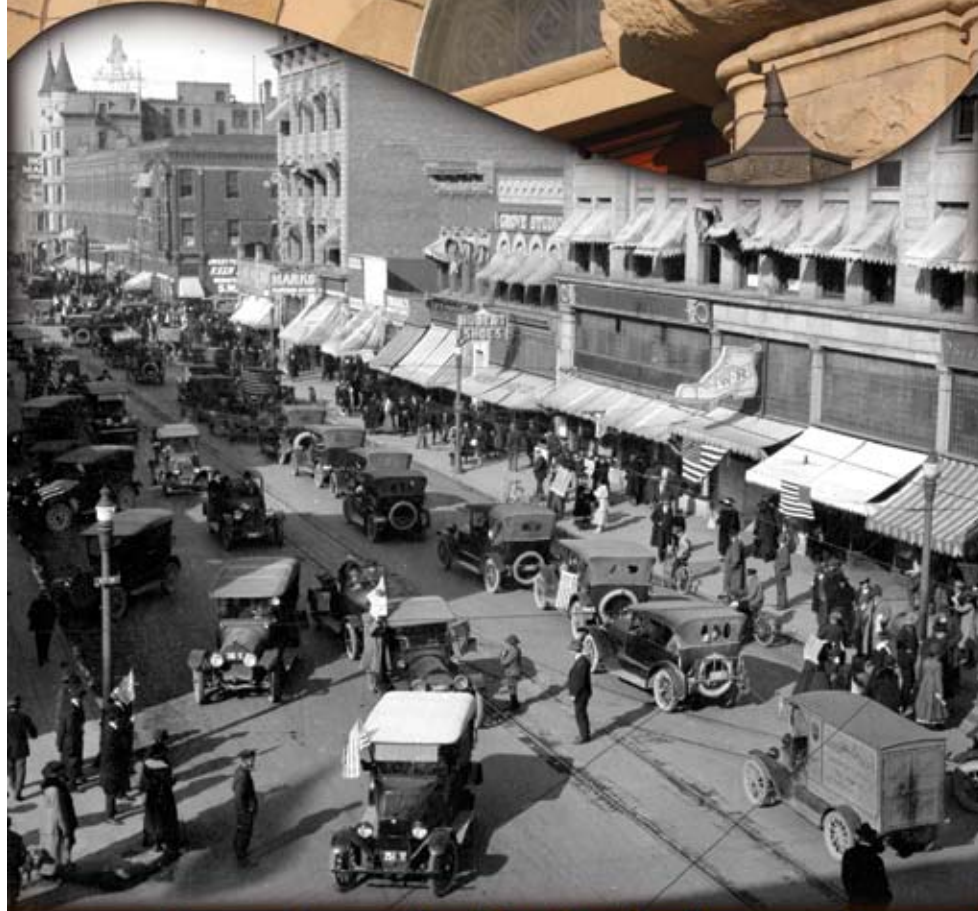


# Shaping Boise

A Selection of Boise's Landmark Buildings



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## A Selection of Boise's Landmark Buildings

City of Boise  
Department of Planning & Development Services

2010



*"This material is based upon work assisted by a grant from the Department of the Interior, National Park Service. Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of the Interior."*

# Contents

Foreward, Mayor David H. Bieter .....	ii
Foreward, Dan Everhart, Preservation Idaho, Inc. ....	iii
Introduction .....	iv
<b>Fort Boise</b> 500 W. Fort St.....	2
<b>O’Farrell Cabin</b> 450 W. Fort St.....	3
<b>Jacobs-Uberuaga House</b> 607 W. Grove St.....	4
<b>Assay Office</b> 210 Main St.....	6
<b>Old Idaho Penitentiary</b> 2445 E. Old Penitentiary Rd.....	8
<b>Perrault Building</b> 625 Main St.....	9
<b>Bishops’ House</b> 2420 E. Old Penitentiary Rd.....	10
<b>Boise City National Bank</b> 805 W. Idaho St.....	12
<b>R.Z. Johnson Block</b> 515 W. Idaho St.....	14
<b>Temple Beth Israel</b> 11 N. Latah St.....	15
<b>Alexander House</b> 304 W. State St.....	16
<b>Telephone Building</b> 609 Main St.....	18
<b>Idanha Hotel</b> 928 Main St.....	20
<b>Adelmann Building</b> 624 W. Idaho St.....	22
<b>Union Block</b> 720 W. Idaho St.....	24
<b>Gem and Noble Blocks</b> N. 10th and Main Sts.....	25
<b>Central Fire Station</b> 522 W. Idaho St.....	26
<b>Old Federal Building</b> 304 N. 8th St.....	28
<b>St. John’s Cathedral</b> 775 N. 8th St.....	30
<b>Alaska Building</b> 1016 Main St.....	32
<b>Turnverein Building</b> 523 Main St.....	33
<b>Ustick School</b> 2971 Mumbarto.....	34
<b>Idaho Statesman Bldg</b> 601 Main St.....	35
<b>Pioneer Tent Building</b> 106 N. 6th St.....	36
<b>Idaho Building</b> 280 N. 8th St.....	38
<b>Washington School</b> 1608 N. 15th St.....	40
<b>Boise Project Office</b> 214 Broadway.....	41
<b>Eagles (F.O.E) Bldg</b> 602 W. Idaho St.....	42
<b>St. Paul’s Missionary Baptist Church</b> 508 N. Julia David Dr.....	43
<b>Boise Union Pacific RR Depot</b> 2603 Eastover Terrace.....	44
<b>Old Ada County Courthouse</b> 514 W. Jefferson St.....	46
<b>Banner Bank</b> 950 W. Bannock St.....	48
<b>Sources</b> .....	49
<b>Index and Landmarks Map Key</b> .....	50
<b>Landmarks Map</b> .....	inside back cover

*Historic images courtesy Idaho State Historical Society  
Contemporary photographs by Morgan Dethman and Brian Florence*

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Front cover images:

Top: Entrance, St. John’s Cathedral, 2010.

Center: Parade on Main Street, c. 1916-17, photo by Sigler. ISHS No. 61-122.66.

Bottom: Banner Bank façade, 2010.

More than a century ago, famed Chicago attorney Clarence Darrow made his first trip to Boise and was so impressed, he dubbed our city the “Athens of the Sagebrush.”

Boise was, he later wrote, “a bright green gem in a setting of blue” with, among other things, many “attractive public and private buildings.”

Today Boise still shines, and some of the buildings that so impressed Darrow still stand and are among the community’s most beloved.

The city boasts 10 National Register Districts comprised of more than 1,071 listed structures, as well as 71 individually listed National Historic properties outside of the locally protected historic districts. Boise has nine local historic districts protecting approximately 3,768 properties, with eight additional façade easements dedicated to the City.

The addition of 30 landmark properties to the City is a wonderful advance in the preservation of our community. Each of the properties included in this book made an important contribution to Boise’s history. Their current owners agree and have consented to the inclusion of the structures; they want to share their properties’ history with others.

Since 1979, the City of Boise has had the ability through ordinance to landmark local buildings for preservation. It wasn’t until the City received a grant from Preserve America in 2008 that the City of Boise Historic Preservation Commission took steps to landmark properties. The majority of the properties are outside of local historic districts. Without the landmark designation, there would be no protection if someone wished to demolish the structure.

Boise has been a Preserve America Community since 2004. Preserve America is a White House initiative developed in cooperation with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, the U.S. Department of the Interior, and the U.S. Department of Commerce. The goals of the initiative include a greater shared knowledge about our nation’s past, strengthened regional identities and local pride, increased local participation in preserving the country’s irreplaceable cultural and natural heritage assets, and support for the economic vitality of communities.

The grant award by Preserve America enabled the City to hire a consultant to work with property owners, helping them to understand the assets they have and how sharing them with the community can benefit everyone.

I have a feeling Clarence Darrow would approve.

David H. Bieter  
*Mayor of Boise*

The city of Boise can boast a wide spectrum of landmarks from large to small, historic to modern, and prominent to obscure. Some are ostentatious in the application of their ornate architecture and expensive materials, while many humbly express their simple craftsmanship and vernacular construction techniques. A few are obvious to the casual observer but some are obscure and reveal themselves to only the most attentive inspection. Regardless of their differences, they share a common thread woven through the fabric of this city’s culture. They are reminders of our history, touchstones for our present, and beacons in our future.

The statewide organization now known as Preservation Idaho was initially founded to combat the loss of significant historic resources in the state’s capital city. Founded in 1972 as the Friends of Old Buildings, this organization fought for the preservation of landmarks such as the Egyptian Theater, the Alexander Building, and Old Boise. More recently, we’ve been responsible for the recognition and preservation of landmarks including the Bown House, the Foster’s Warehouse, and the historic Ada County Courthouse. Unfortunately, for every success there have been crushing losses – the historic Boise City Hall, Chinatown, the Royal Block, and Cole School.

Not all historic buildings are worthy of historic preservation let alone designation as landmarks just as not all landmarks are historic structures. Some of Boise’s most important works of architecture are not yet 50 years old, while a few Boise landmarks are not structures at all – consider Tablerock or the Boise River. The publication of this book presents the city with an opportunity to begin a dialogue about the past and future treatment of our landmarks – those recognized here and those left unacknowledged. Will we as a community continue to value and preserve our historic and natural resources? Will we be able to look past the stubborn barrier of age and consider the importance of places built since World War II? Will we enact ordinances to prevent the careless destruction of these invaluable places? These questions are at present unanswered, but I have confidence in the power of these places to inspire us as watchmen, caretakers, and activists.

Dan Everhart  
*Preservation Idaho, Inc.*

## INTRODUCTION

This publication and the nominations of the local landmarks contained herein were funded in part through a Preserve America grant, a Federal program to promote history and historic preservation in local communities nationwide, and administered jointly through the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and the National Park Service. Boise was designated a Preserve America community in 2005, with the Preserve America grant awarded in 2008.

The City of Boise would like to thank all of the landmarked property owners for their willingness to participate in the program and their commitment to historic preservation in Boise. Thanks also to the members of the Landmark Committee, the Boise Arts & History Department and the Boise History Committee for their help with the project. Finally, a special thanks to Barbara Perry Bauer and Elizabeth Jacox of TAG Historical Research for the hours of research and effort in preparing the individual nominations.

Please note that in the text, the names given to the buildings are their historic names. The dates are generally the construction finish dates, although there are some exceptions: Fort Boise and the Old Penitentiary were compounds where buildings were built and torn down over a period of many years. Dates for those two landmarks indicate the year of the construction of the first buildings. It took almost twenty years to complete the construction of St. John's Cathedral--the date given for it is the year the first section was completed.

John E. Tourtellotte and Charles F. Hummel were responsible for the design of many buildings in Boise. Tourtellotte arrived in Boise in the mid-1890s and began work almost immediately. In 1901, when Charles F. Hummel began working with him, Tourtellotte's firm was renamed Tourtellotte and Company. In 1910, the firm became Tourtellotte and Hummel, the name it retained until World War II. For landmark buildings designed by Tourtellotte and Hummel, the firm is identified by its name at the time of the creation of the building design.

