



STAR



Chapter 14 - Special Areas or Sites

14.1 Idaho Code Regarding the Special Areas or Sites Component

Requires an analysis of areas, sites, or structures of historical, archeological, architectural, ecological, wildlife, or scenic significance.

14.2 Background and Analysis

Cultural and historic sites identifies unique areas or sites for identification, conservation and/or protection. The Comprehensive Plan proposes to sustain those elements of the city’s heritage and culture, which contribute to the appeal of the city by both residents and visitors. A major task in preserving historic and cultural sites lies in identifying such sites.

Star has a number of buildings that may have some historic value. Three studies have been conducted to identify historic structures. A Star Historic District Feasibility Study was completed by Planmakers in 1991. The Star Historic District Reconnaissance Study was completed by Kate O’Brien Reed in August 1992. This study identifies structures in three categories; 1) Listed Properties; 2) Eligible Properties and; 3) Properties Eligible as part of a District.



Historic Structures in Star		
Listed Properties		
159	7575 Moon Valley Road	Queen Anne
Eligible Properties		
8	11223 State Street	National I House
144	2420 N. Munger Road	National
163	10174 State Street	Queen Anne type





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Properties Eligible as Part of a District		
9	11287 State Street	National pyramidal
28	3251 Linder Rd.	National hall and parlor
53	147 Main Street	Prairie pyramidal
56	Main and 1st Street	National
61	174 Knox Street	National
62	84 Knox Street	Craftsman massed plan
63	83 Knox Street	Craftsman bungalow
87	11139 Frost Street	National gable front and wing
88	767 Star Rd.	Prairie four square
89	1050 Star Rd.	National side gable
128	7825 Star Rd.	National massed plan
129	7830 Star Rd.	Craftsman elements, side gable
142	Can-Ada Rd.	Hip on gable barn
147	3133 N. Wing Rd.	National gable front and wing
148	2963 Pollard Lane	National pyramidal
158	Rte. 1, Moon Valley Rd.	National
160	State Street	National Hip
165	10600 State Street	National side gable
167	10717 State Street	National T-plan
171	State Street	Queen Anne
238	South of Star	Canyon Canal Headworks
S2	10415 State Street	Front gable barn
S3	10769 State Street	Queen Anne type
S7	11103 1st Street	Craftsman
S12	11321 1st Street	National hall and parlor
S18	11152 State Street	Commercial
S19	11124 State Street	Craftsman
S27	211 Union Street	National T-plan

Source: Kate O'Brien Reed, Star Historic District Reconnaissance Study, August 1992





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The second study was conducted by the Ada County Historic Preservation Council. This study identifies properties as: 1) Eligible; 2) Contributing; and 3) Listed. There are no historic maps to identify the location of historic structures in the City of Star. Some structures are mentioned in both reports, while many are listed in only one source. Looking at the physical structure, it seems some may be historic in nature and these buildings would enhance the historic integrity of the city and help make Star unique, but these structures should be officially designated as



historic. These structures once identified would maintain a sense of historic continuity and link the community to the past. Unless historically significant buildings that lend to the character of the City of Star are protected, they may be subject to insensitive restoration or demolition.

Historic Preservation Council Sites in Star				
Site #	Address	City	Status	Parcel
002	83 North Knox Street	Star	Eligible	R7073754310
008	North Main Street	Star	Contributing	R7073754785
014	North River Street	Star	Contributing	S0408336050
016	767 Star Road	Star	Contributing	R5481120650
019	11049 Front Street	Star	Eligible	R2941702235





025	11396 First Street	Star	Eligible	R8108000230
025	11396 First Street	Star	Eligible	R8108000230
029	11627 West State Street (Highway 44)	Star	Contributing	S0418121030
033	11070 West State Street (Highway 44)	Star	Contributing	R5579243490
035	2055 West State Street (Highway 44)	Star ACI	Eligible	S0418131204
036	12080 West State Street (Highway 44)	Star ACI	Eligible	S0407347000
037	2204 Munger Road	Star ACI	Contributing	S0406427800
038	2205 Munger Road	Star ACI	Contributing	S0406314810
039	2420 Munger Road	Star ACI	Eligible	S0406131500
040	2800 N Wing Road	Star ACI	Eligible	R8108100100
041	3133 N Wing Road	Star ACI	Contributing	S0405212400
043	2963 Pollard Road	Star ACI	Contributing	S0404223000
045	1050 North Star Road	Star ACI	Contributing	S0408233650
045	1050 North Star Road	Star ACI	Contributing	S0408233650
046	10643 West State Street (Highway 44)	Star ACI	Contributing	S0417212700
048	10600 West State Street (Highway 44)	Star ACI	Contributing	S0408347001
050	10287 West State Street (Highway 44)	Star ACI	Eligible	S0417120700
051	10174 West State Street (Highway 44)	Star ACI	Contributing	S0408438760
061	10717 West State Street (Highway 44)	Star	Eligible	S0417212550
063	7575 Moon Valley Road)	Star ACI	Listed	R5506000100





Additional historic architectural structures have been identified in the Historic Star Walking Tour, published by the Ada County Historic Preservation Council in 2001 and updated in 2005 for the Star Mule Days (now known as Hometown Celebration).

The first inhabitants of the Star area were Native Americans. The Bannock and Nez Perce tribes populated the land. Their way of life helped preserve much of the native beauty and wildlife still enjoyed today. White settlers, in search of new homes, made their way west on the Oregon Trail, which wound its way through the area. Early settlers inhabited the land surrounding the Boise River. The area is still home to many families of the early settlers.

