



Draft

Washington County Historic Preservation Plan



JULY 2022





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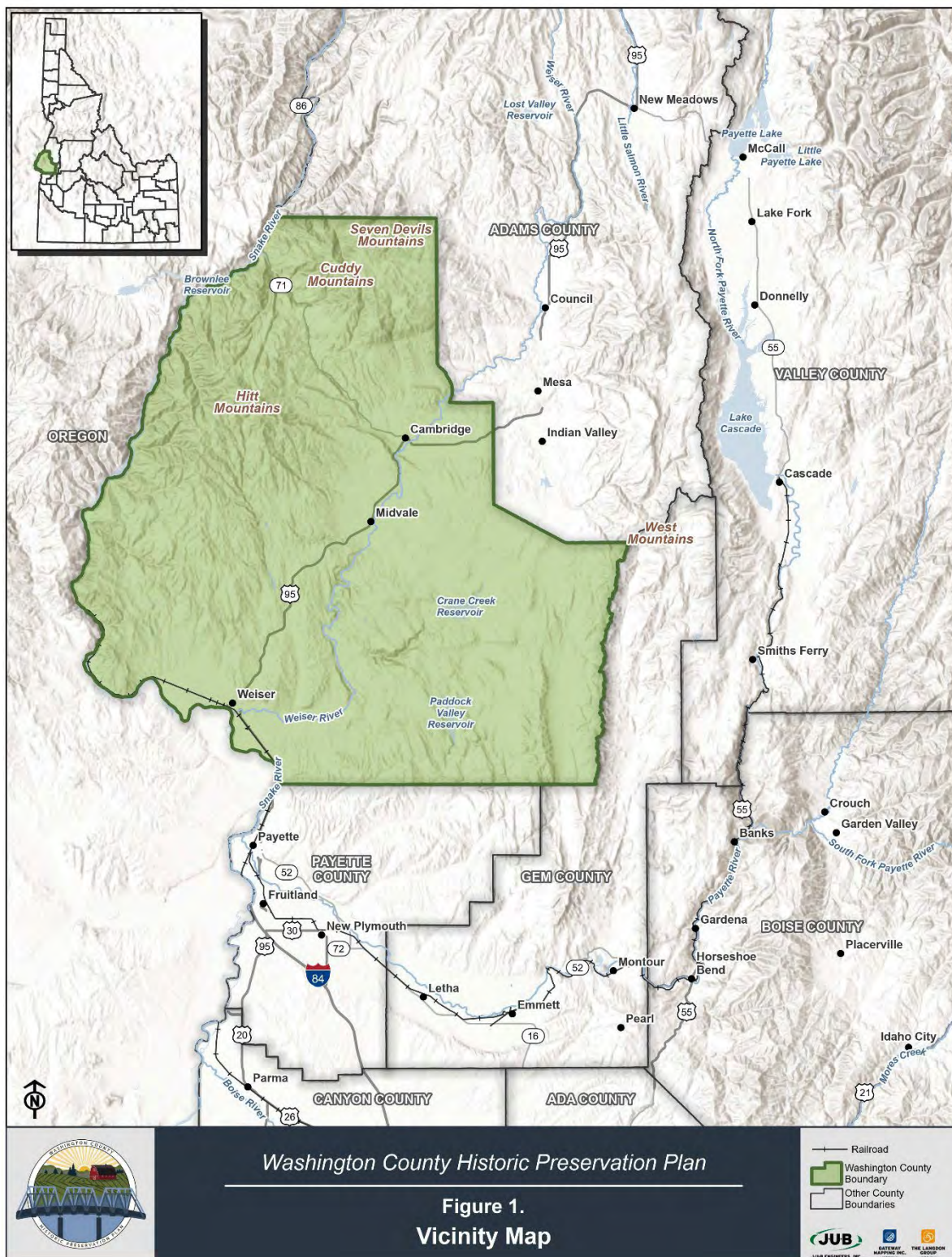
1. PROLOGUE

Washington County possesses a natural beauty, with the mighty Snake River forming its western border, and the free-flowing Weiser River winding through its center, that is undimmed with the passage of time. Indeed, the abundant natural resources contributed to the earliest settlements and voyagers seeking food and shelter along the rivers, in the local mountain ranges and fertile valleys. The landscape of Washington County has changed and evolved, from those first inhabitants through to the arrival of European trappers and explorers, and then to the homesteaders and miners that settled the towns of our County, and their descendants who continued to farm and develop industry in the modern era. Idaho Counties were created and re-created before and after statehood and even into the early 20th Century; Washington County's present configuration is depicted on Figure 1.

By the middle of the 20th century residents began to consider the importance of accommodating change by also preserving the county's heritage. For nearly four decades the Washington County Historic Preservation Commission (WCHPC) has been collaborating with local and state partners to preserve our county's history.



Mann Creek Reservoir, Courtesy of Washington County





2. PLAN BACKGROUND

When the Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) initiated planning for replacement of the Cove Road Bridge over the Weiser River, the Washington County Historic Preservation Commission (WCHPC) was consulted, in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (refer to Appendix A). The bridge was determined to be eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) and the proposed bridge replacement project was determined to result in adverse effects to the property. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), in consultation with the Idaho State Historical Preservation Office (SHPO), determined that these adverse effects could not be avoided, and that a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) would be prepared to set forth stipulations to satisfactorily address the undertaking's adverse effects on this significant Washington County historic property. By December 1, 2020, a MOA among the FHWA, ITD, the Local Highway Technical Assistance Council (LHTAC) and the Idaho SHPO, regarding the resolution of adverse effects to the Cove Road Bridge, was fully signed. The Board of Washington County Commissioners was an invited signatory to the MOA and the WCHPC participated in the consultation and signed the MOA as a concurring party. Stipulation I of the MOA included the following preservation treatments and provided funds necessary to complete each phase:

- Develop a Historic Preservation Plan (HPP) for Washington County, to help guide the County in decisions regarding historic properties and provide guidance on future mitigation alternatives.
- Develop and conduct appropriate Historic Properties Survey as identified and in support of the HPP.
- Design and fabricate a single interpretive sign/display for installation after completion of the Cove Bridge project.

A. The Planning Process

When funding for this plan was obtained through the MOA for the Cove Road Bridge replacement project, the WCHPC coordinated with the relevant transportation agencies (LHTAC and ITD) and the Idaho SHPO to identify a qualified consultant. In Fall 2021 the planning process began with initial discussions regarding the purpose and objectives of the process and timing of numerous public outreach opportunities.

In February 2022, Washington County added a webpage on the County website (under the Historic Preservation Commission tab) dedicated to the Historic Preservation Plan. The site advertised public meetings and events, provided project information, and sought community input. The project website was promoted to community members and will continue to be used by the WCHPC to keep the public informed of the Commission's activities.

On February 10 a survey was launched requesting public input on issues related to historic preservation. The survey remained open throughout in person public open houses



and was closed on March 31. The total number of respondents was 236 and nearly 40% of the respondents were from inside Weiser City Limits and approximately 20% of the respondents do not reside in Washington County. Nearly 80% of the respondents were “interested citizens” rather than elected or appointed officials, or historic organization members. Complete results of the survey are provided in Appendix B.

To encourage participation in the survey and to promote attendance at the public open houses, the WCHPC sent notices to the Signal American Newspaper and Weiser Living in the News. A variety of social networks within the Washington County community (museums, etc.) were contacted and asked to post the online public survey and open house notice to Facebook pages and other media outlets within the community. Other methods of outreach (flyers, direct contacts etc.) were also used to encourage participation.

The WCHPC hosted two separate public open houses on Tuesday, February 22, 2022, first in Weiser and then in Cambridge, to gather public input about historic preservation, individual historic properties of interest or concern, and categories or types of sites that may be vulnerable. A summary of the Open House events is also provided in Appendix B.

Both open house events offered an online survey station, where community members could visit the website and respond to the online public survey for the purpose of providing meaningful input to the Historic Preservation Plan for Washington County that reflects the interests and concerns of residents and visitors. Following the open house events the displays were available for viewing at the Cambridge Community Library and then at the Weiser County Courthouse until the end of March.

Following the close of the public comment period the WCHPC met and reviewed the results. Some of the key findings included:

- When community members have a question or need help with historic resources, less than 6% go to the local government for assistance. Almost 65% go to an individual in the community, while others go to the Snake River Heritage Center, the Cambridge Museum or the Idaho State Historical Society.
- Nearly 50% would *definitely use* an on-line resource for historical information while over 45% *might use* such a resource.
- The top 5 historic property types vulnerable to demolition were: Agricultural buildings, Downtown and other Commercial Areas, Houses and Neighborhoods, Rural Landscapes and Bridges.

Based on these responses and the insight of the WCHPC members the following list of key issues were identified.

- Need to have a better understanding of tribal concerns
- County resources that have not been fully surveyed or evaluated, or merit more current documentation, include:
 - dams and reservoirs (Crane Creek, Paddock, etc.) built or envisioned and their importance to the history of the County
 - schoolhouses, existing and non-extant (Lower Mann’s Creek Road, Midvale’s relocated structures etc.)



- ferry system and the bridges that followed as well as historic highways, bi-ways, and rights of way which evolved over time or envisioned in the future
- developments that have occurred since World War II including some industrial development (trailer, mobile home factory)
- agricultural resources, including grange halls and the unique barn structures that evolved in the County
- recreational resources like baseball fields, ponds, rodeos, trails, Mortimer's Island, etc.
- Effectiveness of existing local historic preservation commissions, historical groups and museums to provide information to the public
- Potential for better communication between heritage related groups, preservation commissions and to the public about preservation programs
- Based on changes in the County, revisiting previously surveyed properties to evaluate changes over time and potential threats

The WCHPC convened throughout the spring and summer of 2022 and prepared a draft HPP for review by County residents and other concerned citizens in July 2022. The Draft Plan was posted on the County website and public comments were encouraged through a variety of media outlets and public gathering spaces. Comments obtained during that process are provided at the end of Appendix B.

B. Purpose of the Plan

Historic preservation planning is a valuable tool for assessing preservation projects and programs. The State of Idaho's Historic Preservation Office recommends that all historic preservation commissions embark on developing these guides, through tailored public outreach efforts, that establish key community preservation goals, and then strive to systematically meet those goals through objectives and strategies. This Historic Preservation Plan was commissioned by LHTAC and prepared by the WCHPC to:

- Address the full range of current issues surrounding historic resources within the county but outside of the City Limits of Weiser and Cambridge, Idaho.
- Actively engage the public in conversations regarding historic preservation in Washington County at key milestones in the planning process.
- Identify key historic context statements and guide future historic resource survey activity.
- Develop strategies that will assist in protection and management of historic resources.

In short, this Historic Preservation Plan provides a guide to fulfill the following vision:
Preserve and protect the county's significant historic, cultural, and archaeological resources to provide a rich legacy for future generations.



3. IMPORTANCE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION

At the heart of historic preservation is a desire to nurture a sense of continuity and belonging in places we call home. The need to honor and care for old places, and to save artifacts of the past, is part of each of us. The professional field of historic preservation – kin to the studies of history, architecture, and planning – developed in the United States throughout the 19th and 20th centuries. With the passage of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) in 1966, a set of programs and procedures were set in place that continue to serve us today. Appendix A presents a list of laws and regulations at both Federal and State levels related to Historic Preservation and Archaeology.

A. Benefits of Historic Preservation

Clearly, compliance with these Federal and State laws is a critical reason to study, document, and preserve our historic resources. But there are other less tangible social and cultural purposes, including the importance of historic buildings as beautiful gathering places, poignant personal landmarks, and as living examples of our shared history. There are also economic benefits such as revitalizing historic Main Streets for residents and visitors, adapting abandoned spaces for new uses, and employing craftspeople to bring new life to fine structural materials through repair and renovation. The mix of authentic historic sites that tell a community's story, along with new and changing community landmarks, is central to creating a sense of place in cities and counties around the world.

When Washington County residents were asked, as part of this planning process, to rank the most important reasons for historic preservation this is what they said:

1. **To leave a legacy for future generations**
2. **To improve our understanding of the past to make better decisions in the future**
3. **To demonstrate respect for our ancestors and culture**
4. **To provide educational opportunities for teaching history and culture**
5. **To retain community character**
6. **To reduce sprawl, save farmland and open space**
7. **To create opportunities for economic development**

Twenty-Four Reasons Historic Preservation is Good for Your Community

1. Jobs
2. Downtown Revitalization
3. Heritage Tourism
4. Property Values
5. Foreclosure Patterns
6. Strength in Up and Down Markets
7. Small Business
8. Start ups and Young Businesses
9. Jobs in Knowledge and Creative Class Sectors
10. Millennials and Housing
11. Walkability/Bikeability
12. Density at a Human Scale
13. Environmental Responsibility
14. Smart Growth
15. Neighborhood Level Diversity
16. Housing Affordability
17. First Place of Return
18. Attractors of Growth
19. Allows Cities to Evolve
20. Tax Generation
21. Preservation as Catalyst
22. Home to Social and Cultural Institutions
23. Neighborhood Stability and Community Engagement
24. Housing Vacancy

PlaceEconomics. January 2020



B. Historic Preservation Network

Local preservation commissions are an important part of the network of historic preservation programs across the United States including federal, state, and local governmental agencies and commissions, public/private partnerships, and non-profit organizations.

