

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NRListed: 1-08-03

# 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 item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or 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 Willie Lamb Post No.26 American Legion Hut

other names/site number Lepanto American Legion Hut

### 2. Location

street & number 205 Alexander Street

not for publication

city or town Lepanto

vicinity

state Arkansas code AR county Poinsett code 111 zip code 72354

### 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 for 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.)

Catherine Matthews 11/20/02  
Signature of certifying official/Title 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 for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying 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): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Willie Lamb Post No.26 American Legion Hut  
Name of Property

Poinsett County, Arkansas  
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 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**

N/A

**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)

Classical Revival

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK

walls BRICK

WOOD: Weatherboard

roof ASPHALT

other

**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** birthplace or grave of a historical figure of outstanding importance.
- 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.

**Levels of Significance** (local, state, national)

Local

**Areas of Significance** (Enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL HISTORY

**Period of Significance**

1937-1952

**Significant Dates**

1937

1938

**Significant Person** (Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation** (Complete if Criterion D is marked)

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Unknown

**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: \_\_\_\_\_

Willie Lamb Post No. 26 American Legion Hut  
Name of Property

Poinsett County, Arkansas  
County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

Acres of Property One acre.

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>15</u>	<u>741736</u>	<u>3944025</u>	3	<u></u>	<u></u>	<u></u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u></u>	<u></u>	<u></u>	4	<u></u>	<u></u>	<u></u>

See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Lots Three (3), and Four (4) in Block Two (2) of the Original Survey of the Town of Lepanto, Arkansas.

**Boundary Justification**

The boundary includes all resources historically associated with the building.

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Zac Cothren  
organization Arkansas Historic Preservation Program Date 10/09/2002  
street & number 1500 Tower Building 323 Center St. Telephone (501) 324-9789  
city or town Little Rock state AR zip code 72201

**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   
street & number  telephone   
city or town  state  zip code

**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 listing. 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 20303.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

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### SUMMARY

The Willie Lamb Post 26 American Legion Hut is a brick masonry building located one block west of the commercial area in the small town of Lepanto in Poinsett County. The building sits atop a continuous brick foundation and is sheltered by a composition shingle covered side-gable roof. The original six-over-six double-hung windows remain intact, but have been covered with plywood. In the early 1980s three dormers and a roof-line balustrade were removed from the building's roof. The changes that have occurred to the building are not major enough to heavily detract from the building, especially when considering its role and the organization's role in the community. The Legionnaires plan to raise funds to restore the windows and doors. They also hope to eventually recreate the dormers and roof balustrade using historic photographs to assure accuracy. It is hoped that being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places will increase awareness and help them raise funds to return the building to its original glory.

### ELABORATION

Constructed in late 1937 and early 1938, the Willie Lamb Post 26 American Legion Hut is a brick masonry building located in the small town of Lepanto in Poinsett County. The building is designed in a simplified Neoclassical style with a full front porch supported by six square Doric columns. The building sits atop a continuous brick foundation and is sheltered by a composition shingle covered side-gable roof. Although the majority of the building is brick, the gable ends are sheathed in white clapboards. The building also features a large brick chimney that is centrally located along the north exterior wall of the building. The original six-over-six double-hung windows remain intact, but have been covered with plywood. In the early 1980s three dormers and a roof-line balustrade were removed from the building's roof. The building still retains enough historic fabric and appearance to convey its historic feel and function.

#### West Elevation

The front of the building faces west and is sheltered by a full front porch. The porch is topped with a shed roof and supported by six square columns. Entry to the building is through a pair of centrally located double doors. The original French doors have been replaced with more secure metal doors. The entryway is flanked on each side by four windows resting atop concrete sills. The original double-hung windows remain intact, but have been covered with plywood. The Legionnaires plan on restoring the windows and removing the plywood.

#### South Elevation

A side entrance is centrally located beneath the building's south facing gable. The entryway is sheltered by an awning style porch topped by a gable roof. The double doors have been replaced by a large air conditioning unit that was installed in the 1960s. The entryway is flanked on each side by a single double-hung window. These windows are also intact, but have been covered with plywood.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

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### East Elevation

The back of the building faces east. The elevation is made up in part by the main body of the building. However, the majority is comprised of a gable-roofed rear projection. As with the rest of the building, all original double-hung windows remain intact but have been covered with plywood. Single window openings fenestrate the main portion of the building to the north and south of the rear projection. The back projection is fenestrated by three windows followed by a two-window ribbon. A back entrance to the building is also located north of the ribbon of windows. The final fenestration found on the rear elevation is a ribbon of two windows located on the north facing wall of the projection.

