

"Preserving Moscow's Unique Past for the Future"

PRESERVATION MOSCOW

MAY 2012

Old Bones *~* New Lady

In its formative years, Moscow had lofty goals for education, overwhelmingly passing a bond in 1911 for \$65,000 for a new high school. Entering into service in 1913, the school reflected the Progressive Era in its architecture, flaunting a stately Classical Revival style with granite pillars, brick and white terra cotta ornamentation, and huge vertical windows. Designed by Spokane architect Clarence H. Hubbel, the new high school took over the Whitworth Building name from the older school across the street, which had been named after a favorite local teacher, Isa Whitworth. The Whitworth served three generations of Moscow students, first as a high school until 1939, then as a junior high until 1958, and further as the high school annex until the early 1970s. By the 1980s, however, the venerable old school had fallen into neglect, and its days as a proud community building seemed numbered.

"As I spin around the floor of the Great Room at a contra dance, enjoy a concert on the plaza, or participate in a meeting in the Fiske Room, I sometimes think of what the building was first like when I saw it—and marvel at the transformation. I'm confident that the 1912 Center will remain a cornerstone of civic life and the arts in Moscow as it moves into its second century."

Kenton Bird

Board Member, Heart of the Arts Inc.

CELEBRATING
1912 CENTER
CENTENNIAL



ERECTED BY THE CITIZENS OF
MOSCOW INDEPENDENT SCHOOL
DISTRICT NO. 5 AND DEDICATED
TO THE TRAINING OF THE
YOUNG PEOPLE OF THIS
COMMUNITY FOR LIVES
OF USEFULNESS AND
TO THE DEVELOPMENT
OF THE HIGHEST IDEALS
OF MANHOOD AND
WOMANHOOD.

*Inscription at the
south entrance,
Moscow High School,
July 6, 1912*



1912 to 2012

"For sale: one large somewhat run-down building with lots of historical character and a great location. A definite fixer-upper."

March 27, 1996
Daily News article



"If money were no object (and frogs had wings) an ideal solution would be to build an entirely new high school...." This 1985 School Facilities Committee evaluation set a tone of doom for the aging Whitworth Building. Once the community's pride and joy, it was now an albatross.

By 1990, a veritable "Who's Who" of Moscow citizens formed Friends of the Whitworth. Opposition surfaced, as well, with a local realtor calling the structure "functionally obsolete" in 1992, the same year the building was added to the National Register. By April of 1993, the school board hinted strongly at demolition, declaring, "This volatile issue has haunted the district for over 20 years." Yet the building continued to draw a stay of execution.

The consensus of Moscow's architectural community was that the old school was a prime candidate for rehabilitation, said UI architectural professors Wendy McClure and Nels Reese. As Moscow City Councilwoman Linda Pall worked the political levers, *Daily News's* Kenton Bird cranked out editorials on the value of the Whitworth, insisting, "It's a little tattered around the edges, but its inherent beauty and strength is apparent on closer inspection." In a 1996 letter to the school board, Jack Porter weighed in on behalf of the Moscow Historic Preservation Commission: "... The 1912 High School was once a grand and elegant architectural statement expressing the aspirations of the young community and the high value it placed on education. It is a significant part of Moscow's cultural heritage...."

The school district remained unwilling to invest in the building, but restoration advocates campaigned to have the city restore it as a community center. On November 17, 1997, the City of Moscow purchased the building for \$150,000, using funds donated by at least 170 individuals. Another donor, anonymous at the time, gave \$2 million to kick start restoration. She was later revealed as Janet LeCompte, a historian who had moved to Moscow in 1988. The community was challenged to match her generosity.

With the city finally in charge, restoration began, as architect Laurence Rose guided the process. Work was painstaking as old and new designs and materials were blended. By 2002, a new plaza welcomed visitors, and a stately great room offered an inviting venue for community activities. Eventually Heart of the Arts, Inc (HAI) was formed in 2003 to manage the 1912 Center, with HAI Executive Director Jenny Sheneman hired in 2007. Although the second and third floors are still unfinished, it's clear the 1912 Center now has a future in the community.



"School Days"

The 1912 Center continues to link generations together

Harriot Hagedorn remembers the day President Kennedy was shot in 1963. She was in Mrs. Schuette's U.S. History class, in the very classroom in which her mom, **Margaret Finch Hagedorn**, had previously taught. Harriot, Class of '65, and a retired teacher herself, notes that it's the same classroom now being developed as the 1912 Center's Historic Classroom.

Retired Moscow teacher **Nancy Ruth Peterson**, Class of '63, also attended school in the 1912, following in the footsteps of her mom, **Ruth Ramstedt Peterson**, Class of '26. Nancy Ruth, whose dad, **Milford Peterson**, had been a math teacher, manual arts instructor, and principal at the school during the '30s and '40s, reminisces, "I remember most the creaky floors...you couldn't sneak anywhere!"

