



**FRIENDS CHURCH  
7600 OLD AUBURN ROAD**

In 1914, Walter and Gertrude Leonard and their eight children emigrated to Citrus Heights from Oklahoma. A Quaker, Leonard conceived the idea of establishing a Quaker community center in Citrus Heights. He set out to attract other Quaker families to the community. Initially, he attracted four other families, which with

Leonard's made up the original congregation. They began meeting with other area residents at the Sylvan School. In 1917, Mr. Leonard formally established the Citrus Heights Friends Church—the first church in Citrus Heights. They purchased land on Old Auburn Road in 1919 and on June 16, 1921, the new meeting house was dedicated. In 1975, the Friends Church moved to a larger facility and the original property was sold to become the Pioneer Baptist Church.



**SYLVAN SCHOOL  
7137 AUBURN BOULEVARD**

Originally located on the northwest corner of Auburn Boulevard and Sylvan Road, Sylvan School was built in 1862. The name Sylvan is attributed to William Thomas, and soon the area was referred to as Sylvan or Sylvan District. The first teacher, Alfred Spooner, was paid \$50 monthly to teach approximately 40 students. An imaginary line divided the entire school property, girls on one side and boys on the

other. The schoolhouse also provided meeting space for community affairs, church services, social events, public library and voting. In 1926, a new school was constructed and Sylvan School was moved to its current location on land donated by Adolph Van Maren. The Community Club House had been established in 1923 and Sylvan School transformed into the Community Club House, which is still in operation.

**CITY OF CITRUS HEIGHTS  
HISTORY AND ARTS**

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**HISTORIC CITRUS HEIGHTS  
PRESERVE THE PAST**



**CITY OF CITRUS HEIGHTS  
HISTORY AND ARTS**

**PRESERVATION | COMMUNITY | APPRECIATION**



### THE RUSCH HOME 7301 ANTELOPE ROAD

The Rusch Home was originally part of a 480-acre ranch established by Prussian-born Fred Volle and his wife, Julia. In 1859, they established the Volle Ranch. The couple raised eleven children and two grandchildren, Julia and her brother, Fred. Their mother, Louisa Volle Rusch, died shortly after Fred was born. By the time he was fifteen years old, Fred was managing the ranch

and Julia managed the household. The original Volle home burned down in 1914 and was replaced with the present house. It is an excellent example of the Craftsman style, popular in the early 1900s. In 1950, they donated the land, including their home, to establish Rusch Park.



### SYLVAN CEMETERY 7401 AUBURN BOULEVARD

The Sylvan Cemetery has served the local community from the very earliest days of settlement. It was established in 1862 through a donation of land from Daniel Lewis whose family owned 471 acres near Greenback Lane. The cemetery was originally one-tenth of an acre but has expanded over the years. The earliest

portions are located in the south end of the property. This area, landscaped with large, mature trees, exhibits a wide range of carved grave markers, and contains the family plots of a number of early settlers of the community. A stone in the southwest corner marks the grave of James Horton, the first person to be buried in the cemetery. Following an unsuccessful attempt to seek fortune in the gold fields, he found his way to this area working as a handyman and farmhand. He contracted an eye ailment that led to his eventual blindness. Mr. Horton died at a very young age on the Cross Ranch.



### THE 14-MILE HOUSE 6540 AUBURN BOULEVARD

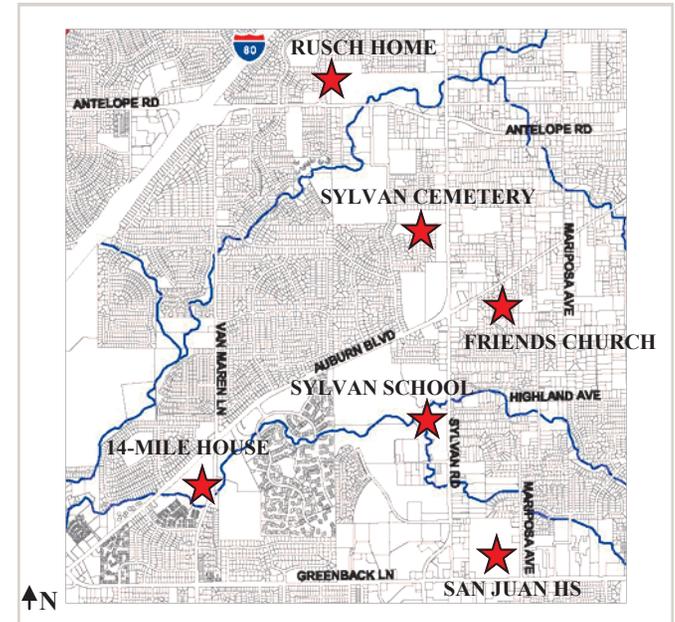
Built circa 1851, the 14-Mile House is believed to be the oldest wood-framed structure in Sacramento County. Overhead beams were stamped "Norwich" indicating that they were shipped from the East Coast. Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Gray acquired the building around 1853 and established the 14-Mile House, an inn to provide food and lodging to the many travelers along the old Auburn Road.

Mr. Gray is credited with the first cultivation of grain and grapes in the area. The 14-Mile House was sold to Rudolph Lauppe in 1869 and then converted into a farmhouse. Adolph Van Maren purchased the property in 1919 and presented it as a wedding gift to his son, Guy, and daughter-in-law, Iva. The building was moved from the road and remodeled in the Craftsman style. The remodel plans included wiring the house for electricity, which would not be available for seven more years.

THE HISTORY AND ARTS COMMISSION OF CITRUS HEIGHTS PRESERVES AND PROMOTES THE CITY'S HISTORIC RESOURCES; FOSTERS, DEVELOPS, AND ENRICHES PROGRAMS FOR THE ARTS; AND ENCOURAGES CITIZEN PARTICIPATION IN ITS OUTREACH ACTIVITIES.

HISTORIC PLAQUES mark various sites in the community that are of historic interest. These are proud and charming chronicles of a rural lifestyle from the mid 1800s to the early 1900s. They offer an opportunity to experience the past and stand as benchmarks of the growth and development of the community they continue to serve.

For a self-guided tour manual, visit [www.citrusheights.net](http://www.citrusheights.net)



### SAN JUAN HIGH SCHOOL 7551 GREENBACK LANE

The San Juan Union High School District was formed in 1913 and named after the original San Juan Spanish Land Grant. The school served all students in the northern half of Sacramento County. The first class at the school was held in a temporary two-story elementary school building located south of Winding Way and Dewey Drive. A new high school was built in 1915 on Greenback Lane east of Sylvan Road on land donated by Walter Trainor, an early real estate developer. The construction of San Juan High School was financed through a school bond in the amount of \$3,500. There were 50 students when the school opened.