



1186

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Registration FormNATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name American Legion Hall
other names/site number Resource #/WH2016

2. Location

street & number Race Street ☐ not for publication N/A
city, town Searcy ☐ vicinity N/A
state Arkansas code AR county White code 145 zip code 72143

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

- ☐ private
☒ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property

- ☒ building(s)
☐ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	<u> </u> buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

Historic and Architectural Resources
of White County, Arkansas

Number of contributing resources previously
listed in the National Register N/A

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Cathryn A. Buford
Signature of certifying official

5-13-90
Date

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. 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:) _____

Patrick Andrews

9/13/91

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Social/ Meeting Hall

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Social/ Civic

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: WPA Architecture

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete

walls sandstone

roof asphalt

other concrete

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

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Description

Built in 1939 with funds from federal relief programs, the American Legion Community Hall #106 has a design, plan and construction method that is characteristic of other government-funded public buildings from the 1930's. The structure, which is now used as office space, is located on the courthouse square on Searcy's main thoroughfare. It is still in good condition and has undergone very little alteration since its construction fifty years ago.

The building is one story with an irregular floorplan, which includes an original projection on the rear (north) elevation. Its native stone construction, multi-paned windows and one-bay, central front porch with a flat, parapeted roof are all features that are distinctive to the Works Progress Administration, National Youth Administration and/or Civilian Conservation Corps structures built throughout the state during the Depression years.

The front (south) elevation of the building has a flat roof with a parapet, the rear (north) elevation is covered with a composition shingle gable roof, and the rear projection has a shed roof. Two native stone chimneys stand opposite each other on the east and west elevations. The original fenestration consists of nine-over-nine and six-over-six double-hung windows along all elevations. At the front entrance, a one-bay porch has a rounded-arch entry topped with a cast concrete nameplate, and a pair of multi-paned french doors allows access to the interior. The foundation is constructed of cast concrete.

Native stone is also used in the two fireplaces on either end of the main room in the building's interior. Their rounded-arch openings are topped with narrow cut stone shelves serving as mantels.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally

Applicable National Register Criteria ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1939

Significant Dates

1939

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Works Progress Administration

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

☒ See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

See "Historic and Architectural Resources of White County, Arkansas," Section H.

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 # _____

☐ See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- ☐ State historic preservation office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

map 19

Acreage of property _____

UTM References

A

Zone	Easting	Northing
------	---------	----------

B

Zone	Easting	Northing
------	---------	----------

C

Zone	Easting	Northing
------	---------	----------

D

Zone	Easting	Northing
------	---------	----------

☒ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description _____

☒ See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification _____

☒ See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Jill Bayles, Historian

organization Arkansas Historic Preservation Program date _____

street & number 225 E Markham, Suite 300 telephone 501-371-2763

city or town Little Rock state Arkansas zip code 72201

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**Section number 8 Page 1

Significance

Architecturally, the American Legion Building is significant because its design and construction method are reflective of the style consistently used by the period's government-funded programs - a style that influenced the appearance of other properties throughout the county's communities. As discussed in the associated property type for Depression Era Religious and Institutional Buildings, stylistic elements such as the rounded-arch entry porch with parapet roof, multi-paned windows and the use of native stone are characteristic of WPA, CCC, and NYA schools, community centers and other public buildings; yet this is the only surviving structure in White County that was built for the American Legion. Therefore, this building is locally significant under National Register Criterion C. Its period of significance is limited to one year due to its 1939 date of construction.

Historically, the building is also locally significant under Criterion A because of its associations with the county's federal relief programs and with the American Legion organization. The federal relief programs were a vital part of almost every community in the country throughout the Depression years, and Searcy's program was no exception. As discussed in Historic Context 3: Boom and Bust: The War and Depression Era, these programs put thousands of the unemployed to work while also making physical improvements to a community's landscape.

Searcy's American Legion, known as the Armstrong-Caldwell Post No. 106, was organized in January, 1920, one year after the national organization was formed in Paris, France. Thirty World War I veterans met for several years at the courthouse until their growing membership necessitated the construction of this Legion hut on the north side of the courthouse square. Few people in Searcy knew what the Legion stood for when it was first formed, so a publicity committee was appointed to give talks at schools and public gatherings and to write articles for the local newspapers. Throughout the years, this chapter played an active role in community affairs; for example, it sponsored local prize fights, the county's first annual Strawberry Festival, and a "Free Feed" celebration in the midst of the Depression.

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Acreage of property: Less than one

UTM References:

A 15/614810/3901410

Verbal Boundary Description:

Lot 18, Ten Acre Donation to the Town of Searcy.

Boundary Justification:

This boundary includes all the property historically associated with this resource.

