



GRASS VALLEY

Historical Commission Meeting

Tuesday, August 12, 2025 at 3:00 PM

Council Chambers, Grass Valley City Hall | 125 East Main Street, Grass Valley, California

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AGENDA

Any person with a disability who requires accommodations to participate in this meeting should telephone the City Clerk's office at (530)274-4390, at least 48 hours prior to the meeting to make a request for a disability related modification or accommodation.

MEETING NOTICE

Historical Commission welcomes you to attend the meetings electronically or in person at the City Hall Council Chambers, located at 125 E. Main St., Grass Valley, CA 95945. Regular Meetings are scheduled at 4:00 p.m. on the 2nd Tuesday of each month. Your interest is encouraged and appreciated.

Members of the public are encouraged to submit public comments via voicemail at (530) 274-4390 and email to public@cityofgrassvalley.com. Comments will be reviewed and distributed before the meeting if received by 9 am. Comments received after that will be addressed during the item and/or at the end of the meeting. The commission will have the option to modify their action on items based on comments received. Action may be taken on any agenda item.

Agenda materials, staff reports, and background information related to regular agenda items are available on the City's website: www.cityofgrassvalley.com. Materials related to an item on this agenda submitted to the Commission after distribution of the agenda packet will be made available on the City of Grass Valley website at www.cityofgrassvalley.com, subject to City staff's ability to post the documents before the meeting.

Please note, individuals who disrupt, disturb, impede, or render infeasible the orderly conduct of a meeting will receive one warning that, if they do not cease such behavior, they may be removed from the meeting. The chair has authority to order individuals removed if they do not cease their disruptive behavior following this warning. No warning is required before an individual is removed if that individual engages in a use of force or makes a true threat of force. (Gov. Code, § 54957.95.)

Council Chambers are wheelchair accessible and listening devices are available. Other special accommodations may be requested to the City Clerk 72 hours in advance of the meeting by calling (530) 274-4390, we are happy to accommodate.

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Approval of the July 8th minutes

PUBLIC COMMENT - *Members of the public are encouraged to submit public comments via voicemail at (530) 274-4390 and email to public@cityofgrassvalley.com. Comments will be reviewed and distributed before the meeting if received by 3pm. Comments received after 3pm will be addressed during the item and/or at the end of the meeting. Historical Commission will have the option to modify their action on items based on comments received. Action may be taken on any agenda item. There is a time limitation of three minutes per person for all emailed, voicemail, or in person comments, and only one type of public comment per person. For any items not on the agenda, and within the jurisdiction or interest of the City, please come to the podium at this time. If you wish to speak regarding a scheduled agenda item, please come to the podium when the item is announced. When recognized, please begin by providing your name and address for the record (optional).*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

STAFF AGENDA ITEMS

COMMISSION AGENDA ITEMS

2. Update from the July Landmarks Commission meeting
3. Discuss needs for upcoming History Day
4. Update on Lake Olympia property
5. Update on August walking tour
6. Discussion and selections for Mill St. Banners
7. Self-Guided Historic Walking Tour: 1) Review and discuss Historic Downtown Healdsburg Self-Guided Architecture Tour, 2) Review proposed walking tour edited building list, 3) Review proposed walking tour edited building list, 4) Propose that tour will be online only for now, with a possible printed version in the future, and 5) Propose that the tour brochure/flyer be displayed in Information kiosks at each parking lot and at various businesses. Kiosks to be provided by sponsors
8. Historic Legacy Award: Review Commission's nomination form for Teresa Polson
9. Citizen Star Story Map: Citizen Star information to be accessed by QR code & Update on text and status
10. Grass Valley Art Map: Add Main Street traffic circle sculpture text and images

ADJOURN

POSTING NOTICE

This is to certify that the above notice of a meeting of a Historical Commission, scheduled for Tuesday, August 12, 2025, at 3:00 p.m., was posted at city hall, easily accessible to the public, as of 5:00 p.m. Friday, August 8, 2025.

