

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

1. Name of Property

Historic Name: Josey Boy Scout Lodge and Keeper's Cabin
Other name/site number: Robert A. Josey Lodge
Name of related multiple property listing: NA

2. Location

Street & number: 2201 Avenue M
City or town: Huntsville State: Texas County: Walker
Not for publication: [ ] Vicinity: [ ]

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 at the following levels of significance:
[ ] national [ ] statewide [ ] local

Applicable National Register Criteria: [ ] A [ ] B [ ] C [ ] D

Signature of certifying official / Title: Mark Wolfe, State Historic Preservation Officer
Date: 6/1/18
Texas Historical Commission
State or Federal agency / bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property [ ] meets [ ] does not meet the National Register criteria.
Signature of commenting or other official
Date
State or Federal agency / bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register
determined eligible for the National Register
determined not eligible for the National Register.
removed from the National Register
other, explain:

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Josey Boy Scout Lodge and Keeper's Cabin, Huntsville, Walker County, Texas

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Private
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public - Local
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public - State
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public - Federal

**Category of Property**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input type="checkbox"/>	district
<input type="checkbox"/>	site
<input type="checkbox"/>	structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

**Number of Resources within Property**

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
1	0	objects
3	0	total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: NA

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions:** SOCIAL: Clubhouse; DOMESTIC: Single dwelling

**Current Functions:** SOCIAL: Clubhouse; OTHER

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification:** OTHER: Rustic

**Principal Exterior Materials:** WOOD: log; STONE: limestone

**Narrative Description** (see continuation sheets 7-7 through 7-10)

Josey Boy Scout Lodge and Keeper's Cabin, Huntsville, Walker County, Texas

## 8. Statement of Significance

### Applicable National Register Criteria

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>A</b>	Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>B</b>	Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>C</b>	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.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>D</b>	Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations:** NA

**Areas of Significance:** Social History, Architecture

**Period of Significance:** 1934-1968

**Significant Dates:** 1934, 1935

**Significant Person** (only if criterion b is marked): NA

**Cultural Affiliation** (only if criterion d is marked): NA

**Architect/Builder:** Mebane, Mike (architect); Meekins, Lewis E. (builder)

**Narrative Statement of Significance** (see continuation sheets 8-11 through 8-22)

## 9. Major Bibliographic References

**Bibliography** (see continuation sheet 9-23 through 9-24)

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- 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:**

- State historic preservation office (*Texas Historical Commission, Austin*)
- Other state agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other -- Specify Repository: The Robert A. Josey Lodge Inc. Papers, Kay King Mitchell, Huntsville, Texas.

**Historic Resources Survey Number** (if assigned): NA

Josey Boy Scout Lodge and Keeper's Cabin, Huntsville, Walker County, Texas

---

## 10. Geographical Data

**Acreage of Property:** 2.3 acres

### Coordinates

#### Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: NA

1. Latitude: 30.709173°N      Longitude: -95.551798°W

**Verbal Boundary Description:** The nominated area is the northeast portion of Josey Park in Huntsville, Texas. From the intersection at 22<sup>nd</sup> St. and SH 75N, the area follows the park boundary west 319 feet, south 275 feet, returns east 433 feet, and follows the eastern park boundary north to the starting point. This boundary is sketched on the accompanying map (MAP 3).

**Boundary Justification:** The boundary is drawn to include the 1934 Josey Boy Scout Lodge, 1935 Keeper's Cabin, and flag pole that are associated with historic period of the property. It excludes the Josey Girls Scouts Building and Josey Annex, which were both constructed outside the period of significance in the 1970s, and recreation areas at the southern portion of the park do not convey the historic function of the property.

## 11. Form Prepared By

Name/title: Dr. Willard M. Oliver, Professor with assistance from THC Historian, Bonnie Tipton Wilson  
Organization: Sam Houston State University  
Street & number: PO Box 2296  
City or Town: Huntsville      State: Texas      Zip Code: 77341  
Email: icc\_wmo@shsu.edu  
Telephone: 936-294-4173  
Date: March 20, 2018

## Additional Documentation

**Maps**      (see continuation sheets MAP-25 through MAP-27)

**Additional items**      (see continuation sheets FIGURE-28 through FIGURE-33)

**Photographs**      (see continuation sheets PHOTO-34 through PHOTO-49)

Josey Boy Scout Lodge and Keeper's Cabin, Huntsville, Walker County, Texas

---

**Photograph Log**

Josey Boy Scout Lodge and Keeper's Cabin  
Huntsville, Walker County, Texas  
Photographer: Harriet McHale  
Date: June 6, 2017 (except where noted)

**Photo 1**

Josey Boy Scout Lodge front (east) elevation, camera facing west

**Photo 2**

South wing and entrance at front (east) elevation, camera faces west

**Photo 3**

North wing and entrance at front (east) elevation, camera faces west

**Photo 4**

North and partial west (rear) elevation, camera faces southeast

**Photo 5**

Southwest oblique of rear (west) elevation, camera faces northeast

**Photo 6**

South elevation, camera faces north

**Photo 7**

Lodge interior showing restroom entries (left), fireplace, and kitchen door (right), camera facing west

**Photo 8**

Lodge interior, main room showing main entrance and fireplace, camera faces south

**Photo 9**

Dedication plaque and detail view of structural log construction and daubing, camera faces west

**Photo 10**

Lodge interior, main room showing wagon wheel light fixtures and rafters, camera faces southeast

**Photo 11**

Interior of northeast wing/meeting room, camera faces east

**Photo 12**

Northeast wing/meeting room. Petrified wood mantel, camera faces east

**Photo 13**

Interior of southeast wing/meeting room, camera faces east

**Photo 14**

Southeast wing/meeting room windows and wall detail, camera faces south

Josey Boy Scout Lodge and Keeper's Cabin, Huntsville, Walker County, Texas

---

**Photo 15**

Northwest wing/kitchen, camera faces northwest

**Photo 16**

Entrance to restrooms in southwest wing, camera faces west

**Photo 17**

1935 Keeper's Cabin front (east) elevation, camera faces west

**Photo 18**

Keeper's Cabin northeast oblique, camera faces southwest

**Photo 19**

Keeper's Cabin rear (west) elevation, camera faces east

**Photo 20**

Keeper's Cabin south elevation, camera faces north

**Photo 21**

Main living area inside Keeper's Cabin, camera faces southeast.

**Photo 22**

Josey Boy Scout Lodge and flagpole, camera faces west—February 1, 2017.

**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.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Josey Boy Scout Lodge and Keeper's Cabin, Huntsville, Walker County, Texas

---

## Narrative Description

The Josey Boy Scout Lodge (1934) and associated Keeper's Cabin (1935) are true log-constructed buildings on stone foundations on a wooded site within Josey Park in Huntsville, Texas. The lodge is a symmetrical H-plan building, featuring a central 1½ story side-gabled massing, with projecting 1-story front-gabled wings flanking the main entrance on the east elevation, and smaller wings flanking a large stone tapered chimney on the west elevation. Each of the east wings features similar central stone chimneys. The heart of the lodge is a large clear-span assembly room, with structural log walls, and a full-height ceiling with exposed rafters supported by heavy timber joists. The Keeper's Cabin is a 1-story, 3-room residence, with a central single-door entrance flanked by wood sash windows. The house features a tapered stone chimney and a full-width front porch. Set beneath a graceful canopy of pine trees, the buildings retain a high degree of their historic and architectural integrity.

---

The Josey Boy Scout Lodge and Keeper's Cabin are in Josey Park in southcentral Huntsville, 1 mile south of the Walker County Courthouse and approximately two blocks south of Sam Houston State University. Josey Park is a 10.6-acre privately-owned park and the scout lodge and cabin occupy the northeast portion of the park. The entire parcel is bounded by 22<sup>nd</sup> St. (north), Sam Houston Ave./State Highway 75 (east), Josey St. (south), and Avenue M (west). When the buildings were constructed in 1934 and 1935, the park was south of the Huntsville city limits (Figure 1). Today, Josey Park and the nominated buildings are located well within the city proper. The surrounding neighborhood is mixed commercial and residential. The university operates a maintenance building directly west of Josey Park and the Huntsville Fire Station #1 is east on Sam Houston Ave, across the street from the lodge.

The City of Huntsville rents the 10.6-acre Josey Park from the Robert A. Josey Lodge, Inc. for public use and maintains the grounds. There is a baseball/softball field located in the southeastern corner, a basketball court at the southern boundary, and an unpaved parking lot in the southwest corner. On the west side of the park is the Josey Girls Scouts Building and Josey Annex for Cub Scout meetings that were both constructed in the 1970s. Because the southern portion of the park is used for recreation, the landscape is mostly clear of native pine trees. However, mature pines grow throughout the northern portion of the park and partially obscure the buildings from street view.

The Josey Boy Scout Lodge and Keeper's Cabin are in the northeast quadrant of Josey Park at the intersection of 22<sup>nd</sup> St. and Sam Houston Ave./SH 75. The nomination boundary is drawn to only include this 2.3-acre portion of park that conveys the historic wooded setting; historic and current functions of the land in relation to the nominated buildings; and exclude resources constructed outside the period of significance. The site slopes gently southward. An unpaved parking lot (approximately 60 yards wide and 20 yards deep) borders 22<sup>nd</sup> St. and provides entry to the property from the north side. The Keeper's Cabin is set back approximately 57' from 22<sup>nd</sup> St. west of the parking lot; its entrance faces east. Josey Boy Scout Lodge is centered on the property, partially obscured from Sam Houston Ave. by large pine trees, and its entrance also faces east. The wooded setting provides a dense canopy over the nominated properties. The original flag pole is in front of Josey Boy Scout Lodge; its concrete foundation was recast.

### *Exterior—Josey Boy Scout Lodge*

The 1934 Josey Boy Scout Lodge is a symmetrical H-plan Rustic-style log building. A true log-construction, it is made of treated, native pine logs that are painted a rich brown. The logs are laid horizontally and joined at corners in the saddle notch method, a common log-construction technique, with concrete daubing (also painted brown). Depressions are cut near the end of each log (on the bottom) and the notches form a locked joint. The ends project beyond the lodge's corners to create a distinct look that evokes 19<sup>th</sup> century pioneer log building traditions. Wood-frame casement windows have multi-pane sashes with screen coverings; some are paired. The exterior walls rest on a limestone foundation, and the entire building is supported by concrete piers. Rough-hewn wood boards clad the gable ends. A log and truss system supports the roof that was once covered in shingles (likely wood). The original shingle roof was first

Josey Boy Scout Lodge and Keeper's Cabin, Huntsville, Walker County, Texas

---

replaced with standing-seam metal sheet roof in the 1970s and again in the 1990s. A 25-foot steel flagpole, a prominent feature in scout ceremonial functions, is in front of the lodge and is considered a contributing object (Photo 22).

The front (east) façade features a central cross gable with projecting 1-story front-gabled wings that flank the main entrance. The central gable punctuates the metal roof and a small 4-pane window is above the red and white "Josey Boy Scout Lodge" sign. A stone three-step staircase leads to double batten doors that is the main entrance to the lodge; paired 8-pane casement windows are on either side of the doors. The northeast and southeast wings that project from either side of the primary entry are symmetrical. Each wing has a central tapered limestone chimney with two 6-pane casement windows on either side. Single batten doors and stone stairways provide entry to each wing in the courtyard entry created by the building's plan. An ADA-compliant access ramp was constructed in 2015 over the northeast wing entrance staircase. Its course follows around front of the lodge and towards a walkway that leads to the parking lot.

The north (side) elevation demonstrates the lodge's central 1½ story side-gabled massing with jerkin head roof shape and exposed rafter ends. Double casement windows are flanked by paired windows in the central bay, and two 12-pane casement windows punctuate the gable end above. Saddle-notched log corners exaggerate where the wings project out from the east and west of the central massing. Within each wing are paired 8-pane casement windows.

A large, tapered stone chimney is the central focal point of the west (rear) elevation that is flanked by two (smaller) wings. Windows on this elevation are all 6-pane casement. Batten doors and wooden staircases lead outside from the south walls of both the northwest wing (kitchen) and southwest wing (bathrooms). On this elevation the stone foundation is exposed more as the site slopes south. A small, batten door provides access into a basement from below the southwest wing.

The south (side) elevation is nearly identical to the north façade. Here the limestone foundation is most exposed and three small batten doors within it provide access to the basement from below the central bay.

