

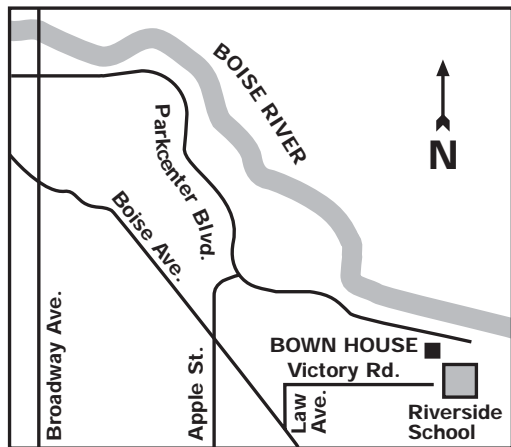


About the Bown House

Built along the Oregon Trail in 1879 by Boise pioneer farmers Joseph and Temperance Bown, the Bown House is one of the oldest stone residences in the area. Today, it houses the heritage education program of the Independent School District of Boise.

Visit the Bown House The Bown House is open for free tours the first Saturday of each month from 1 to 4 pm. Use the map below to get there.

Visit us on the web To visit the Bown House on the World Wide Web, go to this address: www.boiseschools.org/schools/riverside/bownteach.



We can use your help!

Volunteers and donations saved, restored, and continue to operate the Bown House. Check as many boxes as you like and send the form to the address below.

Please accept my 100% tax deductible contribution.

Yes, I would like to learn more about being a volunteer at the Bown House.

My organization would like to schedule a tour of the Bown House or a have a speaker come out and tell us more about it.

I have pictures or information about the Bown House or its occupants.

I have historic artifacts to donate to the Bown House.

I would like to order a Bown House sweatshirt, T-shirt, tote bag, notepaper, and/or the *History Along the Greenbelt* book. 100% of the net proceeds benefit the Bown House Education Program.

I would like information about the Bown House interactive CD-ROM for elementary students and teachers.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Telephone _____

To contribute or volunteer for this exciting children's Idaho heritage program, call or write: BOWN HOUSE

Boise Public Schools Education Foundation
8169 W. Victory Road • Boise, ID 83709
Telephone (208) 287-2065

Checks may be made payable to the Boise Public Schools Foundation. Please note the contribution is for the **Bown House**. All contributions are tax deductible.

Have you heard of Boise's exciting heritage education program?



Preserving Our Heritage for Idaho's Children

Sponsored by the Boise
School District,
the Bown House
Advisory Committee,
and the Assistance League®
of Boise

Our Idaho heritage lives inside the Bown House

The Bown House heritage education program transports students back to the 1890's to experience life as children of that time. Six rooms, each with its own unique activity, engage children in fun and memorable ways impossible in a regular classroom. Especially valuable is the fact that students learn about the lives of actual citizens of their community who lived here over 100 years ago.

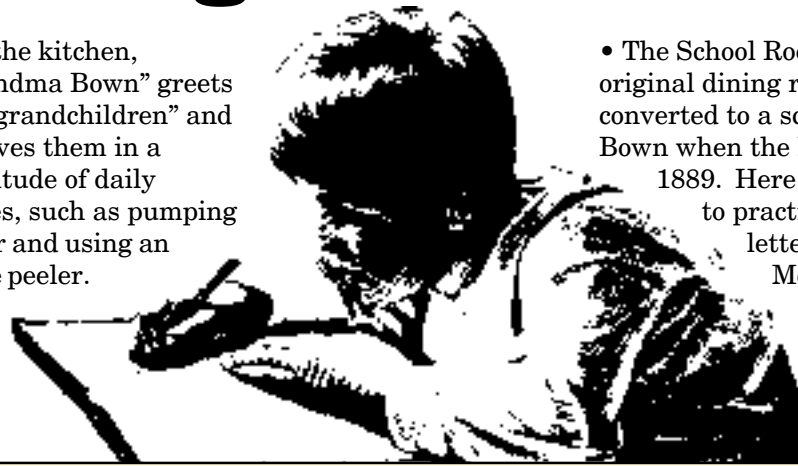
The First Floor

Three rooms on the ground floor require students to think, act, and talk as children of the 1890's. That era was chosen both because it is not well represented by other field trips and also because it is a time when the Bowns were grandparents themselves with school-age grandchildren who might have visited the house.

- In the parlor, children try on period clothes and enjoy storytelling, quilting, games, and using a stereoscope. They are in awe of the old Bible and its carefully kept records of family events.



- In the kitchen, “Grandma Bown” greets her “grandchildren” and involves them in a multitude of daily chores, such as pumping water and using an apple peeler.



- The School Room is located in the original dining room, which was converted to a school room by Grandma Bown when the local school burned in 1889. Here the children use slates to practice their numbers and letters, they read from a McGuffey Reader, and they reply with a “yes ma’am” and “no ma’am.”

A Preservation Success Story

In 1879, Boise pioneer farmers Joseph and Temperance Bown built a substantial stone house for their family. It is one of the oldest stone residences in the Boise area. The Independent School District of Boise purchased the property as a future school site in 1988 and talked about tearing the building down or moving it to another location.

Instead, the Idaho Historic Preservation Council convinced the school district to keep the Bown House and put it to a creative use. They joined with the district to preserve and renovate the house. Today, thanks to volunteer efforts of

hundreds in the community, the Bown House enjoys a new life.



In 1995, the project won a National Preservation Honor Award from the National Trust—one of only 15 such awards given in the U.S. that year. Sheri Freemuth, Chair of the Bown House Steering Committee, wrote: “This grassroots project has done more to raise awareness about historic preservation in Boise than any project in recent memory...Most notable...was

the participation of parents, teachers, and especially schoolchildren, all of whom now see the Bown House as THEIRS.”

The Second Floor

Upstairs, the children take on roles of Oregon Trail pioneers, newspaper reporters, and farmers to learn about geography, history and farming in the 19th century.



- In the Farm Room, students make decisions about which crops to plant and whether to purchase new machinery for their 1890 farm. Such factors as the weather and market prices also affect their profit or loss for the year.

- In the Geography Room, students use “trail” diaries, maps, and graphics to move along the Oregon Trail. They learn about geography and the hardships and simple pleasures of the early pioneers.

- In the History Newsroom, students become reporters and take notes about important breakthroughs, such as the development of electric power or the discovery of gold in the West. They also try using the vintage telephone, typewriter, and telegraph machine.