

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 of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 18). 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 Nashville American Legion Building
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number State Road 27 not for publication N/A
city, town Nashville vicinity N/A
state Arkansas code AR county Howard code AR 061 zip code 71852

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	_____ buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	_____	_____ objects
		<u>1</u>	_____ Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A
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.

Catherine A. Boyd 8-13-90
Signature of certifying official 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): _____

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/Meeting Hall

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Other: Rubble

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone

walls Stone

roof Asphalt

other _____

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

8. Statement of Significance

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

nationally statewide locally

licable National Register Criteria A B C D

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

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Period of Significance

Significant Dates

Architecture

1933-34

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

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

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (38 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: _____

0. Geographical Data

creage of property less than one

UTM References

A 15 421410 3754930
Zone Easting Northing

B _____
Zone Easting Northing

C _____

D _____

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

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

See continuation sheet

1. Form Prepared By

name/title Kenneth Story, Architectural Historian
organization Arkansas Historic Preservation Program date July 31, 1990
street & number 225 E. Markham Street, Suite 200 telephone (501) 371-2763
city or town Little Rock state Arkansas zip code 72201

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Continuation Sheet

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Summary

The Nashville American Legion Building is a single story, stone masonry institutional building designed in a low, rubble vernacular style with Craftsman influences. It features a rectangular plan with a small, later shed attached to the rear.

Elaboration

The Nashville American Legion Building is a single story, stone masonry institutional building designed in a low, rubble vernacular style with Craftsman influences. It features a rectangular plan with a small, later shed attached to the rear and two exterior side chimneys placed opposite each other on the eastern and western elevations. The continuous stone foundation supports the stone walls and the gable roof is covered with composition shingles.

The northern or front elevation is divided by the double-leaf entry and the low, concrete staircase that provides access to it. The Craftsman entry doors are each lighted with three vertical panes and the screen doors are similarly designed. The facade is divided into three bays by the four stone buttresses that project from the wall. The two bays flanking the entrance are each lighted by a single six-over-six wood sash window. The box cornice above is ornamented only by five decorative exposed "purlins" that match the exposed rafters on the side elevations.

The eastern and western elevations are identical, as each is lighted with two six-over-six wood sash windows to the north of the exterior chimney and three more to the south. The stone chimney projects above the roofline and the eaves are decorated with painted, exposed rafters.

The southern elevation is divided equally by a central, single-leaf entry that is accessed by a set of low, concrete stairs. The shed roof addition projects from the wall to the west and a single, six-over-six wood sash window lights the wall to the east.

The unique stone building material and how it is used to ornament the walls constitute the most significant exterior detail on the building. Locally known as "natural aggregate," the stone used in the walls and chimney is actually a sedimentary stone called conglomerate that is made up of small gravel stones held together by a natural binder. Its use here creates an unusual, rubble appearance to the entire outside of the structure. The stone is also formed into spreading buttresses which project from the sides and corners of the building, giving it an even greater earthbound aspect. The rough texture of the stone and the buttresses combine to create the impression that the building is growing out of the ground and is naturally part of the site.

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The interior is simply appointed and rather plain, as was common for such buildings built during the 1930's. It retains its original wood strip flooring, however, and most of its original partitions which separated the main auditorium space from the kitchen, store room and rest room.

The Nashville American Legion Building has suffered only the later shed addition on the rear and the removal of one partition at the front of the auditorium area; it is otherwise intact.

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Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 1**Summary**

Criteria C, local significance

The Nashville American Legion Building is significant for its unusual stone construction and its use of local conglomerate stone to create a rough, organic effect reminiscent of the Rustic style architecture being constructed contemporaneously by the Civilian Conservation Corps. However, this indigenous, local material was not widely used in spite of its availability; this building remains the only example of this type of construction in Nashville.

Elaboration

The American Legion was founded in France during the relatively quiet and uneventful days that followed the signing of the armistice that ended World War I. American enlisted men from all three of the principal branches of the service then in existence -- the Army, Navy and Marine Corps -- were billeted in various locations for the purpose of maintaining a military presence while the negotiators worked out the details of the treaty that would outline the political future of much of Europe for the next decade. These servicemen found life during the occupation uneventful and boring, and this only compounded the frustration felt by many at not being allowed to return to home to family and friends. A small group of officers -- and especially Lieutenant Colonel Theodore Roosevelt, Jr. and Lieutenant Colonel George A. White -- met to discuss the possibility of establishing a veterans' organization which would include all branches of the military and which would serve the immediate purpose of providing an outlet for some of the energy and frustration felt by the occupation forces but which would also set as its larger goal the establishment of a nationwide veteran's organization that would provide its members with both a social organization and a vehicle for voicing their collective concerns about such issues as national defense, subversive activity, radical thought, domestic social programs and veterans' affairs. Successive meetings over the course of the next several months in both Europe and America further defined the Legion's mandate and purpose. However, it was the shooting of four Legionnaires during an Armistice Day parade in the lumber town of Centralia, Washington in 1919 by socialist IWW organizers and the subsequent coverage of the trial that followed -- in which the Legionnaires were portrayed as the aggressors -- that both galvanized and tempered the Legionnaire spirit. Both the public and the Legion press recognized the dangers of extremism by any party while admitting the need for responsible vigilance against any activity that threatened the democratic form of government. The American Legion began to grow steadily thereafter through an organization that elected officers on the national, state and local levels and provided a voice for its members regarding a variety of national concerns.

