

NR LISTED

JUN 20 1995

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

AHPP

1. Name of Property

Historic Name: American Legion Post # 121

Other Name/Site Number: LO 0089

2. Location

Street & Number: Legion Hut Road, Off State Hwy. 107

Not for Publication: N/A

City/Town: Paris

Vicinity: X

State: AR

County: Logan

Code: AR 083

Zip Code: 72855

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: Private

Category of Property: Building

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u> </u>	buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	objects
<u>2</u>	<u>1</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. Slater _____ 5-8-95
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

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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: Meeting Hall

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7. Description

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Architectural Classification:

Other: WPA Rustic

Materials: foundation Stone roof Asphalt
walls Log other Concrete

Describe present and historic physical appearance:

Summary

Located south of Paris off of Arkansas Highway 107 South, the American Legion Post # 121 is an L-shaped, single-story community hall constructed of saddle-notched logs resting upon a continuous stone foundation and covered by a composition-shingled gable roof. Also contributing to the nomination is a stone retaining wall constructed along the base of Pine Ridge Mountain.

Elaboration

Located south of Paris off of Arkansas Highway 107 South, the American Legion Post # 121 was erected in 1934 as a single-story community hall. Constructed of saddle-notched logs resting upon a continuous stone foundation, the irregular, though basically L-shaped building is covered by a composition-shingled, exposed-rafter, gable roof. The logs are painted brown and chinked with white cement mortar.

The front, or northeastern, elevation would be symmetrical in composition but for a non-fenestrated portion of the wall at the northern end that is inset from the remainder of the elevation. This section contains a centered projecting gable porch with a central double-leaf entrance underneath and two flanking wood-frame, six-over-six double-hung windows. The gable end of the porch is also constructed of logs and rests ungainly upon thin wood posts atop fieldstone piers, one of which is inscribed with "American Legion Post 121" and contains a list of officers at the time of construction.

The southeastern elevation is not fenestrated but features a superb cut-stone chimney in the center of the gable end (along with matching attic vents to

either side of the chimney). The rear, or southwestern, elevation contains a pair of small windows in the center of the gable end of the ell, but is not otherwise fenestrated. To provide more space and in order to span the length of the building on this elevation, projecting log bays are utilized on both the north side of the rear ell and the western side of the longer main section. The northwestern elevation is likewise non-fenestrated and contains only a solitary attic vent.

The simple interior has been altered by the addition of a dropped acoustical tile ceiling and simulated wood siding over a portion of one wall, yet still retains its essential integrity.

When originally constructed, the American Legion Post # 121 was part of a three-and-a-half acre, WPA-constructed park replete with Boy Scout and Girl Scout cabins, rock walls, and a stone stepped path leading to the pinnacle of Pine Ridge Mountain. Today, the Boy and Girl Scout cabins are gone, and only portions of the stone retaining walls remain. A modern concrete retaining wall has been built behind the building and is considered noncontributing. Additionally, a modern residence has been constructed to the north of the American Legion Post Building, but is excluded from the boundaries of this nomination.

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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: Local.

Applicable National Register Criteria: A, C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): N/A

Areas of Significance: Social History
Architecture

Period(s) of Significance: 1934

Significant Dates: N/A

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:

Summary

The American Legion Post # 121 is locally significant under Criterion A for its association with the documented work relief activities of the Works Progress Administration in Logan County during the 1930's and the ensuing recreational aspect afforded to the county residents by its construction. Under Criterion C, the building is important as the best example in Paris and the surrounding vicinity of the style commonly known as "WPA Rustic."

Elaboration

American Legion Post # 121 was constructed in 1934 as a Works Progress Administration project. According to *A Review of Work Relief Activities in Arkansas, April 1st 1934 to July 1st, 1935*, this structure, referred to as a "community hall," was part of Projects 42-B15-2 and 42-B3-4 that operated from April 26th to October 13, 1934, utilizing 43 workers and entailing 9,122 man hours of work.

The report stated that approximately seven acres of land were acquired, "of which about three and one-half acres lie at the foot of a cliff on the south shore of the main branch of Hurricane Creek, about one-half mile below the water supply reservoir dam for the town of Paris." This area was also referred to as Coppeas Springs.

