



The County’s 2001 Viewshed Protection Ordinance sets forth hillside development standards to minimize the impact of man-made structures and grading on views from designated public roads in the County. The ordinance is intended to preserve the unique scenic quality of Napa County and protect the ridgelines and hillsides of the county from insensitive development.

There are approximately 280 miles of county-designated scenic roadways in Napa County. Although none of the roads are officially designated as Scenic Highways by the State of California, Segments of Hwy 29, SR 121 and SR 221 are eligible for scenic highway designation. The status of a state scenic highway changes from “eligible” to “officially designated” only when the local jurisdiction adopts a scenic corridor protection program, applies to the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) for scenic highway approval, and receives notification from Caltrans that the highway has been designated as a scenic highway. Historically, the county has refrained from seeking official state designation due to concerns about maintenance and improvement costs. However, these roads are not precluded from official Scenic Highway status in the future.

CULTURAL AND HISTORIC RESOURCES

The term “cultural and historic resources” refers to archaeological sites and features of the built environment (e.g., buildings, landscape elements) that have importance to the community, providing connections to pre-historic and historic peoples and events. For clarity in this plan, archaeological resources, whether they involve pre-historic or historic sites, are referred to as “cultural” resources. Qualifying buildings and landscape elements, such as walls, bridges, etc., are referred to as “historic” resources.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

There are many unique cultural or archaeological resources in Napa Valley, and the ethnographic record of the region shows the cultural complexity at the time of European-American contact. Napa County also played a historically significant role in the development of California and the West. The record of significant historic properties within the County is extensive and will surely grow as more properties are identified and evaluated.

Napa County was a rich resource base (food, clothing, water, tool-making sites, etc.) and was home to native peoples for thousands of years. Archaeological investigations have expanded the understanding of the prehistoric populations who inhabited the Napa region and their use of it. These investigations have also advanced our knowledge of the climate, natural environment, and adaptive strategies used by prehistoric cultures.

A variety of raw materials were available for the manufacture of hunting, gathering, and processing implements, and stone appears to have been the most important. The Wappo and Patwin, similar to every other Native American group in California, used stone in almost every aspect of their lives. Napa Glass

Native Peoples in Napa County

Archaeological records show that the Napa region was inhabited in prehistoric times primarily by the **Wappo**, **Lake Miwok**, and **Patwin** tribal groups.

The **Wappo** lived in villages generally located along a creek or other water source, and research suggests there may have been more than seven villages and between 1,000-1,500 Wappo people in the larger Geyserville area, including one village in Napa.

The **Lake Miwok** was a small tribe of around 500 people inhabiting an area that extended south from Clear Lake to Pope Valley, west to Cobb Mountain in Lake County and east to Patwin territory (including Jerusalem Valley, Soda Creek, and Putah Creek).

Other portions of Napa County were once inhabited by the **Patwin**, who held an extensive region in north central California. The onslaught of Euro-American culture brought the end of Patwin culture, and by 1871 the Patwin culture appeared virtually extinct.



Mountain, a regionally important obsidian site and quarry, and other local obsidian sources are situated within Wappo territory.

Because Glass Mountain obsidian was known for its high quality, it was a valuable trade commodity and spread to areas across the western states. This gave the Wappo strong trading power.

Archaeological investigations in Napa have been primarily conducted to comply with the regulatory requirements of CEQA and NEPA for specific development projects, and consequently, there has been scant comprehensive archaeological research. Identified sites include those associated with habitation, grave sites, camping/hunting sites, and places where resources such as obsidian from Glass Mountain were procured. Future archaeological research in Napa County and the region has the potential to yield still more important information about prehistory and history, particularly in the eastern portion of the county.

HISTORIC RESOURCES

Outside of its urban centers, Napa County’s built environment contains historic remnants of its agricultural past such as farmsteads, barns, wineries, grange halls, water tanks, and walls. In addition, there are historic spas and resorts, mines and mine roads, and picturesque stone bridges and landscapes (including historic vineyards).

While the historic significance of many of these features cannot be denied, there is no comprehensive inventory of historic resources in unincorporated Napa County. A 1978 visual survey only skimmed the surface and is long out of date. State and federal registers contain incomplete listings, and as of 2007 there are only three formally designated Napa County Landmarks: the di Rosa Preserve, located at 5200 Sonoma Highway; Trubody Ranch located at 5444 Trubody Lane; and the August Hirsh Winery at 3199 St. Helena Highway North. A listing of state and federally designated historic buildings is shown on the following page.

The absence of a complete and up-to-date inventory makes preservation of significant resources difficult. It also ensures that property owners seeking permits to alter or demolish older buildings will face an uncertain permit process and potential delays. Further, it means that visitors to Napa County seeking an authentic experience (i.e., “heritage tourism”) cannot fully understand the long agricultural history of the County.

Policies and action items presented below are intended to address the absence of complete information and ensure the long-term preservation of significant resources within Napa County. A

History in Napa County



Aetna Springs, a federally listed historic district

Unincorporated Napa County is home to dozens of historic resources, including the following:

- Aetna Springs Resort
- Schramsberg Winery
- Far Niente Winery
- Oakville Grocery
- Atkinson House
- Bale Mill, Bothe Napa State Park
- Carneros Creek Bridge on Old Sonoma Highway
- Napa River Bridge on Zinfandel Lane
- Swartz Creek Bridge on Aetna Springs Road
- Milliken Creek (Little Trancas) Bridge at Trancas Street & Silverado Trail
- Soda Springs Resort



These gates on Soda Springs Road are among the last remnants of the former resort.



common definition of what is significant is critical, as are an emphasis on public outreach and education and on incentives for historic preservation. References to state and federal programs ensure that Napa County’s policy framework is consistent with others in the state.

