

# William B. Ide Adobe State Historic Park



## Our Mission

The mission of the California Department of Parks and Recreation is to provide for the health, inspiration and education of the people of California by helping to preserve the state's extraordinary biological diversity, protecting its most valued natural and cultural resources, and creating opportunities for high-quality outdoor recreation.



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### **William B. Ide Adobe SHP**

**21659 Adobe Road**

**Red Bluff, CA 96080**

**(530) 529-8599**

*Escape back in time and  
experience the sights and  
sounds of the California  
frontier at an 1852 adobe  
homestead overlooking  
the banks of the peaceful  
Sacramento River.*



## At the northern end of the Sacramento Valley,

flanked by the Cascade Mountains on the east and the Coast Range on the west, William B. Ide Adobe State Historic Park stands as a memorial to one of the leading participants in the Bear Flag Revolt. The park, nestled along the banks of the Sacramento River 100 miles north of Sacramento, is a symphony of wildlife sounds and gentle winds rustling through aged oaks. You can enjoy a picnic by the river, saunter through the historic homestead or attend an exciting living history event.

### PARK HISTORY

#### Native People

When California was part of Mexico in 1821, explorer Luis Arguello led the first recorded expedition up the Sacramento River. The first people his party encountered were the Wintuan-speaking Nomlaki. Arguello's diary describes Nomlaki villages where men hunted with sinew-backed bows and obsidian arrows, building weirs and using harpoons for river fishing. The Nomlaki women wove exquisite baskets, using the three-rod coil and twined methods.

In 1883 later explorers unwittingly brought a malaria epidemic, decimating the native population. Though the explorers later took over Nomlaki lands, Nomlaki descendants still live in Northern California today.



*Cottonwood Trail along the Sacramento River*

#### Settlers

The first non-native settlers arrived in the northern Sacramento Valley in the 1840s. Two Mexican land grants downriver from this area were awarded to Peter Lassen and Josiah Belden, who later sold

out to Massachusetts native William B. Ide.

#### William B. Ide and the Bear Flag Revolt

With very little formal education, and trained as a carpenter, William B. Ide (1796-1852) followed the frontier as it gradually moved westward. He and his family joined a wagon train headed for Alta California, still a province of Mexico. They arrived at John A. Sutter's fort on October 25, 1845, then traveled north to this area. During that winter, a rumor spread that the Mexican government planned to evict illegal American settlers. In June of 1846, the settlers heard what proved to be a false rumor—a Mexican military force was on its way, destroying crops, burning houses and driving away cattle.

This rallied the settlers into action, and on June 14, 1846, a group of about thirty men—including Ide—marched on the town of Sonoma. The group became known as the Bear Flaggers. Sonoma and its leading citizen, General Mariano G. Vallejo, were taken without incident. The Bear Flaggers, lacking leadership,

could not agree on their next steps. They divided; some took their captives to Sutter's fort. Those remaining in Sonoma selected Ide as their commander. Ide drafted a proclamation declaring the newly formed "California Republic."

Though the California Republic lasted only 25 days before Navy Commodore John D. Sloat raised the American flag at Monterey, this important chapter of California history is still known as the "Bear Flag Revolt."

#### Bluffton Ranch

Like William B. Ide, the pioneer owners of the property originally called Bluffton Ranch arrived in California with visions of opportunity. Faced with challenges, they used their location near the California-Oregon Road and the Sacramento River to form communication and transportation connections to the outside world. Pack trains, horsemen, miners on foot, ox teams, covered wagons and stagecoaches moved up and down the valley, and steamboats moved along the river. In 1862 a ferry crossing was built on the property. The park today reflects the hard work of those pioneers who lived in mid-19<sup>th</sup>-century California.



*Sacramento River ferry operator, late 1800s*

## The Adobe Becomes a State Park

The adobe was built in 1852 by A. M. Dibble. By 1949 it had changed hands at least 20 times. The longest ownership was from 1882 to 1913, when the adobe was

the property of two members of the pioneer Mount family—A. Mount and Willette Mount.

