

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street & number 191 State Street not for publication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 X 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 ___ 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 _____

Adams, Abram A., Home
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5. Classification

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

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

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

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

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		site
		structure
		object
1		Total

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, referred to locally as The Castle, 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--the Adams Home--and one storage shed, not included in the resource count, 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 building is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C for its distinctive Gothic Revival architectural style, which is a rare and unique in Juliaetta, Idaho.

The integrity of the Abram A. Adams home is intact. The workmanship and materials of the home retain a high degree of integrity with the original windows, poured concrete blocks with a rusticated face, and interior pressed metal 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 remains intact. 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.

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.¹ 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, rectangular 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). Centered in the east façade is the front door and covered entry porch. The west elevation features a covered entrance providing access to the kitchen, the roof of which is flat and covered with rolled asphalt. The Adams Home sits on a poured 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 double-hung, wood sashes (Photo 9). The roof features square shaped parapet profiles, 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 original, glazed, black and white tiles at the entrance giving the appearance of a welcome mat (Photo 10). The full-light front door is wood, with one, large glass pane covered by a screen door and framed

¹ 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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by tinted 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 measure 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.² 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 setback 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, Roebuck, and Company Catalog (Photos 12 and 13).³ 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 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. Local 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.⁴ 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

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

³ Personal Communication, Justin Cope.

⁴ Crystal Ottosen Gruell, interview by Sam Schragger, July 21, 1976, Latah County Museum Society Oral History Project.

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house, including original linoleum and hardwood floors, and the current owners are sensitive to historic restoration. 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. Concrete block construction was popular during the time period. Forms were available through the Sears, Roebuck, and Company catalog and common throughout the state of Idaho. The details in the first floor windows also speak to his workmanship and attention to detail. Longtime Latah County resident, Crystal Ottosen Gruell remembers that the house was always drafty and cold and that has not changed.⁵ Another local resident, 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.⁶

Even without knowing the community of Juliaetta, it is obvious to someone looking at the Adams Home that there is something significant about it. The castellated Gothic Revival style gives an onlooker the feeling of the past. 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 only extant example of castellated Gothic Revival architecture in the community. With the exception of his tombstone, the Abram A. Adams Home is the last known place in Juliaetta associated with Abram A. Adams, and his unique life is directly associated with the unique architecture found in The Castle.

⁵ Ibid..

⁶ Schupfer, interview.

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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.

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation (if applicable)

N/A

Period of Significance

1906

Architect/Builder

Abram A. Adams

Significant Dates

Period of Significance (justification)

The Abram A. Adams Home is significant on the local level for its Gothic Revival architecture. The period of significance for the Adams home is 1906, the year of construction.

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, represents 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 Criterion C for its distinct architectural style. Significant on the local level as the only castellated Gothic Revival example in Juliaetta, it retains all seven aspects of integrity. The building is significant in the area of Architecture for its Gothic Revival style in the community of Juliaetta, though the builder, architect, and original occupant has an interesting history with agriculture. Abram A. Adams built the nominated property in 1906, and then occupied it until his death in 1925. 1906, the year of construction, is the period of significance for the property. The Adams Home is the only contributing building within the nominated property boundary, though there is one metal shed used for storage located northwest of the home, not included in the resource count.

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.”⁷

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. As Euro-American settlement increased in the area, the Nez Perce were forced to a smaller reservation, which was eventually subject to allotment through the Dawes Act. 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 of non-indigenous plants, including wheat, vegetables, and fruits, historically known for tomatoes, watermelons, cantaloupes, and cherries.⁸ 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.”⁹ 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.¹⁰

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.¹¹ When Charles Snyder, a German who moved to the region from California, 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.¹² 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 1890.¹³

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

⁷ “Juliaetta, the Metropolis of the Potlatch,” *The Juliaetta Sun* 1911.

⁸ 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.

