

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**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 Aitken Barn

and/or common N/A

**2. Location**

street & number SW of Riggins on  
U/S Highway 95, milepost 194.2 N/A not for publication

city, town Riggins vic.  vicinity of congressional district First

state Idaho code 16 county Idaho code 049

**3. Classification**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>N/A</u> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<u>N/A</u> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Robert L. Lym

street & number Box 438

city, town Riggins N/A vicinity of state Idaho 83549

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Idaho County Courthouse

street & number Main Street

city, town Grangeville state Idaho 83549

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Idaho State Historic Sites Inventory has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1972  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Idaho State Historical Society

city, town Boise state Idaho

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## 7. Description

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**Condition** excellent good fair deteriorated ruins unexposed**Check one** unaltered altered**Check one** original site moveddate N/A

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**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

The Aitken barn sits immediately east of U.S. Highway 95 on the Little Salmon River just south of Riggins, Idaho. It is a rectangular, balloon-frame structure built on a basilica plan, with one-story lean-tos on either side of a two-story central section which is elongated and hip-roofed at the rear of the barn.

The clerestory wall of the hayloft is perforated by three small square windows. The lean-to sections contain stalls, for horses on one side and milk cows on the other. The walls of these sections are unfenestrated but contain solid secondary entrance doors.

At the main entrance, a boxed hay hood sits over a shed-roofed wagon porch where a load of hay could be protected overnight in uncertain weather. A rectangular cupola with front-facing gables and slatted sides is centered on the ridge beam.

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## 8. Significance

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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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" 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		

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**Specific dates** 1914-17                      **Builder/Architect** Jim and Stewart Aitken

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**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

The Aitken barn is architecturally significant as an exceptional owner-built example--no better one has been identified in Idaho at our present stage of inventory--of the basilica type of barn construction, in a location which makes it exceptionally visible to travelers on Idaho highways.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

High Country: the Idaho Mountain Record. Cover photograph and feature, "Barns."  
Vol. 2, No. 3, September, 1978, p. 1.

Letter from present owner, Robert L. Lym, September 1978; on file at the Idaho State Historical Society, Boise.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one acre.

Quadrangle name Riggins

Quadrangle scale 7.5 minute series

UMT References

A 

1	1	5	5	2	5	2	0	5	0	2	8	2	8	5
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

**Verbal boundary description and justification** The nomination includes the Aitken Barn on the east side of Highway 95 south of Riggins, Idaho, the ground on which it stands and for a distance of fifteen feet in every direction, which are owned in 1978 by Robert L. Lym of Riggins.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county N/A code

state N/A code county N/A code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Patricia Wright, Architectural Historian

organization Idaho State Historical Society

date September, 1978

street & number 610 North Julia Davis Drive

telephone (208) 334-3356

city or town Boise

state Idaho 83702-7695

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

*Merle Wells*

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 18 June 1982

For HCERS use only

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

*Roman MacBryde*

date 8-9-82

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: *Emma J. S. S.*

date 8-5-82

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior  
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Aitken Barn

Continuation sheet

Item number 8

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The barn is large, handsome, unaltered and reasonably well-preserved. In the manner of functionally-designed agricultural structures, its exterior forms imply the various agricultural purposes of hay storage and stock shelter for which it was planned and built. Moreover, despite its scale and complexity of plan, it is the product not of professional but of amateur barn-builders. It was designed during World War I by Jim Aitken and constructed by him, with the assistance of his son Stewart, from lumber hauled in by wagon from the town of New Meadows thirty miles to the south.

The location of the barn immediately on Highway 95, the only north-south arterial in the state of Idaho, has made it landmark to travelers approaching Riggins along the Little Salmon River, and immediately accessible to those with an interest in vernacular architecture.