Governmental Agencies:

The ***Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP)*** was established under the NHPA. It is the only entity with the legal responsibility to encourage federal agencies to factor historic preservation into federal project requirements. The mission of the ACHP is to promote the preservation, enhancement, and productive use of our nation's historic resources and to advise the President and Congress on national historic preservation policy. A key role of the ACHP is to guide the Section 106 (of the NHPA) that requires Federal agencies to take into account the effects of their undertakings on historic properties. The Council is comprised of designated Cabinet members as well as political appointees and ex-officio representatives.

The ***National Park Service (NPS)*** is a part of the U.S. Department of the Interior and is the primary federal agency administering the national historic preservation program. In addition to preserving unimpaired the natural and cultural resource values of the National Park system, the NPS collaborates on many other programs including: National Trails, National Historic Landmarks, Heritage Areas and the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). The NPS provides technical assistance to sites, communities, and non-profit organizations to protect natural and cultural resources. With the adoption of the NHPA, a system of statewide agencies -- State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPO) -- was created to co-direct and administer programs of the NPS. The Secretary of the Interior is a member of the ACHP and the National Conference of SHPOs also has an ex-officio role on the ACHP.

The ***Idaho SHPO*** is a division of the Idaho State Historical Society, a state agency. The Idaho SHPO offers technical assistance on survey and inventory of cultural resources, the NRHP, Federal tax incentives for rehabilitation of historic buildings, State review of Tribal, Federal, and State projects (Section 106 review), planning and outreach. The SHPO also administers the Certified Local Governments (CLG) program. Once designated, these cities and counties form local commissions, adopt relevant ordinances, and assume the responsibility for identifying and preserving important cultural resources within their communities. They are also encouraged to apply for funding to support these activities, from the SHPO (which they in turn receive from the NPS).

Washington County and the Cities of Cambridge and Weiser all operate local historic preservation programs in accordance with their local codes. They each have an appointed commission with 5 members who serve at the pleasure of the County Commissioners or the Mayor and City Council. The commissions hold public meetings, and their programs are consistent with the provisions of the CLG program administered by the Idaho SHPO, primarily providing educational programs and conducting historic resource inventories. They do not administer any historic districts or landmark programs, nor do



they provide any type of design review. However, they participate in applicable Section 106 processes as appropriate.

Non-Profit Historic Preservation Organizations

The ***National Trust for Historic Preservation (National Trust)***, founded in 1949, leads the privately funded non-profit historic preservation movement in the United States. The National Trust works to "save America's historic sites, tell the full American story, build stronger communities and invest in preservation's future." In addition to operating historic sites across the country, the National Trust provides advocacy and legislative support, educational programs including the annual National Preservation Conference and awards program, research publications and member magazines, and a variety of grants that enable community organizations to undertake preservation activities (preservation planning, building assessments, educational outreach, etc.). National Trust subsidiaries and affiliates include Main Street America, National Trust Community Investment Corporation, National Trust Insurance Services, and National Trust Tours.

Preservation Idaho is the statewide non-profit historic preservation organization. Established in 1972 by a group of Idahoans concerned with the alarming rate at which historic sites were lost, the organization continues to encourage action by members in communities throughout Idaho to save their historic resources. The organization's mission is "to preserve Idaho's historic places through collaboration, education and advocacy." The volunteer board of directors includes representatives from across the state, but the organization's part-time Programs Director is located in Boise. Signature events include an annual Orchids and Onions awards program and regular summer Archwalks and Walk About Boise and Idaho Falls tours. Focus areas of advocacy include the Idaho Architecture Project, Idaho Modern, Idaho Heritage Barns, and a state Historic Tax Credit.

The ***Idaho Heritage Trust (IHT)*** was founded in 1989 as part of the Idaho Centennial Celebration "to preserve the historic fabric of Idaho including historic buildings, sites, archaeological sites and artifacts." Funding is largely earned from the proceeds of the iconic Idaho Centennial license plate design trademark, although they also receive private donations. In turn IHT awards competitive matching grants of up to \$10,000 to worthy projects during an annual grant cycle. For over 30 years they have supported preservation projects in every Idaho county. A professional executive director is based in Boise, staffing a statewide board made up of volunteer regional representatives and supported by regional committees. Technical assistance is also provided by historic architects and archivists outside of the grant cycle to support project development and execution.

The ***Weiser Architectural Preservation Committee (WAPC)*** is one of the few local non-profit historic preservation organizations in Idaho. The group formed in 1983 as a committee of the Snake River Heritage Center and Museum but filed Articles of Incorporation in October 1999. This group of dedicated volunteers has pursued the promotion of "interest in the preservation of architecturally significant and historical building and features of the community; to gather information, objects and materials relative to the Weiser area history and development and to carry on educational programs"



(Article II, October 1999). The WAPC may also manage and operate, sell and convey property; at present they own the Weiser Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) depot building and maintain a long term lease of the underlying property from UPRR. They also hold title to the historic Pythian Castle in downtown Weiser, following the donation of the building from the Weiser Knights of Pythias in 1999. The organization is all volunteer (no staff) and meets regularly. They retain minutes and other records of their work over nearly four decades.



KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS LODGE HALL 30 E. IDAHO ST. WEISER

The order Knights of Pythias was the idea, in 1864, of Justus Rathbone. Justus Rathbone conceived a fraternal order based on the principles of friendship, charity, and benevolence, that might do much to dispel the hatreds of the Civil War. The organization eventually embraced 2,000 lodges.

The Myrtle Lodge No. 26 was founded in 1897 by thirty Weiser businessmen. Membership reached 170 and in 1904 the Knights decided to build a new hall.

The remarkable castle was designed by Tourtellotte and Co. of Boise. Rock was quarried along the Weiser River, ten miles north of town, and six stonecutters dressed it at a lot on East Main St. The Tudor façade is unique among Western lodge halls.

The meeting room, reached by an interior staircase, is on the second floor. The hall has been maintained in its original condition; stained glass is best viewed from within the lodge.

Cort Conley, *Idaho for the Curious*, 1982
Photo by Dennis Cooper, 2021



4. HISTORY AND PROPERTY TYPES

Washington County, created in 1879, covers an area of approximately 1,474 square miles. The Snake River shapes its western border and marks the state line between Idaho and Oregon. On the north, Adams County, part of Washington County until 1911, forms its northern border. Payette and Gem counties border Washington County to the south. Washington County was officially created by an act of the ninth territorial legislature on February 20, 1879. Several boundary changes created present-day Washington County. In 1879 Washington County was carved out from a larger Ada County. According to historian Frank Harris, two early settlers, William Allison, of Upper Valley, and Thomas Gray of Gray Creek, Indian Valley were members of the Ada County lower house delegation in the legislature and fathers of the act creating Washington County. At that time the new county was composed of all that area that is now included in both Adams and Washington County. It was named for George Washington, the first president of the United States. Weiser Bridge (now called Weiser) was named the first county seat.¹

Two mountain ranges, the Cuddy and Hitt Mountains, are within Washington County. The highest peak in the Cuddy Mountains is Cuddy Mountain (7,896 feet). Sturgill Peak (7,589 feet) is the highest point in the Hitt Mountains. The Weiser River originates in Adams County in the Seven Devils Mountains and flows southwesterly approximately 90 miles between the Cuddy Mountains to the west and the West Mountains to the east, to its confluence with the Snake River south of Weiser. The upper reaches of the Weiser River flow through canyons, and the lower reaches flow through a broad valley sufficient for farming and grazing. The topography is a rolling plain with bluffs, buttes, and terraced ridges. Washington County encompasses thousands of years of history which have yielded a variety of archaeological and historic resources.¹

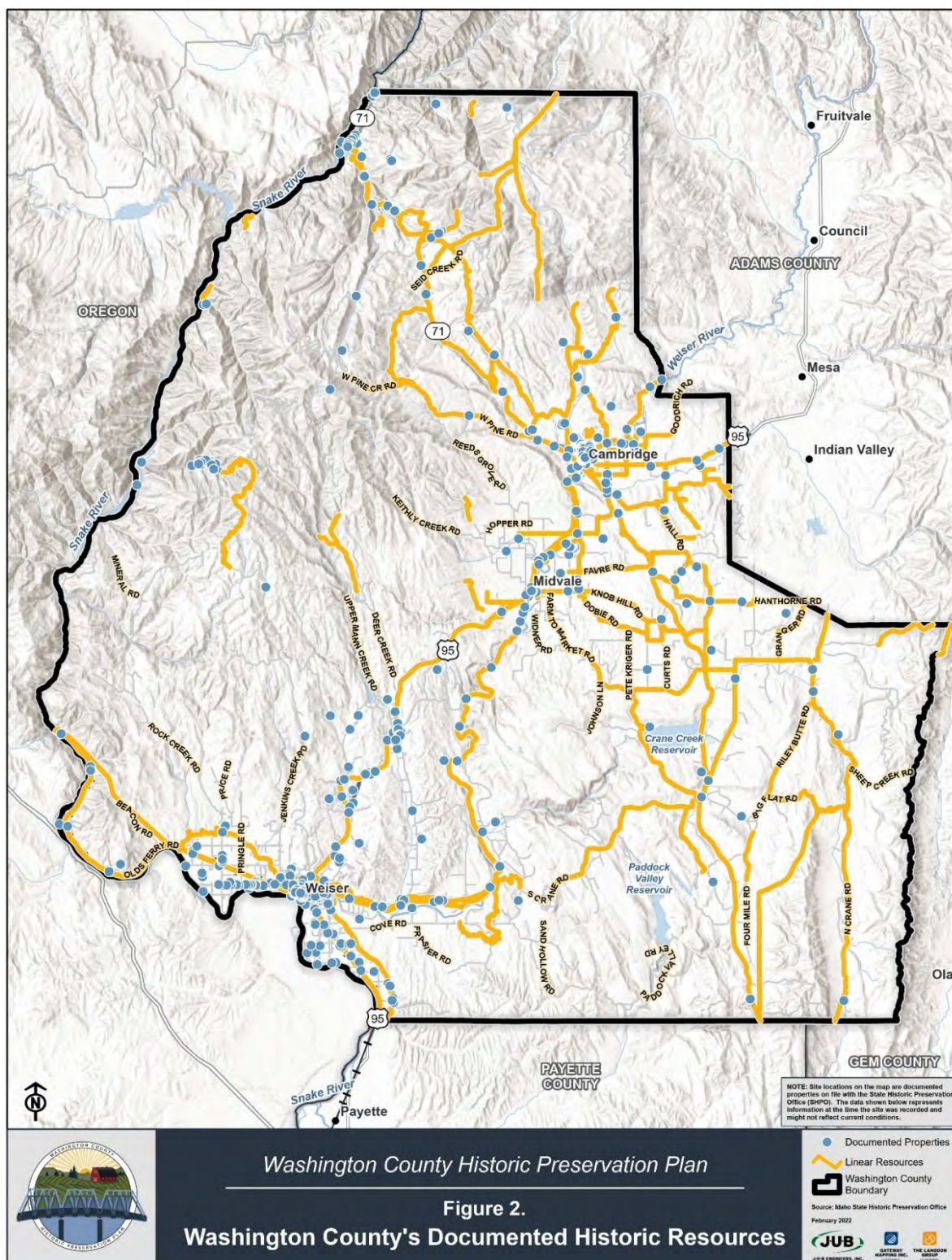
As depicted on Figure 2, there are hundreds of documented historic sites that are illustrative of the evolution of the County. At the close of this chapter, a discussion of historic property types is provided.

A. Historic Periods of Washington County History

The following summary of Washington County history provides the historic contexts and themes that may be used to evaluate preservation efforts and determine future cultural resource surveys. Washington County has four historic periods:

- **Early History (Pre-contact to 1863)**
- **Settlement Period (1863-1900)**
- **Early 20th Century Washington County (1900-1945)**
- **Post War Recovery- Hydroelectric Power, and Recreation (1945 - 1975)**

¹Frank Harris. *History of Washington and Adams County*. 1976. p. 7





Early History (Pre-contact to 1863)

Archaeological sites located at the confluence of the Snake and Weiser rivers provided evidence that the Weiser River Drainage has been utilized for at least 11,000 years. Mobile groups occupied the regions using a wide range of tools to utilize food resources. From 4,200-to 250 before the present day (BP) groups were semi-sedentary foragers, occupying riverine villages during winter months and relying on stored foods and occupying subterranean dwellings in riverine locations where salmon runs provided food.²

Ethnographically, Washington County falls within the traditional territories of the Nez Perce, the Northern Paiute, and the Northern Shoshone. These groups ranged the Western Snake River Plain, occupying the northernmost reaches of the Great Basin environments for subsistence and shelter, including the Payette and Weiser River basins. The traditional territory of the Nez Perce centered on the middle Snake and Clearwater rivers and the northern Salmon River basin in central Idaho, southeast Washington, and northeast Oregon. Roughly bound by the Palouse River to the north, the Bitterroot Mountains to the east, Weiser in the south and the Blue Mountains to the west, this area represents the most intensively occupied territory of the Nez Perce.³

Depending on the season and social group, Nez Perce settlement layouts could vary. Permanent and semi-permanent villages were occupied during winter and summer, as well as periodic and temporary camps during the late spring, summer, and early fall. Multifamily winter villages were typically comprised of several longhouses, some of which were temporary or seasonally moveable were rectangular, double lean-to mat structures measuring as long as 100 ft (30.5 m) with entrances at each rounded end.⁴

When encountered by the Corps of Discovery in 1805, the Nez Perce were the largest Plateau culture group, with a population of approximately 6,000 and more than 70 permanent villages with 30-200 individuals each, depending on the season and type of social group.⁵

The people historically identified in the Weiser River basins and their mountainous drainages as “Tukku Tikka’a” (Mountain Sheep Eaters, ‘Weisers’) seasonally ranged north to the mouth of the Middle Fork of the Salmon, east to Yellowstone, and south to the drainages of the Lemhi and East Fork of the Salmon. Pre-reservation informants indicated that group composition was fluid as was the range each group covered. Availability of food and other subsistence resources dictated organization and range of exploitation. Therefore, when standard resources were difficult to obtain, the small, fluid groups readily shifted to

²Daniel S. Meatte. *Prehistory of the Western Snake River Basin* (Pocatello, Idaho Museum of Natural History, 1990) 63-70.

