

IDAHO STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

REFERENCE SERIES

FORT HALL TRIBAL HEADQUARTERS

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Established June 14, 1867, as a refuge for displaced Boise and Bruneau Shoshoni, Fort Hall Reservation also was recognized as a home for local Bannock and Shoshoni peoples based in that area when Fort Bridger treaty negotiators resolved that issue, July 3, 1868. An initial reservation headquarters was established on J. L. Shirley's ranch in 1869, but after Utah and Northern Railway construction led to a station for Fort Hall in 1878, that became a better headquarters site. In 1922, a town finally was incorporated there.

After a long series of Shoshoni and Bannock efforts to resist cultural destruction and replacement of their ancient traditions with Anglo institutions, a national Indian Reorganization Act of June 18, 1934 recognized their needs (along with those of many other tribes), and a Shoshoni and Bannock constitution and by-laws gained local approval that year. Their corporate charter followed on April 17, 1937, along with their ordinance to provide law and order, September 27, 1938. Over more than half a century since then, their tribal government, assisted financially by successful Indian Claims Commission judgements, has developed a Fort Hall headquarters with attractions for visitors that help to explain their culture to tourists who travel I 15 through their reservation.

(This information has not been edited.)

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