

Lake Alpine

# Discover <sup>our</sup> Heritage

HISTORIC POINTS OF INTEREST IN ALPINE COUNTY

Kirkwood Inn

**ALPINE  
COUNTY**  
H·E·R·I·T·A·G·E



**STEP BACK  
IN TIME**

est.1864

Washo Community Member

Historical Complex

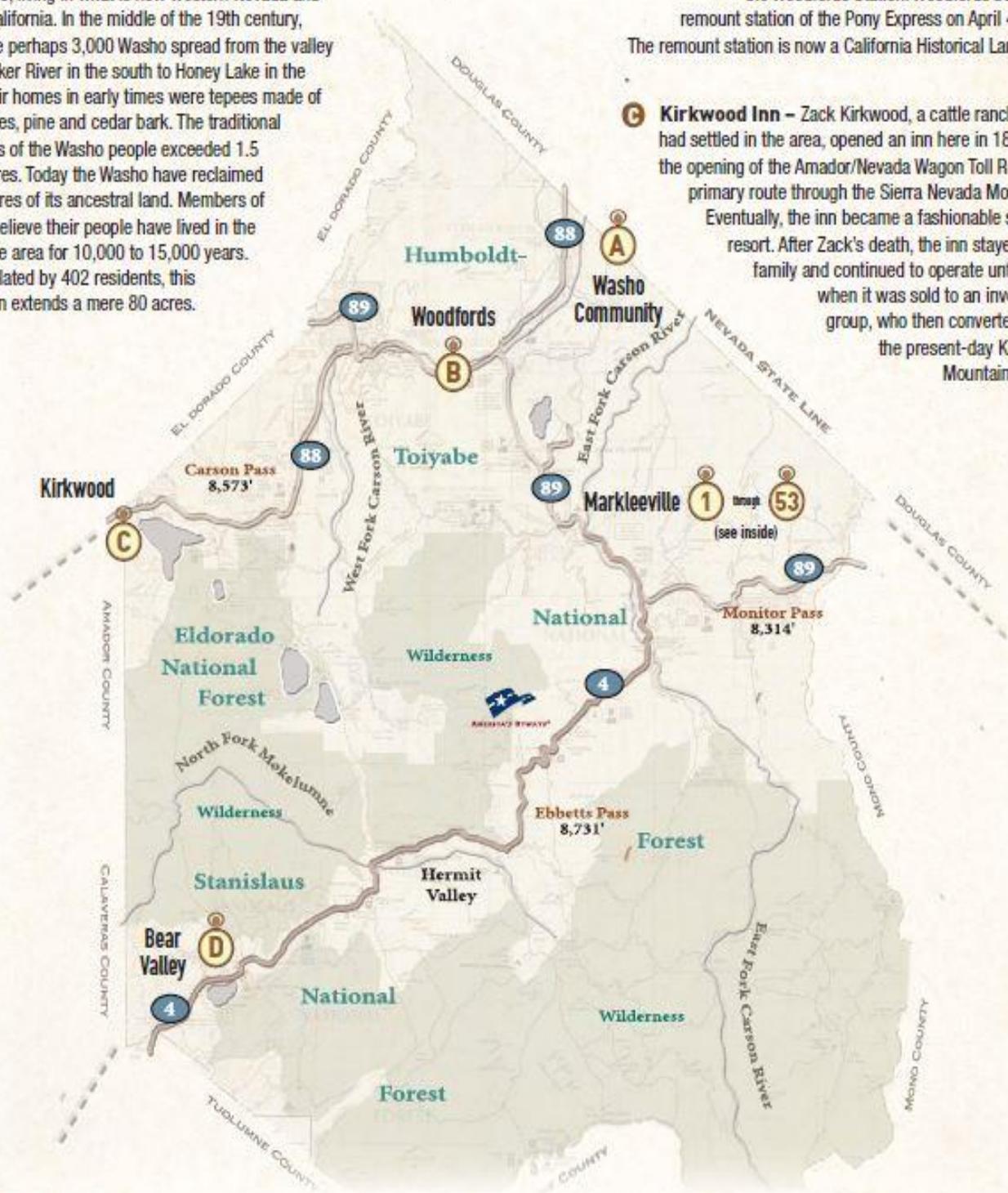


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**A Washo Community** – Driving Southeast in Alpine County on sagebrush-lined Diamond Valley Road, a sign whips back and forth in strong gusts of wind. It reads Hung-a-l-el-ti – Washo Indian language for the Southern Washo people. The Hung-a-l-el-ti members are from the southern branch of the Washo Indian Tribe, living in what is now western Nevada and eastern California. In the middle of the 19th century, there were perhaps 3,000 Washo spread from the valley of the Walker River in the south to Honey Lake in the north. Their homes in early times were tepees made of willow poles, pine and cedar bark. The traditional homelands of the Washo people exceeded 1.5 million acres. Today the Washo have reclaimed 70,000 acres of its ancestral land. Members of the tribe believe their people have lived in the Lake Tahoe area for 10,000 to 15,000 years. Now populated by 402 residents, this reservation extends a mere 80 acres.

**B Woodfords Hotel** – An early hotel at this site was known as the “Sign of the Elephant” serving travelers along old Emigrant Trail in 1849. This was consumed in a fire in the 1900’s, then rebuilt as another hotel which also burnt down. Now a newer building stands as the Woodfords Station. Woodfords became a remount station of the Pony Express on April 4, 1860. The remount station is now a California Historical Landmark.

**C Kirkwood Inn** – Zack Kirkwood, a cattle rancher who had settled in the area, opened an inn here in 1863 with the opening of the Amador/Nevada Wagon Toll Road, the primary route through the Sierra Nevada Mountains. Eventually, the inn became a fashionable summer resort. After Zack’s death, the inn stayed in the family and continued to operate until 1966, when it was sold to an investment group, who then converted it into the present-day Kirkwood Mountain Resort.



