Troop. A narrow, four-unit ribbon window is located to the east and to the west of the door. Each unit of the ribbon window is comprised of a six-light casement window which swings open into the interior of the cabin. The exterior of each individual unit of the ribbon window is covered by a swing-open window screen. Each window screen is divided into six rectangles which are covered with heavy gauge metal screening. The window screens swing outward.

The side of the building facing west is gabled, with a door within the northern one-third of the building. A three-unit ribbon window, identical to the four-window units of the main façade, is located to the south of the door.

The rear of the cabin faces north and has a massive quarried limestone chimney. The chimney is constructed of varying sizes of rectangular and square stone blocks. The chimney rises from ground level maintaining a consistent width piercing the north-facing roofline. A pair of windows, identical in design and materials to the windows of the main façade, is located both to the east and west of the chimney.

The east-facing side is gabled and has no window or door openings. The roof of the cabin is clad with dark brown asphalt shingles. The logs of the cabin, gable end boards, window trim, and doors are painted a dark brown. A small metal shed is located directly behind the east facing wall of the cabin.

Interior

The interior of the cabin consists of a single, large room. The floor is covered with hardwood boards. The logs are visible on the interior walls of the cabin. They are painted the same brown color as the exterior of the cabin. The ceiling of the cabin is open, displaying the 2" X 4" joists located in the peak. Because the Village of Maple Bluff had concerns over the strength of the walls, steel cables have been stretched from the south wall to the north wall. The steel cables secure the walls from bowing outward. The walls of the gable ends and the ceiling rafters have been covered with plywood and the surface of the plywood is painted white.

A floor to ceiling stone fireplace is centered on the north wall of the cabin. The fireplace uses the same stone as the exterior chimney. A wood mantel rests upon two protruding stones of the fireplace. An upright row of rectangular stones that has a larger central keystone, defines the top edge of the firebox.

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Maple Bluff Boy Scout Cabin
Maple Bluff, Dane County, Wisconsin

Picnic Shelter, non-contributing

The picnic shelter is of modern construction and is an open-sided structure with a roof covering picnic tables. The floor is a poured concrete slab on grade, four corner posts of wood and wood framing supports the simple gabled roof. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles. All of the wood components of the shelter are painted a brown color to match the adjacent cabin.

Alterations

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

Integrity

The cabin is in very good condition both on the exterior and interior and has high integrity, being unchanged from its date of construction. The Village of Maple Bluff has some concerns about the condition of some of the logs and is currently having them inspected.

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Section 8 Page 1

Maple Bluff Boy Scout Cabin
Maple Bluff, Dane County Wisconsin

Introduction

The Maple Bluff 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 Maple Bluff 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, such as the subject cabin, constructed in 1943. The community cabin project introduced the young men of Maple Bluff 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.²

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 Maple Bluff 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 Maple Bluff 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

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

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Section 8 Page 2

Maple Bluff Boy Scout Cabin
Maple Bluff, Dane County Wisconsin

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 1943 to 1967. This period of time begins with the year of construction and ends with the year 1967 (50 year closing date). The Maple Bluff Boy Scout Cabin has been in continuous use by the Maple Bluff Boy Scouts since its completion.

History of Dane County and the development of the Village of Maple Bluff

The Village of Maple Bluff is located along the east shore of Lake Mendota in the Township of Madison (Sections 1 and 12 7N R9E) and in the Township of Westport (Section 36 8N R9E). It is surrounded by the city of Madison. The occupation of this area, prior to the United States treaties of August 1, 1829, 1832, and November 1837, was the Ho-chunk Nation. After the implementation of these three treaties, the Ho-Chunk Indians were moved west of the Mississippi and Dane County was opened for European settlement. The Ho-Chunk referred to the area of what would become the City of Madison as Taychopera "the region of Four Lakes" and had permanent encampments throughout the Four Lakes region. Other Ho-Chunk tribes from Portage and Wisconsin Dells would come to the Four Lakes in the summer and set up camps to fish and hunt. The Four Lakes abounded with sturgeon, muskellunge, northern pike, and many varieties of smaller species.³

When the Federal Government opened land sales in Wisconsin in 1835, one year prior to the creation of the Territory of Wisconsin, James Duane Doty and Michigan Governor Stevens Mason created the Four Lakes Land Company. They purchased 1,000 acres of land (for \$1.25 per acre) in an area of Dane County known as Four Lakes.⁴ Specifically, their land was located in the prairie and oak opening area between Lake Mendota (Fourth Lake) and Lake Monona (Third Lake) and would have included the Maple Bluff area.

