Bodie State Historic Park hosted a double crew of HistoriCorps volunteers this year! Working tandem alongside the Bodie-Benton Railroad Office preservation crew, a second crew of volunteers worked on the town’s Hoist House.

Bodie is a ghost town preserved in a state of “arrested decay” just outside of Yosemite National Park. This project offered incredible opportunities for photographers and history buffs alike.

**PROJECT PARTNERS:** Bodie Foundation and California State Parks System

**PROJECT SITE DESCRIPTION AND HISTORY:**
From [www.parks.ca.gov](http://www.parks.ca.gov): “Bodie State Historic Park is a genuine California gold-mining ghost town. Visitors can walk down the deserted streets of a town that once had a population of nearly 10,000 people. The town is named for Waterman S. Body (William Bodey), who had discovered small amounts of gold in hills north of Mono Lake. In 1875, a mine cave-in revealed pay dirt, which led to purchase of the mine by the Standard Company in 1877. People flocked to Bodie and transformed it from a town of a few dozen to a boomtown.”
Interiors remain as they were left and stocked with goods. Designated as a National Historic Site and a State Historic Park in 1962, the remains of Bodie are being preserved in a state of ‘arrested decay.’ Today this once thriving mining camp is visited by tourists, howling winds and an occasional ghost.” Bodie has been named by California legislature as the official state gold rush town. You can read a detailed brochure about the town’s (occasionally salacious) history here. You can also find beautiful historic photographs of Bodie on the Library of Congress’ website.


“The Standard Mine was one of the oldest, continuously worked mines in the Bodie mining district. When use of the early incline shaft at the Old Standard site was no longer feasible, the Standard Mining Company excavated the vertical shaft. By 1881 the steam hoisting works at the New Standard was the largest in the Bodie district. The New Standard headframe and the mine shaft are the only surviving buildings and structures from the original 1878-1915 occupation. Physical features dating to the same time period include two machine pads and a boiler. A derrick and sump also found at the site may date to development of the mine between 1915 and 1929.”

**SCOPE OF WORK:** Volunteers worked with field staff to learn and improve their skills at the following tasks:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Task</th>
<th>Approximate Percentage of Scope*</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Repair and replace deteriorated roof decking and timbers as needed</td>
<td>40%</td>
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<td>2. Re-attach, stabilize, and reroof collapsed addition (the addition was a</td>
<td>30%</td>
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4. Stabilize existing timbers throughout the hoist house 5%

WHERE: Bodie State Historical Park is located only an hour from Yosemite National Park!
GPS Coordinates: 38.213284, -119.0168604
Here is a Google map of Bodie State Historical Park.

“Yosemite Valley, to me, is always a sunrise, a glitter of green and golden wonder in a vast edifice of stone and space.”
— Ansel Adams

The hoist house is located on the slope of Bodie Bluff, some distance (“further than shouting distance”) from the railroad office. The photo to the right is taken from the hoist house, looking down on the railroad office.

Half Dome, standing watch over Yosemite National Park

View of the Railroad Office from the Hoist House.