

"Preserving Moscow's Unique Past for the Future"

PRESERVATION MOSCOW

SUMMER 2014

MOSCOW'S HISTORIC FORT RUSSELL NEIGHBORHOOD

The December 27, 1891 Spokane Review touted Moscow, Idaho as "The Wonderful Metropolis of the Gem of the Mountains," claiming that the developing city was "the most beautiful and the most advantageous site for a commercial center in the state of Idaho." With the new University of Idaho rising on a hill near downtown, Moscow looked promising, not merely as another mere western boom town, but as a solid center of commerce and culture. Many of the early-day businessmen who gambled on the town's future prosperity built their fine homes in the Fort Russell Neighborhood.



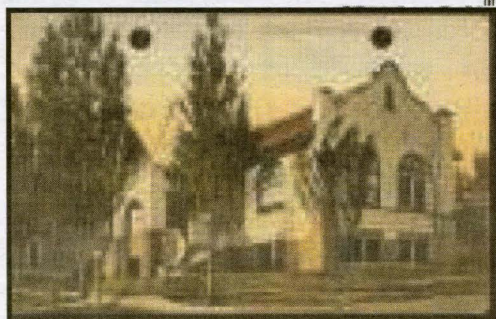
Litho courtesy of Nels and Joyce Reese, originally published in 1890 by West Shore Magazine, Portland, Oregon.

"The significance of the Fort Russell Neighborhood District is both architectural and historic. It is manifestly significant for the rich display of early residential architecture it provides in a town of under 20,000 residents. It is significant as well for the historical connections between the houses and many of the people who built the town..."

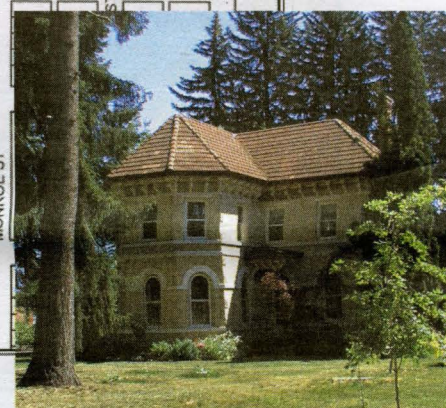
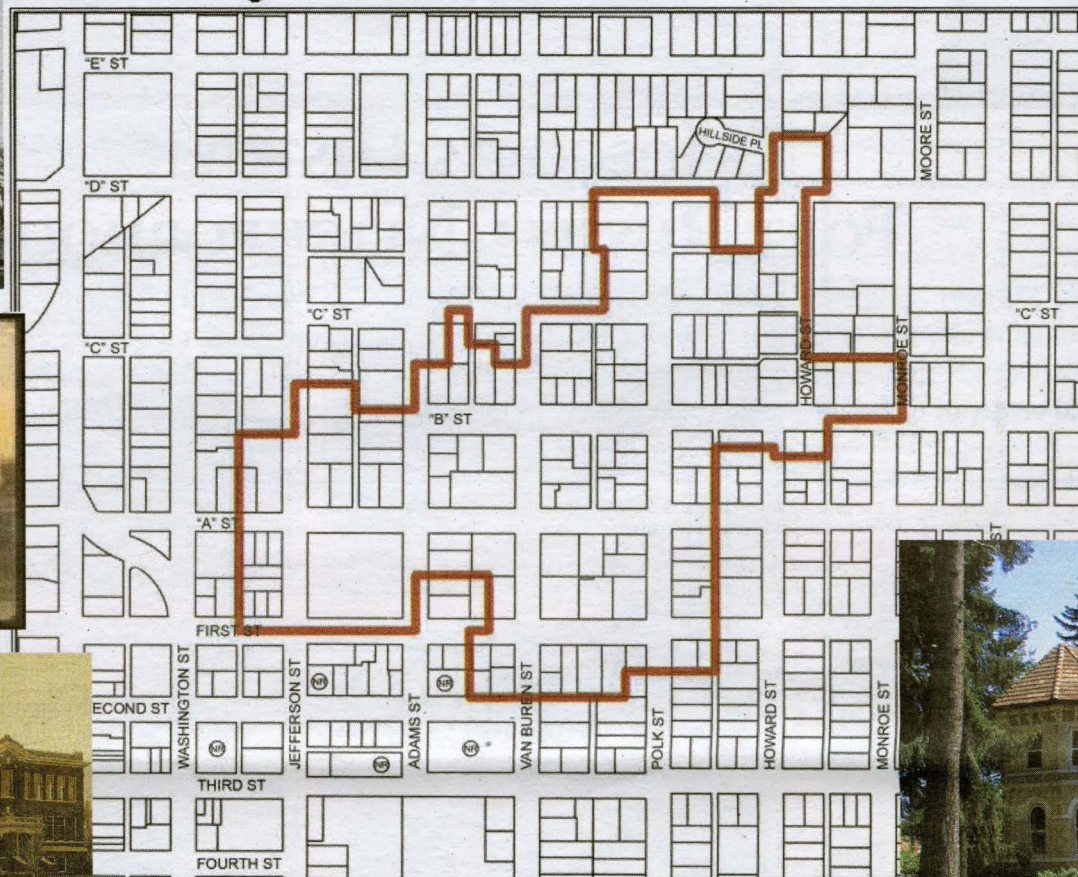
(from the 1980 nomination of the Fort Russell Neighborhood District to the National Register of Historic Places)

