

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any 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.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Troop 111 Boy Scout Cabin

Other names/site number: DHR ID: 036-5179

Name of related multiple property listing:
N/A

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

Street & number: 6361 Main Street

City or town: Gloucester State: VA County: Gloucester

Not For Publication: N/A Vicinity: N/A

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,


I hereby certify that this X nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property X meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

___ national ___ statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A ___ B X C ___ D

		<u>9/27/2021</u>
Signature of certifying official/Title:		Date
<u>Virginia Department of Historic Resources</u>		
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government		

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official: Date

Title : State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this 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

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION/school

EDUCATION/education-related

SOCIAL/civic

SOCIAL/clubhouse

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

SOCIAL/civic

SOCIAL/clubhouse

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

OTHER/Rustic Revival

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: WOOD/log; BRICK; ASPHALT

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The Troop 111 Boy Scout Cabin is a single-pen log cabin with lean-tos constructed on the grounds of Botetourt High School in 1937 by the Works Progress Administration (WPA). The cabin is an example of 20th-century Rustic Revival architecture. Commonly used on public works projects during the Great Depression, this style of architecture mimics the appearance of much earlier vernacular American architecture, often by using a mix of traditional construction techniques and modern materials. The cabin served various purposes, such as classroom space for the home economics students and a meeting space for other school clubs. In 1956, Boy Scout Troop 111 requested sole use of the building, in exchange for its maintenance. The Gloucester County School Board agreed. The troop continues to use and maintain the building to the present day in its original location, in front of Botetourt Elementary School, a late-twentieth-century building that replaced the original high school building, which was torn down in the early 2000s. The cabin retains much of its integrity. Two shed-roof additions were constructed on the rear of the building to provide additional storage but were constructed in a similarly “rustic” manner. The roofing has been replaced several times. There is some material loss, as chinking is beginning to fall out, logs begin to decay, and some windows have been removed as the building has settled out of square.

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Narrative Description

The Troop 111 Boy Scout Cabin is a one-story, side gable cabin constructed using round logs saddle-notched at the corners. The chinking consists of metal mesh nailed to the logs and covered over by Portland cement or another, similarly cementitious mortar. The cabin sits on piers of machine-made brick laid in common bond. The exterior, gable-end chimney uses the same bricks, also laid in common bond. The chimney is currently pulling away from the building. It retains its flue access panel on the exterior. The roofing is currently asphalt shingles, laid over butted boards. All elevations have windows, though only three retain their lights. The south elevation includes two former windows. The smaller was a six-light casement window, though the casement has been removed and the frame in-filled with boards that currently support a sign designating the cabin as the Troop 111 headquarters. The larger, approximately three-by-six-foot window once included two six-light horizontal sash and was used to showcase the wares produced by the home economics class. The sashes were removed by 1970 and the frame in-filled with a painted sign displaying the troop's affiliation and contact information. Two three-light casements, hinged at the top, were on the west elevation, though only one remains as the frame for the other is out of square and would not allow the casement to close properly. The north elevation has a single six-light wood casement, and the east elevation has two. The south elevation is the facade and is split between the "ware" room on the left and a porch on the right. The porch is supported by round, barked logs, similar to those with which the building was constructed. Plywood decking currently covers the older decking boards to provide a continuous surface. The cabin is beginning to deteriorate, particularly the exposed ends of the logs.

Two shed-roof additions have been added to the rear (north) side of the building, though their dates are unknown. Both share what is now a common interior wall, which was originally an exterior log half-wall. According to oral traditions, this is where students, or later scouts, tied up their horses. The eastern lean-to was enclosed first. It also sits on common-bond brick piers, has a frame structure that is currently clad in board and batten siding, and includes a six-light casement window, possibly relocated from the rear wall of the cabin when a door was cut in to provide access to the lean-to. The western lean-to was first partially enclosed for use as a trailer shed, then fully enclosed at a later date. The foundation is not visible, but the lean-to is a frame structure currently clad in T-111 siding panels. This lean-to was partially rebuilt circa 2012 due to materials failure.

The interior of the cabin consists primarily of a single large room. A smaller room to the south was used originally to display student-produced wares. It is currently used as the scoutmaster's office. The two lean-tos on the north side of the building are currently used for storage. Flooring consists of blind-nailed, medium-width pine boards. There is no interior surface finish on the walls beyond the cement chinking. The original window and door frames were built using basic dado joints and are painted white. The logs used for joists retain their circular shape, but were cut square near the ends and notched to lay over the wall plates. The front door is tongue-and-groove board-and-batten construction with a metal latch handle. The hearth is built of common bond, machine-made bricks and retains its original log mantel. The baseboards are boards attached directly to the log walls and lack any molding profile. The ceiling in the main room consists of

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exposed joists made of barked logs, with the underside of the attic floor boards visible. In the scoutmaster's office (formerly the ware room) and the shed-roof additions, the ceiling consists of exposed joists made of sawn timbers with the underside of the board or plywood roof sheathing visible. The attic was not accessible, so the roof structure is currently unknown. Where visible in the front room, the rafters appear to be two-by-six boards and their orientation suggests a common rafter system. The cabin has electrical service, but no climate control or water service.

Integrity

The Troop 111 Boy Scout Cabin has integrity of location as it occupies its original site. The integrity of setting has changed over the years as the Botetourt Elementary School was constructed northeast of the cabin during the latter half of the twentieth century and the older Gloucester High School was demolished during the early 2000s. The cabin's integrity of design has been affected by changes such as the two rear additions and, by 1970, infilling of the former "display window" on the south façade and other window openings on secondary elevations. The interior plan, however, is largely unaltered. Integrity of materials and workmanship remains evident despite physical deterioration of some materials and the building's settling over time. The cabin has integrity of feeling as a rustic cabin designed for use by home economics students, local school clubs and, later, Troop 111. The property's integrity of association is demonstrated through its proximity to the former high school (now elementary school) campus and ample records that documents its uses by students and Boy Scouts from its construction to the present day.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- 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

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

SOCIAL HISTORY

EDUCATION

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1937-1970

Significant Dates

1937

1956

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Troop 111 Boy Scout Cabin is locally significant under Criterion AC in the areas of Social History for its association with the Great Depression-era Works Progress Administration and with Scouting) and in the area of Education for its association with the inclusion of vocational education in the local school curriculum. The property also is locally significant under Criterion C in the area of Architecture as an example of Rustic Revival architecture applied in an educational setting. The Troop 111 Boy Scout Cabin represents the confluence of competing influences in Virginia's twentieth-century history, where the founding of vocational education and the early adoption of youth organizations coincided with political and economic struggles during the Great Depression. The period of significance begins with construction of the building in 1937 by the Works Progress Administration and ends in 1970, by which time the scope and reach of Troop 111's activities had modernized to include participation in local, regional, and national scouting competitions, and to explore different regions of the country through camping and hiking. Another aspect of the full modernizing of Troop 111 is desegregation. After Congress passed the Civil Rights Act in 1964, troops across the nation began desegregating on a piecemeal basis, with many doing so as their local school districts also desegregated; Gloucester County schools desegregated in 1968, as did Troop 111. The significant date of 1937 coincides with the cabin's opening as an educational space for the Future Farmers of America student educational group. The significant date of 1956 marks the point at which Troop 111 assumed sole occupancy of the cabin in exchange for its ongoing maintenance.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Criterion A: Social History - Works Progress Administration

The Troop 111 Boy Scout Cabin is locally significant under Criterion A: Social History for its association with the efforts of Gloucester County to improve the educational facilities available to its students during the Great Depression. The construction of the cabin not only used local labor and materials, as required by WPA funding, providing a small boost to the economy, but also provided space for student organizations to meet. This semi-autonomous space, at once on a school campus while functionally a separate facility, offered high school students a place to practice skills necessary in adulthood, such as leadership and, particularly important during the Great Depression, financial management skills. The county sought to improve school facilities via federal funds, highlighting the importance Gloucester residents placed on promoting education in a time when a family's financial need could motivate a student to leave school in favor of entering the workforce. Improved school facilities provided an incentive for white students to remain enrolled in high school and gave them a space to develop skills necessary for an independent adulthood after graduation. Due to the segregated nature of Virginia's educational system during the period, the benefits the cabin offered to the Gloucester residents was largely limited to the white community. Black schools did receive federally-funded

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improvements, but those were far more limited and did little to promote student achievement or retention. By contrast, the cabin captures the prevailing perception that education and achievement among white students would improve the welfare of all county residents.

