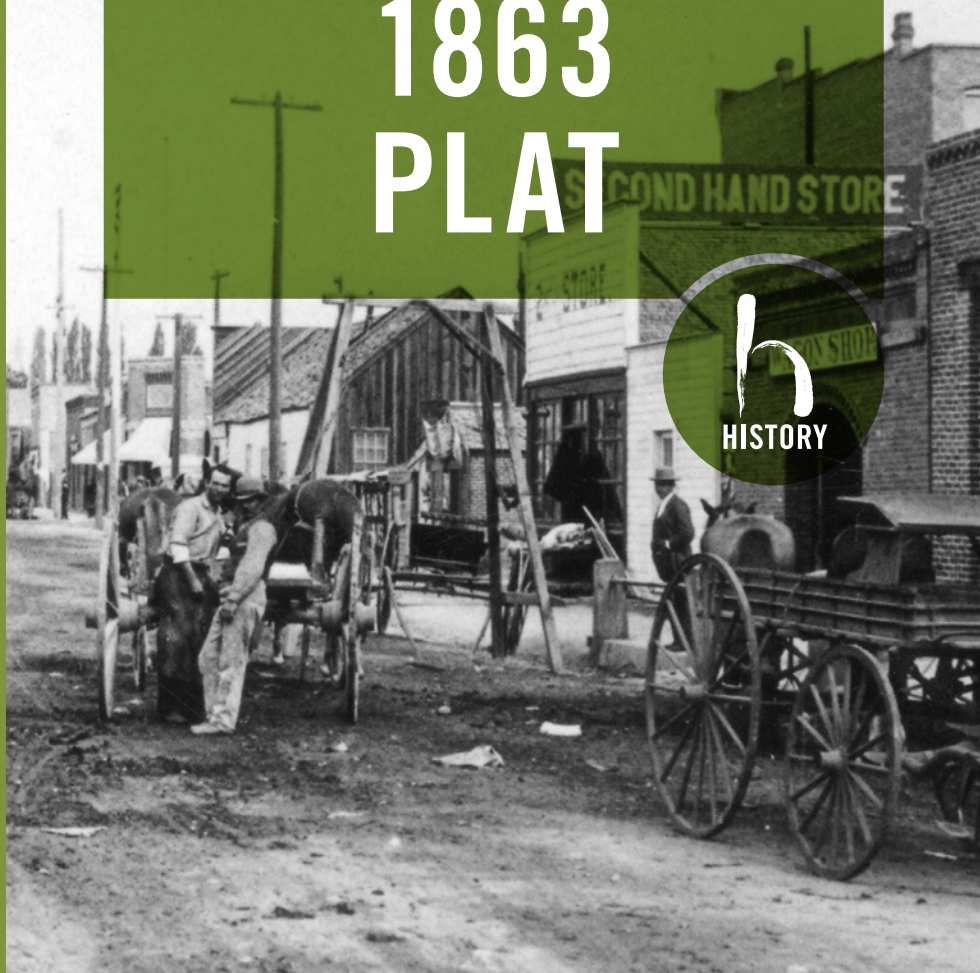


MAPPING *the* CITY: BOISE'S 1863 PLAT





After the creation of Fort Boise on July 4, 1863, Boise City was platted on July 7, 1863 in a meeting held at the Davis-Ritchey cabin, home to Thomas Davis, an early settler in the valley who had been attracted to its agricultural potential. The city was platted to include ten blocks, split evenly on each side of Main Street. It stretched from today's 10th Street to 5th Street, and fronted Idaho, Main, and Grove streets. The lots were divided up between twenty people and their names written on the plat. By 1867 the city grew to include 140 blocks, and by early 1878 the city's first subdivision, Arnold's Addition, had been created.

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10TH & MAIN STREETS

1. Gem and Noble Block, circa 1950s (NW corner)

The Gem and Noble Block at the northwest corner of 10th and Main Streets was the site of one of Boise's first pharmacies. The building was originally designed as three separate buildings by architect John Tourtellotte for businessmen Sigmund Falk, John Noble, James Gibbons, and Charles Knight in 1902. Photo courtesy ISHS 74-2.55/b

2., 2A. Merino building (SW corner)

The Merino building was located on the southwest corner of 10th and Main Streets and was one of the signature turreted buildings located at the intersection. The Merino Building burned on December 30, 1924, sustaining extensive damage. It was demolished and the Robert Noble estate built a new \$200,000 structure in 1927. Photo courtesy ISHS 2346, ISHS 63-176-88e

3. Idanha (NE corner)

The intersection at 10th and Main Streets once had a turreted building on each corner. The only buildings that remain are the Idanha Hotel and the Gem and Noble block. The Idanha Hotel opened January 1, 1901 and became known as one of the grandest hotels in Idaho. It was designed by the architect William Steward Campbell in the French-Chateau style. Upon its completion in 1901, the Idanha had all the modern conveniences: private telephones, an electric intercom, pharmacy, soda fountain, and an Otis elevator. Photo courtesy ISHS 74-105.25

4. W.E. Pierce building (SE corner)

The W.E. Pierce building on the southeast corner of 10th and Main Streets was designed by Tourtellotte & Co. and was commissioned by Pierce to serve as his offices in 1902. It once served as a bank and the Union Pacific Stage Depot before becoming the Men's Wardrobe. It was demolished in 1975. Photo courtesy ISHS 79-45.3



