

**COLORADO HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
 Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation  
 1300 Broadway Denver, CO 80203

**HISTORIC BUILDING INVENTORY**

SITE NO.: 5ME7892

Eligible for National Register  yes  no  
 date \_\_\_\_\_ initials \_\_\_\_\_  
 Criteria  A  B  C  D  
 Contributes to a potential National Register district  
 yes  no district name: \_\_\_\_\_

Eligible for State Register  yes  no  
 date \_\_\_\_\_ initials \_\_\_\_\_  
 Criteria  a  b  c  d  e  
 Areas of significance: \_\_\_\_\_

Period of significance \_\_\_\_\_  
 Needs data  date \_\_\_\_\_ initials \_\_\_\_\_

COUNTY: Mesa

CITY: Grand Junction

HISTORIC BUILDING NAME: Adams, Orson, House

LOCAL LANDMARK DESIGNATION:  yes  no

Date of designation: N/A  
 Designating authority: N/A

CURRENT BUILDING NAME:

ADDRESS: 1059 Rood Ave., Grand Junction, CO 81501-3437

P.M.: UTE township: 1S range:1W  
 NW ¼ of SW ¼ of NE¼ of SE¼ of section 14

OWNER NAME & ADDRESS: Larry P. Rattan, 2222 S. Broadway, Grand Junction, CO 81503-1102

UTM REFERENCE-12  
 Easting: 711570  
 Northing: 4326980

USGS QUAD NAME: Grand Junction

Year: 1962; photorevised 1973  7.5'  15'

STYLE: Edwardian

Block: 109  
 Lot(s): 15 and 16  
 Addition:  
 Year of addition:

BUILDING TYPE:

original location  moved  
 Date of moves(s):

MATERIALS: Stone Foundation - Wood Frame - Asphalt Shingle Roof

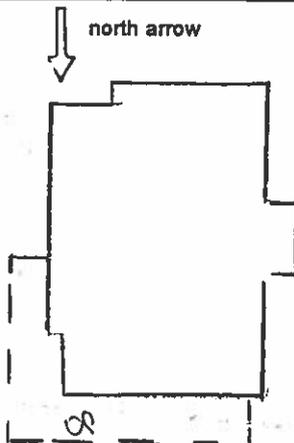
HISTORIC USE: Domestic  
 PRESENT USE: Domestic

STORIES: 2

SQUARE FOOTAGE: 2308

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION- estimate: 1900 actual:  
 Source of information: Tax Assessor's Records

PLAN SHAPE:



ARCHITECT: Unknown  
 Source of information:

BUILDER/CONTRACTOR: Unknown  
 Source of information:

ORIGINAL OWNER: A.R. Wells  
 Source of information: Lot and Block Books

ASSOCIATED BUILDINGS-  yes  no  
 Type:

**ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:** Two and a half story with cross gables. Stone block foundation. Concrete steps lead up to full width front porch with shallow pitched shed roof, which wraps around east corner. Wood ribbed balustrade and seven full height Tuscan columns on porch. Porch base is gray clapboard. White paneled front door with large light. On first floor facade is a transom window. All other windows are double hung wood sash, one-over-one. Bay window on west elevation with hip roof. White lapped siding and trim except black window screen frames. Gray composition shingle roof with brick chimney on ridge. Large front and rear pedimented gables. Large gable on the east slope is gambrel with cornice returns. All three gables have full size windows.

Landscaped with lawn and huge lilacs on east porch and west lawn edge. Bushes in front of west porch. Evergreens in northeast corner of lawn. Sycamore and saplings in parking area. Unpainted wood fence encloses backyard.

**PHOTOGRAPHS** (include photographs showing each side of building and any associated buildings)

Film roll no.: 22  
Negative no.: 14

Photographer: Carolyn Howard  
Location of negatives: City Of Grand Junction

**CONSTRUCTION HISTORY** (include description and dates of major additions, alterations, or demolitions): Additional construction or modifications not noted on Assessor's Records.

