

NR listed 10/08/92

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

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1. Name of Property

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historic name: American Legion Post #127 Building

other name/site number: N/A CH0161

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2. Location

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street & number: Northeast corner of Cherry and Armstrong Streets

not for publication: N/A

city/town: Eudora

vicinity: N/A

state: AR county: Chicot code: AR 017 zip code: 71640

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3. Classification

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Ownership of Property: Private

Category of Property: Building

Number of Resources within Property:

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

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

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

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4. State/Federal Agency Certification
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As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets _____ does not meet the National Register Criteria. _____ See continuation sheet.

Cathryn A. Boyd
Signature of certifying official

9-1-92
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
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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): _____

Signature of Keeper

Date
of Action

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6. Function or Use
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Historic: SOCIAL

Sub: Meeting hall

Current: SOCIAL

Sub: Clubhouse

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7. Description

=====

Architectural Classification:

Other _____

Other Description: Rustic _____

Materials: foundation Concrete roof Asphalt
walls WOOD/Log other N/A

Describe present and historic physical appearance. X See continuation sheet.

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8. Statement of Significance

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

Applicable National Register Criteria: C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): N/A

Areas of Significance: ARCHITECTURE

Period(s) of Significance: 1934 _____

Significant Dates: 1934 _____

Significant Person(s): N/A

Cultural Affiliation. N/A _____

Architect/Builder: Works Progress Administration

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.
X See continuation sheet.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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X See continuation sheet.

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 -- Specify Repository: _____

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10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of Property: Less than one

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

A	<u>15</u>	<u>662000</u>	<u>3664660</u>	B	_____	_____
C	_____	_____	_____	D	_____	_____

___ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: ___ See continuation sheet.

Lots 176 and 178 of the W. G. Wylie's Addition to the Town of Eudora, Arkansas.

Boundary Justification: ___ See continuation sheet.

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

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11. Form Prepared By

=====

Name/Title: Kenneth Story, Architectural Historian

Organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program Date: August 31, 1992

Street & Number: 225 E. Markham, Suite 300 Telephone: (501) 324-9346

City or Town: Little Rock State: AR ZIP: 72201

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Summary

The American Legion Post #127 Building, constructed in 1934 and located at the northeast corner of Cherry and Armstrong Streets in Eudora, is a single-story, vertical wood log institutional structure designed in the Rustic style that was popular throughout the state for buildings constructed by the Works Progress Administration (WPA). Its plan is "T"-shaped, with the principal gable roof section running north-south and the "T" extending from near the center of the eastern elevation.

Elaboration

The American Legion Post #127 Building is a single-story, vertical wood log institutional structure designed in the Rustic style that was popular throughout the state for buildings constructed by the Works Progress Administration (WPA). Its plan is "T"-shaped, with the principal gable roof section running north-south and the "T" extending from near the center of the eastern elevation. A total of three chimneys vent the interior: two exterior stone chimneys on each of the eastern and western elevations, and a single brick chimney that rises from the northern slope of the eastern projecting gable. The asphalt shingle roof and wood log walls rest upon a continuous, cast concrete foundation.

The southern or front elevation consists of the projecting gable end of the building's main gable section and the side gable of the eastern, projecting gable end. The end gable section features a central, double-leaf entrance placed directly beneath a gable roof porch that is supported by two log posts. The stuccoed pediment above is relieved by three louvered vents, and the wall to either side of the entrance porch is fenestrated by two pair of three-over-one wood sash windows. The side gable wall to the east is lit by a single three-over-one wood sash window and accessed via a single-leaf door. The northern elevation opposite consists of a single window in the shed roof section to the east and a taller window in the center of the gable end to the west.

The eastern elevation is composed of the side gable wall to either side of the projecting gable roof. The wall to the south of the gable is blank with the sole exception of the pair of three-over-one wood sash windows in the wall near the projecting gable. The gable end itself is fenestrated with three pair of lower, almost square three-over-one wood sash windows placed around the sloping, stone masonry chimney. The pediment above is stuccoed. The wall to the north is accessed via a single-leaf entrance in the shed roof section and a blank wall to the north. The western elevation is one long, continuous wall plane that is fenestrated by three pair of

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three-over-one wood sash windows, a single three-pane door to the north and a central stone masonry chimney with sloping shoulders.

