

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received FEB 8 1983  
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Page Soddy

and/or common Same

2. Location

SE of Buffalo

street & number ~~On northeast corner of section, 4 miles east and~~ N/A for publication  
~~4 miles south of town~~

city, town Buffalo *vic* N/A vicinity of

state Oklahoma code 40 county Harper code 059

3. Classification

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> museum (private)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	N/A in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	N/A being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Irene Page

street & number ----

city, town Buffalo N/A vicinity of state Oklahoma 73834

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. County Clerk's Office

street & number Harper County Courthouse

city, town Buffalo state Oklahoma

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Oklahoma Preservation Office has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date September 1982  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Preservation Office, Oklahoma Historical Society

city, town Oklahoma City state Oklahoma

# 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date <u>N/A</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

## Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Page Soddy was built in 1902 on William Shaw's homestead four miles east and four miles south of the present town of Buffalo (not in existence until 1907) and at the intersection of two county dirt section line roads, one of which used to serve as the main road to Fort Supply ( a military outpost and community to the south). The sod house sits 120 feet east and 80 feet north of the corner in a grove of trees, mostly locust (that Shaw planted) and on the edge of wheat fields. Newer construction has been removed from the site, and the site remains rural and agricultural, maintaining the historical appearance of the area.

The one story sod house, with a hipped roof (originally with wood shingles) is 16 feet by 34 feet wide and faces with the back door overlooking the Fort Supply road. The front door looks east over the farm and a glass, 2x2 double-hung sash window is set in each end (original windows, but some have replacement panes). The 30 inch thick sod walls (built of 15 inch wide sod blocks laid side by side) allowed for recessed doorways and wide window ledges inside (originally used to hold a bucket for drinking water). The builder, Shaw, plastered the interior walls with a local gypsum and sand mixture and applied a concrete coating to the exterior surfaces, white washing all surfaces to improve their appearance. The windows, roof structure and floors (one foot wide boards) were from purchased materials hauled into the site. The interior had a ceiling of white paper stretched between the walls. At the northeast corner of the house is the remains of the cistern originally used to supply water to the house. A concrete slab along the west side of the house served as a porch.

Over the years the building has been repaired, usually using the same materials. The concrete coating and wooden roof have contributed to its survival. The most recent repairs consisted of some minor alterations to the interior of the structure (concrete over the wood floor, and sheets of paneling tacked to replace the paper ceiling) as well as asphalt roof shingles, but this work was done to preserve the structure from deterioration and does not detract from the overall character of the soddy.

## 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** 1902 **Builder/Architect** William Shaw

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Of the hundreds of sod houses that dotted the landscape in the Cherokee Outlet after it opened to settlement in 1893, the Page Soddy is one of the last remaining soddies. It is unusual in its use of a shingled hipped roof, rather than a flat grass roof, and in the plastered wall made from local materials. The Page Soddy is one of two soddies still in existence in Harper County, the other being in ruins. The only other known soddy in the Outlet, near Cleo Springs, is maintained by the Oklahoma Historical Society and is already listed on the National Register. The Page Soddy differs in design, appearance, and construction technique from this "Original Sod House", providing an example of another style of soddy used to house the first settlers in northwest Oklahoma.

Few natural materials were available for construction in this northwest corner of what became Oklahoma in 1907, and expensive commercial building supplies had to be hauled by wagon from settlements in Kansas. The homesteaders turned to the only cheap, convenient source of materials to build their first homes, the virgin sod matted with buffalo grass roots that they cut into "bricks" for the walls of their soddies. Usually, these sod houses were small, dark, and often dusty due to construction techniques, but they did act as good insulators from the cold winter winds and the heat of summers. Even so, most settlers built frame houses as quickly as possible, and often neglected their soddy when its usefulness had ended letting it fall into ruins.

