

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH0282294 DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED DEC 29 1975

DATE ENTERED JAN 30 1976

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORMSEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

## 1 NAME

HISTORIC

Simon Sager Cabin

AND/OR COMMON

## 2 LOCATION

STREET &amp; NUMBER

John Brown University Campus

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Siloam Springs

VICINITY OF

Third

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Arkansas

05

Benton

007

## 3 CLASSIFICATION

## CATEGORY

DISTRICT

BUILDING(S)

STRUCTURE

SITE

OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

PUBLIC

PRIVATE

BOTH

## PUBLIC ACQUISITION

IN PROCESS

BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

OCCUPIED

UNOCCUPIED

WORK IN PROGRESS

## ACCESSIBLE

YES: RESTRICTED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

NO

## PRESENT USE

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

COMMERCIAL

PARK

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

MILITARY

OTHER:

## 4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

John Brown University

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Post Office Box 600

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Siloam Springs

VICINITY OF

Arkansas

## 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Clerk's Office

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Benton County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Bentonville

Arkansas

## 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

☒ EXCELLENT  
☐ GOOD  
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED  
☐ RUINS  
☐ UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED  
☒ ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE  
☐ MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Constructed in the 1830's, the Simon Sager Cabin is representative of the rustic homes built by Arkansas pioneers in the early nineteenth century. It rests on its original site near the Oklahoma border in northwest Arkansas.

The cabin is constructed of hand-hewn, squared logs which are joined with chamfer and notch. Limestone chinking is used to fill the spaces between the logs. Cedar shake shingles cover the cross gable roof, with clapboard set into the gable ends.

The cabin consists of two rooms, set one behind the other. The ridge on the south room's gable roof runs east-west, while the gable ridge on the rear roof runs north-south. The front room is several feet higher than the rear room, thus giving the front room an unusual spaciousness for a log structure.

The front slope of the south roof extends to cover the small front porch. Supported by three round posts, the porch shelters the single entry and the double-hung sash window west of the entry. On the west elevation of the front portion of the cabin is a massive sandstone chimney, which is original to the house.

In 1965 the building was restored and made functional again. Restoration work included replacing damaged roof beams, re-roofing with cedar shingles, replacing the plain door and window trim with rough cedar and replacing the deteriorated limestone chinking.

Still resting on its original site, a gentle slope overlooking Sager Creek, the restored building is in excellent condition. Though a small college campus has grown up around Simon Sager's Cabin, its pastoral setting is still evident.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Sager Cabin is believed to have been the first permanent residence ever constructed in the Siloam Springs area. In the mid-1830's Simon Sager, a German immigrant, moved his family to Arkansas' extreme northwest corner, homesteaded land and built the cabin which still bears his name.

Born in Leipzig, Germany, in 1802, Simon Sager emigrated to the United States in 1832. He was accompanied by his wife Charlotte, their children and his four brothers. The Sager clan first settled in St. Louis, Missouri, where a colony of German immigrants was already established. The following year Simon Sager moved his family further west to Westport, Missouri. About 1834 the Sager's made a final move and settled at Siloam Springs, Arkansas.

The cabin Sager built was a two-room structure of hand-hewn timbers joined with chamfer notching. Lime chinking, recently restored, was used between the squared timbers and in the large stone fireplace. The front room has a high ceiling, which is unusual in this rustic architectural style. Otherwise, the cabin typifies the simple pioneer homes built in early nineteenth-century Arkansas.

In the 1850 census Sager identified himself as a cabinet-maker, and the sound construction of his cabin attests to his ability. Sager was also a successful farmer, as evidenced by Benton County's Products of Agriculture Census in 1850. In this record Sager valued his farm, implements and live-stock at well over a thousand dollars. His biggest crops were oats and Indian corn, and the Sager farm produced over 800 bushels of each.

During his thirty years in the Siloam Springs area, Sager was frequently involved in land transactions. In 1851 he sold his home and property overlooking Sager Creek to Charles De Armand. Though Sager remained in the area for the rest of his life, he no longer lived in the small cabin he built on his arrival there.

