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Form 10-300  
(Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**SELGEN**

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Kansas
COUNTY: Sumner
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

**1. NAME**

COMMON:

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
Salter, Susanna Madora, Home

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
220 W. Garfield

CITY OR TOWN:  
Argonia

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:  
no. 5, Joe Skubitz

STATE Kansas	CODE 67004	COUNTY: Sumner	CODE 191
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**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
Argonia and West Sumner County Historical Society

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
Argonia

STATE:  
Kansas

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

CODE:  
67152

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:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Kansas
COUNTY: Sumner
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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

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.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century            | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century  | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century |                                       |

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

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |   |   |   |  |
|---|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal     | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric    | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy  | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic       | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science              | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture    | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture            | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture   | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian  | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art            | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater              | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce       | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation       | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation   |   |   |  |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

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.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Beals, Frank, compiler, "First Lady Mayor Elected 1887;" Argonia Argosy, May 13, 1954.  
 Beals, Frank, compiler, "World's First Lady Mayor," Argonia Argosy, May 6, 1954.  
 Billington, Monroe, "Susanna Madora Salter - First Woman Mayor," Kansas Historical Quarterly, v. 21, no. 3 (Autumn 1954), pp. 173-183.  
 "Historical Society to Open Salter House," Argonia Argosy, May 16, 1963.  
 Mitchell, Alfred Hewetson, "America's First Woman Mayor," Ohio State Archeological and Historical Quarterly, v. 53, no. 1 (Jan.-Mar., 1944), pp. 52-54.

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	° ' "	° ' "		°	'	"
NE	° ' "	° ' "		37	16	04
SE	° ' "	° ' "		97	46	24
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **One**

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

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**      DATE: **Feb., 1971**

STREET AND NUMBER: **120 West 10th Street**

CITY OR TOWN: **Topeka**      STATE: **Kansas 66612**      CODE: **20**

**12 STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION      NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

<p>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:</p> <p>National <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>      State <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>      Local <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name _____</p> <p>Title _____</p> <p>Date _____</p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p>_____  <i>Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</i></p> <p>Date _____</p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p>_____  <i>Keeper of The National Register</i></p> <p>Date _____</p>
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

State Kansas	
COUNTY Sumner	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

9.

Salter, Lewis Spencer, "First Woman Mayor - 1887," Kansas Government Journal, v. 23, no. 13, (Oct. 1937), p. 21.

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

Watson, John, "Nation's First Woman Mayor Elected by Little Kansas Town," Wichita Morning Eagle, Aug. 18, 1955.