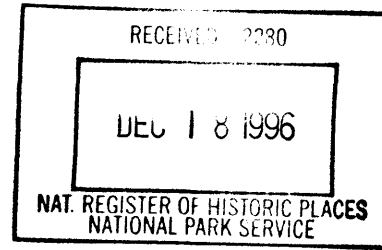


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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Idaho State Forester's Building

other names/site number The Log Cabin/Log Cabin Literary Center

2. Location

street & number 801 South Capitol Boulevard N/A not for publication

city or town Boise N/A vicinity

state Idaho code ID county Ada code 001 zip code 83702

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature] / Interim SHPO 12/12/96
 Signature of certifying official/Title Date
Idaho State Historic Preservation Office / Idaho State Historical Society
 State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

 Signature of certifying official/Title Date

 State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
 determined eligible for the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
 determined not eligible for the National Register.
 removed from the National Register.
 other, (explain:)

[Signature] Edson H. Beal 1.16.97
 Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Idaho State Forester's Building
Name of Property

Boise, Ada County, Idaho
City, County, and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
<u>1</u>		Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT/Government Office

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Recreation and Culture

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Other: Rustic

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete
walls Log

roof Wood Shake
other Wood Shingle

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

X See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 7

Idaho State Forester's Building
Name of Property

Boise, Ada County, Idaho
City, County, and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" on one or more lines for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" on all that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1940

Significant Dates

1940

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Hans C. Hulbe (architect)

John Heillila and Gust Lapinoja (builders)

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

X See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 8

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

X See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 9

Idaho State Forester's Building
Name of Property

Boise, Ada County, Idaho
City, County, and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of property one acre

UTM References
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

A 1/1 5/6/3/9/6/0 4/8/2/8/6/2/0
Zone Easting Northing

B / / / / / / / / / /
Zone Easting Northing

C / / / / / / / / / /

D / / / / / / / / / /

Verbal Boundary Description
(Describe the boundaries of the property.)

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 10

Boundary Justification
(Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 10

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Tricia Canaday
organization Historic Preservation Consultant date August 15, 1996
street & number 115 Cashmere Road telephone (208) 344-7895
city or town Boise state ID zip code 83702

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Maps:** A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A **Sketch map** for historic districts and/or properties having large acreage or numerous resources.
- **Photographs:** Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.
- **Additional items** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Property Owner

name Boise City
street & number P.O. Box 500 telephone (208) 384-4422
city or town Boise state ID zip code 83701

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1 Name of Property Idaho State Forester's Building
County and State Ada County, Idaho

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

The Idaho State Forester's Building (Forester's Building) sits on a large parcel in a park-like setting bounded by the Boise River on the south and Capitol Boulevard on the east, in the heart of Boise City, Idaho. The rectilinear piece of property the building sits on is actually a part of Julia Davis Park; however, in 1931 it was separated from the park by the construction of Capitol Boulevard.

The small log building sits in the center of the large lot, facing east, and is surrounded by grounds which were originally landscaped with only those shrubbery and trees that were native to Idaho. The original plantings included sumac, syringa, aspen, wild honeysuckle, and wild rose. Subsequently over the years, prize examples of native Idaho timber species were also planted on the grounds, adding to the park-like setting. The Boise City Public Library is located immediately to the north of the Forester's Building.

The Idaho State Forester's Building was constructed in 1940. The approximately 4,000 square foot rustic log structure was designed by Hans C. Hulbe, an architect for the Boise Payette Lumber Company, and was built by two Finns: John Heillila and Gust Lapinoja. The two Finnish round-log artists were loaned to the State by the Southern Idaho Timber Protective Association, for whom they were employed building houses and lookout towers. These two were assisted by Civilian Conservation Corps crews from Camp McConnel in Boise.

The one-and-a-half story, rectangular building sits on a raised, poured-concrete foundation with window wells. It is essentially a side-gabled structure with a smaller, perpendicularly projecting gable on the east elevation that provides for the entry alcove of the building. This configuration lends a very truncated 'T'-shape to the structure. The building is constructed primarily of peeled, round Idaho Englemahn Spruce logs; however, vertical board is used in the gable ends, and the projecting entry bay is sided with wood shingles. All windows on the building are 8-over-8 double-hung sash.

