

Bowring Ranch State Historical Park

park information: The ranch Arthur Bowring established in 1894 became a state historical park in 1985. Arthur was heavily involved with service to the Merriman community as well as the state of Nebraska by serving in numerous boards, the Nebraska Game and Fish Commission and the state legislature. Following his death, his wife, Eve, continued to operate the Bar 99 Ranch. She too was civic minded. She was involved in the Merriman community, was Nebraska's first woman U.S. senator, and later served in the Department of Justice as a member of the U.S. Board of Parole. She donated the 7,202-acre Sandhills ranch to the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission following her death in 1985.

Today the visitor center displays items that belonged to the Bowrings, offers a movie, picnicking area, and tours of the Bowring's ranch house as well as a sod house located in the park.

Open Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day, check www.outdoornebraska.org for hours of operation and fees. There is a fee to enter the Visitor Center: \$1 for kids and \$2 for adults. A valid Nebraska vehicle permit is required and can be purchased at the visitor center.

camping: Available at nearby Cottonwood Lake State Recreation Area.

activities: Find fun things to do at www.negpp.org under "Activities."

directions: From Valentine follow US Hwy 20 62 miles west to Merriman and turn north on Highway 61. Travel 1.5 miles to the park entrance. From Gordon follow US Hwy 20 28 miles to Merriman and turn north on Hwy 61. Travel 1.5 miles to the park entrance.



clue: Walking back in time. Pioneer lifestyle. Turned-over sod becomes a home for pioneers.

distance: 100 yards from visitor center.

surface: Paved sidewalk and/or grass.

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(imprint here)

contact: _____

address: _____

city: _____ state: _____

zip: _____ phone #: _____

e-mail: _____



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