

# Independence

Independence has served as the seat of government for Inyo County since the county's creation in 1866. The majestic courthouse in the center of town is actually the fourth courthouse. The first was leveled in the 1872 earthquake, the second went up in a devastating fire, the third was deemed too small and replaced with the current building in the early 1920s.

Even after the arrival of the City of Los Angeles, the Independence area still maintained some smaller family ranches. Nearby Manzanar supported a fairly large apple growing operation in the teens and twenties before its conversion to an internment camp.



The City of Los Angeles maintained its headquarters in Independence for its entire aqueduct operation in Inyo and Mono Counties up until the 1980s.

The town has a number of historic structures from the County's early days. It serves as the gateway for hikers entering the Sierra Nevada mountains through the Onion Valley trailhead.

Though small in population, the town is huge in community spirit, hosting a number of civic events throughout the year.