## FORT BOISE

location **500 West Fort Street**  
 year built **1863**

In 1834, the Hudson's Bay Company established Fort Boise, a fur-trading post at the mouth of the Boise River approximately forty miles west of the modern city of Boise. After 1841, the fort supplied travelers on the Oregon Trail until 1854 when the Company abandoned the fort in the face of the decline of the fur trade. In September, 1860 gold was discovered on the Clearwater River bringing a rush of miners to what became north Idaho. Two years later the discovery of gold in the Boise Basin brought farmers and merchants to the Boise Valley. In 1863 a new Fort Boise, a military post, was established to protect the local mining industry and emigrants from Indian attacks. The site, at the intersection of the Oregon Trail and the road to the mines in the Boise Basin, was chosen by U. S. Army Major Pinckney Lugenbeel on July 4, 1863.

In a short time the town of Boise was platted between the fort and the Boise River. With a population of eligible young men, the fort became a community center for the people of Boise, hosting religious services, concerts, theatrical productions, and Christmas festivities. Fort Boise—renamed the Boise Barracks after 1879—remained an active military post until 1912. In 1916, in preparation for the Mexican border campaign, soldiers were once again stationed at the post. In 1920, the main grounds became home to a veterans hospital. World War II returned the Boise Barracks temporarily to military use. On March 14, 1944, portions of the property not needed by the hospital were turned over to the state of Idaho. Today the site is the location of the Boise Veterans Administration Medical Center, an alternative high school and a public park. The military cemetery and a few buildings constructed between 1864 and 1932 still remain.

### Historic Fort Boise buildings in 2010.

Top left: Commanding Officer's Quarters (1863).

Top right: Quartermasters Building (1863).

Bottom left: Detail, 4 Set Officers' Quarters (1905).

Bottom right: 4 Set Officers' Quarters.



## O'FARRELL CABIN

location **450 West Fort Street**  
 year built **1863**

Boise City was founded July 5, 1863, a day after Fort Boise was established. This small cabin was Boise's first residence and is the oldest building in the city. The 200-square-foot dwelling was built by early Boise settler John O'Farrell on present-day Fourth Street between Franklin and Fort streets near the main entrance to the fort. It is built of logs harvested along Cottonwood Creek, bricks manufactured at Fort Boise, and stone taken from the nearby hills. Mary O'Farrell, a devout Catholic, invited two priests to stop at the cabin, which became the site of Boise's first Roman Catholic mass and was used for services until 1870. The O'Farrells lived in the cabin with their seven children for more than ten years until 1872 when John, a successful miner and entrepreneur, built a larger residence.

Mary and John O'Farrell both died in 1900. Their daughters inherited the cabin and deeded it to the local chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR). In 1911, when new construction on the site threatened the cabin's

continued existence, the DAR arranged for one of the first preservation efforts in Boise by moving the building 200 feet to its present location. The DAR raised funds for the project from local pioneer families and sold postcard views of the building. The money was used to replace roof shingles and logs using wood logged from Daggett Creek in Boise County.

In 1956, the building was deeded to the Sons and Daughters of Idaho Pioneers, who retained it until 1993 when the City of Boise took ownership. In 1995, a major collaborative preservation effort began. The Boise Department of Parks and Recreation, Boise City Historic Preservation Commission, Idaho State Historical Society, and General Federation of Women's Clubs / Boise Columbian Club worked together to obtain funding to restore and protect the cabin and provide interpretive signage for the site.

An undated historic view of the O'Farrell Cabin, ISHS No. 62-86.14.





# JACOBS-UBERUAGA HOUSE

location  
year built

607 West Grove Street

1864

Constructed in 1864 by Cyrus Jacobs, the Jacobs-Uberuaga House is one of the oldest buildings in Boise. Jacobs operated a mercantile company in Walla Walla, Washington, before opening a general store, grist mill, and distillery in Boise to supply the miners of the Boise Basin and Owyhee Mountains. Grove Street (originally called Market Street) was home to many of Boise's early families. The Grove Street Ditch with its large waterwheels ran along the north side of the street, which was lined with Lombardy poplar and elm trees.

All building supplies for the house—the finishing lumber, windows, doors, hardware, and furnishings—had to be hauled from Walla Walla by oxen. Originally a single-family dwelling, the house is a two-story, side-gabled, brick building with an enclosed porch. A two-story addition—with a cross-gable roof and second-story curved dormer windows—nearly doubled the size of the house for the growing family. A two-story coursed-sandstone outbuilding is located south of the main house. The outbuilding's exact construction date is unknown; it is not visible in the earliest photographs of the property, but it appears in a photograph taken around 1880. The outbuilding's original use is unknown as well, but by the late nineteenth century it was used as an apartment building. In the 1910s, the Joseph Uberuaga family purchased the house from the Jacobs. The Uberuagas lived in the house and rented rooms to Basque sheepherders until the 1980s. Adelia Garro Simplot purchased the house in the 1980s, and the Basque Museum and Cultural Center was established there in 1985. The house was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1972.



*Top left: Mary Ellen Jacobs (left), others unidentified, c. 1896. ISHS No. 2092-4.*

*Lower left, top right: The Jacobs-Uberuaga house in 2010.*

*Lower right: Mary Ellen and Cyrus Jacobs with their son Palmer, c. 1892. ISHS No. 73-216.4.*





## UNITED STATES ASSAY OFFICE

architect **Alfred B. Mullet**  
location **210 West Main Street**  
year built **1872**

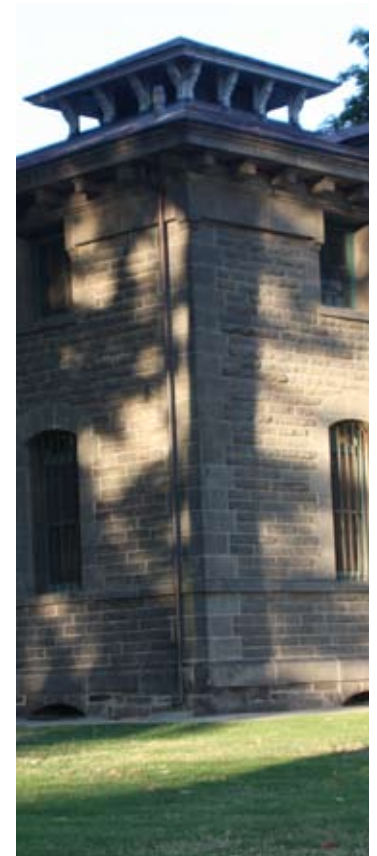
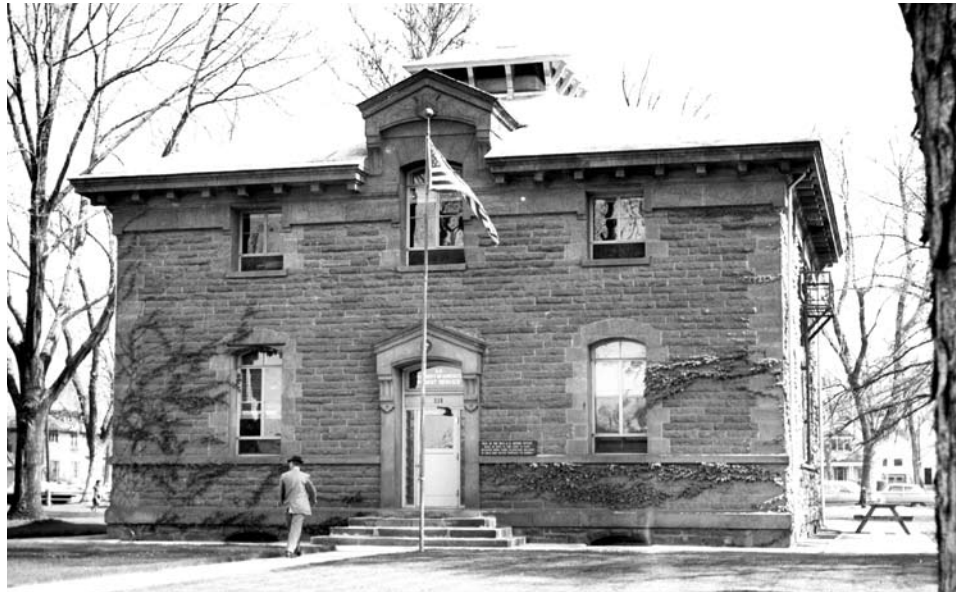
Idaho miners, isolated by mountains and deserts, could not afford the costs of transporting ore for assaying. In 1869, in response to public demand, Congress appropriated \$75,000 for construction of the Assay Office. Designed by Alfred B. Mullet, the Supervising Architect of the U.S. Treasury Department, ground was broken for the building in June, 1870. Construction was complete by July, 1871, but no ore could be processed until the required equipment was received and installed early in 1872. The project, overseen by former Oregon congressman and Idaho territorial Chief Justice John R. McBride, cost a total of \$76, 925.33.

The Assay Office is located at 210 Main Street in the center of a block bordered by Main, Second, Idaho, and Third streets. Constructed of local sandstone, the two-story building has a basement, a low-pitched hip roof with a small central ventilator, two tall chimneys at the rear

of the building, and two smaller chimneys above the side walls. Ornamentation is limited to pediments above the front entrance and the window directly above. The eaves are bracketed by the rafter timbers, and originally all windows were barred from the outside with iron.

The Assay Office was shut down in the 1930s. The building was transferred to the Forest Service, and served as the headquarters for the Boise and Payette national forests for forty years. In 1972, ownership of the building transferred to the Idaho State Historical Society. It currently houses the offices of the State Historic Preservation Office, a division of the Society.

*Bottom left: The Assay Office in 1961, photo by H. J. Swinney. ISHS No. 61-79.2.*  
*Top right: The Assay Office, 2010.*  
*Below near right: Doorway, detail.*  
*Below far right: Corner and roof details.*





## OLD IDAHO PENITENTIARY

location 2445 Old Penitentiary Road  
year built 1872

In 1867, Congress authorized expenditures for territorial prisons in Arizona, Colorado, Nebraska, Washington, Montana, and Idaho. A site one mile east of Boise was selected for Idaho's penitentiary, in part because local sandstone was available from the nearby Table Rock Quarry for construction. The Old Idaho Penitentiary is located at the end of Old Penitentiary Road off of Warm Springs Avenue in Boise's historic east end. The penitentiary grounds cover approximately 230 acres.

