



Sierra Nevada Geotourism MapGuide



- HOME
- MAIN MAP
- EVENTS
- PARTICIPATE
- MY FAVORITES
- EXPLORATION TRACK
- ABOUT

Historic Site or District

Share |



Pioneer Ski Area of America, Squaw Valley (No. 724 California Historical Landmark)

[BACK](#) [5 Thumbs Up!](#) [Click here to give your thumbs up.](#)



Photo by Waymarking.com

The Truckee and Lake Tahoe Region is where organized skiing began. California gold miners were actually the first people to compete on skis. In the 1870s, skiers were racing down the slopes at 100 miles per hour. Squaw Valley is a u-shaped valley in the Sierra Nevada that is located between Truckee and Tahoe City so the landscape naturally lends itself to becoming a popular ski slope.

The Valley's first recorded history since the Native Americans roamed the landscape on their seasonal hunts for food, begins with the Gold Rush in 1849. Prospectors believed they found silver at the mouth of Squaw Valley. Hundreds of men rushed to the area. Unfortunately, the excitement over the silver discovery soon died when the silver ore was discovered to not be silver at all. The boom lasted a year from 1863-64. Residents of the

Valley moved out of town to the Comstock Lode of Virginia City, Nevada.

Farming and logging became the primary activities until the Squaw Valley Development Company began acquiring land. These acquisitions led to the modern version of Squaw Valley.

The historical marker at the Pioneer Ski Area was placed in 1960 during VIII Olympic Winter Games to commemorate 100 years of skiing in California and the first televised Olympic Games. One hundred years later in 1960, one thousand competitors from 34 nations arrived in Squaw Valley to participate in the winter games. Squaw Valley first opened as a world class ski resort in 1949 and is one of North America's premier ski destinations. In 2010 Squaw Valley celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of the Winter Olympic Games.

The California Historical Landmark is located at the Squaw Valley Sports Center, at the northeast corner of the Blyth Olympics Arena Building on Squaw Valley Road in Squaw Valley

Placer County

Placer is a Spanish word describing surface mining. Gold that had been "placed" in streams or on the ground through natural erosion was processed by planning, rocking, and similar techniques. Such mining efforts made Placer County residents some of the richest in California.

About this Establishment California Historical Landmarks Program

Historical Landmarks are sites, buildings, features, or events that are of statewide significance and have anthropological, cultural, military, political, architectural, economic, scientific or technical, religious, experimental, or other value. Historical Landmarks are eligible for registration if they meet at least one of the following criteria:

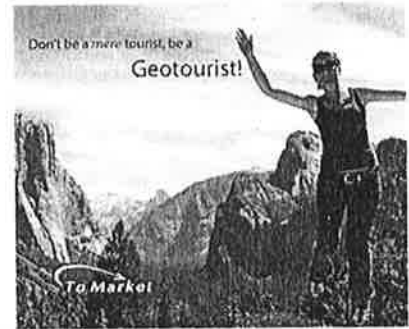
- 1) Is the first, last, only, or most significant of its type in the state or within a large geographic region
- 2) Is associated with an individual or group having a profound influence on the history of California
- 3) Is a prototype of, or an outstanding example of, a period, style, architectural movement or construction or is one of the more notable works or the best surviving work in a region of a pioneer architect, designer or master builder.

California's Landmark Program began in the late 1800s with the formation of the *Landmarks Club* and the *California Historical Landmarks League*. In 1931, the program became official when legislation changed the *Department of Natural Resources*—and later the *California State Chamber of Commerce*—with registering and marking buildings of historical interest or landmarks. The *Chamber of Commerce* then created a *committee of prestigious historians*, including *DeWitt Hutchings* and *Lawrence Hill*, to evaluate potential landmark sites.

In 1948, Governor *Earl Warren* created the *California Historical Landmarks Advisory Committee* to increase the integrity and credibility of the program. Finally, this committee was changed to the *California Historical Resources Commission* in 1974. Information about registered landmarks numbered 770 onward is kept in the *California Register of Historical Resources* authoritative guide. Landmarks numbered 669 and below were registered prior to establishing specific standards, and may be added to the *California Register* when criteria for evaluating the properties are adopted.

Share your experience. Please leave a comment below if you've visited this historical

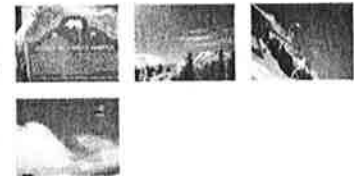
Sierra Nevada MapGuide Sponsor >



Boundaries and names shown do not necessarily reflect the map policy of the National Geographic Society.

LONGITUDE: -120.235662000
LATITUDE: 39.196193000
ELEVATION: 6253 FT (1906 M)

PHOTOS



Meet the Contributor:

Janice Kelley

About Me

[Add your own story, place or event.](#)

SIMILAR NEARBY

1872 Earthquake Survivor and Cemetery in Lone Pine
On March 26, 1872, a 7.4 magnitude earthquake ripped violently through the Owens Valley. The...

Agua Fria (No. 323 California Historical Landmark)
Aside from a few scattered remnants of Indian traditions and a abandoned...


Choose a Not-to-be-Missed Geotourism Destination

Time Period Represented: 1849-1960

For More Information, Contact:

Squaw Valley USA
squaw@squaw.com
www.squaw.com
PO Box 2007, Olympic Valley, CA 96146
530-583-6985

represents the era when the mining of gold was a significant...

 **Alpha Hydraulic Diggings (No. 628 California Historical Landmark)**
Nearby the town of Washington, California on State Route 20, the towns of Alpha and Omega were...

 **Alpine County Courthouse (No. P761 California Historical Point of Interest)**
This historic building in scenic Markleeville was constructed in 1928. It was originally planned...

Comments:  **SHARE A COMMENT**

No comments have been made about this nomination. Be the first to add a comment!

We encourage healthy dialogue and interaction. Please include your first and last name. Comments must be accurate, family-friendly, based on personal experience and relevant to all travelers. Comments with profanity, threats, personal insults, or commercialized content will be deleted. Thank you.

SEE MORE



Photo © Charlie Phillips

[Home](#) | [Map](#) | [Events](#) | [Participate](#) | [My Favorites](#) | [Exploration Track](#) | [About](#) | [Project Supporters](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Terms of Use](#) | [Site Map](#) | [RSS Feed](#)

Copyright © 2009 National Geographic Society

Choose a Not-to-be-Missed Geotourism Destination