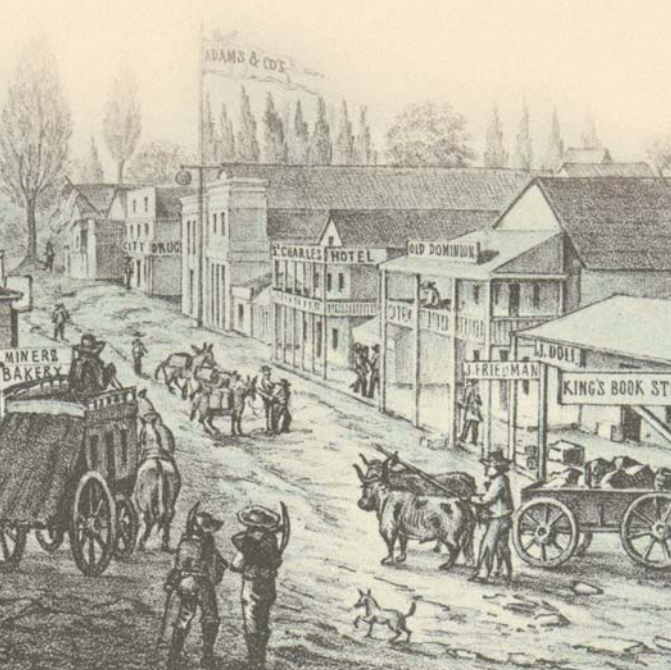


At the hub of wagon travel, the area became the commercial center of northern California. Temporary residences gave way to houses, stores, hotels, barbershops and saloons. The busy town was renamed Shasta in 1850.



Our Mission

The mission of the California Department of Parks and Recreation is to provide for the health, inspiration and education of the people of California by helping to preserve the state's extraordinary biological diversity, protecting its most valued natural and cultural resources, and creating opportunities for high-quality outdoor recreation.

GRAY DAVIS
Governor

MARY D. NICHOLS
Secretary for Resources

RUSTY AREIAS
Director, California State Parks



California State Parks does not discriminate against individuals with disabilities. Prior to arrival, visitors with disabilities who need assistance should contact the park at the phone number below. To receive this publication in an alternate format, write to the Communications Office at the following address.

CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS For information call:
(800)777-0369
P.O. Box 942896 (916)653-6995, outside the U.S.
Sacramento, CA (888)877-5378, TTY
94296-0001 (888)877-5379, without TTY
www.parks.ca.gov

Shasta State Historic Park
Highway 299 West (Park)
P.O. Box 2430 (Mail)
Shasta, CA 96087
(530) 243-8194

Shasta State Historic Park



The “Queen City of the Northern Mines,”

Shasta State Historic Park was once the picturesque gold mining town of Shasta. In its heyday it was the center of commerce and social activity for northern California. To walk among Shasta’s remaining buildings, cemeteries, sites and ruins is to look back at the daily lives of the merchants, families and miners who once lived and worked here.

Shasta is located in the foothills of the Klamath Range, six miles west of Redding on Highway 299. Summer and fall can be dry and hot, reaching 100 degrees. Though snowfall is not uncommon, winter temperatures generally range from 30 to 50 degrees. Spring is usually cool and rainy.

SHASTA

In 1848 Pierson B. Reading found gold in nearby Clear Creek. The world caught gold fever as word of the strike spread. Besides the attraction of gold, the area was rich in natural resources. By 1849 the community of tents and lean-tos was named Reading Springs. At the hub of wagon travel, the area became the commercial center of northern California. Temporary residences gave way to houses, stores, hotels, barbershops and saloons. The busy town was renamed Shasta in 1850, and by 1852 more than \$2.5 million in gold had passed through Shasta.

In December 1852, fire destroyed much of the town. The residents quickly rebuilt, but six months later another fire destroyed all 70 businesses on Main Street. Wary merchants rebuilt with fireproof brick walls and iron

shutters. Shasta now had the longest row of brick buildings north of San Francisco.

