

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NR 9/25/08

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 Sink-Crumb Post No. 72 American Legion Hut

other names/site number CY0071

2. Location

street & number Northeast corner of Second and Cherry streets

☐ not for publication

city or town Knobel

☐ vicinity

state Arkansas code 147 county Clay code 021 zip code 72435

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.)

Cathie Thacker
Signature of certifying official/Title

8/5/08
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

Sink-Crumb Post No. 72 American
Legion Hut

Name of Property

Clay 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

buildings

sites

structures

objects

1

Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

NA

Number of Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

NA

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: Rustic

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation WOOD: log

walls WOOD: log

roof METAL

other

Narrative Description

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

Sink-Crumb Post No. 72 American
Legion Hut

Clay County, Arkansas

Name of Property

County and State

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)

ARCHITECTURE

SOCIAL HISTORY

Period of Significance

1934-1958

Significant Dates

1934

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked)

NA

Cultural Affiliation (Complete if Criterion D is marked)

NA

Architect/Builder

Civil Works Administration

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: _____

Name of Property

County and State

Acres of Property	Less than one
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(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

Zone Easting Northing

☐ See continuation sheet

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

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

72201

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

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 Reduction Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.

Sink-Crumb Post No. 72 American
Legion Hut

Name of Property

Clay County, Arkansas

County and State

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 1

SUMMARY:

The Sink-Crumb Post 72 American Legion Hut, located on the northeast corner of Second and Cherry streets in the small Clay County community of Knobel, is a tin-roofed square, cypress log building designed in the Rustic aesthetic common among Legion buildings erected during the early 1930s.

ELABORATION:

The Sink-Crumb Post 72 American Legion Hut, located on the northeast corner of Second and Cherry streets in the small Clay County community of Knobel, is a tin-roofed square, cypress log building designed in the Rustic aesthetic common among Legion buildings erected during the early 1930s.

The building sits atop a cedar-post foundation and is covered by a corrugated-metal, front-facing gable roof.

The front, or east, façade of the building faces Cherry Street. It is fenestrated by two openings that flank the wooden door, which is accessed by a four-step wooden stairway with a single railing. Above the door is a sign reading: AMERICAN LEGION/SINK-CRUMB/POST NO. 72. The fenestrations are covered by original wooden shutters. The windows here, as with all of the openings, have been removed because of vandalism.

The north façade features three openings, each covered by original wooden shutters.

The west façade features a door at its northern end and a shuttered window opening at its south end.

The south façade is fenestrated by two shuttered window openings.

INTEGRITY:

Despite the loss of its windows, the Sink-Crumb Post 72 American Legion Hut still retains a high degree of integrity. It sits on its original site, providing excellent integrity of location and setting. Its cypress log construction, shuttered windows and corrugated-metal gable roof all exhibit excellent integrity of design, materials, workmanship and feeling. Its Rustic design and entry sign clearly identify it as an American Legion hut, providing integrity of association.

Sink-Crumb Post No. 72 American
Legion Hut

Clay County, Arkansas

Name of Property

County and State

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 1

SUMMARY:

The Sink-Crumb Post 72 American Legion Hut is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C with local significance by virtue of its status as the best example in Knobel of a Rustic log meeting hall and under Criterion A with local significance for its association with the local activities of the American Legion in Knobel.

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 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 veterans' 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 International Workers of the World 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.

The small town of Knobel, located in southwestern Clay County, was founded in the 1870s at the junction of the St. Louis, Iron Mountain and Southern Railway and a branch line that ran south along Crowley's Ridge to Helena. Like other towns around Arkansas, Knobel was home to many veterans, and when the American Legion began encouraging the creation of additional posts around the state in the late 1920s they decided to band together and create Sink-Crumb Post 72. The post was created in the spring of 1931, according to the *Arkansas Legionnaire*, which reported on April 4 that the post had formed recently with 17 charter members under the leadership of Post Commander Alfred Prince. By

Name of Property

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National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 2

November of that year, the *Legionnaire* reported that the post was meeting on the first and third Tuesday nights of each month.

A women's auxiliary for the post formed in 1932 after Miss Minnie Johnson, Fourth District President of the American Legion Auxiliary, met with members and families of Sink-Crumb Post 72 and organized a unit in Knobel. Charter members of the unit were Mrs. Taylor Fraine, Mrs. Roy Barnett, Mrs. Pearl Myers, Mrs. William Russell, Mrs. Clarence Chaffin, Mrs. Hazel Adams and Mrs. Eugene McGraw of Knobel, and Mrs. Alfred Prince, Mrs. Walter Baler and Mrs. Neil Goldman of Peach Orchard.

The members of the Sink-Crumb post determined that they needed a meeting place and almost certainly took advantage of funding available through the Civil Works Administration, one of the earliest of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's "New Deal" programs designed to put Americans back to work at the height of the Great Depression. Little is known about construction of the building outside of the fact that local men cut and notched the logs from which the building was constructed. The building was completed in early 1934 and the first meeting was held there on March 30. The *Clay County Courier* reported that "Sink-Crumb American Legion Post, No. 72, last Friday evening opened the doors of its new log hut, with a barbecue and special program attended by about 300 persons. . . . The lot on which the Legion hut is located was donated by Joseph Sellmeyer. A flag – made by the ladies of Knobel in 1918, with 24 stars, representing boys from Knobel who served during the World war – was dedicated and placed in the new hut." The *Arkansas Legionnaire* noted that there was "a large and enthusiastic crowd attending. A barbecue was served and speakers from other posts congratulated the Knobel Post on completion of its new clubrooms." Among the speakers at the event was O.C. Lynch, who until recently had served as Clay County's Civil Works Administration coordinator.