The Fort Russell Neighborhood Historic District

The Moscow Historic Preservation Commission is working with A.D. Preservation of Spokane to assess expanding of the Fort Russell Neighborhood Historic District. Pictured below is a map of the current district. Such buildings as the Carnegie Library, McConnell Mansion, 1912 Center, Methodist Church and the Cornwall House are not within the boundaries, although they are listed individually on the National Register of Historic Places. *(Historic photos courtesy of Latah County Historical Society)*



Fort Russell Neighborhood Historic District



"We have been impressed by the continuity of architecture within both the existing historic district and the expanded survey area. The expanded area was well defined, and will make it easy for us to recommend redefining the district's boundaries - which we believe is warranted. The expanded survey area contains a wide variety of historically-intact dwellings corresponding with the period of significance for the existing district as well as dwellings and other buildings from the 1930s, 1940s and 1950s - decades that had not yet reached 50-years of age at the time the original nomination was prepared ..."

Annie Doyon, MHP, Kathryn Burk-Hise, MSHP
A.D. Preservation, Spokane, Washington



City of Moscow
PO Box 9203
Moscow ID 83843

Commission Members:

Wendy McClure, *Chair*
D. Nels Reese, *Vice Chair*
Jack Porter Pamela Overholtzer
Joyce Reese Steven Barr
Mike Ray, *Liaison to City Planning*
Wayne Krauss, *Liaison to Moscow City Council*

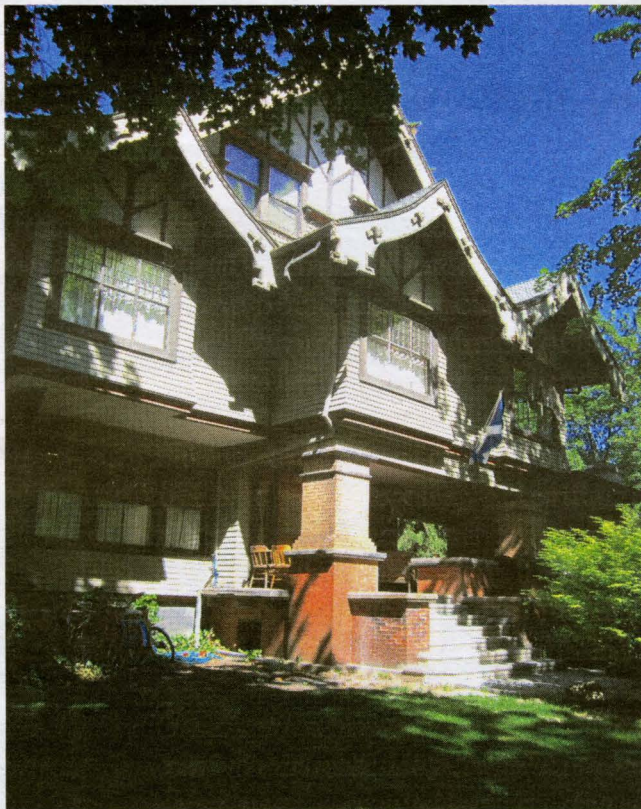
The Commission has three positions vacant. If you are interested in serving on the Commission, please contact Mike Ray (883-7008).