⁹ “Three Latah County Towns in 1892,” *Latah Legacy: The Quarterly Journal of the Latah County Historical Society* 17 no. 1 (Spring 1988), 2.

¹⁰ *Ibid.*, 1-2.

¹¹ *A Centennial History of the Kendrick-Juliaetta Area* (Kendrick, ID: Kendrick-Juliaetta Centennial Committee, 1990), 25.

¹² *Ibid.*, 25.

¹³ *Ibid.*, 26.

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sold to and from Juliaetta than any other town on the line.”¹⁴ 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.”¹⁵ 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.¹⁶ This was the Juliaetta that Abram A. Adams saw when he arrived in the early 1900s and built his Gothic Revival castle.

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.”¹⁷ 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.”¹⁸ Gothic Revival was never intended for narrow urban lots, and fell out of favor by the 1870s.¹⁹ The Gothic Revival style reemerged in popularity during the late nineteenth and early twentieth century in public spaces, especially college campuses, and private residences for those with the wealth available to construct these homes. It was during this time period that Adams, a man with means, constructed his castle. Character defining features of the castellated subtype of the Gothic Revival style include: flat roofs with parapets, masonry construction, one-story entry porches, drip-mold above the windows, and highly ornate interiors.²⁰ 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.²¹ While the Adams Home 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 by Abram A. Adams. 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 only a rumor as all Census Records and Adams own history report he was born in New York.²² The Latah County Oral History Collection, completed in 1976, shed light on the importance of the architecture of the home in the community as well. Oral historian Sam Schrager asked local resident 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.”²³ Mahon went on to say The Castle “never was too impressive to me. Kind of black, square block thing...it was just square.”²⁴

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, probably using Sears, Roebuck, and Company molds. The blocks are rusticated, with the exception of the smooth 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

¹⁴ Ibid., 27.

¹⁵ Lalia Phipps Boone, *From A to Z in Latah County, Idaho: A Place Name Dictionary* (Idaho Place Name Project, 1983), 51.

¹⁶ “Juliaetta, the Metropolis of the Pottlatch,” *The Juliaetta Sun*, 1911.

¹⁷ Leland Roth, *American Architecture: A History* (Canada: Westview Press, 2001), 171.

¹⁸ Ibid., 178.

¹⁹ McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses*, 200.

²⁰ Ibid., 197-198

²¹ Ibid., 198

²² 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.

²³ Mahon, interview.

²⁴ Ibid.

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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, Roebuck, and Company (Photos 11, 12, and 13). The Adams Home had central coal heating in the basement, and an indoor, plumbed bathroom. The Adams Home was full of luxuries and exceptional architectural qualities for Juliaetta, Idaho.

Abram A. Adams:

Abram A. Adams castle was as significant as the builder himself. 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 1628.²⁵ 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. While guarding a railroad in Tennessee he was captured by Confederate soldiers and sent to Andersonville Prison in Georgia. According to his family history, Adams helped to rebuild Chicago following the fire of 1871.²⁶ Adams married Helen Stevenson on January 6, 1875. Helen was born in New Brunswick, Canada. In 1879, Adams, 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. 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."²⁷ 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 of that year. 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."²⁸ 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).

In 1900, Adams moved from Wisconsin, where he operated 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 his home from concrete blocks he poured and molded himself. Though there is no direct evidence Adams used molds from Sears, Roebuck, and Company, it is likely as the interior of the home was decorated using purchases from the company's catalog. The rusticated concrete blocks of the Adams Home are similar in texture and size to those found on other Sears, Roebuck, and Company concrete block homes.

At some point, either found while on a hunting trip in Alaska or gathered from an Idaho field, Adams discovered "Alaska wheat." 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. For as magical as the wheat was reported to be, the disappointment and scandal was greater. 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."²⁹ 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.³⁰ *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."³¹ Later flour and bread tests proved this to be true (Figure 8). 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 [sic] Adams, of Juliaetta Idaho has proved a failure, showing that it made the lowest average with four other varieties."³² 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

²⁵ The second president of the United States, John Adams, and his son, John Quincy Adams, were also claimed to be descendants of these brothers. Dawn Mueller, "Dark Shadows Out of the Past," *The Spokesman-Review*, October 12, 1974.