The Page Soddy, unusual for many reasons, was maintained and in use by the owners until 1957. Built by William Shaw in 1902 to "prove up" a relinquishment, the walls of the soddy were plastered inside with a local gypsum soil and sand mixture available from a nearby creek bed. Shaw coated the exterior of the walls with cement and sand, which accounts for survival of the structure when others have been washed away by rains or turned into dust. Shaw also used one foot wide boards for flooring and framed on a roof that he covered with wood shingles. In 1912, Shaw decided to move further west, and sold the homestead to Cap Page. In 1918, Page married a local girl, Irene Tucker, and they used the soddy as their first home, decorated with wall paper, lace curtains, cretenne curtained corner for a closet, a new kitchen cabinet with sliding doors, kerosene stove and furniture (some of these original items have been saved, including the stove, and are being placed back in the sod house). Even after the Page's family began to grow and they built a frame house near the soddy, the sod house continued in use as the boys' bedroom, as well as a safe retreat from storms or heat.

Today, although the soddy is not in use, Mrs. Page is trying to maintain the house that holds memories for her and has become a local landmark. In 1981, work on the house included repairing the sod walls' cement coating, covering the roof with asphalt shingles, replacing doors, and tacking up a ceiling of light colored paneling to replace the deteriorated sheets of paper that had been stretched across the ceiling originally). In addition, the wood floor, still in good condition was covered with a layer of cement. These alterations do not detract, from the overall historical integrity of the structure and were designed to keep the soddy from falling into ruins.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Buffalo SE, Okla. 1970

Quadrangle scale 1:25000

### UTM References

A	<u>14</u>	<u>451140</u>	<u>4069160</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

D			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

E			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

F			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

G			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

H			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

### Verbal boundary description and justification

See continuation sheet

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
<u>N/A</u>			

state	code	county	code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Karen Bode Curths Supervised by Mary Ann Anders

organization Oklahoma Historical Preservation Survey date September 1982

street & number 502 Math Sciences telephone 624-5678

city or town Stillwater, Oklahoma State University state Oklahoma

# 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 *C. Curths* date 2-2-83

title \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

### For NPS use only

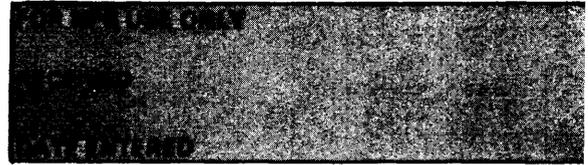
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

*Linda McClelland* date 3/24/83  
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: *Patrick Anders* date 3/24/83  
Chief of Registration

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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



CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 & 10 PAGE 1

Bibliographical References:

- 1) Irene Page, Buffalo, June 25, 1982.
- 2) "Kirby Community, Saga of Another Soddy." Enid Morning News. February 21, 1975. n. p.
- 3) "Passed Over by Time, Old Soddie Stands as monument to County's Early Settlers."  
Newspaper clipping in Irene Page's Papers.
- 4) Prout, Lynne L. "Backroads and Byways; One of a Million Soddies that once  
Dotted American Prairie." The Leader-Courier. November 28, 1975. n. p.
- 5) Sage and Sod; Harper County, Oklahoma, 1885-1974. 2 vols. Harper County Historical  
Society, 1974-1975.
- 6) Scott, Mable. "Wound Up Like a Clock" Woodward County Journal. December, 1974, p.4.

Verbal Boundary Description:

From the Buffalo Cemetery (on the north side of the road to Selman east of Buffalo about one and one half miles), follow the paved road for approximately three miles where it turns south. Go south to the point where the paved road heads east. Continue going south for three miles to the point of beginning at the intersection with a section line road. From the point of beginning, go east 200 feet, then north 200 feet then west 200 feet then south to point of beginning: a 200' x 200' tract in the southwest corner of Section 35, Township 27 North, Range 22 West, Indian Meridian.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
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date entered