In addition to the community hall/American Legion Post Building, the WPA constructed a recreational park with Boy and Girl Scout cabins, stone walls, and a stone stepped path "from the base to the top of the cliff," which is also known as Pine Ridge Mountain. The pinnacle provided a splendid view for a 75 mile radius of the surrounding countryside.

On May 30, 1934, the opening of the new American Legion Post/community hall was celebrated with an all-day picnic, barbecue, games, and dancing. The immediate impact of the new facility and park was noted in the WPA report :

The value of this project is much greater than may appear on the immediate surface. Paris is the theoretical center of the mining area of Arkansas and the center for the concentration of mines and mining families within a radius of many miles. The agricultural activities in the county are of prominent nature only in the deep valley areas and activities indulged other than in this area are on marginal and sub-marginal lands. In consequence, the people in the country are, as a whole, classed as "poor" and prior to the construction of this park and community building, there was no place in the county in which assemblies of a public nature for amusement or entertainment might be had with the exception of a wholly inadequate courthouse and a still more inadequate moving picture theatre. It is true that there were several public dancing pavilions but none of them were of such type and character as to be conducive of the indulgence of community activities which would or might be made of general interest to the people as a whole.

The report concluded that "[w]ith the completion of these projects, a marked increase of social communication has been had and the facilities provided are

being used in a very satisfactory and highly appreciated manner."

The American Legion Post # 121 is being nominated under Criterion A and C with local significance. Under Criterion A, the building is important for its association with the documented work relief activities of the WPA in Logan County and the ensuing recreational aspect afforded to the county residents by its construction. Under Criterion C, the American Legion Post is significant as the best surviving example in the Paris vicinity of the simple and organic style sometimes known as "Rustic" or, depending on the builder, "WPA Rustic."

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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A Review of Work Relief Activities In Arkansas, April 1st, 1934 to July 1st, 1935. Little Rock: Parke-Harper Co., 1935.

Information submitted by Barbara Bowden, July 1994, from the following sources:

"American Legion Hut To Be Completed Soon." *Paris Express.* March 15, 1934.

"Legion is Short of Quota." *Paris Express.* March 22, 1934.

Paris Express. April 12, 1934; May 10, 1934; May 24, 1934.

Personal interviews with Eval Rice, John Savada, Denver Merritt, former commanders of American Legion Post # 121.

Logan County Historical Society. *Logan County Arkansas: Its History and Its People.* _____: Taylor, Publishing Co., 1987.

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: _____

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>433240</u>	<u>3903680</u>	B	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>
	C	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	D	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>

Verbal Boundary Description:

Beginning at a point created by the intersection of a line formed by, yet fifty feet from, the front, or northeastern, elevation of the building and a line formed by, yet fifty feet from, the northwestern elevation, proceed southwesterly along said line to its intersection with a line formed by, yet fifty feet from the rear, or southwestern, elevation; thence proceed southeasterly along said line to its intersection with a line formed by, yet fifty feet from, the southeastern elevation of the building; thence proceed northeasterly along said line to its intersection with said front elevation line; thence proceed northwesterly along line to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification:

This boundary includes the American Legion Post # 121 building, the remaining portion of the historic stone retaining wall, and the noncontributing modern concrete retaining wall. This boundary does not include the modern residence to the north of the legion post building.