The Great Depression brought about a period of multi-scalar economic and political struggles in Virginia. Political leaders at the state and local levels were often beholden to the statewide Byrd Organization, led by Democratic state senator, governor and U.S. Senator Harry F. Byrd (1887-1966) and the dominant political machine in Virginia during the twentieth century. Byrd was a deeply conservative Democrat who emphasized small government and limited enfranchisement of voters. His “pay as you go” fiscal conservatism stood at odds with President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s New Deal programs that prioritized economic recovery even if deficit spending occurred. Virginia’s government officials were reluctant to institute expensive relief measures, influenced by the belief that maintaining a balanced budget was the most effective way to right the economy. While Byrd Organization politicians could circumvent the effects of federal programs such as the Federal Emergency Relief Act (FERA), which required matching state funds, by refusing to authorize those matching funds, there was little they could do to prevent the implementation of programs that did not require matched funds. The Works Progress Administration (WPA) was one such program. During its eight-year existence, the WPA built schools, roads, and airports, provided school lunches, produced clothing, employed artists and writers, and improved public health. The WPA also supervised the National Youth Administration (NYA), designed to provide employment for young people in order to keep them in school. Ultimately, the combination of the Byrd Organization’s fiscal caution and the assistance of federal programs contributed to a faster recovery. By 1937, manufacturing indexes exceeded those of 1929, and Virginia maintained an unemployment rate (8.6%) of almost half the national average (15.6%).¹

As federal funds became available, the Gloucester County School Board sought them out immediately. As early as July 1934, the Board authorized the superintendent “to have the work on the schools, started by the C.W.A. [Civil Works Administration] finished proper to the opening of the 1934-1935 session.”² The CWA was a short-lived agency housed within FERA that provided short-term employment based on manual labor. Launched in November 1933, the agency closed in March 1934 and all employment ended on or before 14 July 1934.³ Gloucester County School Board records do not indicate what kind of work the CWA undertook. Across the state, however, Raymond V. Long, Director of the Division of School Buildings for the Department of Education, identified deferred maintenance of school buildings as one of the most pressing challenges facing public education in Virginia. The average expenditure for school buildings from the 1925-1926 to the 1929-1930 school years was approximately \$3 million. As Virginia’s school system was racially segregated, the majority of such funding was spent on schools for white children, while schools for Black and Virginia Indian children received a

¹ Ronald L. Heinemann, John G. Kolp, Anthony S. Parent Jr., and William G. Shade, *Old Dominion, New Dominion*. (Charlottesville, Va: University of Virginia Press, 2007), 314-320.

² Minutes of the Gloucester County School Board, 1934-1947, Gloucester County School Board, Gloucester, VA, 1.

³ *Analysis of Civil Works Program Statistics* (Washington, DC: 1939), 6.
<https://hdl.handle.net/2027/mdp.39015030626553>

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considerably smaller share. The expenditure for 1932-1933 was 28.5% of that five-year average, some \$384,041.03. Long warned that “failure due to lack of funds to provide for reasonable maintenance is rapidly, and in progressive ration, permitting school buildings to deteriorate, which means an excessively heavy repair cost sooner or later.”⁴

Long reported in the 1933-1934 *Annual Report* that “there has been a marked revival in the improvement of school buildings during the past year, which is directly attributable to financial aid from funds coming from the Federal Government through the Civil Works Administration and the Public Works Administration.” Improvements included clearing school grounds, leveling play areas, hard surfacing walkways around buildings, landscaping school grounds, improving athletic fields, painting school buildings inside and outside, providing central water supply and central sewage disposal, making major repairs to interiors, installing central heating systems, applying new roofs, and general rehabilitation.⁵ State emergency relief heads approved CWA projects by 28 October 1933, with work to begin in Gloucester County within the following week. This work included the completion of Achilles High School gymnasium, and “the draining of campuses; beautification by planting of trees and shrubs, and the painting and minor repairs of school buildings” at Achilles, Botetourt, Hayes, Naxera, Schley, Ware Neck, Purton, Hayes-Bena, Martins and the Gloucester Training School.⁶ The following month, additional work was approved, including the draining of the Naxera school grounds, and work at school grounds at Shelly, Signpine, Ware Neck (a school noted as being for Black students), Bethel, and Purton.⁷

With the advent of the Works Progress Administration, Gloucester County School Board members set their sights higher. At the May 1935 meeting, the School Board concurred that, “[d]ue to the crowded conditions at Botetourt High School and due to the small enrollments at Martin’s and Signpine Schools in Petsworth District...a Junior High School be erected in Petsworth District to take care of the children from the entire District, grades 1-8 for the first year.” The Board authorized Superintendent Kenney to request a grant from the Federal Government with which to build the new school.⁸

By January 1936, the Gloucester County School Board came to an arrangement with the WPA to support the construction of the new school building for the Petsworth District. The project had been approved by the WPA, “whereby funds will be furnished by WPA to the amount of 45% for material and all labor.”⁹ W. C. Lamberth provided the site for the new school, with an offer to sell three acres near Adner Post Office to the Board for \$1. Additional details were negotiated as

⁴ *Annual Report of the Superintendent of Public Instruction of the Commonwealth of Virginia with Accompanying Documents, School Year 1932-1933* (Richmond: Division of Purchase and Printing, 1933), 100-106.

⁵ *Annual Report of the Superintendent of Public Instruction of the Commonwealth of Virginia with Accompanying Documents, School Year 1932-1933* (Richmond: Division of Purchase and Printing, 1933), 100-101.

⁶ “Work Relief Projects are Approved Here,” 28 October 1933, *Daily Press*, Newport News, Virginia

⁷ “Projects Approved for Counties Here,” 20 November 1933, *Daily Press*, Newport News, Virginia. In 1933, Gloucester County had eleven “white schools” and thirteen “colored schools.”

⁸ Minutes of the Gloucester County School Board, 1934-1947, Gloucester County School Board, Gloucester, VA, 22.

⁹ Minutes of the Gloucester County School Board, 1934-1947, Gloucester County School Board, Gloucester, VA, 42.

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the year progressed. In March, the School Board agreed to furnish four skilled workers and additional labor if necessary for the project to reach completion; that the Superintendent would supervise the work without compensation or cost to the WPA; and that the Board would complete the project if not completed by June 30.¹⁰ These provisions required community support of the project, indicating a certain level of acceptability for it, while also enabling the WPA to stretch its funds further. Such a provision led to certain revisions to the agreement. At a special session of the School Board, held “for the purpose of hearing patrons and taxpayers upon the subject of a site for the proposed high school building for Petsworth District,” the terms changed. While the WPA would still provide funds for 45% of materials and all labor, Mr. Frank Phillips had offered 4 acres near Wood Cross Road for \$1. The public apparently agreed with the proposal, though the school itself was never built.¹¹

Spurred on by the promise of available funding, the School Board continued to make requests. At the October 1936 meeting, the School Board went on record favoring a proposed camp for underprivileged children to be built with the aid of the NYA, WPA and other federal agencies.¹² The Board would lease or purchase the camp site, furnish tools for use in construction, assume responsibility for administering the camp, assist in every way possible to interest other organizations in the work, and make rules and regulations for the government of the camp. The Superintendent reported progress on the Gloucester Camp situation the following month, but the project dropped from the monthly agendas after that report.¹³ The next and final report on the camp came in October 1939, when the secretary recorded that “the NYA Camps at Achilles are in fine shape and the authorities have secured the required quota of 20 girls.”¹⁴

The inspiration for and construction details of the log cabin that would become the Troop 111 Boy Scout Cabin were not recorded in the School Board Minutes. By 7 January 1937, however, the cabin had been completed on the undeveloped southwest corner of the Botetourt High School campus, “with the exception of interior decoration.”¹⁵ The grounds immediately surrounding the cabin were to be turned over to the National Youth Administration that day for landscaping, which was to include a colored concrete flagstone walk to the home economics cottage and to other walks connecting to the school buildings. A 50-by-75-foot plot around the cabin was to be graded and beautified under this plan. While the land may have been graded, no evidence remains that the concrete walk was ever installed. According to Jimmy Morgan, who joined

¹⁰ Minutes of the Gloucester County School Board, 1934-1947, Gloucester County School Board, Gloucester, VA, 47.

¹¹ Minutes of the Gloucester County School Board, 1934-1947, Gloucester County School Board, Gloucester, VA, 51.

¹² Minutes of the Gloucester County School Board, 1934-1947, Gloucester County School Board, Gloucester, VA, 61.

¹³ Minutes of the Gloucester County School Board, 1934-1947, Gloucester County School Board, Gloucester, VA, 63.

¹⁴ Minutes of the Gloucester County School Board, 1934-1947, Gloucester County School Board, Gloucester, VA, 131.

¹⁵ *Gloucester Gazette*, 7 January 1937, 1.

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Troop 111 in 1942 and attended Botetourt High School, the cabin was originally intended for use by student organizations, such as the Future Farmers of America.¹⁶

As the Virginia economy stabilized and began to enter recovery in 1937, the School Board's reliance on federal funding began to diminish. That same year, a building program at Botetourt High School was frequently discussed, including plans for the additional classrooms.¹⁷ While the program progressed throughout the summer, the School Board sought bids for additional work according to plans and specifications worked out by the Division of School Buildings. No mention of federal funding was recorded for this building program. The next references to WPA in the School Board records come two years later, in 1939. That year, the Board sought funding from the WPA's Regional Library Service for the Tappahannock Regional area, approved a countywide WPA project for repairing and painting school buildings, and drew up plans for the construction of a 70-by-30-foot, 250-person capacity cafeteria for Achilles High School, to be built of cinderblocks and tile with WPA labor.¹⁸ The Board made no further references to the WPA after this date, and recorded no other federal funding sources.

While making use of the WPA funds, the Board's policies reflected the systems of school segregation and underfunding of African American and Virginia Indian schools that was widespread at the time. While five Black schools (Purton, Hayes-Bena, Gloucester County Training School, Ware Neck, and Bethel) were included in the draining of grounds and repairing of buildings, all of the major building and improvement projects were directed at the white schools, and most specifically the white high schools. It would take another decade and a lawsuit for the Board to begin building a black high school that came anywhere close to the quality of the white high schools.¹⁹

The Troop 111 Boy Scout Cabin, however, was just beginning its life as a multipurpose building for community use, although it, too, was designated for use only by whites. Constructed to house student organizations, the cabin served a variety of temporary uses as well. A Mrs. Kimberly was granted use of the cabin for a Hodge Podge Shop in February 1938 and two years later "the Methodist young people were granted the use of the Log Cabin for conferences on the 6th, 7th, 8th, and 9th of May."²⁰ Eventually, the needs of the Botetourt High School student population would change, leading the School Board to grant permission to Boy Scout Troop 111 sole use of the cabin beginning in 1956 (see below).²¹

¹⁶ Harvey Morgan, personal communication, 16 October 2020.