James Duane Doty, a large Wisconsin landowner and representative in the Michigan legislature, lobbied tirelessly for the creation of the Wisconsin Territory. On July 3, 1836 President Andrew Jackson created the Territory of Wisconsin with lands which eventually would become the states of Iowa, Minnesota and the eastern portions of North and South Dakota. Additional lobbying by James Duane Doty assured that the capital would be located in Madison, Wisconsin.⁵

³ Douglas McLean, *Maple Bluff A History of the Village and the Community*, 1974 booklet, pages 1-29

⁴ *History of Madison*, Daniel S. Durrie, librarian of the Historical Society of Wisconsin, (Atwood & Culver Printers, Madison, Wisconsin, 1874), page 46, 58

⁵ *History of Dane County Wisconsin*, (Western Historical Company, Chicago, 1880), pages 41-51

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Maple Bluff Boy Scout Cabin
Maple Bluff, Dane County Wisconsin

When former president James Madison died on June 28, 1836, Doty named the capital city in his honor. Doty was ingenious in implementing anything that would help him procure the favor from the territorial legislature who would decide the placement of the Wisconsin Territory capital.⁶ James Duane Doty quickly hired surveyor John Suydam and together they created a plat map of the city. Doty needed something to present to the territorial legislature who would vote on the location of the capital. If Madison was selected, Doty and Mason stood to make a big return on their investment.

The vote went Doty's way and Madison was designated to be the capitol of the Wisconsin Territory. The cornerstone was laid for the new capital building on July 4, 1837. All of the stone that was quarried for the capital building came from the limestone cliffs located in Maple Bluff. The limestone was ferried across Lake Mendota from the Maple Bluff cliffs to the foot of Hamilton Street.

After Madison was selected as territorial capitol, others began to buy land to buy land around Madison. In 1843, James Douglas MacBride purchased five hundred acres of land on Lake Mendota which stretched from East Gorham Street to the State Hospital for the Insane. This area came to be known as MacBride's Point. MacBride built a large Victorian home and moved his family from Milroy, Indiana to their new residence. MacBride's property was not operated as a farm but as an estate. MacBride was a horticulturist who enjoyed growing many varieties of trees on his property. MacBride died in 1854 and his property was divided into several pieces. His son Alexander kept the house and the parcel of land surrounding the house. His son John kept the land that encompassed Fuller's Woods. By 1861, nine men owned various parcels of land in Maple Bluff.

Leonard J. Farwell, who served as the second governor of Wisconsin (1852-1854), purchased part of the MacBride estate. He also purchased land encompassing the outlet of Lake Mendota (today known as the Yahara River which flows into the isthmus). Farwell built a dam at outlet and raised the level of Lake Mendota by about 4 feet. He also straightened the path of the Yahara River as it flowed through the isthmus. The waterpower that was created was used to operate a saw mill and a grist mill. He laid out the roads into the surrounding countryside including Lodi Road (Sherman Avenue). Maple Bluff still remained isolated from the growing city of Madison.

In 1871 the Chicago & NorthWestern Railroad built a rail line between Madison and Minneapolis, Minnesota. The tracks took a northwest direction and became the northern and eastern boundary of Maple Bluff.

⁶ Madison Magazine, "What's in a Name" by Adam J. Schrager, www.madisonmagazine.com/Madison-Magazine/May-2014/Whats-in-a-Name, page 1

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Maple Bluff Boy Scout Cabin
Maple Bluff, Dane County Wisconsin

In the early 1870s Halle Steensland purchased 129 acres of land on MacBride's Point which included the MacBride house where Steensland took up residence. In 1880, Steensland purchased an additional 64 acres. In 1887, Steensland platted his Lake Mendota shoreline holdings into lots for summer cottages. After lots were purchased, summer cottages were not built. Instead, large year-round homes emerged and by 1890 these dwellings housed prominent families including the family of a young Thornton Wilder.

