



2025

Boise Depot Centennial Press Kit



BOISE DEPOT
100TH
ANNIVERSARY
1925  2025

Boise Depot Centennial

Electronic Press Kit

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Boise Depot Centennial

The Boise Depot, located on W. Eastover Terrace, is one of the city's most prominent and recognizable landmarks. It's a treasured building that holds many memories for residents and visitors to the City of Boise. Originally constructed in 1925 for use as a Union Pacific railroad depot, it opened to the public on April 16, 1925, to great fanfare. While it is no longer operational as a train depot, the beautiful Spanish-style structure is now operated by the Boise Parks and Recreation Department, serving as a historic setting for weddings, receptions, corporate and community events and so much more. With the Boise Depot's 100th anniversary coming up on April 16, 2025, the city is planning a celebration of the past, present and future for this important Boise landmark.

Learn more at cityofboise.org/boise-depot-centennial.

A Brief History of the Early Boise Depot

The 1925 arrival of the Union Pacific's main line into Boise was cause for great celebration. Boise residents had waited four decades for the railroad's main line to pass through the capital city, a milestone they knew would put the western town on the regional and national map. Architects Carrère and Hastings designed the new building with a red tiled roof, pierced arches, stucco walls, and a bell tower. The depot's simple yet elegant Mission Revival style conveyed the line's importance to the City of Boise and declared that the city had finally "arrived." Boiseans marked the event's importance with well-attended celebrations that included bands, dances, and a parade. Together, Boiseans crowded onto the station platform for a community celebration.

Bring Back Rail

A comprehensive and efficient transportation system is critical to Boise's future success. Connecting Boise to other communities by rail, could mean so much for so many communities, including connecting families, opportunities for education, recreation, commerce and more. And we have started the journey to reestablish rail service between Boise and Salt Lake City, Utah. To bring rail connection back to Boise, in partnership with Salt Lake City and others, the City of Boise has applied for the Corridor ID Program. The Federal Rail Administration's (FRA) Corridor ID Program was designed to help create a pipeline of passenger rail projects across the country. If accepted into the program, we will be awarded \$500,000 and technical support from the FRA to answer critical questions about the corridor.

Learn more about [bringing rail back to Boise](#) and ways to [stay up-to-date](#) as the rail project moves through the process.

Learn more about [Movement for Everyone](#), one of the city's strategic priorities.



Images from the Boise City Archives

A selection of images from the Boise City Archives of the early Boise Depot and of the building's historic preservation and restoration activities by the Morrison Knudsen Company from 1991-1993 can be found [here](#). Please consult the image credit list for proper attribution.

Boise Depot Resources

Columbia University Libraries, Avery Architectural & Fine Arts Library

The Avery Architectural & Fine Arts Library at Columbia University houses the Carrère & Hastings architectural drawings and papers collection. This collection contains records related to the Boise Depot. The following URLs provide links to the Avery as well as to the Carrère & Hastings architectural collection materials.

- Columbia University Libraries, Avery Architectural & Fine Arts Library – [Avery Architectural & Fine Arts Library | Columbia University Libraries](#)
- Carrère & Hastings architectural drawings and papers, 1899-1930 – [Carrère & Hastings architectural drawings and papers, 1899-1930 | Avery Drawings & Archives | Columbia University Libraries Finding Aids](#)
- Carrère & Hastings architectural drawings and papers, 1899-1930; Series 1: Architectural Drawings; Finding Aid – [Carrère & Hastings architectural drawings and papers, 1899-1930 | Avery Drawings & Archives | Columbia University Libraries Finding Aids](#)
- Passenger station for Oregon Short Line Railroad, Boise, Idaho: work No. 640; Project Level Records – [Passenger station for Oregon Short Line Railroad, Boise, Idaho : work No. 640 - CLIO](#)

National Park Service, National Register of Historic Places

The Boise Depot was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1974. The nomination form for the structure includes a historical narrative and architectural analysis of the building.

