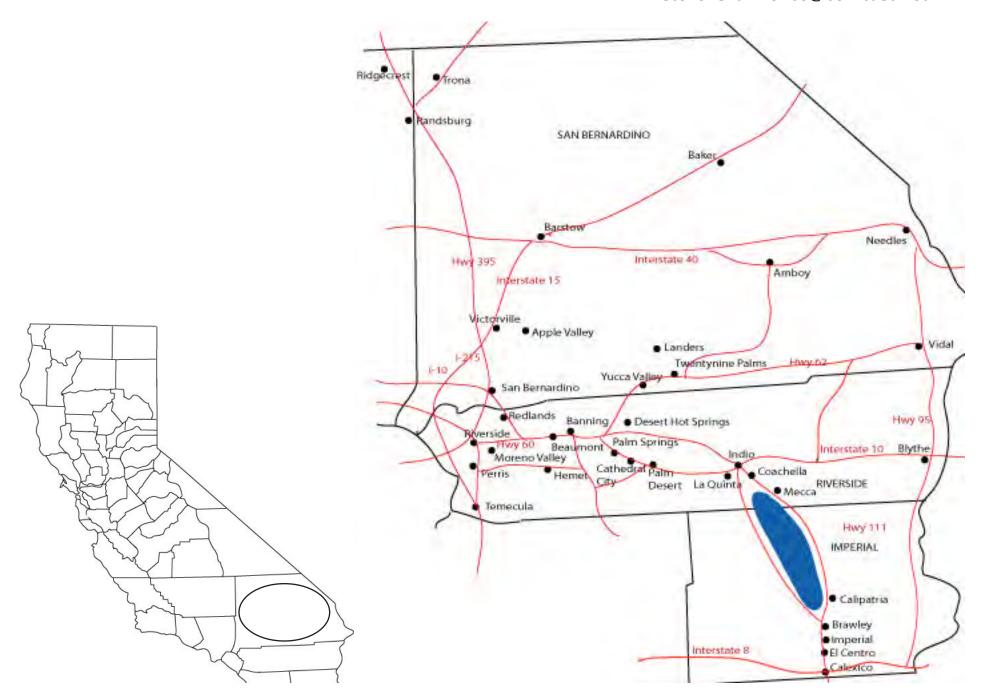
San Bernardino

The San Bernardino Courthouse. Part 5 of 8: Hinkley, Barstow, Daggett.



San Bernardino County

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Hinkley

Hinkley became famous as a site where pollution produced by a power company affected nearly the entire community. It is a little desert town west of Barstow. Erin Brockovich, an attorney's assistant, led the fight which was successful. It made her famous and inspired the movie, *Erin Brockovich*. (February 2005)



Hinkley

I am always surprised that people still live here. Many houses are abandoned. Yet some folks are still here. I understand that the poisonous plume in the water table is still there. (February 2005)



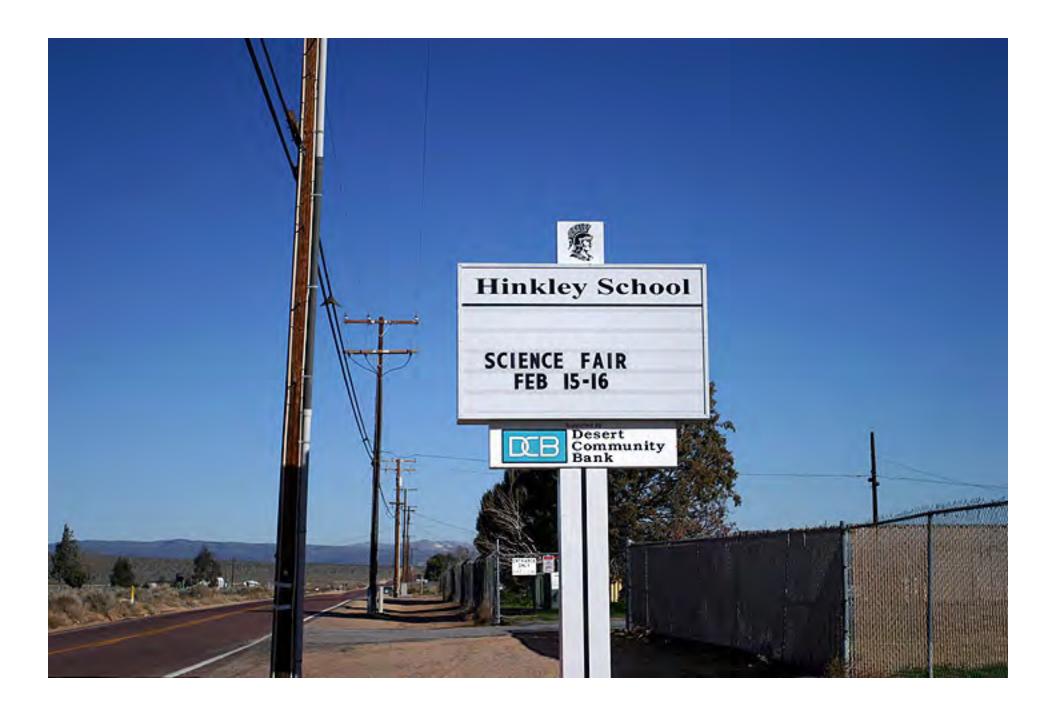








Hinkley (February 2005)

