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National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin 16A, "How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form." 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.

1. Name of Property

Historic name Marion Post No. 62
Other names/site number American Legion Clubhouse
Name of related multiple property listing N/A
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

Street & Number: 300 Elm Avenue
City or town: South Pittsburg State: TN County: Marion
Not For Publication: N/A Vicinity: N/A Zip: 37380

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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 at the following level(s) of significance:
 national statewide local

Applicable National Register Criteria: A B C D

Claudia S. Spivey 10/3/16
Signature of certifying official/Title: Date
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, Tennessee Historical Commission
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.
Signature of Commenting Official: Date
Title: State of Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain) _____

[Handwritten Signature]
 Signature of the Keeper

11-22-2016
 Date of Action

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 in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL/meeting hall

SOCIAL/civic

EDUCATION/school

EDUCATION/library

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL/civic

SOCIAL/meeting hall

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EGYPTIAN REVIVAL

CRAFTSMAN

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: STUCCO; CONCRETE; GLASS

Narrative Description

Marion Post No. 62 is located in South Pittsburg (2013 population 3,117), Marion County, Tennessee and sits on a city lot on the corner of Elm Avenue and 3rd Street. Constructed in 1926, the clubhouse faces southeast on the site and is adjacent to First National Bank of South Pittsburg, (NRHP 6/24/1991) now used as City Hall, South Pittsburg Elementary School and the Post Office. The site features large trees, a surrounding lawn with a flag pole and a concrete sidewalk along Elm and 3rd Street. The Clubhouse is a masonry building with a stucco façade and gabled roof with a rubberized membrane over wood decking made of tongue and groove boards. Parapets are located on the north, east and south elevation rooflines. The building includes Neoclassical-style windows and a concrete block foundation. The interior features Craftsman-style exposed ceiling trusses, plaster walls, rounded arch vestibule details and original wood floors. With a rare combination of architectural styles, the Clubhouse is architecturally unique and is an uncommon architectural representation from the early twentieth century that combines Egyptian Revival, Neoclassical and Craftsman features. Overall, the Clubhouse maintains a high degree of integrity, as little has been altered since its completion.

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Exterior

The façade (east elevation) faces Elm Avenue, is three bays in width and features stepped projecting parapets with terra cotta coping in a raking profile on the center bay. The central projecting bay features concrete steps and masonry knee walls leading to a central recessed entrance with a concrete molding surround. Two interior Doric columns, each without a base, support the squared entrance. Directly above each column are brass medallions depicting the United States crest to the south and the American Legion emblem to the north. The recessed entry includes many original features including a clay tile floor and a six-sided brass hanging lantern with pressed glass and a rounded copper canopy with a cast-iron ring. Centered in the entry is a six-panel wood double doors with eight-light windows, three eight-light transom windows and a wood surround. Each eight-light window is formed by adding two 45 degree diagonal muntins to a four-light window, representative of the Neoclassical style. Single bays flank the central bay with recessed 4/4 double-hung wood sash windows, concrete sills and louvered rectangular vents above.

The north elevation faces 3rd Street and is seven bays in width with a parapet roofline, terra cotta coping and downspouts below. The first two bays to the south have recessed 4/4 double-hung wood sash windows with concrete sills and single-light recessed metal hopper basement windows below. The five bays to the northwest open to the main hall. Two bays flank each side of a projecting entry and contain recessed 6/6 double-hung wood sash windows with four-light sidelights, single-light transoms and concrete sills. Under each window are pairs of two-light metal hopper basement windows. The projecting side entrance has a stepped parapet roofline with a central raking profile. The projecting recessed entry has a concrete surround, concrete floor, eight-panel wood double-door with identical Neoclassical windows and transoms from the front entrance. A concrete ramp for Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessibility is planned to replace the current set of 6 concrete steps.

The rear/west elevation is four bays in width and features a gabled roofline with terra cotta coping. Centered in the gable is a recessed rectangular louvered vent with a concrete sill and a gooseneck metal light fixture below. There are two recessed 6/6 double-hung wood sash windows with 4-light sidelights, single-light transoms and concrete sills to the north. Two recessed 4/4 double-hung wood sash windows with concrete sills are present to the south. The basement has three two-light metal hopper windows and a concrete stairwell to the north with a metal railing leading to a basement entrance with a wood panel door.

The south elevation is seven-bays in width with a parapet roofline, terra cotta coping and downspouts below. To the east are three 6/6 double-hung wood sash windows and concrete sills with 2-light metal hopper basement windows beneath. The outermost basement window to the east has been replaced by an HVAC unit. Two recessed 3-light clearstory metal casement windows to the restrooms are located to the west with a 2-light metal hopper basement window centered below. The ground level entrance to the west includes a wood panel door, single-light transom window and metal gooseneck light fixture above. Continuing west is a paired 6/6 recessed double-hung wood sash window with concrete sills located in the kitchen area with two single-light basement windows below. An exterior stuccoed chimney topped by three simple rectangular terra cotta chimney pots separates the kitchen windows from the rear office's recessed 6/6 double-hung wood sash window with a concrete sill and a metal coal shoot leading to the basement centered below.

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Interior

The Clubhouse's interior totals 5,400 square feet and maintains its original plaster walls, 2" oak hardwood flooring, 10-panel wood doors and architectural details throughout with a few exceptions. Some flooring and plaster has been replaced because of major water damage and is noted in the description below during the 2015-2016 restoration.

The front entrance opens to the building's lobby with a large stone fireplace, clay tile hearth and solid wood mantel to the northeast. The lobby features a half-timbered ceiling and walls with simple squared brackets and three new bronze chandeliers with opaque glass shades that replaced a non-historic ceiling fan. The western wall of the lobby has central 6-panel wood double-doors that open into the main hall with eight-light windows and three transom windows above, both with the same Neoclassical muntin configuration as the front and side entrances with a wood molding surround. To the south of this opening is a doorway to the side hallway. From this doorway there is a continuous line of sight through doorways to the office in the southwest rear corner of the building. Flanking the front entrance in the lobby on the eastern wall are doors that lead into the two front rooms. Chair rail molding accentuates the room 4' off the floor.

Originally offices, the two front rooms feature a rounded arch detail on the vestibule entry, wood baseboards and wood flooring. The northern office is attached to two restrooms with new 12x24 ceramic tile flooring, which replaced damaged linoleum flooring. The restroom to the north now includes a shower with 6x6 faux-marble ceramic tiles. The southern office also features a rounded arch vestibule detail. The office is attached to a restroom that originally held a large shower. After a leak from the roof caused major water damage to the flooring and walls of the office and large shower room, the shower itself was decreased in size and new 6x6 tiling with a marble appearance was installed. New 12x24 tile flooring, a sink and toilet are to be installed to make it a functioning restroom. Each room has a new bronze finish chandelier with scroll work and 5 lights with glass shades.

The hallway to the south features new pendant light fixtures with a clear bell glass shade and leads to three rooms to the southwest. These rooms include a storage room with new sheetrock and 12x24 ceramic tile flooring followed by two ADA-accessible restrooms, also with new sheetrock walls and 6 x 36 porcelain tile floors with a natural wood appearance. The new sheetrock was finished with a technique to replicate the appearance of plaster. These rooms were rebuilt after significant water damaged forced the original walls and plaster to be removed. The hallway was extended from the original floor plan shown in figure 4 to extend to the front lobby and continues northwest through a doorway into the stairwell.

The original wood flooring remains in the stairwell leading to the basement with a wood stringer and steps along with Craftsman-style squared wood balusters, newel posts and caps. The stairs' mid-level landing includes an exterior wood panel door and transom at ground level. The stairwell may also be accessed from the main hall and kitchen to the northwest.

Continuing northwest is the kitchen, which has been remodeled with new cabinets and appliances. The old linoleum flooring has been replaced with 6x36" grey porcelain tile that has a wood appearance and a new 16 inch 4 light modern chandelier with a burnished silver finish. The kitchen is also accessible from the main hall and rear office.

