

The Boiling Spring Academy 360° Tour Guide



Welcome to the historic Boiling Spring Academy!

Primm Historic Park is home to two important historical sites: “Fewkes Archaeological Group” and a restored 1832 “Boiling Spring Academy”. On this site, prehistoric Native Americans lived and left their mounds as relics of the Mississippian Period. Many years later pioneer settlers carved their civilization out of this wilderness. They were followed by flourishing plantations where antebellum planters educated their children in the Boiling Spring Academy which also served as a meeting house and church. The Academy then served as a one-room school for Williamson County Schools until the early 1920s.

The City of Brentwood is preserving this site so that you and future generations can learn from it. As you look, listen and learn, think about the question “Why is Primm Historic Park Important?”



Ways to Navigate 360° Views

This virtual experience allows guests to independently roam each level of the Academy and outside around the building. As you navigate outside you will see the outhouse and view the Fewkes Archaeological Site Mound 1--the Temple Mound. Included inside the Academy are several clickable points of interest. These clickable points each contain written and audio descriptions and allow guests to learn about objects found in the schoolhouse. By zooming in you can see intricate details of fascinating objects and read such things as the "School Rules" and "Chores" on the chalk boards



- The best way to move about is to locate and click on the large rings on the floor. You will find these navigational points scattered about in the rooms. Via these rings, you will be able to wander as if you were there. Don't forget to go up the stairs.
- Click the small blue and white focal circles to read or hear about items of interest in the school
- If you would like to move quickly from one floor to another without taking those very narrow stairs or take a stroll outside, you can also use the menu.



- #1 Click the #1 icon to enter the Dollhouse View
- #2 View Floor Plan
- #3 Floor Selector. Easily go from 1st to 2nd floor
- #4 Measure-Measure distance



Hover over the 360 circles to see where clicking will take you. It's a quick way to get outside without using the doorway and then to re-enter the school.

Have fun and keep on discovering!

Let's start looking around to learn what it was like to be in school in the 1800s!

Student Think-a-thon: Use your brain to answer these questions.

- What items might students bring for lunch?
- What it would be like to be in the same class as your sibling?
- Discuss how you would have the students sit.
- Can you find three things in this room that you have in your school

Academy

Boiling Spring Academy was built c1832 and opened as a private school/academy for wealthy white boys. When the Academy opened in January of 1833, classes were held for roughly five months with three levels of instruction. The first level included orthography (the conventional spelling system of a language), reading, writing and arithmetic. The second level included grammar & geography and the third featured Latin, Greek and science. By the 1880s the upstairs was used as a one-room schoolhouse including grades first through eighth for the Williamson County Public School system.

First Floor Scavenger Hunt: Find all the objects listed below.

- Find two objects students would use to write with
- Find the item the student would wear when they misbehaved
- Find an apple for the teacher
- Find the object used to heat the schoolhouse
- Find the object people used to scrap off their shoes and boots

Let's head upstairs now. Hang on to the railing - the steps are very steep and narrow.

Second Floor Think-a-thon:

- What do you think it would be like with everyone using one chalk board at the same time?
- What schoolhouse chores would you like to do and why?
- Do you think the large windows were helpful with no electricity?

Architectural Ghosts

Buildings can tell us many things about themselves. People who study historic buildings often talk about "ghosts". No, not the scary kind! Architectural ghosts are the outlines or traces of features on the building that no longer exists. Looking at the "ghosts" of features that have been removed helps us to understand the original appearance of the building and how it has changed over the years.

The architectural ghosts of different colors of columns of bricks have told us that the building originally had a fireplace at each end to provide heat. That would mean the

current outside door would have been through a fireplace, so we know it isn't in the original location! The stairs were moved, the fireplaces were removed, and the pot-bellied stove was added to become the heat source by the 1880s.

Second Floor Scavenger Hunt:

- Find where a student from the early 1900s left graffiti
- Can you find the "ghost" on the wall upstairs that indicated where the fireplace was?

List three chores the students had while at school

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Now that we have seen the inside of the school, let's go back down the stairs and head outside.

Outside Think-a-thon:

- Why do two windows have longer rectangles above them?
- Can you find where the back door was?
- Image what it must have been like to play outside with your friends. How do you think students felt having to go outside in the cold, rain and heat to use the outhouse?

SCHOOL, CHURCH, BARN, SCHOOL: A Cycle Completed

Boiling Spring Academy was built to last and designed to reflect the wealth and status of the families of the young men who attended when it opened. The building has maintained its original form despite some alterations by the 1880s. The rectangular structure is built on coursed, dressed limestone block with walls made from hand-made brick laid in a common bond pattern. The older bricks were made locally in a kiln by skilled brick makers, most of whom were enslaved peoples. Color variation in the brick indicate that several different firings were used in the construction. There is no electricity or indoor plumbing

By the 1880s, the building was used simultaneously as a school and church. For a more church-like appearance, the door location was changed to create a gabled entrance.

Limestone lintels adorn windows on both sides with those on the south featuring decorative work and those on the north remaining plain. The lintels guide us to the "Archaeological Ghosts" of where the original doors were. The first story south center window has a larger lintel with decorations indicating that was the original front door.

The downstairs was used for the church while the upstairs was used as a one room schoolhouse for Williamson County Schools. Imagine looking out the window at school and seeing such a historic site as a temple mound!

Outside Scavenger Hunt:

- Find the schoolhouse bell
- Find the outside bathroom known as the outhouse
- Find the big mound just outside the schoolhouse
- Find the two windows that have longer rectangles above them

The Mississippian Culture Temple site was named in honor of J. Walter Fewkes, Chief of the Smithsonian Institution's Bureau of American Ethnology in 1920. The Fewkes Archaeological Group was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1980.

The Academy remained as a school and church until the 1920s, when the building began use as a barn for hanging tobacco and storing hay. The City of Brentwood acquired the property in 2003 and began the restoration to return to a schoolhouse. It is now used as an immersion fieldtrip experience for third grade students. It has once again become a place where people come to learn.

PRIMM HISTORIC PARK

What is this Place?

- A 188-year-old schoolhouse that served as a place for education for nearly a century.
- A meeting house and a place of worship
- Part of the residential, ceremonial and burial grounds for a large town, built by prehistoric Native American Indians who lived here from about 950-1450 A.D.
- A settlement peopled by Europeans and Africans beginning in the late 1700s
- Part of an agrarian landscape in both prehistoric and historic times

Why is it Important?

- It is a place to study layers of history and the different peoples and cultures associated with this landscape.



Congratulations!

You have finished the Boiling Spring Academy tour!

Let us know what your favorite part of the tour was by sharing your comments on the Brentwood Historic Commission Facebook page.



www.Brentwoodtn.gov/BoilingSpringAcademy