

United States Department of the Interior
 National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in 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: Castle Rock Lodge

Other names/site number: The Lodge at Castle Rock

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: 665 Little Basin Creek Rd

City or town: Butte State: MT County: Silver Bow

Not For Publication: Vicinity:

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

I hereby certify that this 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 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

<p>_____</p> <p>Signature of certifying official/Title:</p> <p>_____</p> <p>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</p>	<p>_____</p> <p>Date</p>
<p>In my opinion, the property <u> </u> meets <u> </u> does not meet the National Register criteria.</p>	
<p>_____</p> <p>Signature of commenting official:</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Title :</p>	<p>_____</p> <p>Date</p> <p>_____</p> <p>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</p>

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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>	_____	buildings
_____	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
<u>1</u>	_____	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

SOCIAL: meeting hall, clubhouse, civic

RECREATION AND CULTURE: auditorium, music facility

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

SOCIAL: meeting hall, clubhouse, civic

RECREATION AND CULTURE: auditorium, music facility

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

OTHER: Rustic

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: _____

	<u>Original Building</u>	<u>1958 Dining Hall Addition</u>
Foundation:	STONE: Granite	CONCRETE
Walls:	WOOD: Log,	WOOD: Plywood/particle board
Roof:	ASPHALT	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 Castle Rock Lodge is the centerpiece of the 73-acre Camp Castle Rock donated to the Butte Girl Scouts in 1924. The camp sits in the Little Basin Creek Drainage in the Highland Mountains; Deerlodge National Forest land surrounds the property on three sides. The lodge building sits at an elevation of 6080 feet, seven miles southwest of Butte, Montana. Little Basin Creek Road provides access to the property. The lodge, which rests on a granite cobble foundation, consists of a main floor that includes a kitchen and an upper level used for sleeping and relaxation. A wood deck covered by a shed roof extends off the north wall. In 1958, a shed roof wood frame dining hall addition was constructed on the south end of the building, supported by a concrete foundation.

Narrative Description

Numerous photographs of the Castle Rock Lodge exist, taken over the years by both amateur and professional photographers. These images provide an excellent understanding of the building's original construction and its utilization. The photographs also document the few changes that have occurred to the building since its construction in 1928. The greatest change, but one that occurred within the period of significance, is the 1958 dining hall shed addition.

The Castle Rock Lodge faces north and sits on a locally-sourced granite cobble foundation. The foundation cobbles match those used in the fireplace and two eastern columns that support a pergola; these cobbles are scattered across the property and easily collected for use. A gable roof

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with open eaves and exposed rafters tops the original 1928 construction with a dropped shed roof protecting the north porch; a dropped shed roof with open eaves also covers the 1958 dining hall wood frame addition. An electrical conduit pipe projects from the west roof slope of the main block and a metal vent pipe and small-diameter pvc vent pipe puncture the south addition's roof slope. Walls of the original construction feature horizontal peeled logs, undoubtedly harvested from the area, tied together with square notching; Lodgepole pine and Douglas fir are prolific on the camp property. Log joists project slightly from the east and west elevations at the junction of the main floor ceiling and top story floor. Windows consist of ribbons of three six-light units in the original construction and fixed plexiglass units in the 1958 addition. The 1958 addition rests on a concrete foundation.

The north elevation serves as the primary entry, holding two five-panel person doors, one on each end of the wall. Two window openings appear in both the ground floor and the second story. A beautiful gable wall cobble chimney attaches to the elevation and rises between the sets of windows and the doorways, nicely complementing the log building. Four log uprights braced with smaller diameter diagonal logs support an open log shed roof porch with log railing; horizontal log members underlie the vertical log supports and deck flooring. The porch provides approximately 360 square feet of usable space.

The east elevation's original construction holds two ribbons of three six-light window units separated by an eight-panel person door. Two wood steps approach the door. A recently laid concrete pad that replaced and shares the same footprint as the original pad extends about eight feet west of the wall. Two cobble columns sit about six feet east of the east wall and support a replacement log shade, or pergola, that once occupied the same location; concrete pad and pergola encompasses about 96 square feet. The upper east wall of the 1958 wood frame dining hall addition displays horizontal board siding below the eave. Immediately below the horizontal siding are paired one-by-one plexiglass windows below which is vertical half round log siding. The addition holds a single person door fronted by a single-light storm approached by a small four-step open porch painted red.

The south elevation displays two paired six-by-six sliding windows in the gable while the south wall of the addition holds six paired one-by-one plexiglass windows atop vertical half round log siding.

The west elevation holds two ribbons of three six-light window units, the south ribbon covered with plywood. A fan vent projects from above the plywood covered window units. The west wall of the south addition sports two paired plexiglass window units and a person entry fronted by a storm door near the addition's junction with the original construction.

Lawn approaches the south and north elevations of the building. The west elevation features a gravel walk immediately paralleling the wall with lawn extending further west up the hill. A gravel drive passes north-south just east of the pergola.

Interior

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The interior of the original construction consists of a large open room and a smaller room that holds the kitchen; the rooms are separated by a horizontal log wall with person entry. The main floor of the lodge including the kitchen measures 1207 square feet. The striking cobble chimney clings to the north wall, exuding a sense of permanence and comfort to the open space. The north, east, south, and west elevation windows welcome light on both the upper and lower stories.

The upper loft level exhibits the beautiful rafters and truss system consisting of peeled logs and yields 890 square feet of space. Log railings with small log cross-hatching border the walkways. Finished boards enhance the open ceiling. The second floor is open and overlooks the ground floor with walkways that skirt the west, east, and south walls; much of the north wall is interrupted only by the chimney. The loft area of the north and south ends of the building are slightly larger and provide areas to sit and relax. Two beautiful split log staircases positioned at opposite ends of the building lead to the second story loft. Floors of both the main story and upper loft are wood.

The 1958 dining room addition contains 630 square feet and boasts a floor of pine or fir.

Integrity

Castle Rock Lodge retains excellent integrity. It sits in its original location and the setting presents almost exactly as when built. Its siting surrounded by National Forest promotes integrity of setting, feeling, and association as a rural camp. Integrity of design, workmanship, and materials are very strong, easily conveying all of those aspects with its current presentation. Around 2012, the log chinking was replaced in a manner consistent with the building's original construction. Asphalt shingles replaced the earlier rolled asphalt roofing, likely within the last decade.

Character defining features of the building also remain and include the fireplace/chimney, the eastern stone columns, and the window sizes and locations. Fenestration remains the same today as when the lodge was built. Some window glass was replaced through the years, but some still retains the imperfections commonly found in historic glass.

The wood frame structure of the pergola supported by the two east columns extended out from the building; however, its design led to deterioration from dripping water and snow accumulating on the top of the logs. The pergola's wood frame was likely removed in the early 1960s but recently replaced following consultation with a local historian using historic images of the structure. Around the same time, in 2021, replacement of the pergola's concrete pad occurred due to extensive cracking that posed a safety hazard.

The greatest alteration to Castle Rock Lodge is the dining hall addition constructed on the south end of the building, due to the need for greater space. In 1958, the south porch was removed and the new dining hall addition constructed. The addition contrasts with the lodge's original log build via its wood frame construction and wood cladding. Although the addition dates to after the lodge's initial construction, it doesn't detract from the overall property's integrity as its construction date falls within the period of significance.

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Other changes noted since the lodge's construction include the replacement of the exterior split log steps that lead to the north porch and entry below the pergola with finished board steps.

Interior changes include updating kitchen plumbing and electrical, the installation of wall mounted heaters, the interior cleaning of the logs to remove years of dirt and soot accumulation with a clear coat finish applied. The floors were also recently sanded and refinished.

Today, the building remains in good condition, though some evidence of settling does appear. At the recommendation of a structural engineer, the installation of a log support post occurred under the logs that support the loft. For at least the last 15 years, the diligent eyes of the Girl Scouts of Montana and Wyoming (GSMW) has assured exterior log maintenance occurs. Continued regular maintenance will allow for the lodge to serve the Girl Scouts for another 100 years.

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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.)

ARCHITECTURE

EDUCATION

ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION

Period of Significance

1928 – 1974

Significant Dates

1928

1958

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

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 Castle Rock Lodge is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A at local level for its association with the Girl Scouts of America. For over 100 years, the Girl Scouts have been a powerful force throughout the country advocating inclusiveness, self-reliance, an appreciation of the outdoors, and community service. The organization's reach expanded to include both Butte and southwest Montana. The Girl Scouts early presence at Camp Castle Rock dates to 1924 with Castle Rock Lodge constructed four years later in 1928. The lodge building has served as an important focal point of the group's southwest Montana mission welcoming thousands of girls to the area through its 100-year use.

The Castle Rock Lodge is also eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C as an excellent representative example of local vernacular rustic architecture influenced by locally accessible materials of log and stone. The building's simple yet attractive presentation extends beyond its exterior also highlighted by a striking rustic interior.

The period of significance begins in 1928 with the completion and initial use of Castle Rock Lodge. The end of the period of significance is 1974, the end of the historic period, a date that reflects the ongoing importance of the building to both the Girls Scouts and local denizens. Significant dates include 1928, the year of the initial construction effort and 1958, the year the dining hall addition was built.

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

The origins of the Girl Scouts harkens back to the early nineteen-teens and Juliette Gordon Low, the driving force behind the organization. Born in 1860, in Savannah, Georgia as Juliette Magill Kinzie Gordon, Ms. Low held many talents that included painting, ornamental ironworking, and sculpturing. Her travels allowed an appreciation of the world outside Savannah and provided her fluency in several languages. In 1886, Ms. Low married William Mackay Low, an association that allowed her access to Britain's privileged society. The marriage ended in Williams' death in 1905, which came with the revelation that he left his property to his mistress, an event successfully contested by Juliette.¹

A year later in 1906, Juliette met the founder of the Boy Scouts, Robert Baden-Powell. While the Boy Scouts began in Britain in 1908, it wasn't until 1910 that the organization found its footing in the United States. That the role of the organization could appeal to a larger group than just boys was noted by Baden-Powell: "girls can get just as much healthy fun out of Scouting as

¹ Marti Gerdes, *Juliette Gordon Low Historic District (Revised Documentation)*, NR #66000276, listed October 15, 1966, revised documentation approved March 21, 2006, pp. 18-19.