²⁶ Ibid..

²⁷ Bill Cyrilla, email message to author, January 23, 2016. There were no known photos of these buildings available.

²⁸ *Adams Family History*, provided by The Castle Museum.

²⁹ "Analysis of Famed Alaska Wheat Others Idaho Experiment Men," *The Spokesman Review*, August 21, 1908.

³⁰ "Alaska Wheat Knocked Out," *Lewiston Evening Teller*, September 7, 1908.

³¹ "A Miracle in Wheat," *The Saturday Evening Post*, September 12, 1908.

³² "Spokane, Wash.," *American Hay, Flour, and Feed Journal*, 15 (November 1909), 40.

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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.

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."³³ In the 1970s, Juliaetta community members remembered him as "eccentric," "a rank Republican," "a crook," and "a promoter."³⁴ He was also the man who built Juliaetta a castle.

Integrity of the Adams Home:

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 of 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. The Adams Home still has the feeling of a residence and is associated with the builder and architectural style.

Conclusion:

The Abram A. Adams Home, presently known as The Castle Museum, is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C for its association with the castellated Gothic Revival architectural style in Juliaetta, Latah County, Idaho. 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—once lived.

³³ Ibid..

³⁴ 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.

Abram A. Adams Home
Name of Property

Latah, Idaho
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9. Major Bibliographical References

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

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): _____

Abram A. Adams Home
Name of Property

Latah, Idaho
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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 19. ID_LatahCounty_AdamsHome_0001
East facade, camera facing west.
- 2 of 19. ID_LatahCounty_AdamsHome_0002
East facade (right) and south elevation (left), camera facing northwest.
- 3 of 19. ID_LatahCounty_AdamsHome_0003
South elevation, camera facing north.
- 4 of 19. ID_LatahCounty_AdamsHome_0004
South elevation (right) and west elevation (left), camera facing northeast.
- 5 of 19. ID_LatahCounty_AdamsHome_0005
West elevation, camera facing northeast.
- 6 of 19. ID_LatahCounty_AdamsHome_0006
North elevation, camera facing south.
- 7 of 19. ID_LatahCounty_AdamsHome_0007
East façade, camera facing west across State Street.
- 8 of 19. ID_LatahCounty_AdamsHome_0008
East façade and entry porch, camera facing southwest.
- 9 of 19. ID_LatahCounty_AdamsHome_0009
First floor window, camera facing north.
- 10 of 19. ID_LatahCounty_AdamsHome_0010
Front entry tile, camera facing southwest.
- 11 of 19. ID_LatahCounty_AdamsHome_0011
Front entry from interior, camera facing east.
- 12 of 19. ID_LatahCounty_AdamsHome_0012
Second story hallway, camera facing west.
- 13 of 19. ID_LatahCounty_AdamsHome_0013
Second story bedroom water damage, camera facing north.

Abram A. Adams Home
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- 14 of 19. ID_LatahCounty_AdamsHome_0014
Basement, camera facing northeast.
- 15 of 19. ID_LatahCounty_AdamsHome_0015
Damaged Gothic Revival details, camera facing southwest.
- 16 of 19. ID_LatahCounty_AdamsHome_0016
Sidewalk leading to front entrance, camera facing southwest.
- 17 of 19. ID_LatahCounty_AdamsHome_0017
Interior of Adams Home.
- 18 of 19. ID_LatahCounty_AdamsHome_0018
Interior of Adams Home.
- 19 of 19. ID_LatahCounty_AdamsHome_001
Interior of Adams Home (tin ceiling).

