

PH014 3987

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Idaho
COUNTY:	Boise
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	JUN 27 1975

1. NAME

COMMON:
Idaho City

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Bannock City, West Bannock

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Section 26, T6N, R5E, B.M.

CITY OR TOWN:
Idaho City

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
District #1

STATE: Idaho CODE: 16 COUNTY: Boise CODE: 015

3. CLASSIFICATION

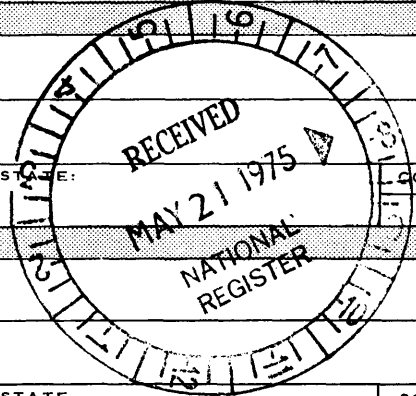
CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Multiple

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:



5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Boise County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Idaho City

STATE: Idaho CODE: 16

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Idaho State Historic Preservation Plan

DATE OF SURVEY: 1972 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Idaho State Historical Society

STREET AND NUMBER:
610 North Julia Davis Drive

CITY OR TOWN:
Boise

STATE: Idaho CODE: 16

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Idaho

COUNTY: Boise

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7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Like other boom towns in the West, Idaho City grew up almost overnight. The first buildings were wood, since this material was readily available and easy to use. It was also a fire hazard, and the disastrous fire of May 18, 1865, leveled most of these wooden structures. This did not dampen the spirits of the townspeople who felt that Idaho City was there to stay. The second time the buildings were built mostly of brick and stone to avoid the danger of fire again. Two years later to the day, however, the city burned again. A few structures were spared, among them the Masonic Hall and the I.O.O.F. Hall, which are ironically both wooden buildings. Other fires destroyed parts of town, but a substantial number of buildings remains. These have been altered somewhat through the years, but the atmosphere of a frontier town is still well preserved.

The boundaries of the district follow the city limits, forming a rectangle bounded by latitude $43^{\circ}50'00''$ on the north, longitude $115^{\circ}49'48''$ on the east, latitude $43^{\circ}49'33''$ on the south and longitude $115^{\circ}50'07''$ on the west.

Among the more important early buildings are the following:

HABS I.O.O.F. Hall: The I.O.O.F. Hall sits high on the hillside overlooking the city. It stands two stories tall, with second floor reached by an enclosed stairway on the outside. A covered verandah across the facade is supported by four wooden posts, with simple wooden balustrade enclosing the second story porch. A semi-circular plaque is set in the front gable, with the I.O.O.F. initials painted below. Double doors with transom are set in the center of the first floor facade. Above, on the second floor, is a single central door which is mostly glass to match the two large multi-paned windows flanking the door. The oldest I.O.O.F. lodge in Idaho, Pioneer Lodge No. 1 was established on April 16, 1854, with this present building built in 1855. The original carpeting and furniture are still in use.

HABS Boise Basin Mercantile Company: The facade of this one-story brick building is broken by four round-arched doorways, emphasized by raised brick trim. A walkway on two sides of the building is covered by the steep gable roof of the main structure on one side and a shed roof along the front. Simple wooden posts support the walkway roof. The front gable is clapboard. Built in 1870.

HABS Boise Basin Museum: This low, modest-sized one-story building with its low-pitched gable roof and covered porches was built by James Pinney as a post office in 1867. A long side porch is both covered and screened, while the full-length front porch, which is at street level, remains open between supports. The basic structure is brick, with parts of two different cornices with dentils remaining in the front gable. The building also served as a Wells Fargo office.

HABS Boise County Courthouse: Part of this building, which originally continued

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(Continuation Sheet)

IDAHO CITY

served as a courtroom and sheriff's office, survives as the county district #1 road maintenance shop. It is a small, weathered board-and-batten structure covered with a lopsided gable roof. Two large garage openings are now cut in the front, and two small windows break the side wall. The building was built about 1867.

Boise County Courtroom: Built in 1870 as a hotel and restaurant, this building now contains the courtroom and judge's office. The one-story red brick building with gable roof has a wide covered walkway around all four sides, with roof supported by simple wooden posts. Five tall, evenly spaced rectangular openings break the front, each with tall double doors and paneled iron shutters.

