

"Preserving Moscow's Unique Past for the Future"

PRESERVATION MOSCOW

Newsletter of the Moscow Historic Preservation Commission :: May 2011



HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY

Moscow City Hall

One hundred years ago, the building that is now Moscow City Hall was the talk of the town. This year area residents will again celebrate the building, dedicated a century ago as the Moscow Post Office and Federal Building. The handsome brick structure, with its ivory terra cotta trim, graceful arched windows and classical cornices, represented a significant example

Moscow, Idaho had arrived. No more jokes about Hog Heaven.

of the Federalist architecture of the times. But to residents of that era, the proud new building signaled something more. Moscow, Idaho had arrived. No more jokes about Hog Heaven. The town now rated a first class post office and

its own federal building, complete with terrazzo floors, polished oak woodwork, marble baseboards and a sweeping staircase with twin brass rails. Prominent architect James Knox Taylor supervised the three-year project, and the 1973 listing on the National Register of Historic Places declared: "Its importance to Idaho is the fact that it is almost the only public building of its era that cost as much or had as fine an architect." As important as the new building was in 1911, however, it would eventually have an equally useful second life, thanks to a group of historic preservation activists who took charge when the place was declared "surplus" in 1973.



Foundation work for the new Moscow Post Office and Federal Building kicked off in 1909



The building as it nears completion in 1911. Both photos courtesy of Latah County Historical Society

Downtown Moscow Architectural Features Contest

on page 5, contest entry blank on page 6.

Enter to win!

Let the Party Begin!

Several historical and arts-focused groups* are teaming up to give Moscow City Hall a celebration worthy of its 100-year birthday! Thanks to a generous grant from the Idaho Humanities Council and the National Endowment for the Humanities, it will be a true celebration. Listed below are some of the activities:

Centennial Speakers Series:

May 24 :: Linda Pall, Moscow City Hall, 7 pm,

Preservation Efforts in the 70s and 80s

May 31 :: Nels Reese, Moscow City Hall, 7 pm,

The Architecture of City Hall

June 7 :: Keith Petersen, Moscow City Hall, 7 pm,

Psychiana, Early Use of City Hall

June 17 :: *Moscow Artwalk*, Moscow City

Hall and Downtown; official kickoff for historic photo exhibit in Moscow City Hall, woodworking and masonry demonstrations, release of new brochures and photos focusing on the historic building.

* Groups participating are the Moscow Historic Preservation Commission, Latah County Historical Society, City of Moscow, Moscow Arts Department, Moscow Arts Commission, classes from the University of Idaho

Contents

Happy 100th: Moscow City Hall	1
Moscow City Hall: The Second Chapter	2
Moscow in 1911	3
Orchid Awards 2010.....	4
Downtown Architecture Quiz	5
Moscow Historic Preservation Commission News	6
Latah County Historic Preservation Commission	7
Lost in the 60s	8

MOSCOW CITY HALL

"The Second Chapter"

By 1973, Moscow's old post office was declared "surplus." One interested Moscow resident, Joann Muneta, found the decision a terrible waste of a good building. The first step in saving it was listing it on the National Register on July 3, 1973. Meanwhile, Muneta and others envisioned the place as the perfect community center. But because the surplus building belonged to the U.S. Postal Service, a semi-government entity, it couldn't merely be given to the City of Moscow. It had to be

purchased at fair market value. What if a private party bought it and demolished it for a parking lot?

Muneta and the Moscow Bicentennial Commission considered the empty post office a great venue for the upcoming Bicentennial celebration. Letters to Governor Andrus, Senator Frank Church and other government offices seeking assistance were fast and furious. Additionally, a scientific public survey showed the town favored saving the building. Yet rescuing the old building wasn't a unanimous proposition in Moscow. State Historian Keith Petersen remembers being directly involved in the project because the historical society sought basement exhibit space accessed through a plaza entrance. "There were a lot of folks who wanted to see the building torn down," Petersen recalls. "As I remember, too, one of the complaints about Latah County Historical Society and the plaza was that it would take away precious parking spaces. I love those arguments about destroying historic structures in order to make a couple of parking spaces."