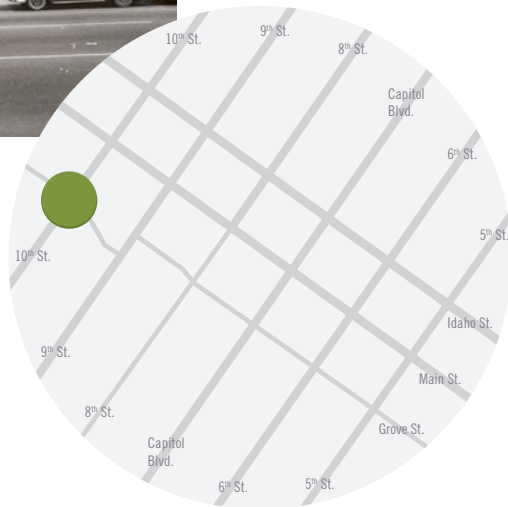
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10TH & GROVE STREETS

1. Hotel Bristol/Hotel Milner (SW corner)

Hotel Bristol was designed by Nisbet & Paradise and constructed in 1910 for Captain John Yates. Yates named the hotel after Bristol, Maine where he was born. It was situated only a block away from the train depot at 10th & Front Streets, making it one of the closest hotels to the depot. Photo courtesy Marilyn Cosho

2. Train Depot (Front & 10th Streets)

Boise's second train depot was built in 1893 at 10th & Front Streets. The depot was constructed of sandstone and was known for its cupola, similar in style to a Prussian helmet. When the new depot on the Bench was constructed in 1925, Union Pacific used the 10th and Front location as an office. It was demolished in 1947 for a freight station. Photo courtesy ISHS HB-44

3. A.T. Ellis buildings (North side of Grove street between 10th & 9th Streets)

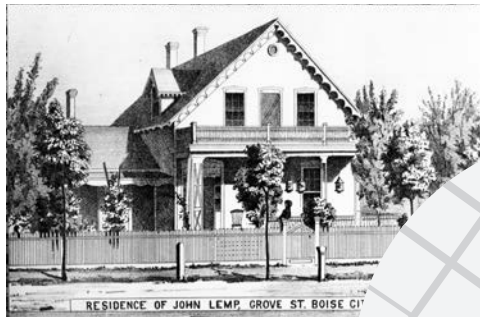
Alexander T. Ellis constructed his two side-by-side buildings on Grove Street in 1902 and 1903. The 1902 building was constructed for the Boise Creamery Company, with the second floor serving as lodging. He built the second building in 1903 to serve as his blacksmith shop. The two buildings eventually served as the Blue Bird Hotel and the Del Rio Hotel. Photo courtesy CCDC & Rod Johnston



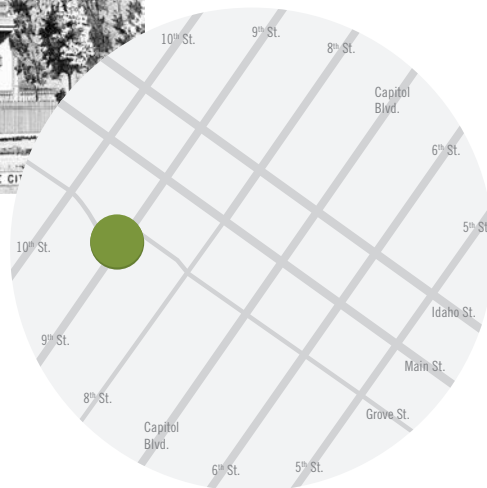
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9TH & GROVE STREETS

1,2,3. Grove Street

Grove Street was Boise's earliest elegant residential street and the most popular area for the city's prosperous citizens to build their mansions. By the 1890s, Warm Springs Avenue became the popular place to live, so families moved and constructed new mansions. Today, Warm Springs Avenue retains its historic properties, while Grove Street looks nothing like it once did. All of the historic homes are gone, and the waterwheels that once lined the canal that ran parallel with Grove Street are no longer, and the canal is covered. Grove Street from 10th to 5th streets is also one of the most heavily affected streets from Boise's urban renewal era, resulting in almost the complete obliteration of the historic character of the street. Photo courtesy ISHS 83-37.18, HB 30, & 76-37.17



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9TH & MAIN STREETS

1. Yates building (SW corner)

The Yates building was designed by Nisbet & Paradise and was built in 1909 for Captain John Yates. It served as an office building, bank, and retail space, housing Alexander's Clothing store before Alexander constructed his own building across the street in 1925. When the Boise State Bank occupied the building, it used the signature corner entrance. Photo courtesy ISHS 61-143.82i

2. Alexander building (NE corner)

Moses Alexander, former mayor of Boise and first Jewish Governor of Idaho, built his clothing store at 9th & Main Streets in the year 1924, opening it in 1925 to much fanfare. Alexander's first store opened in the 1890s where "everyone pays the same price for the same piece of clothing." It proved popular and Alexander opened six branch stores in surrounding communities. Photo courtesy ISHS HB 126

3. Oxford Hotel (next to Alexander building on Main, NE corner)

The Oxford building was designed in 1905 by Tourtellotte & Co. for William Jones. In 1910 Nisbet & Paradise designed two additional stories, which expanded the Oxford Hotel. Each room had disappearing beds, hot and cold water, and a telephone. In 1915, it and a few other hotels were temporarily closed due to having a "general reputation for being houses of prostitution, lewdness, assignation and other indecent acts...[the] premises were a moral nuisance." Photo courtesy ISHS 63-176.88

4. Sonna building (NW corner)

The Sonna building was built in 1888 by Peter Sonna to house his hardware business on the first floor and his opera house on the second floor. The building had the popular large glass windows on the ground floor, and roof decorations made of wrought iron. In 1891 and again in 1894, Sonna remodeled his building to look more like a commercial building and eliminating the opera house. A modern brick façade was added in 1976. Photo courtesy ISHS 71-162.1