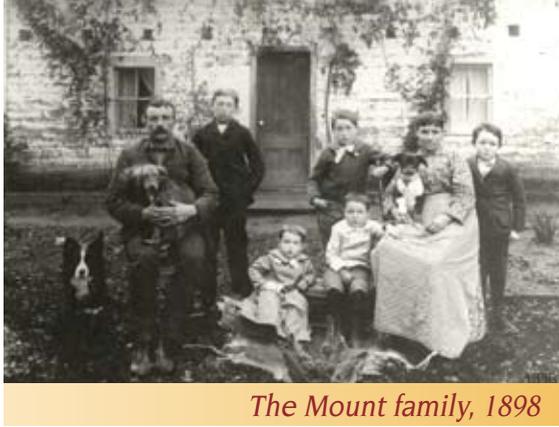
At one point, original ownership of the adobe was mistakenly ascribed to William B. Ide, who had owned land downriver. Subsequently, a movement sprang up to make the site a state park in the 1940s. The state acquired the land, and the park was dedicated in 1960, honoring Ide's contribution to California history. The restored adobe is the only example of an original Gold Rush-era adobe in the north valley.

## NATURAL RESOURCES

### Animals and Plants

The riparian forest along the Sacramento River and the adjacent oak woodland provide perfect habitat for a variety of wildlife.

Beavers and river otters busy themselves in the water while black-tailed deer keep to the shadows. Bird-watchers may spot nearly 200 bird species, both migratory and resident, including belted kingfishers, great blue herons, wild turkeys, ospreys, Nuttall's woodpeckers and Canada geese. Some fortunate



*The Mount family, 1898*

observers may glimpse majestic bald eagles.

The river supports four runs of Chinook salmon, including the endangered winter run. More abundant species are the Pacific lamprey, steelhead, rainbow trout, minnows, sturgeon and various catfish.

The vegetation along the river is a ruggedly beautiful blend of valley oak, California sycamore, blue elderberry, California rose and coyote bush. Fremont cottonwoods, willows and box elders grace the riverbanks as well.

### Temperatures

Temperatures here range from the high 90s in the summer to low 40s in late fall and winter. Wearing layered clothing year round is recommended.

## PARK INTERPRETIVE PROGRAMS

Interpretive programs take visitors back in time to experience frontier life in the mid-1800s. Enjoy the sights, smells, sounds, tastes and textures of the era.

### Annual Events

**Adobe Day** is held the third Saturday in August. Activities include Gold Rush-era music, pioneer crafts, home-baked refreshments, and period dancing.

**Pioneer Christmas Party**, held the third Saturday in December, recreates the earliest Christmas celebrations of the North Valley. Visitors may enjoy hot wassail and create old-time crafts.

**Adobe Ferry Champion Horseshoe Pitchers Contest** is held the second Saturday in October. "Sports history" comes alive with all participants dressed in 1850s clothing and following 1850s pitching rules.

### School Programs

**Life in the 1850s** brings costumed high school docents to spend the day teaching fourth grade students skills for surviving the rigors of frontier life.

**Mini-Life in the 1850s** has 1- to 2-hour programs, including an adobe tour and participation in several pioneer crafts.

### Volunteers in Parks

Become a VIP! Join the Volunteers in Parks Program to offer your time and energy; have fun while supporting William B. Ide Adobe State Historic Park.

## ACCESSIBLE FEATURES

### Picnic Area

An accessible picnic table on a concrete pad is in the shaded picnic area. Accessible parking and restrooms are nearby.



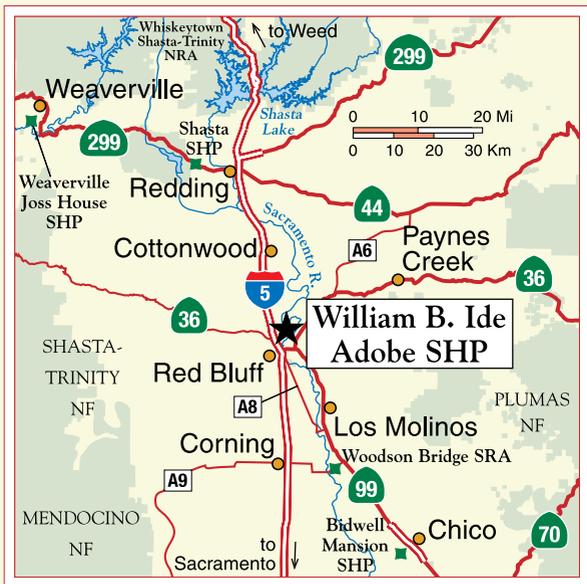
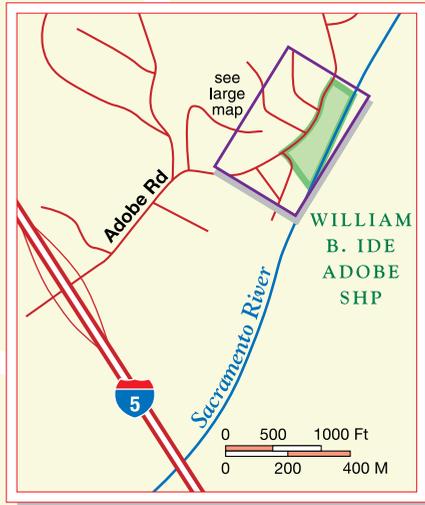
*Volunteers interpret pioneer California life.*