Petersen reminisces about various obstacles as preservationists sought financing. But finally arts supporters and preservationists won the day, and on March 1, 1976, Mayor Paul Mann and the City Council passed a resolution to purchase the building from the General Services Administration for \$70,000. Yet even after its purchase, the structure remained empty and unused, until Linda Pall used her position on City Council to acquire grant funds for renovation. The first floor then became a vibrant community center, with dances, meetings, parties and receptions bringing people together in the Moscow spirit.

In 1998, Joann Muneta was awarded the City's Lifetime achievement Award for

her contributions to the arts, and her part in saving City Hall. How appropriate that the presentation was made in the building she helped save. Moscow City Hall now serves as the seat of city government, a popular meeting venue, and an art gallery. As Muneta reflects back over events, she now realizes that Moscow City Hall was only part of the dream for a community center, with the 1912 Center providing functional space, as well. Clearly the symbiotic relationship between historic preservation and the arts has been validated with both buildings offering the community cultural enrichment activities. Next year, the 1912 Center will have its own centennial party, again reminding residents of the vital contributions historic buildings make in Moscow.

the Old Federal Building



Old Federal Building - Corner of 2nd & Washington Sts., looking Southeast.

The Old Federal Building was built in 1911. The Post Office occupied the first floor, the second floor housed the District Court, U.S. Marshall and F.B.I. offices. Currently the building is vacant.

Future considerations might be to restore and utilize the structure as City Hall. New structures (for additional City offices, Community Center, etc.) could be built that relate architecturally to the Old Federal Building. Additional parking could be provided in this multi-use area.

photo courtesy of Clifford Ott



photography by Phil Schofield

3rd & Main



Joann Muneta, pictured above, accepts the City's Lifetime Achievement Award in 1998. She was honored for her extensive work in the arts, and her significant part in saving Moscow's 1911-era post office and federal building. The flyer at left advertised the efforts to preserve the structure as a city hall and community center. Both photos courtesy of Joann Muneta.



CITY OF MOSCOW
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PRESERVATION MOSCOW is published yearly by the Moscow Historic Preservation Commission to keep local residents updated on historic preservation and restoration efforts in the community.

Barbara Coyner, Editor
Melissa Rockwood, Graphic Designer

Special thanks to Director Dan Crandall and Curator Ann Catt of the Latah County Historical Society, Joann Muneta, Kathleen Burns, and the Moscow Arts Commission for their generous help with photos and research.

The Moscow Historic Preservation Commission addresses historic preservation issues in the City of Moscow. The Latah County Historic Preservation Commission oversees historic preservation issues and projects in the outlying areas of Latah County and works cooperatively with MHPC on occasion.

The **Moscow Historic Preservation Commission** is appointed by the Mayor of Moscow to address Moscow's historic preservation issues. The Commission works within the community to identify, preserve and celebrate Moscow's unique heritage, encouraging citizens to take an active interest in historic preservation projects. Commission meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month at 4:30 pm at Moscow City Hall. Contact Mike Ray at (208) 883-7008 for further information.

Commission Members:

Wendy McClure	Pam Overholtzer	Jack Porter
Joyce Reese	D. Nels Reese (Chair)	Rusty Schatz
Cheryl Zmina	Tim Hillebrand	Michelle Volkema
Michael Ray, Liaison to City Planning		
Wayne Krauss, Liaison to Moscow City Council		

Moscow Kicks Off a Growth Spurt

The 1910 Fire Centennial, commemorated last year, put Timothy Egan's *The Big Burn* on the bestseller list. One of Egan's featured characters was Moscow resident Ione "Pinkie" Adair, the daughter of Dr. William Adair, who bought the McConnell Mansion from William McConnell in 1901. Raised in comfortable society, Pinkie homesteaded 25 miles from Avery, using her horseback riding and shooting skills to survive in the rugged back-country for two years. When the 1910 fire invaded the north Idaho forests, Pinkie cooked for firefighters, but fled when the fire raged near camp. Walking the 25 miles to Avery, she climbed aboard a rescue train and eventually made it back to Moscow. Later she became a schoolteacher and prominent citizen, living to age 94. In 1911, these were some of the milestones in Pinkie's hometown:



Pictured above, Ione "Pinkie" Adair, left, with Carrie McConnell Bush. Below, Moscow's 4th of July bash, promoted by the new Chamber of Commerce.