8TH & MAIN STREETS

1. Lemp Block/Capitol Hotel (between 8th & 9th Street, south side)

The Capitol Hotel was built in 1881 by John Lemp, offering 120 rooms, hot and cold water in the bathrooms, electric lights, and service bells. John Lemp was one of the first German settlers in Boise. He opened a brewery, was a member of the Turnverein Society, a German social club; served one year as mayor and twenty years on city council, and had real estate and mining interests. Photo courtesy ISHS 1952



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2. First National Bank building (SW corner)

The First National Bank Building of Idaho was constructed in 1902 as the new home for Idaho's first bank. In a move to restore confidence during Boise's bank crisis in August 1932, the First National Bank hung a sign that said, "If you want your money, come and get it." The building was demolished in 1972 as part of a planned urban renewal project to build an enclosed shopping mall. Photo courtesy ISHS HB 71



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3. Pioneer Building (SE corner)

The Pioneer building, built by Frank Coffin in 1894, took the place of an older building Coffin built in 1863-64. Before tearing the first building down, Coffin held a celebration for all the "pioneers" who had come before 1866. This section of street was known as Boise's "Skid Row" in the 1960s. Photo courtesy ISHS 82-13.3



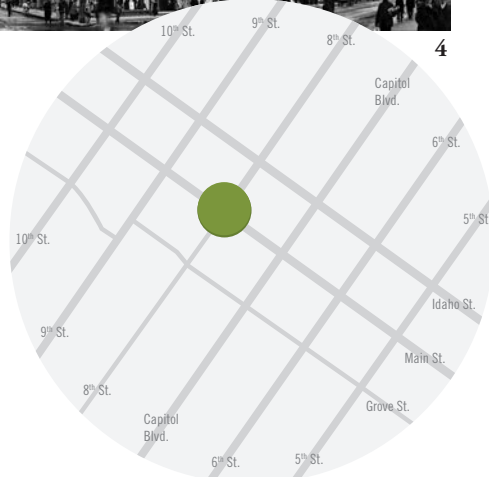
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4. Falk's (NE corner)

Falk's Mercantile was founded by Nathan Falk, a Bavarian-born immigrant that came to Boise in 1866. Goods were transported to Falk's store by pack train and then later by railroad. The store quickly became a major supplier for the community in groceries, clothing, furnishings, and shoes. The Falk's building remained a staple in the community until 1982 when it was demolished. Photo courtesy ISHS 79-45.10

5. Eastman (NW corner)

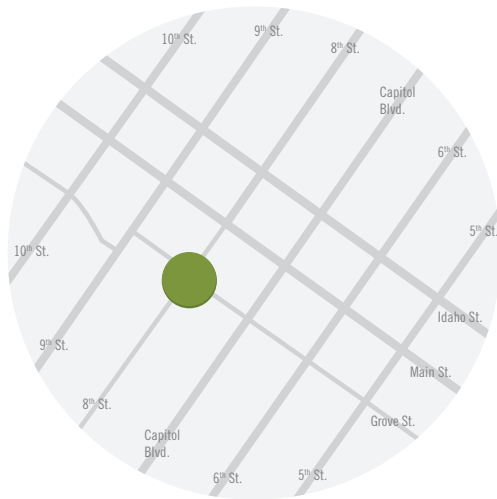
The Overland Hotel, constructed in 1864, was a major gathering place for visitors and residents alike until it was demolished in 1904 for the Overland building, renamed the Eastman building in 1927. It was completed in 1905, and had four stories designed in the Renaissance Revival style by Tourtellotte & Hummel. In 1910 the building was expanded to six floors. Photo courtesy ISHS 75-177.4



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8TH & GROVE STREETS

Thomas Davis' original cabin was near 8th & Grove Streets. The city was platted in the Davis cabin in 1863.

1. C. W. Moore House (SW corner)

Constructed in 1879, the C. W. Moore House was one of many elegant residential homes constructed on the popular Grove Street. The Moore's lived in the home until 1891 when they sold it to Captain Joseph DeLamar in order to build a mansion on the newly prestigious street, Warm Springs Avenue. Photo courtesy ISHS HB 33

2. The Grove

Boise's downtown core suffered greatly during the 1960s and 1970s from urban renewal, a program intended to modernize downtown cores. The Boise Redevelopment Agency (B.R.A.) and the City developed a plan for an enclosed shopping mall that would revitalize Boise's downtown. The mall site is where the Grove plaza is today, and would have consisted of four city blocks. The blocks were razed and in the process many historic buildings were lost, including Boise's Chinatown. Photo courtesy CCDC



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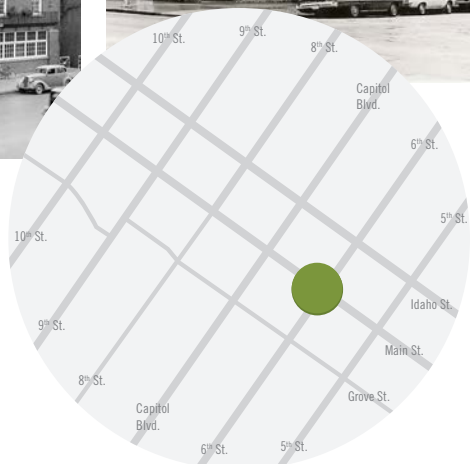
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6TH & MAIN STREETS

1. Pioneer Tent & Awning (NE corner)

The Pioneer Tent & Awning Company started in a wood frame building at 516 Main Street in 1900. They soon outgrew the location and in 1905 moved into a former grocery store building at 524 Main Street. Their third building, built in 1910, is at the northeast corner of 6th & Main Streets. The business continued to prosper until 1972 when it closed. Photo courtesy ISHS MS511-525a

2. A.P. Hotaling & Co.

(North side of Main St., between Capitol Blvd. & 6th St.)