The City Boat Company ferried passengers, groceries and mail from the University boat house to Maple Bluff. The Kurtz and Huegle Ice Company started operations in Maple Bluff in 1890. The ice of Lake Mendota had wonderful quality and it was shipped all over the United States by rail. M. J. Hoven opened a slaughterhouse in the vicinity of the ice company. The cattle used to produce sausage were grazed on the fields of Maple Bluff.

In 1897 the Madison Park and Pleasure Drive Association built a carriage drive through Maple Bluff. This made Maple Bluff a popular destination for picnickers.

By the turn of the century, the early industry that had established in Maple Bluff disappeared. The value of Maple Bluff was found in the picturesque nature of its real estate. In 1905, Senator Robert M. LaFollette purchased the MacBride house and surrounding 60 acres. Maple Bluff was on its way to becoming the location of choice for the homes of prominent Madison politicians and businessmen.

In 1909, Hobart, Carl and Maurice Johnson formed the Lakewood Land Company. They first purchased a tract of land which extended from the Maple Bluff Golf Club to the G. W. Burrows estate. Then they purchased an additional 123 acres of land from various farms, estates, and businesses including the Kurtz and Huegle Ice Company. John Nolen created the plat for Lakewood, which he divided into small lots, wide boulevards and parks. The Johnson brothers rejected the Nolen plan in favor of a plat with fewer, but larger, lots. The Fuller & Johnson Company was located in Madison, Wisconsin and was co-owned by Hobart, Carl and Maurice's father. The Fuller & Johnson Company manufactured farm machinery.

Carl Johnson built his home along the lake beginning construction in the early 1920s. Tragically, Carl's wife died before the building was completed and the house sat empty for several years. After Carl remarried in 1927, the house was finished. Carl lived in the house for five years and then it was sold to Madison Banker Thomas R. Hefty. In 1949, the State of Wisconsin purchased the home and it became the executive residence for the Governor of Wisconsin.

When the Fuller & Johnson Company employees rejected the idea of living in Lakewood, the lots were offered to the general public. Even in the 1920s Maple Bluff was still very isolated from the City

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Maple Bluff Boy Scout Cabin
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of Madison. Only a few lots in Lakewood sold before the Great Depression hit which caused lot prices to drop from \$2,000 to \$700.

The residents of Maple Bluff petitioned the City of Madison for annexation in the late 1920s. The City of Madison rejected the proposal sighting that the area was too rural and not worth developing. In 1930 the home owners who lived the Maple Bluff areas of Lakewood, Fuller's Woods and MacBride's Point began the process of incorporation as the Village of Lakewood Bluff. This first incorporation attempt was abandoned. When residents again began the procedure of incorporation one year later in 1931, it was executed as the Village of Maple Bluff.

The residents of the newly incorporated Maple Bluff financed the development of the village. Roads were paved, storm sewers were installed, sidewalks were constructed, street lights were installed and a fire department was organized. A school was constructed on a tract of donated land.

After financial circumstances eased at the end of the Depression, the lower lot prices encouraged many buyers to purchase lots. Most of the lots in the Lakewood area (Lower Bluff) and Fuller's Woods were sold by World War II. By the mid-1960s, the last areas of the MacBride's Point (Upper Bluff) and the Fuller Estate were residentially developed. The Village of Maple Bluff ultimately developed into a predominately residential community with limited, light commercial activity.⁷

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.⁸ 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."⁹ 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

⁷ Douglas McLean, *Maple Bluff A History of the Village and the Community*, a 1974 Booklet, pages 1-29

⁸ *Why the Boy Scouts Work*, Heather MacDonald, City Journal, http://www.city-journal.org/html/10_1_why_the_boy.html, pages 1-9

⁹ *Boy Scouts of America Official Handbook for Boys*, (Doubleday, Page & Co., Garden City, New York, 1911), page v, vi of Preface

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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.¹⁰ 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.¹¹