The penitentiary's first building, constructed in 1870, was based on standardized plans from the federal government. The seventy-by-forty-foot building was designed to hold thirty-nine prisoners in three tiers of cells and included bathing rooms and another section for eating and administration. The prison grew from a single building to a complex of buildings surrounded by a high sandstone wall with prominent guard towers. Many of the existing buildings were constructed

between 1889 and 1912, with a few dating from the 1920s, 1930s, and 1950s. The older buildings were built in the Romanesque style, a popular style for government buildings in the late nineteenth century. According to Boise State University Professor Peter Wollheim, the stone entrance to the complex was designed to reflect a philosophy of reform known as the "Pennsylvania System." Under this system, administrators sought to foster self-reflective remorse and reformation through a combination of solitary confinement, work, exercise, and religion. A riot in 1972 damaged or destroyed several buildings. In 1973 the inmates were transferred to a new facility, under construction several miles south of Boise. The Idaho State Historical Society now operates the Old Idaho Penitentiary as a historic site, and it is open to the public for tours.

*Views of the Administration building and walls of the Old Idaho Penitentiary, 2010.*



## PERRAULT BUILDING

location 625 West Main Street  
year built 1879

The Perrault Building, located on the southeast corner of 7th Street (now Capitol Boulevard) and Main Street, was constructed in 1879 by businessman Joseph Perrault. The building's architecture is simple, with clean, angular lines. Built with large, smooth blocks of local sandstone, the square two-story structure features three rectangular second-story windows—each with a rectangular recessed panel above. At one time a second-floor wood veranda extended over the sidewalk on Capitol Boulevard. A modern storefront has replaced the three original street-level arched windows.

Joseph Perrault was born in Canada in 1844. He arrived in Boise in 1872 and found employment at the Idaho Tri-Weekly Statesman, the local newspaper, published by Milton Kelly, his father-in-law. Perrault was active in city offices and held positions including territorial comptroller, territorial treasurer, and U.S. surveyor general for Idaho. He went into business for himself in 1879 and constructed this building to house a saddle and harness shop. It is the oldest surviving commercial building in the Old Boise Historic District. By 1901, the second floor was being used for lodging. The first floor was occupied by several businesses until 1926, when Harry K. Fritchman purchased the building and opened an art gallery. The building now houses retail space on the first floor with office space upstairs.

*Upper left: The Perrault Building c. 1975, ISHS No. 75-5.37  
Lower left: The west elevation of the Perrault Building facing Capitol Boulevard, 2010.  
Right: The Perrault Building, 2010.*



# BISHOPS' HOUSE

location      **2420 Old Penitentiary Road**  
year built      **1890**

Built in 1889, the Bishops' House was the residence for bishops of the Episcopal Diocese of Idaho. Originally located at the northeast corner of Idaho and Second streets, the house was built as a two-story wood building with four bedrooms and a bath on the second floor. Ten years later, local architect John E. Tourtellotte remodeled the house for Bishop James Funsten, who was the Episcopal bishop from 1899 to 1918. According to the local newspaper, not a trace of the original building could be seen following the Queen Anne-style remodel, which included exterior changes such as covering the first story with stone veneer and the second story with ornamental shingles. The interior of the house was finished by local craftsmen using Idaho wood.

A grassroots group of architects, preservationists, historians, and other concerned citizens organized the non-profit Friends of the Bishops'

House in 1975, when the house was in danger of being demolished. The group raised funds to support moving the building to the Old Idaho Penitentiary grounds followed by an extensive restoration. The project was recognized by the Idaho Historic Preservation Council, who presented the Friends of the Bishop House with an Orchid Award for "Restoration of a Building for Productive Use" in 1977. Today the building is a popular site for wedding receptions and other social events.

*Below far left:* A view of the turret and the porch below, 2010.  
*Below left:* The Bishops' House at its original location on the corner of 2nd and Idaho streets, 1905. ISHS No. 68-112.36.  
*Right:* The Bishop's House in 2010, now a popular location for weddings and other special events.





## BOISE CITY NATIONAL BANK

architect **James King**  
location **805 West Idaho Street**  
year built **1891**

Organized and incorporated in 1886 by a group of prominent Boise businessmen and outside investors, the Boise City National Bank was first located across Eighth Street from its current location. In 1891 architect James King was commissioned to design a new and modern building. King designed a three-story stone building on the southwest corner of Eighth and Idaho streets. The exterior was trimmed in brick and iron, and the interior was finished in oak and bronze. Among the bank's most notable features were two vaults: one to house money and the other to house important documents and papers. The

fifteen-ton cash vault held a five-ton safe—both resting on a mammoth stone foundation. The bank was located on the first floor, and the upper two floors housed the federal court and the federal marshal's office. The third floor was occupied by the U.S. surveyor general's office.

In 1913, the architectural team of Tourtellotte and Hummel remodeled the building. The entrance was moved from the corner of Idaho and Eighth streets to Eighth Street, where it was enhanced with the addition of large granite columns.

**Below:**

*Idaho Street was crowded with spectators on July 4, 1903 as the parade passed Boise City National Bank and the Boise City Hall. ISHS No. 62-108.70.*

**Upper right:** *The weekly Farmer's Market at the intersection of Idaho and N. 8th Streets, in front of the Boise City National Bank, 2010.*

**Lower right:** *Roof and window details, 2010.*



After the Boise City National Bank closed on August 1, 1932, the building was occupied by the First Security Bank for many years. Later occupants included Idaho Power Company and the J. R. Simplot Company. The building is currently used for offices, a restaurant, and retail space.





## R. Z. JOHNSON BLOCK

architect **James C. Paulsen**  
 location **515 West Idaho Street**  
 year built **1892**



*The R.Z. Johnson Block , 2010.*

Richard Z. Johnson was born in Akron, Ohio, in 1837 and attended Yale Law School, graduating in 1859. He began his legal career in Minnesota but traveled west to Nevada and Silver City, Idaho, before moving to Boise in 1878. He was active in politics, representing Ada County as a member of the Territorial Council during the 1880–1881 legislative session and serving as the attorney general for Idaho Territory from 1887 to 1890. Johnson was also an active member of the Boise school board and sponsored the legislation that created the Boise Independent School District. After his retirement, Johnson and his wife frequently traveled to Germany, where he died in 1913.

In 1892, Johnson commissioned architect James C. Paulsen to design and build an apartment block, or row house, on the 500 block of Idaho Street. Johnson's original plan to expand the building the full length of Idaho Street between Fifth and Sixth streets was stopped by the economic downturn in 1893.

James C. Paulsen, who came to Boise from Montana, designed several important buildings in Boise, including the Natatorium, the old City Hall, and the Columbia Theater. The R. Z. Johnson block is the only surviving example of his work. The two-story block with a raised basement features two octagonal towers centered in the façade with picturesque dormers set at either end of the half-timbered second story. The first-story entrances and the second-story windows are round arched. The first-story façade is pressed brick with rusticated stone trim. The building exterior retains most of its original features, but the interior has been remodeled several times, leaving little of the original floor plan or details. The R. Z. Johnson block currently houses retail and office space.

## TEMPLE BETH ISRAEL

architect **Chestney and Schroeder**  
 location **11 North Latah Street**  
 year built **1895**

Idaho's 1860s mining boom attracted pioneers from different countries and faiths to Boise, including German Jewish merchants who helped lay the foundation for commerce in the new community. From the 1870s until the 1890s, Jewish worship services took place in various rented halls. In February 1895, community leaders drafted a constitution for a permanent organization and elected officers. Local merchants David Falk and Moses Alexander led the organization and the new congregation, named Temple Beth Israel.

The congregation purchased three lots on the corner of State and Eleventh streets in spring 1895. Architects Chestney and Schroeder designed the synagogue, which they described as "modern Moorish." The building has a local sandstone base, a below-grade social hall, a shingle clad sanctuary on the second floor, and geometric stained-glass windows. The Romanesque interior seats 150 and features keyhole-shaped arches and electric lights—which were then a novelty. The exterior wooden shingle pattern

imitates stonework. The building was completed for \$3,275 and formally dedicated on August 30, 1896, with Rabbi Isaac Kaiser of Salt Lake City officiating. The synagogue is the oldest in Idaho and also the oldest west of the Mississippi River in use by the original congregation.

In 1972, when Boise's Jewish population numbered fewer than twenty-five families, the building was named to the National Register of Historic Places. This designation allowed the congregation to use a \$17,250 federal grant for building restoration—a task completed in 1981 for \$97,000. During the next twenty years the Boise congregation grew to about 120 families and brought in Rabbi Daniel Fink as Idaho's first full-time rabbi. The congregation outgrew the building and could not expand on its State Street site. In 2003 the building was moved to its current location on Latah Street. A new education building was constructed next to the temple, which continues to serve Boise's Jewish population.

*Upper right: Temple Beth Israel at its original location on the northwest corner of State and 11th Streets, c. 1975. ISHS 71-189.19.*

*Lower right: Roof and corner detail, 2010.*

*Left: The building at its new location on North Latah Street, adjacent to Morris Hill Cemetery, 2010.*



# ALEXANDER HOUSE

location      **304 West State Street**  
year built      **1897**

Using a design based on plans published in the newspaper, local carpenters built the Alexander House at 304 West State Street in 1897 at a cost of \$3,200. Moses Alexander, a successful merchant, was born in Bavaria in 1853 and emigrated to the United States at age fourteen. Alexander was a partner in a clothing store in Missouri before deciding to move his family to Alaska in 1891. Along the way, however, the family stopped in Boise. Impressed by the city's business opportunities, Alexander and his family settled in Boise and opened a clothing store, which remained in business until the late 1980s. Also active in the community, Alexander was instrumental in organizing the first Jewish synagogue in Idaho, Congregation Beth Israel. Alexander served two terms as mayor of Boise and two terms as governor of Idaho; he was probably the first elected Jewish governor in the nation.

The Alexander House is an L-shaped Queen Anne-style house with two and a half stories and a multi-gabled, pyramidal roof. It features a tower in the corner of the ell, first- and second-story porches, a first-story bay window, and an oriel window in the main gable facing State Street. Classical columns support the upper and lower porch roofs; the first-floor columns rest on stone piers. Other Queen Anne details include decorative shingling in the gable ends and decorative roof crests and finials. The State of Idaho purchased the house from Nathan Alexander, son of Moses and Helena Alexander, in 1977. Using state funds and grants from the National Park Service and Idaho Heritage Trust, the house was renovated in 2001. The state received an award for excellence in historic preservation from Preservation Idaho in 2002. The building is currently used for office space, official events, and receptions.



*Far left: The Alexander family in their 1908 Thomas Flyer automobile, c. 1908. ISHS 79-97.1.*  
*Near left: Roof detail, 2010.*  
*Below left: The Alexander House, 2010.*  
*Below right: Left to right: Moses Alexander; Nathan Alexander; Leha Alexander seated on the ground in front of Nathan's bicycle; Helena Kaestner Alexander, standing in dark skirt; Nettie Alexander seated on ground behind bicycles; Emma Alexander seated on ground at far right, others unidentified. ISHS 77-39.1.*





# ROCKY MOUNTAIN BELL TELEPHONE COMPANY BUILDING

architect **William S. Campbell**  
 location **609 West Main Street**  
 year built **1900**

Idaho's first telephone service was established in Hailey in 1883. Boise caught up with Hailey within a year. The Rocky Mountain Bell Telephone Company, a regional company licensed by The American Bell Telephone Company, was expanding telephone service throughout the western United States. By 1899, Boiseans were able to make both local and long distance calls. The growing telephone company needed a building to accommodate equipment and personnel. American Bell purchased property on the west side of Main Street between 6th and 7th streets for \$4,000.00. The site was the location of the Curtis Block, also known as the "Stone Jug," which housed territorial executive offices from 1869 until 1886 when the Territorial Capitol was completed. The Curtis Block was razed and construction of the new building started in the spring of 1899. The cornerstone was laid on July 22 and by the end of October the building was complete. The office opened on January 1, 1900, with a formal reception for the public on January 22.

