



News Release

For Immediate Release

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Contacts:

Kim Baker, 209-984-4622

Kim.Baker@parks.ca.gov or

Cheryl Meyer, 916-445-2560

California State Railroad Museum

Foundation

Railtown 1897 Celebrates California Historical Landmark No. 1053: the Sierra Railway Shops

JAMESTOWN, Calif. – On June 27, 2015 and despite sweltering temperatures, more than 100 Park visitors and dignitaries gathered to witness the dedication of California Historical Landmark No. 1053: the Sierra Railway Shops at Railtown 1897 State Historic Park (SHP) in Jamestown.

Now on permanent display at Railtown 1897 SHP, the newly constructed monument was put into place by the California State Parks Foundation, the Native Sons of the Golden West and the California State Railroad Museum Foundation, and reads as follows: “Between 1897 and 1955 this shops complex, including freight house, Roundhouse, turntable and car shops, was Sierra Railway’s main locomotive and car maintenance facility. Sierra served the hardrock mining and lumbering industries, and assisted construction of regional dams and reservoirs. Sierra also became California’s best known movie railroad, decorating Sierra locomotives and cars to play many roles in movies and television.”

Approved in 2014 as part of the 150th anniversary of California State Parks, the actual construction of the monument was delayed while a qualified mason was found who could replicate the Gold Rush Centennial monuments commonly seen in the foothills. The monument is constructed of Columbia limestone -- a product once carried by the railroad -- and donated by Blue Mountain Minerals. It was constructed by Doug Lorimer of Columbia and coordinated by Mick Grimes, Board Member of the California State Railroad Museum Foundation. Dignitaries who spoke at the dedication ceremony included the following: Karl Rodefer, Supervisor District 5, Tuolumne County; Lyman Gray, Capital District Superintendent (acting), California State Parks; Kim Baker, Jamestown Sector Superintendent, California State Parks; Cheryl Marcell, President & CEO, California State Railroad Museum Foundation, William Burg, Historian, California Office of Historic Preservation, Historical Landmarks Program and author of the nomination; and representatives of the Native Sons of the Golden West.

State historical landmarks are placed to remind future citizens of their shared heritage as Californians. The landmarks are numbered in the order they were registered by the State Historical Resources Commission and the Director of the California State Parks. California Historical Landmarks are sites, buildings, features, or events that are of statewide significance and have anthropological, cultural, military, political, architectural, economic, scientific, technical, religious, or experimental value.

Every Californian should take steps to conserve water. Find out how at SaveOurWater.com.

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To provide for the health, inspiration and education of the people of California by helping to preserve the state's extraordinary biological diversity, protecting its most valued natural and cultural resources, and creating opportunities for high quality outdoor recreation.



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