

MARIPOSA COUNTY ART AND CULTURE

Mariposa County Arts Council, Inc.

www.arts-mariposa.org
5009 5th Street, Mariposa Ca 95338

(209) 966-3155

Established in 1981, the Mariposa County Arts Council is an incorporated, non-profit organization created to encourage, support, and promote all forms of the cultural arts for all ages throughout Mariposa County.

Entering Mariposa is like stepping into a bygone era. Nestled in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada mountains, Mariposa is home to Yosemite National Park, BLM and National Forests. Residents are separated by huge ranches or towering mountains. With high quality of life standards and strong values, The Mariposa County Arts Council is a non-profit organization governed by a Board of Directors, who served nearly 21,000 people throughout Central California in 2008 with programs in the performing arts, visual arts and school programs. School programs reach rural, underserved student populations who have little or no access to the arts.

Gallery and Gift Shop

The Art Council's 5th Street Gallery, located at 5009 5th Street in historic downtown Mariposa, is a premier retail venue in Mariposa County for the work of regional artists offering original paintings, prints, fine art photography, basketry, pottery, sculpture, wood, jewelry, note cards, and more!



Lewis Wong, Guest Artist MSO

Mariposa Symphony Orchestra

The 50-member, multi-generational Mariposa Symphony Orchestra presents quarterly concerts with the opening concert in October, a December holiday concert, Spring, an Independence Day concert, Fall and a free public performance at the Mariposa County Fair on Labor Day Weekend. MSO hosts appearances by nationally acclaimed guest artists and has premiered original compositions. Les Marsden is a retired actor once nominated for London's Laurence Olivier Award, an accomplished musician, composer, founder and conductor of MSO.

Mariposa Evenings

Summer weekends in the Mariposa County Art park include a popular summertime tradition, Mariposa Evenings. Friday and Saturday evenings feature regional artists in musical performances that are free to the public. A variety of musical styles are featured, including swing, folk, classical, jazz, blues and country to rock.

Mariposa Storytelling Festival

The Mariposa Storytelling Festival event is acclaimed for the quality of professional storytellers and is one of the Arts Council's most popular and successful programs! Six of the nation's best Storytellers are selected each year to perform at this three-day event, which takes place in Mariposa and Yosemite on the second weekend of March. The Festival is followed by a week of touring performances throughout Central California, serving more than 8,000 youth and 3,000 adults. Of the Mariposa Storytelling Festival, it is "One of 11 festivals to visit" in the nation, states *USA Today!*



2008 Storytellers Lyn Ford, Milbre Burch, Patrick Ball

Art in Education

- The Conductor of the Mariposa Symphony Orchestra and nationally recognized guests artists present "Welcome to Classical Music" at local school assemblies in every Mariposa County school.
- Nationally acclaimed professional Storytellers perform in schools and communities throughout Mariposa and neighboring counties of Central California each March.
- Grades K-6 Story Writing Competition and Tellabration! Winning Grand Authors are invited to tell their stories at a free, public Storytelling Performance, Tellabration!, which is a world-wide night of story sharing.
- Young Masters Art Competition is a visual arts competition and exhibit to provide a venue for Mariposa artists in grades K-12 to compete and display their work in a Gallery.
- Young Masters Composers Celebration for youth 8-18 honor winning compositions with the orchestration and MSO premier of winning compositions at a public performance.
- Shakespeare to Go along with National Endowment for the Arts curriculum materials.

Compliments of the Mariposa County Arts Council

The Sixth Street Cinema

www.sixthstreetcinema.org
4994 6th Street, P. O. Box 898, Mariposa CA 95338

(209) 966-1333

The Sixth Street Cinema, located upstairs at the Old Masonic Lodge in downtown Mariposa, screens world and American independent films on Friday and Saturday nights, and free admission documentaries, taped interviews, forums, and fine arts performances on Thursday nights.

The mission of the Cinema is to be more than an art house theatre, however. They developed and implemented the concept of "public cinema" as a way of uniting a community of thinking, creative people to talk and share ideas about important issues through post-film audience discussions.

As a public cinema, our mission is to open up access to a wide variety of thoughtful, creative programming, acting as a "cultural clearinghouse," and presenting these programs in a noncommercial setting. Films and other media presented in a public cinema are not disposable commodities. A public cinema is about the story.

