

SCOUT HOUSE HISTORY (Robin Hoehne, 1999)

Located at 128 Spring Street, Falls Church, VA, the Scout House is a historic log cabin, built in the early 1940's and home to generations of Falls Church Boy and Girl Scouts. It currently houses several scout organizations and serves as a polling place for Falls Church voters on election days.

Scouting has enjoyed popularity in Falls Church almost since Lord Baden-Powell and Juliette Lowe founded the movement. In 1939, local Scout leaders recognized the need for a place for Scout groups to meet. By March 1939, a well-publicized fundraising drive was underway to raise the \$4,500 needed to construct the log building that stands on South Spring Street. The property was purchased for \$600 in June 1939. A.J. Webb who was assisted by Kenton Hamer, builder of the Falls Church Presbyterian Church, and George W. Carlton, who donated their architectural services, designed the building. Walter Johnson, chairman of the Falls Church Scout Committee, secured pledges, building materials, and labor from businesses and groups throughout the community. Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Turner of Fairfax County donated the logs and stones to build the structure and its fireplace and chimney.

When the initial fundraising effort fell short of its goal, 15 local residents guaranteed a loan from the Falls Church Bank for the construction of the Scout House, which began in late 1939 and completed early 1940.

By 1942 the Scout House was headquarters to more than 200 Scouts from 9 different troops. Scouts collected discarded paper, toothpaste and shaving cream tubes, and old license plates to help reduce the building indebtedness. The Scouts persistence in fundraising paid off when on June 17, 1945 the Scout Building Association held a mortgage burning celebration just five years after construction.

In addition to the Scouts, other civic groups use the house for social functions, including square dancing. During World War II, the building was made available for the American defense effort as an air-raid shelter, hospital and first aid center. However, its primary purpose has always been to further the objectives of Scouting, which the building has served for 60 years.

Over the decades, several generations of Scouts have passed through the log cabin on South Spring Street. In fact, the current Scoutmaster of Troop 681 met in the building as a boy, and his sons, also Scouts, continue the tradition today. Recently, Col. Wayne Sanford, a long-time Scouter whose sons called the log cabin home, passed away. Col. Sanford served on the Board of the Scout Building Association for 26 years. During the barbecue on September 25, a flagpole will be erected and dedicated in recognition of Col. Sanford's dedication to Scouting and the Scout House.

The Falls Church Scout Building Association (FCSBA) is a non-profit organization, which owns and maintains the house. The FCSBA is sponsoring its third annual fundraising barbecue in a tradition which harkens back to the days of collecting toothpaste and having cream tubes, and crushing aluminum cans. This time funds will be used to complete major repairs. With the proceeds of previous fundraisers, several major projects have been undertaken: the wooden benches and floor were refinished, a concrete basement was poured, a new furnace was installed and ductwork will be completed shortly. But more work remains to help this historic building enter the 21st century. In the City of Falls Church, the log Scout House holds a unique place by recognizing the past and looking toward the future of Scouting.

LAND OWNERSHIP CHRONOLOGY OF THE "SCOUT HOUSE"
(M. J. Terman, 1999)

<u>Date</u>	<u>(Map)</u>	<u>Owner</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Acquired by</u>
12,000+ yrs		Native Americans		
1584		Raleigh's colony in "Virginia"		Colonizing
1607		Colonists settle Jamestown		Colonizing
1649		Seven English noblemen	5.28M	King Grant
1693		5th Lord Fairfax	5.28M	Marriage
1719		6th Lord Fairfax	5.28M	Inherited
1 Aug	1724	(1) Capt. Simon Pearson	1279	Patent
	1733	Thomas Pearson	1279	Inherited
	1743	Simon Pearson (Centre Lodge)	1279	Inherited
[by	1740s	Tobacco Rolling Road passed through		later parkland]
11 Aug	1778	(2) Charles Broadwater (stepfather)	917	Bought?
26 Mar	1806	(3) George Wm. West (grandson)	100	Inherited
	1815	George Beale Jr. (wood Mt. Hope?)	100	\$1,000
9 Jul	1819	Daniel Dulany (Oakmont owner)	100	Bought
10 Dec	1819	(4) John Johnston	216	\$4,000
16 Jul	1829	Daniel Dulany	216	\$3,000
1 Sep	1830	Samuel Moxley	216	\$3,000
23 Aug	1831	Samuel Chew & Peter Ritter	216	Bought
3 Feb	1833	Peter Ritter	216	Bought
1 Jan	1840	Ruth Fish Mills	216	\$1,800
13 Apr	1842	Amzie Coe	216	\$1,800
[by	1840s	Leesburg-Alexandria Turnpike (Broad St)		completed]
05 Apr	1867	(5) Seth Osborn (house?)	22.85	\$1,142.81
24 Nov	1900	Francis M. Hodgson	22.85	\$5,500
26 Jul	1910	Reginald Munson	21.7	\$8,000
07 Mar	1917	Lewis Thornton	21.7	\$10,000
01 Sep	1922	Leslie Kerr (Kerr's Addition-lots 1-18; S.Spring St. on plat)	21.7	Bought
13 Jan	1926	(6) S. Dillow Smith (lots 9-18)	14.5	Bought
30 Apr	1926	William S Browning	14.5	Bought
22 Aug	1931	John A. Smith	14.5	Bought
23 Nov	1931	Metropolitan Properties	14.5	Bought
22 Jul	1939	(7) Falls Ch. Scout Building Assoc.	1.1	\$600
	1940?	(lot 14; log cabin completed by: R. E. Ankers, Leo King Couch, Dale Dillon, Charles R. Fenwick, Edward C. Fenwick, Kemper Grille, Hugh Johnson, Charles Kellogg, Hubert Lundeen, Maj. Morton Macartney, Col. Lee Parks, John Parmalee, Deming Shear, and Adelbert J. Webb)		