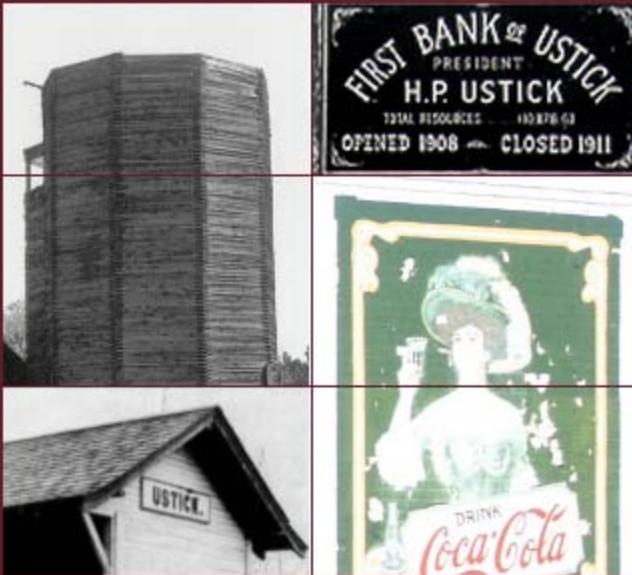


# COUNTY TREASURE

*Preserving Ada County's Heritage*

Ada County Historic Preservation Council



In 2003, the Ada County Historic Preservation Council initiated the County Treasure sign program to raise public awareness of the historic sites and structures located within the County and to encourage private owners to preserve them for future generations. This program honors historic sites each year by placing the special County Treasure sign on their property for a two-month period. Suggestions for nominations are solicited from local historic preservation commissions and societies and the general public.

## 2007-2008 Award Winners

This year the Ada County Historic Preservation Council is honoring four properties within the historic Ustick townsite, a classic residence, and an innovative agricultural structure. The properties within Ustick townsite were selected in part due to the following passage from the 1992 Boise Area of Impact Windshield Survey of Historic Resources:

*Resources of particular concern include those along Ustick Road. Also, the resources immediately south of Ustick Road along Mumbarto Street add to the historic character of the Ustick area. Though these resources are widely dispersed and may not be cohesive enough for an historic district, the area is worthy of a more intensive level of study and further documentation perhaps through oral histories. Urban expansion is occurring in the Ustick area at a rapid pace and these resources are in jeopardy. Will the historic character of this older community be consumed by residential subdivisions or will it remain an island of historic interest within the urban landscape?*



These words have proven to be prophetic, and the planned expansion of Ustick Road within the next six to ten years is of particular concern, as it has the potential to negatively affect the commercial viability of two of these important historic buildings. The Council has chosen to call attention to this special area through the County Treasure program.

Platted by dentist Harlan P. Ustick on May 1, 1907, Ustick was created as a streetcar suburb. The location sought to take advantage of the Boise Valley Railway's trolley service, which had been extended from Boise to Meridian by 1908. Easy access to transport led to the development of dairies and orchards in the area. Trolley service and the availability of electricity, plus the services provided by the local mercantile and bank, allowed residents to enjoy the comforts of the city in the serenity of the countryside.

## Ustick Merc

June 2007

Located at the southeast corner of **Ustick Road and Mumbarto Street** (formerly Main Street), this is an example of classic commercial architecture from the early twentieth century. This type of architectural style used brick for the primary structure as well as for the ornamentation. The building was constructed in 1912 and, as part of its function as a trading center for the agricultural community of Ustick, it was equipped with a wagon/truck scale on the west side of the building. A small wooden shelter for the Boise Valley Railway trolley system was once located in front of the building. The Merc also served as a gas station until the 1990s. Reportedly the scale is still functional although it is not used by the current tenant, a café.