During the Depression the American Legion distinguished itself in particular through the expansion of local programs targeted at youth. Of particular note were the founding of American Legion Junior Baseball, the American Legion Oratorical Contest and Boys' State.

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It was during this period that the Nashville American Legion Building was constructed. Though it was a public works project -- it was constructed by the Civil Works Administration -- and though in overall form it resembled many of the masonry buildings being constructed contemporaneously in Arkansas by the Civilian Conservation Corps, it was unusual by virtue of the local stone used. The product is a material called conglomerate that because of its composite nature lends itself to construction, as it breaks easily into modules of whatever size chosen by the mason; yet, for reasons unknown, it is not commonly used in southwest Arkansas. It is particularly well-handled in this design, as it lends a rubbed appearance to the walls that is lively in texture, but its visual effect is even greater in the massive, spreading buttresses that divide the walls into bays and project from the corners. Overall, the structure appears to rise from the soil as if it were a natural outcropping that had been shaped into a structure. As such it partakes of the same design ethic that informed the designs of the CCC but employs a material indigenous to southwest Arkansas and not found in any other known public works project of the period. It is certainly the best example of this style in Nashville.

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Bibliography

Moley, Raymond, Jr., *The American Legion Story*, (New York, 1966), pp. 41-225.

Nashville News, Nashville, Arkansas, 12/19/1933.

