

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

NATIONAL  
REGISTER

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1. Name of Property

=====

historic name: Smith, Sylvester, Farmstead

other name/site number: N/A

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2. Location

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street & number: South of County Rd. 10, approximately 3/4 mi. NE of jct. with County Rd. 13

not for publication: N/A

city/town: Boswell

vicinity: X

state: AR county: Izard code: AR 065 zip code: 72516

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3. Classification

=====

Ownership of Property: Private

Category of Property: Buildings

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>5</u>	<u>1</u>	buildings
<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	sites
<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	structures
<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	objects
<u>5</u>	<u>1</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: N/A

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

\_\_\_\_\_

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#### 4. State/Federal Agency Certification

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As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets \_\_\_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. \_\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

Cathryn A. Byrd  
Signature of certifying official

7-16-92  
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.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

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#### 5. National Park Service Certification

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I, hereby certify that this property is:

~~Entered in the~~  
National Register

☒ 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): \_\_\_\_\_

Helene Byrd 9/8/92

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Keeper

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date  
of Action

=====

#### 6. Function or Use

=====

Historic: Domestic  
Agriculture

Sub: Single Dwelling  
Agricultural Outbuildings

Current : Domestic  
Agriculture

Sub: Single Dwelling  
Agricultural Outbuildings

=====  
**7. Description**  
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Architectural Classification:

Late 19th and Early 20th Century American Movements  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Other Description: Plain Traditional

Materials: foundation Stone roof Tin  
walls Weatherboard other \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Describe present and historic physical appearance. X See continuation sheet.

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**8. Statement of Significance**  
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Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: Local.

Applicable National Register Criteria: B,C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): N/A

Areas of Significance: Agriculture  
Commerce  
Architecture  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period(s) of Significance: c.1922-c.1942

Significant Dates: N/A

Significant Person(s): Smith, Sylvester  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: Smith, Sylvester  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.  
X See continuation sheet.

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National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

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Summary

The Sylvester Smith Farmstead includes a total of six structures, featuring one residential structure. Together these comprise a remarkably intact example of an early twentieth century, rural Izard County farmstead. There is one non-contributing structure.

Elaboration

The Sylvester Smith farmstead is composed of six standing structures, all of which are historic and closely associated with the history of the property as a working twentieth century farmstead.

Located in Section 15, Township 16 North, Range 10 West, near Boswell in Izard County, the residence is a one story, wood frame building designed in Plain/Traditional style. The plan is basically rectangular with a 3/4 front porch. The front section of the house features a shingle clad hipped roof with an intersecting, gable roof rear section -- also composition shingled -- sheltering the rooms to the south. The walls are clad in narrow novelty siding and the structure is supported by a continuous foundation of stone. There is a partial cellar under the western elevation of the house, located approximately at the center of the elevation.

The northern or front elevation of the residence features a single story, gable roofed porch that shelters the double entry below. The porch features a low stone balustrade which provides a base for the wood columns supporting the roof. Fenestration of the elevation features one two-over-two window in the gable end of the porch roof.

The western elevation features three symmetrically-placed two-over-two windows and the access to the breezeway which separates the sections of the house and provides shelter for the cistern which is still in use.

The southern of rear elevation features a single two-over-two window, a pair of two-over-two windows and the entrance to the large screened porch.

The eastern elevation features a single entrance to the screened porch area and two symmetrically-placed two-over-two windows.

The interior of the house is intact with original flooring fabric throughout. It is very simple in ornamentation with some stained and painted wood trim.

The contributing ancillary structures to the rear and side of the house are all

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National Park Service

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**Continuation Sheet**

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of a similar style. The smoke house is located to the south of the house. It is a box-construction, rectangular building with a tin clad gabled roof, covered with board and batten. The structure rests on stone piers and has a construction date of circa. 1923.

Southeast of the smokehouse is a chicken house, also built in 1923, and designed with a rectangular plan and of box construction. The walls are vertically-sided and covered with a tin shed roof. The foundation is constructed of stone piers.

