

State Historical Resources Commission

RESOLUTION NO. 2008-04

RESOLUTION OF COMMENDATION Bale Grist Mill State Historic Park

WHEREAS, the Bale Grist Mill was built by Dr. Edward T. Bale in 1846, an English-born resident of Mexican California, to supply flour to the settlers of Mexican and later American Napa Valley and was actively used as a mill until its abandonment in 1879; and

WHEREAS, the 36' mill wheel is commonly held to be the largest overshot mill wheel west of the Mississippi River, and the mill is one of a small number of fully-operational traditional grain mills in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the old mill property was rescued from demolition by a series of interested parties, including the Native Sons of the Golden West and the County of Napa, who kept the property in a state of arrested decay before it was deeded to the State of California in 1974; and

WHEREAS, California State Parks completed a major restoration project in 1988, making the bulk of the historic machinery usable; and

WHEREAS, the park now seeks to restore the machinery on the second story of the mill and intends to complete the work without using any State General Funds; and fundraising has already been initiated by a variety of non-profit organizations, including the Napa Valley State Parks Association; and,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the State Historical Resources Commission commends Bale Grist Mill State Historic Park; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution be recorded in the minutes of the State Historical Resources Commission, and that a suitable copy be presented to Bale Grist Mill State Historic Park.

April 23, 2008

STATE HISTORICAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

Donn R. Grenda, Ph.D.
Chairperson

Milford Wayne Donaldson, FAIA
Executive Secretary