The Star area possesses four non-residential sites deemed of historical significance in historical surveys. An interurban railway depot, a roadhouse/tavern, a grange hall, and a church offer elements worthy of historical preservation. These areas could easily become interpretive learning centers, community gathering places, parks, or other valuable assets to the community, while serving as a reminder of our history.

In addition, the predominantly residential and agricultural history of Star has resulted in several residential structures and outbuildings, which exemplify the Folk and Nation design of the late 19th or early 20th century. Many structures, which exhibit the working class roots of Star, such as the Gable, the Four Square, and the Craftsman styles, are candidates for historic preservation. In addition a small number of homes, which display the High Style, turn of the 20th century, architecture, warrant preservation consideration. A 1998 historical survey identified 64 residential structures that could contribute to a National Register of Historic Places in the Star area; 17 of these sites were eligible for listing on the National Register.

14.2.1 Archeological

In addition to the historical sites identified above, a religious revival meeting area known as the Quaker Revival Grounds are found in the Star area. The grounds exist in a park-like area. Remnants of the grounds indicate the area has potential archeological significance. Additional documentation and investigation may be required to ascertain the level of significance provided by this area.





14.2.2 Cultural Sites

Oregon Trail

One of the later branches of the Oregon Trail that crossed the river near Boise passed through what now is Star just south of present day Highway 44. Ezra Meeker, who spent his last years marking the course of the old Oregon Trail, visited Star



on May 5, 1906. Portions of this early Oregon Trail corridor became the Old Valley Road connecting Boise to Caldwell. In the spring, travelers had to take the alternate foothills road to keep from getting stuck in the mud bogs.

Starting in the 1860's, the stage from Boise City followed the Old Valley Road and arrived at Gray's Station east of Star, near the old Balm Mill, on what is now Moon Valley Road. Here the stage left the Valley Road and proceeded northwest through the sage brush to the willow creek stage Station, northwest of Star. The route continued on to the Payette Valley and eventually to Umatilla, Oregon and the Columbia River. Stage routes served the area through the 1880's when the lines with their big six horse coaches were abandoned with the coming of the railroad through the valley. This brought a decline to the area as the branch rail line came from Nampa to Boise bypassing star. Nevertheless, Star grew and boomed with the arrival of the Interurban in 1907.

In 1890, A. Fouch and his brother built the Star ferry south of Star at the Boise River. The crossing was located west of the present Star bridge. In 1904, the ferry was replaced by the Star bridge. In 1929, the state paved Valley Road and it was again expanded in 1964 with Highway 44 connecting to I-84 west of Middleton.





Boise & Interurban Railway

Rapid growth of Star came with the confidence of the Boise Interurban Railway. In 1907, W.E. Pierce completed the electric railroad which ran from Boise to Caldwell, via Eagle, Star, and Middleton, and back through Nampa and Meridian. The fare was 65 cents. The interurban also brought electricity to Star.

The Idaho Daily Statesman reported in 1907 that as a result of the completion of the Boise and Interurban line through Star, "this town has taken a wonderful activity and citizens here have awakened to the fact that Star is very liable to become a very important point before long. There's been a great deal of building of late and the population of the town has easily doubled since it was definitely known that the electric line would be built through here."

Completion of the Boise Interurban created radical growth with W.E. Pierce and Co. platting two new areas of land to the east of the original town site. These areas included Interurban Addition and the Pierce Addition. Lot sales, as reported in the Idaho Daily Statesman at that time, were brisk.

The handsome Star Interurban Depot with a freight office and passenger waiting room was built at Valley and Knox streets in 1907. The building was designed by Boise architects, Tourtellotte and Hummel. Nearby was the transformer house. At the time, the stage connected to Emmett. With the introduction of automobiles into the Treasure Valley, the Interurban was used less and less, eventually going out of business in 1928. The loss of this link to the valley meant a decline in activity for Star. The depot was moved to the east side of town in the 1950's.





14.3 Goal:

Recognize, conserve, and promote historic and cultural resources and to perpetuate their value and benefit to the community.

14.4 Objectives:

- A. Promote heritage awareness.
- B. Encourage and support plans and programs to conserve historic and cultural resources.
- C. Make a continuous effort to identify special areas, which enhance the historical, archeological, ecological, wildlife, and scenic significance of the City of Star.
- D. Cooperate with agencies and individuals whose efforts preserve or restore identified special areas.
- E. Prevent adverse impact on special areas as a result to future use of the area, including review of proposed development projects to determine impacts, if any, on any unique or special areas. Encourage assistance in developing processes to avoid or minimize negative impacts to the sites.
- F. Develop plans to participate in Boise River preservation activities.



14.5 Implementation Policies:

- A. Encourage the development of existing, non-residential sites, identified as historic, into parks, museums, or other appropriate public uses.
- B. Discourage development or use of non-residential historical sites, which would destroy the unique aspects of the site.
- C. Encourage the maintenance and restoration of existing residential structures to provide for national historical registry including information





regarding assistance in obtaining registry for identified historical residences.

- D. Encourage activities and events which preserve the heritage and historical significance of the Star area.
- E. Encourage awareness of the unique historic features of the area through public exhibitions and celebrations.
- F. Encourage the conservation and efficient management of all special areas and sites.
- G. Encourage and support the establishment of special zoning classifications or overlays as a means to help manage and preserve the qualities, resources and assets of special areas.
- H. Determine which historic properties report should be used to determine the historic structures in the City of Star.
- I. Determine which structures should be identified as Listed Properties, Eligible Properties, and Properties Eligible as part of a Historic District or designation.
- J. Explore cooperative efforts to include incentives for development to preserve the historical or cultural sites in the area.
- K. Support participation with the Ada County Historic Preservation Council, Idaho State Historical Certified Local Government Program for preservation of historic sites, structures, and places.

