



NV STATE FLOWER
Big Sagebrush

NEVADA'S HEART STATE SONG

Home, means Nevada,
Home, means the hills,
Home, means the sage and the pines.
Out by the Truckee's silvery rills,
Out where the sun always shines,
There is the land that I love the best,
Fairer than all I can see.
Right in the heart of the golden west,
Home, means Nevada to me.



MILESTONES OF NORTHWESTERN NEVADA

- ~ 4,000 BCE** Long-term habitation by the Washoe people is evident; scholars propose cultural origins in the region as early as ~4000 BCE, and evidence of indigenous presence goes back several thousand years beyond that.
- 1825** In 1825 Trappers and explorers began moving through Washoe territory, marking the start of sustained European contact.
- 1859** The discovery of rich silver ore in 1859 near Virginia City initiated the Comstock Lode and triggered a massive silver rush.
- 1863** Records show that Samuel Clemens first used the name Mark Twain on South C. Street in Virginia City in 1863. He later described his colorful adventures in Nevada as "Roughing It."
- 1864** Carson City became the capital of the Nevada Territory in 1861 and was confirmed as the permanent state capital when Nevada achieved statehood in 1864.
- 1869** The Virginia & Truckee Railroad began service, linking Comstock mines to national rail lines and fueling western industrial growth.
- 1870** The Carson City Mint opened in 1870, transforming Comstock silver into nearly \$50 million in U.S. coins.



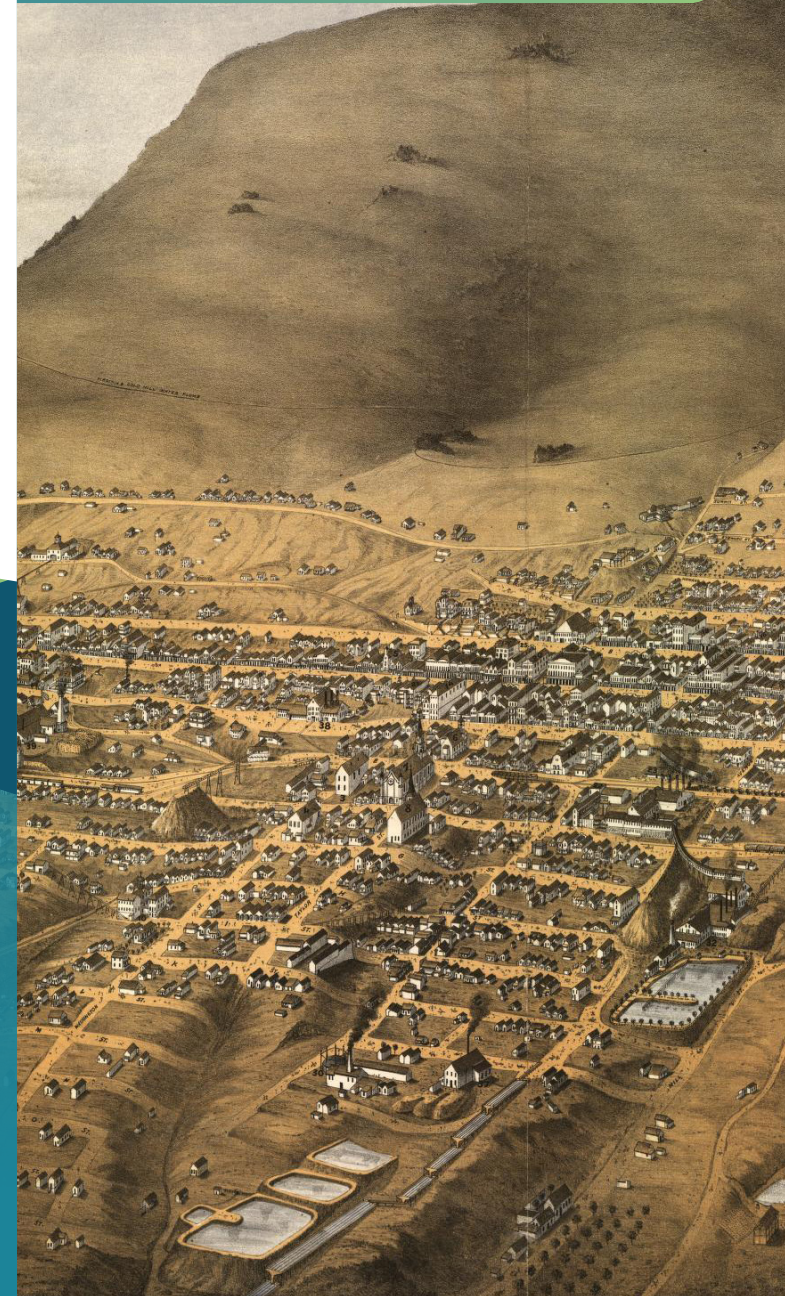
Washoe Valley Alliance partners with **eighteen government agencies and community service organizations.**
Visit washoevalleyalliance.org to learn more.

