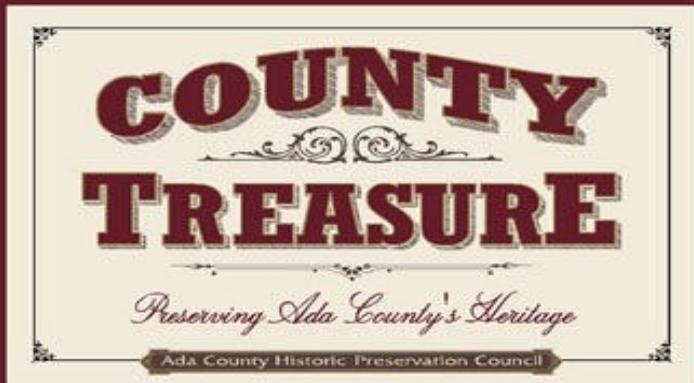


2018



Since 2003 the Ada County Historic Preservation Council has selected properties throughout the County to be honored as County Treasures. These are sites or structures that add to Ada County's heritage that are maintained through the dedication of caring individuals, groups and businesses. The Council recognizes these people for their efforts in preserving Ada County's heritage.

2018 AWARD WINNER

THE OREGON TRAIL

This year marks the 175th anniversary of the Oregon Trail. In 1843, approximately 1,000 people made the 2,170 mile journey from Independence, Missouri to Oregon's Willamette Valley with thousands more making the journey west over the next 25 years. The Ada County Historic Preservation Council is honoring this anniversary with the selection of the Oregon Trail as this year's County Treasure Award Winner.

The Oregon Trail is a national treasure signifying the westward migration of a nation. Thousands of pioneers passed through Ada County on their way west to Oregon. They would leave Missouri in the spring and it would be during the hot dry summer months that they would arrive in Idaho. It was a long hot journey across the Snake River Plain.

In Ada County, the pioneers would pass over Bonneville Point, about 10 miles east of Boise. From this high area, the pioneers could see a green oasis off in the distance. This oasis was the Boise River, with its tall cottonwood trees. The banks of the Boise River provided a welcome resting place for them and their animals during the hot summer weather. During the early years of the Oregon Trail, Ada County was just a place to pass through. It wasn't until gold was discovered in Southwest Idaho in the 1860's that people decided to stay and make Ada County their home.

Remnants of the Oregon Trail in Ada County are still visible in spots east of Boise. Streets in the area, such as Boise Avenue follow sections of the Oregon Trail.



Photo Courtesy of the Ada County Parks & Waterways Department

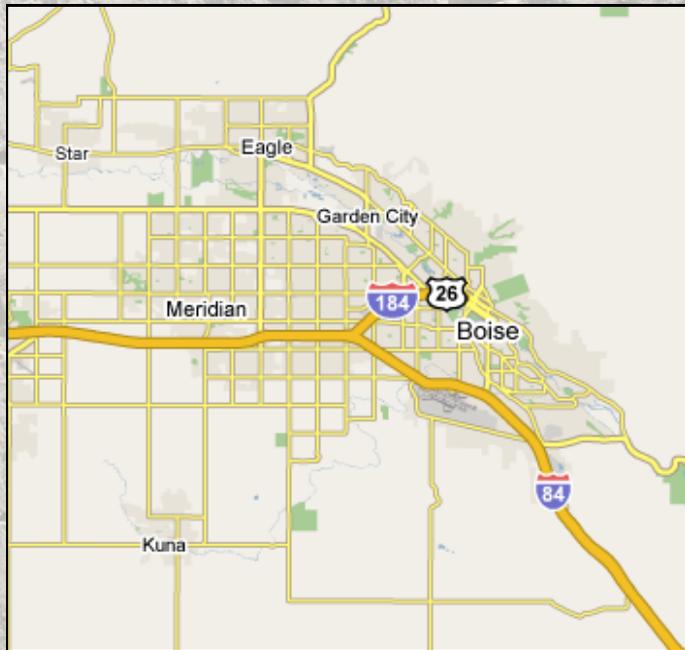


Photo Courtesy of the Ada County Parks & Waterways Department

About the Council

The Council was created on August 25, 1988 to preserve and enhance cultural and historic sites throughout Ada County and to increase awareness of the value of historic preservation to citizens and local businesses. Currently the Council is composed of ten volunteer members that commit to serve a three-year term and are appointed by the Board of Ada County Commissioners.

This and other publications of the Ada County Historic Preservation Council are available from our website at <http://adacounty.id.gov/Historic-Preservation>



The Ada County Historic Preservation Council encourages you to learn more about the Oregon Trail in Ada County. For example, take a walk down Boise Avenue and see the numerous steel Oregon Trail obelisks along this thoroughfare. The Oregon Trail Reserve along E. Lake Forest Drive provides a scenic view of the Boise Front and the historic Kelton Ramp, which dates back to the early 1860's. The Kelton Ramp was a path forged by overland travelers heading down the rim to the Boise River. It is a rock cut through the basalt rim between the second and third terraces above the Boise River. The Oregon Trail Recreation Area off of Highway 21 has a trailhead and interpretive kiosk. The area provides hiking, mountain biking, bird-watching. Oregon Trail ruts are visible from some of the trails.

The Ada County Historic Preservation Council wishes to acknowledge the efforts of groups such as the Idaho Chapter of the Oregon-California Trails Association who have preserved the history of the Oregon Trail through their efforts of documenting the history of the Oregon Trail as well as their outreach to the public. Also, the work of federal, state, and local governments for their work in preserving this National Treasure. Especially to the Ada County Parks & Waterways Department for managing and maintaining the Oregon Trail Trailhead off of Highway 21.

*Ada County Historic Preservation Council
December 2018*

