

### Other Points of Interest

**18. Point Defiance.** The confluence of the Middle and South Yuba Rivers (one mile downstream) marks the upper end of Englebright Reservoir. The dam at its lower end was built to contain the flow of tailings from hydraulic mines upstream to prevent flooding farms in the Marysville valley below. David Wood is believed to have had a home at Point Defiance in the early 1850s.

**19. Kneebone Beach.** In 1927 Alfred Kneebone opened a resort and built diving boards, a dance pavilion, a dining hall and cabins adjacent to this popular "swimming hole." For \$1, families could spend the day and on weekends enjoy music, food and dancing. A cave was dug into the hillside and stocked with ice to keep "pop" and ice cream cold for sale to the swimmers.

**R. Restrooms**

For more information visit the websites below.

California State Parks  
parks.ca.gov



South Yuba River Park Association  
southyubariverstatepark.org



### A Self-Guided Trail

In the 1850s and 1860s, Bridgeport was a transportation center for supplies moving from the San Francisco bay area to the California gold fields and the Nevada silver fields. Up to 100 wagons per day used the Virginia Turnpike and crossed the covered bridge during this period.

South Yuba River State Park  
Tel: (530) 432-2546  
17660 Pleasant Valley Road  
Penn Valley, CA 95946

## Points of Interest

**1. Visitor Center.** This building was completed in 1956 as a ranch home by Mr. and Mrs. E. Harrison, the ranch owners at the time. It was remodeled in 1996 as the Visitor Center for the State Park.

**2. & 3. Site of Cole and Kneebone Houses.** The grassy lawn with central large rock is the site of the 1862 home of Charles and Mary Ann Thompson Cole. Following its destruction by fire in 1919, Alfred and Lucy Kneebone built a new house on the site. Note the acorn grinding hole in the adjacent rock, made and used by the Nisenan people who populated this area for many years prior to the Gold Rush.



**4. Stone Walls.** The stone walls on either side of the road were built by early residents aided by Chinese laborers to contain livestock and constrain wagon teams to the toll road leading to Wood's bridge.

**5. Cemetery.** The Kneebone cemetery is owned and maintained by descendants of the family, although it lies within Park boundaries. Members of the Thompson, Cole, and Kneebone families are buried here.

**6. Kentucky Creek.** Gold was still being taken by placer mining in profitable amounts at the mouth of the creek as late as 1951.

**7. Bridge Ruins.** These are the abutments of the original Virginia Turnpike crossing of Kentucky Creek.

**8. Gas Station and Store.** Built by Alfred Kneebone in 1927 as part of the services of his swimming resort. Gas, at 12 cents per gallon, and fresh fruits and vegetables from his farm were available.



**9. Meat Dressing Room & Ice Box.** Meat and vegetables were stored in the box built into the earth and cooled with ice. Later a refrigeration system was installed.

**10. Greenhouse Foundation.** A glass greenhouse was built here in 1956 by the then owners of the ranch, Mr. and Mrs. Harrison, to grow orchids.

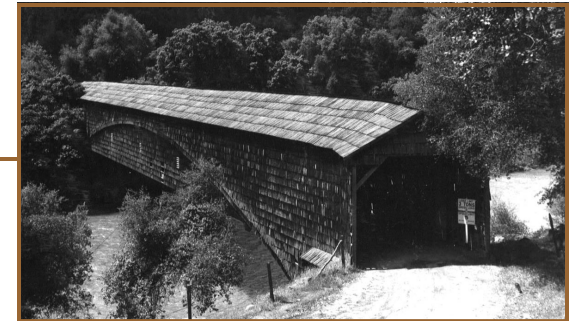
**11. Barn.** See brochure available at entrance to Viewing Corridor for guided tour and history.

**12. Watering Trough.** This trough was built by Alfred Kneebone for his horses and those of passing travelers. Signs painted on

the side and end, advertised his resort (see #19).

**13. Cow Barn and House Foundations.** The barn housed milk cows and, later, smaller livestock. A small house was a granary in earlier days and later a guest house.

**15. Bridge.** This National & State registered Historic Landmark bridge was built in 1862 by David I. Wood and the Virginia Turnpike Co. It was a vital link in the transportation of supplies from Marysville to the silver and gold mines at Virginia City, Nevada. The length of the bridge from opening to opening today is 229 ft, making it the longest single-span covered bridge in the U.S. The construction method combines the Howe Truss with the Burr Arch. The 27,000 shakes (each 5 to 6 inches wide by 36 inches long) are made from sugar pine, and the trusses, arches and flooring are from Douglas fir.



**16. Family Beach.** This is a popular sand beach and shallow-water swimming hole with wheel chair access.

**17. Shaker.** This device was used by placer miners to separate large amounts of big rocks from smaller gold-bearing rocks.