

## **Small Historic Towns across America.**

As presented by Mr. Stadt's on-line Freedom Project Education U.S. History classes in the Fall and Winter of 2014. You can learn more about our classes by visiting us at: [www.fpeusa.org](http://www.fpeusa.org)



### **Brief History of McCall, Idaho.**

McCall is a resort town on the western edge of Valley County, Idaho, United States. Named after its founder, Tom McCall, it is situated on the southern shore of Payette Lake, near the center of the Payette National Forest. The population was 2,991 as of the 2010 census, up from 2,084 in 2000.

Originally a logging community whose last sawmill closed in 1977; McCall is now an all-season tourist destination for outdoor recreation. The resort town is known for its Winter Carnival, extended winters, and the highest average snowfall in the state.

Native Americans were the first inhabitants of the land in and around McCall. Three tribes, the Tukudika (a sub-band of the Shoshone known as the "Sheepeaters"), the Shoshone, and the Nez Perce inhabited the land primarily in the summer and migrated during the harsh winter months.

During the 1860s, miners temporarily named the settlement "Lake City", but only alluvial gold was discovered, so the temporary establishment was abandoned as most mining activity moved fifty miles (80 km) north to the town of Warren.

### **Location and Driving Directions from closest major U.S. Airport(s).**

McCall is approximately 100 miles north of Boise National Airport; you are going to be on I-84 for the majority of the way driving from there.

### **Who was President when this town was founded? And what was the political environment in America at that time.**

Benjamin Harrison was in office when McCall, and the state of Idaho, was founded. The era that was going on at this time was the Gilded age, approx. 1870-1900.

## **Oldest businesses today.**

McCall is served by two four-color glossy magazines; *McCall Magazine* and *McCall Home*, both of which are published semi-annually.

## **City government.**

The town has a council-manager form of government with a city manager nominated by the mayor and elected by the city council. The McCall City Council is made up of 4 council members and a mayor elected in an at-large election. During city council meetings, the mayor presides, and all 5 members can vote on any issue. The mayor has no veto powers.

## **Festivals and Events.**

The Winter Carnival starts Jan 30 and ends Feb 8 every year. My personal favorite thing during this festival is the Local Snow Sculpting. In this event professional ice sculptors come and make awesome sculptures out of the snow. Here are some pictures:



## **Why would I want to visit this historic small town.**

I'd like to come here because of the awesome scenery, not just during the winter carnival but really anytime. It is one of those towns that is always breath taking year round. I come up here at least twice a year, during the summer for family camp, hosted by our church, and during the winter for the Winter Carnival. Lake Payette is the main attraction there, and is about 5,330 acres big. You can get a tour of it on a tour boat, the ride lasts for about 2 hours, which is two hours of amazing scenery. And during the summer you can swim in there. Lake Payette is definitely another reason I love McCall.

**Links you may wish to visit.** <http://www.mccall.id.us/>

[http://www.milehighmarina.com/payette\\_lake.htm](http://www.milehighmarina.com/payette_lake.htm)