¹⁷ Minutes of the Gloucester County School Board, 1934-1947, Gloucester County School Board, Gloucester, VA, 76-77.

¹⁸ Minutes of the Gloucester County School Board, 1934-1947, Gloucester County School Board, Gloucester, VA, 116, 129, 131.

¹⁹ Minutes of the Gloucester County School Board, 1934-1947, Gloucester County School Board, Gloucester, VA, 190-191

²⁰ Minutes of the Gloucester County School Board, 1934-1947, Gloucester County School Board, Gloucester, VA, 92, 138.

²¹ Minutes of the Gloucester County School Board, 1947-1959, Gloucester County School Board, Gloucester, VA, 375.

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Criterion A: Education - Vocational Education

The Troop 111 Boy Scout Cabin is locally significant under Criterion A: Education for its association with vocational education from its construction in 1937 to its change of use in 1956. During that period, it operated as a space for student organizations to meet, including the Future Farmers of America and, after 1945, the Future Homemakers of America. These organizations were designed to facilitate the acquisition of practical skills, such as agricultural management, financial decision-making, and domestic science. Furthermore, chapters were run by the members, thus allowing them to develop leadership skills and adapt national guidelines to local needs. Built on the grounds of a high school, but as a separate building, the cabin offered a semi-autonomous space for these organizations to meet, reflecting the self-directed nature of the student organizations known to use the space. The spaces within the cabin were and are flexible as well, allowing for a variety of users to organize it to meet their own specifications, whether for an organizational meeting, a social hour, or other event. The cabin thus conveys a local expression of national vocational education organizations that sought to provide high school students an opportunity to build skills systematically that would benefit them into adulthood.

In 1917, Congress passed the Smith-Hughes Act, which provided federal aid to states for the purpose of promoting pre-collegiate vocational education in agriculture and industrial trades and in home economics. The federal funds made available through this legislation gave schools an opportunity to broaden their curricula, which allowed rural schools to introduce offerings that had not been possible previously. Agriculture and home economics courses were arguably the two most significant introductions into schools' expanded curricula and led to the development of intra-curricular groups such as the Future Farmers of America and the Future Homemakers of America. These groups allowed student participants to build vocational skills necessary for personal and economic success and develop a sense of citizenship and responsibility.²²

Virginia's history of agricultural education began prior to the Smith-Hughes Act, however. In 1907, a conversation between J. D. Eggleston, president of the Virginia Polytechnic Institute, and H. B. Frissell, principle of the Hampton Institute, formally brought such education to Virginia. Both men were intrigued by the "farm demonstration idea" promulgated by Dr. Seaman A. Knapp of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.²³ Knapp advocated as early as 1902 that one should teach by doing rather than by telling. In its earliest incarnation, the farm demonstration method consisted of between one and ten acres upon which a farmer undertook with his own labor and at his own expense to grow a particular crop under an extension agent's careful supervision. Records were kept and reports made at the end of each season.²⁴ An invitation to Dr. Knapp to speak about his methods in Richmond soon followed, and Virginia found itself with a

²² Gordon I. Swanson, "Vocational Education in Rural Areas," *The Phi Delta Kappan*, vol. 36, no. 1 (Oct. 1954), 51-54. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/20332509>

²³ Rufus W. Stimson and Frank W. Lothrop, *History of Agricultural Education of Less Than College Grade in the United States: A Cooperative Project of Workers in Vocational Education in Agricultural and in Related Fields* (Washington, DC: Federal Security Agency, 1942), 451-453. <https://hdl.handle.net/2027/umn.31951000443593t>

²⁴ *Bulletin of State Institutions* (Des Moines: Iowa Board of Control of State Institutions, 1922), vols. 24-26, 173.

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dedicated agent for farm demonstration work. The following year, Dr. Knapp agreed to start boys' corn clubs in Virginia. In the spring of 1909, 75 boys in Dinwiddie County and 25 in Chesterfield were tending "one boy, one acre" plots of corn. Within five years, these corn clubs reached an enrollment of 1,500.²⁵

Starting in 1921, student organizations dedicated to vocational agriculture were founded throughout the state. The earliest was at Burke's Garden, followed by Nassawadox in 1922. The Thrift Club in Gloucester, founded in 1923, inspired similar clubs in Holland, Windsor, and Disputanta and solidified the role of thrift in vocational agriculture. By 1924, twenty such local groups existed throughout the state. The growth of these student organizations was so encouraging that a meeting for the formation of a state association was held in Blacksburg in 1926, becoming the Future Farmers of Virginia.²⁶

Virginia was the first state to launch a successful vocational student organization with the founding of the Future Farmers of Virginia. The structure of that organization provided a model for the national organization, the Future Farmers of America, which emerged from the third annual meeting of the National Congress of Vocational Agricultural Students in 1927.²⁷ Thereafter, every student of vocational agriculture in Virginia became a member of the Future Farmers of America (FFA).²⁸ The primary aim of the FFA was the development of agricultural leadership, cooperation, and citizenry, though the national organization identified twelve specific purposes: to develop competent, aggressive, rural and agricultural leadership; to create and nurture a love of country life; to strengthen the confidence of farm boys and young men in themselves and their work; to create more interest in the intelligent choice of farming occupations; to encourage members in the development of individual farming programs and establishment in farming; to encourage members to improve the farm home and its surroundings; to participate in worthy undertakings for the improvement of agriculture; to develop character, train for useful citizenship, and foster patriotism; to participate in cooperative effort; to

²⁵ Rufus W. Stimson and Frank W. Lothrop, *History of Agricultural Education of Less Than College Grade in the United States: A Cooperative Project of Workers in Vocational Education in Agricultural and in Related Fields* (Washington, DC: Federal Security Agency, 1942), 451-453. <https://hdl.handle.net/2027/umn.31951000443593t>

²⁶ Rufus W. Stimson and Frank W. Lothrop, *History of Agricultural Education of Less Than College Grade in the United States: A Cooperative Project of Workers in Vocational Education in Agricultural and in Related Fields* (Washington, DC: Federal Security Agency, 1942), 456-457. <https://hdl.handle.net/2027/umn.31951000443593t>; Embra Y. Noblin, "The F. F. A. Chapter: It's Organization and Activities" *Bulletin of the Virginia Polytechnic Institute* (1942), 6. <https://hdl.handle.net/2027/osu.32435001737717>

²⁷ Debra A. Reid, "Agricultural Education" in Melissa Walker and James C. Cobb, eds., *The New Encyclopedia of Southern Culture* (Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Press, 2008), 43. https://www.jstor.org/stable/10.5149/9781469616681_walker.8 The Future Farmers of America was founded as a segregated organization. African American teachers and students organized similar clubs, such as the New Farmers of Virginia. In 1931, Dr. H. O. Sargent, the federal agent for agricultural education for African Americans, helped formalize a national organization, the New Farmers of America. In 1965, the New Farmers of American and the Future Farmers of America merged into a single entity, the National Future Farmers of America Organization.

²⁸ Rufus W. Stimson and Frank W. Lothrop, *History of Agricultural Education of Less Than College Grade in the United States: A Cooperative Project of Workers in Vocational Education in Agricultural and in Related Fields* (Washington, DC: Federal Security Agency, 1942), 456-457. <https://hdl.handle.net/2027/umn.31951000443593t>

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encourage and practice thrift; to encourage improvement in scholarship; and to provide and encourage the development of organized rural recreational activities.²⁹ Whether the majority of rural male youth found any or all of these purposes appealing enough to join or whether the automatic enrollment through agricultural coursework artificially bolstered the numbers, the FFA grew remarkably in Virginia. During the 1937-1938 school year, there were 244 FFA chapters in Virginia, with a total of 6,503 active members. These chapters bought and sold cooperatively, had thrift banks, sent members to the statewide leadership training opportunities, cooperated with other organizations in community programs, and held county fairs, among other activities.³⁰ Members progressed through grades of membership, from Greenhand in their first year to American Farmer in the second or third year out of school. To move to a new grade, an individual met particular requirements as determined by the chapter. These requirements were to be of high standards, but still attainable by most members. Suggested goals to meet for each grade included supervised farming, memory work, parliamentary procedure, officers and committees, recreation, thrift, and team participation. Chapters had the ability to determine their own standards for progression, based on the needs of their members.³¹

The female corollary, the Future Homemakers of America, was founded in June 1945. It followed a model based on that of the Future Farmers, wherein chapters were organized in schools offering home economics, and any student enrolled in a homemaking course could be a member. The Future Homemakers had eight specific purposes: to promote a growing appreciation of the joys and satisfactions of homemaking; to emphasize the importance of worthy home membership; to encourage democracy in home and community life; to work for good home and family life for all; to promote international goodwill; to foster the development of creative leadership in home and community life; to provide wholesome individual and group recreation; and to further interest in home economics.³² Much like future farmers, future homemakers also progressed by completing particular activities, though these culminated in “degrees” such as the Junior Homemaker Degree, the Chapter Homemaker Degree, the State Homemaker Degree, and the American Homemaker Degree. The FHA offered a similar flexibility in determining what goals an individual member could pursue in order to achieve these degrees.³³ Unsurprisingly, the published guidebooks for the Future Homemakers of America reflect a particular post-WWII ideal of female domesticity. A member’s goals revolved around activities and citizenship starting in the home, giving a clear indication that young women should assume domestic roles. This contrasts sharply with the recent increased wartime role of women in the workplace and offers a sense of the immediacy felt in American society to

²⁹ Embra Y. Noblin, “The F. F. A. Chapter: It’s Organization and Activities” *Bulletin of the Virginia Polytechnic Institute* (1942), 10. <https://hdl.handle.net/2027/osu.32435001737717>

³⁰ Rufus W. Stimson and Frank W. Lothrop, *History of Agricultural Education of Less Than College Grade in the United States: A Cooperative Project of Workers in Vocational Education in Agricultural and in Related Fields* (Washington, DC: Federal Security Agency, 1942), 456-457. <https://hdl.handle.net/2027/umn.31951000443593t>

³¹ Embra Y. Noblin, “The F. F. A. Chapter: It’s Organization and Activities” *Bulletin of the Virginia Polytechnic Institute* (1942), 29-32. <https://hdl.handle.net/2027/osu.32435001737717>

³² Future Homemakers of America, Inc. *Advisor’s Handbook* (Washington, DC: U. S. Office of Education, 1949), 5-6. <https://hdl.handle.net/2027/wu.89050715416>

³³ Future Homemakers of America, Inc. *A Guide to Help You Grow as a Future Homemaker of America* (Washington, DC: Future Homemakers of America, Inc., 1950). <https://hdl.handle.net/2027/wu.89050715424>

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shift women out of their wartime “masculine” roles in industry and manufacturing and back into the home.