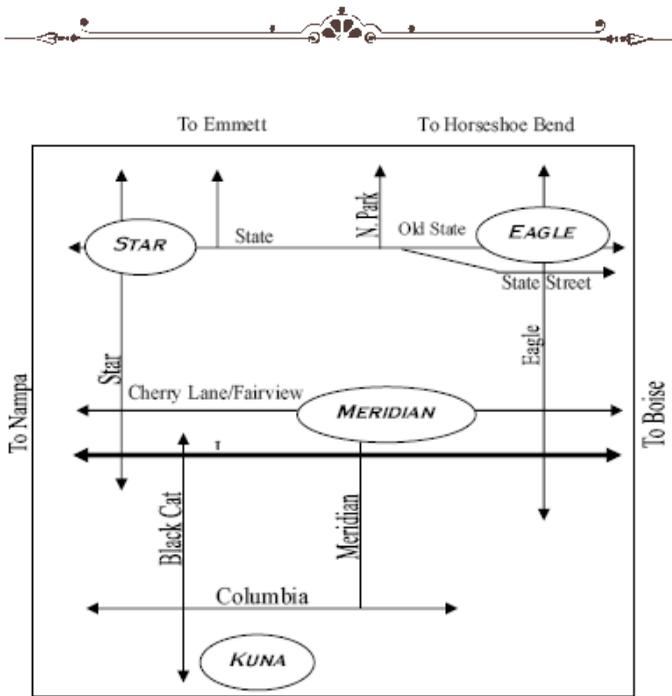


## First Bank of Ustick

August 2007

Located directly across **Mumbarto Street** from the former Ustick Merc, this is also an example of classic commercial architecture from the early twentieth century. Like its neighbor, the structure and its ornamentation are brick. According to the sign over the front door, the bank opened in 1908 and closed in 1911. That raises the question of why it lasted such a short time. The vault still exists although it is no longer used by the current tenant—a hair salon.





This publication is produced by :

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**Ustick Garage**

*October 2007*

Located at **11375 Ustick Road**, just west of the former First Bank of Ustick, this building is also of brick construction but with very little ornamentation because of its function as an industrial building. The most noticeable architectural features are the arched windows. The building is an excellent example of recycling and is a reminder of Ustick's agricultural past. It was completed about 1912 and was originally used as a creamery/cheese factory, taking advantage of a siding on the Boise Valley Railway trolley system to transport goods throughout the valley and beyond, via the Oregon Short Line Railroad in Nampa or Caldwell. The one large door, formerly on the west side, opened onto a loading dock. Later the building morphed into a blacksmith shop; later still it morphed into a garage for auto repair. The garage door still exists on the east side. Finally, the building became a residence, which it remains today.

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**Ustick School**

*December 2007*

Located at **2971 Mumbarto Avenue**, just south of Ustick Road, this building was completed in 1900 and served as the Ustick School from 1908 to 1924. It is a brick Colonial Revival-style building on a cut stone foundation. Items of special interest are the bell tower and the columns on the entry porch at the northwest corner. The building was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1982. It is currently divided into apartments.



**Craftsman-style Residence**

*February 2008*

Located at **5455 North Cloverdale Road**, this is a very well preserved example of the "Craftsman" style of dwelling which enjoyed widespread popularity in the early part of the 20th century. The primary emphasis was on functionality with only the simplest of ornamentation. This was a reaction to the ornate Victorian style that preceded it. The detached garage reflects the same design elements as the home. This home was designed by the architectural firm of Tourtellotte and Hummel and continues to serve its original purpose as a single-family residence.



Please respect owners' privacy and only view properties from the public right-of way.

**Octagonal Silo**

*April 2008*

Located at **8385 South Eagle Road** between Meridian and Kuna, this unusual structure was built in the late 1930s or early 1940s by members of the Wheeler family as an experiment for the storage of grain. The primary materials used were wooden boards, which the family got for a very good deal. Unfortunately, the structure proved to be impractical for its intended use and has served primarily as a home for owls for many years. It remained part of the Wheeler Farms until the land was recently sold to Hubble Homes of Meridian.

