



Historic

Hailey

CROSSROADS



**East Bullion
Street
and North
2nd Avenue**



Photo by Mallory; Courtesy Hailey Public Library

INTRODUCTION

Located just east of Hailey's business district, the intersection of E. Bullion Street and N. 2nd Avenue is the location of four properties that have been listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Although Hailey has long appreciated its historic resources, many buildings have been lost to fire, or extensively altered making them ineligible for listing. Other buildings and sites in Hailey are on the National Register, but **four buildings at one intersection is unique.**

Unlike many communities born of mining booms, Hailey was intended to be a permanent settlement by its founder. John Hailey, responsible for the selection of the location and the initial developer, understood a permanent town required stability. Stability required efficient transportation routes, a commercial district, and residences. The population of the town must include not just transient miners, but entrepreneurs and families. A stable community would include churches, schools, fraternal organizations and an organized community government. The four corners at Bullion and Second Avenue, purchased within a year of Hailey's creation by three families and a church, exemplify this goal. Today the buildings include two family homes, a church, and a fraternal lodge building. The story of this intersection is the story of Hailey.

A Brief History of Hailey

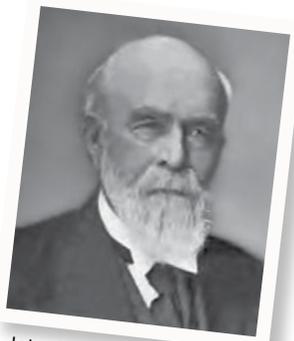
Prospectors and miners were busy in the Wood River area as early as 1864, but conflicts with native residents, transportation problems, and lack of mining technology slowed development of mines in the area until the late 1870s. Successful entrepreneur John Hailey purchased land between Bellevue and Ketchum in December 1880. Before the year ended he founded a new town, Hailey. In 1881, political ambition drew Hailey from the Wood River area to Boise and he sold his land to the Idaho-Oregon Land Improvement Company. The new owners included railroad promoter Robert Strahorn who used his considerable skills and connections to boost the town.

Hailey prospered in the 1880s. In 1883 the Oregon Short Line arrived. Soon the town had the first telephone, 1883, and electric light service, 1889, in the territory. In these same years, disastrous fires struck the downtown business district, yet the town rebuilt. Hailey enjoyed a few more years of prosperity until the Wood River mines faltered and failed about the time of the nationwide Panic of 1893. Although some mines operated in fits and starts after this, the days of the boom were over and Hailey, along with other Wood River communities, had to find other ways to maintain its population. Livestock, particularly sheep, became an important part of the economic base. The U.S. Forest Service began to administer grazing and timber harvest on Forest Service lands and in the mid-1930s the agency built a large administrative site in Hailey. As smaller towns diminished in size and services, Hailey's role as a supply center strengthened.

The scenic beauty of the Wood River Valley attracted many visitors even in the 19th century. The development of better roads in the 1920s and 1930s increased tourist traffic. Although the creation of Sun Valley resort in 1936 had a more direct impact on Ketchum, Hailey felt the increase in numbers of visitors and potential residents—both those who came to enjoy the benefits of leisure activities and the work force required to support them. When tourism combined with the startup of a mining operation, as happened in Hailey when the Triumph mine reopened in the 1930s, the result was a small boom in population.



Photos courtesy of BCHM



John Hailey





Fox Worswick Home - 1906

Photo courtesy of BCHM

Northwest Corner – Fox-Worswick House

Charles B. Fox, a native of New York and a Civil War veteran, purchased several lots from John Hailey in April 1881. He opened a dry goods store on the east side of Main Street between Croy and Bullion, the center of Hailey's fast-developing business district. Along with E.B. Chase and William T. Riley, Fox acquired residential lots east of Main Street. Soon he had a log dwelling built for his family, which included his wife Genevieve and their infant child. Their home on the northwest corner may have been the first building constructed at the intersection of East Bullion Street and North 2nd Avenue.