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boys can.”² Baden-Powell’s sister, Agnes, oversaw a similar organization geared toward girls, the Girl Guides. Intrigued by the Girl Guides, Juliette worked with the organization in Scotland and London in the summer and fall of 1911.³

Early 1912 witnessed both Juliette and Baden-Powell sailing to the United States, an encounter that likely fueled Juliette’s drive to establish a Girl Guide program on U.S. soil.⁴ Juliette’s return to Savannah found a small group of girls already assembling and receiving outdoor instruction; this group of 18 girls formed the nucleus of the aspiring Girls Guides. Juliette pushed the idea that girls could do anything boys could do at a time when women in the United States lacked the right to vote and expected to adhere to strict social norms. The gathering of the girls proved a game-changing event and ignited a movement across America where every girl could pursue her full potential, find lifelong friends, and make the world a better place.

Within a year, more than 60 girls participated in the new organization’s activities, serving as a springboard to the establishment of a national headquarters in Washington D.C. in 1913.⁵ It was around this period that Juliette dropped the Girl Guides moniker and transitioned to Girl Scouts. The initial printing of the Girl Scouts handbook in 1913 by naturalist W.J. Hoxie helped the organization gain a stronger footing. Additional handbooks followed throughout the years.

To only say that Juliette was the greatest advocate of the new Girl Scouts would fall short of her large contribution that included financially supporting the organization until 1915 when the membership of 5000 allowed a self-sustainable organization.⁶ That same year witness the passing of a constitution and bylaws and the formal incorporation of the fledgling organization. Juliette held the position of President until 1920 and oversaw the move of the headquarters from Washington D.C. to New York in 1916.

Due to the time of the group’s founding, the initial focus was how to prepare girls to be the best homemakers possible. Instruction included skills related to preserving food, cooking, maintaining a sterile kitchen, nursing, and sewing.⁷ However, Juliette realized the need for women to be able to care for themselves, hence, she also stressed instruction in a number of fields that included typing, farming, flying, and telegraph operation. Juliette raised the bar of instruction to also incorporate outdoor pursuits that entailed a number of useful skills.

² Baden-Powell in *The Scout*, May 16, 1908, cited in Marti Gerdes, *Juliette Gordon Low Historic District (Revised Documentation)*, NR #66000276, listed October 15, 1966, revised documentation approved March 21, 2006, p. 19.

³ Marti Gerdes, *Juliette Gordon Low Historic District (Revised Documentation)*, NR #66000276, listed October 15, 1966, revised documentation approved March 21, 2006, p. 20.

⁴ Marti Gerdes, *Juliette Gordon Low Historic District (Revised Documentation)*, NR #66000276, listed October 15, 1966, revised documentation approved March 21, 2006, p. 20.

⁵ Marti Gerdes, *Juliette Gordon Low Historic District (Revised Documentation)*, NR #66000276, listed October 15, 1966, revised documentation approved March 21, 2006, p. 20.

⁶ Marti Gerdes, *Juliette Gordon Low Historic District (Revised Documentation)*, NR #66000276, listed October 15, 1966, revised documentation approved March 21, 2006, p. 20.

⁷ Megan Gambino, “The Very First Troop Leader,” *Smithsonian*, March 7, 2012, <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/the-very-first-troop-leader-116645976/>, May 6, 2024.

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The Girl Scouts' civic service potential achieved high marks during World War I with their War-related volunteer work that focused on War bond sales and Red Cross efforts. The events of the time intertwined with Juliette's belief that girls should understand the Constitution, U.S. history, and with the beginning of the Great War, military preparedness.⁸ This period saw membership increase significantly, counting over 50,000 members nationwide by 1920.⁹ The earliest international Girl Scout groups organized in China, Mexico, and Syria and the first Native American troop found establishment in 1921 on the Onondaga Reservation in New York state.¹⁰

With the emergence of the Great Depression and later World War II, the Girl Scouts continued their civic service through relief efforts focused on food and clothing collection for those who lacked necessities. The Girl Scout mission spread at this time with the booklet, "*Who Are the Girl Scouts?*," directed at a diversity of girls and published in Italian, Polish, and Yiddish.¹¹ Farm Aid projects, fat and metal collection, bicycle courier services, and Victory Garden projects consumed much of the Girl Scouts efforts during World War II. Interestingly, despite confinement in internment camps, Japanese American girls in California and Utah formed troops. With the outbreak of the Korean War, Girl Scouts assembled supplies for Korean citizens.

The organization promoted inclusiveness and equality, advocacy that found voice in the Speak Out conferences held around the United States in the 1960s; their "ACTION 70" project hoped to raise awareness of prejudice and improve relationships amongst people.¹² Such efforts found organizational endorsement in the 1970s with the appointment of the first African American national board president, Gloria D. Scott. The 1970s also saw the Girl Scouts promoting environmental issues. The introduction of the Daisy Level of Girls Scouts for kindergarten-aged youth in the 1980s attested to the continued popularity of the organization and the desire to increase inclusiveness to younger ages.

The open umbrella proffered by the Girl Scouts resulted in girls from all backgrounds joining. Today, the Girl Scouts stand as the largest educational organization geared toward girls in the world.¹³ It boasts a membership of 3.3 million with approximately 50 million earning badges or having worn the uniform.

⁸ Megan Gambino, "The Very First Troop Leader," *Smithsonian*, March 7, 2012, <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/the-very-first-troop-leader-116645976/>, May 6, 2024.

⁹ Marti Gerdes, *Juliette Gordon Low Historic District (Revised Documentation)*, NR #66000276, listed October 15, 1966, revised documentation approved March 21, 2006, p. 21.

¹⁰ "Girl Scout History," *Girl Scouts*, <https://www.girlscouts.org/en/discover/about-us/history.html>, accessed May 6, 2024.

¹¹ "Girl Scout History," *Girl Scouts*, <https://www.girlscouts.org/en/discover/about-us/history.html>, accessed May 6, 2024.

¹² "Girl Scout History," *Girl Scouts*, <https://www.girlscouts.org/en/discover/about-us/history.html>, accessed May 6, 2024.

¹³ Megan Gambino, "The Very First Troop Leader," *Smithsonian*, March 7, 2012, <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/the-very-first-troop-leader-116645976/>, May 6, 2024.

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The Girls Scouts in Butte and Southwest Montana

Although other Girl Scout troops existed in Montana in the early 1920s, it wasn't until 1922 that plans were afoot to officially begin a local Butte chapter.¹⁴ Planning occurred at the Y.M.C.A. in Butte with Mrs. T. A. Grigg chosen temporary chairman and Mrs. F. A. Martin selected as secretary. Ardor for the group's organization ran high with "an enthusiasm that presages its success."¹⁵ "Love of the great out-of-doors is inculcated and stimulated" by these types of groups. Clearly illustrating a difference in safety concern from 1922 to the present, in June of that year, after their second meeting in the Y.M.C.A., the members of the Girl Scouts accepted the offer to camp in the "abandoned buildings of the Washington Bar Mining company, nine miles from Norris."¹⁶ Other activities slated for the summer included hikes and weekend camps.

With the growing popularity of the group in the Butte area, a Girl Scout council was organized "to assist leaders of the various troops now working in the city, and to co-operate in organizing new troops."¹⁷

Civic service began almost immediately as one branch of the Girls Scouts collected and filled two large boxes of good for families in need at Christmas of 1923 while the Wild Rose Troop sold more than \$50 of Christmas seals.¹⁸

The organization promoted a variety of learning experiences that included the all-important instruction in bed-making, a 1924 activity directed at the Wild Rose Troop; additional instruction encompassed semaphore signaling.¹⁹ The Y.M.C.A. in Butte served as the primary meeting location for many clubs for many years, including a number of the Girls Scouts troops.²⁰ Troop numbers in the Butte area continued to grow as noted with the addition of two new troops in 1924, one assuming the sobriquet of the Highland Troop.²¹ By this time, Butte boasted a number of troops with catchy monikers that included the Wild Rose, Copper, Oriole, Butter Root, and Cedar.²²

Outdoor activities played a major role in the Scouts' lives, per the mission of the organization. In March of 1924, the Copper Troop hiked to Camp Caroline, east of Butte, after catching the

¹⁴ "Making Plans To Form Branch Of Girl Scouts," *Butte Daily Post*, May 20, 1922, p. 2.

¹⁵ "For the Girls," *Butte Miner*, June 25, 1922, p. 4.

¹⁶ "Girls Society Accepts Offer of Camp Site," *Butte Daily Post*, June 10, 1922, p. 10.

¹⁷ "Girl Scout Council Organized In Butte," *Butte Daily Post*, June 17, 1924, p. 5.

¹⁸ "Girl Scouts Enjoyed Xmas Work And Play," *Butte Daily Post*, December 31, 1923, p. 10.

¹⁹ "Girl Scouts Learn How To Make Beds," *Butte Daily Post*, January 26, 1924, p. 9. Semaphore is a device to convey information through visual means, such as via a flag or light.

²⁰ "Girl Scouts," *Butte Miner*, February 3, 1924, p. 16; "News interesting To Girl Scouts," *Butte Daily Post*, March 1, 1924, p. 5.

²¹ "Girl Scouts of America, Butte Council," *Butte Miner*, January 29, 1924, p. 7.

²² "Girl Scouts of America, Butte Council," *Butte Miner*, January 29, 1924, p. 7.

