

River Street neighborhood shows signs of renaissance

But some fear central Boise area will lose its character

By Liz Wyatt
The Idaho Statesman

In the Boise neighborhood where Minnie Ray has lived off and on for more than 30 years, the mom-and-pop grocery stores, front porches with men playing checkers and neighbors who knew everyone on the block are gone.

"My family pretty much knew the other families across the street. If something like a death happened, we all pitched in," Ray said. "Now it's a lot different."

Remnants are all that are left of the River Street neighborhood that Ray remembers — a small area near the Boise River south of downtown Boise undergoing the kind of revitalization that city planners and residents long have envisioned would happen there.

In the area bounded by the Boise River, the Connector, Americana Boulevard and Capitol Boulevard, new offices are under construction, old homes are being turned into businesses, and people are moving into the neighborhood, one of the city's poorest and one long stigmatized by its label as Boise's slum.

The upscale Cottonwood Grille opened in November; the 116-unit River Plaza apartments opened in March; the main Boise branch for the U.S. Postal Service is undergoing a \$3.2 million remodeling; and new day-care facilities will open in August at the site of El Ada Community Action Agency's soup kitchen, which is moving out of the neighborhood. An office building adjoining the River Plaza apartments, meant for use by non-profit or-



Gerry Melendez / The Idaho Statesman

Minnie Ray has been part of the River Street neighborhood in Boise for more than 30 years. The Borah High School special education teacher owns the nearly 100-year-old home on Ash Street where she and her family moved in the late 1960s. She has no plans to leave. "I think it's just home. It's familiar. It's where I've grown up for a long time."

TWO PAGES INSIDE, 6A & 7A

- A neighborhood evolves through the years
- Finding your way around River Street
- Plans for change

live in the area or open offices there for just those reasons.

Tomlinson points to rising property values as evidence of the area's increasing attractiveness. Residentially zoned acreage in the River Street neighborhood can sell for \$7 or \$8 a square foot, compared with about \$2 a square foot in out-

lying parts of the city, he said.

Twenty years ago, commercial property in the area was about \$3 to \$4 a square foot. Now it's anywhere from \$9 to \$14, depending on its proximity to the Boise River, said Amy Wray, a manager with RMH Co., a partner in developing the Forest River buildings along the river.

The River Plaza apartments, which U.S. Housing and Urban Development Secretary Andrew Cuomo praised for mixing affordable and market-rate housing during a visit to Boise in March, are considered by residents and planners to be a catalyst for additional development in the neighborhood. The apartments, many believe, will

finally draw more attention to the neighborhood as a desirable place to live and do business.

"It's taken years. Here we are in year 2000 before we've gotten a project that has some semblance of turning this neighborhood back into a strong neighborhood community," said John Bertram, owner of Planmakers Planning and Urban Design. "We've finally started to bring some life back into the neighborhood."

Bertram used to live in the River Street neighborhood and located his business in an old home there in 1980. He first came to the neighborhood in

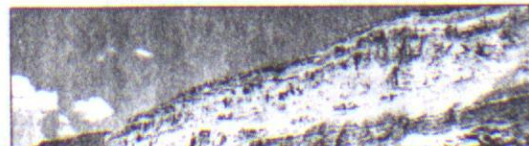
See River Street / 6A

"We've finally started to bring some life back into the neighborhood."

John Bertram, Owner of Planmakers Planning and Urban Design

Idaho Statesman, June 11, 2000

Microsoft, monuments, dams may help GOP win Washington



Despite people's negative perceptions of the neighborhood, those who lived there remember...

