PH0351661

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

MAR 3 1 1976

DATE ENTERED

SEP 3 0 1976

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

RICHARD. L. KITCHENS POST, #41

AND/OR COMMON

HELENA LEGION HUT

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

409 PORTER STREET NOT FOR PUBLICATION CITY, TOWN CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT FIRST HELENA VICINITY OF STATE COUNTY CODE CODE ARKANSAS 107 05 PHILLIPS

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

DISTRICT X_BUILDING(S)

__STRUCTURE

SITE _OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

PUBLIC **XPRIVATE** BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

_IN PROCESS

BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

XOCCUPIED _UNOCCUPIED

WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE X YES: RESTRICTED

YES: UNRESTRICTED _NO

PRESENT USE

AGRICULTURE __MUSEUM __COMMERCIAL __PARK

EDUCATIONAL

XENTERTAINMENT __RELIGIOUS

__GOVERNMENT INDUSTRIAL

MILITARY

_TRANSPORTATION _OTHER:

_SCIENTIFIC

__PRIVATE RESIDENCE

OWNER OF PROPERTY

RICHARD L. KITCHENS POST, #41 (D. T. HARGRAVES, JR., FINANCE OFFICER)

STREET & NUMBER 409 PORTER STREET

CITY, TOWN

HELENA

VICINITY OF

STATE ARKANSAS

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE

STREET & NUMBER

PHILLIPS COUNTY COURTHOUSE

CITY, TOWN

HELENA

STATE

ARKANSAS

REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

__FEDERAL __STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

CONDITION

X_{EXCELLENT}

_FAIR

__DETERIORATED

__RUINS

__UNALTERED

XALTERED

CHECK ONE

100

_XORIGINAL SITE __MOVED DATE____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

According to contemporary newspaper accounts the American Legion Hut in Helena, Arkansas was designed by Legionnaire H. H. Walters. Present Officers of the post report that Helena contractor E. T. Walker supervised construction of the Legion building, with much of the work done by local members. Most of the building materials were donated, including the cypress logs from the farm of Robert Gordon.

Designed in a rustic style, the Helena Legion Hut is constructed of cypress logs notched and joined at the corners. Cement chinking and steel pins inserted vertically through the logs at three-foot intervals reinforce the log walls. A gable roof covers the one-storey rectangular structure.

The facade of the building features a simple porch. Rough-hewn paired posts set in four square-cut stone bases support the hipped roof with exposed rafters. Above the porch roof the gable end of the building is covered with rectangular shingles. A bay-like projection on the west elevation has a gable roof. This west gable end features vertical flush-board trim terminating in a zig-zag pattern.

The original building was planned to hold a 60-foot by 44-foot meeting room, men's and ladies' dressing rooms, and office space. In 1949 a two-storey frame addition was made to the rear of the hut, and the gable roof was extended to cover this addition. At the same time two small one-storey shed roof additions were made on the east elevation. Though not of log construction, these later additions are nevertheless in keeping with the architectural style of the hut.

The rustic style is continued in the interior of the Legion Hut. Double entry doors open into the large meeting room. The ceiling extends to the ridge line of the roof, thus exposing the structural details of the building. At the south end of the room is a large fireplace of cut stone matching that used on the porch. Weapons used in World War I and World War II are displayed along the walls of the meeting room.

The Legion Hut rests on its original site near downtown Helena. Except for the 1949 additions the building has changed little since its 1922 construction. The Helena Legion Hut remains in excellent condition.

esentation in existing surveys

PERIOD

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

PREHISTORIC	_ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	COMMUNITY PLANNING	LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	RELIGION
_1400-1499	ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	CONSERVATION	_LAW	SCIENCE
_1500-1599	AGRICULTURE	ECONOMICS	LITERATURE	SCULPTURE
_1600-1699	XARCHITECTURE	EDUCATION	XMILITARY	XSOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
1700-1799	ART	ENGINEERING	MUSIC	THEATER
1800-1899	COMMERCE	EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	PHILOSOPHY	_TRANSPORTATION
<u>X</u> 1900-	COMMUNICATIONS	INDUSTRY	POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	OTHER (SPECIFY)
		INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES JULY 4, 1922

BUILDER/ARCHITECT H. H. WALTERS, E. T. WALKER

TOR HERILOGRAPHICAL REPUBLICATE

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Constructed in 1922, the Richard L. Kitchens Post in Helena is the first log American Legion hut in Arkansas. Its rustic style with a low gable roof is reminiscent of the European chalets encountered by American soldiers during World War I.