Local woodworker **Steve Talbott**, a '65 graduate, points out that his mother, **Jeanette Fleener Talbott**, attended school in the 1912, and still returns to the building for senior meals with her friends on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Steve recalls his days watching games in the cramped gymnasium with its poor spectator seating in the balcony. That same gym has been reinvented as the Great Room, where his mom now eats senior meals each week.

And then there's **LeNelle McInturff**, '65 who attended fifth and sixth grade at the 1912 as a county kid from Genesee. Her mom, **Marian Smith**, Class of '34, and her dad, **Harry Martin**, Class of '37, rode the school bus to the same school in their day. Like most students, McInturff brings up the wildly popular Old Clothes Day, but she concedes that country kids of her mom and dad's era didn't always dress up for the special day, because in many cases, old clothes were all they had.

Not all students revered the 1912. Current City Councilman **Wayne Krauss** was initially opposed to restoration, admitting, "I had no fond memories of that building. But now I'm a convert." Like many others, Krauss has reestablished ties to his old alma mater, seeing it as a pleasant community gathering place rather than the school that a frisky adolescent boy was forced to attend many years ago.

And so it is that the old Whitworth Building is being revitalized, renewed and restored, with a new mission in linking generations together. One hundred years ago, the idealistic leaders of Moscow built a grand building, one conveying ambition and respect for the future. Entering its second century, the historic 1912 Center is no longer a school—or is it? On any given day, the community uses the building for martial arts lessons, evening lectures, art activities and musical events. There's dancing, singing, eating, visiting, merry-making, and learning. Perhaps nothing has really changed except the creaky floors and the school bells.



(From top to bottom)

*Old Clothes Day,
March 1930*

*Mr. Milford A.
Peterson's woodshop
classroom, 1939-41*

*Old Clothes Day 1933,
Frances Doyle with
Jeanette Fleener in
mother Dora Otter's
1912 gym suit*

Orchid Awards 2011

The Moscow Historic Preservation Commission takes pleasure in presenting the 2011 Orchid Awards to recognize outstanding examples of historic preservation in the community. The recipients are as follows:

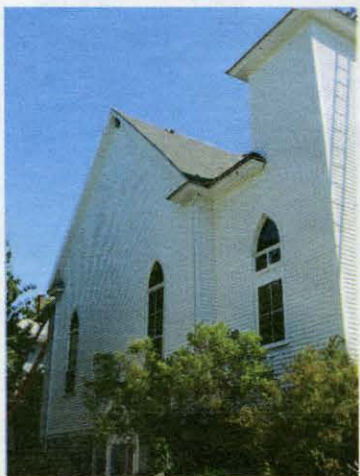


The University of Idaho for rehabilitating the building now known as "Life Sciences South." It was originally built in 1924-25 as "Science Hall" in the Tudor-Gothic style, reflecting that of the iconic Administration Building, which it faces across the "Admin Lawn." The University re-roofed the building with slate tiles that replicate the original materials, and did extensive exterior repairs that included recasting several cast stone decorative elements.



The Order of Saint Ursula, associated with St. Mary's Parish of the Roman Catholic Church, for repairing the concrete wall that has enclosed two sides of the Ursuline Convent at 412 North Howard Street since the early 1930s. The convent has

been a Moscow institution since 1908, when a group of Ursuline Sisters came to town to start a school. The Ursuline Academy operated on the convent grounds until 1956, and was then succeeded by St. Mary's School across the street. The wall had developed serious breaks due to tree root intrusion, and portions were leaning over and threatening to fall, until repairs were made this spring.



The Unitarian Universalist Church of the Palouse for long-term maintenance, care, and partial restoration of its building at 420 East Second Street. The structure was built in 1905-06 by the Swedish Lutheran congregation, and was acquired by the UUCP from a senior citizens' organization in 1985. The Unitarians have shown unusual attention to color and detail in repairing and refinishing the interior, and they have restored the original Gothic arches on some windows that had been converted to rectangles.



The Moscow Chamber of Commerce for partially restoring the historic facade of its building at 411 South Main Street within the Downtown Historic District. The building was constructed around 1926, and served for many years as the local office of the Washington Water Power Company. Sometime mid-century the upper facade was covered with a

painted aluminum panel for signage purposes. After acquiring the building in 2002, the Chamber has removed the metal panel, replicated the original brick and tile facade, and identified the building with elegant cast metal letters.



Winners receiving awards during the Latah County Historic Society's Ice Cream Social. From left to right: Sister Margaret Johnson; Sister Dolores Hebling; Mike Ray, City liaison to the MHPC; Jack Porter, MHPC member; Nancy Chaney, mayor; Gail Adele, Unitarian Church Board of Trustees; Kathleen Ryan, Unitarian Church interior designer; Guy Esser, UI Project Architect, Nels Reese behind Joyce Reese's hat, both commission members.

