

# HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION for Wash. Co. & City of Weiser

**Wednesday, November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

Time: 4:05 PM

Location: Washington County Court House Commissioner's Chambers in Weiser, Idaho

**County HP Commissioners:** Tony Edmondson, Dennis Lance, Brenda Aldrich (absent), Thel Pearson, Alan Pickett

**City HP Commissioners:** Tony Edmondson, Dennis Lance, Lynda Lance, Josh Dalton (absent), Cheri Clausen

**Members of the public in attendance:** Julie Chandler, Secretary

The meeting was called to order by Tony.

**Minutes:** The minutes from October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025, meeting were presented for approval. Alan moved to approve the minutes and Thel moved to second. Motion carried.

## **Report Items:**

**Weiser Middle School Gymnasium National Register Status – Sarah Martin site visit on November 13<sup>th</sup> :** Sarah had written a note from Seattle sharing that she is excited to come to Weiser to do the site survey on our Middle School Gym. She plans to arrive in the evening. She'll meet at the Museum on the 13<sup>th</sup> in the early afternoon. Then she'll meet at the gym on the 14<sup>th</sup> from 10 to noon. Members are invited to join the group for a meeting/coffee or a meal to visit afterwards. SHPO has worked with Sarah before, and she comes with good credentials.

**Midvale Representative Report:** Alan shared that a sign has been put up on the grain elevator with a phone number. The owner appears to be running a corral panel/fencing business. He will call and visit the owner to learn of intentions.

The Midvale Swimming Pool is over 50 years old. It needs a new roof and improvements in the dressing room. A group of civic minded ladies got it going back in the 60's. It is still in operation. They got it going after a couple of drownings in the river. It motivated them to build a pool. Tony asked if Alan would take a couple photos of the pool for the record.

It was asked if any oral histories have been made of Midvale's History. Nancy Coats has done a History of Midvale School System. Travis Young did a History of Midvale. Alan shared that he has these and some others. The Towels and Picketts came across the nation in 1881. His Grandma kept a diary.

Cheri shared that her folks lived in Midvale. Her dad sold cars in the Upper County. Dennis shared that Midvale reminds him of a little town in Western Nebraska.

**Cambridge Representative Report:** Thel shared that SHPO has challenged them to do the Mid-Century Survey Project. There has been a change in personnel in their organization. The newer members are working on the plan. There are lots of Fraternal organizations that were popular in earlier eras. There was a fire in the 1880's, but there are still some surviving structures. Dams and highways were being built. By the 1920's Salubria was dying. The Cambridge Commission is working on the Cambridge Historic Preservation Plan. There have been some oral histories made of a stonecutter by the name of George Moody, who made tombstones and monuments for special events. He would have white marble shipped in to work with.

Tony added that with oral histories in mind, America 250 still funds available to do these histories.



**Unity Bridge Mitigation update:** We have received an email from Alexis at SHPO- They would like to revisit the settlement of the mitigation on the Unity Bridge. The meeting will be on November 7<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m. Alexis was informed that our Washington County/ City of Weiser Historic Preservation Commission was pretty on board for the 70%-20%-10% split proposed earlier.

**CEG for Eaton Depot Interpretive sign status-site visit 10-20 update:** Barbara Bauer with TAG brought the new Architectural Historian, Jeffery Holley, to inspect the depot and meet Tony. They are hopeful that he'll be interested in taking over their TAG business.

**Idaho Heritage Trust Grant Cycle -People's Furniture siding removal update:** The contractor came to Weiser and looked over the People's furniture siding project and gave a bid of around \$9,000.00 to remove a section of the siding to study the original building and then replace the sections of siding. It is planned to happen in April of 2026. Idaho Heritage Trust approved our Grant Proposal of \$9,000.00. They will fund 50%, or \$4500.00.

The SHPO CLG grants are now open for 2026, and it was suggested that we could ask for a grant from them to cover the 50% match dollars of the IHT grant. How do we feel about doing a city CLG grant to cover the match monies. Steve Trout has already been to the People's Furniture building, and it seems logical that he would do the assessment. Tony was authorized by both city and county HPC's to apply on their behalf.

**Cove Bridge Mitigation proposal – Jeffries School National Register nomination:** SHPO has notified us that the unexpended funds from the \$20k sites Survey project of the Cove Bridge Mitigation is being allocated to complete a NR Nomination of Jefferies School. Tony reported that he made a presentation to the Enterprise Club about the NR Nomination of Jefferies. There was some concern about potential costs for them. Tony reassured them that the whole cost is covered in the mitigation monies. They will have to clarify this point with their membership and get back with us on their final approval..

**ICRIS list of properties by region:** ICRIS crashed in the last couple weeks. Alan will create a list of Washington County properties on ICRIS to have available for our membership.

**Other:** Cheri clarified with Margie Chipman about her representation from City Council to the City of Weiser Historic Preservation Commission.

Alan shared that he has become aware that a lot of the old characters in his community with so much personal history and stories of the area are dying. He asked who he should contact about getting the equipment to do some oral history projects. It was suggested that he go on the website for: America250Idaho. Tony also shared that the Idaho Humanities Council has money to support oral History projects.

#### **Action Items:**

**Cancel December Meeting???:** It was unanimous that we would not hold a meeting in December. Our next meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission will be held in January.

Meeting Adjourned about 5:05 p.m.

Next meeting: **Wednesday, January 7th, 2026**, at 4:00 p.m. at the Washington County Court House. Watch your emails for the meeting reminder.

Respectfully Submitted,

Julie Chandler, Secretary