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Located off the kitchen and main hall is an office in the rear southwest corner of the building. A curved arch vestibule detail is also featured in this room along with original wood floors and baseboards. To the northeast corner of the room is a small bathroom with new subway tile flooring. A small closet with a 5 panel wood door is located in the room's vestibule.

The main hall features a gabled ceiling with exposed heavy timber ceiling trusses and beams that continue down the walls with corner brackets. New bronze chandeliers with 3 lights and opaque glass shades hang between each truss that replaced ca. 1980s light fixtures. Original wood floors are used throughout and large windows with sidelights and transoms line the walls. An exterior paneled wood double-door with eight-light windows and three transom windows with Neoclassical-style muntins is centered in the room on the northwest wall.

The basement is an open floor plan with concrete block walls, structural metal post supports, an oriented strand board (OSB) ceiling, florescent lighting, HVAC ducts and poured concrete flooring throughout. Two rooms are located in the southwest corner that includes the coal bin/furnace room and a storage room. The brick foundation of the lobby fireplace is freestanding in the northeast section of the basement.

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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.)

Property is:

- A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE

SOCIAL HISTORY

Period of Significance

1926-1967

Significant Dates

1926

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Sears, W.H.

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph

Marion Post No. 62 in South Pittsburg, Tennessee is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under criterion A and C for its local significance in social history and its unique architectural style. Since its completion in 1926, the building has served as an integral part of the community by providing a space for numerous social activities, organizations and a clubhouse for the American Legion. The building's architecture incorporates Egyptian Revival with Craftsman and Neoclassical elements and maintains a high degree of architectural integrity, with very little modification over the years. The Egyptian Revival style alone is a unique architectural style for the southeast Tennessee region.

Marion Post No. 62 is significant for its Egyptian Revival architectural style with Neoclassical and Craftsman elements. Some of the character defining features include: projecting entries with pediments in a raking profile, Doric columns, Neoclassical transom windows and paneled doors, half-timbered ceilings, the original brass medallions on the front façade and the smooth exterior finish. The American Legion Clubhouse is the only known extant building in the Egyptian Revival style in southeast Tennessee, and one of only six buildings identified by surveys across the state.¹ This, along with the combination of Neoclassical and Craftsman elements, makes it an architecturally unique blend of styles in the state of Tennessee.

Narrative Statement of Significance

Architecture

After earlier revivals such as Greek and Gothic Revival styles dominated the first half of the nineteenth century, the enlightenment concept of style was introduced. This brought about a number of exotic styles including Egyptian, Oriental, Elizabethan Revival and Swiss Chateau. These styles were thought to hold fewer emotions than the earlier revivals that were perceived to show values of nationalism and democracy, and never gained the same popularity as mainstream architectural styles. Egyptian, however, was the most popular of the Exotic Revival styles.²

Egyptian influences were first seen in architecture and furniture design after Napoleon's invasion of Egypt from 1798-1801.³ Influences in architecture were primarily in the form of monuments, but were also used in buildings such as libraries, educational institutions, funerary and cemetery buildings, buildings for secret societies and prisons. These building types all draw on Egyptian views and associations including the pharaoh, afterlife and concepts of mystique and wisdom.⁴ The Egyptian style reached its peak in the 1830s and 1840s and is very rarely found in residential architecture because few appreciated the funerary or foreboding qualities presented.⁵

With the discovery of Egyptian pharaoh Tutankhamen in the 1920s, the Egyptian style was brought back to life and "Egyptomania" soon swept the country. Buildings were once again being designed in the Egyptian

¹ "Tennessee Historical Commission Viewer," <http://tnmap.tn.gov/historicalcommission/>, (accessed April 5, 2016).

² Mark Gelernter, *A History of American Architecture: Buildings in Their Cultural and Technological Context*. (Hanover: University Press of New England, 1999), 161.

³ *Ibid.*, 162.

⁴ Martha Carver, Holly Barnett, and Tammy Allison, "Timeless Egyptomania," *The Tennessee Conservationist*, May 2005, 18.

⁵ *Ibid.*

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Revival style with influences in the Art Deco style using stylized geometric motifs.⁶ The style is identifiable by distinctive columns and smooth monolithic exterior finishes that are primarily composed of cement or smooth ashlar in later examples.⁷ These smooth finishes with a flat roof offer a monumental effect that is reminiscent of gateways or pylons to Egyptian Temples.⁸ Similar elements can be seen on the Marion Post No. 62, which features a smooth stucco finish, a parapet roofline and a central recessed entrance with columns that simulate the entry of an Egyptian temple. Although the American Legion clubhouse is simplified, it is still representational of the Egyptian Revival architectural style.

This simplified Egyptian Revival style differs drastically from the Downtown Presbyterian Church (First Presbyterian Church (NRHP 7/8/1970, NHL 4/19/1993) in Nashville, Tennessee ca. 1849. In fact, the only similarity to the two buildings is the central recessed entry with two interior columns. The Downtown Presbyterian church features two large towers on each front corner, a central recessed entrance with two columns topped with lotus capitals and a cavetto cornice with a relief of a sun disk and cobra. Cavetto cornices are also used over the three doorways in the recessed entry and Egyptian ornamentation is used throughout.⁹

Other uses of Egyptian Revival in the state are primarily seen in West Tennessee and include the Universal Life Insurance Company (NRHP 7/24/2007) in Memphis ca. 1949. Similar to the Downtown Presbyterian Church, the Universal Life Insurance Company building differs greatly from the simplistic Egyptian Revival design of the American Legion Clubhouse. The Universal Life Insurance Company building with a limestone façade is much larger in massing and scale and has a central projecting entry with a cavetto cornice and pediment above, metal casement windows, pilasters, central columns with lotus capitals and low relief designs¹⁰. Similar to the Presbyterian Church, the only comparison to the Clubhouse is the central projecting entry with a parapet on the roofline with a raking profile, center bay columns and the smooth exterior façade.

Designed by W.H. Sears, an architect from Chattanooga, Marion Post No. 62 is also architecturally unique to Sears. From 1922 to 1948, Sears and Shepherd Architects produced 195 building projects in the Chattanooga region. These included scores of schools, churches, manufacturing plants and residences. Out of all of these projects, the Marion Post No. 62 is the only known design to use Egyptian Revival influences.¹¹ Similar Neoclassical windows, however, were used by Sears and can be seen on the ca. 1925 Title Guaranty and Trust Co. Building located at 617 Walnut Street in Chattanooga, TN. (*Figure 1*)

Paramount among Sears' contributions to architecture is his leadership in helping bring professional registration for architects in the State of Tennessee. Sears was only the sixth architect registered in the State of Tennessee. He served as a member of the State Board of Examiners for Architects for twenty-seven years

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ John J. G. Blumenson, *Identifying American Architecture: A Pictorial Guide to Styles and Terms, 1600-1945* (New York: W.W. Norton, 1981), 29.

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ Carolyn Pitts, *National Register of Historic Places Nomination- Old First Presbyterian Church*, listed July 8, 1970.

¹⁰ John Linn Hopkins, *National Register of Historic Places Nomination- Universal Life Insurance Company*, listed July 24, 2007

¹¹ Andrew Smith, firm owner, email message to author, April 4, 2016.

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until his retirement in 1948.¹²



Figure 1: Title Guaranty and Trust Co. building, Chattanooga, TN.

