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NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
BOARD AGENDA MEMO

MEETING DATE: July 14, 2026

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Lauriana Cecchi, Interim Clerk of the Board

SUBJECT: Resolution designating Heidelmann Lodge, located at 19880 Donner Pass Road Soda Springs, CA 95728 (APN 047-400-008), as Nevada County Historical Landmark NEV 26-01

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt the attached Resolution.

FUNDING: N/A

BACKGROUND: On May 15, 2026, the Nevada County Historical Landmarks Commission (NCHLC) voted unanimously to recommend to the Board of Supervisors to designate Heidelmann Lodge, located at 19880 Donner Pass Road Soda Springs, CA 95728 (APN 047-400-008), as Nevada County Historical Landmark NEV 26-01. Specifically, on April 22, 2026, a member of Nature Friends, Incorporated, Dennis A. Naumann, applied to the NCHLC requesting that Heidelmann Lodge be considered and designated as a county historical landmark.

Heidelmann Lodge is located in the community of Norden, near Donner Summit in Nevada County and opened on New Year's 1948–1949. The lodge was constructed as the direct successor to the earlier Sierra Haus, which was built in 1930 on or near the same site and destroyed by fire in 1943. The Sierra Haus was among the earliest purpose-built private winter recreation lodges on Donner Summit and represented the first phase of organized club-based skiing and alpine recreation in the area. Developed during the formative years of California ski culture, the Sierra Haus served as an important gathering place for members of The Nature Friends and other recreationists who helped establish Donner Summit as a destination for winter sport, mountaineering, and mountain fellowship.

Following the loss of the Sierra Haus, the Heidelmann Lodge was conceived and built to continue that legacy. Rather than representing a wholly new chapter, the Heidelmann Lodge carried forward the traditions, community function, and recreational purpose of its predecessor while adapting to postwar needs and improved mountain construction

practices. Its opening in 1949 reflects both continuity and renewal within the longstanding alpine culture of Donner Summit.

Designed by architect Harald Wagner, the Heidelmann Lodge reflects vernacular alpine design principles adapted to the climatic realities of high-elevation Sierra environments. Its architectural form and siting demonstrate durable recreational construction intended to support winter access, instruction, and community-based ski culture in remote mountain landscapes. Taken together, the Sierra Haus and Heidelmann Lodge represent a continuous historical thread spanning the early development of organized skiing in California from the pioneering lodge culture of the 1930s through the expansion and maturation of Sierra winter recreation in the postwar era. As the surviving successor to the Sierra Haus, the Heidelmann Lodge remains an important physical link to that legacy.

With this information, there is no doubt that Heidelmann Lodge should be designated as a Nevada County Historical Landmark. Therefore, the Nevada County Historical Landmarks Commission recommends that the Board of Supervisors adopt the attached Resolution designating Heidelmann Lodge, located at 19880 Donner Pass Road Soda Springs, CA 95728 (APN 047-400-008), as Nevada County Historical Landmark NEV 26-01.

Initiated: Lisa Lane

Submittal Date: May 20, 2026