Taylor Whittingslow, City Clerk

Grass Valley Historical Commission

Minutes of Tuesday, July 8, 2025

Commissioners Present: Savelli, McAteer, Reilly and Poston

The meeting was called to order by Chair McAteer at 3:00 pm

Approval of the May 13th minutes: Reilly moved and Poston seconded. Unanimously adopted with a minor change from Poston.

Public Comment: none

Action Item: The Commission approved the signage for the Soulspace Collective.

Discussion portion of the agenda:

1. City staff provided an update on past design/development actions before the Commission
2. McAteer noted the June walking tour had 35 in attendance and raised \$121. Albrecht will be leading the July tour.
3. McAteer noted from contact with Albrecht that the Heritage Homes booklets are on-sale at the Chamber and Book Seller.
4. The Commission reviewed the new Historic Award guidelines and will move forward with our nomination.
5. The Levine Citizen's STAR award dedication is all set for Mon., July 21st.
6. Commissioners are invited to the Fri July 18th meeting of the Nevada County Landmarks Commission to be held at the GV Elks Club at 9 am.
7. McAteer reported that the County Sup't of Schools Office is willing to co-sponsor the History Day event if it is a countywide event. The Superintendent's Office will finalize and print the brochure and distribute to K-8 youth. Commissions agreed to seek partnership with the Landmarks Commission to get County and Nevada City sites. Commission also agreed on the date of Saturday, April 18th.
8. Commissioners agreed to a homework assignment of identifying 25 people and 25 sites and relaying them to the Chair so they can be finalized at the August meeting.
9. Commissioners spent a good deal of time on the walking tour. Miranda showed a visual template of the tour and Reilly provided context and a homework assignment for the Commissioners.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:12 pm

Next scheduled meeting is Tuesday, August 12th at 3 pm.

To: Landmarks Commission

From: GV Historical Commission

Re: Partnering on a Countywide History Day— Saturday, April 18th

Free Admission and Tours to Highlight Our County's Rich History

GV Locations for History Day

Landmarks Comm Sites

Northstar House

Elks Lodge

Odd Fellows

St. Joseph's

Emmanuel Episcopal

Old Post Office

Holbrooke

Masonic Lodge

Powerhouse Museum

Walking tour of downtown GV

Walking tour homes GV

Note: Nevada County Supt of Schools Office will produce, publish and distribute a brochure to all K-8 students and provide us copies for distribution

john olmstead— naturalist xxx

orlo steele— marine corps general x

niles searles— ca chief justice xxx

rick rossovich— actor

andrew rossi— winner indy 500 xx

lorenzo sawyer— judge xx

pete daley— pro baseball player

christopher stevens— us ambassador xxxx

sarah kidder— owner, nc narrow gauge rr xxxx

lyman gilmore— aviation inventor xxxx

herbert hoover— president, mining engineer

julia morgan— architect— ns house xx

mary hallock foote— author xxx

jerry angove— educator— brought sc to nc xx

aaron sergeant— us senator x

gary snyder— poet x

william bourne— mine owner xxxx

lola montez- actress/dancer xxx

josiah royce- philosopher xxx

utah phillips- musician/activist xx

rich brooks- nfl and college football coach x

lotta crabtree— singer/dancer xxxx

Emma Nevada— Operatic Soprano xx

Ellen Clark Sargent— Suffragette xxx

Sr. Mary Baptiste Russell- Founded Local Orphanage xxx

Fr. Thomas Dalton— Early Religious leader xx

arthur foote— designed NS Powerhouse xxx

James Hague— Mining engineer xxx

Felix Gillet— Horticulturist xx

Clint Walker— actor

Arletta Douglass— star folks xx

Lexie Alford— Guinness Book World Travelee

Bill Hullander xx

Gerard Tassone xx

Glenn Jones xx

Howard Levine (and Peggy) xx

Dee Mautino xx

Gage McKinney x

Lou Conter x

golden gate saloon xxxx

odd fellows hall xxx

Nev cty bank xxxx

GV opera house/auditorium theatre xxxx

del oro xx

memorial park xx

Mining Museum xx

Empire Mine xxxx

Northstar xxxx

Old Post Office xx

Emanuel Episcopal xxxx

National Hotel

Holbrooke xxxx

Aaron Sergeant Home

Jones Hospital xx

Malakoff

NC RR Museum

Lake Olympia xxxx

Lola Montez House xxx

Lotta Crabtree House xxx

St. Josephs xxx

Nevada Theatre

Stonehouse

GV Carnegie Libraries xxxx

Item # 6.