SEARS, WILLIAM HATFIELD Chattanooga 1909-

William H. Sears was born March 8, 1875, at Prebie, New York. He was educated in public schools, at Colgate Academy, and at Columbia University from which he graduated in 1904 with a B.S. in Architecture. In 1899, he worked with C. W. Ronegn, in 1900 with N. C. Mellen, in 1904, with C. I. Beng and A. W. Brunner, in 1905 with Westervelt and Austin, in 1906 with Snelling and Potter for whom he was responsible for the Staten Island Terminal, all of New York City. In 1906, he went to Atlanta in the employ of George Thompson, and in 1907 he went to Chattanooga for REUBEN H. HUNT. From 1908 to 1913 the partnership of HUNTINGDON and SEARS was in operation, and later he worked independently. He was a member of the AIA, the American Society of Heating and Ventilating Engineers, and the Tennessee State Board of Architectural and Engineering Examiners.
SRA BAEE #1 (2820A).

Figure 2: *Architects in Tennessee until 1930: A Dictionary*. Joseph Herndon, May 1975 thesis, Columbia University.

¹² Ibid.

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Social History

Marion Post No. 62 is also significant under National Register Criterion A for its local significance in social history. Since its construction in 1926, the clubhouse has served as a community center and clubhouse for the American Legion, hosting numerous clubs and community activities. The building has even operated as a temporary school building, a library and voting precinct, making it an integral part of the community of South Pittsburg.

After the Armistice was signed in November 1918, the idea of an organization for ex-service men came into being.¹³ A group soon traveled to France for a convention and began organizing forces there in an association called the American Legion. Upon return to the U.S., a national caucus was set in St. Louis, Missouri for May 8-10, 1919.¹⁴ Lieutenant Colonel Theodore Roosevelt, Jr. and others led the charge to encourage delegates from all states to attend to decide what type of veteran's organization the Legion would be.¹⁵ The Legion's program of Americanism, citizenship and attention to the needs of ex-service men and their dependents was soon established, and on May 24, 1919, the charter for the Department of Tennessee of the American Legion was issued.¹⁶

On December 22, 1919, World War I veterans applied for and received a charter for Marion Post No. 62 of the American Legion.¹⁷ At the Post's annual Armistice Day Dinner on November 11, 1923 a special committee was appointed to report on the advisability to start work on the proposed new American Legion clubhouse.¹⁸ Plans drawn by Chattanooga architect W. H. Sears were presented to the Post No. 62 membership in December 1923.¹⁹

The Post purchased lots one and two in block No. 16 as shown on the registered plat of the town, at the corner of Elm Avenue and 3rd Street, from the South Pittsburg Real Estate and Building Company for \$1,100 on March 12, 1925.²⁰ In October, "ground was broken preparatory to the erection by Marion Post No.62, American Legion, of a \$15,000 community building and clubhouse, to be dedicated to Marion County's war dead."²¹ On November 11, 1926, the Marion Post No. 62 held its election of officers and annual Armistice Day banquet, a buffet supper, in the Legion Hall even though the kitchen was not ready for use.²²

¹³ May, Guy Herman, and Fred Douglas Estes. *History of American Legion, Department of Tennessee, 1919-1933* (Knoxville, TN: Knoxville Lithographing, 1933), 10.

¹⁴ *Ibid.*

¹⁵ *Ibid.*

¹⁶ *Ibid.*, 11.

¹⁷ "Mortgage Burning Now in Order by Legionnaires," *South Pittsburg Hustler*, November 9, 1944.

¹⁸ "Legg Re-elected Commander of Legionnaires," *South Pittsburg Hustler*, November 16, 1923, 1.

¹⁹ "Legion Plans Early Work on New Clubhouse," *South Pittsburg Hustler*, December 7, 1923, 2.

²⁰ Marion County Register of Deeds: South Pittsburg, Tennessee, Deed Book KKK: 242.

²¹ "Ground Broken for American Legion Club," *South Pittsburg Hustler*, October 23, 1925, 1.

²² "Annual Feed of Legion on November 11," *South Pittsburg Hustler*, October 28, 1926, 1.

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On January 26, 1927, Marion Post No. 62 dedicated its clubhouse. Richard Hardy, Mayor of Chattanooga and President of the Pennsylvania-Dixie Cement Corporation, was the principal speaker.²³ The Marion Post No. 62 had appointed a committee to have charge of the building and to review applications for rental of the building. A scale of charges included: “Dances, \$20; night banquets, \$10; day banquets, \$8; night parties with use of kitchen, \$10; night parties without use of kitchen, \$7.50; day parties with use of kitchen, \$7.50; day parties without use of kitchen, \$5. The minimum charge will be \$5, it is stated.”²⁴

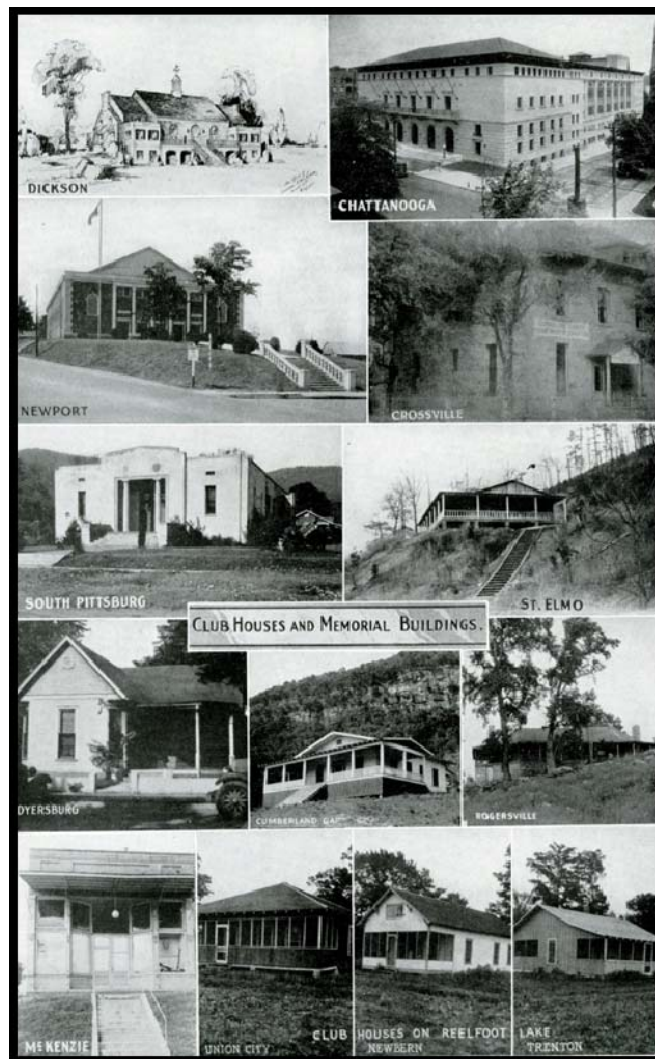


Figure 3: Clubhouses and Memorial Buildings. From *History of American Legion, Department of Tennessee, 1919-1933*, by Guy Herman May and Fred Douglas Estes.

²³ “Legionnaires to Dedicate New Home Wednesday,” *South Pittsburg Hustler*, January 20, 1927, 1; “Beautiful New Clubhouse Opened to Public,” *South Pittsburg Hustler*, January 27, 1927, 2.

²⁴ “Legion’s New Clubhouse Ready for Use of Public: Small Rental is Charged,” *South Pittsburg Hustler* January 13, 1927, 1.