³ Emily Whistler, Samantha L. Fulgham and David A. Harder. ‘Cultural Resource Survey for the West 9th Street; Pioneer Street to West Indianhead Road, Weiser’ (Idaho Transportation Department) 2021, 4. This report provides a detailed history of Indigenous groups within Washington County in the precontact and historic eras.

⁴ Ibid, 5.

⁵ Ibid.



other resources. Only the Tukku Tikka'a who wintered in the Lemhi Valley fully adopted Plains Horse Culture and organized into a larger band.⁶

Northern Paiute linguistic groups extended north from Nevada to the Weiser River Basin, with Koa'aga'itōka, being the local language, from 1800-1830. Other subgroups extended west into Oregon. To the east, Northern Shoshone groups frequented the upper reaches of the Payette, Weiser, Boise, Snake and Jordan rivers. The Weiser River's transitional zone reflected shared use by Northern Shoshone and North Paiute linguistic groups. Liljeblad cites Shoshoni oral tradition listing Nez Perce, Cayuse, Umatilla, Shoshone, and Northern Paiute seasonal rendezvous to trade goods and horses and to fish.

The confluence of the Snake and Weiser River area has long been identified as a transitional, joint-use area shared by Plateau, Basin, and Plains peoples. The relatively minimal archaeological record of the Weiser River drainage supports evidence of this area as a center of ongoing trade and exchange. Regional accessibility, fish and camas availability, and obsidian source Timber Butte to the east encouraged regional gatherings.

Among others in the Weiser/ Snake drainage systems, Weiser's 11,000-year-old multi-occupational Precontact Hetrick site, indicates the importance of local hunting, gathering, fishing, and intensive trade networking. Shoshone acquired horses through trade from the Ute and Comanche in the early 1700s. The introduction of the horse had a profound impact on the range, subsistence, and interaction of groups in the northern Great Basin and neighboring cultural areas enabling easier and more efficient travel and expanding the range for hunting and trading. According to historian Brigham D. Madsen, a zone between Camas Prairie and the area where the Boise, Owyhee, Payette, and Weiser rivers flow into the Snake River was an important trading center. During salmon-fishing season the Shoshone met people from other tribes including Nez Perce, Umatilla, and Cayuse to barter for horses, buffalo hides and meat, and other goods.⁷

After Idaho's Indian wars ended with the 1879 Sheepster War, the small group of Shoshone "Weisers" led by Eagle Eye remained in the area. Their numbers had dwindled to 83 in 1871, and following the 1879 campaign, many had disappeared. The remainder adopted the Euro-American way of life, dispersing to Smith's Ferry. They visited families on the Lemhi Reservation while steadfastly refusing to be confined there or to Fort Hall.⁸

Euro-American Exploration and Migration. Historically, the first recorded Euro-American visitors to Washington County were the westbound overland Astorians led by Wilson Price Hunt, in November 1811. This group traveled through the Snake River plain as they headed west to establish a fur trading post at the mouth of the Columbia River on behalf of John Jacob Astor and his Pacific Fur Company. The Hunt party camped along the Weiser River in November and December 1811 before continuing their trek west. The party crossed the Snake River at Farewell Bend, following a route along the Powder River

⁶ Hank Corless, *The Weiser Indians, Shoshone Peacemakers* (Salt Lake City, Utah: University of Utah Press, 1990).

⁷ Brigham D. Madsen, *The Northern Shoshoni* (Caldwell, Idaho: Caxton Press, 2007), 23.

⁸ Corless,



that later became part of the Oregon Trail. Between 1812 and 1835 trappers included Donald McKenzie, Alexander Ross, Peter Skene Ogden, John Work, and others until the beaver population diminished.⁹

Lured by reports of fertile ground in the Willamette Valley in western Oregon and looking for better opportunities, settlers from Ohio, Illinois, Kentucky, and Tennessee organized into groups and began the Great Migration in 1843. In 1846 Britain and the United States signed the Oregon Treaty which formalized the border between the United State and British North America west of the Rocky Mountains. Oregon Territory was established in 1848 and Washington Territory in 1853. Future Washington County was at the first part of Oregon Territory, then following further boundary changes part of Washington Territory and in 1863 became part of the newly created Idaho Territory. The discovery of gold in North Idaho in 1860 near present-day Pierce, followed by subsequent discoveries farther south, brought trickles and then floods of people into what became Idaho Territory. Mining activity attracted others to provide services to miners and emigrants following the Oregon Trail.

In 1862, former trapper and emigrant guide Tim Goodale led a wagon train through the Weiser River territory, possibly looking for an Oregon Trail shortcut. Goodale let approximately 60 wagons out of Boise, through the Emmett area, and across the Crane Creek hills west. The party camped in the Salubria Valley and scouted possible trails. To the north the Cuddy Mountains and the Seven Devils presented obstacles; going west they came upon the ferry newly established by John Brownlee at the mouth of Brownlee Creek. Brownlee visited the Goodale camp and offered to ferry the parties across the river without charge if they in turn would build a road from the valley to the ferry.¹⁰

Having in a way, gone over the early history of Washington county as such and given a description of the mining ventures in the several camps, I will now return to a time long before Washington county was ever thought of, and even before its mother county of Ada was in existence and was still a part of Boise county, and try to tell my readers, if any, something of the primitive conditions found here and a brief history of the earliest permanent settlers.

The hills were clothed in a rank growth of bunch grass, the most nutrient forage for livestock known. It grew up about a foot high and headed out in late spring and early summer and in some places grew so luxuriantly that it could be mown for hay. Rye grass, as high as a man's head while on horseback, along the river and creek bottoms, furnished excellent pasturage for cattle and horses through the winter, even when the snow fell to great depths. It was certainly a stockman's paradise.

Description of Washington County from History of Washington and Adams County. Frank Harris p 32.

⁹ Betty Derig, *Weiser the Way it Was* (Weiser, Idaho: Rambler Press, 1987). 7-15.

¹⁰ B.J. Soules and Sandra Hansen "CCC Camps and Roads in Upper Washington County" Certified Local Government, Cambridge, Idaho 1994.



Settlement Period (1863-1900)

The passage of the Homestead Act of 1862 brought settlers throughout the region. This act allowed for any citizen or intended citizen over the age of twenty-one to claim 160 acres of unused Federal land. The claimant was then required to occupy and improve the land over five years, after which time they were granted title to the land. Title to the land could also be claimed by the Cash Entry Act, passed on April 24, 1820. Under this law, a qualified individual could purchase the land at the price of \$1.25 per acre after residing there for six months and making minor improvements.¹¹

By 1868, scattered settlements dotted the valley along the Weiser River. Thomas Galloway, an Oregon Trail emigrant, and miner, homesteaded near the confluence of the Snake and Weiser rivers in 1864. Galloway and others built the first bridge across the Weiser River in 1865. The area became known as “Weiser Bridge,” later shortened to Weiser. Settlement in the Weiser Valley essentially divided the valley into three parts. The land between the Weiser and Snake Rivers, the location that included the site of what is now Weiser, was called “Lower Weiser.” The northern end of the valley, designated the “Upper Valley,” drained from the northeast by the Weiser River, was explored in the mid-1860s following the gold rushes in central and southwest Idaho in 1862-1863 with the first settlers coming to the area in 1865. John Cuddy explored the area and established a lumber and flour mill on Rush Creek. The Upper Valley was later known as Salubria Valley and the area between the two was designated “Middle Valley,” now known as Midvale.¹²

Travelers and settlers to Washington County came by foot or horseback following overland trails, some of which were initially part of Native American trade routes. Others followed an Oregon Trail alternate, developed by Tim Goodale. It was difficult to cross the fast and furious Snake River or the Weiser River by fording or wading. Before the construction of bridges, ferries were established by individuals who charged a fee to transport passengers and vehicles across a river.

In 1863, Reuben P. Olds, a former employee of the Hudson Bay Company, had been working gold placers in the area. Olds and two partners received a franchise from the first Idaho Territorial Legislature to build and operate a ferry across the Snake River, and established Olds Ferry twelve miles downstream of Weiser. Explorers and pioneers had camped in the vicinity since the early 1800s. In 1812, the Wilson Price Hunt party established a camp here, and in 1862 Mr. Henry Harrison Abernathy built a store to capitalize on the miners and settlers moving through the area. William and Nancy Logan of Baker City, Oregon, established the first waystation for travelers on the north side of the Snake River. Mineral Ferry, established in the early 1880s, met the demands of mining interests near the town of Mineral. Ferries were actively in use in the county from the 1860s to the 1950s.¹³

¹¹ Paul Gates, “Free Homesteads for all Americans: the Homestead act of 1862,” 7-10.

https://www.google.com/books/edition/Free_Homesteads_for_All_Americans/46yA7VLBGRQC?hl=en

¹² Frank Harris. *History of Washington County and Adams County* (1976) 7 – 10. Derig, 18-20.

¹³ Stevens Historical Research Associates. Research Guide to Snake River Ferries.

https://apps.itd.idaho.gov/Apps/env/cultural/ENV_SnakeRiverFerries2017.pdf (accessed May 5, 2022)



Mining activity (Copper, silver, zinc, and quicksilver) stimulated the development of agriculture and ranching in the Weiser Valley. Weiser Valley towns became supply hubs for the Seven Devils, Heath, Hornet Creek (Galena), Mineral, Meadows, and Almaden mining districts.

Thomas (T.J.) Heath and James Ruth located rich minerals in the Heath district (lead-silver and copper) in October 1874 in an area above Goodale's Cutoff on the slopes of Cuddy Mountain near Brownlee Creek. New discoveries and serious development came in 1876, and intermittent mining continued until after 1920. Silver deposits were discovered at Mineral City in 1870, but activity did not start until the summer of 1880 when John James and Jim Peck filed claims along Dennett Creek. It was organized as a mining district in 1881. Two small smelters were installed in 1890 and 1893. No buildings and structures remain at Mineral, only a few headstones in the graveyard are reminders of the mining era.¹⁴

INVEST AT WEISER, IDAHO.

Washington County, the Land of Many Resources! Homes for Thousands! Miles of Grazing Lands! Hundreds of Farms! Millions of Saw Logs!

WEISER, the County Seat of Washington County, and Metropolis of Western Idaho, is a thriving incorporated town of 1,000 inhabitants. It is the nearest railroad point and headquarters for a large district of agricultural, stock-raising and mining lands, which extend for 150 miles along the Weiser and Snake rivers.

This county contains many fertile valleys, which for richness of soil and consequently large yields of wheat, oats, hay and grain of all kinds, can be equaled by but few places, excelled by none. Weiser has a two-story brick school house with a efficient corps of teachers; a substantial court house; the best roller flour mill in the state, of 150 barrels daily capacity; a \$20,000 hotel; a bank, newspaper, livery stables, mercantile establishments, etc.

The novel centers of the Middle states consider 25 bushels of wheat per acre an extra yield, and it is for them; but it is a uncommon in Washington county to harvest 50 bushels to the acre, a yield which cannot be surpassed. Another point to be considered is this: that the soil here is everlasting; not like that of the Eastern and Middle states, of four or five inches depth, but from 20 to 40 feet down, the soil continuing the same richness as the surface. These lands being brought under a system of irrigation, not costing one fourth what the making and re-making of soil does the eastern farmer, good crops are, a certainty each year, the yields not depending upon seasonable rains, which come as often out of season as in, but every farmer irrigates his lands by his ditches, and thus is independent of the very elements upon which depend the success or failure of the eastern farmer.

Many farmers devote large tracts of their lands to the cultivation of alfalfa and other kinds of hay. The former is the most profitable hay, which yields 24 tons per acre and three crops can be harvested per year, thus making nearly 8 tons. For hay there is always a good market, ranging from \$7 to \$10 per ton.

For potatoes and other vegetables, this section has no equal. An acre of potatoes with proper care will produce 20 tons which can be shipped to outside markets with profit.

Fruit of all descriptions is most profitable—apples, peaches, pears, prunes, etc.—the quality and flavor of which cannot be excelled by the state of California, which is considered to be the garden state of the Union.

Cattle, horses and sheep graze on all our hills, and thousands of head of each are annually shipped to the great stock markets of the world.

Our climate is mild and healthful. While cyclones, blizzards, floods, grasshoppers and all those calamities are raging in eastern states they are unknown in Idaho.

Our mountains are supplied with an unlimited quantity of rich ores—gold, silver and other precious metals—and there are today many rich unlocated prospects which will, in the near future, yield fortunes to those who invest in them. We have in this county the richest copper mines west of the Rocky mountains—namely, the Seven Devils—situated about ninety miles north of Weiser, near the head-waters of the Weiser river. The country surrounding the Seven Devils is rich in gold and silver—found in quartz and placer mines. Washington county also contains the flourishing camp of Mineral city, twenty miles north of Weiser, and Ruthsburg, fifty miles from Weiser. The entire trade of the famous mining camp of Warrens, in Idaho county, comes to Weiser.

