

**POINT OF HISTORICAL INTEREST**

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS BLOCK

Reg. No. \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_  
By \_\_\_\_\_

County Nevada Name Red Dog (Town Site)

Location Little York Twp. 8 miles from Nevada City

Historical Significance:  
Red Dog (1851-1871) with a population of 2,000 at its peak, was the third town of importance in Nevada County, surviving longer than most of the earliest gold towns.  
It had one of the first waterworks in Nevada County. Tourists from both the United States and foreign countries are attracted by the oddity of its name, the accessibility of its location, the nearby massive hydraulic excavations and the unusual, partially restored Red Dog cemetery.  
Information compiled by Lyle White, Nevada City historian  
Sketch of Red Dog (Brooklyn) Thompson-West pp 70-71

THIS POINT OF HISTORICAL INTEREST IS NOT A STATE REGISTERED HISTORICAL LANDMARK.

RECOMMENDED: [Signature]  
Signature—Chairman, County Board of Supervisors

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature—Chairman, Historical Landmarks Advisory Committee

Date 2-11-75

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**POINT OF HISTORICAL INTEREST**

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS BLOCK

Reg. No. \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_  
By \_\_\_\_\_

County Nevada Name Site of You Bet

Location Little York Twp. approx. 12 miles from Nevada City

Historical Significance:  
This mining camp established between 1858-1860 consisted of 40 or 50 buildings by 1864 with the school house built mid way between You Bet and Red Dog. Thirteen cement mills operated within a 5 miles radius of town.  
Destroyed by fire in April 1869 and partially rebuilt. Many houses and the Odd Fellows Hall from Red Dog were moved to You Bet. The town again burned in Sept. 1873. In 1880 the town consisted of a hotel, 7 business buildings, 16 dwellings and the Odd Fellows Hall. The school house built between You Bet and Red Dog was torn down in 1875 and replaced with one in town which was still standing in 1880.  
Ref. Thompson-West p 71

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RECOMMENDED: [Signature]  
Signature—Chairman, County Board of Supervisors

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature—Chairman, Historical Landmarks Advisory Committee

Date 3-11-75

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## STATE HISTORICAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

POST OFFICE BOX 2390

SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95811



June 2, 1975

Mrs. Sally Lewis  
529 East Broad Street  
Nevada City, California 95959

Dear Mrs. Lewis:

The State Historical Resources Commission, meeting in regular session on May 1, 1975 in Santa Rosa, approved your application for the registration of the following Points of Historical Interest in your county:

Nev-025	Red Dog (Townsite)
Nev-026	Site of You Bet
Nev-027	Foote's Crossing
Nev-028	Caroline Hansen House

Thank you very much for your continued interest in our program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James M. Doyle".

James M. Doyle  
Assistant Executive Secretary

Enclosure

A-5a/14

## RED DOG & YOU BET

Red Dog, located about 9 miles SouthEast of Nevada City, founded in 1850, was, for a few years one of the most famous Gold Rush towns, and the name is still world-famous. The name is credited to Charlie Wilson, one of 3 discoverers, who had worked in a lead-zinc mine in a Red Dog Hill in Illinois. An attempt was made to change the name of the town to Brooklyn, but it didn't stick. The Red Dog mines, although rich, were not extensive, and by 1870 the town was abandoned. The population at its peak was rated at 500 within the actual townsite, with perhaps another 2000 within a half-mile circle about the town. The fame of its name was caused, besides the oddity of the name, by the writings of both Mark Twain and Bret Harte. Today, about all that is left of Red Dog is its rather unique cemetery, containing several hundred burials, mostly unmarked, and the lower half of the 2-story Odd Fellows Hall which was moved about 1915 to Peardale, about 5 miles from Grass Valley on the Colfax Road, where it served until recently as the Peardale Community Farm Center.

### YOU BET

The small mining camp of You Bet was named after Lazerus Beard, a saloon keeper whose favorite expression "You Bet", was also his nickname. You Bet was formed about 1857 when another mining camp nearby, dismantled its buildings and moved them to a new location surrounding "Old You Bet's Saloon."