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

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

Abram A. Adams Home
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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

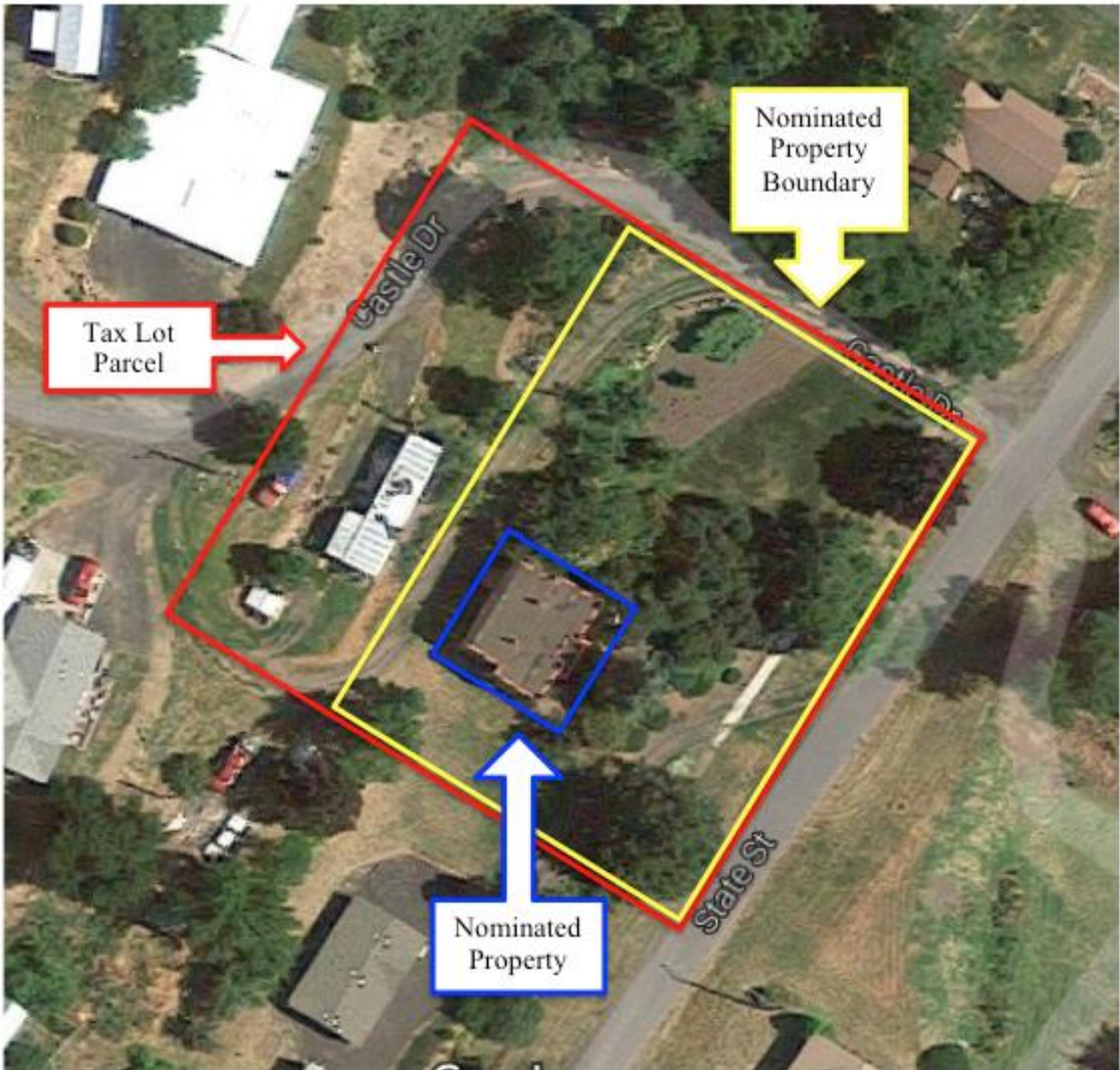


Figure 1. Nominated property boundary, two-thirds of Tax Lot Parcel RPJ1440003003B, Juliaetta, Latah County, Idaho (Image from Google Earth).