Boise architect William S. Campbell designed the two-story Telephone Building using rusticated sandstone on the first story and smooth stone blocks on the second story. The first story features a series of four round arches above the first-story windows supported by monolithic columns and capitals. The second-story features four pairs of rectangular windows spaced evenly across the façade. The word "Telephone" is carved into the stone centered above the second-story windows. The manager's office and long-distance toll booths were located on the first floor, while the local switchboard was located in the front room on the second story. Additional office space upstairs was rented out. The basement accommodated a large array of modern telephone equipment.

The Telephone Building currently houses a restaurant on the main floor and office space on the second floor.

*Upper right: The Telephone Building, 2010.*

*Lower right: The Telephone Building in 1925, ISHS No. 74-153.3.*

*Lower left: The Telephone Building, c. 1920. When it was built in 1899, this building replaced the Curtis Block, also known as "The Stone Jug," which housed territorial executive offices and the territorial law library from 1869-1886 when the Territorial Capitol was built. ISHS No. 3102-A.*





# IDANHA HOTEL

architect **William S. Campbell**  
location **928 West Main Street**  
year built **1900**

When a new railroad depot was built in 1894 at Front and Tenth Streets in downtown Boise, an opportunity opened for construction of a first-class hotel to accommodate passengers. In 1900 the Idanha Hotel was built to fill that need. The hotel was designed by architect William S. Campbell, who is said to have visited every modern hotel between Boise and New York before choosing the French-chateau style for the Idanha. When it was built, the six-story red brick and sandstone building was the tallest building in town. With four turrets topped with flagpoles, a crenellated roofline and a grand entrance under a steel balcony, the 140-room hotel was a stunning site in downtown Boise. The interior was as spectacular as the exterior. The first floor featured terrazzo—a mosaic flooring with Italian marble set in white cement, which was then rubbed and polished. The interior finishes were golden oak and Italian marble. An Otis electric elevator provided access to the upper floors. The fifteen-horsepower motor was located in the basement and covered with glass for public viewing. Hotel rooms featured modern fixtures, luxurious furnishings and abundant light.

The hotel opened on New Year's Day 1901 and soon was "the hotel" in Boise. Hotel amenities included a barber shop, card room, and billiard room in the basement.

Changes in transportation, taste and style led to the decline of the Idanha. In the 1970s, new owners remodeled the hotel and saved it from destruction. Today, the Idanha has been renovated and seismically upgraded. The hotel rooms have been converted to apartments. Two restaurants are housed on the main floor, and an art gallery and retail space are located in the basement.

*Far left:* In 1925 the city of Boise celebrated the coming of the Main Line of the railroad with a parade. Here the parade passes the Idanha on its way down Main Street. ISHS No. 74-118.5.

*Top right:* The intersection of Main and Tenth boasted a turret on every corner and became one of the most photographed sights in Boise. In this undated photograph pedestrians hurry across the street car lines that ran down the middle of the street. ISHS No. 73-163.15.

*Below, bottom right:* The Idanha Hotel, 2010.





## ADELMANN BUILDING

architect	<b>William S. Campbell</b>
location	<b>624 West Idaho Street</b>
year built	<b>1902</b>



*Above:* The corner turret of the Adelmann Building looking northeast from the Washington Trust Bank building, 2010.  
*Right:* The Idaho Street elevation of the Adelmann Building, 2010. The Stearns Motor Car advertisement was created by the international sign painters group, The Letterheads, in 2000.  
*Above right:* Roof detail, 2010.

The Adelmann Block, originally the Wills-Adelmann Block, is located at the corner of Idaho Street and Capitol Boulevard. Constructed in 1902, this two-story building was designed by architect William S. Campbell and named after two prominent Boise businessmen. Richard C. Adelmann, a German immigrant, arrived in Boise from New York in 1872 after serving in the Union Army. Adelmann and his sons were involved in various mining and business ventures, including the Acme Plumbing and Heating Company and an automobile sales company. Fred C. Wills, also a German immigrant, moved to Boise from Montana around 1900. Listed as a "stock raiser" in the 1900 census, Wills partnered with the Adelmann family in mining claims and was an investor in the Acme Plumbing and Heating Company. He later operated a grocery store. The Wills-Adelmann Building was completed during what the Idaho Statesman called "a season of building and real estate prosperity without parallel." The paper estimated that new construction in Boise during 1902 totaled over one million dollars.

Originally designed as two adjoining one-story buildings that could accept a second story at a later date, the Wills-Adelmann Building was eventually

built with two stories. Both street elevations are faced with a light pressed brick. The second floor has bay windows on the south and west elevations and a turret on the southwest corner. The cornice features a stepped brick pattern with rusticated sandstone trim. The lower floor has two storefronts with large glass storefront windows and transoms. Several commercial tenants occupied the building upon opening, including the Wills Grocery Store and the Acme Plumbing and Heating Company on the ground floor, and the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks was housed on the upper floor. Later occupants of the building included Fong's Tea Garden, a popular Chinese restaurant. Current tenants include a coffee house and an events center.



## UNION BLOCK

architect	Tourtellotte and Company
location	720 West Idaho Street
year built	1902



*Above: The Union Block shortly after construction. ISHS No. 69-4.39*

In 1899, a group of five Boise businessmen, including Robert Noble, General John E. Green, Moses Alexander, James Lusk, and C. A. Clark, invested in a large commercial building in the 700 block of West Idaho Street. Designed by Boise architect John E. Tourtellotte (Tourtellotte and Company), the building was constructed in 1902 by contractor J. W. Smith. The investors were Northern sympathizers in the Civil War and, forty years after the war's end, the building may have been named "The Union Block" as a public symbol of their support for the North and a rebuke to Boise's Confederate sympathizers.

Constructed of brick and local sandstone in the Richardsonian Romanesque style, the building has two stories and a basement. The 125-foot-long street elevation features five arches and large windows. The main floor was originally divided into five retail spaces, while the upper floor included offices on the west side of the stairwell and a large open hall on the east side, intended for use as a meeting hall. By the end of 1902,

tenants included the Boise Mercantile, The OK Grocery, A.M. Beal's furniture store, Idaho Plumbing and Heating, Christensen's Dance Hall and The Capital News Printing Company as well as attorneys, real estate agents, an architect and a civil engineer.

The Union Block retained full occupancy through most of the 20th century, but its fortunes and quality of tenants declined by the 1960s. In the 1990s with the building in danger of being demolished, the City of Boise sought a developer to restore it. Ken Howell of the Parklane Company was awarded the contract to renovate the Union Block in 1995. By November 1996, the building was ready for tenants.

Today the main floor of the building is occupied by several restaurants with office space on the second floor. The second-floor ballroom has been renamed the Rose Room and is used by the public for meetings, parties, and other events.

## GEM and NOBLE BLOCKS

architect	Tourtellotte and Company
location	10th and Main Streets
year built	1902



The Gem and Noble Blocks were originally designed as three separate buildings by John Tourtellotte for businessmen Sigmund Falk, John Noble, James Gibbons, and Charles Knight in 1902. The Romanesque style buildings were intended to create an imposing commercial block across Tenth Street from the Idanha Hotel. Constructed of buff colored brick and Tenino sandstone (imported from Tenino, Washington), the buildings feature connected segmented arches on the second floor. Above the Tenth Street entrance is a parapet decorated with sandstone pinnacles and a stone name block in which is carved "Gem 1902."

Gibbons and Knight operated a harness and livery shop in their building until 1910 when they sold it to Sigmund Falk. Falk intended to expand his

buildings with the addition of two more stories, but the project was never completed. The Noble Building housed retail businesses on the main floor, with office space and a rooming house on the second floor. The Noble Rooming House was one of several places in Boise where defense witnesses stayed in 1907 during the trials of William E. "Big Bill" Haywood and George Pettibone for hiring Harry Orchard to assassinate Idaho's former governor, Frank Steunenberg. The building survived fires in 1908 and 1910.

Shortly after the turn of the twenty-first century, the Gem Noble Building was purchased for renovation as retail space and affordable downtown housing. The project was stalled by the economic downturn of 2008 but is nearing completion in 2010.

*Below: Gem and Noble Blocks, 2010.*

*Above: Roof detail, 2010.*





## CENTRAL FIRE STATION

architect	<b>Campbell and Wayland</b>
location	<b>522 Idaho Street West</b>
year built	<b>1903</b>



Boise's fire department was organized on January 24, 1876, by a group of twenty-eight volunteers. The first firehouse was located in a converted blacksmith shop at 619 Main Street. The one-story wood structure housed Engine Company #1 and Hook and Ladder Company #1 until it burned to the ground on September 23, 1883. On December 15, 1883, a two-story, two-bay firehouse was dedicated as "The City Hall" station at the site of the burned firehouse. Six years later City Hall Fire Station was renamed Central Fire Station.

By 1901, the city of Boise had outgrown its volunteer department and the old Central Fire Station. Mayor Moses Alexander pushed for many city improvements, including a professional fire department with modern equipment. In August 1902 the city purchased the property on the northeast corner of Sixth and Idaho Streets and by October local architects Campbell and Wayland had completed plans for the new fire sta-

tion. The new building was ready for occupancy in October 1903. The seventy-two-by-seventy-four-foot building was constructed of "new Boise brick," as described by the Idaho Statesman. A bell tower topped the southwest corner of the building and three sandstone-trimmed, round-arched doorways faced Sixth Street. In the early years, the crews utilized horse-drawn fire wagons and handheld fire hoses. The interior of the building was designed with "convenient quarters for the men, as well as the horses."

Later, with the advent of electric alarm systems, the bell tower was removed and the three arched doorways replaced by modern overhead doors. By 1980 the facility was obsolete and the Central Fire Station was moved from this location to a new building at 707 Reserve Street. In 1985, the old fire station was remodeled by CSHQA Architects, the successor firm to Campbell and Wayland, and currently houses a restaurant and private offices.



