

4.3.6 Historic Resources

History continues to live in Anderson. Anderson exhibits the settlement and progression of western communities from the late 19th century through the early 20th century. The City of Anderson is located within the original Rancho Buenaventura, a land grant given to Major Pierson B. Reading in December 1844 by Mexican Governor Manuel Micheltoarena.

Reading received a patent for this grant from the United States government in 1854. The rancho contained six square leagues of land on the west side of the Sacramento River, from Salt Creek (at Redding) on the north, to the mouth of Cottonwood Creek on the south.

During his lifetime, Reading sold approximately 5000 acres of land and the remainder of the rancho was mortgaged when he died in 1868. The mortgage was foreclosed in 1871 and the majority of the land was bought by James Ben Ali Haggin, a San Francisco financier and land speculator.

Anderson began as a community in 1872 with the successful negotiation with the Southern Pacific Railroad for the railroad right-of-way. Haggin and his partner, Edward Frisbie, a local banker and real estate promoter, laid out the original town of Anderson.

A twelve square block plat was filed. Anderson was named after Elias Anderson, the first resident, in 1872. The town quickly began to grow into an actual community with businesses, residences, hotels, post office, schools and churches. The community has had episodic growth spurts related to agriculture, railroad shipping and lumber. By 1880, the population had grown to about 800 people.

Ball's Ferry, established in 1868, was part of the transportation network between the east and west sides of the Sacramento River. Ball's Ferry Road and the ferry connected the towns of Cottonwood and Anderson on the north, and Jelly's Ferry Road and Red Bluff on the south. This road carried traffic from the west side of the Sacramento River toward Shingletown, Burney Valley, Hat Creek Valley, Big Valley, Aden, Alturas and eastern Oregon. The segment of the Balls Ferry Road that intersected North Street was renamed Stingy Lane some time in the early 20th century.

Cattle and sheep ranching, as well as agriculture, formed the economic base around Anderson. Grain crops were important, and fruit businesses flourished. Peaches, plums, and apricots were the main fruit crops grown in the North Valley in the early days, as well as pears, nuts, and smaller crops of citrus fruits and figs. Prunes were picked and dried by the grower and his family, placed in sacks and sent by wagon to the railroad for shipping to the market.

Although there was little mining around Anderson, the Shasta County mining districts, and later the copper mines north of Redding, drew many fortune-seekers to the area. Pioneer settlers commonly tried their hands at mining before settling down to farm around Anderson, and the town was a major supplier of agricultural products to the mining communities further north.

While the Shasta County copper boom gave employment for thousands of mine workers, many North Valley fruit growers were impacted by toxic smoke from the smelters. Smelter smoke killed native vegetation for miles around and was blamed for widespread devastation of fruit orchards in Happy Valley and Anderson. Fruit growers eventually prevailed in the courts in their suit to have the smelters shut down. By this time, however, many fruit growers had turned to diversified farming, or had taken up other occupations.



Anderson, as an unincorporated community, grew until a decline in the lumber industry beginning in 1910; began the first modification in the City's focus. Construction of the Anderson Cottonwood Irrigation District (ACID) Canal changed the agricultural basis of this area from orchards, grazing and dry land crops to irrigated fields. The City began a period of limited development following World War I. Between the two world wars Anderson existed as a relatively stable agricultural community.

Following World War II Anderson began a second period of expansion resulting from the growth of the lumber products industry. The largest employer was Shasta Plywood Corporation. By 1950 the population of Anderson was 2,500. Anderson became an incorporated City on January 16, 1956. In 1967, the Anderson River Park was dedicated. The City Hall was built in 1977 and was the City's first three-story building.

This expansion continued until the decline in the lumber industry in the late 1980s. The economic downturn for Anderson continued with the national recession in the 1990s. The City is currently experiencing resurgence in economic vitality and a migration of people from other parts of California seeking a "small town" atmosphere. The City celebrated 50 years as an incorporated city in January 2006 and the City's population reached 10,529.

A. Historic Resources Policies (HP)

HP-1 Protect and preserve historic resources within the City of Anderson.

HP-2 Promote the compatibility of new development located adjacent to existing structures of historic significance with the architecture and site development of the historic structure.

HP-3 Respect the character of the building and its setting during the remodeling and renovation of facades of historic buildings.

HP-4 Encourage the use of the State Historic Building Code for historic buildings and other structures that contribute to the City's historic character. Use flexibility when applying zoning regulations to historic sites and buildings.

HP-5 Recognize the value of Anderson's historic resources as an economic development tool.

HP-6 Ensure that the integrity of historic structures and the parcels on which they are located are preserved through the implementation of applicable design, building and fire codes.

B. Historic Resources Implementation Programs (HI)

- HI-1 Encourage owners of eligible historic properties to apply for State and Federal registration of these sites and to participate in tax incentive programs for historic restoration.
- HI-2 Identify funding mechanisms, including funding from the City to the extent possible, to support programs to preserve, restore, and enhance unique historic sites.
- HI-3 Assess development proposals for potential impacts to significant historic resources pursuant to Section 15064.5 of the CEQA Guidelines.
- HI-4 Develop an inventory of historic sites within the Old Town Core.
- HI-5 Work with property owners to preserve historic features within the community.