Though their numbers are declining, the Sink-Crumb Post No. 72 American Legion members continue to gather at their Legion Hut as they have for the past 74 years. The little log building at Second and Cherry stands as a testament to the efforts and accomplishments of Knobel's American Legionnaires.

The Sink-Crumb Post 72 American Legion Hut is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C with local significance by virtue of its status as the best example in Knobel of a Rustic log meeting hall and under Criterion A with local significance for its association with the local activities of the American Legion in Knobel.

Sink-Crumb Post No. 72 American
Legion Hut

Clay County, Arkansas

Name of Property

County and State

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

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Bibliography

The WPA Guide to 1930s Arkansas (Lawrence: University of Kansas Press, 1987)

The Goodspeed Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Northeastern Arkansas (Chicago: The Goodspeed Publishing Co., 1889)

<http://archiver.rootsweb.ancestry.com/th/read/ARCLAY/2001-02/0983203584>, downloaded June 5, 2008.

The Arkansas Legionnaire, April 4 and Nov. 21, 1931; April 14, 1934.

Clay County Courier, April 6, 1934.

Norris Boyd, interview with author, June 6, 2008.

Sink-Crumb Post No. 72 American
Legion Hut

Name of Property

Clay County, Arkansas

County and State

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

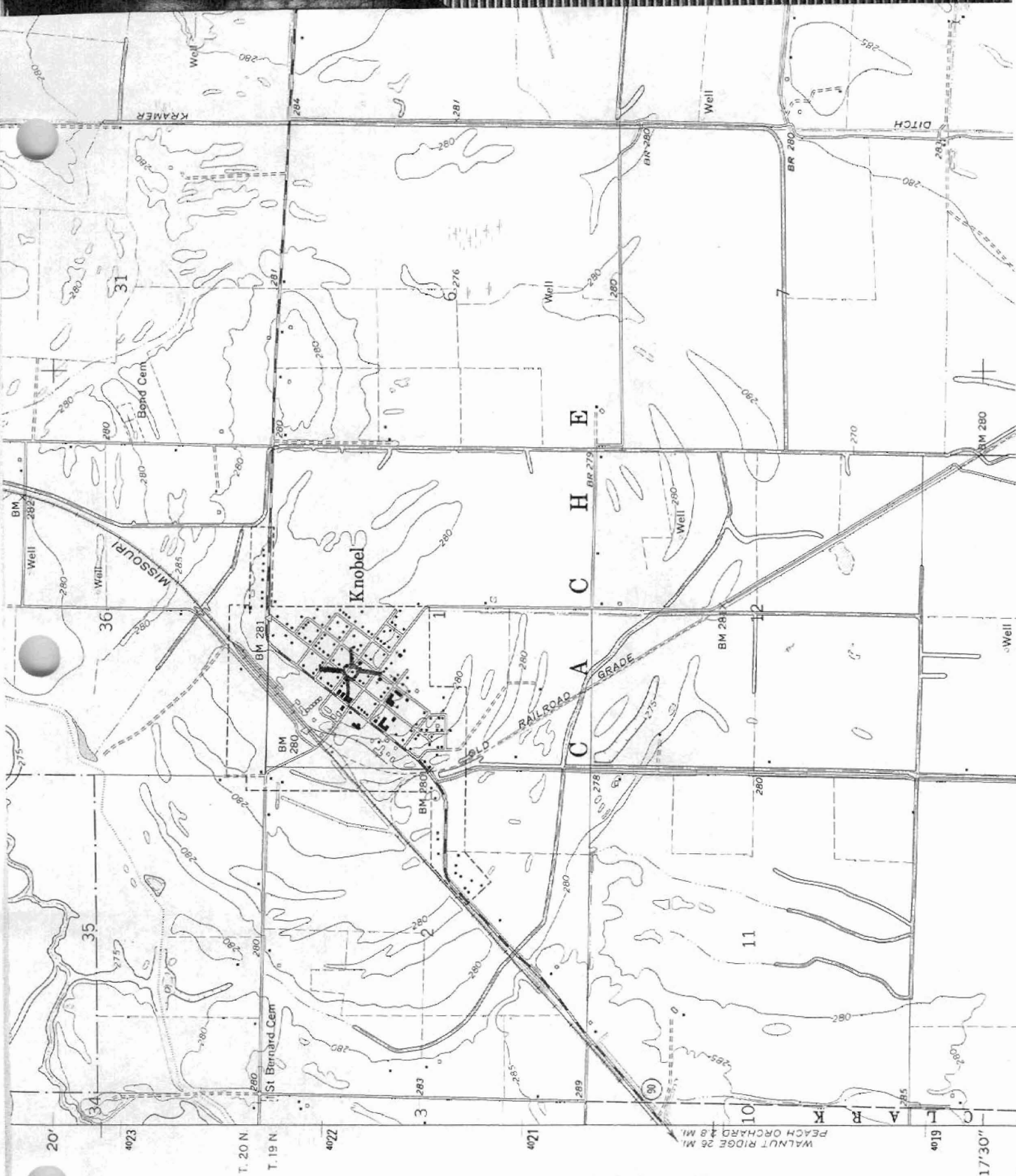
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Verbal Boundary Description

Beginning at a point 40 feet northeast of the northeast corner of the building proceed due south for 120 feet; thence proceed westerly along a perpendicular line for 120 feet; thence proceed northerly along a perpendicular line for 120 feet; thence proceed easterly along a perpendicular line for 120 feet to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification:

The boundary contains all of the historic resources associated with this property that retain integrity.



Sink - Crumb Post No. 72 American Legion 1
 Knobel, Clay Co, AR

15/215442/4077118

