In 1911, José and Juana Arriola Uberuaga opened the Saracondi boardinghouse. Boise's most celebrated Basque dancer, Carmen Uberuaga Harmache, spent her early years in this home.

In 1905, José and Felipa Guarre-Uberuaga converted a non-Basque community boardinghouse into a church to serve the Basque and non-Basque communities in Boise.

Beginning in the late nineteenth century, the transition to American life for Basque immigrants was eased by Basque-operated boardinghouses, called ostatuak. As early as 1891, Basque boardinghouses in Boise served as "home away from home" for Basque sheepherders in need of lodging, meals, and business or medical assistance when in town. They were also social gathering places that offered the companionship and support of their countrymen, especially in their native Basque language. Eventually these boardinghouses became or the entire Basque community. Boardinghouses played a profound role in preserving Basque culture, including language, cuisine, music, dance, and recreation.

José Uberuaga Lodgings - 930 N. 9th Street info does not appear. The map and street information does not appear. The map and index was obtained from Boise City Department of Arts & History. Research, writing, and graphic design by Meggan Laxalt Mackey, Boise State University Departments of History and Basque Studies; historical review by John Bieter.
BASQUE BOISE WALKING TOUR: BASQUE BLOCK

1. THE BASQUE BLOCK
   Grove St. between Capitol Blvd. and 4th St.
   Boise’s Basque Block is the only cultural district dedicated to Basque culture in the United States. Visitors can enjoy Basque food, dance, and language immersion preschool.

2. LAIAK
   Grove St. at Capitol Blvd.
   Visitors to the Basque Block are welcomed by two 16-foot sculptures with flags representing the four Spanish and three French provinces of the Basque Country. These entry pieces are “laia,” rural Basque farm implements used to till the soil. The Laia are dedicated to the late Pat and Eloise Garandia Bietor for their hard work in the Basque community.

3. BASQUE MURAL
   Capital Blvd. next to Bar Gernika
   Painted in 2000 by the renowned sign-painting artists, the “Letterheads,” this mural depicts the story of migration from the Basque Country to Idaho, with Basque Basque icons, dancers (Juanita Romaneschi, musician Jim Jaosa), and the Dinant dancers.

4. BAR GERNIKA
   Grove St. between 2nd and 3rd Avenues
   Built around 1912, this building was once a Chinese laundry and the “Cub Tavern.” Boise’s Basque Dan Anostegui designed this Basque pub and eatery to resemble similar gathering places in the Basque Country. Once, there was a “Bar Boise” in Gernika.

5. ANDUIZA’S
   5th Grove St.
   Built in 1974 by Juan and Juana Anduiza, this boardinghouse was unique because it included an indoor Basque handball court, or “fronton,” that is still in use.

6. BASQUE MUSEUM & CULTURAL CENTER
   671 Grove St.
   The Basque Museum & Cultural Center mission is to preserve, promote, and perpetuate Basque history and culture through educational programs, exhibits, language classes, cultural events, and the Boise no Haskola, the only U.S. Basque language immersion preschool.

7. CURYS JACOBS-UBERURGA HOUSE
   on 2nd Ave.
   The Basque Museum’s living history center is located in the original Jacobs house. José and Hermenegilda Uberurga ran this boardinghouse from 1917 through 1969.

8. BASQUE CENTER
   620 Grove St.
   Members of the Basque organization Euskaldunak built this social hall for community gatherings in 1950. The bar is open to the public.

9. BASQUE MARKET
   620 Grove St.
   This Basque specialty market, the brainchild of Dan Anostegui, connects customers with the Basque Country through food, wine, and gift items.

10. BELAUSTEGUI’S
    117 S. 8th St.
    The Belaustegui’s Basque House also included the “Chico Club,” for Basque dances and drinks. Today’s Lebo Ota Restaurant and Hotel carry on the Basque tradition of good food and social gatherings, right on the Basque Block.

Boise has a rich cultural history. In the heart of Boise’s downtown, a unique ethnic group, the Basques, are celebrated for their cultural contributions to Boise, Idaho. It all began during the late 19th century when many Basques traveled from the Pyrenees Mountains of Spain and France with hopes of forging a new life in America. Basques formed communities throughout the West, and many settled in Boise. A strong Basque-American identity is alive today, especially on Boise’s Basque Block. The cultural landmarks that a visitor will see on this walking tour, and those that are long gone, are testament to the Basque story in America.

Boise tiene una rica historia cultural. A poca distancia del centro de Boise, un grupo étnico sin igual, los vascos, son conocidos por su contribución cultural a Boise, Idaho. Todo comenzó a finales del siglo XIX, cuando muchos vascos viajaron de ambos lados de los Pirineos con la esperanza de forjar una nueva vida en América. Los vascos formaron comunidades en el Oeste y muchos se asentaron en Boise. Hoy en día una fuerte identidad vasco-estadounidense es un hecho, especialmente en el “Basque Block” de Boise. Los hitos culturales que el visitante verá en este recorrido, y aquellos que se han perdido ya hace tiempo, son testimonio de la historia vasca en América.


The Basque Museum & Cultural Center is located in the original Jacobs house. José and Hermenegilda Uberuraga ran this boardinghouse from 1917 through 1969. Today's Lebo Ota Restaurant and Hotel carry on the Basque tradition of good food and social gatherings, right on the Basque Block.