A.P. Hotaling & Company was a wholesale liquor dealer on the north side of Main Street. Many of the saloons fronting Main Street had back entrances to “female boarding houses” otherwise known as bordellos, in what was known as “Levy’s Alley.” Photo courtesy ISHS 360c

3. The Idaho Statesman building (SW corner)

The Idaho Statesman started as a tri-weekly newspaper on July 26, 1864. Their second building was at the northwest corner of 6th and Main Streets, which served as its offices until 1910 when they moved to a new building on the southwest corner of 6th and Main Streets. Photo courtesy ISHS 60-1.22

4. Telephone building (Next to Idaho Statesman building)

The Telephone building was built at the site of the “stone jug,” demolished in 1899. This photo shows the building around 1925. Architect William S. Campbell, a Scotsman, designed the building in the Romanesque style. Workers at the Pantorium mended clothes; the neighboring building was John Jedlick & Company Cigar Factory. Photo courtesy ISHS 74-153.3

5. Masonic Temple (Next to Telephone building)

This photo shows the second Masonic Temple in Boise, located on the south side of Main Street in 1892. It stills stands today, but without the elaborate top. The building featured store fronts on the main floor, including J.D. M’Guire’s Undertaking Parlor. M’Guire was one of three undertakers and embalmers in Boise in 1902. Photo courtesy ISHS 4b

6. Turnverein building (SE corner)

The Turnverein building was a social gathering place for Boise’s German population and was constructed in 1906 at the southeast corner of 6th & Main Streets. It was designed by Tourtellotte & Hummel and had an auditorium with a balcony, a gym with showers, a billiard room, and a parlor for ladies. The building has also been a restaurant, WWII Air Force office, and a variety of bars. Photo courtesy CCDC



ORIGINAL 1863 PLAT

5TH & MAIN STREETS

1. Jellison Brothers' Monuments (NW corner)

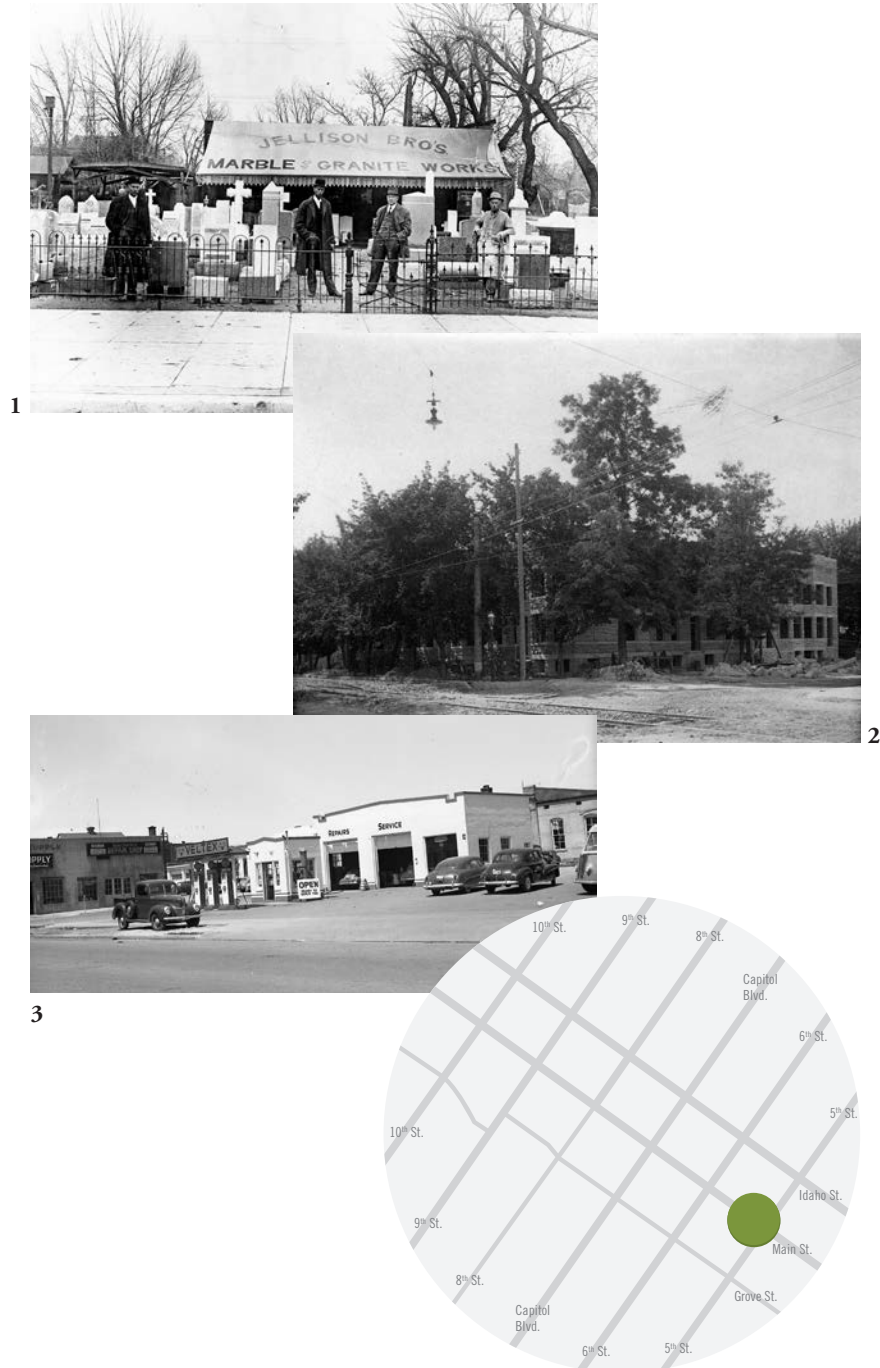
The Jellison Brothers (John, Charles, and Edward) owned a stone quarry on Tablerock, which they sold to the Capitol Building Commission in 1906. The Jellison Brothers were often at the center of controversies, including their refusal to sell stone to contractors that used laborers belonging to a union. Photo courtesy ISHS 75-22.3

