

Capitol Grounds

The open and spacious lawn resembles the original 1905 Capitol landscape. Over time, numerous trees and bushes were planted on the grounds, eventually masking full view of the building. During renovation, many old and diseased trees were removed. The wood has been used to produce gavels, benches, and gift shop souvenirs.

As you walk the grounds and sidewalks, hot water boils beneath your feet. Idaho's Capitol is the only one in the United States heated by geothermal water. Boise sits atop a large, naturally occurring geothermal resource where water is pumped from three thousand feet underground.

As you stand at the Capitol steps, you are looking at the main ceremonial entrance where visitors are greeted and inaugurations are held. A replica of the *Liberty Bell*, molded in France, stands at the base of the stairs and was given to the state by the U.S. Department of the Treasury in 1950. Two giant spheres of Montana granite flank the thirty-three steps. Don't forget to look up at the bronze plated copper eagle perched atop the Capitol dome. It's difficult to guess its size from such a distance, but it is 5'7" tall.



Ezra Meeker

Erected in 1906, *Pioneer Monument*—located on the southeast grounds—honors pioneers of the Old Oregon Trail. The national movement to preserve the Oregon Trail was organized by Ezra Meeker, who travelled west to Oregon on the trail in 1852 by oxcart. In 1906, at age 76, he began work to preserve the trail and in time he followed the trail by auto and airplane.



Governor Steunenberg

The *Model 1840* cast-iron cannon is a seacoast gun used by the Confederacy in the Civil War and was purchased by State Treasurer S. A. Hastings and Senator William Borah.

Dedicated in 1927, the *Steunenberg Memorial*, south of the Capitol's main entrance in Capitol Park, honors Governor Frank Steunenberg, who served Idaho from 1897 to 1900 and was assassinated in 1905.

The *Abraham Lincoln Statue*, south of the *Steunenberg Memorial*, was originally placed on the grounds of the Old Soldier's Home in 1915, approximately three miles west of the Capitol. When the Old Soldier's Home was demolished in the 1970s for construction of Veterans Memorial State Park, the *Abraham Lincoln Statue* was moved to the grounds of the Veterans Administration at the site of Old Fort Boise. An expansion project in 2008 led to the removal of the statue, which was placed at its current location and rededicated in a ceremony on February 12, 2009.



Grand Army of the Republic

The *Grand Army of the Republic Monument* (GAR), located on the northwest grounds, was donated in 1935 by the Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic to honor the men of the Union Army who served in the Civil War.