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In the 1930s, Post 62 continued to host a variety of community events and in June of 1930, the South Pittsburg Public Library formally opened in the two rooms in the basement.²⁵ A few years later, the South Pittsburg School experienced enrollment beyond the capacity of its building and for the 1935-1939 school years, the first and second grade classes met at the American Legion Clubhouse.²⁶ In addition, the PTA held its meetings at the Clubhouse and from 1935-36 Maude Chastain, a teacher at the school, prepared and served a hot dish of food to 45 to 50 students daily.²⁷

A number of events were held at the Clubhouse throughout the 1930s including a Christmas Cantata followed by a free-will offering for the needy; a city-wide dinner on February 1, 1936 that resulted in the creation of the South Pittsburg Community Chest; the Marion County 4H Club's Fall Rally and Achievement Day in November 1937; the Methodist Episcopal Church's Halloween Carnival in 1938; and the Twin Cities Garden Club spring flower shows.²⁸ Two funerals were also held at the Legion in the 1930s. The funerals included one for the town blacksmith, George Washington Thompson, held on October 23, 1931, and funeral services on June 16, 1937 for Mack Kager Smith, a World War I veteran who died at the Soldier's home at Johnson City, TN (Mountain Branch, National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, NHL 6/17/2011).²⁹

Along with these community-focused events, regular activities and meetings were continuously held at the Legion in the 1930s. In February 1937, the Works Progress Administration (WPA) opened a kitchen at the American Legion clubhouse to provide one free meal a day to children of needy families.³⁰ In June 1934, Boy Scout Troop 63 began having regular meetings and Courts of Honor at the Legion.³¹

²⁵ "Circulating Library, Visioned by South Pittsburg Book Club, Had Formal Opening Tuesday at Legion Hall," *South Pittsburg Hustler*, June 5, 1930, 5; "Social Editor Hustler Visits Marion County Library," *South Pittsburg Hustler*, February 16, 1939, 8.

²⁶ "Schools Have Fine Opening Monday," *South Pittsburg Hustler*, September 5, 1935, 1; "S.P. Grammar School to Meet for Organization Aug 31. And Sept. 1, 8:30am," *South Pittsburg Hustler*, August 20, 1936, 1; "S.P.H.S Enrollment Largest in History of Institution," *South Pittsburg Hustler*, September, 10 1936, 5; "South Pittsburg Schools Open Monday, September Sixth," *South Pittsburg Hustler*, August, 19, 1937,1; "South Pittsburg Schools Open Morning September 6," *South Pittsburg Hustler*, September, 2, 1937, 1; "Schools of Marion County Announce Opening Dates For 1938-39 Term," *South Pittsburg Hustler*, August 25, 1938, 5; "South Pittsburg Schools Open Monday Morning, September 5," *South Pittsburg Hustler*, September 1, 1938, 12.

²⁷ "Twin Cities Chest Adopts Novel Idea to Care for Poor," *South Pittsburg Hustler*, February 13, 1936, 8; "Judge Ables is Guest Speaker Meeting Parent-Teacher Association Mon," *South Pittsburg Hustler*, November 4, 1937, 5; "P.T.A. Has First Meeting Monday Afternoon- 51 Present," *South Pittsburg Hustler*, September 15, 1938, 5.

²⁸ "Christmas Cantata and Community Sing at Legion Hall on December 25th," *South Pittsburg Hustler*, December, 18 1930, 1; "The Hustler to Promote City-Wide Meeting," *South Pittsburg Hustler*, January 9, 1936, 1; "City-Wide Meeting Business and Professional Men Promise to Be Success in Every Way," *South Pittsburg Hustler*, January 30, 1936, 1; "Community Chest Outgrowth City-Wide Clubs Meet," *South Pittsburg Hustler*, February 6, 1936, 1; "Miss Chastain Serves Lunch at American Legion Hall," *South Pittsburg Hustler*, February 13, 1936, 5; "South Pittsburg Welcomes 4-H Clubs to City," *South Pittsburg Hustler*, November 4, 1937, 1; "Halloween Carnival At American Legion Hall Friday Night, October 28," *South Pittsburg Hustler*, October 27, 1938, 5; "Flower Show American Legion Hall Saturday, May 13-- 2 p.m.," *South Pittsburg Hustler*, April 27, 1939, 5; "Annual Spring Flower Show May 16, American Legion Hall," *South Pittsburg Hustler*, May 2, 1940, 5.

²⁹ "Anvil of Uncle Geo. Thompson Rings No More," *South Pittsburg Hustler*, October 29, 1931, 1; "Obituaries Mack Kaeger Smith, Of Local Baseball Fame Does at Soldiers' Home," *South Pittsburg Hustler*, June 17, 1937, 5.

³⁰ "Needy School Children Provided Free Meal at American Legion Hall," *South Pittsburg Hustler*, February 11, 1937, 1; "4690 Free Lunches Served School Children Under WPA," *South Pittsburg Hustler*, May 13, 1937, 5; "Fruit Jars Needed," *South Pittsburg Hustler*, June 30, 1938, 5.

³¹ "Local Boy Scout Troop is Organized-Fowler and Armstrong Scout Masters," *South Pittsburg Hustler*, June, 28, 1934, 5; "Court of Honor for Boy Scouts Friday Night, 7:30," *South Pittsburg Hustler*, May, 1, 1947, 5.

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With the start of World War II, the clubhouse opened its doors to the Marion County Peace Time Draft Board, appointed by Governor Cooper in October 1940. Offices were located in the lobby and crowds of friends and relatives assembled to honor the draftees as they left for induction in the army and basic training.³² The flagpole on the grounds of the Clubhouse was also installed that October.³³ In 1941, the space unoccupied by the Draft Board was rented to the South Pittsburg Lions Club and the basement served as the South Pittsburg collection site for a statewide drive to collect old aluminum kitchen utensils and other items for reuse in the manufacture of airplanes. Boy Scout Troop 63 was in charge of the city's drive.³⁴

In 1944, Post No. 62 liquidated the mortgage on the 1926 building with donations from area businesses and individuals.³⁵ On September 14, 1945, state and federal dignitaries honored Staff Sergeant Raymond Henry Cooley, who was awarded a Congressional Medal of Honor for bravery at Luzon in the Philippines. The day's activities included a parade along Cedar Avenue to the reviewing stand at the American Legion clubhouse. After the parade, speakers included Tennessee Governor Jim Nance McCord, U.S. Senator Tom Stewart, Under Secretary of War Robert Patterson, and General Jacob Devers, Chief of the Army Ground Forces.³⁶

Post No. 62 also maintained its connections to the community in the 1940s with the President's Ball dances for polio fundraisers, an annual mother-daughter tea event put on by the Girl Reserves of South Pittsburg High School of which 200 attended in 1940. Friday night dances were also hosted by the Legion to reduce the hall debt and the continuous use of the building for community meetings.³⁷

From October 1956 to the 1980s, Post No. 62 leased the property to the City of South Pittsburg for use as a community center. As the Legion had become less active, the City agreed to maintain the building and to insure its continued use for the benefit of South Pittsburg.³⁸ Although leased to the City, the Legion continued to own the building and maintain a space for meetings.

³² "Draft Board of Marion Named By Gov. Cooper," *South Pittsburg Hustler*, October, 24, 1940, 1; "28 Registrants Leave Monday for Training," *South Pittsburg Hustler*, February 20, 1941, 1; "Marion County Honors Going-Away Registrants; Governor Bob's Namesake Says 'I'll Handle Hitler'," *South Pittsburg Hustler*, February 27, 1941, 3;

³³ "Chas. Dugger, Past-Commander Finally succeeds with Flag Pole," *South Pittsburg Hustler*, October 10, 1940, 8.

³⁴ "Lions Club Now in Charge of Legion Building," *South Pittsburg Hustler*, March 20, 1941, 1; "Lions Banquet at Opening of New Home," *South Pittsburg Hustler*, April 17, 1941, 1; "Lions Treat Wives to Dinner as Regular Meeting Tuesday," *South Pittsburg Hustler*, July 3, 1941, 5; "Judge Kelly Armistice Day Speaker," *South Pittsburg Hustler*, November 13, 1941, 1; "Statewide Drive For Aluminum Begins July 21," *South Pittsburg Hustler*, July 10, 1941, 1.

³⁵ "Mortgage Burning Now in Order by Legionnaires," *South Pittsburg Hustler*, November 9, 1944, 1; "33 Veterans of World War II Join Legionnaires," *South Pittsburg Hustler*, November 16, 1944, 1.