### North Elevation

The focal point of the north side of the building is a large brick chimney located on the building's exterior. Single windows flank both sides of the chimney, but have been covered with plywood.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 1

### SUMMARY

The Willie Lamb Post 26 American Legion Hut is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under **Criterion A** with **local significance** for its association with the local activities of the American Legion in Lepanto. From housing flood refugees to hosting the annual "Terrapin Derby", the Post has performed many important roles for the community over the years. The Willie Lamb Post 26 American Legion Hut is a long standing reminder of the group's positive influence and contribution to the small town of Lepanto, Arkansas.

### ELABORATION

#### History of the American Legion

The American Legion was founded in France during the relatively uneventful days that followed the signing of the armistice that ended World War I. American enlisted men from all three of the principle 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 negotiators worked out the details of the treaty that would outline the future for much of Europe for the next decade. These servicemen found life during the occupation uneventful, which only added to their dismay at not being able to return home to their families. A small group of officers, Lt. Colonel Theodore Roosevelt Jr. and Lt. Colonel George A. White, met to discuss the possibility of establishing a veterans' organization that would include all branches of the military. The organization would serve the immediate purpose of providing an outlet for some of the energy and frustration felt by the troops still in Europe, and fulfill a long term goal of establishing a national veterans' organization that would provide its members with a social organization and also as a vehicle to voice their concerns on national defense, 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 Centralia, Washington, in 1919 by Socialists IWW organizers and the trial that followed that both galvanized and tempered the Legionnaire spirit. In the trial they were portrayed as the aggressors; however, both the public and the Legion press recognized the dangers of extremism by any party. They also recognized 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 of elected officers on the national, state and local level that provided a voice for its members regarding a variety of national concerns. During the Depression the American Legion distinguished itself through the expansion of local programs targeted at youth. Three main programs were American Legion Junior Baseball, the American Legion Oratorical Contest and Boys' State.

#### Willie Lamb Post # 26

The Lepanto American Legion post was organized in 1928 and was officially chartered in 1929. The Post was named for Willie Lamb, a local resident who had been killed in World War I. The Legion originally met in the Marcom Warehouse. They then rented the J.E. Murphy Warehouse. While renting the Murphy

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 2

Warehouse, the Legionnaires would stage boxing bouts and wrestling matches to raise money for their own hut. Finally enough money was raised to purchase a building that had formerly been used as a pool hall. The building burned in 1932 and the Legion once again had to look for a different meeting place.

The Legionnaires decided to take advantage of a newly organized "New Deal" program, the Civil Works Administration. They applied for funding from the C.W.A. in late 1932 or early 1933 and were awarded funding to construct a new Legion Hut. To meet C.W.A. requirements, the American Legion conveyed ownership of the parcel of land to the city of Lepanto for the amount of one dollar. In return the city gave the American Legion a 99 year lease on the property. Construction on a new hut was begun in 1933 and finished in 1934. Unfortunately the building would be short lived. In 1937 the hut was used to house refugees when a flood occurred in the area. The building sustained some damage while housing the refugees and required major clean up and repairs. During the repair phase the building caught fire and burned to the ground. Once again the Legion was without a home.

It was decided that a new building be constructed to replace the burned structure. Construction began on the building in late 1937 and was finished in early 1938. The Colonial Revival style, brick building was completed at a cost of \$8,000. On March 4, 1938, the Lepanto News Record announced: "The new American Legion Hut, home of the Willie Lamb Post No. 26 and Willie Lamb Unit No. 26 of the American Legion Auxiliary of Lepanto will be opened to the public for the first time next Wednesday."

During the open house gifts ranging from kitchen utensils to \$75 in cash were all donated to the Legion from local townspeople. The News Record reported: "The hut, visitors exclaim from far and near, is the most attractive in the state."

The official dedication of the building took place on March 31, 1938. In attendance were State Commander W.R. Sisson and District Commander Dr. L.H. McDaniel. The dedication speeches covered topics from Americanism to ongoing German military actions in Europe. Among the more than 300 people who attended the dedication was Mrs. Katie Lamb, Gold-Star Mother of the Post. The Post was named after her son Willie, who had died during fighting in World War I.

