



NEIGHBORHOOD INVESTMENT PROGRAM

Steps to Documenting the History of a Neighborhood

Investigating a neighborhood's history is essential to understanding its unique characteristics. The neighborhood's history allows us to glimpse the neighborhood's development over time and place it in context to the city of Boise's overall history. Outlined below are the steps to documenting a neighborhood's history through the City of Boise's Neighborhood Investment Program (NIP).

- 1) **RESEARCH REPORT.** Start with a background and context of the area that culminates in a research report. This step can also include a public presentation or walking tour.
- 2) **ARCHITECTURAL SURVEY.** The second step is an architectural survey of the neighborhood. The survey can use the research report as background to understand the history of the neighborhood, but the survey's primary focus is to document the architecture of the neighborhood. This step can also include a public presentation or walking tour.
- 3) **ORAL HISTORIES.** If the initial research in step one did not include oral histories, step three is to document resident's memories of the neighborhoods.
- 4) **PROJECTS.** After the first three steps of research and documentation are complete, the next step entails using the research to create opportunities for citizens to engage with the neighborhood's past. These opportunities include:
 - a) *Publications.* This option includes standalone books or brochures that feature the neighborhood, or inclusion in various volumes of the History Division's journal series about Boise's history.
 - b) *Website/App content.* Under this option, the goal will be to create content for the web or an app. This could include the story of the neighborhood featured in a Storymap or a digital Urban Trail. This is another good option for creating augmented reality options (Esri has an application in beta that could prove a good option for augmented reality tours).
 - c) *Podcast.* This option is several years away, but something to consider when planning for what projects the neighborhood residents might want to do.
 - d) *Walking tour and/or bike tour series.* A popular option to include ongoing programming that focuses on the history of the neighborhood.