³⁶ "National Notables Pay Tribute to Marion's War Hero," *South Pittsburg Hustler*, September 20, 1945, 1; "Thousands Will Attend 'Cooley Day' Celebration," *South Pittsburg Hustler*, September 13, 1945, 1.

³⁷ "Attend The President's Ball At American Legion Hall Friday, Feb. 7th," *South Pittsburg Hustler*, February 6, 1941, 8; "Girl Reserve Tea Saturday," *South Pittsburg Hustler*, May 23, 1940, 5; "Dance Friday Evening May 24, at the Legion Hall," *South Pittsburg Hustler*, May 23, 1940, 5.

³⁸ "American Legion Leases Hall to City of South Pittsburg," *South Pittsburg Hustler*, October 4, 1956, 1.

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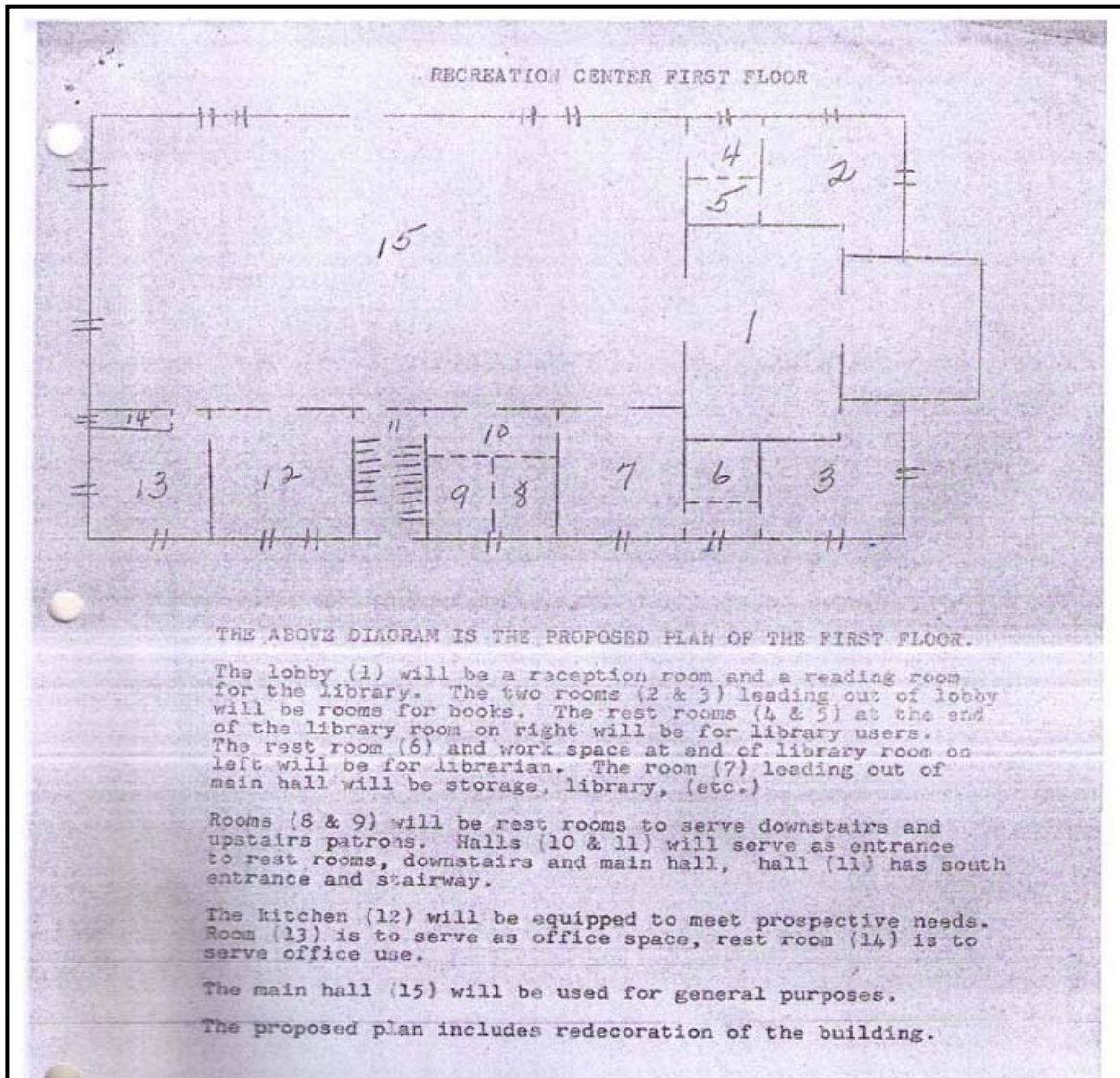


Figure 4: 1956 Plan for Community Center, City of South Pittsburg.

Armistice Day Dinners are held annually on November 11. The Post hosted the Third District Conference of the American Legion in October 1941. The State Commander, District Commander, and State Adjutant General attended, as did a large delegation from Cleveland, Athens, Dayton, Chattanooga, Pikeville, Dunlap, Jasper, Etowah and Copperhill.³⁹ On May 9, 1960, the Marion Post No. 62 honored thirty-four members for 40 years of service as Legionnaires.⁴⁰

³⁹ "Com. Anderson Announces 3RD District Meet," *South Pittsburg Hustler*, October 16, 1941, 1.

⁴⁰ "Am. Legion Honored 40-Year Members at Dinner Monday Night," *South Pittsburg Hustler*, May, 12, 1960, 1.

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On February 26, 1993, the South Pittsburg Elementary School burned.⁴¹ Students were out of school when the fire started, as school was cancelled due to snow the previous night. Residents removed books and other equipment from the burning building as the South Pittsburg Fire Department fought the blaze. South Pittsburg Postmaster, Gene Vess, provided postal hampers to transport materials from the school to the American Legion Clubhouse. The library books were stored in the Clubhouse until the new school was opened in 1995.⁴²

Marion Post No. 62 is an integral part of the South Pittsburg community and landscape. With its recent restoration, it is hoped that the Clubhouse will continue to serve the community and the American Legion members for years to come.

⁴¹ "FIRE! SPES left in ruins; arson is ruled out," *South Pittsburg Hustler*, February 26, 1993, 1; "South Pittsburg residents mourn school, look ahead," *The Chattanooga Times*, sec. C, February 27, 1993.

⁴² "SPES Grand Opening Sunday, February 26, 1995," *South Pittsburg Hustler*, February 26, 1995.

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Name of Property

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- “Annual Spring Flower Show May 16, American Legion Hall.” *South Pittsburg Hustler*, May 2, 1940.
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“Local Boy Scout Troop is Organized-Fowler and Armstrong Scout Masters.” *South Pittsburg Hustler*, June, 28, 1934.

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“South Pittsburg Schools Open Morning September 6.” *South Pittsburg Hustler*, September, 2, 1937.

“South Pittsburg Schools Open Monday Morning, September 5.” *South Pittsburg Hustler*, September 1, 1938.

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“South Pittsburg Welcomes 4-H Clubs to City.” *South Pittsburg Hustler*, November 4, 1937.

S.P. Grammar School to Meet for Organization Aug 31. And Sept. 1, 8:30am.” *South Pittsburg Hustler*, August 20, 1936.

