



Solomon Batterson Ranch and Stage Station

National Register of Historic Places “Rural Historic Landscape”

Solomon and Mary Batterson and their three children—William, Melissa Almina, and Azubah Ella—arrived by covered wagon in the Cache la Poudre valley on August 11, 1870. They drove two teams of horses and eight head of cattle on their way from Iowa to California. They liked this area so well that they abandoned their original plans and settled here, homesteading 160 acres and eventually growing the ranch to 800 acres of prime grazing land, mostly along the Gordon, South Gordon and Lone Pine Creek drainages.

In 1889-90 this barn was built, at least in part, to serve as a “swing station” to stable horses for the stagecoaches and freight wagons en route between Fort Collins and the gold rush boomtown of Manhattan as well as other ranches, resorts, and gold mines farther west. In 1903, after 32 years on the ranch, Solomon and Mary retired to Fort Collins and leased the property for five years to their daughter Almina and her husband William Tibbits and their nine children. Various other families followed until 1916 when John McNey II purchased the Solomon Batterson Ranch. His older brother Stewart, school-teacher wife Josephine, and their young son Lawrence McNey, lived here. On July 5, 1918, the log and frame home burned to the ground in a kitchen fire

and was never rebuilt. Solomon Batterson died the following year at age 88.

In 1926 Clarence Currie purchased the land making it part of the eventual 16,000-acre Currie (LOX) Ranch. In 1959 concrete footings were poured to shore up the barn foundation, which saved it from rot and collapse. The corrugated tin roof is original. No human lived on the property for the 80 years between 1918 and 1998. In 1967 Currie sold his ranch and in 1972 much of the former Batterson Ranch, including its headquarters, became part of Glacier View Meadows.

In 2003, 100 years after Solomon and Mary retired, the Batterson barn and surrounding 20 acres were purchased by Judd and Linda Adams of Boulder, Colorado. On October 28, 2010, the barn and 13 acres were listed on the National Register as a “Rural Historic Landscape,” the first such official designation in Colorado. The barn was recognized, not only for its role as a swing station in the transportation corridor that enabled the economic development of the region to the west, but also for its architecture as one of the last and best examples of a Midwest Three Portal style barn still standing in the region.

Dedicated on this 25th day of June, 2011

Livermore Woman’s Club - Red Feather Historical Society - Glacier Gals - Friends of the Batterson Barn