



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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 How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each section by entering the information requested. If an 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 Hall

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 24 Fourth St. not for publication

city or town McGill vicinity

state Nevada code NV county White Pine code 033 zip code 89313

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 nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)
Ronald M. Jones SHPO 10/28/94
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
State of 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 official/Title Date
State or Federal agency and bureau _____

4. National Park Service Certification

- I hereby certify that the 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 Signature of the Keeper Entered in the National Register 12.1.94 Date of Action

American Legion Hall
Name of Property

White Pine County, NV
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 in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	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)

DOMESTIC: institutional housing
SOCIAL: meeting hall

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL: meeting hall

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH C AND EARLY 20TH C AMERICAN
MOVEMENTS: Bungalow/Craftsman

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation WOOD
walls WOOD: weatherboard
roof ASPHALT: shingles
other BRICK

Narrative Description

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

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 of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL HISTORY

Period of Significance

ca. 1918-1944

Significant Dates

ca. 1918, 1925, 1932

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Nevada Consolidated Copper Company

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(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:

American Legion Hall
Name of Property

White Pine County, NV
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1 1	6 9 1 3 0 0	4 3 6 3 7 2 5
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2			

3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing
4			

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 James W. Hoggan; revised by Julie Nicoletta, Architectural Historian, NV SHPO

organization American Legion Post #29 date September 1994

street & number P.O. Box 1383 telephone (702) 235-7247

city or town McGill state NV zip code 89318

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 SHPO or FPO.)

name White Pine County

street & number 953 Campton St. telephone _____

city or town Ely state NV zip code 89301

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. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 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 Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

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**American Legion Hall
White Pine County, NV**

Description

The American Legion Hall is a 1-story building constructed by the Nevada Consolidated Copper Company about 1918. The building originally functioned as a lodging house for single women who worked as waitresses in the company's boarding house. The building stood at the north end of McGill in what was known as the Lower Townsite. However, in 1925, Nevada Consolidated Copper moved the structure to its current location--a narrow rectangular lot at the corner of Fourth Street and J Avenue in downtown McGill. At this location, the building functioned as a staff annex, housing single men who worked in various salaried jobs for the company. A small park with shade trees and picnic tables is located just west of the hall.

The entire balloon-frame building rests on wood bearing pads. Horizontal wood planks cover the crawl space below the structure. Shiplap wooden boards clad the exterior walls. A hipped roof, covered originally with wood shingles, and now with asphalt shingles tops the building. Exposed rafters with curved ends protrude under the gently flared eaves of the roof. A shed roof porch extends from the central part of the main facade. Square posts support this roof. A simple balustrade of crossed wood planks encloses the porch. Four steps lead up to the porch from the west end. This porch appears to have been added onto the building sometime after its construction date, perhaps shortly after the building was moved in 1925.

The main door is placed in the center of the south wall; it has four glazed upper panels, three lower panels, and a three-light transom. The east and west walls each have five six-over-six, double-hung windows with wood sashes. A single six-over-three, double-hung, wood sash window pierces the wall to the east of the front entrance. All windows are covered with screens in wood frames.

In 1932 Nevada Consolidated Copper gave the building to American Legion Post #29 to be used as a meeting hall. At this time the Legion gutted the interior of the building, leaving just the exterior shell. They installed long metal rods through the structure to keep the walls from twisting; these rods are still in place. The original floor plan had consisted of a long side hall running the length of the building with small bedrooms opening off of the hall. One large bathroom stood in the center of the building's west side. At one end the legionnaires built a kitchen and two bathrooms, one for men and one for women. They also created a

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**American Legion Hall
White Pine County, NV**

Description (continued)

card room/meeting room with a large stone fireplace. The rest of the interior was left open to function as the main meeting room.

In 1968 the legionnaires removed the wall between the men's restroom and the card room, creating a larger room with a bar in it. Other changes include the installation of composition board and batten siding over the hardwood wainscoting in the main meeting room and linoleum tile over the original wood floor. These alterations are minor and in no way detract from the historic integrity of the hall.

Statement of Significance

The American Legion Hall in McGill is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its role in the development of community life in the town. Initially constructed by the Nevada Consolidated Copper Company in 1918, the building was first used to house single female employees of the company. Since 1932 the building has functioned as the meeting hall for American Legion Post No. 29. With the exception of the International Order of Odd Fellows (I.O.O.F.) Hall, the American Legion Hall served as McGill's only community center open to the public.

Historical background and significance:

The history of McGill is closely connected to the development of mining in the eastern part of Nevada, now delineated by the boundaries of White Pine County. In 1868 miners organized the Robinson Mining District for the extraction of gold and silver. However, the production of ore fluctuated drastically, requiring inhabitants of the district to depend heavily on agricultural production for their livelihoods. By 1880 over thirty ranches occupied the Steptoe and Duck Creek Valleys.

Although miners knew about copper deposits in the district since the 1870s, the high cost of extraction, milling, reducing, and transporting the low grade ore made the production of copper economically unfeasible in the late nineteenth century. However, by 1904 the first successful commercial production of copper had been developed. Soon after, several copper

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**American Legion Hall
White Pine County, NV**

Statement of Significance (continued)

companies formed in White Pine County to work claims around Copper Flat. In 1906 these various companies formed into one entity called the Nevada Consolidated Copper Company.