_____, 5/8/1934.

_____, 5/15/1934.

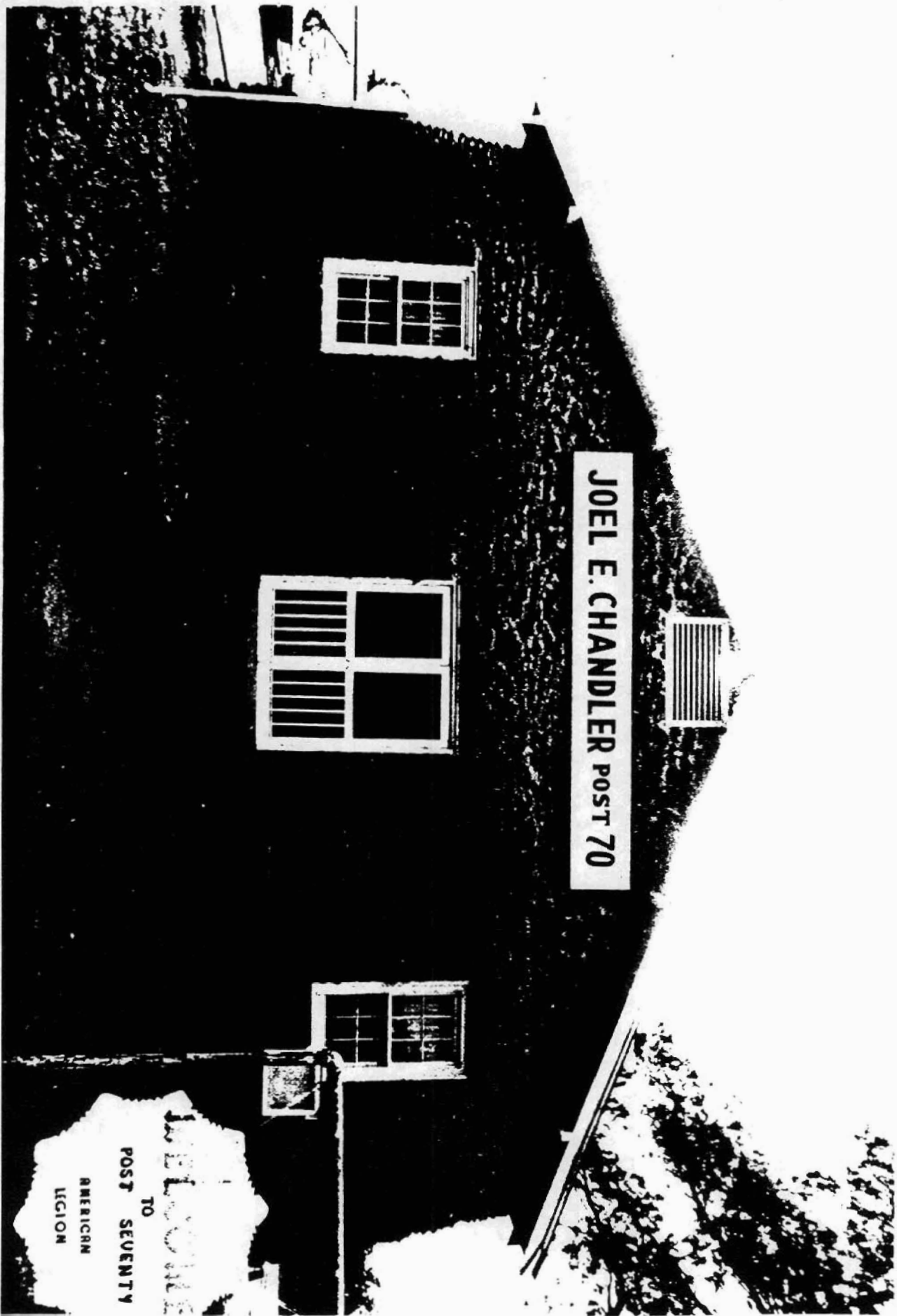
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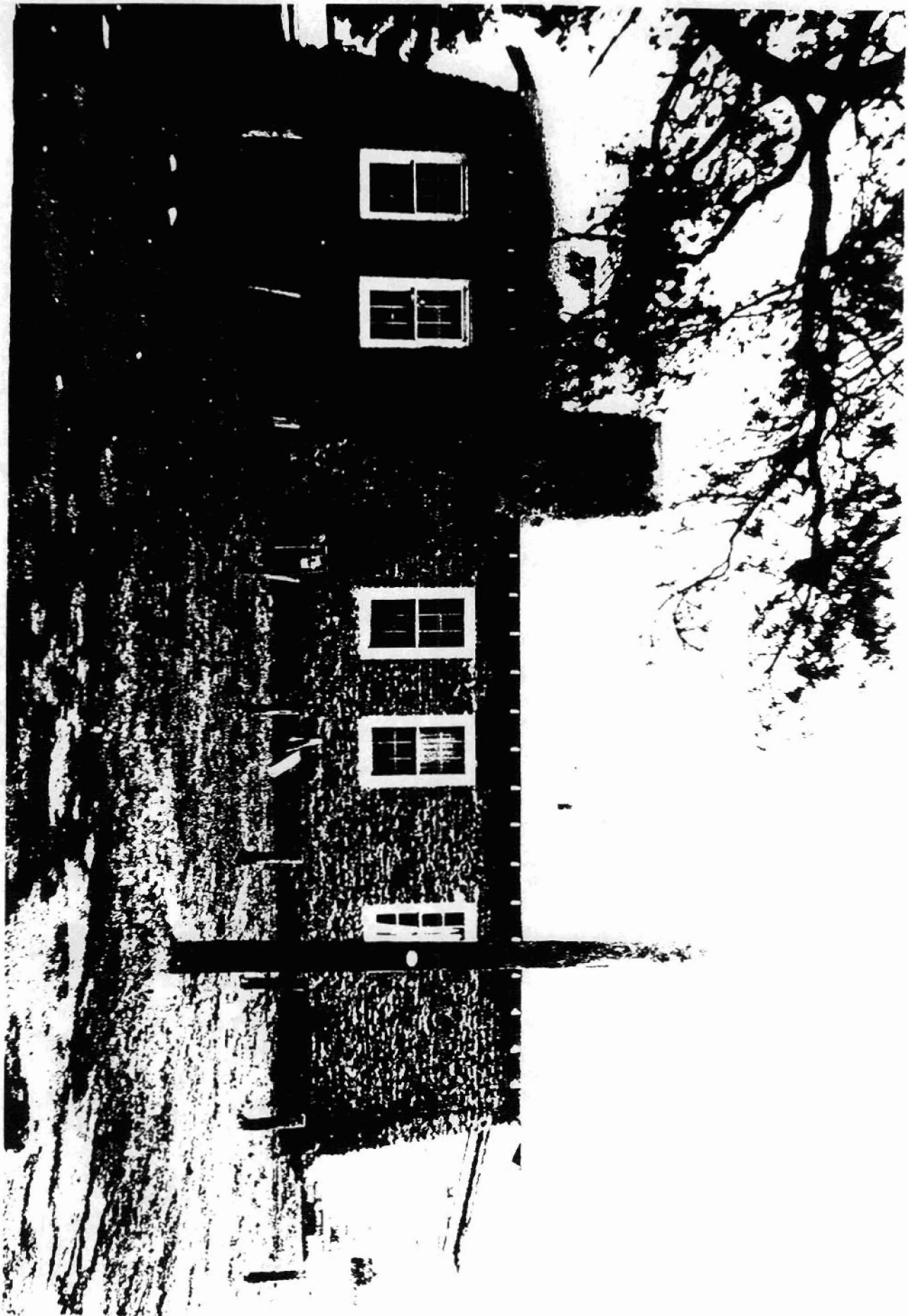
Verbal Boundary Description

Beginning at the point formed by the intersection of the southern edge of State Road 27 with a perpendicular line running along the western elevation of the building, proceed southerly along said line to its intersection with a perpendicular line running along the building's southern elevation; thence proceed easterly along said line to its intersection with a perpendicular line running along the building's eastern elevation; thence proceed northerly along said line to its intersection with the southern edge of State Road 27; thence proceed westerly along said edge to the point of beginning.



JOEL E. CHANDLER POST 70

WELCOME
TO
POST SEVENTY
AMERICAN
LEGION











Nashville American Legion Building
Nashville, Arkansas
Howard County
1573410/3754930
Nashville Quadrangle
1:25,000

(HNS 329)

(HNS 329)