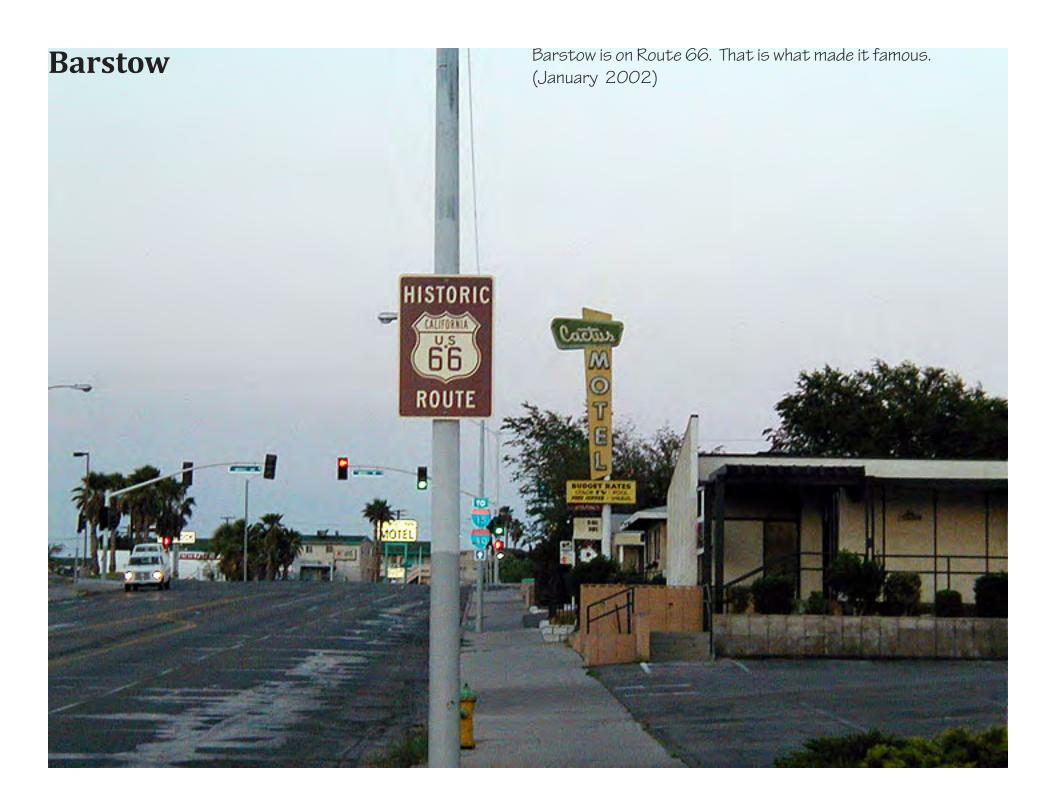


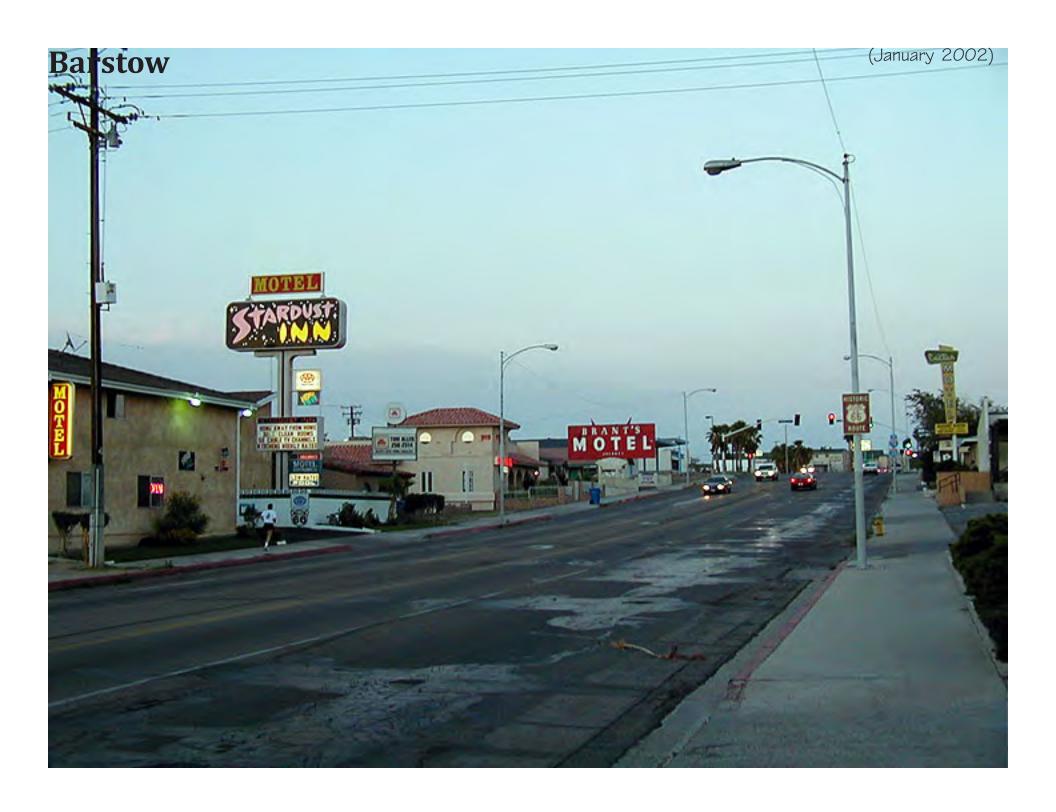
Hinkley (February 2005)