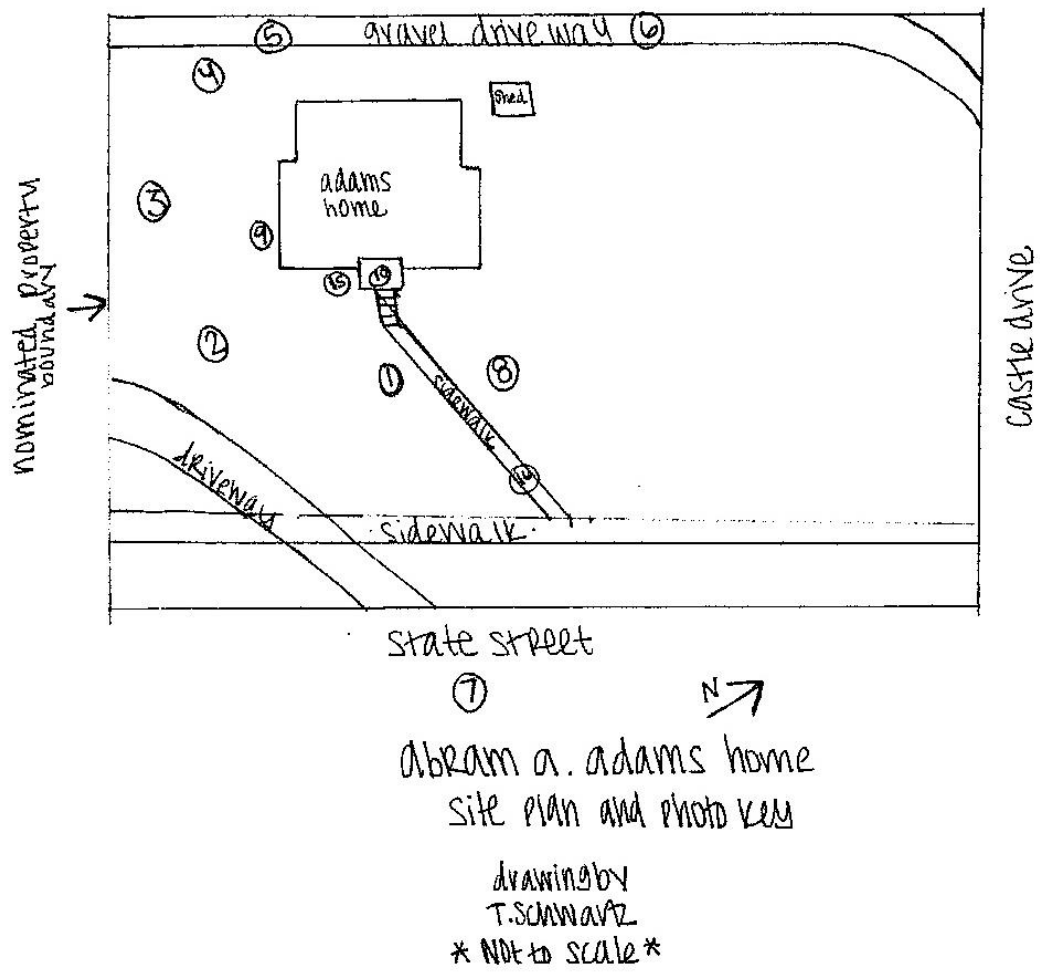
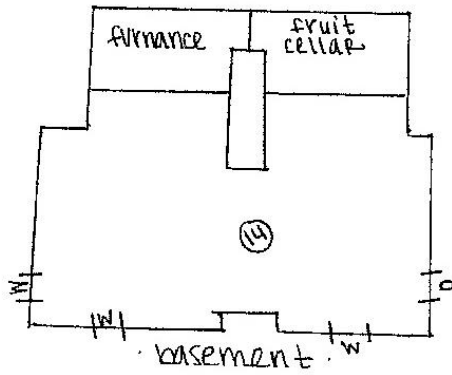
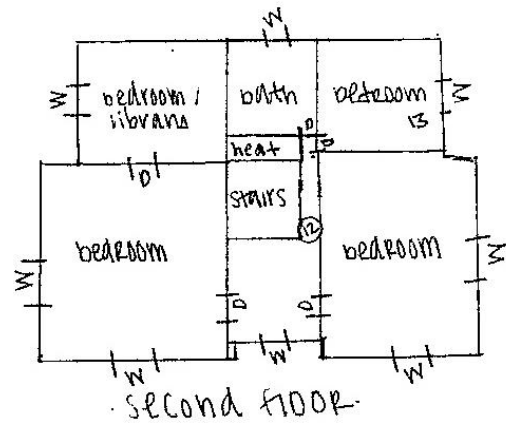
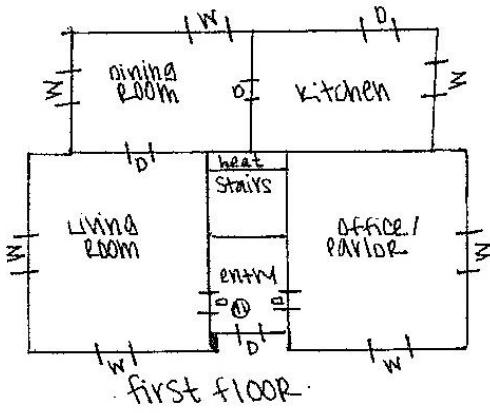