The main, or east elevation, of the building is three bays wide, with the projecting entry bay in the center. Five stairs reach the top of the porch and the front door of the building. On each side of the door is one window. The rest of the facade is simple, with a pair of windows in each bay, and a semi-circular louvered vent in the entry gable end.

The north and south elevations are identical to each other, having a centrally positioned pair of windows with a single window flanking on the first story. In the gable ends are two windows (not paired) and a small rectangular louvered vent in the peak.

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The rear (west) elevation has a centrally located door with a shed roof above. Two pairs of windows appear on the facade, one on either side of the door.

The pitched roof is of wood shakes and has projecting eaves with exposed beams and rafter ends. A simple brick chimney pierces the roof at the rear of the building.

The simple round-log building derives its beauty from the mastery with which it was constructed. The Finnish builders used a full dovetail notch and scribed logs with an oakum chinking. The builders' skill is evident: 56 years after construction, the joints show no signs of exterior distress or deterioration.

The interior of the building has three levels: basement; main floor; and attic. The building originally housed the Idaho State Forester's Office and the configuration of the rooms remain unchanged. The first floor has a center reception room, three rooms to the north and three rooms to the south. The basement has four poured-concrete rooms and a walk-in safe with a heavy cast-iron door. Most of the attic is unfinished, with the exception of one semi-finished room.

The interior of the building holds as much significance as the exterior, as the rooms were finished with different native Idaho wood products provided by lumber companies doing business in the State. The wall and ceiling panelling of each room has its own unique design, conceived and provided by each of the donating lumber companies. A small copper plaque was originally located in each room (these have subsequently been removed) identifying the type of lumber and the company that provided it. The idea was to showcase the different wood products in the State and to provide a public advertisement of each company's products.

The large central reception is finished with western yellow pine supplied and designed by Boise Payette Lumber Company of Boise. Four of the rooms in the building are finished with wood from, at the time, the largest virgin white pine stand in the world, located in northern Idaho. The southwest corner room was supplied and designed by the Winston Lumber Company of Gibbs, Idaho; the two other rooms on the south side were supplied and designed by Potlatch Forest, Inc., of Lewiston, Idaho; and the northwest corner room was supplied and finished by the Ohio Match Company of Spokane, Washington. The middle room on the north side of the building was finished in Idaho red fir provided by Brown's Tie & Lumber Company of McCall, Idaho. Finally, what was originally the State Forester's Office, in the northeast corner of the building, was designed and finished in western red cedar, provided by the Diamond Match Company of Spokane, Washington.

The building has undergone few changes in the last fifty years. One wall was removed (between the southeast corner room and the room to the west) to create one larger room; however, the different panelling designs of the rooms help to maintain a visual separation. The only other changes include

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minor modifications to accommodate new electrical services and the addition of linoleum covering some of the maple floors. On the exterior, the only significant change is the 1996 reconstruction of the stairs and porch, which were required to meet local building code with the recent change in use. The new porch looks generally like the old except that 5 steps with a smaller rise - rather than the original four - approach the front entry. The hand rail was also replaced in order to conform to the new stairs. This change does not affect the eligibility of the structure for listing in the National Register of Historic Places because the poured-concrete steps and porch are not defining or significant elements of the structure and the new treatment is in keeping with the original.

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County and State Ada County, Idaho

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Idaho State Forester's Building is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C at the local level as an excellent example of a Rustic style structure constructed almost entirely with Idaho indigenous woods.

Historic Background:

The Idaho State Forester's Building was constructed in 1940 to house the Office of the State Forester, a separate office within the Department of Lands.

Along with mining and agriculture, the timber industry has long been an important part of the economic life-blood of Idaho. Once the vast forests of the Great Lakes region were all but cleared, lumber barons began to look elsewhere for new sources of timber. The seemingly limitless stands of virgin fir in Idaho attracted several lumber companies to the State where logging began in earnest around the turn of the century. By World War I, Idaho was a principle producer of timber in the United States.¹ The industry's growing importance to the State is reflected by the 1924 establishment of the Office of the State Forester, which became responsible for the enforcement of all laws relating to forestry and supervising the organization and direction of all fire control activities in Idaho on private and State-owned lands (amounting to over 10 million acres).²