HAB S

Boise County Offices and Weigel's Bar: This red brick block has three main sections. The left section houses county offices, middle is vacant but formerly housed Pete Banwell's Saloon, and right is Weigel's Bar which was formerly the Miner's Exchange. Arched openings have been partially filled in to accommodate smaller windows and doors in all but the center section, which still has the old recessed door and windows. The entire building is covered now with a lopsided gable roof forming the frame of the second story. Brick cornice on the left and center sections remains. A covered walkway runs along the front and left side.

Goldie's Antiques: This one-story board-and-batten building has a clapboard false front which incorporates the gable peak in the center. Short lathe-turned finials top the corners and peak of the false front. Shed roof covers the front porch and is supported by lathe-turned wooden posts with gingerbread brackets at top. The front door is recessed and flanked by a large window on the left and a small window on right. These and the rectangular side windows are topped with decorative lintels, each with a peak in the center.

Idaho City Fire Station: Built about 1870, this small weathered board-and-batten structure served as the Boise County jail in the 1920's and 1930's. A steep gable roof covers the building, with a shed roof across the front over the garage door and enclosed entry. Simple rectangular windows are barred.

HAB S

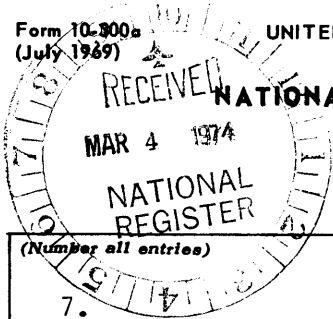
Idaho City Schoolhouse: Built in 1892 as a school, this white clapboard building now houses City Hall and Community Church. It is set on a native stone foundation and rises a tall two stories. A two-story central bay with double doors projects approximately three feet from front of building. Four-paned double-hung sash windows are topped with decorative peaked lintels, with the same motif above front doors. An open belfry tops the front gable peak.

continued

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7. IDAHO CITY

HABS Masonic Hall: Very similar in design to the I.O.O.F. Hall, the Masonic Temple was built in September 1865, after the original building was destroyed in May of that year. The building is two stories tall, with the second floor reached by an enclosed outside stairway. The front has a walkway on the first floor and a porch on the second floor, each supported by five wooden posts. The first floor has three sets of tall (10 foot) double doors, with windows in the upper half. Doors are separated by wooden pilasters. The second floor has a center door and two windows. Side walls are board-and-batten and the front clapboard.

HABS Idaho World Building: Now a bar, this small red brick building housed the Idaho World prior to 1918. There were two round-arched entrances in the front, the left one of which is now blocked in around a small window. Other round-arched openings along the side are also bricked in. A covered walkway runs across the front and down the right side, with the roof supported by simple wooden posts. Gable ends are wooden. Building was built about 1867.

HABS Galbreath Home: Built in 1867, this small, one-story board-and-batten house has a white clapboard front. A shed roof supported by simple milled wooden posts covers the front porch. A recessed front door is at the right, with two tall windows at the left. Window openings reach within six inches of the porch floor. Scalloped barge boards decorate the front gable.

O'Leary's Saloon: Originally a butcher shop, this structure survives as a bar. It is a small board-and-batten building with stepped false front. A shed-roofed porch runs across most of the front. The shed-roofed addition on the right has its own false front. Built about 1868.

Old Express Office: This one-story red brick building has two sets of tall double doors in the front, both covered with paneled metal shutters and topped with lintels of brick set on end. The building has a false front topped with brick dentils. A shed roof with simple wooden posts covers the front walkway, which used to extend along the left side also.

HABS St. Joseph's Catholic Church: Established in 1863, the present white clapboard church was erected in 30 days following the town fire of May 1867. The church sits high on a hill, reached by a long flight of wooden steps from the street level. The simple frame structure has a steep gable roof and an enclosed gabled entry with single door. Narrow windows have eight stained glass panes each. A short open belfry with hip roof and white cross sits at the front gable peak. Barge boards on front gable return at lower corners.

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian | 16th Century | 18th Century | 20th Century
 15th Century | 17th Century | 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1862

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | <u>Mining</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Following rumors of large gold fields to be found, George Grimes and Moses Splawn discovered gold in the Boise Basin August 2, 1862. After the discovery party returned to Walla Walla with the news of the strike, fifty men returned that fall, attracting hundreds more to the area.