At the outbreak of the Civil War several of Sager's sons volunteered for service in the Confederate army. During the course of the war Sager himself was killed. In 1864 he was murdered by a roving band of Indians who had crossed into Arkansas from the nearby Indian Territory. Sager is buried in a Siloam Springs cemetery.



## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Arkansas Democrat (Little Rock), April 15, 1968.

Northwest Arkansas Times (Fayetteville), October 14, 1966

Products of Agriculture Census, Benton County, 1850. Archives, Arkansas History Commission (Microfilm).

Smith, Maggie Aldridge. "Simon Sager of Siloam Springs." Benton County Pioneer, Vol. IX, No. 1 (September, 1963).

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY one acre

UTM REFERENCES

A 

1	5
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3	5	9	8	8	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

4	0	0	6	0	8	0
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ZONE

EASTING

NORTHING

B 

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ZONE

EASTING

NORTHING

C 

--	--

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--	--	--	--	--	--

D 

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Dianna Kirk, Historian

ORGANIZATION

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

STREET & NUMBER

300 West Markham

CITY OR TOWN

Little Rock

DATE

12-9-75

TELEPHONE

(501) 371-1639

STATE

Arkansas

## 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL ☐

STATE ☐

LOCAL ☒

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE Anne Bartley

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

12-9-75

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Acting

DATE

1/30/96

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

1-21-76

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1

In 1919 the Sager property was purchased by John Brown University as the site for their campus. For a number of years the building was used by agriculture classes, but eventually was abandoned. In 1965 the University began restoration of the cabin for its use as a small museum and information center.

As the first and oldest structure in Siloam Springs, the Simon Sager Cabin is the most important historic landmark in the community. Architecturally, it typifies the small pioneer homes built in Arkansas during the territorial and early statehood period. Its sound construction and continued survival make the cabin a fitting memorial to the area's first permanent settler, Simon Sager.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

"The Tragic Story of Simon Sager, founder of Siloam Springs." Benton County Pioneer, Vol. VI, No. 1 (September, 1960).

U. S. Department of Commerce. Bureau of the Census. Seventh Census of the United States, 1850: Population Schedule for Benton County, Arkansas. Archives, Arkansas History Commission (Microfilm).

Property

Sager, Simon, Cabin

State

Ark.

Working Number

12.29.75.2229

## TECHNICAL

Photos

2

Maps

1

## CONTROL

OK pl  
1.5.76

## HISTORIAN

Accept  
E. Smith  
1-13-76

## ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

ACCEPT  
H W Jandl  
1/13/76

## ARCHEOLOGIST

## OTHER

## HAER

Inventory \_\_\_\_\_

Review \_\_\_\_\_

## REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

Accept  
Cole  
1/15/76

## BRANCH CHIEF

## KEEPER

accept  
Hump  
for Hump 1-21-76

National Register Write-up \_\_\_\_\_

Send-back \_\_\_\_\_

Entered

JAN 30 1976

Federal Register Entry

8-2-76

Re-submit \_\_\_\_\_

INT:2106-74







Simon  
Siloam  
Benton  
east

Form No. 10-301a  
(Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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JAN 30 1976

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Simon Sager Cabin

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

CITY, TOWN

Siloam Springs

\_\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE

Arkansas

COUNTY

Benton

**3 PHOTO REFERENCE**

PHOTO CREDIT Dianna Kirk

DATE OF PHOTO 1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

**4 IDENTIFICATION**

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

East elevation and south facade, viewed from southeast.

PHOTO NO.

1 142

GPO 892-454

Loc.

East elevation & south facade,

viewed from SE.

142





Simon Sager Cabin

Siloam

Benton

west

2

Form No. 10-301a  
(Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Simon Sager Cabin

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

Siloam Springs

— VICINITY OF

STATE

Arkansas

COUNTY

Benton

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT

Dianna Kirk

DATE OF PHOTO 1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

West elevation and south facade, viewed from southwest

PHOTO NO.