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* Pamela Overholtzer, *Graphic Designer*

Special thanks to Curator Zack Wnek of the Latah County Historical Society for contributions of photos and background materials.

Fort Russell ... its people and its homes



The 1980 nomination for the National Register of Historic Places notes that the Fort Russell Neighborhood District contains houses of several architectural styles, many built by the people who built Moscow. The homes tell something of the men and women who staked their future on growing

wheat, mining the abundant minerals, building railroads and operating downtown businesses. Moscow was a small city in the middle of a small-population state, a state some considered a "backwater" place in terms of importance. This in no way deterred the town's founders from building their homes with an eye to classical lines and architectural flourish. The Fort Russell Neighborhood clearly took itself seriously.

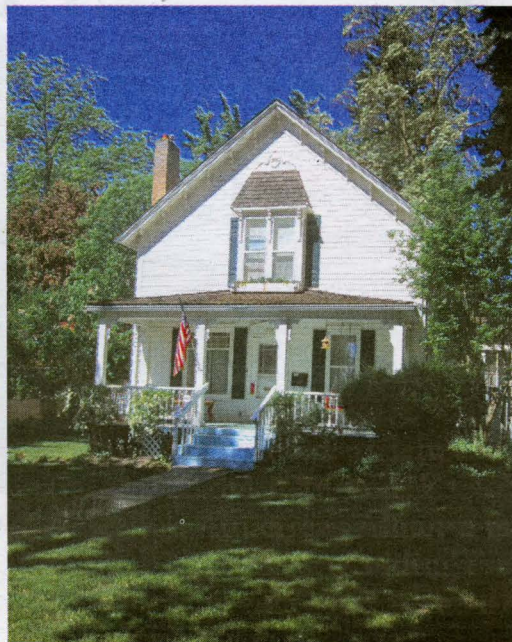


Mark Miller Homes on Polk Street

Mark Miller was one of Moscow's most successful business owners, and also the owner of a classic bungalow that is regarded as one of Idaho's most noteworthy homes. Miller bought the Cochran & Sons flour mill in 1904, establishing a thriving grain business at Sixth and Jackson, now the area known as Legacy Crossing. Blue Stem flour was the mill's main product, offering a unique blend of wheat said to be coveted by Northwest housewives. In addition to the flour mill, Miller operated hay and grain warehouses at Troy, Joel and Deary.

Like other successful business owners in Moscow, Miller chose to settle in the Fort Russell neighborhood. His first home was at 301 N. Polk, and then in 1908, he engaged architect H.R. Black to design the massive home at 325 N. Polk, with the scrap lumber from that project supposedly used to build the smaller residence at 307 N. Polk. H.R. Black also designed the First Methodist Church and the Jerome Day home in Moscow, and was previously known for building churches in Montana.

While Miller enjoyed business success and the trappings of a fine home, his personal life was marred by the death of his daughter Lucille and her young friend, who drowned at a swimming hole at the foot of Moscow Mountain. In tribute, Miller had a popular wading pool constructed at East City Park (the pool was removed in later years). Miller eventually left Moscow for Portland sometime in the 1920's, and the Moscow grain business changed hands to become Latah Grain Growers in 1958.



The three homes pictured on this page, once owned by Mark Miller, cover one side of a city block on Polk. Pictured above, "The giant, bungalowid, chalet-style Miller house is without peer in the state," according to the 1980 National Register nomination. At far left is 301 N. Polk St. and near left is 307 N. Polk St.

