

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. **Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

## 1. Name of Property

historic name Adams, Abram A. Home

other names/site number The Castle Museum / IHSI # 57-13472

Name of Multiple Property Listing N/A

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

## 2. Location

street & number 191 State Street  not for publication

city or town Juliaetta  vicinity

state Idaho code ID county Latah code 057 zip code 83535

## 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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 \_\_\_ meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance: \_\_\_ national \_\_\_ statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria: \_\_\_ A X B X C \_\_\_ D

Signature of certifying official/Title: Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer Date

Idaho State Historic Preservation Office  
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property \_\_\_ meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official Date

Title State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

## 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

\_\_\_ entered in the National Register \_\_\_ determined eligible for the National Register

\_\_\_ determined not eligible for the National Register \_\_\_ removed from the National Register

\_\_\_ other (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Abram A. Adams Home  
Name of Property

Latah, Idaho  
County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

**Category of Property**  
(Check only **one** box.)

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

- private
- public - Local
- public - State
- public - Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	1	buildings
		site
		structure
		object
1	1	<b>Total</b>

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

RECREATION AND CULTURE: Museum

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

GOTHIC REVIVAL: Castellated

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: CONCRETE

walls: CONCRETE: Poured Blocks

roof: ASPHALT

other: \_\_\_\_\_

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### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity).

#### Summary Paragraph

The Abram A. Adams Home, appropriately referred to as The Castle by locals, is located at 191 State Street, Juliaetta, Latah County, Idaho and was constructed in 1906. The Adams Home, though currently serving as a local museum, continues to sit in a residential community, echoing back to the original function of the resource. The property has one contributing building and one non-contributing building within the nominated property boundary of less than one acre. The Adams Home is located on the southwest corner of the property lot, and the main entry of the home faces east towards State Street. The building is setback about seventy-five feet from State Street, and is accessed by a mossy, concrete sidewalk and concrete stairs leading up a hill. The Adams Home is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under both Criterion B for being the last known building associated with Abram A. Adams during the Alaska wheat scandal of 1908, and Criterion C for its distinctive Gothic Revival architectural style in Juliaetta, Idaho.

The integrity of the Abram A. Adams home is highly intact. The workmanship and materials of the home retain high integrity with the original windows, concrete blocks, and interior ceilings, wallpaper, and stairs. The plan, form, structure, and style of the Adams Home has not changed since construction in 1906. The setting remains residential and the home is in the original location. While the Adams family no longer occupies the house, the feeling and association of the home as a unique architectural style in the community and as the former of residence of Abram A. Adams remains undamaged. The Adams Home continues to be one of the most unique architectural features in Juliaetta and where one of the most unique characters in Juliaetta's history lived.

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### Narrative Description

The Abram A. Adams home is located in Juliaetta, Latah County, Idaho, a rural, agriculture town of 579 residents located along the Potlatch River, twenty-three miles northeast of Lewiston, Idaho.<sup>1</sup> Agriculture—including fruit orchards, livestock, and wheat production—has defined the history of Juliaetta and the surrounding area since its founding by Euro-American settlers in the 1870s. Surrounding the home and within the nominated property boundary is a spacious lawn with multiple plant species, including Eastern Red Cedar, Sumac, Ancient Lilacs, Forsythia, Bridal Veil Spiraea, Fragrant Briar Rose, English Ivy, and Smoke Tree. State Street runs north/south along the eastern nominated property boundary line. There is a gravel driveway curving along the northwest and west side of the nominated property boundary to provide entry to the home if the steep, east entry steps are not appropriate. There is also a gravel driveway in the southeast corner of the nominated property lot providing access to a neighboring home. A small, metal shed sits northwest of the home and is the only non-contributing resource within the nominated property boundary, though it does not detract from the property or the integrity (Figure 2, Photo 6).

The Adams Home is a castellated Gothic Revival style building that, while simple compared to other castellated homes found throughout the United States, is incredibly unique for Juliaetta and representative of the eccentric designer and builder, Abram A. Adams. It is a two-story, square plan with a basement. The building measures 40' by 30' with a recessed entrance and setbacks 30" and 42" on the north and south elevations respectively (Figure 4). The east façade houses the front door and covered entry porch, and the west elevation features a covered entrance providing access to the kitchen. The roof is flat and covered with asphalt. The Adams Home sits on a concrete foundation with a full, concrete basement. It is comprised of eight-inch thick rusticated, concrete blocks that Abram A. Adams poured himself. The building still has its original 1906 windowpanes and wood sashes (Photo 9). The roof features square shaped parapets adding to the castellated Gothic Revival style of the building. The corners of the Adams Home feature smooth concrete quoins, which are also found running the length of the building at the same height of the top and bottom of windows.

The front façade of the Adams Home faces east towards State Street and measures 40' across. The front entrance is inset 3' and measures 8' across. It is accessed by a mossy concrete sidewalk leading to concrete stairs with a metal railing going up a short but steep hill (Photo 16). A covered entrance with metal drip molding supported by concrete block posts and a small, curved front porch highlight the main entrance (Photo 8). The front entry way also features black and white tiles at the entrance giving the appearance of a welcome mat (Photo 10). The front

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<sup>1</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, *Annual Estimates of the Resident Population: April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2012*, <http://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?src=bkmk> (Accessed May 2016).

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door is wood, with one, large glass pane covered by a screen door and framed by white concrete molding. There are seven one-over-one-light double hung, wood sash windows on the east facade. The first floor windows measure 4' wide by 6' tall with a 1.5" thick wood frame. The top lights measures 18" tall, and the first floor top lights feature lead diamond and hexagon details (Photo 9). There is a concrete ledge with drip molding over the first floor windows, a common feature in Gothic Revival homes.<sup>2</sup> Two of the second floor windows on the north and south side measure 5' tall by 4' wide with a 1.5" thick wood frame. The top light measures 18" and there is drip molding over the window. There is a similar window on the second floor centered above the main entrance. Two one-over-one-light, double hung wood windows are located on the basement level of the east facade. They measure 48" wide and 43" tall.

The north and south elevations of the Adams Home are symmetrical with minor exceptions. The setback on the north elevation measures 30" and the set back on the south elevation measures 42". Both the north and south elevations have four one-over-one-light, double hung, wood sash windows. The first floor windows measure 4' wide by 6' tall with a 1.5" thick wood frame. The top light measures 18" and the first floor top lights feature lead diamond and hexagon details (Photo 9). There is a concrete ledge with drip molding over the first floor windows. The second floor windows measure 5' tall by 4' wide with a 1.5" thick wood frame. The top light measures 18" and there is drip molding over the windows. The north elevation has a wood door providing access to the basement (Photo 14). The south elevation features a window into the basement, but was covered with firewood at the time of assessment and could not be measured.

The west elevation provides an entrance to the kitchen on the north side (Photo 5). There is a sloped, covered entrance supported by two, wood posts over the door. The door to the kitchen is a three-panel wood door with a one-light window. The first floor one-over-one-light, wood sash window measures 4' wide by 6' tall. The top light measures 18" tall and features the same lead details as the other elevations. The bottom light has a wood muntin dividing the window into two equal halves. The first floor window has a concrete ledge with drip molding. The second floor window measures 6' tall by 3' wide and is a one-over-one-light, double hung, wood sash window. The lights are equal size, unlike other windows on the home.

Given the current use of the building as a museum, interior measurements could not be taken. However, it is quickly obvious that the original plan of the home and many original elements remain intact. The first floor is divided into five spaces: entry way, front room, office, dining room, and kitchen (Figure 3). The second floor is divided into six spaces: entry room, three bedrooms, a library, and an original bathroom (Figure 3). Walls on these two floors are 18" thick and there is a central heating system. The basement features a large open space along with a fruit cellar and furnace room (Figure 3). Many of the rooms still have the original flooring, wallpaper, and pressed tin ceilings, ordered from the Sears and Roebuck Catalog (Photos 12 and 13).<sup>3</sup> The Adams Home also retains much of the original furniture including a desk, radio, piano, and handmade chair that were used by Abram A. Adams and his family. Knob and tube wiring has only been replaced in one upstairs bedroom. Though the home was rented for a period of time, Adams' son sold the home and some furnishings directly to its current owners in the 1970s and it was immediately converted into a museum, helping it retain high integrity.

The integrity of the Adams Home is highly intact. The location of the Adams Home is where the property was constructed in 1906. The design also retains high integrity as there have been no additions to the exterior and no interior plan alterations. While some ornamental features have been the victim to weathering, the overall castellated Gothic Revival style of the building remains (Photo 15). As it is currently a community museum, outside elements have been brought to the site, including the original Juliaetta jail cell in the front yard. However, these elements do not detract from the setting. The surrounding area is still lightly residential and the topography remains the same. Furthermore, additions to the setting within the nominated property boundary could be easily removed in the future, including removing the non-contributing metal shed. Material integrity is highly intact given that the concrete blocks and interior elements are the same from construction in 1906 and later Adams occupation. Weather and water damage have impacted some of the original materials, specifically the tin ceiling and walls in one of the upstairs bedrooms (Photo 13). However, there are many other examples of good condition, original materials throughout the house, including hardwood floors (Photo 12). Adams was a designer and builder, and this was not the first home he built. His workmanship is still visible in the home as he made the blocks himself. The details in the windows also speak to his workmanship. Even without knowing the community of Juliaetta, it is obvious to someone looking at the Adams Home that there is something unique about it. The castellated Gothic Revival style gives an onlooker the feeling not only of the past but also of a person who did not play by conventional rules. With the exception of his tombstone, the Abram A. Adams Home is the last known place in the Juliaetta community associated with Abram A. Adams, and his unique life is directly associated with the unique architecture found in The Castle.

<sup>2</sup> Virginia and Lee McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2006), 198.

