Idaho Blue Book

The Idaho Blue Book is distributed free of charge to libraries, schools and government agencies in Idaho. For all others the cost is $10.00 per copy.

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Dear Fellow Idahoans:

It is my pleasure to dedicate this edition of the Idaho Blue Book to first responders, paramedics, firefighters, police officers, hospital staff and the countless others who willingly served and aided those in need during the COVID-19 pandemic.

On March 3, 2020, officials from the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare announced the first confirmed case of the novel coronavirus, COVID-19, within the state. While we had some idea of what was heading our way, even with all the preparations, we could not have comprehended how COVID-19 would shape our lives in the coming year.

Paramedics, firefighters, police officers and EMTs are vital members of our community. While many people were unable to go to work, first responders selflessly went to work each day and provided essential services that kept our communities safe. While the sick had to isolate, first responders entered their homes, delivered them to the hospital and helped fight the deadly virus. They are our neighbors, friends, and family members.
During the COVID-19 pandemic, doctors, nurses, respiratory therapists, and custodians have worked around the clock to care for their patients and ensure hospitals and clinics continue to provide care for the community. To the medical professionals who work long shifts and spend time away from your loved ones, we offer you our sincere appreciation. It is difficult exhausting work, and we will never forget what you have sacrificed in our time of need to keep our community and state safe and healthy.

Our first responders and medical professionals are on the front lines every single day, and no amount of thanks will ever be enough. We thank them for every late night, every extra shift, and every missed dinner at home. We thank them not only for the sacrifices they continue to make for us all, but the sacrifices their families and loved ones are making in kind.

We would like to publicly recognize the work they do and thank them for their selfless service.

Sincerely,

Lawerence Denney
Secretary of State

Photo Courtesy of City of Boise

Photo Courtesy of St. Luke’s
The Idaho Blue Book is published biennially under the direction of the Secretary of State. This twenty-sixth edition offers constitutional, historical and statical information about Idaho. It also details the structure of Idaho’s government and includes biographies of elected officials.

The Blue Book received its name not from the color of its cover, but rather by definition of content. Bartlett’s Dictionary of Americanism defines the term Blue Book as “a printed book containing the names of all persons holding office under the Government of the United States. It answers the Red Book of England.” Individual states have taken this concept and expanded it to include a wealth of information about state officials and resources as well as statistical and historical profiles.
This office strives for the greatest accuracy possible with this type of publication. However, because of the constant changes, some information contained within the book are out of date even as this book is being printed.

To make this edition of the *Idaho Blue Book* possible required the assistance of many people throughout local, county, and state government. Their help has been indispensable. You know who you are and I thank you for all of the help and support.

We hope that you find this *Idaho Blue Book* to be an interesting and useful resource on the State of Idaho.
Preserving Idaho’s Historic Places

In this year’s Blue Book, many of the photos depict locations that are listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). The NRHP is the official list of properties that are considered important in our past, and are worthy of preservation. But why should we bother preserving?

Think about the buildings in your community. Which stand out? Which are the properties that draw your eye as you drive down the street? The places in town that everyone knows? There’s a good chance they are historic buildings.

Historic buildings make each community unique and give us a sense of place and belonging by connecting us to our past. These are the places that make us all feel a little sense of ownership, even though we don’t actually own them ourselves: the big house on the edge of town; the neighborhood grocery; the town library. Even though we don’t always think about it until it’s too late, they are the places that, when we lose them, change our communities. They’re part of the fabric of our lives and they are irreplaceable.

But historic preservation is also an economic driver. History and historic sites are one of the top tourism draws in Idaho and in the U.S. People travel to have new experiences, so they seek out those sites unique to the places they visit. Preserving a community’s historic resources makes sense because it can help to draw visitors and stimulate the local economy.

The Idaho State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) – part of the Idaho State Historical Society - administers several programs that promote historic preservation and bring value to communities throughout the state. The SHPO manages the National Register program, assisting property owners to gain the honor of recognition. The Certified Local Government program offers annual grants to communities and counties, and provides them technical assistance to pursue their own preservation priorities.

The SHPO administers the Federal Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit program, working with owners of income-producing properties to secure federal income tax credits for the rehabilitation work they do on their historic properties. These projects, like the renovation of the Owyhee Hotel in Boise, help revitalize downtowns throughout Idaho by providing financial incentive to reuse the iconic buildings of our Main Streets.

In addition, the SHPO consults with federal agencies on their projects in Idaho, giving local voice to federal action. Through the Section 106 process, the SHPO consults on approximately 1,500 federal projects a year, ensuring that consideration is given to Idaho’s cultural resources in the federal decision-making process. Countless irreplaceable archaeological sites and historic buildings have been preserved through these efforts.

The SHPO also offers outreach and education programs, including Idaho Archaeology and Historic Preservation Month activities each May, and has been a leader in creating new knowledge regarding Idaho’s past through collaborative projects like the Bear River Massacre archeological mapping project, that has given us a better understanding of the tragic events of 1863.

For more information on historic preservation in Idaho, or any of these programs, visit our website at: https://history.idaho.gov or contact the ISHS Administration Office at 208-334-2682, or the SHPO at 208-488-7460.

Text courtesy of Tricia Canaday, State Historic Preservation Office Outreach Historian
Photographs of Idaho’s Historic Places

Idaho has over 1,000 National Register listings, comprised of over 5,500 buildings, sites, structures, objects and districts. Clearly, we cannot include them all, but you can see some of them on the pages listed below.

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To see a complete list of Idaho’s National Register listings visit: https://history.idaho.gov/nrhp/