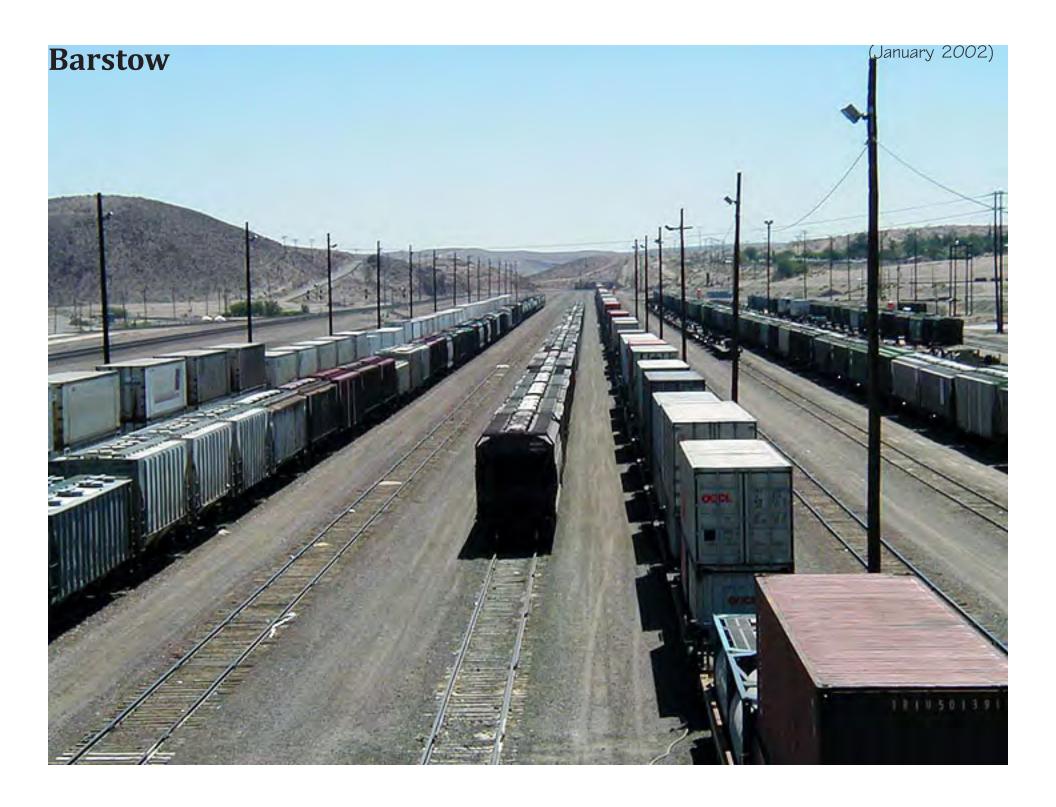


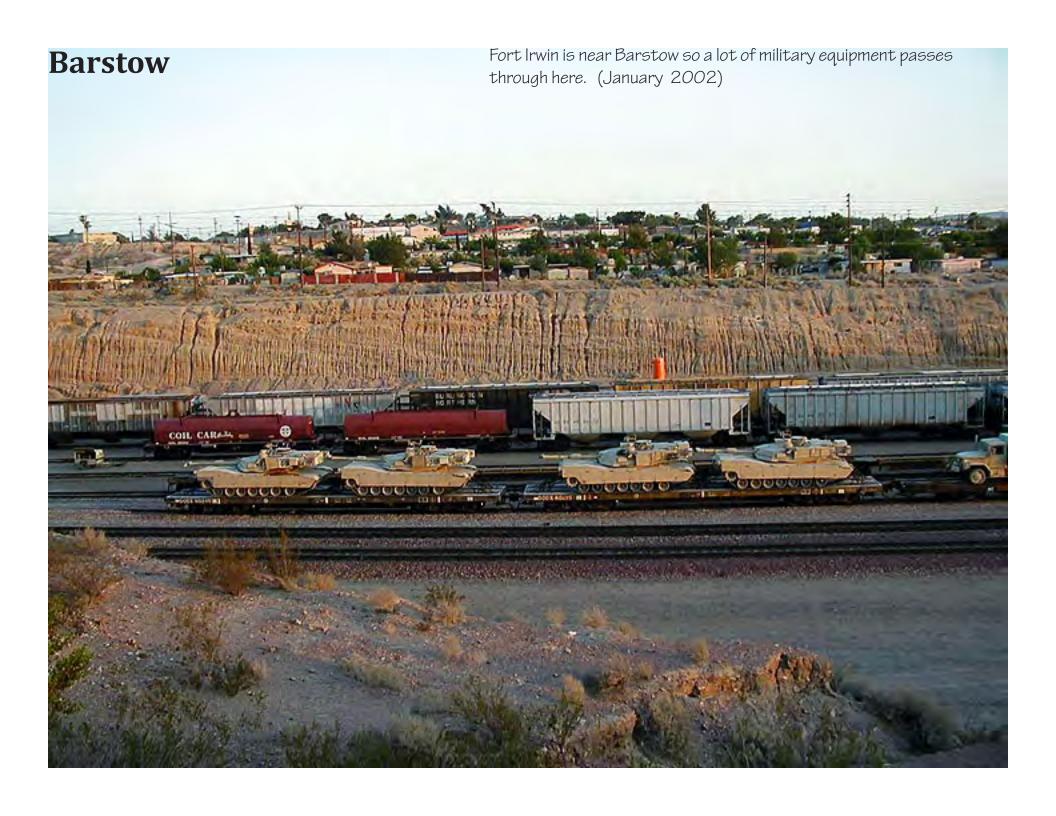


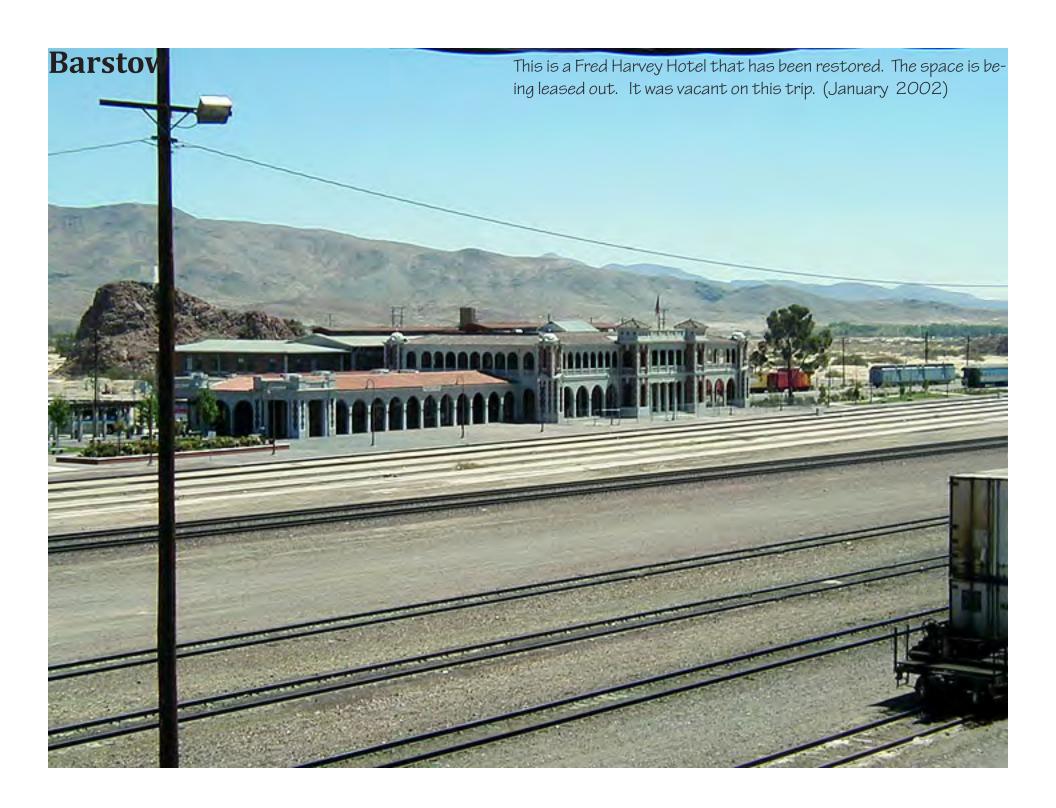


