Register of Historic Kansas Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating individual properties and districts. The format is similar to the National Register of Historic Places form. 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. Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

Historic name Council Grove Boy Scout Cabin
Other names/site number KHRI # 127-729
Name of related Multiple Property Listing NA

2. Location

street & number North Chautauqua Street (SW corner Chautauqua & Huffaker) not for publication
city or town Council Grove vicinity
state Kansas code KS county Morris code 127 zip code 66846

3-4. Certification

I hereby certify that this property is listed in the Register of Historic Kansas Places.

Applicable State Register Criteria:  x A  B  C  D

[Signature] Patrick Zollner, Deputy SHPO

Date 2-4-20

Kansas State Historical Society
State agency
5. Classification

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<td>(Check only one box)</td>
<td>(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)</td>
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Number of contributing resources previously listed in the State Register

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6. Function or Use

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7. Description

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<td></td>
<td>other:</td>
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Summary Description

The Council Grove Boy Scout Cabin is located at the top of Belfry Hill north of the city’s water tower. The cabin sits at the southeast corner of the four-lot parcel with a heavily wooded area on the north. The one-story cabin is constructed of random-coursed natural-faced limestone salvaged from area railroad bridges. The cabin has a hipped roof with contemporary standing-seam metal. A distinguishing feature is the large stone chimney in the center of the south facade corresponding to an interior fireplace. A concrete patio extends from the north facade facing the wooded area at the rear. The masonry openings have ashlar cut stone sills and lintels featuring a subtle hammered surface with smooth margins. The interior is generally one large open room with a fireplace on the south wall and an enclosed storage room in the northeast corner. Interior finishes, replacement windows, and roof date to contemporary renovation c.2000s following a fire. The single remaining historic feature on the building’s interior is the stone fireplace built of rocks and stones collected from each of the forty-eight states, a campaign led by Scoutmaster R.W. Marshall, a local physician.

Elaboration

Site
The Council Grove Boy Scout Cabin is located at the southeast corner of N. Chautauqua and Huffaker Street at the top of Belfry Hill northwest of downtown Council Grove. The four-lot parcel is located north of the city water tower. The cabin and water tower lie in a clearing with a wooded area on the north and east. North Chautauqua Street would be the west boundary of the site and an unpaved drive off Chautauqua angles in front of the cabin to the entrance on the east end. A brick porch/patio spans the full-width of the north facade facing the rear woods with large mature trees. Overgrown shrubs are located along the foundation on the south and east. A flagpole is extant south of the cabin in the open lawn.

Exterior
With a 26’ x 50’ rectangular footprint, the cabin has a hipped roof with contemporary standing-seam metal roofing and metal gutters and downspouts. Rising above the roofline, a stone chimney is a distinguishing feature centrally located on the south facade with a stepped base. A character-defining feature is the cabin walls of large, random-coursed limestone that was salvaged from area railroad bridges. Masonry openings have hammered stone sills and lintels with smooth margins. The front facade is asymmetrical with paired double-hung replacement windows flanking the central fireplace and a small wide double-hung window in place on the east end of the south facade. Entry to the building occurs at a single door on the south end of the east facade with a pair of windows on the north end of the east facade. The west facade has two pairs of double-hung windows. The rear facade appears to have had a central door with flanking windows originally; the three former openings infilled with brick. Existing doors and windows are contemporary replacements. Existing windows are 1/1 double-hung aluminum replacement units with rough cedar or redwood trim.

Completed in 1937, the cabin appears to be a simplified version of the sketch published in the local paper in 1935 as the proposed scout cabin (Figure 5). The front porch was omitted from the design; the existing rear patio (uncovered) appears to be original. Historic views illustrate a hipped shingled roof with open eaves, exposed rafter tails, and paired 6/1 double-hung units with a six-light awning unit at the east end of the south facade (Figure 6). The 1935 newspaper article noted that the cabin would have a main assembly room with a small game room and library at one end. The stone fireplace was part of the original plans. The building remains in use by the Boy Scouts.

Interior
Entered at the southeast corner, the interior of the cabin is a large open space with one enclosed room in the northeast corner. Although the existing partition walls are contemporary construction, the northeast room corresponds to the original enclosed room (referenced in the 1935 article). Perimeter walls have a textured stucco finish with curved returns at masonry openings. The ceiling and partition walls are sheetrock, and the interior remodeled after a fire ca.2001. Wood beams are exposed at the sheetrock ceiling and the cabin has a concrete floor and rough cedar baseboards and trim. The fireplace in the center of the south wall is the primary remaining historic feature on the building’s interior. Distinguished by its construction with varied rocks and stones from all forty-eight states and a few countries, the fireplace has a simple wood mantel and block and stone hearth.