The Richard L. Kitchens Post is named for a Helena doughboy who was a private in the 312th Field Signal Battalion of the 87th Division. While enroute to France on a troop ship, Kitchens developed influenza, a condition which afflicted thousands of soldiers in Western Europe during World War I. Kitchens died on September 18, 1918, and was buried in the American Cemetery in Pons, France.

A temporary charter for the Richard L. Kitchens Post was issued on August 11, 1919, with the permanent charter issued the following year. Fifteen charter members organized the post, which has been continually active since 1919. Like other American Legion Posts around the country, the Richard L. Kitchens Post has played an active role in civic and social events in the local community.

Contemporary newspaper articles in <u>The Arkansas Legionnaire</u>, a weekly publication of the Arkansas American Legion office, describe construction of the Helena Legion Hut. On April 24, 1922, it was reported that a lot near downtown Helena had been purchased as a building site for the Post. Though all building materials were donated and work was to be done by Legionnaires, there was nevertheless a \$3,000.00 fund to be used in construction of the building.

The Helena Hut was designed in a rustic style by Helena Legionnaire H. H. Walters. Another Legionnaire, E. T. Walker, supervised construction of the building. The cypress logs used in the walls were cut from the farm of a third Helena Legion member, Robert Gordon.

On July 4, 1922, a public ceremony was held to lay the cornerstone of the Helena Legion Hut. Work commenced soon afterwards and the building was completed within the year. The rectangular building has a gable roof and features a hip roof porch across the facade. Cypress logs with cement chinking make up both the exterior and interior wall surfaces. Cut gray stone is used in the porch post bases, and in the large chimney at the south end of the meeting room. The log and stone construction materials add to the rustic style of the Hut.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Arkansas American Legion Office (Little Rock, Arkansas). Information file Richard L. Kitchens Post, #41 Helena, Arkansas

The Arkansas Legionnaire, April 24, May 8, June 26, 1922.

Henry, Ray. The American Legion in Arkansas (1919-1955), Vol II. Unpublished manuscript, Arkansas American Legion Office, Little Rock, Arkansas.

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STATE		CODE	COUNTY		CODE
STREET & NUMB	ARKANSAS HISTORIC	ufract someon	OH TROGRAM	TELEPHON	
CITY OR TOWN	LITTLE ROCK	- ver ireees		STATE	371-1639 (m. 1762) AS 110.1 pt (T. 1810-1611)
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hereby nominate	d State Historic Preservation this property for inclusion edures set forth by the Nation	in the National R			
STATE HISTORIC	PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNA	ATURE Anne B	artley	Tynn	eljan
TITLE ST	TATE HISTORIC PRESE	RVATION OFF	ICER	DATE	March 9, 1976
R NPS USE ONL HEREBY CEI	THAT THIS PROPER	ry is included	IN THE NATION	AL REGISTER DATE	9/30/20
DIRECTOR, O	FFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY A	ND HISTORIC P	ESERVATION	DATE	7.9.26
REEPER OFT	HENATIONAL REGISTER				

Form No. 10-300a (Rev. 10-74)

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

8 PAGE one

For over fifty years the American Legion Hut in Helena has served veterans of World War I, World War II, the Korean conflict and the war in Vietnam. Constructed by and for American Legion members, the Helena Legion Hut is especially significant as the oldest American Legion building in Arkansas, and possibly in the United States. (Though no documentary evidence is available, local members feel their "hut" is the first to be so designated in the country.) Architecturally, the Helena Legion Hut is unusual as a twentieth century institutional structure.

