

# **CHAPTER THIRTEEN - CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL SITES**



## **13.0 Introduction**

The City of Payette values its rich history. The City has established a historical museum, Historic Preservation Commission and has eight structures, including homes, churches, commercial, public and federal buildings, on the National Historic Register. The city of Payette may be one of a few cities large or small still retaining its original central business district intact; this may lead to additional historic finds.

## **13.1 Historical Background**

The settlement was originally named “Boomerang,” a construction camp for the Oregon Short Line from 1882 to 1884 at the mouth of the Payette River. Logs were floated down the river to the sawmills at the camp to produce railroad ties. After completion of the railroad, the settlement moved upstream to its present site and incorporated in 1891 as "Payette," to honor François Payette, a French-Canadian fur trapper and explorer with the North West Company, who first came to the region in 1818. He is believed to be the first euro-american in the area and managed Fort Boise from 1835 to 1844. The Payette name was also given to a significant tributary of the Snake River that flows through the county. When Payette County was created in 1917 as a separate entity from Canyon County, Payette became the County seat.

## **13.2 Payette County Historical Museum**

The Payette County Historical Museum is located at 90 South 9<sup>th</sup> Street, at the intersection of 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue South and South 9<sup>th</sup> Street. It is open Wednesday through Saturday, noon to 4:00 p.m. and can be contacted by phone at 208-642-4883 or online at [payettemuseum@fmtc.com](mailto:payettemuseum@fmtc.com).

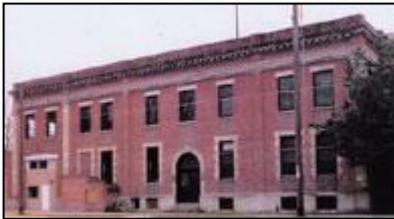
### **13.3 Historical Places and Sites**

There are three Scenic Byways in the City of Payette jurisdiction. West highway 52 signage is being developed, and there is a Scenic Byway from Caldwell to Highway 52. This will be the last Byway added to the State of Idaho system. Washoe Ferry Landing, described below, is a Scenic Byway on the Snake River.

**13.3.1 Washoe Ferry Landing** - The Washoe Ferry was established in 1862 by Marion More & Company. It was located on the Snake River at the mouth of the Payette River on the road leading from Walla Walla, Grand Ronde, and Auburn to the Boise Mines. When the railway company built a bridge across the river, the ferry was moved upstream to better serve the growing communities of Payette and Ontario. The ferry remained in operation until the completion of an interstate bridge in 1902.

**13.3.2 Highway 52 Park** - A Veterans Memorial is located within this park.

**13.3.3 Historical Places** - Nine structures in the city of Payette are listed on the Register of Historic Places. This Register recognizes and documents buildings, structures, or places of historic or architectural importance. The Payette buildings listed on the Register of Historic Places are described below.



Payette City Hall and Courthouse  
3rd Avenue and 8th Street  
Listed on the Register on May 14, 1979.



David C. Chase House  
307 9th Street North  
Listed on the Register on February 7, 1978.



N. A. Jacobsen House  
1115 1st Avenue North  
Listed on the Register on January 7, 1998.



N.A. Jacobsen Building  
North 8<sup>th</sup> Street and 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue  
Designed by Tourtellotte and Hummel Architecture.  
Listed on the Register on November 17, 1982.



A.B. Moss Building  
137 North 8<sup>th</sup> Street  
Listed on the Register February 8, 1978



St. James Episcopal Church  
1<sup>st</sup> Avenue North and 10<sup>th</sup> Street  
Listed on the Register on April 20, 1978.



Payette's Main United States Post Office  
915 Center Avenue  
Listed on the Register on March 16, 1989.



Woodward Building  
23 8<sup>th</sup> Street  
Designed by Tourtellotte and Hummel Architecture  
Listed on the Register on April 26, 1978.



St. Johns Church  
2350 N 4<sup>th</sup> Street in Payette  
Listed on the Register on June 5, 2013

### **13.4 Historic Districts**

The City of Payette does not have a designated historic neighborhood, but the downtown core may qualify for this designation based upon the number of historic building that are located on Main Street from 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue North and 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue South Streets.

The City has created a Historic Preservation Commission to identify and protect various sites and structures that identify the city's heritage and its character. As land use changes occur, the City should continue to preserve these historic lands and structures, as envisioned by those who are participating in the planning process.

### **13.5 Goals, Objectives and Strategies**

**GOAL 1: Preserve the historical features, lands and buildings in the city of Payette.**

**OBJECTIVE 1:** Identify and establish standards for the protection of historic structures, special sites and areas.

**STRATEGY 1:** Revise codes or adopt codes to encourage historic rehabilitation.

**STRATEGY 2:** Encourage the rehabilitation of historic or architecturally significant structures for continued use or re-use.

**STRATEGY 3:** Maintain an inventory of historic, archaeological and scenic areas and sites within the city.

**GOAL 2: Continue to support the Historic Preservation Commission.**

**OBJECTIVE 1:** Foster recognition, rehabilitation and preservation of historic sites and areas.

**STRATEGY 1:** Identify future historic structures and areas.