



Central Sierra
HISTORICAL SOCIETY



10) AMPITHEATRE

9) WARD TUNNEL SEGMENT

8) REDINGER POWERHOUSE

6) STRONG-BACK RAIL CAR

7) SPARK ARRESTOR

4) FLUME TENDERS CABIN

5) CABOOSE

2) MACK TRUCK

11) NATURE TRAIL

13) HAYDEN SAWMILL

3) NATIVE AMERICAN AREA

MAIN MUSEUM

12) LINDA'S TRAIL BOTANICAL WALK

1) STEAM DONKEY

PARKING

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Central Sierra Historical Society & Museum

A self-guided tour of the outdoor exhibits

Current State of California public health guidelines permit us to welcome visitors to our outdoor exhibits. We hope you will enjoy exploring the museum grounds and learning about the history of our area, while maintaining safe social distancing practices. Museum events and access to indoor spaces will resume as soon as possible. Our restrooms are currently closed to the public.

- 1) Steam Donkey – Interpretive signage in adjacent kiosk. Monthly steam-ups during the summer season. Come blow the whistle!
- 2) Mack Truck – Garage doors are open – please remain behind the chain for your safety
- 3) Cedar Bark Structure – This is not a teepee! The Mono word “nobi” may be used to describe this free-standing shelter.
- 4) Flume and Flume-tender’s cabin – Between 1893 and 1914 rough-cut lumber was floated down the 42-mile flume from the Shaver Lake sawmill to a spot near the current day Clovis rodeo grounds. Twelve of these small cabins along the route sheltered flume-tenders, who maintained the structure and kept the lumber moving.
- 5) Caboose #50, San Joaquin and Eastern Railroad (1912-1933) – The S J & E Railroad transported men, materials and equipment during the early years of Southern California Edison’s development of the Big Creek Hydroelectric Project.
- 6) Strongback Rail Car – After World War I hydroelectric development continued down canyon from the first powerhouse in Big Creek. Materials were carried by the railroad to a point far above the construction sites, transferred to a flatbed rail car, and finally winched almost straight downhill in the road-less terrain.
- 7) Spark Arrestor – The Shaver Lake Railroad operated in our area during the first quarter of the 20th century. It hauled logs from the outlying forest to the Shaver sawmill. This spark arrestor - a kind of chimney for a wood-burning engine – was submerged under the lake waters for many years after the railroad was abandoned.
- 8) Redinger Powerhouse – This structure is a working model of a hydroelectric powerhouse, circa 1904. The Pelton wheel, generator and control board are up and running during monthly demonstrations during the summer.
- 9) Ward Tunnel segment – The Ward Tunnel carries water from Florence and Edison Lakes through the granite beneath Kaiser Pass and into the Big Creek hydroelectric system. This segment was removed in the early 1950’s when Portal Powerhouse was constructed at the head of Huntington Lake.
- 10) Amphitheater – The amphitheater is a popular setting for musical events, educational gatherings and weddings
- 11) Nature Trail – Created and maintained by a dedicated group of volunteers, the Nature Trail is an easy loop of about 2/3 of a mile of forest, meadow and granite outcroppings.
- 12) Linda’s Trail – Local flowers and shrubs, labelled with both common and botanical names
- 13) Hayden Sawmill— Under construction