The Cinema also attempts to increase access to cultural and educational opportunities with the Kids Film Club, which screens films based on world folk and fairy tales or children's literature and includes a short media literacy exercise afterwards; its outreach to the local schools through film-and-discussion events and presentation of Global Nomads, a live videoconference between Mariposa high-school students and their peers around the world on topics from the environment to American foreign policy; and by hosting film-and-discussion presentations with nationally known filmmakers.

Sierra Artists Gallery

<http://www.sierraartistsgallery.com/>
Hwy 140 & 6th Street, Mariposa CA 95338

(209) 742-7035

The Sierra Artists Gallery is a co-operative gallery located on the corner of Hwy 140 and 6th Street in historic downtown Mariposa. The Sierra Artists Gallery and the Northern California Society of Arts in Miniature host the "Miniatures in Mariposa" Fine Arts Juried Exhibition each March. The competition receives entries from around the world.



Yosemite Renaissance, Inc.

www.yosemiterenaissance.org
P. O. Box 767, Yosemite National Park, CA 95389

The programs of Yosemite Renaissance, Inc. are intended to encourage diverse artistic interpretations of Yosemite. Our goals are to bring together the works of serious contemporary artists that do not simply duplicate traditional representations, to establish a continuum with past generations of Yosemite artists; and to help re-establish visual art as a major interpretive medium of the landscape and a stimulus to the protection of the environment. Historically, the arts have played a very important role in the establishment of our State and National Parks. It is our hope that they can be just as important in future efforts to preserve and protect that heritage. Yosemite Renaissance sponsors an Artist in Residence Program in Yosemite for professional artists and an annual competitive exhibit open to professional and aspiring artists. Yosemite Renaissance is a non-profit corporation.

Community Performances

Programs, events, performances and activities are planned for every weekend to enjoy the best of the region's weather. The local newspaper, the Mariposa Gazette, Goldrushcam.com, the Mariposa Chamber of Commerce, newsletters and flyers advertise events throughout the year. Examples include the May Coyote Howl in Coulterville, the Civil War Reenactment each Spring, High School performances, Mountain Music Fest by the Chamber of Commerce, Agrinature Trails, Sierra Art Trails, Butterfly Days, Rotary Fine Art and Wine Festival, Rodeo, the Mariposa County Fair and exemplary programs offered through Delaware North and Yosemite National Park.

MARIPOSA COUNTY YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Mariposa County Unified School District

www.mariposa.k12.ca.us

(209) 742-0250

P. O. Box 8, Mariposa CA 95338

The Mariposa County Unified School District consists of 13 Schools with a total student population of approximately 2,350 students.

THE SCHOOLS

The Alternative Education Campus

The Alternative Education campus is located 46 miles west of Yosemite National park and one mile west of Mariposa. The campus is home to four alternative education programs including continuation high school, and elementary opportunity schools. The student count for this campus, which includes EOC, OHS, and SHHS totals approximately 250 students. This rural setting has modern facilities including a growing library, computer lab and internet-connected computers in every classroom.



Mariposa County Independent Learning School

The Mariposa County Independent Learning School is Mariposa County Unified School District's Home Schooling program. The school is located at 4613 Highway 49 South, Building C near the New Beginnings Church. The school is easily accessible. The school provides a comprehensive independent study program for students in grades K – 12 who prefer this type of instructional setting. The curriculum and textbooks for the core academic subjects is the same as that used in the traditional MCUSD schools so that students can transition easily between MCILS and other schools. The school has been growing steadily over the past 3 years. Enrollment for the school in 2006-07 was 161 students. The school has an up to date library, wireless computer lab and a variety of other instructional resources to support student achievement.

Catheys Valley Elementary School

Catheys Valley Elementary School is a K-6 school located in the rural western foothills of Mariposa County. It is a small necessary school within the Mariposa County Unified School District. We currently serve 79 students with a staff of five teachers, a full-time secretary, a part-time custodian, and several aides and volunteers. We converted to a teacher-led school in 2005. We have a Lead Teacher who also serves as the Opportunity Class Teacher. Kindergarten is a separate class while all other classes are combination: 1-2, 3-4, 5-6. There is also a non-profit Pre-school Cooperative on campus two days per week. The Director of Educational Services for our district is our key contact person in the district office and assists us with administrative matters. We are a California Distinguished School with a current API of 845. We are also on the Honor Roll of the California Business for Education Excellence Foundation.