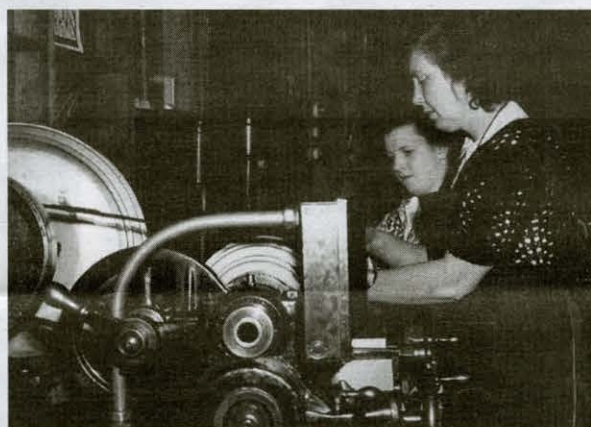
Moscow Chamber of Commerce

- With the population expanding from 250 in 1881 to nearly 4000 in 1911, Moscow's Main Street was booming, and the town converted its board sidewalks to concrete. Development inspired several business associations, such as the Commercial Club, which hosted a headquarters with gaming (gambling was legal in those days), dining, a ballroom and bar. Other civic clubs blossomed for a season, including the Coffee Club, the Booster Club and the Moscow Civic Club. The current Chamber of Commerce officially formed in 1911, with charter members such as George Creighton and Roland Hodgins. The Chamber kept the town hopping with Fourth of July celebrations, special events, and promotion of the Latah County Fair.

The Moscow Pullman Daily News •

Although a slew of other newspapers had circulated around town, some hand-written, the advent of a reliable daily newspaper didn't come about until September 28, 1911. The Daily Star-Mirror began its publication with headlines on the developing county fair. Ironically, the paper also ran a front-page article on Immigrant Inspector W.J. McConnell's plea to the county sheriffs for help in reporting illegal immigrants to the authorities. In his published letter, McConnell said, "The country is being flooded with aliens who come here to take places on nearly all of our public works, greatly to the disadvantage of our own laboring people."

-W.J. McConnell, Immigrant Inspector
Daily Star-Mirror September 28, 1911



Workers at Moscow's daily newspaper work the presses during the 1940s.

places on nearly all of our public works, greatly to the disadvantage of our own laboring people." As the Daily Star-Mirror continued, it saw a number of name changes, the most recent from the Daily Idahonian to the Moscow Pullman Daily News a few years ago.

Presidential Visits • The nation's 25th president, Teddy Roosevelt, brought a reported 10,000 spectators to the University of Idaho on April 9, 1911. The former president spoke from a podium perched atop wheat sacks, causing quite a stir during his 16-hour visit to Moscow. He also planted a spruce in the Presidential Grove on campus. Later on October 4, the sitting president, William Howard Taft, also paid a visit to town, honoring the town with his presence from 5:30 pm to 6:17 pm. He too planted a tree in the Presidential Grove.

All photos courtesy of Latah County Historical Society



Orchid Awards 2010

Once each year the Moscow Historic Preservation Commission presents Orchid Awards to recognize outstanding examples of historic preservation in the community. The recipients of this year's awards are as follows:

1. **The University of Idaho** for rehabilitating the building now known as Art & Architecture South, including restoration of the rooftop cupola, which had been removed several years ago. This building was originally built in 1904 as the university gymnasium and armory and was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1983.

2. **The University of Idaho** for rehabilitating Memorial Gymnasium, including the re-casting and replacement of 14 gargoyles in the shape of 1920's-era football players that grace the exterior walls. Memorial Gymnasium was built in 1928 in the "Collegiate Gothic" style and listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1977.

