

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

201 05

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. 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. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name American Legion Building
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 94 West Park Drive not for publication _____
city or town Spartanburg vicinity _____
state South Carolina code SC county Spartanburg code 083 zip code 29304

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this 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 nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Mary W. Edmonds 2/21/03
Signature of certifying official Date

Mary W. Edmonds, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, S.C. Dept. of Archives and History, Columbia, S.C.
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register
See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the
National Register

See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the
National Register

removed from the National Register

other (explain):

Edson H. Beall 4.18.03
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

American Legion Building
Name of Property

Spartanburg County, South Carolina
County and State

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

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	0	Total

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed
in the National Register
0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Category: Social

Subcategory: Meeting Hall

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Category: Social

Subcategory: Meeting Hall

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)
Colonial Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation	Granite
walls	Granite
roof	Composition Shingle
other	

Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

American Legion Building
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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 a grave.
- d a cemetery.
- e a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- f a commemorative property.
- g less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1937

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Lockwood, Greene & Company

Narrative Statement of Significance

Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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 # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
 - Other State agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other
- Name of repository:
Spartanburg County Historical Assn.

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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Approximately 4.5 acres

References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone Easting Northing	Zone Easting Northing
1 <u>17 416518 3865938</u>	3 <u>17 416304 3865778</u>
2 <u>17 416426 3865720</u>	4 <u>17 416488 3866008</u>

 See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Brian L. Robson [with assistance from the SHPO Staff]
 organization Spartanburg County Historical Association date December 7, 2001
 street & number P.O. Box 887 telephone (864) 596-3501
 city or town Spartanburg state SC zip code 29304

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

- A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white** photographs of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name City of Spartanburg
 street & number P.O. Drawer 1749 telephone (864) 596-2000
 city or town Spartanburg state SC zip code 29304

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American Legion Building
Name of Property
Spartanburg County, South Carolina
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Narrative Description

The American Legion Building is a large stone masonry meeting hall located in the Duncan Park area of Spartanburg. The building, ranging from one-and-one-half stories on the façade to two-and-one-half on the rear elevation, is surrounded by open lawn and wooded areas and is not visible from the street. The Works Progress Administration (WPA) constructed the building as a meeting hall and office building in 1936-1937 for members of the American Legion Post 28 in Spartanburg County. The building still serves as a meeting hall for members of the American Legion, as well as the community.

The internationally-recognized engineering firm of Lockwood, Greene & Company designed the building. Founded by Amos D. Lockwood [1811-1884] and Stephen Greene as early as 1873 in Lewiston, Maine, the firm organized as Lockwood, Greene & Company in 1882 in Providence, Rhode Island, and soon became a preeminent concern in textile mill design and engineering in the eastern United States. A Southern headquarters was opened in Greenville, South Carolina, in 1898, but closed in 1912 in favor of an Atlanta office as the firm's base of operations in the South. When Lockwood Greene opened an office in Spartanburg in 1924, it located in the newly-built Montgomery Building, a skyscraper which the firm had designed and built.

The American Legion Building was constructed in the Colonial Revival style by the WPA using granite laid in random courses and taken from a quarry in Pacolet, a town located to the east of Spartanburg. It is a large complex gable-front-and-wing building, the roof of which is asphalt-shingled and asymmetrical in design. With roof extensions on at least three elevations, the façade's roofline above the porch is pierced by a gabled dormer with a single window, flanked by two hip roofed dormers with paired windows. The entire building features a boxed cornice and returns. Stone chimneys are located at the center of the lateral gable end [north] and at the rear center.

The building's focal point, a central polygonal entry tower, is in the form of an oversized cupola. It features canted corners and a belcast metal roof with weathervane. The entrance, consisting of a six-panel door with stone arched lintel, is located in the entry tower. To the lower left of the six-panel is a cornerstone laid by Governor Olin D. Johnston in a ceremony on June 15, 1936.¹ A small double-hung sash window is above the door.

To the left of the entrance and projecting slightly is a large gable-front block with a tripartite window, the center unit of which is a large arched Diocletian window. The flanking parts are twelve-over-twelve, double-hung sash windows. Centered in the gable above is a circular vent. The same fenestration is reflected on the rear or opposing gable.

To the right of the entrance is a five-bay wide porch, featuring masonry pier and wood post supports. There are four double-hung sash windows within the porch, with a secondary front entrance located

¹ "Legion's Home Will Be Dedicated Today," *Spartanburg Herald* (Spartanburg, S.C.), June 15, 1936.

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between the third and fourth windows.

There is another entrance in the rear of the building, which leads into the kitchen area. To the left of this entrance is the only place where the building exhibits three stories above grade. The basement level, located visually below a stone water table on the exterior of the building, contains an apartment that has been occupied sporadically by a groundskeeper. Two additional entrances access the basement level. The next two floors feature six-over-six, double-hung sash windows. The uppermost windows pierce the cornice line and are in the form of wall dormers.

One of the most notable aspects of the building's interior is the large ballroom to the left of the front entrance. Floors in this room and throughout the building are hardwood except for the kitchen and bathrooms, which have tile floors. The ballroom, which is the room most often used by the American Legion and the community, is large and open, with a stone-arched alcove and dais at the center of the long side wall. The tripartite windows on both ends of the room allow plenty of light to pass into the room.