<sup>3</sup> Personal Communication, Justin Cope.

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**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE

AGRICULTURE

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1906 [Date of Construction]

1908

**Significant Dates**

1906 [Date of Construction]

1908 [Alaska Wheat Scandal]

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Abram A. Adams

**Cultural Affiliation** (if applicable)

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Abram A. Adams

**Period of Significance (justification)**

The Abram A. Adams Home is significant on the local level for its Gothic Revival architecture, and its association with Abram A. Adams and his agricultural pursuits. The periods of significance for the Adams home are 1906, the year of construction, and 1908, the year Adams' Alaska wheat tried and failed to take the agricultural world by storm.

**Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)**

N/A

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**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations).

The Abram A. Adams Home—currently The Castle Museum—located at 191 State Street in Juliaetta, Latah County, Idaho continues to represent castellated Gothic Revival architecture found nowhere else in the community and maintains its association with one of Juliaetta's most unique agricultural characters. Built in 1906, the building is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria B and C for its association with Abram A. Adams and its distinct architectural style. Significant on the local level as the only castellated Gothic Revival example in Juliaetta and as the last extant structure associated with Abram A. Adams, it also retains all seven aspects of integrity. The design, workmanship, and vast majority of materials are original to 1906 construction. The setting is still residential, the location remains the same, and the feeling and association are still connected to an unconventional house occupied by an unconventional person during the periods of significance. The building is significant in the area of Architecture for its Gothic Revival style in the community of Juliaetta. It is also significant in the area of Agriculture for its association with Abram A. Adams and the Alaska wheat scandal of 1908. Abram A. Adams built the nominated property in 1906, and then occupied it until his death in 1925. The surrounding area within the nominated property boundary, and in the shadows of his Gothic Revival home, is likely where Adams grew the first crop of Alaska wheat that would make him infamous. 1906, the year of construction, and 1908, the year of the Alaska wheat scandal, are the periods of significance for the property. The Adams Home is the only contributing building within the nominated property boundary, though there is on non-contributing metal shed used for storage located northwest of the home.

**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

#### **Juliaetta, Idaho:**

*"The silvery waters of the Potlatch, the abundance of timber, the beautiful and fertile prairie lands, and the enormous amount and great varieties of wild game and fish, all furnished alluring promises of peace and plenty to the homeseeker. These promises have now become realities, and the productiveness of this vast [sic] area of land so far exceeds that of many other states, we have come to realize that this is truly a land which flows with milk and honey."*<sup>4</sup>

The *Niimiipuu*, more commonly known as the Nez Perce, occupied the panhandle of present day Idaho long before Lewis and Clark "discovered" the Pacific Northwest. The *Tunéhepu* band of the Nez Perce lived along the Potlatch River at present day Juliaetta, Idaho. While Juliaetta is not within the boundaries of the Nez Perce Indian Reservation as defined by the 1863 treaty, the 1855 Treaty did include Juliaetta. Similar to most northern Idaho towns, the success of Juliaetta is a product of the surrounding landscape. Located at a low elevation along the Potlatch River, the area is sometimes referred to as the "Banana Belt" for its rich agricultural production, including wheat, vegetables, and fruits, historically known for tomatoes, watermelons, cantaloupes, and cherries.<sup>5</sup> In 1892, the *Moscow Mirror* wrote that the "town has every natural advantage a town can possess in an interior country—a favorable location, good water, natural drainage, surrounded by a country rich as any which the dews of heaven have ever watered or the sunshine ever kissed."<sup>6</sup> The paper goes on to praise the lands ability to grow "[h]erds of fat cattle," apples of "enormous size and weight," and grain with heads "like the topknot feathers on the roosters head" in unthinkable places.<sup>7</sup>

In 1878, Rupert Schupfer, an Austrian who ventured west after arriving in America, homesteaded 160 acres, including the land Juliaetta now occupies. When Schupfer received the deed for his land in 1884, he platted part of the land for a town, which was referred to as both Schupfer and Schupferville.<sup>8</sup> When Charles Snyder, a German who moved to the region from California—perhaps the man who first started this now detested trend—established a post office in 1882 he named it after two of his daughters: Julia and Etta. His other children—including six sons and two more daughters—never had towns named for them.<sup>9</sup> The town went by all three names until 1890 when the residents petitioned the Latah County Commissioners to accept one name, the name of the post office, Juliaetta. Schupfer's feelings must not have been hurt as he dedicated the town of Juliaetta on June 14, 1890, even though the name was not officially approved until July 1890.<sup>10</sup>

<sup>4</sup> "Juliaetta, the Metropolis of the Potlatch," *The Juliaetta Sun* 1911.

<sup>5</sup> Julie R. Monroe, *Images of America: Latah County* (Charleston, SC: Arcadia Publishing, 2006), 49; *A Centennial History of the Kendrick-Juliaetta Area* (Kendrick, ID: Kendrick-Juliaetta Centennial Committee, 1990), 28.

<sup>6</sup> "Three Latah County Towns in 1892," *Latah Legacy: The Quarterly Journal of the Latah County Historical Society* 17 no. 1 (Spring 1988), 2.

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*, 1-2.

<sup>8</sup> *A Centennial History of the Kendrick-Juliaetta Area* (Kendrick, ID: Kendrick-Juliaetta Centennial Committee, 1990), 25.

<sup>9</sup> *Ibid.*, 25.

<sup>10</sup> *Ibid.*, 26.

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In 1891 the Northern Pacific Railway connected Juliaetta to Spokane, Washington. Due to the challenge and cost of acquiring land on the Nez Perce Reservation and the economic panic of 1893, it was not until 1898 that the railroad stretched from Juliaetta to Lewiston, Idaho. For those seven years, Juliaetta claimed there were “more railroad tickets sold to and from Juliaetta than any other town on the line.”<sup>11</sup> By the late 1890s and early 1900s Juliaetta had “a flour mill, sawmill, lumber yard, grain warehouses, two general merchandise stores, a drug store, meatmarket, shoe store, shoes and millinery shops, blacksmith shops, 3 hotels, and a weekly newspaper.”<sup>12</sup> The town was also home to a “dental parlor” operated by Dr. Buchanan, “a leader in his profession” given his education at the University of Iowa, an eighteen piece concert band that performed around the region, and four churches—Catholic, German Lutheran, Presbyterian, and Christian.<sup>13</sup> This was the Juliaetta that Abram A. Adams saw when he arrived in the early 1900s.

### Abram A. Adams:

Abram A. Adams was born September 10, 1844 in Greene Village, Chenango County, New York (Figure 6). According to a family history, written by Adams himself, four brothers emigrated from Shropshire, England to Massachusetts in 1628. The second president of the United States, John Adams, and his son, John Quincy Adams, were also claimed to be descendants of these brothers.<sup>14</sup> Adams was the third child to James and Caroline Adams. The family moved to Crab Orchard, Kentucky shortly after his birth where he was raised and attended school. Adams served during the Civil War and was a prisoner at Andersonville, discussed in greater depth below. According to his family history, Adams helped to rebuild Chicago following the fire of 1871.<sup>15</sup> Adams married Helen Stevenson on January 6, 1875. Helen was born in New Brunswick, Canada. Her father, Benjamin Stymist Stevenson was of Scottish descent. Abram and Helen would have four children before her death in 1903. In 1900, Adams moved from Wisconsin, where he operating a sawmill, to a six-acre farm in Juliaetta, Idaho. He sent for his wife, children and father-in-law to follow him in 1903. On the way Helen fell ill with pneumonia and passed away. Once Adams’ family arrived in Idaho he began to construct The Castle from concrete blocks he poured and molded himself. At some point, either found while on a hunting trip in Alaska or gathered from an Idaho field, Adams discovered “Alaska wheat” and started the Adams-Hobe Seed Company with his son-in-law O.K. Hobe. For as magical as the wheat was reported to be, the disappointment was greater and the press coverage was vast. Adams continued to live in Juliaetta until his death on November 2, 1925 at the age of 81. Like his life, his death was anything but ordinary. Adams, who often travelled, was visiting his brother in Tampa, Florida when he was struck by a cable car. His death made the front page of *The Kendrick Gazette* on November 6, 1925. Abram Adams is buried in the Juliaetta Cemetery next to his father-in-law and two infant grandchildren.

Adams was described in his family’s history as “a successful Civil Engineer, Surveyor, Constructor, Builder, Geologist, and Horticulturist.” *The Spokesman Review* recounted that over his life “he worked as a timber cruiser, miner, wheat grower and orchardist, raising cherries and prunes.”<sup>16</sup> In the 1970s, Juliaetta community members remembered him as “eccentric,” “a rank Republican,” “a crook,” and “a promoter.”<sup>17</sup> He was also a man who tried to change the face of agriculture and wheat production not only in Juliaetta but also across the globe. Adams’ life and legacy remains imprinted on the landscape to this day. His personal accomplishments, failures, and history, just like his castellated home, are unlike any others in Juliaetta, Idaho.

### Civil War:

Abram A. Adams enlisted in the United States Navy as a general services landsman in July 1863 at the age of 19. At the time he was a farmer with blue eyes, light brown hair, a fair complexion, and measured 5’ 11¼” tall.<sup>18</sup> He served in the Navy until July 28, 1864, but reenlisted as a private with the 47<sup>th</sup> Wisconsin Infantry in January 1865. While guarding a railroad in Tennessee he was captured by Confederate soldiers and sent to Andersonville Prison in Georgia. He was one of approximately 45,000 Union soldiers to be held prisoner at Andersonville during its 14 months as a prison.<sup>19</sup> Adams described his time at Andersonville as follows:

It was a hell-hole, completely over-run with huge, vicious rats and all sorts of other vermin...all just as hungry and gaunt as the human prisoners. We hardly ever saw any bread or water so we sopped up the moisture on damp,

<sup>11</sup> Ibid., 27.

