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# Yuba City At A Glance

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## History

The most compelling landmark of Sutter County, and featured on Yuba City's logo, is the Sutter Buttes.



Legend has it that Pehaipe, recorder of events, and Turtle, spirit of the deep, were cast in the middle of blackness on the Pacific Ocean. Recognizing their bleak situation, they pleaded in earnest to the World Maker to create a world. The Being requested, and received, a ball of mud retrieved from the bottom of the sea. A strange power surged from them into the ball. As they clapped and sang, they could see the ball grow bigger and bigger. It finally exploded and created the world. The center of this world was the "Spirit Mountain", or as we call it, the Sutter Buttes. This miniature mountain range, which thrusts upwards about 2,100 feet, was home to Maidu Indians known as the Konkow. The range is a perfect rosette circle, about 10 miles in diameter and encompasses about 80,000 acres. Even today, people come from far and wide to celebrate the presence of this beautiful place.



*John A. Sutter*

In 1834, an adventurer named John Augustus Sutter left Switzerland, leaving everything behind, and set sail for America. Attracted by tantalizing reports about the West, he made his way to California. Upon arrival, Sutter became a Mexican citizen and petitioned for, and was granted, land by the Mexican Government that covered territory now comprising the counties of Sacramento, Placer, Nevada, Sutter and the flatlands of Yuba County. Construction of Sutter's fort at New Helvetia began in 1841.

Settlement quickly followed with Sutter officiating as the region's first developer. The fertile river valley had an abundance of game birds, fish, and wood for fuel and was viewed as paradise by the new settlers. Sutter provided jobs and services to virtually all of Northern California. He leased, and later sold, land east of the Feather River, where it joined the Yuba River, to Theodor Cordua. Cordua's ranch and trading post, known as New Mecklenberg, eventually became Marysville.



*John Bidwell*

West across the Feather River, John Bidwell managed Sutter's New Helvetia property, Hock Farm, the State's first organized agricultural endeavor. This land, currently occupied by Sierra Gold Nurseries on Garden Highway, was once home to the largest of Sutter County's Indian villages, the Hocks.

The heyday of Sutter's prosperity ended the day when John Marshall, working at Sutter's sawmill in Coloma, discovered gold in its millrace in 1848.



*S. Brannan*

Samuel Brannan, a merchant and newspaper editor, quickly spread the word that there was gold in California. In July 27, 1849, Sam Brannan, Shasta County rancher Pierson B. Reading and Henry Cheever purchased land from a portion of Sutter's property known as Rancho Nuevo Helvetia. The trio hoped to lay out a town (that developed into the town of Yuba City) that would become the distribution center for supplies going to the gold mines in the nearby Sierra Nevada mountains.

By September 16, 1849, Reading and surveyor, Joseph Ruth, laid out the city in blocks and squares, leveling Indian burial mounds on the site. The name of that Indian Rancheria was "Yuboom" (pronounced Yubum). The name appearing on the earliest map was "Yubu" and later changed to Yuba. (As in most historical situations, there is some discrepancy in the exact origin. Some claim that the name Yuba is a variant of the Spanish word "Uba or Uva" meaning grapes that were found growing along the banks of the river.

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When the residents of the rival community across the Feather River formed a city in 1850, they dropped the name Yubaville in deference to the existence of Yuba City, and instead named their town Marysville.



There was always a great rivalry between Marysville and Yuba City. In 1851, the enterprising men of Marysville persuaded the steamer "Lawrence" to make Marysville the terminus of the route. Yuba City's promoters felt its future was secure because it sat on land higher than Marysville, and, considering its location at the confluence of the Feather and Yuba Rivers, would be safer in time of high water.

Unfortunately, after a series of floods had hit Yuba City and not Marysville, traders and commerce chose Marysville as their center of trade. Marysville, located near the gold bearing foothills, soon became known as the "Queen City of the North." Many of Yuba City's residents and merchants relocated to Marysville, which they believed was destined to become the City of the future. One of those who had chosen to move was John R. Ridge, the rightful chief of the Cherokees, an accomplished writer and poet, and editor of the Marysville Herald. He wrote a poem that appeared in the Herald. The first and last stanza are printed below to illustrate the devastating effect on the young City and the prophetic vision of its future:

**Yuba City Dedicate**  
**By Yellow Bird**  
*The Yuba City silent stands*  
*Where Providence has placed her,*  
*The glory passed to other hands,*  
*That should have by right graced her.*  
*But Yuba City, time will cast*  
*The changes in her favor;*  
*Then in redemption of the past,*  
*Thou'lt stand, whilst others waver.*

The complete poem can be found on the granite monument behind City Hall, adjacent to Butte House Road.

By 1852, Yuba City had one hotel, a grocery store, a blacksmith, a post office, a Justice of the Peace, 12 saloons, approximately 20 dwelling homes and a population of about 150.

In 1907, the town of Yuba City experienced a large fire that destroyed most of its business district in the area of Bridge and Second Streets. Community forces organized to incorporate Yuba City as a municipal corporation for the purpose of improving police and fire services, sewage disposal and sanitation, and animal control.

In January 1908, Yuba City was incorporated as a City. The first municipal service to be initiated was a sanitation program. On March 10, 1908, the City Council appointed a scavenger by the name of Johnston to pick up garbage. For his services including the use of his horse and cart, he received \$3.50 per day. The police department consisted of the elected Marshall and one night watchman.

On May 17, 1909 the city purchased two nozzles, five hundred feet of hose and two hose carts; and later somebody donated a barn to be used as a firehouse and thus a fire department, manned by volunteers, was created.