Gold claims were depleted by the late 1860s. Shasta’s gradual decline was hastened when its lucrative stagecoach and freight business moved away. The new Central Pacific Railroad bypassed Shasta, placing its terminal in nearby Redding. Merchants abandoned or relocated their businesses, and in 1888, after three decades at Shasta, the county seat moved to Redding. Shasta’s abandoned buildings quickly fell into disrepair.

PRESERVATION AND RESTORATION

Several groups and individuals recognized the significant historical value of the town’s “boom

to bust” story and decided to preserve the community. The care and concern of the Native Sons of the Golden West, the Shasta Historical Society and Mae Helene Bacon Boggs sparked a movement in the 1920s to save and restore the remaining buildings. Ms. Boggs had moved from Missouri to Shasta as a child to be cared for by her uncle, Williamson Lyncoya Smith. Considering Shasta her hometown, she led the movement by purchasing land and structures and donating her valuable and extensive art collection. The California State Parks Commission acquired additional properties in 1937, and in 1950 the Courthouse Museum opened.



SHASTA TODAY

Stroll among the sites of Shasta, and let your imagination reflect on this once-bustling town. Today's ruins were businesses that served the area's townspeople and commerce. Walking trails pass by the 1920s



The Courthouse Museum

schoolhouse, the brewery, and spring houses once used as natural refrigerators. Notice that many of the trees planted by Shasta's pioneers continue to bear nuts and fruit. Tour the Pioneer Union Cemetery and the Catholic Cemetery, or enjoy a picnic under the trees. Inside the Pioneer Barn, a restored stagecoach invites your attention, and mining and farm equipment are on display. Grounds and trails are open between sunrise and sunset.

THE COURTHOUSE MUSEUM

The Courthouse Museum, dating from 1855, has been restored to its 1861 appearance. It houses the visitor center and the museum,

as well as the gathered works of outstanding California artists. The collection, consisting of 98 paintings by 71 artists from many ethnic backgrounds, was donated by Mae Helene Bacon Boggs in memory of her uncle. Its variety of styles and themes include *A New Year's Festival in San Francisco Chinatown* by Ernest Narjot; Grace Carpenter Hudson's portrait, *Kay Will, Pomo Chief*; a watercolor portrait titled *The Soothsayer* by Wing Kwong Tse; and *Portrait of a Colored Model* by African-American artist Sallie Benfield. The paintings depict California's rich and diverse history from 1850 to 1950. The Courthouse Museum and its gift shop are open daily from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., except for Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Days.

THE LITSCH GENERAL MERCHANDISE STORE

The restored Litsch Store is one of Shasta's original buildings. Visitors can see what it was like to shop during the 1880s, when merchandise was displayed and stored behind the counter, and customers had to ask the clerk to assist them. The store is open during summer and fall, when staff and volunteers provide guided tours. Call for a tour schedule.



Interior of Litsch Store

THE BLUMB BAKERY

The Blumb Bakery is a faithfully reconstructed building. Its 1870s wood-fired oven is used at times for baking demonstrations, and visitors are invited to prepare and eat their own baked goods.

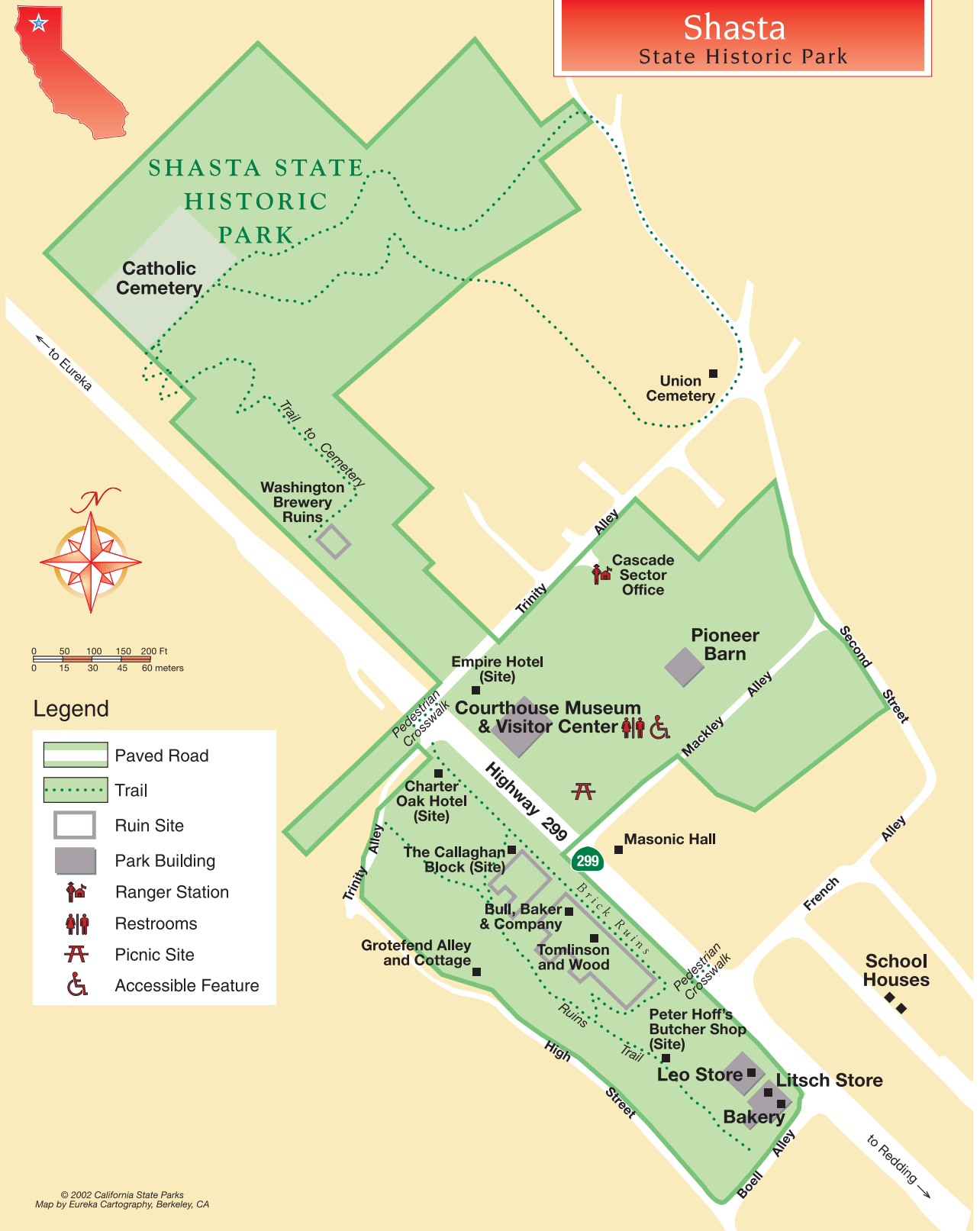
EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Guided tours include the Courthouse Museum, the Litsch General Merchandise Store, and the cemeteries. Baking demonstrations are also available. Special summer events include the annual "Dinner In The Jail For You and Your 13 Lucky Friends" drawing, and performances at the Shasta Starlight Theater. Full Moon Cemetery Tours take place in October, and the Holiday Open House is on the first Sunday in December. Children's programs include art, history and nature. Call for a current schedule of events.

PLEASE REMEMBER

- Cross the highway only at crosswalks.
- Removing any park features or climbing on ruins or historic displays is prohibited.
- Dogs must be on a leash and with their owners at all times. Clean up after your pets.
- Commercial photography is prohibited without a permit.
- Restrooms are located in the picnic area.
- Call for the hours of operation of the Litsch Store and Blumb Bakery.

Shasta State Historic Park



This park is supported in part through a non-profit organization. For more information contact:
 Town of Shasta Interpretive Association
 P.O. Box 268, Shasta, CA 96087