

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

MAR 23 1977

DATE ENTERED

OCT 28 1977

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Mattoon Cabin

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

506 Sawyer on
U. S. Highway 12

CITY, TOWN

Sawyer

 VICINITY OF

4th - The Honorable Mike McCormack

STATE

Washington

CODE

053

 NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

COUNTY

Yakima

CODE

077

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

 DISTRICT BUILDING(S) STRUCTURE SITE OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

 PUBLIC PRIVATE BOTH PUBLIC ACQUISITION IN PROCESS BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

 OCCUPIED UNOCCUPIED WORK IN PROGRESS ACCESSIBLE YES: RESTRICTED YES: UNRESTRICTED NO

PRESENT USE

 AGRICULTURE COMMERCIAL EDUCATIONAL ENTERTAINMENT GOVERNMENT INDUSTRIAL MILITARY MUSEUM PARK PRIVATE RESIDENCE RELIGIOUS SCIENTIFIC TRANSPORTATION OTHER: abandoned**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

William F. Fitzsimonds

STREET & NUMBER

Route 2, Box 2172

CITY, TOWN

Wapato

 VICINITY OF

STATE

Washington 98951

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Assessor's Office, Yakima County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

2nd and "B" Streets

CITY, TOWN

Yakima

STATE

Washington

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Washington State Inventory of Historic Places

DATE

 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission

CITY, TOWN

Olympia

STATE

Washington 98504

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Constructed during the cattlemen's era of the 1860's, the Mattoon Cabin commemorates the beginnings of the permanent settlement of white men in Washington's lower Yakima Valley. The small log structure is situated on the north bank of the Yakima River in Parker Bottom, a section of the valley that is particularly rich in local history. Over the years the cabin has physically suffered from vandalism and from continuous exposure to severe weather conditions.

The character of the Parker Bottom setting has changed considerably since the cabin's construction. In the 1860's, the lower Yakima Valley was for the most part open range land. The valley floor was blanketed with bunch grass; ryegrass and cottonwood trees grew in abundance on the flatlands bordering the river. Some 13 miles south of Yakima City (now Union Gap), Parker Bottom with its streams and warm springs was a natural headquarters for cattlemen in the lower valley. From 1892 until well into this century, this area formed the most fertile portion of W. P. Sawyer's renowned fruit ranch. In 1912, Sawyer completed an imposing mansion opposite the Mattoon Cabin on the benchland above U. S. Highway 12.

Still standing today, the Sawyer mansion overlooks the cabin and the flats which have since reverted to alfalfa pasture and cottonwood groves. An access road to public fishing on the river bank leads from Highway 12 past the cabin. A short distance to the northeast is a modern-day Rambler belonging to the present property owner, William Fitzsimonds. To the rear of the cabin stands a barn, sheds, and a cement block garage. Brush is slowly encroaching upon the cabin to the sides and rear.

The Mattoon cabin is an oblong, two-room structure, approximately 15 feet by 25 feet in dimension. The cabin was constructed of peeled cottonwood logs laid up in the round. The logs were joined by means of simple notches cut in the lower edges. Spaces between the logs were chinked with mud and wooden wedges. The logs themselves are weathered and split, and are in some areas suffering from dry rot. Reportedly, the cabin originally featured a roof of split poles covered with earth. A 1909 postcard pictures the cabin with a shake roof covered with earth, and sealed with wooden planks.

The wooden shake roof was replaced by a local historical group in the early 1950's. This repair project also involved the replacement of at least one deteriorated log, and the pouring of a cement foundation under the lower logs. At the same time, an exterior fieldstone chimney, now completely collapsed, was rebuilt without the use of mortar.

Doorways occur on the front or north elevation and at the rear of the cabin. These openings are framed in, as are the three cabin windows. All early sash and doors have been removed. A kitchen wing with a shed roof, either of log or frame construction, was removed in the 1930's. This wing is believed, by the Mattoon family, to have been an earlier cattle camp cabin, constructed c. 1864 or 1865 by cattlemen Moore and Connell. A vertical plank portion divides the cabin's interior into two rooms. The plank flooring is thought to be non-original, although it has been in place at least since the early 1920's. A simple wooden mantelpiece of unknown date also remains intact.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

1860's

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Mattoon Cabin, located at Parker Bottom on the north bank of the Yakima River, is quite possibly the oldest standing structure in the Yakima Valley. The cabin's builder and its exact date of construction are subjects of continuing controversy. However, its history can be traced to the 1860's and the developing years of central Washington's cattle industry. Moreover, the cabin and cabin site are clearly linked to a number of the Yakima Valley's earliest cattlemen and settlers. The Mattoon Cabin, although modest and dilapidated, remains a cultural resource of considerable importance to the residents of the Valley.