A large double crib style barn was built c. 1923 to the east of the residential house. It is supported by stone piers and of log, vertical board and covered box construction. The roof is gable flowing into shed on each side and is clad with tin.

A small rectangular plan garage with a metal-clad gable roof was erected southeast of the house. The walls of the structure are fashioned of vertical boards and are supported by a stone pier foundation; it was constructed c. 1942.

The one non-contributing structure is a c. 1960 privy located southwest of the smokehouse.

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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### Summary

The Smith Farmstead is eligible under Criteria B and C with local significance through its associations with its builder and principal resident, Sylvester Smith, an unusually active and innovative farmer, merchant and general entrepreneur in the community of Boswell, and through its status as the most intact commercial and subsistence farmstead ensemble that survives from the third and fourth decades of the twentieth century.

### Elaboration

The small town of Boswell, Arkansas is located on the western line of IZARD County near the Missouri Pacific Railroad and on the north side of the White River. In its history, it has had three names: Wideman, Cook, and Boswell. The very first settlement known as Wideman was located on Wideman Creek about four miles from the present town of Boswell. The Wideman school, which pioneer settlers erected early, served a large area as both an educational and social center. This settlement spread quickly, however, all the way down the creek to White River as other people came to live in the territory.

Approval was made in the year of 1905 for a United States Post Office for the little village, but since there was already an existing post office named Wideman in IZARD County, the name Cook was selected as there were numerous residents in the area having that name. After the railroad was built and a depot station established, the trainmen and railroad officials referred to the station as Wideman. Later the station was referred to as Boswell since the station agent's name was Robert Boswell. Shipments of freight were tagged for Boswell, but it was necessary that all statements and bills be addressed to the post office of Cook, which resulted in much confusion. Thus, in 1927, the name of the post office was officially changed to Boswell.

Many changes for Boswell came with the building of the railroad during the years of 1901 -1906. Firstly, it provided employment for the natives which helped them pay for homestead lands, build better homes and purchase food for families and livestock. Secondly, the railroad was a source of transportation, not only for people but also for freight and livestock. Better roads were built leading to Melbourne as merchants received much of their freight via railway at Boswell and hauled it by wagon to Melbourne. By the 1930's, the economy of the area was based upon farming, livestock production, and the railroad industry.

Henry W. Smith, his wife Ida Vest Smith, and two small sons, Sylvester and Thurman moved to Boswell, Arkansas from a farm at Belview (also IZARD County) in January, 1901. The St. Louis, Iron Mountain and Southern was being built, and



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Continuation Sheet

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the promise of employment, as well as the available fertile river bottomland for farming attracted many settlers to the area.

Henry W. Smith homesteaded 160 acres in 1902 and in 1907 the property was deeded to him by the U. S. government. The Smith sons were approaching maturity. Sylvester attended high school at a nearby community called Mt. Olive (about a four mile walk) where he received a high school diploma. After high school he attended and graduated from Droughon's Business College in Little Rock, Arkansas.

Sylvester returned to the Boswell area where in 1914 he married Miss Edna Combs. As a wedding gift from his father, he and his bride were given the 80 acres on which the Smith farmstead now stands. In 1922, he completed the house and began completing the ancillary structures. During that time he was a partner in a business of General Merchandise with his father, Henry W. Smith, called Smith and Son. However, this business ended abruptly when the store building was struck by lightning, burning to the ground.

Sylvester Smith was an entrepreneur of first rank. He served several years as the agent-telegrapher for the Missouri Pacific Railroad Company, working stations at Sylamore, Boswell, and Calico Rock. During those same years he was buying, raising and selling cattle as another source of income. Oral history maintains that Smith was the first person in the county to fence his cattle. He is also credited with bringing the Red Polled Hereford cattle to Izard County. During this time he was experimenting with different hays and grasses to further productivity of his herds.