Wallowpa (presumed to be a corruption of the Spanish, Guadalupe) is credited with the distinction of being the first surveyed townsite (1852) in Nevada County. Both Grass Valley and Nevada City were not surveyed until 1869. By 1857, when it appeared that the townsite of Wallowpa would be washed away by the hydraulic miners, both merchants and residents began moving their buildings about a half mile to a new location surrounding You Bet's Place at the junction of the Little York Road with the Red Dog to Grass Valley Road. The Browns Hill Mines, from which You Bet derived its income, were more extensive than the Red Dog Mines, so much so that You Bet managed to survive, on a dwindling scale, until about 1900.

### OTHER CAMPS IN LITTLE YORK TOWNSHIP

While Red Dog was the principle town in size and fame, in SouthEastern Nevada County, there were several villages besides You Bet, and numerous briefly existing "Camps". To name just a few: Little York, Lowell Hill, Liberty Hill, Quaker Hill, and Remington Hill were villages with Post Offices, besides Red Dog and You Bet. Smaller "Camps" were: Independence Hill, Bunker Hill, Hunts Hill, also known as Gouge Eye, Sailor Flat, Buckeye Hill, Hog Ravine, Scotch Flat, (later called Scotts Flat), Mt. Oro, Cascade, Red Diamond, Sky High, Spiritville, Shellback, Chalk Bluff, Melbourne Hill, Vosses, Bald Eagle, and Excelsior.

From Nevada County Nugget, July 19, 1961 article by Bob Wyckoff

In October <sup>13</sup> 1855 Brooklyn Lodge #46, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, was organized in the booming mining town of Red Dog, Calif.

The optimistic organizers of the chapter had a movement afoot to change the name of the town to Brooklyn, hence the naming of the chapter.

However, in November of the same year they were dealt a great blow. The U.S. Government established a post office with the official designation--Red Dog, California. So ended Brooklyn as a place name in Calif.

1857 saw the ranks and treasury of the lodge swell to a point that the loft over the blacksmiths shop was no longer a fitting place to conduct meetings. It was decided a hall would be built suitable for the important functions of the order.

An imposing two story edifice complete with wall-to-wall carpeting was built. Red Dog boasted the newest and most modern lodge hall in the Northern Mines.

What to do with the downstairs? The prudent and civic minded brothers decided to rent the lower part to the school district. Red Dog now had both the newest lodge hall and school building to be found in the Northern Mines.

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The great fire of 1863 almost wiped out Red Dog. The I.O.O.F. hall survived thanks to the foresight of the planners who dictated the lodge be built somewhat removed from the main part of town.

By 1870 mining activity in Red Dog had come to a stand-still and lodge brothers voted to move the hall to the still active nearby town of You Bet. In the doing the upper floor was removed and the lodge became a single story building.

Once again fire struck but once again foresight paid off. The hall had been erected on the outskirts and was spared.

With the passing of strict mining laws hydraulicking was doomed, and You Bet slid into oblivion.

Most of the members of the once large and powerful Brooklyn Lodge now resided in Nevada City and consolidation with Oustomah Lodge #16 was effected 1904.

Now, any self-respecting 47 year old building should figure it had served its occupants well and allow itself to be torn down--not the proud old Brooklyn hall.

In 1915 it was again moved, this time to its present place of business. It stands today as the Peardale Community Farm Center.

From notes by Lyle White

The first public school in Red Dog was organized in or previous to 1857. It was held in the lower floor of the Oddfellows building as soon as the building was dedicated October 13, 1857 and was held there for 8 years until the two towns (You Bet and Red Dog) built a new joint schoolhouse called Chalk Bluff School.

Mark Twain lectured in Red Dog on his first lecture tour which made him famous. Event is recorded in the Nevada Daily Gazette of October 24, 1866. The hall is not mentioned but since all of Red Dog business section burned only two months previous, and the Red Dog theatre was not rebuilt the hall was the only logical place for the gathering.