Fox's dry good store failed in Hailey's competitive market and was sold in a sheriff's sale in October 1881. Fox remained in Hailey for four more years, and was elected Alturas County Auditor and Recorder in 1882. Before the Fox family left Hailey in 1885, they had added another lot to their property and added a one-story, wood-frame addition and porches to the house. Genevieve held title to the property and in October 1885 she sold it to Dr. Newell J. and Celia Brown for \$1,500. She and her children returned to Washington, D.C. where her family lived. Charles traveled to the Snake River to manage his mining claims in that area.

The Browns remained in Hailey for fifteen years, weathering the ups and downs of the Wood River mining economy. They enlarged the house with two single story additions and a second story by 1890, creating "a commodious, well appointed and altogether delightful home." After Newell's defeat for the office of county coroner in the 1900 election, the Browns left Hailey and moved to California, selling the house to local druggist and realtor John Baugh for \$1,500.

The house changed hands many times. Ernest Worswick, a mine investor, owned the house for six years (1904-1910), adding a second entry to the south elevation and a room to the north gable front.

Between 1910 and 1943 the home was bought and sold four times. These owners removed previous additions and added new ones. In 1943, R. Hunter and Zeo Nelson purchased the house, retaining ownership until Hunter's death in 1999. In 2000 the property was purchased by the Wood River Land Trust. The Land Trust restored the home to match the facade shown in the 1906 photograph on page 2. Interior details such as the original wood plank floors and wall colors were also restored.



Original exterior log wall



Ernest Worswick - top row, 2nd from left

The Community Library Regional History Department,
Ketchum, ID #MS-0722

*"Sage brush, sage brush,
and more sage brush..."*

Settlers were eager to move in to Hailey as soon as the townsite survey was completed in April 1881, but "... the softness of the roads forbade the hauling of heavy loads, and not a foot of lumber was to be had..." said T. E. Picotte, the editor of the *Wood River Times*. Until the roads cleared and freight wagons were able to deliver cut lumber from the railroad, the average family dwelled in tents. Pre-cut lumber and siding were not readily available in the Wood River area until after 1883, when the railroad branch was completed.

Northeast Corner: Eben S. and Elizabeth Chase House

Located on the northeast corner of the historic intersection, the Chase house is an example of gable-front vernacular architecture. This house was constructed circa 1885 using adobe-brick infill covered with clapboard siding and milled wood trim. The two-story house followed the traditional gable-front and L-shaped wing form of construction common for wealthier residents of early Idaho mining communities. The L-shaped wing underwent several alterations over the years, though the house still retains the original form.

Businessman Eben S. Chase, a native of Maine and a Civil War veteran, arrived in Idaho Territory in 1878 from the Midwest after being appointed United States Federal Marshal. Chase and his wife Elizabeth made their home in Boise until 1882. That year he moved his family to Hailey with the intent of building a home and managing new business interests there, including the Star 37 mine and a smelter. Chase continued his job as a federal marshal while dabbling in mining investments with two other Boise City residents, merchant David Falk, and assayer Alonzo Wolters.

Chase and his family lived in the house they built at 203 Bullion Street until 1890 when, facing several civil lawsuits, they lost the house to Joseph Pinkham. Ironically, Pinkham was a United States Federal Marshal and Boise resident who also invested in a diversity of businesses. Pinkham never occupied the house. In 1891 he deeded the property to Isaac Lewis, one of his business partners. Lewis used the property for investment purposes and sold it in less than a year to Jerome S. Childs, former superintendent of the Solace Mining Company in the Vienna mining district. Childs and his wife Aimee suffered from a reversal of mining fortunes in the mid-1890s, and left Idaho by 1897.

Peter Snider purchased the former Chase property from Jerome Childs in 1898. Snider immigrated from northern Italy to California. By 1890 he was in Idaho managing the Triumph Mine, located northeast of Hailey. Snider married Maria Pichel (also a former Italian immigrant) in Hailey in 1893. The Triumph mine had a successful production rate through the 1890s, but lack of adequate recovery methods slowed its development. Snider persevered, leasing the Triumph mine from 1909 to 1912, and developed the Challenger group of associated claims. Production remained minimal. In later years, new technologies would make the Challenger group of claims and the Triumph mine the best-producing and longest running mining operations in the Wood River Valley, but by then Snider's association with the mine was over. He was successful with several land investments in the region and eventually served as vice-president of the Blaine County National Bank.

