

Idaho World Building
Northeast corner of Main
and Commercial Streets
Idaho City
Boise County
Idaho

HABS No. ID-9

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PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS No. ID-9

IDAHO WORLD BUILDING

Location: Northeast corner of Main and Commercial Streets,
Idaho City, Boise County, Idaho.

Latitude: 43° 49' 40" Longitude: 115° 49' 55".

Present Owner: Ernest Day.

Present Occupant: None.

Present Use: The building is currently not in use.

Significance: Built of local half-baked brick, the building is one of a half dozen early "bricks" that still stand in Idaho City. The Idaho World published here for three decades in the 19th century.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: Circa 1867. The building is not listed among those that survived the fire of May 17, 1867; the Idaho World of December 7, 1867 reports that Kenally and McCauley (then owners of the building) were in the "brick" formerly occupied by the Boise Market.
2. Architect: Not known.
3. Original and subsequent owners: The Idaho World building stands on Lot 4, Block R in the townsite of Idaho City Plat of 1915. Reference to the title is in the Deed Books located at the County Recorder and Auditor's Office, Idaho City, Idaho.

1865 Deed, August 15, 1865, recorded in Deed Record 7, p. 150.
Jacob Weiler and Julia Weiler to George E. Dickson for \$2,800.

1866 Deed, December 8, 1866, recorded February 19, 1867 in Deed Record 9, pp. 487-488. George E. Dickson to Josiah E. Dickson for \$4,000, for a lot, 26' front on Main Street and extending easterly 92' fronting the length on Commercial Street, known as the Boise Market Lot.

1867 Deed, August 10, 1867, recorded in Deed Record 9, p. 789.
J.E. Dickson to J.H. McCarty for \$1,500.

- 1867 Deed, November 18, 1867, recorded in Deed Record 10, p. 240. James McCarty to John Kenally and W.A. McCauley for \$950.
- 1869 Deed, July 6, 1869, recorded in Deed Record 12, pp. 97-98. W.A. McCauley, sold undivided one-half interest to John Kenally for \$550.
- 1870 Deed, May 13, 1870, recorded in Deed Record 12, p. 311. John Kenally to J.G. Bryant for \$1,250. "Said lot being 26 feet on Main Street and extending 115 feet and being known as the Boise Market lot, with brick building thereon."
- 1871 Deed, October 6, 1871, recorded in Deed Record 13, p. 81. J.G. Bryant to Eckhart and Judge for \$15,000, which included other property.
- 1874 Deed, April 2, 1874, recorded in Deed Record 13, pp. 524-525. Assignees for Eckhart and Judge to Man Wah Chung for \$800, "together with brick building standing now thereon and known as Eckhart and Judge's Warehouse."
- 1883 Deed, October 20, 1883, recorded in Deed Record 15, pp. 480-481. Lee Wy to Herman and Charles E. Jones for \$350, "commonly known as Man Wo Corner."
- 1915 Deed, September 21, 1915, recorded in Deed Record 41, pp. 232-233. John H. Myer, Probate Judge, to Charles E. Jones for Lot 4, Block R, town site of Idaho City Plat of 1915.
- 1928 Deed, January 12, 1928, recorded in Deed Record 49, p. 345. Charles E. Jones to Emma Day and Amelia Garrecht for "Lot 4, Block R ... commonly known as the Idaho World Office."
- 1948 Decree, May 14, 1948, recorded in Deed Record 52, p. 527. Decree of final distribution, estate of Amelia Garrecht to Emma Day.
4. Builder, contractor, suppliers: Not known.
5. Original plan and construction: Not known.
6. Alterations and additions: The side entrances on the south elevation were bricked up before 1920. The building underwent a major physical renovation in 1947. A pair of double entrance doors in the front facade were removed and replaced with new doors. A metal shutter that protected the left front double doors was replaced with a glass block window. A concrete block chimney was added to the northeast corner of the building. The interior walls were framed, paneled and papered. The flat ceiling was converted into a false vaulted form. A 12' x 30' addition was built at the rear of the building at about the same time the building was undergoing renovations.

B. Historical Events and Persons Connected with the Structure:

Founded as the Boise News on September 29, 1863, the newspaper changed hands and names the following year. The Idaho World, the first newspaper in the territory, published its initial issue on October 20, 1864. Before finally locating on the corner of Commercial and Main Streets, the paper had occupied several other locations. The first office (1867-1871) on East Hill was on the first floor of the Masonic Hall. In June 1871, the Idaho World moved to Wall Street. The newspaper then moved into the post office building on Montgomery Street, where it is pictured in a drawing in Elliott's History of Idaho, 1884, next to the post office. Not until 1886 did the World office move to its most permanent residence - the northeast corner of Main and Commercial Streets.

Fiercely partisan at first, the Idaho World staunchly supported the Democrats and made frequent editorial attacks on the Union, especially on Lincoln. Throughout most of its early history, the editor of the World - whether James O'Maura, H.C. Streater or George Ainslie - feuded with the editor of the Republican Idaho Statesman, which was published in Boise.