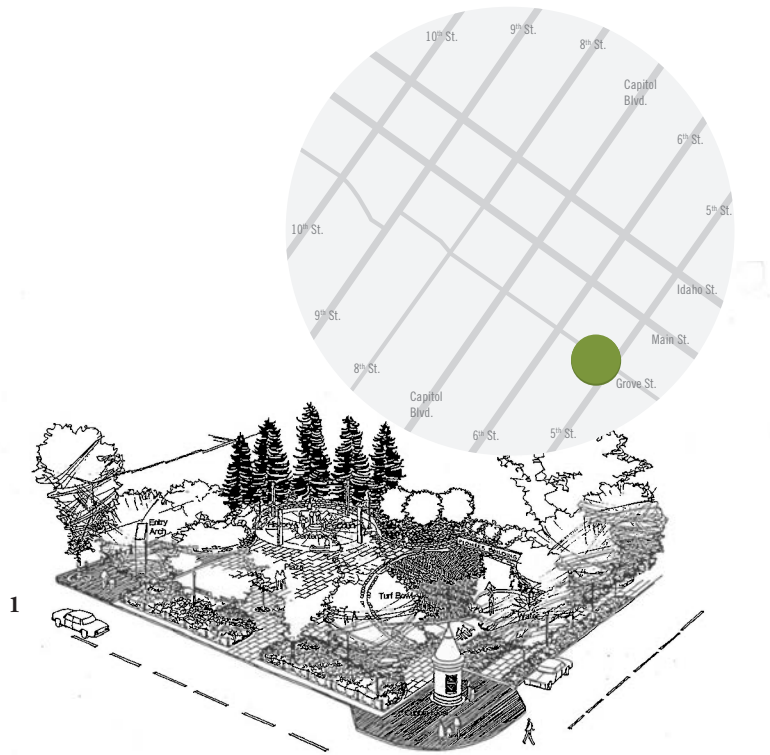
2. Belgravia (SE corner)

Originally known as the Dubois Flats, the Belgravia was constructed in 1904. The original plans for the 21-room apartment building were drawn for Dr. Jesse K. Dubois by local quarry owner John S. Jellison. Financial issues delayed completion of the building until 1906. Photo courtesy ISHS 74-125.3

3. Veltex Station (NE corner)

The Veltex gas station and repair shop occupied the northeast corner of 5th and Main Streets. In 2002 it was replaced with the Veltex Building, which is a combination of office space and condos. The original Veltex sign remains on the corner. Photo courtesy ISHS P2006-20-01211-2





2

5TH & GROVE STREETS

1. C.W. Moore Park (NE corner)

C.W. Moore deeded two lots to the city for a children's park and playground, which was not built until the 1930s. A World War II barracks moved to the site in 1956 and was used for the Idaho Society of Crippled Children and Adults. The Society moved in 1975 and the Boise Jaycees took over the building for a community and youth center. The building was demolished and the park was re-dedicated in 1983.

2. Boise Stage Stables (NW corner)

The Boise Stage Stable kept a corral, a carriage shed, a wagon shop and a granary at this site during the 1880s. In a 1949 interview, William Northrop reminisced about Grove Street, saying that "most of the old coaches were manufactured on this site and they were super deluxe size, carrying 17 passengers and pulled by six horses." In 1893 the site became E. Cowley's Livery. Photo courtesy Library of Congress



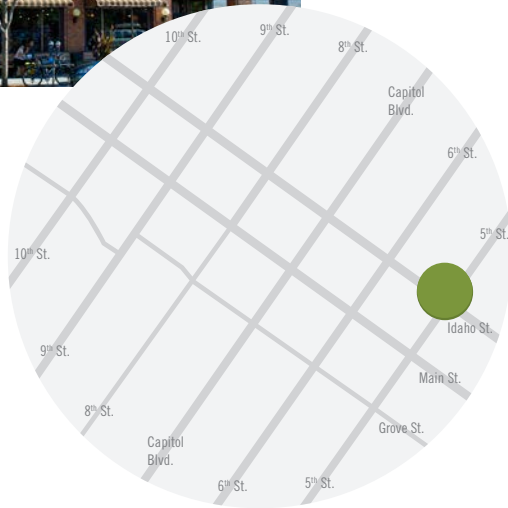
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5TH & IDAHO STREETS

1. Church of the Good Shepherd (NE corner)

Daniel M. Gorman, Catholic Bishop of Idaho, purchased two houses on the site in 1918 that were remodeled into the Church of the Good Shepherd. Tourtellotte & Hummel worked on the project and in 1919, Father Bernardo Arregui dedicated the church, making it the only known Basque Chapel in the nation. In the 1920s the church was closed due to the efforts of the American Catholic Church to close ethnic parishes to unify congregations and emphasize loyalty to the United States. Photo courtesy ISHS 79-2-90

2. Chandlee Building (NW corner)

The Chandlee building was once called the Royal Lodging House and was “elegantly furnished.” It was reputedly owned by the notorious Davis Levy, landlord of Boise’s red light district. It remained a lodging house into the 1900s. By 1906 the first floor was converted into the Commercial Cream Company, and by the 1940s served as offices for the State of Idaho.