According to local oral histories, the Troop 111 Boy Scout Cabin was built as a space for student organizations, including the Future Farmers of America. The relationship between this organization and the building ties the cabin to a history of local and regional innovation in vocational education, as Virginia was a leader in instituting this new educational program and an independent chapter had formed in Gloucester prior to even state-level organization. Interestingly, it seems that the Future Homemakers made greater use of the cabin following their establishment in 1945, as all known photos of the building during that early period include only women. Given the diversity of activities, those focused on the home farm with periodic meetings compared to those centered on domestic labor based indoors, the disparate organizational use of the cabin was likely due to the organizations’ embodiment of acceptable gender norms between 1937 and 1956. The seeming abandonment of the cabin by both organizations by the mid-1950s may indicate changing extracurricular preferences among Gloucester’s high school population.

Criterion A: Social History - Scouting

The Troop 111 Boy Scout Cabin is significant at the local level under Criterion A: Social History for its long association with the Boy Scout troop for which it is currently named. Scouting was meant to improve the welfare of young men and boys in America, who were threatened by the enervation associated with urban life in the early 20th century. The organizational goal of improving the lives of scouts shifted as the organization grew to include rural young men and boys who lived beyond the masculine norms of an industrial society. These, and other incarnations of Scouting goals, sought to teach scouts pre-industrial skills and, thus, ensure the continuation of an American model of masculinity built on the ideal of self-sufficient exceptionalism that, in turn would assure the nation’s welfare. As societal norms changed from the early through the mid-20th century, so too did the expectations of what skills a Boy Scout should possess. By the time the cabin became solely associated with Troop 111 in 1956, the troop’s activities reflected the development of practical outdoors skills, such as camping, as well as community-building activities, including public service and inter-troop competitions. The cabin is significant at the local level because it provided a centralized meeting place for Troop 111 to conduct business and begin developing skills that could then be put into practice in service for the wider Gloucester community.

The Boys Scouts of America (BSA) was founded in the closing decade of the Progressive Era. Reformers believed that American youth of the opening decades of the 20th century were subject to an urbanized, industrial society that turned “a large proportion of our robust, manly, self-reliant boyhood into a lot of flat-chested cigarette smokers, with shaky nerves and doubtful vitality.”³⁴ In an increasingly industrial-capitalist economy, the “traditional” male roles of independent farmer, master craftsman, or small entrepreneur eroded under the forces of mass

³⁴ Ernest Thompson Seton, *Boy Scouts of America: A Handbook of Woodcraft, Scouting, and Life-craft* (New York, NY: Doubleday, Page & Company, 1910), xi-xii. <https://archive.org/details/boyscoutsofameri00seto/page/n3>

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production, corporate consolidation, and concentration of populations in cities.³⁵ The BSA aimed to supplement existing educational agencies, and to promote boys' abilities to do things for themselves and others. The organization's method was "summed up in the term Scoutcraft, and is a combination of observation, deduction, and handiness, or the ability to do things."³⁶ Bolstered by a 1916 Congressional charter, which guaranteed the Boy Scouts of America a monopoly on the term "scout," the BSA grew to be one of the largest voluntary organizations in American history, serving over 4 million American boys and 1 million American men between 1910 and 1930.³⁷

Connecting disaffected urban youth with the skills of the pre-industrial age was only half of the Boy Scouts' mission. The organization also sought to modernize the yeoman farmer's son. New child labor and compulsory education laws enacted in this period exempted children's farm work, and rural districts were inconsistent in enforcing schooling. Consequently, the BSA saw rural farm boys as resourceful, but too individualistic and poorly adapted to functioning within society's modernizing expectations of group hierarchies and scientific efficiency. Only after the merger of the Lone Scouts (founded by BSA founder William D. Boyce to appeal to rural youth) and BSA in 1923, did the Boys Scouts of America seriously attempt to appeal to rural youth.³⁸

Troop 111 represents an interesting outlier in the national history of American scouting. Gloucester County was a rural county, yet there was enough interest in the Boy Scouts that a troop was founded in 1919 and has been in existence for a century. Unfortunately, a fire in 1993 consumed the trailer that housed much of the troop's historical artifacts and memorabilia, making a full history of the troop difficult to reconstruct.³⁹

Boy Scout Troop 111 was chartered 14 October 1919 with Mr. L.A. Starke as the Scoutmaster, assisted by J.M. Lewis, C.L. Hinkle, J.B. Martin, and W.L. Martin.⁴⁰ Despite the loss of historic records, all indications are that Troop 111 was made up solely of white children. Boy Scout troops across the nation typically followed segregation laws, if such existed, in their localities, and Gloucester County was segregated, just as all of Virginia was. Just 94 miles south of Gloucester in Elizabeth City, North Carolina, the first "Negro" scout troop had been founded in on July 31, 1911.⁴¹

³⁵ Benjamin R. Jordan, *Modern Manhood and the Boy Scouts of America* (Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Press, 2016), 5. The concerns expressed by BSA founders share some interesting attributes with Marxist theory, which posited that alienation of the worker from the means of production leads to the worker's loss of autonomy alongside concentration of power among upper-tier capitalists.

³⁶ Boy Scouts of America, *The Official Handbook for Boys* (New York, NY: Doubleday, Page & Company, 1911), 1. <https://hdl.handle.net/2027/uva.x000467038>

³⁷ Benjamin R. Jordan, *Modern Manhood and the Boy Scouts of America* (Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Press, 2016), 3-4.

³⁸ Benjamin R. Jordan, *Modern Manhood and the Boy Scouts of America* (Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Press, 2016), 181-182.

³⁹ What is presented here is the result of broader, publicly available materials and the limited material the troop retains. Consequently, it cannot be taken as a comprehensive history of Troop 111.

⁴⁰ Troop 111 Charter, 14 October 1919, digital image, personal collection of Bill Lawrence, Gloucester, Va.

⁴¹ Kurt Banas, "The American Boy Scout Movement, and Black History, a story," African American Registry, <https://aaregistry.org/story/the-african-american-boy-scout-movement-a-story/>, accessed September 20, 2021.

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Troop 111's sponsorship changed periodically during the first three decades of the troop's existence and ranged across a variety of organizations, including the Concerned Citizens of Gloucester and First Presbyterian Church of Newport News (1919-1920), Ware Episcopal Church (1921-1937), Gloucester Rotary Club (1938-1941), Ware Episcopal Church (1942-1944), American Legion Post 75 (1945-1950), Gloucester Lions Club (1951-1952), Order of the Moose 886 (1953-1954), and Ware Episcopal Church Men's Club (1954-date unknown).⁴² The current sponsor is Ware Episcopal Church. The ability to secure sponsorship continually and from an array of organizations indicates broad support for the troop across the Gloucester community.⁴³

Changes in sponsorship may have correlated to lapses in the troop's active status. In June 1938, Rev. Hebert [Herbert?] Osburn, rector of Ware and Abingdon churches, formed a committee to revive the troop, which had been inactive for the past year due to the lack of a leader. As a result of this committee's work, the Gloucester Rotary Club took up sponsorship of the troop, Robert F. Hutcheson volunteered as scoutmaster, Rev. Wayne Fulton of First Presbyterian church volunteered as assistant scoutmaster, and William Corr provided meeting space for the troop.⁴⁴ This moment of community support was repeated in 1950 when Troop 111 lapsed again and the Gloucester Lions Club assumed sponsorship.⁴⁵ Troop 111 held the community's esteem, as demonstrated by the repeated efforts to ensure its continued existence by an array of individuals and organizations. That esteem was generated in part by the troop members' diligence, which was personified by James "Jimmy" Morgan. Morgan spent nearly his entire youth with the group, including through several sponsorship changes, and became the troop's first Eagle Scout in 1943.⁴⁶ Morgan remained actively associated with the troop throughout his life, serving as assistant scoutmaster, scoutmaster, Explorer Post advisor, and troop committee member.⁴⁷

Scouts and community leaders created a mutually beneficial relationship, while also contributing to the betterment of the people both served. Local businessmen, including insurance agents and postmasters, saw it as their civic duty to serve as merit badge instructors for the troop members.⁴⁸ In their turn, the scouts assisted during local annual events, such as directing traffic at the county fair, and participated in less regular activities as needed, including organizing scrap metal drives

⁴² "Troop 111," undated, personal collection of Bill Lawrence, Gloucester, Va.

⁴³ "Troop 111," undated, personal collection of Bill Lawrence, Gloucester, Va.