Coulterville-Greeley Elementary School

Located in the Sierra Mountains along the original wagon trail to Yosemite National Park, Coulterville-Greeley Elementary School was founded in the 1850's by gold miners who settled in the area. Serving students from the communities of Coulterville and Greeley Hill, the K-8 grade school offers a challenging range of regular instructional programs and an exciting variety of extracurricular activities in a safe, positive, and caring environment. This school serves approximately 100 students in grades K-8, including approximately 20 RSP students and has been named as a California Distinguished School, is a Golden Bell award winner, and was nominated for a national Blue Ribbon award.

Coulterville High School

Coulterville High School is a "necessary small high school" located in the northern Mariposa County town of Coulterville. The student population is twenty-four which includes Independent Study students. The entire curriculum is provided by three teachers and one secretary/teacher aide. The community of Coulterville is a product of the California Gold Rush. Its history tells a story of a small mining town whose population exploded to well over ten thousand in the late 1800's with rich gold mines and frontier-style daring. Presently most of Coulterville's one hundred fifty residents work in the tourist industry or live in retirement.

Jesse Benton Fremont School

The Jessie Benton Fremont School, founded in 1994, serves as Mariposa County's only Community Day School. The campus is located on five beautifully landscaped acres with over one hundred trees, rose garden and lawns along with the William Pettus Outdoor Art Gallery. The school is located in the town of Hornitos which has a rich history dating back to the era of the gold rush. Students range in age from 12-18 and are in grades 7-12.

Lake Don Pedro Elementary School

Lake Don Pedro Elementary School is a rural school located in the foothills of northwestern Mariposa County. It began as a necessary small school but has grown to serve approximately 200 students from North Mariposa and South Tuolumne County. Beginning in the 1990-91 school year, Lake Don Pedro became a K-8 school. This school serves grades K-8, including approximately 15 RSP students. The staff consists of ten teachers and several classified staff.

Compliments of the Mariposa County Arts Council

Mariposa County High School

Mariposa County High School (Home of the Grizzlies) is located 45 miles west of Yosemite National Park at 1900 feet elevation in the historic town of Mariposa. The school has approximately 650 students with minimal student discipline problems and a dedicated teaching staff who care and work closely with students. MCHS is ranked in the top 15% academically of schools in California, has an excellent 26:1 student to teacher ratio, and enjoys outstanding men's and women's sports programs. MCHS is also noted in the community for offering outstanding programs in Art, Music, Drama, Firefighting, Welding, Criminal Justice, and Multimedia.

Mariposa Elementary School

Mariposa Elementary School is located in the county seat of rural Mariposa County in the picturesque Sierra foothills, 34 miles southwest of Yosemite National Park. The school is arranged over three levels of a hillside and has approximately 300 students in Kindergarten through 6th grade, Preschool, K-6 Special Day Class, and thirteen kindergarten through sixth grade classrooms. We are fortunate to have a very dedicated staff and many volunteers working for our students.

Mariposa Middle School

Mariposa Middle School is located near the town of Mariposa on twenty-five beautiful rolling, wooded acres. This school serves approximately 280 students in grades 7 and 8 coming from various parts of the County. The program is fully departmentalized, offering required and elective subjects, which are standards-based. Many parents and past students have commended this school as "an outstanding example of successful teaching and learning, setting high standards for all students, rigorous graduation requirements, strong family and community involvement, and a safe and clean environment."

Woodland Elementary School

Woodland Elementary School is located in the county of rural Mariposa County in the picturesque Sierra foothills, 34 miles southwest of Yosemite National Park. The facility is arranged in a park-like setting and houses 500 students in Kindergarten through 6th grade. There is a Resource program, Special Day class, Library Media Center/Distance Learning Room, Science/Computer Room and twenty-one kindergarten through sixth grade classrooms .

Yosemite National Park El Portal Elementary School

Yosemite National Park El Portal Elementary School is located in the small town of El Portal, which lies in the Merced River Canyon at the entrance of Yosemite National Park. We have approximately 50 students in grades K-6 and three teaching positions. Visual and performing arts are an integral part of our curriculum. We are adjacent to the county library. We have access to hiking trails, the county swimming pool and tennis courts, and our own greenhouse. We have established teaching partnerships with the National Park Service and Yosemite Institute.

