

Nevada County

The Nevada County Courthouse in Nevada City.
Nevada City, Grass Valley, Empire Mine, French Corral, Bridgeport, North San Juan, North Bloomfield.



Nevada County

Nevada County

Population: 92,033 (Rank: 36)

Land Area (square miles): 958 (Rank: 44)

The word “nevada” means snowy or snow covered in Spanish. The county stretches from the foothills to the Nevada border. The Mother Lode Highway 49 runs through the western part of the county. Highway 20 runs east-west through the center of the county. Interstate 80 cuts through the eastern edge of the county on its way to Reno.

Much of this county is located in the Tahoe Placer National Forest. Gold mining and logging are pretty much things of the past. Recreation in the Sierra close to Lake Tahoe provides income. Nevada City attracts many tourists and the new gold of Nevada County is computers and electronics. The county still is an important lumbering county with 2.4% of the state’s production of timber.

Cities: Nevada City, Grass Valley, Truckee. Sights: Malakoff Diggings, Empire Mine.

Introduction

California is comprised of 58 counties. The state, the third largest in the U.S., has the greatest diversity of geography of any of the states. It has huge deserts, high mountain ranges, fertile valleys and a 1000 mile coastline. Beginning in 2001 my wife and I began to travel and photograph the state as a retirement hobby.

In 2009 we published a CD containing about 4,000 photos of the regions of the state. Since that time we have added about 10,000 more photos to our collection. It was also at this time (December 2008) I began to send a photographic diary of our trips to friends and people with an interest in California geography.

Now we are organizing our collection by county using all of our photos dating back to 2001.

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Nevada City

The town has a population of 3,000 and has maintained its Gold Rush appearance. It is a tourist mecca. It became a city in 1849. It was incorporated in 1856. (April 2002)



Nevada City

(April 2002)



Nevada City

(April 2002)



Nevada City

(April 2002)



Nevada City

(April 2002)



Nevada City

(April 2002)



Nevada City



This is a Pelton wheel which used water to drive stamp mills for grinding gold ore (April 2002)

Nevada City

The town has maintained its Gold Rush architecture except for two prominent buildings – the city hall and county courthouse which have art deco façades. (October 2010)



Nevada City

(October 2010)



Nevada City

(October 2010)



Nevada City

(October 2010)



Nevada City

(October 2010)



Grass Valley

Grass Valley is another Gold Rush town. In contrast to its neighbor Nevada City it has grown in population which is now about 13,000. The town was incorporated in 1860. (April 2002)



Grass Valley

Grass Valley was home to two of the largest mines – Empire and North Star. (April 2002)



Grass Valley

(April 2002)



Grass Valley

(April 2002)



Grass Valley

(February 2007)



Grass Valley

(February 2007)



Grass Valley

Part of the Gold Mine culture that persists in this part of California are the “pasties” brought by the Cornish miners from England.
(April 2007)



Grass Valley

(February 2007)



Grass Valley

(February 2007)



Grass Valley

(February 2007)



Empire Mine

The Empire Mine has become a state park. It was an operating gold mine from 1850 to 1956. The mine grew to 367 miles of tunnels that stretched 11,000 feet deep. (February 2007)



Empire Mine

(February 2007)



Empire Mine

(February 2007)



Empire Mine

(February 2007)



Empire Mine

The mine was constantly flooding so the Cornish miners created an elaborate system of pumps to dry out the mine. (February 2007)



Empire Mine

(February 2007)



Empire Mine

The building where the gold was melted into ingots. (February 2007)



Empire Mine

The stamps that were used to pulverize the gold ore. They created so much noise they could be heard three miles away. (February 2007)



Empire Mine

(February 2007)



Empire Mine

William Bourn who owned the mine had this mansion designed by Willis Polk. Bourn rarely lived here because of the noise from the mine. (February 2007)



French Corral

(March 2005)



Bridgeport

This bridge dates back to 1862. I think it is the longest covered bridge in California. (March 2005)



Wildwood

This is a residential development that surrounds a private lake.
(March 2005)



North San Juan

North San Juan is an old gold mining community. It is a bit beyond the tourist trail. (March 2005)



North San Juan

(March 2005)



North San Juan

(March 2005)



North San Juan

(March 2005)



North San Juan

(March 2005)



Oregon Creek Bridge

(March 2005)



North Bloomington

North Bloomington was originally called Humbug because you couldn't find gold using traditional methods. Miners found that you could release the gold by washing away the canyon sides with powerful streams of water. The town grew up to service the mines. (March 2005)



North Bloomington

The town has become a state park. (March 2005)



North Bloomington

(March 2005)



North Bloomington

(March 2005)



North Bloomington

(March 2005)



North Bloomington

(March 2005)



North Bloomington

(March 2005)



North Bloomington

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North Bloomington

(March 2005)



North Bloomington

(March 2005)



North Bloomington

(March 2005)



North Bloomington

(March 2005)



North Bloomington

(March 2005)



North Bloomington

These huge water cannon were used to wash away the dirt. They were called monitors. (March 2005)



Malakoff Diggings

The dirt washed out of these canyons filled up the river beds in the Sacramento Valley below causing flooding. The result was a court case that upheld the first environmental law prohibiting hydraulic mining. (March 2005)



Malakoff Diggings

You can see the damage remains 120 years later. (March 2005)



Malakoff Diggings

(March 2005)



Truckee

The population of this city is about 16,000. It sits on Donner Pass. The first transcontinental railroad was built through this pass. This is also where the Donner Party was trapped in 1846. (July 2005)



Truckee

(July 2005)



Truckee

(July 2005)



Truckee

(July 2005)



Truckee

(July 2005)