2

GPO 892-454

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED DEC 29 1975

DATE ENTERED JAN 30 1976

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH MAP

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Simon Sager Cabin

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

CITY, TOWN

Siloam Springs

\_\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

COUNTY

Benton

STATE

Arkansas

**3 MAP REFERENCE**

SOURCE United States Geological Survey, Siloam Springs Quadrangle

SCALE 1:24,000

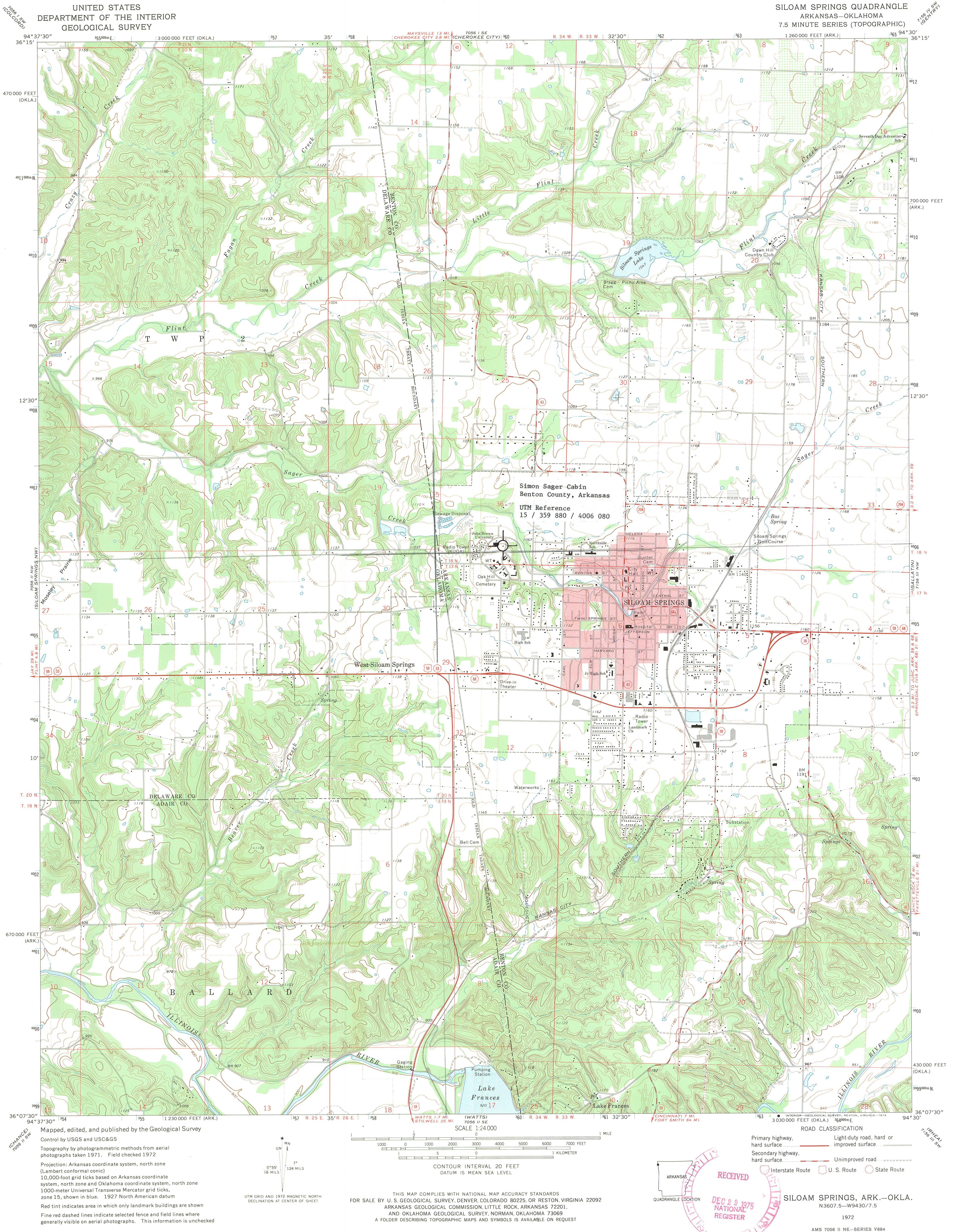
DATE 1972

**4 REQUIREMENTS**

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. PROPERTY BOUNDARIES
2. NORTH ARROW
3. UTM REFERENCES

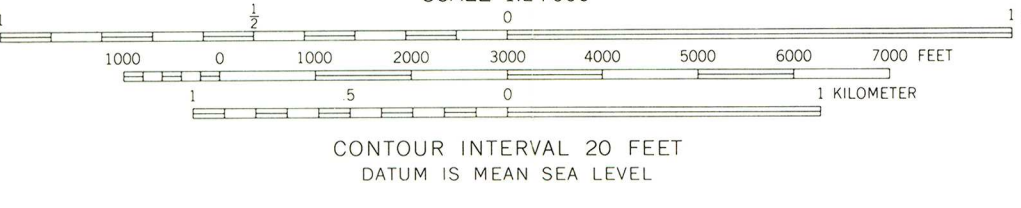




UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

SILOAM SPRINGS QUADRANGLE  
ARKANSAS-OKLAHOMA  
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

Simon Sager Cabin  
Benton County, Arkansas  
UTM Reference  
15 / 359 880 / 4006 080



ROAD CLASSIFICATION  
Primary highway, hard surface  
Secondary highway, hard surface  
Light-duty road, hard or improved surface  
Unimproved road  
Interstate Route  
U. S. Route  
State Route

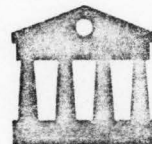
THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092  
ARKANSAS GEOLOGICAL COMMISSION, LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72201,  
AND OKLAHOMA GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, NORMAN, OKLAHOMA 73069  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

SILOAM SPRINGS, ARK.-OKLA.  
N3607.5-W9430/7.5  
1972  
AMS 7056 II NE-SERIES V884





# ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM



FIRST STATE CAPITOL • 300 WEST MARKHAM • LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72201

January 8, 1976

Mr. Charles A. Herrington  
Supervisor of Review  
NPS - National Register  
Department of Interior  
18th & C Streets, N.W.  
Washington, D. C. 20240

Dear Mr. Herrington:

Two properties recently approved by the State Review Committee for nomination to the National Register need to be reviewed by your office as soon as possible. We would appreciate your immediate consideration of the Cleveland County Clerk's Office and the Simon Sager Cabin.