A railroad has been projected from Weiser to the Seven Devils, and arrangements have been consummated for a preliminary survey.

In addition to the large mining region this road will open, it will pass through the fertile and populous valleys of Middle, Sahubria, Indian and Council, and penetrate the finest and most extensive timber belt in Idaho.

ALFRED KOPF, President. W. S. BRUCE, Sec. and Treas.

CALL ON OR WRITE TO THE

Weiser Land and Improvement Co.

The Weiser Signal, October 4, 1894 p. 6

¹⁴ Idaho State Historical Society Reference Series No. 9 "Mining in Idaho", Revised 1985. <https://history.idaho.gov/wp-content/upolads/2018/08/009> (accessed May 20, 2022). Lee Schorzman. "Mineral City and Vicinity Mining Site Reconnaissance Survey" Certified Local Government Report.(1995). Cambridge, Idaho.



Settlement and Transportation. Washington County provided rich agricultural land for farming and livestock, attracting settlers to the region. In 1880, when Idaho's population totaled approximately 14,000, census records enumerated a total of 879 people in Washington County. Within ten years the county's population swelled to 3,836 and by 1900 reached 6,882.¹⁵

County towns included Weiser, Middle Valley (condensed to Midvale in 1906), and Salubria. The John Reed family settled at Midvale in 1868, and other settlers arrived in the 1870s. The population grew in 1881 when a group of 40 overland emigrants chose to stay in Midvale. The first road from Weiser Bridge to the upper valleys crossed the Weiser River here and proceeded northeast to Cuddy's mill. The Ada County Commissioners designated the 35-mile route a county road in October 1881.¹⁶

Midvale thrived as a livestock center. Salubria, took root on the east side of the Weiser River just north of the confluence of the Weiser and Little Weiser rivers in 1885. By 1890, the year Idaho achieved statehood, Salubria supported a newspaper, a store, an Odd Fellows Hall, a school, a mercantile, saloon, livery and feed shops.¹⁷

Weiser, Midvale, and Salubria were the major communities in Washington County, but by the turn of the century other small settlements emerged, some consisting of a scattering of a few farms or ranchers. Most of these smaller settlements built schoolhouses that were multi-purpose and used as a community centers. These small settlements included Valley View, Mickey Gulch, Monday Gulch, Crane Creek, Cove, Rich Creek, Cow Creek, Advent Gulch, Pine Grove, Ruthberg, Brownlee, West Pine and Highlands which remained viable communities until after WWII.¹⁸

Meat, produce, and supplies were moved via supply wagons and stagecoaches to the small settlements and mining areas. A railroad connection came in the form of the Oregon Short Line, a subsidiary of the Union Pacific Railroad, which arrived at Weiser in late 1883 and was completed to Huntington, Oregon, in November 1884, providing the transcontinental Union Pacific a route to the Pacific Northwest. The arrival of the railroad connected county residents to a larger regional transportation and supply network. A wood frame railroad depot was constructed in 1886 near the west edge of Weiser. A devastating fire in 1890 consumed much of Weiser's early business district and after 1890, commercial and residential development occurred near the depot, at the present juncture of State and Main Streets. Weiser experienced a major population boom at the turn of the century, growing from 700 in 1886 to approximately 3,500 by 1910. A substantial brick and stone depot was constructed on the south end of State Street in 1906, and numerous brick and stone edifices replaced wood-frame commercial buildings in the area.¹⁹

¹⁵ "Fourteenth Census of the United States:1920 Bulletin". At this time the population included what is now Adams County.

¹⁶ B.J. Soules and Sandra Hansen "CCC Camps and Roads in Upper Washington County" Certified Local Government, Cambridge, Idaho 1994.

¹⁷ *ibid.*

¹⁸ Soules and Hansen. No page number.

¹⁹ Harris, 74-77.



Communities north of Weiser were still in need of a railroad. A railroad route on the Weiser River was proposed and railroad officials debated the route of the Pacific and Idaho Northern Railroad, whether it was to follow the east or west side of the Weiser River. In the summer of 1899, the fate of Salubria was settled as the railroad's tracks edged along the west side of the Weiser River and spelled doom for Salubria. The town of Cambridge developed around the tracks and businesses from Salubria moved two miles north to the new townsite.²⁰



Cambridge, Idaho. Historic Photo courtesy of City of Cambridge.

²⁰ Dale Fisk and Don Dopf. *The P&IN to the Golden Heart of Idaho: The Story of The Pacific & Idaho Northern Railroad*. (Cambridge, Idaho, Cambridge Litho). 2001 16-19.



Early 20th Century Washington County (1900-1945)

Agriculture and World War I. Agriculture and livestock were the backbone of Washington County's economy. Stock raising was integral to Washington County. Livestock ranching was well underway along the Weiser River in the early 1870s. The stock was wintered in the Weiser Valley foothills and when the range became depleted through overgrazing, the land was put under irrigation to raise hay.²¹

Hog raising was the chief industry of the upper country, supplying mining camps throughout the region. The sheep industry thrived. By 1900, an estimated 130,000 sheep were in Washington County. By 1906, Idaho was fourth in the nation in wool production. Sheep and cattle were moved through the mountains on trails or stock driveways. After the U.S. Forest Service was established in 1905, portions of Washington County were included in the Weiser National Forest. Permits for livestock were needed for grazing and other uses.

Stockmen and farmers raised ryegrass, alfalfa, clover, and garden produce. Farmers and ranchers built lateral ditches to move water to agricultural land. Dams and reservoirs were built for water storage. Around 1900 the apple industry took root in the county and were an abundant crop until about 1920. Agriculture in Washington County and Idaho overall thrived between 1910 and 1919.

Typical farms and ranches in the county consisted of a house, hay barn, corrals, and a machine shed. Other buildings might include a chicken house, storage sheds, and machine sheds. Early structures were typically built of wood, but later advances in technology, led to a change in materials.²²

Weiser experienced a building boom during the early 20th century. Commercial business buildings and residences designed by resident architect, Herbert W. Bond and Boise-based Tourtellotte & Company were constructed. The Pythian Castle (1904), St. Agnes Roman Catholic Church (1904), and buildings associated with the Intermountain Institute became landmarks of the community.²³

This period also saw significant advances in roadways. Automobile use became widespread, travelers sought to go longer distances, at increased speeds and highways began to replace railroads for transportation of people and goods. In 1914, after the State of Idaho appointed a highway commission to begin developing road improvements, the commission officially designated six highways, one of which was the "Idaho Pacific Highway" (Route No. 1) extending from the Idaho-Utah state line, along the Snake River Plain to Weiser and then north through Idaho to Sandpoint. By 1916, the section of road

²¹ U.S. Department of Agriculture, Intermountain Region USFS History Payette National Forest n.d. (27) accessed May 18, 2022 <https://portal.laserfiche.com/Portal/DocView.aspx?id=44008&repo=r-d76fb24e>

²² Louis W. Attebery, *A Contextual Survey of Selected Homestead Sites in Washington County*. (Boise, Idaho. Idaho State Historic Preservation Office) 1979.

²³ Don Hibbard. *Weiser a look at Idaho Architecture* (Boise, Idaho, Idaho State Historic Preservation Office). 1978. 8, 36-39.



from Weiser to Coeur d'Alene was designated as the "North and South Highway," but was not yet fully constructed.²⁴

In Weiser, the Hotel Washington, provided accommodations for automobile and railroad travelers. The Oregon Trail Park, envisioned by Frank Mortimer and known today as "Mortimer's Island" an outdoor recreation spot with a baseball diamond, outdoor movie center and dance center was a destination spot for Washington County residents. Horse racing and rodeos were popular throughout the county. At one time, Salubria claimed the "best one-half mile track in the Territory." Later, expert horse riders showed their riding skills at the Weiser Round-Up grounds.²⁵

In 1924, American Association of State Highway Officials began planning a numbered highway system, which was approved by the U.S. Bureau of Public Roads (precursor to the Department of Transportation). The Federal Aid Highway Act of 1925 enabled the system, and the North-South Highway became part of U.S. Highway 95 in 1926. This road was one of the few U.S. highways to exist in a single state, running north from the Idaho-Canadian border to south of Filer near the Idaho-Nevada border. The road was oiled, but not completely paved until 1938. By 1939, Highway 95 was extended to Winnemucca, Nevada. It eventually became a transcontinental highway, reaching the Arizona-Mexico border.²⁶

The Great Depression. Idaho prospered during World War I when farmers and ranchers were encouraged to expand production to meet the increased demands of European markets. Following the war, there was a drastic change. The combination of rapid agricultural expansion, rising costs, farmers with extensive debt, and the loss of an overseas market plunged the nation's agricultural sector into an economic downturn. Farming regions in Idaho, including Washington County, were severely impacted between 1922 and 1929.

The agricultural depression of the 1920s led to the Great Depression. Between 1929 and 1931 the value of agricultural land in Idaho dropped by 49.4 percent causing a drop in production and prices. Some people sold their farms and ranches and left the area. President Franklin D. Roosevelt developed several emergency relief programs popularly known as the "New Deal" to assist with spiraling unemployment. New deal programs undertaken by the government like the Works Progress Administration (WPA) and Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) provided employment, new building construction, and improved infrastructure.²⁷ Notably there was a large CCC camp on Highway 71 that is still standing (Creed Noah Realty).

²⁴ Mead & Hunt. "Historic Survey of Roads in Idaho's State Highway System Volume 1 :Historic Context" p.34. https://apps.itd.idaho.gov/apps/research/Completed/RP267_Vol-1.pdf

²⁵ Derig, 161-166. The Heartland Genealogists and The Cambridge Museum. *Saga of Salubria & History of Washington County Revisited*. (Cambridge Litho, Cambridge, Idaho) 2005. 39.

²⁶ Mead & Hunt 41.

²⁷ Edward Robb Ellis. *A Nation in Torment: The Great American Depression, 1929-1939*. (Coward-McCann, New York), 1970.



WPA projects in Washington County include the construction of a new courthouse in 1939 to replace the 1888 courthouse. Other projects, also in Weiser, included a municipal swimming pool (demolished), and the U.S. Post Office. Two CCC camps, Camp Weiser and Camp Mann, were located in the Weiser National Forest. These camps worked on irrigation projects for area ranchers and farmers. County-wide road improvement projects were undertaken using federal funds and providing employment for county residents.²⁸

The advent of the United States' involvement in World War II, effectively brought an end to the Great Depression and set the nation on the road to economic recovery. The USDA announced "production goals" in 1941, encouraging farmers to increase production to meet them. The goals were updated annually throughout the war. Idaho's farmers came through and provided beef, pork, turkey, mutton, chicken, eggs, potatoes, and other products to the food supply for the military.

Post War Recovery- Hydroelectric Power, and Recreation (1945 – 1975)

Following the war, agricultural markets remained strong into the 1950s because of the post-war baby boom. In 1955 Idaho Power's license to build Brownlee Dam, one of three dams and power plants above Hell's Canyon, was approved by the Federal Power Commission. Hydroelectric power was critical to agricultural and industrial development. Dams on the Snake River, in particular Brownlee in 1956, revitalized the county economy and provided new sources of recreation.

The construction of the Brownlee Dam in 1956 brought a boom to the county as it was necessary to reconstruct the road from Cambridge to Brownlee. A sixty-million-dollar highway package was approved in 1957 for the construction of State Highway 71. Cambridge in particular, benefitted from the project as the town's population spiked and allowed for new improvements. According to a study by Bo J. Soules and Sandra Hansen, the population of Cambridge, ballooned from approximately 400 to 1500 at the peak of construction. Construction camps along the Snake River also provided additional markets for fruit and meats from the farmers.²⁹

In the 1960s and 1970s the county's economy remained primarily agriculture but industrial development, tourism, and recreation also became part of the economic base. In Weiser a local fiddle contest, held since the 1950s, became a nationwide event in 1963 renamed "The National Oldtime Fiddlers' Contest" attracting contestants nationwide, and eventually worldwide and bringing tourists to Weiser and the surrounding towns.

In the mid-1970s passenger rail service was discontinued impacting the county. The Weiser Depot was threatened with demolition but quick action by local preservationists saved the building through a site reuse plan and eventual donation of the building to the City of Weiser. Another important transportation link was lost in 1997

²⁸ Soules and Hansen, n.p.

²⁹ Soules and Hansen.



when the Pacific and Idaho Northern Railway line was abandoned by the Union Pacific Railroad. A dedicated group of volunteers from Washington and Adams counties teamed together to acquire the railroad right-of-way and create a rail trail.

Transportation enhancements in the 20th century impacted development around the city of Weiser when US 95 was routed around the city. While the roads were improved, the abandonment of the railroad left Cambridge with no other way south than private cars or trucks for livestock and grain crops. Loss of bridges through flooding, changes in agricultural legislation, and increase in size of trucks have necessitated replacement of many bridges on the old roads and reduction of the number of dairies and large ranches in the agricultural areas. While many southern Idaho communities were impacted by the development of Interstate 84, Washington County was not directly affected. Rather the County continued to be accessed largely by US 95 and State Highway 71. Perhaps because of this relatively remote setting, Washington County retains an agricultural economic base with traditional small towns prospering in their rural setting.