# William B. Ide Adobe State Historic Park

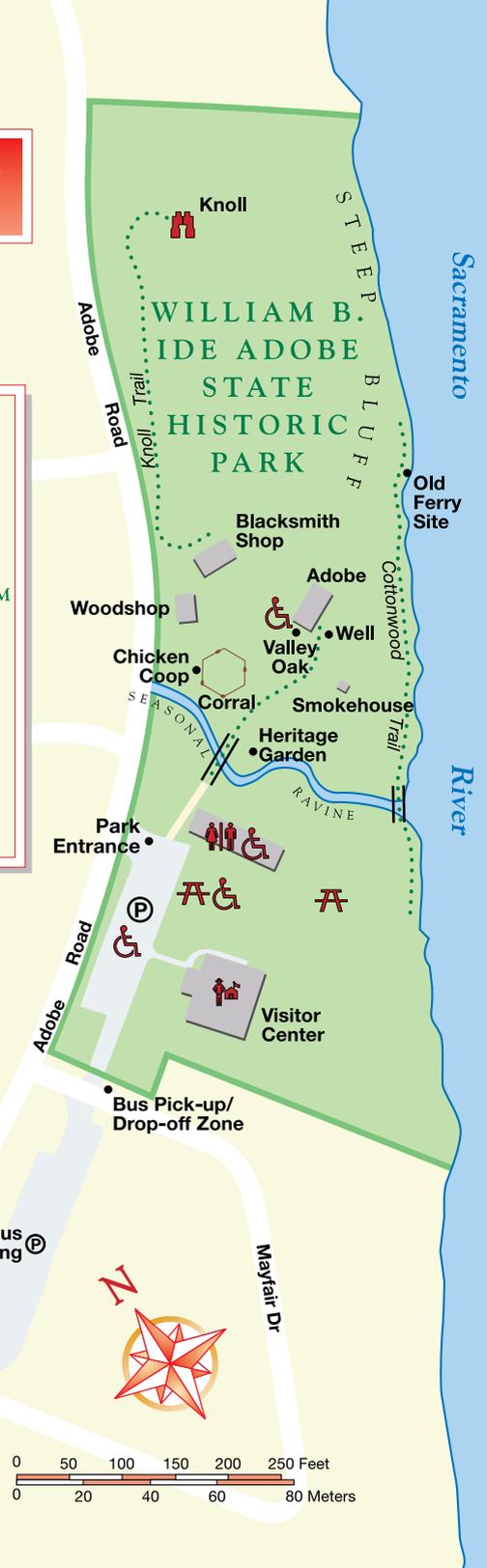
## Legend

- Paved Road
- Paved Path
- Unpaved Trail
- Fence
- Parking Area
- Accessible Feature
- Building
- Footbridge
- Parking
- Picnic Area
- Restrooms
- Viewpoint
- Visitor Center



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Map by Eureka Cartography, Berkeley, CA

to Red Bluff,



## Exhibits/Programs

A concrete walkway from the parking lot leads to an accessible visitor center. From the parking lot, another concrete walkway leads to a bridge, where a dirt path takes you to the adobe. The adobe is accessible from the rear of the building.

## PLEASE REMEMBER

- **DANGER:** The Sacramento River can have strong undercurrents as well as unseen debris and submerged logs. Always be careful in and around the water.
- Dogs must be on a six-foot leash; they are allowed only in the picnic area.
- The park's natural and cultural resources are protected by state law and may not be removed or altered.
- Firearms and hunting are prohibited in state parks.

## NEARBY STATE PARKS

- Shasta State Historic Park, 15312 Hwy. 299 West, Shasta (530) 243-8194
- Woodson Bridge State Recreation Area, 25340 South Avenue, Corning (530) 839-2112
- Bidwell Mansion State Historic Park, 525 Esplanade, Chico (530) 895-6144

This park receives support in part through a nonprofit association. For more information, contact the Ide Adobe Interpretive Association, 21659 Adobe Road, Red Bluff, CA 96080