Twenty Years of Promise: Moscow from 1871—1891

The front page spread in the December 27, 1891 Spokane Review celebrated Moscow, both as a business community and as a quality place to live. "The residence portion of Moscow contains many of the finest houses to be found in Idaho, many of them being models of architectural beauty. They are surrounded by beautiful lawns, garden

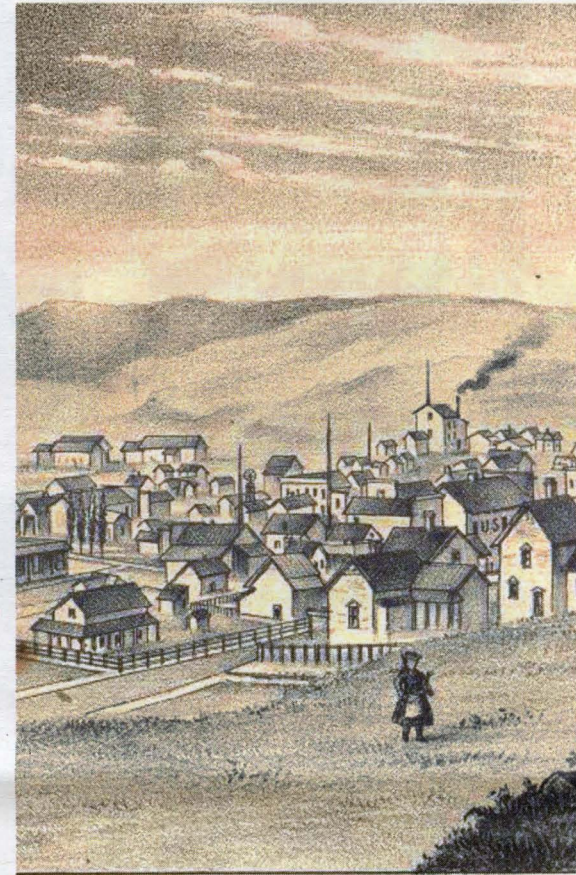
Drawing of



Russell School in the 1890s



The McConnell Mansion built in 1886 by William McConnell, prominent businessman and two-term Idaho governor.



MO

1871

First permanent settlers arrive in "Paradise"

1875

Town renamed Moscow

1877

Fort Russell stockade built

1885

First rail connections reach Moscow

The Fort Russell Marker

In the roadside space between 804 and 810 East B Street is a large boulder with a plaque marking the nearby location of the Fort Russell stockade, long gone from the area. The fort was located between Monroe and Lincoln Streets about a half block north of the marker. Although settlers feared Indian attacks during the Nez Perce War of 1877, none ever occurred, so the fort served mostly as a retreat during hours of darkness. Fort Russell took its name from early-day settler John Russell, who donated the land on which the Russell School was built.

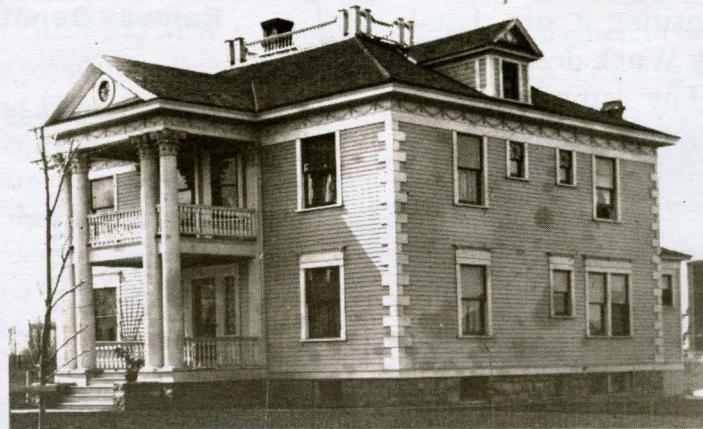


Built in the 1880's, this home on A Street has the original look of a Victorian with its home's Victorian image. Columns were added by the owner Steven Barr is now in the pro

and orchards of choice fruit trees.” As the town took root, the area around the Fort Russell stockade drew the city’s businessmen, bankers, lawyers and entrepreneurs who all chose to locate there. The stockade had been built in the area during the Nez Perce War of 1877, but no hostilities ever occurred in Moscow. In 1893, however, real trouble did

strike, as area crops failed and a financial depression settled over the nation. Happily, Moscow fared better than many places, and recovery eventually came, bringing with it the town’s first millionaire, Silver Valley mining magnate Jerome Day. Day and others built handsome homes in Fort Russell, adding a quiet elegance to the Palouse.