A jumping-off point

tomorrow," she said. The lack of permanence also makes

Alan McBride, 31, left, and Brenda Arthur, 33, live in a tiny one-bedroom house on South 12th Street. Although they think that homelessness and poverty are still a problem in the neighborhood, the couple stays in

Sy
Pr
As
di
Los
Mic

State

DA
Hafez
the m
move
Israel
dent
years

Th
and
porte
instal
Leba
might
in the
suit
peac
the
die E

A
surg
close
the f
said
long
ing
suffi
from
pho
No f
diat

A
achi
the
Heig
in 19

a p
men
com
rael
Leba
tively
press
main

Th
with
imm
the
Bas
dent
tutio
age
Bas
its h
offer
be fr

A
few
near
Dan
our
will
S
to
rest
cus
city
sch
pos
Lou
with
Isl



Gerry Melendez / The Idaho Statesman

River Street neighborhood has become a safer, less threatening. Others in the neighborhood credit



Gerry Melendez / The Idaho Statesman

RIVER STREET

From 1A

1970 as a Volunteers in Service to America volunteer, and worked on a plan to improve the area and at a now-defunct neighborhood center.

While recent changes have won praise from Bertram and others who believe the neighborhood can become a blend of homes, offices and stores that support a diverse range of incomes, others are concerned that what remains of the neighborhood's history and character will be wiped out—and that poorer residents will be pushed out.

Wrong side of the tracks

Houses in the River Street area, Bertram said, used to be not too different from those in Boise's North End and East End. But the railroad tracks that sliced River Street off from Boise's downtown in the late 1800s gave the neighborhood a wrong-side-of-the-tracks reputation over the years.

Bertram, who rented a house on Lee Street in 1970, said that at the time he lived there, people mostly cared for their homes. The neighborhood was a friendly place where people sat on their porches, talked and were happy to lend a cup of sugar to a neighbor.

"I always felt it was a pretty decent neighborhood, but people were poor and they didn't have much of a political vote," Bertram said.

But during that decade, the neighborhood started to change, as people fled the downtown for other neighborhoods and nearby towns. Unkempt properties, small-time illegal gambling and prostitution gave outsiders a negative impression of River Street.

"There were some colorful people in the neighborhood," said Cherie Buckner-Webb, who grew up there in the early 1950s. Buckner-Webb, who now lives in the North End, is a founder of the Idaho Black History Museum.

People such as "Big Mama," a local madam, and Mrs. Davis, a bag lady, helped give the neighborhood its flavor, Buckner-Webb recalled.

At the time Buckner-Webb lived in the River Street neighborhood, it was considered Boise's black neighborhood. Even so, Buckner-Webb recalls that more whites than blacks lived there.

"In lily-white Boise, Idaho, there were more (African Americans) here than in any other place," she said. "The black community was so small, you had to pull tight."

The River Street neighborhood was a place where members of minority groups, who often had a difficult time getting loans, could afford to rent.

"The reality was, we didn't buy a lot," Buckner-Webb said.

Some outsiders perceived the neighborhood as a slum, but Buckner-Webb recalls when the Arid Club—a private organization that started as an exclusive men-only club—moved into the neighborhood in 1987.

"I just fell out when they put the Arid Club on this property," she said. "I just thought it was so funny that it was taboo, and now it's expensive real estate."

Despite people's negative perceptions of the neighborhood, those who lived there remember a sense of ownership, some sense of ownership. I don't get that sense when I come through here anymore."

A jumping-off point

ing, some sense of ownership. I don't get that sense when I come through here anymore."

Mack said, sometimes are reluctant to make close friends.

"They know they might not be here tomorrow," she said.

The lack of permanence also makes



Boise Police Sgt. Rich Schnebly, who heads the department's community policing program out of the Miller Street substation, thinks the River Street neighborhood has become a safer place to live in recent years, in part due to more than 70 historic street lights that have made the neighborhood brighter at night and less threatening. Others in the neighborhood credit the police substation and the adjacent Pioneer Neighborhood Community Center with improving the area.

Gerry Melendez/The Idaho Statesman



Gerry Melendez/The Idaho Statesman

Tiffnee Rainey, a stylist at Innovations Hair Salon, cuts Randy Mitchell's hair recently. Innovations co-owner Steven Dexter chose to remodel an old home on South 14th Street for the business partly because of the neighborhood's proximity to downtown. Small businesses are increasingly moving into the area.