Figure 2. Site plan, photo sketch map (Drawing by T. Schwartz, May 2016).



Abraham A. Adams home
interior floor plan
and photo key



D = DOOR
W = WINDOW

drawing by
T. Schwartz
* NOT TO SCALE *

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

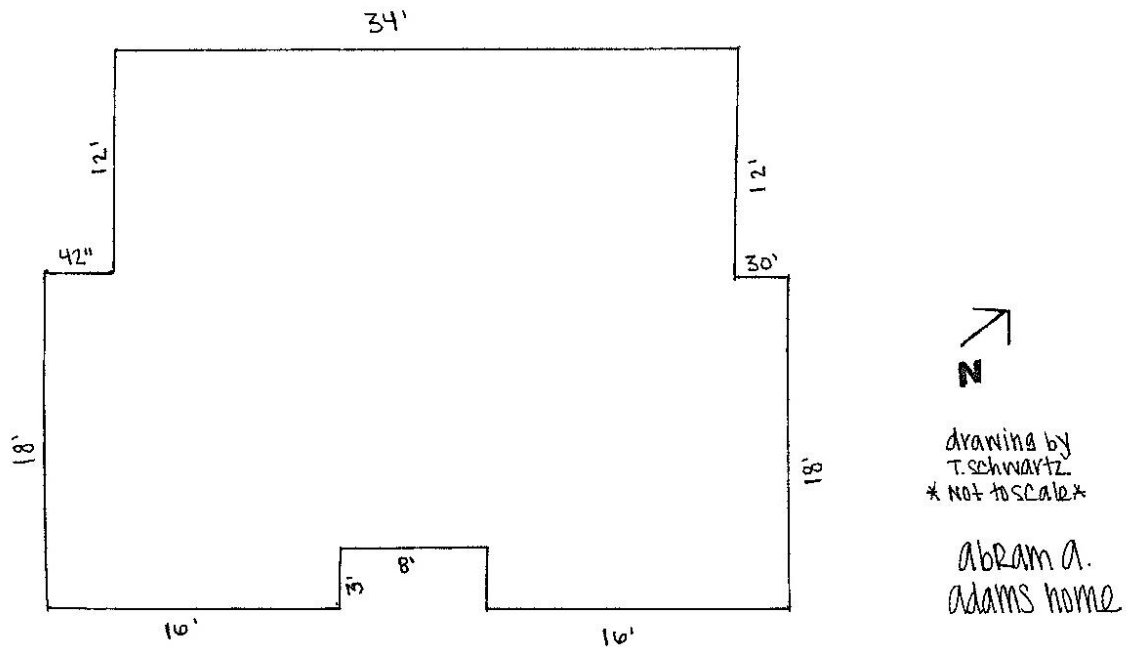