Yosemite National Park Valley School

Yosemite National Park's Valley Elementary School was first organized in 1875. The current facility, located in the heart of Yosemite Valley, was completed in 1956 and renovated in 1996. We are proud of the school's heritage in the remarkable valley. Our small K-8 serves approximately 35 children of park personnel in multi-graded classrooms. We currently have two teaching positions as well as an Equal Opportunity class. Curriculum and instruction are driven by District adopted core academic standards. Instruction is often individualized, as well as project-based, with a strong service-learning component. Longstanding tradition has dictated a close connection to the community agencies and parents who support the school.

Yosemite Park High School

Yosemite Park High School is located in the small town of El Portal, which lies in the Merced River Canyon at the entrance of Yosemite National Park. Two teachers share the classroom with from five to twenty students in grades 9-12. We are adjacent to the county library. We have access to hiking trails, the county swimming pool and tennis courts, and our own greenhouse. We have established teaching partnerships with the National Park Service and Yosemite Institute.



Since 1875
Yosemite Valley School

Merced Community College	www.mccd.edu
University of CA Merced	www.ucmerced.edu
Mariposa Little League	966-1786
Mariposa Youth Girls Softball	966-1185
Mariposa Martial Arts Academy	742-4501
Piano, Keyboard, Organ Lessons	(559)-683-4027
Piano Lessons	742-7553
Mariposa Academy of Performing Arts	742-7303
MUIR TRAIL GIRL SCOUTS	966-1449
Boy Scouts of America Troop #94	966-2780
Cub Scout Pack 94	966-2780
4-H Club Youth Development	966-4829
American Youth Soccer Association	966-1240
Mariposa Youth Football	966-1500
Mariposa Bears Cheerleading	966-1500
Mariposa Search and Rescue	966-3615
Native Daughters of the Golden West	742-6588
Mariposa Academy of Performing Arts	742-7303
Swim Lessons—Parks & Recreation	966-2498
Mariposa Child Care Planning Council	966-6299

MARIPOSA COUNTY RECREATION

Mariposa County Home of Yosemite

www.homeofyosemite.com

www.historichwy49.com

Recreation contributes to life satisfaction, quality of life, health and wellness.

The region in and around Mariposa County offer nearly any type of recreation imaginable, for all interests and skill levels. The Merced River originates in Yosemite National Park on the crest of the Sierra Nevada at an elevation of 11,000

feet. The river flows wild and undammed until it reaches Lake McClure, formed by the New Exchequer Dam near Merced Falls. The old Yosemite Valley Railroad right-of-way on the north bank of the Merced River provides hikers with a relatively level, though mostly unshaded, river trail from near

El Portal to Bagby (28 miles). Because the old railroad bridges have fallen, the swift side streams (particularly on the North Fork of the Merced) may not be crossable during winter.

An alternative along the South Fork is the Hite's Cove Trail, famous for its spring wildflowers and its ghost town. The hike is 8.4 miles round trip, but the best wildflowers are in the first two miles. If you go all the way, you can see the remains of the once bustling town of Hite Cove.



Carol Johnson

Yosemite National Park

(209) 372-0200

<http://www.nps.gov/yose/>

Yosemite National Park is a world-famous scenic location in the Sierra Nevada mountains of California, attracting visitors from all parts of the globe. Yosemite Valley is the point of entry into the park for the majority of the 3.5 million visitors per year. The park covers an area of 761,266 acres, 95% of which is designated as the Yosemite Wilderness, and reaches across the western slopes of the Sierra Nevada (Spanish for "Snowy Range") mountain chain. The Park includes 263 miles of roads, over 150 species of birds, 85 species of mammals. Elevations range from 2,000 feet above sea level to more than 13,000 feet.

Yosemite is filled with stunning features such as waterfalls and granite domes. Mariposa County is called "Home of Yosemite" because over one quarter of the county is comprised of Yosemite National Park. Including Forest Service and BLM holdings, 57% of Mariposa county is federal land.

Explore and Enjoy

Badger Pass Ski Area—winter sports, cross-country and downhill skiing

El Capitan—Massive, granite monolith stands 3,593 feet from base to summit. The top can be reached via trail alongside Yosemite Falls and proceeding west

Glacier Point—look down 3,215 feet to the Valley floor, can be reached by the very strenuous Four Mile Trail or descend from Glacier Point along the John Muir Trail which passes Vernal and Nevada Falls. (14.5 miles)

Happy Isles—springtime rapids in the Merced River and trickling of water through a fen (or marsh)

Hetch Hetchy where the hiker can stand in the arms of a waterfall

Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias—largest stand of giant sequoias with over 200 giants

Tenaya Lake with sandy beaches, the surface of Tenaya Lake has an elevation of 8,150 feet

Tioga Road (State Route 120 East) : This scenic 45 mile drive covers almost 4000 feet of elevation change. During this 1 1/2 hour drive, visitors pass through meadows and forests, lakes and granite domes

Tuolumne Meadows is located at over 8,575 feet in elevation.