Property Kitchens, Ric	hard L., Post, #41		Thillips LO
State Ark	Working Number	3.31.76.2902	76000444
TECHNICAL Photos			CONTROL OK 4.6,76
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			KEEPER Hung 7.9.76
National Register Write- Federal Register Entry	14	end-backe-submit	Entered SEP 3 0 1976

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE WASHINGTON OFFICE

To: 1. Mentyl, Jony FOLLOW-UP SLIP Date 7.15 76 While it is the that 13 separate wilding in Helena are betid, no district has yet trem presented and integrity may be a problem. I agree that the besiding is not puticularly preparing preparering architecturally, but it is interesting that a log construction would have been chosen pa on I the earliest american legion posts created. The hitorical claim that it may be the earliest amed be difficult to document, but 1922 would still make their post very early. It also seems likely that at that date, few ports would have extually constructed a building for spe the spiritie purpose of meeting; within, I suspect must posts would have been using expiriting facilitater - Church halls, etc. I do not see hour we can refuse

Yn. Murtagh Plo review I think there is a NR district in Deleva. It might be interesting to lenow whether this is in such a district If so, I would question an individual listey. P.S. I question clanguay.



Form No. 10-301a (Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTLATOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

1 NAME

HISTORIC

RICHARD L. KITCHENS POST, # 41

AND/OR COMMON

HELENA LEGION HUT

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

HELENA

__VICINITY OF

COUNTY

STATE ARKANSAS

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT

DIANNA KIRK

DATE OF PHOTO

SUMMER, 1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT

ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM

4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET FACADE VIEWED FROM THE NORTH

PHOTO NO

INT: 2983-75



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TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

1 NAME

HISTORIC

RICHARD L. KITCHENS POST # 41

AND/OR COMMON

DIA, Foren tu

HELENA LEGION HUT

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

____VICINITY OF

COUNTY

DATE ENTERED

STATE ARKANSAS

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

HELENA

PHOTO CREDIT DIANNA KIRK

DATE OF PHOTO SUMMER, 1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT

ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM

4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET WEST ELEVATION

THE MATIONAL DECISION

PHOTO NO

INT: 2983-75



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AND/OR COMMON

HELENA LEGION HUT

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

HELENA

__VICINITY OF

COUNTY

STATE ARKANSAS

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT

DIANNA KIRK

DATE OF PHOTO SUMMER, 1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT

ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM

4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET EAST ELEVATION

PHOTO NO

INT: 2983-75

Form No. 10-301 (Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY MAP FORM

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SEP 3 0 1976

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS

TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH MAP

1 NAME

HISTORIC

RICHARD L. KITCHENS POST, #41

AND/OR COMMON HELENA LEGION HUT

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

HELENA

VICINITY OF

COUNTY

STATE ARKANSAS

3 MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE

UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, LATOUR QUADRANGLE

SCALE

1:62,500

DATE 1961

4 REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

- 1. PROPERTY BOUNDARIES
- 2. NORTH ARROW
- 3. UTM REFERENCES

WASO-16	66
(August	1971)

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATE 30	Juns_	
TIME OF CALL		

TELEPHONE REPORT

Wignall

and the second second second		and the second second			
. ADDRES	SS (Tel. No.	if needed)	1 / 3	0	
Amer	ican	Legion	Nation	nal H	0
Track	lioma	100/2			,
	151				

3. SUBJECT, PROJECT NO., ETC.

1. CALL TO: FROM (Name)

Richard L. Kitchens American Legion Post 41

4. DETAILS OF DISCUSSION

At the Kitchens Post's request, Mr. Wignall did some research into the age of American Legion buildings. He came to the conclusion that there is no seems soridence readily available to contradict the idea that this is the algo Schest American Legion building.