ow, circa 1889



As Moscow developed, more businessmen chose to settle in town. Charles Butterfield came to Moscow from Wisconsin in 1902, built his fine Georgian Revival home on Polk (pictured at left) and bought into a farm implement business, previously established by the Elder family. Jerome Day arrived in town shortly after the turn of the century and built his grand home at 430 East A Street in 1904 (pictured below left). Day made his fortune in the Coeur d’Alene mining district and became Moscow’s first millionaire. *Photos courtesy Latah County Historical Society, historical background from A Great Good County, by Lillian Orness.*



1887

Moscow incorporates as a city

1889

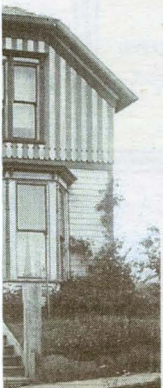
University of Idaho founded

1890

Idaho achieves statehood

1891

Spokane Review touts Moscow



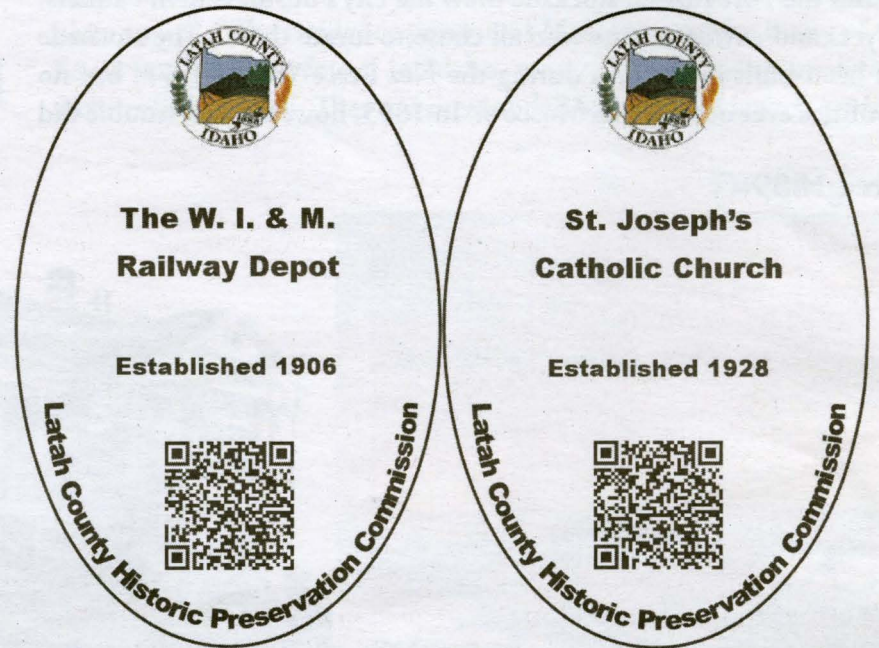
as first owned by Fred Veatch, who operated a real estate company and later a vinegar plant. The home was then sold to Frank Moore, a prominent lawyer. window and scrollwork on the porch. Moore, however, wanted to upgrade the look, so between 1902 and 1908, he expanded the house, changing the led to give a more stately appearance. As the house changed hands in later years, so did its function, and in time the layout changed to four apartments. f bringing the home back to its 1908 appearance. (Photos courtesy of Steven Barr)

Around Latah County . . .

The Latah County Historic Preservation Commission will roll out its new sign project in the coming months. The new oval signs will mark many of the area buildings and sites listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Even better, the signs will feature Quick Read (QR) Codes which can be scanned by a smart phone app to link to more information and pictures for those visiting a site. Latah County Historical Society Curator Zack Wnek designed the codes with the Commission's help. (The samples shown here can be scanned to demonstrate how they work)

The Commission continues to add new nominations to the National Register. Regular monthly meetings will be held around the county through the summer, with meetings scheduled for the fourth Thursday of each month. Contact Barb Coyner, LCHPC Chair, for more information at (208) 875-0636. The public is welcome at all meetings.