NC Carnegie Library

Bridgeport Covered Bridge

South Yuba Canal

Ott's Assay Office

the union bldg x

bon allure elks lodge x

masonic lodge xx

welcome miner xxx

foothill mere. x

jc penny x

elks lodge x

st. pat's cath church x

coleman house x

Conway house x

ben taylor home x

hodge house/cornish x

queen anne home x

Self-Guided Grass Valley Historic Downtown Walking Tour

Proposed Building List for Review 8/12/25

Start at the Library and Walk Down Mill Street

1. 207 Mill Street – Grass Valley Public Library – Royce Branch
2. 163-167 Mill Street – Del Oro Theater – Priority 1 Building
3. 161 Mill Street – The Auditorium Building
4. 153-157 Mill Street – West Home Furnishings and The Fergon
5. 151 Mill Street – Union Square Building – Mantra Tea and Body Balance Academy
6. 139-141 Mill Street – The Bon Allure Building – Crystal Empire Gems and Breuer Mens and Womens Clothing
7. 131 Mill Street - Nevada County Bank – Cake Bakery & Café, The Portal, and Champagne Jane
8. 120-122 Mill Street – Mac & Miller, Back in the Day, and Iron Gate
9. 121 Mill Street – The Amick Building - Foothill Mercantile
10. 115-117 Mill Street – J.C. Penny Building - Tess’ Kitchen Store and Vintage on Mill
11. 114-116 Mill Street – Grass Valley Hardware Building - Yuba Blue
12. 110-112 Mill Street – Odd Fellows Hall – Empire Shoes and Pepe’s Café
13. 104-108 Mill Street – Meze Eatery and Mill Street Sock Company

Turn Left on W. Main Street

14. 201 W. Main Street – Moms & Minis, Oxvolk Leatherwerks
15. 205-209 W. Main Street – The Quick Building - Kaido Japanese Restaurant and Brew Bakers Coffee & Tea House
16. 101-107 S. Church Street – Everhart Hotel
17. 305-311 W. Main Street – The Bret Harte Retirement Inn
18. 109 S. School Street – Elks Lodge 538 – Priority 1 building – Nevada County Landmark

Cross W. Main Street

19. 314 W. Main Street – Center for the Arts
20. 212 W. Main Street – Holbrooke Hotel – New West Wine and Gather & Mill - Priority 1 building – Nevada County Landmark
21. 116 W. Main Street – Main Street Mall – Country Wood Furniture
22. 102 W. Main Street – Foothill Flowers

Turn Right on S. Auburn Street

**23. 131 S. Auburn Street – The Old Post Office – Priority 1 building – Nevada County
Landmark**

**24. 124-126 S. Auburn Street – Masonic Temple – Carolines Coffee and Pampered Earth
Kids – Priority 1 building – Nevada County Landmark**

Return and Turn Right onto Main Street

25. 114 E. Main Street – Washington Brewery Building – Remax Gold and Sugar & Spice

26. 122 E. Main Street - Golden Gate Hotel - Bicycle Thief Restaurant

FREE SELF-GUIDED ARCHITECTURE TOUR



HISTORIC DOWNTOWN HEALDSBURG SELF-GUIDED TOUR

UNCOVER THE STORIES BEHIND THE STRUCTURES

Explore Healdsburg's history with curated architectural tours accessed through Clio, a free educational website and mobile app. With walking or driving routes and photos at your fingertips, it's a fun way to learn about the stories of people and places that have shaped our town. Each free tour has been created by the Healdsburg Museum and focuses on commercial and residential structures important to our town's history.

