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Saving Historic Idaho for Tomorrow

2010 Annual Report

The Idaho Heritage Trust was created by the Idaho Centennial Foundation and the Idaho Centennial Legislature to preserve the historic fabric of Idaho for the Bicentennial in 2090 through a program of grants and technical assistance.

The Idaho Heritage Trust (IHT) has kept overhead low and the number of grants and technical assistance visits steady to groups that depend on Trust funding and technical advice. High on the list of those using Trust services are the active historical societies throughout the state. These adaptable groups are able to survive while continuing to preserve, protect and interpret local and regional history. When possible, the Idaho Heritage Trust works to find partners for these resilient museums and historical societies. We were able to do that recently in Jerome.

The Idaho Heritage Trust, the Jerome County Historical Society, the City of Jerome, the National Park Service, and the Idaho State Historical Society, with the help of the Trust's technical assistance program, were able to evaluate the collection and provide information necessary to help Jerome County move their collections from the damp and cramped of the old Boy Scout cabin behind the library to the Jerome Depot nearby. While there remains much to be done, the National Park Service provided a generous grant to document and purchase supplies to conserve the artifacts and archives relating to the Minidoka Internment Camp at Hunt and to place those artifacts and materials into the context of Jerome County history. The resulting space is generous, high and dry and a great move forward for a Society that has for years worked diligently to preserve materials important to local, regional and national history. Over \$60,000 in cash and volunteer hours have been contributed to the project. With help from the Trust, the next step is to replace the roof, make exterior repairs and paint.

While Jerome County is the most recent shining example of the strong partnerships that Idaho's historic groups have formed over the years, the Trust, in cooperation with the Idaho State Historical Society, continues to join forces with diverse organizations throughout the state to provide information and technical assistance to help Idahoans care for much-loved community buildings and collections.

Gooding and Shoshone Counties are making plans to use new space to interpret local history. And for the past few years the Idaho Heritage Trust has provided funding and technical assistance to a valiant group in Mud Lake. They plan to rent out part of their newly-renovated building to a private business to subsidize the overhead on their new museum building.

In Fremont County the Trust is in contact with organizations that will try to replace what was lost when the Hess Museum collection was auctioned off in 2010. An Ashton/St. Anthony group is partnering with other local

groups to most efficiently tell the local history, including the unique history of a planned and later scotched Tenth Mountain Division site nearby. This region is experiencing a resurgence of interest in local history and with it opportunities to use the newest ideas and technologies in interpreting local history within the context of the region, the nation and the world. The Idaho Association of Museums will address using technology in museums and it is our hope that all of these "new" museums take advantage of the training.

Years ago the Island Park community was saddened when it became evident that they could not retain the Sherwood collection locally. The meat of that collection was transferred to the Idaho State Historical Society. At that time the Trust helped the Idaho State Historical Society copy many of the photos and return copies to Island Park and Rexburg while maintaining the originals at the State Archives. Recently, the Island Park area historical organization was awarded a significant grant by a supporter and they are exploring plans to develop a local museum.

Once again the Trust has partnered with the Idaho State Historical Society and the Idaho Humanities Council to present \$10,000 to one of Idaho's museums. This year the Sister Alfreda Award was presented to St. Gertrude's Museum near Cottonwood.

Other historical societies receiving funding this year from the Trust were: the Priest River Museum, Boundary County Museum in Bonners Ferry, Adams County Historical Society, the Gooding County Historical Society, the Museum of Winchester History, Central Idaho Historical Museum in McCall, the Glens Ferry Historical Museum, the Sun Valley Ketchum Historical and Ski Museum, Canyon County Historical Society in Nampa and the Van Slyke Museum in Caldwell. In past years the Trust has awarded grants and provided technical assistance to many other historical societies throughout the state.

While more than two-thirds of Trust small grants (\$5000 and under) have been traditionally awarded to areas with fewer than 5000 population, the Trust has maintained a steady commitment to the larger projects which demand many partners and extensive planning to achieve success.

