This form is not a copy of the original but a reconstruction of the material sent to the National Register.

Form 10-300  UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
                     NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

1. NAME
   COMMON:

   Salter, Susanna Madora, Home

2. LOCATION
   STREET AND NUMBER:
   220 W. Garfield
   CITY OR TOWN:
   Argonia
   STATE:
   Kansas
   67004
   CODE:
   20
   COUNTY:
   Sumner
   CODE:
   191

   CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
   no. 5, Joe Skubitz

3. CLASSIFICATION
   CATEGORY
   (Check One)
   ☐ District  ☐ Building  ☑ Public
   ☐ Site     ☐ Structure  ☑ Private
   ☐ Object
   ☐ Most
   ☐ Both

   OWNERSHIP
   Public Acquisition:
   ☐ In Process  ☐ Being Considered
   ☐ Occupied
   ☐ Unoccupied
   Preservation work
   in progress

   ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
   Yes:
   ☑ Restricted
   ☐ Unrestricted
   ☐ No

   PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)
   ☐ Agricultural
   ☐ Commercial
   ☐ Educational
   ☐ Entertainment
   ☑ Museum
   ☐ Scientific
   ☐ Government
   ☐ Industrial
   ☐ Military
   ☐ Religious
   ☐ Park
   ☐ Transportation
   ☐ Other (Specify)
   ☐ Comments

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY
   OWNER'S NAME:
   Argonia and West Sumner County Historical Society
   STREET AND NUMBER:

   CITY OR TOWN:
   Argonia
   STATE:
   Kansas
   67004
   CODE:
   20

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION
   COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
   Sumner County Courthouse
   STREET AND NUMBER:
   Washington and E. 10th
   CITY OR TOWN:
   Wellington
   STATE:
   Kansas
   67152
   CODE:
   20

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS
   TITLE OF SURVEY:
   None
   DATE OF SURVEY:
   ☐ Federal  ☐ State  ☐ County  ☐ Local
   DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
   STREET AND NUMBER:
   CITY OR TOWN:
   STATE:
   CODE:

FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY NUMBER
STATE:
COUNTY:
ENTRY DATE
The Susanna Madora Salter House, built in the 1880's, is a two-story red brick house presently used as a museum. Approximately 30 feet long and 25 feet wide, it presents today much the same appearance as when the Salter family lived there.

All windows are rectangular with wooden frames; bricks turned on edge make up the lintels, and the sills are stone slabs. Bay windows are located on the south and east sides.

While the major portion of the house is of brick, a frame lean-to has been added at some time to the northwest corner. Also, there is a frame porch on the south front.

The green shingle roof is sharply pitched with intersecting gables and has three chimneys. There is one dormer window on the south front.
6. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)
☐ Pre-Columbian  ☐ 16th Century  ☐ 18th Century  ☐ 20th Century
☐ 15th Century  ☐ 17th Century  ☐ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)  1884-1885

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

| Aboriginal | ☐ Education | ☒ Political | ☐ Urban Planning |
| ☐ Prehistoric | ☐ Engineering | ☐ Religion/Philosophy | ☐ Other (Specify) |
| ☐ Historic | ☐ Industry | ☐ Science | |
| ☐ Agriculture | ☐ Invention | ☐ Sculpture | |
| ☐ Architecture | ☐ Landscape | ☐ Social/Humanitarian | |
| ☐ Art | ☐ Architecture | ☐ | |
| ☐ Commerce | ☐ Literature | ☐ | |
| ☐ Communications | ☐ Military | ☐ Theater | |
| ☐ Conservation | ☐ Music | ☐ Transportation | |

STRICTLY INSTRUCTIONS

Susanna Madora Salter (1860-1961) gained international fame in 1887 when she became the first woman mayor in Kansas and in the United States. Mrs. Salter and her husband Lewis moved to Argonia in 1882 and her parents soon after. Her father, Oliver Kinsey, was the first mayor of Argonia after it was incorporated in 1885, and Salter was the city clerk.

In February, 1887, the Kansas legislature granted partial suffrage to women in first, second, and third class cities. (Argonia was a third class city.) Women could vote for city and school officers and in school bond elections. They were also eligible for the same offices for which they had suffrage.

Prior to the Argonia city election in 1887, the local W. C. T. U. caucused, with Mrs. Salter presiding, to select a ticket of men who they thought deserved office. A group of men opposed to the temperance movement decided to teach the women a lesson. They put up a ticket identical to that of the W. C. T. U. except for the substitution of Mrs. Salter for the mayoralty candidate. Apparently they expected that all women would support the W. C. T. U. ticket and that no man would vote for a woman. The humiliation of Mrs. Salter receiving only a few votes was expected to drive the women of the W. C. T. U. out of politics.

Unaware that her name was on the ballot until the morning of election day, Mrs. Salter with her fellow W. C. T. U. members and some Republican businessmen then campaigned during the day to get voters to the polls and turn the tables on the pro-liquor forces. Elected by a 2/3 majority on April 4, 1887, she became at age 27 the first woman mayor in the United States.

Her year as mayor was rather uneventful. She worked harmoniously with the all-male city council but declined to run for re-election. Her election stirred up interest throughout the U. S. and even abroad. Many newspapers sent reporters to sit in on her council meetings, and she was for a time one of the most talked about and written about persons in the country.

The Salter home was built in 1884-1885 by Mrs. Salter's father, Oliver Kinsey, of bricks made and fired in his own earthen kiln. The Kinseys lived in the house until the death of Mrs. Kinsey in 1891. Early in 1892 the Salters moved into the house from a farm southwest of Argonia and lived there until they left Argonia in Sept., 1893. It is now maintained by the Argonia and West Sumner County Historical Society as a memorial to Mrs. Salter and her achievement.
9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES


10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY

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LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES

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APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: one

STATE: CODE: COUNTY: CODE
STATE: CODE: COUNTY: CODE
STATE: CODE: COUNTY: CODE
STATE: CODE: COUNTY: CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Richard Pankratz, Historic Sites Survey
ORGANIZATION: Kansas State Historical Society
STREET AND NUMBER: 120 West 10th Street
CITY OR TOWN: Topeka
STATE: Kansas 66612 CODE: 20

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National [X] State [ ] Local [ ]

Name ____________________________
Title ____________________________
Date ____________________________

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

________________________________________
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

________________________________________
ATTEST:

________________________________________
Keeper of The National Register

Date ____________________________

☆ U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1973-729-147/1442 3-I
9.

Session Laws of 1887 (Topeka, State Printer, 1887), pp. 324, 325.