From Tuolumne, numerous trails lead hikers to lakes, meadows and beautiful river canyons

Vernal Falls and Nevada Falls—hike from Happy Isles—.75 miles and 3.5 mile

Yosemite Falls—2,425 feet, with upper and lower falls combined, make the tallest waterfall in North America

Compliments of the Mariposa County Arts Council

Biking

Paved and unpaved roads offer miles of unspoiled scenery. The old Yosemite Railroad flat runs for miles alongside the Merced river or climb the Burma Grade Trail that links the popular recreation sites along the Merced River near Briceburg with the higher elevations and trails in Stanislaus National Forest.

Gold Panning

- Bagby Recreation Area - from Mariposa go North about 15 miles on Hwy. 49 to Bagby. Pan for gold for a day use fee. Info: MID Parks Department 800-468-8889
- Briceburg Recreation Area - from Mariposa go East on Hwy. 140 about 15 miles to Briceburg. Make a left on the road next to the right side of the Visitors Center and across the bridge from the parking area. You are allowed to pan down stream from the bridge. Info: 209-966-3192 for other available areas to pan.
- Coulterville Area - local places to pan for gold. Stop by the North County Visitor Center on Main Street.
- Mariposa Museum and History Center - 5119 Jesse St. Gold panning is in the Museum courtyard. Hours: 10am - 4:30pm 209-966-2924

Hiking

Over 800 miles of hiking trails in Yosemite range from easy strolls to grueling trails or multi-day backpack trips.

- Mariposa Creek Project - stroll along a paved pathway that runs the length of Mariposa creek in downtown Mariposa.
- Sentinel Dome - start at Sentinel Dome parking area, Yosemite. A Moderate 2.2 mile round trip taking 2 hours.
- John Muir Trail through Lyell Canyon - start at Dog Lake parking area, Yosemite. An easy 8 mile trip one way, with a 200 foot gain, taking 3 to 4 hours.
- Harden Lake - start at White Wolf drop off point via the Tuolumne Meadows Hikers' Bus, Yosemite. A moderate 9 mile round trip taking 4 to 6 hours.
- Foresta via Big Oak Flat Rd. - start at Tamarack Flat Campground entrance via the Tuolumne Meadows Hikers' Bus, Yosemite. A moderately strenuous 10-12 mile one way trip taking 5 to 7 hours with a 2,000 foot loss.
- Yosemite Valley via Yosemite Creek - start at Lukens Lake trailhead via the Tuolumne Meadows Hikers' Bus. A moderately strenuous 10.5 mile one way trip taking 5 to 9 hours one way with a 3,500 to 4,000 foot loss .

Horseback riding

Overnight horse camping in Yosemite requires a permit and specific horse inoculations. Yosemite Horseback Riding Info. 209-372-0200 Yosemite Trails Pack Station 559-868-3405

Parks and playgrounds

The Mariposa County Parks and Recreation hosts the Mariposa County Art Park on Hwy 140 and 4th Street. Swimming, tennis, amphitheatre, playground and picnic grounds at Mariposa County Park at 4998 County Park Rd. Darrah Schoolhouse playground at Darrah and Triangle Road.

Lakes, Rivers and Camping

- Brown and rainbow trout and small-mouth bass are the game fish found in the Merced River. Squawfish, hardhead, western sucker and sculpin are common. The California Department of Fish and Game stocks catchable size rainbow trout in the river from the South Fork upstream to the Foresta Bridge. With a fishing license, Bass fishing is open all year with a limit of five fish. All bass less than 12 inches must be released. Yosemite National Park Boundary to Foresta Bridge: This is a special fishing area that is open all year with a two-trout limit. No fish less than 12 inches may be possessed. For all species, only artificial lures with single barbless hooks may be used. Foresta Bridge to Bagby: The trout limit is 5 fish. This area is open from the last Saturday in April through November 15
- Lake Don Pedro, offering 160 miles of shoreline and 13,000 surface acres of water, Don Pedro offers something for every water enthusiast.
- Bass Lake - (Madera County) located southeast of Oakhurst. - 559-642-3200, 800-585-9283
- Lake McClure - located west of Coulterville. Water-skiing, jet skiing, sailing and houseboats. - 800-468-8889
- Lake McSwain - located west of Coulterville. Water-skiing, jet skiing, sailing and houseboats. - 800-468-8889
- Three BLM campgrounds exist below Briceburg with both tent and RV campsites. All campsites are on a first come - first serve basis. All BLM campgrounds provide pit or composting toilets, fire pits, grills and garbage collection.