*Interior—Josey Boy Scout Lodge*

The interior of the Josey Boy Scout Lodge totals approximately 4,270 square feet that is divided into five rooms. Double doors at the east (main) entry lead into the assembly room, the heart of the lodge, where a magisterial petrified wood fireplace is the focal point on the west wall. Measuring 66.5 feet x 40 feet, the assembly room is a large clear-span space with structural log walls, and a full-height ceiling with exposed rafters supported by heavy timber joists. A fire suppression system, painted to blend into the log colors, is located throughout the ceiling of the room. Wagon wheel chandeliers decorate the ceiling. Eight, modern fluorescent lights are placed at intervals on the ceiling. The floor is made of pine. Old pinewood benches, built by boy scouts, can be moved to accommodate a variety of seating arrangements in the meeting room. There are no cooling systems located in the facility, but there are two shop heaters hanging from the rafters at the northeast and southwest ends of the lodge. Trapdoors at the south end of the room give indoor access to basement storage areas.

Single batten doors provide access to the projecting southwest and northwest wings on either side of the fireplace. Each of these wings measure 13.5 feet x 19.5 feet. The southwest wing is sub-divided into a storage ante-room and restrooms, and each functional space has its own doorway. The northwest wing is one room that historically functioned as a kitchen. Today, it houses a fire suppression system and storage.

Two double doorways on the east wall, flanking the entrance, open to the northeast and southeast one-room wings.

Josey Boy Scout Lodge and Keeper's Cabin, Huntsville, Walker County, Texas

---

Each wing is a boy scout meeting room that measures 20 feet x 24 feet with petrified wood fireplaces that are smaller versions of the assembly room fireplace. Doorways lead from each room outside to the central area in front of the lodge. The northeast meeting room has built-in cabinets along the north wall, but the southeast wing has none.

*Keeper's Cabin (1935)*

The Keeper's Cabin is a modest 1-story, 3-room residence, with a central single-door entrance flanked by 6/6 wood double-hung windows. Like the lodge, it is a Rustic-style log-cabin with saddle notch corner construction and stone foundation. Natural wood posts support a full-width front porch that has a concrete floor. The cabin has a non-historic metal sheet roof.

Two windows mark the north elevation—one 6/6 and the other 4/4—and denote locations for the interior bedroom and bathroom. The west façade has one 6/6 window and a rear exit with wooden stairway. A stone chimney is the focus of the south elevation and it is flanked by two 4/4 double-hung windows. A small door in the foundation provides access to the basement on this side.

Designed to house a groundskeeper, the cabin has three interior rooms to accommodate residential living. The front door opens to the main living quarters that features a petrified wood fireplace. The north half of the cabin has a small bedroom and bathroom. The floors are pine and walls are covered in wood paneling.

*Alterations*

After Josey Boy Scout Lodge was built in 1934 and the Keeper's Cabin in 1935, the main lodge was furnished with tables, chairs, kitchen appliances, and a water fountain. For three decades, the buildings remained largely unchanged. Sometime in the late 1960s, two shop heaters were installed in the lodge to help with the mild Texas winters. In the mid-1970s, the shingle roof was replaced with a standing-seam metal roof. Again, the lodge and keeper's cabin roofs were replaced in the 1990s. Fluorescent light fixtures were installed on the lodge ceiling at an unknown time (see Photo 9).

After the Josey Boy Scout Lodge's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Boy Scouts of America (2009-2010), a renewed effort was made to preserve the properties. Earlier termite infestation damaged structural log walls and windows. In 2014, a contractor replaced damaged logs with the same type of log used in 1934 to preserve the original look of the lodge. Steely Lumber, a local company, acquired new pine logs based on the original measurements and treated them in the same manner. In the spirit of the Gibbs Brothers, who originally donated the lodge logs in 1934, Steely Lumber provided the replacement logs in-kind. The Scouts hired a cabinet maker to duplicate historic windows, using historic tools and methods, to replace the rotted ones.

In 2015, an ADA-compliant wooden ramp was constructed over the concrete walkway that lead to the front of the lodge, and ramp leading up the front stairs was constructed to allow access into the main meeting room. It is a free-standing structure that is not attached to the lodge. The treated wood was painted in the same brown to match the color the lodge. Finally, in 2016, one of the most significant moves toward preservation of the lodge was the installation of a fire suppression system, complete with alarms and water sprinklers, to protect and preserve the lodge for future generations. All pipes were painted brown and installed to blend in with the original construction.

*Integrity*

The Josey Boy Scout Lodge and Keeper's Cabin retain excellent historic and architectural integrity. Both retain integrity of materials and design as there have been no major alterations to the log buildings. Each retain its historic

Josey Boy Scout Lodge and Keeper's Cabin, Huntsville, Walker County, Texas

---

log structural walls, stone foundations, and wood casement windows. Notable alterations occurred when the original shingle roofs were replaced with metal sheeting and a free-standing, ADA-compliant ramp was installed. Overall, the architecture of both buildings still conveys Rustic-style log-cabin. The interior of both buildings retains the original layouts. Workmanship is still evident in the saddle-notched logs, roughhewn gable boards and petrified wood fireplaces. Overall, the interior of the lodge retains excellent integrity of design, materials, and workmanship that is evident in exposed log walls, rafters, and ceiling joists. Replacement logs and windows were in keeping with the historic materials that had rotted, and contractors closely mimicked the methods of construction originally employed at the lodge. The lodge and cabin very much convey the feeling of Depression-era Rustic park architecture. The City of Huntsville has grown around Josey Park, which was once a rural parcel at the southern edge of town. The nominated buildings retain integrity of location and setting within the park, and the pine tree canopy that partially obscures the buildings adds bucolic feeling to the now-urban setting. The Josey Boy Scout Lodge and Keeper's Cabin retain their historic association with the boy scout troops of Huntsville and still function as the local scout headquarters.

Josey Boy Scout Lodge and Keeper's Cabin, Huntsville, Walker County, Texas

---

### Statement of Significance

The Josey Boy Scout Lodge (1934) and associated Keeper's Cabin (1935) in Huntsville, Walker County, Texas are among the most intact examples of Depression Era rustic park architecture in Texas. The lodge and cabin, designed by Mike Mebane, a young architect at the beginning of his long and successful career, were funded with a cash gift by Robert A. Josey, a Huntsville native who made a career in the oil and gas industry, and built with federal assistance from the Civil Works Administration (CWA). Dedicated solely for scouting activities, the property continues to serve as the primary scout facility in the city and surrounding area. The lodge and cabin are nominated to the National Register at the local level of significance under Criterion A in the area of Social History for their association with Huntsville-area scouting activities through the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century. They are also nominated under Criterion C in the area of Architecture as an excellent example of rustic buildings inspired by the design of federal and state park facilities in the style promoted by the National Park Service. The period of significance is 1934-1968 (the current 50-year cutoff).

---

### Early History of Huntsville<sup>1</sup>

The town square of Huntsville, Texas, was originally an Indian trading post on a hill in the Mexican state of *Coahuilla y Tejas*. The town was founded in 1835 (1836 by some accounts) by Pleasant and Ephraim Gray, two brothers from who named the new town for their hometown, Huntsville, Alabama. Huntsville grew quickly, especially after Texas declared its independence in 1836, with new settlers coming from Alabama, Tennessee, Virginia and other southern states. It had become home to many of the "Texians" who fought during the Texas Revolution, but none more important than the Republic of Texas' first president, General Sam Houston, who became integrally tied with the small town toward the end of his life. Houston, the former Governor of Tennessee, distinguished himself at the Battle of San Jacinto winning Texas's freedom from Mexico. When Texas joined the United States, Houston served as Governor of Texas and then a U.S. Senator. General Houston moved to Huntsville in 1847 where he built his famous "Steamboat" house south of the town square. In 1863, he died in Huntsville, and was buried in the historic Oakwood Cemetery. The Sam Houston Memorial Museum, less than one mile north of Josey Park, preserved his home and manages other artifacts significant to Houston's life.

Modern Huntsville became defined by institutions established in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. In 1846, it was designated the county seat for Walker County. The downtown civic district was soon surrounded by a thriving commercial center that benefitted from trade routes through the busy town. Other institutions aided in Huntsville's prosperity. The Texas State Penitentiary, located there since 1848, was the first state prison, and its Prison Rodeo was a well-attended event for more than 50 years (1931-1986). Sam Houston State University (Sam Houston Normal Institute), the first tax-supported teacher training institution in Texas, expanded significantly in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century and the annual student population is 20,000. Markets for rural farming, lumbering and livestock raising were centered in Huntsville since its founding. Its regional prominence as a trade center was later enhanced by the establishment of a rail line (1875) and, later, extensive highway development (1920-30) through Huntsville. As a result, the local economy remained stable during national depressions and its population growth (approximately 12,000 in 1931) continued to rise gradually each decade.

### Josey Boy Scout Lodge & Keeper's Cabin

The Josey Boy Scout Lodge is one of the oldest intact and operating boy scout lodges in Texas.<sup>2</sup> Dedicated in 1934, the large, structural log cabin was funded through a gift from Huntsville native Robert A. Josey because he wanted to

---

<sup>1</sup> *Handbook of Texas Online*, Charles L. Dwyer and Gerald L. Holder, "Huntsville, TX," accessed September 01, 2017, <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/heh03>.

<sup>2</sup> Camp Charles F. Perry in Rio Hondo, Texas is reportedly the oldest operating *camp* site in Texas, but its c. 1930 scout lodges

Josey Boy Scout Lodge and Keeper's Cabin, Huntsville, Walker County, Texas

---

give something to the youth of his hometown. The community supplemented that gift with in-kind contributions, New Deal federal relief grants, and community donations to complete the lodge and Keeper's Cabin and purchase the 10.6-acre Josey Park where the nominated properties were built. The Josey Boy Scout Lodge and Keeper's Cabin continue to be used by present-day boy scouts, just as it was more than 80 years ago, when these were built.

The widely-disseminated serial *Scouting for Boys* introduced boy scouting to Americans in 1908. Texans eagerly responded to the national movement with its aim to foster fellowship, "a greater love for the outdoors, a greater pride in the muscular prowess and a keener stimulus towards strength and nobility of character."<sup>3</sup> The movement appealed to young men and adults alike. Parents and community leaders viewed scouting as an opportunity for supervised recreation that would produce productive citizens out of boys, and readily supported local troops. In February 1910, the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) incorporated in New York and within a year there were more than 20 scout troops in Texas.<sup>4</sup> A few Texas troops, like Huntsville, formed before the BSA's incorporation, and these were spearheaded by local YMCA's, fraternal organizations, rotary clubs, and civic or religious leaders.

Reverend W.T. Ahrenbeck, a Presbyterian minister, organized the first Huntsville boy scout troop in 1909. The church served as a meeting place for the troops. In the mid-1910s, Huntsville's scouting movement joined the BSA, and Troops 1, 2, and 3, were established and sponsored by the local Rotary Club, Kiwanis Club, and Parent-Teachers Association.<sup>5</sup> For the next several decades, Huntsville scouting fell under the Houston Area Council, a regional organization that oversaw local-level boy scout troops, located almost 70 miles away. The distance hindered Huntsville participation with its regional affiliate, and on April 1, 1930 local scout leaders were approved to establish the Huntsville District Boy Scout Council. Local banker Tom H. Ball was selected to chair the new council's executive committee.<sup>6</sup>

Although outdoor camping was an essential scouting activity, most troops met regularly at indoor venues like churches, fraternal lodges, and public buildings. As scouting popularity increased in the 1920s, it was common for Texas cities and towns to have several local scout troops to support widespread interest. To accommodate the growing number of participants, interested groups or individuals built dedicated lodges and facilities. Construction was often a community-effort with local businesses that donated materials, in-kind labor, and scout-assisted work. Newspapers frequently reported on the building activity, and sometimes commented on its appearance. In 1930, Garland-area

---

were demolished in the 1950s. Other historic boy scout lodges and cabins exist, but do not function as such anymore. For example, the Zilker Clubhouse (Austin, Travis County) was constructed in 1934 for boy scouts but it is now a community building that no longer serves local troops. The author has undertaken more than 10 years of research and inquiries into other dedicated Scout lodges throughout the country. Some of the original lodges that were built have since been torn down, such as the oldest known dedicated facility, the Boy Scout armory established by Thompson Seton, one of the founders of the Boy Scouts which was established on May 20, 1911, in Baltimore, Maryland. However, many of these lodges were later torn down, as was the Seton Lodge in the 1960s. In other cases, research shows that many of the dedicated lodges, such as the Cascade Lodge built for the Boy Scouts in Durango, Colorado in 1928, were eventually sold into private hands. Most Boy Scout lodges, however, appear to have been built on Boy Scout Reservations by the Boy Scouts of America, and were not constructed to service Scouts in their communities. Most Scouts met in churches and community centers. See The Historical Marker Database, "First Boy Scout Armory," at <https://www.bmdb.org/marker.asp?marker=2522>; National Register of Historic Places, Cascade Boy Scout Lodge, at <https://npgallery.nps.gov/NRHP/AssetDetail?assetID=25dee5ab-7927-4ed5-bd81-531c82c18cda>

<sup>3</sup> Boy Scouts of America, *Scouting* 1, no. 1 (April 15, 1913), Boy Scouts of America National Scouting Museum, University of North Texas Libraries, The Portal to Texas History, <https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph282629/m1/1/>, accessed March 10, 2018.

