

Shasta State Historic Park Southside Ruins
Audio Tour, Interpretive Story
FINAL MASTER SCRIPT August 17, 2010

FILE: Shasta's Decline

Woman's Voice...Shasta's Decline (1860-1878). So, now you know why the buildings were built. But why were they abandoned? A combination of circumstances late in the nineteenth century ended Shasta's reign as the "Queen City of the Northern Mines".

By the late eighteen sixties, gold in the nearby Northern Mines began to run out. The costs involved with recovering the gold became more than people could make. Miners moved elsewhere. The demand for supplies dwindled.

Transportation was also changing. As new roads were constructed, many bypassed Shasta completely.

In eighteen seventy-two, the railroad built its terminus in Redding instead of Shasta. Railroad baron and one-time governor of California, Leland Stanford, described Shasta as,

Man's Voice..."Three miles too far west with four hundred feet too much altitude."

Woman's Voice...When the railroad failed to come to Shasta, some merchants immediately relocated to Redding. Others, however, chose to stay in Shasta.

Then, in eighteen seventy- eight, another fire swept through town. The iron shuttered, brick buildings along Main Street survived, but many other buildings, including people's homes, did not. This time, instead of rebuilding, most people

chose to relocate to Redding. Ten years later, in eighteen eighty-eight, the County Seat moved from Shasta to Redding. Soon after, Shasta was all but abandoned.

By the dawn of the twentieth century, virtually all businesses on Main Street were empty. Bricks and roofing were removed and re-used in other towns, including Redding. Windows were broken. Awnings collapsed. The wooden walkway in front of the buildings had long since fallen into such disrepair that the people who remained found it easier to walk down the street.

Man's Voice...To hear a description of the western-most four buildings, please go to the file **Lots 16-20**

Woman's Voice...To hear the story of how Shasta was preserved, please go to the file **Creating a State Park**