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train to Homestake Pass.²³ Other outdoor activities included swimming, folk dancing, camp cooking, tennis, basketball, basketry, nature lore, wood craft, and archery.²⁴

To support these activities, fund raising for events and summer camps occurred with regularity often in the guise of dances, rummage sales, or similar fetes.²⁵ Adults also participated in fund raising for a variety of Scout causes. In 1927, the “Ladies of the council” hosted a card party to this end.²⁶

By 1927, 10 Girl Scout troops operated in Butte with a total membership of 254. The popularity of the Girl Scouts in the Butte area continued to increase over the years and by 1944, Butte boasted 600 Girl Scouts with more than a million young girls enrolled throughout the United States.²⁷ In 1958, the number hit 868 registered Girl Scouts in 26 Brownie Troops, 24 scout troops, and two Senior Troops. There were 204 registered adult leaders, and volunteers.²⁸

Castle Rock—The Girl Scouts of Butte Find a Home of Their Own

Major news broke in May of 1923 with the announcement that a large parcel of land was donated by Mrs. Harriet Armstrong to the Girl Scouts for use by the local affiliates: “With a 100-acre camp located in Little basin, 10 miles from Butte, it is believed the Girls Scouts will make elaborate plans for summer outings.”²⁹ The land included heavy timber, a stream, springs, and open level areas. The story of the donation is interesting in itself. Burney Rice, one of the early organizers of Butte’s Girl Scout troops, related it was during a luncheon in honor of Mrs. Lou Hoover, President Herbert Hoover’s wife, that Mrs. Harriet Armstrong arrived uninvited and made her generous donation; the wealthy Mrs. Armstrong was apparently excluded from many formal events and considered a black sheep of the Butte community due to her “mistress relationship with Alec Johnston.”³⁰ Mrs. Armstrong also reportedly built “what is now known as the Kroeze Mansion, a magnificent rock home located on Platinum Street” in Butte.

The donation not only thrilled the Girl Scouts but also the community who offered various assistance toward the progress of the property for a Girls Scout camp, offers that included a pledge by the Exchange Club that “promised co-operation of members, even to the extent of personal aid in equipping the new camp.” The Rotary Club, chamber of commerce, and Kiwanis Club also pledged their support.

²³ “Girl Scouts To Hike To Camp Caroline,” *Butte Daily Post*, March 29, 1924, p. 5.

²⁴ “Camp Of Girl Scouts Is Ready For Opening,” *Butte Daily Post*, July 9, 1927, p. 6.

²⁵ “Girl Scout Dance,” *Butte Daily Post*, June 9, 1925, p. 6; “Rummage Sale Success,” *Butte Daily Post*, June 3, 1927, p. 13.

²⁶ “Girl Scout Card Party Will Be Held Tonight,” *Butte Daily Post*, November 12, 1927, p. 9.

²⁷ “Mrs. Hoover’s Visit,” *Montana Standard*, August 9, 1921, p. A1; “An Appeal That Will Meet Quick Response,” *Montana Standard*, September 11, 1944, p. 4.

²⁸ “Butte Girl Scouts Registration Figures,” *Montana Standard*, arch 11, 1958, p. 7.

²⁹ “Extensive Campsite Given Girl Scouts By Mrs. Armstrong,” *Butte Miner*, May 23, 1924, p. 5.

³⁰ “Early scouting days recalled,” *Montana Standard*, March 17, 1978, p. 5.

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In 1924, Girl Scouts began camping at their newly acquired property.³¹ The first gathering occurred June 7 marked by events that included a campfire and a sing along at twilight. The gathering included different troops that demonstrated their skills of knot tying, first aid, and signaling. The occasion was marked by the inaugural flag raising on the property.³² The camp opened once again for most of the month of August with camping equipment donated by the Montana Power Company and Exchange Club—enough to host 120 girls.³³ Ensuring access to the camp area, the county commissioners promised “the road will be put in good condition” allowing for a rotation of different troops every week.

In July of 1924, Butte hosted Miss Elsa Becker from New York, the “national Girl Scout instructor and expert camp director.”³⁴ After her Butte visit, Miss Becker travelled south “for a tour of the new Girl Scout camp site south of the city near the Basin creek reservoir.” Miss Becker’s visit brought a font of knowledge regarding “Girl Scout work and ... establishing and operating of camp sites” with her visit to the property aimed at “assisting in the organization of the first Girl Scouts summer camp in the country.” The import of the new property was described as “intended to take the place of social clubs in the city, members of the local Girl Scouts council say, and to link hundreds of Butte girls in an organization with definite ideals.”³⁵

Late July 1924 witnessed the raising of a camp tent complete with the hiring of a camp cook.³⁶ Nine large tents were available for use by the girls, each able to accommodate 16 individuals. A pump installed in a spring provided water while the creek provided bathing opportunity, a no doubt chilly proposition.

Recognizing the efforts of many of the local Girl Scouts, an awards ceremony was held in September of 1924, the first of its kind for Butte.³⁷ Awards included health winner, dancer, citizen, home nurse, first aid worker and two that the Basin Creek property likely provided important experience to win, craftsman and “handy woman.”

Castle Rock Lodge—A Building Of Which To Be Proud

Having already proved their mettle for camping, the Butte Girl Scouts announced in November of 1924 plans for a permanent building at their new property.³⁸ With the announcement of the new lodge, the former reference to the property as some derivate of Little Basin Creek assumed the new appellation of Castle Rock Lodge. Early 1925, saw the formation of a committee to develop plans for the lodge, “designed along lines of permanent beauty, comfort and service as not only a home for Girl Scouts, but a showplace and lasting monument to Butte and Montana

³¹ “Girl Scouts’ Picnic At New Camp Site Slated for Today,” *Butte Miner*, June 7, 1924, p. 6.

³² “Girl Scouts’ Picnic At New Camp Site Slated for Today,” *Butte Miner*, June 7, 1924, p. 6.

³³ “Girl Scout Camp Open For Month,” *Butte Daily Post*, July 12, 1924, p. 14.

³⁴ “Girl Scout Leader To Organize Camp,” *Butte Miner*, July 25, 1924, p. 6.

³⁵ “Girl Scout Leader To Organize Camp,” *Butte Miner*, July 25, 1924, p. 6.

³⁶ “Full Commissary And Cook In Camp of 65 Gurls Scouts,” *Butte Daily Post*, July 30, 1924, p. 2.

³⁷ “Girl Scouts Hold First Awards Court many Are Honored,” *Butte Miner*, September 20, 1924, p. 5.

³⁸ “Girl Scouts Notes,” *Butte Daily Post*, November 15, 1924, p. 9.

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girlhood.”³⁹ Anticipation grew for the building’s construction with the arrival of Miss Carol Preston, the national headquarters regional director and educational instructor for Girls Scouts of America.⁴⁰ Miss Preston, a “charming ... woman of unusual ability, vision, and untiring energy... motored out to the Castle Rock camp and was thrilled with the natural beauty, made doubly attractive under its spotless mantle of snow, easy accessibility and wonderful possibilities of this splendid campsite for girls.”

Improvements to the camp area occurred prior to the lodge construction with the addition of tennis courts and a swimming pool.⁴¹ In late November of 1925, the Girl Scouts hosted a benefit dance to assist paying off the existing debt due on the Castle Rock Camp property associated with equipment purchased for use on the property.⁴²

The dawning of 1927 found an uptick in momentum for the lodge’s construction at Castle Rock with the announcement that commencement would begin “as soon as the weather will permit.”⁴³ The impending construction lured Mrs. Herbert Hoover, the national vice-president of the Girl Scouts of America, to Butte in May of 1925 to lay the cornerstone of the lodge at Castle Rock.⁴⁴ Upon arrive at the property, plans changed and Mrs. Hoover opted to use the stone as a hearthstone.⁴⁵ The pride evinced at the ceremony found voice by attorney Charles Leonard who noted, “the generosity of” Butte and “their responses to appeals involving the common good” citing the “splendid new Girl Scout building as one of the many results of Butte’s munificence.”

Numerous items were placed near Mrs. Hoover’s hearthstone including a poem composed by Girl Scout, Rosalie Benjamin, entitled, “The Hearthstone.” The early stanzas of the poem illustrates the promise of the new building to the Girl Scouts:

At Castle Rock, to us so dear;
This cornerstone we lay;
And it is placed in hearthstone near,
With joyful hearts today.

The heart is, as we all do know,
The center of the home;
The fireplace’s ready glow
Has welcomed those who roam.

Thus, where our own camp hearth

³⁹ “Council Officers Elected By Scouts,” *Butte Miner*, January 15, 1925, p. 5.

⁴⁰ “Girl Scouts—Butte Council,” *Butte Miner*, March 15, 1925, p. 39.

⁴¹ “More Girls Are Going To Castle Rock Camp,” *Butte Daily Post*, August 2, 1926, p. 9.

⁴² “Girl Scout Dance To Secure Funds,” *Butte Daily Post*, November 9, 1925, p. 3.

⁴³ “Girl Scouts Council Elects New Officers,” *Butte Daily Post*, January 12, 1927, p. 16.

⁴⁴ “National Leader Will Have a Busy Program In City,” *Butte Daily Post*, May 25, 1927, p. 7.

⁴⁵ An article the following day mentioned Ms. Hoover at the “hearthstone”, “Mrs. Hoover Has A Very Busy Day As City’s Guest,” *Butte Daily Post*, May 26, 1927, p. 7.