Circa 1907, Snider had a wrap-around, unenclosed porch added to the house, and a small barn was constructed on the property. Later a small shed was built near the barn's



The Chase Home - January, 1906

Photo courtesy of BCHM

west elevation. Snider deeded the house to his wife, Maria, in 1918 and died the following year. Maria lived on the property with her daughters, Helena and Corrina. Helena continued to live there while on break from her education in Boise and Chicago. The 1930 census shows Leo Snider, Maria and Peter's son, also briefly living there while he worked on the Snider mining claims.

In 1931, Maria Snider was living in a one-room cottage (no longer extant) that had been built east of the main house. Helena Snider married Norman Vought in Washington in 1938. She and her husband worked as government employees, living in various states until their retirement. They came to Idaho often, staying in the main house. Helena taught music there. After Maria's death in 1956, the Voughts sold the house. The property changed hands at least two more times until purchased by John and Martha Burke in the early 1970s. As of 2011, Hailey city councilwoman Martha (Beaver) Burke still resides in the house.

The Life of a Local

John M. "Jack" Rutter arrived in Hailey in 1907 from Cornwall, England. Jack worked in the mines for a year before finding work with John Povey, a local builder. In 1911, Jack married his employer's daughter Katherine and struck out on his own as a builder. By the time he created the final plans and supervised construction of the Hailey Masonic Lodge, he had been a builder for almost thirty years and had built many residences and commercial buildings in Hailey and throughout southern Idaho.



Riley Home before the fire of 1916

Southeast Corner: William T. and Frances Heckman Riley House

The southeast corner of the intersection, long known as Riley Corner, was named for William Tecumseh and Frances M. Riley who built one of Hailey's original homes. W. T. Riley was born in Birdsall, New York in 1843. In 1868 Riley headed west and ended up in Kelton, Utah, where he worked as a Wells Fargo agent and served as postmaster. Riley met John Hailey, who was operating one of the Idaho stage lines to Kelton, and the two became friends and business partners. When Hailey acquired the land that became the community of Hailey, Riley joined him, E. S. Chase, and A. H. Boomer in staking out the original 72-block townsite.

In the spring of 1881, William and Frances Riley were in Hailey, living in a tent on the southwest corner of Bullion and Main Street. William purchased residential lots east of Main Street where he began building a log house for his family. By 1885 the Rileys moved into their house on Bullion Street and 2nd Avenue, but the family had grown to include six children and needed a roomier dwelling. The log house was altered or replaced by a two-story gable front-and-wing home.

Both William and Frances experienced health problems and began wintering in California around 1908. Moving to San Diego permanently in the 1910s, Frances died in 1916. William died in his son's home in Los Angeles the following year. Their home on "Riley Corner" burned to the ground by 1916 and the lot remained empty for two decades.

Hailey Masonic Lodge Purchases Riley Corner

Freemasonry traces its roots back to the medieval stonemasons' guilds of Europe where it evolved into a fraternal organization by the 18th century. Many of the founders of the United States were members of the Masons, including George Washington and Benjamin Franklin. The group, which emphasizes self study and improvement as well as community service and charity, grew rapidly in the 19th century.

In September 1884, a group, including T.D. Bellinger, B.R. Hughes, Don McKay and others, received a dispensation from the Masonic Grand Lodge of Idaho to establish a



William T. Riley

Masonic Lodge in Hailey. This lodge was placed in the downtown commercial block. In 1889, the lodge hall was destroyed in a fire that consumed most of Hailey's commercial district. For the next 11 years the Masons met in a variety of locations. In 1900, the Lodge relocated to a building on the west corner of Bullion and Main Streets, eventually purchasing the upper floor. On February 10, 1927, a fire starting in a women's wear store on the first floor burned this site to the ground.