Gerry Melendez/The Idaho Statesman

Alan McBride, 31, left, and Brenda Arthur, 39, live in a tiny one-bedroom house on South 12th Street. Although they think that homelessness and poverty are still a problem in the neighborhood, the couple stays in the neighborhood because of its location.

"The black community was so small, you had to pull tight."

The River Street neighborhood was a place where members of minority groups, who often had a difficult time getting loans, could afford to rent.

"The reality was, we didn't buy a lot," Buckner-Webb said.

Some outsiders perceived the neighborhood as a slum, but Buckner-Webb recalls when the Arid Club — a private organization that started as an exclusive men-only club — moved into the neighborhood in 1987.

"I just fell out when they put the Arid Club on this property," she said. "I just thought it was so funny that it was taboo, and now it's expensive real estate."

Despite people's negative perceptions of the neighborhood, those who lived there remember a strong sense of community. The bad reputation, they say, was undeserved.

Buckner-Webb, Ray and others who grew up there remember the River Street neighborhood as a place where families looked out for one another. Children had plenty of playmates. And people cared about their neighbors.

"We loved it because it was close to the river. We could go play in the water and fish," said Ray, who teaches special education at Borah High School. "And it was close to downtown."

On a recent visit to her old neighborhood, Buckner-Webb looked around at the vacant lots and apartment buildings that have replaced the old homes torn down in the 1960s, 1970s and later as developers bought property. The old grocery store where Buckner-Webb used to hang out is now the El Ada Community Action Agency's soup kitchen. The neighborhood, she said, looks foreign.

Buckner-Webb saw no traces of her old neighborhood in the few remaining single-family homes.

"I don't think it's ever going to be a 'neighborhood' neighborhood again," she said. "A neighborhood, just even the term, connotes some sense of stay-



Gerry Melendez / The Idaho Statesman

Tiffnee Rainey, a stylist at Innovations Hair Salon, cuts Randy Mitchell's hair recently. Innovations co-owner Steven Dexter chose to remodel an old home on South 14th Street for the business partly because of the neighborhood's proximity to downtown. Small businesses are increasingly moving into the area.

ing, some sense of ownership. I don't get that sense when I come through here anymore."

A jumping-off point

River Street, in fact, has very few long-time residents. The area consists mostly of rental homes and apartments, and few residents stay around for long. About 7 percent of residents own homes, according to the most recent figures. In comparison, 74 percent of homes in Boise's North End are owned by residents.

Boise State University students stay there temporarily, and single mothers live there until they can buy homes. Community House, which offers housing and other services to about 1,500 homeless people each year, also brings residents into and out of the neighborhood.

"This is a place where people say, 'I'm going to stay a few months, and then I'm out of here,'" said Kay Mack, who runs the Boise Parks and Recreation Department's Pioneer Neighborhood Community Center. "They use it as a steppingstone."

The center, which opened in 1996, often is filled with the sounds of movies playing on a television set in a back room and children playing Connect Four or air hockey or computer games. Staff members have to structure art projects and other activities so that they can be completed in one day because the children who visit the center leave the area frequently. Children,

Mack said, sometimes are reluctant to make close friends.

"They know they might not be here tomorrow," she said.

The lack of permanence also makes it difficult for adults to establish bonds. Brenda Arthur, 39, and Alan McBride, 31, have rented a small one-bedroom house with peeling brown paint on South 12th Street for the past two years but know they might have to move at any time to make way for new development in the area.

The couple stays for one reason: "Cheap rent," McBride said.

The neighborhood has no association to represent its interests at City Hall. Mack and others who repeatedly have tried to start a group could not find enough residents to join.

Safeta and Suad Delic and their three sons moved into an apartment in the River Street neighborhood about two months ago from Twin Falls, where they had moved from Bosnia.

Friends told them they'd be able to find subsidized rent in the neighborhood and that it was close to downtown. The Delics pay \$230 a month to stay in the Pioneer Square apartments but plan to move into a house after six months, their son, Samir Delic, said, translating for his parents.