Where is it?

In Celebration of Idaho State Archaeology and Historic Preservation Month

This year's **Architectural Features Contest** again offers area schools a walking tour to locate unique architectural attributes in Moscow. This contest includes sites on or near Third Street, between Jefferson and Hayes. Identify the location of the features on this page, list answers below, then drop off your entry at Moscow City Hall by May 31. Prizes will be awarded in June.



Last Year's Winners were Jameson Evans, Sean Stanton, Levi Wintz and John Kreycik of Carla Courtney's class, Logos School. Please contact Mike Ray, City of Moscow, at (208) 883-7008 about prizes. Quiz answers from last year were: #1 *Moscow Hotel*, #2 *Chamber of Commerce*, #3 *Book People*, #4 *Masonic Temple*, #5 *Mikey's/Pawn shop door*, #6 *Moscow Fire Department*, #7 *Hyperspud*, #8 *LaCasa Lopez*

Architectural Features Contest Entry Blank

Name _____

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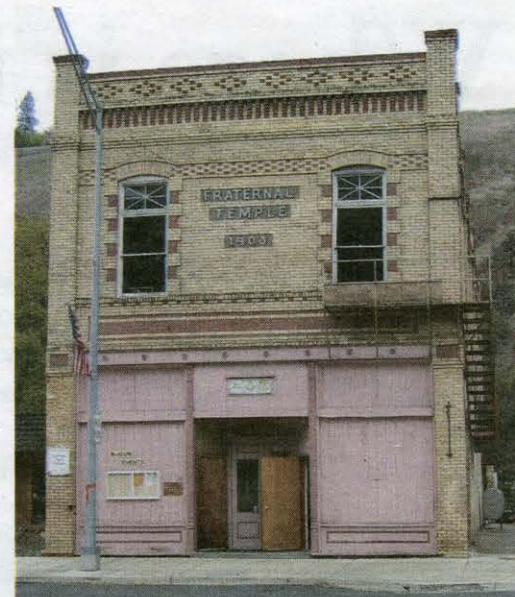
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Latah County Treasures

Last June, LCHPC members gained a sense of the harshness of early-day homesteaders' lives as they toured homesteader cabins near Genesee. The crude cabins were hammered together of rough-hewn lumber, and primitively chinked to keep out the notorious Palouse winds. By contrast, the nearby White Spring Ranch displays a more genteel sense of homesteading. The ranch, belonging to pioneers John and Mary Lorang, was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2004, and boasts a pleasant two-story farmhouse, as well as a variety of outbuildings. White Spring Ranch is open for tours on Sunday afternoons, and will also be open for Genesee Community Day on June 9. The homestead cabins are on private property, and not available for tours at this time.



Ole Bohman house



Kendrick Grange

In addition to visiting various historic sites in the county, the Commission and contract historian Suzanne Julin will complete nominations this year for the Ole Bohman house in Troy, and the Kendrick Grange. The Commission is also evaluating three cottages in Deary that once served remote students who boarded in town for their high school years.

As part of Idaho State Archaeology and Historic Preservation Month, the Commission will join the Moscow Historic Preservation Commission in presenting Tricia Canaday of the State Historic Preservation Office on May 31.

LCHPC Members

Karen Owsley, Chair, *Moscow*

Barbara Coyner, Vice-Chair, *Princeton*

Dan Crandall, Secretary, Latah Co. Historical Society

Dorothy Anderson, *Troy*

Bob Callison, *Kendrick*

David Egolf, *Troy*

Roger Falen, *Genesee*

Sharon Harris, *Kendrick*

Becky Kellom, *Bovill*

Haley Lengacher, *Deary*

C. Elizabeth Lind, University of Idaho, Liaison, Latah County Commissioners

Mauri Knott, Latah County Planning



LCHPC Members visiting homesteaders cabins

Beyond Boundaries

National Preservation Conference Comes to Spokane October 31-November 3, 2012

The nation's most noted historic preservationists will link up with community preservation activists from around the country during the conference. This is a rare opportunity for area historic preservation buffs to see first-hand what trends are, as well as learn funding ideas and other

strategies for preserving our built heritage. Both the Moscow Historic Preservation Commission and the Latah County Historic Preservation Commission will be attending this year. Find out more about the conference at: www.preservationnation.org/resources/training/npc

You may Celebrate Idaho State Archaeology and Historic Preservation Month...and Beyond

May 19 12:30 – 4:30 P.M. Alfred W. Bowers Anthropology Lab and Latah County Historical Society present *speakers and exhibits on area history*; refreshments; Industrial Technology and Education Building, Room 16, University of Idaho; 208-885-1771 for information.