**TABLE CC-A:
STATE AND FEDERALLY LISTED HISTORIC RESOURCES IN NAPA COUNTY, AS OF 2006***

Resource	Year Built	Located Near...	Listing
Aetna Springs Resort	1877	Pope Valley	National
Alexandria Hotel	1910	Napa	National
Andrews House	1892	Napa	National
Atkinson House	1882	Rutherford	National
Bank of Napa	1923	Napa	National
Behlow Building	1900	Napa	National
Beringer Brothers Winery	1876	St. Helena	California
Beringer Winery Historic District	1876	St. Helena	National
Brannan Cottage	1866	Calistoga	National & California
Brannan Store	1859	Calistoga	California
Buford House	1877	Napa	National
Charles Krug Winery	1861	St. Helena	National & California
Chateau Chevalier	1891	St. Helena	National
Chiles Mill Site	1845	Chiles Valley	California
Churchill Manor	1889	Napa	National
Earl House	1861	Napa	National
Eliza G. Yount House	1884	Napa	National
Elmshaven	1900	St. Helena	National
Eshcol Winery	1886	Napa	National
Far Niente Winery	1885	Oakville	National
First National Bank	1917	Napa	National
First Presbyterian Church	1874	Napa	National & California
Francis House	1886	Calistoga	National
French Laundry	1900	Yountville	National
Goodman Library	1901	Napa	National
Goodman Mansion	1873	Napa	National
Goodman, Jr. House	1891	Napa	National



Resource	Year Built	Located Near...	Listing
Gordon Building	1929	Napa	National
Greystone Cellars	1875	St. Helena	National
Groezinger Wine Cellars	1870	Yountville	National
Hackett House	1890	Napa	National
Hatt Building	1884	Napa	National
Helios Ranch	1884	St. Helena	National
Henessey House	1889	Napa	National
Hudson Cabin Site	1845	Calistoga	California
Imrie House	1868	Napa	National
IRS Bonded Warehouse	1878	St. Helena	National
Kelsey House Site	1841	Calistoga	California
Kreuzer Ranch	1890	Napa	National
Larkmead Winery	1884	Calistoga	National
Lisbon Winery	1882	Napa	National
Litto's Hubcap Ranch	1955	Pope Valley	California
Manasse House	1917/1905	Napa	National
Manasse Mansion	1886	Napa	National
Migliavacca Mansion	1890	Napa	National
Mount View Hotel	1919	Calistoga	National
Napa Abajo and Fuller Park Historic Districts	1868	Napa	National
Napa County Courthouse Plaza	1878	Napa	National
Napa Opera House	1879	Napa	National
Napa Post Office	1932	Napa	National
Napa Valley Railroad Depot	1868	Calistoga	National & California
Nichelini Winery	1890	St. Helena	National
Noyes Mansion	1902	Napa	National
Oakville Grocery	1880	Oakville	National
Old Bale Grist Mill	1846	St. Helena	National & California
Old Napa Register Building	1905	Napa	National
Palmer House	1874	Calistoga	National
Pinkham House	1885	Napa	National
Pope Street Bridge	1894	St. Helena	National



Resource	Year Built	Located Near...	Listing
Rhine House	1883	St. Helena	National
Robert Louis Stevenson State Park	1880	Calistoga	California
Rovegno House	1890	Yountville	National
Sam Kee Laundry Building	1875	Napa	National
Schramsberg Vineyard	1862	Calistoga	National & California
Semorile Building	1888	Napa	National
Smith House	1875	Napa	National
Soscol House	1856	Napa	National
Southern Pacific Railroad Depot	1895	St. Helena	National
St. Helena Catholic Church	1889	St. Helena	National
St. Helena High School	1912	St. Helena	National
St. Helena Historic Commercial District	1870	St. Helena	National
St. Helena Public Library	1908	St. Helena	National
Taylor, Duckworth and Company	1884	St. Helena	National
Veterans Home of California	1884	Yountville	California
Veterans Home of California Chapel	1918	Yountville	National
Webber House	1870	Yountville	National
William Tell Saloon and Hotel	1875	St. Helena	National
Winship-Smernes Building	1888	St. Helena	National
Wulff House	1885	Napa	National
York Cabin Site	1845	Napa	California
Yount Blockhouse Site	1836	Calistoga	California
Yount Grave	1865	Yountville	California

** Note: This list includes formally designated or listed resources only and may not be comprehensive. Many other buildings are included in surveys and inventories that may qualify them for treatment as significant historical resources, and more resources may be identified in future inventories and evaluations.*

LIGHT AND GLARE

At nighttime, Napa County, with its thousands of acres of open space and concentrated urbanization, is a naturally low-light, dark-sky environment.¹ The eastern portions of the county, separated from the cities by

¹ A “dark sky” is a night sky without the effects of manmade lighting, such as the “glow” from neighborhood street lights, lighting at sporting events, or the lights of cities.