

VILLAGE

1903 - 1941

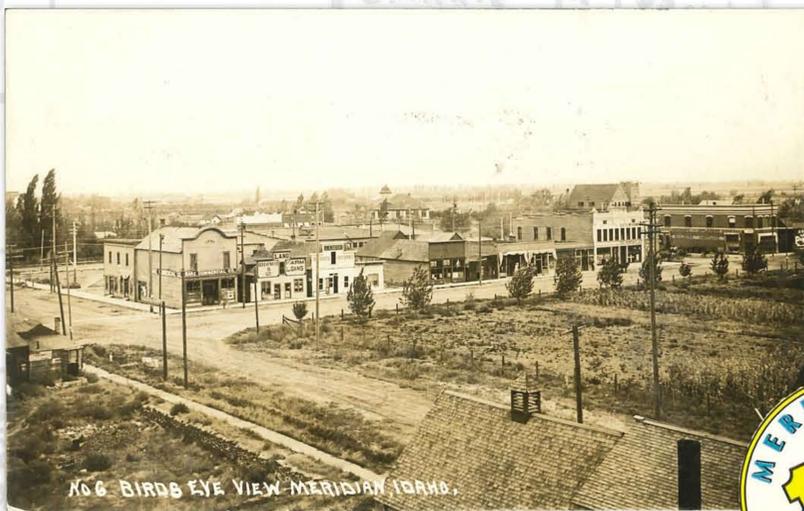
History

The original Meridian town site was filed in 1893 on homestead grant land belonging to Eliza Ann Zenger. Her husband, Christian, filed the plat with county officials and called it Meridian. The early settlers, many of whom were relatives, left their homes in Missouri to come west, either by wagon train or immigrant railroad car, bringing their lodge and church preferences with them. They established local institutions soon after arriving and filed for homestead lands. In other words, they brought their community with them.

Around the turn of the century, settlers established fruit orchards and built fruit packing businesses and prune dryers along the railroad tracks. Local orchards produced many varieties of apples and Italian prunes. Production continued through the mid-1940s, when it was no longer profitable and the businesses closed. In 1941, Meridian's status changed from a village to a city.

Design Elements

The amphitheater is symbolic of the importance of the village 'heart,' a place where Meridian citizens and nearby farmers gathered and socialized to build and replenish community spirit. Behind the amphitheater, the 'tree bosque' and grassy slope give shelter and shade, offering a place of renewal and reflection of the once abundant fruit tree groves.



Bird's eye view of Main and Broadway



Women picking apples



Meridian, Idaho circa 1909



Minutes of first village board meeting



Meridian businessmen serve as a street department, after 1910



East Second Street at Broadway, looking north



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