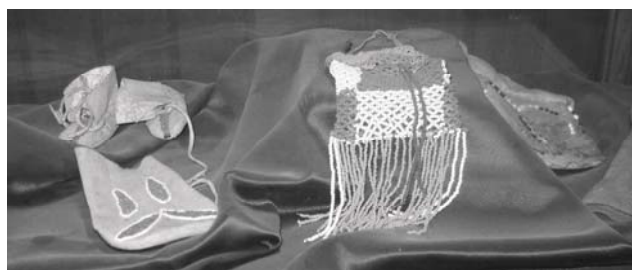


## A Brief History of the Camas Prairie

Camas Prairie began as the home land of the Bannock Indians and a major migration route for the Shoshone tribes in search of our famous Camas Lily Bulbs. After the Bannock Indian War that ended in 1879, the Camas Prairie was finally open for settlement. In the spring of 1879, the first settlement of Corral on the west end and Crichton on the east end were founded. Soldier shortly followed in 1880 located in the center of the two preceding settlements along Soldier Creek. Many Villages were to follow on the luscious farm and ranch lands that lay within our high mountain prairie. Manard, Fir Grove, Springdale, Blaine, Taft, Cook, and Hill City which was one of the largest sheep shipping hubs of our area at that time and with that brought all our Sagebrush seen today, previously there was only grassland. As the counties evolved through time, we were known by many names such as Logan, Alturas, and Blaine until finally ending as Camas County. As the railroad laid it's path across this land, it had bypassed all established towns and villages. Therefore, the village of Fairfield developed to accommodate the shipping needs of the area. The most prominent town prior to this event had been the town of Soldier, where at one time in the very early 1900's over 3,000 people resided at or nearby. The railroad location prompted the relocation of most of the buildings in Soldier town to the new Village of Fairfield, starting in 1912 and being well established by 1916.



### Camas County Historical Society

P. O. Box 571  
124 E Camas Ave.  
Fairfield, ID 83327-0571  
Curator: Tami Peck 208-320-5994  
Inquiries: [hcfchcfusion.com](mailto:hcfchcfusion.com)  
[www.fairfieldidaho.us](http://www.fairfieldidaho.us)

### Museum Schedule

Only Open for  
Summer Holidays

11 am – 4pm

**May**  
Memorial Weekend  
(Sat – Mon)

**June**  
2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday

**July**  
4<sup>th</sup> of July Weekend  
(Sat – Sun)

**August**  
County Fair weekend  
1<sup>st</sup> weekend in August  
(Sat-Sun)

**September**  
Labor day weekend  
(Sat-Sun)

**124 E Camas Ave**

*If your group would like to  
schedule a special visit to  
the museum during the  
summer please contact :*  
Tami Peck  
208-320-5994