May 31 7:30 P.M. Moscow Historic Preservation Commission and Latah County Historic Preservation Commission present *Tricia Canaday* of the State Historic Preservation Office: *Latah County Properties on the National Register*; City Council Chambers, Moscow City Hall; refreshments.

June 14 5:30 P.M. Moscow Historic Preservation Commission presents *noted historic restoration expert Brian Runberg* of Seattle; City Council Chambers, Moscow City Hall; refreshments.

June 15 Moscow *Art Walk* "Portraits of Community"

July 29 *Kickoff celebration for the 1912 Center Centennial* in conjunction with the Latah County Historical Society's *Ice Cream Social*; 1912 Center and McConnell Mansion.

All events are free and open to the public

Special 1912 Center Centennial Events

Sunday, July 29 Historic Classroom Tours during the LCHS Ice Cream Social.

Wednesday, Aug. 22 Arts & Culture Showcase

Monday, Aug. 27 Plaza Concert

Friday, Sept. 7 "Back-to-School" Art Opening

Thursday, Sept. 20 Lecture on the Building by Nels Reese

Thursday, Oct. 11 Community Spelling Bee

Saturday, Nov. 3 1912 Center Prom (A community dance through the ages.)

Wednesday, Dec. 19 Cornerstone Celebration with school days story hour

Sunday, Jan. 20 Chamber Music Tea

Friday, Feb. 1 "Center Pieces" Art Opening

Winter Market dates:

Nov. 10, Dec. 1, Dec. 8, Jan. 12, Feb. 9 & Mar. 2 from 10 A.M to 2 P.M.

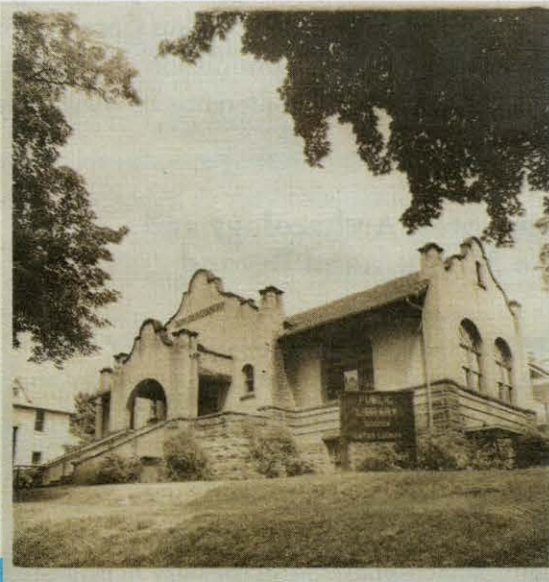


Moscow's Carnegie Library

Moscow's public library remains a standout building in the Inland Northwest. In 1905, the Moscow Historical Club and other civic-minded citizens lobbied for Carnegie Library Endowment funding to build a very unique Spanish Mission style building, complete with a tile roof. Designed by Boise architect Watson Vernon, and built by Fred King Company for \$10,000, the library featured a gable style with graceful curves, something of a contrast to the brick Classical Revival style of the Old Post Office and 1912 Center.

Not long after the library's completion in 1906, a fire swept through the University of Idaho's Administration Building, and the new library provided temporary classroom space.

University classes ran until 3:30 each day, with the library opening its doors to the public at 4 pm.



Sometime during the 1930s and '40s, the rear addition to the library was built, as library needs expanded. Later, some called for yet another expansion—or perhaps a totally new library. In the late 1970s and into the 1980s, it was popular to demolish older buildings in favor of the newer look. But the old library had its advocates, who placed it on the National Register in 1979. In January of 1983, a new library wing was added on the north side, as the original section became the children's library. Appropriately named "The Carol Ryrie Brink Memorial Children's Room," the spacious area is where many local children hear Caddie Woodlawn read aloud for the first time.



City of Moscow
PO Box 9203
Moscow ID 83843

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 conducted on the second Thursday of each month at 4:30 P.M. at Moscow City Hall. Contact Mike Ray at (208) 883-7008 for further information.

Commission Members:

D. Nels Reese, Chair

Wendy McClure	Pam Overholtzer	Jack Porter
Joyce Reese	Cheryl Zmina	Michelle Volkema

Michael Ray, Liaison to City Planning

Wayne Krauss, Liaison to Moscow City Council

The Commission has two positions vacant. If you are interested in historic preservation in the community and would be interested in joining the Commission, please contact Mike Ray.

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

Joyce Reese, Graphic Designer

Special thanks to Director Dan Crandall, Curator Ann Catt and Museum Assistant Rebecca Trook of the Latah County Historical Society, and Jack Porter, Kenton Bird, Pam Overholtzer, Nels Reese, Laurence Rose and Jenny Sheneman for their contributions of photos and background materials.