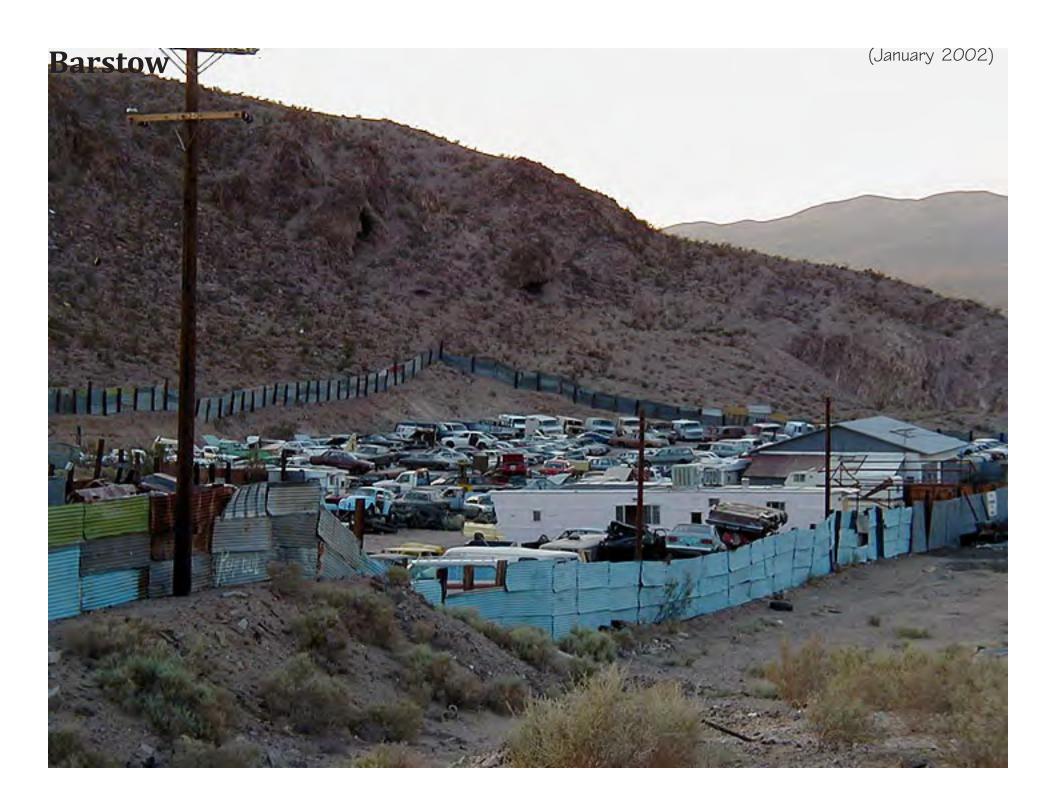










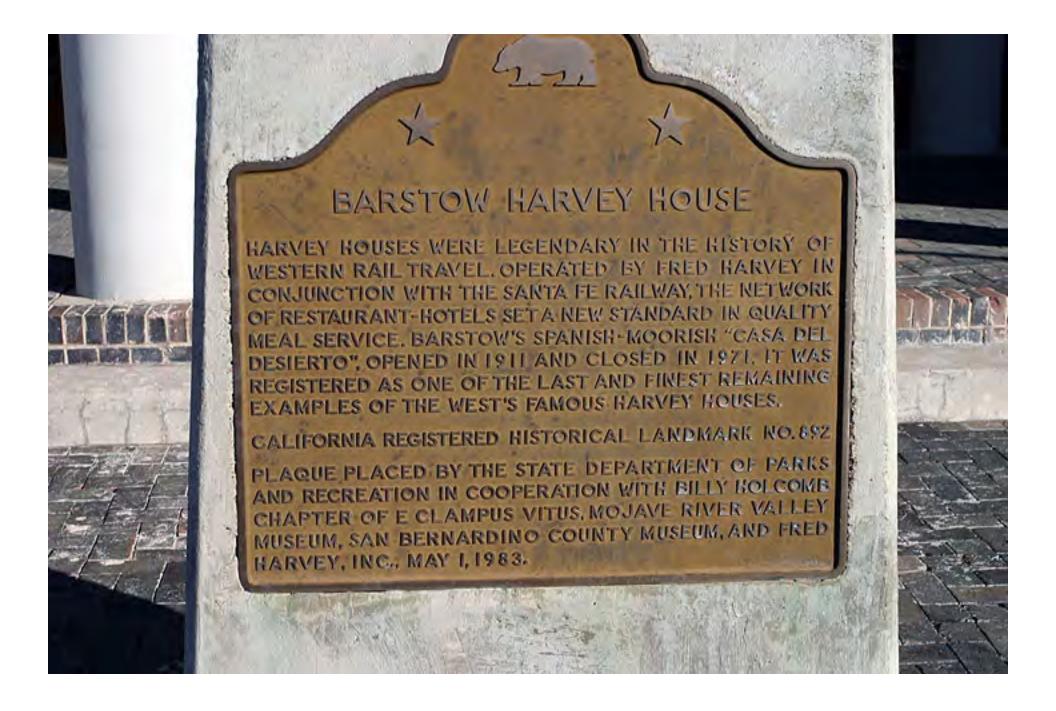
