"Protecting Washoe Valley's Unique Qualities through Education and Stewardship"

Washoe Valley Alliance is a Nevada nonprofit
501(c)(3) incorporated March 2013.

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WASHOE VALLEY, NEVADA HISTORICAL MARKERS





NORTHWESTERN NEVADA HISTORICAL MARKERS

For mapping purposes, all locations are referred to as "markers"; however, some sites do not have physical markers present.

- 01 Bowers Mansion**
Built by Comstock millionaires Sandy and Eilley Bowers, this mansion reflects sudden wealth, tragic loss, and a lasting Nevada legacy.
- 02 The Winters Ranch**
Completed in 1864, this Gothic ranch was home to Theodore Winters, Comstock investor, rancher, politician, and racehorse breeder.
- 03 Galena Creek Fish Hatchery**
Operating from 1931–1949, this hatchery restored fish populations damaged by Comstock mining and marked early conservation efforts.
- 04 Lakeview**
A former railroad stop, water hub, and lumber yard, Lakeview supported Comstock mining until operations ended in 1896.

- 05 Franktown**
Founded in 1855, Franktown thrived on milling and farming before railroads bypassed it, causing decline.
- 06 Galena**
Founded in 1860, Galena grew into a busy lumber and mining town before fires and economic hardship led to abandonment.
- 07 First Air Flight Over Nevada**
In 1910, Ivy Baldwin flew Nevada's first airplane here, setting altitude records during Carson City's Sagebrush Carnival.
- 08 Mount Rose Weather Observatory**
Established in 1905, this observatory pioneered snow survey science and modern water forecasting.
- 09 The Great Incline of the Sierra Nevada**
Completed in 1880, this steam-powered cable railway hauled lumber uphill to flumes serving the Comstock mines.
- 10 Sand Harbor**
Sand Harbor transferred Lake Tahoe logs to rail and incline systems supplying lumber to Comstock mines.
- 11 Geiger Station**
Once the busiest stop on the Geiger Grade Toll Road, this station served travelers, freight teams, and social gatherings.
- 12 Old Geiger Grade**
Built in 1862, this steep toll road carried people and freight between the Comstock and Truckee Meadows until 1936.
- 13 Steamboat Springs**
Famed for healing waters, these hot springs became a resort and freight hub during the Comstock era.
- 14 McCones' Foundries**
John McCone's foundry became Nevada's largest, producing vital railway castings and record-setting ironwork.
- 15 The Comstock Lode**
Discovered in 1859, this rich silver and gold deposit fueled Nevada statehood and Virginia City's boom.
- 16 Mark Twain**
Samuel Clemens, later known as Mark Twain, began his writing career in Nevada before worldwide fame.
- 17 Federal Government Building**
Completed in 1891, Nevada's first federal building housed courts and postal services and remains a public landmark.



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 References & sources:
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- 18 Carson City**
Founded in 1858 by Abe Curry, Carson City became Nevada's territorial and state capital.
- 19 Nevada's Capital**
Completed in 1871, this Victorian sandstone Capitol features marble walls, crystal windows, and historic expansions.
- 20 The United States Mint**
Operating from 1870–1893, the Carson City Mint produced nearly \$50 million in coins from Comstock silver.
- 21 Nevada's Birthplace**
Carson Valley's Genoa, settled in 1851, is Nevada's first town and key emigrant trail stop.
- 22 Mottsville**
Mottsville, settled in 1851, was site of Carson Valley's first school, court session, cemetery, and pioneer family homestead.
- 23 Walley's Hot Springs**
Walley's Hot Springs became a famous 1862 resort, known for therapeutic geothermal waters along the emigrant trail.
- 24 Carson Valley**
Carson Valley evolved from emigrant meadow stop into major agricultural hub supplying Comstock, Bodie, Tonopah, and Goldfield miners.
- 25 Kingsbury Grade**
Kingsbury Grade toll road, built 1859–1860, created a shorter, vital route linking California and Virginia City mines.
- 26 Sutro**
Sutro Tunnel town supported Adolph Sutro's massive drainage project, improving safety, ventilation, and access in Comstock mines.
- 27 Desert Well Station**
Desert Well Station served Overland Mail travelers; Mark Twain wrote of it, and camels once watered here.
- 28 Virginia & Truckee Railroad**
Virginia & Truckee Railroad linked Comstock mines to national rail lines, operating from 1869 until its final run in 1950.