

## 14-MILE ROADHOUSE

In May 2012, the 14-Mile House was officially designated as a California Point of Historical Interest by the California Office of Historic Preservation. The site is now listed in the California State Register. The building is the last of the many early inns built to serve the freight wagons along Auburn Road.



The 14-Mile Roadhouse, built circa 1851, is believed to be the oldest wooden structure and the third oldest structure overall in Sacramento County. It is one of the only surviving way stations that were built at one-mile intervals along the Sacramento to Auburn road in the 1850s. The roadhouse was constructed as a stopover for teamsters, drivers of horse and mule-drawn wagons, who hauled supplies to mining camps in Auburn, Dutch Flat and Virginia City. The slow progress of the heavy wagons created a need for overnight accommodations along the old Auburn Road. Hundreds of teamsters on the road every week kept the chain of roadhouses busy. The roadhouse had two entries; one was for men and led to a barroom. The other door was for women and provided access to a parlor and guest rooms.

One of the early owners of the 14-Mile Roadhouse was Joseph Gray who purchased the home in 1853. It is believed Mr. Gray introduced the first grain and grapes to the area. The road house's success was dimmed by the completion of the Transcontinental Railroad through Roseville in 1864. Railroad shipping rapidly replaced wagon hauling as the primary means of moving freight and shipping agricultural products. Faced with the waning of the freight hauling trade, in 1868 Gray sold the inn which then became a ranch house for the Lauppe family and then for the Van Marens.

In 1919, the home was remodeled and presented as a wedding gift to Guy and Iva Van Maren from his parents. The Van Marens used the home as a ranch house and successfully farmed the area for eighty years. Four generations of the Van Maren family lived in the home. The Van Maren families were active in community affairs and served on a number of boards and community groups.

For a full report on the 14-Mile House (adapted from Point of Historical Interest application), please visit [www.citrusheights.net](http://www.citrusheights.net).