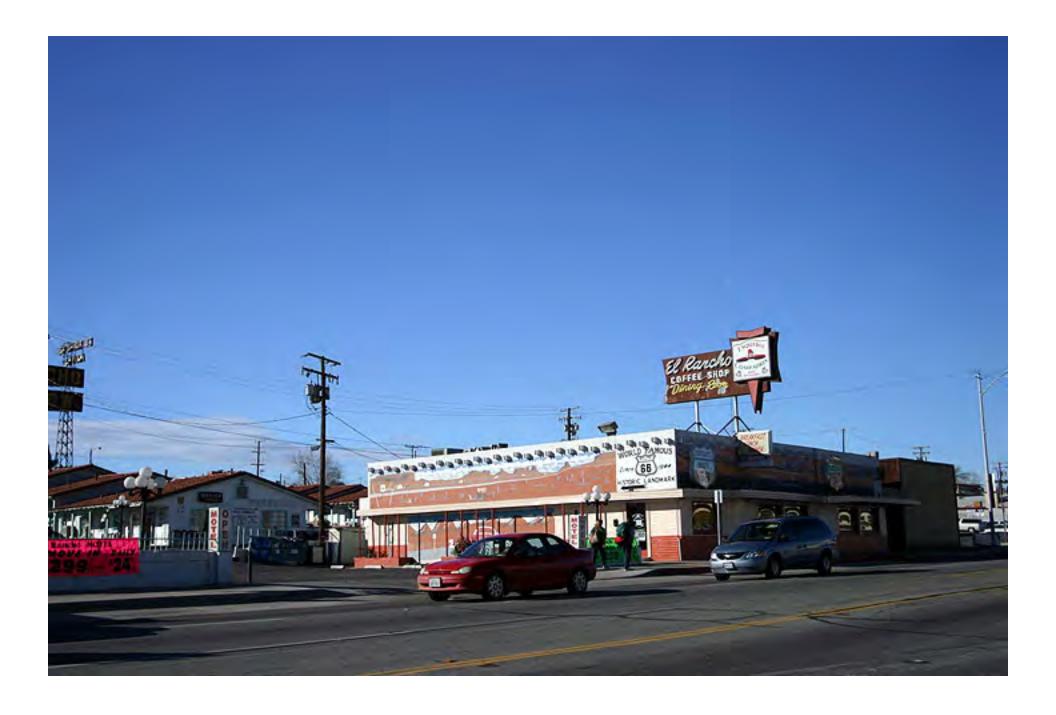
Barstow

Historically the city has been a transporation hub for railroads and highways. Interstates 15 and 40 pass through the town. It has a population of 22,639. (February 2005)





