

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 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 Estes-Williams American Legion Hut #61

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number Highway 62/412

not for publication

city or town Yellville

vicinity

state Arkansas

code

AR

county

Marion

code

089

zip code

72687

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
Signature of certifying official/Title

1/02/01
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

Estes-Williams American Legion Hut

Marion County, Arkansas

Name of Property

County and State

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	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)

Other: Rustic

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE: Sandstone

walls WOOD: Log

roof ASPHALT

other CONCRETE

Narrative Description

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

SEE CONT. 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.)

- Criteria A, B, C, D with checkboxes and descriptions.

Levels of Significance (local, state, national)

Local

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Social History

Architecture

Period of Significance

1933-1950

Significant Dates

1933

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation (Complete if Criterion D is marked)

N/A

Architect/Builder

Cavaness, George

Estes, Ruey

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- Criteria A through G with checkboxes and descriptions.

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):

- Documentation criteria with checkboxes.

Primary location of additional data:

- Location options with checkboxes.

Name of repository:

10. Geographical DataAcreage of Property Less than one acre.**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>15</u>	<u>528740</u>	<u>4008860</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.)

Beginning at a point 532 feet East of the quarter section corner, between section 4 and 9 TWP 18 N.R. 16W: thence North 6 degrees west 454 feet to a stone monument; thence west to the center of the of East Fork of Town Branch; thence down the center of the branch to the south side of said section 4; thence east 130.7 feet to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification

This boundary includes all land historically associated with the building.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Zac Cothren and Larry Poetz
 organization Arkansas Historic Preservation Program date 12/12/00
 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.)

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

SUMMARY

The Estes-Williams American Legion Hut #61 located in Yellville, Arkansas, is a one story, horizontal log construction meeting hall building designed in a variation of the Rustic style that became popular during the Great Depression of the 1930s. The building has a T-shaped plan with small centrally located projections on both the front and rear facades of the building. There is a room on each side of the building's rear projection that is original to the building and is covered by an extension of the east to west running roof. The building features a cross-gable asphalt shingle roof with exposed rafter tails. The gable ends, accented with knee braces, give the building a somewhat Craftsman appearance. The building's foundation is composed of stacked fieldstone, a common building material used in northwest Arkansas. One small room projects from the east elevation and is covered with a shed roof that was added to the building shortly after the original construction.

ELABORATION

The Estes-Williams American Legion Hut #61 located in Yellville, Arkansas, is a one story, horizontal log construction meeting hall designed in a variation of the Rustic style that became popular during the Great Depression of the 1930s. The building has a T-shaped plan with small centrally located projections on both the front and rear elevations of the building. The building features a cross-gable asphalt shingle roof. The roof's exposed rafter tails along with the knee braces in the gable ends of the building give the building a somewhat Craftsman appearance. The building's chinked log walls support the asphalt shingle, cross gable roof.

The building sits atop a continuous foundation of flat native fieldstone that was stacked horizontally. Native fieldstone was also used to construct the building's two large exterior chimneys that rise through the gable ends on the east and west elevations (at some unknown time the stone was covered in stucco). The stone work around the foundation contributes to the rustic appearance of this building.

South Elevation

The building's facade faces south and is very symmetrical in form. Access to the building is gained through a wood frame glass door. The doorway is housed in the centrally located front projection of the building, which extends approximately three feet from the rest of the building. The entryway is flanked by two nine-over-nine pane double-hung windows. Located to the east and west of the projection (on the façade) are four nine-over-nine double-hung windows constructed of wood. Exposed rafter tails along with knee braces in the central gable add detail to the upper portion of the facade.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

East Elevation

The south side of the east elevation is fenestrated with two eight-over-eight double-hung windows. centrally located on the elevation is a native stone chimney that was covered with stucco at an unknown date and rises up through the gable end of the roof. To the north side of the chimney is a small room covered with a shed roof. The room was added to the building shortly after the construction of the original building. The small addition has a small four-over-four pane casement window in both the south and east sides.

North Elevation

The rear elevation faces north. A small room flanks each side of the centrally located projection. The eastern room is fenestrated on the eastern side by two nine-pane casement windows and on the north side by one eight-over-eight double-hung window. The central rear projection is fenestrated on the eastern side by a nine-over-nine double-hung window. The northern portion of the projection has two nine-over-nine windows. The western side of the projection has a door, which provides access to the rear of the building. To the west of the projection is another small room. It is identical to the room on the eastern side of the rear elevation with the only difference being a small concrete chimney that rises up from within the building.

West Elevation

With the exception of an additional room that has been added to the east elevation, the west elevation of the building is identical to the east elevation.

Interior

The interior of the building still has its original oak hardwood floors. There are native stone fireplaces on each side of the building's main hall that are no longer in use. With the exception of the addition of two gas wall heaters and electrical updating, there have been no alterations to the interior of the building.

Integrity

The only alterations to the building are the addition of the room off of the building's eastern side and the stucco that was added to the exterior of the chimney. The shed addition is very small and is a historic alteration. The building has a great sense of integrity with very minimal alterations. It maintains integrity of setting, location, design, feeling, association, workmanship and materials.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 1

SUMMARY

Constructed in 1933 and 1934 the Estes-Williams Post #61 American Legion Hut is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with local significance under Criterion A for its association with the American Legion and Civil Works Administration and under Criterion C as the best example of Rustic style architecture in Yellville, 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 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 Socialist WWI 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.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 2

Estes-Williams American Legion Hut #61

In December 1920 a permanent American Legion Post was established at Yellville, Arkansas. The post was named the Estes-Williams Post #61. The post did not yet have a meeting hall of their own, so meetings were held at the Morris Hotel located in the town square in Yellville. There is little else known of the post until 1933 when its members submitted plans to the C. W. A. for an American Legion Hut to be built in Yellville. The plan was approved in a short amount of time and work commenced. The stipulations of the contract were that the Legion would provide the land and transportation for the materials and workers. The C. W. A. would provide the materials and the labor and the city council donated the land for the project.

George Cavaness, Ruey Estes and W. C. Wilbanks were the three post members elected to supervise the construction of the building. Mr. Estes was a master carpenter and given supervision of the project. The plan for the building had originally called for a 40x60-foot building with two 8x14-foot restrooms and a 16x20-foot kitchen. It was to be built of pine logs, squared on three sides to give it the appearance of an 1800s log house. The inside walls were to be covered in plaster and a single native red marble fireplace was to be built.

Early in 1934 the government disbanded the C. W. A. and Legion members then took up the job of building the hut and work continued. They made modifications to the original plan deciding to use split logs rather than three sided squared logs, the inside walls were covered in knotty pine instead of plaster, and a second chimney was added.

Since the completion of the building in 1934, the American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary have met in the building monthly. The Disabled American Veterans chapter in Yellville also has monthly meetings in the hut. The building is also used by the Ladies Quilting Club and Boy Scouts of America. The Turkey Trot Festival, an annual event that draws national attention, was started by Legionnaires at the post.

Significance

The American Legion Hut #61 in Yellville, Arkansas, is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with local significance. It is being nominated under Criterion A for its association with the American Legion and the Civil Works Administration. It is also being nominated under Criterion C as the best example of Rustic style architecture in Yellville.

Estes-Williams American Legion Hut
Name of Property

Marion 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

Bibliography

Mountain Echo, (Yellville), 16 December 1920.

Mountain Echo, (Yellville). 8 November 1933.

Mountain Echo, (Yellville). 15 November 1933.

Mountain Echo, (Yellville), 20 December 1933.

Estes-W. near American Legion Hut
Yellville, Marion Co., AR.
UTM 15/528740/4008860