In February 1910, a program was initiated to start a municipal water district. In 1922, the sanitation department worked to create a sewer system. This was also the year when the first zoning ordinance was passed to protect the growing residential section.

The end of World War II brought the first major surge of population to the Yuba City area. Orchards were transformed into new residential subdivisions and Yuba City began to grow west and south from its original center. By the late 1950's, a greater emphasis was placed on the region with Beale Air Force Base personnel contributing to the economy.

As County Seat of Sutter County since June of 1856, Yuba City has been the center of agriculture and commercial activities in the county. The rest, as they say, is "history."

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## Location

Yuba City is located approximately 40 miles north of the State Capital, Sacramento. Two of the State's major economic powerhouses (the San Francisco Bay Area, and Silicon Valley) are within a 2 to 3 hour drive from the City.



Yuba City has developed through the years as a pleasant, residential community, which is the trading, and service center for the surrounding agricultural area. Currently the population within the city is 44,291.

The area enjoys many natural and physical assets including attractive climate, level terrain, good highway and rail transportation, adequate water, soil and open land for future growth. In addition, the area offers an abundance of recreational, hunting and fishing areas for your enjoyment.

## Climate

The area climate is typically one of warm, dry summers and moderately cold winters. Summer high temperatures average from the 90's to low 100's, and winter lows average in the high 20's. Most of the annual rainfall occurs from late fall through the spring.

## City Government

The City of Yuba City is a full-service General Law City located in the northern part of the Sacramento Valley. Yuba City operates under the Council-Administrator form of government, with each of the five Council members elected at-large and serving four-year, staggered terms.

From among its members, the Council selects the City's Mayor and Vice Mayor every year. The City Council appoints a full-time City Administrator whose job it is to carry out the Council's policy directives and coordinate, control and direct City operations, functions and projects.

In making its policy determinations, the Council works with advisory committees made up of citizens appointed by the Council, and receives other citizen input from the public at its regular and special meetings. The Council's business meetings are scheduled for the first and third Tuesday of each month in the Council Chambers at City Hall. Other special or study session meetings are scheduled as needed and are open to the public. The public is always invited and encouraged to attend.

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## General law city

Incorporated January 23, 1908

## Government

Council - Administrator

## Area

10.76 square miles –1/02

Source: Yuba City Engineering Dept.

## Gross Valuation

\$1,906,926,741 Secured

\$250,054,894 Unsecured

Sutter County Auditor 10/13/01

## Municipal Utility Services

### Water

Surface Water Customers:

1 treatment plant

9.25 million gallons of storage in 7 tanks

20 million gallon daily capacity

Ground Water Customers:

15 Wells

3 treatment plants

1 million gallons of storage in 2 tanks

4 million gallon daily capacity

### Wastewater

7 million gallon capacity

6.5 million gallons daily average flow

### Police Protection

1 station

72 regular employees

19 reserve officers

### Fire Protection

5 stations

46.5 regular employees

15 reserve firefighters

6 student firefighters

Incorporated City Area Rating: Insurance

Services Office Class 3

## Parks & Recreation Facilities

100 Acres (Approx.)

17 City Parks; 2 School/Parks

Senior Citizens Center

4 Lighted tennis courts

1Swim/wading pool

4 Lighted softball fields

1 Skate Park

1 Bike trail along Feather River

## Population

1/1/02 47,144

Source: California State Dept. of Finance

Male 48%

Female 52%

Source: 1990 Census

## Population by age

Under age 5 9.8%

5-17 19.2%

18-64 59.2%

65 plus 11.7%

Source: 1990 Census

## Income

Median Household \$39,300

Source: US Dept. of Housing & Urban Devt. 1/02

## Number of New Single Family Home Permits

### Issued

1990 408

1991 191

1992 309

1993 319

1994 137

1995 182

1996 110

1997 79

1998 88

1999 43

2000 135

2001 358

Source: Yuba City Building Division

## Number of rental units

### At selected monthly rents

\$100 - \$249 1,059

\$250 - \$499 4,523

\$500 - \$749 428

\$750 - \$999 40

\$1,000 plus 18

Source: 1990 Census

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# Yuba City At A Glance

## Housing availability

### No. Of owner-occupied dwellings

#### By property value

0 - \$49,000	356
\$50,000 - \$99,999	1,915
\$100,000 - \$149,999	960
\$150,000 - \$199,999	240
\$200,000 plus	79

Source: 1990 Census

## Home sales

### **1994:**

Total closings	463
Average sales price	\$126,278
# Of days on market	133

### **1995:**

Total closings	416
Average sales price	\$120,595
# Of days on market	137

### **1996:**

Total closings	416
Average sales price	\$117,637
# Of days on market	129

### **1997:**

Total closings	380
Average sales price	\$111,929
Median home price	\$107,950
# Of days on market	124

### **1998:**

Total closings	531
Average sales price	\$121,116
Median home price	\$112,000
# Of days on market	112

### **1999:**

Total closings	652
Average sales price	\$128,816
Median home price	\$117,000
# Of days on market	91

### **2000:**

Total closings	1,276
Average sales price	\$126,412
Median home price	\$115,000
# Of days on market	88

### **2001:**

Total closings	794
Average sales price	\$150,042
# Of days on market	112

### **2002: (1<sup>st</sup> Quarter)**

Total closings	172
Average sales price	\$157,162
# Of days on market	116

Sutter-Yuba Association of realtors