B. Historic Property Types

A property type is the categorization of a set of resources that share physical or associative characteristics. Property types link historic events and/or patterns with actual resources that illustrate these contexts. The individual buildings, sites, structures, and other resources are literal reflections of Washington County's history and evolution. Buildings and structures in Washington County represent a broad range of original historic functions, including agricultural, industrial, governmental, educational, religious, and recreational properties. Some examples of Washington County's historic sites are shown below to illustrate the types of resources in the county. It is expected that additional property types will be identified as survey and documentation continues in the future.



○ Native American/Pre-Contact/Archaeological

A total of approximately 874 individual archaeological sites have been previously identified in Washington County. Site types include lithic scatters, travel routes, and camps or villages.

○ Agricultural

Agricultural resources are the most important historic property type in Washington County. These include historic ranches, homesteads, barns, agricultural outbuildings, irrigation ditches, pumphouses, and canals. Among the most notable historic agriculture-related resources is the NRHP-listed Edwards-Gillette barn.



Edwards Gillette Barn, photo by Felicia Lynne Lee, 2014, CC BY-SA3.0



Institute Canal Pumphouse, 87-17479, photo by TAG, 2017



o Institutional

Civic structures in Washington County reflect the cultural development of the county. Institutional buildings include government buildings, churches, and schools. Washington County is dotted with schoolhouses, the most common primary style of institutional resources. Approximately 24 sites schools have been identified and examples date between 1910 and 1960.



Jeffreys School/Shamrock Club (87-13763) photo by Idaho Heritage Trust, 2006



Salubria Lodge #31 (87-14091), Cambridge, Photo by Socmentor, CC BY-SA3.0



o Commercial

Commercial structures throughout the county. The dominant commercial property types are One-Part and Two-Part Commercial Block buildings. The NRHP-listed Cambridge News building is an example of a One-Part Commercial Block building.



Jewell Building, Cambridge, photo by TAG, 2015



Cambridge News (87-14022), photo by TAG, 2006



○ Residential Resources

Washington County's historic dwellings represent a wide variety of styles and include architect-designed buildings, vernacular structures, and mid-century resources. Architectural styles include Queen Anne, Craftsman/Bungalow, Colonial Revival, and Minimal Traditional.



Wilson House (87-14072) Cambridge, photo by Felicia Lynne Lee, CC BY-SA3.0



Butterfield Livestock Co. House (87-4335) north of Weiser, photo by Ian Poellet SA4.0



○ Transportation

Ferries transported miners, settlers, and others across the Weiser River and was important to the development of the county. The railroad connected Washington County to other regions in Idaho. Ferry sites, bridges, wagon roads, state highways, railroad tracks and buildings, and bridges are found throughout the county and were instrumental in connecting communities. The Weiser River Trail, a nationally recognized bike trail, follows the route of the Pacific and Idaho Northern Railroad.



Unity Road Bridge, 87-5141



Weiser Railroad Depot, 87-16074



○ Hydropower and Recreation

Hydropower development on the Snake River (1956 to 1968) was critical to agriculture and industrial development as well as residential growth because of the ready availability of cheap power. Sites related to this include dams, power houses, and associated housing complexes. Recreational resources include fairgrounds, rodeo grounds, theaters, and other buildings.



Brownlee Dam, 87-17453



Weiser Valley Rodeo Grounds



5. WASHINGTON COUNTY PRESERVATION ACTIVITIES

The Washington County Historic Preservation Commission (WCHPC) was formed in 1987 with the passage of Ordinance 22, effective February 9, 1987. The County Zoning Code was amended to establish the purpose of the chapter, define key terms, establish the Commission, and provide for its governance, and provide for the preservation of historic properties. The complete archive of meeting agendas and minutes is available to the public at the Weiser Library and the Snake River Heritage Center.

A. WCHPC Projects

The five-member commission has undertaken a number of projects since their inception. The specific projects that the WCHPC has completed, with the support of the CLG program, has totaled \$16,568. These projects are listed in Table 1 below:

Table 5.1: WCHPC CLG Funded Projects

CLG Funded Project	Year	Notes
County Reconnaissance Survey	1987	
County Reconnaissance Survey	1990	
County Historic Information sign research	1992	Initially Indianhead Mtn NR nomination
Reconnaissance Survey/Sign	1993	
Midvale Hill Complex	2002	Richard Benedict/BSU
Pythian Castle repointing and repairs	2003	Joint project with Weiser CLG
Institute pumping station NR nomination	2016	ITD mitigation funds

In addition to the WCHPC, the City of Weiser and the City of Cambridge also formed Commissions in 1987. Since that date Weiser has received 14 CLG grants totaling \$38,718 and Cambridge has received 15 CLG grants totaling \$28,974. Many of the reports produced with these funds are cited in the Reference section at the end of this Plan. None of the three CLGs have applied for a grant since 2016.

In the early years of the CLG program the three local commissions collaborated on grant funded projects as noted in Table 1 above. In addition, the Cambridge CLG undertook, in consultation with the Idaho SHPO CLG administrator, surveys outside their city limits adding to the number of surveyed properties within WCHPC jurisdiction.



The WCHPC has undertaken many activities over the years, meeting monthly, presenting an annual report to the Board of County Commissioners, considering potential projects for grant funding, and conducting or overseeing preservation reports. Their principal activities may be grouped as follows:

- ***Collaboration:*** Working closely with their fellow CLGs in Weiser and Cambridge is key to the WCHPC being effective with the resources at hand. In addition, the WCHPC collaborates with the Weiser Architectural Preservation Committee.
- ***Historic resource inventories:*** As listed above the WCHPC has undertaken several surveys and inventories regarding the County's historic resources. All Washington County and City of Weiser CLG property surveys are available to the public at the Weiser Public Library. Additionally, all City and County CLG meeting minutes are also on file there. Many of the Cambridge CLG surveys are also on file, as well as being available at the Cambridge City Hall and Cambridge Museum.
- ***Public outreach and education:*** In accordance with the duties outlined in the County code, the WCHPC endeavors to encourage preservation through educational materials and public engagement. This has included hosting a variety of guest speakers through the Idaho Humanities Speakers Bureau, hosting Idaho SHPO staff for Grange Halls and related county historic resources. The WCHPC, in collaboration and/or in addition to the Weiser and Cambridge CLGs, has produced walking tour brochures on both residential and commercial districts and hosted guided tours. They have also run newspaper quizzes where a particular architectural detail on a historic property is featured to challenge readers to find them.
- ***Training:*** Each year the WCHPC members are encouraged to participate in training funded by the CLG monies, including statewide conferences and national offerings such as the National Alliance for Preservation Commission (NAPC) seminars and conferences. While some members have participated in convenings outside of the community, most training has been in the local area when the Idaho SHPO visits or provides on-line work sessions.

The WCHPC also monitors and participates in any requests for input regarding Federal undertakings within the County (Section 106 of the NHPA review). These undertakings, often implemented by ITD, have resulted in mitigation measures benefitting preservation activities, including support for restoration of the Pythian Castle leaded glass window (also a 2003 WCHPC CLG grant project.) Furthermore, this HPP plan process was funded as a result of adverse effect resolution of the Section 106 review that occurred when ITD initiated planning for the Cove Road Bridge over the Weiser River.



COVE ROAD BRIDGE REPLACEMENT REPORT APRIL 2018

The Cove Road (or Day Lane) Bridge is a three-span Warren truss bridge that provides a crossing over the Weiser River.

Constructed in 1917, it replaced an earlier timber bridge at this location. The 1917 bridge is associated with the James H. Forbes Company of Caldwell, Idaho who built numerous bridges throughout southern Idaho. Because of its association with the growth of transportation in Idaho and Washington County and with James H. Forbes, a prominent Idaho bridge builder, the bridge is architecturally significant as a fine example of a Warren Truss bridge and portrays distinct engineering qualities.

The Bridge is eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criteria A and C because it is associated with significant events in Idaho history and embodies distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction.

TAG Historical Research and Consulting

B. DOCUMENTED HISTORIC SITES

The Idaho SHPO maintains a database of documented historic sites across the state. An inquiry of Idaho Historic Sites Inventory forms filed within Washington County yielded a long list of sites. Figure 2 on page 11, depicts these sites, including all sites surveyed either by studies and inventories initiated by the WCHPC or the Weiser or Cambridge CLGs, or by studies required under the NHPA. In any case, not all sites will have been determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), while some may already have been listed on the NRHP.

The NRHP is our country's official list of cultural resources worthy of preservation. Administered by the National Park Service, nominations for listing are submitted to the SHPO and reviewed annually by Idaho's historic Sites review board. There are approximately 30 Washington County sites currently listed on the NRHP (See Table 5.2). Of these only 3 actually reside outside city limits. They are the "Livestock Company House", the "Edwards-Gillette Barn", and the no longer extant "Archie Larson House".

While listing a property on the NRHP does not protect it from demolition it does provide recognition of the property's importance to the community, state and nation and makes it potentially eligible for federal tax incentives for rehabilitation.



Table 5.2: NRHP Listed Properties

Address	Property Name	Year Built	Site Form Number
547 W. 1 st St. Weiser	Anderson-Elwell House	1900	87-12977
744 E. Main St., Weiser	Baptist Church	1885	87-1001
737 W Jenkins Creek Road	Butterfield Livestock Company House	1918	87-4335
cc155 N. Superior St., Cambridge	Cambridge News Office	1912	87-14022
516 E. Main St., Weiser	Col. C.F. Drake House	1899	87-1747
3059 Rush Creek Rd.	Edwards-Gillette Barn	1916	87-13925
598 Pioneer Rd	James M. Fisher House	1908	87-11577
1120 E. 2 nd St.	Thomas C. Galloway House	1900	87-1008
377 E. Main St.	Bernard Haas House	1903	87-1746
253 W. Idaho St.	Herman Haas House	1900	87-1063
South end of Fairview St. at the Galloway Canal	Institute Canal Company Pump House	1919	87-17479
Paddock Avenue	Intermountain Institute	1907	87-4377 to 87-4385
15 N. Superior St., Cambridge	Jewell Building	1905	87-14206
30 E. Idaho St.	Knights of Pythias Lodge Hall	1904	87-1005
253 W. Main St.	Kurz-Van Sicklin House	1899-1916	87-16075ccc
South of Weiser on Larsen Road	Archie Larsen House	1910	87-4336—Non-extant
308 W. Liberty St., Weiser	George V. Nesbit House	1909	87-4329
240 W. Main St., Weiser	Dr. J.R. Numbers House	1905	87-12978
204 E. Liberty St. Weiser	St. Agnes Catholic Church	1912	87-1010
E. 1 st and Liberty Sts., Weiser	St. Luke's Episcopal Church	1890?	87-1002
85 W. Central Blvd., Cambridge	Salubria Lodge No. 31	1922	87-14091
548 W. 2 nd Street, Weiser	Morris Sommer House	1899	87-4332
411 W. 3 rd St., Weiser	Mary Elizabeth Sommercamp House	1903	87-4333
342 State Street, Weiser	Star Theater	1917,1939	87-16082
241 W. Main St., Weiser	B.S. Varian House	1909	87-4331
E. Court St., Weiser	Washington County Courthouse	1939	87-1009
206 W. Court St., Weiser	Benjamin Watlington House	1890	87-13844
1 State St., Weiser	Weiser Oregon Short Line Railroad Depot	1899	87-16074
Main and W. 1 st Sts., Weiser	Weiser Post Office	1932	87-4330
75 N. 5 th St., Cambridge	Wilson House	1903	87-14072



6. GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND STRATEGIES

Historic preservation planning involves public outreach, an understanding of the current preservation organizations and activities, an assessment of historic contexts and future trends, and then developing a guide to future actions.

This section provides a list of goals, objectives and strategies that evolved from engagement with the general public, interested citizens and organizations. The Vision statement provides a comprehensive and aspirational purpose for the WCHPC. Each of the three goal statements present a general condition or achievement necessary to achieve the Vision. In turn, objectives are necessary steps to achieving goals. For each objective, multiple strategies or specific actions are articulated to achieve the objective and ultimately realize the goal. Together these items create a work plan to assist Washington County and the WCHPC achieve their Vision.

Preserve and protect the county's significant historic, cultural, and archaeological resources to provide a rich legacy for future generations.



Midvale, Idaho. Historic photo courtesy of HistoryofIdaho.com



Goal A: Understand and document historic, cultural, and archaeological resources within the County (outside the cities of Cambridge and Weiser)

1. Coordinate with relevant Tribal interests to determine their perspectives and priorities for County preservation efforts

Strategies:

- a. Meet with Tribal contacts to discuss opportunities for collaboration
 - b. Determine whether there are potential projects for the CLG to undertake that would be beneficial to Tribal interests
2. Continue to evaluate and prioritize sites and districts to be studied and surveyed.

Strategies:

- a. Evaluate previous studies and determine potential for updated documentation:
 - i. Participate in Cove Road Bridge mitigation-funded survey (Phase B)
 - ii. Identify options for CLG funded surveys.
 - b. Meet annually to identify potential areas of study and inventory to include the following:
 - i. dams and reservoirs (Crane Creek, Paddock, etc.) built or envisioned and their importance to the history of the County.
 - ii. schoolhouses, existing and non-extant (Lower Mann's Creek Road, Midvale's relocated structures etc.)
 - iii. ferry system and the bridges that followed as well as historic highways, bi-ways, and rights of way which evolved over time or envisioned in the future.
 - iv. developments that have occurred since World War II including some industrial development (trailer, mobile home factory)
 - v. agricultural resources including grange halls and the unique barn structures that evolved in the County.
 - vi. recreational resources like baseball fields, ponds, rodeos, trails, Mortimer's Island, etc.