⁴⁴ "Gloucester Scout Work Re-Opened," *Daily Press*, Newport News, Va., 29 June 1938, *Newspapers.com*, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/231470601>

⁴⁵ "235 Scouts Join Council Since Jan 1," *Daily Press*, Newport News, Va., 20 April 1950, *Newspapers.com*, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/231048190>. Interestingly, the article points out that no African American troops were lapsed at that time. "Northern District Scouters to Meet," *Daily Press*, Newport News, Va., 20 April 1950, *Newspapers.com*, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/231048381>; "Scouts Look Forward to 'Big Year' In '52," *Daily Press*, Newport News, Va., 6 February 1952, *Newspapers.com*, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/231237581>

⁴⁶ Harvey Morgan, personal communication, 16 October 2020.

⁴⁷ Lee Brown, "Eagle Scouts in Troop 111 before 1980," *The Family Tree Searcher* vol. 12, no. 2 (December 2008): 26.

⁴⁸ Harvey Morgan, personal communication, 16 October 2020.

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during World War II.⁴⁹ The 1940s was a particularly active period for the troop, as it averaged about 30 boys during that decade, led by Mr. Eastman, Mr. Farinholt, and Rev. Reginald Wells. In addition to developing the scouts' sense of civic responsibility, these leaders also developed their wilderness skills via excursions to western Virginia for hiking and camping and overnight trips to nearby sites including Camp Okee (BSA) at Gloucester Point and the Kerns family backyard, just west of the courthouse.⁵⁰

In 1956, Troop 111 underwent a brief renaissance. Inactive for several months, it was reorganized in February under the leadership of Sam Stanford, the Gloucester County Game Warden, as Scoutmaster and Hugh Dischinger as chairman of the Boy Scout Committee. Ware Episcopal Church remained the sponsor. Stanford and Dischinger not only developed an annual program of activities for the troop, but also sought a more permanent meeting place. They were ultimately successful in obtaining the lease to the Scout Cabin on the grounds of Botetourt High School.⁵¹ In 1956, Fred Lee Brown and J. Brown Farinholt, representing the Boy Scouts of America, requested sole use of the cabin in return for its repair and maintenance. The School Board granted "the use of the said Log Cabin and the said Boy Scout Troop is granted permission to make such repairs and improvements to the roof and exterior of the building as may be necessary, provided that all such repairs and improvements shall become the property of this Board. It is understood that the said Boy Scout Troop shall at all times keep the said Log Cabin and surrounding premises clean and in good order. It is further understood that the said Boy Scout Troop shall have the use of the said Log Cabin for as long as this Board shall not require use of the same for other purposes, and in such event this Board agrees to give the said Boy Scout Troop or the Scoutmaster in charge thirty days' notice of such need, at which time all right and privileges of the said Boy Scout Troop in connection with the use of the Log Cabin shall terminate."⁵²

This bolstered the troop briefly, though it lapsed again by the end of the decade. In 1959, Troop 111 was rechartered with sixteen members.⁵³ Timing worked in favor of the troop, as it sought boys between the ages of 11 and 14 as members, and the oldest boys of the post-World War II baby boom fell within that age range.

Troop 111 seems to have been most active during the years of baby boomers' childhoods and adolescences, based on the increased local press coverage of the troop's activities throughout the

⁴⁹ Harvey Morgan, personal communication, 16 October 2020; "Civic Service Clubs Merge With Scouts in Scrap Drive," *Daily Press*, Newport News, Va., 11 September 1942, *Newspapers.com*, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/230284822>; "Volunteers Clean-Up Section of Roadside, Launch County Campaign," *Daily Press*, Newport News, Va., 15 March 1954, *Newspapers.com*, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/231045624/>

⁵⁰ Harvey Morgan, personal communication, 16 October 2020.

⁵¹ "Middle Peninsula Scouts Observe Boy Scout Week," *Daily Press*, Newport News, Va., 12 February 1956. *Newspapers.com*, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/231335902/>

⁵² Minutes of the Gloucester County School Board, 1947-1959, Gloucester County School Board, Gloucester, VA, 375.

⁵³ "Deal is New Scoutmaster of Troop 111," *Daily Press*, Newport News, Va., 7 April 1959, *Newspapers.com*, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/230908309>

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1960s. During that decade of massive social change, and under the leadership of scoutmaster John T. Deal, the troop pursued a variety of activities meant to develop both their civic knowledge and their wilderness skills. The Boy Scouts of Troop 111 assembled special exhibits and planned activities for the Boy Scout Fund, presented colors at local dedications including a public pool sponsored by American Legion Post 75 and a new post office, offered pony rides at community festivals like the annual Ware Episcopal Church bazaar, and provided a mounted color guard at the Gloucester County Fair.⁵⁴ These activities kept the troop engaged with the local community, continually proving the utility of having an active Boy Scout Troop by demonstrating the services the troop members provided.

Troop activities throughout the 1960s also engaged troop members with their peers, often through inter-troop rivalries designed to test the boys' skills – and to inspire them to develop those skills in the first place. The troop hosted the Annual Northern District Scout Camporee in 1962, which included not only competitive skills events like tent pitching, but also a horse show.⁵⁵ The boys took first place in both tower-raising and compass accuracy during the 1963 Scout-O-Rama and top honors in the first aid meet at the Peninsula Boy Scout Council's inter-district competition the following year.⁵⁶ Awards in canoeing, both flat water and slalom, came from the Scout-O-Rama competitions in 1965 and 1968.⁵⁷ Individual scouts made consistent improvements in their skills and rose through the ranks each year.⁵⁸ A scout's dedication to building his skills benefitted not only himself, but his troop as well, arguably instilling a sense of pride in his own accomplishments and a deeper understanding of the impact of teamwork. These

⁵⁴ "Scouts Slate Activities to Bolster Drive," *Daily Press*, Newport News, Va., 13 October 1961, *Newspapers.com*, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/231362279>; "Scout Week Display in Making," *Daily Press*, Newport News, Va., 10 February 1963, *Newspapers.com*, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/232179515>; "Lt. Governor Lauds Post at Dedication of Pool," *Daily Press*, Newport News, Va., 23 July 1962, *Newspapers.com*, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/232719047>; "Gloucester Post Office Dedicated," *Daily Press*, Newport News, Va., 28 August 1966, *Newspapers.com*, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/230730095>; "Scouts Raise Post Office Flag," *Daily Press*, Newport News, Va., 26 August 1966, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/230730395>; "Bazaar Set Today," *Daily Press*, Newport News, Va., 8 December 1962, *Newspapers.com*, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/232153159>; "Gloucester Fair Opening Thursday Will be 'Bigger And Better,' Say Planners," *Daily Press*, Newport News, Va., 9 September 1962, *Newspapers.com*, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/232602969>.

⁵⁵ "Naval Weapons Station Notes," *Daily Press*, Newport News, Va., 7 October 1962, *Newspapers.com*, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/232143368>.

⁵⁶ "Skills, Thrills mark Scout-O-Rama, Lure Crowd Set at 20,000," *Daily Press*, Newport News, Va., 26 May 1963, *Newspapers.com*, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/232357248>; "Gloucester Unit Wins Boy Scout First Aid Meet," *Daily Press*, Newport News, Va., 9 February 1964, *Newspapers.com*, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/231295900>.

⁵⁷ "30,000 Flock To Scout-O-Rama," *Daily Press*, Newport News, Va., 2 May 1965, *Newspapers.com*, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/232550493>; "Scout Troop Wins Canoeing Plaque," *Daily Press*, Newport News, Va., 2 June 1968, *Newspapers.com*, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/231133456>.

⁵⁸ "Scout Troop Advances 15 Youths in Court of Honor," *Daily Press*, Newport News, Va., 8 March 1961, *Newspapers.com*, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/233353804>; "15 Boy Scouts Advance Rank in Troop Rights," *Daily Press*, Newport News, Va., 7 March 1962, *Newspapers.com*, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/232582822>; "Seven Boy Scouts Advance in Troop's Court of Honor," *Daily Press*, Newport News, Va., 24 July 1962, *Newspapers.com*, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/232721652>;

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were desirable skills to instill in youths during a period of social and cultural turmoil in the US and would help them develop into responsible community leaders as they came of age.

Under Deal's leadership, the 1960s saw Troop 111 participating in more activities outside Gloucester as well, including camping trips to Kill Devil Hills, North Carolina, to the Philmont Boy Scout Ranch near Cimarron, New Mexico, and to Maine, North Carolina, and Tennessee to hike parts of the Appalachian Trail.⁵⁹ While such trips most directly developed the scouts' hiking and camping skills, they also exposed the boys to parts of the country markedly different from Virginia's Middle Peninsula. That exposure, in and of itself, was likely an educational experience in regional cultures, though one made safe by the familiar trappings of Boy Scout protocols.

Coinciding with Troop 111's expansion of its activities, other forces of modernization reached from a nationwide level down to the local context of Gloucester. The Civil Rights Movement reached its peak during the mid- to late 1960s with passage of the 1964 Civil Rights Act and the 1965 Voting Rights Act. In May 1968, with the *Green v. New Kent County* decision the U.S. Supreme Court struck down the legalistic machinations used in Virginia to continue segregation in public schools, and most local school districts began to desegregate by the 1968-1969 school year. According to longtime Scout leaders at Troop 111, the local Boy Scout troops typically desegregated the same year as the local public schools, and 1968 marks the year that Gloucester County's schools desegregated, with Troop 111 following suit.⁶⁰

Activities begun in the 1960s set a pattern that Troop 111 has followed to the present day. The troop continues to participate in local, regional, and national scouting competitions, and to explore different regions of the country through camping and hiking.⁶¹ The troop and the scouts also continue to serve their community through cleanup days and public projects.⁶² Thus, Troop

⁵⁹ "Boy Scouts Visit Kill Devil Hill," *Daily Press*, Newport News, Va., 29 June 1960, *Newspapers.com*, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/232727248/>; "Gloucester Boy Scouts En Route to Philmont," *Daily Press*, Newport News, Va., 11 June 1963, *Newspapers.com*, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/232197739/>; "Gloucester Scouts Off to Maine; To Hike Along Appalachian Trail," *Daily Press*, Newport News, Va., 24 July 1967, *Newspapers.com*, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/231899278/>; "Smokies Hike is Slated By Scout Troop," *Daily Press*, Newport News, Va., 16 August 1969, *Newspapers.com*, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/231714145/>

⁶⁰ Hollis Earl Pruitt, *No Longer Lost at Sea: Black Community Building in the Virginia Tidewater, 1865 to the post-1954 Era*, Dissertation (College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, VA, 2013), p. 151, https://www.wm.edu/as/programs/ihb/ihbreports/Pruitt_%20Dissertation_2013.pdf, accessed September 20, 2021.