See instructions in How to Complete National Register Forms  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Page Soddy

and/or common Same

2. Location

street & number On northeast corner of section, 4 miles east and 4 miles south of town N/A for publication

city, town Buffalo N/A vicinity of

state Oklahoma code 40 county Harper code 059

3. Classification

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> museum (private)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	N/A in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	N/A being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Irene Page

street & number -----

city, town Buffalo N/A vicinity of state Oklahoma 73834

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. County Clerk's Office

street & number Harper County Courthouse

city, town Buffalo state Oklahoma

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Oklahoma Preservation Office has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date September 1982  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Preservation Office, Oklahoma Historical Society

city, town Oklahoma City state Oklahoma

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date <u>    N/A    </u>
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### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Page Soddy was built in 1902 on William Shaw's homestead four miles east and four miles south of the present town of Buffalo (not in existence until 1907) and at the intersection of two county dirt section line roads, one of which used to serve as the main road to Fort Supply (a military outpost and community to the south). The sod house sits 120 feet east and 80 feet north of the corner in a grove of trees, mostly locust (that Shaw planted) and on the edge of wheat fields. Newer construction has been removed from the site, and the site remains rural and agricultural, maintaining the historical appearance of the area.

The one story sod house, with a hipped roof (originally with wood shingles) is 16 feet by 34 feet wide and faces with the back door overlooking the Fort Supply road. The front door looks east over the farm and a glass, 2x2 double-hung sash window is set in each end (original windows, but some have replacement panes). The 30 inch thick sod walls (built of 15 inch wide sod blocks laid side by side) allowed for recessed doorways and wide window ledges inside (originally used to hold a bucket for drinking water). The builder, Shaw, plastered the interior walls with a local gypsum and sand mixture and applied a concrete coating to the exterior surfaces, white washing all surfaces to improve their appearance. The windows, roof structure and floors (one foot wide boards) were from purchased materials hauled into the site. The interior had a ceiling of white paper stretched between the walls. At the northeast corner of the house is the remains of the cistern originally used to supply water to the house. A concrete slab along the west side of the house served as a porch.

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## 8. Significance

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<input checked="" 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 1902

Builder/Architect William Shaw

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

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Today, although the soddy is not in use, Mrs. Page is trying to maintain the house that holds memories for her and has become a local landmark. In 1981, work on the house included repairing the sod walls' cement coating, covering the roof with asphalt shingles, replacing doors, and tacking up a ceiling of light colored paneling to replace the deteriorated sheets of paper that had been stretched across the ceiling originally). In addition, the wood floor, still in good condition was covered with a layer of cement. These alterations do not detract, from the overall historical integrity of the structure and were designed to keep the soddy from falling into ruins.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Buffalo SE, Okla. 1970

Quadrangle scale \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References

A 

1	4	4	5	1	1	4	0	4	0	6	9	1	6	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification

See continuation sheet

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code \_\_\_\_\_ county \_\_\_\_\_ code \_\_\_\_\_

state \_\_\_\_\_ code \_\_\_\_\_ county \_\_\_\_\_ code \_\_\_\_\_

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Karen Bode Curths Supervised by Mary Ann Anders