In the same year, Nevada Consolidated Copper purchased William N. McGill's ranch as the site for its reduction plant. The ranch was located 22 miles from the mines at Copper Flat. McGill worked as the Deputy U.S. Surveyor and completed the first legal land survey of downtown Ely. He also helped establish the largest cattle ranching company in the area. McGill's ranch was large enough for Nevada Consolidated Copper to construct numerous mining buildings, including a mill and smelter. The company also erected temporary warehouses, barracks, and mess halls for the work crews. Shortly after that, it moved its office force from Copper Flat to the ranch. By the end of 1906 the site had nearly 300 employees.

In the early part of the following year the company built additional structures to house engineers, draftsmen, and additional office staff. After the establishment of an official post office at the ranch, the site became known as McGill. Nevada Consolidated Copper erected its first permanent houses for its high-level employees in mid-1907. This cluster of buildings included a general office and other administrative buildings and was called "The Circle." Later that year the Upper Townsite was built. Salaried employees and their families lived in the fifty concrete block houses along A Row and B Row. Laborers lived beyond B Row in sparse wooden shacks. By 1909 the company had completed construction of its industrial complex and had established a commercial district. The residential areas known as the Lower Townsite, where workers' dormitories and mess halls stood, had also been built. Finally, the company had established separate ethnic communities for Greek, Japanese, and Austrian (including Serb, Croatian, and Slav) workers.

The building that is now the American Legion Hall was constructed around 1918 at the peak of Nevada Consolidated Copper's first boom. The building stood at the north end of McGill in the Lower Townsite. It first housed single women who worked as waitresses in the company boarding house. The lodgings were simple, but clean. Segregated housing for single male and female workers was de rigueur during the years when Nevada Consolidated Copper owned McGill. By 1918 McGill was a prosperous town thanks to Nevada Consolidated Copper. But the company held a tight grip over the community. It demanded

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**American Legion Hall
White Pine County, NV**

Statement of Significance (continued)

segregation of ethnic groups within the town. It had also initially refused to allow private stores on its property; but with the growth of the residential population, it finally agreed to lease land to some individuals who built stores.

Despite early economic success, Nevada Consolidated Copper and McGill suffered from the severe economic depression affecting the entire country after the end of World War I. Parts of the company closed until Nevada Consolidated Copper had a resurgence of prosperity in the late 1920s. In 1925 Nevada Consolidated Copper moved the women's dormitory to its present location at the corner of Fourth Street and J Avenue in downtown McGill. At this location, the building functioned as a staff annex, housing single men who worked on various salaried jobs on the company staff. Unfortunately, the company's new boom was short-lived. When the Great Depression of the 1930s hit, the company closed again. In 1932 the company gave the building to American Legion Post #29, which had formed in 1931, to be used as a meeting hall in recognition for the service of local veterans during World War I.

In the following year, the Kennecott Copper Corporation bought the Nevada Consolidated Copper Company. Kennecott made changes to improve efficiency and increase production, thereby keeping part of the labor force working during the 1930s. World War II increased demand for copper. After the war, labor disputes and inflation forced Kennecott to sell off some of its property including its dairy, commissary, and other stores. In 1955 company ownership of residential property ended when Kennecott sold all townsite house lots to a private firm, which then sold them individually to their occupants, other company employees, or the public. About this same time, Kennecott donated the parcel of land on which the American Legion Hall stood, as well as the vacant parcel next to it to American Legion Post #29.

Since 1932 the American Legion Hall in McGill has served as one of only two community centers open to the general population of the town. It filled a void where other facilities served specific groups, such as the McGill Community Church (now the McGill Methodist Church) and the Church of Latter Day Saints. In addition to meetings for the American Legion and its Ladies Auxiliary (formed in 1934), the hall housed social, educational, and civic events. The American Legion sponsored many organizations in the community, including two Boy Scout troops and the Red Cross, which taught first aid classes in the hall

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**American Legion Hall
White Pine County, NV****Statement of Significance (continued)**

and held its blood drives there. Organizations and private individuals could use the hall for parties, weddings, and dances. In addition the McGill Town Council held their meetings there for a number of years. The hall also served as the polling place for McGill Precinct #2. When the American Legion received the parcels of land at the corner of Fourth Street and J Avenue from Kennecott in the 1950s, its Ladies Auxiliary made the vacant lot next to the meeting hall into a public park. Called Copper Park, the site still serves the McGill community today.

The American Legion Hall is significant as the embodiment of civic spirit in McGill. Its construction as a mining company building and its transfer into the hands of the American Legion parallels the changes that occurred in McGill in the first half of the twentieth century. The hall was built by the mining company, as was the entire town. As the fortunes of, first, the Nevada Consolidated Copper Company and, then, the Kennecott Copper Corporation faded, the town itself gradually took control of its structures and created its own civic life. The hall, in the hands of the American Legion, became a place for a variety of activities, serving the community of McGill for decades. For these reasons, the American Legion Hall is a significant part of the social history of McGill.

Bibliography

- Cottrell, Dale, Ethel-Ann Gust, Howard Friskey, Norman Linnell, Harry Londos, Grace Parry, and Melvin Salmon. Personal communications with James W. Hoggan. July 1994.
- Price, Barry A. An Architectural and Historical Survey of Downtown McGill, White Pine County, Nevada. Historic Report. 1985.
- Rajala, Karen. Letter to Julie Nicoletta. August 30, 1994.

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**American Legion Hall
White Pine County, NV**

Verbal Boundary Description

The legal parcel number is 4-055-01.

Boundary Justification

The nominated property includes the entire parcel historically associated with the meeting hall.