Rock Climbing

Climbers can generally be spotted in the snow-free months on anything from 10 foot boulders to 3,300 foot El Capitan. Yosemite National Park - half and full day classes and private guides are available from many groups. General Info 209-372-0200 Yosemite Guides 209-379-2231

HISTORIC MARIPOSA COUNTY

Mariposa took its name from Mariposa Creek, which was so named by Spanish explorers in 1806, when they discovered great clusters of butterflies ("mariposas" in Spanish) in the foothills of the Sierras. It is an unincorporated community that serves as the county seat of Mariposa County, California. Mariposa County is known as the "Mother of California Counties." While the first Legislature was awaiting Statehood in the year of 1850, it met and created the structure of the new state. It made Mariposa the largest county, covering one-fifth of the state. Why they chose to create such a large county is not clear. One can assume that since the area south of Mariposa was largely considered waste land, that any interest at that time in an area seemingly devoid of promise and gold could be held as a large tract who's value could be determined later. From that large portion of middle California, all or part of 11 counties were eventually created.

CATHEY'S VALLEY NEWS

Fresno Bee Republican, December 13, 1963

POSTOFFICE NAME AGAIN WILL BE

CATHEY'S VALLEY—Cathey's Valley again will be the official name for this postoffice in Mariposa County, nestling in the lower foothills, effective January 1st.

The change in name from Cathay to Cathey's Valley followed a petition to the US Postal Department by nearly 100 per cent of the residents in that area. Cathey's Valley is named for the Cathey family who originally settled in this agricultural area and filled the bread basket for the miners during the Gold Rush. They particularly provided grain and meat for the entire area. Said one Cathey descendent: "The women were almost too religious, and the men loved to gamble and race horses." The Cathey's Valley Methodist Church was started by this family, and the Mariposa Methodist Church was supported by the Cathey's Valley Church for many years. Descendent of the original Cathey, Wills, and Rowland families still live in this picturesque valley and recall the stories handed down of the wagon train days across the plains and mountains.

Gloria Palmer, postmistress of Cathey's Valley, announced the zip code number of 95306 will remain the same after the name change.

Daily Evening Bulletin, (SF, CA) April 24, 1858

A CHINESE TOWN PROJECTED- The Mariposa Gazette says that it is the intention of the Chinese population in its county to build a permanent town near the garden of Allison & Powell, about two miles from the town of Mariposa. Lots have been already staked off, and other preparations made for found a Celestial city, where they can sit under their own canvass, and smoke opium to their heart's content, without being interfered with by "outside barbarians." Judging from the crowd already in and near Mariposa town, and the numbers daily arriving, it may become a place of note. It is estimated that the Orientals already in the county, outnumber the white population about two to one.

New Catholic Church Stockton Daily Independent FRIDAY, 23 JAN 1863

MARIPOSA NEWS -- During the last year, says the 'Gazette,' many improvements have been made in Mariposa -- many of them being of special importance, as indicating the growth and prosperity of that place; but there has been erected no structure deserving so much credit, or adding so much to the beauty of the place as the new Catholic church. The enterprising citizens who have labored and worked and accomplished this are deserving of all credit. It exhibits an energy -- a religious devotion -- truly admirable and worthy the commendation of all good people. The new church has been erected between 1st and 2nd streets, fronting on Main street, on a little eminence, and its steeple rises high over the town. 2 blocks will embrace the entire grounds; the one on Main street containing the church and grounds, and the block in the rear -- 250 feet by 125 -- being intended for a cemetery. The selection of the site is well made; and it is capable of being rendered even more beautiful than at present. The church is not entirely finished, but near enough to have been consecrated, in accordance with the rites of the Catholic persuasion, on Sunday last.



St. Josephs - C Johnson

Fresno Bee, August 11, 1925

Mariposa-(Mariposa County) Aug. 11- After seventy-one years the old Mariposa County Courthouse has been fitted with water pipes. No more will court be recessed while judge and jury descend stairs and cross the street to quench a Midsummer thirst. Incidentally the improvements afford the first fire protection to the building since its erection in 1854, and progressive residents are in hopes that shrubbery and lawns will soon adorn the spacious courthouse grounds.