organization Oklahoma Historical Preservation Survey date September 1982

street & number 502 Math Sciences telephone 624-5678

city or town Stillwater, Oklahoma State University state Oklahoma

## 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

title \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date \_\_\_\_\_

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date \_\_\_\_\_

Chief of Registration

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

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

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 & 10 PAGE 1

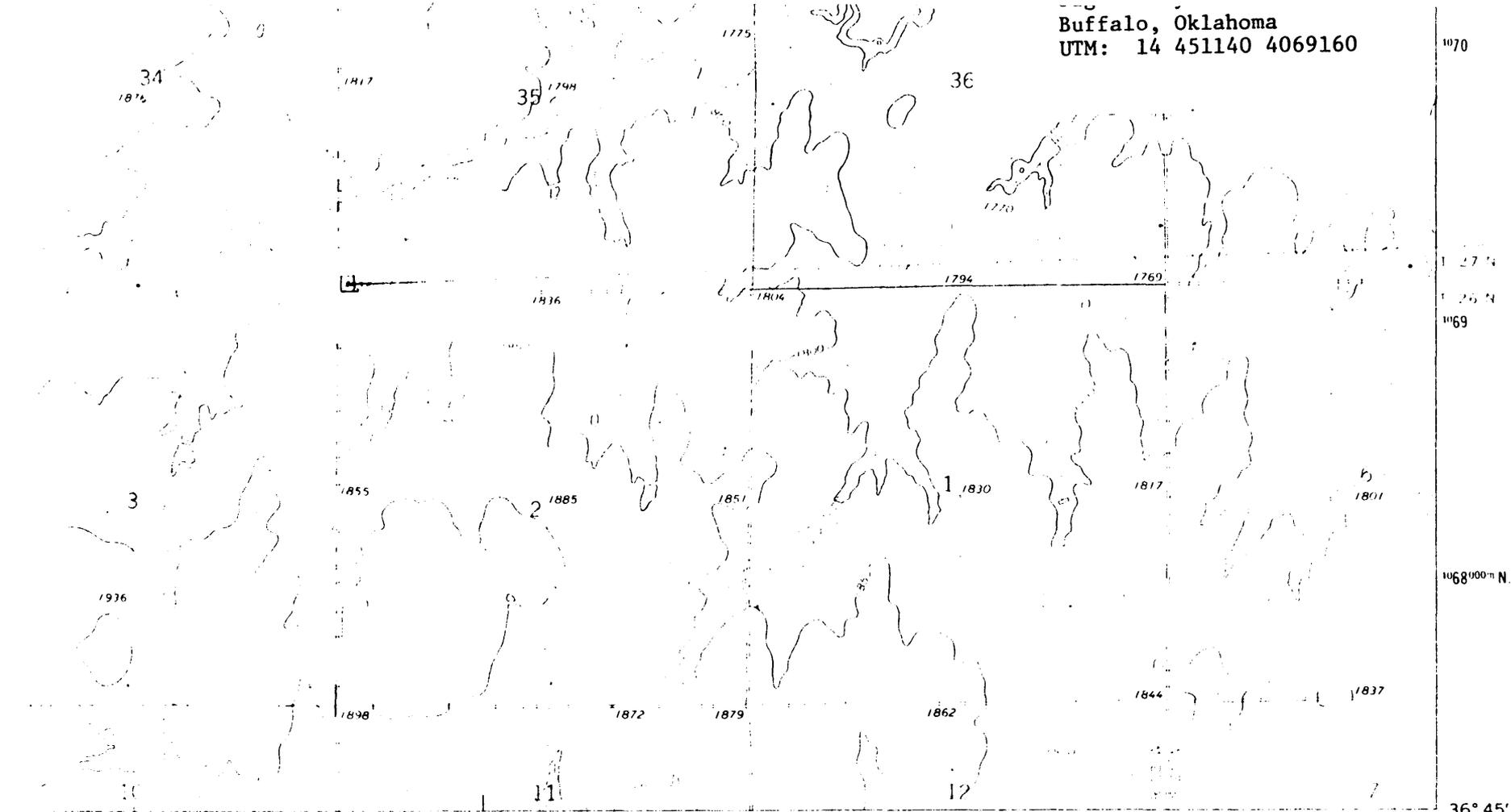
Bibliographical References:

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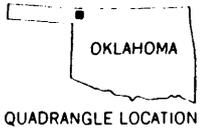
Buffalo, Oklahoma  
UTM: 14 451140 4069160



Page  
3 of 4

APPLY NEI  
12-00  
1 KILOMETER  
7000 FEET

VERTICAL INTERVAL 10 FEET  
MEAN SEA LEVEL



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

**ROAD CLASSIFICATION**

Primary highway, hard surface ——— Light-duty road, hard or improved surface  
 Secondary highway, hard surface - - - Unimproved road

Interstate Route      U. S. Route      State Route

6137 III NW  
(SLEEPING BEAR CREEK NW)

**BUFFALO SE, OKLA.**  
N3645—W9930/7.5

1970

AMS 6057 I SE SERIES V883

NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR COLORADO 80225, OR WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, NORMAN, OKLAHOMA 73069  
A LEGEND AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST