

DAYTON NEVADA • HISTORICAL WALKING TOUR

—POINTS OF INTEREST — (No numbered markers at site)



A Sutro Tunnel Portal and Town of Sutro were the dream of entrepreneur Adolph Heinrich Joseph Sutro, who in 1869 broke ground for a tunnel to drain hot water from the Comstock mines. At 3.8 miles and a slight grade the tunnel was also promoted as a pathway for transporting ore. Unfortunately, construction was not finished until 1876 and by then the mines had gone deeper, most of the riches had been removed, and the Virginia & Truckee Railroad was moving ore. In 1879 Sutro and his wife separated and he sold his stock and moved to San Francisco. In spite of a revival as a significant artist's colony, the remains of the portal, buildings, and equipment have rarely been opened to the public. However, in 2022 volunteers are restoring the historic site, which will have tours available to the public. *Nevada State Historical Marker #85.*



B Emigrant Trails heading to the gold fields of California came through today's Dayton, an important stop for emigrants waiting for the snow to leave the Sierra and soon itself a destination for gold. Several routes are shown on the map.

C Lincoln Highway, Pioneer Route was one of two routes through Nevada promoted by the Lincoln Highway Association (LHA). In 1915 LHA members drove from New York Times Square to San Francisco, in Nevada along much of today's U.S. Highway 50. In the 1930s, Pasquiana Tognetti Quilici donated property, ensuring Pike Street would be paved as part of the New Deal. In the early 1950s Victoria Della Santa Kraai (later Pradere) operated on River Street the only service station between Fallon and Carson City.



D Golden Eagle Boarding House was built in 1862 and was one of several boarding houses in town. Also known as the Nevada Hotel, it housed as many as 80 boarders in 12 rooms. It burned in 1987 and the site remains vacant in 2022.



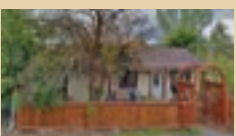
E Early Residence (145 Shady Lane) was built in the 1860's by the King family, who then donated land for the school (#1). From the 1870s to 1916 it was the residence of miner and sheriff Robert A. Cooke and family. For much of the remaining 20th century it was the home of Miss Bernice Johnson, Dayton high school principal and teacher. In 2022 it is a *private residence*.



F Dredge Pit was left by gold dredging operations that started in 1940, the largest of several in this area. Some of the homes and buildings were relocated elsewhere but others were torn down. It is on *private property*.



G Earliest Structures in Dayton were built in this area using lumber from surrounding forests, brick, native stone, and locally produced lime mortar. Many were lost to the 20th century dredging operations.



H Robert Cole Caples Residence (175 Silver Street) was the home of the artist during his last two years in Nevada; he and his wife called it "Lizard Hill." Caples came to Nevada in 1924 and stayed for 34 years. Known for his paintings of Great Basin landscapes and charcoals of Native Americans, he experimented in the small studio behind this home with atmospheric artwork. In 1958 he moved to Connecticut but longed for the Nevada desert for the rest of his life. In 2006 the residence was listed on the Nevada Register of Historic Places. In 2022 it is *private property*.



I Original Site of C&C/SP Railroad Depot in Dayton after it was moved here from Mound House in 1881. The depot was again relocated when U.S. Highway 50 East was constructed in the mid-1950s. (See #20.)

J Route of Carson & Colorado Railroad which, starting in 1881, ran almost 300 miles from connection with the V&T in Mound House to Keeler, California. Until the early 1900s a short spur went to the Douglass Mill and from 1888 to 1893 a longer spur went to the mill at Rock Point. The line through Dayton was closed in 1934 and tracks removed in 1936. Very little of the railbed remains visible today. (See #1 and #20.)

K Depression-Era Camp was set up in the 1930s by Emergency Relief Society crews, including laborers with the Works Progress Administration (WPA) and the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). Known locally as "Ding Camp," its crews of single men built outhouses and worked on public service projects. Many of the original buildings from that period, including a water tower and well, remain and are easily seen from public streets. In 2022 it is *private property*.

L Firefighting Water Cisterns were located at several locations throughout Old Town. These were 500-gallon underground cisterns holding water from Dayton Town reservoir (#15). The water traveled via gravity flow through buried 4" wire-wrapped wooden pipes.

M Site of Original Union Hotel, built by Mary Malinda McDowell in 1861 as the second hotel in Dayton. It escaped the fire of 1866 but was lost to the fire of 1870. By the late 1800s this became the site of the Silas I. Cooper Blacksmith Shop. In 2022 the site is occupied by a local tavern.