In March 1927, the Masons purchased "Riley Corner." The following year they contracted architect W. W. Deveaux of Yakima, Washington, whose firm had designed an elaborate, multi-story building for the Yakima Lodge. Deveaux's proposal required \$35,000 for construction, an amount unavailable after the crash of 1929.

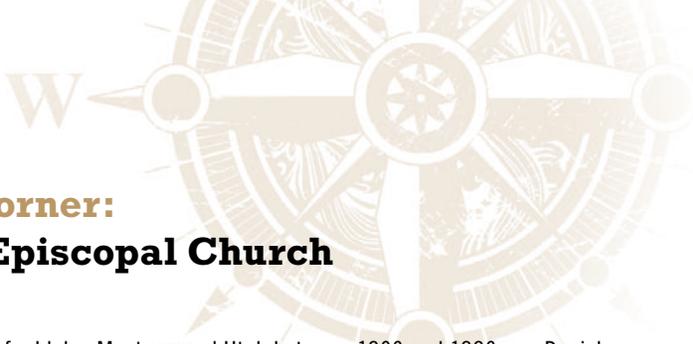
In 1936 after successfully raising funds, a new committee obtained plans from an unidentified Boise architect. Several members, including builder Jack Rutter, agreed to work or provide materials at cost. Ground was broken in August and the project moved forward through the winter. The new lodge was finished in April 1937 and dedicated in a ceremony held May 11, 1937.

The Masonic Lodge has always played an active role in the community of Hailey. Historically, it sponsored balls, dances and other social events. Members provided financial and practical support to fellow lodge members and their families in times of need. In the community, the Masons often cooperated with other fraternal organizations to perform community service.

The Hailey Masonic Lodge's tradition of community service and social sponsorship continues today. The Lodge has annually raised money to award one or two scholarships for local senior high school graduates; it has been involved in Adopt-a-Highway cleanup projects; has been part of the Hailey Historic Walking Tour route since its inception; and is a long-time supporter of the Blaine County Museum and Heritage Court.



Masonic Lodge as it appears today



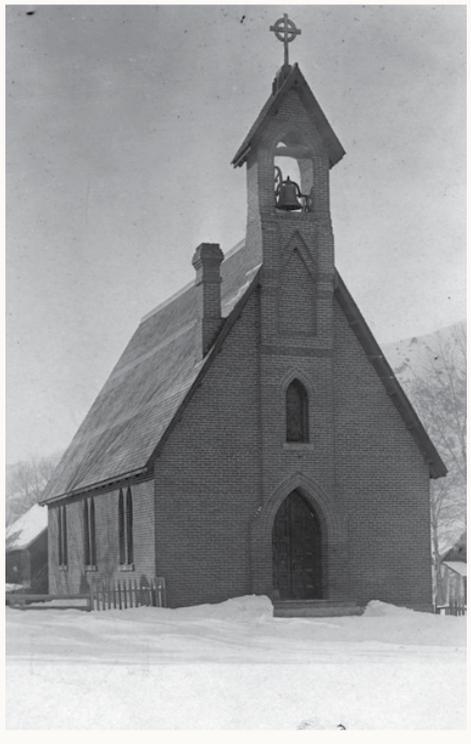
Southwest Corner: Emmanuel Episcopal Church

The Episcopal Bishop for Idaho, Montana and Utah between 1866 and 1886 was Daniel Sylvester Tuttle. Tuttle acquired property on the southwest corner of Bullion Street and 2nd Avenue for a church. He appointed Reverend Israel T. Osborn, of St. Michael's Episcopal Church in Boise, to the Wood River district in 1883. Prior to the building of the church, services in Hailey were held in the schoolhouse, a theater, and a community hall.

Osborn and his wife Sarah Jane Owing were popular in Boise, where they were not only engaged in church activities, but many social and community activities as well. In Hailey, Sarah and the women of the church handled fundraising activities. They held a variety of successful events including fairs, bazaars, concerts, and masquerade parties and raised sufficient monies to start construction. Purchases included a 500-pound bell. The bell was obtained long before the bell tower was constructed. It was stored for several months at E. B. Chase's business on Main Street and used by the fire department as a fire alarm bell.