1 Chautauqua Street is platted but no through road exists in the 400 block. The intersection is used to describe the vicinity of the cabin and scout property.

Integrity
The cabin retains a moderate degree of architectural integrity. Documented changes include installation of a new roof in 1971 and 1992 when the cabin’s roof was damaged by hail along with several other buildings in town.\textsuperscript{3} By July 1997, Troop #65 was reportedly planning to renovate the cabin but no further details were found.\textsuperscript{4} An extensive remodeling and repair project was reportedly done in 2001 following a fire that damaged the roof, floor and interior of the cabin. The primary exterior modifications include installation of a new standing-seam metal roof with gutters (versus open eaves with exposed rafter tails), installation of a new door at building entrance, infill of masonry openings on the north/rear facade, and replacement of the original multi-light wood windows with existing 1/1 double-hung aluminum units. Interior alterations include replacement of wall and ceiling finishes damaged in the fire and installation of new trim including rough wood window frames and trim. Despite the modifications, the cabin retains its primary character-defining features in its limestone construction and the fireplace and chimney reflecting the campaign by local Scoutmaster R.W. Marshall to collect stones from each of the forty-eight states. The Council Grove Boy Scout Cabin retains integrity of location, setting, feeling and association. The integrity of design, materials, and workmanship has been compromised by the gutter, replacement windows and sheetrock interior.

\textsuperscript{3} \textit{Council Grove Republican}. 21 July 1992, 4.
8. Statement of Significance

Applicable Criteria
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for State Register listing)

- [x] 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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION

Period of Significance
1937

Significant Dates
1937

Significant Person
(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder
Scouts and local volunteers, builders

Period of Significance (justification)
The period of significance is the original construction/completion of the cabin in 1937.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)
None
Boy Scout Cabin

Council Grove, Morris

Name of Property
City and County

Narrative Statement of Significance

Summary Paragraph
The Boy Scout Cabin in Council Grove, Morris County, Kansas, is eligible for listing in the Register of Kansas Historic Places under Criteria A in the area of Recreation and Entertainment reflecting the building's original and ongoing function as a clubhouse for the local Boy Scouts. Two decades after the formation of a local boy scout troop, the Rotary Club spear-headed fundraising in the midst of the Depression to fund construction of a cabin so that the troop would have a place of their own to meet and store their equipment. The cabin was constructed of limestone donated by the Missouri Pacific Railroad from bridges that had been replaced. Scoutmaster R.W. Marshall solicited rocks from all forty-eight states for construction of the fireplace, a prominent feature that remains intact.

From their establishment, the Boy Scouts provided extensive community service to the town. The local troop’s efforts to support and care for the community in which they lived were well documented in the local newspaper. In recognition of the Scouts’ endeavors, the citizens of Council Grove supported the construction of the cabin by attending the numerous fundraisers the Scouts performed. Many of the activities including carnivals, baseball games and other public events, provided a much-needed respite from the economic woes faced by the entire nation during the 1930s.

Once built the Scout Cabin was utilized by the Boy Scouts as well as other community groups that used it for leisure activities and a meeting place. Council Grove’s Boy Scout Cabin is locally significant; its period of significance being 1937 when the cabin was completed.

Elaboration

The Great Depression Hits Council Grove
Council Grove formed near the headwater of the Neosho River in a fertile area that became the rendezvous point on the Santa Fe Trail for wagon trains heading west. In 1825, the U.S. Government surveyed and formally established the Santa Fe Trail with the signature of a treaty with the Osage Indians by the Council Oak for which the town would be named. Council Grove quickly became a vital stop and industrious town on the first great Euro-American land trade route. By the 1870s, the expansion of railroads had ended trail traffic, and Council Grove settled into a thriving city of third-class with 1,080 residents. By 1885, when the Missouri Pacific Railroad reached Council Grove, the city’s population had reached 2,500 and the local economy was based primarily on the farming industry surrounding it.