On June 21, 1910, 34 national representatives from various boys groups met and their organizations merged into the Boys Scouts of America.¹² By the fall of that year the Boy Scouts of America had over 2,500 applications for leaders from 44 states.¹³

Ernest Thompson Seton authored the first Boy Scout handbook called *A Handbook of Woodcraft, Scouting and Life-craft*¹⁴ 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.¹⁵ The handbook was the core of scouting and its overwhelming 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."¹⁶

¹⁰ *History of the Boy Scouts of America*,

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

¹¹ *Founders*, Boy Scouts of America official site, <http://www.scouting.org/About/FactSheets/Founders.aspx>, pages 1-3

¹² *Founders*, Boy Scouts of American official site, <http://www.scouting.org/About/FactSheets/Founders.aspx>, pages 1-3

¹³ *History of the Boy Scouts of America*,

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

¹⁴ *History of Scouting: Founders*, <http://historyofscouting.com/founders.htm>, pages 1-2

¹⁵ *Boy Scouts of America Official Handbook for Boys*, (Doubleday, Page & Co. Publishing, Garden City, N.Y., 1911) preface vi

¹⁶ *Boy Scouts of America Official Handbook for Boys*, (Doubleday, Page & Co., Garden City, New York, 1911), page vi Preface

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Maple Bluff Boy Scout Cabin
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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.”¹⁷

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.¹⁸

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: “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.”¹⁹In 1918, Rotary International became the first service club to begin sponsoring Boy Scout troops.²⁰

¹⁷ *Why the Boy Scouts Work*, Heather MacDonald, City Journal, http://www.city-journal.org/html/10_1_why_the_boy.html, pages 1-9

¹⁸ *Boy Scouts of America Handbook for Boys*, (Doubleday, Page & Co., Garden City, New York, 1911), pages 3-10

¹⁹ *Boy Scouts of America Official Handbook for Boys*, (Double Day Page & Co., Garden City, NY, 1911), pages VIII, IX

²⁰ *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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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.²¹ 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.²² 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

²¹ *Boy Scouts of America Official Handbook for Boys*, (Doubleday, Page & Co., Garden City, New York, 1911), pages 10-43

²² *Boy Scouts of America Official Handbook for Boys*, (Double Day, Page & Co., Garden City, N. Y., 1911), pages 59-63

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instructions, one could build a shelter with nothing but a hatchet.²³ It is hard to say whether these two instructive printings enticed the Maple Bluff 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.²⁴

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

²³ *Shelters, Shacks and Shanties*, by Daniel C. Beard, 1914, http://www.shelterpub.com/shelter/sss_book.html

²⁴ *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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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 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.

History of the Maple Bluff Boy Scout Cabin

On May 6, 1943, Mr. Wise and Mr. Burkhalter, representing Maple Bluff Boy Scout Troop No. 5, attended the Maple Bluff Village Board meeting. They requested the approval of a site on village property known as Outlot A on which they wanted to build a log cabin for their scout troop. The property over which the discussion ensued was Village Outlot A. The men indicated that \$600 had

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already been raised to cover the cost of building the cabin. The Maple Bluff Village Board agreed to the venture and turned the project over to the Public Works Committee.²⁵

On June 3, 1943 Mr. Hamilton, from the Boy Scout committee, reported to the Maple Bluff Village Board that Maple Bluff Public Works and the Maple Bluff Boy Scouts had agreed upon the site for the cabin. The neighbors in the surrounding area were notified about the upcoming Boy Scout cabin project and none objected. The village president directed the engineer to review the selected site.²⁶

Mr. Hamilton presented an update on the progress of the Maple Bluff Boy Scout Cabin to the Maple Bluff Village Board on July 1, 1943. He stated that they had only just received the plans for the cabin, and that delay had held up the start of construction.²⁷ Wise, Butler, Burkhalter, Feeney and Hamilton from the Boy Scout committee sent a written report to the village in July. They stated that the cost for construction of the cabin had grown to \$780.24, but did not ask for any monies from the village. They stated that this new figure would include the cost for the concrete slab, logs, and other items needed to finish the cabin. The labor to erect the cabin would be provided by the father's of the scouts.²⁸ Construction began during the summer months of 1943.