*Above left: Central Fire Station c. 1903, ISHS No. 69-4.22.*

*Near right: The Central Fire Station in 2010. The bell tower, removed in the mid-twentieth century, was replaced in a 1985 renovation/remodel of the building by CSHQA, the successor to Campbell and Wayland, the original architects.*

*Far right: Central Fire Station, c. 1910.*



# OLD FEDERAL BUILDING

architect	<b>James Knox</b>
location	<b>304 North Eighth Street</b>
year built	<b>1904</b>

The old Federal Building, completed early in 1905, is located on the northeast corner of Eighth and Bannock streets. Boise sandstone was used for the basement and first-floor walls, and for the first time in Boise, construction stone was shaped using an electric stone saw. The building's granite steps required the largest block of stone ever quarried in the area. A 10,000-pound block—one of eight required for the project—was cut at William S. Campbell's stone quarry near Idaho City in the summer of 1902. The four-story stone and white-brick building is constructed in the Beaux Arts style, a popular style for public buildings of the period that takes its name from the French school of architecture where many prominent American architects studied. The old Federal Building exhibits many characteristics of the style: a raised first story with a grand entrance, arched windows and doorways, decorative wrought iron, and a parapet.

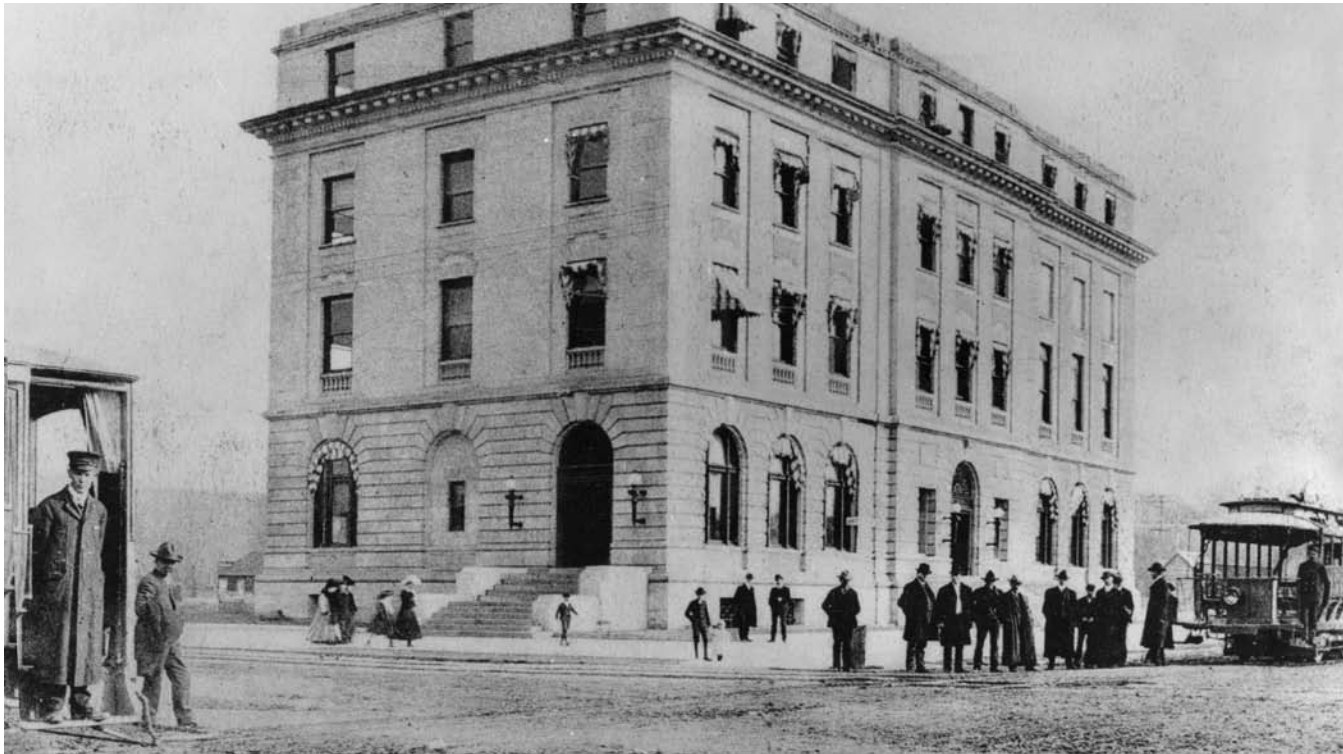
The Idaho Statesman reported that a federal building was planned for Boise as early as 1891, but ten years passed before local architect William S. Campbell, who served as general contractor for the project, could begin work on September 24, 1901. The original building was a standard design created by the U.S. Treasury Department under supervising architect James L. Knox. The building housed the post office, federal court, and offices of several federal agencies previously scattered in different locations. An L-shaped addition was placed on the northeast corner of the building in 1930 to accommodate additional agencies. By the mid-20th century, a new building was needed and in 1968 a new federal building was constructed near the Veterans Administration hospital on Fort Street. The main post office location also moved—to a facility on South Thirteenth Street—but the old Federal Building was retained as the Borah Station Post Office and housed some federal offices, including those of Idaho's congressional delegation. During the Idaho State Capitol Building's renovation in 2007–2009, several state offices, including the governor's office, were temporarily relocated to the old Federal Building, now owned by the State of Idaho.



*Above right and far right: Decorative details.*

*Above left: A view looking west on Bannock Street, the Old Federal Building is in the foreground, the Hoff Building (originally the Hotel Boise) is across Eighth Street, 2010.*

*Below: The federal building shortly after construction was completed c. 1905. ISHS No. 71-185.6.*



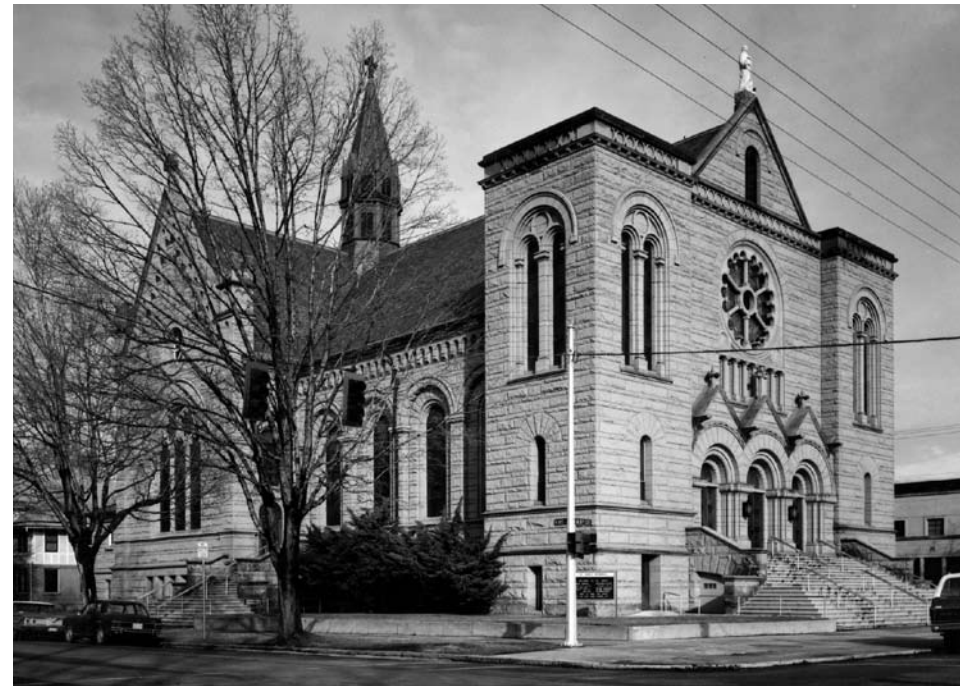


## ST. JOHN'S CATHEDRAL



architect	<b>Tourtellotte and Company</b>
location	<b>775 North Eighth Street</b>
year built	<b>1905</b>

Boise's first Catholic church building was dedicated on Christmas Eve 1870, but burned to the ground eighteen days later. A second church was built six years later at the northwest corner of Ninth and Bannock streets. When Father Alphonse Glorieux came to Boise in 1883 from St. Michael's College in Portland, Oregon, Idaho's Catholic community—known then as a Vicariate—consisted of 2 priests serving 1,500 parishioners. When Idaho achieved statehood in 1890, church authorities reviewed the needs of the Idaho Catholic community. By 1893, the Vicariate had grown to 7,000 parishioners, 27 churches, and 10 priests. Four schools, an academy, and two hospitals had also been created. In 1893, the Vicariate became the Diocese of Boise and Father Glorieux was appointed Bishop of the new diocese.



Bishop Glorieux recognized the need for a larger cathedral for the growing Catholic community. The diocese purchased the block bordered by Fort, Hays, Eighth, and Ninth streets and commissioned the Boise architectural firm Tourtellotte and Company to design a new cathedral in 1904. Architect Charles Hummel, who became Tourtellotte's partner in 1900, was a member of the congregation. The project was completed on a pay-as-you-go basis under the direction of Bishop Glorieux. The cornerstone was laid in 1906. When the walls and roof were completed in 1912 (sometimes using equipment borrowed from the capitol construction project under way two blocks south), church services were held in the basement. The main floor of the building was not completed until 1921, after the bishop's death. The cathedral was dedicated on Easter Sunday, 1921. Tourtellotte and Hummel designed the building in the Romanesque style with a cruciform (or cross-shaped) plan. The 2½-story sandstone cathedral features vaulted ceilings in its interior and stained glass windows. In the 1970s the interior was remodeled to conform to the requirements of Vatican II; the architect for that was Charles Hummel, grandson of the original architect and also a member of the congregation.



*Upper left and Upper right: Ornamental and window details of the cathedral.*  
*Lower right: The cathedral's main entrance is elevated above the street.*  
*Lower left: The cathedral in 1978, taken from the intersection of Hays and 8th Streets, photograph by Duane Garret. ISHS No. 78-5.63/A.*





## ALASKA BUILDING

architect      **Tourtellotte and Company**  
 location        **1016 West Main Street**  
 year built      **1906**



In 1905 Boise businessman John P. Tate bought property on Main Street, between Tenth and Eleventh streets, intending to build a two-story business block. He contracted with Tourtellotte and Company, which designed the building in record time.

Construction began in the spring of 1906 and finished in September. The building's original plans included two stories with retail store rooms on the ground floor and office space on the second story. Two additional floors were added in 1911.

Built in the Renaissance Revival style, the building features brick laid in imitation of Renaissance-style stone rustication. On each of the floors above ground level, the façade is divided into four bays of paired windows. Each window is set into a surface that is created by and set back from an arch of the same imitation Renaissance rusticated brickwork. Above the windows of the top floor is a cornice with a row of dentils made of galvanized iron, and a brick parapet with molded sandstone coping.

For many years the origin of the name of the Alaska Building was a mystery, but in 2010, a query from a reader led Idaho Statesman newspaper columnist Tim Woodward to the answer. According to John Tate's descendants, Tate had a lifelong fascination with Alaska and had always wanted to travel there. Poor health and bad timing kept him from realizing the dream, but when he built this handsome building, he named it Alaska.