N Historic House (505 Pike Street) is the only early home remaining in this area. In the early 1900s the land belonged to mill owner A.G. Berry. Later this was the home of justice of the Peace Zenas Walmsley. Across today's Luchetti Way was the Walmsley dairy. In 2022 this is a private residence.



O Scott Residence (170 2nd Avenue) was built near today's dredge pit but moved before dredging began. Bertha Cliff taught in Dayton from 1917 to 1960. In 1923 she married Will Scott, a bookkeeper for the mill at Rock Point. Will also was a photographer and documented decades of Dayton history. Will died in 1977 but Bertha continued to live in this house with its picket fence, yard filled with roses, and fruit trees until 1989. In 2022 it is a *private residence*.

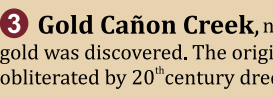
—HISTORIC USE — (Numbered markers at site)



1 1865 Schoolhouse / Museum (135 Shady Lane) is the oldest schoolhouse in the state still on its original site. It was built as a one-room stone grammar school; a wooden primary room was added in 1873. In 1880 there were 80 pupils attending. It was in continuously use until 1959 and then became a community center and next a senior center. In 1991 the County gave stewardship to the historical society (today's HSDV), who restored and converted it into the Dayton Museum. Today it is acknowledged as one of the best small museums in the state. *Nevada State Historical Marker #262.*



2 Old Wagon/Carriage House (130 Shady Lane) was built in the late 1800s. In 2022 it is *private property*.



3 Gold Cañon Creek, near its mouth, was where in 1849 Nevada's first gold was discovered. The original mouth and much of the creek channel were obliterated by 20th century dredging operations.



4 Hall's Station was a trading post where miners and emigrants purchased their supplies. In existence from at least 1851, by 1852 it was operated by Andrew Spofford Hall. In 1854 Hall sold it to James McMarlin. Unfortunately, all remnants of the trading post were obliterated by 20th century dredging operations. *Nevada State Historical Marker #200.*



5 Early Home (400 Cemetery Road) was built in the 1860s. In the late 1870s it became the residence of the Stevensons, whose descendants still live in Dayton in 2022. It remains a *private residence* with an art studio and gallery business on-site.



6 Dayton Cemetery was established about 1851 "at the foot of the hill" below where it is today. The oldest community cemetery in continuous use in Nevada, the cemetery was moved to the top of the hill around the time of the floods of 1861-62. People of all nationalities are found here but many headstones recount the extensive Italian history of the area. There are more than 130 known veterans, from the Mexican War onward, including Scott Carnal/Cornell, a former slave and disabled veteran who won his freedom by joining the Union Army. Also here are politicians, such as Gov. Charles H. Russell, and other notables such as attorney, politician, and judge Clark J. Guild Jr., founder of the Nevada State Museum and co-founder of the Nevada Day celebration. Here lies "Old Virginny" Finney, who gave Virginia City its name, and Edward Lovejoy, son of Elijah Lovejoy, the first abolitionist martyr to the Free Press. *Nevada State Historical Marker #233.*



7 Dayton, Sutro & Carson Valley Railroad was a narrow-gauge built by Frederick Birdsall to bring tailings from Gold Cañon to the upper portion of the Lyon/Douglass Mill (#9) with a spur to the engine house below. In 1882 new owner Joe Douglass extended the railroad across the area of today's dredge pit, past the Rock Point mill, and to the tailings at the 1860s Carson Valley Mill site (near today's St. Ann's Catholic Church). Some portions of the railbed remain, mostly on *private property*.



8 Bluestone Building (235 W. Main Street) was built in the late 1860s by Frederick Birdsall to provide his Lyon mill with cupric sulfate, a deep blue mineral used in refining tailings. Its hand-quarried sandstone is believed to be from a small quarry off Pike Street.

Later, as the Bluestone Manufacturing Company, it supplied bluestone to other mills. Over the years the building fell into disrepair but through various land exchanges in 1984 the property and building were donated to Lyon County. The building was rehabilitated and in 2022 it is the Dayton Justice Court complex. *Nevada State Historical Marker #257.* Before the fire of 1866 Doyle's Hall was just west (uphill).



9 Lyon / Douglass Mill (above River Street) was built in 1865 as a quartz mill by Frederick Birdsall & Chancey Carpenter. In 1869, a power struggle with the Comstock's "Bank Crowd" led Mill Superintendent George C. Langtry to convert it to "the best arranged, best equipped, and most successfully conducted tailings-mill ever operated." In 1881 Birdsall, by then sole owner, added the Dayton, Sutro & Carson Valley Railroad, but soon sold out to Joe Douglass of Silver City. Remnants of the mill's rock foundation remain evident on the hillside above the Chinese Ditch. A short spur from the C&C RR ran in front of the mill. In 2022 most of the area is *private property*.