<sup>12</sup> Lalia Phipps Boone, *From A to Z in Latah County, Idaho: A Place Name Dictionary* (Idaho Place Name Project, 1983), 51.

<sup>13</sup> “Juliaetta, the Metropolis of the Potlatch,” *The Juliaetta Sun*, 1911.

<sup>14</sup> Dawn Mueller, “Dark Shadows Out of the Past,” *The Spokesman-Review*, October 12, 1974.

<sup>15</sup> Ibid..

<sup>16</sup> Ibid..

<sup>17</sup> Catherine Mahon, interview by Sam Schrager, September 27, 1976, Latah County Museum Society Oral History Project; Maeci Groseclose Nye, interview by Sam Schrager, March 11, 1976, Latah County Museum Society Oral History Project.

<sup>18</sup> “Weekly Returns of Enlistments at Naval Rendezvous, Jan. 6, 1855-Aug. 8, 1891,” vol. 27, 95, accessed from <https://www.fold3.com/image/280429718/?terms=Abram%20Adams> (accessed May 11, 2016).

<sup>19</sup> Andersonville National Historic Site, “What’s So Special About This Place?,” National Park Service, <https://www.nps.gov/ande/learn/index.htm> (accessed 11 May 2016).

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musty stone walls that dripped down as weeping over the miserable decay of human filth and odors held within the prison walls. In desperation we cut up our boots and chewed on the leather for some sustenance and to keep our stomachs from paining so much. We entertained ourselves and to get some exercise, trying to catch a rat...though I'm pretty sure we couldn't have eaten one if we had caught it. After the South surrendered and we were released we were all so weak, literally walking skeletons, skin sores, that we were like living ghosts who had no strength to walk out of that prison. No one can realize the lack of food for several days – the weakening dysentery and emotional impact the body receives.<sup>20</sup>

Adams was honorably discharged from the Army on September 4, 1865 in his hometown of Crab Orchard, Kentucky.

Price County, Wisconsin:

In 1879, Adams, his wife Helen, their son Benjamin, and his father-in-law Benjamin Stymist Stevenson moved to Brannon, Price County, Wisconsin. There he ran the local sawmill, and had three more children—Anita in 1880, Hazel in 1888, and Eben in 1890. According to the 1880 United States Census, Adams was running the sawmill in Brannon. Adams left Price County prior to the 1900 U.S. Census rolls being taken. However, Helen is listed in the 1900 Census record as the head of the household and a “farmer.” At this time, the Adams’ had a boarder living with them as well. Abram Adams does not appear in the Juliaetta Census records for 1900. It was also in 1900 that Adams’ daughter, Anita, married O.K. Hobe, who was a “well-to-do- businessman” in Price County and Adams’ future business partner.<sup>21</sup> Adams’ family including his four children, their spouses, and his father-in-law would follow him to Idaho between 1902 and 1903. Helen likely contracted pneumonia and died in Minneapolis, Minnesota while traveling with their son Eben and her father, Benjamin. Adams would never remarry.

Even though little is known today about Adams’ time in Price County, he did try to leave a lasting impression on the community’s built environment. In 1884, Helen purchased two lots in Phillips, Price County for \$200 and Adams built the family home on the land which was described as “one of the finest houses in Phillips.”<sup>22</sup> However, the home burned down in July of 1894 when the rest of Phillips went up in flames. Adams quickly rebuilt two residences on the lots by September 1894. During his time in Price County, Adams also designed and helped to construct the “fine brick” Price County Courthouse (Figure 7). It was said, “Whatever Adams built was built sturdy, strong, and made to last.”<sup>23</sup> However, his home in Juliaetta is the last known extant example of Adams’ design and construction. The Price County Courthouse was demolished in 1967, and the two 1894 homes Adams built after the Phillips fire have also been torn down (dates unknown).

Alaska Wheat.

*“The United States paid \$80,000,000 for Alaska, and yet the great gold payment Alaska has returned sinks into insignificance compared with Farmer Adams’ Alaska wheat, which in the secret and far-away fields of Idaho he has gradually brought to perfection until he has given to the world a wheat that will grow, under average conditions, 200 bushels to the acre.”* The Spokesman Review 1908<sup>24</sup>

*“ALASKA WHEAT KNOCKED OUT. All experts give it black eye—Is of inferior quality and lacking in protein—Short in yield.”* Lewiston Evening Teller 1908<sup>25</sup>

Abram A. Adams was best known in the Juliaetta community, and in fact the entire United States, for his association with the great rise and greater fall of Alaska wheat. Oral historian Sam Schragger asked Dixie and Edward Groseclose about “Adams, this guy in Juliaetta. Did you ever hear about his deal with that wheat?” The response was an enthusiastic, “Oh, Adams’ wheat! Yes, sir. I know Adams’ wheat!”<sup>26</sup> As with almost everything in his life, the stories of how he came across the infamous wheat are numerous and riddled with rumors. The Adams family history submitted for the Sons of the American Revolution (author unknown) claims that while Adams was “on a hunting trip in Alaska he shot a goose, in the crop of which he found wheat seed.”<sup>27</sup> Edward Groseclose, born in 1893, told interviewer Sam Schragger that Adams got the Alaska Wheat from a local man named Lee Hall, who found it north of Juliaetta on the Genesee Ridge. *The Saturday Evening Post* reported that Adams discovered a patch of the wheat in Alaska, “lodged in a nook under a protecting rock, sheltered from the winds.”<sup>28</sup> Another story reported, “There was no way of telling how the seed grain

<sup>20</sup> *Adams Family History*, provided by The Castle Museum.

<sup>21</sup> *Adams Family History*, provided by The Castle Museum.

<sup>22</sup> Bill Cyrilla, email message to author, January 23, 2016.

<sup>23</sup> *Adams Family History*, provided by The Castle Museum.

<sup>24</sup> “Analysis of Famed Alaska Wheat Bothers Idaho Experiment Men,” *The Spokesman Review*, August 21, 1908.

<sup>25</sup> “Alaska Wheat Knocked Out,” *Lewiston Evening Teller*, September 7, 1908.

<sup>26</sup> Edward Groseclose and Dixie Baugh Groseclose, interview by Sam Schragger, July 21, 1976, Latah county Museum Society Oral History Project.

<sup>27</sup> *Adams Family History*, provided by The Castle Museum. The crop of a goose is a pouch near the throat.

<sup>28</sup> William C. Edgar ed., “Farmer Abraham and Alaska Wheat,” *The Weekly Northwestern Miller*, September 2, 1908.

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happened to be growing there [Alaska]. The seed may have been dropped by a bird or by an Indian, or by some straying gold hunter.<sup>29</sup> Regardless, Adams took a single head back to Juliaetta, Idaho. The Adams-Hobe Seed Company advertised that Adams spent from 1904 to 1908 perfecting the head of wheat on his property in Juliaetta, leaving out the details of duck hunting, receiving the seed from Hall, or wandering around Alaska.<sup>30</sup> After all, where exactly the wheat came from was far less important than what the wheat could do.

In 1908, Adams went into business with his son-in-law, O.K. Hobe and began to advertise Alaska wheat across the country, selling a bushel of seed along with lofty promises for twenty dollars. The rise, and later fall, of Alaska wheat was published in newspapers across the country, from Hawaii to Kentucky, and even across the world to New Zealand. *The Pacific Commercial Advertiser* in Honolulu, Hawaii published the following glowing excerpt about Adams and Alaska wheat:

Everyone who knows anything about farming or gardening, even in the remotest degree, and many others besides, know about Luther Burbank, the wonderful manipulator of nature's products, and the great things he has done to create new varieties of fruits and flowers; yet when it comes to actual value to the country and world at large, the most wonderful thing ever accomplished has been by Abraham Adams of Juliaetta, Idaho, who has performed almost a miracle with wheat, and made it possible to increase the wheat crop of every individual who raises that cereal many fold.<sup>31</sup>

Newspapers would entice readers with stories of Adams planting on his Juliaetta property one single head of Alaska wheat in 1904 that yielded seven pounds in 1905, and that seven pounds yielded 1,545 pounds in 1906.<sup>32</sup> Even *The New York Times* published a glowing article referring to Alaska wheat, Adams, and the small town of Juliaetta. They wrote:

If the half is true, or even a third, of what is said of the new 'Alaska' wheat now ripening on 700 acres belonging to Abraham Adams of Juliaetta, Idaho, its discovery ought to revolutionize the grain production of the world. Wheat growers from all parts of the country have visited Mr. Adam's farm and have returned with enthusiastic accounts of the many-headed prodigy. A single stalk has grown 250 round, plump, and nutritious kernels, which Mr. J.S. Jones, chemist of the Idaho Experiment Station, declares should be "the equal, if not the superior, of the bluestem...But Mr. Adam's monstrous crop awaits the crucial 'mill test,' which shall determine its properties in comparison with other hard wheats. The chemical test have already shown that seed planted both in in the Spring and in the Fall makes a yield no different from the best No. 1 wheat known to the millers. If the 'mill test' is equally favorable, Mr. Adams will have no difficulty in disposing of his phenomenal crop for seed at his announced price of \$20 a bushel. The Nation may congratulate itself and him into the bargain.<sup>33</sup>

It was not just the United States that was impressed with Alaska Wheat and the accomplishments of Abram Adams. The *Nelson Evening News* of New Zealand ran an article October 23, 1908 with glowing reviews and high hopes for this agricultural miracle. Adams occupied the nominated property during this time and may have grown the earliest batches of this wheat surrounding his home. The Adams-Hobe Seed Company shipped Alaska wheat to many farms in the East Coast and South at a hefty price for the time. However, even with the praise, high hopes, and buyers, Alaska wheat immediately came under strict scrutiny.