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The Scouts in Butte did their share of raising funds for the new building hosting events to help defray the construction costs. Much of the money required for the build existed, but the organization was determined to ensure enough was at hand to cover the expense.⁴⁶

By July of 1928 the lodge neared completion: “the elaborate lodge at Castle Rock is practically completed. The concrete porch and hardwood floors have been laid, and a group from Butte council went to the spot yesterday to inspect the construction work and make plans for the arrangements in the structure.”⁴⁷ The lodge was fully completed by October and hosted a silver tea by the “ladies of the local council...planned for...the afternoon at Castle Rock lodge, an event that drew more than 150 participants.”⁴⁸ The final construction resulted in “a substantial and picturesque log cabin lodge—Camp Castle Rock...furnished simply, but completely, with rustic furniture.”⁴⁹ The building immediately received well deserved accolades noted by the *Montana Standard* as “one of the best camps of that organization in the country.”⁵⁰ The lodge boasts a ground floor “in three sections, a dining room, a kitchen and an assembly room, all appropriately furnished. The assembly room measures 40 by 30 feet. Above it is a balcony where during the seasons when the camp is closed Girl Scout members may spread their beds on their week-end trips to the Castle Rock lodge.”⁵¹ The presence of the new lodge engendered feelings of excitement and anticipation to the Girl Scout troops, as “these spring days make the Girl Scouts feel that the lodge at Camp Castle Rock ought to have some good times in store.”⁵²

In June 1929, the Girl Scouts troops participated in a tree-planting program at Castle Rock in honor of Mrs. Herbert Hoover.⁵³ The following month, Mrs. Hoover sent a thank you for the honor paid to her by the Girl Scout troops, thrilling every Girl Scout in Butte at the time.

The lodge soon hosted award events where troops received their letters of commendation.⁵⁴ Awards were also presented to scribes in recognition of their efforts.⁵⁵ Both meetings and educational gatherings transpired within the building for years. Girl Scout course instruction

⁴⁶ “Proceeds Needed To Help Defray Expense of New Lodge at Castle Rock,” *Butte Daily Post*, May 31, 1927, p. 6.

⁴⁷ “Registration Opens for Annual Outing at Castle Rock Near Butte,” *Butte Daily Post*, July 7, 1928, p.7.

⁴⁸ “Silver Tea Will Be Event of Thursday,” *Montana Standard*, October 14, 1928, p. 36; “Girl Scout Tea Is Attended By many,” *Butte Daily Post*, October 19, 1928, p. 5.

⁴⁹ “Scout Organization in Mining City Training 412 Girls for Responsible Citizenship and the Essentials of Womanhood,” *Montana Standard*, February 17, 1929, p. 22.

⁵⁰ “Where Girl Scouts Vacation,” *Montana Standard*, March 23, 1930, p. 44.

⁵¹ “Castle Rock Lodge,” *Montana Standard*, August 3, 1930, p. 32.

⁵² “Camp Castle Rock,” *Butte Daily Post*, March 9, 1929, p. 28.

⁵³ “‘First Lady’ Grateful To Butte Girl Scouts,” *Butte Daily Post*, June 22, 1929, p. 1.

⁵⁴ “Butte Council Girl Scouts—Rocky Mountain Troop,” *Montana Standard*, June 1, 1930, p. 34.

⁵⁵ “Girl Scout Scribes To Be Guests At Party,” *Montana Standard*, January 28, 1933, p. 6.

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included training in safety with fire and suppression of small fires.⁵⁶ With a swimming pool on the property, instruction in swimming was important.⁵⁷ Other early activities included following the “Gypsy Trail,” archery, handcrafts, out-of-doors cooking, and presenting plays.⁵⁸

Silver teas gained in popularity with another occurring “at their spacious, attractive lodge at Camp Castle Rock” in April of 1931 to mark the opening of the lodge for the season.⁵⁹ When weather permitted, Girl Scout Halloween parties transpired there as did Christmas parties.⁶⁰ Scout mothers were welcomed over the years to celebrate Mothers Day.⁶¹ In the spring of 1936, a camp reunion and parents day occurred where visitors brought their own lunches—the event proved a success as several hundred visited the lodge and camp.⁶²

The lodge and property certainly found regular use as annual organized Girl Scout camps were offered and held at Castle Rock every year and through the period of the lodge’s construction with attendance numbers ballooning to 250 attendees by the early 1930s.

In 1933, Camp Castle Rock ranked as one of the best equipped Girl Scout camps in the United States: “Camp Castle Rock has passed from its tenting days, kitchen, dining tables and cupboards sheltered in tents two the protection and comfort of a large log lodge...equipped with modern plumbing, expansive cupboards, dishes, dining tables, piano, phonograph, rustic furniture, library, cots and a large fireplace.”⁶³

The lodge proved a venue to greet higher ranking individuals within the organization. In July of 1935, the Powell County Girl Scout commissioner met with Mrs. Skewes, the national Girl Scout camp director to gather ideas regarding the Girl Scout camp in Powell county.⁶⁴ In 1939, Mrs. Lou Hoover made her second trip to Butte and Castle Rock to view the lodge as a guest of the local council.⁶⁵ Camp Castle Rock and the lodge served as a fitting venue for Miss Marie Gaudette of New York, the nature consultant for the Girl Scouts of America, to conduct an outdoor workshop for Girl Scout leaders from Butte and nearby areas.⁶⁶ The workshop included

⁵⁶ “Leader Parley Set Tomorrow,” *Butte Daily Post*, October 24, 1935, p. 5; “Foresters Train Scouts on Fires,” *Butte Daily Post*, July 14, 1950, p. 5.

⁵⁷ “Miss Alice Ness At Scout Camp,” *Butte Daily Post*, July 8, 1935, p. 12.

⁵⁸ “Interesting Program Keeps Record Enrollment At Camp Castle Rock Busy And Happy,” *Montana Standard*, July 25, 1930, p. 7.

⁵⁹ “Girl Scouts to Hold Open House,” *Butte Daily Post*, April 24, 1931, p. 13; “News of Butte,” *Butte Daily Post*, April 25, 1931, p. 16.

⁶⁰ “Floral Park Notes,” *Butte Daily Post*, October 10, 1929, p. 17; “Girl Scouts Hold Christmas Party,” *Montana Standard*, December 4, 1935, p. 7.

⁶¹ “Girl Scouts Fete Mothers At Dinner,” *Butte Daily Post*, May 17, 1934, p. 7.

⁶² “Girl Scouts To Honor Parents,” *Montana Standard*, May 19, 1936, p. 12.

⁶³ “Castle Rock Girl Camp Has Passed ‘Tent Days’,” *Butte Daily Post*, June 3, 1933, p. 3.

⁶⁴ “Girl Scout Camp To Open Sunday,” *Montana Standard*, July 18, 1935, p. 11.

⁶⁵ “Mrs. Herbert Hoover to Attend Girl Scout Regional Meet Here,” *Butte Daily Post*, May 2, 1942, pp. 1, 2.

⁶⁶ “Planned for Scouting Leaders,” *Butte Daily Post*, April 24, 1948, p. 2.

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instruction in fire building, mapping, wood carving, cooking, nature study, compass use, and trail knowledge.

The lodge also provided a venue for events outside the scope of the Girl Scouts. The lodge welcomed the Butte Chapter of the American Association of University Women in November of 1931.⁶⁷ In July of 1933, a no host party that consisted of dancing, games, and a luncheon occurred within the walls of the building.⁶⁸ In 1934, the Federal Emergency Relief Administration in conjunction with the "Butte Girl Scouts" selected Castle Rock and its lodge to host 75 women between the ages of 16 and 35 for a vocational camp to assist those who were unemployed.⁶⁹ The camp lasted eight weeks with curricula that included, "vocational guidance, training in household management, health education and recreational and cultural opportunities for work in creative arts." A year later, 75 Butte glee club and orchestra members partook of their annual picnic celebration within the acoustically enchanting confines of the lodge.⁷⁰ Business and professional women's club members attended a picnic at the Castle Rock Camp in August of 1942, enjoying the beauty of the area and its amenities.⁷¹

The availability of the lodge for use by the community was reiterated in September of 1936 when Miss Lucille Skewes, the local director noted: "Annually, the lodge is thrown open to organizations for their purpose following the close of the Girl Scouts' camp... there is space for dancing and facilities necessary for the serving of meals."⁷² The dancing hook reeled in the Gamma Chapter of Beta Sigma Sorority in Butte in October of 1940 with their barn dance held at the lodge.⁷³

The onset of World War II portended increased visitation to Castle Rock Lodge, an anticipated increase that resulted in limiting access to the property and lodge: "This year because of wartime restrictions on travel it is expected that more girls than usual will want to take their summer outings at Camp Castle Rock camp... and for this reason we are giving preference to the Butte Girl Scouts and will not open the registration for scouts from outside of Butte unless there are vacancies."⁷⁴ By this time, the lodge and camp boasted many amenities that counted, "the dining porch, kitchen, recreation hall and office at the lodge and 3-tent units with accompanying councilor tents...accommodates 55 girls." Acknowledgment of the fine condition of the building and camp went to "the many men and women who have volunteered to help get the camp in readiness."

⁶⁷ "University Women Here To Hold Annual Fall Party At Camp Castle Rock Tuesday," *Montana Standard*, November 1, 1931, p. 47.

⁶⁸ "No-Host Party," *Montana Standard*, July 6, 1933, p. 7.

⁶⁹ "75 Unemployed Butte Women To Get Eight Weeks Outing," *Montana Standard*, July 3, 1934, pp. 1, 2.

⁷⁰ "Picnic Is Held By School Musicians," *Montana Standard*, July 6, 1935, p. 2.

⁷¹ "To Attend Picnic," *Montana Standard*, August 9, 1942, p. 15.

⁷² "Girl Scout Lodge At Castle Rock To Be Kept Open," *Butte Daily Post*, September 2, 1936, p. 5.

⁷³ "Barn Dance Is Given by Group," *Montana Standard*, October 9, 1940, p. 7.

⁷⁴ "Camp Castle Rock, Girl Scout Camp South of Butte, Will Open Its 20th Session July 9, Close August 20," *Montana Standard*, April 30, 1944, p. 6.

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In 1944, with war raging, local press noted the Girls Scout organization's drive toward "molding character, providing recreation and building civic leadership," a mission greatly assisted by time spent at Castle Rock Lodge.⁷⁵ A visit and stay at the lodge and camp provided a retreat from the real-world activities besetting the nation, a calm during the storm.