<sup>4</sup> "First Scout Troops in Texas," West Texas Scouting History, [http://www.westtexasscoutinghistory.net/troops\\_first.html](http://www.westtexasscoutinghistory.net/troops_first.html), access May 31, 2018.

<sup>5</sup> "Boy Scout Work is Backed by All Huntsville," undated document, circa 1935, Josey Lodge Papers.

<sup>6</sup> Thomas Henry Ball (1887-1965), a Huntsville native, was a one-time city mayor and had a lifelong career in banking. "Boy Scout Work is Backed by All Huntsville," undated document, circa 1935, Josey Lodge Papers.

Josey Boy Scout Lodge and Keeper's Cabin, Huntsville, Walker County, Texas

---

scouts dedicated their “log primitive style camp house built by popular subscription and free-will labor.”<sup>7</sup> Even when architectural information was omitted, camp names that included the term “lodge” evoked the log-cabin aesthetic associated with that building type. Private donations, community contributions, and fraternal groups funded scout buildings and many were completed between 1920-1940.<sup>8</sup>

On December 19, 1933, oilman Robert A. Josey of Houston, composed a letter to Tom Ball to communicate his wish to contribute to “the Boy Scouts Movement in Huntsville on a permanent basis through the means of a Scout Home.”<sup>9</sup> Josey provided \$5,000 to Huntsville District of the Boy Scouts to complete the work.<sup>10</sup> Although Josey never participated as a scout when he grew up in Huntsville, he felt a moral obligation to serve his home community.

Robert Anthony Josey (1870-1954), the Huntsville Boy Scout Lodge benefactor, was born March 28, 1870 to Evander Theophilus and Melissa Jane Cotton in Huntsville, Texas. After attending local public schools, he enrolled at Sam Houston Normal Institute (Sam Houston State University) and later attended Texas A & M University. In 1901, Josey was among the first Texans to drill oil at Spindletop field in Beaumont, Texas, and he profited greatly from the state's first oil boom. His marriage to Dallas-native Theresa Bettes in March 1903 was short-lived when she died one month after their ceremony.<sup>11</sup> Instead, Josey was a dedicated career man who became a pioneer in the Texas and Oklahoma oil business. He developed oil fields at Muskogee, Tulsa, Oklahoma City, and invested in oil companies across the Texas. In 1930, he sold his Texas Company (Texaco) holdings for \$30 million and moved to Houston. When he died on January 31, 1954, Josey was the president of R.A. Josey Inc., the Gem Oil Co., and the Midwest Production Co.<sup>12</sup>

For Josey, community service was fundamental to personal happiness, professional success, and national welfare. To that end, he donated his wealth to Huntsville organizations in the 1930s Josey described as “small investments” that paid “tremendous profits” in the health, education, and economic welfare of all citizens. In 1933, the African American Band and Park Association received his assistance to purchase park land where the black community celebrated Emancipation Day each year.<sup>13</sup> Josey also paid off the debt for Huntsville's First Baptist Church, where his father was a deacon for 60 years. However, Josey could “think of no investment that I have ever made which has given me more satisfaction or paid me greater dividends in happiness than the Boy Scout Lodge at Huntsville.”<sup>14</sup>

---

<sup>7</sup> “Boy Scouts Camp Will Be Dedicated,” *Dallas Morning News*, June 10, 1930.

<sup>8</sup> Newspaper research identified the construction efforts of numerous scout buildings in Texas between 1914 and 1940. Rotary Clubs, the Kiwanis, and private donors erected facilities in all parts of Texas. The efforts included lodges for African American boy scout troops and girl scouts. The scale of local projects was diverse. Some included the purchase of property for camping and lodge/cabin construction, like Camp Charles F. Perry in Rio Hondo, Texas (1927-1930) and other projects were more facilities, like Camp Kiwanis (1929) in Rusk.

<sup>9</sup> Robert A Josey to Tom Ball, December 19, 1933, unpublished papers of The Robert A. Josey Lodge, Inc., in possession of Kay King Mitchell, Huntsville Texas. The Executive Committee included Ottie E. Barrett, J. P. Gibbs, G. G. Hollinshead, R. L. Bunting, R. M. Woods, Tom Ball, M. E. Curtis, Lewis E. Ball, J. L. Clark, and W. E. Lowry.

<sup>10</sup> Josey's letter included a check for \$3,000 and promised an additional \$2,000 to complete the project.

<sup>11</sup> According to his obituary, Josey was widowed again after his second marriage. There are few documents that confirm the identify of the second woman. It is possible her name was Maude Germain Sparks Josey and who was recorded to have married Robert A. Josey in Jackson County, Missouri in 1916. Maude died from double pneumonia on October 11, 1918. Ancestry.com, *Missouri Marriage Records, 1805-2002*, online database, Missouri State Archives; Death Certificate, Maude Germain Josey, Missouri State Board of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics,

[https://www.sos.mo.gov/images/archives/deathcerts/1918/1918\\_00035325.PDF](https://www.sos.mo.gov/images/archives/deathcerts/1918/1918_00035325.PDF), accessed March 15, 2018.

<sup>12</sup> “Pioneer Texas, Oklahoma Oilman Dies; Rites Tuesday,” *Abilene Reporter-News*, February 1, 1954.

<sup>13</sup> *Handbook of Texas Online*, Charles L. Dwyer and Gerald L. Holder, “Huntsville, TX,” accessed April 04, 2018, <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/heh03>.

<sup>14</sup> “Josey Rites Are Held at Huntsville,” *The Houston Post*, February 1954.

Josey Boy Scout Lodge and Keeper's Cabin, Huntsville, Walker County, Texas

---

President Franklin D. Roosevelt also influenced Josey's altruism towards the youth in Huntsville. Roosevelt, an active participant in the Boy Scout Movement, believed the "aim of scouting is to build up better citizenship," and local scout troops were integral to re-building the nation during the Great Depression.<sup>15</sup> At the lodge dedication in 1934, Josey underscored Roosevelt's sentiments and the importance of community service for the betterment of the nation, saying:

Be careful of what you do, be just in what you say, be earnest in what you undertake, be strong to finish what you start, and above all, be sure that these things will help others. Then your fellow Scout will salute you, your friends will applaud you, and when you grow to a man's estate, your town and state and nation will honor you as a true and ideal citizen of these United States.<sup>16</sup>

Josey expressed the president's direct influence in a letter to Ball. He wrote, "As the president so aptly said over the radio Tuesday Night, the encouragement of the youth movement in this country is of utmost importance. I am happy to...enclose, herewith, my check...payable to your order as chairman to complete my subscription to the Boy Scout Movement in Huntsville."<sup>17</sup>

Within ten days of receiving Josey's directive and donation, the Huntsville Boy Scout District Executive Committee (hereafter "committee") convened on December 29, to undertake Josey's wish to construct a "scout cabin." It is not known if the committee had foreknowledge of Josey's gift before Ball received the notification letter on December 19. Nevertheless, they mobilized effectively and set the hurried pace for completing the Josey Boy Scout Lodge within six months. First, they approved a motion to hire Mike Mebane, a young architect from nearby Trinity, Texas, to design the building.<sup>18</sup> At the same meeting, the site-selection committee recommended a property for the scout lodge that was one mile south of downtown Huntsville on Highway 75 (Sam Houston Avenue), at the southern city limit.<sup>19</sup> They ultimately purchased the wooded 5.5-acre site for \$2,000 from Seldon R. Warner; it was the eastern half of the block that later became Josey Park. The initial contract identified the tract "in the afore-mentioned park site" was bounded as follows:

Beginning at the northeast corner, adjacent to the East Texas Gasoline Station, in said proposed park site, and proceeding in a westerly direction along the south side of the street marking the southerly limits of the city of Huntsville approximately 275 feet to the eastern boundary of the property owned by one J.D. Vann...thence in a southerly manner...to the signpost marked "Winding Road," Thence, along the west boundary of Highway 75, in a north-by-west direction to the point of beginning.<sup>20</sup>

Ultimately, they wanted to expand the grounds so all district and visiting scout troops could practice their skills and camp in the rural, wooded setting. To that end, additional contracts, at a total of \$1,900 for 5.1 acres, were made in December 1935 for the western block half.<sup>21</sup>

---

<sup>15</sup> Franklin D. Roosevelt, "Radio Address to the Boy Scouts of America.," February 10, 1934, Online by Gerhard Peters and John T. Woolley, *The American Presidency Project*, <http://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/ws/?pid=14807>.

<sup>16</sup> Robert A. Josey dedicatory speech, "The Dedication of Josey Boy Scout Lodge," June 17, 1934, Sam Houston State University.

<sup>17</sup> Mr. Robert A. Josey to Mr. Tom Ball, February 1, 1934, Josey Lodge Papers.

<sup>18</sup> Special Committee, letter, addressed to Hon. Tom Ball, Chairman, December 29, 1933, Josey Lodge Papers. Mike Mebane, a native of Trinity, Texas, attended the University of Texas and received a degree in architectural engineering in 1928. He formed his own firm in Houston in 1935.

<sup>19</sup> Special Committee, letter, addressed to Hon. Tom Ball, Chairman, December 29, 1933, Josey Lodge Papers.

<sup>20</sup> To Mr. Tom Ball, as submitted by the Special Committee, December 29, 1933, Josey Lodge Papers.

<sup>21</sup> The committee purchased the R.F. O'Bannon-tract, for \$400 and the J. L. Pritchett and Wife-tract for \$1,500.00. The three purchases created the modern 10.6-acre Josey Park. Report of Examination, The Robert A. Josey Lodge, December 31, 1935,

Josey Boy Scout Lodge and Keeper's Cabin, Huntsville, Walker County, Texas

---

The committee completed several more important actions by January 23, 1934. They voted to establish a building committee to oversee construction decisions and schedule, and Lewis E. Meekins, a builder from Trinity, Texas, was awarded the contract to construct Mebane's design.<sup>22</sup> The agreement included a stipulation that he complete the lodge in 75 working days. It is possible the time constraint was determined by an outside factor, a New Deal agency called the Civil Works Administration (CWA).

In November 1933, President Roosevelt created the CWA to provide emergency and temporary employment for millions of Americans. His executive order deliberately assigned the agency a short lifespan, from November 8, 1933 to March 31, 1934, because he anticipated other emergency relief programs to replace it (namely the Works Progress Administration and Public Works Administration).<sup>23</sup> The CWA received \$400 million Federal Emergency Relief Funds and employed 4 million formerly-unemployed men and women. The Texas Relief Commission under Lawrence Westbrook administered the program at the state level. His office reviewed applications for CWA projects that improved roads, built water mains, and constructed or improved community public buildings. Westbrook also steered CWA funds for buildings in state and local parks that did not get Civilian Conservation Corps grant money.<sup>24</sup> In January 1934, Meekins and Stanley Graham traveled to Austin on behalf of the Huntsville Boy Scout committee to apply for CWA grants.<sup>25</sup> Their trip was a success. With a few months left remaining for the CWA program, the Texas Relief Commission awarded the group \$8,418.50 for labor and \$2,112 for materials to construct Josey Lodge.<sup>26</sup>

Construction commenced in February 1934, and Meekins reported there were 50 CWA workers building the lodge. Dr. J. P. Gibbs, a committee member, donated approximately 400 treated native pine logs and limestone rocks on behalf of Gibbs Brothers and Company.<sup>27</sup> During a March site visit, Josey was pleased with the progress and appearance of the lodge, saying, "I believe that this is going to be a very beautiful place when it is finally finished."<sup>28</sup> During the lodge construction, Meekins requested the committee obtain additional funds for building of a "Keeper's House," a small cabin to accommodate a full-time groundskeeper.<sup>29</sup> Although there was broad-based support for the project, the committee voted to postpone that work for another year.

---

Josey Lodge Papers.

<sup>22</sup> Lewis E. Meekins (1908-1979) was born in Trinity, Texas to Robert Earl and Mary Russell Ross Meekins. It is possible that he was associated with architect Mike Mebane before the Josey Lodge work because they were both from Trinity. In 1930, he and his father were self-employed contactors and builders. Five years later, Lewis Meekins lived in Austin and worked as a clerk for the Texas Relief Commission, the agency that oversaw New Deal programs (like the Civil Works Administration) at the state-level. Ancestry.com. *1930 United States Federal Census* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2002; Ancestry.com. *U.S. City Directories, 1822-1995* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2011, 195.

<sup>23</sup> Many CWA projects actually ended in June 1934. "Civil Works Administration," *Living New Deal*, <https://livingnewdeal.org/glossary/civil-works-administration-cwa-1933/>, accessed March 5, 2018.