3. Star Hotel (North side of Idaho St., between 5th & 6th Streets)

The Star Hotel was built in the early 1890s and became a boardinghouse in 1903, one of many in the city that accommodated Basques. It was home to the Ensor Institute in 1892, a business that purportedly cured alcoholism and drug addiction. Ensor Institutes were started all over the Pacific Northwest during the 1890s. Photo courtesy ISHS HB 52



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6TH & IDAHO STREETS

1. Central Fire Station (NE corner)

The Central Fire Station, built in 1903, was designed by architect William S. Campbell with stone arches and a bell tower. The 1912 Sanborn Fire Insurance map lists the building as housing one chief, nineteen men, seventeen horses, one fire truck, a hose wagon, and a chemical wagon among other equipment. Before Central was constructed, the Fire Department was housed in City Hall. Photo courtesy ISHS HB 73

2. Eagles building (NW corner)

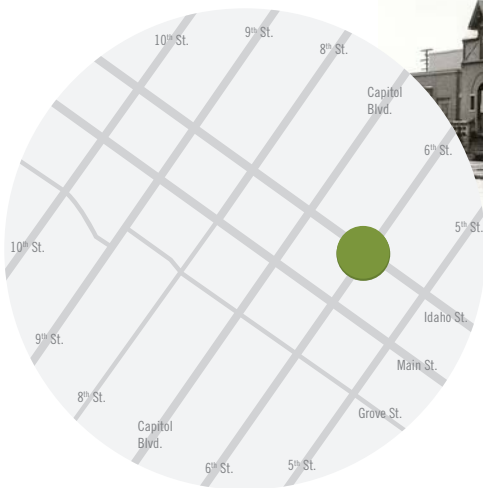
The Fraternal Order of Eagles (F.O.E.) was organized in 1901 with 64 members. Meetings were held at various locations in Boise until 1917, when the group purchased a building from local businessman Jeremiah D. Jones at the northwest corner of 6th and Idaho Streets in 1917. Photo courtesy CCDC

3. Idaho Brewing & Malting Co. (SW corner)

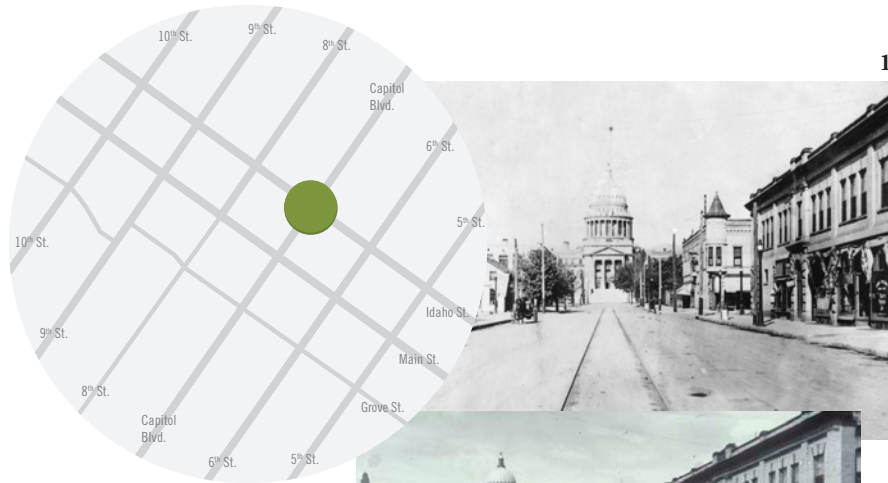
The Idaho Brewing and Malting Company was located on the southwest corner of 6th and Idaho Streets, and later became Bohemian Brewery. Beer played an early role in Boise—there were many saloons and breweries typical of a western town, including the City Brewery & Saloon and the Naked Truth Saloon. Brewers included John Lemp, Cyrus Jacobs, and Joe Misseldt. Photo courtesy ISHS 2135

4. R.Z. Johnson Apartments (SE corner)

The building pictured here was designed by City Hall architect James C. Paulsen for attorney Richard Z. Johnson. Paulsen designed it in the same Romanesque style as the City Hall on 8th and Idaho Streets, and intended to extend the apartments into a row. Photo courtesy CCDC & ISHS 78-89.17



CAPITOL BOULEVARD & IDAHO STREET



1

1. Bush building (SE corner)

Thomas Hart, miner and later mayor of Boise, built Hart's Exchange on the southeast corner of 7th and Idaho Streets in 1866. During construction of the Territorial Capitol, Hart's Exchange was rented out for sessions of the Idaho legislature. It later burned, and James Bush rebuilt on the site, naming the new building the Central Hotel.

2. Adelmann building (NE corner)

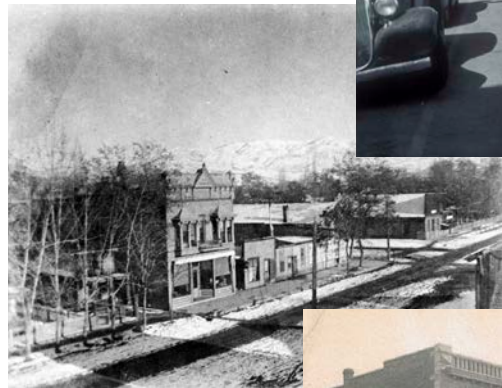
Originally designed as two adjoining buildings, the Adelmann Block was built in 1902. It was initially named the Wills-Adelmann Block after Richard Adelmann and Fred Wills, both German immigrants. Adelmann had various mining and business pursuits, including a plumbing company and an automobile sales company. Wills partnered with the Adelmann family in mining claims and was also a "stock raiser."