Events from dances to fund raisers have been held in the building during its time of service. Today it is still frequently used and is the host facility for the annual Terrapin Derby. The Legionnaires of Willie Lamb Post 26 are still active in the community and hope to preserve this building for the next generation of both veterans and citizens of Lepanto.



Willie Lamb Post No. 26 American Legion Hut  
Name of Property

Poinsett County, Arkansas  
County and State

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 3

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### Statement of Significance

The Willie Lamb Post 26 American Legion Hut is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under **Criterion A** with **local significance** for its association with the local activities of the American Legion in Lepanto.

Willie Lamb Post No. 26 American Legion Hut  
Name of Property

Poinsett County, Arkansas  
County and State

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

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 1

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## BIBLIOGRAPHY

Lepanto News Record, March 4 and 11, April 1, July 15 and 29, 1938

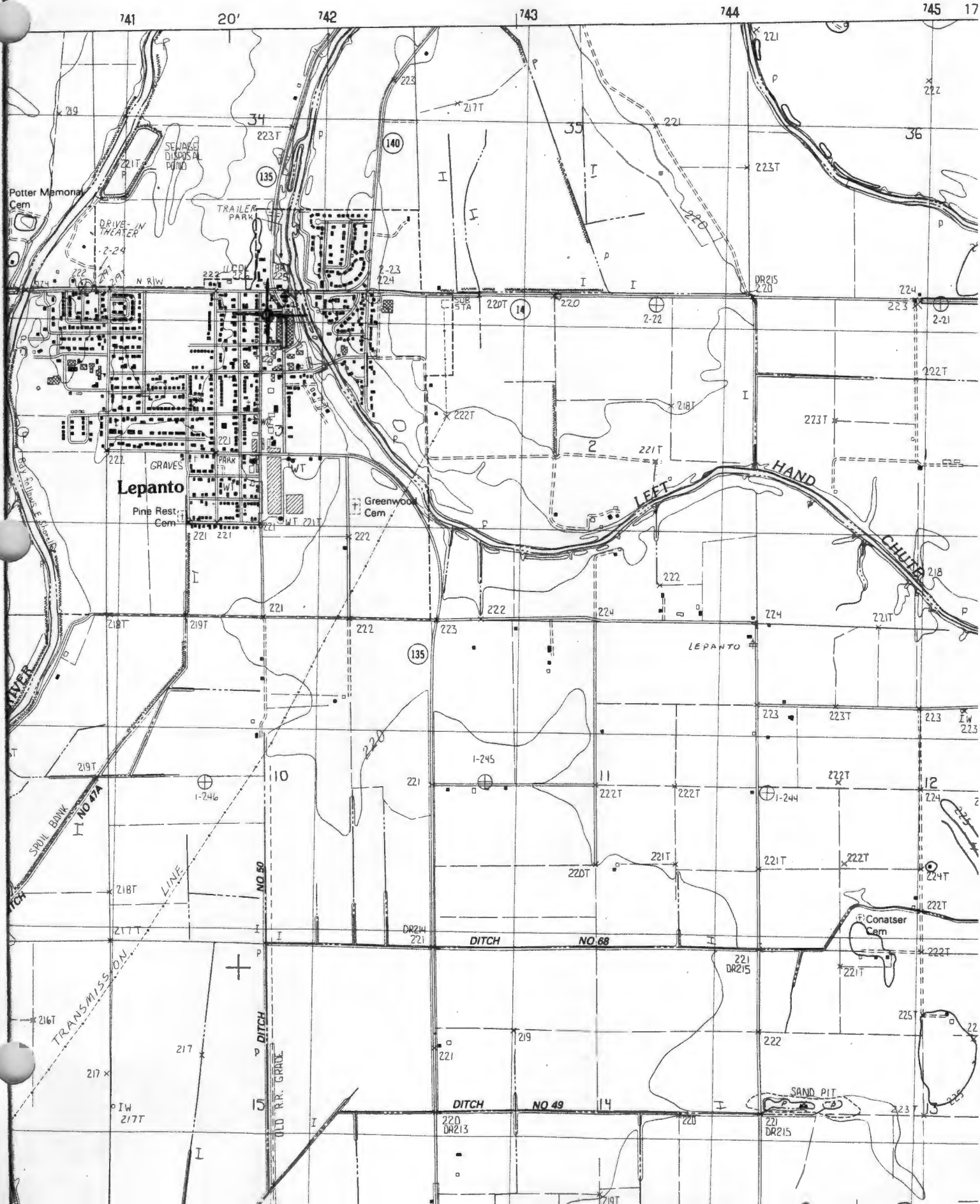
Newport American Legion Community Building National Register nomination, 1991