R.C. McCroskey, a United States Senator from Washington and a farmer on the Palouse, was skeptical of Adams' Alaska wheat from the beginning, and he was not alone. He said, "Nature does not take such leaps and bounds as this after such conservatism as it has exhibited in the development of wheat in the last 4000 years."<sup>34</sup> The United States Department of Agriculture sent an investigator to Adams' Alaska wheat fields in Juliaetta, and found the Alaska wheat to be inferior, especially with regard to the gluten content.<sup>35</sup> *The Saturday Evening Post* also "dispatched a thoroughly reliable man to Idaho" to investigate the Alaska wheat. He reported back, "Assertions of huge crops or good flourmaking quality not justified...Not true that wheat has been successfully grown elsewhere. Misleading to say frostproof, for admits some injury by snow. Flourmaking qualities unknown."<sup>36</sup> Later flour and bread tests proved this to be true (Figure 8). As quick as Alaska wheat had risen to fame, it began to fall.

However, these early rumblings did not go unnoticed or unaddressed by Adams. The September 8, 1908 edition of the *Daily Capital Journal* of Salem, Oregon published a letter from Adams defending his Alaska Wheat. It read:

To the Public: In the last Sunday issue of the *Spokesman-Review*, Professors Elliot of the Washington Agricultural College appeared with a 'report' denouncing my wheat as a fraud.' After studying my wheat all summer he has discovered that there are eight distinct groups of wheat and my wheat belongs in the 'seventh' group, which is, so

<sup>29</sup> "Wheat Produces 200 Bushels Per Acre; Discovered in Alaska. Grows in U.S.," *The Texahoma Times*, August 28, 1908.

<sup>30</sup> Edgar ed., "Farmer Abraham and Alaska Wheat."

<sup>31</sup> "Improves Agriculture," *The Pacific Commercial Advertiser*, August 1, 1908.

<sup>32</sup> Ibid..

<sup>33</sup> "The New 'Alaska' Wheat," *The New York Times*, August 17, 1908.

<sup>34</sup> "Analysis of Famed Alaska Wheat Bothers Idaho Experiment Men," *The Spokesman Review*, August 21, 1908.

<sup>35</sup> "Alaska Wheat Knocked Out," *Lewiston Evening Teller*, September 7, 1908.

<sup>36</sup> "A Miracle in Wheat," *The Saturday Evening Post*, September 12, 1908.

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he says, fit for nothing—not even for stock feed...Professor Elliott [sic] makes some assertions so flagrantly unjust that I wish to call attention to them.

Adams included a letter from farmer Frank Bennett testifying, "I threshed some of your Alaska wheat and also some red Russian wheat in the adjoining field. Your wheat yielded about three bushels to one of the red Russian. The red Russian was a better stand than the Alaska."<sup>37</sup> However, the word of Bennett was not enough for Adams. He had three additional farmers who had raised his Alaska Wheat sign an affidavit stating thirteen glowing things about Alaska Wheat. These farmers claimed the field had needed a summer fallowing, the seed was "poorly cleaned and at least 40 percent of it cracked," that weather in the spring of 1908 was cold and wet, and cutworms had destroyed large portions of the crop. However, the farmers also stated that in their "judgment, under the year's adverse conditions and on the poorest of soil, we raised twice as much of the Alaska wheat per acre as we could have raised had [they] put club wheat on the same ground."<sup>38</sup> It did not shatter, was free of smut, and the grains were large and plump. The article was signed "Abraham Adams, Juliaetta, Idaho."

Despite his strong assertions, Alaska wheat was found to be a fraud by the University of Idaho Experiment Station in Moscow, Idaho. In November of 1908, Hiram T. French, director of the Experiment Station, and J. Shirley Jones, a chemist, published a bulletin about the validity of Adams' Alaska wheat claims. French and Jones decided to conduct a flour test given the "widespread notoriety" and curiosity about the wheat from "foreign countries and distant islands of the sea."<sup>39</sup> The yield for the Experiment Station test was "not phenomenal in any way" with 20 to 40 bushels an acre, which is "about the same yield as that obtained from ordinary winter wheat" in 1908.<sup>40</sup> During the flour test, there were no significant differences between the chemical makeup or baking qualities of Alaska Wheat and other wheat. While the Adams-Hobe Seed company was flooded with orders for Alaska wheat, the "Department of Agriculture reported adversely and the post office authorities forbid the company the use of the mails."<sup>41</sup> Further damaging to their ability to operate as a business, "express companies refuse[d] to accept the cereal for shipment unless charges [were] prepaid."<sup>42</sup>

By July 1909, the *American Hay, Flour, and Feed Journal* reported that "farmers in north and central Idaho declare that the so-called 'Alaska' wheat, originated by Abraham Adams, of Juliaetta Idaho has proved a failure, showing that it made the lowest average with four other varieties."<sup>43</sup> Adams' miracle wheat was no more and the rise and fall was well documented and advertised in newspapers and publications across the country. However, in the Adams family history it simply states, "It was assumed because of its size of the head that it would insure sensationally larger yields, but this did not prove to be the case, so it lost favor." They omit that this assumption was advertised and flaunted by Adams himself and scientific tests proved it to be untrue and a fraud. But the family history did add on that Adams' won a gold medal for the Alaska wheat at the World's Fair in San Diego. Confirmation of this highest praise was found nowhere else.

#### Son-In-Laws:

Adams had two notable son-in-laws who made contributions to his Alaska wheat efforts and left behind a legacy and mystery of their own. The first was Ellsworth Washington Porter. E.W. Porter, as he was more commonly known, was born in Michigan, and married Hazel Adams in 1907. He followed his wife's father out to Juliaetta, Idaho and became the first president of the Bank of Juliaetta in September of 1908, the same time as his father-in-law's Alaska wheat scheme. Porter went on to become an Idaho State Senator, State of Idaho Commissioner of Finance for 12 years, and the Secretary of the Idaho State Bankers Association.<sup>44</sup> Just as Adams was mentioned in many of the Latah County Oral Histories with Juliaetta community members, so was E.W. Porter. It was rumored by Otto Schupfer, a former telephone operator in Juliaetta/Kendrick, that it was E.W. Porter who reported Adams to the United States government for fraud.<sup>45</sup> However, Edward Groseclose recalled that E.W. Porter helped Adams to smuggle wheat by train car to Kansas after they had been denied use of the U.S. Mail.<sup>46</sup> The truth may never be known.

Adams' other son-in-law, O.K. Hobe, who married Anita in 1900, had been a businessman in Wisconsin prior to moving to Idaho, and his brother was Norwegian Consul to the United States.<sup>47</sup> Hobe was Adams' business partner in the Adams-Hobe Seed Company and a part of the Alaska wheat and mail fraud. According to family history O.K. Hobe died in 1910 of a diabetic coma. However, local accounts of his death tell a different and more scandalous story. Maeci

<sup>37</sup> "Discoverer Defends 'Alaska' Wheat," *Daily Capital Journal*, September 8, 1908.

<sup>38</sup> Ibid..

<sup>39</sup> Hiram T. French and J. Shirley Jones, *Alaska Wheat Investigations: Bulletin No. 65* (Moscow, ID: University of Idaho, November 1908), 3.

<sup>40</sup> Ibid., 6.

<sup>41</sup> "Spokane, Wash.," *American Hay, Flour, and Feed Journal*, 15 (November 1909), 40. A fraud report was issued by the U.S. Post Office against the Adams-Hobe Seed Company.

<sup>42</sup> "The 'Alaska' Wheat Swindle," *The River Press* (Fort Benton, Montana), October 20, 1809.

<sup>43</sup> "Spokane, Wash.," *American Hay, Flour, and Feed Journal*, 15 (November 1909), 40.

<sup>44</sup> *Adams Family History*, provided by The Castle Museum.

<sup>45</sup> Otto Schupfer, interview by Sam Schrager, April 14, 1976, Latah County Museum Society Oral History Project.

<sup>46</sup> Edward Groseclose, interview.

<sup>47</sup> *Adams Family History*, provided by The Castle Museum.

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Groseclose Nye, who was born in Juliaetta in 1895, recalled that “his [Adams] son-in-law [Hobe] shot himself to keep from going to the pen” for the Alaska wheat scandal.<sup>48</sup> There is also a third theory supported by Spokane, Washington newspapers. On April 22, 1910, *The Spokane Press* reported that O.K. Hobe “perished in a miserable [jail] cell during the night without medical attention,” and this was yet “[a]nother instance of alleged criminal negligence on the part of the police department.”<sup>49</sup> The paper reported that he tripped through a glass door and “blood was flowing from a gash in the head.” While injured, Hobe was picked up by police, who claimed he was drunk. Hobe’s wound was sewn up at the emergency hospital before he was placed in jail.<sup>50</sup> What really happened is another mystery about Adams and his family that may never be known, but we can reflect on this history at the only associated place remaining, The Castle.

#### Summary:

At the age of 21, Abram Adams was held captive by Confederates in the Andersonville Prison. At the age of 35, Adams moved to Price County, Wisconsin with his bride, ten years younger than he, to run the local sawmill and construct the county courthouse. At the age of 56, Adams moved west to Juliaetta, Idaho, later to be followed by his family, losing his wife on the way. At the age of 64, he claimed to have discovered a type of wheat that would change agriculture, but would in reality leave him marked as a fraud. At the age of 78, Adams traveled by boat from Los Angeles, California to Honolulu, Hawaii. And at the age of 81, Abram Adams was struck by a cable car in Tampa, Florida while crossing the street. His body was returned to Juliaetta, Idaho and he was buried in the local cemetery. His home remains the last place to reflect on his Alaska wheat, what could have been the one of the greatest contributions to agriculture but was instead a greater embarrassment.

