

Historical Marker - L2266 - Scout Barracks / Parade Ground (Marker ID#:L2266)



Front - Title/Description

Scout Barracks

In 1929, Park Commissioner Roger Andrews invited eight Eagle Scouts, including future President Gerald Ford, to serve as the "Governor's Honor Guard" and tour guides at Fort Mackinac. Scouts raised and lowered the colors daily and fired the sunset gun. They stayed in the Fort Commissary until moving into these barracks, built in 1934. The building was constructed by the Mackinac Island Civilian Conservation Corps unit, many of whom were World War I veterans. In 1938, the program began to include Boy Scouts at all levels. Additions to the barracks were completed in 1961 and in 1975. They followed the style of the original building. At the urging of Michigan First Lady Helen Milliken, Girl Scouts joined the scout service program in 1975.

Significant Date:

Two World Wars and the Depression (1915-1945)

Registry Year: 2014 **Erected Date:** 2015

Marker Location

Address: 6998 Huron Road

City: Mackinac Island

State: MI **ZipCode:** 49757

County: Mackinac

Township:

Lat: 45.85321000 / **Long:** -84.61697000

Web URL:

Back - Title/Description

Parade Ground

In the nineteenth century, this area served as a parade ground for soldiers stationed at Fort Mackinac. Here, soldiers practiced marching, the manual of arms, bayonet skills and other military drills. By 1843, the parade ground was formally developed and fenced. In the 1870s, several buildings were erected on the edge of the parade ground, including horse stables and housing for non-commissioned officers. The parade ground also served as home field for the Fort Mackinac Base Ball Club. Founded in 1885, the club played games against other teams from Northern Michigan. In 1887, the team built a grandstand with seating for 500 spectators. An admission to a baseball game cost twenty-five cents, and grandstand seats cost an extra ten cents.