

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**DATA SHEET**

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	SEP 30 1975
DATE ENTERED	NOV 2 1975

**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

Sutton Barn

AND/OR COMMON

Red Barn

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

About 1/2 mile southwest of Cheney business district

CITY, TOWN

Cheney

VICINITY OF

#5 - Honorable Thomas S. Foley

---NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Washington

CODE

53

COUNTY

Spokane

CODE

063

**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
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- MILITARY
- OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Eastern Washington State College

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Cheney

--- VICINITY OF

STATE

Washington

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Spokane County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

W. 1116 Broadway Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Spokane

STATE

Washington

**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 type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Sutton Barn is located at the edge of the City of Cheney near the crest of a gradual hill that slopes upward from Main Street and constitutes the townsite. It is a large structure, over 90 feet in length and nearly 40 feet in height with an "L" shaped plan. The barn is of braced frame construction on a split fieldstone foundation. Board and batten walls and a composition shingle roof covering earlier cedar shingles complete the enclosure. Many of the rough sawn planks exceed 20 feet in length, and the battens are milled on both edges in an ogee pattern.

The roof form is a gambrel variant with the curb placed quite close to the ridge. There is a ventilation cupola centered on each ridge and each is square in plan with louvered sides, shallow pyramidal roofs and corner members that suggest classic pilasters supporting a cornice and frieze.

The major axis of the building lies in an east-west direction. The perpendicular south wing -- shorter but with similar details and proportions -- is attached at the west end. When added to the width of the main west gambrel, it establishes a 90 foot wall surface equal in length to the long side of the major wing.

At the apex of the three gambrels extending from curb to curb there is a wooden ventilation grill in the form of a triangular sunburst. Directly below these are the hay-tracks and tall double sliding loft doors providing access to the hay mow. Offset to one side at a lower elevation just above the loft floor there are smaller access doors probably intended for easier loading of hay when the supply was mostly depleted. A much larger door is provided for this purpose on the west end directly under the loft doors and equal to them in width.

At the ground level there are large doors sliding on an overhead track numbering from one to three doors at each end. An additional door was placed on the west wall of the south wing, although this has been replaced by a modern garage door. There are several windows arranged for the most part symmetrically around the building, but they are presently boarded up.

An open shed roofed shelter has been added to fill out the inside corner of the "L" shaped plan. This is a later addition as evidenced by the use of roof joists, different framing methods and less exacting craftsmanship.

The most unusual feature of the Sutton Barn is the mortise and tenon braced frame structural system. The diagonal members are let into the posts on shoulders and nailed, whereas the horizontal timbers are mortised and pegged with hardwood dowels.

Some partitions have been built on the interior at the ground level, although the arrangement of stalls, bins and feed chutes is undisturbed at the east end of the main wing. Most of the sliding doors have been removed and boarded up or nailed shut. With the exception of the roof, the building is in good structural condition.

## 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 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 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

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Sutton Barn on the campus of Eastern Washington State College is significant as a representative of structural methods and craftsmanship from an era in the agricultural development of the inland Pacific Northwest. It was once part of an expansive farm property that included a half section of 320 acres.

It is said that the barn was built in 1884 by William Bigham, a recognized master craftsman who worked in the area, using unusually painstaking hand methods. He owned the farm at the time, and the barn would have been intended for his own use. Bigham is known to have built the original Spokane County Courthouse at Cheney and a number of other important buildings. Tax records maintained by the county in Spokane list the date of construction as 1888. The barn was evidently built at a cost substantially higher than most barns, and was intended, even in its time, as a showplace. Standing above the town, as it does, it overlooked the community and, according to old residents, was the scene of social events from time to time.

The barn was purchased in 1891 or 1892 by State Senator William J. Sutton. Sutton, himself, was an important person in the community whose grand home (since demolished) and barn were intended to reflect his position. Although he did not build the house and barn, Sutton bought them partly as an indication of his prominence. Sutton was vice president of the old Cheney Normal School when it first opened as a state institution in 1890, served as principal from 1892-97 and was instrumental in preserving the school when its budget was vetoed by the governor as an economy measure. After his resignation from the school's administration, he remained in Cheney serving as president of the Second National Bank, and continuing his activities as a prominent businessman and farmer. He served four terms in the state senate, 1913-1921, and ran for governor in 1916. In his legislative tenure, Sutton served with distinction in connection with studies of education and public schools in the State of Washington. He was grand master of the Masonic Lodge of Washington in 1914.

Sutton exemplified a way of life of which this barn is an unusually representative structure. Its size, and the care of construction, tell a good deal about the manner in which its owner lived. The barn represents the early settlement and development period in the region which occurred under the impetus of railroad construction. The earliest inland settlers moved up the Columbia and Snake River systems into the Walla Walla and then the Colfax areas of Eastern Washington. Indian hostilities closed the inland areas from 1877-79. Afterward, the Northern Pacific, bankrupt and in receivership, was revived and renewed its construction to the Pacific Coast, reaching this area in 1881. With advertising and immigrant rates, a new wave of settlement on the fringes of the Palouse began, and with it, farming and cattle-raising in the scablands of Eastern Washington. These tended to start string developments along railroad routes, and in some ways, were experimental.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

No published works.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

UTM OK-WM  
12-22-75

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Less than one

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 1	4 5 5 7 3 0	5 2 5 9 1 2 0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C			

B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Based on information supplied by John Fahey, Associate in College Relations

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Eastern Washington State College

January 27, 1975

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Cheney

Washington

# 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

*Arthur M. Skolnik*

TITLE

State Conservator

DATE

September 15, 1975

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Acting

*Jerry L. Pass*  
*Arthur M. Skolnik*  
*Acting*

DATE

11/20/75

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

11.18.75

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
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CONTINUATION SHEET

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The barn survives from this developmental period during the transition from agricultural settlement to urban stability. There does not seem to be a comparable structure remaining in the immediate vicinity. It is a singular work of craftsmanship recalling the agricultural heritage of this area.