3. **Kenworthy Performing Arts Centre, Inc. (KPAC)** for ongoing preservation work on the historic Kenworthy Theatre building, including repairs to the marquee that dates from 1949. The theater was built in 1926 and remodeled in 1928 and 1949. It has been managed by KPAC since 2000 as a nonprofit venue for films, stage productions, and community events. It was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2001.

4. **Jim Kremer** for rehabilitating a cottage at 1020 South Adams to make it functionally modern and energy-efficient while retaining its original 1930's style, appearance, and materials as much as possible.

5. **Sharon Dunn** for building a new residence at 404 East Veatch Street in a manner that's compatible in style, colors, and character with the cottage at 1020 South Adams that was rebuilt by Jim Kremer. Ms. Dunn now owns both buildings, which occupy adjacent lots.



6. **Mark and Joann Taylor** for putting extra care and effort into building a new garage at 714 Mabelle Avenue, in a manner that's compatible with the style, colors, and character of their adjacent existing residence, which was built in the 1920's.

7. **Matthew Becker** for rehabilitating a small residence for use as offices for the University City rental and property management business, located at the corner of Line and A Streets. The Commission compliments the owner for "recycling" an existing building that is compatible with the surrounding residential neighborhood, rather than constructing a new one at this high-visibility location.

Orchid Award photos courtesy of Nels Reese

How Much Do You Know About Moscow's Downtown Architecture?

Preservation Moscow's Quiz Tests Your Knowledge

Last year's Architectural Features Contest proved to be a popular addition to the newsletter, especially among local schoolteachers who used the quiz as a downtown field trip and walking tour. This year's quiz again takes readers downtown to pay more attention to the unique building features on Moscow's historic buildings. How many features can you identify? If you can find all eight, fill out the entry blank and drop it off at City Hall by May 31. Prizes will be awarded!



Downtown Moscow Architectural Features Contest:
 See page 6 for the entry form!
 Quiz Photos courtesy of Pam Overholtzer



For those who took last year's quiz, here are the answers:
 #1 Carter Building above Moscow Bagel, #2 McConnell building, #3 Corner top above The Wine Company, #4 Corner turret on Hyperspod, #5 Window keystone Hyperspod, #6 Papineau Insurance, #7 Moscow City Hall, #8 Latah County Title

MOSCOW HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION NEWS

The Commission welcomes new members:

Michelle Volkema A historian, Michelle is currently enrolled in her first year at the University of Idaho College of Law. Before returning to Moscow to attend law school, Michelle worked for the Georgia State Historic Preservation Office (GADNR) in Atlanta for six years working in federal and state environmental compliance project review. Michelle completed her coursework for a Masters in Historic Preservation at the University of Georgia in Athens from 2002-04, and earned her BA in History from the University of Idaho in 2000.

Tim Hillebrand Born in Santa Barbara, California, Tim was director of the Santa Barbara Historical Society Museum before moving to Pasadena to teach at Occidental College. He also taught at UCSB, UCLA, and California State College at Los Angeles. Earning a Masters in anthropology and Ph.D. in archaeology at UCSB, he later founded UNITREX, which ran archae-



Main Street in Moscow, Idaho

Photo: Will Hawkins

IN OBSERVANCE OF IDAHO STATE ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION MONTH

Historic Downtown Moscow Architectural Features Contest

Name the downtown Moscow building that each feature is on (features pictured on page 5) and win a prize!

Drop off your form at Moscow City Hall by May 31 and if all your answers are correct, you will be entered in a drawing for one of three prizes to be awarded on June 10.

Name _____

Phone _____

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

4 _____

5 _____

6 _____

7 _____

8 _____

Moscow during the 50s. Main Street was taking on more color with its neon signs and occasionally modernized building facades, yet most original buildings were readapted.

ological expeditions all over the world. In 1988 he retired and moved to Salmon and later to Moscow. He is president of Synergetics International, a data processing and electronic publishing company. Tim has a long-standing interest in historic preservation, having excavated historic sites in California and Colonial Williamsburg. He "rediscovered" and excavated the Santa Barbara Royal Presidio Chapel site, which has now been completely restored and is part of the California State Park System.