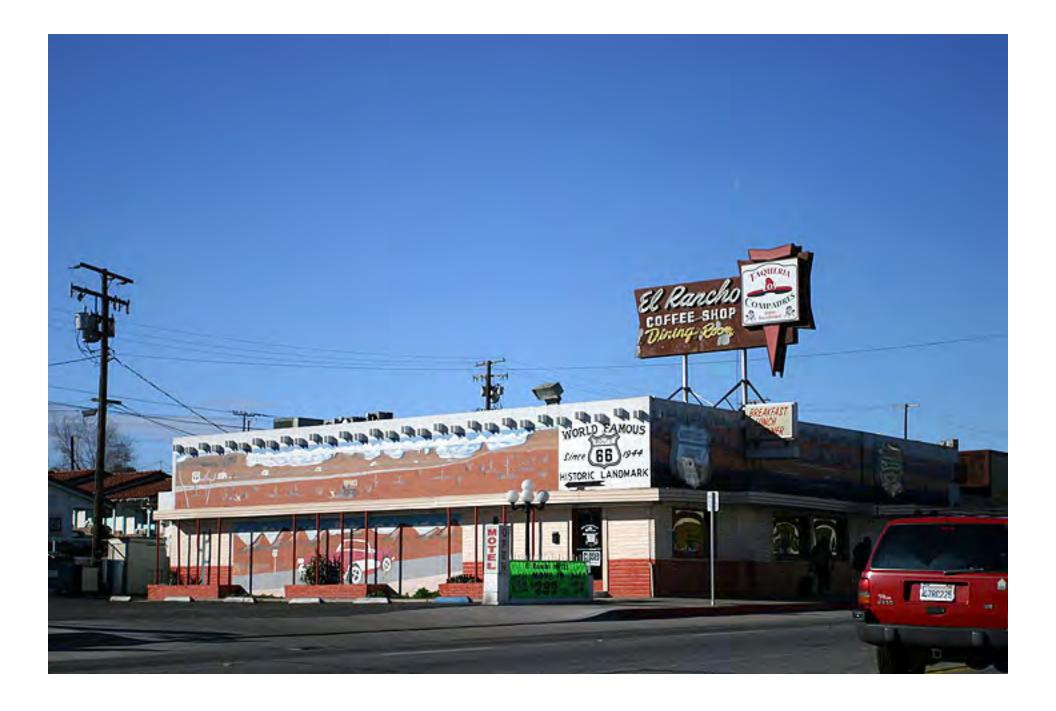






Barstow















Barstow

Fort Irwin, a major Army base, is nearby as well as a Marine Corps supply base. (February 2006)



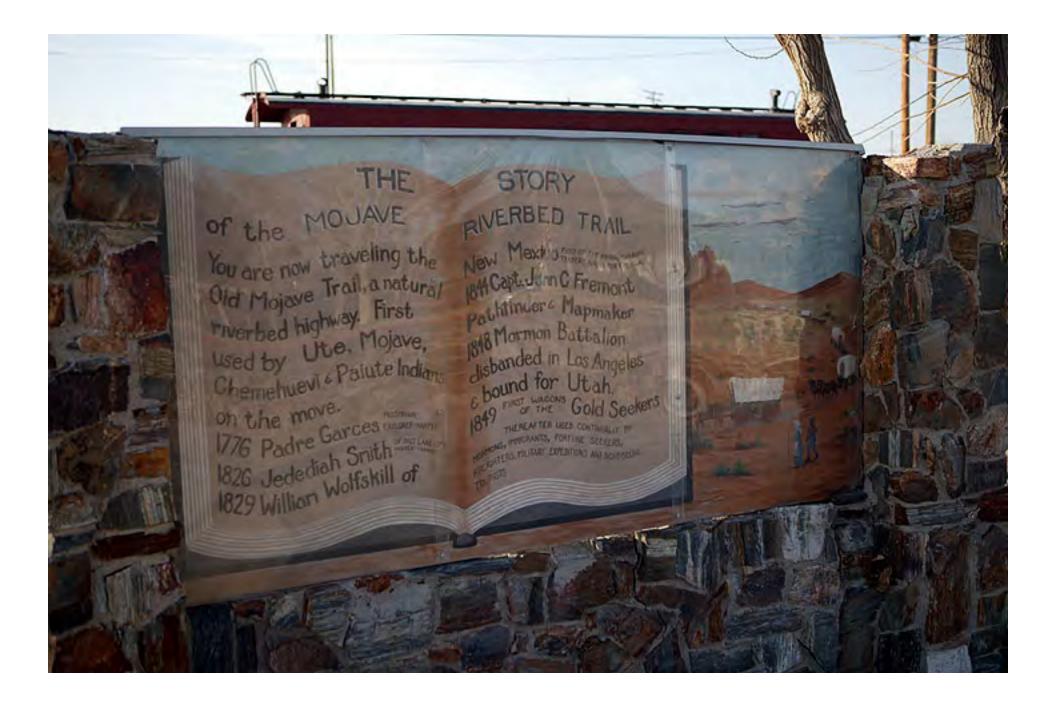
Barstow

Looking down over Barstow from the city hall. The old train station is in the lower center and I-15 to Las Vegas in the distance trailing away to Las Vegas. (February 2006)











(February 2006)