⁶¹ "Gloucester Canoeing Winners," *Daily Press*, Newport News, Va., 28 May 1970, *Newspapers.com*, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/232647434/>; "Scout-A-Thon Slated Saturday," *Daily Press*, Newport News, Va., 31 May 1974, *Newspapers.com*, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/233395269/>; "Camp-o-Ree," *Daily Press*, Newport News, Va., 27 October 1985, *Newspapers.com*, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/234821608/>; "Jamboree," *Daily Press*, Newport News, Va., 25 August 1993, *Newspapers.com*, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/236341972/>; "Scouts Planning Camping Trip to West Coast," *Daily Press*, Newport News, Va., 22 June 1970, *Newspapers.com*, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/232662129/>; "Gloucester Scouts tackle Boundary of North," *Daily Press*, Newport News, Va., 1 August 1990, *Newspapers.com*, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/235837846/>.

⁶² "Trail Opening," *Daily Press*, Newport News, Va., 30 April 1970, *Newspapers.com*, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/232807595/>; "Roadside Beautification," *Daily Press*, Newport News, Va., 3

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111 continues to play an active and significant role in Gloucester, one that has been mutually beneficial to the community through public service projects and to the troop as it encourages members to develop into contributing members of society.

Criterion C: Architecture

The Troop 111 Boy Scout Cabin is locally significant under Criterion C: Architecture as a rare surviving example of Rustic Revival architecture built for a youth organization under federal programming during the Great Depression. Few other examples exist in Virginia, and none in Gloucester County. The building retains many of its character-defining features, though some have been lost over time due to either reaching the end of their useful life or general maintenance on the building.

The Troop 111 Boy Scout Cabin was built using the Rustic Revival architectural style common to many federally-funded projects during the Great Depression. Saddle-notched logs provide the structure of the building, with gaps in-filled with wire mesh covered in chinking. The interior was generally unfinished. The barked logs were not covered on either the walls or the tie beams. Pine planks were used as flooring, continuing the rustic appearance through the use of geographically appropriate materials. Several of the original window sash have been lost as the building has settled out of square over the past eighty years; however, they have not been replaced with modern sash, but rather closed off. Three of the original wood casement windows remain in place. Two small lean-to additions have been built on the north (rear) elevation of the cabin, enclosing a previously exterior log wall that was once used as a hitching rail for horses. Troop 111 has replaced the roofing at least twice, using asphalt shingles in place of what were, based on historic photos, likely cedar shingles. While the majority of the building's material are original, some are beginning to deteriorate.

This cabin is one of four known and/or inventoried examples of a Great Depression-era building constructed specifically for youth organizations in the state of Virginia. The Terrace Park Girl Scout Cabin (VDHR ID# 101-0046) is located in Big Stone Gap, Virginia, and was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2007.⁶³ It is a one-story log cabin, constructed of round, unhewn pine logs, with exposed log purlins in the roof structure, an exterior chimney on each end of the building, a stone foundation, and a porch wrapping around the east corner of the building. The interior includes a general meeting room, kitchen, bathroom, and three small bedrooms. The walls have been covered with paneling, though originally the logs were left exposed. The Terrace Park Cabin was built through a joint effort of the Big Stone Gap Girl Scouts and the National Youth Administration (NYA). The local scouting leaders proposed the cabin as a building for training girls in leadership and domestic skills, as well as providing a central recreational space for them. The Girl Scouts financed \$1,000 of the approximately \$3,800 project costs, while local businesses donated supplies and the NYA provided labor and some

April 1975, *Newspapers.com*, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/233749378>; "Scouts Spruce Up Sluice Millpond," *Daily Press*, Newport News, Va., 20 June 2013, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/270572093>

⁶³ "National Register of Historic Places Registration Form: Terrace Park Girl Scout Cabin," Virginia Department of Historic Resources, 2007.

Troop 111 Boy Scout Cabin
Name of Property

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additional funding. The five-room cabin was completed in February 1939. In June 1956, the Big Stone Gap Council voted to fund repairs to the cabin and turn it into a publicly available rental space.

The Works Progress Administration (WPA) built what is today the Holiday Lake 4-H Educational Center (VDHR ID# 006-5009) at Holliday Lake State Park in Appomattox County.⁶⁴ Listed on the National Register in 2011, the camp was originally constructed in 1937 by WPA workers who may have been working with the Resettlement Administration. The still-extant contributing resources include a dining center, fifteen cabins, an associated cabin site, two bunk houses, a bath house, an office building, a covered open-air pavilion, a covered open-air amphitheater, an uncovered seating area, a shed, and an intact landscape that includes paths, terracing, drainage, road traces, and other manmade features. By 1940, 4-H was using the camp and the following year it officially became a 4-H camp. The buildings generally exhibit a Rustic Revival style similar to that used at other national and state recreation parks built in Virginia in the 1930s, but without being quite as utilitarian or military in character as Civilian Conservation Corps barracks. The 4-H buildings are frame construction, with the exterior walls originally clad with board and batten on the lower sections and weatherboard on the upper. Several of the buildings have been modified or expanded over the years to maintain their usefulness.

The Auburn High School Cabin and Cannery, Riner, Montgomery County (VDHR ID# 060-5089) was recorded in 2011.⁶⁵ This was a small, one-story cabin built of round logs by Auburn High School students in 1941. It had a partial-width front porch under an attached shed roof, with an exterior fieldstone chimney on the north end of the building. A cannery was appended to the rear of the cabin in 1946, and a shed addition in 1950. This cabin was a student-driven project, as they not only raised the money for the construction, but also built the cabin themselves. The only elements of the building constructed by professional labor were the chimney and the doors and windows. During World War II, the school procured canning equipment through the Rural War Production Training program. The cannery operation proved productive, and in spring of 1946 an adjoining slab-on-grade block cannery was built with a grant from the Virginia Agriculture Department. Thereafter, the cabin was used by the local chapter of the Grange, the Home Demonstration Club, and other local organizations. As these organizations disbanded in the closing decades of the 20th century, the cabin was converted to classroom and locker spaces before becoming the Riner Branch of the Montgomery Museum. The cabin and cannery were demolished in 2014.

The Troop 111 Boy Scout Cabin shares similarities with the other historic resources discussed above: federal program involvement in construction, meeting the needs of community youth, Rustic Revival-style architecture using locally available building materials, and continued community use after the original purpose was abandoned. The Boy Scout Cabin, however, retains the unique characteristics of being the only known resource of this type in Eastern

⁶⁴ "National Register of Historic Places Registration Form: Holiday Lake 4- Educational Center," Virginia Department of Historic Resources, 2011.

⁶⁵ "Auburn High School Cabin and Cannery, DHR ID# 060-5089, "Virginia Department of Historic Resources, 2011.

Troop 111 Boy Scout Cabin
Name of Property

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Virginia and the organizations which used the cabin as a meeting space were some of the oldest vocational education and social organizations for youth in the state.

The cabin also retains the hallmarks of the Rustic Revival architectural style in which it was built, including its horizontal lines and low-slung silhouette. The materials, particularly the barked, but unhewn, logs of which it was built, capture the organic nature that marks the style. The flexible interior spaces speak to the informality the style was intended to provide its users. Some concessions were made to accommodate the lack of available stone in area. The brick foundation piers and chimney therefore speak to the local interpretation of the style. Perhaps most interesting is the use of an architectural style meant to be subordinate to natural surroundings, but placed within the population center of the county and next to an extant school built in a different style. Given its use as a home for various student organizations, this stylistic choice in an incompatible setting may reflect the cultural sensibilities of the period of construction that favored the idea of American exceptionalism and self-sufficiency as captured in the idea of the pioneer and the frontiersman, even while they did not reflect the architectural styles that would have been used during the 17th century when Gloucester County itself might have been considered a “frontier.”

The Troop 111 Boy Scout Cabin complements the other resources discussed above, highlighting the variation in how communities responded to the crises of the Great Depression. The building also captures in the local built environment a particular moment of optimism: that students could become self-sufficient members of society if given the right tools and that self-sufficiency would carry the country forward as it had in the mythologized past, despite that the local history and architecture told a much different tale. Throughout its existence, the Troop 111 Boy Scout Cabin has expressed via its architecture and its uses the promise of a brighter future based on providing youths the opportunity to develop skills and better themselves, even as the contexts under which that promise was made have changed.

Troop 111 Boy Scout Cabin
Name of Property

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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 # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government

Troop 111 Boy Scout Cabin
Name of Property

Gloucester, VA
County and State

University

Other

Name of repository: Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): DHR #036-5179

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property 0.3 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 37.250037 N | Longitude: -76.320796 W |
| 2. Latitude: 37.250015 N | Longitude: -76.320716 W |
| 3. Latitude: 37.245959 N | Longitude: -76.320741 W |
| 4. Latitude: 37.245979 N | Longitude: -76.320819 W |

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

- | | | |
|----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 2. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting : | Northing: |

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The true and correct historic boundary is shown on the attached Location Map, which is scaled at 1"=60'.