Compliments of the Mariposa County Arts Council

MORMON BAR - Mormon Bar was first mined in 1849 by members of the Mormon Battalion. They, however, stayed only a short time and their places were taken at once by other miners. Later, thousands of Chinese worked the same ground over again.

Location: On small auxiliary rd on right, 500 ft SE of intersection of State Hwy 49 and Ben Hur Rd, 1.8 mi S of Mariposa

BEAR VALLEY - First called Johnsonville, Bear Valley had a population of 3,000, including Chinese, Cornish, and Mexicans. During 1850-60 when Col. John C. Frémont's Ride Tree and Josephine Mines were producing, Frémont's elegant hotel, Oso House, was built with lumber brought around the Horn. It no longer stands. After a fire in 1888, structures were rebuilt. Some still standing are Bon Ton Saloon, Trabucco Store, Odd Fellows Hall, school house and remains of jail. **Location:** On State Hwy 49, Bear Valley

COULTERVILLE - George W. Coulter started a tent store here in early 1850 to supply the hundreds of miners working the rich placers of Maxwell, Boneyard, and Black Creeks. He also built the first hotel, water for it was pumped from a well by two Newfoundland dogs. Originally called Banderita from the flag flying over Coulter's store, the settlement became Maxwell Creek when the post office was established in 1853, but the name was changed the following year to honor Coulter. The family of Francisco Bruschi, who erected the first permanent building here, provided the town's leading merchants for over eighty years. Despite their crude methods, and with only wood for fuel, the nearby quartz mines operated for years and produced millions of dollars worth of gold, Andrew Goss built the first stamp mill for crushing their ore. **Location:** County Park, NE corner of intersection of County Hwy J20 and State Hwy 132, Coulterville

HORNITOS - Hornitos, 'little ovens,' derived its name from the presence of many old Mexican stone graves or tombs built in the shape of little square bake ovens and set on top of the ground. The town seemed to have been settled by an undesirable element driven out of the adjoining town of Quartzburg, but as the placers at Quartzburg gave out, many of its other citizens came to Hornitos. It became the first and the only incorporated town in Mariposa County.

Location: 11 mi W of Bear Valley on County Road J16, Hornitos

AGUA FRIA - One-quarter mile north of Carson Creek, a tributary of Agua Fria Creek, was located the town of Agua Fria, in 1850-51 the first county seat of Mariposa County. One of the original 27 counties in California, Mariposa County comprised one-sixth of the state-all of what is now Merced, Madera, Fresno, Tulare, Kings, and Kern Counties-until 1852, while mining was the main industry of region. The town of Mariposa became the seat of government in 1852, and the courthouse there was completed in 1854.

Location: 4189 State Hwy 140, 3.2 mi W of Mariposa

SAVAGE TRADING POST - Here, in 1849, James D. Savage established a store built of logs. He engaged in trading and mining. In spring of 1850, fearing Indian depredations, he moved to Mariposa Creek, in December his store and others were pillaged and burned. A volunteer battalion was formed and Savage, elected mayor, went in pursuit of the tribe. Their secret hideout in Yosemite Valley was discovered and the war brought to a quick end. Major Savage was killed by a political opponent in August 1852.

Location: On State Hwy 140, 8 mi W of El Portal

MARIPOSA COUNTY COURTHOUSE - This mortise-and-tenon Greek Revival courthouse, erected in 1854, is California's oldest court of law and has served continuously as the seat of county government since 1854. During the 19th century, landmark mining cases setting legal precedent were tried here, and much United States mining law is based on decisions emanating from this historic courthouse. **Location:** 10th and Bullion Sts, Mariposa



Mariposa County Jail - This stone edifice is the second jail to have served Mariposa County since the early 1850's. The first jail was constructed in 1852 of logs cut from an area known as "Logtown," located behind the present public and fraternal cemeteries. Located near the creek behind the Trabucco Warehouse, the first jail was burned in the fire of 1858 which consumed most of the south end of town. Its replacement was built that same year, at a cost to the county of \$14,770. **Location:** Bullion at 4th Steet

MARIPOSA COUNTY NOW

Mariposa County

Mariposa County is home to a good portion of Yosemite National Park. Nestled in the western foothills of the Sierra Nevada, historic Mariposa is laid out on a grid made up of one main street and a dozen side streets. Mariposa is located at 2,000 feet in elevation. A good deal of the local economy is related to Yosemite and tourism. At the 2000 census Mariposa population was 17,130. The county has a total area of 1,463 square miles of which 1,451 square miles of it is land and 12 square miles of it is water. The primarily white population has 11.8 people per square mile who are separated by sprawling cattle ranches and towering mountains. Many of the largest group of Native Americans, the Southern Miwok, still live in the region. They lived in Northern California on the western slopes of the Sierra Nevada mountains. Their history and lifestyle are on display in Yosemite.