<sup>24</sup> CWA sponsored clubhouses in Brownwood, Sweetwater, Austin's Zilker Park, Paris, Huntsville, and Mineral Wells. James Wright Steely, *Parks for Texas: Enduring Landscapes of the New Deal*, University of Austin Press, Austin: 1999, 57-58.

<sup>25</sup> Graham was an agriculture professor at Sam Houston State Teachers College (Sam Houston State University). "Executive Meeting [Minutes] of the Huntsville District, January 20, 1934," Josey Lodge Papers

<sup>26</sup> Ibid.

<sup>27</sup> Gibbs Brothers and Company, a family-owned business in Huntsville, opened a general mercantile store in 1847 and a bank in 1890. In the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the firm dealt mainly in land and timber investments. Descendants continue to operate it today in the same brick building in downtown Huntsville. "Executive Meeting [Minutes] of the Huntsville District, January 23, 1934," Josey Lodge Papers; *Handbook of Texas Online*, J. Philip Gibbs, Jr., "Gibbs Brothers and Company," accessed April 06, 2018, <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/dsg02>, accessed March 5, 2018.

<sup>28</sup> Letter to Mr. Tom Ball from Mr. R.A. Josey, March 19, 1934, Josey Lodge Papers.

<sup>29</sup> "Executive Meeting [Minutes] of the Huntsville District, February 21, 1934," Josey Lodge Papers. On February 12, 1934, a new Executive Committee was elected comprising Tom Ball, Chairman, W. E. Lowry, R. L. Bunting, W. T. Robinson, Cecil Adickes, Ottie Barrett, and Gus G. Hollinshead.

Josey Boy Scout Lodge and Keeper's Cabin, Huntsville, Walker County, Texas

---

The Josey Boy Scout Lodge was completed by mid-April, within the requisite time-frame of 75 days at total cost of \$20,000. The structural ("lodgepole") lodge was a handsome building, touted as the "largest log structure in the state," constructed of East Texas timber and stone. Its main room, approximately 40 by 70-feet, featured a petrified wood fireplace with an andiron reportedly fashioned by Huntsville State Penitentiary prisoners. Wagon wheel chandeliers hung from the exposed beam ceiling, and the highly polished wood floor was said to be "suitable for dancing or for a basketball court."<sup>30</sup> The committee equipped the building with a General Electric-brand refrigerator, hot water heater, stove, Frigidaire drinking fountain, and a flagpole. One additional item they purchased was a bronze tablet to commemorate lodge's opening and Josey's generosity.<sup>31</sup>

On June 17, 1934, hundreds of citizens and area scouts from Huntsville, Walker County, and Houston attended the dedication ceremony. Many attendees filled the assembly room and others witnessed the program from outside. They watched through the windows and heard speeches projected via loud speakers. Scouts held a flag lowering ceremony in front of the lodge, and U.S. and Boy Scout flags were planted on either side of the podium.<sup>32</sup> The program included musical selections by the Sam Houston State Teachers College Band and the Ladies Choral Club of Huntsville. There were many expressions of gratitude and well wishes by friends and dignitaries, including Texas Governor William P. Hobby who delivered a speech titled, "My Friend, Robert A. Josey."<sup>33</sup>

The highlight of the day, however, were Josey's dedicatory remarks. He discussed the meaning of charitable service to him personally and its significance to communities and the nation. Josey instructed the scouts that "to be happy and successful in this life, one must start with a definite objective at the earliest moment—and this objective should be service."<sup>34</sup> He emphasized the point when he commended the Josey Lodge building committee and Meekins:

Consider the planning, the thought of detail in fashioning this building that it might be sturdy and most useful in furtherance of Scout Work. While it has involved much effort and time, it has been a labor of love and unselfishness on their part, and I know that today they derive as much enjoyment and real happiness from this achievement as you. As for myself, when I think of the good that this institution should bring to this town, I feel privileged to have had a part in creating it.

Josey also announced that he was "going to offer annually a prize of \$100 to the member of this lodge who has been voted by his fellow members to have given the most in service—not only to this lodge, but to this community—during the year."<sup>35</sup> The award has been granted yearly since its inception.<sup>36</sup>

---

<sup>30</sup> "Bryan Scouts Attend Dedication of Huntsville Scout Lodge; Is Largest Log Structure in State," *The Eagle* (Bryan, Texas), June 18, 1934.

<sup>31</sup> "Executive Committee Meeting of the Huntsville District, Boy Scouts of America," June 11, 1934, Josey Lodge Papers.

<sup>32</sup> "Bryan Scouts Attend Dedication of Huntsville Scout Lodge," *The Eagle* (Bryan, Texas), June 18, 1934.

<sup>33</sup> "Josey Boy Scout Lodge Dedication Program," June 17, 1934, Josey Lodge Papers.

<sup>34</sup> "The Dedication of the Josey Boy Scout Lodge," Speech given at dedication ceremony, June 17, 1934, Josey Lodge Papers.

<sup>35</sup> The "Josey Award" was first given to two scouts: William R. "Ray" Lynch, Jr., and R. L. Bunting, Jr. The former, Ray Lynch, later joined the U.S. Army after graduation from high school and over his career, saw combat in World War II, Korea, and Vietnam, eventually rising to the rank of Brigadier General. "The Dedication of the Josey Boy Scout Lodge," Speech given at dedication ceremony, June 17, 1934, Josey Lodge Papers.

<sup>36</sup> The annual prize was soon dubbed the "Josey Award," and was given at the annual "Father and Sons' Banquet," initially held every December. Fathers and surrogate fathers would attend with their Scout and they would then have the honor of introducing them to the other attendees. Whenever he could attend, Mr. Josey presented the award to the Scout himself. After his death in 1954, Josey bequeathed the Josey Foundation funds to continue the award. In time, the Josey Award banquet was moved to February and became a family-centric banquet, called the "Parents and Sons Banquet." The award was eventually raised to an annual \$500 and the Robert A. Josey Executive Board took over responsibility for judging which Huntsville Scout would receive

Josey Boy Scout Lodge and Keeper's Cabin, Huntsville, Walker County, Texas

---

The executive committee met less often after the lodge dedication, but they reconvened in December 1934 to plan for the lodge's operational future and commence their plans for constructing the Keeper's House. They funded the small cabin with the balance of money left from community donations for the Josey Lodge. By April, a small log cabin was built just north of the lodge. The architect or builder of the Keeper's Cabin is not known. After its completion, the committee formed a legal corporation called the Josey Boy Scout Lodge and selected a Board of Trustees to manage future operations for the lodge and grounds.<sup>37</sup> The Charter for The Robert A. Josey Lodge, dated May 11, 1935, was filed with the Texas Secretary of State on May 14, 1935. It stated, "the purpose for which this corporation shall be formed is to support educational undertakings and particularly to support, encourage, promote, and perpetuate the ideas and ideals of the Boy Scouts of America, scouting and scouting activities, in the City of Huntsville, and in Walker County."<sup>38</sup> The original 9 trustees included Robert A. Josey, Mrs. J. Robert King, and Tom Ball.<sup>39</sup> Since its incorporation the Josey Boy Scout Lodge, Inc., has been responsible for the maintenance and management of the lodge. In the 1970s, they agreed to rent the park to the City of Huntsville; this contract was renewed in the 1990s.<sup>40</sup>

Although the lodge was built for the Boy Scouts, it was as an asset for the entire community. Most scout events were scheduled after school and on weekends, which allowed numerous fraternal, civil, and cultural groups to convene there. Its extensive use within its first six years of existence can be found in a November 1940 letter about the "Father and Son Banquet. It described Josey Boy Scout Lodge as "the greatest single asset found in this community," adding:

The latch-string is always out—Four troops of Boy Scouts meet each week and the headquarters of the Huntsville District, Boy Scouts of America are in the Lodge. The Churches, The Kiwanis, & Rotary Club, The Chamber of Commerce, Businesses, Out of Town Scout caravans, Organizations from S.H.S.T. College, F.F.A Boys, Girl Scouts, and many other civic groups make up a full and beneficial program of activities. During the Summer months a large number of Out-of-town Scouts and Scout Units stop overnight at the Josey Lodge. Some after making a special trip to Historic Huntsville—others passing through. A regular program has to be kept in advance.<sup>41</sup>

Robert A. Josey died on January 31, 1954; he was 83 years old. The *Houston Post* reported that "Prior to the [funeral] service, Boy Scouts filed past the casket in final tribute to the man whose love for youth had made it possible for the scouting program to continue in Huntsville."<sup>42</sup> It also described how, "At the same time, at the Josey Scout Lodge, a

---

the award. Although there were years when the banquet was not held, through the challenging work and dedication of Karla Christian, the annual banquet has continued to occur annually since 2010.

<sup>37</sup> Executive Meeting [Minutes] of the Huntsville District, January 20, 1934," Josey Lodge Papers. Tom Ball, Ottie Barrett, G. G. Hollinshead, and Victor Randel served on the "Building Committee."

<sup>38</sup> "Charter of The Robert A. Josey Lodge," May 11, 1935, Josey Lodge Papers.

<sup>39</sup> The May 14, 1935, filing of The Robert A. Josey Lodge, Inc., Josey Lodge Papers. The other trustees included: O.E. Barrett, C.F. Adickes, W.T. Robinson, L.B. Baldwin, W.E. Lowery, and R.L. Bunting.

<sup>40</sup> In the 1950s, The Robert A. Josey Lodge, Inc. began working with representatives of Sam Houston State Teachers College and the City of Huntsville, to establish the property that was then owned by the lodge as "Josey Park."<sup>40</sup> The early discussions were for the city to pay for drainage, landscaping, and the building of tennis courts. In 1975, the Board of Trustees entered into a more formal contract at the request of the city. The contract allowed the city to pay rent for public use of the park. At this point in time, the charitable and educational mission of the corporation had also changed for it now included the George Strake District Committee of the Boy Scouts of America in Huntsville, the San Jacinto Girl Scouts, Inc., Huntsville Independent School District, Sam Houston State University, and the City of Huntsville.<sup>40</sup> Added to the park facilities was an annex to serve the Cub Scouts and a wooden structure that served as a meeting location for the Girl Scouts. Because the 1975 contract was a 20-year agreement, in 1995s, once again, an agreement was drawn up to continue the relationship between the city and the Josey Lodge, Inc.

<sup>41</sup> Open letter from President Charles N. Shaver, Sam Houston State Teachers College, November 11, 1940, Josey Lodge Papers.

<sup>42</sup> *The Houston Post*, February 3, 1954.

Josey Boy Scout Lodge and Keeper's Cabin, Huntsville, Walker County, Texas

---

mile away, two Eagle Scouts stood guard as the flag was lowered to half-mast in Mr. Josey's memory."<sup>43</sup> Even the graveside service was said to have "opened after Boy Scouts placed a wreath at the foot of the grave."<sup>44</sup> Josey was well loved by the Scouts, and Josey took great pride in the Huntsville Scouting movement. Even in death, Josey made sure the Scouts were taken care of, for in his will, he left an endowment fund of \$30,000 for the support of the Josey Lodge and Huntsville Scouting.

### Significance in the Area of Architecture

In the 20<sup>th</sup> century, log cabins and lodges were built for a variety of purposes—clubhouses, roadside businesses, park structures, vacation homes—and evoked a bygone frontier era. As one of the earliest architecture forms used in federal park design, log buildings were just one form of rustic style promoted by the National Park Service between 1916 and 1942. The Boy Scouts of America also promoted log buildings in publications from 1914-1931. Widespread popularity for the style similarly resulted in architecture pattern books, like the 1934 *How to Build Cabins, Lodges, and Bungalows* by Popular Science Magazine. The Josey Boy Scout Lodge and Keeper's Cabin are representative examples of rustic architecture of the period. Sited on a gentle hill and nestled among pine trees, the lodge evokes a picturesque form with craftsmanship and materials that celebrate historical pioneer building techniques. As a 20<sup>th</sup> century construction, it also an idealized, comfortable, and safe interpretation of 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century pioneer log buildings.

The Josey Boy Scout Lodge as a log cabin enhanced the wilderness experience for scouts as its style obliquely referenced a venerable American past. By the 1930s, the log cabin was ingrained into popular memory as the building type that most symbolized the American pioneer experience.<sup>45</sup> Its rustic construction and native materials harkened to a period when pioneers cleared the wilderness and used the logs to construct a crude home (the first step in civilization-building.) Americans admired the early settlers for their resourcefulness, individualism, diligence, and egalitarianism, and fostered those virtues within history curricula for children.<sup>46</sup> The historicity of log buildings, as symbols of the American frontier past, enhanced moral and educational lessons for boy scouts by physically recreating the pioneer experience. Subsequently, scout buildings copied pioneer architecture with a variety of scale and amenities across the country. The Josey Lodge, built in a wooded area outside of Huntsville, provided an idealized and comfortable pioneer experience for its scouts. Its rustic finishes and structural materials were a nod to early American log buildings, but its spacious assembly room, casement windows, and fireplaces were finer features not found in the earliest pioneer homes.