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11. Form Prepared By

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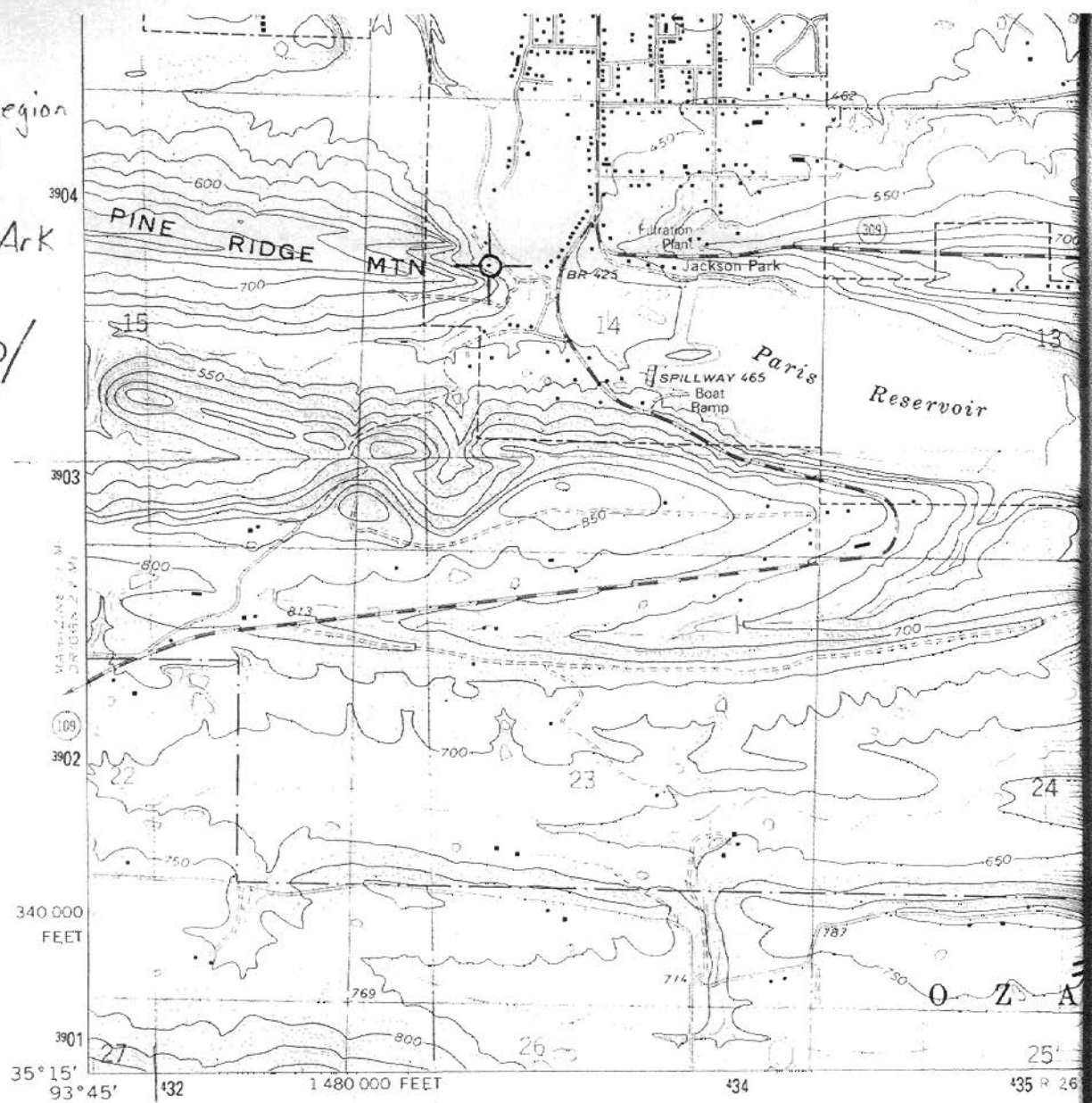
Name/Title: Patrick Zollner, Architectural Historian

Organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program Date: May 8, 1995

Street & Number: 1500 Tower Bldg., 323 Center St. Telephone: (501) 324-9880

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

American Legion
 Post # 121
 Paris, Ark
 Logan Co., Ark
 UTM:
 15/433240/
 3903680



(MAGAZINE)
 7254 III, NE

Produced by the United States Geological Survey
 in cooperation with State of Arkansas agencies
 Control by USGS and NOS/NOAA
 Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs
 taken 1958. Field checked 1961. Revised from aerial photographs
 taken 1989-90. Field checked 1992. Map edited 1993
 Projection and 10,000-foot grid ticks: Arkansas coordinate
 system, north zone (Lambert conformal conic)
 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 15, shown in blue
 1927 North American Datum (NAD 27)
 North American Datum of 1983 (NAD 83) is shown by dashed corner ticks
 The values of the shift between NAD 27 and NAD 83 for 7.5-minute
 intersections are given in USGS Bulletin 1875
 There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of
 the National or State reservations shown on this map
 Red tint indicates area in which only landmark buildings are shown
 Unlabeled wells are gas wells
 Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where
 generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked

