



*Jacob Bowerman at the Ranch in 1910\**

## The California to Oregon Stage Road

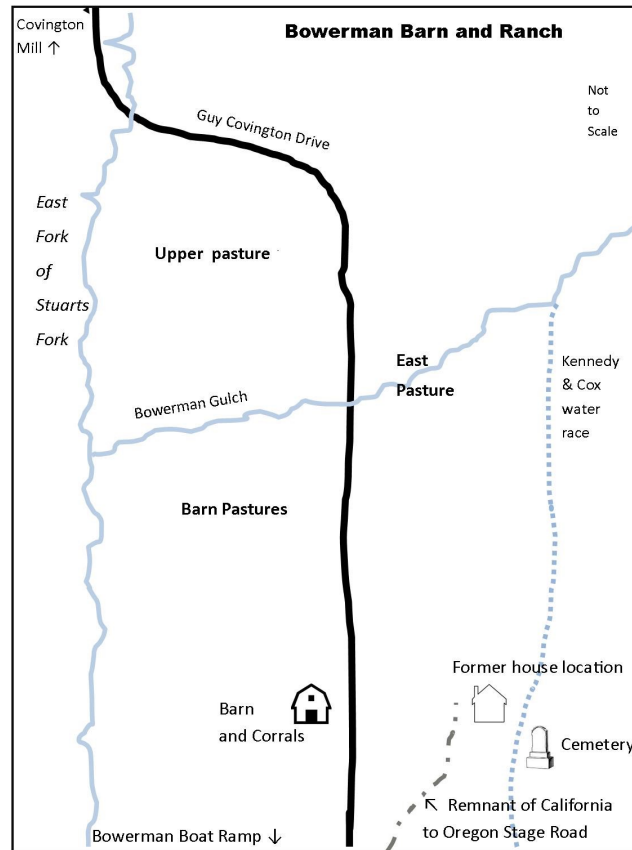
In the late 1800s, the main transportation route from California to Oregon passed through the Trinity River valley and over Scott Mountain to Yreka and points north. The mail, stagecoach passengers and freight traveled along this wagon road which passed through the Bowerman Ranch. Stand on the remnant of the old road and imagine the bustle of the stage, the hustle of the teamsters or a gold miner hauling supplies to his claim.



*Freight wagon coming through Minersville in 1890\**

## Visitor Information

The Bowerman barn and ranch is located off of scenic state Hwy 3 in Trinity County, approximately 24 miles north of Weaverville. Turn south onto Guy Covington Drive and continue 1.2 miles. There is no charge for visiting this historic site.



## About Us

The U.S. Forest Service and volunteers are restoring the Bowerman barn and ranch. This brochure and other projects are funded by donations and local fundraising. For more information go to [www.bowermanbarn.org](http://www.bowermanbarn.org).

*Visit Historic*

## Bowerman Barn and Ranch

Bowerman Barn, built in 1878 by Jacob Bowerman, stands today as an outstanding example of a late 19th century hand-crafted structure. The Bowerman Ranch was purchased by the U.S. Forest Service in 1974. The barn and homestead area are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Currently, the interior of the Barn is closed while structural repairs are being made. You may explore the rest of the ranch. Picnic in the old corral; pet the USFS pack mules if they're taking a break in the pastures; take photos of the barn backed by the spectacular Trinity Alps; and envision pioneer life on the homestead in the 1880s.



Visit the historic Bowerman Barn & Ranch in Covington Mill  
[www.bowermanbarn.org](http://www.bowermanbarn.org)

## The Barn

The design echoes the classic “bank barn” built into the side of a hill. The lowest level housed livestock and faced south and west for winter warmth. The middle level, which had direct road access for wagons, served as a threshing floor and fodder storage. The top level was used for storage of loose hay, tossed to livestock below. The movable louvers above the front door provided ventilation.



The three story wood structure is made from whip-sawn lumber and hand-hewn beams. The post and beam construction incorporates mortise and tenon joints secured with hardwood pegs.



To see this hand-built barn is to get a glimpse of a bygone era. You can't help but marvel at the skill and ingenuity of people who constructed this barn without the benefit of modern tools and techniques.

## The Ranch

Jacob Bowerman came west from Ohio in 1856, seeking his fortune in the gold fields. He never struck it rich, but convinced his brother John to join him in California and start a ranch. In 1861, the brothers purchased this 160 acre ranch and began raising beef and dairy cows and planting hay and corn. The brothers supplied beef and butter to miners and local businesses.



*California Conservation Corps rebuilding pasture fences*

Irrigation water for the fields came from the Kennedy and Cox mining ditch, which diverts water from Bowerman Gulch. Troughs made from hand-hewn logs watered the livestock. Since 2013, the pastures have periodically housed the USFS pack mules. These hard-working mules haul supplies to crews maintaining wilderness trails and fighting forest fires.



## The Homestead



*Bowerman family and house around 1892\**

In 1872, Jacob Bowerman married Anna Tourtellotte. Anna had worked at her father's store and inn in nearby Minersville (now under Trinity Lake) and used her inn-keeping experience to host travelers on the ranch. Teamsters transporting goods would stay in a 5-bed room, called the “Bull Pen” located above the kitchen in the main house.

Jacob and Anna had two sons, Jacob Ray and Frank Leslie. Jacob Ray died in childhood during a diphtheria epidemic. Frank Leslie spent most of his life in Trinity as a rancher until his death in 1920. The house burned to the ground in 1929. Members of the Bowerman family are buried in a small cemetery on the hill. Today, their legacy lives on in local place names such as Bowerman Ridge, Bowerman Meadows and Lake Anna (named after Anna Bowerman, the first white woman to hike to the lake).