Compared to his supposed ancestors, United States Presidents John Adams and John Quincy Adams, Abram Adams’ accomplishments and historic significance seem small. However, the life Adams led was notable in the community of Juliaetta, and not just because he lived it in a castle. As has been noted above, in 1976, when Sam Schragger conducted a number of oral history interviews in Latah County, he intentionally would ask those residents of Juliaetta about, “Did you hear about Adams’ Alaska wheat?”<sup>51</sup> Those he asked either answered with their personal theories and stories about the Alaska wheat scandal or hypothesized about why Adams would construct a home as strange as he did. Regardless of what they spoke about or the truth to their answers, these interviews illustrate his prominence and significance in the community, especially with regard to agriculture and architecture. Since its founding, Juliaetta has been rooted in agriculture. Adams tried to make this legacy larger than life, and for a few short months in 1908 he did just that. The Adams Home is the last reminder on the landscape of his past quests and unique quirks.

#### Castellated Gothic Revival Style:

The earliest examples of the Gothic Revival-style can be found in the United States starting in the mid-1700s in both the public and private sphere. These early examples were “more properly evocative for places with strong religious associations.”<sup>52</sup> In the mid-1840s the style peaked in popularity for residences due in large part to the writings of Andrew Jackson Downing. Gothic Revival is known for being a rural style that takes advantage of the surrounding landscape. However, Downing emphasized “the builder should adapt such designs to his own needs and site.”<sup>53</sup> Gothic Revival was never intended for narrow urban lots, and fell out of favor by the 1870s.<sup>54</sup> Character defining features of the castellated Gothic Revival style include: flat roofs with parapets, masonry construction, one-story entry porches, drip-mold above the windows, and highly ornate interiors.<sup>55</sup> The castellated subtype represents a very small portion of Gothic Revival architecture remaining in the United States, and is most common on public buildings or high style residences.<sup>56</sup> While the Adams Home was constructed outside of the period of popularity and is far from an ornate, high style castellated Gothic Revival home, it is unmistakably a castle, and is The Castle of the Juliaetta community.

The Adams Home was built in 1906 (period of significance) by Abram A. Adams. As noted above, the Adams family moved from England to the eastern United States in the 1600s, though there were rumors among the community of Juliaetta that Abram Adams himself came to the United States from Edinburgh, Scotland. This was just a rumor as all Census Records and Adams own history report he was born in New York.<sup>57</sup> The Latah County Oral Histories that shed so much light on Adams and the Alaska wheat scandal of 1908, also shed light on the importance of the architecture of the

<sup>48</sup> Nye, interview.

<sup>49</sup> “Hurt Man Dies in Jail,” *The Spokane Press*, April 22, 1910.

<sup>50</sup> Ibid.

<sup>51</sup> Gustav Carlson, interview by Sam Schragger, July 12, 1976, Latah County Museum Society Oral History Project.

<sup>52</sup> Leland Roth, *American Architecture: A History* (Canada: Westview Press, 2001), 171.

<sup>53</sup> Ibid., 178.

<sup>54</sup> McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses*, 200.

<sup>55</sup> Ibid., 197-198

<sup>56</sup> Ibid., 198

<sup>57</sup> Adams father-in-law’s parents were born in Scotland, but there is no evidence he was trying to impress his father-in-law with this architectural style.

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home in the community as well. Sam Schragger asked Catherine Mahon, who was born in 1906, "Did you ever hear why he [Adams] wanted to build a place that looked like that?" Mahon answered with a laugh, "My father said, 'Because he was a bloomin' Englishmen.'"<sup>58</sup> Mahon went on to say The Castle "never was too impressive to me. Kind of black, square block thing...it was just square."<sup>59</sup>

Regardless of being "just square," the Adams Home not only retains many of the simple, character defining features of the castellated Gothic Revival style, it is also the only example of this specific subtype from the period of significance in Juliaetta and the surrounding community. While many Gothic Revival buildings featured a steep gable roof, especially churches, flat roofs with castellated parapets were not unheard of for the sub-type. The Adams Home has a flat roof with square, castellated parapets on all four elevations. The Adams Home is also masonry construction, specifically eight-inch thick concrete blocks poured by Adams himself. The blocks are rusticated, with the exception of the quoins and blocks running parallel above windows and doors across the entire elevation. This detail, though simple, would have offered some ornament to the "black, square block." Approximately eighty percent of Gothic Revival homes in the United States have one-story porches, and the Adams Home is no exception (Photo 8). Though not large or running the length of the home, there is a one-story covered entry porch over the main entrance. Another character defining feature of Gothic Revival found on the Adams home in a simplified way is drip molding over the windows. Though the windows are rectangular as opposed to the classic arched shape, there is concrete, drip molding above all of the first and second floor windows (Photo 9). Finally, the interior of the Adams Home was and remains elaborate and ornate. Walls were covered with decorative wallpaper or paint, the floors were hardwood or linoleum with carpets, and the ceilings of all nine rooms were covered with tin pressed ceilings purchased from Sears and Roebuck (Photos 11, 12, and 13). The Adams Home had central coal heating in the basement, and an indoor, plumbed bathroom. While the home would appear simple and plain on the East Coast, the Adams Home was full of luxuries and exceptional architectural qualities for Juliaetta, Idaho.

#### **Integrity of the Adams Home:**

The present day integrity of the Adams Home is incredibly high and retains all seven aspects of integrity per National Register of Historic Place guidelines. The location of the Adams Home is where the property was constructed in 1906 and where Adams and his family lived until his death in 1925. The design not only retains high integrity as there have been no additions to the exterior and no interior plan alterations, but it also retains several of the character defining features of the castellated Gothic Revival architectural style. While some ornamental features have been the victim to weathering, the overall castellated Gothic Revival style remains including the flat roof with square-shaped parapets, the one-story front entry porch, masonry construction, drip molding above the windows, and ornate interior. As it is currently a community museum, many outside elements have been brought to the site, including the installation of a fence and the original Juliaetta jail cell. However, these elements do not detract from the setting. The surrounding area is still residential and the topography remains the same. Some oral histories imply that there was relatively little vegetation around the house during Adams occupation, while others recall cherries and grapes growing by the house for Adams wine making.<sup>60</sup> As a horticulturalist Adams likely did some landscaping and the estimated age of some of the unique plant species surrounding the home are from his period of occupation. Furthermore, additions to the setting could be easily removed, and the ivy and vegetation taking over the east façade probably should be cut back sooner rather than later.

Material integrity is highly intact given that the concrete blocks and interior elements are the same from construction in 1906 and later Adams occupation. In one of the upstairs bedrooms, the tin ceiling has been removed due to water damage. However, there are many other examples of original materials throughout the house, including original linoleum and hardwood floors, and the current owners are sensitive to historic restoration. Furthermore, many items in the house belonged to Abram Adams himself. His desk, radio, piano, and even a chair Adams made out of a tree root remain in the home. There are even canned blackberries in the basement fruit cellars that he likely put there. Adams was a designer and builder, and this was not his first home. His workmanship is still visible in the home as he made the concrete blocks himself, taking care to smooth the quoins, and provide modern amenities such as an indoor bathroom and central heating. The details in the first floor windows also speak to his workmanship and attention to detail. Crystal Ottosen Gruell remembers that the house was always drafty and cold and that has not changed.<sup>61</sup> Otto Schupfer recalled that he once heard the roof was flat so Adams could land a plane on it, perhaps, if true, Adams' most extreme example of workmanship.<sup>62</sup>

Even without knowing the community of Juliaetta, it is obvious to someone looking at the Adams Home that there is something unique about it. The castellated Gothic Revival style gives an onlooker the feeling of the past and a person who did not play by conventional rules. Given the current use of the building as The Castle Museum, the Adams story is prominently told, along with the story of Juliaetta during its settlement and early years. The Adams Home is the last known

<sup>58</sup> Mahon, interview.

<sup>59</sup> Ibid.

<sup>60</sup> Crystal Ottosen Gruell, interview by Sam Schragger, July 21, 1976, Latah County Museum Society Oral History Project.

<sup>61</sup> Ibid..

<sup>62</sup> Schupfer, interview.