Property Deed, Poinsett County Clerk's Office

Information provided by Steve Jernigan

Information provided by Wayne Nichols

Willie Lamb Post #26 American Legion Hut  
Lepanto, Poinsett Co., AR  
UTM: 15/741736/3944025





Willie Lamb Post No 26 American Legion Hut  
Poinsett Co., AR

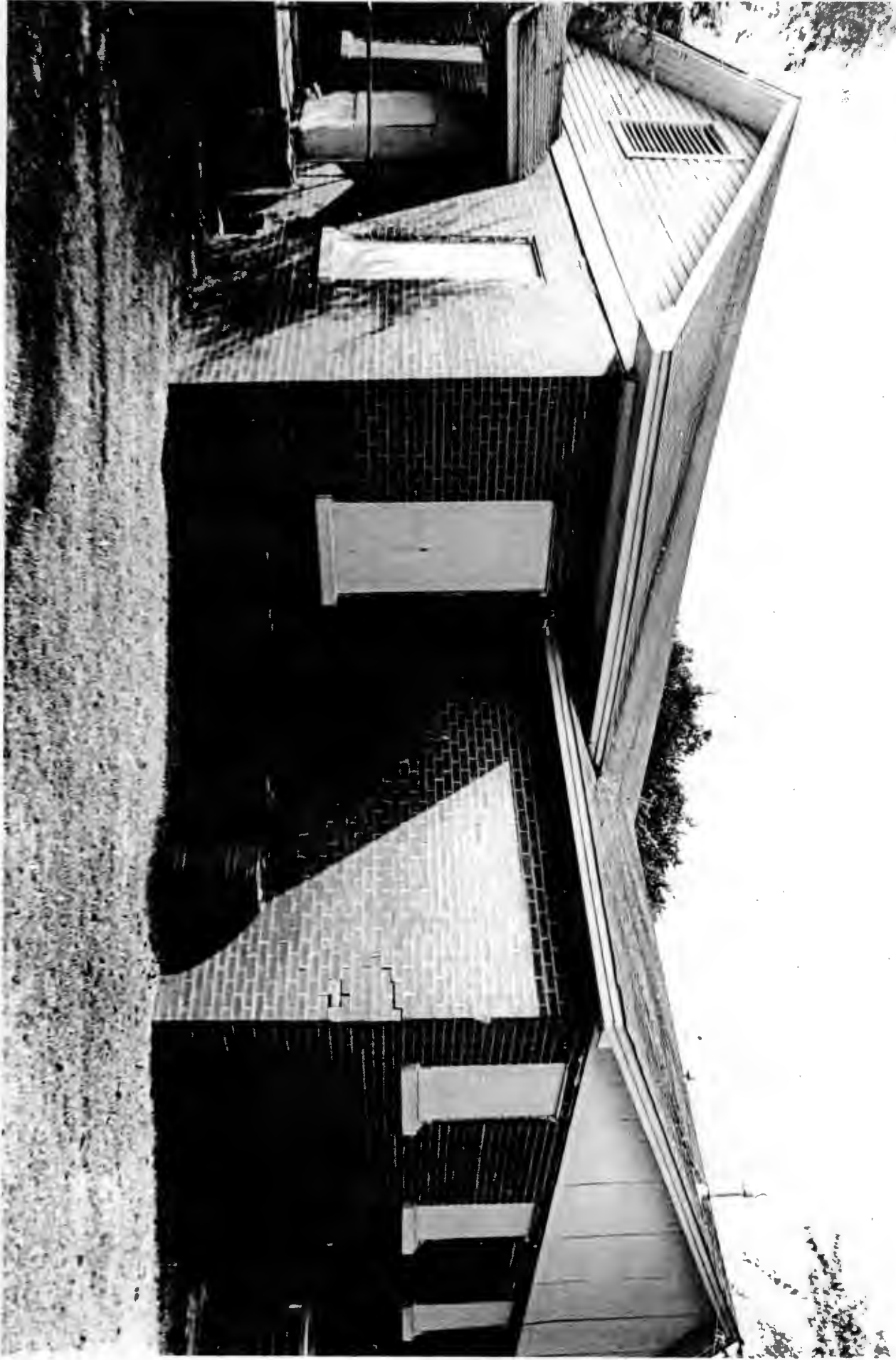
Zac Cochran

Sept. 2002

AHPP

West Elevation

#1



Willie Lamb Post No. 26 American Legion Hut

Forsett Co., AR