Figure 4. Building plan with measurements (Drawing by T. Schwartz, May 2016).

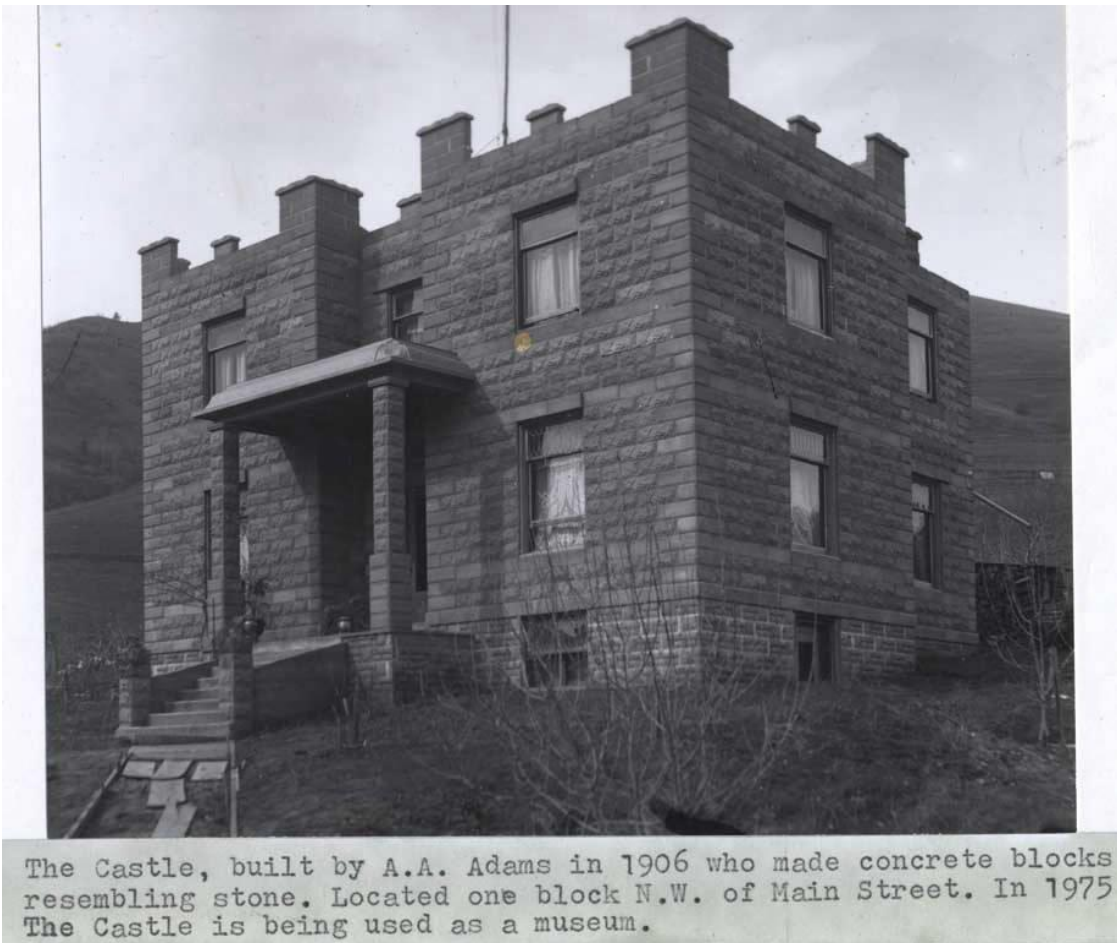


Figure 5. Abram A. Adams Home, 1975 (Photo and caption from University of Idaho Special Collections, Clifford M. Ott Collection, pg. 90).