Herman Jones and his son Charles E. Jones bought the paper in 1875. Originally from Illinois, Herman Jones relocated in Oregon, and in 1863 moved to Idaho City. Prior to 1875 Jones spend most of his time mining. His son Charles was brought up in the newspaper business. Beginning as an apprentice, Charles was the editor by 1875, and by 1880, the publisher as well. The only newspaper he ever worked for was the Idaho World. Charles E. Jones was still the editor and publisher when the paper discontinued publication on November 1, 1918. "The old Idaho World, the senior of all newspapers of Idaho, will be no more for a while...."

The paper was discontinued because of the severe population decline in the basin area. According to Jones, the population in Idaho City and its environs in 1918 was only 149 persons. Dwayne Alters, in the late 1930s, started the paper again as the Idaho Mountaineer. Reclaiming the name Idaho World in 1963, the paper currently publishes out of a converted blacksmith shop on the corner of Wallula and Main Streets. The Idaho World is presently edited and published by Tom Adams.

The Idaho World building was a market, later a tinshop and a warehouse. The market was known as the Boise Market. A Chinese store known as the "Man Wo Corner" occupied the building prior to Jones. For a time, there was another section attached to the building on the north side, which can be seen in old photos which are included in the HABS collection. In the sixties, the building was used as a bar called "The Lounge". The building is not in use today.

C. Sources of Information:

1. Old views: A photocopy of old photo shows a general view of the building before 1918, when Idaho World occupied it. Note north extension and bricked openings on the south elevation. Original photograph at Boise Basin Museum, Idaho City, Idaho. Included in the HABS collection.

A photocopy of old photo shows another view of the building, with people posing for the picture before 1920. Original photograph at Boise Basin Museum, Idaho City, Idaho. Included in the HABS collection.

2. Bibliography:

- a. Primary and unpublished sources:

Deed Books, County Recorder and Auditor's Office,
Idaho City, Idaho.

Several interviews with Tom Adams in Idaho City, June 1974.

- b. Secondary and published sources:

Adams, Francis. Idaho City, Queen of the Gold Camps.
Idaho City: Idaho World, 1953.

Byrd, Annie Laurie. Boise, The Peace Valley, Caldwell:
Caxton, 1934.

Elliott's History of Idaho. San Francisco: Elliot, 1884;
reprinted, Fairfield: 1971

Boise News: Newspaper articles, 1863-64. Idaho City, Idaho.

Idaho World. Newspaper articles, 1864-1918. Idaho City, Idaho.

Prepared by Alan Minskoff
Historian
Historic American
Buildings Survey
Summer 1974

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: Constructed of local, low-fired brick and mortared with clay, the building's exterior walls have been plastered with a cement wash, probably to preserve the mortar.
2. Condition of fabric: Fair.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: This rectangular, single-story building is 25' (two-bay front) x 36' with a 12' x 30' addition, giving it an "L" shaped appearance.
2. Foundations: Foundations are brick and stone.
3. Wall construction, finish and color: The walls of the original building are brick, plastered with a cement wash. The walls have been painted red. The concrete cinder block on the east side is cement plastered.
4. Structural system, framing: The original building has brick bearing walls and wooden roof framing. Steel rods act as tension members in the ceiling of the original building. The addition is all wooden frame.
5. Porches: The building has a 9' wide covered porch on the west (front) side, and a 5' wide covered porch on the south face. Both porches are supported by plain columns.
6. Chimneys: A concrete block chimney, a 1947 addition, occupies the northeast corner of the building.
7. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: The west (front) side has two identical brick arched openings, one of which now serves as the main entrance. The main entrance has an original steel shutter behind which is the present door, a 1947 addition. A service entrance is provided on the south side of the addition. The service door is covered with an open metal work door that had once been on the old Idaho City Jail in the 1920s. Some time before the major 1947 renovation, the openings on the south side of the building were bricked in.
 - b. Windows and shutters: Above the entry door is a light of glass block. In the arched opening to the left of the main entrance is a fixed window of glass block. The openings in the addition are 1947 vintage.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans: The main entrance opens directly into the open space occupied by the old bar. The entire original building consisted of this space. An opening in the rear of the main building leads to an addition with several small spaces with openings.
2. Flooring: Asphalt tile covers the floor.
3. Wall and ceiling finish: The 1947 interior walls are paneled and papered. A false vaulted ceiling is covered with fiberboard.
4. Mechanical equipment:
 - a. Heating: A wood burning stove, located in the north wall, heats the building.
 - b. Lighting: Incandescent lighting was installed during the 1947 renovations.

D. Site:

1. General setting: Situated on the northeast corner of the intersection of Main and Commercial Streets, the Idaho World Building faces west.

Prepared by: William B. McCroskey
Project Director
Historic American
Buildings Survey
Summer 1974

PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

The Idaho City project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS), in cooperation with the Idaho Bicentennial Commission in the summer of 1974. Under the direction of John Poppeliers, Chief of HABS, the project was completed by William B. McCroskey (University of Idaho), the project director; Alan Minskoff (University of Chicago), the project historian; Jack W. Schafer (University of Cincinnati), the project foreman, and the student assistant architects, Rae F. Noritake (University of Idaho), Laurence Ferar (University of Oregon), and Mark T. Wellen (Texas Tech University). William Klein, a HABS staff architect in the Washington office, edited the drawings in 1975. The written architectural and historical data was edited in April 1980 by Susan McCown, a HABS staff historian in the Washington office. The documentary photographs were made by Duane Garrett in 1976.