AUG 1 1991

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National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
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White County MPS
ARKANSAS

Date Listed

COVER Substantive Review

9-12-91

91001350 Abington, William Thomas, House Substantive Review

7/11/92

91001322 Ackins House Substantive Review

7/11/92

91001186 American Legion Hall Substantive Review

9-13-91

91001253 Andrews, Col. Ralph, House

9-5-91

91001187 Arnold Farmstead Substantive Review

9-13-91

91001239 Baldock House

9-5-91

91001228 Bank of Searcy

9-5-91

91001251 Beebe Jail

9-13-91

91001265 Beebe Theater

9-5-91

91001201 Bell House

9-5-91

91001262 Berry House

9-5-91

91001192 Big Four School Substantive Review

7/10/92

91001176 Bloom House

9-5-91

91001363 Blunt House Livestock Barn Substantive Review

7/10/92

91001298 Boggs, James William, House

9-5-91

91001275 Bone, Luke, Grocery--Boarding House

9-13-91

91001202 Booth, Green, House

9-5-91

91001345 Booth--Weir House

9-5-91

91001217 Brooks House Substantive Review

7/10/92

91001268 Brown House Substantive Review

9-13-91

91001338 Brown, Joe, House and Farmstead Substantive Review

9-13-91

91001337 Burnett House Substantive Review

7/11/92

91001347 Caldwell House

9-5-91

91001280 Campbell--Chrisp House

9-5-91

91001293 Cary House Substantive Review

7/10/92

91001310 Chandler House Substantive Review

7/10/92

91001349 Childers Farmstead Substantive Review

7/11/92

91001301 Churchill--Hilger House

9-5-91

91001209 Cobb, Pattie, Hall

9-5-91

91001282 Cooley, Sam, Barn Substantive Review

7/11/92

91001229 Coward House Substantive Review

7/10/92

91001320 Cremane House Substantive Review

7/10/92

91001333 Critz, Col. John, Farm, Springhouse Substantive Review

7/10/92

91001259 Cross House Substantive Review

7/10/92

91001225 Cumberland Presbyterian Church Substantive Review

7/10/92

91001179 Cypert, Jesse N., Law Office Substantive Review

9-13-91

91001196 Doniphan Lumber Mill Historic District Substantive Review

7-10-92

91001264 Doss House Substantive Review

9-5-91

91001302 Doyle, David, House No. 2

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SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 91001186

Date Listed: 9/13/91

American Legion Hall
Property NameWhite
CountyARKANSAS
StateHistoric and Architectural Resources of White County
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Patrick Adams
Signature of the Keeper

9/24/91
Date of Action

=====

Section No. 6: This nomination is amended to show current function as Government/Other, since it is now being used as city offices.

Section No. 8: The nomination was also amended to show significance under Criterion A (Social History).

The amendments were confirmed by phone with the Arkansas SHPO (9/18/91).

DISTRIBUTION:

National Register property file
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY American Legion Hall
NAME:

MULTIPLE White County MPS
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: ARKANSAS, White

DATE RECEIVED: 8/01/91 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 8/15/91
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 8/31/91 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 9/15/91
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 91001186

NOMINATOR: STATE

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: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: Y NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT 9/13/91 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

This stone building is architecturally significant as an example of ~~new public construction~~ ~~adopting~~ among the stylistic details identified w/ Depression Era relief efforts. It is historically important for its association with these publicly funded programs + with the American Legion, which played an important role in the local community.

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept/A+C
REVIEWER Harper
DISCIPLINE Historian
DATE 9/13/91

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

CLASSIFICATION

___count ___resource type

STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

FUNCTION

___historic ___current

DESCRIPTION

___architectural classification
___materials
___descriptive text

SIGNIFICANCE

Period Areas of Significance--Check and justify below

Specific dates Builder/Architect
Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

___summary paragraph
___completeness
___clarity
___applicable criteria
___justification of areas checked
___relating significance to the resource
___context
___relationship of integrity to significance
___justification of exception
___other

BIBLIOGRAPHY

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

___acreage ___verbal boundary description
___UTMs ___boundary justification

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

___sketch maps ___USGS maps ___photographs ___presentation

OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

_____ Phone _____

Signed _____ Date _____



American Legion Community Hall #106

White

Searcy, Arkansas

Photograph by Joe DeRose

November, 1988

Negative on file at AHPP

South elevation



American Legion Community Hall #106
artuco

Searcy, Arkansas

Photograph by Joe DeRose

November, 1988

Negative on file at AHPP

Interior detail



American Legion Community Hall #106
Searcy, Arkansas

white

Photograph by Joe DeRose

November, 1988

Negative on file at AHPP

North elevation

Please refer to the map in the
Multiple Property Cover Sheet
for this property

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64500033