

A black and white photograph of a wooden gallows structure in a wooded area. The gallows consists of a tall wooden frame with a horizontal beam at the top, supported by a central vertical post and two side posts. A wooden chair is suspended from the top beam. A wooden staircase leads up to the platform. To the left of the gallows is a stone wall with a plaque. The background is filled with trees and foliage.

SIERRA COUNTY SHERIFF'S GALLOW'S  
IN NOVEMBER 1848, 23 YEAR-OLD JAMES SMITH, WHO  
WAS HANGED FROM THIS GALLOW'S, WAS THE ASSAULTED  
OWNER OF WEBER LANE (SHERMAN ROAD) IN CALIFORNIA.  
HIS EXECUTION, CONDUCTED BY SHERIFF JAMES  
STEWART, APPROPRIATED 100 FEET WEST OF THE SITE.  
THE LAST LEGAL EXECUTION IN SIERRA COUNTY AND  
THE ONLY TIME THIS GALLOW WAS USED (CRIMINALS IN  
STATE) WAS IN 1848. LOCAL RESIDENTS IN CALIFORNIA  
AND FURTHER CHANGES IN THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT  
WAS A RESULT OF LOCAL EXECUTIONS WITHIN THE STATE.  
CALIFORNIA REGISTERED HISTORICAL LANDMARK NO. 671  
PLAQUE PLACED BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF PARKS  
AND RECREATION IN COOPERATION WITH THE COUNTY  
OF SIERRA AND BUT LEE ADAMS, PROJECT DIRECTOR  
OCTOBER 12, 1984

SIERRA COUNTY SHERIFFS GALLOWS  
CALIFORNIA REGISTERED HISTORICAL LANDMARK NO. 971  
DATE OF PHOTO: JUNE 20, 1989  
VIEW: SOUTHEAST  
PHOTOGRAPHER: LEE ADAMS, DOWNIEVILLE, CA



SIERRA COUNTY SHERIFF'S GALLOWS

CALIFORNIA REGISTERED HISTORICAL LANDMARK NO. 971

DATE OF PHOTO: JUNE 20, 1989

VIEW: SOUTH EAST

PHOTOGRAPHER: LES ADAMS, DOWNIEVILLE, CA



SIERRA COUNTY SHERIFF'S GALLOWES

CALIFORNIA REGISTERED HISTORICAL LANDMARK NO. 971

DATE OF PHOTO: JUNE 20, 1989

VIEW: EAST

PHOTOGRAPHER: LES ADAMS, DOWNIEVILLE, CA



SIERRA COUNTY SHERIFFS GALLOWS  
ON NOVEMBER 22, 1885, 20 YEAR-OLD JAMES O'NEILL WAS  
HANGED FROM THIS GALLOWS FOR THE AUGUST 7, 1884  
MURDER OF LAKE DAIRYMAN JOHN WOODWARD.  
SHERIFF SAMUEL C.

SIERRA COUNTY SHERIFF'S GALLOWES  
CALIFORNIA REGISTERED HISTORICAL LANDMARK NO. 971  
DATE OF PHOTO: JUNE 20, 1989  
VIEW: SOUTH  
PHOTOGRAPHER: LEE HORN, DOWNVILLE, CA





## SIERRA COUNTY SHERIFF'S GALLOWS

ON NOVEMBER 27, 1885, 20 YEAR-OLD JAMES O'NEILL WAS HANGED FROM THIS GALLOWS FOR THE AUGUST 7, 1884 MURDER OF WEBBER LAKE DAIRYMAN JOHN WOODWARD. THAT EXECUTION, CONDUCTED BY SHERIFF SAMUEL C. STEWART APPROXIMATELY 100 FEET WEST OF THIS SITE, WAS THE LAST LEGAL EXECUTION IN SIERRA COUNTY AND THE ONLY TIME THIS GALLOWS WAS USED. CHANGES IN STATE LAW IN 1891 ENDED LOCAL EXECUTIONS IN CALIFORNIA AND FURTHER CHANGES IN 1941 ENDED HANGING AS A MEANS OF LEGAL EXECUTION WITHIN THE STATE.

CALIFORNIA REGISTERED HISTORICAL LANDMARK NO. 971

PLAQUE PLACED BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION IN COOPERATION WITH THE COUNTY OF SIERRA AND SGT. LEE ADAMS, PROJECT DIRECTOR.

OCTOBER 15, 1988

SIERRA COUNTY SHERIFF'S GALLOWDS

CALIFORNIA REGISTERED HISTORICAL LANDMARK NO. 971

DATE OF PHOTO: JUNE 20, 1989

VIEW: SOUTHEAST

PHOTOGRAPHER: LES ADAMS, DOWNIEVILLE, CA