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# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE 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 & NUMBER

John Brown University

NOT FOR PUBLICATION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 & 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 & 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		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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## 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.

# SIGNIFICANCE

## PERIOD

## AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

<input type="checkbox"/> HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 0-1499	<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 livestock 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.

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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

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"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).

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

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

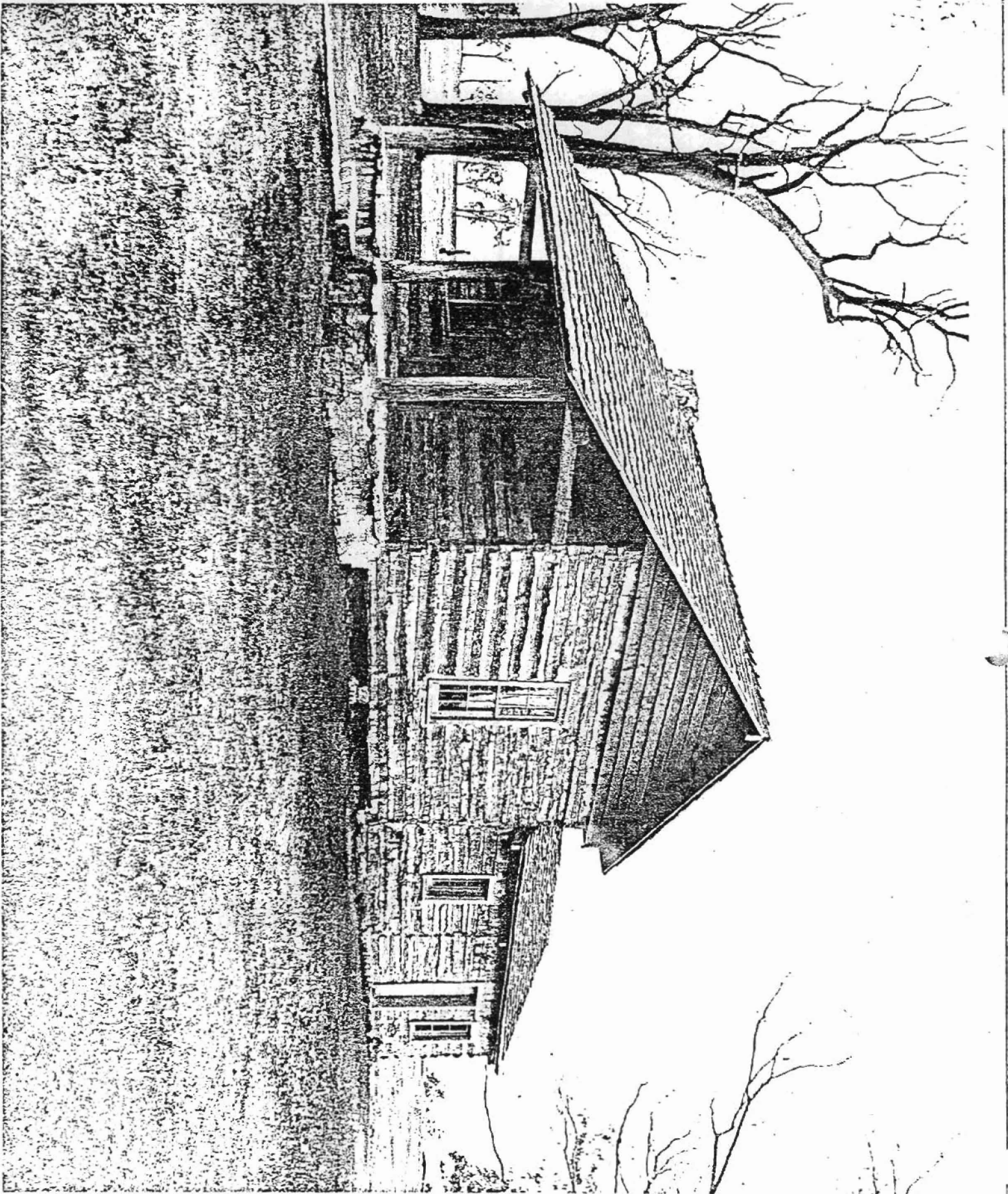
**4 IDENTIFICATION**

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

PHOTO NO.

East elevation and south facade, viewed from southeast.