The Latah County Historic Preservation Commission serves the outlying communities around Moscow, while the Moscow Historic Preservation Commission serves the City of Moscow.



Latah County Historic Preservation Commission

Latah County Historic Preservation Commission Members

- Barbara Coyner (Princeton) Chair
- Sharon Harris (Kendrick) Vice-Chair
- Sandy Crooks (Moscow) Secretary
- Dorothy Anderson (Troy)
- David Egolf (Troy)
- Roger Falen (Genesee)
- Matt Kathanimane (Kendrick)
- Haley Lengacher (Deary)
- Karen Owlsey (Moscow)
- Zack Wnek, Liaison to Latah County
- Jamie Lewis, Associate County Planner

The Commission is currently seeking a new member from the Deary-Bovill area. If you have an interest in historic preservation issues, please contact us.



New faces at the Latah County Historical Society

Pictured at left are the new LCHS Director Dulce Kersting and the new LCHS Curator Zack Wnek as they recently attended the American Alliance for Museums conference in Seattle. The two have been busy adding their ideas to the Mc Connell Mansion, and staging events such as the Brew and Barbecue.

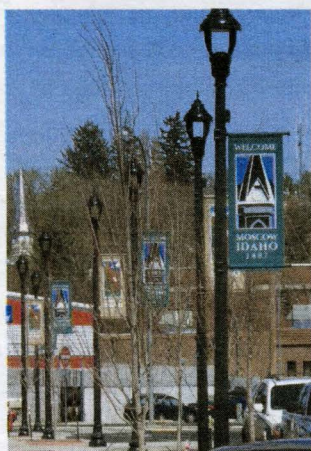
Orchid Awards 2013 . . .

Once each year the Moscow Historic Preservation Commission presents Orchid Awards to recognize outstanding examples of historic preservation in the community. The recipients of the awards for 2013 were as follows:

1. Carly Lilly and George Skandalos, as the creators of the new restaurant called Maialina Pizzeria Napoletana (below), and Lorre Kidd as the owner of the building at 602 South Main Street. Sixth and Main is a historic intersection in Moscow, dating back to the town's founding when James Deakin, A.A. Lieuallen, John Russell, and Henry McGregor donated land to start a commercial district. The current structure was built in 1929 as a Shell gas station, and has gone through several uses since then. Maialina's owners were honored because they chose to remodel rather than tear down the building, enhancing downtown with an attractive social venue. The front plaza, once designed for gas pumps and the early 20th Century car culture, now serves as a sidewalk café, in keeping with Moscow's downtown pedestrian-oriented character.



2. Moscow's city government for its reconstruction of College Avenue between Jackson and Railroad Streets (below). This short street is a great connection between downtown Moscow and the University of Idaho, not only for motor vehicles but also pedestrians and bicycles. Instead of treating the street as another utilitarian paving job, the city took input on signage, lighting, and other pedestrian amenities to make the area an attractive gateway between town and campus.



5. Ann Catt (right) in recognition of her extraordinary services to the community through the Latah County Historical Society from 1999 to her retirement in 2013. Beginning work as a housekeeper at the McConnell Mansion in 1999, Ann worked her way up to the positions of office assistant and museum curator. With outstanding energy, knowledge, and personal magnetism, she recruited and motivated dozens of volunteers and was generous with her own time in helping researchers and other visitors to the Historical Society office and the Mansion.



Ann & Clarence Catt

3. Elizabeth Paulsen, whose handsome brick residence at 936 West C Street (below) is representative of mid-20th Century home styles. Her father bought it in the 1970's, and they have carefully maintained the property, including adding a copper roof recently. The Commission



often gives Orchid Awards to people who have rescued neglected historic buildings, but in this case, it honors an owner who has avoided that situation by carefully maintaining the property.