Bob Yost, a native of Maple Bluff, was a twelve year old Boy Scout in 1943. He remembers being at the construction site and helping the fathers build the cabin. Since he was only twelve, he was given simple tasks to complete. One occurrence that he does remember was the excitement that transpired when the men were raising one of the logs to the top of the wall. The log got away from them and it fell on one of the fathers. He was unscathed, but the entire event created a lasting memory for Mr. Yost.²⁹

At the October 21, 1943 Maple Bluff Village Board meeting, the Village Clerk reported that the fathers of the Boy Scouts were struggling with the erection of the cabin and that they hoped to complete it eventually.³⁰ In December, Mr. Hamilton reported to the Maple Bluff Village Board that the cabin project was progressing at a somewhat faster pace and the interior was currently being wired for electricity. Hamilton suggested that the village add a timer operated yard light on the exterior for

²⁵ Maple Bluff Village Board Meeting Minutes, May 6, 1943, *The Wisconsin Journal*, "Maple Bluff Scouts", June 13, 1943

²⁶ Maple Bluff Village Board Meeting Minutes, June 3, 1943

²⁷ Maple Bluff Village Board Meeting Minutes, July 1, 1943

²⁸ Correspondence to the Maple Bluff Village Board dated July 28, 1943

²⁹ November 2015 interview with Mr. Bob Yost

³⁰ Maple Bluff Village Board Meeting Minutes, October 21, 1943

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security³¹. At the January 1944 Maple Bluff Village Board meeting the village clerk reported that the father's had taken a "holiday lay-off".³²

In March, Mr. Hamilton again addressed the Maple Bluff Village Board. He requested that a lease agreement be prepared between the Maple Bluff Boy Scouts and the Village of Maple Bluff. A final survey of the property was directed to be conducted which would include distinguishing the railroad right-of-way.³³ On April 7, 1944 the lease was reviewed at the Maple Bluff Village Board meeting. It was voted to change the suggested cost of the ten year lease from \$10 to \$1.³⁴ The lease directed the Boy Scouts to keep the building clean and in good repair. A formal description of the land was included within the lease.³⁵

In May of 1944 the Boy Scout lease once again came before the Maple Bluff Village Board. The village board decided to extend the lease from ten to twenty years. Mr. Hamilton addressed the board and invited the board and the community to attend the formal opening of the Maple Bluff Boy Scout Cabin on June 4, 1944 at 3pm. The village clerk stated that he would include the information in the next bulletin.³⁶

In 1944, Maple Bluff Boy Scout Troop 5 had twenty-three members and was headed by Scoutmaster James J. Feeney and Assistant Scoutmaster Bill Lavin.³⁷ The Maple Bluff Boy Scout Cabin has been in continuous use for scouting activities since its completion. Maple Bluff Boy Scout Troop is part of the Glaciers Edge Council, which is headquartered on Manufacturers Drive in Madison, Wisconsin.

Conclusion: Criterion A – History

How enduring was the scouting experience? Did it really survive 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.³⁸ 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.

³¹ Maple Bluff Village Board Meeting Minutes, December 9, 1943

³² Maple Bluff Village Board Meeting Minutes, January 6, 1944

³³ Maple Bluff Village Board Meeting Minutes, March 2, 1944

³⁴ Maple Bluff Village Board Meeting Minutes, April 7, 1944

³⁵ Lease between Maple Bluff Boy Scouts and the Village of Maple Bluff, April 7, 1944

³⁶ Maple Bluff Village Board Meeting Minutes, May 10, 1944

³⁷ Historic photo located in the cabin

³⁸ *Benefits*, Boy Scouts of America, www.scouting.org/parent/benefits.aspx

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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 all these years.

The Maple Bluff 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 Maple Bluff 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."³⁹

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 Maple Bluff 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. Even during a time when America was preoccupied with fighting a World War, the community of Maple Bluff felt that their sons were in need of something positive to focus upon. The Village of Maple Bluff also recognized the hopeful effect the Boy Scout Cabin building project would have on the entire community.

