



# LCSC HERITAGE

## Center for Arts & History Date Constructed: 1884

The Lewis-Clark State College Center for Arts & History is located in the heart of historic downtown Lewiston, Idaho, and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The building is the largest art gallery in northern Idaho and home to the permanent exhibit of Lewiston's Chinese Beuk Aie Temple.

The 12,000 square foot building was completed in 1884 when it was known as Vollmer's Great Bargain Store. It was custom built, beginning in 1883, for Idaho's first millionaire, J.P. Vollmer.

The First National Bank of Lewiston, which Vollmer started, occupied the building from 1904-1946, when it was sold to First Security Bank, which continued its operations in the building until 1989. In March 1991 First Security Bank of Idaho donated the building to the Lewis-Clark State College Foundation for use as "a center for arts and culture." Since its opening in October 1991, the Center has welcomed more than 75,000 visitors from all fifty states and 38 foreign countries.

On March 5, 2009, the building suffered a fire that closed it for nearly two years. The Center nevertheless continued operations in a temporary space until its grand reopening in September of 2011. In October of the same year, the LCSC Foundation transferred the ownership of the building directly to the college. The building houses the offices for both the staffs of Continuing Education and Community Events and the Center for Arts & History.

History taken from *Historic Downtown Lewiston: Self-Guided Walking Tour* by Diane Doermer, Ladd Hamilton, and Jonny Johnson; from the I.T. Media Services video, *From This Corner*; and from oral interviews with Leslie Esselburn, former director of the Center for Arts & History.