Architectural precedents for the Josey Boy Scout Lodge were partly the result of the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) nationwide promotion for log scout buildings. As early as 1914, the BSA monthly magazine *Boy's Life* encouraged log cabin building. The June 1914 article, "Scout Cabins and How to Build Them," gave instructions to build a modest-sized building "with the desirable rustic finish," and an adjoining editorial (written by "Fats," a Maryland boy scout) that described the process: "We made the woods ring with chopping. Each log was notched on top and bottom and on both ends. After we got near the top we bored big holes through these logs and hammered in some oak pegs... We had

---

<sup>43</sup> *The Houston Post*, February 3, 1954.

<sup>44</sup> *The Houston Post*, February 3, 1954.

<sup>45</sup> For an in-depth discussion of the log cabin as a form of shelter and cultural icon in American history, see Alison K. Hoagland, *The Log Cabin: An American Icon* (Charlottesville, VA: University of Virginia Press, 2018).

<sup>46</sup> For much of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the pioneer experience was one of two foundational lessons in Texas history (the other being the 1836 Texas Revolution). This viewpoint was supported in general school texts, academia, and in the state-sponsored 1936 Texas Centennial celebration. *Ibid.*, 116.

Josey Boy Scout Lodge and Keeper's Cabin, Huntsville, Walker County, Texas

---

a barrel of fun building and...a heap of good eats afterward.”<sup>47</sup> The issue also included a 2-page pictorial spread (Figure 4) showcasing the various log cabin styles built by scouts.

The BSA *Handbook for Boys* provided step-by-step instructions for cabin-building in its annual publication until 1927. A chapter entitled, “Woodcraft” by Daniel Carter Beard, explained the process (which he based on the book “Shacks, Shelters, and Shanties”) for building a one-pen log house. Beard provided useful tips for selecting logs, felling trees (“do not stand behind it,”) notching, chinking, and squaring the building.<sup>48</sup> Even though cabin construction was dropped by the handbook in 1927, the BSA produced supplemental publications like the 1931 *Preparing the Way: Pioneering* that also instructed scouts on the process. The influence of this early promotion carried through the 1930s, and scout huts, cabins, and lodges continued to take on the log cabin form.

Texas newspapers reported on the construction of early log scout buildings between 1914 and 1930 providing a statewide precedent for the Josey Boy Scout Lodge and Keeper's Cabin. Generally, articles acknowledged building activity without architectural details, yet suggested the majority built were small cabins. Large camps and more elaborate buildings received greater attention. The first known dedicated scout facility in Texas was the Dallas troops' permanent camp site, a wooded 46-acre tract on Stewart Lake built in 1914. Featured in *Boy's Life*, the site included log houses, a huge assembly room, mess hall, and a bandstand (an “unusual” feature).<sup>49</sup> In 1921, the *Marshall News Messenger* described its local scouts' new cabin: “It will be made of pine logs and will have two rooms, 16x16 feet, with a 10-foot porch running all around the cabin, which will be screened in. The roof will be three-foot home split boards, and everything rustic that can be made will be added.”<sup>50</sup> Camp Charles F. Perry in Rio Hondo (Cameron County), touted now as the oldest operating boy scout camp in Texas, featured a large lodge structure with a central rustic stone fireplace that was completed c. 1930. Historical pictures of the two-story log lodge suggest it was a log-artifice construction—log slabs on a wood structural frame to mimic log construction.<sup>51</sup> Other log cabins were reported in Houston (1919), Corpus Christi (1920), El Paso (1921), Shiner (1924), and Rusk (1929).

The Josey Boy Scout Lodge and Keeper's Cabin exhibit a rustic aesthetic influenced by the highly-visible federal and state park facility design promoted by the National Park Service (NPS) during the 1930s. Between 1916 and 1942, NPS architects fostered an architectural approach to building design, influenced by the 19<sup>th</sup> century conservation movement, wherein park structures were built to harmonize with the environment. The “pioneer log cabin,” like the 1922 Yellowstone Lake ranger station, was one form NPS revived because it employed materials that were non-intrusive in wooded surroundings, and its handcrafted construction reinforced historical building techniques to produce an organic finish in accordance with the environment.<sup>52</sup>

The Great Depression resulted in unprecedented resources for NPS as President Roosevelt's federal relief programs injected funds and manpower to parks across the U.S. Through the Civilian Conservation Corps (1933-1942), an employment program for young men, the NPS State Parks Division regional officers articulated the NPS rustic aesthetic in state park projects that were completed by local architects, craftsmen, and unskilled laborers. At the end of 1934, there were 268 CCC camps in state parks nationwide, and 23 of these were in located in 20 Texas state and

---

<sup>47</sup> Boy Scouts of America, *Boy's Life: The Boy Scouts' Magazine*, Boy Scouts of America: New York City: 19-21.

<sup>48</sup> Boy Scouts of America, *The Official Handbook for Boys*, 22<sup>nd</sup> Ed., (Boy Scouts of America: New York City, 1920): 87-90

<sup>49</sup> *Ibid.*, 32-33.

<sup>50</sup> “Boy Scouts Log Cabin is Now Underway,” *The Marshall News Messenger*, July 1, 1921.

<sup>51</sup> The main lodge was torn down in the 1950s. [Camperrytexas.org](http://Camperrytexas.org), accessed March 2, 2018.

<sup>52</sup> National Park Service, William Tweed, et. al., *Rustic Architecture 1916-1942*, (National Park Service, Western Regional Office, Division of Cultural Resource Management, 1977):1.

Josey Boy Scout Lodge and Keeper's Cabin, Huntsville, Walker County, Texas

---

metropolitan parks.<sup>53</sup> At its peak in Texas, CCC-operated camps employed 19,200 young men (in addition to local craftsmen, landscape architects, engineers, and architects), and the program helped establish 56 state parks.<sup>54</sup>

In Texas, the NPS oversight process for controlling park design directly influenced projects undertaken by another federal relief agency: the Civil Works Administration. In May 1933, NPS appointed Herb Maier as District Officer for Region III, a geographical area that included Texas. Maier, an architect experienced in federal park building design, trained Frederick Amerman Dale, a traveling inspector, to be Maier's "eyes, ears, and design hands," at all Texas parks sites to ensure CCC work followed NPS architectural standards.<sup>55</sup> After seven months of that work, Dale transferred to the Texas Relief Commission, an agency in charge of federal relief disbursement for the state under the direction of Lawrence W. Westbrook. Dale was Westbrook's field engineer and helped implement a diverse array of CWA-sponsored projects that included park buildings on state and local property, like the Josey Scout Lodge. His training "in the art of park design" informed Dale's work for CWA, and park buildings constructed under him exhibited "striking and deliberate qualities of NPS design standards...as pioneered and recommended" by Maier.<sup>56</sup>

Dale directed local architect's designs for CWA municipal park buildings to have qualities of NPS rustic design. The CWA-funded Boy Scout Hut (now Zilker Clubhouse) at Zilker Park in Austin is a comparative example to the Josey Boy Scout Lodge. Architect Charles F. Page supervised the building design and Dale oversaw its construction in 1934. The 1-story scout lodge was constructed of limestone sited atop a hill overlooking the City of Austin. Seemingly emerging out of the hill, the foundation is battered and the exterior walls are roughly-finished. Massive chimneys are at each gable end, fixtures and hinges were made of ornamental ironwork, and the interior assembly room is decorated with wagon wheel chandeliers.<sup>57</sup>

The Josey Scout Lodge similarly emphasized handcrafts and rustic design. Mebane created a log building in the wooded setting that gave the feeling of having been built by pioneers with handcrafted finishes like the petrified wood fireplace, a prisoner-made andiron, and wagon wheel chandeliers. These architectural elements and the overall structure embodied design principles that were found in contemporaneous state and federal park structures. Partially funded by the CWA, its likely Fred Dale exerted some influence over Mebane's design but there is no documentation to confirm it. Josey Lodge also conformed to rustic, pioneer log architecture promoted by the Boy Scouts of American constructed in Texas communities during this period. Despite these influences, the Josey Lodge exhibits a formal plan and a high-style version of log cabin architecture, rather than the picturesque examples in state parkers, and reflects Mebane's experience designing suburban country homes.

---

<sup>53</sup> Hoagland, Alison K. *The Log Cabin: An American Icon*, (University of Virginia Press, Charlottesville: 2018): 214; Steely, *Parks for Texas*, 71.

<sup>54</sup> *Handbook of Texas Online*, Kenneth E. Hendrickson, Jr., "Civilian Conservation Corps," accessed April 19, 2018, <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/ncc01>.

<sup>55</sup> Herbert Maier (1893-1969) studied architecture at the University of California, Berkley and engineering in San Francisco. Maier designed four museums at Yosemite National Park between 1924 and 1929. According to historian James W. Steely, these designs "epitomized for more than a decade...facilities that harmonized with the landscape." James W. Steely, "Rustic Style in Depression Texas: Federal Architecture in the State Parks, 1933-1934." (Master's Thesis, University of Texas at Austin, 1985): 18; 74-76; Steely, James Wright. *Parks for Texas: Enduring Landscapes of the New Deal*, (University of Texas Press, Austin: 1999): 24, 28.

<sup>56</sup> Steely, *Parks for Texas*, 58.

<sup>57</sup> National Register of Historic Places, Zilker Park Historic District, Austin, Travis County, Texas, National Register # 97000479, 13.

Josey Boy Scout Lodge and Keeper's Cabin, Huntsville, Walker County, Texas

---

*Mike Mebane (1908-1997)*

Mike Mebane designed the 1934 Josey Boy Scout Lodge in Huntsville at the beginning of his long and successful career. Elbridge "Mike" Beuhring Mebane was born in Trinity, Texas, 20 miles northeast of Huntsville, to Charles Richmond Mebane and Ella May Beuhring in 1908. At the age of 16 in 1924, he entered the University of Texas College of Engineering on scholarship, and he graduated four years later with a BA in Architectural Engineering. There he joined Alpha Ro Chi, an architecture fraternity, and earned entry into Tau Beta Pi, a collegiate honor society for engineers. At UT, Mebane studied under Samuel Edward Gideon, a proponent of historic preservation with an academic interest in pioneer structures. Gideon praised simple, "indigenous" Texas architecture that exhibited "frank and truthful expressions of material and purpose" and published articles on the subject.<sup>58</sup> Whether Mebane was imparted with this appreciation for 19<sup>th</sup>-century Texas buildings or whether Gideon's teaching informed Mebane's scout lodge design is unclear. Rather, his education and early apprenticeships matriculated Mebane in conventional residential and commercial architectural design, lessons that helped him get his first job with the Russell Brown Company.

The Josey Boy Scout Lodge commission stands out within the context of Mebane's early career, and the circumstances under which he was hired are vague. From 1932-1938, the Houston City Directory listed Mebane as the staff architect for the Russell Brown Company, a prominent home builder. The company capitalized on the popularity of suburban country home design and produced traditional revival-style residences in upper-class neighborhoods. Nine such formal residences in the Houston's River Oaks neighborhood are attributed to Mebane, and doubtless there were others in the city that he designed.<sup>59</sup> It is possible that Mebane sought additional jobs in 1933, a year during the Great Depression in which unemployment peaked nationally. In that year, New Deal agencies, like the Civilian Conservation Corps and Civil Works Administration, hired out-of-work engineers and architects for community-initiated public works projects across the state.

The Josey Boy Scout Lodge was one such effort that leveraged New Deal relief funds, and word of the project may have reached Mebane through his family contacts in Trinity (20 miles northeast of Huntsville). Another Trinity connection was Lewis Meekins, who was hired shortly after Mebane to construct the Josey Lodge. Both men grew up in the small town, graduated Trinity Highschool within a year of each other, and had family still living there in 1933. They may have helped each other to get the job. Ultimately, there is only conjecture to explain Mebane's connection to the Huntsville project. When he finished the Josey Lodge design, his role in Huntsville was complete.

Following four years of service as Lieutenant Commander in the Civil Engineering Corps for the U.S. Navy during World II, Mebane moved to Beaumont, Texas to join the firm Stone and Pitts. In 1934, Llewellyn "Skeet" Pitts (1906-1967) and Fred C. Stone formed a partnership, and their modernist commercial designs and traditional revival style residences, led them to become one of the most regionally-prominent firms of the period.<sup>60</sup> After Pitts returned from armed service in 1945, the firm commenced its work with Mebane hired as an associate architect. When Stone retired in 1957, Mebane became an equal partner and the firm changed its name to Pitts, Mebane, and Phelps. In 1964, Mebane established his own firm but maintained a consultative partnership with his former firm.

