



Office of the Mayor

David H. Bieter
Mayor

City Council

President
David Eberle

Council Pro Tem
Maryanne Jordan

Vernon L. Bisterfeldt
Elaine Clegg
Alan W. Shealy
Jim Tibbs

Boise City Hall

Third Floor
150 N. Capitol Boulevard

Mailing Address

P. O. Box 500
Boise, Idaho 83701-0500

Phone

208/384-4422

Fax

208/384-4420

TDD/TTY

800/377-3529

Web

www.cityofboise.org/mayor

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Shelby Day
State Historic Preservation Office
Idaho State Historical Society
210 Main St.
Boise, ID 83702-7264

Dear Members of the Awards Committee:

On behalf of the people of Boise, I am pleased to recommend Timberline High School's Boise Architecture Project for the American Association of State and Local History Award of Merit. This project documents examples of Boise's important architecture in a way that encourages our younger generation to connect with their community's history.

Boise is growing rapidly, and some of the buildings documented may soon fall either to age or development. Through this program, students choose architecture that appeals to them and then learn how to photograph buildings and research their history. The students then organize the material into a searchable online database that creates a valuable record of Boise's history and makes it widely accessible.

While many projects focus only on the large, impressive homes built by a city's wealthy forebears, this project presents buildings from many different styles, eras and financial backgrounds – buildings like the Idaho State Penitentiary, sacred buildings like the Ahavath Temple, mansions, small homes and modern office buildings. The students thus learn that important architecture can be new or old, large or small.

This project also teaches the students the interrelatedness of geography, architecture and people. By researching these buildings, the students are learning about the styles and types of Boise's architecture as well as history of the people who designed, built and used them.

I hope the Award Committee will look favorably on this valuable project.

Sincerely,

David H. Bieter
Mayor