

Idaho City

1863 - Idaho Territory established.



1865 - One-third of Idaho City's population was Chinese.



1865 - The first of many disastrous fires hit the town.

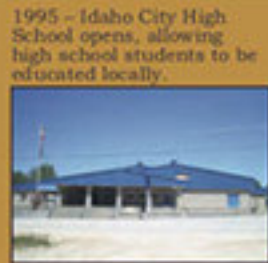


1874 - Telegraph service reaches Idaho City.

1890 - Idaho becomes the 43rd state; Idaho City's population is now less than 500.



1976 - Senator Frank Church announces his candidacy for U.S. President on the courthouse steps.



1995 - Idaho City High School opens, allowing high school students to be educated locally.

History

In 1862, as brother fought brother in the Civil War of the eastern United States, men had something different on their minds in the Idaho Territory: gold.

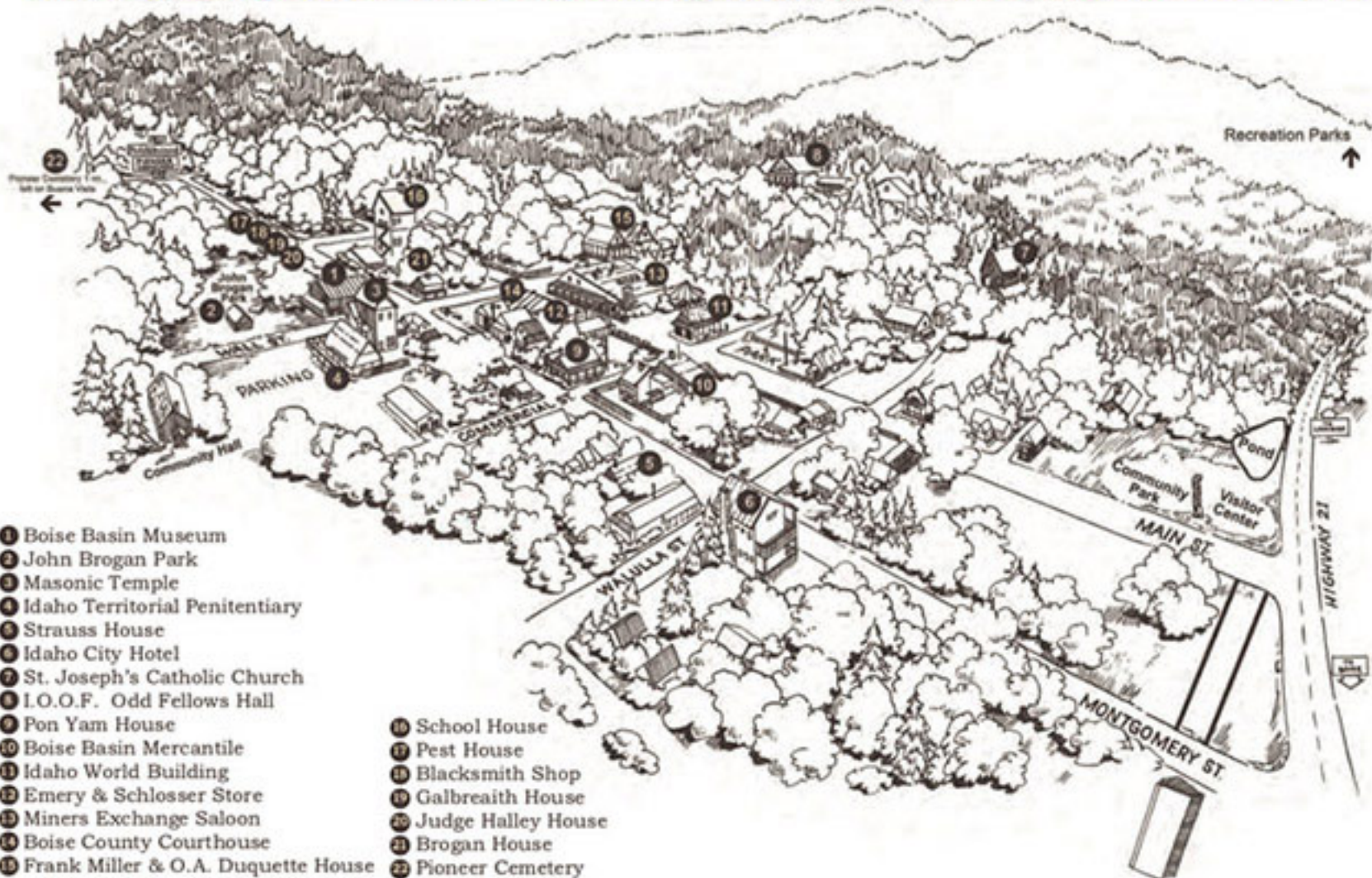
Having just been discovered in the Boise Basin, prospectors poured into the area by the thousands on the lure of instant wealth. Towns sprang up everywhere, and almost overnight Idaho City became the largest town in the territory. A beehive of commercial activity, the city boasted more than 250 businesses in its heyday.

Despite an atmosphere of lawlessness (whiskey was cheaper than water), Idaho City flourished and within three years of its founding, it was the most populous city in the Northwest. And no wonder: during the gold rush, more than \$250,000,000 worth of the precious yellow metal was taken from the Boise Basin.

Almost as quickly as it boomed, Idaho City busted. Within a few years of the strike, the gold had become harder to find; the prospectors left in droves. Fires also ravaged the community, wiping out 80 percent of the buildings in town.

While the gold rush days are gone forever, much of the boom town flavor remains ready to be experienced during an insightful walking tour of the area. Stroll along the planked boardwalks that formerly rang beneath the boots of rough-and-tumble miners; Drop by the "Merc," where it once cost a pinch of gold to buy an apple; and peek through the bars of the old jail, where desperados carved their names on the thick wooden walls. Gain new understanding of the way it was in the 1860s.

Relive the golden days of yesteryear... and make memories for today



- 1 Boise Basin Museum
- 2 John Brogan Park
- 3 Masonic Temple
- 4 Idaho Territorial Penitentiary
- 5 Strauss House
- 6 Idaho City Hotel
- 7 St. Joseph's Catholic Church
- 8 I.O.O.F. Odd Fellows Hall
- 9 Pon Yam House
- 10 Boise Basin Mercantile
- 11 Idaho World Building
- 12 Emery & Schlosser Store
- 13 Miners Exchange Saloon
- 14 Boise County Courthouse
- 15 Frank Miller & O.A. Duquette House
- 16 School House
- 17 Pest House
- 18 Blacksmith Shop
- 19 Galbreath House
- 20 Judge Halley House
- 21 Brogan House
- 22 Pioneer Cemetery