

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

NR 5/30/07

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 Beely-Johnson American Legion Post 139

other names/site number WA0968

2. Location

street & number 200 North Spring St.

not for publication

city or town Springdale

vicinity

state Arkansas

code AR

county Washington

code 143

zip code 72764

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.)

Casare Macias
Signature of certifying official/Title

4/11/07
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

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		Total

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

"An Ambition to Be Preferred: New Deal Recovery Efforts
and Architecture in Arkansas, 1933-1943"

**Number of Contributing resources previously listed
in the National Register**

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: Plain Traditional

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone

walls Stone

roof Asphalt

other

Narrative Description

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

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)

Social History

Architecture

Period of Significance

1934-1957

Significant Dates

1934-1957

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked)

Cultural Affiliation (Complete if Criterion D is marked)

Architect/Builder

N/A

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:

Beely-Johnson American Legion Post
No. 139

Washington County, Arkansas

Name of Property

County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acres of Property Less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 15 398410 4005027
Zone Easting Northing
2 _____

3 _____
Zone Easting Northing
4 _____

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

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

Boundary Justification

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Albert Wille/ Historian

organization American Legion Post 139

date 12-12-2006

street & number 1529 Amy Cir

telephone (479)751-5216

city or town Springdale

state AR

zip code 72762

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 Beely-Johnson American Legion Post 139, Donald Framstad Post Commander

street & number 1620 Cartwright Cr.

telephone (479)756-0993

city or town Springdale

state AR

zip code 72762

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.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

SUMMARY

Located at 200 North Spring Street in Springdale, Washington County, Arkansas, the Beely-Johnson American Legion Post 139 is a single-story stone building, built by the members of the American Legion and the citizens of Springdale. Native stone that originated from the mountain east of Springdale was used in construction of the building. The Post was built in 1934, and the kitchen was furnished by the Legion Auxiliary in 1937.

ELABORATION

The building is Plain/Traditional style, rectangular shaped, made with rough cut rubble stone laid in irregular courses, and is covered in a gable roof with composition shingles. It's located on the north side of downtown Springdale across the street from City Hall. It is one of the few remaining stone buildings in Springdale. The older of these are being torn down to make way for new construction.

Front/South Elevation

The front of the Post, which faces Johnson Avenue, has a porch with two columns made with rough cut rubble stone, a concrete floor, and a gable roof matching the main roof. There are glass double doors with aluminum frames that replaced the original wood door with glass panes. There are two sets of single-pane wood-frame windows.

Side/West Elevation

The west side of the building has four sets of single-pane wood-framed windows. It also has a small set of concrete steps and a metal door leading into the kitchen at the north end of the building.

Rear/North Elevation

The back of the building has two sets of single-pane wood-framed windows. A small storage room is on the rear of the Post with the same type of construction as the rest of the building.

Side/East Elevation

The most unique characteristic on the east side is the fireplace chimney made of the same stone as the rest of the post. The chimney is located in the middle of the east wall. On each side of the chimney there are single-pane wood-framed windows looking into the meeting room. There are two more sets of single-pane wood-frame windows on this side, one south of the meeting room in an office, and a set on the north side looking into a storage room. The east side of the building has two doors toward the north end, one door leading to a hallway opposite the kitchen, and the second leading into a storage area.

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Interior

Upon entrance into the building, there is a small foyer. The floors throughout the building are stained and finished hardwood. There are offices on both sides of the foyer. The center of the structure is an open meeting room. The interior walls are wood except for the east and west walls, which match the exterior, as the stone remains uncovered on the inside. The south wall of the meeting room is lined with closets. The west side of the room has two sets of windows. The north wall has an open bar leading into the kitchen and a hallway to the back of the building. The east wall has two sets of windows with the fireplace in the middle.

The hallway leads to the kitchen on the west side of the structure, the men and women's restrooms are to the rear, and the storage room is to the east. The kitchen has two sets of windows, one on the west wall and one on the north wall. There are wood-base cabinets that run along the west and north walls, and two wood-wall mounted cabinets on the north wall on each side of the window.

There are no other outbuildings associated with this property.

INTEGRITY

The appearance of the building is the same as when it was built. The shingles on the roof have been replaced due to the age the originals. Minor plumbing repairs have been made as needed, and the electrical has been brought up to code. The single-pane wood-framed doors have been replaced with glass double doors with aluminum frames. There have been no major structural changes to the building.

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Section number 8 Page 1

SUMMARY

The Beely-Johnson American Legion Post 139 is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with **local significance** under **Criterion A** for its association with the American Legion and the Civil Works Administration in Springdale, Arkansas. It is also being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under **Criterion C** for its excellent fieldstone construction. The Beely-Johnson American Legion Post 139 is being submitted under the multiple property listing, "An Ambition to Be Preferred: New Deal Recovery Efforts and Architecture in Arkansas, 1933-1943."