The area is ideally suited for those interested in outdoor activities and rural community life. Mariposa County offers a wide variety of recreational opportunities from hiking and camping, to boating at Lake McClure and Lake Don Pedro; fishing in the Merced River for the big Rainbows as well as in many other streams and lakes; picnicking with the family to horseback riding, gold panning and on and on.

Plants and Animals Groves of Giant Sequoias occur along a narrow band of altitude on the western side of the Sierra Nevada. Giant Sequoias are the most massive trees in the world. Regional species: Ponderosa pine and Jeffrey pine, California Black Oak, Incense-Cedar, Giant Sequoia, Lodgepole Pine, Red Fir, Mountain Hemlock, Sierra Juniper, with Mountain Chickadee, Dark-eyed Junco, Western Gray Squirrel, Mule Deer, American Black Bear, Sage Grouse, Great Grey Owl, Golden-mantled Ground Squirrel, Marten, Hermit Thrush, Steller's Jay, Red Tailed Hawk, coyote, White-headed Woodpecker, and naturally—Monarch Butterfly.



Transportation

The Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System (YARTS) serves Mariposa County and Yosemite: 1-877-989-2787. Hwy 140 is a designated AMTRAK Route to Yosemite with rail service 35 miles away, in Merced. Mariposa County Transit operates two systems: Dial-A-Ride and the Senior and VA system structured to the special needs of seniors and veterans. Both systems run Monday through Friday. For information call 966-5315 or 966-RIDE.

John C. Fremont Hospital

(209) 966-3631

Mariposa County is fortunate to have John C. Fremont Hospital and Clinic has the only 24-hour Emergency Room in Mariposa and Eastern Madera Counties. Medical Clinic, Acute Care, Long Term Care, Outpatient Surgery, Home Health/Hospice, Private Duty

Compliments of the Mariposa County Arts Council

Mariposa Museum and History Centerwww.mariposamuseum.com

(209) 966-2924

The Mariposa Museum and History Center is considered to be one of the best small museums in America by the Smithsonian Institute. Displayed are artifacts of the Gold Rush Era, a working stamp mill, examples of carriages, wagons, and a Native American area. On the grounds are the Counts House, once owned by a county official, the building that once housed the Mariposa Gazette, California's oldest weekly newspaper of continuous publication. Inside is a full-sized replica of a mining town with authentic artifacts.

California State Mining and Mineral Museum

(209) 742-ROCK (7625)

The California State Mining and Mineral Museum is located at the Mariposa Fairgrounds, two miles south of Mariposa on Highway 49 S. The state collection of minerals, mining machinery and artifacts was moved to Mariposa from the Ferry Building in San Francisco. The Gold exhibit is without peer, featuring the Fricot nugget, an approximately 13-pound specimen of crystalline gold.

Northern Mariposa County History Centerwww.museumusa.org/museums/info

209-878-3015

The Northern Mariposa County History Center in Coulterville is housed in the remains of the three-story Coulter Hotel. Destroyed in the 1899 fire, the ingenious citizens of Coulterville rebuilt the upper-story rooms for the collection and kept the balance of the building for a garden. Included in the museum interior is the former drug store, where the fixtures are still in place, and many artifacts of a mining town. Downtown Coulterville, contained in one of the two historic districts in Mariposa County, is anchored by the three-story Hotel Jeffery, fully restored and available on a daily basis.



Mariposa County Library
4978 10th Street in Mariposa

<http://www.mariposalibrary.org/>

209-966-2140

Mariposa County Amphitheatre

Parks & Recreation

209-9662498

4998 County Park Road: 6th Street R-Stroming Road, L-County Park Road



Mariposa County Art Park Hwy 140 at 4th Street ,
parking 5th Street- Popular Mariposa County Arts
Council free summer music series each
Friday and Saturday evening