Once construction of the church was underway, the bell was moved to a corner on Bullion Street near the church where it remained until it was installed in the bell tower.

The Masonic Lodge held a cornerstone ceremony on July 29th, 1885 signaling the beginning of construction. Masons from the lodges in Hailey and Ketchum took part in the ceremony. After the stone was pronounced "square and level" according to Masonic ritual, Bishop Tuttle consecrated the stone and the building. A vault within the stone hid mementos including a copy of the Holy Bible, a prayer book and church hymnal, copies of the Hailey newspapers, the Weekly Wood River Times and the Wood River Times (daily), silver coins of 1885 coinage and samples of ore from leading mines of the Wood River District. One hundred years later, in July 1985, a second cornerstone



Emmanuel Episcopal Church - December 1907



Church goers - from the 1930s

Photo by Mallory; Courtesy Hailey Public Library

ceremony occurred. The vault was opened and the contents displayed and donated to the Idaho State Historical Society. A new capsule was dedicated for the next hundred years.

At the annual meeting of the church, in August 1885, the members determined that the church "was found to be in a very prosperous condition, and free from debt," leading to a decision to complete the new building in time for the winter services. The first services in the almost-completed church building were held on Christmas Day 1885.

Emmanuel Episcopal Church, the oldest church building in Hailey, is also the oldest church still in use in the Episcopal Diocese of Idaho. This building is an example of a modest Gothic Revival parish church. This architectural movement aimed to revive the spirit of the original Gothic style. Popular through the 19th century, it was applied to country cottages, churches and some public buildings. The bell cote, which is topped by a Celtic cross, is an element of Gothic Revival style. Other characteristics include ashlar masonry, polychrome or multi-colored brickwork, a steep gabled roof, stained glass lancet windows, and a Gothic arched entry.

The stained glass windows were not installed when the church was originally built, although some of them may have been added as early as 1887. The gothic-arched lancets are a transitional style that emerged in the late 19th/early 20th centuries. They feature the trend toward geometric composition and the use of bright cathedral glass and jewels, all in nontraditional colors and combinations. Painting ornamental designs on background glass, called grisaille, was developed in the 13th century and became a European tradition, featured exclusively on non-colored glass. The church windows are unique in that the glass artisans incorporated this European technique into the emerging American use of strong colored glass. A project to restore the windows began in 2010. Restoration of each window, which includes removing the windows and re-leading the glass, repairing the window frames, and reinstalling the glass, will take several years to complete.



Conclusion

Standing at the intersection of Bullion and 2nd Streets in the 21st century, the visitor observes a location that was developed in the earliest days of Hailey's history. The first residents of the houses—the Foxes, the Chases and the Rileys—raised their families at the intersection, conducted their businesses, and entertained their friends. The Chases and the Rileys crossed the street on Sunday to attend services at the Episcopal Church.

Although none of them attended meetings in the Masonic Lodge at Riley Corner, all of the men were members of the Masons or other fraternal groups and maintained their connections throughout their lives. The sounds of the smelters, the railroad and the fire bell have faded away to be replaced by the sounds of fast moving cars and lawn mowers, but the four buildings on these corners evoke Hailey's past and their preservation honors it.



Sources

The bulk of the information in this narrative is taken from the National Register of Historic Places Nominations prepared for these four properties by Don Hibbard (Emmanuel Episcopal Church); Madeline Buckendorf (Fox Worswick House, Eben and Elizabeth Chase House); and TAG Historical Research & Consulting (Hailey Masonic Lodge). Additional information came from "The Historic Windows of Emmanuel Episcopal Church," published by the church (2008) and "A Reconnaissance Survey of the Old Hailey Townsite," by Claudia Taylor Walsworth (2006). The photographs credited to BCHM are from the photographic collection of the Blaine County Historical Museum located at 218 N. Main Street in Hailey.

Additional sources include ancestry.com for biographical information on all of the families; the *Wood River Times* newspaper (on microfilm) 1881-1920; *Idaho Statesman Newspaper* (online) 1864-1992.

Park Service Publication Statement

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