Troop 111 Boy Scout Cabin
Name of Property

Gloucester, VA
County and State

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries encompass the entirety of the resource, as well as some of the immediate landscape that reflects the original setting of the building. As the resource is located on the grounds of a modern elementary school, the historic boundaries have been set to exclude the modern school building and grounds. The boundary also falls short of concrete sidewalks, curbs, gutters and asphalt parking lot that exist within the school board-owned acreage surrounding the resource that reflect improvements contemporary with second-half of the 20th-century Botetourt Elementary School to the northeast.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Libby Cook, PhD
organization: Fairfield Foundation
street & number: 6783 Main Street
city or town: Gloucester state: VA zip code: 23061
e-mail: fairfield@fairfieldfoundation.org
telephone: 804-815-4467
date: 7/28/2021

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A USGS map or equivalent (7.5- or 15-minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Troop 111 Boy Scout Cabin
Name of Property

Gloucester, VA
County and State

Name of Property: Troop 111 Boy Scout Cabin

City or Vicinity: Gloucester

County: Gloucester State: Virginia

Photographer: David A. Brown

Date Photographed: February 3, 2021 and July 29, 2021

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

1 of 7: VA_GloucesterCounty_Troop111BoyScoutCabin_0001
View: Cabin, south and east elevations, camera facing northwest

2 of 7: VA_GloucesterCounty_Troop111BoyScoutCabin_0002
View: Cabin, east and north elevations, camera facing southwest

3 of 7: VA_GloucesterCounty_Troop111BoyScoutCabin_0003
View: Cabin, north and west elevations, camera facing southeast

4 of 7: VA_GloucesterCounty_Troop111BoyScoutCabin_0004
View: Cabin, west and south elevations, camera facing northeast

5 of 7: VA_GloucesterCounty_Troop111BoyScoutCabin_0005
View: Cabin, main interior room, camera facing southwest

6 of 7: VA_GloucesterCounty_Troop111BoyScoutCabin_0006
View: Cabin, main interior room, camera facing northeast

7 of 7: VA_GloucesterCounty_Troop111BoyScoutCabin_0007
View: Cabin, northwest corner room, camera facing southeast

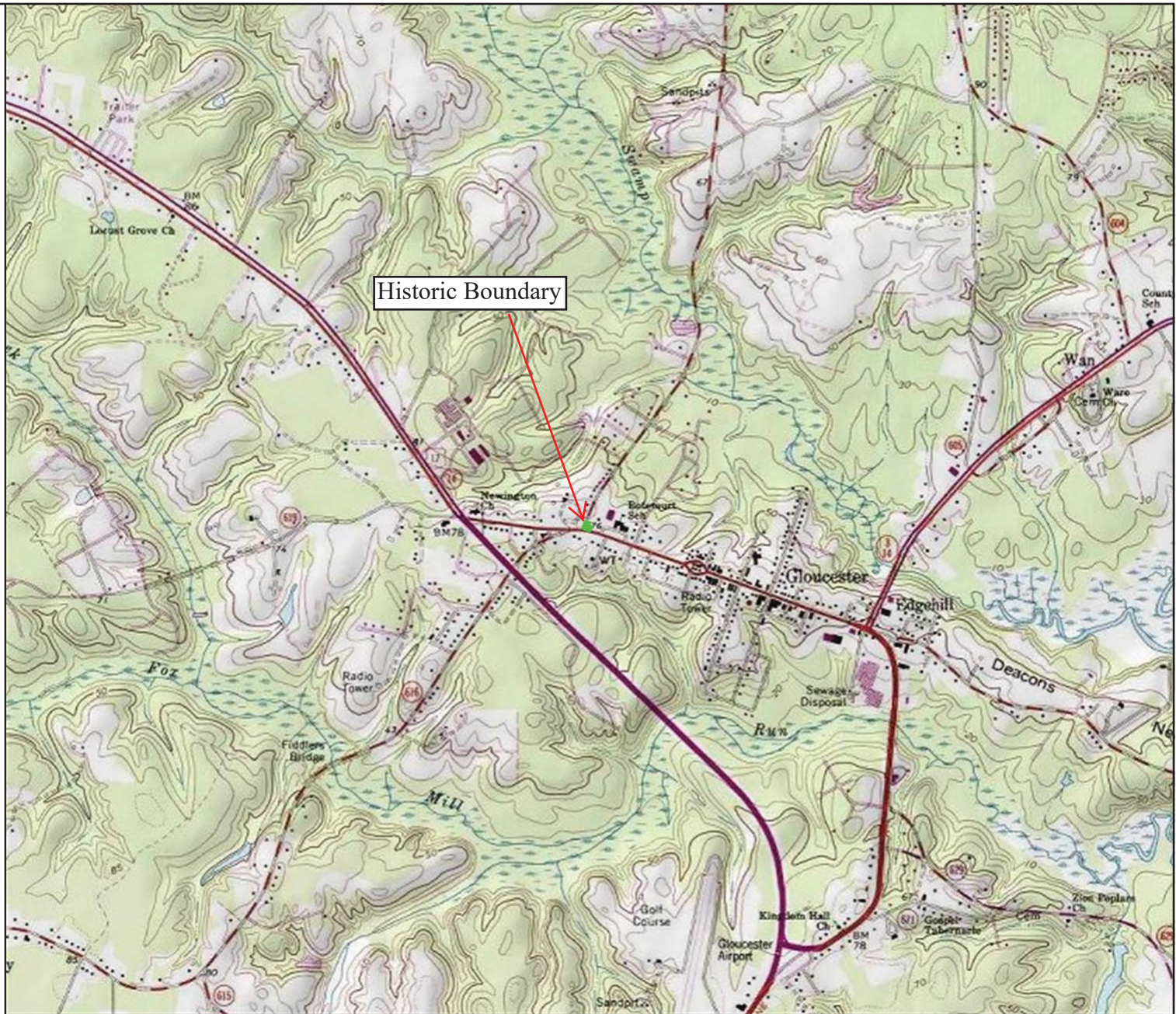
Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain 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.

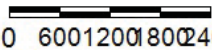


TOPOGRAPHIC MAP

Troop 111 Boy Scout Cabin
Gloucester County, VA
DHR No. 036-5179



Feet



1:36,112 / 1"=3,009 Feet

Title:

Date: 8/10/2021

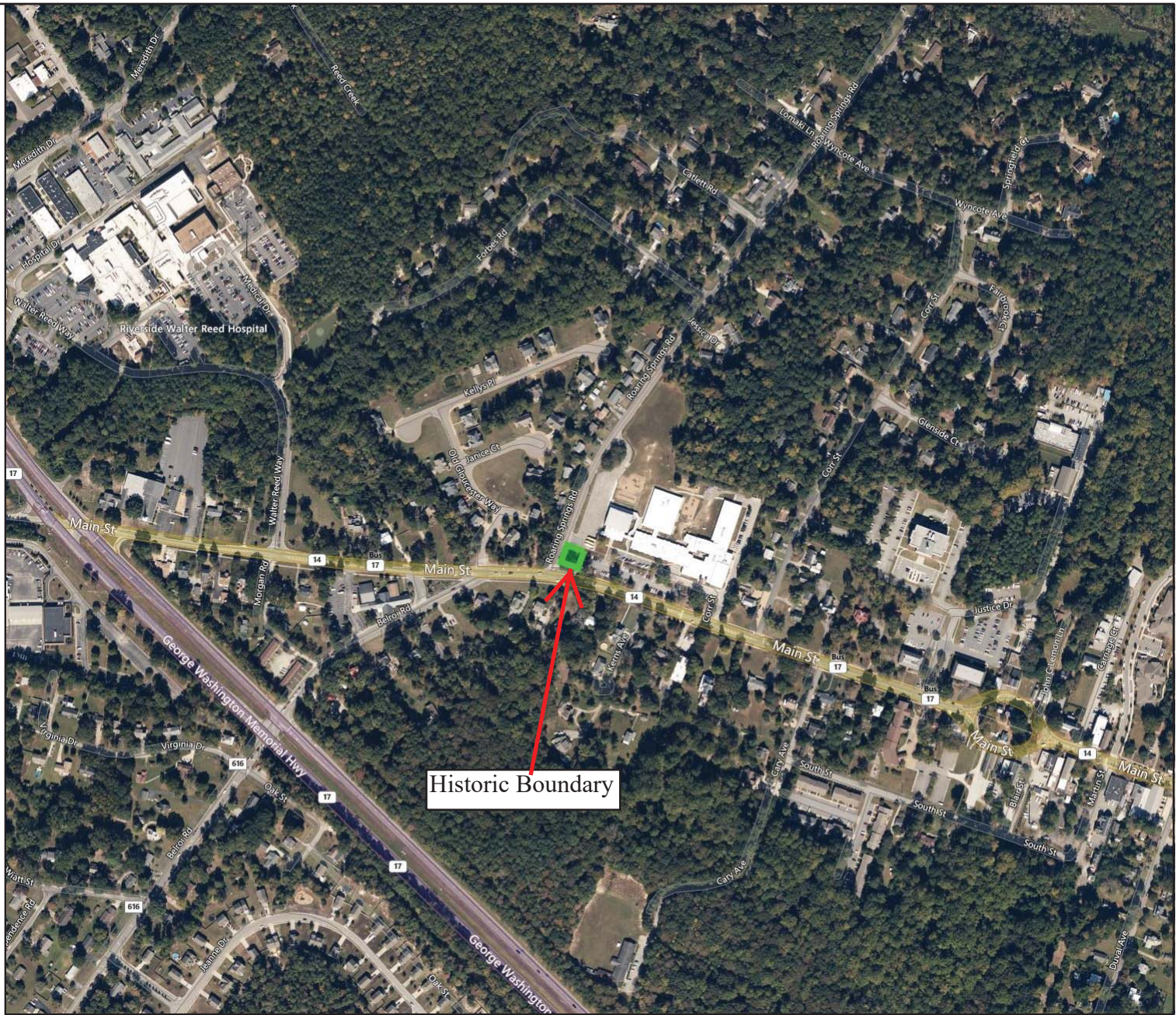
DISCLAIMER: Records of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR) have been gathered over many years from a variety of sources and the representation depicted is a cumulative view of field observations over time and may not reflect current ground conditions. The map is for general information purposes and is not intended for engineering, legal or other site-specific uses. Map may contain errors and is provided "as-is". More information is available in the DHR Archives located at DHR's Richmond office.