# Fairfield Historical Walking Tour

1. Grain Elevator, built in 1923 by the Colorado Milling & Elevator co.
2. 407 Soldier Rd. Built as the Geisler Auto Co. Moved from Soldier in 1916. Now functions as the City Office and Shop.
3. 413 Soldier Rd. Soldiers first bank called "Camas Prairie State Bank" moved to Fairfield and used as the Pocatello Title Co & Camas Abstract. Currently incorporated into "A Little Off Shoppe"
4. 415 Soldier Rd. Moved from soldier as the Barkley Pharmacy by Lowry Barkley & his son. Currently owned by Claude Sports for inventory storage.
5. 419 Soldier Rd. Built in 1936 by Harry & Bea Durrall. Home of Fairfield's first Camas County Courier- Newspaper office. Currently housing "Just a Little Flower Shoppe"
6. Blacksmith shop relocated from Soldier –Now functions as the County Shop.
7. 305 Willow Ave W. Originally located at Hill City and built as the Railroad Section Boss's Home. Relocated to Fairfield. Currently a private residence..
8. Originally the Daniels School relocated to Fairfield. Currently a private residence
9. 501 Soldier Rd. This building housed the 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Banks in town. The upstairs was the home and office of the first Fairfield Dentist, Dr. Hubbard. Since 1935 housing The Camas County Courthouse.
10. 503 Soldier Rd. Built in 1919 as the new Barkley Pharmacy. Later housed the local doctors office and pharmacy run by Dr. Kerns. Currently for sale.
11. 505 Soldier Rd. This building was originally divided into 2 businesses. A barber shop on the north & and Eatery on the south. It was then Western Auto for many years. Now housing Jim Dandy's Pizza.
12. 507 Soldier Rd. built by Robert "Scott" leaper as a dry goods store "Cook's Grocery", and attached to the building next door on the north, accessible from inside. Currently the "Sandwiched Inn"
13. 509 Soldier Rd. Part of Leapers' original building housing Cook's Grocery. Later used by Zahnor Edwards as a Case dealership. Currently "Soldier Creek Brewing Co"
14. Parking lot – Site of McHan's Hardware with an Undertakers Parlor upstairs.
15. 201 Camas Ave W. Catholic Church built in 1918
16. Zahnor Edwards Park "Tractor Park" original site of the early 1920's town carnival. Now Summer Friday's brings the local Farmer's market.
17. original site of Opera House named "The Liberty Theater" used for dances and as the first gymnasium. Also McHan's hardware occupied it for a bit. Rebuilt as the Community Church.
18. 115 Ponderosa Ave W. built in 1916 in Soldier and moved to Fairfield the winter of 1926 on skis. Private residence.
19. 131 Ponderosa Ave W. Built around 1921 as the clinic for Dr. Wilencheck with the office downstairs and operating room and recovery rooms upstairs. Currently a private residence.
20. 120 Alturas Ave E Crichton School (Living Room section only) for historical reference only, no visible portion of original structure remaining. Currently a private residence.
21. 101 Ponderosa Ave E. 1<sup>st</sup> Church built in Soldier as a Baptist church in 1897. Moved to Fairfield in 1914. Currently the School's Ag building.
22. 213 Ponderosa Ave E. the original LDS church built in Manard in 1911 and relocated to Fairfield in 1934, currently the Lighthouse Christian Fellowship.
23. 217 Camas Ave E. Built as the Fairfield Elementary School in 1913. currently the Camas County School storage building.
24. 230 Camas Ave E. Built in 1901 as the Methodist-Episcopal Church in Soldier. Moved to Fairfield in 1915 and used for many years as the school music room. Currently privately owned & vacant.
25. 224 Camas Ave E. Served at one time as one of the early Dentist's offices for Dr. Martin Hines Currently a residence
26. 220 Camas Ave E. First built in Soldier prior to 1887. Moved to Fairfield in 1912, currently a residence
27. 124 Camas Ave E. Built in 1912 by the Central Idaho Railroad Co, original location was blocks south, moved to Camas Ave in 1974 for the Camas Historical Society and has housed the Museum ever since..
28. 510 Soldier Rd. Was the original Bar & Pool Hall run by Doc Osborn, upstairs was a Dance Hall and used for many other things. Currently Vacant
29. 113 Willow Ave E 3<sup>rd</sup> Post Office location, next a Hot Point appliance and repair shop. Currently houses the Camas Courier.
30. 127 Willow Ave E the original Star Schoolhouse Moved to Fairfield in 1945. Currently the "Camas Prairie Daycare/Preschool"
31. 419 1<sup>st</sup> Ave E built in Soldier as the "Rea Hotel" moved to Fairfield in 1912. currently a private residence.
32. 420 Soldier Rd. Built in 1930 for Leo Rice's Garage & Chevrolet Car Lot.
33. 404 Soldier Rd. original site of the first Blacksmith shop. In 1938 C. Stewart Built the 1<sup>st</sup> Service Station. Currently vacant
34. 219 Garnet Ave E. Garage built prior to 1911 as the Plymouth & Desoto car dealership. Currently "Valley Service"
35. 313 Garnet Ave E. built prior to 1895 and moved from Soldier in 1911. At one point served as a Doctors Office. Currently a private residence.

