

Auburn— only a descriptive marker and small cemetery locates this historic spot, 10 miles SW of Baker City where over 5000 people took part in the Gold Rush of 1862.

Bourne— 7 miles up Cracker Creek from Sumpter is the town named for Jonathon Bourne, early Oregon Senator and mining promoter. Mines here are still producing but is a prime exhibit of a mining ghost town.

Bridgeport— a vital link between early Baker City and the mines and farms of Burnt River Valley. Bridgeport marks the south end of the Dooley Mt. Toll Road.

Copperfield— Known as Oregon's most notorious "Bad" town, it was closed by martial law when the Governor sent his female secretary to enforce his orders. Located in the Panhandle, 75 miles NE of Baker City, Copperfield was established in 1908 to house the mining and railroad crews working at Snake River. It was later destroyed by fire.

Cornucopia— Cornucopia is located high in the Eagle Mts. At the upper end of Pine Valley and inaccessible in winter. The town was hastily constructed when gold was discovered in 1880. Millions of dollars came from this area where the steep mountains and deep canyons were honeycombed with miles of subterranean shafts or bridged with high tramways.

Durkee— An historic site for both the Oregon Trail and early placer mining activity. First known as Express Ranch, a Wells Fargo stage station, in 1862. The town was renamed Durkee when the railroad bought its right-of-way from the Durkee family in 1883.

Granite— (Grant County) Travel 15 miles west of Sumpter to the area of historic Cougar-Independence and Buffalo mines, famous for their ling and productive gold operations. The ghost Town scenic atmosphere is shared with a few permanent residents.

Greenhorn— A side trip west form Whitney Valley, on Hwy. 7, takes you to this once famous mining camp which operates under a one-of-a-kind, Township Charter, direct from the Federal Government.

Home— Located in the Conner Creek mining area on Snake River, Home was the home of W.E. Baker's world famous peach orchards. Is now covered by the waters of Brownlee Reservoir.

Homestead— This area was named simply because it was on the Pearce homestead. It was also the home of the Iron Dyke mine whose promoters had the town platted and incorporated for they planned a great future in copper production. A slump in the market of 1928 closed the mine and caused the railroad to pull their lines back to Robinette thus adding another ghost town to Baker County history.

Lime— Located on I-84, 37 miles east from Baker City, this huge idle plant has been vacant since 1980. Stone was taken from the quarry in the late 1880's with several of Baker City's major buildings being constructed from that stone. The plant was expanded in 1916 and from 1923 to 1980 over 6½ million tons were taken from the mountain area. In the 1950's, there were over 145 employees at this major operation.

McEwen— McEwen was named for Thomas McEwen, pioneer liveryman and stage operator. When the Sumpter Valley Railway was built, its railhead was at McEwen. McEwen is now an historic site on Hwy. 7, just west of Phillips Reservoir.

Medical Springs— From Indian medicine waters to a world renowned health resort, complete with full medical staff, this hot springs has served thousands of people. To travel to Medical Springs, located 22 miles north of Baker city on hwy. 203, exit from I-84 four miles west of Baker City.

Mormon Basin-Amelia-Clarksville-Eldorado-Malheur City & Cemetery-Rainbow Mine-Cake— This intriguing list of sites are all located in an historic area between Bridgeport & Rye Valley. The roads are all unpaved. The scenery is spectacular and history abounds. You can reach this high plateau from the Clarks Creek road 5 miles east of Bridgeport in the Burnt River Valley and emerge on I-84 at Rye Valley exit just north of Huntington.

Pleasant Valley— Pleasant Valley first served as a stop on the early freight routes through Eastern Oregon and as a faming area for Oregon Trail settlers. Pleasant Valley is just off I-84 10 miles east of Baker City.

Pocahontas— The Chandler Wagon Train arrived in Powder Valley in 1862 and settled Pine City at the base of the Elkhorn Mts. The settlement was leter moved a bit down the mountain and renamed Pocahontas.

Pondosa— An endless supply of sawdust fertilizer is about all that remains for this once busy lumber mill town, 20 miles from Baker City on Hwy. 203. But do stop at the old Hotel for a chat about local history.

Robinette— Robinette stood at the confluence of the Powder and Snake Rivers before it was flooded by the waters of the Brownlee Reservoir in the 1950's. Robinette served as the railhead for the Oregon Short Line in 1909.

Rye Valley— The gold rush of 1862 that brought an influx of prospectors and speculators to Rye Valley who helped make the history of the "Hanging Tree" and who lie buried in the old cemetery. This isolated site may be reached through the upper Burnt River Valley or from Rye Valley exit on I-84 east from Baker City.

Sparta— Sparta is 20 miles NE of Baker City. Following Hwy. 86 and watch for the Sparta turnoff, then north on a graveled road for about 5 miles of uphill grade to an old stone store building. This was built about 1872 by the Cohn-Heilner Bros. and is all that remains of this old gold producing town, which also served as a stage stop between Baker City and Eagle Valley.

Sumpter— Sumpter lies 30 miles to the west of Baker City in the mountains. This town has know the gold boom of success, suffered ghost town status and is today known as a progressive but historic tourist attraction. The Valley's rockpiles shows the devastation left by the gold dredging, a "Yuba" style dredge still remains resting where it was shut down in the early 1950s. The Sumpter Valley Railway was built to serve the area's forests, mines, ranches, and homes.

Weatherby— 8 miles east of Durkee at the mouth of Sisley Creek on I-84. Weatherby was the start of the historic Sisley Toll Road of 1863 that connected with Old's Toll Road & Ferry on the Snake River.

Whitney— A few dilapidated buildings identify this lonely old logging town. Whitney is located on the Sumpter Valley Railway line in the scenic Whitney Valley on Hwy. 7. 14 miles SW of Sumpter.

Wingville— Once a thriving little village northwest of Baker City, Wingville is now a productive farming community noted for its very historic site of the Wingville Cemetery. It is located on Pine Creek road between Brown Lane and Pocahontas Road.

BAKER COUNTY OREGON

Historic Towns



"Along The Oregon Trail"

Visit Baker

Baker County Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Bureau

The following are historic town sites in Baker County. Remnants to view range from active occupation to underwater sites.

490 Campbell Street
Baker City, OR 97814
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