Despite the neighborhood's problems, people see a bright future.

"I see a lot of struggle and a lot of hope here at the same time," Mack said, "and that's what makes it a very unique place."



Gerry Melendez / The Idaho Statesman

Alan McBride, 31, left, and Brenda Arthur, 39, live in a tiny one-bedroom house on South 12th Street. Although they think that homelessness and poverty are still a problem in the neighborhood, the couple stays in and the Greenbelt," Arthur said. The couple pays \$300 a month to live in the neighborhood.

'Very nice, very quiet'

Residents credit a Boise Police Department substation, the first in the city, and the adjacent community center with improving the neighborhood by adding needed services.

"In relationship to other cities, this is good," said Boise Police Sgt. Rich Schnebly, who oversees the department's community policing program out of the Miller Street substation. "This is really a very nice, very quiet neighborhood."

Schnebly said officers arrested at least 12 people in the neighborhood for drug sales during the first year the substation was open. There were no arrests made in 1999 in the neighborhood for the same crime, he said, adding that for a neighborhood as small as River Street, the number of earlier arrests was unusually high.

"One day I came home, and everybody in the neighborhood was arrested for drugs except for me," said Ray, who lives across from the substation.

"When the police moved in, a lot of people moved out," Mack said. "We've watched some individuals who could not handle the police close by. They could just not handle it. It made them very uncomfortable."

Police also have cracked down on people living in cars and other problems that used to be common in the area.

Schnebly also attributes more than 70 historic street lights, installed over the past four years, with making it safer. The lights were put in with money from the city's Housing and Community Development division.

"When we first moved down here, this place was pitch dark. You didn't see anyone once the sun went down," he said.

Now more people walk on the Greenbelt and Pioneer Walkway and children play after dark.

"My God. What a change. What a difference. You can see, and it feels comfortable," Schnebly said.

People also are taking more pride in their homes and littering less, Mack said.

"It's starting to get a new feel," she said. "It's a lot cleaner than when I first got here."

Pioneer Park, which used to be a place where many parents wouldn't let their children play because of the homeless people who visited there, now is more inviting. The Boise Parks and Recreation Department last year put in new playground equipment, and police started kicking out home-

less people who loitered in the small park, which is next to El Ada Community Action Agency's soup kitchen.

El Ada will be moving its services out of the neighborhood in August, a change that is receiving mixed reviews. The city, which leases the Grand Avenue facility to El Ada, wants the agency to move so the site can be used for a day-care center and other child-related services. El Ada will move its services to a facility on Americana Terrace. Community House will operate a day-care center for children from the neighborhood and outside the area.

"We'll get the center of the neighborhood back for recreational use that will build the family by providing a place for young kids to go," Tomlinson said.

"I think that's cool," said 11-year-old Brianna Gibson, who has lived in the Pioneer Square apartments for five years. Gibson said she sometimes avoids Pioneer Park because of homeless people who loiter there.

Some residents and others hope that even though El Ada is moving, the neighborhood will remain a viable place for low-income residents.

Mary Chant, a manager at El Ada, considers the recent development in the River Street area to be positive, but said, "This has always been a neighborhood where people with very little income can afford to live. I just hope we don't lose a neighborhood where people can afford to live."

Developers and planners are confident that River Street will continue to be a neighborhood for people of all incomes.

At River Plaza, about 80 percent of the units are considered affordable housing. Rents for those apartments are based on what tenants earn. To qualify, they must earn anywhere from 30 to 60 percent of the median family income, which is \$50,200 in Boise, according to the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Linda Gilliland, 50, moved into a one-bedroom apartment in March after living with her mother in a one-bedroom house near Vista Avenue for about seven years. She pays \$236 a month rent.

Gilliland, a watercolor artist who lives on Social Security disability checks, said it's difficult to find affordable housing in Boise. She started inquiring about River Plaza in 1998, before it was built.

Gilliland's paintings adorn the hallway in her light-filled apartment, which overlooks 13th Street and the

Community House. Her apartment, like others at River Plaza, includes a washer and dryer, microwave and dish washer, amenities she was glad to find in low-income housing.

"I really like the apartments," she said. "It has everything I would like in a house."

Gilliland credits River Plaza with helping to improve the neighborhood by bringing back affordable, attractive housing, and she welcomes a mix of income levels, saying the diversity can only make the neighborhood healthier.

"That's extremely appealing to me," she said.

Signs of a turn-around

Some business owners would not have considered moving into the area 10 years ago but are encouraged by the recent signs of a turn-around.

Steven Dexter, co-owner of Innovations Hair Salon, moved the business from the Eighth Street Marketplace into a 99-year-old South 14th Street house that used to be a run-down rental. Stylists curl, color and cut hair inside the light-filled salon with wooden floors and glazed light-brown walls.

"We chose this because it's still in the downtown area but without a lot of the downtown congestion and hustle-bustle," Dexter said. "It's really delightful to feel like we are in the downtown area, but we are removed a bit."

Developers and others expect more development and improvements to the neighborhood in the next five to 20 years. New offices will replace ramshackle houses, they say, and businesses will fill lots that have stood vacant since homes were torn down by land speculators and also as part of redevelopment.

Capital City Development Corp., which oversees development in the area, manages a plan that calls for a mix of residential and commercial development in the neighborhood. The plan serves as a guide for the area and cannot be enforced as policy.

"You've seen more and more people buying ground and trying to speculate on it," said Dennis Clark, Capital City Development Corp. development director.

From her one-story white house on the corner of Ash Street and Grand Avenue, Ray keeps watch on the River Street neighborhood's transition.

"Everything changes," she said. "Some of it's for the better. You've got to have progress."

Contact Liz at 377-6414 or lhwatt@boise.gannett.com



Gerry Melendez / The Idaho Statesman

Linda Gilliland, 50, a watercolor artist who lives on Social Security disability checks, likes her one-bedroom apartment at River Plaza. The complex, where about 80 percent of the units are considered affordable housing, offers amenities such as washers, dryers, microwaves and dishwashers. "It's just like having my own condominium," she said.

Goals for River Street

The Boise City Council in 1994 adopted the River Street-Myrtle Street Urban Design Plan, a guide for 300 acres near Boise's downtown.

The plan, overseen by the Capital City Development Corp., outlines goals for the River Street area and nearby neighborhoods. No deadlines have been set to put the suggestions in place. The River Plaza apartments and other recent changes meet some of the goals, but no city money is earmarked for particular River Street projects.

Objectives for the River Street neighborhood include:

- Connecting Pioneer Walkway to the city's central business district and building housing along the walkway.
- Rebuilding and vacating sections of Ash, Grand and Miller streets to ensure enough space for Pioneer Walkway to be widened.
- Redeveloping larger parcels of land with medium-density apartments and neighborhood-scale offices built over parking and oriented to neighborhood streets.
- Building compatible rowhouse or garden apartments that are street-oriented and have rear parking in existing historic residential areas.
- Improving the environment around the Americana Boulevard commercial area by providing landscaping and smaller-scale convenience retail.

— Liz Wyatt



Gerry Melendez / The Idaho Statesman

The recently completed 116-unit River Plaza apartment building is considered by some residents and city officials to be a catalyst that will drive similar development. The apartments, which opened in March, are fully occupied. "Things are happening everywhere in the neighborhood," River Plaza developer Jim Tomlinson said. "If you go down any street, you'll see homes being rehabbed and things being built."

The area at a glance

The area, bounded by the Boise River, the Connector, Americana Boulevard and Capitol Boulevard, includes the River Street neighborhood and Eighth Street Marketplace.

- The population is estimated at 616 residents.
- The median household income is \$15,000. About one-third of residents earn less than \$10,000. The median income for Boise is \$48,500.
- About 87 percent of residents are white; 7.5 percent are black; 1.8 percent are Asian or Pacific Islander; and 3.7 percent are other races.
- The median age is 25.8 years.
- About 56 percent of residents are female.
- About 93 percent of homes are occupied by renters and about 7 percent by owners.
- The median home value is \$40,000.

Sources: CACI Marketing Systems, Department of Housing and Urban Development

A LOOK AT THE OLD NEIGHBORHOOD

River Street area was one of Boise's first residential neighborhoods



Courtesy of John Bertram

The Pearl Grocery on Grand Avenue was one of several mom-and-pop grocery stores that used to serve the River Street neighborhood. The neighborhood now has no stores.

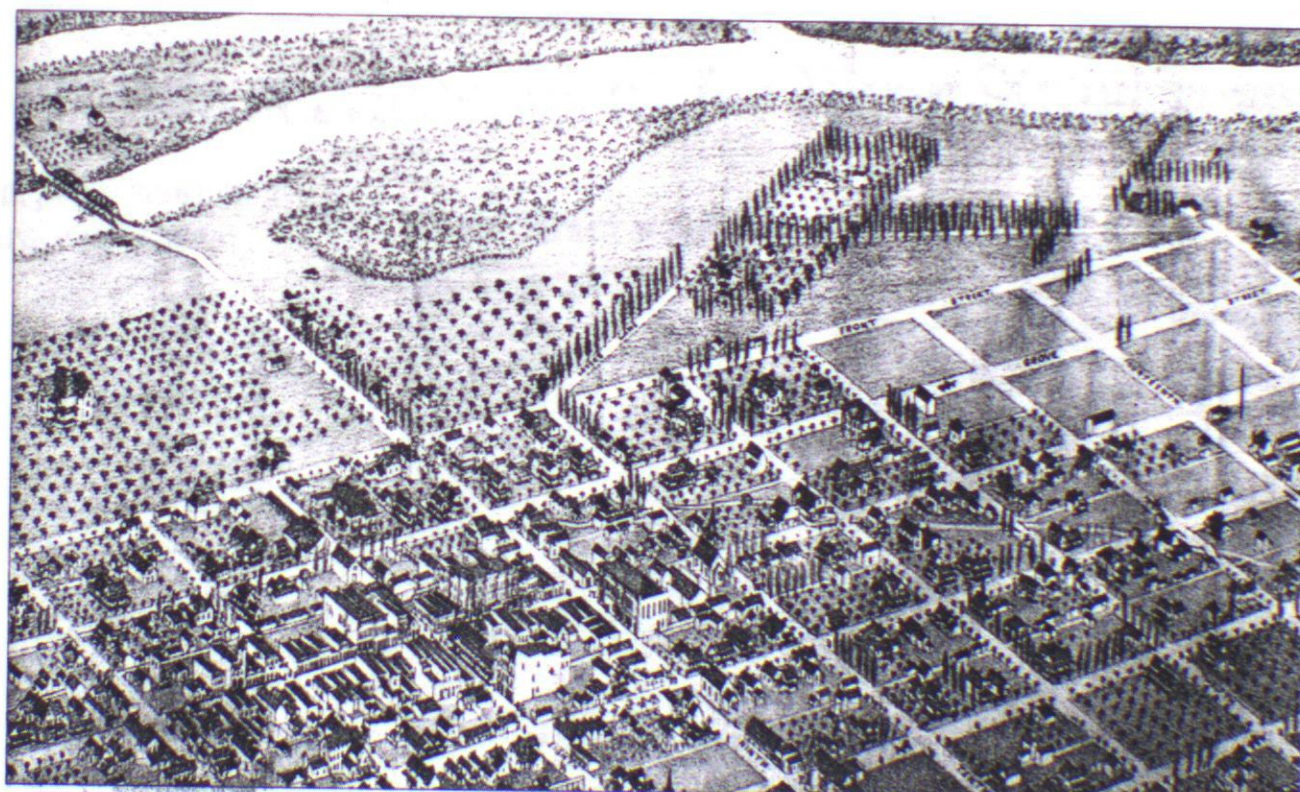
Laying of railroad tracks in 1893 cut area off from downtown; the ensuing decline did not start to reverse for almost 100 years

➤ **Mid-1800s:** The area was largely unoccupied and covered with fruit trees. The only street was Lover's Lane, now named Pioneer Walkway.

➤ **1890s:** Development began, and middle-class residents started moving in. The neighborhood was one of Boise's first.

➤ **1893:** Railroad tracks were

lost its softball park when the city sold it to a warehouse firm. Industrial development and a wrong-side-of-the-tracks stigma contributed to deterioration. River Street was connected, cutting the neighborhood in half, and commercial development on Americana Boulevard forced out homes. Speculators started investing in



Courtesy of Idaho Historical Society

A lithograph of early Boise shows the orchards that used to cover parts of what is now the River Street neighborhood. Lover's Lane — now the Pioneer Walkway — was the only street through the neighborhood.

apartment opened a substation, and the Boise Parks and Recre-

Pearl Grocery on Grand Avenue was one of several mom-and-pop grocery stores that used to serve the River Street neighborhood. The neighborhood now has no stores.

Laying of railroad tracks in 1893 cut area off from downtown; the ensuing decline did not start to reverse for almost 100 years

► **Mid-1800s:** The area was largely unoccupied and covered with fruit trees. The only street was Lover's Lane, now named Pioneer Walkway.

► **1890s:** Development began, and middle-class residents started moving in. The neighborhood was one of Boise's first.

► **1893:** Railroad tracks were laid just north of the neighborhood, cutting it off from downtown.

► **1928:** City officials rezoned the area for unrestricted use because of the warehouses and industrial buildings that went up along the railroad tracks. Commercial development sprang up around the homes in the neighborhood. Middle-class residents gradually started moving to other neighborhoods.

► **1940s:** The neighborhood became known for its low rents and as one of the few places in Boise that African-American residents could afford and in which they were accepted. The low rents attracted World War II soldiers and African Americans migrating from the South.

► **1950s:** Though low-income, the neighborhood remained viable, including at least four mom-and-pop grocery stores.

► **1960s:** The neighborhood

lost its softball park when the city sold it to a warehouse firm. Industrial development and a wrong-side-of-the-tracks stigma contributed to deterioration. River Street was connected, cutting the neighborhood in half, and commercial development on Americana Boulevard forced out homes. Speculators started investing in the land, leaving some of it vacant.

► **1969:** Part of the neighborhood was rezoned for high-density residential development. Government officials started to focus attention on the neighborhood to look for ways to stop deterioration.

► **1970s:** The River Street Neighborhood Development Program, a city redevelopment plan, was started but was never finished. The River Street Neighborhood Center opened.

► **1980s:** New buildings, including some of the Forest River office buildings and the Arid Club, were built along the Boise River. Apartments were built in the neighborhood, which continued to suffer from deterioration.

► **1990s:** Small offices started moving into old homes. More of Forest River — including the Cornerstone building, which houses the Cottonwood Grille restaurant — was built. The Boise Police De-



A lithograph of early Boise shows the orchards that used to cover parts of what is now the River Street neighborhood. Lover's Lane — now the Pioneer Walkway — was the only street through the neighborhood. Courtesy of Idaho Historical Society

partment opened a substation, and the Boise Parks and Recreation Department opened the Pioneer Neighborhood Community Center. The Community House opened.

► **Today:** Few single-family homes remain in the low-income area. New development, such as the River Plaza apartments and offices, is starting to breathe new life into the neighborhood.

Sources include the River Street Neighborhood Plan, a plan created in 1973 by John Bertram. Bertram was working for the River Street Community Design Center. The plan was never adopted by the Boise City Council.

Railroad tracks built in the late 1800s cut the River Street neighborhood off from Boise's downtown. The neighborhood eventually developed a "wrong side of the tracks" reputation, contributing to its decline. The Connector was built in the late 1980s, and the tracks were torn down. Courtesy of John Bertram



Community agencies provide services, focus for River Street revival

Programs for homeless, center for children, police substation respond to needs, enhance security, encourage investment

The Pioneer Neighborhood Community Center, run by the Boise Parks and Recreation Department, opened in 1996. It offers children a supervised place to go after school.