1





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**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Simon Sager Cabin

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

CITY, TOWN <u>Siloam Springs</u>	VICINITY OF	STATE <u>Arkansas</u>	COUNTY <u>Benton</u>
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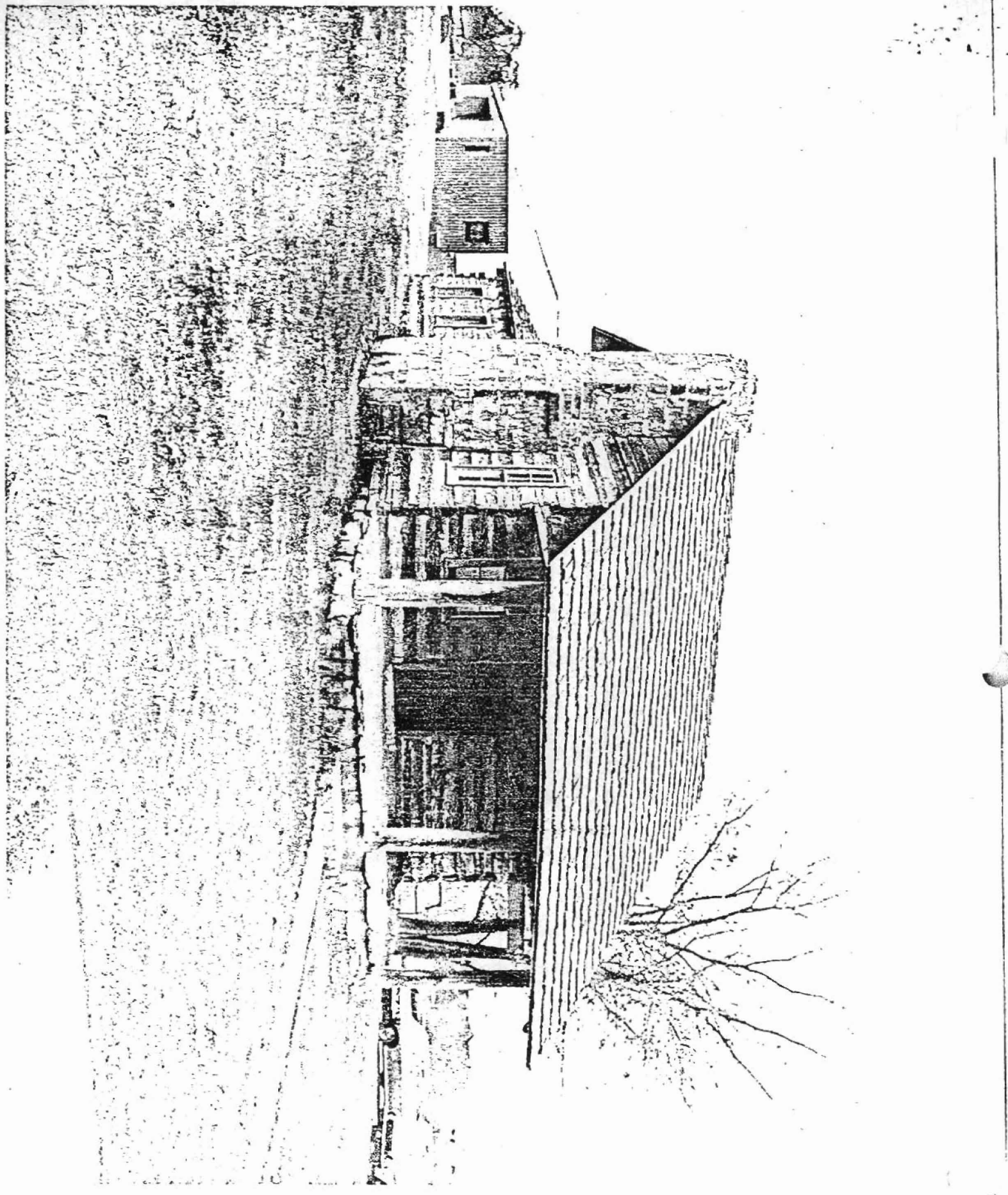
**3 PHOTO REFERENCE**

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 <u>West elevation and south facade, viewed from southwest</u>	PHOTO NO. <u>2</u>
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY MAP FORM

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SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
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**1** NAME

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**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

Simon Sager Cabin  
Benton County, Arkansas

UTM Reference  
15 / 359 880 / 4006 080



0.2 MI. TO ARK 58

4006  
T 18 N

1 (GALLATIN)  
7156 III NW  
17 17 N

4005

0.2 MI. TO JERICHO, ARK. 59 & 68  
SPRINGDALE (VIA ARK. 68) 21 MI.

10'

4003