The Chesterfield Foundation was one of the first organizations funded by the Idaho Heritage Trust following the Centennial. Over the years the Trust has consistently provided technical assistance and small grants to preserve this great example of a Western agrarian ghost town that receives

over 10,000 visitors a year. The Idaho Heritage Trust recently awarded a significant grant of \$20,000 over a two-year period to the Chesterfield Foundation to help continue renovation of these remarkable brick and log buildings in the Portneuf River Valley near Soda Springs.

A few years ago trustee Judy Mortimer joined then-director Gaetha Pace in a meeting with those interested in preserving the Antelope Guard Station in Butte County as a local community gathering place. This year the Idaho Heritage Trust joined the National Forest Service in a joint project to complete a preservation plan for the site.

This year, too, the trustees were happy to hear that with the help of IHT's Technical Assistance program, the Lincoln Creek School and community center on the Shoshone Bannock Reservation applied for and received a prestigious Lowe's/National Trust for Historic Preservation Award of \$55,000 to continue restoration of an historic school as a community center. IHT's Technical Assistance program also contributed to the school's NRHP nomination which was approved in 2011. The Trust continues to help complete this important example of early education at Fort Hall.

And finally, 2010 marks the completion of the restoration of the Weiser Depot. With the great, good help of the Idaho Department of Transportation, the Idaho Heritage Trust, the Mellon Foundation, Ash Grove Concrete, US Bank, Wells Fargo Foundation, Union Pacific Foundation, and others the project is complete interior and out. A May celebration is planned to celebrate years of work by the City of Weiser and the Weiser Architectural Preservation Committee.

Over the years it has been Trust policy to provide grantees with professional, expert advice so they can move forward efficiently with the information they need to be successful. This year our technical assistance team led by Architect Fred Walters of Cambridge provided help to evaluate Slocum Hall on the Intermountain Institute campus in Weiser; the Idaho City IOOF Hall, the Shoshone County Courthouse, the Canyon Creek Stage Stop in Elmore County, the Phythian Castle in Weiser, the Tramway Headhouse near Mackay, and the Preservation Field School held at the Old Idaho Penitentiary in Boise. Other grant writing and museum conservation assistance has also been provided to groups throughout the state including helping archaeologists assess conditions at Auger Falls, Redbird, Givens Hot Springs and the Buffalo Jump near Challis.

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2010 Grants Awarded

Region I

The Panida Theater	\$5000
The Priest River Museum	\$1000
The Wallace Burke United Methodist Church	\$2000
The Boundary County Museum	\$4000

Region II

Washington, Montana & Idaho Railway Depot	\$1056
City of Lewiston First Log Residence	\$1325
Awl Historic Community Library, Peck	\$3000
Museum of Winchester History	\$500
St. Gertrude's Museum, Cottonwood	\$3334

Region III

The Pl & N Depot, New Meadows	\$5000
Sweet United Methodist Church	\$1340
Our Lady Queen of Heaven Chapel, Oreana	\$3000
Central Idaho Historical Museum, McCall	\$2550
Glenns Ferry Museum	\$1500

Region IV

Gooding County Historical Museum Archives	\$2336
Jerome County Historical Society	\$5000
Sun Valley Ketchum Historical Society, Bonning Cabin	\$2175

Region V

Samaria Welsh Pioneer House Restoration	\$100
The Lincoln Creek School, Fort Hall	\$5000
The Chesterfield Foundation	\$10000

Region VI

Carmen Hall, Carmen	\$5000
Mud Lake Historical Society	\$5000
The John Sack Cabin, Big Springs, Fremont County	\$1330

Region VII

The Robert E. Smylie Archives, College of Idaho, Caldwell	\$500
The Van Slyke Museum, Caldwell	\$5000
The Canyon County Historical Museum, Nampa Depot	\$5000
The Bishop's House, Boise	\$2500

Total Amount Funded:

\$83,546

For further information about the Idaho Heritage Trust please visit us at:

www.idahoheritage.org