- c. Meet annually to evaluate properties or districts eligible for NRHP listing.
 - i. Sunnyside School
 - ii. Enterprise School
 - iii. Ray Laan's barn on the Weiser Flat
 - iv. Sunnyside Dairy barn
 - v. Ford House on Hill Road
 - vi. Midvale Grain Elevator
- d. Apply annually for Certified Local Government funding to undertake necessary surveys and NRHP nomination forms.
- e. Develop system for data sharing of inventories and other data collected by the County for use by cultural resource professionals and the public.



Goal B. Preserve specific resources through programs initiated by the County, as well as other programs sponsored by state, federal and non-profit organizations.

1. Identify publicly owned historic resources and support the preservation and use of these sites.

Strategies:

- a. Collaborate with appropriate governmental entities to identify public sites, deemed historic, and determine any concerns related to long term public stewardship.
 - b. Consider grant opportunities to support the maintenance and rehabilitation of historic public buildings and sites (i.e., Idaho Heritage Trust)
 - c. Provide comments through state and federal processes associated with actions taken in Washington County.
2. Consider the potential for local historic designations along with related preservation guidelines, incentives, and regulations.

Strategies:

- a. Collaborate with other CLGs in Washington County to determine potential for local designations and ordinances to protect historic resources.
 - b. Coordinate with SHPO for examples of best practices in local designations and preservation incentive programs.
 - c. Support advocacy for preservation incentives such as federal and statewide Historic Tax Credits, by coordinating with non-profit preservation groups.
 - d. Consider opportunities to collaborate to purchase historic properties and utilize historic easement programs.



Goal C. Provide an effective historic preservation program that works with County departments, supports other CLGs and encourages non-profit activities within Washington County

1. Integrate the WCHPC in County processes to ensure that historic preservation is a consideration for all relevant County functions.

Strategies:

- a. Ensure that this HPP is adopted as part of the County Comprehensive Plan.
 - b. Provide regular communications to the Board of Washington County Commissioners about the work of the WCHPC.
 - c. Prepare for any WCHPC vacancies by maintaining a list of prospective members
 - d. Ensure that County disaster preparedness protocols are aware of special considerations for historic properties.
 - e. Integrate digital layers of historic properties with other County Geographic Information system data.
 - f. Collaborate with Planning and Zoning department so that the HPP can be adopted as part of the Comprehensive Plan and future zoning amendments will consider impacts to historic resources.
2. Evaluate the role of each CLG and the WAPC to streamline and improve effectiveness.

Strategies:

- a. Meet with the SHPO to discuss the role of CLGs and examples of highly effective commissions and programs.
 - b. Discuss the role of each CLG in the County and the potential to optimize their roles.
 - c. Meet with local museums and other history-based organizations, including the WAPC, to review their vision and goals for the future.
3. Ensure that all CLG commissioners, and other local heritage organization leaders, are knowledgeable about the County's historic contexts, historic preservation opportunities, and county, state, and federal preservation programs

*Strategies:*

- a. Host an annual meeting of all Washington County heritage groups to share current and proposed activities, issues and concerns, including overlapping efforts and any potential for collaboration.
 - b. Participate in regular state and national training opportunities, including annual CLG training and bi-annual Idaho Heritage Conference.
 - c. Encourage guest speakers, webinars, and other trainings from state and national entities (National Park Service, National Trust, Idaho Heritage Trust...)
- 4. Increase community engagement and understanding of the County's heritage and opportunities for historic preservation.

Strategies:

- a. Collaborate with other CLGs in Washington County to provide historic property owners and stewards with information about the value of preservation, technical support, and references for more information.
 - b. Identify potential community preservation projects to engage the public in tours, lectures, or hands-on activities.
 - c. Collaborate with the Idaho Archaeological Society to explore suitable projects and programs.
 - d. Explore opportunities for student engagement in heritage related projects.
 - e. Develop an on-line directory for cultural resource information in collaboration with all heritage related groups
 - f. Provide regular communication of the preservation activities through local media outlets, including the County website and social media.



7. IMPLEMENTATION TABLES

This section presents the strategies, listed by goal and objective in Chapter 6 of this Plan, in tabular form. They are listed in order of priority using the following timeframes:

- Ongoing (underway and/or continuous) and Immediate Strategies (2022 – 2024)
- Short Term Strategies (2023 – 2025)
- Mid Term Strategies (2026 – 2030)

The parenthetical numbers at the end of each strategy correspond with the numbering used in Chapter 6 (Goal A, B, or C, followed by the Objective number. Strategy small letter a, b, c etc.) The responsible entity for these strategies is the WCHPC, but each strategy includes appropriate partner agencies or groups. Acronyms for these entities are found at the end of this chapter.

Table 7.1 – Ongoing and Immediate Strategies

Strategy #	Strategy	Partners
ONGOING		
A2.b	Meet annually to evaluate and prioritize sites and districts to be studied and surveyed	SHPO, Cambridge CLG, Weiser CLG
A2.c	Meet annually to evaluate properties or districts eligible for NRHP listing	SHPO, Cambridge CLG, Weiser CLG
A2.d	Apply annually for Certified Local Government funding to undertake annual surveys and NRHP nomination forms (A2.d)	SHPO
B1.c	Consider grant opportunities to support the maintenance and rehabilitation of historic public buildings and sites	SHPO, IHT, NTHP
B1.d	Provide comments through state and federal processes associated with actions taken in Washington County.	SHPO, ITD, Agencies representing Federal undertakings
C1.a	Provide regular communications to the Board of Washington County Commissioners about the work of the WCHPC.	County Clerk, BOCC
C1.b	Prepare for any WCHPC vacancies by maintaining a list of prospective members.	WCHPC
IMMEDIATE		
A1.a	Meet with Tribal contacts to discuss opportunities for collaboration	SHPO, ITD
A2.a	Evaluate previous studies and determine potential for updated documentation. (A2.a)	SHPO, ITD, TAG/J-U-B, Cambridge CLG, Weiser CLG
B1.a	Collaborate with appropriate governmental entities to identify public sites, deemed historic, and determine any concerns related to long term public stewardship.	Planning and Zoning Department, BOCC, SHPO
C1.a	Ensure that this HPP is adopted as part of the County Comprehensive Plan	Planning and Zoning Department, BOCC
C2.a	Meet with the SHPO to discuss the role of CLGs and examples of highly effective Commissions and programs.	SHPO, Cambridge CLG, Weiser CLG
C4.e	Provide regular communication of preservation activities through local media outlets, including the County website and social media.	WCHPC



Table 7.2 Short Term Strategies

Strategy #	Strategy	Partners
A1.b	Determine whether there are potential projects for the CLG to undertake that would benefit Tribal interests.	Tribal representatives
A2.e	Develop system for data sharing of inventories and other data collected by the County for use by cultural resource professionals and the public.	SHPO, Cambridge CLG, Weiser CLG, local museums and libraries
B2.a	Collaborate with other CLGs in Washington County to determine potential for local designations and ordinances to protect historic resources.	SHPO, Cambridge CLG, Weiser CLG
B2.b	Coordinate with SHPO for examples of best practices in local designations and preservation incentives	SHPO
B2.c	Support advocacy for preservation incentives such as federal and statewide Historic Tax Credits, by coordinating with non-profit preservation groups	Preservation Idaho, NTHP, WAPC
C1.d	Ensure that County disaster preparedness officials are aware of special considerations for historic properties.	County Clerk, Board of County Commissioners
C1.f	Collaborate with Planning and Zoning department so that the HPP can be implemented as part of the Comprehensive Plan and future zoning amendments will consider impacts to historic resources.	Planning and Zoning Commission, BOCC
C2.b	Discuss the role of each CLG in the County and the potential to optimize their roles.	SHPO, Cambridge CLG, Weiser CLG
C2.c	Meet with local museums and other history-based organizations, including the WAPC, to review their vision and goals for the future.	Cambridge CLG, Weiser CLG, WAPC, Snake River Institute.
C3.b	Participate in regular state and national training opportunities, including annual CLG training and bi-annual Idaho Heritage Conference.	SHPO
C4.a	Collaborate with other CLGs in Washington County to provide historic property owners and stewards with information about the value of preservation, technical support, and references for more information.	SHPO, Cambridge CLG, Weiser CLG, WAPC, Preservation Idaho, NTHP
C4.b	Identify potential community preservation projects to engage the public in tours, lectures, or hands-on activities.	Cambridge CLG, Weiser CLG



Table 7.3 – Mid Term Strategies

Strategy #	Strategy	Partners
B2.d	Consider opportunities to collaborate to purchase historic properties and utilize historic easement programs.	SHPO, WAPC
C1.d	Integrate digital layers of historic properties with other County Geographic Information system data.	County Assessor, SHPO
C3.c	Encourage guest speakers, webinars, and other trainings from state and national entities (National Park Service, National Trust, Idaho Heritage Trust...) (C3.c)	SHPO, IHT, Preservation Idaho
C4.d	Explore opportunities for student engagement in heritage related projects. (C4.d)	Washington County Schools
C4.e	Develop an on-line directory for cultural resource information in collaboration with all heritage related groups (C4.e)	SHPO, Cambridge CLG, Weiser CLG, WAPC

Acronyms Used in Tables

BOCC- Board of County Commissioner
 CLG- Certified Local Government
 IHT – Idaho Heritage Trust
 ITD- Idaho Transportation Department
 NTHP- National Trust for Historic Preservation
 SHPO – State Historical Preservation Office
 TAG- TAG Historical Research and Consulting
 WAPC – Weiser Architectural Preservation Committee
 WCHPC- Washington County Historic Preservation Commission



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Appendix A

List of Relevant Federal and State Laws and Regulations





LAWS GOVERNING HISTORIC PRESERVATION

There are many laws at both the Federal and State levels related to Historic Preservation and Archaeology. A comprehensive listing of all these laws, and their subsequent amendments and subsections, would consist of many pages. It is important for the purposes of carrying out this plan, however, to have a basic understanding of some of the most significant Federal and State laws. As such, this appendix provides some brief information on the most important laws. Most information on each can be found on the National Park Service website (Federal laws) or on the State of Idaho Legislature website (Idaho statutes).

Federal Laws

Antiquities Act, as amended (54 USC 320301-320303 and 18 USC 1866(B)): The Antiquities Act of 1906 was the first act in the United States to establish that archaeological sites on public lands are important public resources and required that the Federal government take measures to protect archaeological sites from looting and/or vandalism.

Archaeological Resources Protection Act, as amended (16 USC 470aa-mm): This act was passed to provide increased protections for public archaeological sites, and to increase the penalties which can be imposed for violations. It was passed in order to address some of the short comings of the Antiquities Act, specifically in terms of providing for effective enforcement and clear definitions. This law, along with the Antiquities Act, is the foundation for archaeological protections on public and tribal lands, and includes provisions to help prevent the illegal excavation, removal, and/or trafficking of archaeological resources.

Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, as amended (25 USC 3001-3013): This act codified in United States law that Native Americans, Indian Tribes, and Native Hawaiians have rights related to the "treatment, Repatriation, and disposition of Native American human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects and objects of cultural patrimony." It requires that Federal government and any museums receiving Federal funds disclose what groups to attempt to reach an agreement for the repatriation of those artifacts. It also provides important organizations whenever archeological investigations encounter, or are expected to encounter, Native American, Tribal, and/or Native Hawaiian cultural artifacts they have in their possession, and work with those groups to attempt to reach an agreement for the repatriation of those artifacts. It also provides important protections for Native American grave sites and requires consultation with Indian Tribes and Native Hawaiian organizations whenever archeological investigations encounter, or are expected to encounter, Native cultural items or when such items are unexpectedly discovered on Federal or tribal lands.

National Historic Preservation Act as amended (54 USC 300101 et seq.): This is the central law around which nearly all historic preservation efforts in the United States take place. Originally passed in 1966, the National Historic Preservation Act established the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), National Historic Landmarks (NHL) program, the State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPO), and later the Certified Local Government



(CLG) program. It also includes important provisions such as the Section 106 and Section 110 processes.

Idaho State Laws

Idaho Code 18-7027: Prohibits the disturbance of prehistoric human burials, or the possession of human remains or artifacts removed from a burial, unless the excavation is conducted by a qualified archaeologist with the prior approval of the State Historical Society and the appropriate Indian tribe.

Idaho Code 27-501: Assigns responsibilities to the agency for consultation, determination of appropriate actions, and providing for re-interment of human remains that have been disturbed.

Idaho Code 33-39: Provides for the creation of an Idaho Archaeological Survey and designates that State Archaeologist as director.

Idaho Code 67-41: States that the agency (Idaho State Historical Society) shall:

- Identify, preserve, and protect sites, monuments, and points of interest in Idaho of historic merit (67-4114)
- Protect archaeological and vertebrate paleontological sites and resources on public land (67-4119)
- Govern the agency and administer the powers and duties required to preserve and protect any historical record of the history and cultural of Idaho” (67-4123). Senate Bill 1011(2009), Passed by the Senate and House and signed into law by the governor April 14, 2009., defines “historical record, artifact, object, historical or archaeological site or structure, document, evidence or public or private writing pursuant to the provisions of title 9, Idaho Code, relevant to the history of the State of Idaho.”
- Encourage and promote interest in the history of Idaho (67-4126 (2))
- Collect, preserve, and exhibit artifacts and information illustrative of Idaho history, culture, and society. (67-4126 (3))
- Identify historic, architectural, archaeological, and cultural sites, buildings, or districts, and to coordinate activities of local historic preservation commissions. (67-4126(14))

Idaho Code 67-46: Gives authority to the agency to carry out the preservation and protection of the state’s historic archeological, architectural, and cultural heritage resources. This section of code also authorizes municipalities to create historic preservation commissions, establish design review for historic districts, and carry out other historic preservation efforts at the local level.