**HISTORICAL BACKGROUND** (discuss important persons and events associated with this building): The house, constructed ca. 1900, is best known for one of its longest occupants, Orson Adams, who owned/resided in the house until ca. 1911. From ca. 1913-1917, it was owned by a brother, Charles F. Adams. Lona and Arthur Templeman, a jeweler, were the owners/residents ca. 1918-1932. The house was a rental ca. 1935-1943. Margaret Carson, a tenant in 1937, purchased the house ca. 1939-1944. Ida and E. A. Ilk, a soldier in 1946, were the owners/occupants ca. 1946-1953.

Adams, Orson: Born: Ca. 1864; Died: 6 Nov. 1937; Married: Letitia Low; Children: Edith, Orson, Jr., Alvin, Mrs. Caldwell Martin, and Mrs. Mildred Hosmer. 1059 Road is significantly associated with pioneer Western Colorado stock grower, banker, and industrialist, Orson Adams, who lived in the house, ca. 1899-1913. Adams is particularly remembered for his work in the establishment of the electric street car and interurban system, as well as for his association with one of the first community-wide scandals which resulted in the closing of the bank of which he was president.

Adams, a member of a prominent Maryland family and graduate of Phillips Exeter Academy, came to Grand Junction in 1887. By 1888, he was cashier of Mesa County National Bank, a position he held until becoming president a few years later. On November 28, 1913 the bank was ordered closed by the Comptroller of the Currency, and Adams indicted and found guilty of federal violations of the banking laws of the time.

Adams became associated with the Grand Junction Street Railway, a horse car system, in 1891. Nearly a decade and a half later, he secured wealthy investors to fund the construction of the electric street car line and the interurban which traveled between Grand Junction and Fruita. The company also operated the city's utility system. Adams was also behind the construction of the Electric Building (now the Enterprise), which was advertised as the first steel frame building to be erected in Western Colorado. Adams also served briefly as mayor and as a member of the Grand Junction City Council in 1890.

**INFORMATION SOURCES** (be specific): Plat map, Appraisal Card, Lot and Block Books, Grand Junction City Directories, 1981 Historic Survey of Grand Junction, Obituary Index, Grand Junction Daily Sentinel Newspaper, 6 Nov 1937, p1; 7 Nov 1937, p1; 9 Nov 1937, p1; 22 Mar 1929, p1; 10 Mar 1940, p18; 16 Aug 1968, p3.

**SIGNIFICANCE** (check appropriate categories)

Architectural significance:  
 represents the work of a master  
 possesses high artistic value  
 represents a type, period, or method of construction

Historical significance:  
 [X] associated with significant person(s)  
 associated with significant event  
 associated with a pattern of events  
 contributes to an historic district

National Register eligibility:  
Individual  yes  no  
Criteria:  A  B  C  D  
Reason(s) of significance: Commerce;  
Transportation

Contributes to a potential district:  
 yes  no  
District name:

Period of significance: 1900; 1900-1912

THEME(S):

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE** (briefly justify the significance checked above): Gambrel roofs were widely used in Grand Junction. This house employs the gambrel roof atypically. The second floor has both pedimented and gambrel gables. The house should be considered for inclusion in the National Register due to its early association with Orson Adams. Adams, an early Grand Junction mayor and local financier, contributed significantly to the development of Grand Junction and Mesa County through his efforts to establish the Grand Junction and Grand River Valley railway. He is also connected with the failure of the bank of which he was president. Although Adams was convicted of violating the banking laws of the time, he is still held in local memory as one of the important movers and shakers who had much to do with developing the local area in the first decade of the 20th century.

INVENTORY COMPLETED BY: Museum Group Staff

DATE: 3/29/96

AFFILIATION: Museum of Western Colorado

PHONE: (970) 241-9117

ADDRESS: PO Box 20000-5020, Grand Junction, Colorado 81502-5020

PROJECT NAME: Grand Junction Historic Resources Survey, Phase 2



1059 Rood Ave., Grand Junction, Mesa Co, CO

2945-144-14-008

1/30/1996

Roll 22 Frame 14 View N Dir SW

SME7892



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