The name Pocatello comes from an Indian chief of the Shoshone tribe who granted the railroad a right-of-way through the Fort Hall Indian Reservation. Known as the U.S. Smile Capital, Pocatello, ID, is famous for its hospitality.

Downtown Pocatello, also known as Old Town Pocatello, is located primarily west of the railroad tracks and contains a mix of retail stores, professional offices, restaurants, art galleries, and antique shops. Many of these businesses are located on the street level, with the upper floors of the buildings converted to condominiums or apartments. The buildings feature a blend of old and new architecture and represent a variety of architectural styles, including Gothic Revival, Romanesque Revival, Sullivanesque, and Art Deco. The current trend in the area seems to be toward rehabilitation of the historic styles rather than redesigning or disguising their facades.

Adjacent to the downtown on the west, houses in the Old Town Neighborhood were primarily built between the late 1800s and 1930s and are in the New Empire and Victorian styles. Other neighborhoods contiguous to Old Town are in the same style and from the same period. West Pocatello’s west side neighborhoods were built before those on the east and are separated from the east by railroad tracks.

The University Historical District, which is southeast of downtown and surrounds Idaho State University, has a mix of housing sizes and styles and was primarily constructed during the early 1900s. This area also has a substantial rental market. The Idaho Museum of Natural History is located on the campus of the Idaho State University, as is the Holt Arena, which hosts ISU athletics, trade shows, music concerts, and special events, and the L.E. & Thelma E. Stephens Performing Arts Center, which houses a concert hall, a large thrust theater, and a small black-box theater.

North Pocatello houses most of Pocatello’s commercial district and has established neighborhoods on its eastern side and new construction in the western area. Highland, the city’s newest area, offers tree-lined streets and boasts a golf course and fairgrounds. South Pocatello has more expensive real estate properties, with its large houses and spacious acreages, but also has such attractions as Ross Park and a country club.

**PARKS AND RECREATION**

Pocatello has 30 parks, an ice rink, and 2 municipal golf courses. The 3 sections of Ross Park offer the most amenities, including the aquatic complex, the Pocatello Zoo, Bannock County Historical Museum, playground equipment, a band shell, and a sand volleyball court. The Pocatello Zoo focuses on native North American wildlife. The Fort Hall Replica shows the 19th-century world of explorers, trappers, fur traders, Native Americans, pioneers, gold seekers, historic figures, and common folk who visited Fort Hall, on the banks of the Snake River in what is now Southeast Idaho. The roads to the Replica closely follow the Oregon and California Trails.

Numerous special events occur throughout the year, including the Dodge National Circuit Finals Rodeo, the Pocatello Marathon, and performances from the Idaho International Folk Dance Festival.

**EDUCATION**

Pocatello and Chubbuck educate almost 14,000 public and private students, with 5 private schools, 15 elementary schools, 4 junior highs, an alternate school, and 3 high schools. School District #25 also operates a Teen Parent Program and an evening high school for students with special needs.

Idaho State University (ISU) offers 124 baccalaureate, 50 masters, and 9 doctoral programs in the Colleges of Arts and Sciences, Pharmacy, Health-Related Professions, Education, Engineering and Business.

**HEALTH CARE**

Acute-care services are offered at 2 hospital locations, which operate a total of 250 licensed beds. These hospitals will be merged into a single-campus, 187-bed medical center once construction is completed in 2011.

**CITY STATS**

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<th>2007</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>City Population</td>
<td>54,572</td>
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<tr>
<td>Metropolitan Area Population</td>
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<td>Per capita personal income, Pocatello MSA:</td>
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Photo courtesy of City of Pocatello