The 1906 Carnegie-era library, a rare example of of Spanish Mission architecture in early-day Idaho. Although some wanted a newer library in later years, the building was preserved and an addition was built in 1983.

Report on National Trust Conference

D. Nels & Joyce Reese

Moscow Historic Preservation Commissioners Nels and Joyce Reese attended the National Trust Conference in Austin, Texas on October 27-30. The two joined other commissioners in studying topics such as legal issues, design review, using standards and guidelines, and ethics. They noted that Moscow is considerably behind in the preservation business, and many cities seem to have guidelines in place. The Reeses also learned about the historic courthouses of Texas, dealing with religious properties, and more about preservation law issues. Laura Bush and Paul Goldberger both spoke at the opening plenary session.

Among favorite discussions, Nels singled out the session entitled "Everyone Wants to Live Within Walking Distance: What does this mean to preservation?" at which Roberta Gratz and David Dixon spoke. Another noteworthy session focused on the Texas Capitol Complex, and the preservation and education in and around an active capitol. Nels noted that the 2012 conference will be at Spokane. Paul W. Mann, a National Trust advisor and a Spokane activist, will be the lead person. After the conference Joyce and Nels took an extra day and visited San Antonio and the great River Walk, as well as Bastrop, a small historic Texas town.

Walking Tours of Historic Downtown Moscow

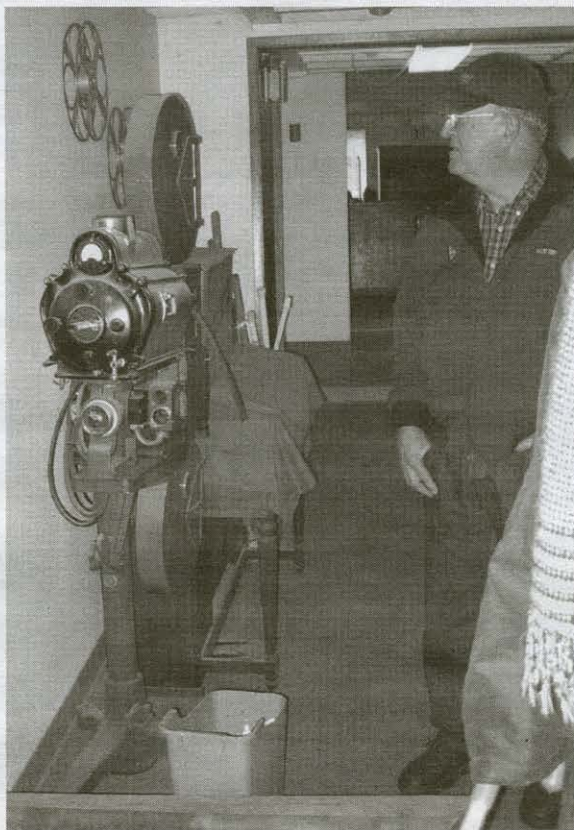
will be conducted this fall. Watch for further announcements at Farmer's Market!

LATAH COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION NEWS

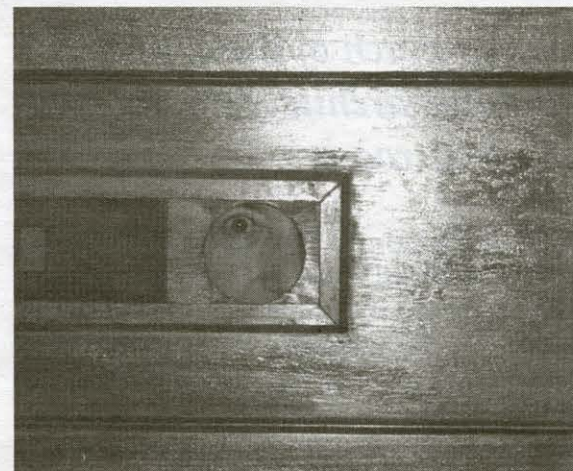
The Latah County Historic Preservation Commission once again hit the road to find historic buildings and sites worth documenting for the National Register of Historic Places. Hosts for the October tour of the Kendrick Grange were Sharon Harris and Richard Abrams, both leaders in restoration efforts there. Built mostly of local brick, the 1904-era building was originally constructed as the Kendrick Fraternal Temple. Special features include old furnishings and a peephole that was operative during the speakeasy years. The fine character of the building and its proposed future as a community center make it a prime candidate for a National Register nomination.