By 1946, Camp Castle Rock and its lodge held such popularity that plans were rolled out to ensure all local Butte Girl Scout troops an outing to the property.⁷⁶ The new plan developed "because of the large number of Girl Scouts who have never been able to attend summer camp. By the troop system, all girls enrolled in the organization will have a camping trip this summer. Girl Scout troops will go for three-day periods while brownies will be taken to the camp for one day outings or for overnight." The new program resulted in a very successful 1946 season with "one of the most successful camping periods ever conducted at Camp Castle Rock...175 girls attended camp, 125 of whom had never been enrolled for camping previous to this summer."⁷⁷ By 1949, the organization foresaw "record-breaking attendance," undoubtedly based on the now 34 troops established in Butte alone—a predication verified, "with Camp Castle Rock...bulging at the seams with an overflow third week registration."⁷⁸ The year 1949, did indeed prove to be the greatest enrollment in the history of the camp to that point, a record that lasted only until the following year.⁷⁹

Not only was Camp Castle Rock and its lodge a huge success for both the Girl Scouts and the local community, by the late 1940s, the Butte Girl Scout organization's ownership represented "one of the few groups in Montana" that owned and maintained its own camp.⁸⁰ Resources to maintain and fund the camp were a constant concern with regular fund-raising efforts occurring. Fund raising assumed a variety of forms but one of the most popular was the sale of the always loved Girl Scout cookies.⁸¹

The passage of time little diminished ardor for a visit to Castle Rock Lodge by the uninitiated. In 1950, a group of Brownies from Butte laid plans for their trip and "the younger scouting material were highly enthused and entered into the preparations with complete delight."⁸²

⁷⁵ "An Appeal That Will Meet Quick Response," *Montana Standard*, September 11, 1944, p. 4.

⁷⁶ "Troop Campaign Is Inaugurated By Girl Scouts," *Butte Daily Post*, June 29, 1946, p. 2.

⁷⁷ "Girl Scouts End Camp Season," *Butte Daily Post*, August 20, 1946, p. 2.

⁷⁸ "Girl Scout Camp To Open July 10," *Butte Daily Post*, June 18, 1949, p. 6; "Camp Castle Rock Boasts Enrollment of 62 Butte Girls," *Butte Daily Post*, July 30, 1949, p. 3

⁷⁹ "Enrollment Sets New Record at Girl Scout Camp," *Montana Standard*, August 10, 1949, p. 11; "262 Girls Attend Summer Camp; Records Set at Outing," *Montana Standard*, August 20, 1950, p. 12.

⁸⁰ "Activities," *Butte Daily Post*, September 17, 1947, p. 3.

⁸¹ "Fun—Service—Skills," *Montana Standard*, March 9, 1949, p. 9; "Butte Girls Scout Program Praised," *Montana Standard*, April 17, 1949, p. 10; "900 Girl Scouts Will Take Part in Annual Cookie Sale," *Montana Standard*, April 8, 1958, p. 9.

⁸² "Brownies Leave for Camp Castle Rock," *Montana Standard*, August 2, 1950, p. 6.

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“Brownie Week” witnessed exuberant attendance of “58 pint-sized girls.”⁸³ The lodge continued to host Girl Scouts of all ages as noted by its use for an overnight stay in 1956 for older Scouts.⁸⁴

By 1958, the lodge retained its anchor-status of the camp: “the main lodge near the entrance to the camp is the location of all-camp activities such as eating, raining day programs, flag ceremonies and special all-camp programs. A large log structure which houses the kitchen, screened porch eating area and big center hall with a fireplace, the lodge is the focal point of the camp.”⁸⁵

The popularity of the camp and lodge resulted in an addition to the south end of the building in 1958 for use as a dining hall. The same year, other improvements occurred including those to the water system. The local community again stepped up to assist with the task. A work party arrived consisting of members of the Butte Lion’s Club, “repaired and renovated the water system...several hundred feet of pipe was installed and other work... done.”⁸⁶

By the early 1960s, the lodge continued as the gem of the property, with descriptions of the time referring to it as, “striking” with a “large fireplace in the lobby, a screened dining room and fine kitchen.”⁸⁷ The summer of 1960 saw the lodge’s “dining Porch” serve as the location for dinner for “forty-eight Girl Scouts” who “enjoyed the ‘Tweeners Slumber Party’ ” at the property.⁸⁸ A variety of celebrations, including Halloween and Valentine’s Day gatherings, transpired for various girl troops through the 1960s.⁸⁹ “Get-acquainted” gatherings occurred at the property, replete with “an evening of ghost stories, games, and a potluck supper with special treats.”⁹⁰ In 1961, Camp Castle Rock expanded to include a snow camp, with the lodge almost certainly assuming an oversized role in the Scouts’ comfort during these winter engagements.⁹¹ New Scout members were welcomed to troops by Senior members with “a slumber party in the lodge at Camp Castle Rock.”⁹²

The popularity of the lodge for social occasions hosted by groups and organizations non-Scout-related continued into the 1960s, illustrated by its use by the Employees of the Metals Bank and Trust Company of Butte that held their annual picnic at Castle Rock with a dance that followed in the building.⁹³

⁸³ “262 Girls Attend Summer Camp; Records Set at Outing,” *Montana Standard*, August 20, 1950, p. 12.

⁸⁴ “Senior Girl Scout Troop Has Election,” *Montana Standard*, September 19, 1956, p. 8.

⁸⁵ “Butte Girl Scouts Are Ready for Summer Season of Fun at Camp,” *Montana Standard*, May 25, 1958, p. 19.

⁸⁶ “Lyons Club Has Report Session,” *Montana Standard*, July 15, 1958, p. 5.

⁸⁷ “Girl Scouts,” *Montana Standard*, June 12, 1960, p. 13.

⁸⁸ “Girl Scouts Have ‘Tweeners Slumber Party’ at Castle Rock,” *Montana Standard*, August 25, 1960, p. 12.

⁸⁹ “Other Activities,” *Montana Standard*, November 13, 1960, p. 33; “Girl Scouts,” *Montana Standard*, January 8, 1961, p. 38.

⁹⁰ “Butte Girl Scout Activities,” *Montana Standard-Post*, November 17, 1963, p. 14.

⁹¹ “Butte Girl Scouts To Observe Anniversary,” *Montana Standard*, March 12, 1962, p. 5.

⁹² “Senior Scouts To Honor New Members,” *Montana Standard*, November 1, 1962, p. 12.

⁹³ “Bank Employes (*sic*) Have Picnic,” *Montana Standard* August 18, 1963, p. 12.

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Many of the local Girl Scouts learned lessons of responsibility as they partook an active role in the general maintenance of the property, including the lodge building. In June 1963, the organization hosted a “housecleaning day” where “adults and friends with mops, brooms and scrub brushes” spent the “day readying the buildings for summer occupancy.”⁹⁴ The lodge building undoubtedly fell under the umbrella of the camp buildings requiring cleaning. Such clean-up sessions proved the norm and not the exception.⁹⁵

In 1965, the camp and the lodge were entrusted for two weeks to serve as the location of a summer camp for developmentally disabled youth.⁹⁶ The opportunity welcomed “those attending” to have “a wonderful time.” Such use of the lodge and property highlights the importance of the building as it undoubtedly always served as the anchor of the camp and virtually every gathering that occurred there. By at least 1966, the Girl Scout organization opened their day camp registration at Castle Rock to “both Girl Scouts and non-Scouts in the Butte area.”⁹⁷

Maintenance and upkeep of the property apparently remained a constant financial drag on the Girl Scouts as in 1968, a resolution was presented to transfer Camp Castle Rock to the Butte Lions Club, “which will maintain and develop the area for use by Girls Scouts and other groups.”⁹⁸ By June of 1969, the Butte Lions Club assumed management of the property, including the lodge, to operate “the camp as a recreational facility for all organized groups.”⁹⁹ This transfer coincided with a reorganization of the Girl Scouts, the Butte Council of Girl Scouts merging with the Big Sky Girl Scout Council, to serve all of western Montana.¹⁰⁰ The move apparently occurred due to high maintenance costs and vandalism.¹⁰¹ The ownership change brought an updated reference to the property in the local newspapers, Lions Camp at Castle Rock.¹⁰²

Despite the management change, Girl Scouts camps continued with regularity at the property and lodge.¹⁰³ The popularity of the property made reservations a necessity with little slowdown occurring into the early 1970s.¹⁰⁴ Under the guidance of the Lions Club, the use of the property

⁹⁴ “Girl Scout Camp Reservations Due, *Montana Standard-Post*, June 6, 1963, p. 8.

⁹⁵ “Girl Scout Camp Cleanup Slated, *Montana Standard-Post*, July 6, 1964, p. 9.

⁹⁶ “Successful two-week camp session for retarded children concluded,” *Montana Standard*, August 26, 1965, p. 10.

⁹⁷ “Castle Rock registrations due,” *Montana Standard-Post*, May 22, 1966, p. 7.

⁹⁸ “Mrs. John Madsen new president of Shining Mountain Girl Scouts,” *Montana Standard-Post*, October 25, 1968, p. 4.

⁹⁹ “Lions take over Camp Castle Rock,” *Montana Standard*, June 5, 1968, p. 8.

¹⁰⁰ Personal communication, Thomas Richardson, Special Projects Supervisor, Girl Scouts of America, to John Boughton, May 15, 2024.

¹⁰¹ “Woman’s scouting spans 50 years,” *Montana Standard*, November 19, 1972, p. 18.

¹⁰² “Silver Bow blind meet for picnic,” *Montana Standard*, August 26, 1969, p. 5.

¹⁰³ “July 15 is day camper deadline,” *Montana Standard*, July 10, 1969, p. 14.

¹⁰⁴ “Girl Scouts ask camp reservations,” *Montana Standard*, June 2, 1974, p. 12.