Original tenants of the Alaska Building included Link's Business College and Blake and Reilly's general mercantile store, which later became the Cash Bazaar, occupying the entire building in 1922. The Cash Bazaar remained in the Alaska building for more than thirty years. The interior and the ground floor storefront were completely remodeled in 1953. The building was again restored in 1983 and 1984, preserving the rich, ornate architecture found in buildings of its period. Currently, the building includes a five-story atrium, a glass passenger elevator, oak banisters and brass trim, custom formed brass lamps, and an oak and tile entryway. Occupants in 2010 included retail and professional offices as well as the Boise State University Main Street Center, encompassing classrooms and a community center to provide convenient downtown access to some university services as well as bringing students directly to downtown for classes in planning, history, and urban studies.

*Above Left: The Alaska Building, the Tiner Building and the Noble Building can be seen in this photo taken during the Boise Mainline celebration parade, April 18, 1925. ISHS No. 74-118.3.*  
**Above right: The Alaska Building, 2010.**

## TURNVEREIN BUILDING

architect      **Tourtellotte and Company**  
 location        **523 West Main Street**  
 year built      **1906**



**Above Left: The Turnverein Building, 2010.**  
**Below: The Boise Turnverein Society was organized in 1870 as a social club for Boise's German community. In 1906 the Society built this handsome brick building on the southeast corner of Main and 6th Streets, photo c. 1906. ISHS No. 81-707.1.**



The Boise Turnverein Building was built in 1906, designed by Tourtellotte & Company's Charles Hummel. Constructed in the Romanesque style, the rectangular brick building is two stories tall and features several large, round-arched windows on the west side and a large Romanesque brick doorway. The building's other windows are rectangular, and all feature wide borders with brick set in a dentil pattern. The main entrance to the building is on Sixth Street.

The building housed the Turnverein Society, a social club organized in 1870 by Boise's German immigrants. Turnvereins were first organized for young men in Germany to promote "manly exercise" and the singing of traditional German songs.

Charles Hummel, a German immigrant, was a member of Boise's Turnverein Society and presided over the cornerstone ceremony in August 1906. This building was the second Turnverein Hall and originally housed a theater, gymnasium, and clubhouse. In 1908 the building became the home of the Turner Theater and the Turnverein Society's gymnastics program. The hall was the scene of many community events, and theatrical troupes often entertained there. The Turnverein Society disbanded in 1916 because of anti-German sentiment during World War I and sold the building. It was later used by the Seventh-Day Adventist church and has housed offices, clubs, and restaurants.



## USTICK SCHOOL



Ustick School, one of the few buildings remaining of the community of Ustick, was built in 1909. Harlan Ustick, physician, horticulturist, and entrepreneur, arrived in Boise in 1903. He was instrumental in creating the Boise Valley Railway Company, which built the first interurban line in the state when it linking the towns of Boise, Nampa, and Caldwell. Ustick owned twenty acres of land a few miles west of Boise on the interurban line. He platted the land in 1907, and farmers and ranchers immediately purchased lots in the townsite and the surrounding area. The community of Ustick eventually became well known for its orchards. Its location on the interurban line provided an easy way to move produce from farm to market on interurban freight cars.

*Above: The bell tower on the roof of the school, now used as a residence, 2010.  
Below: Ustick School, 2010.*



location	2971 Mumbarto
year built	1906

The community of Ustick began to take shape when a fruit-packing plant, a store, and a bank were constructed. Children in the area attended Cloverdale School until a new school district was established in 1909. Construction of the two-story, four-room school began that summer, and the building was ready for students in November. Architectural details include denticulated eaves, decorative knee braces, and double-hung sash windows. Ustick thrived until the interurban ceased operation in the 1920s. The rural character of the area remained intact until Boise's rapid growth in the 1990s overtook the surrounding fields and resulted in the destruction of most of the buildings. Only the school, the bank building, and a store remain to remind Boise residents of the heyday of community development on the interurban line. Today the school is a private residence.

## IDAHO STATESMAN BUILDING

architect	Wayland and Fennell
location	610 West Main Street
year built	1910

The Idaho Statesman, Boise's most successful newspaper, was founded in 1864 as the Idaho Tri-Weekly Statesman by printer James S. Reynolds. The first office was in a log building on Main Street with a dirt floor and no windows. Later the log building was replaced by a two-story wood frame building on the northwest corner of Sixth and Main Streets. Despite holding political views in opposition to many of Boise's founders (he was a Union supporter and many of the Boise's early political leaders supported the Confederacy) Reynolds ran the newspaper successfully until 1872 when he sold it to Milton Kelly, a local attorney and judge. Under Kelly the newspaper's circulation grew and in 1888 he began to publish the newspaper on a daily basis, changing the name to The Idaho Daily Statesman. Kelly sold the paper to a group of investors which included businessmen Calvin Cobb and Joseph Perrault. Cobb became the newspaper's publisher and within a few years held a controlling interest in the Statesman Company. In 1928 Calvin Cobb's daughter, Margaret Cobb Ailshie succeeded him as publisher. The Cobb family published the Idaho Statesman for more than seventy years.

By 1909 the wood frame building which housed the newspaper was completely inadequate for the modern production of a newspaper. Cobb commissioned the local architectural firm of Wayland and Fennell to design a new building, to be erected across the street on the southwest corner of the intersection of Main and Sixth Streets. Ground was broken in the fall of 1909 and construction was completed by the spring of 1910. When it was finished the newspaper noted that "the building has been designed with a view to meeting every requirement of a modern newspaper and will be a model of convenience throughout." The Idaho Statesman offices remained in the building until 1951 when a new building was constructed on the corner of 6th and Bannock Streets. 601 West Main was later occupied by the American Red Cross and is currently used for commercial purposes.

*Photograph: The Idaho Statesman Building, 2010.*



## PIONEER TENT BUILDING



The Pioneer Tent Building, located on the northeast corner of Sixth and Main streets, was built in 1910 as the Pioneer Tent and Awning Company's store and showroom. The company began operations in 1900 and by 1910 had outgrown its original location in a wooden building at 524 West Main Street. According to an advertisement in the city directory, by 1903 the company had expanded to manufacturing and selling "Tents, Awnings, Wagon covers, Machine, Hay and Grain Pauling, Miners' and Herders' Supplies, and Cotton Duck goods of every description." The Pioneer Tent Company was the first and largest business of its kind in Idaho.

location **598 West Main Street**  
 year built **1910**

Recognizable for its colorful architectural features and the horse-shaped sign on the roof, the two-story brick building was originally designed for four stories. However, the planned additional stories were never built. The structure cost \$25,000 to build and features a stone cornice and trim. The entrance on Sixth Street has a round arch with flanking pilasters and a wrought-iron balcony above. The first floor was used as a showroom, and the second floor included the workroom and office. The rear portion of the second floor was divided into seven apartments. The building was remodeled in 1961 to provide additional retail and offices space for tenants. Pioneer Tent and Awning Company was still located in the building when the business shut down in 1972. The building was sold to Boise developer Joan Carley, who renovated it. The building is now one of the central features of the Old Boise Historic District and is occupied by two restaurants and a design studio on the main floor, while the second floor houses a number of small businesses and professional offices.

*Above: The distinctive horse sign on top of the building was removed in the mid-20th century but brought back during the 1974 renovation.*

*Below: Harness display in the Pioneer Tent building, undated photograph. ISHS No. 71-95.3.*

*Top right: A wagon is parked for loading/unloading at the 6th Street entrance to the storage area, photo c. 1918. ISHS No. 71-94.7.*

*Bottom right: The Pioneer Tent Building, 2010.*





## IDAHO BUILDING

architect	Henry John Schlacks
location	280 North Eighth Street
year built	1910

Several four- and six-story buildings were constructed during Boise's early skyscraper era, which lasted roughly from 1901 to 1913. Of them, the Idaho Building—at the corner of Eighth and Bannock streets—was the only one designed by an architect from outside Boise. Chicago architect Henry John Schlacks designed the building in 1910 for Walter E. Pierce, one of Boise's leading real estate agents and entrepreneurs. Pierce came to Boise in 1890 with partners John Haines and L. H. Cox. Together they operated one of the most successful real estate firms in the area, platting many of Boise's most popular neighborhoods. Pierce served as Boise mayor from 1895 to 1897, founded a local bank, and was instrumental in developing and promoting Boise's electric streetcar system.

The Idaho Building was one of many commercial buildings constructed in Boise in 1910, a boom year for downtown development with the construction of both the Idaho Building and the Empire Building as well as several others. There were so many construction projects that a shortage of workers was reported in *The Idaho Statesman* days before ground was broken for the Idaho Building.

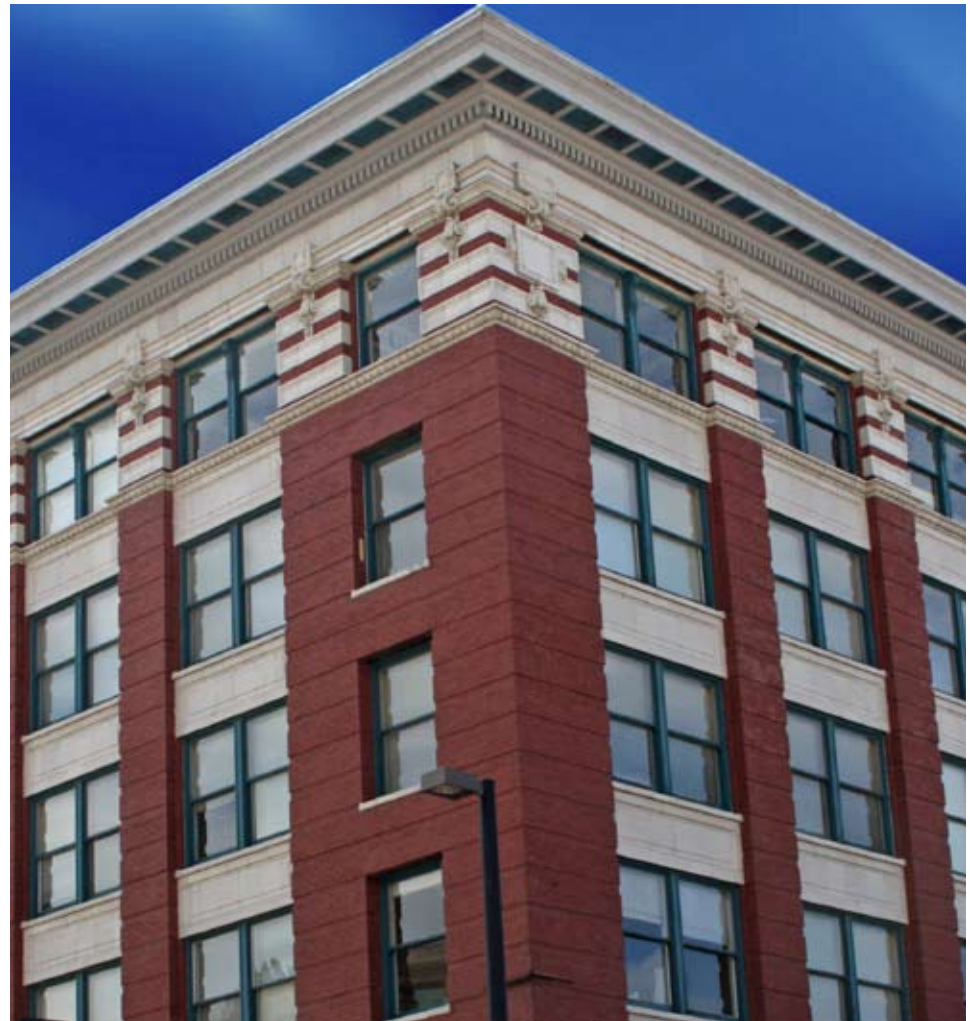
Constructed in the second Renaissance Revival style, the Idaho Building features a stone first story with plate-glass windows and Doric pilasters. Each side is seven bays wide with a pair of double-hung sash windows in each bay of the upper stories except the corner bays, which contain one window. Banded brick pilasters demarcate the bays and give the building its sense of verticality. The panels above and below the windows are terra cotta. The sixth story is highly ornate, with contrasting cream colored terra cotta and dark red brick bands. When it was built, the Idaho Building boasted Boise's only dual elevator system. To facilitate the elevator service, a set of double buttons was installed, one to ring when the passenger wished to go up and one to go down. The elevator boys claimed the passengers were so impressed by the double set of buttons they would stare at them until the elevator passed them by. The Idaho Building was renovated in 1989 by Boise developer Ken Howell. It now offers both residential and office space and remains an important fixture in downtown Boise.