3. J. Gestal building (NW corner)

The J. Gestal building was built during the 1890s by Joseph Gestal, a Spanish immigrant. He built the building to house his new Spanish restaurant after the original location was demolished for the construction of City Hall at 8th & Idaho Streets in 1893. The first floor was used as his restaurant while the second floor housed his family, guests, and boarders. Photo courtesy ISHS 2040-A

4. Union Block (North side of Idaho Street, between Capitol Blvd. & 8th Street)

Designed by John E. Tourtellotte, the Union Block was built through a cooperative effort between five Boise businessmen which included Robert Noble, General John E. Green, Moses Alexander, James Lusk, and C. A. Clark. It was constructed in 1902 of brick and local sandstone. Photo courtesy Nathan Wilson



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8TH & IDAHO STREETS



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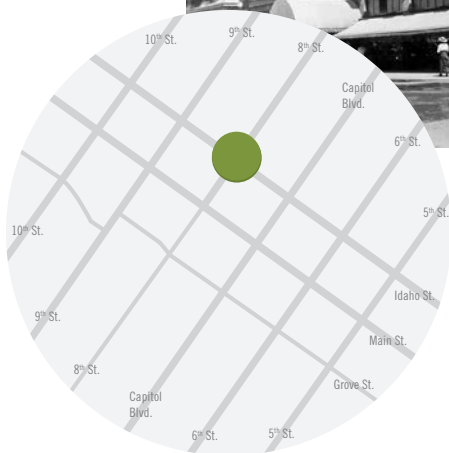
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1. Boise City Hall (SE corner)

James C. Paulsen designed the former Boise City Hall, incorporating the Rhenish Romanesque architectural style along with red brick and local sandstone. The building was completed in 1893 and was used as a signature backdrop in many photographs and community celebrations. It was demolished in 1953 for a one-story drug store. Photo courtesy Library of Congress

2. Boise City National Bank (SW corner)

James King designed the Boise City National Bank building and the Oddfellows Hall pictured here. The Oddfellows Hall was completed in 1889. The Boise City National Bank building was designed in 1890, but had extensive additions and a fourth floor added later, all designed by Tourtellotte & Hummel. The additions reinforced the Romanesque design, an extremely popular architectural style in Boise at the time. Photo courtesy ISHS 69-4.24

3. The Mode (NW corner)

Architects Nisbet & Paradise designed the Mode building for the Mode department store, which Henry Falk managed. The Mode is pictured here around 1920. The store's interior was destroyed by fire in 1958, but reopened in 1959 after a remodel. Photo courtesy ISHS 76-90.4

4. Fidelity building (NE corner)

The Montandon building was originally constructed to house the Anderson-Blomquist department store, which held its grand opening on January 15, 1909. Architect J.W. Smith designed the building, and the store remained opened until 1927. In 1928, Fidelity Loan and Investment Company moved into the building and placed the "Fidelity" sign on the corner of the second floor. Photo courtesy ISHS 62-108.10



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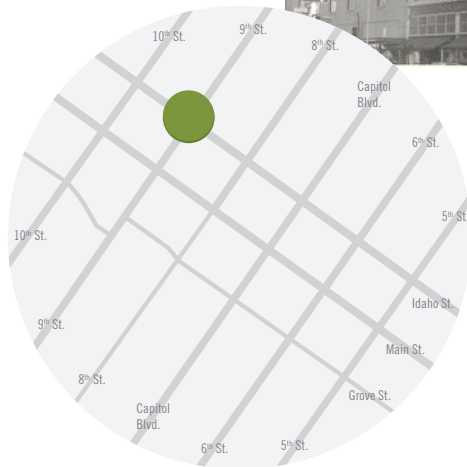
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9TH & IDAHO STREETS

1. Pacific Hotel (NW corner)

Originally the location of a Baptist Church, the Pacific Hotel was constructed in 1893 under the name of the Bancroft Hotel. The Bancroft was later renamed the Pacific Hotel and the area eventually became known as the Beck block while Albert W. Beck served as the owner during the 1920s and 1930s. Photo courtesy ISHS 61-95.1

2. Broadbent building (SE corner)

Designed by Tourtellotte & Hummel for the Broadbent estate in 1924, the Broadbent building was constructed because of a contract between the estate and Moses Alexander. Alexander swapped land with the estate in order to build his store on the northeast corner of 9th and Main Streets, and part of the contract was that the estate would build a similar building. Photo courtesy CCDC

3. McCarty building (NE corner)

The McCarty building was built in 1909, commissioned by Martha McCarty, a prominent Boise business woman. The building was designed by architects Charles Wayland and James Fennel with a zig-zag cornice motif, an uncommon feature in Boise's buildings. Photo courtesy ISHS 61-143.82e

4. Kress building (Next to Pacific Hotel)

The Kress building next to the Golden Rule was a popular "five and dime" department store nationwide. Samuel H. Kress hired architects as staff members to ensure distinctive buildings for each store. Kress started his business in 1896 and according to the National Building Museum, Kress "envisioned his stores as works of public art that would contribute to the cityscape." Photo courtesy CCDC

10TH & IDAHO STREETS

1. Empire building (NW corner)

The Empire building was designed by notable Boise architects, Nisbet & Paradise. It would be the home to the Kerr Hardware & Implement Company. The building was announced in 1909 and construction started in 1910. The Empire building was completed in 1912. The first floor served as retail space and the upper floors were for offices. Photo courtesy ISHS 61-95.5

2. First National Bank building (to the right of the Empire building)

The First National Bank building, seen here next to the Empire building, was designed as an additional banking space for the First National Bank of Idaho in 1927. They hired Portland architect A.E. Doyle, who sent Pietro Belluschi as a representative. Belluschi also designed the Golden Rule store on the northeast corner of 10th and Idaho Streets. The Scrap Drive Parade is passing in front of the building in September 1942. Photo courtesy ISHS 72-201.189/Q

3. C.C. Anderson building (NW corner)

The C.C. Anderson Golden Rule department store was built in 1927; it was the third location for the store. The original store was located at 627 Main Street. The Golden Rule store at 10th and Idaho Streets was designed by Tourtellotte & Hummel, with famed Portland architect A.E. Doyle as a consulting architect. Photo courtesy A&H