There may not have been a father available for every one of the young men who were scouts. Those fathers who were not deployed in military service worked for a year to bring the cabin to fruition. They raised the money, petitioned the village for a building site and constructed the cabin. As the minutes of

³⁹ 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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the village board meetings and the memories of Mr. Yost indicate, this project did not always go well, but the fathers stayed with it and completed a cabin for their sons. The cabin stands as a testament to the fathers' efforts as well as to the collective contributions of the community. The adults demonstrated to the scouts that everyone had faith that normalcy would return once again. Many former Maple Bluff Boy Scouts went on to fill diverse social roles in their community as business leaders, teachers, tradesmen, soldiers, parents and public servants.

Summary

The Maple Bluff 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. The Maple Bluff cabin is still in use by the Boy Scouts demonstrating the longevity and success of the Boy Scout movement.

Acknowledgements

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Verbal Boundary Description:

A part of Outlot A of the Second Addition to Lakewood more particularly described as follows;

Beginning at a point on the Northeast line of said Outlot A which is South 24° 41' E 187 feet from the north corner thereof; thence South 60° 31' W. 104 1/10 feet; thence South 29° 37'E. 85 feet; thence North 60° 31' E. 97 feet to the northeast line of said Outlot A; thence N. 24° 41' W. 85 feet to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification:

The above parcel appears on the original lease between the Village of Maple Bluff and the Maple Bluff Boy Scouts and is still valid today. The boundary encompasses only the cabin and immediately adjacent picnic shelter. The boundary excludes other park resources further away from, and unrelated to, the Boy Scout cabin.

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

Photo 1
South-facing main facade
Camera facing northeast

Photo 2
North-facing facade with stone chimney
Camera facing southwest

Photo 3
Ribbon window of south-facing facade
Camera facing north

Photo 4
Saddle Notch corner
Camera facing northeast

Photo 5
Interior stone fireplace
Camera facing northeast

Photo 6
Interior view of cabin
Camera facing northeast

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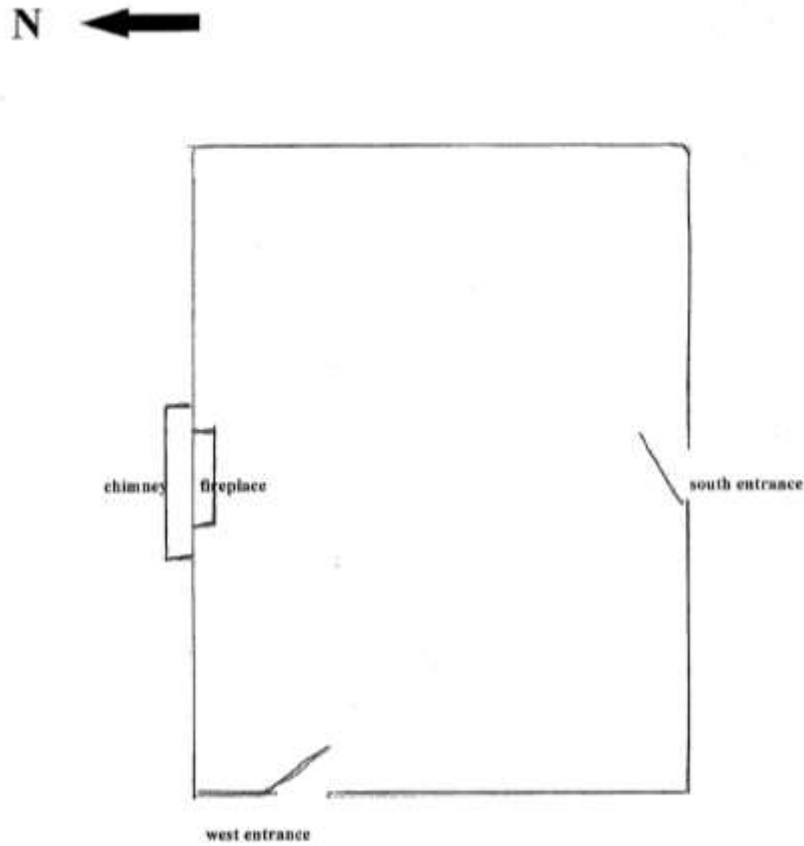
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- Figure 1: Sketch plan drawing, not to scale
- Figure 2: Map of Boy Scout regions in Wisconsin
- Figure 3: Historic Photograph, 1944
- Figure 4: Site plan and photo key