*Upper left: The Idaho Building January 1, 1914. ISHS No. 78-2.52.*

*Upper right: This photo showing the busy intersection of 8th and Bannock Streets with the Federal Building and the Idaho Building in the foreground, was included in a presentation album given by the Boise Commercial Club to Governor James Hawley. In the distance is the turret of the Boise City Hall on the corner of 8th and Idaho Streets, now the site of a parking garage. ISHS No. 62-186.9b.*

*Below left: Name block over the main entrance to the Idaho Building.*

*Below right: Roof and upper floor details.*



## WASHINGTON SCHOOL



location      **1607 North 15th Street**  
 year built    **1911**

Suburban growth in the 1890s prompted the need for more schools in Boise. A solid economy and population growth increased the number of residents in Boise's North End, and in 1899 Washington School was slated for construction on the west half of Block 10 in the Brumback addition (now 1607 N. 15th Street), property donated by Boise business leader Walter E. Pierce. The original two-story, four-room building was designed by Boise architect John E. Tourtellotte. When the school opened in February 1900, the local newspaper praised its construction, noting that the secret to its success was that "every detail of construction was based on the comfort of the children. The building is light and bright all the way through." Two years later, four rooms were added to accommodate a growing number of students. In 1908 the school district purchased the east half of Block 10, allowing more room for the school to grow. The design of the original building prohibited any further additions, so in September, 1911 a second building, the current school, was opened adjacent to the original building.

The school board purchased plans for a school building from Heath and Twitchell, a Tacoma architectural firm. The mechanical drawing class at Boise High School created architectural drawings and tracings based on the purchased plans. The building contractors used the students' drawings to construct the building.

First through eighth grade students attended classes in both buildings until a fire destroyed the original building two weeks before the end of the school year in 1917. When classes resumed in the fall, the school was reduced to one building of eight rooms for first through sixth grades. Additional space was added in 1946. By 1947, the school had twelve rooms, an auditorium with a stage, and modern restrooms on the first and second floors. The building is still serves as a neighborhood elementary school.

*Upper left: The original Washington School, designed by architect John E. Tourtellotte c. 1900. ISHS No. 69-4.41*  
*Lower left, top: A classroom c. 1910, photo by Harvey. ISHS No. 80-31.4.*

*Lower left, bottom: The main entrance to Washington School, 2010.*

*Lower right: Washington School, after 1911. Note the original school directly behind the new building. ISHS No. 63-50.2.*



## BOISE PROJECT OFFICE

location      **214 Broadway Avenue**  
 year built    **1912**



The Boise Project Office was the first U.S. Reclamation Service (now U.S. Bureau of Reclamation) office building in Boise. Congress passed the Reclamation Act in 1902 to boost development of the arid West. Earlier laws, such as the Carey Act (1894), supported private investment in irrigation development, but few investors could afford the large investments needed to fund projects. Under the 1902 law, those who received irrigation water paid for the water they received, thereby reimbursing the federal government for construction and operation costs. The Reclamation Service, funded by sale of public lands, was established as a branch of the U.S. Geological Survey. The Payette-Boise Project, authorized in 1905 to use water from the Boise and Payette rivers to irrigate the desert lands west of Boise, was one of Reclamation's most ambitious undertakings. The project initially focused on the Boise River, with water storage behind Arrowrock Dam and irrigation networks downstream from Diversion Dam. Some of the earliest structures were constructed to irrigate what was called the Arrow-

rock Division, covering lands south of the Boise River. The Reclamation Service also moved the original Diversion Dam and extended the New York Canal by forty miles in order to carry water to Lake Lowell, a reservoir formed by Deer Flat Dam five miles southwest of Nampa.

The Boise Project Office housed engineers and administrators for the Boise Project, which covers six southwest Idaho counties and a portion of Malheur County in eastern Oregon. The two-story, L-shaped building is constructed of brick and features segmental-arch window openings, brick string courses, wood double-hung sash windows, and a symmetrically located front-entry porch. The building's design details reflect distinctive qualities of the Craftsman building form—an architectural style common in the period's residential construction but seldom used in public office buildings. Today the building is owned by the State of Idaho and is leased for use as a private school.



## EAGLES BUILDING



architect	Tourtellotte and Hummel
location	602 West Idaho Street
year built	1912



The Fraternal Order of Eagles (F.O.E.), a social and service organization, was founded in February 1898 by six theater owners gathered in a Seattle shipyard to discuss a musicians' strike. After addressing the matter, they agreed to bury the hatchet and form the "Order of Good Things." Members selected the bald eagle as their official emblem and eventually adopted the name the Fraternal Order of Eagles. The Boise Eagles Lodge was organized in 1901 with 64 members. Meetings were held at various locations in Boise until 1917, when the group purchased a building from local businessman Jeremiah D. Jones.

Jones, owner of the Idaho Hardware and Plumbing Company, had purchased a vacant lot on the northwest corner of Sixth and Idaho Streets from the Idaho Brewing Company in 1902. In 1911, the newspaper reported that he planned to construct a three-story red brick building on the site,

designed by Tourtellotte and Hummel Architects. After several delays, the building was completed by 1916. The Boise Eagles Lodge occupied the upper floors of the building by 1917. The flat-roofed building is ornamented with a curved false gable on the front of the building with the initials F.O.E in relief in the nameplate below. Decorative details include raised black pendants "hanging" from the brick cornice between the windows on the third floor. The second and third floors feature double-hung sash windows, and the second-floor windows are topped with brick lintels and keystones. The building is currently occupied by a coffee shop and a spa/salon on the ground floor and office space on the upper floors.

*Above: The Eagles Building c. 1979. ISHS No. 79-5.178.  
Below: Looking east on West Idaho Street toward the Eagles Building and Central Fire Station, 2010.*

## ST. PAUL'S MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

location	508 North Julia Davis Drive
year built	1921



St. Paul's Missionary Baptist Church was constructed in 1921 and is one of the oldest Idaho buildings constructed by African Americans. In 1908, the St. Paul congregation began meeting in the homes of different members on Sundays. The 1909 Boise City Directory indicates that the congregation met in a building at Sixth and Front streets. Because the congregation could not afford to keep the location, however, they returned to worshipping at members' homes until 1921, when Mrs. Narcisa Gestal donated a location at 124 Broadway Avenue. Church members built the church under the direction of the first pastor, Reverend William Riley Hardy, an experienced carpenter. The simple wood building stands 1½ stories tall and exhibits elements of the Craftsman bungalow style in the decorative knee braces and exposed rafter tips.

When St. Paul's congregation moved to a new location in 1993, a preservation committee was formed to save the old building. The congregation donated the building to the committee, which was able to raise the funds to move it to a new location in Julia Davis Park near the Idaho State Historical Museum. The building was restored and has been home to the Idaho Black History Museum since 1995.

*Above: Details of carved ornamentation on the wood entrance doors, 2010.  
Below: The Idaho Black History Museum, 2010.*

# BOISE UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD DEPOT

architect Carrere and Hastings  
 location 2603 Eastover Terrace  
 year built 1925



Few people today are aware of the long struggle to bring direct rail service to Boise and what the depot on Eastover Terrace meant to Boise citizens. Rail lines bypassed the city for years. When the Oregon Short Line Railway Company (a subsidiary of the Union Pacific Railroad Company) laid tracks between Salt Lake City, Utah, and Huntington, Oregon, in 1883, the main line bypassed the steep grades required to bring the tracks to Boise in favor of Caldwell, a new town located twenty miles west. A stub line connecting Boise to the main line in Nampa was built by the Idaho Central Railway in 1887. In 1925, the Union Pacific Railroad Company finally constructed a main line to Boise. The depot—also completed in 1925—was a source of tremendous pride to Boiseans, symbolizing the city's connection to the modern, urban world. The first transcontinental train, #26, pulled into the station on April 16, 1925. A parade wound its way through the city and up to the beautiful new building, where a grand celebration was held.

New York architects Carrère and Hastings designed the new depot in the popular Mission Revival style, inspired by California's Spanish missions and at the height of its popularity from 1890 through the early 1920s. The new Boise Depot incorporated many of the style's features, including stuccoed walls, a tiled roof, curved gables, pierced arches, and a bell tower. Described as "metropolitan, yet simple," the depot's interior decoration was supervised by Boise contractor John U. Rathdrum. A carved sandstone drinking fountain was placed at each end of the waiting room and trusses and rafters were stained brown. Stylized paintings of locomotives, double-end cars, and coaches depicted the evolution of railroading. Today the building belongs to the city of Boise and is used for special events. The Boise depot is one of the few physical reminders of the railroad in Boise and provides an important key to the city's transportation history.



*Far left:* A view looking south on Capitol Boulevard a few years after the depot's construction. Photo by Wesley Andrews. ISHS Photo No. 63-211.21.  
*Center left:* The Mainline Celebration at the depot, April 16, 1925. ISHS Photo No. 3000.  
*Center right:* The Mainline Celebration drew hundreds of Boiseans to the depot. This view looks northeast toward downtown Boise. ISHS Photo No. 3300.  
*Bottom:* The depot in 2010.  
*Far right:* From the Capitol Boulevard Bridge looking south, 2010.