When Franklin Girard assumed the position of State Forester in 1937, the office of the Forester rented a small space in a downtown office building. This inadequate space was soon exchanged for temporary quarters on the third floor of the Idaho State Capitol Building. These offices were only available when the legislature was not in session, however, so the office was forced to move again. According to Mr. Girard, the State Forester's Office was forced to move eight times in three years, until their permanent quarters were completed on Capitol Boulevard.³

Although primary documentation is limited, it appears that Mr. Girard took it upon himself to provide his office with a suitable, permanent building despite the fact that there were apparently few if any dollars to be had for such a project. The evidence seems to imply that Mr. Girard was very cleverly able to procure the necessary land, supplies and labor for a very minimal amount: The City of Boise allowed the structure to be built on City land, costing the State Department of Lands nothing; the Boise-Payette Lumber Company loaned the agency the use of their architect (Hans C. Huble) and two round-log artists (John Heillila and Gust Lapinoja) for the exterior construction; and because the Department of Lands managed the Idaho Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) crews, the agency was able to use CCC labor for the rest of building.

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Section number 8 Page 2 Name of Property Idaho State Forester's Building
County and State Ada County, Idaho

Finally, and most creatively, Mr. Girard then sent letters to the different lumber companies doing business in Idaho, in which he described the construction underway and his plan to finish each of the six rooms in a different kind of Idaho timber. He then added:

It is also planned--and here is the delicate feature of the plan--to permit a selected number of lumber companies to donate the lumber for finishing these office spaces. A suitable plaque made of copper, giving the name of the donor, will be placed on the wall in a conspicuous place in each office.

I was wondering if you would care to take advantage of this remarkable opportunity to donate a small batch of lumber for the purpose indicated above. It will take 888 feet to finish each room.

The building, when completed, will be a show place and a perpetual advertisement for the lumber industry of Idaho.

I would be pleased to hear from you on this position and if it is received with favor please indicate the species of lumber it would be most convenient for you to furnish.⁴

Six lumber companies responded favorably to Mr. Girard's request, providing the lumber and a unique design for the six first-floor offices and reception hall (see section 7 for details of rooms). Thus, in 1940 when the building was completed, the State Forester was able to provide himself with a new, permanent and beautifully crafted Rustic style office building estimated to be worth more than \$40,000.00, at a cost of only \$1,600.00 to the taxpayers of Idaho.⁵

The Rustic Style:

The Rustic style of architecture emerged out of the resort architecture of the Adirondack region of New York in the late 19th-century, when the wealthy and elite members of New York society began to build "rustic camps" for vacation retreats away from the hustle and bustle of the city. The trend was an outgrowth of the era's romance with natural landscapes and the western frontier. The homes were usually designed by prominent city architects (though they were often built by local woodsmen⁶) and were quite large and luxurious. The look and feel on the exterior were rustic, but inside were all the amenities of an urban dwelling. For those with a more modest income, popular periodicals offered plans for smaller cabins that also became extremely popular.

The Style is characterized by the use of indigenous materials (e.g., large pealed logs and stone are commonly used), broad shingled roofs, wide overhangs, and simple proportioned door and window

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County and State Ada County, Idaho

openings. Buildings are generally very simply with little or no ornamentation, and materials are often left in their natural condition, in order to blend with their surroundings.

Soon after the National Park Service was created in 1916, it developed its policy that called for the harmonious design of roads, trails and buildings in the park landscape; the adoption of the Rustic style was, therefore, the logical choice for park facilities. Most states adopted a similar view, utilizing the Rustic style for their own park and forest facilities. The use of the Style in the national parks helped to spread its popularity in the early decades of the 20th century, as automobile and rail travel allowed an increasing number of people to visit these parks each year.⁷

For residential structures, the heyday of the Style lasted until the Depression, when the construction of vacation homes ebbed substantially. However, the Style continued to be used by public entities. The U.S. Forest Service was utilizing the Rustic style as early as 1905 and issued guidelines for Rustic cabin development on its land. In Idaho, where the agency controls approximately 40 percent of the land, this resulted in the wide dissemination of the Style throughout the State. The Idaho State Department of Lands - Office of the State Forester tended to follow suit, using log construction and indigenous materials for regional offices and lookout stations. During the 1930s and 1940s, the CCC and Works Progress Administration (WPA) had a profound impact on the dissemination of the Rustic style nationwide. Because these groups spent a considerable amount of time on improvements to state and national parks and forests, it was logical that they would build many structures in the Rustic style. In addition, the Style was nicely suited to both organizations because it typically had lower material costs and called for a very labor-intensive method of construction. Significantly, of all the states, Idaho ranked second in number of CCC camps and per capita expenditure by the organization,⁸ ensuring a lasting impact with the widespread use of the Rustic style in the State.