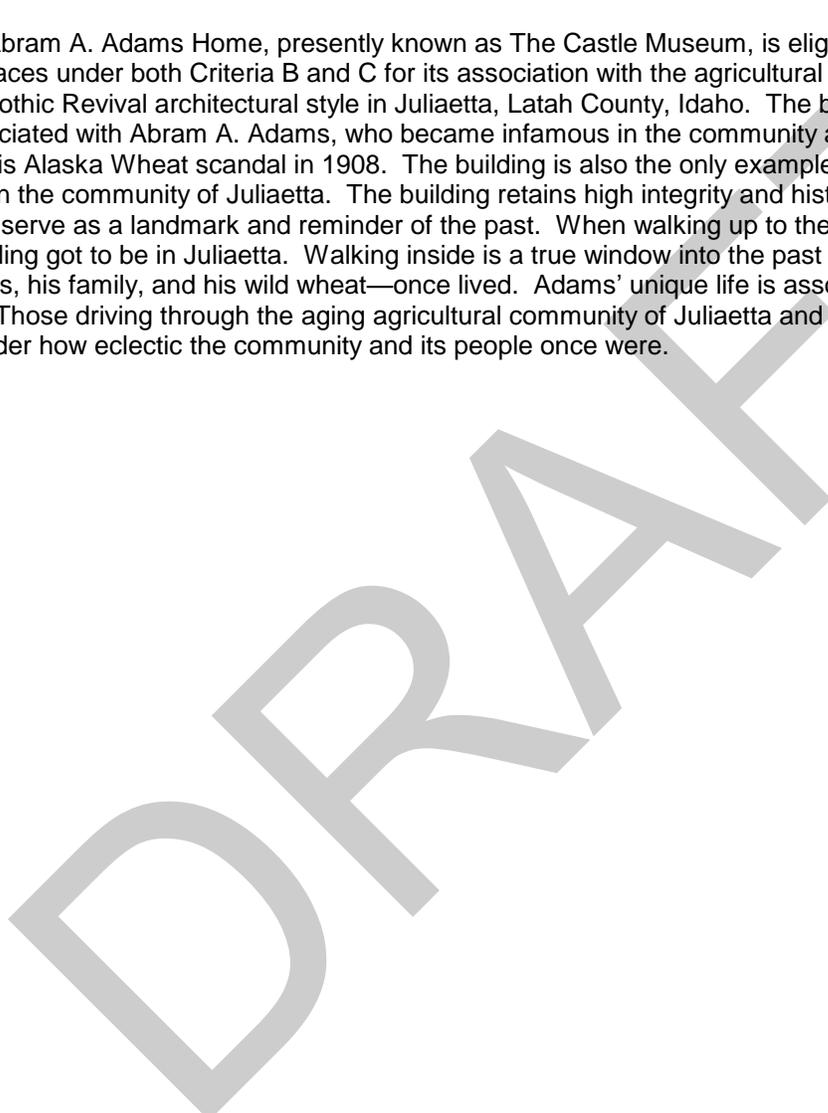
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place in the Juliaetta community associated with Abram A. Adams, with the exception of his tombstone, and the only extant example of castellated Gothic Revival architecture in the community. As a visitor walks through the museum, reads the small display on Alaska wheat, and then walks past Adams's own desk, chair, and the flag that draped his coffin surrounded by the concrete blocks he poured by hand, there is the feeling that this man was significant. The Adams Home is associated with his agricultural pursuits and architectural preferences that have made him more myth than man in the community.

**Conclusion:**

The Abram A. Adams Home, presently known as The Castle Museum, is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under both Criteria B and C for its association with the agricultural pursuits of Abram A. Adams and the castellated Gothic Revival architectural style in Juliaetta, Latah County, Idaho. The building is perhaps the last remaining building associated with Abram A. Adams, who became infamous in the community and the country for a short period of time during his Alaska Wheat scandal in 1908. The building is also the only example of castellated Gothic Revival architecture in the community of Juliaetta. The building retains high integrity and historical significance in the community, continuing to serve as a landmark and reminder of the past. When walking up to the home one cannot help but wonder how this building got to be in Juliaetta. Walking inside is a true window into the past of how those in Juliaetta—specifically Abram Adams, his family, and his wild wheat—once lived. Adams' unique life is associated with the unique architecture of The Castle. Those driving through the aging agricultural community of Juliaetta and passing the Adams Home cannot help but wonder how eclectic the community and its people once were.



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**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 # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
  - Other State agency
  - Federal agency
  - Local government
  - University
  - Other
- Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): \_\_\_\_\_



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**Photographs:**

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 3000x2000 pixels, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

**Photo Log**

**Name of Property:** Abram A. Adams Home  
**City or Vicinity:** Juliaetta  
**County:** Latah **State:** Idaho  
**Photographer:** Tracy Schwartz, Marla Schwartz, and Sharon Harris  
**Date Photographed:** September 2015, February 2016, and April 2016

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

- 1 of 16. ID\_LatahCounty\_AdamsHome\_0001  
East facade, camera facing west.
- 2 of 16. ID\_LatahCounty\_AdamsHome\_0002  
East facade (right) and south elevation (left), camera facing northwest.
- 3 of 16. ID\_LatahCounty\_AdamsHome\_0003  
South elevation, camera facing north.
- 4 of 16. ID\_LatahCounty\_AdamsHome\_0004  
South elevation (right) and west elevation (left), camera facing northeast.
- 5 of 16. ID\_LatahCounty\_AdamsHome\_0005  
West elevation, camera facing northeast.
- 6 of 16. ID\_LatahCounty\_AdamsHome\_0006  
North elevation, camera facing south.
- 7 of 16. ID\_LatahCounty\_AdamsHome\_0007  
East facade, camera facing west across State Street.
- 8 of 16. ID\_LatahCounty\_AdamsHome\_0008  
East facade and entry porch, camera facing southwest.
- 9 of 16. ID\_LatahCounty\_AdamsHome\_0009  
First floor window, camera facing north.
- 10 of 16. ID\_LatahCounty\_AdamsHome\_0010  
Front entry tile, camera facing southwest.
- 11 of 16. ID\_LatahCounty\_AdamsHome\_0011  
Front entry from interior, camera facing east.
- 12 of 16. ID\_LatahCounty\_AdamsHome\_0012  
Second story hallway, camera facing west.
- 13 of 16. ID\_LatahCounty\_AdamsHome\_0013  
Second story bedroom water damage, camera facing north.

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- 14 of 16. ID\_LatahCounty\_AdamsHome\_0014  
Basement, camera facing northeast.
- 15 of 16. ID\_LatahCounty\_AdamsHome\_0015  
Damaged Gothic Revival details, camera facing southwest.
- 16 of 16. ID\_LatahCounty\_AdamsHome\_0016  
Sidewalk leading to front entrance, camera facing southwest.

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**Property Owner:** (Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

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name Castle Museum, LLC

street & number PO Box 454, 191 State Street telephone (208) 276-7174

city or town Juliaetta state Idaho zip code 83535

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

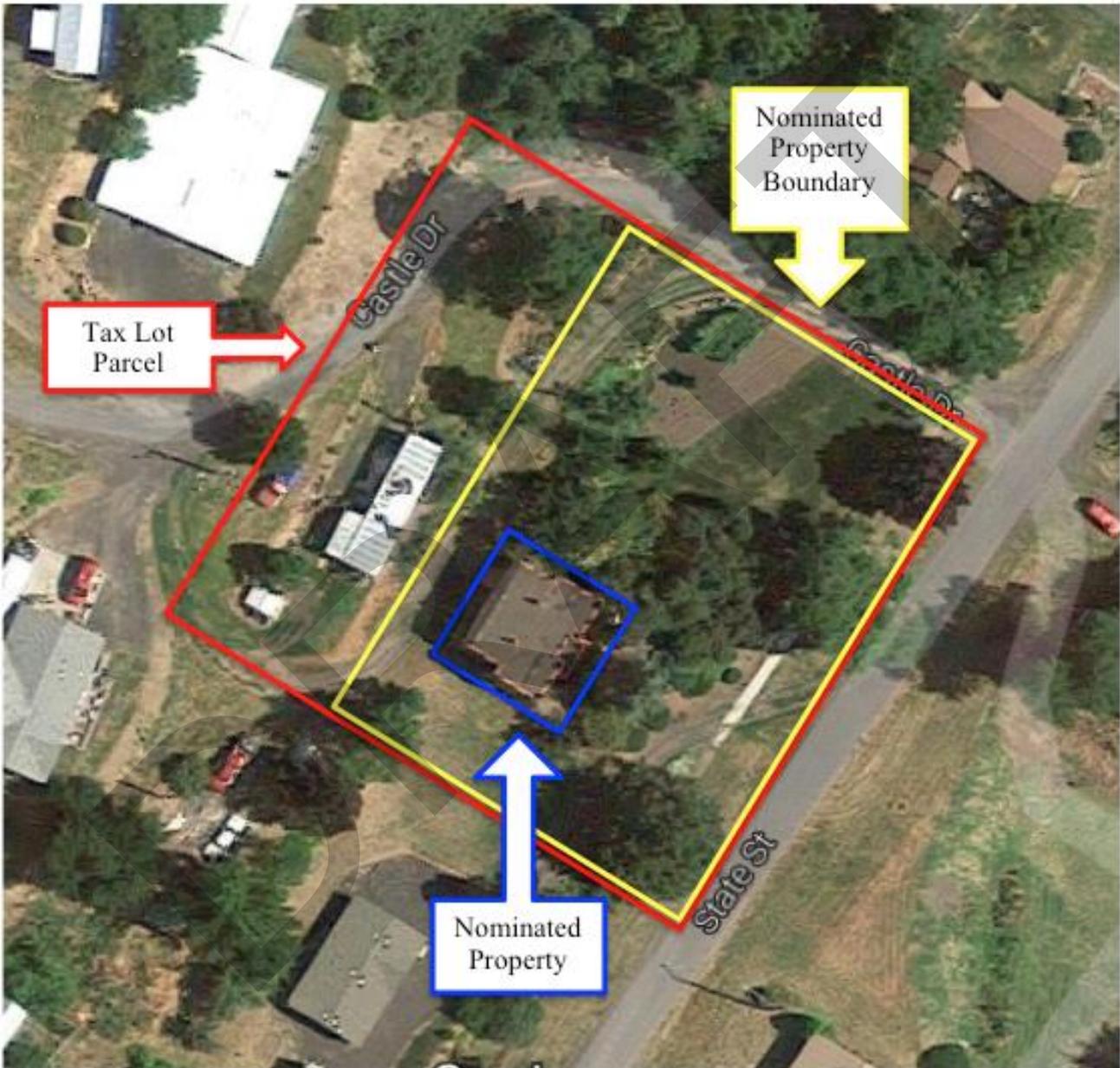
**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

### National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Adams, Abram A. Home
Name of Property
Latah, Idaho
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page 18