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and lodge in the 1970s included “several church organizations, Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops, as well as some private groups” such as “the Butte Sheltered Workshop and Boy Scout adult leaders.”¹⁰⁵

The Lions Club held ownership until the mid-1980s when the Big Sky Girl Scout Council acquired the property and lodge, a transaction that returned it back to its original owners.¹⁰⁶ Since the reacquisition, the Castle Rock Lodge and camp continue to serve the local Girl Scouts as well as other local organizations. The lodge continues as the centerpiece of the property, a welcoming presence that ensures comfort and stability to all who use the property.

Today, the Girl Scouts offer five different levels of participation based on grade: Daisy (grades kindergarten-1), Brownie (grades 2-3), Junior (grades 4-5), Cadette (grades 6-8), and Senior (grades 9-10). Girl Scout activities to the present echo many of those from the lodge and property’s earliest use. Sharing stories and experiences provides bonding, especially while sitting about the fireplace. Outdoor activities continue to be a hallmark of a visit to the property and include tree planting, nature study, and outdoor recreation. Pursuing modern curricula, STEM opportunities (science, technology, engineering and math) are now available in addition to more traditional ventures such as theater, arts, crafts, and other programs designed to build the girls’ confidence, courage, and character. Today, “resident camp” as it is called, is organized by the Girl Scouts of Montana and Wyoming Council. The year 2023, welcomed 160 campers to the lodge, walking in the footsteps of a century of Girl Scout forebearers.

Other resources and features stand near and at a distance from the Castle Rock Lodge. Many of these date to different years, reflecting the expansion and growth of the camp. These resources include but are not limited to a number of overnight shelters, small cabins constructed by the Job Corps, shower house, historic boilers, trails and paths, and activity building, dam, and water tanks. It is possible a future boundary increase to this lodge nomination may occur to recognize the contribution of the resources that contribute to the property.

Although many Girl Scout councils across the country have resident camps, Montana and Wyoming’s offerings have been pared down to three. Castle Rock and its associated lodge remain one of the few Girl Scouts resident camps exclusively owned by the Girl Scouts of Montana and Wyoming. The other two resident camps are Timbercrest Camp near Red Lodge, Montana, acquired circa 1948, and Camp Sacajawea near Casper, Wyoming, acquired circa 1933; Castle Rock boasts the oldest lodge among them.

Resident camps consist of council-sponsored camps for girls. With the Montana Girl Scout councils of Montana and Wyoming merging about 15 years ago, Big Sky Council in western Montana claimed four additional resident camps that included Westana on state land near

¹⁰⁵ “Lions camp hosts Silver Bow blind,” *Montana Standard*, July 27, 1975, p. 17; “Girl to have summer camp,” *Montana Standard*, June 5, 1979, p. 16.

¹⁰⁶ “Camp Castle Rock available to public,” *Montana Standard*, February 2, 1986, p. 16; Grant Deed from Butte Lions Club to Big Sky Girl Scout Council, Roll 78, card 378, dated November 19, 1985, on file at the Clerk and Records Office, Silver Bow County Courthouse, Butte, Montana.

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Whitefish, Scoutana on leased land near Augusta, and Thunderbird on fee land near Helena. Anaconda also boasted a resident camp, Silvercloud. After the merger, the two leases were terminated and Thunderbird and Silvercloud sold by the Big Sky Council. Girl Scouts of Montana and Wyoming has several other smaller properties around Montana and Wyoming, but most serve for troop use or administrative offices.¹⁰⁷

Architectural Significance

The Castle Rock Lodge heavily displays the Rustic style architecture. In general terms, the style denotes “the use of native materials in proper scale,” and “the avoidance of rigid, straight lines and over-sophistications.” The style fully intends to provide “the feeling of having been executed by pioneer craftsmen with limited hand tools. It also endeavors when successfully executed to effect “sympathy with natural surroundings, and with the past.”¹⁰⁸

Urban growth and the rise of industrial development in the time leading up to the twentieth century engendered large number of Americans to “seek ways to retain the influence of wilderness in modern civilization.” The end of the twentieth century marked the measured transition toward the conservation of natural resources from industrialism and heightened awareness of the importance of the recreational possibilities of nature.¹⁰⁹

Highlighting this style stands the architecturally designed Old Faithful Inn in Yellowstone National Park. This building essentially introduced and placed the Rustic style front and center in 1903, a style soon embraced by many in the West. Old Faithful highlighted the use of native materials to meld with its natural surroundings. The style quickly gained popularity throughout the West, especially for buildings constructed for recreational use, such as cabins and resorts. Montana embraced the style during the “golden age” of dude ranching in the 1920s.¹¹⁰

Although no architect has been identified associated with the Castle Rock Lodge, the building well-represents a local adaptation of the Rustic style. The building features both log and stone readily obtained from the immediate surroundings. The walls, likely Lodgepole pine or Douglas fir, tie together via well-executed square notching. The building sits on a rugged mortared cobble foundation, the same type of cobbles used in the construction of the fireplace and chimney. The stone columns that support the log shade/pergola feature the same rounded cobbles but also incorporate angular stone blocks in their construction.

¹⁰⁷ Thomas Richardson, Special Projects Supervisor, Girls Scouts of Montana and Wyoming, to John Boughton, May 22, 2024.

¹⁰⁸ Merrill Ann Wilson, “Rustic Architecture: The National Park Style,” *Trends* (July August September 1976), pp. 4-5.

¹⁰⁹ William C. Tweed, *Recreation Site Planning and Improvement in National Forests 1891-1942* (Washington, DC; US Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, 1980), p. 1.

¹¹⁰ Colorado’s Historic Architecture & Engineering Guide “Rustic Style,” accessed August 30, 2022, <https://www.historycolorado.org/colorados-historic-architecture-engineering-guide>.

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The addition features construction of half round log cladding presented both vertically and horizontally. The cladding embraces and promotes the rustic aesthetic and ties together with the original log construction of the main block.

The Castle Rock Lodge architecture represents a simple vernacular rustic style. The use of local materials like Douglas fir logs and/or Lodgepole pine and locally available stone closely identifies the building with its source material, aesthetics that appealed to both the early lodge occupants and to those who visit the property today. The architecture of the lodge blends with the surrounding landscape, harmonizing with the natural setting. The historic lodge retains its original rustic qualities harkening back to the earliest historic use of the property and building.

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Castle Rock Lodge

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Castle Rock Lodge
Name of Property

Silver Bow, Montana
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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
 - University
 - Other
- Name of repository: Butte Silver Bow Archives

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): N/A

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than 1 acre (UTM provided is center of Castle Rock Lodge)

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: 45.895310 Longitude: -112.579230 (center point of Castle Rock Lodge)

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

The Castle Rock Lodge stands in the SW SE ¼ of Section 27, Township 2 North Range 8 West. It appears on the Butte South 7.5' quadrangle in Silver Bow County, Montana. The boundary for the Castle Rock Lodge encompasses the footprint of the building and a small amount of land around the building. See attached maps pages 34 to 36; reference to these maps confirm this boundary.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary encompasses the footprint of the historic building and a small area to provide a sense of setting. Although not included within the National Register boundary, the area surrounding the nominated building is readily visible allowing the building to speak to its rural surroundings.

11. Form Prepared By

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organization: Montana State Historic Preservation Office
street & number: 225 North Roberts
city or town: Helena state: MT zip code: 59620
e-mail: jboughton@mt.gov
telephone: (406) 444-3647
date: May 2024

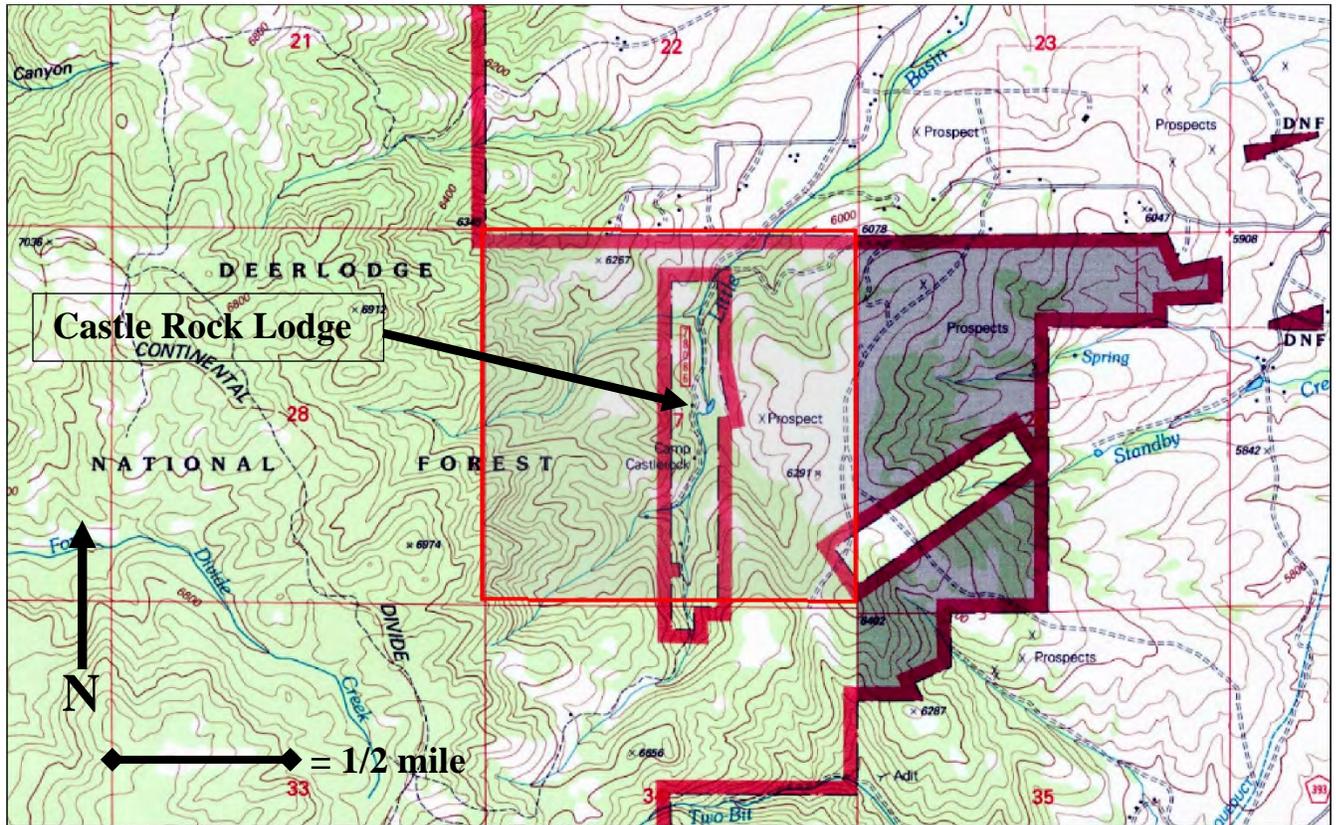
and

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date: March 27, 2024

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Additional Documentation—Maps and Aerials