The Cleveland County Historical Society is planning a centennial celebration for March, 1976. If possible, this group would like to formally announce the addition to the National Register of the Cleveland County Clerk's Office at their March celebration.

In April, 1976, John Brown University will be having a special ceremony involving the Simon Sager Cabin. University officials would like to have the cabin designated as a National Register property by that time.

Thank you for your special attention concerning these two nominations.

Sincerely,

*Dianna Kirk*

Dianna Kirk, Historian

DK:js

THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES	
DATE REC'D	JAN 12 1976
_____ INDIVIDUAL RESPONSE (ATTACHED)	
_____ INFORMATIVE MATERIAL SENT	
_____ TELEPHONE CALL (ATTACHED)	
DATE ACTION TAKEN _____	
INITIALS	<i>Mott</i>

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE      ARKANSAS

Date Entered      JAN 30 1976

Name

Location

**Sager, Simon, Cabin**

**Siloam Springs  
Benton County**

Also Notified

**Hon. John L. McClellan**

**Hon. Dale Bumpers**

**Hon. John P. Hammerschmidt**

**Regional Director, Southwest Region**

**State Historic Preservation Officer  
Ms. Anne Bartley**

**State Historic Preservation Officer  
Acting Director, Department of Natural  
and Cultural Resources**

**The Old State House**

**300 West Markham**

**Little Rock, Arkansas 72201**

PR    MMott/je    2/3/76

# NATIONAL REGISTER DATA SHEET

1 NAME as it appears on federal register: Sager, Simon, Cabin  
 2 OTHER NAMES:  
 3 date of entry: 1-30-76  
 4 county code: 007

5 LOCATION street & number: John Brown University campus  
 city / town: Siloam Springs  
 vicinity of: AR  
 state: Benton  
 county: Southwest  
 6 NPS REGION:

7 OWNER ☒ PRIVATE ☐ STATE ☐ MUNICIPAL ☐ COUNTY ☐ MULTIPLE ☐ FEDERAL (agency name)  
 8 ADMINISTRATOR:

9 EXISTING SURVEYS ☐ HABS ☐ HAER ☐ NHL  
 10 FUNDED? ☐ YES ☒ NO  
 11 CONGRESS. DISTRICT: 3  
 12 SOURCE of NOMINATION: ☒ STATE ☐ FEDERAL  
 if state who prepared form?