The significant exterior details are largely limited to the texture provided by the vertical logs and the exposed rafters that lend rhythm to the cornice along the sides of the gable portions of the roof.

The interior is largely intact, and features beaded board ceilings and walls that lead to a stage area at the northern end and a separate function room to the east. Two large stone masonry fireboxes ornament the interior. The floors are wood strip flooring.

There have been few alterations of any note. Virtually all of the interior and exterior is intact.

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Summary

Criterion C, local significance

The American Legion Post #127 Building in Eudora is eligible under Criterion C as the best example locally of a building designed in the Rustic style of architecture. Its vertical exposed logs, low spreading gable roofline and almost total reliance upon exposed exterior structure to comprise its detail are all features that are characteristic of this style.

Elaboration

The town of Eudora is located in the extreme southeast corner of the state, roughly eight miles north of the Louisiana state line and four miles west of the Mississippi river. Situated near the north head of the Bayou Macon Hills, a natural ridge some twenty-five feet higher than the Mississippi river bottoms to the east and the Boueff river bottoms on the west, Eudora has escaped the destructive floods which have plagued the delta.

Prior to the Civil War, the area around Eudora was sparsely settled despite being protected from flooding. In 1851, a man named E. C. James purchased over 700 acres of land where the town of Eudora is now located. He named his land holdings the Eudora Plantation after the middle name of his infant daughter, Frances Eudora James. In 1856, the United States government established a post office, called Eudora, in the vicinity. Postal service was discontinued in 1867 and was not until 1888 when service was renewed under the name of Carmel.

Although the Civil War retarded development of the area, the land was basically untouched by the ravages of war. The cessation of hostilities did nothing to spur growth, in fact, the area remained sparsely settled until the beginning of the twentieth century. Elbert Thomas Cashion, in his *History of Eudora*, reveals that in 1895 the only residences in Eudora were that of the Scott, Gilmore, Stephenson, and Hawkins families in addition to "some negro cabins scattered up and down the ridge facing the Mississippi river bottoms." A year later some activity began when W. H. Stephenson erected a frame store building "down under the hill" along the old county road to Lake Village. This prompted Doctors Scott and Anderson to build offices along the same road. The post office was soon located there as well.

In 1901, the Iron Mountain Railroad came through Eudora and ran parallel to the east of the county road to Lake Village. At the arrival of the railroad, Dr. Scott began mapping and surveying the community to file for incorporation. The county road to Lake Village became Main Street. The town was filed under the name of "Carmel Townsite" after the name of the

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post office. Confusion began when the railroad called their station "Eudora" after Eudora Plantation. The Federal Government then changed the name of the post office to Eudora. Dr. Scott was eventually able to change the name on the land records from Carmel Townsite to Eudora after spending eighteen months overcoming legal technicalities.

American Legion Post #127 (also known as the Wilson Burnett American Legion Post #127) was first chartered on April 9, 1920, though this structure was not erected until 1934, when it was constructed by the Works Progress Administration. The onset of the Great Depression in 1929 and the subsequent advent of such federal public works programs as the Works Progress Administration (WPA) first brought such public buildings as schools, community halls and American Legion posts to the Eudora area in 1934. The WPA -- an organization that hired unemployed adult men and women to work on a variety of public projects throughout the nation -- was established by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt and his administration as part of the federal response to the dire economic circumstances brought upon the American people by the Great Depression. The WPA was but one of many such public works organizations instituted by the Roosevelt Administration and managed under the aegis of the umbrella agency in charge of all such public works efforts, the Federal Emergency Relief Administration (FERA); others included the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), the short-lived Public Works and Civilian Works Administrations (PWA and CWA), and such regional projects as the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) and the Rural Colonization Projects in Arkansas established at such places as Dyess, Clover Bend and Plum Bayou. Among its various other projects, the WPA constructed or repaired a number of rural school buildings throughout the state, and American Legion Post #127 was erected as part of this statewide effort.

The American Legion Post #127 Building in Eudora is eligible under Criterion C as the best example locally of a building designed in the Rustic style of architecture. Its vertical exposed logs, low spreading gable roofline and almost total reliance upon exposed exterior structure to comprise its detail are all features that are characteristic of this style.