The railroad was a great friend to Sylvester Smith. Marketing of his cattle was made by way of train into St. Louis and Smith was said to have shipped as many as nine car-loads of cattle at one time. He also shipped eggs on contract to the luxurious Marion Hotel in Little Rock.

Smith business interests didn't stop with merchandising. During the Depression he was owner and publisher of the "Calico Rock Progress," a small local newspaper. Furthermore, to break the monotony of business, journalism, cattle and poultry production, Smith was a 32nd degree Mason and a member of the Odd Fellows. In his spare time he sold real estate.

During these years Smith was adding land to his holdings until he was in possession of an area of an entire section (640 acres).

Smith's devotion to his homeplace, his love of the land and interest in the history and heritage of Arkansas has been passed intact to his children and grandchildren who now occupy and maintain the property in an unaltered and

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respectful manner.

The Smith Farmstead is eligible under Criterion B through its direct association with the farmer, merchant, railroad man and general entrepreneur Sylvester Smith, the Boswell resident who both erected all of its contributing structures and resided here with his family throughout its entire period of significance. Furthermore, though all of the contributing buildings within the Smith Farmstead are of simple, relatively unornamented design and without architectural distinction, the ensemble of residential and agricultural structures remains intact from the first twenty years of the historic occupation of the site as a commercial and subsistence farmstead, and is thus also eligible under Criterion C.



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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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X See continuation sheet.

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 -- Specify Repository: \_\_\_\_\_

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## 10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of Property: Approximately five

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing      Zone Easting Northing

A	<u>15</u>	<u>586100</u>	<u>3988810</u>	B	___	___	___
C	___	___	___	D	___	___	___

\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: \_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

Beginning at a point on the southern edge of County Rd. 10, approximately 300 ft. northwest of the northwest corner of the house, proceed 400 ft. due south to a point approximately 200 ft southwest of the southwest corner of the house. Then proceed 500 ft. due east. Then proceed approximately 700 ft. north to the southern edge of County Rd. 10. Then proceed southwest along the road edge to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification: \_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

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

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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 9 Page 1

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Bibliography

*Independence County Chronicle*, July, 1970.

*Izard County Historian*, July, 1976.

*Izard County Historian*, July, 1981.

Interview with Mr. William "Bud" Cooper; January, 1992.

Interview with Mrs. Lora Cooper Ross; July, 1991.

Ross, Lora Smith, *The Reverend J. J. Vest and Some of his Kinfolks*, Melbourne, Arkansas; 1985.

Shannon, Karr, *History of Izard County*, (Melbourne, Arkansas; 1927).

11. Form Prepared By

=====

Name/Title: Barbara Lindsey-Allen, Survey Coordinator

Organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program Date: 07/29/92

Street & Number: 225 E. Markham, Suite 300 Telephone: (501) 324-9346

City or Town: Little Rock State: AR ZIP: 72201

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Smith, Sylvester, Farmstead

MULTIPLE  
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: ARKANSAS, Izard

DATE RECEIVED: 8/07/92 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 8/21/92  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 9/06/92 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 9/21/92  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 92001222

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT 9/8/92 DATE

Entered in the  
National Register

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA \_\_\_\_\_  
REVIEWER \_\_\_\_\_  
DISCIPLINE \_\_\_\_\_  
DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

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CLASSIFICATION

\_\_\_count \_\_\_resource type

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STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

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FUNCTION

\_\_\_historic \_\_\_current

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DESCRIPTION

\_\_\_architectural classification  
\_\_\_materials  
\_\_\_descriptive text

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SIGNIFICANCE

Period Areas of Significance--Check and justify below

Specific dates Builder/Architect  
Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

\_\_\_summary paragraph  
\_\_\_completeness  
\_\_\_clarity  
\_\_\_applicable criteria  
\_\_\_justification of areas checked  
\_\_\_relating significance to the resource  
\_\_\_context  
\_\_\_relationship of integrity to significance  
\_\_\_justification of exception  
\_\_\_other