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Previous documentation on file (NPS):		Primary location of additional data:	
preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)			State Historic Preservation Office
previously listed in the National Register			Other State agency
previously determined eligible by the National Register			Federal agency
designated a National Historic Landmark			Local government
recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #			University
recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #			Other
recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey #		Name of repository:	
Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):			

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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 0.32 acres **USGS Quadrangle** South Pittsburg

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84:
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

Latitude: 35.012615 Longitude: -85.7065

Verbal Boundary Description

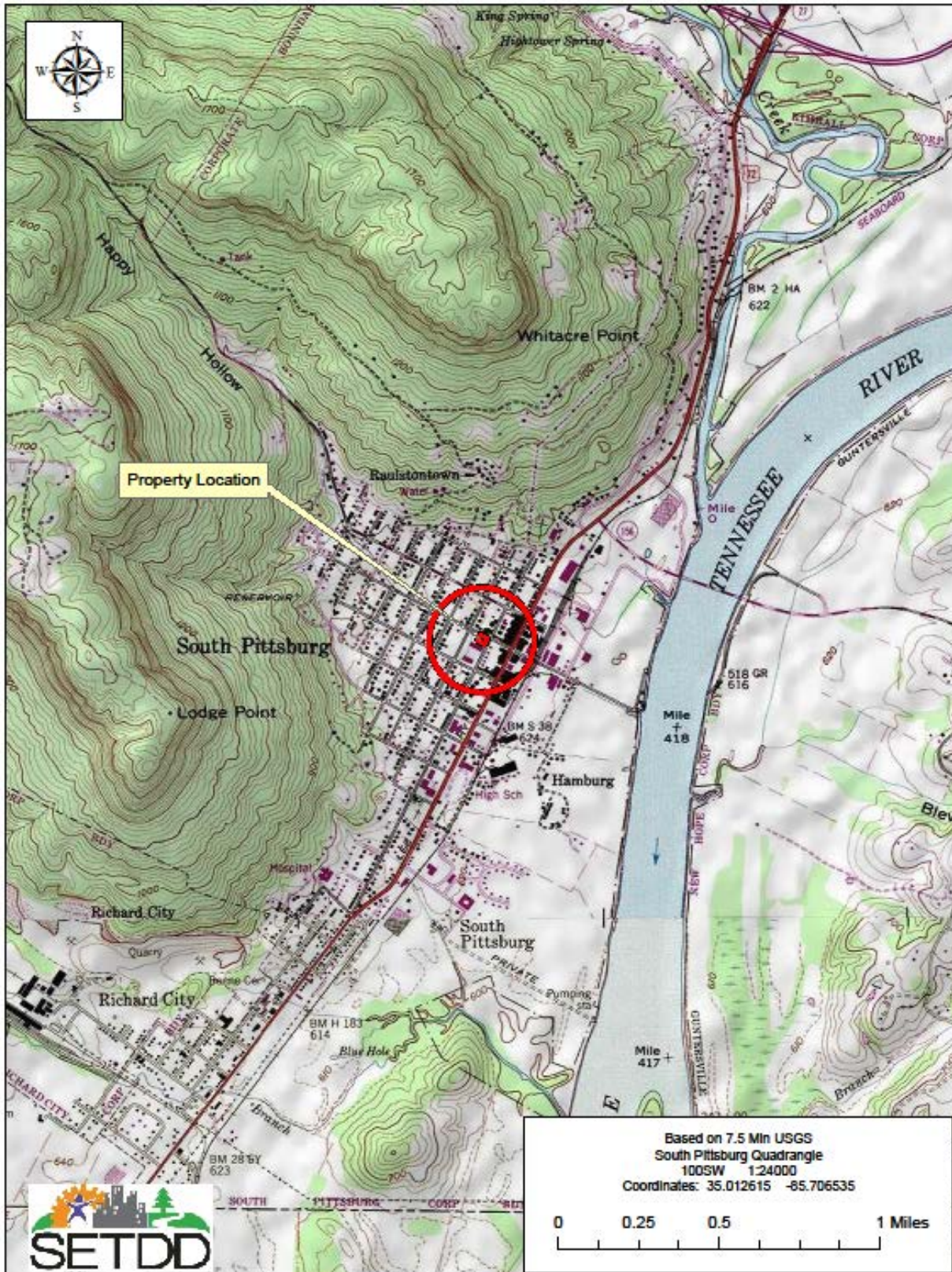
The American Legion Hall Post No. 62 sits on lots one and two in block No. 16 as shown by the registered plot of the town of South Pittsburg. The property is bounded by 3rd and Elm Street to the north and east and by South Pittsburg Elementary school to the south and west.

Boundary Justification

The boundaries were chosen based on the property lines that have remained the same since the execution of the deed to Marion Post No. 62, American Legion on March 12, 1926.

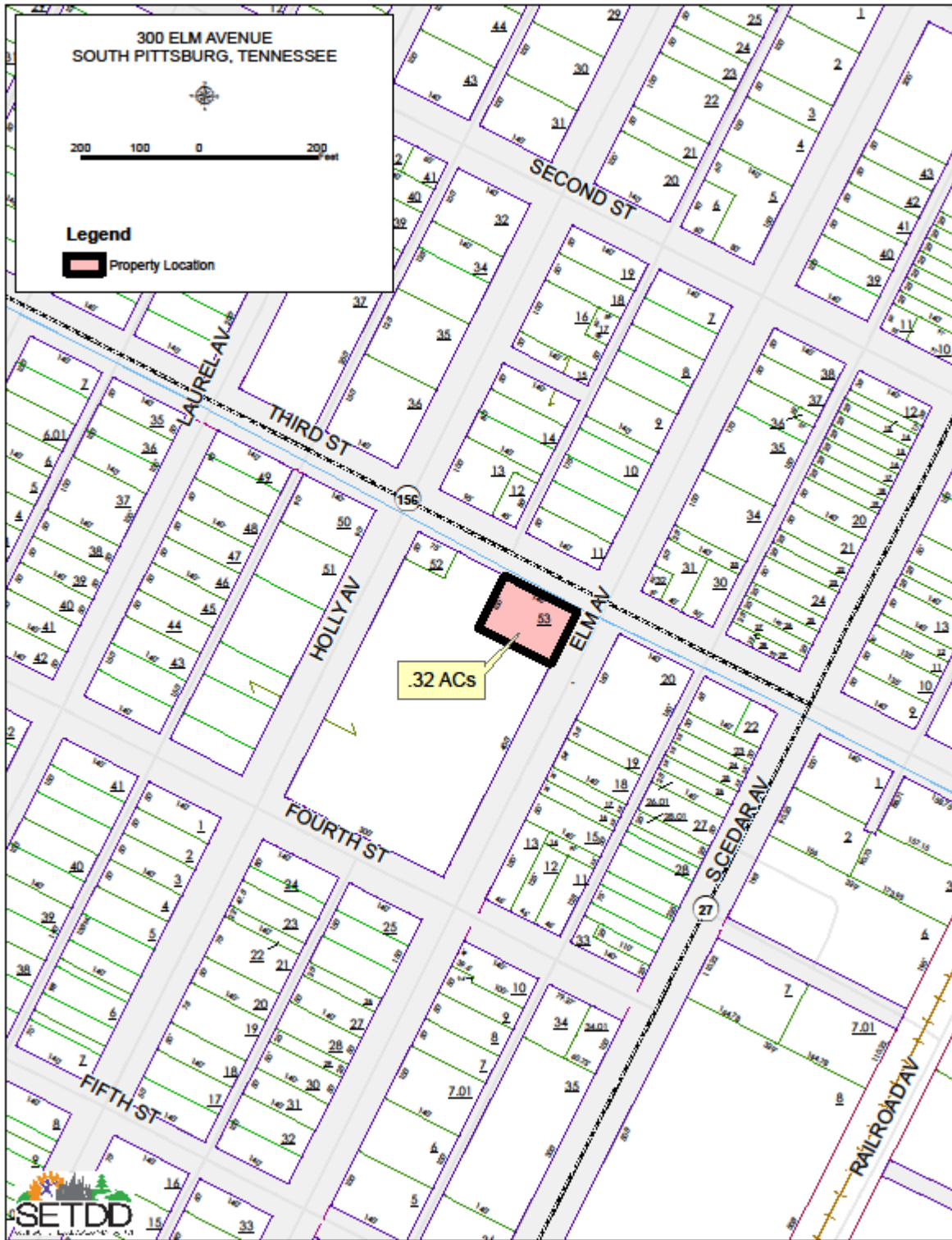
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Marion County- Parcel no. 142I C 05300 000142J on portion of Tax Parcel Map.

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11. Form Prepared By

Name Melissa Mortimer

Organization Southeast Tennessee Development District

Street & Number 1000 Riverfront Parkway Date 5/1/16

City or Town Chattanooga Telephone (423) 424-4266

E-mail mmortimer@sedev.org State TN Zip Code 37405

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to map.
- **Photographs** (refer to Tennessee Historical Commission National Register *Photo Policy* for submittal of digital images and prints)
- **Additional items:** (additional supporting documentation including historic photographs, historic maps, etc. should be included on a Continuation Sheet following the photographic log and sketch maps)

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

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Photo Log

Name of Property: Marion Post No.62
City or Vicinity: South Pittsburg
County: Marion State: Tennessee
Photographer: Melissa Mortimer
Date Photographed: 4/29/2016

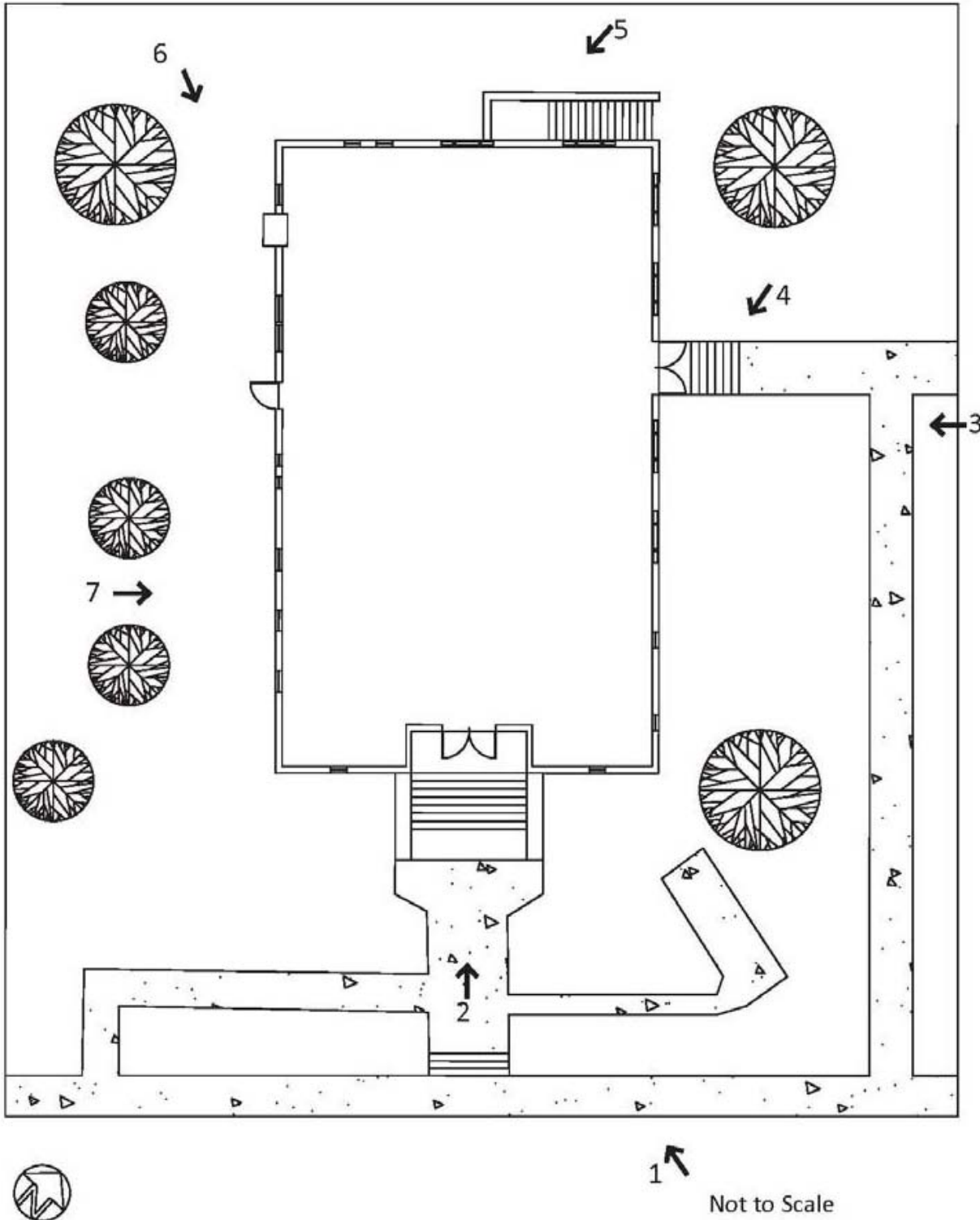
Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

- 1 of 16. East façade. Photographer facing southwest.
- 2 of 16. East façade. Photographer facing northwest.
- 3 of 16. North elevation. Photographer facing southwest.
- 4 of 16. Side entrance. Photographer facing south.
- 5 of 16. West elevation. Photographer facing southwest.
- 6 of 16. South elevation. Photographer facing southeast.
- 7 of 16. South elevation. Photographer facing northeast.
- 8 of 16. Lobby. Photographer facing north.
- 9 of 16. Lobby transom and beam detail. Photographer facing north.
- 10 of 16. Front office vestibule detail. Photographer facing southwest.
- 11 of 16. Main hall. Photographer facing northwest.
- 12 of 16. Main hall. Photographer facing north.
- 13 of 16. Main hall. Photographer facing south.
- 14 of 16. Stair detail. Photographer facing northeast.
- 15 of 16. Rear office vestibule detail. Photographer facing northeast.
- 16 of 16. Basement. Photographer facing southeast.

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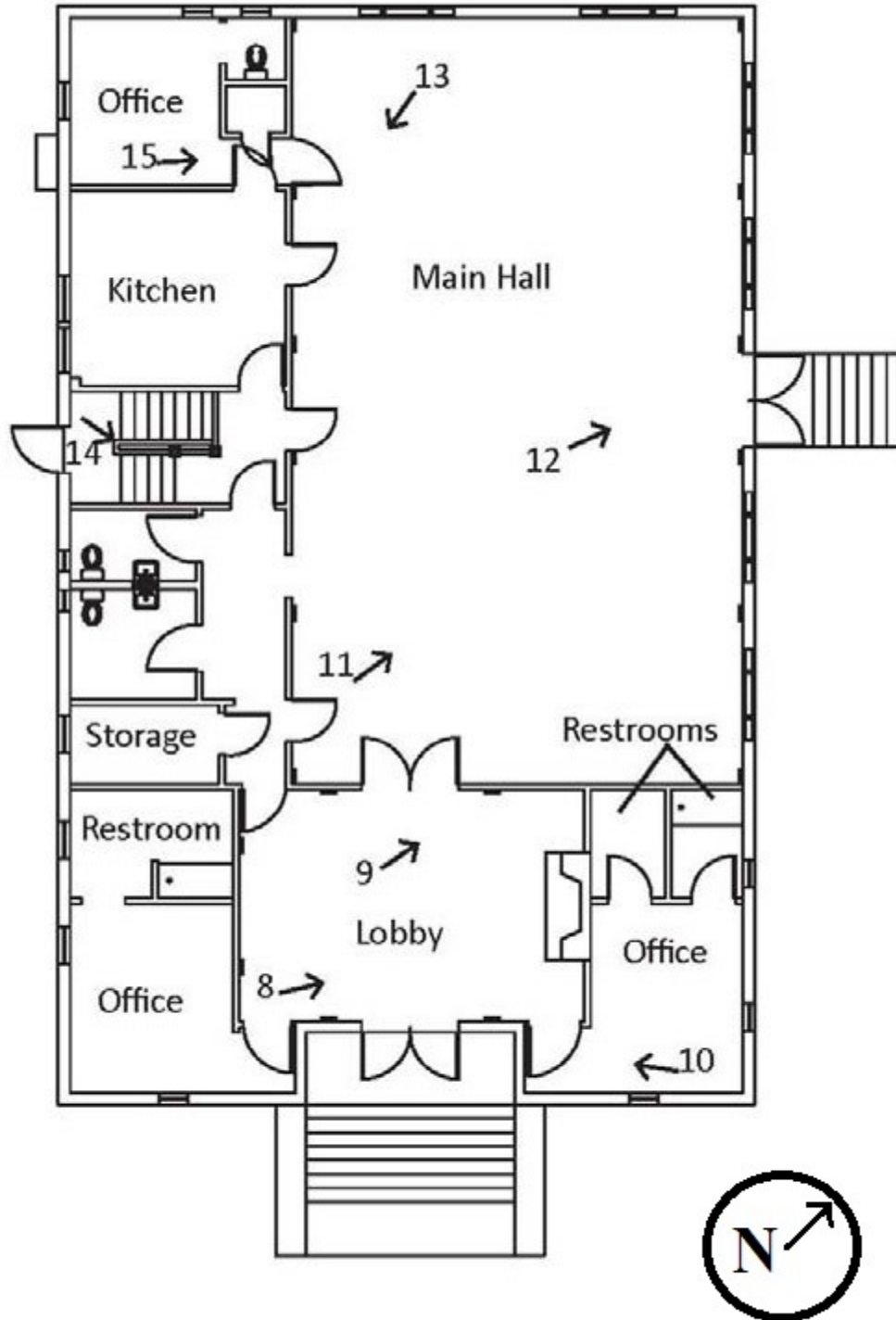
Site Plan and Photo Key