- [Idaho SP Union Pacific Mainline Depot](#)

Boise City Archives

The Boise City Archives hold manuscript collections which might be of interest. To search the Boise City Archives' collections, visit their Archives Space interface: [Boise Dept of Arts & History](#)

A collection which may include records of interest is listed below:

- MS 107, Morrison Knudsen collection on Boise Depot restoration
 - [Collection: Morrison Knudsen collection on Boise Depot restoration | Boise Dept of Arts & History](#)



Idaho State Archives

The Idaho State Archives holds extensive photograph collections as well as manuscript collections which include items or photos related to the Boise Depot and/or to railroad travel in Idaho. To learn more about the Idaho State Archives' photograph collections, visit their website: [Idaho State Archives Photographs | Idaho State Historical Society](#). To search The Idaho State Archives' collections, visit their Archives Space interface: [Idaho State Archives](#)

A small sampling of a few of the collections which may include records of interest are listed below:

- MS 2/0026, Union Pacific Railroad Company collection
 - [Collection: Union Pacific Railroad Company collection | Idaho State Archives](#)
- MS 0692, Nat J. Adams collection: Roll Plans – Box (Landscaping); Boise Depot
 - [Collection: Nat J. Adams collection | Idaho State Archives](#)
- MS 0385, Union Pacific Railroad collection
 - [Collection: Union Pacific Railroad collection | Idaho State Archives](#)
- MS 2/0806, Charles L. Faris reminiscences
 - [Collection: Charles L. Faris reminiscences | Idaho State Archives](#)

Archives West

Archives West provides access to finding aids and descriptions of collections held by various repositories in the western United States. A few collections which may include records related to the Boise Depot are listed below:

- Boise State University Library, Special Collections and Archives:
 - Morrison-Knudsen Collection, 1912-1997
 - [Morrison-Knudsen Collection - Archives West](#)
 - John Bertram / Planmakers Records, 1879, 1970s-2010s
 - [John Bertram / Planmakers Records - Archives West](#)

Idaho Transportation Department

The Idaho Transportation Department's photograph collection contains thousands of images related to Idaho's transportation infrastructure. To search the collection, visit the Idaho Transportation Department's online photograph database: [Idaho Transportation Photo Collection - Idaho Transportation Photo Collection](#)



Library of Congress

The Library of Congress provides digital access to a selection of photographs of the Boise Depot taken by Duane Garrett as part of the Historic American Buildings Survey. To view the photographs, visit the Library of Congress: [Union Pacific Railroad Depot, 1701 Eastover Terrace, Boise, Ada County, ID | Library of Congress](#)

Idaho State Historical Society

The Idaho State Historical Society's quarterly journal, *Idaho Yesterdays*, included an article about the Boise Depot and the main line in the Spring 2000 issue.

- Bauer, Barbara Perry. "The Main Line Comes to Boise." *Idaho Yesterdays*, v. 44, no. 1 (Spring 2000): 3-12.
- [Welcome to Idaho State Historical Society](#)

Union Pacific Historical Society

The Union Pacific Historical Society (UPHR) gathers and preserves historical information, photos, and documents related to the history of the Union Pacific Railroad. The organization publishes a quarterly magazine, *The Streamliner*, and volume 11, Issue 1 included an article which focused on the history of Boise's connection to the main railroad line. The UPHR provides access to back issues of *The Streamliner* through their company store.

- Waite, Thornton. "Boise: On The Main Line At Last." *The Streamliner*, Union Pacific Historical Society, Volume 11, Issue 1.
- [Union Pacific Historical Society — Dedicated to the preservation of the history of the Union Pacific Railroad](#)

Idaho Statesman Newspaper

The Idaho Statesman newspaper has been continuously published in Boise, Idaho since 1864. The newspaper's historical archive provides access to articles and advertisements published over the last 160 years. The newspaper's archive can be accessed and searched via subscription services such as NewBank and Newspapers.com. Residents holding a current Boise Public Library card can access *The Idaho Statesman* archive for free via the Boise Public Library's website: [Digital Resources | Boise Public Library](#)

Online Publications

The following publication includes information about the history of the Boise Depot:

- Bauer, Barbara Perry and Elizabeth Jacox, TAG Historical Research & Consulting. *Shaping Boise: A Selection of Boise's Landmark Buildings*. City of Boise, Department of Planning & Development Service, 2010. [shaping-boise-landmarks.pdf](#)



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