Figure 1: Sketch plan drawing, not to scale



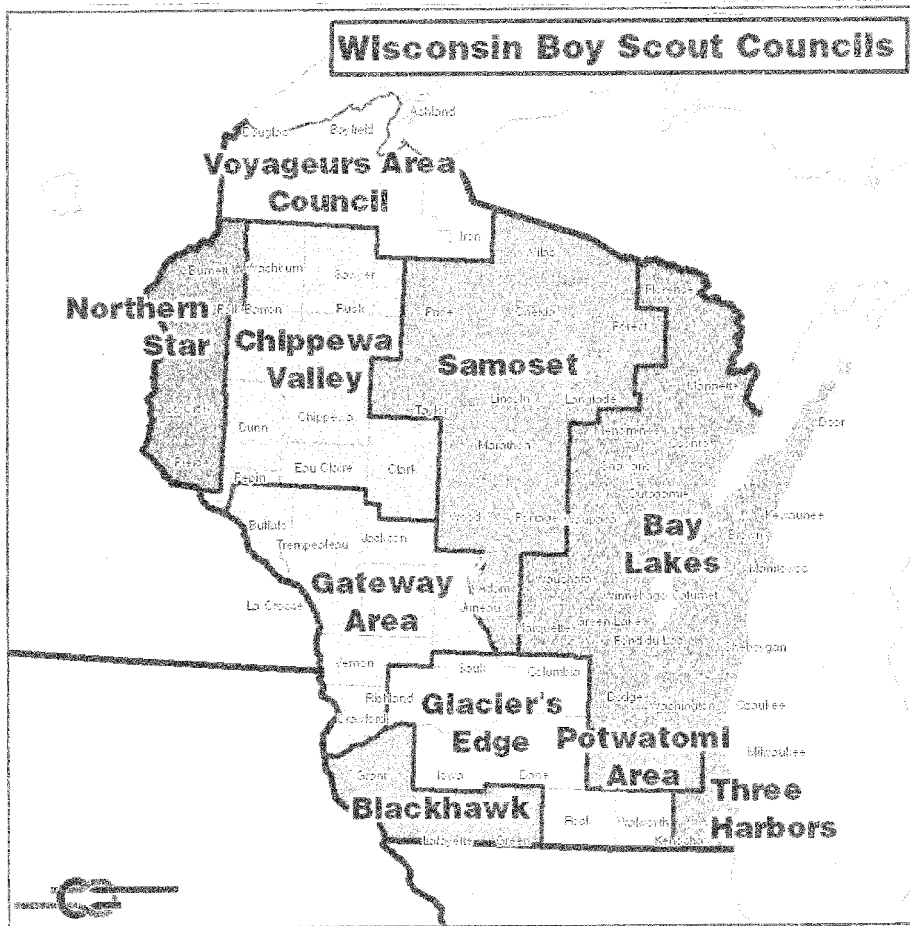
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Figure 2: Map of Boy Scout regions in Wisconsin



