

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH 0693448

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED DEC 12 1978
DATE ENTERED JAN 29 1979

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 J.C. Adam's/Stone Barn
AND/OR COMMON "Stone Barn"

LOCATION

NE of Sun River off

STREET & NUMBER U.S. Highway 81, 1/4 miles West of town
CITY, TOWN Sun River VICINITY OF #2 Eastern
STATE Montana CODE 30 COUNTY Cascade CODE 013

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Harold Poulson
STREET & NUMBER 1527 Meadowlark Drive
CITY, TOWN Great Falls VICINITY OF Montana 59401 STATE

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Clerk and Recorder, Cascade County Courthouse
STREET & NUMBER
CITY, TOWN Great Falls STATE Montana 59401

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE None
DATE
 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
CITY, TOWN STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" 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

ORIGINAL APPEARANCE:

Situated in the Sun River Valley in agricultural setting, the original appearance of the barn remains much the same as today. The shingles are handcrafted cedar shake and were painted red. The barn measured 130 by 40 feet and had to be large enough to encompass all aspects of livestock and marketing...and accomodating enough to serve travelers. Two Swedish stonecutters were hired to hand-cut blocks of sandstone from a quarry several miles away and haul the stone by buckboard back to the ranch. The process took two years.

The barn's main floor was divided into three sections: the west section for personal horses and tack; the center section was used as a temporary shelter for cattle in the winter. The east end was used for wagons and buggies and also housed the meat locker which was used to store butchered beef which was sold to the cavalry at Fort Shaw. The second story was used to store hay and as a social gathering place.

The two story stone building is built in the shape of an elongated "E" with stubby leggs projecting slightly from the building. Each leg has a large Romanesqued arched opening with voussoir stones set in the dressed stone wall. On the second floor above the arches, there are rectangular hayloft doors, each haveing a transom light of three panes. The central leg of the "E" has a partial gable roof that rises into a wathervane tower. The weathervane is a stallion of near normal size. Above the hayloft door of the central leg there is a large stone plaque bearing the name of the owner and that date, 1885.

The other two legs are also capped by steep gable roofs. These slight projections are wider than the central leg and have single windows on each side of the arched opening. These windows have heads of stone, each composed of two stones carved into the shape of an arch, rather than of voussoir stones. The heads of the window frames of these openings conform to the semi-circular arches and the windows have 4/4 lights. All other windows have flat heads and lintels of stone.

The steep gable roof was built of hand split shakes. There are roof ventilators of wood slats and their own gable roofs. perched on the barn roof.

The second floor is supported by large squared wood columns supporting a girder; the joints are fastened by wood pegs. The second floor has a hardwood floor running the length of the building.

The end walls of the barn are of rubble stone while the rear wall is of wood construction.

PRESENT APPEARANCE:

Structurally, the barn remains in good condition considering it is almost a century old. There have been no additions or alterations. The structural integrity of the original exterior of the barn is not affected by the outbuildings constructed

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input checked="" 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 *1882-1885* and BUILDER/ARCHITECT *J.C. Adams & unknown stonecutters*

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The great Stone Barn, Built ca. 1882-1885, is significant for its historic associations and with the development of Montana's early agriculture and transportation. The barn is a rare example of stone architecture and is significant for its hand craftsmanship and detailing.

James C. Adams was born December 11, 1846 in Morgan County, Kentucky. Orphaned at the age of 10 and a Civil War prisoner at the age of 16, J.C. secured employment of driving bull teams in the freighting business for various firms in Missouri and ultimately arrived in Virginia City, Montana in 1864, the same year Montana was organized as a territory. In 1865, he joined the Diamond R Company in Fort Benton and served as wagon boss. There were twenty or more stops between Fort Benton and Helena including "The Leaving"... the last stop on the Sun River before heading across the plains to Fort Benton...and "The Crossing", near the present town of Sun River.

The beautiful Sun River Valley, first seen by Lewis and Clark in 1805, was much revered by the Indian and the Settler; J.C. Adams contributed to the latter by hauling household goods and belongings shipped up the Missouri from the east to Fort Benton. In 1872, he chose a prime piece of property along the Sun River and turned his attention to stock raising in the year 1875. The location of his property was on the Sun River, approximately a mile and a half east of the Sun River stage crossing. His idea was to supply livestock to the now fully garrisoned Fort Shaw, whose soldiers numbered anywhere from 400 to 1,000. That same year he married Evangeline Strong, daughter of a proud pioneer stock growing family who helped J.C. promote his ideas.