The January tour took the Commission to Troy to see the restoration of the old theater on Main Street. Most of the work has been done by owner David Egolf, a University of Idaho professor who was active in historic preservation projects in Chicago and Wyoming. He recapped the history of the old Troy theater, which began as a Myklebust Department Store and was later transformed into a theater in 1949 by German immigrant Lothar Kereau. It is noteworthy that David lives in a historic Main Street storefront that was remodeled into living quarters previously.

This year's nominations to the National Register include the Lawrence Farmstead in Deary, and the Axel Bohman home and Troy Hospital in Troy. Suzanne Julin of Missoula was the contract historian on these projects.



Above: Bob Callison of Kendrick looks over antique projection equipment in Troy's old theater during a tour of the building.



Latah County Historic Preservation Commission Members:

- Roger Falen, Chair, Genesee
- Barbara Coyner, Vice-Chair, Princeton
- C. Elizabeth Lind, Secretary, University of Idaho
- Dorothy Anderson, Troy
- Bob Callison, Kendrick
- Sharon Harris, Kendrick
- David Egolf, Troy
- Dan Crandall, Director, Latah Co. Historical Society
- Becky Kellom, Bovill
- Karen Owsley, Liaison, Latah County Commissioners
- Mauri Knott, Latah County Planning



Top right shows the speakeasy peephole in the Kendrick Grange's upper floor. The peephole was used to screen customers entering the building during Prohibition. The two lower photos show the exterior of the Kendrick Grange, now being considered for the National Register. (Photos by Barbara Coyner)

LOST IN THE 60S

Like so much of the country's thinking, architecture, too, was at a crossroads

Not surprisingly, the 1960s were a tumultuous time for the United States –and for historic preservation. The country was at a junction of Cold War reflections and the accelerating Vietnam War. College campuses seethed with rage and frustration, and Shakespeare made way for Kerouac, as classical literature bowed to post-modern writings. When New York's renowned Penn Station came down in 1963, however, some questioned the signs of progress, paving the way for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. The idea of saving old buildings and giving them a new future sounded more appealing –and more environmentally friendly. At the same time, a more spare architecture crept into the cities, replacing red brick and ornate trims with unpainted concrete and walls of glass.



The handsome Idaho First National Bank at Third and Main, above top, met with demolition during the same era as the more modern bank, below, took its place downtown. (Photos courtesy of Latah County Historical Society)



Moscow, too, reflected the national changes. The design of the new Federal Building seemed almost cliché as the minimalist look of concrete and glass pushed aside the red brick Federalist architecture. Although the old post office building was eventually saved and re-purposed, a different fate awaited the old bank on the corner of Third and Main. The Idaho First National Bank unfortunately took the body blows of the wrecking ball, replaced by the current US Bank structure. The old bank building had housed a number of civic organizations, doctors, lawyers and other professionals, and early-day businessman Homer David hailed it as one of the finest structures in town.

"It was a landmark treasured with nostalgic memories. We were all sorry to see the old building torn down. However, we are extremely proud of the new building being erected in the same spot."

Homer David,
Moscow at the Turn of the Century



The new Moscow Federal Building, above top, replaced the familiar 1911 post office and federal building in 1974. Above: The Moscow Water Department, middle right, and the University of Idaho Police Department, bottom right, came on the scene as the Baby Boomer generation promoted a more minimalist design approach (Photos by Barbara Coyner)

Missing Mayors!

Missing Mayors Photos: For a number of years, the MHPC has been assembling a photo collection of all the men and women who have served as mayor of Moscow. The collection is still missing photos of the following mayors: L.B. McCarter (1894-1895); Bayard T. Byrns (1899-1901, 1909-1911); J.C. Wolfe (1903-1905); Ray Carter (1928-1929). If you have photos of any of these past mayors, please contact Moscow City Hall or a member of the MHPC.