Notice if AE sites: Locations of archaeological sites may be sensitive to the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), and the Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA) and Code of Virginia §2.2-3705.7 (10). Release of precise locations may threaten archaeological sites and historic resources.



AERIAL VIEW - VICINITY

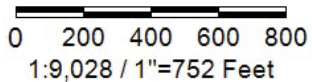
Troop 111 Boy Scout Cabin
Gloucester County, VA
DHR No. 036-5179



Historic Boundary



Feet



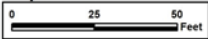
Title:







Date: 8/10/2021

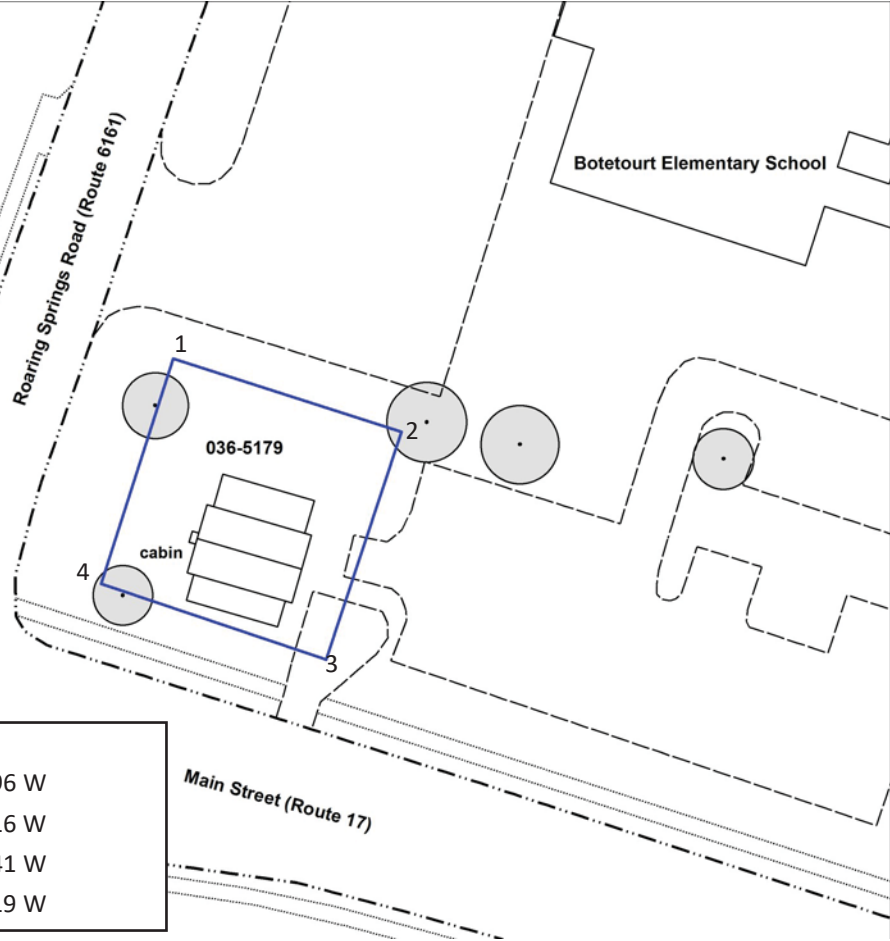
DISCLAIMER: Records of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR) have been gathered over many years from a variety of sources and the representation depicted is a cumulative view of field observations over time and may not reflect current ground conditions. The map is for general information purposes and is not intended for engineering, legal or other site-specific uses. Map may contain errors and is provided "as-is". More information is available in the DHR Archives located at DHR's Richmond office.

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LOCATION MAP
Troop 111 Boy Scout
Cabin
Gloucester County, VA
DHR #036-5179



-  Historic Boundary
-  BUILDINGS
-  DRIVEWAYS
-  LANDSCAPE
-  ROADS
-  TREES



Coordinates (Lat./Long.):
1: 37.250037 N / -76.320796 W
2: 37.250015 N / -76.320716 W
3: 37.245959 N / -76.320741 W
4: 37.245979 N / -76.320819 W



AERIAL VIEW

Troop 111 Boy Scout Cabin

Gloucester County, VA

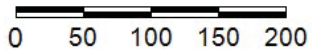
DHR No. 036-5179



Historic Boundary



Feet



1:2,257 / 1"=188 Feet

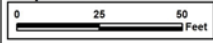
Title:







Date: 8/10/2021

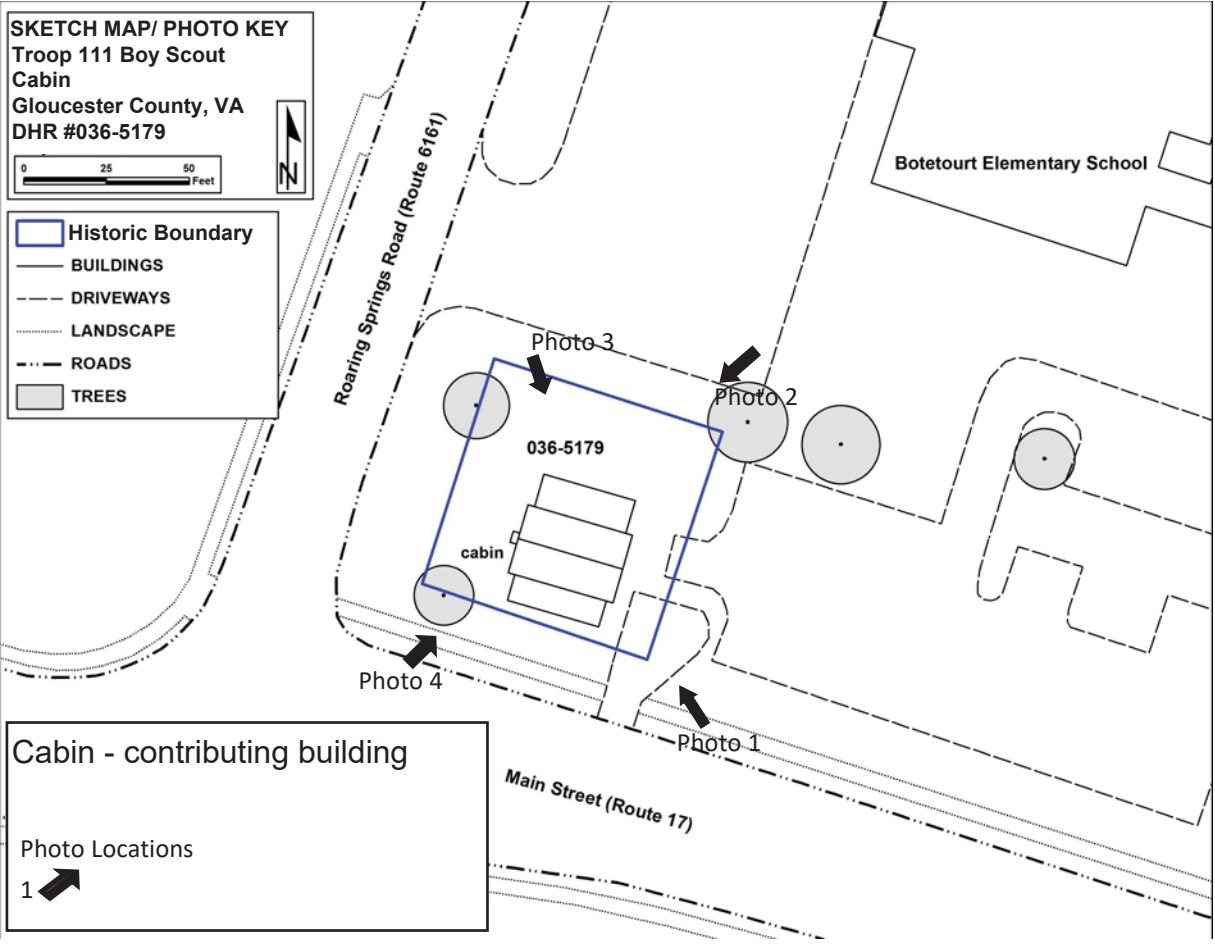
DISCLAIMER: Records of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR) have been gathered over many years from a variety of sources and the representation depicted is a cumulative view of field observations over time and may not reflect current ground conditions. The map is for general information purposes and is not intended for engineering, legal or other site-specific uses. Map may contain errors and is provided "as-is". More information is available in the DHR Archives located at DHR's Richmond office.

Notice if AE sites: Locations of archaeological sites may be sensitive the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), and the Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA) and Code of Virginia §2.2-3705.7 (10). Release of precise locations may threaten archaeological sites and historic resources.

SKETCH MAP/ PHOTO KEY
Troop 111 Boy Scout
Cabin
Gloucester County, VA
DHR #036-5179



-  Historic Boundary
-  BUILDINGS
-  DRIVEWAYS
-  LANDSCAPE
-  ROADS
-  TREES



Cabin - contributing building

Photo Locations
1 