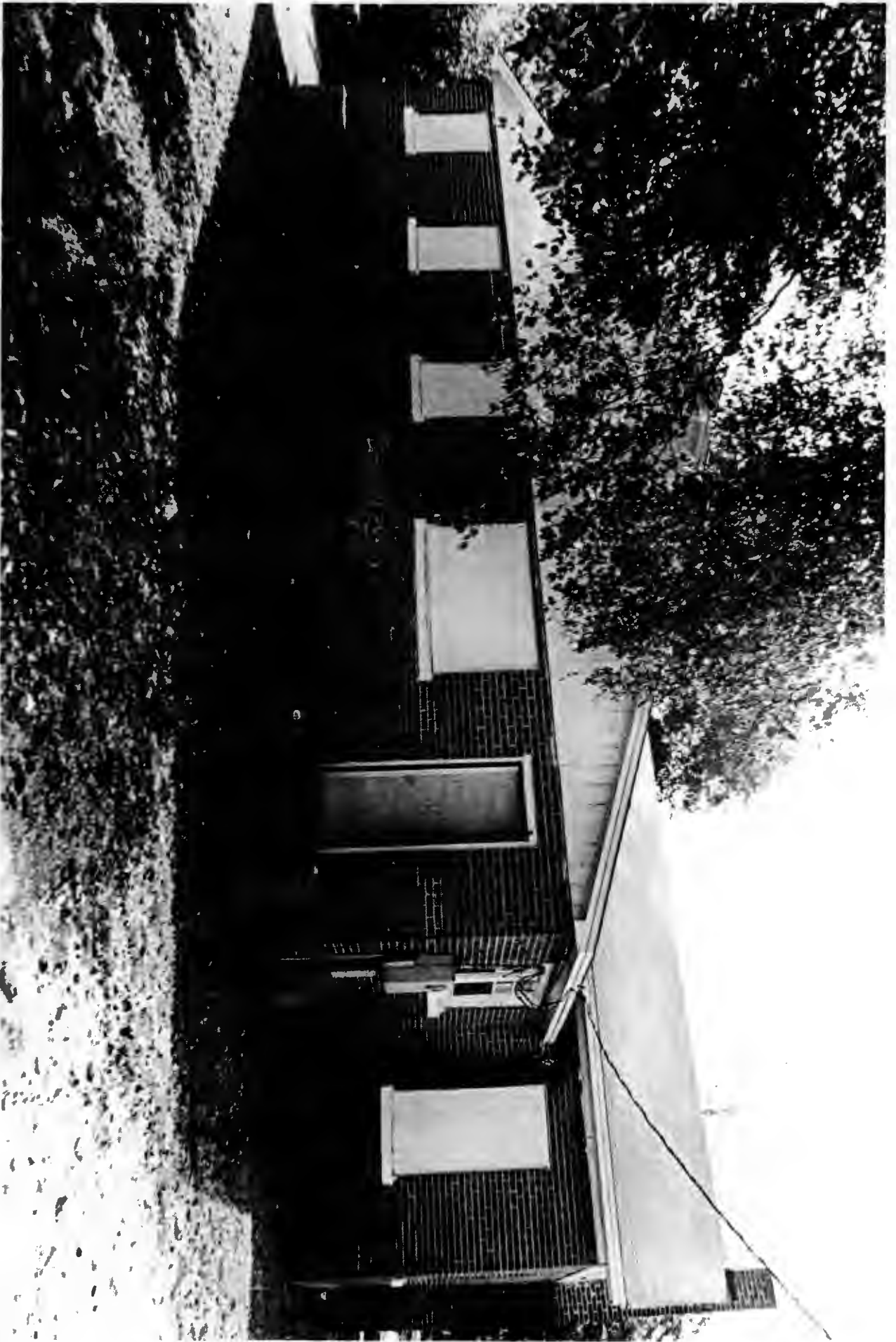
Zoe Cochran

Sept. 2002

AHPP

South Elevation, looking northwest.

#2





Willie Lamb Post No. 26 American Legion Hut

Winsett Co, AR

Zoe Cochran

Sept-2002

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Eosf Elevation

# 3



Willie Lamb Post No. 26 American Legion Hut

Poinsett Co., AR

Zac Cochran

Sept. 2002

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North Elevation

# 4