Around the turn of the twentieth century, two events shaped further growth of Council Grove: the invention and mass-production of the automobile and the recognition of the historic Santa Fe Trail. The citizens of Council Grove began to focus on their historical status as a method of attracting tourists, an effort that was spurred on by the Great Roads Movement during the teens when automobile usage skyrocketed. 5 The town’s efforts were further boosted by a Homecoming celebration in 1921 and the 1925 Santa Fe Trail Centennial of the signing of the right-a-way treaty at Council Grove. The town’s many trail-related attractions that followed in the ensuing years including the Father Padilla Monument, the Custer Elm, the Post Office Oak, the Madonna of the Trail Statue and the Kaw Mission. By the early 1930s, three highways passed through Council Grove and local efforts to make the town a worthy historic destination were paying off. It was at this time that natural disasters including the 1929 flood and the Great Depression, caused the good times and tourist trade to diminish dramatically. Several of the county’s banks closed and the exclusive Cottage House Hotel was sold at a sheriff’s sale. 6

Even through these trying times, the citizens of Council Grove strived to support their community and continue the civic spirit embodied in the events of the previous decade. Each week benevolent organization and civic club announcements were noted in the local newspaper. Groups including the Kiwanis Club, Oddfellows (IOOF), Lion’s Club and the Farm Bureau Auxiliary collected used clothing for needy families, distributed seeds for home gardens, held free clinics, and donated food for the needy. The groups also held celebrations, parades, picnics, free dances at the Armory and other leisure activities for the community. They were effective at raising funds and volunteering time and muscle for civic activities. Youth groups including the Boy Scouts were an integral part of the community and the benevolent efforts. Boy Scouts attended church services and held their meetings in the basement of a local church, where ideals of civic pride and duty were instilled in the town’s young men. The Scouts regularly provided labor for town projects including hauling dirt

6 Ibid, 52.
from the nearby Neosho River banks to fill in around the Madonna of the Trail Monument, clearing local thoroughfares of
tire-popping debris, pulling weeds from the city’s lawns, caring for the flag used by the City of Council Grove for town
events and placing flags on soldiers’ graves for Memorial Day. The local troop cleaned up yards and homes for citizens
after the 1929 flood and learned to prevent and fight fires. Scouting helped to develop a sense of community in local
youth and, in turn, the town recognized the Scouts’ efforts and supported the local troop in its endeavors.

A National Movement Comes to Council Grove
The Boy Scouts of America (BSA) was founded on February 8, 1910, based upon the scouting movement in England
created by General Robert Baden-Powell. The BSA’s stated purpose at its incorporation in 1910 was “to teach [boys]
patriotism, courage, self-reliance, and kindred values.” In August 1910, an article appeared in the Council Grove
Republican extolling the new organization’s virtues. In October 1911, a meeting was held at the Christian Church to
establish the first informal band of approximately fifty Boy Scouts who then paraded through Council Grove. By April
1915, the Council Grove group enrolled their chapter with the national Boy Scouts of America organization. In 1924, the
Scouts of Council Grove reorganized into three new troops. Troop #2 was organized as “The American Legion, #2 Troop,
Council Grove” under Scoutmaster Paul E. Johnson. The founding document was witnessed by the local troop
committee comprised of S.L. Hinton, Lew Harvey and Frank Haucke; three of the earliest supporters of boy scouts in
Council Grove (Figure 4).

As scout membership swelled throughout the state, councils were formed to organize the local troops that were popping
up in nearly every county. In 1928, the Topeka Council took over thirty-nine counties across northern Kansas and became
the Jayhawk Area Council. In 1933 the Council Grove Boy Scouts formed Troop #55 within the Jayhawk Council. Scouting
across Kansas became increasingly popular, with hundreds of new boys joining each year necessitating another
reorganization in 1938, which added the Coronado Council. The new Coronado Council, headquartered in Salina,
enscaped north-central and northwest Kansas across thirty-two counties. Council Grove’s boys would form Troop #65
of the Coronado Area Council; the organization remains through the present day.

The Council Grove Republican newspaper regularly detailed efforts of the local Boy Scouts. The troop participated in local
civic events, learned new skills and camped either at the official Boy Scout camps or on local farms. Council Grove’s
Scouts were supported by several local organizations including the American Legion, the Lion’s Club and the Rotary
Club. The year 1924 seemed to be a banner year for the local scouts; they attended Kamp Kaw, helped clean the
cemetery, assisted in dousing a fire engulfing a local home, marched in the parade at the American Legion state
convention in Topeka and went door-to-door to encourage voter registration in their town.