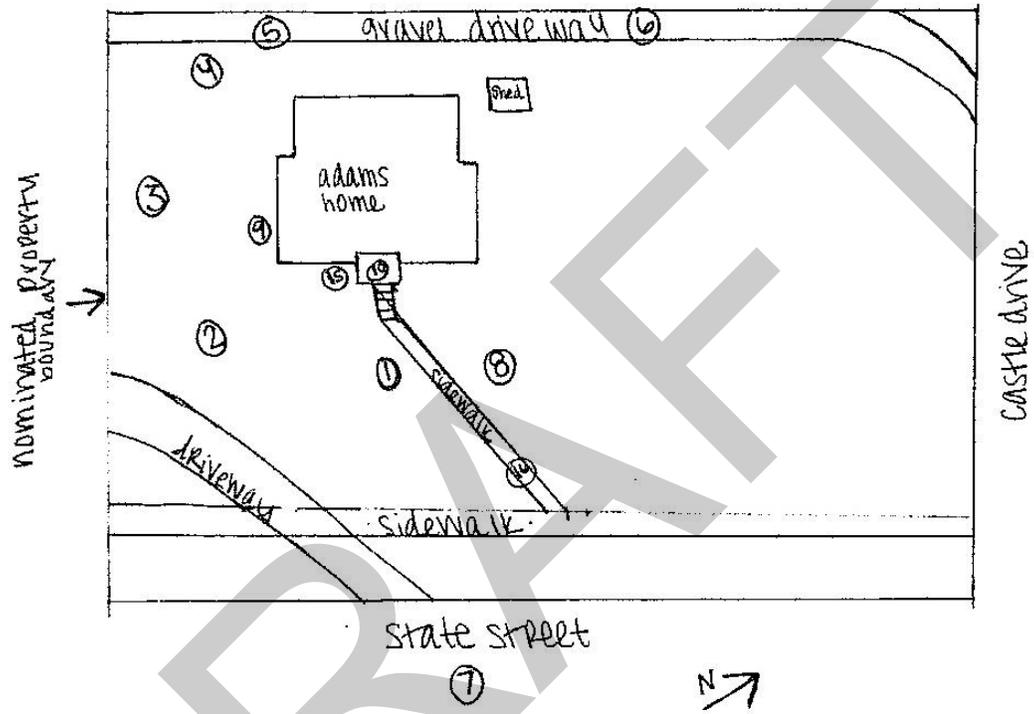
**Figure 1.** Nominated property boundary, two-thirds of Tax Lot Parcel RPJ1440003003B, Juliaetta, Latah County, Idaho (Image from Google Earth).

United States Department of the Interior  
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Abram A. Adams home  
site plan and photo key

drawing by  
T. SCHWARTZ  
\* NOT TO SCALE \*

Figure 2. Site plan, photo sketch map (Drawing by T. Schwartz, May 2016).

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National Park Service

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County and State
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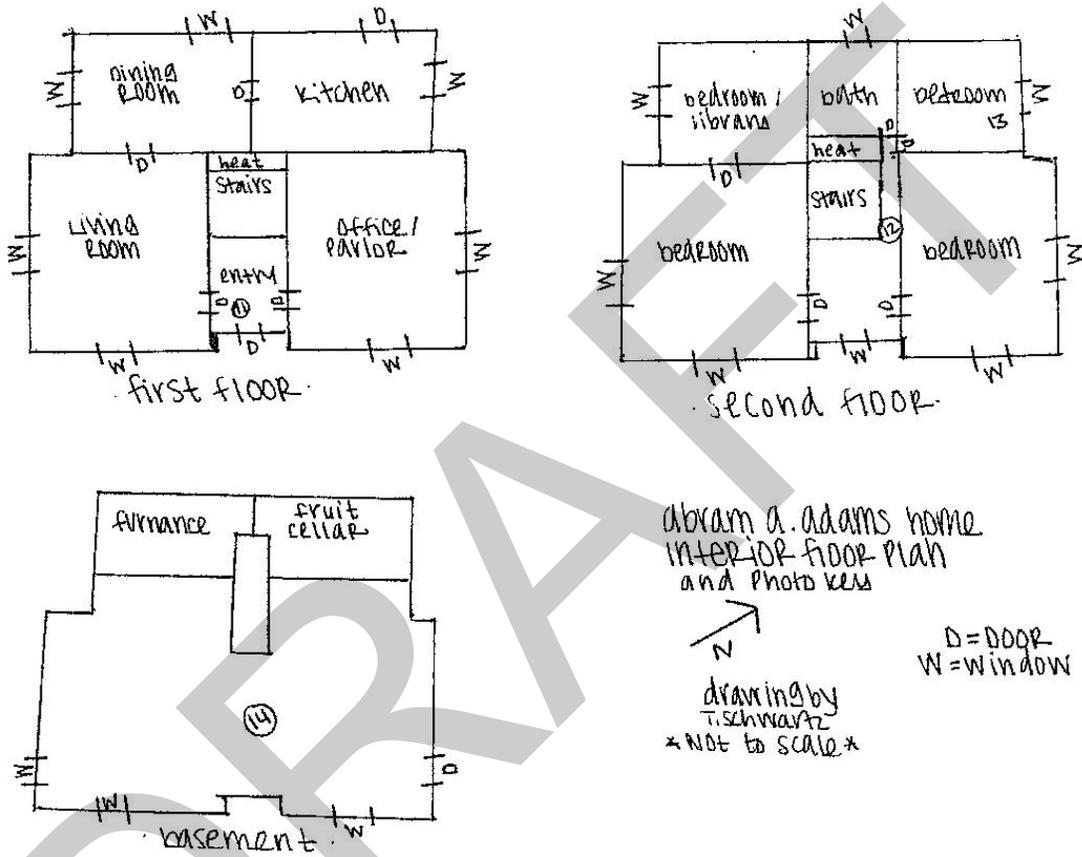


Figure 3. Interior plan, photo sketch map (Drawing by T. Schwartz, May 2016).

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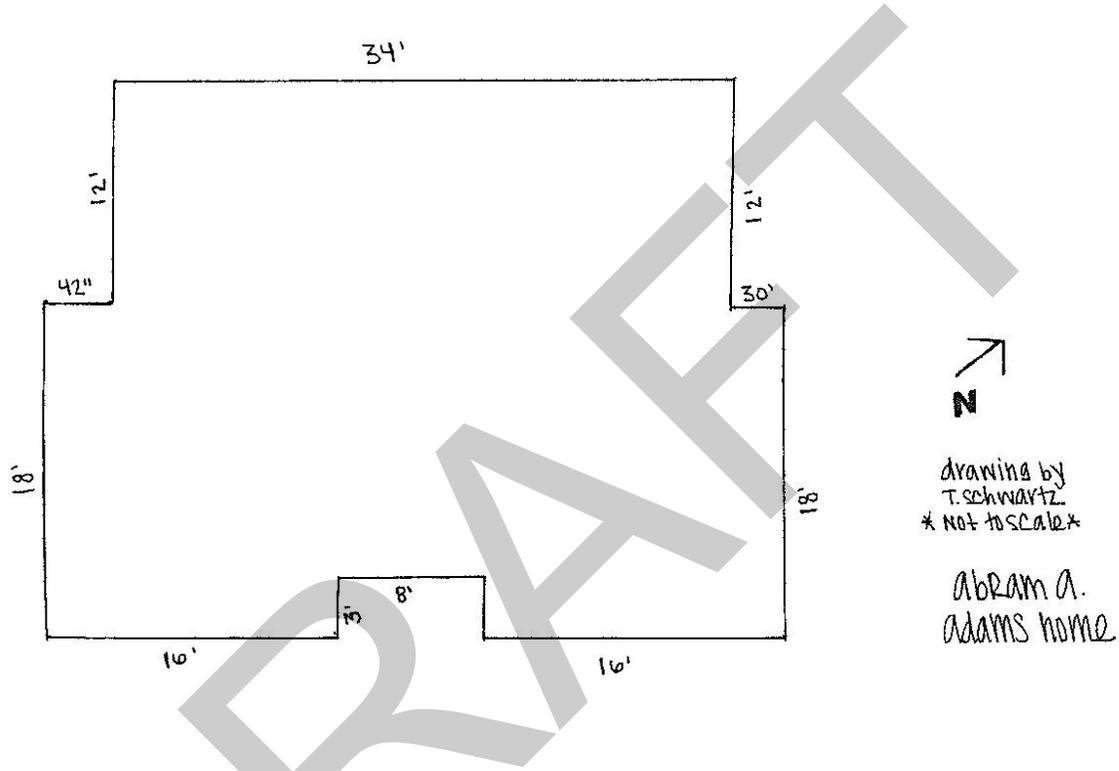


Figure 4. Building plan with measurements (Drawing by T. Schwartz, May 2016).

