“Little Village”
Sonny Boy Williamson II and Leonard Chess

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SB = Sonny Boy II; LC = Leonard Chess

SB: Take your top down
     Bom-bom, bom, bom-bom-bom
     Bom-bom, bom-bom-bom
     Bom-Bom

<Track begins Intro Instrumental and harp>

The little village is too small to be a village
Not large enough to be a town
Too small to be a -

<tape stops abruptly>

LC: Go ahead we're rolling, Take 1
What's the name-a this?
SB: “Little Village” <pause>
“A Little Village,” mother fucker! “A Little Village!”
LC: There's isn't a mother fuckin' thing there about a village
     You son-of-a-bitch! Nothin' in the song has got anything to do with a village
SB: Well, a small town
LC: I know what a village is!
SB: Well alright, goddamn it! You know, you don't need no title
     You name it up, you, I got-get through with it, son-of-a-bitch
     You name it what you wanna. You name it your mammy, if ya wanna

LC: Ha-ha Take 1 roll it!
<count off> 1, 2, 1-2-3-4

SB: Hm-um, that's too fast, baby!
LC: Take 2, slow it up
<count off> 1, 2, 1-2-3 music starts

SB: Talkin' 'bout your little town
     Small little place, you know
     It's not large enough to be no city, couldn't be no town

     Small little place, small little village couldn't be a town
     It's too small to be a village, and not large enough to be a town
     But I fell in love with a swell little chick, that's why I can be stickin' around

     She's just about so tall, and she's about so wide
     'Bout so tall, and she's just about so wide
     When it come down to lovin', she strictly satisf(ied)

<harp & instrumental>
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When I first dropped in the little small place, for three weeks wasn't a soul around
When I first dropped in the little place, for three long weeks wasn't a soul around
The first chick I met was on the village tonight, an' she strictly taken me down

She got a pad like a palace, ev'rything was cruisin' kind
Oh yeah, oh yeah, oh yeah, she take me to her pad, an' ev'rything was cruisin' kind
She started talkin' that d.d. [baby?] talk, nd ya know that changed my mind
Yea-aay

She started talkin' that d.d. talk, and that changed my mind

She started talkin' that d.d. talk, and that changed my mind
<end of song>

LC: We're rollin' (will take two); Take 4
DT, Deep, Deep Theme Blues

<Instrumental begins slowly and stops>

LC: Take 5, hold it, Take 5

<Back up musicians discussion>
SB: (J)ames, C'mon
<harp begins>
LC: Alright, this is it, take, Take 6
<music & song begin> 1, 2, 3, 4

SB: Just a little small place
I couldn't call it no city either no town

LC: Alright, Take 7
SB 'at's right

LC: Sonny Boy, you came in a little too fast, man
Take 7
<count off> 1, 2, 3, 4

SB: You know it's just a small little town

LC: Hold it
<song stops but tape continues to record background argument>
Unk#1: Why does it take five people, to start with?
SB: Say, look, look, ya-ya-ya, ya only got three
Ya only got one chorus: “Bom-bom-bom-bom-bom”

<Tape cuts> <Begins again while argument continues>
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SB: ...get up there, you'll pick it up
LC: Take 8, watch it!
Unk #1 'God all Mighty, the people can tell'
Unk #2 ' Oh, well'
Unk #1 Aaand they know!
Unk #3 Ain't playin' that, I don't know but one chord
Unk #1 'You playin, B12'
Sonny: See, I'm not playin' I-I-I counts it off
And then I come in on the beat, c'mon
Unk#4 You can play it anyway you all wanna
Unk#1 You got an opinion aaand
Unk#2 Just do what you want..

<more musician discussion/argument inaudible>

LC: Take 9 Watch it!

<Music and Sonny begin again>

Sonny: You know I was in a small little place
It's too small to be a place or a town

LC: Hold it! Hold it! Take 10
<long pause silence>
Take 10

SB: Just a small place
Not large enough to be no city
Not lar- big enough to be no town

LC: Hold it! Hold it! I wanna get you clear, man. Sonny Boy, don't blow, don't blow between place an-an town, you know what I mean?

SB: Just sing an' no blow 'till, 'till I move from the mike?
LC: Don't blow that part, just sing it
SB: Okay, alright
LC: Okay, go ahead, Take 11

SB: (Spoken) You know I dropped into this place
An' it's too small to be a village, not large enough to be a town
But I fell in love after hours that night, and I had to stick around

Well, this place is a small little village, and not large enough to be a town
Yeah, it's not small enough to be a village, and not large enough to be a town

<LC: stops song>
SB: Because, I'm just doin' me a test run <Sonny begins harp>
LC: Alright, hold it, hold it, hold it, hold it, Take 11
SB: Already started
LC: Take 11
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SB: Yeah

(Spoken) You know I dropped in a little place, too small to be a village,
an' not large enough to be a town
Yeah, it's a little place--too small to be a village an' too large enough to be a town
Yeah, now it's large enough to be a village and too small to be a town
But I fell in love with a small little chick, that one night she'd taken me down

She had a cruise, cool apartment, and she invited me around
She had a cruise cruisin’ lil apartment, an' she invited me around
After the night was over I just had to stick around
Well, alright

<Instrumental & harp>

I trust my baby, an' I know somethin' fine
Yes I know, the little girl is nice and kind
She had a swell li'l (a)partment, that's when she'd invite me down

Her nice disposition, an' I couldn't turn her down
Her nice cool 'position, and I could not turn her down
I know li'l place too small to be a village, Not large enough to be a town
Yeah! yeah! yeah!

<Instrumental & harp>

Goodbye, baby, I would just like to stick around
Goodbye, baby, I would just like to stick around
But I got to leave you now, 'cause tomorrow I'm Chicago bound.