Idaho Code 67-65: The Idaho local planning act of 1975 requires a local governments’ comprehensive plan must include a component for “Special Areas or Sites. “There must be an analysis of areas, sites, or structures of historical, archaeological, or architectural significance within the jurisdiction of the governing board.

Appendix B

Public Involvement Summary





I. Open House Overview

The Washington County Historic Preservation Commission (WCHPC) hosted two separate Public Open House Events on Tuesday, February 22, 2022.

The purpose of the open house events was to offer several activities to gather public input about historic preservation, individual historic properties of interest or concern, and categories or types of sites that may be vulnerable.

The first open house event took place in Weiser at the Bee Tree Folk School (30 E. Idaho Street, Weiser, ID 83672) from 5:00 – 6:00 p.m. The second open house event took place in Cambridge at the Cambridge Community Library (120 S. Superior Street, Cambridge ID 83610) from 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.

In total, fourteen community members attended the public open house events. Eight community members attended in Weiser, and six attended in Cambridge.

II. Public Notice

The WCHPC sent notices about the February 22 open house events as well as information about the Washington County Historic Preservation Plan online public survey; these notices appeared in the Signal American Newspaper and Weiser Living in the News.

A variety of social networks within the Washington County community (museums, etc.) were contacted and asked to post the online public survey and open house notice to Facebook pages and other media outlets within the community.

Flyers were circulated to civic and worship organizations and well as posted throughout the Washington County community at public venues. WCHPC made direct outreach to interested parties to assist in notifying the public about the open house events and online survey.

Additionally, a project website was developed by the WCHPC and J-U-B Engineers for the purpose of advertising the open houses, providing project information, and seeking community input.

The project website was made available to community members during both open house events, and can be accessed here: <https://washington-county-historic-preservation-plan-gatewaymapping.hub.arcgis.com/>

III. Open House Activities & Displays

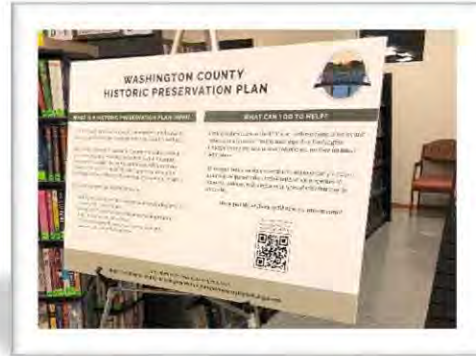
J-U-B Engineers provided four informative and interactive displays, as well as a welcome table and a survey station, to encourage public feedback regarding historic preservation in Washington County:



Display #1: What is a Historic Preservation Plan (HPP)? What can I do to help?

This informative display provided background information on historic preservation plans and explained what community members can do to help the planning process.

[See attached display graphics]



Display #2: Interactive Map Activity

This map offered an aerial view of Washington County with properties documented on the Idaho Historic Sites Inventory. Open house participants were encouraged to place a sticker dot on the map to indicate properties that best represent Washington County's heritage.

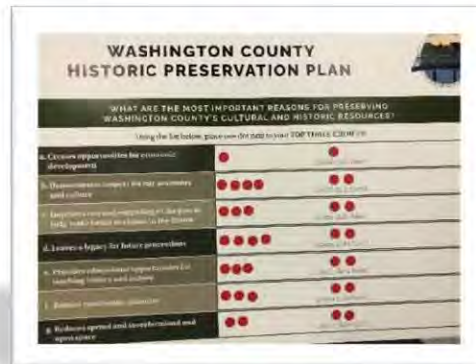
[See attached display graphics]



Display #3: What are the most important reasons for preserving Washington County's Cultural and historic resources?

This display offered a list of seven reasons for preserving Washington County's historical resources. Open house participants were given three sticker dots and encouraged to place one sticker dot next to their top three choices.

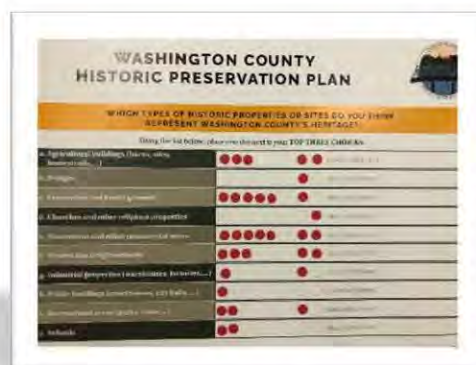
[See attached display graphics]



Display #4: Which types of historic properties or sites do you think represent Washington County's heritage?

This display offered a list of ten historic properties/sites. Open house participants were given three sticker dots and encouraged to place one sticker dot next to their top three choices.

[See attached display graphics]





Online Survey Station

Both open house events offered an online survey station, where community members could visit the Washington County Historic Preservation Plan (WCHPP) website and respond to the online public survey generated by the project team for the purpose of preparing a meaningful Historic Preservation Plan for Washington County that reflects the interests and concerns of residents and visitors.



The survey is comprised of twelve questions and takes about fifteen minutes to complete.

The survey will remain available for public response through March 8 and can be accessed here: [Washington County Historic Preservation Plan \(arcgis.com\)](https://washington-county-historic-preservation-plan-gatewaymapping.hub.arcgis.com/#Survey)

IV. What's Next?

The Public Open House Event displays will be available for viewing at the Cambridge Community Library (120 S. Superior Street) until March 1. After March 1, the displays will be available for viewing at the Weiser County Courthouse (256 E. Court Street) from March 2 to March 8.

Community members are encouraged to:

- Visit the Cambridge Community Library and the Weiser County Courthouse to view the displays and provide handwritten comments about the Washington County Historic Preservation Plan.
- Stay informed by visiting the [Washington County Historic Preservation Plan project website](#).
- [Take the online public survey](#) prior to March 8.

The public will be invited to future meetings of the WCHPC and a second Open House in late spring 2022.

SEE ATTACHMENTS

- ATTACHMENT A: Open House Display Graphics (4)
- ATTACHMENT B: Open House Sign in Sheets
- ATTACHMENT B: Open House Flyer



ATTACHMENT A

Open House Display Graphics (4)





WASHINGTON COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN



WHAT IS A HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN (HPP)?

An HPP is a guide for County Staff, Commissions, and Boards, to meet key goals and objectives that enrich the County's heritage.

The County's Historic Preservation Commission plays a critical role in identifying, preserving, and enhancing buildings and landscapes that shape the built environment and improve our quality of life. A well-crafted HPP will support the work of the Washington County Historic Preservation Commission (WCHPC).

During this process the WCHPC hopes to:

- Actively engage the public in conversations regarding historic preservation in our County.
- Identify key historic context statements and guide future historic resource survey activity.
- Develop strategies that will assist in protection and management of historic resources.

WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP?

Critical to the success of the HPP is an understanding of issues and concerns residents and visitors have regarding Washington County's history and how best to preserve our heritage for future generations.

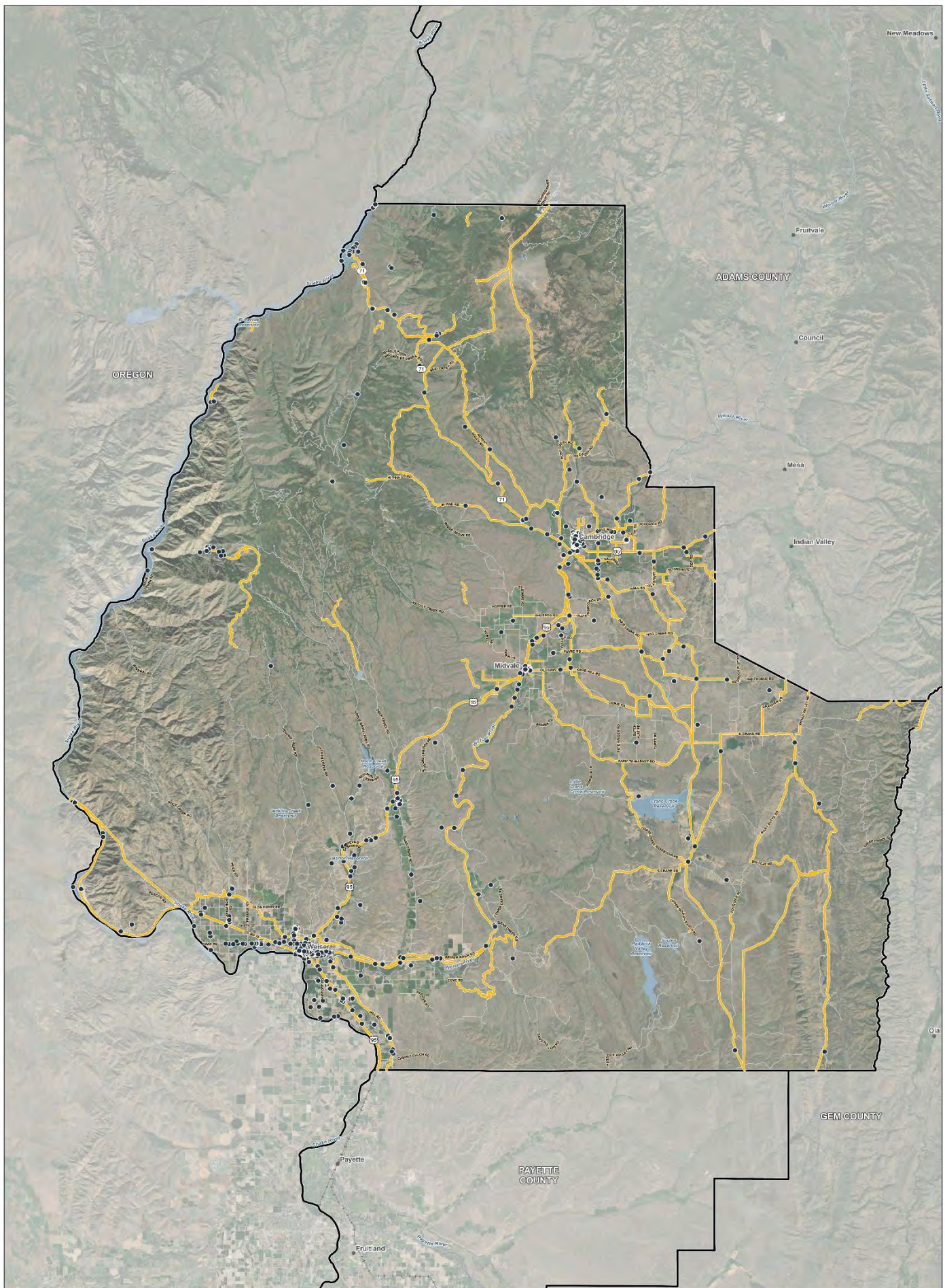
At this open house we have several activities to gather your input about historic preservation, individual historic properties of interest or concern, and categories or types of sites that may be vulnerable.

Please provide feedback by filling out comment cards!

Also, please complete
our survey online at
<https://arcg.is/KTHgTn>



Stay informed by visiting our project website:
<https://washington-county-historic-preservation-plan-gatewaymapping.hub.arcgis.com>



Washington County's Documented Historic Resources

• Sites
 — Linear Resources
 — County Boundaries
 Source: Idaho State Historic
 Preservation Office
 February 2022

NOTE: The locations on this map are
 documented properties on the with the
 Idaho State Historic Preservation Office. Property
 line data shown represents information
 as of the time the data was recorded and
 might not reflect current conditions.





WASHINGTON COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN



WHAT ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT REASONS FOR PRESERVING WASHINGTON COUNTY'S CULTURAL AND HISTORIC RESOURCES?

Using the list below, place one dot next to your **TOP THREE CHOICES**:

a. Creates opportunities for economic development	☐ ☐ place dots here!
b. Demonstrates respect for our ancestors and culture	☐ ☐ place dots here!
c. Improves our understanding of the past to help make better decisions in the future	☐ ☐ place dots here!
d. Leaves a legacy for future generations	☐ ☐ place dots here!
e. Provides educational opportunities for teaching history and culture	☐ ☐ place dots here!
f. Retains community character	☐ ☐ place dots here!
g. Reduces sprawl and saves farmland and open space	☐ ☐ place dots here!



WASHINGTON COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN



WHICH TYPES OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES OR SITES DO YOU THINK REPRESENT WASHINGTON COUNTY'S HERITAGE?

Using the list below, place one dot next to your **TOP THREE CHOICES**:

a. Agricultural buildings (barns, silos, homesteads,...)	☐ ☐ place dots here!
b. Bridges	☐ ☐ place dots here!
c. Cemeteries and burial grounds	☐ ☐ place dots here!
d. Churches and other religious properties	☐ ☐ place dots here!
e. Downtowns and other commercial areas	☐ ☐ place dots here!
f. Houses and neighborhoods	☐ ☐ place dots here!
g. Industrial properties (warehouses, factories,...)	☐ ☐ place dots here!
h. Public buildings (courthouses, city halls, ...)	☐ ☐ place dots here!
i. Recreational areas (parks, trails,...)	☐ ☐ place dots here!
j. Schools	☐ ☐ place dots here!