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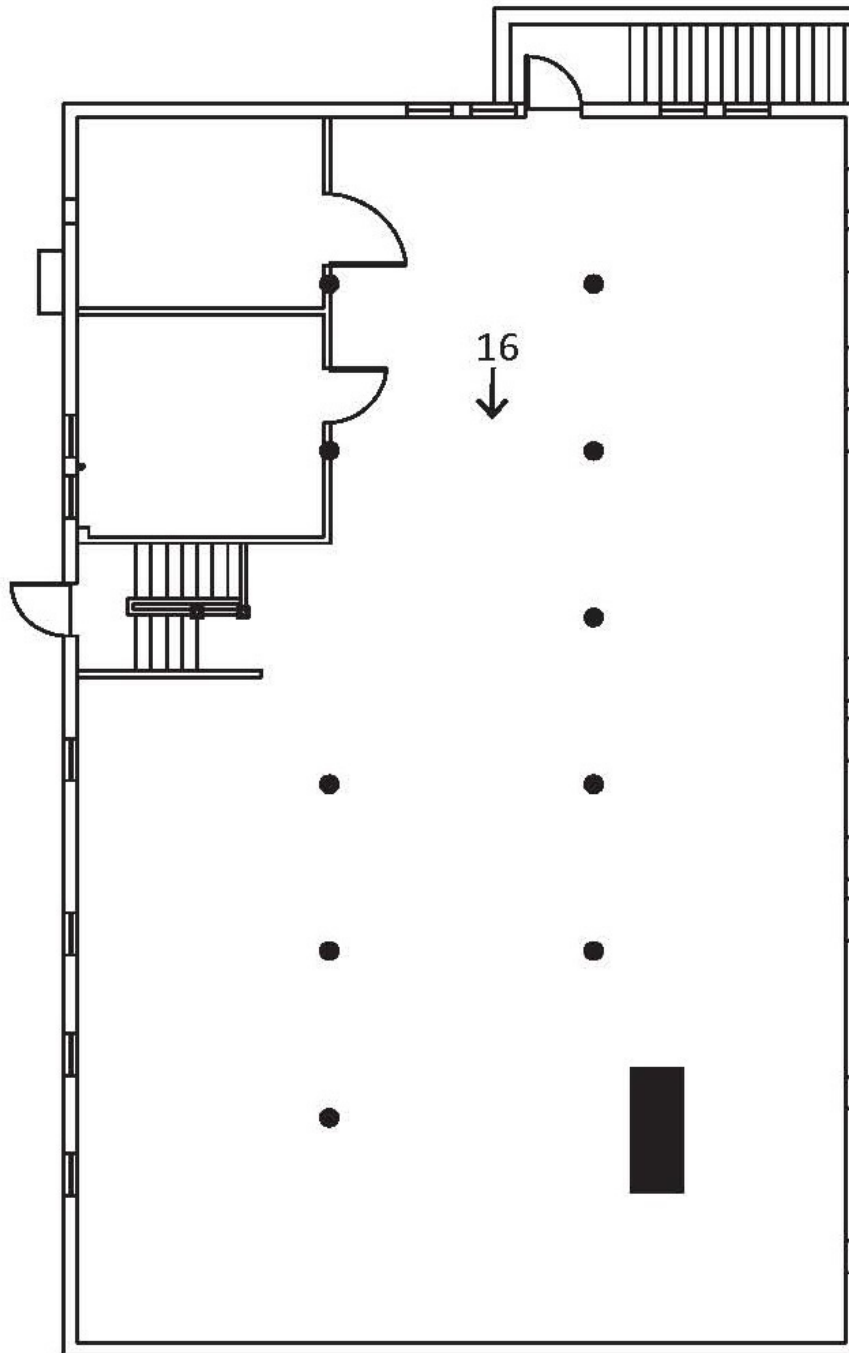
First Floor Plan and Photo Key



Marion Post No. 62
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Marion County, Tennessee
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Basement Floor Plan and Photo Key



Not to Scale

Property Owner:

(This information will not be submitted to the National Park Service, but will remain on file at the Tennessee Historical Commission)

Name Trevor Shattuck, Marion Post No. 62, American Legion

Street &

Number 300 Elm Ave

Telephone (843) 814-2722

City or Town South Pittsburg

State/Zip Tennessee 37380



2B 31
JAMES THOMAS FITZ-GERALD, JR.
CAPTAIN, USAF
1920-1948

Born July 23, 1920 in South Passaic, New Jersey. James Thomas Fitz-Gerald, Jr. was appointed to the U. S. Military Academy at West Point, New York, in 1940. Successful in military school, he graduated in the first class of "Wings of Iron". Assigned to flight school at the Wright Field in Dayton, Ohio, he was later transferred to England, where he was shot down over Germany during his service. Although captured, he was held in a German POW camp until liberated in April 1945.

**RESTORATION
PROJECT**
Friends Of The Legion

423-837-5012

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REMODELING &
REPAIRS**

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COVER STAIN REMOVER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Marion Post No. 62

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: TENNESSEE, Marion

DATE RECEIVED: 10/07/16 DATE OF PENDING LIST:
DATE OF 16TH DAY: DATE OF 45TH DAY: 11/22/16
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 16000789

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: Y SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 11-22-2016 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Automatic listing due to delayed FR notice

Reviewed - okay

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept AHC

REVIEWER L. Gabbard DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N Y see attached SLR Y/N Y

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



TENNESSEE HISTORICAL COMMISSION
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE
2941 LEBANON PIKE
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37243-0442
OFFICE: (615) 532-1550
E-mail: Claudette.Stager@tn.gov
(615) 770-1089



October 4, 2016

J. Paul Loether
Deputy Keeper and Chief,
National Register and National Historic Landmarks Programs
National Register of Historic Places
1201 Eye Street NW, 8th Floor
Washington, DC 20005

National Register Nomination Marion Post No. 62, Marion County, Tennessee

The enclosed disks contain the true and correct nomination for listing of the *Marion Post No. 62* to the National Register of Historic Places. We received no comments on this nomination.

If you have any questions or if more information is needed, please contact Holly Barnett at (615) 770-1098 or Holly.M.Barnett@tn.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Claudette Stager".

Claudette Stager
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

CS:hb

Enclosures(3)