4. Rialto (Between Main & Idaho Streets on 10th Street, on the west side of the street)

The Rialto Theater was next to the 10th Street frontage of the Gem Noble building and operated into the 1960s. It was a part of Boise's rich theater history, as were other notable theaters, including the Pinney, the Columbia, and the Egyptian. Photo courtesy ISHS 73-226.27



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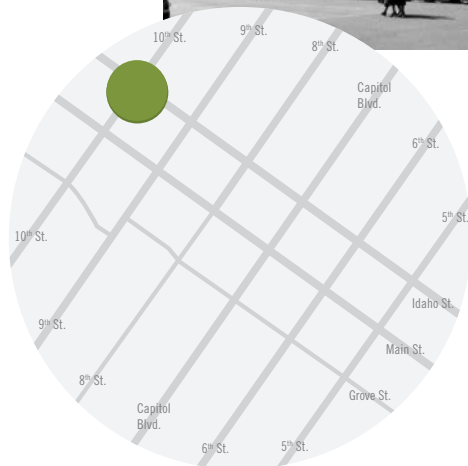
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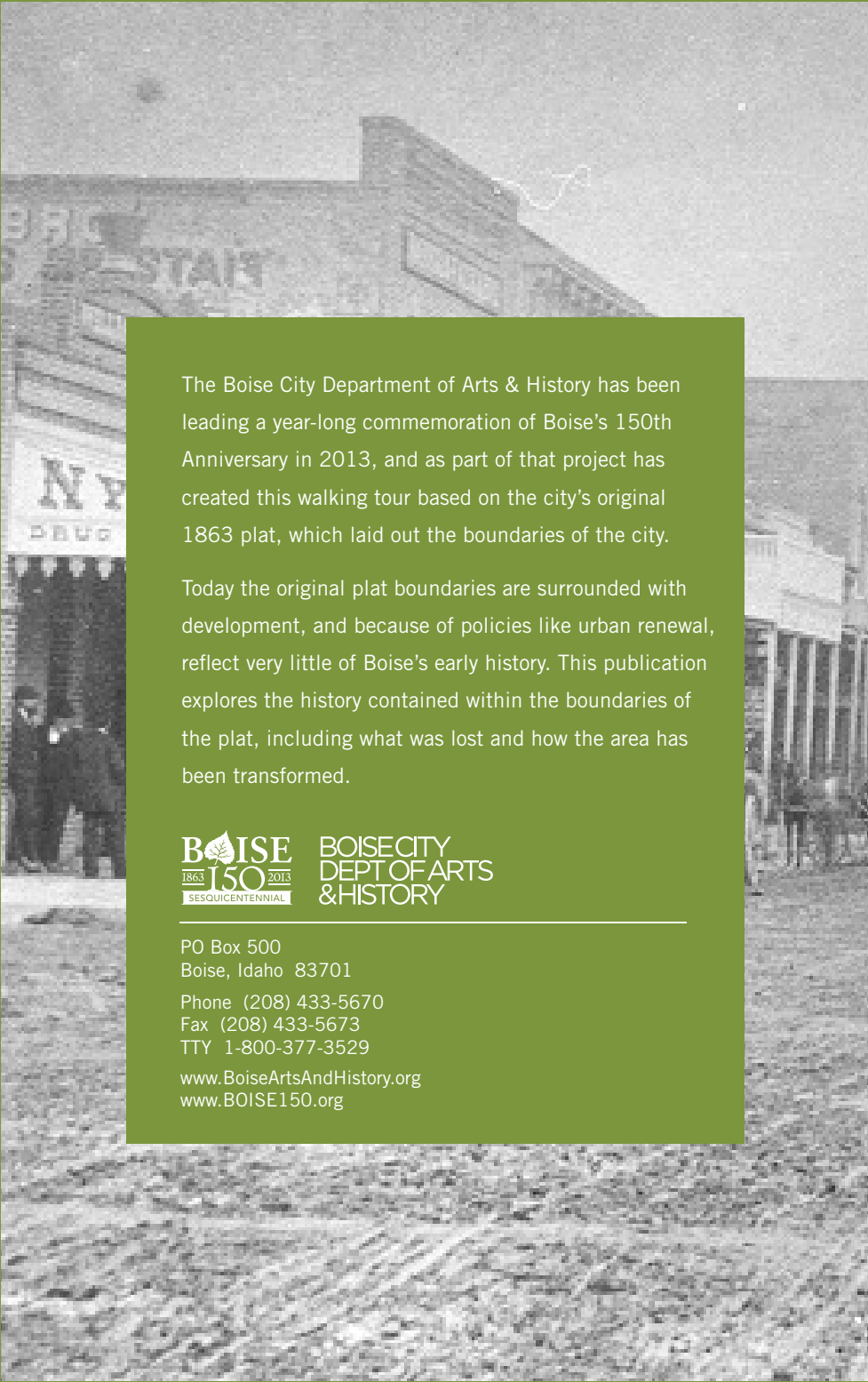


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The Boise City Department of Arts & History has been leading a year-long commemoration of Boise's 150th Anniversary in 2013, and as part of that project has created this walking tour based on the city's original 1863 plat, which laid out the boundaries of the city.

Today the original plat boundaries are surrounded with development, and because of policies like urban renewal, reflect very little of Boise's early history. This publication explores the history contained within the boundaries of the plat, including what was lost and how the area has been transformed.



BOISE CITY
DEPT OF ARTS
& HISTORY

PO Box 500
Boise, Idaho 83701

Phone (208) 433-5670
Fax (208) 433-5673
TTY 1-800-377-3529

www.BoiseArtsAndHistory.org
www.BOISE150.org