Map created using the Digital Atlas May 30, 2024
<http://msl.mt.gov/GIS/Atlas>

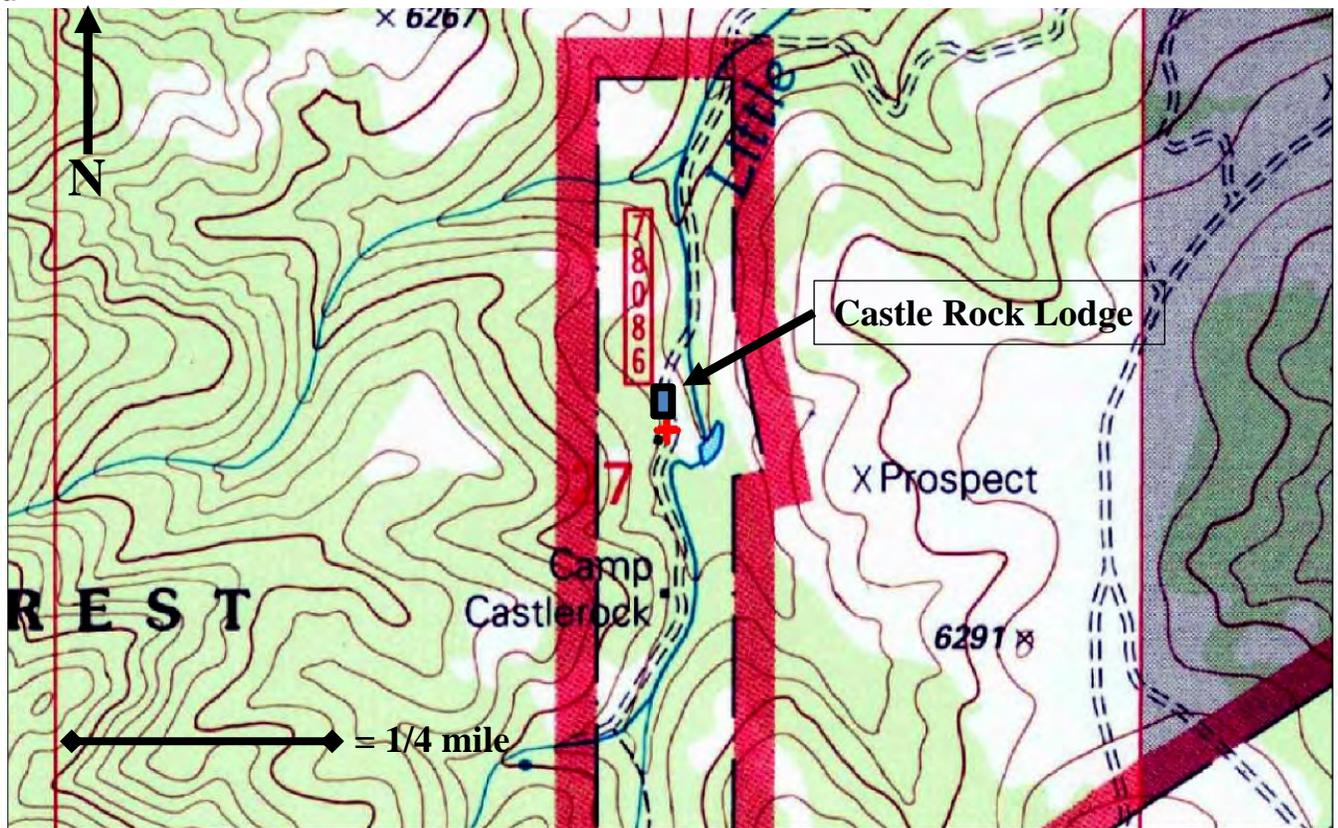
Montana State Library - Digital Library
(406) 444-5354 | geoinfo@mt.gov | <http://msl.mt.gov>

Location of Castle Rock Lodge, SW SE ¼ of Section 27 T2N 8W, Found on Butte South 7.5' quadrangle. Center point of Castle Rock Lodge = Latitude: 45.895310, Longitude: -112.579230.

Castle Rock Lodge
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Silver Bow, Montana
County and State

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Montana State Library - Digital Library
(406) 444-5354 | geoinfo@mt.gov | <http://msl.mt.gov> Map created using the Digital Atlas May 15, 2024
<http://msl.mt.gov/GIS/Atlas>

Location of Castle Rock Lodge (indicated by black box), SW SE ¼ of Section 27 T2N 8W, Found on Butte South 7.5' quadrangle. Center point of Castle Rock Lodge = Latitude: 45.895310, Longitude: -112.579230.

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<http://msl.mt.gov/GIS/Atlas>

Aerial image of location of Castle Rock Lodge (indicated by black box), SW SE ¼ of Section 27 T2N 8W. Center point of Castle Rock Lodge = Latitude: 45.895310, Longitude: -112.579230.

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Additional Documentation—Historic Images

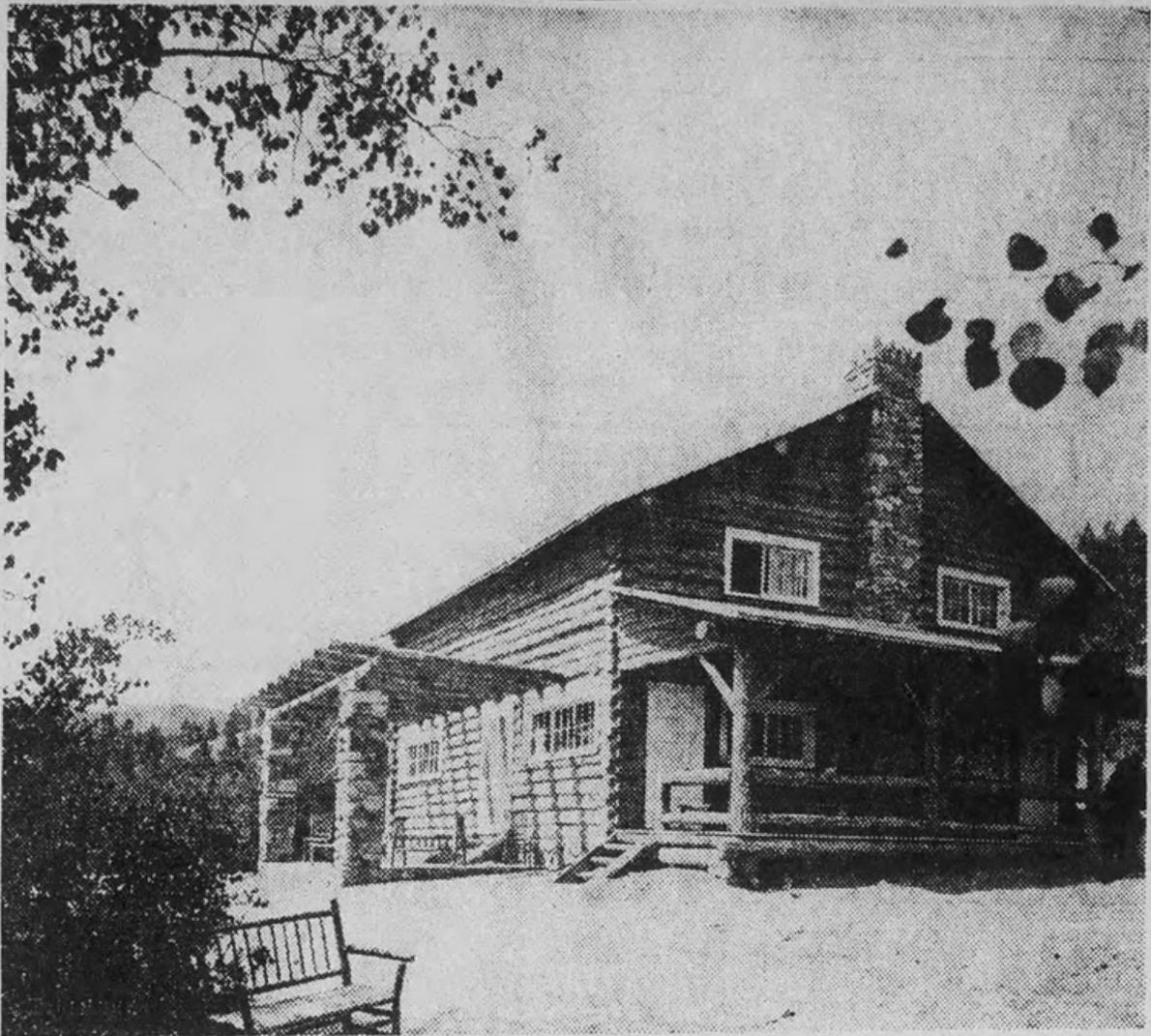


Image from *Montana Standard*, March 23, 1930, p. 44.