The Idaho State Forester's Office is an excellent example of the Rustic style in Boise. The building masterfully applies features common to the Style, including: the use of peeled logs with full dovetail notching; a shake roof; exposed rafter ends; and simply proportioned door and window openings. In addition, the use of different indigenous lumbers to finish off the interior adds to the rustic character of the building.

Although the building was located in the middle of an urban area, at the time of construction, the Rustic style was still a logical choice for the Idaho State Forester's Office since this government agency was responsible for oversight of lumber and timber activities in the State. By building in the Rustic style, the structure came to physically represent the activities taking place in the building.

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Endnotes

- 1 Leonard J. Arrington, History of Idaho, Volume I, (Moscow, ID: University of Idaho Press, 1994), p.472.
- 2 Franklin Girard, Chateau de Bois, (Boise, ID: Idaho Cooperative Board of Forestry, 1940), p.7.
- 3 State of Idaho, Department of Lands, 8th Biennial Report of the State Forester, 1939-1940, (Boise, ID: State of Idaho, 1940), p.6.
- 4 Franklin Girard, Personal Correspondence, 1939-1940. Collection of Log Cabin Literary Center.
- 5 Idaho, 8th Biennial Report of the State Forester, 1939-1940, (Boise, ID: State of Idaho, 1940), p.6.
- 6 Rachel Carley, The Visual Dictionary of American Domestic Architecture, (New York: Henry Holt and Company, 1994), p.170-1.
- 7 Laura Soulliere Harrison, Architecture in the Parks: National Historic Landmark Theme Study, (Washington, D.C.: Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 1986).
- 8 Idaho Yesterdays, "The CCC in Idaho", Fall, 1983, p.14.

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Section number 9 Page 1 Name of Property Idaho State Forester's Building
County and State Ada County, Idaho

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

A tract of land in Julia Davis Park, west of Capitol Boulevard, Boise, Idaho, more particularly described as follows:

Commencing at the one quarter (1/4) section corner between sections nine (9) and ten (10) township 3 north, range 2 east Boise base and Meridian; thence S 62 degrees 17' 17" E. 1423.65 feet to a lead point in the sidewalk, the real place of beginning, at the intersection of the easterly line of South Eighth Street and the northerly line of Julia Davis Park; thence S 65 degrees 28' E. 295.81 feet to the westerly line of Capitol Boulevard; thence S 34 degrees 54' W. along the westerly line of Capitol Boulevard, a distance of 248.35 feet to a point on the northerly line of the concrete retaining wall on the north bank of the Boise River; thence N 41 degrees 45' W. a distance of 293.55 feet along said retaining wall to a point on the easterly line of South Eighth Street; thence N. 32 degrees 54' E. a distance of 122.55 feet to the real place of beginning, being a part of lots 4 and 7 section 10 township 3 north, range 2 east Boise Base and Meridian.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary includes the entire parcel of property historically associated with the Idaho State Forester's office building.

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County and State Ada County, Idaho

PHOTOGRAPHS

Idaho State Forester's Building
Ada County, Idaho
Tricia Canaday - Photographer
Photos taken - August, 1996
Original negatives on file at the Idaho SHPO
View looking west
Number 1 of 4

Idaho State Forester's Building
Ada County, Idaho
Tricia Canaday - Photographer
Photos taken - August, 1996
Original negatives on file at the Idaho SHPO
View looking southeast
Number 2 of 4

Idaho State Forester's Building
Ada County, Idaho
Tricia Canaday - Photographer
Photos taken - August, 1996
Original negatives on file at the Idaho SHPO
View of central reception room
Number 3 of 4

Idaho State Forester's Building
Ada County, Idaho
Tricia Canaday - Photographer
Photos taken - August, 1996
Original negatives on file at the Idaho SHPO
Interior ceiling detail
Number 4 of 4