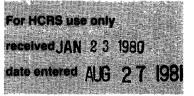
### **United States Department of the Interior Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

## **National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form**



code 031

CA)

congressional district <u>at-large</u>

Calso in Sierra Co.,

See instructions in How to Complete National Register Forms Type all entries—complete applicable sections

### 1. Name

historic 1872 California-Nevada State Boundary Marker

and/or common

#### Location 2.

street & number On California-Nevada border not for publication

\_x\_ vicinity of

city, town

state

#### code 32 Nevada **Classification** 3.

Verdi

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
district	_X_ public	_X_ occupied	agriculture	museum
building(s)	private	unoccupied	commercial	park
structure	both	work in progress	educational	private residence
site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	Accessible	entertainment	religious
_x_ object	in process	_X_ yes: restricted	X_ government	scientific
•	being considered	yes: unrestricted	industrial	transportation
	-	no	military	other:

county Washoe

# 4. Owner of Property

name Stat	e Director	U.S. Bureau of La	nd_Management	1; i d		
street & numb	per Room 3008	Federal Building	, 300 Booth Str	eet		
city, town	Reno		_ vicinity of	state	• Nevada	
5. Loc	cation of	of Legal De	scription	· · · ·		
courthouse, re	egistry of deeds	, <b>etc.</b> Washoe Count	y Courthouse			
street & numb	ber					
city, town	Reno			state	Nevada	
6. Re	presen	tation in E	xisting Su	irveys		
Nevada title Inven	Historic En itory	gineering Site	has this propert	y been determined	elegible? yes	no
date <sub>8-27-79</sub>	)			federal _Xs	tate county	local
depository for	r survey records	History of Engi	neering Program	, Texas Tech U	niversity	
citv. town	Lubbock			state	e Texas	

## 7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
excellent good fair	<pre> deteriorated ruins unexposed</pre>	unaltered	_X original site moved date

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The 1872 California-Nevada Boundary Marker is a hollow, cast iron pylon 8 feet tall. Six feet of the marker appears above ground. The marker is encased in a cage made of chain-link storm fence. The word CALIFORNIA, cast in raised letters, in on the west face of the marker and NEVADA is on the east face. The south face contains 1872, LONGI-TUDE 120° WEST OF GREENWICH, A. W. VON SCHMIDT, U.S.; while the north face presents 170 MILES 47 CHAINS TO OREGON. The only damage to the marker is a broken out place about a foot tall and 8 inches wide near the very bottom of the west face. Other than this one fracture, the marker is remarkably well preserved.

# 8. Significance

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Specific dates 1872
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## Builder/Architect Allexey W. Von Schmidt

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The 1872 California-Nevada Boundary Marker is an important element in the history of both California and Nevada. It is a vestige of one of the Far West's largest surveying efforts, an effort which still affects the populace of both states today.

When California wrote a constitution in 1849, it defined its northern border as the 42nd parallel; its southern border as the border between the U.S. and Mexico, established in the Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo of 1848; and its eastern border as commencing at the intersection of the 120th degree of longitude and the 42nd degree of latitude then running south along this line until it strikes the 39th degree of north latitude then south-easterly in a straight line to the point where the 35th degree of north latitude crosses the Colorado River, then south down the center of the Rio Colorado to Mexico. Thus, California's eastern (and Nevada's western) boundary was created on paper. The real problem developed in laying this boundary out on the ground. Between 1855 and 1900, six different surveys of California's eastern boundary were made. None of them agreed as to the location of the boundary or the 120th degree of longitude. Various survevs were conducted in 1855, 1863, 1872, 1889 and 1893. The 1872 Von Schmidt survey is the only one that was clearly marked along its entire length with stone, rock, wood and iron markers. The 1872 survey also was accepted longer than any other survey before its inaccuracy became widely known. It was not until 1893 that the Von Schmidt line was found to be 1,600 to 1,800 feet too far west. However, even after 1893, the Von Schmidt line remained the accepted boundary, and is still used more today than the more accurate 1893 version. Oddly enough, both the 1872 and 1893 lines have been recognized and are used by both California and Nevada.

The Von Schmidt marker near Verdi has two-fold importance: 1. It became Von Schmidt's initial location point of the 120th meridian. Before any survey could occur the 120th degree of longitude had to be located as accurately as possible. Von Schmidt located and marked the 120th meridian with this iron marker in 1872. 2. It is a physical remnant of one of the most important surveys conducted in the Far West. Therefore, the fact that this simple cast iron marker was one of the major reference points in this historically important survey and the fact that it has remained intact for over a century makes it an historical site of regional significance.

9. Major Bibli	ographical	reterences	
Uzes, Francois D. Ch			ing in California.
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	ting Office, 1901.	etween california a	nd Nevada. Washington,D.C.
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Quadrangle name <u>Verdi, Nev</u> UMT References	vada	Manue NOI AFUI	
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		FLI	
GLII LII LIII			
Verbal boundary description	n and justification		
See phone report of	8/27/81 : Three it	. on all sides of the	marker,
List all states and counties	for properties overlapp	ing state or county bou	Indaries
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state	code	county	code
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