ELABORATION

The construction of the American Legion Hut was one of Springdale's most memorable community projects during the Depression. A lifetime Springdale resident Harold E. Henson, a veteran of both World Wars, remembered the event as a "gallant effort by legionnaires and townspeople."

New deal agencies such as the Civil Works Administration provided aid for the construction of Legion Huts and other municipal projects during the Depression. After considerable discussion, the Springdale Post decided that an effort should be made to acquire government aid in order to build a Legion Hut in the city. Henson and his wife Dolly accompanied a group of local Legionnaires, and set out for Little Rock in Henson's old Model A Ford one night. They arrived at the capitol the next morning.

The Springdale delegation reported to the Federal Building. They met Captain Limmerick, who was the state's coordinator and administrator of projects, and was a Civil Engineer for the Civil Works Administration. The group's proposal for a Legion Hut was rejected because of a lack of sufficient membership. In 1920, ex-servicemen of Springdale sent Fay Stafford to the American Legion Convention in St. Louis for information about establishing a post in Springdale.

The local post was organized the following year. The group moved to the lobby, held a conference, made up a list of Springdale's ex-servicemen they knew, and with their own money they paid the dues to the American Legion Headquarters. Henson took the new list in and had it approved for the project.

Following its approval, a campaign was launched for money, materials, and land for the construction of the proposed building. Labor was furnished by the government with wages running \$1 per day. In 1927 the post leased the land from the city, where it still stands today.

In 1929 the plans began to come together for the building of a Post Hut. Henson remembered that the construction of the Legion Hut was off to a good start, with many local businesses and individuals donating their time and funds. But construction of the building was delayed by the Depression. During the summer of 1934, the hut was built.

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Stone from the city's east mountain was used in the project. One resident, Henderson Scott, donated the use of his team of mules to drag rocks down the mountain to the main road, where trucks picked up the loads and transported them into town. A stone with the American Legion emblem on it was donated by Bryan Work, Vern Backus and A.A. Backus.

The list of all who helped this project become a reality is difficult, but a few of these hearty individuals were Luther Johnson, Sam Donahue, Albert Markley, Scott Main, Wilbur and Walter Atkins, and Byron Brogdon.

The Post was dedicated on August 26, 1934, in honor of Springdale's First World War I victim, Clarence Edwin Beely. Beely was killed during the Meuse-Argonne battle on October 3, 1918. His body was returned October 1921 and is buried about a mile away in Bluff Cemetery.

In 1962 the post's charter was altered to read "The Beely-Johnson Post," honoring the late Elmer Johnson, Jr., a World War II veteran. Johnson died in Brittany, France, September 12, 1944.

Since its completion the building has been used by practically every social and civic group in the city. It has served as a meeting place for Boy and Girl Scouts, church classes, fruit growers, and as a voting place. The post has sponsored numerous projects including sending young people to Boys and Girls State; sponsoring the oratorical contest at the Springdale High School and presenting the coveted Outstanding Boy and Girl Citizen Award; and sponsoring the American Legion baseball program.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Beely-Johnson Legion Post 139 is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with **local significance** under **Criterion A** for its association with the American Legion and the Civil Works Administration in Springdale, Arkansas. It is also being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under **Criterion C** for its excellent fieldstone construction. The Beely-Johnson American Legion Post 139 is being submitted under the multiple property listing, "An Ambition to Be Preferred: New Deal Recovery Efforts and Architecture in Arkansas, 1933-1943."

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

"Beely-Johnson Post 139 American Legion" *Flashback* vol.19-3, found in the files of the Shiloh Museum in Springdale, AR

"Legion and Auxiliary are Civic Forces." *Springdale News*. April 29, 1937.
<http://www.topix.net/city/springdale-ar/> (accessed January 29, 2006)

"Building of City Legion Hut Is Success Story." *Springdale News*. March 20, 1969.
<http://www.topix.net/city/springdale-ar/>(accessed January 29, 2006).

"City Legion Hut Built in 1934." *Springdale News*. 1975.
<http://www.topix.net/city/springdale-ar/>
(accessed January 29, 2006).

Beely-Johnson American Legion Post
139

Name of Property

Washington County, Arkansas

County and State

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National Park Service

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

From the intersection of North Spring Street and West Johnson proceed twenty meters west, north, east, and south back to the initial point.

Boundary Justification

This boundary includes all of the property historically associated with this resource that retains its integrity.











200
SPRING