**D Bear Valley/Lake Alpine** – The Bear Valley area was originally called Grizzly Bear Valley, so named by O. B. Powers in August of 1855. Powers led a scouting expedition funded by business interests in Murphys, Angels Camp, and Stockton, to seek a trans-Sierra route. There was already a haying operation, by a Smith & Company. The Grizzly Bear Valley name was never formal; it was also referred to as Stanislaus River at Road House, Blood’s Station or Blood’s Toll Station. The Bear Valley Mountain Resort, originally named Mt. Reba, opened in December 1967, and the construction of homes, condominiums and commercial facilities began about the same time. Nearby Lake Alpine, a manmade reservoir, offers a rustic lodge, cabins, restaurant and store, as well as a large concentration of camping facilities.

# Historical Points of Interest in Markleeville, OH

**1 Historical Complex** - The Alpine County Museum Historical complex sits high on a knoll overlooking Markleeville. From this perch visitors are treated to a spectacular view of this historic town, surrounding meadows, and the rugged peaks of the Sierras. Museum attractions include the old wooden jail, a Basque bread oven, Indian grinding rock, the old Webster School, a working stamp mill, and the Museum gift shop.

**2 Old Courthouse** - Site of the town's original wooden courthouse, built in 1875 when the county seat was moved here from Silver Mountain, and used until 1928 when it was demolished. Now occupied by the Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Center.

**3 Arnot's House** - This site was a local judge's office as early as 1864. Some fifteen years later Judge N.D. Arnot would also make this site his home. In 1879 Arnot was elected to the Superior Court bench. Torn down in 1941 and replaced with the present block building known as the J. Marklee Toll Station.

**4 Exchange Saloon** - We know that the Exchange is at least 100 years old, as photos from 1912 show the structure in its present location, now known as the Toll House Motel. One unconfirmed tale suggests it was moved to this site from Silver Mountain, where it saw former use as a bordello.