J.C. Adams years in the freighting industry had proved profitable and as his livestock business grew and flourished, additional barn space of a large size was needed. With the aid of two stonecutters, the barn was designed and built at a cost of \$10,000.00 over two years. The Sun River Press speculated that "it looks as if it would stand the storms and decay of a century at least" and called it the "Marvel of Montana". With the many friends J.C. made in freight hauling, stage coach and livestock business, his home and especially the barn were scenes of many gatherings. The magnificent structure probably was visited by more wagons, coaches and riders than most of the other stops along the trail. The matched hardwood floors in the upstairs loft stretched the entire length of the building and served not only the traveler but was used by the Fort Shaw officers and their wives for dancing. A local roller skating party was reported in 1885. In 1886, Evangeline Adams died leaving five children and J.C. made another fortuitous marriage in 1887 to a Miss Laura B. Morrow, Daughter of Successful stock grower in Virginia City and Fort Benton.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Great Falls Tribune

Sun River Press 9/10/1885

Interviews: Reed Christianson, Katherine Zeller, Leland Davies

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Approx. 2 Acres

QUADRANGLE NAME Vaughn

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:62,500

UTM REFERENCES			UTM REFERENCES		
ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
A	12 448 359	5265215	B		
C			D		
E			F		
G			H		

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Section 6, Township 21 North, Range 1 West, 1/4 mile west of Town of Sun River, MT
U.S. Highway 89

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
None			

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Michael Stuckslager and John DeHaas
ORGANIZATION

September 24, 1978
DATE

STREET & NUMBER

1405 1st Avenue North
CITY OR TOWN

TELEPHONE

406-727-5461
STATE

Great Falls,

Montana 59401

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

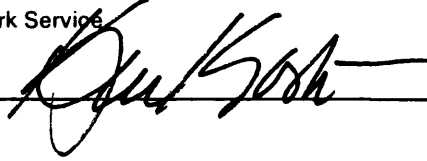
NATIONAL

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 National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE



TITLE

DATE 12.5.78
(WHB 1.25.79)

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

William H. Braakman
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 1.29.79

ATTEST: William H. Braakman
CLERK OF REGISTRATION

DATE 1.25.79

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CONTINUATION SHEET	<i>Description</i>	ITEM NUMBER	7	PAGE	2
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for agricultural use by other owners. Buildings in close proximity are scheduled to be moved. The barn has been in use throughout the century.

While still structurally sound, it is imperative that steps be taken to prevent any further deterioration.

PROPOSED USE:

The barn is presently open for inspection by the public and will continue to be. It would be possible to have, in the future, displays of buggies, wagons and other modes of transportation of the time contributed by members of the Sun River Historical Society and other interested parties in the Sun River Valley. Local craftsman are available to demonstrate from time to time, the lost arts of saddle building, blacksmithing, etc.

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CONTINUATION SHEET *Significance*

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 2

J.C. continued to amass property by having settlers take out small parcels of land with his already-established home and barn in the center of the area. Then he fenced all of it off! Occasional drifters and numerous Indians worked alongside the five children from the first marriage and the four children from the second marriage.

In 1889, J.C. recorded the first brand for his ranch called the "open buckle". Word has it that the old square buckles used on harnesses, halters, etc., meant you were always welcome when left in an open, unbuckled position.

Continuing to widen his interest, Adams became involved in real estate and merchantile holdings in Sun River and Augusta and even in patent ideas which were never granted. These included a "guitar maching", a coffee pot strainer (which hung in the town of Sun River until recently), and a combination cultivator-fertilizer-seeder and roller machine. A skeptical neighborhood farmer remarked that it looked like it "Might suck my cows". Portions of it are used at present to block off a drainage ditch on a nearby farm. The end of his efforts at invention marked the beginning of even more climactic happenings. Fort Shaw was closed and turned into an Indian School. His store in Augusta burned in 1901 and other mercantile holdings were sold. Debts caused Adams great anguish and he went east to Chicago fo an unknown period of time. While he was gone, Laura Belle and his children turned the ranch back on its feet. In 1912 another brand was taken out, called "the steeple" probably named for the main pinnacle on the barn. In 1913, J.C. Adams died from an unidentified illness. The man was so highly regarded that the Great Northern Railroad sent a special train down the spur to pick up his body and take it to Great Falls for burial.

The family, wife and 9 children, formed a stock corporation and kept the holdings together until 1919. Thereafter, the ranch was split up into homesteads by the state. The Los Angeles Sheep Company obtained part, while Fred Woehner obtained another portion. Mr. Woehner spent nearly 20 years in building the ranch back to 5,200 plus original acres.

In 1940, the Christensen family purchased the land from the Fred Woehner Estate. The Christensens and their 10 children continued to keep the landmark stone barn in existance and in constant use. At their retirement in 1975, the barn and the land were purchased by Harold Paulson of Great Falls, who continues to farm the land and shelter livestock in the great stone barn.

The ruts of the wagons which brought the pioneer and his belongings to the Sun River Valley are plowed under and gone, as the historic forst and the glories of gold in Helena and Virginia City. Only the great stone barn remains...a landmark, a thing of beauty, and an enduring tribute to man's desire to create something functional, beautiful and lasting.