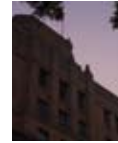


## OLD ADA COUNTY COURTHOUSE

architect	<b>Tourtellotte and Hummel Wayland and Fennel</b>
location	<b>514 West Jefferson Street</b>
year built	<b>1939</b>

The first Ada County Courthouse was built in 1881 and served the county for more than fifty years before it was replaced by a new building on the same site east of the Capitol at 514 West Jefferson Street. Built in 1938 and 1939, the Old Ada County Courthouse was designed as a team effort by two Boise architecture firms—Tourtellotte and Hummel and Wayland and Fennell. J. O. Jordan and Son, a local construction company, was the prime contractor. Early design drafts for the building show a neoclassical structure similar to the Idaho State Capitol, but the final design was rendered in the Art Deco style, which saw limited application in Boise. Emerging out of the 1925 Paris Expo, Art Deco style emphasizes the vertical and is characterized by geometric, angular, hard edges that suggest machine precision. Decorative elements are spare and stylized and in direct opposition to the classical and period revival styles of the past. The nine-story courthouse is constructed of reinforced concrete and faced with white Indiana limestone. Pinnacles on the eighth-story parapet, stepped setbacks of the upper stories, and typical Art Deco decoration help to emphasize the vertical in this design. The solidly constructed building was meant to represent the stability of government during trying times.

The Old Ada County Courthouse is the historic seat of county government, the embodiment of a significant New Deal program, a fine example of a particular style and period of architecture, and the work of local architects and builders. The building was a project of the Works Progress Administration (WPA),



a Depression-era, New Deal program established in 1934 to create construction projects and new jobs. Since WPA projects frequently used undertrained workers, architects often designed new buildings in more minimal styles, like those used in Art Deco designs. The murals in the main stairwell of the building are also a WPA project. The building now belongs to the state of Idaho; during reconstruction of the Capitol between 2007 and 2009, the legislature met in two of its courtrooms.

*Below left: The original courthouse, shown here c. 1900, was constructed in 1881 and served the county until 1938. It was demolished when the “new” courthouse was built. ISHS No. 69-4.23.*

*Left: Roof detail and historic lamp post, 2010.*

*Below: The imposing facade of the Old Ada County Courthouse, 2010.*



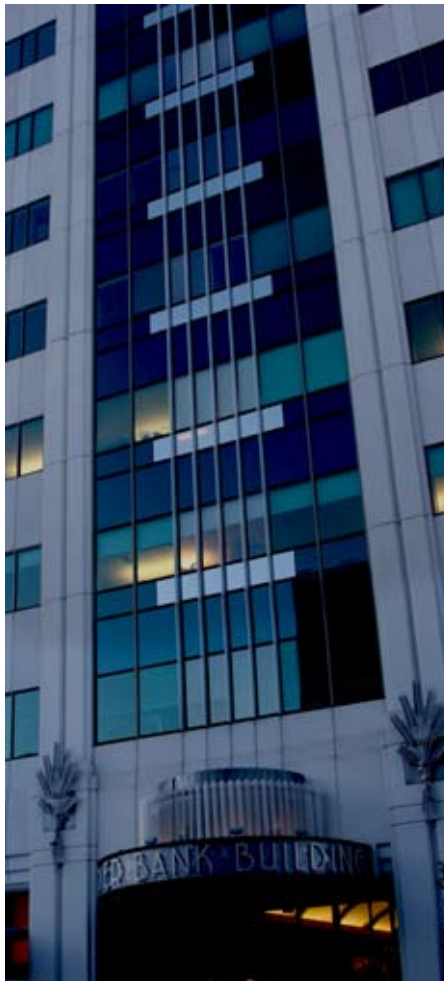
## BANNER BANK BUILDING

architect	HDR, Inc
location	950 West Bannock Street
year built	2006

Completed in 2006, the Banner Bank Building was designed by HDR, Inc. for the Christensen Corporation of Boise. Modeled after the Art Deco style, the 11-story structure is the first LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Platinum building in Idaho, the highest certification from the U.S. Green Building Council.

Integrating several sustainable design strategies, the Banner Bank Building incorporates geothermal heating, a water reclamation system, computer-controlled lighting, and the use of recycled materials, among numerous others, to create an architecturally interesting and comfortable environment for occupants, while keeping construction costs on par with similar buildings using traditional construction methods.

The Banner Bank Building is the recipient of the Idaho Smart Growth 2006 President's Category Award and the Environmental Design & Construction 2007 Design Excellence Award. The building received an honorable mention at the City of Boise's 2008 Design Review Awards. The Banner Bank Building is an excellent example of ingenuity and sustainability in contemporary architecture.



Views of Banner Bank and details, 2010.

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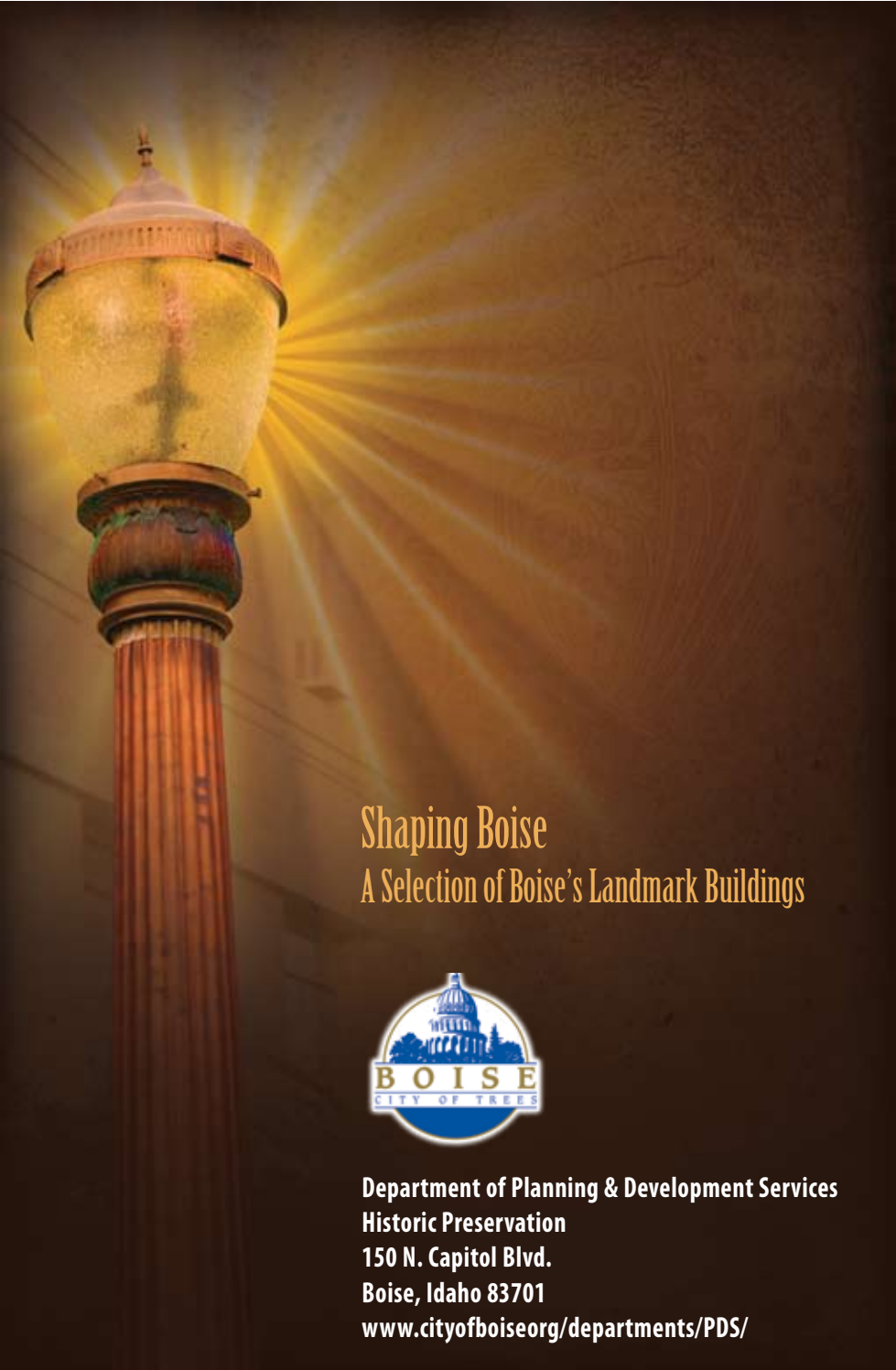
Wright, Patricia and Lisa B. Reitzes. *Tourtellotte & Hummel of Idaho: The Standard Practice of Architecture*. Logan: Utah State University Press, with the Idaho Historical Society, 1987.



# Map Key

- 1 --- **Adelmann Building** 624 W. Idaho St. ---22
- 2 --- **Alaska Building** 1016 Main St. ---32
- 3 --- **Alexander House** 304 W. State St. ---16
- 4 --- **Assay Office** 210 Main St. ---6
- 5 --- **Banner Bank** 950 W. Bannock St. ---48
- 6 --- **Bishops' House** 2420 E. Old Penitentiary Rd. ---10
- 7 --- **Boise City National Bank** 805 W. Idaho St. ---12
- 8 --- **Boise Project Office** 214 Broadway ---41
- 9 --- **Boise Union Pacific RR Depot** 2603 Eastover Terrace ---44
- 10 --- **Central Fire Station** 522 W. Idaho St. ---26
- 11 --- **Eagles (F.O.E) Bldg** 602 W. Idaho St. ---42
- 12 --- **Fort Boise** 500 W. Fort St. ---2
- 13 --- **Gem and Noble Blocks** N. 10th and Main Sts. ---25
- 14 --- **Idaho Building** 280 N. 8th St. ---38
- 15 --- **Idaho Statesman Bldg** 601 Main St. ---35
- 16 --- **Idanha Hotel** 928 Main St. ---20
- 17 --- **Jacobs-Uberuaga House** 607 W. Grove St. ---4
- 18 --- **O'Farrell Cabin** 450 W. Fort St. ---3
- 19 --- **Old Ada County Courthouse** 514 W. Jefferson St. ---46
- 20 --- **Old Federal Building** 304 N. 8th St. ---28
- 21 --- **Old Idaho Penitentiary** 2445 E. Old Penitentiary Rd. ---8
- 22 --- **Perrault Building** 625 Main St. ---9
- 23 --- **Pioneer Tent Building** 106 N. 6th St. ---36
- 24 --- **R.Z. Johnson Block** 515 W. Idaho St. ---14
- 25 --- **St. John's Cathedral** 775 N. 8th St. ---30
- 26 --- **St. Paul's Missionary Baptist Church** 508 N. Julia David Dr. ---43
- 27 --- **Telephone Building** 609 Main St. ---18
- 28 --- **Temple Beth Israel** 11 N. Latah St. ---15
- 29 --- **Turnverein Building** 523 Main St. ---33
- 30 --- **Union Block** 720 W. Idaho St. ---24
- 31 --- **Ustick School** 2971 Mumbarto ---34
- 32 --- **Washington School** 1608 N. 15th St. ---40





*Shaping Boise*  
*A Selection of Boise's Landmark Buildings*



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