13 WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT? ☒ YES, NAME: ☐ NO  
 14 WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK? ☒ YES, NAME: ☐ NO  
 15 ACREAGE: 1  
 16 LOCAL ☐ PRIVATE ORGANIZATION ☐

16 CONDITION  
☒ excellent  
☐ good  
☐ fair  
☐ deteriorated  
☐ ruins  
☐ unexposed  
☐ unexcavated  
☒ altered  
☐ unaltered  
☐ reconstructed  
☐ excavated  
☒ original site  
☐ moved  
☐ unknown  
 17 features:  
 INTERIOR ☒ SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-1  
☐ NOT INTACT-0  
☐ UNKNOWN-4  
☐ NOT APPLICABLE-7  
 EXTERIOR ☒ SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-2  
☐ NOT INTACT-0  
☐ UNKNOWN-5  
☐ NOT APPLICABLE-8  
 ENVIRONS ☐ SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-3  
☒ NOT INTACT-0  
☐ UNKNOWN-6  
☐ NOT APPLICABLE-9

18 ACCESS ☒ YES-Restricted ☐ YES-Unrestricted ☐ No Access ☐ Unknown  
 19 ADAPTIVE USE ☒ YES ☐ NO  
 20 SAVED? ☒ YES  
 IS PROPERTY A HISTORIC DISTRICT? ☐ yes ☒ no

21 AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE:  
☐ ARCHEOLOGY-prehistoric-2  
☒ ARCHEOLOGY-historic-1  
☐ AGRICULTURE-3  
☒ ARCHITECTURE-4  
☐ ART-5  
☐ COMMERCE-6  
☐ COMMUNICATIONS-7  
☐ CONSERVATION-8  
☐ ECONOMICS-9  
☐ EDUCATION-10  
☐ ENGINEERING-11  
☐ ENTERTAINMENT-26  
☐ EXPLORATION-12  
☐ HEALTH-27  
☐ INDUSTRY-13  
☐ INVENTION-14  
☐ LANDSCAPE ARCH.-15  
☐ LAW-16  
☐ LITERATURE-17  
☐ MILITARY-18  
☐ MUSIC-19  
☐ PHILOSOPHY-20  
☐ POLITICS/GOVT.-21  
☐ RELIGION-22  
☐ SCIENCE-23  
☐ SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN-24  
☐ SOCIAL/CULTURAL-30  
☐ TRANSPORTATION-25  
☐ RECREATION-28  
☒ SETTLEMENT-29  
☐ URBAN PLANNING-31  
☐ OTHER (SPECIFY)  
 22 CLAIMS: explain  
 'first' ☒ BUILDING IN SILOAM SPRINGS  
 'oldest' ☒ BUILDING IN SILOAM SPRINGS  
 'only' ☐

23 functions  
 WHEN HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT: PRIVATE RESIDENCE  
 CURRENTLY: MUSEUM  
 24 dates of initial construction: c. 1830  
 major alterations:  
 historic events:  
 25 ETHNIC GROUP ASSOCIATION

26 architectural style(s): VERACULAR  
 27 architect:  
 28 master builder:  
 29 engineer:

30 landscape architect / garden designer:  
 31 interior decorator:  
 32 artist:  
 33 artisan:  
 34 builder / contractor:

35 NAMES give role & date  
 PERSONAL:  
 EVENTS:  
 INSTITUTIONAL:

36 NATIONAL REGISTER WRITE-UP: Hand-hewn log construction with chamber notching, limestone chinking, and clapboarded gable ends; 1 story, modified T-shape; intersecting shingled gabled roof sections with full-width front porch extension supported by round posts, exterior end chimney, front off-center vertical-boarded entrance. Vernacular. First and oldest structure in Siloam Springs, typical of Arkansas' pioneer homes.