The remainder of the rooms are smaller and dedicated to office space. Both the Legion and the women's auxiliary meet in rooms at the opposite end of the building from the ballroom, with the men meeting upstairs, and the women's auxiliary meeting downstairs. The downstairs walls are wood paneled and painted white. The upstairs walls are plastered.

Little has changed since the building first opened in 1937. On February 8, 2001, the Spartanburg City Historical and Architectural Review Board (HARB) designated the building and its grounds a local historic site, which was approved by Spartanburg City Council. The addition of air conditioning units and updated bathrooms are the only major changes to date.

Plans are currently underway to bring the building up to code. New firewalls are being installed, handicapped ramps are being added, and additional parking areas are to be built. All of this work has had the approval of the HARB, and is taking place under the supervision of Donnie Love, a preservation architect and HARB member, to ensure that the historic and architectural integrity of the building is not compromised.

A granite monument honoring Confederate soldiers from Spartanburg and Spartanburg County, erected in 1911 by the United Daughters of the Confederacy, is on the front lawn. Originally located at the corner of South Church and Henry Streets in downtown Spartanburg, the monument was considered a traffic hazard and moved to this location in Duncan Park in 1966.

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Narrative Statement of Significance

The Spartanburg Post 28 American Legion Building is located in the Duncan Park area of Spartanburg, South Carolina, just off of Highway 56 and West Park Drive, in an area known locally as Legion Park. The building is eligible for the National Register under Criterion C for its architecture, which was designed by Lockwood Greene, and the techniques used by the Works Progress Administration (WPA, later known as the Work Projects Administration) in its construction. The granite used in the construction of the building was taken from a local quarry, and buildings using this stone and stone masonry are rare in this area.

In 1933, President Franklin D. Roosevelt established the Public Works Administration (PWA). The purpose of this administration was to finance the building of public works, such as roads and hospitals, in order to help boost the economy of the 1930s. The WPA grew out of a need to use the funds generated by the PWA. Unlike the PWA, the WPA would actually do all of the work.¹ One such building constructed by the WPA was the Spartanburg Post 28 American Legion Building.

Construction of the building began on January 13, 1936.² One of the more interesting features of the building is the cornerstone, which is engraved with the date and the name of Governor Olin D. Johnston, who laid the cornerstone on June 15, 1936.³ The first meeting in the completed building was held on Friday June 5, 1937, and the formal dedication took place on November 11, 1937 to coincide with Armistice Day programs which were being held that day as well.⁴

The American Legion provided the materials, engineering, and some of the equipment used in the construction of the building.⁵ The main material used in the construction of the building was granite taken from a quarry in Spartanburg County.

The building was to serve as a meeting place for members of the American Legion Post 28. Prior to 1937, Legion members met where they could. Places such as stables, drug stores, and members' homes or businesses served this function from 1919-1937. The building was also built to serve the surrounding community by holding recitals, hosting events, and acting as a polling location. The American Legion itself also supported the community. One such way was by sponsoring a youth baseball team, which in 1936 won the Little World Series by beating Los Angeles in the finals at Duncan Park.

The building stands today as one of the few remaining examples of WPA construction in

¹ *Hard Times: The 30s* (Alexandria, Va.: Time-Life Books), 112.

² "4 Projects are Completed Here," *Spartanburg Herald* (Spartanburg, S.C.), January 15, 1936.

³ "Legion's Home Will Be Dedicated Today," *Spartanburg Herald* (Spartanburg, S.C.), June 15, 1936.

⁴ Rush, John D., *Brief History of Post No. 28 of the American Legion, 1919-1971* (Spartanburg, S.C.: n.p., 1971), 3.

⁵ "To Begin Work on Legion Job," *Spartanburg Journal* (Spartanburg, S.C.), January 11, 1936.

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Spartanburg, aside from an armory slated for demolition and some buildings at Spartanburg Methodist College.

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the nominated property is in the Duncan Park area in the City of Spartanburg, just off West Park Dr. ending at Caulder Avenue. The area is surrounded by trees, except for the driveway, which is located off West Park Dr. The boundary of the nominated property is shown as the area labeled "American Legion Building" on the accompanying Spartanburg County Tax Map 7122-07, Parcel # 96, Short PIN # 6741, drawn at a scale of 1" = 100'.

Boundary Justification

The nominated property is restricted to the building and its grounds.

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The following information is the same for each of the photographs:

Name of Property: American Legion Building
Location of Property: 94 West Park Dr., Spartanburg, SC

Name of Photographer: Brian L. Robson
Date of Photographs: May 5, 2001
Location of Original Negatives: Spartanburg Regional Museum of History

1. Façade
2. Cornerstone
3. Left Elevation
4. Rear Elevation (ballroom)
5. Rear Elevation
6. Right Elevation (lower)
7. Right Elevation (upper)
8. Front Grounds, including Confederate Monument
9. Rear Grounds
10. Ballroom
11. Ballroom (alcove and dais)
12. Women's Auxiliary Meeting Room
13. Legion [Men] Meeting Room
14. Legion [Men] Meeting Room