4. Barbara Coyner, as an outstanding historic preservation writer, editor, and organizer. She has served for several years on the Latah County Historic Preservation Commission, and from 2008 through 2012, served as editor and lead writer for Preservation Moscow. Barbara and her husband Jack Coyner have helped restore the historic Washington, Idaho & Montana Railway train depot in Potlatch.



The 2014 awards will be announced on July 27, 2014, at the Ice Cream Social held at the McConnell Mansion

What style is it? ... Match the pictures & styles

French
Provincial

Transitional -
Late Victorian

Victorian
(2 Homes)

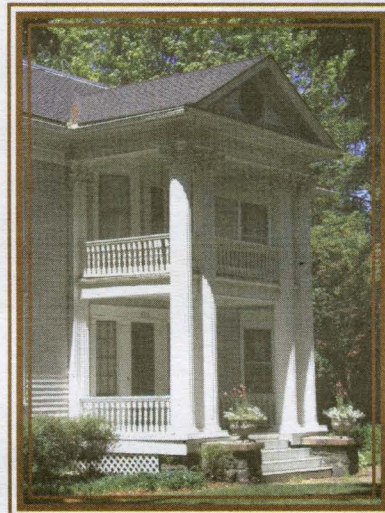
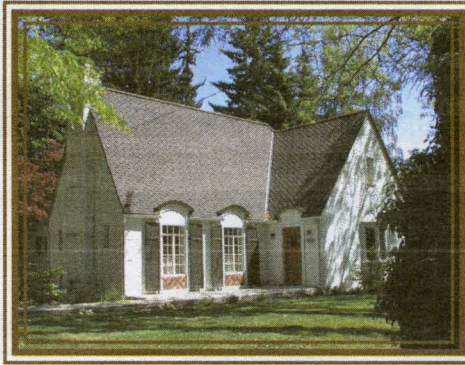
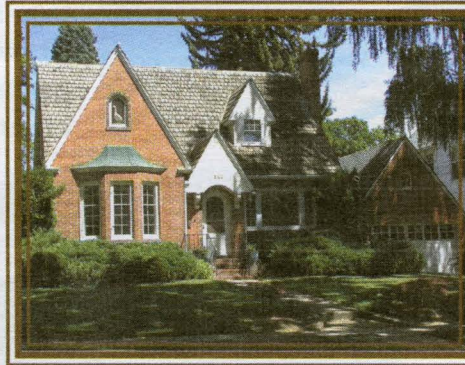
Prairie Style

English Tudor

Georgian Greek
Revival

English Revival
Bungalow

Colonial



This year's Architectural Features Quiz features nine homes within the Fort Russell Neighborhood Historic District. (Hint: most are located in the 100 to 400 blocks of North Polk Street, the 400 blocks of both North A and North B Streets, along with bordering streets.) Each home represents a distinct and popular architectural style common to the era in which the Fort Russell area developed. Be sure to stroll the neighborhood and see the homes first-hand. Many are renowned throughout the state for both their style and their early-day ownership. Should you want more information on each home, pick up the brochure on Moscow's historic homes, available at the Latah County Historical Society.

Match the pictures shown to the styles on the left side of this page. Drop your entry (this page) off into the "Architecture Contest Box" located at the City's Building Department by October 15th. Make SURE to write your name and contact information on this page before putting it into the box!

"My favorite part of the Fort Russell Neighborhood is the incredible diversity in sizes and styles found throughout the district. Each family built the size of house they needed and could afford, but they built it well, so the houses still have most of their original materials and have stood the test of time. Each neighborhood block has a unique personality, because the houses are so different, yet there is still a lovely cohesiveness with the tree-covered streets and the fairly uniform rhythm of the lot layouts."

Karen Owsley, Moscow Architect
Distinguished Preservationist for
Preservation Idaho
Member, Latah County Historic
Preservation Commission

Quiz answers from
last year were:

1. 1912 Center;
2. 104/106 S. Adams;
3. Methodist Church;
4. Moscow Public Library;
5. Unitarian Church;
6. Moscow City Hall;
7. East City Park;
8. 104/106 S. Adams;
9. Moscow City Hall.