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REFERENCE SERIES

THE EAGLE ON THE CAPITOL

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As the Idaho Capitol was nearing completion in October of 1912, an eagle was placed on top of the building. The architect's drawings had originally shown a flag atop the capitol dome, but in the course of construction an eagle was substituted to top the building. The flagstaff was placed at the base of the dome near the front of the building.

The eagle stands five feet, seven inches high and weighs two hundred and fifty pounds. It is made of copper with a bronze finish. The eagle is perched on top of a twenty-six foot "lantern" which tops the dome proper. The Idaho Statesman reported on October 20, 1912, that "many of the stones which are being used in the construction of the lantern are of immense proportion, several pieces weighing three tons each. One in particular is over nine feet in width."

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