

Idaho State Museum Collections

The collections of the Idaho State Museum are as varied and unique as Idaho's landscape. The museum accepts donations of historic artifacts that help in meeting our mission of preserving and promoting Idaho's cultural heritage. The Idaho State Museum relies on the generosity of donors to enhance and expand the collections. The collection is used most visibly at the Idaho State Museum, Old Idaho Penitentiary, and J. Curtis Earl Memorial Exhibit where items from the collection are exhibited to interpret Idaho's rich history.

What Types of Artifacts Does the Museum Accept?

The museum accepts artifacts from prehistoric times to the present day for our collection. We collect a wide variety of artifacts, from those used over a century ago by famous Idahoans to everyday objects of today. Each potential donation is reviewed by the staff members on the Collections Committee to evaluate its appropriateness for the permanent collection.

Artifacts accepted into the collection generally meet the following basic criteria:

1. The artifact has an Idaho connection and a known history (who made the item, who used the item, where was it acquired, when was it used, etc.).
2. The artifact is in good and stable physical condition.
3. The artifact is unique and not already overrepresented in the collection.
4. The artifact can be acquired without restrictions such as requirements for a long-term loan or permanent exhibition of the artifact.

What Happens if my Artifact is Accepted into the Collection?

If the Collections Committee determines that an artifact is appropriate for the collection, the donor completes a Deed of Gift transferring legal ownership of the artifact to the Idaho State Historical Society (ISHS). The donor receives a copy of the Deed of Gift and donations may be tax deductible. IRS regulations and policies prohibit museum staff members from appraising artifacts. Donors who wish to receive a tax deduction for their donation should consult a tax professional and a qualified appraiser prior to completing the Deed of Gift.

When Will My Artifact be on Exhibit?

We cannot guarantee that any artifact will be exhibited and only a small fraction of the collection is on exhibit at any one time. Regardless of whether or not an artifact is placed on exhibit, it is a valued piece of Idaho history and as part of the collection will be preserved to allow future generations to learn about Idaho's cultural heritage.

Artifact Donation Questionnaire

Complete the Following Questionnaire

Please answer each question in detail. Your responses will facilitate a complete review of each artifact by our Collections Committee. Please do not send artifacts to the museum before you receive a response from Idaho State Museum Collections staff. Email your completed form,* along with images of the artifact(s) you wish to donate, to our Collections Staff at **ISMCollections@ishs.idaho.gov**.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: (home) _____ (work) _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Number of artifacts: _____ Are you the legal owner of the artifact(s)? Yes No

How did you acquire this artifact(s)?

Purchase

Inheritance

Gift

Found

Other

Please describe _____

Name of previous/original owner and relationship to donor:

Date of birth: _____ Place of birth: _____

Date of death: _____ Place of death: _____

What year or decade was the artifact(s) made and/or in use? _____

Please describe, in detail, the artifact(s) you wish to donate (material, type, condition, damage, etc. Include the number/label associated with attached photographs of your donation):



Artifact Donation Questionnaire

How and where was the artifact(s) used?

What relevance does your artifact(s) have to Idaho history:

Do you have any documentary material (bill of sale, photographs of use, letters, diaries etc.) associated with the artifact(s) or its original/previous owner? If yes, please list:

Has the artifact(s) ever been repaired/modified? If yes, please describe:

Please describe any additional memories, comments, recollections you have regarding the artifact(s). Feel free to attach additional pages or digital documentation:

***Submission of this form does not guarantee acceptance of artifacts for donation.**

Preserving the past, enriching the future.