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Girl Scout Lodge at Camp Castle Rock



One of the major activities of the Butte Girl Scout council is the camping program. A summer camping period, supplemented by week-end outings, is sponsored by the local council at Camp Castle Rock, of which the lodge is pictured above. Maintenance of the lodge and financial aid in conducting the camping period is obtained from funds raised each year to operate the Butte council. Funds for the ensuing year are being raised in a campaign which opened yesterday and will continue through March 13.

Image from *Butte Daily Post*, March 6, 1940, p. 2.

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Image showing proposed Castle Rock Lodge, 1926; newspaper unknown.



Castle Rock Lodge under construction, circa 1928.

Castle Rock Lodge
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Silver Bow, Montana
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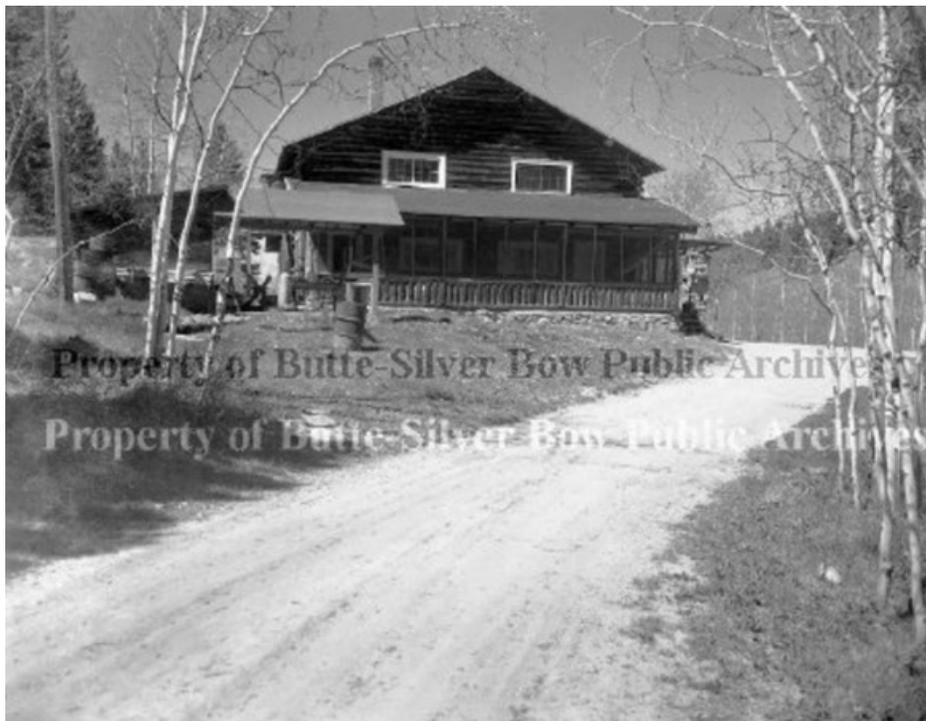
Castle Rock Lodge, circa 1930s. Photographer, Owen Smithers. Butte Silver Bow Archives.

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Castle Rock Lodge, circa 1930s. Photographer, Owen Smithers. Butte Silver Bow Archives.



Castle Rock Lodge, circa 1930s. Photographer, Owen Smithers. Butte Silver Bow Archives.

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Girl Scouts at Castle Rock Lodge, north porch, circa 1930s. Photographer, Owen Smithers. Butte Silver Bow Archives.

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Girl Scouts at Castle Rock Lodge, circa 1960s. Photographer, Owen Smithers. Butte Silver Bow Archives.

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Girl Scouts at Castle Rock Lodge, east elevation, circa 1960s. Butte Silver Bow Archives.

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Girl Scouts at Castle Rock Lodge, interior photograph in addition, circa 1960.



Girl Scouts at Castle Rock Lodge, interior photograph in addition, 1957.

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Girl Scouts at Castle Rock Lodge, south and east elevations, circa 1958.

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Girl Scouts at Castle Rock Lodge, under pagoda, view to south, circa 1958.

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Castle Rock Lodge, east elevation, post-1958.



Girl Scouts at Castle Rock Lodge, east elevation, circa 1960s.

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Castle Rock Lodge, east elevation, Date unknown.



Girl Scouts at Castle Rock Lodge, east elevation, post-1958.

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Girl Scouts at Castle Rock Lodge, east elevation, circa 1960s.

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**Additional Documentation—National Register Photographs.
Photo Log**

All Photos

Name of Property: Castle Rock Lodge

City or Vicinity: Southwest of Butte

County: Silver Bow State: MT

Photos Thomas E. Richardson

Date 2021-2024

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



MT_SilverBowCounty_CastleRockLodge_0001. View west, east elevation.

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MT_SilverBowCounty_CastleRockLodge_0002. View southwest, east elevation.

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MT_SilverBowCounty_CastleRockLodge_0003. View south, north elevation.

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MT_SilverBowCounty_CastleRockLodge_0004. View north, south elevation.

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MT_SilverBowCounty_CastleRockLodge_0005. View east, west elevation.

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MT_SilverBowCounty_CastleRockLodge_0006. View west, east elevation showing new concrete pad and pergola frame.



MT_SilverBowCounty_CastleRockLodge_0007. Hearthstone dedication plaque.

Castle Rock Lodge
Name of Property

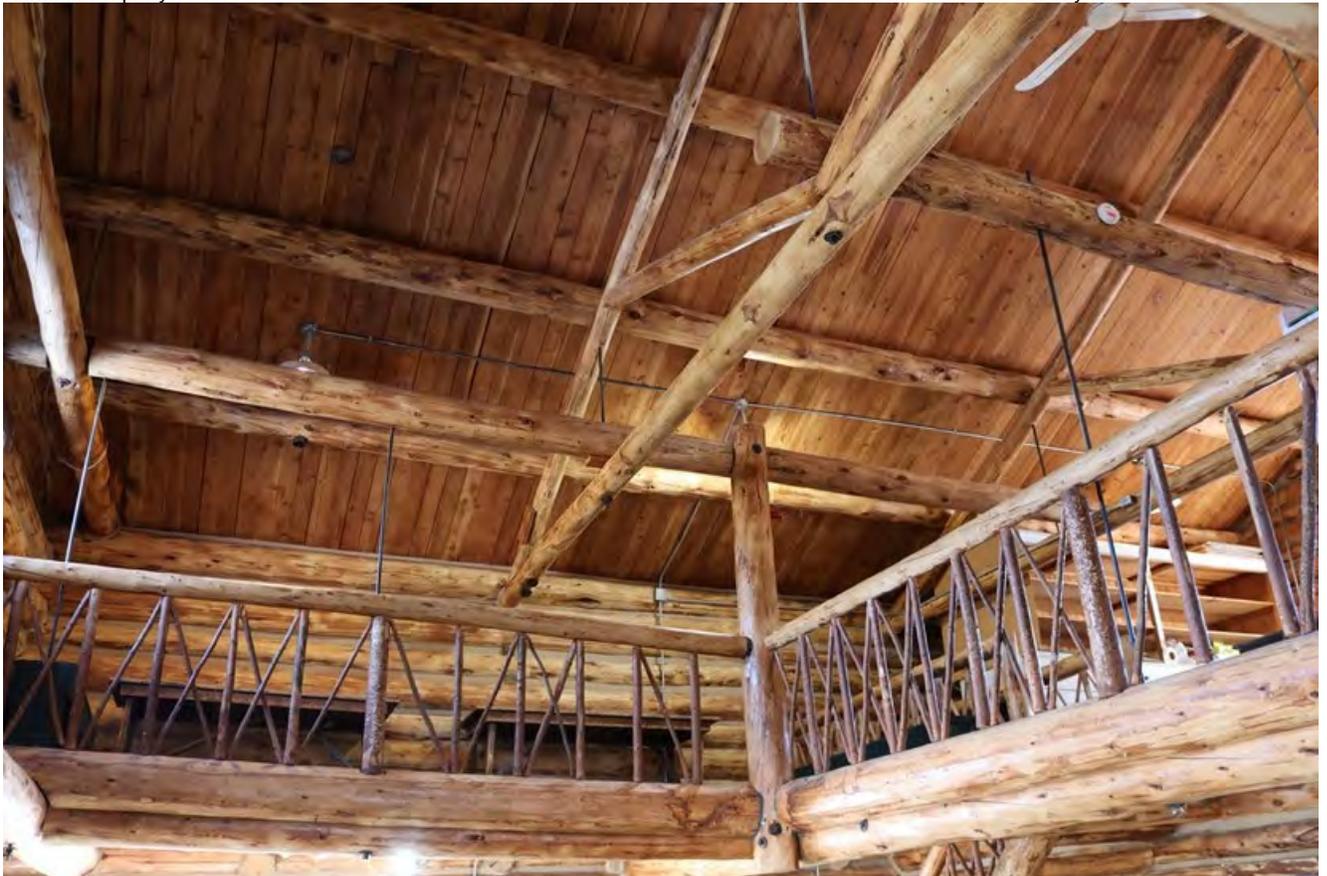
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MT_SilverBowCounty_CastleRockLodge_0008. View north of chimney.

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MT_SilverBowCounty_CastleRockLodge_0009. Upper story image of Interior of Castle Rock Lodge.

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MT_SilverBowCounty_CastleRockLodge_0010. Interior staircase of Castle Rock Lodge.



MT_SilverBowCounty_CastleRockLodge_0011. Interior of Castle Rock Lodge, ceiling detail.

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MT_SilverBowCounty_CastleRockLodge_0012. Staircase detail of Castle Rock Lodge.



MT_SilverBowCounty_CastleRockLodge_0013. Kitchen area of Castle Rock Lodge.

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MT_SilverBowCounty_CastleRockLodge_0014. Castle Rock Lodge addition interior.

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for nominations 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.). We may not conduct or sponsor and you are not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for each response using this form is estimated to be between the Tier 1 and Tier 4 levels with the estimate of the time for each tier as follows:

- Tier 1 – 60-100 hours
- Tier 2 – 120 hours
- Tier 3 – 230 hours
- Tier 4 – 280 hours

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