**5 Chronicle Building** - This small house may be the oldest original building in Markleeville. It may once have housed the town's newspaper, the *Alpine Chronicle*, launched in 1864.

**6 Weis's "New" Store** - In earlier days, this was likely the site of John Weis's "new" general store, which sat just across the street from his warehouse. Both the "new" store and warehouse were built after Weis's store on Main Street burned in the great fire of 1885.

**7 Judge Price's House** - The home of Superior Court Judge Lester T. Price, built in 1907 by Matt Monroe and his father as a wedding present for Matt's sister. Bought by Judge Price in 1914, this house is still owned by Price descendants over 100 years later.

**8 New Webster School** - The new Webster School was built in 1928 with rock quarried near Silver Mountain City. It was used as a school until the 1950s. It now houses the Alpine County Library. This building is a State Point of Historic Interest.

**9 Koenig Exchange Saloon** - Prior to being a saloon, the building was the headquarters for the *Alpine Signal* newspaper. The old wooden house was torn down in the late 1960's. The current establishment is warmly remembered by townsfolk as the local "Frosty" where cheeseburgers, mountain fries and chocolate chip stakes were popular.

**10 Fiske Hotel** - In 1885, after the fire, Charles Grover moved the famous Fisk Hotel from Silver Mountain City onto this site and renamed the building the Hot Springs Hotel. It has also been called the Grover House and the Alpine House and now is the Wolf Creek Restaurant.

**11 Barnes Motel** - Barnes Motel, built in 1863, was the first truly substantial building in town. The hotel served as the site for many community events. In the 1930's this site was a vacant lot, used as a garden to grow vegetables for the Alpine Hotel. The Creekside Lodge is the current building residing on these grounds.

**12 Swan Saloon** - This site hosted two different businesses in the early 1860s. On the north half of the lot stood the "Swan Saloon." The south half was occupied by a livery stable. The original building fell victim to the 1885 Great Markleeville Fire. During the 1930s and 40s a small cabin occupied the property and served as the post office for many years. Demolished in 1978 to make way for the present two-story building now occupied by Ali's Cafe.

**13 Beam's Store** - This site was originally owned by T.H. Gould. In 1866, the north half of this lot was occupied by the "Jerry Beam Store," which also served as the local post office. Phillip Felsenthal opened the "Pioneer Clothing Store" about 1884 occupying the south half of the lot. The original building went up in flames during the Great Fire of 1885. The current house was built around the 1930s and is still fondly known as Grandma's Cottage.

**14 Grover Homestead** - Known as the Old Grover Homestead, this building was moved from Monitor sometime in the 1890s. It was a private residence until 1975 when it was demolished by the County so that the present Administration Building could be built on the site.

**15 Taggard & McCoy's Saloon** - The Markleeville General Store occupies a site previously home to a saloon and a meat market. The present building was built after then 1885 fire.

**16 Hanson's Hotel** - Today's dell occupies one of the most significant historic spots in town: the site where the Great Fire of 1885 began! By 1864, the property was occupied by T.H. Hanson's "Stage House" Hotel, with the Lone Star Stable situated just to the south, for travelers' (and their horses') convenience. On August 2, 1885, the Great Fire that consumed much of Markleeville got its start in the upper floor of the Hanson's Stage House Hotel. According to local lore, the fire was set by Mrs. Hanson's young daughter, who was playing with a candle.