10 1885 Saloon (160 W. Main Street) was built as the Europa at site #22 and in 1904 moved to its present site. In the 1960s it was "Bob Lee's Bar" and from the 1970s to 1996 the "End of the Trail," then the Gold Canyon Steakhouse. A taphouse/grill occupies the building in 2022.



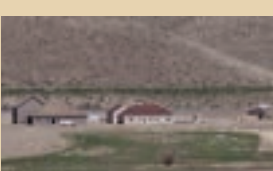
11 Main Street Buildings (South side of Main Street) This tight cluster of buildings was rebuilt after the 1866 and 1870 fires raged through Dayton. In 2022, all are *private property*.

Going from River Street to Highway 50 East:

- Fox Hotel (95 W. Main Street) was known as the Occidental Hotel, from 1889 to 1907. The post office was located here in the 1950s.
 - Former house / office (85 W. Main).
 - Garage / storehouse was once owned by Deputy Sheriff Chester Barton. In the early 1990s the post office was here.
 - See #12.
- Post Office from 1917-1922 and from 1958-1975. In 2022 it is part of the Union Hotel
- Union Hotel (75 W. Main Street) was built in the remains of a charred brick building by J. C. Gruber after his original Union Hotel burned in the fire of 1870. It boasted a two-story outhouse that connected to the back of the hotel at two levels. *Nevada State Historical Marker #186. Private residence.*
- Braun / Daniels Mercantile (65 W. Main Street), from 1913-1917 also housed the post office.
- Store / home (55 W. Main Street) in the late 1800s was the Sazerac saloon.
- Stone butcher shop (45 W. Main Street) was built by Chinese laborers. Later it served as a general store.



12 "Nevada" Pony Express Station is gone except for this freestanding rock wall. A Pony Express monument in the parking lot across the street was dedicated in 2001.



13 Chinese Ditch, also known as the Douglass, Rose, or Reese ditch, was built by Chinese laborers hired in San Francisco in 1857 by Jacob H. Rose. It carried water to Gold Cañon placers and later to mills, including the Lyon/Douglass, and to the C&C Railroad. It continued to bring water to Dayton Town reservoir until a new water system was installed in 1982. *Private property.*



14 IOOF (Odd Fellows) Hall (230 W. Main Street) was built here in the early 1900s. Later the building became the Druids Hall. It was torn down in the 1950s. Before the fire of 1866 the Adams Hotel, the first hotel in Dayton, was just west of this site.

15 Dayton Town Reservoir was at the end of the Chinese Ditch and served until 1982, when Dayton's new county water system came online.

16 Livery Stable (15 W. Main Street) in the 1860s was the Empire Hay Yard of Hinds & Hamilton, one of six in early Dayton, then J. R. Shaw's from the 1870s to early 1890s. Built later, today's building has been a grocery, a florist, an antique parlor, a saloon, and a law office.

17 Nevada's First Chinatown, started in the 1850s, ran from here along Silver Street, housing as many as 200 Chinese, including in the late 1800s Chinese employed on the Carson & Colorado Railroad. In the 20th century a flea market was where a service station/mini-mart complex is located in 2022. The corner has several historical markers. *Nevada State Centennial Marker #7* and *Nevada State Historical Marker #163.*



18 China Mary's House (65 Silver Street) is named for its longtime owner, widow Ty Kim "China Mary," who ran a market here. It is the only remaining intact structure from Nevada's first Chinatown. It was placed on the National Registry of Historic Places in 1990. In 2022 it houses a business.



19a C&C Station Master's House (200 Railroad Street) has been modified but is still on its original site. It was across the railroad-yard road (Railroad Street) from the original site of the depot. In 2022 it is a *private residence*.



19b C&C Section Foreman's House (170 Railroad Street) has been modified but is still on its original site across the yard road from the depot. In 2022 it is a *private residence*. [No marker]



20 C&C / SP Railroad Depot (20 W. Main Street) was built in 1879 in Mound House by the Virginia & Truckee Railroad. In 1881 it was moved to Dayton (see #1) as the first depot on the new narrow-gauge Carson & Colorado. In 1900 the C&C was purchased by the Southern

Pacific, who abandoned the section through Dayton in 1934. The depot was converted to a residence and in the mid-1950s was moved to the corner of U.S. Hwy. 50E with Main Street. In 2007 Lyon County acquired the depot and property and gave stewardship to HSDV, who relocated the depot parallel to its original alignment and began restoration. Sadly, in June 2020 the partially restored depot was destroyed in an arson fire. HSDV plans to rebuild the depot in its original 1880s appearance to serve as a gateway to Old Town and the Comstock.



