

Helendale, California

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Helendale is an [unincorporated community](#) located in [San Bernardino County, California](#), on historic [Route 66](#) west of the [Mojave Freeway](#), between [Barstow](#) and [Victorville](#), in the [Victor Valley](#). It includes the Helendale resort community of Silver Lakes.

History

Several [Native American tribes](#) lived in the area, namely the [Mojave](#) and [Serrano](#). It is believed that the first [White](#) man to travel through was the [Franciscan](#) priest [Francisco Garcés](#) in 1776. He was exploring a route to the [missions](#) on the [Coast](#) following the [Mojave River](#).

The original name for Helendale was **Point of Rocks**. There were several early trails and roadways through this area of the [Mojave Desert](#), including the Mojave Trail, which was used by the Indians and Father Garcés, the Spanish Trail, the [Santa Fe Trail](#), the Mormon Trail, et cetera.

After Father Garcés, [Jedediah Smith](#) traveled through the Point of Rocks area in 1826 on a [fur trapping](#) expedition. In 1844, [John C. Fremont](#) and his guide, [Kit Carson](#), traveled through heading east via the [Cajon Pass](#). During the [Mexican-American War](#), in late 1846 or early 1847, the [Mormon battalion](#) camped at Point of Rocks on their way to [Los Angeles](#). They were released from the [military](#) shortly afterward and part of the battalion returned to [Salt Lake City](#) through Point of Rocks.

The first Mormon [wagon train](#) traveled through in about 1851. In 1857, [Edward Fitzgerald Beale](#) and his camel driver, [Hi Jolly](#), brought a famous caravan through on the way to [Wilmington](#) for the [Camel Corps](#). After a few horse ridden mail conveyance companies during the 1850s went out of business, the short-lived [Pony Express](#) began its service in the early 1860s and a stone station was built by the river at Point of Rocks. The [stagecoach](#) station at Point of Rocks was located west of where the railroad tracks were later put down. In about 1863, the station was burned by [Paiute](#) Indians of the [Shoshone](#) branch.

The [Santa Fe Railroad](#) arrived in the 1880s and built a Point of Rocks station, which provided a watering stop for the [steam engine locomotives](#) then moving [trains](#) across the [High Desert](#). On [December 15, 1897](#), the name was changed to **Helen** in

honor of Helen A. Wells (born [1885](#)), daughter of railroad executive Arthur G. Wells ([1861-1932](#)). On [September 22, 1918](#), the name was changed to Helendale.

Route 66, or National Trails Highway, was paved and officially opened in the Helendale area in [1926](#). Helendale has a historical marker commemorating the old road that is located 100 yards south of the intersection of Route 66 and Vista Road.

In [1969](#), construction began on two manmade lakes, North Lake and South Lake, covering approximately 277 acres, and a resort community called Silver Lakes was built at Helendale that opened in the early [1970s](#).

Geography

Helendale is located at latitude 34.743°N and longitude -117.324°W.

Elevation: 2,430 feet above sea level.

Demographic estimates

The United States does not define a [census-designated place](#) called Helendale, but it does define a [Zip Code Tabulation Area](#) (ZCTA), 92342. Because Helendale is contained within this [Zip Code Tabulation Area](#), it is possible to obtain Census data from the [United States 2000 Census](#) for the area even though data for "Helendale" is unavailable. Note however, that the community is only a part of the entire 92342 [ZIP code](#).

As of the [2000 census](#), there were 4,936 people and 4,909 households in the ZCTA of 92342. The population was made up of 50.5% males and 49.5% females. The median age was 45.7.

Places of interest

Cottonwood Park

[Exotic World Burlesque Museum](#)

Silver Lakes Country Club

South Lake Park

Desert Fox airsoft field