Council Grove Boy Scouts Get a Cabin
What became increasingly clear through the late 1920s is that scouting had established its roots in the community, and the
town benefited not only for the characteristics scouting encouraged in the boys but also the role the scouts played. The
scouts undertook their civic duties with pride; it was decided that the scouts needed a home of their own. One Council
Groved resident proclaimed that a permanent meeting place for the scouts was a requirement, rather than meeting at ad-
hoc locations that had included basement and attic rooms. During the early years, the Boy Scouts met in the basement
of the Methodist Church and later in the American Legion rooms in the courthouse or at Washington School.

Numerous other Kansas towns had constructed a cabin for their troops and March 26, 1934. The Council Grove
Republican entreated town residents to build Troop #65 a headquarters all their own. Scoutmaster R. W. Marshall, a
local physician, shared his ideas with Assistant Scoutmaster John Powell, a local dentist; the Council Grove Boy Scouts would build a unique “All-American Cabin.” A plan was shared with the Boy Scout sponsor, the Rotary Club. The chairman of the Rotary Club, A.J. Kenwell immediately began looking for land where the cabin could be built. The result was a deed of Lots 4, 6, 7, and 8 of Block 33 to the City of Council Grove with usage reserved for the Boy Scouts. Boy Scout Trustees Evart Dreese, Nicholas Meyers, and George R. Johnson were signatories.21

The Boy Scouts regularly raised money for their trips to camp and other activities, but this time, the boys would need help from other organizations to achieve the goal of building a cabin. Raising the $1,000 needed during the height of the Great Depression was not easy, but the community rallied. Numerous events were held including a carnival, baseball games between local businessmen, girls’ baseball games and cribbage tournaments to raise money.22 Each week cash donations were announced in the newspaper. Cabin sponsors included the Rotary Club and individual citizens including A.J. Kenwell, Evart Dreese, Robert Block, Loy Johnson, A. G. Dunn and W.C. Owen.23

L.W. Baldwin, President of the Missouri Pacific Railroad, offered stones that had been part of two demolished railroad bridges; the Katy Railroad responded with a load of cement.24 Efforts began in late June 1934 when town residents donated their time and muscle to transport the square bridge rocks from Missouri Pacific Railroad.25 Businessman John Quiet acquired the rock and a derrick required to lift the stones, while others offered trucks for transport.26 The stone was moved to the proposed building location but it took another year before enough funds were raised to begin construction. During this time, a sketch of the proposed Boy Scout cabin by F.A. Warnica was published in the Council Grove Republican (Figure 5).27

Scoutmaster Marshall’s idea was to build a cabin with a unique element: a fireplace constructed of building materials from each of the forty-eight states. The fireplace was to be built as the central element in the cabin, around which the boys could gather on long chilly evenings.28 Marshall wrote a letter to the governor of each state requesting a “typical rock representative of each state” for the fireplace.29 In addition to the United States, stones were solicited by Council Grove citizens from their acquaintances overseas. Rocks came from Japan, Mexico, the Philippines, and Canada. Many of the stones had their own stories that added to the one-of-a-kind nature of the project.

- The stone from Florida was coquina rock from one of the oldest buildings then extant in the U.S., the St. Augustine Mission.
- A polished block of tapestried limestone from the same stone used to build the parliament building in Winnipeg, Canada.
- A red pipestone came from Iowa.
- New Mexico offered an agate stone with a fossil from the Sioux lands.
- Georgia sent pink marble.
- Missouri offered a small stone from the yard of the Sheppard of the Hills in the Ozarks.
- Arkansas offered a black marble block.

Each of the stones was sent with a letter explaining its significance. The letters were combined in a book by Scoutmaster Marshall and are kept today (2019) in a vault at the City of Council Grove. The fireplace project was not completed until June 1937, and by that time, Scoutmaster Marshall had left the community. Absent his leadership, no formal dedication took place for nearly five decades. See Figure 6 for an early view of the completed cabin and fireplace. The Boy Scouts used the cabin year-round; at Christmas time, the cabin was used as a workshop to mend used toys to be distributed to less-fortunate children, while in warmer months, other organizations such as the Entre Nous Club and American Legion used it for picnics and wiener roasts.30