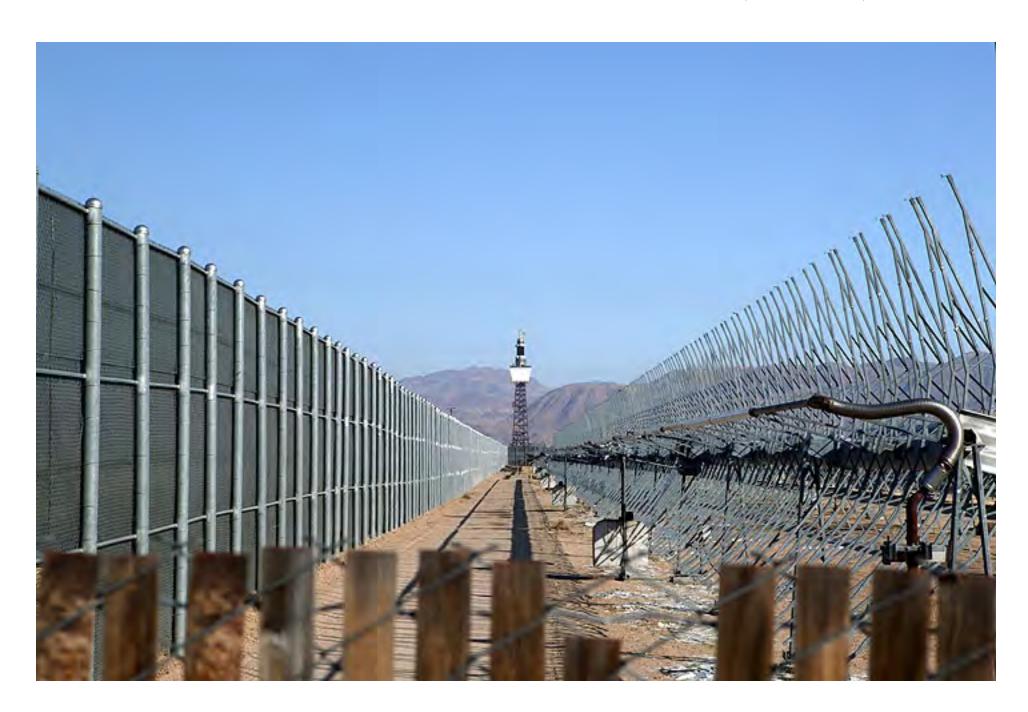
Just to the east of Barstow were two solar plants. Now there are none. A good idea gone awry, this scandal never made the headlines. (February 2006)



These plants reflected the sun's rays off mirrors to a boiler. That heated water in the boiler and generated electricity. (February 2006)



The solar panels that reflected sunlight to a boiler that generated the electricity are gradually being destroyed. (February 2006)



These solar plants received tax breaks because they used solar energy. At night they use natural gas. Con Edison sued claiming this was unfair competition. The solar companies couldn't make a profit without the tax break so the plants closed. (February 2006)







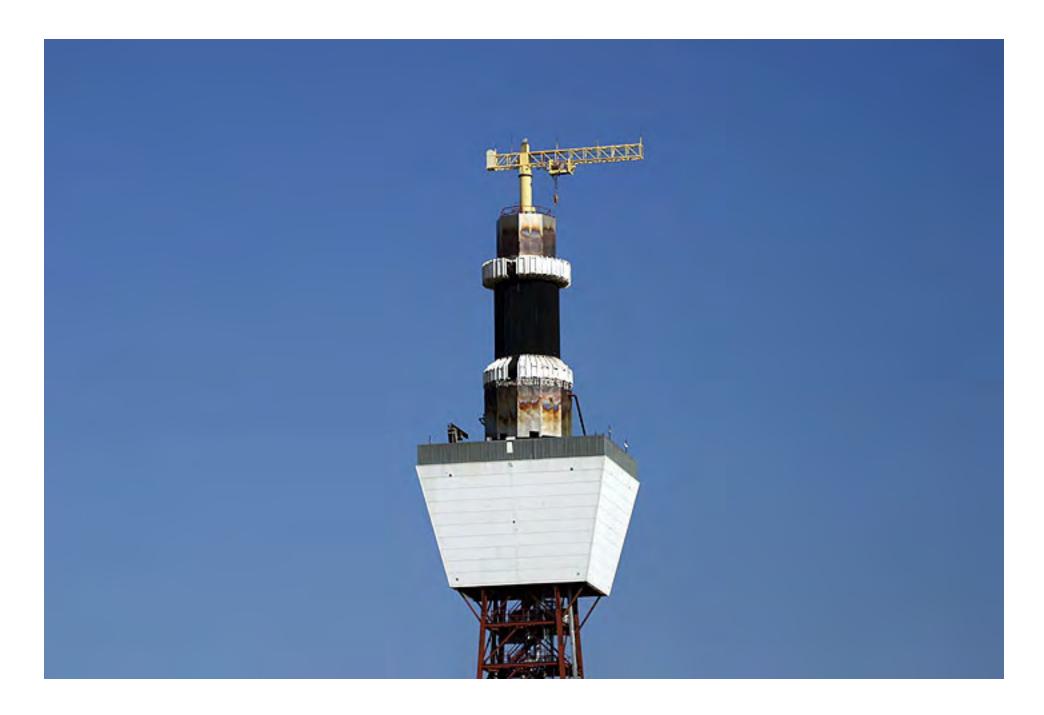
This solar plant was converted to a solar observatory. Keck is a Southern California industrialist whose foundation supports science projects. (February 2006)











Reliant is a company that owns power plants to sell electricity to the grid. This plant was owned by Con Edison. (February 2006)