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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Adams, Abram A. Home
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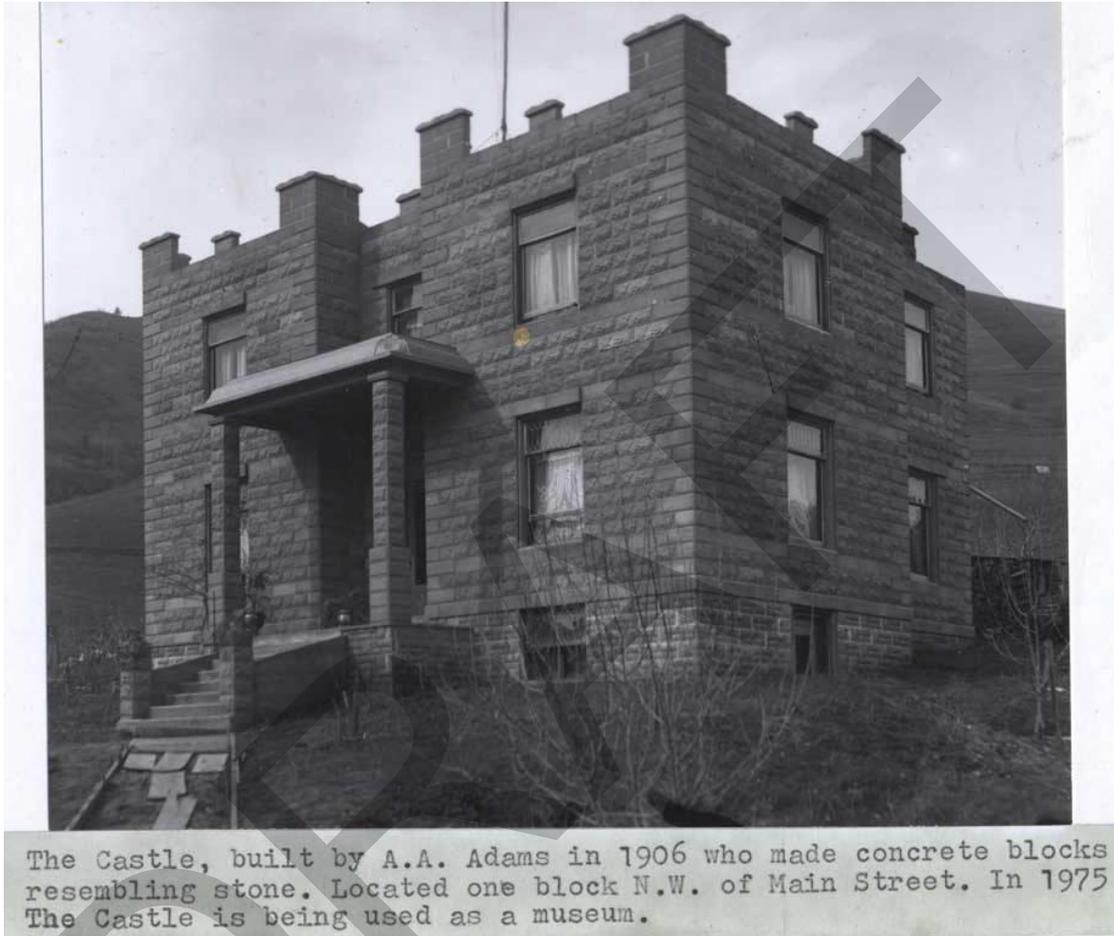


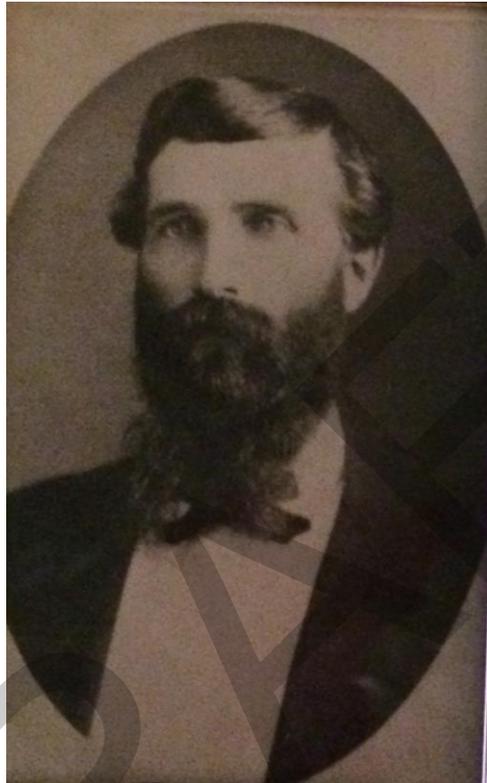
Figure 5. Abram A. Adams Home, 1975 (Photo and caption from University of Idaho Special Collections, Clifford M. Ott Collection, pg. 90).

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National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

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**Figure 6.** Abram A. Adams, date unknown (Photo from The Castle Museum).

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Adams, Abram A. Home
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N/A
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Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page 24

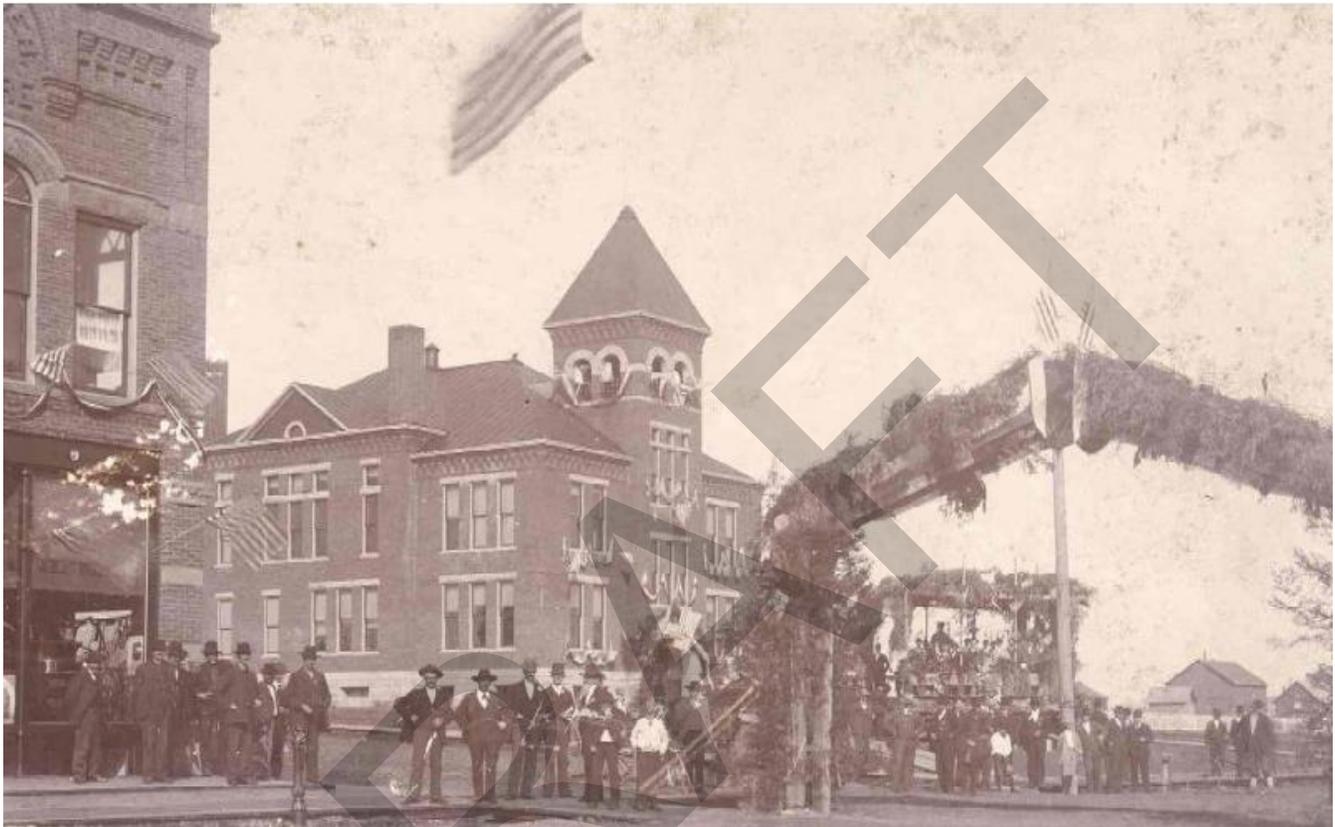


Figure 7. Price County Courthouse, circa 1895 (Photo from Price County Historical Society).

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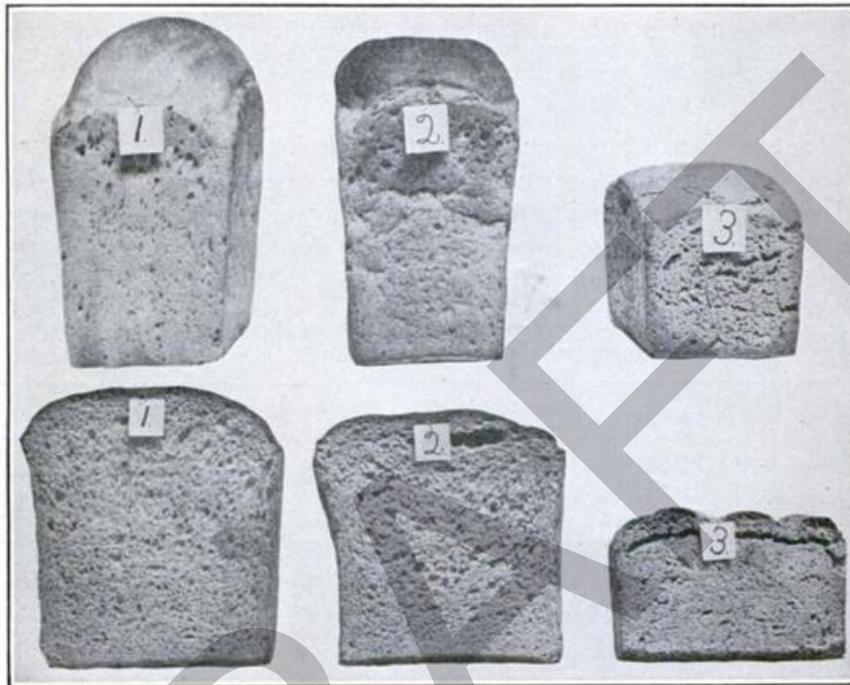


FIG. 2.—Whole loaves (above) and cut loaves (below) baked from patent flours: 1, "Standard," from hard spring wheat; 2, from durum wheat; 3, from Alaska wheat.

**Figure 8.** Photographs of bread made from three types of wheat illustrating Alaska wheat to be inferior (Photo and caption from Carleton R. Ball and Clyde E. Leighty, "Alaska and Stoner, or 'Miracle' Wheats: Two Varieties Much Misrepresented," *United States Department of Agriculture* No. 357 [April 27, 1916], 13.)

DRAFT