21 Original Certificate of Troop Charter, 5 Apr 1924. (Obtained from local historian Ken McClintock).
22 Council Grove Republican. 21 May 1934, 1 and 31 Dec 1935, 1.
24 Ibid, 1.
25 Ibid, 1.
26 “Call for Trucks.” Council Grove Republican. 26 Jun 1934, 1.
28 “Scouts to Have All-State Fireplace.” Council Grove Republican. 11 June 1934, 1.
29 Ibid, 1.
30 Council Grove Republican. 9 Dec 1939 and 23 Apr 1940.
By the 1980s many in the town saw the need for a guaranteed fund to preserve the cabin. A non-profit organization was formed, and a donation campaign was undertaken. Townsfolk again responded by opening their wallets for the worthy cause. An added incentive for donors was that their names would be added to the book that Scoutmaster Marshall had made containing the letters he received when soliciting stones for the fireplace. The Mayor of Council Grove Carroll Wray proclaimed the week Apr 27- May 2, 1981, as “Dr. R. W. Marshall and Dr. John F. Powell Boy Scout Dedication Week;” the culmination of which was the dedication of the Boy Scout Cabin the two leaders had helped to build. Nearly 200 scouts from twenty-one troops walked twelve-mile stretches of the Santa Fe Trail from the east and west, ending their journey at the Scout Cabin. The dedication followed the ceremonial hike. Today the cabin is maintained by the City and is available for use by the boy scouts.
9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form)

Council Grove Republican, multiple dates, accessed online at Newspapers.com on 4-5 Oct 2019.
Morris County Historical Society, Scouting file and photographs.
The Weekly Guard. multiple dates, accessed online at Newspapers.com, 4-5 Oct 2019.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property  Less than one

Provide latitude/longitude coordinates OR UTM coordinates.

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates
Datum if other than WGS84:________________________
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

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Verbal Boundary Description (describe the boundaries of the property)
BLOCK 33, Lots 4 – 8, COUNCIL GROVE ORIGINAL

Boundary Justification (explain why the boundaries were selected)
The site – Lots 4-8, Block 33 in Council Grove Original, was deeded to the City of Council Grove with right of use reserved for the Boy Scouts (deed recorded – Deed Book 73, page 149). This parcel is where the Boy Scout Cabin was constructed and still located today.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title  Brenda and Michelle Spencer
organization  Spencer Preservation
date  18 October 2019
street & number  10150 Onaga Road
telephone  785-456-9857
city or town  Wamego
state  KS
zip code  66547
e-mail  brenda@spencerpreservation.com

Property Owner:

Name  City of Council Grove
street & number  PO Box 313 (205 Union Street)
telephone  620-767-5417
city or town  Council Grove
state  KS
zip code  66846
### Additional Documentation

#### Photographs

**Photograph Log**

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Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

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<td>NW</td>
<td>Boy Scout Cabin from southeast</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>NW</td>
<td>South/front facade</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>NW</td>
<td>Detail of stone chimney located in center of front/south facade</td>
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<td>East facade with single door service as the building entrance</td>
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<td>SE</td>
<td>Rear/north facade looking SE from NW corner of rear porch</td>
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<td>West and south facades from SW corner</td>
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<td>NW</td>
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<td>NW</td>
<td>Looking W inside east entrance with enclosed storage room on right</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>NW</td>
<td>Looking NW at open room with fireplace on left</td>
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<td>S</td>
<td>Fireplace in center of south facade</td>
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<td>12</td>
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<td>Detail of varied stones (solicited from every state) that comprise fireplace</td>
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<td>Looking SE from NW corner of cabin</td>
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![Diagram of the Boy Scout Cabin]
Figure 2 - Council Grove Boy Scout Cabin Context Map (Google Maps 2019)
N. Chautauqua Street, Council Grove
Morris County, KS
WGS 84 Lat/Long: 36.664544 -96.496528

Figure 3 - Council Grove Boy Scout Cabin Site Plan (Google Maps 2019) indicating parcel:
Lots 4-8, Block 33, Original Council Grove
N. Chautauqua Street, Council Grove, Morris County, KS

WGS 84 Lat/Long: 36.664544 -96.496528
Figure 4 – Copy of Troop Charter
American Legion Troop #2, Council Grove KS
5 April 1924 (Ken McClintock).

Figure 5 – Rendering of Proposed Boy Scout Cabin by F.A. Warnica
(Council Grove Republican 14 May 1935, 1)
Figure 6 – Undated ca. 1940 Historic Views of Boy Scout Cabin and Fireplace featuring stones for all 48 states and a few countries (Morris County Historical Society).