

State Historical Resources Commission

RESOLUTION NO. 2007-02

RESOLUTION OF COMMENDATION Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park

WHEREAS, though he himself never struck it rich, James Marshall is forever linked to the story of the California gold rush as the man who set the world heading westward following his discovery of gold at the site on the American River that is the focal point of Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park and which became, in May 1890, California's first State Historic Monument; and

WHEREAS, Marshall arrived at John Sutter's Sacramento River settlement in July 1845, was quickly hired as carpenter and ironworker and soon owned livestock and several hundred acres of land, but lost both after joining the abortive Bear Flag Revolt under Captain John C. Fremont; and

WHEREAS, Marshall then formed a partnership with Sutter to build a sawmill along the American River that he would operate in exchange for a portion of the lumber, but on January 24, 1848, checking the mill's tailrace, he found flakes of pure gold; and

WHEREAS, soon, despite Marshall and Sutter's wish to keep the discovery secret, news leaked out and gold fever brought men flooding in from all parts of the United States, the Sandwich Islands, Mexico, Peru, Chile and farther afield, bringing 80,000 immigrants into California in 1849 alone; therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the State Historical Resources Commission commends Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park for making the gold discovery site, one of the most significant historic sites in the nation, available for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of the people of California, for completing Phase 1 of the restoration of the Museum/Visitor Center and, with Preserve America and deferred maintenance funds, for beginning the process of turning the Williams House into a house museum; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution be recorded in the minutes of the State Historical Resources Commission and a suitable copy presented to Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park.

February 2, 2007

STATE HISTORICAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

Donn Grenda, Ph.D.
Chairperson

Milford Wayne Donaldson, FAIA
Executive Secretary

