

Nevada County Historical Landmarks Commission
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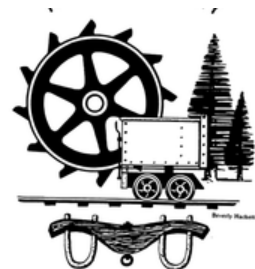
7 May 2021

Nevada County Board of Supervisors
950 Maidu Avenue
Nevada City, CA 95959

Honorable Chair and Board Members:

At today's meeting of the Nevada County Historical Landmarks Commission, the Commission voted unanimously to recommend to the Board that the application for landmark designation of the Kentucky Ridge Mine Site be approved. The applicant is Craig Rohrsen. A plaque will be placed on his property at 10615 Lone Lobo Trail in Nevada City. The landmark is to be designated as Nevada County Historical Landmark NEV 21-01.

From 1851-1852, the Kentucky Ridge Mine was the largest enterprise in California operated by enslaved black labor. During gold rush days, Nevada County had a significant black population. Most were free, but even though California had entered the Union as a free state, some were enslaved before the Civil War. Gold was first discovered on this property in early 1851. By October, Colonel William F. English brought with him from Florida and South Carolina about 40 slaves to operate the gold mine. The mine failed after English was killed in a gun accident on August 27, 1852, and the black mine workers gradually moved into the towns. The husband of one of them, Isaac Sanks, a freed black man, became a religious leader, businessman and newspaper reporter who helped gain blacks the right to serve on juries and the right to vote by 1870. He is believed to have been the first black to run for public office in California, when he ran for Grass Valley town trustee in 1870.



The applicant, assisted by Commissioner Chuck Scimeca, has provided a thorough and compelling level of research and documentation to accompany the application, which has been reviewed by the Commission for historical accuracy. The application and supporting documentation is enclosed.

If you approve the application, please forward the resolution and accompanying documents to the County Recorder.

If you have any further questions, do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you in advance for your consideration of this request.

Yours truly,


Bernard Zimmerman, Chair

Cc: Craig Rohrsen
Chuck Scimeca