---

<sup>58</sup> Historian James Steely asserted that Gideon was a significant influence on another student, Arthur Fehr, who designed the park facilities at Bastrop State Park in 1934. Steely, *Rustic Style in Depression Texas: Federal Architecture in the State Parks, 1933-1941*. Thesis. University of Texas, Austin (1985): 92; National Register of Historic Places, Bastrop State Park National Historic Landmark, Bastrop, Bastrop County, Texas, National Register #97001242, 49.

<sup>59</sup> City of Houston, "The Jack R. and Auban Tenison House," Landmark Designation Report, 2014.

<sup>60</sup> National Register of Historic Places, Lamar State College of Technology Administration Building, Beaumont, Jefferson County, Texas, 16.

Josey Boy Scout Lodge and Keeper's Cabin, Huntsville, Walker County, Texas

---

Pitts, Mebane, and Phelps (and its successor firms) produced award-winning large-scale commercial, industrial, and governmental projects that utilized modern forms and materials. Petrochemical companies—Gulf Oil, Shell Oil, and Texaco—hired them for major commissions that included a 20-building research center. They were the designing architects for modern Coca-Cola bottling plants, including the 1952 AIA-award-winning plant in Houston. In 1965, they worked with Brooks, Barr, Graeber & White of Austin to complete the U.S. Embassy Office Building in Mexico City. Other notable works were: Lamar State College of Technology campus (including the Pitts-designed 1959 Otho Plummer Administration Building), Beaumont; St. Elizabeth Hospital (1964), Beaumont; and University of Houston Moody Towers (1969), Houston. Although Pitts received primary recognition for many of the firms' projects, Mebane was also Texas Society of Architects and Texas AIA regional chapter award recipient. These projects included: the Houston Coca-Cola Bottling Plant; Sam Houston State Office Building, Austin; Lamar State College Men's Dormitory, Beaumont; and Shell Oil Company Laboratory, New Orleans.<sup>61</sup>

Before his retirement in 1973, Mebane was an active member of state and regional architectural societies. In 1955, Mebane was the AIA Southeast Texas Chapter President and, from 1962-1963, he served as director of the Texas Society of Architects. Upon his wife, Maxine Kubela's, death in 1986, he established an endowment at the University of Texas that he contributed to until his death in 1997. His estate bequeathed an additional grant and the Mike and Maxine K. Mebane Endowment Traveling Scholarship in Architecture is awarded to students annually.<sup>62</sup>

### Conclusion

The 1934 Josey Boy Scout Lodge and 1935 Keeper's Cabin in Huntsville, Walker County, Texas are named for its benefactor, Robert A. Josey, who provided funds to construct a dedicated scout facility in his hometown. Designed by architect Mike Mebane at the beginning of his successful career and completed with assistance from the Civil Works Administration (CWA), the lodge and cabin are among the most intact examples of Depression Era rustic park architecture in Texas. The lodge and cabin are nominated to the National Register at the local level of significance under Criterion A in the area of Social History for their association with Huntsville-area scouting activities through the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century. They are also nominated under Criterion C in the area of Architecture as an excellent example of rustic buildings inspired by the design of federal and state park facilities in the style promoted by the National Park Service. The period of significance is 1934-1968 (the current 50-year cutoff).

---

<sup>61</sup> American Institute of Architects, "Mebane, Mike," *American Architects Directory*, 3<sup>rd</sup> Ed., 1970, 611; National Register of Historic Places, Beaumont Commercial District (Boundary and Significance Increase), Beaumont, Jefferson County, Texas, National Register #0700892, 30-31; Lamar State College of Technology Administration Building, Beaumont, Jefferson County, Texas, National Register #15000838, 16-18; "Mike Mebane," Obituary, *Austin American Statesman*, July 17, 1997.

<sup>62</sup> "Mike Mebane," Obituary, *Austin American Statesman*, July 17, 1997.

Josey Boy Scout Lodge and Keeper's Cabin, Huntsville, Walker County, Texas

---

**Major Bibliographic References**

- Anonymous. (n.d., circa 1935). "Boy Scout Work is Backed by All Huntsville." *Josey Lodge Papers*.
- Berry, E. R. (Attorney). (1934). Letter to Mr. Tom Ball dated February 15, 1934. *Josey Lodge Papers*. Huntsville, Texas.
- Boy Scouts Huntsville District. (1935). "Charter of The Robert A. Josey Lodge, May 11, 1935." *Josey Lodge Papers*. Huntsville, Texas.
- Boy Scouts Huntsville District. (1934-1935). "Executive Meeting [Minutes] of the Huntsville District, various dates. *Josey Lodge Papers*. Huntsville, Texas.
- City of Houston. "The Jack R. and Aubian Tenison House," Landmark Designation Report.
- Dwyer, Charles L. and Gerald L. Holder. (2017). "Huntsville, TX." *Handbook of Texas Online*. Retrieved from <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/heh03>.
- The Historical Marker Database. (2017). "First Boy Scout Armory." *The Historic Marker Database*. Retrieved from <https://www.hmdb.org/marker.asp?marker=2522>;
- Hoagland, Alison K. *The Log Cabin: An American Icon*. University of Virginia Press, Charlottesville: 2018.
- The Houston Post*, February 3, 1954. "Josey Rites Are Held at Huntsville."
- Josey, Robert A. (1934). "The Dedication of the Josey Boy Scout Lodge, June 17, 1934." *Josey Lodge Papers*. Huntsville, Texas.
- Josey, Robert A. (1933, December 19). Letter addressed to Tom Ball. Unpublished papers of The Robert A. Josey Lodge, Inc., in possession of Kay King Mitchell, Huntsville, Texas.
- Josey Board. (1975). "Article of Amendment to the Articles of Incorporation of the Robert A. Josey Lodge, Inc., December 27, 1975." Josey Lodge Papers. Huntsville, Texas.
- Josey Board. (2008). "Meeting of The Board of Directors of the Robert A. Josey Lodge, Inc., March 17, 2008," Josey Lodge Papers. Huntsville, Texas.
- "Mebane, Mike," Obituary. *Austin American Statesman*, June 17, 1997. [www.newspapers.com](http://www.newspapers.com) Accessed March 20, 2018.
- National Park Service. Tweed, William C., Laura E. Soulliere, and Henry G. Law. *Rustic Architecture 1916-1942*. National Park Service, Western Regional Office, Division of Cultural Resource Management, 1977.
- National Register of Historic Places, Beaumont Commercial District (Boundary and Significance Increase), Beaumont, Jefferson County, Texas, National Register #0700892

Josey Boy Scout Lodge and Keeper's Cabin, Huntsville, Walker County, Texas

---

\_\_\_\_\_, Lamar State College of Technology Administration Building, Beaumont, Jefferson County, Texas, National Register #15000838.

Roosevelt, Franklin Delano. (1934). "Radio Address on the President's First Birthday Ball for Crippled Children, January 30, 1934." <http://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/ws/index.php?pid=14728&st=&st1>.

Shaver, Charles, N. (President). (1940). "Open letter from President of Sam Houston State Teachers College, November 11, 1940." Josey Lodge Papers. Huntsville, Texas.

Smith, Robert W. (Appraiser) "A Letter of Opinion of The Value of The Josey Scout Lodge Building," letter addressed to Morris I. Waller, Chairman, Robert A. Josey, Inc., June 22, 1987, Josey Lodge Papers.

Special Committee. (1933). Letter addressed to Hon. Tom Ball, Chairman dated December 29, 1933. *Josey Lodge Papers*. Huntsville, Texas.

Special Committee. (1934). "Josey Boy Scout Lodge Dedication Program, June 17, 1934." *Josey Lodge Papers*. Huntsville, Texas.

Steely, James Wright. *Parks for Texas: Enduring Landscapes of the New Deal*. University of Texas Press, Austin: 1999.

\_\_\_\_\_. "Rustic Style in Depression Texas: Federal Architecture in the State Parks, 1933-1934." Master's Thesis, University of Texas at Austin, 1985.

West Texas Scouting History. "First Scout Troops in Texas." West Texas Scouting History. [http://www.westtexasscoutinghistory.net/troops\\_first.html](http://www.westtexasscoutinghistory.net/troops_first.html) (accessed May 31, 2018).

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service. (1988). "Cascade Boy Scout Lodge." *National Register of Historic Places*. Retrieved from <https://npgallery.nps.gov/NRHP/AssetDetail?assetID=25dee5ab-7927-4ed5-bd81-531c82c18cda>.

Josey Boy Scout Lodge and Keeper's Cabin, Huntsville, Walker County, Texas

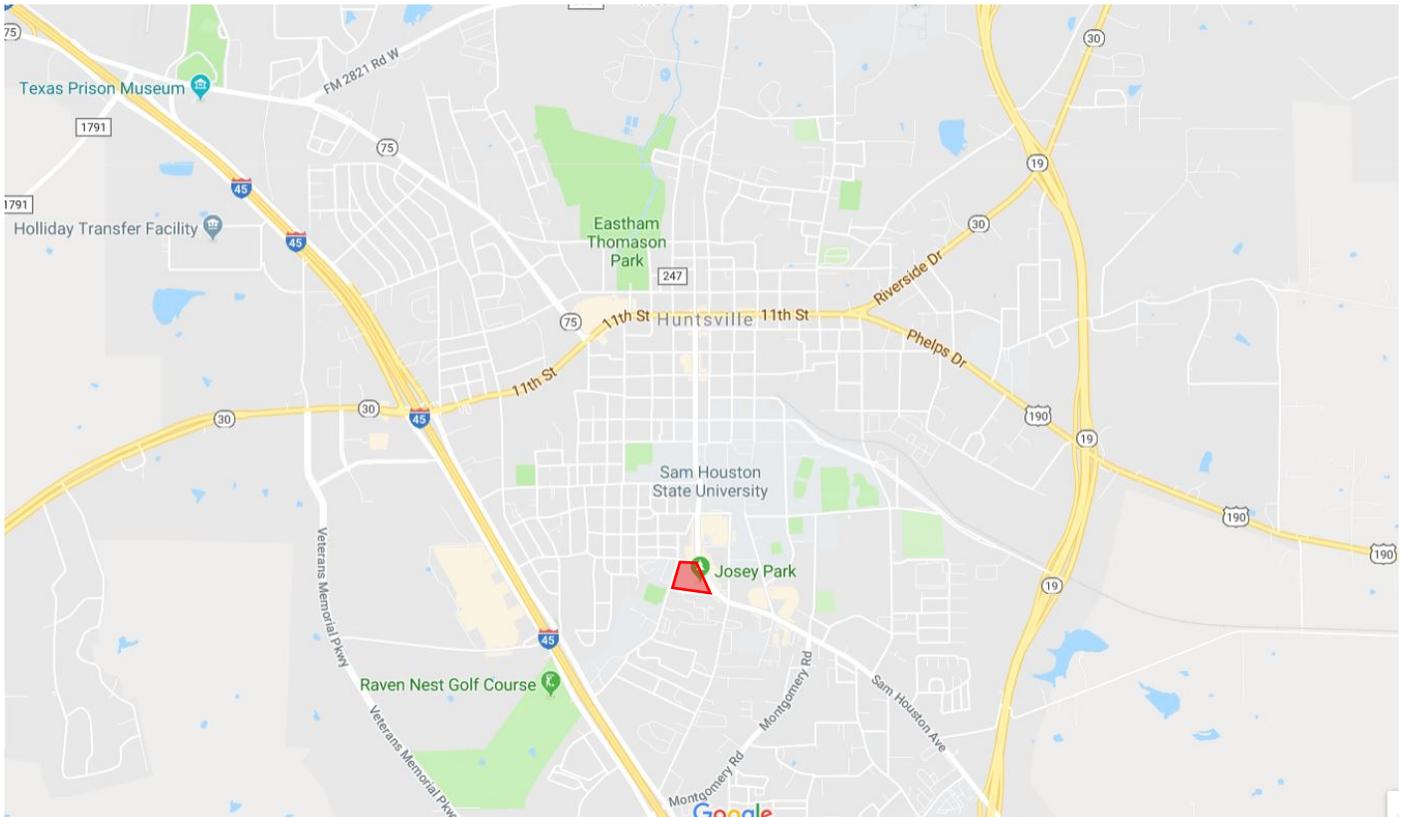
---

**Maps**

Map 1: Walker County, Texas



Map 2: Josey Park (shaded red) in Huntsville, Walker County, Texas. Google Maps, accessed March 20, 2018.