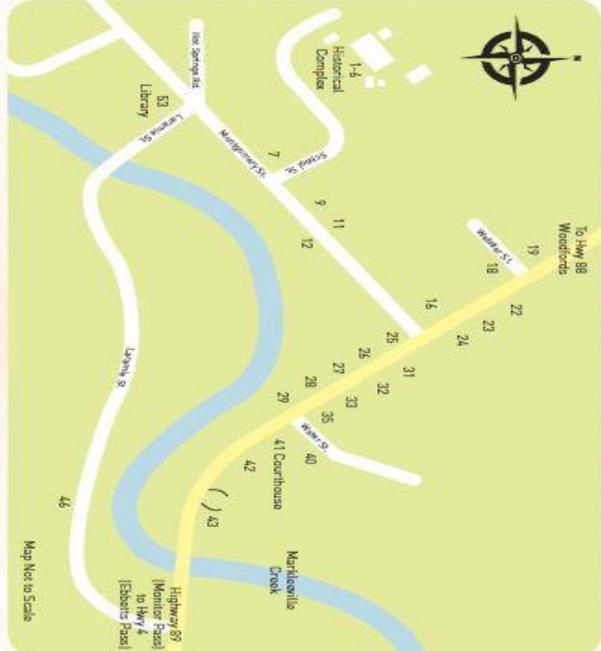
**17 Pioneer Stable and Morrison Saloon** - The current building is a fresh addition to Main Street. But in Markleeville's early days, the north half of the lot was home to the Pioneer Livery & Feed Stable owned by the brother of Jacob Markley. Next door to the livery stable, the south half of the lot was occupied by the "Ocean Wave Saloon," one of the first buildings to burn in the Great Fire of 1885.

**18 The Hurdy House** - In its earliest days, Markleeville was a rollicking place. This festive dancing establishment occupied just half a lot diagonally across the street from today's Toll Station Restaurant (approximately where the gas station's wooden face presently stands.)

**19 Markleeville Cemetery Trail** - This historic cemetery was in use as early as the 1860s and its trail was recut along with other restoration efforts in 2016. Here lie many of the individuals who made Markleeville and Alpine County what it is today.

**20 Self-Guided Walking Tour of Markleeville** - "A Self-Guided Walking Tour of Markleeville" by Karen & Rick Dushman. Book Available at the Alpine County Chamber of Commerce as well as the Museum. Other books available by Karen & Rick Dushman are:

- "A Self-Guided Driving Tour of Woodruffs, Diamond Valley and Fredericksburg"
- "Fredericksburg Cemetery - A Self-Guided Walking Tour"
- "Ghost of the Sierra - Silver Mountain City"



**21 Butcher Shop** - In 1864 this was the site of the "Empire Meat Market." The market closed after a fatal brawl and re-opened the following year with new proprietors. The original meat market was consumed by the 1885 fire and the present building was erected in June of 1886. The property remained a meat market until about 1916 when it was converted into a residence.

**22 Arcade Restaurant** - Today, this is the site of the Markleeville Post Office. During the mid-1860s a small building known as the Arcade Restaurant sat here. Casualties of the 1885 fire, these buildings had been replaced by about 1910 with two large barns known as the Ricker Barn and was owned by a local cattle company. The current post office building was constructed in the early 1950s.

**23 Markleeville Heritage Park and Nature Area** - This new park area was created on the site of the former US Forest Service adjacent to the historic Alpine County Courthouse and is marked by a new plaque dedicated in 2016 to town founder, Jacob Markley, whose original cabin likely stood nearby.

**24 Courthouse** - The Alpine County Courthouse was built in 1928 with rock quarried from near Silver Mountain City. It has been in continuous use as the County Courthouse since that time and houses the court and probate. This is a State Point of Historic Interest.

**25 Alderson's Saloon** - Today the libations at this location are strictly non-alcoholic, courtesy of the Charles W. Barrett Memorial Water Fountain. But in 1865 a saloon sat here. The Barrett fountain was erected in 1941 to honor the memory of Alpine County Sheriff Charles Barrett, who served from 1914 until his death in 1935. The fountain was restored and rededicated in 2016.

**26 Alderson's Saloon** - The current building is a fresh addition to Main Street. But in Markleeville's early days, the north half of the lot was home to the Pioneer Livery & Feed Stable owned by the brother of Jacob Markley. Next door to the livery stable, the south half of the lot was occupied by the "Ocean Wave Saloon," one of the first buildings to burn in the Great Fire of 1885.