ATTACHMENT C

Open House Flyer

WASHINGTON COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

**WASHINGTON
★ COUNTY ★**
IDAHO

County Courthouse
256 E Court Street
Weiser, ID 83672
Phone: 208-414-2092

Washington County

Preservation Commissioners:

- Brenda Aldrich
- David Bean
- Dennis Cooper
- Tony Edmondson
- Dennis Lance



*Scan the QR code
below to participate in
our survey!*



The **Washington County Historic Preservation Commission** is working to develop a historic preservation plan for our county. Not only will it identify known historic resources (buildings, sites, cultural landmarks) on an interactive map which will be available to all online, it will include highlights of our history from the past to the present. Perhaps most importantly, it will incorporate the results of a survey we'd like you to take which will guide decision makers on these matters in the future. Once completed, the survey along with the plan, will be accessible on the Washington County, Idaho website.

If you care about our past, believe it informs our identity today, and can contribute economic vitality for our future, we need your help!

The survey is available now through March 8th at: <https://arcg.is/KTH9T>

You can also scan the Q-code above and complete the survey on your phone or tablet. You're also welcomed to learn more or complete the survey by attending one or both open houses we'll be hosting on **Tuesday, Feb 22nd** at the time and locations listed below.

Weiser

The Bee Hive
8 East Idaho Street
Weiser, ID 83672

Tuesday, Feb 22nd @ 5:00 PM

Cambridge

Cambridge Library
120 S Superior Street
Cambridge, ID 83610

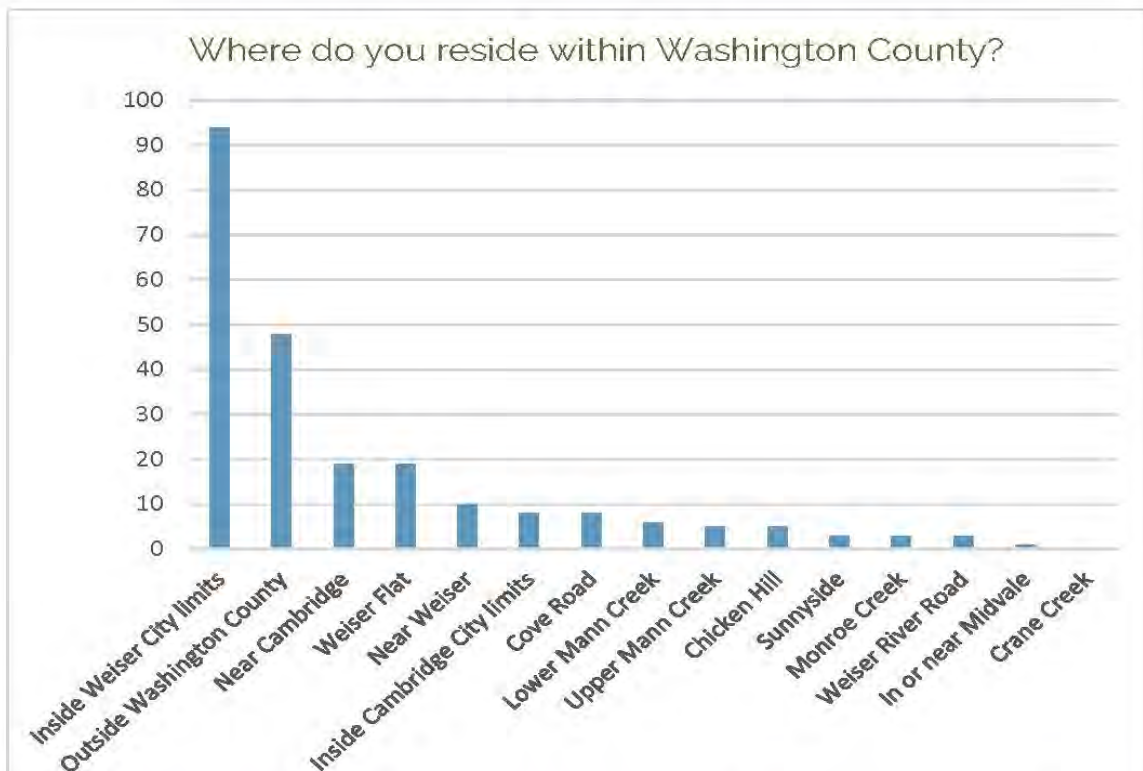
Tuesday, Feb 22nd @ 7:00 PM



WASHINGTON COUNTY HPP SURVEY RESULTS



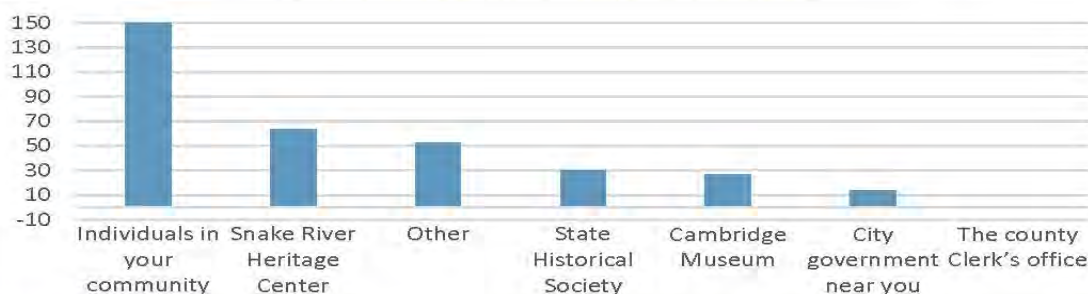
Answers	Count	Percentage
Citizen interested in preserving Washington County's heritage	182	77.12%
Member of historical society, library, museum, arts, or historic preservation organization	43	18.22%
Volunteer for historical society, library, museum, arts, or historic preservation organization	27	11.44%
Heritage tourist	17	7.20%
Historic property owner	17	7.20%
Commissioner on the Washington County Historic Preservation Commission, Weiser Historic Preservation	9	3.81%
Elected official – local, state, or federal (specify below)	9	3.81%
Government employee – local, state, or federal (specify below)	8	3.39%
Tribal member (specify below)	2	0.85%



Answers	Count	Percentage
Inside Weiser City limits	94	39.83%
Outside Washington County	48	20.34%
Near Cambridge	19	8.05%
Weiser Flat	19	8.05%
Near Weiser	10	4.24%
Inside Cambridge City limits	8	3.39%
Cove Road	8	3.39%
Lower Mann Creek	6	2.54%
Upper Mann Creek	5	2.12%
Chicken Hill	5	2.12%
Sunnyside	3	1.27%
Monroe Creek	3	1.27%
Weiser River Road	3	1.27%
In or near Midvale	1	0.42%
Crane Creek	0	0%

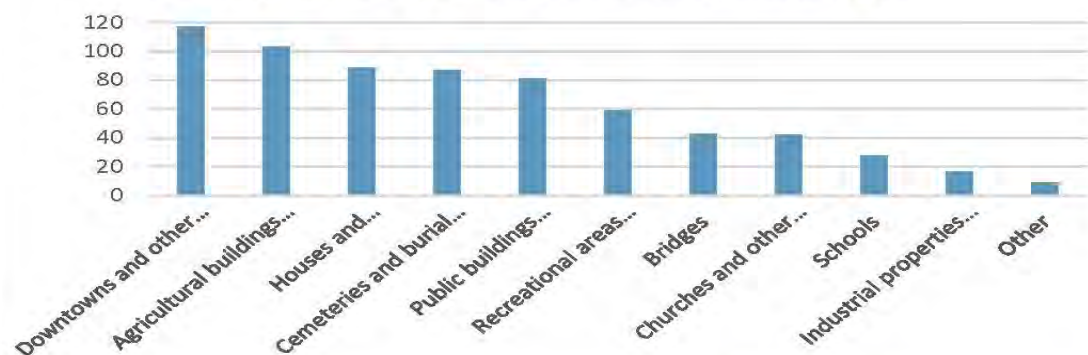


When you have a question or need help with historic resources, who do you contact?



Answers	Count	Percentage
Individuals in your community	152	64.41%
Snake River Heritage Center	64	27.12%
Other	53	22.46%
State Historical Society	30	12.71%
Cambridge Museum	27	11.44%
City government near you	14	5.93%
The county Clerk's office	0	0%

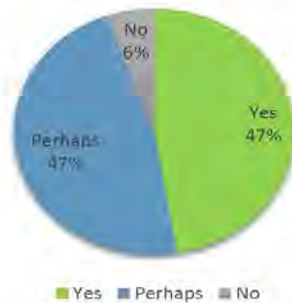
Which types of historic properties or sites do you think represent Washington County's heritage?



Answers	Count	Percentage
Agricultural buildings (barns, silos, homesteads, etc.)	150	63.56%
Downtowns and other commercial areas	128	54.24%
Houses and neighborhoods	106	44.92%
Rural landscapes	104	44.07%
Bridges	97	41.10%
Archaeological sites (petroglyphs, lithic scatters etc.)	80	33.90%
Recreational areas (parks, trails, etc.)	60	25.42%
Industrial properties (warehouses, factories, etc.)	53	22.46%
Public buildings (courthouses, city halls, etc.)	48	20.34%
Cemeteries and burial grounds	42	17.80%
Churches and other religious properties	35	14.83%
Schools	28	11.86%
Other	6	2.54%

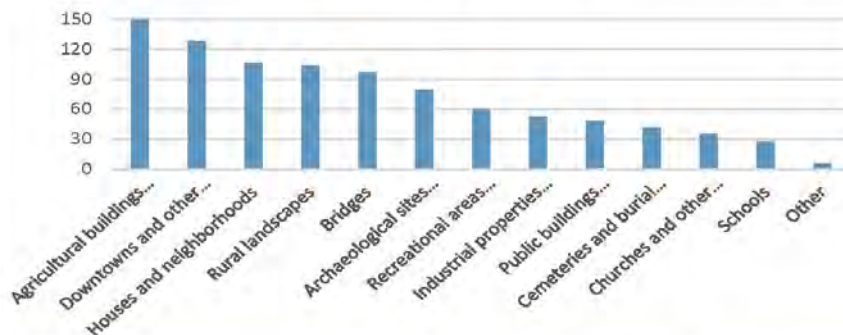


If the county were to provide an on-line directory with information regarding resources, would you be inclined to go there first?



Answers	Count	Percentage
Yes	111	47.03%
Perhaps	110	46.61%
No	13	5.51%

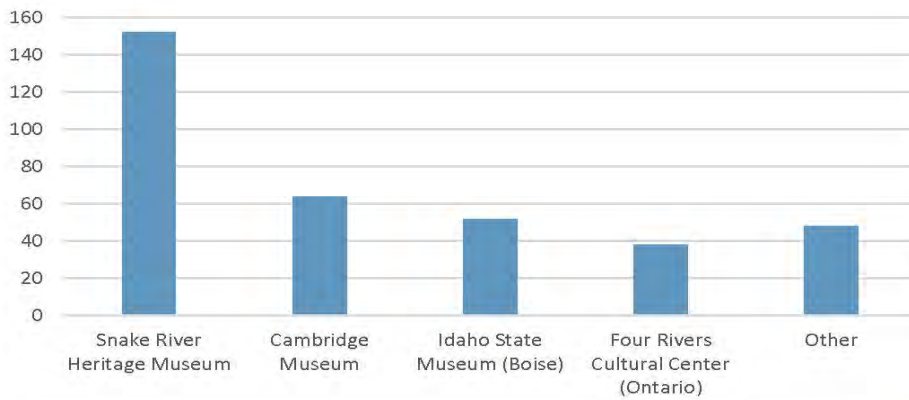
What types of historic properties or sites do you think are vulnerable to demolition?



Answers	Count	Percentage
Downtowns and other commercial areas	117	49.58%
Agricultural buildings (barns, silos, homesteads etc.)	103	43.64%
Houses and neighborhoods	89	37.71%
Cemeteries and burial grounds	87	36.86%
Public buildings (courthouses, city halls,...)	81	37.71%
Recreational areas (parks, trails, etc.)	59	37.71%
Bridges	43	18.22%
Churches and other religious properties	42	17.80%
Schools	28	37.71%
Industrial properties (warehouses, factories,...)	17	37.71%
Other	9	37.71%

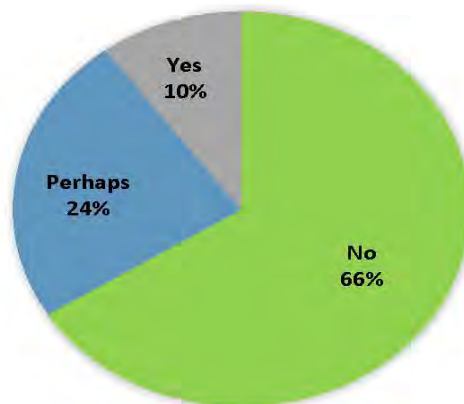


Where do you go to experience Washington County history?



Answers	Count	Percentage
Snake River Heritage Museum	152	64.41%
Cambridge Museum	64	27.12%
Idaho State Museum (Boise)	52	22.03%
Four Rivers Cultural Center (Ontario)	38	16.10%
Other	48	20.34%

DO YOU OWN OR KNOW OF PROPERTY YOU FEEL WOULD BE ELIGIBLE FOR NATIONAL REGISTER DESIGNATION?



Answers	Count	Percentage
No	150	63.56%
Perhaps	54	22.88%
Yes	23	9.75%