

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

JUN 27 1978

JUN 18 1979

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Bown, Joseph, house

AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

2020 East Victory Road

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF Boise

Second

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Idaho

16

Ada

001

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

DISTRICT

PUBLIC

X OCCUPIED

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

X BUILDING(S)

X PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

COMMERCIAL

PARK

STRUCTURE

BOTH

WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

X PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

OBJECT

IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

BEING CONSIDERED

X YES: UNRESTRICTED

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

NO

MILITARY

OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Carol Kersting

STREET & NUMBER

2020 East Victory

CITY, TOWN

Boise

VICINITY OF

STATE

Idaho

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Ada County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Boise

STATE

Idaho

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Idaho State Historic Sites Inventory

DATE

1972

FEDERAL X STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Idaho State Historical Society

CITY, TOWN

Boise

STATE

Idaho

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT
☒ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Joseph Bown residence is a two-story sandstone house which sits in a large field, and overlooks the Boise River. Two giant oaks dwarf the house. The house has a hipped roof and is three bays wide and two bays deep. All windows are double hung sash and have sandstone frames and sills. The present front porch replaces an earlier enclosed porch. The walls are 22" thick.

Originally there was also a rear porch and a cupola. These are no longer extant. There are no additions.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
☐ PREHISTORIC	☐ ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	☐ COMMUNITY PLANNING	☐ LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	☐ RELIGION
☐ 1400-1499	☐ ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	☐ CONSERVATION	☐ LAW	☐ SCIENCE
☐ 1500-1599	☒ AGRICULTURE	☐ ECONOMICS	☐ LITERATURE	☐ SCULPTURE
☐ 1600-1699	☒ ARCHITECTURE	☐ EDUCATION	☐ MILITARY	☐ SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
☐ 1700-1799	☐ ART	☐ ENGINEERING	☐ MUSIC	☐ THEATER
☒ 1800-1899	☐ COMMERCE	☒ EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	☐ PHILOSOPHY	☐ TRANSPORTATION
☐ 1900-	☐ COMMUNICATIONS	☐ INDUSTRY	☐ POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	☐ OTHER (SPECIFY)
		☐ INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1869

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Joseph Bown residence is significant as a surviving example of early Idaho farm house architecture employing stone.

Joseph Bown came to Idaho in 1863, and mined gold at Idaho City. In 1865 he brought his family out from Iowa and in 1869 started his ranch three miles east of Boise. At first the family lived in a log house, but in 1879 the present structure was built. The stone was quarried across the river at the "Buckley quarry," near Table Rock. When completed it was considered the grandest dwelling in Boise's outlying districts. The Bowns lived in this house until 1893 when they moved to farm south of Boise. W. T. Booth, a realtor, purchased the property and held it until 1927 when it was sold to J. R. Bright.

The house, still surrounded by open pasture land, remains a significant local landmark. It is a substantial, rare, and well preserved example of a pre-1890s Idaho stone farm house.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Idaho Daily Statesman, May 20, 1879, p. 3, c. 1, June 5, 1927, sec. 2, p. 2, c. 1-3.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 4.2

UTM REFERENCES

A

1	1	5	6	8	1	10	4	8	2	4	9	15
ZONE		EASTING				NORTHING						

B

ZONE		EASTING				NORTHING						

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

This nomination includes all the property owned by Carol Kersting in 1977 in section corner 24 & 25, Township 3N., Range 2 E.B.M. and in section 19 & 30 of Township 3 N., Range 3 E.B.M.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Don Hibbard, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

Idaho State Historical Society

DATE

22 June 1978

STREET & NUMBER

610 North Julia Davis Drive

TELEPHONE

384-2120

CITY OR TOWN

Boise

STATE

Idaho

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL ☐

STATE ☒

LOCAL ☐

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Merle Wells

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

22 June 1978

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

W. Ray Jace
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST: *W. Ray Jace*
for KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

6-8-79

DATE

6/18/79

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

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The architectural significance of the Bown house is as "what may be the oldest stone residence extant in Idaho."¹ It was built in 1869, three miles east of the military post/settlement which would become a state capitol when Idaho was admitted to the union in 1890. Boise City was already a territorial capital in the 1860's, and its architectural endowment was modest: an early resident recalls "nothing more than a few little board houses and scattered tents."² That is certainly an exaggeration, but substantial stone structures which were sibling to the Bown house and which survive in Boise today are public or quasi-public, rather than private, in nature: e.g. the Assay Office (1870-72); stone buildings at Fort Boise dating from the 1860s; or the gothic-revival State Penitentiary at the east end of Warm Springs Avenue, the sandstone for which was quarried, as was the material for the Joseph Bown house, from a site near Table Rock. The Bown house, however, represented one of the few private dwellings of any substantiality and pretension. Bown was an English immigrant, a respected stockman, married to an energetic New York stater named Temperance Statira Hall. The impressive home on their 240-acre ranch was a social gathering place³ as well as a citadel in which neighbors gathered when the threat of Indian attack occurred.

¹J. Meridith Neil, Saints and Oddfellows: A Bicentennial Sampler of Idaho Architecture, Boise, Idaho, Boise Gallery of Art, 1976, p. 178.

²Martha J. Jones in Idaho Daily Statesman, 17 November 1941, p. 2, c. 3.

³Ibid.



House
Joseph Bown ~~Residence~~
Boise, Idaho

Ada County

Photographer - J. M. Neil, 1976

View of the front from the southwest.

#1 of 1

Idaho State Historical Society

76-160.295