► **Where:** 500 Ash St.
► **Hours:** 3 to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday, 1 to 5 p.m. on school holidays and in summer.
► **To contact:** call 384-4069.

The Boise Police Department opened its first substation in 1996. The Miller Street substation is attached to the Pioneer Neighborhood Center.

► **Where:** 1121 Miller St.
► **Hours:** A community-service officer staffs the office from noon to 8 p.m. Monday through Friday. Officers work out of the station 24 hours every day.
► **To contact:** call 331-3940.

The main Boise branch for the U.S. Postal Service opened in 1965.

► **Where:** 770 S. 13th St.
► **Hours:** The lobby is open 24 hours every day. The service window is open 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday.
► **To contact:** call 1-800-275-8777.

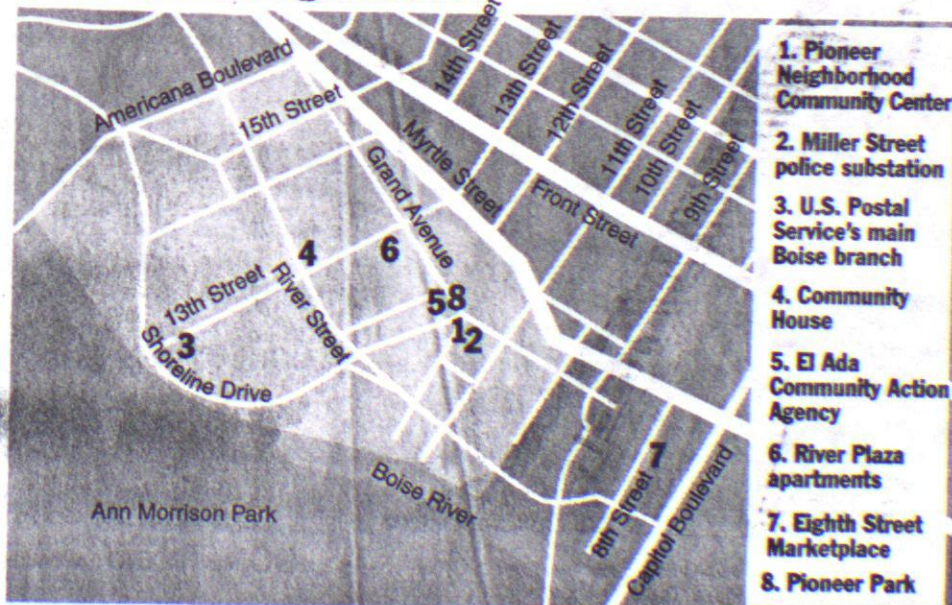
Community House opened in the neighborhood in 1994. It serves homeless men, women and children.

► **Where:** 575 S. 13th St.
► **Hours:** The office is open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Phones are staffed 24 hours every day.
► **To contact:** call 389-9840.

El Ada Community Action Agency operates a soup kitchen, job services and other programs out of its offices in the River Street area. The agency has been in the neighborhood for 19 years but will be moving out in August, making the building available for a day-care center and other programs. The agency will move its services to a facility on Americana Terrace.

► **Where:** 1191 Grand Ave.
► **Hours:** The office is open 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. The soup kitchen serves breakfast starting at 6:30 a.m. Monday through Friday. Lunch is served from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and 1 to 2 p.m. on weekends. Dinner is served at 5 p.m. every day.
► **To contact:** call 345-2820.

River Street neighborhood



1. Pioneer Neighborhood Community Center
2. Miller Street police substation
3. U.S. Postal Service's main Boise branch
4. Community House
5. El Ada Community Action Agency
6. River Plaza apartments
7. Eighth Street Marketplace
8. Pioneer Park

tions of the neighborhood, those who lived there remember

A jumping-off point

The lack of permanence also makes

though they think that homelessness and poverty are still a concern