Towns at Pioneerville, Centerville and Bannock City were founded October 7, 1862, although the latter was called West Bannock after March, 1863, with the name changed to Idaho City in December to avoid confusion with another new Bannock City, then in Idaho but after 1864 in Montana. Although Placerville enjoyed the advantage of a location convenient to the point at which the gold rush route entered the Basin, better water conditions soon made Idaho City the major camp. With more than 6000 population in 1863 and 1864, Idaho City surpassed Portland in size for a time. The gold rush, in fact, quickly made Idaho City the largest community in the Pacific Northwest.

Unlike some fabulous placer booms which went through a spectacular brief cycle from gold rush to ghost town, mining in the Boise Basin lasted over a long period of years. Large placer areas could not be worked long enough each season to be exhausted quickly. And quartz mines, discovered as early as 1862, went through a long period of development that supported the region's economy for decades. Idaho City and the other Basin camps gained an air of permanence right from the beginning. Before the community was a year old, Idaho City had a newspaper (the Boise News, which in 1864 became the Idaho World), three express offices, three livery stables, a mattress factory, a photographer's gallery, four sawmills, seven blacksmith shops, eight bakeries, nine restaurants, two bowling alleys, three pool halls, three drugstores, four breweries, and twenty-five to thirty-five saloons. A harness shop and various jewelry, tinshops and other businesses attested to the town's importance. Building lots ranged in price from \$500 to \$2000 each, and even a series of four disastrous fires did not destroy the community. Rebuilt more often than the early residents would have preferred, Idaho City continued to be the center of a major gold-producing region for many years.

Shortly after 1870, the easily-worked basin stream gravels had yielded most of their gold and miners shifted their attention to washing down higher bench placers with hydraulic giants. To get water to

continued

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Neil, Carl R., Idaho City, term thesis at Yale University, New Haven, 1954.

Reference Series #9, #198, #252, Idaho State Historical Society.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	43 ° 50 ' 00 "	115 ° 50 ' 07 "	1/2 594040 4853800 594070 HF 4853000	593660	4853000 HF	
NE	43 ° 50 ' 00 "	115 ° 49 ' 48 "		4853000	4853000	
SE	43 ° 49 ' 33 "	115 ° 49 ' 48 "		594070	593630	
SW	43 ° 49 ' 33 "	115 ° 50 ' 07 "		4853000	4853800	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 87 acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Nancy F. Renk, Site Survey Staff

ORGANIZATION: Idaho State Historical Society DATE: 18 January 1974

STREET AND NUMBER:
610 North Julia Davis Drive

CITY OR TOWN: Boise STATE: Idaho CODE: 16

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name Merle Wells

Title State Historic Preservation Officer

Date 27 February 1974

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

[Signature]
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 6/27/75

ATTEST:
[Signature]
Keeper of The National Register

Date 6/27/75

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8.

IDAHO CITY

the elevation needed to cut down the hillsides, extensive systems of flumes and ditches were required. Some of these ran eight to ten miles in length. Augmented by several important lodes--primarily Gold Hill near Quartzburg--these operations sustained the Basin's gold production until dredging commenced in 1898. From 1919 until 1926, mining was limited largely to lode properties, but later dredging proved productive, except during the war-time shutdown (1942-1946), until 1952. By that time, over 3,000,000 ounces (about one-sixth from quartz mines) of gold (valued now at well over \$100 an ounce, or over three hundred million dollars) had come from the Basin.



List of Photographs

1. Boise County Courthouse
2. Main Street Scene - Looking south from Boise County Courthouse to Emery and Schlosser (now Wagon Wheel) Store, Boise Basin Merc, O'Leary's Saloon, Vigilante Inn.
3. Wagon Wheel Bar (Emery & Schlosser Store)
4. Boise Basin Merc
5. O'Leary's Saloon (Butcher Shop) with Vigilante Inn at right
6. Store Building Boise Basin Merc
7. Galbraith House
8. Post Office (Boise Basin Museum)
9. Masonic Temple
10. Idaho City Firestation
11. Montgomery Street scene - Looking south from firestation to post office (museum), house, Galbraith House, and houses beyond.
12. Miners exchange
13. Idaho World (IOOF Hall in background)
14. Main Street scene looking south from Miners Exchange to Idaho World, old bldgs beyond.
15. Montgomery Street scene - Brogan House looking south to intrusive new Post Office to Goldies Antiques, Pon Yam House to houses beyond.
16. Small cabins & Pon Yam Building.
17. Masonic Temple
18. View east on Wall - on right - Masonic Temple, Boise County Courthouse Miners beyond - Boise Basin Museum on left.
19. IOOF

