

Boise's Federal Courthouses



Boise's federal courthouse, 1905.
(National Archives)

Construction began on the first permanent U.S. Courthouse in Idaho in 1902. It opened four years later at the corner of Eighth and Bannock Streets in Boise. The courthouse was an imposing edifice, designed in the Beaux Arts style with a tall first story, a grand entrance, and arched windows. Its stone steps used a 10,000-pound block of granite from an Idaho City quarry—the largest ever quarried in the area. An L-shaped addition added in 1930 provided additional space for the building.

The U.S. District Court held hearings in the building continuously from 1906 until 1967 when a new federal building/courthouse was completed. Most offices in the federal court moved to



1905 federal courthouse interiors.

the new building except for U. S. Bankruptcy Court, which remained in the old building until 1995. The old courthouse still serves as a post office (Borah Station) and houses the local offices of Idaho's U.S. senators and representatives.

The new federal building, at 550 West Fort Street, was built with steel girders under a façade of pre-cast concrete and glass. In 2001, President George W. Bush designated it the “James A. McClure Federal Building and United States

Courthouse” for the Idaho congressman and senator who served from 1967 to 1991.



Sources:

Shaping Boise, City of Boise, 2010.

Links:

City of Boise Department of Arts & History:

<http://pds.cityofboise.org/media/200922/boiselandmarks.pdf>

Idaho U.S Courts:

www.idp.uscourts.gov/content_fetcher/print_pdf.cfm?Content_ID=834



1967 Boise federal courthouse.
(U.S. Courts)