Several early accounts of Yakima Valley history make reference to the existing cabin at Parker Bottom as the "Moore Cabin". In the winter of 1864, William Connell and a Mr. Moore entered into partnership, and wintered 400 head of cattle in the Parker Bottom vicinity. William Connell was among the first group of transient pioneers to enter the Yakima Valley, c. 1859. Connell soon established a ranch in Klickitat County on the Columbia River. Little is known of Mr. Moore. He was described by pioneer and regional historian A. J. Splawn as "an educated man of high tastes; the frontier was not suited to his kind." Moore eventually withdrew from the cattle business, returned to New Hampshire and became a minister. However, in October 1865, according to Splawn, Moore and Connell built a cabin at Parker Bottom. Here they again camped for the winter, with 600 head of cattle.

Moore's squatter's rights were acquired in 1866 by William Hickenbottom and Thomas Connell, partners since the early 1860's in a Klickitat Valley ranch. Hickenbottom, a pioneer of 1847, was a veteran of the Oregon Territory Indian Wars and had been stationed for a time at Fort Walla Walla. No documentation concerning Thomas Connell or his possible relationship with William Connell has been uncovered. From a temporary headquarters in the Moore Cabin at Parker Bottom, Connell and Hickenbottom ran cattle between their Klickitat ranch and the gold mining regions of Montana and British Columbia.

From late July to the end of December, 1867, the cabin was occupied by Myron R. Brown, a young cowboy from Oregon employed by Hickenbottom and Connell. Brown had emigrated as a boy from Ohio to the Willamette Valley. His family were long-time friends of the Hickenbottoms, and Myron a personal boyhood friend of Williams. In 1868 William Hickenbottom married Myron's sister, Mary Brown, and Myron subsequently became Connell's partner in the cattle business. In 1870 the young cowboy returned to Oregon where he married, farmed, and became a Methodist minister. Brown eventually returned to central Washington and in 1891 he served as pastor in the First Methodist Church in Ellensburg.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

MAR 23 1977

DATE ENTERED

OCT 28 1977

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

During the year in which Myron Brown occupied the Moore cabin he kept a daily diary in which he briefly recorded his varied activities as a cowhand. The diary begins in February of 1867 with an account of his participation in a cattle drive from Klickitat to Cariboo, Canada. While stationed at Parker Bottom during the following summer and fall, Brown herded cattle for Hickenbottom and Connell up and down the lower valley. His time was otherwise occupied with haying and fencemending for neighboring settlers, rounding-up wild horses, running cattle north from the Klickitat ranch, and trapping. His personal and social activities included house-raising, looking after his own claim near Union Gap, visiting, reading, and writing letters.

Myron Brown was also an old friend of James Prentis Mattoon and his wife Martha, William Hickenbottom's sister. J. P. Mattoon also came west in 1847 from Ohio to the Willamette Valley where he farmed for seventeen years. In 1864 Mattoon was appointed by the federal government as an instructor in agriculture at Fort Simcoe in the lower Yakima Valley.

He worked in that capacity for four and one-half years, according to one local source, serving much of that time under Indian Agent Wilbur. In 1867, Myron Brown frequently called upon the Mattoons on Sundays at Fort Simcoe. Between 1868 and 1870 (the precise date is uncertain) the Mattoons acquired squatter's rights to Thomas Connell's Parker Bottom property for the price of \$200. They later obtained title to the property by homesteading. Descendants of J. P. Mattoon are living today in the Yakima area. There is among family members a strong oral tradition that the existing cabin was built by J. P. Mattoon. According to family history, the small cattle-camp cabin built by Moore was incorporated into the new house as a kitchen, attached by a shed roof. Local histories of the early 20th century state that the Mattoons moved into and lived in the Moore Cabin. If this were the case, it is possible that the new occupants were responsible for the addition of the wood flooring, glazed sash, and wood mantelpiece. Local sources of oral and written history have been in disagreement over the Moore-Mattoon issue for many years, and it would appear improbable that primary documents exist which might confirm the facts one way or the other.

J. P. Mattoon engaged in stock-raising on the Parker Bottom property for a number of years. His wife Martha was the first school teacher in the district. In 1884, the Mattoon's son George married and lived in the cabin for approximately two years. The elder Mattoons moved to Yakima City (now Union Gap) and opened a livery stable. It is said that, in 1885, their house was skidded five miles north to North Yakima (now Yakima), in that remarkable mass exodus of the entire town that was brought about by the railroad man. There apparently followed several occupancies of the cabin, until it became part of the property of W. P. Sawyer in 1892.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED MAR 23 1977

DATE ENTERED

OCT 28 1977

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 2

An Illustrated History of Klickitat, Yakima and Kittitas Counties., Interstate Publishing Company, 1904..

Lyman, Professor W. D., History of the Yakima Valley, Washington, Volume I, S. J. Clarke Publishing Company, 1919.

Northwest Legacy, Volume 1, Number 4, June, 1976, "Yakima Cowboy: The 1867 Diary of Myron R. Brown" page 309.

Yakima Daily Republic, "Mattoon Cabin Oldest Residence in Valley", September 18, 1937.