

**Nevada County Historical Landmarks Commission
c/o Clerk of the Board
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530-264-0115**

15 May 2026

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

Honorable Chair and Board Members:

At today's meeting, the Nevada County Historical Landmarks Commission voted unanimously to recommend to the Board that the application for landmark designation of Heidelmann Lodge be approved. The applicant is The Nature Friends, Inc. which owns the Lodge. The landmark is to be designated as Nevada County Historical Landmark NEV 26-01.

The Nature Friends was founded in 1912 by skilled European craftsman who emigrated to San Francisco to help rebuild the city after the 1906 earthquake. In the 1920s, desiring to have an alpine lodge, they received authorization from Richard Bigelow, Superintendent of the Tahoe National Forest who wished to open the area to recreation, to erect what was then the first or one of the first private ski lodges in the Donner Pass area. Built in 1931, the Sierra Haus as it was called, burned down in 1943. In 1948, the Nature Friends built the Heidelmann Lodge on that site. Designed by prominent Swiss architect Harold Wagner, it is an exceptionally fine example of an alpine ski lodge. The lodge has played a significant pioneering role in the development of modern skiing, and as an early center for mountaineering.



The research and documentation which accompanies the application has been reviewed by several Commissioners 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: The Nature Friends