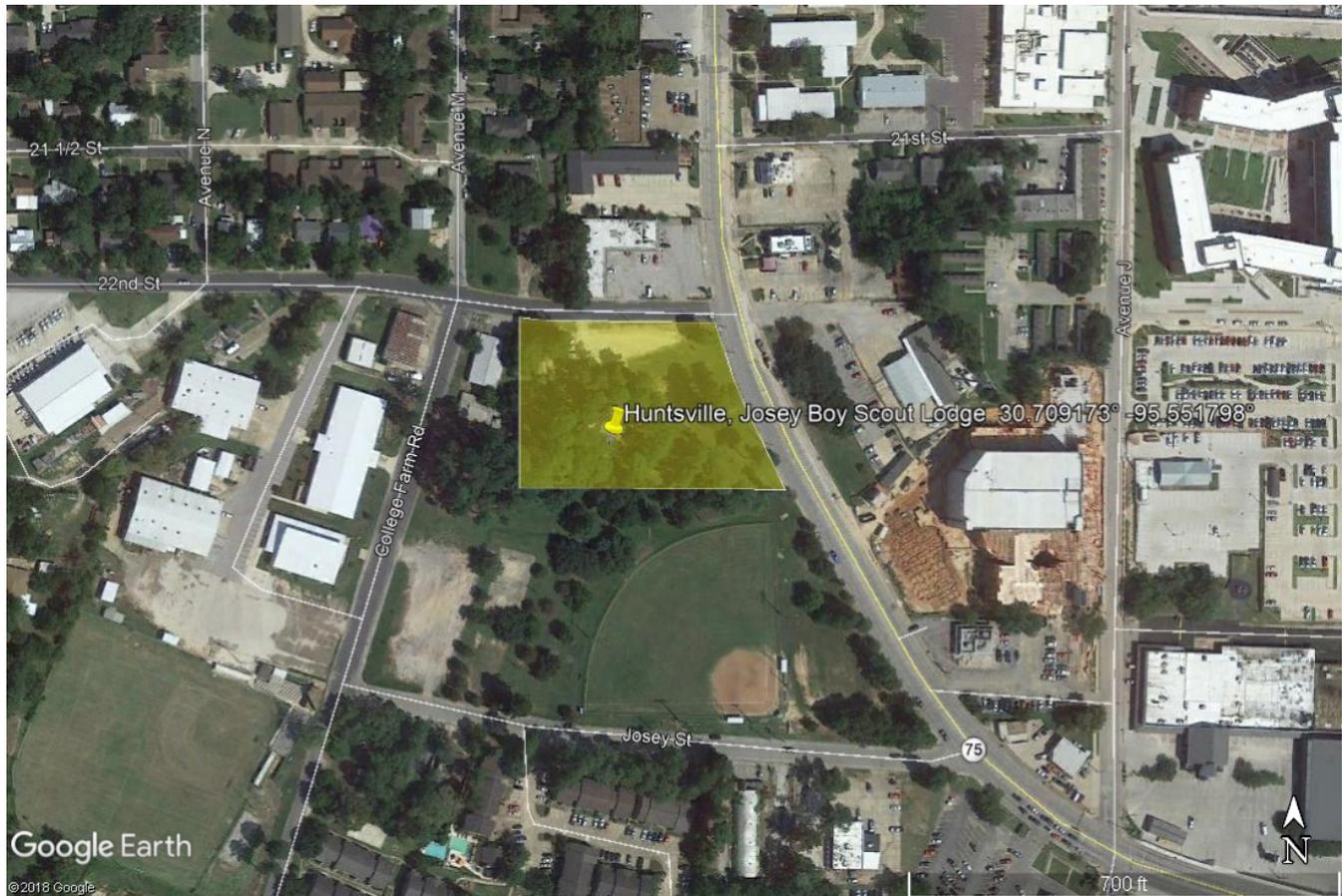
Josey Boy Scout Lodge and Keeper's Cabin, Huntsville, Walker County, Texas

Map 3: Location map and nomination boundary.

Google Earth, accessed March 1, 2018

Latitude: 30.709173°N Longitude: -95.551798°W

The boundary is drawn to include the 1934 Josey Boy Scout Lodge, 1935 Keeper's Cabin, and flag pole that are associated with historic period of the property. It excludes the Josey Girls Scouts Building and Josey Annex, which were both constructed outside the period of significance in the 1970s, and recreation areas at the southern portion of the park do not convey the historic function of the property.



Josey Boy Scout Lodge and Keeper's Cabin, Huntsville, Walker County, Texas

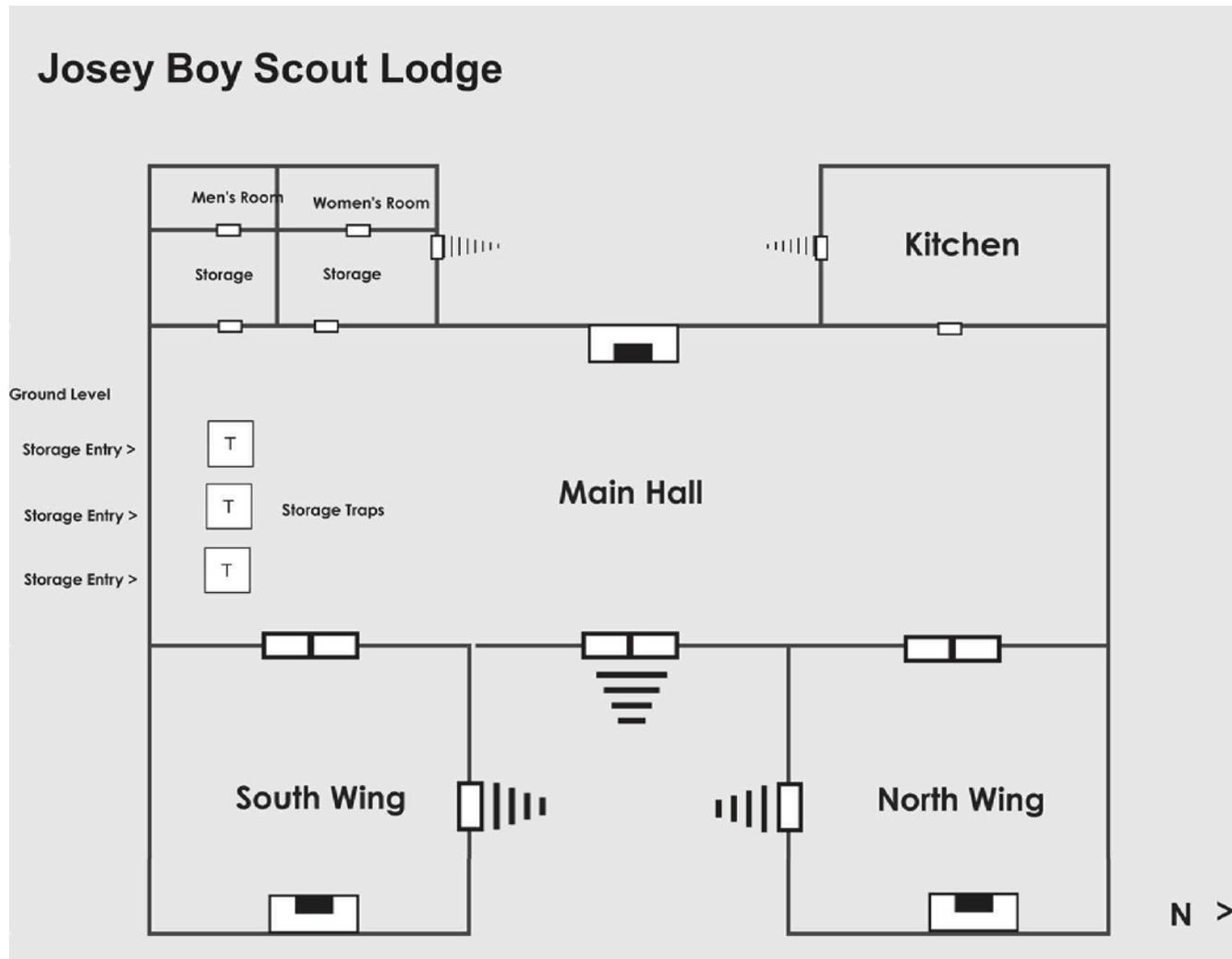
Map 4: Aerial map showing nomination boundary (shaded blue) of Josey Boy Scout Lodge and Keeper's Cabin within Josey Park parcel. Footprints for each building, including non-contributing Annex and Girl Scout Hut, are also shown.





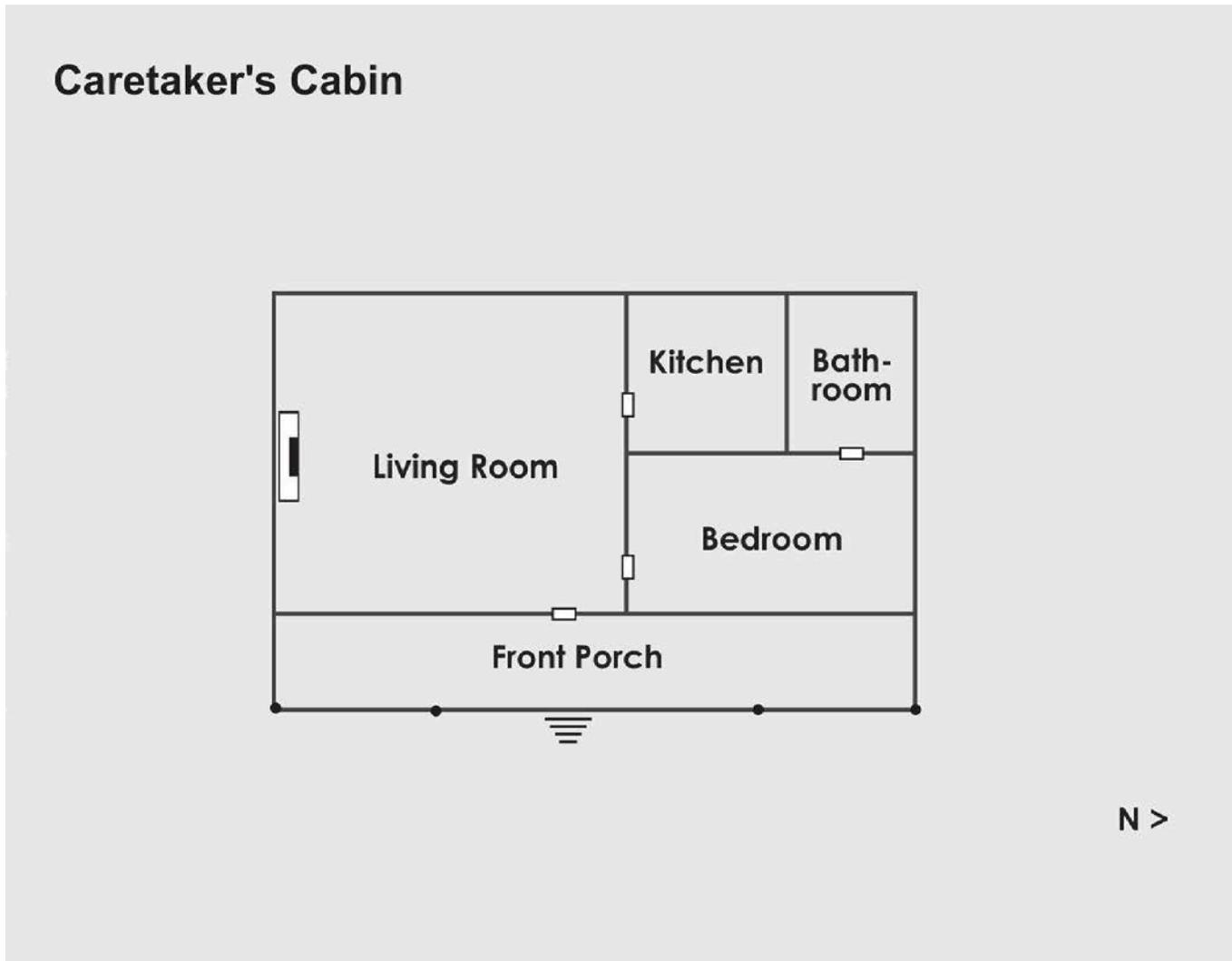
Josey Boy Scout Lodge and Keeper's Cabin, Huntsville, Walker County, Texas

Figure 2: Josey Boy Scout Lodge sketch plan (2018)



Josey Boy Scout Lodge and Keeper's Cabin, Huntsville, Walker County, Texas

Figure 3: Keeper's Cabin sketch plan (2018)



Josey Boy Scout Lodge and Keeper's Cabin, Huntsville, Walker County, Texas

Figure 4: Log Scout cabins promoted by the Boy Scouts of America in *Boy's Life* magazine, 1914. The issue promoted log buildings as a scout activity and included an article on the alleged first boy scout camp, with log cabins, in Dallas, Texas.