21 1860s Stone Mercantile (30 Pike Street at corner of Main Street) was originally M. Meyer and Co., a grocery, but by the mid-1870s had become Meyer & Stegman Hardware and Supplies. It was later sold to William Kean, and also housed the post office from 1895-1898. By the 1900s this was the mercantile of Braun & Loftus.

Loftus then went into dry goods, and Braun opened a grocery at Site #11iv. In the 1930s the back of the building housed an auto repair and the front a saloon known as the Old Corner Bar. In 2022 it is a restaurant and bar.

22 This Noteworthy Corner was the original site of the Birdsall Mercantile, which moved to a stone building at River Street in the early 1860s. The site then became a hay yard, but soon the Roberts House, which burned in the fire of 1866, and then the National Hotel, which burned in the fire of 1870. In 1886 the Europa Saloon was built here by Andrew Walmsley and Charlie Watson. It had various owners and in the early 1900s was moved to Site#10. In 1906 Michael Quilici built a hotel and saloon here—a building later known as the Quilici Mercantile. Sadly, that was destroyed in a 1980 arson fire. In 2022 it is a parking lot but includes a Pony Express Monument dedicated in 2001.



23 Odeon Hall (65 Pike Street) was built in 1862 by the Odd Fellows, who met on the second floor, and is one of Nevada's earliest surviving saloons and theaters. The building partially burned in both the 1866 and 1870 fires but was rebuilt both times. Upstairs, in the Grand Ballroom, dances and theatrical fare highlighted Dayton's social life.

In 1960 Marilyn Monroe's famous paddle-ball scene in *The Misfits* was filmed here. In 2022 it is vacant and *private property* but is expected to open as a business in the near future.



24 Doctor's office (175 Tyler Street) was where Dr. John Clark Hazlett's had his office, which remains as a home, and to the east his drugstore, which is gone. Dr. Hazlett was also an attorney, state senator, and Lyon County district attorney and practiced medicine from 1862 until his death in 1895. In the early 1900s the post office was located in the old drugstore. In 2022 this is a *private residence*.

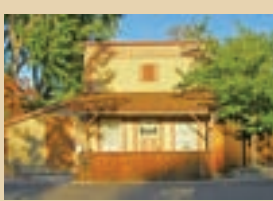


25 Firehouse/Jail (90 Pike Street) was built by 1875 to house Dayton's fire pumper—later replaced with a fire engine. The wrought-iron jail cells were purchased by mail order in the 1860s and were relocated to the back of the firehouse after the 1909 courthouse fire. In use until 1966, these cells make a great picture or today! The Firehouse portion holds Dayton's 1935 LaFrance firetruck, "Granny." Under HSDV stewardship, in 2022 the building is open on special occasions or by appointment.



26 Former St. Ann's Chapel (140 Pike Street) is on a site where widow Dora Gruber Cooney had the family home as well as a confectionary and toy store. In 1937 the chapel was moved here from Yerington and renamed Dayton's St. Ann's Catholic Church. In 1969-70 the building underwent extensive remodeling.

In 2001 the parish built a larger church north on U.S. Hwy. 50E, later donating the chapel to Lyon County. In 2022, under a stewardship agreement, HSDV is repairing the church and improving the site as a museum highlighting the religious and social life of the community.



27 Early Building (60 Pike Street) is typical of many early Comstock buildings. The front portion was originally a storeroom for the mercantile next door (#21). Later several lean-to structures were attached and it became a residence. Eventually a shop was added to the back and connected to the ice house on the property. In 2022 it is a *private residence*.



28 Courthouse & School Site (170 Pike Street) is where the first Lyon County Courthouse was built in 1864. In 1909 the courthouse burned in an electrical fire and in 1911 the Legislature moved the county seat to Yerington. Using the ruins as a foundation, Dayton High School was built in 1918, serving until 1959, when the

school district moved the elementary and middle grades to the building and began busing high school students to Carson High. Closed in 1972 when the modern elementary school opened it was soon reactivated as a junior high school and served until 1981. It later became the Dayton Valley Community Center. *Nevada State Historical Marker #127.*



29 "Hurdy Gurdy House" (165 Pike Street) called the Mineral Rapids was in this area in 1862. It provided female employees who danced with customers. From 1910 to 1917 this building was the home of Civil War veteran and former slave Scott Carnal/Cornell. In 2022 it houses a restaurant.