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ARKANSAS STATE

SEP 3 0 1976 Date Entered

Name

Location

Kitchens, Richard L., Post, #41

Helena Phillips County

Also Notified

Hon. John L. McClellan

Hon. Dale Bumpers Hon. Bill Alexander

Regional Director, Southwest

Region

State Historic Preservation Officer Ms. Anne Bartley Acting Director, Department of Natural and Cultural Heritage The Old State House 300 West Markham Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

Mott 9/30/76

DATE: 25 June 1976 NR Data Sheet Reviewer INITIALS: & Look NR NAME AS IT APPEARS IN FEDERAL REGISTER: (RICHARD L. OTHER NAMES: HELENA HUT - SEC LEGION LOCATION: STREET & NUMBER 1409 CITY TOWN L'HELENA CONGRESSIUNAL DISTRICT VICINITY OF COUNTY PHILLIPScode STATE ARKANSAS OWNER OF PROPERTY: (Circle) PRIVATE STATE LOCAL GOV'T MUNICIPAL COUNTY FEDERAL (AGENCY NAME) : ADMINISTRATOR (underline). NPS REGION: (CIRCLE) N.ATLANTIC MID ATLANTIC SOUTHEAST MIDWEST SOUTHWEST ROCKY MOUNTAIN WEST PACIFIC NORTHWEST FEATURES: INTERIOR EXTERIOR ENVIRONS _Substantially intact-1 _Substantially intact-2 - Substantially intact-3 _ unknown .-5 _.unknown -6 _ unknown - 4 _ not applicable - 8 _ not applicable - 7 _ Not applicable-9 -Interior, exterior, environs not intact-0 EXCELLENT _DETERIORATED _UNALTERED LORIGINAL SITE CONDITION -ALTERED __G00D _RUINS _MCVED _Reconstructed _Unknewn _FAIR UNEXPOSED _Unexcavated _Excavated ACCESS -Yes-restricted Yes-unrestricted No access Unknown historic district? NO WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT? NO IF YES, NAME: WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK? NO IF YES, NAME: ADAPTIVE USE: YES NO Saved? NO YES FUNCTION(S): (use vocabulary words) then- ENTERTAINMENT NOW- ENTERTAINMENT **SIGNIFICANCE:** ARCHEULUGY-PREHISTORIC LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE __RELIGION _entertainment _LAW/Gov't/politics _SCIENCE ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC __CONSERVATION _health AGRICULTURE _ECONOMICS _UTERATURE _recreation ARCHITECTURE -24-ESOCIAL HUMANITARIAN EDUCATION MILITARY _settlement ENGINEERING __MUSIC _socio/cultural _COMMERCE _EXPLORATION _PHILOSOPHY _TRANSPORTATION _urban & commun _COMMUNICATIONS INDUSTRY _POLITICS/GOVERNMENT _OTHER (SPECIFY) planning _INVENTION

FIRST LOG AMERICAN

first"(YES)

Claims

AN LEGION

TUH

AMERICAN

e oldest 2 YES NO

IN ARKANSAS

"only" YES NO

LEGION BLDG IN ARKANSAS

ARCHITECTURAL STYLE: LOG STRUCTURE WY CHALET MASSING architect/m.builder H.H. WALTERS, E.TWALKERgincer: landscape/garden designer: artist/artisan: ____ interior decorator: builder/contractor: ETHNIC GROUP: NAME AFTER: NAMES: personal RICHARD L. KITCHENS, PRIVATE, WHO DIED (label role OF INFLUENZA ON SEPT. 18, 1918 . appropriate date) events institutional AMERICAN LEGION DATES: DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (Specific date or 1/4 of century): DATE(S) OF "MAJOR" ALTERATIONS: 1949 HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT DATE(S): 1922 SOURCE: (OF NOMINATION) PRIVATE FEDERAL 'AGENCY: ACREAGE: (to nearest tenth of an acre) Log contraction, modely COMMENTS: (include architectural information here) | STORY | RECTANGUE POCK, LOG BUILDING LOW GABLED ROOF, REMINI EUROPEAN CHALETS, GABLE END HIP ROOFED PORCH ON STONE PIERS WEST PLEY. W/ GABLE ROOF Z- STORY AFRAME ADDITION, REAR (SOUTH); 2 SMALL, I-STORY SHED ROOF ELEVERNERANCE STONE FIRE PLACE SIGNIFICANCE: (maximum two sentences), BUILT IN 1922, RICHARD L. KITCHENS HE OLDEST AMERICAN LEGION BUILDING KANSAS; AND THE FIRST LOG AMERICAN LEGION ARKANSAS: IT WAS DESIGNED AND BUILT BY MEMBERS FROM MATERIALS THEY DONATED.