Source: *Boy Scouts of America, Boy's Life: The Boy Scouts' Magazine, Boy Scouts of America: New York City: 19-21.*

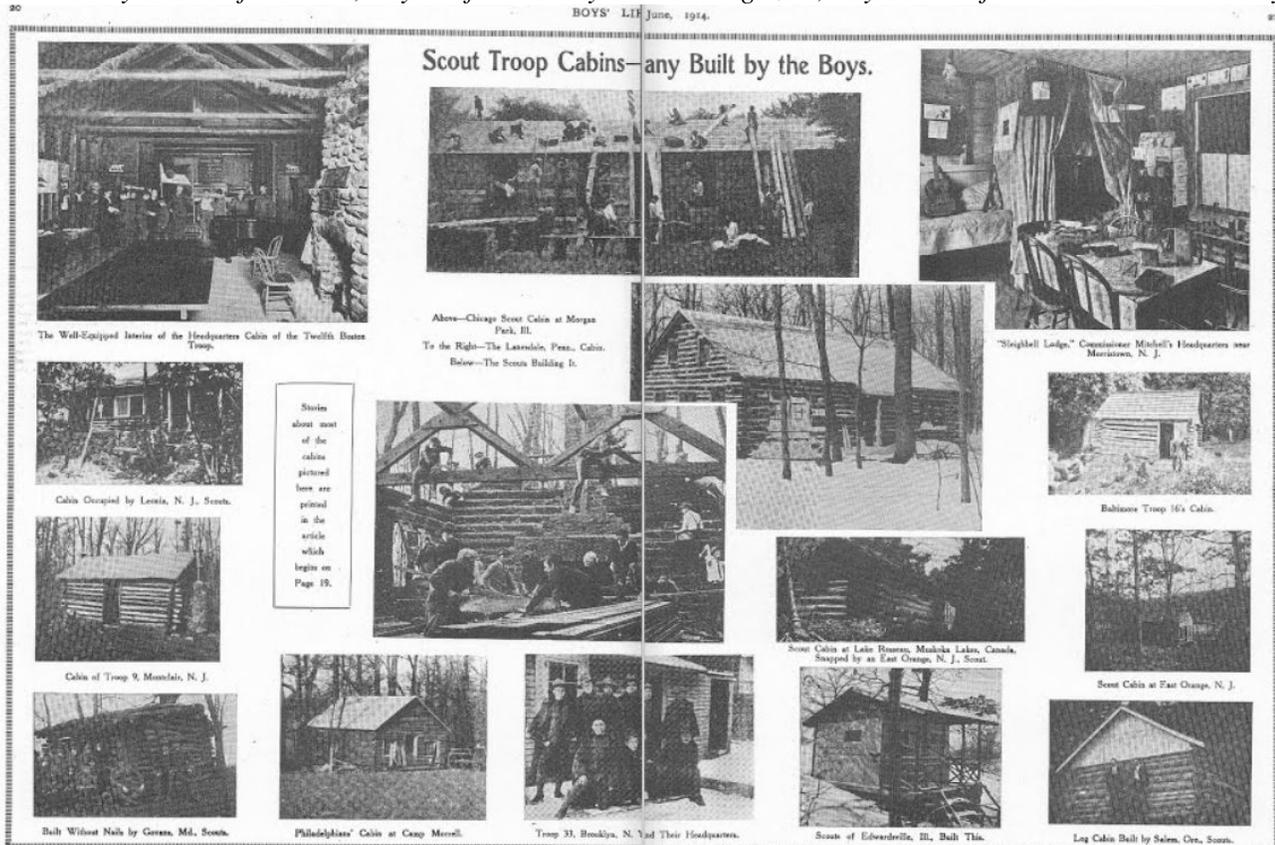
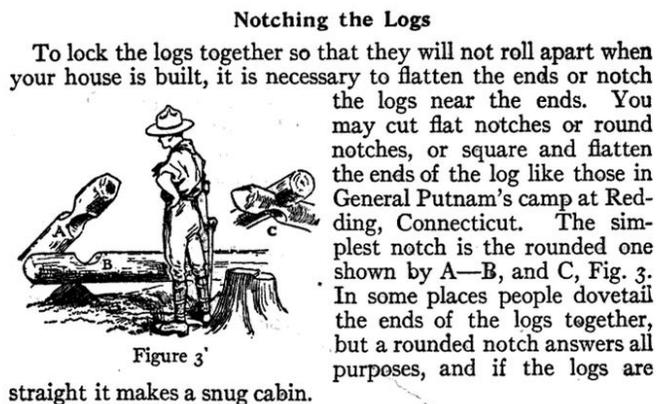


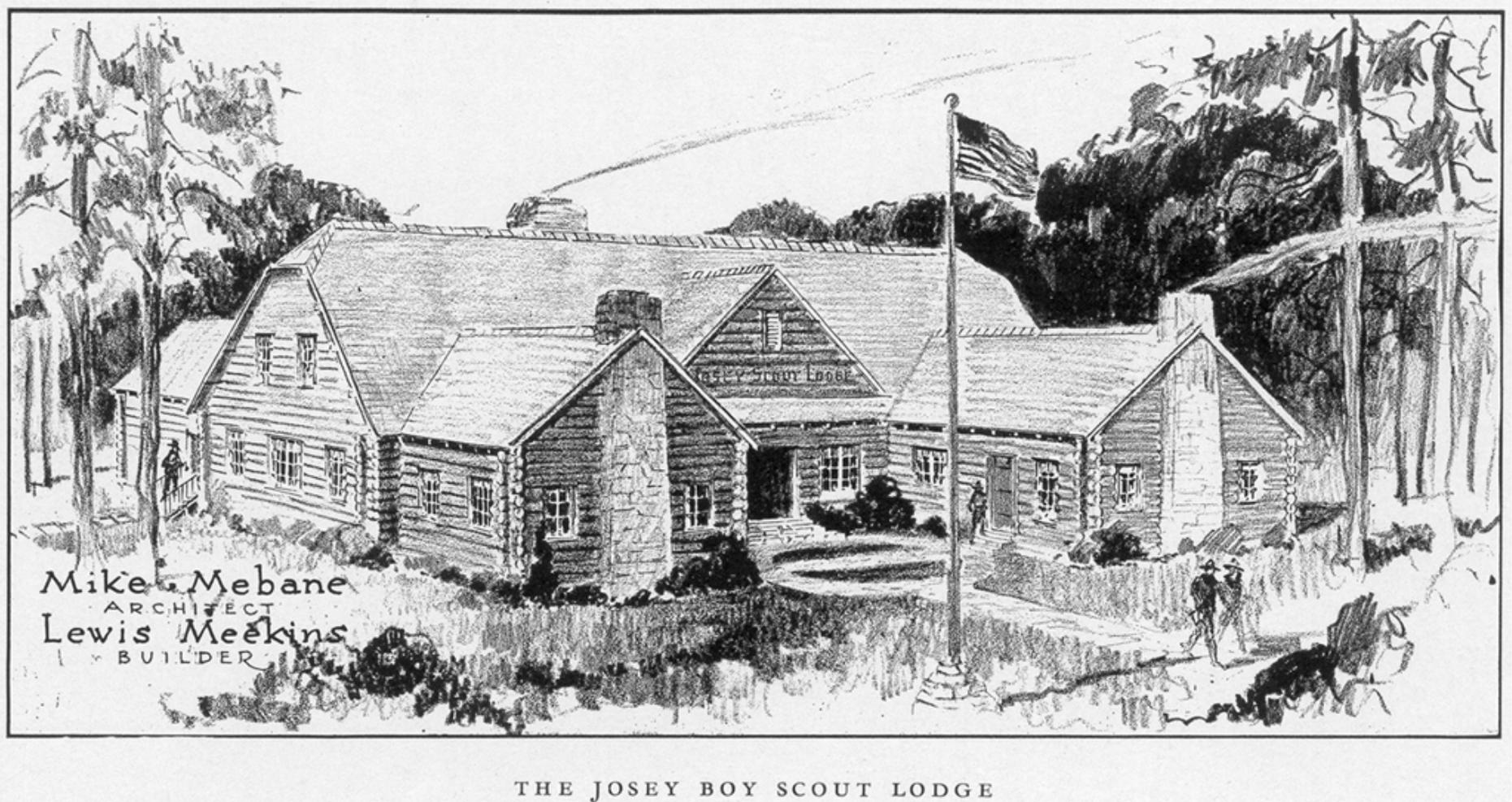
Figure 5: Excerpt from 1920 edition of *The Official Handbook for Boys* that instructed boy scouts on how to build a log cabin.

Source: Beard, Daniel Carter. "How to Build a Log Cabin," in *The Official Handbook for Boys*, 22<sup>nd</sup> Ed. Boy Scouts of America, New York: 1920.



Josey Boy Scout Lodge and Keeper's Cabin, Huntsville, Walker County, Texas

Figure 6: Architect Mike Mebane's drawing of Josey Boy Scout Lodge, 1933.  
Source: Kay King Mitchell Personal Collection



Josey Boy Scout Lodge and Keeper's Cabin, Huntsville, Walker County, Texas

---

Figure 7: *Dallas Morning News* article about the dedication, June 17, 1934. This is the only known historic image. Source: Newsbank, America's Historical Newspapers, accessed March 1, 2018.



Figure 8: Robert A. Josey with boy scout troop inside Josey Boy Scout Lodge, March 10, 1949. Source: Robert A. Josey Lodge, Inc.



Josey Boy Scout Lodge and Keeper's Cabin, Huntsville, Walker County, Texas

---

**Photos**

Josey Boy Scout Lodge and Keeper's Cabin

Huntsville, Walker County, Texas

Photographer: Harriet McHale

Date: June 6, 2017

Photo 1: Josey Boy Scout Lodge front (east) elevation, camera facing west—June 6, 2017.



Josey Boy Scout Lodge and Keeper's Cabin, Huntsville, Walker County, Texas

---

Photo 2: South wing and entrance at front (east) elevation, camera faces west—June 6, 2017.  
Interlocking half-round notches connect the log corners.



Photo 3: North wing and entrance at front (east) elevation, camera faces west—June 6, 2017.



Josey Boy Scout Lodge and Keeper's Cabin, Huntsville, Walker County, Texas

---

Photo 4: North and partial west (rear) elevation, camera faces southeast—June 6, 2017.



Josey Boy Scout Lodge and Keeper's Cabin, Huntsville, Walker County, Texas

---

Photo 5: Southwest oblique of rear (west) elevation, camera faces northeast—June 6, 2017.



Josey Boy Scout Lodge and Keeper's Cabin, Huntsville, Walker County, Texas

---

Photo 6: South elevation, camera faces north—June 6, 2017.



Josey Boy Scout Lodge and Keeper's Cabin, Huntsville, Walker County, Texas

---

Photo 7: Lodge interior showing restroom entries (left), fireplace, and kitchen door (right), camera facing west—  
June 6, 2017. Above are fluorescent light fixtures on the ceiling.



Josey Boy Scout Lodge and Keeper's Cabin, Huntsville, Walker County, Texas

---

Photo 8: Lodge interior, main room showing main entrance and fireplace, camera faces south—June 6, 2017.



Josey Boy Scout Lodge and Keeper's Cabin, Huntsville, Walker County, Texas

---

Photo 9: Dedication plaque and detail view of structural log construction and daubing, camera faces west—  
June 6, 2017.



Josey Boy Scout Lodge and Keeper's Cabin, Huntsville, Walker County, Texas

---

Photo 10: Lodge interior, main room showing wagon wheel light fixtures and rafters, camera faces southeast—  
June 6, 2017.



Josey Boy Scout Lodge and Keeper's Cabin, Huntsville, Walker County, Texas

---

Photo 11: Interior of northeast wing/meeting room, camera faces east—June 6, 2017.



Photo 12: Northeast wing/meeting room. Petrified wood mantel, camera faces east—June 6, 2017.



Josey Boy Scout Lodge and Keeper's Cabin, Huntsville, Walker County, Texas

---

Photo 13: Interior of southeast wing/meeting room, camera faces east—June 6, 2017.



Photo 14: Southeast wing/meeting room windows and wall detail, camera faces south—June 6, 2017.



Josey Boy Scout Lodge and Keeper's Cabin, Huntsville, Walker County, Texas

---

Photo 15: Northwest wing/kitchen, camera faces northwest—June 6, 2017.



Photo 16: Entrance to restrooms in southwest wing, camera faces west—June 6, 2017.



Josey Boy Scout Lodge and Keeper's Cabin, Huntsville, Walker County, Texas

---

Photo 17: 1935 Keeper's Cabin front (east) elevation, camera faces west—June 6, 2017.



Josey Boy Scout Lodge and Keeper's Cabin, Huntsville, Walker County, Texas

---

Photo 18: Keeper's Cabin northeast oblique, camera faces southwest—June 6, 2017.



Photo 19: Keeper's Cabin rear (west) elevation, camera faces east—June 6, 2017.



Josey Boy Scout Lodge and Keeper's Cabin, Huntsville, Walker County, Texas

---

Photo 20: Keeper's Cabin south elevation, camera faces north—June 6, 2017.



Photo 21: Main living area inside Keeper's Cabin. Camera faces southeast.



Josey Boy Scout Lodge and Keeper's Cabin, Huntsville, Walker County, Texas

---

Photo 22: Josey Boy Scout Lodge and flagpole, camera faces west—February 1, 2017.

