

## **Brewer Scout Cabin**

The Brewer Scout Cabin is a one story building located in the center of the Solomon City Park on 4<sup>th</sup> Street. Built by the Civil Works Administration, which employed local men who were out of work during the Great Depression, the log cabin is an example of one of the many programs President Franklin D. Roosevelt put into action to restore men's dignity and improve the economy. Except for a few modernizations and repairs, the Brewer Scout Cabin retains its original appearance.

The log cabin was constructed in a cross shape with a gabled roof at each end of the cross. It is approximately 26' x 26'. The oak timbers from which it is constructed came from Sullivan Bend on the Solomon River, south of Niles, Kansas. All logs were hewed and faced by hand with a broad axe and adz. The timbers were cut the desired length and two sides are hewed so as to fit the other logs. They were then notched and fitted in place. The stones used for the fireplace were collected from a pasture one mile north and one mile west of the present K-18 Highway. The sandstone and ironstone were hauled to Solomon in a trailer pulled by an old Model T pickup. On weekends, the rocks were washed and cleaned by high school and grade school scouts. The light fixtures were made of small logs to blend with the rustic appearance of the cabin. Since 1934, the cabin has undergone few changes. The building was wired for electricity in the 1940s and in the 1980s the roof was repaired and the floor replaced.

The Brewer Scout Cabin, so named as a reminder of Lewis and Kathryn Brewer, who devoted so much of themselves to scouting and to the community of Solomon, retains its rural appearance much as it did upon completion and is surrounded by the many trees of the City Park. It is easily visible from Old Highway 40 (4<sup>th</sup> Street), where benches, a fire pit, a gazebo and handicapped accessible restrooms have been added for the use of the public.

The Brewer Scout Cabin was entered onto the National Register of Historic Places on July 18, 2000, providing recognition of this community's historic importance.