Visit healdsburgmuseum.org for more information.

12 SITES | .9 MILE

This tour is centered around the Healdsburg Plaza and features twelve historic commercial buildings that have shaped the center of Healdsburg. From Italianate to Quonset Hut, explore a variety of architectural styles spanning sixty years of development and read about the stories behind the structures. Each property on this tour has been honored with a preservation award by the Healdsburg Museum and Historical Society.

Scan the code to
start this tour!



SPONSORED BY:







"The Elders"

The Grass Valley traffic circle Sculpture at East Main St. and Idaho Maryland Rd.

Symbols depicting the native Maidu the Chinese the Cornish and Lyman Gilmore set within portals of Douglas fir timbers depicting the four directions. The sculpture is intended to carry the spirit of the areas past, present as well as our future. The Elders is intended to hold the essence of the hard working people that work towards making our community a bountiful sustainable place to live. This sculpture is built to last many generations and to become a landmark for the good people of Grass Valley.

The building of "The Elders" was completely created in my Grass Valley studio adjacent to the Empire mine. My studio assistant Justin Coyle worked on every aspect of the project. Structural engineer and consultant John Payne, concrete experts Ben Shepard and Barry Jones, Steel fabricator and historic mining consultant, Mike Nevios. Crane operator Joe Justice, photo journalist Linda Savitz all gave there enthusiastic expertise to the project. All the materials and labor where cycled back into the local economy.

The symbols I chose include the symbol of the acorn that represents the native peoples, their deep spiritual connection and reverence of the land, these people that for generations existed here in a sustainable way. The symbol of the Cornish people and for all the European immigrants that came with the spirit of discovery a spirit that can serve us well if used compassionately and intelligently. The Chinese symbol that means beauty is to remind us that much of this area was developed on labor of those that courageously came from far around world. These people brought with them an eastern aesthetic and wisdom that we still can learn much from. The stylized symbol of Lyman Gilmore's airplane is meant to characterize the innovative spirit of this area. The entrepreneurial spirited individuals that are drawn here to pursue and share their brilliance. Like in the past this spirit will alter our future, if done intelligently we will reap positive rewards.

The architecture of the sculpture is inspired by the gold rush and the life style of the past. The work here was hard, it was the beginning of the industrial revolution, heavy materials and equipment, four hundred miles of mineshafts dug into hard rock, water pumped out of mine shafts 24/7 for decades on end. Miners that went underground before sunrise and back out after sunset never seeing the light of day. Massive concrete foundations and structures, portals of timbers supporting the mine shaft entrances. Tons of steel, cast iron, steel rope, pulleys, gears and wheels. This sculpture is intended to carry the robust spirit of strength, courage and tenacity that it took to follow the western dream.

"The Elders" is intended to be a generator of healing. Scrawled into the concrete foundation are the words, Love, Kindness, Forgive and Joy, the counter clockwise or feminine direction of people in motion around the circle 24 hours a day seven days a week is set with a prayer to exude the essence of these words into the community. "The Elders" is imbued with intention to bring healing to a dark past, the environmental destruction the poisoning of the waters the clear cutting of the forests the greed and violence that this land witnessed. Foremost of all the intention is to create healing and forgiveness for the genocide of the indigenous peoples those that were killed for land, resources, greed and profit. This must be acknowledged, apologized for and forgiven before we can fully move forward as a unified community.

As an artist it is my passion to work and to work hard to create my vision. Like those that came before me I take great pride in things well built. My want is for this work to become more beautiful with age, I imagine over time that moss and lichen will develop, rust streaks, rock aggregate will show through as concrete deteriorates, the timbers will continue to weather all this becomes the patina enhancing the sculpture for generations to come. I am deeply honored as well as humbled to have been trusted by the great city of Grass Valley to create this vision and set it in such a prominent location.

Signed with Gratitude
Kurt Ernest Steger
5-25-2010