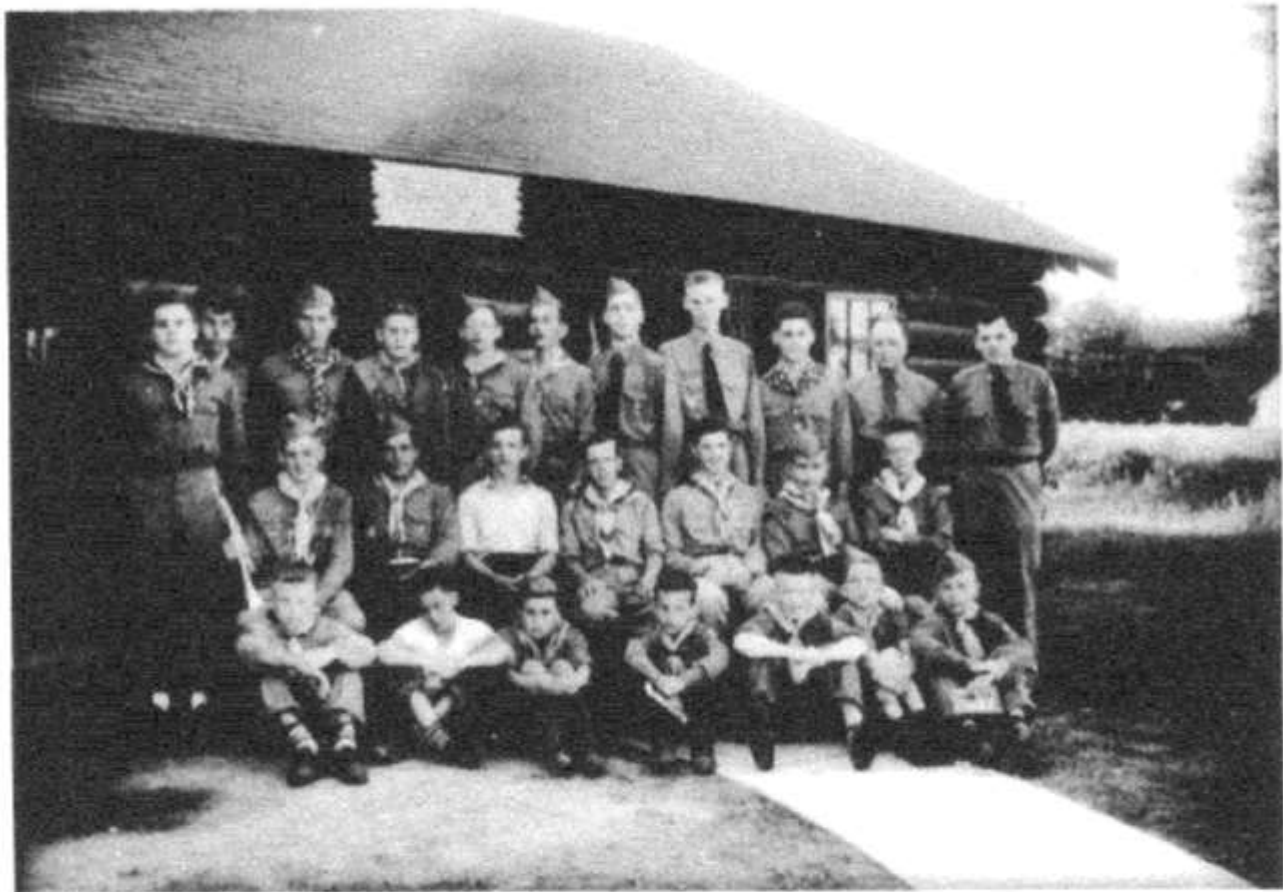
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Figure 3: Historic Photograph, 1944



Boy Scout Troop 5 with (left to right)
Scoutmaster J.J. Feeney, Assistant Scoutmaster
Bill Lavin

___End Figures

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Figure 4: Site plan and photo key



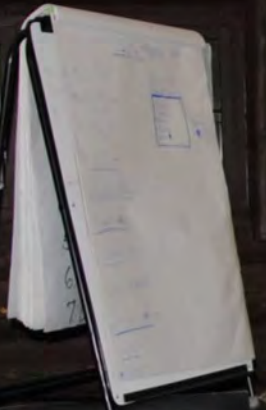






5







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: 9/21/2017 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

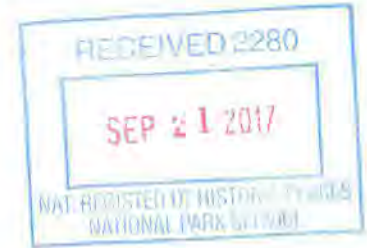
Telephone _____ Date _____

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:

<u>1</u>	Original National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form
<u>1</u>	CD with NRHP Nomination form PDF
<u> </u>	Multiple Property Nomination form
<u>6</u>	Photograph(s)
<u>1</u>	CD with image files
<u>1</u>	Map(s)
<u>4</u>	Sketch map(s)/figures(s)/exhibit(s)
<u> </u>	Piece(s) of correspondence
<u> </u>	Other:

COMMENTS:

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