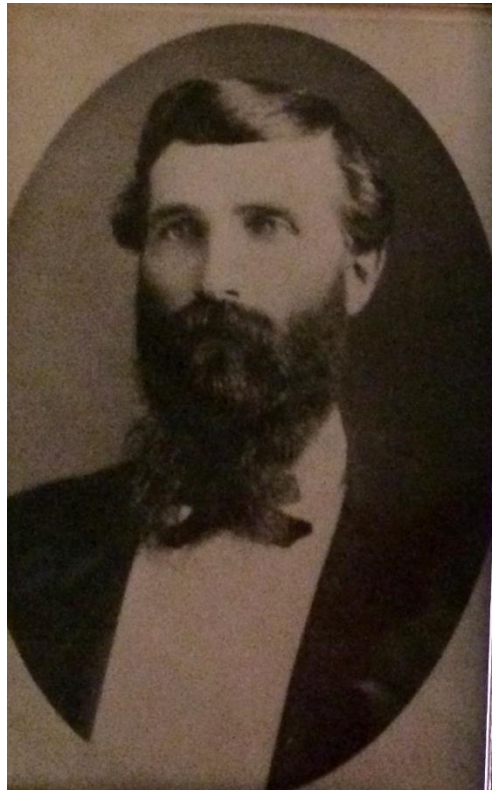


Figure 6. Abram A. Adams, date unknown (Photo from The Castle Museum).



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

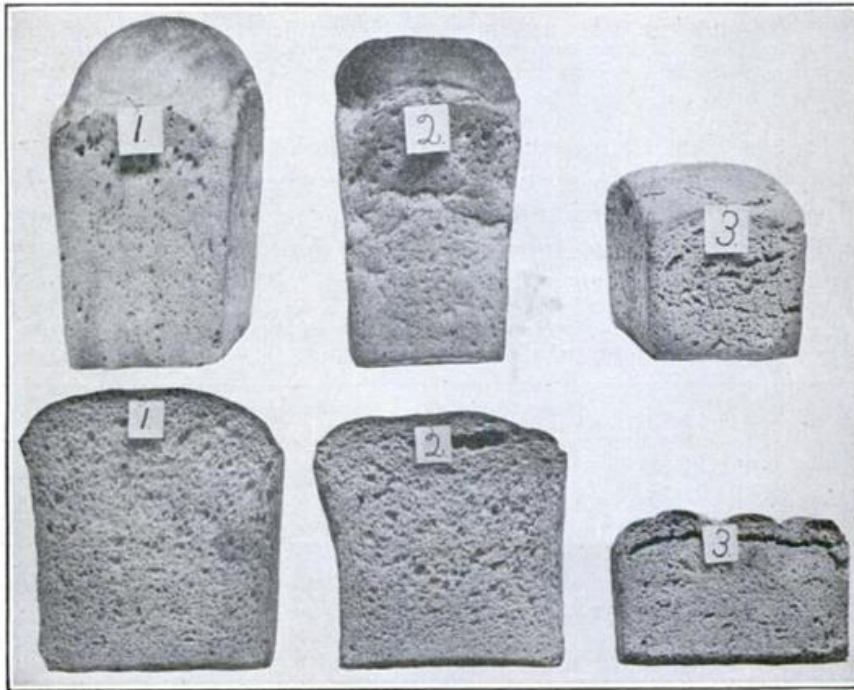


FIG. 2.—Whole loaves (above) and cut loaves (below) baked from patent flours: 1, "Standard," from hard spring wheat; 2, from durum wheat; 3, from Alaska wheat.

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.)