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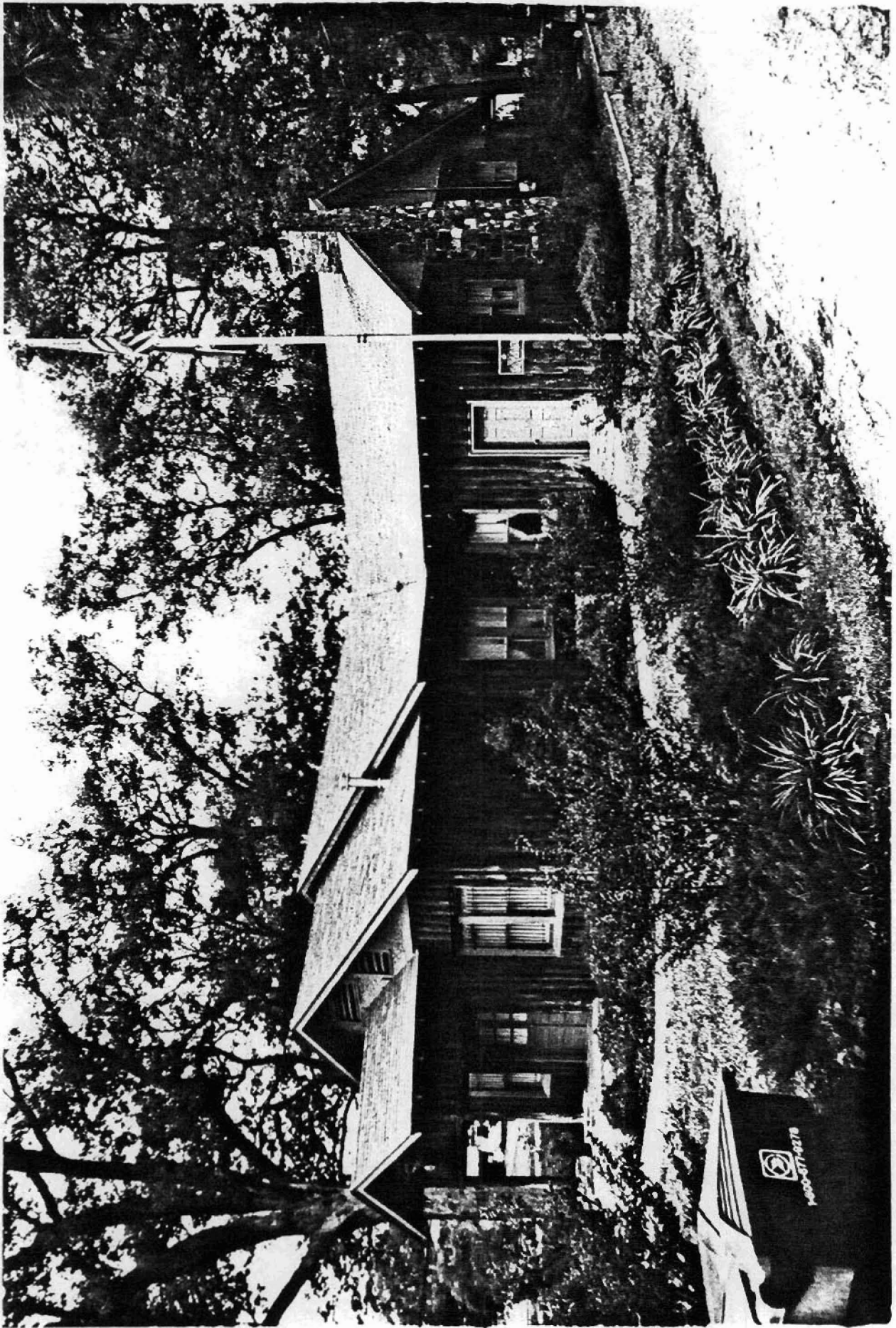
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Bibliography

Cashion, Elbert Thomas, *A History of Eudora, Arkansas, Chicot County, Lake Village, Arkansas*: James Printing Company, 1977.

Interview with Ed Walters; September 11, 1991.





1400-071-4278