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

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GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

\_\_\_acreage \_\_\_verbal boundary description  
\_\_\_UTMs \_\_\_boundary justification

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ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

\_\_\_sketch maps \_\_\_USGS maps \_\_\_photographs \_\_\_presentation

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OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_







Sylvester Smith Farmstead  
Izard Co., Arkansas  
Photographed by Barbara Lindsey-Allen  
July 1991  
Negative on file at AHPP  
View from the south





Sylvester Smith Farmstead  
Izard Co., Arkansas  
Photographed by Barbara Lindsey-Allen  
July 1991  
Negative on file at AHPP  
View from the North





Sylvester Smith Farmstead  
Izard Co., Arkansas  
Photographed by Barbara Lindsey-Allen  
July 1991  
Negative on file at AHPP  
View from the west





Sylvester Smith Farmstead  
Izard Co., Arkansas  
Photographed by Barbara Lindsey-Allen  
July 1991  
Negative on file at AHPP  
View from the East







Sylvester Smith Farmstead

Izard Co., Arkansas

Photographed by Barbara Lindsey-Allen

July 1991

Negative on file at AHPP

View from the East





Sylvester Smith Farmstead  
Izard Co., Arkansas  
Photographed by Barbara Lindsey-Allen  
July 1991  
Negative on file at AHPP  
View from the East

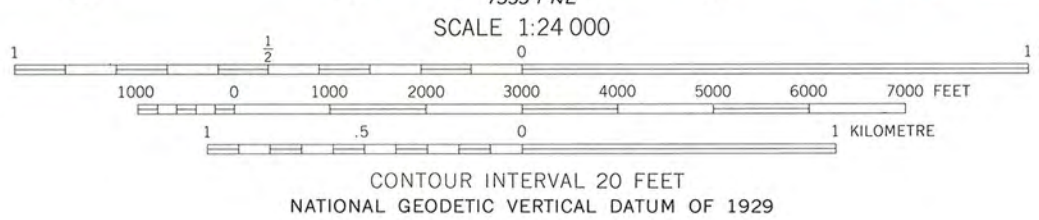
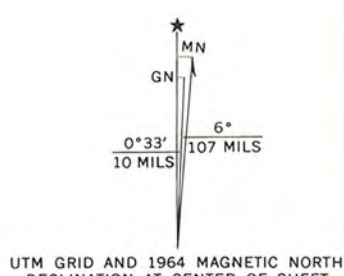


UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

BOSWELL QUADRANGLE  
ARKANSAS  
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
Control by USGS and USC&GS  
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial  
photographs taken 1959. Field checked 1964  
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
10,000-foot grid based on Arkansas coordinate system, north zone  
1000-metre Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,  
zone 15, shown in blue  
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where  
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked  
Map photinspected 1980  
No major culture or drainage changes observed



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092  
AND ARKANSAS GEOLOGICAL COMMISSION, LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72204  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

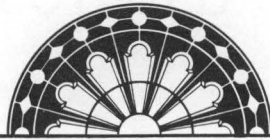


ROAD CLASSIFICATION  
Light-duty ————— Unimproved dirt —————  
State Route

BOSWELL, ARK.  
N3600—W9200/7.5

1964  
PHOTOINSPECTED 1980  
AMS 7556 II SE—SERIES V884





ARKANSAS  
HISTORIC  
PRESERVATION  
PROGRAM

RECEIVED  
AUG 07 1992

NATIONAL  
REGISTER

July 16, 1992

Carol D. Shull  
Chief of Registration  
United States Department of the Interior  
National Register of Historic Places  
National Park Service  
1100 "L" Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20240

RE: Smith Farmstead  
Izard County, AR

Dear Carol:

We are enclosing for your review the nomination of the above referenced property. The Arkansas Historic Preservation Program has complied with all applicable nominating procedures and notification requirements in the nomination process.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Cathy Buford  
State Historic Preservation Officer

CB:kg

Enclosures

